



THE DIPPER

VOL. 44 NO. 1
JANUARY 2014

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org



Pine Siskins. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

BOARD ELECTED

Evergreen Audubon board members and directors were elected at the Dec. 5 chapter meeting.

The elected slate includes Brad Andres president; Jean Thayer, vice president; Joan Ridgely, treasurer; Lisa Wald, secretary; Kathy Madison, Communications director; Ed Furlong, Education director; Chuck Aid, Conservation director; Ann Dodson, at-large director.

The officers and directors will be installed at the Jan. 17 Annual Banquet.

TIME TO RENEW

It's membership renewal time!

You can either use the membership form on the back of this *Dipper* newsletter, or you can renew online at evergreenaudubon.org (click on "Renew your membership").

Please renew by the end of February so your membership doesn't lapse.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mammalogist to speak at banquet

David M. Armstrong, a retired University of Colorado professor, will enlighten us with the "Mammals of Jefferson County: Past, Present, and Prospects" at the Evergreen Audubon Annual Banquet on Jan. 17.

Dave will discuss how the mammals of Jefferson County are a mix of native and introduced species, that is, species that have been here "forever" and those that have arrived more recently.

Many of our mammals have been here since the recession of glaciation and several others since Euro-American settlement beginning in the 19th century. He'll talk about our dynamic fauna and what Evergreen

can expect to see in the future, particularly as species from the Southwest are able to expand "upslope."

These "mammalian weeds", as Dave calls them, will continue to expand because of climatic warming and habitat changes due to human impacts, such as fragmentation of mammal environments.

In addition to being a retired professor of ecology, evolutionary biology and environmental studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Dave is the former director of the University of Colorado Museum.

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The Bear Creek Birding Challenge

January is a somewhat slow time for birding in the mountains. To perk up your interest in birding throughout the year and to explore the wide range of habitats found throughout the Bear Creek Watershed, I am offering the "2014 Bear Creek Watershed Birding Challenge."

From Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2014, get out and record all the bird species you find in the watershed. A map of the watershed can be found on our website on the bird monitoring page. There also is a bird checklist for the watershed.

We will all trust each other on individually and correctly identifying species and for only recording species observed within the watershed boundaries.

I will collect checklists at the end of 2014 and announce the winner at our Annual Banquet in 2015. To stimulate interest in younger birders, I suggest we award high counts in youth (less than 18 years old) and adult (19-plus) categories. Good birdin'!

- Brad Andres, EA President



This is the fourth year the dapper Golden-crowned Sparrow has wintered at Red Rocks. He first showed up as an immature in the winter of 2009. See Bird Business on page 4. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

2013 OFFICERS

President	Brad Andres	303-670-0101 president@evergreenaudubon.org
Vice President	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
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Treasurer	Joan Ridgely	303-526-2250 treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org

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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

The Evergreen Audubon board of directors and I thank you for renewing your Evergreen Audubon membership for 2014. We look forward to growing programs at the Evergreen Nature Center and continuing our citizen science, education and conservation projects. Thanks again to Jean Thayer for getting the mailing together.

At the November meeting, the board unanimously agreed to renew Vanessa's contract for 2014. I am sure this comes as no surprise to those of you who worked with Vanessa at Evergreen Nature Center in 2013. We also agreed to give her a bonus for 2013 and increase her time to 70 percent in 2014. We thank you for your continued financial support that allows Evergreen Audubon and the Nature Center to grow.

While I was trying to get my thumb drive to work at our general meeting, Vanessa was having a very positive interview with Jefferson County Open Space about our Conservation Trust Fund proposal. We will report on this and other opportunities in future *Dippers*.

The communications group we discussed in past *Dippers* met in early December and is plotting ways to be more efficient and effective in our marketing of Evergreen Audubon programs and activities. Thanks to Yvonne Newman, Lisa Wald, Debbie Marshall, Kathy Madison and Vanessa Hayes for taking on this important task.

Let me know if you are interested in contributing to this team.

At the December meeting, we met the 5 percent quorum requirements to elect the slate of officers and board members, which includes Brad Andres president; Jean Thayer, vice president; Joan Ridgely, treasurer; Lisa Wald, secretary; Kathy Madison, Communications director; Ed Furlong, Education director; Chuck Aid, Conservation director; Ann Dodson, at-large director.

The officers and directors will be installed at the banquet in January. Thanks to these folks for their willingness to help direct the growth of Evergreen Audubon.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Banquet at Mount Vernon Country Club on Jan. 17. Also, we are planning the Great Backyard Bird Count Event at Hiwan Homestead Museum on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to increase awareness about birds through the GBBC. I hope you and your family can join us there as well.



Great shot of a Sharp-shinned Hawk taken by Bobby Holmes on Dec. 7 at his home near Washington Park, Denver.

EA Annual Banquet will feature mammal expert

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He is the author and co-author of several books, including "Rocky Mountain Mammals, Third Edition," "Distribution of Mammals in Colorado" and "Mammals of the Northern Great Plains." His book, "Mammals of Colorado, Second Edition," is the definitive book on the subject.

When asked for pictures associated with his talk, he said, "I'm among the world's least competent photographers, and the interesting mammals don't photograph very well anyway—sneaking around in the dark as they tend to do—so how about highlighting Audubon prints of Jeffco natives?"

EA's Annual Banquet will be Friday, Jan. 17, at Mt. Vernon Country Club.

The cash bar and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 and the program and awards at 8.

The banquet buffet menu will feature Beef Bourguignonne with Country Mashed Potatoes, Orange Mostrada Chicken with Rice Pilaf, Ziti with herbal tomato sauce, Chef's Freshest Vegetable Medley, and a cold salad bar.

Physically challenged guests may be served.

Raspberry sherbet with fresh raspberries and a chocolate chip cookie will be served for dessert.

Please fill out and return the reservation form below by Friday, Jan. 10.

Or go to the EA website to register online: www.evergreenaudubon.org/?p=4162.



Audubon Print: Grey Fox



Audubon Print: Black Footed Ferret

2014 EA Annual Banquet Reservation Form

Friday, Jan. 17, 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.

_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost is \$37 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. 10, 2014.
Mail to EA Banquet, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437-0523.*

The two most unusual local sightings in November came from Warren Roske on the 25th. That day he saw a **Northern Shrike** in a tree off the boardwalk by the Evergreen Audubon Monthly Bird Checklist at Evergreen Lake.

This shrike has only been reported at the lake in three previous years, 2007, 2009 and 2010. He had another rare sighting earlier in the month on Nov. 1, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron**.

The heron was on the little island across the road from the Lakepoint Center and was the very first reported for Evergreen Lake.

For those of you who don't know, Warren and Loie Evans patrol Evergreen Lake daily in May and September, during peak migration.

Warren hits the lake three to four times a week the rest of the year, except in winter. When temperatures drop, he only goes a couple of times a week since there is so little open water.

Warren and Loie post all of their sightings to the Evergreen Audubon Monthly Bird Checklist, which the club erected on the boardwalk many years ago.

Warren pulls the checklist at the end of each month and tabulates the results. His records go back about 10 years now.

Although others post to the board occasionally, Warren and Loie have been the primary reporters and Warren is the keeper of the data.

A little trivia: Warren and Bill Brockner had more in common than you might know. They not only shared a love of birding Evergreen Lake, they also shared the same birthdate, July 22.

Yard Birds

Snow and below-freezing temps generate lots of activity

On Dec. 6, Sherman Wing had an **Oregon Junco** at his feeder.

He reported again from his Indian Hills home on Dec. 8, "Today at Indian Hills: **Junco**—20+, **Red-winged Blackbird**—30+, starling—a dozen, **Steller's Jay**, crow, magpie, **Mountain Chickadee**, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Pygmy Nuthatch**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, flicker, **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **House Finch**, **Cassin's Finch**."

JoAnn and Bill Hackos responded that they had similar activity at their Soda Creek home:

"This weekend we have had a variety of juncos at our feeders: **White-winged** is the predominant, **Gray-headed** is second, **Pink-sided** (three), **Oregon** (one), **Cassiar** (one—looks like an Oregon but has an almost black back).

"Other than the juncos, we're much like Sherman, **Mountain Chickadee**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Pygmy Nuthatch** (lots), **House Finch**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Steller's Jay**, **Black-billed Magpie**, **Northern Flicker**."

The same day, Karel Buckley chimed in, "A huge flock of **Pine Siskins** just arrived here at my feeders—all the previously mentioned birds were here earlier."

Next, Mark Meremonte said he'd had all the mentioned birds except **Red-winged Blackbirds**, starlings and **Pine Siskins**. "The cold has especially brought the juncos into the feeders," he said.

That day, Sherman had a **Cassin's Finch**, which is not common here.

Around Dec. 10, Shirley Casey had six to eight **American Goldfinches** hanging around at the feeders most days.

Birch Hill Park

Sherman Wing and his team surveyed Birch Hill Park on Nov. 9, "Today was a fairly typical November in the foothills, with only wintering residents seen. We saw all three nuthatches, **Mountain Chickadees**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **Townsend's Solitaires**, **Red-tailed Hawks** . . . crows, magpies and ravens.



Pictured are three subspecies of juncos that are migrants and reside in Evergreen only in winter. Above, Pink-sided Junco. Photos by Marilyn Rhodes



Oregon Junco



White-winged Junco

Our bird of the day was an adult **North-ern Goshawk** soaring above us, in the thermals."

Red Rocks

Help needed feeding Trading Post birds this winter

On Dec. 1, Joe Roller posted on cobirds,

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HearthFire Books donates portion of sales to ENC

Thank you to HearthFire Books and Treats for generously donating 10 percent of all store sales to Evergreen Nature Center during Richard Fleck's book signing on Nov. 16.

On that bright, brisk Saturday afternoon, Evergreen Audubon members and neighbors cozily gathered fireside in the newly expanded HearthFire Books and Treats to hear the adventures of author Richard Fleck. Before signing his newest

feat, "Desert Rims to Mountains High," Richard shared adventures from the book and led a provoking writing practice in poetry.

He taught the form and function of amulets, his example of which you'll find below, and inspired our little group of literary enthusiasts to delve into the soothing pursuit of echoing nature with words. Perhaps the most beautiful purpose of an amulet is to illustrate the endless connectivity in nature through emphatic repetition of elements.

As a lifelong teacher and author, Richard continues to lead classes in nature writing and appreciation that exercise both mind and body. For more information on upcoming hikes, email fleck.richard3@gmail.com.

Please show your gratitude for HearthFire's generosity in person and stop by soon!

- Vanessa Hayes, ENC Director

BIRD BUSINESS

MARILYN RHODES, ASGD MASTER BIRDER

Continued from page 4

"As many of you may know, Mike Henwood has moved to the West Slope, although he still has family here and will visit the metro area often.

"Birders have stepped up to fill the feeders behind the Red Rocks Trading Post, as Mike has diligently done for years.

"If you are interested in helping, please email me. If anyone wants to pick a day of the week and plan to go every week, that would be even better. (jroller9@gmail.com)

There have been many reports from the Red Rocks Trading Post since the snow. Daily feeding has resulted in a nice variety of birds and some favorites from prior years.

There is a cat skulking in the brush behind the feeders. As Mark Chavez put it, "I try to chase it off but it doesn't take long before it returns. If the cat hasn't already, the chances are increasing that he may bring an end to the four-year run of this **Golden-crown**. Any ideas on what we can do?"

The Trading Post employees have been nice enough to let birders warm up in their building. Purchasing a beverage, snack or gift from them would be a good way to show your appreciation.

Clear Creek County

Common Redpolls

On Nov. 10, JoAnn Hackos reported, "Friends who live at about 9,500 feet have been seeing **Common Redpolls** at their feeder in Clear Creek County the last two weeks. Last year they had redpolls for several months, along with **Rosy-Finches**, **Pine Grosbeaks**, **Pine Siskins** and the normal run of high-altitude birds."

Out and About

Northern California

Carmon Slater and Donald Randall attended the third biannual meeting of the Gay Birders of North America birding group at Half Moon Bay, Calif. Thirty-six members and friends attended the three-day meeting in early October.

Of the 138 bird species identified, 41 were life birds for Donald.

Sequoia County Audubon provided leaders for the field trips inland and along the coast. The pelagic trip out on the Pacific was a great adventure with the favorite birds being the Tufted Puffin and Rhinoceros Auklet.

Ice Cave Amulet

Inside an ice cave a stream trickles
A stream trickles exposing bare stones
Bare stones crunch together with strange sounds
Strange sounds echo off rippled ceiling
Inside an ice cave a stream trickles.

- Richard F. Fleck

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Birding With Mike

"Ducks and Winter Residents"

Classes: Jan. 15 & 29 at Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden.

Field trips: Jan. 18, Feb. 1 & 15: locations TBA at first class.

In class we study slides of birds, as an aid to ID. In the field we consider ecology & conservation. \$50

www.BirdingWithMike.com
answers most of your questions.

Contact Mike:
Mike1.foster@comcast.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 10 Newsletter deadline 5 pm
 Jan. 17 EA Annual Banquet 6 pm Mt. Vernon Country Club

Save the Date:

Feb. 15 Great Backyard Bird Count Event 11 am-3 pm Hiwan Homestead

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to **Lisa Wald** at communications@evergreenaudubon.org, and *Dipper* editor **Debbie Marshall** at marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-886-0593.

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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
Annual dues	\$ 20	\$ 30
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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Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser
 Bear Creek Watershed Birding Challenge
 HearthFire Books Donation

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