



the Grebe

Mission of The Friends
of Deer Flat:

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

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Volume 3, Issue 4

Fall 2008

Deer Flat NWR Centennial Trail Grant

Phase 1 Accomplishments

The Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Trail Grant Project is well under way. This spring the Friends group was awarded a Preserve America grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to research the history of Lake Lowell and Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, and to help build a new interpretive trail across the historic Upper Embankment.

In Phase 1 of the Centennial Trail Grant Project, Historical Research Coordinator Lauren Giebler and BSU Graduate Research Assistant Marc Frisk conducted historical research at the Idaho State Historical Society Archives; Canyon County Historical Museum, Caldwell, Nampa & Boise libraries, the Idaho State Law Library; the Bureau of Reclamation local and regional offices, and the Boise Project Board of Control offices. This research is being used to develop the interpretive panels for the Centennial Trail, write a historical pamphlet and a comprehensive historical narrative about the refuge, and create a historical refuge archive.

On June 30th, an oral history training session was held at the refuge Visitor Center. Attended by 7 people, this day-long session was conducted by Idaho State Historical Society Oral Historian Kathy Hodges. Project volunteers learned how to identify the scope of an oral history project, choose potential interviewees, write effective interview questions, and record oral histories. To date, two interviews have been officially recorded.

Lauren Giebler has also been working on building a refuge photo archive. The refuge has several hundred loose black and white photos taken between 1937 and the mid-1970s, as well as several hundred color photos taken between the 1970s and the late 1990s. Lauren is identifying, cataloging and archiving each photo, as well as scanning photos into a digital photo archive. Most of the loose photos are in excellent condition, and with proper archival storage will remain a wonderful historical source for the refuge for another one hundred years.

The Centennial Trail Grant Project is an on-going project with many volunteer opportunities. Volunteers may help record or transcribe oral histories, scan and label historic photos, or help with local historical research. In September, volunteers will be needed to help lay the foundation for the Centennial Trail. Free training is provided for all volunteer positions. If anyone would like to help with this project, please contact Lauren Giebler at 208-467-9278 or email lauren_giebler@fws.gov.

President's Corner

Wild goose, wild goose,

At what age

Did you make your first journey?

From the book One Hundred Poems From the Japanese by Kenneth Rexroth

I've begun to hear the endearing, yet plaintive call of the wild goose; Fall approaches, my favorite time of year. Another year of the Friends of Deer Flat draws to a close. It has been a year of accomplishment and challenge. Although our membership has increased to over 80 members, member involvement, from attending general meetings to participation in activities and events, has decreased substantially.

On Friday, September 5 from 9 AM to 3 PM, Marguerite Hills from Portland, Oregon, will be leading the Board and interested Friends members in a Goals and Short/Long Term Planning Workshop. Marguerite has years of experience working with Friends groups to revitalize them and help them progress through tough times by implementing exciting, productive, creative brain storming and problem solving. All members are invited to join the Board in this very worthwhile, important endeavor. It is free, no registration required; just bring a sack lunch and your enthusiasm and ideas. Please contact me by email or by phone if you would like more information.

Lyndell Jackson, President, waterfall@speedyquick.net, 459-4740

Did You Know?

Charles Sebree, (son of local businessman Howard Sebree), built a dance pavilion near the Lower Embankment. Completed one week before July 4, 1913, Sebree's pavilion sported a bandstand, a decorative wood dance floor, and a large wrap-around porch. The pavilion remained a popular tourist and recreation spot until 1928, when Sebree sold the building to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The pavilion was carefully dismantled and moved to the corner of Linden and Indiana in Caldwell, where it still stands today.



The dance pavilion in 1913



And the same building in 2008

Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

Goals and Short/Long Term Planning Workshop

Friday, September 5th, - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(see President's Corner on page 2 for more details)

Lecture Series

Tuesday, September 9th, - 7:00 p.m. - **TBA**

Weed Warriors

Saturday, September 20th, 9:00 to Noon at the Visitor Center

National Public Lands Day — Work day

Saturday, September 27th *(see page 4 for additional information)*

General Member Meeting

Tuesday, October 7th, 7:00 p.m. - **BioBlitz results**

Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 14th, 7 p.m. - **TBA**

Weed Warriors

Saturday, October 18th, 9:00 to Noon at the Visitor Center

General Member Meeting

Tuesday, November 11th, 7:00 p.m. - **Member potluck and annual elections**

Lecture Series

Tuesday, November 18th, 7:00 p.m. - **TBA**

Did you know...?

During the winter of 1811-12, a series of some 1,874 recorded tremors within the New Madrid fault in the southeastern United States dramatically altered the landscape over some 30-50,000 square miles, leaving Reelfoot Lake and eventually Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Tennessee in its wake.

The Flyer, July 25th edition

Membership News

...Please welcome new member

Bruce Schatz...

The Grebe is published quarterly for the members of the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge. If you have photos, stories, or other information for the Grebe, please email it to: idahobirder@hotmail.com or call 850-5885



Moonrise over the refuge while looking for owls and other nocturnal bird species.

BIOBLITZ 2008

And surveying bird species during the early morning hours near the lower dam.



Be a part of history! Help needed to install refuge historical trail

Mark your calendar for September 27 to help with an exciting Refuge and Friends project. In spring 2009, just in time to celebrate the refuge centennial, the ribbon will be cut on a two-mile trail interpreting refuge and reservoir history. The Centennial Trail is being made possible by the refuge history grant received by the Friends from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



The trail will connect the visitor center to the historic Upper Dam, and then continue across to the east end of the dam. The first part of the trail, from the visitor center to the dam, will be installed on September 27, National Public Lands Day.

Become a part of history by helping to install this trail. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Susan Kain at (208) 467-9278 or susan_kain@fws.gov for more information or to pre-register.

Local citizens at the dedication of the dam in 1909.
photo credit: Canyon county Historical Museum

Funding For Refuges Likely Stalled

The appropriations process, at least in the U.S. House of Representatives, is currently stalled and may not resume for the rest of the year. The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, David Obey (D-WI) has signaled that he is unlikely to move many appropriations bills, including the Interior bill which funds the National Wildlife Refuge System, by the end of the fiscal year, September 30th.

Instead, Congress is likely to pass a Continuing Resolution, or CR, before the fiscal year ends, funding refuges in the new fiscal year (FY09) at the same levels as this fiscal year until Congress can pass the spending bills. However, because this year is an election year, Congress may ultimately not pass FY09 funding for refuges until January.

The Senate Appropriations Committee could address the Interior Appropriations bill next week, but more likely, after the August recess. Even if the Senate and the House were to complete work on the bills and send them to the floor of each chamber for a vote, the President has vowed to veto any spending bills over his budget request for FY09, and it is likely these bills would indeed be over his request.

National Wildlife Refuge Assoc. July 25, 2008



Jim Holcomb of Friends of Deer Flat & Southwestern Idaho Birders Assoc., *Mike Morrison* of Golden Eagle Audubon and *Bob Christensen* of Friends of Deer Flat survey bird species during the 2008 BioBlitz.

BIOBLITZ 2008



Hundreds of birds can be found on the mudflats around the lake during the late summer.

OBSERVATIONS FROM “THE COOP”

Our new bird observation blind, “The Coop,” has now been in place near the refuge visitor center for almost one year. During this time, volunteers have faithfully kept several bird feeders stocked at the blind, attracting many species of wintering birds as well as spring migrants. If you have not yet been to the blind, we invite you to visit soon and help add to the list of birds observed at this local on the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.

For your information, we have included below a preliminary list of bird species viewed from the area of the “The Coop” since last fall. The first 60 birds on the list are those species documented by Brian Cooper during the month of October 2007 while he was constructing “The Coop.” Many of these same species were also observed during the winter months. If you observe unique or additional species, please send your list to Bob Christensen at rcloydchris@juno.com so that we can keep an updated species list for the observation blind. And don't forget to watch for the cottontails sneaking around through the underbrush.

We have recently mounted bird photos on the inside walls of “The Coop” of some of the more common species seen in the area. We hope these photos will help less experienced bird watchers identify the birds they see. We thank the several local bird enthusiasts who provided the majority of the photos. You will see their names credited on the appropriate photos.



For a list of the birds that have been spotted from the observation blind, turn to page 9.

Unusual Event for Friends

No meeting, no worries, hopefully, just a summer party for twenty-two Friends, to get to know each other, eat delicious food, sit back & relax and listen to innovative ideas on how to set aside and develop habitats, then to eat a little more, relax a little more and watch the evening's entertainment, the Canopy Caper, starring Al McGlinsky and Bob Blome in their attempts to capture the shade for the guests while avoiding the cool lure of the pool. The supporting cast of the cute girls in the pool, Maria and Eleanor Straight, made it all happen. A guest, Karen Ray, from WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED, located on the Overland Road in Boise, was present and talked about her successful endeavor to commit a canal bank to habitat, the work involved and the pleasure and satisfaction she receives every day. The owner of WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED, Julie Steele was unable to connect with us but, hopefully, can join us another time. A tour of the Blome's habitat and ponds quickly followed, as it was getting late and the bugs showed up early. We wish all members could have attended – how fun that would have been. Thanks to everyone for the excellent food and interesting conversations.

Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Deer Flat NWR - 2008

By Bob Christensen



07 March 2008

GULL ISLAND NEST –

(all observations through a spotting scope – distance about 1 mile)

9:00am - No evidence of any Bald Eagle on traditional nest, but I observed an adult eagle perched in cottonwood tree about 100 yards West of nest tree.

9:10am - Eagle left perch tree to areas unknown.

NARROWS NEST -

(all observations through a spotting scope – distance ¼ mile or less)

10:00am - Adult Bald Eagle on nest. Refuge staff reported adult on this nest earlier in the week and mate on perch pole to the northwest.

No other eagle in sight today.

17 March 2008

GULL ISLAND NEST

9:10am – Still no evidence of any Bald Eagle on traditional nest, but I observed an adult eagle perched in tall tree about 150 yards west of nest tree.

9:25am - Eagle still in perch tree. Several small birds (probably starlings) flying in and out of eagle nest.

QUESTION: Is this pair using a different nest site? Time will tell.

NARROWS NEST

10:00am - Adult Bald Eagle on nest facing South. Refuge staff reported seeing an adult eagle near visitor center earlier in morning, carrying a snake in its talons.

19 April 2008

NARROWS NEST

10:10am - Both Adult Bald Eagles standing on edge of nest.

10:15am - One eagle flew off nest to pole perch to the NW. The other settled down on the nest.

10:20am - Eagle on nest, changing position often and probing into bowl of nest. Good sign that there are (or is) young present. Mate remained on pole perch.

See page 8 for remainder of report

GULL ISLAND NEST

10:40am - Again, no evidence of any Bald Eagle on traditional nest. I observed an Adult bald eagle glide over nest area, headed into a NW wind.

11:00am – Eagle no longer in view.

SAME QUESTION: Considering that at least one adult eagle is still faithful to this nesting territory, is this pair using a different nest site that we have not detected?

NOTE: Todd reported he walked the area in the vicinity of the traditional nest, but could find not alternate nest site.

05 May 2008

NARROWS NEST

08:50am - One Adult Bald Eagle standing on edge of nest, shading at least one eaglet. I could see the eaglet flexing its wings and poking its head out from behind its parent.

09:00am – Adult eagle still shading its young. The eaglet had settled down behind the mother and was no longer visible.

GULL ISLAND NEST

9:45am – Leaves of tree have obscured view of nest. No bald eagles in sight.

NOTE: Assume no nesting success at this site, this year.

31 May 2008

NARROWS NEST

08:10am - One Adult Bald Eagle perched in tree adjacent to nest tree - yawning its beak. One fledgling eaglet lying in the nest. I could clearly see a fully feathered dark-brown head, a dark eye blinking at me, and a dark beak.

16 June 2008

NARROWS NEST

08:30am - No bird on the nest. Adult male Bald Eagle perched quietly in tree adjacent to nest tree. After a few minutes, the mother eagle flew in from the north—calling her alarm and seemingly very agitated about my presence. She circled the nest area then flew back and perched in a cottonwood about 100 yards north of the nest. She did this three different times.

08:45am - I finally caught a brief glimpse of the young bald eagle (fledgling) flying among the cottonwoods near the nest, while the parent birds kept an eye on me.

09:00am - Male still quietly perched near nest. Female still agitated --vocalizing her warning and displeasure. Fledgling hidden somewhere nearby among the cottonwoods



Fledgling Bald Eagle on Nest

BIRDS THAT HAVE FLOWN (by) "THE COOP"

OCTOBER 2007 – APRIL 2008

As Reported to Bob Christensen

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-Western Grebe | 39-American Pipit |
| 2-Clark's Grebe | 40-Ring-Billed Gull |
| 3-Eared Grebe | 41-California Gull |
| 4-American Coot | 42-Rock Pigeon |
| 5-Mallard | 43-Osprey |
| 6-Canada Goose | 44-Red-winged Blackbird |
| 7-Green-winged Teal | 45-European Starling |
| 8-Common Merganser | 46-Brewer's Blackbird |
| 9-Gadwall | 47-House Sparrow |
| 10-Spotted Sandpiper | 48-Ring-necked Duck |
| 11-Killdeer | 49-California Quail |
| 12-Western Sandpiper | 50-Horned Lark |
| 13-Mourning Dove | 51-Prairie Falcon |
| 14-Black-billed Magpie | 52-Pied-billed Grebe |
| 15-White-Crowned Sparrow | 53-Bufflehead |
| 16-Dark-Eyed Junco | 54-Bonaparte's Gull |
| 17-American Kestrel | 55-Lesser Scaup |
| 18-Cooper's Hawk | 56-Belted Kingfisher |
| 19-Red-tailed Hawk | 57-Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 20-Northern Harrier | 58-Long-Billed Dowitcher |
| 21-Northern Flicker | 59-Bald Eagle |
| 22-Downy Woodpecker | 60-Spotted Towhee |
| 23-Black-capped Chickadee | 61-Rough-legged Hawk |
| 24-Song Sparrow | 62-Western Screech Owl |
| 25-House Finch | 63-Fox Sparrow |
| 26-American Crow | 64-Lincoln Sparrow |
| 27-American Goldfinch | 65-Tundra Swan |
| 28-Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 66-Snow Goose |
| 29-Yellow-rumped Warbler | 67-White Pelican |
| 30-Golden Eagle | |
| 31-Western Meadowlark | |
| 32-American Robin | |
| 33-Great Egret | |
| 34-Great Blue Heron | |
| 35-Sage Thrasher | |
| 36-Barn Swallow | |
| 37-Rough-winged Swallow | |
| 38-Sharp-shinned Hawk | |

Long-billed
Dowitchers stop
at the refuge
during their
migrations in the
spring and fall.





**FRIENDS OF DEER
FLAT WILDLIFE
REFUGE**

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:

President - Lyndell

Jackson (459-4740)

Vice President -

Treasurer - Bob

Christensen (454-2518)

Secretary - Lynette

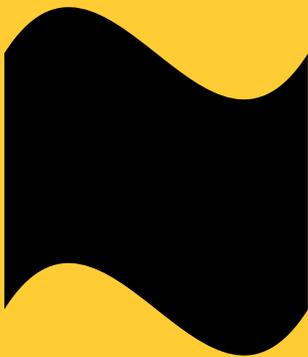
Wilfling (468-0506) & Lee

McGlinsky (465-0404)

*Membership - Lee Mc
Glinsky (465-0404)*

*Projects - Noreen Tripp
(468-0402)*

*Newsletter - Denise Hughes
(850-5885)*



To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in December 2008

Lecture Series Programs (7 to 8 p.m.)



Tuesday, September 9th

TBA

To find out the what the
monthly Wild About
Wildlife Lecture Series
topic, call the refuge at
467-9278

Tuesday, October 14th

TBA

To find out the what the
monthly Wild About
Wildlife Lecture Series
topic, call the refuge at
467-9278



Tuesday, November 11th

TBA

To find out what the
monthly Wild About
Wildlife Lecture Series
topic, call the refuge at
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