



THE DIPPER

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OCTOBER 2015

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.EvergreenAudubon.org

OCTOBER BIRD WALK

Join Chuck Aid, Evergreen Audubon director of bird monitoring, for the Third-Saturday Bird Walk on Oct 17 from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

This month we will visit Bear Creek Lake Park, which has an entrance fee—\$7/car or \$5/car for seniors (62-plus).

Bring water and a snack. Meet at Evergreen Library by 7:30 a.m. We will consolidate ourselves into as few cars as possible for the 25-minute drive.

These walks are for Evergreen Audubon members and their guests. Non-members won't be turned away, but will be encouraged to join Evergreen Audubon.

To reserve a space, please register online. Go to www.evergreenaudubon.org, click on the Event Calendar and then the listing on Oct. 17.

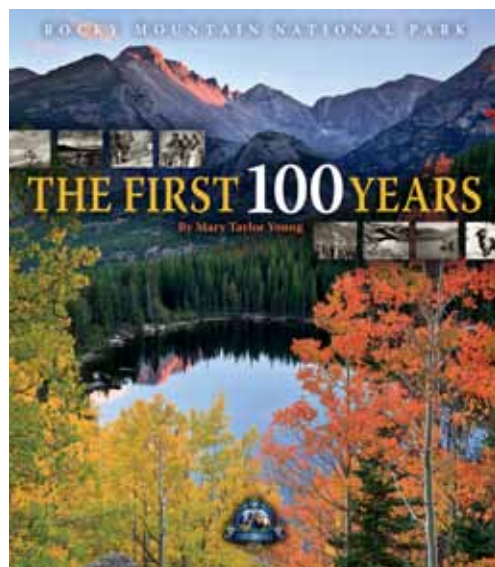
- Chuck Aid
Director of Bird Monitoring



Else Van Erp and friends celebrate World Shorebirds Day. See story on page 5. *Photo by Heather Johnson*

Beloved park celebrates centennial

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park, signed into law on Jan. 26, 1915, and formally dedicated on Sept. 4, 1915, even before



the National Park Service was created on Aug. 25, 1916!

RMNP has been a local and national favorite since its inception, but the park's natural and cultural history extend far earlier than the last century.

Please join Evergreen Audubon at Church of the Hills on Thursday, Oct. 1, to glimpse the history of Colorado's premier national park and celebrate its centennial.

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize, with the presentation to begin at 7.

Award-winning author and naturalist Mary Taylor Young will discuss her most recent book, "Rocky Mountain National Park: The First 100 Years."

Young's presentation will allow us to witness the rise, fall and rise of mountains and to meet ancient people who used rock to build game drives still visible atop Trail Ridge Road.

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Devoted ENC volunteers honored at party

Evergreen Audubon's top volunteers gathered for food and fun on a warm Thursday evening, Sept. 10, on the cusp of fall.

Bird monitors, Evergreen Nature Center visitor assistants, board members and more enjoyed the opportunity to meet new friends and catch up with old ones as we celebrated the many facets of our organization.

Each volunteer has already contributed the minimum 12 hours for the year and we are grateful that most have signed up for more in the coming months.

Evergreen Audubon is fortunate to have a wide array of talent and expertise working hard to accomplish our many goals and projects in pursuit of our mission to educate and protect.

The annual volunteer awards will be handed out the 2016 EA Annual Banquet in January. However, four special volunteers received what I jokingly call the

"silly awards," which are in fact a very sincere sign of appreciation for the folks that make Evergreen Audubon their own by adopting and leading projects, often independently.

This year the animal-themed awards focused on four different styles of volunteer: Cottontail, Pine Squirrel, Bluebird and Owl. Please help me in thanking the following fine friends when you see them!

• **Melissa Leasia**, who started in 2014 as a visitor assistant, took home the Cottontail Award for eagerly moving into ENC visitor assistant tasks with keen interest and a friendly manner.

Cottontails are constantly watching and seeking. With extraordinarily acute senses, they are always on the lookout for impending peril. Although they could be described as solitary and quirky, they're also friendly, warm and understanding.

• **Ed Furlong**, EA's director of educa-

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Meetings first Thursday, 7 p.m., Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen, except January. Meetings in June, July and August are held at Evergreen Nature Center.

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported Evergreen Nature Center at our annual Bash.

I believe we all had a great time at Hiwan Golf Club, entertained by John Clatworthy's lively auction and Clint Dadian's great jazz guitar music.

Thanks to Ann Dodson, Marge Petersen, Vanessa Hayes, Mark Edwards, Kathy Madison and others I missed for putting on a great event.

Also, my thanks to the businesses and individuals who contributed to the live and silent auctions and those who supported the Nature Center throughout the season.

By the time you get this newsletter, the Nature Center will be winding down the season, and the volunteers will have celebrated another successful year.

Vanessa gave an excellent presentation to the Evergreen Park and Recreation District board of directors in late August, so we are hoping for a positive vote in October on renewing our use of the Warming Hut. We are currently discussing a five- or 10-year agreement.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the many visitor assistants who make the ENC a viable endeavor.

The end of August also saw the wrap-up of the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas and nest-box monitoring in Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters parks (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

Thanks to Chuck Aid and all the volunteer atlasers and to Rachel Hutchison, Dee Sacks and other "bluebirders" for conducting nest-box checks. It won't be too long before we are putting together our Christmas Bird Count parties! This year, the count will be on Sunday, Dec. 20.

Heather Johnson reports on our field trip to observe the second annual World Shorebird Day in this *Dipper*. We had a good turnout of shorebirds (17 species) and shorebirders (15 participants).

During my day job, I am working with National Audubon staff on developing a flyway-scale conservation strategy for the Pacific coast of the Americas (Alaska to Chile) and will be co-leading a workshop next week to gather input from partners across the flyway.

Because shorebirds cross such large distances during their twice-annual migrations, conservation actions need to be implemented at large scales. Partners along the Atlantic coast of the Americas have recently completed a similar effort.

I hope you enjoy our post-summer transition of migrating warblers, turning aspen leaves and bugling elk.

Wreath sales raise funds for EA

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.

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Rainy spring causes bluebirds to compensate

We continued our regular monitoring of the nest boxes at Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters Jefferson County Open Space parks in 2015.

We made 11 complete visits and several spot checks to each park between March 22 and the end of August, spending a total of 34.5 survey hours at Elk Meadow and 19.5 hours at Alderfer/Three Sisters.

During this period, we found that 34 of the 35 boxes at Elk Meadow were occupied by breeding bird pairs and 20 of 22 boxes were occupied at Three Sisters, which resulted in an overall 95 percent occupancy rate (see Table 1).

For all nest attempts at both parks, Mountain Bluebirds laid eggs in 30 nests, Western Bluebirds in 18 nests, Tree Swallows in 13 nests and Violet-green Swallows in eight nests; these four species constituted 92 percent of all nests with eggs.

House Wrens made five attempts at nesting, and a single Mountain Chickadee pair used a box at Alderfer/Three Sisters. The number of nesting Western Bluebirds was more equitable to the number of Mountain Bluebirds in 2015 than in the previous two years.

The rainy spring likely caused failures in bluebirds and Tree Swallows in Elk Meadow. Most failures occurred after hatching, with either complete or partial brood loss.

Our suspicion is that insect activity was negatively affected by the rain, and adult birds were not able to forage effectively enough to feed chicks.

Later nesting pairs and those breeding at Alderfer/Three Sisters (which tends to be later) were not affected like the initial nesters in Elk Meadow (Table 1).

However, pairs compensated by re-nesting and ended up fledging a greater number of chicks by the end of the season than in the previous two years.

Note that total bluebird and swallow production has only varied 10 percent to 14 percent among the last three years (Table 2).

It seems bluebirds have the ability to adjust their breeding strategy to compensate for the variable spring weather we have at Evergreen's elevation.

Table 1. Breeding success of birds using nest boxes in Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters Parks, Evergreen, CO–2015. Second attempts are clutches laid, by either the same or different species, after the success or failure of the initial clutch.

Elk Meadow	Mountain Bluebird		Western Bluebird		Tree Swallow		Violet-green Swallow		House Wren	
	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd
Nesting attempt	18	6	8	1	6	2	3	4	1	3
Nests with eggs	14	6	7	1	5	1	2	3	1	3
Clutch size	4.78	5.17	5.50	5.00	5.00	3.50	4.33	4.25	7.00	5.33
% hatched of eggs laid	71	94	84	100	80	43	69	71	86	88
% fledged of eggs laid	50	85	52	100	43	43	69	71	86	81
Chicks fledged/pair	2.39	4.67	3.29	5.00	2.17	1.50	3.00	4.00	6.00	4.33
Young produced	43	28	23	5	13	3	9	12	6	13

Alderfer/Three Sisters	Bluebirds				Swallows		House Wren	Mtn Chickadee
	Mountain		Western		Tree	Violet-green		
Nesting attempt	1 st	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
Nests with eggs	5	1	8	1	4	1	1	1
Successful nests	5	1	7	1	4	1	1	1
Clutch size	4.80	4.00	4.88	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
% hatched of eggs laid	92	100	87	40	45	40	83	100
% fledged of eggs laid	92	100	77	40	20	40	83	100
Chicks fledged/pair	4.40	4.00	3.75	2.00	1.00	2.00	5.00	7.00
Young produced	22	4	30	2	4	2	5	7

We do not know, however, how this variable weather affects adult survival.

Thanks to the following folks for assisting with this year's nest box checks:

Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Pat Carter, Marjorie Clinton, Margo Constable, John Dunlop, Susan Dunlop, Barbara Jean Gard, Rachel Hutchison, Linda Mellor, Rose Perillo, Chris Pfaff, Dee Sacks, Don Twieg and Kathy Twieg.

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

If you would like to participate in nest-box monitoring efforts in 2016,

Table 2. Productivity (number of young produced) and numbers of nest where eggs were laid for bluebirds and swallows in Elk Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters Open Space Parks, Evergreen, CO, 2013–2015.

	Elk Meadow		Alderfer/Three Sisters	
	number of young	number of nests	number of young	number of nests
2013	120	33	55	22
2014	121	42	62	22
2015	136	48	64	20

please contact Rachel Hutchison (rachelhutchison@comcast.net) or Brad Andres (bradandres60@yahoo.com).

- Brad Andres, Rachel Hutchison, Dee Sacks

Yard Birds—Migration in Full Swing

Band-tailed Pigeons have paid regular visits to the feeders of JoAnn and Bill Hackos in Soda Creek for several years.

On Aug. 18, JoAnn posted to EvergreenBirders, “We always get a flock of **Band-tailed Pigeons** in our yard but this is the first immature we have seen.”

On Sept. 1, Shirley Casey reported first-time visitors to her home in The Ridge.

“It is not a huge surprise to see Evening and **Black-headed Grosbeaks** at our feeders, but the **Western Scrub Jay** flock was unusual.”

The same day Shirley shared a photo of this hawk and posed the question, “So which is it?” A **Sharp-shinned** or **Cooper’s Hawk**?

“The day of the photo, it just watched and all the little birds hid. The next day she took a **Pine Siskin** near our feeders and ate in another tree.”

Based on the look of the legs and toes, which seem thick and quite substantial, and the fact that the beak and eyes are proportional to the face, I ID’d this as a **Cooper’s Hawk**.

(Editor’s note: See “A Beginner’s Guide to ID’ing Cooper’s and Sharp-Shinned Hawks” under the News tab at Audubon.org.)

From Else Van Erp Sept. 1. “Migration must be on. On Saturday Tom saw six **Clark’s Nutcrackers**, on Sunday we had three **Gray Jays**.

“Today Tom had two **Northern Goshawks** checking out the pigeon and chicken coops. Then later this afternoon 100 juncos passed through our yard.”

The next day Barbara Klaus, Sun Creek, emailed that she’d had a **Wilson’s Warbler** for the past three days.

Else had a “the best day ever” in her yard Sept. 3: **Audubon’s Warblers**, **Western Bluebirds**, **White-breasted Nuthatches**, **Gray-headed Juncos**, sparrows, chickadees, nuthatches, **Hairy Woodpeckers**, **Downy Woodpeckers**, **Steller’s Jays**, **Pine Siskins** and **Goshawks**, as well as **Cooper’s** and **Sharp-shinned** hawks.

Indian Hills Rarity!

Peggy Corpenny of Indian Hills emailed



Cooper’s (not Sharp-shinned) Hawk. Photo by Allan Casey

photos of an **Acorn Woodpecker** that came to her feeders for a few days around the first two or three days of September.

Mount Evans

I spent most of the day Sept. 3 on Mount Evans with a friend. It was cold, overcast, rainy, snowy, wildflowers are spent.

Our reward? We saw four huge flocks of **Rosy-Finches**, mostly **Brown-capped**, probably 200 total! We also got to see goats, sheep, pika, marmots and lots of **American Pipits**.

Birdseed Cultivation

Sunflowers are a major crop in eastern Colorado.

Colorado places fourth in sunflower production with about 200,000 acres under cultivation, behind North Dakota, Kansas and South Dakota.

Kit Carson County leads the state in sunflower production.

Colorado’s sunflower crops were exceptional this year. On the farms, sunflower seeds with more than 40 percent oil are set aside for oil production.

Seeds with a lower percentage of oil



Acorn Woodpecker. Peggy Corpenny

are saved for snacks and birdseed. That makes a sunflower patch an excellent wildlife habitat for birds and squirrels.

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Wild Evergreen

Bats

On Sept. 4, Barbara Klaus shared photos of a bat on her front porch in Sun Creek.

“He hung out for a few minutes then flew off with no evidence of problems. Seems a little bit early in the day for him to be out.”

Bats are not rodents. They are the world’s only flying mammals and we have them right here in Evergreen.

Bats are not blind, either, even though they use echolocation (like the SONAR that submarines employ) to locate prey.

They appear at dusk over Evergreen Lake, ponds and waterways to drink and forage.

Most people are entirely unaware of their presence, much less their benefits to the ecosystem. Roughly 40 species of bats inhabit the United States, and 18 of those species live in Colorado.

Why are bats important?

They are significant predators of night-



Daytime visitor. *Photo by Barbara Klaus*

flying insects. A single little brown bat can catch 600 mosquitoes in just one hour.

A colony of 150 big brown bats can protect local farmers from up to 18 million or more rootworms each summer.

The 20 million Mexican free-tailed

bats from Bracken Cave, Texas, eat 250 tons of insects nightly.

A decline in bat populations increases the demand for chemical pesticides.

What can we do for them?

Well, it isn’t as easy to help bats as you would birds by putting out feeders. But they do need housing.

Bats need specialized environments for living quarters: warm, dry and dark. While we aren’t fully sure exactly what they like in housing, Bat Conservation International is seeking those answers by enlisting volunteer researchers.

I urge anyone who would like to assist in this project to contact them at www.batcon.org.

What kinds of bats live here?

Eighteen species of bats live in Colorado and they all eat insects. Bat species are hard to tell apart, but the most likely bats in our area are big brown, little brown, silver-haired and hoary.

(Information gathered from the Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks website, Fort Collins website, Bat Bunker website and Colorado Central Magazine.)



Tom Van Erp celebrates his 500th bird species in North America. *Photo by Heather Johnson*

World Shorebirds Day celebrated

Fifteen birders arrived first thing in the morning on Sept. 6 at the Bergen Park-n-Ride to head to Weld and Morgan counties to celebrate World Shorebirds Day.

Birders from across the globe were out conducting shorebird counts and highlighting the importance of conservation actions worldwide.

Our group was led by Evergreen Audubon President Brad Andres.

Water levels were high this year throughout northeastern Colorado, but birders had previously found some productive wetlands north of Brush.

We headed there first and got off to a great start finding shorebirds, waterfowl and other birds.

At one of these playas, we observed a Peregrine Falcon enjoying World Shorebirds Day by making sandpipers the main course for dinner.

Observing a group of eight “Solitary” Sandpipers was unusual for many of us.

A nice group of Stilt Sandpipers, a few Pectoral Sandpipers and a single Marbled Godwit were highlights.

The Morgan County playas also produced three shorebird species that pushed Tom Van Erp’s North American list to 500 species.

After birding north of Brush, we headed to the Lower Latham area, where we picked up a few more species and had brief looks at a Sora and

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Rocky Mountain National Park marks 100 years

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Discover explorers lured by the mountains' call, and adventurers consumed with conquering Longs Peak's soaring summit.

Meet engineers sculpting Trail Ridge Road and Civilian Conservation Corps crews building trails, intrepid rangers rescuing lost hikers and researchers preserving the fragile tundra.

Learn how the park's elk were nearly wiped out, then restored to become one of America's premier wildlife sights.

Relive the visits of millions of Americans who flocked to this beloved national park through the 20th century, forming lifelong attachments to a special place.

Discover how a changing climate may greatly alter RMNP in its next 100 years.

For a tantalizing glimpse of the images and ideas Mary will present, visit YouTube on the web and search for her name.

Mary Taylor Young has been writing about the landscape and heritage of Colorado and the American West for more than 25 years.

Mary's 15 books include "Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist's Prairie Journey" and "The Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide."

Many readers know her "Words On Birds" column, which ran in the Rocky



Mary Taylor Young

The First 100 Years" and other books she authored will be available for purchase at the end of the meeting.

- Ed Furlong, Director of Education

Mountain News for 16 years.

You can learn more about Mary and her works at www.mary-tayloryoung.com.

"Rocky Mountain National Park:

Volunteer honored for service to Nature Center

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tion, received the Owl Award for his consistent contribution and birding expertise.

Owls have developed quite a reputation for intelligence, but it's really their calm and insightful nature that gives this impression.

A conscientious worker, an owl takes responsibilities seriously, and when it accepts the burden of public office it does so with the grace and skill typical of the species.

With an enormous capacity for hard work, owls achieve great things in almost any field they choose.

• Peg Linn, EA's very helpful at large board member, earned the Bluebird Award for so enthusiastically helping at ENC.

Bluebirds travel great distances, but always return home when the weather



Melissa Leasia



Ed Furlong



Chuck Aid

is nice. Sweetly singing, bluebirds fill the meadows with information and fun. They make working hard seem like playing as they dutifully and diligently take care of whatever needs to be done.

• **Chuck Aid**, EA's director of

bird monitoring, won the Pine Squirrel Award for expertly, and generally independently, accomplishing a wide range of projects to make ENC and EA run smoothly.

Pine squirrels like keeping watch over everything going on in the woods and telling others about it. They are also protective of their special places and very good at working hard when it's needed. Pine squirrels easily adapt to their environment, making the best of tough situations.

Thank you to *all* Evergreen Audubon volunteers. I look forward to taking those volunteers who have completed 25-plus hours in 2015 on a fun appreciation field trip this winter.

- Vanessa Hayes
ENC Executive Director

World Shorebirds Day sightings

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observed the dramatic aerial foraging of Franklin's Gulls.

The two areas produced 17 different

shorebird species and a total list of 76 species for the day.

- Heather Johnson

World Shorebirds Day List • Sept. 6, 2015 • Weld and Morgan Counties
American Avocet, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope.

Dutch oven dinner served to live auction winners

Each year at the Bash, Evergreen Audubon members gather to enjoy a fun evening of food, drinks and fundraising.

Everyone generously supports Evergreen Nature Center and all the upcoming programs and activities for the next year.

In 2014, one of the live auction items was a Dutch oven dinner. The group was able to get together for that dinner in August, with the dinner hosted at Ed and Ann Dodson's house.

The weather was perfect and we were able to sit out on the back patio and do both the cooking and the dining in a fun party setting.

Brad Andres and I prepared the meal with Ed and Ann Dodson, cooking all but the salad in a Dutch oven.

The meal started with an artichoke dip, followed by Gold "Metal" Stew, homemade rolls, a hearty salad and peach cobbler. We followed up the meal with a nice fire and good stories.

We would like to personally thank each of the couples that donated to the meal and made the evening a very special event!

- Heather Johnson



Ann Dodson tends to the Dutch ovens. *Photo by Heather Johnson*



Ron Belak and Peg Linn wait for Heather Johnson to serve Gold "Metal" Stew. *Photo by Ann Dodson*



Happy winners of a live auction item at the 2014 Bash bask in the glow of firelight after a Dutch oven dinner in August. The Bash is an annual fundraiser for Evergreen Audubon. *Photo by Heather Johnson*

In the last 500 million years, there have been five times in which a large fraction of species of plants and animals on earth have become extinct over a short period of geologic time.

The causes of some of these mass extinctions are well known. Others are not so certain. The most recent was the extinction that ended the Cretaceous period, resulting in the extinction of all of the dinosaurs, except for the birds, about 65 million years ago.

In her book, "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History," New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert gives a sobering account of human-caused extinctions that are happening now. She takes an historical approach to each area she covers, which adds a lot to the book's readability.

The Concept of Extinction

Until the end of the 18th century, the concept of extinction did not exist among European Christians. Lots of fossils had been unearthed, but they were considered some kind of freaks and not subject to scientific study.

Then, in 1739, some very large bones and tusks were found by a French military party in a bog on the banks of the Ohio River near what is now Cincinnati. Eventually the bones made their way to the Paris Museum of Natural History and to naturalist Georges Cuvier.

Cuvier did the first scientific study of the bones. He found that they were from an animal related to elephants but, based on its teeth, Cuvier decided the bones could not be from any existing elephant. The bones must be from a form of elephant that no longer exists, an *extinct* species of elephant.

Cuvier presented his findings in 1796. He went on to discover bones and fossils of many other extinct species. The European Christian answer to extinction was that at least some of the organisms placed on the earth by God may have met their ends due to some kind of catastrophe.

Cuvier established that extinction happened, and a possible mechanism for extinction was catastrophe. The issue of the creation of new species would



The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, Elizabeth Kolbert, Henry Holt Press, 2014

have to wait for the 19th century.

The Cretaceous-Tertiary Mass Extinction

Mass extinctions are rare events. Five (or six if you count the current one) have been recognized over a period of the last 500 million years. Mass extinctions are caused by an environmental change that is so intense and rapid that a significant fraction of organisms cannot adapt.

The K-T mass extinction was accidentally discovered by Walter Alvarez, an American geologist. Alvarez was studying a thin layer of clay that was lying between layers of cretaceous limestone and tertiary limestone in Italy. He wanted to measure the age of the layer of clay, so he sent samples to his father, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist.

The father, Luis Alvarez, sent the samples to a colleague who was shocked to find that the sample was high in the element iridium. Iridium is rare on earth

but more abundant in meteorites. Walter Alvarez subsequently found that the same layer in other parts of the world was also high in iridium.

What could have caused a worldwide layer of iridium? The only conclusion the Alverezes could think of was that the layer was the result of a collision with an asteroid.

That hypothesis caused lots of controversy, but as more and more evidence is collected the asteroid hypothesis has been widely accepted.

All dinosaurs, with the exception of some of the birds, were wiped out instantly. Most mammals went extinct. The surviving mammals evolved into those living now. We may owe our own existence to that asteroid and the K-T mass extinction.

The Sixth Mass Extinction

Many scientists think that we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction now. This time the cause is the rapid environmental changes that humans are causing to the environment.

Kolbert devotes most of her book to descriptions of some of the human-caused environmental problems that are stressing plants and animals now.

Kolbert is not a scientist. Rather, she is a science writer, an advantage because she has a large selection of scientists she can use to get the information she needs.

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Wreath sales raise funds, beautify homes

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All of the wreaths are available for in-town pick up except the Wintergreen. Orders are due no later than Oct. 30. Prices are listed below.

Wreaths for in-town pickup

- 25" Classic Wreath \$22
- 25" Victorian Wreath \$27
- 25" Cranberry Splash Wreath \$28

Wreaths for out-of-town delivery

- 25" Classic HGW \$32
- 25" Victorian HGW \$37
- 25" Wintergreen HGW \$37
- 25" Cranberry Splash HGW \$38

Last year this sale generated \$2,500 to support our projects.

If you can help with sales and delivery or would like to place an order, call Marilyn Rhodes at 303-674-9895 or email her at 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

Bash successfully raises funds for Nature Center

The annual fund-raising Bash took place on a beautiful late-August evening at Hiwan Golf Club. Eighty guests enjoyed delicious food and beverages and wonderful, mellow jazz.

ENC Executive Director Vanessa Hayes and intern Mark Edwards gave the crowd a fun and entertaining talk about the Nature Center, including the Top 10 Visitor Questions—hilarious!

Our many generous local sponsors donated excellent silent auction items and master auctioneer John Clatworthy conducted a spirited live auction.

Thanks to many generous participants, Evergreen Nature Center earned money for next year's *Explore More!* program, a new tablet for volunteers and program opportunities for special-needs nature programs as well as the Kids' Nature Club.

Thanks to all our donors, volunteers and to Hiwan Golf Club for hosting us! It was an enjoyable evening and a successful evening for the Nature Center.

- Ann Dodson,
Director of Development



Those attending the 2015 Bash to benefit Evergreen Audubon enjoyed a howling good time. Photo by Ed Furlong



ENC Executive Director Vanessa Hays and intern Mark Edwards presented a hilarious list of "Top 10 Visitor Questions." Photos by Ed Furlong



BIRDING BOOKS

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She has traveled around the world visiting field research stations where researchers are studying endangered species, plant and animal diversity, effects of global warming, the introduction

of alien species, loss of habitat, disease and more.

We can be certain that when the sixth extinction ends, the earth will be fine. The question is: Will humanity survive the sixth extinction?

Kolbert's book is a fascinating account of the concept of extinction and the challenges we face as we try to cope with rapid species loss due to climate change. It's written to make a difficult subject accessible to ordinary readers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 1	EA Chapter Meeting <i>Doors open at 6:30 for socializing</i>	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Oct. 10	<i>Dipper</i> deadline		
Oct. 17	Third-Saturday Bird Walk	7:30–noon	Bear Creek Lake Park
Oct. 30	Wreath Sale Order Deadline		

Please submit *Dipper* newsletter content by the 10th of the month to dipper@EvergreenAudubon.org. Your submissions will be forwarded to both *Dipper* editor **Debbie Marshall** and **Kathy Madison**, EA Director of Communications.

VOLUME 45, NO. 10. Evergreen Audubon, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes *The Dipper* every month. Evergreen Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members may receive an electronic copy of *The Dipper* without charge or may pay \$15 a year for a mailed hard copy (members only). Evergreen Audubon encourages readers to submit original articles, creative nature writing or art to *The Dipper*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any articles selected.
Audubon Rockies Office, Rockies.Audubon.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
Annual dues	\$ 25	\$ 40
Electronic <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i> (members only)	\$ 15	\$ 15
Additional donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Name _____

Family member(s) name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email _____

(must include for electronic *Dipper*)

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

I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

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

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Bluebirds Compensate
World Shorebirds Day
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