



# THE DIPPER



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DECEMBER 2011

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

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

## CLIMATE TALK

Acclaimed climate scientist Dr. Susan Solomon of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will visit Evergreen to present a talk, "A Tale for our Times: Something for everyone about climate change and the reasons for climate gridlock."

The talk at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at the Evergreen Fire and Rescue building in Bergen Park, is sponsored by 350.org as well as Evergreen Audubon.

Dr. Solomon, who holds a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley, will provide scientific information that can be useful for everyone who wants to better understand the challenges of climate change.

She also will address why international agreement on climate change policy has proven particularly difficult.

There will be a reception following the event.

## Join us for the 43rd Christmas Count

Save Sunday, Dec. 18, for the 112th Christmas Bird Count! This will be our 43rd count here in Evergreen; our area includes interesting habitats around Idaho Springs, Genesee, Kittredge, Evergreen Lake, Bear Creek, Squaw Pass and Mt. Evans Wildlife Area.

We divide participants into small field groups, led by an experienced birder, and count all the species and individual birds we hear and see. Folks who would like only to count birds visiting their feeders are also encouraged to participate.

Barbara Jean Gard is coordinating the feeder counters again this year, and feeder count forms are available from Barbara Jean or Brad Andres.

In 2010, we tied 2009's record of finding 55 species on count day. We also found the 100th species recorded on the count—a single male Gadwall tucked in with mallards along Bear Creek in Kittredge.

Besides adding the Gadwall to our Christmas Count list, we also produced high counts of Bald Eagles, Eurasian Collared-Doves (which continue to increase), Mourning Doves, Hairy Woodpeckers, Black-billed Magpies and White-breasted Nuthatches.

We had the highest count recorded in all

of North America for Mountain Chickadee and Pygmy Nuthatch!

After a full day of counting birds, participants are invited to the traditional potluck supper where counts are discussed over good food and drinks. This year's hosts are David and Lisa Wald, who have made their home available for the occasion (33179 Inverness Drive, Evergreen; 303-674-0417).

Inverness Drive is off of Hiwan Drive and Lewis Ridge Road. Please sign up at the Dec. 1 meeting to bring a dish or call Marge Petersen at 303-670-4310. There is a nominal charge (\$2) to offset chili ingredients.

Please join us as we tally the common species and search for the rarities.

If you would like to participate, please attend the Dec. 1 chapter meeting to sign up (see article in this issue) or call me at 303-670-0101.

To defray the cost of processing the Christmas Bird Count data, field participants are asked to make a \$5 donation to the National Audubon Society.

You can find out more about the Christmas Bird Count and examine count data at [www.audubon.org/birds/cbc/](http://www.audubon.org/birds/cbc/).

Brad Andres  
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

## The Christmas Tree for the Birds: a nostalgic look back

A longtime Evergreen Audubon member, Karel Buckley, recently took a nostalgic look back at an Evergreen Audubon tradition that lives on at Evergreen Library in the form of a thriving Bristlecone Pine.

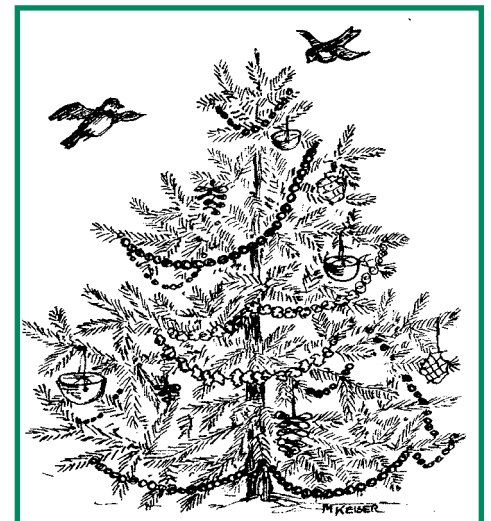
EA, then known as The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, donated a 10-foot tree to the library in 1993 and it has since doubled in size.

The donation was fitting since the library had hosted a "Christmas Tree for the Birds" for years.

The tradition began in the late 1960s with downtown Evergreen shopkeeper Evelyn Edens, who asked the Audubon club to hold an event at her store, the Import Shop (located where Evergreen Crafters subsequently did business for many years before moving across the street).

The event grew to include children making edible items for birds, which they hung on trees along Bear Creek after gathering at the shop.

Continued on page 6



**2010 OFFICERS**

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>Audubon Color.</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>Conservation</b>	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331
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<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>	Alyson Duffey	303-330-0489 enddirector@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Program</b>	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699
<b>Publicity</b>	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402 irmasonny@aol.com
<b>Weeds</b>	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610 sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com
<b>Webmaster</b>	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

As December approaches, we look forward to yet another long-standing tradition and team effort: the annual Christmas Bird Count.

Evergreen Audubon is preparing for the Count and Tally Rally on Sunday, Dec. 18. Many local members take part in our traditional Count, and last year we maintained bragging rights as the "Pygmy Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadee Capital of the World." What will we find this year?

The Wald family has been participating in the count for only the last seven years, ever since our family moved to Evergreen. It was in part the Christmas Bird Count, and the Tally Rally that follows, that set into motion what I expect to be a lifelong holiday-season activity for the Wald family.

It was also this count, which helped us make connections with so many of you in the Audubon community, that deepened our relationship with this wonderful organization. We should keep that in mind in trying to introduce newcomers to our chapter, and to birding in general.

Thanks in advance to all those who contribute and join in to make the best of birding and camaraderie during those colder, darker closing days of December!

**VIP VOLUNTEERS** DAVID WALD

- We received a warm letter from Team Evergreen, the local bicycle club. TE donated \$3,500 to Colorado non-profits on behalf of Evergreen Audubon for our volunteer efforts during the Triple Bypass ride this past summer. Special thanks go to volunteers **Karel Buckley, Bud and Juanita Weare, Dick Prickett, and Lisa, Emily and Aaron Wald!**

- Thanks again to **Marilyn Rhodes** for leading up the annual wreath sales effort.

- Thanks again also to the EA Nominating Committee—**Bud Weare (chair), Brad Andres, Peggy Durham and Dick Prickett**. We've got a great slate of candidates, as you'll read elsewhere in this issue.

- Credit goes to **Dick Prickett** for representing us at Audubon Colorado's recent quarterly meeting as well as lending his time to helping coordinate the AC/National Audubon transition team. Dick also took it upon himself to assure that we'll have a good January banquet speaker.

Dick approached **Brian Rutledge** (executive director, Audubon Wyoming, Regional Director, and National Audubon spokesman) to ask him to speak, and Brian agreed.

- The shed is dead; long live the shed! Thanks to **Marge, Sylvia, Peggy, Jean, Tom, Brad and Heather** for helping with the transition to our new, plague-free storage facility. Just don't call it "the storage shed."

- Thanks to those who helped **Aly Duffey** with breaking down and storing the Nature Center exhibits and other content; not a small job. Volunteers were **Joan Ridgely, Jean and Tom Thayer, Bud Weare, Karel Buckley, Chuck Aid, Cathy Shelton, Sylvia Robertson, Kathi LaTourette, Kathy Madison, Jennifer Hood, Janet Warner** and, of course, **Aly!**

- A huge "thanks" to **Matt Mitchell and Aaron Wald** for helping move the big stuff into the storage area.

- Thank-you to the people who volunteered to staff the EA booth at the Alternative Gift Fair: **Bud Weare, Cheryl Manning, Jean Thayer, Brad Andres, Heather Johnson, Karel Buckley, Sylvia Robertson, Joan Ridgely.**

# Jan. 20 EA Annual Banquet to feature NAS speaker

Brian Rutledge will be the featured speaker at the Evergreen Audubon Annual Banquet in January.

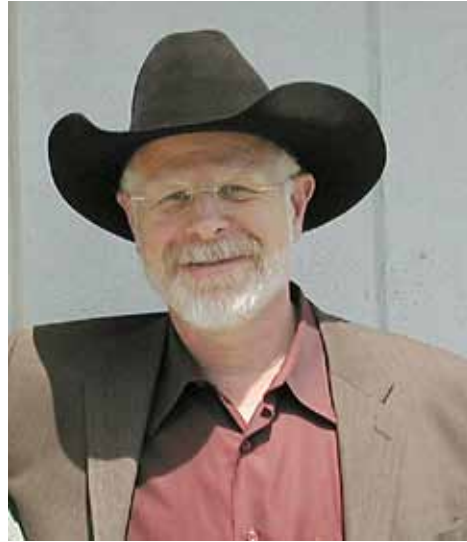
Brian is the National Audubon vice president for the Rocky Mountain Region and executive director of Audubon Wyoming.

His talk is entitled, "Audubon: A Strategy to a Bright Future."

As executive director of Audubon Wyoming, Brian is dedicated to protecting Greater Sage-grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem that is part of our country's great natural heritage.

In his role as a member of the Governor's Sage-grouse Implementation Task Force, Brian helped Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal draft and initiate the Sage-grouse Core Area Program, directing state agencies in the Cowboy State to conserve key breeding areas for this dwindling species.

He is currently working with the Department of the Interior, Congress and the tribes of the Wind River Reservation to seek a balance between the protection of our wildlife and the responsible development of renewable energy resources in Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain West.



*Brian Rutledge*

Brian brings a wealth of knowledge of non-profit organizations and conservation to the Audubon team. He served for five years as the president/chief executive officer of Zoo New England and was executive director of the Maryland Zoological Society for 13 years.

He has designed and developed entertaining and exciting exhibits, interpretive

graphics and innovative, interactive devices for the general public.

For many years, Brian and his wife, Kathleen, have made their permanent home on the Front Range of the Rockies. Fascination with cutting horses, sled dogs and cattle has melded well with their love of the outdoors.

He has served as an instructor and interpreter since childhood, leading eco-tours to many corners of the globe, including wildlife safaris in Africa.

Brian, who serves as an official Audubon spokesman, has experience on camera and has been interviewed for many major publications and broadcasts.

The banquet will be held at Mount Vernon Country Club Friday, Jan. 20, in the "much warmer" third-floor Aspen banquet room.

A cash bar and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., with the dinner buffet at 7 p.m.

Cost for the buffet is \$36 per person, with reservations and payment due Friday, Jan. 13. More information and a reservation form can be found on page 5.

If you have questions, call Marge Petersen at 303-670-4310.

## Dec. 1 meeting agenda: CBC tips, board election

In preparation for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count (see article on page 1), the December meeting will focus on procedures for this year's count and identification of species likely to be encountered.

Brad Andres, CBC coordinator, also will introduce section leaders. Bring your field guides along, particularly if you have the "big" Sibley guide, and be prepared for a quiz!

We hope this program will be a good review for the Christmas Bird Count and for increasing your enjoyment of our winter birds.

Our evening will begin with the Christmas Bird Count program, followed by refreshments and then a short business meeting, which will include election of 2012 board members (see article on page 4).

Don't miss this informative program

on the CBC Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo

Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

## Colorado Gives Day returns Dec. 6

Evergreen Audubon/Evergreen Nature Center will participate in the second annual Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The 24-hour event is a chance to make a donation to EA/ENC that will be increased by a contribution from the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund.

To donate to Evergreen Audubon online, visit [www.GivingFirst.org/EvergreenAudubon](http://www.GivingFirst.org/EvergreenAudubon), where the process is quick, easy and secure. All donations are tax-deductible.

Colorado Gives Day will take place during a 24-hour period starting at 12 a.m. on Dec. 6.

Community First Foundation partnered with FirstBank to bring this initiative to Colorado.

Presenting partner FirstBank has provided \$500,000 as the lead gift for the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund.

Other Colorado businesses and organizations also are contributing to the Incentive Fund. Contributors are listed at [GivingFirst.org/COGivesDay](http://GivingFirst.org/COGivesDay).

The incentive fund will be used to increase the value of each gift made through [GivingFirst.org](http://GivingFirst.org) on Dec. 6, and will be proportionally allocated among all donations.



# Board will be elected at Dec. 1 chapter meeting

The annual election of Evergreen Audubon board members will be held at the Thursday, Dec. 1, chapter meeting at Church of the Hills at 7 p.m.

The nominees for officers and directors are on the adjacent ballot.

Lisa Wald, Communications, and Marge Petersen, Social Events, will serve the third years of their terms and Chuck Aid, Conservation, will serve the second year of his term.

Also, Dick Prickett will remain our liaison to the state/regional Audubon organization, but we are looking for someone to organize field trips and chapter programs.

If you will not be at the Dec. 1 chapter meeting, we encourage you to vote by email or to assign your written proxy to someone who will be at the meeting. This will help meet our required quorum for a valid election.

You may email your proxy to [president@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:president@evergreenaudubon.org). Or, if you approve the slate of candidates, you may send an email saying, "I vote yes

## 2012 Evergreen Audubon Officers and Board of Directors Ballot

Each Individual local or NAS membership is entitled to cast one vote for each Officer and Director. Family memberships are entitled to two votes. Family members should use two separate ballots.

### Officers

- President — Brad Andres
- Vice President — Jean Thayer
- Treasurer — Joan Ridgely
- Secretary — Heather Johnson

### Directors

- Bird Monitoring — JoAnn/Bill Hackos
- Development — Ginny Ades
- Education — Kathy Madison
- At-Large — Barbara Klaus
- At-Large — Peggy Linn

Write-in Candidate:

Indicate specific Officer(s) or Director(s).

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

on the slate of candidates," to the same address.

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be too late to mail in the ballot, but you may fill it out and bring it to the Dec. 1 meeting.

Remember, those with Family Memberships have two votes. The elected officers and directors will be installed at the Annual Banquet on Jan. 20.

- Brad Andres

## BIRD BUSINESS COMPILED FROM EVERGREENAUDUBON.ORG: LOCAL SIGHTINGS

The snowy morning of Nov. 2 brought an unusual visitor to Evergreen Lake. Loie Evans saw an immature **Surf Scoter** at Evergreen Lake as the storm was lifting. The last record of this species on the lake was in 2004.

Also on the morning of Nov. 2, JoAnn Hackos sighted a first-of-season **Cassin's Finch** female at her feeder.

The first **Rosy-Finches** of the season arrived at the John and Diane Sears home in Kings Valley with the snowfall on Oct. 26. Several dozen were landing on the deck and feeders. Stocking up on sunflower!

John also reported that a beautiful adult **Northern Goshawk** landed in a Ponderosa Pine in their yard on Nov. 3.

Karel Buckley saw the resident male **Red-tailed Hawk** at Evergreen Lake Sunday morning, Nov. 6—perched on top of the bird feeder post eating a rodent.

Sherman Wing took this photo of a **Brahminy Starling**, at right, on a trip to northern India this fall. He saw 113 birds species over 2-1/2 days, mostly at Keoladeo National Park, which supports the largest wetlands in India.



## Silent auction

Irma Wolf is organizing the annual silent auction at the Jan. 20 banquet and would like donations of any new or gently used items that you think our members would be interested in.

Irma needs the information no later than one week in advance of the banquet/auction to know how many bid sheets to print.

Donations do not necessarily have to be bird-related.

If you have any questions about whether your donation is fitting, give Irma a call well in advance to get an idea of its value as an auction item.

Her number is 303-670-3402, or email [irmasonny@aol.com](mailto:irmasonny@aol.com).

## Banquet Buffet Menu

Swai Perch with a special topping

Pork with a Brandy Peppercorn Sauce

Pesto Pasta with Basil Sauce

Artichokes and Dried Tomatoes

Potatoes au Gratin

Couscous Medley

Salad Bar

Assorted rolls, flatbreads and butter

Coffee, tea, and iced tea

Lemon Mousse with Raspberries

## EA Annual Banquet Reservation Form

Number in your party \_\_\_\_\_ Contact name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

*Mount Vernon Country Club will plate meals for any guests who prefer to be served at their table.*

Names (for name tags).

Print first and last names clearly for each guest attending.

Check box for table service.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$36 per person. Make check payable to EA Banquet and please write "Banquet" on the memo line of your check. Payment must be included with your reservation.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Reservations must be received by Friday, Jan. 13.  
Mail to EA Banquet, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437-0523.*



# The Christmas Tree for the Birds: a fond look back

Continued from page 1

After a few years, the event was moved to the Hiwan Homestead Museum on Meadow Drive and then to the reading garden behind the library, which at the time was located next to the current library.

“At the garden we were able to build a campfire beside which we had a Christmas tree we would decorate with edible treats for the birds,” Karel said. “The (Evergreen) Children’s Chorale would come and all would sing Christmas carols.”

Bill Brockner, one of the founders of Evergreen Audubon, brought willow sticks for children to roast marshmallows for themselves, and they brought edible ornaments for the birds. Cookies and hot cider were served.

“Many of the local families came to this event annually; their children are now adults raising their own children and remembering this great tradition,” Karel said.

Once the current library was built in 1993, a bonfire was no longer allowed. The club decided to donate a living “Christmas” tree and also changed the name of the event to the “Holiday Tree for the Birds.”

The tradition continued at the library through December 1997, with merchants donating seed to help keep the feeders at the library full all winter. The event was held at Hiwan Homestead in 1998, but then passed into a memory after about 30 years.

However, the Bristlecone Pine still thrives outside the children’s reading room at Evergreen Library, with a plaque inside commemorating the donation.

According to Karel, EA chose a Bristlecone because they are a symbol



*A 20-foot Bristlecone Pine at Evergreen Library lives on as a reminder of the Evergreen Audubon tradition known as the Christmas Tree for the Birds during most of its 30-year history ending in 1998. EA donated the tree, then 10 feet tall, to the new library. Photo by Karel Buckley*

of uniqueness for Colorado and the Evergreen area. Some Bristlecones have been dated to 1500 years old.

Mt. Evans has a wonderful Bristlecone Pine forest near the Mount Goliath-Pesman Trail area, Karel said: “Next summer why not go for a walk among these ancient sentinels and experience

the magical feeling of a prehistoric forest?”

Karel would like to thank Sylvia Brockner, a founder of the club with her husband, Bill, for providing historical facts and also the library staff for their help over the years—especially Carol Burdick and Robin Liebert.

# How to make treats for your Tree for the Birds

Here are some ornament-making ideas for families who may wish to revive the Tree for the Birds at holiday time or all winter long.

## **Brockner's Basic Bird Pudding**

2 cups suet (melted)  
1 cup flour  
2 cups sugar  
4 cups cornmeal

Melt fat, add all other ingredients and mix well. Pack in margarine tubs, paper cups, tins or coconut shells for hanging. Some peanut butter may be

used with the fat. This will store in the freezer until needed.

To hang, make three holes equally spaced in top of chosen container, then run string through holes.

## **Doughnuts**

Use plain. Optionally, smear with peanut butter mixed with cornmeal. Tie string through the hole to hang.

## **Ponderosa Pine Cones**

Stuff spaces with peanut butter mix or suet mix. Tie string to tip of cone to hang.

## **Whole Ear of Corn**

Tie ribbon or string around a dry ear of corn and hang.

## **Spaghetti**

Use leftover cooked spaghetti to hang as "icicles" for the tree.

## **Garlands**

Thread large needle with string and make a long rope of any of the following foods: popped popcorn, cheese cubes, uncooked peas, suet squares, cranberries, raisins, peanuts, mushrooms, apple chunks or other fruit.



*Lisa Wald took this photo of a special elk. He has a bad leg (you can see the bulge in his knee on the leg sticking straight out), and he has to walk on three legs. He has been abandoned by his herd, so he's always alone. He visits the Walds' Hiwan home every few weeks. His name is Percy, for perseverance. Lisa believes she remembers seeing him for at least the last year or two every once in a while.*

## **Be Green.**

**Please help us reduce waste by bringing your own cup or mug to the monthly meetings.**

## **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS** DAVID WALD

### **Oct. 27 EA Board Meeting**

The board approved funding for extended hours for the Evergreen Nature Center executive director. The funding will allow hours to be extended by up to four weeks during the winter, off-season months.

The additional time will allow Alyson Duffey to set up school programs, work on grant applications and displays, and get set up for the next season at ENC.

## **FIELD TRIPS** KAREL BUCKLEY

### **Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Thursday, Dec. 8, 4:45 pm**

Karel Buckley and Marge Petersen will lead a trip to the Denver Botanic Gardens to view the Blossoms of Light exhibit. More than 1 million colorful lights draped in elegant designs will highlight the Gardens' winter beauty.

We will meet at the Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride at 4:45 p.m. to car pool and we plan to have dinner afterward at a downtown restaurant.

Please call Karel, 303-670-8859, to sign up and for more details.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Dec. 6	Colorado Gives Day		
Dec. 8	Denver Botanic Gardens	4:45 pm	Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride
Dec. 9	Climate Change Talk	7 pm	Evergreen Fire/Rescue
Dec. 10	Newsletter Deadline	5 pm	
Dec. 18	Christmas Bird Count		
Dec. 22	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	
Jan. 20	EA Annual Banquet	6 pm	Mt. Vernon Country Club

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to Lisa Wald: [communications@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:communications@evergreenaudubon.org). Email or call *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: [marshallpublish@gmail.com](mailto:marshallpublish@gmail.com), 303-674-3752.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

	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	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</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.

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Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Botanic Gardens Field Trip  
Banquet Plans  
Board Election

**IN THIS ISSUE**

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Evergreen Audubon

**THE DIPPER**

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