

The Mountain Chickadee



Newsletter of the Wasatch Audubon Society

http://www.wasatchaudubon.org

Volume 32, Number 1

Jan/Feb 2013

WAS Meetings and Happenings

January 15, 2013 7:00 pm

"Flammulated Owls Along the Wasatch Front" is the topic for this meeting. Join us and Dr. Markus Mika, Science Director for Hawk Watch International, to learn about the status of this interesting and littleknown migratory owl species. Perhaps some of our field experiences with owls will be of interest for Dr. Mika's research efforts. Come and bring a friend!

> February 19, 2013 7:00 p.m.

"Utah Rocks! Fossils and Minerals too!" Kyle Tumpane, geologist at TerraTek and birder-intraining, will share photos, stories and examples of many fossils, rocks and minerals from Utah and a couple from Wyoming too. Find out where and how to add some of these ancient paperweights to your collection. Add a new fossil to your 'life-list' today!

Both are at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden, UT.

New Monthly "Birdy Thursday" Walks by Susan Snyder

Perhaps one of the most amazing things about champion birder Greg Miller is that he was holding down a full-time job in 1998 when he spotted more than 700 species during his "big year."

However, if the day job is cutting into your birding time, join Wasatch Audubon for "Birdy Thursday", a new evening bird walk. The outings will occur the second Thursday of each month, starting Jan. 10. This first walk will be at Ogden Nature Center, 966 W. 12th Street, Ogden. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot at 5:15 p.m.

Starting in March, we will convene at a central meeting place and go wherever the birds are. Watch the newsletter and the new WAS Facebook page for details. Gatherings at a local watering hole or coffee shop will occur afterward for anyone interested in socializing with new and old Wasatch Audubon friends.

Walk leaders are Jason St. Sauver, ranger at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, and Susan Snyder, Teacher-naturalist at Ogden Nature Center.

Jason is originally from South Dakota, where he practically grew up outdoors. Although he's been birding since he was a kid, he has considered himself a "serious bird nerd" only the past seven years. But don't be fooled. The guy has a Greg Miller ear and identifies most birds by their calls before he sees them. His life list passed 500 this year (527 at the moment), and he is precariously close to hitting 400 on his 2012 Big Year on a Budget. In his six years with the Fish & Wildlife Service, he has done biological surveys of birds and bird banding, designed and taught environmental education programs and led birding tours. Jason says if he was a bird, he'd be a tufted titmouse. You'll have to ask him why.

Susan grew up in central Indiana and lived on Florida's west coast before moving to Utah in 1995. She also spent her childhood outdoors, poking about in ponds and fields, camping with her family and, of course, watching birds. Susan started keeping track of birds about five years ago and sports a life list of 310. She is embarking on a Utah Big Year in 2013. A former journalist, Susan has worked at Ogden Nature Center for six years, where she designs and teaches environmental education programs, including those that help kids learn how to bird and how to keep illustrated nature journals. In 2011, Susan received the Vern A. Fridley Utah Environmental Educator of the Year award. Susan says if she was a bird, it would have to be a raven.

For more information about Birdy Thursdays, contact Susan, naturescall@gmail.com or 801-388-4201, or Jason, saintjaybob@gmail.com.



Wasatch Audubon Society Website: wasatchaudubon.org

<u>Officers</u>					
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Programs	Jack Rensel	801-399-0240			
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Website	Patricia Allaire	801-597-1091			

About Us:

The *Wasatch Audubon Society* is an association of people who share an interest in birds, all natural things, and Utah's varied habitats. Our goals include: educating ourselves and others about wildlife and the natural environment; enjoying the out-of-doors in fellowship with others who share similar values; fostering an appreciation of wildlife and understanding of ecological principles; promoting opportunities for the public to see and appreciate birds and bird habitats, and influencing public policy toward a conservation ethic. You might also want to visit our website at: http://www.wasatchaudubon.org

PRESIDENT'S PIPELINE

by Arnold Smith

This winter has proven to be a great time to see a lot of our northern birds, such as Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks. Even though it's great to see these birds, I often ponder about extinct birds, such as the Carolina Parakeet and Passenger Pigeon. I wonder what it would have been like to see a large flock of Passenger Pigeons darken the sky or the green feathers of a Carolina Parakeet; but they are gone. As time rolls on, things change, some for good and some for bad.

Wasatch Audubon Society has seen a lot of changes over past years, and many of the people who contributed in its infancy are gone. We owe all those who have kept Wasatch going over the years a hearty thanks! I worry if in this new age of the electronic jungle there will be enough interest in our environment. Will people get involved with groups such as Wasatch Audubon, or will these organizations become extinct just like the Passenger Pigeon?

Thanks to Katie McVey for putting Wasatch Audubon on Facebook. Thanks, also, to Susan Snyder for starting the new Thursday evening field trips. I'd really like to give Melissa Hofer special thanks for her willingness to take on the job of newsletter editor.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S SONG

by Jay Hudson

Go to "Youtube" on your computer and type in "Listen to the Mockingbird". You probably remember the song, or at least the refrain, from your childhood. When Septimus Winner sat listening to his caged mockingbird in 1855, a young neighbor boy joined the bird in a whistling contest. Septimus recognized the natural rhythm and created his hit song! When General Lee surrendered to end the Civil War, the song accompanied dancing on the Whitehouse lawn. President Lincoln said of the song, "It is a real song, as sincere and sweet as the laughter of little girl".

In David Rothenberg's book "Why Birds Sing", he tells of how the song sold "twenty million copies of sheet music in a country of only thirty million people". This was at a time when families gathered around the piano instead of the large screen TV. Rothenberg's book is about the language of bird songs. The description of Winner's song reads: "There is something of the rhythm, the reiteration, then a coda of contrast and respite". Now, every time I sing the song's refrain, I will try to remember this musically technical description of a simple Civil War song.

CONSERVATION CORNER

by Lynn Carroll

A LOOK AHEAD

"2013 is going to be a busy year," was the comment by Lynn de Freitas of Friends of Great Salt Lake at the conclusion of a meeting of the Coalition to Keep the Lake Great. Wasatch Audubon Society is a member of this coalition, formed in response to Great Salt Lake (GSL) Minerals' expansion plans. We had heard about the company's latest proposal for additional evaporation ponds in the lake, since the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) told them that expansion in Bear River Bay would require considerable mitigation. The Corps will consider permits for each of three phases separately, but the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared with the entire plan in mind. So the coalition will need to study the area that wasn't included in previous proposals, south of the UPRR causeway and just west of Ogden Bay, in order to be ready with input when the DEIS process is reopened next spring.

The group discussed a number of other concerns, including how well the bridge that Union Pacific may build will function to allow water exchange through their causeway, obtaining funding from the legislature for studies of *Phragmites* control techniques and of GSL water resources management, and expected release of new administrative rules by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that will change the process for appealing decisions made by directors within the department. Also coming up will be opportunities for public comment about discharge (UPDES) permits for Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and for Kennecott Utah Copper.

The 2013 legislative session will begin on January 28. Steve Erickson, our policy advocate, has already been busy attending Interim Committee meetings and gathering opinions. We know that there will be another bill aimed at funding a Lake Powell pipeline to Washington County, which we

oppose. Some committees and at least one advisory board are targeted for elimination—not bad as long as opportunities remain for legislators and administrators to hear diverse viewpoints, including those of birdwatchers and environmentalists. Steve will be advocating for adequate funding of DEQ and Department of Natural Resources programs, as well as analyzing new bills for their impacts on wildlife habitat and water resources.

Stay informed. Steve will be sending out legislative updates about once a week during the legislative session and may suggest or request that members contact their senators and representatives about important issues. He won't achieve much if our members don't back him up. You can get the names of your legislators by going to http://le.utah.gov. At the bottom of the page, fill in part of your address and a map comes up with the two names. Back at the home page, pull up the rosters under Senate and House to get contact information on each. While on the site, check out the many other ways to become aware of what's up on the Hill.

To have legislative updates forwarded to you during the session, please send a message with your e-mail address to me at bradlynnc@comcast.net or on Facebook.

REMEMBER.....

Wasatch Audubon is now on Facebook! "Like" us on Facebook and have the chance to participate in bird games, ID quizzes, and caption contests. Plus, the Facebook page has upcoming field trip information and the 'B3B' – the best three birds viewed on each field trip.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Antelope Island State Park

October 21, 2012 by Les Talbot

It was a warm, clear day for the trip. Thirty-five of us attended, including nineteen from Great Salt Lake Audubon. Lori Wangsard had her three sons with her. The oldest son is not quite seven years old. He had his own pair of binoculars and a copy of Bill Fenimore's "The Backyard Birds of Utah." He was a very eager participant. He would look for each bird in the field guide as we saw them. His highlight of the trip was seeing three Great Horned Owls. At the ranch, park volunteers had a photo of a Great Horned Owl which they gave to him. That really made his day. Hopefully, he is hooked on birding and will want his parents to bring him on future trips.

The following were the highlight birds for the trip: a Peregrine Falcon, Loggerhead Shrike, two Burrowing Owls, one at the nest box below the Visitor Center and the one across the road from the box, two Great Horned Owls at the hay barn and another at the ranch, and thousands of Eared Grebes near the marina and on the south side of the causeway. Additionally, we saw two American Golden Plovers on the south side of the Causeway and Least, Baird's and Western Sandpipers. Altogether, we saw 34 species of birds.

Non-bird species were Bison, Pronghorn, and several Coyotes. Some of us were able to see a Gopher Snake.

As usual, the causeway and the island came through as the best place to bird in our area.

Bear River National Wildlife Refuge

November 24, 2012 by John Bellmon

The weather was great with warm temperatures, calm winds and clear skies. Eight of us made the trip; Kris Purdy, Lynn Carroll, Marily Gren, Sharen Perry, Nancy Arnett, Betty and Keith Evans and me. We saw a total of 63 species on this great day. The highlights were a Great Horned Owl, Horned Grebe, Marbled Godwits,

Prairie Falcon, American Tree Sparrows, Greater Yellowlegs, Herring Gulls, and Short-eared Owls. The numbers of Tundra Swans were down and the shorebirds were a surprise because of the late date in their migration window.

The charismatic mega-fauna of the bird world, Bald Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Rough-legged Hawks, Redtailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and a lone Cooper's Hawk were a big plus for everyone to see. It was a very good day for all that came out for a wonderful day of fall birding.

We greatly appreciated Katie McVey, a board member who works at the Refuge Visitors Center. She greeted us at the beginning of our trip and again at the end of our day so that we could report our "B3Bs." That is the "Best Three Birds" of the day, which Katie posts on the chapter's new Facebook page. As always, it was a great day and season for birding.

BABY BARN OWL UPDATE

by Keith and Betty Evans

We have learned that the rehabilitation of the six baby Barn Owls was successful and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah released them during the month of September. The six were released at different places within Antelope Island State Park. Below is a photograph provided by the rehab center which shows one of the owls just before it was removed from the mews and released. We hope for the best as the young owls now must fend for themselves. Thanks again to the folks at the center!



WINTER RAPTORS

by Keith Evans

Winter is a great season for enjoying the visiting raptors from the far north. The term "raptor" is a general term for the group of predatory eagles, hawks, and owls. Although we see raptors all year, winter is the season that some of our northern neighbors visit the area. In my rambling I will start with a favorite charismatic mega-fauna - the Bald Eagle. For most of my Utah birding experiences, Bald Eagles were only observed in the winter as there were very few nesting pairs in Utah (maybe only one or two). However, as numbers continue to increase, we have more nesting pairs. Currently, Bald Eagle sightings are possible during any season along the Antelope Island causeway and in other Utah birding areas. However, we still expect to see many more Bald Eagles during the winter when birds from Glacier, Yellowstone, and other northern nesting areas move south. During a recent trip to Antelope Island, Betty and I observed seven Bald Eagles and our winter population was just beginning to arrive. Our next interesting "tidbit" will be to look at Bald Eagle numbers on the Christmas Bird Counts in our area and throughout the state. I wonder if populations will be up, down, or stable.

The second winter raptor of note is the Rough-legged Hawk. These Arctic nesting birds move south to northern Utah for the winter months. Because of hawk variations (color morphs, etc.) some birders have difficulty with hawk identification, so here are a couple of points to remember. First, the Red-tailed Hawk makes a good reference point for the buteo group as they are commonly seen all year. Compared with red-tails, rough-legs have a whiter head and smaller bill; and when flying overhead they lack the dark mark on the leading edge of the under wing (patagial area). Rough-legs also have a dark band on the end of the tail.

During the winter in the Salt Lake valley, we can reasonably look for all three accipiters (Northern Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Sharp-shinned Hawk); four falcons (Peregrine, Prairie, Merlin, and Kestrel); two buteos (Red-tailed and Roughlegged); five owls (Barn, Great Horned, Western Screech, Short-eared, and Long-eared); two eagles (Bald and Golden); and the Northern Harrier. We are sometimes surprised with a Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, or Snowy Owl. Take time to review your field guide; then take a winter field trip and enjoy the raptors!

We welcome articles written by any member of Wasatch Audubon. Some of our most entertaining and original stories come from your trips, sightings, and backyards. Please send submissions to *The Chickadee* editor, Melissa Hofer, at <a href="mailto:m

Welcome New Members

by Paul Lombardi

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

Jeff Borrowman Joseph Hunsaker Clifton Jenkins Lorina R. Brooks William Draughn Brian Koldvke Peter Favero June Krambule Nancy M. Flaherty Kendra Meguiar Sue Glover Rufus Miller Keith Hadley Sally Ogilvie Teresa Harris Carol Parish Derik Hougaard Ann M. Rasmussen Family

Hope to see you at our next meeting or field trip!



CALENDAR Jan/Feb 2013

January

1 Tuesday 8:00 am Christmas Bird Count Antelope Island: Meet at the parking lot outside Antelope Island State Park entrance Kiosk

2 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am

Willard Bay State Park: Meet at 8:30 at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West – just east of I-15 exit 349) for breakfast or at 8:45 to carpool. THIS IS A FEE AREA.

9 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am Bird Walk Ogden River Parkway: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast or at 9:30 at the MTC Park on the Ogden River off Monroe south of 17th Street.

10 Thursday 5:15 pm Evening Bird Walk Ogden Nature Center: Meet at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 W. 12th Street, in Ogden. Trails are flat but not paved. Could be muddy, snowy or slick. Walk will last about an hour with opportunity to socialize afterward. No dogs or children under 12.

15 Tuesday 7:00 pm WAS Meeting Ogden Nature Center: 966 West 12th Street, Ogden. Flammulated Owls Along the Wasatch Front with Dr. Markus Mika, Science Director for Hawk Watch International. Details on front page.

16 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am Bird Walk Dale Young Nature Park (in Perry): Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West just east of I-15, exit #349) for breakfast or at 9:00 to carpool. From there, we will take I-15 north and exit at the Brigham City 1100th south exit (#362). Go east to Main Street, turn right (going south) onto US Highway 89. Go past Maddox Ranch House and turn right (west) at 2250 South. Go 3-4 blocks west and you are there.

19 Saturday 9:00 am Field Trip Ogden Hotspots: We will bird the cemetery, the new trail on the north side of the cemetery, the trail behind the Stadium to Washington Blvd., and then check out the Nature Center. Meet at Smith's (12th & Jefferson) at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and a drink.

23 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am Bird Walk Beus Pond: Meet at McDonald's (5745 S Harrison) for breakfast or at 9:00 to carpool. From there, we will head north on Harrison to 4200 South and turn east.

head north on Harrison to 4200 South and turn east. Beus Pond is 4240 Country Hills Drive. If time permits, we may also visit Glasmann Pond near the parking lot

for McKay Dee Hospital.

30 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am

Ogden River Parkway: Meet at Village Inn (322 12th St) for breakfast then we will drive to the trail parking lot on Washington across the street from the Bingham Cyclery. We'll walk west along the river.

February

5 Tuesday7:00 pm Board Meeting
Ogden Nature Center: All members welcome to attend.
966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

6 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am

West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail: Meet at Denny's
Restaurant (North on 1100 W from 21st Street in the
Flying J Plaza) for breakfast or at 9:30 on frontage road
in front of Stevens-Henager College to start walk.

13 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am Bird Walk Riverdale Trail (South): Meet at McDonald's (Riverdale Rd and 900 W) for breakfast or 9:00 at the trailhead parking lot (from Riverdale Rd, south on 700 W for one block, then left on 4600 S to lot on right at end of road).

14 Thursday 5:15 pm Evening Bird Walk

Dale Young Nature Park (in Perry): Bring your sweetie
and meet on the east side of the Wal-Mart parking lot in
Brigham City. We will caravan to Dale Young Nature
Park in Perry. From Interstate 15 northbound, head east
off Exit 362 (the 1100 South exit). Wal-Mart is just
ahead on the south side of the road. Look for Susan's
green Honda Element or Jason's red Jeep Compass. The
walk should take about an hour. The trail is flat, but not
paved in all sections. No dogs or children under 12.

19 Tuesday 7:00 pm WAS Meeting
Ogden Nature Center: 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.
Utah Rocks! Fossils and Minerals, too! with Kyle
Tumpane, geologist at Terra Tek. Details on front page.

20 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am Fort Buenaventura: Meet at 8:30 at McDonald's (Riverdale Rd and 900 W) for breakfast or at 9:15 at the parking lot entrance to the Fort at 2450 A Avenue. From I-15, head east on 24th street to A Avenue and then turn south at the sign for the Fort.

23 Saturday 8:00 am Eagle Hotspots: For an exciting outdoor adventure, join us for the annual Bald Eagle Count. This is a great opportunity to see Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Turkeys. Meet at the DWR Office (515 E. 5300 S.in Ogden) at 9:00. We will stop at Larry's Spring Chicken Inn for breakfast. We make a rest stop at East Canyon State Park, a FEE AREA. The trip usually lasts until between 4 & 5 pm. Bring a lunch and a drink. We also will be making a rest stop at Grump's Store in Henefer if they are still open.

27 Wednesday Friday 8:30/9:00 am Mantua Reservoir Area: Meet at 8:30 at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West just east of I-15, exit #349) for breakfast or at 9:00 to carpool. Depending on the weather, we may change the location.

March

6 Wednesday 8:30/9:00/9:30 am Bird Walk Antelope Island Causeway and Fielding Garr Ranch: Meet at McDonald's (Riverdale Rd and 900 W) for breakfast or at 9am to carpool. Alternatively, meet the group at the parking lot near the entrance at 9:30. We'll bird the Causeway and then head for the Ranch. THIS IS A FEE AREA.

DID YOU KNOW? Factoid by Jay Hudson

007 Agent James Bond's author Ian Fleming was an avid birder. He had an estate in Jamaica which he named GOLDEN EYE after the duck which he later used as the title to one of his books. His 007 character was taken from James Bond, the author of the Jamaican birder's guide he kept on his shelf in the library.

WASATCH AUDUBON OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Wasatch Audubon sponsors many outdoor activities. Our main goal, of course, is bird watching. We take our time and most walks are not strenuous. Water and binoculars are recommended equipment. Please do not bring dogs. They frighten the birds.

We meet for breakfast (optional) prior to our Weekly Wednesday Morning Walks. All ages are welcome. Weekly Wednesday Walks last about 2 hours. Contact Paul Lombardi for more information about Wednesday Walks [801]-295-7738.

We meet for coffee or drinks (optional) following our Birdy Thursday Evening Walks. Birdy Thursday Walks are for ages 12 and up and last 1-2 hours. Contact Susan Snyder naturescall@gmail.com or [801]-388-4201, or Jason, saintjaybob@gmail.com for more information about Birdy Thursdays.

Our Saturday Field Trips are more rigorous and we are often out until 3:00-5:00 pm. In addition to plenty of water and binoculars, bring a sack lunch and dress for changing weather. Contact Les Talbot for more information about Field Trips [801]-589-2591.

Wasatch Audubon encourages conservation in the form of carpooling. When birding in remote areas, it is often necessary to carpool or caravan to keep the group together.



P.O. Box 3211

Ogden, Utah 84409

Audubon 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.

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CITY	STATE	ZIP
Send this and your o	check for \$20, payabl	le to Audubon to:
P.O. Box	Audubon Society 422250 st, Florida 32142-2	250

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.

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