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Wetland Birds at the U

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The University of Utah's Museum of Natural History is going to the birds - in the exhibit "Wild Birds of the American Wetlands." The exhibit features large-scale photographs by Rosalie Winard, from her book of the same name.

The exhibit is running through February 22 in the Dumke Gallery at the Utah Museum of Natural History (UMNH).

"It's a beautiful exhibit," UMNH Exhibit Designer Tim Lee said. "It's a brief but powerful glimpse into the life of birds. Some pictures are intimate, some are whimsical and funny, and some are quite serious."

Winard traveled around the country for over a decade to capture the birds in their natural habitat, the wetlands, which are threatened worldwide. Winard's selection of a white, black and gray color palette lends an otherworldly quality and mystique to the world of birds.

In her new traveling exhibition, Winard selected 52 photographs from her book to be displayed large-scale in various formats.

"We present these birds in a variety of ways," Lee said. "We have huge banners for some of the pictures. Others have light boxes behind them that give them an ethereal quality. Usually a person can find something that speaks to them."

Winard, who has been captivated by wetland birds for decades, earned a bachelor's degree in natural history. In earning her degree, she specialized in ornithology, the study of birds, and ethology, the study of animal behavior in their natural conditions.

On December 1 at 6:30 p.m., Winard will be at the museum for a discussion and gallery walk. After a discussion with the crowd, Winard will accompany attendees on a walk through the exhibit and tell the stories behind each of the photographs. This event is open to the public and includes free admission to the exhibit.

Admission to the museum is generally \$6, but SLCC students can get in for only \$2.50 by showing a current student I.D. card.

For additional information and hours of operation, visit the UMNH web site <http://www.umnh.utah.edu/home>.

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