

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

August 2014

What's New?

Summer is nearing its end, and so is the time for our interns and YCC crew. Doesn't it feel like they all just arrived? Evan, Noah, Caitlin, and the YCC all had their last day on the 8th, and their hard work and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

Noah is going back to Virginia Tech to finish up his last semester in Wildlife Science. Afterwards, he is hoping to get a job as a conservation officer with the state fish and game agency. **Evan** is heading back to Arkansas for his junior year at Henderson State University. He will be working as an orientation leader for incoming freshman, and then as a zoology lab assistant. **Caitlin** is graduating from Indiana University and will be working at Hardware Ranch WMA as a teacher/naturalist beginning in late August. **Andrea** will be headed



back to California on the 15th, to finish up her final semester in anthropology. Have no worries though—she will be back again in January to work with the Visitor Services program.

We wish all our summer interns the best of luck in their bright futures, and hope to see all their faces again.

Our deadline for the amateur photo contest is approaching! Submissions need to be in by August 30th, either by e-mail, CD, post, or dropped off at the front desk. We have some stand-out entries so far, and look forward to seeing the rest of the submissions. We are eager to share some of the entries once the winners are decided.

Thumbs-Up!



Our very own **Brian Ferguson** has been taking some beautiful shots out on the refuge. His stunning photo of a baby Great Blue Heron (pictured left) was the #3 retweeted post on twitter for the whole US government. Brian's "Black-necked stilt" photo was #1.

The refuge and volunteer **Craig** were featured on a visitor's blog. They gave a small write-up about the refuge, giving praises to Craig and a wonderful experience. Check out their July 31st entry at seniorrvadventure.blogspot.com.

Refuge Roundup

The baby birds on the refuge are growing up with fervor, and look more like their parents each day. You can still find young broods of grebes, coots, and ducks in the units around the auto tour route. The refuge bird counts have been revealing some impressive numbers of bird species—we have above average numbers of both LESSER YELLOWLEGS and SNOWY PLOVERS. Keep your eyes peeled for both of them along shorelines of shallow waters.

Bird banding is still up and running! The group managed to capture and band a total of 16 cinnamon Teals on a single night! This number is higher than the total cinnamon Teals banded on the refuge in the last two years. Be sure to give Howard, Greg, and Karl a mighty congratulations on a job WELL done!



The YCC is finished with their work term, and we couldn't have completed this with a better crew or leaders. The kids gained a variety of experience, varying from managing invasive plants, painting the bunkhouse, fixing the fence and boardwalk, goose banding, and an 2-night camping trip at a fish hatchery in Vernal. Because of them, our refuge is as shiny and new as ever, and we hope they all enjoyed their time here as much as we enjoyed having them. We will miss their can-do attitudes and upbeat personalities. Thank you YCC!

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Our education programs are just starting to kick in once again for the school year. Be sure to mark your calendars with the following dates:

August 30: Amateur Photo Contest Entry Deadline

September 1: Labor Day—Visitor Center is CLOSED

September 6:

Peach Day Parade – 9:00 A.M. – Noon

The refuge will be participating in the Peach Day Parade this year. We will have an airboat in the parade with our mascot Honkers, the blue goose. Please get in touch with Kathi at 435-734-6438 if you'd like to help out.

Youth Waterfowl Event – Noon till 3:00 p.m.

Katie will be in charge of the youth waterfowl event this year. This free event is a conjoined effort with Delta Waterfowl that will offer free fun activities for the youth. Please call Katie at 435-734-6436 if you'd like to help.

September 13:

Utah Waterfowlers Youth Fair – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Farmington Bay Wildlife Management

Area. If you'd like to help with this festival promoting the Refuge and the Junior Duck Stamp contest, please call Kathi. See the Utah Youth Waterfowl Festival website for more information:

<http://utahwaterfowlfair.com/>