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Highlights from July 12 & 15 Bird Walks to Beartrack Lakes Trail and Beaver Meadows – Evergreen Audubon

5-6 minutes



Olive-sided Flycatcher (c) Bill Schmoker

This past week we did two back-to-back bird walks into the Mount Evans Wilderness, each starting from Camp Rock Campground. The Beartrack Lakes Trail briefly follows Bear Creek upstream through a beautiful coniferous riparian forest, then at the confluence with Truesdell Creek the trail climbs up between the two creeks passing through a human-caused 485-acre parcel that was burned in 1998. Large burned snags dominate the landscape with young pines, spruce, and aspen slowly regenerating the area. The Beaver Meadows Trail climbs

briefly through a spruce-fir forest before moving on to a ponderosa-and-aspen-dominated south-facing slope above Bear Creek, and eventually arriving at the half-mile long Beaver Meadows – dense with ponds and willow thickets.



Warbling Vireo carrying food (c) Bill Schmoker

On the Beartrack Lakes Trail morning we tallied 25 species (see list below). Highlights included plentiful opportunity for becoming Olive-sided Flycatcher experts – good long views and non-stop vocalizing. The nesting Warbling Vireo family provided great entertainment with beaks of nestlings poked skyward in anticipation of the next tidbit brought in by an adult. A short-tailed, fledgling Northern Flicker worked at trying to find something to eat on a bare snag, but seemed very enthusiastic when one of the parents finally showed up with a morsel.

On the Beaver Meadows morning we tallied 27 species (see list below). This group also got to observe Warbling Vireo parents feeding their nestlings. A recently fledged Hairy Woodpecker gratefully accepted food from mom, as did a fledgling Ruby-

crowned Kinglet and a fledgling Lincoln's Sparrow from their respective parents. We got to see a Wilson's Warbler carrying food, but could not find a nest or fledgling. After much trying on both outings, the second group finally got excellent views of a male Golden-crowned Kinglet. And, though perhaps not as of much interest to those who reside at the lower elevations, we saw a pair of Black-capped Chickadees – indicating good likelihood of their breeding in the vicinity.

Overall, both mornings were quite glorious, with an overall count of 35 species. These are walks to be relished every year, and we always look forward to getting into this area. And, no, we did not see any moose this year, but there's always that possibility.

See you on the next walk!

Chuck

Beartrack Lakes Trail, July 12, 2017

25 species

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) 4

Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) 1

Northern Flicker (Red-shafted) (*Colaptes auratus* [cafer Group])

6

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) 3

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) 3

Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) 5

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) 4

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) 2

Steller's Jay (Interior) (*Cyanocitta stelleri* [diademata Group]) 2

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) 4

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) 3
Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*) 11
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) 10
Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) 2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) 3
Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) 3
Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) 1
Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) 4
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 25
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*) 7
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) 1
Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) 17
Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 1
Cassin's Finch (*Haemorhous cassinii*) 1
Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) 9

Beaver Meadows, Jul 15, 2017

27 species

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 1
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) 1
Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) 1
Hairy Woodpecker (Rocky Mts.) (*Picoides villosus orius/icastus*)
2
Northern Flicker (Red-shafted) (*Colaptes auratus [cafer Group]*)
2
Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) 1
Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) 5
Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) 3

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) 2
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) 6
Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) 2
Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*) 17
Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) 8
White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) 1
Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) 1
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) 6
Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) 3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) 13
Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) 7
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 9
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*) 2
Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) 3
Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) 16
White-crowned Sparrow (oriantha) (*Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha*) 1
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 2
Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) 23
Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) 5