

THE DIPPER

Published by The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.
Member of National Audubon Society

Volume 38 Number 9 December 2008

Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Silent Auction

Irma Wolf is still accepting items for the silent auction at the Jan. 16 banquet. If you have any offerings, please e-mail or call her: irmasonny@aol.com, 303-670-3402.

Turkey Trot

Start off Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, with the Wild Turkeys. Contact Warren Roske, 303-526-9725, for meeting time and details.

Library Display

The TENAS display in the glass case at Evergreen Library will be there through the month of November. Stop by and see some activities from a very productive year.

Dipper Online

The *Dipper* can be sent to your e-mail address several days before the print copy reaches you. The photographs provided by our talented members are in color in the web version of the *Dipper* and many of them are spectacular.

To have your *Dipper* sent by e-mail, contact Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org or Kent Simon, ksimonbib@comcast.net. Each issue of the *Dipper* is also posted on the TENAS website, www.dipper.org.

Winter Bird Review

In preparation for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count (see article below), the December TENAS meeting will focus on describing this year's count and brushing up on identifying winter Front Range birds.

Brad Andres will provide a quick overview of procedures for this year's count and introduce section leaders. Following this introduction, he will lead members through a slide show of the birds likely to be seen on the Christmas Bird Count.

Besides reviewing some of the more common species, this year we will focus on hard-to-identify groups of species. Bring your field guides along, particularly if you have the "big" Sibley guide.

We hope this program will be a good review for the Christmas Bird Count and for increasing your enjoyment of our winter birds. Our program will begin with the Christmas Bird Count overview and slide show, fol-



Red-breasted Nuthatch, a winter resident. Photo © Kay Niyo

lowed by refreshments and then a short business meeting.

Don't miss this winter bird refresher on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

Join Us for 39th Christmas Count

Save Sunday, Dec. 21, for the 109th Christmas Bird Count! We have conducted the count annually for 38 years, and our area includes interesting habitats around Idaho Springs, Genesee, Kittredge, Evergreen Lake, Bear Creek, Squaw Pass and Mt. Evans Wildlife Area.

We divide into 13 small field groups, each led by an experienced birder, and count all the species and individual birds we hear and see. Folks who would like to only count birds

visiting their feeders are also encouraged to participate.

In 2007, we had an average year of finding 50 species but one team did record a new species for the count—a Great-tailed Grackle. This grackle is one of the most common birds in Mexico and has been spreading northward into the western U.S.

Please join us as we tally the common spe-

Continued on Page 5



President's Message

Nature center's first season ends

On Oct. 29 at 3 p.m., we closed the books and door of our nature center for the season. Literally, we had to close and lock the door because would-be visitors kept streaming in.

Our executive director, Michael Stills, will give a more detailed report next month, but I want to let our members know that what we accomplished exceeded even our most optimistic hopes.

We had more than 14,000 visitors come through the door since our sneak preview on Earth Day, April 19. Our programs and classes proved interesting to those who attended. Our volunteers allowed us to stay open. A special thanks to Heather Johnson and Carmon Slater for obtaining or building the displays.

We are grateful to the Evergreen Park and Recreation District board for allowing us to use the old warming hut for this venture. The location couldn't be better.



Evergreen Nature Center was honored with a grant from Jefferson County's Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Michael Stills, ENC executive director (center), received the award from Commissioners Kevin McCaskey and Kathy Hartman. Photo by David Wald

Weather warning—telephone/e-mail tree

One of my dreaded jobs is watching the weather before our chapter meetings. If the weather deteriorates as our meeting time approaches, making driving hazardous, or if the speaker can't get here safely, it is likely that I will decide to cancel the meeting. If I err, it will be on the side of safety.

Notifying everyone who usually attends then becomes the problem. We will try in several ways. First, telephone/e-mail tree. TENAS members who are regular attendees should make sure that Kent Simon, our membership chair, and I have your correct home phone and cell phone numbers and e-mail address.

(If you have a new address or phone number, please send by e-mail to ksimonbib@comcast.net and president@dipper.org.)

Continued on Page 5



• To **Marilyn Kaussner, Sylvia Robertson and Jane Conrad** for creating the Audubon exhibit in the display case at the library for the month of November. The display featured the nature center, the Christmas Bird Count and wildlife. Be sure to see it when you're in the library.

• To **Peter Link**, Audubon member, for again presenting a wonderful program at the November chapter meeting. His pictures of the Galapagos Islands were gorgeous. Thank you, Peter.

2008 Officers

President	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
Vice President	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
Assistant Secretary	Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715
Treasurer	Doug Kieswetter	303-526-1090

Board of Directors

Ginny Boschen	303-674-3438
Jane Conrad	303-674-5133
Heather Johnson	303-670-0101
Marilyn Kaussner	303-674-7520
Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
David Wald	303-674-0417

Committee Chairs

Audubon Colo. Rep.	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Bear Creek Atlas	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Bird Business	Bill Brockner	303-674-4851
Conservation	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
<i>Dipper Editor</i>	Margaret McDole	303-679-1779
	editor@dipper.org	
Education	Dave Balogh	303-679-2799
Field Trips	Mike Foster	303-456-2647
	Mike1.foster@comcast.net	
Hospitality	Marge Petersen	303-670-4310
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@comcast.net	
Nature Center Program	Michael Stills	303-921-1936
Publicity	Heather Johnson	303-670-0101
Way & Means	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
	Irma Wolf	303-670-3402
	irmasonny@aol.com	
Weeds	Cathy Shelton	303-674-8610
	sheltonpublicaddress@hotmail.com	
Webmaster	Natasha Currlin Japp	
	jappnc@terra.com.br	



TENAS Annual Banquet is Jan. 16

Want to travel and see bird life in glorious color but you don't want the price it takes? Consider, then, the TENAS annual banquet at Mt. Vernon Country Club on Jan. 16.

Our guest speakers will be internationally recognized photographers Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski. For this evening the catering staff at Mt. Vernon will provide a delicious buffet dinner for \$35 per person.

Here's a taste of what the evening will offer: Salmon with a Cucumber Salsa Garnish, Beef with Peppercorn Gravy, Penne Pasta Dressed with a Light Tomato Sauce.

Curried vegetables, roasted potatoes, and rice pilaf, dessert and salad will add to the buffet set for us. On request, the staff will plate meals for any guest preferring seated service.

A party is more than what you eat, it is an experience, so "chill out" after the holiday's spin, and enjoy the company of TENAS friends with nothing on the agenda except to enjoy companionship, talk, ramble off the agenda, laugh and congratulate one another for an unprecedented year of a successfully starting up the Evergreen Nature Center while attending to everything else we do.

An Irma Wolfe encore! The silent auction will start at 6 p.m. and continue until dinner is served. Irma is totally "green" in her auction. She welcomes (and cherishes) your donations. Please call her at 303-670-3402 to donate an item.

President Peggy Durham, TENAS board members, ENC director Michael Stills and all the committee chairs join in saying, "Bon appétit." See you Jan. 16.

Cash bar 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. President's awards and recognitions will be during dinner.

The speakers will follow dinner.

Here's My Reservation for the Banquet

Names: (Print first and last names clearly for each guest attending.)

The Country Club will plate meals for any guests who prefer to be served at their table.
_____ I request that my meal be served _____ I need a ride to the banquet

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Cost is \$35 per person. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.
Make check payable to TENAS Banquet. Payment must be included with your reservation.

Reservations must be received by Friday, January 9, 2009 – Mail to:

TENAS Banquet, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437-0523



Bird Business

Mild weather continued for most of October and migration was in full swing in Evergreen. Sandhill Cranes flew overhead almost every day. Most flew so high that they could be identified only by their calls.

A cold front on Oct. 12 brought in many waterfowl. On the morning of Oct. 13 more than 200 ducks rested on Evergreen Lake.

The count included more than 20 Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal, at least 30 Canada Geese, two Pied-billed Grebes, 12 American Wigeon, seven Ring-necked Ducks, 10 Coots and four Red-headed Ducks.

Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, Ring-necked Ducks, Cinnamon Teal and Mallards were also present. With this large number of waterfowl, the numbers are approximate. They fed, rested and by evening resumed southward migration.

A total of 38 species were seen at Evergreen Lake during October. In the past few years the lowest number of spe-

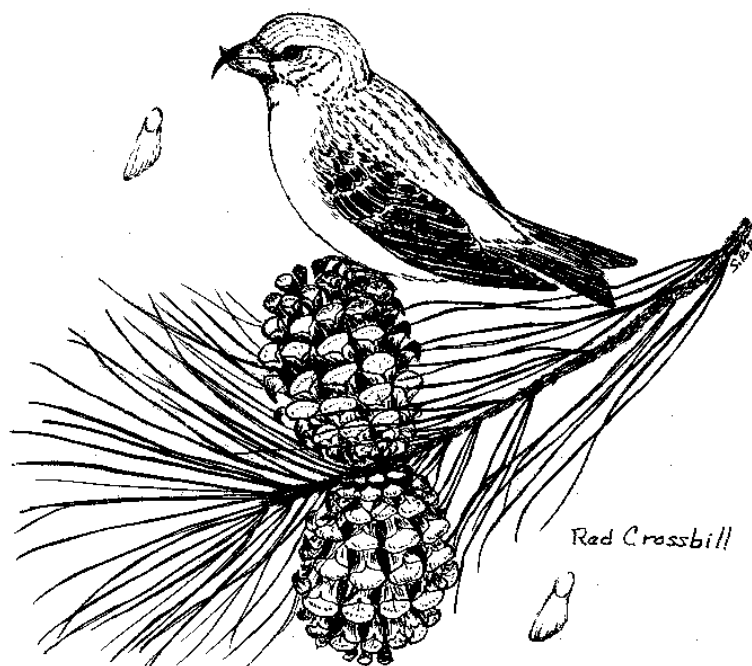
cies was 28 in 2005 and the highest number was 50 in 2007.

Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Turkey Vulture, Townsend's Solitaire and Mountain Chickadee were sighted only once in October at Evergreen Lake.

A Pied-billed Grebe was seen on several days, the American Dipper was seen on nine days and the Belted Kingfisher on 12 days. An Osprey was observed flying over to survey the lake on several occasions. Song, Vesper, Chipping, Lincoln and White-crowned Sparrows also were seen at the lake.

Loie Evans located a Brown Creeper in the midst of a flock of nuthatches and chickadees at Evergreen Lake. She also observed flocks of around 100 Mallards on the lake at dawn. During the day they departed.

Margaret McDole and Mark Meremonte came upon a flock of more than 20 Red Crossbills feeding on Douglas Fir cones in the Beaver Brook Watershed. This is a good year for cones and may bring in many crossbills.



Red Crossbill

A Red-tail Hawk, rufous morph, was sighted recently at Evergreen Lake by Kathanne Lynch and Susan Harper. A very handsome bird indeed.

We send sympathy to the family and friends of Allen Van Heyl who passed away recently. He was a respected USGS geologist who lived in Evergreen many years.

Winter is nearly here. Our hardy year-round resident birds will keep us company during the cold months. Maybe a surprise feathered guest will stop by.

- Bill Brockner

(as reported to the Dipper editor with contributions from Loie Evans, Warren Roske and Kathanne Lynch)

Membership

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

New

Caroline Jensen—Idaho Springs
Cheryl Manning—Evergreen

New Family

Sheryl & Tom Stone—Golden

Renewing

Patti O'Neall—Arvada
Helen Swem—Evergreen
Lydia Walsh—Conifer

Renewing Family

Warren Zimmer & Pam Bixter—Evergreen
Barbara Jean & Tom Gard—Evergreen
Marilyn & John Kaussner—Evergreen
Dan & Rachel Norton—Evergreen
Catherine & Jim Wilkins—Evergreen



Local & Independent

"Helping to create wild bird habitat."

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)



Board to be Elected at Next Meeting

The nominees for officers and directors are on the adjacent ballot. The membership will vote on the slate at the Dec. 4 chapter meeting. If you will not be there, we encourage you to vote by mail. This will help meet our required quorum for a valid election.

Please fill out the ballot, sign it, enclose your name and address and send it to TENAS, PO Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437 for arrival by Dec. 4.

You also may give your written proxy to someone who will be at the meeting. Remember, those with Family Memberships have two votes. The elected officers and directors will be installed at the Annual Banquet on Jan. 16.

2009 TENAS Board Ballot

Each Individual local or NAS membership is entitled to cast one vote for each Officer and for up to six (6) Directors. Family memberships are entitled to two votes. Family members please use two separate ballots.

Officers

President — Peggy Durham

Vice President — Brad Andres

Treasurer — Doug Kieswetter

Secretary — Kay Niyo

Assist Secretary — Marilyn Kaussner

Write-in Candidate: Indicate if for Officer or Director

Signature

Directors

Heather Johnson

Cheryl Manning

Mark Meremonte

Marge Peterson

Sylvia Robertson

David Wald

39th Annual Christmas Bird Count

Continued from Page 1

cies and search for the rarities. You can find out more about the Christmas Bird Count and examine count data at www.audubon.org/birds/cbc.

A summary of the 2007 Evergreen-Idaho Springs count is available on our website (www.dipper.org) under "Bird Monitoring Projects."

After a full day of counting birds, participants are invited to the traditional potluck supper where counts are discussed over good food and drinks. This year's hosts, as in many years past, are Walt and Polly Phillips, who have made their beautiful home available for the occasion. (Leaders will have directions, or call Walt and Polly at 303-674-7744.)

Lori Hogan will again be making chile and coordinating the supper. Please either sign up at the Dec. 4 meeting or call Lori at 303-674-4985 to let her know what dish you will contribute. There is a nominal charge (\$2) to offset the chile ingredients.

If you would like to participate, please attend TENAS' Dec. 4 meeting to sign up (see accompanying article in this issue) or call Brad at 303-670-0101. I will be out of town in early December but will be able to check e-mail (heatherbrad1@yahoo.com).

To defray the cost of processing the Christmas Bird Count data, field participants are asked to make a \$5 donation to the National Audubon Society.

If you would like to participate by counting birds at your feeder, please call Barbara Jean Gard at 303-674-3280 to obtain a feeder form and other information.

It is free to be a feeder watcher.

- Brad Andres

Christmas Bird Count coordinator

President's Message

Continued from Page 2

Next, website. We will try to get the cancellation on our website, so check there. Also, we will try to notify Church of the Hills.

Anyone wanting to know for sure if the chapter meeting is proceeding can call any of the board members (be sure to check the latest *Dipper* since some board members will be changing in December). Finally, we will try to be on the cancellation list of the local TV stations, although that is a little more iffy.

Openings for Committee Chairs

We will have a couple of new directors elected at the December chapter meeting. Probably we will have some openings to fill as committee chairs.

Any members, new or long-standing, who wish to get involved beyond coming to meetings should be in touch with me at president@dipper.org about your particular interests. I promise to keep all jobs manageable.

- Peggy Durham



Neotropical Migratory Bird Act

Background

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act supports partnership programs to conserve birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, where approximately 5 billion birds of more than 500 species, including some of the most endangered birds in North America, spend their winters.

Projects include activities that benefit bird populations such as habitat restoration, research and monitoring, law enforcement, and outreach and education.

Between 2002 and 2007, the program supported 225 projects, coordinated by partners in 44 U.S. states and territories and 34 countries. Projects involving land conservation have affected about 3 million acres of bird habitat.

Staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report that they receive many more requests for high-quality conservation projects than they can provide grants. NMBCA currently provides a maximum authorization of \$6 million per year; last year Congress appropriated \$4.5 million, a \$500,000 increase from the previous year.

Under the new law, that amount would increase to \$20 million by 2015. Grants require matching funds from other non-federal sources. Thus far, more than \$21 million from NMBCA grants has leveraged more than \$95 million in partner contributions.

FWS lists 341 migratory bird species that can benefit from the program. (www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/BirdList.shtm).

Of the 178 continental bird species included on the American Bird Conservancy/Audubon WatchList (www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist/watchlist.html) of birds of highest conservation concern, more than one-third, 71 species, are neotropical migrants.

The populations of an estimated 127 species of migratory birds are in persistent decline, and 60 species have experienced significant population declines greater than 45% over the last 40 years.

Several species, the Cerulean Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher, have declined

as much as 70% since surveys began in the 1960s.

Legislation

On Sept. 17, a Senate bill was introduced to conserve rapidly disappearing migratory birds. Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD), George Voinovich (R-OH), Susan Collins (R-ME), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced bipartisan legislation to boost funding for the conservation of migratory birds.

S. 3490 reauthorizes the existing Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The Senate bill is the counterpart to bipartisan legislation introduced earlier this year in the House, H.R. 5756, by Reps. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD).

Both bills seek significantly higher authorization limits to meet the growing needs of our migrants, many of which are in rapid decline.

NMBCA recent comments

Sen. Cardin (D-MD) said, "Maryland's natural treasure, our environment, is a lure for millions of human tourists and avian visitors each year. For nearly a decade, federal investment in habitat protection, education, research and monitoring of neotropical migratory birds has been vital to the well-being of our ecosystem and our economy."

Darin Schroeder (American Bird Conservancy's vice president of Conservation Advocacy) said, "This legislation is urgently needed to prevent America's native birds from disappearing. Nearly half of our songbird population is now in decline or facing serious threats; effective conservation projects can help us to start turning that around."

Alicia King (director of the Bird Conservation Alliance) said, "This is something that everyone who loves birds can do to make a difference."

The House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, held an oversight hearing July 10, titled "Going, Going, Gone? An



The Western Tanager nests in Colorado and migrates to Central and South America. Photographed in Mt. Falcon Park. © Judith Bird

Assessment of the Global Decline in Bird Populations." Witnesses, including Dr. George Wallace of American Bird Conservancy, testified to the importance of the NMBCA to conserve declining migratory birds.

What you can do

"Saving Migratory Birds for Future Generations: The Success of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act" (www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/act_songbirds.pdf) is a new report by American Bird Conservancy that details the disturbing downward trend in the populations of many migratory species and its causes, and documents the effectiveness of NMBCA.

American Bird Conservancy and the Bird Conservation Alliance, a broad network of bird clubs, science and conservation organizations, have launched the Act for Songbirds campaign, to support reauthorizing the legislation and boosting funding levels each year.

The reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act is currently on the table and citizens are being encouraged to contact their U.S. representative and senators in support of the legislation at www.abcbirds.org/action.

Editor's note: This article is an adaptation of a media release from Steve Holmer, director of Public Relations of American Bird Conservancy (202-234-7181, ext. 216, sholmer@abcbirds.org) and is printed here with his permission.



Winter's Truce with Weeds

Saying goodbye to summer can be difficult for some but for those fighting noxious weeds the temporary adieu is a relief. Looking back on the 2008 weed season, the Community Weed Awareness Campaign is proud to announce another triumphant year of weed control and education.

Community Weed Day and Weed & Wine were huge successes. While the final tally isn't in, volunteers spent approximately 200 hours actively weeding at Evergreen Lake, Dedisse Park and Beaver Brook Watershed.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who worked so hard and who make our weeding events a hit.

Imagine how many more hours were spent controlling weeds on private property and other public lands! Just take a look at the Center/Stage property where the Evergreen Chorale eradicated Myrtle spurge; or Stagecoach and Marshdale parks where the Evergreen Park and Recreation District managed infestations of chamomile, spurge and cheatgrass.

Walk the path near the Bergen Park RTD lot and send a word of thanks to Denver Mountain Parks for spraying the perennial pepperweed. Hats off to CDOT for responding quickly to our reports of Hoary cress and spurge along Highways 74 and 285.

CWAC volunteers took our noxious weed message to hundreds of people through educational events like Earth Day, Pulling for Colorado at Idaho Springs, nature center programs, and monthly weed



Marilyn Kaussner discusses weeds with EMS students. Photo by Cathy Shelton

articles in "Mountain Lifestyles," an Evergreen Newspapers publication that goes to more than 50,000 subscribers.

We also partnered with the Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek Wildernesses to create and print a new color brochure.

Our last event of the year may have been the chilliest but also the most rewarding. Marilyn Kaussner and I had the opportunity to talk to 75 Evergreen Middle School seventh-graders during their field day at O'Fallon Park on Oct. 10.

Besides learning about the impact of weeds on native habitats, the kids pulled two big bags of knapweed ready to go to seed. Marilyn and I were impressed with the enthusiasm and attention shown by these young people.

As we close out the season, I would like to thank some very important people—the CWAC steering committee. Without these folks, noxious weed work would falter.

So thank you, Sylvia Robertson, Betsy Kelson, Marilyn Kaussner, Bud Weare, Renee Cormier, Pat Carter and Else Van Erp. And of course, our thanks wouldn't be complete without mentioning our mentor, Sylvia Brockner.

We're not resting on our laurels; planning is already underway for our spring assault on the noxious weeds lurking under the snow. Give me a call if you'd like to join our team.

- Cathy Shelton
303-674-8610

Community Weed Awareness Campaign

Field Trips and Outings

Thursday, Nov. 27
Annual Turkey Trot

Leader: Warren Roske, 303-526-9725

Sunday, Dec. 21
Evergreen-Idaho Springs
Christmas Bird Count

We will meet at 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, at the Bergen Park 'n' Ride for our annual excursion to see the turkeys. Warren will scout the area the week before. Please call him if you plan to attend in case of changes due to bad weather or turkey no-shows.

Brad Andres will organize the field observers and Barbara Jean Gard will organize feed watchers. The traditional Tally Rally will be held in the evening. Details will be provided in the December *Dipper*, but if you have questions or would like to participate, call Brad, 303-670-0101, or Barbara Jean, 303-674-3280.

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

Calendar

November 27	Turkey Trot
November (all month)	Exhibit at Evergreen Library
December 4	Chapter Meeting
December 21	Christmas Bird Count
December 21	Tally Rally
January 16, 2009	TENAS Annual Banquet

Monthly Meetings (except January and July)

First Thursday at 7 p.m.
Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, 7 p.m.

Audubon Colorado Office 303-415-0130
www.auduboncolorado.org

TENAS website: www.dipper.org

The deadline for the January/February Double Dipper is Thursday, Dec. 4. Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org

VOLUME 38, NO. 9. *The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, P.O. Box 523, Evergreen, CO 80437, publishes The Dipper every month but February and August.* The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Members automatically receive *The Dipper*. Annual subscription for non-members is \$10. TENAS 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. ***Dipper design and layout by Marshall Desktop Publishing***

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 21
EVERGREEN, CO

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 523
Evergreen, CO 80437

Time Dated Material

In This Issue

- Board Election
- Annual Banquet
- 2008 Weed Finale

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

THE DIPPER