



THE DIPPER

VOL. 40 NO. 2
MARCH 2010

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

NEW WEBSITE

Check out our new website at www.evergreenaudubon.org. Lisa Wald created the new website and is still adding content to the various sections.

The home page has a list of upcoming events, and the calendar includes all events that have been scheduled. There is information about the monthly programs, field trips and conservation issues.

The Evergreen Nature Center website is now included as a section on the Audubon website. There also is a place to report local sightings to be posted on the website.

The old dipper.org web address will still work and bring you to the new website, and the evergreennaturecenter.org web address also will be working again in the future. The website is your source for all the most up-to-date information from Evergreen Audubon.

If you have any ideas for the website, please contact Lisa Wald at communications@evergreenaudubon.org.

APRIL MEETING

The Colorado Birding Trail is designed to aid you in your quest to discover wildlife.

On April 1, John Koshak of the Colorado Division of Wildlife will describe the development of the Colorado Birding Trail and the birding opportunities it offers.

Lightning safety program offers preparation for 2010 field season

Prepare for the 2010 field season! John Snook of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center will present the essentials of lightning awareness and safety at our March 4 chapter meeting.

With more time outdoors comes an increased risk of lightning-related injury and death. U.S. lightning deaths average more than 50 each year, according to the National Weather Service, with undocumented injuries likely much higher.

In Colorado alone, lightning fatalities and injuries totaled 394 between 1959 and 1994. About 90 percent of those struck by lightning survive, but they frequently have permanent aftereffects, which can include debilitating neurologic injuries such as memory loss, muscle spasms, dizziness and depression.

Dr. Snook will present the shocking facts about lightning at the Evergreen Audubon meeting on Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills.

His presentation will include lightning fatality statistics and answer the question, "Why does Colorado rank second in the nation?" He also will discuss the mechanics of thunderstorm development, lightning and Colorado climatology.

Dr. Snook will familiarize us with finding and understanding weather forecasts prior to outdoor activities, what to look for while outside and what to do if lightning is near.

Dr. Snook has both bachelor and master's degrees in meteorology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and a doctorate in atmospheric science from Colorado State University at Fort Collins.

He worked as an applied research meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, and is currently an independent meteorological consultant and an avalanche forecaster at the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.

Join us for this engaging and informative presentation about lightning, its hazards and how to protect yourself. Guests are welcome.

Church of the Hills is at 28628 Buffalo Park Road, just west of the Evergreen Library, in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.

- Barbara Nabors, Program chair



John Snook

New book coming from Sylvia Brockner

Sylvia Brockner has decided to write a book! Most of the volume will be a compilation of articles she has written for the Canyon Courier.

If interested, you are welcome to select and nominate your favorite articles for the book. The selection process will be done in the next few weeks from nearly 2,000 articles Sylvia has published.

Please contact the selection coordinator, Kathanne Lynch, at 303-968-4750.

EVERGREEN AUDUBON
www.evergreenaudubon.org

2010 OFFICERS

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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

I've just returned from a jog through my favorite spot, Elk Meadow. There was a beautiful, light snowfall, but the cold allowed me to harken back to runs during the spring when I'd encounter dozens of bluebirds, gently nursed along by our Evergreen Audubon members.

I can almost hear the sawing and hammering of new bird boxes being assembled as I write. Bird-box construction, sales, maintenance and monitoring is just one of so many genuine efforts this amazing group undertakes in the course of a year and I'm honored to be a representative.

I was afraid of the deluge of information and requests that would come my way after Peggy Durham handed me the gavel. My fear was not unfounded, but what I had not fully recognized was the large number of members who contribute so regularly to many of our activities.

But I digress; there are a few items of business to discuss. The board reorganization has worked well. Individual directors are strategizing and prioritizing their activities for the year.

As you'll have read in the cover sheet on this *Dipper*, we've homed in on a strategy for switching to an electronic *Dipper*, while maintaining paper copies for those who request them.

Other Audubon chapters are going through the same challenging exercise at this time, and all recognize the folly of the expense, effort and environmental impact of producing hundreds of paper copies per chapter per month.

Also of note, Lisa Wald has completely redesigned our website from scratch. Not only was this necessary (our prior webmaster left), but in addition to remarkable new aesthetics and functionality, Lisa maintains the site so we finally have complete and timely control over our own website content.

Check it out if you have not done so recently (www.evergreenaudubon.org),

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VIP VOLUNTEERS

• The Annual Banquet Planning Committee: **Irma Wolf, Marilyn Kaussner, Juanita Weare, Kent Simon, Mike Wilson, Barbara Nabors and Ginny Boschen.** To **Irma** for running the silent auction; **Irma** also thanks those who contributed items to the auction—**Helen Swem, Chris Pfaff, Cathy Shelton, Ron and Dee Sacks and Beth Erlund,** and those that helped—**Sylvia Robertson, Marilyn Kaussner, Peggy Durham, Lynne Price, Ginny and Tom Boschen.**

• Bird-box builders **Tom Boschen, Bud Weare, Brad Andres, Mike Wilson, Kay Niyo, Peggy Durham, Karel Buckley and Ginny Boshen** for creating the recent mini-housing boom (new home construction is up!). Special kudos to **Tom**, who put in many hours of prep work, purchasing materials and designing, cutting and organizing workstations for construction. Rumor has it birds at the window were heard chanting, "Tom! Tom! Tom!"

• **Sherman Wing, Heather Johnson, Karel Buckley, Sylvia Brockner and Kathanne Lynch** for creating an upcoming field-trip bonanza.

• **Mike Wilson** for generating and providing our chapter's report to Audubon Colorado.

• **Lisa Wald** for completely redesigning and updating our Evergreen Audubon web pages. That was (and is) a lot of work!

• **Kent Simon** for a very useful overhaul of the membership and phone list spreadsheets. These are very important for our communication and bookkeeping!

Awards honor Evergreen Audubon's best at banquet

Four prestigious citations were awarded at the Evergreen Audubon Annual Banquet Jan. 15.

President's Citation: Extraordinarily Helpful to President and Evergreen Audubon

Throughout this past year, I have had to turn to others for help in doing many tasks. Often I needed to create documents that required computer skills I do not possess.

I was reluctant to burden any Audubon member who held a full-time day job, but I turned to one who always seemed to have the time, patience and expertise to produce whatever I needed.

Even though she was not a board member, she gave unstintingly of her time, sometimes on short notice, sometimes just back from a long junket, when she clearly could have used the time for her own purposes.

Her interest in and ability to make any Audubon letter or publication look professional helped us raise our profile in the community this last year. She has been an enormous help to me personally and to our whole organization.

In addition, in recent weeks, we were left without a functioning website. We were somewhat red-faced by this loss, especially since we have been telling our membership to check the website for all up-to-date information.

Seeing that we were faced with a difficult problem, Lisa Wald offered to do her best to create our website, during her two weeks of vacation over the holidays.

In both of these instances, Lisa stepped up to the plate, doing jobs she had not been elected or expected to do. For her willingness to use her skills and time when needed, I honor **Lisa Wald** with the **Royal Order of the Dipper**.

- Peggy Durham

President's Citation 2009

With so many willing helpers in this organization, it was difficult to choose one person who has distinguished himself or herself by doing outstanding work. However, among many dedicated volunteers, one stands out as making an enormous difference to Evergreen Audubon.

In this past year, we have continued

our Nature Center operation with considerable success.

We have published a new Bear Creek Watershed Checklist, available to the public, free.

We have an ongoing program to monitor the bluebird boxes in Elk Meadow and publish the results.

The Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas program has two successful years of tracking the breeding bird counts in the watershed, using about 50 volunteer birders over the course of several weeks.

The Christmas Bird Count is by all measures a great success. We started with Brad Andres' impressive birding-by-ear preparation meeting, we covered our 12 areas with enough birders to spot high numbers and we give Brad credit for good weather, which made it possible actually to leave the car and stand around outside instead of just rolling down the window. All of these accomplishments were spearheaded by Brad.

Perhaps the most significant work in 2009 was the reorganization of the board presented last spring by Brad. He recognized the need to spread out the responsibilities at the top of the board and to define the responsibilities of the directors, allowing for one additional director and having two at large to take on jobs as needed.

To accommodate the new structure, he suggested changes to the bylaws, which were approved by the membership in November. As soon as the new board was elected, I could feel the change, as we all knew where to look when a task needed to be done.

If that's not enough, he wrote several grant proposals for the Nature Center that were successful. Each proposal required a lot of preparation, which definitely paid off. His many efforts are all done in a very professional manner.

For all the work he has done in 2009 to facilitate the smooth functioning of our organization now and in the coming years, I award the President's Citation to **Brad Andres**, for helping this president and succeeding ones.

- Peggy Durham

Best Bird Award for 2009

Evergreen Audubon birders were

quite active in 2009. We set a new species record for Christmas Bird Count (54 species), and had a second successful year of the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas.

As a result of these and other activities, there were several good birds to choose from for the "Best Bird of 2009": Northern Saw-whet Owl by Karel Buckley and crew in Bell Park; Indigo Bunting, nesting Peregrine Falcon, Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Susan Harper, Sherman Wing and their crew at Red Rocks; and Bushtit, by Larry White's crew, and Fox Sparrow, by Kay Niyo and others, on the Christmas count.

When examining the seasonal rarity in the foothills, the Black-crowned Night-Heron seen in the Genesee section by **Sylvia Brockner** edged out these other great birds. The Night-Heron was a first for the Christmas count.

- Brad Andres

Wildflower of the Year Award 2009

The Wildflower of the Year Award is traditionally bestowed upon the person who has located the rarest or most uncommon wildflower, especially if they found a new location for the plant unknown to botanists before.

This year the award goes to someone who discovered not one but three uncommon wildflowers in Deer Creek Canyon. She also discovered a fourth plant—a rare shrub that grows beside the creek in the canyon where she lives just south of Deer Creek.

Thanks to Audrey, this canyon is being protected and is a magical place that has had little change in the past 200 years. Our thanks to Audrey.

She located these plants: Prince's Plume (*Stanleya pinnata*), Poor Flowered Gaura (*Gaura parviflora*), Yellow Monkey Flower (*Mimulus glabratus*) and Beaked Hazelnut or Wild Filbert (*Corylus cornuta*)

Therefore, the Wildflower of the Year Award 2009 is presented to **Audrey Boag** for her efforts to protect the wild canyon in which she lives and which she shares with the wild creatures, and her constant search for wildflowers in that area. She is also hereby made a member of the **Royal Order of the Dipper**.

- Sylvia Brockner

Christmas count finds record 55 species, 3 of them new

The 41st Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 20 turned out to be a banner day!

We set a record high count of 55 species and added three new species for the count—one Black-crowned Night-Heron in Genesee, 15 Bushtits in Idaho Springs West and one Brown-headed Cowbird at a feeder in Kerr Gulch.

With these additions, we have now tallied 99 species on the count since it began in 1969.

Besides adding new species, we also produced high counts of Cooper's Hawks, Eurasian Collared-Doves (first recorded last year), Great Horned Owls, Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, White-breasted Nuthatches and Pygmy Nuthatches.

The accompanying table provides numbers from 2009, the average for the previous 40 years, and the high count of the species and the year it was made.

Participation in 2009 was about average, with 54 field observers and 17 feeder watchers contributing almost 140 party-hours of effort. The nice weather this year allowed for great winter birding conditions, and we recorded 7,526 individual birds.

In case you missed last year's American Birds summary, the 2008 Evergreen-Idaho Springs count had the North American high count for Mountain Chickadees (450 individuals), and we will likely retain this honor in 2009.

For Christmas Bird Counts conducted in Colorado in 2008, we had the highest count for Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch (second in North America) and Brown Creeper.

We had the second-highest count for White-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Grosbeak and tied the third-highest

count for Northern Goshawk, Downy Woodpecker and Steller's Jay.

As you can see, most of these species are common foothills residents and should be good indicators of forest change around Evergreen.

Thanks to all section leaders and participants, as well as the Mannings for hosting the Tally Rally, Lori Hogan for making the chili and organizing the dinner, and Bob Santangelo for making the veggie chili.

Also, Sylvia Robertson and Marge Peterson for getting plates and utensils, Barbara Jean Gard for organizing the feeder watchers and Kathanne Lynch for providing the 2008 Colorado summary.

Thanks to Emily Wald for recording the section counts, and John and Diane Sears (Evergreen Wild Bird Store) for distributing leader's packets and hosting several teams.

- Brad Andres

Summary of birds observed on the 2009 Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count, the average number seen from 1969 to 2008, and the high count and year recorded.

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2008	2009	number	year
Canada Goose	8		70	90
Cackling Goose	<1		2	08
Wood Duck	<1		2	93/07
American Wigeon	<1		2	96
Mallard	48	61	235	93
Northern Pintail	<1		1	96/98
Green-winged Teal	<1		1	81
Chukar	<1		1	80
Blue Grouse	<1		12	94
Wild Turkey	40	47	110	04
Great Blue Heron	<1		1	88/90
Black-crowned Night Heron	<1	1	1	09
Bald Eagle	1		4	91
Northern Harrier	<1	1	2	04
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	3	06
Cooper's Hawk	<1	2	2	09
Northern Goshawk	1	2	3	72/87
Red-tailed Hawk	11	40	40	09
Ferruginous Hawk	<1		2	98
Rough-legged Hawk	1		11	85

Golden Eagle	3	2	8	89
American Kestrel	1	1	4	87
Merlin	<1		1	89/07
Prairie Falcon	<1		1	82
Wilson's Snipe	1		4	78/91/00
Rock Pigeon	79	39	212	81
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<1	8	8	09
Mourning Dove	<1		1	93
Great Horned Owl	1	5	5	09
Northern Pygmy-Owl	<1		4	95
Long-eared Owl	<1		1	74/82
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<1		1	70
Belted Kingfisher	2	2	6	04
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<1		1	80
Downy Woodpecker	28	42	51	08
Hairy Woodpecker	42	67	67	09
American Three-toed Woodpecker	<1	1	3	79/89
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	13	39	39	09
Loggerhead Shrike	<1		1	several
Northern Shrike	4	1	13	86
Gray Jay	14	10	53	77
Steller's Jay	263	318	446	00

Bird-box Sale

The wildly popular Evergreen Audubon Bird-box Sale will be March 13 and 14 (if the boxes don't sell out on Saturday as they did last year).

Bud Weare said his crew made 65 of the "super-duper boxes that Tom Boschen designed—they're bigger with ventilation."

Volunteers are needed to staff the sale in two-hour shifts: 9–11 a.m., 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 1–3 p.m. There are three locations: Bergen Park King Soopers and the Safeways in Evergreen and Conifer.

Boxes are priced at \$20 for chickadee, \$25 for bluebird and \$30 for flicker. To volunteer for a shift, please call Bud at 303-679-8889.



Busy bird-box builders in the Boschen garage are (left to right) Karel Buckley, Kay Niyo, Bud Weare and Brad Andres. Not shown, but just as busy, are Peggy Durham, Mike Wilson and Ginny and Tom Boschen. Photo by Ginny Boschen

Blue Jay	<1		1	95/00
Western Scrub-Jay	2		14	93
Pinyon Jay	5		200	72
Clark's Nutcracker	28	17	108	78
Black-billed Magpie	175	283	293	00
American Crow	604	1,249	1,519	00
Common Raven	115	117	200	72
Horned Lark	<1		15	86
Black-capped Chickadee	71	111	170	95
Mountain Chickadee	474	598	786	75
Juniper Titmouse	<1		1	82
Bushtit	<1	15	15	09
Red-breasted Nuthatch	48	71	127	93
White-breasted Nuthatch	65	117	117	09
Pygmy Nuthatch	350	990	990	09
Brown Creeper	13	19	23	75
Canyon Wren	1	3	5	81
Winter Wren	<1		2	75
American Dipper	19	27	37	87
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	5	18	84
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<1		2	83/91
Mountain Bluebird	<1		2	92
Townsend's Solitaire	66	77	202	82
American Robin	128	294	1,500	72
Northern Mockingbird	<1		1	78
Brown Thrasher	<1		1	several
European Starling	135	39	301	00
Bohemian Waxwing	46		580	80
Cedar Waxwing	8	21	163	87
Spotted Towhee	<1		4	75
Cassin's Sparrow	<1		1	71
American Tree Sparrow	3		37	84

Clay-colored Sparrow	<1		1	83
Fox Sparrow	<1	1	1	several
Song Sparrow	4	7	12	93
White-throated Sparrow	<1		1	84/06
Harris's Sparrow	<1		2	80
White-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	71/89/00
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	93
Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco	160	205	293	76
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	91	95	232	74
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco	14	75	276	80
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	84	73	413	82
Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco	55	45	70	07
Dark-eyed Junco (All subspecies)	551	697	699	08
Red-winged Blackbird	37	227	500	91
Common Grackle	<1	1	3	93
Great-tailed Grackle	<1		1	07
Brown-headed Cowbird	<1	1	1	09
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	129	60	429	84
Black Rosy-Finch	8		70	04
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	17	4	140	04
All Rosy-Finches	166	64	429	84
Pine Grosbeak	13	21	51	07
Cassin's Finch	165	130	474	88
House Finch	153	224	430	06
Red Crossbill	67	102	643	82
White-winged Crossbill	1		16	70
Common Redpoll	4		30	70
Pine Siskin	220	334	723	08
American Goldfinch	18	13	176	00
Evening Grosbeak	135	135	420	95
House Sparrow	105	65	377	00

There is a growing body of evidence that prescription drugs are getting into our environment, especially into the water systems many municipalities use for domestic water sources.

Many of us have unused drugs that must be disposed of at some point. Studies have shown primary disposal to be either by flushing down the toilet or throwing into the trash.

Either way, the chemicals migrate through wastewater treatment and natural water systems, eventually entering our streams, rivers and lakes.

Even when we take our drug dosage, our bodies do not metabolize it completely. Some portion of it, which has been measured in parts per trillion, is excreted and enters into the sewer system. It too eventually migrates into our streams, rivers and lakes, contributing to the problem.

One may think that the sewage treatment systems would remove the chemicals, but they do not. Most waste treatment systems are not equipped to filter out pharmaceuticals and the process to do it, reverse osmosis, is very expensive and, itself, produces wastewater that must be dealt with.

A recent NPR interview (www.kcfr.org, 2/1/10) with David O. Norris, Ph.D., a professor of endocrinology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, described abnormalities in white sucker fishes (*Catostomus commersoni*) in Boulder Creek, downstream of wastewater treatment plant effluent.

His research found the feminism of the fish below the wastewater treatment plant but not above it, and that the cause was estrogenic chemicals. These chemicals can be found in birth-control pills as well as in everyday goods such as hair products and soaps.

A related report was published in the Boulder Daily Camera discussing drugs found in the groundwater surrounding landfills near Portland, Maine (*Even if You're Careful, Drugs can End up in Water* by Clarke Canfield; Associated Press, 2/7/2010).

And an exhaustive scientific literature investigation by the Associated Press in 2008 and published by USA Today (*Drugs Show Up in Americans' Water* by Jeff Donn, Martha Mendoza and Justin Pritchard; Associated Press, 3/10/2008) discusses extensively pharmaceuticals found in water and

their potential hazard to the environment and human health.

The best approach to reduce the pollution of our environment from pharmaceuticals is to prevent unused drugs from entering in the first place. That means no flushing and no dumping into the trash.

So, you may ask—what can I do with them? Fortunately, Colorado has instituted the Colorado Medication Take-Back Pilot Project first reported by the Denver Post (Denver and the West, 12/10/2009).

The Colorado Medication Take-Back Project is a network of secure boxes for the collection of unused and unwanted household medications. Once the drugs are recovered from the boxes, they are sent to a hazardous waste incinerator where they are reduced to a sterile powder and sent to a landfill.

A brochure on the program can be found on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's website: www.cdphe.state.co.us. There are eight collection boxes set up in the Denver-Boulder area and two in Summit County. The closest collection box to the Evergreen area can be found at King Soopers at 3400 Youngfield St., Wheat Ridge.

BIRD BUSINESS

Birding in Mexico

I've been looking for this bird for many years. They're secretive, it's not the right season and they're not active now.

I prepared and studied the bird and I knew it was out there. On my last morning, I left in the dark and traveled by bus to the village at the end of the road.

I hiked for a while, and the dawn was coming. About a half mile on the trail, I took the right fork; the sun peeked over the hillside and onto the tree leaves on my left.

In the grayness, a bird flew from my right, landed on that lit tree and there it was . . . for about two seconds, the **Russet-crowned Motmot**.

- Sherman Wing

Those who would like to report bird

sightings are encouraged to go to www.evergreenaudubon.org and click on the Local Sightings link.

Or, call or email *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall at 303-674-3752, marshall.pub@skybeam.com. *The Dipper* also welcomes your trip reports and photos of local bird sightings.

John Sears of Evergreen Wild Bird Store posted on Jan. 18 that he heard from a customer who reported seeing a **Snowy Owl** near I-70 in Genesee recently. **Red Crossbills** have also recently been reported in Brook Forest.

John added that a dusting of snow on Jan. 29 brought 150 to 200 **Rosy-Finches** of all species to his feeders.

On Feb. 6, Sherman Wing reported a **Northern Shrike** perched on a snag at the north end of Elk Meadow, on the hilltop, near Troublesome Creek.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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and remember that the calendar and activities pages now will be up to date.

You'll be pleased to see a flurry (OK, so I'm looking out the window) of upcoming field trips—a welcome resurgence of one of our specialties—and a sure sign that spring is around the corner.

As a very biased, but well-surfed observer, I can say our web pages now rival any Audubon chapter in the country!

Finally, the board has decided to cut back on summer chapter meetings, eliminating those in the months of June and August, which have been poorly attended.

In their place, we hope to plan evening get-togethers in the field or at the Nature Center, and other social events. Please make suggestions!

The July chapter meeting, as usual, will be the picnic scheduled for July 17. Mark your calendar!

FIELD TRIPS

KAREL BUCKLEY

Red Rocks Park

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m.

Sherman Wing

Join Sherman on a bird walk to see the winter residents and the early spring migrants at Red Rocks Park. Meet at the Trading Post and bring binoculars, snacks and water; dress appropriately. Please call to confirm attendance on this half-day trip, especially if the weather or conditions are bad. Call Sherman at 303-324-9636.

Cranes of Nebraska

Saturday–Sunday, March 27–28, with optional extension through Monday

Sylvia Brockner, Kathanne Lynch

Viewing thousands of Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River in Nebraska is the centerpiece of this overnight trip. We will carpool from Evergreen on Saturday at 6 a.m. to picnic at Lake McConaughy (four hours away). There we may see lingering Bald Eagles and resident birds. We will continue along the Platte and view cranes before we overnight at a North Platte motel or RV camp.

Sunday morning we will be out before dawn to see the cranes in the river and for lift-off. We will then observe their behavior in nearby fields. Most of us will carpool to Evergreen late Sunday morning to try to arrive in Evergreen by 6 p.m. A few of us will con-

tinue eastward and spend Sunday night in Kearney, where we will experience lift-off on the Platte Rover at the Fort Kearney State Park footbridge Monday morning.

Bring a sack lunch for Saturday, and snacks for both days. Contact Kathanne at 303-968-4750 or kathanne77@msn.com to arrange your own motel reservation. Because this trip is highly weather-dependent, there may be changes. (Be prepared to return Monday morning if a blizzard arrives on Sunday.) On Thursday, March 25, please contact Sylvia at 303-674-4851 or Kathanne to confirm plans.

FIELD NOTES

KAREL BUCKLEY

The “Rosies and Raptors” Evergreen Audubon field trip found 26 species of birds and 447 individuals on Saturday, Feb. 13. It’s too bad the Rosy-Finches were not at the Fawn Brook Inn in Allenspark for us to see.

The inn’s owner said the Rosies appeared in December, but they have been few in number all winter long and do not appear for many days at a time. She feels they remain in the nearby Rocky Mountain National Park and forest.

Undaunted, the night before the trip two participants went to Allenspark to spend the night and saw three Pine Grosbeaks at a feeder in Ward and enjoyed dinner at the inn.

On Saturday morning, while we were checking out Ward and Allenspark, we spotted a Merlin in Allenspark. We then took our time enjoying a wonderful breakfast at the Meadow Café as we kept vigil for flocks of Rosy-Finches next door at the inn.

We plan to do this trip again next February. To see Rosy-Finches this winter, you can drive to this traditional Allenspark site or shop at Diane and John Sears’ Wild Bird store and ask them about the Rosy-Finch flocks at their home.

After Allenspark, we drove down Highway 7 past Lyons and spent a few hours driving the “Boulder Raptor Auto Route” north of Boulder. This is a series of roads along which raptors perch and hunt.

The Boulder County Nature Association (www.bcna.org) runs 300 raptor surveys here from Oct. 15 to March 15, and have been doing so for 26 years. We saw 29 raptors of seven species, including a Great Horned Owl on nest (great find by Karel), a gorgeous Ferruginous Hawk soaring overhead and two American Kestrels devouring rodents.

In addition, true to our naturalist nature, we discovered a non-frozen pond with 30-plus rainbow trout that weighed 4 to 5 pounds each!

You may contact Kathanne Lynch, 303-968-4750, for other trip details and the species count.

Thank you, Kathanne, for a great trip; the information sheets you provided us on Rosy-Finch and raptor identification are invaluable. Above and beyond! Thanks for being our first trip leader of 2010.

MEMBERSHIP

KENT SIMON

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

New: Tina Jones, Littleton; Linda Lorenz, Conifer; Sandra McGee, Golden.

New Family: Cheryl & Andy Manning, Evergreen; William & Barbara Schneider, Golden.

Renewing: Jonelle Balais, Evergreen; Tom & Ginny Boschen, Ever-

green; Sylvia Brockner, Evergreen; Jane Conrad, Highlands Ranch; Mike Foster, Lakewood; Jeff Geiger, Evergreen; Helene Jaeggi, Golden; Betsy Kelson, Evergreen; Patti O’Neill, Arvada; Marge Petersen, Evergreen; Dick Prickett, Evergreen; Linda Rockwell, Evergreen; Bob Santangelo, Wheat Ridge; Sonny & Irma Wolf, Evergreen.

Renewing Family: Ed & Andrea Furlong, Evergreen; Susan & Mark Harper, Evergreen; Marilyn & John Kaussner, Evergreen; Dan & Rachel Norton, Evergreen; David & Betty Rainey, Buffalo Creek; Michael, Tracey & Megan Stills, Evergreen; Catherine & Jim Wilkins, Evergreen.



**Evergreen Nature Center
will open April 10—two
weeks before Earth Day.**

**Please visit
evergreenaudubon.org
to learn more.**

MARCH CALENDAR

March 4	Chapter Meeting	7 PM	Church of the Hills
March 10	Newsletter deadline	5 PM	
March 13–14	Bird-box Sales	9 AM–3 PM	King Soopers, Safeways
March 13	Bird Walk	8:30 AM	Red Rocks Park
March 25	Board Meeting	7 PM	
March 27–28	Cranes of Nebraska	6 AM	Meet to carpool

Please submit newsletter content to Lisa Wald: communications@evergreenaudubon.org. Call or email *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: marshallpub@skybeam.com, 303-674-3752.

VOLUME 40, NO. 2. *Evergreen Audubon*, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes *The Dipper* every month but February and August. Evergreen Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members automatically receive *The Dipper*. Annual subscription for non-members is \$10. 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.

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Four honored at banquet
Field trips underway
Christmas Bird Count results

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