

THE DIPPER Published by The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

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

Volume 39 Number 1 January/February 2009

Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

New Officers

The 2009 officers were elected at the Dec. 4 meeting:

President, Peggy Durham; **Vice President,** Brad Andres; **Treasurer,** Doug Kieswetter; **Secretary,** Kay Niyo; **Assistant Secretary,** Marilyn Kaussner.

Directors: Heather Johnson, Cheryl Manning, Mark Meremonte, Marge Peterson, Sylvia Robertson, David Wald.

Next Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be Feb. 5.

Cancellations

If we have to cancel a meeting, we will try to reach people primarily by e-mail. It is important that Kent Simon, our membership chair, and Peggy Durham have your current and correct e-mail address in order to notify you a few hours before the meeting.

Please e-mail us at president@dipper.org and ksimonbib@comcast.net.

Bird Boxes

It's not too early to think about spring and the return of bluebirds! The annual bird box sale is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in March. Also remember to clean out all established bird boxes before the resident birds return.

Memorial for Bill Brockner

Anyone who knew Bill Brockner may remember their first meeting—whether it was a booming, "What a glorious spring morning!" phone greeting, or hearing, "Isn't this a wonderful day," if you caught him during an early morning bird count at Evergreen Lake.

A celebration of his life Dec. 6 at the Evergreen Lake House only confirmed what people loved about him.

As artist Laura Mehmert said, "He was an example of a life well lived."

Someone guessed there were 400 people at the Lake House to remember and honor Bill Brockner, born Winston William "Bill" Brockner in 1915.

His wife, Sylvia, a cohort for 68 years, sat with her sisters, niece and a 5-year-old grandnephew at a table near the podium, soaking in the comments, sharing the memories and a few tears.

Someone commented on Bill's life list–a meticulous one–that included 754 birds.

Pastor Vera Guebert-Stewart quoted *Eccle-siastes*: "The tearful truth of our own goodbyes." She said, "Sylvia and Bill worshiped in the cathedral of the pines; now he is no longer dragging his leg, he is free a man of peace and joy."



The U.S. Army Honor Guard presents the American flag to Sylvia Brockner. Photo by Mark Meremonte

As founders of the The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, the Brockners crafted a following of friends and members that now number 550.

Current president Peggy Durham said a bench had been approved to be placed some-*Continued on Page 3*

Wildlife Photos to Highlight Banquet

Expert wildlife photographers Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski will be the keynote speakers for The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society annual banquet.

They will share with us a kaleidoscope of beautiful birds and wildlife of the West, and the amazing landscapes both these wildlife species and ourselves call home. Through this photographic journey Wendy and Bob will share with us a range of ecosystems, as well as documentation of the changing world we live in.

Changes in nature have been the rule for eons. Wendy and Bob will demonstrate how

they have used photography as a wonderful medium to bring environmental issues to public awareness.

They will share their conservation approach, through their photography, to provide a base of information, resulting in intelligent decisions about how to live in harmony in our changing world.

They learned very early in their photographic careers that the best way to influence people about nature and the environment is to tell a story using evocative photographs.

Bob was a photojournalist for Associated Continued on Page 5



President's Message

A Tribute to Bill Brockner

These remarks were made at Bill Brockner's memorial service Dec. 6.

It has been my privilege to know Bill for the six years I have lived in Evergreen. I think I speak for all Audubon members and others who share this feeling. Bill and Sylvia were among the first people I heard about and knew I wanted to meet.

Bill has been an Audubon leader, a renowned birder, an inspiring teacher, a mentor to many and a dear friend to countless people fortunate enough to have been in his circle.

He and Sylvia were founders of Evergreen Audubon (known as TENAS) 40 years ago. The group now has more than 550 members, a record to be proud of.

Bill lived to see the opening and the conclusion of the successful first year of our newly established Evergreen Nature

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D 11 /	2008 Officers	202 674 2642
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Bear Creek Atlas	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Bird Business	Bill Brockner	303-674-4851
Conservation	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
	conservation@dipper.org	
Dipper Editor	Margaret McDole	303-679-1779
	editor@dipper.org	
Education	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Field Trips	Mike Foster	303-456-2647
-	Mike1.foster@comcast.net	
Hospitality	Marge Petersen	303-670-4310
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
ksimonbib@comcast.net		
Nature Center	Michael Stills	303-921-1936
Program	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101
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Way & Means	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402
·	irmasonny@aol.com	
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610
	sheltonpublicaddress@hotn	nail.com
Webmaster	Natasha Currlin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	
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Center at the lake. His leadership was crucial for establishing the dream and the reality of our nature center.

With respect to TENAS, he was a driving force from day one until the end. Birders never tired of telling Bill about the latest spring arrivals, the last hummer seen in Evergreen in September or some off-course migrant.

Bill's interest and enthusiasm never flagged. At any Audubon meeting, Bill usually held court; the line of people formed, waiting to talk to or meet him. He inspired many of us to watch for birds in our yards, on field trips, and worst of all, while driving.

Many of you have been to Dawn Chorus, the first Sunday morning in May. Sometimes the weather is springlike, sometimes we trudge through 12 inches of snow as first light breaks over the surrounding mountains and lights up the lake.

Rain or shine, snow or mud, Bill was there on the boardwalk, listening for the Sora, even in his wheelchair, bundled in blankets. *Continued on Page 4*



• To **Brad Andres** for putting on the quiz program in preparation for the Christmas Bird Count. Brad showed 40 slides of birds, taken by **Kay Niyo**, we are likely to see at the CBC. As he showed each slide, each person in the audience had to write down what he or she thought the bird was, sometimes the subspecies or sex. Then we ran through the slides again, with Brad revealing the right answers. Mercifully, we did not have to keep score or hand in the quiz sheets.

• To **Warren Roske** for organizing the Turkey Trot and selecting the perfect spot. And to **Marge Petersen** for hosting the Turkey Trot. Right on schedule, 25 turkeys flopped off their roosts and we were able to view them from outside and from the comfort of her living room. Those of us lucky enough to be there understood why we say "trot." The birds, with plenty of food on the ground, trotted after each other, intimidating others from their particular feeding spots.

• Thanks to **Marilyn Kaussner** and **Sylvia Robertson**, who installed the items in the library display case for November. And then to **Sylvia** who helped clear the case for the next group.

• To **Marilyn Rhodes** for taking charge of the holiday wreath sale. She publicized the sale, took the orders, handled the money and distributed the wreaths.

• To Marilyn Kaussner, Polly Phillips, Sylvia Robertson and Michael Stills for addressing thank-you notes. And to Lisa Wald for making the cards.



Evergreen Nature Center: The Big Year!

Join us for the February meeting when Michael Stills, executive director of the Evergreen Nature Center, will give a PowerPoint presentation on the ENC's first year of operation.

Michael will share the journey from opening on Earth Day to boxing up the nature center for the winter. He will share stories from volunteers and visitors, discuss the numbers from visitation to gift sales and talk about what this may all mean for the future.

Why is the Mountain Lion called Heather and how did she get here? What is Moon Sand? What is the story on the swallows that died? How many visitors and volunteers did we have?

What's for sale at the Gift Store? What programs did we offer? How come we did not use the whole building? These are just some of the many questions people want answers for. Come learn, share your stories and ask questions.

Just in time for the spring thaw, Michael also will talk about the needs for the next year and beyond and how you can help make the nature center a solid fixture in our community.

Items from the Evergreen Nature Center gift store will be available for purchase as well.

The Thursday, Feb. 5, meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across the highway from Evergreen Library) in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.



Sylvia and Bill Brockner enjoy the opening of the Nature Center. Photo by Heather Johnson

Winston William "Bill" Brockner

Bill Brockner, a longtime Evergreen resident and cofounder of The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, died of natural causes at age 93 on Nov. 19.

Brockner was born July 22, 1915, in Buffalo, N.Y. He married Sylvia Booth in Buffalo after meeting her at the Buffalo Museum of Science, where she was working. He served in the Army in North Africa and Italy during World War II from 1943 to 1945.

As a child, Brockner was a frequent visitor at the museum, where he first saw a mounted specimen of the extremely rare and sought-after Ivory-billed Woodpecker. That encounter spurred a lifelong passion for birding and many expeditions to bird habitats.

His life list of bird sightings reached 754, in the top 100 in American Birding Association ranks.

Bill and Sylvia moved to Evergreen in 1965 after Bill was transferred to Denver, where he worked for General Motors as an accountant. The couple founded TENAS in 1968 and Brockner wrote a bird column for the group's monthly newsletter, *The Dipper*. For many years, Brockner recorded the daily bird counts at Evergreen Lake. Sylvia Brockner has been writing a weekly nature column for the Canyon Courier since 1972.

Brockner was a member of Troop 1 of the American Legion in Buffalo for 60 years. He was a life member of the Evergreen Kiwanis and a charter member of the Elks Lodge of Amherst, N.Y.

Winston was a charter member of the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York and a strong believer in nature preserves. He joined NSSWNY when it was formed by Professor Alexander to save the Concord Bog, which later became a sanctuary through his efforts.

He was a member of the American Birding Association, cofounder and president of the New York Federation of Bird Clubs, member of The Nature Conservancy, Hawk Mountain Association and the American Ornithological Union.

He was president of the Buffalo Ornithological Society in 1949 and president of Conservation Forum of Western New York.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia; a sister, Jacqueline Crowder; and nephews David Brockner and Mark Brockner.

Memorial for Bill Brockner

Continued from Page 1

where around Evergreen Lake in honor of Brockner.

According to his niece, who remembered a childhood visit to "Uncle Win and Aunt Syl's" home in Evergreen, he rose in the morning, slapped his knee and said with typical exuberance, "Let's go for a ride," before loading the family into the car for a trip to Mt. Evans. Memories were plentiful and charming and fun at the celebration, during which one friend said, "An old birder never dies, he just finishes his life list."

To contribute to the Bill Brockner Memorial Park Bench fund, make donations marked Brockner Bench payable to TENAS, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437.

- Karen Groves, YourHub.com



Bird Business

Bill would have been excited to hear about these bird sightings around Indian Hills and Mt. Falcon in early December. Here are a few highlights:

 Northern Shrike at Lane Ranch estate.

 Townsend's Solitaire-perhaps as many as 50 throughout Mt. Falcon, calling and also warbling their songs.

• Robins-more than 50, with one flock of more than 30 birds.

• Redwing Blackbirds-30-plus in Reed's Pond (a couple of Song Sparrows there too).

• Scrub Jays-3 sighted on the Parmalee Trail (lots of Stellar's, of course).

Membership

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

New

Roxanne Herzog- Conifer Dick Prickett–Evergreen **New Family** Walter & Susan Blake-Evergreen Debbie & Don Marshall-Evergreen Renewing Ginny Ades-Evergreen Mary Arris-Evergreen Mike Foster-Lakewood Charlie Ganse-Evergreen Kathie Kuehn–Evergreen Ellen Leak-Golden Marge Petersen-Evergreen Bob Santangelo-Wheat Ridge Jane Stewart-Kittredge **Renewing Family** Carolyn Fraker & Dave Balogh-Evergreen Tom & Ginny Boschen-Evergreen Chris & Kim Etcheson-Evergreen Greg Scott & Betsy Kelson-Evergreen Peter & Lucille Link-Evergreen David & Betty Rainey–Buffalo Creek Tim & Marilyn Stechert-Evergreen Michael, Tracey, & Megan Stills-Evergreen Caroline & Ingrid von Kleydorff-Evergreen

Other birds seen here recently:

- Brown Creepers
- · Red-tailed Hawk
- Juncos–all subspecies
- Corvids-yeah, they're all here
- American Goldfinch
- Pine Siskins

· Nuthatches-though the Red-breasted takes some hunting to find/hear

• Chickadees-both

• Woodpeckers–3 species (saw 4 Hairy Woodpeckers at Mt. Falcon) - Sherman Wing

TENAS members Donald Randall and Carmon Slater completed a threeweek birding tour of four locations in eastern Australia in October. More than 333 species of birds were identified, along with many other animals and plants.

We trekked through sweaty rainforests and snorkeled on the Great Barrier Reef in the north, explored national parks, took a pelagic trip on the Tasman Sea and finally froze in the mountains and on the beaches of the south.

We took time out to attend a performance of the opera "Billy Budd" at the Sydney Opera House. Overall, it was a wonderful once-in-a-lifetime experience.

- Donald Randall and Carmon Slater

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

The Evergreen Park and Recreation District executive director, John Skeel, has approved the installation of a bench in Bill's memory at the lake, either near the Evergreen Nature Center or on the boardwalk, so future birders can scan the lake in comfort, sharing Bill's pleasure of birding there.

Many years ago, I read an article about the benefits of a positive attitude, one of the things in life over which we may have some control. And yesterday's paper cited a study confirming that a cheerful outlook was healthy to self, and contagious and beneficial to others.

I was reminded of these thoughts when thinking of Bill's unfailingly cheerful attitude. His standard reply to the question, "How are you?", even in our last conversation, was, "Not bad for an old bag."

I never heard him complain about anything. His admirable attitude was exemplified by his courage and good cheer even as his physical powers declined. He was always glad to see another visitor, even my dog who jumped right into Bill's lap to deliver a doggie kiss.

Bill's lifelong focus on birds, his ability and willingness to share his passion, have inspired countless others to be cognizant of the gifts flying, swimming and nesting around us or just passing through. He opened our eyes to the world he loved.

His contributions to us, to the community and to birders near and far form a lasting legacy. His kindness, knowledge, passion and love of life make our world a better place.

- Peggy Durham



Local & Independent





TENAS Annual Banquet is Jan. 16

Continued from Page 1

Press and United Press International. Wendy's background was scientific illustration, creating images in support of the sciences–particularly anthropology, archaeology, geology and zoology.

Their work demanded extensive knowledge, with relevance to surroundings, and the ability to capture a scene quickly and thoroughly. When Bob and Wendy teamed together in 1981, their mutual love of nature soon evolved into a drive to bring visibility to threatened and endangered species through a photojournalistic approach.

Bob and Wendy take to heart the philosophy, "Think globally, act locally." For 29 years they have done outreach and education through their photography and books, with a focus on North American wildlife.

They have worked on assignments outside the country, but their specialty is

to document subjects they can get to know intimately, and no photographer has done a more thorough job in Colorado than this team.

Wendy was the first woman awarded grand prize in the prestigious worldwide Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition conducted by the BBC in England. The team has received the Conservationists of the Year and Business of the Year awards from the Colorado Wildlife Federation and they were appointed research associates for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

They are recipients of the Philip Hyde Grant for environmental photography



Photographers Bob Rozinski and Wendy Shattil will be guest speakers at the annual banquet.

and Denver Audubon's Environmental Stewardship Award. They are members of the International League of Conserva-*Continued on Page 6*

	Here's My Reservation for the Banquet
Names: (Pr	int first and last names clearly for each guest attending.)
	ntry Club will plate meals for any guests who prefer to be served at their table. I request that my meal be served I need a ride to the banquet
Name:	Phone:
Make chec	Cost is \$35 per person. Enclosed is my check for \$ k payable to TENAS Banquet. Payment <u>must</u> be included with your reservation.
<u>R</u>	<u>eservations must be received by Friday, January 9, 2009 – Mail to:</u>
	TENAS Banquet, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437-0523



Join the Great Backyard Bird Count!

Everybody knows about the Christmas Bird Count, but did you know that every year something called the Great Backyard Bird Count takes place?

During the GBBC, birdwatchers (or anyone else who wants to) can watch and record the birds spotted all around their house. This bird count takes place all around the country, from the Florida coast to the Alaskan Aleutians, and tens of thousands of people participate.

After tallying all of their birds, participants go online to the GBBC website and log in all of the birds that they've seen.

When all of the data has been logged onto the site, the administrator will put all the counts together to make one big count; from there anyone can log onto the website to see how the population of birds has gone up or down. Last year, 85,000 checklists were contributed!

I have been participating in the count for five years, and still love to do it. I have four feeders on my back deck, two of which are suspended on an elkproof wire; the other two are just on feeder stands. All in all, the birds love the spot, and I have observed more than 15 species each year.

Inside the house, I have a special spot where I can see all of the feeders-it

has got to be the greatest spot in the house! I'll sit with a spotting scope next to me, and binoculars in my hands, seeing all of the birds that pass by.

In 2009, the count will go on Feb. 13-16. To participate, start by planning when you want to count during those days. You have to count once for at least 15 minutes, but



Aaron Wald demonstrates that this bird count can take place in the comfort of your home. *Photo by Lisa Wald*

more counting is always better.

When you are counting, you can't just count the total number of birds you see: You have to count the maximum number of birds of a species seen at one time. Once all of the counting is done, go online to birdsource.org/ GBBC to log how long you counted and of course the birds that were seen.

Have fun, and good luck on the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count!

- Aaron Wald

Banquet Reservations Due Jan. 9

Continued from Page 5

tion Photographers and have twice been Artists in Residence at Rocky Mountain National Park.

They are grand-prize winners in the Texas Valley Land Fund \$100,000 photo contest and first-prize winners in the NATURE'S BEST magazine international photography competition.

Wendy and Bob's 12 books include "Born Wild in Colorado" and "Valley of the Dunes," named Best Photography Book of 2005 by USA Books, along with a Colorado Book Award finalist, "On the Trail of Colorado Critters."

Other titles are "City Foxes" and

"Wildlife Detectives," both winners of the National Science Foundation's Outstanding Science Books for Children award, "Rocky Mountain Safari" and "When Nature Heals: the Greening of Rocky Mountain Arsenal," featuring thriving wildlife in an environmentally sensitive setting.

"Close to Home: Colorado's Urban Wildlife" spotlights Denver's animal neighbors.

Join us for The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society Banquet Jan. 16. The Annual Banquet always gathers appreciative members and their friends for a social evening.

The catering staff at Mt. Vernon Coun-

try Club will provide a delicious buffet dinner featuring salmon with a cucumber salsa garnish, beef with peppercorn gravy, penne pasta dressed with a light tomato sauce, curried vegetables, roasted potatoes, rice pilaf, salad and dessert. On request, the staff will plate meals for any guest preferring seated service.

A silent auction and social hour with cash bar start off the evening at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The speakers will follow dinner.

Use the form on Page 5 to reserve your places. Cost is \$35 per person; reservations must be received by Friday, Jan. 9.



Reflections on Bill

Beautiful Bird

It was March of 1997. To escape the cold and snow management temporarily, we headed to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas–Bentsen Rio Grand Valley State Park to be exact.

Our mission: a pair of Blue Buntings from Mexico frequenting one of the feeding stations and possibly nesting there. We took our time, birding en route through New Mexico and Texas.

After setting up camp in the park, which you could still do back then, we hightailed it to the said bird blind, which had become a very popular spot. Anxiously, we waited our turn. Finally we were up.

We quietly tiptoed in and you can imagine our surprise when there in the front row seats sat Bill and Sylvia. Bill turned around and his excitement danced in his eyes and in his huge smile, as he pointed out and exclaimed in a whisper, "Beautiful bird!"

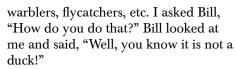
So many times we heard him use that expression over the years. I can hear it now. After we all had a long look, we decided a celebration was in order. After all, an encounter with a Blue Bunting and dear friends was call for a good martini!

Janell Hermann and Bevyn Ross

Is It A Duck?

I'll never forget the time Bill gave me good advice on how to identify birds. I did not become involved in birding until after I took early retirement in 1990.

About 1992, Bill taught a beginning birding course over three sessions, but I still had a lot of problems putting a bird in its proper family, such as sparrows,



Warren Roske

Who Do I Call?

I remember with great fondness all Bill Brockner's and my weekly, sometimes daily, sometimes hourly, phone calls about the special birds we were seeing. And I have come to realize the sad finality of, "Who do I call when . . . ?"

Who do I call from the top of Beartooth Pass, WY, in a blizzard on June 23, 2003, to say, "I just photographed Black Rosy-Finches on their nesting sites on the cliffs!"

Who do I call to say, "I have all five subspecies of juncos at my feeders!"

Who do I call to say, "You just added another species to your NA list of 750plus, because the AOU just split (in 2002) the Black-crested Titmouse from the Tufted Titmouse!"

Who do I call to say, "I'll pick you up (Nov. 22, 2002) and take you to Cherry Creek Reservoir to see the Arctic Loon!"

We can still "call" Bill; he will hear. But we can also call Sylvia, who will be happy to hear the news, just as Bill so cheerfully was. We will miss him greatly. With love, Kay Niyo

My Old Friend Bill

First of all, I want to make a salute to our birding mentor, Bill Brockner. So much has been said and expressed about him and the life he celebrated.

For me he encompassed patience, encourage-

ment and

all perfect qualities of

a wonder-

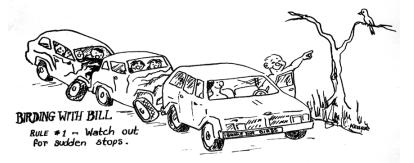
ful teacher.

. . which he

was. I'll miss

his phone

enthusiasm;



calls, with that excited voice of his saying, "Sherman, where in the hell are you, and what in the heck are you seeing?"

So now let's try to go forward with the confidence and the knowledge of birds that he's given us . . .

In late September or early in October, after visiting with Bill and Sylvia, Kathanne Lynch and I saw a Northern Goshawk, on a kill behind the Brockners' home.

We observed and photographed this bird for a while until it soon retreated farther back into the forest. We returned to show Bill and Sylvia the pictures of the bird on the camera's monitor.

Bill was so excited, he said to send it to Peggy and maybe she'll put it in the *Dipper*...So it took a while, but I finally sent Kathanne two photos and she showed them to Bill. She said that Bill lit up again, remembering that exciting afternoon when a Northern Goshawk came to his backyard.

I'll miss my old friend Bill, but will be reminded of him every time I see some fantastic bird.

Sherman Wing

Bird Tales

In the past two years of working on the *Dipper*, we spent numerous hours over at Bill and Sylvia's house. Many a time it was to pick up "Bird Business," but could we leave quickly without sitting down and speaking with Bill—no we could not.

In fact, he would always say, "Stay and have a cup of coffee." He then would go on to captivate us with his stories of birds including the saga of the Baikal Teal in Bear Creek, Geese flying over the Himalayas, his efforts to see the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and his enthusiasm for its rediscovery, and other bird tales as well as other issues of the day.

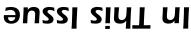
Both of us feel very fortunate to have known Bill and we will miss his stories, his laughter, his friendship.

Mark Meremonte and Margaret McDole

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Evergreen, CO 80437 PO. Box 523 The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

Internation Dated Material



- February Program
- Reflections on Bill
- Count Birds Indoors

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

BRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

VOLUME 39, NO. 1. The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes The Dipper every month but February and August. 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

TENAS website: www.dipper.org The deadline for the March Dipper is

Thursday, Feb. 5. Please submit articles to:

Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org

www.auduboncolorado.org

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130

First Thursday at 7 p.m. Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, 7 p.m.

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

February 5 Chapter meeting

January 16 **TENAS Banquet** January 22 Joint Board Meeting

Deadline for Banquet reservations

Calendar

January 9

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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.