

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



Volunteer Newsletter

December 2013

What's New?

Congratulations to our photo contest winners who were officially announced during our Turkey Days Open House in late November. The photo at the right is the "Best of Show" winner from Wayne Watson called, "Weasel with Baby." We received a record 111 entries this year. Ranger Katie remarked, "The judges found it extremely difficult to choose between so many beautiful, diverse and creative photos!" All volunteers are welcome to enter so be on the lookout for the 2014 information sheet on the website or the front desk and get out and take some photos!



Also, we have become very active on our Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr accounts. Come join in the fun with us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and Instagram!



Thumbs-Up!

This month we'd like to say **Thank You** to all of you, our fabulous volunteers for making this waterfowl hunting season as smooth as possible by answering questions, checking swans, and even taking newbies hunting with you (Brian Ferguson!). Swan season is now over, and over 100 swans were checked at the Refuge this year, which is still only about 1/3 of last year's number.

Also this month we'd like to **Welcome** our new seasonal volunteers, Frank and Josee Kee. They are excited to be here to start a new chapter in their travels, after spending 2.5 years volunteering in Patagonia. Frank hails originally from California and Josee grew up in Quebec, and have been traveling together for 18 years. We're excited to have them here to join our Refuge family and help in a variety of areas!



Refuge Roundup

With this relatively early cold snap, most of the units on the refuge have iced over, but there is still plenty to see out there! Winter raptors have been spotted in large numbers. On a recent trip, Jennifer Bunker reported 20 Rough-legged hawks, 6 Bald eagles, one Golden eagle, and many Northern harriers all in one day! Some hearty ducks will stick around for the winter and a few songbirds as well. Feel free to take the auto loop and see them for yourself, but be cautious when driving this winter! We expect to get a lot of snow this year, which would be great for our water, but watch for road conditions before embarking on any journey.



Heads up! Be sure to check out our special holiday hours this year. We've closed a few more days than we were last year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities



January 11: **OWL DAY**

We are starting our 2nd Saturday events again, and Owl Day will be held on Saturday, January 11th from 10 am – 3 pm. There will be a live owl presentation at 11 am, provided by the Ogden Nature Center! Additional activities will include making an owl puppet, watching owl movies, dissecting owl pellets, and owl story time. We would highly appreciate any additional volunteers for any of our 2nd Saturday events, so if you are available, please contact Charlotte. Even if you just want to come and enjoy with your friends and family, we would love to see your smiling faces!

❖ January 15: **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON!**

We hope to see all of you at our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon so that we can tell you exactly how much we appreciate all you do for the Refuge! We literally could not do everything we accomplish without your help. So come in and enjoy appetizers at an **11 am social hour**, followed by a banquet catered by Tumbleweed BBQ starting **promptly at 11:30 am**. After lunch, there will be a **herpetology presentation from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm** to teach us about Utah's reptiles and amphibians including salamanders, newts, turtles and more!



Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- Dec. 18: **Christmas Bird Count** w/ *Wasatch Audubon*
- Dec. 24 - 29: **Merry Christmas (we're closed)**
- Dec. 30: **Wildlife Education Center Open**
- Dec. 31 & Jan. 1: **Happy New Year (we're closed)**
- Jan 2: **Wildlife Education Center resumes regular hrs**
- Jan. 11: **OWL DAY 10am-3pm**
- Jan. 15: **Volunteer Recognition Banquet! 11am-3pm**
- Jan 25: **Desert video created by Promontory School**
- Feb. 8: **EAGLE DAY 10am-3pm**
- Mar. 8: **SWAN DAY 10am-3pm**



Avocet Corner Bookstore: New items for the holidays!

The Friends' Avocet Corner Bookstore has some great new items just in time for stocking stuffers for the animal lover in your family. Hurry before Santa comes and cleans us out!