



SALT LAKE CITY
PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS

Haven for Birds

Remarkable Great Salt Lake

Bonneville Shoreline Preserve offers a sweeping vista of the world's most important migratory bird habitats—the Great Salt Lake and its widespread wetlands. Amid vast expanses of open water, rocky shoreline, playas, salt marshes, and mudflats, scores of birds nest, rest, and feed.

Parts of the lake are far saltier than the ocean, habitable by only the most salt-tolerant organisms like brine shrimp and brine flies, which migrating shorebirds eat. Surrounding these salty habitats lie more than 400,000 acres of freshwater wetlands, more than 75% of Utah's total wetland acreage.

With so many productive habitats, the Great Salt Lake attracts immense numbers of migratory birds. Because of this, it was designated in 1991 as a site of hemispheric significance within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Read the Landscape

Understanding Past and Future

You're standing on one of the last intact portions of the Bonneville Shoreline near Salt Lake City. By studying this rare geologic feature, scientists learn about past changes in climate and landscape, which can help us understand and predict future changes.



Flock of Wilson's phalarope on the Great Salt Lake.



Clockwise from upper left: American avocets, American white pelican and chick, bald eagles at Farmington Bay.



End of the Line

The Great Salt Lake is the largest terminal lake in the Western Hemisphere. A terminal lake has no outlet. When water evaporates, minerals such as salt remain. Also left behind are any pollutants that flow into the lake. That's one good reason to keep the lake's tributaries—like the Jordan River—clean and healthy.

Did You Know?

An estimated 7.5 million birds of 257 different species visit the Great Salt Lake each year.

Year-round Appeal

In spring and fall, huge numbers of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl stop at the Great Salt Lake to feed and rest during their long journeys. Some remain here in summer to raise young. In winter, bald eagles and other raptors gather at sites like Farmington Bay.

