

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



Volunteer Newsletter

December 2012

What's New?

While you're working this month around the Wildlife Education Center, you may notice a few new ducks "flying" around. We recently received a donation of several duck and owl mounts to be used for educational purposes. We are in the process of hanging several of them around the building to enhance the exhibits and classrooms.

Tis the season for cleaning and organizing! As a result, we have found many interesting magazine articles. We've cut out several stories that you may enjoy reading about Refuge bird species, bird identification and more. The binder can be found in the right next to the Volunteer bulletin board in the Volunteer Center. Enjoy!



Thumbs-Up!



This month we'd like to say **Thank You** to all of you, our fabulous volunteers for spreading the word about our great Refuge. Over the past month we've had many visitors come and visit WITH you or mention that they came to visit because they were friends of volunteers. So keep up the great work of telling your friends and families about all the fun things happening on the Refuge.

This month we'd like to **Welcome** a new volunteer to our team, Mike Guyant. Mike is the husband of existing volunteer, Lori Guyant, and is thrilled to finally have time to be volunteering at the Refuge after 26 years as an Engineer. Mike and Lori are both originally from Indiana and have been in Utah for almost 4 years now. We're excited to have Mike working with us on several projects including helping plan our RV pads for seasonal visiting volunteers!

Refuge Roundup

Weather has remained mild for most of the end of November and beginning of December, and water levels are still all at winter targets in Refuge units. That said, bird migration has been interesting over the past weeks. Swan numbers on the Refuge were down this year, possibly due to the mild weather and/or to lower vegetation levels caused by the drought earlier in the year. But duck numbers are still up with a lot of pintails, teal and wigeon, along with the arrival of winter diving ducks such as goldeneye, bufflehead, redhead and canvasback. Bald eagles are starting to be seen, as well as a few rarities such as a female Greater Scaup (pictured) and a Mew Gull!



In the spirit of the season – here are a couple of holiday – themed riddles to enjoy!

1 - If an athlete gets Athlete's foot – what does an Astronaut get?

2 - What do Santa's elves learn in school?



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities



❖ December 27: **CBC4Kids! (Christmas Bird Count for Kids)**

The Refuge will be hosting its 3rd annual CBC4Kids or Christmas Bird Count for kids. This fun, citizen science event is modeled after Audubon's adult Christmas Bird Counts that take place nationally on the weeks between the holidays. To get more youth involved, we will again be asking for youth volunteers (and their families) to help us count on Thursday, Dec. 27th, from 9 – Noon, and then submitting all our data to the Refuge and eBird. Pre-register by calling Katie at 435.734.6436.

❖ January 12: **OWL DAY**



Hoot, hoot! "Every 2nd Saturday" events kick-off soon with Owl Day! Owl Day will be celebrated on Saturday, January 12 from 10 am – 3 pm. We will have owl crafts, owl movies AND a live owl presentation at 11 am from our friends at the Ogden Nature Center. There will also be some fun and education owl pellet dissection going on in the teaching lab. As this event is always one of our busiest, we will definitely be looking for some **volunteer help** for the day, so if you are interested and available...let us know and join us for the fun!

❖ January 23: **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON!**

As the New Year approaches, so does our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon! This is the day were we say a big THANK YOU to YOU – all our volunteers for all your many hours of great help here at the Refuge. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, January 23 for a great day. We'll start with a showing of the new film WATERSHED, produced and narrated by Robert Redford, at 11am, with Lunch at about noon and Volunteer Awards to follow!

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- Dec. 19: Christmas Bird Count *w/ Wasatch Audubon*
- Dec. 24 & 25: Merry Christmas *(we're closed)*
- Dec. 27: CBC4Kids!
- Dec. 31 & Jan. 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR *(we're closed)*
- Jan. 12: OWL DAY!
- Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Day *(we're closed)*
- Jan. 23: Volunteer Recognition Banquet!



Avocet Corner Bookstore: *New items for the holidays!*

The Friends' Avocet Corner Bookstore has some fun new items with fresh new designs, just in time for the holidays! There are some new t-shirt designs and colors, as well as a snazzy new camouflage hat.

Happy Holidays

Here is wishing all of our volunteers, friends and families the warmest of holiday seasons and a Happy New Year!