



Location	Build	Incb	Feed	Fledge	Comments
Lair-of-the Bear Bridges	3/23				No other survey. Outcome unknown but likely successful based on previous years.
Corwina Park			5/6?		Pair visiting nest under "Wood Slot Bridge" (R. Belak) – Outcome unknown
Gardens Bridge	4/14				Nest completed then abandoned
Dedisse Bridge	4/23				No activity observed after 5/4. Heavy angler use.
UBC Rd Bridge (near #31914)	4/23				No activity observed after 4/23. Pair often seen during May further upstream.
Golden Willow Rr. Bridge	5/26	6/6	6/26		3 fledglings
Spring River House Bridge	5/30				Nest probably abandoned
Sing River Lodge Bridge	5/30		6/15	7/3	1 fledgling

Floods and heavy sedimentation are known to affect dipper nesting. Upper Bear Creek flowed above average from June 7 to August 12 but never was above bank-full, ran clear, and, I suspect, never flooded or affected nest sites. The snowpack in the headwaters of Bear Creek was about 112% of normal, but snowmelt started later and lasted longer. I never observed prolonged periods of turbid water caused by heavy runoff from monsoon rains or upstream construction in the streambed as has occurred in previous years

During January 2020, I surveyed Upper Bear Creek downstream of the Dam for wintering dippers. I counted a total of 10 dippers as summarized on Table 2. The stream upstream of the lake was almost completely frozen and covered with at least several inches of snow eliminating the possibility of finding wintering dippers.

Table 2: Results of January 2020 Survey for Wintering Dippers

Date	Stream Reach	# of Dippers
1/22-25	Golden Willow Rd up to Singing River Ranch (Frozen)	0
	Golden Willow Rd to Evergreen Lake (Frozen)	0
	Downstream of dam to Episcopal Church	0
1/23	Kittredge Park Bridge	1
	Bridge above Switchback BBQ	1
	O'Fallon Park	2
	O'Fallon Park to COld Springs	0
	Lair of the Bear Park, Parking to Little Park	1

## OUR PLAN TO CONTINUE SURVEYS SPRING & SUMMER 2020

If you are looking to get outside with some focused birding along with “social-distancing” you may want to “adopt a dipper nest” to monitor, or perhaps search for unknown nest sites along Bear Creek. It’s very entertaining and a joy to watch dippers swimming, diving and dipping in the flowing waters. It’s especially a treat to see the recently fledged young out on the spray-covered rocks waiting to get fed.

Monitoring nests would involve visiting nest sites and stealthily observing dipper activity like courtship, nest building, feeding young, and fledging. This would require one to three visits a week. We are interested in nest success and number of fledglings produced, nest abandonment, and the effects from disturbance such as flooding, heavy sedimentation and turbid waters, or heavy angler use. In addition, we plan to start looking for nests downstream of Evergreen Lake. We know of nests in Lair of the Bear Park, but because of COVID-19 concerns and heavy recreation use at the parks, we may avoid that site. After June 15, the higher elevations of the watershed could be surveyed in the Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area and adjacent National Forest (provided that those areas are open to public use).

This is a great way to get outside to enjoy nature and become acquainted with this amazing bird (as long as you keep the safe distance from folks). If you are interested in participating in the American Dipper Survey, please contact Larry White [llarrywhite@msn.com](mailto:llarrywhite@msn.com).