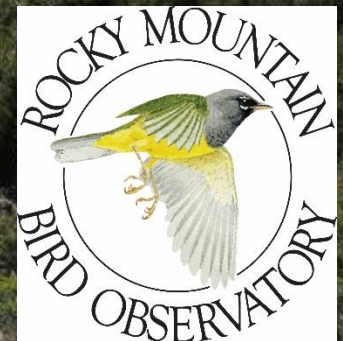


BIRDS OF ALTA

Bryant Olsen

August 10, 2015



Why Study Birds at Alta?



- Unique access to high elevations habitats.
- Many high elevation endemic species.

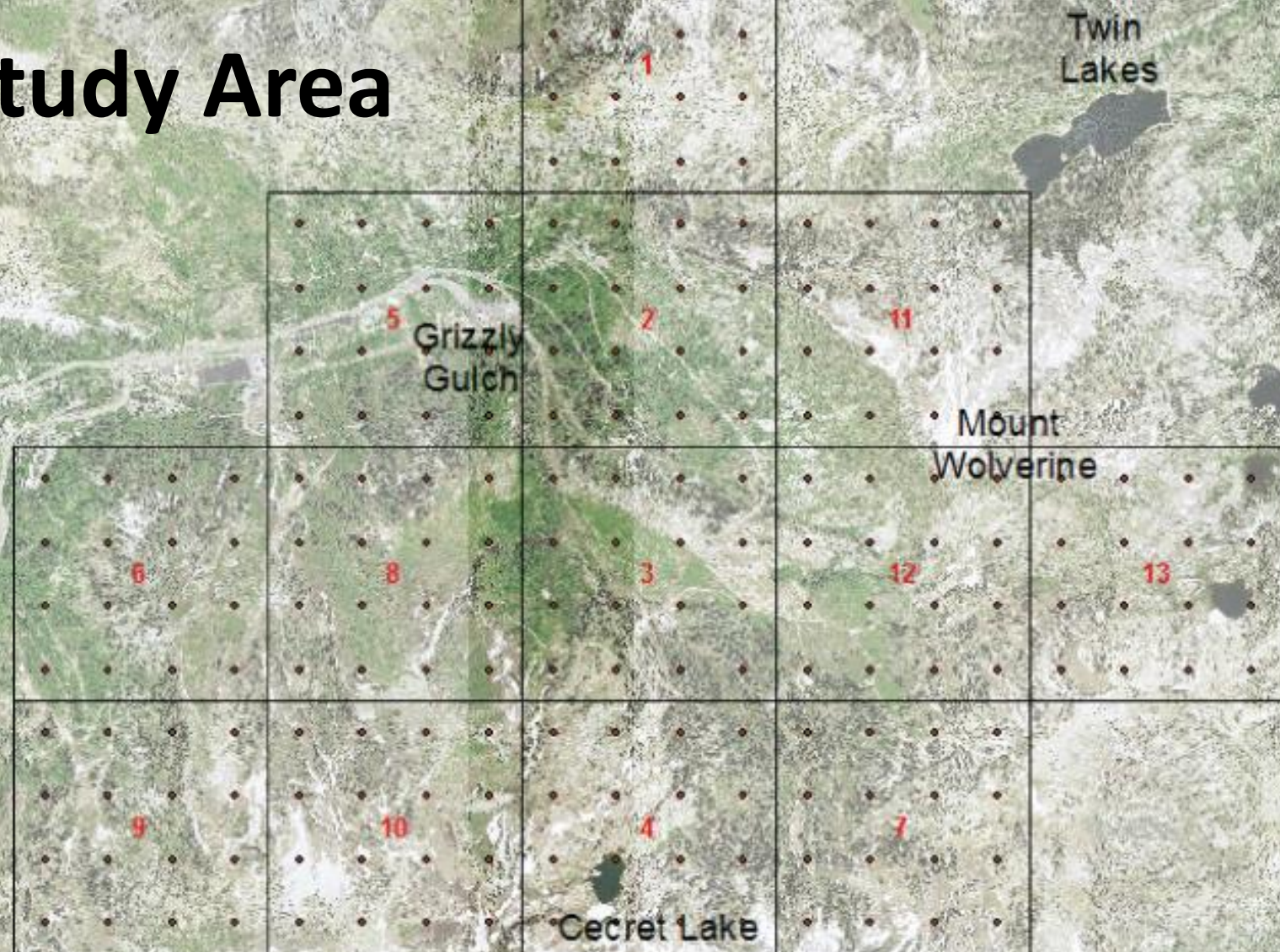
How do We Study Birds at Alta?

Red Crossbill



- **RMBO IMBCR Point Transect BBS**
 - 10 grids of 1 square kilometer(100 hectares)
 - Each grid has 6 to 16 points where 6 minute point counts are conducted between 6am-11am from June 15th-July 15th

Study Area



Legend

• Bird survey points

Grids

Results of 1st Year

- 82 species of birds document at Alta so far
- 63 species documented during nesting season(June-July)
- 4,259 individual birds recorded
- 5 most abundant species were:
 - White-crowned Sparrow
 - Dark-eyed Junco
 - Clark's Nutcracker
 - Chipping Sparrow
 - Pine Siskin



Interesting Discoveries

- New birds this season
 - Northern Goshawk
 - American Pipit
 - White-winged Crossbill
 - Black-chinned Hummingbird
 - Yellow Warbler
 - Plumbeous Vireo



Plumbeous Vireo

Northern Goshawk



White-winged Crossbill



Yellow Warbler



Black-chinned Hummingbird

Noteworthy Birds

- Calliope Hummingbirds on territory
- Black Rosy-Finches in Alpine zone, nesting
- American Pipits in Alpine Zone
- Red Crossbills abundant → large spruce cone crop this season
- Common Poorwills up Grizzly Gulch

Black Rosy-Finch



Common Poorwill



Calliope Hummingbird



Red Crossbill



NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

American Pipit



Big Misses

- American Three-toed Woodpeckers
 - Spruce Bark beetle population low
- Evening Grosbeak
 - Spruce budworm population low
- Williamson's Sapsuckers?

Evening Grosbeak



Williamson's Sapsucker

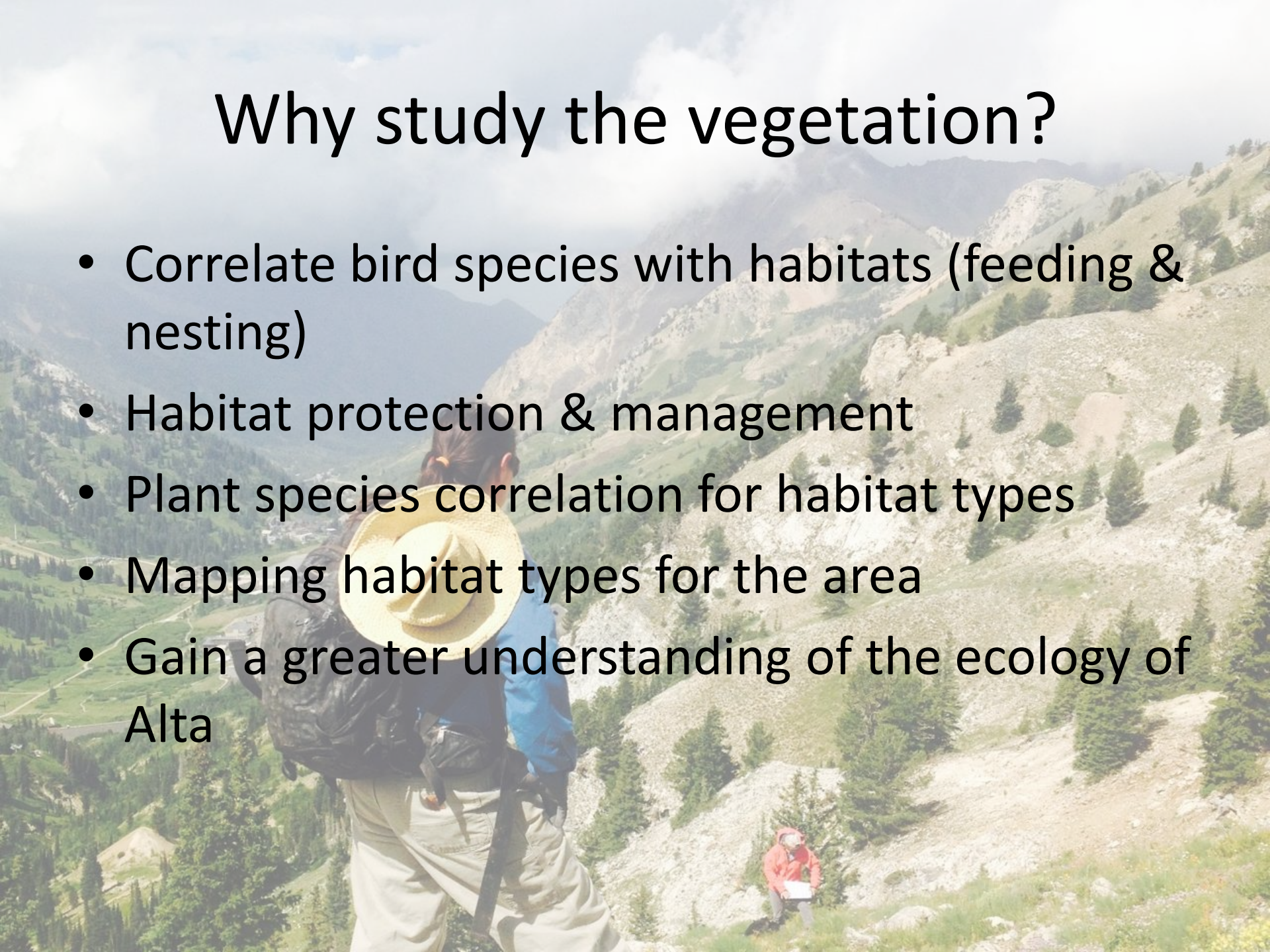


American Three-toed Woodpecker



Why study the vegetation?

- Correlate bird species with habitats (feeding & nesting)
- Habitat protection & management
- Plant species correlation for habitat types
- Mapping habitat types for the area
- Gain a greater understanding of the ecology of Alta



How do we study the veg?

The Protocol

- Bird surveys points only
- 50 ft radius plots
- Overall ground cover (bare, litter, herbaceous, woody, water)
- Vegetation height
- Top 5 Common species for: overstory, understory and herbaceous layer

Habitat Types

- Wetland
- Riparian
- Mountain Meadow
- Aspen
- Spruce-Fir
- Limber Pine
- Cliff/Rock
- XX (Short Forb)



Results of 1st Year

Top Common 5 Species

- Tree Species: 5
- Shrub Species: 25
- Forb Species: ~45
- Grass Species: 11
- Total Species (in plots): ~91

Common Species



Englemann Aster



Subalpine Fir



Gordon's Ivesia



Silver Lupine

Interesting Discoveries



Choke Cherry



Buffaloberry



Oceanspray



Parry's Goldenrod

Get involved!

Non-breeding Survey

2nd Monday of the month through April, half off area day lift pass.

Volunteer with Tracy Aviary's Citizen Science Project!

Training for
Breeding Bird
Surveys start in
February.



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

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