

Welcome to...

The Twelfth Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival

We will be pleased to have you join us for this 12th annual celebration of the spring migration through the Lahontan Valley. It is our mission to encourage growth of this community event and promote interest and awareness of the importance of these unique wetlands.

The Lahontan Valley wetlands are recognized as some of the most significant in the western United States. They have been designated as a site of international importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network, as well as being named a "Globally Important Bird Area" by the American Bird Conservancy, and an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

Through the course of this festival, we hope to show you the connection between all aspects of the Valley; the habitat, the wildlife, the history, and the human component, and how the community works together to protect and preserve our precious resources. Keep the ties in mind as you become involved in the tours, workshops, and activities, and take the messages home with you. People can make a difference, and your support of nature festivals such as Spring Wings is one way to begin that process.

Partake and enjoy - Celebrate the Migration!!!!!!!
The Spring Wings Planning Committee



"Flock of Dunlin"
Carson Lake – Fallon 2008
Photo by: Larry Neel ©

Registration Information

Info line: (775) 423-8739 or (866) 432-5566

**For the fastest, easiest registration option,
register online at www.springwings.org!!!**

When you register by mail, please use the form in the center of this brochure. Your information will be compiled and your schedule of the tours you selected will be placed in a packet for you to pick up when you arrive at our "Registration Area". **If you register by sending your registration to us via US Postal Service, you will not receive any confirmation or further contact from us unless the tour you requested is full, so please make sure you include a phone number where we can reach you.** Pre-registration is the best way to insure you get your first pick of field trips. The "Registration Area" officially opens at 12:00pm on Friday, May 8th, at the Barkley Theatre at Oates Park. At that time, the registration and information booth will be open to disseminate registration packets and provide assistance and information. Additional workshop and seminar schedules will be available upon check-in. **Tours for folks under 15 are always \$5.** Box lunches are provided with the tours that last through the lunch hour. In your registration packet, you will receive some **business-sized cards** with information about the festival and why it has brought you to this area. Please be kind enough to deposit these with our local businesses so they see the economic value our festival brings to them.



"Western Grebe"

Carson Lake – Fall 2008

Photo by: Larry Neel ©

Our Tours

* indicates you must be in good physical condition to participate, tour can be strenuous;
Transportation is provided unless noted

Hot Spots Tours - These tours will take you to most, if not all, of the birding hot spots in the area. They will give you plenty of birding time without having to spend the entire day with hard core "Big Day" birders. Transportation provided. Pre-registration and first-come, first-serve options available. Tours leave at 1:00 p. m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:00 p. m. on Friday; 1:00 p. m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a. m. on Sunday. These tours are **free**, first come, first serve.

Beginning Birder Tours - Join Nevada Waterfowl's DeAl Dankers on 2 birding trips around the Lahontan Valley. This tour is perfect for those who would like to know more about why birding is one of the most popular outdoor activities in the United States right now. DeAl will show you how to identify our local avian species "on the fly", as well as how to use a guidebook. He will take you to some of the area "hot spots" that you will be able to revisit at your leisure and hone your skills. Soon, you too, will be one of the many local birding enthusiasts. DeAl will provide binoculars and a number of guidebooks to use on the trips. Meet at the Registration Area on **Friday at 1:00 p.m.** On **Saturday morning, meet at the Registration Area at 7:30a.m.** for a Birding 101 presentation before your tour at 8:30 a.m. This is a shortened version of the Birding 101 seminar on Friday morning. These tours and presentations will help get you into gear for a weekend of watching our wide array of Lahontan Valley birds. These offerings are all **FREE**.

Stillwater NWR Wetlands and Carson Lake Tours - The wetland areas contained within Stillwater NWR and Carson Lake are designated Internationally Important Bird Areas along the Pacific Flyway. See shorebirds such as American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Dowitcher, White-faced Ibis, terns, and waterfowl. The presence of songbirds and raptors can also be seen in the area. There are 3 viewing platforms at Carson Lake and a new wildlife viewing area at Stillwater NWR. Friday, 1:00 p.m. **\$10.00**; Saturday, 7:30 am, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., **\$15.00**. Transportation provided.

NAS Nature Trail, S-Line and Harmon Reservoir Birding: This abbreviated tour offers some great viewing opportunities for those with less time to spend. Join Navy Natural Resources Manager Gary Cottle for a tour of the Navy Wildlife Area and two reservoirs which are part of the large irrigation system in this valley. See Yellow-headed blackbirds, orioles, warblers, wrens, herons, and waterfowl. Transportation provided. Meet at the Registration Area on Friday at 1:30pm. **\$10.00**,

NAS Nature Trail, Carson Lake Wetlands: Join Navy Natural Resources Manager Gary Cottle for a tour of the Navy Wildlife Area and two reservoirs which are part of the large irrigation system in this valley. See Yellow-headed blackbirds, orioles, warblers, wrens, herons, and waterfowl. Transportation provided. Meet at the Registration Area on **Saturday at 7:30 a.m. \$15.00, and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. \$15.00.**

Migratory Songbirds of Lahontan Valley - Mid-May is the peak of spring songbird migration through Fallon and the surrounding Lahontan Valley. This trip will concentrate on the observation of migratory songbirds in their most colorful and showy plumage including winter lingerers, passing migrants, and nesting-season arrivals. All other bird species encountered will be noted and observed as well. In a casual manner, Larry Neel will share information on arrival and departure dates, migratory stopover sites, and other aspects of migration during this trip. A very thorough exploration of the cottonwood and willow, riparian habitat and adjacent fields and pastures along the Carson River in the vicinity of the Carson Diversion Dam will be the focus for the first several hours of this trip. With the time remaining, short visits will be made to one or more areas from among Indian Lakes Road (cemetery), S-Line Reservoir, Harmon Reservoir, the tall tree habitat along the road to Stillwater NWR, and Fallon NAS Nature Trail. Areas not visited by participants on other Spring Wings 2008 trips will receive priority. Lunch and transportation provided. Meet at the Registration Area Saturday and Sunday at 7:00 a.m. **\$25.00.**

Wood Ducks Along the Carson River. Join us as we begin the morning along portions of the Carson River checking Wood Duck nest boxes for the season's newest arrivals. We'll be joined by waterfowl biologist Steve Olsen who is working for the University of Nevada, Reno, and Nevada Waterfowl Association, who will discuss Wood Duck ecology and current research being conducted in Western Nevada. We'll join him as he checks nest boxes on land belonging to Dennis and Kim Rechel, and if we are lucky, we'll have the opportunity to see young Wood Duck chicks up close as Chris bands the birds as part of his research. We'll continue the remainder of the tour to various hot spots to see what we can discover migrating through the valley. Meet at Registration Area Saturday at 7:00 a.m. **\$20.00.**

Pyramid Lake - On Saturday, join Donna Withers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Dept. for a very special morning of nature viewing. The tour will stop at spots around Pyramid Lake which are best for viewing birds and other interesting and unusual Pyramid Lake geography.

Spotting scopes will be used to view one of the largest breeding colonies of American White Pelicans in North America. A stop at the Pyramid Lake Tribe's Nixon Museum is also planned. Meet at the Registration Area, Saturday at 7:00 a.m. Carpool. **\$5.00**

Mason Valley Tour – Mason Valley is located in Yerington, approximately an hour from Fallon. Join Wildlife Specialist David Catalano from the Nevada Department of Wildlife on a birding journey south of Fallon to the city of Yerington, Nevada. The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area is a 13,000 acre ranch just outside Yerington, and is managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife for waterfowl, deer, turkey, pheasant, quail, bass, and trout, among other wildlife. There will be other birding stops along the way. Lunch and transportation are provided. Meet at the Registration Area on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. **\$45.00**

Exploring and Birding Big Den Creek and Canyon* Big Den Creek is an hour east of Fallon, off Highway 50. The trail through the canyon, along beautiful Big Den Creek, is a birders' paradise. The hike starts in a mature Pinyon/Juniper(PJ) forest at the campground at the lower end of the canyon, and finishes at the base of a waterfall in a box canyon. In some places the canyon narrows to only several meters wide. The steep, high walls make this canyon area a perfect habitat for desert bighorn sheep. Watch for Sage Sparrow, Western Scrub Jay, Western Bluebird, and Black-billed Magpie at the bottom of the canyon, Pinyon Jay, White-throated Swift, Green-tailed Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, and several warbler species in the canyon and P/J areas, and Steller's Jay, chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Western Tanager in the P/J. Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel can also be seen in the skies above. On the return, we will stop at the Pony Express Station at Middlegate. We will also stop at the "Shoe Tree" and other photo or birding opportunities. Long pants and sturdy shoes are advised. Those not up to a steep hike can bird the campground without restriction. Pre-registration is advised. **Bring water;** your lunch and transportation will be provided. Meet at the Registration Area Saturday at 7:00 a.m. Kirk Hardie is your guide. **\$40.00**

Walker Lake Birding and Conservation. Join photographer and naturalist Bob Goodman for a six hour trip to Walker Lake, a body of water some 12 miles long and six miles wide. Viewing of birds will take place at various short "side trips" to the shore and from elevated turn-outs along the western side of the lake. If time permits, we may be able to access the eastern shore for a look at a different habitat. Some loons may still be present, along with a variety of other water and upland birds. Transportation and lunch provided. Meet at the Registration Area Saturday at 8:00 a.m. **\$45.00**

Soda Lake Natural History and Boating Tour* This year's boating tour will take place on Soda Lake. Join Jim Moore, Ret. (from Churchill County Parks and Recreation) on a historic/naturalist look at Soda Lake. This trip is not recommended for very small children. There is an additional fee of \$10 per seat for festival supplied canoes. Personal equipment will be charged \$5 per boat and you must have Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's) for each person on board. Transportation provided for those using festival-supplied canoes. Meet at the Registration Area prior to the trip at 8:00 a.m. Saturday to sign a liability waiver before participating. **\$20.00**

A Visit to Naval Air Station Fallon A brief tour of the Navy's premiere tactical aviation training facility. The tour will include a visit to the observation deck of the air traffic control tower (the tallest building in Fallon) which overlooks the TOP GUN flight line, and a walk through the extensive collection of static display aircraft, including many carrier-based Navy planes, and their Russian adversaries. A stop at the official TOP GUN gift shop is also planned. Meet at the Registration Area at 1:00 p.m. Friday. Carpool. **FREE**

Wings and Winery Tour Join us on a journey to Churchill County's first vineyard. Churchill Vineyards was established in 2001 with ten different varieties of fine wine grapes and is located seven miles south of Fallon. Churchill Vineyards is Nevada's second licensed winery and first "Estate Winery." In September 2004 Churchill Vineyards successfully created its first vintage of premium estate wines. Wine tasting and snacks are included in trip fee. Carpool. Meet at Registration Area on Saturday - tour leaves at 10:00 a.m. **\$25.00**

Landscaping for Songbirds - Carpool to the Flower Tree Nursery (in Fallon), where Susan Henderson will demonstrate the art of developing a landscape designed to attract birds and butterflies. Carpool. On Saturday, meet at Registration Area at 10:00 a.m. **\$10.00**

Owl Prowl - On Saturday afternoon, set out to track down the nocturnal raptors in Lahontan Valley. Several species of owl are found in the area including Great Horned, Barn, Short-eared, Long-eared, Western Screech-owl, and Burrowing Owl. Saturday, 1:00 p.m. - Registration Area - transportation provided. Arrive early enough (12:00 p.m.) to see some live raptors before your tour !! **\$25.00**

Night Bat Tour - Join Jenni Jeffers, Biologist with Nevada Department of Wildlife and Bob Goodman, photographer and naturalist, on a night of bat observation at a favorite bat roost. There will be demonstrations on the different ways bats are studied in the field, including utilizing the acoustic equipment for ultrasonic bat call identification (ANA BAT). There will be a 30 minute presentation prior to departing to the field. Wear good hiking shoes and meet at the Registration Area Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (Tour will return about 10:30 p.m.) **\$25.00**

Massie Slough - Located half way between Fernley and Fallon, just northeast of Hazen is a patch of wetlands called Massie Slough. Surrounded by miles of desert scrub it attracts a host of marsh birds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds, all concentrated into this long narrow wetland habitat. Being narrow enhances the viewing opportunities of many of the birds that are usually found deep in other marshes and only heard. The railroad siding road that parallels the slough affords a great vantage point to look down on the wetlands. The planned loop route crosses the California Emigrant Trail at Ragtown, west of Fallon, and the middle of the infamous forty-mile desert before returning to Oats Park. Meet at the Registration Area on Sunday, 7:00 a.m. **\$30.00**

Lovelock Cave - Humboldt Sink - Long before it became known as Lovelock, this area at the end of the Humboldt River was known as Big Meadows, a place where emigrants on the Overland Trail rested and fed their livestock before pushing on to the dreaded 40-Mile Desert. This field trip will explore the Lovelock area including the Leonard Rock Shelter to view Indian petroglyphs, fascinating tufa hangings, and the Lovelock Cave, a prehistoric Indian shelter from which thousands of artifacts have been excavated, including the oldest known duck decoys (dated at almost 2,000 years old). We will also visit the nearby Humboldt Wildlife Area, home to thousands of migrating and nesting waterfowl, shorebirds, and other animal and plant species. Box lunches and transportation are provided; meet at the Registration Area, on Sunday at 7:00 a.m. **\$40.00**



“American Bittern”
Carson Lake – Winter 2007
Photo by: Larry Neel ©

Workshops, Presentations and Special Events

Free, Free, Free - Children's and Family Activities: All weekend long, join us in Oats Park Gym, interactive environmental displays and activities. On **Saturday from 9a.m. - 4p.m.** we will have vendor booths with art, crafts, food, and nature-related information all set up in Oats Park. A presentation by *Wild Life Wendy & her exotic birds* will be on the stage in Oats Park from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and starting at 12:30 p.m. music by *Terrapin Road*. There will be a "Family Activity Center" in the Oats Park Gym with hands-on activities for kids and families.

Birding 101 Presentation - Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO) and Alan Gubanich (Board member Lahontan Audubon) will give an introductory lecture on how to bird, how to identify birds, and what to look for when observing bird behaviors. The lecture will cover basic materials on bird identification and behaviors using examples of backyard birds typical to the region, and it will prepare the participants for the different bird species groups that they can expect to see in the field trips in a variety of habitats during Spring Wings. A short field trip through the adjacent park will enforce the basic birding lessons and get us fired up for the Spring Wings field trips throughout Lahontan Valley. Meet in the Theater, Friday at 10:00 a.m.

...On Saturday, an abbreviated repeat of this program will be given between 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. prior to the Beginning Birder's Tour with DeAl Dankers. Meet on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Theater. **FREE**

A Look at Raptors – This presentation is free – in the Barkley Theatre!!! Join a biologist with Nevada Game and Fish as she presents live native raptors and tells you about their life history. This is an excellent chance to see these birds close up especially the nocturnal species and hear how amazing they are. Photographs will be permitted with consent of the handler. Be at the Barkley Theatre at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday to take in this raptor presentation.

Frances L. Wood - *The Birds Are Calling; Are We Listening?*– Birds sing, croak, whistle, hum, chirp, hoot and cry. They “chick-a-dee, dee, dee” and ask “Who’s awake? Me too.” Through birdsong story and myth Frances will offer a pathway into the age old, life-affirming gift of listening closely to nature. Frances, who lives on Whidbey Island, Washington has published over 100 articles on birds and nature and continues to publish a syndicated monthly column on bird watching for local newspapers. She has written three books. *Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West* was recently published by Fulcrum Publishing. Her other two books are *Down to Camp: A History of Summer Folk on Whidbey Island* and *Community at the Crossroads: A History of Bayview on Whidbey Island*. She completed the Seattle Audubon’s Master Birder class in 1995 and served as editor of Seattle Audubon’s *Earthcare Northwest* for five years.

During four recent winters, she has worked with the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation in Mexico and Central America teaching an extensive bird watching curriculum to local nature guides. The work with RARE has taken her to the Mexican states of Yucatan, Quintana Roo, Chiapas and Baja California Sur and into Guatemala and Honduras. She has coordinated bird monitoring projects in Mexico as well as Breeding Bird Survey for Island County, Washington. Currently, she is coordinating a Bluff Breeding Bird Survey in partnership with the Island County Marine Resources Committee and the Whidbey Audubon Society. Friday, at Barkley Theater - hors d’oeuvres begin at 6:00 p.m., refreshments are provided by the Churchill Arts Council “Art Bar”. Come early to enjoy the gallery. **\$25.00, with no-host bar.**
****Special Note: A birding tour with Frances and two local birding experts on Saturday afternoon will be offered as a “special Friday Evening Raffle item”. Don’t miss it !! Winner will be announced.**

Alan Gubanich, PhD, Emeritus Faculty Member, University of Nevada-Reno

“Discovering Nevada’s Avian Treasures”– “Despite the general perception, Nevada is much more than a desert. Nevada’s numerous high mountain ranges, rivers, streams, and desert valleys create a great diversity of habitat and birdlife. Over 460 species have been recorded in Nevada and 243 of these are confirmed breeders. Dr. Alan Gubanich will share with us a collection of photographs showcasing many of the birds found in our state, including some that may surprise out of state birdwatchers. Alan’s presentation will feature many northern Nevada species with perhaps a few “southerners” included. He will convince you that, despite the common misconception, Nevada is definitely not a wasteland.

Alan is retired after teaching biology for 35 years at the University of Nevada-Reno. After earning a Masters and Doctorate in Biological Sciences at the University of Arizona (1964-1970) he started his teaching career as Director of general biology at UNR, teaching a variety of classes. The last 15 years, Alan specialized in teaching ornithology and field ornithology. He is Vice President of the Lahontan Audubon Society (LAS), chairs their Education Committee, and co-edited, with Karen Kish, the second edition of LAS’s “A Birding Guide to Reno and Beyond”. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO) and the Great Basin Institute (GBI). As a Master Bird Bander, Alan supervised a banding station in the Sierra Nevada mountains for 11 years.

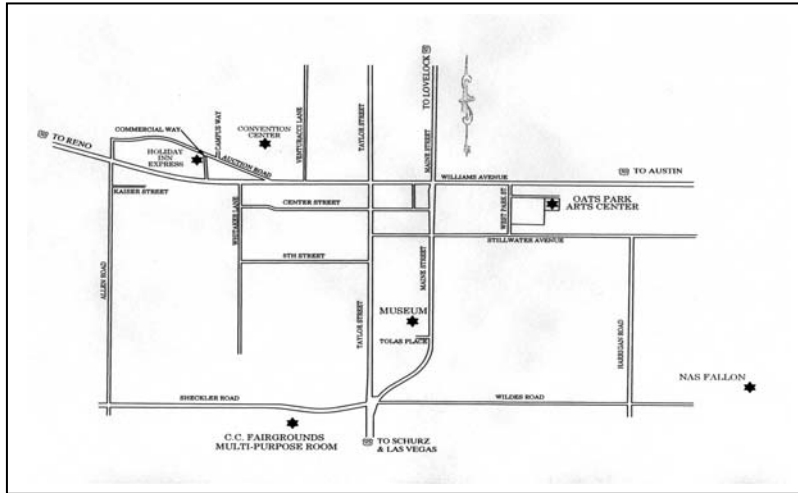
Alan leads birding, natural history and cultural history tours and programs for LAS, Truckee Meadows Community College, Spring Wings Bird Festival and the Eagles and Agriculture Festival in Minden. He also leads local groups on birding tours to the mountains and jungles of Central and South America. Since retiring, Alan has indulged his passion for photographing Nevada’s diverse birds and landscapes. Please join him for an interesting and informative program highlighting Nevada’s avian treasures through his discerning camera lens. Saturday at Barkley Theater - hors d’oeuvres begin at 6:00 p.m., refreshments are provided by the Churchill Arts Council “Art Bar”. Come early to enjoy the gallery. **\$25.00, with no-host bar.**

Stillwater NWR Visitor Update: If you haven’t been out to Stillwater NWR lately you are in for a surprise. Join Refuge Manager Mike Goddard for a one half hour presentation on the visitor facility upgrades recently undertaken at the refuge. You will hear about the improved tour loop, new environmental education pavilion, boardwalk and new walking and boating trails. Saturday, at the Barkley Theater 11:00 a.m. *FREE*

Golden Eagle- Courtesy of Nancy Laird, Wild Animal Infirmary of Nevada, and Jenni Jeffers, Wildlife Biologist with Nevada Department of Wildlife. We will be releasing a live Golden Eagle that has been ‘rehabilitated’ by Nancy Laird at the infirmary. Eagles are stunningly beautiful and this is a great opportunity to see this large striking female close up as she takes wing into the wild again. Bring your cameras and meet at noon on Sunday by the gym and we will caravan out to the release site with the eagle. This event is **Free !!**

How to get here

Oats Park and the Barkley Theater - are located on the east side of Fallon, just off Highway 50 West Williams Avenue. See map below.



What to Bring

May in Nevada can be unpredictable. Prepare for all conditions! For those heading out on tours, bring rain gear, waterproof footwear and layers of warm clothing. Sensible shoes for all tours please. Binoculars, scopes, field guides and other birding essentials are advised.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

We reserve the right to cancel any event for any reason. You will receive a full refund for any paid event that has been canceled. You may cancel your registration and receive a full refund if you cancel prior to May 5th. Sorry, no refunds after May 5th, or for no shows.

Disclaimer

Tours are taken at your own risk. All possible safety precautions will be taken by festival organizers and tour leaders, and in some instances, a waiver might be requested prior to admittance on the tour. Tours with asterisks are active tours and attendees should ensure they are in good physical condition (could include walking or other forms of exercise). Tours may also be canceled or changed without notice.



“Great Blue Heron”
Carson Lake – Fall 2008
Photo by: Larry Neel ©

Thank you past & present sponsors:

US Fish and Wildlife Service; Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority; Nevada State Commission on Tourism; Lahontan Audubon Society; Bureau of Reclamation; Churchill County Parks and Recreation; Sierra Club, Great Basin Chapter; Nevada Waterfowl Association, The Flower Tree; Nevada Department of Wildlife; Fallon Optimist Club, Churchill County Telephone Company, Kennicott-Rawhide Mine Company, Sierra Pacific Foundation; Sportsman's Warehouse, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe; Churchill County Museum; Stockman's Casino; Sportsman's Warehouse; REI.

Please look for our updated and complete sponsor list at the festival!!

For a list of accommodations please call: (775)423-8739, (866) 432-5566 or e-mail info@springwings.org

Or, please visit our website, www.springwings.org