

# THE PELICAN

Newsletter  
July–August 2022



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 and open to the public and resume in September.

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

## 2022 Birder of the Year Award Congratulations to Jeanne Le Ber

Jeanne Le Ber, long-time member, volunteer, and member of the Great Salt Lake Audubon Board of Directors was awarded Birder of the Year at this year's Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. Nominated by Cooper Farr, Director of Conservation at the Tracy Aviary, the award is granted by the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Wildlife Resources, to a deserving individual during the festival dinner.

Cooper's nomination letter *strongly recommend(ed) Jeanne Le Ber for the 2022 Birder of the Year Award*. Further stating that *Jeanne has been a passionate member of the Utah birding community since 1980, and has dedicated herself to local bird conservation efforts, and to inspiring appreciation for birds among birders and non-birders alike*.

Jeanne participates in the Tracy Aviary Breeding Season Surveys and the Salt Lake Aviary Collision Surveys to document bird-window strikes in downtown Salt Lake City. As a GSLA volunteer, Jeanne is the editor of *The Pelican*, the Events chair and heads the Bird-window Collision Working Group. In addition, Jeanne develops and teaches courses for Osher Lifelong Learning at the University of Utah: *Becoming a Bird Watcher*; *Friday Birding Field Trips*; and *The Art of Bird Feeding*. These courses have inspired others to embrace bird watching.

Jeanne was deeply honored to be nominated for the 2022 Birder of the Year and thanked Cooper for the recommendation. Jeanne highlighted three issues in her acceptance speech:

- the importance of birding with a mentor
- birding with a purpose
- advocating habitat for birds

If you would like to watch a short video of Jeanne's acceptance speech, go [here](#). Press **download**.

Congratulations to Jeanne! This award is well deserved.

## GSLA Invites Grant Proposals by Kandy Richards, Treasurer, GSLA

The Great Salt Lake Audubon Grant Committee invites qualifying applicants to submit their proposals by Thursday, September 1, 2022.

Qualifying applicants must be a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status or a governmental/nonprofit educational institution (e.g., university, school district, elementary school, etc.).

Successful applicants are asked to demonstrate that their request aligns with the GSLA mission (see page 2), and that projects focus on areas such as conservation, education, or academic research.

While GSLA considers all applications, our preference is to fund hard costs such as equipment or supplies. In general, we do not fund salaries for existing organization staff except in rare circumstances.

An applicant organization may apply only once per year and grants have an upper limit of \$1,000.

For more information and to download the application see [Grant Program](#). Questions can be directed via email to [treasurer@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org)



Board Directory/Board Highlights	page 2
GSLA Fledglings Club/Kinglet Hambo	page 3
Calendar of Field Trips & Events/B&R Report	page 4-5
Spotlight John Middleton/In Memoriam	page 6
Great Horned Owls in Cemetery	page 7
Fall Forum features author Jonathan Meiburg	page 7

# 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:** <http://greatsaltlakeaudubon.org>  
**Mail:** P.O. Box 520867, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0867  
**Office:** 152 West Burton Ave, Suite J, SLC, UT 84115  
**Phone:** 385.313.0608  
**Email:** [info@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](mailto:info@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org)

### OFFICERS

President: Heather Dove  
Vice President: Ray Smith  
Secretary: Leah Richardson  
Treasurer: Kandy Richards

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Available—Social Media Coordinator  
Georgie Corkery—Utah Audubon Council  
Linda Johnson—Publicity  
Jeanne Le Ber—Events & Newsletter Editor  
Lianna Lopez—Education  
Erica Marken—Programs  
John Middleton—Field Trip Coordinator  
Micah Schow—Webmaster  
Anne Terry—Tracy Aviary Liaison

### 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](mailto:newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org). *The Pelican* is printed on recycled paper and published six times a year. The submission deadline for the September/October issue is Monday, August 15, 2022.

### 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—May-June

by Leah Richardson, GSLA Secretary

Summer is here and so are the summer migrants! This is a wonderful time to explore the outdoors and share your birding enthusiasm with others. Nothing seems to gather more interest in birds than some of our flashier visitors such as Sandhill Crane, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, and, of course, the hummingbirds. Hopefully, some of you have attended our summer field trips and have seen these birds and other exciting visitors.

A great way to plunge into this season is to attend our Basin & Range Weekend Seminar. After a two-year hiatus, we hosted this event at Wasatch Mountain State Park in early June. The weather was perfect, and the sold-out weekend was enjoyed by all. We thank our very own *Birder of the Year*, Jeanne, and her faithful assistant Ray Smith for putting this together.

In other news, Heather Dove continues to lend her voice to many local environmental issues including the Inland Port, efforts to conserve Utah Lake, and protecting our precious Great Salt Lake and the birds that rely on this resource. Please read Heather's emails to keep up-to-date with the latest issues of concern.

Since it is the season of outdoor events, you may run into Linda Johnson or another GSLA volunteer manning a table for Great Salt Lake Audubon. Linda has great information to share about our efforts to mitigate bird-window strikes and other Audubon topics. If you see our table at a local event, stop by and say hello.

---

## From the Editor

Dear Reader,

A sincere thank you to Cooper Farr, Director of Conservation at the Tracy Aviary for nominating me to be 2022 Birder of the Year. I am deeply honored (pg 1).

Basin & Range 2022, held June 3-5 at Wasatch Mountain State Park, was a huge success. Thank you to all our supporters, faculty and presenters for participating (pg 5).

Great Salt Lake Audubon has hosted the Brighton Bird Count every year since 1937. Please join us July 9 for this summer bird count in Big Cottonwood Canyon. We meet in the Silver Lake parking lot at 7:30 AM (pg 4).

Invite your children or grandchildren to join the GSLA Fledglings Club to learn more about birds (pg 3).

If you have contributions to, or questions, concerns, or suggestions about the newsletter, contact me at [newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org).

Enjoy the read.  
*Jeanne*

## GSLA Fledglings Club

by Lianna Lopez, GSLA Board

Please join us for the second meeting of 2022 for the Great Salt Lake Audubon Fledglings Club, which is scheduled for **Saturday, July 16**, at Memory Grove Park from 9:30–11:30 AM! At this meet-up we will learn why birds sing, and we will do some nature sketching. Although children of all ages are welcome, most activities and information will be geared for children roughly 4–8 years of age. Please RSVP by Friday, July 15, so we know how many kiddos to expect.

In August, the GSLA Fledglings Club meets at the Miller Bird Refuge and Nature Park on **Saturday, August 20** from 9:30–11:30 AM. At this meet-up we will learn about bird sanctuaries, why they are important, and go for a scavenger hunt. Although children of all ages are welcome, most activities and information will be geared for children roughly 4–8 years of age. Please RSVP by Friday, August 19, so we can plan for attendee numbers.

For more information check out the *Events* tab on our [GSLA Fledglings Club website](#).

If you have questions, reach out to Education Chair, Lianna Lopez at [education@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](mailto:education@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org).

## GSLA Education Committee is looking for volunteers!

Calling all retired teachers, bird-loving caregivers, folks who have a knack for working with children, or anyone who would be interested in helping out with our Fledglings Club meet-ups, kid-friendly tabling events, USARA Family Fun Nights and more! Please contact Lianna Lopez (Education Chair) at [education@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org](mailto:education@greatsaltlakeaudubon.org) if you are interested in volunteering. We appreciate your support. Thank you!

For more information about club meet-ups visit us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Hope to see you there!



Visit the Great Salt Lake Audubon Fledglings Club website to learn more about getting children involved in watching birds. Topics include attracting birds, pollination, birds in winter, exploring nature, and bird ID for kids.

See Great Salt Lake Audubon Fledglings Club website. Photo by Amanda Kay ©

## Kinglet Hambo

by Kathy Olsen, GSLA Member

I regularly attend a summer Music Empowerment Camp hosted in various Montana locations. While music is the main attraction, birdwatching is the first thing on the schedule every day. In 2007, our birding group heard the call of a bird that we could never see. The bird seemed to move away from us every time we got close. We were unaware that we were hearing only the end of the bird song and were stumped again the following summer.

Discussions with our birding friend Marmot Snetsinger (daughter of Phoebe Snetsinger, famous bird lister and author) assisted our identification efforts. We learned that the elusive bird was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet!

Our camp director, Judy Fjell, is a singer-songwriter, and in 2008 she composed an instrumental called *Kinglet Hambo* to commemorate the adventure. The Hambo is a traditional dance written in three-quarter time (think waltz) which originated in Sweden in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries.

The five-second song of the male Ruby-crowned Kinglet starts with soft, high notes that accelerate into a musical twittering, and then abruptly shifts into a loud series of 2- or 3-parted notes. (See *All About Birds Ruby-crowned Kinglet*) Based on the song sung by the kinglet, Judy's

hambo incorporates the ascending line of notes followed by the *tsee-tew* trill at the end. I enjoyed developing a left-hand accompaniment and playing the song on my piano. Now, whenever I hear the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, I recall *Kinglet Hambo* and the lure of that mystery bird calling to me from the Montana forest.

If you see me on a GSLA field trip, ask me about the *Kinglet Hambo*. I can at least hum the tune for you.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet.  
Photo by Linda Johnson ©



## Calendar of Field Trips & Events for July-August 2022

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



GSLA offers field trips for those who want to observe and learn about birds in their varied habitats, and will contribute to an enjoyable, safe, learning experience for everyone. 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 the COVID pandemic, 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

### Wednesday, July 6—7:30–11:00 AM

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

**Leader:** John Middleton—801.707.9182

**Email:** [john.middleton0@gmail.com](mailto:john.middleton0@gmail.com)

Join us to bird this mostly riparian area. Meet at 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 9—7:30–11:30 AM

Brighton Bird Count—B E L M P/U R S

**Leader:** John Middleton—801.707.9182

**Email:** [john.middleton0@gmail.com](mailto:john.middleton0@gmail.com)

Meet at 7:30 AM at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon in the Silver Lake Visitor Center parking lot. 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. Bring your own lunch. GSLA will provide cold drinks. Contact John if you plan to attend.

### Sunday, July 10—5:00–9:00 PM

Yellow Fork Canyon—M S U

**Leader:** Charles Hurd—801-502-9498 (talk & text)

**Email:** [charlesehurd91@gmail.com](mailto:charlesehurd91@gmail.com)

Located in southwest SL County, Yellow Fork Canyon has a mix of mountain and desert species. As the day cools nocturnal species become more active. Expect Common Poorwill. This is a strenuous hike. Meet at the Yellow Fork Trailhead parking lot off Rose Canyon Road. See [map](#). Contact Charles if you plan to attend.

### Wednesday, July 13—7:00–11:30 AM

Nebo Bench Trailhead—M U

**Contact:** John Middleton—801.707.9182

**Email:** [john.middleton0@gmail.com](mailto:john.middleton0@gmail.com)

Suzi Holt leads us to cooler temperatures. Drive up the Nebo Loop to the Trailhead and walk down to the water trough where there is a lot of bird activity. Bring a stool or camp chair. We stop at Rock Springs on the way down. Meet at Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park. See [map](#).

Contact John if you plan to attend.

### Saturday, July 16—7:30–11:00 AM

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

**Leader:** Linda Johnson—801.865.2700

**Email:** [mnczech@gmail.com](mailto:mnczech@gmail.com)

Bird along this section of the Jordan River in Murray. Walk on a flat, mostly unpaved trail featuring riparian and wooded habitat on both sides of the river. This section is home to a variety of songbirds, waterfowl, and occasional raptors. Meet at Arrowhead Park at 593 West 4800 South.

Contact Linda if you plan to attend.

### Saturday, July 16—9:30–11:30 AM

GSLA Fledglings Club—Memory Grove Park

**Contact Lianna Lopez; see page 3 for details.**

### Wednesday, July 20—7:30–11:00 AM

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

**Leader:** John Middleton—801.707.9182

**Email:** [john.middleton0@gmail.com](mailto:john.middleton0@gmail.com)

Bird along the Jordan River starting from the Day-Riverside Library and walking north. The trail is mostly paved with lots of riparian habitat. Meet at the Day-Riverside Library parking lot at 1575 West 1000 North. Contact John if you plan to attend.

### Monday, July 25—7:00 AM–1:00 PM

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve—E

**Leader:** Bryant Olsen

**Email:** [bryant\\_olsen@yahoo.com](mailto:bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

ISSR is located on the south shore of Great Salt Lake. This normally off-limits property has an abundance of birds. **Pre-registration is required.** Weather may be a limiting factor. Email Bryant if you plan to attend.

### Tuesday, July 26—7:00 AM–1:00 PM

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

**Leader:** Bryant Olsen

**Email:** [bryant\\_olsen@yahoo.com](mailto:bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

Meet at the entrance to Antelope Island State Park at 7:00 AM. Bird along the causeway and Antelope Island. Later part of the day is spent at Farmington Bay. Email Bryant if you plan to attend.

(Field Trips and Events continued from page 4)

**Saturday, July 30—8:00 AM—12:00 PM**

Alta Trails & High Elevation Habitats—R S U  
**Leader:** Vivian Schneggenburger—801.518.1730  
**Email:** [vivschneggs@gmail.com](mailto:vivschneggs@gmail.com)

Vivian guides us to see alpine species. Meet at the Alta Town Office (across from Alta Lodge). The 4-mile roundtrip hike is along a fairly steep, rocky trail up to meadows with vireos, flycatchers, nutcrackers, hummingbirds and hawks. Sun protection, layered clothing, and water are essential. Contact Vivian if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, August 3—7:30—11:00 AM**

Mountain Dell Rec Area, Parleys Canyon—B M P/U  
**Leader:** John Middleton—801.707.9182  
**Email:** [john.middleton0@gmail.com](mailto:john.middleton0@gmail.com)

See July 6 trip for details.

**Sunday, August 7—7:30—11:00 AM**

City Creek Canyon—B M P/U R  
**Leader:** Charles Hurd—801-502-9498 (talk & text)  
**Email:** [charlesehurd91@gmail.com](mailto:charlesehurd91@gmail.com)

Expected birds include passerines, Red-tailed Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, and more. Meet at the gate to the upper canyon off of Bonneville Boulevard. Contact Charles if you plan to attend.

**Wednesday, August 17—7:30—11:00 AM**

Jordan River, Day-Riverside Library—E L P/U R  
**Leader:** Linda Johnson—801.865.2700  
**Email:** [mnczech@gmail.com](mailto:mnczech@gmail.com)

See July 20 field trip description.

---

**Basin & Range 2022 a Success**  
by Jeanne LeBer, GSLA Board

Great Salt Lake Audubon hosted their annual Basin & Range Weekend Seminar at Wasatch Mountain State Park on June 3-5. The 50 attendees camped mostly in tents, although there were a few camper vans and folks who stayed in nearby lodging. The spacious and covered Miner's Pavilion served as our gathering spot for two evening programs and the start of the field sessions.

Kathy Donnell, Park Naturalist, entertained us on Friday evening with her two live Great Horned Owls and information about their adaptations for hunting in the dark. Logan Mitchell's Saturday evening program on the untold history of air quality in Utah was informative and full of interesting facts.

Thank you to our wonderful faculty who delighted, inspired and educated field session attendees about birds, plants, reptiles, wetlands, and drawing nature. Faculty included Ian Batterman (bird song),

**Saturday, August 20—7:30—11:00 AM**

Jordan River, Arrowhead Park, Murray—B E L P/U R  
**Leader:** Linda Johnson—801.865.2700  
**Email:** [mnczech@gmail.com](mailto:mnczech@gmail.com)  
See July 16 field trip description.

**Saturday, August 20—9:30—11:30 AM**

GSLA Fledglings Club—Miller Bird Refuge  
Contact Lianna Lopez; see page 3 for details.

**Tuesday, August 23—7:00—11:00 AM**

Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter—B E L M P/U R  
**Leader:** John Middleton—801.707.9182  
**Email:** [john.middleton0@gmail.com](mailto:john.middleton0@gmail.com)

**Field Trip Fee Required: \$25**

A Swaner Preserve Naturalist guides us along a paved trail that borders riparian habitat and beaver ponds. Meet at the Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter in the Newpark Town Center at 7:00 AM. Turn at Kimball Junction, then left at Newpark Boulevard. Parking is free in the shopping center. See Swaner website for more information. Contact John if you plan to attend.

**Monday, August 29—7:00 AM—1:00 PM**

Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve—E  
**Leader:** Bryant Olsen  
**Email:** [bryant\\_olsen@yahoo.com](mailto:bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

See July 25 field trip description.

**Tuesday, August 30—7:00 AM—1:00 PM**

Antelope Island Causeway & Farmington Bay—E R  
**Leader:** Bryant Olsen  
**Email:** [bryant\\_olsen@yahoo.com](mailto:bryant_olsen@yahoo.com)

See July 31 field trip description.

Lynn Bohs (plants), Kathy Donnell (identifying trees), Chris Frauenhofer (reptiles, including his rattlesnake), Hunter Klingensmith and Nell Larson (Swaner Preserve wetlands), Max Malmquist (birding along the Provo River), Margaret Pettis (drawing) and Terri Pope (bird habitat).

By the way, we were impressed with the drawings done by talented students in the Pettis sessions. Who knew!



Yellow Flowers by Ray Smith ©



Scenic View by Loraine Lovell ©

## Spotlight on John Middleton

GSLA Board & Field Trip Coordinator

This year, I have taken on the role of Field Trip Coordinator for Great Salt Lake Audubon. After years of leading a monthly trip to Mountain Dell, but being rather casual in my membership duties, I decided I needed to step up and contribute a little more.

I was born and raised on the western edge of the Great Basin in northeastern California, where shorelines from Pleistocene Lake Lahontan are etched into the hillsides. I have lived in Salt Lake City, on the eastern edge of the Great Basin since 1982, where the far more dramatic shorelines of Lake Bonneville are seen in wave-cut platforms on the Wasatch foothills and the islands of Great Salt Lake. I have spent my life peering into the Great Basin from both sides. I planted a Big Sagebrush in my yard because the smell says home to me.

I came to Utah to pursue a PhD in the Geography Department on Pleistocene environments in the Great Basin, focusing on the higher-altitude habitats on mountain ranges and how they function as habitat islands. During graduate school, I spent time in the field with Dr. Donald Currey, who was known for his encyclopedic knowledge of Lake Bonneville and the research that had been conducted on it, starting with the seminal work of G.K. Gilbert in the late 1800's who first recognized the existence of a now-vanished lake.

I have always been keenly interested in birds, and as a child, announced to everyone that I was going to be an ornithologist when I grew up. My interest waned, but never left me. I have been steadily increasing my knowledge of birds. I have helped conduct Breeding Season Surveys through Tracy Aviary's Conservation Science Program, and have learned a great deal about identifying birds through their songs and habits.

I have been fortunate to travel widely, and have observed birds on 5 of the 7 continents; I still need Africa and Antarctica. Some of my more memorable sightings, watching a young peregrine falcon pluck a shorebird at a seaside park across the bay from Tokyo Disneyland, and a pair of peregrines kiting in the wind over a beach in Sydney, Australia. Now my task is to comb through my notebooks and enter those scribblings into eBird.



*John at the condor viewing site at the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in northern Arizona. John's wingspan is no match for the condor's.*

*Photo by Margie Chan ©*

## Audubon Photography Awards Traveling Exhibition and Events

by Jeanne Le Ber, GSLA Board

Great Salt Lake Audubon is working with The City Library to host the 2022 Audubon Photography Awards Traveling Exhibition from April 21 to May 9, 2023.

The award-winning photos will be hung in the Lower Level Urban Room. The exhibition opening features a keynote address and reception. Paul Bannick, noted author, photographer, owl and woodpecker expert, will speak on Saturday, April 22 in the late afternoon. After his talk, Paul will sign copies of his books (available for purchase) and folks can mingle while enjoying refreshments.

In addition, GSLA plans to host three Monday evening workshops on a variety of topics.

The winners of the Audubon photography contest will be announced on July 7, 2022. Visit their website for details.

Watch for updates about this event on the Great Salt Lake Audubon home page and events calendar.

## In Memoriam

**Billy Fenimore**, a great friend to all birders, passed away on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at age 51.

Billy was director of the Eccles Wildlife Education Center at Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area. In this *dream come true* position, Billy engaged the community and young people to create an army of *champions of all things wild*. Visitors to Farmington Bay were warmly and enthusiastically greeted by Billy. He would tell you what birds were recently seen and where to find them on the refuge. He followed the progress of the nesting Sandhill Crane and kept an eye on the crane colt(s). With his wide smile, passion for birds and love of nature, Billy openly shared his knowledge of all things wild and had a knack for making everyone he met feel special.

Billy owned Wild About Birds Nature Center in Layton, Utah. He led field trips for the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. His Desert Ranch all-day trip was legendary and filled up quickly.

GSLA extends sympathy and love to the family: wife Patty, children Payton (Zach), Nolan and Bella, grandchildren Vincent and Jude, Billy's mother Estrella, sister Maria and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Billy's life was held on Sunday, May 15, where many from the birding community came to say goodbye. Rest in peace, Billy. We miss you!

## Great Horned Owls in Cemetery

by M. H. Roberts, GSLA Member

About thirty years ago I attended my first birding field trip at the Salt Lake City Cemetery located in the Avenues. The main entrance to the Cemetery is located on the corner of 4th Avenue and N Street.

I still remember seeing a Great Horned Owl perched in a pine tree! I was thrilled. Over the years I have heard people say they have seen owls in the Salt Lake City Cemetery and I have visited it a few times to look for the horned owls, usually without success.

Recently a friend told me she had visited the cemetery while taking a class on its history. As the group was walking around she noticed people gathered near a big pine tree. She inquired and was shown a Great Horned Owl nest containing two owlets. The owlet heads were visible. An adult owl was perched above the giant nest.

The physical nest was likely made by another bird, maybe a hawk or magpie, as Great Horned Owl do not build their own nests, but repurpose the nests of other birds.

When I heard about this sighting I went to the cemetery with camera and binoculars, and was able to locate the owls. This was April 29. Keeping a respectable distance away, I saw one adult and eventually both owlets appeared, revealing their super fine, white fluffy feathers and large yellow eyes.

I was able to capture the following photos of them. In chatting with folks walking through the cemetery I heard that the owl's nest had been there last year and probably longer. And I learned that the owls have many human *caretakers* who watch out for them and enjoy their presence, from a distance without stressing the birds.

**Editor's Note:** Please be aware that nesting birds should be given their privacy and viewed from a distance. See the article by Heather Dove in the May-June issue of *The Pelican* about birding ethics and respecting birds.



Great Horned Owls in their nest at the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Photos by M.H. Roberts © Taken with a 400 mm telephoto lens

## Fall Forum Features Jonathan Meiburg

by Erica Marken, GSLA Board

Jonathan Meiburg author of *A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life and Epic Journey of the World's Smartest Bird of Prey* is our Fall Forum speaker. Jonathan relates his search for the striated caracaras, which still exist, though they're very rare. Date pending, via Zoom.

**Book excerpt:** In 1833, Charles Darwin was astonished by an animal he met in the Falkland Islands: handsome, social, and oddly crow-like falcons that were "tame and inquisitive . . . quarrelsome and passionate," and so insatiably curious that they stole hats, compasses, and other valuables from the crew of the *Beagle*. Darwin wondered why these birds were confined to remote islands at the tip of South America, sensing a larger story, but he set this mystery aside and never returned to it.



More Basin & Range art work, clockwise from top left; Blue Flowers, Loraine Lovell; Shrubs with Mountains, Dave Deutch ©; Dogged Spears of Green, Loraine Lovell ©; next two pictures by Rebecca Wallace ©



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NONPROFIT ORG.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**SALT LAKE CITY, UT**  
**PERMIT NO. 2871**

**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 the page.

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
*(National Membership)*

*Online Membership Form Only*

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y8baknbn>

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 \_\_\_\_\_