



Bird's Eye View

Conservation. Education.
Community.

Message from the Nest

PHASE II IS READY FOR TAKEOFF! After years of describing the activities that will happen in structures dotted throughout the campus map, of taking turns brainstorming landscape types and locations for each, and of walking a weed-infested field pointing out what will happen where ... things are about to change. Earthwork will add topography to an otherwise level landscape. Infrastructure and pathways will soon demarcate boundaries. Landscaping will be installed, beginning with the Utah Conservation Loop. Let the construction begin!

The Jordan River Nature Center has always been envisioned as a nature-based community center. We value engagement, and to that end, we will measure success by the number of people involved and the partners we work with to deliver programs and enrich the community. Leading the way will be two new Tracy Aviary staff members: Marissa Beckstrom (Jordan River Nature Center Director)

and Daniel Hernandez (Director of Culture). Marissa and Daniel are building relationships and creating the framework that will provide a foundation for robust programming this summer.



A greenhouse and a Motus tower will be among the first structures added to the campus. The greenhouse will greatly enhance our capacity to grow native plants to support the Jordan River Nature Center and the Jordan River corridor. The Motus tower will be used to gather data and help us better understand the role the Jordan River

plays in migration (see page 3 for more information about the Motus program).

The majority of funds needed for Phase II have been raised, and we could use your help with the final push. \$5M has been raised, just \$500,000 short of our \$5.5M goal. To learn more about how you can help, please see page 5.

If you have any questions about the Jordan River Nature Center or would like a tour, please contact Sandra at development@tracyaviary.org. In the meantime, keep an eye to the sky as migration is underway. 🐦

Cover: Brewer's blackbirds are found along the Jordan River year round and nest here in spring and summer, especially liking areas near open fields and lawns with wetlands grown with willows nearby. In winter they join large mixed blackbird flocks and seek out corn fields and pastures with livestock.

Above: Architectural rendering of the Ecolab green house.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Tim Brown".

Tim Brown
President/CEO, Tracy Aviary

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Motus Tower at Nature Center Will Help Track Bird Movement

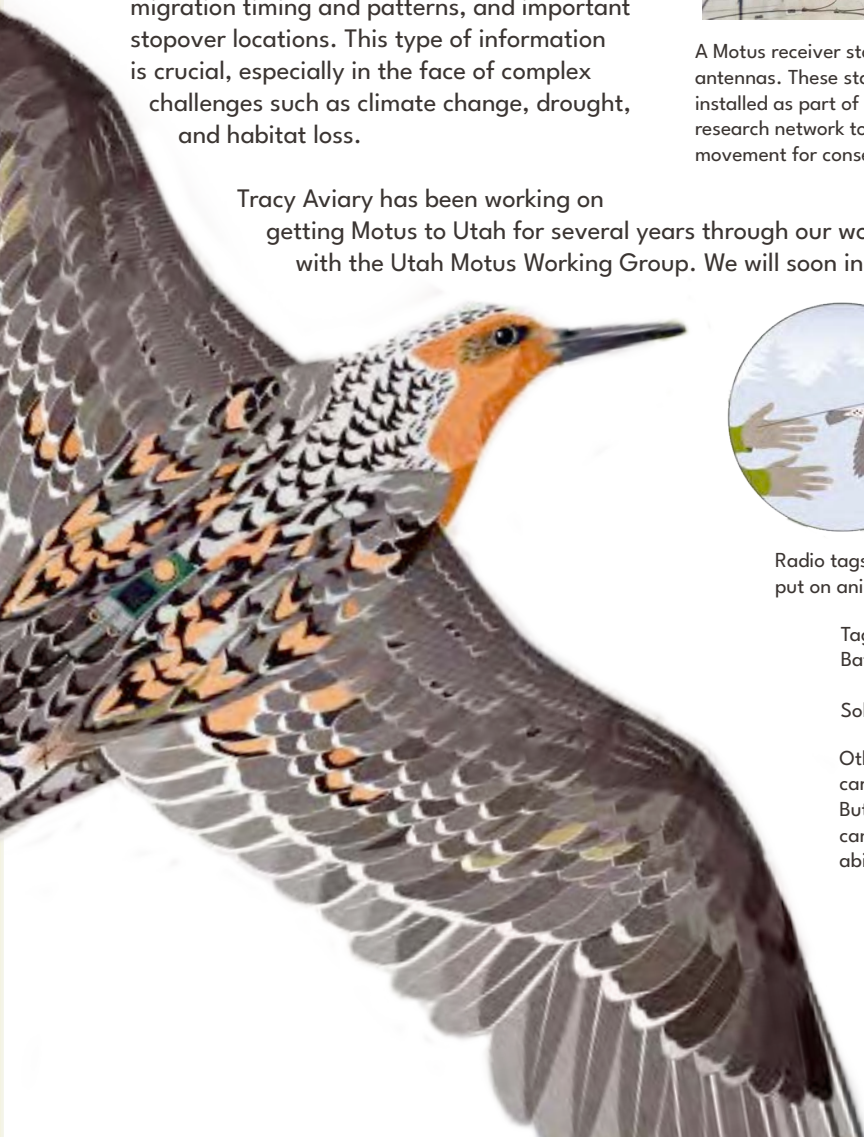
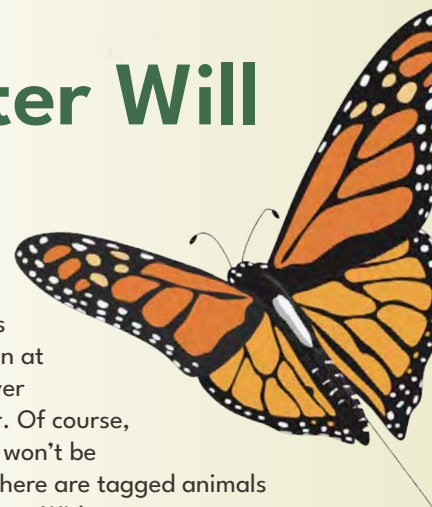
THIS SPRING AND SUMMER, you may notice some new structures popping up on the landscape across Utah, towers with several antennas at the top. These are Motus receiver stations, and they are the beginning of a large network of Motus stations that will be installed in Utah. These stations are able to automatically detect and record the signals of tiny radio transmitters that have been fitted to birds, bats, and insects whenever they fly within range. With over 1,500 receiver stations across 34 countries, Motus can investigate questions about movement, migration, and population ecology, and can guide conservation efforts by helping scientists better understand land use, migration timing and patterns, and important stopover locations. This type of information is crucial, especially in the face of complex challenges such as climate change, drought, and habitat loss.

Tracy Aviary has been working on getting Motus to Utah for several years through our work with the Utah Motus Working Group. We will soon install



A Motus receiver station and antennas. These stations are being installed as part of a collaborative research network to track wildlife movement for conservation.

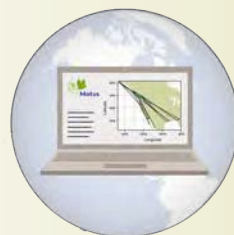
our own Motus receiver station at the Jordan River Nature Center. Of course, these stations won't be useful unless there are tagged animals around to detect. With a generous donation to kickstart the effort, Tracy Aviary's conservation program has been able to launch a Motus tagging program focused on birds that rely on the Great Salt Lake and its surrounding habitats. We are hiring a new Conservation Ecologist who will build our research program and lead bird banding and Motus tagging efforts. These activities will expand our conservation impact while providing new public engagement and outreach opportunities. We are excited to take this very important next step in conserving the millions of birds that rely on Utah's wetlands, riparian corridors, and the Great Salt Lake. 🌱



Radio tags are put on animals.



Stations collect data from tags.



Data are processed and used for research and conservation.

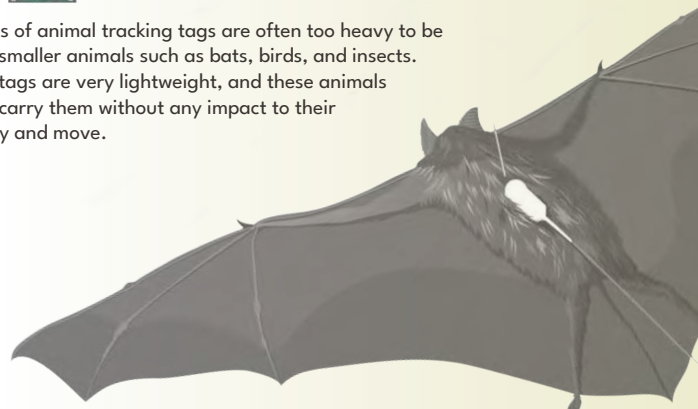
Tags:
Battery



Solar



Other types of animal tracking tags are often too heavy to be carried by smaller animals such as bats, birds, and insects. But Motus tags are very lightweight, and these animals can safely carry them without any impact to their ability to fly and move.





Coming Soon!


Opportunities to Plan Gardens and Grow Plants

CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE II of the Jordan River Nature Center will move into high gear this spring and last throughout the summer. We look forward to earth movers shaping the topography of our campus. We are giddy for the day when trenches for irrigation, electricity, and other infrastructure needs begin weaving through the campus. But we are most excited about the opportunities to engage our neighbors, partners, and friends in building this nature-based community center. We embrace the power of process and will be patient with the product.

As an example of our efforts to engage the public, months ago we invited a wide range of people to participate in a community forum to design the Utah Conservation Loop. Members of Salt Lake Air Protectors, Great Salt Lake Audubon, Lost Eden, Tracy Aviary's conservation volunteers, and Tracy Aviary's horticulture volunteers contributed a few hours to help us build a species list, develop design concepts, and identify furniture needs for this garden. The result is a better, more informed landscape that reflects group wisdom.



Building on this experience, we will hold community forums to design additional gardens throughout the spring. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to Jordan River Nature Center Director Marissa Beckstrom (marissab@tracyaviary.org).

To support what we know will be a landscape in need of plants, one of our first structures will be a greenhouse. The greenhouse will provide opportunities for people to get their hands dirty as they help us create habitat, one plant at a time. If you want to get involved or learn more about our plans, reach out to Marissa. 

Planting trees, shrubs and wildflowers will begin this spring and last through fall.



Phase II Naming Opportunities*

To date approximately
\$5 million has been raised.

Observation Tower	\$345,000	The ALSAM Foundation
Outdoor Amphitheater	\$275,000	George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Amphitheater
Wildlife Viewing Blind	\$375,000	available
Conservation Base Station	\$500,000	available
Large Pavilion	\$270,000	Emma Eccles Jones Foundation
Wildflower Garden	\$200,000	The Adler Family

Conservation Loop	\$200,000	available
Event Meadow	\$200,000	available
Serviceberry Picnic Area	\$150,000	available
Shade Forest	\$150,000	David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation
Pollinator Garden	\$100,000	available
Yard as Habitat Nature Play Area	\$100,000	Lawrence T. & Janet T. Dee Foundation

In addition to the support listed above, contributions have also been received from:

The Walbridge Fund
James E. Dreyfous Family
Salt Lake County's Tourism, Recreation, Culture &
Convention Support Program

Sorenson Legacy Foundation
Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation
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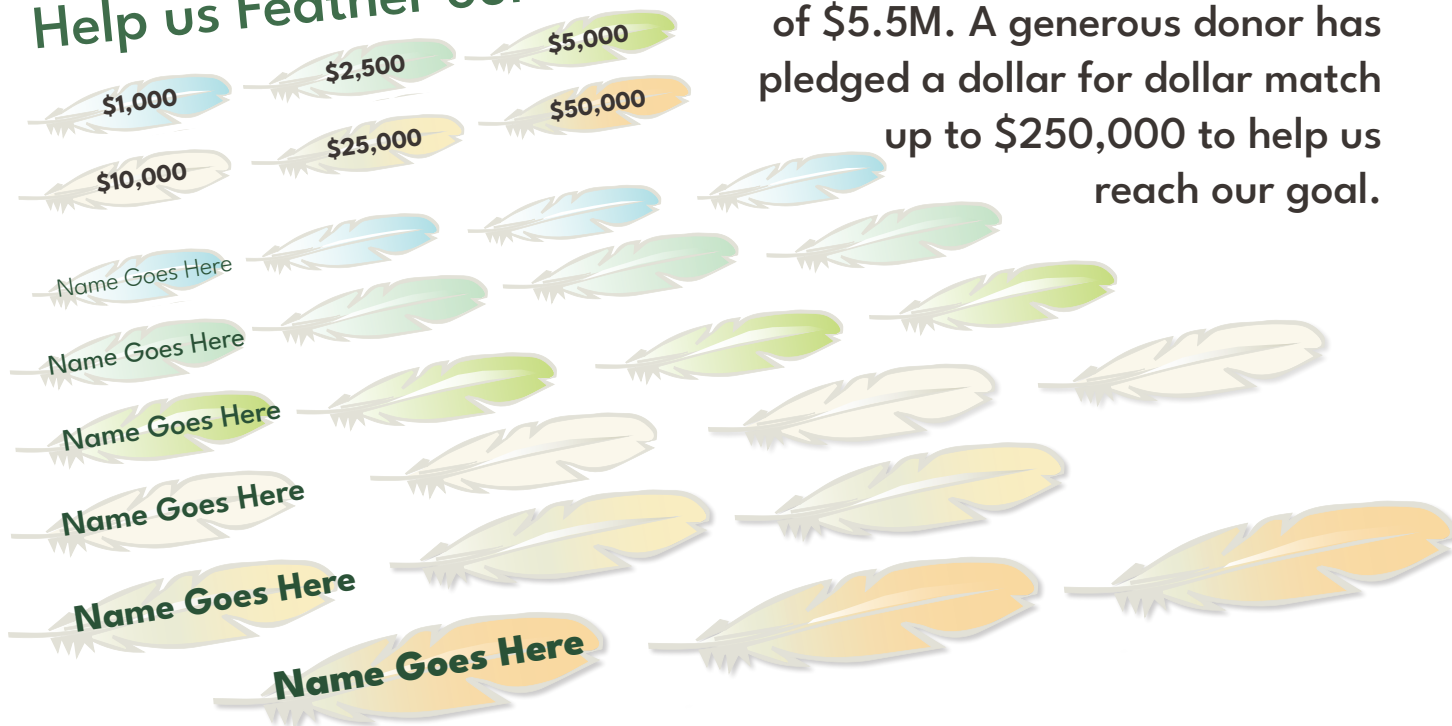
*Other naming opportunities available, contact development@tracyaviary.org



Double Your Impact!

Help us Feather our Nest

We've raised \$5M toward our goal of \$5.5M. A generous donor has pledged a dollar for dollar match up to \$250,000 to help us reach our goal.



Thank you to Donors

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January 1, 2023

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In Memory of Ronald Nielson 1943 - 2019



AS A CHILD, Ron would jump on his bike in Murray and pedal the miles of streets over to Tracy Aviary. He grew up, and with his wife raised 3 daughters and a son in Salt Lake. His daughter Kelly Ledesma remembers their Sundays fondly. “Every Sunday like clockwork,” she says, they would go to Tracy Aviary. “I remember holding my dad’s hand,

and my sister was on his shoulders.” They would walk the paths and visit the birds and ride the ferris wheel just outside the Aviary. They dropped quarters in the bird food machine to get pellets to feed the ducks.

The family always had pet birds too - parrots, cockatiels, parakeets, even peacocks once they moved to St. George. As a general contractor, master carpenter, and owner of his own company, Ron built many homes in Salt Lake and of course, bird feeders too.

Ron passed away in 2019, and his family wanted to memorialize him. Though he had spent his last years in Ohio, they decided that Salt Lake – specifically Tracy Aviary – had so much more meaning for him. The memorial needed to be here.

The whole extended family chipped in for a memorial bench in his honor, and gathered one warm summer day to visit Tracy Aviary. All 23 of them gathered around the bench –

amongst the flowers and right next to the eagles and the keas, to share words and memories. Since then, many family members from all around the US have come to visit Ron’s bench. “He instilled a love of birds in all of us,” says Kelly, “everytime we see a cardinal or eagle we say, ‘There’s Dad.’”

The inscription on the bench references a Bible verse, Isaiah 40:31.

*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. **They will soar on wings like eagles;** they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.”* 🌿



Tree Planting Tips



THE FIRST THING TO CONSIDER when planting a tree is which type of tree to select. Trees thrive in different types of environments, so it is important to consider the following when deciding on the best tree for your area:

- What kind of soil is in the area?
- How much water is available?
- How much sunlight will the tree get?
- How much space will the tree need at maturity?
- What purpose will the tree serve? (Shade, attracting wildlife, etc.)

When you have chosen the perfect tree, make sure to plant it correctly to ensure its success!

- Dig a shallow, wide hole that is 3 times the width of the root ball and as deep as the root ball. Most tree roots live in the top twelve inches of soil where there is access to nutrients, water, and oxygen. Planting too deep can suffocate your tree.
- Remove any burlap, wire caging, or pot from the root ball before planting.
- Inspect the roots and loosen any circling or tightly bound roots.
- After the tree is placed, refill the hole with the same soil you removed and do not add any amendments. This allows roots to grow throughout the native soil easily without circling within the planting hole.
- Mulch around the base of the tree and keep the root zone free of grass and other plants that will compete for water and nutrients.
- Water immediately after planting and continue to water weekly. Even drought-tolerant trees need additional water for the first year or two while the roots are being established.
- Avoid fertilizing or pruning your tree for the first year or two.

Do you want to help plant trees and learn more?
Consider volunteering at Tracy Aviary!
tracyaviary.org/ways-to-support/volunteer/

