

Craters of the Moon Christmas Bird Count - 1969

Craters of the Moon Nat. Mon., Idaho $43^{\circ}24'N$, $113^{\circ}36'W$ (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, Indian Tunnel, Grassy Cone, Sunset Cone, Monument Loop Drive; desert scrub 65%, Douglas fir forest 15%, limber pine forest 10%, riparian 10%). Dec. 20; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; temp. 30° to 40° ; wind SW 0-10 m.p.h.; 6-10 in. snow cover, Lava Lake mostly frozen. One observer in 1 party. Total party-hours, 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 58 (10 on foot, 48 by car).

Golden Eagle, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-billed Magpie, 41; Common Raven, 1; Clark's Nutcracker, 1; Mountain Chickadee, 4; Brown Creeper, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 24; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, 16.

Total, 9 species (1 additional race); about 90 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Great Horned Owl, Horned Lark).
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I was unable to obtain help with this count, but I feel that it is worth publishing as it is an established count (previously taken in 1967). Very few counts are taken in Idaho and none closer than 60 miles from this area.

A flock of 24 Pine Grosbeak was found in the Douglas fir stand on the north side of Sunset Cone. Both males and females were seen well at close range, and all field marks were noted. They were heard before they were seen. This species has been present in the Monument since October 21. In the three years that I have spent at Craters of the Moon, this fall was the first time that I had observed Pine Grosbeak here, although there are earlier records.

The Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were counted as they came in to roost in Indian Tunnel - a lava tube. Both the Hepburn's race and one of the other subspecies were identified.

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