



THE PELICAN

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006 • NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

November 21st General Meeting Explores Utah's Rivers

Between 1930 and the late 1960s the United States of America went on a dam building frenzy. Today there are roughly 50,000 major dams in the United States, many of which were built during that time period. These dams have impacted hundreds of thousands of river miles. The most publicized example of this is the impact of Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River. In an attempt to counteract the policy of dam building, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Designating a river as "Wild and Scenic" is the highest level of protection available for a river. Utah has many remarkably beautiful rivers, which are internation-



A stretch of the Green River, 2005.
Photo by: Hillary White

ally known, including the Virgin River, the Green River and the Colorado River. Join Mark Danenhauer of the Utah Rivers Council as he discusses on November 21st the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, explains the implications of designation, and takes listeners on a tour of some of Utah's best candidates for protection, focusing on the Green River.

GSLA Programs are held at the Sugarhouse Garden Center, NE corner of Sugarhouse Park (enter from 2100 South, just west of Highland High). Doors open at 6:45pm. Program runs from 7:00 to 8:30pm. We'll have refreshments, it's FREE and everyone is invited to join us. Call 521-2939 for more information.

Christmas Bird Counts

On Christmas Day in 1900 a small group of conservationists led by scientist and writer, Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. They posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Chapman proposed to identify, count and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort.

We invite birders of all skill levels to participate in Audubon's longest running wintertime tradition by joining us for the annual Christmas Bird Counts. Not only are they fun, they also produce important results that help Audubon develop a "State of the Birds" report and are used to prioritize bird conservation activities. There are several counts in and around the Salt Lake Valley as well as counts in Tooele, Antelope Island, and at the National Wildlife Refuges. See inside for more details on these counts or visit our website or National Audubon's website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>

**Saturday,
November 4th
SUNFLOWER
SEED PICKUP!**

INSIDE

Gala & Auction Review.....	3
New Members	4
Board Report.....	4
GSLA Calendar and Field Trips.....	5
Bird Festivals.....	6

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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 birds, animals and plants, 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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Having Fun and Making a Difference

By Nathan Darnall, *GSLA President*



Let's try something here. First, we know that birds fly. Second, it's well established that time flies, too. Third, we know that time flies when you're having fun. Therefore, we

can substitute birds for time and get, "Birds fly when you're having fun." Wait, that isn't quite right. How about, "Time flies when you're having fun watching birds that fly?" That sounds good to me.

Now that I have your attention by using a popular cliché, let me address two related items: First, upcoming Christmas Bird Counts; and second, the fact that time is constantly moving forward, which means that change is a constant.

As you read this newsletter, you'll see we mention a number of Christmas Bird Counts. Some are right here in Salt Lake City's backyard while others are further afield (e.g., the Fish Springs and Ouray counts). I hope you'll consider participating in one or more of these counts; especially since I think you'll find them rewarding and because I believe the data collected are worthwhile. Part of the reward is simply getting out; part is meeting old friends and making new ones; and part is doing something that can make a difference.

Christmas Bird Counts are what we call "citizen science," which means that everyday people (e.g., not great ornithologists or researchers) can help collect important data about birds and our environment. The Great Backyard Bird Count and Project Feeder Watch are two more examples of citizen science projects. These citizen-based projects are important because of the volume of information they collect--literally millions upon millions of data points. These data are useful in determining population trends, tracking disease outbreaks, finding the distribution of irruptive species, etc. And it's also important to get people out to see what is changing.

Changes are occurring all the time, though we

Continued on page 7

Volunteers of the Year



Sylvia and Bill Gray were recognized as the 2006 Volunteers of the Year during the 5th annual Gala. Sylvia previously served on the board, has served on numerous committees, and is currently the field trips chair. During her tenure as field trip chair, Sylvia has expanded the number of field trips, developed many trip leaders, and even implemented some matchless experiences such as “Hot Spots” and “Follow the River.” Bill has provided a unique awareness of the plant world to GSLA, through numerous field trips and programs. He has also developed a guide to plants titled the “Cyberflora: Plants of the Wasatch Front.” Thank you, Sylvia and Bill!

Conservation Policy Resolutions

The board recently approved a series of conservation policy resolutions. The resolutions act as position statements on key issues and provide a platform upon which Great Salt Lake Audubon can take action. Additional conservation policy resolutions will be added in the future. The resolutions can be viewed at our website.

Annual Gala and Silent Auction Review

Over 100 friends and supporters of Great Salt Lake Audubon assembled at The Gathering Place at Gardner Village in West Jordan on Saturday, September 23, for our 5th annual fundraising Gala and Silent Auction. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal, and beautiful music was provided by classical guitarist Ric Sherette.

Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon was the dinner speaker. Mayor Corroon spoke about the value of urban natural areas in both his personal life and in the health of our community. He explained some of the County’s future plans for existing natural areas. He also took questions from the audience. It was an informative and inspirational talk. GSLA thanks Mayor Corroon for taking the time to speak to us.

Guests bid on a wide variety of silent auction items. Many a great bargain was made! And, equally important, much-needed funds were raised. Thank you again to the many donors who contributed goods and services. They are listed below. We would also like to thank IHI Environmental and Corporate Edge Printing for helping to sponsor the event. Their generosity makes it possible for all auction proceeds to go directly toward GSLA programs and activities.

Our annual Gala and Silent Auction is one of GSLA’s primary fundraising activities. Proceeds help underwrite the costs of providing Audubon Adventures kits to area classrooms, presenting our informative monthly general membership meetings, and restoring lands along the Jordan River.

Thanks to our auction donors and corporate sponsors:

Gala Sponsors



Alta Ski Resort • Ballet West • Jay and Frances Banta
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Great Harvest Bread, Holladay • Great Salt Lake Audubon
Rich Hansen, Manager of Farmington Bay
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Johnson Mill Bed & Breakfast
Cheri and Mark Livingston • Wayne Martinson • Maxine Martz
Deedee O’Brien • Dick O’Brien • Pioneer Theatre Company
Laura Romin • Kevin Sybrowsky
The Gathering Place at Gardner Village
Tracy Aviary • Allen Travis • Heather Trecker
Stephanie Vochum-Natt, The Yuppy Puppy
Roberta Wherritt • Wild Bird Center, Holladay



Chukar photo taken by Nathan Darnall

Board Meeting Highlights for September and October

By Arne Hultquist, GSLA Secretary

The Board had plenty of pre- and post-Gala discussion during the meetings. Board members agreed that the venue, food, and program were superior to previous events. We thanked Cheri and the committee for their hard work. The effort paid off with a dividend of about \$3,500 for the GSL Audubon. We are looking forward to a larger and an even more enjoyable event next year.

Both Kathy Waddell and Earle Bevins have completed our IRS non-profit tax form, the “990.” Considerable effort has made our accounting practices simpler and more efficient. These efforts maintain our non-profit status, as well as help our scoring on the audit we are initiating.

The Board agreed to support the ReDirect Guide again this year, with a third listing under Birding. We appreciate the service the ReDirect Guide offers to conservation-minded citizens, as well as the opportunity to inform people about our organization.

Two GSLA funding requests were granted. The “Shed and Seedlings” for our restoration project and the “Cottonwoods for Eagles” project were both fully funded. Nathan and Keith could use some help on the shed and seedlings project, and we are still looking for volunteers for the leadership role and implementation of the “Cottonwoods for Eagles” project. See website for more information.

The Board spent some time in the October meeting discussing what our conservation priorities are for the upcoming Utah legislative session. Initially, flowing water, funding for DWR, and funding for open space appear to be the highest priority for the board. Several other issues, including State lands, OHV/ATV vehicles, and watchable wildlife, are also being considered. The prioritizing of these issues should create vigorous discussion at the next board meeting.

Thank You!

By Vivian Schneggenburger, Membership

A Big Thank You to those who have recently joined GSLA. We hope that you will enjoy being part of our family who is ‘...dedicated to protecting and enhancing habitat for wild birds, animals and plants, and to maintaining healthy and diverse environments for wildlife and people throughout the state.’ We look forward to meeting you and hope you will become an active member and join us at our many activities including our General Meetings and fieldtrips. Details for all activities can be found in the Pelican or visit our website.

New members joining or transferring through National Audubon: Michelle Ackerman, Sharon Burdine, Paul Dame, Byron Elfors, M.G. Franco, Sherry Kindel, Charlotte Kuenneman, Wayne Martinson, Lewis Murtaugh, Margaret Nash, Jeanne Spannuth, Virginia Stocking, J.K. Tillinghast, Sandra Urlik, Lynne Van Dam, Kyle Wulle.

New and Renewing Local Members: Gayle Chellis, Sandra Cole, Susan Eyzaguirre, Millie Fletcher, Marsha and Jim Gale, Maxine Garwood, David P. Harter, Nancy E. Howard, John M. Middleton, Ann O’Connell, Wayne J. Peay, M. Roberts, Daniel Salemi, Sue Smith, Yvonne Stroup, Joyce A. Yeagle.

November/December Calendar and Field Trips

By Sylvia Gray, Field Trip Coordinator

We encourage carpooling on our field trips. Contributions towards gas money would be appreciated. For local trips we suggest \$3 per person and for trips over 40 miles we suggest \$5 per person. Be sure to call the field trip leader to confirm that arrangements are still as published. Expect field trips to leave on time, so arrive early to arrange carpools.

Wednesday, November 1st, 9:00am
MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

We are not sure what the weather will be like, so check the weather forecast and come prepared. We'll meet by 9:00 am in the Southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse for a morning of birding. Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, November 11th, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm
WATERFOWL ON THE RESERVOIRS

Leader: Deedee O'Brien

The cold weather season is a good time to see interesting waterfowl on Utah reservoirs. We'll check out Echo, East Canyon, and perhaps Rockport (if the group is still gung ho) to look for all three mergansers, loons, and scoters among other more usual Utah species. Some years Bonaparte's Gulls hang out, and even Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese. Bring lunch, water, and dress for the weather. We'll meet in the SE corner of Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse by 7:30 am. Call Deedee if you plan to attend; 272-8060.

Wednesday, November 15th, 8:30am
DECKER LAKE and LEE KAY PONDS

Leader: Kathy Coleman

Today we will be heading for Decker Lake and Lee Kay Ponds. Join us for a half-day of birding. Meet at the SE Corner of the Sugarhouse Shopko parking lot for an 8:30 am departure. Call Kathy Coleman if you plan to attend at 944-5773.

Tuesday, November 21st

GSLA MONTHLY MEETING

7:00 pm at the Sugarhouse Garden Center

Refreshments will be available at 6:45

Join Mark Danenhauer of the Utah Rivers Council as he discusses the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and takes listeners on a brief tour of some of Utah's best candidate rivers for protection.

Wednesday, November 29th, 8am/8:30am
FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA

Leader: Bob Huntington

This monthly visit to Farmington Bay is fun for all because of our camaraderie over breakfast; the easy drive & bird-near-car experience; the great scenery in every season, and the GOOD BIRDS! We share our spotting scopes for good views of even distant birds. So long as the Kaysville Ponds are not frozen we will include them in this field trip. Meet at 8:00 am for breakfast at the McDonalds in Centerville (exit 319 from I-15) or by 8:30 am to carpool. Call Bob if you plan to attend: 595-8748.

Saturday, December 2nd, 9 am
SALT LAKE CITY CEMETERY

Leaders: Kathy Coleman and Sylvia Gray

This trip is especially planned with BEGINNING BIRDERS in mind, and to encourage anyone interested in the CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. We will stroll the cemetery counting and identifying all the birds that we see, just like on the CBC. Please join us. Meet by 9 am at the southwest corner of the cemetery (4th Avenue and "N" Street). Call Kathy (944-5773) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

Wednesday, December 6th, 9:00 am
MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

We are not sure what the weather will be like, so check the weather forecast and come prepared. Most likely we'll be walking a more restricted area. We'll meet by 9:00 am in the southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse for a morning of birding. Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, December 13th, 8:00 am
HOTSPOTS: BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE
Leader: Sylvia Gray

The target birds this month are the Tundra Swans. This will be after the swan hunt so we hope for a more peaceful experience. Meet by 8:00 am in the southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse. Come prepared for some cool weather and bring food and drinks for an all day trip. Call Sylvia (801-532-3486) if you plan to be there.

Saturday, December 16th
SALT LAKE CITY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Leader: Pomera Fronce

We invite birders of all skill levels to participate in Audubon's longest running wintertime tradition by joining us for the annual Salt Lake City Christmas Bird Count. Not only is this a fun activity, it also produces important results that help Audubon develop a "State of the Birds" report, and to prioritize bird conservation activities. Contact Pomera Fronce at 272-2755 or pinkstring@xmission.com if you plan to participate or for more information.

Saturday, December 16
OURAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at the Refuge Office at 7:30 am. Last year we were challenged by Fish Springs NWR to see which Refuge would get the most species. We lost, but not too badly. With a couple more counters Ouray could win this year. For more information contact Diane Penttila, Ouray NWR Biologist, at (435) 545-2522 x 12 or at diane_penttila@fws.gov.

Wednesday, December 27th, 9 am
FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA
Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien
This monthly visit to Farmington Bay is fun for all because of our camaraderie over breakfast; the easy drive & bird-near-car experience; the great scenery in every season, and the GOOD BIRDS! We share our spotting scopes for good views of even distant birds. So long as the Kaysville Ponds are not frozen we will include them in this field trip. Meet at 8:30 am for breakfast at the McDonalds in Centerville (exit 319 from I-15) or by 9 am to carpool. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, December 30th
JENSEN/DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Contact Kathy Paulin for more information at kpaulin@fs.fed.us.

Sunday, December 31st, 9 am
THE FISH SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
The count will begin at the Refuge HQ and will end about 5:50 pm. As is tradition, a chili feed will be hosted afterwards by Refuge Manager Jay Banta for all counters. Sleeping space on a first-come first-served basis will be available in the bunkhouse the night before and the night of the count for those interested. Contact Jay to reserve space. Come and get a jump on your Utah year list with American bitterns, great egrets or any one of a number of Fish Springs winter specialties.
Jay Banta, Fish Springs NWR, P.O. Box 568,
Dugway, UT 84022
(435) 831-5353, ext. 2
jay_banta@fws.gov

Monday, January 1st, 7:00 am
JORDAN RIVER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
in SALT LAKE & UTAH COUNTIES
Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith
Meet at 7 am at Johanna's Kitchen, 9725 South State Street, Sandy (801-566-1762). Assignments will be distributed and groups will start birding at 8 am. To sign up, or for more information, call Jeanne or Ray at 801-532-7384, evenings.

Nominations Committee

Over the next few months, GSLA will engage in a search for new board members. The Nomination Committee consists of Nathan Darnall, Jen Hajj, Kent Lewis, and Christine Morris. If you are interested in joining the board or would like to nominate someone, contact one of these individuals prior to March 15, 2007. Votes will be cast in May and terms begin in June.



Snowy Egret photo by Nathan Darnall

President's Message

Continued from page 2

don't always like them. For instance, getting older isn't always fun, but it is a part of life. Urban development and population growth are also a part of life. Is it possible that important habitats for birds and wildlife are being gobbled up by development and urban sprawl? One benefit of getting out and having fun birding is that we can recognize "problems" while we still have a chance to do something.

Through the above projects, average people can identify areas that are valuable to birds and wildlife. In addition, we will often have the data to support these claims, which puts us all in a better place to do something great, which may include protecting these valuable areas.

I hope in the coming months you'll have some fun and that part of your fun involves Audubon and birding. Remember, not only will you have a good time, but you'll be making a positive difference in this ever-changing world.

Western Winter Bird Festivals

Does birding in warm weather sound good? Here are some of the 2007 western region winter bird festivals to get you out of the cold:

Morro Bay, California, January 12-15

St. George, Utah, January 26-28

San Diego, California, February 7-12

Check out their web sites for more information.

Nayarit Bird Festival in San Blas, Mexico

January 27 - February 2, 2007

Many of the birds that utilize our Great Salt Lake during migration spend winter in the San Blas area of Mexico. The local people there are trying to conserve local habitat and develop Ecotourism. To support them in that effort, GSLA encourages participation in the San Blas Bird Festival in January. It is inexpensive, offers field trips, a festival atmosphere with traditional dances, puppet shows about birds put on by local children, and even a festival queen (which adds a Mexican cultural flavor). San Blas has just the right mix of old Mexico and touring conveniences. For more information, contact Wayne Martinson at 355-8110 or wmartinson@audubon.org.



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Thank You for Supporting GSLA!

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

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