



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

Volume 39, Number 1 January/February 2020

WAS Meetings and Happenings

**SPEAKERS WILL START AT
7:00PM, WITH MEETING AND SOCIAL
TO FOLLOW**

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 - 7:00PM

Janice Gardner and Kim Savides will give a presentation about the Utah Black Rosy-Finch Study. The discussion will include a training, so that WAS members who wish to help conduct stationary counts of the finches at feeders can do so. Be sure to read Kris Purdy's article on Black Rosy-Finch history on page 4 of this newsletter!

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 - 7:00PM

Movie night! We'll break out the popcorn and use the projector in the L.S. Peery Education building to show "Bluebird Man," a short film detailing the work of Alfred Larson, now 96, who has been monitoring over 300 bluebird boxes in Idaho for four decades.

**Meet at the Ogden Nature Center located
at 966 W 12th St., Ogden
PLEASE JOIN US
AND BRING A FRIEND!**

NEWS FLASH!!

Christmas Bird Counts

As of the writing of this article, two area bird counts have been done. The Ogden Count was cold, rainy and snowy. So thank you to all who came out to help. Not all counts are in yet, but 83 species were counted so far.

The Bear River Count was cold and clear. There is a preliminary count of 39 species, with more to be added when all counts are in.

The full reports will be in the next newsletter.

Board News

The officers and board of directors have decided to add a Christmas Bird Count Committee to our list of committees. The duties of the chairperson will be to support and coordinate the Christmas Bird Counts that our chapter conducts and compile or help compile the reports that are forwarded to the National Audubon Society. This will be voted on by chapter members at an upcoming meeting.

The board also welcomes Jeane Taylor as a new board member, and thanks Lynn Carroll and Billy Fenimore for their continuing board membership.



Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: <http://www.wasatchaudubon.org>

Officers

President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
Vice President	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0637
Past President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633

Board

2019/2020	Taylor Abbot	980-622-9889
2019/2020	Mile Hearrell	801-529-8693
2019/2020	Daniel Brown	801-896-8002
2020/2021	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2020/2021	Billy Fenimore	801-301-3756
2020/2021	Jeane Taylor	801-394-2813

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Conservation	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Feeder Projects	Laura Johnston	801-458-9558
Field Trips	Vacant	
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-678-8065
Historian	Ruth Davis	801-309-0425
Hospitality	Jeane Taylor	801-394-2813
Membership	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Newsletter	Laura Johnston	801-458-9558
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>.



SUPPORT

Wasatch Audubon Society

When you shop at Amazon, sign onto <https://smile.amazon.com> before you do your shopping and select Wasatch Audubon Society as the organization you wish

to support. Then, proceed with your shopping. Amazon will donate a percentage of eligible purchases to Wasatch Audubon society. Thank you for your support!

President's Pipeline

By Dan Johnston

Welcome to the new year and new decade. There is a lot going on this year at Wasatch Audubon, so keep the Chickadee handy. I plan to continue the Bird of the Month study of the Family Corvid. I have



written about 9 Corvids with 10 to go. This month the species is the Blue Jay.

The Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) is a passerine bird in the family Corvidae, native to North America. It resides through most of eastern and central United States, although there have been several recent Utah sightings. The young Blue Jays are the ones who usually migrate, although there are adults who migrate as well. The Blue Jay is predominantly blue with a white chest and underparts, and a blue crest. It has a

black U-shaped collar and a black border behind the crest. Both sexes are similar in size and plumage, and plumage does not vary throughout the year. The word “jay” derives from its noisy, bold and aggressive nature and has been applied to other birds of the same family, which are also gregarious. It is sometimes called a “jaybird.”

The Blue Jay mainly feeds on nuts and seeds such as acorns, soft fruits, arthropods, and occasionally small vertebrates. It typically gleans food from trees, shrubs and the ground, though it sometimes hawks insects from the air. Like squirrels, Blue Jays are known to hide nuts for later consumption.

The Blue Jay can be beneficial to other bird species, as it may chase predatory birds, such as hawks and owls, and will scream or sound an alarm call if it sees a predator within its territory, thus warning the other birds. It may occasionally impersonate the calls of raptors, possibly to test if a hawk is in the vicinity, though also possibly to scare off other birds that may compete for food.

It is a moderately slow flier (roughly 20–25 mph) when unprovoked. It flies with body and tail held level, with slow wing beats. Due to its slow flying speeds, this species makes easy prey for hawks and owls when flying in open areas. Virtually all the raptorial birds living with the Blue Jay may prey upon it, especially swift bird-hunting specialists such as the Accipiter hawks. When a Blue Jay is agitated or angry, the blue crest atop its

head will rise. It will lower when the bird is relaxed or calm. The Blue Jay has been chosen as mascot for various sports groups because of its aggressiveness. But on the other hand, the aggressive behavior of Blue Jays turns off many backyard birders.

Take some time and come out and join fellow birders on some of the walks or field trips.

Keep on birding, Dan

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE BIRDS!

By Betty Evans

Plan a great family-friendly activity and join your friends and neighbors at one or all of the events listed below.

BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE OWL DAY

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 11:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m
 Featuring live birds, owl pellet dissection, and games for all ages. Check out the Refuge’s website for more information on other events: http://fws.gov/refuge/Bear_River_Migratory_Bird_Refuge/

In addition to the chance of seeing our magnificent National bird (Bald Eagle) at the events below, many waterfowl species and migrants should be in the area. The eagle viewing day is part of DWR’s Bald Eagle Month. Wasatch Audubon members will have their scopes set up for these events. Hope to see you there.

SALT CREEK WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

(see directions in Calendar)

EAGLE DAY – Saturday, February 8, 2020

SWAN DAY – Saturday, March 14, 2020

Events are scheduled to run from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

FARMINGTON BAY (Robert N. Hasenyager Great Salt Lake Nature Reserve at Farmington Bay and the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at 1700 W Glover’s Lane)

EAGLE DAY - Saturday, February 8, 2020

SWAN DAY - Saturday, March 14, 2020

Events are scheduled to run from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

History of the Powder Ridge Village Feeder Effort

By Kristin Purdy

“Why can’t I see a rosy-finch in Weber County?” That was the whiny voice speaking inside my head after learning of a couple local rosy-finch sightings. At the 2005 Christmas Bird Count breakfast, Brian and Jeanette Nosker showed Jack Rensel a photograph of 40 birds in the snow-covered parking lot of Powder Ridge Village Condominiums near Powder Mountain Ski Area, and Jack identified the birds as rosy-finches. Leslie Loeffel had also reported seeing rosy-finches at Powder Mountain Ski Area in 2003.

I logged my lifer Gray-crowned and Black Rosy-Finches in the town of Alta in 2004 with Bill Fenimore, Sr. I visited Alta every winter for the next few years to check the several feeders that might be filled, and even donated seed to the most reliable site to keep the birds coming. But seeing the birds in Alta was hit-or-miss based on whether part-time residents were present. A sighting involved multiple factors: high elevation habitat accessible by driving, bird feeders and the regular presence of people to fill them.

Weber County has only one spot that fits those requirements: The Powder Mountain Ski Area environs. And what a perfect coincidence it was when I was watching a Hairy Woodpecker at a nest cavity at Powder Ridge Village Condominiums in the summer of 2009 and a maintenance man was curious about what I was watching. Greg Rowley was thrilled to see the bird because he could share it with his 6-year old daughter. The condos became a target of opportunity for a winter feeding effort.

Greg agreed to fill a winter feeder and Cathy Hillstead, the manager, concurred with the effort. So Jack and I mounted a feeder in October and Paul Higgins, who was very anxious to photograph rosy-finches, bankrolled the seed that first year. Rosy-finches and other alpine birds became regulars there by January. It was as easy as that.

The feeder became the most reliable place in the state to log rosy-finches. Utah birders made the trip from as far away as Utah County to see them. Winter-visiting birders from other states logged their rosy-finches there. Other high-elevation birds used the feeders as well and it’s always possible to see Clark’s Nutcrackers, Steller’s Jays and both chickadee species. A suet basket attracts Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and both species of nuthatches.

Wasatch Audubon now funds the seed and has consequently given many people the reward of seeing two bird species that are hard to find without a feeder effort. Many birders have also donated seed, and Billy Fenimore has donated seed and feeder supplies.

A new chapter in the effort begins this winter as Powder Ridge Village will be one of the many host sites across Utah for Wild Utah Project’s Black Rosy-Finch study. The study hopes to gain basic information on population density and migration timing on one of the least-studied species in North America. To that end, researchers from Wild Utah Project and Utah State University will band Black Rosy-Finches on-site with radio frequency identification (RFID) leg bands and outfit a feeder with RFID receiver technology to help detect banded birds’ visits.

Perhaps you’ll have a chance to visit Powder Ridge Village this winter and enjoy both Gray-crowned and Black Rosy-Finches, specialties of high-elevation Utah!

Member Spotlight Lynn Carroll



I was born in 1950, a nice round number that makes it easy to keep track of my age. Southern California (mostly Buena Park) was my home from kindergarten through college, and two years of marriage. I was a Girl Scout for most of that time and enjoyed camping vacations, learning about nature, and school. I developed an interest in conservation via the scouts and park ranger talks. Biology was my favorite class in high school and my major when I attended the University of California at Irvine. UCI is where I met Brad Carroll. We shared a passion for following the manned space missions. We were married in 1972. My first job was at a hospital pharmacy, which led me to go to the pharmacy school at the University of Colorado after we moved to Boulder, CO, for Brad to pursue a PhD. I became a pharmacist in 1980 and retired in 2016. Boulder is where I first got into bird-watching. I attended an Audubon meeting about beavers and ended up going on field trips and joining the group, who were very friendly and helpful. I think that bird-watching appealed to me because I always want to learn the names of the plants and animals I see. On my first Christmas count, I saw and heard a Canyon Wren, which is one of the several species I’ve considered favorites. As we moved two more times, first to Rochester, NY, and then to Ogden, I sought out the local Audubon societies, finding the same warm welcome. While we were in Rochester, I began another pastime, transcribing schoolwork and books into braille for blind students. That started with a poster at the library offering classes in braille. In Ogden I volunteered at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind while working part-time in the pharmacy at McKay-Dee hospital. I didn’t discover my love of gardening until we bought a house that had established fruit trees and a strawberry patch, and I started reading about how to care for them in order to enjoy the harvests. Besides the harvests, I like any tasks that involve digging in the dirt, so I don’t mind pulling weeds. Brad and I enjoy traveling in Europe as well as North America, and I always take my binoculars, although there is usually plenty besides birds to capture my attention.

CALENDAR**JANUARY**

1 Wednesday 8:00am Christmas Bird Count Antelope Island: Meet at the parking lot at Antelope Island State Park entrance kiosk. This is an all-day trip. Bring water, lunch and snacks. Walkie Talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars.

8 Wednesday 9:00/10:00am Weber State bird banding demonstration: Meet Dennis Collins at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 9:00am or at the banding location at 10:00am. (Banding location: take 36th St. off Harrison and proceed east. This street becomes Skyline Dr. and parking is on east side of street at a trailhead car park. Dennis will direct you to the location. You'll be able to watch the group from the University catch, measure and band birds caught in the mist nets. As the old saying goes, "A bird in the hand beats two birds in the bush." Enjoy!

11 Saturday 9:00am Bird Walk Ogden Nature Center: Meet in Ogden Nature Center main building lobby at 9:00.

15 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am Bird Walk Fort Buenaventura Park: Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3448 Wall Ave.) for breakfast at 8:30 or at the entrance to the park at 9:30am.

21 Tuesday 7:30pm WAS Meeting at Ogden Nature Center. There will be a presentation on the Utah Black Rosy-Finch Study.

22 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am Bird Walk Little Mountain Trail: Meet at Jeremiah's Restaurant (1307 W 12th St.) for breakfast at 8:30am or at the trailhead (west on 4000N from Smith and Edward's) at 9:30am.

25 Saturday 8:00am Field Trip Box Elder County Birding: Meet at Pilot parking lot on 12th St. off I-15 at 8:00am. We will explore Promontory Point, Howell Valley, etc. This is an all day trip so bring water and lunch.

29 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am Bird Walk Kays Creek Parkway: Meet at Village Inn (1765 East

Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast or at the Parkway parking lot at 9:30am.

FEBRUARY

1 Saturday 10:00am Gull Event: Meet at the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at Farmington Bay Wildlife Management Area (1157 S Waterfowl Way, approximately 1700 W Glovers Lane, Farmington, Utah). A talk will be given in the auditorium before a bird walk focusing on gulls.

4 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Board Meeting Ogden Nature Center: All members are welcome to attend. 966 West 12th St, Ogden.

5 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 Bird Walk Riverdale Trail (South): Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3438 Wall Ave.) for breakfast at 8:30am or 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) at 9:30am.

8 Saturday 9:00am through 2:00pm DWR Eagle Day AT TWO LOCATIONS Wasatch Audubon members will provide scopes and talk to visitors about eagles, other local birds, and conservation at both locations:

Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area - located 4 miles west of Corinne on UT-83. Turn north on 6800 West and follow signs toward the landfill.

Farmington Bay - located at 1700 W. Glover's Lane in Farmington.

8 Saturday 9:00am Bird Walk Ogden Nature Center: Meet in Ogden Nature Center main building lobby at 9:00.

12 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am Bird Walk Antelope Island: Meet at Warren's (1778 S 1000W in Syracuse) for breakfast or at the entrance to Antelope Island State Park at 9:30am. This is a fee area.

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CALENDAR



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18 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting at Ogden Nature Center in the L.S. Peery Education Building. We'll watch the movie "Bluebird Man," which details the work of Alfred Larson on bluebird boxes in Idaho.

19 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am Bird Walk South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr., South Ogden) for breakfast or at the Nature Park parking lot at 9:30am.

22 Saturday 8:00am Field Trip Annual Morgan County Bald Eagle Trip: Meet at DWR office (515 E 5300 S in South Ogden) at 7:30am. We'll carpool from there. We will have breakfast at Larry's Spring Chicken Inn in Morgan. This is an all day trip (until about 4:00pm) so bring water and a lunch.

26 Wednesday 8:30/9:45am Bird Walk Willard Bay State Park: Meet at the Rusted Spoon (2645 US 89, Perry) for breakfast or at 9:45am at the pond and canal on the north of the park. This is a fee area.

MARCH

4 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E. Skyline Dr., South Ogden) for breakfast or at the trailhead at 9:30am.

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Cindy Boss	Laurie Huntington	Jan Thurston
Victoria Davis	James Johnson	Bonnita Ungvarsky
Mike Daz	Dana Kerby	James Walker
Susan Farber	Patricia Larkin	Steven Walker
Evelyn Godfrey	Jared Lord	Marci Webster
Jane Harris	Michael Manfull	
Jennifer Harward	Jackie Rowe	



EAST CANYON STATE PARK PRESENTS:

**WINTERFEST
January 18 2020
11AM to 2PM**

Come and enjoy tubing, ice fishing, x country skiing, snowmobiling, birding

**And new this year
SOLAR VIEWING a Dark Skies
Presentation.**

Register at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Conservation Corner: The Inland Port

by Lynn Carroll

The northwest quadrant (NWQ) of Salt Lake City is the sparsely developed land on the city's west side. I-80 runs through the middle. The section north of I-80 is west of the airport; the southern part is bounded on the east by I-215.

A large complex of low-lying wetlands dominates the northern portions of the NWQ and extends to the west and north to the shoreline of the lake (1). When the city began planning efforts in the early 2000s, members and employees of Audubon worked tirelessly to see protections for this outstanding resource included in the SLC master plan for the NWQ. The plan that was adopted in 2016 includes a non-development zone of low-elevation natural areas, while most of the rest is zoned for light industrial development.

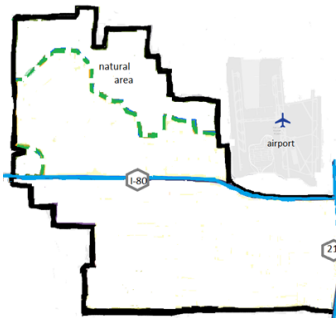
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BIRD SANCTUARY - BEAR RIVER REFUGE

By Jay Judson

State leaders had another idea: SLC would be an ideal location for an inland port. They believe this will advance priorities like attracting manufacturing, exporting oil, gas, and coal, creating jobs, and growing the economy. The legislature passed a bill in 2018 that created a port authority and defined the area the authority controls—19000 acres that include roughly 75% of the



NWQ plus parts of Magna and West Valley City. Remarkably, the bill excluded the natural area from the port. That's very important, since it will provide a bit of a buffer between the port and Audubon's Gillmor Sanctuary and other important wetlands. Here are some issues that remain:

Air pollution: a port is generally a huge consumer of diesel fuel for freight switcher engines that run all night and a multitude of trucks. How can the authority avoid adding to SLC's pollution problem?

Climate change: the port authority's power was expanded in 2019 to include creating port hubs in rural areas, which is understood to be for the purpose of expediting the export of fossil fuels. Can the port be designed for net-zero carbon emissions?

Disturbance to birds using Great Salt Lake: light pollution disorienting birds approaching the lake, tall structures such as grain silos and cranes causing collisions, noise, changes in water flows, toxic spills, invasive species, mosquito abatement. There are plenty of other issues that concern the Stop the Polluting Port coalition, of which Great Salt Lake Audubon is a founding member. Go to the website (2) for more good information, including the excellent Utah Audubon Council Statement by Steve Erickson.

The Utah Legislature will begin its 45-day session soon. Please send your email address to bradlynnc@comcast.net for timely information about environmental issues.

- (1) from Commentary: The Salt Lake Tribune 4/28/18
- (2) StopthePollutingPort.org

When we had the grand opening of the Bear River Bird Refuge, a tribal dancer from the Northern Shoshone blessed the refuge. It showed the appreciation for the refuge's work to honor nature. The dance was much more meaningful than the political speeches. Once while watching the Black-necked Cranes that had flown from Tibet to Central China for the winter, I became interested in how the Buddhist's treated birds and the environment. Tibetan Buddhists believe that all animals have been our past relatives which explains why the killing of birds is so detestable. The Dalia Lama is an admirer of birds and every year during the festival of birds in Nepal, he sends a deputy to bless the birds. Buddhists believe that as long as law and justice prevail among men and women, law and justice will prevail among the birds. These beliefs about the bird world honed over the centuries guide the Tibetans in the daily life. It is the foundation for the development of nature sanctuaries in China.

The sanctuary I visited on a cold winter morning to see the Black-necked Cranes in central China was slowly being taken over by man. The water level was receding due to man's demands. Its rich soil around the lake was being consumed by crops for man. The Chinese seldom see the wisdom in conservation when there are mouths to feed and money to be made. Germany leases land to locals for gardens. Because of the increase in demands for housing and schools, the government is seriously considering removing the garden farmers which will deny birds the gifts of a garden. These sanctuaries will be lost. It's a worldwide problem.

CONTACTS FOR WALKS AND TRIPS

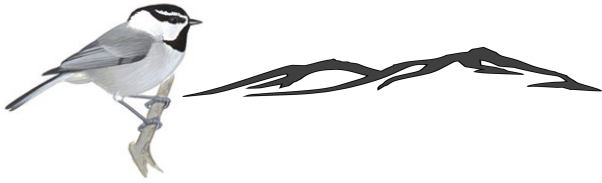
Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi
pslombard@gmail.com

2nd Saturday Walks - Dan Johnston
 801-645-8633

Field Trips on the Saturday after the WAS meeting - Dan Johnston
 801-645-8633

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Go to www.wasatchaudubon.gov and click on the FACEBOOK logo.



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 four 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:

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

(By using this special page, you give our chapter 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 _____

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OGDEN, UT 84409