



# The Mountain Chickadee



Newsletter of the Wasatch Audubon Society

<http://www.wasatchaudubon.org>

Volume 31, Number 5

Sept/Oct 2012

## WAS Meetings and Happenings

### Tuesday, Sept 18 7:00 pm

Wendy Wilson, Park Naturalist for the Antelope Island State Park, will discuss mammals of Antelope Island. Most of us are familiar with the impressive numbers and variety of birds using the Great Salt Lake, Causeway, and Antelope Island habitats. Wendy will enhance our knowledge of the mammal species that use those habitats as well. Come and bring a friend! Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

### Tuesday, Oct 16 7:00 pm

Jason St. Sauver, a Park Ranger for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, will share his Big Year experience with us. Many birders select a particular locality to observe the largest number of bird species possible during a prescribed time period. This event is known as a "Big Year." Big year activities may be confined to one's backyard, county, state, country, or the world; and often present a challenge to the participant's birding skills. Join us at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden.

## FALL MIGRATION

*by Keith Evans*

I love the changing seasons - the cooler temperatures and crunchy leaves accompany the return of our feathered friends from the north. It's time to start looking for the first Merlins and Rough-legged Hawks for the winter season and to say goodbye to the last Swainson's Hawks of the summer. This "changing of the guard" is a great time to go birding! Anytime is a good birding time, but migration adds extra excitement. Seed-eating birds tend to concentrate in areas (including our backyards) where they can find a good food supply. Offering clean, dry black-oil sunflower seeds is an excellent way to attract migrating species. Although species like Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks visit our yards in an attempt to make a meal from anything they can catch, the loss of a few finches and sparrows is necessary for the survival of these non-seed eating species. Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Ogden Bay and Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Areas, and the Antelope Island Causeway are important bird areas that provide valuable food and cover sources for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

Fall migration is generally a more leisurely trip compared to the spring migration, when many of these same birds headed north for the nesting season. Many of the migrants will spend the winter in this area if they find a dependable food source. For 30 years, Wasatch Audubon Society has offered 50-pound bags of black-oil sunflower seeds to local birders to feed our wintering backyard birds. Last year local birders supported this effort by purchasing more than 40,000 pounds (approximately 20 ton) of black-oil sunflower seeds to help keep seed-eating bird populations healthy.

So, I leave you with two messages - first, support Wasatch Audubon's sunflower seed fundraising project and order your winter supply of seeds on the form in this newsletter; and second, head to your favorite birding hotspots and enjoy all the experiences available during fall migration.



**Wasatch Audubon Society**  
Website: [wasatchaudubon.org](http://wasatchaudubon.org)

**Officers**

President	Arnold Smith	801-829-3383
Vice President	Keith Evans	801-476-0232
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Betty Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Paul Merola	801-731-4815

**Board of Directors**

2011/2013	Scott Baxter	801-540-9417
2011/2013	Katie McVey	
2011/2013	Dan Johnston	801-731-4573
2011/2012	Weston Smith	801-829-4183
2011/2012	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
2011/2012	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216

**Committee Chairpersons**

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Field Trips	Les Talbot	801-589-2591
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-295-7738
Historian	Marie Fulmer	801-682-8745
Hospitality	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Mailing List	Paul Lombardi	801-295-7738
Membership	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Newsletter	Melissa Hofer	801-544-1453
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 15th of the month prior to the newsletter date. Send letters, articles, or comments to Melissa Hofer @ [mah3338@msn.com](mailto:mah3338@msn.com).

**PRESIDENT'S PIPELINE**

*by Arnold Smith*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Your WAS Contribution Sponsors the Audubon Adventures Program for Local 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

With this September/October issue of the Mountain Chickadee comes Wasatch Audubon Society's annual Sunflower Seed and donation drive. Much of the money generated from seed and other donations goes to fund Audubon Adventures for students in various schools in our chapter area.

This is what Jordan had to say about our efforts:

*Dear Wasatch Audubon Society,*

*Thank you for the Audubon Adventures papers. I really enjoyed reading all the fun facts in those magazines. I really appreciate you guys giving the magazines to us for free and their even in color. I learned a lot of things and facts from those magazines. They are really fun to read. Sincerely Jordan*

Wasatch Audubon could not give the students the materials "free and in color" without the money from the seed and other donations.

Juan wrote:

*Dear, Arnold Smith*

*I appreciate that you publish these articles they teach me a lot of stuff and they are a lot of fun!! They teach me about animal habitats and what humans have done to them. I'll try my best to keep the world safe. From Juan*

*Continued on page 5*

## CONSERVATION CORNER

*by Lynn Carroll*

### The 20% Challenge

Slowing climate change is vital to the future welfare of humans and many other species on Earth. It will require action by governments, corporations, and people around the world. While we wait for politicians to see the light, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) suggests that individuals aim to reduce their “carbon footprints” by 20% this year. Your carbon footprint is the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents of other greenhouse gases, released because of things you do and things and services you buy. In a new book, *Cooler Smarter: Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living*, they tell us what changes will result in the greatest declines in greenhouse gas emissions. A UCS article about the book is my source for what follows.

It will be helpful to know the sources of our emissions. For the *average* American, responsible for 21 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year, it breaks down like this:

Food: 14%  
Home heating and cooling: 17%  
Other home energy use: 15%  
Stuff you buy: 26%  
Transportation: 28%

Since transportation is the largest category, it’s a good place to achieve savings. A more fuel-efficient car, a bicycle for some trips, and public transport for others might achieve most of the 20% right off the bat!

Add more insulation in your attic and/or caulking and weather stripping in places where your home is drafty. If your home is pretty average, you can get one-sixth to one-fifth of the way to that 20% goal with either action, and you’ll save money every year.

Many of us have already switched to compact fluorescent light bulbs, but you can cut your electricity use for lighting by half again by going to LEDs when the CFLs fail. Another tip for reducing home energy use is to find out your specific electricity usage with a plug-in electricity monitor. It may persuade you to unplug your entertainment center at night, or perhaps that it’s time to replace your old refrigerator.

It’s surprising how much difference you might make by changing your eating habits. From an emission reduction point of view, “buy local” won’t do much, but cutting your consumption of meat and cheese in half may cut your carbon footprint by about 4%. If you need to lose weight, now you have another incentive to substitute fruit and veggies for beef and pork. Another change that’s healthy for Earth and you is to reduce highly processed foods, which are typically high in salt, low in fiber, and high in packaging materials.

Finally, bear in mind the wisdom of the past. Keep life simple. Buy what you *need*, not what you *want*. The three R’s, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, are as important as ever for meeting the 20% Challenge.

## BABY BARN OWLS

*by Keith and Betty Evans*

We observed a late clutch of six baby Barn Owls on Antelope Island the first week in August, but they were not there on August 8. We were told that an adult owl had died and no other adult appeared to be feeding the young, so all six hatchlings were transported to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah (WRCNU) in Ogden on August 3. All six were suffering from dehydration, but DaLyn Erickson, Wildlife Specialist at WRCNU, reports all six are thriving and they hope to release them back into the wild by the end of September or early in October. Good news indeed! Our thanks to the employees at Antelope Island State Park and WRCNU for taking such good care of this family of owls.

## **FIELD TRIP REPORT**

*by Les Talbot*

### **Annual Flower Walk**

**July 21, 2012**

There were very few flowers in bloom. The ones that we did see were on their last legs. Mostly, we just saw the stems and leaves of flowers. Arnold Smith told me that he had visited the area earlier in the summer and the flowers were very sparse then. When we did the Blue Bird census the temperature in the Monte Cristo area was 87 degrees. When we did the flower walk the temperature was 87 degrees. The higher elevations were not much cooler than here in the valley. Also, the lack of rain didn't help out any either. The lack of moisture and the high temperatures were major factors in the lack of flower productivity this year.

We did add a few new flowers to the list. They are: Plantain, Lance-leaved Stonecrop, Slender Hawkweed, Sagebrush Buttercup, Great Burdock, Douglas Fir, and a Groundsel species.

We saw a Williamson's Sapsucker, a pair of Mountain Bluebirds (they had a nest in a hole in a tree), and Purple Martins.

The following participated in the trip: Paul Lombardi, Trish Turner, Duane Burton, Betty & Keith Evans, Sharen Perry, Marily Gren, Kris Purdy, Lynn Carroll, Vickie Winn, and I.

### **Bluebird Nest Box Census**

**June 23, 2012**

Jack Rensel and I would like to thank the following for helping us take the nest census: Bruce Perry, Brian Nosker, Betty & Keith Evans, Paul Merola, Jeane Taylor, Lynn Carroll, John Bellmon, Kris Purdy, and Arnold Smith.

We were able to complete the census and it appears that we had a lot of success with the boxes having nests in them.

## **MEMBER'S CORNER**

*by Pat Werling*

### **Another Robin Mystery**

I did not see the robin's nest in my lilac shrub until early July. The only reason I found it was because a robin was consistently flying between my two sheds where the lilac bush was located. I could not see any eggs because it was higher than my view, but I observed a female robin in it whenever I went out to check. I thought that it was a little late to be nesting, however. Then one morning about the 11th or 12th of July, the mother was gone; but I did observe three small nestlings with their bills wide open. I noticed more activity from the parents and did see one still on the nest occasionally. I was concerned about the heat and then the large rainstorm with wind we had on the 16th. The morning of the 22nd I could see only two, but the other could just have been out of my view. I got scolded at times when I was near them, especially if I take my Lab. She also was aware of them, but they are out of her reach. There was a lot of activity with the adult robins in their feeding chores. I hope to be aware when they will fledge. This robin family has given me a lot of pleasure. The timing of many of my garden flowers has been earlier than usual, which would not explain why the robins were nesting later.

## **MEMBER'S CORNER**

### **Call For Submissions**

We welcome articles written by any member of Wasatch Audubon. Some of our most entertaining and original stories come from your trips, sightings, and backyards. Please send submissions to *The Chickadee* editor, Melissa Hofer, at [mah33338@msn.com](mailto:mah33338@msn.com) or call for more information 801-388-0800.

**President’s Pipeline**

*(cont. from page 2)*

In another letter Jailene commented:

*Dear Audubon People*

*thank you for giving us those magazine. I learn so much about them every time you send us those I learn a new thing. I will like to read some more because I learn new things and it makes me more smarter. Thank you so much for the magazines. From Jailene*

The above letters may give you an idea of how much some of the students enjoy and learn from Audubon Adventures. Over the years it has been my experience that most students really do like this material.

Christopher wrote:

*Dear Wasatch Audubon Society*

*Thank you for the Audubon Adventures papers. I learned so much [,]hope in 5<sup>th</sup> grade I get some more papers. Thank you so much send some to 5<sup>th</sup> grade please. Really will write again if you send more. I don't how to thank you. your frien Christopher*

I believe Christopher's letter makes my point but if you haven't heard enough, Catelynn said:

*Dear Arnold Smith and Wasatch Audubon Society,*

*Thank you so much for the Wasatch Audubon paper. We have loved them. I think you guys are awesome and amazing. I will say something THANK YOU your friend Catelynn*

I have to agree with Catelynn, all those who support Wasatch Audubon's programs by obtaining Sunflower Seed from Audubon or making other

donations are “awesome and amazing!” If you want to pick up seed this year or otherwise make a donation, send in your order form or contact Jack Rensel at 801-399-0240.

**THANKS, RICH**

After more than four years as Editor of *The Mountain Chickadee*, we “let Rich Kennedy off the hook” when Melissa Hofer agreed to take on the job for Wasatch Audubon. We greatly appreciate Rich’s ability to make the pieces fit and ensure the professionalism of each issue of the newsletter. It is never easy to mesh several “writers” with varying article lengths and diverse styles into a cohesive publication with a “defined size.” We wish Rich the best as he takes on a new hobby and meets new friends through his ham radio. We hope to see both the Kennedys on future field trips and at meetings.

**Welcome New Members**

*By Paul Lombardi*

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

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Rufas Barlin     | Glenna Merrill     |
| Drew Browning    | Cecillia Nackowski |
| Jennifer Bunker  | Bill Perko         |
| David Doxey      | Jaye Poelman       |
| Ruth Geisler     | Amber Sanchez      |
| Michael Hearrell | Ivan Thompson      |
| Linda Holub      | Patricia Uhl       |
| Geraldine Kap    | Lisa Usher         |
| Dave Lundstrom   | Paul Vidano        |
| Lowell Maw       | Richard Ward       |
| Becky McShane    | Joanne Wheeler     |

We hope to see you at our next meeting or field trip!

## CALENDAR

### September

**5 Wednesday 7:30/8:00 am Bird Walk**

**Little Mountain Railroad trail:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N just east of Exit 349 on I-15) for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool. We'll walk south along the railroad grading from the parking lot on 4000 N. (This is the road leading west from Smith and Edward's).

**12 Wednesday 7:45/8:30 am Bird Walk**

**Two River's Trail:** Meet at 7:45 at Denny's Restaurant (North on 1100 W from 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the Flying J Plaza) for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool.

**18 Tuesday 7:00 pm WAS Meeting**

Speaker Wendy Wilson, Park Naturalist for the Antelope Island State Park. Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup>). See front page for details.

**19 Wednesday 7:45/8:15 am Bird Walk**

**Willard Bay SP:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N just east of Exit 349 on I-15) for breakfast or at 8:15 to carpool. Remember this is a fee area.

**22 Saturday 8:00 am Field Trip**

**Blue Bird Nest Box Cleanout:** It is important that we prepare the nest boxes for next spring. Meet at Smith's (12<sup>th</sup> & Harrison in Ogden) at 8:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and water. (RSVP Les Talbot at 801-589-2591)

**26 Wednesday 7:45/8:30 am Bird Walk**

**Ft. Buenaventura:** Meet at 7:45am at McDonald's (1111 Washington Blvd) for breakfast or 8:30 at the Fort.

**29 and 30 Saturday**

**Utah Audubon Council:**

Sat., 9 am, field trip; 6-8 pm, potluck/program.  
Sun., 8-noon, business mtg. See flyer on WAS website or call John Bellmon (801-444-3704) for more detail.

### October

**2 Tuesday 7:00pm Board Meeting**

The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup>). All members are welcome.

**3 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am Bird Walk**

**Riverdale Trail (South):** Meet at McDonald's (Riverdale Road and 900 W) at 8:00 for breakfast or at 8:30 am to car pool. We'll drive south on 700 W for one block, then right on 4600 S. to the parking lot at end of the road.

**10 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am Bird Walk**

**Kays Creek Parkway:** Meet at McDonald's (5745 S Harrison) for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool.

**16 Tuesday 7:00 pm WAS Meeting**

Speaker Jason St. Sauver, a Park Ranger for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup>). See front page for details.

**17 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am Bird Walk**

**Riverdale Parkway:** Meet at McDonald's (Riverdale Road and 900 W) at 8:00 for breakfast or at 8:30 am to car pool. We'll drive north on 700 W for two blocks, right on 600 W to the parking lot.

**20 Saturday 8:00/8:30 Field Trip**

**Antelope Island Causeway and Garr Ranch:** The Causeway and the Ranch are the best places to bird in Northern Utah. Meet at the parking lot south of the McDonald's in Riverdale (900 W. & Riverdale Rd.) at 8:00 a.m. or at the Causeway Kiosk at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and water. (RSVP Les Talbot at 801-589-2591).

**24 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am Bird Walk**

**East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville:** Meet at McDonald's (5745 S Harrison) for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool.

**31 Wednesday 8:00/9:00 am Bird Walk**

**Ogden Nature Center:** Meet at 8:00 at the Village Inn (322 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street) for breakfast or meet at the Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street) for the walk at 9:00.

### November

**7 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am Bird Walk**

**Swanson Environmental Center:** Meet at 8:00 at McDonald's (Washington & 2600 N., N. Ogden) for breakfast or at 8:30am to carpool. Depending on the weather and/or road conditions, this trip may be changed.



# Wasatch Audubon's 2012 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 at **\$22.00** per 50-lb. bag.

Money raised in *Wasatch Audubon's* annual event goes to support environmental education by providing **Audubon Adventures** packets to 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders in schools in our community. Our chapter has a continuing commitment to provide these packets for up to 100 classes each year. Our cost is \$44 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 ORDER

## ORDER PICK UP

All orders must be pre-paid and **received** by **October 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will be unable to accept orders that are not pre-paid. Please use the coupon below to place your order.

Pick up dates are: **Friday and Saturday  
November 2 – November 3  
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.*

<p>Ordered by (Please print):</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City/State/ZIP: _____</p> <p>Phone Number: _____</p> <p>Sunflower seed purchase:</p> <p>_____ bags @ <b>\$22.00</b> per bag = \$ _____</p> <p>Additional (tax-deductible) contribution for <b>Audubon Adventures</b>: \$ _____</p> <p><b>Total Enclosed</b>: \$ _____</p> <p><b>Mail to:</b> <b>Wasatch Audubon P. O. Box 3211 Ogden, UT 84409</b></p>	<p>At <b>\$22.00</b> per 50-lb. bag, use this table to find the amount of your purchase:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">Bags</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">1</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$22.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">2</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$44.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">3</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$66.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">4</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$88.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">5</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$110.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">6</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$132.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">7</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$154.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">8</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$176.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">9</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$198.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">10</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$220.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">11</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$242.00</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">12</td><td style="padding: 5px;">\$264.00</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	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	11	\$242.00	12	\$264.00
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																										
11	\$242.00																										
12	\$264.00																										



*Wasatch Audubon Society*

P.O. Box 3211

Ogden, Utah 84409

**ORDER YOUR SUNFLOWER SEED NOW!**

**(This is your sunflower seed order form.)**