



THE PELICAN

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

UPCOMING EVENTS - check calendar, pages 4 & 5 for details

Jan.13-19 - Nayarit, Mexico -

San Blas International Festival of
Migratory Birds, see page 7.

Jan.16 - Gull ID class with Tim Avery

Jan.25-27 - St. George Winter Bird Festival

Feb.2 - Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Feb. 9 - Bald Eagle Day

Feb.13 - Shorebird ID class with Tim Avery

Feb.15-18 - Great Backyard Bird Count,
see page 7 for details.

Feb.16 - "Looking for Tracks and Signs"
with Bruce Thompson

Mar.1 - Snow Goose Festival

Upcoming Programs for Winter-Spring

By Jennifer Hajj

Did you join us for a General Meeting this fall? If so, you had the chance to learn about all sorts of interesting things. General meetings will resume in January. Our mission is to protect and enhance habitat for wild plants and animals, and to maintain healthy ecosystems for wildlife and people. Our general meetings feature guest speakers who can give you ideas on how you can personally embrace this mission in your day-to-day life.

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 and the program runs from 7:00 to approximately 8:00 pm. We'll have refreshments, it's FREE, and everyone is invited!

So mark your calendars! General meetings are on the third Tuesday in every month from September through May (excluding December). We'd love to see you there. See the program schedule on page 3.

A BIG THANK YOU

GSLA had 64 field trips last year and field trips would not happen without field trip leaders, so thank you to the following people for their willingness to share their time and enthusiasm:

Tim Avery, Steve and Louise Brown, Jack Clark, Kathy Coleman, Nathan Darnall, Pomera Fronce, Lu Giddings, Sylvia Gray, Dave Hanscom, Bob Huntington, Allene and Charles Keller, Patrick Kelly, Jeanne LeBer, Kent Lewis, John Middleton, Colby Neuman, Tom Neuman, Deedee O'Brien, Vivian Schneggenburger, Jeff Smith, Ray Smith, Steve and Cindy Sommerfeld, and Roberta Wherritt.

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED: A Webmaster

GSLA is looking for a new Webmaster who will maintain our website and help develop new content. Experience developing websites, writing http code, or using programs to create websites is desirable. Time commitment is variable but may average one to two hours per week. Call Nathan Darnall at 801-755-4480 for more information.

GETTING LOW ON SUNFLOWER SEEDS ?

50 lb. bags for \$22 are still available. Contact:
Sandy Bassett @ 943-7473 or 243-6062

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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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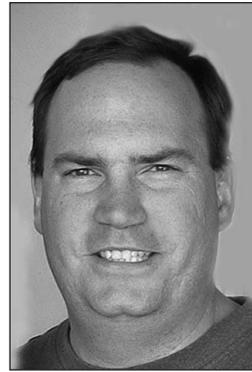
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Submission Guidelines: Original articles and photos are welcomed. The editor reserves the right to choose and edit as needed. E-mail articles to newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org. *The Pelican* is published 6 times a year. Submission deadline for the March/April issue is February 10, 2008.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Nathan Darnall,
GSLA President

As a member of Audubon, you are probably familiar with topics such as “nature-deficit disorder” in children and the continued loss of wetlands. In Richard Louv’s book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, he describes some of the human costs associated with alienation from nature such as childhood obesity, attention deficit disorder (ADD), and depression. The cure is simple: Nature. Related to this, studies have shown that environment-based education improves test scores and grade point averages. GSLA supports environmental education in elementary classrooms by making Audubon Adventures kits available to teachers. We’ve even offered to help young birders (ages 8-12) form their own birding groups or help organize regular field trip for them (see last issue); this offer is still available.

In addition to the important work of environmental education, GSLA has also been in the forefront of efforts to preserve and restore natural areas along the Jordan River that serve both as valuable habitat for wildlife and provide a place for people to reconnect with nature. A recent report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the number of wetland acres has remained steady and is meeting the president’s goal of “no net loss” of wetlands; however, the report balanced the loss of natural wetlands with ponds created in places such as golf courses. While “no net loss” may be reality, the quality of natural wetlands is dramatically different. GSLA has helped do its part this last fall by creating almost a mile of “natural” wetlands along the Jordan River.

Continued maintenance of this site and others like it will require on-going funding which is why GSLA is establishing an endowment to care for these areas in perpetuity.

If you’d like to financially support GSLA’s programs or if you’d like to join the board or become a volunteer, please contact us at the PO Box, phone line or e-mail. It’s because of the support of our members that we are able to do so much. Thank you. Nathan



General meeting program schedule:

January 15 -Conservation Advocacy for Audubon with Bill Fenimore

Have you ever wondered what your Utah chapters of Audubon are doing to affect policy, close to home? Bill will give us a taste of what it is like to be the Policy Advocate for the Utah Audubon Council, and will familiarize us with this year's hot issues, and help us understand how policy is made in Utah. Find out also how you can help.

February 19 - Ecology and Restoration of the Jordan River Floodplain with Ty Harrison

This presentation will review fifty years of personal observation and study of the Jordan River beginning with the Harrison farm, one of the largest privately owned parcels left along the Jordan floodplain. A slide program will illustrate past restoration projects as well as the recent efforts on the Willow Creek re-channelization and planting on the Audubon/Tree Utah Jordan River Restoration site in South Jordan.

And mark your calendar for our spring programs:

March 18---Sylvia Gray and Nancy Howard will share their recent excursion in a program entitled "Birding and Sightseeing in Northern India"

April 15---A panel discussion on Wind and Solar Power

May 20---Wild Animals at Audubon. We typically close out the season with live animals from a local rehabilitation or conservation organization. Keep your eyes open for passing wildlife!



Meet Ty Harrison,
professional ecologist.

Board Meeting Highlights

By Arne Hultquist, Secretary

The appointment of Heather Dove to the Board was definitely the highlight of the last two board meetings. The Board is excited to have such a wonderful and qualified individual join us at our monthly meetings and I would personally like to welcome her at this time.

The current conservation issue, and perhaps the most debated one in quite some time, is the impact of the Great Salt Lake Minerals request to expand their operations on The Great Salt Lake. The consequences of action or no action will continue to be pondered by board members until DNR and the Army Corps of Engineers issue their Record of Decision. A few board members and "Friends" have spent quite a bit of time involved with the process.

The Board is pleased with the work at the restoration site. Stream meanders have been reintroduced on Willow Creek and tree planting has produced an environment that continues to draw more wildlife into the area. The area should be a popular habitat for native fauna nesting this spring.

We are currently contemplating the fate of the office. We had been sharing an internet connection with Hawk Watch until they moved out of the building we occupy. Although we are still continuing conversations with Hawk Watch and are considering moving with them, we are also considering other office location options. If any of our members would like to propose alternatives, the Board would be happy to consider them.

Nominating Committee

Over the next few months, GSLA will engage in a search for new board members. The Nominating Committee consists of Nathan Darnall, Jen Hajj, Christine Morris, and George Melling. 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.

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for January/February 2008 Great Salt Lake Audubon, www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Beginning birders and new members are especially welcome. We encourage carpooling on our field trips. Contributions towards gas money are 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.

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 5-10 minutes early to arrange carpools.

Tuesday, January 1st, 7AM JORDAN RIVER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith

Meet at 7AM at Johanna's Kitchen, 9725 South State Street, Sandy (801-566-1762). Assignments will be distributed and groups will start birding at 8AM. To sign up, or for more information, call Jeanne or Ray at 801-532-7384, evenings.

Wednesday, January 9th, 9AM until noon MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PAR- LEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

We are not sure what the weather will be like, so come prepared. We have been surveying this area for the past 3+ years and are over the 100 species mark! What new birds will we see this year? We'll meet at 9 in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South at 3285 East. Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, January 15th, 7pm GSLA MONTHLY MEETING SUGARHOUSE GARDEN CENTER

Wednesday, January 16th, 10AM BEAR RIVER'S WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER

Dr. John Cavitt, Ornithology Professor from Weber State University, will give a presentation, "Nesting Shorebird Productivity." Dr. Cavitt and students have been doing work on the Refuge, and in the area, the last several years, looking at nest success and predation problems of American avocet, black-necked stilt, snowy plover and long-billed curlew. Betsy Beneke, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
2155 West Forest Street
Brigham City UT 84302
435.734.6436 office, <http://bearriver.fws.gov>

Wednesday January 16th, 7-9PM GULL ID CLASS with Tim Avery

Cost: \$5/person. Place: Sugarhouse Garden Center. Most birders find gulls one of the hardest of families of birds to differentiate. Come get some help with this challenging bird group. Call Deedee at 272-8060 to reserve your place.

Saturday, January 19th, 8AM WEBER RIVER and RESERVOIRS

Leader: Nathan Darnall

Join us for a half day of birding along the Weber River, including Rockport and Echo reservoirs. Species of interest include bald eagle and American dipper. Dress for weather and bring water and snacks. Meet at the SE corner of Sugarhouse Shopko parking lot for an 8:00 am departure. Call Nathan (755-4480) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, January 23rd, 8:30AM until noon DECKER LAKE and LEE KAY PONDS

Leader: Deedee O'Brien

We will 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 SE corner of Sugarhouse Shopko parking lot in time for a 8:30AM departure. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Friday, January 25th - Sunday, January 27th 5th ANNUAL ST. GEORGE WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Enjoy three days of fun! Learn about birds from our many presenters. Explore Washington County's birding hot spots. The Festival is designed for the beginning and the experienced birder. Attend any of the Bird Festival's many field trips, presentations and workshops centered at Tonaquint Park and Nature Center. Field trips are free and open to all. Trips depart from the Tonaquint Park and carpool to designated areas. www.sgcity.org/birdfestival/

Wednesday, January 30th, 8:30/9AM FARMINGTON BAY & NEARBY AREA

Leader: Bob Huntington

Join us for our monthly half-day of birding Farmington Bay. This area always provides interesting birds in winter. If 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 for breakfast or

at 9:00 to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Bob (595-8748) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, February 2nd, 8:30AM
BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE**

Leader: Hugh Gillilan

Bear River in winter is always interesting. One year we watched Virginia Rails scurrying on the ice between stands of cattail. Tundra Swan is our target bird for this trip, but we'll enjoy all that we encounter. Meet in the SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse in time to leave by 8:30AM. Be sure to dress for the weather. Bring lunch and water. We'll return mid-afternoon. Call Hugh at 582-9284 if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, February 6th, 9:00AM until noon
MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PAR-
LEY'S CANYON**

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

We are not sure what the weather will be like, so come prepared. Chickadees, Solitaires, Waxwings, Brown Creepers - all are possible. Come and help us find them! We'll meet at 9:00AM in the parking lot just west of REI at 33rd South and 3285 East. Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, February 9th, 10AM
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 South-East corner of the Shopko Parking lot in Sugarhouse at 10am to carpool. Call Jeanne or Ray at 801-532-7384 for details. You'll be glad you did.

**Wednesday, February 13th, 7-9PM
SHOREBIRDS ID CLASS with Tim Avery**

A very confusing group - if you want some help sorting them out, this is your chance.

Cost: \$5/person. Place: Sugarhouse Garden Center. Call Sylvia (532-3486) to reserve your place.

**Saturday, February 16th, 8:30AM-4PM
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 appropriate to a mixed age and observant group, stopping to talk and explore fre-

quently, 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 is 12. 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.

Group size limited to 15. YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP. Call Sylvia Gray (532-3486) to register and to learn details of the meeting place.

**Tuesday, February 19th, 7PM
GSLA MONTHLY MEETING
SUGARHOUSE GARDEN CENTER**

**Wednesday, February 27th, 8:30/9AM
FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA**

Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien

Join us for our monthly half-day at Farmington Bay. This area always provides interesting birds in winter. If 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 for breakfast or at 9 to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. We'll be joined on this trip by members of Wasatch Audubon. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, March 1st, 8AM - All day
SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL**

Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith

Meet in the South-East corner of the Shopko Parking lot in Sugarhouse at 8:00AM. 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), evenings if you are interested.

If you would like to make a year-end tax-deductible donation to GSLA, please have your letter postmarked by Monday December 31st in order to count towards the 2007 tax year.

MEMBERSHIP

By Heather Dove and Vivian Schneggenburger

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

New members joining through National Audubon: Louann & John Barclay, Violet Averett, Sandy Barber, F.L. Barking, Milla Bilbrey, Miki Bringham, Helen Christian, Judith Drevenstedt, David Grayson, Kathleen Gundy, Mike Henderson, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Holbrook, Brent Howa, Paul Johnson, Lynn Killpack, Stephen Lambert, Emily Lobatto, Lapreal Merriam, Winifred Minor, E.D. Nelson, James & Kathy Oaks, Jeanin Olson, Kathy Paulin, Jesse Perry, Deborah Petersen, Anne Quigley, Clarice Reese, Barbara Rose, Van Sandra, Lisa Sawchuk, Dylan & Quaid Short, Marlee Spendlove, Shemia Splonskowski, Staci Strenkert, Craig Watson, The Westover Family, Tess Zimmer.

New and renewing members of GSLA: Fred Beckett, Cheryl & Gil Funston, Irene Fisher & Craig Hansen, Melanie Loucks, Lowell Mikolash, Rick Miller, Ann Petersen, Carolyn Pedone & John Rose, Tracy Aviary Education Director, Travis Young, Joyce Yeagle, Mary Beth Whittaker, Carolyn Tuttle, La Von Thomas, Yvonne Stroup, Kandy Richards, Jacqueline Ralph, Wayne Peay, Pat & Laurie Munson, Jay Jones, Arne Hultquist, Dave Hanscom, Chauncey & Emily Hall, Sandra Cole.

Fishing at Fishlake

By Arne Hultquist

I had been anticipating my stay at Fishlake over the July 4th weekend, but regretfully, had not made my way there earlier this year. I ran, walked, and biked alone most of the trails I cherish. The trails are my friends and I have taken mental notes on their health and predicament for over a decade. Each has a different personality and offers a different perspective of life in the very high desert.

But this afternoon I have the pleasure of fishing without an agenda. An afternoon without wind on

Fishing at Fishlake continued...

the lake is a magnificent opportunity for a specific kind of respite. After a quick conversation with the marina manager, an octogenarian who lives in this environment year round, I get in my old boat that has been waiting patiently for me and we motor outside the moss and begin fishing. A few bites and a couple of releases later I am almost across the lake when my eye catches a glimpse of another native. The large black wings and solid white belly are immediately recognized as my fishing friends, the Osprey. Instinctively, I scan the mountainside and my eyes land on the nest without hesitation or searching. An Osprey is sitting proudly in its home high atop a singularly tall tree. After a few moments, a voice in my head reminds me to breath. I take a large, deep breath, which is never fulfilling at this altitude and ponder our return journey to the marina.

Interrupted by a fish incessantly tugging at my line, I reel it in and decide upon this one for dinner. As I look up, an Osprey flies by with a similar size fish in its talons. I follow it to a different nest; one that I haven't seen before and probably new this year. It is occupied with proud parents monitoring the waters and the people fishing below. Later, an Osprey flies by and shakes the water from its feathers like a dog sheds water from its fur. I found fourteen easily spotted nests along the east shore of Fishlake and it appears that ten are occupied, more than I noticed last year.

There are plenty of other birds and wildlife around Fishlake: Hummingbirds, mountain bluebirds, ravens, turkey vultures, nighthawks, numerous duck species, and woodpeckers to name a few. I even counted 25 pelicans in Widgeon Bay. But the leading role of the bird show during the summer is definitely the Osprey. The Osprey aren't the only characters during the winter between Thanksgiving and Christmas, because the east shore is full of other raptors taking a break during their migration and fattening themselves on fish. But then that's another fish story.

For more information on the Osprey and wildlife management at Fishlake, contact the Fishlake National Forest Service Biologist at (435) 896-9233.

Special Invitation to Attend the San Blas Bird Festival in Sunny Nayarit, Mexico

By Don Paul

If you have thought about attending the San Blas bird festival, then 2008 is a great year. There are several reasons why I encourage you to attend this coming January. The Nayarit festival planning committee has made significant strides in improving the experience even though it has always been great. As you may know the festivals in San Blas, Nayarit, Great Salt Lake, Utah and Chaplin Lake, Saskatchewan are outcomes of the Linking Communities program that started some 10 years ago. This is the only chain of festivals that are officially linked to sister Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites. Last year they each featured the same bird, The Marbled Godwit. Here are some reasons to attend this year:

First visit the Festival web site; <http://avessanblas.uan.mx/ingles/index.html>

The Nayarit Bird Festival provides a wonderful look into the culture of our Mexican Linking Partners. The festival follows the pattern of traditional Mexican celebrations with a natural history emphases. There are evening gatherings in the town square with dancers interpreting bird behavior and also traditional Mexican performances. These gatherings are enjoyed by both residents and visitors. It is a great way to introduce bird conservation to the local populace.

Field trips provide excellent opportunities to bird both indigenous and Neotropical migrants often sharing the same habitats.

Our Mexican Linking partners and the festival committee are anxious to demonstrate that eco tourism is good for the local community. They need participation from non residents to assist with this initiative. This year the Waterbird Conservation Council of the Americas and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Council are holding concurrent meetings in San Blas the week prior to the Bird Festival (January 13-19). One of their interests is to learn how Linking Community partners work toward range-wide bird conservation. It would be great to have a good showing of Utah Linking partners present. The Council meetings are also open to the public.

The Nayarit Bird Festival Committee has pulled back from some government sponsorship to maintain the bird conservation emphases that has guided their programs to date. They need our support, so come and have a great time in Sunny San Blas, one of the greatest coastal communities in Mexico.

Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15-18:

"<http://www.audubon.org/gbbc/index.shtml>" Great Backyard Bird Count: The GBBC, led by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, provides an opportunity for people of all ages and birding skill levels to enjoy learning about their backyard birds while collecting important data for conservation. To learn more about the results for the 2007 count, and to see the GBBC online photo gallery featuring images taken from across the continent, visit www.birdcount.org.

GSLA SALE TABLE - Lots of interesting used general nature and bird books and knick-knacks have been donated to GSLA Sale Table. Come to the meetings and check it out!

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

Want a fun birding project for the winter? Identify and count the birds that come to your feeders, water, or plantings over a two day period every 10 days or so and submit your data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch. Check the website www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/ to learn more, sign up, or just check out the maps and data they've compiled over the years. ONLY 29 UTAHNS SUBMITTED DATA LAST YEAR! Let's do better! Call Deedee O'Brien for more info. 272-8060



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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.

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