



THE DIPPER

VOL. 45 NO. 4
APRIL 2015

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.EvergreenAudubon.org

EVERGREEN NATURE CENTER OPENING DAY

**Saturday, April 18
10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Celebrate ENC's eighth season with Evergreen Audubon on opening day!

Every year, we strive to make Evergreen Nature Center a better place to learn and grow enthusiasm for nature.

Come and see for yourself!

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS SCHEDULE

There are seven sites scheduled for surveys for the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas in 2015.

If you would like to lead a section or participate, please contact Chuck Aid at birdmon@EvergreenAudubon.org.

The 2015 sites are Bear Creek Greenbelt East, Chief Squaw Mountains, Dedisse Park, Lincoln Lake, Maxwell Falls Trail, Mount Evans Elk Management Area, Mount Falcon Park.

NEST-BOX VISITS

Nine weekends are scheduled for nest-box monitoring visits to Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters parks this spring/summer:

April 4 and 18, May 2, 16 and 30, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25.

If you would like to come along on nest-box checks and receive emails on exact times during these weekends, please email your interest to Brad Andres at president@EvergreenAudubon.org.

'Park' yourself at next EA meeting *Note the change in date*

As naturalists, birders and hikers, members of Evergreen Audubon typically are familiar with Jefferson County Open Space and Denver Mountain Parks, but for a large part of our mountain community the first organization that comes to mind when you mention "park" is Evergreen Park and Recreation District.

For many in our Evergreen community EPRD is the most recognizable face of recreation opportunities.

It manages and oversees facilities like Buchanan Park and Recreation Center, the Lake House and Boat House (which houses our Evergreen Nature Center), recreational fields from Bergen Park to Marshdale, and community parks with

picnic and playground facilities throughout the district.

In total EPRD consists of an area of nearly 50,000 acres, encompassing 22,000 Evergreen residents with diverse interests and desires for outdoor recreation.

How does EPRD go about its work and set priorities and objectives? What plans does EPRD have for working with other agencies in Jefferson County to connect trails and to facilitate, expand and improve opportunities for nature-focused recreation within the district?

Come to the April EA Chapter Meeting, scheduled this time only for Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills

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It's that time of year when Northern Flickers (above) are advertising for mates. Their loud drumming will decrease when they have attracted one. See the Bird Business column inside. *Photo by Shirley Casey*

2015 OFFICERS

President	Brad Andres	303-670-0101 president@evergreenaudubon.org
Vice President		TBD
Secretary	Lisa Wald	303-810-5083 secretary@evergreenaudubon.org
Treasurer	Rachel Hutchison	301-768-3523 treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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At Large	Peggy Linn	303-674-2239 atlarge2@evergreenaudubon.org

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Nature Center	Vanessa Hayes	303-330-0489 encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org
Webmaster	Kathy Madison	303-670-0209 communications@evergreenaudubon.org

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BRAD ANDRES

The February and March snowstorms seemed to have delayed arrival of bluebirds, but it won't be long before they return and take up residence in area meadows.

As we have for the past seven years, Evergreen Audubon will be monitoring the nest boxes we maintain at Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters parks. You will find our tentative schedule in the month's *Dipper*.

Rachel Hutchison and Dee Sacks, along with me, will be leading the every-two-week monitoring effort in the parks.

Approaching spring signals a gearing-up for another season of the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas. Chuck Aid will be organizing the atlas effort this year, and you will find a list of sites we plan to visit in 2015 in this *Dipper*.

Last fall, Vanessa and I met with partners regarding the Evergreen Lake dredging and the possibility of restoring/enhancing the wetlands by the boardwalk.

With help from area resident Bill Noonan and watershed enthusiast Margaret Herzog, we developed a preliminary set of actions needed to improve the functionality of the wetlands. Our new conservation chair, David Walker, is keeping track of developments regarding wetland enhancement.

Thoughts of spring also mean Evergreen Nature Center will be opening. The winter without the Nature Center operating always flies by. I hope you can join Vanessa for unpacking the Nature Center and helping out on our Earth Day opening.

Of course, we will need volunteer visitor assistants, and I hope you will contribute your time to this satisfying endeavor. I am sure with your help we will have another great ENC season.

A great start to the 2015 season will be the April 30 presentation by Chris Smith on the development of the "Declaration on Health and Nature." This should be an interesting topic, and I hope you can join us.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed or initiated a new membership in Evergreen Audubon. If you have not done so, please see the form in *The Dipper* or use PayPal on www.EvergreenAudubon.org. Your membership helps to sustain Evergreen Audubon activities and Evergreen Nature Center.

We will have a lot going on this spring and summer, so stay tuned in by reading *The Dipper* and periodically checking out the website.

Lastly, if you have ideas for any spring field trips, please send them my way. In the past, we have had plenty of good suggestions, but sometimes lacked trip leaders. If you would like to lead a trip to one of your favorite birding haunts, we would gladly add you to our schedule.

Watershed challenge redux

After our inaugural year, we would like to offer a second year of the Bear Creek Watershed Birding Challenge. From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2015, get out and record all the bird species you find in the watershed.

A map of the watershed can be found on our website on the bird monitoring page. Also there is a bird checklist for the watershed. We will all trust each other on individually and correctly identifying species and for only recording species observed within the watershed boundaries.

I will collect checklists at the end of 2015 and announce the winner at our annual banquet in 2016. To stimulate interest in younger birders, I suggest we award high counts in youth (18 or younger) and adult (19 and older) categories. Good birdin'.

- Brad Andres, EA President

Training offered for new, returning ENC volunteers

Whether you are a returning volunteer or have been meaning to join the Evergreen Nature Center family for years, it's time to brush off the winter dust and stretch those visitor assisting muscles.

Join one of the training sessions and learn more about our operations and approach to making ENC a home for environmental learning.

Please email Vanessa Hayes at encdirector@EvergreenAudubon.org to sign up today.

EA birders record 27 species during GBBC at Chatfield

Twelve Evergreen Audubon birders met at Chatfield State Park on Feb. 15 to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count. The GBBC is sponsored by the Audubon Society each year to get people to watch birds and gather information about midwinter avian populations.

Participants included Bev Postmus, Bob Santangelo, Lee and Linda Farrell, Bea Weaver, Mary Keithler, Bob Holmes, Jeanette Strom, Rob Raker, Lori Sharp, Susan Harper and JoAnn Hackos. We broke into two groups, one hiking along a trail and the other driving to various locations.

Together, the two groups recorded 27 species, including Virginia Rail, a Great-Horned Owl, and myriad ducks. It was a cold and windy day, but we had a good time and good success anyway.

- JoAnn Hackos, Director at Large

Claim items left at CBC Tally Rally

Are you missing a red knit cap, black gloves, a well-loved knife or a yellow notepad with Christmas Bird Count notes?

These items were left at the Wald house after the CBC Tally Rally.

If any of them belong to you, please contact Lisa Wald at lisawald@gmail.com or 303-810-5083.

Returning Volunteer Training

Tuesday, April 14, 6-8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 6, 10 a.m.-noon
Saturday, May 16, 9-11 a.m.

New Volunteer Training

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-noon
Wednesday, May 13, 1-3 p.m.
Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m.-noon



Scott Ellis of Denver Parks and Recreation District (center) recently got help from Evergreen Audubon members (from left) Larry White, Dwight Souder, Frank Platt and Brad Andres to remove all barbed-wired fence at Evergreen Golf Course. *Photo by Pam Smith, DPRD*

'Park' yourself at March 26 meeting to learn about recreation district

Continued from page 1
when Evergreen Audubon hosts Ellen O'Connor, the recently appointed executive director of EPRD. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for socializing.)

Ellen will share with us how Evergreen Park and Recreation District has grown from its start in 1969 to become a year round source of sports and outdoor activity opportunities for our community.

Ellen O'Connor has a distinguished career promoting and nurturing community programs in sports and recreation.

She earned a teaching degree from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis.

After graduation, she worked as a su-

pervisor in the Gurnee, Ill., Park District, ultimately becoming program supervisor for Gurnee and several adjacent township.

After moving to Colorado and settling in Lakewood in 1988, Ellen was day programs services administrator for the city of Lakewood's park and recreation department for 10 years.

She also served as the children and youth program supervisor for Foothills Park and Recreation District and camp.

From 2008 until her selection as Evergreen Park and Recreation District's executive director, Ellen was the district's recreation manager.

- Ed Furlong, Director of Education

Published in February 1887, the first edition of *Audubon Magazine* attempts to improve communications with the rapidly growing Audubon Society membership. The cost of a single copy of the publications is 6 cents. An annual subscription will set you back 50 cents.

Bill Hackos won this facsimile of the first edition at the Evergreen Audubon annual meeting. We thought its content would be interesting to all of you as well.

Its 17 pages of text includes stories about John James Audubon, the Baltimore Oriole, a pet cockatoo and the “heartless” custom of adorning women’s hats not only with feathers but with entire stuffed birds.

It includes a recounting of the Audubon Society founding and information on the membership and the goals of the organization.

It ends with two advertisements: one for fine brushes and mathematical instruments and the other for preserved fruits and vegetables. If you’re searching for “tomato catsup, mince meat or blackberry brandy,” you’ve come to the right place.

Notably, the writing style of the late 19th century differs considerably from what we might expect from the Audubon magazine today. We might call the style “sentimental.” Consider the description of the Baltimore Oriole, which unfortunately was a highly desirable “hat” bird at the time:

“The first notice we have of the Baltimore’s presence is his sweet whistle heard in the early morning. If we look up for him we shall find him high up among the branches of an oak or sycamore or cherry tree, busily looking for food, and if we take a little time to watch him, may see how systematically he goes to work to secure his breakfast.”

The account is actually quite informative. I learned, for example, that the oriole is named after the official colors of Lord Baltimore, orange and black. I also learned that the oriole nests in the south are more open in their weaving than nests in the north, apparently to circulate air more freely.

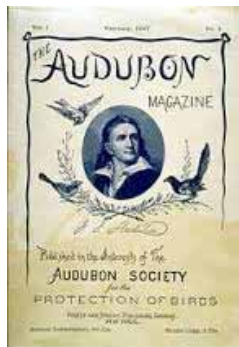
In other short articles in the first edition, we learn about a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo who remembered his owner after a five-year separation. We also learn about the extinction of the quagga, a wild striped ass of South Africa. In fact, extinction is actually the primary theme of the first edition.

Clearly, the most important article in *Audubon Magazine* is titled “Woman’s Heartlessness.” In fact, the article explains much of the incentives for founding the Audubon Society, which in 1887 has more than 17,000 members.

Celia Thaxter of Boston, Mass., decries the popularity of placing not only bird feathers but also entire birds on women’s hats. She speaks of the difficulty she has faced in urging women she knows to abandon the fashion.

One famous woman responds to her entreaty by claiming, “They will soon go out of fashion and there will be an end of it.” With that, the woman walks away with “dozens of warblers’ wings making her headgear hideous.”

Thaxter understands that birds are being slaughtered for fashion. Even “unsavory scavengers” like crows adorn someone’s hat. She sees a mat woven of 20 warbler heads, the sharp beaks poking up like a field of spikes.



***Audubon Magazine
The First Edition***

In the end, she hopes that the Audubon Society will be successful in turning the hat fashion into a sign of “heartlessness and a mark of ignominy and reproach.”

George Bird Grinnell founded the Audubon Society to combat the senseless slaughter of birds of all kinds—certainly a noble cause.

Nonetheless, the founders cannot simply insist that the slaughter is wrong. To combat the lack of interest in preservation, they argue that birds should not be slaughtered because they are useful.

In the late 1800s, the ornithologists and the bird lovers fear that there will be mass extinction because of fashion and the unfortunate habit of shooting birds for the fun of it. As a result, they refer to the study of birds that shows that they devour insects that destroy crops and perform other valuable services to people.

The first edition of the magazine reports the passage in 1886 of the New York Bird Law, which makes it illegal in New York state to kill birds or take bird eggs. In 1887, the Audubon Society is just beginning to win legal protection for birds.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Birding With Mike



“Shorebirds” begins
Apr 22: 3 classes, 3
field trips

“Birding 101” be-
gins Apr 29: 3
classes, 3 field trips

“Spring Hotspots”
begins May 27: 4
classes, 4 field trips

Details:

www.BirdingWithMike.com

Questions:

Mike1.foster@comcast.net

EA endorses Wingspread Declaration, sets April 30 talk

Evergreen Audubon will host Christopher A. Smith, senior program officer for the Colorado Health Foundation, on Thursday, April 30, at 6 p.m. at the Bergen Park Firehouse.

Smith is one of 30 signatories to the Wingspread Declaration on Health and Nature, which affirms the positive health benefits of spending time in nature and the imperative to use health as an important lens in guiding conservation.

In summer 2014, 30 leaders from health, academia and nature-focused nonprofits gathered at the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread to explore the connections between health and nature.

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is a family foundation in Racine, Wis., dedicated to being a catalyst for solutions to the most pressing environmental and community problems of our time.

The Wingspread Declaration on Health and Nature says, in short, that humans are part of nature, our connection with nature is a fundamental human need, and access to nature is a basic right.

Evergreen Audubon has endorsed this declaration and will host Smith to discuss the deep, intermeshed needs and futures of human and environmental health.

The declaration can be read in full at <http://healthandnature.org/declaration/>, but some of the key points include:

- “The connection between people and the natural world is fundamental to human health, well-being, spirit and survival.”
- “Nature is a source of food, clean water, clean air, medicine, shelter and economic opportunity.”
- However, the needs humans have for nature are not simply material, that is, “In order to thrive, humans require direct access to nature.”

In endorsing the declaration and hosting Christopher Smith, Evergreen

Audubon is committing itself to implementing goals and actions in the Wingspread Declaration as an integral part of its work in the mountain community.

Evergreen Audubon looks to join with fellow organizations and individuals to advance these goals and make them real for the children and adults of Evergreen.

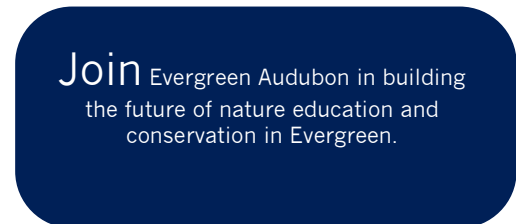
EA plans to promote interconnectedness with and knowledge of the natural

world through its programs, particularly Evergreen Nature Center.

There will be other opportunities to develop our understanding of nature through lectures and field trips, and by promoting conservation action for our natural world in Evergreen, Jefferson County and Colorado.

Won't you start on this journey with us and explore more?

- Ed Furlong, Director of Education



Bluebirds, meadowlarks and crocus herald spring

On Feb. 14, Tim Stechert spotted a male **Mountain Bluebird** about four miles north of Monument.

On Feb. 16, during the Great Backyard Bird Count, Susan Harper, Mary Keithler and Bob Santangelo encountered a woman who reported seeing “bluebirds” in the vicinity south of the Chatfield gravel ponds.

Lisa Wald posted, “I am 99 percent sure that I saw a **Mountain Bluebird** at Loveland Ski Basin today. I was in the ski shop, and it landed on the outside window ledge right next to the window, so I got a good look at it from inside. It was about 10 degrees and it looked cold.”

On Feb. 17, Peggy Durham relayed, “I saw several **Western Bluebirds** in three different locations at Red Rocks a week ago yesterday.”

Sharp-shinned Hawk

On Feb. 22, Tim Stechert commented, “We were treated to a close-up view of a **Sharpie** on Friday, just hangin’ out.”

Evening Grosbeaks

On Feb. 25, Debbie Marshall “saw two male **Evening Grosbeaks** perched above my feeder (near the top of Bear Mountain). I think I’ve seen one here before, but they are not common in my yard.”

Bob Santangelo offered, “Grosbeaks favor the large white-striped sunflower seeds if you can find them. A few more cents per pound, but you get a better show for your money.”

Susan Harper added, “They also prefer flat surfaces over tube feeders. The flat surfaces are difficult to maintain, though, since the deer and elk walk right up and help themselves.”

Northern Shrike

On Feb. 26, Margo Constable heard a loud bang on her window. “Quickly looked out to see a dead **Slate-colored Junco**, headfirst in the soft snow. Only his feet and tail were sticking out.

“The shrike came back down from the aspen to claim his meal. It happened so fast I couldn’t get set up with my camera.



Western Meadowlark. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

Rosy-Finches

Dan and Ruth Brown updated March 3, “We still have rosies, at least 100, visiting several times daily and our house project is nearly completed, so no more hammering and loud noises to scare the little feathered ones.”

Red-tailed Hawk–Chatfield

Last month we featured a hawk photographed at Chatfield by Jeanette Strom and thought to be a **Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk**.

This month we received several more comments about the bird, which was actually a **western rufous Red-tailed Hawk**.

Cyndy Johnson commented, “The western intermediate adult is what he looks like to me.” She thought she’d seen the bird before. “There is one that used to be at C-470 and Belleview/Quincy area for the last couple years.”

Else Van Erp chimed in from sunny

Continued on page 7



Crocus spring up in Red Rocks Park. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

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Arizona March 7. "I always enjoy your articles and photos in *The Dipper*. It is always great to read what is going on in town and countryside.

"Spring is on its way. We have been seeing large flocks (1,000) or more of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** and believe it or not, several thousand **Red-wings**. Also thousands of ibis.

"What I want to tell you is that for many years (35) Anne Bonnell, myself and a couple of others have done the monthly bird census at the (Chatfield) arboretum.

"For the last five years we have had a **rufous Red-tailed** there. Can't believe it has taken that many years for someone else to have also seen it. It is a beautiful bird and that is a great picture."

Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk

If you want to see a **Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk**, there is one that hangs out near the Carson Nature Center at South Platte Park in Littleton. Would love to get a photo of it for our next issue . . . Hint, hint, Susan Harper and Jeanette Strom.

Red-tailed Hawk—Castle Pines

On Feb. 10, Dee Sacks inquired, "My sister sent me this photo from her deck in Castle Pines and asked me what it is. I'm not sure. I thought a goshawk, but I would love it if you could tell me for sure."

I responded "I don't think this is a goshawk. It looks like a **light morph Red-tailed Hawk** to me, first-year juvenile probably. Look in your Sibley guide and note the belly band and white spotted V on the scapulars."

Red-tailed Hawk—Red Rocks

There is a nest on the rock face best viewed from the South Lot at Red Rocks, very near where the **Peregrine Falcons** have nested in the past.

On March 11, I observed a **Common Raven** fly into this nest and moments later photographed a **western light adult Red-tailed Hawk** perched on the nest.

Since possession is nine-tenths of the law, I think the hawk won the day. It will be interesting to see who prevails over time.



Feeding wild mammals, such as this red fox, is a bad idea.

Photo by Shirley Casey

Golden Eagles

The nesting pair of **Golden Eagles** has returned to the same nest site they've used the past few years just north of Idle-dale. I observed them at the site between 4 and 5 p.m. on March 7 and 11.

Wild Evergreen

info and photos by Shirley Casey

It's that time of year when flickers are advertising for mates.

They carefully test areas to identify where they can achieve the loudest sound with greatest reverberation in order to let other flickers know they are available—and have real estate for nesting.

Their loud drumming, which can sound like a high-speed riveter (especially on a metal chimney) will decrease after they have attracted a mate. And no, they cannot be convinced to try online dating.

Many flickers and other cavity nesters also have begun excavating their nest areas. Watch for them. Remember, bird boxes are an option—and can decrease the holes carved out of wood siding.

It's the season when coyotes and fox are having and raising their young. They are very actively hunting for themselves and their growing offspring.

Leaving out food for wild mammals is a bad idea!

Feeding them may prompt them to approach humans for food. People (and pets) may be injured, possibly resulting in death of the wild animal. It may cause them to congregate

in areas and potentially spread disease and parasites.

Feeding wild mammals also can result in health and nutritional disorders that can weaken the animal and cause serious health problems.

Don't share your leftovers with wildlife. Avoid problems by NOT allowing wildlife to access trash!

Bears are up after their winter hibernation. And they are hungry! Be sure to take your bird feeders in at night.

Do not feed pets outdoors and then leave the "leftovers." Place trash containers outside before the trash pickup is due, not the night before. Secure trash containers so wildlife can't access it. Don't litter or think leaving food scraps left in a box or jar is OK. And remember that feeding some wild mammals, such as bears, deer and elk, is prohibited by law.

One more time: Don't provide supplemental food for wild mammals, regardless of how cute they look. For more tips for living in wildlife habitat go to <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlife.aspx>.

To contact Marilyn Rhodes, call 303-674-9895

or email cloverlane@aol.com.

To subscribe to the Evergreen Birders email list to report and view local sightings, go to www.EvergreenAudubon.org and click on the Local Sightings link.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 26	EA Chapter Meeting <i>Doors open at 6:30 for socializing</i>	7 pm	Church of the Hills
April 10	<i>Dipper</i> deadline		
April 14	Returning Volunteers Training (Also May 6 and 16)	6–8 pm	Nature Center
April 18	ENC Opening Day	10 am–4 pm	
April 18	Volunteer Open House	Noon–4 pm	Nature Center
April 25	New Volunteers Training (Also May 13 and June 13)	10 am–noon	Nature Center
April 30	Chris Smith, “Declaration on Health and Nature”		

Please submit *Dipper* newsletter content by the 10th of the month to dipper@EvergreenAudubon.org. Your submissions will be forwarded to both *Dipper* editor **Debbie Marshall** and **Kathy Madison**, EA Director of Communications.

VOLUME 45, 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 \$15 a year for a mailed hard copy (members only). 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 Rockies Office, Rockies.Audubon.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.

Date _____

	Individual	Family
Annual dues	\$ 25	\$ 40
Electronic <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i> (members only)	\$ 15	\$ 15
Additional donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Name _____

Family member(s) name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email _____

(must include for electronic *Dipper*)

Enclosed is my check payable to: **Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437.**

I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

If you would like to join or donate to the National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, use chapter code C9ZD090Z and call 1-800-274-4201.

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Nature Center Opening Day
 Volunteer Training
 Wingspread Declaration

IN THIS ISSUE

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Evergreen Audubon

THE DIPPER