



THE PELICAN

JULY/AUGUST 2008

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Reserve Your Place Now for GSLA's Annual Gala

Frank P. Howe, Ph.D., of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will be the keynote speaker at Great Salt Lake Audubon's seventh annual gala and silent auction.

This is GSLA's biggest fundraiser of the year, with proceeds essential for chapter programs and initiatives, including habitat preservation and restoration.

So please join Great Salt Lake Audubon friends and supporters at The Gathering Place in Gardner Village, 1100 W.7800 S. on Thursday Sept.25th, from 6:30 to 10PM. We will celebrate our natural places and GSLA's critical role in maintaining them with good food, good company and a chance to be the highest bidder on the silent auction items you most covet.

The cost for dinner and entertainment is just \$45 per person. Reserve your seat now by completing and returning the registration form included with this issue of *The Pelican*

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Tiffin Brough at 801/867.2810 or tiffinb@gmail.com

BRIGHTON BIRD COUNT & POTLUCK Saturday, July 12th, 8AM to Noon

Please join Great Salt Lake Audubon for our annual Brighton Bird Count, led by **Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith**. Novice to expert birders are welcome and encouraged to participate.

We will meet at 8:00 AM at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon in the parking lot adjacent to the Silver Lake Visitor Center. Birders can select one of three birding options: 1) Silver Lake (easy walk), 2) Lake Solitude (moderate hike), 3) Twin Lake (strenuous hike).

Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch which follows at noon. GSLA will provide cold drinks but bring your own eating utensils, plate, cup.

To carpool meet in the parking lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon by 7:30AM. Please call Jeanne LeBer or Ray Smith at (532-7384) if you plan to attend.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Vice President: open
Treasurer: open
And two additional non-officer board spots.

And committee chairs for education and publicity

Please contact any officer or board member if interested.

SEE PAGE 7 FOR GALA REGISTRATION FORM.

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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

OFFICE

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OFFICERS

President, Jennifer Hajj.....671-9505
Vice President.....Open
Secretary, Arne Hultquist.....487-8721
Treasurer.....Open
Immediate Past President, Nathan Darnall.....755-4480
Executive Director, Bruce Heath.....512-7290

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Ending 2008
Heather Dove.....424-0010

Term Ending 2009
George Melling.....277-9118
Tom Neuman.....274-9595
Tiffin Brough.....867-2810

Term Ending 2010
Marianne Crawford.....975-3330
Roger Sweeney.....485-1298

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Co-editor, June Ryburn.....576-0103
Field Trips, Sylvia Gray.....532-3486
Field Trips, Deedee O'Brien.....272-8060
Field Trips, Kathy Coleman.....944-5773
Jordan River Site, Keith Johnson.....467-6497
Membership, Heather Dove424-0010

Submission Guidelines: Original articles and photos are welcomed. The editor reserves the right to choose and edit as needed. E-mail articles to newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org. The Pelican is published 6 times a year. Submission deadline for the Sept./October issue is August 10, 2008.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jen Hajj

Dear Feathered Friends,

This is my first President's Message column in the Pelican, and I write it with mixed feelings: excitement at the opportunities, fear of failure, and stress over the tasks that lie ahead of us in Great Salt Lake Audubon. Nathan, our outgoing president, is an amazing person, with great energy and drive to make local conservation happen. He has been a "force of nature" for our little chapter. We wish we could hold onto him forever, but the simple truth of the matter is that organizations like ours flourish because of transition.

We are one of the oldest Audubon Chapters in existence. Our chapter began in 1912! Imagine all the people who have been involved since then, and the things they have accomplished, from influencing conservation laws, setting aside space for nature, assisting with festivals and educational events. Think of all the field trips, picnics, and programs that our membership has enjoyed since our inception. Thousands of people have been involved in Great Salt Lake Audubon.

We have good things on the horizon: Bruce Heath has joined us as our new Executive Director, and will be heavily involved in the Jordan River Restoration project, perhaps one of the most important projects along this imperiled waterway as it is expansive and specifically designed with birds in mind. I hope you all get a chance to meet Bruce sometime soon.

Many people have come up to me and wished me luck. Thank you all for that. You've also told me that you are willing to help. "Let me know if you need anything" has been the most common phrase in my ear right now. I'm still reeling from this transition, so for now, here's what I'd like all of you to do:

Open this newsletter to the field trips and events section (usually in the centerfold).

Read it.

Circle one event that you will be attending in the next two months. It can be anything at all. It's up to you. If you are already planning on attending one thing in the calendar, select one more.

Attend and enjoy what Audubon has to offer!

I'll be looking for you.

Jen



Board Meeting Highlights May and June 2008

By Arne Hultquist, Secretary

May and June are always interesting Board meetings with outgoing and incoming Board members. Christine Morris stepped down after a four year commitment to the Board and we will miss her enthusiasm and expertise. The Board would like to welcome Roger Sweeny and Marianne Crawford as incoming members. We look forward to working with them.

The biggest change this year is our new interim President Jennifer Hajj. The Board is very pleased to have her at the helm. Past President Nathan Darnall has agreed to continue working with and attending the Board meetings and we are very grateful for his continued commitment. Another big change to the Board and GSLA, is our hiring of Bruce Heath as our Executive Director. We are excited to have him on the team. The Board is working with Bruce to develop and identify specific objectives for his work plan.

We are still looking for a treasurer. Kathy will graciously continue as treasurer until we have a new treasurer available even though her term on the Board is complete. We are actively pursuing interested volunteers at this time. If you or anyone you know might be interested and qualified for this or other open positions, please contact a member of the Board.

Other important items during the last two Board meetings; we have approved next year's budget and continue to plan the upcoming Gala. We also approved some changes to our bylaws that should help GSLA manage funds associated with the restoration project. Also several members of the Board will be working with David Druker, our webmaster, to improve our website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION FILLED

We received a handful of resumes, some strong candidates and some not-so-strong candidates, Tom, Keith, Nathan and I selected a few candidates for interviews, and there were a couple of standouts.

After deliberations and reference checks, we walked away with one clear choice: Bruce Heath. Y'all may know him as he was just recently elected onto the board. For those of you who don't know him, he has experience in fundraising, non-profit work, public relations, networking, and project management. His references spoke highly of him as a listener and leader. We believe that he is a great fit for the organization, with the passion and the knowledge that we need to accomplish our goals. The position has been offered and accepted. We were aiming for a start date of June 2. So Congratulations, Bruce. We're happy to have you on board.

GREETINGS

Hi. I'm Bruce Heath, and I have just been hired as the new GSLA Executive Director!

For me, this is a tremendous opportunity to do some good in the world and, building on what Nathan and all of you have already accomplished, do my part in keeping this venerable organization moving forward.

Some of you may remember me from a few years ago when as an Audubon member I led some field trips, did the Jordan River Christmas Bird Count, and started a couple of birding groups (The 182 Group and The 100 Group). We had a great time together, studying bird identification, traveling to many parts of Utah and the West on birding trips, keeping lists, and sampling local pies. My job working for the state then allowed me to travel throughout the U.S., and I often took advantage of it to meet local birders and to study the birds of the area. Anhingas in the Everglades, Cerulean Warblers in the northeast, puffins in Alaska, pelagic shearwaters off the California coast – Good times.

Although life has taken me in some other directions in the interim, I have always retained the pleasure and joy of birding, and have since had the opportunity to watch birds in Africa, Central Asia, and South America.

Now, I'm supposed to be retired. But, although I also work occasionally at REI, the timing is right for me to take on this new responsibility. Besides, this is going to be a lot of fun.

At the Basin and Range last weekend, we looked up through telescopes at the night sky, and saw millions, or billions, of other stars and other galaxies. Personally, I believe that this speck of the universe, this planet on which we live and share with birds and other wildlife, is in trouble. Just in my lifetime and travels, I have seen significant degradation of the environment and changes in the climate. For now, this planet is the only place we can call home. As Audubon members and supporters, I know you are committed to wildlife and improving the habitats they live in. As one person, I can make a difference; I can help make life for some birds better, and I can influence as many as possible of the other six billion people here to change the direction humanity on this planet is heading.

So can you. And, working together, we can greatly multiply our impact.

Our Chapter area includes our Jordan River Restoration Project, the Great Salt Lake, and critical habitat for so many birds, including many from other countries.

continued page 6.....

Calendar of Events including Field Trips for JULY/AUGUST 2008
Great Salt Lake Audubon, www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Beginning birders are always welcome.

We encourage carpooling on our field trips. Contributions towards gas money would be appreciated. For local trips, under 40 miles round trip, we suggest \$3 per person and for round trips over 40 miles we suggest \$5 per person.

ALERT!!! Highway construction may impact Shopko parking lot as a meeting place. Please call leader to confirm the location of the meeting place.

**Wednesday, July 2nd, 7:00AM
MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

Leaders: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray
Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Last year we saw 39 species in July. We'll meet by 7AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for a morning of birding. Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, July 12th from 8AM to Noon
BRIGHTON BIRD COUNT**

Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith
Please join Great Salt Lake Audubon for our annual Brighton Bird Count. We will meet at 8:00 AM at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon in the parking lot adjacent to the Silver Lake Visitor Center. To carpool, meet in the parking lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon by 7:30AM. Please call Jeanne LeBer or Ray Smith at (532-7384) if you plan to attend.

**Friday, July 18th, 7:30AM
CANYON WALKS – LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON**

Leader: Roberta Wherritt
Meet at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride by 7:30 AM. We will be walking and birding from the Albion Basin Campground. Bring snacks and water. Call Roberta (274-3058) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, July 26th, 6AM – 1PM
BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE – BEHIND THE GATES PRIVATE TOUR, Limit 20**

Leader: Lee Shirley,
As you know the access road to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is closed for roadwork this summer. The

only access is via guided tours on a first come basis. We are very fortunate that Lee Shirley, a member of Friends of Bear River Refuge and past Wasatch Audubon president, has volunteered to lead our GSLA group on a tour behind-the-gates (not the usual tour route). It should be a great time to see young grebes catching rides on the adult's backs! Meet in the SE corner of the Sugarhouse ShopKo parking lot in time to leave by 6AM. Bring lunch, water, and insect repellent. We should be back in SLC by 1PM. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, July 30th, 7:00/7:30AM
FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA**

Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien
Join us for our monthly half-day visit to Farmington Bay. Meet inside the McDonald's just north of the Centerville exit from I-15 at 7:00AM for breakfast or 7:30 AM to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee O'Brien (801-272-8060) if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, August 6th, 7:00AM
MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON**

Leader: Jack Clark and Sylvia Gray
Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. We'll meet by 7AM in the parking lot just west of REI on 33rd South and 3285 East for a morning of birding OR 7:15AM at the Clubhouse at Mountain Dell for a morning of birding. Call Jack (255-7989) or Sylvia (532-3486) if you plan to attend.

**Saturday, August 9th, 8AM
BIRDING in TABIONA**

Leader: Pat Jividen
Pat has invited us to visit his cabin he has recently built. Tabiona is on the south slope of the Uintas and is accessed from the US 40 between Strawberry and Starvation Reservoirs. Pat has offered to provide lunch so reservations are essential. We will meet in the SE corner of the Sugarhouse ShopKo parking lot by 8AM and will be birding along the way. Pat says he has seen some interesting birds around his cabin. Call Pat (944-5001) or Sylvia (532-3486) for more information.

Wednesday, August 13, 8AM

HIKE AND BIRD BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON.

Leader: Allene Keller

Allene has a trail in mind near Mill D that is free of mountain bikes. The distance is about 3 miles round trip and involves a 600 foot elevation gain. Bring water and snacks for a morning of birding. Meet at 8:00 AM in the park and ride lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call Allene (467-3960).

Saturday, August 16th, 7AM - Noon

WARBLERS ON RIVER LANE, UTAH COUNTY

Leader: Lu Giddings

Mid-August can be a great time to see warblers coming through Utah County in their fall migration. River Lane seems to be a magnet for warblers. Lu Giddings, field trip chair for Utah County Birders, has agreed to lead us. Please meet in the SE corner of the Sugar-house ShopKo parking lot in time to arrange carpools and leave by 7AM or meet in the REI parking lot at South Towne Mall(106th South exit from I-15) in time to leave by 7:15AM. Call Deedee (272-8060) if you plan to meet at ShopKo. Call June (576-0103) if you plan to meet at REI.

Sunday, August 17th, 8AM

HIKE and BIRD at ALTA

Leader: Vivian Schneggenburger

We'll meet at the Park 'n Ride at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 8AM. Bring a lunch if you'd like. It's about 1.5 miles up to the birdfeeder we maintain during the ski season with probably a 1200' - 1500' vertical gain. Call Vivian (485-7342) if you plan to attend.

Saturday, August 23rd 7:30AM – 3PM

SALT LAKE INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Leader: Tim Avery

Join GSL Audubon for a morning birding the Salt Lake International Center Migrant Trap. In less than a year, nearly 150 species have been tallied at this location that looks unlike any other migrant trap in the west. Large warehouses and vacant lots lined with cottonwoods, Russian olives, poplars, and other decorative trees. Hedgerows, lines of willows, and numerous patches of thick understory, as well as several ponds, canals, and weedy patches, help to create an oasis on the south end of the Great Salt Lake that attracts southbound migrants by the flock in the fall. We should be treated to warblers, vireos, sparrows, and a handful of other passerine

migrants. Tanagers, orioles, grosbeaks, buntings, woodpeckers, and hawks are also often found meandering through the trees. We will cover many of the most productive areas and give those unfamiliar with the area a crash course in birding this extensive and somewhat incredible urban jungle! Plan on meeting at the Shopko in Sugarhouse at 7:30AM and birding the IC for most of the morning. Food and water are available on site at several restaurants and a gas station. If time permits and participants are willing we may visit several other south shore locations for shorebirds, waterfowl and other fall migrants. We will plan on being back to Sugarhouse no later than 3:00PM. Call Tim (440-3035) if you have any questions.

Wednesday, August 27th, 7:00/7:30AM

FARMINGTON BAY AND NEARBY AREA

Leaders: Bob Huntington and Deedee O'Brien

Join us for our monthly half-day visit to Farmington Bay. Meet inside the McDonald's just north of the Centerville exit from I-15 at 7:00AM for breakfast or 7:30 AM to head out. Bring your own water and snacks. Call Deedee O'Brien (801-272-8060) if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, September 3rd, 7:30AM

MOUNTAIN DELL RECREATION AREA, PARLEY'S CANYON

Leader: Jack Clark

Come and join us for our monthly bird survey. Since we began this survey we have seen over 100 species. 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 OR 7:45AM at the Clubhouse at Mountain Dell for a morning of birding. Call Jack (255-7989) if you plan to attend.

The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is once again offering guided tours of the refuge. Tours will be on Thursdays at 9:00 AM and Saturdays at 10:30 AM. Tours will last approximately 3 hours. You may make a reservation for tours by calling (435) 723-5887, but walk-ins are welcome also, until the tour is full.

MEMBERSHIP

by Heather Dove

New members of NAS:

Raymond Close, Myrl Christensen, Phyllis Pettingill, Julie Vicknair, Jim Robertson, Barbara Anderson, Gene Eisenscher, Marlin Woodland, Sonja Smith, Elizabeth Rolands, June Nebeker, Afton Blackwell, Belinda Boartfield, Rick Miller, James Young, Mary Muir, Dawnetta Hoecherl, Don Bennion, Susan Bennett, David Burdick, Stephen Stuber, Richard Pick, Lee Kapaloski, Lavon Wheeler, Rachel Thomas, Donna Midgley

New & renewing members of GSLA:

Margie Mauck, Jeanie Boynton, Susan Price, David Shen, Bruce Heath, William Servoss, Elizabeth Larsen, Marianne Crawford, Micheline Sedlar, Jeff Thelin, Deanna Anderson, Rob Lang & Bev Lynch, Pomeria Fronce, Rachel McMahan, Doug Stark, Fred Reimherr, Heather Dove & David Druker, Hugh Gillilan, Dixie & Pat Lamping, Howard & Barbara Ross, Andy & Leslie White, Barbara Komeyli, Frederick Prater, Phil Helsley, Floyd Johnson, Bruce & Kathy Waddell, Consuelo Nelson, Joy Emory & Patrick Watson, Marsha Gale, Scott Maddox, Ted & Alice Krein

Please note that we experienced an unforeseen lapse in publishing the names of new National Audubon members from November 2007 through April 2008. We apologize for this omission, but we are back on track and are resuming listing new members with this issue. We thank those who joined during this period for their support and participation”.

The Utah Ornithological Society will hold their annual conference at Weber State University from September 12th-14th 2008. Everyone (including nonmembers) is welcome and encouraged to participate. Field trips to behind the gates at Bear River, Beus Pond, Ogden Valley hotspots, Snowbasin and other lesser known locations will take place Friday through Sunday. Socialize and meet birders from around the state at the social icebreaker (speaker TBD) Friday evening at Jeremiah’s Restaurant adjacent to the Best Western High County Inn at I-15 exit 344 (12th Street). Saturday speakers will include university students, wildlife biologists, educators, researchers and members of the birding community. \$20 will provide access to field trips, the food and company at the Friday night social, a light continental breakfast Saturday morning and the Saturday speakers. Discounted lodging will be available at the Best Western. Continue to check <http://www.utahbird.org/uos> as more information becomes available or contact Kris Purdy at kristinpurdy@comcast.net.

Birding Ethics and Etiquette

by Kathy Coleman

Bird watching is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the US. As more of us are in the field, new and experienced birders alike, it is a good time to review some birding ethics and etiquette.

You can avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger by exercising restraint and caution during your observations. This can be done by doing the following:

The following is just a portion of the American Birding Associations Code of Birding Ethics. To read the entire statement of the ABA’s Code of Birding Ethics go to their webpage at americanbirding.org and type in “ethics” under search.

1. Keep well back from nests, nesting colonies, roosts, display areas and important feeding sites.
2. Try to limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds and **NEVER** use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is threatened or is rare in your local area.
3. Stay on roads, trails and paths where they exist and otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
4. Do not enter private property without the owners explicit permission.

Remember- Silence is important. Walk as quietly as possible, Keep voices down. This may prevent the birds from flying off before we have a chance to observe them and it also helps us to hear their songs.

Look for more tips on ethics and etiquette in future issues of the Pelican

MOST IMPORTANT-HAVE FUN WHILE ON A BIRDING FIELD TRIP. We hope you will join us on one of our many outings.

from page 3. .What we do, or don’t do, will affect people and wildlife for generations to come.

.I am committed to doing the most I can for GSLA and the birds in our area. I am also truly looking forward to getting to know you personally, to birding and traveling together, and to working on projects with you in this great cause. **-Bruce**



**Great Salt Lake Audubon
7th Annual Gala & Silent Auction
in support of our GSLA programs and initiatives**

Guest Speaker:
Frank Howe
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

September 25th 2008
Thursday evening 6:30 to 10:00 pm
The Gathering Place at Gardner Village
1100 West 7800 South, West Jordan

\$45 per person

Registration
Please reserve a place for me!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Preference and number of meals: ___beef ___salmon ___vegetarian

My Check is enclosed _____

Please charge my ___ VISA ___ Mastercard

Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature (required for credit card purchase) _____

Mail completed registration to:

Great Salt Lake Audubon, P.O. Box 520867, Salt Lake City UT 84152-0867



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**GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
(LOCAL MEMBERSHIP ONLY)**

Please enroll me as a member of GSLA, my membership fee of \$25.00 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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City _____

State _____ ZIP +4 _____

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Phone _____ Today's Date _____

If an email address is provided, look forward to receiving automated updates on classes and field trips offered by our chapter. Great Salt Lake Audubon does not share any of your information with other organizations

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 \$20.00 is enclosed. (Introductory price only)
- My check for \$35.00 is enclosed for membership renewal.

Please clip and send your application and check to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DATA CENTER
P.O.BOX 51001
BOULDER, CO 80322-1001

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP +4 _____

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