



THE PELICAN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

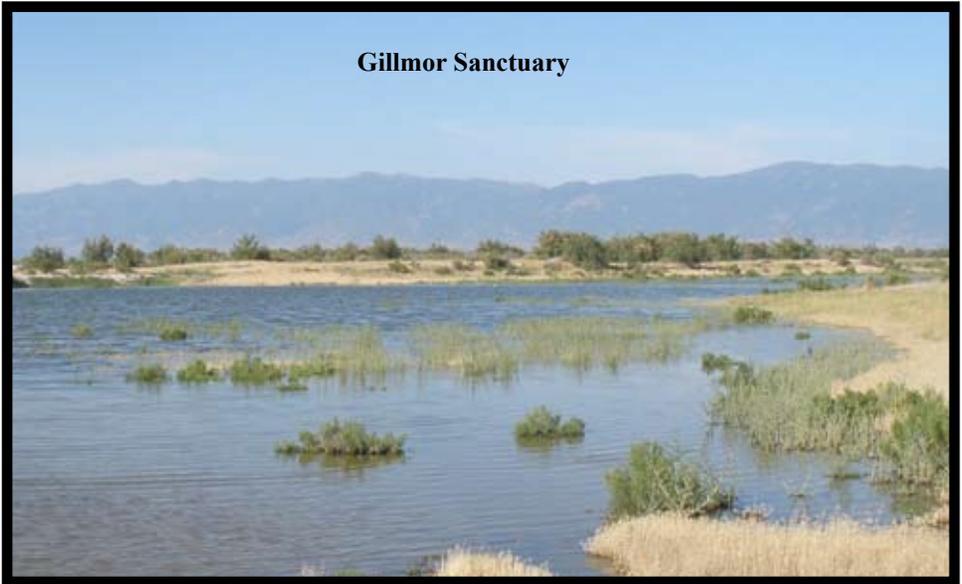
NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Gillmor Sanctuary Fieldtrip with Ella Sorensen Thursday September 10, 2009 7:30 AM to 11 AM

Directions. Take I-80 past Salt Lake City Airport to 7200 West Exit. Turn right then immediately left onto frontage road. Go west about two miles paralleling I-80. Meet at gate between two billboards.

Dress: Long sleeves and pants and hat. Insect repellent. Deer flies and mosquitoes may be present. Experience the incredible diversity of birds that have discovered the newly flooded areas of an ancient delta of the Jordan River.



Gillmor Sanctuary

DON'T FORGET THE 8TH ANNUAL GALA AND SILENT AUCTION Stonebridge Golf Course SEPTEMBER 17TH

*****PLUS*****

FIRST ANNUAL BIRDING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Bring your golfing and birding buddies, your family members and friends, and come join us for what promises to be a memorable and unique occasion --- a tournament which combines Golf with Birding! This will be an activity associated with this year's GSL Audubon Gala on Sept. 17, and will give you the opportunity to have some fun and fellowship while contributing to this worthy non-profit organization. See registration form insert for more information.

SUNFLOWER SEED ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID AND RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 27TH.

\$28.00 PER 50 POUND BAG

**PICK UP DATE IS OCTOBER 31ST,
HALLOWEEN
SCARY!!!**

See insert for the order form

A new season of General Meetings

All programs are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September through May, excluding December. They take place at the Sugarhouse Garden center at NE corner of Sugarhouse Park (enter from 2100 South, just west of Highland High). Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments and socializing, and program begins at 7:00 PM, with announcements, and then the speaker will begin shortly afterwards.

Programs this Fall: see page 7 for details

Sept 15 Ella Sorensen "The Gillmor Sanctuary: Providing habitat to Important Birds of Great Salt Lake"

Oct 20 SageSTEP "Sagebrush Restoration in the Great Basin"

Nov 17 Sage Fitch and Phil McCraley "Noxious Weeds!"

So mark your calendars for these free, educational events! We'd love to see you at the next General Meeting.

President's Message.....	page 2
Board Highlights.....	page 3
Bruce's Blog.....	page 3
Field Trips.....	page 4
Membership.....	page 6
General meetings continued.....	page 7
Gillmor Sanctuary.....	page 7

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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

OFFICE

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Treasurer, Philippe Wyffels.....
Past President, Nathan Darnall.....801-755-4480

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Term Ending 2010

Heather Dove.....801-424-0010

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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 November/December issue is October 9, 2009.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jen Hajj, *GSLA President*

Hello, Feathered Friends.

It is hard to believe that another summer is nearly over. But here we are, in September, and school is starting, the air is beginning to take on a certain chill, and some of Great Salt Lake Audubon's biggest events are coming up.

We're trying something new in conjunction with our Gala event this year. The Gala is moving to Stonebridge Golf Course, and we've added a Birding and Golf Tournament for your pleasure. We hope that you will join us for 9 holes of golf before coming to the Gala for cocktails, an excellent buffet dinner, and a wonderful silent auction. For just the golf, it is \$30 per person, which includes your tee fees, cart and a donation to GSLA. If you would like to come to the dinner only, it is \$45 per person. Or, if both are appealing, \$75 per person.

And there's also the annual sunflower seed sale, general meetings are starting up again, and of course, our field trips are always thrilling.

Would you like to help on the logistical end? Consider being a volunteer. We need people to help with the gala: registration, checkout and silent auction set up. We also need people to haul bags of seed for the sunflower seed sale. There are also some openings on our committees and board. If you feel that you are an untapped resource, please give me a call. GSLA will find some way to put you to work!

And if you are one of the people who makes all of these things possible, from scheduling field trips to data entry and from planning events to putting those silly little stickers on the newsletter to keep it from opening in the mail...thank you for all you do.

Jen Hajj

GSLA MOVES TO NEW OFFICE

We were notified last December that the building our office is housed in would be torn down and replaced by low-cost housing for seniors. So, we've been looking for a new office space. Jen found it, and we are now moved into the new office!! It is located at **152 W. Burton Avenue, Suite J**. To get there, go on West Temple to Burton Ave.(2360 South). Our office is upstairs in the crook of the elbow of a suite of offices and small businesses. It is considerably larger, which will allow us to receive visitors, hold small meetings, and do more of our work there. Although the rent is somewhat more, it is still about the least expensive we could find, and is offset somewhat by the fact that they provide internet service. Once we get everything organized and settled in, we'll hold an Open House and invite everyone to see it. Monthly Program Meetings will continue at the Sugarhouse Garden Center, but we hope that the new office will be a place where GSLA members can comfortably meet to do the work of the organization.

Answer to photo quiz in July/August issue : Wilson's Snipe
The Pelican

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JULY/AUGUST 2009

By Paul Lombardi.

By the time you read this, our new office space will be up and running thanks to the moving crew organized by Bruce. As many of you know, the old office had to be vacated. The lease for the new space has been signed for one year with the possibility to extend it beyond that time.

During both July and August there has been emphasis on filling many of the missing positions on committees of GSLA. The good news is that we now have some of those positions filled. Carl Ingwell has agreed to chair the Publicity Committee and has already begun working on issues related to making GSLA more visible to the general public and attractive to a wider audience. Tracy Hansford will chair the Programs Committee. Thanks, to both Carl and Tracy. The bad news is that we are still in need of volunteers to chair the Education Committee and the Historical Committee. Please consider volunteering your time and expertise to help on these. Finally, GSLA is still without a Vice President.

The most immediate task for both the Board and you as members of GSLA is to make our GALA a resounding success. As you know, this is our 8th Annual GALA and key to funding many of the programs sponsored by GSLA. Nathan has been busy working out the details for this event. Now is time for our members to act. First, by reserving a seat for you, your family and friends and second, by volunteering to help Nathan with the many aspects of preparing and executing this event. Remember to mark your calendars for Thursday evening, September 17.

The Restoration project for the Jordan River continues to move forward thanks to the efforts of Keith and Tara. Tara is currently working on a "Cooperative Agreement" for management of the area.

Finally, we are now waiting word from the several agencies responsible for a decision on the Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation's request for evaporation pond expansion on the Great Salt Lake. GSLA has lent its support to comments from Friends of the Great Salt Lake protesting these expansions.

Our next Board meeting will be held September 1 at the Sugarhouse Garden Center starting at 7:00 p.m. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. All GSLA members are welcome to attend.

Great Salt Lake Audubon member, David Jensen, has been visiting Memory Grove and City Creek Canyon for over 30 years. David was a member when our chapter used to be called Utah Audubon. Over the years he has kept detailed notes of the birds seen. Thanks to the wonders of the internet he can now share his findings with you. If you are curious, go to: [utahbirds.org/Places to Bird /By County/Salt Lake County/ City Creek Canyon and/or Memory Grove](http://utahbirds.org/Places%20to%20Bird/By%20County/Salt%20Lake%20County/City%20Creek%20Canyon%20and/or%20Memory%20Grove). Then click Checklist where David's sightings will be shown.

Thanks David for sharing your observations with us all.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

BRUCE'S BLOG: The Hook

By Bruce Heath, Executive Director

Years ago I worked in West Africa doing economic development studies for the government of Mauritania. There was some critical but restricted census data that I really needed, so to get it I made friends with a UN demographer from Canada who controlled it. Turns out, he was a big time birder -- mist nets, kept lists, etc. One hot sand-blowing morning I found myself with him on the southern edge of the Sahara looking for nestling Cream Colored Coursers. We finally found one, and I was able to run it down and catch it. He was ecstatic, took pictures of me holding it, sent in an article reporting the find of the first hatchlings of that species in that part of the world to some magazine.

I was hooked, just standing there holding the squirming little feller. I can still feel the emotion of that moment after all these years. I've been a birder ever since. Eventually I made that critical link to understanding that to protect these birds, we have to be concerned about the environment which supports them and become involved in conservation of their habitat. You undoubtedly have a similar story. The first time your soul was touched by the presence of a bird. Remember that feeling?

At a National Audubon seminar at this year's Outdoor Retailer's Show, we were told that birding is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreational activities in the country and that there are 81 million "birders" in this country (and \$45 billion is spent on watching wildlife). Of those, most just feed birds in their back yard, but 20 million bird away from their home, 3.8 M can id at least 40 species, and 2.4 M keep a life list. Only 375,000 subscribe to the Audubon Magazine (and only 165 pay membership dues to GSLA).

We can't save our part of this lonely planet by ourselves. To get others involved and committed, we need to help them have personal contact with a bird. That's why activities such as our field trips, Tim's classes, Basin & Range, and the Christmas Bird Counts are so important. All of them provide opportunities for people new to birding to have direct personal contact and become touched by the wonder of a single bird. Not just as a recreational activity, but to have an emotional connection to birds and wildlife, which in turn can lead them to being even more committed to doing something about protecting them.

That's what we do. That's what this is all about.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org
for registration and order forms for:
SUNFLOWER SEEDS
GALA DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION
BIRDING AND GOLF TOURNAMENT
This issue also has an insert for seeds and golfing.

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for September/October 2009

BEGINNING BIRDERS AND NONMEMBERS ARE WELCOME

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

******PLEASE NOTE: EXPECT FIELD TRIPS TO LEAVE ON TIME SO ARRIVE 5-10 MINUTES EARLY TO ARRANGE CARPOOLS******

**Wednesday, September 2nd, 7:30AM
MOUNTAIN DELL AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

Leader: Jack Clark

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Since we began this survey we have seen over 100 species. We'll meet by 7:30am in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Call Jack 801-255-7989 if you plan to attend.

**Friday, September 4th, 7AM
WILLARD BAY STATE PARK**

Leader: Kathy Coleman

Willard Bay rests atop the Great Salt Lake flood plain. The bay is a large man made fresh water reservoir. Riparian shrubs, trees and open water make this a great place during fall migration. Please bring a Utah State Park pass if you have one, or money to help with the cost of the entrance fee. Don't forget water, snacks or lunch. We will return to SLC in early afternoon. Meet at the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd So. and 3285 East in time for a 7AM departure. Call Kathy Coleman with any questions 801-944-5773.

**Saturday, September 5th, 8AM - 12PM
ANTELOPE ISLAND CAUSEWAY and GARR RANCH**

Leader: Nathan Darnall

Join GSL Audubon for a morning of birding at the Antelope Island Causeway, and Garr Ranch. Fall is a good time to see south-bound migrants staging along the causeway and occasionally yields pleasant surprises. Bring water, snacks and optics. Meet Nathan in the parking lot at the beginning of the Causeway by 8 a.m. Call Nathan 801-755-4480 if you plan to attend; carpools from SLC may be possible.

**Thursday September 10th, 7:30AM to 11AM
GILLMOR SANCTUARY**

Leader Ella Sorensen

Experience the incredible diversity of birds that have discovered the newly flooded areas of an ancient delta of the Jordan River. (see article elsewhere)

Directions. Take I-80 past Salt Lake City Airport to 7200 West Exit. Turn right then immediately left onto frontage road. Go west about two miles parallel to I-80. We will meet at the gate between two billboards.

Ella manages the Gillmor Sanctuary for National Audubon.

She is a long-time member of GSL Audubon and is a renowned birder. Contact person for this trip is Sylvia Gray 801-532-3486.

**Saturday, September 12th, 9am-5pm, Free Event
ANNUAL GREEN FESTIVAL**

**at the Jordan Valley Conservation Garden,
located at 8215 So. 1300 W., in West Jordan.**

Come and visit Audubon's booth and enjoy the lovely gardens and other activities. Call June 801-576-0103 with any questions.

**Tuesday, September 15th, 7PM
GENERAL MEETING , SUGARHOUSE GARDEN CENTER
GILLMOR SANCTUARY with speaker Ella Sorensen**

**Thursday, September 17th , GSLA GALA & GOLF
STONEBRIDGE GOLF COURSE
BIRDING GOLF TOURNAMENT, 3:30-6PM
GALA DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION, 6-9:30PM**

**Saturday, September 19th; 5:30PM-8:30PM
EVENING ELK BUGLING and Birding**

Leaders: Kim Roush and Scott Lewis

Elk Bugling is one of the most unique and beautiful sounds especially to come out of such a large ungulate. For this lovely evening event we will climb a very short moderate hill to a little knoll overlooking Hi Ute Ranch. The elk will - hopefully - be coming out of the forest of fir and aspen and heading down to graze in the open. The sound is clear and lovely and a delight you do not want to miss. There will be birds but I can only promise mostly towhees. Hawks do migrate along the ridges. We will be on private trails of the Pinebrook Homeowners Association. Meet by 5:30PM in the Albertson's parking lot on the south side of I-80 near the Jeremy Ranch exit. Or meet at 5PM in the parking lot on the west side of REI on 33rd S and 3285 E to carpool. Bring a flashlight. Call Kim at 435-658-2976 to reserve your place.

**Sunday, September 20th, 7:30AM - 11AM
EARLY MORNING ELK BUGLING and Birding**

Leaders: Kim Roush and Scott Lewis

This hike on private trails of the Pinebrook Homeowners Assoc. will wrap through sage, oak, mahogany, aspen, fir and maple as we loop around a small mountain in order to overlook a series of ridges covered in fir. The elk will have returned from grazing at Hi Ute Ranch and be settled into the forest for the day. That is the plan anyway - knowing how unpredictable animals are. There have been times when I have come upon the herd out in broad daylight but no promises for that! If we get up there early enough we should hear bugling. We will move at a steady clip along the trail and up some steep limbs to get in place in time. Participants should be confident with their moderate hiking ability to do this hike. Of course, we'll check out all bird sightings on the way back. Meet by 7:30AM in the Albertson's parking lot on the south side of I-80 near the Jeremy Ranch exit. Or meet at 7AM in the parking lot on the west side of REI on 33rd S and 3285 E to carpool. Call Kim at 435-658-2976 to reserve your place.

**Saturday, Sunday September 26-27th,
Fall Audubon Council retreat at Antelope Island,
See our website for the program and more details.**
Or leave a message for Nathan at 801- 521-2939

**Saturday, September 26th, 9AM – 3PM
DWR'S WATCHABLE WILDLIFE EVENT: HAWK-
WATCHING at Orem Overlook off Squaw Peak Road
Leaders: Bob Walters and June Ryburn**

September and October are big months for hawk migration. The Wasatch Mountains are not a major flyway, but hawks can be seen in migration catching the thermals above the ridges. Bob Walters of The Division of Wildlife Resources will have scopes set up at the Orem Overlook off Squaw Peak Rd. Come spend as long as you'd like looking for hawks and enjoying the mountains. If you want guidance getting to this location, meet June Ryburn at the REI parking lot in South Towne Mall (106th S exit from I-15) in time to leave by 8:30AM. Call June at 801-576-0103 to let her know you will meet her.

**Sunday, September 27th, 8AM – 1PM
RIVER LANE & OTHER UTAH LAKE HOTSPOTS
Leader: Jeff Bilsky**

In the fall warblers migrate at night and drop into groups of trees for daytime rest and feeding. Such an area, often near water, is a "warbler trap." River Lane is a well known warbler trap. We're targeting warblers but will enjoy all birds we see. Jeff will include other hotspots around Utah Lake as well. Bring water, snacks/lunch. Call Jeff at 801-842-4013 if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, September 30th, 8AM – noon
FARMINGTON BAY WMA**

Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien
As of this writing, the waterfowl hunt is tentatively scheduled to begin Oct 3rd. That means we will still have behind-the-gates privileges so can travel the Turpin Unit and/or around Unit 2. That won't happen again until January, so join us for this birding adventure. Join us at MacDonald's in Centerville at 7:30AM for breakfast and camaraderie or by 8:00 for carpooling. Call Deedee at 801-272-8060 if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, October 3rd, 8AM or 9:30AM
CLEANING BLUEBIRD BOXES**

Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith
Meet at the South-East corner of the Shopko Parking lot in Sugarhouse by 8:00AM, or at the Visitor Center in Strawberry Valley by 9:30AM. This is our Fall trip to clean our nesting boxes in Strawberry Valley, an essential part of preparing the boxes for reuse by the birds in the spring. Bring gloves and lunch. GSLA will provide drinks: dress for possible cool, wet weather. Call Jeanne or Ray at 801-532-7384 for details.

**Saturday, October 3rd, 10AM to about 5pm.
SPIRAL JETTY with FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE**
(See page 6 for details)

**Monday, October 5th, 7PM
OCTOBER BIRDING IN UTAH CLASS**

Location: HawkWatch International Office – 2240 S 900 E; SLC
Instructor: Tim Avery Cost: \$5
It's the final stretch, the last 1/4 of the year. Fall migration is tailing off, and the first winter arrivals will be showing up

soon. October sees the tail end of hawk, shorebird, and songbird migration. It is one of the best months for specialty shorebirds like American Golden-Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper. It is also a great time to look for Jaegers in Utah, with all three species having records during this month. Big sea ducks (scoters) will start popping up at the end of the month, and Sabine's Gull migration will continue into November. October is also a great month to pick up species you've missed during the year that are still around, like Sharp-tailed Grouse and Gray Partridge. After October, the species diversity will drop considerably and with winter quickly coming.

**Wednesday, October 7th, 8AM
MOUNTAIN DELL AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON
Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray**

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. We'll meet by 8am in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd So. and 3285 E. for a morning of birding. Call Jack 801-255-7989 or Sylvia 801-532-3486 if you plan to attend.

**Tuesday, October 20th, 7PM
GENERAL MEETING, SUGARHOUSE GARDEN CENTER
SAGEBRUSH RESTORATION IN THE GREAT BASIN**

**Saturday, October 24th, 7AM – 4PM
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE TRIP in Northern Utah
Leaders: Frank Howe and Lyle Bingham**

A trip for Bridgerland and GSLA Chapters
Since Frank Howe now lives in Cache Valley and is one of our favorite field trip leaders, we will travel north to bird with him again and enjoy the company of Bridgerland Audubon birders. We will target Sharp-tailed Grouse and Gray Partridge at locations of the leaders' choosing. We will also see several species of waterfowl (and possibly a lingering burrowing owl) at Salt Creek WMA and other northern Utah wetlands. Meet in the Centerville McDonald's in time to leave by 7AM. (exit 319 from I-15 heading east; turn left at light) Call Deedee at 801-272-8060 for more information.

**Wednesday, October 28th, 8:30AM – noon
FARMINGTON BAY WMA
Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien**

Hunting season will be on, but hunters cannot shoot around the Nature Center or from any of the dikes where we will be birding. In fact, the birds will likely be hanging out where we can see them close by in the "rest areas." Join us at MacDonald's in Centerville at 8AM for breakfast and camaraderie or by 8:30 for carpooling. Call Deedee at 801-272-8060 if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, October 31st, , 10AM until 2PM
SUNFLOWER SEEDS pick up.**
Central Office Park Plaza, 2880 S. Main St. ,SLC

Calendar is continued on the next page.

*****VOLUNTEER NEEDED*****

GSLA is in need of a volunteer who can devote approximately 4 hours every two months to help prepare the Pelican mailing. If interested, please contact Heather Dove at 801-424-0010 or hdove@xmission.com

Monday, November 2nd, 7PM

NOVEMBER BIRDING IN UTAH CLASS

Location: HawkWatch International Office – 2240 S 900 E SLC, Instructor: Tim Avery Cost \$5

It's the first month of winter birding. Scoters, winter gulls, Snow Buntings, and longspurs are on the way. So is the snow and the cold temps that make winter in the Great Basin so harsh for the next few months. At this point new birds are far and few between, but the occasional rarity still tends to pop up. If it's an irruption year, Bohemian Waxwing will start arriving around Thanksgiving. Rough-legged Hawks will be back for the winter and Merlin as well. November has hidden gems, such as late season warblers, that may show up in southwestern Utah, where some trees are still green and filled with food. At the end of the month, there will only be 31 days left in the year, so make the best out of November, and get ready for the end of the year crunch and the climb to 300 species.

Wednesday, November 4th, 9AM

MOUNTAIN DELL AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray

We are not sure what the weather will be like, so check the forecast and come prepared. We'll meet by 9:00AM in the parking lot just west of the REI on 33rd So. and 3285 E. for a morning of birding. Call Jack (801-255-7989) or Sylvia (801-532-3486) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, October 3rd , 10AM to about 5PM.

SPIRAL JETTY Trip with FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE

The FRIENDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE have invited Audubon members to join them for a joint field trip to view the renowned art work Spiral Jetty on the Great Salt Lake,

A Spiral Jetty expert and historian, Hikmet Loe of the Utah Humanities Council, will be our tour guide for our visit to Robert Smithson's famous earthwork.

This will not be a birding trip, but of course bring your binoculars or scope. We will also talk about some of the conservation issues they are involved with, including the effect of the GSL Minerals evaporation ponds expansion proposal. Bring your own lunch.

Cost: \$10. RSVP is required and space is limited. Please contact Emily at pelican@fogsl.org or 801-583-5593 to register for the trip and to receive specific additional trip information.

Wasatch Audubon will host the Fall Audubon Council retreat at Antelope Island on Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27. We can use a room in the visitor center for meeting and a potluck Saturday night. There is a group campground as well as individual sites in a different area. There is an entry fee for the state park with an extra charge for the causeway (\$2?). We'll plan to bird the causeway and Garr Ranch as well as possibly a marsh beyond the Ranch. Contacts: Lynn Carroll at bradlync@comcast.net or Scott Baxter at scottbaxter@att.net. Both with Wasatch Audubon. Please see the GSLA website for more details.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS:

by Heather Dove and Melanie Loucks

We welcome you and encourage you to join us at our meetings, field trips and other events and lend your talents and time as a volunteer on our many projects.

New NAS members: Brent Clark, Jolene Whitney, Janna & Clay Custer, Chaitra Nailadi, Ruth Haley, Phyllis Bemis, Charlie Price, Spotswood L. Spruance, Jacquelin Allen, Peter Singe, Berthana Drossos, Kathy Labertew, Terry V. Nielson, Betty Christiansen, Lysle R. Cahoon, Dennis D. Cowgill, Sheri Mortenson, Judith Rogers, Malka Kassel, Colleen Thompson, Nina Spardlin, David Myers, Jennifer Franklin, Adele Weiler, Joan Loudon, Cynthia Hori, Joe Viehweg, Sheri Thompson, James McIntyre, Peg Shurtleff, Leslie Orgera, Carl Ingwell, Valarie P. Stewart, Maria Newton, Audrey Young, Ms. J. Buhler, Luen Flammer, Jo Ann Vanderwilt, Harold O. Smith, Rebecca Heal, Rebecca Baillie, Ms. Betty Schoeffler, Steven C. Taylor, Michael B. Lloyd, Rosalie Walker Kimball, Elizabeth Goldner, Yael Calhoun, Antoinette C. Edson, Ms. Margaret Lewis, Joe & Jean Arnold, James F. Light

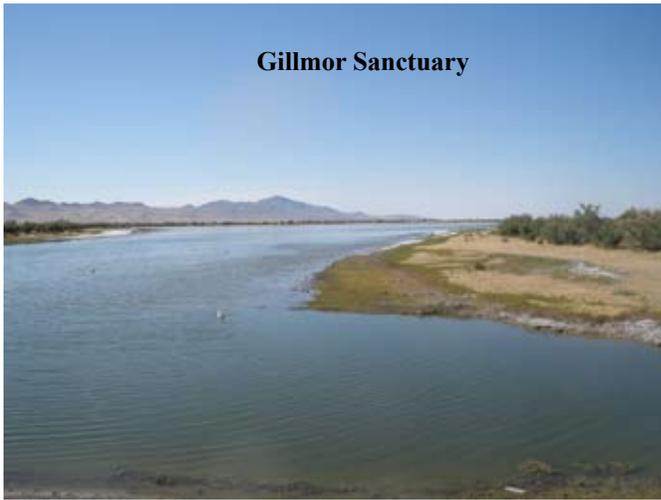
New and renewing GSLA members: William & Mary Wardlaw, Andrew Guss, Diane Walker, Dr. Marvin Rallison, Jeff Thelin, Kay Millar, Sandy Bassett, Susan Price, Joan Degiorgio, Melinda McIlwaine, Paul Lombardi, Barbara Komeyli, Ted & Alice Krein, Karri Smith, Lester Aoki & Ann Kelsey, Desiree Beaudry, Patrice & Nicole Lane, Kathy Sutphin, Micheline Sedlar, Keith Johnson



BIRDING TRIP TO TABIONA, THANK YOU PAT

Saturday, August 8th turned out to be a great day. Pat Jividen had invited GSLA members to visit his "cabin" in Tabiona, Duchesne County. We left Salt Lake at 8am and stopped first at Jordanelle Wetlands. The sun was shining and the birds were busy. We saw lots of **Robins** and **Flickers**. There were **swallows** swooping around under the bridge, many **Cedar Waxwing** and a **House Wren** going to a tree cavity. **Yellow Warbler**, **Lazuli Bunting**, **Western Wood-Pewee**, and **Warbling Vireo** were also seen. We heard the beautiful sound of **Sandhill Cranes** and later saw them. We went on to Rock Cliff Nature Center where the highlight bird was a **Solitary Sandpiper**, stopped at Wolf Creek Campground then on to Tabiona for birding and lunch at Pat's cabin. Pat and his family have been working on it for 5 years and the new wood smells wonderful. We all enjoyed lunch that Pat provided and saw lots of birds up close at the many feeders just outside the windows. They were: **Black-chinned** and **Rufous Hummingbirds**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, **Cassin's** and **House Finch**. In all we saw 31 species on this trip.

The Pelican



Gillmor Sanctuary

REPORT ON THE GILLMOR SANCTUARY

by Ella Sorensen

On July 8, 2009 on the south eastern shoreline of Great Salt Lake, two 36 inch pipes were opened for the first time and running water flowed into an old delta of the Jordan River. This enchanting land sculpture of old river channels, small streamlet and river islands was left dry when the Jordan River moved its course to the east. As the water poured into the ancient river channel, a Wilson's Phalarope dropped down and began swimming in the incoming water becoming the first official species to use the restored site.

For about 18 years National Audubon Society, The Mitigation Commission, and Nature Conservancy have been working to create a large diverse wetland complex on the south shore of Great Salt Lake. In 1995 and 1996 the largest land owner in the dry delta region, anonymously donated 1,319 acres to Audubon to establish the Edward L. and Charles F. Gillmor Audubon Sanctuary. This generous gift was a huge catalyst. Through the intervening years, slowly but consistently, piece by piece land has been added toward the creation of the South Shore Preserve. This has involved fifteen very successful years of complex and complicated land negotiations resulting in acquisition or easements on 2,700 acres along the shoreline of Great Salt Lake. In addition, rights to about 3,000 acre feet of water per year have been permanently secured. A canal right of way and flowage easement was donated to Audubon by Bothwell and Swaner Company providing the critical connection to get water from the Jordan River back into the site.

In summer 2007, with the land and water pieces in place, construction of a water delivery system moved forward. The natural topography of the delta provided the majority of the water flow system. Funding was provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Mitigation Commission, and private donors. The introduction of water into the system will be cautious and experimental. Currently Audubon is flooding two of ten ponds. The first is a large broad saline river bottom including two large bays of over 150 acres and the second a more vegetated playa of about 35 acres.

The birds have quickly found the site. Monitoring has occurred nearly every day since the July 8 opening and it is interesting to observe the order in which the different species discover the new wetland. The few avocets and California Gulls in the vanguard were soon joined by others as their numbers increased into the hundreds. Spotted Sandpipers are usually observed in small numbers along streams and lakes. The water running down this old channel must have been an enormous attraction for these sandpipers. In the early days of flooding up to 35 individuals regularly picked at brine flies along the edges of the water. The black headed Franklin's gull, both adult and juveniles numbered 850! On July 28, the site was used for loafing except for a few which foraged above the pond like giant swallows after insects, possibly dragon flies or deer flies which have been abundant at the site.

Fish enter from a canal. The fish eating Caspian Terns found the site weeks before the much more common Forster's Terns.

Perched Pond, the smaller more vegetated wetland has initially been favored by Black-necked Stilts and White-faced Ibis.

Today the South Shore Preserve is an area of wide open vistas and a variety of wildlife. A peaceful place, where wildness still abounds. The future holds exciting times as the water enhancements attract vast numbers of wetland birds to the low lying dry areas, while leaving the uplands unaltered until a major revegetation effort can be implemented.

GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM DETAILS:

Sept 15 Ella Sorensen "The Gillmor Sanctuary: Providing habitat to Important Birds of Great Salt Lake"

Ella Sorensen is a long time member of Great Salt lake Audubon and has worked for National Audubon Society for 15 years helping piece together a large diverse wetland complex of 2600 acres on the south shore of Great Salt Lake referred to as the Gillmor Sanctuary/ South Shore Preserve. She is passionate about birds on Great Salt Lake. She taught bird identification classes for 10 years through the Utah Museum of Natural Science. As an author she has written article for national magazines including Audubon, Bird Watchers Digest and Birding and locally a monthly bird feature for 15 years for Salt Lake Tribune. With photographer John George she coauthored *Seductive Beauty of Great Salt Lake* and *Utah Birds* with William H. Behle and Clayton White.

Oct 20 SageSTEP "Sagebrush Restoration in the Great Basin"

The Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project (SageSTEP) is a long-term regional sagebrush restoration experiment evaluating different methods of sagebrush-steppe restoration in the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau. Funded by the federal government's Joint Fire Science Program, it includes partners from five universities, six federal agencies, and one non-profit organization. Find out what they are learning through their research.

Nov 17 Sage Fitch and Phil McCraley "Noxious Weeds!"

We hope you will join us for this Fall's General Monthly Meetings. 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.

Tracy Hansford, of Westminster College, has stepped into the role of Programs Chair. Nancy Sakahara will be in charge of refreshments and setup at meetings. These wonderful ladies can use your support, so if you would like to help, contact them for information and scheduling.



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