

# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

Vol 37, Number 2

Mar/Apr 2018

## WAS Meeting and Happenings

### ***Tuesday, March 20, 2018 - 7:00 PM***

WAS member **Jay Hudson** will do a presentation titled, “**On Being an Outback Guide.**” Jay will show photos and share stories about his two-and-a-half-month experience as a guide in the Australian Outback. Come hear tales about ‘roos, dingos, salties, birds, poisonous snakes, and characters. He’ll talk about exploding molasses barrels and other cooking disasters, diving on the Great Barrier Reef, and seeing the country from a small mail plane.

### ***Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - 7:00 PM***

Weber State student **Morgan Brown** will show slides and tell stories about the experiences she and University of Utah student Lily Bosworth shared while assisting the **Round River Conservation Studies** program with conservation work being spearheaded by the Tlingit First Nation along the Taku River in British Columbia. Round River has been assisting the Tlingit First Nation in completing an ecological assessment of the Tlingit traditional territory; developing a comprehensive community-based land-use vision; negotiating a framework agreement for land use, wildlife management and shared decision making with British Columbia; and jointly led a multi-year strategic land use planning process for the 7.5 million acre Atlin-Taku area.

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

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

## Chasing Wild Feathers

by Billy Fenimore

Two of my good friends, Dan Sachse and James Hoffman, will join me as we embark on an amazing birding adventure this year in partnership with Youth Impact of Northern Utah. Our mission is to identify a minimum of 50 different bird species in each of the 29 counties in Utah. Our goal is to raise funds for Youth Impact and contribute to a fund for the construction of a much-needed educational facility for the many youth participating in the non-profit after-school program. In addition to the generous donations from sponsors, I will be awarding a scholarship in honor of my father, Bill Fenimore Sr., to one of the well-deserving youth continuing on to college.



You, too, can take part in our birding journey. I will post dates and times of where and when we will be birding throughout the state on both my personal Facebook page and my Wild About Birds Nature Center page, as well as the store website. I will also maintain a blog, “Chasing Wild Feathers”, to keep you updated on our progress. You will see many great photographs by Dan and James of our quest, including the birds, landscapes, and all things nature that we encounter along our path. We look forward to meeting many of you during our adventures and hope you can help us reach our species counts.

At the end of our travels, I would like to hold a grand celebration awarding Youth Impact with a check from the generous donor contributions and announcing the scholarship winner. I will also share a video montage of our amazing journey and the birds, nature and friends we make along the way.

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Wasatch Audubon Society**

Website: [wasatchaudubon.org](http://wasatchaudubon.org)

**Officers**

President	VACANT	
Vice President	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Betty Evans	801-476-0232
Past President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633

**Board**

2017/2018	Taylor Abbott	980-622-9889
2017/2018	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
2017/2018	Susan Snyder	801-388-4201
2018/2019	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2018/2019	Billy Fenimore	801-301-3756
2018/2019	Tom Wuenschell	801-476-4546

**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	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
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*

Surprise! Here it is 2018, I have already served my two-year term as President, and am still here. Due to lack of a candidate for a new president, as Past President, I am serving as Acting President until we can elect a new President. It could be that I still have 6 of the total of 23 species of North American woodpeckers left to report on. Due to family problems, I missed the January meeting. A special thanks to our new Vice-president, Jay Stretch, for covering for me. Thanks to the many condolences we received in our time of trial.

Our woodpecker for February is one we don't find in Utah. I have seen it many times in my trips back East. My Ohio sister-in-law told me about these red headed woodpeckers hanging around the trees on their farm. Checking them out on our trip there, they turned out to be Red-bellied Woodpeckers, not Red-headed Woodpeckers.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) is a medium-sized woodpecker of the family Picidae. It breeds mainly in the eastern United States, ranging as far south as Florida and as far north as Canada and west to Kansas/Oklahoma. Its common name is somewhat misleading, as the most prominent red part of its plumage is on the head. The Red-headed Woodpecker, however, is another species that is a rather close relative but looks quite different.



Photo by Ken Thomas

Adult Red-bellied Woodpeckers are mainly light gray on the face and underparts and have black and white barred patterns on their back, wings and tail. Adult males have a red cap going from the bill to the nape; females have a red patch on the nape and another above the bill. The reddish tinge on the belly that gives the bird its name is difficult to see in field identification.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers are noisy birds, and have many varied calls. Males tend to call and drum more frequently than females, but both sexes call. The drum sounds like 6 taps. Often, these woodpeckers "drum" to attract mates. They tap on hollow trees, and even on aluminum roofs, metal guttering and transformer boxes in urban environments, to communicate with potential partners. They are not migratory, wintering locally throughout their range.

### **President's Pipeline**

*(Continued from page 2)*

These birds mainly search out arthropods on tree trunks. They may also catch insects in flight. They are omnivores, eating insects, fruits, nuts and seeds. Their breeding habitat is usually deciduous forests.

They nest in the decayed cavities of dead trees, old stumps, or in live trees that have softer wood such as elms, maples, or willows; both sexes assist in digging nesting cavities. Areas around nest sites are marked with drilling holes to warn others away.

Though the species is not globally threatened, it depends on large trees for nesting. In areas that are extensively deforested, the birds will sometimes utilize gardens, but for the most part they will not be present in any numbers.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker relies on snags or dying trees for foraging and nesting. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is a major predator of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer in the Midwest, removing up to 85 percent of borer larvae in a single infested ash tree.

Predators of adult Red-bellied Woodpeckers include birds of prey, such as Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks, Black Rat Snakes and house cats. Known predators of nestlings and eggs include Red-headed Woodpeckers, owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, Gray Rat Snakes and Black rat snakes. When approached by a predator, Red-bellied Woodpeckers either hide from the predator, or harass it with alarm calls. They defend their nests and young aggressively, and may directly attack predators that come near the nest. By excavating cavities, they play an important role in the forest communities for other species as well. Species such as squirrels and bats use these cavities as shelter.

### **Chasing Wild Feathers**

*(Continued from page 1)*

What is Youth Impact? Youth Impact is an after-school program whose purpose is to respect, protect, serve, and instill hope in the children of inner-city Ogden, and through them, our community. Their mission is to give each and every child who comes through their doors a safe place to learn, socialize and realize who they are and who they can become. Wasatch Audubon has adopted Youth Impact as its education focus for 2018—The Year of The Birds. We provide in-facility and in-Nature educational opportunities for the students there. For more information on this, contact Jay Stretch.



How can you help? You can sponsor a single county or as many counties as you would like for any dollar amount you wish. No amount is too small! Contributions and pledges can be made in person at the Wild About Birds Nature Center in Layton or through [wildaboutbirdsnaturecenters.com](http://wildaboutbirdsnaturecenters.com). All donations go to the Youth Impact Capital Campaign. Once our 50-bird species count is met for an individual county, I will highlight the completed county on the map and provide a list of species counted in that county. The map will be updated on my Facebook accounts, store website and blog. Join in on the fun and contribute to a great program!

### **EAGLE DAY** by John Bellmon

On February 10<sup>th</sup> our chapter was out to help support the Division of Wildlife Resources at the Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area northwest of Corinne for “Eagle Day.” But only one Bald Eagle was sighted flying high in the sky. It was really a great “Swan Day” with hundreds of Tundra Swans in view and sounding off a lot of the time. Thanks to the dozen of our members who came out to help the public see the birds. Everyone had a very good time just getting out on a winter day.

## Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

by Neka Roundy

Come celebrate this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Great Salt Lake Bird Festival! May 17-21, 2018

Thank you all for your support!

We started with just 6 field trips and 16 workshops. This year we offer 51 field trips and 14 workshops including options for all experience levels of birding and Family Programs. We have spotlighted birding areas in Davis, Weber, Box Elder, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, Summit, Cache, Rich, Utah, and Wasatch Counties and into Wyoming. We offer great birding trips with the best guides. We have partnered with many local birding organizations/agencies and advertised nationally. Our guests have come from all over the world and from half of the states in America. Parents bring their children, friends bring friends, and passionate birders come alone. The Festival offers birding by car, van, bus, boat, kayak, and horseback. Guests can enjoy a full five days of guided bird watching.

The mission statement developed 20 years ago for Great Salt Lake Bird Festival:

- Increase public awareness and pride for birds found on and near Great Salt Lake;
- Increase the economic contribution of tourism to Davis County and surrounding communities;
- Educate the public to the values of Great Salt Lake; birds, ecosystem, brine flies, brine shrimp;
- Initiate a project to give back to the community;
- Coordinate agency efforts concerning awareness of the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival was started to spotlight birds in the greater Great Salt Lake ecosystem and provide education about the habitat of the Pacific Flyway. With the help of our volunteers, the program has expanded and shared on-site education at these great birding areas.

For 2018 we welcome George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation as our Keynote Speaker. He will lead 2 field trips and offer a free workshop on Friday afternoon May 18<sup>th</sup>.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Wasatch Audubon Christmas Bird Counts

by John Bellmon

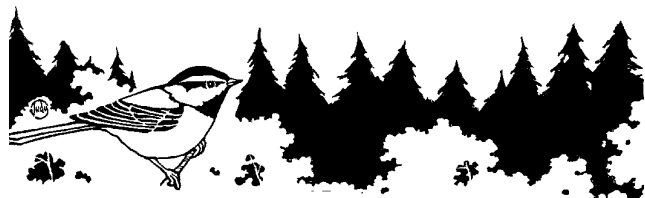
Our Christmas Bird Counts went off very well this year, although it was cold. A big **thank you** to all who participated and made this year's Christmas Bird Counts such a success. All of this information and data is very important for the study of population trends of wintering bird species. The Christmas Bird Count is the longest continuous wildlife survey in the world. It was started in 1900.

On the **38<sup>th</sup> Ogden Christmas Bird Count**, we all had an exciting time. Some of the unusual highlights were Greater White-fronted Goose, Greater Scaup, Snowy Egret, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Vermilion Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Juniper Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Varied Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow and Common Grackle. Our totals were 46,720 individuals counted and a total of **104** species. This is a new record number of species seen on the Ogden Christmas Bird Count. The previous record was in 2013 of 88 species. This year we not only broke our old record, we smashed it. This was a result of many individuals' efforts of getting out and doing the count with enthusiasm and great spirit. Many also went out and scouted their areas ahead of time for the count. A big thanks to the 30 observers who came out to help in our success. This is the highest number of observers we have ever had on this count.

On the **Bear River Refuge Christmas Bird Count**, we had clear weather, but very cold. Waterfowl numbers were way down because of the frozen water. One of the highlights was several White-faced Ibises. Our totals were 8,352 individuals counted and a total of 46 species reported. A big thanks to the 15 observers who helped in this good day of birding.

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 an unusual Long-billed Curlew on the causeway. Our totals were 5,519 individuals counted and a total of 57 species reported. A big thank you to all the 27 observers who also made this count such a success. This is always a wonderful way to start the year and get your new year bird list going.





# CALENDER

## MARCH

7 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am Bird Walk

**Jefferson Hunt Campground trail (note: trail starts on the west side of the campground):** Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 8:30am or at Smith's parking lot (12th and Harrison) at 9:30am to carpool.

10 Saturday 10:00am/3:00pm DWR Swan Day

### Swan Day at Salt Creek Waterfowl Management

**Area:** The Area is located 4 miles west of Corinne on UT-83. Take 6800 West and follow signs to the landfill. Wasatch Audubon members will provide scopes and talk to visitors about swans, other local birds, and conservation.

14 Wednesday 8:30/9:00am Bird Walk  
**Dale Young Nature Park (Formerly Perry Nature Park):** Meet at McDonald's just east of I-15 exit 349 at 8:30 for breakfast or at 9:00am to carpool.

20 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

WAS member **Jay Hudson** will do a presentation titled, "**On Being an Outback Guide.**" Meeting at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

21 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am Bird Walk

### West extension (West of 1900 W) of West Haven

**Hiking and Biking Trail:** Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (2400 S 1900 W, West Haven) for breakfast 8:30am. We'll then drive to the West Haven Cemetery (West on 1800 S off 1900 W. Make a right at 2350 W and proceed north into the Cemetery). Park in the NW corner of the Cemetery.

24 Saturday 7:30am Field Trip

Ogden Bay North Access (7500 W) Join in the search for water birds during the first Spring migration since the DWR improvements to the habitat! We should encounter many species of shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Meet at the Pilot gas station on 12th St (Just W of I-15) at 7:30am to carpool. Contact Mike Hearrell with any questions: [utmarshrat@yahoo.com](mailto:utmarshrat@yahoo.com)

## MARCH (cont.)

28 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk

East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr., South Ogden) for breakfast 8:00am or the trailhead at 9:00am.

## APRIL

2 Tuesday 7:00pm Board Meeting

4 Wednesday 8:30/9:00am Bird Walk

Wadman Nature Park, Pleasant View City: Meet for breakfast at McDonald's, (Washington & 2600 N., North Ogden) at 8:30am or at the park at 9 am. To reach the park, drive west on 2600 N (it becomes 2700 N) to 600 W. Make a right and head north to W Elberta Drive. Make a right and go east one block to 500 W. Make a left and continue up the hill to 4300 N. The park is to the right and parking is next to the Fire Station. Later we may also have time to check out Shady Lane Park back on 600 W.

11 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk

Willard Bay State Park: Meet at The Rusted Spoon, (2645 US 89, Perry) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the Pond on the north of the SP at 9:00am. We'll bird the pond then check out the canal on the north of the park before heading into the park. Remember this is a fee area.

17 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Weber State student Morgan Brown will show slides and tell stories about the experiences she and University of Utah student Lily Bosworth shared while assisting the Round River Conservation Studies program with conservation work being spearheaded by the Tlingit First Nation along the Taku River in British Columbia. Meeting at the Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

**APRIL (cont.)**

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

**South Ogden Nature Park:** Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the parking lot for the Nature Park at 9:00am.

**21 Saturday 5:00am Field Trip**

This is our annual trip to the Greater Sage Grouse Lek. In the past we have helped East Canyon State Park with their Loon Day. They are thinking about doing the Loon Day on a different day. More information will follow. We will meet at the DWR office (515 E. 5300 S./Adams Ave., South Ogden) at 5:00am and carpool to the Lek. If the State Park does not do Loon Day we will bird the State Park (a fee area) and have breakfast at the Larry's Spring Chicken Inn of Morgan. What we do after the Lek depends on what the State Park wants to do with their Loon Day. We will keep you informed at the meetings or contact Mike Hearell with any questions: [utmshrat@yahoo.com](mailto:utmshrat@yahoo.com)

**21 Saturday 12-4pm Earth Day**

**Ogden Nature Center:** Earth friendly exhibitors, demonstrations, entertainment, food, nature crafts, and fun activities. Explore the trails, tour green buildings and learn what you can do to improve the health of the planet. Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

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

**Two Rivers Trail:** Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21<sup>st</sup> street in the Flying J Plaza, Ogden) at 8:00am for breakfast or at 9:00am at the trailhead.

**MAY**

**2 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Bird Walk**

**Canal Walk (North Mountain Rd) at 2450 N., North Ogden:** Meet at McDonald's (Washington & 2600 N., North Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 8:30am to carpool. Take 2450 N off Mountain Rd, over canal into small parking lot. Depending on weather conditions in the area, we may alter the location.

**Contact Persons for WAS Outings Wednesday**

**Walks - Paul Lombardi** [pslombard@gmail.com](mailto:pslombard@gmail.com)

**Saturday Field Trips (the Saturday after the WAS Tuesday Meeting)** Mike Hearell 801-529-8693

**Great Salt Lake Bird Festival**

*(Continued from page 4)*

Don Paul and Neka Roundy will talk about the 20 years leading to this anniversary on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. – Pretty sure you don't want to miss this workshop!

On-line registration starts at 9 AM Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at [www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com](http://www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com)  
See the complete schedule on the web site.

This is also the World Year of the Bird celebrating the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's ratification. Special events will be offered by National Geographic and Cornell Lab of Ornithology – see more at #BirdYourWorld

This is a good year to celebrate birds and birding at the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival!



**You might be our next monthly meeting speaker!**

Have you taken an interesting birding trip? Have you conducted conservation research or worked on projects that have to do with birds, wildlife, or other ecological topics? Your fellow Wasatch Audubon Society members might enjoy hearing about it from you! We are always looking for new and interesting speakers for our monthly meetings, and we suspect there are more than a few among our own members. So, speak up! Contact WAS program director Susan Snyder if you have an idea. You can e-mail her at [naturescall@gmail.com](mailto:naturescall@gmail.com) or call, 801-388-4201. If she doesn't answer, leave a message, and she will call you back!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

by Lynn Carroll

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

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Caroline Aibele        | William Lithgow        |
| Mr. Gene D Amman       | Paul Marshall          |
| Robert Banghart        | Willard Maughan        |
| Mr. Joel Bingham       | Marjean Muhlestein     |
| Bob Buckles            | George Muller          |
| Ms. Brenda J Burchard  | Lisa M Mullin          |
| Phillip Coleman        | Sheron Musgrave        |
| Jenette E Coolidge     | Paul Orme              |
| Benjamin Cornwell      | Ellen B Pace           |
| Kathryn Crosbie        | Lynnette Paulson       |
| Brian & Heidi Currie   | Deborah Perry          |
| Mr. Jesse De Hay       | David Price            |
| Steven Dickman         | Carol Robins           |
| Donna Eckersley        | Becky Senekjian        |
| Ronald W Haag          | Pauline Simon          |
| Sherrie & Chris Hall   | Sydney Sjoblom         |
| S M Harley             | V Arnold Smith         |
| Caleb-Lillian Hart     | Ms. Karen Ann Stock    |
| Joan Heninger          | Kenneth & Karen Strong |
| Boyd Hirschi           | Stanley Swallow        |
| King F Hom             | Angela Tereba          |
| Marion J Horna         | Theron T Twogood       |
| William Hunt           | Jean D Varner          |
| Mr. Richard C Johnson  | Prakash Vasudevarao    |
| Troy Johnson           | Clive H Walker         |
| Laura Jones            | Irma Ward              |
| Dana Kerby             | Tade Wilson            |
| Mr. William H Kirshner | Diana & Tom Wuenschell |
| Valerie Knettle        |                        |

**BioBlitz**

by Taylor Abbott

The Wasatch Audubon Society is proud to announce its inaugural **BioBlitz**. This free event consists of teams finding and counting all wild animal species found in a predetermined area during a certain time period on one day. That one day will be Saturday, May 5, 2018, and the areas will be Weber, Davis, and Box Elder counties. All wildlife enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to join, you don't have to be a member of Wasatch Audubon to participate. More information about signups and rules for the competition will be forthcoming on the Wasatch Audubon and Birding in Utah Facebook pages, and the UBIRD and Birdtalk websites. We look forward to seeing *you for this free and fun adventure!*



**Great Salt Lake Audubon's**

**Basin and Range**

Weekend Seminar

**Comes to Box Elder Campground**

**June 2-3**

3 three-hour outdoor workshops with leaders who know their stuff!

To register early before it fills up, check [greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](http://greatsaltlakeaudubon.org) early May



**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:



**OWL PELLETS**

Thanks to all of you who collected owl pellets for me in the last school year. I was able to present my owl program in third, fourth, and fifth grade classes in three school districts. I never have enough owl pellets, so keep them coming. The larger barn and great horned owl pellets are preferred. If you know of a good location to collect them, please give me a call.



Thanks again and happy birding.  
Dennis Collins (801) 393-1115



**Wasatch Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 3211  
Ogden, Utah 84409



**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:

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

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