



Flora and fauna of mountain parks is Aug. 1 topic

Discover the common flora and fauna of the Denver Mountain Parks during the summer chapter meeting program on Thursday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Nature Center.

Kelly Uhing, the city naturalist for Denver Parks and Recreation, will share some of the unique wildflowers, birds and mammals of our nearby parks.

Kelly manages the Denver Nature Areas Program, overseeing vegetation and wildlife management activities.

She also coordinates lake and stream management issues throughout Denver as well as pesticide applications on Parks properties.

Prior to joining Denver Mountain Parks, Uhing spent 10 years protecting agriculture, rangeland and natural areas from the threat of invasive weeds.

She worked with noxious weed programs for the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Boulder County and Adams County.

Remember, the Nature Center will be opened at 6:30, so come early to socialize and see what's new at the center.

- Kathy Madison, Director of Education



White-breasted Nuthatch in O'Fallon Park in Kittredge, one of the Denver Mountain Parks. Photo by Alistair Montgomery

Bird House Bash artwork contest winner chosen

This spring, Evergreen Nature Center hosted a small contest for local young artists (21 and under).

The search was for a beautiful illustration of Colorado's most colorful bird, the male Western Tanager.

This gorgeous bird is the mascot for the 2013 Bird House Bash: Aves sin Fronteras (birds without borders), which will be Oct. 3 at Evergreen Lake House.

The winner of ENC's Western Tanager Drawing Contest is Megan Miller.

Her prize was a \$50 cash award and exposure through 2013 Bird House Bash advertising.

Megan heard about the contest through EA board member Chuck

Aid, her 2011/12 Audubon Society of Greater Denver Master Birder class-mate.

Chuck knew about her love of and talent for capturing the essence of birds in two dimensions.

In fact, aviphilia literally drew Megan to hone realistic proportion and artistic integrity in her lifelong hobby of drawing and painting.

Megan is a Colorado native from Littleton whose favorite bird is the Greater Roadrunner and favorite local birding spot is Barr Lake.

Megan dreams of becoming an ornithologist or wildlife biologist.

Like many naturalists before her, Megan is also a talented artist. Her favorite medium is watercolor, "because it's easy to get bright color and make transitions."

You can expect *lots* of color at the 2013 Bird House Bash: Aves sin Fronteras.

The theme is the many birds and people that divide their years into Colo-

Save the date:

October 3, 2013

Bird House Bash:

Aves sin Fronteras

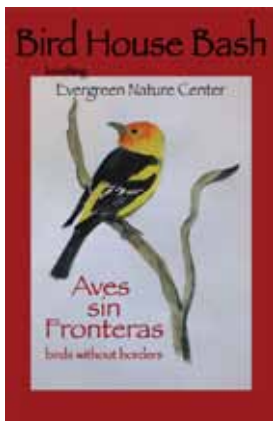
Evergreen Lake House

rado springs and summers and Mexican falls and winters.

Our mascot, the male Western Tanager, follows this popular lifestyle also enjoyed by Mountain and Western bluebirds, Spotted and Green-tailed towhees, Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds, Lazuli Buntings and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, to name a few.

If you like tasty Mexican food and learning about tropical places, don't forget to buy your ticket for the 2013 BHB: Aves sin Fronteras!

- Vanessa Hayes, ENC Director



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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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BRAD ANDRES

Last week, Dick Prickett and I met with Brian Rutledge of Audubon Rockies to discuss the regional office's priorities and how the Evergreen chapter might fit into their plans.

I wanted to pass on two initiatives that might grab your interest. We discussed the idea of melding our efforts in the Bear Creek Watershed into the Western Rivers Initiative, which is highlighted below with a chance to learn more about this initiative coming up in August.

Millions of migrating birds representing more than 250 species depend on key Western rivers for their survival. More than 100 species spend some portion of their life cycle in riparian areas and many of these species are now threatened or endangered—as demands increase but water supplies dwindle.

Please join Audubon Rockies as they work to save Western rivers—for drinking water, for our food, for wildlife and for recreation ... because it's the right thing to do.

Please attend the Saturday, Aug. 24, workshop in Colorado Springs. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (lunch provided) at the Ecumenical Social Ministries, 201 N. Weber St. (the corner of Bijou and Weber).

The agenda will include: basics on healthy rivers, Colorado water law and policy; overview of critical issues facing Western rivers and habitats; Audubon & Allies—what's happening out there; and Water Footprints for People and Nature.

RSVP to AudubonRockiesWRAN@gmail.com or 970-416-6931. Learn more about Audubon Rockies and Western Rivers: <http://rockies.audubon.org/audubons-westernrivers-initiative>.

Another interesting program that might help our outreach to the mountain community is their Habitat Hero and wildscaping program (see <http://rockies.audubon.org/become-habitat-hero-and-learn-about-how-wildscape>).

I plan to order a few copies of the new book "Colorado Wildscapes," which provides a resource on plants that will help you "wildscape." Wildscaping is gardening with local plants and animals. It is gardening with an attitude; wildscapers know they make a difference.

Send me any ideas you may have on taking this to the broader community.

A request for your talent

Evergreen Nature Center will feature local arts and crafts at Evergreen Audubon's Oct. 3 Bird House Bash: Aves sin Fronteras (birds without borders) benefit. The event raises money for ENC programs that connect people with nature, nurturing care and appreciation for our natural environment.

Support ENC with the contribution of a work of art, which we will offer in our auction. Your work will be attractively displayed and your name will be prominently posted and publicized in our program—and best of all—you will be helping the cause of connecting people with nature!

Get a free ticket to BHB: Aves Sin Fronteras, a Mexican fiesta celebrating migrating birds! The first 10 artists who contribute their original art or craft work worth \$75 or more will receive one ticket for the Oct. 3 fiesta.

Please call or email Ginny Ades at 303-674-7199, virgades@aol.com; or call or email Vanessa Hayes at Evergreen Nature Center, 303-330-0489, encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org to sign up or get more information.

A large party of 16 birders made a fast dash to Summit Lake on July 7 for an Intermediate Birding Field Trip.

At Summit Lake, in advance of what looked like stormy weather, we found:

- 12 pairs of American Pipits, including one pair feeding a fledgling;
- 1 pair of Mountain Bluebirds;
- 6 (at least) Common Ravens soaring over and croaking;
- 4 singing White-throated Sparrows, including 2 carrying food;
- a possible singing Brown-capped Rosy-Finch in the scree along the cliff side of the lake;
- many fat, happy Marmots.

Our search for White-tailed Ptarmigan, led by Marilyn Rhodes, turned up two more American Pipits, more Marmots, including a flattened one on a rock, and a cooperative Pica. Unfortunately, no Ptarmigan.

Marilyn's group drove up to the summit and spotted many Mountain Goats with kids and Bighorn Sheep.

Two other cars headed down to the Mt. Goliath area for spectacular wildflowers.

We spotted one Steller's Jay, a Wilson's Warbler and two or three White-throated Sparrows. The warbler and sparrows were singing. At 11 a.m., not much going on at this site.

At the shore of Echo Lake, we spotted three Barrow's Goldeneye females, two Mallards, a cooperative Lincoln's Sparrow, an American Robin, another Com-



American Pipit seen on a July 7 field trip. Photo by Judith Henderson

mon Raven and many singing White-throated Sparrows. Across the road, we followed a singing Ruby-crowned Kinglet, for a poor sighting.

We all enjoyed the lunch at the Echo Lake Lodge and watched the Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds at the feeder. Might have been a Black-chinned but cannot confirm.

At Echo Lake, some members of the group saw even more interesting birds:

- 12 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds

- 1 Rufous Hummingbird
- 2 Cordilleran Flycatchers
- 10 Gray Jays
- 1 American Crow
- 15 Common Ravens
- 3 Mountain Chickadees
- 4 Hermit Thrushes
- 12 American Robins
- 2 Song Sparrows
- 6 Red Crossbills

- JoAnn Hackos,
Bird Monitoring Director

Toyota's Exit the Highway campaign: Win a new Prius

The central component of the new National Audubon/Toyota Exit the Highway campaign is the pledge to spend time in nature.

This pledge earns users a chance to win a brand-new Toyota Prius V.

For 2013, the campaign has built interactive features to incorporate all Audubon centers and sanctuaries and allow chapter leaders and Audubon members to share their favorite nature destinations.

There are two opportunities for you to feature areas important to your chapter—the Nature Near You map and the Field

Notes blog at www.ExitTheHighway.com.

Opportunity 1: Nature Near You Map

The Nature Near You map lets you upload your favorite nature spots.

In addition to being a new part of the campaign, this is a great opportunity for chapters to promote physical locations important to their work, such as the ENC and Bear Creek Watershed BBA sites.

Just visit the map and add your destination.

To help you get started, we've listed the information you'll need:

- Your name (such as Robin Crane, Evergreen Audubon)
- Your email address
- Name of destination
- Location (street address, city, state)
- Description (140 characters or less)
- Upload a photo (optional)

Opportunity 2: Field Notes Blog

Have more to say than 140 characters permit? Upload your story to the Field Notes blog, which will feature first-person accounts of people exploring the natural world around them.

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Yard Birds

On June 17, Sherry Walker asked if she could open her bluebird box and peek at the **Western Bluebirds** inhabiting it.

I responded, "It's OK to do that, Sherry, just don't disturb the nest. Evergreen Audubon has teams that monitor bluebird trails regularly in Elk Meadow, Noble Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters. That's how they view the birds and do their counts."

JoAnn and Bill Hackos posted June 17, "**Band-tailed Pigeons** are back at our feeder. We see them every year about this time. Quite pretty birds."

Bob Santangelo added, "They always conjure up thoughts of the Passenger Pigeon for me."

Else Van Erp emailed June 27 that she had family of **Red Crossbills** at her feeder.

On June 25, Chuck Aid was the first to report a **Rufous Hummingbird**. He noted that was "EARLY!!"

On July 1, Shirley Casey wrote, "It seems early, but we have a **Rufous Hummingbird** at our feeder today . . . busily chasing the regular Broad-tails.

"So is it earlier than normal, or has the year just been going by faster?"

JoAnn and Bill Hackos had their FOY **Rufous Hummingbirds**, two males, as usual on the 4th of July at 7,400 feet.

On July 11, Inga Brennan reported her first **Calliope Hummer** at the feeder. She had her first **Rufous** on July 5.

Susan Harper responded that she finally had a male **Rufous** show up on July 9 and Tim and Marilyn Stechert had their first male **Rufous** on July 5.

At my house this year, a **Calliope** showed up around the 4th and the **Rufous** came a week later.

On July 11, David Walker of Indian Hills said he'd had **Black-headed Grosbeaks** at his feeders in recent days, and before that **Lesser Goldfinches**.

JoAnn and Bill had **Black-headed Grosbeaks** at their Soda Creek feeders too.

I had a beautiful **Black-headed Grosbeak** at my Hiwan Hills feeder July 10 and have had **Lesser Goldfinches** since the end of June.



Tree Swallow at Evergreen Lake on June 24. Photo by Susan Harper

Out and About Genesee Park

On June 5, Joyce Trygstad Nelson and her daughter saw a **Swainson's Hawk** hunting over I-70 at the eastbound entrance ramp of the Genesee Park Exit 254. "Brown back, distinctive brown bib, white chest," Joyce said.

Evergreen Lake

Susan Harper took some beginning birders for a walk around Evergreen Lake June 24. They saw a **Tree Swallow** and a "charm" of finches.

Lair o' the Bear

Sherman Wing, Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas leader for the park, reported on June 15:

"We saw a number of fledglings today, including **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds**, **American Robins**, **Violet-green** and **Northern Rough-winged swallows**.

"Surprisingly, we got two new species today—a **Say's Phoebe** hanging out on top of an old mullein stalk, near the parking lot.

"We were very pleased to see a male



Shooting Stars at Lair o' the Bear. Photo by Sherman Wing

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, foraging and, actually, we heard a total of two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** in the same general area.

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“Our total, as of June 15, for the year at Lair o’ the Bear is 77 species and 26 confirmed breeders.”

He reported again on June 23: “New bird for the season, number 79, was a male **MacGillvray’s Warbler** seen singing above the creek.

“We found an old social trail, along a drainage, and took it back for maybe a half mile. Best birds back there were a couple of **Virginia’s Warblers**, **Plumbeous** and **Warbling vireos**, **Olive-sided** and two **Dusky flycatchers**. There we confirmed our 29th species, a male **Western Tanager** carrying food.

“We re-found the **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in the same area where it was previously twice seen.”

Sherman offered another update on July 6. Susan Harper found the 80th species for this 2013 season. She heard four **Pine Siskins** in the Ponderosa forest, while hiking up the Bear Creek Trail.

“So far this season, we have 80 species and have confirmed breeding activities for 33 species,” Sherman said.

Sherman compared the compilation of the 2008 count with the 2013 count so far. At this point, there have been 89 species identified at the site. He thinks the 90th species could be the Western Bluebird.

On June 25, JoAnn and Bill Hackos were at Lair o’ the Bear and found a beautiful globe nest of a **Warbling Vireo**. The male was singing from the nest and changed places with the female as they watched.

There was some interesting conversation about Black-chinned Hummingbirds last month. On June 26, Sherman observed, “There seems to be more Black-chinned activity than I’ve ever seen in the past. It’s more uncommon than rare this year in the foothills.”

Bob Santangelo offered, “A few years ago Black-chinned were in Bear Creek Lake Park and nobody was reporting them. Complacency may have led some to assume they were Broad-tails?”

“During the last BB survey, they got added to the checklist. Now they are being seen partly because people are more aware of the species being in the locale,



Black-chinned Hummingbird at Lair o’ the Bear. Photo by Sherman Wing

and are now looking for them, and maybe their numbers are up—who can say for sure? More surveys and results may answer that more definitely.”

Susan Harper added, “Everything I’m reading about Black chins is that they are more widespread than we think. I agree with Bob S.—we’ve been assuming they were all Broad-tails. Another ID marking is the white spot behind the eye. Both the male and female have it.

“Was just listening (on Cornell) to the soft sound the male makes with his wings as he hovers and it sounds like a giant bee. I thought the Rufous’s low buzz sounded like a giant bee but the BCH sounds even more like a bee—softer than the Rufous’s.

“How exciting to discover we have more diversity in hummingbirds than we/I ever knew in our little neck of the woods!”

Sherman commented, “Also, a good marker is silhouette of the tail, while it’s perched. The Broad-tailed Hummer’s tail is longer than the wing tips, so the tail appears to taper to a rounded point.

“The Black-chinned Hummer’s wing tips are almost as long as the tail, giving a more squarish look to the tail.”

Little Park

On June 24 Else Van Erp had a **Poorwill** calling.

Mount Evans Area

Gerard Beneteau saw four **Barrow’s Goldeneyes**, one male and 3 females, at Echo Lake on June 21. He asked if such a sighting was common.

“Yes,” JoAnn Hackos responded. “A female **Barrow’s Goldeneye** produced eight chicks last year on Echo Lake. This year we’ve seen the male and one female two weeks ago. The other two females may be **Common Goldeneye**. Females are difficult to tell apart. The bill is shorter on the **Barrow’s** and may be tipped with yellow.”

Bear Creek Watershed BBA Trip

JoAnn and Bill Hackos reported on their June 22 trip. They saw **American Pipits**, **Mountain Bluebirds** and **Common Ravens** at Summit Lake, but no Rosy-finches yet after two weeks of observations.

It was slow at Mt. Goliath compared to the previous weekend, but they recorded **White-crowned Sparrows**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, **Audubon’s Warbler** and **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**.

The previous weekend they had, **Gray Jay**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **Wilson’s Warblers** and **Lincoln’s Sparrows**.

At Echo Lake, JoAnn and Bill recorded a male **Barrow’s Goldeneye**, **Coot**, **Wilson’s Warbler**, **Lincoln’s Sparrow** and **White-crowned Sparrow**.

DIA and Barr Lake

Bob Santangelo and I headed to the DIA/Barr Lake area June 30 in search of Burrowing Owls, Common Nighthawks and a Greater Roadrunner.

We located two large **Burrowing Owl** families at 112th and Tower Road and on Picadilly between 120th and 128th—seven or eight owlets in each family.

We dipped on the Greater Roadrunner that had been seen at the entrance

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An American White Pelican, above, was seen on June 27 at Manitou Lake, where a Colorado State Record Sandwich Tern also was sighted, right. Photos by Marilyn Rhodes

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to Barr Lake as well as the Common Nighthawks.

Boulder Area

Bob and I continued our search for Common Nighthawks in Boulder. No nighthawks, but Bob and I found several **Bobolinks**, a Life Bird for Bob, on Cherryvale Road in Boulder.

We also saw an **American Avocet** and three chicks at Cottonwood Marsh, two **Great Horned Owls**, a few **American Kestrels** hunting and an **Osprey** family at Boulder Reservoir.

Lyons

On June 21, I joined a group of six birders to search for **Flammulated Owls** in an area around Lyons.

On the way, we saw an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a **Western Tanager** and a **Townsend's Solitaire**. We located a pair of the owls and a **Whip-poor-will**.

Manitou Lake near Woodland Park
At 5:30 p.m. on June 27, a **Sandwich Tern** in breeding plumage was sighted at Manitou Lake in Teller County.

Initially, it was perched on a small snag in the middle of the lake. Later it was observed flying between the lake and nearby beaver ponds.

The sighting, a Colorado state record, attracted dozens and dozens of birders.

Dick Prickett, Bob Santangelo and I were among the lucky few to see the bird. It has not been sighted since June 30.

The **Sandwich Tern** is a seabird

named for Sandwich, Kent, England, where the first specimen was taken.

We also saw **California Gulls**, **American White Pelicans**, **Black-crowned Night Herons**, **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds** and a **Belted Kingfisher** while observing the tern at Manitou Lake.

Pueblo Nature Center

On July 9, Sherman Wing scored a Life Bird, a **Canyon Towhee**. Pueblo is in the northern portion of its range, which covers most of north-central Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas.

He also saw **Eastern Kingbird**, **Western Kingbird**, **Lark Sparrow**, **Bullock's Oriole**, **Yellow Warbler** and **Loggerhead Shrike**.

Toyota's Exit the Highway campaign: win a new Prius

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When thinking about a story to share, please keep the following things in mind:

- Keep it around 250 words; the shorter, the better.

- Keep it light and fun.
- Make it relevant: Many of the people reading your stories may not

have experience in your field of work or study.

Try to write your story for someone who has a love of nature, an enthusiasm for getting outdoors, but who may not be familiar with technical terms and phrases.

National Audubon will be featuring

Audubon-related stories on its social media channels throughout the campaign.

If you would like to submit your post for consideration, please send the link to Elizabeth Sorrell (esorrell@audubon.org).

- Brad Andres, EA President

FIELD TRIPS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Mountain Goats inhabit the alpine reaches of Mt. Evans, site of the fourth and final Bear Creek Nature Walk on Aug. 10. Photo by Alistair Montgomery

NATURE CENTER KIDS PROGRAMS

Call Evergreen Nature Center, 303-330-0489, to register.

Wednesday Wild Ones: Voles and Moles

Aug. 7, 10–11 a.m.

Ages 2–5 with adult

Meadow voles and torpedo-shaped moles are tunneling underground near you. Discover how these very different creatures wiggle their way through life nibbling on plants and worms.

Bear Creek Dippers: Water Bugs!

Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.–noon

Ages 6–10 with adult

Rowing, towing, floating and flying, the aquatic bugs of Evergreen Lake are very interesting creatures! We'll break out the nets and lenses to get a closer look, then make our own water creatures.

Stargazing at Evergreen Lake

Saturday, Aug. 3, 8:30 p.m.

All ages

Bring a blanket or camp chairs. Join amateur astronomer Pam Little each month for a tour of the night sky. Meet on the west side of the lake parking lot.

Bear Creek Nature Walk: Echo and Summit Lakes

Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m.

Meet at Bergen Park Park-n-Ride.

In a span of 25 miles Bear Creek drains from the summit of Mount Evans out to what historically was semi-desert grassland.

In the process it passes through a wonderful variety of habitats with their attendant communities of birds.

This is the fourth and final monthly walk.

Night Boating and Nature Exploring

Saturdays, Aug. 10 and 24, 7–10 p.m.

Free Event

Stop by ENC during extended boat rental nights to pick up your family scavenger hunt and begin an evening outdoor adventure.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Birding With Mike: Fall Courses

Birding 201 (Shorebirds & Wading Birds).

Three Tuesday evenings: 8/13, 8/27, 9/10.

Three Saturday mornings: 8/17, 8/31, 9/14.

\$60. For intermediates & eager novices.

Birding 101

Three Tuesday evenings: 8/20, 9/3, 9/24.

Three Saturday mornings: 8/24, 9/7, 9/28.

\$60. For beginners.

Both courses limited to twelve people. Informational handouts start arriving well before the first class, therefore early enrollment provides a flying start.

Evergreen members always get a 10% discount on any course.

Contact: Mike1.foster@comcast.net

Website answers most questions:

www.BirdingWithMike.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 1	EA Summer Program	7 pm	Nature Center
Aug. 3	Stargazing	8:30 pm	Evergreen Lake House lawn
Aug. 7	Wednesday Wild Ones	10–11 am	Nature Center
Aug. 10	Bear Creek Nature Walk	9 am	Echo and Summit Lakes
Aug. 10	Newsletter deadline	5 pm	
Aug. 10	Night Boating/Exploring	7–10 pm	Evergreen Lake/ENC
Aug. 17	Bear Creek Dippers	10 am–noon	Nature Center
Aug. 24	Night Boating/Exploring	7–10 pm	Evergreen Lake/ENC

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to **Lisa Wald** at communications@evergreenaudubon.org, and *Dipper* editor **Debbie Marshall** at marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-886-0593.

VOLUME 43, NO. 8. 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 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
Annual dues	\$ 20	\$ 30
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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Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Bird House Bash Talent Request
 Bird Business: Rowdy Rufous Arrives
 Field Trips, Kids Programs

IN THIS ISSUE

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THE DIPPER