

Pam Laing - Black Mountain birds - FoBM AGM March 2018

Pam Laing is well known in the area for her birding expertise and enthusiasm. As well as a birder, she is also a notable photographer and shared with us photographs of several birds that frequent Black Mountain. You can find many of her photos on our website under the 'gallery' tab.

She invited us along on a 'walk' in Black Mountain starting with birds you might see if you look high in the sky. Raptors, falcons and eagles love the grasslands and cliffs off Pyman Road, as many local birders know. She showed us how to recognize a Red-tailed Hawk and showed us pictures of a Bald Eagle and a Sharp-shinned Hawk among others.

Next, she suggested we look to the ground to see the birds that we would find there. The Ruffed Grouse can be recognized by its Elizabethan collar that it puffs out when courting. Other grassland birds mentioned, include the Snow Bunting and the Savannah Sparrow. She confessed she loved the California Quail babies, and said her husband's description of them was that they looked like walnuts supported on toothpicks.

Finally, she led us to birds we would find in the trees of Black Mountain, including: Lazuli Buntings, warblers, bluebirds and woodpeckers. The photos and witty commentary by Pam prompted one person to comment to me that, "If that presentation didn't make you want to go birding, nothing would?"



← Lazuli Bunting

Warbler →



← Hairy Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker →

