



The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the **Wasatch Audubon Society**

Volume 40, Number 3 May/June 2021

WAS MEETINGS AND HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, May 18 - 7:00PM

Frances Ngo, Conservation Outreach Biologist for Tracy Aviary, will talk to us about the organization's new project called "Beavers and Birds." And they're looking for help surveying along the Jordan River for evidence of beaver activity. Join us on Zoom* for what promises to be an interesting discussion.

Tuesday, June 15 - 7:00PM

Join us on Zoom* to hear a representative of the Utah Rivers Council who will talk to us about the future of water conservation, in particular regarding the Colorado River.

***Keep in Touch With Us!**

Do we have your email address? We often want to communicate with our members in between newsletters about Zoom links, changes in plans, new opportunities, or conservation action. If you want to know what's up and haven't been getting emails from WAS, please send a message to Lynn at bradlynn@comcast.net.

For timely information, you can also go to our Facebook page by searching for Wasatch Audubon Society or clicking on the Facebook logo on our website (www.wasatchaudubon.org).

President's Corner **Having Fun With Outreach**

by Jay Stretch

The middle of April saw the restart of Wasatch Audubon's outreach program with Youth Impact (YI). YI is an after-school program dedicated to tackling Ogden's problem with intergenerational poverty by focusing on the youth that form the next generation. Their mentors help YI's young people develop social-emotional skills such as attitude, resiliency, self-esteem, goal setting, and relationships, as well as helping with academics and career-readiness. YI offers a welcoming environment at their recently upgraded facility in downtown Ogden, including a new and amazingly equipped STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) room. Many of these children have not had much opportunity to get out into nature to enjoy its wonders, spark their curiosity, and learn about the world outside the inner city. Wasatch Audubon is working to address that issue.

Before the pandemic we frequently conducted classes and field trips with YI and are starting up the program once more. And what better way to start on a snowy day than by having the kids dissect owl pellets! The fascinated youth diving into their owl pellets are pictured below.



Continued on pg. 2

Wasatch Audubon Society

Website: <http://www.wasatchaudubon.org>

Officers

President	Jay Stretch	801-721-9432
Vice President	John Bellmon	801-444-3704
Secretary	Sharen Perry	801-392-9554
Treasurer	Nancy Arnett	801-388-0637
Past President	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633

Board

2020/2021	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
2020/2021	Jeane Taylor	801-394-2813
2020/2021	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
2021/2022	Abigail Johnson	
2021/2022	Leah Johnson	
2021/2022	Mike Hearrell	801-529-8693
2021/2022	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	801-458-9558
Field Trips	Dan Johnston	801-645-8633
Bird Walks	Paul Lombardi	801-678-8065
Historian	Ruth Davis	801-309-0425
Hospitality	Jeane Taylor	801-394-2813
Membership	Lynn Carroll	801-392-8216
Newsletter	Laura Johnston	801-458-9558
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>.

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WAS Members Dan Johnston, John Bellmon, and I were joined by WAS Youth Representatives Abigail and Leah Johnson to mingle with kids among tiny bones, a lot of dark fur, giggles and shouts of surprise. The youth were fascinated, engaged, and well behaved—even asking to take an extra pellet home to show off for their parents. Best thing is that they were having fun and learning at the same time. One young man said that he had read a book about owls four times—that was met with skepticism from the others until he began relating some facts about owls that are not common knowledge even among birders. The sad thing is that he and most of his peers have never seen an owl in the wild. But WAS can fix that! Our next planned event, two weeks after this one, is a field trip to Antelope Island to see at least the Burrowing and Great Horned Owls that we know how to find.

This WAS outreach project has myriad possibilities and opportunities for **you**, birders and botanists as well. Contact one of the three of us (numbers in the left column of this page) to join in on presentations and trips. Maybe you can have as much fun as the kids!

TRIP REPORTS

Our February field trip was a search for eagles in Morgan and Summit County. We saw 24 Bald and 5 Golden Eagles.

In March, we visited a sage grouse lek south of Henefer. We saw 6 Greater Sage Grouse displaying. The males strut and make a quiet blooping sound in order to attract the ladies. It was fascinating to watch! On this trip we also saw a dozen Bald Eagles and were pleasantly surprised by some Mountain Bluebirds. We also watched American Dippers building a nest by the river.

We were happy to resume our Wednesday walks on March 31. So far we have walked Riverdale South Walkway and West Weber River, locating some regulars and a few returning birds. We look forward to weekly Wednesday walks from now on.

Refer to the calendar on page 5 for details on upcoming field trips and walks.

Conservation Corner: Water Wins in the 2021 Utah Legislature

by Lynn Carroll

The following is adapted from an article by Marcelle Shoop, director of Audubon’s Saline Lakes Program, based in Salt Lake City. <https://www.audubon.org/news/water-issues-rise-surface-utahs-2021-legislature> Some details are from linked Western Water News stories.

In 2019, the Utah legislature passed the “Concurrent Resolution to Address Declining Water Levels at the Great Salt Lake” (HCR10). This led to formation of a Great Salt Lake “HCR10” Steering Group, which made recommendations to the legislature late last year. Marcelle represented Audubon in that diverse stakeholder group, and the Utah chapters signed the requests for appropriations to fund four of the Steering Group’s proposals. Two of these made it into next year’s budget:

Groundwater Studies (\$750,000) to better quantify the contribution of groundwater to Great Salt Lake and its wetlands, including shallow aquifers.

Water and Land Use Planning Integration Project (\$270,000) to support a collaborative program that will assist local governments to incorporate smart water planning into their land use and economic planning processes. The hope is to reduce municipal and industrial water use and avoid future major water diversions from the Bear River.

Passage of HB 83 this year opens a new period during which landowners can apply to have good bird habitat designated as a Migratory Bird Production Area (MBPA). When this program originated in 2009, Audubon’s Gillmor Sanctuary and other areas owned by duck clubs and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) became dedicated MBPAs, but this opportunity was closed in 2010. Now more lands that meet the requirements can be protected and existing MBPAs can be expanded. HB 83 also adds some limitations on eminent domain for this land. MBPAs near Great Salt Lake not only protect habitat for water birds but also maintain the flow of water between wetlands and the lake. [see <https://rockies.audubon.org/saline-lakes/articles/utahs-migratory-bird-production-areas-receive-boost>]

Congress passed the Navajo-Utah Water Rights Settlement Act last December, and the Utah legislature ratified the settlement by passing SJR 14 and SB 225. The act settles all claims (on Colorado River water) for the Navajo Nation in Utah, affirming allocation of 81,500 acre-feet of water annually for the tribe in Utah and providing \$8 million from the State of Utah as well as over \$200 million in federal funds to develop infrastructure for freshwater and wastewater services. “Moreover, it ensures the Navajo can realize the full benefit of their water rights as they choose, for their families, their economy, and for the Colorado River,” says Jennifer Pitt in Western Water News.

Those of you who followed the emailed Legislative Updates know that the legislature created a “Colorado River Authority” with extraordinary power. Marcelle wrote, “Audubon encourages the ... Authority to reach far and wide in opening a dialogue with a diverse set of Utah stakeholders on matters involving the Colorado River.”

The legislation that would have created a Utah Lake Authority did not pass out of committee. Instead, it and the important issue of the lake’s water quality will be studied during the interim. Audubon plans to take part in a multi-stakeholder dialogue through the Utah Water Task Force, seeking positive outcomes for birds and people.

Any positive outcomes from a Utah legislative session are worth celebrating!

FOUND AT SEA

by Jay Hudson

(with personal approval from Steve Thomas and MacFarland’s “The Old Ways”)

Steve Thomas, the host of TV’s “This Old House,” is a deep water sailor. He became curious how the peoples of the Caroline Islands north of Papua New Guinea could find their way around the Pacific Ocean without the aid of any instrumentation. He went to the islands to meet an old man who knew the secret and was willing to share his knowledge. The old man said that the young men had no interest in the ancient art of navigation because they were playing electronic games and hard travel was not in their future. Steve, the old man, and a few other intrepid warriors of this vanishing breed, set off for a learning experience in 1983 without the aid of modern navigational conveniences. What Steve recorded in his book, “The Last Navigator,” was the art of understanding nature to travel, survive and enjoy the trip. He learned how to read the wind, waves, clouds, fish, stars and the birds.

Steve learned to read the flights of Noddies and Terns. He learned that these birds made direct flights of about 18-20 miles out to their fishing grounds in the morning and direct flights back to land in the evening. This gave the crew additional information about where they were on the high seas.

The idea of watching the birds at dusk returning to their roosts and possibly carrying food back to babies is nothing new. The first sea-road mariners in the Atlantic watched the fulmars, gannets and sad-eyed puffins with sand eels hanging from their beaks return to land. I once helped mist net and band European Petrels returning to the cliffs of the Orkneys above Scotland under cover of a cloud filled quarter moon.

If you sit with fishermen in a dockside café in Iceland, you will hear them tell of listening for the birds in the fog to help guide them back into the harbor and avoid running aground. John Muir tells of watching birds for direction to land. Norwegian Vikings took starved Ravens on their trips to Iceland. They set them loose when they were unsure of landfall. When the hungry Ravens got their bearings and flew toward food, the Vikings followed. Even Noah flew a Raven and a Dove to point the way to land after the great flood.

How Birders Kept Birds in Their Lives During the Pandemic

by Laura Johnston

We are a group of people who are used to gathering to enjoy nature and birds. The “gathering” part of this was set to the side during the pandemic. But, we persisted in enjoying what we love to do. Here is what we did.

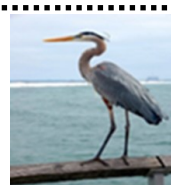
Keith and Betty continued to hear from friends who shared sightings, stories, and photos with them through phone and computer. They viewed a variety of webcams through the Cornell website and watched and photographed birds in their yard. They kept track of Christmas Bird Counts throughout the state and enjoyed birding and nature magazines.

Lynn participated in 3 Christmas Counts which operated very differently (safe mode) this year. She enjoyed lots of Webinars on birding in Greater Zion, birding around Salton Sea, and on other topics. She also watched her yard birds more closely and enhanced her skill in recognizing their songs and calls.

Dan and Laura also spent more time observing their yard birds. Dan kept more lists than normal, focusing on neighborhood and yard birds. Jay and Lucy made at least monthly trips to Bear River Bird Refuge, observing the birds as they changed with the passing seasons.

Though we missed trips to places with birds we have not yet seen and our in-person gatherings, we managed to keep birds as a part of our lives. Not the least of our accomplishments, though, was learning to attend WAS meetings on ZOOM - quite an attainment for this group!

See page 7 for photos of our pandemic year!



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**When you shop at
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Just sign in to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Wasatch Audubon Society as the organization you wish to support, or go directly to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/87-0411832>.

Thank you for your support!

CALENDAR

Please note: At all events, we will observe social distancing, wear face masks and drive separate cars. Bird-themed masks will be available for \$5.00.

MAY**5 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk**

South Ogden Nature Park: Meet at the trailhead for the nature walk. Parking for the trailhead is south of the Ogden Athletic Club.

12 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

North Arm Pineview Reservoir: Meet at the parking lot at the trailhead.

15 Saturday No field trip

Enjoy the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival May 13-16, www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com

18 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Join us on Zoom (see pg. 1 for how to get the link). Frances Ngo, Conservation Outreach Biologist for Tracy Aviary, will talk to us about the organizations' new project called "Beavers and Birds."

19 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

Canal Walk (North Mountain Road) at 2450 N., North Ogden: Take 2450 N off Mountain Rd. over canal into a small parking lot.

26 Wednesday 8:30 am bird walk

Eccles Wildlife Education Center (1700 W Glover's Lane): Park in the large parking area near the Center. We'll decide which trails to take depending on conditions in the area.

JUNE**1 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Board Meeting.**

Held remotely.

2 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

East Mountain Wilderness Park, Kaysville: Meet at the parking area for the trail. There will likely still be

construction on US 89 so take care in finding the route up to the trailhead. This is the in same area as the shooting range and animal shelter.

9 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

West Extension (West of 1900 W of West Haven Hiking and Biking Trail): Meet in the West Haven Cemetery. Drive West on 1800 S off 1900 W. Make a right turn at 2350 W and proceed into the cemetery. Park in the NW corner of the cemetery.

15 Tuesday 7:00pm WAS Meeting

Join us on Zoom (see pg. 1 for how to get the link). A representative of the Utah Rivers Council will talk to us about the future of water conservation, in particular regarding the Colorado River.

16 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

Willard Bay State Park: Meet at the north end of the State Park near the pond. We'll also check out the canal that runs along the north side of the reservoir before going into the park. Remember this is a fee area.

19 Saturday 8:00am field trip

Bird the Donner/Mormon Trail: Meet at the DWR office, 515 E 5300 S (Adams Ave) in South Ogden. We will caravan to Henefer where we will pick up the trail, follow it to East Canyon Reservoir and go on to Jeremy Ranch Road (a dirt road). We will spot historical markers and birds along the way, ending at Mormon Flats. Target birds: Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Dusky Grouse, Hermit Thrush, American Dipper. Bring water and a lunch.

23 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

Jefferson Hunt Campground south of Pineview Reservoir: Meet at the parking lot. Trail starts on the west side of the campground.

30 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk

Wadman Nature Park, Pleasant View city: To reach the park from I-15, drive east on 2700 N to 600 W. Turn left and follow 600 W to 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.

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Spotlight on Board Members
Two New Youth Representatives

CALENDAR

JULY

7 Wednesday 8:00am bird walk
Green Pond: Meet at the parking lot for the pond. This is reached on the road leading from Trapper’s Loop Road to the Snow Basin Ski Resort.

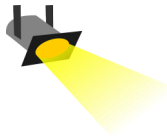
CONTACTS FOR WALKS AND TRIPS

Wednesday walks - Paul Lombardi:

pslombard@gmail.com

Saturday field trips - Dan Johnston:

danielj47@comcast.net



ABIGAIL JOHNSON

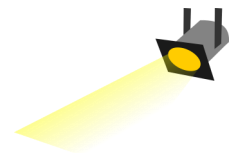
My name is Abigail Johnson. I have always been very adventurous. Being outside, climbing a mountain, swimming, and being carefree would be my ideal day. I have many talents and interests. Some of them include: swimming, animals, organizing, piano, soccer, P.E., playing games, going on vacations, hiking, reading books together, boating/camping, birding, and caring for others.

I am on a swim team year-round and love to compete at meets. I enjoy school, love family time, and new adventures. Playing games, swimming, being with my twin, Leah, and making my brothers laugh are some of my favorite things.

I have been interested in birding for two years. My interest increased after I got a monocular for Christmas, and I immediately used it to see a Cooper’s Hawk swoop down on the birds in the backyard. Recently I got my own pair of binoculars, which I love! My favorite place to go birding is at Farmington Bay. My favorite birds are Common Raven and Bufflehead. Someday I would like to go and see penguins in the wild.

LEAH JOHNSON

My name is Leah Johnson. I have developed many talents, and I have a desire to always learn more. In turn, I enjoy teaching what I learn to others.



Some of my interests and talents are as follows: reading, singing, cooking, soccer, piano, serving others, babysitting, art projects, yard work/gardening and birding! I love school! I also enjoy going on family adventures but I love it when we get back home. Playing pretend, teaching, and being with my twin, Abigail, and my brothers are some of my favorite things.

I have been interested in birding for two years. What got me interested in birding is when I received my first monocular. My dad says I have a very good ear and eye for birding. My joy has increased since I got my own pair of binoculars. My favorite place to go birding is Farmington Bay. My favorite bird is a Black-capped Chickadee, but I enjoy all chickadees!

Welcome New and Rejoined Members!

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Maryanne Clare | Bertha Stocks |
| Jay Hart | Nancy Arnett |
| Abigail Johnson | Philip Falkowski |
| Leah Johnson | James Kirk |
| John Lee | Max J. Malan |
| Mary Loudenslager | Gerald Mayer |
| Norma Morgan | Karen Pratt |

OWL PELLETS

As you participate in summer outdoor activities, keep your eye open for owl pellets. Any size is appreciated, but larger ones are easier for the students to work with. Call Dennis Collins (801-393-1115) if you have some or know of a location in which to find them.



PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

***TO VIEW THESE PHOTOGRAPHS IN COLOR, GO TO
WWW.WASATCHAUDUBON.ORG***

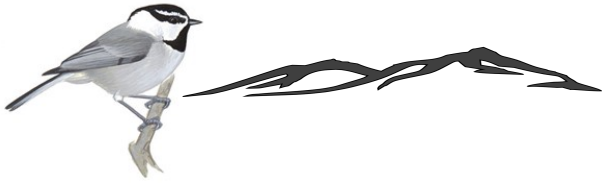


Photos identified top to bottom and left to right:

Row 1: Woodhouse Scrub-Jay, Keith Evans; A Masked and Distanced Big Sit, Lynn Carroll; Avocets Mirrored, Jay Stretch

Row 2: Black-necked Stilt, Jay Stretch; White-throated Sparrow, Keith Evans; Northern Flicker, Yellow-shafted, Keith Evans

Row 3: Red-tailed Hawk, Keith Evans, Great Blue Heron, Jay Stretch; Clark's Grebes, Jay Stretch



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:

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

(By using this special page, you give our chapter credit toward a monetary reward)

Local Chapter: Wasatch Audubon Society – W54

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

Go to www.wasatchaudubon.org and click on the FACEBOOK logo on the webpage.



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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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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