

# THE DIPPER

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Editor: Peggy Durham Assistant Editor: Margaret McDole

## Congratulations, Dave

Our president, Dave Balogh, received a Professional Master's Degree on May 12 from the Colorado School of Mines. He has managed to do the work for this degree while holding down a full-time job in addition to leading TENAS so ably for the last two years.

Our congratulations for three jobs well done!

## Double Dipper

The next issue of the *Dipper* will cover July and August. Anyone submitting articles should look ahead and send them to me at [peggy.durham@comcast.net](mailto:peggy.durham@comcast.net) AND to Margaret McDole at [mem2@earthlink.net](mailto:mem2@earthlink.net) by June 1.

## Online Dipper

Anyone who wants to get the *Dipper* online, in addition to or instead of the hard copy, should notify me at the above address.

## BIB Window is June 10-18

The BIB window for this month will be June 10-18. Please refer to the past two *Dippers* for leaders' names and phone numbers or call Kent Simon, 303-674-3017, for further information.

## Zambia Flora and Fauna (and How They Get Along with People)

The program for the June 1 TENAS meeting will be about human impacts on the ecosystem of Zambia, in southern Africa.

David Frossard and his wife, Ginny Lee, spent 2003-2005 as Peace Corps volunteers developing aquaculture projects in a Zambian village. Frossard sent back numerous intriguing photographs to his friends via e-mail.

This presentation is based on those photos and his accompanying narrative. (He cautions us that, while he has many pictures of vegetation and land animals as well as structures and people, there are few if any avian critters in his gallery. The little boys in his neighborhood got them first with their slingshots, apparently.)

This was Frossard's second stint as a Peace Corps volunteer. In 1985-87, he was a freshwater fisheries extension agent in Ifugao province in the Philippines.

As you will see, Frossard is a man of many parts. He began his life as an employed adult as a journalist reporting for the Delta County Independent and the North Fork Times on Colorado's Western Slope.

Somewhere along the line, he managed to work in a doctorate in anthropology from the University of California at Irvine, a post-doctoral research fellowship at the East-West Center Program on Environment in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a five-year assignment as a faculty member at the Colorado School of Mines.

In his spare time at Mines, he became a



**Dave Frossard and his wife, Ginny Lee, stand in front of their hut in Zambia.**

consummate computer geek and he is once again employed at Mines as an Information Technology Professional by the Computing Center.

Frossard is a stimulating and informative speaker. Don't miss his presentation, starting at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Rd. (in back of the high school) on Thursday, June 1.

## New Projector

The projector that TENAS purchased recently has been used four times in the last month, including for the May program. With more input from members, TENAS will have several different slide shows, ready to use. The purchase will allow us to have educational programs on several subjects, suitable for students and adults.

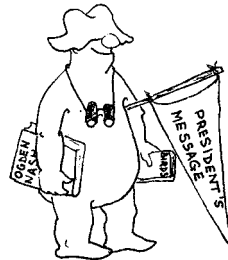


# President's Message

An outcome of the TENAS board's planning meeting in April was to put more emphasis on bird-box trails to make them a focal point for conservation, education and community service. This idea has been carried out in the past but more as an individual effort, I believe.

Now we want to ensure an ongoing program and include trails where possible in the Bear Creek IBA (Important Bird Area), to which TENAS is committed.

We have bluebird boxes now at Elk Meadow and Three Sisters Open Space—officially The Hank Marohnich Trail, so named by TENAS for one of our members who built our nesting boxes for many years. These trails are being checked now by some of our members and are the basis for an expanded program.



My immediate interest in the trails is as educational opportunities for high school students and Scouts. We have had recent inquiries for bird-box kits and educational support for biology projects at the high school level.

Building the boxes, designing the trails, setting the boxes out, monitoring and maintaining them offer many possibilities for education and involvement of young people at all ages.

As for Scouting, I have signed on as counselor for the Birding and Geology merit badges. My first experience as a merit badge counselor was for geology on May 6—Boy Scout Day at the ridge sponsored by the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists and Boy Scouts of America, Denver Council.

At least one other TENAS member—Curtis Elder—was there to assist in explaining geology to about 700 Cub Scouts, Webelos and Boy Scouts. (Curtis is an official guide for Dinosaur Ridge, volunteering his time on a regular basis there. He also helps Boy Scouts with other activities and leads TENAS field trips with geological emphasis.)

This major event was well organized and quite successful. There were 120 Scouts there to earn the merit badge in a one-day effort. This required many knowledgeable volunteers stationed at the visitor center and along Alameda as it cuts the ridge, exposing a variety of geologic features including the famous dinosaur footprints.

There were four of us as the official counselors. Groups of Scouts came in half-hour intervals from 9 to 10:30 a.m., so we were able to divide the groups into seven or eight Scouts for each of us to give instructions, introduce them to geology and then send them on up the ridge.

They returned in the afternoon for us to verify they had attended each of the required presentations and to face the challenge of identifying 15 rocks and minerals. (Sets of numbered

*Continued on Page 3*



• To **Susan Harper** and all the volunteers who made Earth Day another success.

• To **Sylvia Brockner** and **Karel Buckley** for organizing Dawn Chorus so the rest of us who showed up could enjoy delicious refreshments in the comfort of the warm Evergreen Lake House. And thanks to all who provided the cookies and muffins.

• To **Sylvia and Bill Brockner** for volunteering to act as program chairmen for the remainder of the year. And thanks to **Karen Wiley** for finding very good speakers through our next program in June.

## 2006 Officers

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# Dawn Chorus: Birds Outnumber Viewers

The 2006 Dawn Chorus on May 7 at Evergreen Lake was a great success. Dawn was without fog and we were able to see across the lake with ease.

The boardwalk was slippery with a heavy coating of hoarfrost, which dissolved soon after the sun came up. The sunrise was golden and for the first time in several years there was a considerably larger number of birds seen than there were participants.

A total of 26 people saw or heard 42 species of birds in the lake area.

Conspicuous by their absence were:

1) No cormorants were seen on the dawn count in spite of their being seen every day for the previous week. However, one was seen at about 11:30 a.m. on count day. We decided they just like to sleep in on Sunday morning.

2) Only one Broad-tailed Hummingbird was heard. They are about 10 days late in this area and we fear there has been a decline over winter.

Of special interest, either by date, numbers or habitat, were Green-tailed Towhees and Myrtle Warblers. New for the Dawn Chorus count were Savannah Sparrow and Lark Sparrow.



**Sylvia and Bill Brockner, along with Karel Buckley, bundled up for the Dawn Chorus. Sylvia and Karel organized the event, which was very successful, drawing even more birds than participants. Photo by Kathanne Lynch**

Everyone had excellent views of a

very friendly Common Yellowthroat.  
- Sylvia Brockner

## President's Message

*Continued from 2*  
samples for study and testing were provided by the Geology Department of the Colorado School of Mines.)

I really enjoyed the one-on-one interaction with the boys as I tried to make the dreaded test a fun and rewarding experience.

Now I am thinking how to apply what I learned from this experience to a program for the Birding Merit Badge. In looking over those requirements and considering the nature of birds (versus rocks), I would not undertake the design of a one-day program.

A better approach would be to have a series of programs/projects including learning about birds from books/slide

shows, building bird boxes or feeders, learning how to identify birds, practicing these new skills and then putting them to the test. It seems the bird-box trails concept would fit nicely with this approach.

I am contacting local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops to gauge the interest in a Birding Merit Badge program. If there is interest and timing is right for a modest program yet this spring, I will be looking for support from TENAS members to make it a success.

Whether it is now or later, I believe in reaching out to Scouts to instill an appreciation of birds that will lead to an interest in nature and a concern for the environment.

Earning the Birding Merit Badge was what set me on my lifelong interest in birds and nature. It could even be the start of career pursuits. In fact, one of the other counselors at the Dinosaur Ridge event, a geophysicist, first became interested in geology himself by earning that merit badge.

Such lifelong interests and careers initiated by merit badge programs are not uncommon. Even if there are no long-term implications, a good program will be fun and interesting to the Scouts and a rewarding experience for all of us who take part in it.

Looking forward to your comments, suggestions and free advice.

- Dave Balogh



# Bird Business

April was an active month of birds returning from the south. Snowy days slowed them down but they bounced right back a few days later. Bird migration is one of the wonders of this world.

Sherman Wing watched a pair of Red Crossbills high in a tree in Mt. Falcon Park on April 8. About five days later, the nest was abandoned. We do not know why.

On the same day, two Turkey Vultures flew over Inga Brennan's home on Lookout Mountain. Turkey Vultures had been seen a few days earlier at the nearby hawk-watching site.

The next day, April 9, Mike Krieger found a Williamson's Sapsucker in his yard near Bailey. This woodpecker could be nesting nearby.

A welcome Chipping Sparrow returned to our yard on April 10. It hopped up on the feeder just like old times.

On April 20, Inga Brennan watched a flock of Violet-green Swallows flying over her yard. She is in a good area for migrating birds.

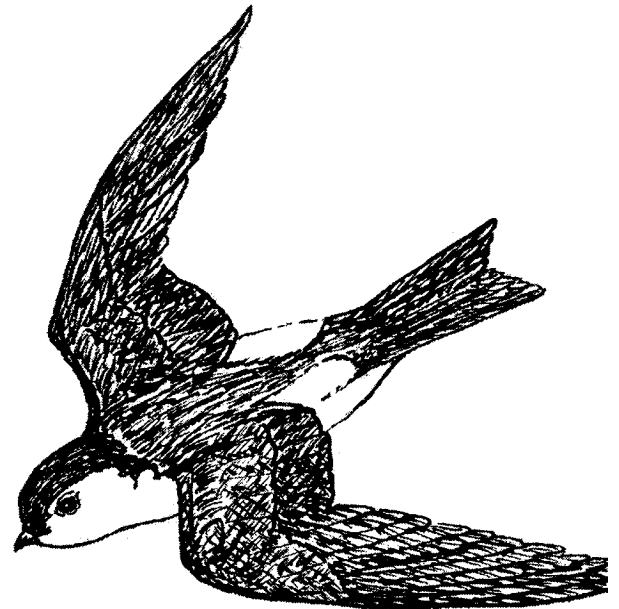
On the same day at Evergreen Lake, Loie Evans hit the jackpot. She observed five willets, two Greater Yellowlegs and a Western Meadowlark.

The first firm report of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird was by Suzie deDisse on April 21 in her yard. Earlier reports could not be adequately supported. One was seen by Kay Niyo and another at Lookout Mountain by Inga Brennan on April 27. Inga also observed a Rough-winged Swallow on the same day.

A Loggerhead Shrike was seen at Mt. Falcon Park on April 22 by Sherman Wing. It was busy hunting over the meadow.

April 28 produced a Lincoln's Sparrow and an American Pipit at Evergreen Lake for Larry White. Check our chart on the boardwalk for all lake sightings. It is very interesting.

Spring bird migration hits its peak in



Violet-green Swallow

May. By June 10 migration is normally completed. Then all activity turns to nesting. We all hope it is most successful this year.

- Bill Brockner

## The Flower Group Springs to Life!

Led by Sylvia Brockner, the TENAS flower group meets each Friday during the flowering season. The group meets every other week at a park or location of special interest.

On alternate weeks, the group gathers at the Brockners' home to study flowers with special books that are instrumental in determining the exact genus and species of a plant as well as other pertinent information.

The group has been meeting for three years and has 10 members. There are a variety of ages, interest levels and skill levels in the group. If you would like further information, please call Sylvia Brockner, 303-674-4851, or Lynne Price, 303-670-0840.

Our schedule for May and June is as follows.

• May 19: Sylvia Brockner's house at noon

• May 26: Posey Mosey at Corwina Park at 10:30 a.m.

• June 2: Sylvia Brockner's house at noon

• June 9: Posey Mosey at Three Sisters Park at 10:30 a.m.

• June 16: Sylvia Brockner's house at noon

• June 23: Posey Mosey at Maxwell Falls

• June 30: Sylvia Brockner's house at noon.

## Garage Sale Returns July 8

The annual Audubon Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 8, at Peggy Durham's home at 29309 Buchanan Drive, Evergreen.

Mark your calendars for 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 7, to set up and price, 8 a.m. Saturday, July 8, for final setup, and 9 a.m. sharp to sell. Volunteers are essential to the success of this important fundraiser for TENAS.

Contributions are needed and ap-

preciated. They will be gladly accepted on Friday, July 7, or other arrangements can be made if this date is not acceptable to some.

Please—no tires, ski equipment, clothes, technical books or broken items.

Call Sylvia Robertson at 303-674-1715 or Irma Wolf at 303-670-3402 to volunteer, to deliver items on a different date or if you have questions.



# Evergreen Celebrates Earth Day

Perfect weather, enthusiastic exhibitors and visitors, lively dialogue and motivating moments made the 17th annual Mountain Area Earth Day Fair on April 22 the place to be.

Children of all ages were eager to meet Smokey the Bear and Mother Earth. Kids made wolf masks with the Evergreen Montessori School and got temporary peregrine and eagle tattoos courtesy of The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society.

A Burrowing Owl, Harris's Hawk and Peregrine Falcon from HawkQuest wowed the crowd.

The Colorado Native Plant Society, CSU Master Gardeners and the Evergreen Garden Club joined forces to bring spring to the room and discuss xeriscaping, high-altitude and native plants and noxious weeds.

Heifer International, attending the fair for the first time, highlighted the need to think beyond the mountain area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Eagle and Wildlife Repository explained why some animal products are not allowed in the United States and are confiscated. The centerpiece of its exhibit, a leopard skin complete with head, brought home the message.

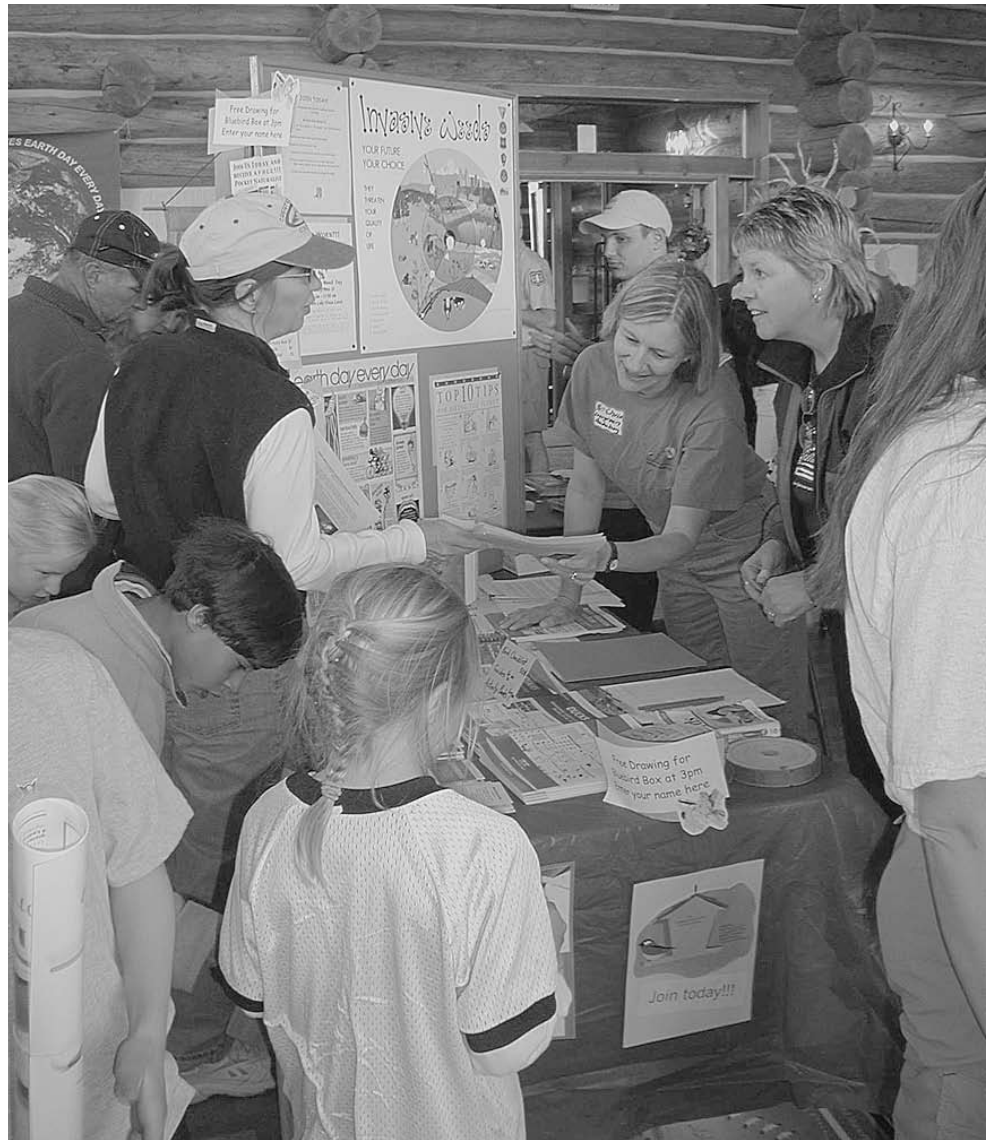
The Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center's theme, "Wild animals do not make good pets," was compelling. They are home to hundreds of lions, tigers and bears rescued from horrific situations.

Dr. Pieter Tans of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charted the impact of humans on climate change.

Outside the Evergreen Lake House, fairgoers talked to many more exhibitors and could view the future-hybrid cars.

A spotting scope, presented by Audubon to the Evergreen Park and Recreation District, enabled the crowd to get a good look at resident turtles, muskrat and birds.

Visitors were encouraged to add a pledge to the Pledge Tree as they left the fair. More than 50 exhibits and well over



**Chris Pfaff and Cindy Miller staff the busy Earth Day booth.** *Photo by Cathy Shelton*

a thousand visitors welcomed spring and celebrated the Earth.

- Susan Harper  
Earth Day Coordinator



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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)



# We Need YOU for Ambitious Weed Day

Grab your garden gloves, sharpen your pruners and join us for the Ninth Annual Community Weed Day on Saturday, June 24, at Evergreen Lake. We'll start with refreshments at 8 a.m., be working by 8:30 and plan to finish weeding the entire perimeter of the lake by 11.

Sound ambitious? You bet, and that is why we need YOU! We recommend heavy gloves, long sleeves and long pants when weeding.

Community Weed Day also features a display of the area's most noxious weeds and expert advice on identification and control methods.

You are invited to bring in yard plants for identification, but please use caution when transporting plants to prevent any accidental spread of non-native plants.

This is one time when you can be proactive in our mountain environment and see the immediate results of your labor.

TENAS members always have been exceptionally supportive of our weed efforts. We hope that this year we will

## Member Report

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

### NEW

Susan Buchan—Evergreen  
Kim Goedeke—Evergreen

### NEW FAMILY

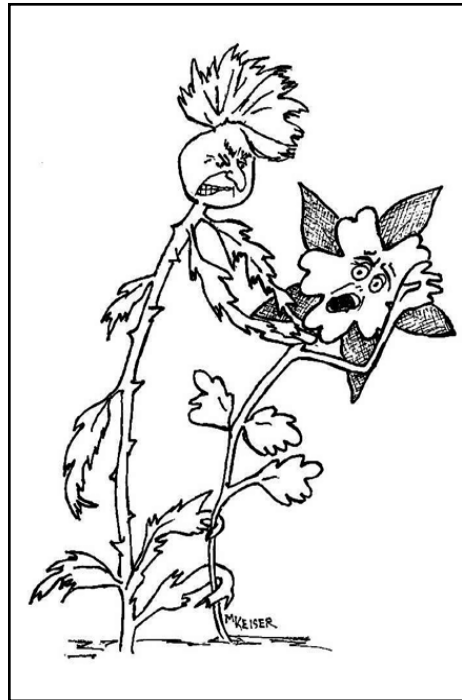
Sherry Walker—Evergreen

### RENEWING

Connie Davis—Pine  
Barbara Jean Gard—Evergreen

### RENEWING FAMILY

Bill & JoAnn Hackos—Evergreen  
Dan & Rachel Norton—Evergreen  
Kate Hart & Cheryl Pieper—  
Buffalo Creek  
Bud & Juanita Weare—Evergreen



Canada Thistle

see even more of our members at Weed Day.

We also will be educating the public about noxious weeds at local grocery stores on May 20 and July 15.

Weed & Wine, specifically for Weed Day and Adopt-a-Plot volunteers, is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 10 (yes, there is a reward for hard work). Weeding starts at 4 p.m. and the festivities begin at 6 p.m.

For more information on any of these events, contact Cathy Shelton, 303-674-8610, or Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715.

The mountain area is big enough for more than one weed group, so we are pleased to announce two new noxious weed efforts. Friends of Beaver Brook Watershed will host three weed events in the watershed this summer.

Training will be held on Tuesday, May 23, active weeding on Saturday, June 10, and revegetation work on Sunday, Oct. 8. For more infor-

mation on these events, contact Ginny Ades, 303-674-7199.

Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness will be doing weed surveys and control in nearby wilderness areas. Training is **tentatively** scheduled for May 23 and June 3. For more information or to sign up for the training, go to [www.fomelc.org](http://www.fomelc.org) or contact Lee Lambert at [info@fomelc.org](mailto:info@fomelc.org) or 303-670-1642.

Weeds or wildflowers? It's your choice—join us in protecting our native plants and wildlife from aggressive non-natives.

- Cathy Shelton  
The Community Weed  
Awareness Campaign

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at W. Yale Ave.**



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# Field Trips and Outings

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**Saturday, June 3**

O'Fallon Loop Trip

**Leader: Sherman Wing and  
Margie Bailey, 303-697-8840**

Meet in the parking lot at Pence Park in Indian Hills at 8 a.m. It is located across the street from Day's Plumbing on Meyers Gulch Road, south of Kittredge. From there we follow a trail to O'Fallon Park. After lunch at Bear Creek Tavern, we return along the West Ridge Trail. Expect to see spring migrants, including bluebirds, warblers, hummers and wrens. The walk is mostly through the woods and will cover 6-7 miles. Call leaders to sign up or for directions.

**Sunday, June 4**

Nightbird Gulch, Mt. Galbraith Park

**Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647**

This will be a loop trip involving a car shuttle, beginning in the suburbs of Golden and ending in Golden Gate Canyon. This is a splendid place to look for birds in the foothills. Bring water and lunch for a half-day plus. Meet at Wild Bird Center, in mall at 32nd & Youngfield, at 7:15 a.m. Call Mike to sign up.

**Saturday, June 11**

Flying J Ranch Posey Mosey:

Wildflowers

**Leader: Lynne Price, 303-910-8817**

We will "mosey" through summer's floral display at Flying J Ranch, a typical foothills environment at one of Jefferson County's newest Open Space parks. Because the terrain is fairly level, this walk is appropriate for older adults. Bring snack, water and weather-appropriate attire. Meet at the ranch at 8:30 a.m. Directions: Drive south on Highway 73 from Evergreen, past Turkey Creek Road. Turn right at Shadow Mountain Drive. Parking is on your immediate right. If you are attending, please notify Lynne by the Thursday prior to the hike.

**Saturday, June 17**

White Ranch Park

**Leader: Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780**

We'll meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot on the southeast side of I-70 and the Morrison exit. We will carpool to the Lower White Ranch entrance no later than 8:15. This is a morning trip only. Bring water and a snack if you wish and dress for the weather. We will hike along the creekside trail about a mile or so, then double back. We'll look for nesting songbirds. Highlights: Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Bullock's Orioles and several warbler species as well as raptors.

**Sunday, June 18**

Mt. Falcon Park

**Leader: Sherman Wing and  
Margie Bailey, 303-697-8840**

This trip will take place in the midst of the nesting season, the best time for birding at Mr. Falcon. The woods will be a choir offering solos from tanagers, robins, black-headed grosbeaks, warblers and wrens. We will walk the Parmalee Trail—a moderate three-mile loop. Call Sherman or Margie to sign up, then meet at 8 a.m. at the Mt. Falcon parking lot (upper level) at the Indian Hills entrance. Bring snack, water and bird book.

**Sunday, June 25**

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.

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

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## Calendar

May 26	Flower Group, Corwina Park
June 1	Chapter Meeting
June 2, 16, 30	Flower Group at Brockners'
June 3	O'Fallon Loop Trail
June 4	Nightbird Gulch, Mt. Galbraith Park
June 9	Flower Group, Three Sisters
June 11	Flying J Ranch Wildflower Walk
June 17	White Ranch Park
June 18	Mt. Falcon Park
June 23	Flower Group, Maxwell Falls
June 22	Board Meeting
June 24	Community Weed Day
June 25	Beaver Brook Watershed

### Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

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

**Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130**

**TENAS website [www.dipper.org](http://www.dipper.org)**

*The Dipper deadline for the  
July-August issue is Thursday, June 1.*

*Submit articles to:*

*Peggy Durham, [peggy.durham@comcast.net](mailto:peggy.durham@comcast.net)  
AND Margaret McDole, [mem2@earthlink.net](mailto:mem2@earthlink.net)*

## 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.

Individual (\$20)    Family (\$30)    Student (\$10)

I have included an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family member \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(optional) (optional)

I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

Enclosed is my check payable to TENAS  
P.O. Box 523  
Evergreen, CO 80437

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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- Flower Group Underway
- Community Weed Day
- Summer Field Trips

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

# THE DIPPER

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