



THE DIPPER

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JULY 2010

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

NIGHT BOATING

Evergreen Nature Center will be open during five nights of boating on Evergreen Lake this summer.

Evergreen Park and Recreation District will offer the lighted boating on five Saturday nights from 8 to 10 p.m. The dates are June 26, July 10 and 31, and Aug. 14 and 28.

Watch the EA and EPRD websites for more information.

NO SUMMER MEETINGS

EA no longer holds chapter meetings in the summer. The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 2.

SHEEP COUNTS

Volunteers are needed for sheep and goat counts on Mount Evans and in Georgetown this summer.

The 2010 Mount Evans Sheep and Goat Count is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21.

The 2010 Georgetown Sheep and Goat Count is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27.

Contact Sherri Huwer, Colorado Division of Wildlife, at 970-472-4466, or sherri.huwer@state.co.us.

MT. EVANS SUNRISE

A field trip to Mt. Evans will leave Bergen Park at 4:30 a.m. Sunday, July 25.

The goal is to be on top of the mountain by sunrise, then bird the road and Mt. Goliath.

See page 7 for more info.

Dedisse Park will host EA Picnic

The annual EA Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 17, at Dedisse Park, Site 1. There will be a social hour and appetizers, as well as a potluck supper and entertainment.

The club will furnish non-alcoholic beverages and the main course—barbecued chicken and beef. Please bring a potluck dish or beverage to serve eight people.

See the following alphabetical last-name

list to determine what to bring. We will charge \$5 per person to cover the barbecue and the Denver Mountain Parks site fee. The only alcoholic beverage allowed by DMP is 3.2 beer. And DMP does not allow any glass containers.

A-F: dessert
G-L: appetizer
M-R: 3.2 beer
S-Z: salad or vegetable

Schedule of Activities

3-5 p.m. Volleyball, horseshoes, badminton.

4-5 p.m. Social hour, appetizers.

5-6 p.m. Potluck supper, announcements and updates.

6-7 p.m. Entertainment provided by Marilyn Rhodes, Bob Santangelo and other performers.

Note: In accordance with our recycling ethic, we are requesting that everyone bring his or her own reusable utensils, plates, beverage glasses and coffee cups (and take them home).

You may wish to bring a lawn chair; some benches will be available, if you're quick.

If you wish to play

volleyball, horseshoes or badminton, please bring the equipment.

Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715, and Peggy Durham, 303-674-8648, will be coordinating the reservations, preparation and cleanup. Let us know how many are in your party, your phone number, if you can bring an ice chest with ice, and your preference for helping with the setup or cleanup. Please notify us if you must cancel.



A Red-naped Sapsucker delighted 20 birders on a hike through O'Fallon Park. See Field Notes, page 3. Photo by Alistair Montgomery

2010 OFFICERS

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At Large	Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715 atlarge2@evergreenaudubon.org

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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

Editor's note: David Wald is in migratory status this time of year so he offered up only this short message en route.

I often smile to myself when I see a bird, any bird, or especially an interesting bird, while driving, running, hiking or even just at our backyard feeder.

But why is it that you've not really seen a bird until you can share that experience with your son, a friend or even just a random fellow birder? What is it about birding that makes banding together so important?

Of course, the same is true of most of our human experiences. All good things are best when shared. With birds, though, seeing someone else's eyes light up when encountering the unexpected seems to reinvigorate us and allow us to smile at our own good fortune.

And isn't this just what the Audubon Society and so many formal or informal birding groups are all about? Every hike and meeting is another opportunity to share what we've seen in the world around us, and there's no better time than spring.

On Sunday, May 16, many of us sure had a nice chance to share a lot of birds as a community, when Sherman Wing and Susan Harper led a great trip through O'Fallon Park.

Other great trips were led by Brad Andres, Sherman Wing, Karel Buckley, Loie Evans, Kathanne Lynch, Sylvia Brockner, Mike Foster and so many others. What great opportunities for saying, "Isn't that a . . ." together!

A few weeks ago, in late May, I was in New York City, and I hit on the peak

of warbler migration. I would have been overwhelmed if not for fellow birders roaming the Rambles, including Marie Winn (author of "Red-Tails in Love") and another nice gent who just had to point me to a fine view of a Bay-breasted Warbler.

A few years back my son, Aaron, came running home to say he saw a flock of Bohemian Waxwings in the juniper trees a few blocks away. We ran over to see the flock.

Ah, but even that shared experience was not complete until we could log the observation for the record, by taking photos, but more importantly, by calling Bill Brockner.

We no longer have Bill to inform, but please share what you see online at www.evergreenaudubon.org, in *The Dipper* (Bird Business), and with anyone who you know will be interested!



Susan Harper focuses on getting good photos during a May 29 field trip at O'Fallon Park. Photo by Alistair Montgomery

FIELD NOTES SUSAN HARPER & SHERMAN WING

Twenty birders took a trip up Meadow View Trail near O'Fallon Park in Kitzredge on May 29 and enjoyed fabulous weather, a peaceful forest trail and the thrill of identifying 54 species of beautiful birds.

With such a large group we decided to split up into two groups with one getting a head start. The first group was especially quiet so as not to disturb the nesting birds and also give the second group a good chance to see them too.

Sherman and Susan used walkie-talkies to communicate what the groups were seeing and hearing, which proved helpful in many spots.

Highlights included Western Tanager, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Audubon's and Myrtle's Yellow-rumped Warblers, Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers; Chipping, Savannah, Song and Lincoln's Sparrows; Olive-sided, Dusky and Cordilleran Flycatchers; several Western Wood

Continued on page 5



This White-breasted Nuthatch was trying to scare off a squirrel with a nest lower down in the same tree. Photo by Alistair Montgomery



Twenty birders joined the O'Fallon field trip. While photographing birds was a major activity, Susan Harper managed to snap some humans.

Evergreen Auduboners were out birding far and wide in the last month.

Kay Niyo, Jim Dewey and David Wald led a small group hike through lower White Ranch Open Space on May 25. There was lots of action, including **Bull-ock's Oriole**, **Western Wood Pewee**, **Broad-tailed Hummingbird**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **MacGillivray's Warbler**, **Gray Catbird**, **Lazuli Bunting** (several males and females), **Indigo Bunting**, **Blue Grosbeak** (at least one tame pair), **Black-headed Grosbeak**, **Lark Sparrow**, **White-crowned Sparrow** and **Song Sparrow**.

Evening Grosbeak sightings continued, with Mitch Gill hosting two pairs on May 22 and 23 in Ravensdale. Sherman Wing reported two males among the birds flitting about O'Fallon Park the evening of May 27. He also reported a pair of **Plumbeous Vireos** and three **Western Tanagers**.

Larry White observed an **Eastern Kingbird** outside its normal range and habitat at 8,800 feet on May 23. He spotted the bird at Truesdell Meadows in the Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area.

Barbara Klaus saw what she believed to be two **Cedar Waxwings** at Lair o' the Bear the morning of May 26. She also saw a multitude of warblers, one **American Dipper**, a catbird, and "others too fast for me to identify."

To the delight of Marilyn Rhodes, her feeders attracted adult male and female **Red Crossbills** and three juvies on May 25. She is hoping they are nesting in her yard somewhere.

Sherman Wing reported on some of the bird sightings during an EA-sponsored O'Fallon Park field trip on May 29:

- **Olive-sided Flycatcher**—a pair at 7,200 feet;
- **Clark's Nutcracker**—heard and confirmed by a recording on the north-facing slope, along the Meadow View Trail;
- **Cassin's Vireo** on the lower portion of Meadow View Trail, in the riparian shrubby;
- **Red-naped** and **Williamson's Sapsuckers** in the ponderosa/aspen forest;
- **Common Yellowthroat** in the



Several female and male (above) **Lazuli Buntings** were sighted on a trip to White Ranch Open Space Park May 25. Photo by Kay Niyo

marshy shrubby area at the upper-end on Myers Gulch.

Also appreciated were the beautiful songs of the **Black-headed Grosbeak**, the **Western Tanagers**, the **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and of course the **Hermit Thrush**.

Pat Wyker was happy to make an easy ID in Georgetown on May 30 when, "Unbelievably, a **Lazuli Bunting** came to roost beside my feeder, right in front of me. No picture can do this bird's striking markings and coloring justice. Hopefully, he will come back when I have my camera."

Another **Lazuli Bunting** thrilled

Jude Roehm on June 5 when a male alighted on one of her feeders at 8 p.m. Her records show it is the first time they have seen one at their home on Cameyo Road in Indian Hills since July 6, 2001.

Marilyn Stechert was on the boardwalk near the south end of the Flying J Ranch Park on June 9 when she watched a **Wilson's Snipe** come up from the water, forage and then fly into the willows.

Marilyn Rhodes mounted a nest cam in a nest box on the west side of her house and a **Violet-green Swallow** began nest building in the box on June 15.

FIELD NOTES SUSAN HARPER & SHERMAN WING

Continued from page 3

Pewees calling near and far; and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds galore.

We were fortunate to be watching a Red-naped Sapsucker working on the bark of an aspen and noticed some other interesting activity a couple trees down.

A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches were engaged in a most unusual movement around the entrance to their presumed nesting site—a hole in an aspen.

There just happened to be a family of chickarees (small squirrels) living in a hole a few feet below the nuthatches and whenever the chickarees came out the adult nuthatches would hang onto the trunk right near the entrance and appear to make themselves bigger by holding out their wings and moving in a oddly slow manner.

The groups were enthralled as no one had ever seen this before.

Another treat was the good fortune to listen to Hermit Thrushes singing their mysterious song from somewhere not too far away.

We'd like to thank all the hikers/birders that joined us and made this a truly enjoyable birding adventure. Special



These Warbling Vireos were nest building in the chokecherry shrub, near the creek, below the Red-nape Sapsucker. Photo by Sherman Wing

thanks to Bob Santangelo for the use of his walkie-talkies and Aaron Wald

for scouting out several good birds for the groups to enjoy.

VIP VOLUNTEERS DAVID WALD

- **Karel Buckley** has helped develop a wide range of summer field trips and Nature Center classes and has been working on the fall classes. Karel has also pushed for further involvement in other activities, including No Child Left Inside activities at the Dinosaur Ridge Nature Center.

- Thanks to **Tory Hurst** and **Jane Stewart** for relieving Karel at the Evergreen Audubon booth during the Get Outdoors Day event at Dinosaur Ridge June 12. It would have been very well attended if it hadn't rained most of the day.

- **Dick Prickett** deserves credit for hanging in as our chapter's Audubon Colorado rep, despite a inauspicious start on the part of AC. He attended the June statewide meeting.

- Kudos to all Nature Center volunteers. Too many to name, but you are making a huge difference! Thanks to **Mimi Nelson** and **Michael Stills** for continued efforts, along with **Betsy Hoke**, to motivate and plan for summer day camps at the Nature Center.

- Thanks to all the **Bear Creek Bird Atlas teams**, including an open invitation by **Susan Harper** to count at Dedisse Park and the Evergreen Lake area.

- **Heather Johnson** visited the sixth-grade class at the Montessori School of Evergreen, where she was well received.

- **Brad Andres** has completed the Together Green Planning Grant for 2010/11, and contributed to the success of other grants for the Nature Center. Thanks, Brad!

- Thanks to **David Milner** of New York City for helping **Lisa Wald** troubleshoot web issues and for webpage development. **Michael Stills** found David via an online volunteer match, and he's certainly talented and helpful!

- **Joan Ridgely** donated kids craft chairs and stools and a small computer desk to the Nature Center.

- **Richard Wheeler** donated five boxes of rocks and minerals to the Nature Center; **Craig Wibert** inventoried and identified them.

- And finally, thanks to any and all of you who have responded (or are thinking about responding) to the May direct-mail campaign to help support Evergreen Audubon and the Nature Center.

Family Movie Nights debut July 7

Please join Evergreen Audubon for the first-ever Family Movie Night at Evergreen Nature Center on Tuesday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m.

The movie will be "Winged Migration," a 2001 documentary. Directed by Jacques Cluzaud, the film was shot over a span of four years on all seven continents.

Bird-cam views using in-flight cameras make it seem like you are flying along with the birds.

The second film of the summer will be shown at the Nature Center on Tuesday, Aug. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The movie will be "Fly Away Home" (1996), which features a 14-year-old who

leads a family of orphaned geese back home.

Popcorn and drinks will be available at both Family Movie Nights.

Children's Workshops offer learning at lake

Children's workshops will be offered at Evergreen Nature Center this summer. Science Alive: Learning at the Lake will be offered in four sessions, two for first-through third-graders and one each for fourth- through sixth-graders and 4- to 6-year-olds.

Contact the Nature Center at 303-330-0489 and watch evergreenaudubon.org to learn more.

July 12-16, 9 a.m.-noon

Entering 1st to 3rd grade Birds, Bugs and Bears

Fascinating animals at Evergreen Lake will capture the attention of budding biologists as they observe and study the habits and habitat of the birds, bugs and occasional bear that live near the lake.

Through exploration and hands-on activities the children will get to know these fascinating creatures. Each day will be packed with arts and crafts, walks, investigations and stories.

Entering 4th to 6th grade Muckin' in the Mud: Lake and Wetland Ecology

Fish, dig, scoop, capture and study the flora and fauna at Evergreen Lake to discover the natural world. Study the water through a hand lens and microscope and observe what lives in the creek, lake and puddles. Investigate the impact of humans on this delicate balance of life.

July 26-30, 9 a.m.-noon 4- to 6-year-olds

Fin, Fur, Feather and Bug Fun
Nature is an amazing and appealing teacher for young children. Crafts, picture books, snacks and discovery walks enhance this adventure for young explorers as they investigate the fish, mammals, insects and birds of our beautiful wetland habitat.

Entering 1st to 3rd grade What's in the Water?

Our young scientists will explore the plant and animal life at Evergreen Lake. As they observe the food chains and discover the relationships among all living things, the children will gain a new appreciation for the delicate balance of nature. Hands-on activities will fill each morning of adventure.

Volunteer Open House

The next open house for potential Evergreen Nature Center volunteers will be Saturday, July 31, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Current nature center volunteers will be on hand to share their experiences. Training will be scheduled for those who decide to become Visitor Assistants.

VAs greet visitors and are available to answer questions and provide access to information about plants and animals in the Bear Creek Watershed.

Visit the Evergreen Audubon website for more information, or call 303-330-0489.

A Visitor Assistant job description and an application are available on the website.

Weed event to promote awareness

As part of a statewide effort to provide invasive weed awareness, education and action, the Community Weed Awareness Campaign will reach out to the public at Evergreen Safeway from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 10.

Volunteers will provide weed identi-

fication and control information. There will be a display of area weeds and the public is invited to bring plants from their yards for identification.

For more information, contact Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715, or Cathy Shelton, 303-674-8610.

MEMBERSHIP

KENT SIMON

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

New

Laurel George-Pine
Susan Kerr-Evergreen

New Family

Benny, Kathleen, Celia, Benjamin, Ian
Simpson-Evergreen

Renewing

Judith Bird-Genesee
Bill Burnett-Evergreen
Robert & Sondra Inman-Evergreen
Barbara Klaus-Evergreen
Janet Mallow-Howard
Marilyn Rhodes-Evergreen

Renewing Family

Robert & Jessie Davis-Evergreen
George & Ruth Krauss-Evergreen
Ron Belak & Peggy Linn-Evergreen
Martin & Joan Strand-Evergreen
David & Lisa Wald-Evergreen
Chris Pfaff & Larry White-Evergreen
Ed & Pat Work-Evergreen

FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS KAREL BUCKLEY

Genesee Park and Baby Birds

Friday, July 2, 8 am

Kathanne Lynch and Warren Roske

On this weekday-morning trip, we hope to see and hear the offspring of Genesee's migrant and resident birds.

Babies may include Williamson Sapsucker (I hope we all have this honor), Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Western Bluebird and Mountain Bluebird.

Other summer migrants could include Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Western Tanager, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lesser Goldfinch.

If we are lucky, we will hear the glorious, flute-like song of the Hermit Thrush.

Resident bird species will likely be Red-tailed Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Black-billed Magpie, American Crow, Mountain Chickadee, all three Nuthatches (White-breasted, Red-breasted and Pygmy), American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch and Pine Siskin. Some of these residents also may have young.

Meet at Interstate 70 Exit 254 (at the RTD lot on the north side).

Please wear sturdy shoes; sneakers are OK if you stay on the gravel road. We will walk primarily on gravel trails or roads with elevation changes of less than 100 feet at any one site.

Bring water, sunscreen, a hat and a snack. You may leave the trip at any time, but bring a lunch if you are interested in staying until late morning. You may also join the field trip in progress, if you make prior arrangements with the leader.

Contact Kathanne at 303-968-4750 or emailaccount77@msn.com.

Trees of the Bear Creek Watershed

Saturday, July 10, 1-3 pm

and

Sunday, July 18, 8-noon

Kent Simon

Stumped? Branch out, and let Kent, a retired environmental science teacher, help you learn to identify Colorado's conifers up close and in forests.

Recognize friendly firs, spiky spruce and which "fers" wear pants and skirts. Learn which "fers" live where in the Bear

Creek Watershed, along with locating their leafy deciduous neighbors.

This is a two-part class—participate in one or both. Part 1 will be a classroom session on July 10 at Evergreen Nature Center. Participants will use hands-on activities to learn how to identify all 10 conifer species on the Front Range.

Part 2 on July 18 will be an interpretive driving tour from the Plains to Tundra life zones to find the "fers" (all 10 species) in their forest habitats.

Children and adults welcome. Call the Nature Center, 303-330-0489, to sign up for sessions and organize carpooling.

Stories of the Stars:

Midsummer Stars and Planets

Friday, July 16, 8:30-10 pm

Pam Little

Meet on the grass in front of Evergreen Lakehouse. Participants will learn amazing and fun space facts while using a star chart and a star clock, hearing ancient star stories, and locating star shapes and planets in the night sky. Venus, Mars and Saturn will be guests of honor.

Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or camp chairs. Limited to 25 participants, ages 3 and up. Registration is required; call 303-330-0489.

Living with Coyotes

Thursday, July 22, 10 am-noon

Ashley Delaup

Join Ashley, a Denver Mountain Parks wildlife ecologist, at Evergreen Nature Center to learn how coyotes are adapted to the human environment and what measures to take when living with coyotes. Limited to 25 participants, ages 10 and up.

Registration is required; call 303-330-0489.

Mt. Evans at Sunrise

Sunday, July 25, 4:30 am

Susan Harper and Sherman Wing

Back by popular demand, Susan and Sherman will lead this early-morning birding field trip. We will carpool from the RTD Park 'n' Ride in Bergen Park to Mt. Evans, hoping to be on top of the mountain at sunrise.

Then we will bird the road and Mt. Goliath, later having breakfast at the Echo

Lake Lodge. For more information, please email Sherman at sherman.margie@prodigy.net.

Weekend Getaway at Mounsey Ranch

Saturday-Sunday, July 31-Aug. 1

Louise and Bill Mounsey

Evergreen Audubon members have an excellent opportunity to spend a weekend birding at a private ranch outside the town of Edwards, west of Vail.

Diana Donovan, daughter of founding EA members Bill and Louise Mounsey, has invited Evergreen Auduboners to her private ranch for a weekend getaway July 31 and Aug. 1. Friday evening, July 30, is open for arrivals as well.

There will be a potluck dinner Saturday, with EA founder Sylvia Brockner as our campfire speaker.

The ranch house is a restored 100-year-old cabin without electricity or running water. Participants may choose to camp at the ranch or stay in town at a local hotel. Smaller RVs, trailers and tents are welcome; however, there are no water, electricity or sewer hookups.

The ranch has lots of hummingbirds, bluebirds, hawks and wildflowers. Participants can walk, sit, relax or whatever. Short trips will be planned.

There is a nature center nearby in Vail. Bald Eagles overlook public fishing areas that are nearby on the Eagle River. There is a lot to do and see in a very special setting. Views of beautiful wildflowers await about a 45-minute car drive away on Shrine Pass.

Lodging suggestions for those not camping:

- Many motel options in Eagle, which is a 20-minute drive to the west along the Eagle River.
- Christy Lodge in Avon is a 20-minute drive to the east. Call 888-325-6343.
- Inn at Riverwalk in Edwards is a 15-minute drive. Call 970-926-0606.
- Tivoli Lodge in Vail is a very nice lodge half an hour away. Call 970-476-5615.

This is a trip for Audubon members only, so if you are not an Evergreen member, now is the time to join!

Please call Louise or Bill Mounsey, 303-674-4695, to reserve a spot.

