



# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 37, Number 6

Nov/Dec 2018

## WAS Meeting and Happenings

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

**Tuesday, November 20, 2018 - 7:00PM**

Yoram Bauman makes a living as “*the worlds first and only stand-up economist*”. He is a PhD environmental economist and founder of **Carbon Washington**, the organization behind the first-ever carbon tax ballot measure in the US.

**Tuesday, December 18, 2018 - 7:00PM**

This meeting will a fun social and slideshow. Come and enjoy catching up with old friends or getting to know new ones!

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

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

## The Christmas Bird Count!

by John Bellmon

Now that the holiday spirit and season are with us, we invite everyone to participate in our Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). This will be the 119<sup>th</sup> CBC for Audubon and the 39<sup>th</sup> Ogden CBC for Wasatch Audubon (this is how we got started). We urge you to join us and have fun birding during the winter season. This is the highlight for many birders in the area. Some winter birds are seen best during this time of the year.



We have several CBC trips for you to choose from. You can participate in as many as you can fit into your schedule. Be sure to check the Calendar in this issue for meeting times and places for each CBC sponsored by Wasatch Audubon.

From December 14 through January 5 each year, thousands of volunteers brave snow, wind, and/or rain and take part in this effort. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this long-running census to help guide conservation action. When combined with other surveys, such as the Breeding bird survey and the Great Backyard Bird Count, the data collected by observers over the past century allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies, and other interested individuals to assess the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. The long-term perspective is vital for conservationists. It helps form strategies to protect birds and their habitat and helps identify environmental issues, with implications for people, as well.

If you cannot come out to help one of our teams, there is a way for you to participate by counting birds at your bird feeders. To do this, you would count each different species and the numbers of each species that comes to your yard. You then report the list and it will be added to the overall count.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: [wasatchaudubon.org](http://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

This is it. I started out two years ago to introduce Wasatch Audubon folks to all 23 American Birding Association (ABA) woodpeckers, including the extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker. I have only one left to tell about and then I'll need to explore some other Family.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker, once fairly common in the southeastern United States, is now rare and considered an endangered species. They now range from east of Texas and south of Virginia. They require precise conditions within mature pine forest, a habitat that is now scarce. Causes for decline include suppression of natural fires and over-cutting of pine forest in southeast. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers are a territorial, nonmigratory, cooperative breeding species, frequently having the same mate for several years. They live in isolated clans. Each clan is an extended family group, with one pair of adults assisted in their nesting by up to four additional birds. The total population is perhaps under 10,000, with many of these in isolated groups facing local extinction.



The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is a small to mid-sized species, in between North America's two most widespread woodpeckers: the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. Its back is barred with black and white horizontal stripes. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker's most distinguishing feature is a black cap and nape that encircle large white cheek patches. Rarely visible, except perhaps during the breeding season and periods of territorial defense, the male has a small red streak on each side of its black cap called a *cockade*, hence its name.

Taking part in nesting is a breeding pair plus 1-4 additional "helpers." These helpers are mostly males and mostly the breeding pair's offspring from previous seasons. Juvenile females generally leave the group before the next breeding season, in search of solitary male groups. Their preferred sites for nests are cavities excavated in large live pines infected with red heart fungus (which gives trees a soft center inside the solid outer shell). These cavities are usually 30-40' above the ground, but can be much lower or higher (to well above 100'). The entrance surrounded by tiny holes from which sticky resin oozes, protecting nest from climbing predators. The main predators of red-cockaded nests are rat snakes, although corn snakes also represent a threat.

I hope everyone enjoyed the information about our woodpeckers as much as I have. Come out in the November meeting and find out which Family I will explore next.

Good birding! Dan

## **Conservation Corner:**

### **Climate Solutions**

**by Lynn Carroll**

We've just heard from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that humanity had better get moving on reducing the greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere, since a 2°C increase in global temperature will have much worse consequences than the 1.5 degree goal. Coincidentally, I've recently read and heard talks about a variety of approaches to this challenge.

At Weber State University (WSU), I attended "A Geological Perspective on Climate Change." Professor Carrie Frantz presented an overview of Earth's history and explained how geologists can determine past temperatures, composition of the atmosphere, etc. Then she compared the atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations measured since the 1950s to the concentrations determined from ice cores. The latest numbers came in above 400 ppm, by far the highest in 400,000 years. It may not take a long time in that range (decades?) to release methane from arctic permafrost and from clathrates under ice shelves. Geologists look to geo-engineering, i.e., carbon sequestration, to save us from the catastrophic consequences of failing to get emissions under control. Federal funding for research and development of effective methods would cost much less than dealing with disasters.

The fall issue of *Nature Conservancy Magazine* highlights several of the organization's projects that address climate change. Some are designed to increase "climate resilience," for instance, by protecting shorelines from rising seas. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and partners restored 1.5 miles of oyster reef off Grand Isle, a famous rest stop for migratory birds on the gulf coast. "The reef traps sediment behind it, helping to build new land and dampen the force of incoming waves."

Other projects help store carbon in forms that won't be released to the atmosphere. For example, in North Carolina, they are returning water to drained peat bogs, so that the organic matter is no longer exposed to oxygen and releasing CO<sub>2</sub>. The water also prevents wildfires that can burn for months in drained bogs. The city of Extrema, in Brazil, was planting trees in deforested mountains above it to stabilize their water supply.

It helped. TNC joined the project in 2005, resulting in 5000 more acres replanted and sucking in CO<sub>2</sub>. Brazil will now expand this model to 283 more cities to restore nearly 3 million acres, if they can obtain international funding.

Based on research published in 2017 by a team they supported, TNC asserts that "nature can reduce more than one-third of the emissions needed to hit the goal" of cutting 30 gigatons of carbon emissions per year by 2030. Countries must invest in protecting and restoring forests and wetlands, plus better management of timberlands, croplands, and grazing lands. Restoration is the most costly.

Jennifer Bodine, sustainability coordinator at WSU, says that the university is on track to be carbon neutral by 2050, and likely by 2040. The renovation work has all been funded by savings realized after a grant got it started. The processes WSU used would be effective in the private sector. Small businesses and individual households could also save money and emissions with the simpler steps, such as LED lighting.

I am among those who believe that the fastest way to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is to put a price on carbon and "carbon equivalents", and the easiest way to do that is by charging the producer a fee based on the emissions that will result from its use. It's hard to imagine the current Congress passing such a thing. So a Utah group is going to try to persuade the Utah legislature to be leaders and pass HB403, a carefully balanced tax swap that would provide an economic disincentive to use of fossil fuels in the state. Check out [climateutah.org](http://climateutah.org), and stay tuned.

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **The Christmas Bird Count!**

If you would like to participate by counting birds in your backyard, please contact Mike Hearrell (801-529-8693, or email: [utmarshrat@yahoo.com](mailto:utmarshrat@yahoo.com)). He will coordinate with you to ensure you live within the count circle and will advise the team in your area so they will not double-count your feeder. If you do help us by counting in your yard, we also need to know how much time you spent counting the birds.

The Wasatch Audubon CBCs are scheduled as follows: Ogden CBC: December 15, followed by a potluck dinner; Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge CBC: December 19; Morgan CBC: December 27; and Antelope Island CBC: January 1, 2019. Please help us in any way you can, either on a team or in your yard.

Member Spotlight .....



# Taylor Abbott



I have a BS in Zoology from North Carolina State University and teach junior high science in Layton. I have been a birding enthusiast since 2006. I saw a Painted Bunting and was amazed that such a colorful bird actually existed in a suburban area of North Carolina. That started the search for more birds. My other hobbies include snowboarding, disc golf, and pickleball. My favorite birding trips are to Ecuador because of the amazing variety of birds in such a small area; or to South Africa because of great birds, plus the possibility of seeing a Cheetah or some other amazing animal, while looking for birds. My birding bucket list is fairly long, but one huge goal that I would like to accomplish is to see birds on all seven continents.

## UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL FALL MEETING

Tracy Aviary, Salt Lake City, Utah

September 29, 2018

Our fall meeting of the Utah Audubon Council was hosted by Great Salt Lake Audubon Society and held at the Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City. There were representatives from three of our Audubon chapters. Bridgerland Audubon was unable to send someone to the meeting since they were at the Citizens for Climate Change Meeting. Chapter reports from three of the Utah chapters listed accomplishments, issues and events that they were working on. The Red Cliffs Audubon representative, Steve Eberhard, told us how they were doing with new leadership. The Festival will not be held this next January because several key supporters have had to withdraw, but they are planning on continuing with the St. George Winter Bird Festival in 2020. We will need to help them as much as possible. Our policy advocate, Steve Erickson, was present and retained by us for another year. It is very early in the legislative season, but he did give us a brief rundown of some of the things that are likely to come up during the next session. Marcelle Shoop and 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 pertaining to all the saline lake issues 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 and issues that surround it in the northwest corner of Salt Lake County next to the Audubon Gilmore Sanctuary on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake. A big thank you to Dan Johnston and Lynn Carroll for attending on behalf of Wasatch Audubon and giving the chapter's report. Thank you for everyone's hard work and help in making the council such a success.

John Bellmon

Utah Audubon Council, President

### ~NEW~ Saturday Bird Walks!!

We are offering a new opportunity to spend some time Birding. On the second Saturday of every month, we will be leading a bird walk somewhere in our area. Check the Calendar in this issue for details. This is a great way for new and beginning birders to get some experience at identifying birds. Come join us no matter your skill level.

### Contact Persons for WAS Outings

Wednesday/Saturday Walks - Paul Lombardi  
[pslombard@gmail.com](mailto:pslombard@gmail.com)

Saturday Field Trips (the Saturday after the WAS Tuesday Meeting) Mike Hearrell 801-529-8693



## CALENDER

### November

**7 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Two River's Trail:** Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza) at 8:00am for breakfast or at the parking under 21st Street overpass at 9:00am.

**10 ~NEW~ Saturday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Willard Bay Campground:** Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza) at 8:00am for breakfast or met at the Denny's parking lot at 9:00am to carpool to Willard Bay Campground.

**14 Wednesday 8:00am Bird Walk**  
**Eccles Wildlife Education Center (1700 W Glovers Lane):** Meet at Dylan's (185 Main Street, Kaysville) at 8:00am for breakfast, then we'll drive to the Center.

**20 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting**  
**Yoram Bauman:** "the worlds first and only stand-up economist". He is currently helping to improve the next iteration of House Bill 403 that will be re-introduced in the 2019 Utah legislature.

**21 Wednesday No Bird Walk today**

**24 Saturday 8:00am Field Trip**  
**Mountain Reservoir Field Trip:** Meet at the Utah DWR (515 E 5300 S, South Ogden) at 8:00am to carpool. This will be an all day trip as we search some of our mountain reservoirs for loons and waterfowl. Bring water, lunch, warm gear, and a scope if you have one. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars. Some areas may be a fee area so, bring your State Park Pass if you have one. Contact Mike [utmarshrat@yahoo.com](mailto:utmarshrat@yahoo.com) if you plan on attending.

**28 Wednesday 8:30/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Mantua Reservoir area:** Meet at McDonald's at 8:30am for breakfast (I-15, Exit 349) or at 9:00am to carpool.

### December

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

**5 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**West extension (West of 1900 W) of West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail:** Meet at Moore's family Restaurant (2400 S 1900 W, West Haven) for breakfast at 8:am. We'll then drive to the West Haven Cemetery (West on 1800 S off 1900 W. Make a right at 2350 W and proceed north into the Cemetery). Park in the NW corner of the Cemetery.

**8 ~NEW~Saturday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Two River's Trail:** Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza) at 8:00am for breakfast or at the parking under 21st Street overpass at 9:00am.

**12 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk**  
**Fort Buenaventura Park:** Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the entrance to the park at 9:00am

**15 Saturday 7:00am Christmas Bird Count**  
**Ogden Christmas Bird Count:** Meet at Denny's (take 21st St. to 1100 W, on the North side by Flying J Plaza, Ogden) for breakfast and to get your assignment. It is a all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars. Potluck dinner at 6:00pm at UCC Church (3350 South Harrison Blvd.) for compilation of data. Bring table service and a dish to share.

**18 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting**  
 It's a party! Social and slide show!

**CALENDER - December***(cont.)*

**19 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Christmas Bird Count**

**Bear River Christmas Bird Count:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West – just east of 1-15 exit 349) at 8:00am for breakfast or at 8:30am to carpool. It is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars.

**22 Saturday No Field Trip**

**26 Wednesday No Bird Walk Today**

**27 Thursday 7:30/8:00am Christmas Bird Count**

**Morgan Christmas Bird Count:** Meet at the Utah DWR (515 E. 5300 S., South Ogden) at 7:30am to carpool for breakfast at Larry's Spring Chicken Inn (4 North State St., Morgan) at 8:00am. It is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars.

**January**

**1 Tuesday 8:00am Christmas Bird Count**

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

**2 Wednesday No Bird Walk today**

**Nest Boxes Are Ready For 2019**

By Nancy Arnett

Wasatch Audubon Society has established four nest box routes in the Monte Cristo highway area. These boxes are routinely used by Mountain Bluebirds, House Wrens, and Tree Swallows to raise their young. In mid-September, ten volunteers visited the nest boxes on all four routes and cleaned out roughly 120 boxes, including making repairs and remarking the boxes for identification purposes, so they are ready for the 2019 breeding season. Occasionally, another species will make use of the boxes – John Bellmon, Tom Wuenschell, and I found a mouse nestled in a used House Wren nest. Six new nest boxes were added to replace ones that had disappeared over the years.

**Winter Bird Feeding Opportunities**

Beginning in November, Wasatch Audubon will again feed birds at the Nature Center. This fun activity requires a couple hours a week on a designated morning. You will walk our beautiful nature center pathways and meet up with lots of grateful birds as you fill 6 bird feeders with seed provided by Audubon. It's a great opportunity to keep track of winter birds and get a little exercise and fresh air. Bird feeding ends at the end of March. For information regarding training and what mornings are available, call Laura Johnston 801-458-9558.



**Happy Holidays**



**Wasatch Audubon Society is looking for a volunteer editor for The Mountain Chickadee.**

The editor is responsible for putting the newsletter together and emailing it to the printer. The newsletter is published six times per year. If interested in this volunteer position, please contact Barbara Perry 801-721-4709

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

by Lynn Carroll

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

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Gerald Antonucci    | Carolyn Felder    |
| Juliann Arbuckle    | Sue Fuller        |
| Ronald K. Bliven    | Robert Hammer     |
| Marilyn J. Brunetti | Tom Hooker        |
| Owen Caliento       | Melvin Lotz       |
| April Combe         | Richard Miller    |
| Marilyn Corbridge   | Suzanne Renfrow   |
| John T. Cowdery     | John Slack        |
| Andrew Davison      | Elizabeth Wallace |
| T. Espinoza         |                   |



**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

**The Big Sit!**

Wasatch Audubon Society (WAS) members spotted 46 species during the club’s annual fund raiser The Big Sit was held on October 13; and 16 Wasatch Audubon members came out for the event, which was held at the George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Wildlife Education Center in Farmington.



Our WAS birders worked in shifts, starting with listening for owls and waterfowl at 4 a.m., and continuing to spot until 7:30 p.m. Barn and Great-horned Owls were among the first birds counted before dawn. The Big Sit is an annual, international event hosted by Bird Watcher’s Digest, and WAS uses it to raise money for education efforts such as the birding program for Youth Impact. Although the actual event date is over, WAS will continue to accept pledges and donations. Those wishing to make a donation can pledge certain amount of money per species, or give a flat amount.

**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