Flora and fauna of mountain parks is Aug. 1 topic

Discover the common flora and fauna of the Denver Mountain Parks during the summer chapter meeting program on Thursday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Nature Center.

Kelly Uhing, the city naturalist for Denver Parks and Recreation, will share some of the unique wildflowers, birds and mammals of our nearby parks.

Kelly manages the Denver Nature Areas Program, overseeing vegetation and wildlife management activities.

She also coordinates lake and stream management issues throughout Denver as well as pesticide applications on Parks properties.

Prior to joining Denver Mountain Parks, Uhing spent 10 years protecting agriculture, rangeland and natural areas from the threat of invasive weeds.

She worked with noxious weed programs for the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Boulder County and Adams County.

Remember, the Nature Center will be opened at 6:30, so come early to socialize and see what’s new at the center.

- Kathy Madison, Director of Education

Bird House Bash artwork contest winner chosen

This spring, Evergreen Nature Center hosted a small contest for local young artists (21 and under).

The search was for a beautiful illustration of Colorado’s most colorful bird, the male Western Tanager.

This gorgeous bird is the mascot for the 2013 Bird House Bash: Aves sin Fronteras (birds without borders), which will be Oct. 3 at Evergreen Lake House.

The winner of ENC’s Western Tanager Drawing Contest is Megan Miller.

Her prize was a $50 cash award and exposure through 2013 Bird House Bash advertising.

Megan heard about the contest through EA board member Chuck Aid, her 2011/12 Audubon Society of Greater Denver Master Birder classmate.

Chuck knew about her love of and talent for capturing the essence of birds in two dimensions.

In fact, aviphilia literally drew Megan to hone realistic proportion and artistic integrity in her lifelong hobby of drawing and painting.

Megan is a Colorado native from Littleton whose favorite bird is the Greater Roadrunner and favorite local birding spot is Barr Lake.

Megan dreams of becoming an ornithologist or wildlife biologist.

Like many naturalists before her, Megan is also a talented artist. Her favorite medium is watercolor, “because it’s easy to get bright color and make transitions.”

You can expect lots of color at the 2013 Bird House Bash: Aves sin Fronteras.

The theme is the many birds and people that divide their years into Colorado springs and summers and Mexican falls and winters.

Our mascot, the male Western Tanager, follows this popular lifestyle also enjoyed by Mountain and Western bluebirds, Spotted and Green-tailed towhees, Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds, Lazuli Buntings and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, to name a few.

If you like tasty Mexican food and learning about tropical places, don’t forget to buy your ticket for the 2013 BHB: Aves sin Fronteras!

- Vanessa Hayes, ENC Director
**President’s Message**

BRAD ANDRES

Last week, Dick Prickett and I met with Brian Rutledge of Audubon Rockies to discuss the regional office’s priorities and how the Evergreen chapter might fit into their plans.

I wanted to pass on two initiatives that might grab your interest. We discussed the idea of melding our efforts in the Bear Creek Watershed into the Western Rivers Initiative, which is highlighted below with a chance to learn more about this initiative coming up in August.

Millions of migrating birds representing more than 250 species depend on key Western rivers for their survival. More than 100 species spend some portion of their life cycle in riparian areas and many of these species are now threatened or endangered—as demands increase but water supplies dwindle.

Please join Audubon Rockies as they work to save Western rivers—for drinking water, for our food, for wildlife and for recreation … because it’s the right thing to do.

Please attend the Saturday, Aug. 24, workshop in Colorado Springs. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (lunch provided) at the Ecumenical Social Ministries, 201 N. Weber St. (the corner of Bijou and Weber).

The agenda will include: basics on healthy rivers, Colorado water law and policy; overview of critical issues facing Western rivers and habitats; Audubon & Allies—what’s happening out there; and Water Footprints for People and Nature.

RSVP to AudubonRockiesWRAN@gmail.com or 970-416-6931. Learn more about Audubon Rockies and Western Rivers: http://rockies.audubon.org/audubon-westernrivers-initiative.

Another interesting program that might help our outreach to the mountain community is their Habitat Hero and wildscaping program (see http://rockies.audubon.org/become-habitat-hero-and-learn-about-how-wildscape).

I plan to order a few copies of the new book “Colorado Wildscapes,” which provides a resource on plants that will help you “wildscape.” Wildscaping is gardening with local plants and animals. It is gardening with an attitude; wildscapers know they make a difference.

Send me any ideas you may have on taking this to the broader community.

A request for your talent

Evergreen Nature Center will feature local arts and crafts at Evergreen Audubon’s Oct. 3 Bird House Bash: Aves Sin Fronteras (birds without borders) benefit. The event raises money for ENC programs that connect people with nature, nurturing care and appreciation for our natural environment.

Support ENC with the contribution of a work of art, which we will offer in our auction. Your work will be attractively displayed and your name will be prominently posted and publicized in our program—and best of all—you will be helping the cause of connecting people with nature!

Get a free ticket to BHB: Aves Sin Fronteras, a Mexican fiesta celebrating migrating birds! The first 10 artists who contribute their original art or craft work worth $75 or more will receive one ticket for the Oct. 3 fiesta.

Please call or email Ginny Ades at 303-674-7199, virgades@aol.com; or Peggy Linn at 303-674-2239, atlarge2@evergreenaudubon.org to sign up or get more information.
The central component of the new National Audubon/Toyota Exit the Highway campaign is the pledge to spend time in nature. This pledge earns users a chance to win a brand-new Toyota Prius V. For 2013, the campaign has built interactive features to incorporate all Audubon centers and sanctuaries and allow chapter leaders and Audubon members to share their favorite nature destinations.

There are two opportunities for you to feature areas important to your chapter—the Nature Near You map and the Field Notes blog at www.ExitTheHighway.com.

Opportunity 1: Nature Near You Map
The Nature Near You map lets you upload your favorite nature spots. In addition to being a new part of the campaign, this is a great opportunity for chapters to promote physical locations important to their work, such as the ENC and Bear Creek Watershed BBA sites.

Just visit the map and add your destination.

To help you get started, we’ve listed the information you’ll need:

- Your name (such as Robin Crane, Evergreen Audubon)
- Your email address
- Name of destination
- Location (street address, city, state)
- Description (140 characters or less)
- Upload a photo (optional)

Opportunity 2: Field Notes Blog
Have more to say than 140 characters permit? Upload your story to the Field Notes blog, which will feature first-person accounts of people exploring the natural world around them.

Continued on page 6

Toyota’s Exit the Highway campaign: Win a new Prius

A large party of 16 birders made a fast dash to Summit Lake on July 7 for an Intermediate Birding Field Trip.

At Summit Lake, in advance of what looked like stormy weather, we found:

- 12 pairs of American Pipits, including one pair feeding a fledgling;
- 1 pair of Mountain Bluebirds;
- 6 (at least) Common Ravens soaring over and croaking;
- 4 singing White-throated Sparrows, including 2 carrying food;
- a possible singing Brown-capped Rosy-Finch in the scree along the cliff side of the lake;
- many fat, happy Marmots.

Our search for White-tailed Ptarmigan, led by Marilyn Rhodes, turned up two more American Pipits, more Marmots, including a flattened one on a rock, and a cooperative Pica. Unfortunately, no Ptarmigan.

Marilyn’s group drove up to the summit and spotted many Mountain Goats with kids and Bighorn Sheep.

Two other cars headed down to the Mt. Goliath area for spectacular wildflowers.

We spotted one Steller’s Jay, a Wilson’s Warbler and two or three White-throated Sparrows. The warbler and sparrows were singing. At 11 a.m., not much going on at this site.

At the shore of Echo Lake, we spotted three Barrow’s Goldeneye females, two Mallards, a cooperative Lincoln’s Sparrow, an American Robin, another Common Raven and many singing White-throated Sparrows. Across the road, we followed a singing Ruby-crowned Kinglet, for a poor sighting.

We all enjoyed the lunch at the Echo Lake Lodge and watched the Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds at the feeder. Might have been a Black-chinned but cannot confirm.

At Echo Lake, some members of the group saw even more interesting birds:

- 12 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds
- 1 Rufous Hummingbird
- 2 Cordilleran Flycatchers
- 10 Gray Jays
- 1 American Crow
- 15 Common Ravens
- 3 Mountain Chickadees
- 4 Hermit Thrushes
- 12 American Robins
- 2 Song Sparrows
- 6 Red Crossbills

- JoAnn Hackos, Bird Monitoring Director

American Pipit seen on a July 7 field trip. Photo by Judith Henderson
Yard Birds
On June 17, Sherry Walker asked if she could open her bluebird box and peek at the Western Bluebirds inhabiting it. I responded, “It’s OK to do that, Sherry, just don’t disturb the nest. Evergreen Audubon has teams that monitor bluebird trails regularly in Elk Meadow, Noble Meadow and Alderfer/Three Sisters. That’s how they view the birds and do their counts.”

JoAnn and Bill Hackos posted June 17, “Band-tailed Pigeons are back at our feeder. We see them every year about this time. Quite pretty birds.”

Bob Santangelo added, “They always conjure up thoughts of the Passenger Pigeon for me.”

Else Van Erp emailed June 27 that she had family of Red Crossbills at her feeder.

On June 25, Chuck Aid was the first to report a Rufous Hummingbird. He noted that was “EARLY!!”

On July 1, Shirley Casey wrote, “It seems early, but we have a Rufous Hummingbird at our feeder today . . . busily chasing the regular Broad-tails. “So is it earlier than normal, or has the year just been going by faster?”

JoAnn and Bill Hackos had their FOY Rufous Hummingbirds, two males, as usual on the 4th of July at 7,400 feet.

On July 11, Inga Brennan reported her first Calliope Hummer at the feeder. She had her first Rufous on July 5.

Susan Harper responded that she finally had a male Rufous show up on July 9 and Tim and Marilyn Stechert had their first male Rufous on July 5.

At my house this year, a Calliope showed up around the 4th and the Rufous came a week later.

On July 11, David Walker of Indian Hills said he’d had Black-headed Grosbeaks at his feeders in recent days, and before that Lesser Goldfinches.

JoAnn and Bill had Black-headed Grosbeaks at their Soda Creek feeders too.

I had a beautiful Black-headed Grosbeak at my Hiwan Hills feeder July 10 and have had Lesser Goldfinches since the end of June.

Out and About
Genesee Park
On June 5, Joyce Trygstad Nelson and her daughter saw a Swainson’s Hawk hunting over I-70 at the eastbound entrance ramp of the Genesee Park Exit 254. “Brown back, distinctive brown bib, white chest,” Joyce said.

Evergreen Lake
Susan Harper took some beginning birders for a walk around Evergreen Lake June 24. They saw a Tree Swallow and a “charm” of finches.

Lair o’ the Bear
Sherman Wing, Bear Creek Watershed Breeding Bird Atlas leader for the park, reported on June 15:

“We saw a number of fledglings today, including Brown-headed Cowbirds, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, American Robins, Violet-green and Northern Rough-winged swallows.

“Surprisingly, we got two new species today—a Say’s Phoebe hanging out on top of an old mullein stalk, near the parking lot.

“We were very pleased to see a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, foraging and, actually, we heard a total of two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the same general area.

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Continued from page 4

“Our total, as of June 15, for the year at Lair o’ the Bear is 77 species and 26 confirmed breeders.”

He reported again on June 23: “New bird for the season, number 79, was a male MacGillvray’s Warbler seen singing above the creek.

“We found an old social trail, along a drainage, and took it back for maybe a half mile. Best birds back there were a couple of Virginia’s Warblers, Plumbeous and Warbling vireos, Olive-sided and two Dusky flycatchers. There we confirmed our 29th species, a male Western Tanager carrying food.

“We re-found the Black-chinned Hummingbird in the same area where it was previously twice seen.”

Sherman offered another update on July 6. Susan Harper found the 80th species for this 2013 season. She heard four Pine Siskins in the Ponderosa forest, while hiking up the Bear Creek Trail.

“So far this season, we have 80 species and have confirmed breeding activities for 33 species,” Sherman said.

Sherman compared the compilation of the 2008 count with the 2013 count so far. At this point, they have 89 species identified at the site. He thinks the 90th species could be the Western Bluebird.

On June 25, JoAnn and Bill Hackos were at Lair o’ the Bear and found a beautiful globe nest of a Warbling Vireo. The male was singing from the nest and changed places with the female as they watched.

There was some interesting conversation about Black-chinned Hummingbirds last month. On June 26, Sherman observed, “There seems to be more Black-chinned activity than I’ve ever seen in the past. It’s more uncommon than rare this year in the foothills.”

Bob Santangelo offered, “A few years ago Black-chinned were in Bear Creek Lake Park and nobody was reporting them. Complacency may have led some to assume they were Broad-tails.

“During the last BB survey, they got added to the checklist. Now they are being seen partly because people are more aware of the species being in the locale, and are now looking for them, and maybe their numbers are up—who can say for sure? More surveys and results may answer that more definitely.”

Susan Harper added, “Everything I’m reading about Black chins is that they are more widespread than we think. I agree with Bob S.—we’ve been assuming they were all Broad-tails. Another ID marking is the white spot behind the eye. Both the male and female have it.

“Was just listening (on Cornell) to the soft sound the male makes with his wings as he hovers and it sounds like a giant bee. I thought the Rufous’s low buzz sounded like a giant bee but the BCH sounds even more like a bee—softer than the Rufous’s.

“How exciting to discover we have more diversity in hummingbirds than we/I ever knew in our little neck of the woods!”

Sherman commented, “Also, a good marker is silhouette of the tail, while it’s perched. The Broad-tailed Hummer’s tail is longer than the wing tips, so the tail appears to taper to a rounded point.

“The Black-chinned Hummer’s wing tips are almost as long as the tail, giving a more squarish look to the tail.”

Little Park
On June 24 Else Van Erp had a Poorwill calling.

Mount Evans Area
Gerard Beneteau saw four Barrow’s Goldeneyes, one male and 3 females, at Echo Lake on June 21. He asked if such a sighting was common.

“Yes,” JoAnn Hackos responded. “A female Barrow’s Goldeneye produced eight chicks last year on Echo Lake. This year we’ve seen the male and one female two weeks ago. The other two females may be Common Goldeneye. Females are difficult to tell apart. The bill is shorter on the Barrow’s and may be tipped with yellow.”

Bear Creek Watershed BBA Trip
JoAnn and Bill Hackos reported on their June 22 trip. They saw American Pipits, Mountain Bluebirds and Common Ravens at Summit Lake, but no Rosy-finches yet after two weeks of observations.

It was slow at Mt. Goliath compared to the previous weekend, but they recorded White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Audubon’s Warbler and Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

The previous weekend they had, Gray Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Wilson’s Warblers and Lincoln’s Sparrows.

At Echo Lake, JoAnn and Bill recorded a male Barrow’s Goldeneye, Coot, Wilson’s Warbler, Lincoln’s Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow.

DIA and Barr Lake
Bob Santangelo and I headed to the DIA/Barr Lake area June 30 in search of Burrowing Owls, Common Nighthawks and a Greater Roadrunner.

We located two large Burrowing Owl families at 112th and Tower Road and on Picadilly between 120th and 128th—seven or eight owlets in each family.

We dipped on the Greater Roadrunner that had been seen at the entrance.
Boulder Area
Bob and I continued our search for Common Nighthawks in Boulder. No nighthawks, but Bob and I found several Bobolinks, a Life Bird for Bob, on Cherryvale Road in Boulder.

We also saw an American Avocet and three chicks at Cottonwood Marsh, two Great Horned Owls, a few American Kestrels hunting and an Osprey family at Boulder Reservoir.

On June 21, I joined a group of six birders to search for Flammulated Owls in an area around Lyons.

Manitou Lake near Woodland Park
At 5:30 p.m. on June 27, a Sandwich Tern in breeding plumage was sighted at Manitou Lake in Teller County.

Initially, it was perched on a small snag in the middle of the lake. Later it was observed flying between the lake and nearby beaver ponds.

The sighting, a Colorado state record, attracted dozens and dozens of birders. Dick Prickett, Bob Santangelo and I were among the lucky few to see the bird. It has not been sighted since June 30.

The Sandwich Tern is a seabird named for Sandwich, Kent, England, where the first specimen was taken.

We also saw California Gulls, American White Pelicans, Black-crowned Night Herons, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and a Belted Kingfisher while observing the tern at Manitou Lake.

Pueblo Nature Center
On July 9, Sherman Wing scored a Life Bird, a Canyon Towhee. Pueblo is in the northern portion of its range, which covers most of north-central Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas.

He also saw Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Lark Sparrow, Bullock’s Oriole, Yellow Warbler and Loggerhead Shrike.

Toyota’s Exit the Highway campaign: win a new Prius

When thinking about a story to share, please keep the following things in mind:

• Keep it around 250 words; the shorter, the better.
• Keep it light and fun.
• Make it relevant: Many of the people reading your stories may not have experience in your field of work or study.

Try to write your story for someone who has a love of nature, an enthusiasm for getting outdoors, but who may not be familiar with technical terms and phrases.

National Audubon will be featuring Audubon-related stories on its social media channels throughout the campaign.

If you would like to submit your post for consideration, please send the link to Elizabeth Sorrell (esorrell@audubon.org).

- Brad Andres, EA President
Field Trips, Programs and Events

Stargazing at Evergreen Lake
Saturday, Aug. 3, 8:30 p.m.
All ages
Bring a blanket or camp chairs. Join amateur astronomer Pam Little each month for a tour of the night sky. Meet on the west side of the lake parking lot.

Bear Creek Nature Walk: Echo and Summit Lakes
Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m.
Meet at Bergen Park Park-n-Ride.
In a span of 25 miles Bear Creek drains from the summit of Mount Evans out to what historically was semi-desert grassland.
In the process it passes through a wonderful variety of habitats with their attendant communities of birds.
This is the fourth and final monthly walk.

Night Boating and Nature Exploring
Saturdays, Aug. 10 and 24, 7–10 p.m.
Free Event
Stop by ENC during extended boat rental nights to pick up your family scavenger hunt and begin an evening outdoor adventure.

Nature Center Kids Programs

Call Evergreen Nature Center, 303-330-0489, to register.

Wednesday Wild Ones: Voles and Moles
Aug. 7, 10–11 a.m.
Ages 2–5 with adult
Meadow voles and torpedo-shaped moles are tunneling underground near you. Discover how these very different creatures wiggle their way through life nibbling on plants and worms.

Bear Creek Dippers: Water Bugs!
Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.–noon
Ages 6–10 with adult
Rowing, towing, floating and flying, the aquatic bugs of Evergreen Lake are very interesting creatures! We’ll break out the nets and lenses to get a closer look, then make our own water creatures.

Birding With Mike: Fall Courses

Birding 201 (Shorebirds & Wading Birds).
Three Tuesday evenings: 8/13, 8/27, 9/10.
Three Saturday mornings: 8/17, 8/31, 9/14.
$60. For intermediates & eager novices.

Birding 101
Three Saturday mornings: 8/24, 9/7, 9/28.
$60. For beginners.

Both courses limited to twelve people. Informational handouts start arriving well before the first class, therefore early enrollment provides a flying start.

Evergreen members always get a 10% discount on any course.

Contact: Mike1.foster@comcast.net
Website answers most questions: www.BirdingWithMike.com
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  ___________________________________

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Name _________________________________________________
Family member(s) name(s) ________________________________
Address ________________________________________________
City ____________________________ State ____ Zip __________
Phone (optional) _______________________
Email __________________________________________________

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.

Artwork: Sylvia Brockner, Mildred Keiser

Field Trips, Kids Programs, Bird Business: Howdy Rufous Arrows, Bird House Bash Talent Request

IN THIS ISSUE

Time Dated Material

EVERGREEN, CO 80437
P.O. Box 523
EVERGREEN AUDUBON

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Please submit newsletter content by the 10th of the month to Lisa Wald at communications@evergreenaudubon.org, and Dipper editor Debbie Marshall at marshallpublish@gmail.com, 303-886-0593.

VOLUME 43, NO. 8. 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 $15 a year for a mailed hard copy (members only). 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.


Calendar of Events

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<td>EA Summer Program</td>
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<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>Stargazing</td>
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<td>Wednesday Wild Ones</td>
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<td>Bear Creek Nature Walk</td>
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