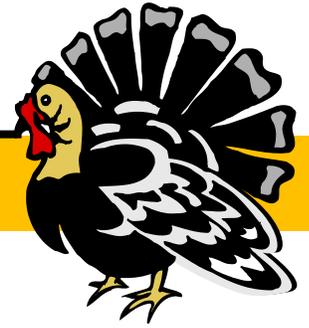


Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



Volunteer Newsletter

November 2014

What's New?

It's been a while, so let's catch up! We have recently welcomed two new SCA Interns Jen Christopherson and Alyssa Stegmaier! Jen is from Utah, working on her Master's in Natural Resource and Environmental Science and will graduate this December. Alyssa is from Kansas, and was most recently working at Tracy Aviary in SLC. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Natural History and a minor in Photography. We had a very successful National Wildlife Refuge Week October 12-18th and would like to thank our volunteers who donated their time to help us out!



Alyssa and Jen

Thumbs -Up!

Here is a big **Thank You** to Tracy Gilson our Bookstore Manager who headed up the 2014 Photo Awards Contest and Ceremony! It was very successful! We had a total of 86 entries, 20 people entered, 230 voted for fan favorite, and 125 visitors that day. Judges had a difficult time picking the winning entries. Best of show was John Zaker's 'Baby Grebe' and fan favorite was Jana Cisar's 'I Am Weasel'. We would like to thank our volunteers who participated with the photo ceremony and the activi-



Refuge Roundup

Hunting and water update: Hunting is in full-swing now and Greg is doing an amazing job out on the refuge and answering the billions of questions that visitors have for him! There will be lower water levels near the wetland units near Perry, in preparation for a prescribed burn that will help manage the invasive plant species 'phragmites'. This **WILL** affect the boat launch water levels. However, the results will produce a more desirable native plant species that will provide additional food and cover to wild birds. At the time of printing, the refuge is 80% frozen!



As the season starts getting colder, we are seeing more swans! If a hunter arrives for a swan check, please contact any one of the many staff that can check swans, including, Howard, Katie, Kathi, Jen, Alyssa, Mark, Mindy, Greg, and Sharon. And as always, if you get hunting or management questions you cannot or are uncomfortable answering, please feel free to forward them to Management.



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities



◆ November 28th and 29th: Turkey Days Open House

Thanksgiving is just right around the corner! Even though the Refuge will be closed on Thanksgiving, it will be OPEN for our Turkey Days Open House on Friday and Saturday November 28th and 29th. There will be turkey information, turkey crafts, and at 10 a.m and 12 p.m. both days, a free showing of “My Life as a Turkey” in the Auditorium. If you would like to help in these events please let us know, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- ◆ **Nov. 11: Veterans Day (CLOSED)**
- ◆ **Nov. 27: Thanksgiving (CLOSED)**
- ◆ **Nov. 28 & 29: Turkey Days Open House (OPEN)**

Another special Thumbs-Up and “We’ll Miss You” to Frank and Josee Kee who helped in the Bookstore, the front desk and many other various areas in the Refuge! We also had a very successful Mountain Wilds to Wetland Wonders teaching season and would like to thank Les Talbot for all his hard work! We would invite any others who would like to participate in environmental education to join the fold.

Creature Feature: Long-tailed Weasel



Our creature feature for this month is the long-tailed weasel, *Mustela frenata*, that can be found on the refuge. This little guy is pretty tolerant of human presence, and is found throughout Utah. Their dens are found in abandoned burrows of other animals, or under brush and rocks. These little fellows are typically nocturnal. Spring is the time when females may produce anywhere from one to twelve young! These little guys like to munch on small rodents, although insects, birds, and other animals are also eaten. These critters sport a brown coat with light-coloring on their bellies, but turn in their brown coats for white ones come winter time.

A couple of gobblers to giggle over:

1. What do you get when you cross a turkey with a banjo?
2. What key has legs and can't open doors?



1: A turkey that can pluck itself! 2: A Turkey