The Mountain Chickadee



Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society** http://www.wasatchaudubon.org Volume 30, Number 3 *May/June 2011*

WAS Meetings and Happenings

May 17th Meeting

Mr. Ben Nadolski, Fisheries Biologist for the Division of Wildlife Resources will present <u>The Ogden River Project</u>. The presentation will include the project plans and actions that will benefit fish and wildlife species along a 1.1 mile stretch of the Ogden River west of Washington Boulevard. This has been the most complex river renovation undertaken to date. 7:00 PM at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th).

June 21st Meeting

Though it may seem a little puzzling, you are going to want to hear this presentation. Dr. John Mull from Weber State University will present <u>Ants for Birders</u>. This should prove to be both enlightening and enjoyable as he explores the intricacies and wonders of our natural world. 7:00 PM at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th).

Come and bring a friend!

<u>Don't Forget!</u> The Great Salt Lake Bird Festival May 12-16

NO ONE LEFT INSIDE

Spring and early summer are exciting times to enjoy the sights and sounds of the out-of-doors. The air is filled with our favorite bird songs as they defend their territories and attract mates. Insects buzzing around our head provide the food base for many of our favorite spring migrants and residents. Although the insects may be a minor nuisance for us, don't let them detract from your enjoyment of the numerous outdoor opportunities. In addition to the opportunity for self-planned activities, there are organized activities available for individuals, families and groups.

One of the more prominent organized activities is the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival which will be held from May 12-16, 2011. For information regarding field trips and workshops, feel free to check their website (www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com). Another event offering a variety of outdoor activities is the celebration on Saturday, June 4, of National Trails Day (www.weberpathways.org). For a bird walk and other experiences, meet at 7:00 AM on Washington Blvd. at Bingham Cyclery. We will be walking the Ogden River Parkway heading east - there is also parking on the east side of Washington Blvd.

On Saturday June 25, we will meet at 8:00 AM in the northwest area of the Smith's parking area (corner of 12th and Harrison Blvd.) for our annual survey of our Bluebird nesting boxes. This is always a great opportunity to see baby birds, eggs, and the many birds using these high elevation areas during the summer.

We are very fortunate to have a great trail system in and around the Ogden area. Many of the trails and areas are family-friendly, and this is the perfect time of year to introduce your family to the great outdoors. I encourage everyone to explore the valuable resources in our area. Please don't forget to post the calendar of events in this newsletter in a prominent place in your home or office. Hope to see you along the birding trail!



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

Newsletter Articles: Items for the next newsletter are due by the 20th of the month prior to the newsletter date. Send letters, articles, or comments to Rich Kennedy at: geoteck@hotmail.com **President's Pipeline**. Looking for events and activities to do this summer that will expand your awareness of the natural world around us? Here's a listing I've come up with that may fill the bill.

May is pretty a much birding month. Most of us know about the Great Salt Lake Festival on May 12-16. **www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com**

There are two other events you may want to check out. The **Urban Bird Festival** at Tracy Aviary, May 7-8, and **Birding at Red Butte Gardens** Thursday, May 26 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM, and Saturday May 28, 8:00 AM – noon. What could be better than birding in the beautiful gardens at Red Butte? Arline Sant, Red Butte Garden Naturalist Volunteer, will lead the tours. **www.redbuttegarden.org**

Start off June with **National Trails Day** on June 4th. Weber Pathways will have a number of activities, including birding along the Ogden River Parkway.

www.weberpathways.org

Hogle Zoo will sponsor **Predator Awareness Day** on June 11 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Hogle Zoo is teaming up with various local and national wildlife groups and agencies to help the public learn about predators, especially those found in Utah and the surrounding areas.

www.hoglezoo.org

June 21st is fee-free day for all national parks!

Bryce Canyon National Park Annual Utah Prairie Dog Day, Friday, June 24th. Join a Park Ranger to view and learn about prairie dogs in their natural habitat at 9:00 AM and again at 1:30 PM.

www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/updogday.htm

Every Saturday at noon, **The Living Planet Aquarium** in Sandy will present the program **Defenders of the Rainforest**. During this presentation, the education staff brings out live rainforest animals, such as boa constrictors, parrots, scorpions, tarantulas, and more, and shares how each of these animals survives in the rainforest.

www.thelivingplanet.com

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Guided Birding Tours: From June to September, the refuge will have tours on Friday and Saturday at 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Transportation and binoculars will be provided. No reservations are required.

By July and August, everybody is ready for a road trip. Here's a few you may want to consider:

Great Basin National Park Lehman Caves Tour: Lehman Caves is a beautiful marble cave ornately decorated with stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, flowstone, popcorn, and over 300 rare shield formations.

www.nps.gov/grba/planyourvisit/lehman-caves-tours.htm

(Continued Page 6)



CONSERVATION CORNER by Lynn Carroll

2011 Utah Legislature: Selected Results. During the legislative session I forwarded to many of you the "Legislative Updates" produced by our policy advocate, Steve Erickson. [If you didn't get them, it's likely because I didn't have your e-mail address or you didn't want them.] You may have responded to an action alert by contacting a legislator. The last update was a few days before the end of the session. Here are the final results of some of the bills Steve was tracking.

HB 49: "Eliminates a provision requiring the Utility Facility Review Board to determine if a facility should be constructed." Audubon opposed. It didn't get past the standing committee.

HB 97: Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Quality with the Department of Natural Resources: Legislators are reportedly unhappy about "bureaucratic inefficiency" in the DEQ. Audubon opposed. Standing committee let it die.

HB 246 Repeal of Phosphorus Limit in Dishwasher Detergent: Audubon opposed. We and other conservation groups issued "action alerts," and the bill was defeated in committee after an earlier tie vote.

HB 399: Requires that a bond must be posted by anyone (plaintiff) seeking an administrative stay or an injunction after a final agency action is issued by the Dept. of Natural Resources, UDOT, or the

School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. The money would reimburse their opponent for damages if the plaintiff lost. DEQ was originally included in the list of agencies, but the EPA could have taken away Utah's right to administer laws under EPA's jurisdiction. Audubon vigorously opposed the bill with an action alert, as did other groups, but the bill passed and was signed by the Governor.

HB 10 and SB 57: Both of these bills involve feral cats. Audubon was interested because feral cats take quite a toll on birds, but did not state an opinion on either bill (Feral means a domesticated animal that is living a free-roaming, wild life). HB 10 said that a person who killed a feral cat wouldn't be violating animal cruelty laws. The House added restrictions and passed this bill, but it died in the Senate. SB 57 passed and is law. It facilitates programs that catch, spay or neuter, and release cats living in feral colonies, renamed "community cats" in the bill.

HB 438: This bill would have changed the membership of the 11-member Water Quality Board, increasing the representatives of agricultural interests from one to three and eliminating two other members. Several versions were proposed; the one that passed the house eliminated both "at large" positions, one of which represented environmental interests. Audubon opposed the bill, again joined by other groups, and members were alerted more than once to communicate opposition. On the last day of the session, Senator McAdams was poised to propose an amendment suggested by Steve, when the leadership apparently decided the bill wasn't worth the time it was taking and killed it. This was probably the most important victory of the session for the environment.

HCR 7: "Supports increased outdoor activities by children and policies that promote outdoor activities for Utah children." Audubon supported. Passed and signed, showing that our leaders appreciate the natural environment we have in Utah, even if they like economic growth better.

Many thanks to Steve for a job well done and to members who supported his work with their messages to their legislators and Governor Herbert.

Audubon Council of Utah Saturday, May 7

Members are welcome at the spring meeting of the Audubon Council of Utah on Saturday, May 7th. Besides the chapter reps, we need more people to provide ideas and opinions as we discuss how we can work together on common goals. You'll hear what's going on in the other chapters and about threats to Utah's Important Bird Areas and discuss how best to influence government policies to benefit birds and other wildlife.

We'll meet at Red Butte Gardens in the Visitor Center, starting at 9 AM. Lunch will be provided by our hosts, Great Salt Lake Audubon. We'll probably finish around 3 or 4 PM. The gardens and the canyon beyond are good places to look for early migrating warblers, so you might want to arrive early or stay late for some birding. RSVP (not required, but helpful) before Saturday to Ray Smith at: 801-532-7384; or Lynn Carroll at:

801-392-8216 or bradlynnc@comcast.net

River Lane Field Trip March 19, 2011 by Les Talbot

When we met, the sky was mostly cloudy, the temperature was 45.9° F, and an 18 mph wind with 23 mph gusts was blowing out of the south. When we arrived at River Lane, the wind was not as strong, but still blowing.

For those of you who haven't been to River Lane before, it is a dirt road that parallels the Spanish Fork River to where it enters Utah Lake. There were several fishermen at the end of the road, the wind was still fairly strong and there was no food for songbirds. We did see Tree and Barn Swallows flying over the lake. On the way to the mouth of the river, we saw a Red-tailed Hawk, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Ravens.

Paul Lombardi knew where someone had built an observation tower, so we left the river and drove to it. The tower overlooks a wetland and there were several ducks and Canada Geese there. Our next stop was at Benjamin Slough. It was the highlight of the trip. We also saw several birds on our way to the Slough. From the Slough we drove to Lincoln Beach, on the southwest edge of the lake. We saw Clark's and Western Grebes there.

We saw the following 28 species: Red-tail Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Northern Flicker, Eurasian Collared-Dove, American Kestrel, Canada Goose, California Gull, Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, Northern Harrier, Killdeer, Lesser Scaup, European Starling, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, House Sparrow, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, American Coot, Double-crested Cormorant, American Robin, Clark's Grebe, Western Grebe, Mourning Dove, and Canvasback.

Trip participants were: Ee Cheng & Dwight Waller, Linda & Arnold Smith, Paul Lombardi, and me.

During the Spring Migration, the River Lane area can be a hotspot for songbirds. March is too early for good birding there.

Members Corner

Editor's note: Following are a few new columns/articles submitted by our members. Each month we will have something new in this section. Some will become regular monthly columns, while others may be a onetime treat! Please feel free to send me your ideas, photos, articles, etc. or anything you might like to share with the readers of *The Mtn. Chickadee* at <u>geoteck@hotmail.com</u>.

Enjoy! Rich

HOME SWEET HOME by Keith Evans

In addition to information on 150 birding hotspots, the book titled, <u>Utah's Featured Birds and Viewing</u> <u>Sites</u> is full of information on habitat types. Is habitat as important as size, color, wing-bars, and bill shape for bird identification? Probably not, but being habitat aware sure helps. And, for the birds, habitat is everything. This month-by-month series is based on information from the book with a few anecdotes to add interest.

May in the Riparian. Birds are not distributed over the landscape haphazardly; therefore, knowledge of habitat preferences greatly increases the odds of finding a target species. The riparian zone is the

upland vegetation next to a stream or other water saturated area and is one of Utah's most productive bird habitats. Riparian areas are dominated by woody vegetation (trees and shrubs) distinguishing them from marsh habitats dominated by rushes, sedges and grasses. Less than one percent of the arid state of Utah is classified as riparian; however, more than 50% of the birds in Utah utilize riparian zones for part of their life cycle. A few of the birds using the lower elevation riparian areas in May include: Lewis's Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Red-naped Sapsucker, and Yellow-breasted Chat. In the Mojave Desert riparian areas (Washington County, Utah) look for Gambel's Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Bell's Vireo, and Abert's Towhee. At higher elevations look for Northern Goshawk, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Mountain Chickadee, Western Tanager, and Lazuli Bunting. One of my favorite riparian hotspots in northern Utah is located just north of Logan in the Cache Valley. North of Logan on US-91, begin looking for the Forest Service sign designating the High Creek Road about 2 miles north of where UT-142 joins US-91. High Creek Road is approximately 7 miles long and is all good birding. The public land beyond the Forest Service boundary line (4.5 miles east of US-91) is more accessible for hiking, picnicking, and other forms of outdoor recreation. Habitats vary from the mountain riparian areas along the road to mountain shrub, aspen, and conifer as the trail elevation rises. The extensive stands of bigtooth maple turn a brilliant red in the fall – a good reason to return at that time of year.

June in Mountain Shrub and Aspen. Mountainshrub and aspen forests are often listed as two separate habitat types, but I'll cover them together as many bird species are found in both. Approximately 7.5% of Utah is classified in these habitat types. Trees and shrubs include: aspen, Gambel oak, big tooth maple, serviceberry, mountain mahogany, chokecherry, elderberry, and snowberry. Depending on the moisture regime, the understory can be fairly barren or very dense. Many early spring-flowering plants bloom before June as the sunlight reaching the ground is more intense before the leaves on the trees are fully developed. Many of the birds found here also utilize the riparian areas and include: Red-naped

Sapsucker, Mountain Chickadee, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Virginia's Warbler, and Western Scrub-Jay. At higher elevations look for American Three-toed Woodpecker and Cassin's Finch. Back in 1985, John "helped" me add a Williamson's Sapsucker to my lifelist. John owned a great 4WD, high clearance vehicle, but we decided to take my low-riding Plymouth. Our reasoning was that the roads would be good. We headed to the Daniels Pass area south of Heber City where Williamson's Sapsuckers had been regularly reported. Well, I did add the sapsucker to my lifelist, but I scraped off the muffler and had a few other problems. Due to the distance, this was also an all day trip. At the very next Audubon meeting, a member reported seeing Williamson's Sapsuckers along the paved road by the Monte Cristo Campground. Oh well, my memories and stories are much better this way.

BONAPARTE

by Jay Hudson

Just how did the name Bonaparte get stuck on a gull? It seems obvious that it has something to do with the Emperor, but not in a way you would ever guess. The Emperor had a nephew named Charles Lucien Bonaparte who had a passion for birds. Charles came to America for an arranged marriage to his cousin, the Princess Zenaida Bonaparte, the niece of the Emperor. Charles was a self-taught naturalist and leading museum scientist/ornithologist who spent six years studying and publishing about the birds of America with much of his work depending on other's collections and field notes. In his list of birds, he honored his wife by creating the genus Zenaida which now includes five kinds of dove, including the Zenaida Dove which is occasionally seen in Florida but mostly stays in the Caribbean. It is thought that he linked the doves to his wife as a symbol of conjugal bliss, but that bliss didn't weather well as after eleven children the arranged marriage failed and he returned to Italy.

Bonaparte was a friend of fellow Frenchman James Audubon. Bonaparte's intellect shown in the lab. As field ornithologists brought in specimens, Bonaparte helped describe, classify and publish about them. He spoke Italian, French, English and Latin. The Emperor's nephew's legacy was sealed when his friend William Swainson named the boreal tree-nesting black-headed gull after him. The Bonaparte's Gull can be seen at the Bear River Bird Refuge during migration season with the highest possibility in April.

LEAVING TRACKS

by Keith Evans

Where did our vast knowledge of American birds originate? What is the origin of names like Steller's Jay, Wilson's Warbler, or Brewer's Sparrow? In this series I introduce a few explorers, naturalists and field ornithologists from the late 1700s into the 1800s who discovered bird species new to science and named them. Different naturalists will be covered in various issues of the Mountain Chickadee.

MacGillivray, William (1796-1852). William MacGillivray was a Scottish ornithologist who wrote much of the technical information about birds for J. J. Audubon's Ornithological Biography published in five volumes from 1831 to 1839. MacGillivray's largest and most important publication was the five-volume set, *History of* British Birds (1837-1852). MacGillivray held several positions before becoming a professor of natural history at Marischal College in Aberdeen in 1841. He was an accomplished artist and changed the teaching methods of the day by taking his students into the field to learn. He criticized some of the prominent naturalists of the day by calling them "cabinet naturalists" because they were describing and naming many bird specimens without observing the birds alive in the field. Audubon named the MacGillivray's Warbler after this ornithologist. So when you see a small gray-headed warbler in the low brushy habitat of a riparian area, you'll know where the name comes from even if it takes a few years to learn to spell it.

<u>Don't Forget!</u> National Trails Day June 4th President's Pipeline. (Continued from Page 2)

Cedar Breaks National Monument Wildflower Festival, July 1st, 2011 - July 17th. Join a specialist on a guided hike and learn all about the different wildflowers. Guided hikes are offered twice daily and meet at the visitor center at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

www.nps.gov/cebr/

Dead Horse Point State Park -Full Moon Hike

Aug. 13 -This program includes activities like learning about and listening for nocturnal animals. This will be a short hike following the canyon rim overlooking the canyons of the Colorado River. For questions or registration, contact park staff at (435) 259-2614.

http://stateparks.utah.gov/node/2093

Since gas is inching toward \$4 a gallon, you may want to park that RV or 5th wheel this summer. That doesn't mean a trip into the back country is out of the question. Do what I have done almost every year for the last 12 or so years. Rent a U.S. Forest Service ranger station, cabin or even a yurt for a few days. Just think, no cell phones, no TV, no internet. Just bring your sleeping bag, groceries and toilet paper. Take it from me, you can actually feel the stress exiting your body. For availability and to make reservations see: <u>http://www.recreation.gov</u>

Have a great summer!!

Paul Merola

Welcome New Members by Paul Lombardi

Please join us in welcoming those who have renewed and/or recently joined Audubon and/or our chapter:

Carl Barker John Botts Lozina Brooks Dennis Brown Bobby Buckles Wilma Caldwell Joyce Cracas Charles Cuthbertson R. Delange Doretha Dowdle Betty Ellis Bob Geier Lynda Goucher Lil Graves Kellie Greenhalgh Kay Hargis Susie Hulet Elizabeth Johanson Tisaiah Kline J. Michael Nye Belva Provost Cynthia Quinn Betty Schreck Shirley Shaner Peter Treuherz Cheryl Watson

Hope to see you at our next meeting and field trip.

Bird Walk



CALENDAR

All activities listed below are open to the public. No fees are charged for any event unless noted.

> **For further information on** Meetings: Jack Rensel 801- 399-0240 Field Trips: Les Talbot 801-731-4925 Bird Walks: Paul Lombardi 801-295-7738

May 2011

Bird Walk

Box Elder CG & Mantua: Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West. Just east of I-15 Exit 349) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool.

11 Wednesday 7:30/8:15am Bird Walk

Ogden Bay (South Entrance): Meet at Village Inn, (1780 W 5600 S, Roy. West of Exit 338 off I-15). 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:15 am to carpool.

17 Tuesday 7:00pm

WAS Meeting

Guest speaker Ben Nadolski, Fisheries Biologist for the Division of Wildlife Resources will present <u>The Ogden River Project</u>. At the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). (See front page side bar for details.)

18 Wednesday 7:30/8:15am

4 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am

Bird Walk

Green Pond (Snowbasin Area): Meet 7:30 at Dylan's (12th & Monroe) for breakfast or at 8:15 am to carpool from the Smith's parking lot on 12th and Harrison.

21 Saturday 7:00am

Field Trip

Jordanelle, Rockcliff, and Heber Fields: Meet at the DWR Office (515 E. 5300 S., Ogden) at 7:00 am. We'll bird the riparian area south of the Jordanelle Dam, Rock Cliff, and the Heber Fields. This is a great opportunity to see Warblers, Western Tanager, Bobolink, and possibly Snipe. Bring a lunch and water.

25 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am Bird Walk Shorwood Hills: Mast at MaDarald's (1828 W 2700

Sherwood Hills: Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West. Just east of I-15 Exit 349) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool.



June

1 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am

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

4 Saturday 7:00am National Trails Day Meet at 7:00 a.m. on Washington Blvd. at Bingham Cyclery. We will be walking the Ogden River Parkway heading east – there is also parking on the east side of Washington Blvd.

7 Tuesday 7:00pm Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 at the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). All members are welcome.

8 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am Bird Walk East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at McDonald's (5745 S. Harrison) for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool.

15 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am Bird Walk Willard Bay (South): Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N, Farr West. Just east of I-15 Exit 349) at 7:30 am for breakfast or at 8:00 am to carpool.

21 Tuesday 7:00pm Guest speaker Dr. John Mull from Weber State University will present <u>Ants for Birders</u>. At the Ogden Nature Center (966 W 12th). (See front page side bar for details.)

22 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am

Bird Walk

Field Trip

Riverdale Trail (South): Meet at 7:30 am at McDonald's (Riverdale Road & 900 W) for breakfast or at 8:15 at the trailhead parking lot (from Riverdale Rd., south on 700 W for one block, left on 4600 S to lot on the right at the end of the road).

25 Saturday 8:00am

Mountain Bluebird Nest Box Census: Once again we have an opportunity to see eggs or babies of the Mountain Bluebird, House Wren, Tree Swallows, and whatever other bird is using the nest boxes. This is a great way to keep up the annual census that we have done for so many years. Meet at Smith's (12th & Harrison, Ogden) at 8:00 am. Bring a lunch and water. A Philip's or regular screwdriver is helpful.

29 Wednesday 7:30/8:15am Bird Walk Jefferson Hunt Campground: Meet 7:30 at Dylan's (12th & Monroe) for breakfast or at 8:15 am to carpool. Carpooling from the Smith's parking lot on 12th and Harrison.

July

6 Wednesday 7:30/8:15am

Bird Walk

Powder Mountain: Meet 7:30 at Dylan's (12th & Monroe) for breakfast or at 8:15 am to carpool. Carpooling from the Smith's parking lot on 12th and Harrison.



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

