



# BEAR CREEK WATERSHED

## Fact Sheet 43 Evergreen Audubon Bird Atlas

September 2, 2014

*The Bear Creek Watershed Association protects and restores water and environmental quality within the Bear Creek Watershed from the effects of land use.*

Clear Creek County  
 Jefferson County  
 City of Lakewood  
 Town of Morrison  
 Aspen Park Metropolitan District  
 Brook Forest Inn  
 Conifer Sanitation Association  
 Conifer Metropolitan District  
 Denver Water Department  
 Evergreen Metropolitan District  
 Forrest Hills Metropolitan District  
 Genesee Sanitation & Water District  
 Geneva Glen  
 Jefferson County School District  
 Kittredge Water & Sanitation District  
 Tiny Town Foundation, Inc.  
 West Jefferson County Metropolitan District  
 Evergreen Trout Unlimited  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Species - A total of 181 breeding species are found in the Bear Creek Watershed.**

**Records - 11,229 records entered using specific field protocols.**

**Surveys - 1,766 hours of effort contributed by 24 experienced volunteer birders.**

The Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society (<http://www.evergreenaudubon.org>) has developed a breeding bird atlas for the Bear Creek Watershed (<http://bcwba.org>) with the project survey extending from 2008-2012. The website provides data entry capability, data forms for use in the field, description and maps of survey sites, and real-time reporting of survey progress. The project surveyed representative habitats in a broadly selected group of sites in the Watershed. The Atlas provides information on bird distribution, abundance, breeding status, and habitat use on public lands within the Watershed. Audubon volunteers targeted about 30,500 acres of relatively natural lands for breeding bird surveys. Over 50 sites were surveyed by experienced birders extending from Summit Lake down to the confluence of Bear Creek with the South Platte River. All the survey sites are open space lands administered by public agencies that occur between 6,000' and 12,000'. As land use changes occur in the watershed, surveys of breeding birds can be a useful watershed management tool to help decision making organizations assess the impact of these land use changes on biological communities.



American Robin is the most widely distributed breeding bird in the Watershed (occurring at 95% of all sites) and was absent only from one subalpine forest site and the alpine site. Northern Flicker was also widely distributed and occurred at 91% of all sites. Other breeding species found at  $\geq 75\%$  of the sites included Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Cordilleran Flycatcher, American Crow, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, House Wren, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Twenty-eight breeding bird species were found in only one ecoregion.

