

# Highlights from August 1 Bird Walk to Beaver Meadows

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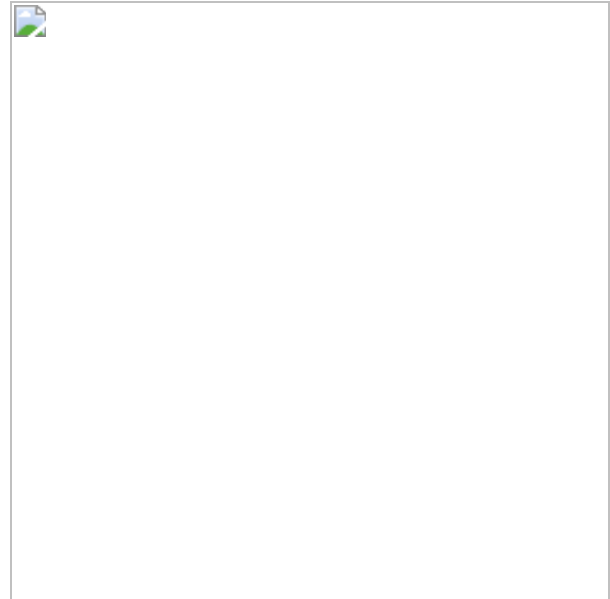
Chuck Aid

August 2, 2018

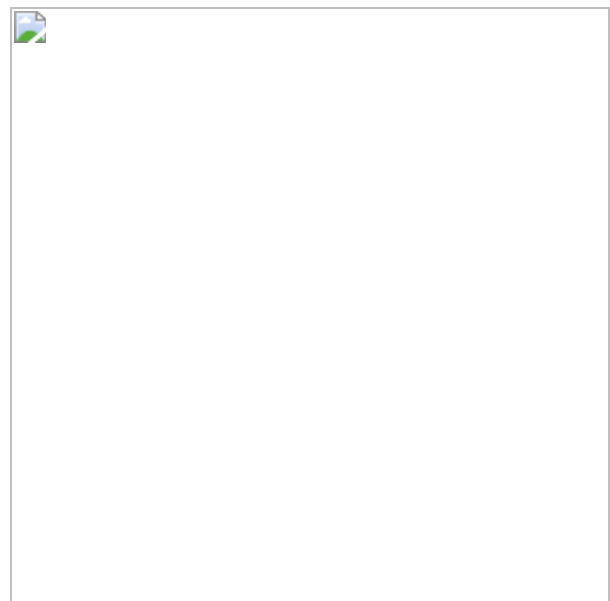
Let's just be clear to begin with that we never made it to Beaver Meadows. So, this is, in fact, a report of a bird walk along the trail up from Camp Rock Campground, but we missed out on the meadows, willow carr, and beaver ponds just a bit farther along, and we missed seeing some of the birds expected there such as Mallard, Wilson's Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Furthermore, it is becoming clear that we are moving into that less active hiatus between breeding season and fall migration. Things were definitely on the quiet side. For example, as I always like to review, there were several species that regularly occur in that vicinity that we didn't record: Williamson's Sapsucker, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Common Raven, Violet-green Swallow, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Thrush. In addition, we only had one Ruby-crowned Kinglet and one Audubon's Warbler. The birds are there. We know that. But, we were not able to detect them.

A fair number of the birds that we were able to locate happened because of a most successful attempt at imitating a Northern Pygmy Owl. I got the Red-breasted Nuthatches riled up, and the rest was history – nine species showed up. I don't do this cocktail party trick too often, and particularly not during breeding season, when I'm intent on trying to document breeding behavior, but it did allow for a few good observations on a day when things were distressingly slow.



Gray Jay (c) Bill Schmoker



Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler (c) Mick Thompson

The Great Moments in Bird Detective Work came when we heard a clear single high whistle at a distance, and, no, it wasn't a Townsend's Solitaire. Further listening allowed us to hear that the single note was sometimes slurred in a raptorial fashion, and sometimes repeated a few times. Consensus led us to finally identify it as the call of a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk.

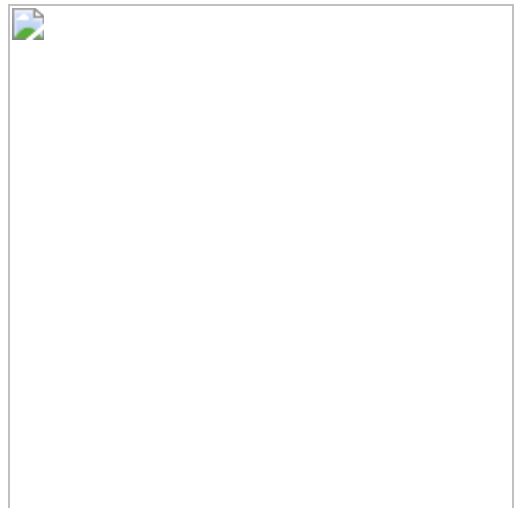
A final highlight was getting to have several good looks at a juvenile Downy Woodpecker. We know that the adult female has no red on her head, and that the male has a patch of red on the back of his head. This bird, however, had a red crown extending from front to back – a juvenile.

Finally, at my home at 5:25 AM on the morning of our walk, I heard for the first time in many moons the call of a Northern Pygmy-Owl. Great way to start the day!

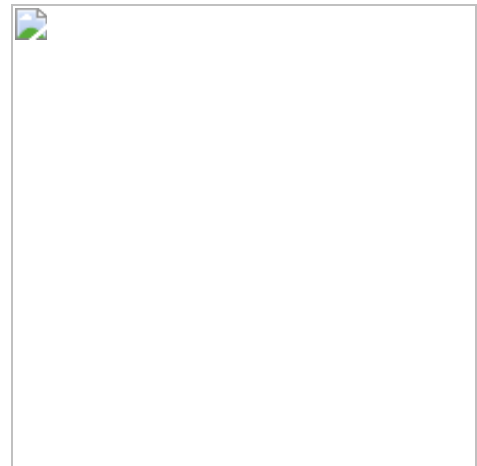
Best,  
Chuck Aid  
Director of Bird Monitoring

Beaver Meadows, Aug 1, 2018  
20 species

Red-tailed Hawk 1  
Broad-tailed Hummingbird 2  
Downy Woodpecker 1  
Hairy Woodpecker (Rocky Mts.) 1  
Northern Flicker (Red-shafted) 3  
Cordilleran Flycatcher 2  
Warbling Vireo 2  
Gray Jay 1  
Clark's Nutcracker 2  
Mountain Chickadee 13  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 8  
White-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Pygmy Nuthatch 2  
Brown Creeper 2  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1  
American Robin 6  
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) 1



Northern Pygmy-Owl (Photo courtesy of Bill Schmoker)



Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) 13

Red Crossbill 9

Pine Siskin 5