

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

Vol 33, Number 6

Nov/Dec 2014



WAS Meetings and Happenings

**Tuesday, Nov 18th
7:00 p.m.**

WAS Meeting

Ogden's Urban Forest is the topic of this month's program. – **Monte Stewart** is the Ogden City Forester who plans and advises citizens regarding the selection of trees for this area. Ogden has been recognized as an official "Tree City" in Utah. Mr. Stewart will talk about the beneficial functions of trees and the history of Ogden's success in achieving this status.

**Tuesday, Dec 16th
7:00 p.m.**

WAS Meeting

Value Added Birding will be presented by **Keith Evans**, a retired research biologist, avid birder, and long-time participant in Wasatch Audubon activities. This year, he will remind us to participate in one or all of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), as well as other winter birding opportunities, like the international Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

**Both at Ogden Nature Center
966 W. 12th Street.**

The Big Sit! A Full Report

by Susan Snyder and Katie McVey

The first bird logged for the Wasatch Audubon Society's first annual "The Big Sit" fundraiser was a Great-horned Owl. It called and called as we arrived at 3:30 a.m. and set up our chairs in the 17-foot counting circle to prepare for the 4 a.m. start. We hoped the owl would continue calling once we were positioned inside the circle. It did not disappoint us. It gave a couple more hoots before fading into the darkness.

The Big Sit is an event that happens all over the world the second weekend of October. The rules are basic: Birders count the number of species they hear or see from inside a 17-foot circle. Wasatch Audubon was using its participation as a fundraiser to help replace the sunflower seed sale that the club had to stop doing last year. Those birding obtained either flat or per-species pledges from family and friends. The Nature Conservancy's Legacy Nature Preserve proved a terrific spot for Big Sitting. We racked up 45 species during our 16 hours of birding.

Continued on page 6





Wasatch Audubon Society
 Website: 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

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2013/2014	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
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2014/2015	Scott Baxter	801-540-9417
2014/2015	Dan Johnston	801-731-4573

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Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Field Trips	Les Talbot	801-589-2591
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-295-7738
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WORD LORE

by Jay Hudson

CANARY: Canaries are named after the Canary Islands. But why were the Canary Islands given this name? Oddly enough because of the dogs that were found there. The Latin for dog is *canis*, and the Romans called the largest of the islands “Canaria.” so there is a curious linguistic connection between the words “canine” and “canary!”

EIDERDOWN: Properly speaking, eiderdowns should be made from the down of the eider duck found in Northern Europe. The down for “eiderdowns” is collected from its nest. Today, “eiderdown” is also made from nylon and is an ornithological insult, as well as a linguistic absurdity.

CARDINAL: The word comes from the Latin *Cardines* which means “hinges.” The word was applied to men who were assigned to particular Catholic churches and were principals (or hinges) to that church. These men became known as *cardinales* or “hinge-men” of the church. The bird Cardinal is named for the red robe worn by the “hinge-men.”

QUACK: The word “quack” comes from the Dutch *quacken* which means to “prattle” or “talk foolishly.”

TURKEY: Why are turkeys called turkeys? Because, in a way, they came from Turkey. “Turkey” or “turkey-cock” was a name for the guinea-fowl of Africa. It is said that the name was exported through Turkey to this country.

EAT CROW: Some not very plausible tales are around to explain this old saying. The most likely is that crow will yield little meat and is tough to boot. It’s something you eat only under the most dire of circumstances.

FOR THE BIRDS: When horses were used in the city, they had their own emissions. Since there was no control of these emissions, they, or the undigested oats in them, served to nourish a large population of sparrows. If you say something’s for the birds, you’re politely saying that it’s horse manure.

FLY-BY-NIGHT: Many believers thought that a witch was a person who, as popularly supposed, mounted her broom at midnight and went off on her rounds. Thus, one who decamps secretly or who departs hurriedly is a fly-by-night character.

FEATHER IN YOUR CAP: Most likely comes from the slender, smooth, glossy black plume of the heron’s crest which was deemed a mark of great distinction in medieval chivalry. It was used at the center of the ostrich-white plume which adorned the caps of the noble Knights of the Garter. Admiral Lord Nelson had a superb heron’s plume presented to him by the Sultan of Persia. It was richly surrounded by diamonds and was considered the highest honor which could be conferred on a person.

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

Local Sage-grouse under Threat

by Lynn Carroll

Many residents of the Wasatch Front have had their first and perhaps only view of Greater Sage-grouse at the "Henefer lek" located beside highway 65 at the Morgan/Summit County line. Remembering how grouse used to be seen in many Morgan County locations and noting that the lek occupies private property, local birders have worried that this lek might not last another generation.

In August, we learned that a group of area land-owners have formed a partnership called Yaryca LLC that wants to sell its combined 2,800+ acres to developers. They've asked Morgan County to change the Future Land Use Map designation of their property from "Natural Resources and Recreation" to "Master Planned Community," which would allow it to be rezoned for denser development and make it more attractive to developers. The property is about a mile away from the Henefer lek; part of it overlooks East Canyon Reservoir. Right on the property is another Sage-grouse lek, called the Pioneer Camp lek. It's in the vicinity of a stretch of Mormon pioneer trail that crosses the property.

The map amendment was recommended by the Planning Commission in spite of opposition by county residents concerned about increased traffic, lack of water, historic preservation, etc., as well as by wildlife advocates. Allison Jones of the Wild Utah Project served as an environmental representative on the committee that recently produced Utah's Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse. She pointed out that the Yaryca property lies in a Sage-Grouse Management Area (SGMA) identified in the conservation plan where viable populations of sage-grouse are supposed to be maintained. Since the state is hoping to show the US Fish and Wildlife Service that Greater Sage-grouse can be adequately protected by states without need for listing as a threatened species, the county would be doing the state a disservice by allowing disturbance in the vicinity of two leks.

The change to the land use map was on the agenda for the County Council meeting on Sept. 2, and there was a good turnout of people opposed to it, who presented their arguments again. Those in favor claimed that some of the land could be set aside for grouse, and that they didn't have in mind a very large resort; but they want the use designation for all of the property changed. The council

vote was tied, so another meeting was scheduled when the absent chairman could break the tie.

At the second council meeting, the agent for Yaryca said they wanted a delay, which would allow them to meet with state agencies and interested public to see what can be worked out. She made the point that the current use designation, which allows building of one home for every 160 acres, doesn't really provide much protection for the grouse, which is true. After mating, sage-grouse hens spread out three or more miles from the lek to nest. According to the state conservation plan, this SGMA is one of five which "will be the focal point for state and local efforts to obtain incentive-based negotiated covenants, easements, leases, and other tools for conservation," since they have a high percentage of habitat in private ownership. We'll see if we can encourage such a result in this case.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

The Hot Spots of Northern Utah County

August 23, 2014

by Les Talbot

Lynn Carroll, Merily Gren, Lynn and Christy Merrill, Trish Turner and I visited Willow Pond, west of Lehi; Vivian Park, in Provo Canyon; and Cascade Springs.

Willow Pond was good, but it is better in the spring. We saw Franklin Gulls, White-faced Ibis, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Black-crowned Night Heron, and Goldfinches. We ran into two birders from the Utah Birder's group, who said they commonly see 30 species there.

The target bird at Vivian Park was the White-throated Swift. They didn't disappoint us. There were a few that were flying high above the cliffs. We also saw a Belted Kingfisher. Merily walked up the river and said there was fresh snow in one of the side canyons.

Our next stop was Cascade Springs. There were Northern Flickers and Downy Woodpeckers there. The Forest Service had a youth group pulling watercross out of the pools. They said people complained that they could not see the fish for the vegetation. We walked the upper trail that goes around the springs and came upon an interpretive sign that told about the American Dipper. After reading the sign, I turned around and a Dipper was sitting on a log. Other Birds seen were California, Franklin, and Ring-billed Gulls, American Avocets, Barn Swallows, and a Stellar's Jay.



CALENDAR Nov/Dec 2014

November

5 Wednesday 8:00/9:00 am

Bird Walk

North Arm Pineview Reservoir: Meet at Dylan's Restaurant (12th Street and Monroe, Ogden) at 8:00 am for breakfast or at the Smith's parking lot (12th Street and Harrison, Ogden) at 9:00 am to carpool.

8 Saturday 7:00 am

Hearell Field Trip

Pineview Reservoir: Meet at the Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison, Ogden) at 7:00 am to carpool. We will bird areas of Pineview Reservoir in search of migrating fall rarities. Last year Red-necked Grebes, Surf Scoters, White-winged Scoters and Pacific Loons were seen. Most birding will be done from parking areas with spotting scopes, which will be provided for those without higher-magnification optics. This trip is an easy trip and will only last until about 11:00 am or perhaps longer if we are finding good birds. Contact Mike Hearell @ utmarshrat@yahoo.com or (801) 529-8693 if you plan to attend or have any questions.

12 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am

Bird Walk

South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at McDonald's (5745 South Harrison Blvd., Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool.

13 Thursday 5:15 pm Birdy Thursday Evening Walk

Ogden City Cemetery: Meet in the northeast corner of the cemetery at 5:15 pm. The cemetery can be a lovely place to spot birds. We'll walk for about an hour and look for Red-breasted Nuthatches and perhaps Red Crossbills. Roads are paved, but no telling whether there will be ice. There is an optional social gathering for dinner after the walk. For information, call Susan Snyder, 801-388-4201.

18 Tuesday 7:00 pm

WAS Meeting

Ogden Nature Center: Meet at 966 West 12th Street, Ogden, at 7:00 pm. **Ogden's Urban Forest** is the topic of this month's program. **Monte Stewart** is the Ogden City Forester who plans and advises citizens regarding the selection of trees for this area. Ogden has been recognized for many years as an official "Tree City" in Utah. Mr. Stewart will talk about the beneficial functions of trees and the history of Ogden's success in achieving this status. Bring your questions and enjoy this program with us!

19 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am

Bird Walk

Riverdale Parkway: Meet at McDonald's (900 West Riverdale Road, Riverdale) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am at the trailhead parking lot. Directions: From Riverdale Road, go north on 700 West for two blocks, then right on 4300 South, then right on 600 West to the parking lot.

22 Saturday 8:00 am

Field Trip

Jensen Pond, Farmington Pond, and Kaysville Pond: Meet in the southwest corner of the parking lot near Wendy's (1900 West 5600 South, Roy) at 8:00 am or at Jensen Pond (the west end of Gentile Street, Layton) at 8:30 am. Bring a lunch and water.

26 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am

Bird Walk

Willard Bay State Park South: Meet at McDonald's (1838 West 2700 North, Farr West, just east of I-15 exit #349) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am to carpool. **This is a fee area.**

December

2 Tuesday 7:00 pm

Board Meeting

Ogden Nature Center: All members are welcome to attend. 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

3 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am

Bird Walk

Ogden Cemetery: Meet at Dylan's (12th Street and Monroe, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the northeast corner of the cemetery.

10 Wednesday 8:30/9:30 am

Bird Walk

Perry Nature Park: Meet at the Moore's Café (2645 U.S. Hwy 89, Perry) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:30 am at the park. Directions: From I-15 northbound, head east off Exit 362 (the 1100 South exit).

11 Thursday

No Birdy Thursday Evening Walk

Please join us for our Christmas Bird Counts!

16 Tuesday 7:00 pm

WAS Meeting

Ogden Nature Center: Meet at 966 W. 12th Street, Ogden at 7:00 pm. **Value Added Birding** is the topic of this month's program. **Keith Evans** is a retired research biologist, avid

birder, and long-time participant in Wasatch Audubon activities. For several years, he has given us the opportunity to view winter birds through his photos and stories. This year, he will take a different approach as a reminder to participate in one or all of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) sponsored by Wasatch Audubon, as well as other winter birding opportunities like the International Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Keith's talk will emphasize birding beyond the "recreational" aspect as he discusses many of our contributions in the arena of bird conservation. Come, bring a friend, and get started with your winter birding!

17 Wednesday **No Bird Walk**
Please join us for the Bear River Christmas Bird Count!

17 Wednesday 8:00/8:30 am **Christmas Bird Count**
Bear River Christmas Bird Count: 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. It is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars

20 Saturday 7:00 am **Christmas Bird Count**
Ogden Christmas Bird Count: Meet at Denny's (Take 21st Street to 1100 West, on north side by Flying J Plaza, Ogden) for breakfast and to get your assignment. It is an all day trip. Bring water and lunch. Walkie talkies on frequency 11-22 will be used to communicate between cars. Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm at UCC Church (3350 South Harrison Blvd.) for compilation of data. Bring table service and a dish to share.

23 Tuesday 7:30 am **Christmas Bird Count**
Morgan Christmas Bird Count: Meet at the Utah DWR (515 East 5300 South, South Ogden) at 7:30 am to carpool for breakfast at Spring Chicken Inn (4 North State Street, Morgan) 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.

24 Wednesday **No Bird Walk**
Merry Christmas Eve!

31 Wednesday 8:30/9:00 am **Bird Walk**
Beus Pond: Meet at McDonald's (5745 South Harrison, Ogden) at 8:30 am for breakfast or at 9:00 am at the pond. This walk will be a short one around the pond. We may also visit Glassman Pond if weather permits.

January

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

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

Contact Persons for WAS Outings

Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi 801-295-7738

Birdy Thursdays - Katie McVey 715-216-2605

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

Other Field Trips - Mike Hearell 801-529-8693

NEWSLETTER EXPIRATION DATE

Please check your address label on this issue of the Mountain Chickadee to ensure your subscription has not expired. If you are a member of National Audubon Society, you will automatically receive the Mountain Chickadee as long as you maintain your National Audubon membership. If you are a subscriber who has elected to read the newsletter on our website www.wasatchaudubon.org, please be aware that Wasatch Audubon Society also has costs associated with providing the newsletter electronically and your contribution toward those costs will be greatly appreciated. If you would rather not receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please send an email message to that effect to bkevans4@comcast.net or call 801-476-0232 and we will remove your name from our hard-copy mailing list.

We hope you have found the newsletter to be interesting and informative, and we look forward to seeing you at our field trips and meetings.

The Big Sit! A Full Report *continued*

Barn owls roosting in the old hay barn where we set up the refreshments screeched for over an hour and swooped out and around the counting circle several times. The Killdeer were calling a couple of hours before dawn; and a symphony of chorus frogs welled up from the marsh, punctuated by the raspy voice of a lone Virginia Rail and the quacking of a few Mallards.

Jennifer Mueser Bunker arrived by 4:30 a.m., bringing us up to three birders. It was chilly – no, downright cold – just before dawn. WAS President Katie McVey birded while doing jumping jacks and member Susan Snyder huddled under three jackets and two blankets in her chair.

The Grounds for Coffee delivery arrived before 7 a.m. courtesy of Doug Murray, and John Bellmon arrived with donuts donated by Bowman's Market not long after. Talk about great timing! By that point, our number of species was up to about 16 and the business of the marsh was in full swing. Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks flew in from every corner; a small flock of Wilson's Snipe flew over; and Song and White-crowned Sparrows twittered from the brush.

As the morning sun brightened, Mike Kolendrianos from the Nature Conservancy and his Uncle Sam arrived, as did Keith & Betty Evans and Jack Rensel, and the number of species spotted continued to climb. Kyle Tumpene arrived later in the morning with a huge cooler of baked potatoes courtesy of Smith's in Ogden. He was followed soon after by Lynn Carroll, Martha Ann Albretsen, Nancy Arnett, and Brian and Jeanette Nosker, who also brought a pot of chili. All that birding makes a person hungry!

We passed the afternoon in birding camaraderie, adding a few more species while sharing stories. Dan and Laura Johnston entertained the crew with bird trivia. Marily Gren and a birder named Jerry stopped by to see what the count was. There was plenty of food, birds and sunshine to go around.

The mosquitos decided to get in on the action in a big way around 5 p.m., and the crowd of birders began to dissipate. The little biters tapered off as the sun

dropped in the western sky, and a handful of us continued to watch in hopes of snaring an American Avocet. We'd seen a Gray Flycatcher and American Pipit but no Avocets! As darkness returned, we waited to see whether we might get a short-eared owl or spot new waterfowl among the flocks of ducks flying over at dusk. By 8 p.m., we figured we'd not see anything different than what we'd already seen at 4 a.m. We packed up our food and equipment and left. The Barn Owls probably were relieved to see us go!

Wasatch Audubon Society's first The Big Sit! was a success, raising more than \$1700 for the club. We want to say a huge THANK YOU to all who participated, garnered donations and donated themselves. Our sponsors also deserve a round of applause: Smith's Grocery and Grounds for Coffee in Ogden, Bowman's Market in Kaysville, Coldwater Creek Properties Realty in South Ogden, and most importantly, our host, The Nature Conservancy.

**Happy Holidays
from
Wasatch Audubon Society!**

Follow Wasatch Audubon Society on Facebook

Our Facebook page has upcoming field trip information and the “B3B” – the best three birds viewed on each field trip. You can view this information without joining Facebook, but you won’t be able to participate in games and posts. Just go to the WAS website (<http://wasatchaudubon.org/>) and click on:



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Pat Bausman

Please join us in welcoming those who recently joined or renewed a membership with National Audubon:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Carolyn Felder | Arnold Smith |
| Frances Holm | Terry Thomas |
| Elizabeth Johanson | Susan A. Wells |
| Lisa Lawton | Valeris Westenskow |
| Laura Lewis | Maryann Williams |
| Shelley Page | Wenda L. Wise |
| Katya Richter | Marianne Zimmer |
| Kathleen T. Seidner | |

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

PLEASE RECYCLE

Ogden Nature Center has partnered with a local recycler and a large bin for newspaper recycling has been placed in the Newgate Mall parking lot west of the new Burlington store. Proceeds from this recycling effort will benefit the Nature Center.

Thank you

DON'T FORGET: Wild About Birds Nature Center will make a \$1.50 donation to Wasatch Audubon for each 40lb bag of black oil sunflower seed purchased.



Wild About Birds Nature Center
1986 N. Hill Field Rd, Ste 7B
(Hill Field Rd & Antelope Drive)
Layton, UT 84041

OWL PELLETS WANTED

If you happen to discover any owl pellets while out birding, please collect them for me; or let me know the location, and I will get them. I do a lesson in elementary schools on owls, and the students enjoy dissecting the pellets.

Thanks for your help and happy birding.
Dennis Collins (801) 393-1115





Wasatch Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3211
Ogden, Utah 84409



**Audubon
Membership Application**

Please enroll me as a member of **Audubon** and of my local chapter, **Wasatch Audubon**. Send my membership card, and my annual subscriptions to **Audubon** magazine (6 issues) and **The Mountain Chickadee** (6 issues) to the address below. My check for \$20 (Introductory rate only) is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send this and your check for \$20, payable to National Audubon to:

National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, Florida 32142-2250

Local Chapter: **Wasatch Audubon Society C9ZW540Z**



**Wasatch Audubon Society
Mountain Chickadee Subscription**

You can receive **The Mountain Chickadee** (6 issues) for just \$12, without joining **National Audubon**. If you would like to support Wasatch Audubon's education and conservation efforts, please indicate the amount of your contribution and include it in your check. Thank you.

___ 1-year **Mountain Chickadee** subscription: **\$12.00**

___ My contribution to Wasatch Audubon: _____

Total enclosed: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send your check, payable to **Wasatch Audubon** to:

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P.O. Box 3211
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