

GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL



MAY 14-17, 2026
www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com



Black-necked Stilt: Photo by Esther Sumner



REGISTRATION
March 12, 10AM MT
← Scan to Register

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE 2026

THURSDAY • MAY 14

Grow with Great Salt Lake Bird Festival Series*

Birding by Impression: Dale Rosselet	6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
The Shorebirds of North America: A Natural History and Photographic Celebration: Kevin Karlson	

FRIDAY • MAY 15

Birds in your Backyard: Farmington Edition	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Wings & Things Vendor Fair	3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Antelope Island State Park: Your Backyard Oasis	3:15 PM to 4:00 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 6:30 PM

Nature Through Art Series

Drawing Birds Through Observation: Alison Hill Spencer	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
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SATURDAY • MAY 16

Wings & Things Vendor Fair	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Family Day Activities including arts & crafts 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: Through the Looking Glass: Reflections of a Grateful Birder by Kevin Karlson*	6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

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

*Registration Required

**Includes Live Birds

2026 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 our Grow with Great Salt Lake Bird Festival series or jump into your creative side and join our Nature through Art series. All Friday and Saturday workshops are free, open to the public, and are hosted at Western Sports Park.

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

THURSDAY • MAY 14

GROW WITH GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL SERIES:

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Cost: \$30

Join us for an intimate evening to learn from husband and wife pair, Kevin Karlson and Dale Rosselet, renowned authors and birders for an interactive and uplifting evening. Presentations will be followed by a book signing opportunity.

*Space is limited and registration is required. Refreshments included.



Birding by Impression

Presenter: Dale Rosselet

Join educator, author and birdwatcher Dale Rosselet for an introductory session on "how to look at birds". Are you perplexed by a fleeting glance? Do you puzzle over spotted or striped crowns and wingbars? Does your head spin when you attempt to identify warblers or sparrows? Learn how to look at birds a little bit differently. Passionate about birds, bird ID and increasing people's enjoyment of natural spectacles, Dale's insights will make you a better birder. The best part? Everything you learn can be applied to any bird. This 1-hour indoor program outlines the process that she and her husband, Kevin Karlson, pioneered in their book, *Birding by Impression*.



The Shorebirds of North America: A Natural History and Photographic Celebration

Presenter: Kevin Karlson

This title of a recently released book by Princeton University Press (July 2024) by Kevin Karlson and Pete Dunne is the topic of this uplifting presentation. Similar to the book, the fascinating world of North American shorebirds is covered in a light-hearted and factual manner and accompanied by the most stunning and descriptive photographs ever assembled. From the strange, secret world of the high Arctic tundra, where many shorebirds choose to breed, to the remote wintering grounds that span several continents, countless stories of survival and challenging interactions with nature and man are shared. After experiencing this program, your impression of this unique bird family will never be the same.

Fold Here

FRIDAY • MAY 15

WORKSHOP: Birds in your Backyard: Farmington Edition

Presenter(s): John Bellmon and Dallin Henderson

Time: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Join us for a presentation on common birds you may encounter at many Farmington hotspots. Wasatch Audubon's own John Bellmon and Dallin Henderson will share their insights, tips, and photos to help you have your own successful local bird outings.

**Registration required for the Farmington Birding Hotspots field trip that takes place at 10:00 am following the workshop.*

WORKSHOP: Antelope Island State Park: Your Backyard Oasis

Presenter(s): Antelope Island State Park Staff

Time: 3:15 PM to 4:00 PM

Discover a true birding oasis right in your backyard at Antelope Island State Park. A member of the Antelope Island State Park staff will provide an overview of the more than 250 bird species that can be spotted around the island. Learn about the diverse habitats that make this area a premier destination for birdwatchers of all experience levels. The presentation will also highlight additional recreational opportunities and unique ways to explore and enjoy this remarkable state park.

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.

NATURE THROUGH ART SERIES: Drawing Birds Through Observation

Presenter(s): Alison Hill Spencer

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Join us for an engaging evening of drawing with bird-portrait artist Alison Hill Spencer. All ages and abilities are welcome to learn how to observe birds, recognize the simple shapes that form them, and understand the basic anatomy that brings their beauty to life. Through guided observation and drawing exercises, you'll build skills to more accurately document the birds you encounter on your own adventures, and to deepen your enjoyment of the natural world along the way!

Paper and pencils will be available to use for the class. Attendees are welcome to bring sketchbooks or field journals of their own.

SATURDAY • MAY 16

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.

***Includes live birds.*

WORKSHOP: Drawing Raptors from Life**

Presenter(s): Natalia Wilkins-Tyler

Time: 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Join a scientific illustrator to learn some tips and tricks for drawing birds from life. We'll focus on the "three sharps" that distinguish raptors from other birds and practice by using a live bird as a model. Bring your sketchbook and pencils and get ready to draw! Supplies will be provided if you don't have your own or are just getting started.

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.

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.

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 to 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

Time: 12:00 PM to 12:50 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.

***Includes live birds.*

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

Through the Looking Glass: Reflections of a Grateful Birder

Presenter(s): Kevin Karlson

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

This light-hearted presentation examines birdwatching through Kevin's eyes and explores some of the reasons why so many people enjoy watching and studying birds, including a unique camaraderie with other birders. Photos of birds, people, and other creatures from various locations will be shared, as well as humorous events and stories that make the ride so interesting. Forty-five years of casual and passionate birding have shaped Kevin's life in so many ways, with much of it revolving around the study and enjoyment of birds, and this show shares his appreciation for the journey. Come along for a ride through time that we all can relate to, with birds, people, and unique places being the stars of the show. Kevin is cutting back on many bird-related activities, so this is a special farewell presentation.

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

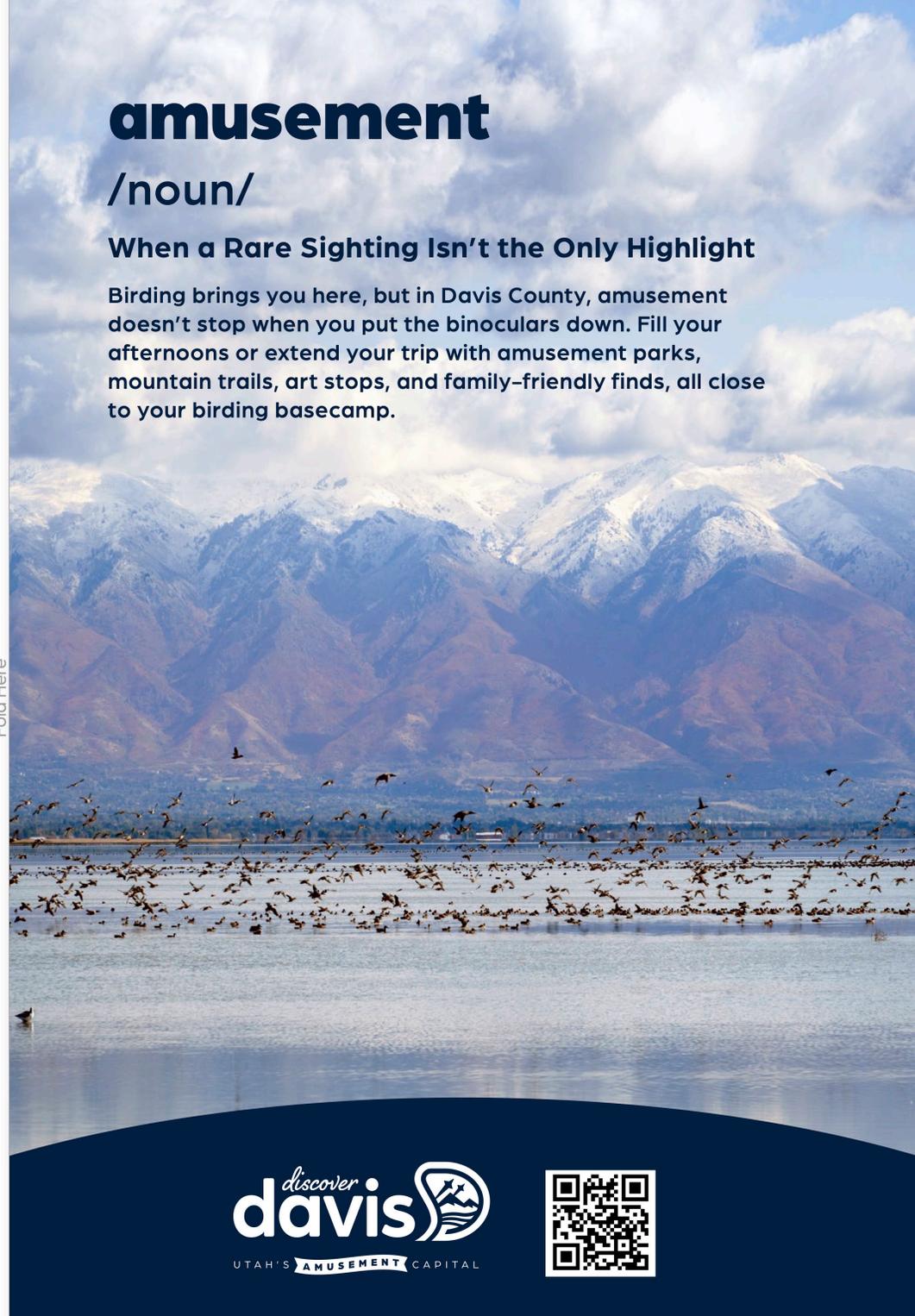
amusement

/noun/

When a Rare Sighting Isn't the Only Highlight

Birding brings you here, but in Davis County, amusement doesn't stop when you put the binoculars down. Fill your afternoons or extend your trip with amusement parks, mountain trails, art stops, and family-friendly finds, all close to your birding basecamp.

Fold Here





GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL

2026 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

PRE-FESTIVAL TRIPS

UTAH HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Date: May 11 – May 14 **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 KICKOFF – BIRDING HIKE IN NORTH CANYON

Date: Wednesday, May 13 **Time:** 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM **Cost:** \$40

Transportation: Self-Drive **Guide(s):** Colin Maguire

A complex trail system has been built in the past few years, including connecting trails from Mueller Park and North Canyon. We will start this hike on the North Canyon side but will cross into areas along the Mueller Park trail. This trail system is fantastic and offers an excellent birding experience. In addition to the birds, the views of the surrounding areas, and the overlook of the Great Salt Lake, are breathtaking. Because of the lush riparian habitats, many of the birds we encounter will be heard more often than seen. We will spend plenty of time listening and learning bird calls and songs. To encourage camaraderie among participants, the group size is kept small so we can work together to spot birds and share in the joy of nature. With an elevation gain of about 2,000 feet, be sure to pack plenty of water and snacks to stay energized. The estimated trail distance is about 8 miles. This trip is perfect for couples and friends to enjoy together, offering a fun and engaging learning experience.

** Please consider your fitness level, due to the distance and elevation gain, this trip should be considered only by those who can comfortably complete a strenuous mountain hike.*

Meeting Location: North Canyon Trailhead
Activity Level: Active and Advanced
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
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.

MARATHON SCOUTING

Date: Wednesday, May 13 **Time:** 6:00 AM to 11:30 PM **Cost:** \$199

Guide(s): Pitta Tours

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 to see options, pricing, and register for this trip.

Spots: 7

POST-FESTIVAL TRIP

POST-FESTIVAL OWLING +

Date: Tuesday, May 19 **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

Fold Here

THURSDAY • MAY 14

1. ANTELOPE ISLAND THROUGH THE LENS – INLAND & CAUSEWAY

Time: 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35

Guide(s): Elizabeth Moon and Asher Lee

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 photographers 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 some tips and tricks. **Ticket includes head net and park entry.*

Meeting Location: Antelope Island Causeway Parking Lot

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

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

Spots: 8

2. WINGS, WHEELS, & BEAUTIFUL PONDS

NEW!

Time: 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$40

Guide(s): Colin Maguire

Start opening day with an 18 mile round trip bike ride from Bountiful Pond to Buffalo Ranch Pond and back. We'll visit two hotspots, each with more than 200 recorded species. Legacy Parkway Trail connects these two birding gems. During migration, anything is possible, so expect the unexpected and hopefully some rarities if we are lucky. We'll spend time birding at each pond and stop along the trail whenever something interesting appears. Pack plenty of water, a lunch, and all the essentials for a rewarding half-day trip. This trip is perfect for couples, family, friends, or anyone who owns a bike. Come join the bird ride fun!

**Trip participants are required to provide their own bike and helmet. Bring a bike lock and backpack so we can potentially park the bikes if needed.*

Meeting Location: Bountiful Pond

Activity Level: Active

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds

Spots: 6

3. PHOTOGRAPHY AT ADAM'S RESERVOIR

Time: 6:30 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35

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. With luck we will capture Osprey grabbing fish from the water! We'll cover techniques for 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 condition. Bring your camera, lens, tripod, etc. *Nice to have: folding chair, water, sunscreen, bug repellent, and 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, kingfishers, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Western & Clark's Grebes, Common Mergansers

Spots: 12

4. GLOVER PONDS AT SUNRISE

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

Guide(s): Jen Hitt and Dan Johnston

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. Weather permitting.

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:** \$50

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 along trails closed to the public. 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 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

Fold Here

THURSDAY • MAY 14 • CONTINUED

7. 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:** \$85

Guide(s): Jen Wright and Amanda Holland

Spend a day at one of the top ten birding spots in the nation with expert birders on an adventure at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. You will soon learn and see why this area has been protected since 1928 and is considered one of Utah's premier birding hotspots. Its 78,000 acres provide a vast wetland habitat for a phenomenal number of migrants including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, White-faced Ibis, two species of blackbirds, gulls, terns, swallows, marsh wrens, and more. This is a great field trip for all levels of birders.

**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: 34

8. INLAND SEA SHOREBIRD RESERVE

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

Guide(s): Max Malmquist and Mike Malmquist

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 managed just for shorebirds on the edge of Great Salt Lake. Shallow ponds or playas invite avocets, Black-necked Stilts, willets, migrating 'peeps' and one of the few places to consistently see Snowy Plovers. Prairie type sparrows, larks, pipits, shrike, hawks and falcons are possible. Access to some areas may be limited with wet weather. Depending on time and conditions access to bird Gillmor Sanctuary may be possible. 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, Advanced Birders

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

Spots: 24

9. 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 Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders

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

Spots: 12

10. BIRD BANDING AT TRACY AVIARY'S NATURE CENTER AT PIA OKWAI

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 Okwai

Activity Level: Accessible

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

Target Species: songbirds, woodpeckers

Spots: 15

11. BIRDING ROCKPORT BY CANOE

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

Guide(s): Kathy Donnell and Jennifer Martens

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

Fold Here

THURSDAY • MAY 14 • CONTINUED

12. BEHIND THE GATES AT GREAT SALT LAKE SHORELANDS PRESERVE

NEW!

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35
Guide(s): Mike Kolendrianos

Join us for a guided walk behind the gates at Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve Freeport Drain Wetlands. The wetlands were designed to create sustainable wildlife habitat and are now home to Song Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Mallards, Meadowlarks, Red-tailed Hawks and more. You will learn how the wetlands have become a living laboratory for local universities. After the guided tour, enjoy the self-guided audio tour that leads you by the Preserve's award-winning visitor center and on a one-mile boardwalk loop trail complete with a 30-foot-high wildlife viewing platform. Make sure to bring your binoculars, bug spray, sunscreen, and water. Depending on the recent weather, please be prepared for walking in mud.

Meeting Location: Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve
Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders
Target Species: songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds
Spots: 20

13. AMERICAN KESTREL

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM **Transportation:** Van **Cost:** \$70
Guide(s): HawkWatch International Staff

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: 12

14. 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. This trip will be contingent on weather for the day. Winds predicted to exceed 10 mph will be cause for cancellation. Sunscreen and water are recommended.

**Trip is weather and water level dependent. Weather date, Sunday, May 17, 2026.*

Two trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of 10:00 AM or 1:00 PM during registration.

Meeting Location: Great Salt Lake State Park Marina
Activity Level: Easy
Good For: Beginning Birders
Target Species: Eared Grebes and gulls
Spots: 8

15. BIRDS & BOTANY

NEW!

Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 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 variety of native habitats in Dimple Dell. 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. This trail often includes creek crossings, so we recommend shoes that can get wet.

Meeting Location: Dimple Dell Trailhead
Activity Level: Active
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
Target Species: songbirds, raptors, corvids
Spots: 16

16. MOUNTAIN WEST OWLING

Time: 3:30 PM to 11:30 PM **Cost:** \$125
Guide(s): Pitta Tours

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: 7

17. SUNSET HIKE ALONG MAPLE SYRUP TRAIL

Time: 4:00 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 2025, is ready to be explored. We'll journey through this trail system in a counterclockwise direction, 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. Our goal is to identify 30 riparian species along the way. Our hike is a scenic loop 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!

** Please consider your fitness level, due to the distance and elevation gain, this trip should be considered only by those who can comfortably complete a strenuous mountain hike.*

Meeting Location: Mueller Park Trailhead
Activity Level: Active and Advanced
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders
Target Species: woodpeckers, wood warblers, hummingbirds, nuthatches, thrushes, raptors, possible vireos, Hammond's Flycatchers, Pacific Wrens
Spots: 6

Fold Here

THURSDAY • MAY 14 • CONTINUED

18. 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 Causeway 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: 32

19. 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
Spots: 12

20. INTRO TO NATURE JOURNALING

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$30
Guide(s): Susan Snyder

Join artist, naturalist, and birder Susan Snyder for a two-hour introduction to nature journaling. 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 natural journaling journey. Ages 14+. Participants younger than 16 must have a participating adult present.

Meeting Location: Woodland Park Pavilion
Activity Level: Accessible
Good For: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children
Target Species: songbirds, woodpeckers, corvids
Spots: 12

21. SUNSET AT GALENA SOO'NKAHNI

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$25
Guide(s): Tori Sohm and Mikala Mortensen

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 an approximately 4-mile there-and-back walk along the Jordan River Trail, we can expect to see songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors, possibly deer and other wildlife. If we get to the top of the hill in time we can watch the sunset over the Jordan River Valley.

**While this outing is approx. 4-miles of walking, it can be done entirely on paved trails.*

Meeting Location: Jordan River Rotary Park
Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Families with Children
Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, songbirds
Spots: 15

FRIDAY • MAY 15

22. GREAT SALT LAKE SHOREBIRDS WITH KEVIN KARLSON



Time: 6:00 AM to 11:00 AM **Transportation:** Mid-size Bus **Cost:** \$105
Guide(s): Max Malmquist, Dale Rosselet, and **Keynote Speaker:** Kevin Karlson

Designated a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of Global Importance, the Great Salt Lake supports significant portions of the Pacific Flyway's shorebird populations. Its unique ecosystem makes it a critical breeding and stopover for species such as Snowy Plovers, American Avocets, Wilson's Phalaropes, Black-necked Stilts, and many more. Join Kevin Karlson—author, guide, and keynote speaker at the GSL Bird Festival—and Max Malmquist, Engagement Manager for the National Audubon Society's Saline Lakes Program, for a morning excursion to the Antelope Island Causeway, the premier hotspot for experiencing shorebirds in Utah and beyond.

**Ticket includes a head net and park entry*

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park
Activity Level: Easy
Good For: Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders
Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, wading birds, shorebirds
Spots: 32

23. FAIRFIELD BIRDING OASIS

Time: 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Van **Cost:** \$95
Guide(s): Tori Sohm and Anne Terry

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, warblers in the treetops, and if we're lucky, maybe 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, waterfowl
Spots: 12

Fold Here

FRIDAY • MAY 15 • CONTINUED

24. 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 them. 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 conditions, the itinerary will be determined in the days leading up to the trip. 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

25. 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 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

26. 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. *Weather permitting. *Ticket includes kayak and life jacket rental.*

Two trip opportunities are available. Please select your start time of 7:00 AM or 10:00 AM during registration.

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

27. BUFFALO RANCH 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 Ranch Pond, 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 allows plenty of opportunities to enjoy the area's amazing birdlife. Our goal is to identify 70 species. 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 Trailhead parking lot

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

28. JORDANELLE WETLANDS AND HEBER FIELDS

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

Guide(s): Audrey Biser, Kristina McOmber, and Leslie Clark

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 agricultural fields of Heber City also offer exciting possibilities including Sandhill Cranes, Wilson's Snipes, kingbirds, Bobolinks, and multiple sparrow species. Please carpool with your friends and family members attending the same trip.

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

29. 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:** \$85

Guide(s): Jen Wright and Amanda Holland

Spend a day at one of the top ten birding spots in the nation with expert birders on an adventure at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. You will soon learn and see why this area has been protected since 1928 and is considered one of Utah's premier birding hotspots. Its 78,000 acres provide a vast wetland habitat for a phenomenal number of migrants including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, White-faced Ibis, two species of blackbirds, gulls, terns, swallows, marsh wrens, and more. This is a great field trip for all levels of birders.

**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: 25

Fold Here

FRIDAY • MAY 15 • CONTINUED

30. 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

31. SAGE-STEPPE BIRDING AT PROMONTORY POINT

Time: 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM **Transportation:** Van **Cost:** \$105

Guide(s): Adam Brewerton, Jim Parrish, and 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. 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, Intermediate, Advanced Birders, Families with Children

Target Species: raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, sparrows, shorebirds, waterfowl, galliformes, Long-billed Curlews, Sage Thrashers

Spots: 12

32. 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

33. PHOTOGRAPHY AT FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35

Guide(s): Tom Mathewson

This is a guided "drive-your-own-car" tour of specific spots at Farmington Bay and behind the closed gates, 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. Recommend bringing a camera with tripod, binoculars, insect repellent, hat, and clothing for hot sun or cold rain as needed.

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. FARMINGTON BIRDING HOTSPOTS

NEW!

Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$25

Guide(s): John Bellmon and Dallin Henderson

Visit five of Farmington's top bird viewing areas including Farmington Pond, Farmington Canyon, Buffalo Ranch Pond, Goose Egg Island, and the Eccles Wildlife Education Center with Wasatch Audubon's own John Bellmon and Dallin Henderson. We will visit different habitats that will help us in our goal to view 60 different bird species.

**You are invited to join us at the Festival HQ at Western Sports Park for a free one hour workshop at 9:00 AM to discuss bird identification and the common backyard birds in the Farmington area prior to the ticketed field trip.*

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park Building 3 (9:00 AM Free Workshop Only) and/or (10:00 AM Field Trip with Registration Required)

Activity Level: Moderate

Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders

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

Spots: 15

35. EVENING PHOTOGRAPHY IN EAST FARMINGTON

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

Guide(s): Elizabeth Moon and Asher Lee

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 photographers, Elizabeth Moon and Asher Lee. They 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

Fold Here

FRIDAY • MAY 15 • CONTINUED

36. ANTELOPE ISLAND OWL PROWL

Time: 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM **Transportation:** Mid-size Bus **Cost:** \$85
Guide(s): HawkWatch International Staff

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.*

Meeting Location: Antelope Island Causeway 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: 32

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 2025, these hikes fostered incredible camaraderie as we worked together to spot birds and share in the joy of nature. Our goal is to identify 30 riparian species along the way. 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. Please consider your fitness level, due to the distance and elevation gain, this trip should be considered only by those who can comfortably complete a strenuous mountain hike.

**Participants are required to provide own headlamp.*

Meeting Location: Mueller Park
Activity Level: Active and Advanced
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:** \$95
Guide(s): Adam Blundell and Marzena Blundell

Join us for an e-bike ride at Farmington Bay with access down the dike road behind the closed gates. 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 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 16

39. ANTELOPE ISLAND THROUGH THE LENS – INLAND & CAUSEWAY

Time: 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35
Guide(s): Elizabeth Moon and Asher Lee

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 photographers, Elizabeth Moon and Asher Lee, 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 Causeway Parking Lot
Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders
Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, corvids, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, galliformes, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl
Spots: 8

40. UTAH BIRDS SCAVENGER HUNT

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

Pitta Tours wants 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 quick 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

Fold Here

SATURDAY • MAY 16 • CONTINUED

41. UTAH COUNTY BIRDING

Time: 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$60
Guide(s): Joshua Kreitzer

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. Time-permitting, 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, songbirds, galliformes
Spots: 25

42. CACHE VALLEY BIRDING ADVENTURE FOR BEGINNERS

Time: 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM **Transportation:** Van **Cost:** \$115
Guide(s): Jim Parrish, Candice Burke, 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. This small group size will allow you to visit some of the most diverse birding hotspots while receiving focused attention from your guides. 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
Target Species: waterfowl, raptors, corvids, woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, wading birds, galliformes
Spots: 12

43. 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 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

44. BUFFALO RANCH 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 Ranch Pond, 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 allows plenty of opportunities to enjoy the area's amazing birdlife. Our goal is to identify 70 species. 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 Trailhead parking lot
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

45. 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 recommended. Bring your binoculars and/or camera, water, a hat, sunscreen, and a snack. 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

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46. GILLMOR SANCTUARY: BEHIND THE GATES WITH KEVIN KARLSON



Time: 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Van(s) **Cost:** \$135
Guide(s): Zach Higgins, Heidi Hoven, Dale Rosselet, and **Keynote Speaker:** Kevin Karlson

Join us for a private behind the gates tour of National Audubon Society's Gillmor Sanctuary that is not accessible to the general public. Located on the south east shore of Great Salt Lake, Gillmor Sanctuary is a 3,500 acre complex of shallow wetlands, grasslands, and shrublands managed for shorebirds. You can expect to see a variety of breeding and migratory shorebirds species. During the trip we will discuss what it takes to manage wetlands and go over some of the ongoing restoration and conservation work at the sanctuary.

Depending on road conditions the trip will either be primarily driving and stopping for short walks from the van, or little driving and ~2 miles of walking in possible mud. Plan to bring binoculars, spotting scope (if you own one), water, snacks, sunscreen, hiking boots, pants, long sleeve shirt, sunglasses, and a hat. There can be abundant biting insects this time of year so plan to cover up. **Ticket includes head net.*

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park
Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
Target Species: shorebirds, songbirds, raptors, waterfowl
Spots: 20

47. JORDANELLE WETLANDS AND HEBER FIELDS

Time: 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35
Guide(s): Audrey Biser, Kristina McOmber, and Leslie Clark

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 agricultural fields of Heber City also offer exciting possibilities including Sandhill Cranes, Wilson's Snipes, kingbirds, Bobolinks, and multiple sparrow species. Please carpool with your friends and family members attending the same trip.

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

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, songbirds, woodpeckers
Spots: 25

49. BIRDS & BUGS FOR FAMILIES

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$30
Guide(s): Megan DuVal and Kylie Jones-Greenwood

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

50. 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 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: 10

51. BIRDING THE GREAT SALT LAKE BY KAYAK FOR ADULTS



Time: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$65
Guide(s): Chris Butler and Shana Helps

Join naturalists from Antelope Island State Park and HawkWatch International for this intimate birding experience on the Great Salt Lake. Participants will meet 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. Participants should be in good physical condition with the ability to squat, paddle against the wind, and swim if needed. Adult kayaks can support up to 250 pounds. All participants must be able to pilot their own kayaks and are required to wear provided life jackets.

*Weather permitting. *Ticket includes park entry, head net, kayak, and life jacket rental.*

Meeting Location: Antelope Island State Park Marina
Activity Level: Active
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds
Spots: 10

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52. BIRDING FOR FAMILIES AT RED BUTTE GARDEN

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$15
Guide(s): Dallin Henderson and HawkWatch International Staff

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

53. BIRDING THE GREAT SALT LAKE BY KAYAK FOR KIDS

Time: 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive
Cost: \$85 (includes 1 adult and 1 youth ticket) **Guide(s):** Chris Butler and Shana Helps

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.

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+.

*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.*

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: 6 adults and up to 12 youth participants per start time

54. BEGINNING BIRDING: FARMINGTON BAY

Time: 2:15 PM to 5:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive
Cost: \$25 (under 10 free, registration required) **Guide(s):** Max Malmquist & 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

55. 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 2025, these hikes fostered incredible camaraderie as we worked together to spot birds and share in the joy of nature. Our goal is to identify 30 riparian species along the way. 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. Please consider your fitness level, due to the distance and elevation gain, this trip should be considered only by those who can comfortably complete a strenuous mountain hike.

**Participants are required to provide own headlamp.*

Meeting Location: Mueller Park
Activity Level: Active and Advanced
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
Target Species: raptors, woodpeckers, songbirds, possible owls
Spots: 6

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56. 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 Corridor by bike on 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, making it a perfect outing for nature and biking enthusiasts. 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 along the way, 78 species were seen in 2025. Perfect for couples, family, friends, or anyone who owns a bike. Join the bird ride!

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

Meeting Location: 1954 W Glovers Lane Trailhead parking lot
Activity Level: Active
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
Target Species: waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes
Spots: 6

57. 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

Bird the West Desert and the Pony Express Trail. 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 we will loop around to the Pony Express Trail and head back over Lookout Pass. If time allows we will finish up with a stop at Fitzgerald WMA. Highlights could include desert specialties such as 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, 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

58. 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

59. CACHE VALLEY 100

NEW! **Time:** 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM **Transportation:** Mid-size Bus **Cost:** \$115
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 act like a mini big day with the goal of recording 100 species in the day (for anyone with county goals). 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 a quicker pace, more walking, and intermediate to advanced birding levels, but all birding levels are still welcome, and beginners should not feel shy about joining.*

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: 25

60. MARATHON BIRDING

Time: 6:00 AM to 11:30 PM **Cost:** \$179
Guide(s): Tim Avery, Kenny Frisch, Mike Hearell, and Taylor Abbott

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

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61. 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
Spots: 8

62. GILLMOR SANCTUARY: BEHIND THE GATES

NEW!

Time: 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Van(s) **Cost:** \$135
Guide(s): Zach Higgins and Heidi Hoven

Join us for a private behind the gates tour of National Audubon Society's Gillmor Sanctuary that is not accessible to the general public. Located on the south east shore of Great Salt Lake, Gillmor Sanctuary is a 3,500 acre complex of shallow wetlands, grasslands, and shrublands managed for shorebirds. You can expect to see a variety of breeding and migratory shorebirds species. During the trip we will discuss what it takes to manage wetlands and go over some of the ongoing restoration and conservation work at the sanctuary.

Depending on road conditions the trip will either be primarily driving and stopping for short walks from the van, or little driving and ~2 miles of walking in possible mud. Plan to bring binoculars, spotting scope (if you own one), water, snacks, sunscreen, hiking boots, pants, long sleeve shirt, sunglasses, and a hat. There can be abundant biting insects this time of year so plan to cover up. **Ticket includes head net.*

Meeting Location: Western Sports Park
Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
Target Species: shorebirds, songbirds, raptors, waterfowl
Spots: 20

63. BIRDING AT FORT BUENAVENTURA

Time: 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$25
Guide(s): Sharee Harrison and Jordan Rowley

Located on the outskirts of west Ogden off of 24th Street, 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

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 Birders, Intermediate Birders, Families with Children
Target Species: waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, woodpeckers
Spots: 25

65. MANTUA RESERVOIR AND SURROUNDING AREA

Time: 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$30
Guide(s): Jim Parrish

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: Mantua Reservoir
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: 12

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66. PARLEY'S MITIGATION AREA AND LITTLE DELL RESERVOIR

Time: 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$40
Guide(s): Felicia Alvarez and Mike Malmquist

We will bird in the Parleys Creek, Alexander Creek and Dell Creek drainages 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 (e.g. Yellow, MacGillivray's, Virginia's, Orange-Crowned, Yellow-breasted Chat), Golden Eagle, flycatchers and other species. 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, and prepare for inclement weather if forecast.

Meeting Location: Mountain Dell Upper Pavilion parking lot
Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders, Advanced Birders
Target Species: raptors, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, songbirds, corvids, woodpeckers, galliformes, wading birds, waterfowl
Spots: 12

67. ADAM'S RESERVOIR BY KAYAK, PADDLEBOARD, AND CANOE

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, kayaks, and canoes 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

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$30
Guide(s): Megan DuVal and Kylie Jones-Greenwood

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!
Spots: 15

69. ROZEL ADVENTURE: SPIRAL JETTY AND THE ROZEL TAR SEEPS

Time: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM **Transportation:** Bus **Cost:** \$85
Guide(s): Max Malmquist and Jaimi Butler

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's Rozel Point 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 Rozel Point, amidst the hypersaline (and very pink) waters we will encounter American White Pelicans that breed on the remote Gunnison Island, flying over Spiral Jetty and the tar seeps 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. Great Salt Lake lover, Jaimi Butler will discuss the art of Spiral Jetty and the biology of the nearby Rozel Tar Seeps.

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. 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 Shana Helps

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

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71. FIELDING GARR RANCH AT ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

NEW!

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM **Transportation:** Self-Drive **Cost:** \$35
Guide(s): Ruth Carmona-Murray

Bird a popular migrant stopover at Fielding Garr Ranch on Antelope Island. Birds crossing the west desert drop into the Ranch's grove of giant cottonwood trees as the first green spot they see. The area offers several springs and trees with plenty of insects. Possible species include migrating warblers, vireos, flycatchers, owls, falcons, hawks, woodpeckers, and Virginia Rail. Bring your binoculars, bug spray, sunscreen, and water. Participants may stay after the field trip for a self-guided tour to explore the museum, exhibits, and historic buildings still standing on the ranch today.

Please plan travel time accordingly with an estimated 45 minute drive from the Antelope Island State Park entrance booth to your destination of Fielding Garr Ranch.

**Ticket includes head net and park entry.*

Meeting Location: Fielding Garr Ranch
Activity Level: Moderate
Good For: Beginning Birders, Intermediate Birders
Target Species: raptors, songbirds, flycatchers, vireos, swallows, shrikes, woodpeckers
Spots: 20

72. SUNSET HIKE ALONG MAPLE SYRUP TRAIL

Time: 4:00 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 2025, is ready to be explored. We'll journey through this trail system in a counterclockwise direction, 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. Our goal is to identify 30 riparian species along the way. Our hike will begin on the north side of the canyon and cross over to the south side, where the Maple Syrup Trail is located, before looping back to the Mueller Park entrance. 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 as we navigate the trail system. Join us for an exciting adventure filled with birdwatching, learning, great company, and the natural beauty of Mueller Park!

** Please consider your fitness level, due to the distance and elevation gain, this trip should be considered only by those who can comfortably complete a strenuous mountain hike.*

Meeting Location: Mueller Park Trailhead
Activity Level: Active and Advanced
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

73. 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
Spots: 12

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 13-16, 2027

29TH ANNUAL • GREAT SALT LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL



Black-necked Stilt: Photo by Quinn Diaz

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2026 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

THURSDAY • MAY 14

	1	Antelope Island Through the Lens – Inland and Causeway	6:00 AM to 10:00 AM
NEW!	2	Wings, Wheels, & Beautiful Ponds	6:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	3	Photography at Adam's Reservoir	6:30 AM to 12:00 PM
	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	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge – Guided Auto Tour and Walk Behind the Gates	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	8	Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	9	Utah County Pinyon Juniper Specialties	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	10	Bird Banding at Tracy Aviary's Nature Center at Pia Okwai	7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
	11	Birding Rockport by Canoe	7:45 AM to 2:00 PM
NEW!	12	Behind the Gates at Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
	13	American Kestrel	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	14	GSL Ecosystem Boat Tour	10:00 AM or 1:00 PM
NEW!	15	Birds & Botany	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	16	Mountain West Owling	3:30 PM to 11:30 PM
	17	Sunset Hike Along Maple Syrup Trail	4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
	18	Antelope Island Owl Prowl	4:30 PM to 9:00 PM
	19	Kaysville East Mountain Wilderness Park	6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
	20	Intro to Nature Journaling	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
	21	Sunset at Galena Soo'nkahn	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

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FRIDAY • MAY 15

NEW!	22	Great Salt Lake Shorebirds with Kevin Karlson	6:00 AM to 11:00 AM
	23	Fairfield Birding Oasis	6:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	24	Mountains in May	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
	25	Mist Netting & Bird Banding at Farmington Creek	7:00 AM or 9:00 AM
	26	Mindful Birding by Kayak at Bountiful Pond	7:00 AM or 10:00 AM
	27	Buffalo Ranch Pond near Farmington Bay	7:00 AM to 11:00 AM
	28	Jordanelle Wetlands and Heber Fields	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
	29	Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge – Guided Auto Tour and Walk Behind the Gates	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	30	Birding Diamond Fork Canyon	7:00 AM to 2:00 PM
	31	Sage-Steppe Birding at Promontory Point	7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
	32	Birding at Kaysville Ponds	7:30 AM to 10:00 AM
	33	Photography at Farmington Bay	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
NEW!	34	Farmington Birding Hotspots	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
	35	Evening Photography in East Farmington	5:00 PM to 8:00 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

2026 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY • MAY 16

39	Antelope Island Through the Lens - Inland and Causeway	6:00 AM to 10:00 AM
40	Utah Birds Scavenger Hunt	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
41	Utah County Birding	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
42	Cache Valley Birding Adventure for Beginners	6:30 AM to 4:30 PM
43	Mist Netting & Bird Banding at Farmington Creek	7:00 AM or 9:00 AM
44	Buffalo Ranch Pond near Farmington Bay	7:00 AM to 11:00 AM
45	Behind the Gates at Legacy Nature Preserve	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
NEW! 46	Gillmor Sanctuary: Behind the Gates with Kevin Karlson	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
47	Jordanelle Wetlands and Heber Fields	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
48	Bountiful Pond	7:30 AM to 10:30 AM
49	Birds & Bugs for Families	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
50	Springhill Geologic Park - Birds of the Foothills	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
NEW! 51	Birding the Great Salt Lake by Kayak for Adults	9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
52	Birding for Families at Red Butte Garden	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
53	Birding the Great Salt Lake by Kayak for Kids	11:00 AM to 12:30 PM
54	Beginning Birding: Farmington Bay	2:15 PM to 5:00 PM
55	Explore Mueller Park's Hiking Trails & Birdwatching Bliss!	5:00 PM to 11:00 PM

SUNDAY • MAY 17

56	Biking and Birding Along the West Davis Highway Trail	6:00 AM to 12:00 PM
57	Bird the West Desert & Pony Express Trail	6:00 AM to 4:00 PM
58	Birds of Great Salt Lake	6:00 AM to 8:00 PM
NEW! 59	Cache Valley 100	6:00 AM to 5:00 PM
60	Marathon Birding	6:00 AM to 11:30 PM
61	Morning Photography in East Farmington	7:00 AM to 10:00 AM
NEW! 62	Gillmor Sanctuary: Behind the Gates	7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
63	Birding at Fort Buenaventura	7:30 AM to 10:00 AM
64	Bountiful Pond	7:30 AM to 10:30 AM
65	Mantua Reservoir and Surrounding Area	7:30 AM to 11:30 AM
66	Parley's Mitigation Area and Little Dell Reservoir	7:30 AM to 2:30 PM
67	Adam's Reservoir by Kayak, Paddleboard, and Canoe	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
68	Birds & Bugs for Adults	8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
69	Rozel Adventure: Spiral Jetty and the Rozel Tar Seeps	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
70	Birding for Families at Red Butte Garden	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
NEW! 71	Fielding Garr Ranch at Antelope Island State Park	9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
72	Sunset Hike Along Maple Syrup Trail	4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
73	Kaysville East Mountain Wilderness Park	6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

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