



G R E A T
S A L T L A K E
A U D U B O N

THE PELICAN

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

JULY/AUGUST 2020

The BIRDS 'n BITES program is on summer break. The program will resume in September as allowed by health guidelines for covid-19. Meeting details will be communicated in the September/October issue of "The Pelican".

Spring Arrivals in Board Members' Backyards



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THE PELICAN

NEWSLETTER OF GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON

GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON 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.

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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 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020 issue is August 10, 2020.

Printed on recycled paper.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS - MAY/ JUNE

By Leah Richardson, Secretary, GSLA

As we continue to live in the face of covid-19, we are all spending more time at home. Personally, I have tried to counter the anxiety this brings me by spending more time in the outdoors and observing nature. I set up my work-from-home station with a view of my backyard and bird feeders. When I stop, take a breath, and observe the tiny Black-chinned Hummingbirds swooping down on my feeder, I feel peaceful and remember how lucky I am to live in such a beautiful place. Nature is my escape and my rock at this time. I hope you, too, can find some solace in the beauty that surrounds you.

The Board has made many efforts to embrace the current times. With most in-person meetings and trips cancelled, we are bringing you more virtual programs, links to interesting articles, and continued updates on conservation causes. Take a minute to look at our GSLA Fledglings Facebook page...lots of fun content for our little ones there. Also, read the emails from Heather Dove to keep up with the latest offerings and news. As we focus on getting through our daily lives, others are working on rolling back important environmental laws and protections at an alarming rate.

Don't forget that our summer migrants are visiting the Wasatch Front! Go birding, relax, and stay safe while connecting with the natural world.

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 subscription 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.

SAVING BIRDS ONE WINDOW AT A TIME

By Jeanne Le Ber, Board of Directors, GSLA

Birds are dying because they cannot see window glass. Birds do not see glass as an obstacle to be avoided but as a potential pathway as they flee from danger. See-through glass and reflective glass that mirrors the environment are both lethal to birds. This includes glass walls, noise barriers, bus shelters, glass art works, as well as sliding glass patio doors and picture windows. Scientific research has demonstrated that most bird-window collisions occur at residential and low-rise commercial buildings. A 2014 study by Scott Loss, *et al.*, (http://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/loss_et_al_bird-building_collisions_condor_2014.pdf) estimates that up to 365 million birds die annually in the United States from window strikes that result in fatal internal injuries for the birds. Fortunately, there are things that people can do to protect birds and make windows bird-safe.

There are two ways to address the issues with windows:

1. Make the window glass visible.

To make the glass in a window visible, use decals, stickers, strings, paints, dots, film, *etc.* These markings must be placed on the outside surface of the window glass and they must follow the 2”-by-4” rule for spacing the pattern. Vertical markings on window glass need to be spaced not more than 4 inches apart and horizontal markings not more than 2 inches apart across the entire window glass. On your next visit to the Tracy Aviary, take a look at their window treatments as they follow this rule.



Tracy Aviary Window Decals
Photo Credit: J. Le Ber

2. Add a visible, physical barrier to the outdoor side of the window.

The second method to make the windows safer for birds is to add a visible, physical barrier. Hanging netting on the outside of the window and leaving outside window screens in year-round are effective physical barriers.

These are just a few of the products on the market to “fix” your windows:

Acopian BirdSavers (<https://www.birdsavers.com/>) uses 1/8” paracord that is hung on the outside of your windows. [*Compare the left window section to the right window section in the photo to the right.*]



Acopian BirdSavers Window
Cord, Photo from Acopian
Product Brochure

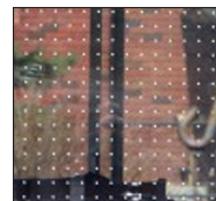
CollidEscape (<https://www.collidescape.org/>) is a patterned window film that allows you to see through to the outside but is visible to birds; it is installed on the outside of the window glass. Think...

- UTA buses that use this kind of film to advertise local businesses
- Informational signs on office windows
- Decals of all shapes, designs and colors



CollidEscape Decals,
Photo from Website

American Bird Conservancy (<https://abcbirds.org/abc-bird-tape/>) recommends BirdTape. This is a tape for making patterns on the glass that is user-friendly and easy to apply.



ABC Bird Tape,
Photo from Website

Tempera paint can be fun, creative, and effective; use with care on the outside of your windows keeping in mind that the paint is water soluble.

(continued on page 6)

Calendar of Events & Field Trips for July/August 2020

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

Beginning birders and nonmembers are always welcome. 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

Please consult the leaders with questions on the ratings for a specific field trips if unsure.

****FIELD TRIPS LEAVE ON TIME, ARRIVE 5-10 MIN EARLY.****

Field trips will take place ONLY if covid-19 quarantine/social distancing orders have been removed. Check email or the website to find out if an event has been cancelled.

Wednesday, July 1, 7:30 am - 12 pm

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

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

Our monthly surveys of the Mountain Dell area continue. 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, July 11, 7:30 am - 12 pm

Brighton Bird Count — EASY, MODERATE, DIFFICULT

Leaders: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith — 801-532-7384 / jeanne.leber@utah.edu

Please join GSLA for our annual Brighton Bird Count (BBC). Meet at 7:30 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], or 3) Twin Lake [strenuous hike]. Novice to expert birders are welcome to participate. If the BBC is cancelled due to covid-19 concerns, we will let you know via email blast. Jeanne will then contact a limited number of volunteers to cover the three survey areas. Let Jeanne know if you want to participate in the limited BBC when you notify Jeanne Le Ber or Ray Smith of your plans to attend the BBC.

Saturday, July 25, 4:30 pm - 8 pm

Afternoon at Alta — MODERATE

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

Normally, July is a low time for birds, but in the higher elevations, the birds are a bit more active as they rush to

raise their chicks before it gets too cold. We will start in the afternoon for this trip to see birds as they prepare for evening. We will hike up Grizzly Gulch to find high altitude species like Pine Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and maybe Calliope Hummingbird. Afterwards, we will head down near the entrance of the canyon to look for Black Swifts, an area specialty, as they come in to roost for the night. We will meet at the Park and Ride at the base of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 4:30 pm. Contact Ian if you would like to attend.

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

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve Bird Survey — 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 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. This is also a more fast-paced trip as the main purpose is counting individuals as well as species. Contact Bryant Olsen to sign up.

Wednesday, July 29, 6:00 am - 2 pm

Antelope Island and Farmington Bay — EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen — bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

Meet at the Antelope Island Causeway at 6:00 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.

Wednesday, August 5, 7:30 am - 12 pm

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

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

See July description for information

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

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve Bird Survey — EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen — bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

See July description for information

Wednesday, August 26, 6:00 am - 2 pm

Antelope Island & Farmington Bay — EASY

Leader: Bryant Olsen — bryant_olsen@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events & Field Trips for July/August 2020

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

See July description for information

Saturday, August 29, 7:00 am - 1 pm

Fall Migrants at Antelope Island — EASY

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

It's time to see the birds come back to Utah as they head south to their wintering grounds. We will be starting at the Causeway, spend quite a deal of time there, hopefully, and then travel on to the island including stopovers at the Visitor Center, Buffalo Corrals, and Garr Ranch to see what's around. This will be a fairly long birding trip, so please

plan accordingly. Meet us in the large parking lot (the one BEFORE the restrooms) just outside of the entrance kiosk at the Causeway by 7:00 am. If you have a park pass, please bring it along. Please contact Ian Batterman if you are interested.

Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 am - 12 pm

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

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

See July description for more information.

IT'S NOT THE OSCARS, IT'S NOT THE EMMYS, IT'S THE GSLA GRANT AWARDS!

By Kandy Richards, Treasurer, GSLA

Oscars and Emmys are awards for what you have already accomplished. The GSLA Grant Awards support you in what you hope to accomplish! [Application](#) deadline is September 1, 2020, with awards announced October 15, 2020. Maximum award amount is \$1,000. Please see the [link](#) on our website for more program details and application instructions.



Wilson's Snipe (photo taken through car window)
North of Willard Bay State Park
Photo Credit: Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith



Backyard Lazuli Bunting
Photo Credit: Arlene Hamburg

Photo Credits for Backyard Birds on Cover

Top Row, left to right: Linda Johnson, Arlene Hamburg, Leah Richardson

Middle Row, left to right: Leah Richardson, Amanda Sharette-Kay, Linda Johnson

Bottom Row: Arlene Hamburg

SAVING BIRDS ONE WINDOW AT A TIME *(continued from page 3)*

By Jeanne Le Ber, Board of Directors, GSLA

Great Salt Lake Audubon has implemented a Bird-Window Collision Working Group (BWCWG) with the intent of educating, advocating, and influencing for window solutions. Group members include Jeanne Le Ber, Georgie Corkery, Linda Johnson, Amanda Kay, and Cooper Farr. We are available to present to your group on this timely and important topic.

If you have questions about bird-window collisions, contact a BWCWG member:

- Phone: 385-313-0608; leave a message.
- Email: info@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Be sure to read the following companion article.

THE SALT LAKE AVIAN COLLISION SURVEY (SLACS)

By Cooper Farr, Director of Conservation, Tracy Aviary

Approximately two-thirds of migratory birds travel at night and light pollution can draw these birds into bright cities. Finding themselves in a dense urban environment and unable to perceive most types of glass, many of these birds collide with buildings and structures before finding their way back out of the city. In 2017, Tracy Aviary and Dark Sky-SLC launched the Salt Lake Avian Collision Survey (SLACS): a community science study to document bird-building collisions during spring and fall migration in Salt Lake City.

Since we began this project in 2017, we have documented 144 bird-building collisions of 38 species. This number represents a small fraction of the birds that likely collide with windows in the area, considering we're only surveying 20 blocks intermittently throughout the migration season. Although there is some variation from season to season, we most often find that sparrows, warblers, hummingbirds, and tanagers are among the victims.

In spring 2020, for example, Western Tanagers were our most common species found, followed by Brewer's Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings, and Yellow Warblers. It is heartbreaking to find these tiny creatures needlessly killed after they've come so far, but documenting this problem is important to figure out a solution.

Luckily, there are solutions for this problem. Shortly after we began SLACS, Tracy Aviary and Dark Sky-SLC launched a "Lights Out Salt Lake" initiative to encourage people to turn out their lights at night during peak migration. We can also help the birds by making glass easier for them to see. See Jeanne Le Ber's article on page 3 of this newsletter for an introduction to the many products and solutions to retrofit windows so that they are visible to birds, from inexpensive decals and paint, to more expensive but less visually intrusive products.

We will continue to work on local solutions while documenting collisions in our area, and we are always looking for volunteers to conduct surveys with the SLACS team. If you are interested, you can visit www.tracyaviaryconservation.org/slacs to learn more.



Photo Courtesy of
Cooper Farr

GSLA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE POO-POO PROJECT

By Heather Dove, President, GSLA

Vault toilets on America's public lands have open, vertical ventilation pipes that pose hazards to birds and other wildlife. Each year, thousands of cavity-nesting birds that prefer dark, narrow spaces for nesting and roosting enter these open pipes and become entrapped in effluent, eventually dying. This widespread problem impacts several species of concern.

In 2010, Teton Raptor Center, a nonprofit raptor education, research, and rehabilitation organization, addressed this problem in Grand Teton National Park by installing vent screens and the Poo-Poo Project was born. In 2012, the project developed its own vent screen to prevent wildlife entrapment on a national scale. The screens are easy to install, are affordable, durable and they effectively protect wildlife without compromising vault toilet pipe ventilation. Since the project was started, well over 15,000 screens have been installed across the United States, as well as Canada and the Virgin Islands.

A couple of months ago, June Green, longtime volunteer for the Teton Raptor Center reached out to Great Salt Lake Audubon for help installing screens at two sites – Simpson Springs Campground and Fivemile Pass. She sent us the screens and the instructions. I recruited GSLA member Stephanie Weems to go out with me to these two sites and get the job done. Stephanie was a great choice, as she is a tool girl who had the equipment we needed and was very competent at running a hand drill. We installed 16 screens and had a great time birding the area while we were at it.



Installing a Vault Toilet Vent Screen
Photo Credit: H. Dove

Keep your eyes peeled for these types of toilets when you go birding or hiking. If you see one without a screen on the vent pipe, let me know (president@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org) and I'll make sure it gets added to the list of toilets that need treatment. This is such an easy and effective way to reduce bird mortality!!

GEORGIE CORKERY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL

By Heather Dove, President, GSLA

We are pleased to announce that GSLA Board Member Georgie Corkery has been elected to the post of President of Utah Audubon Council (UAC). UAC is an association of the four chapters in Utah affiliated with National Audubon (Bridgerland Audubon, Wasatch Audubon, Great Salt Lake Audubon and Red Cliffs Audubon). The Council works together to monitor conservation issues in the state and provide commentary to relevant agencies to shape policy. All four chapters pool resources to fund the valuable services of our legislative advocate, Steve Erickson.

The President works closely with the chapters, the legislative advocate, and National Audubon, and, when necessary, issues statements representing the position of the Council. The President also coordinates the Council's twice-yearly meetings and works to keep chapters informed of each other's activities and initiatives.

This position was previously held by John Bellmon of Wasatch Audubon who generously served for eight years and did an excellent job. Georgie has some big shoes to fill but we are certain she will do a great job. Thank you, John for your years of service. Welcome, Georgie, to this important position! Thank you for agreeing to take on this important duty!!



THE PELICAN
Great Salt Lake Audubon
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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
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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 are now handled directly through NAS