

THE DIPPER

Published monthly by The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.
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Editor: Peggy Durham

Assistant Editor: Margaret McDole

Don't forget!

Community Weed Day

Saturday, June 24
8 to 11 a.m.
Evergreen Lake Lawn

Plant Group

Anyone interested in wildflower walks or identification of native plants by keying can join the Native Plant Group on Fridays. Continuing in July and August, the schedule will be a walk on July 7 and then a meeting at Sylvia Brockner's to key various local plants at noon on July 14.

The schedule will continue to alternate outdoor walks, usually at 10:30 a.m., with keying on Sylvia's porch each Friday at noon. (Bring your own lunch.)

Anyone who would like to know more about our native flowers is most welcome. Please call Lynne Price for further information at 303-670-0840.

BIB Counts

Don't forget the Birds in the Balance continuing bird counts. Check the Calendar for the nine-day window each month. The group leaders and locations are listed on our website, dipper.org. Or call Kent Simon for further information at 303-674-3017.

Annual Picnic is July 15

The Audubon picnic is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at the Evergreen Highlands Common Area. There are several possible venues: bird and wildflower walks, tennis (tennis shoes needed), basketball hoop, children's play area, private pond for catch-and release fishing.

Schedule of Activities

- 4-6 p.m. Arrival, social hour, appetizers and optional activities
- 6-7 p.m. Potluck supper, announcements and updates
- 7-9 p.m. Program

The program will be slides or digital pictures and/or talks or anything else entertaining by TENAS members. Walt Phillips will bring the projector. Dave Balogh will put together collected digital pictures (see President's Message.) If you have questions about slides, please call Walt, 303-674-7744.

The club will furnish:

- Non-alcoholic beverages, plates, cups, tableware, napkins and fried chicken.
- A fee of \$4 per person will be collected onsite to cover the cost of the supplies and the area rental.

You will need to bring:

- A potluck dish to serve at least eight people. Those with last names starting with A through F will bring appetizers, G through M vegetables or salads, N through S desserts, T through Z wine or beer.
- Lawn chairs for comfort; however, picnic-bench seating is available.

Make your reservation with Bill Brockner, 303-674-4851, by Sunday, July 9. Let him know how many are in your party and your phone number. Also let him know if you can bring an ice chest with ice (club will pay for ice) and if you can stay and help clean up after the event. Please notify him if you must cancel at the last minute.

Al Goldstein will be our point person to make sure everything is coordinated and in

Reminder: No program meeting in July

place. Al will need help setting up, collecting money and cleaning up afterward. Please call him at 303-567-2720 if you can help.

Directions to the picnic area: Take Highway 73 to North Turkey Creek Road. Turn east on North Turkey Creek and go 2-plus miles. Turn left on Kilimanjaro (by the bear statue) and go one-third mile to the Common Area entrance (look for the balloons). Turn left and park near the barn and horse stables.

TENAS Will Join 2006 Mountain Heritage Festival

Hiwan Homestead Museum and Friends of Our Non-profit Community will sponsor the second Mountain Heritage Festival at Heritage Grove Park on Saturday, August 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event allows non-profit groups to showcase their efforts and service to the community.

TENAS will participate this year. We look forward to having an exciting booth demonstrating the many activities our club has to offer.

This event provides a good opportunity for TENAS to interact with potential new members. Last year, more than 400 people attended, and they hope to have even more this year.

If you would like to be part of the committee to create an outstanding booth for TENAS or help on Aug. 5, please call Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715.

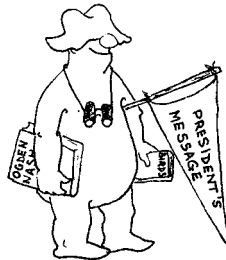


President's Message

In several of these messages over the last year and a half I have related some of the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This was appropriate because the bicentennial celebration of this historic event began in 2005 and the expedition documented much of the natural world that we appreciate and endeavor to preserve today.

In July I plan to canoe the Missouri River where Lewis traveled homeward-bound exactly 200 years ago. (As you may recall, the two explorers took separate routes across Montana on the return trip. Clark stayed to the south and came down the Yellowstone River, rejoining Lewis at the confluence with the Missouri.)

I hope to have some newfound knowledge and appreciation of their travels to report to you on my return.



I will be canoeing with members of a canoe club that is organizing the trip and I have no say in the schedule. Unfortunately, the dates conflict with two important TENAS events—the garage sale and the July picnic, so I will not be here to join in those activities.

I do want to help as much as possible beforehand. (Read the articles in this *Dipper* to see how you can participate.) One project in particular that I am helping with is the slide show for the picnic.

What I have in mind is to collect digital images of nature photographs from our members and to build an entertaining presentation (PowerPoint) for computerized projection. This will be in addition to the photographic slides members can bring to the picnic for a standard slide projector.

With the digital images we could add written comments, sounds and even movie segments in advance and see how that goes as a picnic picture show.

So, TENAS photographers, send me some of your best nature-related pictures you would like to share with those who will be at the picnic. Include a description of each digital

Continued on Page 3



- To **Sherman Wing** for keeping the bird count tally at the Dawn Chorus.
- To **Carol Goldstein** for the idea and arrangements for selling bird boxes at Chow Down, and to **Sylvia Robertson, Cathy Shelton** and **Bud Weare** for helping with sales, proceeds of which went to TENAS.
- To **Cathy Shelton, Fran Enright** and **Ginny Ades** for training volunteers for the weed project at Beaver Brook Watershed for Friends of Beaver Brook.
- To **Sylvia Brockner** for responding to requests from people who have read her column in the Canyon Courier and selling bird boxes to them from a small supply she keeps in her home for this purpose.
- To **Brad Andres** for writing a very thoughtful letter to Clear Creek County regarding the proposed Singin' River Ranch project.
- To **Marilyn Kaussner** and **Margaret McDole** at the Evergreen Garden Club and to **Cathy Shelton, Marilyn Kaussner, Sylvia Robertson** and **Bud Weare** at King Soopers for staffing the weed education tables. We appreciate their tireless efforts.

2006 Officers

President	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
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Secretary	Carol Goldstein	303-567-2720
Assistant Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
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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

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Birds in Balance	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
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Webmaster	Natasha Currin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	



August Program: Quaintance Photos

Mike Quaintance's program will feature Lesser and Greater Sandhill Cranes, taking us from the Nebraska annual gathering of Lesser Sandhill Cranes to Monte Vista for the Greater Sandhill Cranes migration and many of the more familiar birds he has encountered in between.

Mike is a retired Continental Airlines pilot who now spends his time on digital photography. His digital photos of birds are spectacular, close-up and personal.

Mike lives in Bailey with his wife, Cheryl. They are former TENAS mem-

bers. We need to bring them back into the fold.

This meeting will start at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3, at Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Road (in back of the high school).

President's Message

Continued from 2

file. E-mail them to me (david3drb@netscape.net) by July 4 with comment "images for slide show."

I will make selections and organize them into a final presentation. I would be pleased to have assistance with that, too, so call me if you would like to help.

Yes, I am always looking for help, but for the Missouri River trip I will paddle my own canoe.

- Dave Balogh

Member Report

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

New

Jennie Pearson—Evergreen

New Family

Heather Johnson & Brad Andres—
Evergreen

Marilyn & John Kaussner—Evergreen

Rick & Nana Kurtz—Evergreen

Ken & Nancy Lerner—Evergreen

Sherry & Tom Walker—Evergreen

Renewing

Peggy Chittum—Evergreen

Ruth Gabreski—Evergreen

Louise Walker—Littleton

Renewing Family

Peter & Lucille Link—Evergreen

Felicity Hannay & James Wood—Golden

Save Your Unwanted Treasures for Annual Garage Sale

Put aside your unwanted treasures and save them for the Annual Audubon Garage Sale. It will take place on Saturday, July 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Peggy Durham's, 29309 Buchanan Drive.

Donated items can be delivered on Thursday after 10 a.m. or on Friday, early. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Tax receipts will be available.

Please, no clothes, ski equipment,

technical books or broken items.

Volunteers will be needed to set up and price on Friday, July 7, after 8:30 a.m. and to help with the sale on Saturday, July 8, at 8:30 a.m. Even though it is work, we always have fun.

Join the work crew or come and buy; either supports TENAS.

For info, call Irma Wolf, 303-670-3402, or Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715.

Photographers, Botanists Wanted

During our noxious weed education day at King Soopers on May 23, two things became obvious. First, people are very interested in learning about noxious weeds. Bud Weare, Marilyn Kaussner, Sylvia Robertson and Cathy Shelton were kept busy talking to 69 visitors in four hours.

Second, a comprehensive brochure describing invasive, non-native thistles versus our highly desirable natives is needed. To this end, Jefferson County Weed and Pest has agreed to partner with us, making it more likely that our project will qualify for a grant to pay for printing.

We will need to provide high-quality photos of our native thistles, preferably in rosette and bloom stages. We won't be able to pay for photos but would certainly give photo credit.

We'll be working on the layout this winter, but the photos need to be taken during this growing season. If you find native thistles, please let us know where they are located.

If you are interested in participating in this project, either by photographing and/or identifying thistles, please call Cathy at 303-674-8610 or Marilyn at 303-674-7520.

- Community Weed Awareness Campaign



This American Goldfinch was one of a flock visiting Inga Brennan's thistle feeder. Photo by Inga Brennan



Bird Business

May was a beautiful spring month, but avian migration was rather slow. Violent coastal storms during last fall's migration killed many birds. This is reflected in this spring's migration.

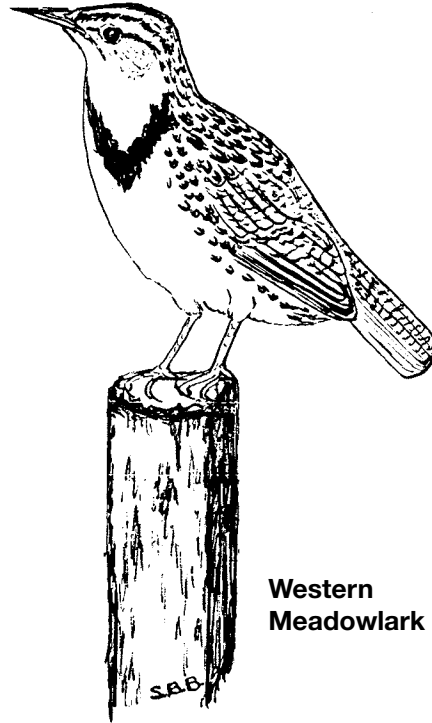
Larry White welcomed May at Evergreen Lake by seeing a Northern Yellowthroat on the 1st. This warbler could possibly nest near the lake.

Also at Evergreen Lake, Loie Evans saw two Cedar Waxwings on May 15. I have found this bird nesting in adjacent deDisse Park. Twelve Cedar Waxwings were spotted by Sherman Wing on May 23 near the Indian Hills Post Office. They stayed a couple of days.

Remarkable was a nesting pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers at Groundhog Flats, found on May 17 by Inga Brennan, Margaret McDole and Pat Work. They were counting for their Birds in the Balance territory.

A Western Meadowlark showed up at Evergreen Lake on May 18. It was busy feeding on the adjacent golf course. This species shows up every couple of years near the lake. This year's observation was made by Loie Evans.

On May 25, I looked out the window at a feeding station. I was surprised to see a beautiful male White-winged Crossbill. What a sight! A



Western Meadowlark

couple of years ago this bird nested at Echo Lake.

A Virginia Rail finally showed up at Evergreen Lake on May 27. Loie Evans heard it first in the cattail swamp.

In addition, the following were seen: a Lazuli Bunting on May 5 by Sherman Wing at Indian Hills; an Olive-sided

Flycatcher on May 7 by Sherman Wing at Indian Hills; a Black-headed Grosbeak on May 11 by Mike Krieger, Bailey; a MacGillivray's Warbler on May 18 by Else Van Erp at Lair o' the Bear Park; and a Western Tanager on May 21 by Sherman Wing at Mt. Falcon Park.

This was a slow migration spring. Flycatchers, vireos and warblers were late in arriving around Evergreen. It will be interesting to study how successful this nesting cycle will be.

Congratulations to Susan Harper on her bird knowledge and winning a garden book on a radio garden program. It was a House Wren that she identified.

Now that spring migration is over, get ready for fall migration. From the Fourth of July on, southbound migrants will begin to show up, especially shorebirds leaving Alaska. By the middle of July, Rufous Hummingbirds will be bombing our feeders.

- Bill Brockner

Program Chairs

Sylvia and Bill Brockner have volunteered to take over as Program Chairs for the remainder of the year. If you have suggestions, please call them at 303-674-4851.

Pawnee Grasslands Trip Reveals Many Species

Four early birders met leader Brad Andres at 6:30 a.m. on May 20 for the long ride to the Pawnee National Grasslands. We arrived just after 8:30 a.m. and immediately upon getting out of car Brad heard a Black & White Warbler.

He tracked it down over a large group of Boy Scouts camped in the Crow Valley Campground.

What a treat—Brad is so amazing to be familiar with all the songs of these birds we don't hear very often in Colorado.

It was a very hot day; we birded the campground until 11 a.m. and then took a lunch break before heading out in cars to search fruitlessly for the Mountain Plover. But we had other interesting spe-

cies, including Burrowing Owls, to enjoy along the way.

The total for the day was 65 species. Exciting for me were several new species, especially the Orchard Oriole. A typical resident in the campground, a Common Nighthawk, let us observe it taking a nap stretched out on a branch.

We had a Northern Mockingbird, along with several thrushes, McCown's and Chestnut Collared Longspurs and, I believe, five types of warblers.

Another excellent day with Brad Andres: how lucky we are to have him guide us on birding trips.

- Karel Buckley

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Board Member Bio

Brad A. Andres, Conservation Chair

I recorded my first bird observation when I was 14. My interest in birds, wildlife and natural history lead me to an undergraduate program in biology at Pennsylvania State University.

I tried not to schedule early morning classes in the spring and fall that might interfere with observing the migration, and I vividly recall the myriad of grosbeak, thrush and warbler calls I heard overhead when returning from late-night library study sessions.

My enthusiasm for birds pushed me to get the high grade in ornithology (I scored more than 100 points by correctly identifying the bonus slide of a bustard).

After stints working in the Everglades, interning at Hawk Mountain and contributing new state records for Kentucky's avifauna, I entered graduate school at Ohio State University.

There, I taught ornithology labs, dragging students to birding sites all over the state. The highlight was watching a male Kirtland's Warbler leaving the Lake Erie shoreline headed for Michigan jack pines.

For my master's research, I had the great fortune to spend three summers studying the abundance and habitat use of post-breeding shorebirds migrating along the Beaufort Sea coast of northern Alaska.

I returned to Alaska for my doctorate work to determine if persistent effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill were negatively affecting Black Oystercatchers nesting in Prince William Sound. Each of three years I surveyed more than 360 miles of shoreline in a 14-foot inflatable boat. Luckily, oystercatchers seemed to rebound fairly well from the spill.

After graduate school, I took a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Alaska, where I was responsible for songbird, shorebird and loon projects and conservation initiatives across the state.

The job included surveys of breeding shorebirds on the arctic tundra, conduct-

ing Breeding Bird Survey routes around Nome, banding more than 13,000 songbirds along the south-central coast, and atlasing breeding birds on Fort Richardson north of Anchorage.

While in Alaska, I had the opportunity to work with conservation colleagues from Russia, Japan, Mexico, Australia and Hong Kong. I have always been interested in international geotourism—the combination of place-based experiences of culture, cuisine and natural resources.

My international yearning has taken me birding in the tropical forests of Panama, diving the coral reefs of Bonaire, attending high tea with the Queen Mother of Jaipur, India, touring temples and nature reserves of Taiwan, and sip-

ping Malbec wine while watching albatrosses in Tierra del Fuego.

After 10 years in Alaska, I moved to the Washington, D.C., area to take on the position of national coordinator of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. My wife, Heather, and I enjoyed visiting the historical attractions and birding the Blue Ridge Mountains and Delmarva Peninsula coastlines.

Two years ago, we moved to Evergreen and are enjoying exploring Colorado and Wyoming bird life. As Heather was raised in Laramie, she is close to her old stomping grounds.

I look forward to working with TENAS members to further natural resource conservation on the Front Range.

Sign Up to 'Meet the Trees'

Stumped? Branch out. Identify Colorado's conifers up close and in forests. Locate friendly firs, spiky spruce and which "-fers" wear pants and skirts. Recognize which "-fers" live where.

"Can you recognize the gymnosperms?" asked William Weber. "These trees form our living scenery, their presence or absence tells the altitude, the points of the compass, where the rocky ground is found, and what to expect in plant associations. Ecologists categorize a site on the basis of its forest type. One simply must learn to recognize the conifers first; all else follows."

Conifers are the climax species in succession at their elevation.

There will be a two-part class—participate in one or both.

Part I—Classroom session

Thursday, July 20, 7-9 p.m.

Evergreen Recreation Center

Learn conifer identification hands-on (all 10 species in our Front Range)

Part II—Interpretive tour

Saturday, July 22, 8 a.m.-noon

Take an interpretive tour from the Plains to Tundra life zones and find the "-fers" in their forest habitats.

This workshop is open to the public. Please call Kent Simon, 303-674-3017, by Monday, July 17, to sign up for class and car-pooling.



Local & Independent

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TENAS Members Save 10% Every Wednesday on any regularly priced items. Not to be combined with other offers.

303.679.2786

Located at 32156 Castle Ct. #111 Evergreen (across from Fire Station #2)



Surveying Mt. Evans Ptarmigan

A friend, Kent Simon, and I accompanied Dr. Clait Braun on May 17 for a survey of White-tailed Ptarmigan in the vicinity of Mt. Evans (about 11 miles south of Idaho Springs).

Clait began studying ptarmigan that inhabit this area for his doctorate. Since that time, he has continued to track about 15 nesting pairs in this area to determine population trends.

On this day, we checked two different breeding territories about three-and-a-half miles northeast of Mt. Evans. This year marks his 41st year of study. In recent years, the population has remained stable.

Ptarmigan use the same breeding territories each year. Pairs stay together from year to year, although the males and females winter in different locations.

To locate a pair, Clait goes to a known territory and plays a tape of a singing male ptarmigan at numerous locations within the territory until the male on the ground responds. Then it's a matter of searching for the pair (the female will be within a few yards of the male).

Normally, the birds don't fly and can be approached closely. They do tend to walk away, however! Once the birds are located, binoculars are used to see if the birds are banded and, if so, to note the color combinations of the bands.

If one or both of the pair is not banded, Clait uses an extendable pole with a noose made of fishing line on the end to capture the birds. Clait also plays a recorder in other areas to check for an occasional unmated male.

After capture, the bird is weighed and various other data are collected.

The White-tailed Ptarmigan is the smallest grouse in North America. It inhabits alpine areas at or above timberline in the West. Like its arctic relatives, the Willow and Rock Ptarmigan, the birds are noted for plumage that changes from white in winter to brown in summer.

During the breeding season, the plumage is mottled as the molt begins.



Dr. Clait Braun prepares to capture a White-tailed Ptarmigan for banding.

The feathered tarsus and toes are characteristic of grouse. This helps the birds



White-tailed Ptarmigan plumage changes to brown in summer.

walk on snow.

Other species of grouse in North America in descending order of size include the Greater Sage Grouse, Gunnison Sage Grouse, Blue Grouse, Greater Prairie Chicken, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Sharp-tailed Ptarmigan, Willow Ptarmigan, Rock Ptarmigan, Spruce Grouse and Ruffed Grouse.

Eight of the 11 species of grouse occur in Colorado. Do you know what three species are not found in Colorado? See answer below.

Grouse maintain territories during the breeding season, but flock together in winter. This may be advantageous for obtaining or sharing information on food distribution and may also serve as a tactic to prevent predator detection.

Suitable winter habitats for White-tailed Ptarmigan appear limiting. Ptarmigan have adapted to alpine environments by migrating to areas where the primary food, willow, is abundant.

Answer: The Willow Ptarmigan, Rock Ptarmigan and Spruce Grouse are not found in Colorado.

- David Dolton



Field Trips and Outings

Saturday, July 8

Chimney Gulch, west of Golden
Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

A variety of habitats here attract a variety of birds. Expect a round-trip hike of about 4 miles and elevation gain of about 1,000 feet, all on trails. Meet at 7 a.m. at Wild Bird Center, in the mall just northeast of the intersection of Youngfield and 32nd Avenue (an exit of I-70 is there). We'll return to WBC for refreshments.

Sunday, July 9

Tundra to Timberline
Leader: Kent Simon, 303-674-3017

Full-day trip down through the tundra from Summit Lake on Mt. Evans to timberline. Bring food and water; dress in layers for changeable Mt. Evans weather.

Saturday, July 8–Sunday, July 16

Birds in the Balance Window

Thursday, July 20

Meet the Trees Workshop
Evergreen Recreation Center
Leader: Kent Simon, 303-674-3017

Conifers: Part I—Classroom session, hands-on conifer identification, 7-9 p.m. This workshop is open to the public. Please call Kent by Monday, July 17, to sign up for class and car-pooling. (Two-part class—participate in one or both)

Saturday, July 22

Meet the Trees Workshop
Evergreen Recreation Center
Leader: Kent Simon, 303-674-3017

Conifers: Part II—Interpretive tour of the Plains to Tundra life zones, 8 a.m. to noon. This workshop is open to the public. Please call Kent by Monday, July 17, to sign up for class and car-pooling. (Two-part class—participate in one or both)

Sunday, July 23

Beaver Brook Watershed
Leader: Fran Enright, 303-674-2657

Fran will select an appropriate route. Call her to learn where to meet and plan to be there by 7 a.m.

Saturday, July 29

Herman Gulch
Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

We'll explore subalpine and tundra habitats, looking for birds and wildflowers. This gulch, near the Continental Divide, is an outdoor laboratory for ecology and geology, and the scenery is terrific. Expect a hike of about 6 miles, with elevation gain of 2,200 feet. Call Mike to sign up and plan to meet in the parking lot of El Rancho (Exit 252 of I-70) at 7:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch for full-day trip.

Sunday, July 30

Silver Dollar Lake: Wildflowers
Leader: Lynne Price, 303-910-8817

Lynne once again will lead this favorite TENAS trip in pursuit of 100 subalpine and alpine flower species. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Park 'n' Ride in Bergen Park. Bring lunch and sunscreen, dress in layers. Since the trip is on Guanella Pass, participants should be prepared for 2 miles of hiking at altitude. If you are attending, please notify Lynne by the Thursday prior to the hike.

Saturday, Aug. 12–Sunday, Aug. 20

Birds in the Balance Window

Sunday, August 27

Beaver Brook Watershed
Leader: Fran Enright, 303-674-2657

Fran will select an appropriate route. Call her to learn where to meet, and plan to be there by 7 a.m.

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

July and August Calendar

July 8	Garage Sale	July 27	Board Meeting
July 8	Chimney Gulch	July 29	Herman Gulch
July 8-16	Birds in the Balance Window	July 30	Silver Dollar Lake
July 9	Tundra to Timberline	Aug. 3	Chapter Meeting
July 15	Weed Identification, Conifer	Aug. 5	Heritage Grove Festival
July 15	Annual Picnic	Aug. 12-20	Birds in the Balance Window
July 20	Meet the Trees—classroom	Aug. 24	Board Meeting
July 22	Meet the Trees—tour	Aug. 27	Beaver Brook Watershed
July 23	Beaver Brook Watershed		

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

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

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
TENAS website www.dipper.org

*The Dipper deadline for the
 September issue is Thursday, Aug. 3.*

Submit articles to:

Peggy Durham, peggy.durham@comcast.net
AND Margaret McDole, mem2@earthlink.net

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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.

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Enclosed is my check payable to TENAS
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If you would like to join or donate to National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, please call 1-800-274-4201.

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Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

- Board Member Bio
- Parmigan Banding
- August Program

In This Issue

Time Dated Material

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