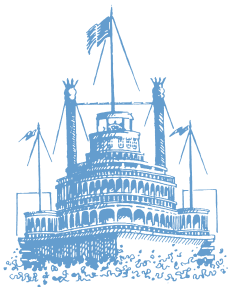


FRIDAY

JANUARY 2, 2009

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

VOL. 21, No. 2



STEAMBOAT TODAY

ROUTT COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

FREE



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4 Points: Your guide to weekend entertainment

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Riders flock to SSWSC

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MATT STENSLAND/STAFF

A robin sits in an aspen tree Wednesday afternoon near Blackmere Drive. Local bird experts think the robin population explosion on Emerald Mountain is attributable to birds that migrated from Canada.

Robin growth rampant

Unusual number of birds feasting on berries near Emerald Mountain

Tom Ross
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The dozens of robins hanging out above Howelsen Hill this winter likely are not local birds but might be snowbirds in the truest sense of the term.

Tom Litteral, of the Yampa Valley Birding Club, said the

unusual numbers of robins in the valley this winter probably migrated south from Canada and stayed for the abundance of berries.

"I've never seen a winter like this. We're really scratching our heads on this one," Litteral said. His group counted 110 robins during its annual Christmas bird count Dec. 14.

That compares to just four on the same date last year.

Group members also tallied four bald eagles, 10 downy woodpeckers, six hairy woodpeckers, 108 Stellar's jays, two kingfishers, 187 black-billed magpies, six Townsend's solitaires, 53 evening grosbeak's, one each of coot, rough-legged hawk, northern harrier, spotted

towhee and morning dove, plus 200 of the seldom spotted rosy finches.

The four robins spotted during the count in December 2007 probably were local robins who lingered instead of flying south to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, or even as far as the

See **Robins**, back page

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FRIDAYS & SUNDAYS



SKI TOWN USA SNOW REPORT

Steamboat Ski Area

New snow — Mid-mountain*	0 in.	Total snow†	140 in.
New snow — Summit	0 in.	Trails open	165/165
Base — Mid-mountain	42 in.	Lifts open	16/18
Base — Summit	50 in.	Conditions	Packed powder

*24-hour snowfall as of 12:30 p.m. previous day; † total snow beginning Oct. 21 as measured at mid-mountain FOR UP-TO-DATE ROAD CONDITIONS, INCLUDING RABBIT EARS PASS, call 511 or visit: www.cotrip.org



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