

LAHONTAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of National Audubon Society
ANNUAL REPORT to Our Members
July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007

Lahontan Audubon Society's fiscal year 2006-2007 activities began July 9, 2006, when Board members, our Important Bird Areas Director, and certain committee representatives gathered for a day-long planning and strategy retreat which was then summarized into a written record of our plans. Throughout the year we have attempted to maintain focus and momentum derived from those plans. We also addressed several unforeseen projects as they arose during the year.

The focus of LAS is formed by our **Mission Statement** and this organization's three functions, **birding, conservation, and education**, which are interrelated and reinforce one another, as is reflected in the variety and nature of the activities our organization engages in.

LAS consist of approximately 1,000 member families or individuals. The chapter's territory extends to a 60-mile radius out of Reno and within Nevada, but as only one of two chapters in a vast and geologically varied state, we feel obligated to represent northern Nevada and, on occasion, the entire state and the adjacent Sierra Nevada. For example, the Nevada Important Bird Areas Program, which our chapter administers, encompasses the entire state.

Conservation

Our mission statement begins, "To preserve and improve the remaining habitat of birds and other wildlife, restore historical habitat, ..." Our **Conservation Committees** are organized along the lines of general conservation responsibility and advocacy (Ali Chaney), community conservation (Nancy Santos), Sage Grouse Conservation Team (Ali Chaney), and our special interest area Swan Lake NSA (Bob Goodman). Ali Chaney serves as Conservation Chairman.

Advocacy addressed several conservation topics affecting birds or bird habitat through formal position letters. These included: support of the Bureau of Land Management acquisition of a conservation easement on the Hunewill Ranch in Smith Valley with Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) funds; support of the Nevada Land Conservancy's nomination for acquisition of 400 acres of historic Winters Ranch in Washoe Valley through Round 7 of the SNPLMA; three letters to the BLM regarding Porter Springs in support of its draft management plan, including plans to withdraw 60 acres of the area from settlement, sale, location, or entry under general land laws.

Ali Chaney continues to represent LAS on the state-level **Sage Grouse Conservation Team**, serving on the Implementation Subcommittee, which evaluates and seeks avenues for funding sage grouse projects. In another conservation effort, LAS provided \$1,000 from our Conservation Fund in addition to a \$700 grant through a National Audubon Society (NAS) Collaborative Funding Agreement to purchase specialized native seed to rehabilitate nectivorous breeding bird habitat on the Mary's River IBA uplands following severe wildfires in Elko County in summer 2006.

The Conservation Committee oversaw birds surveys by volunteers Nancy Hoffman, Janet Hudson, and

Christiane Omer to develop an understanding of bird use on the **Kiley Ranch** development Wetland Preserve area. The Conservation Chair also wrote a letter in support of a Question 1 proposal submitted to the Nevada Division of State Lands by Kiley Ranch Communities to fund the development of the wetland area into a preserve with trails, boardwalks, and interpretive signs and displays for the local community and area school children.

During this year's biennial convening of the **Nevada State Assembly**, Ali Chaney monitored and studied activities and proposed legislation impacting wildlife throughout the session. Ali, Kenn Rohrs, and Robin Powell attended a training session on the legislative process and lobbying provided by Progressive Leadership of Nevada. LAS helped sponsor a Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) breakfast for legislators. Ali and Robin prepared individual packets for the legislators including a cover letter calling for fiscal support of wildlife stewardship, a copy of *Important Bird Areas of Nevada*, an IBA bookmark, and a *Nevada Birding Map*. Six LAS representatives participated throughout the morning. In support of various issues affecting NDOW, we e-mailed: the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining in opposition to AB259; the Assembly Ways and Means and Senate Finance Joint Committee opposing budget cuts affecting the Wildlife Diversity Bureau of NDOW; the Assembly Ways and Mean Committee in support of AB622 to provide general funds to match funds from the Federal State Wildlife Grant program. The LAS President testified before this latter committee in support of this bill, with emphasis on the statewide IBA program and LAS' and IBA's partnership with NDOW. While AB622 did not pass, NDOW was successful in having \$180,000 restored to the Wildlife Diversity program, thus leveraging \$600,000 into the program.

In Community Conservation Nancy Santos concentrated her efforts on Silver Saddle Ranch in Carson City, continuing to serve as President of Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch (FOSSR). A NAS Collaborative Funding Agreement project from the prior year for the construction of Western Bluebird/House Wren and American Kestrel nesting boxes was fulfilled. All boxes are monitored and maintained. In addition, data on kestrel nesting is directed to a comprehensive University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) kestrel study being conducted by Jessi Brown. A proposed Federal Lands Bill for Carson City which would allow the exchange and/or transfer in ownership of lands owned by the Federal government in Carson City was introduced to the public this year. In a second round of meetings, Silver Saddle Ranch, currently owned by the BLM, was included. Nancy wrote letters to government officials and testified regarding issues of management and use. The LAS President testified before the city Board of Supervisors in support of FOSSR's position of maintaining the ranch as a natural resource and to identify LAS as a stakeholder in SSR land issues.

Bob Goodman continues to serve as LAS' representative, with Ali Chaney as alternate, on the **Swan Lake Nature Study Area** Advisory Board. The board is working with contiguous property owner on water issues, especially the realignment of Horse Ravine, and in landscaping appropriate to the areas. Bob and Karen Kish submitted vision statements for the master plan revision begun in August 2006. In addition to its permanent advisory board seat, LAS is cited as a "key player" throughout the planned revision of the document. Along with Bob's extensive involvement with Swan Lake, LAS was recognized at the Boardwalk Dedication and Thank-You Ceremony last summer. LAS members Kirk and Annaliese Odencrantz were also recognized for their restricted donation to LAS, which provided eight integrated benches along the newly extended pontoon-style boardwalk. A 500' split-rail fence extended by post

and wire fencing at the south entrance now delineates the area, and signs bearing LAS, IBA, and BLM logos are attached along the fence denoting Swan Lake NSA as a sensitive habitat area. Bob conducts field trips at Swan Lake and monitors the area at least weekly. Bob was also interviewed for an extensive article about Swan Lake NSA and LAS which appeared in the 1/1/07 "Neighborhood" section of the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

The Conservation Committee produced the newsletter column, "Conservation Corner," keeping members informed of topics such as Duck Stamps for Conservation, fire rehabilitation efforts, and legislative events. LAS coordinated a cleanup day at Swan Lake nature Study Area. During the annual Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Work Weekend, led by Mike Goddard, LAS and Sierra Club volunteers removed about four miles problem fencing and received an update on feral horse status in the refuge, especially as they impact the health of various springs.

Don McIvor, the Director of Bird Conservation for the **Nevada Important Bird Areas Program**, during its first five years, notified the Board that he planned an out-of-state move. This notice coincided with the anticipated shift of the program into its conservation action implementation phase. A search committee was formed at the 2006 Summer Planning and Strategy Retreat consisting of Don McIvor, Larry Neel, Kenn Rohrs, Bonnie Wagner, and chaired by Alan Gubanich. A formal job description, search, screening, and interview process was formulated based on sound human resources guidelines. Former LAS President Dave Straley, who was a key member of the original search five years earlier, and John Cecil, NAS IBA Director, were also involved. The effort resulted in the hiring of new Director of Bird Conservation, Robin Powell, a specialist in habitat conservation and restoration with extensive collaborative project experience in the state of Nevada.

During the latter months of his tenure, Don completed the remaining draft conservation plans for the 39 IBAs throughout the state. Beginning February 1, 2007, Robin engaged in a rigorous array of activities to orient herself to the program and to formulate the structure for the program going forward. During that time she submitted seven grant proposals and sought other funding sources to underwrite the program itself and certain conservation projects. She conducted program outreach efforts to notify agencies, public, and other non-governmental organizations about the program transition and to introduce herself, including sending out approximately 200 notices. She initiated contact with the surrounding states' IBA coordinators to discuss joint projects and coordination opportunities. She also developed a brochure highlighting the IBA program in Nevada. Robin and the program were also featured in an article in the 4/6/07 edition of the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

Robin reviewed all of the draft IBA Conservation Plans and formulated a framework to develop action thresholds and conservation action strategies. She also developed a "need/opportunity" matrix to prioritize the program proceeding into projects and to identify which IBAs will need the most monitoring. She visited a number of the IBAs and met with key stakeholders, discussing in some instances potential future projects for the IBA. Robin joined the NDOW Wildlife Diversity Chief and a Wildlife Commissioner in traveling to Washington, D.C., for the Teaming with Wildlife Fly-In Day to advocate for the Federal Wildlife Grants Program. The director also serves as liaison with Nevada Partners in Flight and as a member of the Nevada Steering Committee for the Intermountain West Joint Venture.

Robin volunteered to coordinate LAS' participation in the Tune in to Kids Fair and Reno's Earth Day when the coordinators for both events were found to have travel conflicts. In conjunction with these events, she developed and produced an *LAS Birds of Nevada Coloring Book* and had created LAS pencils made from recycled blue jeans as handouts for both events. In addition to writing the IBA column for the *Pelican* newsletter, she submitted articles to several quarterly publications.

As Director of the Nevada IBA Program, Robin reports jointly to National Audubon Society's IBA Program and the LAS Board of Trustees, with the LAS President assisting in administrative oversight including serving as signatory to grant and contract documents.

Education

The latter part of our Mission Statement states, "... and educate the public with emphasis on children, providing vision to all about our unique Nevada environments." The **Education Committee**, chaired by Alan Gubanich, continued significant involvement in a program to lead birding field trips at the Washoe Lake Mitigation Wetland in cooperation with Washoe Lake State Park. The program had to be scaled back somewhat, only because of lack of available park personnel. Twelve field trips involved about 402 third- through eighth-grade children in classroom groups. Seventeen LAS volunteers plus Alan and a park ranger led students on birding walks, most notably John Schulte and Susan Stevenson, who volunteered for 8 and 7 trips respectively. All students had access to binoculars and spotting scopes. A significant number of students had never been out on such a trip, and more than one told volunteers it was "the best school trip I ever had."

Alan Gubanich gave an all-day presentation on Nevada Birds to fourth grade classes at Cottonwood Elementary School in Fernley and an evening presentation on Nevada Birds to Elmcrest Elementary School, all grades, in Reno during their Science Fair Night. He also conducted a teacher training workshop at Washoe Lake State Park to train teachers on how to lead student field trips. Robin Powell and three other volunteers participated in "Tune In To Kids Fair" at Idlewilde Park in Reno, which unfortunately was shut down midday due to adverse weather.

Bob Goodman again coordinated LAS' annual spring course of **Birding Classes**, "Birds of the Truckee Meadows." Five two-hour classes were taught by experienced instructors and skilled birders David Jickling, Larry Neel, Alan Gubanich, Jim Eidel, and Bob Goodman. David Jickling also conducted a wrap-up field trip at Oxbow Nature Study Area. Tim Herrick of NDOW was also present throughout to allow use of NDOW's meeting room. About 25 participants registered for all or part of the course, many of whom purchased LAS birding publications. This introductory course tends to reach members of the public new to the area and/or new to birding.

Education in bird identification was also furthered by popular "**Learn-a-Bird**" and "**Bit of Biology**" sessions presented by Dr. Alan Gubanich at each General Program Meeting. Alan also maintains the LAS collection of species slides.

Birding

Field Trips (Chairmen, Nancy Santos through 12/06 and Christiane Omer beginning 1/07) offered 23 field trips throughout the area including adjacent areas in California. Shorter field trips at nearer locations such as The Great Reno Caper, Oxbow NSA, Swan Lake NSA, Riverview Park, Silver Saddle Ranch, and Davis Creek were generally very popular and particularly accessible for potential new birders. Specialty trips added canoeing, identifying other wildlife and plants, and photography to the birding excursions. Trips were publicized in *The Pelican* newsletter, the LAS web site, the LAS email list, Nevada Birds List Server, and local media. Field trip leaders included Dick Carlson, Bob Goodman, Nancy Santos, Jessi Brown and Ryan Welsh, Dave Jickling, Mike Goddard, Susan Stevenson, Sheryl Ferguson, Dave Arsenault, Jim Eidel, Dennis Serdehely, Alan Gubanich, Jim Woods, Kirk Hardie, Christiane Omer, and Janet Hudson, among them several new leaders. LAS also provided a number of leaders for events mentioned later in this report. The committee also purchased four sets of two-way radios as field trip aides.

LAS members served as Christmas Bird Count compilers and team members in local count areas, Truckee Meadows (Reno and Sparks), Carson City, Fallon, and Pyramid Lake, submitting count information to a huge database that serves as a barometer on distribution and numbers of North American birds. These and more distant counts were publicized through the above-mentioned channels by LAS.

General Program Meetings (Alan Gubanich) were offered from September to May (excluding December) to members and the general public. Attendance ranged from 37 to 47. Following brief announcements and occasional public information segments, Dr. Gubanich, UNR Associate Professor of Biology Emeritus, presented the popular sessions, "Learn-a-Bird" and "A Bit of Biology." The main programs included a wide variety of topics including species-specific studies, conservation topics, backyard bird feeding, digital bird photography, international wildlife travels, and the seasons in San Rafael Regional Park interpreted by a professional photographer.

The preliminary social half-hour portions of General Meetings were enhanced by the **Hospitality Committee** (Jane Burnham) organizing beverages and snacks. Various Board members greeted people at the door and assured that everyone wore name badges. The Communications Committee set out a "For Your Information" table. The "Budget Bird Book Raffle," also coordinated by Jane Burnham served successfully as an icebreaker and a small fundraiser.

The **Birds & Books Reading Group**, founded last year by Kenn Rohrs for collaborative discussion of books about birds and their place in nature, continued with a full 12-month schedule. A group of about 10 regular readers met, while additional members read the selected titles without attending the meetings. Kenn posted a full schedule of the selections plus substantial summaries on the LAS web site. The group began meeting at Sundance Bookstore this year, where Kenn presented a framed certificate of appreciation to the independent bookstore for its ongoing support of LAS in this and other activities.

Special Publications

A nearly yearlong project culminated in the publication in April of the **second edition of *A Birding***

Guide to Reno and Beyond edited by Alan Gubanich and Karen Kish. Alan Wallace suggested and submitted a first draft for a new section. All who helped in this endeavor are listed in the Acknowledgments of the guide. The guide also features an expanded number of maps professionally created by Tim Herrick of NDOW. Steve Ting created a color collage of his photographs of representative species for the back cover, and a color collage of birding sites by Alan Gubanich was created for the inside back cover. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Nevada Commission on Tourism underwrote the printing of the volume. LAS holds the copyright for the guide.

The ***Nevada Birding Map***, updated substantively by map coordinator Ron Conkey, was also published in a second edition, with printing costs underwritten by a Nevada Commission on Tourism grant. Tim Herrick of NDOW was again instrumental in the technical aspects of the map revision. LAS holds the copyright for the map.

Supporting Committees

Membership Committee Chair Judy Kretzer, then Kathy Oakes beginning in June, processes and maintains both our local and national membership lists and mailing label list for *The Pelican* newsletter. As of the end of the fiscal year, NAS plus local-only memberships totaled 1,012, although number of local-only memberships need to be renewed. Membership brochures were placed at Wild Birds Unlimited and were made available at field trips, public events and talks, and General Meetings. Membership also processes donations made separately or as a part of local membership submissions. All donations are acknowledged with a letter of thanks and a listing in the donation column of *The Pelican*.

Volunteer Coordination was decentralized this year. Expressions of interest are flowed through to the appropriate committee chair from either the General Meeting sign-in sheets or membership forms. Individual chairs, such as Education and Field Trips, have also been successful in involving new volunteers. In a similar fashion. The **Fundraising Committee** was also decentralized, reflecting the pattern of efforts in individual projects and committees. The annual fund drive remains the responsibility of the Treasurer and the President, with help at the envelope “stuffing party” from Board and committee members.

The **Communications Committee** (Karen Kish) continued as an umbrella for a variety of support activities as follows.

LAS continues to publish *The Pelican newsletter* (Mike Greenan, editor; Connie Douglas, distribution) bimonthly in an eight-page format with a circulation of 1000 +/- . Reno Printing continues to produce and fold the newsletter. Regular columns included *Birds in Town* by Alan Wallace, *Important Bird Areas Program* by Don McIvor succeeded by Robin Powell, *Conservation Corner* by Ali Chaney, and *From the President's Perch* by Karen Kish. Field trips, general meetings, and special activities were promoted. Connie Douglas handled distribution by way of label attachment and bulk mail processing.

Steve Ting became the new Web Master for the LAS **Web Site** in November. Steve completely revised and reformatted the LAS web site, providing a more contemporary look, enhanced navigability, and

greater user-friendliness. Steve also added the second edition of *A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond* to the web site. This project involved formatting the text for the internet, setting up appropriate navigation, designing the overview map in a suitable format, and beginning to add representative photos for each area. *The Pelican* newsletter, current and prior issues since 2005, are now posted on the site in pdf format. The LAS Web Site has also been brought into conformance with Worldwide Web Consortium standards.

With the departure of Jim Lytle, Jacque Lowery volunteered to become the monitor of the **LAS Info Line**. The line received 59 messages during the course of the year, a drop from prior years, perhaps reflecting greater internet usage. Even so, the line fulfills a needed communications niche for a certain number of people who need to reach us. It also maintains our chapter telephone listings.

The **LAS E-mail List**, maintained by Karen Kish, sends out brief notices to participating members regarding meetings, field trips, reading group, LAS and related events, and local civic forums affecting birds and bird habitat. E-mail addresses are relayed by the Membership Chair and are also gathered from the General Meeting sign-in sheets. The e-mail notices are sent to “undisclosed recipients.” As of June 5, 2007, the list numbered 183 addressees, individuals or families, up from 137 addressees at the same time last year.

The **Nevada Birds List Server**, a part of the National Audubon Society List Server network, has approximately 260 subscribers from throughout Nevada and a few from outside of the state. The list server had been monitored by the IBA director Don McIvor. *The Pelican* “Birds in Town” columnist Alan Wallace became moderator in the autumn of 2006. Alan set out appropriate guidelines, following NAS guidelines as well as suggestions garnered from other list servers. The ongoing reporting of bird sightings from throughout the state has facilitated communications among birders and supplies a resource for more casual birders. Postings with links to bird photos or sounds has further enhanced this resource.

Karen Kish handles **Publicity**. Press releases are sent via email to as many as seven newspapers, one public access television stations, and one commercial radio station. Field trips, general meetings, birding classes, special events, and Christmas Bird Counts are the subject of these releases. In addition to the interview of Bob Goodman mentioned in the Swan Lake section above, LAS or IBA representatives were interviewed for several media articles. Karen Kish and Jacque Lowery were interviewed for a February *Nevada Home Magazine* article on backyard bird feeding and nesting. *Audubon Magazine* on the web featured an article about IBAs in southern Nevada. New IBA Director Robin Powell was featured in the “Sparks Today” section of the 4/6/07 edition of the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. Alan Gubanich and Karen Kish were interviewed for a 6/4/07 *Reno Gazette-Journal* article on the new *Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond*.

Communications also created fliers for the LAS Birding Classes and certain other events, maintained name tags for General Meetings and public events, and produced several internal administrative reference lists. The committee maintained the LAS display board and table as well as the binders, *LAS in Print*, *LAS in Photos*, and *Pelican Archives*. With the assistance of Ali Chaney, we pick up and disseminate incoming mail from our post office box in Reno in a reasonably timely fashion.

Public Outreach Events involving both the general public and certain fellow organizations included, in addition to those mentioned above in other sections:

- Eagles and Agriculture Weekend, Douglas County, 2/21 & 23-24/07: Alan Gubanich enlisted LAS members as field trip leaders, and Karen Kish coordinated the LAS display board and table. LAS donated a raffle prize of our *Important Bird Areas of Nevada, A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond*, a *Nevada Birding Map*, and a one-year local membership.
- Spring Wings Birding Festival, Fallon, 5/11-13/07: LAS, a major sponsor, supplied the majority of the field trip leaders, as coordinated by Ali Chaney, and certain workshop leaders. We also maintained a static display booth during the weekend.
- Great Basin Bird Observatory Celebration, Reno, 5/17/07: A number of LAS members attended this celebration of the publication of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada*, in which project many had participated. We also maintained a display table with sales of our publications during the evening.

Administration

The administrative elements of our chapter provide the structural framework by which LAS' substantive activities are formulated and executed.

Board Meetings including officers, trustees, the IBA Director, and certain committee chairmen were held on the first Tuesday of the month September through June. An all-day Planning and Strategy Retreat also involved this group of people. The principal decision-making body of this organization, the Officers and Trustees, also shoulder a number of duties besides serving on the Board. Officers, in addition to the writer, were Alan Gubanich, Vice President; Dave Straley, Treasurer; and Bonnie Wagner, Secretary. Board Trustees were Jane Burnham, Judy Kretzer, Ali Chaney, Jim Lytle, Jacque Lowery, Nancy Santos, and Kenn Rohrs. LAS owes them strong thanks. **Elections** for the forthcoming year were organized by the **Election Committee** (Bob Goodman and Alan Gubanich) and publicized for the May General Meeting. Teresa Gubanich certified the results of the election.

Our **Treasurer** (Dave Straley, C.P.A.) filed all legal financial documents, federal tax return, and Nevada Secretary of State documents as required. We retain our 501(c)(3) status and our Nevada sales tax exemption. Dave issued checks and invoices for both LAS and the IBA program and presented professional reconciled financial statements at each Board meeting as well as preparing our annual financial statement. Dave also administered the chapter financial aspects of the Nevada Important Bird Areas Program in consultation with IBA Director Don McIvor, then Robin Powell. Over and above his various volunteer hours as an officer, Dave donated his professional-level accounting services to the chapter.

Recording Secretary Bonnie Wagner recorded and published the Minutes of the Board Meetings, seeking corrections or clarifications via email prior to their formal approval at the next meeting. Bonnie also spent additional time and resources to restructure the Minutes binder for record keeping, sorting and eliminating unnecessary papers and categorizing items such as Agenda notes, Board contact information,

and the Minutes themselves.

Jane Burnham continues to handle **LAS Sales**, selling and filling individual mail orders and wholesale transactions for the LAS publications *A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond—Second Edition* (\$10), *Nevada Birding Map—Second Edition* (\$4), and *Important Bird Areas of Nevada* (\$19.95). Order forms appear in the newsletter and on the web site. Outlets handling the publications number nine in local areas, six in other Nevada locations, one in Arizona, and three at nationwide level including Amazon.com for *IBAs of Nevada* and American Birding Association Sales. IBA Director Robin Powell also handles incidental sales and complimentary copy distribution for *IBAs of Nevada*.

Finances

While we derive tremendous benefit from the efforts of chapter volunteers, we also need a financial basis upon which to operate, both in terms of the chapter itself as well as the IBA Program that our chapter administers.

Our sole paid position is the **Nevada Important Bird Areas** Director of Bird Conservation. While the Director's position is handled as a National Audubon employee, the position is 100% self-funded through grants. Director Robin Powell submitted seven grant proposals from February 1 to June 30 in what has proven to be a challenging grant environment. Proceeds from sales of the IBA book are directed back into the program as well. Connie Douglas, our representative to the Audubon **Whittell Fund Committee** compiled historical data on projects funded through this Nevada-dedicated source and offered guidance on the chapter's submitting a proposal in mid-June for funds to underwrite one year of salary, benefits, and expenses for the IBA Director position.

For purely administrative and operational costs, including production and distribution of *The Pelican* newsletter, the chapter needs approximately \$14,000 per annum, going forward. As of June 30, 2007, we were funded for these expenses for the forthcoming year. Last summer we submitted our 2005-2006 Annual Report on time, enabling us to receive a baseline payment from National Audubon Society in the autumn of 2006 of \$2,942.75. Our Autumn 2006 Fund Drive received donations from 115 member families or individuals (about 12% of membership) totaling \$4,833. Additional member donations throughout the year brought the total donations to approximately \$6,600. Other income is derived from local memberships, sale of publications, and birding class fees. Income in excess of the amounts needed for operations are set aside for present and future projects.

An **Investment Portfolio** of approximately \$20,000 of restricted chapter funds was invested in a moderate to conservative style appropriate to a nonprofit organization of our size, based on guidelines set out in an Investment Policy approved by the Board in the prior year. It is managed pro bono by Dave Straley, C.P.A. and Registered Investment Advisor, through Third Creek Investments, Inc. Dave delivers quarterly portfolio performance reports to the Board, in compliance with certain communications requirements incumbent upon a Registered Investment Advisor.

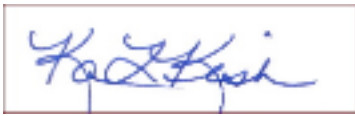
The details of our finances are set out in our finalized **Financial Statements** prepared by Treasurer Dave Straley, C.P.A., and available after September 30, 2007 upon request.

In Conclusion

Based on our annual report for year 2005-2006, our chapter status was re-certified by National Audubon Society. This 2006-2007 report along with other supporting documents has been submitted to National Audubon Society to substantiate this year's re-certification.

This report was derived from reports prepared by committee chairs and project representatives, our Board Minutes, and a variety of other records. However, any errors, omissions, or oversights are strictly the responsibility of this writer.

We are fortunate in the quality and generosity of the individuals who forward our mission and help us meet the responsibilities we have taken up. The moral and financial support from our broader membership is also an essential element in any success LAS achieves. It is an honor and a pleasure to be associated with this chapter and to serve it and our northern Nevada/adjacent California community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a thin red rectangular border. The signature appears to read "Karen L. Kish".

Karen L. Kish, President
Lahontan Audubon Society
August 2007