

Phalaropes and Saline Lakes Program 2024 Report



Photo by Nora Livingston

By Kyriana Tarr, Ryan Carle, Katie Smith, Nick Carle, & Nora Livingston



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Summary

2024 marks the sixth consecutive year of Oikonos' phalaropes and saline lakes program. The goal of the program is to understand phalarope conservation needs through science and education, and to use the story of phalaropes to bring public awareness and policy action to saline lake conservation. This year, major achievements included:

- **Submitting a petition to list Wilson's phalaropes as threatened under the U.S. federal Endangered Species Act.** There was a celebration for the release of the petition at the Utah state capitol, where Ryan spoke about the future of saline lakes and Wilson's phalaropes.
- **Release of the updated Wilson's Phalarope Conservation Plan** co-authored by Ryan Carle. This document is a comprehensive overview of what is known about Wilson's phalarope ecology and threats to the species and its habitat, and priority research and conservation actions.
- **Tagging 20 Wilson's phalaropes in Canada and California** with partners, to better understand phalarope movements, how long phalaropes stay at saline lakes, and connections between breeding sites, migratory sites, and wintering sites. This second year of tracking data on the species builds on our tagging work from last year that **has already provided many new insights** into their movements and habitat needs.
- Completion of our **6th consecutive year of Mono Lake phalarope surveys**, coordinated in timing with surveys at 5 other major phalarope staging sites.
- **Leading the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey for sites in the Eastern Sierra**, including Mono Lake, for the third consecutive year. This is part of a collaborative regional project with the National Audubon Society and Point Blue Conservation Science to survey shorebirds throughout the western U.S.
- Helping with planning and attending the **2024 International Phalarope Working Group meeting at Laguna Mar Chiquita** and collaborating with international colleagues to form phalarope conservation action plans.
- Purchasing a **new Oikonos research boat for work at Mono Lake**. After 5 years of using the Mono Lake Committee's boat, we now have our own project boat, allowing us more flexibility with scheduling and equipment availability.

Land Acknowledgement

Mono Lake (originally named Kootzapa'a) is the unceded homelands of the Kootzaduka'a Paiute tribe. You can support the Kootzaduka'a's efforts to gain federal recognition and return of land, and to steward the lands of the Mono Basin by donating to the Mono Lake Kutzaduka Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association, P.O. Box 237, Lee Vining, CA 93541. You can learn about the culture, history, and current tribal activities by visiting [their website](#).



Kootzapa'a, homeland of the Kootzaduka'a.

Part 1: Policy engagement and landmark scientific publications

A key goal of our project is to use our scientific work to impact meaningful policy changes to help protect saline lakes and other habitats that phalaropes need. To do so, our science needs to be available in forms that are thorough, rigorous, and accessible. In 2024, we achieved two major milestones: the publication and release of a Federal Endangered Species Act petition proposing to list the Wilson's phalarope as Threatened in the U.S., and the publication of the updated Wilson's Phalarope Conservation Plan.

Endangered Species Act Petition

In March 2024, Science Director Ryan Carle traveled to the steps of the Utah State Capitol Building for a special event to mark the release of a petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the Wilson's Phalarope as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. This was the culmination of a year of work by Ryan on lead-authoring the proposal, a more than 100-page scientific document about the ecology and threats to the species. The U.S. Endangered Species Act is a legal tool to protect species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range or threatened with becoming endangered. The Petition makes the case that Wilson's Phalaropes should be listed because they meet the definition of a Threatened species under the law of *any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range*. We argued that the Wilson's phalarope meets that definition based on the official criteria used under the law of 1) *present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range*, 2) *inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms*, and 3) *other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence* (in this case, primarily climate change).



Ryan speaking at the Utah State Capitol building during the rally for the release of the Wilson's Phalarope Endangered Species Act Petition in March 2024.

In addition to a comprehensive overview of the species ecology, the Petition describes in detail the threats to the species, such as the rapid loss of habitat at large saline lakes like Great Salt Lake and Lake Abert due to water diversion, the imminent threat of lithium mining to aquifers of saline lagoons in South America, and the impacts of aridification on saline lake habitat from human-caused climate change.

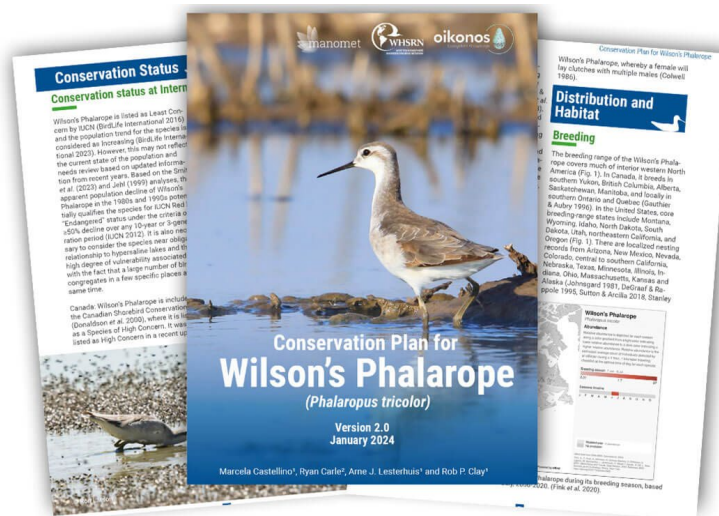
Oikonos led the petition, with Ryan Carle as the lead author and Ecologist Kiki Tarr as a co-petitioner. We worked closely with the Center for Biological Diversity, who initiated the idea and provided their expertise on the process. Other co-petitioners included the famous Utah-based author Terry Tempest Williams, the Mono Lake Committee, Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, Utah Youth Environmental Solutions, and individual phalarope and saline lake experts from Lake Abert, San Francisco Bay, and Great Salt Lake.

The Endangered Species Act wields a great deal of legal power and could bring federal intervention to the issue of saving Great Salt Lake, which to date has been a state-led process. The Petition attracted national news media and a great deal of news coverage and political attention in Utah. The USFWS now is going through a formal process of reviewing the document and are expected to make their “90-day finding” by March 2025. The 90-day finding will determine whether USFWS will do a full review of the Petition. If the Petition is accepted in the 90-day finding, eventually the USFWS will make a listing determination, though it could take many years. This document is publicly available at:

<https://biologicaldiversity.org/species/birds/pdfs/Wilsons-Phalarope-Petition.pdf>.

Wilson's Phalarope Conservation Plan update

Over the last 4 years, Oikonos science director Ryan Carle worked with saline lakes conservation specialist Marcela Castellino from Manomet to update the Conservation Plan for the Wilson's Phalarope. The new version of the Plan (version 2.0) is a comprehensive overview of what is known about Wilson's phalarope ecology and threats to the species and its habitat. It also identifies priority research and conservation topics needed to recover the species. The updated Plan, released in February 2024, expands greatly on the original, first published by Manomet in 2010. The new Plan includes an updated world population estimate for the species (now 1 million birds) based on a 2020 survey of the South American habitat, updated population trends based on our regional North American survey work, updated high count tables from sites throughout the hemisphere, and an updated threat assessment that includes the urgent threats to saline lakes. The Plan created the synthesis of available information on Wilson's phalaropes that was used as the foundation of the Wilson's Phalarope Endangered Species Act Petition. This plan is publicly available at: https://whsrn.org/plan_wiph_2024_final_en/.



Pages from the Conservation Plan for Wilson's Phalarope version 2.0, a collaborative project of Manomet and Oikonos.

Part 2: Scientific results

An in-depth regional scientific report is forthcoming; here is a summary of the highlights of preliminary results from 2024.

Phalarope tagging in Canada and California

A long-standing goal we have worked toward is tagging phalaropes to better understand their movements, connectivity between important habitats, and how long individuals stay at saline lakes. In 2023, we and partners deployed 25 tags on Wilson's phalaropes between their breeding grounds in Canada and at Tule Lake in California. These tags have already shown us new and exciting information about Wilson's phalarope migration. We and our partners continued our tagging efforts this year to further our understanding of phalarope migration, deploying 20 more tags in Saskatchewan, Canada and multiple sites in California.

In early June, project ecologist Katie Smith traveled to Saskatchewan to tag Wilson’s phalaropes at their breeding grounds with staff from Environment and Climate Change Canada and graduate student Sydney Miller from Thompson Rivers University. In Saskatchewan, Katie helped collaborators to trap and tag Wilson’s phalaropes on their nests, an effort that resulted in the tagging of 16 birds in 2024. This was in addition to 15 tags deployed in 2023 in Saskatchewan. We tagged the birds with Lo-tek NanoTags, which are lightweight radio transmitters weighing about as much as a paper clip. These tags are detected by a network of external receivers called Motus stations deployed across the landscape. In 2024, we attached tags to five of the birds with leg-loop harnesses and glued tags to the backs of the rest of the birds. We targeted males because after female phalaropes lay their eggs, the males exclusively take care of the eggs and chicks. To date, 31 Wilson’s phalaropes have been tagged in Saskatchewan, and eight individuals have been subsequently detected by Motus towers, providing new information on post-breeding movements and first-ever data on connections between breeding, staging, and wintering grounds (Fig. 1, blue lines). Birds have been detected moving south from the breeding grounds from late June to late July, with most detected birds heading southwest through Montana and Idaho and three visiting Great Salt Lake, Utah (Fig. 1, blue lines). There have also been detections of birds from Saskatchewan in North Dakota, New Mexico, and Colombia, in South America (Fig. 1, blue lines).

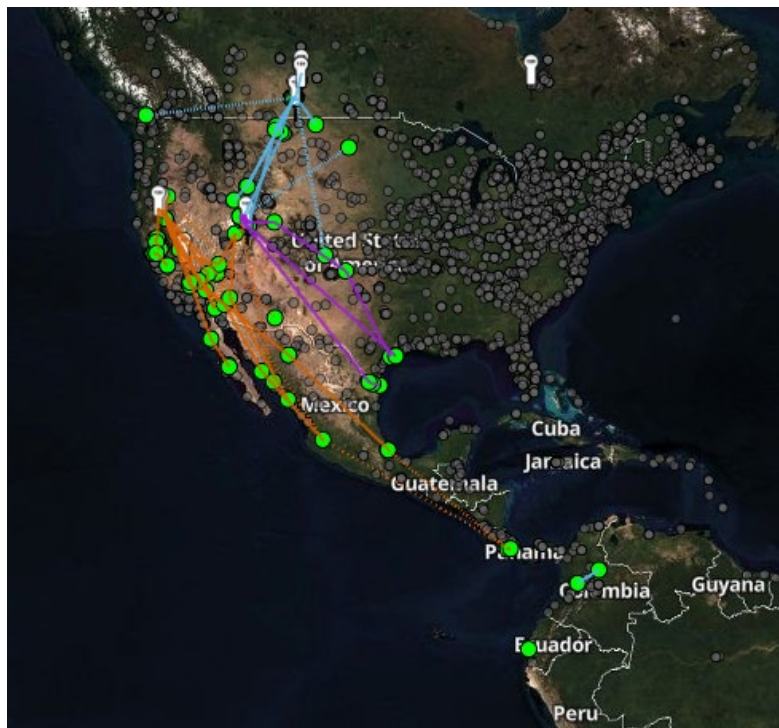


Figure 1. Map of Wilson’s phalarope Motus tracks from birds tagged by us and partners in 2023-2024, with detections as of 9/27/24. Green dots indicate detections by Motus stations, and lines show straight-line connections between detections for individual birds. Blue lines are birds tagged in Saskatchewan, orange lines are birds tagged in California, and purple lines are birds tagged at Great Salt Lake by Tracy Aviary as part of a separate project. Data are publicly viewable at and updated with new detections at: <https://motus.org/dashboard/#e=profile&d=species&s=4990>.



Katie holding a male Wilson's phalarope in Saskatchewan. The thin, black line extending from the back is the antenna of the attached tag.

In California, we captured and deployed a tag on one Wilson's phalarope at Mono Lake in 2024, and our colleagues at USGS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife deployed three of our tags on Wilson's phalaropes at Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. To date, 14 Wilson's phalaropes have been tagged in California (5 satellite tags and 5 Motus tags in 2023, 4 Motus tags in 2024). All California birds were caught using boat-based night capture methods we developed in 2023. The Wilson's phalarope we tagged at Mono Lake was the first phalarope of either species to ever be tagged at Mono Lake and marked a huge success due to the difficulty of catching phalaropes at Mono Lake. During a week of capture efforts this year during a new moon, we found that Wilson's phalaropes nearly always evaded our nets and were not sufficiently startled by lights to allow for capture. The one bird we did catch was very fat and had trouble taking off. We deployed the tag on this bird using glue. The bird tagged at Mono Lake was detected moving east through Nevada and Utah, and then south through the Lower Colorado River desert area of Arizona and into Mexico (Fig. 2). The last detection to date of this bird was at a coastal lagoon in Sinaloa, Mexico (Fig. 2).

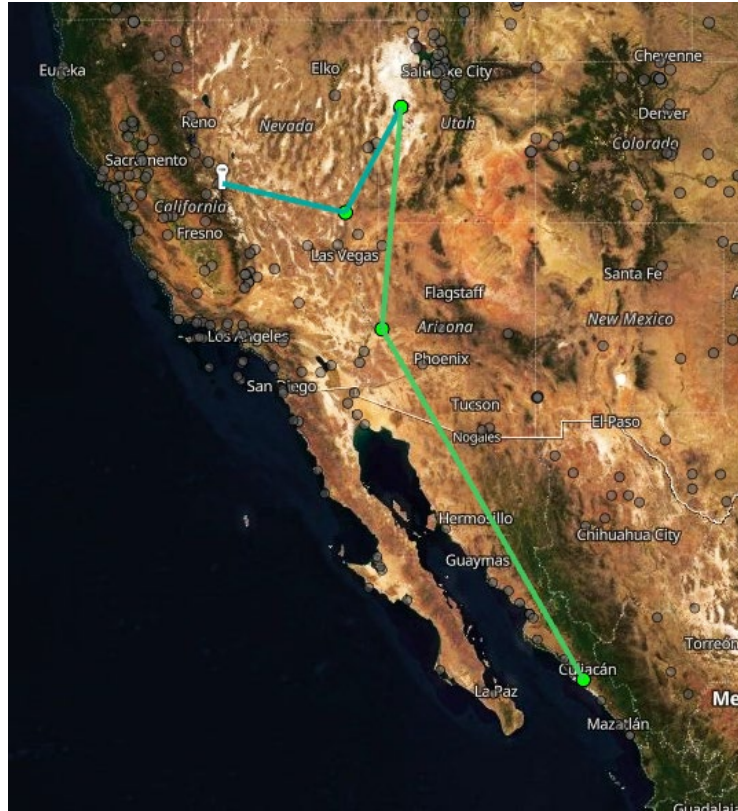


Figure 2. Track of the Wilson’s phalarope tagged at Mono Lake as of 9/27/24. This bird was tagged at Mono Lake on August 1st, and was detected at sites in Nevada, Utah, and Arizona, before heading south to a coastal lagoon in Sinaloa, Mexico. The last detection to date was August 17th in Sinaloa. Green dots are stations that detected the bird and are connected with blue and green lines indicating the shortest distance route between stations. A white icon marks Mono Lake where the bird was tagged.

To date, eight birds tagged in California with Motus tags, and five tagged with satellite tags, have been detected moving southward, all but one with a general pattern of heading southeast, with individual routes through eastern California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico (Fig. 1, orange lines). One bird flew south through the central valley of California and visited San Francisco Bay, after being tagged at Klamath Lake in 2024 (Fig. 1). Five of these birds were subsequently detected in Mexico and were detected at coastal lagoon sites in Baja California and mainland Mexico along the Gulf of California (Fig. 1, orange lines). One bird was detected at two sites in Panama, the farthest south detection of California birds so far (Fig. 1). Two birds tagged at Tule Lake in 2023 were detected returning northward in 2024, and one of those birds was detected returning southward in August of 2024. This was exciting news that proved that birds could complete full migration with working tags.

There have been few detections of birds in South America due to the lack of Motus stations there, though a bird from Saskatchewan was detected in Colombia and a bird tagged at Great Salt Lake by Tracy Aviary as part of a separate project was detected in September 2024 at the Ecuasal salt ponds in Ecuador (Fig. 1).

With two seasons of tag deployments, we are already gathering a great deal of new information about Wilson's phalarope migration, including understanding the importance of stops at smaller wetlands throughout the southwest U.S. and coastal lagoons in Mexico. Interestingly, tagging data to date does not indicate a pattern of non-stop migration from large saline lakes straight to coastal Ecuador, which was the theory of how Wilson's phalaropes migrate for many years. Rather, birds appear to stop at smaller ponds and lagoons the southwest U.S. and Mexico on the way south. It is possible that some birds do take the non-stop migration route and that we cannot detect those movements because there are no Motus towers currently in that part of the Pacific Ocean.

2024 Phalarope survey results

Phalarope surveys at Mono Lake cover 59 boat and 7 shore-based points, each with a fixed count boundary. We do 12 surveys a year, from late June to mid-September. These surveys are "index counts," meaning we compare numbers year to year at the points we cover, rather than attempting to define an absolute number of all phalaropes on the lake (Carle & Rubega 2020). However, the totals from the index should be representative of overall population trends at Mono Lake. Numbers reported here include only phalaropes identified to species, though we also record unidentified phalaropes on the survey. See Carle et al. 2024 for details on methods and more thorough results and discussion from surveys.

Phalarope abundances: In 2024, the high count of Wilson's phalaropes was 6,817 on July 3rd, and of red-necked phalaropes was 16,766 on August 28th (Figs. 3, 4). Wilson's phalarope numbers stayed fairly consistent with slight declines from the late June-early July through late July-early August survey windows (Fig. 3, purple line). The 2024 peak and timing for Wilson's phalaropes was similar to 2023 (peak of 6,240, Fig. 3, blue line). The 2023 and 2024 peak counts were substantially lower than the 2021 and 2022 peaks (45,143 and 12,409 respectively; Fig. 3, orange and green lines). The red-necked phalarope peak for 2024 was just over half as much as the 2023 peak (32,657), but higher than any other year's peak during our study (Fig. 4, purple line is 2023).

Phalarope timing: In 2024, Wilson's phalarope peak numbers occurred in early July, and numbers gradually declined throughout subsequent surveys (Fig. 3) unlike peak numbers in 2021 and 2022 which occurred in mid-July (Fig. 3). This year and 2023 are the first years since beginning these surveys that Wilson's phalarope peak numbers occurred in late June-early July--in other years the peak was in mid-July (Fig. 3).

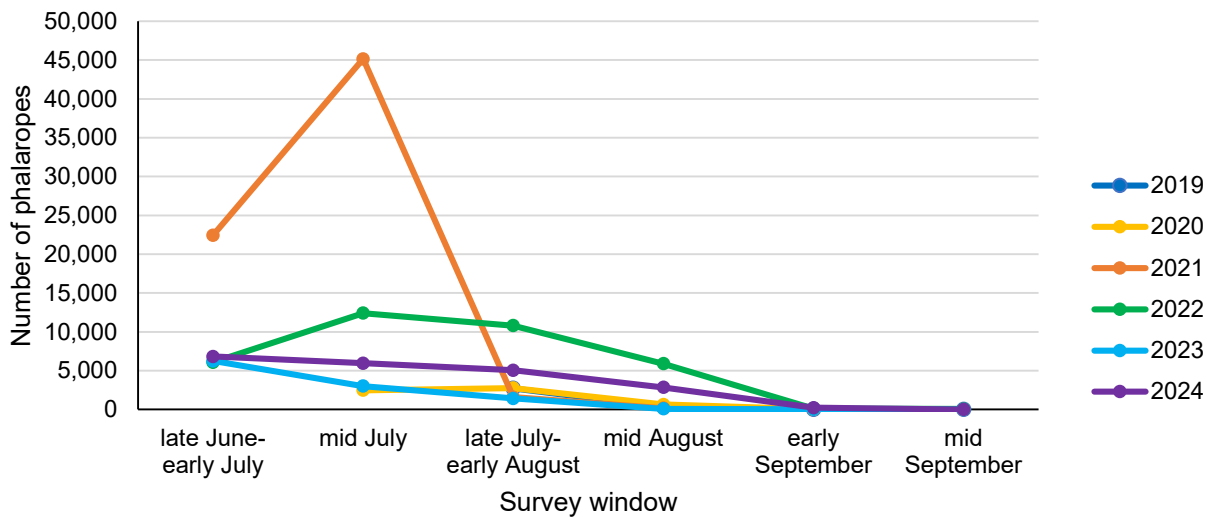


Figure 3. Wilson's phalarope high counts at Mono Lake from each survey window 2019-2024. We do two counts during each survey window; the highest count from each window is shown here.

The red-necked phalarope peak 2024 count occurred in late August (Fig. 3, purple line). Red-necked phalarope individuals arrive and depart from Mono Lake more frequently than Wilson's, often causing their numbers to tend to vary without a clear peak (Jehl 1986, Fig. 4).

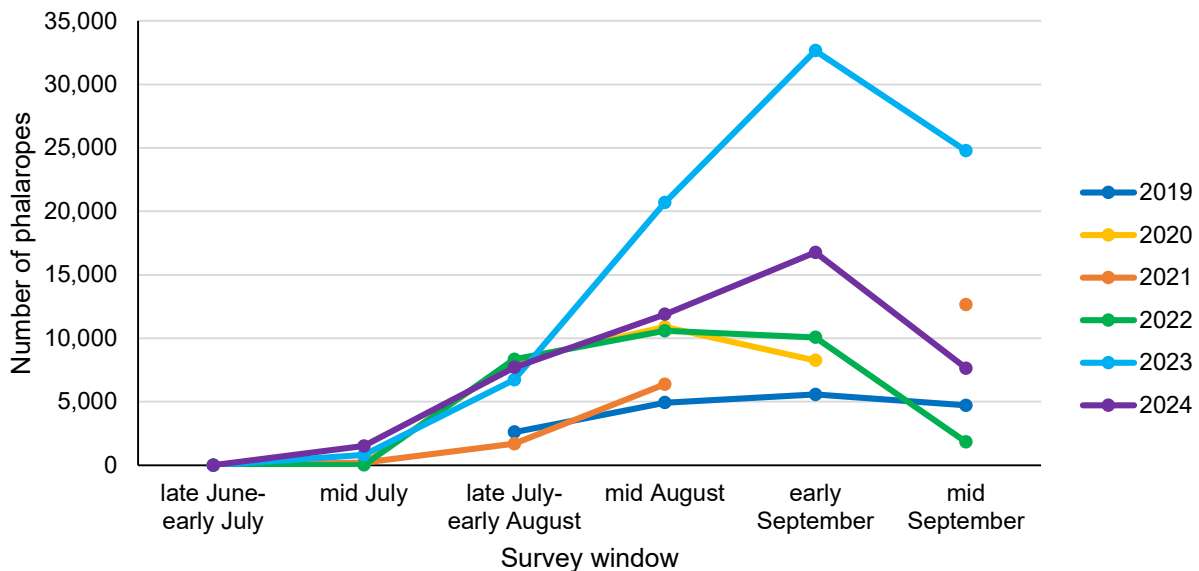


Figure 4. Red-necked phalarope high counts from each survey window 2019-2024. We do two counts during each survey window; the highest count from each window is shown here.

Phalarope spatial use of Mono Lake

In 2024, Wilson’s phalaropes congregated in large flocks at Black Point shoals and between County Park and Old Marina—areas that had been little used by phalaropes from 2019–2023. Wilson’s phalaropes also used the deeper water to the west of Paoha, an area that had also not been used frequently in recent years. Wilson’s phalaropes tend to prefer shallow, near shore locations with submerged tufa, and lake level fluctuations appear to influence their spatial use year to year at Mono Lake. Large flocks of red-necked phalaropes used the shallow, near-shore waters east of Negit and deeper, more open waters east of Paoha. This is similar to where we have seen the majority of red-necked phalaropes from 2019–2023.



Red-necked phalaropes flying over the open waters on the north-east side of Mono Lake.

Photo by Nora Livingston.

Coordinated phalarope counts from other sites in Western North America

A critical piece of the interpretation of phalarope results from Mono Lake is putting them in context with other major western North American staging sites. Since 2019, we have collaborated with partners at Great Salt Lake, Lake Abert, Owen’s Lake, San Francisco Bay, and Chaplin Lake to evaluate overall phalarope trends and timing (Carle *et al.* 2024). We are working towards a scientific journal publication on full results from all sites from 2019–2024. The most recent report on regional survey results covers 2019–2023 is available at:

<https://www.oikonos.org/es/publicaciones/coordinated-phalarope-surveys-at-western-north-american-staging-sites-2019-2023>

Part 3: Community involvement, outreach, capacity building, & early-career scientist training

This year, we continued engagement with the local community via the Mono Lake Shorebird survey and educational outreach. The survey provides a way for volunteers to participate in community science and deepen their connection with the Mono Basin. Since 2019, we have had over 60 days of volunteer opportunities and 700 person-hours of volunteer participation.

Intermountain West Shorebird Survey

This year, we led the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey for the Eastern Sierra region, for the third consecutive year. This survey includes Mono Lake, Bridgeport Reservoir, Topaz Reservoir, and other nearby sites. These surveys occur in late spring and early fall each year, and are a collaborative project with Point Blue Conservation Science and National Audubon. The goal of these surveys is to understand the impact of extreme drought on shorebirds in the U.S. interior

west by comparing data collected at these sites in the 1980's and 1990's to present-day data. With almost 40 miles of shoreline to be covered at Mono Lake, we divided the shoreline into 13 walkable sections and recruited many volunteers to ensure the job could be done. In total, we had 28 volunteers for the spring survey and 14 volunteers for the fall survey in 2024. We registered 20 different species and 1,233 individual birds in the spring Mono Lake shoreline survey and 18 species and 8,415 individuals in the fall survey. This survey is only made possible by our dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers include Eastern Sierra locals, California State Parks staff, Forest Service staff, and past students of Ryan's Natural History Field Quarter class from UC Santa Cruz.



Collage of volunteers from the Fall 2024 Mono Lake shoreline survey. We surveyed the entirety of Mono Lake's shoreline on April 27th and August 17th, 2024.

International Phalarope Working Group meeting

In February, Oikonos staff Ryan Carle, Kiki Tarr, and Katie Smith attended the 2024 International Phalarope Working Group meeting in Miramar, Argentina. Miramar is a small town on the edge of Laguna Mar Chiquita, an enormous saline lake where hundreds of thousands of Wilson's phalaropes congregate during the austral summer. Laguna Mar Chiquita is considered the most important wintering site for the species. This week-long working group meeting was organized and led by local staff from Manomet, with planning help from Ryan. The event involved workshops, speakers, and field trips centered around phalarope conservation and education and saline lakes management. The group worked to develop a five-year plan for priorities for phalarope and saline conservation. Ryan was part of a panel of scientists and conservationists who were interviewed by local news outlets.

Ryan, Kiki, and Katie stayed for a week after the meeting to attempt to capture Wilson's phalaropes at Laguna Mar Chiquita. The lake is 14 times larger than Mono Lake and thus proved to be a difficult site to catch phalaropes since there is no point source they are attracted to at the lake. Ultimately our efforts to capture Wilson's phalaropes there were unsuccessful, but we took the opportunity to build collaborative connections between international researchers, and to train people on using mist nets and attaching leg-loop harnesses. Kiki and Katie had the pleasure of joining Argentinian researchers on a plane ride around the shoreline of the lake to search for large flocks of phalaropes.



Attendees of the 2024 International Phalarope Working Group meeting at Laguna Mar Chiquita gather in front of a mural depicting the Wilson's phalarope migration journey.

Education

For the past year, local Lee Vining high school students and students from Laguna Mar Chiquita participated in an educational program called Experiencia Ambiental, led by the Fundación de Lideres de Ansenuza, Manomet, and the Mono Lake Committee. This program connects students with their local ecosystems as well as sister saline lakes across the western hemisphere, with the goal of linking saline lake communities. Oikonos' work to bring international saline lake communities together over the last six years helped foster the development of this program, and Oikonos ecologist Katie Smith worked this year with student exchanges at both Mono Lake and in Argentina. Students participated in joint activities across the two hemispheres and virtually shared their experiences with one another. Some of the activities the students shared include cleaning up the shoreline of their respective saline lakes for World Coastal Clean-up Day and going on bird outings to learn about the Wilson's phalarope, which connects the two saline lakes and hemispheres throughout their yearly migration. These activities built up to an in-person exchange between the two groups.

The first exchange occurred in June, when six students and four instructors from Laguna Mar Chiquita travelling to Mono Lake. For ten days, the students from Argentina and Lee Vining lived at the Mono Lake Committee Outdoor Education Center and learned about the Mono Basin, including the similarities and differences of their home saline lakes. Katie spent the week teaching the students about Mono Lake, phalaropes, and the work we are doing in phalarope conservation. The students participated in many educational activities, including a canoe tour on Mono Lake, bird-watching trips, and attending the Mono Lake Committee Chautauqua.

In July, six students and three instructors from Mono Lake travelled to Laguna Mar Chiquita. During their ten-day visit, the two groups of students again merged to further exchange knowledge about the sister saline lakes and local culture. The students explored the city of Córdoba, went on boat trips to see flamingos, and visited the nearby towns that the Argentinian students are from. Katie accompanied the group on this trip, representing Oikonos, and helping with all aspects of the program.



Experiencia Ambiental students from Argentina explored the shoreline of Mono Lake and compared the similarities and the differences of their home saline lake, Laguna Mar Chiquita.

In July, Katie also led a class visit for university students in a Claremont College field quarter class. She took them to Black Point shoals, where they were able to see thousands of phalaropes, and taught the group about phalarope biology, saline lake ecology, and why Oikonos is working with phalaropes at Mono Lake.

Early career scientist training & paid positions

We are proud to offer intellectually stimulating, career- and skill-building jobs in the Mono Basin for young ecologists. These positions build research capacity by cultivating the next generation of talented researchers passionate about conservation science at Mono Lake. Since

2019, we have provided a paid job for one seasonal ecologist, and this year we hired three more seasonal staff members who assisted with surveys and tagging. Staff this year were program director Ryan Carle, lead project ecologists Kiki Tarr and Katie Smith, and seasonal project ecologists Nick Carle and Nora Livingston.

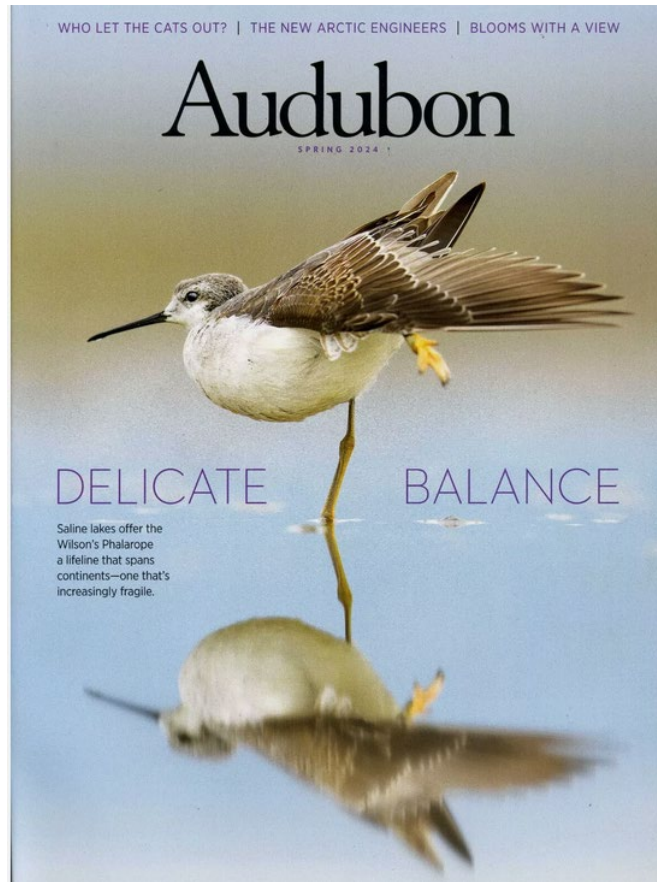


Katie Smith driving the new project boat on Mono Lake.

Media outreach & publicity

An important component of this project is sharing the story of saline lakes and phalaropes through media outreach. Over the past six years, we have worked with many journalists and photographers to capture the incredible story of saline lake and phalarope conservation in the Western hemisphere.

Wilson's phalaropes and saline lakes got major publicity this spring as the star of Audubon Magazine's Spring 2024 cover article. Audubon Magazine is sent to over 2 million subscribers, so this was a major milestone in spreading the word about the phalaropes and saline lakes. Reporters joined us at Mono Lake last year to conduct interviews and gather photographs for the article. The story highlights our phalarope tagging efforts at Mono Lake, threats to saline lakes, the coordinated surveys we have been doing since 2019, and the international effort to save saline lakes.



The cover of the Spring 2024 Audubon Magazine issue with the feature story on our work on phalaropes!

High Country News, a magazine that covers environmental stories across the Western U.S., published a feature-length article in their July 2024 issue about the release of the Wilson's phalarope Endangered Species Act petition and the International Phalarope Working Group conference.

Our work was also covered in many major news outlets when the Wilson's phalarope Endangered Species Petition was released in March 2024 (see the section on the Petition on pages 2-3).

Also this spring, Ryan Carle was awarded the Mono Lake Committee's Andrea Lawrence Award, honoring passionate engagement with the land and community of the Eastern Sierras. The award was presented at a dinner at Mammoth Mountain where Ryan gave a short talk and performed his phalarope anthem, "Me Llanan Falaropo".

Future

In 2025, we plan to continue surveys, tagging, and working with regional and international partners. We also plan to publish a scientific manuscript on the regionally-coordinated phalarope surveys, and to work with graduate students Sydney Miller and Katie Smith on phalarope-related theses. The first decision from US Fish and Wildlife on the Wilson's phalarope ESA Petition is

also expected by early 2025. Phalaropes can serve as a charismatic “umbrella species” to protect saline lakes as a network. We will continue to share their story and use our research to connect to policy and management at any opportunity.

Public Presentations & Media (2024 only)

We strive to share our results with the public regularly. Below is a list of public presentations, newsletter articles, and other outreach we have contributed during 2024.

Presentations

- February 26, 2024: International Phalarope Working Group meeting: **Phalarope monitoring at Mono Lake** by Ryan Carle
- March 28, 2024: Speech for the release of the Wilson’s phalarope ESA petition by Ryan Carle
- May 16, 2024: Andrea Lawrence Award acceptance speech by Ryan Carle
- July 2024: Claremont College Field Quarter class: **The History of Bird Monitoring in the Mono Basin** by Katie Smith

News media

- [Saline Lakes are Dying--- Scientists Hope This Unusual Shorebird Can Help Save Them](#) by Andy McGlashen, Audubon Magazine, Spring 2024
- [Wilson’s phalarope to the rescue](#) by Caroline Tracey, High Country News, July 2024
- [How a tiny bird could trigger a federal response on Great Salt Lake](#) by Leia Larsen, The Salt Lake Tribune, March 2024
- [A Little Bird on the Great Salt Lake could create a big problem for Utah political leaders.](#) Fox 13 New Utah. March 2024
- [Group Petitions U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect migratory bird called Wilson’s phalarope.](#) KSL News Radio, March 2024
- [Petition put forth to list Wilson’s phalarope under the Endangered Species Act.](#) Utah Public Radio. April 2024
- [How a Tiny Inland Shorebird Could Help Save the Great Salt Lake](#) by Wyatt Myskow, Inside Climate News, April 2024

Selected Newsletter Articles

- [Experience Ambientalia celebrates avian life in the Mono Basin](#) by Ryan Garrett, Mono Lake Committee blog, May 2024
- [2024 Andrea Lawrence Award to Ryan Carle](#) by Lily, Mono Lake Committee blog, May 2024
- [Experience Ambientalia: The exchange at Laguna Mar Chiquita](#) by Ryan Garrett, Mono Lake Committee blog, July 2024
- [Experience Ambientalia: The exchange at Mono Lake](#) by Ryan Garrett, Mono Lake Committee blog, July 2024

Partners 2019-2024

Mono Basin Partners	Western U.S. Regional Partners	International Partners
Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve	Eastern Sierra Audubon (Owens Lake, CA)	Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (Manomet)
Dr. Margaret Rubega, University of Connecticut	East Cascades Audubon (Lake Abert, OR)	U.S. Forest Service International Program
Mono Lake Committee	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Great Salt Lake, UT)	Aves Argentinas
		Fundación Líderes de Ansenuza
Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area	San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SF Bay, CA)	Parque Nacional Ansenuza (Argentinian National Park at Laguna Mar Chiquita)
Friends of Mono Lake State Park	Point Blue Conservation Science	
	Audubon Saline Lakes	Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF; Chilean Nat'l Park Service)
	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Environment and Climate Change Canada
	Sageland Collaborative	Thompson Rivers University, British Colombia, Canada
	Center for Biological Diversity	Red de Observadores de Chile

Funders 2022-2024

Dechambeau Creek Foundation	University of Connecticut
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Wader Quest
Tracy Aviary Conservation Fund	U.S. Forest Service International Program
California Department of Fish and Wildlife Emergency Drought Funds program	Center for Biological Diversity
Jeff Maurer Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua Research Grant	And generous contributions from private donors

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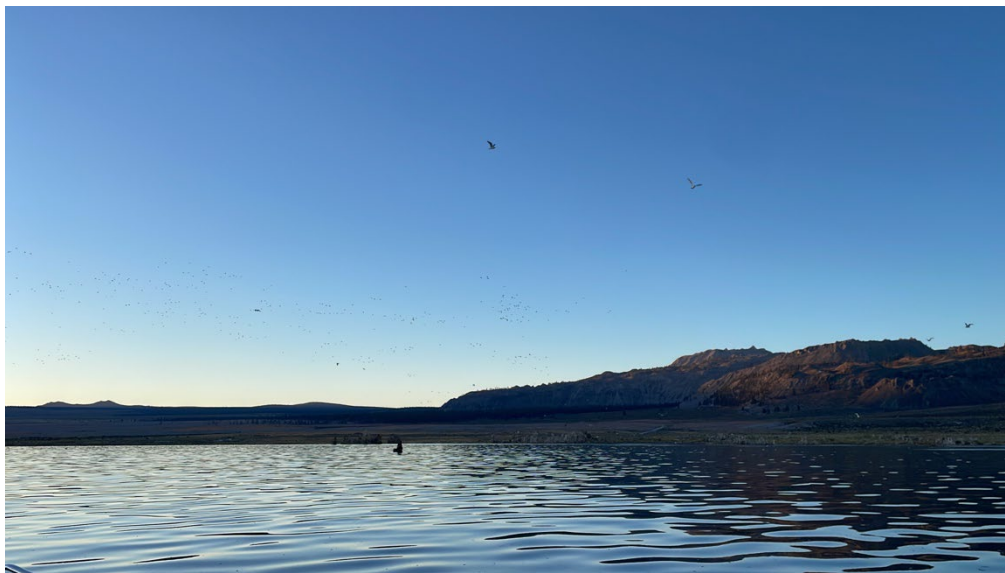
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South Tufa sunrise during the last phalarope boat survey of the season.