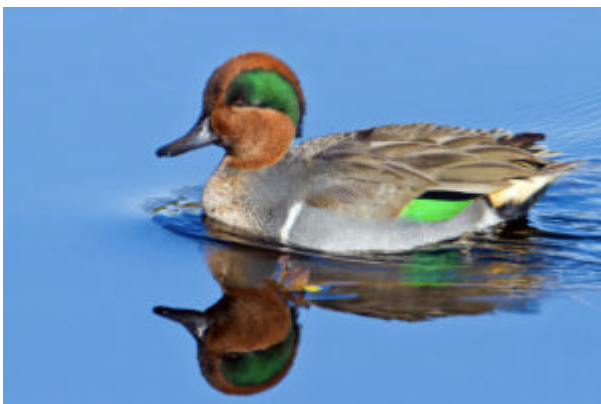


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## Highlights from Dec 6 Bird Walk to Bear Creek Lake Park – Evergreen Audubon

3 minutes

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Green-winged Teal (c) Mick Thompson

We had a very nice morning at Bear Creek Lake Park (BCLP), though we only tallied five species of ducks. The wintering ducks have pretty much moved into our area again, and generally you can expect to see twelve or more species in a morning at this time of year. So, it continues to be an interesting puzzle as to why some places seem to have a greater diversity, e.g. Harriman Lake and the South Platte River out in Commerce City, while BCLP often seems to not have as many individuals or species.





American Tree Sparrow (c) Bill Schmoker

It was a treat to work our way through identifying three species of Sparrows: American Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. On the Tree Sparrow note the bi-colored bill, long tail, rufous crown, white wing-bars, rufous coverts (shoulders), central breast spot, and almost no streaking on the breast and belly.



Red Crossbill (c) Mick Thompson

The definite highlight of the morning was getting to see three Red Crossbills hanging out in some cottonwoods. The question is, what were they doing there? Maybe just on their way to the next grove of ponderosa pine.

Good Birding!

Chuck

Bear Creek Lake Park, Dec 6, 2017

28 species

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) 50

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) 235

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 4

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) 4

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) 8

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) 24

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) 5

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) 1

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 3

American Coot (*Fulica americana*) 2

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) 9

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) (*Columba livia* (Feral Pigeon)) 8

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) 1

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) 6

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) 1

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) 39

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 4

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) 2

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) 10

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 2

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 2

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*) 11

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) 1

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 9

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 3

House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) 21

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) 3

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) 13