



St. George

Winter Bird
Festival

January 26-28, 2012



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Winter Bird Festival

Beginning and experienced birders attending the 9th Annual St. George Winter Bird Festival will enjoy 3 days of fun and education. The Festival is the annual "Community Outreach Program" of the Red Cliffs Chapter of the National Audubon Society. The Red Cliffs Audubon has been serving St. George and Southwestern Utah for over 15 years. Our members are active in providing birding experiences for all those that are interested in learning more about birds, our area ecology and feature presentations on birding and related nature subjects. The meetings are held at the Tonaquint Nature Center on the second Wednesday of the month and field trips to Southwest Utah birding sites are one Saturday of each month – September through July. The chapter is dedicated to outreach for local schools and organizations, encouraging students and citizens to become more aware of the unique area we live in. Join us at our monthly events and take part in our activities.

Birdwatching has become a hobby and a well-enjoyed activity and the annual St. George Winter Bird Festival will have something of interest for all - presentations, field trips and workshops and the majority of the festival is free! **NOTE: Banquet is a fee event (\$20).** See registration form on last page. It is centered around the Tonaquint Park & Nature Center where you will find the daytime activities. Special presentations on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening are at the Best Western Abbey Inn and Dixie State College. Our leaders and presenters are eager to share their experiences, knowledge and enthusiasm for birding! Bring your friends and family!

Field trips are on Friday and Saturday, they are free and open to all, however some field trips require registration due to limited space. Visit Southwest Utah's reservoirs, riparian areas, forests, and deserts. All trips depart from the Tonaquint Parking Lot and we carpool to designated areas. Liability releases are required for trips. With over 375 species on the Washington County bird checklist, this is a great place to bird. St. George has three nearby Utah State Parks and Zion National Park is less than an hour away. St. George's warmer winter months attract migrating waterfowl that stopover in our lakes and reservoirs and raptors find this is a good place for the cold months.



NOTE: There are 16 field trips but only 6 field trips that you need to register for – 1 for Beaver Dam Wash (limit 12), 2 for Lytle Ranch (limit 25), 1 for the Photography trip to Lytle Ranch (limit 12), 1 local trip to find the Vermillion Flycatcher (limit 25) and 1 for Zion National Park (limit 25). One presentation requires registration. See registration forms on last page or visit <http://www.sgcity.org/birdfestival/>.

Highlights of the Festival

THURSDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF PRESENTATION - Rick Fridell on "Wintering Birds of Washington County"

FRIDAY NIGHT PRESENTATION - Our Wonderful Wildlife by Lynn Chamberlain

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET - Keynote speaker Chris Parish - "Condors: their Plight, their Comeback and the Road Ahead"

LIVE BIRD EXHIBITS - with Hawkwatch International

SALES OF BIRDING MERCHANDISE - T-Shirts, Note Cards, Caps, Pins, Books, and more!

FIELD TRIPS TO GREAT LOCAL BIRDING AREAS

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS FOR ALL AGES AND BIRDING LEVELS

Presenting Chris Parish
Peregrine Fund
Condor Field Project Supervisor

Saturday night: Banquet – Keynote Speaker (registration required)

Chris N. Parish was raised in Buttonwillow, California near the historical range of the remnant California condor population in the southern San Joaquin Valley. After a brief introduction to the wildlife of the desert foothills, he moved on to school at Northern Arizona University obtaining a B.S. in Biology with emphasis on Fish and Wildlife Management. After working on the Black Footed Ferret Reintroduction Program for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, he transferred to the Flagstaff Regional Office as Condor Project Coordinator in 1997. Since fall 2000, he has been directing the condor project's field effort for The Peregrine Fund.

Chris and his wife Ellen, have two beautiful daughters, Emma and Anna. They can often be found together exploring the wilds of the four corners' region while tracking condors. Chris enjoys hunting, fishing, and photography when he can make time.



Description of the Events

JANUARY

Education Days - For all youth of Southern Utah in various locations.

January 23-26: Jen Hajj, Education Director of Hawkwatch International will celebrate the Winter Bird Festival by bringing Live Bird Presentations to schools. For more information, call Marilyn Davis at 435-673-0996.

January 25-27: Grace Mann and Gloria Larson will share stories about our feathered friends. Story Time: Wednesday at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 2:00 am. Toddler Time Thursday at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, and Friday at 11:00 am.

St. George branch of the Washington County Library 88 West 100 South

THURSDAY, 26TH - Kick-off Presentation

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Wintering Birds of Washington County

Presenter: Rick Fridell, Native Aquatic Project Leader for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Southern Region Join Rick this evening and learn about the wide diversity of birds and their habitats in Washington County during this lecture and presentation. Southwest Utah habitats can attract as many as 375 species throughout the year.

Presentation location is at the Best Western Abbey Inn, Conference Room – 1129 Bluff Street

FRIDAY, 27TH - Presentations

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Exhibits, Live Birds, Sales: Books, T-Shirts, Caps, Pins, Note Cards

Red Cliffs Audubon Society, D/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association, Hawkwatch International

Tonaquint Nature Area

9:00 am - 9:45 am

Introduction to Birding

Presenter: Kevin Wheeler, UDWR Wildlife Biologist and RCAS member will discuss basic bird identification – size, color, shape and their habitat. Designed for the novice bird watcher. Field guides and binoculars will also be discussed.

Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

10:00 am - 10:45 am

Biology of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

Presenter: Cornell Christensen, Outreach Coordinator, Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. While Red Cliffs Desert Reserve was created to protect the desert tortoise, many other species within the same ecosystem benefit from this protection.

Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

11:00 am - 11:45 am

Greater Sage-Grouse

Presenter: Nicole Frey, USU Extension Wildlife Specialist. Join us for a discussion of about Greater sage-grouse in the southern – most extent of their range. We will discuss the biology and natural history of Greater sage-grouse. Then we will talk about current research projects implemented to improve the conservation of the 2nd largest pheasant species in North America. Finally, we will discuss the federal status of Greater sage-grouse and the implications of listing on grouse management.

Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

12:00 pm -12:45 pm

Economic Benefits of Wildlife Watching

Presenter: Bob Walters, Watchable Wildlife program coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources, will discuss the financial benefits of wildlife watching on communities.

Presentation location at the Tonaquint Amphitheater – 1851 Dixie Drive

12:00 pm -12:45 pm

Owls of the Northwest

Presenter: Christopher Balmer, Wildlife Photographer, will share some of his spectacular photographs of owls.

Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

Desert Life, Fact vs. Fiction

Presenter: Marshall Topham, Educator, Biologist. Come explore some of the common myths and misconceptions surrounding the creatures that make the inhospitable environment of our deserts their home.

Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Raptor Migrations

Presenter: Jen Hajj, Education Director of Hawkwatch International. We'll explore the migration stories of several varieties of North American raptors. Live birds will be on display during the program.

Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Our Wonderful Wildlife

Lynn Chamberlain, UDWR Biologist, Educator, and Photographer will lead a discussion on what makes our wildlife species unique and important within their wildlife world.

Presentation location at the Eccles Art Center, Dixie State College – 100 S. 700 E.

FRIDAY, 27th – Field Trips

7:00 am -12:00 pm

Cedar Valley

Leader: Pam Wheeler, a Wildlife Biologist will lead you through the fields west of Cedar City, and along Quichipa Lake, where many raptors winter. We will likely see Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Ferruginous Hawks, and American Kestrels, and hope to find a Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, or possibly a Merlin. Note: Part of the route will be on an unpaved road. If the road is impassible for cars due to snow or mud, we will alter the route.

Note: There are two meeting times/places: 7:00 am at the Tonaquint Parking Lot or at 8:00 am at the Maverick gas station (North I-15 to Cedar City, take Exit #62 and left over freeway to 444 E. Hwy 91.)

8:00 am -1:30 pm

► ***Lytle Ranch (Trip # 1)***

Leader: Bill Hunter, President of Red Cliffs Audubon. Visit this extreme Southwest corner of Utah. Discover birds in this oasis – includes desert shrubs, lowland riparian, and orchard and pond areas.

NOTE: Registration required for this trip – limited to 25. See last page for registration.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

8:00 am - 9:30 am

► **Find the Vermilion Flycatcher (Trip #2)**

Leaders: Marilyn Davis, RCAS member, Steve Hedges, Biologist, and Keith Day, UDWR Nongame Biologist. The Vermilion Flycatcher can be found in a wild, unpopulated area, or the center of town. Bring your 'binocs' and camera and expect to see, most everything from A to Z.

NOTE: Registration required for this trip – limited to 25. See last page for registration.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Quail Creek /Sand Hollow/Hurricane Fields

Leaders: Rick Fridell, Native Aquatic Project Leader, UDWR Southern Region. Discover what birds are visiting and wintering in our area reservoirs, pond and agricultural fields. We strongly encourage carpooling for this trip.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

10:00 am - 11:30 am

St. George Local Ponds

Leader: Kevin Wheeler, UDWR Wildlife Biologist and RCAS member. Water in the desert? Visit several of St. George's ponds. Includes the St. George Golf Course Pond, Springs Park Pond, new Southgate Pond and look into the wetlands in Washington Fields.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Washington Fields/Springs Pond

Leader: Cordell Peterson, RCAS member. A favorite trip. Stop at Springs Park Pond for waterfowl then on to the open fields in Washington. Lots of raptors, maybe a Burrowing Owl and a Vermilion Flycatcher.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Stonebridge Pond/Halfway Wash

Leaders: Pam & Kevin Wheeler. Visit Stonebridge Pond and see the riparian habitat and what lives there in the winter. Explore Halfway Wash area. Northern Flickers love the numerous cottonwood trees that line the creek.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

SunRiver St. George –Golf Course Ponds

Leader: Christian Edwards. UDWR Wildlife Biologist. Come visit the old 'silt' pond on the banks of the Virgin River and discover some of the birds of the desert as well as winter waterfowl. There was a Common Moorhen here many years back. Then it's on to the 'Park' overlooking the lakes on holes #17 and #18. Always a good stop for wintering waterfowl. Again, one year there were over 400 American White Pelicans present. What will we find this afternoon?

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

SATURDAY, 28th – Presentations & Workshops

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Exhibits, Live Birds, Sales: Books, T-Shirts, Caps, Pins, Note Cards

Red Cliffs Audubon Society, Dixie/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association, Southwest Wildlife Foundation

Tonaquint Nature Area

9:00 am - 9:45 am

Birds of a Feather

Presenter: Pam Wheeler, Wildlife Biologist. Come take a closer look at the most distinctive feature of a bird: Feathers!
Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

10:00 am – 10:45 am

Raptor Rapture

Presenter: Jen Hajj, Education Director of Hawkwatch International. A presentation that is fun for the whole family! Learn about the adaptations of birds of prey through original songs and activities. Meet a live bird up close!
Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

11:00 pm - 11:45 pm

Tracking Birds Through Time

Presenter: Jerry D. Harris, Directory of Paleontology, D.S.C. Bird bones rarely make great fossils, but their footprints are often preserved. But bird footprints during the “Age of Dinosaurs” tell a very different story about bird evolution than do bird footprints during the “age of Mammals”
Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

Building Bird Feeders

Bring your junior birder and assist them as they construct a bird feeder.
Presentation location at the Tonaquint Pavilion – 1851 Dixie Drive

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

► ***Junior Birder Program (Registration #3)***

Become a Junior Birder. Learn to spot birds, identify birds – their beaks, bills, feet, and feathers. Learn about their habitat, migration, and why we need birds in our world. Earn a Certificate and a ‘Junior Birder Badge’. **Ages 8-12**
NOTE: *Registration required for this workshop – limited to 25. See last page for registration.*
Presentation location in the Tonaquint Nature Center – 1851 Dixie Drive

6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

► ***Banquet: Enjoy a wonderful evening with birding friends, fine dining, door prizes, and silent auction***

Our banquet keynote speaker is Chris Parish, who is the Condor Field Project Supervisor for the Peregrine Fund. He will speak about “Condors, their plight, their comeback and the road ahead”. He will cover the condor’s biology, the history of their decline, what has been done to save the species from extinction, and our hopes for the future of a self-sustaining population and what it will take to get there. The condors are approaching a tipping point for full recovery. Can we make it happen?



NOTE: *Registration is required for the banquet – a fee event, \$20*
Banquet location is at the Best Western Abbey Inn Conference Room – 1129 S. Bluff Street

SATURDAY, 28th – Field Trips

7:30 am - 12:30 pm

► *Photography Trip to Lytle Ranch (Trip #4)*

Leaders: Lynn Chamberlain, UDWR Southern Region Outreach & professional photographer. Lytle Ranch is one of the premier birding hotspots. Visit this extreme Southwest corner of Utah. Discover birds in this oasis – including desert shrubs, lowland riparian, and orchard and pond area. Bring your camera!

NOTE: *Registration required for this trip – limited to 12. See last page for registration*

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

8:00 am -12:00 pm

► *Beaver Dam Wash/Slope (Trip #5)*

Leader: Larry Tripp, field ornithologist will take a small group to the Beaver Dam area seeking “hard to find specialty birds” like Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Thrashers, Cactus Wrens, and different wintering Sparrows. It would mostly be driving so we would need to limit vehicles so the cars in the back would have a chance to see the birds! Some hiking required.

NOTE: *Registration required for this trip – limited to 12. See last page for registration*

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Grafton/Springdale

Leader: Kevin Wheeler, UDWR Wildlife Biologist and RCAS member. Enjoy birding these premier birding hot spots. This trip will begin at Red Cliffs Reserve Campground, then continue to the historic town of Grafton with a few stops at local ponds to look for more riparian species.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

8:15 am -2:00 pm

Washington Fields/Green Springs/Local Ponds

Leaders: Bob Douglas, BLM Wildlife Biologist, and Russell Schreiner, BLM Geologist. Check out the Washington Fields and Green Springs areas. Participants will visit the Middleton, Green Springs, and Springs Park ponds where these wetlands should yield lots of waterfowl, and other riparian species. The field trip will then move on to the open fields in Washington City to view raptors, and possibly see a burrowing owl, blue birds, and a roadrunner. Carpooling advised.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Quail Creek/Hurricane Fields/Sand Hollow

Leader: JoAnn and Don Weldon. This is an advanced birder trip. Discover what birds are visiting and wintering in our area reservoirs, ponds and agricultural fields.

Note: *There are two meeting times/places: 8:30 am at the Tonaquint Parking Lot or 9:00 am at the Quail Creek Dam Overlook*

9:00 am – 11:30 pm

Seegmiller Pond and Washington City Area

Leaders: Ken Hinton and Don Hinton. Seegmiller Pond is a nice location to search for some of our wintering riparian specialties, including the Crissal Thrasher, Abert's towhee, and others.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

9:00 am - 2:30 pm

► **Zion National Park** (Trip # 6)

Leader: Christian Edwards. If you are able to concentrate on birdwatching in such an amazing location, you may see some interesting species that make Zion National Park their winter home.

NOTE: Registration required for this trip – limited to 25. See last page for registration.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

11:30 am - 4:30 pm

► **Lytle Ranch** (Trip # 7)

Leader: Bill Hunter. Visit this extreme Southwest corner of Utah. Discover birds in this oasis- includes desert shrubs, lowland riparian, and orchard and pond areas.

NOTE: Registration required for this trip – limited to 25. See last page for registration.

Meet at the Tonaquint Parking Lot – 1851 Dixie Drive

St. George Lodging Information

This year's Festival host hotel is the Best Western Abbey Inn. There, we will be holding the Thursday evening Kick-Off event with Rick Fridell and also our traditional Saturday evening banquet with keynote speaker – Chris Parish. Call toll free at 888-222-3946 and book your rooms today! The Abbey Inn is located at 1129 S. Bluff Street in St. George. Free full breakfast, served from 6:00am - 10:00am.

For visitors information visit www.utahstgeorge.com or request a Vacation Planning Guide from the St. George Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau call: 800-869-6635

Thanks to our Festival Sponsors

The St. George Bird Festival is presented through the efforts of our all-volunteer staff and the generous financial and in-kind support from our sponsors.

Red Cliffs Chapter National Audubon Society, City of St. George Leisure Services Department, State of Utah /Division of Wildlife Resources, Dixie/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association, Department of the Interior/ Bureau of Land Management, Dixie State College, Super 8, Best Western Abbey Inn, Clik, Sears, Red Cliffs Mall

Special thanks to presenters, leaders and volunteers.

Bill Anderson, Christopher Balmer, Shirley Brown, Lynn Chamberlain, Cornell Christensen, Keith Day, Keith Davis, Marilyn Davis, Bob Douglas, Dawn Eide-Albrecht, Steve Eberhard, Christian Edwards, Mary K. Feezer, Rick Fridell, Nicki Frey, Jen Hajj, Jerry Harris, Don Hinton, Ken Hinton, R.J. Hughes, Bill Hunter, Heber Meeks, Barbara Meeks, Charles Odd, Joan Odd, Chris Parish, Cordell Peterson, Laurie Rasmussen, Brenda Rusnell, Ken Rusnell, Russell Schreiner, Mavis Madson, Shirley Surfus, Melanie Thatcher, Marshall Topham, Larry Tripp, Bob Walters, Merrill Webb, Don Weldon, JoAnne Weldon, Ken Welton, Kevin Wheeler, Pam Wheeler, Elaine York.

Registration Form

It's easy....mail, call, fax, go online or stop by!

St. George Recreation Center

285 S. 400 E., St. George, Utah 84770

Phone: 435-627-4560 or Fax: 435-627-4569

On-line: www.sgcity.org/birdfestival Click on "Register Now".

Once you click on the link, you should be taken to the St. George Recreation Division page.

(If you are taken to the big map of the US, select Utah, then St. George Recreation Center).

On the small box that says "Main Menu" click "Register for Activities", then "Programs and Classes", then select "2012 Bird Festival".

You will be given the option to register for the field trips and banquet at this point.

**Events with a limited number of participants are registered on a "first-come-first-served" basis.*

<p>1. Lytle Ranch Field Trip Friday, January 27, 8:00am-1:00pm Registration only-no fee! Limited to 25 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>	<p>2. Find the Vermilion Flycatcher Field Trip Friday, January 27, 8:00am-9:30am Registration only-no fee! Limited to 25 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>
<p>3. Junior Birder Program Saturday, January 28, 2:00pm-2:45pm Registration only-no fee! Limited to 25 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>	<p>4. Banquet and Keynote Speaker: Chris Parish Saturday, January 28, 6:00pm-9:30pm Fee \$20/person Limited to 100 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>
<p>5. Lytle Ranch Photography Field Trip Saturday, January 28, 7:30am-12:30pm Registration only-no fee! Limited to 12 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>	<p>6. Beaver Dam Wash/Slope Field Trip Saturday, January 28, 8:00am-12:00pm Registration only-no fee! Limited to 12 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>
<p>7. Zion National Park Field Trip Saturday, January 28, 9:00am-2:30pm Registration only-no fee! Limited to 25 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>	<p>8. Lytle Ranch Field Trip Saturday, January 28, 11:30am-4:30pm Registration only-no fee! Limited to 25 Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ # of attendees _____</p>