



# THE DIPPER

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NOVEMBER 2012

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

[www.evergreenaudubon.org](http://www.evergreenaudubon.org)

## COLORADO GIVES

[www.givingfirst.org/cogivesday](http://www.givingfirst.org/cogivesday)

Evergreen Audubon will receive a certain percentage of matching funds from this year's Colorado Gives Day on Dec. 4.

EA's share will be determined by the Community First Foundation.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT

The 44th Idaho Springs-Evergreen Christmas Bird Count will be held Sunday, Dec. 16.

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.

New this year, National Audubon will not be charging a fee for participation! We will review Count procedures and expected species at the December meeting.

Check the December *Dipper* for details.

## EA BANQUET JAN. 18

The location again will be Mountain Vernon Country Club, this time in the downstairs Mt. Vernon Canyon Room, which has been completely remodeled with a fireplace and many more heat registers.

The catering manager, Steve Center, said the room warms up nicely now.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Great Backyard Bird Count will be Feb. 9 and there are plans for family events at Hiwan Homestead Museum on Meadow Drive.



*Mountain Chickadee. Photo by Alistair Montgomery*

## Impacts of energy development on birds will be topic at Nov. 1 meeting

Celia Greeman, a geologist formerly with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, will share her insights on balancing the needs of wildlife with the demand for energy at the Nov. 1 chapter meeting.

Just prior to retiring, Celia was hired as a special staff member to deal with energy companies, mostly in response to increased drilling in the Piceance Basin and wind energy development on the Eastern Plains.

As you would expect, our Colorado wildlife experiences impacts from increased energy development from oil and gas exploration and production, but it's also impacted by the development of wind, solar, hydro energy, coal mining and uranium.

Celia will talk about the direct impacts, those implying that there is injury or mortality to wildlife, and the indirect impacts,

as indicated by changes in how the areas are used by wildlife.

Celia will focus mostly on how birds have been affected, but will include examples of other wildlife as well. She'll also discuss how the impacts can be avoided, minimized and mitigated by the close cooperation between the energy companies and state and federal agencies.

Celia has a master's degree from Oregon State University and a bachelor's from Temple University. She worked for the Colorado Geological Survey from 1994 to 2007 and before that she was employed at various oil and gas, mining and environmental firms.

The chapter meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library).

- Kathy Madison

**EVERGREEN AUDUBON**  
www.evergreenaudubon.org

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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** BRAD ANDRES

For this month's column, I would like to share with you a letter from the Audubon Colorado Transition Team that describes how the old Audubon Colorado will function within the recent flyway constructs of the National Audubon office. Thanks to Dick Prickett for representing us on this team.

"As you know, for the past year Audubon Colorado has been undergoing a major transition in response to both the new National Audubon Strategic Plan and the reorganization of the Colorado and Wyoming Audubon programs into a single program that is now known as Audubon Rockies.

"The Executive Director of the new Audubon Rockies is Brian Rutledge, and the Deputy Director is Ken Strom. All of the other Audubon staff in the two states are also continuing their work within the new Audubon Rockies framework, but with expanded responsibilities over the two-state region.

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**VIP VOLUNTEERS** GINNY ADES

A huge round of applause and heartfelt thanks to everybody who helped make the Bat House Bash a big success:

- **Vanessa Hayes** for her hard work, great ideas and creativity, and her countless friends and high school student volunteers who volunteered and made the night of the event go so smoothly.
- **Marilyn Kaussner** and **Mimi Nelson** for help in the early planning stages.
- **Debbie Marshall** for being there from beginning to end to plan the event, design and print invitations, posters, the program, ads and *Dipper* publicity.
- **Every member of the EA Board** for stepping up at critical moments to add something important to the mix, for contributing auction items galore and for helping the night of the Bash.
- **David Wald** for once again offering to lead tours of the USGS earthquake center.
- Thanks to **Peggy Durham** and **Irma Wolf** for helping board members **Barbara Klaus**, **Joan Ridgely** and **Jean Thayer** with the check-in and check-out process, and with the silent auction.
- **Jean**, special thanks for a great job with all the data, mailing lists, mailings, and name tags. Thanks to **Joan**, the brains behind "computerizing" the process. And **Barbara**, your willingness to coordinate the process made it all work.
- **Brad Andres** for so many essential tasks done without fuss—wine acquisition, bartender, setting it all up, and quietly taking care of many details.
- **Mel Andrew** and **Church of the Hills** for generously loaning us tables, plates and dinnerware.
- **Meg Leonard** for crafting the wonderful centerpieces, and **Sundance Gardens** for discounting the plants.
- Our auctioneer, **John Clatworthy**, who made us more money than we'd imagined possible (and special thanks to **Marge Petersen** for finding John).
- All of the generous sponsors (who have been listed elsewhere), and last but not least, all who bought tickets and attended the event, making it the success that it was.

**Yardbirds**

**North Turkey Creek**

Beth Erlund reported on Aug. 30 that she saw a **Belted Kingfisher** at a small manmade pond off of High Drive near North Turkey Creek.

“I have lived here and walk near there in the morning and have never seen one away from the stream. I am very familiar with the bird as I see them often in Florida but just not here near my house.

“There was also a **Cooper’s Hawk** being harassed by a crow near there this morning.”

Beth photographed a bear cub that made it up to a second-story deck she was sure could not be reached by bears.

**Wheat Ridge**

Bob Santangelo reported a first for him on Sept. 6: a male/female pair of **Western Tanagers** in his yard that foraged in a neighbor’s peach tree and then the apple trees in the back.

**Circle K Ranch**

On Sept. 12, Maggie Smiley wrote,



*An agile bear cub prompted a North Turkey Creek homeowner to note that it was time to take down her hummingbird feeders. Photo by Beth Erlund*



*JoAnn and Bill Hackos, along with Marilyn Rhodes, viewed California Condors at Big Sur, Calif. Above, “Amigo” soars. Photos by Marilyn Rhodes*

“New to birding, but becoming an addict quickly. I was blessed to have a **Western Scrub Jay** at my feeder yesterday.”

**Indian Hills**

Sherman Wing had a **Blue Jay** at his feeder Sept. 30. This was only the second time he’s seen one in Indian Hills—they are generally seen only at lower elevations.

Sherman also observed eight **Wild Turkeys** foraging near his home the morning of Oct. 7. The same day, David Walker finally saw **Evening Grosbeaks** at his feeder in Indian Hills.

**Hiwan Hills**

**Evening Grosbeaks** and **Cassin’s Finches** descended on my feeders in September and October. **Hummingbirds**, mostly **Broad-tailed**, continued to stop by, tank up and head south.

**Out and About on the Birding Trail**

**Big Sur, California**

JoAnn and Bill Hackos and I viewed

California Condors at Big Sur, Calif., on Sept. 14.

We actually saw two condors fly about 60 feet over our head—a father, Amigo, and foster son.

**Northeast Denver**

Bob Santangelo saw a suspected Poorwill on Oct. 2 while working at a Toro distributorship about a mile west and south of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

“It seems to be more squatty than a nighthawk and the breast is not streaked like a nighthawk,” Bob said. “What do you think?”

“My co-workers told me they found ‘a lizard or something’ out behind the shop and my boss said, ‘It doesn’t look well.’ I told him it was fine, digesting the bugs it ate last night in a sunny spot. It spent the whole day there.”

The bird was indeed a **Common Poorwill**.

**Central Colorado**

On Oct. 5, I reported on cobirds that

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birders from all over Colorado had been reporting hundreds and thousands of **Sandhill Cranes** in migration all day long.

One cobirds report said, “Over three thousand Sandhill Cranes camped out at Timnath Reservoir (Larimer) as of 4:45. Seems like they are still coming in by the hundreds.”

Three minutes later, Inga Brennan replied, “Yep! Definitely. Saw about 400 of them driving up I-70 about 30 minutes ago. They were following the Hogback south. So great to see!”

Within half an hour, John Sears of Evergreen Wild Bird Store wrote, “Just received a call from a customer on Lookout Mountain who had hundreds flying over her house down low under the clouds.”



*On Oct 5, 122 Sandhill Cranes fly over Chatfield State Park on their way to warmer climes. Photo by PJ Ross*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRAD ANDRES

Continued from page 2

“The new Strategic Plan identifies the top national conservation priorities for Audubon (encompassing key birds and habitats), which establish the focal areas where resources from the national organization will be deployed.

“Three of these national priority initiatives involve major Colorado/Wyoming habitats and landscapes: 1) Sagebrush Ecosystem Initiative (including the conservation of Greater & Gunnison Sage-Grouse), 2) Lesser Prairie-Chicken Conservation (including their sand sage prairie habitats), and 3) Western Rivers Initiative (focused on the Colorado River and Rio Grande and their tributaries)

The Audubon Rockies staff will focus most of their energies and financial resources on these national priorities, but will continue to devote a portion of their time to local chapter needs and issues.

“By the same token, chapters will

continue to set their own program priorities, but wherever their work is supportive of the national priorities there will be increased opportunities for support from the Audubon Rockies staff.

“To better coordinate the structure and responsibilities of the Audubon Colorado Board and its chapter representatives with the administrative changes in the staff and offices in Colorado and Wyoming, a Transition Team representing the Board has been meeting for most of the past year.

“On Sept. 27, the Transition Team and Staff met with Audubon Rockies Director Brian Rutledge and clarified with him the issues of concern under the new regional Audubon Rockies. He was adamant about wanting us to take Audubon in Colorado to the max.

“Meeting afterward, we made the decisions for continuing as Audubon Colorado.

“First, with the dissolution of the Board, we would re-form as the Audubon Colorado Council within Audubon Rockies, and second, we would continue to facilitate the current Colorado Initiatives of (1) representation of chapters, (2) coordination of the work of the Colorado chapters' lobbyist and Public Policy Committee, and (3) solidly supporting the work of the Conservation Committee and Water Policy Task Force, as well as focusing on the Regional and National imperatives.

“The Audubon Colorado Council will serve as a unified voice for the Colorado chapters and members and will communicate directly with the Audubon Rockies staff to advise them on Colorado issues and policies.”

The team and other Audubon chapter leaders in Colorado will be meeting in November to discuss the framework and structure of the new Audubon Colorado Council.

## FIELD NOTE

### Evergreen Lake Harvest Moon Hike

After a tour of Evergreen Nature Center on Sept. 29, we hoped to see and hear elk bugling.

We settled for a lovely evening walk around Evergreen Lake, a cooperative and performing American Dipper and the grand finale—a spectacular Harvest Moon.

The field trip was led by Master Birder Marilyn Rhodes and sponsored by Denver Parks, Evergreen Audubon and the Audubon Society of Greater Denver.

- Marilyn Rhodes

*A spectacular Harvest Moon capped off a field trip at Evergreen Lake. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes*



## Scotts Miracle-Gro fined for pesticide violations

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Scotts Miracle-Gro Co., a producer of pesticides for commercial and consumer lawn and garden uses, was sentenced on Sept. 7 in federal district court in Columbus, Ohio, to pay a \$4 million fine and perform community service for 11 criminal violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, which governs the manufacture, distribution and sale of pesticides.

As reported by Kay Niyo in the May *Dipper*, Scotts pleaded guilty in February to illegally applying insecticides to its wild bird-food products that are toxic to birds, falsifying pesticide registration documents, distributing pesticides with misleading and unapproved labels and distributing unregistered pesticides.

This is the largest criminal penalty under FIFRA to date.

In addition to the \$4 million criminal fine, Scotts will contribute \$500,000 to organizations that protect bird habitat, including \$100,000 each to the Ohio Audubon's Important Bird Area Program, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program, the Columbus Metro-Parks Bird Habitat Enhancement Program, the Cornell University Ornithology Laboratory and The Nature Conservancy of Ohio,

The organizations will use the fine

money to support the protection of bird populations and habitats through conservation, research and education.

In a separate civil agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Scotts agreed to pay more than \$6 million in penalties and spend \$2 million on environmental projects to resolve additional civil pesticide violations.

The violations include distributing or selling unregistered, canceled or misbranded pesticides, including products with inadequate warnings or cautions. This is the largest civil settlement under FIFRA to date.

These decisions reinforce the need for those of us who feed birds to do so in a responsible way.

As Kay reported in May, the Evergreen Wild Bird Store buys high-quality birdseed from Colorado vendors who deal with farmers from Colorado, Nebraska and other nearby states.

The birdseed is the best quality and helps the local and statewide economy more than stores whose seed comes from national vendors that also sell it to big-box stores.

It seems we have a great way to "Think Globally, Act Locally."

- Brad Andres

## Check out your member benefits and resources and EA website

Check out the new section on the Evergreen Audubon website under Membership - Member Benefits & Resources: [evergreenaudubon.org/?page\\_id=3103](http://evergreenaudubon.org/?page_id=3103).

EA members receive 10% off on all services listed.

If you'd like to list your nature-related business or organization on this webpage, you must provide a 10% discount to Evergreen Audubon members.

Please contact Communications Director Lisa Wald at [communications@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:communications@evergreenaudubon.org) or 303-674-0417 if you'd like to provide a new member benefit.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 1	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Nov. 10	Newsletter deadline	5 pm	
Nov. 22	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	Church of the Hills
<i>Save the Date:</i>			
Dec. 6	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Dec. 16	Christmas Bird Count		
Jan. 18	EA Annual Banquet	6 pm	Mt. Vernon Country Club
Feb. 9	Great Backyard Bird Count		

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

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Audubon Colorado Office, 303-415-0130, [www.auduboncolorado.org](http://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	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family member(s) name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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(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.

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California Condors  
Harvest Moon Hike  
Scotts Miracle-Gro Fined

**IN THIS ISSUE**

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