VOL. 42 NO. 4 APRIL 2012

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org



MIGRATORY BIRD DAY IS MAY 12

Think globally and celebrate locally!

Bird migration is perhaps one of the best illustrations of the connection between our backyards and the world.

Join Evergreen Nature Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service in celebrating Evergreen Lake as a beautiful respite or destination for travelers . . . and birds too.

This free festival offers games, take-home crafts, backyard bird conservation tips and lots of learning fun.

It will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the lake, beginning with a Birding by Ear Walk led by EA President Brad Andres at 10 a.m.

Contact Vanessa Hayes at encdirector@evergreen-audubon.org or 303-330-0489 if you are interested in volunteering to help with this annual worldwide event.

Earth Day evolves into Earth Week

EA's Brad Andres to speak on Wednesday

Evergreen Audubon is a sponsor of this year's Earth Week, which will kick off a series of exciting events ranging from speaker evenings to a children's author program, culminating with the Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April 21.

Evergreen Nature Center also will open for the season on April 21.

The events are scheduled from Monday

to Friday, April 16-20, at the Bergen Fire House, 1802 Bergen Parkway, unless noted otherwise. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with presentations starting at 7.

EA President Brad Andres will present a talk, "An Arctic Treasure—The Teshekpuk Lake Region of Northern Alaska," on Wednesday, April 18. This Alaska Audubon project is near and dear to his heart.

Teshekpuk Lake is located on the North Slope of Alaska and is one of the most ecologically important wetlands in the entire

Continued on page 6

Butterflies on agenda, meeting starts late

At the April 5 EA chapter meeting, Stephen Jones and Janet Chu will look at some of the most colorful and interesting butterflies found along the Colorado Front Range, including swallowtails, blues, brushfoots and skippers.

Please note that the monthly meeting at Church of the Hills will start 15 minutes later than usual, at 7:15 p.m., to accommodate a church event.

Jones and Chu will discuss how to approach and photograph butterflies, the magic of butterfly life history and metamorphosis, and some of the interesting things they learned about local butterflies while working on "Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range," a photographic field guide.

They are hoping to organize a joint Evergreen-Boulder Audubon field trip in July to observe Colorado hairstreaks, ovenbirds and other iconic critters of the red rock/gamble oak woodland ecosystems unique to the area.

Janet Chu taught high school biology for 38 years and has conducted butterfly population studies on Boulder County Open Space for 10 years, documenting nearly 200 species. Since 1983 she has organized the annual Fourth of July butterfly count at the Cal-Wood Education Center in western Boulder County.

Stephen Jones is author of "The Last Prairie, a Sandhill's Journey" and co-author of the "Shortgrass Prairie," the "Peterson Field

Guide to North American Prairie" and "Wild Boulder County." He works as a teacher and wildlife consultant.

The chapter meeting will be Thursday, April 5, at 7:15 p.m. at Church of the Hills on Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library). Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the speaker's presentation. All are welcome.



New Bird Business author Marilyn Rhodes has a serious case of owling fever. She photographed this Long-eared Owl at Jackson State Park in Morgan County Feb. 9. See page 4.

EVERGREEN AUDUBON www.evergreenaudubon.org

2012 OFFICERS

President Brad Andres 303-670-0101 president@evergreenaudubon.org **Vice President** Jean Thayer 303-670-9066 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org Secretary **Heather Johnson** 303-670-0101 secretary@evergreenaudubon.org **Treasurer** Joan Ridgely 303-526-2250 treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bird Monitoring	JoAnn/Bill Hackos	303-670-8517
	birdmon@everg	reenaudubon.org
Communications	Lisa Wald	303-674-0417
	communications@everg	reenaudubon.org
Conservation	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331
	conservation@everg	reenaudubon.org
Development	Ginny Ades	303-674-7199
	development@everg	reenaudubon.org
Education	Kathy Madison	303-670-0209
	education@everg	reenaudubon.org
Social Events	Marge Petersen	303-670-4310
	socialevents@everg	reenaudubon.org
At Large	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
	atlarge1@everg	reenaudubon.org
At Large	Peggy Linn	303-674-2239
	atlarge2@evergre	eenaudubon.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

••		
National Audubon	Dick Prickett	303-674-0217
Bear Creek Atlas	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Bird Box Sales	Bud Weare	303-679-8889
Conservation	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331
Dipper Editor	Debbie Marshall	303-674-3752
	marshallpub	lish@gmail.com
Education	Kathy Madison	303-670-0209
Field Trips	TBD	
Hospitality	Rachel Hutchinson	303-679-1503
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066
Nature Center	Vanessa Hayes	303-330-0489
	encdirector@evergr	eenaudubon.org
Program	Kathy Madison	303-670-0209
Publicity	TBD	
Ways & Means	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402
	irm	asonny@aol.com
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610
	sheltonpublicaddre	ss@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Lisa Wald	303-674-0417

Meetings first Thursday except January, June, July, August 7 p.m., Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BRAD ANDRES

Juncos are beginning to sing, raptors are heading north and Great Horned Owls are sitting on eggs—it must be spring!

Approaching springs always indicate that Evergreen Audubon will be in full swing with its educational and citizen-science projects, which offer tremendous volunteer opportunities. With new director Vanessa Hayes' enthusiasm inspiring us, we will be operating Evergreen Nature Center five days a week.

Vanessa is looking for visitor assistants to greet ENC guests. If you haven't yet volunteered at the ENC, watch for announcements of upcoming training sessions.

The ENC will be set up for the 2012 season on April 15 in preparation for an Earth Day opening on April 21. In conjunction with Earth Day, there will be a series of lectures and programs the week before (April 16-20), and Evergreen Audubon will sponsor and conduct some of the events at the Bergen Park Fire Station.

We already have a number of events planned, and Kathy Madison, our new Education chair on the EA Board, could use your help at Earth Day, Bear Creek Lake Park's Earth Day (May 5) and International Migratory Bird Day (May 12). We will hold our annual International Dawn Chorus on May 6.

Citizen-science projects get going in spring, and we invite you to participate in the Elk Meadow/Three Sisters nest-box monitoring project (highlighted in last month's *Dipper*) and the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas (described in this month's issue).

Even if you don't have experience with these projects, you can participate with leaders who know the ropes. Contact Brad Andres (president@evergreenaudubon.org) or JoAnn/Bill Hackos (birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org).

I hope to see you at the Evergreen Nature Center or out in the field this spring.

VIP VOLUNTEERS BRAD ANDRES

We appreciate all the volunteers who helped with another very successful Nest Box Sale. Head honcho **Bud Weare** reports that the boxes almost sold out, with six bluebird and two chickadee boxes left.

Thanks to Walt Phillips, John Ellis, Peggy Durham and Marilyn Kaussner at the Bergen Park King Soopers location; Cathy Shelton, Dick Prickett, Irma Wolf, Juanita Weare and Lynne Price at the Conifer King Soopers; and Bud Weare, Mark Meremonte, Margaret McDole, Sylvia Robertson, David Wald and Lisa Wald at the Evergreen Safeway.

April 5 meeting start time delayed

The April 5 EA chapter meeting will start 15 minutes later than usual to accommodate an event at Church of the Hills. The setup crew will arrive at 6:50 p.m., with the meeting to start at 7:15 p.m.

The program will feature Stephen Jones and Janet Chu, who co-authored "Butterflies of the Colorado Front Range."

Church of the Hills is located on Buffalo Park Road, across from Evergreen Library.

Evergreen Nature Center hosts spring activities

ENC invites you, our members and volunteers, to another lovely season of learning on the lake in 2012.

Whether you've logged hundreds of hours or never walked in the door, we welcome you to be a part of this great opportunity for appreciating beauty in nature and community.

Contact Vanessa Hayes, encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org or 303-330-0489, to RSVP for one of the following events or to become a new volunteer.

ENC Nesting Sunday, April 15, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., (Come when you can)

Like breeding birds returning in spring, it is time to reclaim and rebuild Evergreen Nature Center. Help make the new layout design a reality! Please let us know if you are coming.

ENC Season Opening on Earth Day Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

ENC celebrates Earth Day with the 2012 season opening of our revamped Nature Center. Join us for free raffles, games and crafts. Email Vanessa at encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org to volunteer.

New Volunteer Gathering Sunday, April 29, 4:30-6 p.m.

Looking for a new way to enjoy nature and community? Learn more about becoming an ENC volunteer during this relaxing evening on the lake.

We're looking for enthusiastic learners who appreciate nature—expertise is

not required! Please let us know if you are coming.

17th Annual Dawn Chorus Sunday, May 6, 6–9 a.m. Potluck breakfast at 8 a.m.

Join Evergreen Audubon for this spring tradition of birding and breakfast. RSVP and sign up to bring a Hearty, Sweet or Fruit dish to share.

International Migratory Bird Day: 20th Anniversary! Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Birding by Ear Walk, 10 a.m.

ENC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service commemorate this international festival with a free day of family fun! Join us for games, conservation crafts and more! Contact Vanessa to volunteer.

Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas enters fifth year

The purpose of the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas is to provide information on bird distribution, abundance, breeding status and habitat use on public lands within the Bear Creek Watershed.

Information from these surveys will be provided to the appropriate federal, state, county and local agencies that manage these public lands.

Data collected in this project also will help inform conservation decisions considered by Evergreen Audubon and will be used for educational purposes in the Evergreen Nature Center.

We began the project in 2008, and will be finishing up our first round of sites in 2012. After this, we will return to sites we surveyed previously.

In 2011, 31 participants made 92 trips to the 10 sites we designated to be surveyed. Observers spent a total of 261 hours conducting surveys, of which 180 hours were within the identified core survey period. The effort goal of 10 to 15 hours in the core period was met at virtually all sites.

Observers led by Karel Buckley, Kay Niyo and Donald Randall logged 68 hours at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park and Mike Henwood put in a lot of hours owling at Mount Lindo.

Training Session

A training session will be held on Sunday, April 22, at 3 p.m. at Evergreen Nature Center to help volunteers bone up on atlas methods.

A total of 113 species were recorded during all surveys in 2011, of which 106 species were suspected of breeding in the Bear Creek Watershed (possible, probable or confirmed breeding evidence).

Inga Brennan and crew tallied 72 species in Corwina Park, including three Prairie Warblers, and Sherman Wing and his team followed with 57 and 54 species at O'Fallon and Pence parks.

Although finding fewer species at their higher-elevation sites, Chuck Aid, Barbara Jean Gard and Heather Johnson diligently worked the lodgepole pines.

Mike Foster was able to confirm Blue Jay in the Bear Creek Greenbelt, and Bill and JoAnn Hackos were able to confirm Hermit Thrush along Squaw Pass Road.

Over the four years of our study, we have recorded a total of 166 species, of which 131 species (79 percent) were suspected of breeding.

Atlasing is a great way to take your

birding to another level! Exploring the behavior of breeding birds gives you an experience that cannot be gained by just ticking off species.

So, come join us and sign up as a leader for one of the eight sites we identified for surveys in 2012.

A number of these areas are quite large and will need a good team of surveyors. Please contact Brad Andres at 303-670-0101 or president@evergreen-audubon.org if you are interested in a particular area.

Here are the 2012 sites; some are already spoken for.

Bergen and Fillius Parks, Inga Brennan; Birch Hill, Indian Hills—undeveloped, requires hiking in; Berrian Mountain—undeveloped site, trail access; Captain Mountain Trail (lower)—Elk Management area; Hicks Mountain, undeveloped—need to check for access; Matthews/Winters Park—large area to cover; Meyer Ranch Park, Mike Foster and JoAnn/Bill Hackos; Yankee Creek, Susan Harper and Sherman Wing.

Hope to see you on April 22. Information on the atlas project can be found at www.bcwbba.org, and past years' reports are posted on the Evergreen Audubon website.

- Brad Andres

BIRD BUSINESS MARILYN RHODES

Lots to report on this month . . . Chuck Aid had a **Northern Shrike** at Lair o' the Bear Open Space Park and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at O'Fallon Park on Feb. 6.

Louise and Bill Mounsey sighted a plethora of **American Robins** in Idaho Springs during the last week of February.

Louise counted 39 "beautiful robins" and Bill added some more seen from the driver's side on a short drive through the western residential end of the town.

It seemed to them as if there were robins on every lawn and constantly in the air ahead of the car. "For certain," Bill said, "there were more than a hundred robin red-breasts enjoying a bright late-winter day in town."

Mike and Caroline Gilbert were camping the last week of February in Arizona north of Willcox, where they observed dozens of flocks of **Lark Buntings**. Each flock had 25 to 100 birds—males just getting breeding plumage, females and first-year young. They seemed to be eating a large variety of plant seeds.

Good news! The Jefferson County record **Greater Roadrunner** survived the snow last month and continues to delight birders and visitors at Dinosaur Ridge.

Spring migration is underway! There have been no reports of **Snowy Owls** near Barr Lake since mid-February, so it's likely they've moved on. Meanwhile, crossbills are moving in. Sherman Wing saw 6 **Red Crossbills** near his home in Indian Hills on March 4.

Bluebirds are arriving now, too. Sylvia Brockner reports that Loie Evans saw what may be the first of the year—a **Mountain Bluebird** at Alderfer/Three Sisters on March 10. If you haven't cleaned out your bluebird nest boxes since last year, better not wait much longer.

Now is the time to observe courtship behavior and nest building. Many birds have transformed into glorious breeding plumage and love is in the air!

On March 5, JoAnn Hackos spent lunchtime at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge, searching unsuccessfully for



Common Goldeneye at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge (March 2010). Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

Barrow's Goldeneye. The pond where she's seen a pair in the past was still partially frozen; however, she did see a beautiful pair of **Common Goldeneyes** at that spot.

Double-crested Cormorants were back on the nesting tree in the big pond at the park and, just two weeks earlier, JoAnn saw wonderful, displaying male **Hooded Mergansers** at Prospect.

I've been on an owling binge every week for the last two months, primarily in search of **Eastern Screech-Owls** for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

In addition to Eastern Screech, our crew has seen Barn, Snowy, Great Horned, Long-eared, Short-eared, Northern Pygmy and Northern Sawwhet owls. Most sightings have been in Jefferson, Adams, Weld, Morgan and Larimer counties.

Spring and fall migration always bring unusual birds to our state. JoAnn Hackos and I have been brainstorming about how to communicate with our membership more quickly and regularly about bird sightings, especially rarities like the Greater Roadrunner and Snowy Owl.

Here's a list of several things we can do to spread the word. We'll experiment with each one and see what works. We'd also really appreciate input and suggestions from you.

- Please post your unusual sightings and photos promptly to the Evergreen Audubon website under Local Sightings and in the Photo Gallery. Also, check the website regularly for updates.
- If you're not comfortable posting to the website, please email me at cloverlane@aol.com, describing your sighting and attaching any photos that might be helpful. Call me at 303-674-9895 if you don't have access to email.
- Many people call Sylvia Brockner with sightings, so I will check in with her regularly.
- We'd especially like to know of unusual sightings at Evergreen Lake and other mountain parks, so I encourage those who visit those locations frequently to post their sightings or notify me.
- Birders from all over the state post to a site called "cobirds" managed by the Colorado Field Ornithologists. I check it regularly and you may want to as well. They were the first to report on rarities that have visited the metro area in recent years, like the Ross's Gull, Arctic Tern, Snowy Owls and Greater Roadrunner.

Continued on page 5

BIRD BUSINESS, CONTINUED

Continued from page 4

If you're interested in seeing unusual birds migrating through our area, this is a great resource. Once reported, you have to act quickly, though.

• I'm going to set up an email distribution group for birders interested in chasing rarities. Members will be notified when rarities are seen and have the opportunity to chase the bird with other Evergreen Audubon birders. If you're interested in receiving these notifications, please email me and I'll add you to the group.

When possible, we'd like to try to locate the bird as soon as possible. The longer we wait, the less chance we'll have of seeing the bird.

• Brad Andres and I thought a club Big Year competition might be fun. Instead of members competing against one another, though, the club would compete against itself, trying to better the number of total species sighted each year.

We thought we'd limit the sightings to our membership area, which would include the foothills, Golden, Lakewood and Wheat Ridge. First, we have to figure out how to report and log all the sightings, Look for more on this in the future and feel free to offer your ideas.

One final thing: The Colorado Field Ornithologists Convention is in Trinidad this year, from May 17 to 20. I've been to the convention the last two years, in Fort Collins and Grand Junction, and will be going this year. It's a great way to meet birders from around the state and bird in new locations.

The convention rotates to a different part of the state each year and offers three days of wonderful field trips, usually led by local birders from the convention area. There's still time to register and you can do so online.

For information on the convention and registration, go to the CFO website, http://cfobirds.org/. You can also find membership forms and subscribe to cobirds on that site.

I hope to hear from many of you this month so I can share you sightings with our membership.

Marilyn Rhodes takes on Bird Business

Marilyn Rhodes will be writing the Bird Business column for *The Dipper* from now on, bringing a wealth of birding knowledge and experience to the job, as well as sharing her excellent photography skills. Thank you, Marilyn, for volunteering to take on this very important task!

Marilyn moved to Evergreen from Oklahoma in 1989, immediately connecting with Evergreen Audubon (then known as The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society) and soon after enrolling in its Nature Class.

She was president of TENAS in 1996, also serving on the TENAS board of directors, and has managed the club's Annual Holiday Wreath Fundraiser since launching it in 1995 while chairman of the TENAS Ways and Means Committee. She also usually leads the EA Christmas Bird Count for Evergreen East.

Although Marilyn has been interested in birds and wildlife her entire life, her birding kicked into high gear in 2009 when she spent a year in the Audubon Society of Greater Denver's Master Birder Program, the equivalent of a college-level ornithology class.

Marilyn's interest in birding nationwide was further piqued after reading "The Big Year" and "Kingbird Highway." She retired in 2011 and traveled the United States and Mexico birding and doing an unofficial U.S. Big Year of her own, racking up 460 bird species.

Marilyn enjoys learning about and sharing her love and knowledge of birds and their habitats. She supports the Denver Field Ornithologists, Colorado Field Ornithologists, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the American Birding Association, as well as remaining active with ASGD and Evergreen Audubon.



Marilyn Rhodes and her rescue dogs, left to right: Jake (Yellow Lab), Max (Shih Tzu), Maxwell (Chihuahua), Buddy (Chihuahua) and Jax (Golden Retriever). She has four cats, too, but they didn't choose to pose for the portrait.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

Field Trip Coordinator

After many great years of organizing and promoting EA's field trips and Nature Center programs, Karel Buckley is stepping down. Many thanks to her for her enthusiasm and dedication. If you're interested in taking on the position of Field Trip coordinator (we've already taken care of the Nature Center programs), please contact Kathy Madison: education@evergreenaudubon.com.

Annual Picnic

We're looking for two volunteers to take over the organization of our annual summer picnic potluck. Peggy Durham and Sylvia Robertson have managed the picnic for many years and want to pass this on to some new folks, but they will be available to help us with the transition to a new team.

The site for this year's picnic has been reserved for Saturday, July 14. Remaining responsibilities include taking reservations for the picnic, arranging for the main course (barbecue), and organizing the setup and cleanup. Please call Marge Petersen to volunteer or with any questions. I look forward to hearing from you. 303-670-4310.

Evergreen Nature Center

Volunteers are needed to staff the Nature Center.

Earth Day

Help is needed at the Lake House and Nature Center on April 21. Please let Kathy Madison, education@evergreenaudubon. org, or Vanessa Hayes, encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org, know if you're interested in helping for this event.

As part of the Earth Week preceding the fair, EA President Brad Andres will speak on Wednesday evening, April 18. Volunteers are needed to set up, bake goodies and to promote Evergreen Audubon. Please contact Kathy Madison for more details.

2012 Bluebird Trail

Evergreen Audubon, in collaboration with Jefferson County Open Space, has two bluebird nest-box trails, with 35 boxes in Elk Meadow and 25 boxes in Alderfer/Three Sisters. In 2011, volunteers banded several adults and fledglings.

As a volunteer, you work with a leader to make biweekly walking visits along the nest-box trails. Work started in March

Continued on page 7

Earth Day Fair expands to weeklong event in 2012

Continued from page 1

Arctic. A part of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, this sensitive area provides habitat for tens of thousands of molting geese, threatened species like the Spectacled Eider, high densities of nesting shorebirds, and the 67,000-head Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd.

In this presentation, Brad will provide an overview of the rich wildlife resources in the area, discuss the conservation history of the region, describe the migratory bird connections between arctic Alaska and Colorado, and suggest what you can do to help conserve this important region of the Arctic.

For details on the project, visit: http://ak.audubon.org/teshekpuk-lake-0.

Earth Week Evening Programs

- Monday, April 16: EAS+Y will welcome this year's growing season with a new community garden. This talk will be at Buchanan Recreation Center, 32003 Ellingwood Trail.
- Tuesday, April 17: EAS+Y will kick off its "Bag It" campaign with the screening of the "Bag It" movie.
- Wednesday, April 18: Evergreen Audubon will present "An Arctic Trea-

sure—The Teshekpuk Lake Region of Northern Alaska."

- Thursday, April 19: Evergreen 350. org will host "A Featured Speaker Night" with Hunter Lovins and Bill Becker.
- Friday, April 20: Earth Day & Beyond will host "A Children's Night" with authors Lynne Cherry and Marc Bekoff.

Earth Day Fair

The 23rd Annual Mountain Area Earth Day Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, at Evergreen Lake House. Shuttle parking will be available at Wulf Recreation Center. Admission is free for all ages. Donations are encouraged.

Growing since 1990 and now one of the largest and most popular Earth Day celebrations in Colorado, the fair regularly features more than 50 federal, state and local agencies, nonprofit organizations and businesses. Up-to-date information on critical issues will be available for open discussions and to take home.

A warming tent will provide space for additional exhibitions and live presentations. HawkQuest will again present its live raptors, by now a wellanticipated tradition for this festival. Besides Evergreen Audubon, Earth Day's top-tier sponsors include EAS+Y, 350.org, Evergreen Park and Recreation District, Dakota Blonde, Natural Capitalism Solutions, Evergreen Wild Bird Store, Evergreen Newspapers, Evergreen Park and Recreation District, Evergreen Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Evergreen, Sierra Club, Colorado Timberline, Tupper's Team (Re/Max), and the University of the Wilderness.

Additional sponsors are Evergreen Sun Power, Starbuck's and Step Ahead Energy Efficiency Consulting, as well as EDS Waste Solutions, Montessori School of Evergreen, Mountain Area Democrats, Evergreen Peace, Baby Going Green, One World Cafe and Cafe @ The Place.

More information on the Earth Day Fair and the detailed lineup for the entire week's events is available at www. evergreenaudubon.org, or visit Earth Day & Beyond on Facebook.

Evergreen Nature Center Opening

And, of course, the Nature Center will hold its grand opening the same day as the Earth Day Fair, with numerous children's activities planned.

MEET THE BOARD: KATHY MADISON, EDUCATION

Kathy Madison's love of the outdoors and her enthusiasm for working with people make a good match for the Evergreen Audubon education director role.

She loves to hike, and was out walking around Evergreen Lake one day about three years ago when she ran across Evergreen Nature Center.

Veteran EA volunteer Pam Little greeted her inside and mentioned that more volunteers would be welcome. Kathy has been working as a Nature Center visitor assistant ever since and joined the board of directors in January.

In that position, she also acts as a liaison between the board and the Nature Center, which is newly helmed by Vanessa Hayes.

"I'm still learning the role, working closely with Vanessa, who has great ideas," Kathy said. "I don't have a background in working with schools, but Vanessa does."

Kathy's background is in math and computer science—first programming, then instructing others on the use of software, and ultimately sales.

She grew up outside of Chicago and in eastern Pennsylvania, and graduated from Bethany College near Pittsburgh in 1982.

Her first job was at the Naval Air Development Center in Pennsylvania, where she worked on the navigational software for the presidential helicopter, among other things. That's where she met her husband, Steve, who was heading to the University of Massachusetts for a doctoral program.

Kathy left the government and joined DataViews, a small software development company where she worked for about 13 years, staying with them even after a job change for Steve took them to Oregon.

"I've been working out of my home since 1990, in a lot of different places," she said. "I could work from anywhere, making it easy for us to move around." She described DataViews as innovative, developing graphics software before PCs became popular, but the company failed to keep up with a changing market, and she left before it closed its doors.



Kathy Madison

Kathy became a road warrior for Wind River, living in Oregon but travelling three days a week. She and Steve decided to move to Moab, Utah, in 2003 so he could take a job with the National Park Service.

That job change led to Kathy "throwing in the towel" on her road-warrior status. She was tired of it, but Wind River didn't want to lose her and she accepted an offer to support the sales force, working with customers over the phone instead of traveling to them.

Now Kathy does sales and business development for S2, a company that provides testing software and services to companies developing embedded devices (software for computers installed in cars, cell phones, etc.).

Steve made another job change in 2008, joining the U.S. Geological Survey. That brought them to Evergreen and a home in Evergreen Highlands. At first, it was a bit hard to get connected here, she said, especially without kids to involve them in school or other activities.

Her involvement with Evergreen Audubon helps, and she is excited about providing programs for Audubon members and educating the community about the Bear Creek watershed. She hopes to establish a regular sched-

ule of events at the Nature Center so that people can expect, for instance, a children's program on a regular day of the week.

In her personal life, Kathy loves creating quilts that veer into fabric art: depicting a greenback cutthroat trout in one piece and aspen trees in another, for instance.

She loves to cook and entertain, but has a "life quest" so far unfulfilled despite seeing "tons and tons" of whales along the Oregon coast. "No orca," she said. "I want to see orca—and a mountain lion."

- Debbie Marshall

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED, CONTINUED

Continued from page 6

and will continue through August. For the first time this year, returning bluebirds banded during the 2011 monitoring season may be seen.

To sign up as a bluebird volunteer on this interesting and important monitoring project, please contact Mike Wilson, crowhollow@gmail.com.

Communications Committee

Submit events to print and online publications. Distribute flyers for special Audubon events to local businesses in the Bergen Park, downtown Evergreen, and Highway 73/74 corridor. Several people who live in different areas and could distribute near their homes would be ideal. If you're interested, please contact Lisa Wald, Communications director, communications@evergreenaudubon.org or 303-674-0417.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 5	Chapter Meeting	7:15 pm	Church of the Hills
April 10	Dipper deadline	5 pm	
April 15	Nature Center setup	9:30 am-3:30 p	om
April 16-21	Earth Week		
April 18	Lake Teshekpuk Talk	7 pm	Bergen Fire House
April 21	Earth Day Fair/ENC Opens	10 am-4 pm	
April 22	BCWB Bird Atlas Training	3 pm	Nature Center
April 26	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	Church of the Hills
April 29	ENC New Volunteer Gathering	4:30–6 pm	Nature Center
April 22 April 26	BCWB Bird Atlas Training EA Board Meeting	3 pm 6 pm	Church of the Hills

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to Lisa Wald: communications@evergreenaudubon.org. Email or call *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-674-3752.

VOLUME 42, NO. 4. Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes *The Dipper* every month. Evergreen Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members may receive an electronic copy of *The Dipper* without charge or may pay \$10 a year for a mailed hard copy. Evergreen Audubon encourages readers to submit original articles, creative nature writing or art to *The Dipper*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any articles selected.

Audubon Colorado Office, 303-415-0130, www.auduboncolorado.org

Evergreen Audubon Local Membership Application

I/we would like to join the Evergreen Audubon. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter electronically, and vote (two Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain locally.

	In	dividual	1	Family	7	S	tudent
Annual dues	\$	20	\$	30		\$	10
Electronic Dipper	\$	0	\$	0		\$	0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i>	\$	10	\$	10		\$	10
Additional donation	\$_		\$_			\$_	
Total	\$ _		\$ _			\$_	
Name							
Family member(s) nan	ne(s)						
Address							
City			State	,	Zip		
Phone (optional)							
Email — —							
			tronic I	n:	٠.,		

☐ I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

C9ZD090Z and call 1-800-274-4201.

If you would like to join or donate to the National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, use chapter code

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Nature Center Spring Activities Meet the Board: Kathy Madison New Bird Business Author

IN THIS ISSUE

ВЕТИВИ SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

Evergreen Audubon P.O. Box 523 Evergreen, CO 80437

°A3999 343

Non-profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PERMIT NO. 21 EVERGREEN, CO