



THE DIPPER

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JULY 2011

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

NIGHT BOATING, ENC OPEN

Evergreen Park and Recreation District will offer Night Boating with Lights on four more Saturdays this summer.

We will join in the fun by opening the Nature Center from 8 to 10 p.m. on those same Saturdays: July 10 and 31, and Aug. 14 and 28.

CHAPTER SOCIAL AUG. 11 AT ENC

An evening at Evergreen Nature Center!

In lieu of summer chapter meetings, the board promised some sort of replacement event. Well . . . here we go!

As a token of gratitude for our members, please join us for a members-only Chapter Social at Evergreen Nature Center, Thursday, Aug. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Wine and appetizers will be provided.

ENC WISH LIST

- mesh strainers
- 2 hummingbird feeders
- 1 tube bird feeder
- mini-fridge
- vacuum cleaner with hose attachment
- 2 aquarium tanks

Contact ENC Executive Director Alyson Duffey at 303-330-0489 if you can help.

Dedisse Park will host Annual Picnic

Evergreen Audubon will hold its Annual Picnic in Dedisse Park, Site 1, Saturday, July 16.

Schedule of Activities

4-5 pm	Social hour, appetizers
5-6 pm	Potluck supper
6-7 pm	Announcements and Surprise Entertainment
7 pm-?	Cleanup

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 (last year we were a little short on food, so please do bring enough for eight).

See the following alphabetical last-name list to determine what to bring.

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

We will ask for a \$5 contribution per person to cover the cost of the food. The only alcoholic beverage allowed by DMP is 3.2 beer. And DMP does not allow any glass containers.

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

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

Sylvia Robertson,

303-674-1715, and Peggy Durham, 303-674-8648, will be coordinating the reservations, preparation and cleanup.

Please RSVP by Sunday, July 10, with the number coming, your phone number, if you can bring an ice chest with ice, and your preference for helping with the setup or cleanup. Please notify if you must cancel.



This White-breasted Nuthatch didn't have to fend off a marauding Brown-headed Cowbird, but other birds were observed doing so during a May 28 field trip to O'Fallon Park led by Sherman Wing and Susan Harper. See Field Note on page 5. Photo by Alistair Montgomery

EVERGREEN AUDUBON
www.evergreenaudubon.org

2010 OFFICERS

President	David Wald	303-674-0417 president@evergreenaudubon.org
Vice President	Mike Wilson	303-697-9445 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
Secretary	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066 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	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331 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	Tim Zeman	303-862-8061 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	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331
Dipper Editor	Debbie Marshall	303-674-3752 marshallpublish@gmail.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	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066
Nature Center	Alyson Duffey	303-330-0489 endirector@evergreenaudubon.org
Program	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699
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 like to absorb wisdom from other people's life lessons learned, often-times through their writing. It was thus with enthusiasm that I snapped up Alyson Ashely Duffey's master's thesis (2006, Naropa University) when she carried it along to a recent Audubon board meeting.

Therein, Aly, our new Nature Center executive director, has a lot to say about the importance and mechanics of environmental childhood education.

In my view, this is no ordinary thesis. Not, at least, in comparison to the physical-science theses I normally navigate. No, Aly's covered ground that I normally miss out on given my specialty in solid-earth geophysics.

Yet how refreshingly personal and enlightening her world is in comparison! (OK, unfortunately no equations.)

As I earlier preached to you about Louv's book, "Last Child in the Woods,"* I now share with you Aly's recurring notion of the importance of connecting with nature at an early age.

Hands-on environmental education and natural-habitat immersion are so important, yet, remarkably, so few of our children experience it owing to time absorbed by electronic addictions and obsession with organized sport.

In her thesis, Aly not only makes a case for nature, she offers a recipe . . . a toolkit . . . for environmental educators that has proven to work remarkably well in Boulder for the Thorne Natural Science School program, at the center where she was formerly director.

I encourage Aly to keep her thesis available to those of you who, like me, would like to expand your horizons and background on childhood education, and help strategize about what Evergreen Audubon could do to further this key element of our mission via our Nature Center.

Welcome to Evergreen, Aly. Our community's children await your guidance on sustainably sharing our natural world. Our Evergreen children might then have the capacity and wisdom to become stewards of our environment as they grow and take charge of our world.

*Just out: Louv's latest book, "The Nature Principle," aimed not at children, but adults.

VIP VOLUNTEERS DAVID WALD

- A hearty "THANK YOU" to all the **generous donors to our Evergreen Audubon Spring Fundraising Campaign**. The campaign was a great success, thanks to you! These funds are critical for keeping up the momentum on the Nature Center and so many other fronts.

- A hearty "thanks" to **Scott McCullough** of Evergreen, for donating what he refers to as an "XL Beaver." Scott found a big beaver on the side of the road near Grand Lake, and brought it back for us. It's at our taxidermist and he will hopefully end up at the Nature Center!

I still laugh when I think about Scott's email subject line: XL BEAVER!!!!

- Kudos to **Kathy Madison, Matt Mitchell, Karel Buckley, Lisa and David Wald, Julia Bingham, Donald Randall, Heather Johnson, Brad Andres, Peggy Linn, Sylvia Robertson, Barbara Klaus, Joan Ridgely, Jean Thayer, Juanita Weare, and Hjalte Durocher** for volunteering as Visitor Assistants at the ENC during the spring!

- Thanks to **Cathy Shelton, Lynette Makowski, Pam Little, Ashley Delaup, Jim Olp, Fran Enright and Jan Chu** for offering fantastic spring flora and fauna workshops to the community.

- Also, our warm acknowledgements to **Evergreen Park and Recreation District** and Lake House colleagues **Scott Robson, Brad Bednar, and Lorna Bleck** for working with us at the ENC!

MEET THE BOARD: BRAD ANDRES

Calling Brad Andres a good addition to the Evergreen Audubon board is like calling the Ross's Gull sighting on Cherry Creek Reservoir a few weeks ago "unusual."

Brad brings his professional expertise not only to the business side of the board, but also to birding in the field.

Since shortly after he moved to Evergreen in 2004 to continue working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as national coordinator of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, he has made waves with the reorganization of the EA board and has become a go-to arbiter of local bird identification.

Brad's goal in helping to revamp the Evergreen Audubon board was to "spread the pain," and the way to do that was a written business plan.

The board was expanded, with duties redistributed and clearly specified. Brad, who is a past vice president, now serves as chairman of Bird Monitoring.

"We needed to take the pressure off the president," he said, "and spread the pain."

He and other board members also wanted to continue EA's commitment to a conservation agenda, with a "common vision of doing something for birds and animals in the Bear Creek Watershed."

When Brad joined Evergreen Audubon (then The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society) in 2005, "There was a lot going on—a lot of business decisions to be made," he said.

One looming choice that made Brad uncomfortable was whether to open a nature center, a project long desired by many members of the club. It seemed the wish could become a reality with the possible availability of the old warming hut on Evergreen Lake.

"I was really reluctant to open a nature center," Brad admitted. He found the finances daunting with an EA budget that even by 2008 totaled only \$14,000.

However, Dave Balogh, EA president in 2006, convinced Brad, saying, "Even if we fail, we've got to try."

Fundraising efforts have since increased the annual EA budget to \$65,000. A remarkable feat, but the Nature Center, which opened in 2008, still presents challenges.



Brad Andres in Wayna Picchu, Peru

"It's hard to keep it sustainable," Brad said. "Now we've got to build the local donor base and leverage other stuff. We've gotta run this like a business."

Brad grew up in Bucks County, PA, enjoying camping and then birding starting at age 14. He now has 2,072 birds on his life list and still likes to do just about anything outdoors—mountain

biking, fly fishing and playing tennis.

He is a globetrotter, completing fieldwork from the Arctic to Chile and many places in between. He has a hemispheric interest in conservation, supporting Partners in Flight in its efforts to combine bird conservation resources in North, Central and South America.

He would love to see Evergreen Audubon develop a one-to-one relationship with a birding area in Latin America, perhaps contributing some

monetary resources.

"It doesn't take much to make a difference," he said, pointing out the Cordilleran Flycatcher and the Western Tanager as examples of birds that are seen here and also in Guatemala and Panama.

When he talks about "leveraging

Continued on page 4

Andres: 'a high level of expertise'

EA board president David Wald said Brad's professional experience in science and civil service gives him an edge in grant writing, which he has done very successfully for the Nature Center.

He added that Brad's ornithological profession adds a high level of expertise to the board in all aspects of birding: habitat, conservation and policy, not to mention remarkable field trips.

Brad earned his master's and doctorate degrees in zoology from Ohio State University, completing his postgraduate research in Alaska.

His undergrad degree came from Pennsylvania State, where he majored in biology "with sort of a wildlife emphasis" because that wasn't an official degree category at the time.

His Alaskan research involved migrant shorebirds on the arctic coastal plain and the effect of the Exxon Valdez oil spill on Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound.

He joined the USFWS office in Anchorage after completing his doctorate; he served as regional shorebird and landbird biologist for 10 years before relocating to the USFWS headquarters in Arlington, Va., in 2001 to take on his current position.

The first bluebird egg of the season was spotted in a nest at Elk Meadow on May 17, although Brad Andres reported that things were still slow. He saw a Lark Sparrow at the Lewis Ridge parking lot that day.

Debbie and Don Marshall saw about eight American White Pelicans floating in a line on Evergreen Lake late the evening of May 15.

The next morning at Evergreen Lake, Ed Furlong counted an even dozen White Pelicans. By around 9:30 they were taking flight, trying to get some lift by flying in circles above the lake as the day warmed. There may have been one or two still there when he left about 10:40.

Marilyn Rhodes continued to enjoy her nest cam in Hiwan Hills. Up to eight Pygmy Nuthatches continued to roost in one of her nest boxes all winter and into the spring, but when she returned from a Texas coast birding trip April 16 they had abandoned the box.

Around May 15, a pair began checking out her nest boxes again, and by May 25 there were at least 4 eggs in the nest box.

Marilyn also had a pair of House Wrens nesting in one of her bluebird boxes.

On June 8, Grandbird #1 hatched! Marilyn estimated the chick could fledge in two weeks, around June 22.

At least one bachelor Pygmy Nuthatch was roosting in the box at night with the mated pair.

John Sears found that our unusual spring weather brought a Broad-tailed Hummingbird and a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch to his Kings Valley feeders on the same day (May 19) for the first time ever.

On May 20, Sherman Wing saw a Gray Flycatcher at Evergreen Lake, in the grassy area in front of the Lake House. Susan Harper told him she had a Black-and-white Warbler Tuesday at Red Rocks. The same day, Sherman finally saw a House Wren foraging in his yard in Indian Hills.

Things were heating up at the Wing house by May 24, with many species showing up over the previous few days.

He had seen Warbling Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, Dusky Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Virginia's Warbler, Bullock's Oriole and Lesser Goldfinch. However, he was still waiting to see his first-of-the-year Western Tanager.

On May 23, Jude Roehm of Indian Hills had her first visit from male Rose-breasted Grosbeak since last spring. Minutes later, she saw a pair of Western Tanagers, male and female, in an aspen tree near water dishes.

Janine Yunker reported on May 29 that both bluebird boxes had nests (Mountain); one with two eggs, the other with five.

Julia Barrett and Ted Homan were very happy to see a pair of Western Tanagers at their suet feeder off Snyder Mountain Road in Evergreen West on May 30. What a beautiful sight!

Sherman Wing's best birds at Pence Park on June 5 were an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-naped Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker and MacGillivray's Warbler.

Debbie Marshall had a Red Crossbill at her feeders on Independence Mountain June 6. As he was eating about 2



*Cordilleran Flycatcher on June 12 in Indian Hills.
Photo by Sherman Wing*

p.m., a Turkey Vulture kept soaring low in the vicinity of the feeders.

Perhaps the Crossbill flew down to Indian Hills, because Jude Roehm reported a lone male at her feeders the next day.

MEET THE BOARD CONTINUED

Continued from page 3

other stuff" to raise funds, he says, "One interesting thing we have going on here is what we are trying to do on a hemispheric scale."

Brad describes himself as "more of an auditory birder than most people." In the field, he regularly counts 80 to 90 birds a day by ear on migratory birds routes. Each year, he offers Birding by Ear seminars through Evergreen Nature Center.

As the EA Bird Monitoring chair, Brad manages nest boxes at Elk Meadow Park and coordinates the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas.

He says his most memorable local sighting was a Blackpoll Warbler near

Keys on the Green three years ago. "I like going to the plains a lot—the lower foothills are not bad either," he said of the local birding scene, and he keeps an eye out for Band-tailed Pigeons higher up.

He and his wife, Heather Johnson, who also works for the USFWS and is on the EA board, are frequent volunteers at Evergreen Nature Center.

Brad laughs when he points out that he has no one working for him, while Heather supervises more than 50 people in her USFWS job, which is what brought the couple to the Denver area.

That story is to be continued in a future Meet the Board article.

- Debbie Marshall

FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS KAREL BUCKLEY

Unless otherwise noted, register online or call the ENC at 303-330-0489.

Geology for Kids **Evergreen Nature Center** **Saturday, July 9, 10-11:30 am** **Jennifer Hood**

Hunt for rocks with a geologist, make your own sedimentary rock to take home, blast out a volcanic crater, and learn about faults, plate tectonics and more! Program will be geared toward elementary-age kids, but all are welcome. Ages: 8+. Class size: 15.

Colorado Wildflowers **Sunday, July 17, 1-3 pm** **Flying J Ranch** **Pam Little**

Walk with a Native Plant Master and discover native plants' importance to wildlife and humans. All programs will be easy, less than a mile walking, on dirt trails with uneven surfaces. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing for all weather conditions. Ages: 10+. Class size: 20.

Midsummer Stars and Planets **Picnic area at Evergreen Lake House** **Friday, July 22, 8:30 pm** **Pam Little**

Join amateur astronomer Pam Little for a tour of the night sky. Participants will learn how to use a star chart and a star clock, hear ancient star stories and locate star shapes and planets in the night sky. Bring a blanket or camp chairs. All ages. Class size: 25.

Mounsey Ranch, Edwards **Saturday-Sunday, July 23-24**

Evergreen Audubon members have a very special 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 23 and 24. Friday evening, July 22, is open for arrivals as well.

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, for further information and to reserve a spot.

FIELD NOTE SHERMAN WING AND SUSAN HARPER

O'Fallon Park **Saturday, May 28**

Eleven birders started out on this cool spring morning at O'Fallon Park, ready to see what treats were in store for them.

We were quickly greeted by a beautiful Great Blue Heron, soaring above; then we saw a Turkey Vulture soaring, landing, then perched on a snag.

As the sun's warmth began to seep into the shadowed forest, the little songbirds started to sing.

The flute-like songs of the Hermit's Thrush and the clear fluid-like songs of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet were heard;

all around us, the sounds of spring awoke.

We were audience to a very special display, something many of us have never seen. In the late morning, while walking through the forest, we saw a female Brown-headed Cowbird getting too close to a Broad-tailed Hummingbird's nest.

The pair of hummingbirds was desperately trying to defend their nest, and quickly met the intruding cowbird. The hummers hovered vertically, with their colorful tails fully fanned out, trying to create a buffer between their nest and the cowbird.

This foray went on for almost a minute, then quickly the cowbird lunged head first into the small nest.

What happened there is not known, but possibly the cowbird destroyed or displaced a hummer's egg from the nest.

The cowbird flew away and then created more commotion at a second tree. We watched as a pair of Cordilleran Flycatchers was successful in defending their nest from this marauding, parasitic bird.

By watching these two events, our group was able to find the nest of both the Broad-tailed Hummingbird and the Cordilleran Flycatcher.

We were treated to seeing the territorial defense of these two migrant nesters, as well as the aggressive nature of the Brown-headed Cowbird, who is looking for a host nest for her eggs.

We ended our half-day field trip at the Bear Creek Tavern for a much-needed meal.

Our final bird count was 39 species, which included the House Sparrow that was heard as we got into our cars.

Thank you to the participants; all of you made this day fun and rewarding.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS DAVID WALD

May 26 EA Board Meeting

• The meeting was held at Evergreen Nature Center! Summer board meetings will take place there from now on. Great location!

• Development director Mimi Nelson reported options for a change in venue for chapter meetings. The best option seemed to be Buchanan Firehouse (free, but would require meeting the second

Thursday of the month). Comments?

• Mimi also reported on Bird House Bash plans for Sept. 7 (5:30 p.m. at ENC; 6:30 at Lake House). Mimi stressed again how important it is to get good auction items.

• Nature Center director Aly Duffey reported on ENC efforts and successes, including revenue from school and EPRD groups.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9	Geology for Kids	10-11:30 AM	Nature Center
July 10	ENC open, Night Boating	8-10 PM	
July 10	Newsletter deadline	5 PM	
July 16	EA Annual Picnic	4-7 PM	Dedisse Park, Site 1
July 17	Colorado Wildflowers	1-3 PM	Flying J Ranch
July 22	Midsummer Stars & Planets	8:30 PM	Meet at Lake House
July 23-24	Mounsey Ranch Field Trip		Edwards
July 28	Board Meeting	6 PM	Nature Center
July 31	ENC open, Night Boating	8-10 PM	

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to Lisa Wald: communications@evergreenaudubon.org. Email or call *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-674-3752.

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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.

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Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Meet the Board: Brad Andres
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