

THE PELICAN

SEPT/OCT 2016

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org



G R E A T
S A L T L A K E
A U D U B O N

BIRDS 'n BITES

Join us for our monthly informative, entertaining programs. The meetings are free and open to all and presented at the Education Building in the Tracy Aviary at Liberty Park. Doors open at 6:30 PM for refreshments and socializing; the programs begin at 7PM. Enter Liberty Park at 600 E, 900 South.

Sept. 20th The Sweet Smell of Science at Great Salt Lake: a Summer of Undergraduate Research
By Jaimi Butler with undergraduate students from Westminster College's Great Salt Lake Institute
Students from Westminster College's Great Salt Lake Institute have been working all summer on a variety of research projects. Brine shrimp, salt, lizards, spiders and water quality are all topics that will be discussed. Come hear what the students are up to, why it is important and how it fits into a bigger picture of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem! Note: there will be a short members meeting at the beginning of the evening. We'll introduce you to the GSLA Board and tell you about some volunteer opportunities.

October 18th, Phoenix--The Miracle Eagle



By Buz Marthaler, WRCNU Co-founder and Chair

See the story of survival and resilience of Phoenix the Golden Eagle. Through photos and narration by one of Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah's Co-founders and Eagle handlers, you will be led through the many challenges faced by this nestling Eagle after it was caught in a Utah wildfire; and the amazing spirit and fight to survive against all odds.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS !!

Thursday, September 22nd, 7PM-9PM

JOIN GSLA FOR A OPEN SOCIAL CHASE MILL IN THE TRACY AVIARY

\$10 donation at the door for a simple menu:
cold cuts, fruit, and desserts

Contact Ray Smith @801-532-7384 for more info.

Thursday October 13th, 7PM

INTRODUCTION TO eBIRD

Meldrum Science Center Building (room TBD), Westminster College, Salt Lake City

Introduction to eBird is free, but registration is requested to ensure space is available. Please email, call, or text Janice Gardner at janicehgardner@gmail.com or 801-440-5895 by Oct. 12th.

Thursday, November 3rd, 7PM

Gore Auditorium, Westminster College

A presentation by Nalini Nadkarni, Biology Professor at University of Utah titled, "Between Earth and Sky: Trees and Birds as Threads in the Tapestry of Nature."

This event is cosponsored with Great Salt Lake Audubon and the Great Salt Lake Institute.

Come early and join us to socialize and for light refreshments. Doors will open at 6PM.

FALL FAMILY PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 13, meet at 6:30 PM

Location: Memory Grove

We will point out the similarities between the popular *Pokemon Go* game and birding and introduce the adults to useful birding apps.

Participants will split into groups with one GSLA member with each group (to make sure everyone is honest and to help identify birds). There will be a point value for each species of bird found in Memory Grove, with more points given for less commonly seen birds. The team with the most points at the end of a predetermined time limit wins a prize, and everyone gets to enjoy snacks. Meet just east of the Capitol building, contact Anne Terry @361-649-2430 for more information.

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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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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 November/December issue is October 10, 2016.

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS JULY/AUGUST

by Heather Griffiths

Thank you to everyone who attended the screening of *The Messenger*, an artful story about the mass depletion of songbirds on multiple continents and about those who are working to turn the tide. We loved seeing you and look forward to more like programs.

Great Salt Lake Audubon would like to whole-heartedly thank Pomera Fronce for all her hard work in organizing the Christmas Bird Count. She will be stepping down as coordinator and we are grateful for all she has done. If you or someone you know is interested in helping coordinate the Christmas Bird Count please let us know.

GSLA is happy to continue to support the Jordan River Migratory Bird Reserve by giving input on their environmental draft assessment and donating irrigation equipment.

The next Birds 'n Bites meeting in September is a members meeting where we will introduce the members of the GSLA board. We look forward to seeing you in person.

We have many special programs planned in the coming months, including a presentation by Nalini Nadkarni, Biology Professor at University of Utah titled, "Between Earth and Sky: Trees and Birds as Threads in the Tapestry of Nature." Professor Nadkarni has been named among the Women of National Geographic and we are honored to hear her present in November. Visit <http://www.national-geographic.com/explorers/women-of-national-geographic/> for more information.

Three ways to join or renew your membership:

1. Great Salt Lake Audubon-only membership is \$30 a year. All dues support local education, advocacy, habitat restoration, field trips, newsletter publication, and more. (See membership form on page 8 of *The Pelican*). Local membership is very important, as GSLA is primarily self-supporting.
2. A new membership to National Audubon Society (NAS) costs \$25, with renewal of \$35 after the first year. Benefits include the quarterly national magazine and automatic membership in GSLA. Most of your dues support environmental campaigns at the national level. As a new NAS member, you will receive a courtesy subscript to our newsletter, *The Pelican*, for one year. Thereafter, if you wish to continue to receive *The Pelican*, please join Great Salt Lake Audubon.
3. You can join both GSLA and NAS if you wish to support both local and national activities.

THE PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE AND BEARS EARS MONUMENT, EXPLAINED

by *Steve Erickson*, Audubon Legislative Advocate

Elections aside, for conservationists in Utah the biggest decision to be made in the months to come will determine the size, scope and management of one of the most culturally rich and spectacular landscapes in North America, the Bears Ears region of southeastern Utah.

The choices are sharply defined: either President Obama uses the 1906 Antiquities Act to declare a 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument or the Congress debates and passes – and the President signs – the Public Lands Initiative (“PLI”) sponsored by Utah congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

The PLI is the product of a 3-year long effort to achieve a “Grand Bargain” to settle the long stalemate over protection and designation of wilderness-quality lands in southern and eastern Utah. Conservation groups and environmental leaders, along with Tribes, outdoor industry representatives, hunting and fishing interests, and others participated in good faith in the discussions, along with representatives of extractive industries, OHV advocates, agriculture and economic development interests, and local government leaders. Since the PLI legislation was unveiled on July 14, the last day before the summer congressional recess, nearly all of the conservation interests have denounced the bill and have thrown their full support behind Bears Ears monument designation. Conservation groups join the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah Ouray Ute tribes that form the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (BEITC), and the lead Tribal advocacy group for the monument, Dine Bikeyah, all of whom walked away from the Grand Bargain negotiations last December, protesting the lack of consultation with Tribes by the congressional offices.

These groups cite a number of compelling reasons why the PLI fails to meet the Grand Bargain objectives. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance: “The PLI is a step backwards for conservation in Utah.” It diminishes the “BLM’s already meager wilderness management in Utah”, “benefits fossil fuels at the expense of every other value”, “fails to protect the Bears Ears”, “is a public lands giveaway [that] grants thousands of miles of disrupted R.S. 2477 rights-of-way to the State of Utah” and “furthers the State of Utah’s land grab efforts by transferring thousands of acres of federal land to the state, without compensation, for development and increased motorized and non-motorized recreation”.

Grand Canyon Trust: The PLI would “leave more than half a million acres of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument unprotected, including tens of thousands of irreplaceable cultural sites and some of the best canyon and mountain scenery in the United States, while forever prohibiting future protections; demote the voice of sovereign Native American tribes in management of Bears Ears to a small voice in a crowd of advisors, instead of enacting the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition’s visionary proposal to blend traditional knowledge with western science and land management in new and exciting ways; leave millions of acres of potential wilderness unprotected, particularly biologically important national forest wilderness, while preventing protections in the future; hand permitting authority for fossil fuel development of public minerals over to the State of Utah while rolling back the Bureau of Land Management’s oil and gas leasing reforms, cancelling master leasing plans for the seven PLI counties; and transfer vast blocks of federal public lands to the State of Utah in the Uintah Basin, Book Cliffs, near the San Rafael Swell, and near the Green River east of Moab for expedited development of tar sands, oil shale, potash, coal, and uranium without public review or input, turning some of Utah’s best wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes into industrial zones.”

Other groups that oppose the PLI include the Center for Western Priorities, The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club.

Lastly, with time running out in the 114th Congress and with broad opposition to its enactment, PLI has little chance of enactment. Willie Grayeyes, board chairman of Dine Bikeyah, writes: “The physical evidence of Native American history in the Bears Ears region is of global significance. It cries out for protection...the era of looting, vandalism, and grave-robbing must end. We are hopeful that President Obama will proclaim a Bears Ears National Monument, and through his action promote healing for all – not just for Native Americans, but for all people and for the land – by retaining as much pristine condition for generations to enjoy.”

Write to the President - it’s all up to him now! Please write or call the White House and urge Mr. Obama to designate the Bears Ears National Monument.

New York Times Editorial 6/17: “Mr. Obama has nothing to lose politically, and everything to gain in terms of the environmental accomplishment.”

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for Sept/Oct 2016

Beginning birders and nonmembers are always welcome. We encourage carpooling on our field trips. **Contributions to drivers for gas money would be appreciated.** Be sure to call the field trip leader to confirm that arrangements are still as published.

Physical Difficulty:

EASY - little or no walking, smooth paths.

MODERATE - 1 mile or more, possible rough terrain.

DIFFICULT - extensive walking which could include rough terrain and significant changes in altitude.

Despite our best efforts, ratings for the field trips are still somewhat subjective. Please consult with the leaders.

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

Wednesday, September 7th, 7AM~2PM-MODERATE Migrant Search at Willard Bay & Willard Spur

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Willard Bay is an excellent migrant trap. After searching the trees for warblers there, we will drive the potholed road to the Willard spur that is well-known for hosting shorebirds in migration. Contact Bryant if you plan to attend (801-498-0362 or bryant_olsen@yahoo.com). Meet in the SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot on 13th E. in Sugarhouse in time to arrange carpools and leave by 7AM

Wednesday September 7th, 7:30AM MODERATE Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon

Leader: John Middleton

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. 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 John (801-322-2171) if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 PM

FALL FAMILY PROGRAM in Memory Grove

See description on page 1 .

Sunday September 18th, 7AM EASY

Antelope Island

Leader: Ian Batterman

Come join us at one of the greatest migratory stopover sites in Northern Utah. We will be start at the causeway, looking for migrating shorebirds, and then travel on to the island including stopovers at the Visitor Center, Buffalo Corrals, and Garr Ranch to see what's around (and see how the recent fire impacted the birds). This will be a fairly long birding trip, so

please plan accordingly. For those carpooling, meet at the Sugarhouse Shopko at 7AM. If coming from the north, you can plan on meeting us in the parking lot just outside of the entrance kiosk at the Causeway by 7:45am. If you have a park pass, please bring it along. Contact Ian Batterman at 920-360-0805 or at imbatterman@gmail.com to let him know you are coming.

Tuesday, Sept. 20th BIRDS 'n BITES, 7PM

Education Building in the Tracy Aviary:

The Sweet Smell of Science at Great Salt Lake: a Summer of Undergraduate Research

Thursday, September 22nd, 7PM-9PM

Join GSLA for a Open Social, \$10 at the door.

Chase Mill in the Tracy Aviary

Saturday, September 24th, 8AM or 9:30AM-MODERATE

Bluebird Box Clean-up

Leaders: Jeanne LeBer and Ray Smith

Meet at the south-east corner of the Shopko parking lot in Sugarhouse by 8AM, 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. Dress for possible cool weather. Bring your lunch and GSLA will provide the drinks. Call Jeanne or Ray at 801-532-7384 for details.

Monday September 26th, 7AM EASY

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Kennecott's Mitigation Wetlands) ISSR

Leader: Bryant Olsen

We have obtained permission to do a monthly bird survey of the Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve from Rio Tinto/Kennecott Utah Copper. This is seldom open to the general public and features all of the familiar Great Salt Lake wetland habitats and birds that we usually have to travel farther north to find. Who knows what new birds we can document for Salt Lake County out there? We will also explore areas around Lee Kay ponds, the International Center and Saltair/Marina, depending on time and where birds are being reported. We meet at Shopko at 7am to carpool. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED as there is limited space on these field trips. Contact Bryant Olsen at 801-498-0362 or bryant_olsen@yahoo.com to sign up.

Wednesday, September 28th, 7:00/7:30AM~4PM

Full day at Farmington Bay & Antelope Island – EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for Sept/Oct 2016

We are on a "migrant march". We will Bird the Bay in the morning. Possibly checking the trees along the boardwalk at the Nature center as well as driving into the main section as far as the 4-way gates. Then, we'll bird the causeway and Garr Ranch. Meet in the SE corner of the ShopKo parking lot on 13th E in sugarhouse in time to arrange carpools and leave by 7AM or meet at the Nature Center gate on Glover Ln in Farmington [take exit 322 from I-15, turn right onto Frontage Rd; back track ~1 block to Glover Ln and turn West.] contact Bryant if you plan to attend (801-498-0362 or bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

Wednesday October 5th, 8:30AM MODERATE Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon

Leader: John Middleton

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. We'll meet by 8:30AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 east for a morning of birding. Call John (801-322-2171) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, October 8th.

Deadline to receive Sunflower seed orders.

Thursday October 13th, 7PM

Introduction to eBird Class

Meldrum Science Center Building (room TBD), Westminster College

Have you been interested in knowing more about eBird and how to use the program? Join Great Salt Lake Audubon for Introduction to eBird.

You will learn where the best places are to bird, find target species, and how you can log your birding lists or life birds. Class participants will have access to their own computer and will be encouraged to follow along as we explore what eBird offers to birders of all levels. Attendees are welcome to stay after the presentation and we will provide one-on-one computer support.

Introduction to eBird is free, but registration is requested to ensure space is available. Please email, call, or text Janice Gardner at janicegardner@gmail.com or 801-440-5895 by October 12th.

Sunday October 16th, 8-10AM, EASY

Bountiful Pond

Leader: Ian Batterman

Located on the outskirts of Farmington Bay WMA, Bountiful Pond is a lovely oasis for all kinds of birds. The large pond provides a stopover area for many gulls and waterfowl, and the surrounding trees and fields hide many songbirds, owls, and other birds with close viewing oppor-

tunities. Feel free to either meet at the SE corner of the Sugarhouse ShopKo to carpool at 8AM or at main parking area near the pond at 8:30. Contact Ian Batterman at 920-360-0805 or at imbatterman@gmail.com to let him know you are coming or if you would like more information

Tuesday, October 18th, BIRDS 'n BITES, 7PM

Education Building in the Tracy Aviary:

Phoenix--The Miracle Eagle

Wednesday, October 26th - 8/8:30AM-mid-day, EASY Farmington Bay; a few hours longer for more Davis County birding Farmington Bay in the morning - Optional Birding northward in afternoon

Leader: Bryant Olsen

See Description for Sept. 28th.

Bird the Bay with us then have the option on continuing the trip to places further north in Davis county. please let Bryant know if you plan to attend. (801-498-0362 or bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

Saturday Oct. 29th between 10AM and 2PM

Sunflower seed pickup

Strong volunteers are needed on this day!

Monday October 31st, 7AM EASY

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve

Leader: Bryant Olsen

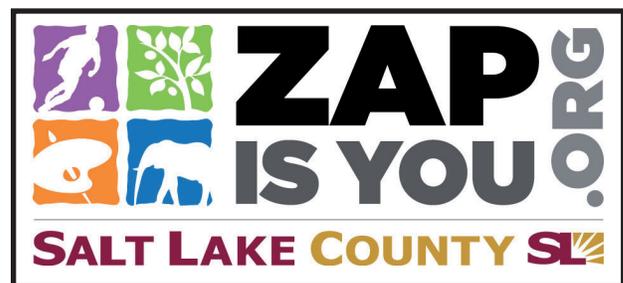
See description for September 26th.

Wednesday November 2nd, 9AM, MODERATE

Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon

Leader: John Middleton

We are not sure what the weather will be like, so check the forecast and come prepared. We'll meet by 9AM in the parking lot just west of the REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Call John (801-322-2171) if you plan to attend. **THIS WILL BE OUR LAST**



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

A Pacific Pine Marten was seen on this year's Brighton Bird Count, on the trail up to Twin Lakes. Bryant Olsen, who led the hike, did some research on this critter and shared the information he found:

There are two species of Pine Martens in North America – the American Pine Marten (*Martes americana*) of the boreal forests of northern US and Canada, and the Pacific Marten (*Martes caurina*) of the western mountains. Ours was the latter. Both species are more closely related to the Japanese Marten (*Martes melampus*) than they are to the European Pine Marten (*Martes martes*). In Utah the Pacific Pine Marten is most common in the Uintas, but there are records in the Wasatch and even as far south as Manti Mountain. Bryant has seen them twice in the Uintas and once on Manti Mountain. He's also seen tracks on two occasions in the Wasatch – once at Alta and once at Doughnut Falls. Pine Martens were heavily trapped for their fur during the settlement days, and Utah populations have not fully recovered, especially in the Wasatch. It is currently legal to trap Martens in Utah with a permit.

And from Mike Malmquist:

Thought you might want to pass this along to the folks on yesterday's bird count regarding the pine marten first spotted by Doris near Twin Lakes. Here are links to a couple of pics. Not very good quality, but captured the essence of the cool little critter. While the range maps include a little piece of the Wasatch, it apparently isn't too often that one of these gets spotted in the canyons.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/123157017@N03/28167797406/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/123157017@N03/27585911184/in/dateposted-public/>



UTAH AND THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: LINKED BY ONE TREMENDOUS BIRD

Every spring the Northern Pintail migrates from its wintering grounds in Utah and other portions of the United States north to wetlands and small ponds they find in the northern continental United States, Canada, and Alaska's Arctic. In years when the prairie potholes of the northern Great Plains dry up, the northern Arctic and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge become particularly key to pintails' breeding success and survival.

With its long neck and tail, the Northern Pintail is one of the sleekest and most graceful of Arctic-breeding ducks. Pintails are also one of the earliest nesters among ducks. They can be seen braving the sometimes harsh weather of early spring as they head north.

Of course, not many people see the pintails when they reach the Arctic Refuge. Located in the Northeast corner of Alaska, the Arctic Refuge is one of America's last wildest places. The coastal plain of the refuge hosts nearly 125 species of birds, as well as polar bears, musk oxen, wolves, and the 197,000-animal Porcupine caribou herd during the calving season. About 10,000 pintails breed in the coastal plain of the Refuge, coming from as far away as Mexico.

The Refuge is threatened by oil and gas development, and the National Audubon Society supports a Wilderness designation for the coastal plain as a way to permanently protect Northern Pintails and a host of other birds and wildlife.

What You Can Do

If you want to help protect the Refuge, please consider sending a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or to your Congressional representatives telling them the Refuge is important to all Americans, and that you want to see it protected. Points to include:

- ***The Arctic Refuge is important to and belongs to all Americans.***
- The Refuge is crucial to populations of birds such as Northern Pintails that you see and value in Utah.
- Designating the Refuge as Wilderness will protect Northern Pintails and a host of other important wildlife species from oil and gas development.

Photo by Donald Dvorak/Great Backyard Bird Count Participant , article from National Audubon.

GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
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Support GSLA and help our feathered friends through the winter

Receive one 40 pound bag for each \$ 30.00 contribution

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Name: Last _____ First _____

Audubon membership: ___ National, ___ Local, or Non-Member ___ (Non-Members Welcome)

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

I would like ___ bags of sunflower seeds at \$ 30.00 per bag. Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____, payable to Great Salt Lake Audubon.

Great Salt Lake Audubon is a non-profit organization.
All proceeds support Great Salt Lake Audubon's efforts to protect Utah's wildlife
and further our conservation and education programs.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Orders must be received by Saturday, October 8th.
Complete the order form above and send it with your check to:

Great Salt Lake Audubon
C/o Jeanne LeBer
550 South 400 East, # 3407
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Pick up your order Saturday Oct. 29th between 10AM and 2 PM at:

GSLA Office
152 West Burton Ave (at 2360 So. West Temple)
Salt Lake City, UT

Please plan to pick your seed up on the day of delivery or arrange for someone to do so for you.
If you have questions, please call Ray Smith at 385-313-0608. Leave a message and Ray will get back to you.



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 Great Salt Lake Audubon
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 (LOCAL MEMBERSHIP ONLY)**

Please enroll me as a member of GSLA. My membership fee of \$30.00 includes a 1-year subscription to *THE PELICAN*.

Please clip and send your application and check to:

**GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
 P.O. BOX 520867
 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84152-0867**

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP +4 _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____ Today's Date _____

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.

Member fee \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ = Total \$ _____
Local membership does NOT include Audubon Magazine

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:

My check for \$25.00 is enclosed. (Introductory price only)

Please clip and send your application and check to:

**National Audubon Society Membership Services
 P.O. Box 422250
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP +4 _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____ Today's Date _____

Check here if you prefer your free 1st year of *THE PELICAN* electronically and provide us with your email address

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