

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

Vol 35, Number 2

Mar/Apr 2016



WAS Meetings and Happenings

Tuesday, Mar 15th
7:00 pm
WAS Meeting

East Canyon State Park is the topic for this Audubon meeting. **Chris Haramoto**, Park Manager, has developed outdoor programs and enhanced wildlife watching for the enjoyment of the public.

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

Gardening for Wildlife will be presented by **Barney and Della Bernet**, the owners of Willard Bay Gardens. Barney has been a valuable consultant and supporter of the Ogden Nature Center and many Wasatch Audubon Society members.

Both meetings are at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

Please join us and bring a friend!

EAST CANYON FEEDERS

by Weston Smith

A while back I was approached by Chris Haramoto, East Canyon State Park Manager, about the possibility of placing bird feeders in the park. In turn I contacted several people that had done this type of project at other places. One of those contacted was Billy Fenimore, owner of Wild About Birds Nature Center, who was more than willing to help and donated two feeders, a platform and hopper, as well as some seed.

Other donations on behalf of Wasatch Audubon Society included seed, suet, suet feeders, and insulation materials. On Tuesday Jan. 26, 2016 Billy, Garry Mowery, Arnold



Photo courtesy of Billy Fenimore: Billy Fenimore and Weston Smith at East Canyon

Smith and myself met in Morgan to plan the logistics of the project. At around noon three of us were able in about an hour have the feeders in place and ready for use by some curious Black-capped Chickadees.

The next morning Billy and I met Chris for some final touches to the site. We witnessed the chickadees hard at work packing seeds away from the mixture. They were overly excited to see sunflower seed being poured into the hopper feeder, so much that one almost landed on us trying to get to the feeder even before it was put back in place.

Continued on page 3



Wasatch Audubon Society
 Website: 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

Board of Directors

2015/2016	Weston Smith	801-829-8689
2015/2016	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
2015/2016	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
2016/2017	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0686
2016/2017	Bruce Perry	801-726-9705
2016/2017	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432

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>

CELEBRATE LOON DAY AT EAST CANYON

by Nancy Arnett

Join the staff of East Canyon State Park and Wasatch Audubon Society (WAS) volunteers on Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. to celebrate Loons as they visit Utah on their migration north. WAS will have spotting scopes and binoculars for viewing and will answer any questions. Also, a Utah State University graduate student studying the tracking of sage grouse will be on hand with details of his study.

East Canyon is a fee area. The cost for this event will be \$5.00 (half the price of the normal fee). Make it a morning of two fun events to get outside and enjoy birds.

This event follows the Greater Sage Grouse Lek trip beginning at 5:00 A.M. (see the newsletter calendar for more details). Visit East Canyon's website at <http://stateparks.utah.gov/park/east-canyon-statepark/events/lek-and-loon-day>.



PEREGRINE

by Jay Hudson

We normally consider the word "peregrine" as a noun for a particular falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) or Peregrine Falcon. However, the word has other meanings as an adjective which led to the falcon taking on this name. The word is derived from the Latin *peregrinus*, which connoted the vast part of the Roman Empire who were free but not citizens. They were considered migratory or coming from abroad or foreign, roving or alien. An example of the use of the word as an adjective is "a loyal cadre of peregrine workers who follow presidential candidates." The basic English meaning is "...having a tendency to wander." Peregrinus, or "wanderer" can also be found in the scientific name of the Tennessee Warbler, *Oreothlypis peregrina* (mountain wanderer), that diminutive warbler that migrates, or wanders, between Eastern United States and Central America.

EAST CANYON FEEDERS

Continued from page 1

In the next week I was surprised at how fast birds had started using the feeders, including House Finches, Black-billed Magpies and a Downy Woodpecker. The magpies have taken to the feeders so well that some minor additions are in store in the near future to combat these large birds known for emptying feeders fast.

Those wishing to view the feeders must enter the park and proceed to the fenced area near the concessions store at the top of the boat ramp.

Please join us in April for the Leks and Loons Field Trip and to view the feeders. Maybe a rare bird will be using them. Remember state parks are fee areas.

URGENT!!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

Unfortunately, we must say “goodbye” to Melissa Hofer, who has been Editor of The Mountain Chickadee. Melissa has done an excellent job of putting each issue together and getting it out in a timely manner. HOWEVER, this is Melissa’s last edition and we desperately need someone to fill this position beginning with the next issue. The newsletter is published 6 times each year, is submitted electronically to the printer, and is delivered to a mailing service; so this position requires someone who has the capability of preparing the newsletter and handling the electronic transfer to the printer. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, please call Dan Johnston at 801-645-8633.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Nature, the Utah Legislature, and You

by Lynn Carroll

The 2016 Utah legislative session will end March 10, and you can see what happened to the bills Steve Erickson has been tracking by checking his last Legislative Update or the Legislature’s website. Of great interest to us has been the water infrastructure funding bill that would/will provide state funding for the Lake Powell Pipeline and the Bear River diversion project. As I write, the Senate has passed SB 80; the House will vote on it soon. Although a lot of people have worked to defeat it, I’m not optimistic.

If you’ve lived in Utah long, you’ll understand that most of our lawmakers put environmental protection second to economic prosperity, and nature second to people. They “love” nature but don’t understand that we humans need nature—biodiversity—to thrive.

We’ve tried various strategies to bring more votes to our side: Educate them about the importance of the resource that will be harmed; find economic arguments that may overwhelm those on the other side; or show them that there are a lot of people who feel strongly about the issue, so voting our way is politically wise. These occasionally help, generally on minor issues. We mustn’t give up.

This being an election year, I urge you to help in another way—the ballot box. Find out how incumbents have voted on important bills in the past. Look up the bills they have sponsored. Research their actions and speeches in committee meetings. It will be more difficult to pin down their opponents, since they’ll tend to speak in generalities. Look for things they’ve said before entering the race. Try to meet them. Ask people who have been involved in politics what they know. Decide who would be “better for birds,” and vote for them. If there is clearly a better candidate, offer your support. Wouldn’t it be fine to agree with those who represent you?



CALENDAR Mar/Apr 2016

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. *Antelope Island is a fee area.*

9 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am **Bird Walk**
North Arm Pineview Reservoir: Meet at Dylan's (12th Street and Monroe, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at Smith's parking lot (12th Street and Harrison Blvd, Ogden) to carpool. Depending on conditions in the area, we may alter the location.

15 Tuesday 7:00pm **WAS Meeting**
East Canyon State Park: Meet at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th Street) at 7:00 pm. **Chris Haramoto**, Park Manager, has developed outdoor programs and enhanced wildlife watching for the enjoyment of the public. Chris will provide information on the Park and opportunities for outdoor experiences. Several of our traditional annual field trips include this area. Join us for this program and more information on future field trips to the area.

16 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am **Bird Walk**
Two Rivers Trail: Meet at Denny's Restaurant (north on 1100 W. from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the trail head.

19 Saturday (needs time) **Field Trip**
Blue Creek Valley: Meet at the parking lot by Golden Corral and Shopko (Washington Blvd. & 12th Street, Ogden.) Blue Creek Valley runs north from Howell, UT up into Idaho. Once we leave the freeway it is a dirt road. We will go as far north as we can. This is a good opportunity to see Rough-legged Hawks before they fly back north. Also, it is a good place to see Horned Lark and the other birds that associate with them (Pipits and Snowy Plover). After Blue Valley, we will go back south to Howell Reservoir, check it out and then end the trip at Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area. It will be a lengthy trip so bring a lunch and drinks.

23 Wednesday 8:00/9:00 am **Bird Walk**
Fort Buenaventura: Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave, Ogden) at 8:00 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am at the parking lot at the entrance to the Fort (south from 24th Street onto Avenue A. Keep to the left and head towards the ball fields.)

30 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Riverdale Parkway, North of 31st Street: Meet at McDonald's (900 West Riverdale Road, Riverdale) at 8:00 am for breakfast or at 8:30 am at the trail head parking lot (from Riverdale Road, north on 900 West to 4400 South, then left onto Parker Drive. The lot is on the right just past Riverdale Storage.)

April

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

6 Wednesday 8:00/9:00 am **Bird Walk**
West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail, West Extension (West of 1900 West): Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (2400 South 1900 West, West Haven) at 8:00 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool. We'll drive to the West Haven Cemetery (West on 1800 South off 1900 West. Turn right at 2350 West and proceed north to the Cemetery. We'll park in the Northwest corner of the Cemetery.)

13 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 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 8:00 for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool.

16 Saturday noon/4:00 pm **Earth Day**
Ogden Nature Center: 966 W 12th Street, Ogden. Fun family activities. Wasatch Audubon will sponsor a booth.

19 Tuesday 7:00 pm **WAS Meeting**
Gardening for Wildlife: Meet at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th Street) at 7:00 pm. **Barney and Della Barnett** are

the owners of Willard Bay Gardens on Highway 89 in Willard, Utah. Barney has been a valuable consultant to and supporter of the Ogden Nature Center and many Wasatch Audubon Society members. His program will cover the kinds of vegetation each of us may want to plant to enhance our backyard wildlife experiences. Bring a friend and your questions.

20 Wednesday 8:00/9:00 am **Bird Walk**
Ogden City Cemetery: Meet at Dylan's (12th Street and Monroe, Ogden) at 8:00 for breakfast or meet at 9:00 am in the Northeast corner of the Cemetery.

23 Saturday 5:00 am **Field Trip**
Leks by Les and Loons by East Canyon: Meet at the DWR office (515 E 5300 S - Adams Ave., South Ogden) at 5:00 am to carpool to the lek. The lek is something you should have on your bucket list. It is a great opportunity to see the Greater Sage Grouse perform their annual ritual. After the lek, we will visit East Canyon Reservoir. The State Park personnel will be sponsoring activities about the loons, and we will be assisting them. This is an all day trip, so bring a lunch and drinks. *East Canyon is a fee area.*

27 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Willard Bay State Park: Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West – just east of 1-15 exit 349) at 8:00 for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool. *Willard Bay is a fee area.*

30 Saturday **Field Trip**
Antelope Island State Park: Please check Wasatch Audubon's Facebook page for details. The trip will be led by Mike Hearrell. *Antelope Island is a fee area.*

May

4 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am **Bird Walk**
Canal Walk, North Mountain Road: Meet at McDonald's (2600 North Washington Blvd, Ogden) at 8:00 am for breakfast or at 8:30 am to carpool. Take 2450 North off Mountain Road, over the canal into the small parking lot. Depending on conditions, we may alter the location.

12-16 Thurs thru Mon **Bird Festival**
Great Salt Lake Bird Festival: Various locations and times. Information on activities and trips for all ages is available on the website www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com. On Saturday, May 14th, from 10 am to 4 pm, Wasatch Audubon will have an

education booth. Please contact Arnold 801-829-3383 if you would like to volunteer.

Coming March 31:

The annual Love Utah, Give Utah online giving campaign! It is important that folks give on THAT DATE, to make WAS eligible for extra prizes. Go to

<https://loveutgiveut.razoo.com/us/story/Wasatch-Audubon-Society>.

Click "Donate" and you're good to go! Watch Facebook for details of our March 31 donation party!

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.

March 12th is Swan Day and April 9th 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/

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORTS

MORGAN

OGDEN, BEAR RIVER AND ANTELOPE ISLAND

by Weston Smith

by John Bellmon

Our Christmas Bird Counts went off very well this year although it was cold. Because of a hard cold front that came through in early December, all of the still water was frozen and waterfowl numbers were down a lot. A big **thank you** to all that participated and made this year's Christmas Bird Counts such a success. All of this information and data is very important for the study of population trends of wintering bird species. The Christmas Bird Count is the longest continuous wildlife survey in the world, started in 1900.

On the **36th Ogden Christmas Bird Count** we all had a good time. Some of the unusual highlights were Ring-necked Duck, Great Egret and Osprey. Our totals were 17,499 individuals counted and a total of 81 species, a little above our average, but we did not break the record that we set in 2013 of 88 species.

On the **Bear River Refuge Christmas Bird Count** we had good weather, but it was very cold. Waterfowl numbers were way down because of the frozen water. Some of the highlights were a lone, injured Long-billed Curlew, Savannah Sparrow and a Barn Owl out in the open in the backyard of a farm house. Our totals were 6,791 individuals counted and a total of 57 species reported.

On the **Antelope Island Christmas Bird Count** we had a cold, clear day with almost no wind. Most of the birds were normal ones for the winter, with a White-faced Ibis, Say's Phoebe, Varied Thrush (at the Garr Ranch house) and a Lark Sparrow as highlights. Our totals were 4,557 individuals counted and a total of 67 species reported.

The Morgan Christmas Bird Count was held December 23, 2015 and was the 15th annual count. We had 12 participants and totaled 67 species and 4207 birds. There were eight species seen on count week, which was high due to the many people going to view a Yellow-billed Loon sighted the last day of count week on East Canyon Reservoir.

Due to the extreme winter weather, the roads to East Canyon were nearly impassable on the Morgan County side. Four new species were added to the circle; Tundra Swan, Greater Sage-Grouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Even though the weather wasn't the greatest it brought birds into feeders and along roads, making it one of the best years for this circle. We even had seven species with new high counts.

Thanks to all who braved the weather to participate. I hope there is better weather next year so more of you wishing to participate can.

UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL SPRING RETREAT

Red Cliffs Audubon will host the 2016 Spring Retreat for the Utah Audubon Council. The specific date and time are yet to be determined as of The Mountain Chickadee printing. This meeting provides good information about all of the different chapters' activities. Everyone is invited to attend.

Please check the WAS website/Facebook page for details as they become available.



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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Pat Bausman

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

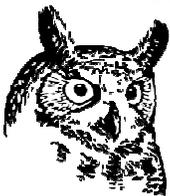
- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Billie L Curtis | Judith Morris |
| Nathan Darnall | Kellee Morris |
| Chizuko L Dawson | Michael Nye |
| Dorothy Deveraux | Linda Parke |
| Diane Diamond | Barbara Peters |
| Sandie Glasmacher | Brandon Roberts |
| Roberta Glidden | Terry Robertson |
| Beverly M Goodwin | Julie Sabato |
| Bruce T Griffin | Margot Smelzer |
| Karen Hodges | Craig Stewart |
| Barbara Hollands | Glenn Symes |
| Elliot J Hulet | Jodi Vest |
| Charlene Mann | Robert T Videto |

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



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.



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