

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

May 2013

What's New?

Canada goose broods are out and about on the Refuge. Forester's terns, American avocets, and Black-necked stilts are sitting on eggs, and Cinnamon teal pairs are on nearly every corner. The Yellow-headed blackbirds are honking a clamorous welcome and White-faced ibis are everywhere.

Unfortunately, water is not everywhere! Our water situation is similar to 2012, meaning many of our units will be going dry this summer. Unit 3 hosts a wide variety of nesting birds and is our top priority to keep full. We are also working to keep water in the center unit of the auto tour loop. The 'silver lining' to having less water this summer is that we will be able to treat many acres of phragmites this summer. The Maintenance and Biology staff are working hard on birds surveys, habitat and water management to help us understand where to put our limited water.



Important changes taking place this season: In addition to the new Boy Scout folders, we now have a new SCOUT SCAVENGER HUNT. This special scavenger hunt was designed just for scouts to use around the Exhibit Hall. Every Boy Scout folder now comes with a Scavenger Hunt. Please give these scout folders away to Scouts that visit the Refuge. You will find these folders in the volunteer closet, straight back, about eye level.

Starting Monday June 10th, all phone calls will be coming to the Front Desk again. All Front Desk volunteers need to be re-oriented to answering the phones and directing the caller to the proper staff member. Training will occur in 2 phases: individually with Kathi and during Volunteer Trainings held on June 7th and 8th.



Thumbs-Up!

We are pleased to announce that Ruben Davila is graduating from Box Elder High School. Unfortunately, this means he is leaving his position here. Ruben has worked with the Visitor Services Team for almost a year as a Pathways student. During his time Ruben has translated many handouts into Spanish, led Scout programs and completed a host of other project. A big THANK YOU goes out to Ruben and GOOD LUCK as he starts college in the fall at Weber State. Ruben will still be around this summer, serving as a Youth Leader for our YCC crew this summer.

Refuge Roundup *New faces around the Refuge this summer*

As summer begins we are welcoming new faces to the Refuge. Nicole Prescott was here last summer, and is returning to be the Crew Leader for our Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program this summer. Speaking of YCC, the Refuge will again host 6 local youths for an 8 week conservation job, starting June 17th. The YCC crew members are: Ruben Davila, youth leader, Gloria Hammond, youth leader, Emily Bradford, Kayla Bass, Jordan Merrill and Spencer Schow. Also new to the Refuge are Andrea Johnson and Nicole Szostak. They will be here from the end of May through August and will work mainly with Law Enforcement and Biology, respectively.



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

❖ **May 29th and 30th: Bird Banner Party** It is time for the Refuge's annual Bird Banner Contest! After school on May 29th & 30th nearly 100 students will be visiting the Education Center to recreate their winning drawings into poster-sized banners. These banners will decorate Main Street Brigham City this summer. We could use a couple of volunteer helpers each day, so please let Kathi know if you are interested.



❖ **June 7th or 8th: Volunteer Training 10am to 12noon**
Specially for you all, our wonderful volunteers, Kathi is hosting a 2 hour volunteer refresher. This training will serve as a Front Desk refresher and bring you up to speed on how to answer the phone and direct a call to the proper staff member. Please plan on attending 1 of the 2 sessions. Make sure to let Kathi know which session you are attending.

❖ **June 18th: CPR and 1st Aid Training: 9am to 3pm**

Join our Law Enforcement Officer Greg Mullin for this fun and life-saving course. Many of the staff, plus our new YCC crew will be participating. This class is highly recommended for all education and front desk volunteers. Let Kathi or Katie know if you are coming. Bring a lunch.



Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- ❖ May 16 – 20: Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
- ❖ May 27: Memorial Day (building is closed)
- ❖ May 29 & 30: Bird Banner Parties
- ❖ June 7 & 8: Volunteer Training
- ❖ June 10 – 14: Nature Art Camp
- ❖ June 11: Bob Ebeling's Volunteer of the Year Celebration!
 - Join us at 7pm at the Wildlife Education Center
- ❖ June 18: CPR and 1st Aid Training



AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE

Check out two new bird guides focusing on Raptors! First there is a 'quick and easy' fold-out guide, pictured at right. Or check out the more complete guide to birds of prey, *The Crossley ID Guide to Raptors*. Stop by the Avocet Corner bookstore and take a look.