

# Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



## Volunteer Newsletter

August 2013

**What's New?** It's been another hot summer but we're still hanging in there! Water conditions are good in the middle part of the Refuge (units 3 and 4) where we have targeted nearly all of the available Bear River water. Much of the southern, western, and eastern portions are dry or nearly dry. During the August 13, 2013 water bird and raptor survey, a record number of Snowy egrets were counted, along with large numbers of Canada geese, over 20,000 ducks including Mallard, Northern pintail, Cinnamon teal, and Ruddy duck. Also recorded in large numbers were American white pelicans, White-faced ibis, Black-necked stilt, American avocet, and Franklin, Ring-billed and California gulls. Lower than usual were the raptors at just one Northern harrier and one Swainson's hawk.



## Thumbs-Up!

We want to say a big THANK YOU to our hard-working **YCC** kids who were here this summer! Volunteers, staff and YCC families toasted the kids' achievements at the YCC send-off party on August 9<sup>th</sup>. It's already much quieter around here without them and we miss them!



And while we're at it, it's already time to say another huge THANK YOU and to bid farewell to interns **Nikki and Andrea**. Nikki will be heading to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia where she will be working as an Environmental Educator and Andrea will be heading back to California State University to finish up her final year. It was a pleasure knowing and working with you, ladies. We will miss your smiling faces and dedicated work around the Refuge.

And finally, we are delighted to welcome **Nicole Prescott** to the Refuge as a permanent employee! Nicole graduated from Unity College and the Pathways program this spring. Since her arrival in July she has been busy leading the YCC crew. During the next couple months she will be helping out with all aspects of the Refuge including Visitor Services until December when she will start Law Enforcement Training. Congrats Nicole!



## Refuge Roundup

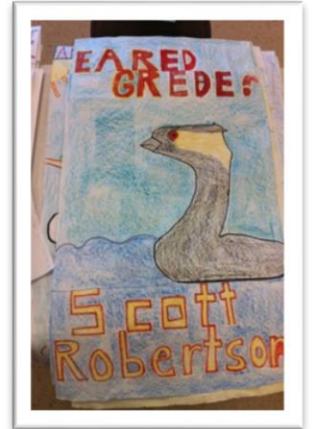
**Slow and steady**, the work on the L-line canal is coming along. Right now Refuge staff is busy tying rebar and preparing to pour concrete. If there is one good thing about having so little water this summer, it makes working on this project easier to pull off due to not having to divert water. Plus, the maintenance team has been short-staffed as Doug and our Fire Officer Tracy, are also pulling double duty working up to 10 days at a time on local fires. Thank you guys and stay safe.

## Odds and Ends

 **Teaching season** is upon us! The Visitor Services staff and Environmental Education volunteers are gearing up for another great year of education work with area school children. Soon the EE team will be headed up to Hardware Ranch to teach the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Katie is our Lone Ranger this year (get it?) so if you are interested in helping her out let her know!

 **Banners** that were displayed in Brigham City this summer are down and available for pick up. You can help children find theirs from the piles on the tables in the Teaching Lab. They are alphabetized by the artist's first name. Ten banners were chosen to be displayed over the Refuge boardwalk. They will be up until October 18<sup>th</sup>.

 Please continue to encourage visitors to enter our **Amateur Photo Contest**. Only 1 entry per category may be submitted and all photos must have been taken on the Refuge. If, while you are at the Front Desk, a photographer turns in photo entries, please put them in the box on Katie's desk. Deadline August 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities



 **WATERFOWLER BASICS.** On Saturday, September 21st, from 10am - 1pm, the Delta Waterfowl and the Refuge will host a day of free family fun to learn about waterfowl basics. Can you identify a duck from just a wing or a silhouette? Do you want to learn the proper set-up for decoys? Test out your duck call and review important safety regulations. Plus, there will be hunting dog retrieval demonstrations during the event. This FREE event is for everyone who wants to learn more about waterfowl. Want to help? Let Katie know!

 **STRUT YOUR STUFF.** The Refuge needs YOU to participate in the BRMBR float at Brigham's Peach Days parade on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September this year. Volunteers are needed to ride the float and walk the route. Get your "Royal" wave ready! For more information give Kathi a call.

## Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- Friday, August 30: **Amateur Photo Contests Entry Deadline**
- Saturday, Sept 7: **Peach Days Parade, Floaters needed!**
- Saturday, Sept 21: **Waterfowlers Basics with Delta Waterfowl**

### New items @ AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE!

Looking for a fun new gift? Look no further! The Avocet Corner Bookstore has lots of new items including this new game, "For The Birds," only \$13.95. This is a great stocking stuffer idea for early Christmas shoppers! **And don't forget – now is the time to renew your Friends of the Bear River Refuge membership! Help out the Refuge you love and get 10% off your purchases in the bookstore!!**

