



THE PELICAN

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007 • NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

January 16th Meeting Explores the History of Birds in Art

Birds and animals have been depicted in artwork throughout recorded history and across all world cultures. Understanding these images not only enhances our appreciation of wildlife art, but provides insights into art history, human history, and the relationship of humans and animals over time.

Ancient Egyptians, for example, were dependent on their riparian environment and produced beautiful images of fish, turtles, and waterfowl on everyday objects. They revered the falcon and ibis as gods and harshly punished those who harmed them. As Christianity developed in Europe, animals were depicted mainly for their religious symbolism as seen in works such as of the Dove of the Holy Spirit. With the coming of the Renaissance, da Vinci and others expressed their interest in the animal form itself and scenes of everyday life, both human and animal, became acceptable artistic subjects. In the 18th and 19th centuries, trade between East and West allowed artistic influences to travel long distances.



American Avocet Photo by Debbie Goodman

On January 16th join local wildlife artist and GSLA chapter member Debbie Goodman for a slideshow and discussion of masterpieces of wildlife art from Egyptian times to the present and compare the styles of John James Audubon with his famous contemporaries Hokusai and Hiroshige: you may not recognize their names but you are probably familiar with their artwork.

February 20th Meeting Showcases Save Our Canyons

Join Speakers Dave Bastian and Rachael Mathey for a look at the local conservation organization, Save Our Canyons, which advocates for citizens' interests on issues involving the public and private domains of the Wasatch Range. They fight to preserve all of the untouched natural areas of the central Wasatch for the sake of wildlife, watershed, and for the health and well-being of the residents in the valley below. Save Our Canyons continues to be a vigorous counterforce to the never-ending pressure exerted by the ski industry, real estate interests, and their partisan allies in municipal, state, and federal government agencies.

Photo of Lone Peak by Dave Bastian

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THE PELICAN

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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Resolutions For 2007

By Nathan Darnall, *GSLA President*



“I resolve to...” Being the first of the year, that’s a statement you might hear quite frequently. Many people make resolutions at the first of the year, though in reality you can make them at any time, but I guess it’s just tradition. Examples of New Year’s resolutions are to lose weight, find a new job, save more money, and spend more time with the kids. In fact, odds are pretty good that you, too, have made a few resolutions.

But have you considered resolutions for Audubon or the environment? Here are some resolutions you might consider for 2007: Attend at least one more monthly program or birding field trip than you did last year. Volunteer for GSLA at least twice this year. Add ten species to your life list. You might resolve to recycle paper, plastic, tin and aluminum this year. Perhaps replace your regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Use ten percent less water on the lawn. Save gasoline and reduce greenhouse emissions by combining errands into fewer trips. Attend the 25th annual Basin & Range weekend field seminar this June or attend the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. Wow, the possibilities are endless!

A lot of people make resolutions but few stick with them for any length of time. The reasons for this are numerous, but sometimes it’s just because the resolutions are too big, which really means that they are just not reasonable. Sometimes they are too general and hence have little meaning (e.g., “I’m going to be a better person”). In contrast, the examples above are not difficult and most are specific enough that they can be measured. And resolutions such as these are not only good for you, but definitely benefit Audubon and the environment. How about it? Why not join with me now and say, “I resolve to...”

Board Meeting Highlights for November and December

By Arne Hultquist, *GSLA Secretary*

I must give credit to the GSLA Board of Directors. The number of issues we discuss and make decisions on in two months never ceases to amaze me. I really believe the biggest board meeting highlight of this year is the ability of the Board to quickly review an issue, align it with our mission statement, determine the necessary resources, and come to an agreement. Of course this could not be done without the commitment of the board members to review the issues before the meeting, and most importantly the tireless leadership that provides the information prior to our meetings, encourages open discussion, respects everyone's opinion and welcomes new ideas. After working for almost two years with our president, Nathan Darnall, I realize the importance of his position to GSLA and am grateful for his continued service to the organization.

Most decisions the Board makes fall into the two categories of management of the organization's resources (e.g., funds and properties) and conservation issues. Occasionally issues fall into both. From the management perspective in the last two months the Board: accepted an ATV donation for work on

the restoration project; scheduled and attended a work party for the End of Year mailing; supported and helped with the Sunflower Seed Sale; partially funded the Christmas Bird Count; purchased three pieces of necessary computer software; accepted a donation of pipe and culverts for the restoration project; reviewed a proposal from TreeUtah on managing the restoration project; and considered management options for the endowment.

On the conservation front in the last two months the Board: wrote and approved a letter to the U of U Research Park on their growth plans; discussed and decided upon priority issues for this year's State of Utah legislative session; discussed supporting an Amicus Brief for the legal challenge for Proposition 5; approved a referendum of opposition to the Washington County Growth and Conservation Act; and agreed to support the Utah Rivers Council in designating the Green River as a "Wild and Scenic River."

Those are only the highlights of the Board's efforts.

Thank You to Our Financial Supporters!

By Kathy Waddell, Treasurer

Approaching the end of the year we wish to acknowledge the great support we've received from members in our community. We are a non-profit organization and rely on your generosity which allows us to continue working on numerous programs and projects such as environmental education and habitat restoration. We appreciate your donations to support Audubon Adventures as well as contributing to Memorials. We also appreciate and wish to thank individuals who made donations via payroll deductions with employer matching and to those of you who donated to fundraising events such as our annual Gala even though you were unable to attend. We would be unable to continue with our mission if it were not for your generosity. As we end this year, we thank all of you for your support.

Events and Field Trips for Jan/Feb

By Sylvia Gray, Field Trip Coordinator

Beginning birders are always welcome. We encourage carpooling on our field trips. Contributions towards gas money would be appreciated. Be sure to call the field trip leader to confirm that arrangements are still as published.

This year we will again be offering a monthly field trip called HOTSPOTS. On these trips we will go to wherever interesting birds have recently been reported. So bring food and drinks and come prepared for any type of weather because you never know where we will end up! Call the leader for details.

Monday, January 1st, 7:00 am
JORDAN RIVER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
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.

Wednesday, January 3rd, 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 come prepared. We'll be walking a more restricted area. Good snow boots or snow-shoes recommended. We have been surveying this area for the past 2 ½ years and are over the 100 species mark! What new birds will we see this year? We'll meet at 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, January 13th, 8:30 am
DECKER LAKE and LEE KAY PONDS
Leader: Kathy Coleman

Today we will have another opportunity to check out the waterfowl on Decker Lake and Lee Kay Ponds. Dress for the weather and join us for a half day of birding. Meet at the Sugarhouse Shopko in time for an 8:30 a.m. departure. Call Kathy at 944-5773 if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, January 16th
GSLA MONTHLY MEETING
7 pm at the Sugarhouse Garden Center

Wednesday, January 17th
HOTSPOTS
Leader: Kent Lewis

This is an adventure trip that cannot be planned ahead of time! We'll target whatever interesting or unusual birds are being reported nearer the time. In past years we've observed Bohemian Waxwings along the Bountiful bench area, and Antelope Island Causeway can be "hot." To find out more call Kent at 581-0832 a day or two ahead.

Saturday, January 20th, 8:00 am (all day)
RAPTOR ID SEMINAR and FIELD TRIP
Sponsored by HawkWatch International and Tracy Aviary

8:00 am Breakfast and Raptor Identification Seminar at the Mill at Tracy Aviary. 9:30 am Field trip to Tooele area; transportation provided. Participants should bring their own lunch and snacks. Return after dark. After the field trip there will be a social in the Mill with drinks and story-swapping. Cost is \$15 per person (for transportation and continental breakfast). 25 spots are available, pre-registration required before January 17th. Call Emilie Turner at HawkWatch at (801) 484-6808 ext 101

Friday, January 26th – Sunday, January 28th
ST. GEORGE WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL
Details at www.sgc.org/birdfestival

Wednesday, January 31st, 8:30 am/9:00 am
FARMINGTON BAY WMA & NEARBY AREA
Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien
Join us for our monthly half-day of birding Farmington Bay. This area always provides interesting birds in winter. So long as the Kaysville Ponds are not frozen we will include them in this field trip. Meet inside the McDonald's just north of the Centerville exit #319 from I-15 at 8:30 am for breakfast and camaraderie or 9 am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, February 7th, 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 come prepared. We'll be walking a more restricted area. Good snow boots or snow-shoes recommended. We'll meet at 9:00am 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, February 10th, 10 am
BALD EAGLE DAY at FARMINGTON BAY

Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources hosts their annual Bald Eagle Day where these magnificent birds can be seen up close. This is a great family trip. Meet in the southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse at 10 am to carpool. Call Jeanne or Ray at 801-532-7384 for details. You'll be glad you did.

Wednesday, February 14th
HOTSPOTS

Leader: John Middleton

Hotspots trips are a little different from our usual field trips. We try to target interesting, hard to find, or unusual birds that have been seen recently. John won't know where we'll be going until closer to the date, so call him at 322-2171 to find out.

Sunday, February 18th, 9:00 am
PARLEY'S GULCH

Leaders: Bob Huntington and Kathy Coleman

The Great Backyard bird count is February 16-19. This year local parks can be included in the count. So that we can participate in this project, we will be birding in Parley's Historic Nature Park, which is below Tanner's Park. Please join us for a half day of birding. Meet in the Tanner Park (Parley's Gulch) parking lot by 9 am. Tanner Park is located on 2700 East and Heritage Way (2760 south). This trip involves moderate hiking on dirt roads down into the gulch and back up again. Call Kathy if you plan to attend, or with any questions, at 944-5773.

Tuesday, February 20th
GSLA MONTHLY MEETING
7pm at the Sugarhouse Garden Center

Wednesday, February 28th, 8:30/9:00 am
FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA
Leader: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien

Join us for our monthly half-day of birding Farmington Bay. This area always provides interesting birds in winter. So long as the Kaysville Ponds are not frozen we will include them in this field trip. Meet inside the McDonald's just north of the Centerville exit #319 from I-15 at 8:30 am for breakfast and camaraderie or 9 am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, March 3rd, 8 am
SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL

Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith

Meet in the southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse at 8:00 am. We will carpool to the Gunnison Bend Reservoir near Delta, about a 2 1/2 hour drive. When they "co-operate" about 20,000 Snow Geese can be seen on the water or in adjacent fields. The town of Delta hosts an Art and Craft Fair with guest speakers in the Millard County Fair Building. Call Jeanne or Ray at (801-532-7384) if you are interested.

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.

4th Annual St. George WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Another year has passed and it is once again time for the St. George Winter Bird Festival. The 4th Annual Event, scheduled for January 26-28, is the Community Outreach Program presented by Red Cliffs Audubon Society of St. George.

Along with outstanding and unique exhibits, informative presentations, and fun-filled kids' workshops at Tonaquint Park & Nature Center, there will also be three days of field trips featuring Lytle Ranch; Washington Fields & Springs Park; Quail Creek Reservoir/Hurricane Fields; Snow Canyon SP; Vermilion Cliffs in Arizona; and many, many more. Field trips are free and open to the public and will depart from the Tonaquint Park parking lot. Carpooling is encouraged.

Our Southwest Utah habitats can attract over 350 species of birds during the year. In January, see wintering raptors, waterfowl, sparrows, woodpeckers, and many more species. The total species seen at last year's festival was 103. Perhaps we will see the elusive Vermilion Flycatcher!

The Friday evening speaker is Bobby Harrison, who in 2004 sighted an Ivory-Billed Woodpecker in the swamps of Arkansas along with Tim Gallagher. Harrison will tell the story of the Ivory-Bill's near demise and miraculous resurrection and rediscovery. He will also give updates on new sightings! Admission is Free. Location: Dunford Auditorium, Dixie College.

The Saturday evening banquet will feature keynote speaker Reece Stein (KUTV's "Roughin' It Outdoors") who will tell of his best birding experiences. This is sure to be a treat with great food and lots of door prizes. The banquet will be had at the beautiful SunRiver in St. George. Cost is \$20; pre-register by January 25th through the St. George Recreation Center (435)-634-5860, or go to www.activityreg.com under programs.

For more information, go to www.sgcity.org/bird-festival or contact Marilyn Davis at (435)673-0996 or mkdavis028@msn.com.

Thank You!

By Vivian Schneggenburger, Membership

***New and Renewing Local Members:** Govert (Sandy) Bassett, Richard Gilbert, Phil Helsley, Jay Jones, Don Kauchak and Katherine Lake, Alexander Lemons, Christine Morris, Pat and Laurie Munson, Ann Richman, Fred and Kat Reimherr, George Rife, Arline Sant, Darlea and Bob Stack, Kathleen Wallentine, Keith J Wallentine, Bill Yates, Mary and Rick Yost, Ted and Mary Young, Travis J Young*

Field Trip Report for 2006

By Sylvia Gray

In 2006 birders on GSL Audubon field trips had the opportunity to see 213 species. We had a total of 82 trips thanks to the following 28 people. So a BIG THANK YOU to all of them.

Neal Anderson, Tim Avery, Jim Bailey, Jack Clark, Kathy Coleman, Nathan Darnall, Pomera Fronce, Hugh Gillilan, Sylvia Gray, Ron Greer, Bob Huntington, Allene and Charles Keller, Pat Kelley, Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith, Deedee O'Brien, Jim and Karla Rafferty, Kim Roush, June Ryburn, Vivian Schneggenburger, Jeff Smith, Steve and Cindy Sommerfield, Mort Somer, Merrill Webb, and Roberta Wherritt.

Save Our Canyons

Continued from page 1

Without the presence of a strong conservation force the public will lose the wildness and beauty of these treasured lands.

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 6:45 pm; programs run from 7 to 8:00 pm. We'll have refreshments, it's FREE and everyone is invited to join. Call 521-2939 for more information.

Great Backyard Bird Count

By National Audubon Society

From February 16th through the 19th we encourage you to join with thousand of others to find out how many birds are being seen in your area and across the continent this winter. By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you help document where birds are and track changes in their numbers compared to previous years, helping scientists paint a picture of the state of birds this winter. Go to <http://www.audubon.org/gbbc/> for more information.



Bonaparte's Gulls on GSL
Photo by Nathan Darnall

Wanted: Volunteer Editor for *The Pelican*

Great Salt Lake Audubon needs someone to edit and paginate this bi-monthly newsletter, starting with the January-February issue. Please contact Nathan Darnall by phone, 755-4480, or e-mail, cnathan2bird@msn.com, if you're interested or would like more information.



Thank You Tracy Aviary

In October, volunteers from the Tracy Aviary helped GSLA remove invasive Russian olive along a spring at Audubon's conservation easement. We greatly appreciate the hard work of these volunteers who cleared a large section of stream! In coming months the Tracy Aviary will help us plant native willows along the stream. You too can help us create wonderful bird habitat; for more information visit our website or check the next issue of the Pelican.



THE PELICAN

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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.

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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.

_____ 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:

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Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

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