



2026 Student Art Contest

Spotlight Bird: Black-necked Stilt

This art contest is for all Utah students in grades Pre-K-12. Only artwork that meets all rules and guidelines will be eligible for judging and display at the 2026 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. Students may use bird field guides, the internet, or the provided teaching guide to learn about the birds' unique characteristics.

Rules and Guidelines

1. Artwork Specifications:

- ❖ Original artwork of the Black-necked Stilt. Artwork may not be copied or traced from any source.
- ❖ **Size:** Artwork must be 8.5 x 11 inches. Art that does not meet the size requirement will be disqualified.
- ❖ **Surface:** Artwork is to be created on a flat surface and must fit in a standard sheet protector for display (provided by the festival).
- ❖ **Format:** The artwork must be 2D and can incorporate drawing (pencil, ink, charcoal, etc.) or painting (watercolor, acrylic, oil, etc.)

Mediums Not Accepted:

- Mixed media, digital art, and AI-generated art will be disqualified.
- ❖ Realistic or stylized images are welcome.

2. Submission Requirements:

- ❖ Ensure artwork is complete and meets the size and format requirements; otherwise art will be disqualified.
- ❖ Complete the entry form and tape it to the back of the artwork. The entry form must be complete and legible to be accepted for display and judging.
- ❖ Do NOT frame or mount artwork - art must be able to fit in a standard 8.5 x 11 inch sheet protector for display, which will be provided by the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival.
- ❖ Only one entry per student is allowed.

3. Submission Process:

- ❖ **Deadline:** All submissions must be received by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 24, 2026.
- ❖ **How to Submit:**

- **By mail:**

Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
Attn: Student Art Contest
61 S Main Street
P.O. Box 618
Farmington, UT 84025

- **In-person at the Discover Davis office located inside:**

Memorial Courthouse
28 E. State Street, Suite 214
Farmington, UT 84025
Monday-Friday 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

4. Viewing and Awards:

- ❖ Artwork will be displayed for viewing during the festival at Western Sports Park, located at 151 South 1100 West in Farmington. Additional details on viewing times, the award ceremony, and the evening's program can be found at GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com
- ❖ After the festival, winning artwork will be uploaded to the GSLBF website for digital gallery viewing.
- ❖ Artwork will be judged in five grade categories: Preschool-K, 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. First, second, and third place awards will be given in each category. The prize for first-place entries is \$50.00; second-place is \$25.00; and third-place is \$15.00. The Best of Show entry will receive a \$75.00 prize.



Photo Credit: Quinn Diaz

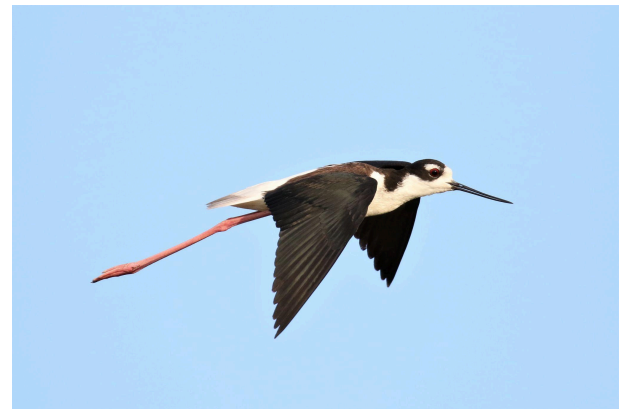


Photo Credit: Max Malmquist

Questions? Contact Susie Jones at susie@discoverdavis.com

Teaching Guide: Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

Info: Audubon.org; allaboutbirds.org

Identification

The Black-necked Stilt is one of the easiest shorebirds to recognize. Its wings, back, and head are all black, providing a vibrant contrast to its bright white face and belly. Its legs are long and thin, exactly like, you guessed it, stilts! And best of all, its legs are bubblegum pink. They have the second-longest legs in proportion to their bodies of any bird, exceeded only by flamingos. This small-bodied shorebird has a thin, straight needle-like bill. When spotting them in the wild, listen for their “kip-kip-kip-kip”.

Habitat

The Black-necked Stilt is a huge fan of the shallow water, but they seldom swim. You can commonly find them wading in grassy marshes, mudflats, or along the shores of wetlands like those at Great Salt Lake. They even build their nests on the ground near the water’s edge; talk about poolside access!

Food

The Black-necked Stilt is a master bug catcher. They use their long, skinny bills to pick their food right off the water’s surface or to probe it from the mud. Some of their favorite appetizers are insects, tiny bite-sized fish, crustaceans, and slimy snails. When they feel like fast food they can even grab flying insects right out of the air.

Interesting Facts

The Black-necked Stilt’s nest is a nuclear household, meaning both mom and dad birds take turns sitting on their eggs while the other is off feeding. The Black-necked Stilt soaks itself in water before sitting on its eggs to keep them cool. Who needs AC when you have damp feathers? Typically a female will lay a clutch of four eggs. These eggs are light tan with dark speckles, which provides camouflage in their shallow ground nests. The incubation period is about 25 days. Baby stilts are able to run awkwardly within about 2 hours of hatching.

Black-neck Stilts are social birds and can often be found in groups. When there are predators nearby or they feel threatened they fly as one body attempting to appear bigger, while calling out loudly. Sometimes when defending their nests they perform a distraction display by pretending to be injured. Give that bird an Oscar!



Photo Credit: Scott Baxter

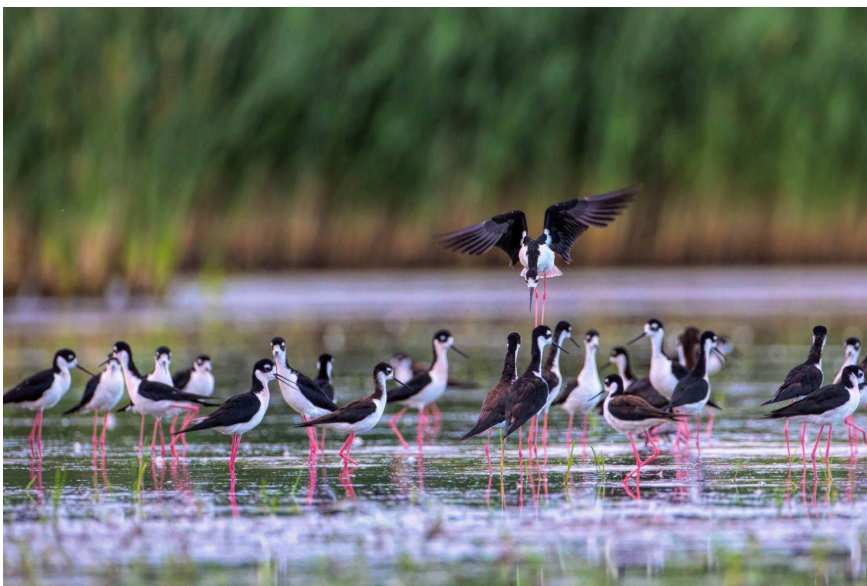


Photo Credit: Scott Baxter

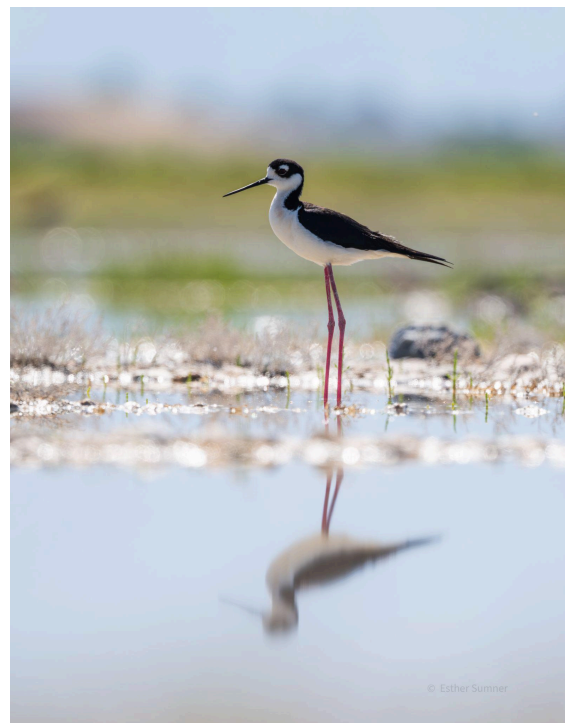


Photo Credit: Esther Sumner

2026 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival Student Art Contest Entry Form

Completed form must be submitted with each entry
Artwork will not be returned if form is incomplete or illegible

Name of Artist: _____

Name of Parent or Teacher: _____

School (if applicable): _____

Address*: _____

City: _____ State: Utah ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ EMAIL: _____

Grade category (circle one): Pre-K-Kindergarten 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12

*Students who independently submit artwork should list their home address in order to receive returned artwork. All other students should list their school address. Correspondence will be done by EMAIL.

Check this box if you would like your artwork returned following the festival.

Art must be received by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 24, 2026

Mail your artwork to:
Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
Attn: Student Art Contest
61 S Main Street
P.O. Box 618
Farmington, UT 84025

**Deliver in person to Discover Davis office
located inside:**
Memorial Courthouse
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Artwork from any category may be featured in Great Salt Lake Bird Festival's promotional documents, news releases, website, social media accounts, and clothing/merchandise. The student's name may be included with any art that is used for these purposes. **The student will retain all rights to the artwork but gives permission with this form to the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival for use of the image for promotional and contest purposes.**

Selections and decisions by the judges are final. Any entries with unsuitable content or that do not meet the requirements listed under the Rules and Guidelines section will not be considered.

www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com

Personal Data Request Notice

You have a fundamental interest in, and an inherent expectation of privacy regarding the personal data you provide to Davis County. This notice is provided to you in accordance with Utah Code 63A-19-402 and outlines why your personal data is requested and for what purposes it is used. Your personal data is only processed and used for the specified and lawful purposes listed in this notice.

Process: Art Contest/Birdfest

Your personal data is used for the following purpose(s):

To enter art into the contest and notify participants if they won.

Consequences for refusing to provide your personal data:

Would not be able to enter the art into the contest.

Your personal data may be shared with:

Internal County Departments and the Public.

Your personal data is not sold:

N/A.

Records Series (if applicable):

Transitory correspondence (GRS-1759).