



Birds



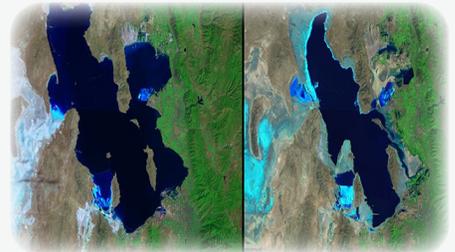
The BIRDS 'n BITES program is a monthly gathering (except for June through August) that offers informative and entertaining content for the bird enthusiast. These programs are free and open to all. Each begins at 6:30 pm for socializing with snacks and drinks prior to a relevant presentation at 7:00 pm.

Due to COVID-19, all Birds 'n Bites programs will be held via videoconferencing until further notice

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

“Climate Change and the Great Salt Lake Watershed” Bonnie K. Baxter, Ph.D., Director, Great Salt Lake Institute Professor and Chair of Biology Westminster College

Terminal lakes are highly susceptible to climate change impacts since water that enters through precipitation, runoff, and groundwater must be balanced with water that leaves through evaporation. Great Salt Lake faces many other threats, such as water diversions for agriculture and human population growth, that will impact the volume of water and its ecosystem. If the lake’s level declines, salinity increases, and wetlands are altered. These changes will affect avian migrators along the Pacific and Central flyways. The current status of Great Salt Lake, with no water rights of



Great Salt Lake Images, Provided by B. K. Baxter

its own and increasing pressures for water use upstream, does not bode well for the survival of this critical ecosystem given climate change predictions for the southwestern United States.

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

“Common Utah Invertebrates - the Saints and the Sinners” Christy Bills, Invertebrate Collections Manager, Natural History Museum of Utah



During this presentation, we’ll discuss some of Utah’s surprising and exciting invertebrates, some naughty, some nice; where and when you’re likely to find them; and why I think they are all lovable.



Photos provided by Christy Bills

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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: greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Mail Address: P.O. Box 520867, SLC, UT 84152

Office: 152 W Burton, Suite J, SLC, UT 84115

GSLA Phone: (385) 313-0608

OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Please see the website for a listing of positions and responsibilities. If you desire a printout of a current listing, call the office number to request one by mail.

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 published six times a year. The submission deadline for the NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 issue is October 10, 2020.

Printed on recycled paper.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Local: GSLA chapter-only membership is \$30 a year. All dues support local education, advocacy, habitat restoration, field trips, newsletter publication, and more. Local membership is very important as GSLA is primarily self-supporting. (A membership form is 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. In addition, you will receive a courtesy subscription to our newsletter, *The Pelican*, for one year.

Both: You can join both GSLA and NAS if you wish to support both local and national activities.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS - JULY / AUGUST

By Leah Richardson, Secretary, GSLA

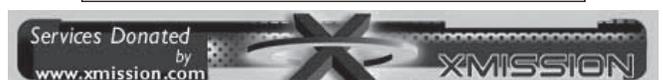
Do you feel the slight chill in the morning air and the subtle lengthening nights? Even if you don't, our birds do and their fall migration has begun. Birdwatching lends itself well to social distancing rules, so I hope you find some time to get out and enjoy this season. With field trips still on hold, Ian Batterman will continue to post some of his personal birding trips and bird tallies on our Facebook page, so use this as guide and/or inspiration.

Although we can't hold events in person, we continue to hold Birds 'n Bites virtually. We even added some summer programs this year. It is very easy to connect to these through the Zoom platform, and I encourage you all to tune in and join us for at least one of these. The advantage is you can learn and be entertained in the comfort of your own home with your favorite snacks and beverages! Also, on Thursday, October 8th, GSLA and Great Salt Lake Institute will hold a virtual FALL FORUM. I am excited to announce that New York Times bestselling author, Jennifer Ackerman, will join us to talk about her latest book *The Bird Way*. Jennifer told me that one of her greatest joys is meeting with Audubon members and discussing birds. This should be a wonderful program, and you can see the announcement in the newsletter for more information.

In other exciting news, have you seen our new website? We are very proud of this and our new logo. Besides being visually appealing, the new site makes it easier to navigate, get involved, and even renew membership online now. If you are spending more time online these days, please peruse our website at greatsaltlakeaudubon.org

Happy Birding!

The bird silhouette and the dragonfly in the Birds 'n Bite logo are adapted from PxHere, CC0 Public Domain



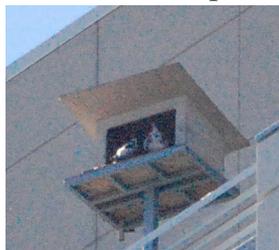
2020 IMC PEREGRINE FALCON WATCHPOST / RESCUE TEAM HELLWEEK SAGA

By Bob Walters, Watchable Wildlife Program Coordinator (retired), Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources

This spring I had determined that nest boxes on the Joseph Smith Memorial Building and One Utah Center and eyries within the greater downtown territory were not occupied by Peregrine Falcons. The species had successfully fledged and dispersed to the wild for the breeding seasons of 1986-1993, 1995, 2004-2007, 2009, and 2011-2014.

One April day, I cruised by the Intermountain Center (IMC) in Murray to check on activity in the nest box on the north face of the tallest edifice there, Bldg. No. 5. At the suggestion of a local falconer, I helped with the placement of the box pre-2010 and its move in 2014 from the original location on the east face to the north side. To the best of my knowledge, peregrines had never successfully nested at IMC. Lo and behold, a peregrine pair was on hand!

The male appeared to be an adult but the female had a lot of brown feathers on its back and a bluish-colored bill—quite possibly a 2- to 3-year-old. She looked very similar to the female in 2018 that laid, but was unable to hatch, two eggs in a nest box that I had placed on the One Utah Center. I continued to monitor the pair and luckily spotted, from a remote location, what appeared to be two downy young.



Eyases in Nest Box

I alerted members of the Salt Lake City (SLC) Peregrine Falcon Watchpost/Rescue Team (Team) of my need for their help at IMC for the 2020 version of HellWeek and scheduled a meeting with Mark Olsen, Facility Manager III, Plant Operations, IMC, to discuss a cooperative venture to get the young airborne. Not surprisingly, the current IMC workers were entirely unaware of the nest box.

We were ready to go...maybe a little too early. Without a camera in the nest box, I had to guess, from great distance, the age of the eyases to predict the date of fledging. Miscalculation of the date of fledging was the first of what became a most unusual HellWeek endeavor.

A Team co-worker wondered if several IMC Security personnel did not get the memo about the cooperative venture between IMC and the Team—a polite way of describing the challenges between monitoring the downtown SLC and the IMC territories! IMC security personnel were concerned that the binoculars were freaking out the nurses; that situation evolved into no binoculars, scopes, or cameras on IMC property and finally morphed to no sitting/standing in one place. These restrictions eliminated the primary reason for HellWeek efforts in the past—a prime conservation outreach opportunity to inform, educate, and engage the public about these magnificent birds. Since IMC owned the nest cliff and flight practice area, we needed to comply, however, I did enlist Mark Olsen's help with the security guys at IMC.

Between July 11th and 21st, the Team repeatedly retrieved the eyases from their bumbling practice flights and returned them to the nest box for parental care. [*Editor's note: Please see the supplemental article for a detailed run-down.*] Finally, a decision was reached among the Team members and the rehabilitator that the two fledglings, now named Dot and Susie, would not be returned to IMC territory for continued and preferred parental supervision of flight training. The reason for removal was both birds were underweight and injured. Susie was diagnosed with brain injury as a result of collisions with glass walls. Dot also appeared injured as she overcame a sprain, or noticeable limp, in one of her feet during her solo flight training and exhibited burns to at least one foot, likely due to hot, roofline perch sites, etc. The Team was also reaching burn-out...the multi-week effort had been long, hot, dry and exhausting!

continued on page 6)



**Calendar of Events and Field Trips
for September/October 2020**
GSLA: (385) 313-0608; Website: greatsaltlakeaudubon.org



Unfortunately our group field trips have been suspended until further notice because of the need for social distancing due to COVID-19. Until it is safe to return to these field trips, Ian Batterman, our Field Trip Coordinator, has suggestions of places to bird on your own for September and October.

UTAH'S AUTUMN HOTSPOTS FOR BIRDS

By Ian Batterman, Field Trip Coordinator, GSLA

Fall in many ways is spring's opposite, but one thing the seasons have in common is the abundance of birds. From late August to early October, birds are migrating to their wintering grounds. Utah is a great state to see many fall migrants from shorebirds to songbirds to hawks. Two differences from the spring migration, though, are the lack of noise as the birds will not be singing since they won't be looking for mates or territory and the lack of color since many songbirds and shorebirds are in their drab non-breeding plumage.

Here are a few great spots to go see fall migrants in Northern Utah:

Yellow Fork Canyon

Where: In Herriman at the end of Rose Creek Rd begins a series of hiking trails for bikers, hikers, and horse riders. Yellow Fork Canyon is one of the best (and busiest).

What: Unique scrub-oak species can be seen including Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Virginia's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, MacGillivray's Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and fall specialties like Townsend's Warbler and Nashville Warbler.

Antelope Island

Where: At the west end of Antelope Drive (Exit 332 from I-15) begins one of Utah's best birding hotspots with diverse areas to see birds from the Causeway to the Bison Corals to Fielding Garr Ranch. A \$10 fee or pass is required.

What: Bullock's Oriole, Wilson's Warbler, Virginia Rail, Long-billed Curlew, Northern Harrier, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrow, Western Kingbird, Burrowing Owl, Red Knot, Eared Grebe, Sanderling, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, and, if you are lucky in September, the rare Sabine's Gull.

Willard Bay

Where: On the southern outskirts of Box Elder County, before you get to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (also a great place to go any time of year), is another wetland hideaway known as Willard Bay. Like other state parks, a fee or pass is required.

What: Bald Eagle, Western & Clark's Grebe, Orange-crowned Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, terns, swallows, gulls, and shorebirds.

Utah Lake State Park

Where: Utah Lake State Park is on Center St, north of Provo, west of I-15, and on the eastern shore of Utah Lake. Any wetland around Utah Lake is great for birds, but this particular area is one of the easiest to drive to. Like all state parks, an entry fee or pass is required.



**Calendar of Events and Field Trips
for September/October 2020**
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What: Waterfowl, such as grebes, ducks, and geese, gulls, Great Blue Heron, Bullock's Oriole, Northern Flicker, and many shorebirds.

City Creek Canyon

Where: Close to the Utah State Capitol up Bonneville Blvd is City Creek Canyon, a place for hikers, bikers, and birders alike. Parking is limited, so arrive early.

What: Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Pacific Wren, American Dipper, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Common Nighthawk (more common at dawn and dusk).

East Canyon Reservoir

Where: In Morgan County near the border with Salt Lake County lies East Canyon Reservoir, one of the many mountain reservoirs in the Wasatch Mountains. Take I-80 East to the Mountain Dell Exit; then drive past Little Dell Reservoir and Mountain Dell Golf Course along a winding road until you reach East Canyon. There are many free pull off points as you get closer to the reservoir, but if you want to get into the state park itself, you will need to pay a fee or bring a pass.

What: Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gadwall, Western Grebe, Black-billed Magpie, Grey Partridge, and Osprey.

Tuesday, September 1

Fall 2020 Fundraiser: Black Oil Sunflower Seed Ordering Begins

Complete either the [online](#) form or the paper form on page 8 to order bags of sunflower seed to support the mission of GSLA.

Tuesday, September 15, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

BIRDS 'n BITES: Climate Change and the Great Salt Lake Watershed

Zoom Videoconferencing

Speaker: Bonnie K. Baxter, Ph.D., Westminster College

See page 1 for the presentation abstract. Also, watch for an email message from Heather Dove with video-conference details for the presentation.

Thursday, October 8, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

2020 Fall Forum: *THE BIRD WAY: A NEW LOOK AT HOW BIRDS TALK, WORK, PLAY, PARENT, AND THINK*

Zoom Videoconferencing

Speaker: Jennifer Ackerman, Author

See page 6 for the presentation abstract. Also, watch for an email message from Heather Dove with video-conference details for the presentation.

Friday, October 9

Fall 2020 Fundraiser: Black Oil Sunflower Seed Order Deadline

Deadline for GSLA receipt of order form, either online or mail-in, for bags of sunflower seeds.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

BIRDS 'n BITES: Common Utah Invertebrates - the Saints and the Sinners

Zoom Videoconferencing

Speaker: Christy Bills, Natural History Museum of Utah

See page 1 for the presentation abstract. Also, watch for an email message from Heather Dove with video-conference details for the presentation.

Saturday, October 24, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fall 2020 Fundraiser: Black Oil Sunflower Seed Pick-up

Pick up your order for sunflower seeds at Wild Birds Unlimited (rear parking lot), 1967 East Murray Holladay Rd, SLC, UT.

2020 IMC PEREGRINE FALCONS... (continued from page 3)

By Bob Walters

The IMC territory is completely different from the downtown/Temple Square peregrine haunts. IMC is reminiscent of Wyoming's Devil's Tower: a huge, tall edifice with large plates of solid glass on the east and west faces. The buildings surrounding IMC are much shorter, campus buildings. Downtown/Temple Square features buildings of comparable heights and many with horizontal ledges that can serve as potential landing sites. While both sites have plenty of glass, the major difference as a place to learn to fly is, at the IMC property, a young bird must make huge flight steps to rise up to the nest site to reach the adults for food. A series of shorter flights from roofline to roofline is more easily negotiated in the downtown/Temple Square territory.



Rescued



Food for a Hungry Bird

Nonetheless, the IMC territory is an excellent place to watch what peregrines do best which is fly like no other avian species. Lastly, I felt the birds were lucky to get out of there alive, and the rehabilitator will ensure that each will soon receive the appropriate flight/hunting training in the hands of falconer(s) for release to the wild.

On July 29, the rehabilitator said, "They are doing good, eating very well, and recovering nicely." To say the least and in conclusion, it was an experience like no other and the memory of it will last a lifetime!

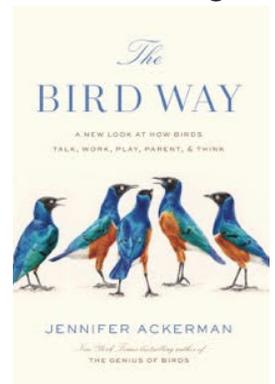
Editor's Note: Because the space available for this article is limited, a supplemental document will be included in the newsletter delivery expressing the author's appreciation to the individual Team members and the effort's supporting cast for their dedication to the eyases and other valuable assistance. See the [Facebook](#) page created by Liz Schubert for more play-by-play action from HellWeek. All photos in this article are courtesy of Liz Schubert.

2020 VIRTUAL FALL FORUM: *THE BIRD WAY: A NEW LOOK AT HOW BIRDS TALK, WORK, PLAY, PARENT, AND THINK* BY JENNIFER ACKERMAN

By Leah Richardson, Secretary, GSLA

On Thursday, October 8, 2020, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, the 2020 Fall Forum will be co-hosted by Great Salt Lake Audubon and Great Salt Lake Institute in a virtual format. The speaker is the New York Times-bestselling author Jennifer Ackerman.

This multi-media talk will explore a kaleidoscope of fascinating behaviors in the bird world through the lens of five arenas of daily activity—communication, work, play, love, and parenting. It tells stories about some of the extraordinary ways that birds do these things and the secret, sophisticated intelligence underlying their behavior. The talk also explores the new discoveries that are overturning many of our old, conventional ideas about how birds live their lives, describes how science is making some of these astonishing discoveries, and shows the most stunning examples from each section of the book. The talk ranges from the tropical rainforests of eastern Australia and the remote woodlands of northern Japan, to the rolling hills of lower Austria and the islands of Alaska's Kachemak Bay, and includes audio, video, and spectacular photos by professional photographers.



The King's English Bookshop will have copies of *THE BIRD WAY* available for purchase along with signed book plates from the author.

BRIGHTON BIRD COUNT RESULTS FOR 2020

By Jeanne Le Ber, Member, Board of Directors, GSLA

Great Salt Lake Audubon has held the Brighton Bird Count (BBC) every year since 1937. This year due to COVID-19 concerns, the GSLA Board made the decision to close the BBC to the general public. Instead, we conducted the BBC in small “bubble” teams in order to maintain the integrity of the data. In total the three teams did slightly above average by recording 49 species of birds (average count: 41 species) and 384 individual birds (average count: 292 individuals).

Much thanks to our team members for their participation:

- Twin Lakes – Charles Hurd, Bryant Olsen*, Vivian Schneggenburger, and Lauri Taylor
- Lake Solitude – Ian Batterman*, Terri Pope, and Susan Thomas
- Silver Lake – Linda Johnson, Jeanne Le Ber*, and Ray Smith

The Twin Lakes team, led by Bryant Olsen, recorded 36 species of birds. Species unique to this team included the Calliope Hummingbird, Dusky Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

The Lake Solitude team, led by Ian Batterman, recorded 35 species of birds. Species seen only by this team included the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Red Crossbill.

The Silver Lake team, led by Jeanne Le Ber, recorded 27 species. Species seen only by this team included Osprey, Cooper’s Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-napped Sapsucker, and Fox Sparrow. And, BTW, that Osprey was a first record for the BBC.

Much thanks to Bryant Olsen who enters the BBC data into eBird. This process ensures that the data is available for all to see. If you are interested in seeing any of the data (which we have from 1968 forward), let me know.

Hopefully, we will see you all next year. At that time, we will enjoy a potluck lunch together and share our birding stories. (Jeanne Le Ber; email: jeanne.leber@utah.edu)

GSLA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!!

By Heather Dove, President, GSLA

We at GSLA have finally unveiled our much anticipated new website and logo. Check it out at www.greatsaltlakeaudubon.org.

Scroll down to quickly see upcoming events. Explore the tabs. Sign up for email alerts if you haven’t done so already. Join, renew and donate online. View our newsletter online. Enjoy the wonderful photography. The site is mobile-ready, so it should also be easily viewed on your phone.

Just one caveat – we are still adding and adjusting some material, so please be a little patient with us. If you find a glaring problem, please let us know by emailing president@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org.

Also, we are increasingly moving towards offering the newsletter primarily electronically, as people can easily print out their own copy. Please consider electing to receive your newsletter electronically. You should know that GSLA has a policy of never sharing email addresses or other contact info with any other entity.

Great Salt Lake Audubon Fall 2020 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.

Two options for ordering:

1. ONLINE ORDER FORM: Click [here](#) or go to the GSLA [website](#) and follow the links for the Seed Sale.
2. PRINT ORDER FORM: Fill in form below, send to Jeanne, and save the bottom of this page for reference.

Name: Last _____ First _____

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

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ E-Mail Address _____

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

Online and printed-form orders must be received by Friday, October 9, 2020.
For printed-form orders using above form, complete and send it with your check to:



Great Salt Lake Audubon
c/o Jeanne LeBer
550 South 400 East #3407
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Pick up your order Saturday, October 24, 2020, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at:
Wild Birds Unlimited (rear parking lot)
1967 East Murray Holladay Rd, Salt Lake City

Please plan to pick your seed up on the day of delivery or arrange for someone to do so for you.

Note that GSLA does not cash the checks until after the seed sale is completed.

If you have questions, please call Jeanne Le Ber at 801-532-7384 or jeanne.leber@utah.edu



THE PELICAN
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GREAT SALT LAKE AUDUBON
(Local Membership)
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

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 _____
 Phone _____ Date _____