



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Wasatch Audubon Society

Volume 41, Number 6 November/December 2022

WAS MONTHLY MEETINGS AND HAPPENINGS

Tuesday November 15, 2022 7:00PM

Our program director, Susan Snyder will host a discussion around the issue of renaming birds and organizations. This issue has become a hot topic recently due to the history of the people after whom they have traditionally been named. The current issue of the Audubon magazine has an article about renaming, and the Seattle Audubon chapter has taken some action. Join us in person at the Ogden Nature Center Education Center, or on Zoom (*see below).

December 14 through January 1 Annual Christmas Bird Count

Be a part of a nationwide effort to survey the birds in our community. See calendar for details on the individual events.

Tuesday December 20, 2022 7:00PM

Susan Snyder will present the annual photo slideshow, followed by some fun bird trivia. Drawings for a couple of door prizes will be done among those in attendance. Join us in person at the Ogden Nature Center Education Building or on Zoom (*see below).

President's Corner

Everything You Wanted to Know About Bird Migration

by Jay Stretch

In the last issue of the Chickadee, we talked about human threats to bird migration. Now let's turn to the migration miracle itself. For many years a still fairly well-regarded theory was that birds migrate by attuning to the earth's magnetic field for direction and positioning. But there are some issues with that approach. First, we have yet to find a sensory organ or receptor able to sense the magnetic field. [New research is pointing to Quantum Entanglement in the eyes, which involves atoms colliding, releasing nanosecond lasting particles which the bird process visually, but let's not go there!] And there is still the problem familiar to any human flying an aircraft—the geographic and magnetic North Poles are not in the same place—not even close. And while the geographic pole is stationary, the magnetic wanders a lot! Over the last 150 years the magnetic pole has wandered more than 685 miles. Called Magnetic Declination, the difference can be tremendous. If you were standing at the geophysical North Pole during WWII and used your compass to plant a stake directly in the direction of the magnetic pole, then went back last year and did the same, the latter pole would be

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KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!

Do we have your email address? We occasionally want to communicate with our members in between newsletters about **Zoom links**, 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: bradlynncc@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). Also, sign up on Instagram (search for Wasatch Audubon) to get reminders of walks, etc.

Wasatch Audubon SocietyWebsite: <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

2022/2023	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2022/2023	Ben Johnson	801-231-7008
2022/2023	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
2021/2022	Abigail Johnson	
2021/2022	Leah Johnson	
2021/2022	Mike Hearell	801-529-8693
2021/2022	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Conservation	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
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Feeder Projects	Laura Johnston	801-458-9558
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Bird Walks	Ben Johnson	801-231-7008
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
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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>.

A Continuing Call For Photos!!

Susan Snyder needs photos of Audubon activities and birds for our December meeting. Please email those to her at naturescall@gmail.com

Report on Wasatch Audubon's Ninth Big Sit

by John Bellmon

The weather was beautiful for our ninth Big Sit. Audubon Society's annual fund raising event. It was held at Robert N Hasenyager Great Salt Lake Nature Reserve at Farmington Bay. The first birds seen were Mallard, Great Blue Heron and Northern Harrier. A total of 27 species were sighted from within our 17-foot diameter circle. The last species recorded were Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope and a Virginia Rail (heard). This was a relatively low count, probably because of the record breaking hot weather that we have been having. The main waterfowl migration had not even started, so as a result we saw only the resident waterfowl that had been here during the summer. A big thank you to the seven observers that helped in the count: Lynn Carroll, Jay Stretch, Martha Ann Albertsen, Jennie Hitt, Laura and Dan Johnston and John Bellmon. Plan to come out next year for our next Big Sit and have a Big Time birding with us!

Bird Words—Windhover

by Jay Hudson

Colloquial name for the American Kestrel and also for the Australian and Nankeen Kestrels. An old cowboy in Australia told me that these birds hover at 30 feet away and always face the wind.

President's Corner

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displaced clockwise by more than 80 degrees. In other words, the earlier stake would be shown almost directly east from where you were standing. From Hudson Bay in the 1980's to now, the magnetic pole has moved almost to Siberia. If birds relied solely on that source for navigation, Tundra Swans would now be summering along the Aleutians or northern Japan. So, while this resource is undoubtedly used, it cannot be the only one.

While birds may not always know where they are, they do seem to be able to determine where they want to go. A classic example is the homing pigeon, often displaced to parts unknown but almost always finding its way back to the home roost. Not just pigeons have this skill. In a classic experiment, researchers captured 30 white crowned sparrows in Seattle on their way south from Alaska/Canada to Southern California or Mexico, 15 each of adults and juveniles. They then transported the birds in a van with no windows to Princeton, New Jersey. There they released them and monitored their behavior. Within a few hours, the adults set out directly for southern California, and though the juveniles took a little longer, they, too, soon were headed in the right direction. Obviously, they were not following a learned map of routes flown before. How did they do it—mental maps, recalled for characteristics of the destination, not the route. Hard to prove, but birds seem particularly adept at navigational math—with the ability to recover orientation even after displacement.



A White-crowned sparrow has incredible navigational math

Another thing we know is that birds have internal clocks, undoubtedly used as essential tools for navigation; from knowing and measuring how long to fly while migrating, to using the sun as a compass by measuring the arc of the sun as it transits the sky and noting its position at timed intervals (it moves at about 15 degrees per hour despite declination) to establish South as per season—the sun is always to the south in the Northern Hemisphere. They recalibrate daily, probably by using polarized light just as the sun is setting to reset—remember birds can see polarized light without having to use special lenses. A bird using the sun in the morning but denied its view in the afternoon cannot do this without seeing and updating that orientation.

Whether the bird is navigating in the local area for feeding and breeding or traveling half way around the world, they cannot do so by direction alone. There has to be some kind of mental map since birds do not have pockets or printing presses. How do they do it?

Take the case of the Scrub Jays and the Clark's Nutcracker. Both species cache food for later use, and since most of this food is seed or nuts, they cannot use olfactory clues. Yet the Jays quickly raid my feeder full of unshelled peanuts and hide them—well, I do not know very many of the places, but have found them in the pile of rags and between paint cans in my woodshop. Yet they remember where most, if not all are. If they did not, they would starve in the sparse months. They hide hundreds of bits of food, or in case of Clark's Nutcracker, up to 5,000 seeds. Jays even remember where neighboring Jays cached nuts as they watched and will raid that store, as well. Scrub Jays do not live on nuts alone, but enjoy bugs and creepy crawlies when available. The latter will decay long before the nuts and the Jays need to eat them first. This means that they not only know where things are hidden, but what is in each cache; and that means hundreds of different items and locations. Their mental maps are more reliable than most humans who often cannot find the cellphone they had just a few minutes ago.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Bird Migration will continue in the next edition of The Chickadee.

Conservation Corner: Audubon at Work on Great Salt Lake

by Lynn Carroll

Great Salt Lake (GSL) is so important for water birds that it's no surprise that Audubon is involved in conserving and enhancing its bird habitats. The chapters bordering the lake have always tried to ward off threats to the lake habitats, but National Audubon's involvement began in 1992, when they accepted title to the first 107 acres of donated land that became the Gillmor Sanctuary and hired Ella Sorensen to manage it.

Audubon now manages 3597 acres of land that was once the delta of the Jordan River where it reached the SE shore of GSL, before the river changed course. This area includes the donation by Florence Gillmor of all 1319 acres she owned in the area, several parcels acquired by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, and properties painstakingly added over years to fill in gaps. The latest addition is a fee-free lease of land owned by Kennecott. With the acquisition of about 3000 acre-ft of water, the sanctuary is managed for shore birds. Wetlands ecologist Heidi Hoven became Assistant Manager in 2016. The Lee Creek Natural Area, NE of the main preserve and accessed from the I-80 frontage road, is the only part open to the public.

More information: <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-tale-gillmor-sanctuary>
rockies.audubon.org/news/putting-pieces-together

The creation of Audubon's Saline Lakes Program and siting the program office in SLC in early 2017 expanded Audubon's work on behalf of GSL. Director Marcelle Shoop worked with Senator Romney and Rep. Moore to co-sponsor bills in their houses of Congress that would establish a program within the U.S. Geological Survey to assess, monitor, and benefit the hydrology of saline lakes and the wildlife that depend on them. Although Congress hasn't considered these bills yet, some funds to start the program were appropriated this year.

After the passage of the HJR 10, Concurrent Resolution to Address Declining Water Levels of GSL, Marcelle was a member of the "GSL HJR 10 Steering Group" making recommendations to the legislature (see my April 2021 article). This year more recommendations by that Group were incorporated into legislation. She has also been doing work on Utah Lake, chairing a stakeholder committee on wildlife, and opposing any widespread dredging. GSL would be affected since it is downstream.

More information:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/audubons-marcelle-shoop-submits-testimony-support-saline-lakes-bill>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/generational-advancements-great-salt-lake-water-policies-year-part-1>

I've discussed only a small sample of the work being done by the Saline Lakes people in Utah. Fortunately, Marcelle is aided by Outreach Associate, Max Malmquist and Saline Lakes Ecologist, Brian Tavernia. Heidi Hoven of Gillmor Sanctuary also does outreach work and sits on committees.

The work done by Wayne Martinson during 25 years as an Audubon employee starting before the Gillmor donation is too long a story for this article. Suffice it to say, he laid the groundwork for much that has followed.

In June, the Nature Conservancy and Audubon were chosen to manage the Great Salt Lake Water Trust, which was authorized and supplied with \$40 million by the legislature this year. House speaker Brad Wilson said, "Today's selection of Audubon and TNC as co-managers of the Great Salt Lake Water Trust reflects both organizations' scientific expertise, non-profit credibility, commitment to collaboration, and long-standing conservation record at Great Salt Lake."

CALENDAR



Note: Arrangements for carpooling will be your own responsibility.
Accessibility: Walks are no more than 1 1/2 miles, unless otherwise noted. See end of calendar for explanation of accessibility codes located at the end of each event.

NOVEMBER

2 Wednesday 7:00 am bird walk

Farmington Bay: Meet on 1325 W (entrance to Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area), not at GSL Nature Center. A pre-bird walk species search will be held. Leader-Ben **R U L**

9 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am bird walk

Peterson DWR Property in Morgan Valley: Meet at 8:00 am at the South Weber Drive at the mouth of Weber Canyon to share rides. Or meet at 8:30 am at the I-84 Exit 96 Park n' Ride lot in Peterson; then drive the short distance through Enterprise to the frontage road. A stile is used to get over a fence, but otherwise the trail is flat. Leader-Kris **U P L**

15 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Ogden Nature Center or remote

Susan Snyder will host a discussion about the current movement to rename species/chapters, etc. based on historical factors. See page 1 for details.

16 Wednesday 8:30am bird walk

Mueller Park, Bountiful: 2200 Mueller Park Rd. From I-15 take exit 315, go east on 2600 S (turns into Ordhard Dr.). Turn east on 1800 S and go up and over the summit into Mueller Canyon. Meet at the parking area. (You may have to park on the street if lot is full.) Leader-Colin **U M**

19 Saturday 8:00am field trip

Ponds: Meet at the Southeast corner of the Layton Hills Mall parking lot. We will visit the following ponds: Adams Reservoir, Jensen Pond, Kaysville, resting pond at Farmington Bay. This is an all day trip so bring a lunch and water. Leader-Dan **R P/U L B**

23 Wednesday 8:30am bird walk

Riverdale Trail South: Meet at the trailhead parking lot. Take 700 W South at Riverdale Rd. and then turn at the next left. Follow Weber river Dr. to parking lot at end of road. Leader-Dan/John **R P L B**

DECEMBER

30 Wednesday 8:30 bird walk

Buffalo Ranch Pond Farmington: Meet at the corner of Ranch Rd and Prairie View Dr. (residential neighborhood, park on street). We will cross the Legacy Highway dirt road construction and walk to the Buffalo Ranches ponds on the west side of the new highway. Leader Ben/Colin **U-rough surface**

6 Tuesday 6:30pm WAS Board Meeting.

7 Wednesday 8:30am bird walk

Ogden Botanical Gardens Parkway: Meet in the parking lot of the Gardens. From Washington Blvd. going north, turn right on 20 St. Then, turn left on Monroe Blvd. In 1/10th of a mile turn right into the parking lot. Leader- Dan /John. **R P L B**

14 Wednesday 9:00am Bear River Christmas

Bird Count: Meet at the Bear river Refuge Headquarters' parking lot at 9:00am. We will divide into three teams to cover different areas. It is an all day trip so bring water and lunch.

17 Saturday 7:00am Ogden Christmas Bird-

Count: Meet at Denny's (take 21st Street to 1100 W., on the north side by the Flying J Plaza, Ogden) for breakfast and to get your assignment. It is an all day trip, so bring water and lunch.

20 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

We will celebrate our birding year with a slideshow, prize drawing, and socializing at ONC. See details on page 1.

21 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am Morgan Christ-

mas Bird Count: Meet at the Utah DWR (515 E 5300 S, South Ogden) to carpool at 7:30. Or meet at Arnold Smith's house in Morgan, 796 N 700 E, at 8:00am. It is an all day trip so bring lunch and water.

24 Saturday Ogden Valley Christmas Bird

Count: Contact Mike Hearell at 801-529-8693 or at utmarshrat@yahoo.com to receive route assignments or additional participation information.

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28 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

Antelope Island Causeway only: Meet at the gate of Antelope Island State Park. This is a fee area. Leader-Ben/Colin **Mostly done in vehicles.**

JANUARY**1 Sunday 8:00am Antelope Island Christmas**

Bird Count: Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the park. We will divide into teams to cover the areas. It is an all day trip, so bring water and lunch.

Restrooms available, minimal walking.

Accessibility Codes for walks and trips

R - Restroom available P/U Combination

P - Paved trail L - Level trail

U - Unpaved trail M - Moderately level trail

B - Benches available

CONTACTS FOR WALKS AND TRIPS: Dan Johnston 801-645-8633, John Bellmon 801-444-3704, Ben Johnson 801-231-7008

Albatross Around One's Neck

by Jay Hudson

Ah? well a-day! What evil looks
Had I from old and young!
Instead of the cross, the albatross
About my neck was hung.

Thus was born the modern saying "An albatross around one's neck" meaning that when things aren't going well for you, it's because you have done something wrong and have the weight of the albatross around your neck as reprimand by your fellow sailors. If you also have a dark cloud over your head, you best find another line of work. sailors. If you also have a dark cloud over your head, you best find another line of work.

In 1798 Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote the poem *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (from which the above verse was drawn) and changed the way we think about the albatross. Superstitions can be confusing because in the days of deep water sailing when one sailor saw a Storm Petrel tip-toeing across the water he believed that a storm was coming. When he saw an albatross following the ship he believed that good weather was coming. Some sailors did not believe the power of the albatross at all and sewed the birds webbed feet into a tobacco pouch. There is no record of the fate of these non-believers.

Coleridge's sailor, who must have been shanghaied when he was a landlubber, and didn't know the beliefs of the men at sea, shot an albatross with his crossbow. This act brought down the wrath of the old salts on him. It seems they believed that men who had been taken to Davy's Jones Locker by the raging sea had their souls stored in the great wandering albatross. Killing an albatross meant these souls were now lost forever. The act of killing an albatross was regarded as bringing bad luck to the killer thus to the ship and all aboard. This required punishment and Coleridge's sailor was made to wear the dead albatross around his neck until bad luck overtook him or worse, took the ship, and all the men.

To this day the men of the sea believe many things we landlubbers can only wink at. I admit that when my troop ship crossed the International Date Line, I half believed that I had special permission from Davy Jones to do so because the Captain gave us all a certificate saying so.



Birdwatching is something that we
do for enjoyment, so if you enjoy it,
you are already a good birder. If
you enjoy it a lot, you are a great
birder. Ken Kauffman
Contributed by Leslie Loeffel



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! ROSY-FINCH PROJECT

Do you need a reason to get outdoors in our unique Utah winter? Volunteers will conduct 20-minute bird feeder counts once each month throughout the winter and early spring (December 2022 – April 2023). This project has a “moderate” level of dedication, since a monthly commitment is required. Training can be done virtually. Contact information is below to learn more or sign up.

Bird Feeder Watchers Needed!

Now seeking volunteers to count rosy-finches at bird feeders across their winter range



- ☐ Conduct a 20-minute feeder count once a month from Dec - Apr
- ☐ Survey your own feeder or choose a publicly accessible one
- ☐ Fill data gaps to help rosy-finch conservation efforts





Rosy-finch Project

Live Virtual Training Session:

Nov 15, 7pm-8pm MST

Watch our 1-hour virtual training live on Nov 15, 7pm-8pm Mountain Time, or watch the recording afterward.

Learn more and sign up:

sagelandcollaborative.org/rosy-finch



Major project partners

Report on the Blue Bird Nest Box Clean-out

by John Bellmon

Each year, Wasatch Audubon's blue bird boxes, located up near Monte Cristo, need to be cleaned out and repaired for next spring's nesting season. I'd like to thank this year's clean-out team including Lynn Carroll, Joel Ward, Arnold Smith and his grandson, Laura and Dan Johnston and myself. The weather was cooperative and the colors were breathtaking. We may need to change some of the nest box locations because of new trespass laws. We will be checking into that. We will also need to replace some older boxes. Thanks again to all who helped, and we can always use more volunteers next October. Contact John Bellmon for more information.

Welcome New and Rejoined Members

Mary Britt	Nancy Kemeny
Elyse Burden	Mr. Stuart Preece &
Richard Chesarek	Mr. Preece
James Diefenderfer	Jonathan Rock
Steve Emory	Debra Siegel
Roberta Glidden	Jacquelyn Taylor



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

___ MY CONTRIBUTION TO WASATCH AUDUBON: ___

TOTAL ENCLOSED: ___

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO WASATCH AUDUBON TO:
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