



## SPAM PROMPTS WEB PASSWORD

The Local Sightings page on the Evergreen Audubon website had been getting 100-plus spam posts each day.

Each one caused an email to be sent to EA communications director Lisa Wald for approval or rejection, requiring individual attention for each email and taking up too much time every day.

To prevent the spam, Lisa has added a requirement for a login/password to post a sighting. She has added to the page that potential posters need to send an email to [communications@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:communications@evergreenaudubon.org) to request the login information.

The login info is:

Login: bird

Password: b1rd!

Posters now must be sure to sign their entries or they will appear to be anonymous.

The Local Sightings page of the website is a fun and informative way to share information about birds in the local area.

"I'm sorry I had to do this, and I hope it doesn't discourage people from posting sightings," Lisa said.

EA members also are welcome to email sightings to *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall at [marshallpublish@gmail.com](mailto:marshallpublish@gmail.com).

There is a link to statewide sightings on the EA page.

## Nature Center reopens on April 21

Evergreen will celebrate Earth Day at the Lake House and Evergreen Audubon will open the doors to the Evergreen Nature Center for the 2012 season on Saturday, April 21.

Evergreen Audubon will have a table at the Lake House and hold special events at the Nature Center.

Please let Kathy Madison, [education@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:education@evergreenaudubon.org), or Vanessa Hayes, [enccdirector@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:enccdirector@evergreenaudubon.org), know if you're interested in helping that day. Volunteers will be needed in two shifts: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers also are needed to help with setting up for the season at the Nature Center, probably on Sunday, April 15.

This year's Earth Day Festival has expanded into Earth Week. A series of community events is planned, with a variety of programs scheduled to get people involved in the celebration. Details will be coming out soon.

So, get involved: Volunteer to join local, state and federal agencies in celebrating conservation!

-Vanessa Hayes and Kathy Madison

## North Park water birds on March 1 agenda

### Chair of Citizen Science program will report on monitoring results

Chuck Hundertmark, chair of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory Citizen Science program, will report on the colonial water birds of North Park at the Thursday, March 1, Evergreen Audubon chapter meeting.

From 1998 through 2010, biologists and volunteers from Rocky Mountain Bird Ob-

servatory monitored breeding populations of 12 species of colonial water birds, as well as Osprey, Bald Eagle and Willet, in North Park.

The colonial water bird species predominantly nest on or near the numerous reservoirs and ponds of this north-central Colorado mountain park.

This monitoring, conducted through Project ColonyWatch, was initiated as an integral part of the comprehensive Monitoring Colorado's Birds program.

After 13 years, a picture is emerging of dynamic population fluctuations that respond to sometimes abrupt or dramatic changes in water levels.

While populations of some species (such as Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, California Gull) appear to be stable, others (such as Franklin's Gull, Black and Forster's tern) endure at marginally viable levels.

The EA presentation will discuss colony locations, changes in colony size and location, and movement of species among colonies.

ColonyWatch is one of several RMBO Citizen Science programs that track critical bird populations in the state. Volunteers also help monitor nests of the growing Front

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*Chuck Hundertmark performs the hourly weather check at the Dinosaur Ridge Raptor Monitoring Station, aka the Hawk-Watch site. Photo by William Bond*

## EVERGREEN AUDUBON

www.evergreenaudubon.org

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Meetings first Thursday except January, June, July, August  
7 p.m., Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BRAD ANDRES

I would like to take this month's column to familiarize you with the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. Since 2008, it has been a solid supporter of the Evergreen Nature Center and has granted us more than \$40,000.

The SCFD is a voter-created special tax district that distributes revenue generated by 1 cent on every \$10 of retail sales and use tax in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas (partially) and Jefferson counties, with the primary purpose of providing for "the enlightenment and entertainment of the public through the production, presentation, exhibition, advancement or preservation of art, music, theater, dance, zoology, botany, natural history or cultural history."

Funding is distributed to organizations in three tiers: 1) five organizations defined in the Colorado statute, 2) organizations with an operating income above an annually adjusted threshold (\$1,392,790 in 2011), and 3) organizations below this threshold.

A volunteer County Cultural Council creates county guidelines for Tier 3 grants and determines grant awards. In 2010, Jefferson County awarded \$899,111 in Tier 3 grants, including one to Evergreen Audubon.

Overall, more than 300 organizations were funded by the SCFD in 2010. Thanks to SCFD and our Jefferson County Cultural Council members for supporting the general operating costs of the Evergreen Nature Center.

## VIP VOLUNTEERS BRAD ANDRES

- Thanks to **Irma Wolfe, Jean and Tom Thayer, Marilyn Kaussner, Marge Petersen** and **Vanessa Hayes** for helping organize the annual banquet and to our speaker, **Brian Rutledge**.

- Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the post-banquet presentation of the Founders' Award to Dan Norton.

- Thank you to **Marilyn Rhodes** for purchasing a Flickr Pro license for the Evergreen Audubon Flickr site (linked from our website), where we can all post our photos. We reached our limit of photos in early February, so Marilyn purchased the upgrade as a gift to Evergreen Audubon.

## Awards presented at banquet

Several prestigious awards were presented at the EA Annual Banquet Jan. 20.

- Best Bird Award, presented by Brad Andres: Inga Brennan for a Prairie Warbler discovered June 1 along Bear Creek, in Corwina Park.
- Best Flower Award, presented by David Wald: Pam Little, for a little green flower named *Adoxa moschatellina*.
- Founders' Award, presented by Mark Meremonte: Walt and Polly Phillips, and Rachel (posthumously) and Dan Norton.
- President's Citation Award (Royal Order of the Dipper), presented by David Wald: Debbie Marshall received an award for her work as editor and layout artist for *The Dipper* newsletter. Pam Little was honored for many contributions to the club, including presenting more Nature Center programs than any other individual.

# Hit the bluebird trail as birds return this spring

Are you tired of shoveling snow after the big storm in February? Are you looking forward to seeing our returning Mountain and Western Bluebirds?

In March and April, adult bluebirds return to our area. Nest site selection, pair formation, breeding, egg laying and brooding then begin. Both species nest in tree cavities, though they readily accept nest boxes. We can easily see their activities in Evergreen's Ponderosa Pine-Douglas Fir woodland.

Evergreen Audubon, in collaboration with Jefferson County Open Space, has two bluebird nest box trails, with 35 boxes in Elk Meadow Open Space and 25 boxes in Alderfer/Three Sisters Open Space. In 2011, volunteers banded several adults and fledglings.

As a volunteer, you work with a leader to make biweekly walking visits along the nest box trails. We get started in March and continue through July and August. For the first time this year, we hope to see returning bluebirds banded during the 2011 monitoring season.

As a Bluebird volunteer, you help observe and record adult arrival, nest building and the number of eggs and

chicks in each box. We even find other species in the boxes.

Systematic observation of Colorado's migratory breeding birds lets us monitor variations in life cycle events, reproductive success and changes in species distribution and abundance.

The information you help collect adds to the growing Evergreen Audubon database of bluebird breeding success in our area. We also enter our results in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology NestWatch database. These data contribute to the monitoring and scientific understanding of North American breeding birds.



*Mountain Bluebird, Elk Meadow Open Space. Photo by Rachel Hutchison*

We also ask all members to enter your own bluebird sightings on the "Sightings" page of the EA website.

To sign up as a Bluebird volunteer on this interesting and important monitoring project, please contact Mike Wilson at [crowhollow@gmail.com](mailto:crowhollow@gmail.com).

- Mike Wilson

## Nature Center schedules volunteer activities in April

Hello, nature and Evergreen enthusiasts. The Evergreen Nature Center committee is already planning an exciting 2012 season of programming for visitors and volunteers alike, and we want you to be a part of the action!

New things to watch for this season include three volunteer appreciation events, three volunteer natural-history trainings and three volunteer recruitment gatherings. Stay tuned for more dates in the April Dipper.

Please email Vanessa Hayes at [enc-director@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:enc-director@evergreenaudubon.org) if you are interested in becoming a new ENC volunteer, receiving a volunteer newsletter or helping with an upcoming event.

### Upcoming Events

- April 15, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., ENC Setup for the 2012 Season

- April 21, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Earth Day Festival and ENC Opening Day (see Earth Day article)

- April 29, 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m., New Volunteer Recruitment at ENC

- Vanessa Hayes

## Volunteers requested for Nest Box Sale

A crack construction crew whipped out 62 bluebird boxes one Saturday in February, ensuring that Evergreen Audubon is ready for another spring Nest Box Sale.

This year's sale will be Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11, at the Bergen Park and Conifer King Soopers stores and the Evergreen Safeway. Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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. Nest box head honcho Bud Weare said volunteers are

especially needed to sign up for Saturday's sale, and for the Conifer King Soopers location, which is new this year.

The nest boxes have sold out on the first day of the sale the last two years, causing the cancellation of the Sunday shifts.

To volunteer for a shift, please call Bud Weare at 303-679-8889.

Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Tom Boschen, Jim Shelton, Tom Thayer and Bud Weare built the bluebird boxes, and Chuck, both Toms and Bud earlier constructed 32 chickadee boxes.

Several Evergreen Audubon members have reported sightings of **Snowy Owls** during this year's irruption of the bird, most recently Marilyn Rhodes, who saw one at Barr Lake on Jan. 24 and another at Aurora Reservoir on Dec. 28.

Light snowfall brought in 7 **Cassin's Finches** and 32 **Pine Siskins** (no Redpolls) to Chuck Aid's feeders above Cub Creek on Jan. 24. He sighted 7 **Red Crossbills** at Lair o' the Bear two days later.

Evergreen Wild Bird Store owner John Sears found his birdseed supply threatened on Feb. 3 as heavy snow brought back 30 to 40 **Rosy Finches** of all species, along with 75 to 100 **Evening Grosbeaks**, dozens of **Pine Siskins** and about 6 **Cassin's Finches**.

Also interested in chowing down in Kings Valley were about 50 **Red-winged Blackbirds** that came out of nowhere to descend on his feeders.

Maybe the same blackbird flock had earlier visited Bear Mountain, because Debbie Marshall reported about three dozen flocking to her feeders the same day with more than two feet of snow on the ground.



*Gray-crowned, left, and Black Rosy-Finch at Red Rocks Feb. 7. These birds are notable because they are usually found at higher elevations, but heavy snowfalls have pushed them down our way. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes*

Sherman Wing reported **Cassin's Finches** at his Indian Hills home, also on that snowy Feb. 3. Two days later, **American Crows** were harassing a juvenile **Bald Eagle** in Indian Hills.

Marilyn Rhodes went to Red Rocks in search of **Cassin's** and **Rosy Finches** on Feb. 7, finding the Rosys out in

force in all four flavors—**Black, Gray-crowned, Hepburn's** and **Brown-capped**. After two hours-plus, she gave up on the Cassin's, but a half-dozen of them rewarded her efforts by paying her a visit the next day at home.

A finch of a different color was making its presence known near the confluence of Cub and Blue creeks early in February. An unidentified poster to the website reported one or two dozen **American Goldfinches** coming to a home's feeders almost every morning.

The same poster said during that Feb. 4 snowstorm they had **five races of juncos**, 28 **Cassin's Finches**, 40 **Pine Siskins** and 12 **Evening Grosbeaks** at the feeders. Noticeably absent that day were all three species of nut-hatches, which were, presumably, still holed up somewhere.

Birds of a different feather were in Sherman Wing's sights as he traipsed through the back roads of the Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, region in mid-February.

Sherman and friends Bob Holmes and Jeanette Strom of Denver traveled to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and had a wonderful time exploring the back roads of the region.

First up on their itinerary was an overnight trip to Rancho Primavera,



*Sherman Wing photographed this endangered Military Macaw on a February trip to Mexico.*

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# Evergreen GBBC participation continues to rise

Congratulations to Evergreen Audubon birders for putting together a record year for the 2012 Great Backyard Bird Count.

Community birders submitted 40 checklists spanning the four days of the bird count, from Friday, Feb. 17, through Monday, Feb. 20. We identified 32 species in those 40 checklists, compared to 22 species in 19 checklists in 2011 and 25 species in 21 checklists in 2010.

Birders in Colorado reported 148 species, with a total bird count of 158,226 individuals. In Evergreen, we reported 32 species, with a total bird count of 1,807 individuals. In fact, Evergreen had the ninth highest number of checklists, nearly the same as Boulder, but rather far below the numbers reported by Denver and Colorado Springs.

For the GBBC as a whole, the most frequently reported bird was the Northern Cardinal and the most numerous bird was the Snow Goose.

Colorado saw high counts for:

- Canada Goose
- Snow Goose

- Starling
- Red-winged Blackbird
- House Finch
- Black-eyed Junco

Evergreen saw high counts for:

- American Robin (292)
- Evening Grosbeak (263) – truly amazing
- Pine Siskin (247)

We also had good numbers of American Crows, Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, Black-eyed Juncos and House Finches. Unfortunately, the Mallard my grandchildren spotted walking across the Keystone ski area parking lot was listed for Dillon, not Evergreen.

We also had four interesting one-offs. Sylvia Brockner spotted a Cooper's Hawk "eating" at her feeder. Others reported one American Three-toed Woodpecker and one Blue Jay. Where did that Blue Jay come from to our snows of February 2012?

We have even bigger plans for 2013, so get your binoculars ready and don't forget about signing up through Cornell University's GBBC website. To check on the results yourself, go to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) and click on "Explore the Results."

- JoAnn Hackos  
Bird Monitoring director

## BIRD BUSINESS

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about an hour south of Puerto Vallarta, in El Tuito. The working ranch offers accommodations for nature lovers and has a recorded list of 365 birds. The ranch is owned and operated by two American

ex-pats, a mother and daughter team and wonderful hosts.

The group watched as a **Military Macaw**, a threatened species, flew in and perched on a fence, near the entrance of the ranch. It was very exciting for them to see such a magnificent bird, especially so close and with good lighting.

A **Lilac-crowned Parrot** flew in as they were watching the macaw, and Sherman also got photos of a colorful array of regional birds attracted by feeders at the main house, including a **Yellow Grosbeak**. **Striped-headed Sparrows** are common in the area, and Sherman photographed a **Hooded Oriole** through the car windshield.

## Spring cleaning

Sherman Wing reminds us that it is time to clean out our bluebird houses as the Mountain and Western versions will both be returning shortly. *Photo by Sherman Wing*



## March 1 program: Colonial Water Birds of North Park

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Range Bald Eagle population or count hawks moving north along Dinosaur Ridge.

Other volunteers train to become naturalists who help lead education and outreach efforts or count late fall populations of Barrow's Goldeneyes.

These programs support RMBO's mission of conserving birds and habitats by providing population information to state and federal management agencies and engaging citizens in conservation.

Chuck Hundertmark spent 30 years

in New Mexico before coming to Colorado. He served as president of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society and the New Mexico Ornithological Society.

He was a master bird bander and the founder of Rio Grande Bird Research, which continues to band birds at the Rio Grande Nature Center today. He developed an interest in colonial water birds during more than five years monitoring a large colony of cormorants, herons and egrets at Elephant Butte Marsh.

Results of that work were published in a monograph by the New Mexico Ornithological Society.

Chuck has served on the board of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory since 2002, including four years as chairman. He also serves as president of Denver Field Ornithologists.

The chapter meeting will be Thursday, March 1, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills on Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library). Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the speaker's presentation. All are welcome.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
March 10	Dipper deadline	5 pm	
March 10-11	Nest Box Sale	9am-3pm	Bergen Park and Conifer King Soopers, Evergreen Safeway
March 22	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](mailto:communications@evergreenaudubon.org). Email or call *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: [marshallpublish@gmail.com](mailto:marshallpublish@gmail.com), 303-674-3752.

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Audubon Colorado Office, 303-415-0130, [www.auduboncolorado.org](http://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	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

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

**IN THIS ISSUE**  
Nest Box Sale  
Bluebird Monitoring  
GBBC Results

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