



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 37, Number 4

July/Aug 2018

WAS Meeting and Happenings

Tuesday, July 17, 2017

There will be no WAS meeting.

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2017

It's time for our annual potluck!

Bring a dish to share, and your dishes and utensils. Drinks will be provided. The grill will be hot, so bring something to grill (if you choose). Folks will be responsible for grilling their own items.

The party starts at 7:00 PM

Don't forget insect repellent.

After dinner there will be a time for socializing and sharing experiences.

Meet at the Ogden Nature Center,

966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

**PLEASE JOIN US
AND
BRING A FRIEND!**

CERULEAN WARBLER

by Jay Hudson

Chief Reelfoot was named by his Chickasaw tribe because of his "reeling" gait. He fell in love with a woman from another tribe and married her against all tribal customs. This no-no caught the attention of the Great Spirit and he stomped his foot into the ground creating Reelfoot Lake and in the process drowned the chief and his woman. I was at the Reelfoot (lake) National Wildlife Refuge in Tennessee helping the Wildlife Service create a "Friends" volunteer organization and had a day to wander the area. I was told of a spot deep in the old deciduous forest close to the refuge where I might see the threatened Cerulean Warbler.



Reelfoot Refuge is 6000 acres of forest, cypress swamps, bottomland hardwood and leased bottomland farms. During my stay, I found out that having a barbecue on the lake is a wonderful way to spend a spring evening. In the winter some 400,000 Mallards gather, along with other birds using the lake as part of the migration routes. The Mallard is so common everywhere, even in the winter, I can't think of anything more pedestrian than 400,000 Mallards all in one place. Reelfoot is home, or a stopping-over spot, for 239 different species of birds and the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) is one of them.

I was wandering the forest alone and thought how easy it would be to get disoriented without a mountain to reassure me. I was getting farther away from the road when I saw a flash of blue dashing into the upper story of a tree about 30 yards away. I used to paint the underside of my WWII fighter models "sky blue", which is close to the color of the Cerulean Warbler. Cerulean, as a color, comes from the Latin "Caeruleus" for blue and can include dark, light or sky blue. I closed with the tree where I had seen the Cerulean and saw it move to another tree. I was fortunate because it waffled between the trees immediately to my front until I was sure it was not a wayward Blue Grosbeak or Black Throated Blue Warbler. It is a hard bird to add to a life list and being deep in the forest is a good way to do it.



Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: wasatchaudubon.org

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Past President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633

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2017/2018	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
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2018/2019	Billy Fenimore	801-301-3756
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Programs	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
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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 Dan Johnston

So here it is in the heat of summer, when not too long ago, the first of May, I was in the Northeast visiting my new granddaughter. Oh, I did a "little" birding on the side. When I arrived, I was told, as is often my case, that I was a week too early. I solved that problem by staying two weeks. By the second week there, were more warblers and such, but hard to find with the new leaves coming on the trees.

I stayed in Franklin, Massachusetts, with my family, Jim and Kandice. We birded all around Franklin and spent some time in and near Providence, Rhode Island, checking out the parks and cemeteries. It's wonderful to have so much great habitat available near these communities.

I spent three and a half days birding around Bar Harbor, Maine, with Rich MacDonald and my

son, Jim. We saw a great variety of

birds, from ocean birds like the Black Guillemot and Great Cormorant to the forest birds like the Barred Owl and the Blue and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. We were able to see several Pileated Woodpeckers. They amaze me as to how much destruction they can do to a dead snag in their search for insects. It looks like a bad artist with a chainsaw tried to carve a black bear. It was in Maine where

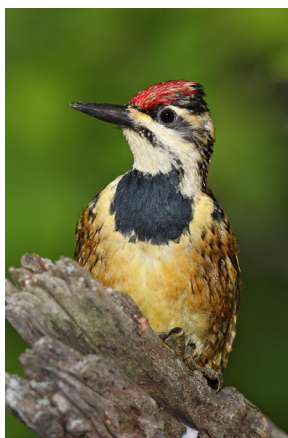


photo by Russ Chantler

we spotted our woodpecker for the month of May, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is a medium-sized woodpecker that breeds across Canada, eastern Alaska and the northeastern United States. These birds winter in the eastern United States, West Indies and Central America. This species is our most wide spread and highly migratory woodpecker. There is essentially no overlap between summer and winter ranges.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Pipeline*(Continued from page 2)*

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers perch upright on trees, leaning on their tails like other woodpeckers. They feed at sap wells—neat rows of shallow holes they drill in tree bark. They lap up the sugary sap along with any insects that may get caught there. Sapsuckers drum on trees and metal objects in a distinctive stuttering pattern.

Males tend to arrive on breeding grounds a week or so before females. Courtship displays include pointing bill up to show off colored throat patch and ritualized tapping at the nest site. The nest site is a cavity in a tree, usually a deciduous tree such as aspen, poplar, a birch, and 6-60' above ground. It often uses the same tree in consecutive years, but rarely the same nest hole. This sapsucker is also territorial, with territories having a radius ranging from about 150- to 450- feet away from the nest.

They have 5-6 white eggs, sometimes 3-7. Incubation is by both sexes (with the male incubating at night and part of the day) for 12-13 days. Both parents feed the young, bringing them insects, sap, and fruit. The young leave nest 25-29 days after hatching. Parents teach young the sapsucking habit and feed them for about 10 days after they leave nest. They will have one brood per year.

By the way, on my trip to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine, I saw 134 trip species, 81 year species, 6 life species and 1 new beautiful Granddaughter. Have a great summer. Hope to see you somewhere with binoculars to your eyes and a field guide in your hand.

Good Birding, Dan

**Utah Audubon Council
Spring Meeting**

Ouray NWR, Ouray, Utah - May 6, 2018

by John Bellmon

Our spring meeting of the Utah Audubon Council was held at the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge headquarters this spring. There were representatives from all of our Audubon chapters except for Red Cliffs Audubon. Chapter reports from the three northern Utah chapters listed accomplishments, issues and events that they were working on. Our policy advocate was out of state at the time, but his report of the complete legislative session had been given to the chapter already.

Skye Sieber, from the National Audubon Society office in Salt Lake City, attended and gave a report of the issues that they were working on throughout the west in all of the saline lakes in the different states. The main issue that was discussed in Utah was the water issues in the Bear Lake and Bear River proposed development. Also, the Inland Port issues that surround it in the northwest corner of Salt Lake County that is next to the Audubon Gilmore Sanctuary on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake.

The really bad news of the meeting was the news that Red Cliffs Audubon was going to go inactive because there was no one to take over the leadership positions in the chapter. But the really great news is that a couple of weeks after the council meeting a very good Audubon member who just moved to St. George decided to take on the top leadership position in the chapter and it will continue to be active. This may mean that the St. George Winter Bird Festival will continue. We will all need to help them as much as possible. A big thank you to Lynn Carroll for attending on behalf of Wasatch Audubon and giving the chapter's report. We also met with some individuals from the Vernal area who are interested in maybe starting a new Audubon Chapter in that area. We will also need to help them as much as possible. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and help in making the council such a success.

Conservation Corner:

Ranchers Celebrate Birds in Grouse Creek

by Lynn Carroll

An e-mail that was forwarded to many of us told about a “celebration of International Bird Day” at a ranch in the Grouse Creek valley, where participants would see habitat-improvement projects for Greater Sage-Grouse and do some birding. I was eager to go, having heard about the area from Keith, Jack, and Arnold, and because it seemed important to cheer on conservation-minded ranchers. May is such a busy time that I almost didn’t go, but I’m glad I did. It’s a long drive out to the northwest corner of Box Elder County, so I was happy to be able to car pool with Jack Greene of Bridgerland Audubon. It turned out he was involved in arranging this event.

The Box C Ranch is run as a dude ranch by Jay and Diane Tanner. We were invited to camp or stay in bedrooms in two houses on the property. With a forecast of rain, I chose to pay for a bed. Friday afternoon was beautiful and sunny. With time before our dinner at 6, I listened to snipe “winnowing” in a nearby pasture and wandered until I saw a group with binoculars trained high in a cottonwood tree. There was a Great Horned Owl on a nest; and a downy, young owl could be seen with her.

The rain held off until early morning. We had a wonderful breakfast of scrambled eggs and pancakes; then settled down to hear about the ranch. The Tanner family have been ranching here for about 140 years. I read in a 2015 SL Tribune article, that Jay and two brothers were running up to 1000 cattle on 192,000 acres of private, state, and federal land. They value native wildlife, including sage grouse. Over the years they have made improvements to their land and their management practices. For example, they let the cattle graze an area heavily, then move them to a different pasture, a technique that allows the vegetation to grow back vigorously. They pipe spring water to multiple troughs in summer to spread out the cattle’s impact. They joined the Sage Brush Initiative, a cost-sharing program for conserving Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on private land, when it began in 2010. Based on high numbers of grouse and no oil or gas, that corner of Utah rates a high priority for sage-grouse conservation money. The Tanners have been able to get money to remove thick stands of junipers from over 9000 acres of uplands and seed with grasses to suppress cheat grass invasion. Jay has been encouraging neighboring ranches to follow his example and has been successful in at least one case.

Jay explained that his land has good brood-rearing habitat along Grouse Creek, where willows provide cover and wet meadows provide nutritious plants for chicks. He can keep cattle away until the grouse are old enough to use sagebrush, but water availability is a problem. The creek goes dry each summer, and lately this has been happening earlier. The willows aren’t doing well. So he’s going to try introducing beaver with advice from beaver experts at USU and help from students. He hopes the beaver dams will hold more water in the stream, raising the water table and reducing the effects of warmer winters.

In a light drizzle, we piled into trucks to view an untouched stand of junipers and some areas that had been cleared of juniper. Jay described various methods that had been used, including fire, a machine that chews the trees into piles of sawdust; cutting, then laying them in rows; and in wider-open areas, chaining. In his opinion, each method has advantages and disadvantages. He showed us the preparations for beaver introduction, and we watched a Wilson’s Warbler.

After a break, we formed a car caravan to follow our leader to a couple of ponds, up to the divide between the Great Salt Lake Watershed and the Snake River Watershed, and along a scenic canyon. In spite of harder rain, we saw a variety of other birds. My favorites were a Virginia’s Warbler, Mountain Chickadees and Golden Eagles. We left satisfied that the Tanners and others are doing their best to maintain the productivity of the land for Greater Sage-Grouse, as well as cattle.



CALENDER

JULY

4 Wednesday Holiday No Bird Walk today

11 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

Ogden River Parkway: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 7:00am or at 8:00am at the Ogden Botanical Gardens off Monroe.

17 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

There will be no WAS meeting.

18 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

Green Pond: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 7:00am or at 8:00am at Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison) to carpool.

21 Saturday 7:30am Field Trip

Monte Cristo: We will be heading to higher elevations to beat the heat. We will search for high elevation species of birds along SR39 and other adjacent roads. This will be a fairly easy trip with little to no hiking. This trip may run into early afternoon so, bring a light lunch and plenty of fluids. Meet at Smith's on 12th and Harrison at 7:30am to carpool. Contact Mike Hearrell at utmarshrat@yahoo.com if you plan on attending or with any questions.

25 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail, west of I-15: Meet at Denny's Restaurant (North on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza) at 7:00am for breakfast or on frontage road in front of Stevens-Henager College at 8:00am.

AUGUST

1 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

Ft. Buenaventura: Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave) for breakfast at 7:00am or at the parking lot at the entrance to the park at 8:00am.

AUGUST (cont.)

7 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Board Meeting

Ogden Nature Center: All members are welcome to attend. 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

8 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

South Ogden NaturePark: meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast at 7:00am or at the parking lot for the Nature Park at 8:00am.

15 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

Maple CG, Snowbasin: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 7:00am or at 8:00am at Smith's Parking lot (12th and Harrison) to carpool.

21 Tuesday 7:00 pm WAS Meeting

Annual Potluck Dinner! Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden. The grill will be fired up and soft drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share, your dishes and utensils.

22 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

Morgan's Mickelsen Mile: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast at 7:00am or 8:00am to carpool.

25 Saturday 7:00am Field Trip

Willard Bay: Join us as we search the surrounding playas and migrant traps of Willard Bay to see some of our early Fall migrants. This trip will have some light walking on established trails and will last until noon. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring mosquito spray and plenty of fluids. Meet at the North end of Smith and Edwards parking lot at 7:00am to carpool. Contact Mike Hearrell with any questions at utmarshrat@yahoo.com.

CALENDER - AUGUST (cont.)

29 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am Bird Walk

Jefferson Hunt Campground: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 7:00am or at 8:00am at Smith's parking lot to carpool.

SEPTEMBER

5 Wednesday 7:00/7:30am Bird Walk

Willard Bay SP: Meet at McDonald's (Exit 349, I-15) for breakfast at 7:00am or at 7:30am to carpool. Remember this is a fee area.

Contact Persons for WAS Outings
Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi
pslombard@gmail.com
Saturday Field Trips (the Saturday after the WAS Tuesday Meeting) Mike Hearrell 801-529-8693

Lek and Loon Field Trip-April 21, 2018

by Dan Johnston

Three brave souls met at the DWR parking lot at 5:00am. We drove to the lek of the Greater Sage-Grouse at the divide between Henefer and East Canyon. We arrived in the dark and it was exciting to watch the Grouse emerge as it slowly became lighter. We were able to count 15 males making their bubbling songs, strutting their puffed-out chests and spiky tails, and having their mini arguments.

At daylight, we drove on to East Canyon State Park when we spotted 50+ Common Loon scattered around the Lake. We also saw the Bald Eagles sitting on their nest. On the way back to Morgan and brunch at The Spring Chicken Inn, we stopped at the "Dipper Bridge" and saw an American Dipper. Thirty-five species were identified that day.

Member Spotlight



Susan Snyder



Wasatch Audubon Board member and program director Susan Snyder is a full-time nature artist who worked as an Ogden Nature Center teacher-naturalist from 2006-2016. Before that she worked as a newspaper reporter, columnist, and editorial writer for 25 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism, and a master's degree in Ecological Teaching & Learning from Lesley University.

She is a certified Utah Environmental Educator and was the 2011 recipient of the Vern A. Fridley Utah Environmental Educator of the Year award. In 2016 was recognized as a Project Learning Tree National Outstanding Educator, and also received the organization's Barbara Pitman Award for promoting literacy through environmental education.

She has presented at several state and national conferences on such topics as nature education and illustrated nature journaling. Susan teaches regular art workshops in the Ogden area. She also has done many local and regional presentations on Corvids, and humans' historical relationships with them. She lives in Ogden with her husband, one cat, and the neighborhood crows, who eat breakfast in her yard.



painting by Susan Snyder

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Lynn Carroll

Please join us in welcoming those who recently joined or rejoined National Audubon

Giana Curtis
Kenneth Latham
Stacy Palen
Nancy Summers
Lori Thelen
Joyce Young
Heidi Christensen

Julie Draper
Jan Hamer
Gary Howell
Gordon Milligan
Robert W Rohr
Susan Snyder

Youth Impact Activity

by Dan Johnston

In May, Bruce Perry and I met and discussed bird migration with 11 students. After instructions played a the Migration game. A good time was had by all.

On June 12, Paul Lombardi and I went with 4 students, advisers Jan and Suzie to Bues Pond. We spotted 15 species. The kids were able to spend some time learning to ID 4 kinds of waterfowl. We also got very good looks at a singing Lazuli Bunting on a snag. They also were able to ID a Black-capped Chickadee.

We are hoping to go to Antelope Island on June 27th.



Coming Soon!

THE BIG SIT

Save the date - Saturday, October 13th.

Stay tuned for more information.

It is like a Big Day or a Bird-a-Thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard from the 17-foot circle.

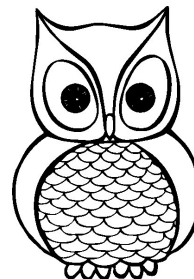


Follow Wasatch Audubon Society on Facebook!

Our Facebook page has upcoming field trip information and the "B3B" – the best three birds viewed on each field trip. You can view this information without joining Facebook, but you won't be able to participate in games and posts. Just go to the WAS website (<http://wasatchaudubon.org/>) and click on:



OWL PELLETS



Thanks to all of you who collected owl pellets for me in the last school year. I was able to present my owl program in third, fourth, and fifth grade classes in three school districts. I never have enough owl pellets, so keep them coming. The

larger barn and great horned owl pellets are preferred. If you know of a good location to collect them, please give me a call. Thanks again and happy birding. Dennis Collins (801) 393-1115



Wasatch Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3211
Ogden, Utah 84409



**Audubon
Membership Application**

Membership in Audubon automatically enrolls you as a member of Wasatch Audubon. When you join, you will receive six issues of Audubon magazine and six issues of our chapter newsletter - **The Mountain Chickadee** - each year. To join as a new member with an introductory fee of **\$20**, please go to the following website:

<https://action.audubon.org/donate/chapter-membership?chapter=W54>

(By using this special page, you give us credit toward a monetary reward.)

Local Chapter: Wasatch Audubon Society - W54



**Wasatch Audubon Society
Mountain Chickadee Subscription**

You can receive **The Mountain Chickadee** (6 issues) for just \$12, 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: **\$12.00**
___ My contribution to Wasatch Audubon: _____
Total enclosed: _____

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Send your check, payable to **Wasatch Audubon** to:

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