



THE PELICAN

JULY/AUG 2011

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

50 YEARS OF CHANGE

by KEITH EVANS and JACK RENSEL
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(This article first appeared in "Utah Birds," a journal of the Utah Ornithological Society, volume 23, December 2010, pages 1-10)

Introduction

Thanks to Bill Fenimore, we obtained access to copies of "Utah Audubon News" from 1960-1966. The newsletters are addressed to George Morrison with addresses in Hyde Park, Kamas, and Logan. First class postage ranged from three cents to five cents through this segment of the 1960s. Compared to current postage rates, this seems low, but the percentage increase was high. As we are now entering into the 5th decade since the first of these newsletters were published, we thought a comparison of how birding has changed in Utah would be informative and interesting.

Discussion

The collection of mimeographed newsletters was published by the Utah Audubon Society and called *Utah Audubon News*. A group of nature enthusiasts formerly incorporated the Utah Audubon Society on January 3, 1913. They were instrumental in pushing through legislation providing for the protection of all birds in the state; except game birds in open hunting season and a few pest birds. The level of society activity subsided after the initial "rush." The Utah Audubon Society was resurrected in 1935 and 1936 and reorganized as a non-profit corporation. Utah Audubon Society voted to change from "affiliate" to "branch" status with National Audubon Society (NAS) in October, 1962. They were accepted as a National Audubon branch in May, 1963. The branch dues were \$6.50 per year per member; \$2.00 remained local, \$2.00 went to NAS, and \$2.50 was the subscription rate for the Audubon Magazine. The monthly meeting schedule was listed as "the Thursday proceeding the 2nd Sunday of each month." Article II of the bylaws stated, "The purpose and objectives of this Society shall be to engage in and foster any such educational, scientific, investigative, literary, historical, recreational, philanthropic and charitable pursuits as may be part of the stated purposes of the National Audubon Society, of which this Society shall function as a branch."

In the 1960s, Utah Audubon Society appeared to have more active members from the university community – both professors and students. Many historical accounts summarized by professional ornithologists were published in the newsletters. For example, one report mentioned C. Hart Merriam's trip to Utah from June 5-21, 1872. He collected 120 bird skins and 52 nests with eggs. Merriam's report also listed the 176 species of birds known from Utah in 1872. Another article mentioned Alexander Wetmore who began banding waterfowl in the Bear River marshes in 1913. From 1913-1944, it was estimated that 50,000 birds were banded in Utah and approximately 40,000 of these were ducks on the Bear River marshes. These banding data contributed significantly to the "flyway concept" that is still in use by waterfowl managers. Continued on page 6, 7.

GENERAL MEETINGS: General meetings will resume in September. Some interesting programs are planned. Please watch for them in the next issues.

Be sure to check your September/October *Pelican* for all the details on this year's Sunflower Seed Fundraiser.

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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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Leslie K. Orgera

It has been a very fast year! It seems like just last month I was drafting my *first* President's message! And here is the last. Unfortunately events in both my personal and professional life necessitate that the reins of GSLA be turned over to a person with the time and energy the organization deserves, and so, for now, I say good-bye as your president.

We have made some progress this year on the three priorities the Board set a year ago. First, as to building our membership base. We have been very fortunate to have attracted the attention of Jaimi Butler and the Great Salt Lake Institute of Westminster College. Jaimi and her students have been key to developing the almost ready to be launched revamped web site for GSLA. Additionally, students have provided assistance in developing a brochure for use in fundraising. The Gala brought out others who have stepped into important roles. Recently, the plea for assistance has resulted in several inquiries from people who are interested in assuming roles on the Board and on committees. And as Heather Dove, our membership committee chair reported at the last Board meeting, our membership generally continues to grow.

Second, as to developing a long-term plan for the Jordan River Restoration Project, including the establishment of an endowment for its administration. Here, our challenge is the greatest. As for the endowment, we are fighting a horrible economy. But the bright spot here is our AmeriCorps volunteer, Tyler Murdock, who is not only assisting Keith by providing much needed additional labor, but is also administering our grants. A contract for the development of a long-term management plan is underway with a contractor, and we anticipate seeing the results of this soon. A big thanks to Tara Poelzing for all of her dedicated efforts to get much of this going, and of course to Keith and the rest of the Jordan River Committee.

And third, as to working more effectively with other conservation organizations to leverage our collective efforts. Recently, Utah Open Lands has been assisted by Jeff Bilsky and Carl Ingwell on a bird survey of a conservation easement UOL has along the Jordan River. This is an excellent example of GSLA members making a positive contribution of their specialized skills to another conservation organization working to preserve bird habitat.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board for being incredibly supportive of a relative new member (well, actually a *complete* new comer) coming in as president. There have been some tough decisions made this year, and without an engaged Board it would have been even tougher. It has also been a tremendous privilege to get to know more GSLA members over the course of the year and serve as your president. I certainly hope to be able to continue to attend, and occasionally lead, field trips, and look forward to assisting with projects as time permits.

Stay tuned for a letter from the next President of GSLA in the next Pelican! *Thanks for a great year – happy birding!*

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MAY/JUNE 2011

by Nancy Howard, New Secretary

Our final general meeting was a business meeting discussing changes in command and soliciting new Board members. Sadly, our president Leslie Orgera will be stepping down as of August so a search is on. Please contact Leslie or a Board member if you or someone you know would be interested in leading our organization.

Last month the board voted to terminate the position of Executive Director effective the end of April. Bruce Heath who served in the position submitted his final exit report to the Board. GSLA is now solely a volunteer organization.

Our programs are over for the summer and will continue the 3rd Tuesday in September. We discussed a few ideas for programs and need more. Please contact one of our Board members if you have suggestions that would be of interest to our group. We meet at the Sugarhouse Garden center at the NE corner of Sugarhouse Park (enter from 2100 south, just west of Highland High). Doors open at 6:30 PM for refreshments and socializing, the meeting begins at 7PM. Watch for upcoming events in the July/August Pelican for information about Fall programs.

Our usual field trips, 20 in all, were well attended. The Board extends our many thanks to our fantastic trip organizers and leaders. The 2011 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival was a success with a variety of many trips and workshops. We hosted the Bi-annual meeting of the Utah Audubon Council at Red Butte Garden on May 7. Our website is being improved and looking better and better. Take a look at www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org.

Tyler Murdock, our Americorps Intern, has been a huge help with the Jordan River Restoration Project. It was said "it's amazing what a strong young man can do". His term is up in October and we are hoping to have an intern again next year. Thank you, Tyler.

The 2011 Basin and Range Seminar was held May 28, 29, 30 at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada. Keith Johnson was praised for his work in selecting the people who gave seminars and for finding the location. The weather was a little iffy, but everyone persevered through the rain and cool/cold weather. The attendance was the largest ever with 50 some adults and 6 kids.

Have a fun summer--stay safe and we hope to see you in September at our monthly meeting.

GSLA thanks the voters of Salt Lake County for their support of the Zoo, Arts & Parks



PASSING OF THE GUARD!!

by Heather Dove

Great Salt Lake Audubon would like to thank a number of members who have generously given of their time and talents as Board Members and Officers in the last couple of years. They are now rotating out of their positions.

First, we would like to express our appreciation for the great work that Tara Poelzing did as a Board Member and Chair of the Restoration Committee. Her skills and experience in this area were invaluable.

Sarah Crane deserves applause for taking on the Program Chair position, despite a full time job and two small children. Due to her efforts, our general meeting programs over the last couple of years have been most interesting and educational.

We would also like to thank Bill Yates, who had agreed to serve one year on the Board. Bill's thorough review of issues and sage comments and advice were most valuable. Thankfully, Bill will continue as a member of the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve Restoration Committee.

Nancy Bill has been our Board secretary for the last year and did a great job recording the important discussions and decisions taken by the board. Sadly for us, Nancy is moving out of state. She will be missed. But Nancy Howard has stepped in to take over the position. Thank you, Nancy Howard!!

And finally, we owe a HUGE thank you to Leslie Orgera, who jumped in with both very competent feet to lead this organization for the last year as President. She has done a tremendous job and has done so with clear-eyed analysis, timeliness, diplomacy and grace. We will surely miss her steady force and vision.

THANK YOU ALL!!!

And so... Who would like to step up to fill some positions? Several positions are vacant and need to be filled. If you are at all interested, please contact any Board Member or plan to attend our next meeting. The Board meetings are open to all members. We have been meeting at Westminster College on the first Wednesday of the month, 7PM for about two hours. This organization is almost 100 years old. We don't want to close the door now!

CHECKING BLUEBIRD BOXES AT STRAWBERRY

It was a beautiful day, maybe too early for the birds. We saw only a few Bluebird nests with eggs, several Tree Swallow nests with no eggs, one House Wren nest – no eggs, and several empty nest boxes. But a wonderful day nevertheless. Thank you, Jeanne and Ray.

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for July/Aug 2011

BEGINNING BIRDERS ARE ESPECIALLY 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, July 6th, 7AM

MOUNTAIN DELL REC. AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and John Middleton

Welcome to John who will be co-leading this trip with Jack. Both of them know Mountain Dell well so come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Last year we saw 39 species in July. We'll meet by 7AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Call Jack (801-255-7989) or John (801-322-2171) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, July 9th from 7:30AM to Noon

BRIGHTON BIRD COUNT

Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith

Please join Great Salt Lake Audubon for our annual Brighton Bird Count. We will meet at 7:30AM. 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. Bring a dish to share and your own eating utensils, plate, cup. GSLA will provide cold drinks. **To carpool meet in the parking lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon by 7AM and then proceed to Silver Lake.** Please call Jeanne LeBer or Ray Smith at (801-532-7384)

Wednesday, July 13th

Oquirrh Lake at Daybreak, South Jordan

Leader: Pomera Fronce

We began surveying this area in March 2010 and have logged almost 70 species. Who knows what will show up next! To get to Daybreak from I-15, take the 10600 South exit westbound. Continue west until you reach Bangerter Highway and turn south. Go south to 11400 South and turn west into Daybreak. Follow Daybreak Parkway to Kestrel Rise Road (4695 West). Street parking is available. Our walk around the lake will cover 1.5 miles on flat paved trails. Contact Pomera at 801-272-2755 or pinkstring@xmission.com for starting time.

Monday, July 18th, 7AM

RICH COUNTY

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Join us as we explore the extreme north-eastern portion of

Utah's Rich County, where several species of birds occur that are rarely seen elsewhere in the state. We will start by exploring the public areas of Deseret Ranch, then move on to the wetlands of the Bear River near Randolph. and then some more wetlands around Bear Lake, and then look for high elevation species in the Bear River Range. Specialties include Burrowing Owls, Sage Grouse, Lark Buntings, Black Terns, numerous raptors, and more. We will meet by 7AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East. It is an all day trip so bring a lunch and water. Call or email Bryant if you plan to attend. (801-498-0362) bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

Wednesday, July 27th, 7:00/7:30AM

FARMINGTON BAY PLUS

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Join us for our monthly bird survey.

#1 **Meeting Place:** Meet in SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse by 7AM to carpool OR meet at 7:30am at the GSL Nature Center on Glover Lane in Farmington (I-15 exit 319 in Centerville, then Frontage Rd north 4 miles to Glover Lane overpass OR I-15 exit 322 in Farmington, then backtrack 2 blocks on Frontage Rd to the overpass. The regular McDonald's for breakfast contingent can still do that.

#2: **Afternoon Birding Option:** After birding "The Bay" for the morning, anyone interested can continue birding northward with Bryant. Call or email Bryant if you plan to attend. (801-498-0362) bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

Friday, July 29th, 7:00/7:30AM

CORNER CANYON TRAILS, DRAPER

Leaders: Allene Keller and John Reynolds

We are continuing our monthly bird surveys of Corner Canyon under new leadership. We are thrilled that Allene and John are willing to take this on. We will start at the Coyote Hollow Trail Head (14200 S/1850 E – adjacent southeast to the Draper Temple) and bird until late morning. This field trip offers different habitats so a variety of birds are usually seen. Meet by 7AM just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East and carpool from there OR meet at the trailhead by 7:30AM. Bring your own snacks and water. Call Allene (801-467-3960) if you plan to attend.

Sunday, July 31st, 7AM

KILLYON CANYON HIKE

Leader: Leslie Orgera

A new hike up Killyon Canyon. Much of this property was recently acquired by Utah Open Lands and will be preserved. Since this is a new hike, what birds we may find are yet unknown. Difficulty is moderate up to a ridge overlook. Roundtrip is about 6 miles if we decide to go all the way up to the ridge and back. Elevation gain (in 3 miles) is about 1700 feet. Meet by 7AM just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East and we can carpool from there. Call Leslie at 801-573-6733 or email at lorgera@aklawfirm.com if you plan to attend.

Great Salt Lake Audubon, www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

(801) 521-2939

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for July/Aug 2011

Wednesday, August 3rd, 7AM

MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and John Middleton

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. We'll meet by 7AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for a morning of birding.

Call Jack (255-7989) or John (801-322-2171) if you plan to attend.

Saturday August 6th, 9AM

SWANER NATURE PRESERVE

Leader: Karri Smith

Karri Smith (Restoration Ecologist) will lead a birding/educational trip to the Swaner Nature Preserve to view her wetland creation/stream restoration projects. Sandhill crane colts may be visible during the tour. Participants may also visit the Swaner EcoCenter if open to the public.

Take I-80 East to Kimball Junction. Go towards Park City just to the Second Light and turn Left into the Shopping center. Go to the end of the road and you will see the Swaner EcoCenter where we will meet by 9AM.

Contact Karri Karriasmith@msn.com for more information.

Wednesday, August 10th

Oquirrh Lake at Daybreak, South Jordan

Leader: Pomera Fronce

See information for July 13th

Monday, August 15th, 7AM

UINTA MOUNTAINS

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Join us as we explore the Uintas looking for specialty birds. We will start in the Yellow Pine area looking for Ponderosa Pine specialists like Grace's Warbler and Pygmy Nuthatch, then head up into the high elevation Lodgepole Pine and Spruce-Fir forests looking for Pine Grosbeak, Crossbills, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcrackers, American Three-toed Woodpeckers and more. If weather permits, we may head up into alpine areas nearby and look for Black Rosy-Finches and American Pipits too. Be prepared for a good hike of up to 5 miles round trip and dress for mosquitoes, cold weather in the high country and the possibility of thunderstorms. Bring a lunch and water, for it will be an all day event. We meet in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East by 7AM. Call or email Bryant if you plan to attend. (801-498-0362) bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

Friday, August 26th, 7AM/7:30AM

CORNER CANYON TRAILS, DRAPER

Leaders: Allene Keller and John Reynolds

We will start at the Coyote Hollow Trail Head (14200 S/1850 E – adjacent southeast to the Draper Temple) and bird until late morning. This field trip offers different habitats so a variety of birds are usually seen. Meet by 7AM just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East and carpool from there OR meet at the trail- JULY/AUG

head by 7:30AM. Bring your own snacks and water. Call Allene (801-467-3960) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, August 27th, 7:15AM to noon

WILLARD BAY STATE PARK

Leader: Lee Shirley, Wasatch Audubon

Willard Bay is a good migrant trap and late August is the usual time for warblers to be migrating. Join us for a morning of birding with high hopes of finding warblers. Meet at 7:15AM in the NE corner of the ShopKo parking lot in Sugarhouse OR at 8AM at the Flying J Truck Stop in Willard (exit 357). Any who have a state park pass, please bring it along. The park charges \$10/car (holding up to 8) or \$5/car if senior. Call Deedee at 801-272-8060 or d-dobrien@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, August 31st, 7:00/7:30AM

FARMINGTON BAY PLUS

Leader: Bryant Olsen

See description for July 27th

Call or email Bryant if you plan to attend. (801-498-0362) bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

Wednesday, September 7th, 7:30AM

MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leaders: Jack Clark and John Middleton

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Since we began this survey we have seen well 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) or John (801-322-2171) if you plan to attend.

WINNER OF THE UTAH JUNIOR DUCK STAMP AWARD

Brad Gray, aged 12, from Ogden, Utah is the youngest winner on record. He comes from a long line of talented artists - His parents, grandmother, and siblings all share a flare for avian art. His sister Jaycee won last year's Utah contest, and brother Greg took highest honors in 2007-2009. Brad worked diligently on the Ruddy Duck in colored pencil, for months prior to the entry in April, when judging occurred. A group of keen-eyed judges from the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, concurred that Brad's entry showed the highest level of attention to detail and creative expression. One of the judges stated, "Brad's art brought the duck to life, with the twinkle in its eye".

With electronic delivery of the Pelican, the photos will be in color! If you wish to receive your newsletter electronically rather than the paper version, please email Heather Dove (membership@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org)

AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 7, 2011

reported by *Nancy Sakahara*

A disappointing turnout but a very interesting meeting nevertheless. Attendees were Lynn Carroll from Wasatch Audubon, Steve Eberhart from Red Cliffs Audubon, Wayne Martinson of NAS, Steve Erickson, Audubon Policy Advocate, Ray Smith, Jeanne LeBer, and Nancy Sakahara from GSLA. The following is a list of the highlights:

Wasatch Audubon is following very closely the GSL Minerals developments and the extension of the Legacy Highway through west Davis. They are still active in community events: National Trail Day, Earth Day, and bird walks. Also, Audubon Adventures is well supported with over 100 kits in the schools. They have a healthy budget and no major projects. While old stalwarts are less involved, membership still numbers 350-400.

Red Cliffs Audubon usually has 15-30 people at their meetings. The St. George Bird Festival went well, with 1500 active birders, up to 3183 including the school districts, 11 field trips, 12 meetings, and a successful banquet with an interesting speaker. The future, however, appears bleak. Support from the local government for the festival is disappearing. The CBC was difficult due to flooding, rain and mud. They had 40 participants in three locations (St. George, Silver Reef and Zion). Two great concerns to the chapter are the Lake Powell pipeline which has already cost \$12 million on “studies” and would provide water for 450,000 more households in Washington County and the Alton Coal Strip Mine proposal on 1-2% private land with the rest on BLM, just SW of Bryce Canyon. An EIS (Environmental Impact Study) will be coming out soon - public comments can be made at that time. Trucks will be traveling 24/7 to the electric coal plant near Delta. Also of concern is the Sevier Lake mining project.

GSLA reported on membership changes, the decision to eliminate the Executive Director position due to the unsustainable cost, the welcome addition to our board of some young energetic blood, the Jordan River Restoration Project and Keith Johnson’s hard work.

Steve Erickson gave a legislative update, reporting that he tracked 45 bills and spent time on 1/3 of them. He followed closely the issues of interbasin transfers of water, reported lean times for funding, he worked on preserving funding for DNR and Ag. Most of the funding for DNR comes from outside sources. DEQ didn’t do too badly; there were lots of cuts for habitat restoration and invasive plants control, and the State Parks took a beating, with proposals to sell some to the counties. Steve believes the environmental bond law passed in the last session is unconstitutional and will not hold up in court. During the interim, he will follow Sevier Lake, Jordan Valley discharge, Kennecott expansion, and the Green River pipeline for the proposed nuclear power plant.

Wayne Martinson is also following mineral extraction from Sevier Lake, which the BLM has approved and will affect 126,000 acres and air, water quality. (See the article in the SLTrib:<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/51265093-76/lake-mining-blm-potash.html.csp>) The Gillmor Sanctuary, which began initially with 100+ acres, is now expanded to 1500 acres. Ella Sorenson needs help for weekly bird surveys, contact Wayne or Ella if you can help out. Wayne is also following the Kennecott expansion which will affect air quality and will include expanding tailing ponds to the NE and into the Northwest Quadrant which will stall development there and affect water quality.

Also discussed was the Urban Bird Treaty, which has grants available from the USFWS to help bird migrating, overwintering, and reducing hazards. Steve Erickson mentioned that the SLC planning Dept. is looking at sustainable building codes to promote bird-safe building, Wayne will look into NAS position on the question of wind generators. Lynn brought up a proposal in Rich county for the ranchers to try intensive grazing on BLM and FS land as practiced on the Deseret Ranch. GSL Minerals expansion in the Great Salt Lake remains the biggest concern to the council members. At a lake level of 4193 feet, a land bridge exists to Gunnison Island, it has been proposed that the level cannot drop below 4194.

Next meeting will be hosted by Wasatch Audubon in September, possibly at the BRMBR or the Gillmor Sanctuary. Wayne suggested a tour of Bear River Bay, a rich natural area. Lynn Carroll has agreed to be acting president of the council until fall.

50 YEARS OF CHANGE Continued from front page

The numerous bird banding projects during the mid-1900 period resulted in a vast increase in the knowledge of far ranging birds. For example, one of 10 Cedar Waxwings banded in the early 1960s was killed by a car at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, some 1800 miles northeast of the banding site. There are many examples of recovered bird bands that contributed to migration patterns, distances and speeds of birds. Most of the migratory distances published in the book “Utah’s Featured Birds and Viewing Sites” relied on bird banding projects.

Dr. Angus Woodbury summarized many of the early survey efforts in the Utah area. These included the Hayden Party and the Wheeler Party of the late 1800s. These surveys were either under the Interior Department or the War Department and were mainly “collection” surveys. For example, the five months of field collecting by the Wheeler survey netted about 600 skins of 165 species of birds. The issues of *Utah Audubon News* from January 1960 through November 1961 each contained a lead article called “The Birds of Utah” by Dr. Woodbury. These covered a broad range of topics including early surveys, bird banding, climate, physiographic features, habitat classification, disease, and history of such institutions as University of Utah, Brigham Young University, and the Game and Fish Commission. Continued on next page

50 YEARS OF CHANGE continued....

Dr. Woodbury often mentioned habitat quality and habitat changes. In the December 1960 newsletter he talked about habitat changes caused by increasing human activities. For example, he contrasted the near eradication of the Grasshopper Sparrow from the loss of grasslands with the great expansion of Bullock's Oriole populations into newly developed residential shade trees and orchards. Another article talked about the range of the House Finch. Before the 1900s, the House Finch range only went north to 40 degree latitude (about Provo). Then in the early 1900s, they extended their range into Idaho and Wyoming, but not east of the 100th longitude. House Finch were introduced into the Brooklyn, New York area in 1940 and are now common from coast to coast. Another introduction of interest in our area was in February 1963 when 22 Black Ducks were transported from Connecticut to Farmington Bay. We haven't read any results of this introduction – did they just die out, or did they blend into the Mallard population through hybridization? Another interesting introduction was reported in May 1961 when Dr. Pfouts of Payson reported that several pairs of Nutria beavers were released along the south end of Utah Lake. Dr. Pfouts predicted that “in a few years Nutria will swarm all over the place.” As is usually the case, very few introduced species actually thrive and most don't even survive. Examples like House Sparrow, European Starling, Rock Pigeon, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Chukar are the exceptions to the norm.

Audubon Screen Tours were popular in the 1960s. These “tours” have now been replaced with the numerous “travel” programs on TV. The February 1960 reports on a letter from Roger Tory Peterson who traveled to Utah several times to present an Audubon Screen Tour. In February 1961 there was a note saying that the Audubon Screen Tours were continuing to improve with better speakers and a higher quality of photographs and educational materials. An interesting observation stated, “It cannot be expected that William A. Anderson's *Designs for Survival* or Edgar T. Jones *Alberta Outdoors* will be surpassed by anything in the future.”

Almost every issue of the *Utah Audubon News* talked about their “bulletin exchange” program and often ran articles from other newsletters. The articles they picked often dealt with the controversial predator control program of the time. One article from the Washington DC Audubon Society's *Atlantic Naturalist* talked about the use of terms such as “varmint” and “vermin” as expressions of the prejudices of various speakers and journalists more than about the animals designated. The view from “conservationists” was more in line with what we call “preservationists” with the motto of “whatever is, is right.” It is understandable why predator control remains controversial. As habitats become more fragmented and limited, ground nesting birds and predators are concentrated in the same areas causing higher mortality for nesting birds. Managers of small refuges must balance predator populations with bird nesting success rates. The preservationist's view of “whatever is, is right” form of management doesn't work in stressed and limited habitat patches.

In addition to the debate over the appropriateness of predator control, there was a heated debate over the propriety and accuracy of Rachel Carson's “Silent Spring.” Dr. Lamb, March 1963, concluded it was appropriate for such groups as Audubon Societies to publicly express their views about the book. We found his rationale for being vocal interesting. Dr. Lamb concluded that history will eventually decide if Miss Carson is right or wrong, but, meanwhile the effect of her book will be beneficial for it will produce closer scrutiny of pesticide programs. He felt this scrutiny would improve testing programs and help “penetrate the curtain of self-assessed bureaucratic omnipotence that has characterized insecticide programs of the past.” By his writing, we think we can accurately judge Dr. Lamb's view as being anti-insecticide and pro Rachel Carson. And, Dr. Lamb was correct in assuming an increased scrutiny of pesticide applications. However, the controversy still rages. And, the article entitled, “Pandora's Water Bottle” in the March-April 2010 issue of the Audubon Magazine, indicates our environment is still degraded with a multitude of man-made chemicals.

The 1960s were controversial years for the environmental movement. To be continued in the next issue.....

NEW AND RENEWING GSLA MEMBERS

by Heather Dove

Sylvia Gray, Robyn MacDuff, Billee Skinner, Louise & Steve Brown, Wes & Jean Keller, Carolyn Suchala, Jack Clark, Ray Smith & Jeanne LeBer, John & Françoise Hibbs, Norman Guice and Raquel Cuba, Vivian Schneggenberger, Daniel Bowers, Don & Linda Sanborn, Susan & Jeffrey Saffle, Bill Yates, Rita Baden, Reatha Whiting, Dan & Sheila Barnett, D. Michael Edson, Ann O'Connell, Steve Carr, Patrick & Lynn de Freitas, Kay Iwamoto, Sandy Bassett, Bruce & Kathy Waddell, Bill Compton, Floyd Johnson, Nancy Howard, Tony Morgan, Donna Gelfand, Jim Ure, June Ryburn and Karen Nelson.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

This is a reminder that the recent change to membership dues takes effect July 1, 2011. Explanations for this change were published in *The Pelican* in the March/April and May/June 2011 issues, which are archived and can be viewed on our website.

To reiterate, **new** National Audubon Society (NAS) members will receive *The Pelican* **free** as a courtesy, as part of their first year membership. Thereafter, should renewing NAS members wish to continue to receive *The Pelican*, either in paper form or electronically, they will need to join GSLA. All other benefits such as participation in GSLA field trips, bird counts, general meetings, legislative and Audubon Council representation will continue to be granted to all NAS members.

We encourage all those who can to join both GSLA and NAS. In this way, you will be assisting bird conservation at both the local and national levels.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Heather Dove, Membership Chair at membership@greatsalt-lakeaudubon.org or call her at 801-424-0010.

JULY/AUG



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Great Salt Lake Audubon
PO Box 520867
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**GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
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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:

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If you would prefer to receive *THE PELICAN* electronically, please make sure you have provided us with your email address and check this box _____. Great Salt Lake Audubon does not share your information with any other organizations.

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:

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**National renewals are now
handled directly through NAS**

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