



# THE PELICAN

MAY/JUNE 2011

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

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

## 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 the NE corner of Sugarhouse Park (enter from 2100 South, just west of Highland High). Doors will open at 6:30PM for refreshments and socializing (maybe ice cream), the meeting begins at 7PM.

The May 17th general meeting will be a business meeting to discuss changes and get feed back from our members. We need your input as to where GSLA should be headed. What do you as members want from this organization?

Regular meetings with speakers will resume in September.



Photo by Gerry Johnson

## BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS # 4

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011; 9:30AM TO NOON

PRESENTING PHOTOGRAPHER:  
GERALD JOHNSON

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES are co-sponsored by Great Salt Lake Audubon and HawkWatch International  
Where: HawkWatch International Office; 2240 S 900 E, Salt Lake City

Cost/Class: \$10:00 for members of GSLA or HawkWatch; \$15 for non-members

Target Audience: bird photography enthusiasts aspiring to improve their photos or to just get started

Pre-registration Required: Class Size Limited to 40. Register online at [www.hawkwatch.org](http://www.hawkwatch.org). Contact Deedee at 801-272-8060/[ddobrien@comcast.net](mailto:ddobrien@comcast.net) or Jen Hajj at 801-484-6808/[jhajj@hawkwatch.org](mailto:jhajj@hawkwatch.org) for more information

Gerry has been taking pictures most of his life, but in the past four years has focused on wildlife and nature photography. Formally educated as an engineer, his photographic education has been mostly self-taught, along with a lot of help from friends! Raised in the remoter areas of northern Minnesota helped instill a love of nature and keen observation of wildlife. His work for the past 3 years has moved from documentation to expression - primarily to assist others to experience the moments of beauty that surround each of us. In addition to work with HawkWatch and The Nature Conservancy, Gerry's work was recognized in 2009 as one of the top 100 NANPA photographers.

## UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL SPRING MEETING

Will be held May 7,8th in Red Butte Garden at the University of Utah. This is the bi-annual meeting of the Utah Audubon chapters. The business meeting will be in the visitor center beginning at 9AM on Saturday, the 7th, lunch will be provided.

On Sunday, a possible birding walk up Red Butte Canyon is planned if people are interested. Call Ray Smith with questions and for more information: 801-532-7384.

**May 12th – 16th GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL**  
Registration and information at: [www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com](http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com)  
Good field trips are still available

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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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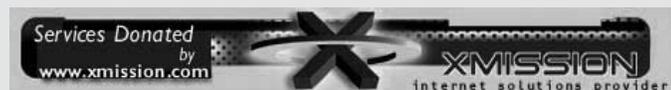
#### Term Ending 2011

Tara Poelzing.....801-463-2776

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*Submission Guidelines:* Original articles and photos are welcomed. The editor reserves the right to choose and edit as needed. Email articles to newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org. *The Pelican* is published 6 times a year. Submission deadline for the July/August issue is June 10, 2011.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Leslie K. Orgera

As some of you already know, your Board of Directors, upon review of GSLA's current financial condition, voted to terminate the position of Executive Director effective at the end of April. While the current fiscal condition of GSLA is very sound, the Board took this action for the following reasons.

First, at the present time GSLA anticipates no major fundraising event this year and there are no granting funds in immediate prospect. While last year's Gala was extremely successful and provided significant operational funds, the Board believes it is necessary to be very conservative in the use of those funds. The monies required to support the position of Executive Director were simply out of proportion when compared to GSLA's budget.

Second, the general condition of the economy means more non-profits are chasing fewer dollars. It probably has not escaped anyone's notice that the current U.S. economy is not exactly on fire. The Foundation Center noted that 2010 giving by major foundations was flat when compared to 2009 and was anticipated to grow only slightly for 2011. An interesting trend is that on-line giving continues to increase. A fact which will soon be addressed by GSLA's new website. But GSLA exists in the larger context of an economy that is still struggling and again, the Board felt that a conservative approach to the use of current funds was most prudent.

Third, GSLA is at its core a volunteer organization. GSLA has existed for almost 100 years, most of the time without the benefit of any salaried employees. Our membership is quite large and growing steadily. GSLA's challenge here is to get more of you actively involved. The immediate operational needs of GSLA are being met, but just barely. In the coming year we will very definitely need to obtain additional help from you in order to keep GSLA running smoothly.

In closing, the Board would like to acknowledge all the efforts Bruce Heath has made on behalf of GSLA. Bruce did an outstanding job as the "face of GSLA" and was instrumental in obtaining the TogetherGreen grant. He also had significant responsibilities for the administration of the current Cooperative Agreement which funds GSLA's restoration efforts at the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve. Bruce, you will be missed.

\*\*\*\*\*

On a lighter note, spring is finally here. How can you tell? Well, Basin & Range and the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival are upon us. This year Keith Johnson has worked up a very special Basin & Range program at a new location over Memorial Day weekend. This year we will go to the Ruby Lake NWR in Nevada, a renowned birding hotspot. Classes will begin Saturday afternoon and conclude Monday morning. Also, the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival is taking place May 12-16. Please check out the programs at: www.greatsaltlake-birdfest.com. Happy Spring!

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MARCH/APRIL 2011

By Nancy Bill, Secretary

The Board has decided on some major changes for the coming year.

The eligibility requirements for receipt of *THE PELICAN* will change. The purpose of this proposal was to rein in our costs of publishing and to share those costs more equitably among local and national members. Heather proposed that new NAS members receive a courtesy year of *The Pelican* (either paper or electronic form) and thereafter must join at the local (i.e. GSLA) level if they wish to continue to receive *The Pelican*. All other member benefits will continue to be afforded NAS members. The Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.

Geoff Hardies submitted a detailed budget for 2011-12. He explained that GSLA will be down \$29,500 this year, thus unable to pay for an Executive Director's salary and expenses. The Board was asked for their input and agreed that GSLA cannot afford an Executive Director at this time so Bruce Heath will be retired by the end of April.

A discussion followed on who would pick up the duties that Bruce performed. The following Board members volunteered: Office/Phone coverage helping Susan Ogilvie: Bill Yates and Nancy Sakahara. Emails: Janice Huebner and Leslie Orgera. Outreach: GSL Minerals - Janice Huebner, Jordan River Commission - Bill Yates. Audubon Council-Ray Smith. NW Quadrant-Janice Huebner. Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve-Tara Poelzing. Leslie made the point that GSLA will return to a volunteer organization.

The Photo Workshops, organized by Deedee O'Brien and Jen Hajj, has been a great success. We may consider doing it again but next time paying the instructors.

Pat Jividen, who volunteered to do the mailing of *THE PELICAN*, has been trained, learned quickly and worked hard, thus filling a much needed role.

June Ryburn manned the GSLA booth at the Home and Garden Show at the South Towne Exposition Center in March. June can always use some help.

Keith Johnson introduced Tyler Murdock, the new Americorp intern, who will work for the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve.

Ray Smith reported that everything is on track for the annual meeting of the Audubon Council in Red Butte Garden in May.

Basin and Range is finalized and ready to go. Please check this issue's insert for the details and to register. Space is somewhat limited, so register early.

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

MAY/JUNE



## THE GREEN THING

*Author unknown, received via email from a friend*

In line at the grocery store, the cashier told an older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

Back then, they returned their milk bottles, Coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator or elevator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she's right....

They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right...

They didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house not one in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza pan, not the size of Montana. In the kitchen they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a paper cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen. They replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids walked or rode their bikes to school and rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

Yes, its a crying shame that we didn't have the green thing back then!

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for May/June 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, May 4th, 8AM**

**MOUNTAIN DELL REC. AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

**Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray**

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. May should be a good month to see a variety of birds as the Spring migrants are beginning to return. We'll meet by 8AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33<sup>rd</sup> South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Call Jack (801-255-7989) or Sylvia (801-532-3486) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, May 7th**

**SPRING UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING**

**RED BUTTE GARDEN VISITOR CENTER**

Hosted by GSLA

**Tuesday, May 10th, 7PM**

**OWLING IN MILLCREEK CANYON**

**Leaders: Bryant Olsen and Ed Leite**

We'll meet at 7PM in the parking lot just west of the REI on 33<sup>rd</sup> South and 3285 East. The first hour or so after dark is the best time for owls. Target owl species are N. Saw-whet, Flam-mulated, N. Pygmy, and Great Horned Owl, plus Poorwills. Bring snacks, water and a flashlight. Call Bryant (801-498-0362) for more information or to let him know you'll be there.

**Wednesday, May 11th**

**OQUIRRH LAKE AT DAYBREAK, SOUTH JORDAN**

**Leader: Pomera Fronce**

We are into our second year of surveying Oquirrh Lake and our total species count stands at 61. We logged 38 species last May including five kinds of swallows. Join us, won't you? 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 So. 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 2-3 miles on flat paved trails. Contact Pomera at 801-272-2755 or [pinkstring@xmission.com](mailto:pinkstring@xmission.com) for starting time and to arrange carpools.

**May 12th – 16th GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL**

**Information at: [www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com](http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com)**

**Good field trips are still available**

**Tuesday, May 17th, 7PM**

**GSLA MONTHLY MEETING**

**SUGARHOUSE GARDEN CENTER**

**Friday, May 20th, 8AM**

**CORNER CANYON TRAIL SYSTEM, DRAPER**

**Leaders: Mark Mossing and Melanie Hoffman**

Our monthly bird surveys for Draper City continue this month. Come and help us find what is there. Meet at the Coyote Hollow Trail Head (14200 S/1850 E – adjacent southeast of the Draper Temple parking lot) by 8AM. We usually spend 2.5 to 3 hours birding. Bring your own snacks and water. Call Melanie (801-558-4134) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, May 21st, 9:30AM - Noon**

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS**

**Instructor: Gerald Johnson**

**Wednesday, May 25th, 7AM – noon OR longer**

**FARMINGTON BAY PLUS**

**Leader: Bryant Olsen**

Join us for a fresh and vibrant experience on our monthly Farmington Bay trips. We are delighted that Bryant Olsen has agreed to take on the leadership. Deedee and Bob have been leading this field trip since October 2000 and are excited to retire from this post but will join us often. We appreciate their dedication and leadership over these 11 years.

Bryant would like to make some changes, but is open to input from those of you interested in joining him. #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 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. Destinations will likely be Kaysville Ponds or Antelope Island depending on what birds are being seen. Bryant grew up in Davis County and first got into birding by watching the daily and seasonal movements of birds to and from the lake and its marshes. He knows the where and when to look for the birds here. Call or email Bryant if you plan to attend. (801-498-0362) or [Bryant\\_olsen@yahoo.com](mailto:Bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, Sunday, Monday, May 28th-30th**

**BASIN AND RANGE -Memorial Day Weekend**

**See insert for details.**

**Wednesday, June 1st, 7:30AM**

**MOUNTAIN DELL REC. AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

**Leader: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray**

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Our summer visitors will be here so come and help us find them. We'll meet by 7:30AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33<sup>rd</sup> South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Call Jack (801-255-7989) or Sylvia (801-532-3486) if you plan to attend.

# Great Salt Lake Audubon, [www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](http://www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org)

(801) 521-2939

## Calendar of Events including Field Trips for May/June 2011

**Saturday, June 4th, 7AM**

### **JORDANELLE WETLANDS PRESERVE & HEBER FIELDS**

**Leader: Dave Hanscom**

In addition to the many common northern Utah birds, the Jordanelle Wetlands Preserve has been a great spot to find unusual species in recent years. Among them are American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Willow Flycatcher, and Purple Gallinule. Hopefully we'll be lucky enough to see something equally interesting on this trip. We'll also take a side trip to the nearby Heber Fields to look for Bobolinks. Meet in the parking lot just west of the REI at 3285 E. 33rd S. by 7AM to carpool. For more information, call Dave (801-550-1777).

**Wednesday, June 8th**

### **OQUIRRH LAKE AT DAYBREAK, SOUTH JORDAN**

**Leader: Pomera Fronce**

Last year's June survey produced a big surprise, a Common Loon! Wonder what might be waiting for us this year. Come and join the fun. See information under May 11th field trip.

**Saturday, June 11th, 8AM**

### **BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES IN STRAWBERRY VALLEY**

**Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith**

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

**Tuesday, June 14th, 7:00PM**

### **OWLING IN MILLCREEK CANYON**

**Leaders: Bryant Olsen and Ed Leite**

We'll meet at 7:00PM in the parking lot just west of the REI on 33<sup>rd</sup> South and 3285 East. The first hour or so after dark is the best time for owls. Target owl species are N. Saw-whet, Flam-mulated, N. Pygmy, and Great Horned Owl, plus Poorwills. Bring snacks, water and a flashlight. Call Bryant (801-498-0362) for more information or to let him know you'll be there.

**Friday, June 24th, 8AM**

### **CORNER CANYON TRAIL SYSTEM, DRAPER**

**Leaders: Mark Mossing and Melanie Hoffman**

Our monthly bird surveys for Draper City continue this month. Come and help us find what is there. Meet at the Coyote Hollow Trail Head (14200 S/1850 E – adjacent southeast of the Draper Temple parking lot) by 8AM. Bring your own snacks and water. Call Melanie (801-558-4134) if you plan to attend.

**Sunday, June 26th, 7:30AM/8AM**

### **JEREMY RANCH ROAD, EAST CANYON**

**Leader: Kim Roush**

Each year this lovely walk reveals a nice variety of birds with always a few surprises. GRAY CATBIRDS are guaranteed. The road is dirt and we walk slowly for an hour or so birding the willows and hillsides, then drive to another section of the road that winds past a cliff and looks down on some oxbows. The dirt road follows East Canyon Creek the entire way. Dress appropriately. It is always cooler in Summit County than down in the valley. If it is raining, the road will be muddy. Bring a scope if you have one. Afterward, we will make a quick trip to my house in Pinebrook to see which woodpeckers are nesting. There is always a FLICKER nest, a RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER nest and DOWNY WOODPECKER nest. The HAIRY WOODPECKER may show up at the feeder. This is usually a 1/2 day field trip. Meet by 7:30AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for carpooling OR take the Jeremy Ranch Exit off I-80, go left under the highway, then left at 4-way stop to the car pool parking lot and be there by 8AM. Call Kim (435-658-2976) if you have questions.

**Wednesday, June 29th, 7AM – noon OR longer**

### **FARMINGTON BAY PLUS**

**Leader: Bryant Olsen**

See description for May 25th trip.

**Wednesday, July 6th, 7:00AM**

### **MOUNTAIN DELL REC. AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

**Leader: Jack Clark**

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) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, July 9th from 7:30AM TO NOON**

### **BRIGHTON BIRD COUNT**

**Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith**

Please join Great Salt Lake Audubon for our annual Brighton Bird Count. We will meet at 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. Please bring a dish to share and your own eating utensils, plate, cup. GSLA will provide cold drinks.

Please call Jeanne LeBer or Ray Smith at (801-532-7384).

## FAN MAIL:

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Dear Friends,

When I was in elementary school back before you were born, tiny Miss Alston, my dear teacher, encouraged me to join the National Junior Audubon Society. I did so and was thrilled when my introductory packet arrived containing an official-looking member certificate, a welcoming letter, a stack of colored pictures of common birds, and an accompanying set of matching line drawings to be colored by me.

Thus began my life long interest in my feathered friends. For my eighth birthday I received a huge tome Birds of America loaded with articles and pictures – some photographed and others painted – but all enchanting to me. I have since had it rebound and keep it as a treasure.

Busy with school, married life and making a living over the next four decades, I did little formal birding other than making special note of birds when camping and hiking alone and with family.

Then about ten years ago, things loosened up a bit, and I was delighted to join the Salt Lake Audubon group and go along on a few outings. The birds were fascinating, but I found the birders as interesting as the birds. Then for several years my health suffered some bumps, and I discontinued my Audubon association.

Recently I retired from my business, dropped certain activities, and wanted to recontact Audubon. I remembered two names specifically – Sylvia Gray, an energetic woman I remembered as participating in if not leading virtually every outing and also a very cheerful birder whom I chose to call “Chic-a-Dee-Dee” O’Brien. To my absolute delight, both these names appeared in the on-line info.

I chose to phone Chic-a-Dee-Dee, expecting to have to introduce myself after such a long absence. No Need! She not only remembered the name and apparently the face, but also some specifics about me. Flattering, indeed! I felt like an exotic species of sort whose field marks she’d remembered.

In the process of signing on, I dealt with a woman whose name I first read as “Feather Dove”, causing me to figure it was some sort of very corny April Fools joke. I learned otherwise, however, as she promptly responded to my inquiry, emailed *The Pelican*, and encouraged me to join -- which thing I have done. I now look forward to all the Audubon goodies offered. My knees and certain other factors incident to my eighty years will not let me do all things, but what I can do, I will do. Happily, I live in Sugar House and hope to attend the photography class on 4/16 at the Hawkwatch office.

I wanted to join you at the lek near Henefer yesterday, but chickened out (or was it “Sage Groused” out) in the snowy weather and was left wondering if those proud, prancing male cocks maintained their poise and booming in the snow.

See you soon.

Cheers – and peeps,

Fielding the newly Fledged Nelson

## Birding at Farmington Bay, Mar. 30, 2011

by Deedee O'Brien

Eleven of us (including four 1st timers) enjoyed GSL Audubon’s monthly field trip to Farmington Bay today. The gray sky was actually bright enough to make for great viewing through binoculars and scopes! All the ducks really showed off their stuff!

We began at the Nature Center serenaded by a Meadowlark as we watched Sandhill Cranes (at a distance, but we saw another pair later much closer), Avocets, and a variety of ducks in the playa. A Caspian Tern flew by (I missed it #\*!!) plus a Great-tailed Grackle, and a Bewick’s Wren. Killdeer were scouting nesting spots in the parking lot. Red-wings and Yellowheads dotted the tops of last year’s cattails. Coots sputtered; Sora were heard, but not seen. GBH’s laid low in their nests on the rookery. We could also spot the elusive Eurasian Wigeon on the island, but it never gave us a good full view. Next stop was the Glover Lane ponds where we saw more of everything except Neotropic Cormorant (drat!). Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebes were present along with ducks, ducks, ducks and a tree full of robins - an unexpected addition. I don’t mean to denigrate ducks. Who cannot appreciate large numbers of Canvasbacks, Green-winged Teal, lesser numbers of Wigeons, Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks. etc.

Farmington Bay proper brought additional duck species. A pair of Wood Ducks were in the little pond next to the office buildings. The majority of birds were in Unit One.\* 100 plus pelicans were there as well as in the outflow canal at the 2nd bridge. We found Ruddy’s and Lesser Scaup, Eared Grebes and a lonely Western Grebe (actually a bit far to tell for certain from Clark’s). At the four way were Tundra Swans. A good day. Complete list is below.

Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Sora (heard), American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, American Avocet, Gull species, Northern Flicker, Black-billed Magpie, Common Raven, Marsh Wren, American Robin, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, and a Bewick’s Wren

\*Anyone who volunteers for the GSL Nature Center is given permission to go beyond the gate at Egg Island during nesting season. All you have to do is introduce school kids to birds, wetlands, or macroinvertebrates on weekdays OR just host the Nature Center 4 or 5 times a year to help keep it open on weekends. It’s really a great privilege. Contact Holly or Alicia at 801-589-2373 to learn more.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGE EFFECTIVE 7/1/2011

The Board has made the following change in membership:

Effective July 1, 2011, 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 representation, will continue to be granted to all NAS members.

As explained in the March-April 2011 issue of *The Pelican*, the Board has determined that this change is financially necessary. Please consider becoming a member of GSLA.

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

We appreciate **all** our members. We hope you will continue to participate in our activities and support our efforts to protect and enhance habitat for wild birds, animals and plants.

## WINTER BIRDING IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

By *Bill Yates*

Winter birding in southern Texas can be great – lots of birds, many refuges and parks, friendly and helpful visitor centers, modest prices for food and lodging, numerous experienced local and visiting birders and good weather (sometimes)

Among many, five hotspots are: **Aransas NWR** (north of Corpus Christi), **Laguna Atascosa NWR** (near South Padre Island), **Resaca de la Palma State Park** (near Brownsville), **Estero Llano Grande State Park** (near Weslaco), and **Santa Ana NWR** (near McAllen and Weslaco).

Species we saw (between Jan. 28th and Feb. 9th) included: Whooping Crane (at Aransas NWR and points south), Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Plain Chachalaca, Least Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, White-tailed Kite, Crested Caracara, White-tipped Dove, Green Parakeet, Common Pauraque, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Ringed Kingfisher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, Green Jay, Cave Swallow, Black-crested Titmouse, Clay-colored Thrush, Long-billed Thrasher, Olive Sparrow, Indigo Bunting and Altamira Oriole.

If you go:

- 1) Go before mid-March to avoid spring break crowds.
- 2) Take a U.S. or Eastern field guide.
- 3) Consider a window-mounted scope for auto loop trips, especially during inclement weather.
- 4) Take clothes for weather between shirt sleeve warm and cold, windy and rainy.
- 5) Avoid overnight stays on Highway 281, especially near Alice, where the motels are expensive and full of oil workers.
- 6) Consider a couple of days in San Antonio for the restaurants, history and Riverwalk. We stayed at the Red Roof Inn on Houston St. and walked everywhere.

## MEMBERSHIP

by *Heather Dove*

### Here are the new & renewing GSLA members:

Susan Gray, Robert & Georgene Bond, Brian Barnard, Richard Weber, Bryant Olsen, LuCene Hougaard, Mike & Inge Meyer, Pamela Carson, Guy Moore, Darlene Bytheway, Marguerite Roberts, John Fritz, Dennis & Pat Lombardi, Kathryn Tew, Judy Rollins, Joseph & Arlene Rowberry, Jule Caylor & Barbara Larsen, Irene Terry & Robert Roemer, Bob & Darlea Stack, Nancy Matro, Melanie Loucks, Stan Foutz, Carolyn Tuttle, Edie Trimmer, Janelle Heck, Carol Withrow, Margot Kadesch, Nancy Sakahara, Ann Petersen, Arne Hultquist, Earle Bevins, Fran Tapscott, Bob Gallagher, Howard & Barbara Ross, Melanie Hoffman, Heather Dove, Doug Stark, Ned Bixler, Judi Short, and Fielding Nelson

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

**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](mailto:membership@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org))

### A note from new member Fielding Nelson:

I'm looking to buy a pair of used high quality binocs if someone wants to sell.

J. Fielding Nelson <[jfnelson2@yahoo.com](mailto:jfnelson2@yahoo.com)>

### Rescheduled field trip to the Sage Grouse lek near Henefer was great!

More than 100 birds participated, males and females – along the road and in the hillside to the east.

We had beautiful weather and other good birds further up the highway at East Canyon Reservoir-Common Loons (sighted and heard!), Common Mergansers, a Savannah Sparrow, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, and Red-tailed Hawks. Moving along towards Morgan, we spotted Lewis' Woodpeckers and a large flock of wild turkeys on the far hillside, the males posturing with tail feathers fanned out, Turkey Vultures sitting in a tree with their wings spread out catching some rays, Spotted Towhees, American Goldfinch, lots of Robins.

After a wonderful breakfast in Morgan, the group went down a side road between Morgan and Henefer, where they saw many Sandhill Cranes, 2 Ospreys, 13 Great Blue Herons in a rookery, in the holding ponds near the rookery were ducks - Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, and a Golden Eagle.



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