



# THE DIPPER

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EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

## Nature writer/photographer to speak October 4

Frank Weston, a former Environmental Protection Agency consultant who is now a wilderness photographer and writer will introduce some of Colorado's lesser-known, yet environmentally significant locations at the Oct. 4 chapter meeting.

"On all the broad extent of these United States, certainly no region can be found which presents more facts of interest, more opportunities for investigation, and greater possibilities of new discoveries, than the state of Colorado."

The director of the U.S. Geological Survey made this statement in 1883. Colorado is such a wonderfully diverse state, encompassing the Great Plains, the highest portions of the Rocky Mountains and the arid Colorado Basin, that adjectives get run ragged trying to keep up with it.

Colorado is so diverse that even native-born residents will be amazed at the places yet to explore.

Frank has been fortunate enough to photograph these wonderful places. Growing up in Colorado's incredible landscapes, he developed a passion for nature's beauty at a young age. That is undoubtedly what motivated him to

spend more than 25 years as an environmental consultant striving to clean up the toxic legacy of our industrialized culture.

Resurrecting his childhood interest in photography, Frank spent several

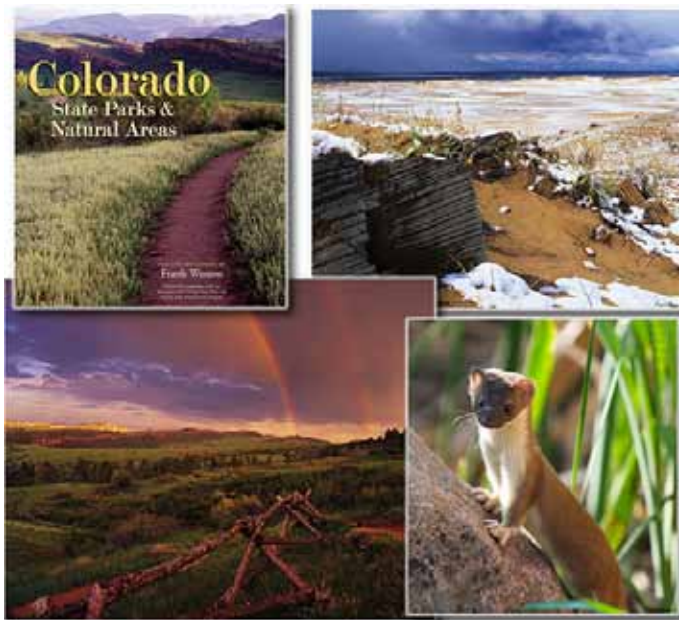
years teaching himself the fundamentals of photography and then honing those skills until he was able to create images that preserved the subtle nuances of nature's beauty. His work has appeared in numerous national and international

publications, such as *Nature Canada* and *Outdoor Photographer*.

Taking his passions for the great outdoors and photography, Frank has travelled throughout our state to create his book, "Colorado State Parks and Natural Areas" (Westcliffe 2008), which examines the best natural features in the state parks and natural areas.

He'll share that experience with us during his talk, and for anyone who uses a camera, Frank also

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*Frank Weston, author of "Colorado State Parks and Natural Areas," will open a window onto some of Colorado's lesser-known places at the Thursday, Oct. 4, chapter meeting.*

## Batty theme brings in the cash at annual Bash

Bats took over the traditional Bird House Bash fundraiser Sept. 12, turning it into the Bat House Bash, as Evergreen Nature Center celebrated its fifth year in operation.

With a record-breaking \$10,000-plus in net proceeds at this year's Bash, Evergreen Audubon's vision for a nature center that is a recognized community asset and a vehicle to inspire contagious enthusiasm for nature may move toward reality faster than, well, a bat out of hell.

If you were at the Bat House Bash, you now know, among other things, that bats give birth to babies that weigh

one-quarter as much as the mother (the equivalent of a 120-pound human giving birth to a 30-pound infant).

Bats are threatened with a fungus known as white-nose syndrome, and though nine of the 19 species of bats that live in Colorado are found in Evergreen, the good news is that white-nose syndrome has not been found here yet.

The importance of healthy bats in our ecosystem gave rise to ENC recognizing the Year of the Bat, as declared by the United Nations and Bat Conservation International.

ENC has hosted more than 16,000

visitors so far this season, the most of any season to date.

Those in attendance at the Bat House Bash showed their appreciation for ENC's successes by buying tickets, bidding on silent auction items ranging from fishing trips to art classes, and enthusiastically competing for live-auction items.

The fundraising frenzy culminated in a spirited paddle raise facilitated by auctioneer John Clatworthy. The paddle raise brought in \$5,572 as donors generously volunteered to support ENC with

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**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

Over the last few months, we have begun developing a strategic/business plan for Evergreen Nature Center, and more recently thought it might be good to address all activities of Evergreen Audubon in such a plan.

One of the first steps of the planning process is to develop a vision for the organization that is shared by the members and can be communicated to potential donors, non-Audubon members of our mountain community, and clients of Evergreen Nature Center.

In general, a vision should be the guiding image of success, a view of the future that everyone can believe in, and emotional yet rational. A couple of examples: "A world free of Alzheimer's" (Alzheimer's Association) and, "There will be a personal computer on every desk running Microsoft software" (Microsoft Corp.).

Whether an organization is for-profit or non-profit can flavor the vision. The vision should be realistic enough that the organization has some chance of achieving it

The current vision of Evergreen Audubon is: "Evergreen Audubon envisions a local and world community that embraces reverence for life and conservation of natural resources. A global culture shall exist in which the natural world is respected and nurtured."

Components of an alternative vision I suggested at the September general meeting were: 1) Wildlife and the environment are valued by an educated community, and/or 2) Evergreen Audubon is a valuable asset of the mountain community.

You can see how these two alternatives address more general, idealistic ideas or focus more on the organization and its role in the community. Some combination might make the most sense for Evergreen Audubon and Evergreen Nature Center.

A second step in the planning process is the development of the mission statement. The mission contains language that describes: 1) what we do, 2) for whom do we do it, and 3) what is the benefit.

The current mission of Evergreen Audubon is, "To conserve and restore natural ecosystems and to inspire and educate our community for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity."

We previously developed a mission specific to Evergreen Nature Cen-

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**VIP VOLUNTEERS** BRAD ANDRES

The following folks assisted with the 2012 nest-box check in Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters: **Chuck Aid, Chelsea Bebee, Karel Buckley, Pat Carter, Andrea Contreras, Fernando Diaz, Jessica Fish, Linda Fisher, JoAnn and Bill Hackos, Rachel Hutchison, Heather Johnson, Andrea Minoletti, Barbara Nabors, Pandora Reagan, Dee Sacks, David Wald, Natalie Wehrwein, Mike Wilson and Mike Wunder.** Thanks to you all!

We also appreciate the support of **Sean Kluesner and Jefferson County Open Space.**

A big thanks to our **Community Weed Awareness Campaign: Sylvia Robertson, Betsy Kelson, Marilyn Kausner, Larry White, Bud Weare, Renee Cormier, Else van Erp and Pat Carter,** as well as **Bergen Park King Soopers, Wal-Mart, Jared's Nursery and Home Depot.**

# Wreaths will beautify your holiday home, help chapter

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, Victorian, Wintergreen and Cranberry Splash.

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

for in-town pickup except the Wintergreen.

**Orders are due no later than Oct. 29. Prices are listed below.**

If you can help with sales and delivery or would like to place an order, call Marilyn Rhodes at 303-674-9895 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 (HGW) at time of

**Holiday Wreath Prices—all wreaths are 25 inches and are pictured at [evergreenaudubon.org](http://evergreenaudubon.org)**

	Method of Delivery	
	In-town	Out-of-town
Classic Wreath	\$20	\$30 (HGW)
Victorian Wreath	\$25	\$35 (HGW)
Cranberry Splash	\$26	\$36 (HGW)
Wintergreen Wreath		\$35 (HGW)

order. The wreaths should be delivered just before Thanksgiving.

Please support our chapter by participating in this important fundraiser.

- Marilyn Rhodes

## Bat House Bash

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dollars to pay for the operation of the center for a week, several days and many shifts during the summer, as well as funds to purchase a new computer and sponsor field trips for school classes.

This year's sponsors were ComTech Services Inc., Holland Hurst, Step Ahead Energy Efficiency Consulting, Fresh Tracks Catering, Stoneheart Gallery, Mountain Hearth and Patio, the Wald Family, Walt and Polly Phillips, Sherman Wing, and Marge Petersen.

Patrons of the event were Brad Andres and Heather Johnson, Ann and Ed Dodson, William and Louise Mounsey, Walt and Polly Phillips, Dick and Sherry Prickett, Joan Ridgely, Cathy Shelton, and Tom and Else Van Erp.

- Ginny Ades

## Oct. chapter meeting

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will demonstrate some simple techniques that he incorporates in his photography that can be used to improve photographs, regardless of skill level.

"There is a wondrous beauty in the world that we take for granted in our instant-access, fast-paced, high-tech, 24/7 struggle for survival in the new millennium," Frank said. "But it is seldom that we can take the time to enjoy our natural world . . . Our spirits thirst for the simple scent of flowers, soft breeze caresses and pristine landscapes."

The chapter meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

- Kathy Madison

## Another busy, successful weed season winds down

Shorter days and cooler weather are a sign that weed season is coming to a close. Most of our weeds have already dropped their seeds and the perennials are beginning to draw energy into their roots to help them survive the winter.

Fall can be a good time for spraying perennial weeds or to apply a pre-emergent spray on Cheatgrass. But for most of our biennial weeds, like Musk thistle or knapweed, it may be too late for effective control. Certainly if you have weeds in your yard that haven't seeded yet, pull and bag them before it is too late.

The noxious weed team had a busy but successful year, including education outreach at the Denver Home and

Garden Show, the Earth Day Fair, the Mountain Home and Garden Show, Pulling for Colorado and a weed display at Evergreen Nature Center.

We also hosted our 15th Anniversary Community Weed Day in June and Wake Up and Weed in August at Evergreen Lake.

Thanks to a Pulling for Colorado Weed Grant, we were able to run two ads in the Canyon Courier and buy books and educational materials to give to those interested.

It takes a dedicated group of people to pull off all these activities, along with the commitment of Evergreen Audubon. (Please see VIPs on page 2.)

And it goes without saying that our

weed volunteers are the absolute best!

Fifteen years is a long time, but also a blink of the eye in the battle against noxious weeds. Are weeds gone? Heavens no! Not only do we continue to fight our old favorites, but new baddies arrive each season.

Is it worth it? Yes! When we started our education outreach most people were unaware of the impacts of noxious weeds, but now they tell us about all their weeding and bring in plants for us to identify.

And even though we can't claim victory at Evergreen Lake, we can see that our weeding has made a huge difference.

- Cathy Shelton  
Community Weed Awareness Campaign

## Fall migration seems a bit early

Fall migration was in full swing from mid-August through September. Seems like everything left a little earlier than usual.

### Yardbirds

We had two reports of an **albino robin** last month. I received this email from Tina Kellogg on Aug. 13. She has wonderful flower and vegetable gardens at her home in Kittredge.

"Albino robin??? Never heard of one, have you? But that's exactly what we saw in our garden!

"After having the sprinkler on for more than an hour or so . . . at least 20 robins were in there playing and hunting down worms.

"I didn't believe Chris (her son) when he told me but sure enough, seeing is believing! How often does that happen I wonder?"

Later in the month, on Aug. 21, Debbie Marshall emailed that she had heard a report of a white robin in the Troutdale area off Upper Bear Creek.

On Aug. 28, Debbie posted, "This morning I noticed a bird on the bird bath I had never seen before. I believe it to have been a male **Lesser Goldfinch**, a new yardbird for me."

Sherman Wing observed **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in his Indian Hills yard Sept. 1 and David Walker reported a **Lark Sparrow** in his Indian Hills back yard on Sept. 3.

On Sept. 6, John Sears of Conifer commented, "We have a female **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** who has no tail. NOT KIDDING. No signs of a wound; only full-grown feathers over the tail area.

"She flies a bit more delicately, but she holds her own at the feeders, even chasing away other Broad-tails."

I have had large numbers of **Evening Grosbeaks** at my Hiwan Hills feeders most of September.

### Out and About on the Birding Trail *Mount Evans*

On Aug. 28, I took pictures of a **White-tailed Ptarmigan** hen with leg bands

## Former member earns RMBO award

Duane Nelson, a former Evergreen Audubon member, was honored this year with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's prestigious Rich Levad Award.

I had the good fortune of meeting Duane in April at John Martin Reservoir, near Lamar, where he showed our group the Piping Plovers he monitors and lovingly protects.

Here is an excerpt from a cobirds post by RMBO board member Joe Roller:

"Duane Nelson has been a pillar of the Colorado birding community for decades and a friend, teacher and guide to many of us. Karen Levad, the widow of famed RMBO field biologist Rich Levad, presented the Rich Levad Award to Duane at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's annual Barbecue for the Birds on Saturday, Aug. 25, at the Old Stone House near Barr Lake.

"This award recognizes persons who have provided distinguished service to the ornithological community, made scholarly contributions to the field of ornithology and/or have enthused others about conserving birds and their habitats through sharing their personal knowledge and experience throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.

"Among Duane Nelson's many

achievements over the decades are his discovery of and tireless work at the Dinosaur Ridge Hawkwatch Site in the early 1990s.

"He was chair of the Colorado Field Ornithologists Bird Record Committee, received the Denver Field Ornithologists Ptarmigan Award, and has been a major contributor to both Colorado's Breeding Bird Atlas I and Atlas II.

"In fact, Duane's 'life's work' over the past 22 years to study, manage and conserve Colorado's Piping Plovers and Least Terns closely parallels the work of Rich Levad himself, who for decades studied and taught us about the Black Swift, 'The Coolest Bird.'

"Duane has personally led hundreds, even thousands, of interested birders to view and admire the plovers and terns. As one qualified observer said, 'It is fair to say that without his dedicated efforts we would not have breeding Piping Plovers and Least Terns anywhere in Colorado.'"

If you are not a member of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, you might want to check out their website, <http://rmbo.org/v3/AboutUs.aspx>, and contribute to their work.

- Marilyn Rhodes

on Mount Evans. I turned to "White-Tailed Ptarmigan: Ghosts of the Alpine Tundra" by Colorado's own Joyce Gellhorn (who recently died) and found her mention of Clait Braun as a ptarmigan expert.

I had the privilege of sharing my scope with Ms. Gellhorn while viewing ptarmigan in Rocky Mountain National Park last August.

Brad Andres and Colorado birder

Joe Roller also pointed me toward Clait Braun when I expressed interest in the banding program, and Clait was kind enough to answer my inquiring email.

Marilyn:

Thank you for sending the great photographs of the female White-tailed Ptarmigan taken on Mt. Evans on 28 August 2012. The band combination

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(R/G W/Blue/Alum) indicate this is female # 7066.

“This particular bird was first banded on 21 August 2009 as a 1+ (yearling, hatched in 2008) in the upper basin on the east side of Mt. Evans. I believe she has been reobserved each year and is now 4 years of age.

“This individual was banded as part of a long-term (1966 to present) study of White-tailed Ptarmigan in the Mt. Evans area now being conducted by Greg Wann, a graduate student at Colorado State University with me as a helper.

The study is now focusing on ptarmigan response to climate change.

Clait

### Big Sur, California

JoAnn Hackos emailed this from Califor-

nia: “Bill and I are attending the Monterey Birding Festival. Today (Sept. 14) we saw five California Condors, including a father and son pair that flew a hundred feet or so over our heads.

“Just before the Condors went over-head, Marilyn Rhodes and a group from Denver Audubon drove up to the parking area at Big Sur. We all saw the birds and have great photos to share once we get home.”

## Correction

A photo of a squirrel in the September *Dipper* identified a local Pine squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonius*), also called a chickaree or red squirrel, as a Douglas squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*). Thank you to Shirley and Allan Casey for the correct identification.



*White-tailed Ptarmigan with blue-banded right foot and red/green-banded left foot. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes.*

## Bear Creek Birding Guide enters planning phase

The Evergreen Audubon board of directors has approved an exciting new project for the 2012-2013 season—the development of a Birding Guide for the Bear Creek Watershed.

As the board members responsible for bird monitoring, Bill and JoAnn Hackos kicked off the project at the Sept. 6 chapter meeting.

The first phase of the project involves developing a list of the best birding patches in the Bear Creek drainage, all

the way from Summit Lake on Mt. Evans to Bear Creek Lake State Park and the confluence of Bear Creek with the Platte River.

We invite Evergreen birders to submit their favorite spots to [birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org).

The second phase will include writing descriptions of each site with lists of birds and other important components such as mammals and plants. We will provide a basic template for everyone to follow.

We hope that authors will provide photos of the site and birds viewed there. As a great example, check on the San Mateo County Birding Guide at <http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org/>. Their information is first-rate.

Finally, we will develop a website featuring our great Bear Creek birding hotspots. We may use the same information to publish a small birding guide for sale at Evergreen Nature Center.

- JoAnn and Bill Hackos

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BRAD ANDRES

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ter, which was, “The Evergreen Nature Center aspires to foster contagious enthusiasm and life-long respect for the natural world by providing fun and inspiring educational experiences throughout the Bear Creek Watershed.”

An alternative suggested at the September meeting combines these two: “Providing inspiring educational experiences and sound citizen science fosters contagious enthusiasm and life-long

respect for the natural world in communities throughout the Bear Creek Watershed.”

To develop the most inclusive vision and mission for Evergreen Audubon, the board of directors is seeking additional input from the membership.

Don't worry about trying to word-smith the perfect statement, just write some words or phrases on how you envision the future of the world and how you see Evergreen Audubon contributing to

making the vision a reality.

Send ideas to me at [president@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:president@evergreenaudubon.org). Once we settle on the vision and mission, we will work on developing goals and strategies to the mission and vision.

Although you may believe much of this type of direction already exists, the board believes we need a solid, well-conceived plan to carry Evergreen Audubon and Evergreen Nature Center into the future.

# Mountain Bluebird production heats up in 2012

We continued our monitoring efforts of 35 nest boxes in Elk Meadow Park and 25 boxes in Alderfer/Three Sisters Park in 2012.

Also this year, Jessica Fish, a student of Dr. Michael Wunder of the University of Colorado Denver, began a graduate project on bluebirds and will be using Elk Meadow and Three Sisters as two of her study sites.

With the help of Evergreen Audubon members, Jessica was able to band 14 adult and 76 young bluebirds in Elk Meadow and eight adult and 35 young bluebirds in Three Sisters. She also placed geolocators on 13 bluebirds at both sites.

Geolocators use sunrise and sunset data to determine the locations of marked birds, and information obtained from the devices will be used to determine the wintering grounds of our breeding bluebirds.

We made 13 visits to Elk Meadow (32.5 hours) and 12 visits to Three Sisters (25 hours) to monitor nest-box use between March 5 and Aug. 10. During that period, all of the 35 boxes in Elk Meadow were occupied by breeding bird pairs, and all but one box (total of 24) were occupied in Three Sisters.

One occupied box in Three Sisters was destroyed by a black bear, so we did not include information from this box in our analysis.

For first nest attempts at both sites, Mountain Bluebirds laid eggs in 24 boxes, Western Bluebirds in 17 boxes and Tree Swallows in 13 boxes; these three species constituted 92% of all nests with eggs.

House Wrens and Violet-green Swallows each laid eggs in two nest boxes, and a Mountain Chickadee laid a single clutch at Three Sisters.

This year, Violet-green Swallows nested only in Elk Meadow, whereas five pairs occupied boxes in Three Sisters in 2011. Unlike 2011 when no pairs re-nested or made late-season attempts, 20 pairs of birds initiated a second nest attempt in 2012. Most (85%) of the second attempts were in Elk Meadow and were initiated there primarily (53%) by Mountain Bluebirds.

At both sites, 254 young of six species

*Breeding success of birds using nest boxes in Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters Parks, Evergreen, Colorado – 2012. Second attempts are clutches laid, by either the same or different species, after the success or failure of the initial clutch.*

	Mountain Bluebird		Western Bluebird		Tree Swallow		Violet-green Swallow	House Wren		Mountain Chickadee
<b>Elk Meadow</b>										
<b>Nesting attempt</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Nests built</b>	16	9	9	4	9	1	2	1	1	-
<b>Nests with eggs</b>	16	9	9	4	8	1	2	1	1	-
<b>Successful nests</b>	15	7	8	3	7	0	2	1	1	-
<b>Clutch size</b>	5.13	4.56	4.78	5.00	5.00	4.00	3.50	8.00	6.00	-
<b>% hatched of eggs laid</b>	80	59	79	55	73	0	100	100	100	-
<b>% fledged of eggs laid</b>	72	59	60	55	45	0	100	100	100	-
<b>Chicks fledged/pair</b>	3.69	2.67	2.89	2.75	2.00	0	3.50	8.00	6.00	-
<b>Young produced</b>	59	24	26	11	18	0	7	8	6	-
<b>Three Sisters</b>										
<b>Nesting attempt</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Nests built</b>	8	2	8	-	5	1	-	1	-	1
<b>Nests with eggs</b>	8	2	8	-	5	1	-	1	-	1
<b>Successful nests</b>	7	1	7	-	5	1	-	1	-	1
<b>Clutch size</b>	5.25	4.50	4.50	-	4.80	4.00	-	7.00	-	8.00
<b>% hatched of eggs laid</b>	71	56	92	-	96	75	-	86	-	63
<b>% fledged of eggs laid</b>	69	56	81	-	75	75	-	86	-	63
<b>Chicks fledged/pair</b>	3.63	2.50	3.63	-	3.60	3.00	-	6.00	-	5.00
<b>Young produced</b>	29	5	29	-	18	3	-	6	-	5

were produced in the nest boxes in 2012 (an average productivity of 4.3 fledged young per box), which was similar to the 247 young produced in 2011. Mountain Bluebird pairs produced 117 young, Western Bluebirds 66 young and Tree Swallows 39 young.

The dry early summer conditions of 2012 appeared to favor production of Mountain Bluebirds; production of Mountain Bluebirds in 2012 was 58% higher than in 2011, whereas production of Western Bluebirds was 26% lower.

Tree Swallow production was similar between 2011 (43 young) and 2012 (39 young). Since beginning our nest-box placement and monitoring in 2007, we have more than doubled the production of bluebirds and swallows at these two parks.

The following folks assisted with this year's nest box checks: Chuck Aid, Brad

Andres, Chelsea Bebee, Karel Buckley, Pat Carter, Andrea Contreras, Fernando Diaz, Jessica Fish, Linda Fisher, JoAnn and Bill Hackos, Rachel Hutchison, Heather Johnson, Andrea Minoletti, Barbara Nabors, Pandora Reagan, Dee Sacks, David Wald, Natalie Wehrwein, Mike Wilson and Mike Wunder.

These observers spent a total of 160 person-hours monitoring the nest boxes in 2012, and Dee Sacks spent an additional 16 hours assisting Jessica. Thanks to you all! We also appreciate the support of Sean Kluesner and Jefferson County Open Space.

If you would like to participate in nest-box monitoring efforts in 2013, please contact Rachel Hutchison (rachelhutchison@comcast.net) or JoAnn/Bill Hackos (birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org).

- Rachel Hutchison,  
Mike Wilson, Brad Andres

## FIELD NOTE

### Shorebirds Abound on the Plains

Instead of partying or picnicking Labor Day weekend, eight of us (me, Heather, Chuck Aid, Mike Foster, JoAnn and Bill Hackos, Rachel Hutchison and Dick Prickett) headed into the heat of the high plains in search of migrant shorebirds.

Our first stop was Prewitt Reservoir. Unfortunately, I forgot this weekend was the opening of dove season, so we had to alter our plans for searching the willow thickets for land birds.

No problem. The reservoir had a great mix of shorebirds, including three of the larger-bodied species: **Long-billed Curlew**, **Marbled Godwit** and **Willet**. **Peeps** were everywhere.

Among the numerous **Baird's** and **Stilt** sandpipers, we also were able to distinguish **Least**, **Semipalmated** and **Western** sandpipers.

We studied two *hendersoni* **Short-billed Dowitchers** until we convinced ourselves they were not **Long-billed Dowitchers**, which we also observed on the mudflats.

A lone adult breeding-plumaged **Black-bellied Plover** was a treat, and we picked out several **Red-necked Phalaropes** amongst the many **Wilson's Phalaropes**.

**American Avocets**, **Killdeer** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** rounded out our shorebird list. Oh yeah, there were gobs of **American White Pelicans**, some **White-faced Ibis** and numerous **Black Terns**.



*Eight field trippers endure the heat in search of migrant shorebirds at Prewitt Reservoir. They were rewarded with 95 species. Photos by Brad Andres*

Heading north, we stopped to bird a fencerow that had lots of birds, but we had a hard time seeing very many. We did manage to pull out a couple of **Townsend's Warblers**. Earlier in the day, we had some good sparrows, including **Clay-colored**, and a **Calliope Hummingbird** in the sagebrush.

After lunch, we pushed on to Jackson Lake. Leaving Prewitt, we picked up two **Wilson's Snipes** as they crossed the road in front of us.

By the time we reached Jackson Lake, it was in the mid-90s, and the birding was difficult. However, a quick walk down the dam rewarded us with a few shorebirds we hadn't seen at Prewitt, including **Sanderling** and **Pectoral** sandpipers.

Retreating to the shade of the visitor center to search for land birds, we identified a **Warbling Vireo**, **Bewick's Wren**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Orange-crowned Warbler** and numerous **Wilson's Warblers**.

Leaving Jackson Lake, we checked the Andrick Ponds State Wildlife Area for any additional shorebirds. We got lucky and added **Black-necked Stilt**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Greater Yellowlegs**.

Heading for home, we checked the tally and had 95 total species and a good showing of 23 shorebird species. A great day on the northeastern Colorado reservoirs and ponds!

- Brad Andres

## NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

Register by calling 303-330-0489 or online at [evergreennaturecenter.org](http://evergreennaturecenter.org).

### Wednesday Wild Ones: Lake Life in Winter Wednesday, Oct. 3, 10–11 a.m. Evergreen Nature Center

Ever wonder where the trout, frogs, geese and crayfish go in winter? Come to the last Wild Ones of 2012, to find out more.

We'll also celebrate five years of

learning fun at ENC! Ages: 2–5 with adult.

### Evergreen Nuthatches: Neighborhood Nuthatches Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.–noon Dedisse Park

No snowbirds here! All three of our nuthatch species stick around for winter.

Find out how and discover the creative habits of the cavity-loving pygmy, white-breasted and red-breasted

nuthatches. Anyone 10 and over is welcome!

### Bear Creek Dippers: Rock Hounds Saturday, Oct. 20, 10–11:30 a.m. Dedisse Park

Calling all rock hounds! Bear Creek Dippers will explore the rock cycle.

Hunt for rocks with a geologist, make your own sedimentary rock to take home, and learn about fossils, plate tectonics and more! Ages: 6–10 with adult.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 3	Wednesday Wild Ones	10–11 am	Nature Center
Oct. 4	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Oct. 10	Newsletter deadline	5 pm	
Oct. 13	Evergreen Nuthatches	10 am–noon	Dedisse Park
Oct. 20	Bear Creek Dippers	10–11:30 am	Dedisse Park
Oct. 25	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	Church of the Hills
Oct. 29	Wreath order deadline		

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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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
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**(must include for electronic *Dipper*)**

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Nest Box Report  
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