



THE PELICAN

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

MAY/JUN 2019

Please join Great Salt Lake Audubon (GSLA) for a monthly **BIRDS ‘n BITES** program. These informative and entertaining meetings are free and open to all. Refreshments and socializing begin at 6:30 pm; the program begins at 7:00 pm.

See meeting location and contact information below.

BIRDS ‘n BITES: Tuesday, May 21, 2019

“Birding by Ear” Ian Batterman, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium Outreach Educator & GSLA Field Trip Coordinator

One of the most challenging aspects of bird watching is not watching but listening to the birds. Many people try to understand how to best identify birds by their calls, but remembering all of the sounds and trying to pinpoint one call amongst the menagerie of bird chatter can be intimidating. This presentation will help to alleviate the confusion by giving out some helpful hints on what to listen for and how to best commit bird sounds to memory.



Olive-sided Flycatcher
Photography by Ian Batterman

Editor’s Comment

This issue’s two conservation articles impacting riparian bird habitats by Gardner, (p. 3, state realm) and Malmquist (p. 7, interstate) are on-the-ground actions well aligned with the Audubon’s Water strategic priority. For those desiring more background on both saline and fresh western waters issues, please see www.audubon.org/conservation/western-water-initiative. Another resource is the 2017 report “Water and Birds in the Arid West: Habitats in Decline” at www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/wbaw_report_5july17_updated_final.pdf.

Photography by
Deborah Drain



Gray Catbird



Yellow Warbler



Spotted Sandpiper



Bald Eagle

BIRDS ‘n BITES Meeting Location:

Tracy Aviary (Education Building)
Liberty Park (enter at 600 East 900 South)
Salt Lake City, Utah

GSLA Contact Information:

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org
(385) 313-0608

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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 JUL/AUG 2019 issue is June 10, 2019.

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS - MAR/APR

By Leah Richardson

March and April were busy this year with legislative wrap up and planning for many spring and summer events. We want to highlight a few legislative successes. HCR10 Concurrent Resolution to Address Declining Water Levels of the Great Salt Lake passed. This bill recognizes the importance of continued water flows to Great Salt Lake and its wetlands. We would like to give much thanks to Marcelle Shoop, Director of the Saline Lakes Program for the National Audubon Society, for working hard to get this passed. SB144 Environmental Quality Monitoring Amendment passed, which directs the Department of Environmental Quality to establish and maintain monitoring facilities to measure environmental impacts from inland port. Thanks to everyone that followed and became involved with the myriad of conservation issues that came up this legislative session.

We are looking forward to many spring field trips, the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival, and the upcoming 37th Annual Basin & Range event to be held at Castle Rocks State Park in Idaho. In addition, we are excited to co-host the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards Exhibit coming to The City Library in Salt Lake City. Read more on these events in this newsletter.

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.

STREAM & RIPARIAN RESTORATION IN UTAH

by Janice Gardner

In the western United States, nearly fifty percent of birds rely on riparian habitats. Sadly, many of these species are in decline. Riparian habitats that birds depend on are severely degraded in Utah due in large part to the absence of beavers. The dams that beavers build greatly benefit streams by (1) creating habitat for fish and wildlife, (2) increasing riparian wetlands and vegetation, (3) storing water and raising the water table, and (4) reducing erosion and sedimentation through better regulated streamflow. Restoration of riparian systems is critical for birds and wildlife habitat in Utah as average temperatures continue to rise from climate change and the demand for water increases.

Beaver re-colonization has been used as a riparian restoration tool for decades to improve stream and habitat conditions. However, beaver re-colonization may not always be feasible. Some seriously degraded streams may not initially be able to sustain beavers (e.g., lack of food) or reintroduction may not be possible. A low-tech restoration technique such as human-made beaver dams, or “beaver dam analogues”, is one means to achieve the environmental benefits of beaver dams. This type of restoration improves the habitat to allow for beavers to naturally re-colonize or to be re-introduced through intervention.

Beaver dam analogues are constructed in streams using fence posts and organic material. Tree branches, rocks, and dirt are woven into the fence posts to create a dam. The dam immediately begins to pond water which then leads to restoration of riparian wetlands and vegetation. Additionally, building beaver dam analogues in a continuous complex provide hydrological connectivity throughout the stream system.

Wild Utah Project and our volunteers use this low-tech restoration technique to efficiently improve degraded streams because this is an ecological and cost effective restoration approach for bringing riparian habitats back to life for birds and wildlife. Wild Utah Project is pleased to partner with Great Salt Lake Audubon to support stream and riparian restoration in Utah. For 2019, Wild Utah Project was awarded a grant from Great Salt Lake Audubon to fund this project.

Wild Utah Project is a non-profit conservation organization that provides **science-based strategies for wildlife and wildland conservation**. We harness the energy and expertise of hundreds of volunteer citizen scientists to gather data and apply wildlife conservation. Great Salt Lake Audubon members are encouraged to participate as volunteers in this community science project. Please contact Janice Gardner at janice@wildutahproject.org or 801-821-8569 if you would like to receive information about upcoming restoration projects and community science programs.



Photography by Janice Gardner



Calendar of Events & Field Trips for May/June 2019

Great Salt Lake Audubon: www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org or (385) 313-0608

Beginning birders and nonmembers are always welcome. Carpooling is encouraged on the field trips. **Contributions to drivers for gas money would be appreciated.** Be sure to contact the field trip leader to confirm that arrangements are still as published.

Physical Difficulty Key:

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.

*****EXPECT FIELD TRIPS TO LEAVE ON TIME SO ARRIVE 5-10 MIN EARLY TO ARRANGE CARPOOLS.*****

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 am-12:00 pm

Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon — MODERATE

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

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. May ought to be a good month to see a variety of birds as the spring migrants are beginning to return. Ospreys and Red-tailed Hawks should be already nesting. We'll meet by 7:30 am in the parking lot just west of REI on 3300 South and 3285 East for a morning of birding.

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 am-1:00 pm

Antelope Island — EASY

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

Antelope Island is always a great place to see birds, but the best time to go is during the spring shorebird migration in early May when over 15 species of shorebird can grace the Causeway in record numbers and many songbirds will be around Garr Ranch as they stop over on their migration. We can also see nesting owls, singing sparrows, and many other nesting birds all over the island. Meet at the large parking lot before the toll gate at 7:30 am and get ready for an amazing day of birding. Contact Ian Batterman (text or email preferred) to let him know you are coming.

Saturday, May 4, All day

Global Big Day

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Please see article in this issue on how to participate.

For additional information, see <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-4-may-2019>.

Saturday, May 11, 7:00 am-1:00 pm

Restoration Site in Fairfield and Powell Lake, Lehi — EASY

Leader: Darwin Bundy/Ian Batterman

(920-360-0805 / imbatterman@gmail.com)

Darwin Bundy has a passion for the environment and has spent 20 years transforming his land (161 acres) from an overgrazed area to a place of diverse habitats using native trees, bushes, and grasses. As a result, many birds and other animals find this a welcoming place. After spending time here, we will drive back to Lehi and tour the wetlands known locally as Powell Lake. We will meet in the southeast corner of the Walmart parking lot on 11400 S at 7:00 am for carpooling. Bring water and lunch. Contact Ian Batterman (text or email preferred) to let him know you are coming.

May 16-20

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

Information at: www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com. Some field trips still available

Saturday, May 25, 7:30 pm-10:30 pm

Night of Nocturnal Birds — EASY

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

Normally our field trips look for birds early in the morning, but for this trip, we will be searching for nocturnal bird species. Bring warm clothes as it tends to get cold in the mountains at night. We will meet at 7:30 pm in the west part of Smith's Marketplace parking lot on 3300 South near the I-215 exit, and then head into the Wasatch Mountains to look/listen for different owl and nightjar species. Contact Ian Batterman (email or text preferred) if you are interested in attending.

Monday, May 27, 6:00 am-1:00 pm

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Kennecott's Mitigation Wetlands) — EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen (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. We meet at the parking lot of Fairmont Park in Sugarhouse (1040 E Sugararmont Dr) at 6:00 am. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED as there is limited space on these field trips. Contact Bryant to sign up.

Calendar of Events & Field Trips for May/June 2019

Great Salt Lake Audubon: www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org or (385) 313-0608

Wednesday, May 29, 6:00 am-1:00 pm

Antelope Island & Farmington Bay — EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen (bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

Meet at 6:00 am in the parking lot just outside the Antelope Island Causeway. 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.

Thursday, May 30, 6:30-7:30 pm (Reception, lower level); 7:30-8:30 pm (Program, main floor)

Opening Reception and Guest Speaker Jane Kim

2018 Audubon Photography Awards

The City Library

210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT

Please see the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards flyer and article in this edition of *The Pelican* newsletter for a program summary of this event.

Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 am-12:00 pm

Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon — MODERATE

Leader: TBD

Please see May trip for details. *Note: Time and meeting location may change due to leader preference.*

Friday, June 7-Sunday, June 9,

Basin & Range 2019 at Castle Rocks State Park, Idaho

Please see insert in this edition of *The Pelican* newsletter for further details.

Saturday, June 8, 3:00-4:00 pm (Level 4 Conference Room)

HawkWatch International: Parade of Raptors

2018 Audubon Photography Awards

The City Library

210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT

Please see the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards flyer and article in this edition of *The Pelican* newsletter for a program summary of this event. *Note: This event is limited to 100 people.*

Monday, June 10, 6:00-7:30 pm (Conf. Room E, lower level)

Tom Mathewson: Wildlife Photography Presentation

2018 Audubon Photography Awards

The City Library

210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT

Please see the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards flyer and article in this edition of *The Pelican* newsletter for a program summary of this event. *Note: This event is limited to 30 people.*

Saturday, June 15, 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Bluebird Boxes in Strawberry Valley — EASY/MODERATE

Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith (801-532-7384 /

jeanne.leber@utah.edu)

Please join us. We will meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot just west of REI on 3300 South and 3285 East or 9:15 am 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 food; GSLA will provide cold drinks. Call Jeanne or Ray at if you have questions or to let them know you'll be there.

Saturday, June 22, 7:00 am-1:00 pm

Random Rarity search — EASY/MODERATE

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 southeast corner of the parking lot of Walmart on 11400 S at 7 am and we will decide as a group what bird(s) to look for. Contact Ian Batterman (email or text preferred) to let him know you are coming.

Monday, June 24, 6:00 am-1:00 pm

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Kennecott's Mitigation Wetlands) — EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen (bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

See May trip for details.

Wednesday, June 26, 6:00 am-1:00 pm

Antelope Island & Farmington Bay — EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen (bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

See May trip for details.

Wednesday, July 3, 7:30 am-12:00 pm

Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon — MODERATE

Leader: John Middleton (801-707-9182 /

john.middleton0@gmail.com)

See May trip for details.

2018 AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS EXHIBIT

By Jeanne Le Ber

Great Salt Lake Audubon is hosting the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards exhibit at The City Library, May 28-June 11, 2019. More than 8,000 photos were submitted for the National Audubon 9th annual contest. The twelve, winning photographs that evoke the splendor, resilience, and ingenuity of bird life will be on display on the lower level of The City Library. In addition to the exhibit, a series of events are planned that will compliment this unique exhibit.

The **Opening Reception** at The City Library will feature guest speaker Jane Kim. Ms. Kim is a noted speaker, artist and science illustrator who explores the intersection of art and natural history. She is known for several large-scale murals that demonstrate an advocacy of the natural world. One example is her *Wall of Birds* at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/wallofbirds/>).

At a **Book and Boots** event, librarians will read bird-themed books with attending children. After the reading activity, Tracy Aviary educators will take the children on a tour of the photography exhibit, then guide them to the library's roof-top garden for an activity based on the exhibit.

HawkWatch International (HWI) is sponsoring a **Parade of Raptors** program that introduces attendees to the diversity of HWI's education on birds. The program will cover (1) some basic information on each species, (2) share the individual stories of the birds in their care, (3) address threats to raptors, in general, such as declining habitat and hazards of toxic chemicals, and (4) describe how humans have both endangered and protected these magnificent birds.

Finally, a **Wildlife Photography Presentation** by **Tom Mathewson** will summarize his own artistic take on bird photography from equipment, settings, and shooting techniques to how to find the art and beauty of a scene. He will address how not to disturb birds as they are photographed and why we sometimes hurt them when we think that we're helping them. Also, the presentation will touch on how a "herd mentality" can make rational photographers do dumb things as individuals and in a group.

Please see the Calendar of Events & Field Trips (pages 4-5) for details on date, time, and other information about these events.

CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY: GLOBAL BIG DAY, MAY 4, 2019

By Heather Dove

Last May, more than 30,000 people took to fields and forests around the world, noting more than 7,000 species in a single day—Global Big Day. Birding's biggest day is coming back on May 4, 2019. Wherever you are in the world, you can be a part of birding's next world record!

On 4 May, join more than 30,000 others and become a part of Global Big Day. You don't have to commit to birding for 24 hours—an hour or even 10 minutes of watching birds makes you part of the team. Visit your favorite spot or search out someplace new; enjoy a solo walk or get some friends to join in the Global Big Day fun.

Go to <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-4-may-2019> for info on how to participate, tips on using apps and checklists, and to sign up.

2019 BASIN & RANGE

By Jeanne Le Ber

Great Salt Lake Audubon invites you to the 37th Annual Basin & Range weekend seminar, June 7-9, 2019, at Castle Rocks State Park, Almo, Idaho, which is about 170 miles north of Salt Lake City. This year, the annual GSLA Basin & Range seminar is co-hosted with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) and the Prairie Falcon Audubon Society. This seminar is an excellent venue for enjoying the out-of-doors, meeting people with similar interests, and learning more about our natural environment.

The **educational** side of the outing has 6 field sessions with experienced instructors: *Cooper Farr* and *Terri Pope* lead sessions on bird behavior and nesting behavior, respectively; *Lynn Bohs* returns with her plant identification session; *Wallace Keck* discusses the ecology of the Albion Mountains; *Alan Lloyd* describes the unique geology of this area; and *Tara McClure-Cannon* delves into the California Emigrant Trail. As an additional **fun challenge**, *Wallace Keck* of IDPR invites Audubon chapters, organizations, and individuals to a half-day birding competition (with prizes!) on Saturday, June 8, from 5:30 am to 5:30 pm. A team can consist of 2- to 4-people. Teams will be provided with an orientation Friday afternoon; competition team members are not eligible to attend the Saturday classes. The camaraderie continues into the **evenings** with an Artist-in-the-Park reception with *Poo Wright-Pulliam* and her art work (Friday) and potluck dinner and after-dinner entertainment from *Wallace Keck* (Saturday).

The complete program and registration form is included in this newsletter or is downloadable from the GSLA website (<http://www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org/>). **The event is limited to 50 people. Registration opens May 1.** Register early to get the classes you want. Questions about the birding competition or the seminar? Contact Jeanne Le Ber (jeanne.leber@utah.edu; (801)532-7384).

BIRDS USE OF RIPARIAN CORRIDORS IN THE AMERICAN WEST

By Max Malmquist

To understand birds and the river habitats they need, Audubon needs data. You can collect important bird information by participating in the second annual Western Rivers Bird Count. We are calling upon community scientists to conduct bird counts May 1 - June 30, 2019, at priority locations along rivers and streams in the West. The Global Big Day (May 4, described earlier) can be a motivator for participation.

In 2018, birders provided Audubon scientists with bird counts to fill in some data gaps with focus on the Colorado River Basin. Audubon scientists predicted the suitability of specific riparian habitats for locating Yellow Warblers, Summer Tanagers, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Bell's Vireos. These are four species of concern in Audubon's report, "Water and Birds in the Arid West". On public lands sites with a simple count protocol, the data provided by community scientists helped confirm the presence of these priority species. Hats off to our Arizona birders who submitted the most counts of any state.

This year, Audubon scientists reduced the number of sites for the Western Rivers Bird Count to target areas where the Audubon network has an on-the-ground connection, influence on water or habitat management, restoration actions, or water policy focused work. Over time, we hope to show positive bird responses to our collective western water work.

Site locations and the count protocol have been updated on the website listed below. Please plan to visit riparian habitats as you count birds this spring. To learn more about the Western Rivers Bird Count, contact Max Malmquist with the Audubon Saline Lakes Program at (801)554-8574 or the Western Rivers Bird Count website (<https://www.audubon.org/western-rivers-bird-count>).



THE PELICAN
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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**

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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/chapter-membership>

(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