

THE DIPPER

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Editor: Peggy Durham

Assistant Editor: Margaret McDole

Shorebird Migration

Despite Colorado's inland location, 42 species of shorebirds have been recorded in the state, of which 60% occur regularly as migrants. Many shorebird migrants travel long distances between arctic and boreal breeding grounds and wintering grounds in South America.

Late August through mid-September is the peak of post-breeding shorebird migration, and several reservoirs along I-76 provide opportunities to view hundreds, and at times thousands, of migrating shorebirds.

Easily accessible sites include (from southwest to northeast): Jackson Lake State Park, Prewitt Reservoir State Wildlife Area and Jumbo Reservoir State Wildlife Area.

For the best, non-frustrating viewing, a spotting scope and a good field guide are necessities.

- Brad Andres

Website

Don't forget to consult the website on a regular basis for any changes in meetings or updates on bird sightings at dipper.org.

And feel free to send feedback to our webmaster, Natasha Japp.

Program will be fast-paced

The program for September will feature TENAS member Dick Williams, who has for many years been photographing birds from Puerto Rico up to New Brunswick over to Alaska and down to San Diego and back to the most remote Florida Keys.

The presentation will be a slide show mostly of the birds. Emphasis will be on birds that are found on the margins of the United States, the edges.

These will be birds uncommon to Colorado but common to the oceans, shores, coastal marshes, southern deserts adjacent to Mexico and to the north adjacent to Canada as well as birds of southern Alaska. He may sneak in a few Colorado birds.

Dick is an amateur photographer but many of his bird images have been published in a variety of media. He has given several shows at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for the Denver Field Ornithologists.

Integrated into the show will be scenic views of the coasts of Maine, Oregon and California, southern coastal marshes, the deserts of the Southwest, glaciers of Alaska

and other places to give a sense of the birds' habitats.

The program is intended to be entertaining as opposed to being scholarly. It will be a pleasing visual presentation of the variety of bird life that can be found around the United States and the great diversity of stunning habitats in which they live.

Dick is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, with a bachelor's degree in history. He served on active duty with the U.S. Navy for 5-1/2 years after graduation, including service in Vietnam and many other parts of the world.

He left the Navy as a lieutenant commander. He attended graduate school at the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has a master's degree in landscape architecture with emphasis in environmental planning.

Dick has worked in many public and private-sector positions related to environmental conservation and planning, and some not so related.

These include, but are not limited to: chief of systems planning for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; manager of the Environmental Planning and Analysis Branch of PSI Inc. (one of the 10 largest U.S. engineering firms); chief of park planning for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Park Service; manager of sales for Earth Resources Data Analysis Systems Inc., Chief GIS Branch; Denver Service Center, National Park Service.

Still, his first love is sneaking around with a camera and photographing birds just for fun.

The program will be fast-paced and has been very entertaining for other bird groups that have seen it in the past. Don't miss Dick's program at the Sept. 7 TENAS meeting at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Road, behind the high school.



Atlantic Puffin. Photo by Dick Williams



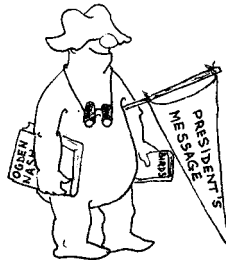
President's Message

Although my original plans of canoeing for a week along the Missouri River in Montana were squashed due to my inadequate canoeing prowess, I salvaged a nice three-day trip along the Scenic and Wild stretch of the river from Coal Bank Landing to Judith River.

First there came the long but mostly scenic drive to Montana. There were some sad sights along the way.

I-25 through Wyoming collects the carcasses of many animals that have made the fatal decision to cross the highway into vehicles that move like cruise missiles over the rolling hills.

Driving at 75 mph myself, I made every effort to stay alert for pronghorn and deer up ahead. Coming up a slight rise I saw a mule deer lying in the road, apparently recently struck



by a car or truck. The deer was stretched out along the center line with its head facing me. Surely it was dead but its large eyes were wide open with the last glimmer of life frozen in them. I steered clear of the sleek, unmarked body but that look stayed with me for many miles.

I could not help but think of a poem by e.e.cummings on the stare of a poisoned mouse. Adapted to the death of the deer, the poem might go like this:

Me up at does

out of the road
quietly Stare

a road-killed deer

still glistening eyes

are asking What
have i done that

I should die like this?

Continued on Page 2



• To **Cathy Shelton** for organizing another successful Weed Day at the Lake, and **Sylvia Brockner** for identifying weeds for people with unknown plants. And to all the people who showed up to weed.

• To **Irma Wolff** and **Sylvia Robertson** for taking charge of the Garage Sale, plus **Mary Dickoff, John and Ena Wasson, Peggy Durham, Mildred Keiser** and **Cathy Shelton**, who helped sort, price and sell in daunting weather. And to all those people who contributed their treasures. To **Walt Phillips** for loading the leftover garage sale items into his car and cleverly getting rid of the pieces of exercise equipment to a customer coming out of Curves. Good thinking!

• To **Al and Carol Goldstein** for all their efforts that made the picnic such a success this year. And to **Sylvia and Bill Brockner** for opening their home and patio to all who attended—a perfect setting for a wonderful, social occasion.

• To **Sylvia Robertson, Cathy Shelton, Marilyn Kausser, Rene Cormier, Lynne Price, Else Van Erp** and **Bob Robertson** for making the Audubon booth at the Mountain Heritage Festival such a success.

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Wet Garage Sale

Our annual garage sale was held at Peggy Durham's house on Saturday, July 8. Despite the inclement weather, we had a great number of buyers, but there were not as many donations as in past years.

Therefore, our profits were less than half. Since donations and helpers have dwindled, we're giving it a "rest" next year. Perhaps that will allow our members enough time to accumulate more treasures to donate in 2008.

We thank all those that helped with donations, organizing, planning, setting up, pricing, signing, buying and cleaning up—and especially Peggy for putting up with the frenzy and mess.

- Irma Wolf



Dave Balogh and Irma Wolf cheerfully brace for more rain at the Garage Sale. *Photo by Peggy Durham*

President's Message

Continued from Page 3

On that sad note I looked up toward the Big Horn Mountains looming to the west under a mid-afternoon sun glowing red through the hazy clouds—wildfire smoke in the atmosphere. Over the next few days I would see and smell the smoke of several large wildfires in Wyoming and Montana, including one near Pompey's Pillar along the Yellowstone River.

The wildfires did not keep me from my canoeing on the Missouri. In Ft. Benton I met up with a half-dozen other enthusiasts for this guided trip. Once on the river we saw only two smoke plumes in the distance.

We had great weather for the three days and when there was a breeze it was mostly at our backs. The river was wide, with noticeable currents but no real rapids along the 45-mile route. The water here is fairly warm; carp, not trout, is what we saw in great numbers.

I saw more Prairie Falcons along the White Cliffs than I had seen in all my past birding. It was not unusual to see two or three at a time, apparently patrolling or defending their territories.

Western Kingbirds were common,

but so were Easterns. We saw night-hawks during the day as we paddled or drifted along and, also, in the evenings near the cottonwood groves where we camped.

The most memorable sighting for me was two mature Bald Eagles perched side-by-side midway up the steep face of Citadel Rock, a dark igneous rock that juts up from the river's edge to an impressive height.

The geology of the Missouri River valley is spectacular along its entire route through Montana and especially so on the Scenic and Wild section. Here molten igneous rock "crossed paths" with sedimentary layers of shales and sandstones eons ago, followed by uplift and erosion that exposed the features seen today.

We were impressed as were Lewis and Clark on their passing these same formations 200 years ago. I close with the words (and spelling) of Lewis excerpted from his journal of May 31, 1805:

"The hills and river Clifts which we passed today exhibit a most romantic appearance. The bluffs of the river rise to the hight of from 2 to 300 feet and in

most places nearly perpendicular; they are formed of remarkable white sandstone . . .

. . . The water in the course of time in descending from those hills and plains on either side of the river has trickled down the soft sand clifts and woarn it into a thousand grotesque figures, which with the help of a little immagination and an oblique view, at a distance are made to represent eligant range of lofty freestone buildings, having their parapets well stocked with statuary . . .

. . . for it is here that nature presents to the view of the traveler vast ranges of walls of tolerable workmanship . . . that I should have thought that nature had attempted here to rival the human art of masonry had I not recollected that she had first began her work. These walls rise to the hight in many places of 100 feet, are perpendicular, with two regular faces and are from one to 12 feet thick . . . The stone of which these walls are formed is black, dense and dureable."

Reference: "Montana's Wild and Scenic Upper Missouri River" by Monahan and Biggs



Bird Business

This report covers two months, June and July. June is the busiest nesting time of the year. More nests are built in June than in any other month.

Northward migration was finished by June 10. On June 5, Sherman Wing saw a Plumbeous Vireo in O'Fallon Park. The next day he saw a Yellow-breasted Chat south of Morrison. Yellow-breasted Chats nest annually in Red Rocks Park.

Hummingbird numbers are bouncing back. On June 11, Lynette Makowski was feeding 25 to 30 male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds around her house. On July 9 she had 50 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, 6 Rufous and 1 Calliope Hummingbird at her feeders! Fantastic!! She was also hosting 30-plus Band-tailed Pigeons.

Late was a handsome Broad-winged Hawk on June 16 at Lair o' the Bear Park. It was spotted by Else Van Erp.

On the first day of summer, Dick Williams called and announced that a Common Raven was boldly sparring with 2 Golden Eagles flying westward over his house. Later in the afternoon he called back and said the Golden Eagles were flying eastward over his house again.

Betty Minges and Inga Brennan studied a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Chatfield State Park on June 27. They have been

known to nest here in prior years.

Early southbound migrants were 2 Rufous Hummingbirds found by Al Goldstein on June 29 in Soda Creek. They quickly took over the yard.

Common Nighthawks are no longer common around Evergreen. On June 29 Sherman Wing and his wife saw 4 over the burn area in Mt. Falcon Park. In the 1970s this bird was common every summer over our house.

On July 17, a Flammulated Owl was captured on Richmond Hill beyond Conifer. This is a good area for this owl to be nesting. On the same date, Carmon Slater reported 50-plus Black-billed Magpies buzzing around his yard.

Early in June Louise Walker and her daughter returned from an interesting trip to Italy. They did not report on any birds there.

Populations of some of our common birds continue to decline. Take our American Robin. They used to be



Common Nighthawk

common nesters in our valley. This year I found only one pair in our area. Why are they decreasing here? Fortunately, some areas still have reasonable numbers.

Until next month, enjoy reading "Arctic Dance" by Charles Craighead and Bonnie Kreps. It is a wonderful story about Mardy Murie.

- Bill Brockner

Hiking/Field Trip Essentials

TENAS encourages newcomers to join us on field trips. Some trips are all-day affairs and participants should be prepared for inclement weather.

At my request, Anne Miller has submitted the following list of items that the Colorado Mountain Club deems essential in every hiker's backpack. Although TENAS trips are not hiking trips, this list can serve as a guide for people taking long field trips.

- At least 2 quarts of water;
- Lunch, plus extra food;
- Rain/wind parka and pants;
- Extra layers of clothing, including wool or synthetic insulating layer,

gloves, warm hat and socks (avoid cotton clothing because cotton does not insulate when wet);

- Waterproof matches and lighter or other fire-starting materials;
- Sunglasses;
- Sunscreen and lip balm;
- Pocket knife;
- First-aid supplies;
- TP.

Also recommended—small tarp and/or a few garbage bags to use as a pack cover, spare poncho

or a shelter in a pinch.

Your editor would also include a flashlight and Benadryl, just in case.

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Weeds on the Run

*“WEED-noun: a plant of no value and usually of rank growth: one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants”
- Webster’s Dictionary*

“Summertime and the pulling isn’t easy,” but weeders refuse to be deterred. The ninth annual Community Weed Day went off without a hitch on June 24. A little rain made the pulling easier but the hot spring weather made bagging the weeds a necessary chore. As always, our proficient pullers made short work of the weeds.

In addition to 40 weeders, a half-dozen volunteers including Sylvia Brockner and Master Gardener Diana Martin educated the public on weed ID and control. It was thrilling to see landowners arriving at 8 a.m., plants clutched in their hands for identification.

The best scene of the day was a woman thrilled to hear that none of the plants she brought in were noxious weeds. Don’t you wish you had her yard?

On behalf of the organizing committee, thanks go to our team leaders, Alicia Doran and her Jefferson County team, and most especially to all of our enthusiastic workers.

Adopt-a-Plot, an important component of weed control at Evergreen Lake, is in need of adopters. Several of our original adopters have had to move on, leaving some previously well managed areas at the mercy of weeds.

Do you have an extra hour or two once a month? Do you care about our native plants, birds and wildlife? Do you love the lake? Do you like gardening? If you’ve answered yes to any of these questions, then Adopt-a-Plot is for you. Please call Cathy, 303-674-8610, and sign up today.

Invasive noxious weeds are one of the greatest threats facing the native flora and fauna of our public lands. Beaver Brook Watershed is no exception. It has many wonderful native plants, including endangered orchids, which are threatened by invasives.

The Community Weed Awareness



From left, Al Goldstein, Mark Sweppenheiser, Jim Shelton and Bob Roberts with just a few of the bags of weeds they pulled during Community Weed Day at Evergreen Lake. Photo by Cathy Shelton

Campaign is partnering with Friends of Beaver Brook Watershed to combat noxious weeds in the Watershed with the help of a \$5,000 grant from the Center for Invasive Plant Management.

Part of the weed management plan included a volunteer weed pull on June 10. Thanks to a solid cadre of volunteers, many Canada and Musk thistles met their demise.

Please mark your calendars for the Beaver Brook Watershed Trails Fest on Sunday, Oct. 1. Several weed-related activities will be part of the day’s events. “Pop & Pull” is scheduled for 10 a.m. and will hopefully appeal to families with older children. In the afternoon, we will concentrate on restoration efforts. Look for more information in the next *Dipper*.

On a final note, I hope everyone has seen the CWAC weed articles in the Real Estate section of the Canyon Courier the first Wednesday of each month. The June article covered problems with wildflower seed mixes and July featured the threat of ornamentals becoming noxious weeds.

Bud Weare’s marvelous commentary, “Killer Weeds, New Outlaws of the Wild West,” in the Aug. 2 Courier, is well worth reading and great for clipping out and providing to neighbors. Be sure to look for Marilyn Kaussner’s article on native versus non-native thistles, scheduled for the Sept. 6 Courier.

Quoting the eloquent Sylvia Robertson: “Weed control—it’s up to every individual.”

- Cathy Shelton



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TENAS Members Save 10% Every Wednesday
on any regularly priced items.
Not to be combined with other offers.

303.679.2786

Located at 32156 Castle Ct. #111 Evergreen
(across from Fire Station #2)



Heritage Festival

TENAS' participation in the Aug. 5 Mountain Heritage Festival was a lot of fun and worth the effort. It was sponsored by Hiwan Homestead Museum and Our Non-profit Community.

We were able to introduce our club to the many visitors who stopped by to enjoy our interesting display and the children's' activities.

The Weed Education table was of particular interest. With our live collection of most of the noxious weeds in Evergreen, people were able to identify problems in their yards and were anxious to discuss them with volunteers.

Thanks to Renee Cormier, Marilyn Kaussner, Cathy Shelton, Lynne Price, Else Van Erp, Bob Robertson and Walt Phillips for helping. We were pleased to be a part of this event and enjoyed conversing with the other non-profit groups.

- Sylvia Robertson



Cathy Shelton, Sylvia Robertson and Marilyn Kaussner staff the Audubon table at the Mountain Heritage Festival, which showcased noxious weeds and bird identification. *Photo by Peggy Durham*

Member Report

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

New

Beth Tubach-Morrison

New Family

Brad & Cindy Abramson-Conifer

Renewing

Pat Jurgens-Evergreen

Cindy Miller-Conifer

Ginny Ades-Evergreen

Ed Steinbrecher-Evergreen

Jeff Geiger-Evergreen

Lydia Walsh-Conifer

Miriam Marshall-Lakewood

Jeffrey Browman-Evergreen

Patti O'Neall-Arvida

Renewing Family

Michael, Tracey & Megan Stills-Evergreen

Walt & Polly Phillips-Evergreen

John & Diane Sears-Evergreen

Catherine & Jim Wilkins-Evergreen

Janice & Kevin Easley-Pine

Tom & Ginny Boschen-Evergreen

Annemarie & Mark Sunderhuse-Evergreen

Please mark your calendars!!

The Mountain Area Land Trust

Presents the

Watershed Trails Fest

Sun. Oct. 1st

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Beaver Brook Watershed

Tentatively scheduled activities include:

Trail Rides • Geocache • Guided Nature Hikes • Weed Pop and Pull • Children's Activities • Gourmet Picnic Lunch

Site of The Painting of Evergreen:
A Plein Air Event

The Mountain Area Land Trust is a non-profit organization that preserves open lands and natural areas of significant environment, scenic or historic value. Based in Evergreen, with a service area extending from Fairplay to Georgetown, MALT works with community groups to acquire land for public use and with interested landowners to facilitate private conservation easements.



Field Trips and Outings

Saturday, September 9

Lair O' the Bear

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

We will visit this Open Space gem in the middle of fall migration. In addition to the usual songbirds, we may find some warblers, vireos and other migrants. Call Mike to sign up, then meet at 7 a.m. at Wild Bird Center, in the mall at 32nd & Youngfield. Half-day trip. We'll return to WBC for snacks after the trip.

Sunday, September 10

Beaver Brook Watershed

Leader: Fran Enright, 303-674-2657

Fran will select an appropriate route. Call her to learn where to meet; plan to be there by 7 a.m.

Saturday, September 23

Lookout Mountain Area

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647

We'll hike up Apex Gulch in Golden to the top of Lookout Mountain, explore the Nature Center there, then descend via Chimney Gulch. Car shuttle. Fall migrants should be flitting about. Plan for a half-day plus, with a hike of 7 miles and elevation gain of 1,720 feet. Call Mike to sign up and meet at 7 a.m. at Wild Bird Center, in the mall at 32nd & Youngfield. We'll return to WBC for snacks after the trip, if it isn't too late.

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

Annual Picnic

Many members and guests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon and evening at the annual TENAS picnic.

The grand affair was conducted at Sylvia and Bill Brockner's home on July 15. The backyard patio, generously provided by Sylvia and Bill, was the perfect setting. Great conversation and fellowship was in abundance as was the food and drink.

Dave Balogh provided part of the evening's entertainment with a slide show consisting of photos contributed by Dave himself, Inga Brennan, Jeff Geiger, Carol Goldstein, Eric Hogan, Kay Niyo, Ginny Boschen and Cathy Shelton.

Polly and Walt Phillips provided act two with a video illustrating the magnificent marine life in the Solomon Islands region. Finally, last year's video of Bill Brockner's 90th birthday celebration was brought to the silver screen.

This year's picnic was also highlighted with a birthday cake and a melodic TENAS rendition of the birthday song in honor of Bill's 91st, which occurred on the weekend following the picnic.

Forty-nine of us bird-lovers were in attendance and had a grand time, but wouldn't it be just wonderful if several hundred come to next year's event? Let's all plan to be there!

- Al Goldstein

Digital Dipper

Don't forget that you can get the *Dipper* online, at least one week earlier than the hard copy. E-mail your editor if you wish to receive it this way, either instead of the hard copy or in addition. And don't forget to notify the editor if you change your e-mail address.

Birds in the Balance Sites

The final Birds in the Balance count for this year will be Sept. 16-24. Anyone who wishes to join one of these groups should contact the leader beforehand or Kent Simon, 303-674-3017.

Bear Creek Lake Park #1, Mike Foster

mike1.foster@comcast.net 303/456-2647

Bear Creek Lake Park #2, Bob Santangelo

bsantangelo@lljohnson.com 303/477-1367

Gravel Pit, Ruth Alford

alflowers@evcohs.com 303/670-0835

Lair o' the Bear, Else van Erp

tomvanerp@aol.com 303-816-5084

Corwina Park, Warren Roske

wroske@earthlink.net 303-526-9725

O'Fallon Park, Sherman Wing

sherman.margie@prodigy.net 303-697-8840

Evergreen Lake, Brad Andres

heatherbrad1@netzero.net 303-670-0101

Upper Bear Creek, Deb Callahan

upperbear@earthlink.net 303-674-4923

The Gardens, Gil Schoonveld

ubcr@aol.com 303-674-6865

Groundhog Flat, Inga Brennan

missing35mm@aol.com 720-746-1780

Beaver Meadows, Larry White

llarrywhite@aol.com 303-674-0535

Summit Lake (& Bear Creek Timberline), Kent Simon

ksimonbib@earthlink.net 303-674-3017

Calendar

Sept. 7	Chapter Meeting
Sept. 9	Lair o' the Bear Field Trip
Sept. 10	Beaver Brook Watershed Field Trip
Sept. 16-24	BIB window
Sept. 23	Lookout Mountain Field Trip
Sept. 28	Board Meeting
Oct. 1	Beaver Brook Watershed Trails Fest

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

Evergreen Recreation Center, 5300 S. Olive Road, 7 p.m.

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
TENAS website www.dipper.org

*The Dipper deadline for the
October issue is Thursday, Sept. 7.*

Submit articles to:

*Peggy Durham, peggy.durham@comcast.net
AND Margaret McDole, mem2@earthlink.net*

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- September Program
- Weed Day
- Hiking Essentials

In This Issue

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THE DIPPER

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