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## President's Report – April 2017 – Evergreen Audubon

3-4 minutes

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As we move into April we 'll start seeing a change in weather and wildlife activity. The bluebirds will be nesting, the bears will be stirring and foxes will be having their kits. And, the most important change April brings is the opening of the Evergreen Nature Center (ENC).

The Nature Center will open on Saturday, April 22nd, the same day as the annual [Earth Day Celebration](#) at the Evergreen Lake House. Look for Colleen's announcements about recruiting volunteers to help with nesting day, our setup day for the Nature Center, and for announcements about training sessions for new and returning Visitor Assistance volunteers. Every year, even before I became president, I gave myself a person goal to recruit at least one new Visitor Assistant each season. Volunteering at the Nature Center doesn't have to be a huge commitment. You can help us by donating just 2-3 hours a month. Even if you're new to the area or feel you don't know enough about our local environment, we could still use your help. We'll train you and make sure a seasoned volunteer is paired with you during your shifts. We'll also have Colleen and a part-time Seasonal Naturalist on hand to teach you all sorts of great natural history

facts and stories. Before you know it you'll be sharing how we acquired Heather the Mountain Lion and Bob the Bear; kicking off puppet shows; talking at length about our resident double crested cormorants, elk and muskrats; and encouraging families to participate in our after school programs, summer camps and the Explore More! challenge. As a thank you for your services, volunteers are treated to an appreciation event at the end of the season. Last year's volunteers were awarded with a special field trip to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge where they were given a presentation on black-footed ferrets and even got to see a pair being fed. They also received a tour of the National Eagle Repository.

ENC will be open on weekends from 9am-5pm (two 3-hour shifts and 1 2-hour shift) until Memorial Day. After Memorial Day we will also be opened Thursday and Friday 12pm-4pm (two 2-hour shifts). These are new operating hours based on a review of the attendance on various days and times over the last few years. We will continue to be open for the same number of hours during the summer (24 hrs. a week) but will be closed on Wednesdays. Of course, if you don't plan to volunteer, I still encourage you to stop by the Nature Center to enjoy our special resource!

Don't forget about Brad's 2017 Birding Challenge. You've got 4 ways to achieve the challenge. Either see or hear 106 species in the Bear Creek Watershed, 129 species in Jefferson County, 71 species in Clear Creek County, or 166 species in Colorado. I'm trying for all four, but at the rate I'm going with zero species in Clear Creek County it's going to be a stretch!

-Kathy