



# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

Vol 34, Number 4

July/Aug 2015

## WAS Meetings and Happenings

July

**There will be no WAS Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 18th  
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 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden.

**Please join us and bring a friend!**

## PRESIDENT'S PIPELINE

### **Get Ready!**

by Katie McVey

I hope all of you have enjoyed our cool, wet spring. We are now into the heat of the summer, and before we know it the fall will be here again bringing with it the migrating birds that nest to our North. Coming up this fall will be our second annual The Big Sit! Fundraiser. We had such a successful first year we've decided to do it again. The Big Sit! will happen on Saturday, October 10th.

In case you forgot, The Big Sit! is a worldwide day where birders sit in one spot and count the birds as they fly by. It's been called "birding's most sedentary day" and "a tailgate party for birders." Last year we were positioned at The Nature Conservancy property just off the Jordan River and saw 45 different species. Right now we are in the planning stages for this year, and we are soliciting ideas of how to improve on the event as a fundraiser for our chapter and as a good time for participants. I invite anyone who is interested to send me an email or give me a call. We will be meeting about once a month to discuss ideas and plans for the big day. There will be more information coming, including how to participate, in our next newsletter.



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**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	801-829-4183
2015/2016	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
2015/2016	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693

**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

**SAD NEWS**

Bill Fenimore, a good friend and avid supporter of Wasatch Audubon, passed away on Sunday, June 21, 2015. Bill was a mentor and inspiration to many of us, always encouraging us to enjoy the outdoors, the birds, and other wildlife. He owned and operated the Wild Bird Center in Layton, Utah, for several years, until he and his son, Billy, moved the location of the store and the business became known as Wild About Birds Nature Center.

Among other things, Bill served as Vice Chair of the Utah Wildlife Board for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. He was also known as an author and wonderful field trip leader. He took great joy from sharing his knowledge and experience with people of all ages. Bill was generous with his time and presented many workshops each year that were oriented towards birding for families. He met the world with a smile and pure enjoyment of each day.

We express our deepest sympathy to Bill's family and all those who loved him. He will be missed!



***HELP SAVE A TREE!!***

Do you prefer reading electronically or hard copy?

This newsletter is available electronically at [www.wasatchaudubon.org](http://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](mailto: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>

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

### **A New Way to Support Birds**

by Lynn Carroll

Bird watchers understand that most bird species need help to thrive in a world dominated by humans. A major need is protection and rehabilitation of habitat. We want to help, but how?

Joining Audubon helps by providing a voice speaking up for birds. Beyond membership, you can contribute money to specific projects. You may wonder, though, how much of the money is spent on Utah habitat. A suggestion made in this column in the past was donating to the non-game wildlife fund on the Utah income tax form, which went to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, but that is no longer an option. We've promoted the purchase of the federal Duck Stamp, but that only benefits wetland birds, and some birders haven't wanted to give the appearance that their money came from a hunter. Too bad, they've said, there isn't a stamp we could buy to show our support for all birds and to fund projects. We'd gladly buy one every year! Well, now they, and you, can!

BirdingStamp.org is a new entity (non-profit status pending) created by Utah birder, Tim Avery. He has begun selling the 2015 Birding Stamp featuring a beautiful picture of a Sagebrush Sparrow at \$20. The funds, minus the costs of printing, mailing, etc., are to be given to "up to ten" non-profit bird and habitat conservation organizations according to the preferences of the stamp purchasers. The net contribution per stamp sold is expected to be about \$17.41 and increase with the amount sold.

Tim's ambitious goal, as stated on the website, is to sell 50,000 stamps this year and maybe eventually rival the federal Duck Stamp. He sold several at the GSL Birdfest—mine is #8—but it looks like things

aren't moving as fast as he'd hoped. I'm eager to help get the ball rolling, and I'm optimistic that over the next few years, many thousands of stamp purchases will fund important bird conservation work.



### **HELP WANTED**

#### **Nest Box Route Coordinator**

Wasatch Audubon is seeking a nest box route coordinator to fill the vacant position for the 2016 nesting season. The four routes along Ant Flat Road and in the Monte Cristo Mountain Range total 115 nest boxes and offer breeding sites for Mountain Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens and rare surprises like Mountain Chickadees and Cassin's Finches. Duties include coordinating teams and materials to prepare four survey teams for the annual June breeding survey; September post-breeding assessment survey, repair and clean-out trip; and data collection. This long-term effort is one the best education and nature entertainment programs of any we offer. The upcoming September 19 post-breeding field trip offers the new coordinator a training opportunity in preparation for next year's season. Contact Kristin Purdy at 801-605-0328 or Jack Rensel at 801-399-0240 for more information.



## CALENDAR July/Aug 2015

### July

**1 Wednesday 7:30/8:00 am** **Bird Walk**  
**Swanson Environmental Center:** Meet at McDonald's (2600 N Washington Blvd, North Ogden) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool.

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

**9 Thursday 3:00 pm to midnight** **Evening Field Trip**  
**Willard Basin:** Meet at the north end of Smith and Edward's parking lot at 3pm to carpool. We can also meet along the way if you are coming from the north. This trip will start just south of Mantua, and we will head towards higher elevations via Willard Basin Rd. The target species of the trip will be birds found above 6500' elevation. As dusk approaches, we will search for Poorwills and Nighthawks. After dark, we will search and listen for different species of owl with the target species being Flammulated Owl. Please contact Mike Hearrell @ (801) 529-8693 or [utmarshrat@yahoo.com](mailto:utmarshrat@yahoo.com) if you plan on attending. Bring food, water and bug spray. This trip requires a vehicle with good ground clearance and (preferably) 4-wheel drive. If you would like to attend but don't have the right vehicle, we will try and fit you in with someone.

**15 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am** **Bird Walk**  
**Fort Buenaventura:** Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave, Ogden) at 7:30 for breakfast or at 8:30 in the Fort Buenaventura parking lot.

**21 Tuesday** **No WAS Meeting**  
 Join us for our Potluck Dinner in August.

**22 Wednesday 7:30/8:30 am** **Bird Walk**  
**Green Pond:** Meet at Dylan's (12<sup>th</sup> and Monroe, Ogden) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:30 in the N end of Smith's parking lot (12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison, Ogden) to carpool.

**25 Saturday 8:00 am** **Field Trip**  
**Flowers and Birds at Powder Mountain:** Meet at Smith's parking lot (12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison, Ogden) at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Come and enjoy the cooler temperatures at the higher elevations. Bring a lunch and drinks.

**29 Wednesday 7:30/8:45 am** **Bird Walk**  
**West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail, West of I-15:** Meet at Denny's Restaurant (North on 1100 W from 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the Flying J Plaza on your left) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:45 am on the frontage road in front of Stevens-Henager College to start the walk.

### August

**4 Tuesday 7:00 pm** **Board Meeting**  
**Ogden Nature Center:** All members are welcome to attend. 966 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden.

**5 Wednesday 7:30/8:45 am** **Bird Walk**  
**Fielding-Garr Ranch, Antelope Island:** Meet at Warren's (1778 South 1000 W, Syracuse) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:45 am at the Antelope Island entrance lot. We'll check out the birds on the Causeway and then drive directly to the Ranch. We'll also bird other locations on the Island as time permits. **This is a fee area.**

**12 Wednesday 7:30/8:45 am** **Bird Walk**  
**Bair Creek Trail, West of Hwy 89 in Fruit Heights:** Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:45 in the Castle Heights Playground parking lot (1200 Nicholls Rd, Fruit Heights.)

**13 Thursday 7:30 pm** **Birdy Thursday Evening Walk**  
**Mantua Reservoir:** Meet at 7:30 pm 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.

**18 Tuesday 7:00 pm**

**WAS Meeting**

**Potluck Dinner:** Meet at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

**19 Wednesday 7:30/8:00 am**

**Bird Walk**

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

**22 Saturday 9:00 am**

**Field Trip**

**Non-native Trees of Ogden:** Meet in the Ogden Cemetery (west of the pet cemetery – where we usually meet for our Wednesday Walks to the Cemetery) at 9:00 am. From there, we will carpool to other sites in the Ogden area. The Ogden City Forester (Monte Stewart) spoke at an Audubon meeting a few months ago. He has agreed to show us the non-native trees that are growing in the area and tell us about them. Bring snacks and water.

**26 Wednesday 7:30/8:00 am**

**Bird Walk**

**Willard Bay State Park:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West, just east of I-15 exit 349) at 7:30 for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool. **This is a fee area.**



**September**

**2 Wednesday 7:30/8:00 am**

**Bird Walk**

**Mantua Reservoir:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West, just east of I-15 exit 349) at 7:30 am for breakfast or 8:00 am to carpool.

**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 Tuesday Meeting) - Les Talbot 801-731-4925

Other Field Trips - Mike Hearell 801-529-8693

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**Only \$2.99 at:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/birding-utah/id915902548>

## **CHUKAR COMPANION**

by Jay Hudson

(with help from Paul Nazoroff's *Hunted Through Central Asia*)

*Alectoris Chukar* is the scientific name for a plump game bird. "Alector" comes from the Greek and means "domestic hen." "Chukar" is the Hindu name for the bird. We have Chukars here in Utah. A good place to see them is on Antelope Island around the visitor's center, especially on the eastern facing slope. You will see them sitting on large rocks acting as protectors of the flock or simply enjoying the view. Another place to look for Chukars is over the lip of the Frary trail head on the way to Fielding Garr Ranch.

The Greeks and the Hindus seem to have known something about the birds' character that the Russians learned later. Certainly, the ancient Kirgiz peoples of Central Asia knew the secret. In 1916, Paul Nazoroff, the Russian mining engineer, botanist and ornithologist, reported that Chukars love to waste away a hot afternoon by a pool of water and dust themselves in the road. He stated that the birds will sit in the shade of a standing horse to get out of the sun and are easily domesticated by man as evidenced by their Greek scientific name.

Chukars are at ease about the garden and the farm and, if man is not hunting them, they seem to seek out his companionship. Nazoroff recorded that he had "seen them reared from wild eggs under the domestic fowl. These half-domesticated birds will go out to feed in their favorite grounds and return punctually to roost at home in the evening." Perhaps the most interesting part of Nazoroff's observations is just how close a companion a Chukar can be. He stated that "a tame Chukar likes to settle on its master's shoulder and caress his cheek with its head, crowing gently to itself." If you don't like a cat, get a Chukar. They also love to lie still and be stroked.

Today, the Chukar is the national bird of Pakistan. Chukars (or Partridges, as they are known in Pakistan) are kept as pets. Pakistan has an annual Partridge show where hundreds of pet owners show their birds in individual beehive-like wicker cages. The cages are works of painted art. The show is the Pakistani equivalent of

America's county fair where prized chickens, rabbits and other animals are shown. Unfortunately, some Pakistanis also breed Chukars to fight and the regular Saturday morning fights are a big draw.



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### **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



**LARKS & BLACKBIRDS**

by Jay Hudson

The Scottish author and consummate path-walker, Robert Macfarland, writes of his friend and fellow walker Edward Thomas's passion for the trail, any trail. He tells how Thomas paid close attention to the birds along the paths and how they were companions who complemented his solitude when walking. When Thomas received an advance copy of Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken," from his friend, he felt that his friend was encouraging him to join the British Army in their fight against the Germans during World War I. He left his wife and became an army instructor on route finding. The army called him a war poet.

Thomas was an avid bird watcher. He wrote of a serene winter morning when the British army was preparing for a spring offensive against the Germans. He used the birds as alarm clocks. The Skylarks began their morning singing at 5:15 am, while the Blackbirds followed with their calls at 6:00. The birds assured Thomas that, even when the artillery rained down at night, the birds could still usher in the day with a song. Thomas died in battle. His notebook with the poems of war was beside him. As Frost wrote:

"...two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less traveled by  
And that has made all the difference."

What must have run through Robert Frost's mind when word reached him that his fellow walker, poet and friend had fallen in battle? Thomas had joined the army at Frost's supposed encouragement rather than walking the lonely paths of the Scottish highlands.

Did Thomas take the road less traveled by?

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

by Pat Bausman

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

Phillip H. Browning  
Genevieve J.  
Coleman  
Debbie Lynch  
Janet Muir  
Jane Murray

Greg Nielsen  
Victoria Ramirez  
Melissa Raynes  
Gayle Zeigner

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





**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