

# Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



Volunteer Newsletter

June 2015

## What's New?

The breeding season is well under way at Bear River Refuge! June bird survey highlights included one Western Wood-pewee, two American Green-winged Teal, two Caspian Terns, two Spotted Sandpipers, and sightings of Long-billed Curlew, American Coot, and Western Grebe fledglings. As you explore the refuge during the next few weeks, keep your eyes peeled for fledglings and let us know what you find! Be sure to also watch and listen for Grasshopper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Western and Eastern Kingbirds, Horned Larks, Yellow Warblers, and Song Sparrows.



## Bird Banner Party!



Bird Banner week involved a lot of preparation by Andrea, Kathi, Alyssa and all our wonderful volunteers who helped. There was 855 entries. The participants came from local schools including Three Mile Creek, ACYI, Century, Discovery, Foothill, Lakeview, Mountain View, Snowville and our Nature Art Campers. Ages ranged from Kindergarten up to sixth grade. All entries were birds of North America and were interpreted by the artists. Banners will be hung in City Hall and along Main Street in Brigham City June 15th-July 17th. Keep a look out for these fantastic works of art!

## Volunteer Spotlight—Brian Ferguson: Assistant Ranger Naturalist

Did you know Brian Ferguson spent 37 years working with the Southwest and Intermountain Regions of the U.S. Forest Service? He began his volunteering hours at Antelope Island State Park at the Fielding Garr Ranch. From 1984 to 1989 he was a volunteer for the Rancho Grande Estates fire department. Brian continues to volunteer at the BRMBR and Antelope Island because he believes they are two of the greatest jewels of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem. “The diversity of wildlife I encounter and the experiences I have while volunteering gives me the opportunity to share my knowledge with visitors from around the world”. Additionally, Brian enjoys doing the monthly general bird survey on the refuge with his wife, Linda, who also volunteers.



# Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ May 30th-August 28th: Summer Saturday Tours 10:00 am
- ◆ June 21st: HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!
- ◆ June 22nd: Youth Conservation Corps Arrives!
- ◆ June 22nd: CPR Training Course 8:00 am-12:00 pm
- ◆ June 23rd: First Aid Course 8:00 am- 12:00 pm
- ◆ July 3rd: CLOSED - Happy 4th of July! (Open Sat. July 4th)



Thank you volunteers and staff for your excellent customer service and engagement with visitors! We have received a five star rating from TripAdvisor!



## June Goose Wrangling

June 10th was an exciting day for our SCA's interns. Sara, Jen and Alyssa were able to assist with goose banding from airboats. This was a neat opportunity that involved our biologist Howard Browers and a large group from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. UDWR is participating in a three year study to see if banded Canada geese are being targeted by hunters. The three year study will compare harvest rates of the black banded geese vs. control banded geese (normal aluminum USGS bands). It also helps in tracking where Utah geese migrate. Many findings show Utah geese go to other places for their migratory breeding molt. As a group we were able to band several hundred geese, while having a ton of fun!

## Environmental Education Wrap-up!

The Environmental Education team has finished up this year's teaching season. It was a busy nine months for our team. Through onsite, offsite and outreach programs, our team will have educated approximately 10,000 people. We want to give a big shout-out to Alyssa for coordinating and leading teaching programs. We also want to thank Jen, Andrea, Les, Kathi, and all those who volunteered at our event days, for their excellent help with our EE programs.



## Creature Feature: Snowy Plover

- Plovers are listed as near-threatened due to loss of habitat.
- Their habitat includes, levees and flats at salt-evaporation ponds, alkaline or saline lakes, reservoirs and ponds.



## June Jokes

1. Why are there no seagulls by the bay?
2. What do sheep do on a sunny day?
3. What do frogs like to drink on a hot summer day?

1: Because then they would be bagels 2: Have a Baa-baa-cue 3: Croak-o-cola