



# THE DIPPER

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MAY 2010

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

## DAWN CHORUS

International Dawn Chorus Day is the worldwide celebration of nature's daily miracle. All around the globe on May 2, people will be up early to greet the rising sun and witness the awakening of another day.

Join us at 5:45 a.m. on the boardwalk near Evergreen Lakehouse to view the sunrise over the hills, listen to songs of the Red-winged Blackbirds and watch the ducks and muskrats start another busy day.

Pastries and coffee will be available at the Nature Center just after dawn.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the reception and breakfast in the Nature Center. Contact Michael Stills at 303-330-0489 or [www.evergreenaudubon.org](http://www.evergreenaudubon.org).

## EA MEMBERSHIP

Total members	616
NAS only	428
EA Individual	160
Additional Family	74
Both NAS and EA	46
<i>Dipper</i> only	1
Courtesy <i>Dippers</i>	20
Total addresses	562
Digital mailings	108
Hard copies mailed	81
No newsletter	380

## NEXT MEETING

Our next regular chapter meeting won't be until Sept. 2, but please plan to attend our annual picnic July 17.

## Nature Center reopens for season

Evergreen Nature Center opened its doors onto a mostly ice-covered Evergreen Lake on April 10, but by April 18 the lake was clear and visitors were flowing in.

The Nature Center will be open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through May 26. Starting May 29, hours will be Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The ENC will be open Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The first monthly open house for potential ENC volunteers will be Wednesday, April 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Nature Center. Please call the Nature Center at 303-330-0489 for more information, or visit [evergreenaudubon.org](http://evergreenaudubon.org) and click on the Evergreen Nature Center link to indicate your level of interest in attending the event.



*Kay Niyo spotted two pairs of Western Bluebirds at the lake on April 4, a few days before the Nature Center opened for the season. Photo by Kay Niyo*

The second ENC Volunteer Open House will be Saturday, May 22, from 4 to 6 p.m.

A job description and application for Visitor Assistant are available on the Evergreen Audubon website; however, volunteer opportunities are not limited to helping visitors at the Nature Center.

"We have a lot going on this spring and we are wondering if there is anyone out there who just can't get enough of helping Evergreen Audubon," said Nature Center Executive Director Michael Stills.

Early risers are needed to staff the Dawn Chorus on Sunday, May 2, starting at 5:45 a.m. "We could use some help setting up the Nature Center for drinks and snacks, signing

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## MAY PROGRAM: BEAR AWARE

It's that time of year when Colorado's black bears emerge from hibernation. Male bears come out first, females with cubs later, but they will all be out by May. Just in time, our May 6 chapter meeting will feature an Evergreen resident explaining the state's Bear Aware program.

Bear Aware is a network of more than 220 trained Colorado Division of Wildlife volunteers throughout the state who help their neighbors and communities prevent problems for themselves and bears. Volunteers answer questions, offer practical advice and even make house calls.

An Evergreen resident since 1975, Jeff

Bogard has been a Bear Aware volunteer for the past 10 years. "The idea (behind the Bear Aware program) was that much of the negative interaction between bears and humans is the result of carelessness or lack of information on the part of the humans," Jeff said.

Today 8,000 to 12,000 Colorado black bears are trying to share space with an ever-growing human population.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission is considering a plan to issue 1,200 bear-hunting licenses this year, nearly doubling the number of bear tags available last year.

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### 2010 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	David Wald	303-674-0417 president@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Vice President</b>	Mike Wilson	303-697-9445 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648 secretary@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Diane Sears	303-883-0810 treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Bird Monitoring</b>	Brad Andres	303-670-0101 birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Communications</b>	Lisa Wald	303-674-0417 communications@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Conservation</b>	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779 conservation@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Development</b>	Mimi Nelson	303-674-3192 development@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Education</b>	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699 education@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Social Events</b>	Marge Peterson	303-670-4310 socialevents@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>At Large</b>	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101 atlarge1@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>At Large</b>	Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715 atlarge2@evergreenaudubon.org

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Audubon Color.</b>	TBD	
<b>Bear Creek Atlas</b>	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
<b>Bird Box Sales</b>	Bud Weare	303-679-8889
<b>Bird Business</b>	TBD	
<b>Conservation</b>	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
<b>Dipper Editor</b>	Debbie Marshall	303-674-3752 marshallpub@skybeam.com
<b>Education</b>	Cheryl Manning	303-679-0699
<b>Field Trips</b>	Karel Buckley	303-670-8859
<b>Hospitality</b>	Rachel Hutchinson	303-679-1503
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
<b>Membership</b>	Kent Simon	303-674-3017 ksimonbib@comcast.net
<b>Nature Center</b>	Michael Stills	303-921-1936 enctdirector@evergreenaudubon.org
<b>Program</b>	Barbara Nabors	303-697-9445 crowhollow@gmail.com
<b>Publicity</b>	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402 irmasonny@aol.com
<b>Weeds</b>	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610 sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com
<b>Webmaster</b>	Lisa Wald	303-674-0417

Meetings first Thursday except January, June, July, August  
7 p.m., Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DAVID WALD

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” (WS)

You’ve probably noticed that I, the board of directors and many of our society’s members have switched, when referring to our society, from “TENAS” to “Evergreen Audubon.”

This change is reflected in our newsletter (*The Dipper*) banner, our letter-heads and, if we’ve been careful, just about any other printed or web-related materials we’ve sent out. Our new web page is [www.evergreenaudubon.org](http://www.evergreenaudubon.org).

Why the switch? Well, a number of reasons, including gaining more recognition in the Evergreen community. Recognition is important to keep our society alive and growing, to let people know who we are and to give credit where credit is due for our efforts in the community and now, for running the Evergreen Nature Center.

“Who we are” includes being a local chapter of the National Audubon Society (which does not refer to itself as “NAS,” by the way). Almost all chapters are simply (Location) Audubon, with or without “Society” tacked on, as desired.

In many ways “TENAS” is an insiders’ acronym, for those in the know, but it’s not a great way to get our friends and the community to remember who we are and what we do. After all, we’re about birds, not swatting tennis balls. (For those not in the know, it stands for The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society.)

Say “Audubon” out loud; what images come to mind? We want our community to associate with these images. In “Made to Stick” (Heath), a practical guide to effective communication, we learn that presentation is everything, and that logos, acronyms and mottos can really save or sink an organization.

Organizations spend serious time and resources to associate themselves with all things good, and occasionally, they simply decide a change of branding is in order.

Audubon has name recognition; it is a name brand. It is a good brand to be affiliated and associated with, and it’s rightfully ours to own. Say “Evergreen Audubon” out loud a few times. I think it sounds good. Why not tout our credentials?

This transition may be more natural to some of you than others, but we beg your cooperation with the direction we are going, and the rationale for doing so.

For the record, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization we are incorporated as “The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society.” We see no need nor desire to change this. After all, “A rose is a rose is a rose.” (GS)

## VIP VOLUNTEERS

- Thanks to board member **Mimi Nelson** for spearheading our April fundraising drive. This was and is a lot of work and Mimi, a development professional, guided us through what we hope will be a successful fundraising campaign!

- To Evergreen Park and Recreation District candidates **Pat Callahan** and **Kit Darrow** for taking the time to visit our chapter meetings.

- To anyone who posted a “Local Sighting” comment on the EA website, and to everyone who’s viewed these great sightings! For the record, **Sherman Wing** has the most contributions. Keep it up!

# MAY PROGRAM: BEAR AWARE

Continued from page 1

The DOW made the proposal after officials killed a record-setting 20 bears in Aspen because of human encounters.

If the number were increased this year, the additional licenses would be made available to the Aspen area. The goal is to control the animals' population and reduce interaction with people.

The DOW also wants to use its Bear Aware program to inform Aspen residents about how people can coexist with bears and other wildlife.

Jeff will address Evergreen Audubon on May 6 about the biology and natural history of the Colorado black bear as well as how to coexist with bears.

"Many of the human-bear conflicts of the past few years are the result of attracting bears through our efforts to feed birds," Jeff said. "Your group can be crucial to our efforts to minimize human-bear conflicts, and care for our spring, summer and fall birds."



*The May 6 EA program will examine how to coexist with bears. DOW photo*

Jeff was a member of the original staff at the Mountain Open High School (then located in Evergreen) and

taught there for 30 years. His education includes bachelor of science degrees in biology and chemistry and a master's degree in the social, multicultural and bilingual foundations of science teaching.

He is education director for the Colorado division of the Great Bear Foundation and a 20-year board member of the Clear Creek Land Conservancy.

His interest in wildlife education began while helping the Lookout Mountain community deal with human-mountain lion conflicts more than a decade ago.

Be sure to attend this informative presentation. Guests are welcome. Our Thursday, May 6, 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. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow.

- Barbara Nabors, Program chair

## Celebrate Migratory Bird Day at Nature Center May 8

On May 8, birders from across the country are hosting events to celebrate the return of our migratory birds. This year, the Evergreen Nature Center will participate in the celebration.

Doors will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and there will be activities for all ages. Bird experts will lead a field trip to teach others how to monitor birds for the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas.

If you are interested in being a volunteer to monitor breeding birds throughout the Bear Creek Watershed, this is the trip for you! To find out how to join the trip, please call Mike Foster at 303-456-2647 or send him an email at [mike1.foster@comcast.net](mailto:mike1.foster@comcast.net).

There also will be two birding trips around Evergreen Lake. The first begins at 11 a.m. and the second at 1 p.m.

Both trips will leave from the Evergreen Nature Center and won't exceed one hour. No prior birding experience is required.

In addition to these field trips, there will be children's activities throughout the day, including bird crafts and free

materials on International Migratory Bird Day. There also will be bird experts on site to answer your birding questions, share gee-whiz bird facts, provide information about where our birds spend the long winter months, and share fun hands-on activities about bird adaptations.

If you have any questions about the upcoming International Migratory Bird Day celebration or would like to volunteer for the event, please call Heather Johnson at 303-670-0101 or email [heather\\_johnson@fws.gov](mailto:heather_johnson@fws.gov).

- Heather Johnson

## Nature Center's mission grows

Continued from page 1

people in, and helping me coordinate data collection," Michael said.

As the Nature Center's mission in the community grows, there are many areas in which volunteers would be welcome, such as marketing, writing, web-page skills, database development, public speaking and carpentry.

The Nature Center also welcomes those willing to train and serve as Program Naturalists, to provide nature-education classes at the Nature Center, around Evergreen Lake and in other venues.

Free ENC programs get underway in

May. (See Field Trips and Programs on page 7.)

To offer your help in any capacity, call 303-330-0489 or email [encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org).

### Needed for the Nature Center

We're looking for a few items for the Nature Center! Can anyone donate a heavy-duty tripod (vintage is fine), binoculars (reasonable quality), a wireless phone system, or a slide/movie screen (big, not necessarily portable)?

If so, please contact Nature Center Executive Director Michael Stills ([encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org)).



Sherman Wing saw a pair of Cassin's Finches in his Indian Hills yard on March 21 and Jonelle Balais observed Cassin's Finches at her feeders in Witter Gulch on March 24–25, along with a first for her feeders—one Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch and five Brown-capped Rosy-Finches.

Joining in the party at the Balais feeders were chickadees, juncos, Pygmy Nuthatches, Steller's Jays and crows.

Jonelle was treated to a view of her neighbor's large group of Evening Grosbeaks later on the 25th. She counted 50, but would not be surprised if there were 100 or more.

Sherman reported on March 31 that Peregrine Falcons had been back at Red Rocks for a week. He saw a pair of these rare and formerly endangered birds late in the afternoon on the 31st. The Peregrines demonstrated very strong territorial behavior in the hour that he was there and he hopes the two will stick-around. Please be respectful when observing them.

Sherman had Red Crossbills at his feeder on April 3 and on April 5 Larry White observed them showing courtship behavior in his yard on Upper Bear Creek at 7,700 feet.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, Sherman observed 15 species in Mount Falcon Park. He saw all three nuthatches, including abundant numbers of pygmies, as well as many Pine Siskins and Dark-eyed Juncos. There were three pairs of Mountain Bluebirds and one (first of the season) male Western Bluebird. He also heard the "gobble" of the Wild Turkey.

Pat Wyker saw a Lesser Goldfinch, (green-backed) on April 5 in her Georgetown backyard. She also sighted male and female Mountain Bluebirds at George-



*Gray-headed Junco on a wintry day in Indian Hills. Photo by Sherman Wing*

town Lake on April 10. The courting couple seemed oblivious to the wild winds so prevalent to the area.

Sherman saw six Western Bluebirds in Indian Hills on April 8, checking out the nesting boxes. Two days later, he saw his first Indian Hills Turkey Vulture of the season and an American Goldfinch—a male in breeding plumage.

Jonelle spotted her first-of-the-season Band-tailed Pigeons (three) at her feeder April 13 in Witter Gulch.

Debra Callahan reports that April 12 was the first time this year she saw Double-crested Cormorants at Evergreen Lake.

She also saw a Great Blue Heron on top of the spruce tree where they have nested in past years, on Upper Bear Creek Road.

Sherman heard a Broad-tailed Hum-

mingbird in Indian Hills the evening of April 15. He and Jonelle were both hoping to see hummers at their newly filled feeders soon.

Sherman reported from three parks on April 17:

"Today at Dedisse Park, there were about a dozen Evening Grosbeaks foraging near the bridge. Also singing Cassin's Finch, Western Bluebirds, Pine Siskins, Hairy Woodpecker . . . Everything seems to be coming in now.

"Today at O'Fallon Park, in the stream, along the road, two pairs of American Dippers singing. Perhaps a pair will nest there again this season.

"Today at Mount Falcon, on the north-facing slope, the most abundant birds today were the (noisy) Red-breasted Nuthatches. Also heard Wild Turkeys farther downhill, below me."

## MEMBERSHIP

KENT SIMON

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

### New

Eve & Roger Colton—Golden  
Christine Peebles—Indian Hills

### Diane Westman—Evergreen New Family

Ginny & Andy Ades—Evergreen  
John Soukup & Anne Field—Evergreen  
Pierre & Louise McDonald—Golden

### Renewing

Ruth Alford—Evergreen  
Tory Hurst—Evergreen  
Art & Judy Lange—Golden  
Warren Roske—Golden  
Kent Simon—Evergreen

### Jane Stewart—Kittredge Renewing Family

Ed & Andrea Furlong—Evergreen  
Debbie & Don Marshall—Evergreen  
Mark Meremonte & Margaret McDole—  
Evergreen  
Kate Hart & Cheryl Pieper—  
Buffalo Creek  
Sylvia & Bob Robertson—Evergreen  
Cathy & Jim Shelton—Evergreen  
Anne & Howard Spery—Evergreen

## MEET THE BOARD: TREASURER DIANE SEARS

Diane Sears is just the person every nonprofit organization dreams of having on its team—a financial whiz who loves problem solving.

Evergreen Audubon's new treasurer moved to town five years ago to open Evergreen Wild Bird Store with her husband, John. They became involved with EA almost immediately, but Diane didn't join the board until this year.

Former treasurer Walt Phillips had initially talked to her about the job, but Michael Stills and Peggy Durham sealed the deal a few months ago, with the aid of Diane's husband.

"This time I was in a good spot," Diane said. "With the changes in the board structure it really clicked for me. They really did need the help."

Diane had been plenty busy, spending her first year in town at the couple's store in Bergen Park, doing the bookkeeping and getting the business up and running.

The plan always had been for her to find a job outside the store after the first year, but by then she didn't have far to look. So many people had talked to her about their need for help as she learned the ins and outs of small-business accounting that she found herself self-employed.

"I had to brush up on some of the accounting principles," said Diane, who came from a background of financial operations at large companies.

Now she goes into local businesses in "various stages of chaos," puts their financial houses in order and then moves on to maintaining their accounts.

"I'm always looking for new projects as clients move to the maintenance phase," she said. "I just love it. I love the diversity of it. I love learning new things."

Diane grew up in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, but always had a travel bug. "Boston was the focus then," she said, "but I just wanted to see the world."

She attended the University of Maine and graduated from the Katharine Gibbs School in Boston. After that, she satisfied the travel bug by finding temporary jobs in cities she wanted to visit.

Eventually she decided it was time



*Diane Sears*

for some permanence, and landed a job back in Maine with Merrill Lynch.

She moved with Merrill Lynch to Washington, D.C., later joining Crown Life Insurance, a Canadian company with a presence in Alexandria, Va., because it offered a chance to learn new things.

Six years later that company was sold, and she decided she didn't want to move to Colorado to stay with the new owner.

The next time a company invited her to move to Colorado, she accepted, and joined MCI's IT department in Colorado Springs in 1993. Ten years later, the end of her job with MCI allowed her and John to "sit back and say now what are we going to do?"

The couple, who had married in Alexandria in 1983, decided they were ready to fulfill John's dream of owning a bird-supply store. He had just finished a marketing degree at Regis College in Colorado Springs when Diane was laid off, so they started scouting for a store location.

By now they didn't want to leave Colorado, so they did a lot of research, looking for locations and rejecting the idea of opening a franchise bird store in favor of a strong, independent small business. "We wanted to do our own thing," Diane said.

"John brought me here and I fell in

love with it almost immediately," Diane said of her first visit to Evergreen. They put the word out to a couple of brokers on a Thursday, and by Friday they had found their current space on Castle Court.

A bird store was a natural for John and Diane, for whom birds had been a passion for years. At first when they hiked together, Diane would go on ahead when John stopped to examine a bird, but she soon found herself pausing with him. Their mutual interest in birding grew from there.

As retail storeowners, they don't get to travel much now, but they did carve out a little time recently for a birding trip to Arizona. (See John's trip report at [www.evergreenaudubon.org](http://www.evergreenaudubon.org) under Local Sightings.)

Diane loves to quilt, knit and read. She and John live in the Kings Valley neighborhood of Conifer, where they are well known for hosting huge flocks of rosy-finches.

Diane's business, Evergreen Office Solutions, is a member of the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce and she is on the board of Women in Evergreen Business.

Her addition to the Evergreen Audubon board has been a valuable one, said David Wald, president of the board. "She has modern computer, spreadsheet and bookkeeping skills, a strong work ethic, she's a nice person to work with. We're extremely lucky to have her."

Beyond her accounting skills, David said, "Her presence on the BOD is also vital as an independent, clear thinking, enthusiastic and critical voice."

Diane is involved in the financial operations of Evergreen Nature Center, particularly by setting up processes to track expenditures as the ENC is awarded various grants.

According to David, "Even with the addition of the significant complexities of adding the Nature Center activities to our books, we'll be in better shape overall in terms of financial oversight."

"I'm a project person," Diane said. "I've always done a lot of analyzing and problem solving."

- Debbie Marshall

Mid-May marks the opening of the Posey Posse field-trip season. This year we are planning 12 trips to spots of great floral display from the plains of Colorado up to the Continental Divide.

Roughly half of those will be in our own “neighborhood,” the Bear Creek drainage. The trips range from easy walking to some strenuous hiking.

Although our excursions have been day or half-day trips in the recent past, this year we hope to spend two nights and three days in Rocky Mountain National Park.

With that exception, our trips take place on Fridays between the middle of May and the middle of August.

In addition to providing wildflower identification and education for ourselves on our own trips, Posey Posse members contribute to the community.

We are Adopt-a-Plot participants at Evergreen Lake with the Weed Awareness Campaign and we help identify weeds at Weed Campaign functions. Several members also lead field trips for the Evergreen Nature Center, Evergreen Audubon, various Colorado State Parks and Lookout Mountain Nature Center.

Finally, if you have a mysterious plant in your yard, we will help you identify it.

One of our long-term projects is the creation of a Xerox herbarium of Evergreen Lake flora for the use of the community. We also wish to provide assistance in reintroducing native plants to the Evergreen Lake environs.

Our members take lots of closeup and medium-range flower photographs. Many are displayed on our private web page.

John Moyer photographs plants for Plains Conservation Center and Golden Gate State Park. Cathy Shelton and Shira Reiss also have taken some eye-opening photos.

Our leaders—Sylvia Brockner, Else Van Erp, Pam Little and Lynne Price—have a lifetime of experience between them on the trails of our region.

We have other members such as Marilyn Kaussner and Sylvia Robertson who are reluctant leaders but they know their stuff too. If you join us, we encourage your active participation on our trips. However,

our activities are a la carte and if your interest is solely in the herbarium or the Nature Center garden, that is fine too.

The Posse is open to teenagers and adults, experienced wildflower enthusiasts as well as beginners and those with a more casual interest. Most of the members live in the foothills but we also have members from Denver, Lakewood, Aurora and Littleton.

Our members also belong to other plant-oriented organizations such as the Colorado Native Plant Society, Denver Botanic Gardens and, of course, Evergreen Audubon.

The Posse is devoted to its activities but we also really enjoy ourselves. If you would like further information, please contact Lynne Price at trailwalker63@hotmail.com or 303-910-8817.

## May–June Schedule

May 14, Friday	Elk Meadow
May 21, Friday	Roxborough Park
June 4, Friday	Boulder-Betasso Preserve/Bluebell Mesa
June 11, Friday	Beaver Ranch
June 18, Friday	Apex Park
June 25, Friday	Deer Creek Canyon

For details, contact Lynne Price, trailwalker63@hotmail.com or 303-910-8817. Arrangements are subject to change so it is for your convenience that we know if you plan to attend.

## Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas 2010 Sites and Leaders

Participating in the BCBBA Project is a great way to learn more about the birds in our area. Beginners are welcome. Call the leader(s) of the sites you would like to visit to learn when they plan survey trips. Our active season is May 1 to July 31.

**Chief Mountain Trail**, Forest Road 192, Arapahoe National Forest combined with **Squaw Mountain Trail**, Arapahoe National Forest  
Larry White, 303-674-0535 llarrywhite@msn.com

**Maxwell Falls**, Arapahoe National Forest  
Heather Johnson, 303-670-0101 heather\_johnson@fws.gov

**Hicks Mountain**, Denver Mountain Parks  
Brad Andres, 303-670-0101 heatherbrad1@yahoo.com

**Dedisse Park**, Denver Mountain Parks  
Susan Harper, 303-670-9377 sharper74@msn.com

**Mount Falcon Park**, Jefferson County Open Space  
Sherman Wing, sherman.margie@prodigy.net

**Bear Creek Greenbelt East**, City of Lakewood  
Mike Foster, 303-456-2647 mike1.foster@comcast.net  
Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

**Mount Evans State Wildlife Area** (Elk Management) not open until June 15  
No leader yet. Call Brad Andres, Mike Foster or Kay Niyo



## FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS KAREL BUCKLEY

### BCBBA Practice Hike

**Saturday, May 8, 8 a.m.–noon**

**Mike Foster**

Brush up on the techniques to be used in the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas program this spring and summer and become familiar with a new site in the program. Meet on the shoulder of Morrison Road (Colorado Highway 8) just past the entrance to Bear Creek Lake Park. Meeting place is east of Morrison, and just east of C-470. Call Mike at 303-456-2647 if you intend to participate. Half-day trip.

### Stories of the Stars

**Friday, May 14, 8:15 p.m.**

**Pam Little**

Join Evergreen Nature Center in a tour of the universe. Hear ancient star stories explaining shapes in the night sky. Learn amazing and fun space facts. Venus, Mars and Saturn will be guests of honor. All ages. Meet on the grass in front of Evergreen Lakehouse and bring a blanket or camp chairs. Call 303-330-0489 to sign up. Limited to 25 participants.

### Birding by Ear at ENC

**Saturday, May 15, 8 a.m.**

**Brad Andres**

Learn to identify common birds of Evergreen Lake by their songs. Good for novices and families. Contact Brad, 720-226-7614, [birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org).

### Pawnee National Grassland

**Sunday, May 16, 6 a.m.**

**Brad Andres**

Meet at the Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride for a full day of birding on the Pawnee Grassland. We will target migrants at the Crow Valley Campground and search for breeding grassland birds. Bring a lunch. Contact Brad, 720-226-7614, [birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org).

### Endangered Species Day

**Wednesday, May 19, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

**Evergreen Nature Center**

Stop by and learn about threatened and endangered species across the country from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program regional coordinator, Heather Johnson, will share habitat restoration success stories from the mountain-prairie region. She will be available all day to answer questions and discuss endangered species recovery success stories and ways you can make a difference for these imperiled species.

Contact ENC Executive Director Michael Stills, 303-330-0489, or Heather Johnson, 303-236-4316.

### Garden Smart at ENC

**Saturday, May 22**

Please visit [www.evergreenaudubon.org](http://www.evergreenaudubon.org) for further information.

### O'Fallon Park Meadow Loop Trail (South side Bear Creek Canyon—close to Kittredge)

**Saturday, May 29, 8 a.m.–noon**

**Sherman Wing and Susan Harper**

Join Sherman and Susan on a bird walk/hike, to see spring migrants and the summer residents. Meet in the O'Fallon parking lot.

This may be one of the prettiest springtime hikes in the foothills. Many of the migrants will be passing through here and many of the summer residents will be claiming and vocalizing their nesting areas.

The woods will be fresh with the new leaves, a few of the wildflowers will begin to grace the pathway and the moist soil will exude a beautiful smell of the ponderosa forest. This has always been one of my favorite hikes in the foothills and I hope you can join us.

Bring your binoculars, snacks, water and hat with brim, wear sturdy hiking boots and dress in layers for mountain spring weather. The trip will last until noon; anyone interested can join the group for lunch at nearby Bear Creek Tavern.

Contact Sherman at 303-324-9636 or [sherman.margie@prodigy.net](mailto:sherman.margie@prodigy.net) for more info and to confirm. (Sherman can describe the trail, tell you where to park, etc.)

## FIELD NOTES KATHANNE LYNCH

Three of us went to see the Sandhill Cranes on their annual spring migration through North Platte and Kearney, Neb.

Kathanne Lynch (leader) and Beth Madden spent a day looking through 20,000 Sandhills for the one Common Crane that was reported in North Platte on March 26.

We did not find the crane, so we hope it headed back safely to Siberia. New birder Susan Horst joined the party in Kearney on the 27th. We visited Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary in Gibbon on the 28th.

Each of the 500,000 individual cranes, which migrate through this magical section of the Platte River in spring, stays

for two or three weeks. The number of cranes peaks in March.

These big, gray birds are there to gain weight and nutrition before settling in at their summer nesting areas in the northern United States, Canada and Alaska.

This is a real "National Geographic moment" bird trip as everyone gets goose bumps when thousands of cranes take flight from the Platte River in the morning.

I estimated 5,000 cranes (with their 6-foot wingspans) lifted off one morning from a quarter-mile stretch of river below the Fort Kearney State Historic Park footbridge.

During the day, we watched thou-

sands of cranes eating, sleeping, preening and jumping with each other in the fields. We also watched them fly to the river at nightfall.

We camped along the river in both North Platte and Kearney, so we enjoyed hearing the cranes while we ate dinner and when we woke an hour before sunrise.

A special thanks goes to Sylvia Brockner, who planned this trip with me but decided not to go when the crane crowd dwindled to three participants. Sylvia and Bill led this trip for more than 30 years.

We saw a total of 50 species on the trip, including one Redheaded Woodpecker.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 24	Earth Day Fair	10 AM-4 PM	Evergreen Lakehouse
April 28	ENC Volunteer Open House	5-7 PM	Nature Center
May 2	International Dawn Chorus	5:45 AM	Evergreen Lake
May 6	Chapter Meeting	7 PM	Church of the Hills
May 8	Migratory Bird Day	10 AM-4 PM	Nature Center
May 8	BCBBA Practice Hike	8 AM	Bear Creek Greenbelt
May 10	Newsletter deadline	5 PM	
May 14	Posey Posse	Morning (TBA)	Elk Meadow
May 14	Stories of the Stars	8:15 PM	Evergreen Lakehouse
May 15	Birding by Ear	8 AM	Nature Center
May 16	Pawnee Grassland Trip	6 AM	Bergen Park 'n' Ride
May 19	Endangered Species Day	10 AM-4 PM	Nature Center
May 21	Posey Posse	Morning (TBA)	Roxborough Park
May 22	Garden Smart	TBA	Nature Center
May 29	Meadow Loop Trail Walk/Hike	8 AM-NOON	O'Fallon Park, Kittredge

Please submit newsletter content to Lisa Wald: [communications@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:communications@evergreenaudubon.org).  
 Email or call *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: [marshallpub@skybeam.com](mailto:marshallpub@skybeam.com), 303-674-3752.

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Meet the Board: Diane Sears  
 Posey Posse Schedule  
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