



THE DIPPER

VOL. 42 NO. 9
SEPTEMBER 2012

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.evergreenaudubon.org

Reserve now for a different kind of Bash

It will be a Bat, not Bird, House Bash this year, with Nature Center tours and batty entertainment on tap to entertain you.

Evergreen Audubon's annual fundraiser to benefit its Nature Center will be Wednesday, Sept. 12, 5 to 8:30 p.m. at Evergreen Lake House.

You'll learn a bit more about bats and their unique niche in nature while enjoying good friends (old and new), a delicious dinner by Fresh Tracks Catering, and a lively evening of support for the ENC.

This year's unique event celebrates five successful seasons for the Nature Center as well as Bat Conservation International's declaration of 2012 as the "Year of the Bat."

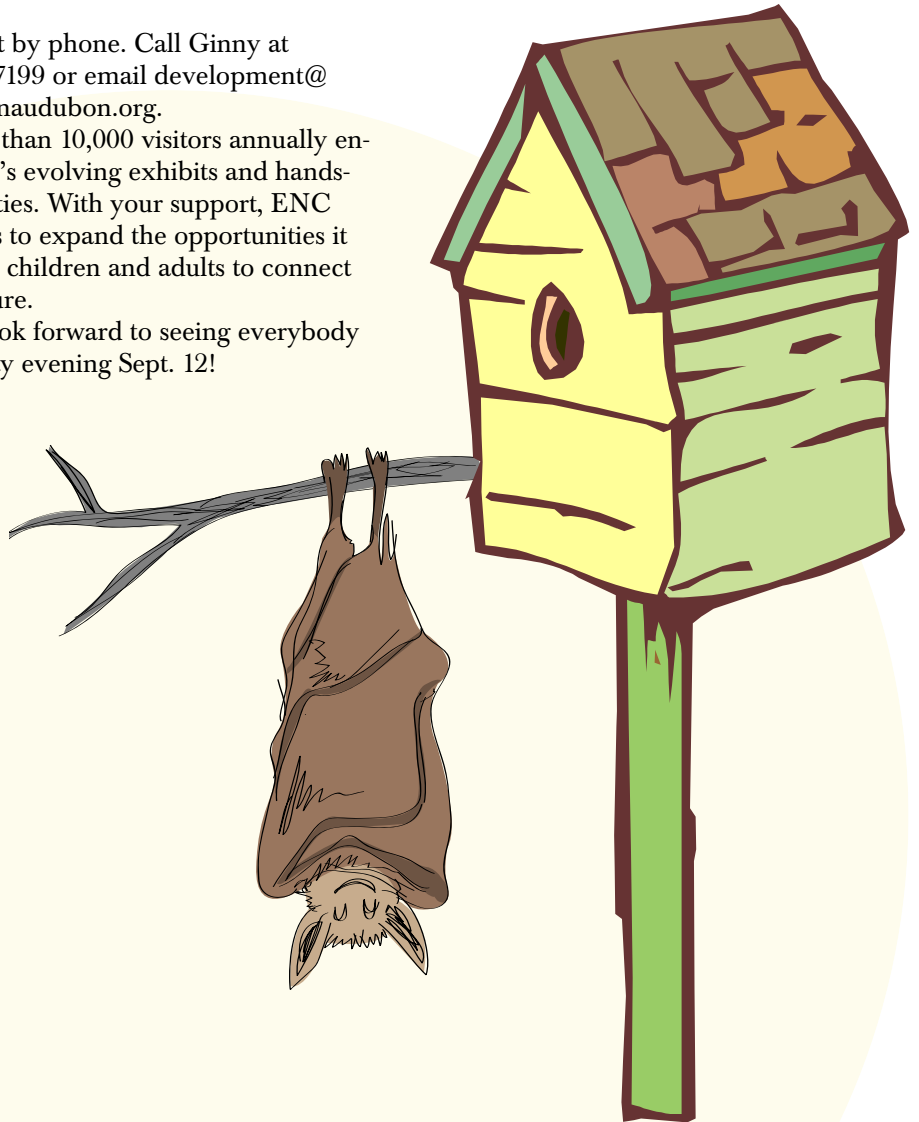
This year's silent auction promises to be full of unusual, one-of-a-kind offerings including a dinner party with stargazing; a nature-themed birthday party; an orienteering treasure hunt; guided local hikes to little-known special spots; art instruction; birding and fishing trips; website design consultation; and lots more.

Please mail your reply card to reserve your spot. If you have not received an invitation, let us know and we'll send you one, or reserve

your spot by phone. Call Ginny at 303-674-7199 or email development@evergreenaudubon.org.

More than 10,000 visitors annually enjoy ENC's evolving exhibits and hands-on activities. With your support, ENC has plans to expand the opportunities it offers for children and adults to connect with nature.

We look forward to seeing everybody for a batty evening Sept. 12!



There's a 'batty' chapter meeting the week before the Bash

In honor of the Bat House Bash, our September chapter meeting will focus on . . . what else—bats.

Susan Broderick, a biologist with the Bureau of Reclamation (and an Evergreen resident), will talk about how bats have responded to large-scale habitat restoration on the lower Colorado River in Arizona and California. She will show some of the state-of-the-art bat monitoring and research techniques used there. (See photos on page 6.)

She'll then bring the focus upriver to Colorado with a discussion of the bat species in the Evergreen area, their habitat requirements and biology, and how citizen scientists can study,

protect and appreciate them. We'll also venture outside to see if we can spot some of these special creatures.

Susan has a master's degree in wildlife management and has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation and other agencies on fish and wildlife habitat restoration and protection, as well as research and monitoring projects associated with water management for a wide range of species, from bats and birds to bull trout and salmon throughout the West.

The chapter meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

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

If you have been outside in the late afternoon or early morning in the last week or two, you will have noticed the chips of warblers and sparrows overhead. Although we are still experiencing summer's high temperatures, bird migration is underway.

In addition to Rufous Hummingbirds, some of the earliest migrants through Colorado are shorebirds. By July 4, arctic-breeding Baird's Sandpipers are already feeding on the edges of reservoirs on the eastern plains en route to wintering grounds in Patagonia.

Late August and early September is peak shorebird migration, and I will be leading a trip on Sept. 2 to search for these long-distance migrants.

Although the kids will be back in school by the time you get this *Dipper*, we still have almost two more months of Evergreen Nature Center operations. Please check Volgistics or give Vanessa a ring if you can spare a few hours to help out.

Vanessa attended the annual meeting of the Association of Nature Center Administrators at the end of August. In conjunction with this gathering, she met with a group of Audubon folks who manage the nature centers across the United States. Thanks to all the Visitor Assistants who have stepped forward throughout the summer.

Continuing on the National Audubon front, I was just in Washington, D.C., and met with National Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, PRBO Conservation Sciences, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy and a host of others to discuss pushing the concept and implementation of flyway-scale conservation of migratory birds.

This has been a focus of National Audubon's restructuring and is the central theme of its new strategic plan (audubon.org/documents/audubon-strategic-plan-2012-2015).

Having worked with partners on flyway conservation issues of shorebirds for more than 20 years, I hope the National Audubon Society can approach flyway conservation in a true partnership spirit (see last month's *Dipper* for NAS President Yarnold's rather self-centered perspective on partnership).

We are still waiting to see exactly how the Rockies Central Flyway of-fice will implement this strategy in Colorado.

Migrating back to the ENC . . . By now, you should have received an invitation to attend the annual Bat House Bash on Sept. 12, and I hope all of you have marked your calendars!

As you probably have noticed by now, we have altered the theme to focus on the International Year of the Bat. We are sure it will be a fun evening.

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VIP VOLUNTEERS BRAD ANDRES

- Thanks to **Lisa Wald** for her constant attention to the website and to **Debbie Marshall** for continual construction and delivery of our great *Dipper* newsletter.

- I want to thank **Dee Sacks**, who had a big hand in helping University of Colorado student Jessica Fish with a bluebird project this summer.

- I thank **Dick Prickett** for his efforts with Audubon Colorado during a frustrating transition time.

Newsom's mural series illuminates watershed at ENC

Highly talented local artist Philip Newsom is working on a gorgeous mural series for Evergreen Nature Center. The series offers a window into Bear Creek Watershed from Summit Lake to Bear Creek Lake.

So far two of the five planned paintings are completed and installed and they are truly wonderful.

The first painting, highlighted in the Canyon Courier in July, focuses on Bear Creek Lake and the newest, installed in August, depicts Lair o' the Bear. Each huge scene plops visitors right on water's edge to relish passing wildlife, the shade of native trees and beautiful wildflowers.

The idea to install a powerful visual interpretation of our local watershed sparked one chilly February afternoon, when the Evergreen Nature Center Committee gathered to plan the ENC layout for 2012.

We wanted to create an umbrella exhibit to illustrate the theme of Bear Creek Watershed, from which to base new exhibit panels that describe the primary ecosystems found at nearby elevations.

Heather Johnson brought local artist Carmon Slater into the fold; he then recruited Philip Newsom and our little spark began to explode.

Philip is a gifted painter, drawer and illustrator who lives in Kittredge and comes from a family of talented artists.

He graduated in 2000 from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., and in the last several years has exhibited and sold his work in Crested Butte and Evergreen.

From graphic art and "mystery shapes" to pet portraits, Philip describes his wide range of work as "an exploration of the qualities of the world, an ongoing observation of the relationships between the different shapes and colors of things and the spaces between them."

I highly recommend visiting his website at www.philip.newsomart.com.

Philip is a figure of growing importance in the Evergreen art community. He was the featured artist at Main Street Fine Art in August and his 3-D mural bench entitled "Four Season of the Aspen" is a beautiful contribution to the 2012 Art for the Mountain Community Sculpture Walk. Stroll down by the dam to take a look.



Artist Philip Newsom displays his painting of Bear Creek Lake, right. Above, his painting of Lair o' the Bear is the second in a series of five that will depict the Bear Creek Watershed from Summit Lake to Bear Creek Lake when complete.



Evergreen Audubon is incredibly grateful to Philip for his contribution to Evergreen Nature Center and we look

forward to sharing his talent for many years to come.

- Vanessa Hayes

Tiny hummers were big last month

Yard Birds

I had four hungry grand chicks that grew rapidly in the nest-cam nest box. The **Violet-green Swallows'** eggs hatched the first week of July and fledged in early August.

Thankfully, the weather was reasonably mild after they hatched. I was afraid the eggs/hatchlings were going to cook.

I had a nice surprise July 6 at my home—a new yard bird appeared. A **Cordilleran Flycatcher** visited my deck. Didn't drink, didn't eat, just checked things out. Wonder if they nested around here . . .

Sherman Wing reported that finally, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, the Red Baron, arrived at his home in Indian Hills July 9.

On July 14, Ken Piner reported that he'd just seen a pair of **Calliope Hummingbirds**, male and female, at his deck feeder. Ken lives on James Drive in the Witter Gulch/Stagecoach/Wilderness Point area. This is the first time he's seen them in the 10 years he's lived there. Very exciting!

Connie Gabrielli thought she photographed a Calliope Hummingbird July 14. After reviewing her pictures, though, we ID'd it as a **Broad-tailed**.

JoAnn and Bill Hackos spotted their first **Calliope** at their feeders on July 15. They also have had more than 100 **Broad-tailed** and six or seven **Rufous**.

I had **Evening Grosbeaks** drop by my feeders July 24. Yay!

Bill and JoAnn reported a hummingbird STORM at their home July 26. Last count was well over 125 per day. Numerous **Rufous**, **Broad-tailed**, and **Calliope**. Wow!

On July 27, I had four **American Crows** in the Ponderosa Pines just off my back deck, two adults and two juveniles. The adults had moths in their bills and the juvies were begging—more like honking loudly—for food, but the adults didn't give in.

Tough love. Apparently Mom and

Continued on page 5



Hummingbirds flitted all over the hills last month, with numerous Broad-tailed sighted and the rarer Rufous, Calliope and even Black-chinned also reported. Marilyn Rhodes' photo above shows the male Calliope's signature field mark, his throat. Below, a female Calliope photographed by Sherman Wing at his home in Indian Hills.



BIRD BUSINESS

Continued from page 4

Dad thought it was time for the kids to find something to eat on their own. Pretty interesting.

Ruth Alford called me mid-July down in the dumps about the deer and elk ravaging her gorgeous gardens. Ruth's home was on the Evergreen Garden Club Home Tour a few years ago and it really is fabulous.

Ruth wanted to purchase a sound device to deter the mammals eating her plants, but she did not want to disturb the birds that frequent her yard. She wanted information about sonic devices, in particular, and their impact on birds.

We had a good discussion about the distress sounds most of the sound deterrents devices emit and Ruth did some more research. I thought I'd share part of her note about her findings and decision.

"My son-in-law did some research and what he found, from the University of Vermont, said there are mixed results from using 'ultrasonic devices' as the deer quickly become used to it.

"But one of the main reasons I returned the 'box' I had bought from Echter's was that we have a community fox who has been such a gift to the neighborhood. He has helped control rabbits and voles.

"When I realized the device might have a negative affect on that animal, that was a major deciding factor!"

If any of you have suggestions for Ruth, I'm sure she would appreciate them.

On July 28, Sherman Wing had lots of juvenile **Evening Grosbeaks** and **Pine Siskins** at his feeders; also three species of hummers—**Rufous**, **Calliope** and **Broad-tailed**.

Back at Casa Rhodes, I had baby birds galore on July 31 and Aug. 1: **Northern Flickers**, **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, **Pygmy Nuthatches**, **Violet-green Swallows**, **Pine Siskins**, **American Crows**, **Hairy and Downy woodpeckers**, **House Wrens**, **Mountain Chickadees**, **House Finches** and a family of at least **FIVE Cordilleran Flycatchers**.

So excited about the baby cordies—I haven't had them nest here before. See

pictures of the little fluff balls in the Gallery.

On Aug. 6, Carol Chapman reported that for the previous two weeks or so, she had a pair of **Lazuli Buntings** frequenting her millet feeder.

At 1 a.m. Aug. 14, I was working on my delinquent Bird Business column. I have a deck off my living room and had turned its light on to remind me to bring in my bird feeders so as not to tempt bears or raccoons.

Suddenly I saw what I thought was a very large bat land on a ponderosa pine limb by the deck. I could hardly believe my eyes when I got a good look at the "bat" and realized it was a **Northern Pygmy Owl**. Amazing!

I have tromped through forests far and wide, in the daylight and dark, looking for the little guys, and all I had to do was look out my back door. Fabulous new yard bird for this Hiwan Hills resident!

A little info on Northern Pygmy Owls: They normally hunt during the day. Their diet consists of large insects, like moths, birds, bats and other small mammals, all of which are in plentiful supply in my yard.

They are also cavity nesters, preferring Flicker holes, but they will also nest in boxes; again, both are plentiful in my yard.

Out and About

Echo Lake and Mount Evans

Sherman visited the Echo Lake Lodge feeders July 12 and saw many **Broad-tailed** and **Rufous hummingbirds**, a **Calliope Hummingbird** and a **Black-chinned Hummingbird**.

Bob Santangelo and I went to Mount Evans and Echo Lake July 22, and got ALL of our target species—elk, Mule Deer, Rocky Mountain Goats and Bighorn Sheep WITH their babies, Pika, Yellow-bellied Marmots, Pine Squirrels, chipmunks, **White-tailed Ptarmigan**, **Brown-capped Rosy-Finches**, **American Pipits**, **White-crowned Sparrows**, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, **Gray Jays**, **Common Ravens**, **American Crow**, **FOUR** species of hummingbirds (**Broad-tailed**, **Black-chinned**, **Rufous** and **Calliope**), mega wildflowers.

I was at Echo Lake and Mount Evans three consecutive weekends, on July 22 and July 29 and finally on Aug. 4 for the sunrise.

Each time I got good looks at a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** with six ducklings on Echo Lake.

In addition to the birds seen on July 22, we also saw **Pine Grosbeak**, **Clark's Nutcracker**, **Cordilleran Flycatcher** and **Red-naped Sapsucker** at the Echo Lake picnic area.

Western Colorado

On July 12, Sherman reported several birds he saw as he drove his sales route through Western Colorado.

He had a **Blue Grosbeak** and **Loggerhead Shrike** near Delta and **Cedar Waxwing** and **Yellow Warbler** near Glenwood Springs.

Aspen Park

On Aug. 2, Rick Ryerson reported a lot of activity in the Aspen Park/Berrian Mountain area just west of Eagle Cliffs.

"I think they are juvenile **Bald Eagles** . . . larger than a hawk . . . brown with a lot of lighter color on their bellies . . . Be interested for someone to identify and verify."

Mount Falcon

Sherman Wing, Mark and Susan Harper, Larry White and Chris Pfaff, Melissa Irwin, Bob and Jeannette Strom and I got together for a picnic and evening birding Aug. 11 at Mount Falcon.

We saw one **Common Nighthawk** soaring low just over the trees at dusk. Later in the early evening, we heard at least 10 **Common Poor-wills** calling on the hillside.

The Snowy Range, Wyoming

Chris Pfaff and Larry White spent some time exploring the Snowy Range in Wyoming recently. Driving west from Laramie on State Highway 130, the barren and windswept high plains come to an abrupt halt about 25 miles away and open to emerald-colored mountains known as the Snowy Range.

The best bird find of the trip was a **White-winged Crossbill**.

Be a part of your growing Evergreen Nature Center

I hope you've noticed an increase in visibility for Evergreen Nature Center this season. Lisa Wald and Natalie Wehrwein have worked hard to grab the mountain community's attention and it seems to have paid off.

At the time of writing, Aug. 10, Evergreen Nature Center had exposed more than 13,000 visitors to the natural wonders of the Bear Creek Watershed in 2012 alone.

Every day I believe we work to fulfill the mission set by the Evergreen Audubon board of directors to "foster contagious enthusiasm and lifelong respect for the natural world by providing fun and inspiring educational experiences."

But we can't do it without your help! There are still many weekend days left in the season to reach out to the mountain community and the many people that visit Evergreen Lake.

Evergreen Nature Center has a tremendous opportunity to reach a large population of people from all over the

Front Range that might never go out of their way to visit a nature center.

Many of the boaters, fishers and picnickers that wander into the center are amazed to discover the variety of wild-life neighbors we have in our backyard. We have the opportunity to meet them wherever they are in their understanding of the delicate balance between people and nature, and to lead them a bit further toward wonder and appreciation.

If you have ever walked around Evergreen Lake and seen signs of a behavior you'd like to change, I strongly encourage you to become an Evergreen Nature Center Visitor Assistant.

We are not the judge and jury, here to scold people for their lack of understanding, instead we are a much more effective means of connecting people to the local plants and animals of Bear Creek Watershed through fun experiential exhibits.

I see every one of the people who come into the Evergreen Nature Center asking to rent boats as an opportunity, a



Douglas Squirrel. Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

chance to connect with someone that we would otherwise miss.

We are in great need of friendly people to welcome visitors, so if you are interested, please contact me at enctdirector@evergreenaudubon.org or call the Nature Center at 303-330-0489.

- Vanessa Hayes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BRAD ANDRES

Continued from page 2

If you haven't been down to the Nature Center in a while, it's worth the trip to check out Philip Newsom's two gorgeous panels depicting sites along the Bear Creek Watershed.

Also, be sure to check the EA website for upcoming programs.

Lisa Wald has created a "Member Benefits & Resources" page under the Membership heading on our website.

The page highlights Evergreen

Audubon members' businesses or other endeavors, and details discounted products or services that are offered to the membership.

We hope to expand the resources page to further serve our membership.



Bats will be the topic at the Sept. 6 Evergreen Audubon chapter meeting. Biologist Susan Broderick will be the featured speaker. (See story on page 1.) At left is a Pallid Bat mist-netted near Blythe, Calif., on July 17; above is a Western Red Bat, also from a restoration site along the Colorado River near Blythe.

Wreath sale benefits EA, and your holiday decor

Need the perfect holiday gift? The Evergreen Audubon Society has lovely and reasonably priced balsam fir holiday wreaths for sale.

We're offering three different types of 25-inch wreaths available for in-town pickup (\$20, \$25 and \$26) and four for out-of-town delivery (\$30, \$35 and \$36). Pictures of all of the wreaths are posted at www.evergreenaudubon.org/.

If you would like to place an order, call Marilyn Rhodes at 303-674-9895 or email her at cloverlane@aol.com.

Orders are due by Oct. 29. Payment,

by cash or check, for in-town wreaths is due at pickup and for out-of-town wreaths at time of order.

The wreaths should be delivered just before Thanksgiving. Please support EA by participating in this important fundraiser.

October preview: lesser-known wonders

A local nature photographer and writer, Frank Weston, will speak at the Oct. 4 EA chapter meeting.

Frank has written a book, "Colorado State Parks and Natural Areas," in conjunction with the Foundation for Colorado State Parks and the Friends of the Natural Areas Program.

He will talk about some of the abundant, but lesser-known, natural wonders in Colorado that have been protected by CSP and the Natural Areas Program. He'll include stunning images of Colorado and provide tips on how to photograph wildlife and nature.

- Kathy Madison

NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

Register by calling 303-330-0489 or online at evergreennaturecenter.org.

Wednesday Wild Ones:

Tumbling Leaves

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 10–11 a.m.

Evergreen Nature Center

Soon splendid trees will let lose their leaves of many sizes and shapes.

Tumble with ENC through the world of sleeping ladybugs and take home your own cottonwood! Ages: 2–5 with adult.

Evergreen Nuthatches:

Muskrat Love

Saturday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.–noon

Evergreen Nature Center

Not otters, not beavers, but muskrats call Evergreen Lake home! Explore the life of these resourceful critters as we inspect their habitat. Anyone 10 and over is welcome! Ages: 10-plus.

Bear Creek Dippers:

Magpie Mobs

Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.–noon

Evergreen Nature Center

Have you heard? Young Magpies are noisily ganging up for their first winter.

Learn how these incredibly smart cousins of jays, crows and ravens work together to face the cold. Ages: 6–10 with adult.

Stargazing at Evergreen Lake

Lawn in front of Lake House

Saturday, Sept. 15, 7:30–9 p.m.

Pam Little

Join amateur astronomer Pam Little for a tour of the current night sky.

Listen to ancient star stories and learn to use a star chart. Make a star clock like the ones ancient travelers and sailors used.

Dress warmly, bring blankets and chairs for your comfort—telescopes and binoculars if you have them. Telescopes will be available to share.

For families. Maximum class size: 25. Call 303-330-0489 to register.

FIELD TRIPS

Shorebirds Out on the Plains

Jackson Lake

Sunday, Sept. 2, 7 a.m.

Labor Day weekend is peak time for shorebird migration in eastern Colorado. Join Brad Andres for a trip east to observe these long-distance migrants.

Exact location will depend on water levels, but we will likely visit Jackson Lake and Loloff Reservoir. Bring a lunch and plan for most of the day.

Let's meet at the Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride at 7 a.m. Contact Brad at 303-670-0101 or president@evergreenaudubon.org if you would like to go along.

Birding and Elk Bugling

Evergreen Lake

Saturday, Sept. 29, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Join Audubon Master Birder Marilyn Rhodes to see resident birds and migrants at Evergreen Lake.

Be prepared to bird off the boardwalk and walk the easy trail around the lake, visiting the Evergreen Audubon Nature Center along the way.

It is common for the local elk herd to gather on the golf course adjacent to the lake late in the day during the elk rut in late September and early October.

The herd has several mature bulls

that are quite vocal in declaring their territory by bugling and that often spar with one another.

Meet at the Evergreen Lake main parking lot and bring binoculars, field guides, water and snacks.

This program is offered in partnership with Denver Parks and Recreation and the Audubon Society of Greater Denver.

Registration is required: Send an email to cloverlane@aol.com or call Marilyn Rhodes at 720-333-2551 (mobile). No fee.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 2	Shorebirds Field Trip	7 am	Bergen Park Park 'n' Ride
Sept. 5	Wednesday Wild Ones	10–11 am	Nature Center
Sept. 6	Chapter Meeting	7 pm	Church of the Hills
Sept. 8	Evergreen Nuthatches	10 am–noon	Nature Center
Sept. 10	Newsletter deadline	5 pm	
Sept. 12	Bat House Bash	5 pm	Nature Center/Lake House
Sept. 15	Bear Creek Dippers	10 am–noon	Nature Center
Sept. 15	Stargazing	7:30–9 pm	Evergreen Lake House lawn
Sept. 27	EA Board Meeting	6 pm	Church of the Hills
Sept. 29	Birding and Elk Bugling	5:30–7:30 pm	Evergreen Lake

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to Lisa Wald: communications@evergreenaudubon.org. Contact *Dipper* editor Debbie Marshall with questions or comments: marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-674-3752.

VOLUME 42, NO. 9. 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 \$10 a year for a mailed hard copy. 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 Colorado Office, 303-415-0130, www.auduboncolorado.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	Student
Annual dues	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 10
Electronic <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hard-copy <i>Dipper</i>	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Bear Creek Watershed Murals
Bird Business: Hummers
Grow with your Nature Center

IN THIS ISSUE

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