

Subject: Westcliffe CBC 12-29-18

A complete list of birds reported on the Westcliffe CBC is now posted on the Audubon CBC website www.audubon.org/cbc. 11 participants attended with up to four parties in the field. 36 species were tallied. Temps were frigid with a low of **-11** & a high of only 26. Thus Rosy Finches were expected and all 3 species showed. But the big surprise was a Black Phoebe found by John Ferraiuolo & Sue Pelletier along Grape Creek below Lake Deweese Dam. The surprise is not that a Phoebe was found in winter. Though a flycatcher, all 3 species(Black, Say's & Eastern) are often found in many USA winter venues. But a Phoebe in the frequent sub-zero/sub-freezing weather of the Wet Mountain Valley? What a survivor! When insects are scarce or absent, Phoebe's will supplement their diet by pecking at seeds, berries, fruits and even small fish.

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(assisted by Brandon Percival, Leon Bright,
& Dave Silverman)