

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Banquet Donations

Irma Wolf is reminding members to think about their next donations to the silent auction at the January banquet.

It's not too soon to set things aside. Contact Irma with any donation questions at irmasonny@aol.com.

Library Exhibit

TENAS will have the exhibit area behind the glass at Evergreen Library for the month of November. Stop by and see what we put into our display.

Deadline to Order Wreaths

The deadline to order Holiday Wreaths is Oct. 31. Contact Marilyn Rhodes at cloverlane@aol.com or 303-674-6580. Details about the wreaths can be found at the TENAS website, www.dipper.org.

Nature Center to Close for Winter

The last day for this season will be Oct. 29.

Christmas Count

Sunday, Dec. 21, will be the annual Christmas Bird Count. Save the date.

Galapagos: Wildlife and Geology

The November meeting will feature a slide show on the diverse wildlife and geology of the Galapagos Islands, by Peter Link.

Peter will take us on an enchanted tour of the amazing island habitats, with their exotic wildlife and spectacular beauty. We'll get to enjoy amazing bird life, such as boobies, frigate birds and albatross; spectacular reptiles, such as the land iguana, famous Marine Iguana and giant tortoise; and marine mammals such as Galapagos sea lion and Galapagos penguin.

Peter was born in Indonesia and has been traveling to, and working on, all continents ever since. Trained as a geologist and paleoclimatologist, he has bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in geology and a minor in meteorology/climatology.

He studied the paleo-geologic continuum of geological and climatologic history of the earth. A resident of Evergreen since 1991, Pe-



Blue-footed Booby at its nest in the Galapagos Islands. Photo © Peter Link

ter is a member of a number of geologic professional organizations, a local softball team and the Evergreen Chorale.

The Thursday meeting will be held Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across the highway from Evergreen Library) in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow the program.

Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

If you need the perfect holiday gift, TENAS has lovely and reasonably priced balsam fir wreaths for sale. They are fresh, very fragrant and will last into the New Year! They'll dress up your home and make ideal gifts for your family, friends, coworkers and clients—both in-town and out-of-town.

We're offering a new wreath this year, the 25-inch Wintergreen Wreath, along with the two seasonal favorites we've sold in the

past, the 25-inch Classic Wreath and the 25-inch Victorian Wreath. The Classic and Victorian Wreaths are available for in-town pickup but the Wintergreen Wreath is not.

All of the wreaths are pictured on our website (www.dipper.org) and are available as Holiday Gift Wreaths (HGW) for out-of-town delivery. Note, although the Victorian HGW has plug-in lights on it, the in-town Victorian Wreath does not.

Continued on Page 3



President's Message

Trails

Many TENAS members have been focused on the development and subsequent operation of our new nature center for the last year. Our efforts have proven successful in educating children and adults alike. The programs have included very local subjects, from the water in Evergreen Lake and the history of the Bear Creek watershed to the very popular astronomy classes.

As president, I have been immersed in the efforts required to make a go of the nature center. Recently I decided to get outside of Evergreen a bit more and see what other worthy projects were attracting volunteers.

Several years ago, a chapter meeting was devoted to the 14ers Initiative, which described the building and maintenance of trails on 14ers. I remember thinking, during that program, "Who on earth would spend a weekend of hard labor on a trail instead of merely hiking it?"

On National Public Lands Day, I had the opportunity to find out. I signed up to join the trail maintenance crew on the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. The group of 24 workers plus forest service leaders leapfrogged up the trail, first repairing the damage since last year.

The section of the trail we were assigned was particularly difficult since it was built long ago, going straight up the fall line rather than with a lot of switchbacks. This trail design resulted in water from rainfall gushing straight down the trail instead of having many corners to divert it off the trail.

The existing water bars needed to be cleaned out and refreshed. When the crew reached the point on the trail where the maintenance from last year stopped, the hard labor really began—clearing deadfall and building new water bars.

I have hiked in the Rockies and in New England for many years, always taking the existence and maintenance of trails for granted. My day of hard labor (and there will be more) is but a small payback for the efforts of others to make our trails accessible and safe for all.

Environment

TENAS was a sponsor at the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education Film Festival in Golden in early October.

Continued on Page 6



• To **Walt and Polly Phillips** for presenting their slide show to the chapter meeting in October. Their pictures and narrative of underwater photography were stunning. The colors were brilliant and all the creatures, those that move and those that don't (much), were fascinating. Thank you both.

• To **Trish and Rune Tofte** for donating a high-end printer to the nature center. Thank you.

• To **Jim and Michelle Gehr**, owners of Frames for All Reasons, for replacing free-of-charge the glass in one of the photos that fell on the floor during the art exhibit at the library.

• To **Jane Conrad** (whom I neglected to mention in the previous *Dipper*) for her work on the committee that organized the fundraiser in June for the nature center. Mea culpa.

• To **Carolyn Fraker** and **Dave Balogh** for helping set up the display table at the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education Film Fest and to **Ginny Boschen** for staffing it on the final day.

• To **Brad Andres** for leading a nature tour around the lake for a group of executives from Caridian BCT in August.

2008 Officers

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Classic Wreath



25-inch Wintergreen Wreath, new this year

2008 Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

Continued from Page 1

Orders are due no later than Oct. 31. Prices are listed below.

25-inch Classic Wreath (in-town delivery)	\$20
25-inch Victorian Wreath (in-town delivery)	\$23
25-inch Classic HGW (out-of-town delivery)	\$28
25-inch Victorian HGW (out-of-town delivery)	\$31
25-inch Wintergreen HGW (out-of-town delivery)	\$32

Last year this sale generated more than \$1,700 to support our projects. If you can help with sales and delivery or would like to place an order, call Marilyn Rhodes at 303-674-6580 or e-mail her at cloverlane@aol.com.

Payment, by cash or check, for in-town wreaths is due at pickup and for Holiday Gift Wreaths at time of order. The wreaths should be delivered just before Thanksgiving. Please support our chapter by participating in this important fundraiser.

- Marilyn Rhodes



Victorian Wreath



Bird Business

Fall migration was up and down all this autumn. Hummingbirds did quite well. Shorebirds were not too common at Evergreen Lake. The Sabine's Gull flight was the highest yet counted, with 19 seen at Chatfield Reservoir in September. Red Crossbills also showed up in good numbers.

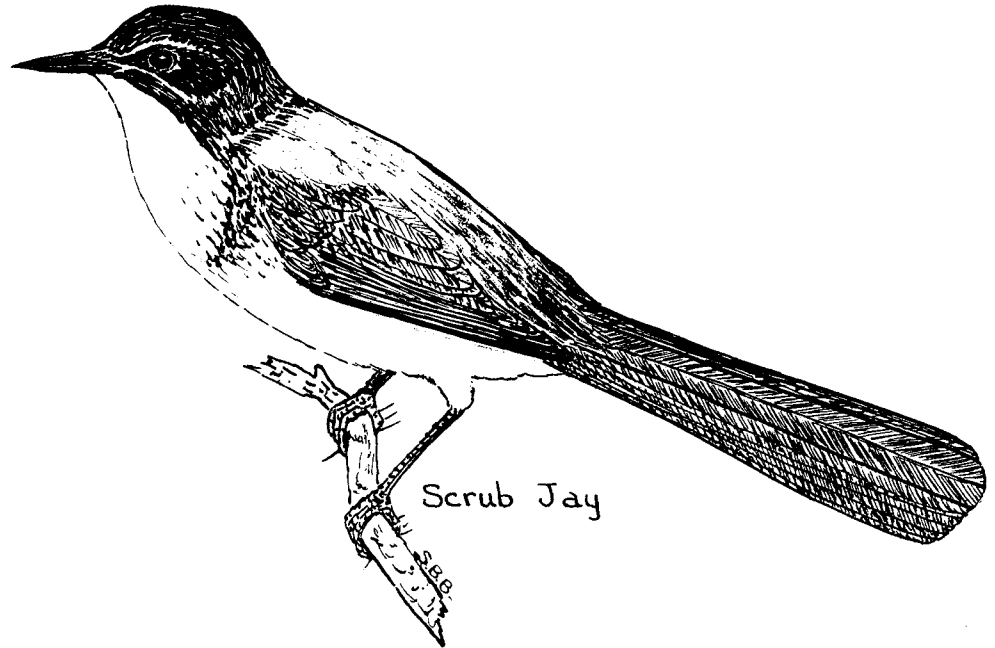
While hiking in Alderfer-Three Sisters Park, Karel Buckley watched two Canyon Wrens on Aug. 4. They nest in this area.

Eight Common Nighthawks were spotted by Sherman Wing in Indian Hills on Aug. 9. They were getting ready to move southward.

Two Rufous Hummingbirds came into the Inmans' yard in early August. These are the fighting hummers.

Sherman Wing studied two Sage Sparrows on Aug. 18 in Indian Hills. These sparrows show up in the foothills nearly every fall.

Denver birder Patty Echelmeyer found a Cordilleran Flycatcher's nest on Aug. 25, in Georgetown. There were four young in the nest. Trish Tofte welcomed a Scrub Jay back to her feeders



Membership

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

New

Jane Wilson-Golden

New Family

David Cuellar & Donna Forrest-Evergreen

Renewing

Jeff Geiger-Evergreen
Cindy Miller-Morrison
Barbara Voth-Evergreen
Felicity Hannay & James Wood-Golden

Renewing Family

Walt & Polly Phillips-Evergreen
John & Diane Sears-Evergreen
Sherry & Tom Walker-Evergreen

in Kittredge on Aug. 28. It might spend the winter here.

A Eurasian Collared Dove was observed near Bailey on Sept. 2. It was checked by Mike Krieger. This species is increasing throughout North America.

A Virginia Rail was busy feeding in the marsh at Evergreen Lake on Sept. 10 and 11. It was first seen by Loie Evans.

Kathi LaTourette saw the last Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Evergreen on Sept. 26.

Fall is in the air! On Sept. 29, Betty Minges was serenaded by a flock of Sandhill Cranes flying and calling over her house in Genesee.

Helen Swem visited Alaska in August. While there she attended a ribbon-

cutting ceremony at a new museum. The late Ted Swem was mentioned for his pioneer work in fighting to preserve parks in that state.

Dr. Tom Boschen visited Montana in August and September. He enjoyed Red Rocks National Wildlife Refuge and its Trumpeter Swans. He also loved the Robert Bateman Art Show in the museum at Jackson Hole.

Art and Trudy Morse have moved to Omaha. We will miss you! Their new address is 15967 Howard Street, Omaha, NE 68118.

Time to dance at the Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. Watch for details.

- Bill Brockner



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)



Elk Meadow Nest Box Monitoring—2008

Between March 16 and Aug. 21, we made 11 visits to monitor bluebird and other cavity-nester use of the 31 nest boxes placed in Elk Meadow Park.

Male Mountain Bluebirds were seen in Elk Meadow by Feb. 29, and several pairs were found around boxes during our first visit on March 16. Pairs of Western Bluebirds were first observed on our April 5 visit.

Although swallows were present in Elk Meadow on May 4, we did not find eggs of any species until our May 17 visit. The cool spring may have delayed egg laying by bluebirds.

Similar to use in 2007, nests were constructed in all 31 boxes. Overall, 139 young of six species were produced in the nest boxes in 2008, for an average productivity of 4.5 young per box.

Compared to 2007, nest boxes were occupied by fewer Mountain Bluebirds (-15%) and more Western Bluebirds (+40%) in 2008.

Productivity of bluebirds was higher in 2008 (Table 1), which resulted in an increase in the number of young produced, relative to 2007, by Mountain Bluebirds (+28%) and Western Bluebirds (+35%).

Only five bluebird pairs re-nested, of which four pairs successfully fledged

young. Because our visits only occurred every two weeks, we may have somewhat overestimated productivity.

Relative to both bluebird species, which combined laid 29 clutches, few clutches were produced by the remaining four species (5 clutches).

House Wrens appeared to destroy the nests or eggs of at least 4 pairs of bluebirds, and swallows appeared to displace 2-3 pairs of Mountain Bluebirds.

As the current nest boxes deteriorate, placement of new boxes in more open areas should reduce nest and egg predation by House Wrens.

We plan to continue monitoring efforts in 2009. If you would like to participate, please contact Brad Andres,



A Mountain Bluebird sits atop its nest box. Photo © Kay Niyo

303-670-0101, heatherbrad1@yahoo.com; or Kay Niyo, 303-679-6646, kay@kayniyo.com.

- Brad Andres, Kay Niyo, Heather Johnson

Table 1. Breeding success of birds using nest boxes in Elk Meadow Open Space, Evergreen, CO in 2008.

	Mountain Bluebird		Western Bluebird		Tree Swallow	Violet-green Swallow	Mountain Chickadee	House Wren
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
Nest attempt	13		14		2	1	1	4
No. pairs	13	2	14	3	2	1	1	4
No. nests built	11	2	13	3	2	1	1	1
No. successful nests	9	1	11	3	2	1	1	1
Clutch size	4.91	4.0	4.85	4.33	6.00	5.00	9.00	7.00
% eggs laid that hatch	80	50	89	100	75	40	100	71
% eggs laid that fledge	78	50	89	100	75	40	89	71
No. chicks fledged/pair	3.81	2.0	4.00	4.33	4.50	2.00	8.00	5.00
Number of young produced - 2008	42	4	56	13	9	2	8	5
Young produced - 2007	29	7	34	17	15	0	20	6



Demeter's Torch: Global Warming, Part 1

© Mike Foster
mike1.foster@comcast.net

Writing a short essay on global warming may be about as effective as spraying an angry rhinoceros with a water gun. Still, a raging rhino is an apt symbol for the widespread and devastating effects of all forms of climate change.

There is no longer any doubt about the impact of global warming on the environment. What remains controversial is how much of it we are causing. I'll deal with that in Part Two.

Here are a few of the threats posed by that raging rhino.

Dick Williams

It is with great regret that we make this information known. It appears that longtime TENAS member Dick Williams is missing. His truck was found in the parking lot at Summit Lake on Mt. Evans, apparently almost two weeks after it was parked there.

Dick was fond of hiking on Mt Evans. If anyone has any information about Dick, please notify Detective Woolf of the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office, 303-679-2393.

1. Decreasing supply of fresh water

Glaciers are receding at both poles, and in all mountain ranges of the world. Glaciers hold most of the world's reserve of fresh water for drinking—at a time of growing population.

Polar ice shelves and sea ice are eroding faster than fresh snow can replace them.

All oceans of the world are warming, and sea levels are rising as warm water expands. Influx of fresh water from receding glaciers and melting ice adds to rising sea levels.

2. Decreasing food resources

As Antarctic ice shelves diminish, so do the number of krill that grow there, with direct impacts on creatures like penguins and whales, and indirect impacts on the whole food chain that depends on this basic food source.

As the oceans absorb greenhouse gases, not only do they warm but they become more acidic. More acidic oceans make it difficult for mollusks, crustaceans, and corals to make the shells which protect them. (Nearly half of the U.S. seafood catch (46%) includes such creatures.) Increasing oceanic acidity also decreases the productivity of phytoplankton, the tiny plants that,

through photosynthesis, make possible the oceanic food web, and provide the planet with half its oxygen.

3. Flooding, storms, disease, instability

Rising sea levels have already created a host of interrelated problems in places as diverse as island nations (e.g., Tuvalu, Kiribati, the Maldives, and the Marshall Islands), Bangladesh (90% of which is flood plain), The Netherlands, Venice, London, villages and hunting grounds of the Inuit and Iñupiaq peoples in the Arctic, and, closer to home, the Everglades, Cape Hatteras, Delaware and Chesapeake Bays.

Besides the obvious losses of human property, more subtle results are the salinization of water supplies, loss of tidal pools, mangroves, salt marshes and other habitats near shorelines. While warming may not impact the number of tropical storms, it does seem to influence their severity. Warming is implicated in the outbreak of fungi that are killing amphibians, and in the dramatic increases in malaria, Dengue fever, hantavirus, and West Nile virus.

From such fertile ground grow social disorder, displaced people, economic

Continued on Page 7

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

In addition to our display, there were probably 20 other organizations promoting their particular interests, all under the general umbrella of environmental education or practice.

I was impressed with the diversity among the groups, but all with a common goal of limiting the damage to our environment.

I am proud that TENAS is part of this broad coalition of concerned, activist organizations, such as the University of Colorado Environmental Center, the EPA Green Vehicles program, Colorado Bioneers, Colorado State University Extension Service and the Colorado Mountain Club.

We all benefit from seeing what others are doing to promote a healthier environment. We're in good company.

Our Sympathies to our Webmaster

We extend our sympathies to Natasha Currlin Japp, our webmaster, upon the loss of her father, who lived in Brazil.

- Peggy Durham



Ginny Boschen and a representative from the Colorado Native Plant Society compare notes at the CAEE exhibit. Photo by Peggy Durham



Field Trips and Outings

Saturday, Nov. 8
Bighorn Sheep Festival at Georgetown

The festival includes bighorn sheep viewing, educational programs, a children's activity area, guided hikes and local tours, live music, a "campfire" and storytelling. It is sponsored by the Watchable Wildlife Program of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. More information can be found at www.wildlife.state.co.us/Viewing.

Thursday, Nov. 27
Annual Turkey Trot
Leader: Warren Roske, 303-526-9725

We will meet at 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, at the Bergen Park 'n' Ride for our annual excursion to see the turkeys. Warren will scout the area the week before. Please call him if you plan to attend in case of changes due to bad weather or turkey no-shows.

Sunday, Dec. 21
Evergreen-Idaho Springs
Christmas Bird Count

Brad Andres will organize the field observers and Barbara Jean Gard will organize feeder watchers. The traditional Tally Rally will be held in the evening. Details will be provided in the December *Dipper*, but if you have questions or would like to participate, call Brad, 303-670-0101, or Barbara Jean, 303-674-3280.

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

Demeter's Torch: Global Warming, Part 1

Continued from Page 6

disruption, insecurity, and war—all due to greater needs but declining resources.

4. It's all connected

Twenty-five percent of the Northern Hemisphere consists of frozen soil (permafrost) that is gradually melting, causing release of more CO₂ and methane (an even more powerful greenhouse gas than CO₂), with added impacts on global warming. Yes, because of warming, more plants are growing, and plants absorb CO₂, but the decomposition of organic matter in the permafrost is proceeding faster, meaning a net gain in greenhouse gases.

Also the balance among plants is shifting, away from sedges and forbs favored by wildlife, toward shrubs and grasses, which kill off the lichen and mosses that support wider biodiversity.

Because of warming, the boreal forest is expanding into the fragile tundra of the Northern Hemisphere. But while warming helps the forest expand, it causes other problems, notably fires and insect infestations, the ravages of which are growing.

Plants are setting seed and budding earlier. Birds are migrating earlier, and to more northerly locations. Many spe-

cies are on the move to find more suitable habitats. Thousands of scientific studies, based on long-term comparisons, have shown the disruptive effects of species moving to higher latitudes, and into higher elevations.

The problem is, not all those on the move can survive. Think of habitat as a place to live. Consider niche as a way of making a living. Species must have both. And species don't live alone. They live in communities consisting of friends, rivals, and deadly enemies. Each community is uniquely adapted to such physical factors as temperature, moisture, soil content, wind, and sunlight, which compose a particular ecosystem.

So it's not just a matter of finding another habitat, but also a viable niche, among a suitable group of other animals, plants, and microbes, surrounded by a supportive ecosystem. Some species can change and adapt, if given enough time. But biodiversity has been declining steadily for the last 11,000 years, due to a variety of human activities, beginning with regular farming.

Global warming has only accelerated the pace of extinctions. In the normal course of events, some species disappear regularly (so-called background

extinction), at a rate estimated to be one species every four years. But in the last 100 years conservative estimates are that between 1,500 and 15,000 species have been going extinct every year. Other estimates (by no means the highest) are 30,000 a year, which would put us in the range of the five greatest mass extinctions of the past 440 million years, when, in each instance, at least 65% of all species disappeared.

If you are not yet convinced, I would recommend two excellent books: "Red Sky at Morning" (Yale, 2004), by James Speth, and "Earth Under Fire" (Univ. of CA, 2007), by Gary Braasch. Speth is dean of Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and, as you would expect, his book is penetrating, scholarly, and thorough. Braasch is an award winning photojournalist, who, with clear language and revealing pictures, has documented how global warming is changing the world. For those of you ready to take action, pages 231-37 of Speth's book will get you moving.

Editor's note: The views expressed by the author are not necessarily those of the editor, directors, officers or members of TENAS.

Calendar

October 31	Last Day to Order Holiday Wreaths
November 6	Chapter Meeting
November 8	Georgetown Bighorn Sheep Festival
November 27	Turkey Trot
November	All month: Exhibit at Evergreen Library
December 4	Chapter Meeting
December 21	Christmas Bird Count

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 December issue is
Thursday, Nov. 6. Please submit articles to:
Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org***

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Time Dated Material

In This Issue

- 2008 Nest Box Survey
- Global Warming
- Field Trips

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

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