



THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

Nest Box Sale: Don't Miss Out

This year's TENAS nest box sales will take place March 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Evergreen and Conifer Safeway stores and at Bergen Park King Soopers store.

Last year boxes sold out by Saturday afternoon, so come early to be sure your birds have a home this summer. To volunteer, call Bud Weare at 303-679-8889.

Crane Festivals In Monte Vista and Kearney

- Monte Vista Crane Festival, March 13-15. For more information, their website is www.cranefest.com, phone 719-852-3552.

- Rivers and Wildlife Celebration (boasting 500,000 Sandhill Cranes), March 20-22, Kearney, Neb. Visit www.nebraska.audubon.org or phone 402-797-2301.

Time to Clean (Bird) House

It's not too early to think about spring and the return of bluebirds! The annual bird box sale is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in March. Also remember to clean out all established bird boxes before the resident birds return.

Bighorn Sheep of Colorado

The Rocky Mountain bighorn (*Ovis canadensis*) is a descendant of ancestral wild sheep that crossed the Bering land bridge from Asia during the Pleistocene epoch, approximately 750,000 years ago, and is one of three species of mountain sheep living in North America and Siberia.

Colorado is home to the largest North American population.

The Georgetown herd is one of the largest bighorn sheep herds in Colorado.

The herd is also one of the most highly valued for the opportunities it provides for hunting, wildlife viewing and as a source for

sheep reintroductions in Colorado and other states.

Sherri Huwer of the Colorado Division of Wildlife will present an overview of the bighorn sheep of Colorado: history, distribution, biology, viewing and management. She also will describe the impetus and current findings of a DOW study of the Georgetown herd.

The Georgetown study is collecting information needed to refine the management of the herd, to identify the causes for the decreasing number of lambs in the population, and to mitigate the effects of land development.

Huwer received a master of science in wildlife biology from

Colorado State University. She began work with the DOW in 2004 as a terrestrial biologist, addressing population level management of deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, lions, bears, moose and pronghorn.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Colorado bighorn sheep on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (just west of Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow.



Management of the Georgetown bighorn population will be the topic at the next TENAS chapter meeting on March 5.

Energy Efficiency Workshop

A representative from the Governor's Energy Office will give a free talk about incentives, rebates and tax credits available to people who want to decrease utility bills while increasing comfort and energy efficiency in their homes or businesses.

The workshop is sponsored by Evergreen Rotary at 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Seniors Resource Center (The Yellow House), 5120 Highway 73, Evergreen.

If you have questions, call Mereth at 303-647-7001.



President's Message

It would be hard to top last year in terms of new ideas and programs, but we will try as we provide educational opportunities, enjoy field trips, destroy weeds and party with a purpose.

The Nature Center dominated our agenda this past year. In addition, under the guidance of Brad Andres, Mike Foster and Kay Niyo, we established the Bear Creek Atlas.

Tom Boschen provided a new design for the Bluebird boxes. In the upcoming year, we will continue these programs, always working to improve upon last year's success. And as you will read elsewhere in this issue, many others gave unstintingly of their time and expertise. Every effort, small or large, occasional or frequent, keeps us going and is appreciated.

Welcome to **new board members Marge Petersen and Cheryl Manning** and to **new committee chair Rachel Hutchison**, who has taken over Hospitality. Please help by signing up for refreshments when she passes around the sign-up sheet.

Mike Wilson and Barbara Nabors have assumed the duties of Program chair. If you have suggestions for future programs, please pass them along to Mike and Barbara.

Our board members have so much to offer that I decided to ask them to contribute to a Board Column in the Dipper, either in place of the President's Message or in addition to it. Their columns will provide new material to the readership reflecting their interests and perspectives.

I encourage our members to give us feedback and suggestions. We welcome your input (and I hope I don't regret this invitation).

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• To **Ginny Boschen** and **Irma Wolf** for again heading up the banquet team. And a great job they did, including selecting **Wendy Shattil** and **Bob Rozinski** as the speakers who paid special tribute to **Bill Brockner**. Also helping were **Marilyn Kaussner** creating attractive table decoration, **Kent Simon** keeping track of the reservations that kept changing up until 4 o'clock that afternoon, **Juanita Weare** and **Dee Miller** for painting the dippers (birds) on the ladles we refer to as the Dipper awards. And **Irma** did a superb job collecting and displaying items for the silent auction. She searches for items all year long, storing them for the banquet. Thank you, all.

• To **Michael Stills** for presenting the February program, reviewing the first season of the Nature Center. His slide show documented the exhibits and displays that gradually filled the empty space we were presented with a year ago. We laud Mike's accomplishments this past year and share his enthusiasm for the upcoming year.

• We thank **John Skeel** and **Pat Shea** of the Evergreen Park and Recreation District for their cooperation and help in erecting a bench in honor of **Bill Brockner** at the lake.

• To **John Sears** of Evergreen Wild Bird Store for helping, through advice and buying, supply the Nature Center Store. And **John** sells our Bluebird boxes at the store, when we have unsold boxes after our weekend sale the first week in March.

• To **Brad Andres** for organizing and running another successful Christmas Bird Count. And to **Emily Wald** for keeping the tally as quickly as the team leaders could announce the numbers. And again thanks to **Polly and Walt Phillips** for opening their lovely home for the chili supper. Thank you to **Lori Hogan** for providing the delicious chili. We all know a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make all these events run smoothly.

2009 Officers

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President's Message

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Board Member's Message: David Wald

While I was honored to receive special recognition at the Annual TENAS Banquet in January for my efforts on behalf of the Nature Center, it was also an awkward surprise for me. I was not prepared for this select recognition, and thus I did not know what to say at the time; I do now.

Many others contributed and continue to contribute so much to the Nature Center, each in very unique and important ways. Here, I would like to recognize more fully (yet, still incompletely) these other contributions.

I focus here on Nature Center contributions, and not TENAS in general; that would require additional and much-deserved kudos! You will see below how important each individual contribution is, tapping into a well-rounded pool of talented resources.

No individual can take credit for the success of the Nature Center. We fed off of each other's excitement and energy. I note selected individual contributions, in alphabetical order, with one exception.

Without a doubt, **Peggy Durham** is the unsung hero. She has been a part of every endeavor related to the Nature Center, from negotiating the lease and interacting with the Evergreen Park and Recreation District and ANCA consultants to hiring the executive director, building the Nature Center and joining every Nature Center subcommittee meeting.

All the while, Peggy has dutifully taken on the lion's share of running TENAS under her gracious presidency. She's our ringleader, spiritual leader and compass. Sometimes we forget to thank Peggy since she's usually in the process of thanking someone else.

Brad Andres, ornithological guru. Beyond his huge TENAS contributions, Brad provides the sound basis for scientific content for our displays and volunteer training. Brad's professional Nature

Center birding classes are very well attended and highly regarded.

Dave Balogh and Carolyn Fraker. Dave and Carolyn served on the initial Nature Center subcommittee, working on design and implementation. Carolyn served as interim director, organizing and managing many tasks necessary to get the Nature Center started. Dave started the Naturalist on the Boardwalk program with Ginny Boschen.

Ginny Boschen, education czar. As a career educator, Ginny provides the Nature Center with a critical perspective for engaging students, and providing appropriate learning content. Leading the Naturalist on the Boardwalk program expanded the Nature Center to a wider audience.

Heather Johnson, energy generation. Heather is a potential source of alternative energy. The Nature Center has successfully harvested her energy. Heather secured most of the displays now on exhibit through every creative means possible, tapping into her connections with colleagues and friends.

Heather's scientific background and communication skills are evident in our displays and volunteer training. She has contributed to the Nature Center in too many other ways to mention.

Pam Little, program excellence. Her monthly star parties are highly educational and are one of the most popular family activities sponsored by the Nature Center.

Walt and Polly Phillips. Much of the funds raised to operate the Nature Center year are thanks to the successful Lake House fundraiser organized by Walt and Polly. Their time, efforts and generosity are very much appreciated.

Donald Randall, visitor assistant extraordinaire. Donald's presence as a volunteer established him as a quintessential role model for volunteer excellence. Donald's knowledgeable, friendly demeanor adds warmth to the Nature Center, and his creative contributions have added greatly to the Nature Center workings.

John Sears, marketing expert. John's professional advice on Nature Center merchandise and sales is both generous and highly regarded. His support and contributions for fundraising are generous and well received. John is a wonderful connection to our community of birders and naturalists.

Carmon Slater, creative genius. The Nature Center has Carmon's fingerprints everywhere. Thanks to Carmon, it has a warmth and décor to complement its historical structure and natural surroundings. The beautiful divider, and nearly all the furniture, clothing, exhibits, displays and display boards, are an extension of his creativity, most expertly designed and hand-built. Carmon is incredibly generous with his time, connections and diverse skills.

Michael Stills, executive director. The executive director is paid for nine months (March through November), but we get his contributions year-round. Michael has made enormous progress on running the Nature Center and has maintained remarkable composure and enthusiasm despite somewhat overwhelming expectations, and very limited resources. Michael has made strong connections to the community and has generated great enthusiasm for the Nature Center.

Jean Thayer, stealth volunteer program assistant. Jean's quiet contributions behind the scenes, such as providing data entry, Nature Center inventory, volunteer manual editing, and creating many other documents ensured we had the proper documents and information upon which to build for the future and share our success.

Lisa Wald, graphics design and exhibit layout. Lisa's graphic design and layout experience, and tireless effort, provided the Nature Center with nearly all of its exhibit text, logs, labels, posters, letters, forms, handouts, brochures and signage. Most requirements were unspecific, so her creativity is apparent in all these custom-made materials.

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Bird Business

Rosy-Finches Drop by to Visit

We have been pleased and delighted to host for the second winter a large group of Rosy-Finches at our home in Conifer.

Our Rosy-Finch group varies with the weather. They begin to feed around 7:15 a.m. and they tend to come back about once per hour through early afternoon. They can also be seen roosting in the trees (yes, in trees!) behind our house between feeding cycles. They are seen more on snowy and cold days.

We have the Black rosy, the Brown-capped and Gray-crowned Rosy-finch in our group. Last year, the Hepburn's was also regularly seen. We've not seen it this year yet . . . The group size varies from just a few on warm days up to 100 on real snowy days.

That's about the Rosiest scenario I could possibly paint. Luckily for us, we

have a good habitat that they seem to like a lot.

- John and Diane Sears

Snow Goose in the Lead

On Jan. 16 about 11 a.m., I was driving near Southwest Plaza when I looked up at a group of geese flying low, in their flight formation. The lead bird was a Snow Goose and behind this bird were a dozen Canada Geese. I've never seen this before.

The Snow Goose was pure white with very showy black wing tips. The Snow Goose appeared to be similar in size to the Canada Geese, not smaller, which could possibly be a Ross' Goose. These birds were flying from the Marston Reservoir area, and heading west toward Macy's and Dillard's.

- Sherman Wing



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at John and Diane Sears' home. Photo © Kay Niyo



Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. Photo © Kay Niyo

President's Message

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Nature Center Material Donors.

The number of individuals who contributed books, magazines, telescopes, feathers and lots of stuff to the Nature Center was amazing. Thank you all for your individual contributions.

There have been many others who volunteered, contributed to, supported or encouraged the Nature Center effort and we appreciate everyone's help.

In addition, every TENAS member has contributed via annual dues and fundraising for TENAS that kick-started the Nature Center under the auspices of the TENAS Land Acquisition Fund.

Recognizing this, it is the goal of the Nature Center committee of TENAS to make the Nature Center self-supporting as quickly as possible. Thank you all for your contributions: past, present and future. It is an honor to be associated with such a professional, creative, generous and considerate group.

Ice Fishing

On Dec. 24, yes, Christmas Eve, while having breakfast, we saw a Kingfisher fly along the creek at Bear Creek Tavern! I could not believe

it: The creek was frozen over almost completely. What a great Christmas surprise.

- Karel Buckley



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)



Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas Project

BCA enjoyed a successful first year, and now we are getting ready for the second year. Last year we had 202 hours of effort at 11 sites, which produced 1,497 records of 137 species.

You can find more of last year's results, learn more about the project, and become familiar with our methods by visiting our website: www.tenas.org.

Our purpose is to determine distribution, abundance and breeding evidence of birds on public lands in the Bear Creek Watershed during the nesting season (May to mid-July). We use the same field protocols as the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas.

Routes in the field vary from visit to visit, to cover all the main habitats of each site. Each site has a designated leader, whose responsibility is to survey that site at least five times. Beyond that, leaders and experienced birders can survey any of the sites as often as they

wish during the breeding season.

Records are entered on the website after each field survey. For each of the first five years we will visit a different group of sites; after five years we will repeat the cycle. By the end of 2012 we will have visited most of the public lands in the Watershed, and monitored the birds in approximately 60 different locations.

We welcome your participation. If you keep records, and are willing to use our field protocols, we encourage you to enter your data on the website.

To learn more or to get involved,



Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon). Photo by Sherman Wing

contact Mike Foster, 303-456-2647 or mike1.foster@comcast.net. If you would like to be a site leader for 2009, please send Mike an e-mail. He will notify you of a site leaders' meeting later in March.

Here are the sites we will be surveying during 2009.

2009 Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas Sites

Site	General Location	Manager	Zone
Bell Park	Cub Creek	DMP	Montane
Cub Creek Park	Cub Creek	DMP	Montane
Flying J Ranch Park	Flying J	JCOS/DMP	Montane
Genesee Park	Genesee	DMP	Montane
Hayden Green Mt Park	Green Mountain	LAK	Plains/Foothills
Mount Goliath Trail	Arapahoe	NF	Subalpine/Alpine
Mount Judge	Hicks Mountain	DMP	Subalpine/Alpine
Red Rocks Park	Red Rocks	DMP	Plains/Foothills
Snyder Mountain	Hicks Mountain	DMP	Subalpine/Alpine
Truesdell Creek Trail	Arapahoe	NF	Subalpine/Alpine



Remembering Bill

I was attending a Colorado Audubon Council meeting in Pueblo. The big field trip was to Pinyon Canyon where the U.S. Army was planning to expand a training area.

Everyone else hiked off to look for things, but one fellow, Bill Brockner, just stood out on a point that was like an overlook. He wore a long dress coat on this very cold day. And he just stood there watching.

I walked up and a conversation blossomed, in the course of which he said, "Sometimes the best way to find birds is to let them find you." Twenty-five years later, I still teach my birding students to stand and to watch and let the birds find them.

- Kevin J. Cook



At the TENAS Banquet, the Order of the Dipper was awarded to the Community Weed Awareness Committee. Shown here are Bud Weare, Cathy Shelton, Else VanErp and Marilyn Kaussner (left to right). Awards also were presented to Heather Johnson, David Wald and Helen Swem. Photo by Mark Meremonte

Membership

We thank the renewing TENAS local members for their support.

Renewing

Ruth Alford–Evergreen
Trish Baker–Evergreen
Jonelle Balais–Evergreen
Jane Conrad – Evergreen
Gisela Henderson–Evergreen
Pat Jurgens–Evergreen
Rick & Nana Kurtz–Evergreen
Elaine McCoach–Golden
Dee Miller–Evergreen
Kay Niyo–Golden
David & Karyn Pedersen–Evergreen
Michelle Poolet–Golden
Kent Simon–Evergreen
Sally & Jay Truett–Morrison
Sonny & Irma Wolf–Evergreen
Mavis Zacrep–Evergreen

Renewing Family

Craig Wibirt & Pam Little–Conifer
Kate Hart & Cheryl Pieper–
Buffalo Creek
Cathy & Jim Shelton–Evergreen

My Friend Bill

*I met a gentleman many years ago,
I met him in a little village in Colorado
People were coming from all around
To view a rare duck that this gentleman found.
The great importance of this little duck
Did not last long, he was out of luck.
For here stood a man recognized by all,
He was Bill Brockner, the Birdman of them all.
Because of his great interest in a lifetime with birds
Everyone gathered close by to hear his words.
To each and all you could hear him say "How are you!"
And "How wonderful!" This they knew they would hear.
They were words that created so very much cheer.
He could lift your spirit and outlook on life
Like no other person you have met in your life.
This man Bill Brockner lived his life with so much vigor
He stood out so much bigger.
It makes me very sad that he is no longer around
However I am glad that in my life he was found.
I know there are many that will miss my friend Bill
I am sure that I always will.*

- Allan C. Hahn, Nathrop, CO (age 85)



2008 Evergreen-Idaho Springs CBC

We held the 40th Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 21. The first count was made on Christmas Day, 1969, and has been conducted every December since.

Over the years, we have recorded 96 total species and have averaged 46 species in any given year. In 2008, 50 field observers and 27 feeder watchers participated in the count, and we found an above-average 51 species.

This was despite early morning temperatures that dipped below zero. At least the wind remained relatively calm.

In only 6 of the 40 years have we recorded more than 50 species on the count. Hearty field observers and feeder watchers tallied 5,328 individual

birds, which was just 300 fewer birds than last year.

This year's count produced two new count species—two Cackling Geese over the Squaw Pass section and three Eurasian Collared-Doves in Kittredge. The dove is an exotic species to North America and has been rapidly expanding in Colorado in recent years.

In addition to these two new species, we also had new high counts for Great Horned Owl (4), Downy Woodpecker (51), Dark-eyed Junco (all forms, 699) and Pine Siskin (723).

Unfortunately, we missed American Three-toed Woodpecker, Western Scrub-Jay and any rosy-finch.

In case you missed last year's

American Birds summary, the Evergreen-Idaho Springs count had the North American high count for Mountain Chickadees (571).

A summary of the numbers of all species observed in 2008, and the average for past years, is provided in the table below.

Thanks to all section leaders and participants, the Phillipses for hosting the Tally Rally, Lori Hogan for making the chili and organizing the dinner, Barbara Jean Gard for organizing the feeder watchers, Emily Wald for recording the section counts, and John and Diane Sears (Evergreen Wild Bird Store) for distributing leaders' packets and hosting the Evergreen Lake team.

- Brad A. Andres

Summary of birds observed on the 2008 Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Count, the average number seen from 1969 to 2007, and the high count and year recorded.

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2007	2008	number	year
Canada Goose	7	59	70	90
Cackling Goose	-	2	2	08
Wood Duck	<1		2	93/07
American Wigeon	<1		2	96
Mallard	47	78	235	93
Northern Pintail	<1		1	96/98
Green-winged Teal	<1		1	81
Chukar	<1		1	80
Blue Grouse	<1		12	94
Wild Turkey	41	24	110	04
Great Blue Heron	<1		1	88/90
Bald Eagle	1	6	4	91
Northern Harrier	<1		2	04
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	3	06
Cooper's Hawk	<1	1	1	several
Northern Goshawk	1	1	3	72/87
Red-tailed Hawk	11	27	35	05
Ferruginous Hawk	<1		2	98
Rough-legged Hawk	1		11	85
Golden Eagle	3	4	8	89
American Kestrel	1	1	4	87



Continued from previous page

Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2007	2008	number	year
Merlin	<1		1	89/07
Prairie Falcon	<1		1	82
Wilson's Snipe	1	2	4	78/91/00
Rock Pigeon	79	73	212	81
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	3	3	08
Mourning Dove	<1		1	93
Great Horned Owl	1	4	4	08
Northern Pygmy-Owl	<1		4	95
Long-eared Owl	<1		1	74/82
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<1		1	70
Belted Kingfisher	2	3	6	04
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<1		1	80
Downy Woodpecker	28	51	51	08
Hairy Woodpecker	42	58	63	84
American Three-toed Woodpecker	<1		3	79/89
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	13	34	35	06
Loggerhead Shrike	<1		1	several
Northern Shrike	4	3	13	86
Gray Jay	15	1	53	77
Steller's Jay	264	197	446	00
Blue Jay	<1		1	95/00
Western Scrub-Jay	3		14	93
Pinyon Jay	5		200	72
Clark's Nutcracker	27	37	108	78
Black-billed Magpie	174	178	293	00
American Crow	597	870	1,519	00
Common Raven	114	138	200	72
Horned Lark	1		15	86
Black-capped Chickadee	69	118	170	95
Mountain Chickadee	474	450	786	75
Plain Titmouse	<1		1	82
Red-breasted Nuthatch	48	54	127	93
White-breasted Nuthatch	65	88	112	01
Pygmy Nuthatch	343	604	798	95
Brown Creeper	13	15	23	75
Canyon Wren	1	1	5	81
Winter Wren	<1		2	75
American Dipper	19	18	37	87
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	1	18	84
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<1		2	83/91
Mountain Bluebird	<1		2	92
Townsend's Solitaire	66	59	202	82

Continued on next page



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Common Name	Number per Year		High Count	
	1969-2007	2008	number	year
American Robin	130	39	1,500	72
Northern Mockingbird	<1		1	78
Brown Thrasher	<1		1	several
European Starling	136	64	301	00
Bohemian Waxwing	47		580	80
Cedar Waxwing	8	1	163	87
Spotted Towhee	<1	1	4	75
Cassin's Sparrow	<1		1	71
American Tree Sparrow	3		37	84
Clay-colored Sparrow	<1		1	83
Fox Sparrow	<1		1	75/76/83
Song Sparrow	4	4	12	93
White-throated Sparrow	<1		1	84/06
Harris's Sparrow	<1		2	80
White-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	71/89/00
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<1		1	93
Dark-eyed Junco	547	699	699	08
Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco	158	218	293	76
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	91	69	232	74
Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco	12	81	276	80
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	84	101	413	82
Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco	56	21	70	07
Red-winged Blackbird	38	6	500	91
Common Grackle	<1		3	93
Great-tailed Grackle	<1		1	07
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	133		429	84
Black Rosy-Finch	8		70	04
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	18		140	04
All Rosy-finches	170		429	84
Pine Grosbeak	13	6	51	07
Cassin's Finch	169	20	474	88
House Finch	147	373	430	06
Red Crossbill	68	27	643	82
White-winged Crossbill	1		16	70
Common Redpoll	4		30	70
Pine Siskin	207	723	723	08
American Goldfinch	18	4	176	00
Evening Grosbeak	138	26	420	95
House Sparrow	106	69	377	00

Calendar

March 5	Chapter Meeting
March 7-8	Bird Box Sale
March 13-15	Monte Vista Crane Festival
March 20-22	Rivers & Wildlife Celebration, Nebraska
April 2	Chapter Meeting
April 18	Earth Day
April 18	Evergreen Nature Center Reopens

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 April Dipper is Thursday, March 5. Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society
Local Membership Application
Please enroll me/us in The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive *The Dipper* newsletter, and vote (both Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain local.

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

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- Christmas Count Summary
- Breeding Bird Atlas
- Rosy-Finch Bonanza

In This Issue

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THE DIPPER

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