

## **Birds of the Great Salt Lake Archive - Executive Summary**

Rosalie Winard will create a photographic archive of the avian life on the Great Salt Lake. The balance between habitat protection and development in and around the lake is increasingly precarious, threatening the future of the millions of birds who use it each year. A visual archive of the Great Salt Lake's birds will serve as an important tool in promoting awareness, preservation and protection of the lake, its contiguous wetlands and uplands in order to help maintain the extraordinary bird life utilizing these habitats. It will be a lasting document for future generations as well.

Winard has created a unique, compelling style for photographing birds that she will use in producing this archive. Her avian photography, the subject of an award-winning book and a UMNH exhibition titled *Wild Birds of the American Wetlands* seeks to promote awareness and conservation of large birds and their habitats in North America. Her avian portraits have been praised as meditative, exhilarating and a call to action.

*Wild Birds* is shot primarily using Kodak's Infrared film. This film has been permanently discontinued and Winard has access to enough film to produce an archive of the birds of the Great Salt Lake. The film is highly sensitive and the last batch that was manufactured will expire in the Summer of 2010 or shortly thereafter, so time is of the essence. Winard will spend a year in and around the Great Salt Lake following and photographing its birds. She will be in the field 14-20 days a month photographing. The rest of each month will be spent researching, editing, archiving, and teaching on occasion. Because she has been shooting for several years in and around the Great Salt Lake, she has built relationships with Utah scientists and biologists working on the lake and has exceptional access to restricted areas of the lake.

The Archive will be conducted under the auspices of the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003. The Archive will be permanently housed and stored digitally in the Special Collections of the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah. It will be available for educational and display purposes to schools, universities and museums throughout Utah at no cost. Winard will be available for lectures during the year of the archive work.

Rosalie Winard is an award-winning photojournalist whose work has been published in Audubon Magazine, NRDC's OnEarth magazine, Waterkeeper magazine, ArtForum, Time, The New York Times, Le Monde, Forbes, US News and World Report and has been shown on "60 Minutes", PBS and BBC. She has been featured on Radio West and other NPR affiliates and has lectured at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology, the American Museum of Natural History, the Utah Museum of Natural History, the Exploratorium in San Francisco, Weber State University, University of Utah, Mount Holyoke College, the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival and in Salt Lake City public schools.

Rosalie Winard

<http://birdfactory.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJYffBkakiQ>

<http://www.umnh.utah.edu/wildbirds>

<http://welcomebooks.com/wildbirds/press.html>

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## **BIRDS OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE ARCHIVE PROPOSAL**

### **MISSION**

To create the first photographic archive of the birds of the Great Salt Lake as a scientific index and to encourage birding, eco-tourism and a resource for the general public to understand the importance of this fly zone for hundreds of species that take refuge on the lake in flight to their winter and summer habitats.

### **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT**

The Great Salt Lake is recognized regionally, nationally, and around the world for its extensive wetlands and its irreplaceable value to migratory birds. Yearly there are five to seven million birds traveling through the Great Salt Lake (two to three times more birds than there are people in the entire State of Utah.) These five to seven million birds, comprise 250 species and have never been archived. This archive will be an articulation and declaration of how they rely on the Great Salt Lake annually and a resource for birders, scientists, educators and residents.

### **WHAT IS AT STAKE NOW**

The balance between habitat protection and development in and around the lake is increasingly precarious, threatening the future of the millions of birds who use it each year. A visual archive of the Great Salt Lake's birds will serve as an important tool in promoting awareness, preservation and protection of the Lake. The archive will educate young and old about the Great Salt Lake's contiguous wetlands and uplands and help maintain the extraordinary bird life utilizing these habitats. The archive will be a lasting document for future generations as well as for birders, scientists and all who appreciate the American treasure that is the Great Salt Lake. The film used for the archive is no longer manufactured. The photographer, Rosalie Winard, creator of LARGE BIRDS OF AMERICAN WETLANDS, has the last 450 rolls of Kodak infrared film and intends to use it for this archive.

### **THE SPECIES IMPORTANCE OF THIS FLYWAY**

An oasis in the middle of the arid Great Basin, the Great Salt Lake has some of the world's highest waterbird concentrations. Up to 800,000 migrating Wilson's Phalaropes arrive yearly, the largest staging concentration of this species worldwide. The world's largest breeding populations of White-Faced Ibis (7500) and California Gulls(160,000) nest and raise their young on the lake. Up to 18,000 American White Pelicans, our country's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest breeding population, comes yearly to Gunnison

Island (in the north arm of the lake), a habitat free of terrestrial predators and human disturbance. About 10,000 snowy plovers, a federally listed threatened species, breed on the flats around the lake. The entire Pacific Flyway population of Marbled Godwits depends on the Salt Lake's bordering wetlands, the only known inland stopover site for this population. As many as 1.7 million Eared Grebes, and hundreds of thousands of waterfowl pass through the lake during each spring and fall migration. More than 50 avian species nest on its shores and wetlands. And the list goes on and on...

The location of Great Salt Lake, its 15,000 square miles of water environment, its remote islands and shoreline, and 400,000 acres of wetlands are critical and essential habitats for these birds. One of only 17 sites selected to be of Hemispheric Importance, the eastern shore of the Lake is designated a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve, part of an international program designed to help protect key shorebird sites in North and South America.

According to the conservation organization Ducks Unlimited, the lake is the "Bird Crossroads of the Intermountain West ...serving as a hub for migratory birds in both the Pacific and Central Flyways."

## **WHY NOW**

A few scattered federal, state and private bird refuges and wildlife sanctuaries are established around the lake. These conserve some of the birds' critical breeding grounds. Bird numbers are so great, however, that many rest, feed and nest on land outside the refuges, land which is increasingly threatened by human encroachment, development and pollution. Utah avian biologist Don Paul says, "To insure long-term viability of shorebird populations on the lake, we need contiguous wetlands with associated uplands and intact water delivery systems." Unfortunately, as human populations continue to grow in Utah, wetland and other viable habitats for birds' food and water sources adjacent to the lake are shrinking. Mining leases on the lake have been greatly expanded, impacting the isolation many species need to successfully breed on the lake. Talk of damming Bear River has begun. If this is allowed, hundreds of thousands of birds will be adversely affected. Time is of the essence to document the current abundance of birds in and around the Lake.

Winard has created a unique, compelling style for photographing birds that she will use in producing this archive. She shoots primarily using Kodak's Infrared film. This film has been permanently discontinued and Winard has

access to enough film to produce an archive of the birds of the Great Salt Lake. The film is highly sensitive and the last batch that was manufactured will expire in the Summer of 2010 or shortly thereafter, so time is of the essence here as well.

## **LOGISTICS**

Beginning in Spring 2009, award winning photographer Rosalie Winard will spend a year in and around the Great Salt Lake following and photographing its birds. She will be in the field 15-22 days a month photographing. Her field days go from dawn to dusk. The rest of each month will be spent researching, editing, archiving, and teaching on occasion. Because she has been shooting for several years in and around the Great Salt Lake, she has built relationships with Utah scientists and biologists working on the lake and has exceptional access to its restricted areas. Through this network, she also has immediate access to information regarding the location of migrating flocks and unusual bird sightings. She will be photographing from an airboat, car, foot, canoe, atv, airplane and hunting blinds.

The Archive will be conducted under the auspices of the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003. The Archive will be permanently housed and stored digitally in the Special Collections of the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah. It will be available for educational and display purposes to schools, universities and museums throughout Utah at no cost. Winard will be available for lectures during the year of the archive work.

## **BENEFITS**

Bird watching is the second most popular outdoor hobby and the fastest-growing of all outdoor recreational activities. Currently it is estimated that there are 70,000,000 bird watchers in the US. The Great Salt Lake Bird Festival has just celebrated a decade of festivals. Each year the number of visitors to the festival has grown and in 2008 there were over 7000 attendees. This archive can be used to help stimulate local economic development and tourism from birders. Just think what income would be generated if we could get even 1% of our nation's birders to visit the Great Salt Lake. The uniqueness of Winard's work will attract a broad audience. The Archive will serve as a tool to help promote public education, awareness and advocacy to protect critical habitats in and around the Great Salt Lake. A coffee table book, a field guide and a children's book could be produced from this work to aid public awareness

and promote conservation ideals. Eco-tourism and birding tourism partnerships will be explored rigorously.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Rosalie Winard’s larger-than-life exhibition *WILD BIRDS OF THE AMERICAN WETLANDS* was at the Utah Museum of Natural History November 2008 through February 2009. It is accompanied by her book *WILD BIRDS OF THE AMERICAN WETLANDS*, 2008 Lucie International Photography Award winner for Nature book. Winard is an award-winning photojournalist whose work has been published in Audubon Magazine, NRDC’s OnEarth magazine, Waterkeeper magazine, ArtForum, Time, The New York Times, Le Monde, Forbes, US News and World Report and has been shown on “60 Minutes” and PBS. She has been featured on Radio West and other NPR affiliates and has lectured at Cornell’s Lab of Ornithology, the American Museum of Natural History, the Utah Museum of Natural History, the Exploratorium in San Francisco, Weber State University, University of Utah, the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival and in Salt Lake City public schools. Her photographs are in the collections of The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, Library of Congress, The New York Historical Society, Pfizer Corporate Art Collection, Nelson Mandela, Dr. Oliver Sacks and many others.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJYffBkklQ>

<http://welcomebooks.com/wildbirds/index.html>

<http://birdfactory.org>

## **BIRDS OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE ARCHIVE BUDGET**

Film/processing/low-res scans - 420 rolls @\$55./roll . . . . .	\$23,100.
High-res scans for archive – 300 70MG scans @\$35.scan . . .	10,500.
Equipment repair & rental . . . . .	10,200.
Gas - \$275./month for 12 months . . . . .	3,300.
Salary for 12 months . . . . .	50,000.
Technical assistant . . . . .	12,000.

**Total Projected Budget - \$109,100.**

**Please make checks payable to:**

**Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.  
please designate for the Great Salt Lake Bird Archive**

**Mail to:**

Great Salt Lake RC &D

USDA-NRCS

6782 South 1300 East

Salt Lake City, Utah 84121