



THE DIPPER

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EVERGREEN AUDUBON NEWSLETTER

www.EvergreenAudubon.org

CHAPTER MEETING: AVIAN DIVERSITY ON THE ISLAND OF HISPANIOLA

ED FURLONG

Narrow-billed Tody © Iván Mota



The recent warm and moist weather has me thinking of... Neotropical Birding! As much as we love birding our Evergreen World, there is something nearly irresistible about traveling to see colorful bird species that dwell in sunny warm climates, learning more about their ecology and behavior, and getting the chance to see birds we had only seen previously within the pages of *National Geographic* or *Audubon* magazines. Islands in particular are known for cultivating endemic species, which are found nowhere else, and that have adapted to an island's unique combination of climate and ecosystems.

You will have the chance to learn more about neotropical birds, endemic and otherwise, when Iván Mota presents "Avian Diversity on the island of Hispaniola." Join us when the doors open at 6:30 on Thursday, September 7th at the Evergreen Audubon Education Center (29997 Buffalo Park Road)

and visit with your fellow members and Evergreen neighbors. You will want to grab a good seat to be ready when the lights go down and we are transported to the splendors of the Avian life on Hispaniola.

The Island of Hispaniola, the second largest island in the Caribbean, is divided between two sovereign nations, the Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti. Hispaniola is home to 32 endemic species, most of

which can be seen in the Dominican Republic. The island has the richest biodiversity and the highest rate of endemism of the Caribbean Islands. We are truly fortunate to have Iván Mota to lead us through the complex world of birdlife there.

A trained artist, Iván Mota has a degree in Fine Arts from the International Fine Arts College of Miami, Florida, and spent several years as a graphic designer and Art

(continued page 3)



Hispaniolian Trogon © Iván Mota



Evergreen Audubon

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Webmaster		webmaster@evergreenaudubon.org

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

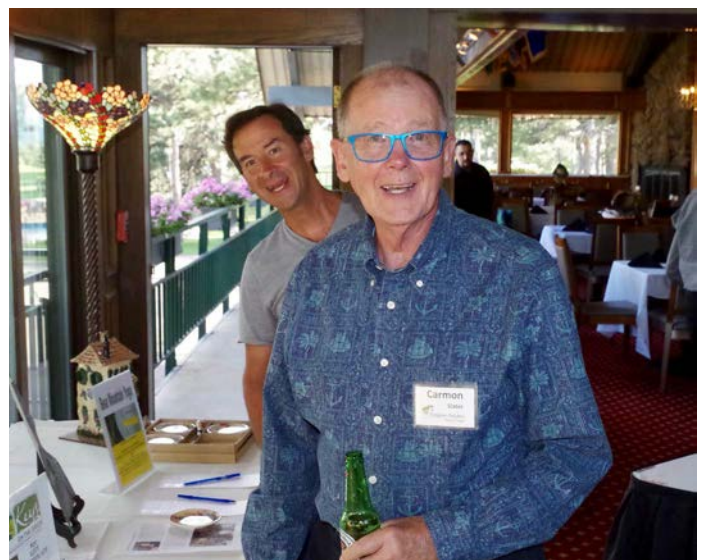
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KATHY MADISON

Last night we celebrated the Nature Center at our Annual Bash and Benefit. What a wonderful evening, giving us all a chance to catch up and support our gem of a resource. Thank you to those that attended and who gave generously to the cause. During the paddle raises, some folks were so anxious to give they wouldn't even let Brad finish describing what we needed before getting their bidder number up! We received funds to preserve (i.e. taxidermy) many wonderful mountain species, including a Saw-whet Owl, Red-tail Hawk and Broad-tailed Hummingbird. We also dedicated funds to after-school programming, education center improvements and a roving naturalist station for educating visitors to Evergreen Lake. The Bash wouldn't have been a success without all of you, our board members and especially Ann Dodson for ALL the behind the scenes work she did to make the night special. Though the Bash was a success, I would love your input on alternative ways we might use next year to raise the funds to keep the Nature Center going and expanding. Please send me your thoughts at president@evergreenaudubon.org.

If you haven't heard yet, we might be closing the Nature Center early this year due to the repairs of the bridge leading into the parking lot. CDOT has informed EPRD that they should begin work in early in September. It's not clear how long the project will take and whether it will even happen as planned. Labor Day, Monday, September 4 will be our last day for the season. The early closing will give us plenty of time to plan for next season where we will kick it off with an anniversary party! I can't believe this year was our 10th season, making the start of our 11th season our 10 year anniversary!

With the evenings getting cooler, I'm sure many have noticed the Rufous Hummingbirds have mostly moved on, giving the Broad-tails some peace and quiet for the next month. Fall also begins the start of other migrating species including shore birds; maybe the Red-necked Phalaropes will visit the lake again like they did this spring. At any rate, there will be lots more opportunities to increase your species count for the birding challenge, so get out and enjoy!

-Kathy



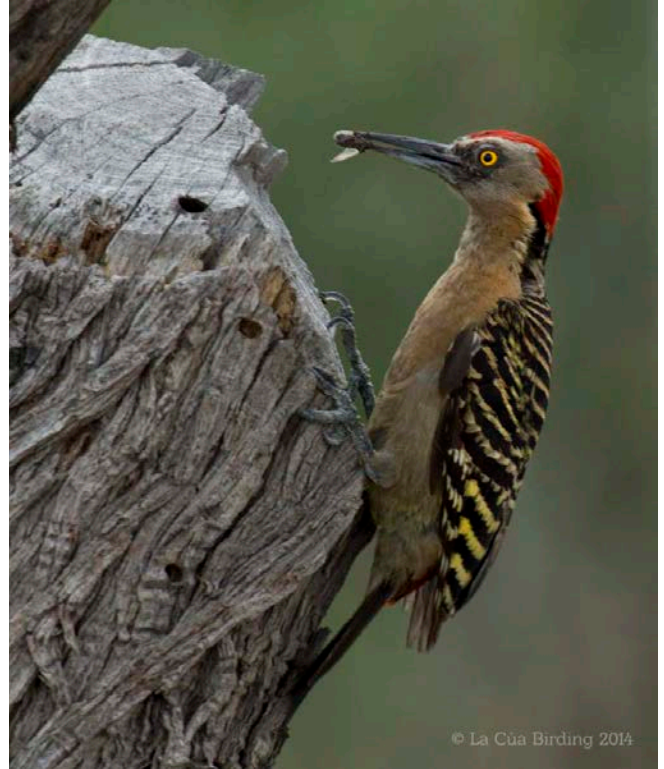
David Wald photo-bombs Carmon Slater at the bidding tables during the 2017 Bash © Ed Furlong

CHAPTER MEETING CONT.

Director in the advertising industry in the Dominican Republic before deciding to pursue another lifelong passion—biology. Iván is one of the top all-time eBirders in DR, where he organizes birding and photography trips and has served as the lead guide for many recognized birding tour companies. Soon he will co-lead tours to Jamaica, Cuba and Mexico. Iván has collaborated with the Vermont Center for Eco-Studies in ongoing conservation projects like Bicknell's Thrush Winter Studies and Mountain Forest Songbird Research.

In his work for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Dominican Republic, Iván led several conservation projects for

seabirds and endemic species of the island. In 2011, he participated as Intern in "Project Puffin Sea Bird Restoration Program" in the state of Maine. Iván's work allows him to combine his love of drawing, photography and conservation biology. Iván recently moved with his wife and daughter from the Dominican Republic to Colorado, where he's working as a Bird Biologist for an environmental company.



Hispaniolan woodpecker © Iván Mota

PAINTING PARTY AT THE EDUCATION CENTER

COLLEEN KULESZA

Thanks to a generous grant from Evergreen Rotary, we are able to do some renovations on our classrooms in the Education Center. They have provided \$3,500 towards paint, flooring, and lighting.



The first stage of these renovations is painting the walls and we could use your help. Join us on **Saturday, September 23rd** anytime between 10am and 3pm and help start spruc-

ing up the space.

You can help with painting, taping, organizing, or bringing in snacks and drinks. If you have a ladder, tarps, or painting supplies we could borrow we'd be so appreciative. All ages are welcome. Bring the whole family and make a day of it!



We'll make the day lots of fun with music and laughter while we add new life to the classrooms.

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 23RD
10AM - 3PM

Please let Colleen Kulesza know if you plan on attending and what you are able to contribute (time or supplies). You can reach her at 303-900-8586 or at encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org.



**Order
by Monday,
September 18th!**

Fall Bird Seed Sale!

Patio Blend - Hulled sunflower, hulled millet & peanut pieces

Song Bird Blend - Black oil sunflower, millet, safflower, peanut pieces & hulled sunflower

Medium Sunflower Chips - No mess and no millet.

Safflower - Deters squirrels. Attracts chickadees, nuthatches, and finches

Nyjer - Goldfinch and siskin favorite!!

Finch Blend - Nyjer, fine sunflower chips, hulled millet.

Shelled Peanuts - Woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, jays & squirrels.

Hulled Millet - Great for juncos, and no sprouting in the spring.

Cracked Corn - Ducks, doves, and squirrels.

No Milo No Mess Blend - White proso millet, red proso millet, black oil sunflower, wheat, cracked corn.

Nut and Fruit blend - Attracts chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers.

Nature Blend - corn, peanuts-in-shell, etc. Attracts jays and squirrels.

Peanuts in the shell - Attracts jays, woodpeckers, and squirrels.

High Energy Suet 12/case - Attracts chickadees, nuthatches.

It's time to order your bird seed for the fall and winter! We are partnering with Front Range Birding Company to bring you the best, locally sourced, bird seed. A portion of each sale will be donated to Evergreen Audubon. You can order the bird seed on our website at: www.evergreenaudubon.org/events/bird-seed-sales-february-2017

Or use an order form that we'll have at the Evergreen Nature Center and at the next Chapter Meeting.

**Pick-up
on Thursday,
October 5th!**



Chickadee and Bird Seed by Dawn Huczek (CC BY 2.0)



Steller's Jay by Thomas Quine (CC BY 2.0)

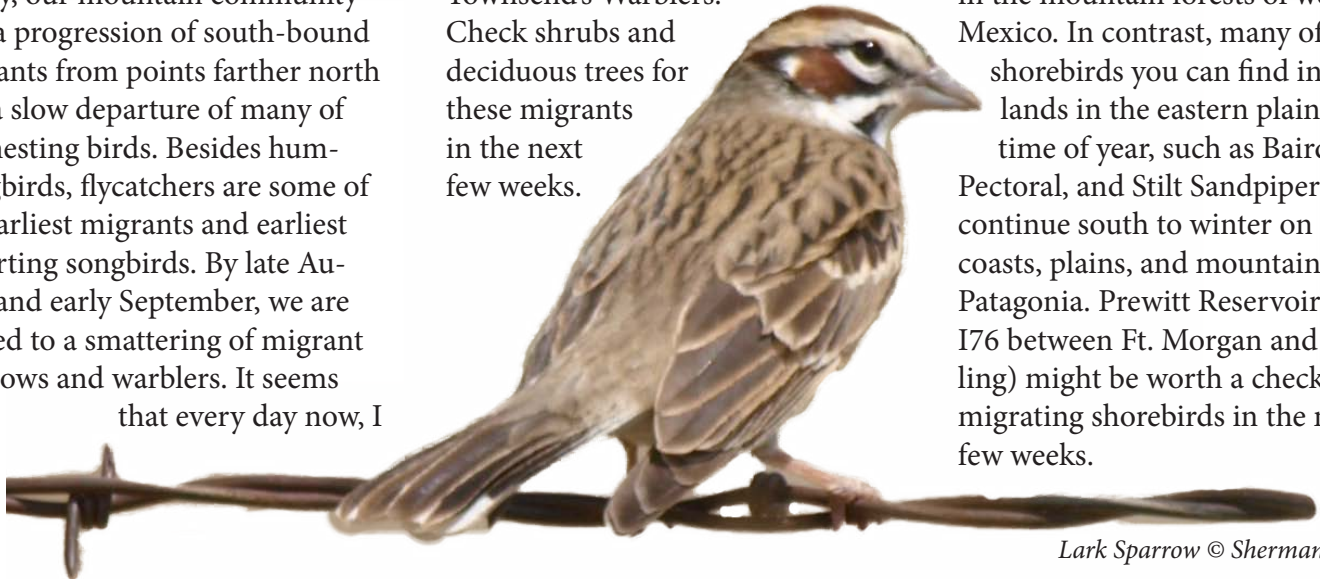


Trifecta by Patrick Ashley (CC BY 2.0)

The yellowing of the willow leaves and the reddening of the alpine signals that fall migration is upon us. I am sure many of you have noticed a decrease on bird activity while around your house or out on hikes. Beginning with the arrival of Rufous Hummingbirds in early July, our mountain community sees a progression of south-bound migrants from points farther north and a slow departure of many of our nesting birds. Besides hummingbirds, flycatchers are some of the earliest migrants and earliest departing songbirds. By late August and early September, we are treated to a smattering of migrant sparrows and warblers. It seems that every day now, I

hear a few chips of overhead songbird migrants when I am out in the mornings or evenings. It is a good time to watch for migrant Brewer's, Clay-colored, Lark, and Lincoln's Sparrows. Interesting warblers to watch for include Nashville, Orange-crowned, Tennessee, and Townsend's Warblers. Check shrubs and deciduous trees for these migrants in the next few weeks.

Many of our breeding species that leave for the winter end up heading to western Mexico to spend the majority of their year. Western Tanagers, Plumbeous Vireos, and Western Wood-Pewees that share breeding areas in our Ponderosa Pine forests can be found together in the mountain forests of western Mexico. In contrast, many of the shorebirds you can find in wetlands in the eastern plains this time of year, such as Baird's, Pectoral, and Stilt Sandpipers, will continue south to winter on the coasts, plains, and mountains of Patagonia. Prewitt Reservoir (off of I76 between Ft. Morgan and Sterling) might be worth a check for migrating shorebirds in the next few weeks.



Lark Sparrow © Sherman Wing

WISH LIST

COLLEEN KULESZA

Donating new or gently used items to the Evergreen Audubon's Education Center and Nature Center is always appreciated. The following list contains items we are seeking at this time. If you have something not on the list but you think it could be useful to us, please contact Colleen Kulesza at encdirector@evergreenaudubon.org or call her at 303-900-8586.

EDUCATION & EXHIBITS

- bird feeders
- shepherd's crooks
- DSLR camera that can do both photos and videos
- birding scope for the Nature Center
- microscopes
- bird nests
- digital photos of local plants and animals we can use on web and in print
- egg cartons (paper or cardboard - not styrofoam)
- plastic bleach or large detergent bottles

OFFICE

- office chairs with wheels (4)
- floor lamps
- vacuum
- label maker
- hangers

TOOLS/MAINTENANCE

- 8 ft. tall step ladder
- power drill
- painting tools
- garden wagon (4 wheels)
- metal trash can with fitted lid
- dolly/hand truck

This past spring was the first sessions of our After School Nature Program and it was a blast! We are offering the program again every Wednesday in October, November, and half of December from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

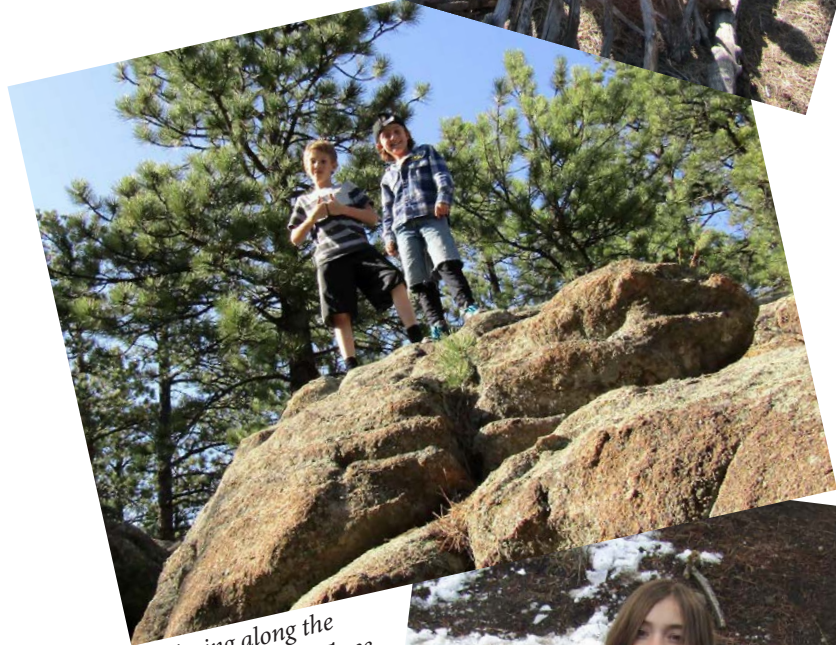
We will explore the woods and learn all about nature in the mountain community through games, activities, and crafts. Every week will be different activities and might include owl investigations, animal tracking, learning about predators, practicing Respectful Recreation, and creating art from nature.

Children in first through fifth grade can register for these sessions by the month. Each month consists of 4 sessions and costs \$100 (\$90 for Evergreen Audubon members). If you register for 3 or more months, you will receive a complimentary family membership (\$40 value), which includes the 10% discount on programs and the nature center gift shop. This discount applies to one child registering for 3+ sessions or if you register three children for one month each.

Our staff will meet the children at Wilmot Elementary at 3:30 pm and accompany them on a short walk to the Education Center (1/4 mile on a trail). You can also drop your child off at the Education Center at 4pm to join the program. Pick up is at 5:30 pm at the Education Center.



Finding shelter in the woods



Exploring along the trails of Alderfer/Three Sisters Park



Making nests with mud and sticks

**REGISTER NOW!
SPACE IS LIMITED**

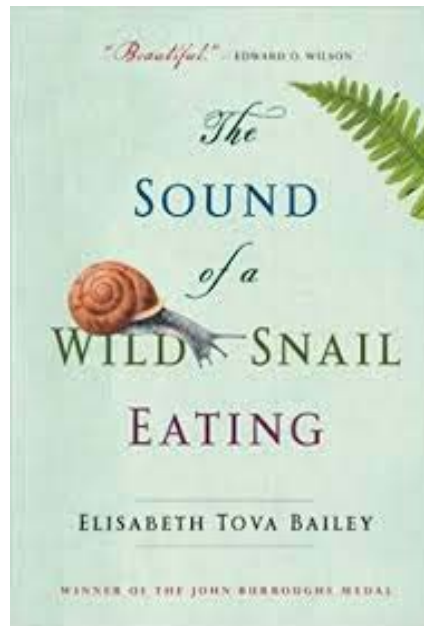
www.evergreenaudubon.org/programs-and-events/after-school-program

The unusual title, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, caught my eye, in addition to a note on the book cover that revealed that Elisabeth Bailey was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for her small book, an auspicious mention. Bill and I were visiting the Botanical Gardens at the University of Wisconsin when I found this delightful account at the bookstore. I hadn't considered writing a book review about snails, but couldn't resist.

Bailey begins with a quote from Florence Nightingale, who said in her 1912 *Notes on Nursing* that "a small pet is often an excellent companion." The author found herself with a life-threatening illness, contracted on a visit to the Alps, that leaves her completely immobilized, unable even to sit up. A concerned friend, on a walk through the woods, finds a small snail. She brings it to Bailey in a pot of field violets, as a possible distraction and companion. "You might enjoy it," says her friend. In a panic, Bailey says she has no idea what to do to keep a snail.

With great surprise on the first evening, Bailey watches the snail as it glides down the flowerpot and explore the dish underneath. She offers the snail flower blossoms to eat, amazed at being able to hear its munching, hence the title of her book. Eventually Bailey moves the snail to a terrarium and offers it mushrooms to eat and water to drink in a mussel shell. The snail sleeps during the day and eats and explores at night. Its nocturnal existence provides comfort and encouragement to Bailey, who is no longer able to enjoy the day herself. The snail's company reminds her that she is not alone in savoring the dark.

You will find much to learn in Bailey's account of her life with a snail. With each small chapter, she offers quotes from poetry, diaries, and other literature that include thoughts and anecdotal



The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating. Elisabeth Tova Bailey, Green Books, 2010.

otes about snails. The 17th-century English poet, John Donne, notes that a snail is always at home, carrying its house about with it. Japanese poet Kobayashi Issa, asks in haiku about a snail:

*little snail
facing this way
where to now?*



Snail © Bramblejungle (CC BY-NC 2.0)

Bailey even discovers that, in 1839 Edgar Allan Poe wrote a book about snails and other shelled creatures in *The Conchologists' First Book*.

Interested in learning more about snails, Bailey gathers about her a huge collection of scientific work about gastropods. Thus, her account is as much about the biology of snails as it is about her relationship to the snail that becomes her only companion. She recounts the genealogy of snails, informs us about the nature of the snail's slime, and lets us in on its reproductive life. She even discovers that snails can over-eat and suffer from severe indigestion.

When her snail lays a "cluster of eight tiny eggs," Bailey discovers that snails are hermaphrodites, although they can also have romantic encounters. Soon the terrarium is filled with tiny snail hatchlings.

When Bailey is finally able to move back home, she takes one of the offspring with her and has the original snail and all the rest of its young released back into the forest exactly where it was originally found. Later in the next year, once again able to walk short distances, Bailey releases the young offspring into a new wild world.

The famed biologist, Edward O. Wilson, calls Bailey's story, "Beautiful." It is a small, quiet masterpiece," according to *The Washington Times*. Bailey dedicates the book to Biopilia, Wilson's personal account of his response to nature. In it, Wilson tell us that "the natural world is the refuge of the spirit ... richer even than human imagination."

I hope you will also find this beautiful little book as entertaining and extraordinary as I did and enjoy learning much about a snail.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST 2 BIRD WALK ON THE CAPTAIN MOUNTAIN TRAIL

CHUCK AID

Well, you might not have been able to even hear a pin drop as eight of us started up the trail at 7:20 on Wednesday morning. Like a scene from a bad 1950's western, it was "too quiet." We strained to hear a few distant calls that were almost indecipherable, and hopped on any passing butterfly as a possible member of the avian corps. Slowly, bird by bird, we began to pick up on a little bit of action, but we were really having to work hard, and at the end of the first hour we may have had 7-8 species. Fortunately, being hard-core Evergreen Audubon members, we persevered through a few spells of bad anecdotes from the trip leader and others, and eventually tallied 23 species, having had some very special sightings (see complete list on our website).



Golden-crowned Kinglet © Bill Schmoker

Before getting to the highlights, I want to point out one species that we didn't see, though we did eventually have a couple of flyovers. Where are the Western Bluebirds this summer? We were in a great area of Ponderosa woodland, where the trees are widely spaced, and where historically there have been

lots of bluebirds – this year, nothing. And, this has generally been true for a number of areas I've visited this breeding season. I'm hoping that some of you can tell me that they're all hanging out over at Hiwan or Genesee, because I keep striking out wherever I'm going.

So, on to our highlights. If you walk in on the Captain Mountain Trail about 1.5 miles, you'll come to tiny Pedee Creek. The trail does not spend any time here, but quickly crosses up into a huge montane meadow with a scattering of shrubs and rock outcroppings (think Green-tailed Towhee habitat). However, if you go there, unlike the trail, you should not head into the meadow but rather follow the creek downstream and you'll pick up on an old road that runs for almost a mile through great coniferous riparian habitat (think Golden-crowned Kinglet). We did think, "Golden-crowned Kinglet," and we were rewarded for doing so. We did not get great looks, but it's gratifying to know that they are in there, and something to keep in mind should you venture that way.

And, then, very close at hand we heard short little woodpecker tapplings with long quiet intervals. A bit of sleuthing disclosed a family of American Three-toed Woodpeckers. We had great looks, and later got to hear the characteristic territorial drumming.

Breeding season is winding down, hence the advent of some quieter mornings, but there is still some really cool stuff going on, so I en-



Three-toed Woodpecker © Alistair Montgomery

courage you to get out and play bird detective. The current action at my house consists primarily of a slew of hummingbirds and an attentive male Black-headed Grosbeak feeding his two fledglings (not sure what happened to mom).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIRD WALK AUGUST 19 BIRD WALK TO GROUNDHOG FLATS

CHUCK AID

Having gotten a relatively early start seven of us appeared to be the first cars up into the Elk Management Area this past Saturday. After parking at the first parking area past the ranger's house, we set off up the old road that climbs over a little shoulder and drops down to Bear Creek and Groundhog Flats. It quickly became evident that our early start was paying off because we had to immediately focus on a barrage of birds. The rest of the morning proved to be not so active, but that first hour was incredible, and by the time we returned to our cars we had tallied a respectable 24 species (see complete list on our website).

We're on that cusp of the year where there are juvenile birds still begging to be fed and at that same time there are mixed-species flocks forming up and appearing a bit restless.

One of the big highlights, which invited us to exercise all of our bird detective capabilities, was an adult Red-tailed Hawk with two attendant

juveniles. It was the juveniles that took a bit of work, because we had to determine that a raptorial begging call we were hearing was a juvenile Red-tail, then, we got a distant, though clear view of the bird, and then we heard a second one off in a different direction. We had gotten a clear view of the adult earlier, so that one was in the bag. A most gratifying sleuthing!

Warbling Vireos can be difficult to track amidst their favorite habitat, leafy aspen branches, but we had a few give us ample opportunity to get it all straight, and good views were had by all. A huge flock of Chipping Sparrows gave us plenty to look at, as they were almost all juveniles, which definitely puts them in the LBB category ("little brown bird"). Mixed in with the Chippers were

some Pine Siskins and Cordilleran Flycatchers, so it was a fun assemblage.

The highlight of the morning was getting to see three species of warblers. Our most common forest warbler is Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, and we saw one of them.



Townsend's Warbler (c) Bill Schmoker

Of the other two, MacGillivray's Warbler breeds locally from 5000 to 10,000 feet in a variety of shrub habitats, so we would like to think we would see them a bit more often, but they're one of the skulkiest of the skulky bird species. Fortunately, our bird moved into a tree giving us an opportunity for a brief view. Finally, the real prize of the morning was getting to see two Townsend's Warblers. This species breeds from the northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest up into southeastern Alaska, and occurs in Colorado only as an uncommon fall migrant on its way south to Mexico and Central America. AND, it's so pretty it knocks your socks off!

So, good birds and a great group of birders made for a doubly enjoyable morning!

Hope to see you next time!



Pine Siskin (c) Bill Schmoker

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, 6th	Guided Bird Walk	6:30 am - 11:30 am	Bear Creek Lake Park
Thursday, 7th	Chapter Meeting	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Education Center
Saturday, 16th	Guided Bird Walk	6:30 am - 11:30 am	Chatfield State Park
Monday, 18th	Deadline to ORDER Bird Seed - Pick up on October 5th		Education Center
Friday, 22nd	Beginner Bird Walk	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Lair o' the Bear Park
Saturday, 23rd	Painting Party	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Education Center

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, 7th	Beginner Bird Walk	9:00 am - 11:30 am	TBD
Saturday, 21st	Guided Bird Walk	6:30 am - 11:30 am	TBD

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.