

# THE DIPPER

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Editor: Peggy Durham

Assistant Editor: Margaret McDole

## New Officers

We welcome Carol Goldstein as TENAS board secretary and Brad Andres as a director. Brad also will be handling the Conservation chair. Profiles of these two will follow in the next *Dipper*.

## Recommended Reading

• "Field Guide to Birds of North America" by Kenn Kaufman, published in 2000 by Houghton Mifflin.

This field guide has a Pictorial Table of Contents with entries such as "Ducks, Geese . . .," "Aerial Waterbirds," "Chicken-like Birds" and "Shorebirds." There is a small montage of example birds for each group in the table. Besides listing page numbers, the tables are color-coded to match the colored bands on the edge of those pages.

My 9-year-old granddaughter, who just started birding, caught on to this system right away. It is for this ease of use that I recommend it for consideration, especially for beginning birders.

- Dave Balogh

## Dipper Articles

Please submit all articles to [peggy.durham@comcast.net](mailto:peggy.durham@comcast.net) (note new address) AND Margaret McDole at [mem2@earthlink.net](mailto:mem2@earthlink.net).

## Spain and Canary Islands: From Gibraltar to the Pyrenees

Norm Erthal will present a slide show and commentary on birds of Spain and the Canary Islands at TENAS' March 2 meeting. His photographs were taken on a recent tour of the area guided by Erthal, who worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife from 1975 to 2005.

Since his retirement, Erthal has organized two trips to Costa Rica, as well as tours of Gambell and Nome, Alaska; Oaxaca, Mexico; Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador; and the Galapagos; Spain; and Australia. He is presently planning trips for Jamaica and Peru, as well as a second one to Gambell and Nome.

Erthal was born in Deadwood, S.D., home of Wild Bill Hickok and Poker Alice. He graduated in 1975 from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in civil engineering. He and his wife of 26 years, Pam, have a 16-year-old son, Brad.

TENAS member Kay Niyo has seen Erthal's photos and participated in one of his tours. She assures us that this will be a program well worth seeing and hearing. Don't miss this special presentation at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center on Thursday, March 2.

## Successful Banquet

Our thanks to all the people who made this banquet such a success. Sylvia Robertson and Irma Wolf acted as co-organizers, leaving nothing to chance, working with the Mt. Vernon Country Club staff to provide a splendid meal.

Kent Simon took care of the reservations and name tags. Cathy Shelton provided the table decorations with help from Sylvia Brockner, Marilyn Kaussner, Lynne Price, Sylvia Robertson and Peggy Durham.

This year, Dave Balogh chose Sylvia Robertson to receive the service award for her continuous help in so many ways. Sylvia is the first to say that she is not in charge, but then the first to volunteer to help with or organize a project.

Bill Brockner chose Sherman Wing for the Bird award for his sighting of the Three-toed Woodpecker. Juanita Weare and Dee Miller painted these coveted awards known as Dippers.

And our thanks go to Mark Obmascik, author of "The Big Year," who entertained us with his account of his travels and encounters with the intrepid birders who undertook to see the most birds in that year.

Thanks to all who attended our banquet, a wonderful chance to reacquaint ourselves with old friends and meet new ones.



Dave Balogh presents the service award to Sylvia Robertson. Photo by Peggy Durham

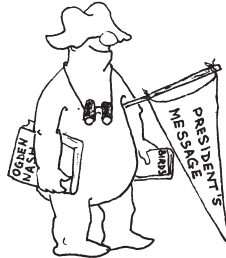


# President's Message

"PaPa, look at that duck. It has a big black spot on its bill," says Jodi, my 5-year-old granddaughter. We are walking along the banks of Clear Creek as it meanders through Prospect Park. It's a blustery Sunday afternoon in January and the ducks are reluctant to fly.

They have been swimming slowly downstream, keeping a secure distance from Jodi and her sister, Taylor. Taylor is 9 and is learning to use her field guide, so she looks up ducks and comes to the page with mallards.

She recognizes the males already but finds that the female does indeed have an elongated black patch on top of her orange bill. It is even noted as a key field mark. "Well, I'll be—I never knew that," I confess.



So the teacher is learning from the students and having fun doing it. A week before we were watching chickadees and nuthatches at my feeder in Evergreen. I asked the girls to describe the larger of these energetic birds, which were darting on, off and around the feeder.

The girls did not know it was a White-breasted Nuthatch but were noting how it differs from the other birds. When they said it had reddish color under its tail, I showed some doubt about that.

They insisted, so I bent down to their viewing level and saw for myself the coloration, something I had not really noticed before. I gave both of the girls sincere praise for their keen observations.

Besides just having fun with my granddaughters, I was attempting to practice what I had learned at the Audubon Colorado Mountain Rendezvous last October.

Hugh and Urling Kingery, who teach bird-watching classes, gave the rendezvous attendees some pointers on teaching beginning birders. For instance, ask questions about what the students see, give hints and help them use their guidebook but do not tell them what bird it is.

The Kingerys have several brands of binoculars and a variety of field guides for students to try onsite. It's a good idea for beginners to sample these tools of birding before investing in them.

Even though most of us were already equipped for the outing, it was a good chance to make some comparisons. For beginners, seeing several depictions of the same bird in the vari-

*Continued on Page 3*

## 2006 Officers

<b>President</b>	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
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<b>Audubon Colo. Rep.</b>	Mel Schulman	303-838-4704
	Mel.schulman@mistyeagle.net	
<b>Bird Business</b>	Bill Brockner	303-674-4851
<b>Birds in Balance</b>	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@earthlink.net	
<b>Conservation</b>	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
<b>Dipper Editor</b>	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
	peggy.durham@comcast.net	
<b>Asst. Dipper Editor</b>	Margaret McDole	303-679-1779
	mem2@earthlink.net	
<b>Education</b>	OPEN	
<b>Field Trips</b>	Mike Foster	303-456-2647
	mike1.foster@comcast.net	
<b>Hospitality</b>	Carolyn Fraker	303-679-2799
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<b>Membership</b>	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@earthlink.net	
<b>Program</b>	Karen Wiley	303-526-2868
	karenbwiley@comcast.net	
<b>Publicity</b>	Press: Carolyn Fraker	303-679-2799
	cookiefraker@netscape.net	
	Phone info: Karel Buckley	
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402
	irmasonny@aol.com	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Natasha Currin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	



• To **Margaret McDole** for editing a splendid January/February *Dipper* on short notice.

• To **Cathy Shelton**, who is relinquishing her position on the Board and as the Conservation chair. She has been unfailingly energetic in keeping us informed, urging us to be active in pursuing TENAS goals. Her historical memory has been invaluable.

• To **Margaret McDole** as secretary for taking readable and accurate minutes of the board meetings, not an easy job given our verbal wanderings.

• To **Tom Boschen**, treasurer, for keeping our books clean.

• To **Mel Schulman** for representing TENAS at Audubon Colorado and for being a dedicated board member and former president.



# Volunteers Needed for Nest Box Sale

TENAS will hold its annual nest-box sales on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12 (weather date the following weekend). Volunteers are needed to staff the sites. We will sell boxes at King Soopers in Bergen Park and Safeway in Evergreen and Conifer.

This is one of the most significant and dependable activities for the chapter. It meets conservation, education, public relations and fundraising goals for the chapter.

To help with the sales volunteers work two-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday. Volunteers sell boxes, provide literature and answer questions. If you can help, please contact Kent Simon, 303-674-3017, to sign up.

Cavity nesters rely on mature and dead trees for nesting. Even though woodpeckers build most of the cavities, other birds compete for the remaining sites. From late February to April, local and migratory birds search for nesting sites.

Most overwintering species like woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees begin early. Migratory species like bluebirds, swallows and wrens search later when they arrive. Most will readily use nest boxes as substitutes.

Nesting habitat is jeopardized as more trees are removed. Cavity nesters lose habitat through timber loss from development, home maintenance and



Jeff Geiger, Cathy Shelton, Pearl and Eric Hogan and Karel Buckley have fun while building bird boxes. *Photo by Lori Hogan*

fire mitigation. Nest boxes replace the lost nesting sites for birds and support our chapter conservation efforts.

This is the one of the oldest dependable activities for TENAS with more than 3,000 boxes provided over the years. Recommend a gift to a friend. You or a friend has the opportunity to watch new neighbors settle in and raise a family.

With all we do that supports what TENAS is about, nest-box sales raise

more funds for the chapter than any other single activity.

**VOLUNTEER.** Call Kent Simon, 303-674-3017.

Don't forget that you can get the **Dipper online**, a week earlier than the hard copy. Please notify Peggy Durham at [peggy.durham@comcast.net](mailto:peggy.durham@comcast.net) if you want to get the digital *Dipper*.

## President's Message

*Continued from 2*  
ous guidebooks is especially useful and emphasizes the need to recognize the bird's field marks as key to identification by sight.

Taught as well is the importance of listening to birds and watching their actions. So, inspired by Hugh and Urling, I am teaching my eager little birders and learning more myself as I do.

I cannot know if my granddaughters will become lifelong birders; I just hope

to instill in them an interest in and appreciation of birds. In fact, they both (Jodi always wants what big sister wants) requested bird books, binoculars, field bags and notebooks last Christmas so I must have made some impression on them.

So far their interest is holding and I am looking forward to more days of discovery with them.

As president of TENAS, I want to see the interest in birds and all of nature

growing in our community. With that in mind and from my experience with Jodi and Taylor, I believe TENAS should offer beginning birding classes aimed at young people.

We certainly have the talent in our membership to make that a successful endeavor and I will set forth a plan to do so. If you are interested in helping or have suggestions, please let me know. I am always open to learning something new.

- Dave Balogh



# Bird Business

We ended the year 2005 with our Annual Christmas Bird Count and then started all over with a clean slate on the morning of Jan. 1, 2006.

Last year was an average year birding-wise around Evergreen. Sherman Wing found the bird of the year, a Three-toed Woodpecker, on Feb. 5, 2005, in Mount Falcon Park near Indian Hills. For his discovery Sherman was awarded the Royal Order of the Dipper. Congratulations, Sherman!

Tom Van Erp did a good job leading our Annual Christmas Bird Count. Fifty-five species were ticked off with one additional species seen during count week. This was a Chukar Partridge found on Bear Mountain. This very well could be an escaped bird.

Susan Harper started the year out right by finding a big flock of Red-winged Blackbirds flying by. An excel-

lent way to start the New Year! The next day our president, David Balogh, found a flock of 36 robins in his yard.

On Jan. 8 Cal Gibbons watched a flock of 5,000 to 10,000 blackbirds in flight near Union Reservoir. This has been a good year for lingering robins and blackbirds.

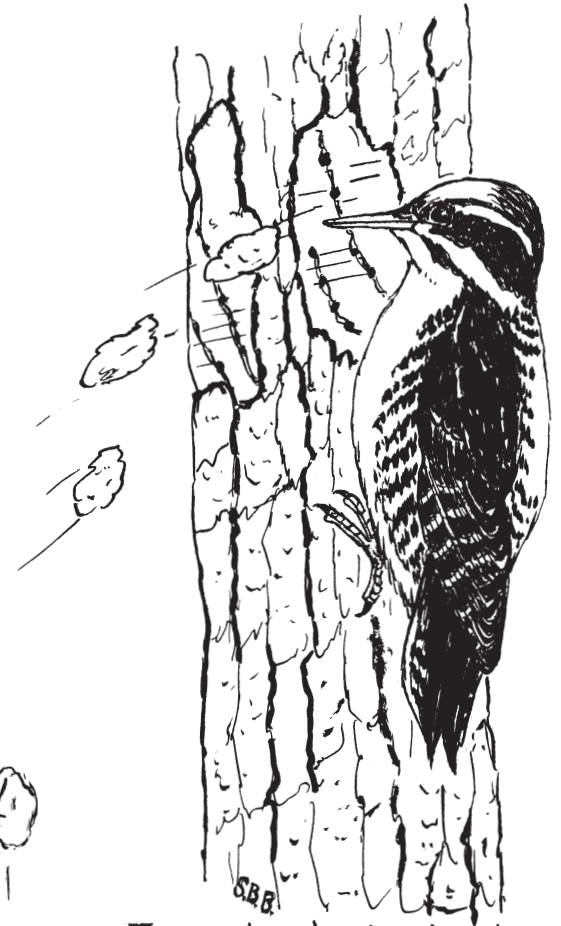
An interesting winter observation was a Spotted Towhee found by Louise Mounsey on Jan. 13 in her yard. This "ground robin" winters periodically around Evergreen.

Cassin's Finches have been decreasing in our area. Thus, a flock of 30 was very interesting. Roger Baumann spotted them on Jan. 24 in his yard near Squaw Mountain.

The club put on an outstanding banquet this year. Mark Obmascik, author of "The Big Year," delivered an outstanding lecture about his book. Thank you, Mark!

Mary Pugh has moved to ASSISTED LIVING, 815 Corpan Place, Castle Rock, CO 80164; phone number 303-660-1252. Mary would love to hear from you and visitors are most welcome.

As time goes by, more and more hawks and owls are discovering feeding stations. These attractive restaurants are a natural for birds of prey. In fact, in some villages and cities more and more



Three-toed Woodpecker

hawks and owls are beginning to nest.

Volunteers are needed for selling bird boxes. Every hour helps!

Now is the time to clean out your bird boxes. This should be completed before March 15.

- Bill Brockner

## Armchair Adventure

The Armchair Adventure Series, performances to inspire, educate and entertain, will be held at Center Stage in Evergreen. All shows begin at 7 p.m.

New in 2005, this unique series combines stunning photography and music with presentations by a variety of speakers. These evenings are a chance to enjoy a great show while supporting the land preservation activities of the Mountain Area Land Trust.

### March 1

Avalanche Safety and Awareness  
(See story on Page 9)

### April 5

Lewis & Clark Expedition:  
Then and Now

### May 3

Energy Independence:  
Preparing for our Future  
Energy and Economic Security:  
Issues and Options

### June 7

The Telling Takes Us Home:  
An Evening of Storytelling



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**RESULTS OF 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS**

SPECIES	2005			2004			2003			2002	Previous Counts 1969-2001				
	Field	Feeder	Total	Field	Feeder	Total	Field	Feeder	Total	Total	2001 total	Average*	Low	High	% counts observed
Great-blue Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Canada goose	1	0	1	1	0	1									
Green-wing teal	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Mallard	48	0	48	52	0	52	64		64	107	71	57	0	235	79
Chukar	1	0	1	0	0	0									
Wild turkey	86	0	86	101	4	105	87	23	110	62	50	49	0	99	74
Bald eagle	0	0	0	0	1	1				0	cw	2	0	2	41
Northern harrier	0	0	0	1	0	1	2		2						
Sharp-shinned hawk	9	0	9	0	0	0				0	1	1	0	3	24
Cooper's hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Northern goshawk	1	0	1	0	1	1				0	2	2	0	3	53
Red-tailed hawk	22	0	22	33	2	35	19	3	22	14	16	9	1	23	100
Ferruginous hawk	1	0	1	0	0	0									
Rough-legged hawk	0	0	0	2	0	2									
Golden eagle	1	0	1	4	0	4	1		1	4 (3ad, 1im)	4	3	0	8	76
Am. kestrel	1	0	1	0	0	0									
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Prairie falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Blue grouse	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Common (Wilson's) snipe	1	0	1	1	0	1	1		1	2	1	2	0	4	68
Rock pigeon (dove)	153	0	153	77	0	77	78		78	74	55	90	0	212	85
Great-horned owl	2	0	2	0	0	0	2		2						
Pygmy owl	1	0	1	0	0	0									
Long-eared owl	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Saw-whet owl	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Belted kingfisher	2	0	2	5	0	5	6		6	5	3	2	0	5	85
Downy woodpecker	28	17	45	18	24	42	21	11	32	34	37	26	6	49	
Hairy woodpecker	37	29	66	27	27	54	37	21	58	42	44	39	12	63	100
Northern flicker	16	10	26	11	10	21	18	3	21	13	10	10	0	23	97
Three-toed Woodp	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Northern shrike	3	0	3	4	0	4	5		5	4	3	4	0	13	97
Loggerhead shrike	0	0	0	0	0	0				1	0	1	0	1	12
Horned lark	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Gray jay	8	3	11	1	3	4	10	4	14	15	6	16	3	53	100
Steller's jay	149	43	192	178	54	232	235	46	281	348	176	273	131	446	100
Scrub jay	9	0	9	11	0	11	3		3	10	0	5	0	14	35
Pinyon jay	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Clark's nutcracker	1	4	5	12	21	33	7	4	11	68	4	30	0	108	97
Black-billed magpie	231	30	261	172	25	197	214	19	233	268	157	169	25	293	100
American crow	758	20	778	763	139	902	666	44	710	1170	585	556	98	1519	100

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SPECIES	2005			2004			2003			2002	Previous Counts 1969-2001				
	Field	Feeder	Total	Field	Feeder	Total	Field	Feeder	Total	Total	2001 total	Average*	Low	High	% counts observed
Common raven	78	20	98	96	11	107	48	8	56	93	84	114	19	199	100
Black-capped chickadee	108	29	137	79	33	112	51	6	57	80	60	65	14	170	100
Mountain chickadee	246	102	348	409	58	467	449	37	486	522	502	476	135	786	100
Red-breasted nuthatch	12	18	30	42	8	50	29	3	32	36	46	47	0	127	97
White-breasted nuthatch	73	35	108	57	33	90	85	17	102	93	83	60	3	112	100
Pygmy nuthatch	215	107	322	520	131	651	518	88	606	622	365	312	0	798	97
Brown creeper	13	9	22	15	1	16	9	3	12	17	14	13	0	25	97
Canyon wren	2	0	2	2	0	2	3		3	3	cw	2	0	5	35
Winter wren	0	0	0	0	0	0									
American dipper	20	0	20	24	0	24	22		22	22	10	19	6	37	100
Gold-crowned kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Ruby-crowned kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		1	1	0	1	0	2	15
Mtn bluebird	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Townsend's solitaire	74	4	78	11	1	12	51		51	32	12	70	0	202	97
American robin	344	6	350	1	0	1	44		44	0	1	140	0	1559	94
Ntrn mockingbird	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Brown thrasher	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Bob m waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Cedar waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	0									
European starling	136	3	139	85	6	91	96	6	102	178	214	137	2	301	100
Spotted towhee	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Am tree sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Clay-colored sp	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Fox sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Song sparrow	5	0	5	7	0	7	6		6	2	1	4	0	12	87
White-crn sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Harris's sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Slate-colored junco	36	12	48	53	29	82	44	27	71	146	92	82	24	293	100
White-winged junco	33	13	46	38	14	52	25		25	58	28	60	9	232	100
Oregon junco	62	19	81	17	20	37	44		44	32	98	97	13	520	100
Pink-sided junco	41	13	54	30	7	37	48	7	55	27	15	76			24
Gray-headed junco	121	47	168	136	17	153	134	28	162	74	172	155	41	413	100
unknown junco	158	111	269	114	95	209	530	2	532	150	193	201	0	447	100
Total junco	451	215	666	388	182	570	825	64	889	487	583				
Red-winged blackbird	140	0	140	78	0	78	50		50	8	10	58	0	500	50

Continued on next page



# Member Report

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

### NEW

Marilyn Rogers—Evergreen

### NEW FAMILY

Robert & Jessie Davis—Evergreen  
 John & Patty Esperance—Evergreen  
 Mark Meremonte & Margaret McDole—Evergreen  
 Pete & Sue Roux—Evergreen  
 Alice Higinbotham & Glenn Ryan—Bailey  
 Gil & Janice Schoonveld—Evergreen  
 David Wald—Evergreen  
 Ed & Pat Work—Evergreen

### RENEWING

Karel Buckley—Evergreen

Paul Cary—Littleton  
 Robert & Elaine Collins—Golden  
 Joyce Dickey—Conifer  
 Lynn Dimmick—Evergreen  
 Peggy Durham—Evergreen  
 Curtis Elder—Evergreen  
 Karl Ford—Golden  
 Allen Heyl—Evergreen  
 Alice Holme—Indian Hills  
 Karen & Owen Knutson—Evergreen  
 Kathanne Lynch—Golden  
 Brice & Melissa Mercord—Morrison  
 Art & Trudy Morse—Golden  
 Kayleen Niyo—Evergreen  
 John & Kathy Shofner—Evergreen

### RENEWING FAMILY

Bill & Sylvia Brockner—Evergreen  
 Sheila & Stanley Dunlavy—Evergreen  
 Sydney & Art Hogling—Evergreen

Einar & Debra Jensen—Idaho Springs  
 Deb Callahan & David Jones—Evergreen  
 Bill & Louise Mounsey—Evergreen  
 Jack & Ruth Salter—Evergreen  
 Martin & Joan Strand—Evergreen  
 Bill Astle & Karen Wiley—Golden  
 Margie Bailey & Sherman Wing—Indian Hills

### Save the date:

**17th Annual Earth Day Fair**  
 Saturday, April 22, 2006  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Evergreen Lake House

*Call Susan Harper at 303-670-9377  
 to sign up to help or  
 to get further information.*

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RESULTS OF 2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS															
SPECIES	2005			2004			2003			2002	Previous Counts 1969-2001				
	Field	Feeder	Total	Field	Feeder	Total	Field	Feeder	Total	Total	2001 total	Average*	Low	High	% counts observed
Common grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Gray-crowned rosy finch	0	30	30	0	0	0		140	140	35	173	166	0	381	88
Black rosy finch	50	15	65	0	0	0		70	70	15	7	8	0	25	65
Brown-capped rosy finch	0	30	30	0	0	0		140	140	75	60	27	0	83	53
Pine grosbeak	0	12	12	18	12	30				5	2	15	0	46	76
Cassin's finch	82	17	99	66	6	72	63	5	68	42	46	182	5	474	100
House finch	483	63	546	212	34	246	208	22	230	193	131	121	0	306	97
Red crossbill	10	1	11	16	16	32	44	1	45	0	3	76	0	643	88
White-wg crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Common redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	0				30	23	13	0	30	29
Pine siskin	95	61	156	110	79	189	73	22	95	78	164	238	0	678	88
American goldfinch	38	0	38	2	1	3	11	10	21	24	12	27	0	176	68
Evening grosbeak	0	35	35	0	10	10	45	60	105	25	14	152	13	420	100
House sparrow	173	3	176	97	4	101	156	5	161	183	112	110	0	377	91
Buteo species	0	0	0	1	0	1									
CBC Summary	2005			2004			2003			2002	Previous Counts 1969-2001				
													Low	High	Avg (SD)
NO. BIRDS	4418	971	5389			4747			5252	5142	3904		1711	6870	4423 (1318)
NO. SPECIES (count day)	52	34	56			51			48	44	44		41	56	45 (4)
NO SPECIES (count week)	52	34	56			51			48	44	46		**	**	**



# Conservation

*"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."*

- Martin Luther King

In May of 2005, the Bush administration formally repealed the 2001 Roadless Rule and replaced it with a process requiring governors to petition the Department of Agriculture to seek protections for roadless areas.

These petitions must be submitted by the fall of 2006. Once governors have submitted a petition, there is no guarantee that it will be granted—after review by a national task force, the government may choose to accept, modify or outright reject a state's petition.

The Roadless Areas Review Task Force was created by the Colorado Legislature to advise Gov. Bill Owens in the petitioning process. The task force is now holding public meetings around the state and asking for input from the public.

It is imperative that the environmental community be a strong voice for roadless areas. TENAS recently sent a letter to the task force urging full protection for all of Colorado's roadless areas. But we can't stop there.

There will be a public comment meeting in Denver on Friday, Feb. 24, at the Adams Mark Hotel, 1550 Court Place, from 2 to 6 p.m. Please attend and speak out for full protection of these precious areas. For more information, go to [www.roadless.net](http://www.roadless.net) or call Deb Callahan at 303-909-3311.

The 2006 Colorado Legislature is in session and, as always, we need to maintain our vigilance. Audubon is following a number of bills, including SB 75, which in its original form would have made it illegal to intentionally feed wildlife except songbirds (with a very narrow definition of songbird).

Additionally, fines would be levied on anyone allowing "wildlife" to nest on their property.

Thanks to efforts by the observant Shirley Casey, Audubon Colorado and others, the sponsor of this onerous bill was convinced to amend it. When amended, the bill will make it unlawful for anyone to knowingly lure coyotes, foxes, raccoons and skunks with food.

We will continue to watch this bill to make sure the amendment is offered as

specified. The Colorado General Assembly website, <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>, is an excellent source for keeping up to date on bills and obtaining your legislator's contact information.

TENAS' new Conservation chairperson is Brad Andres, so this is my last Conservation article. Brad is well versed on local, state and national conservation issues and will do a great job. But he needs YOUR help!

Please add your voice to our conservation efforts by joining the TENAS Action Alert network. Our Action Alert network allows the Conservation chair to reach members via e-mail whenever a pressing issue needs immediate action.

Please e-mail Brad at [heatherbrad1@netzero.net](mailto:heatherbrad1@netzero.net) to add your name to the Alert list. If you do not have e-mail capability, you can be notified of Action Alerts by phone. Call Brad at 303-670-0101 to add your name to a call list.

Thank you all so much for being advocates for the environment. It sure makes the job easier knowing that all of you are out there taking a stand for our planet.

- Cathy Shelton

## Calling All Artists for TENAS Show

TENAS members have an opportunity to exhibit their art abilities during the month of March at Evergreen Library. The subject must be natural history (animals, birds, wildflowers, vistas, etc.) and be original work of the donor.

Any media will be approved, such as oil, watercolor, pastel, pencil, ink, fiber (especially small quilts), prints, collages and photography.

Please keep the work fairly small, nothing over 30 inches by 30 inches. Have the work ready for hanging (wires for framed pictures). Fiber pieces should have a wood slat in a slipcase on the back with two eye-rings.

Please direct any questions to Polly or

Walt Phillips, 303-674-7744, or Irma Wolf, 303-670-3402.

The work can be for sale but prices will not be displayed as it is against library policy; potential buyers may call Polly, Walt or Irma.

Finally, deliver the work NO LATER THAN FEB. 27 to the Phillips home at 34595 Ranchero Road or to Irma Wolf at 2279 Hiwan Drive.

Can't wait to see the work.

- Polly Phillips



### Local & Independent

"Helping to Create Wild Bird Habitat."

32156 Castle Ct. Bergen Park 679-2786 Mon-Fri 8-6, Sat 8-4





## Avalanche Safety Workshop

Our beautiful Colorado mountains attract skiers, climbers and snowmobilers, each out to conquer challenging peaks and terrain—often with little thought to the deadly forces of avalanches.

Colorado has the unfortunate reputation of being the state with the highest fatalities from avalanches with the bulk occurring January through March. Casey Boone, owner of Paragon Sports and longtime avalanche instructor, will present an introductory workshop on avalanche safety Wednesday, March 1.

Casey has tremendous experience in avalanche forecasting, the highest training available from the National Avalanche School and years of teaching experience throughout Colorado.

With awesome video footage to supplement his spellbinding presentation, participants will gain new respect for what some term the “White Death.”

Learn techniques in selecting safe travel routes, evaluating snow conditions and using safety equipment. Paragon Sports also will provide door prizes and light refreshments will be served.

Casey’s presentation is the first in a four-part series called the Armchair Adventures, which benefit the Mountain Area Land Trust (see story on page 4). All performances will be held at Center Stage Theater on the first Wednesdays March through June. Tickets are \$10.

For more information, visit the website at [www.savetheland.org](http://www.savetheland.org) or to register call the MALT office at 303-679-0950. Seating is limited.

The Mountain Area Land Trust preserves open lands and natural areas of significant value.

## Field Trip on the S. Platte

Six members went on the TENAS trip to 88th Avenue and the South Platte on Jan. 28. We found female and male Barrow’s Goldeneye on the ponds to the west of the river (about half a mile down the trail). There were lots of Common Goldeneye and other waterfowl for a total of 31 species.

Other highlights included:

• Adult Peregrine Falcon on the power pole above the ponds being harassed by an American Kestrel

• Pair of Northern Harriers hunting and then the female eating a large bird (wing was duck-sized) on a log in the river

• Hooded, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers on the ponds along 88th Avenue

• Ring-necked Ducks and others as usual

• Lesser Scaup

• 3 American Coot

• 3 Killdeer

• Belted Kingfisher

• 5 American Pipits on top of the dirt levee on west side of river path

• 7 American Tree Sparrows

• 5 White-crowned Sparrows.

- Kay Niyo

**Editor’s Note:** Join a field trip and enjoy seeing new birds, meeting new members, learning from our esteemed fellow birders and enjoying this mild winter.

## Field Trips and Outings

**Saturday, March 11**

Nature Walk, Chatfield State Park

**Leader: Pam Little, 303-838-2807**

Join Certified Naturalist and Native Plant Master Pam Little for a walk at Chatfield State Park. Discover the large and small wonders that nature has to offer. Suitable for all ages. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Deer Creek Parking Lot, and do call Pam to let her know you are coming, to get answers to questions and to arrange car-pooling. A daily or annual parks pass is required.

**Sunday, March 12**

Walden Ponds birds

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

We’ll check on the late winter waterfowl, and look for early migrants at this superb site near Boulder. Call Mike to sign up and for time and meeting place.

**Saturday, March 18**

Arctic Visitors to the Colorado Plains

**Leader: Brad Andres, 303-670-0101**

In winter some arctic birds appear in Colorado: Short-eared Owl, Lapland Longspur, Snowy Owl and Snow Bunting. White-fronted Geese and Brant are already here. Various loons and rare gulls could show up. Brad will take us to the prairies east of Fort Collins. Bring lunch, water and plan for a full day. Dress warmly. Call Brad to sign up.

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

## Calendar

March 1-31	TENAS Art Show, Evergreen Library
March 2	Chapter Meeting
March 11 & 12	Nest Box Sales
March 11	Chatfield State Park Nature Walk
March 12	Walden Ponds Bird Trip
March 18	Platte River Bird Walk
March 23	Board Meeting
April 22	Earth Day

### Monthly Meetings (except January)

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

**Audubon Colorado Office** 303-415-0130  
**TENAS Information/Hotline** 303-679-0661  
**TENAS website** [www.dipper.org](http://www.dipper.org)

*The Dipper deadline for the  
April issue is Thursday, March 2*

*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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 have any questions about TENAS, please call our Information Hotline, 303-679-0661. 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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Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

- Nest-box Sales
- Annual Banquet Report
- Christmas Count Results

## In This Issue

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

# THE DIPPER

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