

Ryan Carle Biography

Ryan Carle is the Science Director at the conservation science non-profit Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge (www.oikonos.org). Carle has carried out bird research for nearly 20 years, working primarily on shorebirds and seabirds. Carle holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz (2007) and an M.S. in Marine Science from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (San Jose State University; 2014).

Carle is widely recognized as a hemispheric-leader on the research of Wilson's and red-necked phalaropes and has researched phalaropes at Mono Lake and throughout the western hemisphere, for eight years (2019-2026). Carle is a co-founder and current Chair of the International Phalarope Working Group (founded 2019), a co-author of the Wilson's Phalarope Conservation Plan 2.0 (2024), the lead author of the Birds of the World account for Wilson's Phalarope (2026), and was the primary author of the scientific proposal to list Wilson's Phalaropes as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (2024).

Carle's research at Mono Lake focuses on monitoring phalarope populations and habitat use and tracking phalarope migratory movements using nanotags. Carle organized a coalition of groups that has coordinated the timing of a series of phalarope population surveys across six major staging sites in North America annually since 2019, to evaluate regional population trends and phalarope use of the network of saline lake staging sites. Carle has also helped organize a coalition of partners to tag phalaropes across their range, from Canada to Argentina, to gather individual-level data on their movements for the first time. Carle has contributed to collaborative research on phalaropes throughout the hemisphere, including tagging campaigns in Canada and Argentina and leading the Chile section of the simultaneous survey of the Wilson's phalarope South American range (2020).

Carle also has a deep connection to Mono Lake because he was raised in the Mono Basin. In addition to research on phalaropes and at Mono Lake, while working with Oikonos, Carle has also led research, conservation, and habitat restoration efforts for a variety of seabirds in California, Washington, and Chile.