

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



Volunteer Newsletter

July 2014

What's New?

We are happy to welcome two new members to the YCC! After previous back-ups declined, our alternatives, **Bernadine Hammond** and **Cody Roper**, accepted our offers for a position with the YCC and began work July 14th. We are excited to have them both.

We have another new volunteer as well, **Allen Livingston**! A recent retiree from Weber State, he comes from Ogden with a desire to spend more time in the great outdoors. He has visited the center in the past and found it to be a wonderful place. We are so grateful to have him! Be

sure to give him a warm welcome when you see him. With this wonderful news, we are saddened to lose SCA intern **Charlotte**, who has been with us

since November. We wish her the very best on all her endeavors and adventures, of which we are sure she will have many. Thank you, Charlotte, for all your hard work and dedication.



Submissions are now being accepted for the Amateur Photo contest. There are 7 categories: bird life, other wildlife, animal behavior, landscape/habitat, sunrise/sunset, creative nature, recreation/education, and our special category: grebes! Please spread the word about the contest and refer to the flier at the front desk for the rules and guidelines. Entry deadline is Aug 30th.

Thumbs-Up!

Our wonderful volunteers deserve a big **THANK YOU** for their help preparing for the project leader's meeting. Despite the frenzy the week before, we had a very successful and smooth week for the meeting! We do so appreciate your work representing the refuge and USFWS.

Refuge Roundup

The refuge has been buzzing with activities and events. Several volunteers, workers, and the YCC assisted the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources with the Canada goose banding project. This is the best time to band the geese, as the adults molt their flight feathers and are unable to fly while raising their young. The group banded over 550 geese at the refuge, and we are eager to learn more about their migration patterns and behaviors. Great work!



Howard and his intern Noah will be spending much more time out in the field and on the refuge. They have begun setting up for Cinnamon teal banding project; this project will consume most of their work for the rest of the summer. We hope to learn more about population demographics, which will then help determine proper and appropriate conservation strategies for one of our smallest dabbling ducks.

The guided auto tours on Saturday have been a great success. Our tour guides have been receiving excellent reviews in their performance evaluations, and the visitors are returning from the tour eager to share all the birds they saw. These tours are going on for the rest of summer, and time is running out! Be sure to schedule a reservation if you haven't already. As one visitor remarked, it is, "**Perfect. A real treat!**"

Summer is making its mark on the refuge, bringing heat and babies galore! Baby stilts, avocets, coots, teals, mallards, gulls, and grebes are all being sighted, so keep your eyes open. Plenty more parents are still anest. Keep cautious while driving the auto loop; little babies don't always know to move out of a vehicle's way. The extreme heat is causing the water levels to decrease, which has created many areas of shallow waters. This makes for an excellent time to see the shorebirds.



Black-necked stilt, one of the refuge's priority species, can be seen displaying their grace and beauty, adults and babies alike. The stilt babies are off and about, displaying remarkable running and foraging abilities just two hours after hatching. They return to the nest site for rest, but are mighty and independent creatures. They are semi-colonial when nesting, grouping together to fend off threats and predators. Find them along the shores of shallow water. Thank you, Judy Baum, for this adorable photo of a baby stilt.

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

- Every Saturday at 10AM: Guided Auto Tours (call to make a reservation)
- Wednesday July 23: Wetland Wings Pre-K Program (salamanders) (full)
- Wednesday July 30: Wetland Wings Pre-K Program (birds)
- Thursday August 7: YCC Potluck: Presentation/Luncheon – volunteers invited!
- Friday, August 30: Amateur Photo Contest Entry Deadline

News from the AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE!

We have a whole bookshelf full of new items to check out in our bookstore, including stuffed animals, books, glasses, and butterfly science kit! One book called "The Adventures of Pink Floyd: The Flyaway Flamingo," tells the true story of a flamingo escapee from Tracy Aviary who migrated to and from our very own refuge for 17 years.

We also have some new Bear River mugs and glasses to enjoy a cup of hot coffee or tea in while also supporting and representing our refuge.

