



THE DIPPER

VOL. 41 NO. 3
APRIL 2011

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

OXBOW PARCEL

The Clear Creek County Open Space Commission is inviting input on the development of the Oxbow Parcel, 76 acres located near the Jefferson County line, surrounding Tunnel 5 on U.S. Highway 6.

Ongoing public meetings for the Oxbow Parcel Site Plan will be held April 26 and May 31 at Clear Creek High School.

For more info, contact Martha Tableman at 303-679-2305 or mtableman@co.clear-creek.co.us
- Chuck Aid, Conservation

Earth Day 2011: bigger and better

Earth Day 2011 promises a bigger-than-ever celebration at Evergreen Lake.

This year's Earth Day Fair will kick off a new speaker series with exciting presentations. This feature will be added to the familiar exhibition hall in and around the Lake House and will offer additional in-depth information and opportunity for discussion on selected topics.

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

Growing since 1990 and now one of the largest and most popular Earth Day celebrations in Colorado, this year's fair will feature 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. Numerous children's activities are planned.

Local middle school students have been invited to present their relevant and winning science fair projects and high school students will take part in various planning and hosting tasks.

A warming tent will provide space for additional exhibitions and live presentations. HawkQuest will present its live raptors, thanks to funding by the Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council, the Montessori School of Evergreen, the Mountain Area Democrats, and the Mt. Evans Group of the Sierra Club.

While you are at Evergreen Lake, be sure
Continued on page 4

Learn why Burrowing Owls like a little plague

At the April 7 chapter meeting, Reesa Yale Conrey will explain why Burrowing Owls like dry summers, prairie dogs and just the right amount of plague.

She also will discuss what changing climates and land use may mean for owls and other prairie birds.

Reesa is a postdoctoral researcher at the U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center. Her current work focuses on climate effects on prairie birds.

Reesa earned her doctorate in ecology in May 2010 from Colorado State University, where she studied the habits and ecology of Burrowing Owls nesting in black-tailed prairie dog burrows in Colorado.

Her research addressed the effects of rainfall and introduced (non-native) disease on breeding owls of the Pawnee National Grassland.

The chapter meeting will be Thursday,



Reesa Yale Conrey with the subject of her study.

April 7, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.



These Burrowing Owls are quite a handful.

2010 OFFICERS

President	David Wald	303-674-0417 president@evergreenaudubon.org
Vice President	Mike Wilson	303-697-9445 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
Secretary	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066 secretary@evergreenaudubon.org
Treasurer	Diane Sears	303-883-0810 treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bird Monitoring	Brad Andres	303-670-0101 birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org
Communications	Lisa Wald	303-674-0417 communications@evergreenaudubon.org
Conservation	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331 conservation@evergreenaudubon.org
Development	Mimi Nelson	303-674-3192 development@evergreenaudubon.org
Education	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699 education@evergreenaudubon.org
Social Events	Marge Petersen	303-670-4310 socialevents@evergreenaudubon.org
At Large	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101 atlarge1@evergreenaudubon.org
At Large	Tim Zeman	303-862-8061 atlarge2@evergreenaudubon.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audubon Color.	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 marshallpublish@gmail.com
Education	Cheryl Manning	303-679-0699
Field Trips	Karel Buckley	303-670-8859
Hospitality	Rachel Hutchinson	303-679-1503
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066
Nature Center	TBD	
Program	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699
Publicity	TBD	
Ways & Means	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402 irmasonny@aol.com
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610 sheltonpublicaddress@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 DAVID WALD

Protecting the environment always seems like an uphill battle. It's very easy to lose ground, and it's rather more difficult to gain it back. Yet preservation is much easier, cheaper and more responsible than restoration.

I'd like to thank our Conservation director, Chuck Aid, for keeping us informed on important legislative battles brewing in the state and at the federal level.

He reports to our board, to our membership at chapter meetings, and through his Conservation Alerts (via email). If you would like to be added to these relatively infrequent but important alerts, please contact Chuck directly (conservation@evergreenaudubon.org).

Occasionally, we'll have a request for your support on any issues we deem critical to our membership, our region or our environment and endangered species (particularly those with wings).

VIP VOLUNTEERS DAVID WALD

- Thanks to all of you who participated in February's Great Backyard Bird Count. A total of 22 species were reported in Evergreen by 19 observers.

The number of species counted in Evergreen has been relatively constant over the past several years, but there are roughly twice as many reports as just two years ago! Great to see this uptick; I'm sure some of you are responsible!

- Kudos to nest-box structural engineers and master craftsmen **Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Tom Boschen, Eric Hogan, Jim Shelton, Carmon Slater, Bud Weare** and **Mike Wilson**. You'll soon have some happy new residents!

- A huge "thanks" to February and March chapter meeting presenters and chapter members **Mike Foster** and **Ron Belak**, respectively.

- **Joan Ridgely** has been doing a rather impressive, comprehensive job leading the ENC Executive Director Search Committee. Thank you, Joan!

- **Brad Andres** has submitted another brilliant grant application to the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District for support of our Nature Center. This was a lot of work and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

- A second thanks to **John and Diane Sears** of the Evergreen Wild Bird Store for continuing their Audubon membership drive through spring sales at the Wild Bird Store. We'll let you know how it goes!

- Finally, my personal thanks to elementary school buddy **David Jenkins** of Rye, NY, my hometown. We received a generous \$500 donation to Evergreen Audubon from David a month or so after our 30th Rye High School Reunion through our GivingFirst.org portal!

Village comes together to build, sell and buy boxes

It takes a village to raise a bluebird, especially if you are providing the perfect home.

The avian infants and their parents should thank the village pediatrician-craftsman, Dr. Tom Boschen, who designs and directs the building of Evergreen Audubon's nesting boxes.

Without Tom and Ginny's heated shop and gracious hospitality, it would have been a cold day in February for the construction crew. And what an industrious, skillful crew it was: Tom, of course, along with Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Eric Hogan, Jim Shelton and Carmon Slater.

Bud Weare kept an eye on Tom's new black Lab puppy, who has a fondness for precision-cut cedar.

A house is not a home, however, until it becomes part of a neighborhood. For that task, the bluebirds, their chickadee cousins and other relatives should be grateful to the real estate staff of Evergreen Audubon:

Brad Andres, Karel Buckley, Peggy Durham, John Ellis, Rachel Hutchinson, Marilyn Kaussner, Walt Phillips, Lynne Price, Dick Prickett, Sylvia Robertson, Jack Salter, Bill Sperry and Bud Weare.

The legendary Phillips-Ellis team sold more than half of the 60 bluebird and 30 chickadee boxes at the Bergen Park King Soopers on March 12. Brad and Bud's teams made short work of selling the remainder on March 19 at the Evergreen and Conifer Safeway stores.

Gross sales amounted to roughly \$2,100 with a net return of a little more than \$1,100.

Thanks again to everyone.

- Bud Weare



Displaying the wares were, from left, Sylvia Robertson, Peggy Durham and Jack Salter. Peggy's Australian Shepherd, Q, was helping out too. Photo by Bud Weare

FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS KAREL BUCKLEY

Barr Lake

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 am-noon

It may be a bit early for many migrants, but the water level should be good. We have a good chance of finding orioles and seeing the last of the ducks and gulls before they head north.

Meet at the Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride. We'll try to car pool if possible. You'll need a pass for the park or to pay the day fee. Plan on a half-day trip, ending around noon. Bring water; dress for all kinds of weather. Stay for a picnic if the weather is nice.

Contact Bill or JoAnn Hackos, 303-670-8517, or email joann.hackos@comtech-serv.com.

Plan ahead:

O'Fallon Park

Saturday, May 28, 8 am

Join us at O'Fallon Park and discover springtime in the Rockies. Every year

at O'Fallon, we are surprised by the variety of bird life here.

This half-day field trip will conclude around 1 p.m. and for those who are interested, we can lunch together afterward at the Bear Creek Tavern.

Please contact Susan Harper, sharp74@msn.com, or Sherman Wing, sherman.margie@prodigy.net, 303-324-9636 (email preferred).

Mounsey Ranch

Please mark your calendars for July 23-24 in Edwards, CO. Camping is fine, or stay in a nearby town. More details to follow, or call Louise or Bill Mousney at 303-674-4695 for registration and details.

Whatever you would like to do while there is open: wildflowers, hiking, fishing, birding. A Saturday night potluck around the campfire is planned.

Don't forget to mark your calendars now, far ahead!!

Al Hohl photographed a **Northern Goshawk** near Alderfer-Three Sisters Park on Jan. 16. Marilyn Rhodes posted a few of his shots in the Photo Gallery on the EA web page.

While cross-country skiing near Rabbit Ears Pass the last weekend in February, Larry White spotted a flock of 20-plus **Bohemian Waxwings**.

On March 1 at Upper Bear Creek he heard a **Northern Pygmy Owl**.

On March 2, Pat Wyker saw two **Mountain Bluebirds**, two **Black-billed Magpies** and one huge **raven** in Elk Meadow Park.

The day before, there was a **Slate-**

colored Junco in her Georgetown backyard.

Barbara Klaus hit the jackpot on March 3, along the Clear Creek bike path between I-70 and McIntyre: two **Bald Eagles**, **Green-winged Teal**, **American Wigeons**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Gadwalls**, **Goldeneyes** (not sure which variety), **Buffleheads** and one **Ruddy Duck**.

Sherman Wing heard and saw three singing male **American Dippers** in Bear Creek at Lair o' the Bear and Corwina parks on March 4.

Sherman commented that **Pine Siskins** had returned to his feeder on March

9, after disappearing from the area early in December.

Sherman was enjoying the season on March 10: "Perhaps they're only **Red-winged Blackbirds**, but with 50 to 75 in my trees, eating at my feeders, the cacophony of sounds are wonderful. It sounds like spring!

A **Northern Shrike** was perching in ponderosas and aspen close to feeders each late afternoon March 9-12 at the Jude Roehm home in Indian Hills. Wisely, smaller birds were staying out of sight during its presence.

EA bird-box construction and sales are paying off. Cherie Straub spotted a

bluebird in their pasture on Bluebell Circle on March 13. It was perched on the Audubon bluebird box they have attached to a fence post.

On March 19, a pair of **Western Bluebirds** checked out the bird boxes in Sherman's yard in Indian Hills.

At O'Fallon Park Saturday night, March 12, several people heard the call of both the **Northern Pygmy Owl** and the **Northern Saw-whet Owl**.

Pat Wyker saw her first **Pine Siskin** (female) in an Evergreen backyard on March 20. There were also male and female **Hairy Woodpeckers**, plus numerous **Pygmy Nuthatches** and **White and Red-breasted nuthatches**.



This American Dipper was one of a half-dozen seen March 4 along Bear Creek. Photo by Sherman Wing

Earth Day Fair 2011 promises to be bigger and better

Continued from page 1
to visit the historic Warming Hut, home to the Evergreen Nature Center operated by Evergreen Audubon.

For more information on the Earth Day Fair and the lineup of speakers and topics, contact Earth Day & Beyond

at 720-219-7165 or visit Earth Day & Beyond on Facebook.

Earth Day & Beyond is sponsored by Evergreen Park and Recreation District, Evergreen Newspapers, Evergreen Audubon and the Mt. Evans Group of the Sierra Club.

The first Evergreen Earth Day Fair was held in 1990 at the Old Brick School and was the brainchild of Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society member Carl Keiser along with community movers and shakers Mary Dickhoff, Marian Phillips and Etta Satter.

MEET THE BOARD: JEAN THAYER, SECRETARY

The new Evergreen Audubon board secretary seems prepared to handle just about anything.

Jean Thayer's first career was as an operating room technician in Houston—for Michael DeBakey, a world-renowned cardiac surgeon who invented a pump that later made open-heart surgery possible.

She learned to fly and entered cross-country air races. She and her husband Tom owned and loved a 1940 Piper Cub for 11 years.

She grew up in cattle country and loved horses for as long as she can remember. When her daughters were 2 and 4, she decided to try something new, learning to ride English saddle and how to jump fences.

Perhaps a bit tamer, but still entertaining, she and Tom now patrol the busiest aisles as volunteer ushers for the Denver Center Theater Company.

And, oh yes, on her "secretary" resume are jobs that quickly moved from secretarial to managerial—in various California locations and in Evergreen.

In Redondo Beach, CA., she worked for TRW Inc., which was involved in the aerospace business, among other things.

"I learned how to do any job," Jean said, but she eventually became the security manager of a classified program and moved to Sunnyvale, CA., where she met Tom, who also worked at TRW. They tried to keep their relationship quiet, which probably didn't work too well after they got married.

In San Jose, CA, she was executive assistant to the chancellor of a community college district, where she laid the minutes for twice-monthly evening meetings on her boss's desk by the next morning.

After 16 years at TRW, Tom, an aerospace engineer, spent 10 years in California with Lockheed until the couple came to Colorado with the company in 1995.

After surfing the Web, Jean "wanted Evergreen," so they bought a home in the Witter Gulch area west of town and she went looking for a job.

Never one to let grass grow under her feet, she worked at a water treat-



Jean Thayer

ment company in Bergen Park, was recruited as a personal assistant for a high-powered businesswoman, started Bear Creek Secretarial Services and then joined Life Quotes, where they decided to train her as an insurance agent.

All that in just eight years before health problems caused her to retire in 2003.

In 2009, she decided she was "turning into a hermit" and volunteered to work in the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce office. For good measure,

she met with Michael Stills and helped open the Evergreen Nature Center for the first time.

"I am so impressed by what has happened in the last three years (at the ENC)," Jean said. "Now I would like to see volunteers more involved—taking on a sense of ownership."

Jean has long had a love of the environment. She and Tom "raised our kids camping—we spent a lot of time outdoors," she said. Their two daughters now live in Truckee, CA, and Bend, OR, respectively.

What will Jean be doing as the EA secretary? "I'm still figuring that out," she said. She and Tom switched from ushering on Thursday nights to Friday nights to accommodate EA board and chapter meetings, where she takes minutes.

She has spent hours trying to figure out membership data entry and is archiving years of files. She is also writing and publishing an online newsletter for Nature Center volunteers, but made a promise to herself to get away from the computer to go on some field trips this year.

Jean may have quit her job with Dr. DeBakey because three years of 12-hour surgeries were "grueling" physically, but she's still not afraid of a challenge.

Non-member offer at Wild Bird Store

A springtime promotion continues at Evergreen Wild Bird Store.

Any non-member from the Denver/Foothills area who spends \$100 or more now through June 30, 2011, will receive a family membership gift to Evergreen Audubon from Evergreen Wild Bird Store.

There is one asterisk, however, that must apply: Owners John and Diane

Sears cannot do this if the customer uses coupons, sales prices, etc.

Evergreen Wild Bird Store will promote this Audubon Membership Special in its spring seed sale flier as well as in the store with signage.

EA members already receive 10% off all items all of the time. Same asterisk applies re coupons, etc.

Ways to support Evergreen Audubon

- Become a Member.
- Give the Gift of Membership.
- Donate a One-time Gift.
- Memorial Gifts. Remember a departed family member or friend.
- Bequests & Legacy Gifts. Discover

how to make a special gift that will support Evergreen Audubon in the future.

For more information about any of these options, visit www.evergreenaudubon.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 7	Chapter Meeting	7 PM	Church of the Hills
April 9	Barr Lake Field Trip	7:30 AM	Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride
April 10	Newsletter deadline	5 PM	
April 23	Earth Day Fair	10 AM-4 PM	Evergreen Lake House
April 28	EA Board Meeting	6 PM	

Upcoming:

O'Fallon Field Trip, May 28; Mounsey Ranch Visit, July 23-24

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 41, NO. 3. 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.

Date _____

	Individual	Family	Student
Annual dues	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 10
Electronic <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Bird Business: Local Sightings

Meet the Board: Jean Thayer

It Takes a Village: Bluebirds

IN THIS ISSUE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

Evergreen, CO 80437

P.O. Box 523

Evergreen Audubon

THE DIPPER

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