

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Don't Forget Next Weed Event

Community Weed Day
Weed Pull and
Mystery Plant ID

Saturday, June 21, 8-11 a.m.
Evergreen Lake

Breaking News

**Gunnison Sage Grouse
Monitoring, June 27-29**

BLM has just announced that it will conduct monitoring of Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat again this year. For details, see page 5.

Lost and Found

The first-aid kit Karel Buckley contributed to field trips was taken by an unknown person and not returned. If you have the kit, please notify Karel at mesabirder@gmail.net.

Also, we are still looking for the old banner. If anyone comes across it while cleaning out the garage, please notify Karel.

The old banner was made professionally in the early 1990s and has a Dipper logo on it.

Reminder: No July Meeting

There will not be a Chapter meeting in July. The next Chapter meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 7.

Annual Picnic will be July 12

We are pleased to announce that the Brockners have again offered the use of their terrace (5965 S. Herzman Drive) for our Annual Picnic. It is a treat to view their yard with the many birds who will also be eating well that afternoon.

Schedule of Activities

- 4-6 p.m. Social hour, appetizers
- 6-7 p.m. Potluck supper, announcements and updates
- 7-8 p.m. The program will be slides or digital pictures.

Dave Balogh will put together collected digital pictures. Please send your pictures to him by July 5. For more info, call him at 303-679-2799 or e-mail david3drb@netscape.net.

Food

The club will furnish non-alcoholic beverages and the main course. Please bring a potluck dish or beverage to serve eight people. See the following alphabetical last-name list to determine what to bring. A fee of \$4 per person will be collected.

- A-F: appetizer
- G-L: wine or beer
- M-R: salad or vegetable
- S-Z: dessert
- **Note: Change of policy.** In accordance with our recycling ethic, we are requesting that everyone bring their own place setting: reusable utensils, plates, beverage glasses and coffee cups (and take them home.)

You may wish to bring a lawn chair; some picnic benches will be available, if you're quick. Please make your reservation with and get directions from Bill Brockner, 303-674-4851, by Sunday, July 6.

Please let Bill know how many are in your party and your phone number. Also let him know if you can bring an ice chest with ice. And please notify him if you must cancel.

Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715, and Peggy Durham, 303-674-8648, will be coordinating the preparation and cleanup. Please call either of them if you can help setting up, collecting money or cleaning up.

Aug. Program: Birding Sri Lanka

Join us for the August program where we will travel to Sri Lanka and learn about the many bird species that can be observed there. Dr. John Drummond will share his adventures, stories and photographs from his trip to Sri Lanka in December of 2006.

Traveling with three other birders from Denver, he visited the Sinharaja Rainforest, Udawalawe, Bundala and Horton Plains national parks, and Kalani Valley Forest Reserve. All are situated in the southeastern part of Sri Lanka, well away from the conflict zone.

John has a tremendous amount of experience with birds, including leading and participating in many Breeding Bird Surveys,

Continued on Page 4



The national bird of Sri Lanka, the Blue Magpie © John Drummond



President's Message

In late May, the TENAS board held its annual planning session. First we looked at the goals we set for ourselves a year ago and assessed our progress or lack thereof in the various projects we anticipated.

Immediately obvious were the two major accomplishments we have achieved in the last year that were not on our radar. First, we established the Evergreen Nature Center at the lake. Second, we set up a new breeding bird program called the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas (BCA).

The numerous bird monitoring trips for this program will be our Field Trips during the breeding season, May-July. As we move into new territory on these fronts, we have shifted some of our priorities.

Our goals included continuing to organize TENAS files and put them in the archives at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for safe storage. Archiving sounds dull, but actually, I had occasion to retrieve something recently that no one could find on their computers.

The bluebird nest box construction and sales were successful again this year. The redesigned boxes were very popular and we will endeavor to build more to meet the demand next year. We continue to monitor the Bluebird box trail in Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters and other sites and will publish the results in a subsequent *Dipper*.

Our Education program has been integrated into the nature center with classes for children and adults and the Naturalist on the Boardwalk.

We plan to continue with the usual events, such as Weed Day, the picnic, the Turkey Trot, the Christmas Bird Count and the banquet.

Our noxious weed program is strong, with residents very interested in eradicating weeds on their own properties and on their neighbors'. Our program has been recognized throughout Colorado for its success.

An annual review is always an interesting exercise because it is so easy to get wrapped up with the minutiae rather than focus on the big picture. As we were looking back and forward a year, I was reminded that TENAS was founded 40 years ago by the Brockners and the Mounseys (and two other couples no longer living in Evergreen).

The vision of these people then and their continuing support have propelled a fledgling group into this vital, broad-ranging organization that seeks to educate our local population about the environment and the importance of the natural world. And we always having fun doing it.

Looking at pictures and reading statistics of Evergreen, the changes in the last 40 years are obvious. But the course set for TENAS by Bill and Sylvia Brockner and Bill and Louise Mounsey is more important than ever as the environment continues to be under attack.

Let's continue the good example of the past 40 years through education and hard work in the next decades.

- Peggy Durham

2008 Officers

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- To **Kent Simon** for preparing the name tags for the Friendraiser.
- To **Brad Andres, Julaine Kennedy, Cathy Shelton, Pat Carter, Ginny Boschen** and **John Sears** for getting the education program at the nature center off to a good start by preparing and leading classes.
- To **Dave Balogh, Sylvia Robertson** and **Bud Weare** for meeting several batches of fourth-graders from Wilmot Elementary School at the nature center for classes about the environment at the lake.
- To **Sylvia Brockner** for leading the Botany Group again this summer.



Summer Weed Events: Join the Fight!

Say goodbye to noxious weeds as volunteers throughout the state gear up to fight invasives. Join us at one or all of the following events.

Celebrate the beginning of summer on **Saturday, June 21**, at the 11 Annual Community Weed Day from 8 to 11 a.m. at Evergreen Lake. As always, we start with refreshments, break into teams and weed until the weeds are no more (or 11 a.m., whichever comes first).

Please remember to wear sturdy shoes, work gloves and long pants and sleeves. We also will have our famous display of noxious weeds and our plant experts to help with identification and control questions.

Landowners are encouraged to bring in their “mystery” plants for identification. Maybe you’ll be the one who has only native plants in their yard! For more information, contact Cathy Shelton at sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com or 303-674-8610.

On **Sunday, June 29**, Friends of Beaver Brook Watershed will be hosting a Weed Pull at Beaver Brook from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m. This is an opportunity to help restore native wildlife habitat with a little hard work and a lot of fun.

Volunteers will meet at the Old Squaw Pass Road entrance. Please bring your own gloves and favorite weeding tools, if possible. Water and snacks will be provided. Contact Kay Axtell, 303-674-5709, with questions.

Mark your calendars for “Pulling for Colorado” (P4C), a statewide effort to educate Colorado about the impacts noxious weeds are having on our natural, agricultural and recreational lands. The big day for P4C is **Saturday, July 12**, on which 11 different weed events are taking place

As part of this statewide effort, Community Weed Awareness Campaign volunteers will staff a table outside the Idaho Springs Safeway with samples of noxious weeds found in Idaho Springs and neighboring areas.

So stop by or bring plants in for identification and control information from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 12.

Clear Creek County Weed manager



Ted Brown will be joining us for added weed expertise. For more information, contact Sylvia Robertson at 303-674-1715.

The largest P4C event is planned for Bear Creek Lake State Park from 8 a.m. to noon on July 12. This half-day event features weed removal, native planting, educational events and a fantastic lunch!

It is limited to 400 participants, ages 8 to adult (almost 200 are already registered). To register for this event only, go to Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and look for “Pulling for Colorado.”

For more information on all of the Pulling for Colorado events, go to cwma.org/p4cmap.htm.

- Cathy Shelton
Community Weed Awareness Campaign

Weed of the Month: Dame's Rocket

Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) is a member of the Mustard Family (*Brassicaceae*). This escaped ornamental is beginning to show up in our wildlands, most commonly invading moist areas including riparian and wetland habitats.

This native of Europe may be either a biennial or perennial, and may be from 1-1/2 to 4 feet tall. Flowers range in color from white to pink to purple. Dame's Rocket flowers from April through July.

There are many alternatives to planting Dame's Rocket, including Blue Columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*) and Lavender Native Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa menthaefolia*).

- Renee Cormier



Dame's Rocket is beautiful, but is a growing problem in some areas. © Cathy Shelton



Bird Business

The best birding month of the year, May, is now over. Many migrants came through our area during the month of May. Evergreen Lake and marsh continues to be the center of our local birding. Proof of this was the continued interest in the Dawn Chorus.

Twenty-five Cassin's Finches and 30 Red Crossbills visited Else Van Erp's yard on May 1. This was a good way to start the month.

Loie Evans welcomed a Black-headed Grosbeak at the lake on May 6. Grosbeaks nest nearby, so watch for them.

Surprising was a beautiful Broad-tailed Hummingbird's nest found in Lair o' the Bear Park by Else Van Erp. It was discovered May 8. She took photos of it.

May 8 was a busy bird day. Sylvia Brockner watched a House Wren in our yard. Trish Toffte studied a Black-headed Grosbeak in Kittredge and Loie Evans

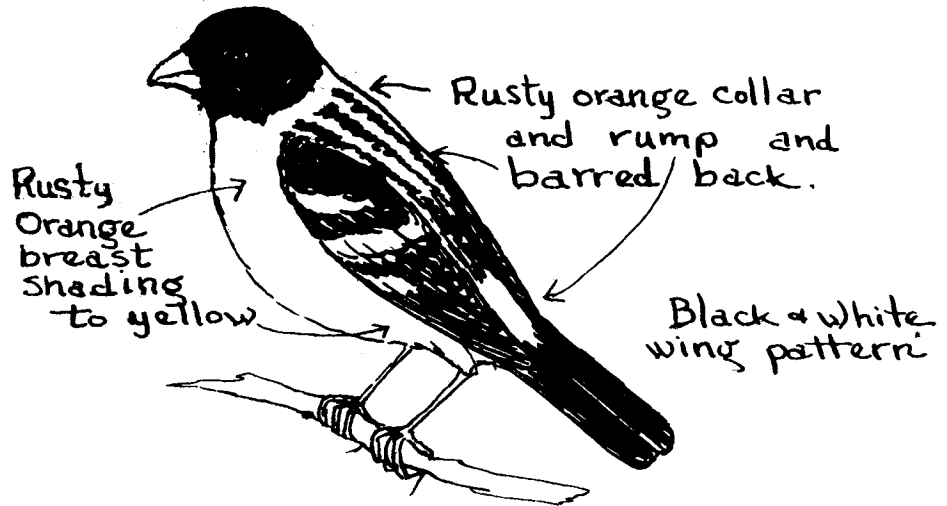
Sri Lanka

Continued from Page 1

working as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contractor on many bird survey projects, participating in many research and development projects in both the United States and the United Kingdom, and working as a international birding tour guide.

He has in excess of 6,400 birds on his world life list, birding on six continents and in more than 25 countries. He was a nature tour guide for an established U.S. nature company that led trips to Jamaica and Japan and carried out research and scouting in Australia and Thailand for future bird trips. Come and join us for this dynamic and fun program!

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



Black-headed Grosbeak

found a Sora Rail at the lake. Spring had arrived and on May 17 Loie found four Soras at the marsh.

On May 10 we had a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak at our feeders. It was most welcome.

The bird of the month was a Bobolink! In a snowstorm, Loie Evans spotted one at the lake. Wow!!

Finally, a Virginia Rail showed up at the lake on May 22. Loie Evans and Kathie LaTourette found it.

To close the month, Kathanne Lynch watched a Common Nighthawk hunting

near Genesee. This bird is decreasing in our area.

Our members like to go where the birds are. Karel Buckley visited Alaska. Among the birds seen was a beautiful Harlequin Duck.

Kathanne Lynch went the opposite direction to fabulous New Jersey. There she counted 146 species of birds. Her favorite was an American Woodcock, a life bird.

Nesting will be in full swing as you read this. When will the first Rufous Hummingbird show up?

- Bill Brockner

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Naturalist on the Boardwalk

The Naturalist on the Boardwalk program keyed off the Dawn Chorus celebration using the theme of migration. In impromptu conversations with visitors, we stressed the importance of Evergreen Lake in the lives of many migratory birds coming up from western Mexico.

Using nests, and ceramic eggs loaned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, we helped visitors examine materials used by several of our common migratory birds. (All visitors were told that collecting birds, eggs or nests was not in the best interest of the birds and quite illegal under the Migratory Bird Treaty between Mexico, the United States and Canada.)

A visitor gasped at the size of the Broad-tailed Hummingbird's nest and egg, but told of hearing her first hummingbird in Pine! A birder from Key West saw an Eared Grebe by using our spotting scope and yet another wondered about those zebra mussels.

From noon until 2 p.m., there was a steady stream of walkers interested in returning to Evergreen Lake and the nature center.

Migration is an immense and mysterious topic. In the life of a migratory bird, the journey between summer and winter home is most important and



A Naturalist on the Boardwalk, Ginny Boschen, shows a bird's nest to visitors to Evergreen Lake.

spectacular. Take a bird and make it your secret.

Contact Michael Stills at enc@dipper.org

per.org and join the start-up volunteer group on the boardwalk.

- Ginny Boschen

Gunnison Basin Monitoring Rendezvous

June 27 through June 29

A volunteer effort sponsored by Audubon Colorado and the Bureau of Land Management

The BLM office in Gunnison welcomes Audubon volunteers in a second year of habitat monitoring for Gunnison Sage-Grouse in the Gunnison Basin.

There were concerns that the habitat condition after the heavy winter snows would delay everything by several weeks. However, it's been decided that the best time to monitor the ripar-

ian areas used by grouse will be on the last weekend in June, similar to last year.

This late notice may keep some of you away, but we hope many can still participate. The goal is to collect data on the condition of riparian habitats used by Gunnison Sage-Grouse following the spring grazing season.

Schedule

- Friday morning, 9 a.m. Meet at Gunnison BLM office for training indoors and in the field. Begin monitoring sites in the afternoon.
- Saturday and Sunday morning

and afternoon. Continue monitoring assigned sites.

• Evenings. Various opportunities to get together for meals and to socialize.

Please reply to Ken Strom by e-mail or phone as soon as possible, if you are able to participate. It will be critical to know how many people we can expect in order to adequately plan for the weekend activities and supplies.

- Ken Strom, Director of Bird Conservation & Public Policy
Audubon Colorado
303-415-0130
kstrom@audubon.org



Enjoy Birding, Prevent Mosquito Bites!

The riparian habitat is buzzing with wildlife. As birders, we patiently watch for glimpses of movement and color. We listen, using those recognizable sounds to target the areas to watch. We concentrate.

Then, as we are so focused on those brilliant wings and beautiful song, we might miss a memorable sighting.

While we are so busy concentrating, a mosquito lands, takes a quick bite and flies off. While we may not even notice at the time, most times we know exactly what just happened.

Usually, after a couple of scratches, we forget the unwanted encounter. However, if the mosquito had West Nile Virus, we may remember the bite for much longer.

WNV, a type of encephalitis, has affected thousands of people in the US since 1999. Fortunately, almost 80% of people infected with WNV will not demonstrate any symptoms, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Membership

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

New

Carol Chapman—Morrison
Lynn Vaseleski—Golden
Kathy Vaughn—Empire
David Walker—Indian Hills

New Family

Rachel & David Hutchison—Evergreen
Catherine Petros—Golden
Kylie, Max, Russell & Cherie Straub—Evergreen

Renewing

Marty & Robert Lindsey—Evergreen
Kathanne Lynch—Golden
Barbara Sternberg—Evergreen

Renewing Family

Pat & Ben Carter—Evergreen
Bill & JoAnn Hackos—Evergreen
Lori, Eric, & Pearl Hogan—Evergreen
Deb Callahan & David Jones—Evergreen
Bill & Louise Mounsey—Evergreen
Mike Wilson & Barbara Nabors—Morrison
Gil & Jan Schoonveld—Evergreen

About 20% of those who develop WNV have what the CDC describes as “mild” symptoms, ranging from “fever, serious headache, gastrointestinal symptoms and exhaustion” to those experiencing “moderate fever, slight headache and tiredness.”

About 1 in 150 people infected with WNV will develop much more serious illness. People over 50 are more likely to develop more serious WNV symptoms if they do get sick.

On a beautiful, sunny day in early August last year, my husband and I went to Rocky Mountain National Park for some wildlife watching and a lovely picnic near a stream.

We knew that the area was considered a “hot zone” for WNV and we are in that 50-plus age group. Both of us wore long-sleeved shirts, hats, long pants and mosquito repellent. He got two mosquito bites.

I don’t know if the mosquitoes were just really hungry or I was just too tempting for the buzzing insects, but I got 15 or more mosquito bites.

Unfortunately, I was one of those 1 in 150 who developed a serious case of WNV. My WNV included many uncomfortable symptoms, including a severe headache, extreme sensitivity to light and general weakness for several months. It’s taken since last August to recover and rebuild my energy.

So I have a message. TRY TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES! Wear long sleeves and pants when in areas likely to have mosquitoes. Use mosquito repellent (those with DEET are touted to be most effective).

Remember that mosquitoes are most active in early mornings and evenings. Reduce areas around the house where mosquitoes might breed (like standing water). Make sure window and door screens are in good repair.

Keep up your bird watching, gardening or just sitting and enjoying the wonderful summer and fall weather—but avoid those hungry mosquitoes!

Want to learn more? Check out the following websites: cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Zoonosis/wnv/index.html or cdc.gov for West Nile Virus fact sheets.

- Shirley Casey

Hummer Trip

We are lucky to have another invitation to Lynette Mychowski’s wonderful home this year for hummingbird viewing. We have done this trip in the past and it is very special.

Lynette has an unrivaled year-round feeding station, something to see in itself. We will surely see interesting species other than hummingbirds!

Her yard plantings are beautiful and attract birds and butterflies. Her garden is featured in the 2008 Evergreen Garden Club tour.

Once again this trip is limited in number so please reserve your space ASAP. Call Karel Buckley at 303-670-8859.

This trip will be July 11, the evening before the annual picnic. Meet at the lake parking lot at 5:30 p.m. and car pool. Lynette has graciously offered to have snacks for us to share.

A rain date is also scheduled.



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Summer Programs and Classes

Evergreen
Nature Center

Sponsored by the Evergreen Nature Center at Evergreen Lake, all the classes below are free. To register, send an e-mail to enc@dipper.org.

Saturday, July 12
Foundations of Citizen Science
Instructor: Brad Andres

Learn about the scientific method used for bird monitoring programs here in Evergreen and discuss our atlas and nest-box efforts. Participants will go into the field to observe bird behavior and record habitat association. **Ages 16+. 9 a.m.-noon. Class size: 14.**

Friday, July 18
Midsummer Planets

Join amateur astronomer Pam Little for a tour of our universe. View Saturn and Jupiter through telescopes. Learn how to read the night sky and hear star facts and stories. Dress for outdoors. Bring camping-type chair/blanket for comfortable night-sky viewing and binoculars, if available. **Ages 3+. 9 p.m. Class size: 25.**

Sunday, July 20
Learn to Identify Wildflowers

Join Lynne Price for an interpretive wildflower hike in the Evergreen Lake environs with special emphasis on select flower families. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and any flower ID books or viewing materials you like to use. **Adult, young adult. Class size: 15. 3-5 p.m.**

Saturday, July 26
What's Bugging You?
Instructor: David Balogh and others

A "Sharing Nature with Children" class with imaginative games to awaken kids to the delights of nature at Evergreen Lake. **Ages 5-9. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Class size: 10.**

Sunday, August 3
Learn to Identify Wildflowers

Join Lynne Price for an interpretive wildflower hike in the Evergreen Lake environs with special emphasis on select flower families. Bring hat, sunscreen, water and any flower ID books or viewing materials you like to use. **Adult, young adult. 3-5 p.m. Class size: 15.**

Saturday, Aug. 16
It's All About Bear Creek

Historian Bud Weare and botanist Sally White will "follow the water" from the snow-pack on Mt. Evans to the reservoir at Morrison, providing an overview of the historical and ecological significance of the Bear Creek watershed. Topics covered will range from ranch life to riparian biology along the Bear Creek corridor. **10 a.m.-noon. Class size: 15.**

Friday, August 22
Late-summer Planets & Stars

Take a tour of the universe with amateur astronomer Pam Little. View Jupiter and its moons through a telescope. Learn how to use a star chart to find constellations in the night sky. Dress for outdoors. Bring camping-type chair/blanket for comfortable night-sky viewing and binoculars, if available. **Ages 3+. 8:30 p.m. Class size: 25.**

Saturday, August 23
Along the Trail
Instructor: David Balogh and others

A "Sharing Nature with Children" class with imaginative games to awaken kids to the delights of nature at Evergreen Lake. **Ages 5-9. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Class size: 10.**

Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas Field Trips

All birders, including beginning birders, are welcome on all trips. Call the leader for meeting time and place, and for any other questions.

Wed., July 2, Mount Glennon, Kathanne Lynch, 303-968-4750
Sun., July 6, Bear Creek. Lake Park, Bob Santangelo, 303-477-1367
Mon., July 7, Bergen Peak, Fran Enright, 303-674-2657
Wed. July 9, Mount Glennon, Kathanne Lynch, 303-968-4750
Sat., July 12, Dinosaur Ridge S, Dave Balogh, 303-679-2799
Sun., July 13, Bear Creek Lake Park, Bob Santangelo, 303-477-1367

Mon., July 14, Elk Meadow, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780
Tues., July 15, Beaver Meadows, Larry White, 303-674-0535
Wed., July 16, Summit Lake, Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646
Tues.-Wed., July 22-23, Shelter House Area, Beaver Meadows, Larry White, 303-674-0535
Thurs., July 31, Summit Lake, Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646
Little Park: Sherman Wing, leader, 303-697-8840, or Susan Harper, assistant leader, 303-231-4849, for dates/times
Captain Mountain/Lincoln Lake Trails: Brad Andres and Heather Johnson, 303-670-0101, for dates/times.

Calendar

July 12	TENAS Picnic
July 12	Foundations of Citizen Science (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)
July 18	Midsummer Planets (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)
July 20	Learn to Identify Wildflowers (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)
July 26	What's Bugging You? (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)
August 3	Learn to Identify Wildflowers (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)
August 7	Chapter Meeting
August 16	It's All About Bear Creek (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)
August 22	Late-summer Planets and Stars (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)
August 23	Along the Trail (<i>Nature Center Program</i>)

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

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

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
www.auduboncolorado.org

TENAS website: www.dipper.org

The Dipper deadline for the September issue is Thursday, Aug. 7. Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org

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- Naturalist on the Boardwalk
- Summer Weed Events

In This Issue

Time Dated Material

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

THE DIPPER