



# THE DIPPER

VOL. 40 NO. 8  
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EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

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



**Jan Chu reveals the mysteries of butterflies to two young participants on a walk after her seminar at Evergreen Nature Center Aug. 14.**

**Jan and Steven Jones are writing a book on the most common butterflies of the Front Range that they hope will be published next spring.**

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Join us Nov. 4 for an informative, multimedia presentation by Steve Jones about the Sandhills of Nebraska.

Encompassing more than 20,000 square miles, the Nebraska Sandhills comprise the largest remaining expanse of mixed- and tallgrass prairie in North America.

## ITEMS FOUND AT PICNIC

Two items were left at the Audubon picnic in July: one small white casserole and one small spatula.

Call Sylvia Robertson, 303-674-1715, to claim.

## Bison and the Prairie Ecosystem

Though threatened with extinction by 1890, the American Bison now number more than 250,000 in North America. Of these about 25,000 are in public herds and most of the rest on private ranches.

In March 2007, 13 bison were reintroduced as a pilot project at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge east of Commerce City. At the EA chapter meeting on Oct. 7, Steve Berendzen, refuge manager, will describe the ecological response of habitat and wildlife to refuge bison.

Steve also will address the challenges associated with managing a bison herd, its genetic value and human benefits.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages bison herds at seven Midwestern and Western locations. Private herds have higher rates of hybridization with domestic cattle. Public herds without detectable or with low levels of detectable hybridization are particularly valuable for the long-term conservation of the true bison.

Bison were historically a key species of the North American prairie. Migrating bison were

responsible for grazing and other disturbances that, along with fire, were essential components of the prairie ecosystem. Effectively managed, bison can encourage habitat diversity for birds and other species.

Steve is an Evergreen-area resident. He grew up in Missouri on a family farm. He has bachelor and master of science degrees in wildlife management from the University of Missouri-Columbia and University of Massachusetts-Amherst, respectively.

Steve has worked on national wildlife refuges in Western and other states and is currently the manager of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge complex, which includes the Arsenal, Two Ponds in Arvada and Rocky Flats, north of Golden.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the American Bison on Thursday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (just west of the Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

Visitors are welcome. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow.

## Annual wreath sale deadline is Oct. 29

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the holidays! If you need the perfect holiday gift, Evergreen Audubon 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 four 25-inch wreaths this year: the Classic Wreath, the Victorian Wreath, the Wintergreen Wreath and the gorgeous new Cranberry Splash Wreath.

All of the wreaths are pictured on the EA website and are available as Holiday Gift Wreaths (HGW) for out-of-town delivery.

All of the wreaths are available for in-town

pickup except the Cranberry Splash and we're hopeful it will be available for in-town pickup next year.

**Orders are due no later than Oct. 29. Prices are listed in the box on page 3.**

Last year this sale generated \$2,000 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 email her at [cloverlane@aol.com](mailto: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

**Nature Center hours are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday,  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m., through October**

**EVERGREEN AUDUBON**  
www.evergreenaudubon.org

**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 Petersen	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** HEATHER JOHNSON

As we say farewell to summer and welcome fall colors, bugling elk and southbound migratory birds to Evergreen, it is fun to take a moment to reflect upon all the wonderful Evergreen Audubon activities that took place this summer.

It was an action-packed summer with several field trips a month that took place at Evergreen Nature Center as well as throughout the area. To name just a few, there was plant identification, weed awareness, birding, stargazing, geology and much more!

The best part about it was that we had very experienced naturalists join us, as well as people brand new to these subjects. Everyone shared knowledge and experiences and had a blast!

We also had visitors to Evergreen Nature Center from all over Colorado, the United States, and even some foreign countries. Visitors enjoyed the many hands-on exhibits and everyone took home new gee-whiz facts about fish, wildlife and their habitats.

All of these wonderful activities could not have taken place without our amazing group of Evergreen Audubon volunteers, working at Evergreen Nature Center as well as supporting the many additional Evergreen

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**VIP VOLUNTEERS** DAVID WALD

In addition to Heather Johnson's kudos (see President's Message) for the summer volunteers, trips and programs, a few other recognitions are in order.

If you missed the last (September) chapter meeting, you missed a superb Birding Panama travelogue! Thanks, **Brad Andres**, for the presentation and **Dave Balogh** for photos!

What a great Bird House Bash (the 2010 Nature Center benefit)! Please help recognize board Development Director **Mimi Nelson** for her wide-ranging contributions to the recent benefit.

Mimi led the organizing effort along with huge efforts by other Benefit Committee members: **Marge Petersen, Joan Ridgely, Jean Thayer** and **Marilyn Kaussner**.

Mimi chose the perfect Bird House Bash theme, imagined local artists decorating bird boxes with artistic flair, and then got those artists to join ranks and make some remarkable, artful boxes. (Mimi donated many of the boxes as well.)

These boxes, needless to say, raised substantial funds. As a courtesy to the artists, Mimi and the rest of the benefit committee hosted a meet-and-greet birdhouse preview at the Nature Center the night before the benefit.

As if that were not enough, Mimi's catering business (In Good Taste) contributed the food, staff and her and their time, and the food was, well . . . all in good taste! That catering contribution alone ensured a profitable night was on hand.

We attribute a successful benefit to many additional contributors—without being comprehensive and in no particular order: the **Evergreen Audubon board, Irma Wolf, Karel Buckley, Michael Stills**, bartenders **Jack Salter** and **Dick Prickett**, and, of course, entertainers **Bob Santangelo, Susan Harper** and **Brad Andres**!

Thanks to all the other benefit contributors, volunteers and attendees, including three teenage volunteers—**Natalie Tarasar, Teela Lamoureux** and **Emily Wald**.

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS DAVID WALD

### Aug. 26 Board Meeting

#### New National Audubon President

National Audubon has a new president. David Yarnold began his term as president and CEO Sept. 1. Yarnold served as executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund and was a Pulitzer Prize-winning editor at the San Jose Mercury News.

#### Next State Meeting

The next Audubon Colorado state chapter meeting is on Oct. 2 in Cañon

City. (David Wald will attend; others are welcome.)

#### Birds Mounted for Nature Center

Nature Center Executive Director Michael Stills reported on success using educational grant funds to mount numerous donated birds for the Nature Center.

With some keen thriftiness, Michael found a taxidermist who prepared several wonderful bird specimens (Goshawk, Great Horned Owl and others). Come down to the Nature Center and see them!

Michael reports that there are still

funds left to acquire and mount two mammals (a black bear and a bobcat).

#### Nominating Committee

Board President David Wald appointed Bud Weare (chair), Mike Wilson, Brad Andres and Michael Stills to the Nominating Committee to fill a slate for 2010 retiring board positions: secretary, director at large and Conservation.

The board is still looking for a new chapter meeting Programs Chair to take over for Mike Wilson and Barbara Nabors.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE HEATHER JOHNSON

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Audubon functions throughout the summer.

In addition, I can't say thank you enough to all the Evergreen Audubon members who made donations to the organization through our annual campaign and the Evergreen Nature Center fundraiser.

We exceeded our fundraising goals this year, thanks to your incredible generosity.

We are excited to put these funds back to work for you, translating them into new exhibits, programs and activities

at Evergreen Nature Center, as well as adding new and exciting field trips and monitoring throughout the Bear Creek Watershed.

Your enthusiasm and generosity wears off on the entire community, making everyone more aware of their environment and the special place we get to live in and call home.

Through the donations, awareness and volunteer support from all of you as Audubon members, the broader Evergreen community gets excited about birds, fish and other wildlife.

All of this translates to conservation

actions that support more wildlife getting to call Evergreen home as well.

I am very proud to be part of the Evergreen Audubon organization—to be associated with such great people is a sheer pleasure!

Now it is time to wave goodbye to our migratory feathered friends and prepare our bird feeders for our winter resident birds. That doesn't mean we are done with field trips, however.

So, keep an eye out on evergreen.audubon.org for fun fall field trips as well as a Christmas Bird Count refresher field trip (added new this year)!

## Committee seeks board, chair nominations for 2011

A Nominating Committee consisting of Bud Weare (chair), Brad Andres, Michael Stills and Mike Wilson was appointed by President David Wald to seek nominations for a few open Board of Directors and Executive Committee positions that will be vacated at the start of 2011.

Positions we need to fill are secretary, director of Conservation and director at large. We also are looking for nominations for folks to coordinate Field Trips (those away from the Nature Center) and Publicity.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions or have suggestions for good candidates, please contact Bud Weare at [bweare@aol.com](mailto:bweare@aol.com).

Information on board positions and structure can be found in the September-October 2009 *Dipper* newsletter (available at [evergreenaudubon.org](http://evergreenaudubon.org)).

If you have further questions about the positions, please contact Brad Andres ([birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org)). We

will vote on candidates at the December meeting.

Sincere thanks to Peggy Durham, Mark Meremonte, Sylvia Robertson, Karel Buckley and Barbara Klaus for their enthusiastic and tireless service!

- Brad Andres

### Holiday Wreath Prices—all wreaths are 25 inches (See article on page 1.)

	Method of Delivery	
	In-town	Out-of-town
Classic Wreath	\$20	\$28 (HGW)
Victorian Wreath	\$25	\$33 (HGW)
Wintergreen Wreath	\$25	\$33 (HGW)
Cranberry Splash		\$33 (HGW)



Sherman Wing watched **Western Kingbirds** at the Morrison parking area for Mt. Falcon Park on the evening of July 22. He saw two perched and foraging from the tops of shrubs and another was perched on top of a cottonwood.

Marilyn Rhodes reported on Aug. 8 that two **Violet-green Swallow** chicks in a nest box in her yard had flown the coop.

On July 25 at 8 a.m., Lonnie Van-Zandt came up the stairs of the back deck on his Witter Gulch house to look up into the bold, yellow breast of a green-billed **Evening Grosbeak**.

Sherman Wing reported the 25 species of birds seen on July 25 on the Sunrise at Mt. Evans field trip: **Mallard, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Gray Jay, Stellar's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, American Crow, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mountain Bluebird, American Robin, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler,**

**Wilson's Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown-capped Rosy Finch, Pine Siskin.**

The baby **Barn Swallows** outside Evergreen Nature Center fledged on Aug. 1, according to Michael Stills. Linda Lorenz saw five babies flying and later sitting on the roof of the Nature Center.

Barbara Klaus observed a small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** in Sun Creek (off Lewis Ridge Road) several times over the weekend of Aug. 14. She hadn't seen them there before.

Emily Wald saw a **Great Horned Owl** the evening of Aug. 17 on the electrical pole at the intersection of Lewis Ridge and the frontage road (across from the main entrance to Elk Meadow).

Emily's brother, Aaron, reported a **partially albino Pine Siskin** at the family's feeder in Hiwan Country Club.

On Aug. 27, Marilyn was enjoying the flurry of activity at her feeders when a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flew in, perched on a branch near the feeders and literally cleared the place out for an hour.

On Labor Day morning at Mt. Falcon, Sherman Wing saw good numbers of **Western Bluebirds** in the meadow. In scrub oak, he saw two **Virginia's Warblers** and one **Wilson's Warbler**.

Sherman saw a large group of warblers behind the Morrison Post Office on Sept. 7. There were **Yellow-rumps, Virginia's** and **Townsend's**.

At the east access to Mt. Falcon Park, there were three **Vesper Sparrows** near the parking lot.

Four days later at Mt. Falcon, Sherman saw **Williamson's Sapsucker, Lewis's Woodpecker** and **Sage Thrashers**.

That weekend, Sherman's woodpecker sightings in the foothills totaled six species: **Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker** and the **Lewis's Woodpecker**. The only missing possibility was the Three-toed Woodpecker.

Michael Stills and Susan Clasen saw an **American Widgeon** on Evergreen Lake Sept. 15.

## Another successful weeding season is in the bag

The pleasant days of autumn mark the beginning of the end of noxious weed season. I've always loved the fall, but since I've been involved with weeds, it is particularly welcome.

For 13 years, volunteers have been the heart of our weed effort and this year was no exception. I've always said that we have the best volunteers in the world, and Community Weed Day on June 21 proved it.

Even though it was very cold and raining, 20 volunteers weeded for several hours at Evergreen Lake. Soaked to the bone, these hardy souls wouldn't let the weather stop them. Unbelievable!

Another 30 volunteers attended our first-ever "Wake-Up and Weed" on Aug. 21, making it a rousing success. This time the weather was a little too hot and sunny so brunch at the Nature Center was all the more enjoyable.

Add to that the hours spent by volunteers on their Adopt-a-Plots, and you

have a picture of the efforts to protect habitat in Evergreen.

For a complete list of our volunteers, go to the Lake House page on the Evergreen Park and Recreation District website.

Our education outreach was equally noteworthy. Members of the Community Weed Awareness Campaign spoke to homeowners associations, garden clubs and other groups, and at two supermarket events and Earth Day, reaching more than 350 individuals.

We published three articles in Mountain Lifestyles, and Wake-Up and Weed was featured in the Canyon Courier. Renee Cormier and Marilyn Kaussner designed a PowerPoint presentation that gave our programs a professional polish.

None of this would happen without



*Margaret McDole, left, and Sylvia Robertson marvel at the pile of bagged noxious weeds at Wake-Up and Weed. Photo by Marilyn Kaussner*

the Community Weed Awareness Campaign Committee: Sylvia Robertson, Betsy Kelson, Marilyn Kaussner, Pat Carter, Renee Cormier, Else vanErp, Bud Weare, Larry White, Deb Callahan and our mentor, Sylvia Brockner.

- Cathy Shelton

# FIELD NOTES

## Mt. Evans Observatory

Sixteen adults and children visited the 14,148-foot Mt. Evans Observatory on Aug. 8. The day started out sunny and gorgeous, but monsoon clouds suddenly appeared. The rain did hold off for us, but it was about 36 degrees while we visited that morning.

We had a very informative tour of the observatory building by Dr. Robert Stencil, professor of astronomy at the University of Denver and director of both the Chamberlin and Mt. Evans observatories.

Did you know this 15-year-old scope is the highest solar-powered scope in the world? The forest service also has an ozone research station at this location.

Besides touring the inside of the observatory, we watched how the scope is turned to observe the skies; it weighs 9,000 kg.

On the way down the mountain, Donna and Dave Forrest had the special opportunity to see a mother ptarmigan with her four young.

Several of us had a great lunch and pie at Echo Lake Lodge to warm up—yummy!

- Karel Buckley

## Shorebirds on the Plains

On Aug. 29, 13 participants from Evergreen Audubon and other local Audubon chapters headed northeast to search for migrant shorebirds and water birds.

We first made a quick stop at Union Reservoir, but the water levels were generally too high for most shorebirds. However, we did spot two Red-necked Phalaropes in the middle of the reservoir. Forster's and Common Terns gave us some reasonable views and hundreds of Western Grebes were present on the water.

We next headed to Timnath Reservoir, which previously had good reports of shorebirds. However, water levels had receded and good shorebird habitat was much reduced. We did pick up some duck species, Franklin's Gulls and an Eared Grebe with a chick.

Because Timnath was not that productive, we headed southeast toward Greeley to the Wood's Pond, Loloff Reservoir and



*Field-trip participants gather at Mt. Evans Observatory. Photo by Donna Forrest*

Lower Latham Reservoir/ Beebe Draw.

As usual, these wetlands produced good water birds, including a number of shorebird species: Least and Baird's Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet and lots of Wilson's Phalaropes.

Other water birds included Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis and Black Tern. Although we had to work for the water birds, and did not spend too much time finding land birds, we tallied 61 species during the approximately six hours we spent afield.

Many shorebirds are still migrating through Colorado during September, so watch for them at Evergreen Lake and other wetlands you visit.

- Brad Andres

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*July 25 was a beautiful day for the Sunrise at Mt. Evans field trip. Photo by Susan Harper*



# Elk Meadow nest-box system expanded with grant

With funding Evergreen Audubon received through a National Audubon TogetherGreen grant, we purchased materials to build replacement boxes and expand the nest-box trail in Elk Meadow Open Space Park in 2010.

The trail in Elk Meadow now stands at 35 boxes. We also replaced a number of boxes at Three Sisters Open Space Park and established a two-mile loop trail that now contains 25 nest boxes.

We added boxes gradually throughout the summer at Three Sisters, so we did not undertake a full monitoring program there. Through Sean Kluesner, a natural resources specialist, we have developed a good working relationship with Jefferson County Open Space, and they are supportive of our expanded efforts.

In 2010, we made 11 visits to monitor the bluebird, swallow and other cavity-nester use of the 36 nest boxes placed in Elk Meadow. (We left one old box because of bluebird activity but removed it at the end of the season.)

Mountain Bluebirds were almost a week late in returning to Elk Meadow this year. We observed 27 males and two females on the north end of the property on March 6, but only two birds were observed around boxes on March 13. No bluebirds were found in Elk Meadow on a snowy box check on March 27.

Numerous pairs of Mountain Bluebirds were observed around nest boxes on April 11, and a Tree Swallow was first observed on April 25.

Similar to past years, 35 of 36 boxes were occupied by Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens and a White-breasted Nuthatch.

Most of the new nest boxes were taken up by Tree Swallows, and our removing boxes from trees and placing them in more open areas resulted in lower box use by Mountain Chickadees.

Despite arriving almost a month after Mountain Bluebirds, the first egg date of Western Bluebirds was only one day later (May 21) than Mountains (May 20). The first eggs of Tree Swallows were found on June 5.

Overall, 147 young of five species were produced in the nest boxes in 2010, for an average productivity of 4.1 young per box. Again in 2010, more Western

*Table 1. Breeding success of birds using nest boxes in Elk Meadow Park, Evergreen, Colorado—2010*

	Western Bluebird	Mountain Bluebird	Tree Swallow	House Wren	White-breasted Nuthatch	Mountain Chickadee
<b>Pairs</b>	14	11	10	4	1	-
<b>Nests built</b>	12	9	10	5	2	-
<b>Nests with eggs</b>	12	8	10	4	2	-
<b>Successful nests</b>	12	8	10	3	1	-
<b>Clutch size</b>	5.08	5.13	5.60	5.50	5.00	-
<b>% hatched of eggs laid</b>	87	90	77	65	40	-
<b>% fledged of eggs laid</b>	85	88	75	65	40	-
<b>Chicks fledged/pair</b>	4.33	4.50	4.20	3.75	2.00	-
<b>Young produced - 2010</b>	52	36	42	15	2	-
<b>Young produced - 2009</b>	75	30	17	7	5	5
<b>Young produced - 2008</b>	56	42	9	5	-	8
<b>Young produced - 2007</b>	34	29	15	6	-	20

Bluebirds built nests and laid eggs in boxes than Mountain Bluebirds, although productivity for Western Bluebirds was down by 44% from 2009 (see Table 1).

No bluebirds, or any other species, produced a second clutch after successfully raising a brood.

Increasing the number of boxes in Elk Meadow increased productivity of Tree Swallows by about 150% over 2009, and a total of 42 swallow young fledged in 2010.

Mountain and Western Bluebirds and Tree Swallows contributed 88% of the total nest-box productivity in Elk Meadow; 17 additional young were produced by one pair of White-breasted Nuthatches and four pairs of House Wrens.

The White-breasted Nuthatch pair and one pair of House Wrens had their nests destroyed and re-nested. Hot weather in midsummer likely caused some chick deaths in the boxes.

A few pairs that initially set up territories at a box were subsequently replaced by other species, although the five shifts we observed were not consistent between species and included Tree Swallow to Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird to Tree Swal-

low, House Wren to Western Bluebird, House Wren to Mountain Bluebird, and Mountain Bluebird to House Wren.

We plan to continue monitoring efforts in Elk Meadow in 2011 and expand our monitoring efforts to Three Sisters. If you would like to participate in nest-box monitoring efforts in 2011, please contact Brad Andres at [birdmon@evergreen-audubon.org](mailto:birdmon@evergreen-audubon.org).

This project would not happen without the help of Jeffrie Anderson, Judith Bird, Pat Carter, Rachel Hutchinson, Heather Johnson, Barbara Nabors and Kay Niyo. Thanks to you all! We appreciate the support of Jefferson County Open Space.

- Mike Wilson and Brad Andres



*Western Bluebird chicks in Elk Meadow Box 27 on June 20, 2010. Photo by Mike Wilson*

# FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

KAREL BUCKLEY

## The Importance of Beaver in the West Evergreen Nature Center

Sunday, Oct. 3, noon–2 pm

Sherri Tippie has been live-trapping and relocating beaver since 1985. Back then the only things she knew about beaver were they had flat tails and made dams.

Now Tippie, as she likes to be called, is internationally recognized for her efforts in live-trapping and relocating beaver. She recently worked with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, putting together a manual on non-lethal methods of managing beaver.

Tippie will offer a slide presentation and share some of the techniques that make her one of the most successful live-trappers around. She also will talk about people who want beaver relocated to their land. Most importantly, she will cover methods of conflict resolution so beaver don't have to be relocated.

The longer Tippie worked with beaver, and the more she read and learned about them, the more she realized they were more than humble rodents, they were a "keystone" species. They were

also the answer to many of the problems in the arid West.

In 1986, with the help of a friend who was the president of United Sportsman, she founded and became the president of the nonprofit organization Wildlife 2000.

## Stories of the Stars

Grass in front of Evergreen Lake House  
Friday, Oct. 8, 6:30 pm

Led by Pam Little, participants will learn amazing and fun space facts while using a star chart and a star clock, hearing ancient star stories, and locating star shapes and planets in the night sky. Venus, Mars and Saturn will be guests of honor. Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or camp chairs.

Registration is required; call 303-330-0489. Limited to 25 participants, ages 3 and up.

## CSI: Trees

Evergreen Nature Center

Saturday, Oct. 9, 11 am–1 pm

Richard Kerr, retired adjunct professor of geography, will offer an introduction to

how a tree grows, comparing cell growth and size. He will discuss "earlywood" in spring and what it tells us of precipitation and "latewood" in fall and how it relates to summer temperatures.

Also covered will be the biochemistry of autumn colors and the uses of dendrochronology, which is the dating of events such as earthquakes and fires by tree rings.

After Richard's talk, there will be a demonstration of coring an actual tree.

Registration is required; call 303-330-0489. Limited to 25 participants, ages 10 and up.

## Fall Water Birds in Jefferson County Jefferson County

Sunday, Oct. 24, 8 am–1 pm

Join Brad Andres for a search of migrant and wintering water birds. We will target ponds, lakes and reservoirs in Jefferson County, generally around Golden. Meet at Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride. Bring a spotting scope.

For information and to sign up, contact Brad, [birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org), 303-670-0101.

## MEMBERSHIP

KENT SIMON

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

### New

Edie Israel–Boulder

Dawn Mackety–Evergreen

### New Family

Michael & Lisa Weideman–Evergreen

### Renewing

Vivian & Dick Burrows–Conifer

Catherine & Ray Petros–Golden

David Walker–Indian Hills

### Renewing Family

Heather Johnson & Brad Andres–  
Evergreen

David Jones & Deb Callahan–Evergreen

Bill & JoAnn Hackos–Evergreen

Kathi & Thomas LaTourrette–Evergreen

Barbara Nabors & Mike Wilson–  
Morrison

## FIELD NOTES

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### Mt. Evans at Sunrise

The moon was full on this mild, clear summer night. Ten people set out for sunrise on Mt. Evans on July 25 and we all knew we were in for something very special.

We saw so much natural beauty all along the way—simple things like the full moon peaking behind the hillside and trees, creating outrageous, mesmerizing silhouettes before us.

Then the morning sun, shining through the clouds along the horizon with colors of magenta, pink and red; every carload of birder later confessed they wanted to stop and gaze upon the fiery sky as it reflected on the pond near Summit Lake.

At the top of Mt. Evans, we saw life awakening: birds started to flit around, mountain goats and bighorn sheep walked up from the drainage below, marmots and pika appeared and shouted out.

We felt quite satisfied with viewing the wildlife around us, then Barbara Nabors lightly shouted, "Ptarmigans!" She saw three birds in the meadow below and close to her.

Camouflaged and almost impossible to see, the three White-tailed Ptarmigans were quietly and slowly foraging on the alpine tundra. These birds really looked like the ground they were walking on.

For more than a half-hour we watched, took pictures and helped each other re-find these icons of the alpine tundra. We all knew we were being treated to something very special.

After a while, a pair of mountain goats came up and were walking straight toward the birds. We knew the birds were going to take off, and there they went . . . beautiful birds in the soft morning light.

We saw 25 species by midday, "Lifers" for some. Thank you to all who came.

- Sherman Wing and Susan Harper

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 3	Beaver in the West	Noon–2 PM	Nature Center
Oct. 7	Chapter Meeting	7 PM	Church of the Hills
Oct. 8	Stories of the Stars	6:30 PM	Evergreen Lake House
Oct. 9	CSI: Trees	11 AM–1 PM	NATURE CENTER
Oct. 10	Newsletter deadline	5 PM	
Oct. 24	Fall Water Birds in Jeffco	8 AM–1 PM	JEFFERSON COUNTY
Oct. 28	EA Board Meeting	7 PM	

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month 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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