

Craters of the Moon Christmas Bird Count - 1967

Craters of the Moon Nat. Mon., Idaho 43°24'N, 113°36'W (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center NW corner S15, T1N, R24E, Butte County, to include highway 93A, Lava Lake, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Martin, Monument Loop Drive; desert scrub 56%, riparian 20%, ranchyards and fields 12%, Douglas fir forest 6%, limber pine forest 6%). Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy, fog after 2 p.m.; temp. 15° to 31°; wind SW 0-15 m.p.h.; 12-20in. snow cover, warm spring area open at Lava Lake. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 16 (11 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 65 (10 on foot, 55 by car).

Green-winged Teal, 1; Gray Partridge, 15; Killdeer, 2; Common Snipe, 1; Great Horned Owl, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Horned Lark, 8; Black-billed Magpie, 25; Common Raven, 4; Common Crow, 1; Clark's Nutcracker, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; House Sparrow, 1; Pine Siskin, 37; Red Crossbill, 3; Song Sparrow, 6.

Total, 16 species, 111 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Golden Eagle, Sage Grouse). - Dennis Carter (compiler), Richard Easterly, Brent Ritchie, Floyd Standlee.

Dennis Carter found a lone male Green-winged Teal (possibly injured) on a small area of open water at the north end of Lava Lake.

Carter and Floyd Standlee saw two coveys of partridge along the Martin Road.

Carter and Richard Easterly flushed two Killdeer and a Common Snipe from a warm spring area on the ranch at the north end of Lava Lake. The occurrence of Killdeer at this elevation and at this time of year is unusual.

Carter heard two Great Horned Owls calling near the Monument residence area, just before sunrise on count day.

Brent Ritchie hiked to Little Cottonwood Canyon using snowshoes and found Clark's Nutcracker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill (new for the Monument) in Douglas fir forest.

Carter and Easterly saw the Song Sparrows in the warm spring area near Lava Lake.