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## Highlights from April 5 Bird Walk to Red Rocks – NOT! – Evergreen Audubon

4-5 minutes

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Despite the intention of our bird walk being held at Red Rocks and that we would catch up on the latest falcon news there, we were confronted on that Wednesday morning by extremely icy conditions, such that one could stand still and move (or be moved) across the Red Rocks Trading Post parking lot in an effortless glide – more than a bit disconcerting for all thirteen participants.

**So, we put the falcons on hold and headed over to nearby Harriman and Hine Lakes** where we were able to tally a respectable 44 species. First of all we had a great variety of waterfowl with twelve species of ducks and three species of grebes. Three outstanding birds were the male Ruddy Ducks, the Horned Grebes, and the single Western Grebe.





Horned Grebe molting into breeding plumage (c) Bill Schmoker

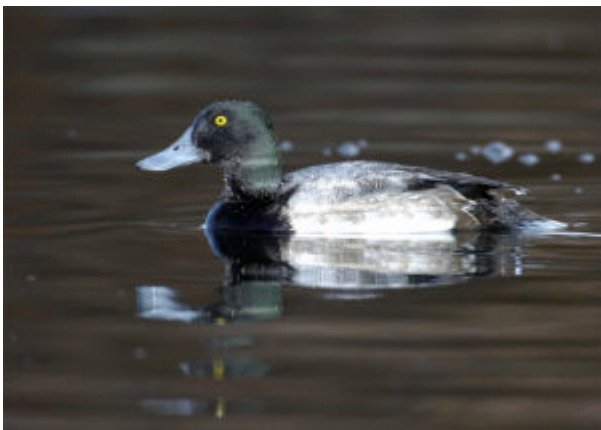


Ruddy Duck male (c) Bill Schmoker



Western Grebe (c) Bill Schmoker

We were also fortunate to see a few Greater Scaup. Note how the head is rounded, and the eye is relatively high on the head.



## Greater Scaup (c) Bill Schmoker

While at Harriman twelve Turkey Vultures soared in to land as a group in the tops of a couple of nearby trees. We also saw two different pairs of Say's Phoebes, all four were of interest because of the generally pale yellow color of their bellies with very little discernible orange or rust. Also, we had a Great-tailed Grackle, and then we had great looks at some Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Western Bluebirds.



Tree Swallow (c) Bill Schmoker



Barn Swallow (c) Bill Schmoker

With so many wonderful birds all morning it's difficult to say which one was the best, but it was very special to see a male Yellow-headed Blackbird.



Yellow-headed Blackbird male (c) Bill Schmoker

One last note. A contingent of our group did stop by Red Rocks on their way home and managed to record three species of falcons: American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, and Peregrine Falcon. Not bad!

Hope to see you out on a walk soon!

Chuck Aid, Director of Bird Monitoring

### **Harriman and Hine Lakes, Apr 5, 2017**

44 species

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) 16

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) 6

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) 6

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 20

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) 10

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) 3  
Redhead (*Aythya americana*) 2  
Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) 15  
Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) 4  
Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) 50  
Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) 50  
Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) 5  
Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) 19  
Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) 11  
Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) 4  
Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) 1  
Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) 1  
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) 2  
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) 12  
American Coot (*Fulica americana*) 23  
Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) 4  
Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) 1  
Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 3  
Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) 1  
Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) 6  
Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) 4  
Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) 1  
Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) 3  
American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 13  
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) 20  
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 2  
Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) 2  
Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) 5

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 13  
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 9  
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) (*Junco hyemalis*  
*hyemalis/carolinensis*) 1  
White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) 2  
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 7  
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 79  
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) 6  
Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) 1  
Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) 13  
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) 1  
House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) 7