

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

November 2013



What's New?

Many migrants are on their way in now that fall is officially here. The Great Salt Lake Aerial Tundra Swan count has just passed 22,000 and rising. Ducks such as Ruddies, Mergansers, Mallards, Pintails, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Redheads, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, and Gadwalls are being spotted all across the refuge. Raptors in residence include Rough-legged hawks, Red-tailed hawks and of course, Northern Harriers (no Bald Eagles yet!). There are still plenty of hanger-oners including Pied-billed Grebes, Clarke's Grebes, Eared Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, a few Pelicans, and Great Blue Herons, many of whom will stay the winter with us.



Do you recognize this Red-tailed pair? They've been resident in the Swainson's old home near the Visitor Center for about 3 weeks now. They appear to be a dark-morph adult and a fledge-year juvenile. They were recently observed peaceably sharing a meal in the field directly west of the Center. According to "Birds of North America," rarely, first year Red-tails will stay with a parent for up to 6 months after fledging. We will watch and see what happens with this pair!

Thumbs-Up!

Thumbs Up to our front desk volunteers who are now filling the feeders twice a week. A big thanks to Gil and Jennifer for taking the November shift and another big hug to the Wasatch Audubon and Walmart for donating enough seed to keep the feeders stocked for the entire winter. Help us make sure our feathered friends are fed and comfy throughout the winter! The sign-up is on the front desk. Thank you!



A big **Thank you** to our newest volunteer, Jeremy Freshwater. Jeremy has been driving the Auto Tour for years and has recently made the leap to volunteering. He will help out at the front desk on Saturdays, plus helping Katie with some outdoor projects. Welcome Jeremy!



Another special **Thumbs-up** and "We'll Miss You" to Nicole Prescott. After spending the summer and fall with us, Nicole headed off to FLETC (also known as the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center) on Friday the 8th. She will spend nearly 7 months in training and in the end will be a fully qualified Law Enforcement Officer for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We are so proud of her and know she will do great!

Refuge Roundup

With the departure of Jack just a short six months after Jason left, we have experienced many changes; accordingly staff duties have changed. As many of you know, Katie's role is changing quite a bit, as she will be leaving much of her Visitor Services roles behind and working much more on habitat management. She is excited to be spending more time on the Refuge and finally getting the chance to use her degree. In addition to moving into Jack's old office space, Katie is no longer the go-to person for Environmental Education or teachers looking to schedule programs. Please send those calls to Kathi or Charlotte.

Odds and Ends:

- 🦢 Its Swan season. There are many staff members who can check swans including: Katie, Kathi, Howard, Mark, Mindy, and Sharon. Just come and find one of us!
- 🦢 We are now **grazing cattle** around the Wildlife Education Center. The cattle will start along West Forest and gradually be moved south in the coming weeks. The Wetland Walk and Marsh Meander trail will be closing when the cattle reach that section. We will keep grazing updates at the Front Desk. **CAUTION: we are using electric fence. Please do not approach the fence.**



Electric Fence



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

🦢 Saturdays in November: **Free Fall Films continue!**

Three more showings in our FREE Fall Films series! Saturdays in November, we will be showing a family-friendly movie about the great outdoors. The films are Nov. 16 @ 1pm: Ravens, Nov. 23 @ 1pm: Fly Away Home, Nov. 29 & 30 @ noon: My Life as a Turkey

🦢 November 29 & 30: **Photo Contest Awards & Turkey Day Open House**

And even though the Refuge will be closed on Thanksgiving . . . it will be OPEN for an Open House on Friday and Saturday, November 29th & 30th. There will be information aplenty on turkeys and animal tracks, kid's crafts, and at 10am and noon both days, a free showing of "My Life as a Turkey" in the Auditorium. Plus, the prizes for our **2013 Amateur Photo Contest** will be awarded on Saturday at 1:00pm in the auditorium. We hope you can join us!

🦢 Every 2nd Saturday in 2014: **Owl Day, Eagle Day, Swan Day...oh MY**

As the holidays are nearing, it is already time to start thinking about our events in 2014! We will again be having four big events on the second Saturday of each month, January through April: Owl Day, Eagle Day, Swan Day and Sense of Wonder Day! We can surely use a lot of volunteer help on each of these days, so if you are able to check your calendar and sign-up to help now...we'd greatly appreciate it.

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- **Saturdays in Nov: Free Fall Films**
- **Nov. 28: Thanksgiving** (we're closed)
- **Nov. 29 & 30: Turkey Days** (we're OPEN)
- **Dec 18: Refuge Christmas Bird Count**
- **Dec. 24 - 26: Christmas** (we're closed)
- **Dec. 27, 28 and 30 :** (we're OPEN)
- **Dec. 31 & Jan. 1: Happy New Year** (we're closed)
- **Jan. 2 Open for regular hours**
- **Jan. 15: Volunteer Recognition Banquet!**

Avocet Corner Bookstore: Shop at Home again!

The bookstore is again participating in the Box Elder county Shop At Home program...so dollars spent shopping here during the holidays count toward filling up your Shop At Home card! The bookstore also has great Christmas ideas! Check it out during your next visit!

