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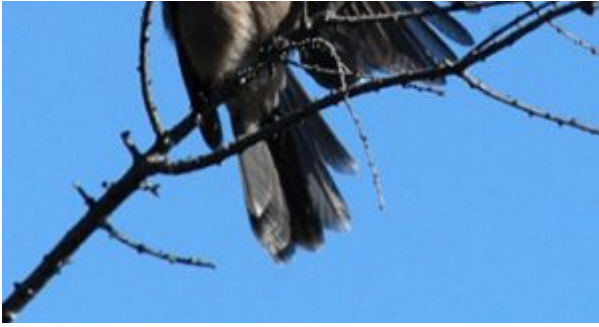
Highlights from March 1 Bird Walk to Squaw Pass – Evergreen Audubon

3-4 minutes

Well, you missed a good one if you weren't with us Wednesday morning. Twelve of us visited two locations at 10,300 ft and 9,500 ft in the vicinity of Squaw Pass – both had multiple feeders for the birds. It was breezy and a bit chilly, but not unbearable, and it was wonderfully sunny. And, while we only ended up seeing fourteen species (see list below), a few birds were seen that most of us, who live in the foothills or out on the plains, don't regularly encounter.

First of all, we were fortunate to see all six of the generally recognized subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco, that is to say: Cassiar, Slate-colored, Oregon, Pink-sided, White-winged, and Gray-headed. Then, certainly two of the big highlights were getting to hear and see some Gray Jays and many Red Crossbills. Oh, and did I forget to mention the Clark's Nutcracker and the Cassin's Finches that we got to see up close and personal.





Gray Jay (Courtesy of Bill Schmoker)



Clark's Nutcracker (Courtesy of Bill Schmoker)

Of course, the real pinnacle of the day was getting to see our target birds for the trip, the Rosy-Finches – roughly two hundred of them. Swirling around in clouds of a hundred birds at a time they would drape the tops of the nearby spruces, and then descend en masse onto the feeders. Needless to say, the good views were PLENTIFUL, and we were able to record both subspecies of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch as well as the more plentiful Brown-capped Rosy Finches. The fact that there were adult-males, first-year males, and many females contributed to an intriguing amount of plumage variation. Search, as we could, we were unable to locate any of the more rare Black Rosy-Finches.



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (Interior Race) (Courtesy of Bill Schmoker)



Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (Hepburn's Race) (Courtesy of Bill Schmoker)



Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (Courtesy of Bill Schmoker)





Tree full of Rosy-Finches (Courtesy of Diane Roberts)

All in all, a most satisfactory outing!

Hope to see you on an upcoming bird walk!

Chuck Aid

Squaw Pass Area

Mar 1, 2017

13 species (+6 other taxa)

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) 1

Hairy Woodpecker (Rocky Mts.) (*Picoides villosus orius/icastus*)
1

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) 3

Steller's Jay (Interior) (*Cyanocitta stelleri* [diademata Group]) 7

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) 1

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 6

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*) 15

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) 2

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) 4

Dark-eyed Junco (Cassiar) (*Junco hyemalis carolinensis/cismontanus*) 1

Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis/carolinensis*) 1

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) (*Junco hyemalis [oreganus Group]*) 2

Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided) (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*) 3

Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged) (*Junco hyemalis aikenii*) 3

Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) 4

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (Hepburn's) (*Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*) 25

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (Gray-crowned) (*Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis*) 30

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte australis*) 145

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) 15

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii*) 6

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) 9