

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Peggy Durham

Assistant Editor: Margaret McDole

Digital Dipper

If you want to receive the *Dipper* by e-mail, please notify me at peggy.durham@comcast.net.

Submissions

Reminder: Please submit all articles to both peggy.durham@comcast.net and mem2@earthlink.net. Thank you.

Banquet Plans

We are asking our members to set aside the date of Friday, Jan. 19, for our 2007 Annual Banquet. It will again be at Mt. Vernon Country Club, where, after checking out other venues, believe it or not, we are getting the best deal!

Other places are charging an equal amount, or more, for less-desirable amenities. They have again guaranteed us the price at \$30.

However, if there is a country club member among us, and you believe you can get a better bargain at Mt. Vernon, please negotiate with Steve Center at MVCC and let Irma Wolf, 303-674-3402, know if you come up with a lesser price for the same date.

Until then, start saving your pennies so you can enjoy another special January celebration as we have done in the past.

May Program: Chiras on Energy

The program for the May 4 meeting of TENAS will feature Evergreen author Dan Chiras, who will discuss "Re-energizing America: Wise Choices for Our Future."

World oil and gas production likely will peak in the next several years. This may well result in major social, economic and environmental disruptions as prices rise and countries engage in all sorts of erratic behavior to keep energy flowing.

Chiras' slide show will explore and explain this scenario and outline what he believes we can do about it, as a country and as individuals.

TENAS members may well be familiar with Dr. Chiras' work. His most recent book is "The New Ecological Home," which presents a range of ideas for building environmentally sound homes.

He also has authored "The Solar House, The Natural House," "Superbia!—31 Ways to Create Sustainable Neighborhoods" and "The Natural Plaster Book."

He has been a member of the Evergreen



community since 1995, when he built a state-of-the-art rammed-earth, tire and straw-bale home here. He hasn't paid an electric bill since June of 1996, when he

installed solar panels on his roof and a small wind generator.

Chiras is a Melon Visiting Professor at Colorado College, where he teaches courses on renewable energy, ecological design and sustainable development. To learn more about Dr. Chiras, check out his website: www.danchiras.com.

Don't miss Chiras' program at the May 4 TENAS meeting at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Road, in back of the high school.

Birds Won't Be the Only Treats at International Dawn Chorus

On Sunday, May 7, The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society once again will host the Annual International Dawn Chorus at Evergreen Lake House.

The public is invited to come to this international event, which brings out birders around the world to observe birds and listen to their dawn songs.

This is a great time for beginning birders to turn out to enjoy the camaraderie of birding and to have the opportunity to see birds up close by viewing them through telescopes set up along the boardwalk.

There will be hot coffee, teas, cocoa, juice and good homemade breakfast snacks available for all participants.

Dress warmly with several layers, for even on a nice May morning, there is usually ice on the boardwalk and if it should be snowing, it can be downright cold.

The group will convene at the Lake House at 5:45 a.m. to catch the early birds. After we have listened, looked, eaten and cleaned up the remains of breakfast, those who wish may continue with a walk around the lake to see what birds are at the beaver dam and boardwalk at the lower end of the lake.

Everyone is welcome; hope for a nice spring day.

- Sylvia Brockner



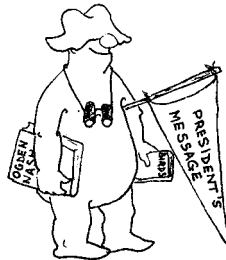
President's Message

After two meetings in a row where our speakers' computer projector systems failed, the TENAS board decided to purchase a projector as a backup.

Walt Phillips had researched what was available at an acceptable cost, so with the board's approval he had it on hand for last week's program. But our speaker had no problems with her setup and her presentation came off without a hitch.

So was the \$1,100 investment an over-reaction to glitches in technology? I think not. Besides, I found an immediate use for the projector on behalf of TENAS.

At the request of a biology teacher at Conifer High School, I was preparing a presentation for two classes on TENAS, telling about our history and activities. It was quite easy to pre-



pare a PowerPoint presentation knowing that I had the projector ready to go.

I was not well enough prepared, however, because the students also were expecting an introduction to kinds of birds they would see on an upcoming outing in Conifer. I only had a few slides and an old poster with a few local birds to show them.

We need to have presentations ready to go not only on TENAS and local birds but many subjects of interest to schools, the general public and our membership. There is an opportunity for some of our creative and knowledgeable members to build a library of such presentations.

A possible first show could be at the annual picnic in July at which we do not normally schedule an outside speaker.

I could have thought about this before we acquired the new projector. But having it in my hands somehow opened my eyes to the possibilities. I hope the concept moves some members to pitch in with me to make this investment pay off for TENAS.

- Dave Balogh

Garage Sale Returns This Summer

There will be an Annual Audubon Garage Sale again this summer! The date will be announced. So start your spring cleaning and remember to set aside all the good stuff you no longer need. The sale depends on contributions.

Last year we added \$800 to TENAS' general fund. For more information, call Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715, or Irma Wolf, 303-670-3402.



• To **Walt Phillips, John Ellis, Al Goldstein, Kent Simon** and **Dave Balogh** for coordinating the nest box sales sites at the supermarkets in March.

• To **Sylvia Brockner, Ginny Chamberlin, Connie Davis, Peggy Durham, Carolyn Fraker, Carol Goldstein, Susan Harper, Marilyn Kaussner, Judy Lange, Margaret McDole, Mark Meremonte, Rachel Norton, Chris Pfaff, Lynn Price, Sylvia Robertson, Marilyn Rogers, Jack Salter, Ruth Salter, Bill Sperry, Sandy Sykes, Louisa Underwood, Else Van Erp, Sherry Walker** and **Irma Wolf** for staffing the nest box sales sites at the supermarkets in March.

• To **Dave Balogh** for giving a TENAS presentation at Conifer High School.

• To **Walt Phillips** for assuming responsibility for obtaining the new projector for TENAS.

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TENAS Loses Longtime Members

Gaines Hill



Gaines Hill, longtime TENAS member and resident of Hiwan Hills, died on Feb. 13 in Ajijic, Mexico. Gaines was married to much-loved TENAS member Abbey Hill, who preceded him in death in 2001. He has a son, Chris, a daughter-in-law and two granddaughters in Erie, Colo.

Gaines was born Aug. 10, 1929, in Wichita, Kan., graduated from Wentworth Military Academy and attended the University of Kansas. He served as a Marine U.D.T Sergeant during the Korean conflict as a part of Operation Dagger.

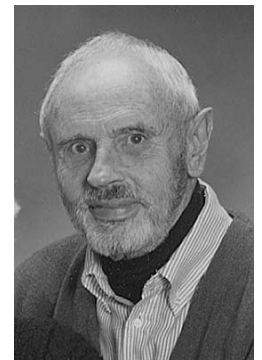
He was one of five scuba-diving instructors to first endorse the Professional Association of Diving Instructors certification and became a PADI Master Instructor. Over the next 30 years, he provided numerous tours, dive trips, underwater explorations and adventures to remote regions in Mexico, the Caribbean and to islands off the coast of South America.

He formed Aquatic Research and Diving Co. and was a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Oceanographic Society. Gaines went on numerous underwater explorations with divers such as Alfonso Arnold Mirando and Ramon Zapto Novelo.

He taught dive classes to many early residents of Evergreen and was a founding member of the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department underwater search and rescue team.

A private memorial service was held March 4. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Wentworth Military Academy, 1880 Washington Ave., Lexington, MO 64067.

Bill Marshall



Bill Marshall, a founding member of TENAS with his wife, Miriam, died April 7. Miriam is an avid birder and they both were longtime active members of TENAS.

Bill had served in many other community organizations after moving to Evergreen in 1947. He and two partners ran The Woodpeckers, a well-respected local home-building business.

Bill is survived by his sons, Fred, Robert and Don, and two grandchildren.

His daughter-in-law, Debbie Marshall, does a splendid job laying out the *Dipper*.

Those who knew Bill appreciate his contributions to TENAS. (An extensive obituary was in the April 12 Canyon Courier.)

Birds in the Balance Sites

Contact the leader to learn when she/he will survey each month. The window for May 2006 is Saturday, the 13th, through Sunday, the 21st.

Bear Creek Lake Park #1, Mike Foster

mike1.foster@comcast.net 303/456-2647

Bear Creek Lake Park #2, Bob Santangelo

bsantangelo@lljohnson.com 303/477-1367

Gravel Pit, Ruth Alford

alflowers@evcohs.com 303/670-0835

Lair o' the Bear, Else van Erp

tomvanerp@aol.com 303-816-5084

Corwina Park, Warren Roske

wroske@earthlink.net 303-526-9725

O'Fallon Park, Sherman Wing

sherman.margie@prodigy.net 303-697-8840

Evergreen Lake, Brad Andres

heatherbrad1@netzero.net 303-670-0101

Upper Bear Creek, Deb Callahan

upperbear@earthlink.net 303-674-4923

The Gardens, Gil Schoonveld

ubcr@aol.com 303-674-6865

Groundhog Flat, Inga Brennan

missing35mm@aol.com 720-746-1780

Beaver Meadows, Larry White

llarrywhite@aol.com 303-674-0535

Summit Lake (& Bear Creek Timberline), Kent Simon

ksimonbib@earthlink.net 303-674-3017

Member Report

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

New

Donna Moore—Evergreen

New Family

Ron Huston & Nancy Dulin—Riverview, FL

Renewing

Mike Henwood—Morrison

Janet Mallow—Howard

Lynne Price—Evergreen

Warren Roske—Golden

Louisa Underwood—Evergreen

Barbara Voth—Evergreen

Dick Williams—Evergreen

Renewing Family

Vivian & Dick Burrows—Conifer

Barbara & Alistair Montgomery—Lakewood



Bird Business

The magical time of the bird year is upon us. Migration increases daily. Across North America millions of birds are heading northward to their ancient nesting locations. Oh, the wonder of it all!

Bird migration was about average during the month of March. Ducks and geese came through on schedule and Sandhill Cranes flocked to Nebraska.

Bluebirds came back on time. Two Western Bluebirds showed up in Indian Hills on March 14. Sherman Wing quickly spotted them. After that, Western and Mountain Bluebirds increased daily throughout our area.

Robins sure were abundant this past winter. Were they affected by global warming?

On March 26, Suzie deDisse had

15 Evening Grosbeaks at feeders in her yard. This appears to be one of the largest flocks reported so far this year. Then on the 31st, the same flock returned to her yard. Be on the lookout for this beautiful bird!

More than 200 Rosy Finches flew into Roger Bauman's yard near Squaw Mountain on March 27. The flock was composed of Gray-crowned,



Brown-capped and Black Rosy Finches.

Karel Buckley spent the weekend of March 9-12 at the Crane Festival in Monte Vista. She had a good time and saw many Sandhill Cranes.

Dick Williams had a Band-tailed Pigeon in his yard on March 28. Two have shown up daily since then.

Before the end of April, warblers will be returning to our area. Yellow-rumped Warblers should be the first returnees.

By the time you read this, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds should be back. Put your hummingbird feeders up by April 16.

See you at the Dawn Chorus!

Avian Influenza Update

The update below is taken verbatim from the U.S. Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Laboratory at www.nwhc.usgs.gov/. This site gives current information on the spread of Avian Influenza throughout Asia and Europe.

There is no need to refrain from feeding birds in our area. Alaskan biologists and others are busy collecting surveillance samples in North America.

The most recent notable geographical spread of H5N1 was in the Middle East. Two turkey farms in southern Israel first reported outbreaks, then reports came from additional farms in the West Bank and in the southern and central region of the Gaza Strip.

Israeli authorities are focusing on the movement of people and materials from Egypt, where H5N1 outbreaks are continuing, as the most likely route on which the virus was introduced into Israel. Later in March, Jordan announced that a farm 40 km north of Amman in northern Jordan had tested positive for H5N1.

H5N1 was identified in dead swans in northern Greece; in Stockholm, Swe-

den; and in Kazakhstan on the shore of the Caspian Sea. Denmark identified H5N1 from several tufted ducks and a grey goose, and Germany found the virus in a buzzard in the middle of Berlin.

One hawk, from a group found dead in Kostrzyn, Poland, near where H5N1-infected swans have been found, has tested positive for H5N1.

A peregrine falcon found dead in the New Territories on the border of Hong Kong and mainland China has tested positive for H5N1.

Hong Kong has tested more than 6,000 dead birds since October and has found H5N1 in two chickens and 14 wild birds. Two cattle egrets have been

found dead in Ipoh, Malaysia, near the site of poultry outbreaks, and one of them has tested positive for H5N1.

There was a flurry of inquiry regarding a "wild duck" that supposedly tested positive for H5 avian influenza virus in Nogales, Mexico, on March 22; however, the story is apparently a hoax and is being categorically denied by the Mexican Agriculture Ministry.

In Azerbaijan, two girls were hospitalized with suspicion of H5N1 infection. The two sisters, and other human cases from the same area, are suspected to have been exposed by collecting feathers from swans that have died from H5N1.

- Brad A. Andres



Local & Independent

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303.679.2786

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More Homes for Our Neighbors

Nest box sales so far this year have raised more than \$2,700 for TENAS from our annual sales at Safeway and King Soopers in Evergreen and Conifer and individual sales by a few chapter members.

On the supermarket sales days, we also sold field guides and checklists and received some additional donations to the chapter.

Sales were down a little from what we usually accomplish in the first weekend in March. This is the first time anyone can remember that we actually had to postpone the event due to weather. We ended up selling on two Saturdays, March 11 and 17.

This remains one of our most productive activities as an opportunity for fund-raising, education and conservation through providing the nest cavities and public relations in the community. TENAS had its first opportunity to distribute our new chapter brochure at this year's sales.



Sylvia Brockner, right, sells a flicker box to a customer on a cold March day.

A huge thanks goes to the volunteers who built boxes, organized and supervised sales, staffed the sales sites, and sold boxes independently. It takes all

their efforts to make this activity happen.

If you know anyone who needs boxes, we still have some available.

Gunnison Sage Grouse Don't Disappoint

Twenty of us Auduboners sat on pillows we'd swiped from the motel room in the 23-degree cold before dawn trying to stay quiet.

We were in the Division of Wildlife's stripped-down trailer near Gunnison, reserved for us by the Audubon Council (our hosts), beside a lek area of sparse scrub oak surrounded by hills.

We hoped to see some male Gunnison Sage Grouse prancing and booming to attract members of the opposite sex. We peered into darkness for many minutes listening for bird sounds.

We heard robins, ducks, geese and a meadowlark, then some coyotes howling, but no grouse.

Finally, someone with a scope breathed, "I see them, I see them!" "Where, where, where?" hissed the rest of us. "Right out there!" vaguely waving an arm.

"There" was out in front, like 200

yards out in front. So it was a struggle at first, but when the sun began to rise we could all see small black-and-white males puffing their chests out and flipping their black head feathers toward the dowdy females.

Their black-and-white tails fanned out as they danced forward and backward, displaying their wares from several angles. The "love" calls sounded somewhat like the creek running over rocks in front of us.

This annual ritual of Sage Grouse was familiar to some of us, but no one had ever seen this special subspecies and we were fascinated by the sameness and the differences with their larger cousins.

Unfortunately, the

Gunnison variety is slowly disappearing due to some of the usual causes and also for some undetermined reasons. I recommend the very fine website www.western.edu/bio/young/gunnsg/gunnsg.htm.

Did I say we saw 35 birds including 22 males?

- Polly Phillips

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Sandhill Cranes are Worth the Trip

When I asked Bill Brockner in February about going to Nebraska in March this year to view the migratory Sandhill Cranes, his response was, “By all means, GO. It is one of the seven wonders of the world.”

It turned out to be just that—one of the seven wonders of the bird-viewing world, indeed.

Getting information on just where and when to see this Sandhill Crane population was a challenge. We checked the Internet. We called the Nebraska Power Company (800-284-2332), which does the actual bird count. They indicated that Sandhill Cranes stopped in the Platte River valley on their migration north from late February until perhaps mid-April.

My wife, Ena, and I left Evergreen early on the morning of March 25 and headed for south-central Nebraska to enjoy the symphony of sounds and dancing rituals of 90 percent of the world’s Sandhill Cranes, while sighting many other birds as well.

The greatest number of these big birds we saw was in cornfields on the south side of the North Platte River just

west of the city of North Platte. Here they feed on corn, performing their mating rituals continually until late in the afternoon. Then they take off against blue sky and white cliffs for their nightly roost along the river.

According to a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission recommendation, the best viewing area is between Kearney and Grand Island. A news item in the paper announced that the National Audubon Society’s Rowe Sanctuary had just bought 200 acres for wildlife habitat in that area.

We fully intended to drive there, until we stopped in at the North Platte Convention Bureau office. Here a birder extolled the immediate area for not only Sandhill Cranes but Bald Eagles too. She urged us to see them at Jeffrey Lake just south of the Brady exit, the next one east on I-80.

We scouted the lakeshore and talked to the owner of a lake cottage who had seen one the day before, but there were none that day for us.

On our way back, at the Ogallala I-80 exit, we took a side trip on State Highway 61 north to Lake McCo-

naughy. Just before reaching the Kingsley Dam, on the right side of the road, we spotted the NGPC Visitor Center.

Here we were delighted to see a taxidermist’s Bald Eagle since we hadn’t spotted any. We dug into a superb collection of both free folders on birds of Nebraska and a well-stocked bookstore.

One of the prizes we brought home was “Birding Nebraska”—where to find hundreds of species on the Great Plains.

With 16 pages of Sandhill Cranes referenced in the index, it’s an impressive book describing in detail the 447 species that set foot in or fly over the state and just where to find them.

In our search to see Sandhill Cranes, we saw many of these other species: House Finches, goldfinches, nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, robins, ravens, crows, Red-winged Blackbirds, a variety of gulls, Canada geese, Red-tailed Hawks, American White Pelicans, several kinds of ducks including Pintailed and Mallards, Cattle Egrets, Wild Turkeys and Whooping Cranes.

Bill Brockner was right. By all means, GO.

- John Wason

Purchase Habitat Conservation Stamps

In January, the Colorado Division of Wildlife began offering for sale the state’s first habitat conservation stamp. Revenue from the stamp, estimated to be about \$2.3 million a year, will be expended on the protection of wildlife habitat in Colorado, particularly for sagebrush communities.

Beginning this year, a stamp will be required to enter State Wildlife Areas and State Trust Lands. A \$5 stamp fee is included in the 2006 hunting or fishing license fee; if purchased separately, the stamp will cost \$10.

The \$10 commemorative stamp is available from the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation Denver (6060 Broadway), online at www.wildlife.state.co.us/cwhf/, or by

phone (303-291-7212).

The CDOW also requires state waterfowl hunters to purchase a state Waterfowl Stamp. Proceeds from the sale of this stamp are applied to the protection of wetlands for waterfowl and other water birds.

Since the program’s inception in 1989, \$6.7 million has been raised to protect 19,500 acres of wetlands. Colorado Waterfowl Stamps can be purchased where hunting and fishing licenses are sold and cost \$5 with a license.

Collector stamps are available from the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

Waterfowl hunters also are required to possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. This

\$15 “Duck Stamp” has been used to generate more than \$670 million and 5.2 million acres for wetland habitat conservation.

There is current legislation in the House to borrow \$400 million against future Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp sales to purchase wetland protection at 2006 costs.

A gradual increase in the cost of the stamp and an increase in the number of stamp holders are needed to secure the loan repayment.

Stamps can be purchased at the Evergreen Post Office or online at www.fws.gov/duckstamps/. Think about investing in these habitat conservation programs.

- Brad A. Andres
Conservation Chair



Prairie Birding Trip Turns Up 49 Species

Five TENAS members met on March 18 to head for Weld County on a spring trip. We drove toward Greeley to find grassland birds and check out the spring waterfowl on nearby reservoirs.

We were hoping for Arctic breeders, which winter in the southern United States but return to nest in the Canadian Arctic and Alaska. It turned out to be a great day, with perfect weather and 49 species of birds.

The highlights were a Great Horned Owl on a nest, in perfect view; a Glaucous Gull in a mixed flock of five gull species; Greater Yellowlegs (the first returning neotropical shorebird migrant); two nesting pairs of Bald Eagles; a large group of American White Pelicans; and a good look at an elusive Marsh Wren.

We traveled from Beebe Draw to Lower Latham Reservoir, west to Union Reservoir, which is just outside of Longmont, and further south to Prince Lakes.

There were spectacular groups of spring waterfowl, including hundreds



From left: Brad Andres, Sherman Wing, Karel Buckley and Lynn Vaseleski enjoy a birding trip in Weld County.

of Northern Pintails and Lesser Scaup. Along the roads, traveling to various sites, the Western Meadowlarks remind-

ed us that spring had arrived and it was time to nest and breed.

- Heather Johnson

Field Trips and Outings

Saturday, May 6
Bear Creek Wander
Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

Meet at Lair o' the Bear at 8 a.m., then walk upstream to around Corwina Park. We'll be looking especially for warblers and other spring migrants. Bring lunch and water for a half-day plus. Call Mike to let him know you're coming.

Saturday, May 13
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 Heronry 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.

Saturday, May 20
Pawnee Buttes
Leader: Brad Andres, 303-670-0101

This year we'll focus more on warblers in the Crow Valley Campground, then check out nesting raptors on the Pawnee Buttes. For those who want to camp out Friday night, Brad and Heather will meet you at Crow Valley. For those driving up on Saturday morning, call Brad for meeting place. Full-day trip. Bring lunch and plenty of water.

Friday-Monday, May 26-29
Colorado Field Ornithologists
Convention in Sterling

For information or to register: www.cfo-link.org.

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

Calendar

| | |
|-----------|--|
| April 22 | Earth Day |
| May 4 | Chapter Meeting |
| May 5 | Bear Creek Wander |
| May 13 | Chatfield Nature Walk |
| May 13-20 | Birds in the Balance Window |
| May 20 | Pawnee Buttes Field Trip |
| May 25 | Board Meeting |
| May 26-28 | Colorado Field Ornithologists Convention |

Monthly Meetings (except January)

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

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
TENAS website www.dipper.org

*The Dipper deadline for the
June issue is Thursday, May 4.*

*Submit articles to:
Peggy Durham, peggy.durham@comcast.net
and Margaret McDole, 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

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- Crane Viewing
- Avian Flu
- Dawn Chorus

In This Issue

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