

THE PELICAN

Newsletter
May–June 2023



Great Salt Lake
AUDUBON



The *Birds 'n Bites* program is a monthly gathering (January to May and September to November) that offers informative and entertaining content for the bird enthusiast. Programs are free, open to the public, and presented via Zoom.

Due to COVID-19, all *Birds 'n Bites* programs are being held via videoconferencing until further notice.

Tuesday, May 16—7:00-8:30 PM Birds 'n Bites: Great Salt Lake—A Bird's Perspective



Photo Jaimi Butler
Photo credit: Jeri Gravelin©

Please join us on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 PM for a virtual presentation via Zoom with Jaimi Butler, Great Salt Lake author, educator, and advocate.

Drawing on her 24-plus year involvement with Great Salt Lake, Ms. Butler will present on the current state of Great Salt Lake and issues impacting its delicate ecosystem.

Jaimi can barely remember a time when she was not using airplanes, boats, OHV's, airboats, and stand-up paddle boards to get around one of Utah's most amazing ecosystems. Over the past 24 years, Jaimi has helped increase knowledge and shape perceptions of Great Salt Lake through work in the private sector, government, and academia. Jaimi is the co-author of a children's book about the lake and co-edited the first book devoted entirely to the biology of Great Salt Lake. She is presently the Board President of [Sageland Collaborative](#) and holds other advisory roles to help influence a balanced approach to wildlife and wildland management. In her spare time Jaimi collects brine shrimp artwork and co-ops at her neighbor's farm.

Spring Grant Awards

Kandy Richards, GSLA Treasurer

The Great Salt Lake Audubon Grant Committee is pleased to announce that GSLA awarded three \$1,000 grants in April. Grantees are supporting our mission in distinct ways with projects both large and small.

Conserve Utah Valley—Educational Signage

The goal of this grant is to improve public perception of Utah Lake through creation of three educational/interpretive signs. Utah Lake is often misunderstood and maligned. Signs will include quick facts about Utah Lake, the history of Utah Lake, and why we should care about Utah Lake. As the application stated, *an educated citizenry will value and protect the lake and the wild plant and animal life supported by its waters.* We agree.

Raptor Inventory Nest Survey (RINS)

Laptop for Volunteer Education

RINS is entering its 23rd survey season. Past volunteer efforts have resulted in the identification of over 7,000 raptor nests and the collection of over 100,000 monitoring records to date. RINS recruits and trains nearly 200 volunteers statewide. In order to return to in-person volunteer training workshops, they requested a new multimedia laptop computer to enhance volunteer education.

Utah Open Lands Conservation Association

Camera Traps to Document Species

The project goal is to create a definitive inventory of species at the Clark Ranch property in Park City. The solar powered camera traps will capture and livestream the avian, insect and mammalian species frequenting a natural spring-fed pond. The public will be encouraged to use the new trails created with the Utah Office of Recreation grant: Clark Ranch Trailhead and Trails Project. The data collected will inform the Current Conditions Report (CCR) which captures the current ecological state of a property and will be used to implement restoration or sustainable grazing practices.

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THE PELICAN NEWSLETTER

GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON MISSION

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.

CONTACT GSLA

Website: <https://greatsaltlakeaudubon.org>
Mail: P.O. Box 520867, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0867
Office: 1514-B South 1100 East, SLC, UT 84105
Phone: 385.313.0608
Email: info@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THE PELICAN

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 printed on recycled paper and published six times a year. The submission deadline for the July-August issue is Monday, June 12, 2023.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Local: GSLA chapter-only membership is \$30 a year. Local membership is important as GSLA is primarily self-supporting. Join on the website or use the form found on page 8 of this issue of *The Pelican*.
National: To join the National Audubon Society (NAS), use the link on page 8. The NAS website details the benefits of national membership. You will receive a subscription to the Audubon magazine and a one-year courtesy subscription to our newsletter, *The Pelican*.
Both: You may join both GSLA and NAS if you wish to support both local and national activities.

Board Highlights for March & April

by Leah Richardson, GSLA Secretary

Spring has arrived, and spring migrants are making their way to and across Utah. With historic snowpack, we wait to see the effects of the melt on the Great Salt Lake. Hopefully, this gives our state leaders time to implement long-term programs that will ensure the health of this indispensable ecologic and economic resource.

GSLA has been busy planning spring and summer events, and field trips. June 2-4 we host the annual Basin & Range Weekend Seminar at the Arch Dam Group Campground located in the Ashley National Forest within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. This weekend event offers interesting field classes, speakers, and wonderful birding. (See page 3 and insert.)

The Grant Committee announced our spring grant awardees (see page 1). This long-running program continues to support local organizations that promote conservation, education, and research efforts that align with the GSLA mission. These funds are awarded twice a year. If you know a non-profit group that could benefit from one of our grants, please invite them to apply.

Thanks to everyone who followed the many legislative bills and issues this year about our shrinking Great Salt Lake, water conservation, and environmental issues of concern. Much thanks to Steve Erickson for keeping us informed and lobbying for critical issues. On a lighter note, in March, Governor Spencer Cox signed a bill making the brine shrimp the official state crustacean. Enjoy the warm weather and happy birding to you all.

From the Editor

Dear Reader,

This spring, take advantage of GSLA field trip leaders to expand your knowledge of birds, their habitats, and their behaviors. Review field trip options on pages 4-5.

Join us for a fun weekend at Basin & Range scheduled for June 2-4 at the Arch Dam Group Campground near Dutch John, Utah. (See page 3 and insert.) We have experienced field instructors who will share their knowledge of geology, birds, local history, basic drawing skills, hydrology, and the stars above.

Birds are dying because they cannot see windows. We encourage you to advocate for the use of bird-friendly windows in new construction projects. Birds benefit when architects, builders, and construction companies consider glass that can be seen by birds. (See page 7.)

If you have contributions to, or questions, concerns, or suggestions about the newsletter, contact me at newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org. Enjoy the read.

Jeanne

Education News

by Lianna Lopez, GSLA Board

Upcoming Fledglings Club



Do you have a young birder in your life? Or are you needing fun outdoor activities to do with your children or grandchildren on the weekends? The GSLA Fledglings Club is resuming its monthly meet-ups! The Fledglings Club is for kids (ages three to eight) who have an interest in birds and other wildlife. Club members are given the opportunity to learn about local wildlife and ecosystems and participate in special programs just for club members. Activities and information are geared toward young children, but all ages are welcome! For more information about May and June meet-ups see our Facebook page, and GSLA website Event's page.

Wonderbloom Nature Playschool (1580 Vine St. Murray) Saturday, May 20 from 10:00–11:30 AM

Spring is finally in the air and the birds are still migrating and looking for mates. This month we learn about courtship and how birds fall in love. We will make nesting material kits for children to take home, make our own bird nests, and take a bird walk through the SOUL Community Garden.

Jordan River Nature Center Saturday, June 17 from 10:00–11:30 AM

This month we explore the topic of birds as pollinators! We learn about hummingbirds, go for a flower scavenger hunt, and plant wildflowers that children will be able to take home to their gardens!

Other Educational Events

Tracy Aviary's Urban Bird Festival (Liberty Park) Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Join the Tracy Aviary at their Liberty Park campus to celebrate the connection of nature and the city. Explore the birds and surrounding nature we love through featured activities with community partners, bird care staff talks, and garden tours. May 13 is World Migratory

Please Join Us for Basin & Range 2023

Please join Great Salt Lake Audubon for our 39th Annual Basin & Range Weekend Seminar June 2–4. This year we are traveling to the Arch Dam Group Campground located in the Ashley National Forest within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, near Dutch John, Utah. Take a look at the B&R brochure included in this newsletter. Program details and registration are also provided on the GSLA website. [Click here to register.](#)

This year our instructors include Chris Eaton, Tom Elder, Cooper Farr, John Middleton, and Margaret Pettis. In addition, we have local volunteers providing historic tours of the Red Canyon Visitor Center and Swett Ranch. After the potluck dinner hydrologist Nathaniel Todea will speak about water issues and Tom Elder will provide a look at the stars. Hope to see you there!

Bird Day so come help us greet returning neotropical migrants.

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

This event takes place at the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at Farmington Bay (1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington). The event is free and will include live birds, crafts, face painting, a scavenger hunt, and more! We hope you can join us for a day filled with fun celebrating the Great Salt Lake's birds!

See our Instagram [@greatsaltlakeaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/greatsaltlakeaudubon) for more information about our programs. Hope to see you there!

Discover Gillmor Sanctuary Series: Plants of the Dunes in June

Join Audubon staff, botanist Dr. Lynn Bohs, professor at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah, and Steve Hegji, author of *Wasatch Wildflowers*, exploring flowering plants on the dunes of Audubon's Gillmor Sanctuary.

Date: Saturday, June 3, 2023
Time: 7:45 AM to noon
Host: Heidi Hoven
Leaders: Lynn Bohs and Steve Hegji
Registration: Sign up at Audubon Rockies ([click here](#))
Limit: 18 people



Meeting location will be provided with confirmation of registration. Participants provide their own transportation, and carpooling is encouraged. There will be some walking on uneven dunes and grasslands.

Contact Heidi Hoven for details: heidi.hoven@audubon.org.



Artwork by Ray Smith ©



Calendar of Field Trips & Events for May–June 2023

GSLA: 385.313.0608; Website: <https://greatsaltlakeaudubon.org>



GSLA field trips are conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation between leaders and participants. Participation in any field trip is at the discretion of the leader. **NOTE:** Field trips may be re-scheduled or canceled due to COVID, weather, or other factors. Contact the leader to determine if trip is a go.

Accessibility codes: B-benches available; E-easy; L-level trail; M-moderately level; P-paved; P/U-paved-unpaved; R-restroom available; S-strenuous; U-unpaved

Monday, May 1—5:30–7:00 PM

Tom Mathewson presents *Bird Photography: Discovering Your Own Artistic Vision*. Workshop at The City Library is part of the Audubon Photography Exhibition. See page 5.

Wednesday, May 3—7:00–11:00 AM

Mountain Dell Rec Area, Parleys Canyon—M P/U R

Leader: John Middleton—801.707.9182

Email: john.middleton0@gmail.com

Meet by the golf cart bridge on Highway 65 for a morning of birding. See map here.

Contact John if you plan to attend.

Saturday, May 6—8:00–11:00 AM

Kingfisher Wetlands—E R P/U L B

Leader: John Middleton—801.707.9182

Email: john.middleton0@gmail.com

Join Troy Burgess of Wasatch Wigeons, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve Utah's wetlands. Kingfisher Wetlands is located at Observatory Park, parking lot, 2599 A Ave in Ogden. (See map here.) Contact John if you plan to attend.

Monday, May 8—5:30–7:00 PM

Jonathan Duncan presents *The History of the Great Salt Lake—A Photographic Journey* at The City Library.

See page 5 for details.

Saturday, May 13—7:00–11:00 AM

Yellow Fork Canyon—M R S U

Leader: Charles Hurd—801.502.9498

Email: charlesehurd91@gmail.com

Yellow Fork Canyon is a unique area for birding.

This will be a somewhat strenuous hike; remember sunscreen and water. Meet at the trailhead. See map here. Contact Charles for details.

Saturday, May 13—World Migratory Bird Day: Water & Birds. See page 3 and 7 for details about this event.

Tuesday, May 16—7:00–8:30 PM

Birds 'n Bites: Great Salt Lake: A Bird's Perspective with Jaimi Butler. See page 1 for details.

Wednesday, May 17—7:30–10:00 AM

Jordan River Day-Riverside Library—E L P/U R

Leader: Jeanne Le Ber—801.230.4373

Email: jeanne.leber@utah.edu

Bird along the river on paved and unpaved paths.

Meet in the parking lot at 1575 West 1000 North.

Contact Jeanne if you plan to attend.

May 18–21—25th Annual Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

See page 6 for details.

Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival event for children.

See page 3 for details.

Saturday, May 20 from 10–11:30 AM

Fledglings Club at Wonderbloom. See page 3 for details.

Saturday, May 27—7:00–11:00 AM

Jordan River, Arrowhead Park, Murray—B E L P/U R

Leader: Linda Johnson—801.865.2700

Email: mnczech@gmail.com

Walk on a flat, mostly unpaved trail featuring riparian and wooded habitat on both sides of the river. Meet

at Arrowhead Park, 593 West 4800 South.

Contact Linda if you plan to attend.

Monday, May 29—Dawn–2:00 PM

Antelope Island Causeway & Farmington Bay—E L P/U R

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/496neaa8>

Registration is required to receive trip details via

email the day before your scheduled slot.

Tuesday, May 30—Dawn–1:00 PM

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve—E R

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/496neaa8>

Registration is required to receive trip details via

email the day before your scheduled slot.

June 2–4—39th Annual Basin & Range Weekend

Seminar at Arch Dam Group Campground

See insert for details about event and how to register.

Wednesday, June 7—7:00–11:00 AM

Mountain Dell Rec Area, Parleys Canyon—M P/U R

Leader: John Middleton—801.707.9182

Email: john.middleton0@gmail.com

See May 3 field trip for details.

(Field Trips and Events continued from page 4)

Saturday, June 10—9:15 AM–1:00 PM

Bluebird Boxes in Strawberry Valley—E M R

Leader: Jeanne Le Ber—801.230.4373

Email: jeanne.leber@utah.edu

Arrive at 9:15 AM at the Strawberry Valley Visitor Center. From Heber City, take US 40 east to Daniel's Summit. Travel about 6 miles to the Visitor Center located on the right. Teams check boxes, record species using box, and record number of eggs or young birds. Contact Jeanne if you plan to attend.

Saturday, June 17 from 10–11:30 AM

Fledglings Club at Jordan River Nature Center. See page 3 for details.

Saturday, June 17—7:00–11:00 AM

Jordan River, Arrowhead Park, Murray—B E L P/U R

Leader: Linda Johnson—801.865.2700

Email: mnczech@gmail.com

See May 27 field trip for details.

Wednesday, June 21—7:00–11:00 AM

Jordan River Day-Riverside Library—E L P/U R

Leader: John Middleton—801.707.9182

Email: john.middleton0@gmail.com

See May 17 field trip for details; contact John if you plan to attend.

Still Time to Visit the 2022 Audubon Photography Awards Exhibition and Workshops at The City Library

Great Salt Lake Audubon and The City Library are co-hosting the 2022 Audubon Photography Awards Exhibition. The exhibition ends on May 10, so don't miss this show of eleven award winning photographs on display on the Lower Level Urban Room at The City Library. The two award-winning videos are showing on the fourth floor near the *Audubon Folio*.

In addition, there are two free Monday evening workshops scheduled from 5:30–6:30 PM. on the Lower Level in the Library's Conference Rooms.

- **May 1**—Farmington High School Professor Adam Blundell presents *Birding with Teenagers: Capturing Photos and The Thrill of the Hunt!*
- **May 8**—Professional adventure photographer and digital storyteller Jonathan Duncan presents *The History and Future of the Great Salt Lake—a Photographic Journey*

Workshop presenters focus on photography as a means to tell a story and interact with nature.

Please join us for a wonderful event.

Sunday, June 25—7:00–11:00 AM

City Creek Canyon—M P/U R

Leader: Charles Hurd—801.502.9498

Email: charlesehurd91@gmail.com

City Creek Canyon is a riparian oasis. Meet at the gate to the upper canyon off Bonneville Boulevard (see map here).

Contact Charles if you plan to attend.

Monday, June 26—Dawn–2:00 PM

Antelope Island Causeway & Farmington Bay—E L P/U R

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/496neaa8>

Registration is required to receive trip details via email the day before your scheduled slot.

Tuesday, June 27—Dawn–1:00 PM

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve—E R

Leader: Bryant Olsen

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/496neaa8>

Registration is required to receive trip details via email the day before your scheduled slot.

Wednesday, July 5—7:30–11:00 AM

Mountain Dell Rec Area, Parleys Canyon—M P/U R

Leader: John Middleton—801.707.9182

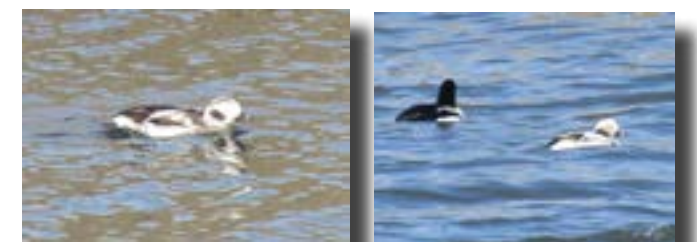
Email: john.middleton0@gmail.com

See May 3 field trip for details.

Long-tailed Duck Hangs Around

by Jeanne Le Ber, GSLA Board

An unusually visible Long-tailed Duck has graced the waters of the Jordan River since February 11, 2023. It has been seen in the area north and south of the bridge at the Redwood Trailhead Park hanging out with other diving ducks including the Common and Barrow's Goldeneye. Bryant Olsen told me our visitor was a second-year immature male. Our bird lacks the slender long tail that is its namesake. Generally, the LTDU is a bird of the seacoasts and the high Arctic, but a number of these sea ducks winter far off shore on the Great Salt Lake. Ray and I hosted a visitor from Miami, Florida in February who was thrilled to add this duck to her life list. Hope you get a chance to see this unique bird before it heads to his Arctic breeding grounds.



Long-tailed Duck on February 17, 2023 along the Jordan River. A Barrow's Goldeneye with the Long-tailed Duck on April 8, 2023. Photos by Jeanne Le Ber ©

Spotlight on Jacqueline Sundstrand

GSLA Dark Skies Initiative

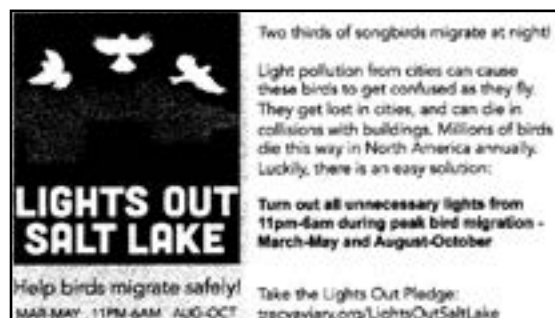


Photo Jacqueline Sundstrand ©

To everyone who didn't fall in love with birds until adulthood, I am with you, wishing I had been introduced sooner in life! My first experience birding was on my honeymoon in Belize with a pair of very low-quality and very free pocket binoculars that I borrowed from my mom. The first time I held those binoculars to my eyes and viewed the intimate, although blurry, details of a bird's feathers and movements, I was hooked.

For the next several days I was alert to every sound and was thrilled to add bird after bird to my journal, but the one I really wanted to see before the end of our trip was the national bird of Belize, the Keel-billed Toucan. On the last day, my husband and I finally heard the frog-like croak we'd been waiting for. We swiftly finished breakfast and followed the call back and forth through the jungle with no luck. Feeling defeated, we started making our way back to our room to pack our belongings when suddenly, my husband stopped in his tracks. We slowly looked up, and there they were: a pair of toucans in the canopy right above our heads. The hardest part about birding for me isn't the patience required, it's having to be extremely quiet while rejoicing at the same time.

I have since upgraded my binoculars, moved to Utah from Michigan, adopted a puppy, and been married for seven years. As we continued to deepen our roots in this city, I felt a natural pull to volunteer with an organization that aligned with my passions, which is why I reached out to Heather Dove, the President of Great Salt Lake Audubon. I told her that I was interested in helping with the Dark Sky initiative. Heather promptly responded that said initiative didn't exist yet, but *would you like to start one?* A year later I'm just getting my feet under me, but I couldn't be more grateful for Heather's support and the encouragement I've received from the entire GSLA board.



Great Salt Lake Bird Festival—May 18-21



Join Davis County and the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area for the 25th Annual Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. The festival is scheduled for May 18–21 and is headquartered at the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Wildlife Education Center at FBWMA in Farmington.

Festival information and online registration is available on their website (see url below).

Field trip leaders, workshops, speaker events, and dinner with a keynote speaker entice the beginner, intermediate, and expert birder to experience and learn more about the birds that use the GSL and surrounding lands.

Birding with folks who share a passionate interest in birds enhances the experience of attending the festival. The festival offers the opportunity to learn from the best birders in Utah. Discover where, when, and how to bird while improving your bird identification skills.

For more information visit the [GSL Bird Festival website](#). Hope to see you there!

Request for Volunteers

An opportunity to help Great Salt Lake Audubon. No experience needed!

Spring is here and, like the crocuses, events are popping up all over. Great Salt Lake Audubon (GSLA) is in need of volunteers for tabling events. There are no special qualifications, just a desire to promote GSLA's work to the public and a few hours of your time. If you think this might be for you, contact Linda Johnson at mnczech@gmail.com or leave a message at 385.313.0608.

The birds will thank you.



Photo by Linda Johnson ©



World Migratory Bird Day 2023 Water: Sustaining Bird Life

Water is fundamental to sustaining life on our planet. Virtually all migratory birds rely on water and its associated habitats at some point during their life cycles. Lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and coastal waters are all vital for feeding, drinking, or nesting, and as places to rest and refuel during seasonal migrations.

The increasing human demand for water, as well as pollution and climate change, is having a direct impact on the quantity and quality of water resources and on the conservation status of many migratory bird species.

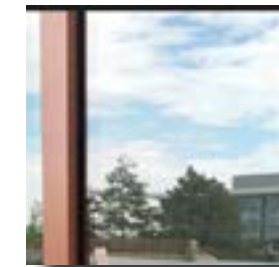
The importance of water is the focus of World Migratory Bird Day, an annual global campaign that celebrates the migration of birds across countries and continents being celebrated this May 13, 2023.

To learn more about World Migratory Bird Day visit their [website](#).



Fritted Windows Save Birds

by Barbara Brown, PhD, University of Utah



Frit seen from outside of Gardner Commons, U of Utah. Photo by Barbara Brown ©

Small ceramic dots or other patterns embedded into windows, known as frits, make windows visible to birds and reduce collisions, as shown by research at the University of Utah (see article). The costs of adding frits vary, ranging from 15% to 50% more than standard glass. But here are some insights to encourage thrifty and creative frits.

- A major cost saver is to plan bird-friendly glass from the start. The \$1-billion U.S. Bank Stadium for the Minnesota Vikings could have purchased fritted glass for \$1.1 million at the design stage for 200,000 square feet of glass. But building owners said they could not make the change during construction because delays would cost \$20 to \$60 million. (See article.)
- Walker Glass advises that fritted glass can be more affordable when you keep your windows under 47" width and you use a dot instead of a line pattern. (See article.)
- Finally, frits can be central to building aesthetics. *Architectural Digest* assembled photos of several creative buildings by well-known architects who take frits to the next level. (See article.)

In Addition, Evidence Supports Lights Out Programs for Saving Birds

Since 1978, over 40,000 birds have crashed into McCormick Place windows in the city of Chicago. This is likely due to the building's night lights attracting birds migrating along the edge of Lake Michigan. Lighting can attract and disorient nighttime migrators, forcing them to land in urban settings. Birds collide with windows when they try to leave the city. Researchers estimated that reducing lights by half could reduce McCormick Place bird deaths by at least sixfold. (See article.)

An illuminated 41-story building in Bonn, Germany, aka *Post Tower*, also attracted migratory birds resulting in bird deaths. Casualties dropped from 0.53 per hour to 0.16 per hour when lighting was dimmed. This example provides proof that turning off lights during migration can be an easy way to save birds and money. (See article.)

For more information see [Bird Safe Windows](#) located under Resources on the GSLA homepage.



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

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GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
Local Membership Form

Local membership is \$30 annually.

This fee includes a 1-year, electronic subscription (6 issues) to the GSLA newsletter, *THE PELICAN*.

1. Complete the local-membership form below.
2. Prepare a check in the amount of the membership fee (\$30) plus any desired donation amount.
3. Mail both to :

GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
P.O. Box 520867
Salt Lake City UT 84152-0867

4. Or go to GSLA website to join online; click *Membership* at the bottom of website page.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
(National Membership)

Online Membership Form Only

Go to the following website to join and pay National Audubon Society dues.

<https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/DH8fxTkoC0qHjXF9fZCtRw2>

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

Membership Form	Name _____
	Street _____
	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
	Email _____
	Date _____