

SPRING BANDING AND SUMMER SURVEYS OF THE BLACK ROSY-FINCH IN WYOMING – 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Project Summary: Collectively, rosy-finches are thought to be the highest breeding birds in North America, and thus potentially threatened by climate change. Establishing baseline information on the distribution of these species is critical to long-term monitoring efforts. This study initiated survey work in Wyoming on the Black Rosy-Finch (BLRF), which is one of the least studied avian in North America.

Surveys conducted in summer 2015 revealed three undocumented mountain ranges having breeding BLRF populations. Additionally, four new nest sites were located, and nest searching techniques were developed. Limited success was had during spring banding attempts due to unfavorably warm weather.

Knowledge gained in 2015 helped provide needed baseline data for a graduate study that began in 2016 at the University of Wyoming's Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit under Dr. Anna Chalfoun. This was instrumental in ensuring said graduate program which was fully funded by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's State Wildlife Grant.

Information gained during this project has been presented to Jackson Hole Bird & Nature Club, in conjunction with knowledge gained from the current graduate program. A note has been accepted by *Western Birds* for publication in 2018 with more specific information on species distribution findings than found here. Previously unpublished surveys in Wyoming by Dr. Richard Johnson, University of Washington, are also to be found in this note.

Brown, C. W., Patla, S, Johnson, R.E. 2018. Extension of the Breeding Range of the Black Rosy-Finch in Wyoming. *Western Birds*. (Accepted)



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