



# THE PELICAN

MARCH/APRIL 2007 • NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

[www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](http://www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org)

## BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE NEWS & URGENT REQUEST

The project to raise, widen and pave the refuge road is set to begin this spring. Although some work may begin as early as April, the road will be COMPLETELY CLOSED to the public June 1 through August 31. There will be NO access to the refuge or auto tour route AT ALL during this time via the main road. The decision to completely close the road will significantly shorten the amount of time the road is under construction.

Because we believe it is important to allow visitors to see SOME part of the refuge, we will train volunteers to take visitors on guided tours of the refuge from April through fall. We need folks with good bird identification AND people skills, who are willing to be trained to lead tours for the refuge. Training sessions will begin in early March and will be one day long (6-8 hours), partly classroom, partly out on the refuge. While the road is completely closed (June through August), trained guides will take visitors on tours "behind the gates" and you'll get to bird in areas of the refuge not normally open to the public! We're asking that trained tour guides commit to a schedule for leading tours of at least twice per month during the three months the road is closed. Saturdays will be our number one priority. Anyone interested should contact Betsy Beneke at 435-734-6436 or [betsy\\_beneke@fws.gov](mailto:betsy_beneke@fws.gov). THANK YOU for considering this request!

## Audubon Council of Utah Spring 2007 Retreat

Wasatch Audubon will host the Audubon Council of Utah's spring retreat at Bear River MBR's Education Center, April 28-29. Members of Utah's four Audubon chapters will gather for birding, fellowship, and to plan our efforts on many conservation issues. As with previous retreats, the agenda features a mix of presentations, field trips, meals and business meetings. Please plan to attend! For more information, please contact John Bellmon at 801-444-3704.

Saturday, April 28 9 am: Field trip to Bear River MBR; 1 pm: Brown bag lunch at the education center meeting room; 2 pm: Speaker presentation or field trip to Box Elder Campground and Mantua Reservoir  
6 pm: Potluck dinner at the education center Sunday, April 29 8:30 am: Light breakfast supplied by Wasatch Audubon at the education center meeting room; 9 am-12 pm: Business meeting

The Bear River Refuge education center is located west of the Forest St. exit from I-15 in Brigham City. Overnight accommodations are available in Brigham City, at Willard Bay State Park campgrounds, or at homes of WAS members by advance arrangement.

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**GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD  
FESTIVAL, MAY 17th - 22nd**  
Registration opens March 1st

# 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](http://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 [newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org). The Pelican is published 6 times a year. Submission deadline for the May-June issue is April 10, 2007.



## Looking for something to do? You'll find plenty at GSLA



By Nathan Darnall, *GSLA President*

In my last column I suggested a few New Year's resolutions that you might make to benefit Audubon and the environment. For myself I've made a commitment to use mass transit on a more regular

basis. How about you? Maybe you made a resolution to volunteer for GSLA. Well, whether you made such a resolution or not there are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer for Audubon. Below are a few examples of volunteer positions

**Programs:** Assist other volunteers in hosting the programs at the general meetings which are held eight times per year (you don't have to attend all). Positions include hospitality, the sales table, and facilities. Contact Jen Hajj for more information.

**Membership:** Example activities include mailing letters to new members, updating the local membership database, and printing labels for *The Pelican*. Contact Vivian Schneggenburger.

**Habitat Restoration:** We're regularly looking for volunteers to help us plant native trees and shrubs on our restoration projects. This April and May we need volunteers to establish cottonwood trees at Farmington Bay WMA for future use by bald eagles and we need volunteers to plant native species along a spring in Riverton. Contact Nathan Darnall.

**Publicity:** Help us advertise our events by providing information to radio stations, news print, websites, posting a few flyers, and by word of mouth. For the more ambitious, develop a public ad campaign or even develop radio spots. Contact Hillary White.

**Conservation:** If you'd like to make a difference in policy, this one's for you. Examples might include contacting legislators, mayors, council members and others from time to time, attending public meetings, gathering information, helping GSLA craft position statements, drafting letters to the editor, and partici-

*Continued on page 6*

# March/April Calendar and Field Trips

By Sylvia Gray, Field Trip Coordinator

**F**ield trips are a wonderful way to meet new people and enjoy the great variety of species and diversity of habitats along the Wasatch Front.

Beginning birders and new members are especially welcome.

We encourage carpooling on all our field trips. The recommended contribution to the driver towards gas is \$3 per person when the round trip is less than 40 miles and \$5 per person for longer trips.

NOTE: Be sure to call the field trip leader to confirm that arrangements are still as published. Expect field trips to leave on time, and arrive 5-10 minutes early to arrange carpools.

**Saturday, March 3rd, 8am**

## **SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL**

**Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith**

Meet in the Southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse by 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.

**Wednesday, March 7th, 8:30am**

## **MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

**Leader: Jack Clark**

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Even in winter we have been seeing some interesting birds. We'll meet at 8:30 am in the Southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse for a morning of birding. Call Jack (255-7989) if you plan to attend.

**Friday, March 9th, 9 am**

## **WINTER BIRDING IN BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON**

**Leader: Allene Keller**

We will explore the Spruces Campground on snowshoes, cross-country skis or on foot, depending on snow conditions. Likely birds include: chickadees, jays, juncos, nuthatches, and others. This will not be a strenuous trip. Bring snacks and water. Call Allene (467-3960) for meeting place. N.B. Could be cancelled due to weather.

**Saturday, March 17th, 8:30 am - 4 pm**

## **LOOKING FOR TRACKS and SIGNS**

**Leader: Bruce Thompson**

Come and learn from an expert. Bruce will lead us off from Mirror Lake Highway above Kamas. This location features some of the widest variety of tracks and signs. Our route will consist of deep, untrailed snow along uneven woodland, meadow and streamside terrain over a distance of 1-2 miles over the course of the day. We will move at a speed appropriate to a mixed age and observant group, stopping to talk and explore frequently, but travel may at times be strenuous simply due to deep snow and terrain. People need to be FIT! Snowshoes only; no skis. (The two don't mix well for large-group tracking.) No dogs. Minimum age of 12. Group size limited to 15. **YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP.**

Participants should bring: snowshoes (poles advised), layered clothing, well insulated boots, a warm hat, warm gloves or mittens, sunglasses, ample water, lunch and snacks, a tracking field guide, a comfortable daypack.

Call Kathy Coleman at 944-5773 to register and for more details.

**Tuesday, March 20th, 7 pm**

## **PROGRAM: Habitats and Wildlife Impacts of Global Warming**

Sugarhouse Garden Center

**Wednesday, March 21st**

**HOTSPOTS**

**Leader: Deedee O'Brien**

We just never know what we are going to find on our Hotspots trips so call Deedee (272-8060) to find out the details a few days before.

**Wednesday, March 28th, 8:30 am**

**Farmington Bay WMA & NEARBY AREA**

**Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien**

Join us for our monthly half-day of birding. Meet inside the McDonald's just north of the Centerville exit #319 from I-15 at 8:00 am for breakfast and camaraderie or 8:30 am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, April 1st**

**HOTSPOTS**

**Leader: Tim Avery**

Another opportunity to go where the action is. Call Tim (801-440-3035) or email [tanager@timaverybirding.com](mailto:tanager@timaverybirding.com) to find out his plans. Regardless of where we go, we will meet in the SE Corner of the Shopko parking lot at 1300 East and I-80 in Salt Lake City. Time to be announced.

**Wednesday, April 5th, 8:30am**

**MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

**Leader: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray**

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Spring is in the air so it will be interesting to see what is there. Our total count for the area stands at 105 species since we began almost three years ago. We'll meet at 8:30 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, April 11th, 5:15 am**

**GREATER SAGE-GROUSE LEK, HENEFER**

**Leader: Roberta Wherritt**

This is a wonderful opportunity to witness the spectacular pageantry of male Sage Grouse strutting on their ancestral lek at dawn. You may leave afterwards or join us for breakfast in Morgan, and continue birding in the Hennefer area. Meet in SE corner of ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse (behind Red Lobster) near 1300 East exit from I-80 by

5:15 am to receive handouts giving directions and Lek etiquette information, and to arrange carpools. The drive to Henefer takes about an hour. Call Roberta (274-3058) if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, April 15th (time to be determined)**

**JORDAN RIVER PARKWAY at 12600 SOUTH**

**Leader: Pomera Frence**

Join us for the "taxes can wait, but birding can't" walk along the Jordan River Parkway. This will be a great opportunity to look for early spring arrivals including migrating shorebirds at the mitigation wetlands. Our three mile walk on a flat, paved surface will take about three hours. Call Pomera at 272-2755 for time and place.

**Tuesday, April 17th, 7 pm**

**PROGRAM: Wolves of Yellowstone**

Sugarhouse Garden Center

**Saturday, April 21st, 7 am**

**A TOUR of TOOELE**

**Leader: Nathan Darnall**

Join us for a half day of birding as we explore Rush Lake, Settlement Canyon and few other surprises. Meet at 7 am in the Southeast corner of Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse, or 7:35 am at Saltair. Call Nathan (755-4480) if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, April 25th, 8 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 #319 from I-15 at 7:30 am for breakfast and camaraderie or 8 am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee at (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

**April 27-30th**

**BALCONES SONGBIRD FESTIVAL, TEXAS**

This festival is held at Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge near Austin, Texas. It is in the hill country of Texas and in the spring and summer home to Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. These are both listed as endangered species. If you are interested check out their website: [balconessongbirdfestival.org](http://balconessongbirdfestival.org) Call Sylvia Gray (532-3486) for more information.

**Saturday/Sunday, April 18 - 29**  
**AUDUBON COUNCIL RETREAT**  
Call Nathan (755-4480) for details.

**Wednesday, May 2nd, 8 am**  
**MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

**Leader: Jack Clark**

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. May should be a good month to see a variety of birds as the Spring migrants are beginning to return. We'll meet at 8 am in the Southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse for a morning of birding. Call Jack (255-7989) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday/Sunday, May 5 - 6th**  
**FISH SPRINGS WORK PARTY**

**Leader: Tom Neuman**

This is a wonderful time of year to be out at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. We will leave early Saturday morning arriving around midday and spend the afternoon working on a project for the refuge. There will be time for birding as well. We'll bird some more Sunday morning and then head back to SLC. More details will be in next issue of *The Pelican*.

## Board Meeting Highlights

By Arne Hultquist, Secretary

The New Year has brought several changes to the Board and GSLA. Our development coordinator, Cheri, resigned in January. The Board will miss our "go to person."

The Board is considering several new options including hiring an executive director. The Board will also undertake a strategic planning session in the near future to plan for and refine these and other decisions.

Notable motions the Board approved in January and February include the addition of two new policies. We approved both an anti-discrimination policy and conflict of interest policy in February. Details of the policies are available on our web site. The Board also approved supporting the legal challenge to Proposition 5 which requires a 2/3 majority for changes in wildlife laws by citizen initiative.

The Board has also renewed our membership in the Utah Non-Profits Association (UNA). Our organization currently complies with the entire UNA ethics check list except for financial accountability. We are working towards that requirement by contracting for an independent audit. Unfortunately our auditor passed away before finishing the audit. We have contracted with another firm and look forward to the results.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Thanks to all who have recently joined GSLA. We hope that you will become an active member and join us at our General Meetings and on our field trips: We look forward to meeting you.

Naria Atiya, Marsha Baldwin, Eugene Bankhead, Caroline Bassett, Charles Bergquist, Eva Brandt, L. Calhoun, Hugh Cawthorne, Ann Conrad, Scott Danley, Linda Fontenot, Ernst Friedrich, Michael Giovannello, Tamra Goodrich, Jeannie Griffith, Marie Griffiths, Norman Guice, Chuck Hamstra, Mary Hibdon, Sara Huntington, Randy John, Maryann Johnson, Allison Jones, Susan Kendall, Amaida Kirkham, Carol Komlos, Barbara Larsen, Gloria Lighthiser, Steve Madsen, Karen Matz, Susan McClement, Vanene McShane, Heidi Mogensen, Keith Morlock, William Newmark, L. Oberle, Vard Openshaw, Patricia Parrish, Wilma Potter, Gerald Poulsen, Ruth Price, Kendy Radasky, Suzanne Reynolds, Rebecca Robertson, Leann Rocchi, Larry Schreiber, Melinda Schulz, Dixie Sells, Makeleine Sergy, Jeff Smith, Suzanne Smith, Linda Snyder, Travis Snyder, Ella Sorensen, John Spendlove, Kathryn Sprague, Gary Stillman, Robin Sussingham, Jeanne Vaughn, Laurel Walker, John Whitaker, Wendy Wilson. By Vivian Schneggenburger, Membership

# MARCH-APRIL MEETING PROGRAMS

## March 20 - Habitat and Wildlife Impacts of Global Warming

Join Beau Jarvis and Bob Vorwald, official presenters of An Inconvenient Truth, for a slideshow presentation, followed by a discussion about global warming and its anticipated impacts on habitat and wildlife. Although the movie will not be shown, it will be at the center of this discussion.

## April 17 - Wolves of Yellowstone, speaker Jack Bean

Jack Bean became interested in the Yellowstone wolves in the fall of 1997. He began to do research on the wolves: studying, taking classes from the Yellowstone Institute, and spending time in Yellowstone as a Wolf Watcher. Over the course of five years he got to know the wolves and their habits quite well. As a result of this, he was invited to join the Wolf Research team headed by Dr. Douglas Smith. Jack spends approximately 80 days per year studying wolf/prey interactions for the National Park Service at Yellowstone Park.

Jack's presentation will include the background and history of Yellowstone Wolves, their current status, issues of mortality, and the details of the Winter Wolf Study. He will also talk about the benefits of wolves, ecologically and economically speaking.

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE for  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
and FEATURES

### President's Message

*Continued from page 2*

pating in the Audubon Council of Utah. Contact Nathan Darnall.

Well, that's just a few examples of how you can volunteer for GSLA. Contact information can be found in the directory on page two of the newsletter or visit our website for more information.

Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you!



Photo of wolf by Jack Bean

## Albertson's Community Partners and GSLA By Cheri Livingston

Last year Great Salt Lake Audubon registered with Albertson's Community Partners. This is a program allowing shoppers to register their Preferred Savings Card for charitable donations. There were several glitches in the system but everything seems to be working properly now. If you are interested in making a donation to Great Salt Lake Audubon when shopping at Albertson's, please follow these steps.

Log on to [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com) then enter your ZIP Code in the space provided if requested. Click on "In the Community" on the blue bar at the bottom of the webpage then click on "Albertsons Community Partners" on the right side of the page. Click on "Shoppers login or register." Enter both your Preferred Savings Number and the phone number you used when you first got your Preferred Savings Card (PSC). [ If you no longer have your PSC and have been using your phone number when you shop at Albertson's in order to get your discounts, look at your next cash register receipt. Your card number will be listed on the top of the receipt. If you no longer remember the phone number you used when you first signed up for your card, you will need to contact Albertson's Customer Service Dept at (877) 932-7948. ] Click on "My Account" on the right-hand side of the page; click on "Add a Partner" and enter GSLA's partner number 49001010747 or type in "Great Salt Lake Audubon." The system will link your card to GSLA's account. That's all there is to it!

Your receipts from Albertson's will include the message "Your Community Partners Cards have been successfully linked to your Preferred Savings Card." If you are not currently seeing the above message on your receipts from Albertson's please follow the steps above and attempt to reconnect your card. In most cases, the problem is due to changing phone numbers.

Thank you for supporting Great Salt Lake Audubon in this simple way. Please encourage others to do the same.

## The US Fish & Wildlife Service Launches a Birding Initiative

By Bill Fenimore, Utah Audubon Policy Advocate  
and Owner, Wild Bird Center in Layton

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has begun a National Refuge System Birding Initiative to foster a conservation ethic, recognizing the importance of these refuges for future generations of birds and birders. There are 546 refuges throughout America today. These refuges provide breeding, wintering and staging habitat for over 700 species of migratory birds. One-third of the globally significant Important Bird Areas (IBA's) are on refuges and our own Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is one example. I have been honored to be asked to join this national group to represent the intermountain west.

The Refuge System Birding Initiative effort aims to strengthen the relationship between the birding community and the Refuge System and to increase opportunities for quality bird watching on refuges. To carry out this initiative, the Refuge System and Migratory Bird Program will be collaborating with a newly appointed 14-member Birder's Team: a panel of well-known authors, editors, educators, conservationists, and members of the business community. The Team is chaired by Jon Andrew, Refuge Chief for the Service's Southeast Region.

This effort is a very real and great opportunity for the local birding communities throughout the country to provide feedback to make the refuges more birder friendly and accessible. It is an effort to foster a conservation ethic and get those who are on the couch, out of the house and outdoors. If we can get more involved in the work of conserving the nation's birds and other wildlife, as well as participating in quality family-oriented recreation, especially those O.D.D. youth, we can develop in them a deep sense of wonder for the natural world and a passion for protecting and restoring it for future generations.



## THE PELICAN

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### GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

(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:*

Great Salt Lake Audubon  
P.O. Box 520867  
Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0867

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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W50

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