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Ninth Year of Breeding Bird Atlas Completed – Evergreen Audubon

2-3 minutes

Evergreen Audubon has been documenting breeding bird behavior throughout the Bear Creek Watershed since 2008.

In doing this, we look for any signs of breeding: from singing males setting up territories, to courtship behavior, to nest building, to finding recently fledged youngsters. The 2016 season focused intensively on nine main areas. The following is a sampling of some of the species confirmed as breeding in those areas. *All photos courtesy of Bill Schmoker.*

Bear Creek Greenbelt West – Wendy Wibbens and Mike Foster confirmed Black-billed Magpie, **Cliff Swallow**, and Bushtit.



Corwina Park – Inga Brennan confirmed Say's Phoebe, **American Dipper**, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Green-tailed Towhee.



O'Fallon Park – Michael Kiessig confirmed Plumbeous Vireo, **MacGillivray's Warbler**, Western Tanager, and Red Crossbill.



Pence Park – Susan Harper confirmed Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, and **Western Bluebird**.



Elephant Butte – Barbara Jean Gard and Larry White confirmed **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**, Hairy Woodpecker, and White-breasted Nuthatch.

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Mount Pence – Chuck Aid confirmed **Downy Woodpecker**, House Wren, and Black-capped Chickadee.



Cub Creek Trail – Heather Johnson confirmed Red-breasted Nuthatch, **Brown Creeper**, and Black-headed Grosbeak.



Beaver Meadows – Chuck Aid confirmed Blue-winged Teal, Williamson’s Sapsucker, **American Three-toed Woodpecker**, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.



Squaw Pass Road Campgrounds – JoAnn Hackos and Kathanne Lynch confirmed **Rock Wren**, Hermit Thrush, and Dark-eyed Junco.



Three other areas, though not surveyed extensively this year, yielded a few more breeding confirmations.

Matthews-Winters Park – Kathanne Lynch confirmed **Golden Eagle**.

Elk Meadow – Brad Andres confirmed **Wilson’s Snipe**, Western

Meadowlark, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Elk Management Area – Chuck Aid confirmed **Dusky Grouse** and Wild Turkey.



Beginning in May, 2017 we will again be tracking breeding bird behavior in additional areas within the Bear Creek Watershed.

For more information on this exciting project go to

<http://www.bcwbba.org>.

Chuck Aid, Director of Monitoring