

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 37, Number 3

May/June 2018

WAS Meeting and Happenings

**SPEAKERS WILL START AT 7:00 P.M.,
WITH MEETING AND SOCIAL TO
FOLLOW.**

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 - 7:00 PM

Dr. Stephen L. Clark, WSU Professor of Botany and Director of the University's Herbarium, will talk about Utah

wildflowers. Dr. Clark graduated from Weber State University in 1964 with a B.S., majoring in botany; earned an M.S. Degree in botany and plant taxonomy from Utah State University in 1967; and a Ph.D. in botany and plant taxonomy from Brigham Young University in 1980. He has taught at Weber State University since 1965.

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 - 7:00 PM

Neil Paprocki, HawkWatch International, will talk about his group's Burrowing Owl project.

He joined the HawkWatch team in September 2014 as the organization's Conservation Biologist. Originally from the East coast, he earned his BS in Animal Behavior from Bucknell University in central Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, Neil immediately immersed himself in ornithological fieldwork for over three years. He has worked with Ptarmigan in Alaska, and songbirds in New Hampshire and Nevada.

**Meeting at the Ogden Nature Center,
966 West 12th Street, Ogden**

PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!

THE LIFE LIST

By Keith Evans

I've often heard birders say, "I have a story for each 'lifer' that I've seen." Here is a brief story about two of my "lififers".

On September 19, 1965, Betty and I were camping at Fall Lake in Minnesota. At the crack of dawn, I was securely tucked in a sleeping bag with Betty's sleeping bag between mine and the door of the tent. A Common Loon called from the nearby lake. I had only heard loon calls on recordings and in the movies; however, the call was immediately recognized and I had never seen a loon in real life. Betty moaned as I stumbled around trying to secure a pair of pants and get out the tent door. Sure enough there was my "lifer" Common Loon no more than 30 yards from the campsite. WOW, what an experience.

Of course, for the next several days the loon appeared and called many times throughout the day. Betty kept reminding me that I didn't need to cause so much stress trying to escape the tent in misty pre-dawn conditions to observe this "common" bird.

That fall trip to northern Minnesota was memorable on several fronts. Without going into excessive detail, I'll make the following observations. First, the best meal of walleye pike I have ever experienced was on this trip and sponsored by a Catholic men's group. Second, the rain and humidity was such that at one point Betty and I stopped at a laundry facility to put the sleeping bags into a dryer so that we didn't have to crawl into cold clammy sleeping bags each night. And, third, I also added a "lost" Parasitic Jaeger to my life list near Warroad, Minnesota.



(Credit: Luke Fara, USGS. Public domain.)



Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: wasatchaudubon.org

Officers

President	VACANT	
Vice President	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Betty Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633

Board

2017/2018	Taylor Abbott	980-622-9889
2017/2018	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
2017/2018	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
2018/2019	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2018/2019	Billy Fenimore	801-301-3756
2018/2019	Tom Wuenschell	801-476-4546

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Conservation	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Feeder Projects	Laura Johnston	801-645-8633
Field Trips	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-678-8065
Historian		
Hospitality	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Membership	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Newsletter	Barbara Perry	801-721-4709
Programs	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
Publicity	Arnold Smith	801-829-3383
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 Dan Johnston

At the end of March, I went to visit my Dad in southeastern Arizona. I spent two weeks caring for him, but was able to slip in some time looking for birds. I was hoping to catch sight of my Woodpecker of the month of April. I had no such luck. The special Arizona woodpeckers I did see were the Ladder-backed and Acorn Woodpeckers, but no Arizona Woodpecker.

Arizona Woodpeckers are nearly identical to Strickland's Woodpeckers, growing to be about 7 to 8 inches in length. Their plumage is mainly brown and white in coloration, brown on top with a dark rump with white underparts speckled with brown spots. Arizona Woodpeckers usually have white bars on their wings, and have two white stripes across their face, which join with another white bar on their neck. Male Arizona Woodpeckers also have a red patch on the nape of their head which is lacking on females. The call of the Arizona Woodpecker is a sharp, squeaky *keech*, and this species also gives a rattle call of descending, grating notes.



The Arizona Woodpecker forages by climbing oaks, pines, and other trees, tapping and probing, and flaking off bits of bark, searching for insects. They also climb acrobatically among branches, sometimes hanging upside down, and probing at flowers of agaves and other plants. The male (slightly larger and longer bill than the female) spends more time foraging on trunks; the female does more on branches and twigs.

The species northernmost range is southeastern Arizona and extreme southwestern New Mexico.

Hopefully on my next trip to Arizona, I will be able to see this amazing bird.

Spring is here and our feathered friends are on their way north. May you take an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful state.

Good Birding, Dan

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

by Arnold Smith

A popular story circulating in northern Utah concerning Eurasian Collared-Doves is that they began breeding in Utah after some were released during the ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. This is not the factual account of how they came to reside in Utah. Endemic to Asia, this species had spread into Europe and the British Isles by the 1950's. In 1974, around 50 of these birds escaped or were released from a pet store in Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas. By the mid-1980s, offspring from the Bahamas birds were breeding in Florida -- from there they ranged north and west. With the exception of a few of the northeastern states, Collared-Doves had colonized all of the continental United States by the year 2014.



Photo by Keith Evans

This prolific dove seems to be doing its best to replace the Passenger Pigeon that numbered in the billions and was lost from North America, and the world, one hundred years ago. Unlike the Passenger Pigeon, the Collared-Dove does well among the human race. Because it is not a native species, no laws protect it here; but it doesn't seem to matter to this bird. It has become so abundant in many places it is considered a nuisance. They take advantage of food sources, such as farm feed lots, granaries and residential birds feeders. Collared-Doves are especially at home when these food sources are located near conifers or dense deciduous trees.

Spruce Trees are the favorite site for Eurasian Collared-Doves to place their flimsily made, but well-hidden nests, although other densely foliated trees may be used. The nest consists of a makeshift platform of small sticks, pine needles, coarse grass and other such materials. The 2 white eggs can often be seen through the bottom of the nest. A pair raises 3 to 6 broods per year, depending on the climate, with the male incubating by day and the female at night. A male courts a female by bobbing his head up and down in front of her and also by making steep, high, straight up flights from a roost and then returning to the same spot. Once a partner is selected, the pair mates for life.

Eurasian Collared-Doves are often misidentified as Mourning Doves, but you can differentiate between the two by using the following points: 1) the Mourning Dove has a pointed tail and black spots on the wings; 2) the Collared-Dove has a squared-off tail and no spots on its wings; 3) the primary wing feathers of the Collared-Dove are very dark brown or black, while those of the Mourning Dove are more the same color as the rest of its wing; and 4) obviously, the black collar on the back of its neck is the best identification point for the Collared-Dove, although a very small percent of Eurasian Collared-Doves do not have the collar.

This is the newest bird to be added to Wasatch Audubon's origami bird flock. It will be found in color, in its unfolded form, on WAS's information tables at various events during the year. This includes a table each year on Earth Day at the Ogden Nature Center in April, and at the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival in Davis County in May (this year on May 18 and 19, 2018).

Many of us have been following the Eurasian Collared-Dove "invasion" of Utah since the first were reported on the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in 2002 (CBC-103). Note: the first were sighted in Utah a few years earlier but not reported on the CBC. So far, the peak seems to be on CBC-116 with 11,490 reported. The 2017 CBC, (CBC-118) reported 7,457 on 24 circles (there are 25 count circles in Utah). The only count not reporting Eurasian Collared-Doves was the Dead Horse Point State Park count, so they appear to be well distributed throughout the state.

Conservation Corner:

The Anti-Regulation Administration

by Lynn Carroll

The attitude of the current administration toward government regulations cannot have escaped your notice. Last year, we argued against changes Secretary Zinke was proposing to make to the Sage Grouse Plans. He recommended and the President ordered shrinking Utah’s national monuments. The moratorium on coal leases was rescinded. These moves tend to favor the extractive industries: oil, gas and mining.

Recently the EPA’s Scott Pruitt announced that fuel efficiency standards for model years 2022-2025 cars and light trucks had been found by his agency to be “inappropriate” and would be revised. These standards had been set in 2012 in a cooperative program among three agencies that had responsibility under three different laws—the EPA, Dept. of Transportation, and California Air Resources Board—to produce a single set of standards that would be good in every state. So I was interested to read the Standard Examiner’s article, “Trump’s EPA not derailing Utah air quality, despite alarming announcements.”

The article quotes Glad Sowards, policy analyst with the Department of Environmental Quality: “I think a lot of folks are confused. If all they (the EPA) change is CO2, the fuel requirement, there probably won’t be a huge effect locally.” Meanwhile, the new Tier 3 standards will more closely address the pollutants that contribute to Utah’s wintertime particulate and summertime ozone problems, Sowards said.

He’s correct about the second part. Tier 3 standards require large refineries to produce low-sulfur gasoline and car manufacturers to include better emissions controls. Sulfur decreases the efficiency of catalytic converters by binding to the surface where the reaction is supposed to be catalyzed, so the polluting emissions from both new and older vehicles will be reduced when using low-sulfur fuel. Utah officials are proud that local refineries will produce Tier 3 fuel in 2019 even though they aren’t required to.

Conservation Corner (cont)

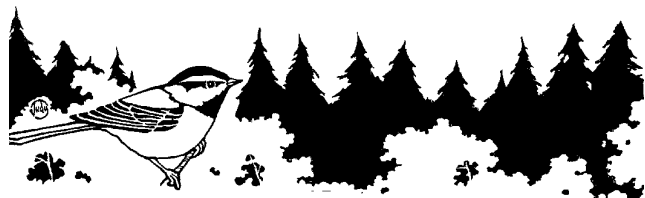
On the other hand, Mr. Sowards is wrong to dismiss the effect of higher fuel efficiency. Burning less fuel also reduces pollution. In addition, it means less carbon dioxide released. If he thinks that isn’t important to Utah, he should consult the ski industry. Mr. Sowards also mentioned that Utah will meet the requirements of the Clean Power Plan, regardless of the President’s attempts to eliminate that, because two of the state’s coal-fired power plants either closed or converted to natural gas, due to market forces. This is good news. Now let’s work on doing much better, regardless of regulations.

Field Trip Report

by Mike Hearell

Ogden Bay Wildlife Management Area (North Access) - On March 24 temperatures were a little cool, but the birding was good. Winter leftovers such as 5 Rough-legged Hawks and a Bald Eagle were joined by a few Spring arrivals, including Long-billed Dowitchers, Least Sandpipers, Long-billed Curlew, and a lone Franklin’s Gull. With the nesting Great-horned Owl, our trip total was 46 species!





CALENDER

MAY

2 Wednesday 8:00-8:30am Bird Walk

Canal Walk (North Mountain Rd) at 2450 N., North Ogden: Meet at McDonald's (Washington & 2600 N., North Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 8:30am to carpool. Take 2450 N off Mountain Rd, over canal into small parking lot. Depending on weather conditions in the area, we may alter the location.

9 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk

Weber River/South Ogden Area: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 9:00am at the trailhead near Adams Ave. exit off I-84. Take Exit 85, Adams Ave. and then proceed to the frontage road on the north side of I-84. Go east about 0.1 mile to the Angler's Access parking lot. We'll bird down river.

15 Tuesday 7pm WAS Meeting

Dr. Stephen L. Clark, of Weber State University, will talk to WAS members about Utah wildflowers. Dr. Clark is a WSU Professor of Botany and Director of the University's Herbarium. A Utah native, Dr. Clark graduated from Weber State University in 1964 with a B.S., majoring in botany; earned an M.S. Degree in botany and plant taxonomy from Utah State University in 1967; and a Ph.D. in botany and plant taxonomy from Brigham Young University in 1980. He has taught at Weber State University since 1965, where, as professor of Botany, he continues his interest in floristics, ethnobotany and the plight of indigenous people.

16 Wednesday No Bird Walk today

Enjoy the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival starting May 17 and running through May 21.

May/June 2018

MAY (cont.)

23 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Bird Walk

Little Mountain Railroad trail: Meet at McDonald's (Exit 349, I-15) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 8:30am at the trail head. Trail begins off 4000N (this is the road leading west from Smith and Edward's).

30 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk

Two Rivers Trail: Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza, Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 9:00am at the trailhead.

JUNE

5 Tuesday 7pm Board Meeting

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

6 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Bird Walk

Wadman Nature Park: *Warblers should be back so let's try this walk again.* Meet at McDonald's (Washington & 2600 N., North Ogden) at 8:00am. or at the park at 8:30am at the top of 500 W. in Pleasant View City.

13 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk

Ogden Nature Center: Meet at Village Inn (322 W 12th Street) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the Nature Center at 9:00am.

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

JUNE (cont.)

19 Tuesday 7pm WAS Meeting

Neil Paprocki, HawkWatch International, will talk to WAS members about his organization's Burrowing Owl project. He joined the HawkWatch team in September 2014 as the organization's Conservation Biologist. Originally from the East coast, he earned his BS in Animal Behavior from Bucknell University in central Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, Neil immediately immersed himself in ornithological fieldwork for over three years. He has worked with Ptarmigan in Alaska, and songbirds in New Hampshire and Nevada. Eventually, he made his way into the raptor community by working with the federally endangered California Condor for 2 and a half years in southern California, northern Arizona, and southern Utah.

20 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk

Snowbasin/Maple Grove CG: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison) to carpool at 9:00am.

23 Saturday 7:00am Field Trip

Brim Trail/Powder Mountain: Join WAS as we search higher elevations for avian and flora specialties. We will search the ski resort from the roads and then hike the Brim Trail. The trail is well maintained without much change in elevation, but is rocky in certain areas. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear as the weather can be unpredictable at 8500'. Pack a light lunch and plenty of water as this trip will run through early afternoon. Meet at the North end of Smith's parking lot (12th St. & Harrison Blvd, Ogden) at 7:00am to carpool. Contact Mike Hearrell (utmarshrat@yahoo.com) with any questions.

27 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Bird Walk

Swanson Environmental Center: Meet at McDonald's (Washington & 2600 N., North Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 8:30am to carpool.

JULY

4 Wednesday Holiday, No Bird Walk today

Audubon at Youth Impact

by Lucy Stretch, Interested Observer

On Thursday, March 22nd, Wasatch Audubon sponsored another Birding Class at the Youth Impact facility in Ogden. Dennis Collins presented a great, short program on owls: how they vary in size, location and other ways, but how they all digest their favorite prey—mice, shrews, voles and occasionally birds. Then the fun began as he passed out owl pellets, tweezers, and a sheet to identify bones found in the pellets. Aply assisted by John Bellmon and Bruce Perry, Dennis helped the kids get started on pulling apart the fur to get to those interesting bones. Then, all circulated among the 15 or so fascinated and involved kids, helping them determine what it was that they found. There were a few who gave up sooner, but most persevered through sometimes more than one pellet, or finished up one that was left behind. A couple had done the same activity in classes before, and they were quite thrilled to be considered experts! All-in-all, a most successful lesson and all the kids were able to be successful in the task! Thanks, Guys!!



Photos by Bruce Perry

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Lynn Carroll

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nora Arias | John S. Markham |
| Ms. Jeanne Ashby | John Mayer |
| E. P. Austin | Sandra McKay |
| Donna Barhorst | Marilyn Mcquone |
| Georgia Bennion | Valerie Merges |
| Mr. Daniel A Bergman | Merrill |
| Roberta Beverly | Elizabeth Morgan |
| Mr. Don Blair | Stephen Morgan |
| Ms. Jeri Briem | Janet Muir |
| Nancy Brown | Mr. William Murray |
| Ann & Winston Brundige | Ms. Sara L. Neill |
| John Castro | Carrie Noechel |
| Ms. Jo Anne Cole | Mr. Brian Nosker |
| Genevieve J. Coleman | Jeanne C. Perkins |
| Teri Crandall | Tiffany Pershing |
| Charles T. Cuthbertson | C. Pinyoun |
| Cary Fisher | Jaye & Barbara Poelman |
| Becky Gesteland | Mr. Richard Pulido |
| Lenora Gillilan | Heather Root |
| Ms. Beverly M. Goodwin | Margaret I. Rostkowski |
| Terrie L. Griffith | Rema Sadak |
| Ms. Sheila I. Harper | Brenda Schussman |
| Marcia Harris | Mr. Gerald Sedlevicius |
| Mary M. Harris | Tiffany Shapiro |
| Morey Haymond | Dennis Shaw |
| Ms. Cindy Herl | Margot Smelzer |
| Kenneth Hill | Debbie Smith |
| Jay Hudson | F. K. Smith |
| Deanna Johansen | Mrs. Carolyn Somer |
| Dan & Laura Johnston | Ardell Spiers |
| Don Kap | Mrs. Gena Strickland |
| Judith Keime | Mr. Reuben E Strong |
| Nancy Kemeny | S. W. Thompson |
| Denis & Melba Kirby | Ms. Carla K. Trentelman |
| Diana Lea | Mr. Jack Troyer |
| John Lee | Mr. Lynn Walker |
| Ms. Deann Lester | Sandy Walker |
| Glen R. Loper | Gerhild S. Wimer |
| Jerome Luger | Ann Zieve |

Volunteer at Gillmor Sanctuary this Summer

National Audubon Society will be conducting a survey of noxious weeds that occur on the South Shore Preserve of Great Salt Lake. The Preserve includes almost 3,000 acres of the Gillmor Sanctuary and Utah Mitigation Commission properties. Target weed species include: Dalmatian toadflax, Russian knapweed, field bindweed, and Scotch thistle. These plants are highly invasive species that out-compete desirable upland plants of the saline plains surrounding the Preserve's wetlands. Each of these species has the potential of taking over large areas of uplands and Audubon is looking for help in locating new infestations while they are small.

A workshop will be conducted sometime in June to familiarize volunteers with plant identification and mapping methodology. The actual survey date(s) will be chosen to maximize ease of identifying weeds while they are in bloom. Small groups will walk parallel lines across fairly level but uneven ground, identifying and marking populations of weeds on a map. The focus of the survey will be on the four target species, however other noxious weeds will be noted.

Please contact Ella Sorensen at esorensen@audubon.org if you're interested in helping with this effort.

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

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:





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: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

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