



THE DIPPER



VOL. 41 NO. 10
NOVEMBER 2011

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

27-YEAR TURKEY TROT TRADITION

If you know of a place we might reliably see turkeys on Thanksgiving morning so we can continue the Turkey Trot, please call Karel Buckley at 303-670-8859.

This bird is definitely worth seeking out. Remember, Benjamin Franklin felt the Wild Turkey had far more noble qualities than the Bald Eagle.

He recognized that the turkey was unique to America and not found in the old world as eagles are.

For more, see page 3.

CHRISTMAS COUNT AND TALLY RALLY

The 43rd Idaho Springs-Evergreen Christmas Bird Count will be held Sunday, Dec. 18. Dinner and the Tally Rally will follow at David and Lisa Wald's house in the Hiwan Country Club area near the tennis court bubbles.

Directions will be given to all count participants and those who attend the December meeting. You may also call or email the Walds for directions at communications@evergreenaudubon.org or president@evergreenaudubon.org.

As usual, we will review count procedures and expected species at the December meeting. Watch future *Dippers* for details.

Program: Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Bill Noonan, Colorado state coordinator for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, will speak at the Nov. 3 EA chapter meeting.

PFW is a private-lands habitat restoration program managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bill will provide an overview of the Colorado PFW program, providing examples of wetland, upland, riparian and fish passage projects.

Bill will teach us some of the ways that invasive species, such as tamarisk, are controlled within focus areas in Colorado, as well as how high-priority species of fish and wildlife have responded to the habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state.

With the recent interest in both Gunnison and Greater Sage-grouse, Bill will share some specific examples of how the PFW program is working to try to recover these two species.

He will close with some great examples of the excellent partnerships that have been developed in Colorado specifically to work with private landowners through community-based landscape-scale partnerships.

One example is the very successful Mountain Plover Festival. The local community of Karval, Colo., worked with the PFW program and other partners to recover the Mountain Plover and prevent the species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Please join us at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3, at Church of the Hills on Buffalo Park Road.



Burrowing Owl. Photo by Bill Noonan



American Avocets at the Pawnee National Grassland. Photo by Bill Noonan

2010 OFFICERS

President	David Wald	303-674-0417 president@evergreenaudubon.org
Vice President	Mike Wilson	303-697-9445 vicepresident@evergreenaudubon.org
Secretary	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066 secretary@evergreenaudubon.org
Treasurer	Diane Sears	303-883-0810 treasurer@evergreenaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bird Monitoring	Brad Andres	303-670-0101 birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org
Communications	Lisa Wald	303-674-0417 communications@evergreenaudubon.org
Conservation	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331 conservation@evergreenaudubon.org
Development	Mimi Nelson	303-674-3192 development@evergreenaudubon.org
Education	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699 education@evergreenaudubon.org
Social Events	Marge Petersen	303-670-4310 socialevents@evergreenaudubon.org
At Large	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101 atlarge1@evergreenaudubon.org
At Large	Tim Zeman	303-862-8061 atlarge2@evergreenaudubon.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audubon Color.	Dick Prickett	303-674-0217
Bear Creek Atlas	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Bird Box Sales	Bud Weare	303-679-8889
Conservation	Chuck Aid	303-674-3331
Dipper Editor	Debbie Marshall	303-674-3752 marshallpublish@gmail.com
Education	Cheryl Manning	303-679-0699
Field Trips	Karel Buckley	303-670-8859
Hospitality	Rachel Hutchinson	303-679-1503
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Jean Thayer	303-670-9066
Nature Center	Alyson Duffey	303-330-0489 encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org
Program	Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699
Publicity	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
Ways & Means	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402 irmasonny@aol.com
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610 sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com
Webmaster	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

Our Evergreen Audubon bylaws dictate that the board report our society's financial standing to the membership. A more detailed year-end report will be forthcoming, but for the most part we can now project the overall status for this calendar year given current income and expected expenses.

Avoiding precision—scientists like to work in approximate, rounded numbers—a synopsis of the situation is as follows.

Despite the cool economic climate, Evergreen Audubon's financial portfolio is warming. Our current assets are \$75,000, not counting a \$14,000 SCFD grant awarded but not yet funded.

Recall that for the past three years (2008, 2009, 2010), we have had operating expenses that slightly exceeded funds raised plus the \$50,000 initial capital investment we committed to starting up the Nature Center.

In each year, income grew substantially, particularly in comparison to previous (pre-Nature Center) years, but it was not sufficient to cover our total expenses. Most of the spending for running the Nature Center is the executive director's salary.

In 2011, we have both increased our income and reduced our salary cost, so we are expecting a considerable surplus rather than a deficit. This is very good news.

Income increases came from better than previous year grant income (plus \$3,000), increased fundraising (plus \$3,000) and substantial individual donations above and beyond our standard fundraising (plus \$17,000). Cost cutting was accomplished by reducing our executive director salary by about one-third by switching from a three-quarter to a half-time position.

Is this sustainable? We don't know yet. The good news is we'll start next year with a surplus. The board of directors will discuss how to proceed with the half-time position for ENC executive director, given our funding success this year.

We know our membership is small, and we've been asking a lot of you, so we are going to try to reevaluate our overall fundraising strategy to limit the number of requests we make of you as well as continue to seek additional income avenues.

We will have a December membership drive, of course, as needed for membership renewals and new member solicitation.

VIP VOLUNTEERS DAVID WALD

• A warm "thank you" to EPRD executive director **Scott Robson** for speaking to our members at the October chapter meeting. Scott's impressive presentation and Q/A session was refreshing to all who attended. Thanks also for the great questions from **Lynn, Karel, Sylvia R., Bud, Warren, Tory** and others present.

• Thanks to **Marge Petersen** for hosting this year's volunteer appreciation party. Thanks also to acclaimed chef **Heather Johnson** for quality culinary treats.

• A big thank you to **Marilyn Rhodes** for leading up the wreath sales effort (again). This is always a reliable fundraiser and holiday decorating opportunity!

• The board Nominating Committee—**Bud Weare** (chair), **Brad Andres, Peggy Durham** and **Dick Prickett**—continues to ensure we have a slate of quality board of director candidates. Good show. Retiring directors are **David Wald, Cheryl Manning, Mike Wilson, Mimi Nelson** and **Diane Sears**.

Location needed for traditional Turkey Trot

In 1984, Sylvia and Bill Brockner decided Thanksgiving mornings were a bit slow. After putting the turkey in the oven very early in the morning, Sylvia didn't have much left to prepare since she had done a lot of that the day before.

She and Bill thought there might be others with time on their hands while awaiting their feast. Perhaps they would like to go out and see a Wild Turkey?

Thus the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot was born, and it has been a regular function of Evergreen Audubon ever since. As many as 70 Wild Turkeys have been seen on Thanksgiving morning, and there were so many participants one year that Bill had to lead two trips, on two days.

Kerr Gulch was the location for most of the turkey viewing over the years. Unfortunately, increasing development and loose dogs caused the turkey numbers to dwindle.

The flock has split up and moved on, with turkeys crossing the highway to find peace and sometimes seen on the north side of I-70.

In the early years of the Turkey Trot, participants went to the Village Inn to warm up and have a hot breakfast, but that restaurant closed and other local establishments decided they did not have enough business on Thanksgiving mornings to remain open.

Tailgating became the norm, with participants sharing yummy breakfast

items and hot chocolate before heading home to watch the parades.

In 2007, Wild Turkeys were discovered at the home of Marge Petersen, furnishing a warm, cozy place to view them, but now a new location is needed.

Did you know that today there are 7 million Wild Turkeys in North America? Surely there are some in the mountain area that we can find coming off their nightly roost.

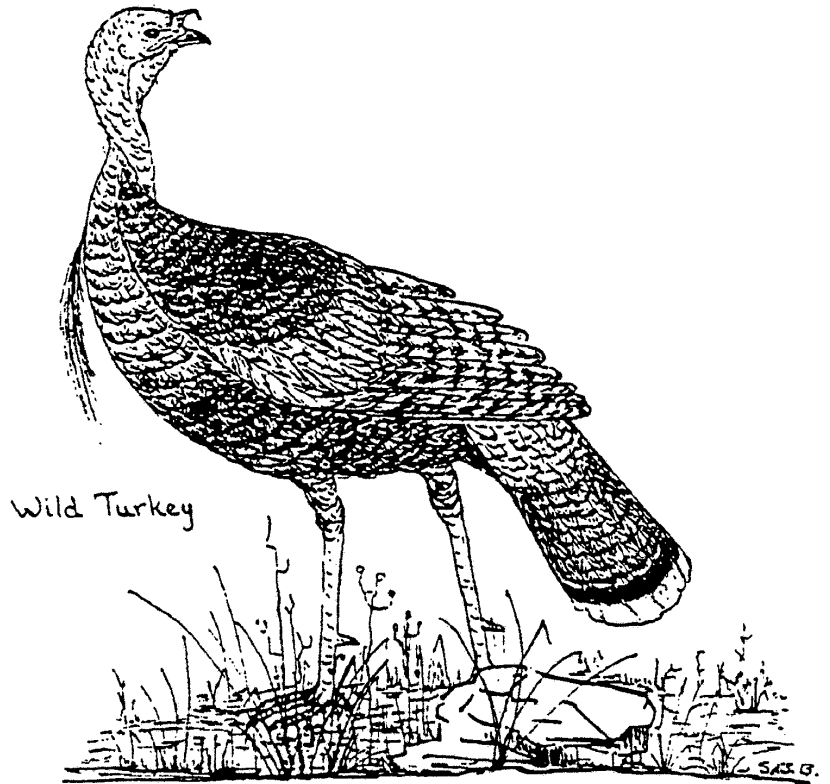
Karel Buckley has put out a request for a new, reliable location for viewing Wild Turkeys. She hopes someone will call her at 303-670-8859 so this great tradition can continue.

Some Wild Turkey facts: They can

weigh as much as 37 pounds, are able to run 25 MPH and fly 55 MPH. More than 5,000 feathers cover the body of an adult turkey. (Birds & Blooms October/November 2011)

Thank you to Sylvia Brockner for her recollection of how it all started, and to Mike Krieger for assisting in retrieval of Bill Brockner's Meleagris gallopavo (Wild Turkey) data.

- Karel Buckley



FIELD TRIPS KAREL BUCKLEY

Migrant and Winter Waterfowl

Location TBA

Sunday, Nov. 13, 8 am

Early November is a good time for the arrival of northern waterfowl and other species in our area.

We will target either nearby foothills reservoirs or South Park wetlands depending on what is being seen. We will meet at Bergen Park Park-n-Ride at 8am.

Bring a lunch, as we will plan to be gone 5-6 hours. Contact Brad Andres

at 720-226-7614 or birdmon@evergreen-audubon.org.

Denver Botanical Gardens

Thursday, Dec. 8

Karel Buckley and Marge Petersen will lead a trip to the Denver Botanical Gardens to view the Blossoms of Light exhibit. More than 1 million colorful lights draped in elegant designs will highlight the Gardens' winter beauty.

We will meet at the Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride at 4:45 p.m. to car pool and

we plan to have dinner afterward at a downtown restaurant.

Please call Karel, 303-670-8859, to sign up and for more details.

FIELD NOTE KAREL BUCKLEY

The Fall Migration field trip to Chatfield on Oct. 8 was cancelled due to 5 inches of snow. It may be rescheduled next year.

Marilyn Rhodes was happy to see that hummers were still stopping by her Hiwan home on Sept. 27 when she returned from a trip.

But she was truly startled to see a female **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** at her feeder on Oct. 24, the latest sighting she's ever had at her home.

Marilyn quoted from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology to reassure those who wonder if feeders should be taken down so as not to delay fall migration:

"We encourage people to keep hummingbird feeders full for several weeks after the last hummer leaves just in case a straggler shows up in need of additional energy before completing the long journey south."

Mike Wilson and Brad Andres had a juvenile female **Blue Grosbeak** as they put up some new nest boxes at Elk Meadow on Sept. 20. There were other sparrows and pipits overhead.

Sherman Wing reported on Sept. 27 that there were still a good number of **Western Bluebirds** in Indian Hills.

There were two males and one female **Lesser Goldfinch** in Sherman Wing's Indian Hills yard the afternoon of Oct. 1.

Karel Buckley saw a pair of **Great Horned Owls** Oct. 9 at Flying J Ranch Open Space Park. The pair appeared at dusk; both were calling as they flew from treetop to treetop.

David and Lisa Wald spotted a **Northern Mockingbird** the afternoon of Oct. 10 in Troublesome Gulch. It was the first they recall seeing in Evergreen.

Townsend's Solitaires were frequent visitors to Marilyn Rhodes' yard in October, visiting the bird bath several times a day. An adorable Abert's squirrel stopped by on Oct. 24.

On Oct. 21 at Mt. Falcon Park, Sherman Wing saw large flocks of **American Robins** feeding on the juniper berries, along with a half-dozen **Townsend's Solitaires**.

At home in Indian Hills that day, Sherman watched **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Evening Grosbeaks** on the platform feeder and **Northern Flickers**, **Downy** and **Hairy woodpeckers** eating suet.



A Stellar's Jay visited Sherman Wing at home in Indian Hills on Oct. 8 during the season's first snowstorm. Photo by Sherman Wing



More than 25 Lesser Goldfinches queued up at Sherman's thistle feeder during the first snowstorm of the season on Oct. 8. Photo by Sherman Wing



David and Lisa Wald spotted a Northern Mockingbird in Troublesome Gulch just north of Telemark Drive on Oct. 10. They are common on the East Coast, but not in Evergreen. Photo by Lisa Wald

MEET THE BOARD: CHUCK AID

Chuck Aid, the Evergreen Audubon conservation director, is getting back to his birding roots.

After teaching in the Denver area since 1997, he retired last year and moved back to Evergreen, where he lived and built homes in the 1980s.

“The interim of teaching pulled me away from my interest in birds, and now I’m trying to connect with those interests,” he said.

Besides signing on as EA Conservation director at the request of former colleague Brad Andres, Chuck joined the Denver Field Ornithologists and Denver Audubon, where he is taking its yearlong Master Birder class.

“I haven’t had a chance do a lot of birding for awhile, but I’m trying to do more,” Chuck said. “I do love it—although I’m not much of a lister.”

Chuck graduated from Prescott College in Arizona and earned a master’s in biology from the University of Colorado. His thesis work took him to Fort Huachuca in southeastern Arizona, where he studied the effects of fire on grassland birds.

Chuck worked four years as the Mexico program coordinator with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, where his Spanish background proved valuable. He also worked for the RMBO last summer doing bird census work, primarily on the eastern plains.

Chuck’s resume also includes a three-year stint managing the CU Mountain Research Station near Ward.

Of his EA conservation job, he said, “I’m still trying to find my way with this. Mostly, what it turned out to be for me initially was attending Audubon Colorado’s public-policy meetings, held while the Colorado Legislature was in session, and bringing that information back to the members of EA.

“It’s gratifying being affiliated with such a highly regarded Audubon chapter as Evergreen,” he said. “We are well respected—people realize that good things have happened in the past, and they continue to happen here.

“What I’m trying to do now is invite in more people from the Evergreen area to become involved in conservation is-

sues. As Audubon representatives, we want to be watchdogs on important environmental issues, and we want to bring our passion and our love of birds and nature to these conversations.

“However, we also need to be well-informed, viewing issues from all sides, in order to elicit the interest of a larger community, and not just be left preaching to the choir.”

EA president David Wald said Chuck’s presence on the board is much appreciated.

“The Conservation director, and Chuck in particular, plays an important policy liaison role to our Audubon board, informing us of the timely, relevant environmental issues that we might otherwise miss,” David said. “Chuck’s smile and his enthusiasm are warm additions to every board meeting.”

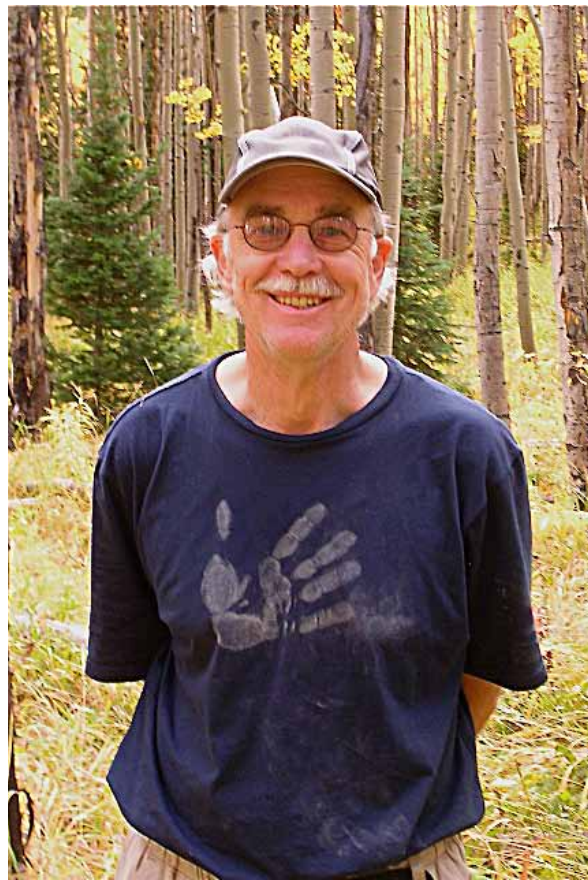
Not surprisingly, Chuck enjoys various outdoor activities, such as mountaineering and river rafting, and he is spending a lot of time fixing up his new home and pursuing fire mitigation, something he’ll be talking about with EA members.

A personal goal for the coming year is to finish a book he began in the mid-1990s on the status and needs of parks and reserves in western Mexico, where roughly 75 percent of all western North American migratory birds spend the winter.

“Typically, the dominant voices of Eastern migratory bird conservation, coupled with those promoting ‘rainforest’ conservation, have largely focused on the Atlantic slope of Mexico, the Yucatan Peninsula and farther south,” he said.

“Largely neglected in that approach is tropical deciduous forest, less than 2 percent of which remains, making it the most threatened tropical forest habitat in the New World.

“Also neglected is Mexico’s rich store of endemic bird species, which are



Chuck Aid

heavily concentrated in western Mexico, and next to absent in the southeastern lowlands.”

Chuck wants to put in a plug for what he calls “No Child Left in the Urban Environment Too Long.”

“I have a strong interest in environmental education, which I believe begins with giving kids the opportunity to build familiarity with the out-of-doors, and learn how fun it is to play in nature’s playground,” he said.

“I get concerned that we put the cart before the horse when we start talking to kids too early on about the catastrophic environmental problems plaguing us today. We should begin with love of nature, not fear. The kids who love playing in the natural world will, with greater likelihood, become the environmental advocates we seek.

“At this stage of life, I want to continue seeking out ways to be a better custodian to the beautiful world in which we live.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 3	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Nov. 13	Migrant & Winter Waterfowl	8 am	Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride
Nov. 10	Newsletter deadline	5 pm	
Nov. 24	EA Board meeting	6 pm	
Dec. 8	Denver Botanical Gardens	4:45 pm	Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride
Dec. 18	Christmas Bird Count		

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to Lisa Wald: communications@evergreenaudubon.org. Email or call *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-674-3752.

VOLUME 41, NO. 10. Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes *The Dipper* every month. Evergreen Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members may receive an electronic copy of *The Dipper* without charge or may pay \$10 a year for a mailed hard copy. Evergreen Audubon 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.

Audubon Colorado Office, 303-415-0130, www.auduboncolorado.org

Evergreen Audubon Local Membership Application

I/we would like to join the Evergreen Audubon. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter electronically, and vote (two Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain locally.

Date _____

	Individual	Family	Student
Annual dues	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 10
Electronic <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
Additional donation	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Name _____

Family member(s) name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email _____

(must include for electronic *Dipper*)

Enclosed is my check payable to: **Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437.**

I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

If you would like to join or donate to the National Audubon Society directly and receive the AUDUBON Magazine, use chapter code C9ZD090Z and call 1-800-274-4201.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Meet the Board: Chuck Aid
 Turkey Trot Tradition
 November Field Trip

IN THIS ISSUE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Dated Material

Evergreen Audubon
 P.O. Box 523
 Evergreen, CO 80437

THE DIPPER

Non-profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 21
 EVERGREEN, CO