



THE PELICAN

MAY/JUNE 2007

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

MAY/JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

May 17 - 22nd
See website
www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com

FISH SPRINGS NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE

Work and Birding
Saturday/Sunday,
May 5-6th
See page 5

BASIN & RANGE SEMINAR

Saturday, Sunday,
June 9th - 10th

May 15th - GSLA Monthly Meeting

Sugarhouse Garden Center

BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES IN STRAWBERRY VALLEY

Saturday, June 9th
See page 5

BRIGHTON BIRD COUNT

Saturday, July 14th
See page 6

Reptiles and Ice Cream: a Perfect Match??

By Jen Hajj, Program Chair

May is our last General Meeting of the season. We've learned a great deal from a diverse group of speakers: wildlife experts, organizations that work to educate the public about issues affecting our environment, and artists. We wouldn't want to say that anyone is better than anyone else, but we've saved a certain program for last. It's the creepiest, crawliest, scaliest of the bunch. The theme for our May program is **REPTILES!** James Dix with Reptile Rescue will be educating us about reptiles; both native and exotic species. Learn about our native reptiles and what effect non-native species have on them.

Jim will be bringing a selection of these beautiful animals for us to view. Reptile Rescue is a service that rescues and rehabilitates injured native species and finds homes for discarded or unwanted exotic species. He is also licensed by the State to keep poisonous reptiles. This will be a fascinating presentation for both young and old. And even though we'll be saying goodbye for the season, we've been busy planning programs for the Fall: Wildlife SOS will talk about their efforts to rescue the native wildlife of India, HEAL Utah will enlighten us about nuclear waste storage issues in the West Desert, and we'll have a panel discussion about vehicles that run on alternative fuels, featuring some innovative Utahns that are changing the way we think about cars. GSLA General Meetings are held at the Sugarhouse Garden Center, NE corner of Sugarhouse Park (enter from 2100 South, just west of Highland High). (cont. page 3)



INSERTS THIS ISSUE

Ballot
Basin & Range Brochure

National Audubon and GSLA are planning to join with other groups to question the leasing of new lands in the North Arm (or Gunnison Bay) of Great Salt Lake (GSL) for the proposed expansion of mineral ponds by Great Salt Lake Minerals.

Here is a summary of the issue: GSL Minerals operates 43,000 acres of solar evaporation ponds on GSL. They seek approval to
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Any good ideas for field trips? Contact the GSLA field trip coordinators. See the directory inside the Pelican.

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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.*

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www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

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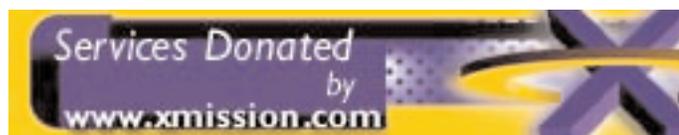
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Submission Guidelines: Original articles and photos are welcomed. The editor reserves the right to choose and edit as needed. E-mail articles to newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org. *The Pelican* is published 6 times a year. Submission deadline for the July-August issue is June 12, 2007.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GLOBAL WARMING

By Nathan Darnall, GSLA president

It appears the clamor over global warming is growing and that more and more emphasis is being placed on the issue and related topics. A few recent events include: 1) a United Nations report of leading scientists concluded that manmade greenhouse gases are causing global warming, 2) the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases, 3) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed to list the polar bear as a threatened species, and 4) a campaign was launched to market compact fluorescent bulbs. Over the coming months and years I suspect we will continue to hear more about this issue, and while there are still unknowns it is almost certain that worldwide temperatures are going to rise.

Some people use weather phenomenon (e.g., unusually cold temperatures) to question the veracity of global warming while others use weather (e.g., record high temperatures) to bolster the case. Both are wrong. While the extremes may be interesting and certainly give us something to talk about, it is the averages that count: that is the average temperatures of the oceans, of the continents, of the globe and these are rising. Based on some of the models global average temperatures could rise by three to five degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. While that may not sound like much (and while some areas may benefit) polar regions will likely suffer as might others. At this point we don't know what the effects will be to migratory birds and to other species that share this planet, but it is worth some consideration and monitoring.

At last year's board meeting in Vail, Colorado the National Audubon Society approved a motion to

Continued page 3

Board Meeting Highlights

By Arne Hultquist, Secretary

Conservation, restoration, and Audubon sponsored events. That is what we do at the GSLA Chapter, and those issues are the highlights from the last two board meetings.

Keith Johnson has been a tireless volunteer for the GSLA's restoration project. He updates the board at every meeting with the details of its management. Keith has a solid sense of place for the area and the Board appreciates his efforts. Several of his long-term objectives for the project have been discussed at recent meetings and those objectives will be met in the next couple of years.

The recent Board meetings have also revealed a strong commitment to the annual Gala. We have found an excellent speaker, and have agreed upon everything except the appetizers! Look for details in upcoming issues of your Pelican and please plan on attending.

Conservation issues continue to be at the forefront of every board meeting. Working with the National Audubon Society the Board attempts to solidify Utah Chapters' stance and provide helpful guidance to policy-making officials. The GSLA Board has managed to agree and comment on many government resource policy actions taken that affects birds and other-wildlife in our chapter area and beyond. This is not an easy task. Balancing development and conservation is the quintessential dilemma. The number of issues compounded by the rapid population growth in our State and abundant yet neglected environmental resources continue to require a large proportion of the Board members time both in between and at meetings.

U.S. Forest Service Photo Gallery

Hey folks - Congratulations! WE have now exceeded over 4000 photos in our photo library, and, we have some new entries that are just amazing. Here is the find a photo link:[HYPERLINK "http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/find_a_photo.nsf/home?openpage"](http://www.notes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/find_a_photo.nsf/home?openpage) Pass it around to your local partners and friends if you haven't already.

REPTILES continued from page 1

Come early to the May meeting! It is the last meeting of the season and ice cream sundaes will be served. Doors open at 6:30 and the program starts at 7:00. The program is FREE and everyone is invited to join us for refreshments and socializing. Kids are always welcome.

GSL Minerals continued from page 1

expand their operations by 23,088 acres in the North Arm of GSL (Gunnison Bay) and by 8,000 acres in Bear River Bay. In Gunnison Bay one concern is Gunnison Island which is home to the second largest breeding colony of American White Pelicans and is the only nesting location for American White Pelicans in Utah. The existing ponds are no closer than about four and one half miles from the island; however, the expansion would have the dikes about 2.5 miles away. The proposal would also dike off about seven miles of shoreline on the western side of Gunnison Bay. It is true that there are no major water sources in this area, but bird life (such as Snowy Plover) may use the area, though it's largely unknown. In Bear River Bay there is concern about harm to wild, juvenile, molting Canada Geese (**these are not your golf course geese**, ~10,000 birds) and other significant bird use.

President's message coninued from page 2

make global warming a priority and to step up efforts to address the threat of global warming.

Some of the strategies to do this included raising public awareness, promoting individual actions to reduce greenhouse gases, and using advocacy to influence policy. On a separate track, GSLA approved a conservation policy resolution on global climate change (see our website). Both of these organizations recognize the value of individual action in addressing this issue. So I encourage you to learn as much as you can, to get involved, to support efforts to assess impacts to birds and wildlife, and to make energy conservation a part of your life. Together we can make a difference.

MAY/JUNE CALENDER
GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON CHAPTER

Beginning birders are always welcome.

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

Wednesday, May 2nd, 8am

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 8am 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, 8am

FISH SPRINGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Work Party and Birding

Leader: Tom Neuman

This is a great opportunity to visit the refuge and to help out. Saturday afternoon will be spent working on a project involving the fish of Fish Springs, and the rest of the time will be spent birding. The birding should be great this time of year (more than 110 species of birds have been seen on the refuge in one day during May). Bring a dish to share for Saturday's potluck dinner. Camping is possible and the bunkhouse or trailer will be available for the overnight. Meet at 8am in the S.E. corner of the Shopko parking lot on 13th East near I-80. Call Tom (274-9595) for more information and to let him know you'll be there.

Wednesday, May 9th, 8am

A VISIT to JOHNSON MILL, in honor of Bob Johnson

Leaders: Kathy Coleman and Sylvia Gray

As many of you know Bob Johnson died last October. He and Charlene were such gracious hosts of our many birding trips there in the past that we thought it would be appropriate to honor his memory with a gift of a tree. So we will be planting a tree first and then birding afterwards. A small donation to cover the cost of the tree would be appreciated. We'll meet at 8am in the Southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse. Call Kathy (944-5773) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to join us.

Saturday, May 12th, 6:00am - 1pm

BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE

Leader: Deedee O'Brien

The habitat and birds of this refuge always make a spring trip worthwhile. We plan to stop at the new visitor/education center on the way home, but will head straight back to Shopko from there. Meet in SE corner of Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse in time to arrange carpools and leave by 6:00AM. Call Deedee at 272-8060 if you plan to attend.

May 15th - GSLA Monthly Meeting 7pm

Sugarhouse Garden Center

May 17th - 22nd GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL

Information at: www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com

Wednesday, May 30th, 7:30am/8am

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 7:30 am for breakfast and camaraderie or 8am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Sunday, June 3rd , 1pm - 5pm

AMBASSADOR DUCK CLUB

Leader: Patrick Kelly

Pat is a very knowledgeable birder and a long-time member of Audubon and the Ambassador Duck Club. This trip is limited to 12 people, and is a "behind the gates" opportunity. If you are interested you need to be able to stay for the whole time as the gates will be locked. Contact June Ryburn (801-576-0103) to sign up.

Wednesday, June 6th, 7:30am

MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Our summer visitors will be here so come and help us find them. We'll meet at 7:30am 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, June 9th, 8am

BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES IN STRAWBERRY VALLEY

Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith

Please join us. We will meet at 8 am in the Southeast corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse or 9:15am at the Strawberry Valley Visitor Center. The morning will be spent checking the boxes and recording the species using each box, and if there are eggs or young birds. It's very exciting and you never quite know what you are going to find! Afterwards we will gather for lunch. Please bring your own sandwich; GSLA will provide cold drinks. Call Jeanne or Ray at 801-532-7384 if you have questions or to let them know you'll be there.

Saturday, Sunday, June 9th - 10th

BASIN AND RANGE WEEKEND SEMINAR

(see insert for details and registration)

Friday, June 15th, 7am

A CANYON WALK - MORMON TRAIL

Leader: Kathy Coleman

Our destination today will be a section of the Mormon Trail. Please join us for a morning of birding. Meet in the parking lot just west of the REI at 3300 South and 3285 East in time for a 7AM departure. Call Kathy Coleman at 944-5773 if you plan to attend or with any questions.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! BALLOTS ARE DUE MAY 14th.

Wednesday, June 20th, 6:30AM

A CANYON WALK - PINECREST (off of Emigration Canyon)

Leader: Deedee O'Brien

This is a 2 1/2 mile roundtrip walk along an old mining railroad grade that winds in and out of small canyons. There is no altitude gain, but the trail is uneven and can be muddy. Target birds include Lazuli Buntings, Green-tailed Towhees, MacGilvray's Warblers, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds showing off their courtship display. Regardless of what birds are in, the views will be spectacular and the wildflowers in bloom. Join us! Meet at the eastern end of the parking lot at Ruth's Diner, 4 miles up Emigration Canyon at 6:30 am .Call Deedee at 272-8060 if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, June 27th, 7am/7:30am

FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA

Leader: Bob Huntington

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 7am for breakfast and camaraderie or 7:30am to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Bob (595-8748) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, July 11th, 7:00am

MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION 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'll meet at 7:00am 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, July 14th from 8am 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 8:00 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), 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. GSLA will provide cold drinks. Please call Jeanne Le Ber or Ray Smith at (532-7384).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

HELP PLANT TREES ON A SATURDAY,
DATE NOT YET DETERMINED.

If you are curious and want to help out, contact
Nathan at cnathan2bird@msn.com or by phone:
755-4480

June Ryburn is looking for a few good-looking
volunteers to help with the information table at
the GSL Bird Festival. 3-4 hour shifts, Friday
afternoon, Saturday all day. Volunteers may
attend a workshop for free. No experience
needed. Call June at 576-0103, if intrerested.

New members joining, renewing or transferring through National Audubon: Sharon Baldwin, Suzanne Barnes, Daniel Burnett Boone, Richard Brandt, Conrad Burgoyne, Roxie Campbell, Marilyn Castellano, Patricia Clay, Donald Close, Gaetana Cummando, Lynn Curt, Lynn Dansie, Nanette Davis, Helena Duncan, Connie Forbis, James Glade, Lane Gumrud, Rosemary Hanna, Harold Hargreaves, Bruce Heaton, Sharon Holloway, J. Holmes, Lucy Houser, Diane Ingebretsen, Jane Moore, Elizabeth Jarrell, Shauna Kerr, Glen Losee, Robert Lynch, Ann Lyons, Kathlene Marlovits, Nolan Merrill, Debra Naegle, Ramachandran Nageswaran, Elva Oaks Green, Jack Orgill, L.A. Paxman, Robert Powel, Yoko Sakata, Marcelle Shoop, Edie Sidle, Sandy Smith, Vivian Stjohn, Marilyn Stohl, Kathy Sutphin, Colleen Thompson, Jason Timmer, Jean Uffens, Vicky Waller, Wilmont Wheeler, Diane Williams, Carlyle Workman & Hwee Yong.

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. Pelican has all of the details. We look forward to meeting you. Vivian Schneggenburger, Membership.

RENEWING MEMBERS: Christina Boswell, Sue Smith Susan Eyzaguirre, Stan Foutz, Colleen Hayden, Heather Dove & David Druker, Dixie & Pat Lamping, Daniel Salemi, Yvonne Stroup, Wayne Peay, Rachel McMahan, Hugh Gillilan, Nathan Darnall, Bruce & Kathy Waddell.

SAVE THE DATE!

We encourage you to reserve Thursday September 27, 2007 for GSLA's **SIXTH ANNUAL GALA** to be held at Gardner Village with guest speaker, Don Paul.

It's an event you won't want to miss, so please plan to attend!



Photo Credits: Laura Romin & Larry Dalton

© Wildlife Reflections Photography

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

HB 192, REVOKING AUTHORITY TO USE STATE LANDS AS A BIRD REFUGE, Passed. It will be effective May 5, 2008. This bill was presented and explained in two public meetings (one at DNR in Salt Lake and another at Bear River Refuge) for Audubon and other conservation organizations who showed concern about it. Rep Ben Ferry, R Box Elder County was the sponsor. Mike Styler, DNR Executive Director and Rep Ferry addressed the groups attending those meetings. The essence of the bill is to complete a long standing negotiation with the Department of Interior over the use of the state lands where Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is located and operated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Utah authorities believe this legislation will force the USFWS to finally resolve this outstanding issue. Rep Ferry explained that the effective date is specifically timed to fall after the legislative session in 2008 (Jan-March 2008). This is viewed as a safety net where the bill could be altered to reflect the outcome of the negotiations taking place now and hopefully resolved by the next legislative session. However, we need to continue tracking this issue.

The rest of the legislative agenda will soon be posted on our website.



THE PELICAN

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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!

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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.

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