

Trip Report – Granite Basin Lake

TOOK PLACE ON: Oct 20, 2018

LEADER: Bob McCormick



The group as taken by Fran where Dan went no one knows....

CONDITIONS:

A good day for birding. Temperature in the mid 50's under clear skies in the morning with a light breeze. High 70's in the afternoon

PARTICIPANTS:

Vera Markham, Dan Bohlmann, Dave & Ruth Kennedy, Fran Baughman, Elaine Alexander, Jim Consoly, Jean Eddings, Bob McCormick (Leader) & Tina Greenawalt (who had to drop out due to tire issue)

Community Nature Center - Prescott

The Community Nature Center is a nice area on the West side of Prescott with trails and marked plants for a meeting place. It was very slow however with very few sightings. Our list... 2

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays, 4 Common Ravens, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 4 Chipping Sparrows, and 2 Canyon Towhees. <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49372345>

Granite Basin Lake – Small pond, big boulders, lots of big trees.

We started out at the small dam looking for a sheltered spot out of the wind. A couple of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were all we had. The one acre lake had a **Pied-billed Grebe** and 4 **Coots** only. Hiking around the lake and into the willows, we encountered some loud **Spotted Towhees**, and a mixed flock of **Yellow-rumped warblers** and **Bridled Titmice**. Hiking up trail 231 was where it was at. Large dead pines were infested with **Acorn Woodpeckers** stuffing acorns into the tree. If you want to see Acorn Woodpeckers, this is the spot. **Red-naped Sapsuckers** flew about while flocks of **Western Bluebirds** flitted in the canopy above. On the way out, a mixed flock of **Nuthatches** and **Mountain Chickadees** made thru the trees. Lunch back at the lake a flock of 20 **Bushtits** gave us some good views.



Photo by Vera Markham

27 species (+1 other taxa) total, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 4 American Coot, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Red-naped Sapsucker, 11 Acorn Woodpecker, 1 Gila Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, 1 American Kestrel, 1 Empidonax sp., 2 Steller's Jay, 1 Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, 4 Common Raven, 6 Mountain Chickadee, 6 Bridled Titmouse, 20 Bushtit, 3 White-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Pygmy Nuthatch, 1 Canyon Wren, 14 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 16 Western Bluebird, 5 Lesser Goldfinch, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Spotted Towhee, 1

Orange-crowned Warbler, 1 Yellow Warbler, 6 Yellow-rumped Warbler.
<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49372919>

Watson Lake overlook – Lots of stuff to look at!

The Watson lake overlook was a crowded place, both the parking lot and the lake. Ducks were everywhere so a spotting scope was a handy tool. Many **Buffleheads, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls** and hundreds of **Ruddy ducks** were present. **Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes** were also present. For gulls, 4 **Bonaparte's** and a single **Ring-billed** were in attendance. Most everyone got to see the Great Blue Heron eat the bullfrog.



Photo by Vera Markham

Species 21 species total, 40 Canada Goose, 8 Gadwall, 24 Mallard, 6 Northern Pintail, 16 Bufflehead, 400 Ruddy Duck, 6 Pied-billed Grebe, 6 Eared Grebe, 8 Western Grebe, 150 American Coot, 1 Killdeer, 4 Bonaparte's Gull, 1 Ring-billed Gull, 1 Neotropic Cormorant, 3 Great Blue Heron, 1 Great Egret, 2 Common Raven, 2 Barn Swallow, 1 Lesser Goldfinch, 6 White-crowned Sparrow, 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler. <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49372578>

47 species overall!

Counts and other details with lots of photos are at eBird