



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Wasatch Audubon Society



Vol 38, Number 3

May/June 2019

WAS Meeting and Happenings

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2019-7:00PM

Andrew Revelle is Outdoor Education & Adventure Coordinator for GreenWood Charter School. "Mr. Andrew" is an inspiring educator who will tell us about some of the adventures on which he has taken elementary and junior high school age students, and about his students' new efforts to create a bird habitat in their schoolyard.

Tuesday, June 18, 2019-7:00PM

Billy Fenimore is a bird guide, owner of Wild About Birds Nature Center, director of the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at Farmington Bay and a current WAS Board member. Billy is a familiar face to birders all over Utah. Most recently he was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution's conservation award. Billy will tell us about his conservation journey and is certain to be entertaining and inspiring.

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

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

TEDDY

by Jay Hudson

Even the busiest of men have found time for birds. President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt (1858-1919) stands out as one of the busiest. Teddy started young (1872) by not only observing birds but practicing taxidermy. One of his first efforts was the Purple Finch. His bedroom held many of his stuffing accomplishments. His fascination for birds stayed with him through life, causing him to even pause in his excessive hunting of big game in Africa. He took notes and made lists of American birds in the Adirondacks. He made written arguments with other ornithologists concerning points of identification, color and habits. When his travels took him to Cuba as the commanding officer of the "Rough Riders", he made bird observations and lists during breaks in the fighting. Later, he was the driving force behind the creation of the Bronx Zoo, helping to set new standards in education about the natural world.

Teddy took his love for birds to the White House. He used his "bully pulpit" to sign into law 51 Federal bird sanctuaries and created the first National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) at Pelican Island, Florida. Even today, there is a clock in the refuge manager's office that counts the days, hours, minutes and seconds since the creation of this first of America's national wildlife refuges. Teddy was once quoted when asked about America's position in the world when he said, "Walk softly and carry a big stick!" I wonder if Teddy's big stick would apply today in the efforts of preservation of wildlife and the environment with all the special interests, profit motives and politics. We should applaud every acre preserved today as an investment in our future.

By Jay Hudson with help from Doris Goodwin's book the 'Bully Pulpit' and other sources.



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

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2019/2020	Mike Hearell	801-529-8693
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2018/2019	Billy Fenimore	801-301-3756
2018/2019	Tom Wuenschell	801-476-4546

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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	Ruth Davis	801-309-0425
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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

by Dan Johnston

I will continue the study of the family Corvidae, containing crows, ravens, jays and magpies. We have two species of magpies in North America, the black-billed and the yellow-billed magpies.

The bird of the month for March was the black-billed magpie (*Pica hudsonia*), also known as the American magpie. It is a bird that inhabits the western half of North America. This species prefers generally open habitats with clumps of trees. It can, therefore, be found in farmlands and suburban areas, where it comes into regular contact with people. Where persecuted it becomes very wary, but otherwise it is fairly tolerant of human presence. Historically associated with bison herds, it now lands on the backs of cattle to clean ticks and insects from them. Large predators such as wolves are commonly followed by black-billed magpies, who scavenge from their kills. The species also walks on the ground, where it obtains such food items as beetles, grasshoppers, worms, and small rodents.

Black-billed magpies are also known to make food caches in the ground, in scatter-hoarding fashion. To make a cache, the bird pushes or hammers its bill into the ground (or snow), forming a small hole into which it deposits the food items it was holding in a small pouch under its tongue. It may, however, then move the food to another location, particularly if other magpies are in the vicinity, watching. Cache robbing is fairly common, so a magpie often makes several false caches before a real one. The final cache is covered with grass, leaves, or twigs. After this the bird cocks its head and stares at the cache, possibly to commit the site to memory. Such hoards are short-term; the food is usually recovered within several days, or the bird never returns. The bird relocates its caches by sight and also by smell; during cache robbing, smell is probably the primary cue. Adult black-billed magpie pairs stay together year-round and often for life unless one dies, in which case the remaining magpie may find another mate. When Lewis and Clark first encountered magpies in 1804 in South Dakota, they reported the birds as being very bold, entering tents or taking food from the hand. The species is not threatened, and in some areas, it has benefited from forest fragmentation and agricultural developments.

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President's Pipeline

Analysis indicates a close relationship between the yellow-billed magpie and the black-billed magpie, rather than between the outwardly very similar black-billed and European magpies (*Pica pica*). The two American forms of magpie could be considered as one species. They are two of only four North American songbirds whose tail makes up half or more of the total body length (the others being the scissor-tailed flycatcher and the fork-tailed flycatcher). The black-billed and yellow-billed magpie are ones of the few North American birds that build a domed nest. Both magpie flocks are known to engage in funeral-like behavior for their dead.



The bird of the month for April was the yellow-billed magpie (*Pica nuttalli*). A large bird that is restricted to the state of California. It inhabits the Central Valley and the adjacent chaparral foothills and mountains.

Apart from having a yellow bill and a yellow streak around the eye, it is virtually identical to the black-billed magpie. The scientific name commemorates the English naturalist Thomas Nuttall.

The yellow-billed magpie is gregarious and roosts communally. There may be a cluster of communal roosts in one general area made up of a central roost containing many birds and several outlying roosts with fewer.

They are extremely susceptible to West Nile virus. Between 2004 and 2006, it is estimated that 50% of all yellow-billed magpies died of the virus. Because the bird tends to roost near water bodies such as rivers, it is often exposed to mosquitoes.

They nest in small colonies, or occasionally alone. Even when nesting close to other birds they may exhibit some territorial behavior. In one type of display, neighboring birds will walk side-by-side along the boundary of their two territories often with tails held upright.

These birds are permanent residents and do not usually wander far outside of their breeding range. The clutch contains 5 to 7 eggs which are incubated by the female for 16 to 18 days. Both parents feed the nestlings a diet of mostly insects until fledging occurs in 30 days.

The ancestors of the yellow-billed magpie likely became isolated in California very soon after they colonized North America some 3 or 4 million years ago. This was due to ice ages and the uplift of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A group of magpie has many collective nouns, including a "charm", "gulp", "mischief", "tittering", and "tribe" of magpies.

It's spring time. Our feathered friends are returning from their trips down south, dressed up in their prime colors. Take the opportunity to get out often and see them. Try to join us for a Wednesday and Saturday bird walk.

Happy Birding, Dan

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

1. **EDITOR** for The Mountain Chickadee. The editor is responsible for putting the newsletter together and emailing it to the printer. The Wasatch Newsletter is published six times per year.

2. **FIELD TRIP LEADER.** Our WAS 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, please contact Dan Johnston by email at danielj47@comcast.net or by phone at 801-645-8633.

Conservation Corner

Revisiting Recycling

by Lynn Carroll

I've been thinking about recycling a lot lately. There was a spate of news reports after China stopped accepting most shipments of baled "recyclables". I learned that contamination is a big problem with residential recycling anywhere. The Utah League of Women Voters released a report on recycling, based on interviews with various entities involved with recycling in Northern Utah, giving me more food for thought. Do recycling's benefits really outweigh its costs from an environmental standpoint? I'm not sure, but if we're going to do it, let's lower the costs by doing it right.

Various kinds of "contamination" make the recycling processes less efficient. Some people just treat their recycling bin as another trash can. Another big problem is recyclable containers that still have stuff (food, drink, etc.) in them. All must be emptied and rinsed well enough to protect the paper and cardboard they are mixed with and the processing machinery. Also forbidden are items that used to be okay, or are recycled somewhere else, or that people (nicknamed "wish-cyclers") think should be recycled. A big no-no in most programs is plastic bags and any other thin plastic film. Even the most careful citizens may err by putting recyclables into a bag and tossing them into the bin, bag and all. Pour the recyclables out of the bag into the bin. Otherwise you may have wasted your time, as the whole thing will usually be pulled out and sent to the landfill!

It is important to learn how household waste is handled in your area. If you have a separate bin for recycling, find out what you should and shouldn't put into it, and check back now and then, because the details are likely to change as the market for different materials changes. It is best to get this information directly from the recycler. Ask Ogden City which plastics can be recycled now, and they'll say #1 and #2. But it turns out that #1 plastics that are made to hold oily products like peanut butter and salad dressing are different from the #1 plastics that hold water, soda, and juice. The owners of Recycled Earth, which processes curbside recycling from Weber County, Brigham City, and more, say their buyer only accepts the latter type. So don't bother cleaning out any #1 plastics other than bottles that held liquids you would drink, if your city is served by Recycled Earth.

Paper is tricky, too. It's not recyclable if it has glitter or foil or a plastic coating on it. Remove the free gifts from your junk mail. Check on shredded paper, glossy paper, and magazines. Cardboard is okay. In fact, plain corrugated cardboard is currently one of the most profitable recyclables!

The problems with glass are its weight, which makes transport costly, and the danger to handlers if it is broken. There is a glass recycler in SLC, and they have huge containers for glass only in locations as far north as Ogden. Metal is recyclable, and "tin" cans are accepted by most recyclers, while aluminum cans are welcomed. Other metal objects may have to be dropped off at a recycler.

Remember: NO plastic grocery bags. Finally, remember that it's best to **reduce** the amount of stuff you take home (especially plastics), and **reuse** before you **recycle**.





CALENDER

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.

8 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.

11 Saturday 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.

15 Wednesday No Walk

Enjoy the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival, May 16-19 www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com

21 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Andrew Revelle, Outdoor Education & Adventure Coordinator for GreenWood Charter School, will be the guest speaker.

22 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am

Beus Pond and Glasmann Pond: Meet at Village Inn (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the Beus Pond parking lot at 9:00am.

25 Saturday No Field Trip

Enjoy your Memorial Day weekend!

29 Wednesday 8:30/9:30am

Eccles Wildlife Education Center (1700 W Glover's Lane): Meet at Dylan's, 185 Main Street, Kaysville for breakfast at 8:30am then we'll drive to the center at 9:30am. *Note: this walk is 1/2 hour later due to the opening time for the Center.*

June

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

5 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am

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

12 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am

South Ogden NaturePark: 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.

15 Saturday 8:00/9:00am

Beus Pond and Glasmann Pond: Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave) for breakfast at 8:00am or at the Beus Pond parking lot at 9:00am.

18 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Guest speaker will be **Billy Fenimore,** bird guide, owner of Wild About Birds Nature Center and director of the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at Farmington Bay.

CALENDAR (continued)**June****19 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am**

Riverdale Trail (South): Meet at Moore's Family Restaurant (3558 Wall Ave) at 8:00am for breakfast or at 9:00am at the trailhead parking lot (from Riverdale Rd, south on 700 W for one block, then left on 4600 S to lot at end of road).

22 Saturday 5:00am No Field Trip**26 Wednesday 8:00/9:00am**

Swanson Environmental Center: Meet at Jeremiah's Restaurant (1307 W. 12th St., Ogden) for breakfast at 8:00am or at 9:00am to carpool.

July**3 Wednesday 7:00/8:00am**

Kays Creek Parkway: Meet at Village Inn, (1765 E Skyline Drive, South Ogden) for breakfast 7:00am or at the trailhead at 8:00am.

Saturday Bird Walk - April

It would have been a beautiful February day, but it was April and was so cold and cloudy. It's time for some of our summer migrants to start showing up. Our search was on for warblers, vireos, flycatchers and such. But all we saw was a kettle of 9 Turkey Vultures flying overhead near the mouth of Ogden Canyon. The other 18 species identified were the resident birds. We were treated to many flashes of the red crown of a male Ruby-crowned Kinglet, one of 4 pairs spotted. It was very interesting to see the Ogden River running so high.

Come join us on Saturday, May 11th for breakfast at Denny's on 21st Street at 8:00AM or at the Two Rivers trailhead at 9:00am. The June 15th walk will be at 9:00AM at Bues Pond or breakfast at Wall Ave. Moore's Restaurant at 8:00AM. **See Calendar for details.** This is a great opportunity for a beginner birder to learn about the birds and some good places to look for them.

Happy Birding, Dan

Wednesday Walks - Paul Lombardi
pslombard@gmail.com

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

Field Trips (the Saturday after the WAS Tuesday Meeting) - for info Dan Johnston 801-645-8633

**Thank You, Mike Hearell!**

Wasatch Audubon Society would like to thank Mike Hearell for the many Saturdays he spent leading the monthly field trips. He always took us to great locations and was always willing to share his knowledge about the area and the birds that were there. You will be missed as Field Trip leader!

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

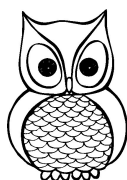
Please join us in welcoming those who recently joined or rejoined National Audubon:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Jim Barney | Lafray Kelley |
| Patricia Bausman | Wendy E Loomis |
| Robert Cala | Thomas Lucas |
| Jan Carpenter | Wendy Luker |
| Leslie Cirigliano | Fran Madlang |
| Dennis Collins | David Mansfield |
| Deborah Eddy | Klea Mordaunt |
| Philip Falkowski | Larry Muench |
| Ms. Josephine Fisher | David Ostler |
| Elaine Fluckiger | Edwin Stene |
| Mr. John Fromer | Ms. Valerie Story |
| William Giovannello | Melanie Watson |
| Caril Jennings | Anita White |
| Earlene B Jensen | |

June 1 & 2 - Utah Audubon Council (UAC) spring meeting in St. George. More information will be coming from Red Cliffs Audubon about the Spring UAC meeting. Anyone interested in attending, contact John Bellmon at 801-444-3704 for additional information.

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



www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com



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 four 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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