

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SALT LAKE BIRDERS

August 2006

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JULY JUMP-UPS — July Field Trip Report

by Geoff Hardies

The annual July bird count with Great Salt Lake Audubon started out differently this year, it began with a race. Now, I know what you are thinking, I have heard of big days and big sits and such, but what does a race have to do with birding. Well, in truth, not a whole lot except that all of the participants had to weave their way through a bike race in order to get up to Silver Lake. Since the race had not been anticipated, almost everyone was late getting up to the lake and thus the count got off to a late start.

Despite that the weather was fabulous. At least on the Twin Lakes route the bugs cooperated; I imagine around Silver Lake they may have experienced a little more activity in that area. There were a goodly number of participants, probably more of those than species seen. The Salt Lake Birders were well represented with a handful of folks on the Twin Lakes trip. There may have been others too, but. . . .

Probably the best bird seen was the Williamson's Sapsucker. A pair was located farther up the trail before that final steep incline to the upper-most chair lift. Most of the normal suspects were spotted although there were some notable absences. I didn't catch the total count number, but Jeanne LeBer said it was in the normal range.

Counting for SLB were Cindy and Steve Sommerfeld, Dave Hanscom, Leticia Lussier, Bob MacDougall, Stephen Carlile, Sylvia Gray, Susan Saffle, Martha Veranth, Donna Thorum, Roberta Wherritt and Geoff Hardies.

"A Good Type of Nor'easter"

by Alan S. Condie

During the middle of May, I went to be with my daughter who got her master's degree at a college in Boston, MA. For three years she had been bemoaning the severe Nor'easter Winter storms. After graduation, I talked her in to going "sightseeing up along the northern coastline," which she had not previously done, and agreed to do "a little birding" as follows:

A- Plum Island (45 minutes north of Boston) where we saw Buff-breasted and Stilt Sandpipers; Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll Warblers.

B- Bar Harbor, Acadia, Maine, to see Cape May and Blackburnian Warblers. Whale-watching trip for Mary Ann and a pelagic trip for me – Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, Common Eiders, Northern Gannets. (Our birding guide saw a lingering Great Cormorant among the Gannets; I saw something "different" but didn't get the field marks and can't count that as a lifer.) Also saw Common, Arctic and Roseate Terns.

C- Mt. Washington, NH, for Black-and-white and brilliantly-colored Myrtle Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a most important referral for the Bicknell's Thrush. A breeding colony about mile marker 4 up the private toll road at an elevation of about 3700 feet, across from the gravel pits. When you see this much smaller thrush, you really can't believe that it was ever lumped with the three much larger other thrushes.



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SALT LAKE BIRDERS

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is to provide recreation and ongoing education for our members, to gather and contribute statistical data, and to emphasize conservation in all our activities.

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Salt Lake Birders is open to everyone. Dues are \$15 per year per household if you would like a hard copy of *Bird Tracks*, or \$10 if you opt to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Please make checks payable to Salt Lake Birders and mail to Lyn Christiansen at the P.O. box listed above.

To request a change of address or privacy, please contact Lyn Christiansen, Membership Director.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All articles must be received by the 20th of the month for the following month's issue, preferably by e-mail, or as an e-mail attachment, but by letter, hard copy, also.

Upcoming Field Trips



Salt Lake Birders

August 12 – Saturday, Mirror Lake trip to be led by Bob MacDougall. Meet at the SE corner of the Sugar House Shopko parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Target birds are Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, 3-toed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and Nuthatches. Well plan to return in the later afternoon. Bring lunch and water.

September 9 – Saturday, Willard Bay – to be led by the Sommerfelds. Sugar House Shopko at 6:30 a.m. We'll be going around the back side of Willard Bay, which is very rough. High clearance vehicles are required, and if the area is wet or muddy, 4-wheel drive will be necessary. If you don't have such a vehicle, plan to ride with someone who does. If a vehicle gets stuck, it is often so slippery that another vehicle can't even get enough traction to pull it out. At times you can get 4 species of terns in one binocular view, often many Dowitchers, and other migrating shorebirds. That's were the Jaeger was found late last summer.

Later, in the afternoon, we'll also go through the regular part of Willard Bay State Park.

Along with GSLA, we encourage **carpooling** and **helping** with gas costs — we recommend a \$3 donation per person for trips under 50 miles, and \$5-7 for more than 50 miles roundtrip.

Guests are always welcome! Listen for us on FRS Channel 11-22.

Layton Wild Bird Center

Field trips leave from the -

Wild Bird Center

1860 N. 1000 West

Layton, at 10:00 a.m.

For further information, contact Bill Fenimore, Wild Bird Center, 801-525-8400.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome and recognize a new member to the Salt Lake Birders — Constance Mackay. As you can see, Constance, we have quite a number of birding trips and activities. Please come and participate in as many as you can.

FEATHERED FACTS

Woodpecker Central by Carol Gwynn

I spent a recent weekend in Woodpecker Central --central Oregon, that is. I was fortunate to be with a group on an ABA tour to find woodpeckers. The tour leader is currently writing the *Peterson Field Guide to Woodpeckers*, so he definitely knew his stuff.

Our tour started on a Thursday afternoon in a little hamlet called Camp Sherman. As we sat around a picnic table receiving our orientation to the geography of the area, our first White-headed Woodpecker zoomed right over our heads and darted into a hole in a nearby tree. Lifer! That was pretty cool. We were to see 7 more White-headed Woodpeckers, including a pair feeding their babies. We could certainly hear the hungry youngsters, even though we couldn't see them.

For the next three days, we traversed a small area around Sisters, Oregon. To the west were the seven volcanic peaks of the Cascade Range visible from this vantage point. East of us, the forest receded into what Oregonians call the "high desert," even though the elevation isn't all that high by Utah standards. We were at just about 3,000 feet.

We spent a great deal of time traversing burned out areas in search of various woodpeckers. Central Oregon was home to a large complex of fires in 2003, which burned about 90,000 acres. Of course, this became "Fat City" for woodpeckers, including Lewis's, Black-backed, White-headed, Three-toed, and Hairy. We also got great looks at numerous Williamson's, Red-naped, and Red-breasted Sapsuckers.

We saw huge excavations made by Pileated Woodpeckers in various places, and heard one, but never got a good look. Noticeably absent was the most common Woodpecker to most of us – the Downy. Wrong habitat. We visited Cold Springs Campground twice, where we were treated to several nesting pairs of Sapsuckers and White-headeds. One snag was a campground condo – a Western Bluebird in the penthouse, a Pygmy Nuthatch on the middle floor, and a White-headed Woodpecker on the ground floor.

The most difficult woodpecker to find was the 3-toed. We hiked a ways above Jack Lake and searched to no avail. No peckers anywhere. No tapping; nada. Just as we returned to the parking lot, what was right over our

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heads? The 3-toed we had been looking for. He was probably saying, "You crazy fools. You hiked all that way, and I was sitting right here."

Besides the woodpeckers, which were the trip's focus, we saw and heard lots of flycatchers. The most prominent was the Olive-sided. Mountain Chickadees and Mountain Bluebirds were also present in large numbers. We watched a baby Pygmy Nuthatch poke its head out of a cavity right at eye level, begging to be fed. Several Easterners on the trip were thrilled to see Magpies. They can come and visit our yards anytime, right? Birding is like real estate – everything is location, location, location, location.

Nice scenery, good birding, bumpy roads, pleasant people, long hours, and a good time was had by all.

RAIL-BIRDING by Steve Carr

When Cindy Sommerfeld learned of some of my adventures, she recommended that I mention them in the newsletter. So, if this is too boring, you know whom to blame.

And, the title is correct — Rail-birding. Birding by rail, not birding for rails. Most of you are aware that the Thiokol plant up west of Brigham City builds the rocket motors used by NASA at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Because the motor sections are so large and heavy, and there are so many of them, they can't be shipped by truck along the nation's highways. It would be prohibitively expensive, plus security against sabotage would be almost impossible. The motor sections are delivered to a special loading point in Corinne by truck, then each large section is loaded onto a special railroad flatcar, bolted down heavily, then a fiberglass cover is bolted onto the flatcar.

The train of these cars, numbering from six to 14, plus some spacer boxcars, is sent to the Cape. The government requires three Thiokol engineers to be present, so that at least one of them is awake at all times, monitoring the train, to make sure no inappropriate people come close to it.

These people need a place to live in while en route, and I belong to an organization that leases a specially-built passenger car for them. It has six bedrooms, a kitchen, bathrooms, dining and lounge areas. We also provide a cook and a maintenance man to make sure the car has fuel for the generators and stoves, water for cooking, (continued on page 5)

KRIS' KOLUMN

Banner year for Short-eared Owls in Box Elder County — by Kris Purdy

(Reprinted with permission from Ogden's *Standard-Examiner*, July 5, 2006.)

Owls and mermaids have something in common. Both can inexorably draw watchers with the mere suggestion of their presence. And so, when fellow owl enthusiasts Arnold and Linda Smith reported 63 Short-eared Owls in north central Box Elder County, I was a goner.

Sure, I tried to be casual to conceal my excitement over the Smiths' remarkable report. But there was nothing I could do to resist the call. The owl's siren song began to play in my head the moment I heard Arnold say "63 Short-eared Owls".

The Short-eared Owl is a bird of open country — grasslands, marshes, and shrub-steppe. Fluctuations in the Short-eared's population are based on the ebb and flow of small mammals. Many owls usually means many rodents. In this case, those rodents are probably meadow voles, the favored prey of our local birds.

Perhaps the most convenient Short-eared Owl trait is its crepuscular habit. In other words, the bird is active at dawn and dusk. You've gotta love an owl you can see in daylight hours, and 63 of them were luring me to Curlew Valley. Even as I agonized over the 3 a.m. wakeup, I knew that one trip would not be enough.

About a half-hour before sunrise, the sky was just light enough to distinguish brown owls perching on brown fence posts. Each owl turned its remarkable face toward me and watched my approach with the intensity of a predator.

Slowing for a better look caused the skittish owls to fly. Their flight style is often described as moth-like. Broad wings, slow upstrokes and fast down strokes yield exceptionally slow and bouncing flight that facilitates hunting by ear low over the ground.

That same flight pattern causes carnage where Short-eared Owls and vehicles meet. These birds use the first 10 feet or so above the ground to hunt — the same 10 feet our vehicles use. Linda Smith described to me the gentle swerving she did to avoid hitting owls coursing over the road at sunrise. But not all drivers have avoided the low-flyers. Along state highway 30, I counted 14 carcasses.

My second trip netted a view of a Short-eared Owl fisting a vole in one taloned foot along the white line of the highway. The black feathers that encircled the owl's eyes exaggerated the fierce yellow and black orbs. The white-edged facial disk — an array of feathers that directs sound into the ears — drew my gaze away from the mottled brown, white, and buff plumage and only to the face. It was good that I had pulled over. A driver could be transfixed by a face like that.

The best owl watching was still in the offing along a dirt road lined with sagebrush. Short-eared Owls prefer to roost together during the day under shrubs and in tall grass. I passed through one of these roost areas unaware of my companions until about a dozen owls erupted around me.

The owls swirled in a hundred-foot circle and a realization struck me like a lightning bolt. To commune with birds that hunt rodents by ear, one needed to sound like a rodent. I pursed my lips and made a squeaky kissing noise.

The noise effected a dramatic turn of my fortune. The owls' reaction was instantaneous. No longer was I pursuing wary owls that flew away at my approach; they pursued me.

Each bird that heard the sound flashed its broad circular face and startling eyes toward me, quarter-turned, and beelined to my position. Those orbs burned through me. I had the disquieting sense that the owls were searching through my hair follicles for the hidden rodent, but I couldn't stop squeaking. I was mesmerized.

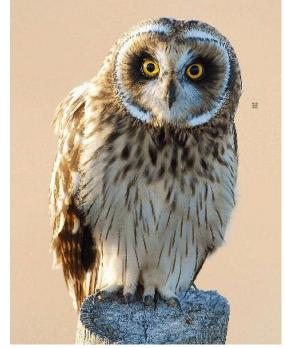
My tolerance for how close to my head a creature with talons can fly is about 6 feet. When the approaching owl flew lower, I raised my hands and the bird popped back into the safe zone. Most of the time the owls passed at 10-12 feet, sometimes hovering overhead to allow an extra second for the follicle search.

At a second roost, one of the circling owls was an adult less willing to approach as close as the juveniles did. The adult was alarmed and gave the irresistible call that had been playing in my head — no, not the sweet singing of a mermaid — the bark of a Short-eared Owl. The call sounds like the raspy bark of a distant dog. This was the siren song that had drawn me to Curlew Valley.

Box Elder County is hosting high numbers of Short-eared Owls in other locations as well. I've heard reports of remarkable numbers around Promontory and from the Golden Spike NHS down to the Spiral Jetty. Can you hear their barking call summoning you? Perhaps you'll visit like I did and will be

transfixed and mesmerized and changed by the experience.

Shorteared Owl photo by Paul Higgins in Curlew Valley, northern Utah.



COMEDY CORNER

Last month, Hugh and Jan Gillilan took a long-awaited trip to Alaska. They brought Jan's tiny dog—a Chihuahua/Toy Pomeranian mix with them, as Jan is so fond of the little pooch, and she couldn't bear to be without out him for the week-and-a-half that they would be gone.

Their home base was at Seward, where they had leased a nice 50-foot trailer. They had a delightful time birding and doing other Alaska specialties. The Mew Gulls were plentiful; and a couple of pelagic trips brought them close to Tufted Puffins, Sooty Shearwaters, a couple of kinds of Murrelets, Pigeon Guillemots, and Longtailed Jaegers. Some of the land birds seen were Common and Hoary Redpolls, Boreal Chickadees and a Varied Thrush.

Toward the end of their stay, Jan was relaxing under the awning reading the latest issue of *Birding* magazine, with the little dog nearby; and Hugh was tinkering with his e-mail inside the trailer. Out of the corner of her eye she noticed a large shadow passing overhead; then suddenly a big Bald Eagle swooped down and snatched up her tiny dog. Off it flew, and, of course, Jan went hysterical. She jumped up screaming and shaking her fists at the fast-climbing eagle.

With all the ruckus outside, Hugh came rushing out, and between screams, Jan pointed up into the sky. Hugh looked up and saw the hapless dog in the clutches of the big eagle. He tried to console Jan, but she was distraught. Finally, after a few minutes, she calmed down a little into heaving sobs from the ranting hysteria. About this time the eagle made a sweeping circle soaring about 250 feet high in the sky.

Hugh made sure that Jan was going to be all right, then stepped around in the back of the trailer and gave a big, high-five to the eagle.



(continued from page 3)

showering, etc. At times, I am that maintenance man and, when the train is moving and there is nothing for me to do, I pull a chair back to the vestibule, open the top Dutch-door window, and enjoy the scenery, watching oncoming trains, and doing my birding. With the trip from Corinne to Ogden, to Laramie, to Denver, to Kansas City, to Shreveport, LA, to Jacksonville, Florida, then down to the Cape, I see a lot of different habitats and different birds.

Probably the most common species, especially when leaving Kansas City and heading southeast, is the Indigo Bunting. Once, when the train was stopped a little east of Denver, I saw a pair of Swainson's Hawks perched on a telephone pole, so I strolled over to check them out. The ground below them was a prairie dog colony. Talk about a smorgasbord. I've seen a kettle of Broad-winged Hawks in Arkansas, Prairie Falcons in Wyoming, and lots of other interesting feathers along the route.

The reason this issue is a little late is that I just returned from one of these jaunts on August 2nd. And, I should qualify an earlier statement: originally, the route included New Orleans, but since the disaster there from the hurricane, NASA, the government, the railroads involved, and Thiokol have changed the routing to go east from Shreveport, LA, instead of continuing down to New Orleans, and then going east. I thought I would miss seeing a lot of birds along Lake Pontchartrain, but the times I went earlier by that route, there really weren't all that many different species. There were lots of individual birds, like hundreds of Great Egrets, blackbirds, grackles, etc., but not too many different species. Of course, I picked up the usual coastal birds like Green Herons, Great Blue Herons, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Herons and Tri-colored Herons. I've seen only very few Yellow-crowned Night Herons along the way.

Despite my previous comment about the Indigo Bunting being possibly the most common bird seen, this trip was inundated with Mourning Doves — not only in the drier states like Wyoming and Colorado, but clear down in the humid country of Mississippi and Alabama. Some of the Thiokol engineers were also impressed when we passed a huge Golden Eagle perched on a telegraph pole just a few feet from the track. So, this is an unusual kind of birding. Lots of different things to see. About the only birds I haven't seen, despite all the marshes and swamps along the way, are any kind of rail. Except coots.

PUZZLE PAGE

Identify which county in Utah the following birdrelated locations are found:

Bird Island
Birdseye
Chicken Creek
Curlew Valley
Dove Creek
Duck Creek
Duck Lake
Eagle Gate
Eagle Canyon
Eagle City
Egg Island
Eagle Mountain
Goose Creek Mountains
Goose Egg Island



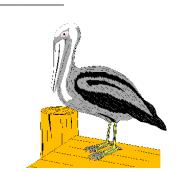
Goose Egg Island
Goosenecks of the ____
Grouse Creek
La Caille at Quail Run
Lark
Magpie Canyon
Owl Springs
Pelican Lake
Pelican Point
Phoebe Lake
Pigeon Hollow Junction
Pigeon Mountains
Pine Hen Springs

Ouail Creek Reservoir

Snowbird

Swan Flats

Teal Lake



Surprised Swallow

There is a very remote corner section of Yellowstone National Park: Cave Falls and its associated campground. It can be approached only from the Idaho side. Then there is a tiny residential community just west of the Idaho-Wyoming border, about ten miles east of Ashton.

While visiting there in the last few days of June, I was checking this area of cabins and was struck by the number of Red-naped Sapsuckers. I had also previously observed a Violet-green Swallow come and go from a nesting box; and while watching a Sapsucker, I also noticed a House Wren pop into another nearby box with some food for its chicks. Suddenly, the Swallow flew to the same box and tried to enter. He was repulsed by the irate House Wren, and only then did he fly up to his own house. One wonders if birds sometimes do forget where they are going. Ed.

WESTERN BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

On August 17-19, Thursday through Saturday, the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge, the city of Brigham City, and the Utah Ornithological Society will be hosting a symposium in Brigham City. Betsy Beneke, Director of the Bear River NWR and President of the UOS, is in the process of sending out information booklets to practically every birder in the state. But, if somehow you got missed, here is a rundown on the events.

Thursday, August 17, Noon — Registration in the front lobby of the USU campus in Brigham City. Birding for the early afternoon on your own with Great Salt Lake Birding Trails guide.

4:00 p.m. — Opening social with well-known birder, **Pete Dunne**, the Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory. He will discuss "The Art of Pishing." If you have copies of any of his books, he will be happy to sign them.

Friday, August 18, Morning — Field trips to numerous spots in northern Utah, i.e., Bear River NWR, Salt Creek WMA, Promontory area, Logan Canyon and Tony Grove, Willard Bay State Park, Antelope Island State Park. Meet at the USU Brigham City campus parking lot.

Afternoon — Presentations of interesting aspects of Utah bird life and activity by well-known birders, fledgling ornithologists, and DWR folks.

Evening — Dutch Oven Banquet. **Pete Dunne** will speak on "Twenty Things that Changed Birding." This will be enlightening. Pete is an enthusiastic and very entertaining speaker. He is in demand all over North America. The Symposium should be congratulated for snagging him.

Saturday, August 19, Morning — Field trips again, to pick up one that you didn't get yesterday. There will also be a Shorebird Workshop at Bear River NWR, 2155 W. Forest Street in Brigham City. This will also be a good opportunity to visit the new BRNWR center to see what they have done with exhibits, educational facilities, etc. It's great that the Refuge finally has a center since essentially being without one since the floods of 1983.

Afternoon — More presentations by Utah birders, research students, and others.

Late afternoon — The Annual Utah Ornithological Society membership business meeting. All interested birders are invited to attend, even if you are not a member of UOS.

There are small charges for the trips for the buses.

READER'S REVIEW

by Geoff Hardies

Songbird Journeys – Four Seasons in the Lives of Migratory Birds By Miyoko Chu, published in 2006.

I stumbled across this book at a bookstore and was pleased to discover that the county library already had it in their system.

The author does an excellent job of pulling together a variety of information and presenting it in a fashion that makes for an interesting read. There are four major chapters with the first starting with spring migration. I read about things I had not been previously aware of, including a story about migrating birds landing on oil drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico to ride out a major storm.

The book also covered using radar to "see" night migrating birds, and delved into the use of making audiotapes to determine what species and possibly how many were migrating at night.

A fair amount of the book dealt with some of the major migration spots for viewing the migrants, and also various programs that individuals can participate in such as bird counts, breeding bird surveys etc.

Overall I enjoyed the book and found it very easy to read without putting me to sleep. If you have a chance check it out, you are bound to find something of interest and since you can get it at the library you are only out a few hours of your time.

UTAH BIRDING HOTLINE

Nowadays, with so many people signed into the Utah BirdTalk/BirdNet hotlines, via e-mail and the internet, we would like to remind birders, especially those who don't have e-mail, that Bill Fenimore with the Layton Wild Bird Center, still maintains the DWR Utah Birding Hotline, which continues to list rare and unusual bird sightings. For the latest reports, call-801-538-4730. Those with internet access can type in—www.wildlife.utah.gov/birdsightings. You can also access the Utah BirdLine at www.utahbirds.org. Then, there are all sorts of links to various birding activities, organizations, and rare bird reports.

Temple Square Peregrine Falcon Watching

by Cindy Sommerfeld

On my fifth day of Peregrine watching, one of our fledglings was perched on a small tree branch. As passersby became aware of the young bird, a few of them chose to sit quietly and enjoy feeling that they somehow had a connection with this beautiful bird. Being a part of the Falcon Watch Team you have many moments like this.

It's interesting that Peregrines spend most their day perched and observing. Just when you're lulled into thinking they're never going to move, they're off and the chase is on. This year the Joseph Smith Memorial Building (JSMB) nest box produced two young: a female (Wendy) and a male (Peewee). On Sunday, July 2nd, Peewee took his first flight. He soared beautifully but hit the side of the Administration Building (not too hard). After being banded and checked out we released him on top of the JSMB. We had to repeat this this procedure after another misdirected flight. Wendy bailed out of the nest box three days later. She proved to be the better navigator. We did have to pick her up once. Not from a crash, but from a strong wind that caused her to fall (flutter) out of a tree. She too was banded and released on top of JSMB.

Bob Walters (DWR) spearheads the watch. Bob said when a Peregrine fledgling survives three weeks out of the nest it is considered a success. We watch the fledglings for about two weeks. They should be with their parents thru August. Then they are on their own.

Watching out for these young Peregrines is a lot of down time. But when they take flight successfully we share a great sense of pride. We all become very attached to the fledglings and their parents. The Peregrine Watch Team basically picks up the fledglings when they are down. We keep track where they are, when they are fed and what flights they have made. It's a lot like a big sit. There is a lot of time to observe other birds and enjoy the beautiful gardens. If you have time to spare next summer — come join us. It's addicting.

Being a lister, I also had to start a Temple Square list, in the square or observed flying overhead:

1- Mallard2- California Quail3- American White Pelican4- Turkey Vulture

5- Red-tailed Hawk
 7- Peregrine Falcon
 9- Rock Pigeon
 6- American Kestrel
 8- California Gull
 10- Mourning Dove

11- Black-chinned Hummingbird 12- Western Kingbird

13- Western Scrub Jay 14- Black-capped Chickadee

15- Northern Rough-winged Swallow

16- American Robin18- Yellow Warbler17- European Starling19- House Finch

20- Lesser Goldfinch 21- American Goldfinch

22- House Sparrow





Bird Tracks

Salt Lake Birders PO Box 58343 Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0343 Website – www.utahbirds.org





BIRD BYTES-

There is nothing more pleasing and delightful than it is to go into the woods or among the bushes early in the morning and listen to the warbling and rich melody of the birds. –John Taylor

ANSWERS TO JULY'S PUZZLE PAGE

Major League Teams with Bird Names

Baseball – MLB - Blue Jays – Toronto

Cardinals – St. Louis

Orioles – Baltimore

Football – NFL - Cardinals – Arizona

Eagles – Philadelphia Falcons – Atlanta Ravens – Baltimore Seahawks – Seattle

Basketball – NBA - Hawks – Atlanta

Raptors – Toronto

Hockey – NHL - Blackhawks – Chicago

Flyers – Philadelphia Mighty Ducks – Anaheim Penguins – Pittsburgh Red Wings – Detroit Thrashers – Atlanta

WINGS on the WEB

For your birding interest, here is a link to an article in the current issue of the National Wildlife Federation's magazine "National Wildlife." The article is titled: "Getting on the Trail of America's Birds." State agencies and private groups have mapped out driving routes for birding, providing new opportunities for families to see wildlife.

http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=107&articleID=1339

Happy birding,

Matthew Wallace Salt Lake City

