

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 37, Number 5

Sept/Oct 2018

WAS Meeting and Happenings

**SPEAKERS WILL START AT
7:00PM, WITH MEETING AND
SOCIAL TO FOLLOW**

Tuesday, September 18, 2018 - 7:00PM

The “pelicam” project at the Great Salt Lake:

Jaimi Butler, coordinator of the Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster College, and Ashley Kijowski, a wildlife biologist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources’ Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project, will speak about their interesting project.

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 - 7:00PM

Galapagos Islands: Amy Wicks and Jeff Johnson, Ogden residents, will show photos and discuss their recent Galapagos Islands trip. They traveled to the western part of the Galapagos Archipelago with National Geographic naturalists in April and May of this year.

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

**PLEASE JOIN US
AND
BRING A FRIEND!**

Wasatch Audubon's 5th Annual The Big Sit! Fund Raiser

By John Bellmon

You are invited to Wasatch Audubon's 5th Annual **The Big Sit!** This is a world-wide event held on the second weekend in October and is our annual fund raiser. Participants sit in a 17-foot circle and record the number of bird species seen or heard in a specific time period. Our previous four The Big Sit! events have been a whole lot of fun.

This year the event will be held on Saturday, October 13, at the new Great Salt Lake Nature Center at the Farmington Bay Robert N. Hasenyager Natural Area (the west end of Glover Lane in Farmington). The Nature Center will have a grand opening in early September. Our 17-foot circle will be on the west side of the parking lot. The event will be from 4:00am to about 8:00pm. All are welcome to participate, from new birders to more seasoned birders. People can be a part of the circle for as little as 15 minutes or as much as 18 hours. The Nature Center will be open during its normal hours; and we will have access to parking, restrooms, and, of course, all the birds.

The Big Sit! is our big fund raiser for the year and all contributions go to support more than 60 free field trips, 4 special events, our chapter's participation in Youth Impact in Ogden, and 10 community programs that Wasatch Audubon hosts each year. Participation is free, but we encourage participants to establish sponsors for the event. Talk with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about sponsoring you for The Big Sit! Up to five million birds of over 200 species visit Farmington Bay each year. We expect to see about 40 to 45 species, so a donation of \$0.50 per species equals \$20 to \$22.50; however, flat rate pledges are great. Donations can be made by sending a check to Wasatch Audubon, P. O. Box 3211, Ogden, UT 84409. Bring a chair and come join the fun during our 2018 The Big Sit!



Photo by Barb Perry



Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: wasatchaudubon.org

Officers

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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

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2017/2018	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
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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
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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

August in Southeast Arizona

by Dan Johnston

"You want to go where, when?" I asked Paul Lombardi when he suggested we go to the Southwest Wing Bird Festival in Sierra Vista, Arizona. That would be the 1st of August in southeast Arizona. HOT! He explained that Tucson is cooler than Phoenix. Sierra Vista is cooler than Tucson, and where we would be searching for birds in the nearby mountains and canyons, it would be even cooler. We ended up birding in 85 degrees when it's 115 in Phoenix.

I was thinking why would we want to go to all that trouble to go to a Bird Festival. There we can meet new friends; see some new and interesting country; and, of course, see some new, rare birds. Southwest Wings (SWW) gave us plenty of opportunities to do all three of these.

The 10-passenger vans used at SWW afforded us a great opportunity to get to know the guides and other guests. The guides not only knew a lot about the birds, both sight and sound, but also share their knowledge of the geography, history and climate of the surrounding area. We met birders from Maine, Florida, California, Washington and many places in between.

I find the "Sky Islands" of southeast Arizona very interesting. These are the high, forested mountains that rise majestically from the desert floor. They provide much of the attraction for the rare birds from Mexico to come north and spend some time. These mountains also provide much needed water from winter snowpack and summer monsoon rains.

Conservation Corner

Don't Give Up on the Climate

by Lynn Carroll

We know that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” but we also know that this advice often goes unheeded. In the late 1980s, climate scientists and activists thought that an international treaty addressing climate change with limits on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions was possible within a few years. They had testified at Congressional hearings, explaining the greenhouse effect and the need for urgent action, as the world was on track to reach a doubling of CO₂ in the atmosphere since the industrial revolution. That would bring 1.5-4.5 degrees Celsius of warming, which in turn meant changing climate, disrupted agriculture, and sea level rising by feet. National media coverage got the public engaged, and Congressmen from both parties called for international talks, but no binding climate treaty happened in 1989 or since.

Short-sighted politicians and businesses dependent on rising demand for fossil fuels argued against risking economic hardship to avoid predicted catastrophes over two decades in the future. Some progress has been made. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), besides being the cause of the “ozone hole” are also potent greenhouse gases and they were banned. Renewable energy is gradually increasing. Nevertheless, more CO₂ has been released by mankind worldwide since 1989 than had been during the entire history of civilization before then (1).

Now, with temperature records falling and extreme weather becoming commonplace, we have the proof that was being demanded back when too many people in power refused to act without it.

It's clear that the hurricanes, flooding, heat waves and droughts that are plaguing the world wouldn't have been so frequent or devastating if serious, painful cuts in fossil fuel use had been made 25 years ago. Even though the Trump administration is undoing some of the most effective actions of the government to date, we must NOT throw up our hands and decide we'll just have to adapt to a new reality.

In the first place, scientists don't believe that there is a single trigger point beyond which all is lost. Rather, each increment of warming is likely to set in motion more changes. Global warming will continue for as long as the atmosphere has excess CO₂, so we need to work on both reducing emissions and moving the gas out of the air.

A good, fair way to reduce fossil fuel burning is by putting a price on carbon, such as a tax or the “carbon fee and dividend” promoted by Citizens' Climate Lobby. We need to persuade Congress to enact one or elect representatives who will. Meanwhile, we can all look for ways to reduce our individual “carbon footprints.” Removing CO₂ from the atmosphere can only be done on a significant scale by planting forests until we run out of suitable land. These actions can buy time to find new ways to sequester carbon. Research into safer, better nuclear power is also likely to pay off, so we should demand it.

Of course, we will also have to adapt, finding ways to reduce the damage done by hurricanes, wildfires, and tides. Banks need to start considering that some homes on the coast are going to be literally under water before the end of their 30-year mortgages (2). The time to act is now!

(1) “Losing Earth: The Decade We Almost Stopped Climate Change” *NYTimes Magazine*, August 1, 2018

(2) “The Looming Coastal Real Estate Bust” *Catalyst*, vol. 18, Summer, 2018

Member Spotlight



Betty Evans

Betty Evans is currently the Treasurer for Wasatch Audubon Society. She also served as Treasurer of the Black Hills birdwatcher chapter while living in Rapid City, South Dakota. She retired from the United States Forest Service after 21 years as a Paralegal Specialist. Betty has been married to an avid birdwatcher, Keith, for 58 years. She was raised on a farm/ranch in southeastern Colorado and grew up with the Sparrow Hawk, Bee Martin, and Bullbat (instead of American Kestrel, Western Kingbird, and Common Nighthawk). She ventured into "serious" birdwatching primarily as a result of Keith's expertise and interest in all things natural.

Betty has lived in Colorado, South Dakota, Missouri, New York, Virginia, and Utah. She thoroughly enjoyed many walks through Sapsucker Woods at the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York, while Keith obtained a Ph.D. from Cornell. She has assisted in conducting Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes in both South Dakota and Utah. She enjoys the variety and close proximity of birding activities in Utah. Antelope Island State Park and the Causeway are personal favorites – Burrowing Owls top the list of frequently observed birds on the Island .

She lives in South Ogden with her husband, Keith, and her 97-year-old mother, where they all enjoy watching the various birds frequenting the feeders located in their front and back yards.

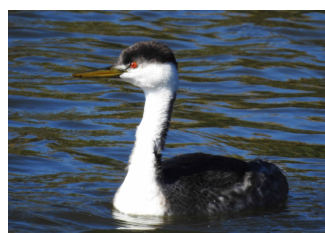
Birds are on the move! Keith Evans has provided photos of some fall migrators.



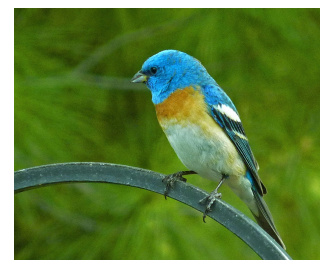
Red-necked Phalarope



Sabine's Gull



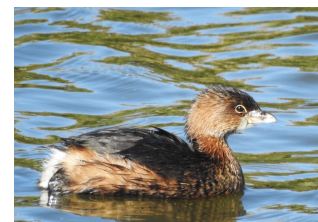
Western Grebe



Lazuli Bunting



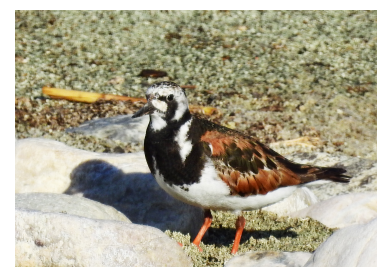
American Avocet



Pied-billed Grebe



Hermit Thrush



Ruddy Turnstone



Sandhill Crane



CALENDER

SEPTEMBER

5 Wednesday 7:00/7:30am Bird Walk

Willard Bay SP: Meet at McDonald's (Exit 349, I-15) for breakfast at 7:00am or at 7:30am to carpool. Remember this is a fee area.

9 Sunday 7:30am Field Trip

Shorebirds at Willard Spur: World Shorebirds Day is September 6th and the count week is the 5th through the 11th. Join Wasatch Audubon as we contribute to the count of shorebirds from around the world! This trip will last through late morning and is considered easy, most travel will be from your vehicle. Bring binoculars and/or scopes, and bug spray as the Willard Spur of the Great Salt Lake is great for birds and bugs. We will be meeting at 7:30am at the Pilot gas station on 12th St. in Ogden to car pool. This is just west of I-15. Contact Mike Hearrell at 801-529-8693 or utmarshrat@yahoo.com if you plan on attending.

12 Wednesday 7:00/8:15am Bird Walk

Antelope Island Causeway and Fielding Garr Ranch: Meet at Warren's (1778 S 1000 W, Syracuse) for breakfast at 7:00am or 8:15am at the Antelope Island entrance lot. This is a fee area.

18 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

The "pelicam" project at the Great Salt Lake: Jaimi Butler, coordinator of the Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster College, and Ashley Kijowski, a wildlife biologist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project, will talk about their interesting project.

19 Wednesday 7:00/7:30am Bird Walk

Riverdale Trail (south): Meet at McDonald's at 7:00am (Riverdale Rd and 900 W) for breakfast or at 7:30am at the trailhead parking lot (from Riverdale Rd., south on 700 W for one block, then left on 4600 S to lot on right at end of the road.)

September (cont.)

22 Saturday 8:00am Field Trip

Nest Box Cleanout: It is time to clean out the 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 we can get. Bring a lunch and a drink. We'll gather for lunch when we finish cleaning out the boxes.

26 Wednesday 7:00/7:30am Bird Walk

South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at McDonald's (5745 S Harrison Blvd, South Ogden) at 7:00am for breakfast or at the Nature Park parking lot at 7:30am.

29 Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm UAC

Utah Audubon Council Fall Meeting: Held at Tracy Aviary, 589 E 1300 S (at Liberty Park), Salt Lake City. Everyone is invited. For more information contact John Bellmon (801-444-3704).

OCTOBER

2 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Board Meeting

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

3 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Bird Walk

Dale Young Nature Park (formerly Perry Nature Park): Meet at McDonald's (Exit 349, I-15) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the 8:30am to carpool.

10 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.

(Continued on page 6)

CALENDER - *October (cont.)*

13 Saturday 4:00am to 8:00pm THE BIG SIT!
Wasatch Audubon's annual fund raiser: Held at the Great Salt Lake Nature Center, at Farmington Bay. Bring a chair, a lunch, water and your binoculars. This is always a fun event.

16 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting
Galapagos Islands: Amy Wicks and Jeff Johnson, Ogden residents, will show photos and discuss their recent Galapagos Islands trip.

17 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk
Ogden Nature Center: Meet at Village Inn (322 W 12th Street) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the Nature Center (966 W 12th Street) for walk at 9:00am.

20 Saturday No Field Trip

24 Wednesday 8:00/9:15am Bird Walk
East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr. in South Ogden) at 8:00am for breakfast or at the trailhead at 9:15am.

31 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am Bird Walk
Little Mountain Railroad Trail: Meet at McDonald's (Exit 349, I-15) at 8:00am for breakfast or at 8:30am to carpool. Trail begins off 4000 N (this is the road leading west from Smith and Edward's).

November

7 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am Bird Walk
 Two River's Trail: Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21st Street in the Flying J Plaza) at 8:00am for breakfast or at the parking under 21st Street overpass 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) Mike Hearrell 801-529-8693

A SAD STORY

by Jay Hudson

It was June 1, 1997, and our Audubon group was taking a bird walk up Wheeler Creek Canyon at the base of Pineview Dam. We were a couple hundred yards up from the parking lot when I saw my first MacGillivray's Warbler. Of course, being a relatively novice birder, someone pointed it out to me and the sighting was fleeting but I could see its yellow underbelly, grayish head and partial eye ring. We didn't talk of where it was going, where it had come from or how often you were likely to see one. I added it to my immature life list and we continued up the Canyon looking for other avian wonders. Just six months later, in November, Barbara and I were being shown the birds at Audubon's Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary in Belize, when another MacGillivray's was pointed out by Glenn, our intrepid guide. I didn't make the connection between Wheeler Creek and Crooked Tree.

Labor Day, September 7, 2009. Lying dead on top on our air conditioner with curled up tiny feet and closed eyes was my third MacGillivray's. Now it all came together. Who knows if the Macgillivray's in Wheeler Canyon had just flown up from Belize, and who knows if the MacGillivray's at Crooked Tree was the very same one just back from Utah. That's exciting imagination! But when I held the small dead form of such a seldom seen beautiful bird in my hand in my own back yard, I felt a loss. This delicate greenish-backed long-distance flyer was just robbed of a trip to Belize by a pane of glass owned by me. I know that birds die by the millions each year, but this one hurt!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Lynn Carroll

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

Walter B. Branch

Mary L. Castagnoli

Carol Dimock

Bonnie Durbano-Burtenshaw

Catherine Gerwels

Wendy Hood

Sara Lee Neill

Leslie Loeffel

Joan Peterson

Jonathan Rock

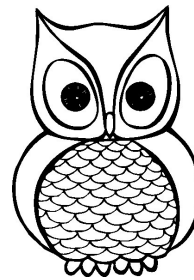
July Field Trip

By Dan Johnston

On July 21, Sharen Perry, Lynn Carroll, Nancy and Tiffany Arnett, and I went on the Annual Wildflower/ Bird Field Trip. The flowers were a little past prime, but we were able to identify many high altitude flowers. We also saw some birds: Mountain Bluebird, Purple Martin and Hairy Woodpecker.

It was a beautiful day.

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

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:





Wasatch Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3211
Ogden, Utah 84409



**Audubon
Membership Application**

Membership in Audubon automatically enrolls you as a member of Wasatch Audubon. When you join, you will receive six issues of Audubon magazine and six issues of our chapter newsletter - **The Mountain Chickadee** - each year. To join as a new member with an introductory fee of **\$20**, please go to the following website:

<https://action.audubon.org/donate/chapter-membership?chapter=W54>

(By using this special page, you give us credit toward a monetary reward.)

Local Chapter: Wasatch Audubon Society - W54



**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: _____
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