
Bird Watching: Friday Field Trips!

OSHER 170-001

Dates: Fridays: October 16 – November 20

Times: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Meeting place varies, see field trip descriptions below

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Course Description:

Enhance your bird watching skills by participating in 6 half-day field trips. Participants develop skills that allow them to classify and identify birds based on plumage, song, behavior, habitat, and season.

Participants should be willing to drive themselves. Please dress appropriately for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring a drink and snack. Binoculars and a note pad to record sightings are essential.

Expectations and Goals:

By the end of the course, students will

1. Identify 50 bird species in the field based on general impression, size, shape, plumage, song, and behavior
2. Explore 6 different habitats for bird watching
3. Keep a notebook of bird sightings

Required Materials

- **Binoculars** are a must for bird watching. They don't have to be expensive or fancy, just functional.
- A notebook and pencil for taking notes in the field.

Optional Materials and Texts

- Consider downloading one of the many birding apps available for your smartphone.
- *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, Seventh Edition by Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan Alderfer or another bird field guide.



Course Schedule

Field Trip Information—all field trips start at 8:00 a.m.

Week 1 October 16	<p>Silver Lake Boardwalk (Big Cottonwood Canyon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet in the REI parking lot at 3285 East 3300 South, on the west side. • The Silver Lake Boardwalk is an easy hike at a high elevation. Birds in this area include species that are not seen in the Salt Lake Valley.
Week 2 October 23	<p>Mountain Dell Reservoir and Washington Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet in the REI parking lot at 3285 East 3300 South, on the west side. • Birders explore the area around Mountain Dell Golf Course. This includes looking for birds on Mt. Dell Reservoir, a walk along an unpaved trail and a walk on a paved path in Washington Park.
Week 3 October 30	<p>Jordan River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet in the Day-Riverside Library parking lot at 1575 West 1000 North, SLC • Enjoy a walk along the Jordan River from 1000 North to just above 1700 North. The paved walkway bisects the Rose Park Golf Course and has excellent riparian habitat for water-loving birds and more.
Week 4 November 6	<p>Liberty Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet in the Tracy Aviary parking lot at 589 East 1300 South, SLC • Participants explore Library Park and Liberty Park Pond to get an “up close and personal look” at birds who take advantage of this wonderful green space in the heart of the city.
Week 5 November 13	<p>Farmington Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet at Farmington Bay. A map and directions will be provided. • This waterfowl management area offers opportunities for viewing birds along the auto-tour route from the car and on walking trails near the newly opened Eccles Wildlife Education Center.
Week 6 November 20	<p>Antelope Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet at the Antelope Island State Park entrance; there is \$10/vehicle fee. • Birding the Antelope Island causeway can be quite productive for migrating birds. We stop briefly at the Visitor Center and then travel south to the historic Fielding Garr Ranch. The ranch is an oasis for migrating and resident birds. Maybe we will see the Great Horned Owl.