



THE DIPPER

Published monthly by The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.
Member of National Audubon Society

Volume 36 Number 1 January/February 2006

Editor: Peggy Durham

Assistant Editor: Margaret McDole

Bird Boxes

It is time to think ahead to spring and the return of bluebirds! The annual bird box sale will be the first weekend in March. Also remember to clean out all established bird boxes before the prospective residents return.

February TENAS Meeting

The Thursday, Feb. 2, chapter meeting will feature a representative from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Check our website, www.dipper.org, for details.

There will not be a chapter meeting the first week of January.

TENAS Election

At the Dec. 1 TENAS meeting the 2006 Officers and Board were elected:

President

Dave Balogh

Vice President

Peggy Durham

Secretary

Carol Goldstein

Assistant Secretary

Kay Niyo

Treasurer

Walt Phillips

Board of Directors

Carolyn Fraker

Jeff Geiger

Sylvia Robertson

Tom Boschen

Brad Andres

Bud Weare

'Big Year' Author will speak at TENAS Annual Banquet

The Annual Audubon Banquet promises to be an exciting evening with Mark Obmascik as our guest speaker. Mark is the author of the book "The Big Year," which is the true story of three obsessed birders on an extreme 365-day marathon of bird watching.

These birders raced from Del Rio, Texas, to Cape May, N. J., in search of the Rufous-capped Warbler and the offshore Great Skua, bouncing from coast to coast in their attempt to set a new North American birding record.

"The Big Year" was named a best book of the year by USA Today, the Chicago Tribune, Rocky Mountain News, San Francisco Chronicle and Amazon.com. Movie rights have been acquired by DreamWorks.

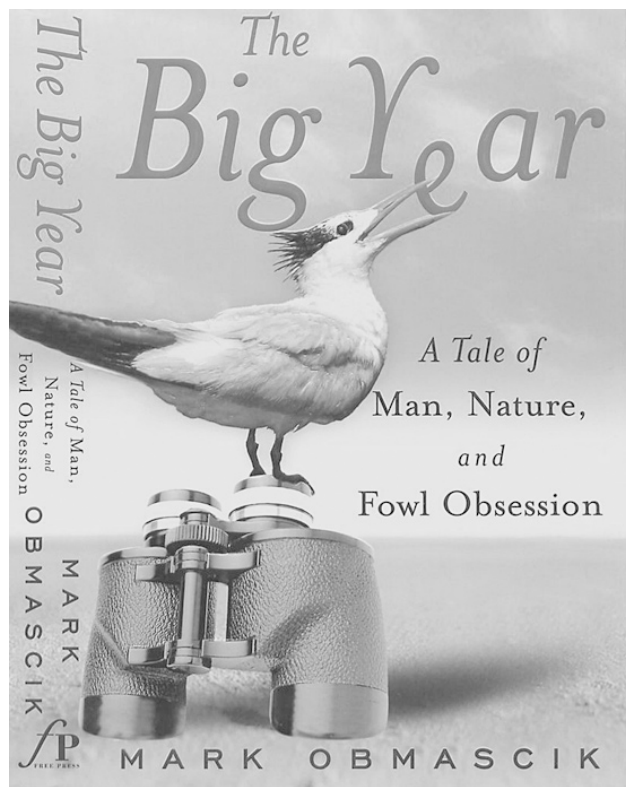
The author is a former Denver Post reporter and columnist and was the lead writer for that newspaper's Pulitzer Prizes in 2000 and 2001. An obsessed birder himself, he lives in Denver with his wife and sons.

Bill Brockner says, "You won't want to miss this program!"

Mark will not be bringing his books to sell. If you care to acquire a copy ahead of time, he will sign it that evening. (If you borrowed Bill Brockner's copy of "The Big Year," please return it to Bill.)

The Annual Banquet will be held at Mount Vernon Country Club Friday, Jan. 20. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Come early and choose from the many fine items that Irma Wolf has acquired for the silent auction. This is a fundraiser for the good of the club.

For dinner there will be a choice of Beef Stroganoff with Pasta and Vegetables, Chick-



en with Pineapple Pepper Relish and Couscous, or Eggplant Parmesan and Vegetables. All meals will be served with salad, rolls and ice cream.

The price for this outstanding evening is \$30 a person. Make your reservations now. A reservation form and map to Mount Vernon Country Club are on Page 5.

- Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715

Christmas Count

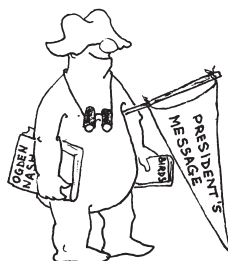
The annual Christmas Bird Count will be Sunday, Dec. 18, followed by the Tally Rally and Chili Supper.



President's Message

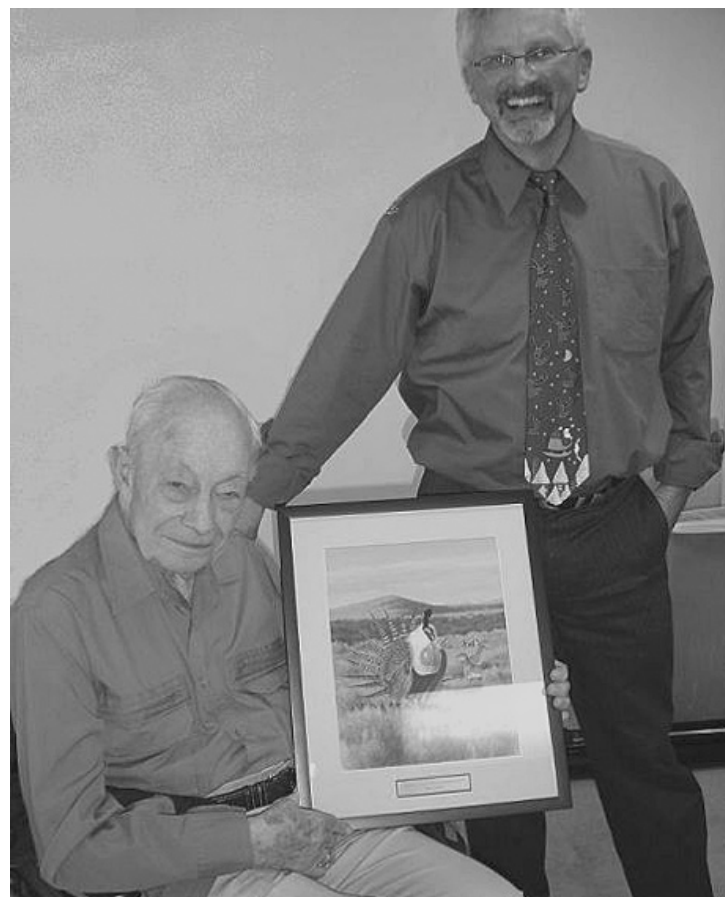
This past year I noted two anniversaries of significance to TENAS: the 100th for the National Audubon Society and the 200th for the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

Lewis & Clark documented for the first time a vast variety of plants and animals of the western United States and blazed a trail to the abundant wildlife they encountered. A century later the National Audubon Society formed to preserve and protect threatened wildlife and wild places once so bountiful.



Of historical interest is another outdoorsman, contemporary to the great explorers and a wilderness adventurer in his own right. His life's work documented in unprecedented style the birds and animals in his explorations, especially along the Mississippi and Ohio valleys.

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Bill Brockner was recognized by Audubon Colorado for his lifelong contributions to ornithology and for inspiring so many to appreciate birds and birding. A framed print of the Gunnison Sage Grouse was presented to Bill by Gary Graham, Audubon Colorado executive director, to mark this special honor during the Audubon Colorado board of directors meeting in Evergreen Dec. 3. *Photo by Dave Balogh*

VIP VOLUNTEERS

• To **Marilyn Rhodes** for organizing the Holiday Wreath Sale that helped support TENAS and at the same time brightened our homes.

• To **Peggy Durham** for the fine work she has been doing putting together the *Dipper* each month.

• To the officers and board who led TENAS in 2005: **Dave Balogh, Peggy Durham, Margaret McDole, Kay Niyo, Tom Boschen, Carolyn Fraker, Jeff Geiger, Sylvia Robertson, Mel Schulman, Cathy Shelton and Bud Weare.**

2005 Officers

President	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Vice President	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
Secretary	Carol Goldstein	303-567-2720
Assistant Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
Treasurer	Walt Phillips	303-674-7744

Board of Directors

Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Tom Boschen	303-674-3438
Carolyn Fraker	303-679-2799
Jeff Geiger	303-674-4595
Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715
Bud Weare	303-679-8889

Committee Chairs

Audubon Colo. Rep.	Mel Schulman	303-838-4704
	Mel.schulman@mistyeagle.net	
Bird Business	Bill Brockner	303-674-4851
Birds in Balance	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@earthlink.net	
Conservation	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610
	catshelton@att.net	
Dipper Editor	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
	peggydurham@earthlink.net	
Education	OPEN	
Field Trips	Mike Foster	303-456-2647
	mike1.foster@comcast.net	
Hospitality	Carolyn Fraker	303-679-2799
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@earthlink.net	
Program	Karen Wiley	303-526-2868
	wastle@billastle.com	
Publicity	Press: Carolyn Fraker	303-679-2799
	cookiefraker@netscape.net	
	Phone info: Karel Buckley	
Ways & Means	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402
	irmasonny@aol.com	
Webmaster	Natasha Currin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	



President's Message

Continued from 2

With such passion, dedication and monumental works of art, John James Audubon inspired many who came after him, including those who realized the need to stop the outrageous destruction of birds. It was no wonder then that the organization named itself the Audubon Society.

TENAS has been a chapter for a third of the century of National Audubon Society's existence. I believe this is fundamentally a good relationship based on common goals of the conservation ethic.

Although there have been conflicts and some continuing disagreements between local chapters and national, there also has been a major effort by NAS to respond to the concerns and needs of the chapters.

In a meeting at the Audubon Center at Chatfield in July, John Flicker, NAS president, assured us of his sincerity and dedication to working with and supporting local chapters. A strong indication of this is the establishment three years ago of Audubon Colorado, our main link to, and a new milestone for, NAS.

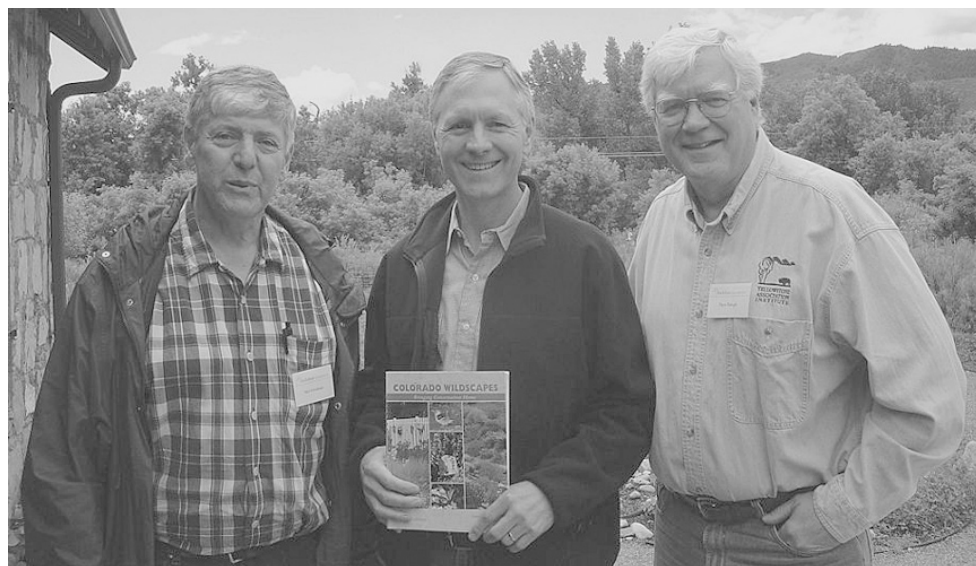
With this historical perspective it is only fitting to report on one of the last events in TENAS activities for the year 2005: hosting the Audubon Colorado State Board Meeting.

The meeting was held in Evergreen despite near-blizzard conditions that caused some delays, but all but one chapter (Grand Junction) made it to Evergreen. Gary Graham, AC executive director, reported revenues for the year were \$28,000 greater than projected and expenses on budget.

This is an important accomplishment, attesting to Gary's ability to find the support for the ambitious long-range plans of AC.

In this regard he presented a detailed business plan for the Audubon Center for Conservation Careers being developed with Commerce City and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is a multimillion-dollar under-



National Audubon Society President John Flicker, center, holds a copy of "Colorado Wildscapes," a guide to landscaping for the benefit of birds and other wildlife. With him at the Audubon Center at Chatfield in July are Mel Schulman, left, and Dave Balogh. Photo by Dave Balogh

taking involving corporate, educational, governmental and non-governmental partners and alliances. The main goal is "to inspire greater interest and participation in conservation and science by children from inner-city and other underserved communities."

This will be a program of conservation career development directed to these children. Additionally, the educational and outdoor experiences that will be offered to the public will enhance appreciation and understanding of our natural heritage.

Ultimately, this should bring increased support for environmental causes from ethnic minorities that are 75 percent of the population to be served by the center.

Ken Strom, director of Bird Conservation and Public Policy, reported that the Important Bird Areas program will include four to six new nominations and that five IBAs have been adopted by Colorado chapters. That includes Bear Creek, which TENAS adopted this year.

Kent Simon of TENAS presented an overview of the Birds in the Balance project that has been ongoing for 10 years along Bear Creek. This work had

more than satisfied the requirements for adoption as an IBA and could serve as a model for other chapters to follow for their IBAs.

(Benefits TENAS has received from the IBA program include financial grants for a GPS device and for part of the cost of the spotting scope that TENAS placed at Evergreen Lake.)

The highlight of the AC board meeting from my perspective was the recognition of Bill Brockner by Audubon Colorado for his contributions to ornithology epitomized by his detailed record-keeping of bird sightings going back to the 1920s.

Gary Graham praised Bill for serving as an inspiration to generations of future birders and conservationists. I can vouch for that. Congratulations, Mr. Brockner!

The honoring of Bill is one of many events that made 2005 a very special year for TENAS. Another that stands out in my mind was the memorial dedication of the spotting scope at Evergreen Lake last May.

Additionally, the year was made special by many other events:

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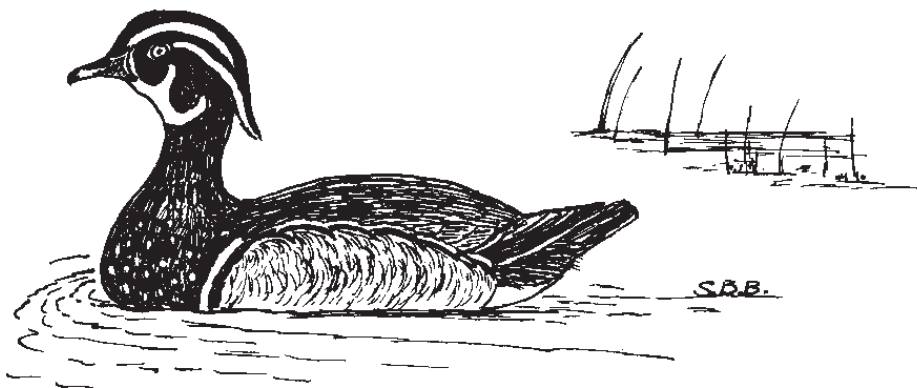
Bird Business

November was an outstanding fall month around Evergreen. Indian summer lingered for many days and we all loved it. Large flocks of ducks, geese and swans lingered later than usual north of Colorado. Thus Evergreen Lake did not have many birds landing on it this autumn.

On Nov. 11, Loie Evans found a handsome male Wood Duck on Evergreen Lake. This was a stunning sight. Wood Ducks nest in Jefferson County. I have seen nests along Clear Creek. Yes, this duck nests in trees.

Else Van Erp watched an Osprey over her house near Conifer on Nov. 11. This was an interesting observation for the location. During migration Ospreys like to fly cross-country no matter where it takes them.

Surprising to Sylvia and me was a hungry Cooper's Hawk devouring a Dark-eyed Junco in our yard on Nov. 17. It was on the ground under a lilac bush. He must have been very hungry. We sat about 15 feet from him. This sure was a golden opportunity to study this interesting accipiter.



Wood Duck

On Thanksgiving Day, Warren Roske led club members on a successful Wild Turkey chase. He found 15 Wild Turkeys and we all enjoyed looking at them. THANK YOU, WARREN.

Dawson Swan phoned on Nov. 28 and reported about 1,000 Red-winged Blackbirds flocking near Centaur Ranch. This flock may spend the winter here. Watch for them on Christmas Count Day.

I am looking forward to a good

Christmas Bird Count this year. What will be the best bird?

Kay Niyo enjoyed a great birding trip to Mexico in November. Outstanding was a pelagic trip that produced some shearwaters including the Audubon's. She also took an outstanding photograph of a Red-billed Tropicbird.

Start the year out right! Go birding and start a new list of birds seen for 2006.

HAPPY BIRDING!

- Bill Brockner

President's Message

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- Co-sponsoring the Harvest Hike for preservation of the Beaver Brook Watershed,
- The restoration of Bear Creek at O'Fallon Park that TENAS supported,
- Spectacular programs at our General Meetings that drew some record crowds,
- A terrific BIB celebration at the Lake House,
- Weed Day with eager volunteers making Adopt-a-Plot a success in the battle against noxious weeds,
- A vital field-trip program appealing to broad interests,
- Record sales of TENAS bird boxes,
- Doubling local membership renewals,
- A successful TENAS Garage Sale even after relocation far from its long-standing site.

These events and the ongoing business of TENAS, such as publishing the *Dipper*, could only happen with dedicated volunteers.

I thank you all. I am especially grateful to the officers, directors and committee chairs for their commitment to TENAS.

In fact, the support of all of you

has made my job as president enjoyable and relatively easy, so much so that, with only slight coaxing by Bill, I agreed to do it again.

I look forward to being part of another successful year in the outstanding history of The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society.

- Dave Balogh



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Banquet Map and Registration Form

Here's My Reservation for the Banquet

Names: (print first and last names clearly
for each guest attending)

Entree Choice—check one for each guest

Beef

Chicken

Vegetarian

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ Cost is \$30 per person. Make check payable to TENAS Banquet.

Interested in carpooling? ☐ No ☐ Yes, ☐ Need ride ☐ Can provide transportation

Phone: _____ Address: _____
v

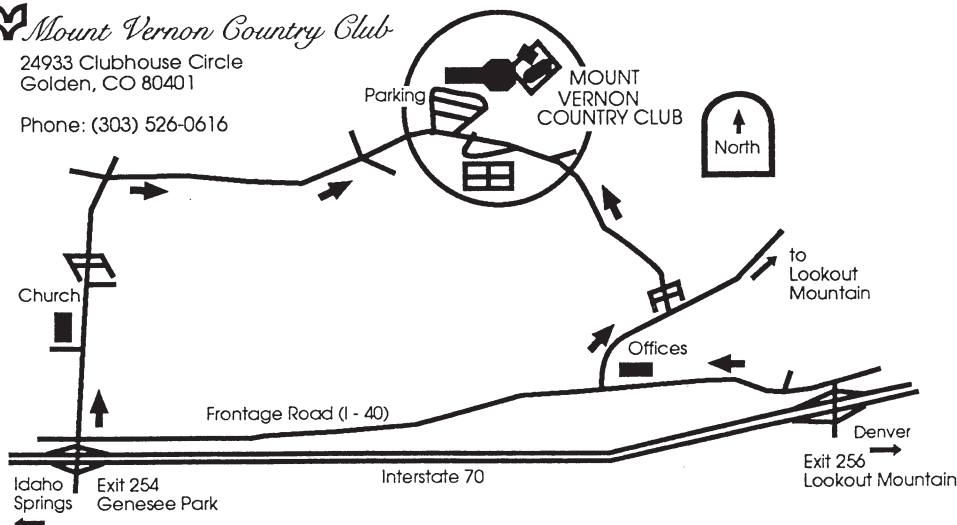
Reservations must be received by Friday, January 13—Mail to:

TENAS BANQUET, P.O. BOX 523, EVERGREEN, CO 80437-0523



24933 Clubhouse Circle
Golden, CO 80401

Phone: (303) 526-0616



**The Annual Banquet will be held at Mount Vernon
Country Club Friday, Jan. 20.**

**Please fill out and return the registration form above
by Friday, Jan. 13.**

Member Report

We thank the new and renewing
TENAS local members for their support.

NEW

Kathleen Kuehn—Evergreen

NEW FAMILY

Carolyn Fraker & Dave Balogh—
Evergreen

Ted & Connie Ning—Evergreen

RENEWING

Ruth Alford—Evergreen

Julia Bermann—Evergreen

Terry Pasqua—Evergreen

Kent Simon—Evergreen

Sandy Sykes—Golden

Sonny & Irma Wolf—Evergreen

RENEWING FAMILY

Kristi & Don Desfosses—Evergreen

Lori, Eric & Pearl Hogan—Evergreen

Sylvia & Bob Robertson—Evergreen



Avian Influenza and Wild Birds

Avian influenza (aka “bird flu,” but should be known as “poultry flu”) is now a daily topic for radio, newspaper and television reporters. Although several types of influenza are constantly circulating among birds, humans and pigs, the current H5N1 outbreak in Asia is much more virulent than our normal winter cold-causing flu.

Risk of contracting H5N1 is greatest among poultry flocks that are highly concentrated. Husbandry methods in Asia, where flocks of ducks and chickens are allowed to mingle with wild birds, may expose wild birds, especially aquatic species, to the H5N1 virus.

The virus is deposited into the environment through the feces of infected domestic birds and can persist there for three weeks. The H5N1 virus has been detected in 40 species of herons, gulls, waterfowl and shorebirds.

In May 2005, 6,000 migratory birds died of H5N1 infection at Qinghai Lake Nature Reserve in China; evidence suggests that the wild birds on Qinghai Lake were infected by transported poultry.

This incident raised concern by U.S.

health officials that Alaska-breeding migratory birds wintering in Asia could transport the virus to North America.

In spite of more than 12,000 samples, H5N1 has not yet been detected in Alaska’s migratory birds. The H5N1 virus also could be transported to North America through international trade in poultry, poultry products and equipment, and smuggling of illegal pet birds.

Those of us who watch and feed birds are not in immediate danger from poultry flu. As an example, my wife and I just returned from a birding trip to Taiwan.

As of Dec. 7, poultry flu has been reported in 135 humans (all in Asia) and has caused 69 deaths. Although there is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission, the ability of viruses to undergo frequent recombination increases the future risk of transmission among humans.

Coupled with the lack of human immunity to the H5N1 virus, some health officials believe this could result in a pandemic. The actual risk of an unknown virus is difficult to predict, and some scientists believe the potential effects of

avian flu on human health are exaggerated.

Nonetheless, the Department of Interior is continuing the surveillance of wild birds throughout the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has banned the importation of birds from a number of Asian countries and is developing outreach materials on biosecurity for U. S. poultry producers.

Although culling of domestic flocks has occurred as a control measure in Asia, culling of wild birds in the United States has not been considered as a reasonable response.

Development of vaccines, preparation of emergency response plans and increased wild and domestic bird surveillance are the main features of a \$7.1 billion funding package currently being considered by the U. S. Congress.

To access further information on the H5N1 virus, see the portal website developed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Division of Migratory Bird Management: www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/AvianFlu/WBAvianFlu.htm).

- Brad A. Andres

TENAS Membership Options

Memberships in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society and National Audubon Society are separate. Membership dues paid to TENAS remain local, supporting chapter activities, while dues paid to NAS are used at the national level.

All memberships, both TENAS and NAS, receive *The Dipper* newsletter and have all the benefits of participating in chapter activities including at least one vote. You do not receive the Audubon Magazine with a local membership, but do receive the magazine with a NAS membership.

TENAS has three categories of local membership: Individual (\$20), Family (\$30) and Student (\$10). Many households have more than one person actively involved in the local chapter; Family

Membership recognizes this additional participation and allows for an additional vote. Use the application in *The Dipper* for local memberships.

You may receive a variety of NAS membership offers with differing dues amounts and premiums from their Membership Data Center in Boulder. NAS dues apply to NAS membership only.

If you send donations in support of conservation efforts to the NAS New York address, you also receive a year’s NAS membership. To join NAS directly, use applications from the magazine or call 1-800-274-4201.

Your *Dipper* mailing label shows your renewal dates for NAS and TENAS memberships.



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Wildlife Conservation Center in Peril

The Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center is facing severe cuts due to the lack of donations and the fact that the owner has been injured. This article describes the sanctuary, its dilemma and the experiences of Juli Bermann, an Audubon member, and her daughter, Ginny Sycuro.

In case you are not familiar with the sanctuary, I will give you a very brief outline of what it is and what the person who runs it is all about.

The sanctuary is the life and work of Pat Craig. He started this non-profit to provide a home for wildlife that were mistreated and handled by people who mistakenly believed that a tiger, leopard, lion, bear or other wild animal could be a good pet.

Pat and the sanctuary now house more than 170 wild animals that have been mistreated, starved, abandoned or bred while in the hands of humans. It is amazing to us that people can be so cruel to any of these creatures.

The sanctuary is open to the public and

is truly a magical place. To see Bengal tigers in large, open enclosures lying in the Colorado sun is a wonderment. To see the lone camel standing majestically in the field, or the bears getting ready for hibernation by gorging themselves, is incredible.

We have been to the sanctuary several times (it's just a one-hour drive or less from Evergreen), and each time we are enthralled by the majesty of the creatures there.

Please think about visiting when you can—it will be a wonderful experience for the young and the young at heart. This is not a zoo or a carnival, but a home for these creatures.

Sadly, the sanctuary is facing a financial crisis. Pat, who is a big, strong man and who built many of the fences and the enclosures himself, was badly hurt during construction and is recovering from a 2,000-pound slab of concrete falling on him.

While Pat is recovering, my mother and I have taken it upon ourselves to request help from you. Please pass the word about

the sanctuary and please visit to see what work is being carried out there. I know there are international visitors who have heard of this place, but the sanctuary needs more local involvement and your donations!

We can't imagine feeding all those tigers and lions; it must cost a fortune. There are many charities requesting help right now and they are all worthy. But please consider this charity for animals. Go to learn their stories and see where they live.

Please visit their website, www.wildlife-sanctuary.org/, and consider donating to the sanctuary. Or call the sanctuary for directions, 303-536-0118. We will happily answer any of your questions or accompany you on a visit!

Mildred Keiser, longtime resident and supporter of wildlife in Evergreen, introduced us to this wonderful wildlife sanctuary. Many thanks.

- Ginny Sycuro and Juli Bermann
303-679-9041

Field Trips and Outings

Sunday, Jan. 22

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

Saturday, Jan. 28

South Platte River at 88th Ave.

Leader: Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646

Sunday, Feb. 19

Guanella Pass

Leader: Kent Simon, 303-674-3017

Saturday, Feb. 25

Chatfield Recreation Area

Leader: Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780

The ducks will be here in their bright breeding plumage, as well as a number of winter residents. This is as good a place as any to find birds during the cold months. We may find the resident Screech Owl. Meet at Wild Bird Center (Youngfield exit of I-70) at 8 a.m.

This has been a spectacular winter site for ducks. We might see Barrow's Goldeneye, possibly a scoter, almost certainly mergansers, including the gorgeous Hooded Mergansers. Easy walking on paved trail. Bring binocs, a scope if you have it, a snack and water. We'll finish up by noon. Dress for the weather. Plan to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bergen Park Park 'n Ride lot and carpool to the site, which is just west of I-76. Call Kay by Thursday, Jan. 26, to sign up.

This trip takes us to timberline looking for Ptarmigans and may include Pine Grosbeaks and crossbills at lower elevations. Dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars, snacks, camera and warm boots. Snowshoes or skis are great for exploring the willow habitat on Guanella Pass. Meet at the Bergen Park Park 'n Ride lot at 8 a.m. We'll lunch in Georgetown on the way home. Call Kent to confirm your spot on this annual favorite.

We'll look for wintering raptors and waterfowl. We may find Rosy Finches at the model airplane field. Half-day trip. Bring a scope if you have one, plus warm drink and snack. Meet at 8 a.m. at the southeast parking lot at the Morrison exit off I-70; carpool from there.

Always call the leader on the Thursday before the trip to confirm arrangements!

Calendar

January 20	Annual Audubon Banquet
January 22	Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Trip
January 28	South Platte River Trip
February 2	Chapter Meeting
February 19	Guanella Pass Trip
February 25	Chatfield Recreation Area Trip

Monthly Meetings (except January)

Evergreen Rec Center, 5300 S. Olive Road, 7 p.m.

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
TENAS Information/Hotline 303-679-0661
TENAS website www.dipper.org

*The **Dipper** deadline for the
 March issue is Thursday, Feb. 2*

*Submit articles to:
 Peggy Durham, peggydurham@earthlink.net
 and Margaret McDole, mem2@earthlink.net*

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society

Local Membership Application

Please enroll me/us in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive The Dipper newsletter, and vote (both Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain local.

☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Family (\$30) ☐ Student (\$10)

I have included an additional donation of _____

Name _____ Family member _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

(optional) (optional)

☐ I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

Enclosed is my check payable to TENAS

P.O. Box 523

Evergreen, CO 80437

If you have any questions about TENAS, please call our Information Hotline, 303-679-0661. If you would like to join or donate to National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, please call 1-800-274-4201.

VOLUME 36, NO. 1. *The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes The Dipper every month but August and October.* The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members automatically receive *The Dipper*. Annual subscription for non-members is \$10. TENAS 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. ***Dipper design and layout by Marshall Desktop Publishing***

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

- Wildlife Sanctuary
- Avian Flu
- Annual Banquet

In This Issue

Time Dated Material

Evergreen, CO 80437

P.O. Box 523

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

THE DIPPER

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