



THE DIPPER

VOL. 42 NO. 1
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EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

NEW NATURE CENTER DIRECTOR

A new Evergreen Nature Center executive director has been selected by the EA board following the resignation of Aly Duffey.

For more, see the President's Message on page 2, and watch for a profile of the new director, Vanessa Hayes, in the February *Dipper*.

A BALMY CBC

The Dec. 18 Christmas Bird Count must have been one of the warmest of the 43 so far held by Evergreen Audubon, with temperatures reaching the mid- to high 50s.

Thirteen expert birders and their volunteer teams fanned out under the guidance of Brad Andres, who will provide a full report in the February *Dipper*. See page 5 for photos.

BOARD ELECTED

A new slate of EA board officers and directors was elected at the Dec. 1 chapter meeting.

Brad Andres will take over as president, with Jean Thayer as vice president, Heather Johnson as secretary and Joan Ridgely as treasurer.

New directors are JoAnn/Bill Hackos, Bird Monitoring; Ginny Ades, Development; Kathy Madison, Education; and Barbara Klaus and Peggy Linn, at large.

Banquet reservations are due Jan. 13

The deadline to make reservations for the Evergreen Audubon Annual Banquet is Friday, Jan. 13.

Brian Rutledge, National Audubon vice president for the Rocky Mountain Region and executive director of Audubon Wyoming, will present a talk, "Audubon: A Strategy to a Bright Future."

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 3.

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

Brian Rutledge 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 wildlife and the responsible development of renewable energy resources in Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain West.

He brings a wealth of knowledge of non-profit organizations and conservation to the Audubon team.

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.



Barbara Jean Gard, left, and Chris Pfaff puzzle over the identification of a soaring eagle—eventually determined to be a Golden. They were part of a group of 10 birders led by Ann Bonell that prowled the Evans Ranch Dec. 18 as part of the Christmas Bird Count. Photo by Debbie Marshall. More photos on page 5.

2010 OFFICERS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audubon Color.	Dick Prickett	303-674-0217
Bear Creek Atlas	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Bird Box Sales	Bud Weare	303-679-8889
Conservation	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331
Dipper Editor	Debbie Marshall	303-674-3752 marshallpublish@gmail.com
Education	Cheryl Manning	303-679-0699
Field Trips	Karel Buckley	303-670-8859
Hospitality	Rachel Hutchinson	303-679-1503
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066
Nature Center	Alyson Duffey	303-330-0489 enddirector@evergreenaudubon.org
Program	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699
Publicity	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
Ways & Means	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402 irmasonny@aol.com
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610 sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com
Webmaster	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

Change is in the air: a new year, a new board of directors, a new Nature Center executive director, and new directions for both our chapter and our Nature Center.

We made great use of our Nature Center lease, not just as a Nature Center but also as a destination and meeting location: for board meetings, gatherings like the Dawn Chorus, social events and classes. This is how it was meant to be.

Financially, despite bleak global economics, 2011 was a very good year for Evergreen Audubon thanks to focused fundraising and grant-writing efforts, but primarily due to very generous donations from within our membership.

Our proceeds substantially exceeded our expenses for the first time since we opened the Nature Center. So, now we have shown that we can adequately support the Evergreen Nature Center while we further establish steady long-term funding for this substantial community enterprise.

One recent setback: Our Nature Center executive director, Alyson Duffey, took a local, full-time job in Boulder working for the Wild Foundation. That, of course, sounds like a great opportunity.

Aly is a gifted environmental educator and organizer. Aly we will miss you. Best of luck from the Evergreen Audubon.

To our very good fortune, our second-ranked candidate in our spring search, Vanessa Hayes, was still interested in the ENC executive director position.

After brief board deliberations, we offered the opening to Vanessa, and she agreed to start in January! We'll feature Vanessa in the next Dipper newsletter. In the meantime, please help us welcome her to Evergreen Audubon.

Finally, this is my last President's Message to the membership. I have been honored and humbled by your time, generosity, humor, support and advice, as well as by your patience with me.

You'll soon be in very good hands with a new board of directors, led by Brad Andres as president. My sincerest thanks to the board of directors and their continuing impressive efforts to guide our organization. Adieu.

VIP VOLUNTEERS DAVID WALD

- **Jean Thayer** single-handedly led the effort to organize, print and mail the membership renewal forms. Her heroic effort is greatly appreciated.

- The Christmas Bird Count was once again led by **Brad Andres**, with a cadre of dedicated group leaders and volunteers. This is always a great way to wind down the year!

- **Lori Hogan** once again came through with the "pool-sized" chili contribution for the Christmas Bird Count Tally Rally, despite the fact that she had other commitments that particular day. Thanks again, Lori!

- Thank you to **those of you who generously considered Evergreen Audubon** with your end-of-year charitable contributions through the Colorado Gives Day campaign. An early tally indicated about \$2,000 of receipts, but we will report back the actual total and what match will be provided.

- Thank you to **Aly Duffey** for her enthusiasm and contributions to running the Evergreen Nature Center in 2011. Aly is a gifted environmental educator and organizer. Best of luck from the Evergreen Audubon.

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.

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.*



Bob Santangelo snapped this shot of a Townsend's Solitaire, above, at Marilyn Rhodes' Hiwan bird bath in late November. Sherman Wing photographed a flock of Sandhill Cranes, below, in Delta on Nov. 30.

Brad Andres observed a **Winter Wren** on Nov. 19 along the creek at Dick's Hickory Dock in Kittredge and determined its light throat indicated the eastern Winter Wren that split recently from the West Coast form (Pacific Wren). Also, a **Glaucous Gull** was easily found at Chatfield.

JoAnn Hackos reported on Nov. 23 that for the second day in a row, they had a flock of 11 **Wild Turkeys** at their pond.

On a late-November visit to Evergreen to pick up his EA Christmas wreath at Marilyn Rhodes' house, Bob Santangelo was treated to a visit by a **Townsend's Solitaire** on Marilyn's balcony.

Not very local, but definitely notable, were approximately 150 **Sandhill Cranes** feeding in an old cornfield just north of Delta, Colo. Sherman Wing photographed them on Nov. 30.

Snow and cold temps in early December brought in scads of **Dark-eyed Juncos** to Sherman's Indian Hills feeder. They were mostly **Gray-headed**, a fair number of **Slate-colored** and a few **Oregon** and **Pink-sided**, with one **White-winged**.

Chuck Aid reported on Dec. 6 that two or three **Cassin's Finches** had shown up at his feeders three times this fall (Oct. 25 and 26, and Nov. 18).

Small flocks of **Evening Grosbeaks** (2-8) were regular visitors in August and early September, but then went elsewhere. The cold weather apparently helped bring them back, and 50 were at Chuck's house on Dec. 3.

Chuck added that two **American Three-toed Woodpeckers** were seen at Lair o' the Bear on Nov. 23.

According to Sherman, some of the highlights of the Dec. 18 Denver Field Ornithologists' Christmas Bird Count in Indian Hills were 207 **American Robins**, 103 **Townsend's Solitaires**, one **Great Horned Owl** heard "hooting" during the midmorning, and 34 **Wild Turkeys**.



Weather smiles on 43rd Evergreen Christmas Count



Overall Evergreen CBC leader Brad Andres, left, with Dick Prickett and Lynne Price at the Evergreen Wild Bird Store before heading out. Photo by Susan Harper



Birding in the Hangen Ranch (part of the Brook Forest East CBC area) are, from left, Janet Warner, Else Van Erp, Aaron Wald, David Wald and Tom Van Erp. Photo by Aaron Wald



Great Blue Heron in the Kerr Gulch CBC area. Photo by Rachel Hutchinson



A moose surprised the bird seekers in the Mount Evans Elk Management Area. Photo by Mark Meremonte



American Robin in the Brook Forest East CBC area. Photo by Aaron Wald



"Birder Dude" Tom Van Erp was ready to roll through the Brook Forest East CBC area. Photo by David Wald



Veteran Mount Evans Ranch CBC leader Ann Bonell, center, with Larry White and Jonelle Balais. Photo by Debbie Marshall

CONSERVATION CHUCK AID

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver and the Rocky Mountain Chap-

ter of the Sierra Club will hold their annual Legislative Forum in February.



There's a wicked gleam in the eye of this bull elk lording it over the herd at Evergreen Golf Course. Photo by Sherman Wing

MEMBERSHIP JEAN THAYER

Forty new individual and family members joined the ranks of Evergreen Audubon during 2011.

Welcome to them all!

Thomas and Cathy Ager
Ryan Antenucci
Shelagh Baines
Dr. Daniel Beary
Holly Counter Beaver
Mac Behrhorst
Patricia Bishop
Kim Breech and Family
Carol Crowe
Ed and Ann Dodson
Alyson Duffey
Julie Farrell
Tracy Galloway
Michael and Caroline Gilbert
Melanie Guinan
Lee Hart
Margaret Hayden
Joan Holley

Matthew and JoNell How
Kevin Joyce and Jeanne Cooper
Kathy Kay
Beth, Mike, David and Jason Kramer
Rebecca Martin
Laura Mehmert
Nancy Merz
Richard and Rhonda Miklic
Nora Monnet
Tom and Kathy Napp
Ted and Connie Ning
Judy Ostenaar
Kay Potter
Mary Pulick
Joan Ridgely
Sandy Schepis
Myron and Linda Seveland
Kate Shofner
Carol Slaughter
Steve and Joan Tarasar
Judy Ward
Tim Zeman

The date is Saturday, Feb. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at First Plymouth Church, 3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver.

This promises to be a very informative gathering during which Audubon Colorado lobbyist Jen Boulton, Sierra Club lobbyist Chuck Malick and others provide a preview of current environmental issues and the upcoming Colorado legislative session's environmental bills.

Some of the main topics to be discussed are the merger of the Colorado Division of Wildlife with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, oil and gas regulation changes, diversion of GOCO funds, and the proposed transport of water from the Green River to the Colorado Front Range.

Several Colorado legislators will be in attendance.

A continental breakfast and lasagna lunch will be provided.

The cost is \$12 per person in advance, \$15 at the door. To register in advance, call the ASGD office at 303-973-9530 to give your name and contact information.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS DAVID WALD

Nov. 24 EA Board Meeting

- The board discussed the Founder's Award and is planning an award for 2011.
- Dick Prickett reported on the reorganization of the state chapters of National Audubon. Brian Rutledge will fill us in at the banquet.

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

FIELD NOTES KAREL BUCKLEY

Denver Botanic Gardens

Dec. 8 was cold, no question, but a gorgeous, clear night with the moon shining on us. With the right clothing we were all just fine in the cold. No wind, which helped.

The Botanic Gardens Blossoms of Lights were so beautiful we walked around twice! No ice to worry about slipping on, which made the walk easy.

We looked at every color of light and type of arrangement conceivable. There were even ice sculptures, done by the same company, Colorado Ice Sculptures, that does our very own Evergreen Lake for the New Year's Eve Skate the Lake event.

After the lights, we enjoyed a delicious dinner at Le Central. It was a very special holiday evening!



The lights sparkled under a glowing moon during a Dec. 8 Evergreen Audubon field trip to the Denver Botanic Gardens. Photo by Karel Buckley

FIELD TRIPS KAREL BUCKLEY

Cold Weather Bird Search

Sunday, Jan. 8, 8 am

Cold weather can bring interesting birds to the Front Range foothills. Let's head out for a first-of-the-year search. Join Bill and JoAnn Hackos at the Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride at 8 a.m. Sunday morning.

We'll head for Red Rocks, Lair o' the Bear, and any other locations that show up in the COBirds reports. Please email bill.hackos@comtech-serv.com to inquire about location and to let us know you're coming.

Winter Duck Walk

Saturday, Feb. 25, 9 am

Join Mike Foster for the third Winter Duck Walk at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge (aka Wheat Ridge Greenbelt). Previously we've seen nearly 30 species.

The Mandarin Duck was still in residence this past fall. He seems to like it here.

Exit Interstate 70 at Ward Road,

then at the bottom of the ramp turn left (south) on 44th. Turn right into the park between Robb and Quail streets. Meet by the picnic area and bathrooms.

Bring snacks and dress for the weather, but plan to have dessert at the nearby truck stop afterward. Call Mike to register: 303-456-2647.



This female Long-tailed Duck in her winter plumage is a rare bird in Colorado. Sherman Wing photographed it in Colorado Springs Dec. 12. Perhaps participants in the Winter Duck Walk field trip Feb. 25 will sight other notable species.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 8	Cold Weather Bird Search	8 am	Front Range foothills
Jan. 10	Dipper deadline	5 pm	
Jan. 13	Banquet reservation deadline		
Jan. 20	EA Annual Banquet	6 pm	Mt. Vernon Country Club
Jan. 26	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	
Feb. 4	Audubon-Sierra Club Legislative Forum	8:30 am	Denver
Feb. 25	Winter Duck Walk	9 am	Prospect Park

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

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Audubon Colorado Office, 303-415-0130, www.auduboncolorado.org

Evergreen Audubon Local Membership Application

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

Date _____

	Individual	Family	Student
Annual dues	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 10
Electronic <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Banquet Reservation Form

President's Farewell

CBC Photo Highlights

IN THIS ISSUE

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