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## Walking with birds

by Jenniffer Wardell

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*Brown Pelican (Florida)*

FARMINGTON — When entering a different world, it's best to have a guide who knows the way.

Luckily, award-winning nature photographer Rosalie Winard is willing to be that guide. On Dec. 6, she'll be co-leading a day-long tour of the birds of Farmington Bay, then talk about her experiences as a nature photographer that evening at 7 p.m. at the Farmington Art Center (doors open at 6:30.) Both events are sponsored by the Utah Museum of Natural History.

"Watching birds is like art - the more you look, the more you learn to see," said Winard. Though several birds are migrating this time of year, there is still a significant population of ducks at the bay. "There are so many subtle differences between the different species of ducks that it's a new challenge."

She'll be leading the day tour with John Luft, an avian biologist from the Division of Wildlife Resources. He'll be adding a scientific background to Winard's personal experiences photographing the area.

"What I don't know really technically he knows beyond well," said Winard. For more information about the tour (which must be signed up for in advance), please call 581-6927. "We really compliment each other."

That evening, Winard will share what it's like to photograph birds in some of the country's richest wetlands, both here and in other parts of the U.S. She'll also talk about taking pictures with an infrared camera, a piece of equipment she had considered



*Roseate Spoonbill (Louisiana)*



*Rosalie Winard*



*Brown Pelican (Florida)*

gimmicky before she'd tried it.

“The first time I used infrared, I finally saw what I'd always felt when I watched birds,” said Winard. “It has this glow that captures more of the spirit of the birds than their mere physiognomy.”

In her opinion, however, she feels that her work has far more to do with the birds themselves than with the kind of film she's using.

“It's almost like bringing my camera is just an excuse to be in these places,” said Winard, who led photographers to the rookeries she studied long before picking up her own camera. “Hundreds and hundreds of hours of observation

— that's what I bring to my photographs.”

And, in the end, it's why she's surprised each time she goes out walking with her feathered friends.

“It's like with humans,” said Winard. “You can't predict what's going to happen, but it's fascinating to watch the interaction.”

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