



The Mountain Chickadee



Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

<http://www.wasatchaudubon.org>

Volume 29, Number 5 **September/October 2010**

WAS Meetings and Happenings

September 21st Meeting

The Phragmites Plague in Utah is a problem at most of northern Utah's freshwater marshes. This aggressive plant dominates beneficial native species, destroying productive habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other marshland birds and mammals. **Randy Berger** is the manager of Salt Creek, Public Shooting Grounds and Locomotive Springs Wildlife Management Areas. Randy will present the Utah Division of Wildlife's approach to restoring these wetlands. 7:00 PM at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th).

October 19th Meeting

Dr. Frank Howe coordinates wildlife research projects between the Utah Division of Wildlife and various Utah Universities. One of the most critical habitats in the western United States is the sagebrush-steppe complex with its unique bird and mammal dependents. Dr. Howe will discuss current research and management options aimed at protecting, restoring, and/or improving habitat for these **Shrub-Steppe Obligate Species**. 7:00 PM at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th).

Audubon Adventures

Audubon envisions a future with a community of enlightened and informed citizens aware of the environmental outcomes of each of their activities. It is a community with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make informed choices between alternative courses of action that result in minimizing the negative effects on our environment.

Audubon Adventures introduce young people (grades 4-6), their families, and their teachers, to the fundamental principles by which the natural world functions.

The title of this year's kit is "Action for Planet Earth." Audubon's environmental education classroom program this year is designed to engage and inform young people, the future stewards of America's natural treasures: our rivers, streams, and wetlands, forests and prairies, mountains, lakes, and oceans. This edition focuses on Earth's habitats and natural resources and the "actions for planet Earth" everyone can take to help preserve and protect them.

The proceeds from the Annual Sunflower Seed sale provide funds for "Audubon Adventures" kits for 100 upper elementary classrooms in our local area.

Reminder!
**Order your sunflower seeds
by October 1st this year!**



Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: wasatchaudubon.org

Email: patricia@peakbusinesssolutions.net

801-597-1091

Officers

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Vice President	Arnold Smith	801-829-3383
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Keith Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Scott Baxter	801-540-9417

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2010/2011	Les Talbot	801-731-4925
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2010/2011	Dan Johnston	801-731-4573
2010	Rich Kennedy	801-782-9555
2010	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
2010	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Field Trips	Les Talbot	801-731-4925
Wed. Bird Walks	Mort Somer	801-782-5668
Fundraising	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Historian	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
Hospitality	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Mailing	Shirley Lee	801-479-5363
Mailing List	Paul Lombardi	801-295-7738
Membership	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Newsletter	Rich Kennedy	801-782-9555
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>

Newsletter Articles: Items for the next newsletter are due by the 20th of the month prior to the newsletter date. Send letters, articles or comments to Rich Kennedy, 1184 W. Pleasant View Dr., Pleasant View, Utah 84414 or by email to: geoteck@hotmail.com

President's Pipeline. One of the main goals of Wasatch Audubon Society (WAS) is environmental education, and toward that end WAS has been involved in the Audubon Adventures program since 1985. It is one of the most successful programs WAS supports. For those of you who aren't very familiar with Audubon Adventures, let me take time in this column to discuss it.

Audubon Adventures is a school curriculum-based program which is geared toward 4th - 6th graders. Each year there is a new set of curriculum topics. Topics range from learning about animal species, insects, habitats and conservation. Audubon provides teachers with curriculums and lesson plans.

Dennis Collins, WAS Education Committee Chairperson, has coordinated this program since 1985. He now is working with Box Elder, Weber, Ogden City and the Morgan school districts. As many as 3,200 students are participating in the program. There are only about 10-20 chapters in the US who have a program as large.

Why has Dennis spearheaded this program for so long? Dennis stated that he feels it is important for children to first learn about nature at an early age and that Audubon Adventures has been a great way to *plant the seed* of fascination for nature in children and increase their awareness of the conservation ethic. Over the years, Dennis has harvested the *fruits* of his planting through Audubon Adventures as students have contacted him to express their gratitude for being exposed to the program.

Each year some of the participating teachers have their students write thank you letters to us. As chapter President, I had the opportunity this year to read these letters from the students. This past school year's curriculum focused on insects, recycling, and energy/resource conservation. The kids got it!!

Thanks to Dennis and chapter members for all their years of hard work.

The cost of the Adventures materials is primarily covered by WAS's Sunflower Seed Sale along with contributions from chapter members. Jack Rensel coordinates the sale, an effort that requires lots of work and time to pull off.

The Sunflower Seed Sale revenues have not been sufficient to cover the full cost of WAS's Audubon Adventures program. And, as the cost of sunflower seed goes up, additional contributions will be needed to cover the full cost of the program. That's why we have an additional line on the seed order form for contributions. So here's my pitch: let's try to dig a little deeper into our pockets this year when we fill out our seed order form and add a few bucks on line two for Audubon Adventures.

Remember! It's more important than ever that our children and grandchildren know as much about how nature operates as they know how their computers operate.

Paul Merola

**Members Invited to
Fall Council Meeting in Logan**
by Lynn Carroll

Utah Audubon Council Fall 2010 Meeting
Sept. 17-19, Logan, Utah
Hosted by Bridgerland Audubon Society

Friday, Sept. 17

Meet at 7 p.m. at the Beehive Grill for dinner if you wish.

The Beehive Grill is at the corner of Main (U.S. 89, going into Logan) and 300 South, just north of the Tesoro Station.

At 9:30 that evening, there will be a star party at Mt. Logan Park. Information provided at dinner for those interested.

Saturday, Sept. 18

7 a.m. Optional birding

Ryan O'Donnell will help you unravel the mysteries of shorebirds. Fall shorebirds are one of the most notorious identification challenges in birding. We will tackle this problem head-on by learning to identify fall shorebirds by body shape, bill shape, and plumage. Stops may include the Polishing Ponds, Amalga Barrens, Sue's Ponds, and Hyrum Reservoir, as water levels dictate.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot between Caffe Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 East 150 North). This is just off Main Street at 150 North.

9 a.m. Council convenes

Directions to Ray B. West Building/Department of English at Utah State University: From I-15 North, take U.S. 89/91 into Logan, which becomes Main Street. Turn right (east) on 400 North. At 600 East, the road rises steeply and you'll see a USU campus sign on the north side. After the road levels out, turn left on Champ Drive into campus. This is a very sharp left turn. Follow Champ Drive as it backtracks west, then turns sharply to the left and debouches into a parking lot whose gates will be open. Park there and go to the front entrance of the Ray B. West building on the southwest corner of the quad. Follow the signs inside. Chris Cokinos's cell number is 435-213-6598.

Tentative Agenda

Coffee, tea, juice and pastries provided.

9 a.m. Introductions and president transition

9:30-10:30: Chapter reports

10:30-11:30: Report from Steve Erickson, policy advocate, regarding last session and upcoming session.

11:30-Noon: Discussion of Steve's contract.

Noon-1:30: Lunch on your own. We'll have recommendations and directions to share.

1:30-2:30: Discussion of state conservation issues and needed actions. Bring your ideas.

2:30-3:30: Presentation from Friends of Great Salt Lake on the expansion of Great Salt Lake Minerals. Discussion.

3:30-4:30: Open for discussion.

4:30-6:30/7:00: Break up for birding, probably up Logan Canyon.

6:30 or 7:00: Meet for dinner, location to be decided, and maybe watch the USU football game.

Sunday Sept. 19

Meet for optional birding, time and place to be determined.

Lodging: There is camping in Logan Canyon, esp. at Gunivah/Malibu campground. Best Western and Crystal Inn are close to campus.

For more information contact Chris Cokinos at 4950 Hollow Road, Nibley, UT 84321 or chris.cokinos@usu.edu or 435-245-7769. Lynn Carroll would like to know who's going; call 801-392-8216 or email bradlynnc@comcast.net

Nest Box Census

June 19th, 2010

by Les Talbot, Field Trip Chair

Due to a cold wet spring, the breeding season was delayed. I don't recall anyone reporting that they saw any baby birds. Eggs were present in most of the nests.

We had the largest turnout that we have had in several years. Jack and I would like to thank everyone who helped with the census. Participants were: John Bellmon, Paul Lombardi, Jack Rensel, Marilyn Perry, Paul Merola & his wife, Sara Weaver & her 4 children, David King & his son Ryan & daughter Sarah, Barbara & Jay Hudson, Jeanette & Brian Nosker, Kris Purdy, Jock Glidden, Arnold Smith, Keith Evans, and Barbara Robbins who was visiting from Pullman, WA.

Monte Cristo Flower Walk

July 17th, 2010

by Les Talbot, Field Trip Chair

There were many beautiful flowers and the temperature was perfect due to cloud cover. It was a perfect day to get out and commune with nature. Nine of us enjoyed the cool mountain landscape: Jeane Taylor, Sharen Perry, Carma Dorney & her grandson Stephen, Susan Cummings, Carolyn & Mort Sommer, and Lynn Carroll.

There are two nest holes in a quaking aspen tree near the men's restroom at the Monte Cristo Campground. A House Wren was feeding its young in the lowest hole, so we were able to watch it fly in, leave, collect insects, and return to the young. This tree has been used by Three-toed Woodpeckers in the past, so it would be worth checking out each spring.

Last year there was an abundance of butterflies. Unfortunately this year we only saw one—a Fritillary flitting around the flowers at the beginning of the Dairy Ridge Road.

Just east of the campground we saw two leucistic Uinta Ground Squirrels. Both were light gray with black eyes.

Al though the flowers were profuse, there was not a lot of variety. We saw the following: groundsel,

mule's ears, orange agoseris, showy daisy, western coneflower, yarrow, mountain bluebells, mountain forget-me-not or stickweed (these two were hard to ID because they have a similar flower and seeds were not present), dock, sulphur flowered buckwheat, hare figwort, blue penstemon, richard's geranium, sticky geranium, orchard grass, elderberry, snowberry, horse mint, silvery lupine, larkspur, vetch, leafy jacob's ladder, gilia, englemann spruce, limber pine, james chickweed, mountain ash, big sagebrush, soft cinquefoil, sedge, valerian, field bindweed, mustard, nuttall violet, currant, and a thistle species. Even though this is a long list, it is only about half as long as what we usually see. The meadow east of the campground was carpeted with mule's ears, penstemon, and sticky geranium. The beauty of it made one wish that they had a cabin on top of the hill, so they could enjoy it throughout the whole flowering season.

Members Corner

Editor's note: Following are a few new columns/articles submitted by our members. Each month we will have something new in this section. Some will become regular monthly columns, while others may be a onetime treat! Please feel free to send me your ideas, photos, articles, etc. or anything you might like to share with the readers of the Chickadee at geoteck@hotmail.com.

Enjoy! -Rich-



Black Crowned Night Heron



Photos by Paul Merola

Common Yellowthroat

Marsh Wren



Lark Sparrow

Photos by
Paul Merola

Home Sweet Home

by Keith Evans

In addition to information on 150 birding hotspots, the book titled, Utah's Featured Birds and Viewing Sites is full of information on habitat types. Is habitat as important as size, color, wing-bars, and bill shape for bird identification? Probably not, but being habitat aware sure helps. And, for the birds, habitat is everything. This month-by-month series is based on information from the book with a few anecdotes to add interest.

October around the Marsh and Wetlands.

October is a good time to bird the wet areas in our arid state. With every cold front, the birds become more plentiful and the mosquitoes and horse flies are rapidly disappearing. As with riparian habitats, marsh and wetlands comprise a small portion of the state, but are very productive as bird habitat. Marshes are dominated by cattail, bulrush, sedge and grass. The soils are generally water-soaked in this transition between open water and uplands. These areas are inhabited by a high diversity of waterfowl, shorebird, and wetland species. Fall is the time to look for migrating species like Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal. Many of the shorebirds have already departed for South America, but American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Killdeer, and Great-blue Heron are plentiful. In addition, wetland species like Marsh Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird are present. I've heard birders complain that access to the marshes is limited by closed roads for most of the summer. I often hear, "Roads are

only open during waterfowl hunting season." From a management perspective, all access roads are along the dikes, and the dikes provide primary nesting and resting habitat for many birds. The roads are closed to prevent disturbance during the critical nesting time in a bird's life. The good news is that the roads are open in October and the birding is great. I remember a fall day at Harold Crane Waterfowl Management Area. The drive to the WMA seemed slow as we were stopping so many times to view birds. We finally made it to the end of the road on the WMA and started walking on a trail headed west. It's hard to remember all the birds I tried to photograph, but at the top of the list were American White Pelican, Cinnamon Teal, White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Sandhill Crane, and Northern Harrier. I didn't even try to photograph the many species of sparrows working ahead of us along the trail.

Welcome New Members

by Paul Lombardi

Please join us in welcoming those who have recently joined Audubon and/or our chapter:

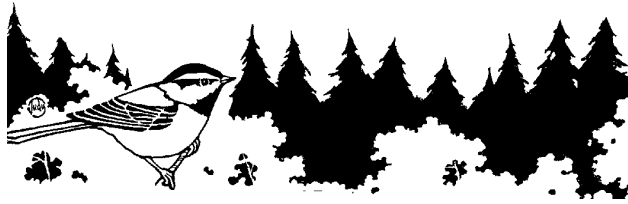
Di Allison	Richard C. Johnson
Clay Anderson	Chris Kleinsmith
Mike Anderson	Victoria Lohr
Scott Bagshaw	Ann Matthews
L. R. Brooks	Mary Mc Kinley
Howard W. Browers	Beth Mckinnon
Gula Browne	Hal Myers
Betsy Dowling	Ernest Perkins
David Eldridge	Janet Potter
Josephine Faulkner	Afton R. Richards
Mary Harrison	Marge Smith
Sherri Heward	Gerald & Mary Ann
Miguel Jimenez	Thompson

Hope to see you at our next meeting or field trip.



Barn Swallow Chicks

Photo by Keith Evans



CALENDAR

All activities listed below are open to the public.
No fees are charged for any event unless noted.

For further information on
Meetings: Jack Rensel 801-399-0240
Field Trips: Les Talbot 801-731-4925
Bird Walks: Mort Somer 801-782-5668

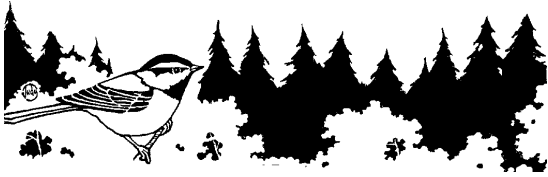
September

- 1 Wednesday 7:45/8:15am** **Bird Walk**
South Ogden Nature Park Meet at 7:45 at McDonald's (5745 S. Harrison) for breakfast or at 8:15 to carpool.
- 8 Wednesday 7:45/8:15am** **Bird Walk**
Willard Bay: Meet at 7:45 at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West, east of I-15, Exit #349) for breakfast or at 8:15 to carpool.
- 15 Wednesday 7:45/8:15am** **Bird Walk**
Riverdale Trail (south): Meet at 7:45 at McDonald's (Riverdale Road & 900 W) for breakfast or at 8:15 at the trailhead parking lot (from Riverdale Rd., south on 700 W for one block, left on 4600 S to lot on right at end of road).
- 21 Tuesday 7:00pm** **WAS Meeting**
Guest speaker Randy Berger will share The Phragmites Plague in Utah. At the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). (See front page side bar for details.)
- 22 Wednesday 7:45/8:15am** **Bird Walk**
Mantua Reservoir: Meet at 7:45 at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West, east of I-15, Exit #349) for breakfast or at 8:15 to carpool.
- 25 Saturday 8:00am** **Field Trip**
Nest Box Cleanup: This is our annual opportunity to record nesting success and make sure our nest box residents have a clean home to move into when they return next spring. Meet at Smith's (12th & Harrison) at 8:00am. Bring a lunch & water.

- 29 Wednesday 7:45/8:15am** **Bird Walk**
North Fork Park, Eden: Meet at 7:45 at McDonald's (Washington & 2600 N, North Ogden) for breakfast or at 8:15 to carpool.

October

- 5 Tuesday 7:00pm** **Board Meeting**
The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). All members are welcome.
 - 6 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am** **Bird Walk**
RR Trail near Willard Bay South: Meet at 8:00 at McDonald's (1838 W. 2700 N, Farr West, east of I-15, Exit #349) for breakfast or at 8:30 to carpool.
 - 13 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am** **Bird Walk**
Hyrum Lake State Park: Meet at 8:00 at McDonald's (1838 W. 2700 N, Farr West, east of I-15, Exit #349) for breakfast or at 8:30 to carpool. (Fee Area)
 - 19 Tuesday 7:00pm** **WAS Meeting**
Guest speaker, Dr. Frank Howe will present Shrub-Steppe Obligate Species Management and Habitat Improvement. At the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). (See front page side bar for details.)
 - 20 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am** **Bird Walk**
Willard Bay South: Meet at 8:00 at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West, east of I-15, Exit #349) for breakfast or at 8:30 to carpool.
 - 23 Saturday 8:00am** **Field Trip**
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge: The new road to the Auto Tour Loop will be open. Meet at Harmon's (2nd Street) at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch.
 - 27 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am** **Bird Walk**
North Arm Viewing Area: Meet at 8:00 at the Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast or at 8:30 to carpool.
- November**
- 3 Wednesday 8:00/8:45am** **Bird Walk**
Two Rivers Trail: Meet at 8:00 at the Country Market Restaurant (North on 1100 W from 21st St. In Flying J/Conoco Plaza on your left) for breakfast or meet there at 8:45 to carpool.
 - 5-6 Friday/Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm**
Sunflower Seed Pick-up: Pick up your sunflower seeds at the Utah DWR Warehouse (5151 E. 5300 S, South Ogden) between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Loading assistance will be available.



Wasatch Audubon's 2010 Sunflower Seed Sale

It's time once again to support your backyard birds and **Audubon Adventures** by ordering your winter's supply of black oil sunflower seeds. Your cost this year is **\$22.00** per 50-lb. bag of seeds.

All money raised in *Wasatch Audubon's* annual seed sale goes to support environmental education by providing **Audubon Adventures** packets to 4th - 6th graders in schools in our community. Our chapter has a continuing commitment to provide these packets to 100 classes each year. Our cost is about \$40 per classroom. You can help us to fulfill this commitment, whether ordering sunflower seeds or not, by making a contribution in any amount. You may use the coupon below to do so.

TO ORDER

ORDER PICK UP

The price this year is **\$22.00** per 50-lb. bag. Orders must be pre-paid and received by **October 1st**. Use the coupon below to place your order.

Pick up dates are: **Friday and Saturday
November 5 – November 6
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Mail your order to: **Wasatch Audubon
P. O. Box 3211
Ogden, UT 84409**

Pick up location is: **Utah DWR Warehouse
515 East 5300 South
South Ogden**

Save the top of this page to remind you of the pick up dates and location.

Ordered by (Please print):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

Sunflower seed purchase:

_____ bags @ **\$22.00** per bag = \$ _____

Additional (tax-deductible) contribution for
Audubon Adventures: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: **Wasatch Audubon
P. O. Box 3211
Ogden, UT 84409**

Your cost is **\$22.00** per 50-lb. bag.

Use this table to find the amount of your purchase:

Bags	Amount
1	\$22.00
2	44.00
3	66.00
4	88.00
5	110.00
6	132.00
7	154.00
8	176.00
9	198.00
10	220.00



Wasatch Audubon Society

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ORDER YOUR SUNFLOWER SEED NOW!

(This is your sunflower seed order form.)