

INDIAN PEAKS FOUR SEASON BIRD COUNTS

Spring, Summer 2008

Newsletter

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Spring Count Summary

The Spring Count saw a near record number of species. The total number of birds was slightly below last year and slightly above the historic average.

Spring Count Summary

Number of Species

2008 - 94

2007 - 86

20-Year Average - 83

Record High - 95 (1996 & 1999)

Record Low - 74 (1988)

Number of Individuals

2008 - 43 per count hour

2007 - 44 per count hour

20-Year Average - 42

Record High - 54 (2004)

Record Low - 23 (1983)

Overall, May was cooler and wetter than normal. The arrival to the high country of some birds appeared delayed. But that did not seem to limit the appearance of some unusual species.

A first sighting for the Spring Count was sandhill cranes, seen in the Nederland area. Other good finds included (number of times seen on Spring Count followed by the area in which it was observed): bufflehead (4th time; South St. Vrain), Wild Turkey (3rd time, all during the past three years; Arapaho Ranch and Sugarloaf), eared grebe (4th time; Ward North), double-crested cormorant (2nd time; Nederland), bald eagle (3rd time; Arapaho Ranch), rough-legged hawk (2nd time; Rollinsville), western kingbird (2nd time; Rollinsville), western tanager (5th time; Tucker), and lark sparrow (2nd time; Nederland).

Overall numbers were slightly down, being led by broad-tailed hummingbird,

golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, chipping sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, and red crossbill. These declines were slightly offset by high numbers of juncos.

Regular finds not detected included green-winged teal, white-tailed ptarmigan, northern goshawk, and American kestrel.

Breeding Count Summary

The overall number of birds was average while the number of species was above average.

Breeding Count Summary

Number of Species

2008 - 111

20-Year Average - 100

Last Year - 105

Record High - 112 (2001)

Record Low - 88 (1984)

Number of Individuals

2007 - 42 per count hour

20-Year Average - 42

Last Year - 43

Record High - 59 (2004)

Record Low - 31 (1982)

Overall numbers were slightly below last year. Numbers have gradually been declining since the peak in 2004. This year there was a major decline in the subalpine areas and an increase in the montane. Did the wet and cold spring influence birds to stay lower? A number of species that declined in the subalpine increased in the montane, including mallard, Clark's nutcracker, American crow, common raven, Townsend's solitaire, hermit thrush, chipping sparrow, dark-eyed junco, red crossbill and pine siskin. Most warblers

throughout the count circle saw a decline. Are some birds making a choice to nest lower when higher elevation sites are less conducive?

Interesting to note that while red crossbills hit a low during the Spring Count, they were back in large numbers on the Breeding Count. However, whereas last summer most were found in the subalpine, this year most were present in the montane. Different crossbill type?

First time finds on the Breeding Count (followed by the initials of the observers) were wild turkey (KE, MF), black-chinned hummingbird (TVZ, KG, GC, MW, GY), white-faced ibis (MP, RL, LMc), bufflehead (BB, LA-G, J-PG, LT), and Eurasian collared-dove (MP, RL, LMc). The latter was found breeding this summer in Nederland. Wonder if they will stay the winter?

Other good finds included prairie falcon (5th time; MF, NL), white-winged crossbill (5th time; LMc, PH, DC), and canyon wren (4th time; MP, RL, LMc).

No Brewer's sparrows were found in the krummholz this year, which was my prediction based on the spring weather.

Hairy woodpeckers had their highest Breeding Count numbers, while three-toed woodpeckers were also present in good numbers. They are finding the mountain pine beetle to their liking.

Lower than average numbers were found for horned lark, pygmy nuthatch, house wren, golden-crowned kinglet, warbling vireo, yellow warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, MacGillivray's warbler, Wilson's warbler, fox sparrow, and pine grosbeak.

Looking Ahead

Fall Count

Count Day – September 20
Count Period – September 13-28

Winter Count

Count Day – January 17
Count Period – Dec. 15 – Feb. 15

Happy Birding,

Dave Hallock

2008 INDIAN PEAKS SPRING BIRD COUNT

Count day – May 3; Count period – May 1-14. Weather: cooler and wetter than average. Fourteen (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 68.8. Total party miles: 147.7.

Canada Goose.....	19	Williamson's Sapsucker.....	4	American Robin	245
American Wigeon.....	1	Red-naped Sapsucker.....	16	European Starling	8
Mallard	79	Downy Woodpecker	8	American Pipit.....	41
Cinnamon Teal	1	Hairy Woodpecker	20	Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	66
Ring-necked Duck	12	Am. Three-Toed Wood.....	3	Western Tanager	1
Lesser Scaup.....	1	Northern Flicker.....	56	Green-tailed Towhee	5
Scaup species.....	1	Dusky Flycatcher	4	Spotted Towhee.....	2
Bufflehead	1	Western Kingbird.....	1	Chipping Sparrow.....	16
Wild Turkey.....	12	Gray Jay	1	Lark Sparrow	1
Dusky Grouse	3	Steller's Jay.....	114	Savannah Sparrow.....	7
Pied-billed Grebe.....	1	Clark's Nutcracker	11	Fox Sparrow	15
Eared Grebe	1	Black-billed Magpie.....	23	Song Sparrow	33
Western Grebe	1	American Crow	83	Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Double-crested Cormorant....	1	Common Raven.....	43	White-crowned Sparrow.....	4
Great Blue Heron.....	7	Horned Lark.....	24	Dark-eyed Junco.....	469
Turkey Vulture	3	Tree Swallow	158	(Pink-sided).....	(3)
Osprey.....	4	Violet-green Swallow	50	(Oregon).....	(2)
Bald Eagle	1	Barn Swallow.....	18	(Gray-headed).....	(269)
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	Black-capped Chickadee....	27	Black-headed Grosbeak.....	11
Cooper's Hawk.....	3	Mountain Chickadee	324	Red-winged Blackbird.....	45
Red-tailed Hawk	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	36	Western Meadowlark	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	White-breasted Nuthatch....	26	Brewer's Blackbird.....	14
Golden Eagle	3	Pygmy Nuthatch.....	15	Common Grackle	28
Sandhill Crane	2	Brown Creeper	19	Brown-headed Cowbird	29
Killdeer	3	Rock Wren	3	Pine Grosbeak	3
Spotted Sandpiper.....	3	House Wren	18	Cassin's Finch	21
Wilson's Snipe.....	7	American Dipper.....	7	House Finch	27
Gull species	9	Golden-crowned Kinglet....	15	Red crossbill.....	6
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	51	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	160	Pine Siskin.....	88
Mourning Dove.....	9	Western Bluebird	5	American Goldfinch	2
Great Horned Owl	3	Mountain Bluebird	45	Evening Grosbeak	5
Broad-tailed Humming	106	Townsend's Solitaire.....	24	House Sparrow	7
Belted Kingfisher.....	2	Hermit Thrush.....	7		

Totals: 94 species plus 2 additional races; 2929 individuals; 43 individuals per count hour.

2008 INDIAN PEAKS BREEDING BIRD COUNT

Count day – June 14; Count period – June 1 – July 15; Weather: Early June was cool and wet, while the remainder of the count period was warmer and drier than normal. Forty-three observers, 22 (of 25) areas covered. Total party hours: 143.5.

Canada Goose.....14	Hairy Woodpecker..... 40	Hermit Thrush..... 180
Mallard.....63	Am. Three-toed Wood..... 7	American Robin..... 407
Cinnamon Teal.....1	Woodpeckere species..... 2	European Starling..... 1
Green-winged Teal.....2	Northern Flicker..... 77	American Pipit..... 92
Ring-necked Duck.....10	Olive-sided Flycatcher..... 18	Orange-crowned Warbler..... 1
Scaup species.....1	Western Wood-Pewee..... 25	Virginia's Warbler..... 4
Bufflehead.....1	Hammond's Flycatcher..... 17	Yellow Warbler..... 18
Common Merganser.....10	Dusky Flycatcher..... 53	Yellow-rumped Warbler... 226
White-tailed Ptarmigan.....11	Cordilleran Flycatcher..... 49	MacGillivray's Warbler..... 27
Dusky Grouse.....3	Empidonax species..... 10	Common Yellowthroat..... 2
Wild Turkey.....7	Plumbeous Vireo..... 1	Wilson's Warbler..... 103
Double-crested Cormorant...6	Warbling Vireo..... 128	Western Tanager..... 26
Great Blue Heron.....9	Gray Jay..... 14	Green-tailed Towhee..... 71
White-faced Ibis..... 1	Steller's Jay..... 136	Spotted Towhee..... 4
Turkey Vulture.....3	Clark's Nutcracker..... 75	Chipping Sparrow..... 83
Osprey.....9	Black-billed Magpie..... 26	Vesper Sparrow..... 5
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....2	American Crow..... 123	Fox Sparrow..... 27
Cooper's Hawk.....4	Common Raven..... 77	Song Sparrow..... 48
Northern Goshawk.....1	Horned Lark..... 10	Lincoln's Sparrow..... 174
Accipiter species.....1	Tree Swallow..... 300	White-crowned Sparrow... 274
Red-tailed Hawk.....20	Violet-green Swallow..... 109	Gray-headed Junco..... 302
Golden Eagle..... 1	Cliff Swallow..... 62	Black-headed Grosbeak..... 30
Prairie Falcon.....1	Barn Swallow..... 45	Red-winged Blackbird..... 89
Sora.....2	Black-capped Chickadee.... 31	Western Meadowlark..... 2
Spotted Sandpiper.....7	Mountain Chickadee..... 238	Brewer's Blackbird..... 24
Wilson's Snipe.....7	Red-breasted Nuthatch..... 57	Common Grackle..... 12
Gull species.....9	White-breasted Nuthatch... 19	Brown-headed Cowbird..... 44
Band-tailed Pigeon.....92	Pygmy Nuthatch..... 14	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch... 3
Mourning Dove.....20	Brown Creeper..... 17	Pine Grosbeak..... 16
Eurasian Collared-Dove.....2	Rock Wren..... 16	Cassin's Finch..... 24
Great Horned Owl.....3	Canyon Wren..... 1	House Finch..... 19
Common Nighthawk.....7	House Wren..... 79	Red Crossbill..... 193
White-throated Swift.....8	American Dipper..... 9	White-winged Crossbill..... 4
Black-chinned Humming..... 1	Golden-crowned Kinglet..... 7	Crossbill species..... 6
Broad-tailed Humming..... 488	Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... 263	Pine Siskin..... 314
Rufous Hummingbird..... 1	Western Bluebird..... 5	Evening Grosbeak..... 1
Williamson's Sapsucker.....9	Mountain Bluebird..... 72	House Sparrow..... 15
Red-naped Sapsucker.....20	Townsend's Solitaire..... 38	
Downy Woodpecker..... 10	Swainson's Thrush..... 17	

Totals: 115 species; 6028 individuals; 42 individuals per count hour. Participants: Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Barbara Bolton, Earl Bolton, Alex Brown, Diane Brown, Diane Carter, Aide Chesley, George Coffee, Todd Deininger, Marty Dick, Libby Ellis, Kayla Evans, Lee Evans, Virginia Evans, Mike Figgs, Maryanne Flynn, Jean-Pierre Georges, Kathy Gibson, Audrey Godell, Dave Hallock, Paula Hansley, Jim Holitza, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Steve Koral, Nan Lederer, Rebecca Linn, Cat Luna, Gary Matthews, Lisa McCoy, Merle Miller, Sally Miller, Naseem Munshi, Carol Newman-Holitza, Mark Pscheid, Lucy Stroock, Laurel Temmen, Michael Tupper, Tom VanZandt, Maribel Williams, Step Wilson, George Young.