Have you seen the Treganza Heron?

I did -- just last week! I also saw a Gambel Sparrow, Marsh Hawk and Sparrow Hawk. And, about the time you receive this newsletter, I will probably have seen a Brewster's Egret and Louisiana Tanager. Okay, so during these cold winter days I’ve been reading old literature. I enjoy old ornithological writings because authors didn’t worry so much about what others thought and simply expressed their personal feelings. During my latest readings, I ran across the words “old codger.” For some reason this was more appealing to me than “senior citizen.” But, back to birds -- modern terminology would list these birds (in the order mentioned above) as Great Blue Heron, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Snowy Egret, and Western Tanager. Bird name changes can be frustrating; however, I’m thankful that the Nomenclature Committee of the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) has standardized common names. If we didn’t have these standardized names, our communication would be much more difficult as we struggled with scientific names.

This is the time of year we look forward to the end of winter and the beginning of spring. As one author put it, “Life is more above ground in April.” He was referring to growing, blooming, and leafing out of plants by utilizing energy stored underground during the winter, and the reptiles and mammals returning to the surface from their burrows. Many of our birds are returning from the “south” instead of from the ground, but changing with the seasons is a key concept. I also enjoy statements like “loving nature is living” and “man is but one in a tremendous ensemble.” Spring is coming, so I hope you are enjoying being part of nature’s “tremendous ensemble.” Be sure to check this newsletter for dates pertaining to Wasatch Audubon field trips and special events during March and April. Hope to see you along the birding trail.

Keith Evans
President’s Pipeline

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Merola for his service to Wasatch Audubon. He has been on the board of directors, been Vice President, President and is currently serving as Past President. I have really appreciated Paul’s willingness to dig into the issues and projects that Wasatch Audubon Society has had over the past two years. I think Paul has done a super job, and I know he will continue to help out in whatever way he can – again, thanks Paul!

The first week of November, 2011, I drove down to help Jack Rensel, Paul Merola and other Wasatch Audubon members unload the 900 bags of sunflower seed for our annual “Audubon Adventures” fund raiser. It gave me a chance to talk with the father and son who grow our seed about the problems of running their Corinne farm along with the financial problems we all face today. It also caused me to think back to my farm-boy experiences. One thing in particular came to mind, and I decided to write down some thoughts I call “Baling Business.”

See Page 5 for the “rest of the story.”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As you all well know, Antelope Island is a fantastic place to do some birding. It is also a fantastic place for tourists and local residents to visit. We would love to be able to combine these two "fantastic" things and offer monthly bird walks from May-September. We are putting together a summer program series that includes hikes, tours, and programs on recurring days through the summer and would like bird walks. But park staff can't do all of these things, and really, we don't think it would be fair to hog all of the fun stuff. So we would like to ask members of Wasatch Audubon if some of you would be able and willing to lead these bird walks. The location, focus, area and length of these walks would be up to the leader and could include anything. It could be a causeway walk, a ranch walk, or a general island walk looking for raptors. The dates we would like to offer these hikes are Saturday, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, and September 8. These would be low-key bird walks with general park visitors who may or may not know anything about birds and just want to spend time with a guide who can help show them what's out here.

If this is something you are interested in, please contact Wendy Wilson at (801) 721-9569 or email at wendywilson@utah.gov
CONSERVATION CORNER

by Lynn Carroll

Support for Non-game Wildlife Programs in Utah

When you contribute to conservation with a monetary donation, you’d like most of that money to go directly to effective programs. I can suggest one place where 100% of your contribution supports non-game wildlife conservation—the Utah Nongame Wildlife Account listed on your state income tax form.

It’s easy: fill in the correct code (01) and the dollar amount you want to contribute. This amount is simply added to the amount you will pay in tax or subtracted from the amount to be refunded. The money goes to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for their programs specifically benefiting non-game wildlife (that which isn’t hunted or fished for) which may not live here in the future without help.

The Utah Nongame Wildlife Account is used by DWR in their Nongame Bird Program and Native Aquatic Species Conservation program. The amount collected is small, so a portion will be combined with other money in the program budget and usually matched by money from another agency, university, etc. to fund a project such as these in the Nongame Bird Program [list adapted from DWR website]:

- Riparian bird monitoring—population trends, productivity and site fidelity have been recorded in over 50 riparian sites.
- Sensitive species inventory and monitoring—the current status of the species is determined and the results are used to design conservation measures for the most vulnerable species.
- Riparian Management Handbook—an aid for land and wildlife managers who are managing riparian habitats for birds and other wildlife, it describes Utah birds that use riparian habitats and plants that the birds use as well as recommending techniques for restoring healthy riparian systems.

- Endangered and threatened animals of Utah—a guide for landowners, planners, etc., about management of lands inhabited by federally listed species.
- Training—workshops are provided for both wildlife professionals and the public.

“Tax check-off” dollars have been used in the Native Aquatic Species Conservation program to help fund a survey of leatherside chub in the Sevier River, tanks to hold young endangered fish, monitoring of June sucker in Utah Lake and protected ponds, and removal of non-native species competing with or preying upon at-risk natives.

I’d like the state to do more work like this, while I’m unhappy with the state legislature’s funding priorities such as roads and energy development without regard to safeguarding the environment. So I’ll be pleased to contribute to this fund after paying as little tax as I legally can!


HARDWARE RANCH TRIP

January 21st, 2012
by Les Talbot, Field Trip Chair

John Bellmon, Paul Lombardi, Jeanette and Brian Nosker, and I went to Hardware Ranch to help feed the elk. There was very little snow at the ranch and we could see some elk on a hill across the pasture from the visitor center.

Due to the lack of snow there were only about 200 head of elk in the pasture. Most were older cows with a few younger animals and three bulls with spikes. The ranch hands only had one bale of hay on the wagon. We were told that because of the lack of snow most of the elk were still up in the higher country and the ones at the ranch would not come close to the wagon. Once they started throwing hay off of the wagon, the elk ran single file down to the feeding area and began to feed. We did see some ravens, magpies, and a Bald Eagle while we were feeding. Unfortunately it rained the entire time we were on the wagon.

From the ranch, we drove to the first dam at the mouth of Logan Canyon, one of the best places to
see Barrow’s Goldeneyes in Utah. We were not disappointed; there were several on the water. On the shore there were a large number of various kinds of hybrid Mallards.

While we were at the Bluebird, I checked traffic conditions at Sardine Canyon. It was snowing and the highway looked treacherous, so we decided it would be best to go home around the north end of the Wellsville Mountain Range. It was a wise choice because that route was dry and it was not storming.

Just west of Cutler Marsh, Jeanette spotted a Bald Eagle roosting in a tree. Brian said it was too big to be an eagle. We turned around to get a closer look and sure enough it was way too big to be a live eagle. After looking through the glasses, we could see that it was an oversized decoy that was attached to a metal bar suspended in the branches. Upon closer examination we did see a live, normal sized, adult eagle in a tree behind the decoy.

Even though the weather was not the greatest, we all enjoyed having a close-up look at the elk and seeing the Barrow’s Goldeneyes.

**WASATCH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**  
*by John Bellmon*

**Birding that counts.** In December, 1900, only 27 people went out to count birds, at 25 sites, mostly in the northeastern states. This winter an estimated 60,000 people in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere took part in the 112th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, from Alaska to Antarctica, with many groups in Central and South America along with many Caribbean Islands.” The Christmas Bird Count is the longest continual wildlife survey in the world. Its data has become very valuable in analyzing bird population trends within our hemisphere. This is a tradition of fun in the field for our enjoyment and for science.

A big thank you to all that participated and made this year’s Christmas Bird Count such a success. This year we had very good weather, some smog and fog to go along with the cold, and it was seemingly a warmer than usual season. As always everyone that came out had a really good time.

On the **Bear River Refuge Christmas Bird Count** we had some overcast skies, but everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves very much. The big surprises were Great Egrets and a large number of Tundra Swans at the refuge. In the count area southwest of Corinne, a Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker was observed, which is very unusual for our area. Our totals were 10,356 individuals counted and a total of 56 species reported.

On the **Ogden Christmas Bird Count** we had nine teams in the field, which is the most we have ever had. A highlight was a Red-naped Sapsucker and White-throated Sparrow sighted in the southern part of the circle. Our totals were 23,164 individuals counted and a total of 76 species reported.

On the **Morgan Christmas Bird Count** we had several visitors from out of state and out of our area helping on the count. We did get a new species for our count. A Pacific Wren was sighted. It really is a new split from the Winter Wren, now found in the East. The western species that we normally see here is now a new species, the Pacific Wren. Our totals were 3,241 individuals counted and a total of 52 species reported.

On the **Antelope Island Christmas Bird Count** the weather was clear but cold with a wind that came up in the afternoon. With several good crews the new year was off to a good start. Some of the unusual birds that were observed were White-winged Scoter, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Least Sandpiper, Sora, Wilson’s Snipe, and Harris’s Sparrow. Our totals were 9,537 individuals counted and a total of 65 species reported.

We will post all of the totals on our chapter’s web site so that everyone can see the results of our different Christmas Bird Counts. Again, thanks to everyone for making our counts a success.

**WAS CHAPTER NEWS**

**New Board Member.** Katie McVey became a Board Member for Wasatch Audubon Society in January of this year. Her term will extend through 2013. Katie is a Wildlife Refuge Specialist at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. We want to welcome Katie to our Board and our birding family. We encourage you to stop in and say “hello” to her when you visit the Refuge.
New Historian. In December 2011, Marie Fulmer agreed to chair the Historian Committee for Wasatch Audubon Society. Marie joined the group in 2011 and has attended many of our organized field trips. We welcome Marie to our group and thank her for taking on this task. If you have items (photos, newspaper articles, etc.) that pertain to Wasatch Audubon, we encourage you to provide those items to Marie, or one of the Board members, for inclusion in our historical records.

The Ogden Migratory Bird Program is developing a breeding bird atlas of the Ogden River. We are seeking experienced birders or those willing to learn Utah birds to conduct four surveys this summer and during the summer of 2013.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Dr. Brian Barber at brianbarber1@weber.edu or call 651-491-2065.

MEMBER CORNER
Editor’s note: Following are a few new columns/articles submitted by our members. Each month we will have something new in this section. Some will become regular monthly columns, while others may be a one-time treat! Please feel free to send me your ideas, photos, articles, etc. or anything you might like to share with the readers of the Chickadee at geoteck@hotmail.com.

Enjoy! -Rich-

BALING BUSINESS
by V. Arnold Smith

Our government bailing business that started with the financial crisis in 2008 reminded me of one of my ventures back in the spring of 1964. My first summer (1963) after graduating from Morgan High School I had spent working the I-80 construction near Evanston, Wyoming. The plan was to further my education with college classes, but what I ended up doing was taking the course of real world business 101. In a weak moment, I used the college money on a down payment for a 1960 Chevy. The car dealer didn’t bother to ask me if I actually had a job and wrote me a loan for the remaining money I owed them.

Life was good – for about a month, until around the time that first payment came due. I bailed myself out of the mess when I got a part-time job in the Morgan City’s Trash Management Department and soon was riding high – on the tailgate of a garbage truck. Then, I got an even bigger opportunity. A local farmer knew that my grandfather, after selling his ranch in 1962, had a perfectly good tractor and baler just sitting idle in his yard. Knowing I had run this equipment for my grandfather, he approached me about the possibility of paying me to bale his hay. My grandfather reluctantly gave his permission and told me he wouldn’t charge me anything to use the machinery. Then he said the words that still echo in my head, “But remember, all the expenses incurred while using the tractor and baler will be yours!”

The apparatus on which I was about to embark on for this pauperizing journey was a John Deere tri-wheel tractor and a state-of-the-art, break-down-on-every-windrow baler. Everything went well on my first job. The farmer was happy with his nice firm bales, and I had a couple hundred dollars in my pocket above expenses. Then the word got out that I was under-cutting all the other contract balers in Morgan County, and I had more fields to bale.

My second job definitely went south, and I was still baling spring hay! After a couple of trips around the field, I looked back to see bales exploding as they dropped out of the baler. Close inspection showed the bale bombs were the result of a broken knotters. As I drove my pride and joy ‘60 Chevy up the long narrow lane leading from the field to the asphalt road, I thought, “You need help.” Initially I was thinking psychiatrist, but I drove to my friend Terry’s house instead.

Terry needed a job and agreed to help me tear the baler apart on the slight chance he might get paid something when the baling was done. I then drove to the local John Deere dealer/hardware store to order parts and buy tools. I didn’t have enough money, but they extended me credit because my aunt worked there. Several days later with parts, much dryer alfalfa hay and very little money left, we went to work on the baler. We finally got it all back together and had it going – well sort of. For
The Mountain Chickadee

March/April 2012

some reason the new parts weren’t following make-a-good-bale protocol! The bales were now coming out arched to one side and would flip apart like a stack of cards if you tried to pick one up.

We drove back up the narrow lane to talk with the mechanic at the John Deere dealer. He agreed to come out after work if we slipped him some beer money and never told anyone. The mechanic worked on the baler that evening; and although he couldn't get it to work just right, he thought we might get by with it. He said it was to do with old parts versus new parts that wouldn't allow the tension to be adjusted right. I can tell you, at that point my tension wasn't adjusted too well either.

The next morning we were up early trying to take advantage of the dew to hold that super dry hay together while we baled it, hopefully for the last time. However, the tractor wouldn't start because the generator had died. Right then and there we had a moment of silence for it, just before we started screaming and kicking the tires. After a little bit we figured out that if we charged the battery for a couple of hours we could bale a few rows of hay. So up and down the long narrow lane we went.

On one of the trips, we stopped in to the Stoddard Store and bought some bottles of pop. Did I mention this long, narrow lane had a big ditch on one side and a fence on the other? When I was driving down the lane and I tipped the bottle of pop up to take a drink, water began spraying over the windshield. The ‘60 Chevy slowly came to a stop listing to the passenger side like a sinking ship. I turned on the windshield wipers but they didn't seem to help. I looked over to see Terry with his feet up on the dash next to the windshield to avoid getting wet. The under-the-dash plastic-garbage can was floating like a boat in the water above the passenger door window crank.

We calmly finished our drinks before disconnecting the John Deere Tractor from the baler. Try as we might, the tractor would not budge the car. Luckily the landowner had a little Ford tractor in a shed at the bottom of the lane. With the two tractors, we were just barely able to dislodge the car from its mooring. When it finally did come out, it had a dislocated rear spring which gave it the drag tail look. It sort of reminded you of a mother bird when it drags its tail to protect its young. My tail was dragging too, but the biggest drag of all was that whole hay-baling venture.

Eventually we were able to charge the battery enough times to complete the baling and re-baling of the now dead, leafless alfalfa. Needless to say, the farmer was not happy. He said, “I don't think I should have to pay you because the hay is worthless. It’s nothing but coarse stems in bales that fall apart when you try to pick them up!” I told him that I had done my best to get it right. Further explaining not only had I baled the hay, I had baled it all at least three times. I went on that I had a lot of overhead on the job, such as an employee, parts charges, tool charges, fuel charges, and a lot of battery charges.

In the end he paid me enough to pay off my creditors. Terry and I worked for nothing, dejectedly driving away from the farmer’s house in my lean-back low-rider car. Worst of all I had to return my grandfather’s tractor and baler un-repaired. He didn't say much, just gave me one of those little I told you so smiles. Me....“hay” I was just happy get back to my job in the “field” of garbage collection!

Welcome New Members
by Paul Lombardi

Please join us in welcoming those who have recently joined Audubon and/or our chapter:

Jack Alston
Doris & Richard Bosworth
Karen Clemens
Janette Coolidge
Craig Cowdery
Kathryn Crosbie
Donna Finch
Cary Fisher
Judy Gardner
Beth Hirschi
Richard JeU
Arthur Johnson
Ben Jones
Midje Kerr
Rebecca Lammert
Dave Leahy
Valley Nursery
Gloria O’Berg
Clinton & Julie Reid
Brent Seppich
Linda Slade
Gayna Svee
Dale Swenson
Bruce Wallace
B. Watson
Melissa Weber
Rori Winterbottom
Anne Wood

Hope to see you at our next meeting or field trip.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>North Arm Pineview Reservoir: Meet at Dylan’s (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 8:30 am or at Smith’s parking lot (12th and Harrison) to carpool at 9:30 am. Depending on conditions in the area, we may alter the location.</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Tundra Swan Day</td>
<td>Compton’s Knoll at Salt Creek WMA: Wasatch Audubon members will be assisting DWR personnel and scopes will be available.</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>Kays Creek Parkway: Meet at 8:00 am at McDonald’s (5745 S. Harrison) for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool.</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>WAS Meeting</td>
<td>Jack Rensel, will present Experiences at the Ogden Nature Center during 2011. At the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). (See front page sidebar for details.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>Riverdale Parkway: Meet at 8:30 am at McDonald’s (Riverdale Rd &amp; 900 W) for breakfast or at 9:00 am at trip start: From Riverdale Rd., drive north on 700 W for two blocks, right on 4300 S, right on 600 W to the parking lot.</td>
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<td>March 24</td>
<td>Field Trip</td>
<td>Utah Natural History Museum: Meet at 8:30 am at the Village Inn (1780 W 5600 S, Roy) for breakfast. We will carpool from there. The cost is $9.00 for Adults or $7.00 for Seniors (65+).</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>Ogden Cemetery: Meet at 8:15 am Dylan’s (12th and Monroe) for breakfast or at 9:15 am at the cemetery entrance at 20th and Jefferson.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). All members are welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>Perry Nature Park: Meet at 8:00 am at McDonald’s (1838 W 2700 N just east of Exit 349 on I-15) for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>Willard Bay: Meet at 8:00 am at McDonald’s (1838 W 2700 N, just east of Exit 349 on I-15) for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool.</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>WAS Meeting</td>
<td>Paul Higgins will provide a photographic account of his Recent Birding Experiences. At the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). (See front page sidebar for details.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>Two Rivers Trail: Meet at 8:00 am at Denny’s Restaurant for breakfast (North on 1100 W from 21st street, in the Flying J Plaza on your left) or meet there at 9:00 am for carpooling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Field Trip</td>
<td>Leks &amp; Loons by Les: Meet at DWR Office at 5:30 am (515 E 5300 S, Ogden). We’ll visit the Grouse Lek and then look for loons on East Canyon Reservoir, bird our way down East Canyon and finish with brunch at the Spring Chicken Inn.</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>Ogden Nature Center (North) at 2450 N: North Ogden. Meet at 8:00 am at McDonald’s (Washington &amp; 2600 N, North Ogden) for breakfast or at 8:30am to carpool. Take 2450 N off Mountain Rd and cross canal into a small parking lot. Depending on conditions in the area, we may alter the location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Bird Walk</td>
<td>South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at 8:00 am at McDonald’s (5745 S Harrison) for breakfast or at 8:30am to carpool.</td>
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**EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES**

- Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Sense of Wonder and Earth Day Celebration
  - April 14, 2012
  - 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
  - Fun family activities.
  - Visit [www.fws.gov/bearriver](http://www.fws.gov/bearriver) for more information.

- Ogden Nature Center Earth Day Celebration
  - April 21, 2012
  - 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.
  - Fun activities.
  - Visit [www.ogdennaturecenter.org](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org) for more information.

**Great Salt Lake Bird Festival**

- On-line registration begins March 1 at 9:00 a.m.
- Go to: [www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com](http://www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com) or call 801-451-3286.
Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of Audubon and of my local chapter, Wasatch Audubon. Send my membership card, and my annual subscriptions to Audubon magazine (6 issues) and The Mountain Chickadee (6 issues) to the address below. My check for $20 (Introductory rate only) is enclosed.

NAME_______________________________________
ADDRESS___________________________________
CITY________________ STATE_______ ZIP_____

Send this and your check for $20, payable to Audubon to:

National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2250

Local Chapter: Wasatch Audubon Society C9ZW540Z

Wasatch Audubon Society

Mountain Chickadee Subscription

You can receive The Mountain Chickadee (6 issues) for just $6, without joining National Audubon. If you would like to support Wasatch Audubon’s education and conservation efforts, please indicate the amount of your contribution and include it in your check. Thank you.

√ 1-year Mountain Chickadee subscription: $6.00
__ My contribution to Wasatch Audubon: ______
Total enclosed: ______

NAME_______________________________________
ADDRESS___________________________________
CITY___________ STATE_______ ZIP_____

Send your check, payable to Wasatch Audubon to:

Wasatch Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3211
Ogden, Utah 84409