



# THE DIPPER



VOL. 44 NO. 8  
AUGUST 2014

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

[www.evergreenaudubon.org](http://www.evergreenaudubon.org)



## THE BLUEBIRD EFFECT

Saved from the clutches of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, “Mr. Troyer” lived to the ripe old bird age of 8 and learned his rescuer’s meal schedule, hoping to share.

JoAnn Hackos shares these and more entrancing stories in her latest book review. See page 5.

## Sculpture Walk hops over to ENC

by Lisa Wald, EA Secretary

Not only are there new exhibits inside Evergreen Nature Center this season, but there is also a new installation just outside.

A large bronze frog is an addition to the Art for the Community Sculpture Walk this year.

The title of the artwork is “I’ve Been Kissed,” and he definitely has a lot of character, thanks to the artist, Pokey Park of Tucson, Ariz.

In my investigation to determine what kind of frog or toad he is, I learned not only about the frogs and toads of Colorado, but also about the unique adaptations of these fascinating amphibians all around the world.

So what is the difference between a frog and a toad?

Well, frogs have smooth or slimy skin, two bulging eyes, long hind legs and large

webbed feet, and they tend to like moist environments.

Toads have warty and dry skin, more stubby bodies and shorter hind legs (than toads), and they tend to prefer dryer climates.

Based on this, I’d have to guess that “I’ve Been Kissed” is a frog. There are about 17 species of frogs and toads in Colorado.

Less than 20 species is small potatoes compared to the 5,000-plus species that can be found around the world, some with the most unusual characteristics.

One little guy can jump 55 times its own length—that’s like one of us jumping from one end of a football field to the other! One species of frog “waves” to a potential mate to signal interest, and if she’s interested too, she “waves” back. The

Continued on page 3



Bald Eagle pair near Evergreen Lake. See Bird Business, page 6.  
Photo by Barbara Klaus

## Have a howling good time at Aug. 7 chapter meeting

Looking for a howling good time? Come to the August Evergreen Audubon Chapter Meeting to hear Mary Ann Bonnell present “Coyote Country” at Evergreen Nature Center Thursday, Aug. 7.

Arrive at 6:30 p.m. to socialize with your Evergreen Audubon friends and neighbors and see the latest at the Nature Center; the presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

Coyotes—these tricksters of Native American lore—are our closest canid neighbors, but how much do you or I really know about their biology and behavior?

They are familiar to us when we look out our windows and as we hike the Mountain Parks and Open Spaces of the Bear Creek Watershed. However, for most of us the details of their lives remain a mystery, and become of increasing interest as human presence on the land brings us into more frequent contact with these intelligent, adaptive animals.

Whether you are curious about coyotes or concerned about coyote-human interactions, you will want to attend and learn about coyote biology, behavior and our role in influencing that behavior.

Mary Ann’s presentation will help us understand how the coyote has adapted so admirably to life in the urban-wildland zone that we are privileged to inhabit.

Continued on page 2

**EVERGREEN AUDUBON**  
www.evergreenaudubon.org

**2014 OFFICERS**

|                       |              |  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>President</b>      | Brad Andres  | 303-670-0101<br>president@evergreenaudubon.org     |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Jean Thayer  | 303-670-9066<br>vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Lisa Wald    | 303-810-5083<br>secretary@evergreenaudubon.org     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Joan Ridgely | 303-526-2250<br>treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org     |

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

|                        |                   |   |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Bird Monitoring</b> | JoAnn/Bill Hackos | 303-670-8517<br>birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org        |
| <b>Communications</b>  | Kathy Madison     | 303-670-0209<br>communications@evergreenaudubon.org |
| <b>Conservation</b>    | Chuck Aid         | 303-674-3331<br>conservation@evergreenaudubon.org   |
| <b>Development</b>     | Ginny Ades        | 303-674-7199<br>development@evergreenaudubon.org    |
| <b>Education</b>       | Ed Furlong        | education@evergreenaudubon.org                      |
| <b>Social Events</b>   | Marge Petersen    | 303-670-4310<br>socialevents@evergreenaudubon.org   |
| <b>At Large</b>        | Ann Dodson        | 303-670-8264<br>atlarge1@evergreenaudubon.org       |
| <b>At Large</b>        | Peggy Linn        | 303-674-2239<br>atlarge2@evergreenaudubon.org       |

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

|                         |                   |  |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>National Audubon</b> | Dick Prickett     | 303-674-0217                                     |
| <b>Bear Creek Atlas</b> | Brad Andres       | 303-670-0101                                     |
| <b>Bird Box Sales</b>   | Bud Weare         | 303-679-8889                                     |
| <b>Bird Monitoring</b>  | Brad Andres       | 303-670-0101                                     |
| <b>Conservation</b>     | Chuck Aid         | 303-674-3331                                     |
| <b>Dipper Editor</b>    | Debbie Marshall   | 303-886-0593<br>dipper@evergreenaudubon.org      |
| <b>Education</b>        | Ed Furlong        | 303-956-8321<br>cogoshawk@gmail.com              |
| <b>Field Trips</b>      | Chuck Aid         | 303-674-3331                                     |
| <b>Hospitality</b>      | Rachel Hutchinson | 303-679-1503                                     |
| <b>Land Acquisition</b> | Polly Phillips    | 303-674-7744                                     |
| <b>Membership</b>       | Jean Thayer       | 303-670-9066                                     |
| <b>Nature Center</b>    | Vanessa Hayes     | 303-330-0489<br>encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org |
| <b>Programs</b>         | Ed Furlong        | 303-956-8321                                     |
| <b>Publicity</b>        | Kathy Madison     | 303-670-0209                                     |
| <b>Ways &amp; Means</b> | Irma Wolf         | 303-670-3402<br>irmasonny@aol.com                |
| <b>Weeds</b>            | Betsy Kelson      | 720-219-7165                                     |
| <b>Webmaster</b>        | Kathy Madison     | 303-670-0209                                     |

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

You may have seen the announcement about the release of the 2014 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as the Duck Stamp).

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the U.S. Congressional Act that established the program in 1934. Each year, artists compete to have their images appear on the annual stamp. This year's stamp depicts a pair of Canvasbacks, one of my favorite ducks. The Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest encourages young artist-conservationists, and is a program we are considering for Evergreen Nature Center.

Every waterfowl hunter is required to purchase a stamp in addition to his/her state hunting license. As the full name implies, revenue from Duck Stamp sales are used to protect wetland habitat on National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas.

Ninety-eight cents out of every \$1 of stamp sales is spent on habitat; since enacted in 1934, \$900 million has been spent to conserve nearly 6 million acres of wetlands.

Purchasing a \$25 Duck Stamp also gives you access to the National Wildlife Refuges that charge an entrance fee.

Beyond waterfowl, wetlands provide habitat for many bird and other animal species and provide ecological benefits such as flood control, clean water and erosion control.

Numerous National Wildlife Refuges have been designated as important wetlands under the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, as sites within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, or as Audubon Important Bird Areas. Clearly, Duck Stamp investments go far beyond waterfowl conservation and duck hunters.

Duck Stamps can be purchased online ([www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm)), at post offices (although not in Evergreen at the current time) and sporting good stores.

Here in Colorado, Parks and Wildlife includes a Habitat Stamp in its hunting and fishing license fees. Like the Duck Stamp, revenue from the Colorado Habitat Stamp is used to protect wildlife habitat, not just for game species but also for species of conservation concern such as the Sage Grouse.

A Habitat Stamp costs only \$10 and is available where hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased, or online at the CPW website under "Buy and Apply."

Closer to home, I want to again thank everyone who has contributed to our Annual Appeal. By increasing environmental awareness in our Evergreen Nature Center visitors, we hope we can instill a lifelong commitment to the conservation of wildlife and their habitat.

## Have a howling good time

Continued from page 1

Whether you are concerned or curious about your local coyotes, you'll want to attend this lively presentation and discussion on coyote biology and ecology.

Mary Ann is the co-principal Investigator for the Denver Metro Area Coyote Study. She was an invited speaker for the urban coyote symposium at the International Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference in 2012.

Mary Ann is the Visitor Services supervisor and Park Ranger Program supervisor for Jefferson County Open Space.

- Ed Furlong, Education Director

# Sculpture Walk hops on over to Nature Center

Continued from page 1

largest frog we know of lived in Madagascar 65 million years ago and appears to have eaten mammals; perhaps they even ate baby dinosaurs.

Frogs have some very creative ways of taking care of their young when they are just eggs and tadpoles. The males of the Darwin's frog species in the forests of Chile scoop up the eggs and hold them in their throat pouch, not just until they are hatched but even while they are tadpoles. When they're ready, dad opens his mouth and they jump out as frogs.

The African bullfrog dads, some of the largest and most aggressive frogs, find a soft spot in their hearts when it comes to their little tadpoles. If the pool where they hatched is drying up, dad will dig a trench to connect it to the main pond so they can swim along the frog-made channel to a wetter location.

But it's the strawberry poison dart frog moms that go to the most extreme efforts to provide their babies with a perfect environment while they are tadpoles.

The forest floor where the eggs are laid is too dry for them to survive once they have hatched, so mom gets a tadpole to hop on her back and hang on while she climbs an enormous tree and finds the perfect bromeliad plant with a little pool of water in the middle for her tadpole to live in until it becomes a frog.

Then she goes all the way back down the tree and gets the next tadpole. She does this until every one of her tadpoles has been safely delivered to its own little bromeliad nursery.

But that's not all! For the next two weeks, she goes back to each bromeliad plant every few days to deposit an unfertilized egg for each tadpole to eat.

Besides their most obvious defense against predators—their ability to blend in imperceptibly with the background, some frogs and toads have also evolved unusual ways to evade danger.

One species of toad that lives in a rocky area can clench itself up into a bouncy rubberlike ball and then tumble down the boulders to a safer place.

The waterfall toad of South America free-falls through the forest canopy to escape danger and then uses its Post-it



"I've Been Kissed" stands outside the Nature Center. *Photo by Karel Buckley*

## ***Frogs and toads that may be found in Colorado:***

American bullfrog  
Boreal chorus frog  
Canyon treefrog  
Couch's spadefoot  
Great Basin spadefoot  
Great Plains toad  
Green toad  
Mexican spadefoot  
Northern cricket frog  
Northern leopard frog  
Plains leopard frog  
Plains spadefoot  
Red-spotted toad  
Western narrow-mouthed toad  
Western toad  
Wood frog—Mountains  
Woodhouse's toad

Note-like footpads to grab hold of something to stop its fall.

Frogs and toads are fragile creatures, and thus are good indications of climate change. Unfortunately, this means that one-third of all amphibians are now threatened with extinction. However, some species have evolved amazing ways to deal with their challenging environments.

The spade-foot toad that lives in the Australian desert stays burrowed under the sand for several years until a rain finally comes. Sensing the moisture, they will emerge from the sand, mate during the night, and then burrow back under the sand again before the parching sun rises again.

Another species can produce its own moisturizer when needed. It spreads it on its entire body, contorting arms and legs to get to all the tricky spots.

Another extreme frog is the wood frog, the most northern-reaching amphibian, which lives in North America mostly above the Arctic Circle, but also can be found in northern Colorado in subalpine marshes, bogs, pothole ponds, beaver ponds, lakes, stream borders, wet meadows, willow thickets and the forests bordering these habitats.

In the winter, as everything freezes, the wood frog, too, freezes. As ice begins to coat its body, the liver starts producing huge amounts of glucose, which acts like an antifreeze in the cell interiors. Eventually, its heart stops beating until spring, when it seemingly wakes from the dead as the ice melts.

This ability to adapt to extreme climates gives scientists hope that many of these amphibians will evolve to survive in new environments as the climate continues to change.

No, I never did figure out what kind of frog "I've Been Kissed" is, but I now have a profound admiration and appreciation for him, no matter what species.

It's worth a trip to the Nature Center just to meet our new friend, who represents so much of what Evergreen Audubon is all about—the appreciation of nature and all that it gives us, both in the world of science and art.

And don't forget to give him a kiss . . . if you dare.



## MEET THE BOARD: ED FURLONG, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

It was a minor health scare a few years ago that eventually resulted in chemist Ed Furlong joining the Evergreen Audubon board of directors.

He'd been a member of EA for a long time, but a demanding career at the National Water Quality Laboratory had kept him from an active role in the organization. Such a health issue "helps you focus your mind and I decided I wanted to do other things, particularly birding," Ed said.

He started attending more chapter meetings, and when EA President Brad Andres asked him to consider being on the board he was happy to step up.

"It's a great board," he said. "I remember going to one Chapter meeting with Sylvia and Bill (Brockner) early on—I know what legacies we have to carry on."

As the director of education for Evergreen Audubon, Ed is attending a lot of birding-related events to find good speakers for our Chapter meetings and helping to provide an Audubon presence at festivals and events at Evergreen Lake.

"One of the great things about it for me personally is reconnecting with my watershed," Ed said of EA's many projects. Among the projects he hopes to become involved with is the Breeding Bird Atlas in the Bear Creek Watershed.

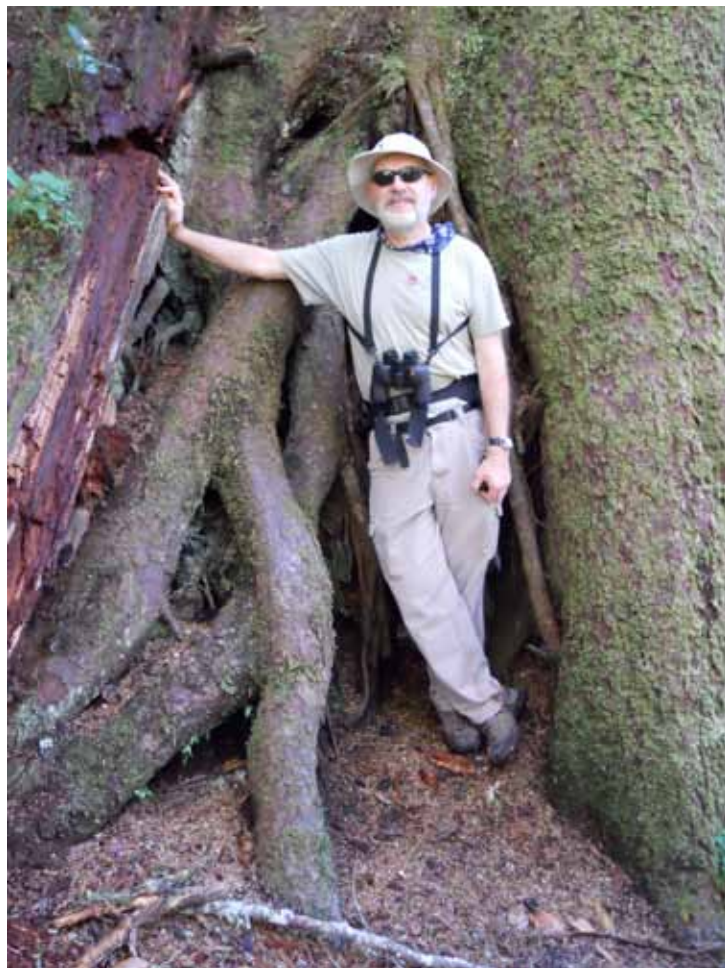
Ed is an environmental chemist who studies the impacts of chemical contaminants in surface and groundwater at the National Water Quality Laboratory in Denver. His expertise is in developing and applying new techniques for analysis of organic contaminants, such as pharmaceuticals and pesticides.

"We're an objective science agency—so our goal and our mandate is to provide science for the nation," Ed said. "We do recognize that there will be policy implications. We make data openly accessible, relevant, objective and of the highest quality."

Ed earned master's and doctorate degrees in chemical oceanography (geochemistry) from the University of Washington and was a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Public and Environmental

Ed Furlong along the Cape Lookout Trail in Oregon.

*Photo by Andrea Furlong*



Affairs and the Department of Chemistry at Indiana University.

He joined the U.S. Geological Survey at the National Water Quality Laboratory in 1987. He and his wife moved to Evergreen in May 1988 and settled in the Marshdale area. They raised two children there.

"I am a longtime resident and I want to be really engaged," Ed said. "This little area is just such a gem in the Front Range—it is a privilege to live in Evergreen. Those of us who get that privilege want our children and grandchildren to share it—to grow up looking for kingfishers and dippers."

"Audubon can help preserve and enhance that legacy. It's easy for people to get disconnected from caring for the environment when they go down the hill for work.

"We're in a great position right now with the energetic board we have to

expand our visibility in the community so that people want to be engaged. As education director I'd like to see us expand our monthly lecture series (chapter meeting speakers) and getting those publicized in our community more.

Grad school in Seattle gave Ed his first taste of what the American West is like

He is a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen, but moved to the States from Newfoundland when he was 2-1/2. He was raised in the Bronx, then New Jersey and went to undergraduate school on Long Island.

As a grad student, "The first bird I saw while backpacking was a Western Tanager." His appetite whetted, he signed up for a class with noted birder Dennis Paulson that took him throughout Washington state. "I loved it. Birds just really strike something in me," he said.

- Debbie Marshall, *Dipper* Editor

Julie Zickefoose is first an artist, next an avian rehabilitator, and finally an astute observer of the natural world, much of it outside her home in Ohio.

She is also the wife of Bill Thompson, editor of *The Birdwatcher's Digest*.

"The Bluebird Effect" is a charming account of birds through the seasons, replete with wonderful drawings of hummingbirds, chickadees, shorebirds and any other young or adult species that Julie invokes to illustrate her stories.

Her first story focuses on her relationship with Mr. Troyer, an Eastern Bluebird who was saved when her husband scared a Sharp-shinned Hawk into dropping his catch. He was their local male bluebird, with a brood to care for.

Julie checked him over and released him, but the two appeared to have formed an enduring bond, as often happened with other wild birds she treated and released.

Julie followed Mr. Troyer through adventures with two broods at the same time, apparently rare for bluebirds.

He learned their meal schedule, peering into windows while they were eating, hoping to be fed as well. He fathered and fledged 67 youngsters in the eight years he nested in their yard.

Finally, Julie saw Mr. Troyer for the last time, after eight years of observing and befriending him. After he asked for and devoured a serving of mealworms, he was gone.

Of course, she admits having intervened in the bluebird's life, sustaining him when he might have gone hungry and helping him extend his genes to all those progeny.

Was this too much, she asks? But bluebirds owe their success to humans. Remember that Evergreen Audubon provides bluebird houses and monitors the birds' successes or failures.

Her thoughts: "We had intervened, and we were much the richer for it. One bluebird had made the world a more beautiful place for us, and his memory, a small azure flame, burns in my heart."

Many of the birds that Julie meets and cares for are brought to her home with injuries.

She is a licensed rehabilitator, who



*The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds* by Julie Zickefoose, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, 2012

has spent a lifetime fixing broken birds. One year she got a call from a couple who had an injured Tufted Titmouse, with what looked like cat damage. The couple owned two free-roaming cats, who, they claimed, "didn't bother birds."

As she examined the titmouse, he "cussed me up and down. Nobody can cuss like a wet titmouse." She found no broken bones but a serious bruise over his left scapula. Her prescription was a few weeks of rest and about a thousand mealworms.

Throughout his stay, the Titmouse wanted OUT. She released him after 12 days and it took him only minutes to figure out the lay of the land in her yard. As she concludes: "Titmice 1, cats 0."

Her stories are all wonderful. I especially like the Ruffed Grouse she raised after finding a single egg left after all the others in the nest she was watching had fledged. She didn't know quite what to do with the unhatched egg, so she took it home. It looked completed, just very quiet.

After peeling away the shell, she found a full-term chick inside with fully feathered wings. Studying the maturing grouse helped her understand grouse behavior in a new way.

At the time, Julie was living on a Nature Conservancy preserve, with the grouse. The grouse would run out of the woods and pace beneath a window whenever the telephone rang. She followed Julie when she walked through the woods.

When she was attacked by the neighbor's Lab, with her ribs crushed and leg and wing broken, Julie manufactured splints.

Unfortunately, House Grouse died, going, as Julie figured, to "a peaceable kingdom where grouse bustle out of the forest to stroll with people."

She kept an injured Orchard Oriole for 17 years, feeding her sweet potato and butternut squash, three-cheese ravioli, and fresh fruit every morning.

What impresses me is how much she learned by closely observing these captive birds.

When time to migrate came around, the oriole unable to fly bashed against her cage, flying part of the night and sleeping during the day, answering "an ancient imperative."

Julie learned that a diet too rich in mealworm protein failed to trigger a molt. When she cut back on the mealworms, Ora Lee molted regularly in late summer. She sang her oriole song until February 2006, when she quietly died in the middle of the night.

Not all of Julie's patients are cute, however. Driving home one day, she found an injured Turkey Vulture. The bird was starving.

She handed it for 10 days of recuperation before taking it to a veterinarian. For the first 10 miles, the vulture seemed all right in the dog carrier in the family van. But soon that changed. She writes:

"Although I pride myself on coming up with evocative prose, the awesome stench of vulture vomit defies descriptions, especially when confined to a closed vehicle and recirculated in its air-conditioning system."

The vulture eventually recovered at the raptor rehabilitator who was experienced caring for vultures, but we learn that not all injured vultures do. Yet Julie claims, "Vultures make me smile, like sun sparkling on water."

If you enjoy personal stories of life with wild birds, you will enjoy Julie's stories and love her wonderful drawings and paintings on nearly every page.

"The Bluebird Effect" is a book to read slowly. You should savor each funny and touching story, and thoroughly enjoy the experience of an artist dedicated to the birds she admires.

On her website, 10,000 Birds (<http://10000birds.com/the-bluebird-effect.htm>), Julie Zickafoose explains that "The Bluebird Effect" is "a book five years in the making, 80,000 words and 320 illustrations."

## Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles soar over Evergreen sightings

This month's column has been a challenge since I just arrived in Hanover, N.H., from Newfoundland, where I saw huge breeding colonies of puffins, murres, gannets and kittiwakes but had almost no Internet access.

Ironically, I learned I didn't even know the correct name of the province. It's Newfoundland AND Labrador . . . and I've been pronouncing Newfoundland and Labrador incorrectly my entire life.

It's New-found-LAND (emphasis on land, rhymes with understand). And LabraDOR (emphasis on dor).

Sounds like you all had some good birding in the greater Evergreen area in July.

### Yard Birds

#### Brook Forest

Chuck Aid, Evergreen Audubon Conservation director, shared some observations on June 22.

"Over the past three summers, I've had 3-4 **Turkey Vultures** roosting every night by my house. For the last couple of evenings I've had 12.

"They come in about 6 p.m., perch in a big snag for an hour or so, and then drop down into some mature Douglas fir where they appear to spend the night. I'm not sure how the morning gets played out.

"I've also found in my Cub Creek Park wanderings a little swale of tall, mature, dense ponderosa forest with a few equally large Doug fir and almost no understory—good Hammond's Flycatcher habitat.

"The floor of the forest is littered with bird droppings everywhere and lots of random black feathers—crow or raven. I tend to see far more ravens in the area, but I've never been there early enough, or late enough, to figure out who might be roosting."

EA President Brad Andres encouraged Chuck "to follow one of those vultures and confirm breeding. There are certainly lots of crows moving up the Cub Creek Valley every day."



Turkey Vulture. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

#### Indian Hills

Caroline Gilbert reported a male **Red Crossbill** at their feeder in Indian Hills on June 18.

"We have just had our first **Eurasian Collared Doves** (2) appear in our yard today, June 24. We've never had them before.

"We've also been getting half a dozen **Lesser Goldfinches** and have at least four pairs of **Black-headed Grosbeaks**."

#### Independence Mountain

Debbie Marshall had another first at her home July 3, a **Band-tailed Pigeon**.

#### Feisty Rufous Returns!

**Rufous Hummingbirds** returned to Evergreen on schedule around the Fourth of July. Mark Meremonte and Margaret McDole reported one that afternoon.

Barbara Klaus, Sun Creek, and JoAnn and Bill Hackos, Soda Creek, were the first to report them at their feeders on July 8.

JoAnn and Bill also had a male **Calliope Hummingbird** at their home on July 6 and Inga Brennan, Genesee, reported a male **Calliope** on July 10.

#### Evergreen Lake

The morning of June 23, Larry White was celebrating the closed-off habitat improvement at Evergreen Lake when he spied a **Bald Eagle** perched on the boardwalk.

The next morning while Barbara Klaus was hiking around Evergreen Lake, she saw two **Bald Eagles** in a dead tree north of the lake.

At one point they flew out over the lake and circled several times, then one came down and picked up a fish from the lake and took it into the tree.

#### Babies on Parade

##### Red Rocks

Cyndy Johnson snuck over to Red Rocks Sunday morning, June 29.

"There are two baby **Peregrine Falcons** on the side of Ship Rock. Dad was up in the sun and the mother was feeding them, flying overhead. The babies still had some down on their backs."

Cyndy also solved a mystery for me that day as I have been searching high and low for **Cliff Swallows** nesting at

Continued on page 7

To contact Marilyn Rhodes, call 303-674-9895  
or email [cloverlane@aol.com](mailto:cloverlane@aol.com).

To subscribe to the Evergreen Birders email list to report  
and view local sightings, go to [evergreenaudubon.com](http://evergreenaudubon.com) and click  
on the Local Sightings link.



# Wilderness Act turns 50, to be subject of Sept. meeting

For most of us turning 50 is an important milestone, but for the Wilderness Act it is impressive.

While this act created the National Wilderness Preservation System, a mechanism for designating wilderness, it did not create the wilderness areas as these are pristine, natural lands untrammeled by humans.

After signing the Wilderness Act, President Lyndon B. Johnson made the statement, "If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

Wilderness is important because it allows people to make a connection with the outdoors. Wilderness experiences improve an individual's quality of life, better one's mental health, develop character and create learning experiences.

In the wilderness, people can appreciate clean air and water, view wildlife, see the bright stars close up, and hear the sounds of nature.

It took most of the 1800s for people to appreciate and value America's great outdoors. People gained this appreciation only to then witness devastations brought about by deforestation and soil erosion as a result of poor land management.

Many foresighted, great men knew large tracts of land should be set aside to save the great treasures of America and our limited supply of natural resources. These men included Arthur Carhart, Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Gifford Pin-



EA board member Peg Linn will share slides and discuss the Wilderness Act at the Thursday, Sept. 4, EA Chapter Meeting at Church of the Hills at 7 p.m.

chot, President Theodore Roosevelt and Bob Marshall.

Pivotal to the wilderness concept was the work of Arthur Carhart. After surveying for a road and home sites around Trappers Lake in the White River National Forest of Colorado, Carhart boldly recommended that no development should be permitted on the land. He then strongly urged that the best use of the area was for wilderness recreation.

As a result of his recommendation in 1920, the Trappers Lake area was designated to be kept roadless and undeveloped. This would later become the Flat Tops Primitive Area and in 1975 the Flat Tops Wilderness Area.

Arthur Carhart's action helped to fuel more actions to preserve land for wilderness. Aldo Leopold, an assistant district forester in New Mexico in 1924, designated the first wilderness reserve, the Gila Wilderness.

On Sept. 3, 1964, after eight years

and more than 60 drafts, the Wilderness Act was signed into law by President Johnson.

Written by Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society, this act created the legal definition of wilderness in the United States and protected 9.1 million acres of national forest wilderness areas previously protected by administrative orders.

Today there are 758 wilderness areas totaling about 110 million acres, roughly 5 percent of the United States. Wilderness areas are located on land belonging to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. They stretch across 44 states and Puerto Rico.

In the past 10 to 20 years, wilderness areas have been challenged to allow drilling for oil and natural gas and to allow things like mountain bikes and ATVs.

Will wilderness remain relevant to a diverse population and a technology-focused society?

Do wilderness areas see fewer visitors than 25 years ago or are we loving our mountains to death?

Challenges facing wilderness areas in the future include allowing people to use cellphones and iPads/tablets as a way to share their adventure with the world or to call for help in an emergency and the numerous new "sports" that come along like geocaching or trail running.

Will these battles for wilderness preservation be lost or will the language of the act be changed?

- Peg Linn, Director at Large

## BIRD BUSINESS MARILYN RHODES, ASGD MASTER BIRDER

Continued from page 6

Red Rocks. All I've been able to find are their old mud nests near the south parking lot.

"We walked from Red Rocks, to Morrison Park, down Bear Creek and into Bear Creek Lake Park," Cyndy said. "Never knew that the **Cliff Swallows** nested under C-470; they were feeding babies too."

Rob Raker stopped by Red Rocks the next day and emailed, "Got a chance to watch the two peregrine youngsters prep themselves for fledging. Photos at [www.robraker.com/Robs-Natural-World/Red-Rocks-Park/Birds-of-Prey](http://www.robraker.com/Robs-Natural-World/Red-Rocks-Park/Birds-of-Prey).

Rob returned to Red Rocks the morning of July 1. "In addition to the regulars had **Cordilleran Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bun-**

**ting, Gray Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chats, Great Horned Owl, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon** chicks.

### Kittredge Great Blue Heron Nest

I've been following the nesting activities of a family of **Great Blue Herons** this year.

They nested in the top of this very

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

tall dead ponderosa pine tree in Kittredge, just across the road from the brown county buildings, near the old stone chimney.

Their four chicks were on the verge of fledging when I photographed them June 21. Thanks to Tina Kellogg for sharing this nest site with me.

### Idledale Golden Eagles

I visited the **Golden Eagle** nest on June 21 and observed a very active eaglet spreading his wings.

I stopped at the nest site again on June 23 and it appeared to be vacant.

I reported my observation to one of the Jefferson County Open Space raptor monitors and received a reply that the eaglet fledged either late June 25 or early June 26.

### Foxton Area

On July 5 Mark Meremonte and Margaret McDole saw a **Cedar Waxwing** pair gathering nesting material and building a nest along the North Fork of the South Platte River.

### Miller Gulch

Mark and Margaret were hiking earlier July 5 on Miller Gulch-Gashouse trails near Redskin Mountain and came across three sets of **Western Tanagers** in a Douglas fir forest.

At one point “the male was following the female tree to tree, branch to branch, twig to twig, darn near. Not sure if a mating sequence.

“Then came across pair of **Hairy Woodpeckers** feeding its young in nest of old hollowed-out aspen. A number of other birds: **Red-tailed Hawk**, ravens, **Chipping Sparrows** singing, **Mountain Chickadees**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and possibly a **Cordilleran**.”

### Rare Find in Lakewood

Stephanie Jones made a great find in Welchester Tree Grant Park in Lakewood in late May—a **Blue-winged Warbler**.

At the end of June, the bird was still being seen in the same area.

On May 23 Joe Roller posted on



Great Blue Heron nest in Kittredge. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

CoBirds that the last Jeffco sighting of one of these warblers was documented in Golden in 1961.

### Mount Evans Area

JoAnn and Bill Hackos did some Bear Creek Atlas monitoring on Mount Goli-

ath June 22 and expanded their birding to include Summit and Echo lakes. They had some very interesting finds.

Mount Goliath: **Fox Sparrow** carrying food, **Wilson’s Warblers**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **White-crowned Sparrows**, **Western Wood-Pewee**, **Common Raven**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **Pine Siskin**, **Red Crossbills**, **American Robin**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

Summit Lake: **American Pipits** carrying food, **White-tailed Ptarmigan**, **Common Raven**, **Mountain Bluebird**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**.

Echo Lake: **Barrow’s Goldeneye** females, **Common Goldeneye** females, **Mallard**, **Lincoln’s Sparrow**, **Townsend’s Solitaire**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Gray Jay**.



Blue-winged Warbler. Photo by Judy Henderson



# Bash committee gathers sponsors, auction items

Please save the date, Saturday, Sept. 27, for Evergreen Nature Center's Bird House Bash annual fundraiser. The Bash committee is busy gathering sponsors, auction items and ideas for this year's theme of "Our Wild Neighbors."

We could use your help in several ways . . . Come on, be wild!

Consider being a Family Sponsor or maybe you know an area business that would sponsor the event.

Gold and Silver sponsorships (\$600 and \$300 respectively) go directly to the Nature Center's education efforts and are a great way to show the community you care about fostering contagious enthusiasm and respect for wildlife and the environment.

All family sponsors will receive a year of free family programs at the Nature

Center, free tickets to the Bash and be recognized at the event; those committing sponsorship by Aug. 1 also will be recognized in Bash publicity and at the Nature Center. Sponsorship details can be found on our website.

In addition to sponsorships, if you or one of your wild neighbors has a talent or can provide in-kind services to donate for the live or silent auctions, please let us know.

Be creative and think of things our patrons would enjoy doing or having. Past action items have included birding trips, tours of the USGS Earthquake Information Center, weekend getaways, guided hikes, artwork and cooking services.

Be "green" and register for the Bash by Aug. 15. Your early registration will help us save money (and the environ-

ment) by reducing our invitation printing and mailing costs. Visit [www.evergreen-audubon.org](http://www.evergreen-audubon.org) or watch your email for more details.

For Bash sponsorships, auction ideas or information on non-electronic early RSVPs, please contact Ginny Ades at 720-308-3394 (or [development@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:development@evergreenaudubon.org)).

- Kathy Madison,  
Communications Director

---

If you borrowed the folding table from the Audubon storage unit, please return it as soon as possible.

The Weed Committee needs it for their noxious weed education outreach. Thanks.

- Cathy Shelton, 303-674-8610

## AUGUST ENC LEARNING ADVENTURES

Join Evergreen Nature Center for an exciting season of nature and learning.

Unless otherwise noted, the cost for classes is \$4 per participant or \$10 per family. Evergreen Audubon members enjoy a 50 percent discount.

**Register for programs at**  
[www.evergreennaturecenter.org](http://www.evergreennaturecenter.org)

### **Bear Creek Family Adventures with Hearthfire Books: Magic Tree House Sunday, Aug. 3, 4-6 p.m.**

The Magic Tree House takes Jack and his sister Annie back to the Old West, where they roam the Great Plains with a Lakota boy.

Hearthfire Books and Evergreen Nature Center present an evening of family fun based on this popular book.

### **Wednesday Wild Ones: Beaver Builders Wednesday, Aug. 6 & 20, 10-11 a.m.**

What makes beavers so busy? Building, of course!

ENC invites your busy learner to discover firsthand how these water-loving workers are constantly constructing.

### **Evergreen Audubon Presents: Tricky Coyotes**

**Thursday, Aug. 7, 7 p.m.**

*Free Event* Coyotes. These tricksters of

Native American lore are our closest canid neighbors, but how much do we really know about their biology and behavior?

Mary Ann Bonnell, senior natural resources specialist with the city of Aurora, presents "Coyote Country" at the August chapter meeting.

### **Bear Creek Nature Walk: Echo and Summit Lakes Friday, Aug 8, 8:30 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 shortgrass prairie.

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

Join us this summer on a series of three walks as we make our way up the watershed enjoying animals and plants of each ecosystem.

### **Night Boating and Nature Exploring: Bats on the Water?**

**Saturday, Aug. 9, 7-10 p.m.**

*Free ENC Event, regular boat rental fees apply*

News Flash: Evergreen Lake is a bat hot spot!

Come one, come all and discover

how one of nature's most efficient furry friends, Colorado bats, fling into summer on your favorite mountain waterway.

### **Wednesday Wild Ones: Beaver Builders Wednesday, Aug. 6 & 20, 10-11 a.m.**

What makes beavers so busy? Building, of course!

ENC invites your busy learner to discover firsthand how these water-loving workers are constantly constructing.

Repeat of Aug. 6 program.

### **Stargazing at Evergreen Lake, Mars and Saturn visible**

**Saturday, Aug. 23, 8:30-10 p.m.**

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 Evergreen Lake parking lot.

### **Night Boating and Nature Exploring: What Do Critters Do at Night?**

**Saturday, Aug. 23, 7-10 p.m.**

*Free ENC Event, regular boat rental fees apply*

Where do all the lions, mulies and bears go at night? What about the mice, muskrats and beavers?

ENC invites you and yours to get to know your wild neighbors' nightly habits.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|         |   |              |                            |
|---------|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| Aug. 3  | Bear Creek Dippers                            | 4–6 pm       | Nature Center              |
| Aug. 6  | Wednesday Wild Ones                           | 10–11 am     | Nature Center              |
| Aug. 7  | EA Chapter Meeting                            | 7 pm         | Nature Center              |
| Aug. 8  | Bear Creek Nature Walk                        | 8:30 am–2 pm | Meet at Bergen Park-n-Ride |
| Aug. 9  | ENC Program/Night Boating                     | 7–10 pm      | Evergreen Lake             |
| Aug. 10 | Newsletter deadline                           |              |                            |
| Aug. 15 | Bird House Bash “Green” Registration Deadline |              |                            |
| Aug. 20 | Wednesday Wild Ones                           | 10–11 am     | Nature Center              |
| Aug. 23 | ENC Program/Night Boating                     | 7–10 pm      | Evergreen Lake             |
| Aug. 23 | Stargazing                                    | 8:30–10 pm   | Evergreen Lake             |

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

VOLUME 44, 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

|   |                   |               |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
|   | <b>Individual</b> | <b>Family</b> |
| <b>Annual dues</b>                            | \$ 20             | \$ 30         |
| <b>Electronic <i>Dipper</i></b>               | \$ 0              | \$ 0          |
| <b>Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i> (members only)</b> | \$ 15             | \$ 15         |
| <b>Additional donation</b>                    | \$ _____          | \$ _____      |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | \$ _____          | \$ _____      |

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 House Bash Prep Underway  
 Bird Business: Vultures and Eagles  
 Board Profile: Ed Furlong

**IN THIS ISSUE**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

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

**THE DIPPER**