

The 2009 Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Count

We held the 41th Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count on December 20, 2009, and it turned out to be a banner day! We set a record high count of 55 species and added three new species for the count – one Black-crowned Night-Heron in Genessee, 15 Bushtits in Idaho Springs West, and one Brown-headed Cowbird at a feeder in Kerr Gulch. With these additions, we have now tallied 99 species on the count since it began in 1969.

Besides adding new species, we also produced high counts of Cooper's Hawks, Eurasian Collared-Doves (first recorded last year), Great Horned Owls, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Pygmy Nuthatches. The accompanying table provides numbers from 2009, the average for the previous 40 years, and the high count of the species and the year it was made.

Participation in 2009 was about average, with 54 field observers and 17 feeder-watchers contributing almost 140 party-hours of effort. The nice weather this year allowed for great winter birding conditions, and we recorded 7,526 individual birds.

In case you missed last year's *American Birds* summary, the 2008 Evergreen-Idaho Springs count had the North American high count for Mountain Chickadees (450 individuals), and we will likely retain this honor in 2009. For Christmas Bird Counts conducted in Colorado in 2008, we had the highest count for Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch (second in North America), and Brown Creeper; the second highest count for White-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Grosbeak; and tied the third highest count for Northern Goshawk, Downy Woodpecker, and Steller's Jay. As you can see, most of these species are common foothills residents and should be good indicators of forest change around Evergreen.

Thanks to all section leaders and participants, the Mannings for hosting the tally rally, Lori Hogan for making the chili and organizing the dinner, Bob Santangelo for making the veggy chili, Sylvia Robertson and Marge Peterson for getting plates and utensils, Barbara Jean Gard for organizing the feeder-watchers, Kathanne Lynch for providing the 2008 Colorado summary, Emily Wald for recording the section counts, and John and Diane Sears (Evergreen Wild Bird Store) for distributing leader's packets and hosting several teams.

Brad A. Andres

Summary of birds observed on the 2009 Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count, the average number seen from 1969 to 2008, and the high count and year recorded.

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2008	2009	number	year
Canada Goose	8		70	90
Cackling Goose	<1		2	08
Wood Duck	<1		2	93/07
American Wigeon	<1		2	96
Mallard	48	61	235	93
Northern Pintail	<1		1	96/98
Green-winged Teal	<1		1	81
Chukar	<1		1	80
Blue Grouse	<1		12	94
Wild Turkey	40	47	110	04
Great Blue Heron	<1		1	88/90
Black-crowned Night Heron	<1	1	1	09
Bald Eagle	1		4	91
Northern Harrier	<1	1	2	04
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	3	06
Cooper's Hawk	<1	2	2	09
Northern Goshawk	1	2	3	72/87
Red-tailed Hawk	11	40	40	09
Ferruginous Hawk	<1		2	98
Rough-legged Hawk	1		11	85
Golden Eagle	3	2	8	89
American Kestrel	1	1	4	87
Merlin	<1		1	89/07
Prairie Falcon	<1		1	82
Wilson's Snipe	1		4	78/91/00
Rock Pigeon	79	39	212	81
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<1	8	8	09
Mourning Dove	<1		1	93
Great Horned Owl	1	5	5	09
Northern Pygmy-Owl	<1		4	95
Long-eared Owl	<1		1	74/82
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<1		1	70
Belted Kingfisher	2	2	6	04
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<1		1	80
Downy Woodpecker	28	42	51	08

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2008	2009	number	year
Hairy Woodpecker	42	67	67	09
American Three-toed Woodpecker	<1	1	3	79/89
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	13	39	39	09
Loggerhead Shrike	<1		1	several
Northern Shrike	4	1	13	86
Gray Jay	14	10	53	77
Steller's Jay	263	318	446	00
Blue Jay	<1		1	95/00
Western Scrub-Jay	2		14	93
Pinyon Jay	5		200	72
Clark's Nutcracker	28	17	108	78
Black-billed Magpie	175	283	293	00
American Crow	604	1,249	1,519	00
Common Raven	115	117	200	72
Horned Lark	<1		15	86
Black-capped Chickadee	71	111	170	95
Mountain Chickadee	474	598	786	75
Juniper Titmouse	<1		1	82
Bushtit	<1	15	15	09
Red-breasted Nuthatch	48	71	127	93
White-breasted Nuthatch	65	117	117	09
Pygmy Nuthatch	350	990	990	09
Brown Creeper	13	19	23	75
Canyon Wren	1	3	5	81
Winter Wren	<1		2	75
American Dipper	19	27	37	87
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	5	18	84
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<1		2	83/91
Mountain Bluebird	<1		2	92
Townsend's Solitaire	66	77	202	82
American Robin	128	294	1,500	72
Northern Mockingbird	<1		1	78
Brown Thrasher	<1		1	several
European Starling	135	39	301	00
Bohemian Waxwing	46		580	80
Cedar Waxwing	8	21	163	87
Spotted Towhee	<1		4	75

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2008	2009	number	year
Cassin's Sparrow	<1		1	71
American Tree Sparrow	3		37	84
Clay-colored Sparrow	<1		1	83
Fox Sparrow	<1	1	1	several
Song Sparrow	4	7	12	93
White-throated Sparrow	<1		1	84/06
Harris's Sparrow	<1		2	80
White-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	71/89/00
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	93
Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco	160	205	293	76
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	91	95	232	74
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco	14	75	276	80
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	84	73	413	82
Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco	55	45	70	07
Dark-eyed Junco (All subspecies)	551	697	699	08
Red-winged Blackbird	37	227	500	91
Common Grackle	<1	1	3	93
Great-tailed Grackle	<1		1	07
Brown-headed Cowbird	<1	1	1	09
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	129	60	429	84
Black Rosy-Finch	8		70	04
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	17	4	140	04
All Rosy-Finches	166	64	429	84
Pine Grosbeak	13	21	51	07
Cassin's Finch	165	130	474	88
House Finch	153	224	430	06
Red Crossbill	67	102	643	82
White-winged Crossbill	1		16	70
Common Redpoll	4		30	70
Pine Siskin	220	334	723	08
American Goldfinch	18	13	176	00
Evening Grosbeak	135	135	420	95
House Sparrow	105	65	377	00