



# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 34, Number 1

Jan/Feb 2015

## WAS Meetings and Happenings

**Tuesday, Jan 20th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**WAS Meeting**

**Kathi Stopher**, Environmental Specialist for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, will discuss Hi-Lites of Bear River Refuge's Environmental Education Program. Kathi will talk about the expanded educational program currently available at the refuge. Come and bring a friend! Ogden Nature Center, 966 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden

**Tuesday, Feb 17th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**WAS Meeting**

**Bill Varga**, retired from Utah State University, was the Utah Botanical Center's first director and long-time horticulture educator. His program, Celebrating Darwin's Birthday, will review Charles Darwin's contributions to the scientific community, which changed the way we look at our planet forever. Don't miss this meeting! Ogden Nature Center, 966 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden.

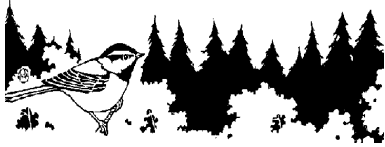
## Feeding the Multitudes

by **Keith Evans**

Wasatch Audubon Society (WAS) has a long history of feeding birds. Shortly after the Society was organized, Ev Doman and John Nelson began a bird-feeding effort at the Ogden Nature Center (ONC) that continues to be a success. We offer a big THANK YOU to Joyce Overdiek for her hard work on the ONC feeding project for the last 20 years. And, we now welcome Dan and Laura Johnston to the position of feeder coordinators. We also give Jack Rensel a big THANK YOU for his many hours of work building and maintaining the feeders. Deer and raccoons have a way of destroying a bird feeder.

Although the ONC feeding project has enjoyed long-term success, it is not the only effort by WAS members to make sure our winter birds are well fed and will return to their summer home in good condition for the stressful nesting season. I know this is only a partial list, but I recognize the following feeding projects. First is the distribution of 989,900 pounds of black-oil sunflower seeds through our 30-year seed program. Next are the efforts by the many backyard bird feeders who distributed those tons of seeds to a wide area of sites for the birds, and bird watchers, to enjoy. Also, we should not forget individual efforts, such as Lynn Carroll filling bird feeders along the Ogden River Parkway, Kris Purdy keeping the feeders at Beus Pond full and establishing a feeder at Powder Mountain, and WAS for providing food to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Antelope Island State Park, Willard Bay State Park, and the more recent efforts at Powder Mountain. Recently, seven WAS members traveled to Powder Mountain Ridge at the Powder Mountain Ski area to install a replacement feeder donated by the Wild About Birds Nature Center (thank you, Billy Fenimore). By providing food at this high elevation site, many species not regularly seen in the valley will be fed. We tend to highlight winter bird feeding but shouldn't forget the many hummingbirds that enjoy and thrive on the hundreds of nectar feeders throughout the backyards of the area.

So, here's an extra pat-on-the-back to these volunteers. We encourage all of you to get your feeders cleaned, installed, and filled. Enjoy this special season!!



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

2014/2015	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0637
2014/2015	Scott Baxter	801-540-9417
2014/2015	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
2015/2016	Weston Smith	801-388-4201
2015/2016	Susan Snyder	801-529-8693
2015/2016	Mike Hearrell	801-388-0637

**Committee Chairpersons**

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Conservation	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Feeder Projects	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
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	801-675-1642
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>

**President's Pipeline**

by Katie McVey

A Win for Red Knots

A wayward Utah visitor is finally getting the protection it deserves. On December 11, 2014 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally listed the rufa subspecies of the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Populations of this long-distance, multi-country migrant have declined by about 75 percent since the 1980s. Red Knots face threats on several fronts including habitat loss across their range due to sea-level rise, reduced food availability at important migratory stop-over sites, like Delaware Bay, and potential increased predation on their Arctic breeding grounds. With their new protection status under the ESA, it may be possible for Red Knots to make a comeback.

How can we help? Each year Red Knots make their way through Utah and we see them during the migration on the Causeway to Antelope Island State Park. Keep an eye out for tagged birds and report Red Knot and other shorebird sightings at [bandedbirds.org](http://bandedbirds.org) and [ebird.org](http://ebird.org).

Information for this article and much more is available at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/redknot/>  
 Photo Credit: Mispillion Harbor, Delaware. Credit: Gregory Breese/USFWS



**WINTER WREN**

by Jay Hudson

I was nosing around bird books of different countries when I was reminded of an old European folk tale about the eagle and the wren. It seemed that the eagle claimed the bird high flying record which would make him king of birds. But a sneaky little Winter Wren hid in his feathers and when the eagle could not fly any higher, the wren flew out from his hiding place and with a burst of energy, got above the eagle, looked down at the eagle and claimed victory. That led me to find how many species of wrens we have in the U.S. There are ten! But if you go to Mexico, there are 26. Continue on to Chile and there are two. Now that the wren is king of birds, I looked to find other fascinating features about this small but loveable bird. Even Aristotle wrote about this "cave-dweller". Some believe the Troglodytes (Winter Wren), being the only wren on that side of the world, got themselves caught in the east winds and "migrated" across from Russia to Alaska then changed forms until we now have a variety of Wrens in the western hemisphere. I once saw a Winter Wren in the cold, wind-blown Pribilof Islands between Russia and Alaska so maybe there is something in the migration theory.

These little vivacious rascals have been seen at 18,000 feet in Tibet and at altitude in the Chilean Andes. Our own Kris Purdy tells us that when the club cleans out the Bluebird boxes in our mountains you may well find a Winter Wren, now termed a Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*) because of the split in 2010, having found it a suitable home. They also seek out cavities in Aspen trees. Winter Wrens/Pacific Wrens may be seen on the Centennial Trail in Riverdale s and next to the trail by the Weber River. Look for them around the root tangles in Fort Buenaventura. They love vegetation and water. Other interpretations of their Greek name are "tunnel maker" and "hollow burrower." Watch for the cocky tail pointing almost straight up much like the Ruddy Duck and the Australian Lovely Fairy Wren.

The nesting habits of the Winter Wren/Pacific Wren can be compared to the "Westward Ho" movement across America. The male will build the structure of the nest (sometimes creating many nests to give the female a choice) and when the female does chose a nest, she goes

to work putting in the pillows, curtains and making the bed inviting. So the next time you see this mighty, four-inch, singing, wandering, cute-as-a-button Greek king of the birds, take note for it has a worldwide reputation. You can be relatively sure (if you are in Utah) that you have seen a Pacific Wren following the trail of Charles Darwin.

**FIELD TRIP REPORT****Jensen Pond and Glover Pond**

by Les Talbot

November 22, 2014

In the past, I never got excited about visiting Jensen's Pond. I always went in the summer when there were a lot of mothers and children along with fishermen there. Sharen Perry, Lynn Carroll, Martha Ann Albretsen and I were on the trip. Martha Ann always told me I needed to get away from the pond to see birds. On this trip there were several good birds to see.

After visiting Jensen Pond, we went to Glover Pond. By the time we got there, it was pouring rain. There was a large flock of Northern Shovelers on the pond. All of them had their heads tucked under their wings. Rain kept us from visiting Farmington Bay and Kaysville Pond.

Unfortunately, birding at Jensen Pond may become a thing of the past. The area is being developed. There will be a lot of condos there, and I have been told that there will be canals in the area designed for water skiing. It is sad that the money mongers cannot leave natural areas alone. Development is one of the worst things that can happen to wildlife habitat.

On the way to Glover Pond, we saw 200-300 Canada Geese in a field west of I-15 on 200 North in Kaysville. We saw the following birds at Jensen Pond: Mallard, Domesticated Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull (several immatures), California Gull, American Crow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle (a good place to see the grackle), House Finch, and House Sparrow.



## CALENDAR Jan/Feb 2015

### January

#### 1 Thursday 8:00 am Christmas Bird Count

**Antelope Island Christmas Bird Count:** Meet at the parking lot outside Antelope Island State Park entrance kiosk at 8:00 am. It is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars. *This is a fee area.*

#### 7 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am Bird Walk

**Kay's Creek Parkway:** Meet at Denny's Restaurant (5805 South Harrison, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the Parkway parking lot.

#### 14 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am Bird Walk

**Riverdale Trail (South):** Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Avenue, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at the trailhead parking lot (from Riverdale Road, south on 700 W for one block, then left on 4600 S to the lot on the right at the end of the road) at 9:30 am.

#### 15 Thursday 5:15 pm NO Birdy Thursday Walk

Birdy Thursday is taking the month off! Join us in February for a birding basics session in preparation for the Great Backyard Bird Count.

#### 20 Tuesday 7:00 pm WAS Meeting

**Ogden Nature Center:** Meet at Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden) at 7:00 pm. **Kathi Stopher**, Environmental Specialist for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, will discuss Hi-Lites of Bear River Refuge's Environmental Education Program at this meeting. The Refuge is well known for the size and importance of the marshland habitat available to wildlife and offers a variety of experiences. Kathi will talk about the expanded educational program currently available at the Refuge. Come and bring a friend!

#### 21 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am Bird Walk

**Mantua Reservoir Area:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West, just east of 1-15 exit 349) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool.

#### 24 Saturday 8:00 am Field Trip

**Swaner Nature Center and Tracy Aviary:** Meet in the southwest corner of the parking lot near Wendy's (1900 West 5600 South, Roy) at 9:00 am to carpool. Dress warmly (this trip is both in- and outdoors) and bring a lunch and water.

Swaner Nature Center north of Park City blends science, history, and art, to provide an in-depth look at Utah's most mysterious and elusive predator. The Aviary displays a large variety of birds that are not native to North America.

Swaner Nature Center appreciates a minimum \$3.00 donation from each person; \$5.00 is recommended as the money goes to a good conservation cause. The Aviary charges \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for seniors 65 and over (\$5.00 each if we have 10 or more).

#### 28 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am Bird Walk

**Ogden River Parkway:** Meet at Dylan's (12<sup>th</sup> and Monroe, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the MTC Park on the Ogden River off Monroe. Note: There is also a sign designating this location as the Ogden Botanical Gardens.

### February

#### 3 Tuesday 7:00 pm Board Meeting

**Ogden Nature Center:** All members are welcome to attend. 966 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden.

#### 4 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am Bird Walk

**Antelope Island Causeway and Fielding Garr Ranch:** Meet at Warren's Restaurant (1778 S 1000 W, Syracuse) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the Antelope Island entrance parking lot. *This is a fee area.*

#### 11 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am Bird Walk

**Ogden River Parkway:** Meet at Village Inn (322 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or meet at the trail parking lot on Washington across the street from Bingham Cyclery at 9:30. We'll walk west along the river.

#### 12 Thursday 6:00 pm Birdy Thursday Evening Walk

**Ogden Nature Center:** Meet at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden) Learn to ID birds using size, shape, beak shape and behavior. We'll discuss these basics then go on a "scavenger hunt" to practice what we've learned. Ages 8-up. We'll hit a local watering hole afterward for libations and laughter. For information, call Susan, 801-388-4201.

**14 Saturday 10:00 am-3:00 pm**      **DWR Eagle Day**  
**Eagle Day at the Division of Wildlife Resources Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area:** Located 4 miles west of Corinne on UT-83, to 6800 West, follow signs to the landfill. For many years, Wasatch Audubon members have volunteered at the Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area, providing scopes and talking to visitors about eagles, other local birds, and conservation. Please join us. Call Katie McVey (715-216-2605) if you have questions.

**17 Tuesday 7:00 pm**      **WAS Meeting**  
**Ogden Nature Center:** Meet at 966 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden at 7:00 pm. **Bill Varga**, retired from Utah State University, was the Utah Botanical Center's first director and long-time horticulture educator. His program, Celebrating Darwin's Birthday, will review Charles Darwin's contributions to the scientific community which would change the way we look at our planet forever. Bill has spoken to us in the past regarding landscaping for wildlife. Don't miss this meeting!

**18 Wednesday 8:30/9:15 am**      **Bird Walk**  
**Little Mountain Railroad Trail:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West, just east of 1-15 exit 349) at 8:30 for breakfast or meet at 9:15 am at the trailhead (west on 4000 N from Smith & Edwards).

**21 Saturday 8:00 am**      **Field Trip**  
**East Canyon/Henefer:** Meet at the DWR office (515 E 5300 S – Adams Ave, South Ogden) at 8:00 am to carpool. This trip is always fun. Our target birds are the Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, and Turkey. As usual, we will stop at the Spring Chicken Inn in Morgan for breakfast and then go to East Canyon, over to Henefer, and make the loop around Croydon. This is an all day trip, so bring a lunch and drinks. *East Canyon is a fee area.*

**25 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am**      **Bird Walk**  
**South Ogden Nature Park:** Meet at Village Inn (1765 Skyline Drive, South Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the Nature Park parking lot.

#### Contact Persons for WAS Outings

Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi 801-295-7738

Birdy Thursdays – Susan Snyder 801-388-4201

Saturday Field Trips (the Saturday after the WAS Meeting) - Les Talbot 801-731-4925

Other Field Trips - Mike Hearell 801-529-8693

## March

**4 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am**      **Bird Walk**  
**North Arm Pine View Reservoir:** Meet at Dylan's Restaurant (12<sup>th</sup> and Monroe, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at Smith's parking lot (12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison, Ogden) at 9:30 am to carpool. Depending on the weather, we may change the location.

**DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**      **Swan Day**  
 Information in the next newsletter, the WAS website, and the WAS Facebook page

### OWL DAY, EAGLE DAY, SWAN DAY AND MORE....

#### Upcoming events at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Looking for a great way to spend a Saturday? Want to learn more about Utah's most iconic bird species?

The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is offering free nature-themed events on the second Saturday of every month January through April. Each event will have interactive displays, crafts, activities, and movies from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Consider visiting the Refuge's Wildlife Education Center for one of these great events.

January 10<sup>th</sup> is Owl Day, February 14<sup>th</sup> is Eagle Day, March 14<sup>th</sup> is Swan Day and April 11<sup>th</sup> is Calling all Frogs Day.

Check out the Refuge's website for more information.  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/bear\\_river\\_migratory\\_bird\\_refuge/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/bear_river_migratory_bird_refuge/)

### HEADS-UP: GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL

Registration for the 17<sup>th</sup> Great Salt Lake Bird Festival will begin on March 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. More information is available at  
<http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com>.



The keynote speaker on May 16, 2015 is David Allen Sibley. Plan to register early, since many field trips fill very quickly.

Hope to see you there!

## SPECIAL THANKS

This past year, Wasatch Audubon Society (WAS) launched an exciting new fundraiser, and it would not have been possible without the support of many of you. Our First Annual The Big Sit was unquestionably a successful venture – and lots of fun for those who participated.

At this time, we would like to thank Mike Kolendrianos and The Nature Conservancy for making it possible for us to use part of the Legacy Nature Preserve as an excellent site for our fundraiser. In addition, we want to acknowledge the contributions of Smith's Food and Drug in Ogden; Mark Hull and his staff at Bowman's Market in Kaysville; and Dan and Suzy Dailey, Grounds for Coffee in Ogden for the food and beverages donated for the participants of The Big Sit. Also, thanks to Jennifer Bunker, Coldwater Creek Properties Realty in South Ogden, for making it possible to have the port-a-potty on site. Without the support of these community partners, the fundraiser would not have been such a big success.

Our appreciation goes out to the Fundraising Committee -- Martha Ann Albretsen, John Bellmon, Katie McVey, Brian and Jeanette Nosker, Kris Purdy, and Susan Snyder. Katie McVey, Susan Snyder, and Martha Ann Albretsen volunteered as the driving force behind the very successful The Big Sit fundraiser. John Bellmon, Doug Murray, and Kyle Tumpane provided valuable assistance to The Big Sit committee. The fundraiser was an outstanding success because these people were willing to devote the time and effort necessary to select a site for The Big Sit, contact local commercial entities for contributions, organize food, beverages, signs, and publicity for the event. Thanks to you all for your hard work and a fun day of birding and general camaraderie while raising funds for Wasatch Audubon!

A big "thank you" also goes out to Billy and Bill Fenimore at Wild About Birds Nature Center of Layton, Utah, for their generous contributions to Wasatch Audubon Society. They have donated \$1.50 every time any of you purchased a 40-pound bag of black oil sunflower seeds from Wild About Birds Nature Center.

In an effort to provide useful information and updates on important issues, we successfully published and distributed *The Mountain Chickadee* to those of you who indicated an interest in receiving our newsletter. In addition, we were able to continue offering elementary children in the area the opportunity to participate in activities, such as the Great Backyard Bird Count, which provided an opportunity to learn about Citizen Science by watching and recording birds and inputting their data into an international database (eBird). We also were able to continue offering free monthly programs, field trips several times each month throughout the year, and filling the bird feeders at several sites, including the Ogden Nature Center. We are certain the birds also appreciate everyone's generosity.

Thank you again for a successful 2014 and here's to another great year. Throughout the year, many of you provided assistance through generous monetary contributions. Without these contributions, WAS would not be able to continue providing the educational opportunities and services necessary to attain our goals. A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to you for your continued support.

Wasatch Audubon Society is looking for a volunteer editor for *The Mountain Chickadee*.

The editor is responsible for putting the newsletter together and emailing it to the printer. The newsletter is published six times per year.

If interested in this volunteer position, please contact Melissa Hofer at [mah3338@msn.com](mailto:mah3338@msn.com) or 801-388-0800, 801-544-1453.



**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:



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

by Pat Bausman

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

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dale R. Anderson     | Harwood Family          |
| Noleen Bennett       | Jared Merrill           |
| Jean Branch          | Lisa M. Mullin          |
| Jackie D. Craghead   | P. A. Rogler            |
| Norma J. Gougler     | Sydney Sjoblom          |
| James Hagen          | Eric & Yana Sprague     |
| Sherrie & Chris Hall | Michael & Laura Waldron |

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.

*Thank you*

**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

**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*





**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 National 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