



July 2025

UTAH COUNTY BIRDERS NEWSLETTER

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JULY MEETING

Thursday July 10, 2025, at 7pm - Bean Museum and on Zoom

Birding in Northern Costa Rica

Our guest speaker will be Steve VanWinkle presenting on Birding in Northern Costa Rica. Hope to see you all there!

(The Zoom link will be emailed out the day before the meeting)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone! It's summer and I am sure many of you are taking trips to new and exciting places. I hope in your travels you are looking for good hotspots for birding and the chance to add some new lifers. So make sure you and all your traveling companions have the Merlin and Ebird Apps on your phone or devices. This is also a great opportunity if you are with family members to acquaint them with these wonderful apps if they do not already have them. I was out this morning for a walk in the mountains south of Bend, Oregon, and came across about 10 Red Crossbills (yes, 10 Red Crossbills in the Ponderosa Pines) plus Western Bluebirds, some woodpeckers, Pygmy Nuthatches, and other birds! I had a wonderful time. And one of my aides was the Sound ID on Merlin to make sure of my identification.

When I am traveling in bird territory in new states or countries, I never hesitate asking questions—you can tell they are birders when you see them wearing binoculars, or carrying a camera with a large lens, or standing for a while in one spot looking at the trees. I usually receive great information that adds to my success in new areas. So, get out there in God's great earth and find the birds! Happy Traveling!

Keep on birding! Yvonne Carter, President

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY JULY 12 – Utah Lake State Park

Birding and Cleanup of the south wooded birding area across the bridge on the south side of the park.

Please join us on Saturday July 12th at 7am at the Utah Lake State Park. We will bird around the park from 7-9 and then from 9:30-12 help park personnel clean up some of the debris in the wooded grove on the south side of the park next to the Provo Airport Dike. Many of you have birded this area and have even found rarities in this area.

The State Park has been generous with us by letting us use their facilities for the last few years for our Christmas Bird Count tally potluck. Join us as we give back to the park and help improve a valuable birding spot. The park will provide any tools needed, but bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, and gardening gloves if you have them.

A park pass will be required for entry, but we may be able to consolidate vehicles and carpool in from outside the park. Contact Keeli Marvel (keeli.marvel@gmail.com) or Steve VanWinkle (qrubra17@gmail.com) with questions.

TUESDAY JULY 22 – Uinta Mountains

On **Tuesday, July 22nd** we will be heading up to the Uinta Mountains. We will meet at **5:30 at Palisade Park** near the mouth of Provo Canyon. There is a parking lot there that is a park and ride. **DO NOT GO TO THE PARK AND RIDE BY WILLS PIT STOP** at the mouth of Provo Canyon as this lot is often full. Also if it is easier for anyone, you can meet us at the **Kamas Food Town parking lot in Kamas at 6:25**. We will be hiking up Bald Mountain first thing to try and see birds like Pine Grosbeaks, Three-toed Woodpecker, Black Rosy Finch, and a possible chance at a White-tailed Ptarmigan. This hike is 3 miles round trip and gains 1100 feet in 1.5 miles. It's a good trail, but you should bring water, hiking poles, and sturdy shoes as we may wander on the rocks to look for the Ptarmigan.

After the hike we will go and explore a few other areas around the Uinta's targeting specialties like Canada Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Williamson's Sapsucker, and many other high elevation breeders. We will have lunch at Mirror Lake, so pack a lunch or some snacks to eat there. Remember that Mirror Lake Highway has a recreation fee of 6 dollars, or you can use your America the Beautiful Pass. We will try and carpool to hopefully avoid the fee. After we eat lunch and walk around the campground at Mirror Lake, we will head back to Kamas and Orem hopefully being home no later than 2 P.M. I hope to see as many people as possible.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Belted Kingfisher

Megaceryle alcyon

Article & photos by Suzi Holt

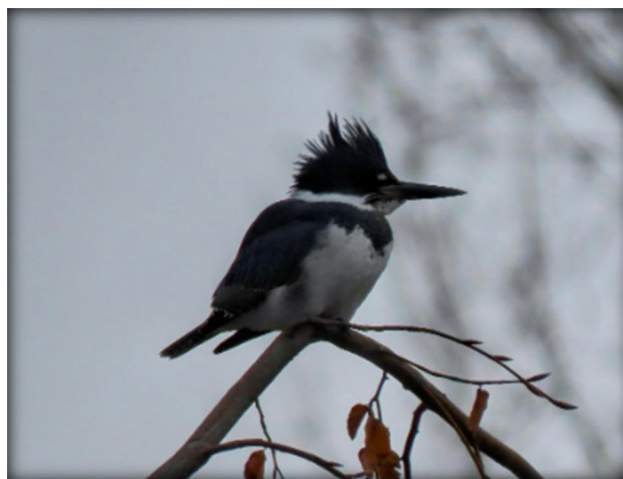


Female, Spring Lake

My favorite places to see them are along the Diamond Fork River while I am fly fishing. I totally don't mind sharing the river as they swiftly fly up or down river with their keen eyes looking for the ripple movements of a baby brown trout. I'm happy to share the little ones! I'll catch the bigger ones! You will usually hear them before you see them. They have an exciting trill.

Sort of uncommon in birds the male is usually the more stunning and colorful one. But in Belted Kingfishers the female sports the blue and brown chest bands. They also have an amazing blue shaggy crest! They truly are a sight to see.

They are seen in ponds, small lakes and rivers. Although the Diamond Fork River is my favorite spot, I also see them along the SF River Trail, Thistle Creek, Provo River, the Price River, Utah Lake SP, Skipper Bay Trail, Spring Lake, Salem and the Flowserve Ponds.



Male at dusk, Flowserve

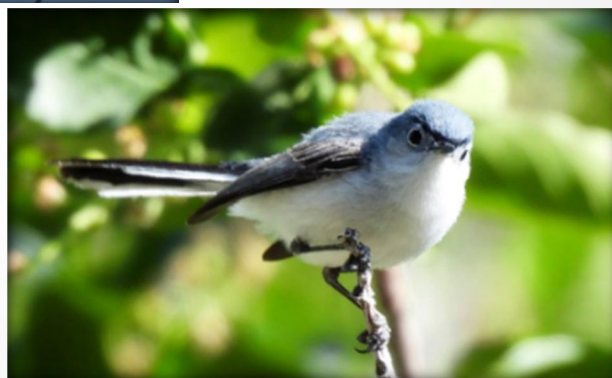
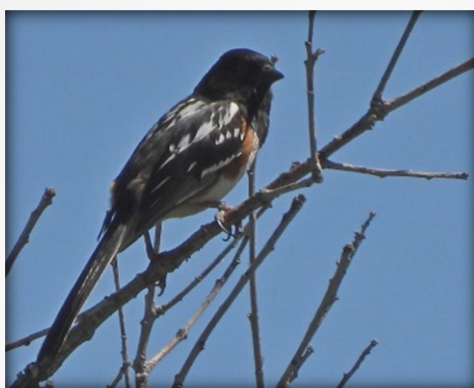
Field Trip Report

Yellow Fork Canyon

Wednesday June 4, 2025

Article and photos by Steve Van Winkle

On Wednesday June 4th, I had the pleasure of leading a Utah County Birders field outing to Yellow Fork canyon. Four of us enjoyed a morning's casual hike along the stream that is bordered by the Yellow Fork canyon road and trails located near Herriman in Salt Lake County. This was a new area of birding for Paul and Robbie, Ester and Rex and we all enjoyed seeing a total of 29 species during our outing, as kept by Paul on Ebird. Thank you for everyone who came out and made it a wonderful experience. (Photos: Spotted Towhee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, The Group)



Backyard Birds

Lyle Bingham – Payson: We've had **Black-headed Grosbeak** and **Lazuli Buntings** at the feeder, as well as **Robins** and **Yellow-breasted Chats** calling from the trees.

Jim Strong – Lehi: I was shocked to see this **Chukar** at my backyard feeder, in town!

Steve Van Winkle – Silver Lake: Fox Sparrow in my 'extended backyard', Silver Lake.

Holly Miner – Erda: My neighbor tested me that she had an owl in her yard.
I went running and it turned out to be a **Long-eared Owl!**

