



THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Dawn Chorus

Greet spring and our returning migrant birds at 5:45 a.m. Sunday, May 3, at Evergreen Lake.

Also, please join TENAS members for the dedication of a bench in honor of Bill Brockner. Details on page 3.

Join Us at Upcoming TENAS Meetings

- June 4. Jason Beason, Special Monitoring Projects coordinator at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, will discuss Project ColonyWatch.

ColonyWatch monitors a variety of colonially breeding birds species, including the black swift, American white pelican and many others.

- June 11. Evergreen Nature Center Fundraiser

- July 11. TENAS Picnic

- Aug. 6. Laura Archuleta of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will report on her work using American Dippers as indicators of water quality.

Be Green: Bring Your Own Cups

Please help us prevent waste by bringing your own cup or mug to TENAS meetings.

Pika Distribution, Habitat and Climate Change

Pikas (*Ochotona princeps*) are the familiar greeter of alpine talus slopes of the western United States and southwestern Canada. This species' distribution is presumed to have waxed and waned in response to glacial periods and associated climate change.

Now it may be waning five times faster over the past decade than over the previous century, and about 20 times faster than reported for other species. Chris Ray will describe the nature and conservation status of pikas worldwide, with emphasis on our local species.

Chris Ray is a researcher at the University of Colorado, studying threatened plants and animals. The author of many scientific papers, she has studied pikas throughout the western United States for more than 20 years.

She has taught field studies centered on the pika almost every summer since 1989. Chris has been interviewed about the plight of the pika for national and international news broadcasts, and her knowledge of pika behavior helped the producers of David Attenborough's "Life of Mammals" film their wonderful sequence on pikas.

Are populations of the American pika threatened by global warming, or do they rely on distinct physiological or behavioral characteristics to thrive in warm climates? The answers to these questions may determine the fate of populations at all altitudes.

Chris Ray's ongoing studies are designed to answer these questions by examining physical



Pika distribution may be declining dramatically.

and behavioral characteristics of the American pika, including how these characteristics may differ among populations in high- and low-elevation habitats.

Ms. Ray has extensive experience working with volunteers in pika research and also will be discussing volunteer opportunities during the 2009 field season.

Upcoming studies will evaluate the potential for direct effects of climate change across a range of natural habitats. Volunteer activities may include assisting investigators in locating and mapping pika territories as well as habitat, weather and microclimate data collection.

Be sure to attend this important presentation. Our Thursday, May 7, meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (just west of Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Guests are welcome. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow.



President's Message

Editor's Note: Members of the TENAS Board will be alternating writing of the President's Message.

Through the Window—Not

Did you hear that thump? Yes, I did! It sounded like something just hit the living room window. We rush to the window hoping for the best but fearing the worst.

All of us have experienced it—the unmistakable sound of a bird hitting the window. We ask ourselves: How can I prevent this from happening? We have tried to reduce reflections by drawing the curtains or closing the blinds, pasting silhouettes of predatory birds onto windows, hanging streamers inside or outside windows and/or just leaving the windows laden with dirt and grime.

Yet, to no avail! If a bird can see an opening no bigger

than itself, then it will be able to fly through it. Thus the use of a few silhouettes or far apart streamers is minimally effective.

An estimate of the number of bird collisions per year is about 900 million, according to Dr. Daniel Klem Jr., an ornithologist who has researched the subject extensively (www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/biology/faculty/klem/ACO/GlassHome.htm).

The collisions not only include residential structures but educational, commercial and governmental structures as well. Unfortunately, many of our modern commercial structures are built solely with glass facing from top to bottom.

This includes numerous skyscrapers in cities that are built in migratory paths as along our east and west coasts and upper Midwest. Moreover, in an effort to green our buildings, some design changes, such as more windows to reduce the need for interior lighting, may increase bird mortality (J. Leibach, Nov-Dec 2008, Pain in the Glass, Audubon, V.110, No. 6, p. 84-87).

In response to these statistics, there are efforts underway to develop and distribute “Bird Safe Building Guidelines” to architects, developers, planners and homeowners to follow on new building construction or renovation, and to encourage incorporation of bird safety into the green building certification process set by the Leadership in Environmental and Engineering Design (www.usgbc.org) in the United States.

What can a homeowner do? One effective means is to place bird feeders either very close to the window at less than about 2 feet or greater than 30 feet away.

Drawing the curtains or closing the blinds or shades can

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• To all these wonderful people who appeared at the Nature Center in March to reassemble the parts and pieces that make up our displays and exhibits, including mounting Heather the lion and the black bear skin: **Marilyn and John Kaussner, Sylvia Robertson, Cathy Shelton, David, Lisa and Aaron Wald, Karel Buckley, Peggy Lynn, Jennifer Hood, Jean Thayer and Bud Weare**, under the expert direction of our Executive Director **Michael Stills**. Thank you, all.

• To **Kent Simon** for the extra effort he has put in to keep the membership database up to date and in sync with the National Audubon information.

• To **Cheryl Manning**, environmental education teacher at Evergreen High School and our new board member, for giving the presentation at our April Chapter Meeting. She described her research in the recent ARMADA Project studying deep ocean sediment cores.



International Dawn Chorus is May 3

This is our 15th year to meet at Evergreen Lake at dawn on the first Sunday in May. Please join us at 5:45 a.m. Sunday, May 3, on the boardwalk. This year we have a special event, the dedication of the Bill Brockner Memorial Bench at 8 a.m.

Brockner Bench Dedication

May 3 at 8 a.m., after Dawn Chorus, we will hold a dedication ceremony of the Brockner Bench on the boardwalk at Evergreen Lake.

Bill Brockner always loved Dawn Chorus and never missed this early morning bird watching. The bench given in his memory will be placed on a buildout from the boardwalk in a spot that will allow viewing in all directions.

Please plan to join us for a celebration of Bill's lifelong enthusiasm for early birding at the lake.

- Peggy Durham

Pika Considered for Protection

Following a 2007 petition and subsequent lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to consider listing the American pika as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

In a press release announcing approval of the agreement by the U.S. District Court in Sacramento, the center states that global warming imperils pikas.

"Pika populations are in jeopardy, and we can't afford to delay protections," said Shaye Wolf, a biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "As temperatures rise, pika populations at lower elevations are being driven to extinction, pushing pikas further upslope until they have nowhere left to go."

After the count we will gather inside the new Evergreen Nature Center (in the old warming hut).

Please bring a snack to share and your own coffee or hot water in a Thermos with a cup. **We have no running water in the Nature Center.** This is a change—we **will NOT** provide hot water or hot coffee. We will provide cream, sugar, tea bags and cocoa mix.

Please call Sylvia at 303-674-4851 or

Karel at 303-670-8859 to RSVP and sign up to bring something to share.

We look forward to seeing you for the 15th annual International Dawn Chorus.

Our count has included a high of 54 humans on one day and a variety of 51 bird species in the 14 years so far!

If you have a scope please bring it along too.

- Karel Buckley and Sylvia Brockner

Posey Posse: Botany Group Schedules Field Trips

• **April 24, Friday, noon.** Meet Sylvia Brockner and the Posey Posse at Lair o' the Bear. Bring a sack lunch and weather-appropriate clothing.

If it is too chilly to picnic, we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant. Contact Lynne Price at 303-670-0840 or trailwalker63@hotmail.com for further details.

• **May 9, Saturday, 9 a.m.** Plains Conservation Center. "Edible Wild

Plants." Sign up by May 5 with Lynne as the center requires notification. Please contact Lynne Price at 303-670-0840 or trailwalker63@hotmail.com for details and arrangements.

• **May 15, Friday, noon.** Meet Sylvia Brockner and the Posey Posse at Matthews/Winters Open Space Park. Please contact Lynne Price at 303-670-0840 or trailwalker63@hotmail.com for details.



Questions?

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

Community Weed Awareness Campaign 2009 Outreach Schedule

Mark your calendars:

Apr 18	... Weed Booth at Earth Day Fair- Evergreen Lake 10a.m. to 4p.m.
May 30	... "Garden Smart" Program- Nature Center 10a.m. to noon (Registration required)
June 13	... Education Outreach IdahoSprings 10a.m. to 2p.m.
June 27	... 12 th Community Weed Day - Evergreen Lake, 8 to 11a.m.
July 11	... Pulling for Colorado Education outreach - Evergreen Safeway 10a.m. to 2p.m.
Aug 14	.. Weed & Wine - Evergreen Lake Weeding-4:30, Party-6:30p.m.
Sept ...	To Be Determined



Bird Business

April 2, 2009—Just East of Gunnison

I arrived at the viewing site at 6 a.m. and there were a total of four cars silently parked with people watching and waiting. The Gunnison Sage Grouse were spotted shortly after 6:30 a.m., about a quarter-mile away. Activity was greatest just before the sun peeked over the adjacent hilltop.

At about 7 a.m. a flock of 31 grouse flew up from the lek and crossed the road in front of us, leaving just seven males still strutting around. At 7:30 a.m. I was still sitting in my car, windows down, the temperature warming to 4 degrees outside and there were still seven birds on the lek, so none of the cars were about to leave.

All of the sudden the grouse were all gone; folks got out of their cars and we all smiled at each other, stretched and drove off to someplace warmer.

A new bird for me.

- Sherman Wing

Greater Sage Grouse Video

Researcher Dr. Gail Patricelli of the University of California, Davis, has posted videos of Greater Sage Grouse lek displays at www.youtube.com/user/patricellilab.

Membership

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

New

Denise Duffy—Evergreen
Ellen Rushing—Indian Hills

Renewing

Karen Knutson—Evergreen
Sandy Sykes—Golden

Renewing Family

Tom Altherr & Carole Gallagher—Conifer

Marc & Kim Kouzmanoff—Evergreen
Jack & Ruth Salter—Evergreen

A Blue St. Pat's Day

While hiking along the Founders Trail in Elk Meadow, midday on St. Patrick's Day, I encountered the Luck o' the Irish, but not coming in green; blue was the color of the day. I saw 20-plus Bluebirds between the Carol Karlin overlook and Meadow Junction. They were hanging out and flying from the tips of Mullein stalks.

- Michael Lee Stills



Black-headed Grosbeak. Photo by Donna Forrest

Local Sightings

John and Diane Sears of Evergreen Wild Bird Store report customer sightings of Red Crossbills in Black Hawk and Evergreen.

Two Canyon Wrens were spied by Karel Buckley at Three Sisters Park.

At Evergreen Lake an Osprey and Northern Shrike were reported.

Rosy Finches are still seen on Squaw

Pass as well as at John and Diane Sears' feeders.

There are three Trumpeter Swans on the small reservoir in Noble Meadow. They have been located there by the residents near the site.

These swans are not the plastic species spotted last year on Upper Bear Creek!



Western Bluebird. Photo by Mark Meremonte



President's Message

Continued from Page 2

be effective, but, if you have newer, “greener” windows using low-E coating that not only helps to reduce heat loss or heat gain but, unfortunately, also enhances a window’s reflectivity, then this may not be successful.

Other choices are measures to help reduce the reflections by applying a soap film, using decal paint, or applying opaque vinyl films. However, all these reduce the view from within and are not very esthetic.

Now available is a vinyl film by CollidEscape (www.collidescape.citymax.com) made of thousands of very small perforated holes that appears white on the outside of the home much like a window screen but also allows visibility from within the home.

Furthermore, two choices that can be effective in remodeling are replacing windows with fritted glass or angling windows downward. Fritted glass is closely spaced dots, lines or holes either etched into the glass or applied with high heat. It has the benefits of providing filtered light, reflecting UV and increasing visibility to birds.

Angling the windows downward several degrees reflects the ground, removing the impression of a clear path for birds to fly through. Both methods are still being evaluated but offer good alternatives to the homeowner for making a home more bird-friendly.

In our neighborhood, a proven technique is the use of exterior netting. Sylvia Brockner’s home is a good example. Her windows, especially the larger, bird-viewing windows, are outfitted with a half-inch nylon screen mesh stretched tightly over a metal frame.

The netted frame system is placed about 4 to 6 inches away from the pane and offers protection for the birds that can safely bounce off of the soft mesh, and it allows good visibility from within the home.

In the December 2008 issue of *Birder’s World*, David Allen Sibley also recommends the use of bird “safety



Side view of screen mesh stretched tightly over metal frame.

nets.” According to his personal investigations, the “surest solution is to install exterior screens or netting, which reduce the reflection and cause birds that fly toward the window to bounce off unharmed.”

Hence, for a homeowner this method to create a bird-friendly home is probably the simplest and most economical. For those who are a bit retrofit challenged, there is a company called aptly the Bird Screen Company (www.birdscreen.com), which builds ready-to-install screens for just this purpose.

Happy bird viewing!

- Mark Meremonte



View from within home looking outside through window and screen mesh.



Bear Creek Atlas Progress Report—2008

Background and Methods

The purpose of the Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas (hereafter Bear Creek Atlas) is to provide information on the distribution, abundance, breeding status and habitat use of birds on public lands within the Bear Creek Watershed.

Information from these surveys will be provided to the appropriate federal, state, county and local agencies that manage these public lands. Data collected in this project also will help inform conservation decisions considered by The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society (Evergreen Audubon) and will be used for educational purposes in the newly developed Evergreen Nature Center.

Based on Evergreen Audubon's membership and area of interest, the Bear Creek Watershed was designated as an appropriate area to survey breeding birds. Within the watershed, there are more than 58,000 acres of public lands that are managed by Jefferson County Open Space, Denver Mountain Parks, the City of Lakewood, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the USDA Forest Service.

We have targeted about 30,500 acres of relatively natural lands for breeding bird surveys and began the initial set of surveys in 2008.

The core survey period was defined as May 1 to July 15; for elevations above 10,000 feet, the period was adjusted to May 16 to July 31.

An effort objective was set to have observers spend 10 to 15 hours at each site and to spread visits out across the survey period. Observers also were encouraged to visit sites prior to the core survey period to confirm breeding of early nesting species, such as owls.

At each site during each visit, the following data were recorded: observers, amount of effort (party-hours), bird species, count of all adult individuals of each species, evidence of breeding, habitat where species were encountered, and the areas at each site covered on the visit.

Bird behavior used to determine breeding status is presented in Table 1. Detailed field methods are provided in the Leader and Participant Manual, which is available at www.tenas.org; observers also used this website to enter data and retrieve data forms and descriptions of the survey sites.

Results

Fifty-one participants made 86 trips to the 11 sites we designated to be surveyed in 2008. Observers spent a total of 202.5 hours, of which 196.25 hours were within the core survey period identified above. The effort goal of 10 to 15 hours was met at most individual sites and, particularly, when sites were averaged within elevation zones.

A total of 139 species were recorded during all surveys, of which 113 species were suspected of breeding in the Bear Creek Watershed (possible, probable or confirmed breeding status).

As expected, sites in the Foothills and Plains were much richer (87 spe-
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A Tree Swallow looks out of a nest box in Elk Meadow. Photo by Kay Niyo

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May Programs

May 2	Attracting Birds That Don't Eat Seed	John Sears
May 9	Birding by Ear	Brad Andres
May 15	Star Gazing	Pam Little
May 16	Spring Flowers	Lynne Price
May 16	Birding by Ear	Brad Andres
May 30	Garden Smart	Cathy Shelton

Bear Creek Atlas Progress Report

Continued from Page 6

cies suspected of breeding) than sites in the Montane, Subalpine and Alpine elevation zones (Table 2).

Counts of adults during the core survey period were used to construct a categorical description of abundance for individual sites and sites combined within elevation zones (Table 3).

Breeding status and abundance are presented for sites combined within elevation zones (Table 4) and for individual sites (Table 5).

Participants

Thanks to all the participating observers who made this project successful (site leaders are bolded): **Brad Andres**, **David Balogh**, **Inga Brennan**, Barbara Bridges, Karel Buckley, Darlene Cate, Nancy Cook, Lindy Doty, Jim Duggan, Sheila Duranso, **Fran Enright**, **Loie Evans**, Barbara Fay, **Mike Foster**, **Carolyn Fraker**, **Barbara Jean Gard**, Carol Goldstein, Leslie Griffith, Derek Hankins, Peggy Hankins, Susan Harper, Mike Henwood, Debbie Hottinger, Barbara Isaac, Heather Johnson, Clint Jones, Barbara Klaus, Marilyn Kaussner, Kathy LaTourrette, **Kathanne Lynch**, Rebecca Martin, Meredith McBurney, Carolyn Mikkelson, Betty Minges, Barbara Nabors, Irene Neff, **Kayleen Niyo**, Chris Pfaff, Mary Pulick, Donald Randall, Toni Rautus, **Warren Roske**, Nina Routh, Glen Rodriguez, **Bob Santangelo**, **Else van Erp**, Tom van Erp, Bud Weare, **Larry White**, Mike Wilson and **Sherman Wing**.

- Brad A. Andres

Editor's Note: The complete report including tables will be posted at www.dipper.org.

Bear Creek Atlas Sites and Leaders

Sites and leaders for the 2009 Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas Program (BCA). Contact the leaders to learn when surveying at these sites will take place. Beginners welcome. This is a great way to learn the birds of our vicinity.

Bell Park

Deb Callahan, upperbearDEB@earthlink.net 303-674-4923

Cub Creek Park

Larry White, llarrywhite@msn.com 303-674-0535

Flying J Ranch Park

Dave Balogh, david3drb@netscape.net 303-679-2799

Genesee Park

Inga Brennan, missing35mm@aol.com 720-746-1780

Hayden Green Mountain Park

Mike Foster, m1foster@comcast.net 303-456-2647

Mount Goliath Trail

Fran Enright, franenright@earthlink.net 303-674-2657

Mount Judge & Snyder Mountain

Fran Enright: see above

Red Rocks Park

Susan Harper, sharper74@msn.com 303-670-9377

Truesdell Creek Trail, aka Beartrack Lakes Trail

Brad Andres, heatherbrad1@yahoo.com 303-670-0101

Calendar

- May 2 Attracting Birds That Don't Eat Seed (*Nature Center Program*)
 May 3 Dawn Chorus
 May 7 Chapter Meeting
 May 9 Birding by Ear (*Nature Center Program*)
 May 9 Plains Conservation Center with Botany Group
 May 15 Star Gazing (*Nature Center Program*)
 May 15 Matthew Winters Park with Botany Group
 May 16 Birding by Ear (*Nature Center Program*)
 May 16 Spring Flowers (*Nature Center Program*)
 May 30 Garden Smart (*Nature Center Program*)
 June 4 Chapter Meeting

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 deadline for the June Dipper is Thursday, May 7.

Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org

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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***

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THE DIPPER

In This Issue

- Dawn Chorus
- Bench Dedication
- Weed Calendar

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

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The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
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 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.

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