



# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

Vol 35, Number 1

Jan/Feb 2016



## WAS Meetings and Happenings

**Tuesday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 pm**  
**WAS Meeting**

Charity Gibson is a naturalist with the Utah Department of Natural Resources stationed at Antelope Island State Park. She will tell us about some of the mammals that occur in this unique state park habitat that was formerly a Utah pioneer ranching operation.

**Tuesday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**WAS Meeting**

The North American Model for Wildlife Conservation is the topic for our February meeting. Justin Dolling, northern regional supervisor, will present this program and be happy to answer questions about Utah's wildlife management programs.

Both meetings are at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden.

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

## Carma Dorney Receives the John Nelson Award

by Susan Snyder

In October, Wasatch Audubon Society honored the late Carma Dorney with the organization's 17<sup>th</sup> annual John Nelson Award. The prestigious award is presented to a WAS member who has exhibited outstanding commitment to conservation, dedication to the Audubon Society, and volunteer service to the community.

Carma, who was 73 when she passed away suddenly in June, was a longtime historian for Wasatch Audubon, creating mementos and memory pages for the organization's historical scrapbooks that have been unmatched in detail and design. She was an avid outdoorswoman, from birding and hiking to being one of the last people to raft the Colorado River before the Glen Canyon Dam construction and winning several awards in marksmanship.

In serving her community, Carma not only devoted hours of time to Wasatch Audubon, but also to the Boy Scouts of America and the American Red Cross, working the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York City. Wasatch Audubon was pleased and proud to present this award to Kathleen Nelson, Carma's daughter, during the October 2015 membership meeting. Carma's sons, Grant and Steve Dorney, her daughters-in-law Ginger and Jaime Dorney, her grandsons, Steven and Donovan Dorney, and her granddaughter, Sidney Dorney, also attended the presentation.





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

**Officers**

President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
Vice President	Keith Evans	801-476-0232
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Betty Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Katie McVey	715-216-2605

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Hospitality	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
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Newsletter	Melissa Hofer	801-544-1453
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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**

**Taking on New Challenges in 2016**

by Katie McVey

This issue marks the last time I will write to you all as President of Wasatch Audubon as my two-year term is over. I have greatly enjoyed my time as President, getting to know so many of our members, spending time birding at our local haunts, listening to great speakers at our meetings, and of course, working with the Board of Directors and other officers to help guide our chapter of Wasatch Audubon for the last two years.

I was rearranging some books last week and I found a Christmas present from last year. It was a beginner birding guide. And I foolishly thought, why do I need a beginner's guide? I'm the president of an Audubon chapter. But as I started to reread it when I picked it up again last week, I realized we all have much to learn about birding. Whether you're taking on a new geographical region, a group of birds you've never bothered to identify before, such as gulls or winter sparrows or maybe trying birding by ear. There's always something new to learn, and any of these challenges can make you feel like a beginner all over again. That's why chapters like ours are so important. We offer a great opportunity to get out with friends and fellow birders and take on a new challenge. Whether birding makes it into your 2016 resolutions or not, I hope that you make Audubon a monthly or even weekly part of your life. Even though my time as president is over, I look forward to taking on new birding challenges in 2016.

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**WE AT WASATCH AUDUBON THANK YOU, KATIE! YOU WERE A GREAT PRESIDENT!**

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

*John Quincy Adams*

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Water for Wildlife in Utah

by Lynn Carroll

The meeting of Utah's Audubon Council in October included updates on some of the conservation efforts being undertaken by Audubon and others in the state. We also discussed the challenges and opportunities that the 2016 state legislative session may present.

State water policy is always a challenge. In particular, the two large projects that the legislature has instructed the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to undertake both have serious implications for wildlife. The Lake Powell Pipeline is a particular focus of Red Cliffs Audubon Society in Southern Utah, since Washington County is meant to receive most of the water, which would allow the county to welcome 600,000 more people (current pop. 150k). Because of Colorado River basin water's importance to wildlife, we'll continue to oppose the pipeline. See [citizensfordixie'sfuture.org](http://citizensfordixie'sfuture.org) or [westernresourceadvocates.org/projects/lake-powell-pipeline/](http://westernresourceadvocates.org/projects/lake-powell-pipeline/) for more.

The Bear River Development Project implements 1991 legislation requiring the DWR to develop 220,000 acre feet (a.f.) of water from the Bear River drainage, close to the total amount the state has rights to, and deliver it to water agencies for use by their customers. A 2014 plan is to divert water directly from the Bear and store it at multiple sites, from which about half would be piped to Box Elder and Cache counties. One of the possible storage sites, called "Washakie," is next to I-15 near the UT/ID border. Another is Willard Bay or a new impoundment just north of there. The other 100k a.f. would go from storage to a new treatment plant in West Haven, then on to Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake counties.

The problem with this, of course, is that the Bear River contributes about 60% of the inflow to Great Salt Lake (GSL) and is the only source of water for the productive Bear River Bay. It is estimated that reducing the inflow

to GSL by 100,000 a.f. lowers the lake's level by about one foot. About 60% of the diverted water would make its way back to the lake with more salts and pollutants, so the total project might reduce the lake level by nearly a foot! Even half that much would result in shrinking wetlands by thousands of acres.

We don't want to see that happen, especially since we should be able to get along without additional water if conservation increases as fast as our population. An audit of the DWR requested by members of the legislature has provided some help on that front. It is critical of the way the division got the numbers on which it based its conclusion that additional water would be needed by 2035.

We expect to see proposals for raising taxes to pay for these water projects in the upcoming legislative session. While the governor suggests holding off until better data are available, many legislators are eager to move ahead. Please watch for action alerts and let your state senator and representatives know that you prefer to conserve rather than build expensive, damaging water projects.

Bridgerland Audubon Society has another idea for saving water: using beavers. Establishing beavers in selected areas along the Bear River where they will build and maintain ponds can improve the riparian zones along the river, stabilize water flow so that it extends longer into the summer months, reduce floods, and increase percolation of water into the ground to recharge aquifers. You'll probably hear about a proposal to name the beaver as the state rodent, too. ☺



Picture credit  
<http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=325970>



## CALENDAR Jan/Feb 2016

### January

#### 1 Friday 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.*

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

**Fort Buenaventura Park:** Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the entrance to the park.

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

**South Ogden Nature Park:** Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr., South Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the Nature Park.

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

**Mammals of Antelope Island:** Meet at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street) at 7:00 pm. **Charity Gibson** is a naturalist with the Utah Department of Natural Resources Division of Utah State Parks and Recreation stationed at Antelope Island State Park. She will tell us about some of the mammals that occur in this unique state park habitat that was formerly a Utah pioneer ranching operation. Most of the Island is still vegetated with native plants that provide suitable habitats for a variety of wildlife. Come and bring a friend!

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

**Little Mountain Railroad Trail:** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West – just east of I-15 exit 349) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am at the trailhead (west on 4000 N from Smith and Edward's.)

#### 23 Saturday 9:30 am Field Trip

**Clarke Planetarium:** Meet at the Wendy's in Roy (5600 S. 1900 W.) at 9:30 am to carpool. This is a new trip and it is guaranteed to be a warm spot during a cold month. Entrance into the planetarium and the exhibit hall are free. If you watch a show in the IMAX Theater or in the Sky Dome, it will cost \$10.00 for each show. Parking is available underneath the Planetarium. The cost of parking depends on how long

you are parked. I understand that parking can be paid with a credit card. If we are in the planetarium longer than three hours, they will validate our parking ticket. There are several restaurants in the area. You will be on your own for any costs involved in this trip.

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

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

### February

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

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

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

**Riverdale Trail, South:** Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am 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.)

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

**West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail, West of I-15:** Meet at Denny's (north on 1100 W. from 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the Flying J Plaza, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am on the frontage road in front of Stevens-Henager College to start the walk.

#### 13 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.

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

**The North American Model:** Meet at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street) at 7:00 pm. The North American Model for Wildlife Conservation is the topic for our February meeting. This system for protecting and managing wildlife

began with the founding of North America by European immigrants seeking freedom in a new world. It remains a unique model world-wide today. **Justin Dolling**, northern regional supervisor for the Utah Division of Natural Resources, will present this program at our February meeting and will be happy to answer questions about Utah's wildlife management programs.

**17 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am** **Bird Walk**  
**Dale Young Nature Park (formerly Perry Nature Park):** Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West – just east of 1-15 exit 349) at 8:30 for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool.

**20 Saturday 8:00 am** **Field Trip**  
**Morgan County Hotspots:** Meet at the DWR Office (515 E. 5300 S. – Adams Avenue, South Ogden) at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. We will stop at the Spring Chicken Inn, in Morgan, for breakfast and then drive up East Canyon, over to Henefer, and make the loop around Croydon. It is an all day trip, so bring a lunch and drinks. We may stop at East Canyon State Park. *This is a fee area.*

**24 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am** **Bird Walk**  
**Beus Pond:** Meet at McDonald's (5745 S. Harrison Blvd., Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool.

## March

**2 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 lot. *This is a fee area.*

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> is Owl Day, February 13<sup>th</sup> is Eagle Day, March 12<sup>th</sup> is Swan Day and April 9<sup>th</sup> is the Refuge's Earth Day Celebration. 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 18<sup>th</sup> Great Salt Lake Bird Festival will begin on Feb 22, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. More

information is available at <http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com>.

Plan to register early, since many field trips fill very quickly.



Hope to see you there!

## 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 of the best education and nature entertainment programs we offer. Contact Kristin Purdy at 801-605-0328 or Jack Rensel at 801-399-0240 for more information.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

October 23, 2015  
by Betty Evans

The day started cloudy and cool, but quickly became sunny and comfortable as nine of us headed to the Refuge in the hope that the waterfowl hunters would not have too much of an impact on fall migration. We saw 46 total species, mostly sighted on the road to the auto tour loop. However, the last leg (eastern segment) of the auto tour loop provided views of several shorebirds listed below. A first-of-the-year Rough-legged Hawk gave us a nice look as it perched on a fence post, and a Prairie Falcon did a fly-by when we stopped for lunch. We also saw several Wilson's Snipes, Marbled Godwits, Greater Yellowlegs, and Long-billed Dowitchers. An immature Sage Thrasher was a surprise at the headquarters building.

Those enjoying the beautiful fall day (punctuated by lots of mosquitos) were: Keith and Betty Evans, Marily Gren, Denis and Melba Kirby, Brian and Jeanette Nosker, Bruce Perry, and Sharen Perry.

### The Ponds

November 21, 2015  
by Les Talbot

The trip was a very good one. We visited the following ponds: Meadow Creek, Clinton, Jensen's, Glover, the resting Pond at Farmington Bay, and Kaysville Ponds.

Ten of us were able to enjoy the presence of thousands of birds. Of course, most of them were on the resting pond. Meadow Creek is a new pond for us. It is a fishing pond in a subdivision. I checked it out a couple of times before the trip, and it didn't look too promising. On the trip, however, we saw a Black-crowned Night-Heron, a Great Blue Heron, Northern Flickers, Ring-billed Gulls, domesticated ducks, and a Belted Kingfisher.

Jensen's Pond is usually a good place to see Great-tailed Grackles, but on the day of the trip only one was present. There were many Brewer's Blackbirds and a Belted Kingfisher was also there.

There were several Hooded Mergansers on the Kaysville Pond.

Highlights of the trip were the Kingfisher, the Hooded Mergansers, a Western Meadowlark, and Greater Yellowlegs. We expected to see more White-faced Ibis on the trip, but only saw one at Farmington Bay.

## MEET A WAS OFFICER

Les Talbot  
Wasatch Audubon Fieldtrip Chair

While growing up, Les' backyard was Fiddler's Creek which then was the boundary of Layton and Kaysville. This riparian area was home to various kinds of animals which started his interest in zoology.

He graduated from Weber State College with a degree in zoology, a minor in chemistry, and a teaching minor in botany.

He taught all sciences (grades 7-12) in Wakpala, South Dakota, but he didn't have his teaching certificate then. After that year, he attended Weber State to obtain his certificate. He then taught 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade science at Brockbank Junior High School in Magna. The following year, he taught all sciences (grades 7-12) in Edgemont, South Dakota. After that year, he worked as a research technician at the Department of Energy Radiobiology Lab at the University of Utah. The lab was studying the effects of radionuclides on dogs, mice, and chinchillas. The lab was closed 11 ½ years after he started working there. He was able to find a teaching job with the Ogden School District. He taught eleven years at the Washington Alternative High School and then was transferred to Ben Lomond High School. While there, he helped run an alternative high school program, taught 11<sup>th</sup> grade English, and finished his career teaching Biology and Chemistry. *Continued on Page 7*

**MEET A WAS OFFICER**

Les Talbot  
Wasatch Audubon Fieldtrip Chair

*Continued*

During the summers of 1966-1975, Les worked as a Seasonal Park Ranger-Naturalist at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. He also spent one winter working as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Padre Island National Seashore in Texas.

He joined Wasatch Audubon (that is another story) in 1998 and became the field trip chairman in January 2001.

He has a great love for all of nature and a strong desire to conserve it for future generations.

**BIRDING UTAH** App is now available for **iPhone and Android** devices. This App contains over 150 sites for birdwatching throughout Utah. Each site provides featured birds, habitat descriptions, directions, and nearby amenities. Depending on your phone, the App is available at iTunes or the Google App Store.

Sponsors for **Birding Utah** are: Great Salt Lake Audubon, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Office of Tourism, Utah State Office of the BLM, Wasatch Audubon Society, and Wild About Birds Nature Center. We want to thank them for their support in helping to make this project possible and hope that you will enjoy the information provided for the many sites featured in this App.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

by Pat Bausman

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

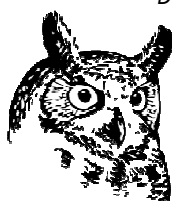
- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| William S. Beard   | Peggy C. Madsen   |
| Mary Behrens       | Glenna P. Merrill |
| Larry Campbell     | Arla Morgan       |
| John Castro        | Sandra Noyce      |
| Louis Cooper       | Richard Pontius   |
| Ashley Cross       | Heather Root      |
| Warren L. Dillon   | Jackie Rowe       |
| Dion Dostaler      | Dakota Scadden    |
| Terry Fullwilley   | Ernie Schnieter   |
| John E. Heisler    | Ardell Spiers     |
| Sharon Hildebrandt | Amy Steele        |
| Don Kap            | Valerie J. Story  |
| Pam Kap            | Dale G. Swenson   |
| Valerie Knettle    | John Tanner       |
| Scott E. Landes    | Patricia Uhl      |
| John Lee           | Joe and El Wixom  |
| Donald Lynch       |                   |
| Bonnie MacFarlane  |                   |

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

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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