



THE PELICAN

JULY / AUGUST 2005 ❖ NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Kris Purdy on Expert's Field Advice: *Watch the Birdie!*

By Kristin Purdy

Have you read David Allen Sibley's brilliant tip to improve bird identification? LOOK ... AT ... THE ... BIRD! I finally heeded that advice—printed in the overlooked introductory pages of my *Sibley Guide to Birds*—and even after 40 years of birding, his advice has made a big difference for me.

I thought introductory information was for beginners, but how wrong I was! We all want to be better birders, and I think the solution is in our bookcases. Nearly every field guide begins with twenty pages of introductory information—the narrative we skip over to get to the species descriptions. Now I know, field guide introductions are treasure troves of birding tips, feather anatomy and guidance on getting the most out of the reference pages—and the colorful pictures—that follow.

When I stacked all my field guides near my reading chair and prepared to dig in, the pile reached high enough for a few nights' reading. In those sessions I learned a lot I wish I had known years ago.

For example, *look at the bird*. When the bird is in sight, don't flip through your field guide, don't set up your scope, and don't try to get a better angle. Get as much as you can out of the view of the bird that you have. How many great looks of swaying, vacant perches did I have before I learned this? I used to leave the bird and run for a second field guide or took precious observation time to set up my scope, only to have nothing to

study when I was ready. Now I know even a poor view offers clues to a bird's identity: habitat, perch, size, silhouette, flying style and behavior.

And while you're looking at the bird, call out the field marks from beak to tail. It doesn't matter if no one else is with you, birders already have a reputation for



Author Kris Purdy at 2005 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival on her way to lead a field trip to Snow Basin Ski Resort.

eccentricity—you won't make it any worse. And, your audible description will help you remember the features when you get your field guide out for identification.

Bird books are indispensable—except when the bird is observable. So, ignore your field guide until you're sure of a mystery bird's features, or until it has flown. Don't even take the field guide out into the field with you. Having your bird book along may distract you.

Really *looking* at birds has given me more quality birding time. I don't regret occasionally having to put up

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NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

 Printed on recycled paper.

Mission Statement: Great Salt Lake Audubon is dedicated to protecting and enhancing habitat for wild plants and animals, particularly birds, and to maintaining healthy and diverse environments for wildlife and people throughout the state.

GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON DIRECTORY

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

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Submission Guidelines: Original articles and photos are welcomed. The editor reserves the right to choose and edit as needed. E-mail articles to Editor. The Pelican is published 6 times a year. Submission deadline for the September / October issue is August 11, 2005.



with a bad view to gather information because I'm seeing more now.

When I finally got down to reading those introductory pages of my field guides, they helped me discover a new way of birding. What do those pages hold for you that you haven't yet discovered?

Bird Seed Sale Coming Soon

By Sandy Bassett

Just a brief reminder about the upcoming bird seed fund raiser. A 50-pound bag of top quality, locally grown black-oiled sunflower seeds will be sold for a \$20.00 donation to Great Salt Lake Audubon. Order forms and details will be included in the September/October issue of *The Pelican*.

Board Meeting Highlights

By Nathan Darnall, President

In May, Cheri Ward Livingston was introduced as our new part-time Development Coordinator; Cheri will assist with grant writing, membership, outreach, and publicity. The board approved motions to acquire office space at the Bamburger Mansion and to purchase software through TechSoup. The board also deliberated and approved a budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year that begins June 1st. Other topics included South Jordan's destruction of trees on the Jordan River Restoration Project, Legacy Highway, and the Audubon Council of Utah fall retreat (hosted by GSLA).

The board held a BBQ at the home of Rhonda Devereaux. Arne was appointed as Secretary; Jen and Jean were approved as signers on checks. There was a discussion on the gala. The board voted to not place advertisements in *The Pelican*. The board also approved funding for a facilitator for strategic planning. The board was deeply concerned about a plan by Las Vegas to pump groundwater: the project could dry up numerous wetlands in Utah including Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge; GSLA will write letters and coordinate with other groups on this important issue. The Adopt-A-Highway program was presented and will be considered at a later date.

New GSLA Office and Phone

GSLA now has an office at 623 East 100 South in Salt Lake City. We're excited about this new addition and we hope you are too. We also have a new phone number (801-521-2939). The old phone number (263-

1399) will continue to work for a while, but please remember to update your address book.

President's Column

By Nathan Darnall, President

Is it possible that we don't say "thank you" enough? Well, I certainly think we could say it more often, so I'd like to take this opportunity to specifically thank a number of volunteers and to thank our members and sponsors for their support.

A big THANK YOU goes to: Rhonda for a successful year of programs; to June for leadership in numerous outreach events and for ensuring *The Pelican* gets distributed; to Kristin for acquiring the sponsorship of Cactus & Tropicals for the next gala; to George for his wisdom and timely review of complex documents; to Keith for his untiring dedication to the Jordan River Restoration Project and facilitation of Basin & Range; to Deedee for her commitment to membership, the sales table, field trips and bird festivals; to Leslie for creating a historical archive of GLSA news; to Sylvia for the many exciting field trips; to Jean and Mark for creating this publication; to Brooke for managing the website; to Dick for his enduring support; to Sandy for organizing the sunflower seed sale; to Christine and Kathy for keeping the gala organized; to Vivian for 'fighting' computer labels for *The Pelican*; to Jeanne and Ray and many others for leading field trips and activities, to Steve for compiling the Christmas Bird Count data, and to Arne, Hillary, and Tom for jumping right in.

I'd like to thank Jen, Earle, and Rhonda for their diligent efforts on the ad-hoc committee.

I'd like to once again thank Audubon Nebraska for its tremendous support of last year's annual gala, and to Alice Lindahl, Lynn Tennefoss, Paul Tebbel, and Michael Forsberg for speaking at the gala. Thank you is appropriate for our recent sponsors, including XMission, JEPS Foundation, The Wild Bird Center, Mark Stackhouse, Cactus & Tropicals, and Angela's Catering. I'd also like to say thank you to YOU...our member, reader, supporter, friend. As I stated earlier, we probably don't say thank you enough, so I appreciate you letting me have this opportunity to express a portion of my gratitude. The preceding lists, however, are by no



Nathan Darnall, President

means inclusive, so I apologize for any omissions...you are appreciated too!

Audubon Council Fall Retreat

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Audubon Council of Utah (ACU) fall retreat which will be held at Camp Kostopolus September 10 and 11. The Council is comprised of the four Utah Audubon chapters, and the retreat provides a venue for social activities and sharing of information. There will be a business meeting, workshops, birding field trips, and a potluck. In addition, the new director of UDWR, Jim Karpowitz, will be our evening speaker on Saturday. Check our website for more information.

Field Trips for July and August

Beginning birders are always welcome. We encourage carpooling on our field trips. Contributions towards gas money would be appreciated. For local trips, under 40 miles round trip, we suggest \$3 per person and for round trips over 40 miles we suggest \$5 per person.

Wednesday, July 6, 7 am
MOUNTAIN DELL REC. AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON
Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Last year we saw 39 species in July. We should be able to use golf carts to get around. We'll meet at 7 am in the SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse for a morning of birding. Bring a lunch if you would like to relax with the group afterwards. Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, July 9 from 8 am to Noon
BRIGHTON BIRD COUNT

Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith

Please join Great Salt Lake Audubon for our annual Brighton Bird Count. We will meet at 8 a.m. at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon in the parking lot adjacent to the Silver Lake Visitor Center. Birders can select one of three birding options: 1) Silver Lake (easy walk), 2) Lake Solitude (moderate hike), and 3) Twin Lake (strenuous hike). Novice to expert birders are welcome to participate. A potluck lunch follows at noon after a pleasant morning. Please bring a dish to share and your own eating utensils, plate, glass. GLSA will provide cold drinks. Please call Jeanne Le Ber or Ray Smith at (532-7384)

Wednesday, July 13, 7 am
JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY at 4800 South
Leader: Bob Huntington

The Jordan River is part of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem and a birding habitat treasure close by. GLSA is planning field trips to explore its length over the next year. Join us in birding the section from 4800 to ~ 5400 S by Kennecott Nature Center. Meet at the parkway parking lot on the south side of

4800 S. at the river (~600 W). Access is easy from State St. Call Bob at (595-8748).

Friday, July 15, 7 am
PIPELINE TRAIL, LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

Leader: Kathy Coleman

For a morning of birding, meet at 7 am at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot which is located at the mouth of the canyon, on the left side of the road just before the electric information sign. The trail is a steady incline that is rocky in places. Call Kathy (944-5773) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, July 16, 6 am
UINTA MOUNTAINS

Leader: Merrill Webb

Meet in the SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse by 6 am OR by 7 am at the Kamas Ranger Station (U.S. Forest Service), which is situated in the middle of town on the Mirror Lake Highway. We will proceed to Soapstone Basin and then on to Wolf Creek Summit and return by way of Tabiona or Woodland. We expect to see 45-50 species including thrushes, warblers, nuthatches, sparrows, and maybe a Three-toed Woodpecker. Vehicles with good clearance are recommended. This will be an all day trip so come prepared with lunch, drinks and adequate clothing for changing elevations. Call Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to come.

Wednesday, July 20, 8 pm
HOTSPOTS AT NIGHT: OWLING in EAST CANYON

Leader: Steve Carr

Join us for a full-moon owling trip in nearby East Canyon. Target owl species to see/hear are Great Horned, Saw-whet, Western Screech, Long-eared, AND Northern Pygmy (if we're lucky.) Meet at 8 pm at SE end of ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse to carpool. Call Steve at (277-7711) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, July 27, 7:30 am
FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA

Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien

Join us for our monthly half-day visit to Farmington Bay. Meet inside the McDonald's just north of the Centerville exit from I-15 at 7 am for breakfast and camaraderie or 7:30 am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee O'Brien (801-272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, July 30, 6 am – 3 pm
NEBO LOOP

Leader: Bob Huntington

Time to try a new area for us. The Nebo Loop drive is beautiful and varied in habitat. It will be fun to explore. Last year Purple Martins were reported here. Call Deedee at (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, August 3, 7 am
MOUNTAIN DELL REC. AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. We'll meet at 7 am in the SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse for a morning of birding. Bring a lunch if you would like to

linger longer! Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

Friday, August 5, 8 am
SILVER LAKE AND BRIGHTON

Leader: Allene Keller

Meet at the Park and Ride Lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 8 am for a morning of birding. We will walk around Silver Lake and explore the Brighton area looking for some good birds. Pine Grosbeaks have been seen in the area some years. Bring a lunch and call Allene (467-3960) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, August 10, 7am
JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY at 12600 South

Leader: Bob Huntington

Come explore this section of the Jordan River. Meet at SE corner of ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse at 7am. Call Bob at (595-8748) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, August 13, 6 am
BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE, near Brigham City

Leader: Deedee O'Brien

Always fun to visit with so many birds to see. This will be an all day trip so bring lunch and a drink and meet at 6 am in the SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to come.

Wednesday, August 17
HOTSPOTS

Leader: Hugh Gillilan

Where will we go today? Call Hugh at (582-9284) to find out where this mornings adventure will take us.

Wednesday, August 31, 7:30am
FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA

Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien

Join us for our monthly half-day visit to Farmington Bay. Meet inside the McDonald's just north of the Centerville exit from I-15 at 7 am for breakfast and camaraderie or 7:30 am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee O'Brien (801-272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Salt Lake Birders Field Trips

For information on Salt Lake Birders field trips call Bob MacDougall at 801-971-6077.

Layton Wild Bird Center Walks

Join the Layton, Wild Bird Center for free nature/ bird walks. Walks leave from the Wild Bird Center at 8 a.m., every Saturday in summer (unless otherwise noted), rain or shine. The walks are a great way to introduce children to the world of nature. Bill Fenimore or another local expert leads the walks. We discuss the birds, mammals, flowers, butterflies and other nature interests, as we encounter them.

July and August walks include July 8 Bat presentation and field trip (Friday evening, 7 p.m.), July 16 Powder Mountain, July 23 Kayscreek, July 30 Kaysville, East Mountain Wilderness Park, August 6 Snow Basin, August 13 Beus Pond, August 20 Perception Park, and August 27 North Arm Pineview.



PHOTO BY NATHAN DARNALL

Keith Johnson, GSLA Chair for South Jordan River Site.

About the South Jordan Site

In April of this year, contractors for South Jordan City bulldozed a 30-foot swath through a prime section of the Jordan River Restoration Project in order to lay a water line. In total, almost a half-acre of mature trees and shrubs was uprooted and destroyed. You may have heard of this in the paper or on television as it received considerable coverage, and we appreciate the many letters of support that followed.

While the situation was disheartening for a number of reasons, we believe most of the damage can be repaired, and South Jordan City has committed to restoring the site. GSLA and our partners are committed to working with the City to ensure the site is restored. We are also attempting to improve future communications and strengthen relationships. Please be assured we believe in the value of the Jordan River Restoration Project and will strive to make it a success.

Welcome to New and Returning GSL Audubon Members

Vivian Schneggenburger, Membership

Thanks to all who have recently joined GSLA. We hope that you will become an active member. Our field trips for the summer are listed in *The Pelican* and you can check there for details. Hope to see you.

New members joining or transferring into our chapter through NAS: Curtis Abrahamson, Bruce Achter, Ivor Allsop, Patricia Ballantyne, F.L. Barking, M. Beltz, Harry N. Bergstrom, Nancy Bill, Eileen Bristol, Lynda Brown, Bennion D. Buchanan, Crystal Carpenter, Dennis Chamberlain, Marlene Crank, Anna Crook, Crystal Davis, Carl Decker, Lynne & Patrick DeFreitas, Yvonne Dehm, Dina Deweerd, James Drain, John F. Drummond, Fred Fife, Janet R. Finlayson, N.P. Fitzgerald, Thomas R. Funk, Dianne Fuller, Catherine D. Giardina, Pam Green, Joey Guice, Roberta Hash, Carol Hoard, Debbie Hoover, Richard Howe, Arne & David Hultquist, Daniel Jarrell, Diane Johnson, Jane Johnson, Carolyn Kissel, Richard Knudson, Curtis McCullough, Lisa Meyer, Lowell Mikolash, Robert Nannini, Karen L. Nelson, Annalisa Paul, Yevgeny Pevzner, Michael Phoenix, Sherrie Pittman, Effie & Dean Rich, Melanie Richens, Marie S. Rieh, Edith Roberson, Ruth Roberts, Mrs. Anthony Sabourin, Marc A. Sanders, Madeleine Sergy, Jana Shackelford, Jeff Stitzer, Joann Stringham, Beverly Sudbury, Craig & Celia Rose, Dr. Gil Sanders, Samuel Bennion, Catherine Peterson, Carol Redeker, Takenori Tsuchiya, Jillian R. Vogtli, Cathy Wagstaff, Edwin Walker.

New or Renewing Members at the Local Chapter Only Level: Bob Brister, Darwin Eggli, Ellen Fisher, Heidi Harris, Margaret Holloway, Bob Huntington, Desiree Ingle, Caroline Johnson, Melinda McInwaine, Ralph & Renate Pahnke, George & Nancy Rife, Bob & Darlea Stack, La Von Thomas, Sarah Uhle, P Vestal, Joy Emory & Patrick Watson, Hillary White, Fran Yates.

Three Ways to Join or Renew with Audubon

1. A new membership with National Audubon Society costs \$20; a renewal is \$35. Benefits include the quarterly national magazine and automatic membership in GSLA. Your dues support environmental campaigns at the national level.

2. Great Salt Lake Audubon-only membership is \$25 a year; all dues support local activities including education, advocacy, habitat restoration, field trips, and the newsletter.

3. You can join both NAS and GSLA if you wish to support both national and local activities.



THE PELICAN

Great Salt Lake Audubon
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(Local Membership Only)

Please enroll me as a member of GSLA, my membership fee of \$25.00 includes a 1-year subscription to The Pelican.

Please clip and send your application and check to:

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If an e-mail address is provided, look forward to receiving automated e-mail updates on classes and field trips offered by our chapter. Great Salt Lake Audubon does not share *any* of your information with any other organizations.

Thank You for Supporting GSLA!

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Please enroll me as a member of National Audubon Society. Please send Audubon Magazine and my membership card to the address below.

_____ My check for \$20.00 is enclosed. (Introductory price only.)

_____ My check for \$35.00 is enclosed for membership renewal.

Please clip and send your application and check to:

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001**

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