

**Brine Shrimp and Brine Flies** feed migratory birds and support much of the lake's industry. The salinity of the main body of the lake has climbed to ~19%. At this level, the brine flies and brine shrimp cannot maintain their populations.

Brine fly populations declined dramatically in 2022, and brine shrimp are expected to decline in 2023.

## **American Avocet and Eared Grebe**

The American Avocet and the Eared Grebe are just two of the almost 350 bird species that depend on Great Salt Lake habitats, providing food and habitat for more than 10 million migratory birds and wildlife throughout the Wasatch Front. The lake's diverse wetland, island, and open-water environments are a vital link in the Pacific Flyway, and are becoming even more crucial as habitat is lost or degraded throughout the western states.

**A note worthy symbiotic relationship between brine flies and brine shrimp** relates to water clarity. After brine shrimp have grazed much of the lake's algae during summer, mid-lake waters become very clear. This allows more light to reach down to the lake bottom, which then stimulates the growth of blue-green algae—the food of the brine fly larvae