

Another Virtual First: Evergreen Audubon Celebrates Our Annual Banquet!

Brad Andres. January 31, 2021 :

Although we were not able to convene in person for our annual January banquet, 41 folks gathered via zoom on January 7th to reflect on our activities and accomplishments of the past year.

The meeting started with a review of our citizen science projects and the year 2020 in birds. Chuck Aid recapped the Christmas Bird Count and highlighted the new high counts we achieved for several species, despite the windy weather, thanks in large measure to several new “feeder counters.”

Next, I was pleased to share the results of the 2020 Birding Challenge. Seven birders met or exceeded the challenge for Bear Creek Watershed, four for Jefferson County, one for Clear Creek County, and four for Colorado. It was no surprise to anyone that, once again, Chuck qualified in all four geographical areas!

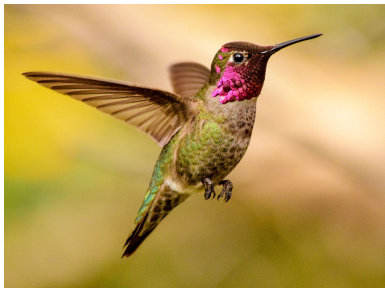


Photo by Nancy Canty

After the enthusiastic virtual applause for Chuck died down, I provided a review of the year in birds and it was my honor to award JoAnn and Bill Hackos the “2020 Bird of the Year” for the Anna’s Hummingbird they spotted near the Soda Creek pond in May.

JoAnn then took over the virtual screen to present an overview of two citizen science programs open to all: Project FeederWatch, which runs year to year; and the annual Great Backyard Bird Count, which this year runs from February 12th to the 15th. JoAnn and Bill have really enjoyed participating in Project FeederWatch and want to encourage others to participate. In the past, our ENC Directors have hosted family events for the GBBC. We won’t be hosting a GBBC this year but we hope that everyone, especially those of you with young children or grandchildren will participate from home. ([links to them](#), or to the article about them on our website, [here](#)).

Following JoAnn’s lively report, Ed Furlong provided information on how members can participate in National Audubon’s Climate Watch program ([link here](#)) and this part of the program ended with Larry White giving a

summary of the Evergreen Audubon's own citizen science project, the American Dipper Survey, and shared what we've learned so far about Bear Creek watershed Dippers' breeding and wintering habits.



The festivities ended with the virtual presentation of the President's *Royal Order of the Dipper* (see left). This year, I presented these coveted awards to board members Kathy Madison and Lisa Wald for their exceptional work and untold number of volunteer hours spent on creating and maintaining our website and other virtual platforms, supporting our programs and our communications and fund-raising efforts, during a very challenging year 2020.

I also extended my thanks to the staff and the 165 volunteers who helped keep our Evergreen Audubon programs going during 2020.

I am looking forward to an even more successful 2021.