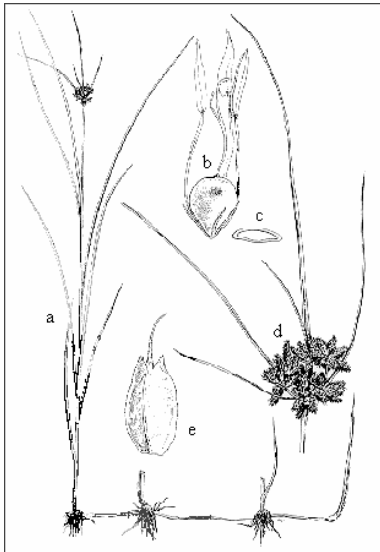


# THE SALT MARSH HABITAT

The **marsh habitat** or **wetlands** around the Great Salt Lake make up 75% of all wetlands in Utah (over 500,000 acres). They are generally located in the deltas of the rivers flowing into the lake. The Great Salt Lake wetlands provide some of the most important breeding and resting areas for large populations of waterfowl and shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere. There are 10 areas set aside for waterfowl around the lake: Locomotive Springs, Layton Management Area, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek Area, Tempie Springs, Bear River Bird Sanctuary, Ogden Bay, Howard's Slough, Harold Crane Refuge and Farmington Bay. Each of these areas provides opportunities for viewing waterfowl, mammals, amphibians and insects.

The marshes are rich with plants and animals adapted to the sometimes-salty conditions present there. Marshes act as sponges to filter out pollutants.



Alkali and salt marsh bulrushes (pictured) prosper in saline environments where sediments are nutrient poor and water is shallow. They provide habitat and food for marsh wrens, ducks, crustaceans, muskrats, geese and coots.

Animals in the salt marsh are uniquely adapted to life in a wetland. Avocets and curlews (pictured) have long legs that enable them to stay dry while looking for the crustaceans and small animals they eat. Long bills allow these birds to reach food in shallow, muddy water without submerging their heads thus staying aware of their surroundings and possible dangers.

## SALT MARSH ANIMALS



FOX, SKUNK,  
MUSKRAT, COYOTE,  
WEASEL, RACCOON,  
MOUSE, MARSH HAWK,  
GREAT HORNED OWL,  
BALD EAGLE, MARSH  
WREN, GREAT BLUE  
HERON, SNOWY EGRET,  
NIGHT HERON, GREBE,  
DUCK, CANADA GOOSE,  
IBIS, AVOCET,  
PHALAROPE, BULLFROG,  
SALAMANDER, BULL  
SNAKE, DRAGONFLY,  
MOSQUITO, LEECH,  
SNAIL, CARP.

