



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 32, Number 6

Nov/Dec 2013

WAS Meetings and Happenings

Tuesday, November 19
7:00 p.m.
WAS Meeting

The Ogden Nature Center was established in 1974 at its present location – the first nature center in Utah. Mary McKinley is the 6th and current Director. She will talk to us about ongoing programs at the Center.

December 17, 2013
7:00 p.m.
WAS Meeting

Keith Evans, retired Forest Service Ornithologist and long-time member, will review winter bird species normally found on the four Christmas Bird Count circles in our area.

Both at Ogden Nature Center
966 W. 12th Street

Come and bring a friend!

**MORE INFORMATION
ON THE CALENDAR
INSIDE**

GET READY FOR THE CBC!

by Keith Evans

Wasatch Audubon started the Ogden area Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in 1980. Since then, we've added three more counts in Northern Utah and many other groups participate in Christmas Bird Counts throughout the state. Nation-wide, this will be the 114th count. All of the data for previous counts are online. I found some interesting observations and trends from the 25 counts in Utah last year (CBC-113). These highlights, and the possibility of something new, should spark everyone's interest. We hope you will participate in one or more of the counts this year.

For the 113th count, 192 species were reported in Utah with an average of 64 species per count circle. In recent years, the total state species list has varied from 180-189, so CBC-113 was high. A combination of weather, bird migration patterns, and level of participation resulted in several Utah counts recording their highest number of species (this included the Ogden count). Four Utah count circles exceeded the 100 species mark. It takes two factors to record more than 100 species during a Utah CBC – first, mild weather with non-frozen (open) water; and, second, a large number of participants.

The CBC database is important for assessing the health of bird populations and tracking the impacts of global trends, such as climate change. I compiled 10-year averages for a few regularly recorded species. Red-tailed Hawks continue to be Utah's most common winter raptor with a 10-year average of 528 birds seen on 18 circles (on CBC-113, 672 were recorded on 23 circles). Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers have been variable, but have maintained a stable trend. Say's Phoebe numbers reached a high of 126 on 7 circles on CBC-106. On CBC-113, 60 Say's Phoebes were recorded on 6 circles. This compares to the 10-year average of 74 on 6 circles. Townsend's Solitaire numbers have remained fairly stable with a 10-year average of 197 on 16 circles in Utah. Trend analysis for many more species is possible with the online CBC database.

An unexpected sighting is often a highlight of a CBC. A few of these "WOW" birds for the 113th count in Utah included two Western Sandpipers, one Harlequin Duck, one Long-tailed Duck, one Bonaparte's Gull, and four Snow Buntings on the Antelope Island circle; a Red-necked Grebe on the Heber Valley circle; one Clark's Grebe and one Blue Jay on the Logan circle; one Osprey and one Swamp Sparrow on the Torrey circle; two Dunlins on the Silver Reef circle; one American Bittern, one White-faced Ibis, and one House Wren on the Fish Springs circle; two Northern Mockingbirds on the Provo circle; Black-throated Gray Warbler on the St. George circle; and one Indigo Bunting on the Kanab circle. Will you be the one to spot the "WOW" bird for the 114th CBC?



Wasatch Audubon Society
 Website: 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

2012/2013	Scott Baxter	801-540-9417
2012/2013	Katie McVey	435-734-6436
2012/2013	Dan Johnston	801-731-4573
2013/2014	Weston Smith	801-829-4183
2013/2014	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
2013/2014	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		
Hospitality	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Membership	Pat Bausman	801-476-4620
Newsletter	Melissa Hofer	801-544-1453
Programs	Jack Rensel	801-399-0240
Publicity	Arnold Smith	801-829-3383
Website	Patricia Allaire	801-597-1091

PRESIDENT’S PIPELINE

by Arnold Smith

The leaves have taken on their beautiful fall colors for the second time since I took office in January of 2012. That means my term as president of Wasatch Audubon Society is almost over. As always, it has been a great experience to help with an organization that tries to protect wildlife and the habitat that supports it.

January 2014 also marks the 100th year since the last Passenger Pigeon died in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens, making the species extinct – I hope that’s not a bad sign for Audubon. We are looking for people to serve as officers and board members to help keep Wasatch Audubon from becoming extinct. If you are interested please contact John Bellmon or myself.



HELP SAVE A TREE!!

Do you prefer reading electronically or hard copy?

This newsletter is available electronically at www.wasatchaudubon.org. If you would rather not receive a hard copy every other month, please send an email message to that effect to bkevans4@comcast.net or call **801-476-0232** and we will remove your name from our hard-copy mailing list.

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>

PASSENGER PIGEON FACTS

by Melissa Hofer

The Smithsonian Institute estimates that there were 3 to 5 billion Passenger Pigeons in America at the time of its discovery by Europeans.

The bird population was decimated by man. An estimated 50,000 birds per day were killed for food or sport at a nesting site in Michigan in 1878.

Martha, the last known Passenger Pigeon, died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens in 1914.

Her body was mounted in a display case at the Smithsonian Institute accompanied by a plaque that read:

MARTHA
Last of her species, died at 1 p.m.,
1 September 1914, age 29, in the
Cincinnati Zoological Garden.
EXTINCT

The Cincinnati Zoo is renovating its Passenger Pigeon Memorial for the 100th anniversary of Martha's death.

Artworks is working with wildlife artist John Ruthven to create a mural entitled "Martha, the Last Passenger Pigeon." The mural will be located on the side of a building in downtown Cincinnati and depicts Martha leading a large flock of Passenger Pigeons.

Project Passenger Pigeon is commemorating the anniversary by raising awareness of conservation issues with a video, book and activities in 2014.

An organization called Revive and Restore is attempting to use Passenger Pigeon DNA to recreate the species in a Jurassic Park-like manner.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Rio Tinto Trip

August 17, 2013

by Les Talbot

The trip turned out better than I had expected. The weather was still hot, and I didn't think we would see as many species as we did. We saw about 25 bird species. The notable species were: Clark's Nutcracker, Golden Eagle, American Kestrel, Turkey, and Black-headed Grosbeak feeding on Chokecherries. We also saw three Fence Lizards and Mule Deer.

We drove up the West Side of the Oquirrh Mountains through Coon's Canyon to the top of Farnsworth Peak. The road is dirt, narrow, and has several switchbacks below the top. It starts out as desert and then climbs through Oak brush, Quaking Aspen, and Fir habitats.

Trip participants were: Les & Tyler Talbot, Marily Gren, Linda & Brian Ferguson, Lynn Carroll, and Marcela (Dr. Cavitt's foreign exchange student from Argentina).

I would like to give a big thanks to Valerie Frojker, a Rio Tinto biologist, who arranged for and led the trip. She has offered to lead another trip next spring. She tells me that there are a plethora of warblers on the mountain at that time.

OWL PELLETS WANTED

If you happen to discover any owl pellets while out birding, please collect them for me; or let me know the location, and I will get them.

I do a lesson in elementary schools on owls and the students enjoy dissecting the pellets.

Thanks for your help and happy birding.
Dennis Collins (801) 393-1115





CALENDAR Nov/Dec 2013

November

6 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am

Bird Walk

North Arm Pine View Reservoir: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at of Smith's parking lot, north end (12th and Harrison) at 9:30 am to carpool.

13 Wednesday 8:30/9:00

Bird Walk

South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at McDonald's (5745 S Harrison) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool.

14 Thursday 5:15 pm Birdy Thursday Evening Walk

Willard Bay State Park: Meet at the Pilot/Flying J station (1172 West 21st in Ogden, exit 343 off I-15) at 5:15 to carpool and pool State Park passes. We'll stroll among the cottonwoods and also look for birds on the bay. **This is a fee area.** If you have a State Park pass, please bring it and we'll consolidate into as few cars as possible. As always, we'll convene at a local eatery afterwards, if people are interested. This walk is for people older than 12 and will be led by Katie McVey. Please leave dogs at home.

19 Tuesday 7:00 pm

WAS Meeting

Ogden Nature Center with Mary McKinley: Meet at 7:00 pm at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th Street) which was established in 1974 at its present location – the first nature center in Utah. Junior League women and other volunteers managed it, using the old farm house until Joan Dolph was hired as the first Director in 1980. Mary McKinley is the 6th and current Director. She will talk to us about ongoing programs and activities at the Nature Center.

20 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am

Bird Walk

Riverdale Parkway: Meet at McDonald's (900 W Riverdale Rd.) at 8:30 am for breakfast. Alternatively, meet the group at 9:00 am in the trailhead parking area (from Riverdale Road, north on 700 West for 2 blocks, right on 4300 South, then right on 600 West).

23 Saturday 8:00 am

Field Trip

Glover Pond and Farmington Bay Nature Center: Meet in the parking lot that is west of and behind Wells Fargo Bank in Roy (the southwest corner of 1900 West and 5600 South, where Albertson's used to be, near Wendy's). Bring a lunch and water.

27 Wednesday 8:30/9:00

Bird Walk

Willard Bay, South: Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, just east of Exit 349 on I-15) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool. **This is a fee area.**

December

3 Tuesday 7:00 pm

Board Meeting

Ogden Nature Center: All members welcome to attend. 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

4 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am

Bird Walk

Ogden Cemetery: Meet at the McDonald's (1111 Washington Blvd.) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am at the northeast corner of the cemetery.

11 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am

Bird Walk

Perry Nature Park: Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, just east of Exit 349 on I-15) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool.

14 Saturday 7:00 am

Ogden Christmas Bird Count

Meet at 7:00 am at Denny's Restaurant (21st St to 1100 West, on north side by Flying J/Conoco Plaza) for breakfast and to get your assignment. This is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars. Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm at UCC Church (3350 South Harrison Blvd.) for compilation of data. Bring table service and a dish to share.

17 Tuesday 7:00 pm

WAS Meeting

Ogden Nature Center with Keith Evans: Meet at 7:00 pm at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th Street). December is a busy, busy month for Wasatch Audubon Members and Christmas Bird Count participants. Keith Evans, retired Forest Service Ornithologist and long-time member, will review wintering bird species normally found on the four Christmas Bird Count circles in our area. This will be a good opportunity to refresh our winter birding skills.

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

23 Monday 7:30/8:00 am Morgan Christmas Bird Count

Meet at the Utah DWR (515 East 5300 South, South Ogden) at 7:30 am to carpool for breakfast at Spring Chicken Inn (4 North State Street in Morgan) at 8:00 am. This is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM WASATCH AUDUBON SOCIETY



January

1 Wednesday 7:00 am Antelope Island Bird Count
Meet at 7:00 am in the parking lot outside Antelope Island State Park entrance kiosk. This is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars.

9 Thursday Birdy Thursday Evening Walk
Ogden City Cemetery: See upcoming newsletter for more details.

25 Saturday 7:00/8:00 am Field Trip
Utah Natural History Museum: This is an activity that you should have on your BUCKET LIST! If you have been before you know that it takes several visits to see everything. They have changed some of the exhibits since WAS visited last time. This is a great family activity with lots of hands-on for younger members of the group. **It is a fee area. Adults are \$11; Seniors (65 and older) are \$9; Youths (13-24) are \$9; Children (3-12) are \$8; 2 and under are free.** There is a snack bar at the Museum with reasonable prices. Meet in the parking lot that is west of and behind Wells Fargo Bank in Roy (the southwest corner of 1900 West and 5600 South, where Albertson's used to be, near Wendy's).

PLEASE RECYCLE

Ogden Nature Center has partnered with a local recycler and a large bin for newspaper recycling has been placed in the Newgate Mall parking lot west of the new Burlington store. Proceeds from this recycling effort will benefit the Nature Center.

WASATCH AUDUBON OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INFORMATION

"For over a century, Audubon has been a leading voice in encouraging conservation of precious habitat and wildlife for future generations."

LEAVE NO TRACE

Wasatch Audubon sponsors many outdoor activities. Our main goal, of course, is bird watching. We take our time and most walks are not strenuous. Water and binoculars are recommended equipment. Please do not bring dogs. They frighten the birds.

We meet for breakfast (optional) prior to our Weekly Wednesday Morning Walks. These walks usually last about 2 hours. All ages are welcome. Contact Paul Lombardi for more information at [801] 295-7738.

We meet for coffee or drinks (optional) following our Monthly Birdy Thursday Evening Walks. These walks usually last about 2 hours and are for ages 12 and up. Contact Susan Snyder for more information at naturescall@gmail.com or [801] 388-4201.

Saturday Field Trips are more rigorous, and we are often out until 3:00 to 5:00 pm. In addition to water and binoculars, bring a lunch and dress for changing weather. All ages are welcome. Contact Les Talbot for more information at [801] 589-2591.

Wasatch Audubon encourages conservation in the form of carpooling. When birding in remote areas, it is often necessary to carpool or caravan to keep the group together. On longer trips and/or trips to hard-to-find places, members use walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 to communicate between cars.

TERRIBLY FAR NORTH

by Jay Hudson

All I was expecting was a long view of the Alaskan mainland from a vantage point high on Admiralty Island. What I saw on the trail surprised me. We had left Juneau on a 12 person boat for a week of chasing Humpback Whales, sea kayaking, birding and visiting small villages. The weather held and the 45 foot Humpbacks entertained us with their “bubble net” feeding. This is when they blow a ring of bubbles from their blowholes around a school of fish to confine them. Then they force the “net” to the surface and come blasting out of the water with their mouths agape. We would watch for the bubbles and drive the boat as close as we dared and wait for the show. Eagles were everywhere and sea birds confounded us, defying description among us novitiates.

We tied up at a small village on Admiralty Island where the Captain said we would stay the night in the inlet and buy a salmon from one of the fishing boats for dinner. I went walking up a faint trail making bear avoidance noises, looking for berries, enjoying the flowers and watching for that long view of the Alaskan mainland. As I was enjoying a bunch of flowers, a zipping little thing went by my nose and hovered in space in front of one of the flowers. It was a Rufous Hummer! What in the world was this little bird that hangs around our feeders doing so far north?

It turns out it was migrating from Mexico. The Rufous Hummingbird makes one of the longest migratory journeys of any bird in the world as measured by its body size. Its 3,900 mile Mexico-to-Alaska migration is equivalent to 784,000 body lengths, while the Arctic Tern’s migration is only 514,286 body lengths.

I missed seeing the massive mainland mountains and the huge scary brown bears, but I did get to see a 3.5 gram Rufous Hummer making it farther north than any other hummer species in the world.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Pat Bausman

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Donald Andrus | Scott E. Landes |
| E. P. Austin | Zola T. Lykins |
| Mary Behrens | Terry Robertson |
| Heidi Bowman | Roger Saunders |
| Ann Brewer | Carolyn Sever |
| Dewayne Brockman | Ms. Denise Sly |
| Edith Dawson | Dee Thompson |
| Bonnie | Ms. Irene Tittensor |
| Durbano-Burtenshaw | H. M. Vicencio |
| Connors Family | |
| Kathy Hyde | |

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

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:



**BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED
FUNDRAISER: AN UPDATE**

by Katie McVey

Wasatch Audubon Society (WAS) was founded in 1981 by a small group of community members from all walks of life whose purpose was to foster a better understanding and appreciation of birds in this area. To this end, WAS has held a sunflower seed fundraiser annually for the last 30 years, using the proceeds to support environmental education and other projects. As you may know, our sunflower supplier is no longer growing sunflowers and last year many members and friends were left scrambling to find black-oil sunflower seeds at a good price. This year, thanks to Wild About Birds Nature Center in Layton, reduced-cost seeds are again available to our members and others who would like to feed the birds and support WAS.

The Wild About Birds Nature Center, owned by Billy Fenimore, has agreed to donate \$1.50 to WAS for every 40-pound bag of black-oil sunflower seeds purchased from them at the low price of \$24.95.

If you will pardon the expression “kill two birds with one stone,” this is a chance to get great food for our feathered friends, donate to WAS, and support a local business. (Well, I guess that’s really three birds.) This is a great opportunity! All you need to do is take the coupon below to Wild About Birds Nature Center when you buy your seed. It’s easy to get your seed for the entire season, too. If you would like to purchase three or more bags, please call the store. You will then be assured of just one trip to obtain your seeds.

Remember, **you must bring the coupon** when purchasing seed in order for Wasatch Audubon to receive the \$1.50 per bag donation. Coupons are also available on our Facebook page and our website: <http://wasatchaudubon.org>.

Thank you for your past support of our sunflower seed fundraising project. Your purchase of sunflower seeds provided food for many birds in our area and helped provide funds for our educational programs for local elementary schools. We hope we can count on your continued support.

Wild About Birds Nature Center is happy to facilitate and carry on the Wasatch Audubon Society winter bird feeding fundraiser.



**Wild About Birds
Nature Center**
1986 N. Hill Field Rd, Ste 7B
(Hill Field Rd & Antelope Drive)
Layton, UT 84041

**BLACK OIL
SUNFLOWER SEED**
40 lb bag
\$24.95

Wild About Birds Nature Center will make a \$1.50 donation to Wasatch Audubon for each bag purchased. Expiration date May 31, 2014. Call ahead if purchase is 3 bags or more.

Please call
Wild About Birds Nature Center
at 801-779-BIRD (2473)
to place your order.



Wasatch Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3211

Ogden, Utah 84409



Audubon

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of *Audubon* and of my local chapter, *Wasatch Audubon*. Send my membership card, and my annual subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine (6 issues) and *The Mountain Chickadee* (6 issues) to the address below. My check for \$20 (Introductory rate only) is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send this and your check for \$20, payable to Audubon to:

National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2250

Local Chapter: **Wasatch Audubon Society** C9ZW540Z



Wasatch Audubon Society

Mountain Chickadee Subscription

You can receive **The Mountain Chickadee** (6 issues) for just \$6, 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: \$6.00

__ 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