

# the Pelican

the official bi-monthly newsletter of the Lahontan Audubon Society

**January / February  
2012**

vol. 49, no. 3

## Inside This Issue

- 2 Birds & More
- 3 Birds & Books
- 4 Field Trips
- 5 IBA Program Update
- 6 Christiane's Corner

### Mission:

To preserve and improve the remaining habitat of birds and other wildlife, restore historical habitat, and educate the public, with emphasis on children, providing vision to all about our unique Nevada environments.

*Submissions for the March / April 2012 issue are due January 28, 2012.*

*The Pelican may be viewed on the LAS website at [www.nevadaudubon.org](http://www.nevadaudubon.org), click on the Newsletter tab.*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Date: Fourth Tuesday of the month  
Time: Social at 6:30 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m.  
Location: Moana Nursery Landscape and Design Center  
1100 West Moana Lane, Reno

**Directions:** Moana Nursery is on the southwest corner of Lakeside Drive and West Moana Lane. The Landscape and Design Center is a separate building located on the west side of the parking lot (not in the nursery shop itself)

### January 24 – Dr. Thomas Albright – Birds and a Changing Climate: Can They Beat the Heat?

Dr. Tom Albright directs the Laboratory for Conservation Biogeography in the Department of Geography at UNR. Tom and his students study the effects of climate change and extreme weather on birds and other animals and plants. In recent work, they used data collected by volunteer bird observers and space-borne satellites to show how different groups of birds can respond in diverse ways to heat waves, droughts, and other weather extremes. Tom will discuss how, unfortunately, birds in Nevada and neighboring states seem most likely to decline following heat waves. Tom is working to try to better understand the mechanisms behind the declines, the impacts on populations, and the ability of conservation networks to provide refuge. Join us for a very thought-provoking hour.

### February 28 – Carol Grenier – Penguins and Wildlife of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

Carol Grenier will share close-up photos of the incredible diversity of sea birds and wildlife that inhabit the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, and the Antarctic peninsula, as well as photos of the stunning scenery. On South Georgia Island alone, one location was home to a quarter of a million king penguins nesting on a narrow strip of shoreline. Carol is a retired civil engineer, formerly with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Carson City office. Join us for albatrosses, penguins, elephant seals, and more.

### General Meeting Calendar

March 27	Bird ID Panel – Round 5
April 24	Will Richardson – Great Basin and Sierra Nevada Odonates 101
May 22	Sharon Schafer – The Art of Nature: Images from the Wildlands of Southern Nevada

## LAHONTAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

#### President

Jacque Lowery, 771-7390  
nevadabird@charter.net

#### Vice President

Alan Gubanich, 857-0191  
renopopop@pyramid.net

#### Treasurer

Jane Burnham, 677-4178  
jane.burnham@sbcglobal.net

#### Recording Secretary

Laura Gibson, 887-5614  
gibsonrosen@sbcglobal.net

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Linda Badzioch  
Sandi Beckett  
Sue Golish  
Audrey Higashi  
Kathy Oakes  
Dave Straley  
Kristin Szabo

### IBA

#### Director

Robin Wilson, 247-2798  
rwilson@nevadaaudubon.org

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Activity/Program/Education

Alan Gubanich, 857-0191  
renopopop@pyramid.net

#### Birding Classes

Bob Goodman, 972-7848  
pandion36@aol.com

#### Communications/Membership

Kathy Oakes, 747-5446  
oakesy@sbcglobal.net

#### Birds & Books Reading Group

Zena Lamp, 762-3068  
zenanlamp@gmail.com

#### Conservation

Jim Eidel, 841-6543  
grja9@sbcglobal.net

#### Field Trips

Jasmine Vittori, 224-3282  
jasmine@unr.edu

#### Hospitality

Linda Badzioch, 851-8353  
lbadzioch@pyramid.net

#### LAS Sales

Jane Burnham, 677-4178  
jane.burnham@sbcglobal.net

#### Volunteer Coordination

Vacant

### PUBLICATION & INFORMATION

#### The Pelican Editor

Carol Coleman, 849-3380  
carol@galenaforest.net

#### Web Master

Steve Ting, 849-3725  
sctingdvm@gmail.com  
sctingdvm@gmail.com

# BIRDS AND MORE

Kathy Oakes

775-747-5446

oakesy@sbcglobal.net

## Wonderful Wintering Waterfowl

For birders suffering from severe cabin fever, it is great to get outdoors on a nice winter's day. What better excuse than to search out our wonderful wintering waterfowl, some of which visit only in winter. Most of us will never get to see

Tundra Swans (the Featured Feathered Friend for this issue) on their breeding grounds in Alaska, but we can certainly enjoy the birds when they visit Reno for the winter. Right on schedule, the swans arrived this week; reports of flocks of 100 or more Tundra Swans at Swan Lake, Washoe Valley, and Pyramid

Lake were posted on the NV bird listserv, all on November 20 (it could have been different flocks at each place or one group of swans checking out all their winter spots on the same day).

This marks the third winter that a few Tundra Swans have visited the open water habitats at the Damonte Ranch wetlands, where one can get very close looks at them. Directions to the Damonte Ranch wetlands are in the Jan.-Feb. 2011 issue of The Pelican (go to the LAS website and click on the newsletter tab).

On November 26, I saw two adult Tundra Swans with a juvenile on the storm detention pond west of Veterans Parkway. Because the swans mate for life and migrate in family groups, these likely represent a mated pair with their youngster. In December 2010, two adults and two juveniles

frequented the ponds at the footbridge for the paved path around the wetlands accessible from the cul-de-sac on Baton Drive. The Damonte ponds host at least 15 other species of wintering waterfowl and are well worth a visit.

You must visit the Truckee River to see two other handsome wintering waterfowl, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye. Both are diving ducks that forage underwater for crustaceans, aquatic insects, and mollusks. Both nest in tree cavities in northern forests and migrate south to open water habitats. In Reno, the Common is well, more common, but you can reliably see a few Barrow's on the river also. A good place to see goldeneyes is from

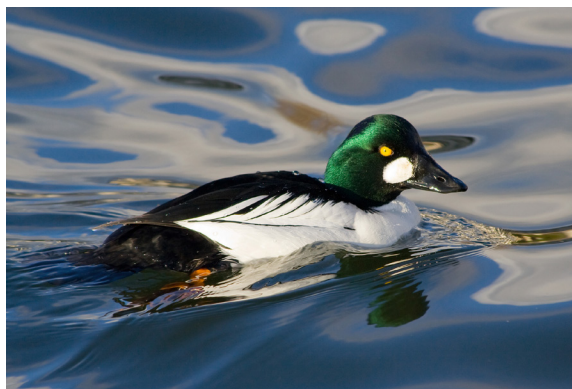
the paved bike path along the Truckee River, accessible from several places in Reno and Sparks. The ducks favor areas of rapids for feeding. The male Barrow's has a crescent-shaped white patch on the side of the face, more black on the back, and a more rounded

purplish head. The male Common has a round white patch on the face, less black on the back, and a more peaked, greenish head. The females of both species have brown heads and grayish backs. In winter, they can be identified by their bills—the Common has a blackish bill with a small pale yellow patch on its tip, the Barrow's has a bright mostly orange-yellow bill.

We only get to see these beautiful birds in winter, so one sunny day soon, get out and say hello to our winter visitors.



*Barrow's Goldeneye, Alberta Canada.  
Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*



*Common Goldeneye, Oakland California.  
Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*

# Mine Claim Marker Update by Ali Chaney

The time has come. It is now legal for anyone to pull up a hollow PVC mine claim marker (<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Legal/LawLibrary/NRS/NRS-517.html#NRS517Sec030>) that has been shown to cause bird mortality across Nevada. After patiently waiting for two years, November 1, 2011 has come and gone. This date was part of a compromise Audubon in Nevada made with the mining industry back in 2009 when the legislation was passed. It allowed them time to go out and replace their monuments at their active claims. The bill Audubon in Nevada worked so hard to pass makes the use of hollow PVC pipe to mark the boundaries of mine claims illegal. And it also includes a provision that after November 1, 2011, any post remaining could be pulled up and placed on the ground next to the location where it was pulled, thus eliminating the threat to birds and other wildlife.

Now the real work begins. The posts need to come down, and we need to educate the public so they know that they can take them down. This is a daunting task considering how many hundreds of thousands of posts remain on the landscape. Work will need to be done by volunteers and paid crews to really make an impact. Bristlecone Audubon, Nevada's newest chapter based in Elko, has been



*LAS member Bonnie Wagner pulls a mine claim marker in High Rock Canyon area. Photo courtesy of Harry Wagner.*

seeking donations from mining companies and applying for grants to raise money to hire work crews to go out and remove these posts. And Red Rock Audubon recently held a post pull project in southern Nevada.

Next spring, we'll be working with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to organize some field trips so that our members can get out in the field and help eliminate this threat to

birds. But in the mean time, if you find yourself out in the hills and come across one of these mine claim markers, please pull it up and place it on the ground. Please be careful, however, some of these posts are extremely difficult to remove. The language in the NRS is clear, but if you have any concerns about the potential of running into someone that may not understand the issue, simply print out the NRS and carry it with you when you are out and about.

It was truly a team effort to get this

legislation passed, and it will certainly be a team effort to eliminate this threat once and for all. We will keep you 'posted' on this effort! You can find more information on the history of the mine marker issue in the July/Aug 2008 edition of the Pelican.

## Bird Photos Needed for March Meeting!

If you missed the Bird ID Panel the past four years you missed one of the highlights of the seasons. Members of the audience consistently say they learn so much, and have so much fun, that they want to do it again. Our panel of "experts" has agreed to return on March 27 and once again try to identify those photos of birds submitted by you, our LAS members. So, if you have any decent photos of birds that you'd like to submit (preferably digital), send them to Alan Gubanich at [renopopop@pyramid.net](mailto:renopopop@pyramid.net) (or call him at 857-0191). Alan will compile them and show them to the panel one by one. Then we will all sit back and once again see if our local experts can agree on the species identification, and explain why they think as they do. Here's another chance for all of us to learn some of the secrets of bird ID!

Rules for photo submissions:

1. No photos of exotic or non-native species. Please confine your submissions to species that would normally be found in the NV/CA area (or at least be common to most of North America). The plan is to make the evening a good learning session for those of us who would like to discover the "secrets" of bird ID. That doesn't mean you can only submit photos of easy birds. Difficult species are definitely in demand too. Otherwise, how would we improve our birding skills?

2. Include your name and a date and location for each photo you submit. If you don't know exact details, approximations are fine (late April on the northern CA coast; or, early Feb. in my yard in south Reno; etc.).

Thanks and join us on March 27 for another fun Bird ID Panel: Round 5!

## BIRDS & BOOKS

Zena Lamp

775-762-3068

[zenanlamp@gmail.com](mailto:zenanlamp@gmail.com)

Everyone is welcome to our fun flock of readers interested in nature, especially birds and birding. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Sundance Bookstore, 121 California Avenue, Reno at 2:00 p.m. Books are selected in advance, but you can join us even without having read them. Sundance Bookstore has a coffee bar and an outdoor patio, and parking is available. For a brief

description of the selected books, please visit the LAS website.

### January 25, 2012

*Aldo Leopold: A Fierce Green Fire* by Marybeth Lorbiecki

### February 22, 2012

*An Eagle Named Freedom: My Story of a Remarkable Friendship* by Jeff Guidry

## FIELD TRIPS

Jasmine Vittori 775-224-3282

[jasmine@unr.edu](mailto:jasmine@unr.edu)

Field trips are free to Audubon members and non-members unless otherwise noted, and we encourage birders of all skill levels to participate. Please pre-register with field trip leaders to ensure you are contacted in case of changes or cancellation. Remember to dress accordingly for our January/February trips and bring plenty of water! For additional information check the LAS website at [www.nevadaaudubon.org](http://www.nevadaaudubon.org), or contact Field Trip Coordinator Jasmine Vittori.

*Note: To read reports from previous field trips, please visit the LAS website.*

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**

**Virginia Lake, Reno**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Bob Goodman, 775-972-7848, [pandion36@aol.com](mailto:pandion36@aol.com)**

Have you been curious about the world of birds, but not so sure how to enter it? This trip is for you! Join us for an easy stroll around Virginia Lake and get acquainted with the variety of birds our high desert has to offer. We will spend a few hours enjoying the wildlife and will be done by noon. This is a great trip for the whole family. Meet at the north end of Virginia Lake at 9:00 a.m. Bring your binoculars and a scope if you have one. Please contact Bob to reserve your space.

**Saturday, January 21, 2012**

**Annual Dipper Day**

**Time: 8:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Jim Eidel, 775-841-6543**

This trip offers a unique opportunity to hear and observe the elusive, but vocal, American Dipper. You will be introduced to a bird species specialized in living a semiaquatic life in swift mountain streams and rivers. From their nictitating membrane (third eyelid), large oil glands, dense plumage, and unique underwater foraging techniques, this bird species is truly a "water ouzel." The trip will also offer the opportunity to observe other bird species residing along the Truckee River corridor. Please dress warmly as there could be snow on the ground! We'll start

the morning in Reno (meet at the Rancho San Rafael parking lot at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum at 8:00 a.m.), move up to Truckee for lunch, and head to Donner in the afternoon for a great all-day trip. Please contact Jim to reserve your space.

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverview Park Winter Bird Trip, Carson City**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Nancy Santos, 775-884-1570, [nancyLAS@att.net](mailto:nancyLAS@att.net)**

We will explore wetland, sagebrush, and riparian habitats on an approximately one-mile easy loop trail. The total number of species observed during the past five years is 35. Some of our more memorable species included a large flock (200+) of Pinyon Jay, Belted Kingfisher, Black-crowned Night Heron, Cedar Waxwing, and a close-up view of a Bald Eagle. We hope you can join us this year. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Riverview Park parking lot. Riverview Park is located at the east end of East 5th Street, adjacent to the Carson River. Please contact Nancy if you plan to attend so she can plan for additional trip leaders accordingly.

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

**Winter Birds of Reno and Sparks**

**Time: 9:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Dennis Serdehely, 775-771-1575, [birders@att.net](mailto:birders@att.net)**

Come join us for a day of discovery! This wonderful winter trip explores birding hot spots within Reno and Sparks including Rancho San Rafael Park, Oxbow Nature Study Area, Virginia Lake, Rosewood Estates, and others. While we'll see many domestic ducks at Virginia Lake as well as other places, our primary focus will be to observe and learn about wild birds in the area. This is a full day trip so please dress warmly and bring a bag lunch, binoculars, and a scope if you have one. We will meet at the north end of Virginia Lake in Reno at 9:00 a.m. Be sure to contact Dennis to reserve your space.

**Saturday, February 25, 2012**

**Winter Waterfowl Tour, Stillwater NWR**

**Time: 8:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Mike Goddard, 775-423-5128 ext. 223**

Hunting season will be over, Tundra Swans should be plentiful, and the waterfowl will be in beautiful nuptial plumage, so come enjoy a tour of Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the refuge office, 1000 Auction Road (just off Williams Avenue (US 50) behind the Speedway gas station) at 8:00 a.m. Space is limited and trip details are subject to change; please RSVP to Mike Goddard, Stillwater NWR Project Leader, for more information.

## Operation Hummingbird

The Nevada Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is embarking on a new, exciting program in 2012 focused on hummingbirds and conservation of their habitats within Nevada. Three of the five species of hummingbirds in Nevada are considered "species of conservation priority" either because of declining populations or habitat values or because there is insufficient data about the species in Nevada. Operation Hummingbird will produce a media campaign and distribute information to encourage Nevadans to monitor their hummingbird feeders and report their sightings through e-Bird during the spring and summer of 2012. All reported data will be added to the Nevada bird database. We hope that Operation Hummingbird will become an annual event and increase our knowledge of hummingbird migrations and habitat uses in Nevada. You can contribute by donating online to Operation Hummingbird through the end of January 2012 at [http://nvbiggive.razoo.com/story/Nv-Important-Bird-Area-Program?referral\\_code=share](http://nvbiggive.razoo.com/story/Nv-Important-Bird-Area-Program?referral_code=share). We will keep you posted throughout the year on the progress of Operation Hummingbird.



**Like us on Facebook!**

Join us on Facebook and suggest our Page to all of your birding friends:

<http://www.facebook.com/lahontanaudubon>

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2012. The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the U.S. and Canada. Each year the GBBC breaks previous records for participation. In 2011, a record 60,000 citizen scientists filed 11.4 million bird observations on 596 species. A Brown Shrike, an Asian species far from home and never before reported during the GBBC, showed up in McKinleyville, CA.

This year GBBC participants reported a surprising increase in the number of Evening Grosbeaks—the highest number of observations ever for this species during the count and an increase that isn't simply attributable to greater GBBC participation. The increase in grosbeak reports was especially marked in the northwestern U.S. and in Canada; we certainly had a lot of “grosbeak fever” here in Reno. Data from Cornell's Project FeederWatch, a winter-long citizen-science project involving bird counts at backyard feeders, also showed record numbers of Evening Grosbeaks last year. Until last year, the past 20 years of data from FeederWatch have shown sharp declines in Evening Grosbeaks. It will be exciting to see if the 2012 GBBC and Project FeederWatch continue to report increases in Evening Grosbeaks.

Please, get out there and count birds during the 2012 GBBC. Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online. For details on the GBBC and for instructions for online reporting, please visit the official website at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

## NEVADA IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM UPDATE

*The Nevada Important Bird Areas Program is 10 years old!*

Please celebrate with us our significant achievement of turning 10 years old. In 2001, Lahontan Audubon Society partnered with National Audubon Society to bring the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program to Nevada. At the inception of the program in Nevada, the focus was to identify the areas in Nevada that are important to birds of conservation priority or large masses of birds, and provide an educational and/or research opportunities. Once these “important areas” were identified and agreed upon by the scientific community, the Nevada IBA Program proceeded to work diligently to protect and conserve these areas to keep them “important” to birds. As in 2001, the Nevada IBA Program strives to be at the forefront of bird habitat conservation within Nevada for the protection of these priority areas and the bird species that bring significant wildlife value to Nevada.

*Announcing Three New Important Bird Areas for Nevada*

For the second round of IBA nominations, we received three exceptional nominations representing all corners of Nevada. After extensive data gathering and scientific review by the Nevada Technical Advisory Committee, I would like to announce the approval of the nominations and our new IBAs. The recent additions bring the total number of IBAs in Nevada to 42! The following is a synopsis of each of the three newly added IBAs:

Owyhee Desert IBA – This IBA is located north of Winnemucca near the Idaho-Nevada border and is comprised of Columbia Plateau sagebrush country. The IBA was recognized based on the valuable sagebrush

habitat and the sagebrush-obligate birds, such as Greater Sage-Grouse, that rely upon this habitat type.

Lower Truckee River IBA – Delineated from the Vista Blvd. exit on Interstate 80 to the Pyramid Lake delta and through the river canyon, this IBA has been recognized for the extensive riparian habitat, cottonwood galleries, and wetland habitats. Migratory songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds are found in high numbers during spring migration, breeding season, and winter.

Corn Creek IBA – This IBA occurs from the Desert National Wildlife Refuge at Corn Creek Headquarters to Highway 95, north of Las Vegas. It has been recognized for possessing habitat that is critical for LeConte's Thrasher and Crissal Thrasher nesting and breeding. The Corn Creek IBA also includes the Corn Creek property on the refuge where many migratory birds visit, particularly birds of conservation priority, such as Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Lucy's Warbler, Gambel's Quail, and Gray Flycatcher.

~Robin Wilson, Nevada Director of Bird Conservation



### DONORS

**Golden Eagle \$500+**

Silver Sage Center for Family Medicine

**American Avocet \$50-\$99**

Carol Coleman

Ken and Janet Drozd

Robert and Janet Butler

Debbie Zalmana

**Mountain Bluebird \$20-\$49**

Jim and Kathy Kellner

Scott and Kilala Hall

Steve and Paula Gessler

Theresa Bell

**Ruby Crowned Kinglet \$10-\$19**

Jean and Bill Sherman

# CHRISTIANE'S CORNER

Christiane Omer

happycpo@aol.com

775-354-2634

## Having a Dipper of a Day

Recently my friend Kristin expressed interest in finding an American Dipper. Kristin is one heck of a birder capable of IDing a wayward turkey wildy winging it low over a freeway while she's driving at 65 miles per hour and everyone else is sitting dumbstruck wondering what in the world that giant crazy bird was. I was there. It's true. She obviously didn't need my help finding a dipper, but any reason to bird is a good one.

Since Kristin was out of town, I organized a reconnaissance mission with another friend, Jen, and we drove off to the Truckee River at Mayberry Park. Mayberry Park is "One of Reno's best kept secrets" according to a couple of online reviews. Even the LAS "A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond" doesn't list it, but it is a wonderful place to bird and can be a jackpot for American Dipper seekers.

At the park we walked along the river's edge, meandering on and off the paved path. Heading upstream we were surprised by the amount of bustling bird activity. American Robin by the dozen zooming back and forth across the river from tree to tree to river bank. Northern Flicker gave a good showing too. White-crowned Sparrow were resident in practically every bush and singing their sweet song. We found a great bunch of birds, but not a single dipper. We decided it was time to head downstream.

Of course every happy birding story has a "suddenly," so...

Suddenly, I stopped and pointed, figuratively, not with fingers. More like a dog stopping in its tracks and going rigid. My eye caught some movement in the river before my brain could tell me to engage the binoculars. Jen laughed and asked, "Dipper?" Binoculars up, and yup! Our FIRST delightful dipper. I wrote FIRST because afterward we went on to find FOUR more American Dipper along the river. That first dipper was an exhilarating success. The second was gravy, and the third was something beyond gravy. The fourth and fifth American Dipper, the bird formerly known as the Water Ouzel, felt like mad crazy dipper luck.



*American Dipper on the Truckee River at Mayberry Park, November 29, 2011.*

*Photo courtesy of Christiane Omer.*

Seeing dippers bobbing their bodies up and down like humans doing jerky knee squats always makes me smile. The body bobbing and the flashing of their white upper eyelid is possibly a form of communication. Jen and I watched the dippers pecking at the water, diving into the water, bursting out of the water, popping back up onto rocks, and disappearing again into the rushing current while always facing upstream. What a show! Jen even timed them. In a three-minute evaluation of two dippers, they averaged 16 bobs, eight head-underwater ducks, and three underwater dives.

These hardy little gray birds eat aquatic insects, and have a serious taste for larvae. They move rocks while walking on the river bottom to find them, and they also pick insects off the surface of the water. They'll eat fish eggs, snails, tadpoles, and small fish too. The amazing dipper survives all this hunting in frigid waters just fine with their adaptive extra thick layer of downy feathers, a highly oxygenated blood stream, and a low metabolic rate.

What a great gift a Five Dipper Day was. What a bob fest! Birders don't always get the bird we are looking for, but when we do, it's priceless. A big thank you to Kristin who inspired this trip and Jen, who helped execute it. Birds, friendship, curiosity...yes, there is always a reason to bird!

Notes to the interested:

- This year's Annual Dipper Day field trip led by Jim Eidel is on January 21, 2012.
- To get to Mayberry Park from Reno, take Fourth Street west across McCarran Boulevard. Turn left on Woodland Avenue at small brown sign for Mayberry Park. Continue straight to the park. There is an out-house and some scattered picnic tables.

---

## Call for Field Guides!

Do you have any old birding guides laying around that you want to get rid of (National Geographic Guide 3rd, 4th, 5th edition; Peterson Field Guide; Audubon Guide to Birds; etc.)? If so, consider donating them to LAS. We are trying to develop a collection that we can put in our mobile classroom to use when we visit elementary school kids. We found that giving students time to search for species in the guides, and to look at all the photos and drawings, gets them really excited about birds. So we

are developing a few exercises for use during classroom visits that will use the bird guides, but we need a lot more of them to be able to effectively use the exercises. Please contact Alan Gubanich at renopopop@pyramid.net or 857-0191 and he will arrange to get the guides from you (or just bring them to one of the monthly LAS meetings). Also, contact Alan if you'd like to get involved with the mobile classroom and help with school visits or school field trips.

# LAS MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

**Lahontan Audubon Society Membership:** All funds remain in the community. Members receive *The Pelican* newsletter and may elect to receive email activities notices. Please complete and mail this form with payment.

1.  LAS Renewal     New Membership     Send me a National Audubon application  
 2.     Individual/Family - \$20/year     Full Time Student/Senior (over 62) - \$15/year

**LAS Donations:** Please select level:  Ruby-crowned Kinglet - \$10     Mountain Bluebird - \$20  
 American Avocet - \$50     American White Pelican - \$100     Golden Eagle - \$500 or more

**Volunteering:** I am interested in receiving information about volunteering for LAS:

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_  Include on LAS-only email list

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    January / February 2012 issue

Make check payable to Lahontan Audubon Society and mail this form to:  
 Kathy Oakes, LAS Membership, 4120 Plateau Road, Reno, NV 89519

## LAS SALES FORM

	Price	Postage	TOTAL
<i>Important Bird Areas of Nevada</i> Published by Lahontan Audubon Society, 2005	\$10	\$4.60	_____
<i>A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond--Second Edition</i> Published by Lahontan Audubon Society, 2007	\$10	\$2	_____
<i>Nevada Birding Map--Second Edition</i> Published by Lahontan Audubon Society, 2007	\$ 4	\$1	_____
<i>Tahoe Area Plants &amp; Animals Pocket Guide</i>	\$7	\$1	_____

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ORDER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ (in case of a question regarding your order)

Make checks payable to Lahontan Audubon Society and mail with this form to:  
 Jane Burnham, LAS Sales, 8071 Big River Drive, Reno, NV 89506

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

*The Pelican* is the official newsletter of the Lahontan Audubon Society and is published six times annually. Subscriptions are paid for as part of the dues of LAS or the National Audubon Society. LAS welcomes gifts, donations, and bequests in general, or gifts in honor or memory of relatives and friends. Such donations will be used as specified or, if unspecified, will be used to support LAS education and conservation projects. All donations are tax deductible.

### WHERE TO WRITE:

Keep conservation to the forefront. Write your elected officials and tell them how you feel:

Senator Harry Reid  
 400 S. Virginia St. #902  
 Reno, NV 89501  
 Toll-free: 1-866-736-7343

Senator Dean Heller  
 400 S. Virginia St. #738  
 Reno, NV 89501  
 Reno phone: 775-686-5770

Representative Mark Amodei  
 400 S. Virginia St. #502  
 Reno, NV 89501  
 Reno phone: 775-686-5760

Governor Brian Sandoval  
 101 N. Carson St.  
 Carson City, NV 89710  
 775-684-5670

If your mailing label is highlighted, please  
renew your local LAS membership now.

**THE PELICAN**  
**Lahontan Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 2304**  
**Reno, Nevada 89505**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
RENO, NEVADA  
PERMIT NO. 181

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

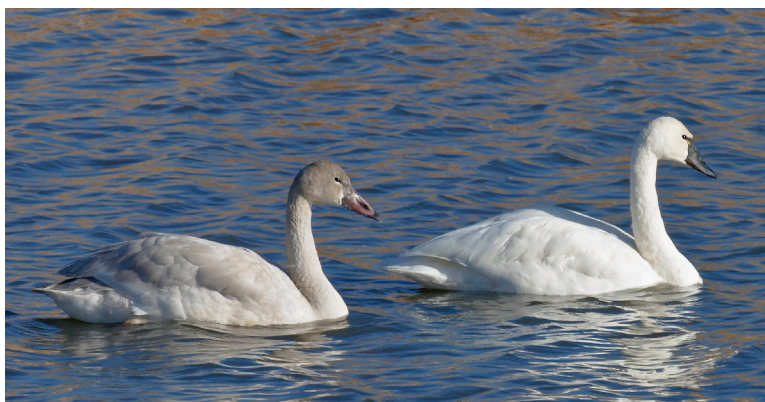
Do you want to save paper and postage and get The Pelican (with color pictures) about two weeks earlier? Consider stopping your mailed copy. Email a request to [oakesy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oakesy@sbcglobal.net). As soon as the newest issue is sent to the printer, you'll get an email with a link to the new issue.

Printed on Recycled Paper

## January / February 2012 Featured Feathered Friend

### Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

- Winters in northern Nevada, but does not breed here.
- Can be seen during the winter in large flocks at its namesake, Swan Lake Nature Study Area in north Reno, and other large lakes including Pyramid Lake, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, and Washoe Lake.
- They forage in the lake, plunging their neck under water and pulling vegetation from the bottom.
- During migration they fly in v-shape formations and can reach speeds up to 100 mph with a tail wind.
- A pair will usually "go steady" for a year before breeding and then they mate for life.
- Adults weigh approximately 15-16 lbs. and have a wingspan that can stretch six to seven feet.



*Tundra Swans at Damonte Ranch Wetlands  
(juvenile on the left),  
December 2010. © Ed Oakes.*