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Thursday, June 3, 1993

SPORTS

Threatened birds close John Martin shoreline

Label: SUMMER OUTDOORS

The beach party at John Martin Reservoir has been scaled down this year, unless you're a piping plover.

Piping plovers are shorebirds similar to killdeer, but slightly smaller and with one neck band instead of two. They are on the federal threatened-species list, and at least five have been documented along the south shore of the reservoir, according to Steve Keefer, district wildlife manager for the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

As a measure to protect nesting by the plovers, a portion of the south shoreline has been closed to human access, and, as the Memorial Day crowd discovered, violators are receiving citations and fines from law-enforcement officials.

The closure begins just west of the T intersection on the county road near the railroad grade, and extends 1/3 mile to the east. Signs, a police-type barricade and a trench mark the closure, according to Keefer. Buoys warn boaters of the restricted area.

Most of the south shore remains open," Keefer said. "But the water level's higher than it's been in several years. That's flooded some of the sandy areas and moved some of the shoreline up into the brush, making it more difficult to find a good beach

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area."

The south shore has been popular for camping and launching small boats.

The duration of the closure has not been determined.

Free fishing days

No licenses will be required Saturday and Sunday to fish anywhere in Colorado, as part of National Fishing Week.

"We hope people of all ages will come out that weekend to discover or rediscover the wonderful fishing resource Colorado has to offer," said Eddie Kochman, aquatic wildlife manager for the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

All other fishing regulations and bag limits will remain in effect.

RS 11 clinic

Rim Chung, creator of the popular RS II fly pattern, will conduct tying clinics June 12-13 at the Flies & Lies shop in Deckers. The sessions will begin at 10 a.m., and probably will continue intermittently through the day. For complete information, call (303) 647-2237.

- Karl Licis/Gazette Telegraph

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