

My Camp Experience

My camp experience was very enjoyable and entertaining. From all the pleasurable activities I participated in, such as rock-climbing and canoeing, to the exciting birding trips to Rocky Mountain National Park, my experience at camp was indeed delightful. To begin with, I thought that the activities were great, although I would have preferred a bit more birding and earlier in the morning. My favorite of the birding trips, the one up to the alpine tundra attempting to view White-tailed ptarmigan, Horned Larks, Brown-capped Rosy-Finches, and other tundra breeding birds, because it was a completely different environment, and I found two life-birds, which were the American Pipit, and the Horned Lark. Another activity I really enjoyed was watching and taking notes of not only the bird life, but other living things like plants and insects at my sit spot. My sit-spot was located in the meadow, where I found a small Quaking Aspen grove with a few large Ponderosa Pines. I heard and observed several species of birds including, Warbling Vireos, Pygmy Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, and multiple male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds performing their exciting courtship displays, where they fly up around thirty or so feet in the air, and then they rapidly dive down close to the female, and then they repeat it. It was very entertaining to watch. One especially amusing bird I observed at my spot was a Mountain Chickadee (the gambelli subspecies), that was very responsive to “pshhh-ing” noises, and came about four feet away from me. It was remarkable to see the close-up view of the individual feathers on their head that made up the black eye-stripe, and other facial markings. I also really enjoyed trying different activities such as canoeing, rock-climbing, and all the challenges we did on Tuesday, like organizing people on a log to the right order based on their birthdays. Secondly, the food was mostly pretty good, except for the excessive use of meat, which was almost in every meal. I would prefer a more plant-based selection of food. Nonetheless, I am still very grateful for the food that Highlands Presbyterian Camp provided us with. To conclude my report of my camp experience, I really enjoyed meeting people who are also

fascinated by birds, finding two life birds, trying new activities such as canoeing and rock-climbing, and birding in some extraordinary places in Rocky Mountain National Park. I am tremendously appreciative of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for providing this opportunity for young avian and nature enthusiasts.

George