



THE PELICAN

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 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, September 17, 2019

“Tualatin Valley: Birding Wetlands and Seeking Quilt Barns” Jeanne Le Ber, Long-term GSLA Board Member

As a birdwatching destination Oregon is close, accessible, and productive. In August 2018, Ray and Jeanne visited the Tualatin Valley, southwest of Portland, for a birding vacation. Each morning they woke before sunrise and travelled to a different wetland, preserve or nature park, adding to their Oregon birding list. In the afternoon, as the temperatures soared, they explored the valley’s remarkable Quilt Barn Trail in their air-conditioned car. In five days Jeanne and Ray discovered a delightful intersection among landscape, birds, and art.



Photography by Jeanne Le Ber

BIRDS ‘n BITES: Tuesday, October 15, 2019

“Zoo-based Trumpeter Swan Conservation Initiatives” Mindy Rabideau, Senior Aviculturist, Tracy Aviary

Come learn about the GPS collar initiative funded in part by a grant from GSLA! You will also learn about the on-going program that releases zoo-bred trumpeter swans in the wild in Iowa, some conservation things you can do at home, and identification tips for native swans.



Photography by Julie Beck

2019 Fall Forum: Thursday, November 7, 2019

“Irreplaceable Ecosystems in the West”

Please hold the date for this annual GSLA event. A detailed agenda will be provided when available. More information for the topic may be found in the Calendar of Events on page 5.

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 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 issue is October 10, 2019.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS - JULY / AUGUST

By Leah Richardson

As the dog days of summer are almost over and the bird days of fall migration are beginning, GSLA is gearing up for the busier season. We are looking forward to our annual seed sale, blue bird box clean up, and lots of exciting fall field trips.

In addition, we are busy planning our 2019 “Fall Forum.” GSLA had been holding a fall program for many years, but now we have an official name for it! Each year we highlight a topic of interest and work with the Great Salt Lake Institute to build an informative, in-depth program that we hold at Westminster College. This year, we are delighted to have National Audubon’s Saline Lakes program share the wealth of knowledge they have about the importance of our saline lakes ecosystems for birds and people alike.

GSLA continues to work on important local conservation issues related to the Inland Port, the SLC International Airport expansion, Promontory Point Landfill, and Willard Spur.

Finally, much thanks to Wild Birds Unlimited for sponsoring another feeder cleaning event and donating the proceeds to Great Salt Lake Audubon. It is so important to keep our feeders clean for the health of our feeder birds. Happy Birding!

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.

INTRODUCING THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA AT TRACY AVIARY

by Ashley Saulsberry, Aviculturist, Tracy Aviary

Most of my mornings start with a quick bike ride to Liberty Park and then some quality time with birds like Toco Toucans, Scarlet Ibis, and Helmeted Curassows. These birds can be found in our South American Pavilion.

This building is one of my favorite spots in the aviary for its many colorful birds in multiple, mixed-species exhibits. Each discrete exhibit space has indoor and outdoor areas connected by closable shift doors. This great feature allows the birds the flexibility to choose between indoor and outdoor environments and provides a cozy indoor space for these tropical birds during the cold winter. This building is also home to our incubation room for artificial incubation of eggs when needed (usually duck eggs or Chilean Flamingo eggs). The incubators keep the fertilized eggs at the optimal temperature and humidity for development and have a turning mechanism to mimic how incubating parents periodically turn their eggs.

The “mixed-species” nature of each exhibit in this building means there are multiple species of birds in each exhibit. This arrangement often mimics the natural surroundings and neighbors of the birds and provides both enrichment for the birds and a more interesting viewing experience for guests. Mixed-species exhibits are not without their challenges, however. Before placing different species together in an exhibit, we consider factors such as 1) the space requirements for the birds: Do they prefer to perch? If so, how high? Do they walk on the ground? 2) the territorial needs of the different bird species: How protective will they be of their space? 3) the consumption patterns of the birds: Is one known to eat much smaller birds? Will a bird in the exhibit be harmed if it eats the food of another? We have a wealth of experience from our internal staff to draw upon and can also turn to other zoos and aquariums in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for advice.

Each exhibit in the South American Pavilion is set up differently to accommodate the species it houses. The exhibit space for our Toco Toucan has lots of sturdy, horizontal perches perfect for such a bird, while the space for our tanager has much smaller, thinner perches near the ceiling where these birds are most comfortable. Our tanager exhibit also has lots of plant cover and some hanging artificial plants to give these birds plenty of private spaces for them to feel more secure. The exhibit space for our Scarlet Ibis has two large ponds, one inside and one outside, and the sturdy high perches these birds enjoy.

Another fun aspect of this building is the variety of nest types used by the different species. During the right seasons, you can identify a variety of nest structures and what we do for the birds to encourage nesting behaviors. For instance, Scarlet Ibis are known to construct large nests made of sticks high in their perching area so we provide them with nesting platforms high on the wall of their exhibit and a whole lot of sticks. Toco Toucans like to lay their eggs in tree cavities so we provide them with a very long, deep nest box to mimic this. We had our first ever breeding success with this species at Tracy Aviary last year, and our pair’s daughter now lives at National Aviary where she has a mate of her own. Blue-crowned Mot-mots dig burrows to nest so we provide them with an artificial burrow packed with dirt for them to excavate. Look around and you’ll see even more nest types!

I hope you will take a trip to Tracy Aviary, and particularly the South American Pavilion. As a zookeeper, I think about avian husbandry practically all day every day, and I hope this serves as a good introduction to a few of the considerations and practices of avian husbandry. If you’d like to learn more about the birds living in the South American Pavilion and their caretaking, I do an informal keeper talk in this building every Tuesday at 2 pm.

Calendar of Events & Field Trips for Sep/Oct 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, September 4, 7:30 am - 12 pm — 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 7:30 am in the parking lot just west of REI on 3300 South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Contact John if you plan to attend.

Saturday, September 7, 7:30 am - 12 pm— EASY-MODERATE Random Rarity Search

Leader: Ian Batterman — 920-360-0805/

imbatterman@gmail.com (text or email preferred)

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, staying connected with other birders to help locate rare species is easier and faster. We will be looking specifically for rare birds seen in the area (less 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 South in Sandy at 7:30 am and we will decide as a group what bird(s) to look for. Contact Ian Batterman if you are coming.

Saturday, September 14, 8:00 am/9:30 am-12 pm- MODERATE Bluebird Nesting Box Clean-up

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

jeanne.leber@utah.edu

Meet at Smith's on 3300 South and S Valley St at 8:00 am, or at visitor center in Strawberry Valley by 9:30 am. This is our fall trip to clean the boxes to prepare them for reuse in the spring. Dress for possible cool weather. Bring your lunch and GSLA will provide the drinks. Contact Jeanne or Ray for details.

Tuesday, September 10, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm— MODERATE Tackle the Tamarisk Volunteer Event at Gillmor Sanctuary

Leader: Heidi Hoven — hhoven@audubon.org

See page 7 for more details. Rain date is September 17, same time.

Tuesday, September 17, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

BIRDS 'n BITES: Tualatin Valley: Birding Wetlands and Seeking Quilt Barns

Presenter: Jeanne Le Ber

See page 1 for an abstract of the presentation.

Saturday, September 21, 6:30 am - 2:00 pm — EASY Willard Spur

Leader: Max Malmquist -- 801-554-8574/

mmalmquist@audubon.org

Willard Spur, Utah's newest WMA, has been referred to as "Utah's Serengeti of Waterbirds" for the hundreds of thousands of birds that rely on the ecosystem annually. The area's fluctuating hydrology makes it one of the more productive parts of Great Salt Lake, especially important during fall migration. We will see shorebirds, waterfowl, terns, and other waterbirds in large numbers. If time permits, we will stop by Willard Bay State Park, one of the best migrant traps in the state for passerines. Meet at the north end of Fairmont Park in Sugar House (1040 E Sugarmont Dr) at 6:30 am to carpool. If you have a state parks pass or a scope, please bring it. Site road conditions may require a high clearance/4WD vehicle.

Monday, September 23, 7:00 am - 1 pm — EASY

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Kennecott's Mitigation Wetlands)

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. We will also explore areas around Lee Kay ponds, the International Center and Saltair/Marina, depending on time and where birds are being reported. Meet at 7:00 am at Fairmont Park (1040 E Sugarmont Dr) to arrange a carpool. 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 25, 7:30 am - 2 pm — EASY Antelope Island & Farmington Bay

Leader: Bryant Olsen — 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.

Saturday, September 28, 7:00 am - 1 pm - EASY Restoration Site in Fairfield and Powell Lake, Lehi

Leader: Darwin Bundy/Ian Batterman — 920-360-0805/ imbatterman@gmail.com (text or email preferred)

Darwin Bundy has a passion for the environment and has spent 20 years transforming his land (161 acres) from an overgrazed area to

Calendar of Events & Field Trips for Sep/Oct 2019

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

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. For more information, contact Ian Batterman..

Wednesday, October 2, 8:00 am - 12 pm — MODERATE
Mountain Dell Rec. Area, Parley's Canyon
Leader: John Middleton — 801-707-9182/
john.middleton0@gmail.com

See September trip for more information. NOTE: this trip is at a later time in October.

Saturday, October 5, 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 Walmart on 11400 South and Lone Peak Pkwy in Draper at 7:30 am to arrange a carpool. Please contact Ian Batterman if you are interested.

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
BIRDS 'n BITES: Zoo-based Trumpeter Swan Conservation Initiatives
Presenter: Mindy Rabideau

See page 1 for an abstract of the presentation.

Saturday, October 19, 7:30 am - 10 am — EASY
Bountiful Pond
Leader: Ian Batterman — 920-360-0805/
imbatterman@gmail.com (text/email preferred)

Bountiful Pond's location is ideal for bird watching any time of year! Located on the fringe of Farmington Bay, the Bountiful Dump, and the Great Salt Lake, we could see many species of raptors, sparrows, waterfowl, gulls, and more! We may even get a chance to see some late fall migrants. We will meet at the parking lot at the Legacy Parkway overpass on 500 S in Farmington at 8am. Contact Ian to let him know you are coming or if you would like more information.

Monday, October 28, 8:00 am - 12 pm — EASY
Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (Kennecott's Mitigation Wetlands)
Leader: Bryant Olsen — bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

See September trip for more information. NOTE: meeting time is later for October.

Wednesday, October 30, 8:00 am - 2 pm — EASY
Antelope Island & Farmington Bay
Leader: Bryant Olsen — bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

See September trip for more information. NOTE: meeting time is later for October.

Saturday, November 2, 7:00 am - 12 pm — EASY
Wasatch Back Reservoirs
Leader: Ian Batterman — (920) 360-0805/
imbatterman@gmail.com (text/email preferred)

This is a great time of year to see loons, scoters, swans, unusual geese and gulls, and other waterfowl at our local reservoirs of the Wasatch Mountains. Places to be visited are: East Canyon, Echo, and Rockport. Wear footwear you don't mind getting muddy. If there is time remaining, we may visit other reservoirs like Jordanelle and Deer Creek. We'll meet at the west side of the Smith's Marketplace parking lot on 3300 South near the I-215 entrance at 7:00 am. Please contact Ian if you have questions and to let him know that you will be there.

Wednesday, November 6, 8:00 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 8:00 am in the parking lot just west of the REI on 3300 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 in March.

Thursday, November 7, *Hold date for additional details later*
GSLA 2019 Fall Forum: Irreplaceable Ecosystems in the West
Westminster College Gore Auditorium

The Audubon Saline Lakes Program, headquartered in Salt Lake City, envisions a network of healthy saline lakes and their associated wetlands with reliable water supplies to meet the needs of birds and people across the Intermountain West. Challenges to achieving this vision include land-use and water-use patterns, human population growth, and climate change. The Saline Lakes Program team will talk about science and policy approaches to address the water needs for these irreplaceable ecosystems.

Saturday, December 14, *Hold date for additional details later*
Salt Lake Christmas Bird Count
Coordinator: Ian Batterman — (920) 360-0805/
imbatterman@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for the continuation of the longest running community science program in North America!

HOW TO STOP A POLLUTING INLAND PORT

By Deeda Seed, Senior Utah Field Campaigner, Center for Biological Diversity

The proposed Utah Inland Port, to be sited in the northwestern quadrant of Salt Lake City, will cause tremendous harm to birds and bird habitat. The current plan is to build directly in the flyway and adjacent to important wetland habitats including the Audubon Gillmor Sanctuary and the Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve. Habitat loss, impairment of water quality, air pollution, and light, noise, and collision hazards are among the threats to birds. *What can be done to stop this ill-conceived project?*

Building People Power

The single most important thing to do is to educate and engage people in the fight to stop the polluting port. Great Salt Lake Audubon has been a tremendous leader in this effort. Our coalition, Stop the Polluting Port (www.stopthepollutingport.org), has sixteen member organizations including GSLA. Residents, neighbors, small businesses, doctors, teachers, students, and environmental organizations have joined the coalition.

Examples of our effort are we've researched the issues; we're testifying at port-related meetings and events; we're writing letters-to-the-editor and op-eds; and we're making presentations to interested groups. Over 1,000 people have signed our "Stop the Polluting Port" petition and are on our mailing list.

This growing group of engaged Utahns is making a significant difference. We've been successful in branding this project as controversial and harmful. Our collective advocacy has resulted in all major candidates for Salt Lake City Mayor taking positions in opposition to the port and in support of Mayor Biskupski's litigation against the Port Authority (more about that below). We're also working to engage Salt Lake County leaders as they have not yet discussed issues related to the port.

The Port Authority has hired consultants to develop a business plan that will be released in early 2020. We will need to be ready to analyze this plan and push back against its harmful elements. The release of this plan may coincide with the 2020 session of the Utah Legislature. Thus, our people-powered opposition will need to have an "all hands-on deck" moment to ensure a prompt analysis of the plan and the preparation and implementation of an effective response.

Litigation

Another tool to fight the harm from the proposed polluting port is litigation. Recently, Mayor Biskupski, on behalf of Salt Lake City, filed litigation against the Port Authority and Governor Herbert claiming (we believe correctly) that they are illegally usurping Salt Lake City's authority to make land use decisions in the northwestern quadrant of the City and to collect and spend property tax revenue generated there. Additionally, the City filed litigation requesting that the court halt port planning until the issue is decided. If this litigation is successful, the Port Authority will be dissolved and control over the area will revert to Salt Lake City. If the litigation isn't successful, we have other legal avenues to pursue based on harm to the region's air quality and wetlands.

What can you do? Attending Port Authority board meetings and testifying in opposition to the Inland Port is tremendously important as this testimony goes into the official record. Members of the public have up to three minutes to speak. You can say whatever you like. Also, letters to the editor are extremely helpful as they help educate the general public and show opposition. Finally, contacting your local elected officials and letting them know of your opposition to the polluting port is essential. These elected officials, even if you think they already support your position, need to know that their constituents are concerned.

GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON FALL 2019 FUNDRAISER - BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED



Support GSLA and help our feathered friends through the winter.
Receive one 40-pound bag for each \$30.00 contribution.

Order Form (Cut below the **** divider and save the bottom of this form for your reference.)

Name: Last _____ First _____

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

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

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: Complete order form above. *Orders must be received by Friday, October 11, 2019.*

Questions: Contact Jeanne Le Ber, 801-532-7384 or jeanne.leber@utah.edu

Send the completed form and your check to:	Pick up order on Sat., October 26, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at:
Great Salt Lake Audubon c/o Jeanne LeBer 550 South 400 East #3407 Salt Lake City, UT 84111	GSLA Office 152 W Burton Ave (2360 South, off of West Temple) Salt Lake City, UT 84115

TACKLE THE TAMARISK VOLUNTEER EVENT

By Heidi Hoven, Audubon Gillmor Sanctuary

When/Where: September 10, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm (Rain date: September 17, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm)/ Audubon Gillmor Sanctuary; specific meeting location will be announced prior to event.

Details: Assist managers tackle young tamarisk saplings that are threatening shorebird habitat.

Level of Effort: Moderate due to heat and lack of shade. We will be using loppers and shears to cut small saplings and immediately coat cut portion of stems with pesticide (only those with herbicide application certification will treat the exposed stems).

Transportation: On your own, access is via bumpy dirt roads that may be muddy; carpooling is encouraged.

What to bring: Good sun protection including hat, long-sleeved shirt, and pants; bug net fitted over entire head (the deerflies will be relentless – don't be the foolish-looking one without a head-net!), hand pruning tools if you have them (hand shears, loppers), work gloves and boots / hiking shoes; personal water bottle and food; binoculars; and a good attitude to work in a beautiful place with other kind-hearted volunteers! We will provide: Training, tools, extra water, good cheer and many thanks!

Contact: Email Heidi Hoven at hhoven@audubon.org and please provide a phone number where you can be reached. Please put "Tamarisk" in the subject line.



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**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 _____

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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 here _____. 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/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