

THE PELICAN

SEP/OCT 2018

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 and entertaining programs. The meetings are free and open to all and presented in the Education Building at the Tracy Aviary in 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.

Tuesday, September 18th, 7PM, “Tracy Aviary’s Conservation Science Program: Engaging citizen scientists in local bird conservation,” Cooper Farr, M.S. Conservation Scientist, Tracy Aviary

Tracy Aviary’s Conservation Science Program works to understand and conserve Salt Lake County’s birds and their habitats with the help of many dedicated citizen scientist volunteers. The program began in 2011, and since then has engaged over 100 citizen scientists in numerous research projects across Salt Lake County. Our projects focus on key local habitats, such as our region’s critically important and highly disturbed riparian areas, and pressing conservation issues, such as the impact of urban light pollution on migrating birds. I will provide an overview of Tracy Aviary’s Conservation Science Program and share interesting results from several of our citizen science projects.

Tuesday, October 16th, 7PM, “Audubon Grant Awardees support education and research with Kestrels on Campus and U of U Student Beekeeping Association,” Amy Sibul, M.S Instructor/Community Engaged Learning Coordinator Biology Department, Univ. of Utah, Quaid Harding, Student and President U of U Beekeeping Association, Jennifer Bridgeman, Student and Kestrels on Campus volunteer.

Amy Sibul directs the Community Engaged Learning Program and works with students Quaid Harding and Jennifer Bridgeman. Quaid Harding is the president of the U of U Beekeeping Association, and Jennifer Bridgeman, budding raptor biologist, works with Kestrels on Campus. Both groups received Great Salt Lake Audubon grants to help with their ongoing efforts to maintain kestrel boxes and honeybee hives on campus. They will discuss their ongoing efforts, research, and give us an overview of the Community Engaged Learning Program at the university.



Board Highlights.....	page 2
Membership Information.....	page 2
Supporting Safe Migration.....	page 3
Calendar of Events.....	page 4-5
Little Brown Birds.....	page 6-7

I
N
S
I
D
E

THE PELICAN

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

Printed on recycled paper.

Mission Statement: Great Salt Lake Audubon is dedicated to protecting and enhancing habitat for wild birds, animals and plants, and to maintaining healthy and diverse environments for wildlife and people throughout the state.

GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON DIRECTORY

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

OFFICE

152 W. Burton, Suite J, SLC, Utah • (385) 313-0608
Send correspondence to P. O. Box 520867, SLC, UT 84152-0867

OFFICERS

President, Heather Dove.....801-201-3637
Vice President, Ray Smith.....801-532-7384
Secretary, Leah Richardson.....801-503-7608
Treasurer, Kandy Richards.....801-599-7410

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Ending 2020

Jeanne Le Ber.....801-532-7384
Leah Richardson.....801-503-7608

Term Ending 2019

Kandy Richards.....801-599-7410
Heather Griffiths.....435-213-6565

Term Ending 2018

Ian Batterman.....920-360-0805
Anne Terry.....361-649-2430

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance.....OPEN
Newsletter Editor, Heather Griffiths.....435-213-6565
Education, Anne Terry.....361-649-2430
Field Trips, Ian Batterman.....920-360-0805
Fundraising.....OPEN
Social Media Editor, Ian Batterman.....920-360-0805
Hospitality, Bob & Darlea Stack.....801-487-3792
Membership, Heather Dove801-201-3637
Programs, L. Richardson & K. Kirchoff.....801-503-7608
Publicity, Rollie and Martha Westman.....651-308-2717
Conservation.....OPEN
Volunteer Hours, Barb Eastman.....801-671-8932
Website, Heather Dove & David Druker.....801-201-3637

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 Nov/Dec 2018 issue is October 10, 2018.

Services Donated
by
www.xmission.com



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

by Leah Richardson

I hope everyone has enjoyed watching all the fledglings in their yards and neighborhoods this summer! July and August are typically calmer months for GSLA, but the board has been busy planning future events and field trips. You can look forward to another bluebird box clean up this fall, a few trips with HawkWatch as the raptor migration begins, and many others. We also are getting ready for the annual seed sale and fall program in collaboration with Great Salt Lake Institute. See articles in this issue for more information. We are in the process of reviewing grant submissions for our fall grant program, and in October, we will be fortunate enough to have some of the grant recipients from last year speak with us at the monthly BIRDS 'n BITES program. Look for Great Salt Lake Audubon at several upcoming events including the 'Get Into the River Festival' in September. Enjoy the nicer temperatures and beginning of fall migration season.

HOLD THE DATE

Thursday, November 1st Evening (time to be determined) will be our annual Fall Program with Great Salt Lake Institute. The event will be at Westminster College Gore Auditorium and focus on 'Community Science'. Community science gets people from the community involved in science, conservation, and research that is important to the local environment. There are many ongoing programs and opportunities for everyone to participate. Stay tuned for more details on this event and mark your calendar.

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.

Supporting Safe Migration Has Unanticipated Benefits

By Jess Cleaves Dwyer

Salt Lake Chapter – International Dark Sky Association

Migration is an exciting time for birders – and a treacherous time for birds. Unfortunately, in addition to the hard miles, storms, predators, and food-finding challenges our migrating birds face, us human members of the ecological community complicate things. Fortunately, one of the ways we currently make migration more difficult for birds is also one of the easiest to fix – all we have to do is turn out the lights.

The majority of songbirds (2/3 of them) migrate at night. They do so for lots of reasons, including internal temperature regulation, more stable atmospheric conditions, and avoiding day-active predators. For millennia, these tiny travelers have utilized celestial clues to help them get to where they're going. When we leave our lights on at night, migrating songbirds have a hard time distinguishing between starlight and human-generated light. They are drawn to our lights. Current estimates anticipate that approximately 1 billion song birds die in building collisions each year. While not all of these collisions occur at night, a significant number of them do. Birds are drawn into lit spaces, and either perish due to direct collisions, or collapse from exhausted disorientation, an experience termed "light confusion."

Light at night isn't just bad for birds, it turns out. Just as birds have migrated under dark skies for eons, so, too, have we slept in darkness since we've been a 'we' as a species. Even when closed, our eyes are sensitive to light. We see evidence of our human sensitivity to artificial light at night in multiple ways. A recent finding of the Nurse's Health Study, an ongoing exploration into women's health with over 280,000 participants, found that women who live in neighborhoods with increased artificial light at night are significantly more likely to develop breast and colorectal cancers compared to their dark-dosing colleagues. Just as we are learning how the blue light from our screens messes with our sleep patterns predictably enough to be linked to increases in depression, anxiety, and heart disease, so, too, does our artificial light at night. Our light pollution.

Light pollution is defined as any artificial light reaching any place where it's neither intended nor useful. These stray photons are more than a health issue. If we chose lighting that aimed light only where we wanted it (instead of globe-like fixtures that offer up to 60% of their light to the sky), we would save \$3.3 billion dollars nationally. The carbon savings with those conversions is proportional, as a fixture that prevents 60% light loss means that a bulb can now illuminate the same area with 40% the energy the old bulbs needed. "That makes sense," you think to yourself, "but what about safety? We can't just stop lighting our cities at night – it's too risky." We should absolutely still light for safety – but especially in this regard, more light does NOT equal better light. When a bulb is exposed, and our eyes experience glare, our eyes calibrate to the brightest light. Outdoor, night-time spaces lit with bright, glaring bulbs actually increase nighttime crime, as the effective brightness of a glaring bulb contacting, say, a law enforcement human's eye will make the unlit places even darker, safer places for potential assailants to hide.

We are only beginning to understand the importance of a dark night – to our bodies, our wallets, our ecosystems, and our communities' health and security. Luckily, we can act to prevent these negative impacts. All it takes is making sure that our lights are only on when we need them (to save energy), downward facing with concealed bulbs (to light what we need to see while preventing glare), and a "color temperature" of 2700 K or less (which means the bulb looks more orange/amber than blue, as blue light is better at tricking our brains into thinking it's daytime).

We can target our commitment to mitigate light pollution in a way that directly helps our migrating feathered friends; take Tracy Aviary's Lights Out Salt Lake pledge (<http://www.tracyaviaryconservation.org/lightsoutsaltlake/>), and commit to turning off any unnecessary lighting from 11pm-6am during migration season; August through October and March through May. If you're excited to fight light pollution year-round, visit the International Dark Sky Association (DarkSky.org) for details on light fixtures, research about light pollution's impacts, and ways you can be active in your own community to address this entirely fixable, win-win-win challenge.

Come join us for the
Fall Lights Out Launch Party at Tracy Aviary, Friday August 31st, 7 – 10 pm.

Participating groups will include The Planetarium, Great Salt Lake Audubon, Hex Press and Fisher Beer.

We're also hoping to have spotting scopes from the University of Utah's Astronomy Association available for night sky viewing.

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for SEP/OCT 2018

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.******

Friday August 31, 7-10 pm

Fall Lights Out Launch Party, Tracy Aviary

See bottom of pg 3 for details.

Monday September 3

Annual Sunflower Seed Sale Fundraiser begins. Send in your orders (See insert of this newsletter for details and order form. Links can also be found on the homepage of our website.)

Wednesday September 5, 7:30 am—MODERATE

Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon

Leader: John Middleton (801-707-9182, john.middleton0@gmail.com)

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. As summer wanes, fall migrants and fledgling birds should be prevalent. 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. Contact John if you plan to attend.

Monday September 10, 6 am-2 pm—MODERATE

Migrant Search at Willard Bay & Willard Spur

Leader: Bryant Olsen (801-498-0362, bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

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. Meet at Fairmont Park (1040 E Sugarmont Dr.) in Sugar House at 6am to carpool. Contact Bryant if you plan to attend.

Saturday September 15, 7:30 am—EASY-MODERATE

Random Rarity Search

Leader: Ian Batterman (920-360-0805, imbatterman@gmail.com)

Part of the fun of bird watching is going out to find rare species. Thanks to today's technology like texting, social media, and eBird, it is even easier to stay connected with other birders to help locate rare species faster. In this field trip, we will be looking specifically for rare birds seen in the area (no more than 50 mi from Salt Lake City) within the past few days. Meet at the north side of the At Home parking lot on 9000 S in Sandy at 7:30 am and we will decide as a group what bird(s) to look for. Contact Ian Batterman (text or email preferred) to let him know you are coming.

Tuesday September 18, 7 pm Birds 'n Bites

See page 1 for details

Saturday September 22, 8 am or 9:30 am—MODERATE

Bluebird Box Clean-up

Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith (801-532-7384, jeanne.leber@utah.edu)

Meet at the Smith's Market Place on 3300S at 8 am, 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. Contact Jeanne or Ray for details.

Saturday September 22, 9 am-4 pm—EASY

Hawk Watching at Squaw Peak, Utah County

Leader: Neil Paprocki (npaprocki@hawkwatch.org)

Great Salt Lake Audubon is teaming up with Hawkwatch International again for a fun day watching migrating raptors at Squaw Peak. This is the perfect time to see many migrating raptors, including the rare Broad-winged Hawk. To sign up for this field trip, head to www.Hawkwatch.org, click on the Participate tab, and then the Events Calendar tab. Set the calendar to September 2018 and then click on the Hawkwatching at Squaw Peak event on the 22nd. There you can sign up for the trip, see the map to the site, and get more information on the event. Since the meeting place is at Squaw Peak and the leaders at Hawkwatch will be meeting there at 10 am, GSLA members attending the trip can set up a carpool at 9 am at the north side of the At Home parking lot on 9000 S in Sandy, or just rendezvous near Squaw Peak just before 10:00. If you have any questions, email Neil Paprocki.

Monday September 24, 7 am—EASY

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Kennecott's Mitigation Wetlands)

Leader: Bryant Olsen (801-498-0362, bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

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. Meeting place TBD. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED as there is limited space on these field trips. This is also a more fast-paced trip as the purpose is counting individuals as well as species. Contact Bryant Olsen to sign up.

Wednesday September 26 7:30 am-2 pm—EASY

Antelope Island & Farmington Bay

Leader: Bryant Olsen (801-498-0362, bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

We are on a "migrant march" as the fall migrants return to the Great Salt Lake. Meet at the Antelope Island Causeway at 7:30 am. After birding Antelope Island for the morning, anyone interested can continue birding at Farmington Bay with Bryant. Space is limited, so contact Bryant if you plan to attend.

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for SEP/OCT 2018

Saturday September 29, 7:30am—EASY

Get into the River Festival: Jordan River Birdwalk 4500 S-5400 S

Leader: Ian Batterman (920-360-0805, imbatterman@gmail.com)
The Jordan River is a wonderful place for birds in the Salt Lake Valley. One of the greatest spots to see birds along the Jordan River is along the Jordan River Parkway Trail between 4500 S and 5400 S. According to eBird, it has the greatest diversity of birds of any place along the Jordan River in Salt Lake County. This is due to the wide array of different habitats including open river, dry shrubland, reedy river banks, shallow marshland, riparian woodland, and an enlarged sandy bank (home to nesting Belted Kingfishers and Bank Swallows). We will meet at 7:30 am at the Confluence Park parking lot on 4800 S. The lot is near some picnic tables across the street from Sunstone Rd. after you pass the Jordan River heading west. Contact Ian Batterman (preferably by text or email) if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Wednesday October 3, 8 am—MODERATE
Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon

Leader: John Middleton (801-707-9182, john.middleton0@gmail.com)
See September trip for more information. Remember, this date is at a later time.

Saturday October 6, 9 am-2 pm—MODERATE-DIFFICULT
Hawk Migration at Grandeur Peak

Leader: Ian Batterman (920-360-0805, imbatterman@gmail.com)
There are many places in Utah to observe hawks as they migrate through the Rocky Mountains, but no place is closer to SLC than Grandeur Peak. We will observe hawks as they fly through with binoculars and scopes so feel free to bring a scope if you have one. We may be joined by one of the researchers at Hawkwatch International to help with ID and migration questions. We won't be hiking all the way to the top, but the hike is a bit strenuous, so plan accordingly (water, hiking boots, jackets, etc.). The trip will last until the afternoon, so bring a lunch if you like. We will meet at the west side of the Smith's Marketplace parking Lot at 9:00 am to carpool. If you want to attend or have any questions, contact Ian Batterman (text or email preferred).

Saturday October 13, 7:30 am-12 pm—MODERATE
Yellow Fork Canyon

Leader: Ian Batterman (920-360-0805, imbatterman@gmail.com)
Down in the Southwestern corner of Salt Lake County is Yellow Fork Canyon, a wonderful hiking spot and a unique area for birding in the county. Here you will find a mix of mountain and desert species that in many cases can only be found in the more arid areas of the state. This hike is in a dry area with a slight incline, so please remember decent hiking shoes, sunscreen, and water. We will meet at the West Valley Target on 5600 West at 7:30am to arrange a carpool. Please contact Ian Batterman if you are interested.

Tuesday October 16, 7 pm, Birds 'n Bites

See page 1 for details

Saturday October 27, 10 am-2 pm

Sunflower Seed pickup at 152 W. Burton Ave (2360 South, off of West Temple), SLC, UT 84115. Call Jeanne if you have questions. 801-532-7384

Monday October 29, 8 am-12 pm—EASY

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Kennecott's Mitigation Wetlands)

Leader: Bryant Olsen (801-498-0362, bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)
See September trip for more information. Meeting time is later this month.

Wednesday October 31, 8 am-2 pm—EASY

Antelope Island & Farmington Bay

Leader: Bryant Olsen (801-498-0362, bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)
See September trip for more information. Meeting time is later for this month.

Wednesday November 7, 8 am-12 pm—MODERATE

Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon

Leader: John Middleton (801-707-9182, john.middleton0@gmail.com)

We are not sure what the weather will be like, so check the forecast and come prepared. We'll meet by 8 am in the parking lot just west of the REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Contact John if you plan to attend. **THIS WILL BE OUR LAST SURVEY OF MOUNTAIN DELL THIS YEAR.** Our surveys will resume our surveys in March.

FEEDER CLEANING WEEKEND!!!

Wild Birds Unlimited and Great Salt Lake Audubon are sponsoring a **Feeder Cleaning Weekend**. One of the most important ways to keep feeder birds healthy is by keeping your backyard feeders clean and in good repair. This will help prevent diseases from being spread between birds as they congregate at feeders.

Feeders, domes, and trays can be dropped off at Wild Birds Unlimited beginning on Thursday, August 30 through Saturday, September 1. They will be cleaned with a high pressure steam cleaner and disinfected. **Feeders can be picked up beginning Monday, Sep 3.**

Cost is \$5 per each feeder, dome, or tray.

All proceeds go to Great Salt Lake Audubon.

Little Brown Birds – Brewer’s, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows

by Deborah Drain

Brewer’s, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows are commonly found in sagebrush steppe habitat in the intermountain west from late spring through early fall. These sparrows are often seen on fences and shrubs as they sing and call, and along gravel roadways as they hunt for insects. As you read this article I encourage you to log into the Cornell University online bird guide <https://www.allaboutbirds.org> or a smart phone bird app (if you have one) to listen to the songs and calls of these sparrows. Along with other characteristics, bird songs and calls are very helpful for bird identification.

Birders often refer to Brewer’s, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows as little brown birds (LBBs) because they are small and brownish in color and are hard to identify because they lack conspicuous features that make them easily identifiable. It can, at first, seem daunting to identify LBBs, but with a little patience and practice using four basic steps to identify birds and the specific information about Brewer’s, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows in this article you’ll be confident in no time about these sparrows.

The 4 basic steps of bird identification, which I use to describe Brewer’s Vespers, and Savannah Sparrows and that I use all the time when I’m out birding, provide an easy, systematic approach to bird identification. The steps are: 1) Habitat – where the bird was seen, grassland, forest, wetland, sagebrush steppe, etc. 2) Size and Shape –big, small, sleek, plump, short-tail, long-tail, etc. 3) Color pattern – the bird’s color(s), streaky or clear, stripy crown, eye-stripes or rings, etc. 4) Behavior – what’s the bird doing? Is it feeding on the ground or in trees? Is it eating insects, or seeds? Is it flocking or solitary? What’s its song and call...? Following this process will make LBB identification easier.

The Brewer’s Sparrow, one of my favorite birds, is the most abundant bird found in sagebrush steppe habitat. Brewer’s Sparrows are a slim, clear-breasted, grayish-brown bird, approximately 5 to 5.9 inches long, with a wing span of approximately 7 to 7.7 inches. They have a notched tail that is long in relation to their overall body size, and a small sharply conical bill. They have a faint eyeline, a gray stripe over the eye that contrasts with the eyeline, and a finely striped crown. (Note the light color, clear breast, finely striped crown, small sharp conical bill, and long tail in the Brewer’s Sparrow photo. You can also see the faint eye-ring and eye line). Brewer’s Sparrows eat insects which they glean from shrub branches. In the spring the males sing from elevated perches on shrubs, grass, or fences. Brewer’s Sparrows nest below the top of the sagebrush, but no less than 8 inches above the ground. They lay 2 to 5 eggs which they incubate for 10 to 12 days. Fledging occurs between 6 to 9 days. They may have 1 to 2 broods per year. Brewer’s Sparrows may be inconspicuous and North America’s smallest sparrow, but its song is anything but small and inconspicuous. It has both long and short songs consisting of highly complex trilling and buzzing. You will hear the long song during breeding season, the short song at other times.



Vesper Sparrow, photography by Deb Drain

Although considered a grassland species, Vesper Sparrows also live in the more open, grassy areas of sagebrush steppe habitat. Vesper Sparrows are a chunky, crisply streaked, brown sparrow with white outer tail feathers visible in flight. It’s between 5.1 to 6.3 inches long with a wingspan of approximately 9 inches. It has a cheek patch with a dark outline, a white eye ring, and a streaked crown. It also has a chestnut patch on its shoulders. (Note the bold eye ring, cheek patch, heavy streaking, and chestnut shoulder patch in the Vesper Sparrow photo). Vesper Sparrows eat seeds and insects and are ground feeders. Like Brewer’s Sparrows, in the spring males sing from elevated perches on shrubs, grass, or fences.

They nest on the ground next to clumps of grass or shrubs, laying 2 to 6 eggs which they incubate 11 to 14 days. The young fledge in 1 to 3 broods per year. It has a melodic song consisting of two to four long, clear whistles, followed by musical slurs and trills. The naturalist John Burroughs thought it sang more impressively in the evening, hence the name Vesper (evening) Sparrow.



Savannah Sparrow, photography by Deb Drain

Like Vesper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows are considered a grassland species, but they also live in the more open, grassy areas of sagebrush steppe habitat.

Savannah Sparrows are a medium sized, streaky, brown bird with a short-notched tail and a head that appears small compared to its body. They are approximately 4.3 to 5.9 inches long with a wingspan between 7.9 to 8.7 inches. (Note the heavy streaking and yellow patch in the photo Savannah Sparrow photo). They frequently lift the feathers on their head making a crown as seen in the photograph. They eat seeds and insects on and close to the ground. In spring, the males sing from elevated perches on shrubs, grass, and fences. Savannah Sparrows are ground nesters and hide their nests in dense grasses or shrubs. They lay 2 to 6 eggs which they incubate for 12 to 13 days. The young fledge in 8 to 13 days. Savannah Sparrows may have 1 to 4 broods. Their song is a dry, buzzy, tsss insect-like melody.

In summary, Brewer's Sparrows are a small, inconspicuous grayish-brown bird with a clear chest, sharply conical bill, and a highly complex song. Vesper Sparrows are a medium sized, streaky dark brown bird with cheek patches, chestnut shoulder patches, bright eye rings, and white outer tail feathers seen in flight. Savannah Sparrows are also a medium sized, streaky brown bird but have a small yellow patch in front of their eyes and a unique dry buzzy tsss song. By focusing on their key identification features and listening to their songs and calls, Brewer's, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows can become more than LBBs. Happy Birding!

Coalition for Port Reform

Stay abreast of the latest developments on the **Utah Inland Port**, a project that was mandated by the Utah Legislature in 2018.

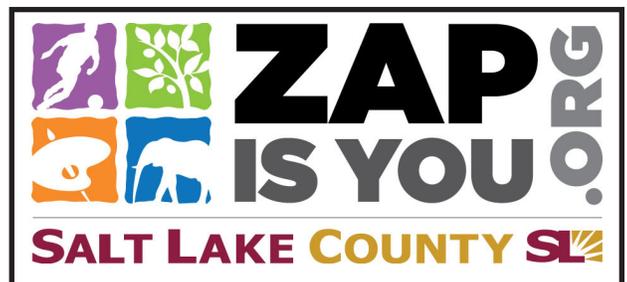
The **Coalition for Port Reform** is a group of organizations that is concerned that this massive project be done transparently, with public involvement, with a thorough environmental assessment conducted before planning proceeds, and with input from environmental and conservation scientists as well as smart design architects and planners.

We are concerned that the impacts to the environment (air, noise, light, water, habitat and wildlife) and communities be minimal. Check back to the Coalition's website periodically. Sign the petition if you are concerned about these issues.

www.coalitionforportreform.org



Brewer's Sparrow, photography by Deb Drain



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



THE PELICAN
 Great Salt Lake Audubon
 PO Box 520867
 Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0867

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SALT LAKE CITY, UT
PERMIT NO. 2871

**GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
 (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
 (NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP)**

To enroll as a new member of National Audubon Society, please go to the following website:

<https://action.audubon.org/donate/chaptermembership?chapter=W50>

(By using this special webpage to join, you will give Great Salt Lake Audubon a small monetary credit).

National renewals also now handled directly through NAS