

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

January Banquet Silent Auction

In the past the silent auction was made up of quality items left over from the TENAS garage sale, and of donations from members.

Since the former has not taken place, I'm depending on members' donations this time.

Any donation you consider worthy of auction status would be appreciated. Please call me, 303-670-3402, or e-mail irmasonny@aol.com **SOON** and let me know what you can offer, and its value.

I will then evaluate whether there are enough donations to hold the auction. Thanks.

- Irma Wolf

Future Programs

November 1

Dick Williams: "A Bird Life/Photography Journey to Specialty Habitats in the U.S."

December 6

Brad Andres and Sylvia Brockner: "Christmas Bird Count-Slide Show Identification and Preparation"

Reminder: Bring Beverage Cups

Bring beverage cups to the meetings to cut down on waste Styrofoam.

Wildlife and Geology of Antarctica

The October meeting will feature a slide show on the eclectic wildlife and geology of Antarctica by Peter Link.

He, his brother and a mutual friend shipped out from Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, on Jan. 21 for a 16-day expedition to Antarctica, on board the Russian icebreaker-research vessel Akademik Ioffe.

After sailing across the Drake Passage, and beyond the Antarctic Convergence, the expedition celebrated crossing the Antarctic Circle, at 66 degrees, 33 minutes south latitude, with champagne. Icebergs and fog provided the backdrop.

Turning north the Ioffe sailed the Antarctic Ocean to visit the Antarctic continent and encounter glaciers, penguins, seals, whales, sea birds, volcanoes, mountains; the magnificent wonders of the polar south.

Numerous islands were visited to see nature as few have seen it. Zodiacs transported many to diverse areas to view wildlife. A visit

to the mainland, long scenic hikes, climbs up glaciers and into a live volcano were some of the many activities.

Antarctica and the Sahara are two of the most evocative places on earth. They have a remote finality to the human experience with brushes against the inevitability of potential outcome of foolhardiness. Make mistakes and the consequences are severe.

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 studies the paleo-geologic continuum of geologic and climatologic history of the earth.

A resident of Evergreen since 1991, Peter is a member of a number geologic professional organizations, the local "Curmudgeons" group, a geologically oriented climate change group, a local softball team, and the Evergreen Chorale.

The Thursday, Oct. 4, meeting will be held 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.



Gentoo Penguin on Cuverville Island, Antarctica. Photo by Peter Link



President's Message

Warming Hut/Nature Center Update

Our Nature Center subcommittee has produced a document that addresses the latest concerns of the Evergreen Park and Recreation Board.

We submitted that document to EPRB for its consideration at its last board meeting, which many TENAS members attended. After much discussion, EPRB decided that we should meet with Pat Callahan, deputy director, and Kit Darrow to work on mutually agreeable terms of a lease.

Carolyn Fraker, David Wald and I met with Pat Sept. 5; the agreement we produced will be sent to the EPRB for its approval (or changes).

We had hoped we would have a signed agreement sooner than now looks possible. The timeline we created will have to be adjusted to the slower-than-expected process.

We still believe that the lake is the ideal location for a Nature Center. We hope to have classes, exhibits and nature trips

to expose all ages to the local wildlife, ecology and environment.

We will continue to work toward our goal of leasing the warming hut under terms that are appropriate for our members and outlays.

Field Trip

I have wanted to do a field trip out on the Colorado plains for some time. Having lived near the Atlantic coast in New England for many years, I was amused to think we were heading for the grasslands to see shorebirds.

But with Brad Andres leading the trip, shorebirds in great number we did see. The number of all species seen was 71, mostly through one of the four scopes other birders lugged along. We admiringly decided that Brad may have seen 71 species, but probably no one else did.

As Brad was setting up his scope, he would be hearing one bird through his right ear, another on the left, all the while describing various birds within large flocks on the water or ashore. We all had an amazing day.

I encourage fellow TENAS members and friends to try a field trip to some new place, with new birders. It's a great experience.

Bird Feeders

I installed a new bird feeder system in my yard that, so

Continued on Page 3



• To **Dave Balogh**, for conducting his Naturalist on the Boardwalk education program at Evergreen Lake.

• To **Cathy Shelton, Marilyn Kaussner, Sylvia Robertson, Else Van Erp** and **Betsy Kelson** for organizing Weed and Wine at Evergreen Lake. And a big thank-you to the many intrepid weeders who showed up to pull or behead noxious weeds, even in the wetlands. Even after hearing, "There are snakes in there."

• To **Sylvia Brockner** and **Lynne Price** for leading the Botany Group to areas with spectacular wildflowers and then making less arduous the task of keying them.

• To **Sylvia Robertson, Marilyn Kaussner, Cathy Shelton, Betsy Kelson, Bud Weare, Renee Cormier** and **Else van Erp**, who head the planning committee of the Weed Awareness Campaign for their education programs during the summer and for coordinating the efforts of TENAS, the Evergreen Garden Club and the Mt. Evans Group of the Sierra Club.

2007 Officers

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David Wald	303-674-0417
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2007 Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the holidays! If you need the perfect holiday gift, TENAS has lovely and reasonably priced balsam fir holiday 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.

The 25-inch Victorian Wreath will be offered again this year along with the 25-inch Classic Wreath, the seasonal favorite we've sold in the past. Both wreaths are available for in-town pickup and 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. Orders are due by Oct. 26. Prices are listed at right.

Last year we raised more than \$1,300 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 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



Classic Wreath



Victorian Wreath

25" Classic Wreath (in-town delivery)	\$19
25" Victorian Wreath (in-town delivery)	\$22
25" Classic HGW (out-of-town delivery)	\$27
25" Victorian HGW (out-of-town delivery)	\$30

Nominating Committee

At the Chapter Meeting on Sept. 6, the following people were elected to serve on the nominating committee: Dave Balogh, Bud Weare, Bill Brockner, Brad Andres and Karel Buckley.

Their job will be to select TENAS members willing to serve as 2008 officers and directors. The committee will report in the next *Dipper*. We thank them for their willingness to take on this task.

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

far, has not been violated by squirrels, bears or raccoons. The birds have found it and the increased number of birds visible is impressive. It took them all of five minutes to latch on to the new feeders.

Maybe all these birds were lurking about before, but now I can see them. The system is far enough off the deck so I don't get much in the way of droppings but close enough to have a great view.

This may be my most expensive

habit yet. I hope the immature Black-headed Grosbeak finds his way back next year.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee will be seeking interested people to fill vacant positions on the board or committee chairs. Anyone interested for him- or herself, or who would like to suggest a member, should notify any board member or member of the nominating committee.

- Peggy Durham

Membership

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

New Family

Warren Zimmer & Pam Bixter—
Evergreen

Barbara Jean & Tom Gard—Evergreen

Renewing

Ginny Ades—Evergreen

Jeff Geiger—Evergreen

Renewing Family

Marilyn & John Kaussner—Evergreen

Peter & Lucille Link—Evergreen

Michael, Tracey, & Megan Stills—
Evergreen



Bird Business

WOW! Where did this summer go? Birding-wise it was an average summer. The nesting season was quite successful. Many species had two and three nesting cycles. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks are returning to our area in good numbers.

Margie and Sherman Wing saw four Poor-wills and four Common Nighthawks on Aug. 2 near their home in Indian Hills. This is a welcome observation. These birds are decreasing noticeably.

By Aug. 5, Pine Siskins began to pour into Suzie deDisse's yard. On the 12th, she was hosting more than 100 siskins! After that date, every feeding station in Evergreen had siskins pouring in.

Loie Evans saw a White-faced Ibis at Evergreen Lake on Aug. 9. It was an early fall visitor.

On Aug. 10 a Lincoln's Sparrow visited the feeders in our yard. This sparrow nests at Echo Lake above us.

A sight to see by Loie Evans was an albino swallow on the boardwalk at Evergreen Lake on Aug. 17. It was



Pine Siskin

included on the Bird Count led by Brad Andres. It was possibly a Violet-green Swallow.

Dr. Tom Boschen studied a Townsend's Warbler at Evergreen Lake on Aug. 20. Two days later, one showed up in our yard. This Northwestern warbler periodically shows up in Colorado.

Repeating last year's visit was a Black-chinned Hummingbird at a feeder near a window in Peter Link's house in Evergreen Meadows. This hummingbird is slowly increasing on the Front Range.

To close the month, the Wings watched a Chihuahuan Raven near their house. This raven is more common south of Pueblo.

Migration will slow down at the end of September. Check out all sparrows for rarities.

It was great to see Beth Erlund back in town. She and her husband are planning on building a home in Costa Rica. She loves all the birds there and made her Wausau show hanging in Costa Rica. We expect to see great batiks from that land, Beth.

- Bill Brockner

MALT Stewardship Award

Cathy Shelton and Sylvia Robertson together received a first-time award from the Mountain Area Land Trust at its annual Picnic in the Park last month.

The plaques said "Community Weed Awareness Campaign, Stewardship Award, MALT."

As readers of this newsletter know, Cathy and Sylvia have long promoted weed awareness and work days. As Sylvia said, "It started as an interest, it became a passion, now it is an obsession."

Congratulations to you both!

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Condors Soar Over the Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon promises breathtakingly beautiful views of layers of vibrantly colored canyon walls and the breathtakingly scary peek down 3,000 vertical feet to see Lego toy-sized rafts floating on the Colorado River.

On this visit to the North Rim we hoped for one more breathtaking sight—a free-flying California Condor.

On the patio of the North Rim Lodge, the National Park Ranger asked us to keep a lookout for condors brought by curiosity to check our group. Meanwhile, he told us the history of the California Condors' return to northern Arizona.

In 1982 the Peregrine Fund brought 14 remaining birds from the wild into their captive breeding program. By 1996, there were enough condors to begin release back into the wild.

At present there are three wild populations: the Vermilion Cliffs of Arizona, Pinnacles/Big Sur in California and the

Baja Peninsula of Mexico. In northern Arizona there are now approximately 60 condors and this year there are six active nests.

The condor nests in a cave where the young remain for six months. Parents help feed the young birds for another year after fledging. In the past four years six young condors have fledged, but not all have survived.

The biggest threat is lead poisoning from eating the carcasses of animals shot by hunters. The Arizona Game and Fish Department conducts a program of exchanging lead bullets for copper ones and reports that hunters are generally supportive of the program and that they too are concerned about the danger of lead poisoning to both condors and humans.

Released condors are checked annually for lead poisoning and vaccinated for West Nile Virus. In some cases lead-free carcasses are provided; thus they are not yet completely on their own.

No condors attended the talk, so we headed out to the “sure-bet” site at Marble Canyon. As we'd been told, the condors were indeed there: “big, ugly and wonderful.” They glided with little effort, landed on small ledges on rock faces, pecked and squabbled with each other and looked quite at home. It was breathtaking.

The adult condor stands about 44 inches tall with a nine-foot wingspan. It weighs 16 to 23 pounds. Males and females are similar in appearance and size. Juveniles have a black head that becomes entirely red by maturity at about five years. All have a distinctive triangular white patch on the wing's underside.

Every bird has visible number tags for tracking, which detracts somewhat from the sense of wildness. In spite of this it is still a thrill to see the California Condors flying free.

- Margaret McDole and
Mark Meremonte

Reminder of BIB Reorganization Meeting

The membership of TENAS is invited to a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 9, to discuss plans for the future of Birds in the Balance. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at Evergreen Library, Highway 73 and Buffalo Park Road.

Since the library closes at 9 p.m., we must finish by then.

On the agenda will be, first, a discussion of objectives. What do we expect to accomplish, and who will use the data we gather? Do we want to create projects of broad applicability, and long-term significance, similar to other Citizen Science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, the Backyard Bird Count or the Breeding Bird Survey?

Implied are some basic questions: Do we want to revise the list of sites we survey? Do we want to change the temporal effort, to focus more on the breeding season? Do we want to restrict our efforts to the riparian corridor of Bear Creek, or

should we expand into selected sites of the whole watershed?

Next, we will explore several models of what we could be doing. Larry White will tell us how he proposes to write up the data he has collected over 13 years at Beaver Meadows. His thoughts could be suggestive for other leaders who want to write up some of their results.

Brad Andres also will contribute some suggestions, based on his work with similar projects at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

By the end of the meeting, it is hoped that some agreement will have emerged as to our future direction, so that a working group might be appointed to implement a plan.

A detailed agenda for the meeting will be sent to all BIB leaders in advance of the meeting. If you want to receive a copy, please send Mike Foster an e-mail requesting one. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but have pertinent thoughts, let Mike know: mike.l.foster@comcast.net.

- Mike Foster



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Shorebird Search in Southern Weld County

Originally, I had intended to head northeast on I-76 to scour Prewitt Reservoir and Jackson Lake for post-breeding migrant shorebirds. Late August is normally the peak of shorebird migration through eastern Colorado.

Because of high rainfall, and subsequent full reservoir basins, we altered our plans when nine of us (me, Polly Boley, Karel Buckley, Peggy Durham, Heather Johnson, Ken and Nancy Lerner, Kay Niyo and Sherman Wing) met on the morning of Aug. 26.

Good numbers of shorebirds had been reported from southern Weld County, so we decided to turn north toward Briggsdale.

Our first stop was along Beebe Draw, south of Lower Latham Reservoir. American Avocets, Long-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs welcomed us. Numerous Green-winged Teal and a smattering of other dabbling ducks paddled around a small farm pond.

With our scopes zoomed in, we were also able to pick out four species of small *Calidris* sandpipers (known in Europe as “stints”) wandering among grass clumps and mud mounds: Baird’s Sandpiper, the most common shorebird migrant in eastern Colorado; Least Sandpiper; Pectoral Sandpiper; and Semipalmated Sandpiper.

As we traveled northwestward to an unnamed pond, we found several Great-tailed Grackles, mostly males, in a recently hayed field. Continuing on to the pond, we located several Cattle Egrets. Joining the egrets were White-faced Ibis, American Wigeons, and Blue-winged Teal.

Brewer’s and Chipping Sparrows foraged in the cottonwoods while we scanned the pond for other good waterbirds. We were rewarded by the discovery of a female Wood Duck sleeping along the near shore; although not much of the bird was visible, the bold white eye ring revealed its identity.

Passing by Lower Latham Reservoir, we were treated to six Snowy



Avid birders keep their binoculars and spotting scope on a shorebird. *Photo by Brad Andres*

Egrets feeding at one of the reservoir’s outlets. While scanning the reservoir, we had a Wilson’s Snipe fly over us and land in a small stream; despite looking, however, we were unable to find it on the ground.

Along with American White Pelicans on the reservoir, we observed numerous Western Grebes, which had young ranging from little fuzz balls to those almost fully grown.

A large group of Franklin’s Gulls, perhaps more than a thousand, rafted up in the center of the reservoir. Just before leaving, we spotted an immature Northern Harrier cruising the shoreline.

Heading east, we stopped at Loloff Reservoir; last spring this pond produced a lot of good waterbirds. We immediately observed numerous Black Terns swooping back and forth above the water. Their feeding behavior made them appear like a large swallow.

The pond was dotted by dabbling ducks, and, among others, we picked out a female Northern Pintail, several Gadwalls and many Northern Shovelers. A few California Gulls rested on the grassy berm.

We intently studied a large shorebird that we determined to be a Greater Yellowlegs, rather than a possible Willet.

As we scanned the pond, a calling Eurasian Collared-Dove got our attention;

this expanding species is now common in towns and around farms throughout Weld County.

By now hunger was gripping the group and we decided to head north and check out one more pond southeast of Briggsdale. Being so close, we stopped for lunch at the Crow Valley Campground. Although there less than one-half hour, we added several landbirds, including Cassin’s Vireo, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Townsend’s Warbler and MacGillivray’s Warbler.

Working our way to the pond, we flushed numerous Lark Buntings; Wilson’s Warblers danced through the scattered shrubs. The destination pond did not have many shorebirds, but after looking through a set of swimming phalaropes, we were able to separate two Red-necked Phalaropes from about a dozen Wilson’s Phalaropes. The Red-necks were smaller and were darker on the mantle, neck and head.

On the drive back to Evergreen, we added up a total of 71 species, of which 34 were waterbird species. Although we did not always get great looks at all the shorebirds, we were able to tally 13 species. Black Terns, Snowy Egrets and the Wood Duck certainly contributed to a successful day.

- Brad A. Andres



Weed Watch: Charming BUT noxious!

As I wander through my garden or run on one of our local trails, I am constantly energized by the plants around me.

A beautiful flower sways slowly in the light of a summer's sunset or a valley of wildflowers emits its soulful colors; these images of beauty among others often belie the devastating effects that noxious plants can have on our precious environment.

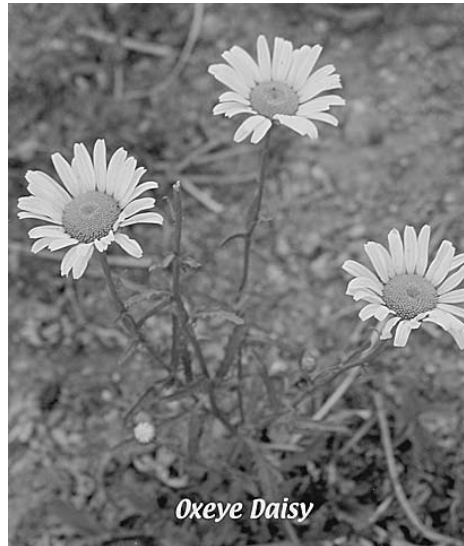
Two such plants are oxeye daisy and chamomile. They are classified on Colorado's Noxious Weed List as List B plants, meaning that the state of Colorado has a specific plan to stop their spread.

As with many other List B plants, oxeye daisy and chamomile are growing where they do not belong and are detrimental to Colorado's native environment.

Originating in Eurasia, oxeye daisy and chamomile were brought to the New World by settlers to remind them of their homelands. Until recently, these plants were sold as ornamentals in nurseries and garden centers.

It is currently against the law to sell these plants in the state of Colorado, although many wildflower mixes still contain the seeds of these noxious weeds and are being sold unknowingly.

The oxeye daisy plant is approximately 24 inches high with toothed leaves, white petals and a yellow disk center. Each flower head is on its own flower branch and is about 2 inches in diameter.



The solitary flowering head is one of the most obvious differences between oxeye daisy and the chamomile plant, but both share the drought-tolerant characteristic and have shallow, spreading root systems.

From a distance, the chamomile plant appears similar to the oxeye daisy, but on closer inspection, one notices that the chamomile plant has fern-like and finely divided leaves.

The two noxious types of chamomile plants in Colorado are corn chamomile, often called scentless chamomile, and mayweed chamomile. Mayweed and corn chamomile closely resemble each other except for mayweed's strong leaf odor.

Both chamomile plants have several to many flowers on each flowering stem, unlike oxeye daisy's solitary flower.

These two plants grow extremely

well in Colorado given the fact that they have no known native "predators" and that they reseed themselves very easily. Disturbed soil, roadside ditches and poor soil areas are great homes for these plants.

In regard to our wildlife, they are extremely detrimental because they do not provide any sustenance to their diets. Oxeye daisy has been described as "plant candy," meaning it has no nutritional value.

These plants spread rapidly and push out native species that provide necessary, essential nutrients to a healthy ecosystem.

One of the best ways to prevent these weeds from invading your backyard and our beautiful Colorado landscape is to maintain a healthy native plant community and minimize soil disturbance. If either of these plants tries to make itself a home in your yard, prevention of seed production and dispersal is the key.

If you love the appearance of the daisy in your garden, try the shasta daisy, which resembles oxeye daisy and chamomile plants but does not have the damaging effects on our environment. Please do not pass up this opportunity to help keep our Colorado landscape noxious weed-free.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please visit www.dipper.org or e-mail sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com.

- Renee Cormier
Community Weed Awareness Campaign

Field Trips and Outings

Saturday Oct. 13
Roxborough State Park
Leader: Dave Balogh, 303-679-2799

Red and russet, golden brown. Aahh, those autumn colors bring to mind Roxborough State Park with its red rocks and fall foliage. Meet Dave at Bergen Park 'n' Ride at 7:30 a.m. for a drive along Bear Creek and through Morrison to the park for a half-day trip. We will enjoy the scenery as we hike about a mile and look for fall migrants and local wildlife along park trails. Bring a lunch, water and dress for variable weather conditions. Call Dave if you plan to join this fall fun.

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

October Calendar

October 4	Chapter Meeting
October 9	Birds in the Balance Planning Meeting
October 13	Roxborough Park Field Trip
October 25	Board Meeting
October 26	Last Day to Order Holiday Wreaths
November 1	Chapter Meeting

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)
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 November issue is Thursday, Oct. 4. Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, mem2@earthlink.net

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
Local Membership Application

Please enroll me/us in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter, and vote (both Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain local.

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- California Condors
- Birds in the Balance Meeting
- Holiday Wreath Sales

In This Issue

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THE DIPPER

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