GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL





REGISTRATION

March 20, 10AM MT



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE 2025

THURSDAY • MAY 15		
Grow with Great Salt Lake Bird Festival Series		
Landscaping for Birds with Sheriden Hansen* 6:00 PM t		
Intro to Nature Journaling with Susan Snyder*	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	

FRIDAY • MAY 16	
Wings & Things Vendor Fair: Sponsored by Maven Optics	12:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Utah Butterfly Basics	1:00 PM to 1:50 PM
How to Help Injured Wildlife	2:00 PM to 2:50 PM
Owl Pellet Dissection	4:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Student Art Viewing and Refreshments	4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Live Bird Encounters with Nick Harris from Long Wing Inc.**	4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Student Art Awards & GSL Bird Race Awards	6:00 PM to 6:20 PM

Nature Through Art Series		
Watercolor Bird Illustrations with Lyra Zoe Smith	6:30 PM to 8:00 PM	
Level Up Your Bird Photography with Mary Anne Karren	6:30 PM to 8:00 PM	

SATURDAY • MAY 17	
Wings & Things Vendor Fair: Sponsored by Maven Optics	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Family Day Activities including arts & crafts, pinecone bird feeders, and free face painting^	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Bird Photography: Finding the Artist Inside You	9:00 AM to 9:50 AM
Drawing Raptors from Life**	10:00 AM to 10:50 AM
Bald and Beautiful**	10:00 AM to 10:50 AM
Parade of Raptors**	11:00 AM to 11:50 AM
Backyard Birds 101	11:00 AM to 11:50 AM
Owl Pellet Dissection	12:00 PM to 12:45 PM
How to Help Injured Wildlife	12:00 PM to 12:50 PM
Falconry 101: Ask a Falconer Anything**	1:00 PM to 1:50 PM
Beginning Birding	1:00 PM to 1:50 PM
Keynote Presentation & Dinner: The Most Overlooked Birds in North America: Females by Joanna Wu, PhD*	6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Free festival activites are open to the public at Western Sports Park

2025 WORKSHOP & SERIES SCHEDULE

We are pleased to once again offer our free in-person educational workshops, as well as some new featured events for your enrichment. Learn new skills at one of our Grow with Great Salt Lake Bird Festival series classes or jump into your creative side and join a Nature Through Art series workshop. All workshops are hosted at Western Sports Park unless otherwise noted.

Please visit the website for additional information on offerings happening throughout the festival and join in on the birding fun!

THURSDAY • MAY 15

GROW WITH GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL SERIES:

Landscaping for Birds*

Presenter: Sheriden Hansen **Time:** 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Learn to adapt the landscape to attract and support wild birds in your own yard. This course will cover plants suitable to the climate of the Intermountain West and selections known for attracting local birds as well as pollinators. Learn the techniques for success, such as plant placement and seasonal maintenance. The course will also cover techniques beyond planting such as supplemental food and water placement to support bird populations. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on planting of a new bird friendly garden at the Western Sports Park and will take home three perennials to place in their own gardens. Participants should bring gloves (if desired) and a small garden trowel.

GROW WITH GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL SERIES:

Intro to Nature Journaling*

Presenter: Susan Snyder **Time:** 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Join artist, naturalist, and birder Susan Snyder for a two-hour introduction to nature journaling at nearby Woodland Park. We'll explore drawing and colored pencil techniques as we learn how to be observant and present in nature to enhance our personal outdoor experiences. Participants will receive a journal, colored pencils, and drawing utensils to use in the workshop and take home to continue their nature journaling journey. Ages 14+. Participants younger than 16 must have a participating adult present.

GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL 2025

^{*}Registration Required

^{**}Includes Live Birds

[^]Free Face Painting from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

^{*}Registration required. Space is limited.

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FRIDAY • MAY 16

WORKSHOP: Utah Butterfly Basics

Presenter(s): Todd Stout Time: 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

This presentation explores the life histories, habitat, and distribution of several Utah butterflies from varying geographic regions such as the Great Basin, Colorado Plateau, Mojave Desert, and Rocky Mountain ranges in Utah. Todd will touch on the basics of butterfly metamorphosis showing at which stage certain Utah butterfly species overwinter.

WORKSHOP: How to Help Injured Wildlife

Presenter(s): Michiko Berceau, BS, CVT, CWR

Time: 2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

In this presentation, we will cover bird species commonly found injured, ill, or orphaned in our urban environments and frequent injury types. We will discuss how to identify abnormal behavior, when to intervene, and what intervention entails, including safe capture techniques. With the goal of a human-wildlife alliance, educated and compassionate members of the public can be prepared and knowledgeable in these situations.

WORKSHOP: Owl Pellet Dissection

Presenter(s): HawkWatch International

Time: 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Join curious folks of all ages in this exploration of one of nature's coolest phenomena: owl pellets! Owls can't digest the bones or fur of their prey, so they cough up compact pellets that humans can dissect to learn what the birds have been eating. Our pellets are sterilized and ready for exploring. Pellets are first come, first served.

WORKSHOP: Live Birds with Long Wing Inc.**

Presenter(s): Nick Harris Time: 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Meet beautiful birds from around the world with falconer Nick Harris. In this meet and greet program for all ages, people can ask questions, observe wild birds up close, and take photos with the birds.

**Includes live birds

NATURE THROUGH ART SERIES: Watercolor Bird Illustrations

Presenter(s): Lyra Zoe Smith **Time:** 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Learn how to create monochromatic bird paintings using watercolor with local artist Lyra Zoe Smith. She will guide you through basic techniques using watercolor to capture the likeness of a bird focusing on value over color. You will also learn to simplify bird shapes with pencil before applying your paint and bringing the bird to life. Have a bird you would like to paint? Bring your reference with you of your favorite bird to personalize your work.

Art supplies (paper, pencil, brush, watercolor palette) will be available to borrow for the class. Attendees are welcome to bring their own supplies.

NATURE THROUGH ART SERIES: Level Up Your Bird Photography

Presenter(s): Mary Anne Karren **Time:** 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Are you a bird enthusiast looking to level up your bird photography? In this workshop, Mary Anne will give concrete fieldwork and post-processing tips to help you craft evocative and artistic photographs of birds. The workshop will include a 45-minute presentation followed by a guided discussion, image review, and Q&A.

Bird photography experience is not required, but the workshop will be most helpful for those who already understand the basics of operating a DSLR or mirrorless camera with a telephoto lens.

Participants are encouraged to send in their bird photography questions and/or images at least 3 days before the workshop for discussion during the second half of the workshop (time permitting). Link to submit questions may be found under the workshop details on the website.

SATURDAY • MAY 17

WORKSHOP: Bird Photography: Finding the Artist Inside You

Presenter(s): Tom Mathewson **Time:** 9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

This is a quick introduction to taking great bird pictures. We'll only touch lightly on technical issues such as basic theory and the best camera settings. Mostly, though, we'll cover artistic aspects such as lighting, composition, balance and more so that you can tap your own artistic vision, recognize artistic scenes, and then capture and portray those scenes as the works of art that they truly are.

WORKSHOP: Drawing Raptors from Life*

Presenter(s): Colleen Palmer **Time:** 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Graphic artist Colleen Palmer leads this interactive workshop for artists of all skill levels. Come sketch a live raptor along with a professional artist. We'll get tips on observational drawing and how to emphasize features and shapes that characterize raptors.

**Includes live birds

WORKSHOP: Bald and Beautiful*

Presenter(s): Heidi Christensen, Ogden Nature Center

Time: 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Meet Des Ta Te, a resident Bald Eagle of Ogden Nature Center. This program welcomes all ages. We'll learn about America's national symbol, explore some eagle artifacts, and hear how Ogden Nature Center cares for this amazing animal.

**Includes live birds

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SATURDAY • MAY 17 • CONTINUED

WORKSHOP: Parade of Raptors**

Presenter(s): HawkWatch International

Time: 11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Meet some of HawkWatch International's live Raptor Ambassadors in this presentation for all ages. We'll learn what makes a bird a raptor, where to find raptors in the wild, and how we can all help these beautiful birds thrive.

**Includes live birds

WORKSHOP: Backyard Birds 101

Presenter(s): Nick George, Wildbirds Unlimited

Time: 11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

This presentation will cover the hobby of backyard birding. This hobby can be a fun, engaging, and relaxing hobby for all ages to enjoy. We will discuss the various types of birds that you can attract and how best to go about attracting them. This includes the different seasonal changes like nesting and the different migrations we experience here in Utah.

WORKSHOP: Owl Pellet Dissection

Presenter(s): HawkWatch International

Time: 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

Join curious folks of all ages in this exploration of one of nature's coolest phenomena: owl pellets! Owls can't digest the bones or fur of their prey, so they cough up compact pellets that humans can dissect to learn what the birds have been eating. Our pellets are sterilized and ready for exploring. Pellets are first come, first served.

WORKSHOP: How to Help Injured Wildlife

Presenter(s): Michiko Berceau, BS, CVT, CWR

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WORKSHOP: Falconry 101: Ask a Falconer Anything**

Presenter(s): Krista Edwards **Time:** 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

People of all ages are invited to join us for a brief discussion on what falconry is and how to practice it legally in the State of Utah. Following a short presentation that will review the history, legal requirements, and purpose of falconry, there will be representatives from the Utah Falconers' Association present to take your questions. Live birds will be present and you are more than welcome to get your photos with them following the presentation.

**Includes live birds

WORKSHOP: Beginning Birding

Presenter(s): Dallin Henderson & Max Malmquist

Time: 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

This is a workshop geared towards beginning birders and families. We will cover birding identification using slides with an emphasis on basic bird knowledge and information. All are welcome to attend the workshop.

*Registration required for Beginning Birding: Farmington Bay field trip that takes place at 2:15 pm following the workshop.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION & DINNER

The Most Overlooked Birds in North America: Females

Presenter(s): Joanna Wu, PhD Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Female birds often hide in plain sight. Typically drabber and more inconspicuous than males, there is an unconscious bias towards male birds in birdwatching, photography, and even in our scientific knowledge about birds. This talk explores the history of focus on male birds, why it's important to focus on females, and gives female bird identification tips. Joanna invites the audience to learn why female birds are worth a second look.

*Registration Required. Dinner included with ticket. Space is limited.





PRE-FESTIVAL TRIPS

UTAH HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Date: May 12th – May 15th Cost: \$1,149 Guide(s): Tim Avery

While some of the best high elevation sites are still inaccessible, many of the low elevation locations more than make up for birds with migrants! This tour will cover the entire western half of the state, starting at the Great Salt Lake, and then spending 3 days discovering the incredible birding anchored around the southwest corner of the state and the Mojave Desert.

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com to see options, pricing, and register for this trip.

Spots: 7

BIRD FEST KICK-OFF FRARY PEAK HIKE

NEW! Dat

Date: Wednesday, May 14 **Time:** 6:15 AM to 1:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$40 **Guide(s):** Colin Maguire

Kick off Bird Fest 2025 with a bright and early morning hike up Frary Peak on Antelope Island! Known as one of Davis County's most popular trails, Frary Peak offers advanced hikers a rewarding 6.6-mile out-and-back journey with a steady elevation gain (2,100 feet). At the summit (6582 feet), you'll be treated to breathtaking panoramic views of Salt Lake City, The Great Salt Lake, and the surrounding mountain ranges of Northern Utah. This trail is recommended for experienced hikers due to its length and elevation gain. Plan for an estimated 5–6 hours to complete the hike, as we'll take breaks to explore and observe the riparian and mountain bird species along the way. If anyone spots a bird, we will stop to identify it. With camaraderie, great conversations, and a goal of spotting 30 species, this will be a challenging yet unforgettable hike!

*Ticket includes head net and park entry.

Meeting Location: Frary Peak Trailhead, Antelope Island State Park

Activity Level: Advanced

Good For: Hikers who can take on a strenuous half-day hike that promises both challenge and reward. Be sure to wear reliable hiking gear, including comfortable shoes or boots with excellent traction. Protect yourself from the elements with sunscreen, a hat to shield your face against the sun, and a bug hood or bug net jacket in areas where the gnats might be active. Staying hydrated is critical—bring as much water as you can comfortably carry to stay well-hydrated from start to finish (recommended minimum 2.5 liters of water). A good rule of thumb is to bring more water than you think you'll need. This hike is perfect for those looking for an escape from the stress of work or need a reason to play hooky!

Target Species: Antelope Island specialties, such as the Rock Wren and Chukar, are likely to be spotted. You can also expect to see a variety of raptors and migrating high desert songbirds. How many species will we find, and which ones? Join us so you can contribute to these answers!

Spots: 6

Activity Level Key

Accessible: Fully accessible for festival-goers in wheelchairs or limited mobility

Easy: 0.5 miles or less walking on flat or paved surfaces

Moderate: Up to 2 miles walking with less than 250 feet elevation change on well-maintained trails or surfaces

Active: 2-3 miles walking or hiking with 250-500 feet of elevation gain on trails OR involving cycling or kayaking

Advanced: 6+ miles hiking with over 1000+ elevation gain

Visit the Meeting Locations page at **GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com** for detailed information on where to meet your guide.

MOUNTAIN OWLS

Date: Wednesday, May 14 **Time:** 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM **Cost:** \$75

Guide(s): Mike Hearell and Taylor Abbott

When birders think about owls, Utah probably isn't near the top of their list of places to look. But 14 of the 19 regularly occurring species found in North America have been seen in Utah. The mountains along the Wasatch Front provide a great deal of habitat for many of these species, and this tour will provide an opportunity to look for several. The main target bird will be the Flammulated Owl, but others including the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Northern Pygmy-Owl may be seen. Other possible species we may encounter at dusk or while owling, include Common Poorwill and Hermit Thrush.

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com for additional details and to register for this trip.

Spots: 14

POST-FESTIVAL TRIP

POST-FESTIVAL OWLING +

Date: Tuesday, May 20 **Time:** 6:30 PM to 11:30 PM **Cost:** \$89

Guide(s): Tim Avery

The mountains just outside of Salt Lake City, Utah provide some of the closest and easiest to access nesting habitat for Flammulated Owls, and by far the best opportunity to see these birds anywhere in the world. Often one of the last North American owls for ABA listers, Utah has become the go-to location to see this bird! Once dark (usually about 15–30 minutes after sunset), we will use our time-tested techniques to elicit a response from an owl. Once we've found a responsive individual we'll attempt to track the bird down, and briefly shine our low-temp LED spotlight near the bird, and use a laser pointer to provide directions to see the tiny owl. Oftentimes other nocturnal birds show up on this tour. Common Poorwill is encountered with some frequency, while Northern Saw-whet Owl and Ruffed Grouse show up from time to time as well.

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com for additional details and to register for this trip.

Spots: 7

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1. ANTELOPE ISLAND THROUGH THE LENS - INLAND & CAUSEWAY



Time: 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$30

Guide(s): Elizabeth Moon

Antelope Island is a fantastic place to see numerous bird species up close. It's also the perfect place to practice your photography skills. This field trip will focus on seeing and identifying birds and will teach how to best view birds through a camera lens. Awardwinning photographer, Elizabeth Moon, will guide you as you set up and frame your shots while working with lighting conditions like a pro. Bring your camera and come learn about photography tips and tricks.

*Ticket includes head net and park entry.

Meeting Location: Antelope Island State Park Entrance Booth Parking Lot Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, galliformes, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl

Spots: 8

2. BIKING AND BIRDING ALONG THE WEST DAVIS HIGHWAY TRAIL

Time: 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): Colin Maguire

As the sun rises over the Wasatch Mountains, discover the scenery of the West Davis Highway by bike, a paved path that offers over 10 miles of biking trails along the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake. Bring your energy and enthusiasm for an adventure combining biking and birdwatching! The ride will head northward, covering approximately 8.5 miles to the Bobolink spot near Kaysville Elementary School before turning back. This leisurely–paced ride allows for frequent stops to observe and identify birds along the way. Pack plenty of water, a lunch, and all the essentials for a rewarding half-day trip. The trail provides fantastic opportunities to explore shoreline marsh habitats and observe birdlife. Our goal is to identify 75 species. Based on the participant feedback from 2024, this trip is a favorite and an absolute blast.

*Trip participants are required to provide their own bike and helmet.

Meeting Location: 1954 W Glovers Lane, Farmington

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders. Perfect for couples, family,

friends, or anyone who owns a bike

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, flycatchers, vireos,

swallows, shrikes

Spots: 6

3. MARATHON SCOUTING

Time: 6:00 AM to 11:30 PM Cost: \$199 Guide(s): Mike Hearell

Join our guide on an exciting birding adventure! We'll explore the beautiful areas surrounding the Great Salt Lake, including its shores and wetlands, as well as the stunning canyons and mountains of the Wasatch front. Our goal is to spot up to 150 species and help our team plan for our faster paced Marathon Tour later in the week. Get ready for an unforgettable birding experience!

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com for additional details and to register for this trip.

Spots: 7

4. GLOVER PONDS AT SUNRISE



Time: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25

Guide(s): Jen Hitt and Raquel Johnson

These ponds bring YOU into nature and the surrounding wetlands enhance your opportunity for close-up observation. A nearby Great Blue Heron breeding colony will be active and American Avocets and other shorebirds and waterfowl will be building nests. Other possible species include: Cinnamon Teal, four species of grebe, Snowy Egret, Ruddy Duck, and American White Pelican, plus other shorebirds, and other wildlife. A spotting scope will be available.

Meeting Location: Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders **Target Species:** waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds

Spots: 12

5. MINDFUL BIRDING BY KAYAK AT BOUNTIFUL POND

Time: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM or 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive

Cost: \$60 Guide(s): Heidi Hoven

Join us to experience birding in a peaceful way, while taking in the surroundings and activities of birds in a sensory way. This is a calm journey where we stop at different habitat settings and use visual and auditory clues to learn about the birds we see. This is a great opportunity for beginning birders, where identifying a bird is not our first priority.

Two trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of 7:00 AM or 10:00 AM during registration. Weather permitting. *Ticket includes kayak and life jacket rental.

Meeting Location: Bountiful Pond

Activity Level: Active
Good For: Beginning Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers,

flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, secretive marsh birds

Spots: 6 participants per start time

6. SWANER PRESERVE & ECOCENTER, SANDHILL CRANES, & MORE!

Time: 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$45

Guide(s): Rhea Cone and Kim Lightbody

Come visit high altitude wet meadows, marshes, and riparian areas of the Swaner Preserve in search of Sandhill Cranes. Cranes have successfully nested and reared their young in the Preserve in years past and are typically very visible during the spring. Surrounded by a scenic backdrop of the Wasatch Mountains, walk along trails normally closed to the public. These high altitude wetlands and adjacent uplands are home to more than 170 species of birds, including Mountain Bluebirds, Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, swallows, various raptors and Yellow Warblers.

Meeting Location: Swaner EcoCenter

Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Intermediate Birders

Target Species: songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl

Spots: 20

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7. JORDANELLE WETLANDS AND HEBER FIELDS

Time: 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$35

Guide(s): Janae Radke and Audrey Horn

The Jordanelle Reclamation Area south of Jordanelle Reservoir offers excellent birding. Possible species include Common Yellowthroats, Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellow Warblers, Osprey, American Dippers, and swallows. The nearby fields of Heber City also offer exciting possibilities including Sandhill Cranes, Wilson's Snipes, kingbirds, Bobolinks, and multiple sparrow species.

Meeting Location: Provo Riverwalk and Fishing Site

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, raptors

Spots: 10

8. BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE GUIDED AUTO TOUR AND WALK BEHIND THE GATES

Time: 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM Transportation: Mid-size Bus Cost: \$80

Guide(s): Jen Wright and Amanda Holland

Spend a day with expert birders at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. You will see why this area has been protected since 1928. It is considered one of the top ten birding spots in the nation and one of Utah's premier birding hotspots. Its 78,000 acres provide a vast wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, White–faced Ibis, several species of blackbirds, gulls, terns, swallows, marsh wrens, and more.

*If there are many birds actively nesting on the road, access behind the gates will be limited. Mosquitos and brine flies will be out in May; hiking shoes, long-sleeves and long pants are recommended for walking on the refuge dike roads.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows,

shrikes, songbirds, raptors, corvids, Western and Clark's Grebe

Spots: 35

9. INLAND SEA SHOREBIRD RESERVE

Time: 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM Transportation: Van(s) Cost: \$115

Guide(s): Max Malmquist and Quinn Diaz

Experience Rio Tinto Kennecott's Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve that is not open to the general public. Visit over 8,000 acres of private land on the edge of Great Salt Lake. Shallow ponds invite avocets, Black-necked Stilts, willets, migrating 'peeps' and Snowy Plovers. Prairie type sparrows, larks, pipits, shrike, hawks and falcons are possible. Access to some areas may be limited with wet weather. This trip includes light walking with probable muddy conditions. It is recommended to bring an extra spotting scope if possible and pack a sack lunch and/or snacks and water. *Ticket includes head net.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Intermediate Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, songbirds

Spots: 20

10. UTAH COUNTY PINYON JUNIPER SPECIALTIES

Time: 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): KC Childs and Suzi Holt

We will be birding the area around Soldiers Pass in Utah County in the pinyon juniper forests, along with the sage and upland grassland habitats. Participants will be expected to bring a vehicle that can drive on a dirt road, sedans should be okay, but a vehicle with some clearance is preferred. We will be looking for birds like Gray Vireo, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Sagebrush Sparrow, Juniper Titmouse, Long-billed Curlew, Common Nighthawk, Horned Lark, and many other species found in this habitat. Participants will need to do some walking on uneven ground, but for the most part, we will drive, park, get out, look, listen, walk around, and repeat. Carpooling and bringing a 2-way radio is encouraged.

Meeting Location: Saratoga Springs

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds

Spots: 12

11. PHOTOGRAPHY AT ADAM'S RESERVOIR



Time: 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$30

Guide(s): Tom Mathewson

We will meet at Adams Reservoir in Layton where we'll walk to a good spot on the shore, stay put, and let the birds come to us. We'll cover photographing birds with a tripod as well as hand-held shooting, equipment tips, camera settings and shooting techniques for getting the best pictures possible in nearly any conditions. Bring your camera, lens, tripod, etc.; don't forget a folding chair, water, sunscreen, bug repellant and a hat.

Meeting Location: Adam's Reservoir

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: corvids, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, woodpeckers, galliformes, Ospreys, Bald Eagle, Western & Clark's Grebes, Kingfishers. Common Mergansers

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Spots: 12

12. AMERICAN KESTREL

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Transportation: Mid-size Bus Cost: \$70

Guide(s): Jessica Taylor and Kate Sweet

Learn about the American Kestrel from Hawkwatch International. They have been monitoring kestrels for a decade as part of their Cavity Adopting Raptor Ecology Study (CARES). You will go out with the biologists that run the study to visit active nest sites while observing North America's smallest falcon.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: raptors

Spots: 15

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13. GSL ECOSYSTEM BOAT TOUR

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM or 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive

Cost: \$60 Guide(s): John Luft, Kyle Stone, and Jim Van Leeuwen

This is not a bird tour. In fact, very few birds will be seen on the open waters of Great Salt Lake. This tour is focused on the management of the brine shrimp fishery on the lake and will be guided by GSL Ecosystem Program Biologists. They will answer questions about the ecosystem and management of the lake. Trip is contingent on weather. Sunscreen and water are recommended.

Two trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of 7:00 AM or 10:00 AM during registration. *Trip is weather and water level dependent. Weather date, Sunday May 18,2025.

Meeting Location: Great Salt Lake State Park Marina

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders

Target Species: Eared Grebes and gulls

Spots: 8

14. BIRDS & BOTANY



Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25

Guide(s): Rachel Lake and Tori Sohm

There are few factors that influence birds' survival more than the plants in their habitat, so on this trip we will be learning more about the relationships between plants, birds, and water. Led by both a botanist and birder, we can explore a range of habitats all in one place at the USU Botanical Center in Kaysville. If you've ever been out birding and wondered, 'What is that plant and what makes it special?' then this is the trip for you! Please bring water, a sun hat, and sunscreen.

Meeting Location: USU Botanical Center Kaysville

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: waterfowl, songbirds

Spots: 20

15. SUNSET HIKE ALONG MAPLE SYRUP TRAIL



Time: 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$40

Guide(s): Colin Maguire

If you have a sweet tooth for spotting birds, this hike is perfect for you! The Maple Syrup Trail, newly opened in 2024, is ready to be explored. We'll journey through this trail system searching for riparian birds along the way. Springtime in Mueller Park is alive with the songs of territorial breeding birds, providing the perfect opportunity to listen and learn how to distinguish between different species. This scenic loop is approximately 6 miles long. While some sections are marked as difficult, the trails are wide and smooth, making for relatively easy travel. Expect to experience both uphill and downhill stretches. Join us for an exciting adventure filled with birdwatching, learning, great company, and the natural beauty of Mueller Park!

Meeting Location: Mueller Park **Activity Level:** Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: woodpeckers, wood warblers, hummingbirds, nuthatches, thrushes,

raptors, possible vireos, Hammonds Flycatchers, and Pacific Wrens

Spots: 6

16. INTRODUCTION TO BIRDING BY EAR



Time: 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25

Guide(s): Beth Cottam and Angie Branch

Some have said that experienced birders identify ten times as many birds with their ears as with their eyes, but no other aspect of birding is more difficult to master than voice identification. So where do you begin? Come to this introduction to birding by ear. First, we will meet for a workshop to discuss the basics of bird vocalizations, sound patterns, and how to visualize sounds. We will also discuss some strategies, tips, tricks, and resources to help you learn how to identify birds by sound. After the workshop, we will explore Farmington Creek Trail while listening for birds as we practice what we have learned. Participants may carpool to the trailhead a short distance from Western Sports Park.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds

Spots: 13

17. ANTELOPE ISLAND OWL PROWL

Time: 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM Transportation: Mid-size Bus Cost: \$85

Guide(s): Melissa Halvorsen and Renata Vazquez

Who, Who should go? Owl lovers, that's WHO! Antelope Island is prime habitat for several species of owl: Great Horned, Barn, Burrowing, Long-eared, and Short-eared Owls have all been spotted in the park. This is a great opportunity to see other wildlife as well including bison, coyotes, and porcupine. Picturesque views of the lake and timing of this evening trip will be great for photographing the island's famous sunsets. Bring a snack, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

*Ticket includes head net and park entry.

Meeting Location: Antelope Island State Park Entrance Booth Parking Lot

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, corvids, Burrowing Owls, American Barn Owls, Great

Horned Owls **Spots:** 28

18. SUNSET AT GALENA SOO'NKAHNI



Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$25

Guide(s): Tori Sohm

Galena Soo'nkahni is a conservation easement nestled in the heart of southern Salt Lake County, a treasure in the middle of suburban development. On a 4-mile thereand-back walk along the Jordan River Trail, we will likely see songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors, maybe deer and other wildlife. At the top of the hill, we can watch the sunset over the Jordan River Valley.

Meeting Location: Jordan River Rotary Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, songbirds

FRIDAY • MAY 16

19. FAIRFIELD BIRDING OASIS



Time: 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Van Cost: \$95

Guide(s): Tori Sohm and Jake Dreyfous

Join us for exclusive access to a special project on private land – a habitat that has been carefully developed and curated over the past 20 years to become a destination for all kinds of birds. We may see ducks and other wetland species in a spring-fed pond, waxwings and robins in fruiting shrubs, and if we're lucky, maybe even a long-eared owl or Swainson's hawk. This is your chance to see 'If you build it, they will come' in action!

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: raptors, songbirds

Spots: 12

20. MOUNTAINS IN MAY

Time: 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM Cost: \$79

Guide(s): Quinn Diaz

Join us for a day exploring the Wasatch Mountains and the incredible birds that inhabit the west fringe of the Rocky Mountains. This tour will take us to a variety of montane locations and habitats to show not only the incredible variety of birds these mountains call home, but also the diversity in habitats from 4,500' in the foothills to over 10,000' at the tree line. Depending on snow pack conditions, and recent scouting trips, the actual itinerary for the day will be determined by the guide in the days leading up the event. Birding in mixed-oak woodlands, along montane riparian corridors, working our way to mid-elevations, and eventually mixed aspen and pine forests, each unique ecosystem has a variety of birds tied to the habitats and in many cases elevations.

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com for additional details and to register for this trip.

Spots: 7

21. MIST NETTING & BIRD BANDING AT FARMINGTON CREEK

Time: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM or 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive

Cost: \$25 Guide(s): Jace Taylor and Russ Lawrence

Participants will learn how and why biologists use fine "mist" nets for trapping small birds, proper safety and handling of birds, and how birds are measured, weighed, and banded. They will also learn how the data is used for bird conservation. Participants will have the opportunity to assist in handling and photo ops with the birds before they are released back into the wild. Best Management Practices will be in place to assure the safety and well-being of both the bird and the participants.

Two trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of $7:00\,\mathrm{AM}$ or $9:00\,\mathrm{AM}$ during registration.

Meeting Location: Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, woodpeckers, and

anything else willing to fly between trees and get caught in our nets.

Spots: 20

22. MINDFUL BIRDING BY KAYAK AT BOUNTIFUL POND

Time: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM or 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive

Cost: \$60 Guide(s): Heidi Hoven

Join us to experience birding in a peaceful way, while taking in the surroundings and activities of birds in a sensory way. This is a calm journey where we stop at different habitat settings and use visual and auditory clues to learn about the birds we see. This is a great opportunity for beginning birders, where identifying a bird is not our first priority.

Two trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of 7:00 AM or 10:00 AM during registration. Weather permitting. *Ticket includes kayak and life jacket rental.

Meeting Location: Bountiful Pond

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers,

flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, secretive marsh birds

Spots: 6 participants per start time

23. BUFFALO RANCHES POND NEAR FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$30

Guide(s): Ben Johnson and Colin Maguire

Buffalo Ranches Ponds, located on the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake flyway, is a migrant trap where over 200 bird species have been observed. This unique location provides the opportunity to spot common staples and perhaps a few unexpected surprises. Guides Ben and Colin will take the time to point out species, teach bird identification and bird calls, and offer fascinating insights about each species we encounter. This leisurely 4-mile walk (2 miles in and 2 miles back) allows plenty of opportunities to enjoy the area's amazing birdlife. Buffalo Ranches Ponds is a remarkable destination for birding. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, this enjoyable birding experience is open to all! Don't forget to wear sunscreen, a hat, and bring water and snacks to stay comfortable.

Meeting Location: 1954 W Glovers Lane, Farmington

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers,

flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, sparrows

Spots: 15

24. JORDANELLE WETLANDS AND HEBER FIELDS

Time: 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$35

Guide(s): Janae Radke and Audrey Horn

The Jordanelle Reclamation Area south of Jordanelle Reservoir offers excellent birding. Possible species include Common Yellowthroats, Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellow Warblers, Osprey, American Dippers, and swallows. The nearby fields of Heber City also offer exciting possibilities including Sandhill Cranes, Wilson's Snipes, kingbirds, Bobolinks, and multiple sparrow species.

Meeting Location: Provo Riverwalk and Fishing Site

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, raptors

Spots: 10

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25. BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE GUIDED AUTO TOUR AND WALK BEHIND THE GATES

Time: 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM Transportation: Mid-size Bus Cost: \$80

Guide(s): Jen Wright and Amanda Holland

Spend a day with expert birders at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. You will see why this area has been protected since 1928. It is considered one of the top ten birding spots in the nation and one of Utah's premier birding hotspots. Its 78,000 acres provide a vast wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, White-faced Ibis, several species of blackbirds, gulls, terns, swallows, marsh wrens, and more.

*If there are many birds actively nesting on the road, access behind the gates will be limited. Mosquitos and brine flies will be out in May; hiking shoes, long–sleeves and long pants are recommended for walking on the refuge dike roads.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows,

shrikes, songbirds, raptors, corvids, Western and Clark's Grebe

Spots: 35

26. BIRDING DIAMOND FORK CANYON

Time: 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): Keeli Marvel and Kim Lightbody

Diamond Fork Canyon encompasses a wide diversity of habitats including montane forest, sagebrush, scrub oak, juniper forest, wetland marsh, river, and red rock cliff habitat in which a wide diversity of bird species may be found. Possible bird sightings include: Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Mountain Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher, Woodhouse's Scrub-jay, Plumbeous Vireos, MacGillivray's, Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers, Golden Eagle (possibly on a nest), Canyon, Marsh, and House Wrens, and White-throated Swifts. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen, and lunch.

Meeting Location: Springville Walmart Parking Lot

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos,

swallows, shrikes, songbirds

Spots: 15

27. SAGE-STEPPE BIRDING AT PROMONTORY POINT

Time: 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM Transportation: Mid-size Bus Cost: \$95 Guide(s): Adam Brewerton, Cullen Clark, Rory Eggleston, Jim Parrish, & Leah Waldner

This trip will have stops from the wetlands and riparian areas from Bear River Bay and travel through the uplands as we focus on the sagebrush and upland communities of the Promontory Peninsula. We will see birds associated with each habitat as we move from the lower wetlands at the edge of the lake up to the slopes and ridges of the mountains and back again. Highlights are seeing the different communities for different habitats, and typically find grassland, upland, and sagebrush associated birds, like Long-Billed Curlews and Sage Thrashers. We will also have a chance at many of northern Utah's raptors. We will also be near some non-bird points of interest like Golden Spike National Historic Park, where the transcontinental railroad was finished.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds,

sparrows, shorebirds, waterfowl, galliformes

Spots: 25

28. BIRDING AT KAYSVILLE PONDS

Time: 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25

Guide(s): Sharee Harrison and Jen Hitt

Located off I–15, Kaysville Ponds at the USU Botanical Center are home to a network of family friendly walking trails in a beautiful wetland environment. This trip involves walking around the pond and down the walkway through the trees. The pond provides a stopover area for many gulls and waterfowl, and the surrounding trees and fields homes for many songbirds, owls, and other birds with close viewing opportunities.

Meeting Location: Kaysville Ponds

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, raptors, songbirds, galliformes, woodpeckers,

flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, kingfishers

Spots: 20

29. BIRD BANDING AT TRACY AVIARY'S NATURE CENTER AT PIA OKWIA



Time: 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35

Guide(s): Tully Frain and Angie Trumbo

Join Tracy Aviary's Conservation Department as we monitor migrating songbirds through our bird banding program. Participants will have the opportunity to spend a day with our team, engaging in the process of bird banding while learning about the incredible species migrating through the Salt Lake Valley.

Meeting Location: Tracy Aviary's Nature Center at Pia Okwia

Activity Level: Accessible

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: songbirds, woodpeckers

Spots: 15

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30. DIGISCOPING AT FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$95

Guide(s): Max Malmquist and Logan Knaphus

"Digiscoping" is a method of telephoto photography, often used by placing the lens of a digital camera (such as a cell phone) to the eyepiece of a spotting scope or binoculars to take photos. Join guides Max Malmquist and Logan Knaphus on this in-the-field workshop to practice digiscoping techniques. Participants will experience the Eccles Wildlife Education Center, a well known hotspot for shorebirds, waterfowl and other waterbirds, to practice digiscoping as a way to capture photos and videos of birds.

*Phone Skope products will be demonstrated on this trip to show you just how easy it is to enhance your photography. Each participant will receive a Phone Skope adapter and phone case to use during the trip and keep. Product valued at \$100+. During registration phone and optic make and model must be provided to ensure proper product fit. Phone Skope products will be handed out at the start of the field trip.

Meeting Location: Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders **Target Species:** waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, songbirds, shorebirds

Spots: 20

31. MORGAN BACKYARD BIRDING

Time: 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): Weston Smith and Arnold Smith

Some of the best birding in Morgan County is found in the quaint small towns of Morgan and Croydon in Weber Canyon. Cavity-nesting Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and American Kestrel will be target birds. Bird feeders will be attracting Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles, Cassin's Finches, Lazuli Buntings, and hummingbirds. This trip has averaged approx. 65 species per year and surprises are always possible. We will also bird along the Weber River in Henefer looking for large nesting birds such as raptors and herons. There may be periods of standing, short mostly flat land walking, and watching bird feeders.

Meeting Location: Riverside Park, Morgan

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos,

swallows, shrikes, songbirds

Spots: 15

32. BIRDING ROCKPORT BY CANOE

Time: 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$70

Guide(s): Kathy Donnell and Connie Misket

Rockport Reservoir's nearby springs host many ducks, grebes, herons, and raptors (including nesting Osprey) with the smaller birds occupying the adjacent trees and shrubs. You will have a grand birding experience at the reservoir using canoes. Participants will be required to row. Canoeing can be difficult if there is wind and waves. Please arrive by 7:45 am for instructions. Allow for travel time.

Weather permitting. *Ticket includes park entry, canoe, and life jacket rental.

Meeting Location: Rockport Reservoir main boat ramp.

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, corvids, songbirds, wading birds

Spots: 12

33. PHOTOGRAPHY AT FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$30

Guide(s): Tom Mathewson

This is a guided "drive-your-own-car" tour of specific spots at Farmington Bay, with an emphasis on serious bird photography. We'll have hands-on sessions at each stop for photographing birds with a tripod as well as hand-held shooting and shooting from a car. We will cover equipment tips, camera settings and shooting techniques for getting the best pictures possible in nearly any conditions. Bring your camera, lens, tripod etc., and don't forget water, sunscreen, bug repellant and a hat.

Meeting Location: Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Activity Level: Accessible

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: corvids, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds

Spots: 20

34. CASSIA OVERNIGHT

NEW!

Time: 4:00 PM Friday 5/16 to 6:00 PM Saturday 5/17 **Cost:** \$399

Guide(s): Mike Hearell

Join our guide in search of Cassia Crossbill, Flammulated Owl, and up to 100 more species! We can expect to see around 75–100 species of birds during this tour, as well as a number of mammals, some incredible scenery, and enjoy some delightful time in the outdoors.

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com for additional details and to register for this trip.

Spots: 7

35. EVENING PHOTOGRAPHY IN EAST FARMINGTON



Fold Here

Time: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$30

Guide(s): Elizabeth Moon

Songbirds Through the Lens and Leaves: Davis Creek Trail. Do you struggle to get the right photo of birds in a floral scene? Join award winning photographer Elizabeth Moon as she takes you birding along the Farmington mountainside. Liz will help you learn to not only see and identify birds but learn how to set yourself up for the best possible shots at small songbirds with a bright background of yellow wildflowers. Warblers, hummingbirds, buntings, and gnatcatchers are all to be found on the foothills, but difficult to capture with a camera. Bring your camera or even just binoculars, put on your hiking shoes, and learn how to put yourself in the best position for capturing your own great shots.

Meeting Location: Farmington Bench

Activity Level: Active with up to 4 miles of hiking

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, galliformes, Lazuli Buntings, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Black-chinned and Broad-Tailed Hummingbird, Rock Wren, Green-tailed Towhee, California Quail

Spots: 8

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36. ANTELOPE ISLAND OWL PROWL

Time: 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM **Transportation:** Mid-size Bus **Cost:** \$85

Guide(s): Laura Cleveland and Kate Sweet

Who, Who should go? Owl lovers, that's WHO! Antelope Island is prime habitat for several species of owl: Great Horned, Barn, Burrowing, Long-eared, and Short-eared Owls have all been spotted in the park. This is a great opportunity to see other wildlife as well including bison, coyotes, and porcupines. Picturesque views of the lake and timing of this evening trip will be great for photographing the island's famous sunsets. Bring a snack, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

*Ticket includes head net and park entry.

 $\textbf{Meeting Location:} \ \textbf{Antelope Island State Park Entrance Booth Parking Lot}$

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, corvids, Burrowing Owls, American Barn Owls, Great Horned Owls **Spots:** 28

37. EXPLORE MUELLER PARK'S HIKING TRAILS & BIRDWATCHING BLISS!

Time: 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): Colin Maguire

Embark on an adventure through Mueller Park's newly opened hiking trails, where miles of unexplored terrain await your discovery! Lace up your hiking boots and get ready to explore some of Davis County's most breathtaking scenery. Mueller Park's lush riparian habitats offer an exceptional birding experience, with the melodious songs of hidden birds echoing through the foliage and underbrush. Our journey will lead to a high ridge boasting sweeping views of the valley and the Great Salt Lake. As the sun sets over Antelope Island, we'll pause to take in the breathtaking vistas. In 2024, this hike fostered incredible camaraderie as we worked together to spot birds and share in the joy of nature. With an elevation gain of 2,000 feet, be sure to pack plenty of water and snacks to keep you energized. After sunset, we'll descend the canyon, so don't forget to bring a headlamp with extra batteries. Insect repellent is also recommended, though biting insects have been rare on past Mueller Park hikes. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Wasatch Trail System, connect with fellow adventurers, and marvel at the diverse birdlife in this stunning landscape. Each trip is a unique experience—don't miss this year's birding adventure! This trip is perfect for couples and friends to enjoy together, offering a fun and engaging learning experience.

*Participants are required to provide own headlamp.

Meeting Location: Mueller Park

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: raptors, woodpeckers, songbirds, possible owls

Spots: 6

38. E-BIKE AT FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$90

Guide(s): Adam Blundell and Marzena Blundell

Join us for an e-bike ride at Farmington Bay with access down the dike road. This trip is for the adventurer who wants an easy biking tour of Farmington Bay. Experience sunset at one of the best birding spots in the state. Use of e-bikes will allow participants to easily cover a lot of ground, while also causing minimal disturbance to the nesting birds and protected habitats. Guides will lead participants from the Eccles Wildlife Education Center into Farmington Bay WMA as we stop-and-go our way down the road behind the closed gates in search of migrating birds.

*Ticket includes electric bike and helmet rental.

Meeting Location: Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Activity Level: Active Good For: Beginning Birders Target Species: shorebirds

Spots: 15

SATURDAY • MAY 17

39. ANTELOPE ISLAND THROUGH THE LENS - INLAND & CAUSEWAY



Time: 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$30 Guide(s): Elizabeth Moon

Antelope Island is a fantastic place to see numerous bird species up close. It's also the perfect place to practice your photography skills. This field trip will focus on seeing and identifying birds and will teach how to best view birds through a camera lens. Award-winning photographer, Elizabeth Moon, will guide you as you set up and frame your shots while working with lighting conditions like a pro. Bring your camera and come learn about photography tips and tricks.

Meeting Location: Antelope Island State Park Entrance Booth Parking Lot **Activity Level:** Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, galliformes, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl

Spots: 8

40. YOUNG BIRDERS AT ANTELOPE ISLAND

Time: 6:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Van Cost: \$65

Guide(s): Will Harrod and Miles Gilmore

A trip exclusive to birders aged 13–21. Get ready for an excellent morning of birding at one of Utah's most incredible wildlife destinations. We expect to see thousands of avocets, stilts, gulls, and waterfowl on the Great Salt Lake. Then prepare for Great Basin specialties like Sage Thrasher, Burrowing Owl, and Chukar on the island. Make sure to bring bug spray, binoculars, and snacks.

*Ticket includes head net and park entry.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, galliformes, corvids, American Avocet, Black-necked

Stilt, Chukar, Burrowing Owl

41. UTAH BIRDS SCAVENGER HUNT

NEW! Time: 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM Cost: \$99 Guide(s): Taylor Abbott

New for the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival in 2025 we want to take you on a scavenger hunt! But it's not just any regular hunt. Each participant will get to submit a list of target birds, while the team at Pitta creates the hunt! Not even your guide Taylor will know what's on the list, and where you will be going until you start finding your targets!

With 10 hours on the clock and a secret list of 100 species of birds to find, you'll set out with our guide to see if you can complete the scavenger hunt before the clock runs out. Not only will this be a fun way to visit various birding sites around the Great Salt Lake, it will force your guide to be guick on their feet, using their knowledge of habitats, and species to maximize your time in the field!

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com for additional details and to register for this trip.

Spots: 7

42. UTAH COUNTY BIRDING

Time: 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$55

Guide(s): Joshua Kreitzer and Chandler Kendall

We will begin our trip near the Warm Springs where we hope to find Chukar and migrant warblers, look for shorebirds and Swainson's Hawks near Goshen, and then head to Goshen Canyon for Golden Eagle, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Canyon Wren. We will continue along Elberta Slant Rd. looking for Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl and Gray Vireo, We'll stop for lunch break in Eureka before continuing our search for migrants and montane species in the nearby Tintic Mountains. Timepermitting, we will look for Bobolink and waterfowl near Utah Lake.

Make sure to pack working binoculars, hiking shoes, sunscreen and/or hat, plenty of water, snacks, and a sack lunch or money to buy lunch.

Meeting Location: Payson Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers,

flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, sonabirds, galliformes

Spots: 25

43. CACHE VALLEY BIRDING ADVENTURE FOR BEGINNERS

Time: 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM Transportation: Mini-Bus Cost: \$95 Guide(s): Jim Parrish, Candice Burke, Cullen Clark, and Jen Wright

Cache Valley is one of the lesser known birding hotspots in the West. Our trip will reveal the area's great diversity and wealth of birds and other wildlife secrets. The trip will visit a variety of habitats and microclimates. We will visit some of the most diverse birding hotspots. Participants should bring a packed lunch and water.

This trip will be focused more towards easy to moderate activity level and beginning birding level, but all birding levels are still welcome.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, wading birds, galliformes

Spots: 30

44. MIST NETTING & BIRD BANDING AT FARMINGTON CREEK

Time: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM or 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25 Guide(s): Jace Taylor, Russ Lawrence and Keynote Speaker: Joanna Wu

Participants will learn how and why biologists use fine "mist" nets for trapping small birds, proper safety and handling of birds, and how birds are measured, weighed, and banded. They will also learn how the data is used for bird conservation. Participants will have the opportunity to assist in handling and photo ops with the birds before they are released back into the wild. Best Management Practices will be in place to assure the safety and well-being of both the bird and the participants.

Two trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of 7:00 AM or 9:00 AM during registration.

Meeting Location: Eccles Wildlife Education Center

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children Target Species: flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, woodpeckers, and

anything else willing to fly between trees and get caught in our nets.

Spots: 20

45. BIRDING DIMPLE DELL



Time: 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25

Guide(s): Angie Branch and Beth Cottam

Dimple Dell Regional Park is one of the last remaining undeveloped public parks in the Salt Lake Valley. It's treasured for its wildlife, native plants, and majestic mountain views. Put on your hiking shoes and join us as we search for Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, and possibly three species of hummingbirds. If we are lucky maybe we will spot a Virginia's Warbler. Plan for uneven trail surfaces and elevation changes. Bring binoculars, water, and a snack. All birders welcome.

Meeting Location: Dimple Dell Trailhead

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, woodpeckers,

raptors, corvids, galliformes

Spots: 8

46. BUFFALO RANCHES POND NEAR FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$30

Guide(s): Ben Johnson and Colin Maguire

Buffalo Ranches Ponds, located on the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake flyway, is a migrant trap where over 200 bird species have been observed. Guides Ben and Colin will take the time to point out species, teach bird identification and bird calls, and offer fascinating insights about each species we encounter. This leisurely 4-mile walk (2 miles in and 2 miles back) allows plenty of opportunities to enjoy the area's amazing birdlife. Buffalo Ranches Ponds is a remarkable destination for birding. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, this enjoyable birding experience is open to all! Don't forget to wear sunscreen, a hat, and bring water and snacks to stay comfortable.

Meeting Location: 1954 W Glovers Lane, Farmington

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers,

flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, sonabirds, sparrows

Spots: 15Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, sparrows

47. BEHIND THE GATES AT LEGACY NATURE PRESERVE

Time: 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Van Cost: \$90

Guide(s): Andrea Nelson

This is a rare opportunity to go behind the gates at Legacy Nature Preserve. You will be guided along remnant oxbow features of the Jordan River to view migrant and resident waterfowl and shorebirds. You may also be treated to views of one of only four, known, active Bald Eagle nests in northern Utah.

Dress for the weather and for biting insects. Depending on conditions, rubber or waterproof boots are highly recommended. Bring your binoculars and/or camera, water, a hat, sunscreen, and a snack if you would like. Access is dependent on dirt road conditions; we will access as much of the preserve as possible. More walking may be required if road conditions are poor (muddy, flooded, or heavily rutted). Guide will have a spotting scope to share.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers,

flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, galliformes

Spots: 12

48. BOUNTIFUL POND

Time: 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25

Guide(s): Ian Batterman

Located on the outskirts of Farmington Bay WMA, Bountiful Pond is a lovely oasis for all kinds of birds. This trip involves walking around the pond, about a mile long loop. The large pond provides a stopover area for many gulls and waterfowl, and the surrounding trees and fields hide many songbirds, owls, and other birds with close viewing opportunities. During migration, Bountiful Pond can often house rare vagrants like Eastern Wood Warblers.

Meeting Location: Bountiful Pond

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows,

shrikes, sonabirds, woodpeckers

Spots: 25

49. MORGAN BACKYARD BIRDING

Time: 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): Weston Smith and Arnold Smith

Some of the best birding in Morgan County is found in the quaint small towns of Morgan and Croydon in Weber Canyon. Cavity-nesting Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and American Kestrel will be target birds. Bird feeders will be attracting Black-headed Grosbeaks, Bullock's Orioles, Cassin's Finches, Lazuli Buntings, and hummingbirds. This trip has averaged approx. 65 species per year and surprises are always possible. We will also bird along the Weber River in Henefer looking for large nesting birds such as raptors and herons. There may be periods of standing, short mostly flat land walking, and watching bird feeders.

Meeting Location: Riverside Park, Morgan

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds

Spots: 15

50. BIRDS & BUGS FOR FAMILIES



Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25 Guide(s): Rodolfo da Silva Probst and Connie Misket

We will explore the biodiversity of the Red Butte Creek Area through bird watching and insect spotting, highlighting the importance of these groups and potential interactions between them. From warblers and woodpeckers to dragonflies and beetles, we'll discuss the critical roles these species play in the ecosystem. Bugs aren't just bird food – they're pollinators, decomposers, and key players in maintaining ecological balance. Join us for a walk through riparian and foothill habitats to uncover cool facts about local birds, bugs, and their interconnected worlds! This trip will have a focus for families and children.

Meeting Location: Red Butte Canyon

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, woodpeckers, galliformes, and lots of bugs!

Spots: 15

51. SPRINGHILL GEOLOGIC PARK - BIRDS OF THE FOOTHILLS

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$30

Guide(s): Stephanie Greenwood

Learn about and see the unique species and habitats of our foothills and benches along the Wasatch front. See an abandoned Bank Swallow colony, discuss habitat loss in our communities, and hike the area where nature had the opportunity to reclaim itself and learn the history of this unique park. Likely species would include Lazuli Bunting, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Chukar, California Quail, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Chipping Sparrow, Spotted Towhee and other migrants. After the hike we will explore a retention pond nearby for additional species.

Meeting Location: Springhill Geologic Park Lower Trailhead Parking

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, galliformes, raptors

Spots: 15

52. URBAN BIRDING AT OGDEN NATURE CENTER

Time: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$15

Guide(s): Kylie Friedman

Come to Ogden Nature Center to meet Blue, one of our western screech owls! Learn about his adaptations and the basics of birding, then take to the trails to try and spot warblers, waterfowl and more. A nature center naturalist educator will lead beginners through the steps of using binoculars and scopes and take you on a relaxing walk through the nature center to practice your new skills on wild birds. After you park, follow signs to our birdhouse trail and walk the path to meet at the visitor center. This is a perfect activity for families and those interested in getting into the exciting hobby of birding!

*Ticket includes nature center entry.

Meeting Location: Oaden Nature Center Visitor Center

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, songbirds

SATURDAY • MAY 17 • CONTINUED

53. BIRDING FOR FAMILIES AT RED BUTTE GARDEN

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$15

Guide(s): Chris Butler and Dallin Henderson

If you've been looking for a way to get the whole family into birding, this field trip is the perfect opportunity. Participants will get the chance to meet a live raptor ambassador from HawkWatch International, explore the features that attract birds to the environment, learn how to use binoculars and field guides, and look for wild birds at Red Butte Gardens, one of Salt Lake's most accessible birding hotspots. This program is designed for families with children ages five and up.

*Ticket includes garden entry fee.

Meeting Location: Red Butte Garden Visitor Center

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, songbirds, galliformes

Spots: 20

54. BIRDING THE GREAT SALT LAKE BY KAYAK FOR FAMILIES



Time: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, or 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$85 (includes 1 adult and 1 youth ticket)

Guide(s): Trish Ackley, Tori Sohm, and Tori Thorpe

Calling all bird-loving kids! Bring your favorite adult on an awesome aquatic adventure. We'll begin our expedition at the Antelope Island State Park Marina where we'll go over kayaking safety before heading out on the water to look for avocets, ibis, grebes, gulls, phalaropes, ducks, and more.

Weather permitting. *Registration for this trip will include 1 adult and 1 youth ticket. Additional youth tickets may be purchased in advance as space allows for \$40 by reaching out to GSLbirdfest@daviscountyutah.gov. Ticket includes park entry, head net, kayak, and life jacket rental.

Three trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, or 1:30 PM during registration.

Adult kayaks can support up to 250 lbs. Youth kayaks can support up to 100lbs. All participants must be able to pilot their own kayaks (no lap sitting) and are required to wear provided life jackets. Minimum participant age is 8 years old. Each adult can accompany no more than two youth ages 8+.

Meeting Location: Antelope Island State Park Marina

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds **Spots:** 8 adults and 8+ youth participants per start time

55. BEGINNING BIRDING: FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 2:15 PM to 5:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$20 (Under 10 free, registration required)
Guide(s): Max Malmauist & Dallin Henderson

We will walk to explore the area and wetlands around the Eccles Wildlife Education Center and practice new birding skills.

*You are invited to join us at the Festival HQ at Western Sports Park for a free one hour workshop for beginners and families starting at 1:00 pm just prior to the field trip. We will discuss bird identification and the common backyard birds in the Farmington area.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park (1:00 PM Free Workshop) and/or Eccles Wildlife Education Center (2:15 PM Field Trip with Registration Required)

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds

Spots: 20

56. EXPLORE MUELLER PARK'S HIKING TRAILS & BIRDWATCHING BLISS!

Time: 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): Colin Maguire

Embark on an adventure through Mueller Park's newly opened hiking trails, where miles of unexplored terrain await your discovery! Lace up your hiking boots and get ready to explore some of Davis County's most breathtaking scenery. Mueller Park's lush riparian habitats offer an exceptional birding experience, with the melodious songs of hidden birds echoing through the foliage and underbrush. Our journey will lead to a high ridge boasting sweeping views of the valley and the Great Salt Lake. As the sun sets over Antelope Island, we'll pause to take in the breathtaking vistas. In 2024, this hike fostered incredible camaraderie as we worked together to spot birds and share in the joy of nature. With an elevation gain of 2,000 feet, be sure to pack plenty of water and snacks to keep you energized. After sunset, we'll descend the canyon, so don't forget to bring a headlamp with extra batteries. Insect repellent is also recommended, though biting insects have been rare on past Mueller Park hikes. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Wasatch Trail System, connect with fellow adventurers, and marvel at the diverse birdlife in this stunning landscape. Each trip is a unique experience—don't miss this year's birding adventure! This trip is perfect for couples and friends to enjoy together, offering a fun and engaging learning experience.

*Participants are required to provide own headlamp.

Meeting Location: Mueller Park

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: raptors, woodpeckers, songbirds, possible owls

Spots: 6

GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL 2025

57. SUNRISE HIKE ALONG MAPLE SYRUP TRAIL



Time: 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$40

Guide(s): Colin Maguire

If you have a sweet tooth for spotting birds, this hike is perfect for you! The Maple Syrup Trail, newly opened in 2024, is ready to be explored. We'll journey through this trail system searching for riparian birds along the way. Springtime in Mueller Park is alive with the songs of territorial breeding birds, providing the perfect opportunity to listen and learn how to distinguish between different species. This scenic loop is approximately 6 miles long. While some sections are marked as difficult, the trails are wide and smooth, making for relatively easy travel. Expect to experience both uphill and downhill stretches. Join us for an exciting adventure filled with birdwatching, learning, great company, and the natural beauty of Mueller Park!

Meeting Location: Mueller Park

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: woodpeckers, wood warblers, hummingbirds, nuthatches, thrushes,

raptors, possible vireos, Hammonds Flycatchers, and Pacific Wrens

Spots: 6

58. BIRD THE WEST DESERT & PONY EXPRESS TRAIL

Time: 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM Transportation: Van Cost: \$150

Guide(s): Keeli Marvel and Sam Phillips

Experience the birds of the West Desert and the ruggedness of the Pony Express Trail firsthand. We'll bird a loop starting at Stockton in Tooele County traveling to Clover Springs CG in Johnson Pass, then loop around to the Pony Express Trail and back over Lookout Pass. If time allows we will finish up at Fitzgerald WMA. Highlights could include Gray Vireo, Gray Flycatcher, Bushtits, Juniper Titmice, Sagebrush Sparrows, Brewer's Sparrows, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Horned Larks.

Participants are advised to bring insect repellent, sunscreen, a packed lunch, and plenty of water. Once birding along the loop, there is only one stop that has restroom facilities.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds,

woodpeckers, galliformes

Spots: 12

59. BIRDS OF GREAT SALT LAKE

Time: 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM Transportation: Van Cost: \$160

Guide(s): Bryant Olsen

Join Tracy Aviary's Conservation Ecologist, Bryant Olsen, as you explore the different habitats at Great Salt Lake from freshwater wetlands, playas and mudflats to open saltwater as well as upland steppe of the lake's islands and peninsulas to understand the numbers and diversity of birds that make this an internationally significant ecosystem and a great place to go birding. *Ticket includes head net and park entry.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, flycatchers,

vireos, swallows, shrikes, galliformes, songbirds

Spots: 11

60. MARATHON BIRDING

Time: 6:00 AM to 11:30 PM **Cost:** \$179

Guide(s): Tim Avery, Mike Hearell, Taylor Abbott, and Kenny Frisch

What happens when four experienced birding guides come together for an amazing adventure in northern Utah during migration? Marathon Birding!!! This tour has become a beloved tradition of the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival since 2008. It's a unique opportunity to witness the incredible spectacle of bird migration at its peak, all condensed into an action–packed 18-hour timeframe. Our goal is to spot more than 150 different bird species in a thrilling, fast–paced day of bird–filled excitement. Over the past 15 years, we've managed to average just over 150 species per day, and our highest record so far is 170 species in 2015.

Visit Pitta Tours at pittatours.com for additional details and to register for this trip.

Spots: 12

61. CACHE VALLEY BIRDING ADVENTURE - HIGH ACTIVITY

Time: 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM **Transportation:** Mini-Bus **Cost:** \$95

Guide(s): Adam Brewerton, Candice Burke, Leah Waldner, and Jen Wright

Cache Valley is one of the lesser known birding hotspots in the West. Our trip will reveal the area's great diversity and wealth of birds and other wildlife secrets. The trip will visit a variety of habitats and microclimates. We will visit some of the most diverse birding hotspots. Participants should bring a packed lunch and water.

This trip will be focused more towards a higher activity level with more walking and intermediate to advanced birding levels, but all birding levels are still welcome.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos,

swallows, shrikes, songbirds, wading birds, galliformes

Spots: 30

62. MORNING PHOTOGRAPHY IN EAST FARMINGTON



Time: 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$30

Guide(s): Elizabeth Moon

Songbirds Through the Lens and Leaves: Davis Creek Trail. Do you struggle to get the right photo of birds in a floral scene? Join award winning photographer Elizabeth Moon as she takes you birding along the Farmington mountainside. Liz will help you learn to not only see and identify birds but learn how to set yourself up for the best possible shots at small songbirds with a bright background of yellow wildflowers. Warblers, hummingbirds, buntings, and gnatcatchers are all to be found on the foothills, but difficult to capture with a camera. Bring your camera or even just binoculars, put on your hiking shoes, and learn how to put yourself in the best position for capturing your own great shots.

Meeting Location: Farmington Bench

Activity Level: Active with up to 4 miles of hiking

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, galliformes, Lazuli Buntings, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Black-chinned and Broad-Tailed Hummingbird, Rock Wren, Green-tailed Towhee, California Quail

63. PARLEY'S MITIGATION AREA AND LITTLE DELL RESERVOIR

Time: 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM Transportation: Van Cost: \$95

Guide(s): Felicia Alvarez and Mike Malmquist

We will bird in the Parleys Creek, Alexander Creek and Dell Creek drainages in the mountains east of Salt Lake City, on lands set aside as mitigation for construction of the Little Dell Dam and Reservoir in the 1990s. We will also scope the Reservoir itself. Likely species include Fox Sparrow, Spotted and Green-tailed Towhee, Black-billed Magpie, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Gray Catbird, goldfinches, various warblers, Golden Eagle, flycatchers and other species in the scrub oak, sage and riparian habitat. Reservoir species could include Western and Clark's Grebes, various ducks, Osprey, shorebirds and possibly a late-migrating loon. Participants should wear hiking boots, bring plenty of water, lunch and/or snacks.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, corvids,

woodpeckers, galliformes

Spots: 12

64. BOUNTIFUL POND

Time: 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25

Guide(s): Ian Batterman

Located on the outskirts of Farmington Bay WMA, Bountiful Pond is a lovely oasis for all kinds of birds. This trip involves walking around the pond, about a mile long loop. The large pond provides a stopover area for many gulls and waterfowl, and the surrounding trees and fields hide many songbirds, owls, and other birds with close viewing opportunities. During migration, Bountiful Pond can often house rare vagrants like Eastern Wood Warblers.

Meeting Location: Bountiful Pond

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows,

shrikes, songbirds, woodpeckers

Spots: 25

65. BIRDING AT FORT BUENAVENTURA

Time: 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$25

Guide(s): Sharee Harrison and Will Harrod

Fort Buenaventura is a lovely location near Weber River for all kinds of birds on its 84 acres. The fort was the first permanent Anglo settlement in the Great Basin and provides well–established lawns and trees. This trip involves walking around the pond and birding along paths near the river. The large pond provides a stopover area for many gulls and waterfowl, and the surrounding trees and fields support many songbirds, owls, and other birds with close viewing opportunities. Depending on snowmelt, parts of the park may be flooded. Rain boots recommended to help access more of the area.

Meeting Location: Fort Buenaventura Visitor Center Parking Lot

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, passerines and seasonal varieties

Spots: 20

66. MANTUA RESERVOIR AND SURROUNDING AREA

Time: 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM Transportation: Van Cost: \$75

Guide(s): Jim Parrish and Rory Eggleston

Mantua Reservoir is located in Box Elder canyon at the edge of the small town of Mantua. The reservoir sits at an elevation of 5,000 feet and is lined with Cottonwood trees and willow that are great for finding birds. We will do some walking and driving as we explore around the reservoir and surrounding fields looking for waterfowl, waterbirds, tweety birds, and possibly a nesting Bald Eagle.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children **Target Species:** waterfowl, raptors, songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, woodpeckers, corvids, multiple grebe species

Spots: 11

67. ANDY ADAM'S RESERVOIR BY PADDLEBOARD AND KAYAK

Time: 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$60

Guide(s): Adam Blundell and Marzena Blundell

Enjoy a gentle paddle across and around the reservoir. While trying to not flush waterfowl, we'll head out on the water to gain a better view. Adam's Reservoir is easily accessible to the parking lot, however the reservoir is very difficult to bird with a lack of trails and impassable terrain. Using paddleboards and kayaks will allow visitors to gain greater access to the far shores and interior lake.

Weather permitting, *Ticket includes paddleboard or kayak and life jacket rental.

Meeting Location: Adam's Reservoir

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, songbirds

Spots: 20

68. BIRDS & BUGS FOR ADULTS

NEW!

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$25 **Guide(s):** Rodolfo da Silva Probst and Connie Misket

We will explore the biodiversity of the Red Butte Creek Area through bird watching and insect spotting, highlighting the importance of these groups and potential interactions between them. From warblers and woodpeckers to dragonflies and beetles, we'll discuss the critical roles these species play in the ecosystem. Bugs aren't just bird food – they're pollinators, decomposers, and key players in maintaining ecological balance. Join us for a walk through riparian and foothill habitats to uncover cool facts about local birds, bugs, and their interconnected worlds! This trip is for adults only.

Meeting Location: Red Butte Canyon

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds,

woodpeckers, galliformes, and lots of bugs!

SUNDAY • MAY 18 • CONTINUED

69. SPIRAL JETTY ADVENTURE

Time: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Transportation: Bus Cost: \$85

Guide(s): Max Malmquist and Georgie Corkery

Spiral Jetty, one of the world's most iconic examples of land art, is also a birders paradise! Located in the remote North Arm of Great Salt Lake there are many opportunities to spot different birds. On the long drive through the grassland and sagebrush landscape, we will surely see many raptors including Ferruginous Hawks, Swainson's Hawks and Golden Eagles. Once at Spiral Jetty, amidst the hypersaline (and very pink) waters we will encounter American White Pelicans that breed on the remote Gunnison Island, flying overhead in their daily search for fish in the lake's eastern freshwater wetlands. National Audubon's Max Malmquist will help us try to find Black-throated Sparrows, Long-billed Curlews and Snowy Plovers.

Participants should wear hiking boots, bring plenty of water, sack lunch, and snacks for a full day trip.

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

Target Species: shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, songbirds

Spots: 20

70. FIELD TRIP: BIRDING FOR FAMILIES AT RED BUTTE GARDEN

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$15 Guide(s): Laura Cleveland and Keynote Speaker: Joanna Wu

If you've been looking for a way to get the whole family into birding, this field trip is the perfect opportunity. Participants will get the chance to meet a live raptor ambassador from HawkWatch International, explore the features that attract birds to the environment, learn how to use binoculars and field guides, and look for wild birds at Red Butte Gardens, one of Salt Lake's most accessible birding hotspots. This program is designed for families with children ages five and up.

*Ticket includes garden entry fee.

Meeting Location: Red Butte Garden Visitor Center

Activity Level: Easy

Good For: Beginning Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, songbirds, galliformes

Spots: 20

71. EXPLORE MUELLER PARK'S HIKING TRAILS & BIRDWATCHING BLISS!

Time: 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$40

Guide(s): Colin Maguire

Embark on an adventure through Mueller Park's newly opened hiking trails, where miles of unexplored terrain await your discovery! Lace up your hiking boots and get ready to explore some of Davis County's most breathtaking scenery. Mueller Park's lush riparian habitats offer an exceptional birding experience, with the melodious songs of hidden birds echoing through the foliage and underbrush. Our journey will lead to a high ridge boasting sweeping views of the valley and the Great Salt Lake. As the sun sets over Antelope Island, we'll pause to take in the breathtaking vistas. In 2024, this hike fostered incredible camaraderie as we worked together to spot birds and share in the joy of nature. With an elevation gain of 2,000 feet, be sure to pack plenty of water and snacks to keep you energized. After sunset, we'll descend the canyon, so don't forget to bring a headlamp with extra batteries. Insect repellent is also recommended, though biting insects have been rare on past Mueller Park hikes. Immerse vourself in the natural beauty of Wasatch Trail System, connect with fellow adventurers, and marvel at the diverse birdlife in this stunning landscape. Each trip is a unique experience—don't miss this year's birding adventure! This trip is perfect for couples and friends to enjoy together, offering a fun and engaging learning experience.

*Participants are required to provide own headlamp.

Meeting Location: Mueller Park

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: raptors, woodpeckers, songbirds, possible owls

Spots: 6

72. KAYSVILLE EAST MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS PARK

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM Transportation: Self-Drive Cost: \$25 Guide(s): Adam Blundell and Marzena Blundell

The Kaysville East Mountain Wilderness Park is an easily accessible park with a parking lot and trails following the Bonneville Shoreline area. This wilderness park features scrub oak patches and several small creeks. While good for birding year round, our target species will be the Lazuli Buntings! If you are looking for a chance to see these beautiful little blue birds, this field trip is one of your best chances, with an ideal habitat

Meeting Location: Kaysville East Mountain Wilderness Park

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: songbirds, Lazuli Buntings

2025 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

		THURSDAY • MAY 15	
NEW	1	Antelope Island Through the Lens - Inland and Causeway	6:00 AM to 10:00 AM
	2	Biking and Birding Along the West Davis Highway Trail	6:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	3	Marathon Scouting	6:00 AM to 11:30 PM
NEW	4	Glover Ponds at Sunrise	7:00 AM to 9:00 AM
	5	Mindful Birding by Kayak at Bountiful Pond	7:00 AM or 10:00 AM
	6	Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter, Sandhill Cranes, and More!	7:00 AM to 11:00 AM
	7	Jordanelle Wetlands and Heber Fields	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	8	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge – Guided Auto Tour and Walk Behind the Gates	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	9	Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	10	Utah County Pinyon Juniper Specialties	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
NEW	11	Photography at Adam's Reservoir	7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
	12	American Kestrel	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	13	GSL Ecosystem Boat Tour	10:00 AM or 1:00 PM
NEW	14	Birds & Botany	1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
NEW	15	Sunset Hike Along Maple Syrup Trail	3:00 PM to 9:00 PM
NEW	16	Introduction to Birding by Ear	4:00 PM to 6:30 PM
	17	Antelope Island Owl Prowl	4:30 PM to 9:00 PM
NEW	18	Sunset at Galena Soo'nkahni	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

		FRIDAY • MAY 16	
NEW	19	Fairfield Birding Oasis	6:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	20	Mountains in May	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
	21	Mist Netting & Bird Banding at Farmington Creek	7:00 AM or 9:00 AM
	22	Mindful Birding by Kayak at Bountiful Pond	7:00 AM or 10:00 AM
	23	Buffalo Ranches Pond near Farmington Bay	7:00 AM to 11:00 AM
	24	Jordanelle Wetlands and Heber Fields	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	25	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge – Guided Auto Tour and Walk Behind the Gates	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	26	Birding Diamond Fork Canyon	7:00 AM to 2:00 PM
	27	Sage-Steppe Birding at Promontory Point	7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
	28	Birding at Kaysville Ponds	7:30 AM to 10:00 AM
NEW	29	Bird Banding at Tracy Aviary's Nature Center at Pia Okwia	7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
	30	Digiscoping at Farmington Bay	7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
	31	Morgan Backyard Birding	7:30 AM to 2:00 PM
	32	Birding Rockport by Canoe	7:45 AM to 2:00 PM
	33	Photography at Farmington Bay	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
NEW	34	Cassia Overnight	Friday 5/16 4:00 PM to Sat. 5/17 6:00 PM
NEW	35	Evening Photography in East Farmington	4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
	36	Antelope Island Owl Prowl	4:30 PM to 9:00 PM
	37	Explore Mueller Park's Hiking Trails & Birdwatching Bliss!	5:00 PM to 11:00 PM
	38	E-Bike at Farmington Bay	5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

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2025 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

		SATURDAY • MAY 17	
NEW	39	Antelope Island Through the Lens - Inland and Causeway	6:00 AM to 10:00 AM
	40	Young Birders at Antelope Island	6:00 AM to 11:00 AM
NEW	41	Utah Birds Scavenger Hunt	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
	42	Utah County Birding	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
	43	Cache Valley Birding Adventure for Beginners	6:30 AM to 4:30 PM
	44	Mist Netting & Bird Banding at Farmington Creek	7:00 AM or 9:00 AM
NEW	45	Birding Dimple Dell	7:00 AM to 10:00 AM
	46	Buffalo Ranches Pond near Farmington Bay	7:00 AM to 11:00 AM
	47	Behind the Gates at Legacy Nature Preserve	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	48	Bountiful Pond	7:30 AM to 10:30 AM
	49	Morgan Backyard Birding	7:30 AM to 2:00 PM
NEW	50	Birds & Bugs for Families	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	51	Springhill Geologic Park – Birds of the Foothills	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	52	Urban Birding at Ogden Nature Center	8:30 AM to 10:30 AM
	53	Birding for Families at Red Butte Garden	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
NEW	54	Birding the Great Salt Lake by Kayak for Families	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, or 1:30 PM
	55	Beginning Birding: Farmington Bay	2:15 PM to 5:00 PM
	56	Explore Mueller Park's Hiking Trails & Birdwatching Bliss!	5:00 PM to 11:00 PM

NEW!	57	Sunrise Hike Along Maple Syrup Trail	
		Surinse riike Along Maple Syrup Trail	6:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	58	Bird the West Desert & Pony Express Trail	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Ę	59	Birds of Great Salt Lake	6:00 AM to 8:00 PM
(60	Marathon Birding	6:00 AM to 11:30 PM
	61	Cache Valley Birding Adventure – High Activity	6:30 AM to 4:30 PM
NEW!	62	Morning Photography in East Farmington	7:00 AM to 10:00 AM
(63	Parley's Mitigation Area and Little Dell Reservoir	7:00 AM to 2:00 PM
6	64	Bountiful Pond	7:30 AM to 10:30 AM
•	65	Birding at Fort Buenaventura	7:30 AM to 10:00 AM
(66	Mantua Reservoir and Surrounding Area	7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
•	67	Andy Adam's Reservoir by Kayak and Paddleboard	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
NEW!	68	Birds & Bugs for Adults	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
•	69	Spiral Jetty Adventure	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
7	70	Birding for Families at Red Butte Garden	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
-	71	Explore Mueller Park's Hiking Trails & Birdwatching Bliss!	5:00 PM to 11:00 PM
7	72	Kaysville East Mountain Wilderness Park	6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

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