

Mountain Hike - 2

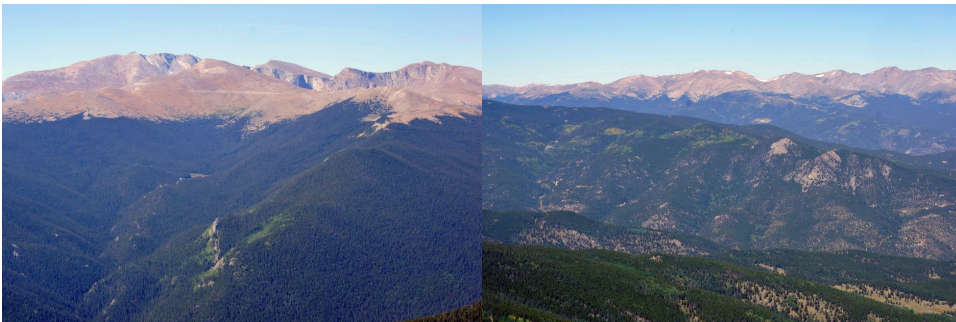
On Saturday, September 10, there were 15 of us who hiked in the Colorado mountains for a distance of about 4 km and a vertical rise of about 300 meters to the tree-less summit of Chief Mountain. This is the same destination as two years ago for Colorado School of Mines students. (My report of that trip can be seen at www.EdHolroyd.info/TripReports/2014Colorado-Montana/MountainHike.pdf.) There were 4 from China, 2 from Turkey, 2 from Chile, 2 from DR Congo, 1 from Jordan, and 4 of us local Americans.



Most of the hike was within the forest of spruce and pine trees. Eventually we got a view of the summit. We climbed on rocks at the end.



The views were excellent in the cloud-less sky. We could see Mount Evans to the south, the Continental Divide with some lingering snow patches to the west, and the village of Idaho Springs with its nearby scars from old gold mines and the mine tailings.

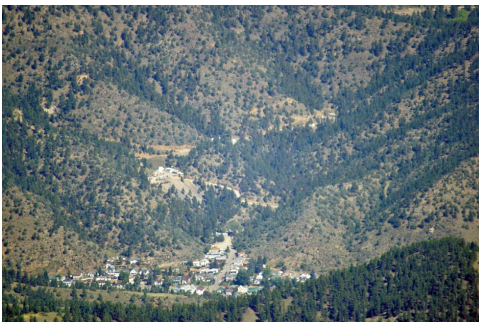


Mount Evans

Continental Divide in the rear



Idaho Springs in valley, light mine scars



Road to Edgar Mine in the hills

One of the mines (low, left of center), is the Edgar Mine, which is used by Colorado School of Mines for some of its classes.

A Golden Mantle Squirrel was at the summit again but did not beg for food this year.



Golden Mantle Squirrel



Going down was easier once we were away from the summit rocks. We returned to our vans and drove a short distance to a picnic location along the forest road to the west for our lunch.

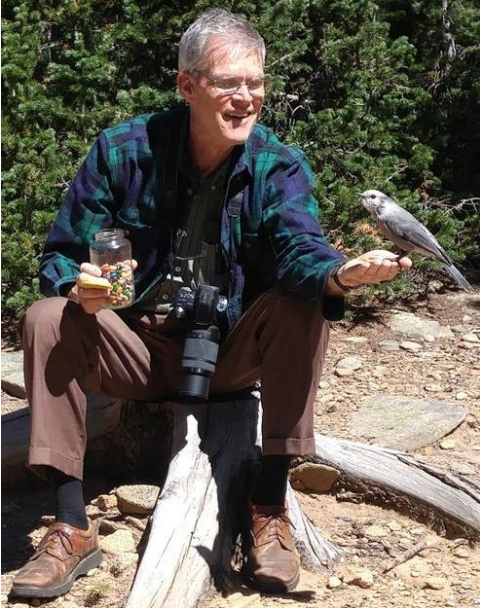


As the lunch was being prepared I saw the Gray Jays carefully watching us. I knew what they wanted. So I sat on a stump, put a mixture of peanuts, raisins, and chopped dates in my hand. I held my hand out, did not move, and waited. I got the expected result, shown in the photo. Later Theresia Difima, from DR Congo, was successful in

feeding a bird. Other mountain birds which also like free food are Clark's Nutcrackers and Stellar's Jays, but they were not present at this picnic site.



Gray Jay



Ed feeding a Gray Jay



To use the available space in this report, I have added a photo of a Great Horned Owl that I saw this morning near my home.

Dr. Ed Holroyd
12 September 2016

