



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Wasatch Audubon Society

Volume 40, Number 4 July/August 2021

WAS MEETINGS AND HAPPENINGS

As usual there is no membership meeting in July.

But the summer birding is still good. See calendar and articles inside for opportunities to enjoy birds and nature.

Tuesday, August 16 - 6:30PM

The Wasatch Audubon Society annual picnic returns! Audubon will provide soft drinks. Bring your own picnic dinner and place settings. We will meet on the lawn behind the Visitor Center. There will be time afterward for socializing and sharing experiences. **Don't forget insect repellent!**

Keep in Touch With Us!

Do we have your email address? We often want to communicate with our members in between newsletters about changes in plans, new opportunities, or conservation action. If you want to know what's up and haven't been getting emails from WAS, please send a message to Lynn at

bradlynnc@comcast.net

For timely information, you can also go to our Facebook page by searching for Wasatch Audubon Society or clicking on the Facebook logo on our website (www.wasatchaudubon.org).

President's Corner

by Jay Stretch

In the March/April edition of the Chickadee, I challenged you to match up groups of bird species with their "fun names." This month, I am calling on your creativity to make up fun names for different species. Email your creations (with the corresponding species) to me at jaystretch@comcast.net. And there will be a valuable prize for the most creative! The winner will be announced in the next Chickadee edition. What would you call a bunch of:

- Goshawks _____
- Grebes _____
- Grosbeaks _____
- Grouse _____
- Gulls _____
- Hawks _____
- Hérons _____
- Hummingbirds _____
- Ibis _____
- Jays _____
- Juncos _____
- Kestrels _____
- Kildeer _____
- Kingbirds _____
- Kingfishers _____
- Kinglets _____
- Horned Larks _____
- Longspurs _____
- Loons _____
- Magpies _____

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Wasatch Audubon Society

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

Officers

President	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432
Vice President	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0637
Past President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633

Board

2020/2021	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2020/2021	Jeane Taylor	801-394-2813
2020/2021	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
2021/2022	Abigail Johnson	
2021/2022	Leah Johnson	
2021/2022	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
2021/2022	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201

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	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
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>.

President's Corner

Continued from pg. 1

After you come up with your list, you can look at others' ideas on page 7. I'm sure your ideas are just as good as or better than these! You can use Page 1 as a worksheet.

Save the Date
For The Big Sit!
 Saturday, October 8 is Wasatch Audubon's annual fund-raising bird-a-thon. From a 17-foot circle, we tally all the bird species we see or hear. Enjoy the company of new and old birders. More information in the next Chickadee.

Volunteer Opportunity

Help is needed to supervise Youth Impact students during nature studies and field trips. Dates and times vary. Contact Jay Stretch at 801-721-9432

Conservation Corner: Conservation and Human Health

by Lynn Carroll

Epidemiologists have told us that the emergence of a devastating pandemic was not a great surprise to them. They had noted an increase in the rate of new diseases jumping from animals to humans. They had the examples of HIV/AIDS, “swine flu,” and other new diseases of animal origin becoming pandemics.

Bats have been implicated in the spread of viruses between animal species, because their unusual immune systems allow them to harbor many viruses in their bodies without becoming sick. However, recent research showed that animal groups (orders) with more species tend to carry more viruses, and consequently, a larger number of viruses that can jump to people. Rodents are the source of even more viruses jumping to people than bats are.

It appears that the reason for the acceleration of these “spillover” events is increased contact of species in new combinations and large numbers. This can often be related to habitat destruction by humans building roads, logging, or clearing land for settlement. Wild species that don’t go extinct are crammed into the fragments of habitat that remain, and repeatedly come into close contact with the encroaching humans. Microbes that are passed often in such encounters may infect the people, and the more frequently that happens, the more likely the microbe evolves into a human pathogen.

One well-studied example occurred in Australia. Deforestation there led flying foxes (bat species) to move into populated areas, where they forage in gardens by night and roost together in trees by day. Some stay in one place year round instead of migrating. The bats pass deadly Hendra virus to horses grazing under the trees where they roost, which can then pass it to people. A vaccine for horses has been produced against that virus, but to reduce the risk of new diseases arising, a conservation approach is being developed. Planting native winter-flowering trees to provide the winter pollen and nectar that the bats have been finding in populated areas is expected to reduce their numbers in towns and ranches.

Ecosystem disruption is another stimulant to disease transmission. In the northeastern U.S., suburbs expanding into forests have driven out creatures like opossums that help control tick populations. Meanwhile white-footed mice are sheltered by Japanese barberry, an invasive shrub. Deer and the mice host ticks, resulting in more Lyme disease. Reducing stands of the invasive barberry has helped control the disease.

Schistosomiasis is a parasitic flatworm carried by aquatic snails that has debilitating effects on people in Africa, Asia, and South America. In Africa's Senegal River Basin, construction of dams had blocked the migration of river prawns, which prey on the snails. Reintroducing river prawns in synergy with existing drug distribution campaigns can reduce or even locally eliminate the parasite.

Our health and the health of ecosystems worldwide are connected. Practicing conservation can contribute to our well-being in many ways.



Book Review

Owls of the Eastern Ice,

Jonathan Slaght
by Laura Johnston



This is a book to read in the summer. I say this because the forests of Eastern Russia are always cold. That is where Mr. Slaght did his research on the Blackston's Fish Owl, a large, elusive owl that is easiest to find in the winter. This is a chronicle of his research to discover as much as possible to help this incredible owl survive. As a field scientist, he experiences extreme conditions in order to get the data he needs. I found most fascinating the times when he held the large owl to band or measure. This, along with the descriptions of the beautiful setting, make this a book worth reading.



Jankowski - What Else Did He Do?

by Jay Hudson

There are few names associated with birds that I can relate to. Hudson's godwit, Clark's nutcracker and Ross's goose are on a short list. I ran into the name Jankowski's Bunting reading about the Amur tigers of the Far East of Russia, just across the waters from Japan. Other than the place kicker for the Oakland Raiders the name was a new Polish one for me. It sounds almost mystical. How did Michal Jankowski get this local rare diminutive bunting of the taiga subarctic forest named after him?

Michal Jankowski was a Polish landowner nobleman who lost his land to the Russians in Poland's fight for independence in 1888. For this, he spent time in a Siberian prison and was finally released to live in the newly Russian occupied North Korea

territory. He was not a man to be held down and not a man to live in the past. He became a manager of a gold mine, created a meteorological station, bred horses, gathered deer antlers for the oriental market and grew ginseng. He was an accomplished hunter of Amur tigers and a naturalist who gathered specimens to send to Moscow museums.

Of the many species of plants, animals and insects sent to Russian museums, his name became attached to several species. When he sent nine specimens of a bunting to Moscow, they gave it the name "Jankowski's Bunting." His naturalist activities were focused on the Far East of Russia so there are no animals or birds named after him found in the western hemisphere.

History is replete with do-nothing nobility living on the backs of slaves, serfs, peons and the un-landed. They slide through life and are given unmerited honors, unqualified military titles and they prance on the ballroom floors in masks to hide their real identities. Some of these incompetents were shot in the back because they were hated and were about to lose battles. Michal Jankowski was not in that crowd. What he did was fight the Russian authority and spent time in a gulag for it. He picked himself up and created small and large worlds. He deserves to have a bunting named after him, if not an eagle.

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will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Wasatch Audubon Society.

Just sign in to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select

Wasatch Audubon Society as the organization you wish to support, or go directly to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/87-0411832>.

Thank you for your support!

CALENDAR

Please note: In accordance with new guidelines, social distancing and masking are optional. We will still drive separate cars.

JULY**7 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk**

Green Pond: Meet at the parking lot for the trail to the pond. This is reached on the road leading from Trapper's Loop Road to the Snow Basin Ski Resort.

14 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk

Ogden River Parkway: Meet at the MTC Park (also known as Ogden Botanical Garden) located at 1750 Monroe Blvd.

17 Saturday 7:30 am field trip

Monte Cristo/Randolph: Heading to higher elevation to beat the heat, we will search for high elevation species along SR 3. We will go on to the Woodruff area in hopes of seeing Common Nighthawks and Black Terns. There will be a little easy hiking. It will run into early afternoon so bring lunch and water. Meet at North end of Smith's (12th and Harrison) parking lot at 7:30 am to caravan.

20 No membership meeting this month**21 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk**

Ft. Buenaventura: Meet at the parking lot. Located at 2450 A Avenue in Ogden.

28 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk

South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at the parking lot, south of Ogden Athletic Club (located at 1221 E 5800 S, South Ogden).

AUGUST

3 Tuesday 7:00 pm WAS Board Meeting.
Held remotely.

4 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk

Eccles Wildlife Education Center: Meet in the parking lot. Located at 1700 W. Glover's Lane in Farmington.

11 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk

North Arm Pineview Reservoir: Meet at the parking lot.

17 Tuesday 6:30 pm WAS Meeting

Ogden Nature Center: Annual picnic. See details on page 1.

18 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk

Two Rivers Trail: Meet under the 21st Street overpass.

21 Saturday 8:00 am field trip

Ogden Valley: Meet at Smith's 12th and Harrison. We'll be hoping to see a Lewis's Woodpecker, Osprey and Great Horned Owl.

25 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk

Morgan Mickelsen Mile: Meet east of the Morgan High School playing fields.

SEPTEMBER**1 Wednesday 8:00 am bird walk**

Maple Campground, Snowbasin: Meet at the lower parking lot at Snowbasin Resort.

CONTACTS FOR WALKS AND TRIPS

Wednesday walks - Paul Lombardi:

pslombard@gmail.com

Saturday field trips - Dan Johnston:

danielj47@comcast.net

Welcome New and Rejoined Members!

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gayle Allen | Eric Mendelsohn |
| Dallis Brown | Karen Palmer |
| Lynn Burningham | Tiffany Partington |
| Larry Davison | Brian Ross Peck |
| Julie Flinders | Roxanne Quick |
| Vicky Fowers | Rema Sadak |
| Jane Geiger | Ardell Spiers |
| Nate Graven | Ruby Templeton |
| Vicky B. Hansen | Keith Tisher |
| Andy Laraway | Ben Uitert |
| Richard McAllister | Cathy Welch |

OWL PELLETS

As you participate in summer outdoor activities, keep your eye open for owl pellets. Any size is appreciated, but larger ones are easier for the students to work with. Call Dennis Collins (801-393-1115) if you have some or know of a location in which to find them.



Focus on the Great Salt Lake

by John Bellmon and Laura Johnston

Utah Governor Cox has declared 2021 as the “Year of the Shorebird” at Great Salt Lake and in Utah, and the year of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site at Great Salt Lake. The importance of the Great Salt Lake and its environs cannot be overestimated. “Every

Year, millions of shorebirds representing 42 diverse species congregate on Great Salt Lake.” said Ella Sorensen, Manager of Audubon’s Gillmor Sanctuary. “It is one of the largest concentrations of birds on earth. Shorebirds, after nesting scattered across Canada and northern United States, funnel to Great Salt Lake like grains in a giant hourglass. Here they feed and fatten on the abundant insect populations before once again dispersing, flying sometimes thousands of non-stop miles to winter south of Utah all the way to the tip of South America.”

You may be aware that WAS has been participating in bird surveys around the Great Salt Lake for the last few years. Dan Johnston, Paul Lombardi, and I have helped Wayne Martinson in the Great Salt Lake Migratory Waterbird Survey Group in conjunction with The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. We have been conducting surveys along the shoreline and associated wetlands of the Great Salt Lake from April to August. Wayne and I started surveying the southwestern end of the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area 20 years ago. Then we surveyed the South Shore of the Great Salt Lake west of Lee Creek. During that time, we recruited Dan and Paul to help. We continued in the Lee Creek area for several years and then the division needed help to survey the Ambassador Duck Club’s land and ponds, the area about three miles northwest of the Salt Lake Airport. This is our third year to do surveys on the duck club property.

During our 4-hour survey, we have seen thousands of waterfowl, gulls, coots and ibis. There have been common birds in unusual numbers, such as Long-billed Curlews (176, this spring). We count all the species and the numbers of each species (just like the Christmas Bird Count). We have seen over two dozen Snowy Plovers at times as well as Semipalmated Plovers, Blue-winged Teal, Whimbrels, Black-bellied Plovers, and Burrowing Owls with their young.

Surveying has been fun, even with occasional heat and bugs. It is an opportunity to build an information base to improve the habitat and health of the area. There is always a need for surveyors, so if you are interested contact John. A day birding is never a wasted day.

Bird Festival Experiences

**Ogden Nature Center North
A Hidden Gem**

by Jay Hudson and Laura Johnston

WAS members enjoyed a variety of field trips at two Utah bird festivals this spring. At the St. George Bird Festival, Brian and Jeanette Nosker took a kayak trip to see the Eared Grebe, Avocets, and Grace’s Warbler. At the confluence of three local rivers they observed a Bullock’s Oriole, Cactus Wren and a Phainopepla.

Quite a few years ago, the director of Ogden Nature Center, Mary McKinley, asked Jay Hudson to build a trail on the Nature Center property just north of 550 N Harrison. He obliged. He cleared and filled to the east, then cut and filled to the north. He installed several bridges and a boardwalk. Volunteers were an important part of this effort. It is now there for you to enjoy.

At the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival, Lynn Carroll birded with a group in the West Desert. The leaders were good at birding by ear. That is, they could identify birds by their song. This led to hearing a Bushtit, Gray Vireo, Gray Flycatcher, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. They also heard a Plumbeous Vireo, which Lynn then sighted. She was able to apply her newly gained knowledge of its song on a later WAS bird walk. Her favorite was the Northern Pygmy Owl.

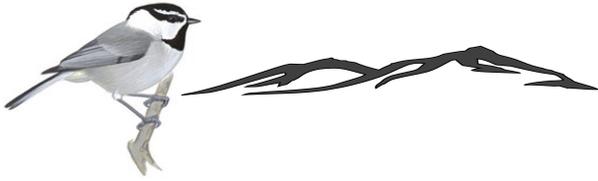
This is an excellent place to visit for 3 short, easy hikes. See <https://www.alltrails.com/parks/us/utah/ogden-nature-center-north> for more information.

John Bellmon and Dan Johnston led a GSL Bird Festival field trip to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. They had scouted the route a week earlier and were excited at the number of birds they could point out during the field trip. On the day of the trip, many of those birds were no-shows. But field trip participants were very pleased with the birds they did see. Some highlights were Long-billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Duck, Great Egret, as seen in that order below.



*President’s corner
Continued from Pg. 2*

- Goshawks - A Glare or Gross
- Grebes - A Water Dance
- Grosbeaks - A Gross
- Grouse - A Drumming or Leash
- Gulls - A Scavenging or Squabble
- Hawks - A Boil or Spiraling
- Herons - A Hedge, Pose or Scattering
- Hummingbirds - A Bouquet or Glittering
- Ibis - A Congregation or Wedge
- Jays - A Party or Scold
- Juncos - A Flutter or Ubiquity
- Kestrels - A Flight, Hover or Soar
- Kildeer - A Season
- Kingbirds - A Coronation or Tyranny
- Kingfishers - A Crown or Rattle
- Kinglets - A Castle, Court or Dynasty
- Horned Larks - An Ascension or Happiness
- Longspurs - A Drive
- Loons - An Asylum or Loomery
- Magpies - A Charm, Gulp or Mischief



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

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Go to www.wasatchaudubon.org and click on the FACEBOOK logo on the webpage.



**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

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TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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ADDRESS _____

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