

Saluting Ann Bonnell

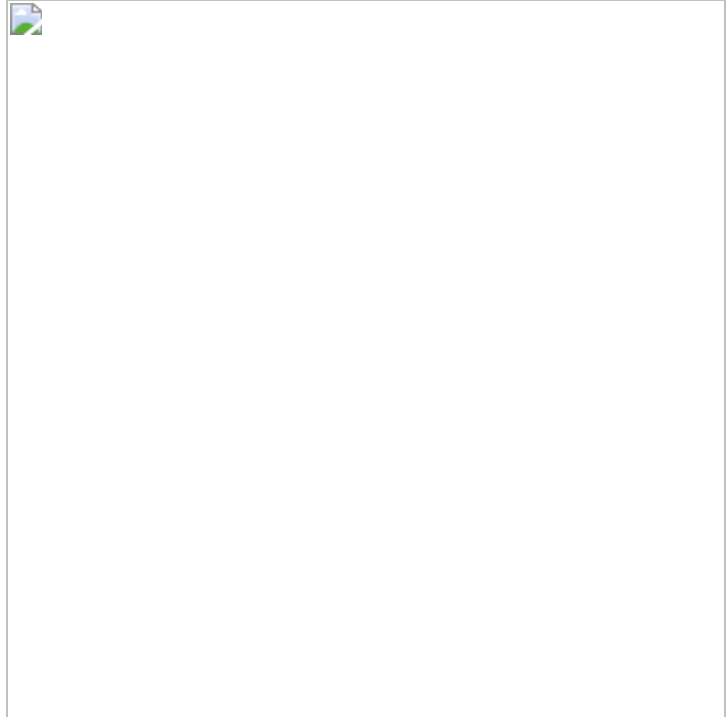
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Chuck Aid

June 6, 2018

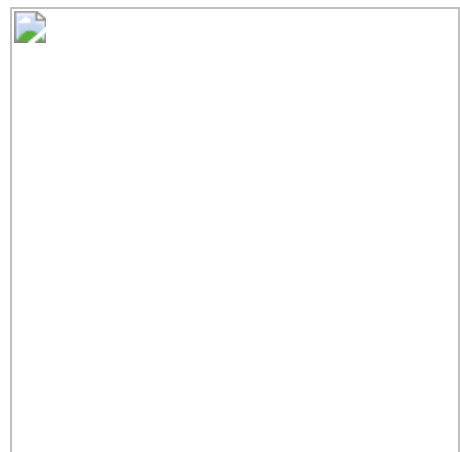
Ann Bonnell received the Colorado Field Ornithologist's Lifetime Achievement Award on May 19, 2018.

For decades she has been an inspirational leader in the regional birding community, volunteering for a variety of roles as a naturalist, environmental educator, conservation activist, and Audubon Society of Greater Denver (ASGD) board member. Ann played a key role in helping ASGD acquire the old homestead at Chatfield State Park that became the nature center there. More recently she has played an active leadership role in challenging the Chatfield Storage Reallocation Project which is in the process of dramatically altering the extensive cottonwood gallery forests at Chatfield, one of the top spots in the region for avian diversity.



Ann Bonnell receives Lifetime Achievement Award (c)
Rob Raker

It was Ann, along with the help of Else van Erp, who started the Tuesday Birders back in the 70's, and she continues to lead most of their weekly outings. Else and Ann also ran a BBS route together over a twenty-year period, and Else helped Ann for almost thirty years conducting monthly bird surveys at the Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, a project which Ann still coordinates and leads. Currently Ann also continues to lead groups on the Denver, Douglas County, and Evergreen-Idaho Springs Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). It is Ann who has helped Evergreen Audubon gain access to the Vance Creek portion of the Evans Ranch, where she has had wonderful bird and mammal sightings for us every CBC.



Ann at the Evans Ranch – 2016 CBC
(c) Cynthia Madsen

The Evergreen Audubon community has had multiple opportunities to benefit through the years from Ann's contagious enthusiasm for wildlife, natural areas, and conservation. We join the Colorado Field Ornithologists in saluting her for all that she has done, and continues to do.