



THE DIPPER

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OCTOBER 2017

EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.EvergreenAudubon.org

CHAPTER MEETING: BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES

ED FURLONG

Don't Forget to Pick up Your Bird Seed!

If you placed an order for bird seed, come to our Chapter meeting on Thursday October 5th. You can grab your seed before the meeting between 5:30 and 7:00 pm.



The Holidays are Coming! When you shop at Amazon... Choose Us!

Amazon will donate 0.05% of your total purchase price to us if you shop on www.smile.amazon.com. When prompted, choose "Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society Inc." as the organization to benefit from your shopping. It costs you nothing and provides us needed funds to continue our projects.

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

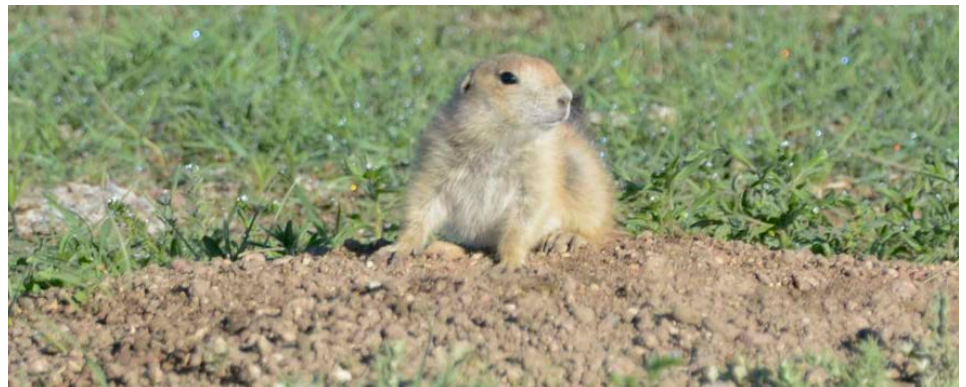
Erin Youngberg, a wildlife biologist with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, will be our speaker at the Evergreen Audubon meeting Thursday night, October 5.

It is early October in our Evergreen World; first frost has come and the aspens are gilded. In the morning, many of us look eastward. What do we see? Sprawling Front Range suburbs? Roads and traffic? If you are like me, perhaps you squint and try to see the vestiges, the remnants of a time when the plains leading to the foothills were shortgrass prairie, and imagine native plants, wild animals and ancient human lives lived under long days of sun, the wind constantly ruffling the grasses.

On Thursday, October 5th, you will have a chance to revisit that shortgrass prairie and learn of the plants and animals that make up this unique ecosystem, as well as the

challenges those plants and animals now face. Our Speaker will be Erin Youngberg, a wildlife biologist with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Doors open at 6:30 at the Evergreen Audubon Education Center (29997 Buffalo Park Road). Plan to come early and visit with your fellow members and Evergreen neighbors. After brief announcements at 7, the presentation will begin, and you won't want to miss it.

In addition to providing a brief overview of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, its mission, research projects and education efforts, Erin will describe how, since 2006, the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies has partnered with the City of Fort Collins and owners of other natural areas nearby in Northern Colorado to monitor grassland birds on 45,000 acres, a project entitled the "Mountain to Plains Project." She



Black-tailed Prairie Dog © Walter Wehtje



Evergreen Audubon

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OTHER CONTACTS

Nature Center	Colleen Kulesza	303-900-8586 enctdirector@evergreenaudubon.org
Webmaster		webmaster@evergreenaudubon.org

Chapter Meetings first Thursday, 6:30 p.m. except January, at the Audubon Education Center, 29997 Buffalo Park Road.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KATHY MADISON

Fall is definitely here and the down comforter is on the bed. The comforter is a combination of duck and goose down which got me thinking about how I first became interested in birds; ducks in particular. I was living in New England and became fascinated by folk art and duck decoys. I was paying attention to wooded ducks more than the real ones. Then we moved to the Oregon coast and I saw the beautiful Eiders, Harlequins and real Wood ducks; that's when I think I became a birder. Not a great birder, but I did start paying attention to our feathered friends. Ducks are a great way to get started on a birding journey. Ducks often stay in one place; they typically hang out in groups and they are hardly ever obscured in a thicket of leaves. Not that there aren't challenges with identifying ducks; they dive and disappear or dip their heads in the water to feed only to give you a glimpse of their back ends. But, when they are visible, you can start learning to spot details on their wings or markings on their heads. And as we head into winter and the lakes start freezing, ducks will gathering in the open water at Harriman and Soda lakes giving you an opportunity to see a variety of species.

Fall is a great time to think about all the things you still want to accomplish this year or start planning for next year. Your Evergreen Audubon board is doing both. We will be packing up the Nature Center on Saturday, October 14th and we will be planning and building new exhibits for next year's season. If you are interested in helping with these tasks, please contact Colleen at: enctdirector@evergreenaudubon.org. We are also planning for the 2018 changes to the board of directors. Both Brad Andres and Lisa Wald have reached their term limits and David Walker has decided not to continue on the board. I can't thank them enough for serving on the board and making the last few years some of the most productive. If you are interested in joining the board, which would give you a chance to get involved with not just Evergreen Audubon but become more aware with what is happening around Evergreen, please contact me at: president@evergreenaudubon.org.

Speaking of community awareness. The Science & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) once again recognized our contribution to Jefferson County by awarding us just over \$12,000. We also were recognized by Jeff and Holly Brekke during a house party they hosted to raise funds for a three local environmental non-profits. We received just over \$2,500 from their efforts. Thank You!

There are just two months left to see or hear your species for the 2017 Birding Challenge, so get out there and find some ducks.

-Kathy

CHAPTER MEETING CONT.

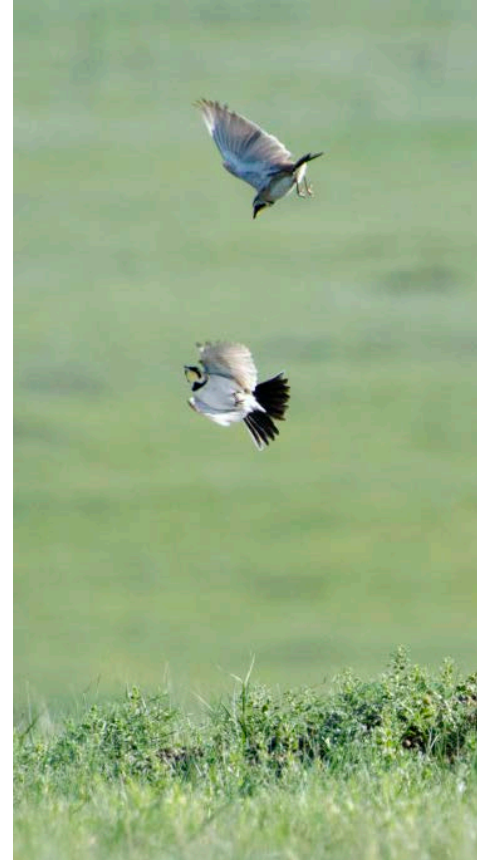
will also share the results of the Conservancy's research, "Monitoring the Effect of Sylvatic Plague in Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs on Density and Trends Of Grassland Birds in the Mountains to Plains Area of Northern Colorado."

This research provides the foundation for grassland bird management, which concurrently strives to conserve and augment prairie dog populations, maintain and restore native shortgrass prairie, minimize disturbance from natural resource development and recreation, and closely monitor grassland bird populations.

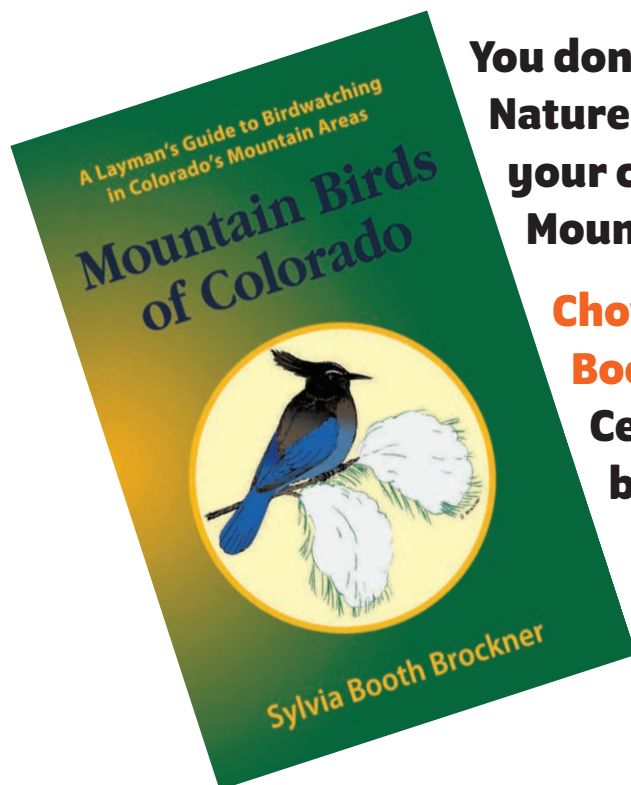
We will also learn how the Bird Conservancy's Mountain to Plains Project has helped leverage significant support for grassland bird habitat management and conservation science in northern Mexico, where

many of our Northern Colorado migrating species spend the winter, providing a model for stewardship and conservation of migratory birds and helping to bridge the gap between science and conservation.

Originally from Jackson, Wyoming, Erin received a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University in 2009. She found her way to the Bird Conservancy as a volunteer intern for the Bald Eagle Watch Program in January 2010. She was hired as a seasonal field technician for the grassland nest productivity study at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area for the 2010 summer season and currently leads the Mountain to Plains Project. When she's not counting birds, she performs with her bluegrass band, FY5.



Horned Larks © Walter Wehtje



You don't have to wait until the Evergreen Nature Center opens next season to get your copy of Sylvia Brockner's book, Mountain Birds of Colorado!

Chow Down Pet Supplies and HearthFire Books in the Bergen Village Shopping Center in Evergreen are selling the books for \$15 each.

The book makes a great holiday gift for someone living in our mountain community.



Ross' and Snow Geese © US Fish and Wildlife Service (CC BY 2.0)

The current slug of autumn rain triggers a yearning in me to head to lakes and ponds with my scope to try to add a few more ducks to my Bear Creek Watershed list. Although Blue-winged Teal have been around since the end of August, October signals the arrival of more dabblers in our area, such as Gadwall, American Wigeon, and Northern Shoveler.

Their arrival, however, is usually related to conditions in the prairies to the north of us. Early snow and freezing temperatures will send flocks of waterfowl south; warm weather will keep them north for a while. Waterfowl are generally facultative migrants, meaning that local conditions will determine whether they should stay or they should go. Unlike shorebirds and songbirds that migrate great distances each

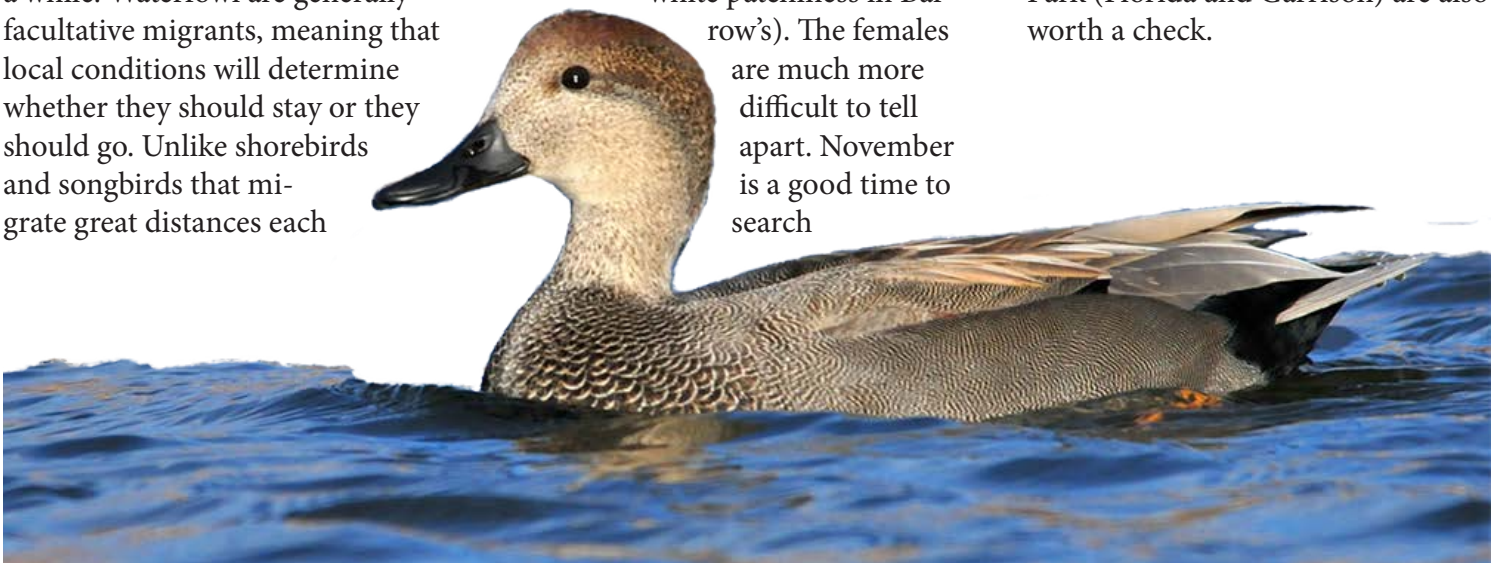
fall and spring, this strategy leads to waterfowl being short-distance migrants, with most species not getting beyond Mexico for their winter. Only the Blue-winged Teal regularly ventures to the northern coasts of South America.

November is an exciting time to be on the prowl for rarer waterfowl. Along with abundant Common Goldeneyes, keep a look out for the rare Barrow's. Look for differences in the white patch on the face (tear-drop in Barrow's and circular in Common) and also the pattern on the back (whiter in Common and darker with a more distinct white patchiness in Bar-

row's). The females are much more difficult to tell apart. November is a good time to search

for Long-tailed Ducks, scoters, and Red-breasted Mergansers. It is also a great time to find tens of thousands of Snow Geese on the eastern plains. If you are lucky you might find a group of several hundred Ross's Geese.

Beyond Evergreen Lake, our mountain community doesn't provide many opportunities for waterfowl watching. Within the watershed, Bear Creek Lake Park is a good place to check (the Soda Lakes are most often better than the main lake). Nearby Harriman Lake is worth a visit. Main Reservoir (Kipling and Florida) and Sanctuary Park (Florida and Garrison) are also worth a check.



Gadwall drake © US Fish and Wildlife Service (CC BY 2.0)

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the holidays! If you need the perfect holiday gift, Evergreen Audubon has lovely and reasonably priced balsam fir wreaths for sale. They are fresh, very fragrant and will last into the New Year. They'll dress up your home and make ideal gifts for your family, friends, coworkers and clients—both in-town and out-of-town.

We're offering four 25-inch wreaths this year: the Classic, Victorian, Wintergreen and Cranberry Splash. All of the wreaths are available for in-town pick up except the Wintergreen. All of the wreaths, for an added charge, are available for delivery out-of-town as Holiday Gift Wreaths (HGW). **Orders are due no later than October 29th.**

Last year this sale generated \$3,000 to support our projects. If you would like to place an order, email Marilyn Rhodes at cloverlane@aol.com or call her at 720-333-2551. Emailed orders are much preferred.

For in-town pick up, payment is due at the time of pick-up and we accept cash or check. If you request wreaths that are ordered for delivery via the mail system (Holiday Gift Wreaths - HGW), payment is due at the time of order. Wreaths are generally delivered just before Thanksgiving. The location for pick up, in Evergreen, will be provided when you order. Please support our chapter by participating in this important fundraiser!

Classic
Pick-up: \$24
Delivery:\$34



Victorian
Pick-up: \$29
Delivery: \$40



Cranberry Splash
Pick-up: \$30
Delivery: \$41



Wintergreen
Pick-up NOT Available
Delivery: \$40



We are grateful to all the sponsors and donors who made this year's Annual Bash and Benefit a great success.

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SUPPORTED THE SUCCESS OF THE EVERGREEN NATURE CENTER IN 2017 THROUGH SPONSORSHIPS, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND AUCTION DONATIONS:



The Blue Quill Angler, Babcock's Garden and Feed, Bear Mountain Yoga, Bear Paw Stanbro Property Management, Bergen Park Paint and Decorating, Cedar 65 Bistro and Gallery, Chow Down, Creekside Winery, Da Kind Soups, Eagle Optics, Everbean Café, Evergreen Crafters, Evergreen Goldsmiths, Evergreen Mountain Sports, Evergreen Vision Clinic, Frames for All Reasons, Hearthfire Books and Treats, Highland Haven Creekside Inn, Keys on the Green, Mountain Home, Mountain View Physical Therapy, The Pizza Joint, R.E.I. co-op, Rising Graphics, Silver Arrow, Sundance by Design, Sundance Garden Center, Tall Grass Spa, Tuscan Tavern, Village Casuals, Village Gourmet, The White Fence Farm, and The Wild Game.



Evergreen Audubon and The Evergreen Nature Center are grateful for the great support of our community. Thank You!



GUIDED BIRDING TRIP TO BOSQUE DEL APACHE WILDLIFE REFUGE

We are partnering with Reefs to Rockies to offer you a fantastic birding trip to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, one of the world's premier birding destinations in winter. You'll be spending 4 days with other birders and your guide, Chip Clouse from Front Range Birding Company, while you seek the large flocks of snow geese and sandhill cranes, as well as finding rosy finches and many other great winter migrants in the Sandia Mountains. The detailed itinerary for the trip is on Reefs to Rockies website, <http://reefstorockies.com/destinations/north-america-2/united-states/winter-birding-weekend-new-mexico/>

DATES: December 7-10th

COST: \$1079 per person; additional \$230 for single occupancy

WHERE: Sante Fe, Albuquerque, and Socorro, NM - an many birding stops along the way



Sandhill Cranes © Reefs to Rockies

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 6TH BIRD WALK TO BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK

CHUCK AID

Five of us had an incredible morning at Bear Creek Lake Park tallying 54 species (see complete list of birds on our website). While we didn't see anything too unexpected, we did manage to see several species that you can never quite count on getting every time you're out, e.g. Ruddy Duck, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Blue Jay, Cliff Swallow, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Wilson's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Highlights included two Solitary Sandpipers – note the light colored

legs, the relatively dark back and wings with white dots, and the bright, white spectacles. Then, we had a large flock of Brewer's Blackbirds – note the very glossy plumage, and the yellow eye. Finally, we had some young Yellow-headed Blackbirds, atypically hanging out at the parking lot at Pelican Point.

Migration is well under way (under weigh – it is a nautical term, you know), and some species have apparently already moved on, or at least eluded us for the time being, e.g. Black-chinned Hummers, the Empid flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, and Lazuli Buntings. Other

species are apparently moving through on their way south, but "staging" here for a while in order to build up fat reserves, e.g. Solitary Sandpipers, Wilson's Warblers, lots of Sparrows (we had seven species counting the two towhees), and the Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds. On a personal note, I had five species of gulls at Chatfield on September 8 so they're doing some moving through as well.

It's really too bad that there were only five of us to discover and share this abundance of bird activity - 54 species! Don't miss the next walk!



Brewer's Blackbird © Rob Raker



Solitary Sandpiper © Bill Schmoker



Yellow-headed Blackbird © Rob Raker

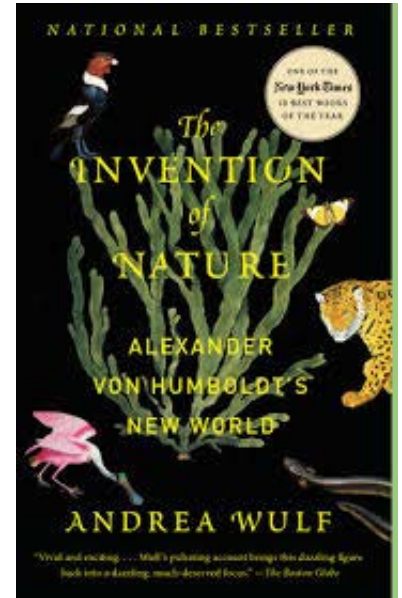
When the Evergreen Nature Book Club met to discuss *The Invention of Nature*, none of us could recall ever having heard of Alexander von Humboldt. Yet, our ideas about the natural world are indebted to the life's work of this great 19th-century naturalist. We do know of several items that were named after Humboldt: the Humboldt Penguin, the Humboldt Current off the west coast of South America, Humboldt, California, and Humboldt Peak, a 14er in the Sangre de Cristos. There are also squid, orchids, oak trees, skunks, a willow, many flowers, and more species and places named for Humboldt, including a national park in Cuba, a national forest in Peru, and a national forest in Nevada-California. As Wulf informs us, "more places are named after Humboldt than anyone else."

Andrea Wulf's account of Humboldt's exploits and contributions to science is superb reading for all us of who cherish the natural world. His story is extraordinary; it informs the way we

think about nature and has influenced many of the most prominent scientists of his time and ours, including Charles Darwin. Darwin brought Humboldt's books with him on the voyage of the Beagle and annotated them heavily.

We also learn from Wulf that Humboldt was once very well known throughout the world, especially in the western hemisphere. On the centennial of his birth, 14 September 1869, people celebrated throughout the world. In the United States, there were "street parades, sumptuous dinners and concerts." 8,000 people marched in Cleveland, 15,000 in Syracuse, 10,000 in Pittsburgh, including President Ulysses Grant. 25,000 people met in Central Park in New York to see a bronze statue unveiled. Yet, following the anti-German sentiments during World War I, Humboldt's history was largely erased, at least in the US. He is still celebrated widely in South America, the continent that Humboldt explored and "put on the map" for Europeans.

Wulf's mission in writing *The Invention of Nature* was to rediscover Humboldt and bring his name and role back to our understanding of the natural world. She describes his early upbringing in Prussia as a close friend of the poets Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Johann Friedrich Schiller. However, her most exciting account focuses on Humboldt's explorations in South America. As a young man, he was desperate to visit the new world and see for himself all the amazing discoveries of new plants and animals. He finally sets off in 1799. He and his companion, Aimé Bonpland, landed in the major Spanish city of Cumaná, in what is now part of Venezuela. He and Bonp-



The Invention of Nature. Andrea Wulf, Knopf, 2015.

land collected, observed, studied, and measured everything. He even timed the shocks in the midst of an earthquake. They took their instruments and headed south to find the source of the Orinoco with the Amazon. It was a three-year adventure, one in which both came close to dying more than once.

The explorers crossed the Andes into Quito, Ecuador, where Humboldt became obsessed with climbing the 20,549-foot volcano, Chimborazo. With the wrong clothes and footwear, he and Bonpland got to 19,413 feet before being forced back by snow and cold. His experience on the volcano changed his view of the world. He began to create his *Naturgemälde*, or his painting of nature, in which he saw the natural world as a living whole. His drawing of Chimborazo showed plant distributions at various elevations, from the tropical rain forest to the temperate and alpine zones. His drawing of the mountain included columns of data on temperature, humidity, and other atmospheric conditions. He showed how plants lived in different zones that could be linked to climate zones



Alexander von Humboldt; oil on canvas by Friedrich Georg Weitsch ©

BOOK REVIEW CONT.

throughout the world. No one before Humboldt had developed the concept of an ecosystem. He was making sense of nature as a web of life.

After three years in South America making incredible discoveries, Humboldt and friends spent a year in Mexico and Cuba, exploring and visiting the colonial archives and libraries. At the last moment, on his way home, he decided on a stop in the United States to meet Thomas Jefferson, then President. They spent several days meeting, talking about science, Humboldt's discoveries, and Jefferson's views.

Humboldt spent the rest of his long life living between Paris and Berlin. He lectured, met with other scientists, and wrote a series of "large and beautifully illustrated volumes" on his discoveries in South America. He expounded on his view that nature had to be studied holistically and posited a vital force that connected nature and man. He completed his influential *Views of Nature* and began what would become his 34 volumes on South America.

Among so many achievements, Humboldt invented the isotherm to explain global weather phenomena. He influenced fellow scientists throughout Europe, including the geologist Charles Lyell, and, of course, Charles Darwin.

After years of trying to arrange another extended expedition, he finally was granted permission to visit Siberia. Given his training and work in geology and mining, he predicted that diamonds would be found in the Urals in the same deposits that they were found in in Brazil. Within weeks, he was proven correct. Another great adventure brought new discoveries and insights.

The depth of information and history that Wulf commands is prodigious. The book is dense but fascinating, difficult to put down. The story of Humboldt is like reading an encyclopedia of discovery in natural history. His influence on later scientists is also an astounding revelation.

At age 89, he completed the fifth and final volume of his great work, *Cosmos*, and died on 6 May 1859. Tens of thou-

sands of mourners followed his funeral procession in Berlin. The Prussian king, Friedrich Wilhelm IV, called him "the greatest man since the Deluge."

I strongly urge you to consider reading *The Invention of Nature*. It provides insight into a period that we know too little about. It is Wulf's recounting of the history of modern ecology, written from its formidable beginnings and the result of the amazing work of one individual. Wulf ends her book with chapters on people who were influenced by Humboldt, writers like Henry David Thoreau who rewrote *Walden* after reading Humboldt and the naturalist John Muir, who followed Humboldt's path to the Amazon when he was 73 years old.

Here's how Wulf ends: "Environmentalists, ecologists and nature writers today remain firmly rooted in Humboldt's vision—although many have never heard of him. Nonetheless, Humboldt is their founding father." I think you'll find that your conception of nature is rooted in Humboldt's work upon reading Wulf's account.



Chimborazo © Eduardo Navas (CC BY-SA 2.0)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 16TH BIRD WALK TO CHATFIELD STATE PARK

CHUCK AID

Migration is in full swing, and eleven of us got to partake of a good dose of it this past Saturday at Chatfield State Park. We had eight members of the Anatidae family (swans, geese and ducks), and this will continue to get better. Some of the males are emerging gloriously from their eclipse plumage, and in another few weeks all the boys should look primed for courtship. A highlight for me was getting to see the emerging deep blue-turquoise in the secondaries of the Wood Ducks. They looked sort of scruffy and then you'd get this flash of incredible color!

We also had three species of grebes with our single Eared Grebe still mostly in breeding plumage, looking quite dark with its wispy yellow ear plumes.

Three big highlights were a pair of Sabine's Gulls, a pair of Common Terns, and a single Black Phoebe. Historically, the Sabine's Gulls and Common Terns have always shown up in low numbers during fall migration, but they are never something to take for granted and are always cause for celebration. In particular, the striking black, gray, and white wing pattern of the Sabine's is always a treat to see.

The appearance of the Black Phoebe in northern Colorado is a very interesting occurrence. When, Harold Holt and James Lane published *A Birder's Guide to Colorado* in 1987, they noted that Black Phoebes had only been seen in Colorado less than six times in the prior ten years, with the first bird ever recorded in

1972. Then, when Bob Andrews and Bob Righter published their *Colorado Birds* in 1992 they noted a total of thirteen records for the state, with three breeding records for Pueblo County. We now see in *The Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* which was just published in 2016 that the Black Phoebe is "a champion of range expansion," nesting along numerous rivers and streams throughout the southern half of the state. And, sightings in northern Colorado continue to increase. Lucky us!

The migration show should continue to be great for a few more weeks. Hope you can get out and enjoy it!

Wood Duck © Mick Thompson



Black Phoebe © Bill Schmoker



Eared Grebe © Bill Schmoker



Sabine Gull © Bill Schmoker



CHILDREN LEARNING IN NATURE

COLLEEN KULESZA



If you are a teacher, scout leader, or other educator or kids between ages 5 and 18, consider setting up a field trip with Evergreen Audubon staff. We offer a wide variety of programs that meet the state education standards and boy and girl scout requirements for badges and patches.

Each program involves experiential activities and gets kids outdoors learning about the environment and increasing their interest in conservation. Contact Colleen Kulesza to reserve your group at encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org or call at 202-900-8586.

EDUCATION CENTER RENOVATIONS

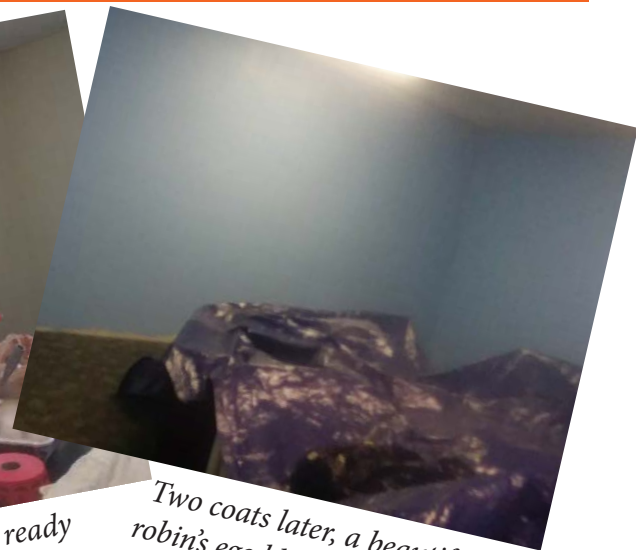
COLLEEN KULESZA

With the help of some wonderful volunteers, we have made great progress in the renovation of the two classrooms at the Audubon Education Center. By the time you are reading this, we may have completed the flooring installation and will be in the process of adding the window treatments. Be sure to take a look at the classrooms the next time you are at the Education Center.

Great thanks to the Evergreen Rotary for their continued financial support as well as involvement of their members to make this project a reality.



Mendhi and Jenna Audlin ready to paint the classroom blue.



Two coats later, a beautiful robin's egg blue brightens the space up.



The blindingly bright yellow of the Forest Classroom has been replaced by a very calming, sage green.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

OCTOBER

Wednesdays	After School Program	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Education Center
Wednesday, 4th	Guided Bird Walk	7:00 am - 12:00 pm	Harriman Lake
Thursday, 5th	PICK UP Bird seed	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Education Center
Thursday, 5th	Chapter Meeting	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Education Center
Saturday, 14th	ENC Packing Day	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Evergreen Nature Center
Saturday, 21st	Guided Bird Walk	6:30 am - 11:30 am	Wheat Ridge Greenbelt
Sunday, 29th	Last day to order Holiday Wreaths		

NOVEMBER

Wednesdays	After School Program	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Education Center
Thursday, 2nd	Chapter Meeting	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Education Center
Saturday, 18th	Guided Bird Walk	6:30 am - 11:30 am	TBD

SAVE THE DATE! The Christmas Bird Count will be on Sunday, December 17th!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Evergreen Audubon Local Membership Application

I/we would like to join the Evergreen Audubon. I/we may participate in all chapter activities, receive the newsletter electronically, and vote (two Family members may vote) on chapter issues. Dues remain locally.

Name _____

Family member name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____ Email _____

(include to receive electronic newsletter and updates)

	Individual	Family
Annual dues	\$ 25	\$ 40
Additional donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total enclosed	\$ _____	\$ _____

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, call 1-800-274-4201 and use chapter code C9ZD090Z.