

THE DIPPER ⁽³⁾ Published monthly by The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.

Volume 38 Number 4 May 2008

Editor: Margaret McDole Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

TENAS Art Exhibit at Library

TENAS members will be featured in the Art Exhibit at Evergreen Library for the month of May. Stop by to view works by many of our talented members.

While there don't miss the display case presented by the Weed Awareness Committee.

Botany Group Resumes Meeting

Spring is here, the flowers are blooming and we want to know their names and lineage.

The Botany Group will resume meeting in May for study and enjoyment of the flora of our area. For more information, call Sylvia Brockner, 303-674-4851.

Speakers: TENAS Monthly Meetings

June

Paul Marinari: North America's Rarest Mammal– the Black-footed Ferret **July** Picnic: Everyone shares a few fun slides at the picnic. **August** John Drummond: The Birds of Sri Lanka

Address Change

Please send articles for *The Dipper* to Margaret Mc-Dole at editor@dipper.org.

Birding by Ear—Spring Refresher

Member of National Audubon Society

It's been a long and snowy winter, and you have forgotten what bird song sounds like. When the spring migrants finally arrive, you can't remember which voice belongs to which bird. Sound familiar?

Join us for a refresher course, led by Nathan Pieplow, on the songs of the common spring migrant birds in our area, and start the spring listening season off right.

Nathan has been birding for more than 20 years, mostly in the United States and the neotropics. However, he also has birded in parts of Asia. He teaches writing at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

He is the editor of the quarterly journal Colorado Birds, and a lead author and editor of both the Colorado Birding and the Colorado County Birding Website (www.

coloradocountybirding.org). He is an expert on bird songs and calls and generously gives presentations and field trips to help teach others.



Song Sparrow. Photo by Kay Niyo

Join us for this special program Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.

2008 International Dawn Chorus Celebrated May 4

This is our 14th year to meet at the lake at dawn on the first Sunday of May, as many across the world will be doing! How exciting. Please join us at 5:45 a.m. at Evergreen Lake.

This will be a special year since we will gather at the new Evergreen Nature Center in the old skating hut after the Dawn Chorus.

If you would like, bring a snack to share. We will provide the coffee, cream, sugar, tea and cocoa. Please call the Brockners, 303-674-4851, to RSVP.

Thanks, everyone; we are looking forward to seeing you all. We have had as many as 44 humans and a variety of 50 avian species in 14 years; let's see who shows up this year!

If you have a scope, please bring it along too.

- Karel Buckley & Sylvia Brockner



President's Message

I have the pleasure of announcing that Michael Stills is our new executive director of the nature center in the old warming hut at Evergreen Lake.

Having recently returned from Geneva, I am again struck by the differences in living in an old European city and a new Western mountain town. On this trip, for the most part I was on my own, getting around on foot, on the excellent public transportation or in a car too big for the narrow city streets.

On several days, I walked to an open market to buy fresh salad greens and unpasteurized cheese. On the last half mile, the foot traffic increased with everyone carrying his or her own large shopping bag or basket (the vendors charge for plastic bags).

Probably most of these people do not have cars; certainly there is no place to park one. The scale of most things is smaller: housing, cars, parking places, markets and little shops. Ex-

| | 2008 Officers | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| President | Peggy Durham | 303-674-8648 | | |
| Vice President | Brad Andres | 303-670-0101 | | |
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| David Wald | 303-674-0417 | | | |
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| Bear Creek Atlas | Brad Andres | 303-670-0101 | | |
| Bird Business | Bill Brockner | 303-674-4851 | | |
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ceptions are the size of buses and trams, the price of gas, and their mountains.

Neighborhoods have recycling receptacles for common use. The amount of trash per household looked meager to my eyes accustomed to multiple, gigantic trash barrels.

Flying into Newark is enough to make one cry. (To my surprise, I saw that Continental Airways flight attendants were recycling everything they reasonably could from the meals served on the flights.) What are we doing to our landscape and resources?

The flight to Denver restored some sense of hope, seeing the edges of three Great Lakes, the extent of the breadbasket of this country, and the precipitous change from the plains to the mountains.

Our program on April 3 with photographer Dave Showalter showing his stunning pictures of the plains was a good reminder of the importance of the diversity of wildlife and all things growing in those grasslands I just flew over.

From the air, the land below looked empty. From Dave's pictures, we can see the incredible colors, the flora and fauna, details and beauty of this landscape. Anyone who missed the program can go to Dave's website, www.daveshowalter. com, to see examples of his work and his book, "Prairie Thunder."

We have so much in the way of space and resources at our disposal (an apt choice of word, given our habits). I believe it

Continued on Page 3



• To the nature center committees who have met often and accomplished what they promised in the six months since TENAS signed the lease for the warming hut: the Evergreen Nature Center Committee, **David Wald, Carolyn Fraker, Dave Balogh, Brad Andres, Heather Johnson, Michael Stills** and **Ginny Boschen**. To subcommittee members who have worked hard and contributed mightily: **Carmon Slater, Lisa Wald** and **Walt Phillips**. We especially thank **Carolyn Fraker** for serving as the interim director for 2¹/₂ months until we hired **Michael Stills** as executive director.

• To the following people who helped move furniture and items for display into the nature center on a Sunday morning: Heather Johnson, Brad Andres, Mark Meremonte, Margaret McDole, Michael Stills, Lisa and David Wald and Emily and Aaron Wald, Dave Balogh and Carolyn Fraker and his granddaughters, and Kay Niyo.

• To **Jeff Geiger** for keeping the feeder at Evergreen Lake filled throughout the long, cold winter.



Be a Nature Center Volunteer!

Evergreen Nature Center is seeking several volunteers from our membership to staff one of the most prominent and important nature center jobs, that of visitor assistant.

The VA is the nature center host, providing visitors with a welcoming atmosphere and information on the importance of the lake environment,

President's <u>Message</u>

Continued from Page 2

is in everyone's interests to continue to push for more recycling, more fuel-efficient transportation, renewable energy sources and less wasteful habits.

I'm not going to give up my mountain home, but I came back thinking: What can I do without? How much less can I drive? How can I grow tomatoes in this climate?

Our mission to educate people about our environment and to work for conservation of resources is more important than ever. And our new nature center will provide a forum for this work.

- Peggy Durham

including local birds, fish and other wild animals and their habitats.

VAs also perform administrative tasks such as opening and closing the nature center, offering impromptu exhibit vignettes, assisting with interpretation of displays, and answering basic questions about the nature center, Audubon, Evergreen Audubon and the local environment.

The VA will record visitor attendance, answer phone inquiries and sell nature center merchandise.

If you possess a friendly demeanor, a professional manner and a basic understanding of natural processes, we would love to hear from you. VAs will be supervised by Michael Stills, the nature center executive director.

While weekly shifts can be flexible, we are seeking 10 to 15 volunteers who can fill a minimum of two three-hour shifts per month between April and October.

While shift times will vary over the season, the nature center will be staffed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

Additionally, volunteers must complete four to six hours of visitor assistant training and attend a volunteer orientation. On-the-job training will be provided.



A young volunteer checks out items at the new Evergreen Nature Center touch table. *Photo by Peggy Durham*

Be one of the first volunteers in our inaugural year-join the Evergreen Nature Center team today! For a detailed job description and to apply, please contact Michael Stills (enc@dipper.org) for more information and to request an application.

- Michael Stills and David Wald

Beaver Brook Watershed Volunteers

The friends of the Beaver Brook Watershed are actively seeking volunteers for their weed management and volunteer patrol programs. Help us maintain the beauty and pristine nature of this wild place.

For more information, call Kay Axtell, 303-674-5709.



Questions?

Call: Cathy 303-674-8610 Sylvia 303-674-1715

| Commun | ity Weed Awareness Campaign |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| <u></u> | 2008 Summer Schedule |

Mark your calendars:

| Apr 19Weed Booth at Earth Day Fair-Evergreen Lake |
|---|
| 10:00 am to 4:00 pm |
| May 31"Garden Smart" Program- Nature Center |
| 10:00 am to noon (Registration required) |
| June 2111 th Community Weed Day - Evergreen Lake |
| 8:00 am to 11:00 am |
| July 12Education outreach – Idaho Springs Safeway |
| 10:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| Aug F Weed & Wine (Volunteers Only) Evergreen Lake |
| Weeding - 4:00 pm; Party - 6:00 pm |
| Sept 13 "Thistles-Native vs. Noxious" - Nature Center |
| Tímes TBD |



Bird Business

This year's month of March was not conductive for bird migration. Early migrants such as bluebirds, robins and Song Sparrows were later than usual.

Snowstorms in our area impacted migration. Early migrants slow down their northward flights in early spring, but will push on no matter what the weather in May.

Ice on Evergreen Lake did not make any room for ducks and geese. Watch for them from Evergreen Nature Center at the warming hut.

On March 3, Ruth Alford welcomed a robin into her yard. Not many robins wintered this year around Evergreen.

A Mourning Dove arrived at the Toftes' feeders in Kittredge on March 11. This species nests nearby.

Barbara Jean Gard welcomed an early Chipping Sparrow on March 19. This friendly yard bird is a delight to have at your feeders.

Celebrating Easter in Vail, the Mounseys saw 10 Pine Grosbeaks and two Evening Grosbeaks. Their daughter maintains a busy feeder there.

Kathanne Lynch added a Lewis'

Reminder for TENAS Show

Remember to deliver your art pieces NO LATER THAN April 28 to Kay Niyo's home at 25100 Sunset Lane for the May TENAS art show at Evergreen Library. (Call Kay for directions.)

This is an opportunity for TENAS members to exhibit their art abilities during the month of May 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 more than 30 inches by 30 inch-



Long-eared Owl recovering from a window collision. Photo by Lynn Peesel

Woodpecker to her Life List on March 24. She found the bird in Sedalia. Good work!

On March 28, Evergreen resident Lynne Peesel had an interesting birding experience. An owl hit her window and sat dazed for a while. Then it landed on a nearby post and rested. Eventually it

es. 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 Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646, Carmon Slater, 303-674-8394, or Polly or Walt Phillips, 303-674-7744.

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

AGAIN, deliver the work NO LATER THAN April 28 to Kay Niyo's home at 25100 Sunset Lane. It was a great show last time, thanks to all our wonderful local artists. flew off. It was a Long-eared Owl, an interesting record!

A California Gull was seen by Karel Buckley on March 30 at Evergreen Lake. This gull appears nearly every spring at the lake.

Susan Harper closed the month by seeing more than 212 bluebirds in Red Rocks Park. Spring has arrived!

A tardy "Happy Birthday" to hardworking Marilyn Rhodes. Marilyn does an outstanding job with the holiday wreath sales, a great fundraiser for our club. Thank you very much and many more birthdays!

An early and devoted member of our club, Mary Pugh, died on March 4. Mary had been treasurer and prepared great budgets and helped keep our art shows financially accurate. She helped build up our Land Acquisition Fund.

Mary, we miss you.

Karel Buckley covered the Wild West this past month, birding from Montana to Arizona.

Kay Niyo enjoyed a successful birding trip to California. She had good luck in finding the Mountain Quail.



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Spring 2008

Dear Friend,

At long last, the Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society has a Nature Center to share with the Evergreen community. We searched for years for a suitable place in the right area. Finally we persuaded the Evergreen Park and Recreation District to lease us part of the rebuilt Warming Hut at the Evergreen Lake.

Thanks to a talented and creative group of planners, there will be many kinds of natural history classes for people of all ages. There will be fascinating exhibits in a unique, historical building with experienced personnel to explain everything.

At our Nature Center, you could get answers to questions you've always had, such as: Why does that bird have such a long bill? Why does that fish eat the other fish? What is that funny smell in the water? How many seeds are in the cat-tails? Why do birds sing different songs? Who named the stars? Where do the muskrats live?

HOWEVER, we need MONEY to make this the best Nature Center in Colorado.

This is an invitation for you to come to a "Friendraiser" party to help the Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society get our new Nature Center onto firm footing. We would also like you to consider joining the Nature Center as a Friend at one of several levels of membership. You'll receive for this generosity a few perks and our deep appreciation.

Our "Connect with Nature Friendraiser" will be Wednesday, June 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Lake House in Evergreen. There will be supper and wine, dessert, and music all the while. One lucky person will win a special door prize. Everyone will have a chance to bid on a few other exciting items. Dress is Evergreen casual. Tickets are available with your donation of \$50 per person.

Please RSVP by June the 4th for the "Connect with Nature" party with your check made out to TENAS (the Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society) and mail to P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437. You may pick up your ticket at the door when you arrive at the party.

If you are unable to attend on June 11, and would like to become a Friend, please send a donation to the above address and a membership coordinator will contact you.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our event and at the Nature Center.

Margaret Durham, President Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society



Spring Break in New Mexico

We, the Wald family, went to New Mexico for spring break. From Evergreen to southern New Mexico is quite the drive. We stopped at Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Bosque del Apache.

I had been searching the Internet for types of rattlesnakes in New Mexico and I just happened to find a website about the International Rattlesnake Museum.

On our way through Albuquerque, we stopped there . . . CLOSED. (It was Easter.) My mom said, "Well, we can stop on the way back to Colorado."

We also stopped at the Albuquerque Nature Center. It had lots of trails, and it had a glass room where you could see two ponds. We saw lots of Wood Ducks, and coots, there.

At Bosque del Apache, we saw birds such as roadrunners, pheasants, Snow Geese, red tails and an Aplomando Falcon. At the nature center there, I got a cool book—"Tread Lightly," all about the venomous animals in the Southwest.

We arrived on Monday at Bear Mountain Lodge, an adobe lodge operated by the Nature Conservancy. My dad and I were walking over to move

Membership

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

New Chris Lea-Pine New Family Loie & John Evans-Evergreen Renewing Karel Buckley–Evergreen Robert & Jessie Davis-Evergreen Dawn & Michael Whitney-Golden Sherman Wing-Indian Hills Ed & Pat Work–Evergreen **Renewing Family** Bill & Sylvia Brockner–Evergreen Sydney & Art Hogling-Evergreen Pete & Sue Roux–Evergreen Else & Tom Van Erp-Conifer Fran & Patricia Wafer–Evergreen Diane & Roger Westman–Evergreen Chris Pfaff & Larry White-Evergreen



Common Tree Lizard. Photo by Aaron Wald

the car when I spotted a lizard on the adobe wall in the sun.

Being who I am, I wanted to catch it and identify it. It took a few minutes of going back and forth across the walls to finally catch the thing.

It had a blue-green belly and lightly colored squares on its back—a common tree lizard. At the lodge, near our guesthouse, there was a small pond. The pond had a pair of Mallards, a red-eared turtle and a lot of bullfrogs.

Later the next day, we went on some scenic hikes around the property, and unfortunately got lost, but we finally found our way back. The next day it was time to go.

On the way back to Albuquerque, we stopped at a small campground for lunch. While we were eating, we heard a, "Bdeeyu!" A Painted Redstart! We also saw a Bridled Titmouse. Two cool new birds to add to my life list!

We finally arrived in Albuquerque. We went right to the Rattlesnake Museum. The museum was the coolest place ever; they had almost every species of rattlesnake in the world there!

I got my picture with a ball python, got a horned lizard key chain, and the owner even gave me a free rattlesnake poster!

We stopped in Santa Fe at an awesome pizza restaurant. The following day we made our way through Raton, then into Colorado. That was quite the trip!

- Aaron Wald



Local & Independent

"Helping to create wild bird habitat."

TENAS Members Save 10% Every Wednesday on any regularly priced items. Not to be combined with other offers.

303.679.2786 Located at 32156 Castle Ct. #111 Evergreen (across from Fire Station #2)



Field Trips and Outings

All programs and classes below are sponsored by the Evergreen Nature Center at Evergreen Lake. There are no fees for any of these classes. Please register at www.dipper.org.

| Saturday, May 17 Gardening From the Ground Up | Start from the ground up with your springtime plantings and learn about your garden soil's quality and its needs from one of Evergreen's experienced gardeners and former a garden club president, Julaine Kennedy. Learn about soil characteristics and the differences between organic and synthetic fertilizers used to amend soil. Bring a Ziploc bag with a scoop of your garden soil and discover one of the primary steps to growing healthy plants. <i>10-11:30 a.m. Class Size: 15.</i> |
|---|--|
| Saturday, May 24 Birding By Ear | Professional ornithologist Brad Andres will lead a field trip at Evergreen Lake to teach folks how to listen for components of bird songs and to identify birds by calls and songs. 7:30-10 a.m. Class Size: 10. |
| Saturday, May 31 Gardening at Wit's End? | Join TENAS weed warrior Cathy Shelton and horticulturist Pat Carter to learn about the na- tive plants to grow in our mountain landscape and the pernicious noxious weeds invading both our gardens and natural areas. Participants will receive the new booklet, "Garden Smart Colo- rado," from the Colorado Weed Management Association. <i>10 a.mnoon. Class Size: 20.</i> |
| Saturday, June 7 A Hike Along the Bluebird Nest Box Trail | Ornithologist Brad Andres will demonstrate the monitoring techniques used at Elk Meadow along the trail of nest boxes. Brad also will teach about the natural history of bluebirds, one of our summer migratory birds. <i>Ages 6+. 8 a.mnoon. Class Size: 10.</i> |
| Saturday, June 7 What's That in the Water? | Using homemade collecting tools like a weed grappler and a bottom scraper, Evergreen teacher Ginny Boschen will lead a class around the lake and Evergreen Nature Center investigating the invertebrates in the water, under rocks, and in the mud. Wear old shoes, sunscreen, and bring a water bottle. <i>Ages 9-10. 10 a.mnoon. Class Size 10.</i> |
| Saturday, June 14 Attracting Hummingbirds | John Sears, owner of Wild Bird Center, will lead a class in attracting, feeding and caring for our migratory hummingbirds. <i>10 a.mnoon. Class Size 20.</i> |

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

Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas

The new birding program, the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas, will begin on May 1.

Beginning birders are welcome. Extra ears and eyes are always helpful in finding birds. These trips are a good opportunity to learn about birding and our new BCA program.

The website for BCA is now open for use (www.tenas.org). Please check it out. In addition to descriptions of all 2008 sites, you will find a variety of helpful information and references. Open each of the drop-down menu screens on the **Home Page** and explore.

Leaders: Create an account, using the **Accounts** menu, then enter some pretend data to become familiar with the process. Dummy data will be erased near the end of April. Under the **About the Atlas** menu, you will find all the sites, and the BCA Manual, which provides detailed directions for fieldwork.

Use the **Help** menu for any technical computer problems, and to request other information about the BCA project.

The scheduled dates for monitoring each site follow. Call the leader for meeting time and place, and what to expect.

May 1, Thurs., Lair o' the Bear, Else van Erp, 303-816-5084

May 5, Mon., Elk Meadow, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780 May 6, Tues., Dinosaur Ridge N, Warren Roske, 303-526-972 May 7, Wed., Mount Glennon, Kathanne Lynch, 303-968-4750 May 8, Thurs., Lair o' the Bear, Else van Erp, 303-816-5084 May 11, Sun., Dinosaur Ridge S, Dave Balogh, 303-679-2799 May 12, Mon., Bergen Peak, Fran Enright, 303-674-2657 May 13, Tues., Dinosaur Ridge N, Warren Roske, 303-526-9725 May 17, Sat., Beaver Meadows, Larry White, 303-674-0535 May 18, Sun., Bear Cr. Lake Park, Bob Santangelo, 303-477-1367 May 19, Mon., Elk Meadow, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780 May 21, Wed., Lair o' the Bear, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780 May 25, Sun., Bear Cr. Lake Park, Bob Santangelo, 303-477-1367 May 26, Mon., Lair o' the Bear, Inga Brennan, 720-746-1780 May 27, Tues., Dinosaur Ridge N, Warren Roske, 303-526-9725 May 28, Wed., Mount Glennon, Kathanne Lynch, 303-968-4750 May 29, Thurs., Bergen Peak, Fran Enright, 303-674-2657 May 31, Sat., Dinosaur Ridge S, Dave Balogh, 303-679-2799 Little Park: Sherman Wing, leader, 303-697-8840, or Susan

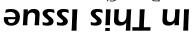
Harper, assistant leader, 303-231-4849, for dates/times

Captain Mountain/Lincoln Lake Trails: Brad Andres and Heather Johnson, 303-670-0101, for dates/times.

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc. P.O. Box 523 Evergreen, CO 80437

Time Dated Material



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- Spring Break
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- Friendraiser Invitation

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

BEINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

VOLUME 38, NO. 4. The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes The Dipper every month but February and August. The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members automatically receive The Dipper. Annual subscription for non-members is \$10. TENAS encourages readers to submit original articles, creative nature writing or art to *The Dipper*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any articles selected. *Dipper design and layout by Marshall Desktop Publishing*

May 24 Birding by Ear (*Nature Center Program*) May 31 Gardening at Wit's End? (Nature Center Program) June 5 Chapter Meeting June 7 A Hike Along the Bluebird Nest Box Trail (Nature Center Program) Name _ What's That in the Water ? (Nature Center Program) June 7 June 14 Attracting Hummingbirds (Nature Center Program) City ____ Phone _ Monthly Meetings (except January and July) First Thursday at 7 p.m. Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park 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 1. Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org

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. \Box Individual (\$20) \Box Family (\$30) \Box Student (\$10) I have included an additional donation of _____ _____ Family member __ Address State Zip 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.

Gardening from the Ground Up (Nature Center Program)

May 1

May 4

May 17

ENERGREEN, CO

PERMIT NO. 21

U.S. POSTAGE

.Von-profit Org

Chapter Meeting

May 1-31 Art Exhibit at Evergreen Library

May 1-31 Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas Surveys

Dawn Chorus