



5TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AND VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Evergreen Nature Center is celebrating its 5th birthday!

In 2008, a 30-year-old dream of Evergreen Audubon was realized when we opened the ENC and created a connection between enthusiastic Evergreen Audubon members and the plethora of visitors to Evergreen and its beloved lake.

This grand volunteer and fundraising effort has created the roots from which Evergreen Nature Center can grow and realize the dream of connecting with each Evergreen resident and visitor.

Join us Saturday evening, May 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. to commemorate the accomplishments of dedicated volunteers and to learn how to become a part of our present and future. All are welcome and we encourage you to bring friends.

Start polling your friends and neighbors now to find out if they know about Evergreen Nature Center and to encourage involvement.

We offer volunteer opportunities for nature lovers ages 12-plus and a great way for families to connect with nature and each other.

For more information, contact Vanessa Hayes, encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org.

- Vanessa Hayes, ENC Director

Volunteer at Evergreen Nature Center: 'Your lake, your chance'

The theme for the Evergreen Earth Day Fair this year is "Our earth, our chance."

This poignant prompt got the board of Evergreen Audubon thinking: Isn't Evergreen Lake the heart of our Evergreen and doesn't the popularity of the lake offer our perfect chance to connect people with nature, to raise awareness about local conservation issues and to thereby protect our local habitat?

Absolutely, we concluded. So we decided to piggyback on the fair theme and focus on the importance of Evergreen Nature Center as an avenue for promoting "Your lake, your chance."

Last year alone, we welcomed more than 20,000 visitors and program participants, but that is only a portion of the day users that made Evergreen Lake their outdoor recreation destination. This year we're reaching out and providing more opportunities to grasp your chance to protect your lake. We are working with like-minded organizations in Evergreen on the Respectful Recreation campaign and we need volunteers to help.

Stewards of Evergreen Lake

If you are a regular lake lapper, as I like to call our neighbors who typically round the lakeshore, this is the perfect volunteer job for you.

The main responsibility of stewards will be to help empty and maintain six new fishing line disposal containers that will be installed by Evergreen Park and Recreation District around the lake as part of Evergreen Nature Center's new Respectful Recreation campaign.

We are looking for dedicated volunteer lake stewards who also will help keep a watchful eye on day-use behaviors and educate visitors about wildlife interactions on the lake. Stewards will receive training and are required to volunteer at least once a month.

Respectful Recreation Educators

Are you an avid fisher, hunter, weed warrior or general nature expert? We need folks to share their expertise and a few helpful tips for Respectful Recreation at Evergreen Lake. Respectful Recreation educators will set up a small portable exhibit in high-traffic areas of the Evergreen Lake park for one- to two-hour periods on Saturdays or Sundays.



Educators will share a simple message of their choosing related to outdoor recreation as well as a few tips about Respectful Recreation, such as proper fishing-line disposal.

Evergreen Nature Center Visitor Assistants

Visitor Assistants are the fuel that keeps Evergreen Nature Center running and

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Nature Center will open on Earth Day

Evergreen Nature Center will open for the season on Saturday, April 20, with a celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Once again we will kick off the season as part of the Mountain Area Earth Day Fair. For lots of family fun and activities, head straight to Evergreen Nature Center in the historic Warming Hut.

You can be one of the first to view our new exhibits and the Bear Creek Watershed murals.

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Meetings first Thursday, 7 p.m., Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen, except January. Meetings in June, July and August are held at Evergreen Nature Center.

Seeing American White Pelicans soaring over the Salton Sea in southern California is certainly a harbinger of spring coming to Colorado. We have already been gearing up for the breeding-bird season and a new year at Evergreen Nature Center.

We will open the ENC on Earth Day and will be open for visitors on weekends up to Memorial Day, after which time, summer hours will begin again. Check this issue for events and programs Vanessa has planned for 2013.

One addition this year is that we will hold the first-Thursday-of-the-month chapter meetings at the ENC throughout the summer. We will host events in the ENC during Earth Day and will have a booth at the Lake House. There will be a number of events around town during April to celebrate Earth Day.

This issue of *The Dipper* also has details on our sixth year of the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas (see page 4). In 2013, we will return to sites we originally surveyed in 2008. We still need a few leaders and welcome everyone, regardless of ability, to join this project.

Come to the organizational meeting on April 23 to learn about this project or contact one of the leaders to go afield with him or her. We will also monitor nest boxes at Elk Meadow and Three Sisters parks. We welcome anyone to participate in this great hands-on project. To hone your birding skills, come down to Evergreen Lake for our annual Dawn Chorus on May 5.

I encourage you to volunteer at Evergreen Nature Center or participate in one of our bird-monitoring projects. These are all great projects you have helped make happen. Hope to see you at Earth Day, Dawn Chorus or some other spring event!

Audubon membership differences

What is the difference between an Evergreen Audubon membership and a National Audubon membership?

National Audubon and local chapters are separate entities that work together to promote conservation, education and advocacy on local and national levels.

All dues and gifts to Evergreen Audubon are used for local programs. You can be a member of Evergreen Audubon and also be a National Audubon member simultaneously, or just be an Evergreen Audubon member. You can even be a member of more than one Audubon chapter at the same time regardless of your home address.

If you are a National member, you can assist Evergreen Audubon by designating us as your "assigned chapter" by contacting kvullis@audubon.org with your request.

Evergreen Audubon is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization formed to provide environmental education, conservation opportunities, public advocacy, nature recreation and support for Audubon Colorado. All of your membership fees and donations stay in Colorado and go to local programs.

Evergreen Audubon members are eligible to subscribe to our monthly newsletter, *The Dipper*, receive a 10 percent discount on products offered and priority on limited field trips and special events. You can join or renew online or print a copy of the form on the back of this newsletter and mail it to the address on the form.

We look forward to meeting you and making opportunities available for you and your family to connect with Evergreen Audubon and the great local landscapes and habitats that we all know and love.

- Jean Thayer, Membership Chair

April chapter meeting: adventures in Antarctica

John Evans, Evergreen local and outdoor enthusiast, will share his experiences from working in Antarctica at the April chapter meeting. John will point out some of the highlights of the Antarctic continent and its history. He'll also describe a few current U.S.-supported Antarctic operations and research.

John began his Antarctic involvement in the 1963-64 southern summer, at which time he was a graduate student working on a geologic mapping project in the Sentinel Range. Although polar work had not been among his childhood dreams, the opportunity to work in the Antarctic interior seemed to evolve logically from a time when his energies were largely focused on mountaineering activities.

A mini-career with the Colorado Outward Bound School enabled him to continue both his mountaineering and Antarctic interests for much of his adult

life, including a splendid combination of these interests with the first ascent of Antarctica's highest peaks in 1966-67.

After leaving Outward Bound in 1981, he began another mini-career as a banker at what was then United Bank of Denver. This valuable but out-of-character career came to a welcome end with an opportunity to manage the U.S. side of a U.S./U.S.S.R. joint venture deep in Antarctica's Weddell Sea.

That venture led to John's ultimate mini-career in Antarctica, this time working for a succession of contractors supporting National Science Foundation-funded Antarctic research. John's specialty has been supporting small projects while working out of temporary tent camps on remote islands along the Antarctic Peninsula.

He describes this as being quite similar to his earlier work as an Outward

Bound instructor, with the welcome difference that he didn't need to try to impose character-building on his charges.

John retired from full-time Antarctic work in October, but after three days of retirement he was given the opportunity to return to Antarctica—again as a field camp manager, this time not as a contractor but as a temporary research associate with the University of South Carolina under an NSF research grant.

John doesn't anticipate further research support opportunities, but will return to Antarctica this December and January as a guest speaker on the cruise ship NGS/Lindblad Explorer.

The April chapter meeting will be held Thursday, April 4, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

- John Evans



Ice breakers at work in Antarctica



Gentoo Penguin

Volunteer at Nature Center: 'Your lake, your chance'

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we are always looking for more friendly folks to fill the role. I have revamped the Visitor Assistant role to provide more opportunities for learning and rewards for dedication. Volunteers who fulfill the 12-hour service requirement also enjoy free ENC program registration.

If you are interested in volunteering

for any of these roles, please contact Vanessa Hayes at encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org for more information. To learn more in person, come to our 5th Birthday Celebration and Volunteer Open House at the ENC on May 18. (See the article on page 1 of this newsletter for more information.)

- Vanessa Hayes, ENC Director

ENC Season Opening April 20!

Hours of Operation

April 20–Oct. 12

Sat.–Sun., 10am–4pm

Additional hours May 29–Aug. 30

Wed.–Fri., noon–4pm

Learn about breeding birds by monitoring nest boxes

Once again in 2013, Mountain Bluebirds returned to Elk Meadow during



Mountain Bluebird. Photo by Rachel Hutchison

the first week of March. By the time you are reading this, female Mountain Bluebirds will likely be in the meadow, and Western Bluebirds will return by the end of March.

For the past several years, Evergreen Audubon volunteers have been monitoring the use and productivity of bluebirds, swallows and other birds nesting in 35 nest boxes placed in Elk Meadow and 25 boxes located in Alderfer/Three Sisters Park.

Monitoring includes checking the boxes every two weeks, starting the weekend of March 16, to record information on the progress of the breeding season—for example, the presence of eggs, chicks or fledged young.

The nest-box checks continue throughout the summer until about the first week of August, by which time most pairs have completed their nesting season.

Like last year, we will be assisting

Jessica Fish, a graduate student from the University of Colorado at Denver, with her master's project, which includes our nest boxes in Elk Meadow and Three Sisters.

Monitoring the nest boxes and working with Jessica is a great way to learn more about the natural history of our mountain breeding birds.

You do not need to commit to the entire season, as Rachel Hutchison, Dee Sacks and Brad Andres have worked out a schedule to lead each of the every-other-week sessions at both of the parks. Prior to each check, leaders will send out a notice of the time and location of the checks.

If you would like to participate and receive nest-box check notices, please email Brad Andres, president@evergreenaudubon.org. We appreciate the support of Jefferson County Open Space for this project.

- Brad Andres, President

Bear Creek Atlasers return to sites surveyed in 2008

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 Evergreen Nature Center.

We began the project in 2008 and finished the first round of sites in 2012. Beginning in 2013, we will be revisiting sites we surveyed during 2008-2013. A report on the results of the first five years' efforts will be forthcoming.

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 the teams below or sign up as a leader for one of the 11

sites we identified for re-surveys in 2013. Please contact me at president@evergreenaudubon.org if you are interested in leading a particular area or if you would like to go out with a leader. JoAnn and Bill Hackos will be hosting a pre-season meeting on Tuesday, April 23, at their house.

Information on the atlas project and data entry can be found at www.bcwbbba.org, and past years' reports are posted under "Bird Monitoring" on the Evergreen Audubon website.

If any of you visit these sites during the breeding season, please visit the website and record your observations. Data entered in the atlas website will be uploaded to eBird. I hope to see you on April 23.

- Brad Andres, Bear Creek Atlas Chair

The Bear Creek Atlas sites for 2013 are listed below with designated leaders.

Bear Creek Lake Park	Mike Foster/Mike Henwood
Beaver Meadows	Larry White
Bergen Peak SWA	?
Captain Mountain/Lincoln Lake	Chuck Aid
Dinosaur Ridge North	?
Dinosaur Ridge South	Heather Johnson
Elk Meadow Park	Inga Brennan/Fran Enright
Lair o' the Bear Park	Sherman Wing
Little Park	Else Van Erp
Mount Glennon	Brad Andres
Summit Lake	JoAnn/Bill Hackos

Joan Ridgely pegs her resume as boring reading, but her life and career defy that description.

As Evergreen Audubon's treasurer for a year-plus, she has put her own stamp on the job by organizing financial info so she can easily issue reports on donors or other information that aids in decision-making.

Joan spent her demanding 30-year career with IBM, helping organizations rethink how they do their work to improve their outcomes. She was an IBM-certified executive project manager for more than 30 years, retiring in 2009.

Her plan after what proved to be a brief break from paid work was to become much more heavily involved with the Channel 6 Auction, a large and complicated fundraiser for the Colorado public television station. But on the last day of the auction in 2009, she and the other volunteers were informed the event was to be no more.

"What am I going to do with myself?" she wondered, although it took several more months to wrap up the auction's loose ends.

Returning from Grand Lake to her Genesee home one day that summer, she saw an ad for an Evergreen Nature Center volunteer open house. "I thought I'd learn about nature," she said.

She started out as a visitor assistant, but then-director Michael Stills "kept volunteering me for projects," she said. She started going to EA board meetings when she ran the silent auction for the Bird House Bash fundraiser in 2010, and accepted a request to join the board as treasurer in 2012.

Tracking donor information and integrating data such as who buys Christmas wreaths is important right along with noting cash contributions, she said. "It's some money they gave Audubon for something, as are proceeds from silent auction sales."

Joan's retirement lasted only about a year before she received the proverbial offer too good to refuse. She went back to work on a contract with Computer Task Group, but still managed to keep up with her volunteer jobs.



EA board treasurer Joan Ridgely with a friend at the San Diego Zoo

A few months after joining Evergreen Nature Center, Joan took nature training at Lookout Mountain Nature Center and still volunteers there, along with the Evergreen Animal Protective League thrift store and the Channel 6 store. She specializes in selling certain donated items on Amazon, eBay or other Internet sites.

She has done the same for Evergreen Nature Center, converting donated books, for instance, to cash for other needs.

Joan grew up north of Baltimore and started her career in Washington, D.C., then went on to Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit, where she fell in love and became engaged. Sadly, her fiancé died suddenly. He loved Denver, so when she later noticed a job opening there, she took it and bought her "retirement home" in Genesee.

She shares the house with her two shelter dogs and sometimes with Heather, the stuffed mountain lion that spends summers at Evergreen Nature Center.

Joan enjoys "themed" cruises. Last August it was a Prairie Home Companion voyage, which she has joined many times over the years.

"Garrison Keillor brings three naturalists in his group—ocean mammal, birder, botanist," she said. "The reason I go is for these naturalists."

During last August's cruise, she was thrilled to see a Yellow-crowned Bishop during an excursion in Portugal. It was the first sighting of that North African bird in Europe.

"There is a themed cruise for everything," Joan added. In early February, she joined an Irish festival cruise in the Caribbean. Joanie Madden (leader of Cherish the Ladies) hosted the trip, which featured traditional Celtic music and dance.

Joan has been boarding Irish festival cruises since 1991. "I know the people that show up every time—they are 500 friends of mine," she said.

Besides cruising, Joan enjoys hiking and helps out fellow treasure hunters by checking on geocaches and letterboxes for Jefferson County Open Space—yet another way she makes a difference by volunteering.

She hopes others will follow suit. "What I would like to see for Evergreen Nature Center is a good, solid core of volunteers," she said. "It's a weakness we need to remedy so Vanessa (Hayes, executive director) has the freedom to do other things."

- Debbie Marshall, *Dipper* Editor

VIP VOLUNTEERS

Nearly 90 bluebird, chickadee and nuthatch families would like to thank not only those who built their beautiful new homes (reported in last month's *Dipper*), but also the valiant, weather-beaten sales crews who brought the homes to market.

Thank you to the **Walt Phillips**

crew: **Ginny Ades, Karel Buckley, Peggy Durham, John Ellis and Marilyn Kaussner**, and the **Bud Weare** crew: **Chuck Aid, Rachel Hutchison, Barbara Klaus and Cathy Shelton**.

Bud has a few unsold boxes. You may call him at 303-679-8889.

- Bud Weare, Bird Box Sales Chair

Falcon nesting can be observed at Red Rocks Park

One of the most inspiring groups of birds we have here in Colorado are the falcons.

We have two smaller species, American Kestrel and Merlin, and two larger species, Prairie Falcon and Peregrine Falcon.

Everyone gets periodic views of Kestrels, often perched on utility wires or hovering over a field looking for grasshoppers or small vertebrates to eat.

However, the other three species can generally take a bit more effort to see. Fortunately, we live close to Red Rocks Park, where both Peregrines and Prairies regularly nest.

At least for the last eight years, and probably further back than that, a pair of Prairie Falcons have nested each year on the west side of Park Cave Rock.

The male seems to hang around through the winter, and the female joins him sometime in late January to early February. Then, there is an extensive period of courtship.

Much of this can be seen from the pull-off parking lot just to the south of Park Cave Rock.

Courtship displays tend to progress from perching on the same cliff to perching side by side. The pair may then begin to converse, peeping to one another, and engage in such mutual preening as toe and bill nibbling.

“Billing” is an activity in which one bird turns its head upside-down and engages the bill of the other, and they can often be seen bowing to each other.

At times, the male even performs a high-stepping gait that produces a side-to-side swagger in his efforts to engage the interest of the female.

One of the really rewarding sights is the mutual soaring and vocalizations that occur in the air in front of Park Cave Rock. Even without seeing the birds you can often hear their calls echoing off the cliffs.

The pair can then be seen investigating potential nesting ledges, where they circle side-by-side with heads lowered while calling. Eventually, the eggs are usually laid between May 10 and June 10, with incubation lasting about 30 to 32 days.

Once the young hatch, the adults

feed them directly for the first three weeks. After that, the parents tend to just drop food on the nest ledge about five or six times per day, and let the young feed themselves.

Then, after almost 40 days, the young leave the nest, though they stay in the area and are fed by their parents for more than another month.

In 2012 by around June 10, it was possible to see five little fledglings cavorting around the nest up on Park Cave Rock.

Generally, Prairie Falcons rear only two to four young, so this was exceptional.

The parents are back again this year and have already begun establishing their territory by chasing away a Golden Eagle. The show should be ongoing and entertaining for the next few months.

Also, if you're in the area you might want to take a look at the west side of Ship Rock where the Peregrine Falcons have been nesting in recent years.

- Chuck Aid, Director of Conservation



Above, in a photo taken of the Red Rocks Prairie Falcon brood June 16, 2012, the chicks are tearing and eating meat dropped by one of the adults. Below, the Prairie Falcon pair courts on Park Cave Rock in March 2011. Photos by Marilyn Rhodes



Birds, critters enjoy the rites of spring

Yard Birds

One of the most exciting reports I received in March was from the owners of the Evergreen Wild Bird Store, John and Diane Sears.

“Rare Bird Alert—1 p.m. Saturday, March 9. Blizzard conditions on top of Conifer Mountain and a flock of about 12 **Bohemians (Waxwings)** have found the cedar tree in our front yard. Life list yard bird! MADE OUR WEEK!”

The same day Shirley Casey posted, “Have been enjoying the different types of juncos at our feeders today. The cross-bills that were here the last two days are not around yet today, but it’s still early. And the **Brown Creeper** is busy in our trees—even with the snow.”

Sherman Wing had a light-morph **Red-tailed Hawk** at his Indian Hills home on March 5.

Birds weren’t the only creatures putting on a show in March. Bob and Sondra Inman sent in a photo on March 9: “How about the Elk bulls ‘Boys Night Out?’ Great backyard entertainment for us tonight while snow falling!”

Out and About

As Sherman Wing drove back from Casper on Feb. 13, he photographed two eagles, and saw even more, along I-25 in a very windy Wyoming. He saw a **Golden Eagle** near Glendo State Park and a **Bald Eagle** near the Wheatland rest stop.

Sherman also posted a photo of a **Horned Lark** taken Feb. 12 near the Colorado and Wyoming border.

Throughout the month of February and March, Mike Henwood reported the presence of a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** and **Rosy-Finches** at the Trading Post feeders at Red Rocks.

On March 22, Mike saw a **Golden Eagle** sitting on her nest in Bear Creek Canyon below Idledale and saw the male flying low over the ridges west of the nest.

I attended the High Plains Snow Goose Festival in late February. Highlights of the festival were watching the sunrise ascension of 20,000 **Snow**



Cedar Waxwing in Fort Collins on Jan. 27. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes. On March 27, Marilyn found the long-sought Bohemians in Loveland. You can see her pictures in the Photo Gallery.

Geese from a lake near Granada and locating two **Eastern Screech Owls** and a **Great Horned Owl** on the Arkansas River just east of Lamar.

During the month of March, I also led several owling expeditions to Lower Latham Reservoir to view **Short-eared Owls**.

Globetrotter JoAnn Hackos wrote evergreenbirders on March 9: “Hi from Hong Kong! Lots of **Rock Pigeons** here. Did see an **Oriental White-Eye** pair building a nest. Also an immense raptor but I don’t have my China bird guide with me. Will check it out when I get home. Plus a few more to check from my stay in Shenzhen on the mainland. Of course a **Eurasian Collared Dove** in its home territory!”

The same day, Sherman reported seeing **Japanese White-eyes** and lots of **Red-vented Bulbols** in Hawaii.

Irruptions—A Bohemian Rhapsody

In the bird-watching world, irruptions are hoped-for events, especially as winter imposes its grip. Winter birding can be rather monotonous—the same old, same old, unless one or more irruptions occur.



Light-morph Red-tailed Hawk. Photo by Sherman Wing

Last winter (2011-12) was an irruptive year for **Snowy Owls** driven by a crash in the lemming population in the Arctic; the lemming is the owls’ principal food source. This winter (2012-13) **Common** and **Hoary Redpolls** (closely related to

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goldfinches) irrupted throughout December, January, February and on into March.

This winter has also been an irruption year for the **Great Gray Owl**. Right on schedule, too, as the last one was winter 2008-2009 and they irrupt pretty much every four to five years.

Sadly, many of these owls perished as their overall body condition had degraded over time given the large number of birds competing for limited resources.

What makes the winter irruptions both exciting, and frustrating, is their unpredictability. Winter irruptions are driven by conditions in the northern forests.

Scientists and naturalists have been studying the preferred food sources of various species for years. Based on their collected data, fairly accurate predictions are possible about which species will irrupt.

When they document the shortage of a food that a particular species prefers, they predict an irruption. Winter survival depends upon getting enough food. When local food sources are scarce, the birds go elsewhere.

Finches are the most common irruptive species during winter, but not the only one. Winter finches are notorious for quickly exhausting a food source and then moving on. The epitome of this practice in our community is the **Evening Grosbeak**.

This winter, Colorado and our Evergreen Audubon communities have enjoyed two major irruptions, first the redpolls and now **Bohemian Waxwings**.

When you find Bohemians among a flock of their cousins, the **Cedar Waxwings**, then you have counted a coup among bird watchers. And when you meet a waxwing flock dominated by Bohemians, you have certainly encountered evidence of an irruption.

Not every winter presents such a great opportunity to see them (their name "Bohemian" lends credence to their extremely nomadic nature), so it's worth taking advantage of the recent influx of these magnificent birds while they're here.

I have searched Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Boulder, Longmont and Fort

Collins in vain for Bohemian Waxwings, hoping to share a photo of one with you. In appearance they are very similar to the Cedar Waxwing I photographed in Fort Collins Jan. 27.

Before you hunt them, check a field guide and note the dark red coloration underneath the Bohemians' tails, which the Cedar Waxwing completely lacks. The best field mark to check for, however, is the belly color. Bohemian Waxwings

have slate-gray bellies, while Cedar Waxwings have vibrant, sulfur-yellow bellies that turn to amber nearer the head.

Being able to pick up on this field mark will help you make Bohemian Waxwing's high-pitched trill a correct identification next time you're out and about with your binoculars. Cedar Waxwings, by comparison, have a nasally, high-pitched whistle.

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Naturalist Internship

Evergreen Nature Center, Evergreen, Colorado

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 23 2013



Temporary, Full time position

10-week assignment (May 29- August 9), 35 hrs/week, \$8/hr

Weekend and Evening hours required, Wednesday - Sunday Schedule

Job Description

Teach children of all ages about the wonder of nature at our beautiful lakeside center in the Rocky Mountains. Evergreen Nature Center is a growing environmental education resource in a friendly mountain community. Our Naturalist Intern will have the opportunity to join in the growth and fun! We are searching for an eager naturalist/environmental educator interested in gaining a wide range of experience in program development and leadership, interpretation, volunteer coordination, program publicity, nature center administration and fundraising.

Qualifications

- B.S. in Environmental Education, Wildlife Biology, Biology or related degree
- Enthusiasm for nature and learning!
- Teaching and public speaking experience
- Knowledge of local ecology, wildlife and plants preferred
- Demonstration of dependability and organization in previous employment
- Current CPR and First Aid certification
- Applicant will be subject to background check

To Apply:

Send your resume, cover letter and 3 references to Vanessa Hayes at enctdirector@evergreenaudubon.org.

Learn more about Evergreen Nature Center at

www.evergreennaturecenter.org

Evergreen Nature Center is sponsored by Evergreen Audubon and funded in part by SCFD.



Evergreen Audubon



Scientific & Cultural
Facilities District

Making It Possible.

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For any of these winter irruptions, I have two pieces of advice if you are not a hard-core birder.

First, I am sorry to say, don't hold your breath. The winter flocks are nomadic and erratic. Hard core birders sometimes spend days trying to chase them down, not always successfully.

Second, when you do stumble on one of these flocks, or when one of these flocks stumbles on you, don't forget to breathe—because they are breath-taking!

(Excerpts from *Tails of Birding*, a blog by Chris Petrak)

Bears are Up!

During the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting on March 7, Steve Yamashita, northeast regional manager, announced reports of bears already out of hibernation in this part of the state.

The bears wake up hungry and are searching for food. Bird feeders should not be left outdoors at night!

Squirrel Survival

One day in early March there were eight Abert's squirrels running and jumping between Ponderosa pines in the yard of Allan and Shirley Casey in Evergreen.

Such a large number of Abert's in



A bear family goes out for a walk in Hiwan Hills during May 2012. Photo by Debbie Ruikka

one place suggested the males had been attracted to a female Abert's squirrel in estrous (only lasts a day).

After several hours of intense chasing and competition, one of the males trapped the female on the edge of a branch and grabbed her. They both slipped—but the female caught the branch.

After he lost his grip and fell 25 feet, she was able to pull herself back to the branch. Within seconds he climbed up the tree to resume the chase. He was the male that “won” the chase.

Abert's squirrels have one litter per year. Gestation is about 46 days, with most litters born between April 1 and June 30. Litter size ranges from two to five. The young squirrels are dependent on their mother for about three months.

After mating, male squirrels have no

involvement with raising their offspring. Playful grabbing and wrestling by juvenile squirrel siblings is good practice for when they need those skills during mating chases.

The Caseys have been licensed wildlife rehabilitators of small mammals since 1986. Founders of WildAgain Wildlife Rehabilitation in Evergreen, they have written extensively about squirrels and have a special affinity for Abert's and Pine squirrels.

Marilyn Rhodes is an Audubon Society of Denver Master Birder and an Evergreen Audubon member.



Juvenile squirrels play and wrestle to learn useful survival skills (this is not mating!).



A female Abert's squirrel is grabbed by a male during a mating chase.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 4	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
April 10	Newsletter deadline	5 pm	
April 20	ENC opens for season	10 am	
April 20	Earth Day Fair	10 am–4 pm	Evergreen Lake
April 25	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	Church of the Hills

Upcoming Events

May 5	International Dawn Chorus	6–9 am	Evergreen Lake
May 18	ENC Open House	5–8 pm	Nature Center

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to Lisa Wald: communications@evergreenaudubon.org. Contact *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-886-0593.

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Date _____

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