



Wilson's Phalarope



Ruddy Copper butterfly



Desert Horned Lizard



Fragrant Evening Primrose

## DOCUMENTING THE BIODIVERSITY OF PLAYA AND THE SUMMER LAKE / LAKE ABERT REGION

PLAYA is located at the intersection of an extraordinary variety of Great Basin ecosystems, including saline lakes, High Desert wetlands, sagebrush shrub-steppe, juniper woodlands, and high-elevation conifer forests. Residents and guests of PLAYA have an opportunity to learn about and document the rich biodiversity of these varied environments, using the citizen-science programs iNaturalist and eBird, both of which are available as smartphone apps.

[iNaturalist](#) allows you to upload photographs of virtually any organism – plant, insect, bird, fungus – and they will be reviewed and (usually) identified by experts. All you need are the date and location of the observation – which are automatically recorded if you take the photo with your smartphone. It is very easy (and free) to set up an account, at

PLAYA curates two iNaturalist Projects which are documenting the biodiversity of our region.

- [Biodiversity of PLAYA at Summer Lake](#) is narrowly focused on species observed on the PLAYA campus. This currently lists 130 species.
- [Biodiversity of the Summer Lake/Lake Abert Region](#) encompasses most of the areas that residents and guests of PLAYA are likely to visit, stretching from Picture Rock Pass in the north to Valley Falls in the south, and from Abert Rim in the east to Winter Rim in the west. Clicking on the link above will bring up a map of the area. This project currently documents over 1300 species!

When making an observation, you don't need to worry about whether your location is covered by these projects. iNaturalist will automatically add all observations that fall within these areas. And you can see all the reported species by clicking on the links above. Though it's not required, we encourage you to become "members" of these projects to show your interest and receive periodic journal notifications.

[eBird](#) is a citizen-science program that allows users to record and upload checklists of birds observed on hikes or field trips – or even at your bird feeder. This does require some knowledge of bird identification, but that can be greatly helped by another free app, called [Merlin](#). PLAYA is a "hotspot" on eBird, so any checklists recorded on our campus are added to our list, which stands at about 90 species. There is also a "hotspot" for the Summer Lake Wildlife Area, with over 280 species recorded.

We encourage you to use these great resources for learning about – and helping to document – the diversity of PLAYA and its region.