



THE DIPPER

VOL. 42 NO. 6
JUNE 2012

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Evergreen Audubon Picnic will begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 21, at Dedisse Park.

Anyone attending should bring a dish for eight. We will provide a main dish.

The planned entertainment is guaranteed to amuse.

We ask those attending to help with setup or cleanup.

Please check the July *Dipper* or the website for details, or contact Janet Warner, 303-674-1636, or Barbara Klaus, 303-674-1102.

EVENINGS AT ENC

Evergreen Nature Center is now open Wednesday through Sunday until Labor Day. Our new weekday hours, Wednesday–Friday noon to 6 p.m., offer our mountain community a chance to learn and linger on warm summer evenings!

Evergreen Lake is alive with wildlife activity in these pre-dusk hours, and we will be too! Come to the lake to enjoy the late-day swoop of local swallows or stop by the ENC before your picnic dinner. Tell a friend, or better yet, bring one.

Saturday and Sunday hours will remain 10 a.m.–4 p.m. throughout the 2012 operating season. We need volunteers to help cover the noon–3 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. visitor assistant shifts.

Get Outdoors for some Youth Skills

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (formerly Colorado Division of Wildlife) and partners are bringing in the fish, creek dam, cane poles and outdoor skills knowledge to make the first annual Evergreen Youth Outdoor Skills Day a huge hit!

Registration is required for this event, which will be held on Saturday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Evergreen Nature Center at 303-330-0489.

The fun also includes duck calling, shooting practice, canine water retrieval and nature walks, as well as Bear Aware and Living with Lions information booths.

In conjunction with the event, Evergreen Nature Center will offer a bluebird monitoring class at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park at 9 a.m. Class participants will receive a special Outdoor Skills Day prize. Head to www.evergreennaturecenter.org for more information.

Lake weeds to be attacked for 15th time

Hold on to your pruners—2012 is our FIFTEENTH season of weed pulls at Evergreen Lake and we'll be celebrating!

The 2012 Community Weed Day will start off on Saturday, June 23, with light refreshments at 8 a.m., followed by weeding in teams until 11.

As always, our knowledgeable noxious weed and wildflower experts will identify

plants brought in by the public and will present our display of infamous local weeds.

At 11:15, we'll gather at the picnic benches for cake, door prizes and some surprise awards.

You won't want to miss this special day. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and learn how to ID their weeds.

- Cathy Shelton



From left, Sylvia Robertson, Lynne Price, Sylvia Brockner and Cathy Shelton rest atop bags of weeds from the very first Community Weed Day in 1998.

2012 OFFICERS

President	Brad Andres	303-670-0101 president@evergreenaudubon.org
Vice President	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
Secretary	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101 secretary@evergreenaudubon.org
Treasurer	Joan Ridgely	303-526-2250 treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org

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Bear Creek Atlas	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
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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 BRAD ANDRES

With Earth Day, Bear Creek Lake Earth Day, Dawn Chorus and International Migratory Bird Day behind us for the year, we are heading into the thick of the breeding season.

Flycatchers, vireos, thrushes and warblers will be returning any day. Sherman Wing and his team are already recording great birds at the Birch Hill Denver Mountain Park site.

Mike Foster, an Evergreen Audubon member, is offering a series of classes for beginning birders, which will hopefully begin the training of a cadre of potential volunteers. Mike has written about a variety of historical, mountaineering and natural history topics.

Continuing along with the bird theme, Heather and I will be leading a training session on the birds of Evergreen Lake on May 31 for Evergreen Nature Center visitor assistants.

A lot is happening at the Evergreen Nature Center, so be sure to check *The Dipper* or the website for upcoming programs, and check in with Vanessa about volunteer opportunities.

Thanks to David Wald's persistence, we will be volunteering for the Triple Bypass bicycle race in mid-July, which pushed our picnic back to July 21.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the last month's events and for all of you who contributed to our annual appeal.

Let's share some tech talk



Red-winged Blackbirds fill the wetlands at Evergreen Lake in the spring. However, Alistair Montgomery captured this beauty at Crown Hill Park on May 5.

I'm kind of a techie and a gadget person, so I'd like to start a conversation about tools that might be helpful while in the field birding.

I just upgraded my smart phone to one with an extra-long battery life so I can use it all day with the GPS and wireless functions, which are big battery drains. I used it in Cape May with two nominally priced apps, Birdseye (with Bird-Log) and iBird Pro.

iBird Pro is an interactive field guide. It has photos, facts, descriptions, calls and ranges of all North American bird species.

Birdseye is useful for locating species of birds in specific areas based on recent sightings and BirdLog is used to record sightings. It utilizes GPS and interfaces with eBird.

I'm curious as to what others are using. I also employ an app called birdJam on my iPad on field trips

to show participants target birds and play their song/call.

Please email me at cloverlane@aol.com about the tools you use and I'll share your reviews. We'll get this birding stuff down to a science.

- Marilyn Rhodes

I've been traveling a lot since I submitted the last column, so I'm catching up on sightings as I write. Bill and JoAnn Hackos got to see the **White-faced Ibis** at Evergreen Lake April 16. I hope many of you got to enjoy them, too.

If you didn't and you'd like to be alerted to local sightings as soon as possible, subscribe to the Evergreenbirders email list found on the website under Local Sightings.

A lot of breeding activity was reported over the last month. Karel Buckley and Else Van Erp walked Lair o' the Bear April 17. Highlights were **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a pair of **American Dippers** nesting under the eastern bridge, many blooming wildflowers and at least eight species of butterflies, all gorgeous. "Time to carry your new Butterfly Guide Book with you on birding trips," according to Karel.

On April 16, Debbie Marshall watched a pair of **House Finches** start building a nest in a basket nailed on a beam under their eaves. The Marshalls, who live near the top of Independence Mountain, had Cordilleran Flycatchers in that basket previously, so they hope they find somewhere nearby to nest this year. The finches fledged on May 21.

On April 22, Julie Westland reported an FOS (first of season) **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Beaver Brook Canyon.

The next day, April 23, Sherman Wing sighted a possible breeding **Great Blue Heron** carrying a stick in his bill near O'Fallon Park. On April 24, Sherman had a juvenile first-year **Cooper's Hawk**. It was calling and seen flying with an adult Cooper's in the riparian area of Matthews/Winters Park.

Mary Lumm was excited to see a pair of **Eurasian-collared Doves** at her home birdbath, near Evergreen Lake, April 24 and 25.

Sherman and his crew were at Birch Hill, their Bear Creek Atlas site, again on April 28. Although the morning was chilly, they found a female **Three-toed Woodpecker** foraging on an old large

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A Barn Owl nest under a bridge near Briggsdale holds four owlets and a couple of eggs surrounded by dead mice. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

Local birders travel far and wide

Bill and JoAnn Hackos were in Gunnison April 14 observing **Gunnison Sage Grouse** on their lek. They got distant views of 11 grouse with two males displaying all their finery.

On April 28, JoAnn and Bill had a great trip to southern California. They started in the mountains in Julian, east of San Diego at 4,000 feet, drove to Anza Borrego (very hot, over 100 degrees), then birded in the San Diego harbor area.

They saw 110 species including two life birds—**Lawrence's Goldfinch** and a migrating **Hermit Warbler** during a warbler fallout.

Bill and JoAnn are currently revisiting Lewis and Clark's journey to the Pacific Northwest. You can follow their travels on their blog at www.pygmyhatches.com.

Sherman Wing was in western Colorado the week of April 16 enjoying the blossoming of spring. In the marshes, **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Song Sparrows** were singing away, along with three **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**.

In the pond, he saw a **Western Grebe** and **Pied-billed Grebes**, and overhead a flock of 29 **White Pelicans**. Gazing along the river's ri-

parian area, he saw a flock of **White-crowned Sparrows** foraging.

Marilyn Rhodes scored a new life bird in southeastern Colorado on April 21 when she saw **Lesser Prairie Chickens** on the lek in Granada, near Lamar, and also got to see **Piping Plovers** at John Martin Reservoir and **Snowy Plovers** at Lake Cheraw, north of Lamar.

She checked a couple of items off her Bucket List in May, finally making it to Cape May, N.J., to see the horseshoe crab spectacle and bagging her life **Red Knot**. Hundreds of thousands of migrating shorebirds stop in Cape May to feed on the crab eggs at low tide.

She also birded Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware and climbed to the top of Hawk Mountain in Kempton, Pa., where the Brockners spent their honeymoon.

Marilyn also spent a night owling near the Pawnee Grasslands. She saw nesting **Swainson's Hawks**, a pair of nesting **Great Horned Owls**, a **Burrowing Owl** and a **Barn Owl** nest under a bridge near Briggsdale. Pictures of the nest with four owlets and a couple of eggs surrounded by dead mice are posted in the Gallery.

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snag along the trail . . . that really got their juices flowing and warmed things up.

As the morning progressed, they heard an **Ovenbird's** song several times, but never saw it.

In the aspen riparian area they heard the call of the **Williamson's Sapsucker** several times and the songs of several **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**. **Brown Creepers** were close by and they all heard their song. An **Osprey** made an unexpected fly-over spotted by Larry White.

Brad Andres had a **Loggerhead Shrike** the morning of April 29 in Elk Meadow.

The morning of April 28, John Sears had a welcome visitor to his feeder in Conifer. An FOS male **Red Crossbill** showed up for some breakfast. The next day, Sherman had **Red Crossbills** at his feeder in Indian Hills.

JoAnn Hackos welcomed the first Broad-tailed **Hummingbird** to her home feeders in Soda Creek on April 30.

On March 30, Susan Harper observed a male **Red Crossbill** feeding a juvenile near her home south of Evergreen Lake. Susan heard a **Western Wood-Pewee** calling from the hill above Evergreen Golf Course on April 13, and the first **Chipping Sparrow** returned to her yard on April 14.

Susan and her mom had a delightful morning at the lake April 30, catching quick glimpses of a **Common Yellowthroat** right off the boardwalk.

Then they were serenaded by a nearby **Song Sparrow** while watching a few **Green-winged Teal**, **American Widgeon** and a flotilla of **Northern Shovelers** in the distance. A **Spotted Sandpiper** claimed a nearby sandbar.

Karel Buckley was on her way home the evening of May 2 when she was thrilled to see her first "live" gray fox. Last winter, she found a dead one on the golf course, but that didn't count . . .

Half an hour later, she flashed her headlights on a mountain lion with a black furry animal in its mouth. It turned immediately and ran away from her, and she couldn't find it again. This was her sixth lion sighting in 24 years!

Good news! Karel's treatments are coming to an end and things are looking good, very hopeful, although it has been a very long winter for her. We know she will be recovering soon and be back out in the field with us in a few weeks.

May Day morning marked the arrival of an FOS **Black-headed Grosbeak** at the Hackos backyard in Soda Creek.

Sherman and company celebrated Cinco de Mayo in Birch Hill Park. They had 5 singing **Virginia's Warblers**, 8 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a pair of **Williamson's Sapsuckers** and their first **Black-headed Grosbeak** of the season. Sherman also saw a **Yellow Warbler** singing in the riparian area at Matthews/Winters Park the afternoon of May 9.

Mike Quaintance gave Sylvia Brockner a photo of a **Lewis's Woodpecker** he took near his home in the Bailey area in early May.

Sylvia has had several reports of nesting **Evening Grosbeaks** in the area, although in fairly small numbers compared

**Please check the website,
www.evergreenaudubon.org,
for photos of many of the birds mentioned**

to past years. Sylvia suspects she has three pairs nesting at her house up Little Cub Creek Road, as they have for several years.

On May 14, Scott Mosiman posted in Local Sightings that he had seen a bird three weeks before, on his porch, that he didn't recognize. It was scratching around in the corner of his patio and he first thought it was a junco, but it was a bit bigger and the wrong color.

It was mostly a light buff color, with a reddish-brown cap, and after a while, Scott identified it as a **Canyon Towhee**. It would be unusual to see a Canyon Towhee in Evergreen, so any photos would be great. The Green-tailed Towhee is much more common.

The **Greater Roadrunner** continues to be seen around Dinosaur Ridge.

Pygmy Nuthatches have set up shop in my nest-cam nest box again this year. The female is sitting on eggs as I type.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

BIRDING CLASSES WITH MIKE FOSTER THIS FALL

Four-session Option

This is for beginning birders, as well as those who want a refresher on the basics. Cost \$40.

Class Schedule: Mondays, 6–8 p.m., Sept. 10 & 24

Location: Church of the Hills

28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen 80439

Field Trips: Saturdays, Sept. 15 & 29

Eight-session Option

For those who want more experience identifying birds and their songs, plus some avian ecology. Cost \$70.

Class Schedule: Tuesdays: 6–8 p.m., Sept. 4, 18 & Oct. 2, 16

Location: Jefferson Unitarian Church

14350 W. 32nd Ave., Golden 80401

Field trips: Saturdays, Sept. 8, 22 & Oct. 6, 20

For questions on how to enroll, or for other information, email Mike:

mike1.foster@comcast.net

FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

Wildflower Walk

Meyer Ranch Open Space Park

Sunday, June 3, noon–2 p.m.

Local naturalist extraordinaire Pam Little

is eager to show off the beauty and variety of wildflowers in the Colorado Front Range.

Learn historical uses of native

plants by the settlers, Native Americans and wildlife. Join her to discover what's in bloom! A handout will be provided.

For ages 10 and up. Maximum class size: 20. Call 303-330-0489 to register.

NATURE CENTER KIDS PROGRAMS

Call Evergreen Nature Center, 303-330-0489, to register.

Wednesday Wild Ones: Puddle Play

Wednesday, June 6, 10–11 a.m.

Evergreen Nature Center

Explore the exciting world of puddles in spring! Watch critters squirm and swim during fish-tank playtime, splash around on the shores of Evergreen Lake and make a colorful gift for Dad!

Ages: 2–5 with adult.

Evergreen Nuthatches:

Bluebird Box Monitoring

Saturday, June 9, 9–10:30 a.m.

Alderfer/Three Sisters Park

Evergreen Audubon hosts dozens of

Mountain Bluebird families every spring as part of our bluebird box monitoring program. Sneak a peak with wildlife biologist Brad Andres.

Meet at the upper parking lot (LeMaster Road). Ages: 10-plus.

Bear Creek Dippers:

Home Tree Home

Saturday, June 16, 10 a.m.–noon

Evergreen Nature Center

Birds, bees, bugs, skunks and mountain lions agree: Ponderosa Pines make a lovely place to be! Explore what nestles in those holes and branches of Evergreen's most common tree as we play nature detectives.

Ages: 6–10 with adult.

Dawn Chorus species list

There were 33 species sighted by 37 humans at the International Dawn Chorus on May 6:

Spotted Sandpiper, Mallard, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Double Crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Mourning Dove, Eurasian Collared Dove.

Northern Flicker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Say's Phoebe, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Violet Green Swallow, Pygmy Nuthatch, House Wren.

American Crow, Steller's Jay, American Robin, Western Bluebird, American Dipper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Spotted Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin, House Finch, Red Crossbill.



This Spotted Towhee was an unusual find at this year's Dawn Chorus. Photo by Sherman Wing

Evergreen Youth Outdoor Skills Day

Saturday, June 9, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Evergreen Lake and

Alderfer/Three Sisters Park
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (formerly Colorado Division of Wildlife) and partners are bringing in the fish, creek dam, cane poles and outdoor skills knowledge to make the first annual Evergreen Youth Outdoor Skills Day a huge hit!

The fun also includes duck calling, shooting practice, canine water retrieval and nature walks, as well as Bear Aware and Living with Lions information booths.

In conjunction with the event, Evergreen Nature Center will offer a bluebird monitoring class at Alderfer/Three Sisters Park at 9 a.m. Class participants will receive a special Outdoor Skills Day prize.

Call 303-330-0489 for required registration. Head to www.evergreennature-center.org for more information.

Stargazing at Evergreen Lake

Lawn in front of Lake House

Friday, June 15, 8:45–10 p.m.

Pam Little

Join amateur astronomer Pam Little for a tour of the current night sky.

Listen to ancient star stories and learn to use a star chart. Make a star clock like the ones ancient travelers and sailors used.

Dress warmly, bring blankets and chairs for your comfort—telescopes and binoculars if you have them. Telescopes will be available to share.

For families. Maximum class size: 25. Call 303-330-0489 to register.

15th Annual Community Weed Day

Saturday, June 23, 8 a.m.

Evergreen Lake

We'll start with light refreshments at 8 a.m., followed by weeding until 11.

At 11:15, we'll gather at the picnic benches for cake, door prizes and some surprise awards.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3	Wildflower Walk	Noon–2 pm	Meyer Ranch Park
June 6	Wednesday Wild Ones	10–11 am	Nature Center
June 9	Youth Outdoor Skills Day	9 am–2 pm	Evergreen Lake/3 Sisters
June 9	Evergreen Nuthatches	9–10:30 am	Alderfer/Three Sisters Park
June 10	Newsletter deadline	5 pm	
June 15	Stargazing	8:45–10 pm	Evergreen Lake House lawn
June 16	Bear Creek Dippers	10 am–noon	Nature Center
June 23	Community Weed Day	8 am	Evergreen Lake
June 28	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	Church of the Hills

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

VOLUME 42, NO. 6. Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes *The Dipper* every month. Evergreen Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members may receive an electronic copy of *The Dipper* without charge or may pay \$10 a year for a mailed hard copy. Evergreen Audubon encourages readers to submit original articles, creative nature writing or art to *The Dipper*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any articles selected.

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

Bird Business: Spring Sightings
Nature Center Kids Programs
Dawn Chorus Species List

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