



# THE DIPPER

VOL. 44 NO. 12  
DECEMBER 2014

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

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

## COLORADO GIVES

Colorado Gives Day, sponsored by Community First Foundation and First Bank, is a great way to make your Evergreen Audubon/Evergreen Nature Center donations go further.

Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide event to celebrate and increase philanthropy.

When you donate on Dec. 9 to EA/ENC through [www.coloradogives.org](http://www.coloradogives.org), we'll also receive a portion of the incentive fund (\$1 million).

Our share will be determined by the proportion of donations we raise of the total amount raised by all the participating nonprofits.

(If we raise 1 percent of the total donations, we'll receive 1 percent of the incentive fund.)

For your donation to count toward the incentive, you must either donate on the actual Colorado Gives Day of Dec 9 or go to the site prior to the 9th and *schedule* your donation for the 9th.

Once on the site, find us by searching for Evergreen Nature Center or Evergreen Audubon.

Thanks, and remember it's always better to "give where you live!"

- Kathy Madison

Director of Communications

**It's time to sign up for the Annual Banquet. See page 8.**

## Christmas is coming, goose is getting . . .

. . . counted? And if it is, is it a Canada Goose or a Cackling Goose?

Yes, it is time for the 46th Annual Evergreen Audubon Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 14.

And that can only mean that our chapter meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills will be devoted to the annual identification review with our own Evergreen Audubon president and birder extraordinaire, Brad Andres.

Dust off your field guide and get ready to learn the subtleties of the rosy-finch clan, the bounty of juncos and the multitude of sparrows we might see (and need to identify!) at this year's count.

Brad will provide a visual review of the

bird species we are likely to see during the count, tips on difficult-to-discriminate species, and perhaps throw in a few calls!

Brad is extraordinarily well qualified to lead our chapter meeting review. A lifelong birder, he spends his professional and private time working on projects that address the conservation of birds and their habitats.

He is employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the national coordinator of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. His fieldwork has taken him to many beautiful and diverse habitats around the world, from the high Canadian Arctic to southern Chile to western India.

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## ENC benefits from caring volunteers

On a cozy Thursday evening, Oct. 30, Evergreen Audubon hosted a friendly gathering at Evergreen Nature Center for the volunteers and donors that make our organization possible.

We cannot possibly thank these hard-working and generous folks enough, but we thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to try!

From bird monitoring to weed pulling and visitor assisting at ENC, Evergreen Audubon volunteers live out their love of nature in caring action, and every dollar donated to EA works hard to educate members along with Evergreen residents and guests.

In fact, because of our volunteers and donors, every year some 15,000 to 20,000 individuals are connected to the outdoors through Evergreen Audubon.

Five outstanding Evergreen Nature Center volunteers received the following awards during the party for their particular contributions in 2014.

While the nature of the categories tends toward goofy, we are serious and sincere in our appreciation of these volunteers! Please help EA congratulate these fine folks.



### Donald Randall Best Nest Award

*For keeping ENC dependably welcoming and tidy*

Donald is not only one of ENC's most consistent and reliable volunteers, amiably welcoming

visitors every week, but he also takes tremendous personal pride in keeping ENC clean and inviting.

Whether it's a broken bulb, new exhibit or the ever-dirty wood floor (for which he even donated a shop vacuum), when Donald sees a need, he meets it, and often at his own expense.

Thank you, Donald, for your dedication, for taking personal pride and ownership in making ENC a home for environmental education.

### Janet Warner

**Lake Guardian Award** *For protecting Evergreen Lake from lawlessness*

Janet loves Evergreen Lake! Her devotion

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**EVERGREEN AUDUBON**  
www.EvergreenAudubon.org

**2014 OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	Brad Andres	303-670-0101 president@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Vice President</b>	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Secretary</b>	Lisa Wald	303-810-5083 secretary@evergreenaudubon.org
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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<b>Conservation</b>	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331 conservation@evergreenaudubon.org
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<b>Education</b>	Ed Furlong	education@evergreenaudubon.org
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**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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<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
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<b>Hospitality</b>	Rachel Hutchinson	303-679-1503
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
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<b>Nature Center</b>	Vanessa Hayes	303-330-0489 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 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

I am writing this on Veterans Day and express my gratitude to all of you, and your loved ones, who served in the military. My father, who passed away last summer, spent four years in the Navy and four years in the Air Force; virtually all of my uncles, and sister, served in active duty or as national guardsmen.

As an employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it is also a day to think about colleagues who perished in aircraft or boating accidents or otherwise in the field serving our country in a different way—that of protecting and conserving our natural resources.

Although we packed up the Nature Center at the end of October, Vanessa has continued providing school programs, and just this morning I gave a talk to the Evergreen Garden Club on our nest box monitoring project.

We will hold a children's Christmas Bird Count in conjunction with the Evergreen Holiday Open House at Evergreen Library on Dec. 13. The library intends to build around the bird count theme, which seems like a venue to reach a broader audience.

Please plan to bring your kids and grandkids. Information is provided in this issue of *The Dipper*.

Also in this *Dipper* is information for our 46th Idaho Springs-Evergreen Christmas Bird Count. I hope you can come for the day's count and definitely join us for the fun Tally Rally.

I am still looking for a leader for Idaho Springs West, so please let me know if you can take on this section. I look forward to some better weather than last year!

Remember to call Marge Petersen to sign up for a dish to augment the chili at the Tally Rally or come to the program on Dec. 4.

Our Annual Banquet, held again at Mount Vernon Country Club, is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 16. Reservations must be received by Jan. 7. This year we will focus banquet events on awards and socializing, rather than providing a speaker.

Please plan on starting out the New Year with your friends in the Evergreen Audubon community.

Soon after we publish this issue of *The Dipper*, you will be getting a postcard describing the year-end giving opportunity through Colorado Gives Day. We have been participating in Colorado Gives Day since 2010.

Last year, 38,760 donors invested \$20.5 million in Colorado non-profits. (see page 1 for more details)

Happy Holidays and hope to see you on the Christmas Count.

## Families invited to free birding event at Evergreen Library

Evergreen Audubon is teaming up with Evergreen Library to offer a playful birding event for families Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Teach the children (ages 4 to 14 with adult) in your life the joy of wild-life watching and nature with a free day of bird crafts, binocular games, story time and, most importantly, bird watching!

- Bird-watching games 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Story time 10:30 a.m.
- Crafts 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Dress for outdoor fun and bring your own binoculars, if you have them!  
- Vanessa Hayes, ENC Director

# Another election looms—this time for Evergreen Audubon board

The annual election of Evergreen Audubon board members will be held at the Thursday, Dec. 4, chapter meeting at Church of the Hills at 7 p.m.

There are just a few positions up for election to the Evergreen Audubon board of directors and a little board shuffling.

Those in new positions will be inducted at the banquet on Jan. 16. If you will not be at the Dec. 4 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 (approximately 30 members).

You may email your proxy to [president@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:president@evergreenaudubon.org) or, if you approve the slate of nominees (or any in particular) presented here, you may send an email saying, "I vote yes to elect the slate of nominees (or nominee) for the Evergreen Audubon board of directors positions outlined in *The Dipper*."

Remember that each Individual local or National Audubon Society membership is entitled to cast one vote, and family memberships are entitled to two votes. Family members should use two separate ballots.

Please fill out your ballot and bring it to the meeting.

- Brad Andres, President

## 2015 Evergreen Audubon Officers and Directors Ballot

### Officer

Treasurer – Janet Warner

### Directors

- Bird Monitoring – Chuck Aid
- Conservation – OPEN (need a nominee)
- Development – Ann Dodson
- At-Large – Bill/JoAnn Hackos

### Write-in Candidates

(please note name and position)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS

**DECEMBER 13 10AM-1PM  
EVERGREEN LIBRARY**



Come and meet your bird neighbors! Learn through games, crafts and investigation with experts!

Children ages 4-14 with adult are welcome. Curiosity is required, and binoculars suggested!

**SEE EVERGREENAUDUBON.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.**

Registration is preferred but not required.



**SPONSORED BY EVERGREEN AUDUBON**



# Christmas is coming and the goose is getting . . .

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However, he always returns home to Colorado where he has spent innumerable hours birding the mountains, plains, lakes, reservoirs and riparian habitats of our state.

Brad's North American life list numbers 655 species, and his Colorado, Jefferson County and Bear Creek Watershed lists number 309, 203 and 162, respectively.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count, now in its 115th year, provides a unique opportunity for everyone who loves birds to be a citizen scientist, collecting winter bird abundance and distribution data that has no equal in terms of historical length and global coverage. People of all levels of ability are encouraged to participate.

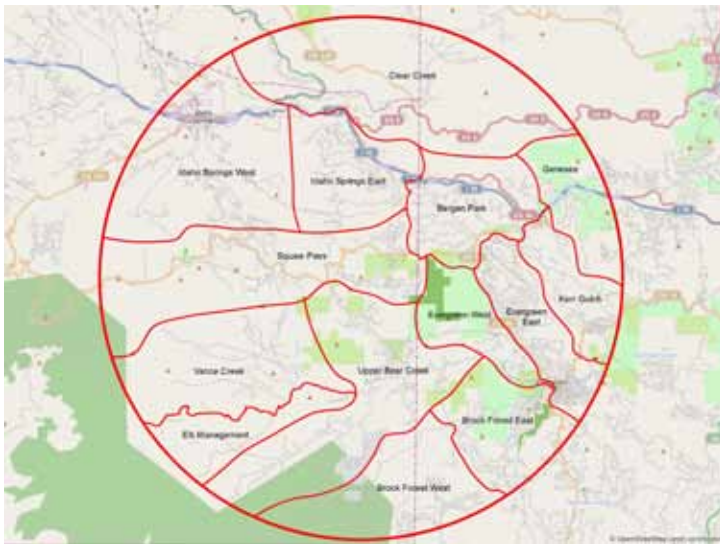
For the Evergreen Audubon count, we divide participants into small groups, each led by an experienced birder, and count all species and individual birds we hear and see. We also coordinate feeder counts for those who would like to contribute by counting birds coming to their feeders.

While last year's Evergreen Audubon Christmas Count was somewhat suppressed by wind and weather, we hope to meet the bar set by our 2012 results, when redpolls were abundant in Colorado and we added Brewer's Blackbird and Chipping Sparrow to our count list. We also hope to continue providing the overall highest counts of Pygmy Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadee sightings for North America.

After the count, starting at 5 p.m., we will continue our traditional Tally Rally and Chili Supper, again graciously hosted by David and Lisa Wald. We will enjoy good company, good food and drink, and good-natured competition as we tally each group's results.

The Walds' home is off Hiwan Drive and Lewis Ridge Road (33179 Inverness Drive, Evergreen; 303-674-0417). Please sign up at the Dec. 4 chapter meeting to bring a dish or call Marge Petersen at 303-670-4310. There is a nominal charge to offset the chili ingredients and other expenses.

So please mark your calendars for Dec. 4 to sharpen those



Perimeter of the Evergreen Audubon Christmas Bird Count

ID skills at our chapter meeting, and join us on Dec. 14 as we tally the common species, search for the rarities and end the day summing up our results and enjoying good food and good company together.

If you cannot attend the Dec. 4 meeting but would like to participate in the Christmas Count, call Brad at 720-226-7614. Like last year, there will be no cost to field participants. If you would like to volunteer for a specific section, leaders are listed below.

- Feeder watchers** – Barbara Jean Gard
- Bergen Park** – Bill/JoAnn Hackos
- Brook Forest East** – Else Van Erp
- Brook Forest West** – Tim/Marilyn Stechert
- Clear Creek** – Dave/Elaine Mongeau, Chuck Aid
- Elk Management Area** – Mark Meremonte
- Evergreen East** – Marilyn Rhodes
- Evergreen West** – Susan Harper
- Genesee** – Brad Andres
- Idaho Springs East** – Peggy Durham
- Idaho Springs West** – NEED A LEADER
- Kerr Gulch** – Heather Johnson
- Squaw Pass** – Fran Enright
- Upper Bear Creek** – Jeff Geiger
- Vance Creek** – Ann Bonnell

- Brad Andres, President, and  
Ed Furlong, Director of Education

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## Birding With Mike

**“Ducks and Winter Residents” \$50**

Classes: Jan. 7 & 21 at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden.

Field trips: Jan. 10, 17 and & 24: locations TBA at first class.

[www.BirdingWithMike.com](http://www.BirdingWithMike.com)  
answers most of your questions.

Contact Mike:  
[Mike1.foster@comcast.net](mailto:Mike1.foster@comcast.net)

## *Usual suspects show up with the cold and snow*

### Yard Birds

#### **Soda Creek & Indian Hills—Juncos**

On Tuesday, Nov 11, JoAnn Hackos reported, “With the snow and cold today, we have all of the juncos eating seed on the deck: **White-winged, Gray-headed, Pink-sided** and **Oregon** are all here today.”

Dan Frelka added, “I have all of them in Aspen Park, too, except I haven’t noticed the **Pink-sided**. Quite a gathering of **Cassin’s Finches** along with the juncos yesterday and something I haven’t seen here in Aspen Park before: several **Clark’s Nutcrackers**.”

#### **Alderfer/Three Sisters**

On Oct. 26, about 9 a.m., Peggy Sandbak was at home about half a mile west of Alderfer/Three Sisters Park when she heard her miniature Aussie growl—a deeper growl than normal.

“I looked up, saw nothing, another growl. Went to the patio door and just beyond the mowed yard in the tall yellowing grasses, was this big cat head. I was frozen as I watched it, then grabbed my camera.”

Peggy took a photo through the window as the mountain lion kept moving slowly across the pasture. “I have been in Evergreen for 25 years and this is my first sighting,” she said.

#### **Evergreen Lake—Hooded Merganser**

Cathy Edwards and her husband spotted a **Hooded Merganser** in the creek running alongside Evergreen Lake on Nov. 1.

“I watched it dip under water several times as it swam up-current to where there was a male and female **Mallard** feeding at the creek’s edge.

“It dipped once before it reached the male and pretty much came up right under the male **Mallard**, which made the male scatter off about 3 feet.”

On Nov. 8, peakviper posted on EvergreenBirders: “We have seen a female (**Hooded Merganser**) several times over the past month. Today we saw a pair



A mountain lion prowls west of Alderfer/Three Sisters park. Photo by Peggy Sandbak

hanging together, diving for food on the north side of the lake beside 74.”

Larry White got a look at the pair the same day.

Sherry Walker added, “Yes, the male has been around for weeks, but today was the first time I saw a female, too. The male has been hanging out with the mallards, and I was wondering if anyone has any thoughts on this.

“Why is he alone? Is that normal or common for mergansers? Is it normal for a lone duck to take up with another type of duck? Why hasn’t he migrated?”

JoAnn Hackos responded, “Actually they may not migrate far until the water freezes.”

#### **Red Rocks/Jefferson County**

Two **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were reported by Cyndy Johnson at Red Rocks Trading Post on Nov. 1.

The following report was posted to CoBirds by Mark Chavez, Lakewood-Green Mountain, on Nov. 11:

“This morning, I went up to Red Rocks at 7:30 to throw down lots of millet and sunflower seed.

“It didn’t take long for the tons of juncos, **American Tree Sparrow**, jays, **Spotted Towhees, Song Sparrows** and **House Finches** to find the seed. Both the adult and immature **Golden-crowned Sparrows** came in for the millet under the apple tree.

Things were scattered for awhile in the 14-degree temperatures when a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flew in.

“On Sunday, I birded Denver West for only an hour. The place was extremely birdy and had lots of **Cedar Waxwings, Red Crossbills** (35-plus), **Bush-tits, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**.

“This place should be watched for some good birds in the next few weeks. There are lots of berry-producing trees

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A Hooded Merganser paddles on Upper Bear Creek alongside Evergreen Lake. *Photo by Cathy Edwards*



Magnificent Hummingbird. *Photo by Alistair Montgomery*

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and pines in this business park off I-70 and Denver West Parkway.”

#### **Volunteers Needed to Feed Birds**

Gwen Moore, gwensminiroses@gmail.com, posted to CoBirds Nov. 11: The time has clearly arrived to start feeding at Red Rocks on a regular schedule.

“By having a schedule, we can avoid a significant gap in feeding followed by multiple birders going on the same day.

“We will feed starting now and go through mid-March.

“Please email me directly if you are willing to take one day a week, or to be an occasional volunteer on call.

“Our goal is to attract the usual juncos, towhees, **Scrub Jays**, chickadees and unusual sparrows, **Townsend’s Solitaires** and especially any hungry rosy-finches.”

#### **Boulder County–Rare Hummingbird**

A female **MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD** was reported by Adam Jack coming to his feeders in Coal Creek Canyon on Oct. 27 through Nov. 9.

Aptly named for its spectacular plumage, the **Magnificent Hummingbird**

is one of several hummingbird species found in southeast Arizona but not regularly elsewhere in the United States.

The bird breeds in mountains from the southwestern United States to western Panama. It inhabits the edges and clearings of montane oak forests from about 6,500 feet in altitude up to timberline.

#### **Lava Flow Threatens Wing’s Home**

As many of you know, Sherman Wing purchased a home in the town of Pahoa on the Big Island in Hawaii this year.

His home is now being threatened by a slow-moving lava flow from an erupting volcano that incinerated one house in Pahoa on Nov. 10, marking the first home devoured by a stream of molten rock that has crept toward the village of Pahoa for weeks.

Residents of about 50 homes in the projected path of the lava have been making preparations to flee for weeks, many emptying their houses of belongings in case an evacuation became necessary.

**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 [www.EvergreenAudubon.org](http://www.EvergreenAudubon.org) and  
click on the Local Sightings link.**

#### **WREATH SALE**

Although Holiday Wreath orders closed Oct. 29, Marilyn Rhodes ordered about 35 extra wreaths. Those who want a wreath but missed the order cutoff may contact her at [cloverlane@aol.com](mailto:cloverlane@aol.com) or 303-674-9895.

She’ll accommodate folks on a first-come, first-served basis.

It was once a commonplace belief among scientists that birds came from the Northern Hemisphere and migrated over millennia to the Southern Hemisphere. Now, based on fossil records, DNA analysis and the current distribution of birds, we know that it worked the other way around.

In *Where Song Began*, biologist Tim Low presents the evidence that many of the birds we know today began their evolution in Australia. Early work on the origin of the world's songbirds was done by the ornithologist Charles Sibley, father of one of our favorite artists and bird guide authors, David Sibley. Sibley pioneered the use of DNA analysis to determine the ancestry of bird species.

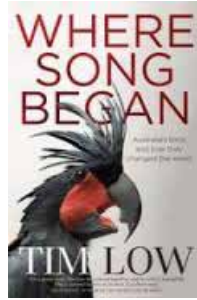
Songbirds, which we refer to as passerines or perching birds, make up more than half of all the bird species in the world. They include our warblers, thrushes, swallows and sparrows. They also include the corvids like our crows and jays.

As Sibley dared to say in the face of northern opposition, these common birds have Australian roots. At the base of all this complex evolutionary argument sit the lyrebirds, one of the most amazing songbirds. Low tells us that we might think of lyrebirds as living fossils—modern birds that retain ancient features.

Bill and I saw a lyrebird on our first trip to Australia. The male lyrebird was in full breeding plumage as it crossed the road in front of our car. Its fabulous lyre tail with fantastic plumes was on full display.

I saw a female lyrebird this summer as well but it's pretty drab compared to its mate. Unfortunately, we have never heard its song. Low describes the lyrebird song as one of the most magnificent in the bird world. David Attenborough ranks it just below the nightingale. You can hear David Attenborough's recording of its calls on YouTube.

Apparently, the lyrebird is also a superb mimic, which might be why one is called the Superb Lyrebird. It imitates dogs barking, ambulance sirens, smokers coughing, koalas grunting, chain-



*Where Song Began: Australia's birds and how they changed the world*, Tim Low, Viking/Penguin Books, Melbourne, Australia, 2014

saws, violins and tractors starting up. Baby lyrebirds start calling inside their eggs. Like other songbirds, lyrebirds learn from one another, which means that songs may be carried forward decades after their original source is gone.

Low focuses his book on more than song, however. One of the most interesting is his account of the honeyeaters. If you bird in Australia, you are soon overwhelmed by the number and diversity of the honeyeaters.

In North America, the primary nectar-feeding bird is the hummingbird. In Australia, it's the honeyeaters and their relatives. Seed and insect eaters are scarce. Australia abounds in trees that exude sticky, sweet sap—the blue gums or eucalypts. Even people enjoy the sticky stuff, called lerp, which is sweeter than cane sugar.

Of course, honeyeaters eat lerp, as did the Aborigines. In California, where the introduced eucalypts have gone wild, lerp is prolific. In Australia, lerp feeds parrots, finches, bowerbirds, trillers, moorhens and many more. The store of energy provided by all this sugar turns honeyeaters into aggressors, guarding their trees from other birds.

Bell miners, also called bellbirds, actually destroy whole forests by driving off birds that eat insects, exposing the trees to infestations. I've found the bell-like calls of these birds beautiful, not knowing that they are warning calls to keep other birds away. At high densities, bellbirds kill the trees they feed upon. One ecologist told Low that they would have to rebuild an entire national park because of bellbirds.

We experience extreme aggression in hummingbirds. Everyone in Evergreen who has hummingbird feeders has ex-

perienced what I have always called the "hummingbird wars."

In Australia, this extreme aggression occurs among the honeyeaters and the parrots. Noisy Miners, now a common city bird, drive away other birds and fight among themselves. Magpies terrorized a school in Brisbane for two weeks, cutting the faces of more than a hundred children. Honey and nectar seem to lead to aggression.

According to Low, "Australian birds are more likely than most to eat sweet foods, live in complex societies, lead long lives, attack other birds, and be intelligent and loud." These traits make Australian birds distinct and different from the birds in the rest of the world.

Australia also appears to have given the world its parrots. Parrots may have crossed into South America before Antarctica froze. In fact, parrots and perching birds are close relatives, even though they appear quite different. Genetic studies indicate that parrots are some of the oldest line of intelligent animals, long before apes came along. Parrots are also the only birds that hold their food.

Low expands his accounts well beyond songbirds, parrots and forests. He devotes chapters to the influence of birds on rainforest expansion, noting the influence of pigeons able to carry seeds long distances from island to island. He refers to these birds as forest makers.

He explains how seabirds like albatrosses and petrels survive for many years without touching land. On one very rough voyage to Antarctica, Low tells us that all the people aboard were sick while the seabirds showed no discomfort at all.

He explains why New Zealand is the seabird capital of the world. The absence of mammals allowed ground nesters like the seabirds to thrive. He suggests that the few seabirds that nest in trees may derive from an earlier time when ground nesting may have been too risky.

In his chapter titled "A Continent Compared," Low demonstrates that we need to think about birds in terms of the faunal regions they occupy rather than the continents. In North America, our

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# 2015 banquet will emphasize socializing, awards

Evergreen Audubon's Annual Banquet will be Friday, Jan. 16, at Mt. Vernon Country Club.

This year there will be no speaker; instead the banquet will feature a "Year in Review" and award presentations.

Arrival is at 5:30 p.m., when two bartenders will be behind the cash bar and cheese and fruit will be available.

The silent auction will be open from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:30.

The \$38 buffet menu will feature London Broil, Coconut Curry Chicken and Farfalle Pasta with Roasted Veggies and Red Pepper Beurre Blanc.

Accompaniments will include roasted herb potatoes, jasmine rice, with an Apple Almond Tart served for dessert.

Anyone unable to negotiate the buffet can be served.

**Reservations** must be in by Wednesday, Jan. 7! Register at [www.evergreenaudubon.org](http://www.evergreenaudubon.org) or send pay-

ment and a completed form (below) to Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen CO 80437.

## Make your Amazon purchases go further

Amazon has a charitable organization, AmazonSmile Foundation, that will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to Evergreen Audubon. All you have to do is shop on the [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) website instead of the [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) website.

The sites are identical, other than the charitable donations; you can even use your existing Amazon account and your shopping cart, Wish List and other account settings will all be the same.

The first time you go to the site, you'll be asked to select which charitable organization you want to support; search

for Evergreen Audubon (not Evergreen Nature Center) and select Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society Inc (our official name); from there, every time you make a purchase on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) we'll get a small donation.

At any time, you can change which organization you want support. It's that simple! So, as you gear up for those holiday purchases, make sure you take advantage of this great way give to Evergreen Audubon too! (Thanks to Joan Ridgely for setting this up.)

- Kathy Madison  
Director of Communications

## 2015 EA Annual Banquet Reservation Form

Friday, Jan. 16, Mt. Vernon Country Club

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 \$38 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 Wednesday, January 7, 2015!*

Mail to Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437-0523.



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experience is focused on the Palearctic birds that occupy Europe as well.

We think of birds in terms of mass migrations, spring singing, short lifespans, pair bonding, and seed and insect eating. We think of our birds as the “normal.”

Only two of the faunal regions in the world have frigid winters, making migration the norm. Eighty percent of bird species live in the tropics where migration is unnecessary because of a year-round abundance of food.

Low closes his book with a discussion of “People and Birds.” The dominance of people has led, as we know, to vast extinctions of bird species. In Australia, people killed enormous quantities of muttonbirds (various species of the seabirds known as shearwaters).

They were killed for their taste (like mutton), their feathers, eggs, fat, meat and oil. Chicks are still squeezed after death for their red stomach oil, used as a nutrient supplement for people and pets.

Egg collecting was a popular hobby in the 19th century. Shooting songbirds continues to be practiced in Europe. A recent news item describes French chefs wanting to revive the custom of eating a rather delicious songbird in their high-priced establishments.

Most of us are well aware of the problems caused by the international pet bird trade, especially for parrots. Recently, the government approved the killing of thousands of cormorants on the Columbia River to protect the salmon fishing.

The danger is that people, seeing lots

of common birds around, like the ubiquitous pigeons, conclude that birds are in no danger at all. Science tells us that the declines are extensive and warn of a birdless world.

Low ends with a warning: “To be effective, any discussion of declining birds must include the winners people see or it will fall on ears turned elsewhere.”

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## Silent auction items

Irma Wolf is again running the silent auction at the Evergreen Audubon Annual Banquet.

Anyone wishing to contribute an item should contact her at [irmasonny@aol.com](mailto:irmasonny@aol.com) or call 303-670-3402. Any new or gently used item would be welcome.

# Nature Center benefits from caring volunteers

Continued from page 1

inspires her to boldly guard and protect Evergreen wildlife from litter, fishing line, dogs off leash and more.

As a sentinel for Respectful Recreation, she charges lake visitors to consider their actions and takes personal responsibility for reinforcing the rules created to promote visitor and wildlife safety.

Thank you, Janet, for teaching Evergreen Lake guests to care!



**David Walker**  
**Raven Award** For keeping ENC always up to date on local wildlife news

Like the ever alert and communicative raven, David keeps

ENC informed! As a career environmental steward, David eagerly seeks the latest wildlife and conservation news.

Luckily for us, he has made a point of sharing his findings with Evergreen Nature Center for the benefit of staff, volunteers and guests.

David even mailed clippings and ideas to keep me informed during maternity

leave this past season. Thank you, David, for keeping us in the know!



**Rorey Markus**  
**Snap Happy Award** For outstanding wildlife photography at ENC

Rorey is a fantastic young naturalist who is eagerly mastering the

patient art of wildlife photography.

Always with camera at hand, Rorey expertly drew ENC guests of all ages to closer inspection and enjoyment of nature, offering a catching experience whether with net or lens.

He also graciously shared many of his favorite photographed wildlife moments with visitors in the ENC nature slideshow.

Thank you, Rorey, for your enthusiasm and dedication to ENC!

**Sylvia Robertson**  
**Weed Warrior Award**, For the freshest weed fighting info

Sylvia is a wonderfully civic-minded

person, and thankfully one of the many conscientious efforts she champions in Evergreen is the often-thankless job of promoting noxious weed awareness.

In 2014, Sylvia led the maintenance and monthly renewal of the Colorado Weed Awareness Campaign exhibit at ENC, showcasing the most disruptive species of local weeds found in our area.

Thank you, Sylvia, and every CWAC participant, for keeping homeowners informed and empowered.

- Vanessa Hayes, ENC Director

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 4	EA Chapter Meeting <i>Board Election</i> <i>CBC Tutorial</i>	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Dec. 9	Colorado Gives Day		
Dec. 10	<i>Dipper</i> deadline	5 pm	
Dec. 13	Kids Christmas Count	10 am–1 pm	Evergreen Library
Dec. 14	Christmas Bird Count	TBD by leaders	
Dec. 14	Tally Rally	5 pm	Wald home
 <i>Plan ahead:</i>			
Jan. 16	EA Annual Banquet	5:30 pm	Mt. Vernon Country Club

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. 12. Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes *The Dipper* every month. Evergreen Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members may receive an electronic copy of *The Dipper* without charge or may pay \$15 a year for a mailed hard copy (members only). Evergreen Audubon encourages readers to submit original articles, creative nature writing or art to *The Dipper*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any articles selected.  
**Audubon Rockies Office, [Rockies.Audubon.org](http://Rockies.Audubon.org)**

## Evergreen Audubon Local Membership Application

I/we would like to join the Evergreen Audubon. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter electronically, and vote (two Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain locally.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Annual Banquet  
Kids Christmas Count  
Board Election

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