

# THE DIPPER

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EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

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

## THE NEW EVERGREEN AUDUBON EDUCATION CENTER COLLEEN KULESZA

As you may have heard, the Board has decided to invest in an additional location for programing use. We will be renting five rooms in the building located at 29997 Buffalo Park Road. Right now, we are calling the new space the Evergreen Audubon Education Center.

This adventure began in early September. Mendhi Audlin, a board member, came to me about a possible space for conducting environmental education programs and I was intrigued. She had been visiting it regularly for her daughter's girl scout troop meetings and she saw the potential. She spoke to the owners and learned they were looking for a group to make use of the space. Then she took me to see the location and I immediately got excited envisioning all the programs we could offer.

The location is perfect. A trail from Alderfer Three Sisters comes right into the parking area providing amazing access to beautiful open space to use for education and exploration. Just a ten-minute walk down the trail is Wilmot Elementary School which is already a supporter of our work. The high school is just another few minutes away. If you are adventurous, you can even reach the Evergreen Nature Center via trails.

The building provides more than enough space for offices, classrooms, storage, events, and meetings. Starting in 2017, we'll be hosting our monthly Chapter Meetings here.

When I was hired, I was given the directive to increase our programming output and having a permanent location to work from will greatly enable that growth. I am so excited about the

coming year and all the ways we will be able to provide educational and adventurous programs and events for the people in our mountain community. By the end of November there will be a new slate of program offerings for school children, scout groups, homeschool groups, and clubs listed on our website. We'll also be offering birthday parties year-round either at the Education Center or at the Nature Center so all the young naturalists will have a perfect setting to celebrate. The summer of 2017 we will be offering three weeks of day camp for kids who want to learn more about nature and do some exploring.

Our calendar is going to be filling up fast and it means more people will learn about the beauty and science of the Bear Creek watershed!

This growth means we will again be hiring a summer seasonal naturalist and will need more volunteers. As you watch us grow, consider becoming a volunteer in 2017. Please share this news with your friends and neighbors as well and let them know that we are expanding our programs. Come by the new space and visit me. I've got an office now and would love to take a hike with you and chat about what I'm working on.





# Evergreen Audubon

## 2016 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Kathy Madison	303-670-0209 <a href="mailto:president@evergreenaudubon.org">president@evergreenaudubon.org</a>
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## OTHER CONTACTS

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<b>Webmaster</b>	Mendhi Audlin	817-296-5817 <a href="mailto:webmaster@evergreenaudubon.org">webmaster@evergreenaudubon.org</a>

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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KATHY MADISON

Fall is finally here; with it comes lots of wonderful changes. The Evergreen Nature Center's season has come to an end, but Colleen hopes to be starting up some after-school nature programs later this fall in our new environmental education center! We have not finalized the lease on this space yet, but we hope to soon. We will continue to lease the warming hut from EPRD to house The Evergreen Nature Center. This new space, which is in an un-used church that borders Alderfer/Three Sisters Open Space, will be used for school programs, scout programs, summer day camps and our chapter meetings. More details about this exciting growth opportunity will follow in the coming months.

August was a busy month for Evergreen Audubon. Thank you to all that supported our Annual Bash and Benefit. With your help we raised just over \$12,000 from ticket sales, silent auctions bids, paddle raises and sponsors.

A special thanks to Ann Dodson, Colleen Kulesza and the Evergreen Audubon board members for all the behind the scene work that goes into the Bash. We also raised about \$2,000 from the Norton Estate Sale. Thank you Irma Wolfe for making this such a success. She recruited 35+ volunteers who put in close to 200 hours. Thank you to all those who help during the sale and another special thanks to those that help before and after with the setup and cleanup! And of course we can't forget the Dam Ducky Derby. Again Ann Dodson and Colleen Kulesza really stepped up along with duck sellers Tori Hurst, Shawn & Jenna Audlin, Brad Andres, Ed Dodson and Heather Johnson (sorry if I missed anyone). We raised \$800 from duck sales, but more importantly, we raised community awareness.

Speaking of community awareness. The Science & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) once again recognized our contribution to Jefferson County by awarding us with just over \$15,000 at their check giving ceremony in mid-October.

Don't forget to vote YES on the 2016 Ballot Initiative to continue the dedicated sales tax of one cent on every \$10. For more information on the initiative, visit: [www.yesonscfd.com](http://www.yesonscfd.com).

There are just over two months left to see or hear your 100 species for the 2016 Bear Creek Birding Challenge! Get out there and ExploreMore!

-Kathy

# WREATH SALES MARILYN RHODES

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 well 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. Plus, proceeds support the Evergreen Nature Center!

We're offering four 25-inch wreaths this year: the Classic, Victorian, Wintergreen and Cranberry Splash. All of the wreaths are available for out-of-town delivery. All of the wreaths are available for in-town pick-up except the Wintergreen. Orders are due no later than Friday October 29th. Prices are listed below.

Wreaths available for pick up or delivery:  
25-inch Classic Wreath \$23 (\$33 delivered)  
25-inch Victorian Wreath \$28 (\$38 delivered)  
25-inch Cranberry Splash Wreath \$29 (\$39 delivered)

Wreath available for delivery only:  
25-inch Wintergreen \$38

If you would like to place an order, call Marilyn Rhodes at 720-333-2551 or email her at [cloverlane@aol.com](mailto:cloverlane@aol.com). Email orders are preferred.

Payment, by cash or check, for in-town wreaths is due at pick-up and for delivery at time of order. The wreaths will be delivered just before Thanksgiving.

Please support our chapter by participating in this important fundraiser. Last year this sale generated \$3,000 to support our projects.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



**CLASSIC**



**VICTORIAN**



**WINTERGREEN**



**CRANBERRY SPLASH**

## BREEDING BIRD ATLAS - 9TH YEAR COMPLETE CHUCK AID

Evergreen Audubon has been documenting breeding bird behavior throughout the Bear Creek Watershed since 2008. In doing this, we look for any signs of breeding: from singing males setting up territories, to courtship behavior, to nest building, to finding recently fledged youngsters. The 2016 season focused intensively on nine main areas. The following is a sampling of some of the species confirmed as breeding in those areas. All photos courtesy of Bill Schmoker, except golden eagle by Sherman Wing.

Beginning in May, 2017 we will again be tracking breeding bird behavior in additional areas within the Bear Creek Watershed. For more information on this exciting project go to <http://www.bcwbbba.org>.



Bear Creek Greenbelt West – Wendy Wibbens and Mike Foster confirmed black-billed magpie, cliff swallow, and bushtit.



Squaw Pass Road Campgrounds – JoAnn Hackos and Kathanne Lynch confirmed rock wren, hermit thrush, and dark-eyed junco.



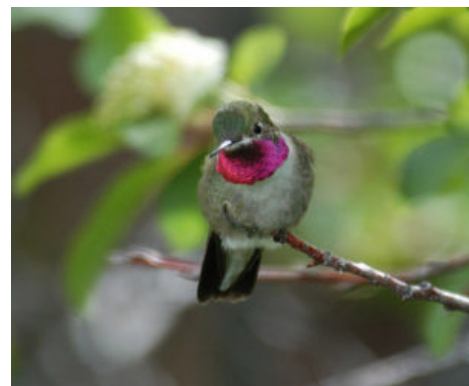
Corwina Park – Inga Brennan confirmed Say's phoebe, American dipper, blue-gray gnatcatcher, and green-tailed towhee.



O'Fallon Park – Michael Kiesig confirmed plumbeous vireo, MacGillivray's warbler, western tanager, and red crossbill.



Pence Park – Susan Harper confirmed mountain chickadee, pygmy nuthatch, and western bluebird.



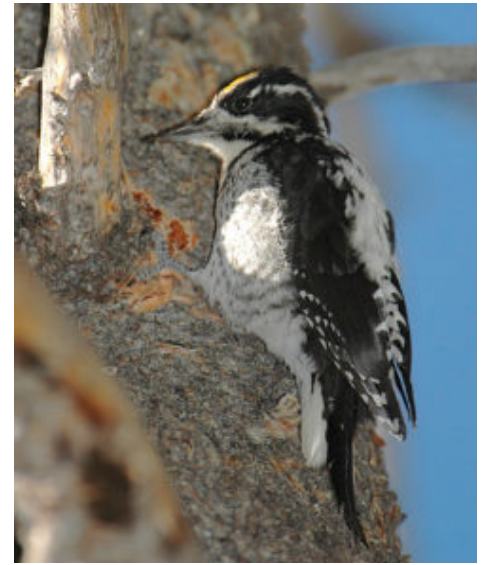
Elephant Butte – Barbara Jean Gard and Larry White confirmed broad-tailed hummingbird, hairy woodpecker, and white-breasted nuthatch.



Mount Pence – Chuck Aid confirmed **downy woodpecker**, house wren, and black-capped chickadee.



Cub Creek Trail – Heather Johnson confirmed red-breasted nuthatch, **brown creeper**, and black-headed grosbeak.



Beaver Meadows – Chuck Aid confirmed Blue-winged Teal, Williamson’s Sapsucker, **American three-toed woodpecker**, and golden-crowned kinglet.

Three other areas, though not surveyed extensively this year, yielded a few more breeding confirmations.

Matthews-Winters Park – Kathanne Lynch confirmed **golden eagle**.

Elk Meadow – Brad Andres confirmed **Wilson’s snipe**, western meadow-lark, and red-winged blackbird.

Elk Management Area – Chuck Aid confirmed  **dusky grouse** and wild turkey.

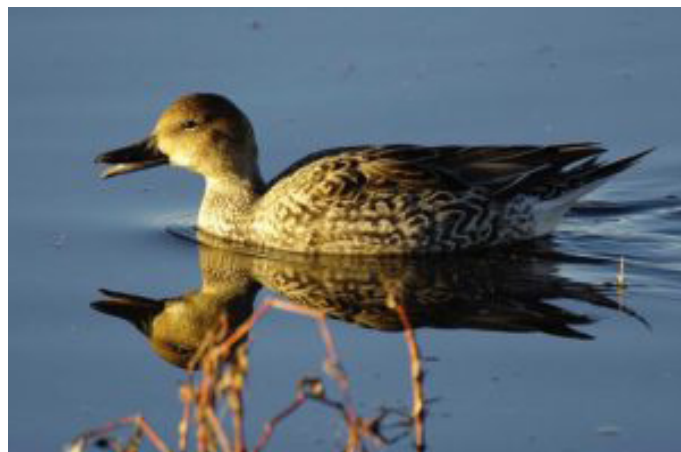


# BIRDING AT WHEAT RIDGE GREENBELT CHUCK AID

Fifteen of us had a truly wonderful morning at the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on October 15th. The Virginia creeper and the skunkbush were red, the peach-leaved willow, and the cottonwoods were yellow, and the grasses were a multitude of different shades from green to yellow to ochre to maroon. As for the birds, we had enough to keep us busy, and ended up tallying 32 species.

A few of the interesting absences were: **great blue heron** (their numbers start to drop around mid-October, but there will be some around all winter), ditto for **black-crowned night-heron**, and while **double-crested cormorants** should be here through mid-November, we saw none.

We did get to see a lot of ducks, the highlight perhaps being a couple of **northern pintail**. To the left is a female with her elegant neck and slightly long tail.



Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Oct 15, 2016  
32 species



We also had a **Cooper's hawk** circle above us briefly, but long enough to note the long, banded, rounded tail; and the plentiful, white, undertail coverts. We also noted the stiff, forceful wing-beats of the Cooper's, which was gliding and flapping intermittently. This is a

composite shot of one individual.

The real highlight of the morning for me was finding a pair of foraging **Wilson's snipe** that stayed out in the open for maybe twenty minutes or more. It's always a good day when you get nice long looks at snipe.

Good birding!!



- Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) 64
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) 58
- American wigeon (*Anas americana*) 7
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 56
- Northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) 6
- Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) 2
- Green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*) 5
- Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) 3
- Hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) 2
- Pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) 2
- American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) 1
- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) 1
- Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 2
- American coot (*Fulica americana*) 16
- Wilson's snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) 2
- Ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*) 30
- Belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) 3
- Downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) 2
- Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) 4
- American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) 1
- Blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) 5
- Black-billed magpie (*Pica hudsonia*) 8
- American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) 5
- Black-capped chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) 5
- American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) 1
- European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 2
- White-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) 1
- Song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) 3
- Red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 65
- House finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) 8
- American goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) 1
- House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) 1

Did you know that a bright-orange Midas cichlid returns repeatedly to be stroked, picked up, and tossed back into the water by a person?

Did you know that a Bahamian grouper named Larry swims over to be petted whenever the researcher descends to his reef?

Did you know that you can train a young stingray to learn that an 8-inch plastic pipe contained food, and it could get to the morsel by creating a water suction to suck it out?

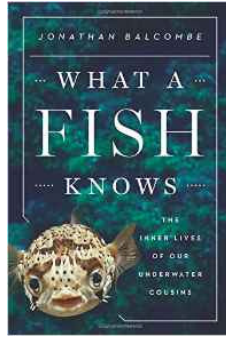
Did you know that evolutionary biologist, Giacomo Bernardi, filmed an orange-dotted tusk fish pick up a clam and carry it over to a rock 30 yards away to smash it open? When researcher Culum Brown put together a group of guppies, they learned to recognize at least 15 of their fellows in less than two weeks. Turns out that there has never been a study of fish society where the researchers didn't find that fish are able to recognize individual fish, even other species.

What a Fish Knows, Jonathan Balcombe's thoroughly researched account of the lives of numerous species of fishes, is simply amazing, effectively countering the long-held assumption that fishes are "unfeeling, dead-eyed feeding machines." Balcombe is the director of animal sentience at the Human Society Institute for Science and Policy. He has a PhD in ethology from the University of Tennessee, and he's written four other books about animals. You can visit his very interesting website at [jonathan-balcombe.com](http://jonathan-balcombe.com).

I found it to be great fun to read What a Fish Knows. It's a combination of information about scientific studies and fantastic anecdotes.

We learn, for example, about the experiences of Cristina Zenato, a world-renowned expert on reef sharks. She has made a special friend over five years of an elderly Caribbean reef shark she named "Grandma." Grandma likes to be petted and touched by Cristina, even when there are other humans around.

She has also befriended three black groupers who each have very different personalities. Peanut is the extrovert who has learned Cristina's hand signals signaling



**What a Fish Knows: The Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins,** Jonathan Balcombe, Scientific American, 2016

when it is his turn to eat. Secret Agent always keeps just outside Cristina's field of vision. Whisperer, the shyest, never allows Cristina to touch her.

One of the most interesting accounts describes the work of the cleaner fishes. These fish groom other fish, nipping off parasites, dead skin, algae, and blemishes. The clients benefit from the spa treatment; the cleaners get food.

A large number of species in both fresh and salt water have taken up the cleaning trade. They set up shop at specific locations and signal when they are open for business. A researcher from the University of Queensland, Australia, found the typical cleaner removed 1,281 parasites per day from its clients. So important are the cleaners that even sharks and moray eels refrain from eating their service providers.

Balcombe reports that "the cleaner-client fish mutualism phenomenon represents one of the most complex, well-studied social systems in nature." Apparently, an individual cleaner was able to recognize more than 100 individual fishes of different species.

The interspecies interactions point to a critical role for communication and social skills among fishes. We learn that groupers and moray eels will partner to hunt prey. Groupers seek out eels to collaborate with them. The groupers in the Red Sea use a headstand to point to the location of a hidden prey. The eel goes into the crevice to push the prey out so that both can eat.

What Balcombe describes is the intricate and interesting lives of creatures we generally don't consider being intelligent and perspective. We learn that fishes are observant; they see, feel, and smell with great acuity. They perceive their worlds both physically and emotionally. They are individuals capable of recognizing others and able to learn from experience.

Consider the spraying characin that deposit

their eggs in the air, on overhanging leaves. The parents line up under a chosen leaf. At some split-second cue, the leap upward together to deposit eggs and sperm on a leaf. After the eggs are laid, the male has to keep them moist, which he does by firing a jet of water onto the eggs.

Or, think about the four-inch-long archerfish that squirts a jet of water up to ten feet into the air to catch a beetle or grasshopper. The archerfish squirt just the right amount of water depending on the size of the insect. Young archerfish have to learn the skill, only becoming proficient after lots of practice and watching the experts. They are able to take into account the optical distortion of the transition from water to air, making them skilled underwater quarterbacks.



All the children I interact with know about Nemo, the clownfish who hides in the anemone. What they may not know is that clownfish can change their sex. Among a group of clownfishes, there is a breeding pair who are the largest individuals. If the breeding female dies, the head male changes to a female and the next largest fish moves up to head male. That means when Nemo lost his mother, his Dad should have become his new mother.

Ultimately, Balcombe hopes that this book will change how we think about fishes, the most heavily exploited creatures on earth. He hopes that we will consider that these creatures think, feel pleasure, and feel pain. He finds that modern fishing practices present a terrible problem, with huge numbers of fish killed to provide fish food for other animals or simply discarded as by-catch. Balcombe hopes that we consider the ethics of actions like cutting fins off sharks and tossing them back to bleed out. He hopes we will consider better, kinder ways of dealing with the fast but seriously declining world of creatures that live in water.

# CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Nov. 2 Explore More Bird walk 7:30 - 11:30am Evergreen Library  
Harriman Reservoir *meet at library to carpool*

Nov. 3 EA Chapter Meeting 7 pm - program Church of the Hills  
*Doors open at 6:30pm*

*Save the Date:*

Dec. 6 Colorado Gives Online

Jan. 20 Evergreen Audubon Member Banquet Mt. Vernon Country Club



## Help Us Move to the Education Center and pack up the Nature Center!

Evergreen Nature Center is Closed for the Season but we could use your help moving some stuff to the new space and packing up all the exhibits. Join us Saturday October 29th between 10am and 3pm. Let Colleen know if you plan to join us by emailing her at [encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org)

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### Evergreen Audubon Local Membership Application

I/we would like to join the Evergreen Audubon. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive the newsletter electronically, and vote (two Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain locally.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

(include to receive electronic newsletter and updates)

	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Family</b>
Annual dues	\$ 25	\$ 40
Additional donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total enclosed</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

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.