



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**



Vol 38, Number 2

Mar/April 2019

WAS Meeting and Happenings

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

Tuesday, March 19, 2019-7:00PM

Alex Popora, Executive Director, Utah Society for Environmental Education

Alex has bachelor's degree in biology and anthropology from the University of Miami and a master's in Environmental Humanities from the University of Utah. She has developed educational content in collaboration with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bat Conservation International, as well as many other organizations.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019-7:00PM

Nick Schou, Conservation Director, Utah River Council

Nick has an M.S. in Environmental Humanities from the University of Utah and B.A. in History from Westminster College. Nick spent 5 years working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in remote river canyons to restore endangered native fish species of the Colorado River. He leads the organization's water conservation initiatives including our RainHarvest program.

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

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

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 that 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 **39th Ogden Christmas Bird Count**, we all had a good time. Some of the unusual highlights were Greater White-fronted Goose, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, and Swamp Sparrow. Our totals were 24,929 individuals counted and a total of 95 species, and with two on the count week. A little above our average, but not the big record that we made in 2017 of 104 species. A big thanks to the 33 observers, a record high number of volunteers, that came out to help in our success.

On the **Bear River Refuge Christmas Bird Count**, we had good weather but very cold. Waterfowl numbers were way down because of the frozen water and mild weather that we have had. Some of the highlights were a Trumpeter Swan (injured) and over 1,200 Tundra Swans. Our totals were 12,792 individuals counted and a total of 44 species reported. A big thanks to the 20 observers that helped in this good day of birding.

On the **Morgan Christmas Bird Count**, there was light snow all day with snowy and iced roads. Some of the unusual highlights were Juniper Titmouse (new for the count), high number of Rough-legged Hawks, Pinyon Jay, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Our totals were 4,476 individuals counted and a total of 53 species reported with four on the count week. A big thank you to the 13 observers that helped on this weathered good count day.

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Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: wasatchaudubon.org

Officers

President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
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

2019/2020	Taylor Abbott	980-622-9889
2019/2020	Mike Hearell	801-529-8693
2019/2020	Daniel Brown	801-896-8002
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 Hearell	801-529-8693
Wed. Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-678-8065
Historian	Ruth Davis	801-309-0425
Hospitality		
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 February, the bird of the month is closely related to the December bird, Common Raven. Also a member of the Corvid Family, the Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus Cryptoleucus*) is a species of bird in the family Corvidae that is native to the United States and Mexico. It was formerly known as the American white-necked raven, and has the proportions of a Common Raven with a heavy bill, but is about the same size as a Carrion Crow, or slightly larger than the American crow (17–20 in) long. The plumage is all-black with a rich purple-blue gloss in good light. The nasal bristles extend farther down the top of the bill than in any other *Corvus* species to about two-thirds the length. The bases of the neck and body feathers of a Chihuahuan Raven are white, not gray like those of other American crows and ravens. The white is difficult to see in the field, and is only revealed by wind blowing the feathers or when a bird fluffs its feathers to display at another raven. The bill, legs and feet are black. When at the Sierra Vista Bird Festival last summer, I asked our guide for the best way to tell a Chihuahuan Raven from a Common Raven. He said if you see a big black bird in the town it would most likely be a Chihuahuan. Common Raven are seen in the country, a lot like comparing crows and raven here in northern Utah.

Their voice is less varied than the Common Raven. The call is typically a fairly high, crow-like croak, so the call is not a good way to tell them apart.

The Chihuahuan Raven occurs in the southwestern and midwestern United States and northern Mexico, including southeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico, southeastern Colorado, western Kansas, western Oklahoma, and southern and western Texas. It feeds on cultivated cereal grains, insects and many other invertebrates, small reptiles, carrion, cactus fruits, eggs and nestlings.



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President's Pipeline

The nest is built in trees, large shrubs or sometimes even in old buildings. Unlike most crows, the Chihuahuan Raven frequently reuses its nest in subsequent years. Some pairs may maintain two nests and use them in alternate years. There are usually 5–7 pale green to grayish-green eggs laid relatively late in the year (during May) so as to take advantage of the insect food for their young in their more arid environment.

A group of ravens has many collective nouns, including a "bazaar", "constable", "rant", "storytelling", and "unkindness" of ravens.

Spring is just around the corner. It's a great time to get out and see the birds as they return from their winter retreat.

Good Birding, Dan

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WASATCH AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

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 a large flock of Northern Shovelers and Green-winged Teal, and a Long-billed Curlew. Our totals were 7,585 individuals counted and a total of 58 species reported with five on the count week. A big thank you to all of the 17 observers that also made this count such a success. This is always a great way to start the year and your new year bird list.

Member Spotlight

The newest member on the Wasatch Audubon Board is **Daniel Brown**. He graduated from Stony Brook University with a degree in Environmental Biology and is the Outreach Educator at the Ogden Nature Center.

Daniel's favorite place to bird is Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and Farmington Bay. When he and his partner, Kate Kohut, moved to Ogden from New York, they stopped at BRMBR before they made it to Ogden. Daniel first became a birding enthusiast in 2013 when he volunteered for a raptor center and became obsessed with birds of prey. It wasn't until Kate got him his first binoculars for Christmas in 2016 that he got serious about birding. One of the things on his birding bucket list is a Pelagic birding trip in the southern ocean. He would love to see an Albatross or a Penguin with his own eyes.

Along with a love of the outdoors doing activities like skiing, hiking and biking, he also loves cooking, baking and playing Dungeons and Dragons!



The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. ~Henry Van Dyke

In Memory of Joyce Overdiek

by Laura Johnston

It is with sadness that Wasatch Audubon marks the loss of a true friend and supporter, Joyce Overdiek. Joyce's presence at field trips and meetings was appreciated by all; her energy, positivity, and sense of humor were unmatched. In addition, Joyce held many positions in our Society. She was Membership Chair from 1995 through 2013. As Hospitality Chair from 2002 until her passing, she made sure we had treats at each and every meeting. She fed birds for Wasatch Audubon at the Ogden Nature Center for at least 20 years. Because she was such a valued contributor to the Society, she was awarded the John Nelson Award in 2004. Wasatch Audubon members are thankful that Joyce chose to share her love of nature and people with them.



The Gullstraganza

by Michael Hearell

On February 2nd members of Wasatch Audubon joined up with DWR and Great Salt Lake Audubon for a tutorial on gull identification at the George S. and Doré Eccles Wildlife Education Center by Cameron Cox. Immediately following the tutorial, most participants met up with Utah Birders for their 9th Annual Gullstravaganza at Farmington Bay WMA. The weather was perfect for looking through the gulls, but rarities were hard to come by. The day ended with 5 species of gull being identified, Herring, Ring-billed, California, Iceland (formerly Thayer's), and Lesser Black-backed.

Gull Identification Workshop

by Billy Fenimore

An incredible turnout for the first Gull Identification Workshop at the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Wildlife Education Center this past weekend. Many thanks to Cameron Cox for sharing his knowledge to help educate our birding community on how to better identify these confusing species. It was great to see the birdwatching community so well represented, especially our Wasatch Audubon family. I am excited for what the future holds for our community, the Education Center and our wildlife.



Photos by Billy Fenimore



CALENDER

March

6 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am

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

9 Saturday 9:00am/2:00pm 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.

13 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am

Dale Young Nature Park (Formerly Perry Nature Park): Meet at The Rusted Spoon, 2645 US 89, Perry, at 8:30am for breakfast or at the park at 9:30am.

19 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Alex Popora, Executive Director, Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE): Alex will share information about the USEE and Environmental Education.

20 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am

East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Dr, South Ogden) for breakfast at 8:30am or at the trailhead at 9:30am.

23 Saturday 7:30am Field Trip

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

27 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am

Ogden River Parkway: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 9:00am at the Ogden Botanical Garden off Monroe.

April

2 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Board Meeting
Ogden Nature Center: All members are welcome to attend. 966 West 12th Street, Ogden.

3 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am

Willard Bay State Park: Meet at The Rusted Spoon, 2645 S US 89, Perry, for breakfast at 8:00am or the pond on the North of the SP at 9:00pm. Remember this is a fee area.

10 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am

Wadman Nature Park, Pleasant View City: Meet for breakfast at McDonald's, (Washington & 2600 N., North Ogden) at 8:00am or at the park at 8:30am. 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.

13 Saturday 8:00/9:00am

Ogden River Parkway: Meet at Dylan's (12th and Monroe) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 9:00am at the Ogden Botanical Garden off Monroe.

16 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Nick Schou, Conservation Director, Utah Rivers Council: Nick will be discussing the work the Utah Rivers Council is doing.

CALENDAR (continued)**April****17 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am**

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 at 8:00am. 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. Meet at about 9:00am at the Cemetery.

20 Saturday 5:00am Field Trip

This is our annual trip to the Greater Sage Grouse Lek. We will meet at the DWR office (515 E. 5300 S./Adams Ave., South Ogden) at 5:00am and carpool to the Lek and have breakfast at the Larry's Spring Chicken Inn of Morgan. Contact Mike Hearell with any questions: utmarshrat@yahoo.com

24 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am

Two Rivers Trail: Meet at Denny's (North on 1100 W from 21st street in the Flying J plaza) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the trailhead at 9:00am. We'll walk upstream from the parking area.

May**1 Wednesday 8:00/8:30am**

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 a small parking lot.

Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi
pslombard@gmail.com

2nd Saturday Walks - Dan Johnston 801-645-8633

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

Is It Time to Renew?*by Lynn Carroll*

Look at the name and address printed on your newsletter. The date above your name is the expiration date of your Audubon membership or your *Mountain Chickadee* subscription, as of last month. As the chapter's Membership Chair, I encourage you to renew your Audubon membership three months ahead. A typical processing time seems to be about two months but can be longer. Over the last two years, I've seen several active members drop off the membership roster that I get from National Audubon, even though there is a two-month "grace period" after the expiration date. Later, the person may be listed as having rejoined. Sometimes I find out that the person has renewed, so I don't take them off the newsletter mailing list. I wonder, though, how many people miss an issue of the *Mountain Chickadee* and/or *Audubon* magazine by renewing too late.

A summary of the membership process from my perspective may help you understand. Wasatch Audubon Society has a list of members and newsletter subscribers that must be updated every two months before the newsletter is ready. Once a month around the 5th, an updated roster for our chapter becomes available for me to download from an Audubon website, along with a report of the changes that were made during the previous month. For this March/April issue, I made the changes (add, delete, or modify an entry) shown in the change reports from December and January. This included deleting members whose expiration dates were earlier than December 1. Our membership list should now match the latest roster from National. [I check periodically to confirm this.] Our treasurer (Betty Evans) informed me of changes in subscriptions. I sent the computer file containing the resulting mailing list to the mailing company in mid-February. She applied the address info with a barcode to the newsletters when the printing was finished and delivered them to the post office.

Suppose a member had an expiration date of November 28 and mailed a renewal on November 1. Normally, this would reach the company that handles it for Audubon around the 5th, and they would have it processed by mid-January. It would show up on the change report as an updated expiration date. However, if a glitch somewhere made it take longer, the member would be deleted from the roster at the end of January, and they wouldn't have received this newsletter.

Great Salt Lake Audubon Events

May 30 Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Great Salt Lake Audubon is hosting an exhibit of the **2018 Audubon Photography Awards Winners** this coming spring. Please put the date of the opening reception on your calendar. In conjunction with the opening, they have invited noted artist **Jane Kim** to talk about the creation of her amazing wall of birds at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. At the City Library, first floor and main floor auditorium (210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City)

June 7-9

Great Salt Lake Audubon is hosting the annual **Basin & Range Weekend Seminar** at Cathedral Rocks State Park in Almo, Idaho, this coming year. They are working with Superintendent Wallace Keck to host this year's event and have a great line-up of classes and instructors, so you won't want to miss this one.

In addition, Wallace Keck is inviting us to a friendly birding competition. This is an optional event that runs on Saturday, June 8 from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about establishing a birding contest team, contact Jeanne Le Ber (jeanne.leber@utah.edu).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Lynn Carroll

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

Dennis Baldwin
Leigh Barnette
Ann Brewer
Monica Cronin
Michael Harper
Suzanne Hogan

J. Holcombe
Earlene B. Jensen
Sally Lewis
Ann Mathews
George Stettler



Wasatch Audubon Events

March 9, Saturday - 9:00am to 2:00pm
Wild Swan Day - Salt Creek WMA,
viewing will run from 9am to 2 pm.

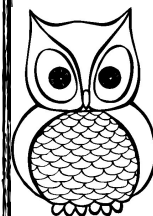
Tundra Swan migration **Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge**. Saturday, March 9, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Earth Day at Ogden Nature Center
Ogden Nature Center, 966 West 12th Street,
Ogden, Utah
From 11:00-4 on Saturday, April 20th
\$4 per person

June 1 & 2 - Utah Audubon Council Spring (UAC) meeting in St. George. More information will be coming from Red Cliffs Audubon about the Spring UAC meeting.

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



**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: _____
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