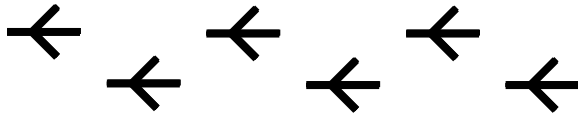
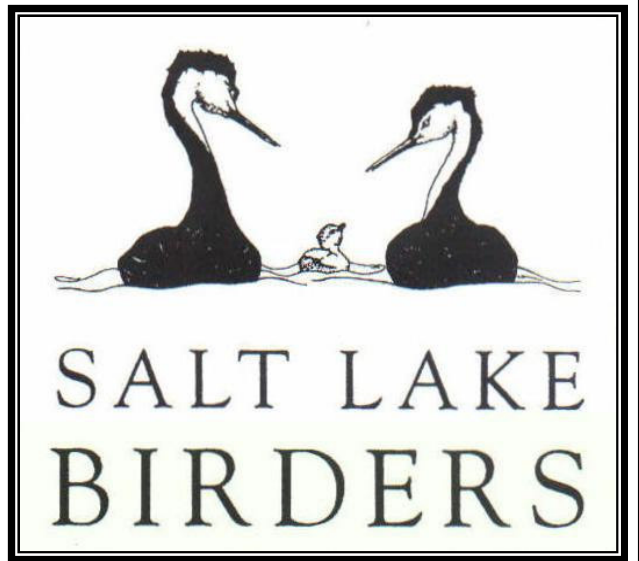


# BIRD



# TRACKS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SALT LAKE BIRDERS



September 2006

Volume 16, No. 9

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## AUGUST AVIAN ACTIVITIES — Report of the August Field Trip

Early Saturday morning, August 12, found the Salt Lake Birders heading for our annual jaunt to Mirror Lake to look for some elusive quarry. The weather started out well. Quite cool, but clear and pleasant. We began, as usual, on the Highline Trail east of Mirror Lake and its campgrounds.

Almost immediately we started seeing birds. Mountain Chickadees and Juncos in large numbers. Interestingly, the Chickadees were even more dingy than when they appear in our yards down in the valley in the winter. On most of them, we could barely make out the white eyebrow — it seemed more like an almost hidden white smudge. They really aren't at all like the crisp coloration of their Black-capped cousins. We saw individuals and small groups all along the trail.

Then, suddenly, we started seeing Brown Creepers. Within a 50-foot stretch there were at least six of them, a couple of which were even creeping up the nearby 20-foot-high rock cliffs as well as the pine and spruce trunks. Several appeared to be this year's brood, possibly what we saw was one extended family group. Unlike the Mountain Chickadees, we didn't see any more as we hiked along.

Juncos were plentiful all along the trail, again, many immatures. Then we started seeing Flickers. A pair here — a pair a little farther along; half-an-hour later, another pair.

Finally, we started hearing and seeing some moderate-sized gray birds — all of them Clark's Nutcrackers. We probably saw at least 25-30, including one flock of 15 that flew over halfway along the trail. However, in our search for one target bird, the Gray Jay, we managed to get only a quick view of a single individual all morning. Even when we scoured the campground, where more Nutcrackers were evident, there were no more jays.

About two-thirds along the trail (at least as far as we went) we observed three Three-toed Woodpeckers, at times on the same tree — possibly two parents and a juvenile. A bit later we saw one more. So, we got good looks at least one target bird.

Back, a bit west of the lake, we were surprised to see a pair of Spotted Sandpipers clear up in a little streamlet coming down the hill. One was already completely in basic plumage, the other still had some side spots. The three lakes we encountered on the hike were completely devoid of anything with feathered life.

We also stopped at the Provo River Falls to check for Williamson's Sapsuckers. We located the tree that has at least four nesting holes in it, but it had been blown down sometime since last summer. Alas, no sapsuckers were seen.

Participating on the jaunt were Lyn Christiansen, Roberta Wherritt, Geoff Hardies, Bob MacDougall, Bob Huntington, and Steve Carr.

Birds seen: Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Spotted Sandpiper, Three-toed Woodpecker, Flicker, Western Wood-Pewee, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Magpie, Tree Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Robin, Starling, Audubon's Warbler, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Junco, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill (a pair seen by 2 members), Pine Siskin.

## SALT LAKE BIRDERS

P.O. Box 58343  
Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0343  
Website address: [www.utahbirds.org](http://www.utahbirds.org)  
E-mail address: [slbirders@yahoo.com](mailto:slbirders@yahoo.com)

### 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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President	Bob MacDougall zippymahatma@comcast.net	971-6077
Vice President	Geoff Hardies g.hardies@att.net	273-7841
Secretary	Cindy Sommerfeld ssfelfd@xmission.com	261-4270
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Field Trips	Bob MacDougall	971-6077
Newsletter	Steve Carr 2801 E. 5140 South, Holladay 84117 stevecarr9@msn.com	277-7711
Hospitality	Pending	
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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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

**September 16– Saturday, Willard Bay** – to be led by the Sommerfelds. Meet at the Southeast Sugar House Shopko parking lot 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 where the Jaeger was found late last summer.

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

**Call Cindy or Steve—261-4270, or e-mail [ssfelfd@xmission.com](mailto:ssfelfd@xmission.com), so that they will know how many people will be attending and how many high-clearance vehicles will be needed and available.**

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.

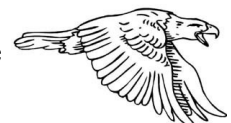
**Guests are always welcome! Listen for us on FRS Channel 11-22.**

### Some Great Salt Lake Audubon Field Trips

**Wednesday, September 20, HOTSPOTS.** To be led by Salt Lake Birders member Bob Huntington, 595-8748. Call him to find out where the Hotspots have been reported.

**Wednesday, September 27,** to be led by Salt Lake Birders members Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien, 272-8060. The monthly half-day visit to Farmington Bay. Meet in the Centerville McDonalds, exit 319, at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast; bring water and your own snacks.

**Saturday, September 30, HawkWatch** at Goshute Mountain Research Site. This involves a stiff 3.5 mile hike with an 1800-foot elevation gain. It's quite involved so you might want to call Allene and Charles Keller, leaders, 467-3960, for more details; or check HawkWatch's website [www.hawkwatch.org](http://www.hawkwatch.org).



## PUZZLE PAGE

What are the birds' names that fit the following definitions?

Epitome of zaniness  
Epitome of wisdom  
Epitome of elevation  
Epitome of slenderness  
Epitome of demise  
Epitome of harmlessness  
Epitome of excellent vision  
Epitome of cowardice  
Epitome of denial  
Epitome of nudity  
Epitome of dark hair  
Epitome of inordinate excitement  
Epitome of happiness  
Epitome of smugness  
Epitome of recompense

## WESTERN BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

The Utah Ornithological Society and the Brigham City Chamber of Commerce hosted the First Western Birding Symposium from August 16-19, 2006. It was well attended by many Utah birders, as well as some from Idaho, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. The various events and jumping off points were held at the new James V. Hansen Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Education and Visitor Center. This marvelous new building is just west of I-15 on Forest Street, on the way out to the Refuge. Everyone, including those who have seen similar edifices elsewhere, agreed that this structure is really state-of-the-art when it comes to seeing and learning about birds. The south side of the building is concave with a set of parabolic baffles, which magnify the bird calls and songs that come up from the marsh immediately to the south.

The first event was a long trip on Wednesday, the 16th, to the Uinta Mountains. Many birds were seen, including Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, 3-toed Woodpeckers.

On the 17th, a heavy dose of hors d'ouvres were provided (more like a light dinner), then we were treated to a delightful presentation by renowned birder and author Pete Dunne, from the Cape May Observatory, on the various aspects of Pishing for birds. The art of pishing is more involved and detailed than one might think.

However, as Pete quoted from the late Arthur Allen, pishing either draws birds closer to be seen; drives them further away, or does nothing. In most cases with passerines and some woodpeckers, it does work fairly well, with some birds, like Chickadees, responding almost immediately. (Even hummingbirds. When we pished or used the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl call in Mexico, the Cinnamon Hummers would zoom in out of nowhere to help drive off the "owl." Ed.) His book, *The Art of Pishing*, is available from the Refuge, or probably can be found in ABA Sales or elsewhere on the Internet. It's a little expensive, \$18.95, for such a slim book, but, I guess, Pete has to make a living somehow, which is generally fairly difficult for professional birders.

Friday and Saturday mornings were devoted to various field trips in the area. One went to Logan Canyon and Tony Grove. The usual mountain/forest birds were seen.

The Bear River Refuge trips were quite good, on Friday a Common Moorhen was observed that was missing on Saturday. Larger numbers of Great Egrets are being seen fairly routinely nowadays. Up till maybe 3-4 years ago, it was unusual to see any, but they are being seen at Farmington Bay, Bear River, Salt Creek, Ouray, and other refuges and WMAs. I think Bridget Olsen, who does the counting at Bear River, said she thought a couple of pairs were breeding there this year.

The trip to Salt Creek was very informative. A hunting Short-eared Owl was observed for over 20 minutes. Randy Berger, the manager there, has erected some 20+ artificial burrows for the Burrowing Owls. The nesting rate is something like 90%. He places 2 burrows, using 6" wide flexible plastic pipe in each berm they put it. Then, although the female owl nests in only one of them, when some of the fledglings get old enough, the father owl takes them over to the other burrow for safety and night roosting.

The Salt Creek trip also included a run up to Promontory to watch the locomotives come out and be displayed. A running commentary to and from the Golden Spike National Historic Site was conducted by Steve Carr, who has written a couple of books about ghost towns and railroads. Then, at the site, one of the rangers also talked about the 1869 event, the locomotives, etc. So, participants not only learned a lot about the care and keeping of Burrowing Owls, they also picked up some information about the building of the first transcontinental railroad. (Continued on page 6)

## KRIS' COLUMN

### North America's Smallest Bird has one Bad Attitude

(Published in the Ogden *Standard-Examiner*, June 7, 2006, used in *Bird Tracks* by permission.)

Hold a penny in your hand. Weigh it up and down and feel its heft, if you can feel the weight of it at all.

Weighing less than that penny, the Calliope Hummingbird is the smallest bird in North America. This little hummer tops the scale at just a tenth of an ounce and is 3.25 inches long. But you'd never know how small the calliope is by the way the male acts — he's the neighborhood toughie, the bully, the baddest dude in the 'hood.

Two male Calliope Hummingbirds have returned each of the last three years to The North Arm Natural Area of Pineview Reservoir. The two hummers even return to the same willow shrubs and re-establish their dominance over their respective neighborhoods.

They sit on branches with feet so tiny you can't see their toes. The hummers twitch left and right on their lookouts, so intent on watching for females or intruders that they take little notice of humans. Every few minutes they dash away to pursue another bird or visit a patch of flowers one hummer or the other is hoarding for himself.

And tough? Do they ever look tough. A male Calliope Hummingbird is as pugnacious as a junkyard dog. He puffs up all his tiny feathers to magnify his persona as the neighborhood ruffian.

Like most of our North American hummingbirds, the male calliope's back and wings are iridescent green, his breast and belly are whitish with a green tinge on the sides, and his throat feathers, collectively called the gorget, are brilliant and colorful. The calliope's remarkable gorget is made of long streaks of magenta feathers — his most remarkable feature.

The hummers may feed on whatever nectar-rich flower happens to be in bloom. One of them dropped off his perch along the nature trail and zinged to a plant just ten paces away from my spot. There he worked through the overhanging leaves of a twinberry and plied the half-inch tubular yellow blooms for nectar. Sure, hummingbird lovers who maintain red nectar feeders on their porches have helped hummingbirds remarkably. But

there's just something so rewarding about seeing the bird feeding in a natural setting.

This hummer sang, too. He shot off his perch and pierced the sky like an emerald bullet. As he reached the top of his trajectory, he issued a long thin "Psssheeuuw!" note. It was not a lovely song by any means, but I still was privileged to hear it. That was the first time I'd heard a Calliope Hummingbird sing.

The word calliope means lyre, a melodious string instrument of the Greek gods. But the best musical comparison is not based on voice at all; it's based on appearance. The Calliope Hummingbird has a beard like the guitar players of the legendary blues-rock band "ZZ Top." When a perched male calliope turns his head, those long, stiff, magenta gorget feathers on his throat stick out from his body like an unkempt beard. A voice like a dulcet instrument of the gods? No way. A hairy rock 'n roller face? Yes way.

Rock n' roll must be this bird's mantra for the spring season, too. The male Calliope Hummingbird is all about making things happen; that is, making baby hummingbirds happen and giving no other male the chance to do the same. The hummer selects a prominent perch high on streamside brush and surveys his little kingdom. His mission is to find and mate with as many female calliope as he can while chasing away rivals. Then his role in propagating the species is done.

That spring routine must wear a guy out. In fact, spring is a period of high mortality for male hummingbirds. They can lose up to 10 percent of their body weight due to obsessive high-speed pursuits of potential mates and competitors. And losing 10 percent of the weight of a penny just might mean the death of the bird.

The penny-sized calliope is a bird of contrasts. Sweet? Not at all — he's a scrappy Lothario bent on chasing the ladies and driving away rivals. Musical like a lyre? Nope; he's a bird of simple voice. Cute? Not a chance — he's a hairy-faced rock n' roller sporting a dark pink beard.

The only concession to consistency with this bird is his size. The Calliope Hummingbird is the tiniest bird you'll see — and diminutive, and minuscule, and teensy-weensy, and itty-bitty. Sounds like a lot of adjectives for one bird, but really — it's just my one cent worth.



## COMEDY CORNER

Pomera Fronce, who is well-known for her gentleness and responsibility, has an old Danish Uncle Jens, who isn't. And Uncle Jens loves to tell stories, usually rather rough or derogatory ones about some of his Swedish acquaintances.

One day, during a family gathering, old Uncle Jens started out, "Dere ver dese 2 Svedes, and dere names ver Ole Oleson and Sven Peterson, and . . ."

About here Pomera spoke up, "Uncle Jens, excuse me, but you know in this enlightened day and age, with correctness and all, we really shouldn't speak ill of other people or make disparaging remarks about any ethnic group. If you're going to tell a story like this, why don't you use generic terms or call the people Martians, or something like that?"

"You're right, Pomera," replied Uncle Jens, "Ya, I got it. You're right. Ya.

"So," he continued, "anyvay, dere ver dese 2 Martians, and dere names ver Ole Oleson and Sven Peterson, and . . ."

Then, Ann Halley told me that she has an old grandmother who just turned 101 years. While visiting with her last month, the grand old lady said, "You know, Anne, I'm so old that all of my friends have died and gone to heaven. And because I'm still alive and haven't died yet to join them, they all probably think I *have* died and gone to the other place."

## FEATHERED FACTS

The following article is by MarJean Muhlstein, "Oh the Joy of Birding," taken from *Utah Bird Talk*.

For those who are interested in "Untangling the Dowitchers," there is a very interesting article in the *Birders Digest* magazine under that title, July/August 2006. I have found some fascinating points to ponder. One such fact was that Short-billeds have no problem with saltwater, whereas Long-billeds avoid it. Short-billeds could go to either one, saltwater or fresh, but Long-billeds will only go to fresh water. Also, Different Timetables, with the Short and Long of it. We may be seeing a lot of juveniles right now. Mrs. Long tends the nest, but she leaves shortly after a nice brood of fuzzy little dowitchers comes forth in the first days of July. So she is South by now. Mr. Long spends another couple of weeks tending the kids, then flies south, arriving in the Southern United States in early August. Now the juveniles, being inexperienced, bumble their way through Canada, but they don't even try to stay together. Some Long kids do find their

way pretty much directly south, but it takes a while. They don't get to western Mexico until the end of September. (I have used many quotes from the article.)

There is some great information throughout the entire article, I hope you can find a magazine and read it. I am not trying to SELL anything, as I am "retired." But I do hope you enjoy the Long and Short of it; I'm sorry but it will probably be more Longs than Shorts.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The following was written by Alton Thygerson, president of the Utah County Birders, in 10/05.

### Birding Blunders

A recent newspaper article entitled "Scholars Rate 10 Worst Blunders by American Presidents" caught my attention. The article said that U.S. presidents have been blamed for egregious errors from engaging in sexual relations with an intern to letting the Vietnam War escalate. The article sparked the idea for this month's "Feather Talk" on blunders by birders. Readers should recognize that there are more blunders by birders than those below.

#### Blunder #1: Not protecting yourself

Utah has the highest skin cancer rates of any state. While a suntan can be admirable, not wearing sun protection catches up with a person in the form of early wrinkling and skin cancer. A hat should be worn—and whenever possible one with a 3-inch brim. Applying sunscreen with at least SPF 15 to exposed areas of your skin is advisable. Wearing long-sleeve shirts and pants also provide protection.

Too cold at dawn, too hot at noon, too cold in the late evening! Most birders know about the changing temperatures found in Utah and are prepared. Despite warmer temperatures than the Wasatch Front, St. George can still be very frosty. Wear layers of clothing that can be added or taken off as needed.

Don't forget the insect repellent. Mosquitoes are most likely to bite when birding is usually at its best—sunrise or sundown. Repellent with 30% DEET provides adequate protection.

Other than birding in the backyard, most birding involves driving. Some trips require a hike up a mountain such as the Ptarmigan trip to Leady Peak led by Dennis and Bryan Shirley. However, getting there involved a long drive. Rules of the road should be strictly observed. Common sense and courtesy should be practiced. When parking to view a bird, the driver should pull completely off the road. Of course on some remote roads this may not always be necessary or even possible. Make it a habit that whenever in a motor vehicle to wear a safety belt.

(More to come from Alton and the UCB. Ed.)

**(Western Birding Symposium, continued from page 3)**

The trips to Antelope Island and causeway were also well-attended. Many shorebirds were seen along the causeway, although not in as great numbers as will be seen in the next few weeks.

On Friday evening, the Symposium had arranged for a Dutch-oven dinner that was superb. The barbecued chicken was to die for; the cheesy-mashed potatoes were excellent. The vegetables and salad were good, and the dessert of Dutch-oven fruit pie with whipped cream was something to write home about.

Following the banquet, we again were treated to Pete Dunne's comments on the 24 most important things to happen to birding in his (our) lifetime. This presentation was a little different from the article of his that was published in *WildBird* magazine a few months ago. Some of the notable items were Roger Tory Peterson's effect on the nation; the Kowa 77 mm scope, which was the first of the new, good, big spotting scopes that was manufactured. The Internet was a big feature, bringing birds closer to us than anything ever before. Even the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, whether it really does still exist or not, has galvanized various aspects of American naturalist ideas, and has brought birding and bird activities mores to the awareness of the public.

Again, his talk was very interesting and entertaining.

The Friday and Saturday afternoon presentation sessions were of interest. Don Paul, well-known DWR official talked about the unique bird life that exists in Utah, due to the desert-like nature of the state plus the presence of the Bear River Refuge. He also commented on the association we have here with wetlands in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada, as well as at San Blas, Mexico.

John Cavitt, chairman of Ornithology at Weber State University, discussed the 5 million birds that use the Great Salt Lake marshes either to breed or to fatten up during their migration.

Bridget Olsen mentioned the two peaks of activity at the Refuge — a small peak in April, then at greater peak in July and August, when the migrating birds head south with the young that have hatched in Canada and Alaska.

Dave Prevedel displayed some examples of his artwork, and showed how to make field sketches, even with color, to register the birds one sees in a personal notebook, instead of just ticking off a new bird when seen.

Josh Kreitzer, formerly of Washington County, Utah, came back from his studies in Arkansas to present many interesting details of the birds of that county. Of the 432 birds on the official Utah checklist, over 330 have been seen in Washington County alone. He mentioned that California Condors and Zone-tailed Hawks are being seen with regularity in the Kolob Canyon areas. Several new

reservoirs and wetland areas in the county are attracting more shorebirds and waterfowl than ever before.

Merrill Webb, longtime field ornithologist and former president of the UOS, gave an excellent presentation of all the owls that occur in Utah, plus a couple of western owls that don't. He showed specimens of Barn and Saw-whet owls; and had his wife play the call of each owl as it was shown on the screen.

Chris Cokinos of Utah State University presented his information on Hope is the Thing With Feathers, which is also the title of his book, giving information on the last 6 birds that have become extinct in North America, the people who caused their demise and those who tried to save them.

Amanda Bakian, graduate student at Weber State University, presented some more information as a follow-up on her studies of Willow Flycatchers in central Utah. She is enthusiastically working on this species in obscure parts of the state.

Lu Giddings, who knows more about the birds of San Juan County than anyone alive or deceased, gave some excellent data regarding that under-birded county. Although Washington County has a somewhat more diversified type of territory, there are many different habitats in San Juan, as well. He mentioned over a dozen species that could easily occur in San Juan, because they occur in the neighboring counties in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, that about San Juan County. Some of these species may even now exist there, but are unknown because of the remoteness of several locations and the sheer lack of birders who have or can visit these places. It would be interesting to know if the Scaled Quail, Canyon Towhee, Boreal Owl, and several other birds are living there in small numbers, not just one or two birds.

Bill Fenimore and a ranger from DWR discussed the concept of Funding Wildlife. They showed that the majority of funds come from hunters and fishermen, and that very little comes from the Wildlife-watching community (in other words, birders). They mentioned that the Elk license plate brings in annually \$86,594; the Trout plate — \$43,792; and the Great Blue Heron plate, only \$14,084. (If any of our readers would like to support the birding aspect of the DWR funds, you can go to <http://dmv.utah.gov/licensespecialplates.html>.)

Also brought up was the sale of the annual federal Duck Stamps, which many people, such as Pete Dunne, buy, although they never shoot a gun.



## FEATHERED FACTS

**I Didn't Know That!** (A continuation of excerpts that have appeared in *Bird Tracks* over the years.)

by Kristin Purdy

Using references other than field guides can give the birder remarkable insight to the lives, appearances, and behavior of the birds around us. Here are a few lesser-known tidbits about several of Utah's species:

The **Tennessee Warbler** is the only North American warbler that may molt during its fall migration. Most birds molt flight feathers before or after migration because the molt process is so taxing. Others molt a little before, suspend the process during migration, and resume molting when they reach their wintering grounds. The Tennessee Warbler is unique in its molt strategy. (Cornell's Birds of North America [BNA] Online)

The **Sandhill Crane** does not have the ability to perch because its rear toe, or hallux, is elevated and essentially does not perform a function. Contrast the crane with the **Great Blue Heron**, another non-passerine. The Great Blue Heron's hallux is at the same level as its forward-facing three toes. Thus the heron can perch by wrapping that rear toe around a branch like songbirds do, while Sandhill Cranes are consigned to walking on flat surfaces on three forward-facing toes. (Cornell's BNA Online)

The **Sandhill Crane's** "bustle" is actually composed of wing feathers gone wild. The innermost secondary wing coverts and the tertials, the three innermost flight feathers, are grossly elongated and hang over the short tail, giving the bird the appearance of having a long fluffy tail when not flying. (Cornell's BNA Online)

The number of red "waxy" droplets on a **Cedar or Bohemian Waxwing's** secondary flight feathers increases with each annual basic molt. Thus, a waxwing lacking red droplets is likely a first-year bird, while a waxwing with many droplets is likely a seasoned adult. (The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior, David Allen Sibley)

The **Fulvous Whistling-duck** is surprising in many ways. Pair bonds are suspected to last over the life of the male, as in geese and swans. Both sexes incubate and males may assist in the rearing of the young — rare behavior for other duck species. And despite the fact that Utah sightings are coveted due to the bird's 'Accidental'

classification, this species is the most widely occurring duck in the world and is considered an agricultural pest in many areas. (Lives of North American Birds, Kenn Kaufman)

The **Lewis's Woodpecker** must consume high quantities of grit in the winter to help grind up its primary winter food source, acorns and other nuts. Studies of stomach contents have revealed 50-98 percent grit. (Cornell's BNA Online)

The **Townsend's Solitaire** — a familiar neighborhood thrush in winter — is likely to choose a wintering location based on availability of a good juniper crop. Both males and females are highly territorial and defend their berry crops against other solitaires and fruit eaters. Violent fights may occur at berry-rich areas. The survival rate for solitaires that winter in these areas is higher than survival rates of birds wintering in berry-poor areas. (Cornell's All About Birds)

Most birds have developed hollow bones as an adaptation for flight, but not the **Common Loon**. The Common Loon's bones are solid and so dense that an adult male loon weighs as much as an adult male Bald Eagle — about 9 pounds. The loon's evolution has trod a fine line between adaptations for flight and adaptations for swimming. (Just Loons: A Wildlife Watcher's Guide, Alan Hutchinson)

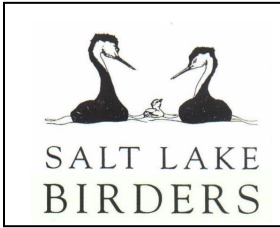
The female **House Finch** chooses her mate based on the brightness of his color. She's not just fashion-conscious; research has shown that the brightest males are the best providers. Brightly-colored males find more carotenoid-rich food for themselves during their molt, making them redder. They also deliver more food to both the female and young at the nest. Breeding efforts with duller males frequently fail because the males don't provide as well. (Ornithology, Frank Gill)

The **Mourning Dove** is the leading gamebird in North America. Hunters' annual dove harvest — 70 million birds — easily exceeds the harvest of all other migratory gamebirds combined. (Cornell's BNA Online)

And finally,

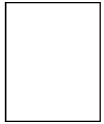
"Nearly 100 percent of the air passing through a bird's vocal cords is used to make sound. Humans use only about 2 percent." From the book, 'Birdsong,' by Don Stap.





## ***Bird Tracks***

Salt Lake Birders  
PO Box 58343  
Salt Lake City, UT 84158-0343  
Website – [www.utahbirds.org](http://www.utahbirds.org)



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### **BIRD BYTES-**

The cruelest death is to be nibbled to death by ducks. –Søren Kierkegaard

Yesterday's nest egg will hardly buy today's bird house. –Anon.



### **ANSWERS TO JULY'S PUZZLE PAGE**

Here are the counties in which the following bird-related locations are found:

- Bird Island** in the Great Salt Lake. (Box Elder County, also known as Hat Island)
- Birdseye**, small village in Utah County.
- Chicken Creek Reservoir**, Juab County.
- Curlew Valley**, Box Elder County.
- Dove Creek**, Box Elder County, drains into the GSL.
- Duck Creek** – 2 locations, one in Kane County, one in Rich County.
- Duck Lake**, Summit County, one of the high Uinta lakes.
- Eagle Gate**, Salt Lake City
- Eagle Canyon**, Emery County.
- Eagle City**, Wayne County, ghost mining camp in Henry Mountains
- Eagle Mountain**, Utah County.
- Egg Island** in the Great Salt Lake. Davis Co. (It becomes part of Antelope Island when the lake level falls.)
- Goose Creek Mountains**, Box Elder County.
- Goose Egg Island**, Davis County, part of Farmington Bay Refuge.
- Goosenecks** of the San Juan River – San Juan County.

- Grouse Creek**, small town in Box Elder County.
- La Caille at Quail Run**, restaurant in Salt Lake County.
- Lark**, Salt Lake County, old copper mining town.
- Magpie Canyon**, Tooele County, just north of North Willow Canyon.
- Owl Springs**, Box Elder County.
- Pelican Lake**, Uintah County.
- Pelican Point**, A cape in Utah County that juts into Utah Lake.
- Phoebe Lake**, Salt Lake County.
- Pigeon Hollow Junction**, Sanpete County.
- Pigeon Mountains**, Box Elder County.
- Pine Hen Springs**, Beaver County.
- Quail Creek Reservoir**, Washington County.
- Snowbird**, Resort in Little Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County.
- Swan Flats**, Cache County, Cache National Forest.
- Teal Lake**, Summit County, one of the high Uinta lakes.

