

Identifying Juvenile Clark's Nutcrackers VS Adults

Adults:

- Black bills, legs and feet
- Long beak, long tail
- Typically, white on face, around bill & eyes
- Sleeker body and feathers



Adult. Photo Credit: Joanne Clayton



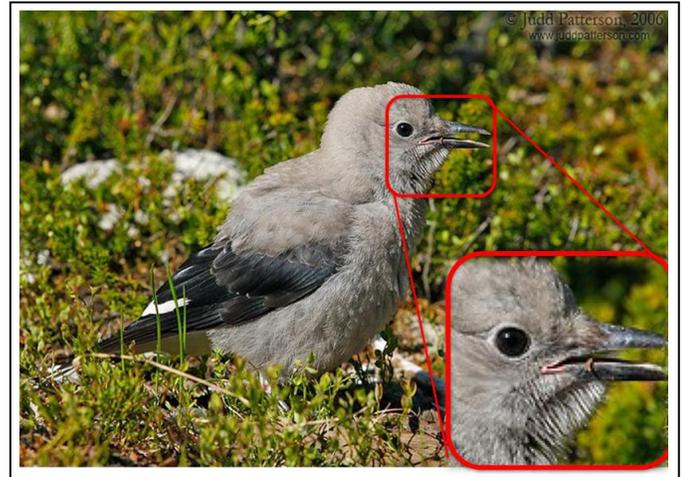
Adult. Photo Credit: Lyn Topinka

Behavior:

- Courting takes place in season: March-June, mostly in April.
- Wild, rapid flights in which one follows the other then the birds return to the same or nearby tree, or both dive and swoop together.
- One bird may hold a twig in its beak while courting.

Juveniles:

- Grey legs
- Shorter beak, shorter tail
- No white on face, pink dots below eyes & red mouth for short period after leaving the nest
- Duller body, wings & tail, more brownish – grey plumage
- Look for pink corners of the mouth, known as the “gape”.



Behavior:

- Can often be seen actively chasing and noisily begging one or more parents for food.
- Will see juveniles off the nest from April through August.
- Young nutcrackers and often flutter their wings while crouched, when begging. A lot fluffier than adults.



Learn more at The Nutcracker Ecosystem Project, www.thenutcrackerecosystemproject.com.