

Deseret News

BYU fans' psyche

Columnist Dick Harmon says some BYU fans are happy for the Utes' BCS win. But others think Utah's success was luck.

SPORTS D1

Jazz whip Pacers, 120-113

World of wings

A photo exhibition at the Utah Museum of Natural History shows pelicans and other waterfowl.

LIFE C1

DESERET NEWS

ANGELYN N. HUTCHINSON



Wild pelicans in Florida

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY UTAH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

World of Wings

Photo exhibit offers vivid view of birds

By Carma Wadley
Deseret News

The science of the birds first drew Rosalie Winard to brown pelicans.

She was working on a degree in natural history with a specialization in ornithology and ethology from the New College of Florida and was studying the threat and greeting displays of the brown pelicans.

But then she fell in love with the beauty. "I saw it diving at dawn into the still waters of Sarasota Bay, and it looked like he flew out of a Paul Klee painting." She would never look at the birds the same again.

Eventually, she left the science behind and began taking pictures, not just of pelicans, but of all waterfowl: herons, ibises, cormorants, cranes, anhingas, avocets, spoonbills, egrets, limpkins.

She chose black-and-white infrared photography as her medium because she felt it more clearly captured the spirit and personality of the birds.

An exhibition of her large-format photos is on display at the Utah Museum of Natural History and invites visitors to visit a "world of wings, feathers and beaks; soaring, swooping, flocking and floating." The exhibit runs through Feb. 22.

"Winard focuses on a vivid array of birds with a keen eye, opening a window to their world," says Becky Menlove, director of exhibits and public programs at the museum.

"Her images capture humor, complexity, struggle and power. The birds dance and run and land with unconventional grace. They wear their feathers like Sunday hats and strut with their unbelievably long legs. They fly and dive, wade and wander — you'll never look at birds the same way."

Many of the photos are drawn from her recently published book, "Wild Birds of the American Wetlands" (Welcome Books, \$39.95, with an introduction by Terry Tempest Williams), which

Please see **BIRDS** on C2

Great and snowy egrets, and laughing gulls

Legs of a sandhill crane



Photographer Rosalie Winard captures the spirit and personality of waterfowls using black-and-white infrared photography.

BIRDS

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was honored at the 2008 International Photography Awards (the "Oscars" of the photography world).

Many are of birds can be seen at the Great Salt Lake and its surrounding wetlands, where Winard has visited a number of times.

The Great Salt Lake is one of the world's great flyways, she says. In fact, it was there that she saw her first white pelicans. She was on her way to the Bear River Bird Refuge, "when I noticed these white dots silhouetted against the distant Wasatch Mountains." Transfixed as the dots became larger and larger, she drove past her exit. "Before I realized I was lost, I had counted 17 white pelicans."

Later on, at the refuge, "happiness flowed through me. Not the giddy kind, but a calm happiness that told me I was just where I belonged." White pelicans, she discovered, were different in many ways from brown pelicans. They don't dive for fish, she explained, they float on the water in groups, herding the fish, then in unison dip their heads and necks into the water.

Winard stayed at the refuge until the sun went down, and her life would never be the same, she says. That's the joy of birds that she hopes to convey through her photographs.

With sight and sound, the exhibit tries to create an "immersion environment," said Winard, who visited the museum in December. "I hope people get a feel for the reality of what's going on."

She hopes her photos may encourage people to open their hearts to these birds as she has. But she also hopes



MICHAEL BRANDY, DESERET NEWS

Photographer Rosalie Winard walks through her bird exhibit at the Museum of Natural History at the University of Utah.



UTAH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Brown pelican

they will help educate people to the threats the birds face as their habitat diminishes.

Some 50 percent of the wetlands that existed 100 years ago are gone, says Winard. In the 10 years that she has been taking pictures, she has noticed dramatic changes. In 2004, when she photographed pelicans at Chase Lake in

North Dakota, "30,000 birds were counted there, but in 2005 the colony was devastated. For the first time in 100 years, not a single chick was fledged that year."

The same thing happened with the "world's largest breeding population of white ibises on the Great Salt Lake; the summer of 2007 was a



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Avocets

near washout for them."

If we lose the wetlands, she says, not only does it throw ecological systems into unbalance — among other things, wetlands act as a buffer; take them away and flooding increases — "but the world will lose this beauty."

Not everyone likes birds, she knows. "Some people

are scared of them. I was at a beach in Los Angeles with a biologist watching a colony of black-crowned night herons. On the other side of some trees was an apartment building, and we met a woman who thought the birds were dangerous. She had never been out on her balcony to watch this wonderful sight

If you go:

What: Wild Birds of the American Wetlands

Where: Utah Museum of Natural History, 1390 E. Presidents Circle, University of Utah

When: Through Feb. 22, days and times vary

How much: adults, \$6; children 3-13, \$3.50

Phone: 801-581-6927
Web: www.umnh.utah.edu

Also: Raptor Rapture with HawkWatch International, Feb. 2, 3-4 p.m.; Live Bird Demonstrations, Jan. 31 and Feb 22., 11 a.m. 2 p.m.; Discovery Classes for Kids: Birds of a Feather or Winter Adaptations, Jan. 24, 1-3 p.m.; Up, Up, Away, Feb. 21, 10 a.m.-noon.

because she thought the birds would hurt her."

Winard hopes her work will "open a door, will change how other people see birds." She wishes everyone could see what she sees. She sees beauty of form and movement, but she also sees personality. That has been a big discovery for her. "Some birds are shy; some are bold; some are curious; some are playful. No two are alike."

Of course, the whole idea of flight has long fascinated humans, but birds are so much more than flying machines, she says.

"Bobby Kennedy talked about how nature is the infrastructure of community. It is part of life, part of the community we live in. We need to make sure that spiritual essence is always there. Is beauty an essential of life? I have no question."

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