

The 50th annual & Golden Anniversary of the Lake Isabel CBC was held 12-28-19. Nine participants in up to 5 parties reported 56 species, a slightly below average total. But considering the snowy weather & sub-freezing temperatures, we had more birds than expected. The big surprise was a Herring Gull on the pond behind the BSJ bank along with 6 Ring-billed Gulls found by Margie Joy. The Herring Gull is a new bird for the Count & the Ring-bills were only the 2nd time found in 50 years. Lunch was at the Greenhorn Valley Library where a cake was served with an inscription celebrating this historic 50th Golden Anniversary.

The Spanish Peaks CBC was on 12-21-19. 13 participants in up to 4 parties reported 46 species. This total is the 10th best of 31 counts. Margie Joy & her team also found a new bird on this Count, a long overdue Western Bluebird west of La Veta. America's largest sparrow, a Harris's Sparrow, showed in Paul & Polly Neldner's birdy yard east of La Veta. Our team tallied a Bewick's Wren on the Cucharas River several miles above La Veta thanks to Beverly Jensen's sharp eyes. This bird is not easily found in mountain elevations. We also enjoyed all 3 species of Rosy Finches on School Creek Road. Black Rosy Finches are often the least common in a flock of Rosies, but it was most common in this flock. Thanks to Ann & Tom Doerk whose home provided a warm and comfy place for lunch & compilation.

Dave Silverman, compiler
Lake Isabel/Spanish Peaks CBCs