



# the Pelican

the official bi-monthly newsletter of the Lahontan Audubon Society

**July / August 2015**

vol. 52, no. 6

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### 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 September / October 2015 issue are due July 28, 2015.*

*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 7:00 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.

### No meeting in July

### August 25, 2015 - Namibia: More Rocks, Sand and Rhinos than Nevada – Steve and Paula Gessler

In September of 2013, Steve and Paula Gessler, along with their friend Peggy Powell, spent 17 days driving through Namibia's vast desert. This privately guided tour, headed by their expert guide, John Wambach, took them from Windhoek, the Capital, through the southern deserts that boast the largest sand dunes in the world, and to the northern bush that is home to Etosha National Park. They encountered amazing scenery and an abundance of bird and animal life which included both the endangered Black Rhino and Black-faced Impala. Please join us for this guided virtual tour.

## GLOBAL BIG DAY OF BIRDING

The world went birding on May 9, 2015. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology sponsored the Global Big Day of Birding, and invited the world to go birding and report the results on eBird. The Global Big Day of Birding was held, appropriately, on International Migratory Bird Day. Birding Big Days are events during which individuals or teams tally all bird species seen over a 24-hour period in a given area; Big Days are often held by local birding associations to raise funds for bird conservation.

The first ever Global Big Day was truly spectacular. Groups worldwide mobilized their friends and contacts via Facebook, Twitter, email, and other outreach efforts to make this day the best day ever on eBird. Participants from 130 countries tallied **more than half of the world's bird species** on the Global Big Day. As of May 27, the total stands at 6,069 species, including more than 43,000 checklists with a grand total of 800,000 observations posted on eBird by nearly 14,000 participants. More importantly, the Global Big Day provided a one-day snapshot of the world's birds like never before and raised awareness of the importance of birds worldwide. Elsewhere in this issue of *The Pelican*, check out the story about our own northwest Nevada Big Day.

## LAHONTAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

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Jacque Lowery, 771-7390  
nevadabird@charter.net

#### Vice President

*Vacant*

#### Treasurer

Jane Burnham, 677-4178  
janefrancesburnham@gmail.com

#### Recording Secretary

Ava Estorga  
caestorga@gmail.com

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Alan Gubanich, 857-0191  
renopop@pyramid.net

#### Birding Classes

Jane Burnham, 677-4178  
janefrancesburnham@gmail.com

#### Communications

Kathy Oakes, 747-5446  
oakesy@sbcglobal.net

#### Membership

Debbie Zalmana, 329-1630  
lasmembership2016@gmail.com

#### Birds & Books Reading Group

Zena Lamp, 762-3068  
zenanlamp@gmail.com

#### Conservation Co-Chair

Dan Carrick, 853-4074  
carrick1119@gmail.com

#### Conservation Co-Chair

Sue Golish, 746-3174  
suejohngolish@gmail.com

#### Field Trips

Jasmine Kleiber, 224-3282  
nevadabirder@gmail.com

#### Hospitality

Dave & Patty Sawyer  
747-1575, sawyerpdpd@charter.net

#### LAS Sales

Jane Burnham, 677-4178  
janefrancesburnham@gmail.com

### PUBLICATION & INFORMATION

#### The Pelican

Coordinator: Kathy Oakes

Copy Editor: Kristin Szabo

Layout Editor: Carol Coleman,

849-3380, carol@galenaforest.net

#### Web Masters

Kathy Oakes

Kristin Szabo

## LAS NEWS

**May Elections:** Annual elections for LAS Officers and Board members were held at the May 26 General Meeting. Officers elected to one-year terms are: Jacque Lowery, President; Nancy Peppin, Vice President; Jane Burnham, Treasurer; and Ava Estorga, Recording Secretary. Dan Carrick was elected to a second three-year term for Board of Trustees Seat #3; and Ken Drozd was elected as a Trustee to fill Seat #5, which has been vacant for almost 6 months. Thanks to both Ava and Ken for volunteering to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Our new Secretary, Ava Estorga, is a UNR graduate student and lifelong bird enthusiast. She holds multiple degrees from the University of Nevada, and has advanced her knowledge on birds through both formal ornithology courses and informal learning from books and research. Ava says that she first got involved in Audubon in southern Nevada when she was a high school student. She informed the local chapter that burrowing owl habitat was marked for rapid suburban development. The owls were relocated to safety before their habitat was destroyed. Ava is also a pigeon fancier and has loved working with pigeons since her very first pigeon, a fantail, hatched in her pocket at age six. She is especially good at diagnosing microbiological disease in birds, and helping them through the healing process. When Ava is not busy studying any science she can get her hands on, she is reading, playing tennis, flying her pigeons, or cooking healthy and delicious meals for her friends and husband, David. Welcome Ava, we look forward to your enthusiasm and a fresh view at meetings.

Many of you probably know Ken Drozd, our new Board of Trustees member. He and his wife Janet have lived in Reno for 22 years; they have one son, who is living a nomadic lifestyle as an English teacher abroad. Ken is an accountant, and enjoys getting out into nature as a nice change of pace. Ken grew up in Texas and lived the first half of his life on the Gulf Coast. He says that he has always been fascinated with wildlife, and his interest in birds started when he was in college taking back roads between home and school and started noticing the hawks, ducks, and shorebirds he saw along the way. Ken says that he was a serious birder for several years,

but other things eventually took over more of his time. He took up birding again about five years ago, and is now enjoying seeing a lot of Nevada that he hadn't noticed before. Welcome Ken, we look forward to working and birding with you.

**New Membership Chair:** Many of you may remember that we advertised for a new Membership Chair some time back. Debbie Zalmana stepped up to volunteer to be the new Membership Chair. Thank you so much Debbie. Debbie has been a member of LAS for many years. She's lived in Reno all her life. Her dad, Mel Mathewson, had an advertising agency and he did all the old "Harold's Club or Bust" billboards that many of our Reno old-timers will remember. Debbie said that her introduction to birding came from observing her mom, Lois, watching birds in their large backyard through binoculars and with a copy of the Reader's Digest bird identification book beside her that included a 45 rpm record of bird calls. They lived a block from Virginia Lake, so Debbie walked past the lake every day and unofficially adopted and named many of the lake's ducks and geese. Debbie got interested in Peregrine Falcons in 2005, upon watching a live webcam of a pair raising their brood on a San Francisco skyscraper. She connected to a group of falcon watchers in San Jose, where a researcher installed a nest box and webcam on the newly constructed San Jose City Hall. A pair of peregrines moved right in and have successfully fledged eyasses from that site ever since with the world watching on the Internet. Debbie goes to San Jose every year in May for their annual "fledge watch" to protect the young from harm as they take their first flights from high atop the City Hall. While referring to herself as a true "Falconatic," Debbie says that her interest in all types of birds has blossomed, transforming her into a true birder with the help of LAS. Newly retired from 20 years working for REMSA/Care Flight, Debbie is looking forward to her duties as the new Membership Chair and to more adventures with LAS.

**The Birds of the Truckee Meadows Bird ID Classes** were very popular this year, with 108 people attending. We got lots of enthusiastic feedback on the classes and



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

## LAS NEWS (CONTINUED)

on the field trip to Oxbow, led by Dave Jickling. Thanks to our instructors Dave Jickling, Alan Gubanich (who taught two classes again this year), Bob Goodman, and Jim Eidel for their wonderful presentations. Thanks also to Carol Coleman, who stepped up to handle collections at the door and serve as moderator for three of the classes. Many, many thanks are due to Jane Burnham, who has coordinated the classes for the last FOUR years, lining up speakers and arranging for a place for the classes. It is a ton of work!

**The first LAS Members Art Exhibit**, part of LAS's 50-year anniversary celebrations, was held at Moana Nursery, on Saturday, April 18. It was a great success; the weather was perfect, which helped with our outdoor exhibitors. A talented group of 17 LAS artists exhibited (and sold) their work; they included watercolor and oil painters, mixed media artists, and several photographers. The artwork was interspersed throughout the nursery shops. Exhibitors and visitors throughout the day all had very positive responses to the show. Many thanks to Jacque Lowery, who hatched the whole idea, solicited LAS artists to exhibit, and coordinated the whole shebang. Thanks also to Nancy Peppin who helped coordinate the exhibits and, along with Jacque and Dale Lowery, picked up the gridwalls for set-up on Friday. Thanks also to our volunteers throughout the day who helped with set-up and manned the LAS table: Jane Burnham, Linda Valle, Sandi Beckett, Debbie Zalmana, Judith Lockwood, Connie Douglas, Sue Golish, and Tina Nappe. We thank the Freeman Company of Reno/Sparks, which produces and supplies expositions, conventions, and corporate events, for donating the gridwalls that LAS used to display the artwork.

**We especially thank Moana Nursery** for hosting LAS's Members Art Exhibit at the Nursery shop, and for allowing LAS the use of the Design Center room for the Bird ID Classes and for our LAS meetings. It is not easy to find a room for our meetings and classes that is at such a great location and for a reasonable price. Please, please remember to consider Moana's Wild Birds Unlimited for all your feeder and birdseed needs and don't forget that Moana Nursery has one of the best selections of plants in Reno and a great variety of gift items.

**LAS's New Website.** At last year's July planning session, your LAS Board of Trustees voted to update our website to allow online payment, incorporate an event calendar, and add an expanded section on Education events. Our new website went live in April. We think that it looks good, with lots of photos. There have been some glitches with online processing of memberships, but it should be solved by the time that you are reading this newsletter online. We send sincere apologies to those of you who joined or paid dues in April or May and waited a while to hear from us (you got lost in the cloud for a while). Thanks to the members of the website committee, Dan Carrick, Alan Gubanich, and especially Kristin Szabo, who did most of the work in contracting for web design and has done the bulk of the work to tweak the website appearance and get all the information put in.

**Virginia Lake Project.** Last year, the City of Reno proposed to remove the island at Virginia Lake in October 2014 as part of their efforts to improve water quality at the lake. The City was of the opinion that the cormorants nesting on the island were the primary source of phosphates, which enhanced algae blooms in low water conditions. LAS strongly opposed removal of the island because of the value of the island to nesting birds and because we felt that there had not been sufficient studies to confirm that island removal would improve water quality. After two public meetings last year, the City postponed the decision about the island and other aspects of the water quality improvement project in order to gather more information. The City formed a scientific working group to study the lake and to consider other options for water quality improvement. On June 2, the City held a third public meeting to release information on planned multi-year monitoring of water quality and bird populations to help characterize the system as a whole, to detail plans for improved circulation at the lake, and to present several new water quality improvement options that are currently under consideration. We at LAS are very pleased at the City's new direction for the project and happy that they have given close considerations to public comments. Watch this space for more news.

*Kathy Oakes, LAS Communications Chair*

## NEW LAS COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR & OTHER COMMUNICATIONS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kathy Oakes has been serving as LAS Communications Chair for over 7½ years now and would like to step down and take a bit of a rest. Okay, we know that I, Kathy, am writing this, so I can say that it is really time to get a new Communications Chair. Not only would I like a rest, but I think that LAS would benefit from having another (or two, or three, or more) different voices and perspectives for the newsletter, website, and publicity.

The LAS Communications Chair is currently responsible for coordination of articles for *The Pelican* newsletter (Team Pelican also has a proofing editor and layout editor); maintaining the LAS email notification list and sending out email reminders for LAS field trips, meetings and events; overseeing the website; and coordinating publicity for LAS

special events such as the Bird ID Classes.

As LAS has grown, the responsibilities for communications have expanded. The Communications Committee really should be divided into a couple of subcommittees under the main Communications Chair. So, we are calling for not only a new Communications Chair, but for several Communications Committee volunteers. Please, if you are interested in chairing the committee, serving as a subcommittee head for one of the aspects of communications (newsletter, website, publicity), or taking over specific jobs on a subcommittee, please contact Kathy Oakes at [oakesy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oakesy@sbcglobal.net) or 747-5446. We would like to get a new Communications Chair in place in the next couple of months.

## FIELD TRIPS

Jasmine Kleiber

nevadabirder@gmail.com

Field trips are free to Audubon members and non-members unless otherwise noted, and we encourage birders of all skill levels to participate. Trips are subject to change or cancellation so please pre-register with field trip leaders with your contact information so they can reach you in the event the trip does change and/or is cancelled. Remember to dress accordingly as the weather can be very unpredictable in Nevada, and please bring lots of water! For additional information please check the LAS website ([www.nevadaaudubon.org](http://www.nevadaaudubon.org)), the LAS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/lahontanaudubon>) or contact the LAS Field Trip Coordinator.

**Sunday, July 19, 2015**

**Birds, Views, and Falls - Galena Falls**

**Time: 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Leader: Kirk Hardie, 775-298-0065, [kirk@tinsweb.org](mailto:kirk@tinsweb.org)**

LAS, the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science (TINS), and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) are co-sponsoring this moderately difficult hike (6.5 miles all above 8,000 ft.) from the Mt. Rose Trailhead to Galena Falls in search of late summer birds and spectacular scenery. We will take our time to enjoy the birds and soak in great views before arriving at Galena Falls and the surrounding alpine meadows with their colorful wildflowers. A few of the possible avian participants are Green-tailed Towhee, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, and MacGillivray's Warbler. Bring water, sunscreen, and lunch. Free, but reservations are required and are being handled by the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science ([www.tinsweb.org](http://www.tinsweb.org)); click on the Calendar tab and then on the trip to get a link to register.

**Saturday, August 15, 2015**

**Spooner Lake State Park**

**Time: 7:30 a.m.**

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

Join us for an easy morning walk around Spooner Lake State Park. We will search the shoreline for Spotted Sandpiper, Osprey, and area waterfowl. Forest, sagebrush, and riparian habitat are also found along the perimeter of the lake and will offer us the opportunity to search for such species as the Western Tanager, White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, and Warbling Vireo, just to name a few. More common species we can expect to see are Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee,

Hairy Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Please contact Nancy to reserve your spot and for further information. There is a State Park entrance fee per vehicle, so car-pooling is recommended.

**Saturday, August 29, 2015**

**Sunset stroll along the Truckee River**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Leaders: Jim Woods, 775-265-3914, [jim.woods@charter.net](mailto:jim.woods@charter.net) and Bob Goodman, 775-972-7848, [pandion36@aol.com](mailto:pandion36@aol.com)**

This is a two-part tour. The first part is a sunset stroll from Rock Park to Coney Island Park and back. Then we will meet at the McCarran Bridge where Bob Goodman will be discussing the Brazilian Free-tailed Bats while they start their nightly foraging. The stroll will take in the evening songs as the sun sets and the final feeding takes place. Expect robins, orioles, swallows, mergansers, cormorants, flycatchers, nighthawks, and wrens with some sparrows and warblers thrown in. The McCarran Bridge bats start emerging around 8:30 p.m. and go until they are done. For the stroll, meet at the East Pavilion at Rock Park at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a light coat and a flashlight. The McCarran Bridge is the roost for as many as 80,000 mostly Brazilian Free-tailed bats. We will have the opportunity to observe and learn a little about these little critters. Space will be limited to 14; contact Jim Woods for reservations.

**Saturday, September 12, 2015**

**Fall Migration at Spooner Lake**

**Time: 8:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Leader: Kirk Hardie, 775-298-0065, [kirk@tinsweb.org](mailto:kirk@tinsweb.org)**

LAS, the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science (TINS), and Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) are co-sponsoring this easy stroll to search for migrant birds heading south for the winter. We will search the aspen stand, willows, and the lake for any migrants and local birds, such as Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers, White-crowned Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, Ring-necked Ducks, and Red-breasted Sapsuckers. Free, but reservations are required. Reservations are being handled by the TRTA and will open one month in advance. Please visit Spooner Lake Migration Registration on the TRTA website to register ([www.tahoerimtrail.org](http://www.tahoerimtrail.org)). Meeting location and other details will be emailed to registered participants the week of the walk.

## DONORS



**American White Pelican \$100-\$499**

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

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

Rosemary French  
Kitty Isola  
Mary Ann Hartnett

**Other:**

Grassroots Books, \$22 from their continuing program for accepting books for resale on behalf of LAS

## 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 4:00 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.

**There is no meeting in July.**

**August 26, 2015**

*The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert

# NORTHWEST NEVADA GLOBAL BIG DAY

Three intrepid local birders participated in the Global Big Day of Birding on May 9, 2015: Paul Hurtado and Brian Steger, who are both fairly new to Nevada, and Rob Lowry, who has been birding Nevada for several years. The team had a great day and found 158 species from several local birding hotspots in the area. In one hectic 24 hours, they visited Geiger Summit, Lake Tahoe, Spooner Lake, Carson Valley, Carson City, Washoe Lake State Park, Davis Creek Park, the south Reno wetlands, Virginia Lake, Idlewild Park, Crystal Peak Park in Verdi, the Lemmon Valley wetlands, Sparks Marina, and the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. Whew! Paul wrote an account of the day on his blog “Mostly Birds” that is summarized here.

Paul and Brian headed out at 10:15 pm to get a jump on owling by scouting out some condos near Damonte wetlands known to have Barn Owls (they planned to pick up Rob Lowry in Carson City mid-morning). When they reached the condos, it was raining, and the owls stayed out of sight, warm and dry. So, Paul and Brian drove up to Geiger Summit hoping to hear Common Poorwill or owls to count when the Big Day officially started at the stroke of midnight. But, no poorwills, owls, or any birds at all, only horses, so they went back down Geiger Grade to the Damonte condos. By then the rain stopped and there was a **Barn Owl** sitting on the roof. The owl was a new state bird for both Paul and Brian, and a great bird to start their Big Day!

On to Damonte wetlands, where they added **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** and other more common marsh birds. Then, on to the Tahoe Basin for a second shot at owls and poorwills. Spooner Lake produced a **Great Horned Owl**. Paul and Brian agreed that the experience of listening to the owl hooting while watching the moon rise through the trees and fog was an extraordinary moment.

With the clock ticking, they headed to Chimney Beach and found a pair of **Flammulated Owls**, a life bird for Brian, and then a **Common Poorwill** and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** (species #12 for the day and it was not yet light).

Brian and Paul hit Tahoe Meadows at daybreak and added several common mountain birds plus a not so common **Mountain Quail** and a loudly calling

**Northern Goshawk**, not an easy bird to find. Back at Chimney Beach, they heard and then saw a calling **Pileated Woodpecker** and scored several other birds, including a **Cassin’s Vireo**, which was a life bird for Paul. After spotting a **Peregrine Falcon** at Cave Rock, they headed down to Carson Valley.

At Centerville Marsh, the **Tri-colored Blackbirds** were exactly where they were supposed to be. A short distance down the road they added **Sandhill Crane** and other more common species.



*Acorn Woodpecker at Verdi, NV on May 9, 2015 Global Big Day of Birding. Photographer Paul Hurtado.*

After adding the nesting **Bald Eagles** from Genoa Lane, they headed to Rob Lowry’s house in Carson City, where they added **Evening Grosbeak**, their only **Cedar Waxwings** of the day, and a **Hooded Oriole**. With Rob on board, the team headed to Carson River Park and found **Western Screech-Owl**, **Lazuli Bunting**, **Wood Duck**, and several other target birds.

Then they went straight to Deadman’s Creek at Washoe Lake State Park for **Long-eared Owl**, **Cooper’s Hawk**, and **Rock Wren**, and saw a soaring flock of **American White Pelicans** as an added bonus. On to Davis Creek Park for its resident **Calliope Hummingbird**, which was reliably on his usual perch; the team also picked up a **Chipping Sparrow**.

They headed back to Reno to check the Damonte wetlands pond by the fire station for shorebirds, but the mudflats were too dry for shorebirds, and the team only

added **American Green-winged Teal**; disappointing! A South Meadows pond was much better, and the guys added nine new birds in five minutes. The team made a quick stop at Virginia Lake Park to add **Ring-billed Gull** and **Clark’s Grebe**, stopped by Idlewild Park for a **Downy Woodpecker**, and scoped the **Red-shouldered Hawk** on its nest across the river from nearby Ivan Sack Park.

On to Verdi for **Vaux’s Swift** at Crystal Peak Park, and **Acorn Woodpecker** at the Bridge Street bridge. But the team left Verdi without the expected American Dipper, Hairy Woodpecker, and Violet-green Swallow, none of which they got for the Big Day.

The Lemmon Valley sewage ponds had too much water for the hoped-for shorebirds, but the team added **Sage Thrasher**, **Juniper Titmouse**, **Black-throated Sparrow**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and **Brewer’s Sparrow**. Then they made an unproductive stop at the Sparks Marina hoping to see the Mew Gull that had been around recently; sadly, the gull did not come forward to be included in the Global Big Day. They left the Sparks Marina with 149 species counted.

The team ended the day at Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA), spotting a **Horned Lark** along the way. As they entered Mason Valley, they saw a large flock of **Mourning Doves** with a lone sparrow in the flock that turned out to be species #151, **Lark Sparrow**. Then they saw a small flock of **Wild Turkey**. A drive around the wetlands loop at Mason Valley WMA added **American Bittern**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Black Tern**. As the team arrived at Miller’s Marsh, two **Caspian Terns** flew by, and then Paul spotted a **Blue-winged Teal** in the water before them. As Rob was taking photos of the teal, bird number #158 sang out: **Savannah Sparrow**.

A brilliant orange sunset was almost the perfect ending to their amazing day of birding, but the guys were in for another treat as they headed back to the car, a bittern became visible a few dozen yards out into the marsh and it began pumping away (a goodbye salute?) as the trio looked on. All three agreed that great birds and great company made for an unforgettable day of birding!

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

It was another successful and rewarding season for LAS educational outreach. Classroom visits ranged from talks to 1st and 4th graders about owls in October (Coral Academy and Greenbrae ES) to asking 1st graders at Coral Academy *What Makes a Bird A Bird?* in April. Despite Washoe Lake being bone dry this year, LAS hosted 10 field trips for 435 kids from 5 different schools there. The students borrowed binoculars and bird guides to find nesting Black-billed Magpies, American Robins, European Starlings, Northern Flickers, Bullock's Orioles, and even a Killdeer nest with four eggs. American Kestrels with lizards and snakes in their talons proved exciting, and on the last four trips kids discovered a Long-eared Owl and her three fledglings. Since the lake was dry, LAS volunteers brought water from other locations so the kids could still study aquatic organisms under microscopes. Finding critters such as dragonfly and damselfly nymphs, water fleas (*Daphnia*), water boatmen, backswimmers, mosquito larvae, nematode worms, and lots of other organisms (mostly unidentified!) led to discussions of food chains and how Washoe Lake (when it has water) would provide the food necessary to support other animals, such as fishes and frogs, that resident and migrant birds can eat.

Many thanks to the 21 volunteers who helped at the lake this year, and special thanks to Mike Goddard, who took the lead on three trips when Alan Gubanich was absent. Kudos also to Sue Stephenson, who traveled all the way from South Lake Tahoe to help with six trips, and to Larry Paige who became, once

again, our resident "expert" on things aquatic while helping on eight trips. Michelle Hunt from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined us on six trips and taught us all quite a bit about those aquatic critters. Other volunteers included Linda Badzioch (5 trips), Becca Serdehely, who came all the way from Fernley (4 trips), Gil and Jan Potter from North Lake Tahoe (3 trips each), Peggy Robinson (3), Jane Schwenk (3), Mary Ann Bonner (3), Kim Zuch from the Washoe Lake State Park staff (3), Patty Sakelaris (3), Debbie Zalmana (2), Judith Lockwood (2),



*Fourth-graders discovering components of an aquatic food chain.*

*Photographer Alan Gubanich.*

Jim Woods (2), Cindy Goddard (1), Janet Kleen (1), Carole Vogel (1), Jane Burnham (1), Sheryl Ferguson from South Lake Tahoe (1), and Cyndee Wessman (1). It is folks such as you that enable LAS to get kids outside to enjoy nature and hopefully excite them to continue exploring the natural world around them. Who knows how many future biologists and conservationists will have had their start at our dry Washoe Lake?

We held other educational programs using our growing taxidermy collection. If you've been to the Galena Creek Visitor Center, you've seen LAS's collection of over 100

mounts of many species of birds found in Nevada. We use the mounts in all of our classroom visits, in adult workshops (such as the "Birds of the Truckee Meadows" classes), and at several public presentations. Alan Gubanich used the mounts to give talks at the Galena Creek Visitor Center on *How to Identify the Hawks of Northern Nevada*; *Owls of Nevada*; *Winter Birds of the Galena Forest*; and *Summer Birds of the Galena Forest*. The mounts are also used on display tables at events such as Capitol City Farm Days in Carson City; Celebrate Washoe Valley Day at Washoe Lake State Park; the Animal Ark 5-K Run; the Lake Tahoe Bird Festival; and many others. The bird mounts have become an integral part of LAS's educational program, for kids and adults alike.

We are still trying to add new species to the collection, and you can help. At least 14 LAS members so far have donated specimens to the collection.

They either donated already mounted birds, or they paid the taxidermy fees to mount specific birds that were added to the LAS collection. Brent Erichsen at Whistling Wings LLC in Sparks charges LAS extremely low rates: \$100 for a small or medium-sized bird, (such as sparrow or robin), \$150 for slightly larger birds (like kestrel or Short-eared Owl), and \$180 to \$200 for larger birds (raven, hawks, wading birds). If you want to donate a specimen to the LAS collection, contact Alan Gubanich, at [renopopop@pyramid.net](mailto:renopopop@pyramid.net). Alan would also love to hear from you if you want to help with any of LAS's educational events.

*Alan Gubanich, Education Chair*

# 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  
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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    May / June 2015 issue

Make check payable to Lahontan Audubon Society and mail this form to:  
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## 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	_____
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*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:

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# THE PELICAN

July / August 2015

**Lahontan Audubon Society**  
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## Featured Feathered Friend

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) vs. Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)



*Male Downy Woodpecker*  
Photographer Alan D. Wilson

<http://www.naturespicsonline.com/>

- Both occur year-round in Nevada, but the hairy occupies a larger range in the state.
- The downy is the smallest woodpecker in North America at 6.75-7.0 in. The hairy is 8.5-10.5 in. long.
- The length of the downy's bill is smaller than the head. The hairy's bill is much longer and nearly the same size as the head.
- The downy has barred outer tail feathers, but the hairy does not.



*Male Hairy Woodpecker*  
Photographer Alan D. Wilson

<http://www.naturespicsonline.com/>