



THE DIPPER

VOL. 46 NO. 2
FEBRUARY 2016

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.EvergreenAudubon.org

Great Backyard Bird Count at Evergreen Library

19th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count www.birdcount.org
Friday, February 12, 2016 1:30-3pm
Ages 6-12 with adult
Free event



Spend this school holiday playing to learn with Evergreen Nature Center!

Become a citizen scientist through games and crafts!

Space limited

Register at www.jefferson.lib.co.us search Evergreen Events



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WALK ALONG SOUTH PLATTE ON 3RD SAT.

Join Chuck Aid for our Third-Saturday Bird Walk on Feb. 20 from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

This month we will walk along the South Platte River to check out wintering waterfowl.

Bring water and a snack. Meet at the Bergen Park Park-n-Ride at 7:30.

We will consolidate ourselves into as few cars as possible for the 35-minute drive.

These walks are for Evergreen Audubon members and their guests.

Non-members won't be turned away, but will be encouraged to join Evergreen Audubon.

To reserve a space, register at www.evergreenaudubon.org. Click on the Event Calendar tab.

- Chuck Aid, 303-503-2973
Director of Bird Monitoring

Grouse struggle in 'Sagebrush Sea'

"The Sagebrush Sea" is a breathtaking documentary of the high desert ecosystem that is a big part of Colorado and the American West.

The program highlights the uniqueness of this ecosystem and the development, particularly of oil and gas, that threatens to divide and damage it.

The making of the film, a collaboration between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, PBS/Nature and the National Audubon Society, reflects the widespread recognition that this ecosystem is unique, important and endangered.

The images are beautiful and dire, and grab our attention.

An upcoming local presentation offers a chance to learn more about the issues that are behind the movie.

The presentation will feature experts who know the ecosystems and the development threats challenging the Greater Sage-Grouse and all the other species on this serene landscape of sand, sage and rock.

February chapter meeting will be at the Evergreen Fire Department auditorium.

Evergreen Audubon is partnering with Audubon Rockies to host a special presentation of "The Sagebrush Sea" at the February chapter meeting.

The meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4, will be at the Evergreen Fire Department auditorium, 1802 Bergen Parkway. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The broader Evergreen community is invited to see the film. We anticipate having a panel discussion, led by Audubon Rockies, following the film.

According to Audubon Rockies, the landscape depicted in "The Sagebrush Sea" has been called The Big Empty—an immense sea of sagebrush that once

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A male Greater Sage-Grouse displays himself, with fanned tail and expanded chest, amidst the vast "Sagebrush Sea." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Digital Library

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Meetings first Thursday, 7 p.m., Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen, except January. Meetings in June, July and August are held at Evergreen Nature Center.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BRAD ANDRES

If you were at our annual banquet, you will know that Vanessa has decided to step down as director of Evergreen Nature Center. She and Gavin are expecting another child in July, and Vanessa wants to spend more time with Azalea and the new baby during their formative years.

We will certainly miss Vanessa but wish her the very best for their growing family. Vanessa will not disappear, as she will be working some hours a month into the summer to help us with the transition.

It goes without saying that Vanessa has done a fantastic job with the Nature Center—engaging our volunteers, developing new and interesting programs, and forging better ties with our mountain communities.

I am sure you will agree that she has personified the mission of Evergreen Nature Center “to foster contagious enthusiasm and life-long respect for the natural world by providing fun and inspiring environmental educational experiences.”

On behalf of the Evergreen Audubon board of directors, we salute Vanessa’s dedication to Evergreen Audubon and Evergreen Nature Center.

Vanessa has been very successful in getting grants from Jefferson County Open Space during her time with us, and this year is no different. Our 2016 proposal had a different angle but was still successful. Visitor assistants should be warmed by the thought that they will be welcomed by a new set of gas stoves in the Nature Center next spring!

This will be my last president’s message as Kathy Madison takes over as your new president. I thank all past and present board directors and officers and all Evergreen Audubon members for your contributions to our expanding organization.

With your talent and conviction, we will continue to extend the reach of Evergreen Audubon’s education, conservation and citizen-science projects far into the future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

- Brad

Grouse struggle to survive in the vast ‘Sagebrush Sea’

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stretched 500,000 square miles across North America, exasperating thousands of westward-bound travelers as an endless place through which they had to pass to reach their destinations.

Yet it’s far from empty, as those who look closely will discover. In this ecosystem anchored by the sage, eagles and antelope, badgers and lizards, rabbits, wrens, owls, prairie dogs, songbirds, hawks and migrating birds of all description make their homes.

For one bird, however, it is a year-round home, as it has been for thousands of years. The Greater Sage-Grouse relies on the sage for everything and is found no place else. But their numbers are in decline.

Two hundred years ago, there were as many as 16 million sage grouse; today, there may be fewer than 200,000. “The Sagebrush Sea” tracks the Greater Sage-Grouse and other wildlife through the seasons as they struggle to survive in this rugged and changing landscape.

Please plan to come at 6:30 and socialize with your fellow Evergreen Auduboners and our Evergreen neighbors! Prior to the showing of the film we will hold a brief business meeting at 7 p.m.

- Ed Furlong
Director of Education

CBC participants find record 57 species, one new

The 2015 Christmas Bird Count, which took place on Dec. 20, should long be remembered by all of us for its sunny morning, hardly any wind and good numbers of birds.

We have certainly had our years when we have had to contend with adverse conditions. This was not one of those, as we ended the day with a total of 7,643 birds. Last year, with all the snow, we had only 5,805.

We had a record-high 57 species, and had above-average numbers for about two-thirds of those. We also added one new species with 13 Yellow-rumped Warblers reported from Idaho Springs West.

We have now tallied 104 species on the count since it began in 1969. A bit of recent history: Gadwall was our 100th species in 2010, and Chipping Sparrow, Hoary Redpoll and Brewer's Blackbird have been added in the intervening years.

We also had high counts this year for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper.

Also, we were only one short of matching our previous high for Red-tailed Hawk, and three short of matching our previous highs for Hairy Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Song Sparrow.

The adjacent table provides our numbers from 2015, the average for the previous 46 years, and the high count for each species and the year it was recorded.

A few other interesting aspects to this count were that we had Bushtits for only the second time, our Brown Creeper count was 361 percent above average, and we had another year filled with Pine Grosbeaks (414 percent above average).

In case you missed it, we led the world last year in Mountain Chickadees and Pygmy Nuthatches. This year we had much higher numbers for both species and are well placed to retain our global dominance.

Participation in 2015 was exceptional with 71 field observers who spent 133 hours afield, and an additional 12 feeder watchers.

Thanks to all section leaders, participants and Barbara Jean Gard for coordinating the feeder watchers.

A huge thanks, once again, to the Walds for hosting the Tally Rally, to Bill and JoAnn Hackos for making the meat chili, to Lisa Wald for providing the veggie chili, and to Marge Peterson for organizing the dinner.

Also, thanks to all of you for contributing to the potluck, and to Aaron Wald and Brad Andres for helping compile our data.

- Chuck Aid, Bird Monitoring Director

Summary of birds observed on the 2015 Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count, the average number seen from 1969 to 2014, and the high count and year recorded. Bolded entries are high counts recorded in 2015; "cw" indicates seen during count week but not on count day.

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2014	2015	number	year
Cackling Goose	<1		2	08
Canada Goose	8	3	70	90
Wood Duck	<1		2	93/07
Gadwall	<1		1	10
American Wigeon	<1		2	96
Mallard	60	110	248	12
Northern Pintail	<1		1	96/98
Green-winged Teal	<1		1	81
Chukar	<1		1	80
Dusky Grouse	<1		12	94
Wild Turkey	39	56	110	04
Great Blue Heron	<1		1	88/90
Black-crowned Night Heron	<1		1	09
Bald Eagle	1	2	5	10
Northern Harrier	<1		2	04
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	3	106/11/14/15
Cooper's Hawk	<1		2	09
Northern Goshawk	1	1	3	72/87/11
Red-tailed Hawk	14	43	44	11

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2014	2015	number	year
Ferruginous Hawk	<1		2	98
Rough-legged Hawk	1		11	85
Golden Eagle	3	8	8	89/15
Wilson's Snipe	1		4	78/91/00
Rock Pigeon	75	40	212	81
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4	83	83	15
Mourning Dove	<1		2	10
Great Horned Owl	1	2	5	09/12/14
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	3	4	95
Long-eared Owl	<1		1	74/82
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<1		1	70
Belted Kingfisher	2	2	6	04
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<1		1	80
Downy Woodpecker	30	34	51	08
Hairy Woodpecker	45	78	81	11
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	<1	1	3	79/89
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	15	45	45	15
American Kestrel	1	2	4	87/12

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Christmas Bird Count

The Evergreen East CBC Team saw 32 species on their count day. (See page 3 for other results.)

Best sighting—two **Bald Eagles** touching talons in the air over El Pinal, viewed from Jack and Ruth Salter's home.

Other highlights included four **Brown Creepers** seen at the homes of Dee Sacks and Shirley and Allan Casey, an **American Dipper** in the creek by Highland Haven, and a **Song Sparrow** at a creek at the end of Lewis Ridge Road.

A gorgeous **Red-tailed Hawk** was spotted dining on an unfortunate rodent at the rodeo grounds in El Pinal, with **Black-billed Magpies** standing by to catch the hawk's table scraps.

Tally Rally

The always fun, and often rowdy, Tally Rally is held every year after a hard day's work counting birds for the Evergreen Audubon Christmas Bird Count, this year at the lovely home of Dave and Lisa Wald.

Results are displayed on the TV screen. They are recorded by species and by team and compared to last year's count.

The competitive spirit of the teams surfaces occasionally—loudly!

Yard Birds

Rosy-Finches and Grosbeaks

On Dec. 17, Dan and Ruth Brown, Squaw Pass, Clear Creek County, reported "seeing very large flocks of rosies, and lots of **Pine Grosbeaks** and **Evening Grosbeaks**" at their feeders.

On Jan. 7, Elly Brouwers, who lives near the Browns, emailed, "I am getting some big, big flocks of finches and grosbeaks, 50 to 100 birds, swooping in to a covered platform feeder on my deck rail. Lots of nuthatches and woodpeckers today as well."

She shared a video that showed many rosy-finches among the mixed flock. Unfortunately, she found a small grosbeak on her deck that could not fly. I assisted her in getting the bird to a rehabber.

The bird was diagnosed with an eye infection, "bad news for the other finches and grosbeaks at her feeders."

To prevent the infection from spreading, Elly will take her feeders down so the flock will disperse and clean the feeders thoroughly before putting them back up.

Common Redpoll and Goldfinches

On Jan. 9, Kiki Widjaja and I ventured to Golden to try to see the **Common Redpolls**, Harris's Sparrows and rosy-finches reported at Ira Sanders' feeders.

We missed out on the sparrows and rosies, but I did manage to get photos of a redpoll at a feeder with an **American Goldfinch** and two **Lesser Goldfinches**.



Common Redpoll, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinches. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

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Left to right, Evergreen East CBC Team members Bob Santangelo, Peggy Salzer, Marilyn Rhodes and Kiki Widjaja. Photo courtesy of Da Kind Soups staff member



Brown Creeper seen on the Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes



Elaine Mongeau, left, and Marge Petersen. *Photo by Marilyn Rhodes*



Evergreen Audubon Christmas Bird Count participants view results at the annual Tally Rally. *Photo by Marilyn Rhodes*

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Wild Evergreen

The Elusive Pine Marten

Pine martens belong to the weasel family but are larger than weasels, do not have the webbed toes of the mink and are smaller than the fisher.

The scientific name is “*Martes americana*” and they are found primarily in mature, northern forests.

These animals are closely associated with lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, spruce and mixed hardwood forests. They tend to be found in structurally complex, mature forests, and can occur at all elevations where such habitat exists.

At maturity male pine martens are about two feet long, sporting an eight-inch tail, and they weigh about one-and-a-half pounds.

Females tend to be 10 percent to 20 percent smaller than males, and weigh less than a pound.

Martens have luxurious fur, which varies in coloration from dark brown to pale gray, with pale yellowish-brown fur on their undersides, and light breast patches of varying shapes.

Although they vary in coloration, there is no seasonal variation. To keep warm during the winter, pine martens burrow into the snow. They even have

fur on the soles of their feet to keep them warm and that serve like snowshoes in the winter.

In the coldest weather they may den in a tree hole or chickaree nest.

Pine martens are mostly nocturnal, but when they are hungry they are active day or night, and year round. Martens are fast and agile. They can be seen leaping from tree to tree.

They also forage along the ground poking their heads into rock piles, hollow logs, crevices and holes in search of prey.

They are opportunistic predators, and will eat what is available. They require about 80 kcal/day while at rest, which is equivalent to about three voles, one of their preferred foods.

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Several Front Range photographers have shared images of pine martens recently. The one pictured above was seen on Mt. Evans in September. *Photo by Eivor Kuchta*

CBC participants find record 57 species, one new

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Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2014	2015	number	year
Merlin	<1		2	10
Prairie Falcon	<1		1	82
Loggerhead Shrike	<1		1	several
Northern Shrike	4	3	13	86
Gray Jay	13	5	53	77
Pinyon Jay	5		200	72
Steller's Jay	261	394	446	00
Blue Jay	<1		1	95/00
Western Scrub-Jay	3	9	18	11
Clark's Nutcracker	27	41	108	78
Black-billed Magpie	192	334	370	12
American Crow	682	1,786	1,786	15
Common Raven	116	165	200	72
Horned Lark	<1		15	86
Black-capped Chickadee	75	184	184	15
Mountain Chickadee	486	770	786	75
Hybrid Chickadee	<1		1	13
Juniper Titmouse	<1		1	82
Bushtit	<1	17	17	15
Red-breasted Nuthatch	47	82	127	93
White-breasted Nuthatch	71	142	142	15
Pygmy Nuthatch	417	831	1,046	12
Brown Creeper	13	36	36	15
Canyon Wren	1	3	5	81
Winter Wren	<1		2	75
American Dipper	19	11	37	87
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	15	18	84
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<1		2	83/91
Mountain Bluebird	<1		2	92
Townsend's Solitaire	67	136	202	82
American Robin	129	473	1,500	72
Brown Thrasher	<1		1	several
Northern Mockingbird	<1		1	78
European Starling	126	158	301	00
Bohemian Waxwing	40		580	80
Cedar Waxwing	8	6	163	87
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	13	13	15
Spotted Towhee	<1	1	4	75

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2014	2015	number	year
Cassin's Sparrow	<1		1	71
American Tree Sparrow	3	1	37	84
Chipping Sparrow	<1		1	12
Clay-colored Sparrow	<1		1	83
Fox Sparrow	<1		1	several
Song Sparrow	5	12	15	11
White-throated Sparrow	<1		1	84/06
Harris's Sparrow	<1	1	2	80
White-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	several
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	93
Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco	163	190	293	76
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	87	41	232	74
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco	20	50	276	80
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	84	48	413	82
Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco	54	10	81	14
Dark-eyed (Cassiar) Junco	<1		1	13
Dark-eyed Junco (All subspecies)	558	594	923	14
Red-winged Blackbird	55	150	586	91
Brewer's Blackbird	<1		15	12
Common Grackle	<1		3	93
Great-tailed Grackle	<1		1	07
Brown-headed Cowbird	<1		1	09
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	125	2	429	84
Black Rosy-Finch	7		70	04
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	15	cw	140	04
Pine Grosbeak	14	58	103	14
House Finch	175	170	443	11
Cassin's Finch	162	177	519	14
Red Crossbill	62	61	643	82
White-winged Crossbill	<1		16	70
Common Redpoll	4	1	30	70
Hoary Redpoll	<1		1	12
Pine Siskin	215	66	723	08
American Goldfinch	16	18	176	00
Evening Grosbeak	132	115	420	95
House Sparrow	99	86	377	00
Number of Species	47	57	57	15

Elephants, wolves and killer whales. What can they possibly have in common?

Ecologist Carl Safina visits Amboseli National Park in Kenya, Yellowstone National Park and the waters off the Pacific Northwest to explore the behaviors of animal families that exhibit extraordinary consciousness, self-awareness and empathy.

Safina makes a strong case for studying the inner lives of animals, something that has been frowned upon by philosophers and scientists for generations if not for millennia. He argues that humans are not the measure of all things.

Animals have lives that are equally complex and filled with meaning. Safina does not, however, ascribe human emotions to the animals he highlights in this book. He works with the animal behavior experts in Africa and the United States to understand from the animals' point of view.

Part One of "Beyond Words" focuses on the elephants of Amboseli. The elephants that the researchers study are led by matriarchs who use their years of experience with the land to foster the well-being of their families. The matriarchs know when and where to find water and food. They guide, protect and teach their daughters and the youngsters how to survive.

What is most disturbing, however, are the attacks and deaths from poachers and from drought that are together decimating the elephant families. The researcher, Cynthia Moss, has worked with the elephants for 40 years.

She knows of elephant families that mourn the death of their family members. She observes elephants who she calls happy, even joyful, when their families are well fed and have water to play in.

Safina makes a mistake at first in talking with Cynthia about the elephants. He asks, "What has a lifetime of watching elephants taught you about humanity?" Cynthia replies that she does not compare elephants to people.

Her focus is to understand the animals as themselves, a much harder task. She studies their lives, learning about



Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel, Carl Safina, Henry Holt & Co., 2015.

them as individuals with personalities, individuals who are themselves incredibly complex.

Safina learns and asserts that elephants have a deep and ancient culture. They appear to experience friendship, compassion, grief and satisfaction. They are masters of parental care. These characteristics, so common to humans, have been evolving in many species for hundreds of millions of years.

Animals and humans share a world, and we also share a brain that has evolved many shared feelings.

Learning about the elephants from the researchers Safina visits is spectacular. You learn how they raise their babies, how the females interact with the independent mature males, how they grieve for the dying and how they communicate with one another.

In Part Two, Safina moves to Yellowstone to follow the wolf researchers studying the wolves of the Lamar Valley. In January 2015, Bill Hackos and I went to Yellowstone to see the wolves in winter. We watched one of the Lamar packs hunting bison. It was extraordinary to see them trying to pull a possibly weak bison from the herd. They were not successful, at least while we were watching.

Safina tells us that he is struck by the difference between wolves and dogs: "Wolves orient and defer to their elders the way dogs do to their human keepers. Maturing wolves, though, become captains of their own lives. Dogs are wolf pups who never get to grow up to take charge of their own lives and decisions. Wolves take charge. They must."

We learn about the perfect wolf, Yellowstone's most famous wolf, called

Twenty-one. As the primary male in his family, Twenty-one was strong, adept, agile and smart. He was a superb athlete, sort of the Michael Jordan of the wolf packs.

He was one of the first pups born in Yellowstone after wolves were reintroduced to the park, after 70 years without wolves. He led the Druid pack and was "remarkably gentle." He played with the pups, pretending to lose in their wrestling matches.

At the same time, he was in lots of fights with other wolves. And, he never lost and never killed a wolf he'd beaten. Amazing to find a magnanimous wolf, as Safina explains it.

Killer whales are the focus of Part Three. Before reading "Beyond Words," I knew something about elephant families and had spent time learning more about the Yellowstone wolves. But I knew nothing about the complex societies of killer whales.

We find two types of killer whales, or orcas, their scientific name, in the Pacific Northwest. The resident killer whales eat salmon; the transients eat seals.

Safina speculates that they might even be two different species, their behaviors are so different. The residents have big family and extended family groups. The transients have smaller groups, travel more widely, and dive more deeply and for longer periods.

Killer whales, like all the dolphins, also use complex sounds to communicate with one another. Each animal has a signature whistle that appears to identify it to others. They call each other by name and answer when called over long distances. They may be spread out over 150 square miles and still be in contact.

The whales are long-lived, much like humans. One matriarch resident is estimated to be about 100 years old. The longest-lived male in one pod lived to at least 60.

The pods are led by the matriarchs, who appear to be crucial to the survival of their adult children. If the matriarch dies, the adult children start dying too. Even males who have lost their mothers are more likely to die early.

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Learn how to be a Habitat Hero at March 5 workshop

Audubon Rockies will present a Habitat Heroes-Gardening for Beauty and Birds Workshop on Saturday, March 5, at 9 a.m.

The workshop will take place in the Prairie Room at Boulder County Parks and Open Space, 5201 St. Vrain Rd., Longmont.

The presentation will explore the design possibilities of making a garden beautiful and functional while creating suitable habitat for wildlife and attracting pollinators.

Habitat Heroes practice a form of landscape stewardship called wildscaping—landscaping designed to utilize native plants, minimize water consumption and provide habitat for birds, bees and wildlife, large and small.

Whether the landscape is a residential yard, a few pots on a balcony, a

public park, schoolyard garden, orchard or farm, Habitat Heroes believe in growing a healthy community.

Working together, we can create a mosaic of habitats that link individual wildscapes to larger natural areas and reduce the loss of open space while benefiting birds and other wildlife.

With the right information and tools, these wildscape gardens are both beautiful and bird friendly.

This half-day workshop is for both novice and veteran gardeners who are interested in wildscaping tips and techniques, attracting wildlife in an urban environment, eliminating chemicals in the landscape and minimizing water consumption.

The workshop will feature two prominent gardening and horticultural experts:

- Marcia Tatroe, writer and columnist for *Sunset* magazine and the *Denver Post*, and author of “Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West” and “Perennials for Dummies.”

Marcia will discuss how wildlife habitat can coexist within a covenant-controlled community, and how to ensure your garden pleases both wildlife and fastidious neighbors.

- Deryn Davidson, Colorado State University horticulture extension agent for Boulder County. Deryn will explore how gardens can be designed to enhance the aesthetics of a site, attract pollinators and provide habitat for an array of wildlife.

Visit www.brownpapertickets.com (keyword Habitat Hero) to register. Cost is \$15 per person. For more information, visit <http://rockies.audubon.org>.

BIRDING BOOKS JOANN HACKOS, EA DIRECTOR AT LARGE

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Killer whales seem inexplicably interested in humans. Safina recounts many stories of killer whales seeking contact with humans. The researcher that Safina visits tells of being lost in a dense fog bank in his boat about 25 miles from home.

After heading in one compass direction for about five minutes, a pod appeared in front of his boat. He followed

for 15 miles. When the fog cleared, he was right next to his home island. He is convinced they were guiding him.

Once you read “Beyond Words,” you will be a strong supporter of ending the captive shows and freeing the whales. In captivity, they go insane.

The resident whales in the Northwest are in trouble. Because of the drought, the salmon runs are significantly down, even gone in some areas. The pods are

having a difficult time finding sufficient food. It’s alarming to learn that several resident pods have no living females of reproductive age. Their families are doomed.

Carl Safina is a fascinating scientist and writer. He is dedicated to understanding the animals he and others study. I think you will profit from reading his account of how animals think and feel.

BIRD BUSINESS MARILYN RHODES, ASGD MASTER BIRDER

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They can also prey on birds and fish. Their summer diet contains vegetation, insects, conifer seeds, worms, eggs and even berries.

Pine martens may be important seed dispersers as seeds generally pass through intact, and can then germinate.

Martens are generally solitary except during the breeding season in July or August. The female will mate with various males and may have multiple periods of heat.

Females give birth in late March or April to a litter of 1 to 5 kits.

The kits’ eyes open after about six weeks, weaning occurs at 42 days, and kits reach adult body weight at around three months.

Pine marten scat is most commonly seen along fallen logs or rock piles. The droppings are about 5 to 6 inches long, containing bits of nuts and berries. Their footprints are about 2 inches wide and have five toe pads around a rounded heel pad.

Pine martens are vulnerable to predation from raptors and other carnivores but their main predator is man.

Condensed from articles written by Breckenridge resident Dr. Joanne Stolen who is retired from teaching microbiology at Rutgers University and has taught classes at Colorado Mountain College.

She is now pursuing a career in art, specializing in nature and many of the animals she writes about. Her work can be seen locally.

Great Backyard Bird Count at Evergreen Library

19th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count www.birdcount.org

Friday, February 12, 2016 1:30-3pm

Ages 6-12 with adult

Free event



White-breasted Nuthatch
Photo: Nick Saunders/GBBC

Spend this **school holiday**
playing to learn with
Evergreen Nature Center!

Become a citizen scientist
through games and crafts!

Space limited

Register at

www.jefferson.lib.co.us
search Evergreen Events



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 4	EA Chapter Meeting	6:30 pm	Evergreen Fire Dept.
Feb. 10	<i>Dipper</i> deadline	5 pm	
Feb. 12	Great Backyard Bird Count	1:30–3:30 pm	Evergreen Library
Feb. 20	Third Saturday Bird Walk	7:30 am	Bergen Park-n-Ride
<i>Plan ahead:</i>			
March 5	Habitat Heroes Workshop	9 am	Boulder Open Space

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

VOLUME 46, NO. 2. 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

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	\$ 25	\$ 40
Electronic <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i> (members only)	\$ 15	\$ 15
Additional donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Name _____

Family member(s) name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email _____

(must include for electronic *Dipper*)

Enclosed is my check payable to: **Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437.**

I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

If you would like to join or donate to the National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, use chapter code C9ZD090Z and call 1-800-274-4201.

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Habitat Heroes
 CBC Results
 Great Backyard Bird Count

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