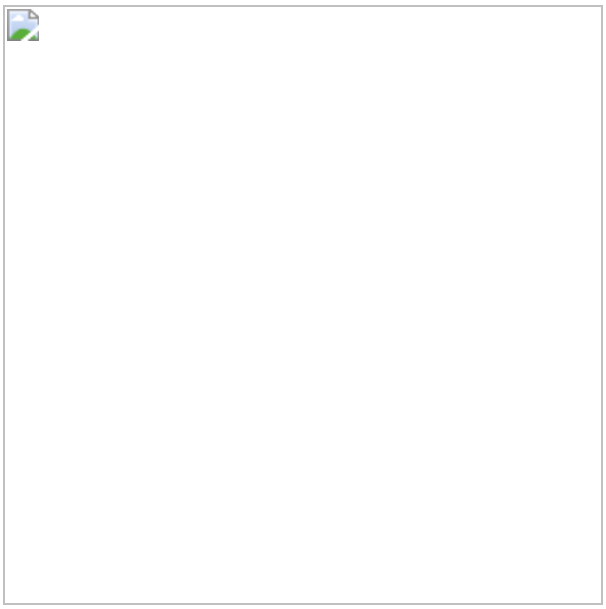
Bear Creek Atlas Update – 2018

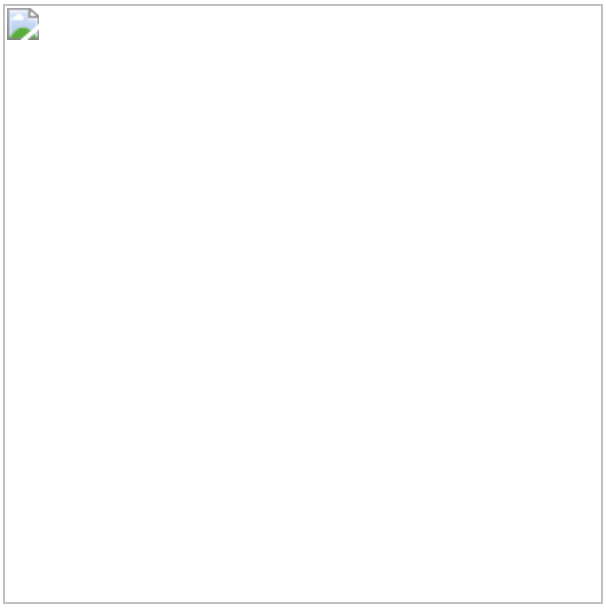
evergreenaudubon.org/bear-creek-atlas-update-2018

Chuck Aid November 20, 2018



White-crowned Sparrow (c) Bill Schmoker

The 2018 breeding season marked our eleventh year of monitoring breeding bird activity at 45 public land parcels in the Bear Creek Watershed. During this time period we have put in over 2800 hours in the field, with 269 hours logged in 2018. Not all of these hours were logged during our primary period of interest from May 15 to July 31, though roughly 2000 hours were. This core period was designated because in early May we start to see courtship behaviors among birds that are actually in the process of migrating to other locales and they will not be breeding in the Bear Creek watershed. And the cutoff date of the end of July is because beyond that date we start seeing more and more signs of post-breeding dispersal – recently fledged birds that hatched outside of the watershed but have subsequently moved into the area.



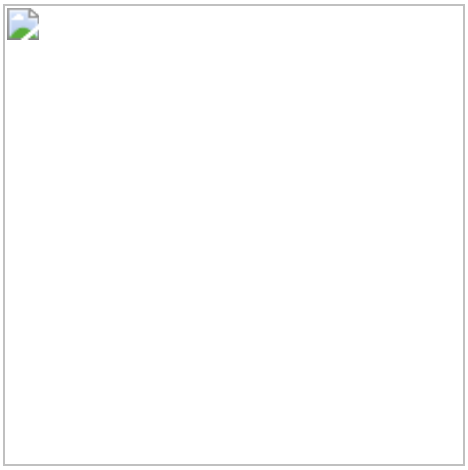
Golden Crown Kinglet (c) Mick Thompson

Following the conclusion of the 2017 field season a thorough summation of work to that point was posted on the Evergreen Audubon website – https://evergreenaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/BearCrkAtlasReport-2008-2017-May2018-1.pdf. Additional data collected in 2018 has done little to change the conclusions presented in that paper. However, 2018 did give us the opportunity to visit under-surveyed areas in which we had not yet reached our forty- hour goal, and by the very fact of our being in the field once again we were able to increase our breeding confirmations for species and the areas in which they occur.

We intend in the coming years to continue to collect additional data on the breeding birds in the Bear Creek Watershed, and to continue to try and clarify who is breeding here, and where

they are doing it. That being said, we are also at a turning point where we will be decreasing our emphasis on this project and exploring some potential new research endeavors. Stay tuned.

Chuck Aid
Bird Monitoring Director



Red-naped Sapsucker (c) Bill Schmoker