



# THE DIPPER

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Editor: Margaret McDole

Assistant Editor: Mark Meremonte

## Wreath Orders Due Oct. 30

The deadline for ordering Holiday Wreaths is Oct. 30. To place an order, contact Marilyn Rhodes at 303-674-6580 or e-mail her at [cloverlane@aol.com](mailto:cloverlane@aol.com). Photos of the wreaths are posted at [dipper.org](http://dipper.org).

## Changes to TENAS By-laws

A vote will be taken at the Nov. 5 chapter meeting on changes to the TENAS By-laws. Read the proposed changes on page 6.

## Save the Date: Banquet is Jan. 29

The annual TENAS banquet will be Friday, Jan. 29.

Don't be left in the cold, there's a party going on!

## Silent Auction

Irma Wolf is collecting items for the silent auction at the January banquet. Call her as soon as possible if you have any donations, 303-670-3402.

## Nature Center to Close for Winter

The last day for this season will be Saturday, Oct. 31.

# Birding in Hungary

David Balogh will present a few highlights of three days of birding in Hungary at the Nov. 5 chapter meeting. This was a short excursion tagged onto a business trip to Belarus in the spring of 2008.

Having no experience with birding in Europe, David at times felt the frustration of a

neophyte birder as new species seem to pop out of every bush and tree in sight.

Some birds, like Mallards and White Egrets, are the same as we have here, and others are very nearly the same, so their identification rebuilt his confidence.

With the help of an excellent guide, 90

species were identified on day trips from Budapest north to Danube Bend and south to grasslands and fish ponds in the Kiskunság. The program will concentrate on a few of the species, including the fascinating Great Bustard.

**Join us for "Armchair Birding and Travel" on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (just west of Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Guests welcome.**

**Refreshments and a business meeting will follow.**



*The Squacco Heron photographed in Hungary. Photo by Dave Balogh*

# Winter Birds of Bear Creek

In preparation for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count (see article on page 3), the Dec. 3 chapter meeting will focus on describing this year's count, a review of trends of local birds we see on the Christmas Count, and brushing up on the families of 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 quickly review population trends of local birds generated from Christmas Bird Count data.

Last, he will review the families of Evergreen birds and some of the species we will

encounter on the count. 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 evening will begin with the Christmas Bird Count program, followed by refreshments and then a short business meeting.

**Don't miss this informative program on the Christmas Bird Count on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road (across from Evergreen Library) in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.**



# President's Message

## Website: dipper.org

Please bear with us as a new website is being developed. One of Cheryl Manning's students, Brian Lovin, is working on this new website for Evergreen Audubon, fitting it in between his college applications, cross country workouts and the usual senior class work.

Until this new site is ready for public consumption, we will continue on a limited basis with the old site. The name of the site will remain dipper.org. Lisa Wald has been able to put some articles and information on our old site.

Because we have had many double *Dippers* this year, it is important for everyone to check the site for current information or about upcoming events. Especially as winter weather sets in, if we have to cancel a meeting, we will post a notice on the site.

The new site will be handled a little differently from the old one. Once up and running, authorized Audubon members will post their information directly. For instance, the program chair will be able to post the upcoming chapter meeting notice and then replace it with the next one.

The board feels that in the near future, we will probably use the website for all information for our members. For members who do not have computer or website capability, we will find another way to reach them.

But the speed with which we can reach people on the computer is compelling. And, given our mission of conserving our environment, we feel that going paperless is consistent with our goals. Most of the organizations I belong to have already done so.

So check the website often for any changes or new informa-

*Continued on Page 3*

### 2009 Officers

President	Peggy Durham	303-674-8648
Vice President	Brad Andres	303-670-0101
Secretary	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
Assistant Secretary	Marilyn Kaussner	303-674-7520
Treasurer	Doug Kieswetter	303-526-1090

### Board of Directors

Heather Johnson	303-670-0101
Cheryl Manning	303-670-0699
Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
Marge Peterson	303-670-4310
Sylvia Robertson	303-674-1715
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		
Conservation	Mark Meremonte	303-679-1779
	conservation@dipper.org	
Dipper Editor	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	Rachel Hutchinson	303-679-1503
Land Acquisition	Polly Phillips	303-674-7744
Membership	Kent Simon	303-674-3017
	ksimonbib@comcast.net	
Nature Center Program	Michael Stills	303-921-1936
	Mike Wilson and	303-697-9445
	Barbara Nabors	
	crowhollow@gmail.com	
Publicity	Barbara Klaus	303-674-1102
Way & Means	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	



• To **John Sears**, owner of the **Evergreen Wild Bird Store**, for donating an order of "squeaky birds" to the Nature Center.

• To **Irma Wolf** and **Sylvia Robertson** for their untiring efforts organizing the garage sale. And to **Jane Stewart** for hosting the event in her garage and driveway. And to **Marilyn Kaussner, Rachel Hutchison, Polly Phillips, Mercedes Smith, Rachel Norton, Jane Wilson, Karen Knutson** and **Tom Boschen** for helping price and set up on Friday and sell on Saturday. The effort was well worth it! We cleared \$535. And even the weather was in our court.

• To **Cathy Shelton** and her regular crew for another Weed & Wine in August, to finish off the late-season weeds we missed in June. Even though rain started as we did, we persevered and rid the lake of whatever offending weeds were visible.

• To **Lisa Wald** for figuring out how to use the old website to post notices and information as the new website is being developed.

• To **Bud Weare**, chairman, **Cheryl Manning, Brad Andres** and **Michael Stills** for serving on the Nominating Committee.

• To **Tarry Maxson** for donating a carving he made to the Nature Center Benefit auction held last June. **Karel Buckley** knows him from the Monte Vista Crane Festival and solicited the carving. Thank you both.



## Join Us for Our 41th CBC

Save Sunday, Dec. 20, for the 110th Christmas Bird Count! This will be our 41st count here in Evergreen; 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, 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 2008, we had an above-average year of finding 51 species, which included two new species for the count—two Cackling Geese in the Squaw Pass section and three Eurasian Collared-Doves in Kittredge.

Please join us as we tally the common species and search for the rarities. You can find out more about the Christ-

mas Bird Count and examine count data at [www.audubon.org/birds/cbc/](http://www.audubon.org/birds/cbc/).

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 are Cheryl and Andres Manning, who have made their home available for the occasion (6550 Arapaho Dr., Evergreen; 303-670-0699).

Arapaho Drive is accessed off of Snowshoe Road either via S. Buffalo Park Road or from Brook Forest Road and north on Columbine Road.

Please sign up at the Dec. 3 meeting to bring a dish or call Brad or Heather at 303-670-0101. There is a nominal charge (\$2) to offset the chile ingredients.

If you would like to participate, please attend TENAS' Dec. 3 meeting to sign up (see article on page 1) or call me at 303-670-0101. 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.

- Brad Andres

Christmas Bird Count coordinator

## TENAS Offered Private Tour of Museum of Nature & Science

John Demboski, curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, was our speaker Oct. 1. He exhibited some of his many speci-

mens of birds and presented a wonderful history of the museum.

John has kindly offered to give Evergreen Audubon a private tour of his collections so we can see more. We hope to schedule this sometime before the end of the year.

Anyone who is interested in taking this tour should call Peggy Durham, 303-674-8648. I will let you know when it is scheduled.

## Turkey Trot

The Turkey Trot, led by Warren Roke, will take place at Marge Petersen's, 657 Golden Willow Rd., on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 26. Anyone hoping to see the turkeys should be assembled before first light.

Be sure to call Warren, 303-526-9725, and let him know you want to attend, in case he needs to change the meeting point or the location at the last minute.

## Officers to be Elected Dec. 3

The slate of officers for next year will be announced at the Nov. 5 chapter meeting and the election will take place at the Dec. 3 chapter meeting.

The nominees will be posted at [www.dipper.org](http://www.dipper.org) along with a mail-in ballot for those who cannot attend the meeting.

## President's Message

*Continued from Page 2*

tion, such as the banquet speaker, if you are planning to attend any Audubon event.

### Board and Bylaws

The Nominating Committee is working to fill the vacancies on the board. If anyone has an interest in or skills for a particular position, please notify Bud Weare, 303-679-8889, chair of the committee.

We are looking for members who could be treasurer, director of development, and secretary (board positions) and the *Dipper* editor and Audubon Colorado representative.

Please see the September/October *Dipper* for the Proposed Organization Structure for the board and committees for 2010. The board changes contemplated will require by-law amendments that we will vote on at the Nov. 5 chapter meeting.

These proposed changes are printed elsewhere in this issue. The entire by-laws, with changes tracked, are posted on our website.

### Proxy Votes Needed

We will need a quorum of 5% of our membership to approve the by-laws amendments. If you cannot attend the Nov. 5 meeting, please submit your proxy to a board member before the meeting.

- Peggy Durham



## Bird Business

In early September Sherman Wing took a birding trip in and around the Tucson area. He photographed many species of hummingbirds and observed other birds at Madeira Canyon and the Desert Museum.

Back in Indian Hills in the early morning of Oct. 3, Sherman saw good numbers of Mountain Bluebirds foraging and massing together, ready to migrate.

The next day there were almost a dozen Yellow-rumped Warblers active mid-level in the Ponderosa Pines and snatching insects in the air.

The evening of Oct. 3, about 6 p.m., Karel Buckley had more than 50 Magpies on Little Cub Creek Road, pecking and picking up gravel. "Just amazing! I had to stop the car!"

The same day she saw a Goshawk at Fillius Park. On Oct. 7, Karel had an Eastern Blue Jay at her feeder.

A Common Merganser spent several days at Evergreen Lake.

Margaret McDole came upon a flock of about 10 Western Bluebirds along the trail to Evergreen Mountain.

Nearby feeding in the Ponderosa Pines were Pine Siskins, White-breasted Nuthatches and Pygmy Nuthatches.



**Broad-billed Hummingbird of southern Arizona, above. The Greater Roadrunner, below, is emblematic of the Southwest.** *Photos by Sherman Wing*





# Elk Meadow Nest Box Monitoring 2009

Between March 1 and Aug. 10, we made 12 visits to monitor bluebird and other cavity-nester use of the 31 nest boxes placed in Elk Meadow Park.

Male Mountain Bluebirds were seen in Elk Meadow by March 1, but nesting did not get going until mid-May. Pairs of Western Bluebirds were first observed on our April 11 visit.

We did not find Tree Swallows with eggs until June 13. Snow and cold weather seems to have delayed bluebird-nesting activity in Elk Meadow in 2009.

Similar to the past two years, nests were constructed in all 31 boxes in Elk Meadow. Overall, 144 young of six species were produced in the nest boxes in 2009, for an average productivity of 4.6 young per box.

Again in 2009, fewer boxes were used by Mountain Bluebirds, whereas Western Bluebirds increased their use of Elk Meadow boxes. Western Bluebirds produced 80 young in 2009 compared to just 30 young produced by Mountain Bluebirds.

Only 1 pair each of Mountain Bluebirds and Western Bluebirds produced a second clutch, and only the Western

**We believe this will be a great opportunity for Evergreen Audubon members to be more involved with a bird science project.**

Bluebirds were successful. Because our visits only occurred every two weeks, we may have somewhat overestimated productivity.

Since 2007, Western Bluebirds have been increasing in their use of Elk Meadow nest boxes.

Relative to both bluebird species, which combined laid 28 clutches, few clutches were produced by the remaining four species (7 clutches).

We had our first White-breasted Nuthatch using a box this year.

In three years of monitoring, only two Violet-green Swallows have been produced from the boxes, although we have observed nesting in aspens in Elk Meadow.

House Wrens appeared to destroy the nests or eggs of at least two pairs of Mountain Chickadees, and Western Bluebirds displaced two pairs of Mountain Bluebirds.

As the current nest boxes deteriorate,

placement of new boxes in more open areas should reduce egg predation by House Wrens and attract more bluebird pairs.

We plan to continue monitoring efforts in 2010. In addition, we are developing a project with the University of Colorado-Denver where we will expand the nest boxes in Elk Meadow and begin banding individual bluebirds and track their site fidelity and survival.

We believe this will be a great opportunity for Evergreen Audubon members to be more involved with a bird science project.

If you would like to participate in further monitoring efforts, please contact Brad Andres, 303-670-0101 or heather-brad1@yahoo.com.

This project would not happen without the help of Mike Wilson, Barbara Nabors, Rachel Hutchinson, Kay Niyo and Heather Johnson. Thanks to you all!

- Brad Andres

**Table 1. Breeding success of birds using nest boxes in Elk Meadow Open Space, Evergreen, CO – 2009.**

	Mountain Bluebird		Western Bluebird		Tree Swallow	White-breasted Nuthatch	Mountain Chickadee	House Wren
Nest attempt	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
No. pairs	11	1	14		2	1	3	3
No. nests built	10	1	14	3	2	1	3	3
No. nests with eggs	9	1	13	3	2	1	1	1
No. successful nests	7	0	11	3	2	1	1	1
Clutch size	5.55	5.00	4.85	4.33	6.00	5.00	5.00	7.00
% eggs laid that hatch	60	0	89	100	75	100	100	100
% eggs laid that fledge	60	0	89	100	75	100	100	100
No. chicks fledged/pair	3.33	0	4.00	4.33	4.50	5.00	5.00	7.00
No. young produced - 2009	30	0	75	5	17	5	5	7
No. young produced - 2008	42	4	56	13	9	-	8	5
No. young produced - 2007	29	7	34	17	15	-	20	6



# Changes to The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, Inc. By-laws

The Evergreen Audubon Board of Directors is recommending the following by-law changes. We believe the proposed changes will help our organization meet the goals of its expanding programs, such as the Evergreen Nature Center and the Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas. Most changes cover routine by-law updates, but also note changes to Board Directors terms from one to three years.

We will vote on the by-law changes at the November general meeting. The changes are highlighted below and reference the section where the change is found. A marked up version of the by-laws is available on our website ([www.dipper.org](http://www.dipper.org)). If you have questions, please contact President Peggy Durham or any of the Board members.

1. ARTICLE II, SECTION 2. SPECIFIC PURPOSE: A specific objective of the SOCIETY shall be the raising of funds for ~~wildlife sanctuaries~~ natural resource conservation and/or a nature ~~study~~ centers for environmental education and ~~habitat preservation~~.

2. ARTICLE III, SECTION 1. DETERMINATION AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERS. Add at the end of the paragraph: Non-members can also contribute financially to the SOCIETY.

3. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4. NOTICE OF MEETINGS. Add: Notices can also be transmitted via electronic mail. ~~[[The idea is that some special meetings can be announced via email and also through the electronically distributed newsletter]].~~

4. ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS. Add at end of paragraph: Although not required, specific Board positions have a set of desirable qualifications, which are developed by resolution of the Board.

5. ARTICLE V, SECTION 5. DUTIES.

Add to paragraph: Directors are elected to preside over specific program areas of the SOCIETY, which are designated by resolution of the Board and outlined in the standard operating procedures.

6. ARTICLE V, SECTION 5. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph). The Directors shall be elected to serve for a term of ~~one~~ three years from the date of installation.

7. ARTICLE V, SECTION 8. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. There shall be at least five regular meetings of the Board of Directors in any one calendar year, ~~and not more than one regular meeting in any one month.~~

8. ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS, SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS. The Officers of the SOCIETY shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, ~~an Assistant Secretary~~, and a Treasurer, and such other Officers with such titles as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

9. ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS. Add to end of paragraph: Desirable qualifications and detailed duties of the Officers are outlined in the standard operating procedures and are approved by the Board of Directors.

10. ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, additions and deletions). All Officers shall serve for ~~one~~ (1) two-year terms, from the date of installation. Installation of officers shall occur at the chapter meeting following their election at the annual meeting. No individual may hold the same office for more than two ~~three~~ (3) consecutive terms, ~~except that the past~~ Officers ~~President~~ may be elected to serve one (1) additional term as a Director on ~~year~~ the Board: per ARTICLE V, Section 5.

11. ARTICLE VI, SECTION 8. Delete

Assistant Secretary duties and re-number following sections.

12. ARTICLE VI, SECTION ~~10~~9. COMPENSATION. Exchange: Officers shall serve without compensation. In addition, they shall be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses, if any, incurred in the performance of their duties. ~~The salaries of the officers, if any, shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. In all cases, any salaries received by officers of this corporation shall be reasonable and given in return for services actually rendered to or for the corporation.~~

13. ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. A Nominating Committee, to consist of a Chairperson and three members, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the SOCIETY, shall be appointed by the President ~~elected by the membership at a meeting of the members~~ at least three months ~~meetings~~ prior to the annual meeting.

14. ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2. Standing Committees (a). The President shall appoint chairpersons of Standing Committees who, in turn, shall select their own committee members with recommendations and suggestions from the Board and the membership. ~~Terms of office shall be for one (1) year. Standing Committees shall be composed of not less than three (3) members if at all possible. Committee members shall be members in good standing of the SOCIETY.~~

15. ARTICLE X, SECTION 1 & 3. At the end of the paragraph, exchange “see the attached Audubon Chapter Policy” with “see <http://www.audubon.org/local/membershipServices.html>”.



# Student Exhibits on Display at ENC

A temporary exhibit at Evergreen Nature Center showcases the work of some local middle school students who recently spent a week at the Grand Tetons Science School in Wyoming.

The student-created displays concentrate on a variety of animals, including osprey, black bears, wolves, moose and beaver, or on the geology of the Tetons.

The displays from the Montessori School of Evergreen students bring something new to the Nature Center in the weeks before it closes for the season on Oct. 31.

“Working with schools and attracting families is part of our long-range plan

and this was a perfect opportunity to do something fun and creative, particularly at this time of the year,” ENC Executive Director Michael Stills said.

“We have also been working with the environmental science students at Evergreen High School. Eventually we would like to be working with all the schools.”

Already, many school groups have toured the Nature Center, learning about the Bear Creek Watershed, its plants and animals as well as its geology and history.

The Montessori student exhibits will be on display through the end of the season. Hours are Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Nature Center will reopen next April.



Megan Stills, daughter of ENC Executive Director Michael Stills, handles a beaver skin that is temporarily part of her exhibit at Evergreen Nature Center. Photo by Debbie Marshall

## Membership

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

### New

Susan Clasen–Golden  
Delores Hoisington–Golden

### New Family

Dawn Jones & Craig Currie–Morrison  
Kathi & Thomas LaTourrette–Evergreen  
Carl & Judy Stock–Conifer

### Renewing

Kim Goedeke–Evergreen  
Doug Kieswetter–Golden  
Patti Nolan–Conifer  
Barbara Voth–Evergreen  
Bud & Juanita Weare–Evergreen

### Renewing Family

Heather Johnson & Brad Andres–Evergreen  
Vivian & Dick Burrows–Conifer  
Robert & Jessie Davis–Evergreen  
Ron Huston & Nancy Dulin–Riverview, FL  
Einar & Deb Jensen–Idaho Springs  
Ken & Nancy Lerner–Evergreen  
Else & Tom Van Erp–Conifer

### Our Every Day Savings Programs Include:

- Free Seed Bag After 10 Purchased On Wild Delight & Petersen Blends (or) Instant 8% off when you buy any two bags
- Save on Suet - 10% off w/6 cakes or 12% off by the case
- Vortex Optics at Max Allowable Discount Every Day - we match internet pricing on Vortex Optics



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303.679.2786

Open 7 Days a Week  
Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4  
evergreenwildbirdstore.com

## Calendar

October 30	Last Day to Order Holiday Wreaths
October 31	Nature Center Closes for Season
November 5	Chapter Meeting
November 26	Turkey Trot
December 3	Chapter Meeting and Election of Officers
December 20	Christmas Bird Count and Tally Rally
January 29	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**

**Deadline for the January/February Dipper is Thursday, Dec. 3.**  
**Please submit articles to: Margaret McDole, editor@dipper.org**

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# THE DIPPER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## In This Issue

- Election of Officers
- Turkey Trot
- Christmas Bird Count

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Time Dated Material

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.

Individual (\$20)    Family (\$30)    Student (\$10)  
I have included an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family member \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional) (optional)

I DO NOT want solicitations from National Audubon.

Enclosed is my check payable to TENAS  
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Evergreen, CO 80437

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.