



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 33, Number 4

July/Aug 2014

WAS Meetings and Happenings

July

There will be no WAS Meeting

**Tuesday, August 19th
7:00 p.m.
WAS Meeting**

Annual Potluck Dinner!
It's time for our annual potluck. The grills will be fired up and soft drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share, your own meat to grill, and your dishes and utensils. Don't forget insect repellent. After dinner will be a time for socializing and sharing experiences. Meet at 7:00 pm at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

Please join us and bring a friend!

WORKING TOGETHER

By Nancy Arnett and Keith Evans

When partners work together, much can be accomplished. When Chris Haramoto became the manager for East Canyon State Park (ECSP), he expressed an interest in increasing the "watchable wildlife" activities at the park. Coincidentally, members and friends of Wasatch Audubon have enjoyed birding around East Canyon State Park for many years. WAS participates in two major trips to the area each year. First, in February, we look for Bald Eagles and other winter birds from Morgan to ECSP, then move on to Henefer and the Croydon area. Second, in April, we enjoy the "lek and loon" trip. We visit a Greater Sage Grouse lek at day break and then we travel to ECSP to look for Common Loons and other waterfowl on the reservoir. These and other field trips sparked an interest in the State Park. So, when Chris contacted us in January 2014, we became partners.

Chris was interested in installing a nesting platform for the Ospreys that frequent ECSP and WAS members were interested in developing a bird checklist for the area. With input from many, a bird checklist was developed. Then ECSP, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Rocky Mountain Power, and WAS promoted the placement of an Osprey nesting platform at the reservoir. Within days of the installation of the nesting platform an Osprey was seen sitting on the "new" real estate, so we are hopeful for a nest.

Please take the time to drive from Morgan to ECSP to enjoy the birds in this scenic area and ask for a bird checklist at the entrance building.



(photo by Chris Haramoto)



Wasatch Audubon Society
 Website: wasatchaudubon.org

Officers

President	Katie McVey	715-216-2605
Vice President	Keith Evans	801-476-0232
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Betty Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Arnold Smith	801-829-3383

Board of Directors

2013/2014	Weston Smith	801-829-4183
2013/2014	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
2013/2014	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2014/2015	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0637
2014/2015	Scott Baxter	801-540-9417
2014/2015	Dan Johnston	801-731-4573

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 Katie McVey

Your Ideas Wanted!

As many of you know, this past year we lost our annual sunflower seed sale, which served as a fundraiser for our chapter. Since then, the board and I have been looking for new ways to raise money. We offer so many wonderful field trips and educational opportunities for our members and the public to view birds and nature; we want to be able to continue to offer those opportunities at no cost.

We are looking for new and different ways to raise money for our chapter. A small group of folks have come together to form a Fundraising Ideas Committee. We are looking for more members who are willing to come to the table with ideas and a positive attitude about how we can continue to sustain and grow to thrive as a chapter. I know that many of you have volunteered hundreds and thousands of hours over the years to help Wasatch Audubon become the chapter it is today. The Fundraising Ideas Committee will be meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Ogden Nature Center. This is one hour before our regular monthly meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend. We have some great ideas already, including chapter shirts, participating in Love Utah, Give Utah, and a Bird-a-thon.

Our most-promising idea so far is a Bird-a-thon. The premise is simple; participants spend one day birding and see how many species they can tally in 24 hours. Participants can bird as part of a team or by themselves and each team or individual procures pledges before birding. Pledges can be a flat donation or a per species donation. For example, if Team Night-Owls receives a pledge of 50¢ per species and they see 100 species, that means a \$50 donation to our chapter. Jason St. Sauver (who was a Park Ranger at Bear River Refuge, now at the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in TX) recently hosted a Bird-a-thon for his Center and has agreed to help our chapter with the planning and organization. We hope to have our first Bird-a-thon this fall. Wasatch Audubon has an amazing membership; Utah has a thriving birding community; and we live in a fantastic part of the country where one can see more than 200 species in a single day. Let's take advantage of this great opportunity. If you would like to help or attend the Fundraising Ideas Committee meeting, send me an email or give me a call.

Katie McVey (715)-216-2605 or mcveka01@gmail.com

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>

CONSERVATION CORNER

Citizen Science

by Lynn Carroll

Bird watching is fun; with some extra effort, you can make your bird watching or other nature observation more valuable as data for scientific research. The key is to know the requirements of a particular project, then record the desired information according to those rules and submit it to the right place at the right time.

Contributing to a citizen science project can be simple or complex and require a little or a lot of knowledge. The more difficult it is, the more valuable it will be to science. The reward comes from knowing that your data may be used to educate political office holders so that they make better decisions, to help land managers make informed choices in dealing with their local ecology, and to give researchers a head start in asking and answering important questions.

You are probably familiar with **Christmas Bird Counts**. We always encourage you to participate, because more teams means more thorough coverage of the count circle, and more eyes make it easier to detect secretive birds.

There are a number of other large-scale citizen science projects for bird watchers, starting with simply entering field trip observations on **e-bird**. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology hosts several other projects, including the **Great Backyard Bird Count**, **Project Feeder Watch**, and **NestWatch**.

The **North American Breeding Bird Survey**, a project of the USGS, requires greater expertise and commitment to follow a demanding protocol. If you have good eyesight and hearing, you could start now to build your knowledge base for taking part. You have to be able to identify by sight and song all birds that may breed in the vicinity of a 24.5 mile route.

The concept of citizen science has been taken up by groups working in all sorts of scientific disciplines from entomology to astronomy. The geographic scopes range from a single mountain top to worldwide. Almost all involve use of the internet. Three projects that have piqued my interest follow.

FrogWatch USA is run by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Hogle Zoo is the local sponsor. Volunteers are given an introduction to amphibian natural history and threats to their survival, then learn to recognize the appearance and mating calls of the frogs and toads in their area. This prepares them to go to a local wetland and record the species heard over three minutes on several evenings during the breeding season.

Bumble Bee Watch is an “effort to track and conserve North America’s bumble bees,” important native pollinators. You start by creating an account at the web site, then take a camera into your garden, looking for bumble bees, and photograph those you find. (They offer tips for doing the photography.) Then upload the photo(s) and a form.

Tracking climate change is the aim of **Project BudBurst**. Citizen scientists record and report data on milestones in the year of a plant or plants, for example the first leaf, flower, and fruit on an apple tree.

Find out more by searching the internet for any of these projects. By taking part in your choice of projects, you can learn more and get more satisfaction from your nature observation.

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 July/Aug 2014

July

2 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
North Arm Pineview Reservoir: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison) at 8:30 to carpool.

9 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Jefferson Hunt Campground: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison) at 8:30 to carpool.

10 Thursday 5:45/6:30 pm **Thursday Evening Walk**
Mantua Reservoir: Meet at the IFA parking lot (1069 12th Street) at 5:45 pm to carpool or at 6:30 in the reservoir main parking lot by the boat launch and swimming area. Depending on the birds, we will drive to the north end or the south end. Likely sightings include grebes and other water birds, buntings, orioles and warblers. The terrain is flat with some shade. As always, there will be an opportunity to socialize afterwards. Please leave dogs and children under 12 at home.

16 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Fort Buenaventura: Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at the parking lot just before the park entrance at 8:30 am.

19 Saturday 7:00/8:00 am **Field Trip**
Silver Lake at Brighton: Meet at the Village Inn (1780 W 5600 S in Roy) at 7:00 am for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool. This is our annual flower/bird walk. Bring a lunch and water.

22 Tuesday 7:00 pm **No WAS Meeting**
 Please join us for our annual Potluck dinner in August!

23 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Powder Mountain: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison) at 8:30 am to carpool.

30 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail west of I-15: Meet at Denny's Restaurant (north on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza) at 7:30 am for breakfast or on the frontage road in front of Stevens-Henager College at 8:30 am.

August

5 Tuesday 7:00 pm **Board Meeting**
Ogden Nature Center: All members welcome to attend. 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

6 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Fielding Garr Ranch: Meet at Warren's (1778 S 1000 W, Syracuse) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at the Antelope Island Causeway parking lot at 8:30 am. We'll check out the birds on the Causeway and then drive directly to the Ranch. We may bird some other locations on the island as time permits. **This is a fee area.**

9 Saturday 7:00 am **Hearell Field Trip**
Willard Spur and Playas: . We will be meeting at the north end of Smith and Edwards parking lot at 7am to carpool. This is a trip to search through shorebirds, waterfowl, terns and gulls that are heading back south for the winter. Last year during this time some of the rarities seen were Least Tern, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Other birds should include varieties of Sandpipers, Black Terns, Snowy Plovers, and Red-necked Phalaropes. The dirt road out to this Hotspot is a little on the rough side and the driving is slow. Pack plenty of bug spray, water, and snacks as the trip may go into early afternoon. Contact Mike Hearell if you plan on attending or with any questions. (801) 529-8693 or utmarshrat@yahoo.com.

13 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Bair Creek Trail – west from Hwy 89 in Fruit Heights: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr, South Ogden) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at the Castle Heights playground parking lot (1200 Nicholls Rd, Fruit Heights) at 8:30.

14 Thursday **No Birdy Thursday Evening Walk**
 There will be no Birdy Thursday in August, but we'll see you at the Potluck Dinner!

19 Tuesday 7:00 pm **WAS Meeting**
Potluck Dinner: Meet at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th Street) at 7:00 pm. The grill will be fired up and soft drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share, your own meat to grill, and your dishes and utensils. Don't forget insect repellent. After dinner will be a time for socializing and sharing experiences. Please join us and bring a friend!

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

Morgan's Mickelsen Mile: Meet at McDonald's (5745 Harrison) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool.

23 Saturday 7:00 am**Field Trip**

Hot Spots of Northern Utah County: Meet in the large parking lot next to Wendy's (1923 W 5600 S in Roy). Wells Fargo Bank is on the southeast corner of 1900 W and 5600 S and Wendy's is the first business west of the bank. This trip is a new one for us. We will visit Willow Pond in Lehi, and Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon to look for White-throated Swifts and then Cascade Springs to look for Warblers. We will end by birding around the headquarters for Timpanogos National Monument. Bring a lunch and water. Plan on a full day trip.

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

Perception Park, South Fork: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison) at 8:30 am to carpool.

September

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

Swanson Environmental Center: Meet at McDonald's (Washington and 2600 N, Ogden) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool.

6 Saturday 7:30am**Harell Field Trip**

Beus Canyon: Meet at the Smith's parking lot (42nd and Harrison) at 7:30 am to carpool. This field trip will be a short hike up the well groomed trail of Beus Canyon in search of migrating warblers, vireos, and empids. The trail isn't overly steep, but has great habitat and a stream without having to travel too far. This trip will only last a couple of hours and is fairly easy. Bring water and dress accordingly. Contact Mike Harell @ utmarshrat@yahoo.com or (801) 529-8693 if you plan on attending or with any questions.

11 Thursday 6:00 pm Birdy Thursday Evening Walk

Fort Buenaventura: Meet in the Fort Buenaventura parking lot at 6 pm. We'll cruise the area around the pond, campgrounds and along the river. Bring \$1 per person for park admission fee. We'll listen and watch for Belted Kingfishers, Cooper's Hawks, Western Screech Owls and any Warblers or Bullock's Orioles that might still be hanging around. Directions: From I-15, take the 24th Street Ext. Drive east about one mile on 24th Street; turn south on A Street. Follow the signs to Fort Buenaventura; it's less than a block from 24th Street.

Contact Persons for WAS Outings

Saturday Field Trips (the Saturday after the WAS Meeting) - Les Talbot 801-731-4925
 Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi 801-295-7
 Birdy Thursdays - Katie McVey 715-216-2605
 Other Field Trips - Mike Harell 801-529-8693

DON'T FORGET: Wild About Birds
 Nature Center will make a \$1.50
 donation to Wasatch Audubon for
 each 40lb bag of black oil sunflower
 seed purchased.



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

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.

EASTER ISLAND

by Jay Hudson

Easter Island lies 2,000 miles west of South America and has captured the imagination of archeologists, cultural anthropologists and sunbathed tourists for centuries. We usually think of Easter Island (Rapa Nui) and the top-knot festooned giant stone heads (Moai) as a mysterious society reeking with rituals. Society was getting along swimmingly until the population overwhelmed the food supply, and factions began warring for limited resources. Wood ran out, and the men couldn't build boats to leave; which exacerbated the hunger problem. It wasn't long before the unspeakable became speakable. Cooler heads prevailed, and the chiefs decided on a way to force a change in society to protect one another. They turned to the Sooty Tern.

Sterna Fuscata became a religion. "Sterna" is old English for Tern and "Fuscata" is Latin for dark. Thus we have Sooty Tern.

The elders of Rapa Nui turned away from their giant stone Moai gods who had failed them and turned to Makemake, the Birdman Cult. The Rapa Nui were at the height of their empire in the 1600s, as a half world away King James was creating a new bible. But they were starving, and they needed a way to settle disputes over arable land and limited crops. They needed to reestablish marriage rituals to build societal strength, and they needed to be able to plan for the future without a stout stick on the table. So they created a contest - winner takes all - for one year. Young men were chosen from the different tribes and tasked with swimming to a small island to retrieve a single Sooty Tern egg. The warrior who survived sharks, lacerations from sharp rocks in tossing waters, cliff falls, foul play and who first returned the delicate egg to the elders set the course for the next year in a failing society. It was his clan that came to power. To ensure a high level of competition, the losers were required to stab themselves repeatedly with their spears.

Thus, a single, small, dappled-brown egg from a 16-inch migrating sea bird determined the fortunes of the diminishing primitive society. A single young, strong and lucky warrior won the right to govern for his tribe. An old Birdman god was reincarnated out of necessity, and from living nature it determined the fate of a starving people. Destiny and final destruction was pushed back until an even newer god landed under sail while protecting his delicate white skin with a new fashion of top-knot.

So it was that the Sooty Tern, which my Australian diving buddy on the Great Barrier Reef, called the "wide awake" became the harbinger of a new wide awake society, a society where a single bird egg bought an entire society time.

FLEX-I-BILL

by Jay Hudson

You wouldn't know it by long range observation, but long billed birds have more flexibility in their bills than you might think. Once a Long-billed Dowitcher pushes its bill deep into the mud, its tactile sensors locate prey and the bird begins using its ability of "rhynchokinesis" or Greek for "moving snout." Images on Youtube (Long-billed Dowitcher rhynchokinesis images) show that both the top and bottom of the end of the bill can open slightly to grasp the target without opening the full beak. In addition, the food travels up the bill in a wave of flexible kinesis while the rest of the beak remains closed.

Professor John Cavitt, our resident Weber University Ornithologist, reminds us that rhynchokinesis is restricted to certain groups of birds, but all birds have very mobile bills. Birds have a bone in their jaw that allows them to flex their bill upward like some reptiles when they swallow impossibly large food.

Jay Hudson with help from Rael and Helene Loon and their wonderful South African book, [Birds, The Inside Story](#).

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Northern Utah Hot Spots

June 7, 2014

by Les Talbot

It was just too hot for good birding. Bird activity was very quiet for this time of year. We did see our target birds and a few others. It is like my wife said at the Safari Park in California, "You go a long way to see a little bit." Carmen Dorney, Merily Gren, John Bellmon, Merrill Webb, and I ventured into the Northern Utah area to see the birds. They were few and far between, probably due to the heat.

We first scoured the fields in North Brigham City for Bobolinks. Merrill heard one, and we started scanning the fields. We finally saw two. They were a long distance from us. Without a spotting scope, you could not tell that they were Bobolinks.

We then headed for Plymouth to scout out the Grasshopper Sparrows. Right off we saw an immature Horned Lark which we mistakenly thought was a Grasshopper Sparrow. We scanned the fence line and found one. That was the only one that we saw.

Going west up Johnson's Canyon, we saw a nondescript sparrow. We looked in our field guides and listened in its call. It sounded like a Cassin's Sparrow which would be accidental here. After awhile, we decided we were not able to identify it and moved on.

Blue Creek Reservoir had a Pelican, a Double-crested Cormorant, and a few ducks on it, but nothing else.

Salt Creek was very quiet. Many Cliff Swallows were flying around the Kiosk. Two Turkey Vultures were feeding on carrion where you turn north to drive into Salt Creek.

We saw the following 27 species: Mallards, Cinnamon Teals, Eared Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, American White Pelicans, Great Blue Herons, Turkey Vultures, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Sandhill

Cranes, Killdeer, American Avocets, Willets, Long-billed Curlews, Franklin's Gulls, California Gulls, Eurasian Collared Doves, Mourning Doves, Western Kingbirds, Eastern Kingbirds, Loggerhead Shrikes, Black-billed Magpies, Common Ravens, Horned Larks, Barn Swallows, Cliff Swallows, Mountain Bluebirds, American Robins, Sage Thrashers, European Starlings, Vesper Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings, Bobolinks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Western Meadowlarks, Brewer's Blackbirds, and House Finches.

We also heard a Sora, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Bullock's Oriole.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Pat Bausman

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

Roberta Beverly	Harold Vonk
Dennis Finch	Scott Baxter
Jeremy Freshwater	Kathy Gunnerson
Wendy Luker	Kelly Newton
Gerald Sedlevicius	Phyllis Shawcroft
William H. Smith	

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

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 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 \$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:

Wasatch Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3211
Ogden, Utah 84409