

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Wasatch Audubon Society

Vol 36, Number 5

Sept/Oct 2017

WAS Meeting and Happenings

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017

WAS Meeting 7:00 PM

Weber County Open and Public lands:

Former Ogden City Councilwoman, **Amy Wicks**, will discuss the status of open and public lands in Weber County.

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017

WAS Meeting 7:00 PM

Birding in New Zealand:

WAS Board member, **Taylor Abbott**, will be speaking about his birding trip in New Zealand earlier this year.

Meeting at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden

Please join us and bring a friend!

Are you ready for the "BIG SIT"?

Wasatch Audubon's participation in the event, "The Big Sit," is our chapter's annual fundraiser in October. However, due to construction of the new Great Salt Lake Nature Center, we cannot use the site this year. WAS board members are looking for a suitable site for this year's Oct. 7 event. Stay tuned to our chapter's Facebook page for details, which we will publish as soon as we have some. If you don't Facebook, contact a board member. One of us will keep you apprised of the situation.



EGG ROBBERS

by Jay Hudson

You wouldn't think that a shortage of eggs would have an effect on the gold hunting California 49ers. There simply weren't enough chickens to satisfy the eating habits of thousands of men in their quest for gold. A few of the men who didn't make it big in the gold fields ran out of money and turned to egg hunting for profit. Word got around that sailing ships stopped off in the Farallon islands (Spanish for cliffs) thirty miles off San Francisco's Golden Gate for seal meat, birds and eggs. The hunters were killing thousands of seals for their meat and skins. Their egg stealing could amount to 100,000 in a boatload. Men who couldn't make money from gold turned to being egg robbers and made small fortunes. It got so bad that gangs were formed on the islands and pitched battles broke out. Special shirts and pants were designed to carry eggs. The press called it the "Farallon Island Egg War".

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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

2016/2017	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0637
2016/2017	Bruce Perry	801-726-9705
2016/2017	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432
2017/2018	Taylor Abbott	980-622-9889
2017/2018	Mike Hearell	801-529-8693
2017/2018	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Conservation	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
Education	Dennis Collins	801-393-1115
Feeder Projects	Laura Johnston	801-645-8633
Field Trips		
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-678-8065
Historian		
Hospitality	Joyce Overdiek	801-392-1908
Membership	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Newsletter	Barbara Perry	801-721-4709
Programs	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
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

by Dan Johnston

In July, Laura and I went on A Prairie Home Companion Cruise with Garrison Keillor. We boarded the MS Rotterdam in Rotterdam for two weeks with two stops in Scotland and five stops in Norway. We started out our trip with a four day visit to Germany. Checking out the birds every chance we could was a high priority wherever we went.

There were not a lot of birding tours offered by the Holland American lines, so we made the best on our own. The highlight was the hiring of a local bird guide in Oslo, Norway. Simon Nix took us to some bird hotspots around Oslo for eight hours. We had a great time that day and saw 68 species, 22 of which were new life birds. The highlight birds were: Whopper Swan; Hobby; Red-breasted Flycatcher; Black Woodpecker; and, for the fans of "The Big Year", a Pink-footed goose. I saw 121 species for the total trip. My World Life List went up by 63 to about 718.



<http://www.animalspot.net>

Pink-footed goose

Woodpeckers of the months are the 5 Species I saw on the trip. I saw the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, the Middle Spotted Woodpecker, the Great Spotted Woodpecker, the Green Woodpecker, and the Black Woodpecker. Yes, they do have three sizes of spotted woodpeckers.

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President's Pipeline

(Continued from page 2)

The Black Woodpecker is my favorite. It is a large woodpecker similar to our Pileated Woodpecker. It is entirely black with whitish eye and all-red crown.



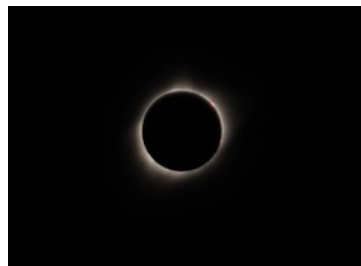
Black Woodpecker

Its nest has an oval entrance in mature forest. The range of the Black Woodpecker is in Northern Europe and expanding westward. It is wary, but can be called up by imitating its voice. I first heard it drumming, then landing in the same dead beech tree in which two Hobbys had perched. They made quite a sight.

Good Birding, Dan



President Dan and Laura took a short break from birdwatching to watch the *Great American Eclipse* in Wyoming, and Barbara and Bruce Perry joined in.



EGG ROBBERS

(Continued from page 1)

When a ship loaded with building materials for a lighthouse arrived, the workers were driven off by armed egg robbers. The Lighthouse Service needed a light on the island to warn ships rounding the horn going to San Francisco, so they got tough. They sent another ship to the island and this time it was guarded with troops. The egg hunting gangs backed off and the light was constructed. The egg hunters were fearful that the light would disturb the nesting habits of the sea birds but the fear proved unwarranted. Eggs continued to be taken until the 1890s, at which time the chicken population on the mainland was large enough to supply not only meat, but eggs. Poaching ended.

The islands were first seen by English privateer Sir Francis Drake in 1579. On a clear day you can see the islands from the Pt. Bonita lighthouse in the Marin Highlands north of San Francisco. The islands became a sanctuary in 1909 and have become a whale watching attraction site along with the thrill of spotting a great white shark feeding on seals. If you go, pick a day with heavy overcast and the sea will be calmer. The last light keeper was taken off the island in 1972 and it is now a U.S. Wildlife Refuge. Landing on the islands requires authorization. The islands have the largest sea bird colony in the United States and on a good day you are sure to increase the size of your Life List. Look for Tufted Puffins to windblown warblers and even visitors from Russia.

Conservation Corner

Double Trouble for Greater Sage-Grouse

by Lynn Carroll

The Trump Administration is shaping up to be a disaster for wildlife conservation and our environment, as you're undoubtedly aware. Couple that with the current make-up of Congress, and it's doubly disastrous. I'll explore an example and try to suggest helpful responses.

The federal Sage-Grouse Plan was the result of several years of work among federal and state wildlife agencies, landowners (mostly ranchers), conservation organizations including Audubon, mining and energy companies, aimed at heading off listing of Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The Plan, which has been in effect for only two years, concentrates on conserving and improving large expanses of sage-steppe habitat in eleven states. That works well for ranchers, because the kind of habitat that's good for sage-grouse is also good for cattle. It works for Audubon because of the large number of species that are adapted to this habitat. Extractive industries don't like the Plan, but have found it easier to live with than listing. You might think that with such broad buy-in, the Plan would be safe. You'd be wrong.

Now attacks on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by Congress have increased; dozens of bills exempting certain animals or generally weakening the Act have been introduced this year. (These include HR 527 by Rep. Bishop and a rider to the budget concurrent resolution by Sen. Lee, both turning Greater Sage-Grouse management over to the states.) Now mining and drilling interests aren't so inclined to co-operate in a plan to avoid listing of sage-grouse under the ESA.

Meanwhile Interior Sec. Zinke proposes to shrink or do away with the most restricted category of essential habitat and reconsider the policy of giving priority to habitat protection over energy and mineral leasing in such areas. He might rework the whole Sage-Grouse Plan to concentrate on grouse numbers instead of habitat, which wouldn't do as much to protect other species of the sagebrush-steppe. Because sage-grouse populations go through boom and bust cycles, setting a goal to maintain some average number of birds may actually lead to a declining population.

Secretary Zinke's proposals won't go into effect right away. A formal process of consultation with stakeholders is planned. So we need to pay attention to Audubon's action alerts for information about possible opportunities to comment (again). I also recommend going to Audubon.org to read more about the evolution and implementation of the Sage-Grouse Plan and future developments. When writing comments, it's fine to include your opinions and feelings if you identify them as such. Please don't exaggerate or cite "facts" you can't confirm.

National Audubon is also urging us to contact our members of Congress, asking them to oppose efforts to weaken the ESA. We who are represented by the authors of those efforts will be more effective dealing with this through the ballot box. We need to find better candidates for 2018.



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

6 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am *Bird Walk*

Dale Young Nature Park (formerly Perry Nature Park): Meet at the Rusted Spoon (2645 US 89, Perry) for breakfast or at the park (1200 W Davis Street off US 89 on 2250 S, Perry) at 8:00am.

13 Wednesday 7:30/8:00pm *Bird Walk*

Mountain Railroad Trail: Meet at McDonald's (1838 W 2700 N just east of Exit 349 on I-15) for breakfast or at 8:00am to carpool. We'll walk south along the railroad grading from the parking lot on 4000 N (This is the road leading west from Smith and Edward's).

19 Tuesday 7:00pm *WAS meeting*

Weber County Open and Public lands: Former Ogden City Councilwoman, **Amy Wicks**, will discuss the status of open and public lands in Weber County. Please join us at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

20 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am *Bird Walk*

Fort Buenaventura: Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave., Ogden) at 7:00am for breakfast or at the Fort at 8:00am.

23 Saturday 8:00am *Field Trip*

Blue Bird Nest Box Cleanout: It is time to clean out the Blue Bird Nest Boxes so they will be ready for nesting next spring. This is really important because the birds will not use old nests. We will meet at Smiths (12th and Harrison Blvd., Ogden) at 8:00am We will make team assignments and then head up to the trails. We would appreciate all the help that we can get. Bring a lunch and a drink. We'll gather for lunch when we finish cleaning out the boxes.

SEPTEMBER (cont.)

27 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am *Bird Walk*

Kay's Creek Parkway: Meet at Denny's for breakfast (5805 S Harrison Blvd, South Ogden) or 8:00am at the trailhead. Directions: Take 2000 E south off State Highway 193 (3000 N, Layton). Then, left onto Deer View Drive. Next, turn left onto 2125 E and continue to trailhead parking lot.

OCTOBER

3 Tuesday 7:00pm *Board Meeting*

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

4 Wednesday 7:30/8:30am *Bird Walk*

Antelope Island Causeway: Meet at Warren's Restaurant (1778 S 1000 W, Syracuse) at 7:30am for breakfast or at 8:30am at the entrance lot. This is a fee area.

7 Saturday 4:00am to 8pm *BIG SIT*

"THE BIG SIT" Wasatch Audubon's annual fundraiser: Stay tuned to our chapter's Facebook page for details, which we will publish as soon as we have some. If you don't Facebook, contact a board member. Be sure to bring a chair, a lunch, water, and your binoculars.

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

Willard Bay SP: Meet at the Rusted Spoon (2645 US 89, Perry) at 7:30am for breakfast or at the SP at 8:30am.

17 Tuesday 7:00 PM *WAS Meeting*

Birding in New Zealand: WAS Board member, **Taylor Abbott**, will be speaking about his birding trip in New Zealand earlier this year.

OCTOBER (cont.)

18 Wednesday 7:30/8:00am *Bird Walk*

East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at McDonald's (5745 S Harrison Blvd, South Ogden) for breakfast or at 8:00am to carpool.

21 Saturday 8:00am *Field Trip*

Bear River Migratory Wildlife Refuge: We will meet at the Shopko parking lot (12th & Washington, Ogden) just south of the Golden Corral Buffet at 8:00am and carpool to the refuge. Bring snacks and drinks. A spotting scope would be helpful.

25 Wednesday 7:30/8:30am *Bird Walk*

Two River's Trail: Meet at 7:30am at Denny's Restaurant (north on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza, Ogden) for breakfast or at the parking area under 21st Street overpass at 8:30am.

NOVEMBER

1 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am *Bird Walk*

South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at Denny's (5805 S Harrison Blvd, South Ogden) at 8:00am for breakfast or at the Nature Park at 9:00am.



Contact Persons for WAS Outings
Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi
pslombard@gmail.com
Saturday Field Trips (the Saturday after the WAS Tuesday Meeting) - President Dan Johnston 801-645-8633
Other Field Trips - Mike Hearrell 801-529-8693



FIELD TRIP LEADER NEEDED

In August 2017, Lester Talbot retired from the position he has held for over 17 years. Les has planned and led some great field trips over the years, but we are now in search of someone to take over that task. Our meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month and field trips usually are scheduled for the Saturday following our meeting. Generally, the field trips cover a local area and last for one-half day. Occasionally, a trip can last all day. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering to lead field trips, please contact Dan Johnston by email at danielj47@comcast.net or by phone at 801-645-8633.

Your retirement as Field Trip Leader marks the end of an era at the Wasatch Audubon Society. In your more than 17 years, month after month you have spent at least half a day and sometimes a full day of your time to led us on birding trips all over northern Utah. You were always knowledgeable about the birds and the area.

Thank You



Thank You, Les Talbot!

Coming Soon!

"heads-up" reminder

The Big Sit



is coming up on October 7th. We don't really have a place, but stay tuned for more information.

It is like a Big Day or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard from the 17 - foot circle.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

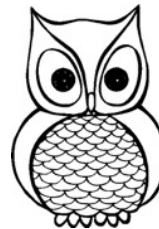
by Lynn Carroll

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

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Jean Branch | Madison Moss |
| Drew Browning | Eugenia Paine |
| Michelle Clark | Joy Pashley |
| Marily P. Gren | Claudia Peterson |
| Nicaea Haig | Jack A. Rensel |
| S.M. Harley | Kathleen T. Seidner |
| Irene Helmcke | Benjamin Toland |
| Charlotte Kibbie | Patricia Uhl |
| Kathleen Lukken | Sheila Vanhoosen |
| Mona Maggio | Maryann Williams |
| John Mayer | Pat Ziegler |
| Lynn Merrill | Marianne Zimmer |

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:

**Wasatch Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3211
Ogden, Utah 84409**