

Complete lists of birds seen on the Lake Isabel/Spanish Peaks Christmas Bird Counts(CBCs) are now posted on the Audubon Society website.

The Lake Isabel CBC was held 1-1-18 & tallied 72 species, a nice 5th best total of 48 annual counts. A White-winged Scoter on Lake Beckwith was a new bird for the Count & enjoyed by all 16 participants(see Brandon Percival's attached photos). This duck is not common inland away from coastal salt waters. Gwen Moore started the New Year with a Harris's Sparrow on Cuerno Verde Blvd. just west of Crow-Cut-off; this Sparrow is America's largest. Once rare but now increasing, 3 White-winged Doves were found in the Meadow Creek area by Star Jorgensen & Steve Olson. From the arctic tundra in summer to Colorado in winter, 12 Lapland Longspurs were counted by Brandon Percival on the grasslands of Waterbarrel Rd. Watch for them in flocks of Horned Larks. Beulah is a good place for wintering Sapsuckers; Van & Lee Truan spotted a Williamson's here. Paul Hurtado also birded near Beulah where he met a Goshawk on Siloam Rd.

10 birders attended the Spanish Peaks CBC 12-23-17. 51 species were tallied, fourth highest total of 29 annual counts. An amazing 15 species were found just prior & after the Count but not on Count day due to a hard freeze the day before. Bud O'Hara was happy to join La Veta's local bird experts Paul & Polly Neldner, who found all 3 Rosy-finch species on School Creek Rd., despite little snow cover for these snow loving birds. Lack of snow also allowed Tom Doerk & Gib Rokich to drive far up Huahatolla Canyon where they counted 5 Golden-crowned Kinglets. There was one new bird for the Count: a Common Redpoll delighted us in west La Veta, & for Dave Moore, his first ever--a "lifer!" These birds are rare in southeast Colorado south of Pueblo & the Arkansas River.

Dave Silverman, compiler
Lake Isabel/Spanish Peaks CBCs