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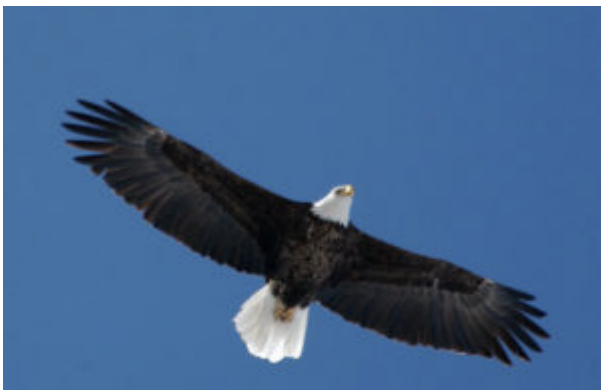
Highlights from May 20 Bird Walk to Bear Creek Lake Park – Evergreen Audubon

4-6 minutes

Once again the destination for one of our spring bird walks was altered due to the weather. At the last minute it was decided that going to a lower elevation might be wise given the sixteen or so inches of snow received in the Evergreen area two days prior to the walk. WHAT A GREAT DECISION!



Western Grebe (c) Bill Schmoker





Bald Eagle (c) Bill Schmoker

As a consequence, fourteen of us were very entertained by 54 species of birds at Bear Creek Lake Park (see list below). Needless to say the highlights were numerous. How about Cinnamon Teal, Western Grebe, and an adult Bald Eagle for starters.



Yellow-breasted Chat (c) Rob Raker



Bullock's Oriole (c) Bill Schmoker

We also had great looks at Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Tanager, and Bullock's Oriole.

Great to also see Black-chinned Hummingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, and Green-tailed Towhee.

Finally, the bird of the day was a singing male Bobolink.

Beyond just listing the birds seen, we had multiple discussions on such topics as 1) identifying Green-winged Teal that are a quarter-of-a-mile away (vertical white bar on side), 2) a characteristic behavior of spotted sandpiper (exaggerated bobbing motion), 3) the characteristic structure and behavior of Black-chinned Hummingbird (long bill, tail and wing length comparable, regularly pumps tail), 4) how to differentiate the various swallows.... Well, you get the idea. There was a lot to discuss and learn about.



Plumbeous Vireo (c) Bill Schmoker

And one final point on our list for the day. It's always important to acknowledge that we're just not going to be able to identify every single bird, even when given a fairly reasonable view. We had a mystery bird – a medium-sized flycatcher – that we just couldn't be sure about. So it goes.

Migration is at its peak. Close to a quarter of the birds we saw at Bear Creek Lake Park will be moving on to breed elsewhere. So, I hope you can find time to get out, or hopefully join us on an upcoming walk.

Good birding! Chuck Aid, Director of Bird Monitoring



Bobolink (c) Bill Schmoker

Bear Creek Lake Park, May 20, 2017

54 species

- Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) 12
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) 7
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 6
- Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) 1
- Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) 2
- Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) 2
- Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) 28
- Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) 1
- Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) 1
- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) 1
- Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 1

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) 1
Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) 4
Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) 7
Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) 2
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) 6
Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) 2
Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) 1
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) 1
Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) 2
Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) 1
Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*) 1
Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) 12
American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 4
Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) 1
Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) 1
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) 16
Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) 260
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 22
Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) 180
Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) 2
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) 15
American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 23
Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) 4
Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) 1
European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 4
Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) 13
Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) 7
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) 2
Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) 6

White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's) (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) 5
Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) 2
Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 4
Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) 1
Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) 5
Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) 4
Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) 1
Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) 1
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 18
Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) 5
Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) 26
Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) 2
Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) 8
House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) 2