

CURRICULUM VITAE
John F. Cavitt, Ph.D.
Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor of Zoology
Weber State University

EDUCATION

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS- Ph. D. Division of Biology, May 1998
Illinois State University, Normal, IL- M.S. Department of Biological Sciences, July 1993
Illinois State University, Normal, IL - B.S. Department of Biological Sciences, May 1990

POSITIONS HELD

Director, Office of Undergraduate Research, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah (2004 – current)
Presidential Distinguished Professor of Zoology, Department of Zoology, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah (2008 - current).
Associate Professor of Zoology, Department of Zoology, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah (July 2003 – June 2007)
Assistant Professor of Zoology, Department of Zoology, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah (July 1999 – June 2003)
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana (1998-1999).

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

Weber State University Faculty Governance Award. This award recognizes outstanding faculty service to the University. April 2019.

Publication Award for Best Publication. The British Ornithologists' Union. This award recognizes articles published in *Ibis* that represent a significant contribution to ornithology. May 2019 (Ellis, K., J.F. Cavitt, and R. Larson. 2018. Using remote cameras to validate estimates of nest fates in shorebirds. *Ibis* 160:681-687.)

Publication Award for Outstanding Contribution to Conservation. The Waterbird Society. This award recognizes Articles published in *Waterbirds* that represent a significant contribution to conservation of at-risk species or populations of waterbirds. August 11, 2017 (Ellis, Cavitt, and Larson. 2015. Factors influencing Snowy Plover nest survival at Great Salt Lake, Utah. *Waterbirds Journal* 38:58-67).

Friend of the Lake Award. Friends of the Great Salt Lake. May 14, 2016.

Weber State University Exemplary Collaboration Award – 2013 Executive Committee for the 2012 National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Weber State University Presidential Distinguished Professor - 2010

Elected Honorary Memberships –
Golden Key International Honor Society,
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Gwen S. Williams Award for Excellence. 2009. Award presented for the “Global Scholars Initiative”.

North American Bird Conservation Award 2009. Award presented to the Utah Linking Communities, Wetlands and Migratory Bird Program by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and the Association of Joint Venture Management Boards (<http://www.nabci-us.org/awards09.htm>).

George and Beth Lowe Teaching Award 2005.

Gwen S. Williams Award for Excellence. 2003. Award presented for creating the “Undergraduate Research Experience in Biology”.

The Suzanne L. and Joseph T. Collins Award. 2002. Award presented for outstanding publication (Cavitt. 2000. Fire and a tallgrass snake community. *Journal of Herpetology* 34:12-20)

SELECTED GRANTS, CONTRACTS & FUNDED PROJECTS

BirdLife International/Rio Tinto

- *International Undergraduate Research Exchange at Great Salt Lake*.

- *American Avocet migration ecology at Great Salt Lake, Utah.*

Cross Charitable Foundation

- *Undergraduate Research Experience at Great Salt Lake, Utah*

National Audubon Society/Jennifer Speers

- *Wilson's Phalarope utilization of Great Salt Lake during fall staging.*
- *Winter behavior and ecology of Wilson's Phalarope at Laguna Mar Chiquita, Argentina.*

National Science Foundation – Research Experience for Undergraduates

- *REU in Grassland Ecology – Kansas State University*
- *REU on Great Salt Lake Ecosystem – Weber State University*

Nature Conservancy of Utah

- *Productivity of Great Salt Lake waterbirds*
- *Evaluation of Legacy Highway Avian Surveys*

Tracy Aviary

- *International Snowy Plover migration ecology*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Utah Division of Water Quality

- *Concentration and effects of Selenium on shorebirds at Great Salt Lake.*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- *Statewide survey of breeding colonial waterbirds; Atlas of Western Colonial Waterbirds*
- *Urban Bird Treaty City – Ogden, Utah*
- *Great Salt Lake Snowy Plover Survey*
- *Great Salt Lake Snowy Plover Ecology*

U.S. Magnesium LLC

- *Shorebird utilization of wastewater ponds;*
- *Wildlife habitat evaluation*

Utah Department of Natural Resources

- *Patterns of nest site selection and the effects of diking on aquatic bird productivity*

Utah Division of Water Quality

- *Population analysis of shorebirds and waterfowl utilizing Willard Spur, Great Salt Lake, UT*
- *Selenium concentrations within shorebird populations at Great Salt Lake;*
- *Breeding ecology, diet and productivity of shorebirds at Great Salt Lake, UT*

Utah Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

- *Shorebird utilization of an outfall discharge*

Utah South Davis Sewer District

- *Effects of eutrophication on waterfowl in Farmington Bay*

SELECTED SERVICE

Weber State University – Chair, University Curriculum Committee, 2016 – April 2022.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources – Chair, Northern Regional Advisory Council, 2014 – 2017.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources – Great Salt Lake Technical Advisory Group, 2013 - present

Science Panel Member for Utah Governor's Great Salt Lake Advisory Council. October – 2011 - 2012. Charged with developing a scientific definition of health of Great Salt Lake for the Utah Legislature. Served as the Avian Ecologist on the panel.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources – Vice Chair, Northern Regional Advisory Council, 2009 – 2014

Elected Councilor, Association of Field Ornithologists, 2008 – 2012.

Elected CUR Councilor, 2004 – 2007, Biology and Undergraduate Research Program Director Division

Founding Member, Network of Directors of Undergraduate Research 2004 – present

Board Member, Ogden Nature Center, 2007-2008

Board Member, Friends of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, 2007 – present

Coordinator, Linking Communities, Wetlands and Migratory Bird Program, 2008 – 2009.

SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Cowan, B. and J.F. Cavitt. 2021. Phenology of a scrub oak avian community. Wildlife Society Meeting. Virtual meeting. November 1-5, 2021.

- Ellis, K., J.F. Cavitt, R. Larsen, R. Knight, D. Koons, R. Lawrence. 2017. Environmental context of predator-specific rates of predation on Snowy Plover nests. Utah Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Bryce Canyon, Utah, March 22-24, 2017.
- Ellis, K., J.F. Cavitt, R. Larsen, R. Knight. 2016. Behavioral flexibility under the risk of predation in a ground-nesting shorebird. Utah Chapter of the Wildlife Society, St. George, Utah, March 23-25, 2016.
- Hall, J. and J.F. Cavitt. 2014. Incubation constancy of the American Avocet nesting in an extreme environment. International Ornithological Congress, Tokyo, Japan, 18-24 August 2014.
- Molina, David, R. Carmona, J.F. Cavitt, and M. Cruz-Nieto. 2013. Patterns of winter use of American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) in the Marismas Nacionales Biosphere Reserve, Nayarit, Mexico. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting, Santa Marta, Colombia 17-21 September 2013.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2012. Conservation and status of Great Salt Lake Shorebirds. BirdLife International Western Hemisphere Partners Meeting. Miramar, Argentina October 2012.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2011. Strengthening avian flyway conservation through international undergraduate research and service exchanges. International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, October 19, 2011. Milwaukee, WI.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2011. Developing international conservation partnerships. International Conference on Salt Lake Research. Mar Chiquita, Argentina 14 May 2011.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2010. Promoting range-wide conservation through educational and community partnerships. *Invited presentation* BirdLife International Partners Workshop, November 10-20, 2010, Concepcion, Chile.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2009. Linking communities, wetlands, and migratory birds: A partnership for shorebird conservation. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting. Sinaloa, Mexico, March 9-13, 2009. *Invited speaker for special symposium on education and outreach.*
- Edwards, C., G. Farley, and J.F. Cavitt. 2010. Snowy Plover nesting success and nest density at Great Salt Lake, Utah. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Ellis, K. and J. F. Cavitt. 2010. Effects of predation risk on incubation behavior of Snowy Plover at Great Salt Lake. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Hall, L. and J.F. Cavitt. 2010. Comparative study of methods to trap nesting Snowy Plovers. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Linford, M. and J.F. Cavitt. 2010. Intraspecific brood parasitism as a cost to coloniality in American Avocets: the occurrence and frequency of above-modal clutches on islands at Great Salt Lake. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Lyons, J., B. Andres and J.F. Cavitt. 2010. Conservation status of Snowy Plovers in North America: results of a range-wide survey. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Martinez, P., C. Villar, J. Ramirez, and J. Cavitt. 2010. Nest site selection of the Snowy Plover in the Marismas Nacionales, Nayarit, Mexico and Great Salt Lake, Utah. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Parker, E., V. Frokjer and J.F. Cavitt. 2010. Distribution and occurrence of colonial waterbirds in Utah. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Vargas, J., C. Villar, J. Ramirez and J.F. Cavitt. 2010. Comparison of reproductive success of Snowy Plover at Reserva De La Biosfera, Marismas Nacionales and Great Salt Lake. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Villar, C. P. Martinez, J. Vargas, J. Ramirez and J.F. Cavitt. 2010. Patterns of movement and population dynamics of the Snowy Plover within the Marismas Nacionales, Mexico. Association of Field Ornithologists Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2010. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Cavitt, J.F. and M. Carr. Developing public-private partnerships to enhance undergraduate research opportunities. June 20, 2010. Council on Undergraduate Research National Conference. Weber State University, Ogden, Utah.
- Cavitt, J.F. Linking communities, wetlands and migratory birds: a range-wide conservation initiative. March 16, 2010. Department of Biological Science, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.
- Paul, D. and J.F. Cavitt. Winged Ambassadors of Great Salt Lake: Utah's Best Kept Secret. April 7, 2009. Westminster College, Salt Lake City Utah.
- Hall, L. and J.F. Cavitt. 2009. Comparative study of methods to trap nesting Snowy Plovers. Utah Ornithological Society. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. August 29, 2009.

- Stone, K.** and J.F. Cavitt. 2009. Incubation rhythm and behavior of Long-billed Curlew at Great Salt Lake, Utah. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting. Sinaloa, Mexico, March 9-13, 2009.
- Edwards, C.,** G. Farley, and J.Cavitt. 2008. Snowy Plover nesting success and nest density at Great Salt Lake, UT. Waterbird Society 32nd Annual Meeting. South Padre Island, Texas, November 5-8, 2008.
- Gurr, K.** and J.F. Cavitt. 2008. Foraging behavior of breeding Snowy Plover at Great Salt Lake. Annual meeting of the Utah Ornithological Society. Ogden, Utah, September 12-14, 2008.
- Stone, K.** and J.F. Cavitt. 2008. Concentration and effects of selenium and mercury on shorebirds at Great Salt Lake. Annual meeting of the Utah Ornithological Society. Ogden, Utah, September 12-14, 2008.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2008. Results of the Great Salt Lake Snowy Plover Survey, 2007-2008. Annual meeting of the Utah Ornithological Society. Ogden, Utah, September 12-14, 2008.
- Cavitt, J.F. and **J. Cary.** 2008. Concentrations and effects of selenium on shorebirds at Great Salt Lake, Utah. American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon, August 4-9, 2008.
- Edwards, C.** and J.F. Cavitt. Great Salt Lake Snowy Plover Survey. Kansas Ornithological Society Meeting, Manhattan, KS. September 28-30, 2007.
- Emerson, R.L.** and J.F. Cavitt. The effects of succession on American Avocet and Black-necked Stilt nest site selection at Great Salt Lake, UT. American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting, Laramie, WY. August 8-11, 2007.
- Stone, K.** and J.F. Cavitt. Incubation rhythm and behavior of Long-billed Curlew. American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting, Laramie, WY. August 8-11, 2007.
- Nixon, T.** and J.F. Cavitt. Nest site selection and nesting success of Snowy Plovers at Great Salt Lake, Utah. Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere Meeting, Boulder, CO. February 27, 2006.
- Edwards, C.,** K. Terkelson, T. Miller and J.F. Cavitt. Feeding ecology and diet of American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts at Great Salt Lake, UT. Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere Meeting, Boulder, CO. February 27, 2006.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & TECHNICAL REPORTS

- Paul, D., J.F. Cavitt, J. Neil, E. McCully and J. Vest. *In Review.* Great Salt Lake Shorebird Conservation Strategy. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Special Publication, Denver, CO.
- Ortega-Solis, Lidiana,** and D. Galindo-Espinosa, E. M. Figueroa-Esquivel, U. Rosales-Huerta, J.F. Cavitt, and F. Puebla-Olivares. *In Review.* Nest Survival of Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) in Marismas Nacionales, Nayarit.
- Jackson, Josephine D'Urban, M. Bruford, T. Székely, J. DaCosta, M. Sorenson, S. Edwards, I. Russo, K. Maher, M. Cruz-Lopez, D. Galindo-Espinosa, A. DeSucre-Medrano, J.F. Cavitt, R. Pruner, A. Morales, O. Gonzalez, T. Burke, and C. Küpper. 2020. Population differentiation and historical demography of the threatened snowy plover *Charadrius nivosus*. Conservation Genetics 21:387-404.
- Cruz-Lopez, Merdardo, Guillermo Fernández, Helen Hipperson, Eduardo Palacios-Castro, J.F. Cavitt, Daniel Galindo-Espinosa, Salvador Gómez del Angel, Raya Pruner, Oscar Gonzalez, Alcides L. Morales, Terry Burke, Clemens Küpper. 2020. Allelic diversity and patterns of selection at the Major Histocompatibility Complex class I and II loci in a threatened shorebird, the Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*). Evolutionary Biology 20:114-129
- Ellis, K., J.F. Cavitt, and R. Larson. 2018. Using remote cameras to validate estimates of nest fates in shorebirds. Ibis 160:681-687.
- Molina, David,** J.F. Cavitt, Roberto Carmona and Miguel Cruz-Nieto. 2017. Non-breeding distribution, abundance and population structure of American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*, Gmelin 1789) in Marismas Nacionales, México. Mexican Journal of Ornithology 19(1):22-32.
- Cavitt, J.F. and **D. Aranda.** Selenium concentrations of shorebird eggs at Great Salt Lake. 2017. Technical Report to Utah Division of Water Quality.
- Vincze, O., A. Kosztolányi, Z. Barta, C. Küpper, M. AlRashidi, J. Amat, A. Ticó, F. Burns, J. Cavitt, W. Conway, M. Cruz-Lopez, D. Burgas, T. Burke, J. Figuerola, T. Montalvo, and T. Székely. 2016. Parental cooperation in a changing climate: fluctuating environments predict shifts in care division. Global Ecology and Biogeography 25(12):1401-1413.
- Cavitt, J. F. 2015. American Avocet: Growing land manager and public knowledge. Intermountain West Joint Venture Winter Volume. <http://iwjv.org/news/american-avocet-growing-land-manager-and-public-knowledge>
- Ellis, K., J.F. Cavitt, and R. Larson. 2015. Factors influencing Snowy Plover nest survival at Great Salt Lake, Utah. Waterbirds Journal 38:58-67.

- Ackerman, J. T., M. P. Herzog, C. A. Hartman, J. Isanhart, G. Herring, S. Vaughn, J. F. Cavitt, C. A. Eagles-Smith, H. Browsers, C. Cline, and J. L. Vest. 2015. Mercury and Selenium Contamination in Waterbird Eggs and Risk to Avian Reproduction at Great Salt Lake, Utah. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2015-1020:164.
- Ellis, K., R. Larson, R. Knight, J.F. Cavitt. 2014. Occupancy and detectability of Snowy Plover in western Utah: an application to a low density population. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 85:355-363.
- Cavitt, J.F., S. Jones, N. Wilson and T. Zimmerman. 2014. Atlas of Breeding Colonial Waterbirds within the Western United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Publication. http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/western_colonial/
- Vincze, O., T. Székely, C. Küpper, M. AlRashidi, J. Amat, A. Ticó, D. Burgas, T. Burke, J. Cavitt, J. Figuerola, T. Montalvo, and András Kosztolányi. 2013. Local environment but not genetic differentiation influences biparental care in ten plover populations. *Plos One* 8(4): e60998. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0060998.
- Thomas, S., J. Lyons, B. Andres, E. Elliot-Smith, E. Palacios, J.F. Cavitt, J. Royle, S. Fellows, W. Howe, E. Mellink, S. Melvin, T. Zimmerman. 2012. Population size of Snowy Plovers breeding in North America. *Waterbirds* 35:1-14.
- Hall, L. and J.F. Cavitt. 2012. Comparative study of trapping methods for ground-nesting shorebirds. *Waterbirds* 35:342-346.
- Cavitt, J.F. and N. Wilson. 2012. Concentration of selenium and mercury in American Avocet eggs at Great Salt Lake, Utah. *Technical Report to Utah Division of Water Quality*.
- Hall, Lucas and J.F. Cavitt. 2011. *Coluber constrictor mormon* (Western Yellow-bellied Racer) and *Pituophis catenifer deserticola* (Great Basin Gophersnake). *Herpetological Review* 42:37-38.
- Wilson, N., J. F. Cavitt, and M. Linford. 2011. Dietary analysis and physical condition of waterfowl at Great Salt Lake. *Technical Report to South Davis Sewer District*.
- Miller, T., H. Hoven and J. Cavitt. 2009. Farmington Bay wetlands of Great Salt Lake: Nutrient criteria, macroinvertebrate studies and beneficial uses. *Natural Resources and Environmental Issues*. Volume 15, Article 12.
- Cavitt, J., K. Stone, and J. Nielson. 2009. Dietary analysis of dabbling ducks at Great Salt Lake, Utah. Report to *The Jordan River/Farmington Bay Water Quality Council*.
- Linford, M., V. Frojker, and J. Cavitt. 2009. Western Colonial Waterbird Survey Northern Utah 2009-2010. Report to US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, Denver, CO.
- Cavitt, J. F., K. Stone and M. Linford. 2009. Avian Use Survey of Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation. December 2009. Report to Kennecott Utah Cooper.
- Hall, Lucas, J. Mull, and J.F. Cavitt. 2009. Relationship between cheatgrass coverage and the relative abundance of snakes on Antelope Island. *Western North American Naturalist* 69:88-95.
- Cavitt, J.F., L. Cole, K. Stone. 2008. Breeding Productivity of Shorebirds and Colonial Waterbirds at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah. Technical Report to US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham City, UT.
- Cavitt, J.F. and K. Stone. 2007. Selenium and mercury concentrations in breeding female American Avocets at Ogden Bay, Great Salt Lake, Utah. In: *Development of a Selenium Standard for the Open Waters of the Great Salt Lake*, 15pp. State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2006. Concentration and effects of selenium on breeding shorebirds at Great Salt Lake. In: *Development of a Selenium Standard for the Open Waters of the Great Salt Lake*, 15pp. State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Stone, K. and J.F. Cavitt. 2006. Unusual brood parasitism record at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Utah. *Utah Birds* 19:2-5.
- Pearse, A., J.F. Cavitt and J. Cully. 2004. Effects of food supplementation on female nest attentiveness and incubation mate feeding in two sympatric wren species. *Wilson Bulletin* 116:23-30.
- Hill, H. and J.F. Cavitt. 2003. Adjustments in parental care by the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): the effect of female condition. Proceedings of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) 2003, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Setser, K.A. and J.F. Cavitt. 2003. Influences of burning on squamates in Kansas tallgrass prairie. *Natural Areas Journal* 23 (4):315-319.
- Spears, L. and J. F. Cavitt. 2003. The effects of avian pox on plumage coloration in male House Finches. *Utah Birds* 17:25-33.
- Cavitt, J.F. and T.E. Martin. 2002. The effects of forest fragmentation on brood parasitism and nest predation in eastern and western landscapes. *Studies in Avian Biology* 25:73-80.

- Cavitt, J. F. 2000. Food habits of a tallgrass prairie snake community. *Herpetological Review* 31:47-48.
- Cavitt, J.F. and C.A. Haas. 2000. Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 557 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Cavitt, J.F. 2000. Fire and a tallgrass prairie snake community. *Journal of Herpetology* 34:12-20.
- Cavitt, J.F., **A.T. Pearse**, and **T.A. Miller**. 1999. Brown Thrasher nest reuse: a time saving resource, protection from search-strategy predators or cues for nest-site selection. *Condor* 101:859-862.
- Cavitt, J.F. 1999. Potential effects of increased predation risk on nestling House Wren quality and survival. *Meadowlark* 8:82-87.
- Cavitt, J.F., **A.T. Pearse**, and D.A. Rintoul. 1998. Hybridization events of *Sialia currucoides* and *Sialia sialis* in northeastern Kansas. *Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin* 49:21-25.
- Cavitt, J.F. and C.F. Thompson. 1997. Mass loss in breeding House Wrens: effects of food supplements. *Ecology* 78:2512-2523.