



THE DIPPER

VOL. 41 NO. 1
JAN/FEB 2011

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

Backyard Count

Tens of thousands of people throughout the United States and Canada will take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 18 to 21.

The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent.

Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event.

It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time.

To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website.

As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada.

They can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years. Participants may send in photographs of the birds they see.

See www.birdsource.org/gbbc/ for more information.

Annual Banquet will be Jan. 21

The Evergreen Audubon Annual Banquet will be held at Mount Vernon Country Club Friday, Jan. 21. A cash bar and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., with the dinner buffet at 7 p.m.

The speaker will be Vince Matthews, Colorado State Geologist. He will provide both a lecture and a book signing.

Cost for the buffet is \$36 per person, with

reservations due Tuesday, Jan. 11. There is a reservation form at www.evergreenaudubon.org, and in last month's *Dipper*.

For the Silent Auction, Irma Wolf needs information about donations of new or gently used items no later than one week in advance of the banquet/auction to know how many bid sheets to print. Call her at 303-670-3402, or email irmasonny@aol.com.

Feb. program to feature Foster book

Americans are great joiners. Millions of us join organizations devoted to birds and natural history. But joining is not the same as connecting.

We have been slow to realize that Nature is in trouble. The climate is warming. Resources are disappearing faster than we can replace them. Species extinctions are accelerating.

This is the dilemma that motivated Mike Foster to write "The Ties That Bind: Birds, Nature and Us." But as he began drafting essays in praise of birds, and the wider world of Nature, he soon confronted a second dilemma standing in the way of alleviating the first.

Mike will give the presentation at the Feb. 3 chapter meeting.

As intolerance and selfishness demonstrate every day, humanity is in trouble with itself. To save birds and to preserve the planet, we must first heal ourselves.

These insights suggested a two-part approach for the book. First, a highly personal memoir would reveal how Mike became enamored of birds, and it would relate some of the experiences that converted him from a Nature lover to a Nature advocate.

Second, he would discuss critically some of the social and political situations that were dividing humanity and creating problems for birds and Mother Nature. For the Feb. 3 chapter meeting, Mike will read selections from his new book illustrating both approaches.

He offers many practical suggestions on how we can all get involved.

Mike joined Evergreen Audubon in the '90s because of Bill Brockner, who became his

mentor and urged him to embark on a serious study of birds. This new book, and his presentation for the chapter, both grew directly from that challenge.

A fourth-generation Coloradan, Mike grew up climbing mountains and admiring diverse animals, especially birds. After graduating from Yale, he decided to become a professional historian.

He earned a doctorate in European history from Columbia University, and he taught at Stanford and the universities of Illinois and Colorado.

While researching the life of 19th-century naturalist F. V. Hayden, Mike was inspired to return to school to study biology, evolution and ornithology—which led to a third career as a biographer and a naturalist. (His second involved the nonprofit sector in Denver for several years.)

Over the past 40 years Mike has written five books (including an unpublished novel) and numerous articles on American naturalists, scientists and artists, as well as on mountaineering, birds, natural history and the environment.

Mike will be happy to sign books after his talk. Checks for \$12 would be most convenient. Those who want to purchase the book but are unable to attend the February meeting can find it at Hearthfire Books in Bergen Park.

The chapter meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

2010 OFFICERS

President	David Wald	303-674-0417 president@evergreenaudubon.org
Vice President	Mike Wilson	303-697-9445 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
Secretary	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648 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	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779 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	Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715 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	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
Dipper Editor	Debbie Marshall	303-674-3752 marshallpub@skybeam.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	Kent Simon	303-674-3017 ksimonbib@comcast.net
Nature Center	Michael Stills	303-921-1936 enctdirector@evergreenaudubon.org
Program	Barbara Nabors	303-697-9445 crowhollow@gmail.com
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

I travel to and from work in Golden several days a week, sometimes commuting with my wife, Lisa. It's almost impossible not to notice the pair of Red-tailed Hawks perched above the eastern edge of Elk Meadow, mostly on the telephone poles, but occasionally on the wire.

I wonder how many of my fellow commuters on this route ever notice these gems—coming and going with the seasons, but there more often than not.

If most are oblivious to these creatures, are they also unmindful of all the other more subtle changes in the meadow, the grass, the clouds, the landscape? What a luxury it is to be a birder, or naturalist, and to be so easily awed and entertained by such sights on a daily basis.

But with such awareness—being in tune with our surroundings—comes a particularly burdensome price. To know the threats, dangers and disconcerting long-term prospects of our wilderness and dwindling species is a difficult load to bear.

Evergreen Audubon member Mike Foster, in his new book, "The Ties That Bind," notes many of the uncomfortable realities that awareness brings.

Oh, to be innocent of these facts and to go on blissfully expanding our carbon footprints, ignoring our self-destructive habits and national trends. But Mike suggests ways to turn burden of mind into useful actions in a variety of interesting directions.

Among them are participating in and promoting conservation groups, and (my inference) enlightening younger minds to the awe and respect we have for the literal and figurative hawks in the meadow.

An easy avenue to such opportunities includes supporting and volunteering at Evergreen Nature Center! (What a surprise to hear that from me.) To Mike's many suggestions, I add another simple recommendation:

"Most people use 10 to 15 times the amount of (laundry) soap they need, and they're pouring money down the drain." (NY Times, 3/10/2010). "Depending on how hard or soft your water is, one-eighth to one-half of what is usually recommended should be adequate. Too much detergent can also make your clothes stiff and shorten the life of your machine."

Would you be surprised if the ones selling as much of their product as possible recommend you use more than you need? So, cut the amount of laundry soap at least in half to save money, but also because it's a good thing to do. Also, check back right here for next month's environmental hint . . . or send in one yourself!

VIP VOLUNTEERS DAVID WALD

- First and foremost, I'd like to recognize **Debbie Marshall**, *Dipper* editor, for an extraordinary year of high-quality *Dippers*!
- Thank you to those who donated funds in the name of a memorial for Rachel Norton: **Tuesday Birders, Marilyn and Jim Steckert, Karel Buckley, Betty and Jim Astle**, and **Bill and Louise Mounsey**.
- Kudos to **Joan Ridgely** for being quite resourceful. She sold books donated to the Nature Center that didn't quite fit in, bringing in a few hundred dollars via Amazon.com!
- Thanks to **Sylvia Brockner** for passing on to the Nature Center Audubon's "Birds of America." Sylvia suggested a display case allowing us to turn a new page a day at the Nature Center. Great idea, and we're on it!
- Thanks to **Tim Sandmark**, director of Lookout Mountain Nature Center, for providing continued guidance on operating our Evergreen Nature Center.

A **Ross's Gull**, although not sighted in the EA area, caused a lot of excitement for local birders. Dick Prickett saw it on Nov. 19 at Cherry Creek State Park. Dick noted that it is a beautiful little gull and a very rare bird for Colorado.

Marilyn Rhodes saw the gull three days later at the same location. It has only been recorded about two dozen times in the lower 48, she said, so this was indeed a rare opportunity.

Brad Andres, Heather Johnson, Mike Henwood and Tina Jones also were among 20 to 30 observers from all over the United States that got to watch the bird's aerial display.

John Sears was showing binoculars to

a customer at his Evergreen Wild Bird Store on Nov. 21 when a **Kestrel** graced them with his presence. The customer had never seen one.

Marilyn Rhodes observed a **Harris's Sparrow** at the Red Rocks Trading Post on Dec. 1. It was a lifer for Marilyn. She posted some photos in the Photo Gallery at www.evergreenaudubon.org.

Sherman Wing saw eight **Wild Turkeys** the morning of Dec. 5 off of Camero Road in Indian Hills. Other birds that day included abundant numbers of **Crows** and **Stellar Jays**, 10 **Rock Pigeons**, six **Magpies**, several **Juncos**, **House Finches**, **Pygmy Nuthatches**, **White-Breasted Nuthatches** and

Black-capped Chickadees.

Marilyn Rhodes got good looks at the **Curve-billed Thrasher** and **Golden-crowned Sparrow** again at Red Rocks Dec. 5. She saw the **Harris's Sparrow**, too, but the **White-throated Sparrow** eluded her once more.

Sherman Wing saw a **Northern Shrike** Dec. 11 at Mt. Falcon Park. The bird was in an aerial pursuit of a smaller bird in a ponderosa tree.

Debbie and Don Marshall's son, Tanner, spotted a **Bald Eagle** floating up past the cliffs below their house on Independence Mountain Dec. 19 about noon. The whole family hurried out to watch it soar away over the horizon.

Audubon Colorado recognizes legislative heroes

On Nov. 4, Audubon Colorado honored five environmental heroes from the 2010 state legislative session who saved Great Outdoors Colorado from a damaging attack.

GOCO has helped preserve Colorado's parks, rivers, trails and open spaces since 1992, and is 100 percent funded through the Colorado lottery.

The heroes are Jen Boulton, Audubon Colorado lobbyist; Ruth Wright, previous senator and current AC Public Policy Committee member; Jo Evans, previous Audubon lobbyist; Rick Daily, author of the constitutional amendment that directed all Colorado lottery proceeds for parks, wildlife and open space; and Rep. Dicky Lee Hollingsworth, environmental leader in the House.

During the 2010 session, a bill was introduced that would have diverted lottery monies to weed-control districts. While noxious weed control is a desirable objective, the diversion would have set a dangerous precedent by reducing GOCO's only funding source.

Fortunately, Boulton recognized the threat, rallied the other honorees, and the bill was successfully neutralized.

Fifty percent of lottery proceeds—up to \$35 million—is distributed to GOCO, 40 percent goes to local conservation trust funds and 10 percent goes to state parks.

Colorado citizens have voted three times to specifically designate lottery proceeds for parks, wildlife and open space. Unfortunately, this funding has been attacked several times by anti-environment legislators wanting to divert funds, despite statistics showing that every dollar used by the current lottery money recipients returns five dollars to the state.

Attacks on lottery dollars' designation are expected again during the 2011 legislature sessions. Be prepared to voice your support for protecting GOCO's, local conservation trusts', and state parks' lottery funding.

- Ron Harden
Audubon Colorado
Public Policy Committee

Colorado Gives almost \$3,000 to EA

By now most of you have probably heard about the tremendous success of the first Colorado Gives Day: \$8 million was donated to Colorado nonprofits, which is \$7 million more than was forecast for the first year.

For Evergreen Audubon, it was a wonderful success as well. We were within a few dollars of receiving \$3,000, plus an additional donation of \$126 from the Colorado Gives organization.

To put that \$3,000 into perspective, one of Evergreen's largest nonprofits with more than 700 donors had received \$6,000 by early evening. Evergreen Audubon has 150 members, about one-third of whom are donors, and we received an amazing \$3,061.

A big THANK YOU to every one of you who brought Christmas early to our organization, and to Michael Stills for

believing in the idea and getting all of us on board.

- Mimi Nelson

Colorado Gives Day EA Donors

Brad Andres, Thomas Boschen, Karel Buckley, Debra Callahan, Robert Collins, Margaret Durham, Fran Enright, Barb Gard, Janet M. Grimmett, William Hackos, Felicity Hannay, Michael L. Henwood, Betsy Hoke, Tory Hurst, Barbara Klaus, Beth Madden.

Cheryl Manning, Mark Meremonte, Carolyn Norblom, Mary A. Phillips, Linda Rockwell, Diane Sears, John Sears, J. Kent Simon, Timothy Stechert, Edwin Steinbrecher, Martha Tableman, Joan Tarasar, Tom and Jean Thayer, David Wald, Juanita Weare, Sally L. White, Catherine Wilkins, Michael Wilson, Sherman Wing.

MEET THE BOARD: MARGE PETERSEN, SOCIAL EVENTS

The Painted Buntings lured them in and the Pileated Woodpeckers closed the trap. Marge and the late Gordy Petersen were hooked on birding when they first looked out the kitchen window of their home in South Carolina and went hiking in the woods 100 yards away.

“How can you not get into birding when you have Painted Buntings at the window?” asked Marge. “And the Pileated Woodpeckers in the woods kind of cemented it.”

Moves to Vancouver, Denver and finally Evergreen in 2003 did nothing to temper the couple’s fondness for birding and the great outdoors.

They lived in Littleton for 37 years, but the 20 acres they bought on Upper Bear Creek in 1970 and built on in 1996 was their weekend destination and a retirement dream that was finally realized in March of 2003. Sadly, Gordy unexpectedly passed away just seven months later.

Marge joined Evergreen Audubon shortly after moving to Evergreen and has been involved in organizing social activities such as the annual picnic and banquet, and providing hospitality for chapter meetings.

Since January 2010 she has served as director of Social Events on the EA board, helping to fundraise for Evergreen Nature Center as well as continuing her other activities and facilitating an Evergreen Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Nature Center last summer.

Today Marge shares the beauty of her home near TallGrass Spa with members of her church, who come on retreats, and with Boy Scouts and Brownies who enjoy the rope swing and zip line, as well as campfires if allowed.

Every summer Marge’s four grandchildren spend four nights and five days with Grandma and the daughter and son-in-law who do not have children.



Marge Petersen

They learn about weed control, fire safety and the history of the area and have a lot of fun while doing it.

“I love to be where I can see them when they arrive,” Marge said. “They run—they are so free.”

Marge, whose background is in early childhood education, wishes all kids could be exposed to learning about the outdoors.

“I have a concern about young children today who don’t get outside and don’t have a connection with nature—in terms of protecting natural resources for

the future,” Marge said. “They need to see the value.”

Marge hopes Evergreen Audubon will be able to attract younger members through targeted field trips and summer camps.

Marge and Gordy were high school sweethearts in Shorewood, Wis., but went their separate ways for college—she to the University of Wisconsin and he to Yale. They married in 1960 in Milwaukee, Wis.

After he did a three-year medical residency in Vancouver, they were looking for a good place to live and chose Denver. She worked at Metro State College in the teacher education department, directing the early childhood laboratory school for 16 years. Her husband practiced as a psychiatrist.

The couple had two children and Marge served on the Littleton Board of Education for 14 years.

Her love for the land they found together continues unabated. “This is where we belong—it’s special to our souls,” they decided 40 years ago.

Before moving to the house full time in 2003, they visited virtually every weekend. “We’d sit out with hats and coats and get connected again with the land and the birds and animals,” Marge said.

“I like to share what I have—I’m very grateful.”

- Debbie Marshall

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS DAVID WALD

Nov. 18 EA Board Meeting

The board voted to change the Evergreen Nature Center executive director position to a half time (rather than a three-quarters time) position starting next spring, given the difficulty we’ve had in raising enough funds for the salary.

The executive director position will be readvertised in January. The overall open hours at the Nature Center are

not expected to change. Please ask any board member if you have any questions about these decisions.

Education Director Cheryl Manning is looking into ways to initiate a Junior Audubon Chapter here in Evergreen. Thanks to John Sears for this suggestion. Any ideas here are welcome!

Due to holidays, the next board of directors meeting was to be on Dec. 20.

FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS KAREL BUCKLEY

Birds of Prey Driving Tour Near Longmont

Sunday, Jan. 30, 10 am–1 pm

This driving tour will focus on raptors. Sue Cass, coordinator of Boulder County Nature Association's Winter Raptor Survey, will lead us in the field. Emphasis will be on field identification. Habitat, ecology and breeding strategies also will be discussed.

Historical and count data for the survey is on www.bcna.org in Publications and Research.

Please bring lunch, drinking water and binoculars. Also bring a bird field guide, spotting scope and a two-way radio if you have them.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride. Register with Kathanne Lynch, 303-968-4750, before Thursday, Jan. 27. Limited to 20 participants or five cars.

There is no fee. Optional donation to BCNA is welcomed. Trip is weather-dependent. Physically accessible.

National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Friday, Feb. 4, 9 am

This field trip will take us to the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National

Wildlife Refuge in Commerce City.

The National Eagle Repository receives approximately 2,000 deceased Bald and Golden eagles each year from across the nation. They are in turn distributed to Native Americans in support of their religious activities.

The repository has a waiting list for the eagles of more than 7,000 applicants that represent 564 federally recognized tribes.

The repository also receives about 200,000 pieces of confiscated wildlife property each year from wildlife inspectors and special agents across the nation.

The confiscated wildlife property maintained there is used to enhance educational goals regarding wildlife laws and regulations, wildlife trade and wildlife conservation.

Please call Karel at 303-670-8859 to make a reservation. We will meet in Bergen Park at 9 a.m. and a carpool will be arranged if possible. A minimum of 10 participants is needed to hold the tour.

Late-winter Residents Prospect Park (aka Wheat Ridge Greenbelt) Saturday, Feb. 19, 9 am

Let's look for waterfowl and other late-winter residents at this popular birding spot. We should find around 30 species. Half-day trip, but bring water, lunch,

snacks and dress for the weather. Carpool from Evergreen may be arranged. Call trip leader Mike Foster, 303-456-2647, to let him know you're coming.

From Interstate 70, exit at Ward Road. Coming down the ramp to the light, get in the left-turn lane. After turning, you are on 44th Street, headed east. Turn into Prospect Park, on the right, between Robb and Quail streets. Drive around the first lake (on your right) and park near the sheltered picnic area.

MEMBERSHIP KENT SIMON

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

New Family

Allan & Louise Brook—Evergreen

Renewing

Warren Zimmer & Pam Bixter—
Evergreen

Charlie Ganse—Evergreen

Helene Jaeggi—Golden

Doug Kieswetter—Golden

Sandy Sykes—Golden

Renewing Family

David Cuellar & Donna Forrest—
Evergreen

Felicity Hannay & James Wood—Golden

FIELD NOTES KAREL BUCKLEY

Lair o' the Bear

On Dec. 4, nine "outdoorswomen" met at Lair o' the Bear Park in bitter early-morning temperatures to join Else Van Erp on a winter ecology hike (note no men ventured out in the cold).

We closely examined winter seeds, pods and berries, saw winter birds and watched the canyon come alive with the warmth of sunshine.

Did you know hummingbirds eat the Golden Currant buds when they come back in the spring as a food source before our flowers bloom?

It was a great winter excursion. We had people newly in Colorado from

Seattle, Portland and San Francisco—it is such fun to have new people sharing their stories of other locations.

A written scavenger clue hidden in a bush was discovered, but we were not able to find the prize. It may still be out there somewhere.

Thanks to trip leader Else Van Erp.



Nine women braved bitter cold to visit Lair o' the Bear Park Dec. 4.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 21	Annual Banquet	6 PM	Mt. Vernon Country Club
Jan. 27	EA Board Meeting	7 PM	
Jan. 30	Birds of Prey Driving Tour	10 AM	Near Longmont
Feb. 3	Chapter Meeting	7 PM	Church of the Hills
Feb. 4	National Repository	9 AM	Rocky Mountain Arsenal
Feb. 10	Newsletter deadline	5 PM	
Feb. 18-21	Backyard Bird Count		
Feb. 19	Late-winter Residents	9 AM	Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge
Feb. 25	EA Board Meeting	7 PM	

This is a Double *Dipper* covering January and February 2011. For the March issue, please submit newsletter content by Feb. 10 to Lisa Wald: communications@evergreenaudubon.org. Email or call *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: marshallpub@skybeam.com, 303-674-3752.

VOLUME 41, NO. 1. Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes *The Dipper* every month but February and September. Evergreen Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members may receive an electronic copy of *The Dipper* without charge or may pay \$10 a year for a mailed hard copy.. Evergreen Audubon encourages readers to submit original articles, creative nature writing or art to *The Dipper*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any articles selected.

Audubon 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

Meet the Board: Marge Petersen
Upcoming Field Trips
Colorado Gives to EA

IN THIS ISSUE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

Evergreen, CO 80437

P.O. Box 523

Evergreen Audubon

THE DIPPER

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 21
EVERGREEN, CO