

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Earth Day Celebration

Remember the Earth Day celebration, Saturday, April 21, at Evergreen Lake House, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Weed Awareness Campaign

Members of the Community Weed Awareness Campaign will be at the Aspen Park King Soopers on Saturday, May 19, with a truly alarming display of noxious weeds along with helpful educational materials to get an early start on weed control.

Stop by between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Contact Cathy Shelton, 303-674-8610, for more information or to help out.

Digital Dipper Available Sooner

If you prefer to receive the *Dipper* by e-mail, please notify Margaret or Mark at mem2@earthlink.net. It will reach you about a week sooner than the mailed copy.

Community Weed Day

Mark Saturday, June 23, on your calendar and help rid the area around Evergreen Lake of noxious weeds.

Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas!

Tony Leukering, the Special Projects Coordinator for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, will speak to us about the Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, starting this year.

His program will instruct us on the importance of the project and go into some detail about the design. Tony will also detail some of the field techniques particular to atlasing, using photographed examples of behavior to explain what these behaviors mean to the birds and to us, as atlasers, in our endeavors on this important project.

A Little History of the CBBA

The Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas project

was conducted in the period 1987-1995 with the results published in 1998. This project utilized the efforts of some 1,200 volunteers to map the distribution of the state's breeding bird species in unprecedented detail.

As such, atlases are typically repeated every 20 years. It is time to start the second one!

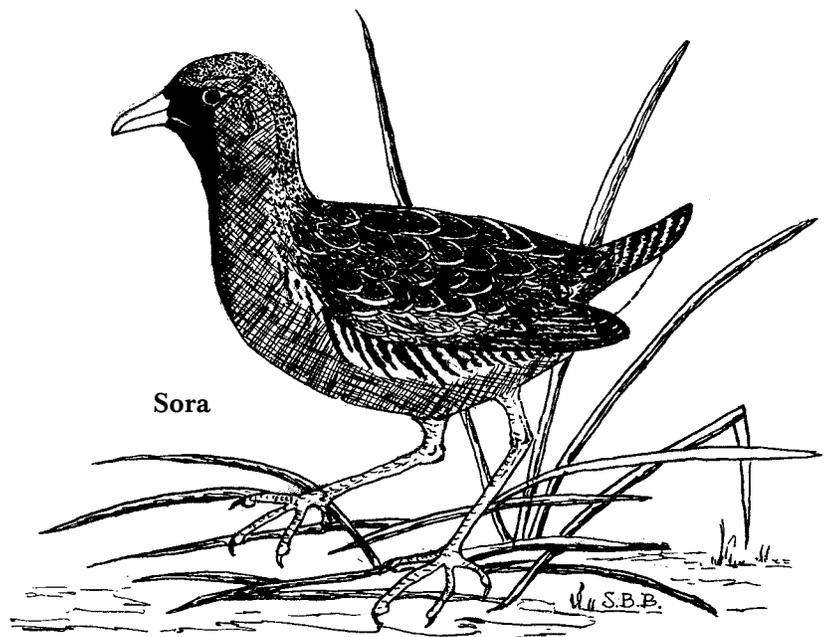
This informative program is scheduled for Thursday, May 3, at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Road, behind Evergreen High School. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.

International Dawn Chorus

It is once more time for the fun of the International Dawn Chorus. This year's event will take place on Sunday morning, May 6, at 5:30. Meet as usual outside the Lake House to listen for morning bird song and to walk the trail.

Call Sylvia Brockner, 303-674-4851, to let us know how many to expect and if you wish to contribute refreshments. We will provide coffee, cocoa and tea. Let us know if you wish to bring some donuts, coffee cake or whatever your favorite breakfast snack may be.

The last two years we have heard and had excellent views of the Sora, and last year we had excellent views of the Common Yellow-



throat. We had a total of 41 species and 213 individuals were either seen or heard.

After the morning count, if it is a nice day, usually some of the group continue on around the lake or hike into deDisse Park to look for other birds.



President's Message

Education

It has been quite a while since we have had an Education chair, but now we do and it makes a difference. When the chair was vacant, we rationalized by saying that almost everything we do is educational anyway.

In the past, we have had difficulty getting into schools during the regular classroom time to do a program. Last week, during spring break, we were invited to do a bird program at Bergen Valley Elementary School for the students who were there for day care.

Our Education chair, Dave Balogh, prepared a slide show about the birds for which we make and sell the nesting boxes, namely chickadees, bluebirds and flickers. (Once again, the projector we bought a couple of years ago was put to good use.) We talked with the students about feeding habits, migration and natural habitats.

Before we got to the school, Dave and I took apart one each

of our nesting boxes, planning to let the kids put them back together. Armed with my new power screwdriver and Dave's old one, we tried to oversee each group of kids, but we couldn't be everywhere at once.

Finally every group managed to use up all the parts though one finished box looked a little odd, with pieces not quite where they belonged. Wonder if the bluebirds will notice.

We found a tree outside the school on which to install the box so the students could monitor it for the next couple of months.

During vacation breaks is an excellent time for TENAS to reach school-age kids. We were pleased to find the children very interested in what we had to present, very well behaved and polite.

Scope at the Lake

In addition to this excursion, Dave and others will be stationed by the scope at the lake during Earth Day, April 21, to help people spot birds on the water or point out anything else of interest about wildlife, plants or the environment. (We installed this scope two years ago.) Our mission to educate about the environment need not be restricted to the classroom.

Warming Hut Update

In mid-March, TENAS received a lengthy list of require-

Continued on Page 8

2007 Officers

President	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
Vice President	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Secretary	Carolyn Fraker	303-679-2799
Assistant Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
Treasurer	Walt Phillips	303-674-7744

Board of Directors

Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Ginny Boschen	303-674-3438
Jeff Geiger	303-674-4595
Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715
David Wald	303-674-0417
Bud Weare	303-679-8889

Committee Chairs

Audubon Colo. Rep.	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Bird Business	Bill Brockner	303-674-4851
Birds in Balance	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@earthlink.net	
Conservation	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Dipper Editor	Margaret McDole	303-679-1779
	mem2@earthlink.net	
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Field Trips	Mike Foster	303-456-2647
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Hospitality	Jane Conrad	303-674-5133
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@earthlink.net	
Program	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101
Publicity	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
Way & Means	Irma Wolfe	303-670-3402
	irmasonny@aol.com	
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610
	sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com	
Webmaster	Natasha Currlin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	



- To **Tim Stechert** for obtaining a PA speaker system for TENAS to use at our chapter meetings. Evergreen Trout Unlimited donated the system when they upgraded theirs.

- To **Dave Balogh** and **Peggy Durham** for presenting a nesting box and bird educational program for first- through fifth-graders at Bergen Valley Elementary School during their spring break.

- To **Eric and Lori Hogan, Jeff Geiger, Jim and Cathy Shelton, Dave Balogh, Art Morse, Louisa Underwood, Karel Buckley, David Hannah, Tom Boschen, Dana Cuin** and all nest-box builders for a terrific job.

- To **Ginny Boschen** for hosting the supper after the bluebird-box sale and to all those who participated in selling the boxes.

- To **Cathy and Jim Shelton** for presenting a fascinating program about Mongolia.

- To **Bud and Juanita Weare, Ginny Boschen** and **Sylvia Robertson** for cleaning out bluebird boxes at the golf course and around the lake. To **Brad Andres, Kay Niyo, Ruth Salter** and **Heather Johnson** for cleaning and repairing the nest boxes at Elk Meadow. To **Mark Meremonte** and **Margaret McDole** for cleaning and repairing boxes at Alderfer/Three Sisters.



IT'S TIME

BIRDS IN THE BALANCE

FIELD STUDY

NEEDS NOVICE OR EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEERS
TO INVENTORY BIRDS OR PLANTS

MONITORING DATES

May 12 - May 20

June 9 - June 17

July 14 - July 22

August 11 - August 19

September 15 - September 23

December 2007 - January 2008

For specific times and dates at the different sites phone a team leader or Kent Simon, BIB chair, at 303-674-3017.

<u>SITE</u>	<u>LEADERS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Bear Creek Lake Park #1	- Mike Foster	303-456-2647
Bear Creek Lake Park #2	- Bob Santangelo	303-477-1367
Gravel Pit	- Ruth Alford	303-670-0835
	- Kathanne Lynch	303-526-0670
Lair O' the Bear	- Else Van Erp	303-816-5084
Corwina Park	- Warren Roske	303-526-9725
O'Fallon Park	- Sherman Wing	303-697-8840
Evergreen Lake	- Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Upper Bear Creek	- Deb Callahan	303-674-4923
The Gardens	- Gil Schoonveld	303-674-6865
Groundhog Flat	- Inga Brennan	720-746-1780
Beaver Meadows	- Larry White	303-674-0535
Summit Lake	- Kent Simon	303-674-3017

Interested? Join us!!



More about Myrtle Spurge

Last month's *Dipper* article on Myrtle spurge generated some buzz at the April TENAS meeting. Members made some great suggestions on how to educate the public about the threat of this aggressive invader.

One suggestion in particular inspired the Community Weed Awareness Campaign committee into action. Ruth Salter suggested that we provide a handout providing details about Myrtle spurge that members could give to their neighbors. Super idea, Ruth!

So in this issue of the *Dipper* you will

find a Myrtle spurge insert. We hope that everyone will utilize this two-sided handout by copying it and distributing it throughout their neighborhoods.

This is especially important if you live where Myrtle spurge is taking over. Your actions could have a major impact on controlling this toxic weed.

Another worthwhile suggestion by Sylvia Brockner entails surveying the spurge in our community. This requires the help of all of our members. We already know about the infestations in El Pinal and near Center Stage on Highway 74.

If you are aware of Myrtle spurge in other locations, please supply the exact location and approximate size of the infestation. You can e-mail the information to sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com.

Members of CWAC will be at the Aspen Park King Soopers on Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a table full of noxious weeds and educational materials. Stop by or contact us to help out.

- The Community Weed Awareness Campaign

Bird Business

March was a welcome month with improving weather. The "wild" months before sure made a very rough winter here in the mountains. March bird migration was about average with bluebirds arriving on schedule.

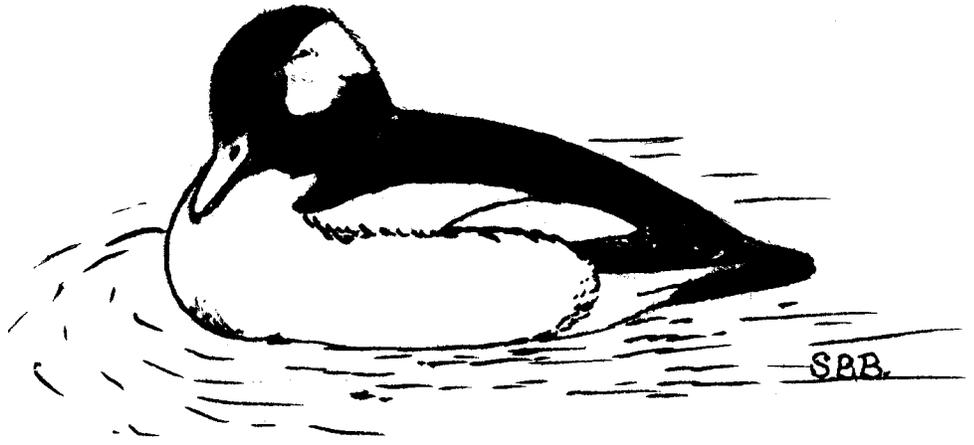
Ice on Evergreen Lake disappeared by the last week in March. Canada Geese and ducks increased with the open water.

The amazing Varied Thrush left the Toftes' yard in Kittredge on March 6. The Toftes kept good records and were very sorry to see this bird leave.

Cassin's Finches were scarce this past winter. Finally one showed up at Ruth Alford's feeders on March 5. However, things IMPROVED OVERNIGHT. Fran Enright had a flock of 150 Cassin's Finches fly into her yard on March 6. Welcome!

Coming home from breakfast, Carmon Slater checked bluebird boxes in his yard. Bingo! There was a Mountain Bluebird looking at the boxes on March 7 and this was an early bird in this activity. Four days later on March 9, Susan and Mark Harper were surrounded by a flock of 14 Mountain Bluebirds at Elk Meadow. Spring had truly arrived!

As the ice slowly left Evergreen Lake, open water areas were created. Flocks of Canada Geese and Mallards quickly moved in. On March 15, Loie



Bufflehead

Evans observed two Bufflehead ducks. A few of these ducks show up every spring on the lake.

Apparently the first Western Bluebirds (three) arrived on March 19 at Sherman Wing's yard in Indian Hills. They usually show up later than the Mountain Bluebirds.

In Cañon City, down along the Arkansas River, Jan and Jerry Mallow saw eight Turkey Vultures gliding overhead. This was on March 26.

The month ended with a Franklin's Gull sitting on the ice at Evergreen Lake on March 30. Loie Evans observed this gull.

Karel Buckley had a wonderful "owling" trip the last weekend of March around Grand Junction. The group she was with located six species of owls including a Boreal! Watch for Karel's report on this trip.

Give Mildred and Carl Keiser a call on their 64th wedding anniversary, April 23. Keep up the good work, Colonel!

May is our greatest bird migration month. By the end of the month all the birds will be back. Watch daily for warblers, sparrows, flycatchers and vireos.

- Bill Brockner

Do YOU have the scourge of Myrtle Spurge?

This noxious and toxic weed is invading your neighborhood.
Act today to protect your children, pets, native plants and wildlife.

Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)



Myrtle Spurge is a
List A Colorado
Noxious Weed
requiring
eradication
wherever found.
Also called
Donkeytail or
creeping spurge, it
was originally sold
as an ornamental,
but is no longer
legally available. A
native to Eurasia,
this weed is
spreading
aggressively
throughout the
foothills area.

IDENTIFICATION:

- A low growing perennial forb, 4-8 inches tall, can spread up to 18 inches.
- Trailing stems and alternate leaves are fleshy with blue-green coloration.
- Flowers are yellow-green, petal-like bracts; appear in early spring.
- Seed heads can project seeds up to 15 feet. Seeds may be viable up to 8 years.
- Taproot produces new stems each season, but plants primarily spread by seed.
- Plant exudes a milky latex sap.
- Often found in xeriscaping, rock gardens and disturbed areas.
- Prefers well drained soils, generally in the sun but will tolerate shade.

IMPACTS:

- The sticky, toxic sap can cause severe skin irritations.
- Plant is considered poisonous to humans and animals.
- Large scale infestations reduce native plant and wildlife habitat.

CONTROL:

- Biological: none

- Chemical:

- ***Dicamba + 2,4-D** (general use)

- ***2,4-D** ester (general use)

- ***Glyphosate** (general use)

- ***Picloram + 2,4-D** (Tordon-restricted use +2,4-D general use)

- ***Picloram** (Tordon-restricted use)

For specific chemical information go to the State of Colorado

Website at <http://www.ag.state.co.us/CSD/Weeds/Weedhome.html>

or contact your county weed agent

**Not all products listed are for use near homes. Be sure and read the label to determine if a listed product is appropriate for your site. The label is the law!*

- Mechanical:

Handpull or dig when the soil is soft to remove the entire root. Be sure to wear protective clothing. Nitrile type gloves and protective eyewear are also recommended.

(Mowing is not advised as it can spread the seeds.)

ALTERNATIVE PLANTINGS:

- Suphur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)
- Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

For more information or to report infestations of Myrtle Spurge contact your Weed Agent:

Jefferson County
700 Jefferson County PKY, Suite 100
Golden, CO 80401
303.271.5989

Park County
PO Box 2027
Woodland Park, CO 80866
719.836.4167

Clear Creek County
PO Box 362
Dumont, CO 80436
303.679.2325



The Community Weed
Awareness Campaign



The Evergreen Naturalists
Audubon Society



What's in the Box?

We have wondered what types of birds nested in the “blue-bird” boxes placed around the JeffCo Open Space Parks in the Evergreen area. Were they bluebirds?

Although we frequently hiked in the parks, we have never observed the occupants of the boxes over a full nesting season. Our curiosity increased when we saw distinct differences in the nests we found when we cleaned the boxes in Alderfer/Three Sisters Park about a month ago.

Of the 26 boxes distributed around the edge of the meadow on both sides of the road, 18 appeared used, four were empty and four were destroyed. An inspection of the used boxes' contents revealed four nest types:

- 1) A mat of intertwined grasses with no or few feathers, some pine needles, and a well-defined nest cup;
- 2) A mat of intertwined grasses with variable sized feathers mixed in and lining the nest cup and, in one, three small white unhatched eggs;
- 3) A mat of intermixed twigs and sticks with a bit of softer material lining the nest cup, which was tucked into the back of the nest opposite the entry hole;
- 4) A mat of moss, plant fibers, fur, hair and other fine, soft material with no defined nest cup; some also had bits of string and shredded paper.

Did we have enough clues to identify the builders of these nests? To identify the nests, we consulted several books, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website (www.birds.cornell.edu) and Bill and Sylvia Brockner.

We all agreed nest type 1 was the tidy, comfortable home of a bluebird. Because of the small white eggs and the feather-lined nest, nest type 2 was probably a swallow, but we were unable to decide whether it was a Tree Swallow or Violet-green Swallow.

Type 3 was the nest of a House Wren with the nest primarily composed of sticks. Due to the inclusion of plant fibers and soft materials throughout the nest, type 4 was probably the nest of a chickadee.

Nevertheless, the best method to identify “What's in the box?” is having the time and patience for careful observation throughout one or more nesting seasons.

- Mark Meremonte & Margaret McDole



Nest type 1—Bluebird



Nest type 2—Swallow



Nest type 3—Wren. *Photos by Mark Meremonte*



Botany Group Plans for New Season

The Botany Group is making plans for this year's meetings.

Last year we met every other Friday at the Brockners' to practice our keying. On alternate weeks we took a field trip to look for new and exciting wildflowers.

If this interests you, contact Sylvia to have some input in the plans. We are considering meetings on Thursday or Friday. Different time? Different place? More trips? More keying? We will try to accommodate as many of your needs as possible. We have no rules but we do have a lot of fun.

The spring flowers are blooming and we need to get out there! So call soon—Sylvia's phone is 303-674-4851.

- Sylvia Brockner

Membership

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

New

Judith Bird—Golden
Claudia Peterson—Evergreen

New Family

Edward & Vera Sable—Golden

Renewing

Kathanne Lynch—Golden
Janet Mallow—Howard
Barbara Sternberg—Evergreen

Renewing Family

Joan & Bill Ball—Evergreen
Carolyn Fraker & Dave Balogh—Evergreen
Kristi & Don Desfosses—Evergreen
Robyn & David Hanna—Evergreen
Susan & Mark Harper—Evergreen
Robert & Sondra Inman—Evergreen
Ron Belak & Peggy Linn—Evergreen
David & Lisa Wald—Evergreen



Bud Weare, nest box sales coordinator, Sylvia Robertson, Margaret McDole and Mark Meremonte prepare the sales table. This year's nest box sale was very successful. Photo by Ginny Boschen

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

ments and requests from the Evergreen Park and Recreation District board regarding our proposed use of the warming hut as a nature center.

Our board voted unanimously that we could not agree to the terms enumerated, such as sharing the space with other users, immediately providing detailed plans for displays, floor plans, staffing and scheduled events for five years, creating mobile displays, provid-

ing bathrooms and handicapped access, and abiding by the EPRD ability to re-designate use of the building after signing a lease.

We informed the EPRD board of our decision on March 30 and are awaiting its reply. We are still interested in establishing a nature center at Evergreen Lake but the circumstances would have to be reasonable in terms of our resources.

- Peggy Durham



Local & Independent

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on any regularly priced items.
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303.679.2786

Located at 32156 Castle Ct. #111 Evergreen
(across from Fire Station #2)



Field Trips and Outings

Sunday, May 6

Dawn Chorus

Call Sylvia Brockner, 303-674-4851

Meet at Evergreen Lake at 5:30 a.m.

May 12-20

BIRDS IN THE BALANCE WINDOW: See the roster of leaders on Page 3 of this issue and contact one or more of them to participate in this ongoing research program. Leaders of the various sites take the field on different days during the window, so call in advance for the details. You don't have to be an expert to participate.

Saturday, May 12

Chimney Gulch to Lookout Mountain

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

Second class of a series, offered to CMC and TENAS. We'll encounter spring migrants in a foothills setting, and begin a list to compare with later trips. Beginners welcome. Bring binoculars, bird guide and lunch/water. Meet at 7 a.m. at the parking lot behind Colorado Mountain Club (710 - 10th Street) in Golden. This is a 6-mile hike with an elevation gain of 1,720 feet.

Sunday, May 13

Crow Valley Campground/
Pawnee National Grasslands

Leader: Brad Andres, 303-670-0101

Take your mom birding! We will try for migrant and vagrant warblers in the Crow Valley Campground and then spend some time searching for grassland birds. Last year we had Magnolia, Black-and-White, and Virginia's Warblers. Meet at the Bergen Park 'n' Ride at 6 a.m., bring a lunch and plan to spend all day in Weld County.

Saturday, May 26

Mt. Falcon Park

Leaders: Margie Bailey and Sherman Wing, 303-697-8840

Let's see the birds of spring at Mt. Falcon Park. This park offers a variety of excellent forest habitat that attracts a number of migratory birds. We should hear beautiful songs from the Western Tanagers, the Black-headed Grosbeaks and possibly the Canyon Wrens. We'll also see the colorful Mountain Bluebirds and hopefully migrating warblers. We will meet at the Mt. Falcon parking lot, Indian Hills entrance, at 8 a.m. The walk will last a good half-day; bring water, a hat and snacks. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

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

Websites Promote Trips, Education

The TENAS mailbox is always bulging with information from other chapters and organizations promoting trips or educational programs. I cannot vouch for any offers, but I would like to pass on to you some websites so you may consider them for yourselves.

Rocky Mountain Nature Association sponsors the Rocky Mountain Field Seminars covering natural history, photography, art/nature writing, hiking and outdoor skills, and Trail Ridge Road: www.RMNA.org.

Cross Mountain Adventures offers a limited number of trips to observe and photograph strutting Sharp-tailed Sage and Dusky Grouse: www.crossmountainranch.com.

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival, May 18-19: www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com.

Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, Teaching Outside the Box Conference, April 27-29: www.caee.org.

Yosemite Birding Festival, May 4-6: www.yosemite.org/seminars.

- Peggy Durham

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2720 S. Wadsworth Blvd
at W. Yale Ave.

Calendar

May 3	Chapter Meeting
May 5	E-waste recycling
May 6	Dawn Chorus
May 12	Chimney Gulch Field Trip
May 12-20	Birds in the Balance Surveys
May 13	Pawnee National Grasslands Field Trip
May 19	Weed Awareness
May 26	Mt. Falcon Field Trip
June 7	Chapter Meeting
June 23	Community Weed Day

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

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

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

*The Dipper deadline for the
June issue is Thursday, May 3.*

*Please submit articles to:
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

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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- Myrtle Spurge Flyer
- Botany Group Plans Ahead
- What's in the Box?

In This Issue

Time Dated Material

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

THE DIPPER

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