

FAIRBANKS FEEDERCOUNT – 13 YEARS WATCHING WINTER RESIDENT BIRDS IN THE INTERIOR

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Since March 1986, volunteers have reported the number of birds at their feeders 3 times each winter to the Fairbanks FeederCount. An average of 71 local households have participated each year. Information has been compiled on 7 common resident birds – Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Black-capped and Boreal chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, and Redpoll – and one recent invader, the Red-breasted Nuthatch. Redpolls exhibited a regular biennial peak in numbers for the first 8 years, but have reached peak numbers just once since 1995. Chickadees, woodpeckers, and Gray Jay declined in abundance in early 1990s, but recovered in the second half of the decade. These declines coincided with record snowfalls in winters 90-91 and 92-93, and record late heavy snows in mid-May 1992 and record early snows in mid-September 1992. The abundance of redpolls at feeders in March is negatively correlated with the abundance of chickadees and Hairy Woodpeckers, perhaps because large numbers of redpolls dominate seed feeders. Redpoll and Pine Grosbeak numbers are positively correlated in November and December feeder counts. Results from the Fairbanks FeederCount are compared to Christmas Bird Count and continent-wide Project FeederWatch.

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**28 FEBRUARY - 3 MARCH 2000
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