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Annual Banquet Highlights – Evergreen Audubon

4 minutes

The annual banquet was a success in celebrating Evergreen Audubon. Thanks were given to all the volunteers, donors and the board members, with special honors to Fran Enright, Rachel Hutchison and Chuck Aid.



Fran with Sylvia Robertson and Peggy Durham (photo by Heather Johnson)

Fran Enright received the well deserved Founder’s Award for her dedication to Evergreen Audubon. Fran has been a member of our organization when its name was just “TEN” (The Evergreen Naturalists, 1968 – 1977). Fran received the “Bird of the Year” in 1978 for spotting White Throated Sparrows and a Fox Sparrow. She has served on our Board of Directors, as President, Secretary and Treasurer, and also on various committees. In the 1990s, she started and maintained the nest box trail in Elk

Meadow. Outside of the organization, Fran was a high school biology teacher involved in national-level development of biology curricula. She served on the Clear Creek County Open Space Commission, was a long-time supporter of the Mountain Area Land Trust, and was active in the Colorado Native Plant Society, with one recent project addressing the effects of Mountain Goats on the flora of Mount Evans. Fran has artistic and athletic interest as well. She's studied with master felt artists and has taught felting in Colorado and Argentina. She even completed a half marathon in Monterrey California in 2013. We are so pleased Fran is part of our organization and we congratulate her all her achievements.

Rachel received the President's award for her ongoing dedication to many behind the scenes activities. She has been a leader in the bluebird nest box study; trudging through snow or rain in early spring to count nest and eggs and then showing off the fledglings to the Explore More kids and other interested birders. She's kept us happy with refreshments at past chapter meetings, quietly organizing the snacks and making coffee. She is currently serving as our board Treasurer where she is unbelievably meticulous and timely with her work, spending hours keeping tracking our financials and making sure we are on budget. It is good to know we are in such good hands.

Brad did a fantastic job walking us through the Birding Year in Review, ending with honoring Chuck Aid with the "Bird of the Year" for his sighting of a Western Scree owl, which is rarely seen or heard in the watershed. Chuck spotted the owl near the junction of Blue Creek and Brook Forest roads. Other exciting

sightings included Lark Bunting and Clay- Clay-colored Sparrow at the Lake during Dawn Chorus, Blackburnian Warbler and Northern Parula at Bear Creek Lake Park, and Pinyon Jay and Lewis's Woodpecker at Margo and Don's house.

Finally, Brad honored the folks who rose to the Centennial Bird Creek Watershed Birding Challenge. The group, who each saw at least 100 species in the watershed, collectively saw 183 species. The 2016 Centennial Club included: Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Ron Belak, Margo Constable, Fran Enright, Mike Foster, Barbara Jean Gard, Steve Garman, Rachel Hutchison, Heather Johnson, Peg Linn, Kathy Madison and David Wald. Special hat were awarded to these birders. Details of the 2017 birding challenge will be posted soon.

For those who missed the banquet, we hope you can join us next year!