

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 35, Number 5

Sept/Oct 2016

WAS Meetings and Happenings

September 20, 2016

7:00 p.m.

WAS meeting

Wayne Martinson, Utah IBA Coordinator for National Audubon Society, with introductory comments by Keith Evans, will provide a program on Aids to Birding Sites in Utah.

October 18, 2016

7:00 p.m.

WAS Meeting

Cuban Todys and Other Interesting Birds will be the topic for the October meeting. Paul Lombardi, a long-time member of Wasatch Audubon Society who leads our Wednesday bird walks, has made a number of out-of-state birding trips.

***Both meetings are at the
Ogden Nature Center, 966
West 12th Street, Ogden***

***Please join us and
bring a friend!***

Are you ready to sit?

by Susan Snyder

Get your sitters and spotters ready. Wasatch Audubon's annual fundraiser, "The Big Sit," is coming up in October!

The Big Sit is an international, annual event conducted the second weekend of October and promoted by Bird Watcher's Digest. Birders sit or stand inside a 17-foot circle and, for at least 15 minutes, keep track of all the bird species they see or hear.

WAS first used The Big Sit as an annual fundraiser in 2014, after the club stopped hosting its annual sunflower seed sale. It was so successful and fun that we did it again last year, raising \$2,250 for the outings, events, and other offerings our club provides to its members and the public.

The event runs from 4 a.m. to about 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8. This year, as last year, we will be sitting and spotting birds at the Robert N. Hasenyager Great Salt Lake Nature Center at Farmington Bay.

There are a couple of ways to participate. Obviously, we want folks to come out, have a seat and bird on Oct. 8. Certainly, you may come at any time, but we would like to make sure we have most shifts covered. If you didn't get a chance to sign up at the annual WAS summer barbecue, you can do so at the Sept. 20 membership meeting, or e-mail Susan Snyder at naturescall@gmail.com. Shifts are typically four hours long starting at 4 a.m. But again, sign up for as much or as little birding as you can.

The other way to help is to collect pledges. This is, after all, a fundraiser! People can donate a flat amount, or pay you per species spotted by the group. All donations are payable to Wasatch Audubon Society and are tax-deductible. You can download a participant information and pledge form from the WAS website, www.wasatchaudubon.org.



Come on out in October and join us for this fun event. Bring a chair, a lunch, water, and your binoculars. Beginners are welcome and highly encouraged to attend. It is a great place to learn how to bird better while helping WAS create terrific programs and birding opportunities for the community.



Wasatch Audubon Society
 Website: wasatchaudubon.org

Officers

President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
Vice President	Keith Evans	801-476-0232
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Betty Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Katie McVey	715-216-2605

Board of Directors

2015/2016	Weston Smith	801-829-8689
2015/2016	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
2015/2016	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
2016/2017	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0637
2016/2017	Bruce Perry	801-726-9705
2016/2017	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432

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	Les Talbot	801-589-2591
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-295-7738
Historian		
Hospitality	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Membership	Pat Bausman	801-675-1642
Newsletter	Barbara Perry	801-721-4709
Programs	Jack Rensel	801-399-0240
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
"CONFESSION"

by President Dan Johnston

I have a confession to make. I am a "Lister." That's right I make lists for almost everything I do. I make a list of things I need to do each day. My "Honey Do List" can get very overwhelming.



I keep list of states I have been to. I hope to get my 50th, Alaska, by the time you read the newsletter. Laura and I also bag State Highpoints (27).

Sports teams provide another great chance to have lists. I keep track of my football predictions with lists back 30 years. The Family Fantasy Football League makes more sense when in a list. I have lists of Super Bowl Winners, World Series Winners and NBA Champs.

So what does that have to do with birds? There are a lot of chances for a Lister to make list when you keep track of the birds you see.



In January of the early 80s, John Bellmon invited me to join Don Paul and him to go "count bald eagles" on Antelope Island. The State had just recently purchased the south end of the Island. Paul had a key to get us through the gate and access to the single

lane "dirt" road to Garr Ranch. We were breaking through snowdrifts just to make it to the ranch. I saw a lot of interesting birds and with John's encouragement, I started my Life List that day. It's not often that one starts their ABA bird list with Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Prairie Falcon. Oh by the way, Bald Eagle count was zero.

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President's Pipeline

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The ABA North America List is the big list for us here in the United States. If you travel outside of the US and Canada, there is a World List. Of course you can keep a Utah and Weber County list. I keep a Yard List, birds I see from or in my yard. I tried to keep a Retirement List, but that became very confusing so I stopped. Last year, I started keeping a Year List and found that has been fun. Of course there is always a Trip List. Whenever I travel even if it's not a bird trip, I keep a list of birds I see. I'm sure there are other lists to keep you busy.



If you are a Lister or not, get out and enjoy the birds. You may see something like Cedar Waxwings acting like classic flycatchers or some really interesting thing about woodpeckers. Happy Birding!

Conservation Corner

Global Warming and the World's Oceans

by Lynn Carroll

The accumulation of excess "greenhouse gases" (carbon dioxide and others) in the atmosphere causes the global average air temperature to increase by a well-understood process. How this affects local climate depends on latitude and many other variables. How these interact over land is complex; what happens in the ocean is more significant yet less well understood.

This much is certain: without the ocean, we'd be "toast." We've been protected from global warming in two big ways. First, the ocean is a big carbon sink. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) dissolves in surface water and is slowly removed by reacting with the water, forming carbonic acid.

Something like one-third of the CO₂ people add to the atmosphere is absorbed by the ocean. The bad news is that greater acidity reduces the carbonate ion concentration, so it's harder for marine organisms to form shells or skeletons made of calcium carbonate.

Oceans also protect us from warming by absorbing a lot (over 90%) of the excess heat. Water has a high heat capacity, meaning it takes more energy to increase the temperature of water than it takes to make the same change to the same mass of air, and oceans have a whole lot of water. So oceans haven't warmed as fast as the atmosphere. The majority of the warming takes place near the surface. The rate of warming drops with the depth, although roughly 30% of the heat added to the oceans from 1957 to 2009 warmed water below 2300 ft.

There is a "bad news" side to this as well. First, as water warms, it can hold less CO₂, so more will stay in the atmosphere contributing to global warming. And as more heat is trapped, the percentage absorbed by the ocean will gradually fall, causing air temperatures to rise more quickly, until humanity finally brings our net greenhouse emissions to zero. Then global warming will continue for the centuries that it takes for the excess CO₂ to make its way to the ocean floor as carbonate or bits of dead stuff and become buried. Perhaps mankind will have devised an effective way to speed the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Finally, cooling of the ocean can begin, but it will be slow, just as the warming was. That's why it's urgent that CO₂ emissions be brought under control quickly—centuries of average temperatures several degrees warmer than they are presently would be impossible for many species to survive, and humanity likely wouldn't prosper!



CALENDAR

September

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

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

10 Saturday 10 am UAC Retreat

Meet at Nibley Heritage Park Pavillon for National Wildlife Federation Senior Director Patrick Fitzgerald from Washington DC to present Utah's first wildlife habitat award to the City. Will include tours of some certified properties. **(See page 6 of this newsletter for more information)**

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

Antelope Island Causeway and Fielding Garr Ranch: Meet at Warren's (1778 S 1000 W, Syracuse) for breakfast or at 8:00 at the Antelope Island entrance lot. This is a fee area.

17 Saturday 8:00am Field Trip

Blue Bird Nest Box Cleanout - It is time to clean out the Blue Bird Nest Boxes so they will be ready for nesting next spring. This is really important because the birds will not use old nests. We will meet at Smiths (12th and Harrison Blvd.) at 8:00 a.m. We will make team assignments and then head up to the trails. We would appreciate all the help that we can get. Bring a lunch and a drink. We'll gather for lunch when we finish cleaning out the boxes.



September cont

20 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Wayne Martinson, Utah IBA Coordinator for National Audubon Society, with introductory comments by Keith Evans, will provide a program on **Aids to Birding Sites in Utah**.

The program will include an overview of the process used to develop the Utah Birding Trails Maps, Utah Featured Birds and Viewing Sites book, and the Birding Utah App. Technology to assist birders in finding sites and tracking bird sightings has really changed in recent years. Wayne will also update us on recent developments in bird conservation and changes in National Audubon strategic planning. Ogden Nature Center at 966 West 12th Street, Ogden

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

Riverdale Trail (south): Meet at McDonald's (Riverdale Rd and 900 W) for breakfast or at 7:30 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 the road.

24 Saturday 7:30am Field Trip

Ogden Bay North Access - This is a field trip to the north side of Ogden Bay WMA in hopes of seeing waders, shorebirds, and other Fall migrants. We will meet at the Pilot gas station just west of I-15 along 12th St at 7:30 am. The trip could last until early afternoon, so bring plenty of water and snacks. We may walk up to a mile as well, so dress accordingly and have bug spray. Contact Mike Hearrell if you plan to attending or if you have any questions at utmarshrat@yahoo.com or (801) 529-8693.

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

South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at Denny's (5805 S Harrison Blvd) for breakfast or at 8:00am at the parking lot for the Nature Park.

October**4 Tuesday 7pm Board Meeting**

Board Meeting - Ogden Nature Center

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

Dale Young Nature Park (Formerly Perry Nature Park): Meet at McDonald's (exit 349, I-15) for breakfast or at 8:30 to carpool.

8 Saturday 4:00am to 8pm BIG SIT

"THE BIG SIT" - Wasatch Audubon's annual fundraiser. Held at the Robert N. Hasenyager Great Salt Lake Nature Center, at Farmington Bay. Bring a chair, a lunch, water, and your binoculars.

12 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 or at 8:30 to carpool. Take 2450 N off Mountain Rd, over canal into small parking lot.

18 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Cuban Todys and Other Interesting Birds will be the topic for the October meeting. Paul Lombardi, a long-time member of Wasatch Audubon Society who leads our Wednesday bird walks, has made a number of out-of-state birding trips. Some of these he has shared with us in the past. Island nations, such as Cuba, often have interesting and unusual plants and animal life.

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

Ogden Nature Center: Meet at Village Inn (322 W 12th Street) for breakfast or at the Nature Center (966 W 12th Street) for the walk at 9:00am

22 Saturday 8:00am Field Trip

Antelope Island: Meet at the corner of 1900 W. & 5600 S. in Roy (just west of Wendy's) at 8:00 am or at the parking lot at the entrance to the causeway. Bring a lunch and a drink. It will be an opportunity to see what the fire did to the island. This is a fee area.

October cont**26 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Bird Walk**

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

29 Saturday 5:00am "hOWLoween" Field Trip

Join us for an early morning search of owls at North Fork County Park. We will be searching for small owls such as the Northern Pygmy-owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl with hopes of seeing and/or hearing both. Fall is the perfect time to hear calls other than the "toots" and "poops" that are more commonly related to these two species. We will meet at the park-and-ride behind The Greenery restaurant at 5:00 am to carpool or you can meet by the yurt at the south gate of NFCCP at 5:45 am. We may hike up a horse trail for distances up to 1/2 mile and the temps can change fast, so wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Contact Mike Hearell if you plan on attending or if there are any questions at utmarshrat@yahoo.com or (801) 529-8693.

November**2 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**

East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr, South Ogden) for breakfast or at the trailhead 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) - Les Talbot 801-731-4925

Other Field Trips - Mike Hearell 801-529-8693

ROUND THE BEAR

by Jay Hudson

Barbara and I drove around the Bear River Refuge. Here are my notes:

A Short-eared Owl sat on a post not 30 feet from us and swiveled its white and black dish like face until it finally took off to fly low over the land, hunting like a Harrier. A grey male Harrier flew across the road in front of us using the same hunting technique as the Short-eared Owl and I wondered about territorial imperative. A single Sandhill Crane walking through the short grass showed little irritation as a half dozen Red-winged Blackbirds mobbed it incessantly. Two vibrant male Pheasants went at each other like illegal fighting cocks in a small circular arena surrounded with Ecuadorians with fists full of money and stubby cigarettes hanging out their mouths.

A Black-necked Stilt rose from its barely dry nest in the wetlands while trying to draw our attention and to leave four beautifully camouflaged eggs open to predation. A pair of Avocet lovers mated and went back to foraging without so much as a "thank you". A lonely Long-billed Curlew probed the earth with its ridiculously long decurved beak and left me wondering at its flexible beak and how it moved its prey up to its mouth. She ushered babies away from the road, knowing the danger. A Forster's Tern rolled into a dive like a WWII fighter and struck without warning, leaving an outward running circular wave as its calling card.

Two bonding Western Grebes teased each other until they got serious and danced across the water in their ballet made famous by Walt Disney. Barn Swallows poked their heads out of newly made mud homes above the door to the ladies room inviting users to chance a dash for comfort. Cocky tailed male Ruddy Ducks pranced on the watery stage of avian fashion, never tiring of their own good looks.

I'm always agog at what I see and as one Sage stated; "A traveler without observation is a bird without wings".

Utah Audubon Council Fall Retreat

hosted by Bridgerland Audubon

Saturday, Sept. 10

10 am - noon Meet at Nibley Heritage Park Pavillion for National Wildlife Federation Senior Director Patrick Fitzgerald from Washington DC to present Utah's first wildlife habitat award to the City. Will include tours of some certified properties.

12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch (you provide) and Presentation by Utah Rivers Council on the Bear River Project.

1:00 - 5:30 pm Fieldtrip to Bear River Bottoms conservation easement for birding and to view restoration work. (We might consider a half hour of restoration work as well)

5:30 pm on — dinner on your own

Sunday, Sept. 11

8:30 to noon Breakfast at Stokes Nature Center followed by UAC business meeting. (BAS will provide a breakfast of fruit and pastries. Coffee and tea from Café Ibis)

Adjourn at noon.

If there are any questions please contact John Bellmon: (801-444-3704)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Pat Bausman

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

- Patricia L. Baker
- Anthony Baker
- Donna Barhorst
- Georgia Bennion
- Robert Brodstein
- Valerie Clark
- Faye Crowther
- Joan Diamond
- Peter Griffiths
- George Hales
- Geary Holody
- Wendy Hood
- Elise Ipson
- Richard Larsen
- Kathryn Mackay
- Mona Maggio
- Ann Mathews
- Richard & Miranda Menzies
- Kimberly R. Morrill
- Larry Nalder
- Maurice Nelson
- Denzel & Jacquelyn Taylor
- Clive H. Walker
- Doug Woolf

Monte Cristo Flower Walk

July 16, 2016

by Les Talbot

It was a great day to visit Monte Cristo. We stopped at Dairy Ridge Road and then went on to the Monte Cristo Campground. We saw 47 species of plants (flowers and trees) while there. The most common flower was the Mules Ears. Most of what we saw was at their peak. We made a special effort to look at the Striped Coralroot Orchid. It had already blossomed. However the plant looked healthy.



There were three flowers that were not on our list, so we added them. They are: Showy Daisy Fleabane, Scarlet Pea, and Scarlet Gilia. The flies (Deer and Horse) were really prolific and bothersome. After we finished at the campground we went to the turnoff for Curtis Creek to look for Purple Martins. We did see one fly over. Kris and Brian walked up to the road and saw a few more.

Trip participants were: Melba & Dennis Kirby, Jeanette and Brian Nosker, Kristy & Lynn Merrill, Shelly Page, Kristin Purdy and Les Talbot.

NEST-BOX-ROUTE COORDINATOR

Wasatch Audubon is seeking someone to IMMEDIATELY fill the position of nest-box-route coordinator.



The four routes along Ant Flat Road and in the Monte Cristo Mountain Range total 115 nest boxes and offer breeding sites for Mountain Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and surprises like Mountain Chickadees and Cassin's Finches. Duties include coordinating people and materials for survey teams for the annual June breeding survey; September post-breeding assessment survey, repair and clean-out trip; and data collection. This long-term effort is one of the best education and nature entertainment programs offered by Wasatch Audubon.

Contact Kristin Purdy at 801-605-0328 or Jack Rensel at 801-399-0240 for more information.



OWL PELLETS WANTED

If you happen to discover any owl pellets while out birding, please collect them for me; or let me know the location, and I will get them. I do a lesson in elementary schools on owls, and the students enjoy dissecting the pellets.



Thanks for your help and happy birding.

Dennis Collins (801) 393-1115



Wasatch Audubon Society

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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

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

Local Chapter: **Wasatch Audubon Society C9ZW540Z**



**Wasatch Audubon Society
Mountain Chickadee Subscription**

You can receive **The Mountain Chickadee** (6 issues) for just \$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**