

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



Volunteer Newsletter

December 2015



What's New?

Come visit the Refuge to see our new polar bear exhibit and learn about climate change. Read about how climate change is affecting wildlife and habitat.

Did you know that there are approximately 20,000-25,000 polar bears left in the wild? They are not endangered, but they are a species of concern. Polar bears need sea ice for access to food and denning areas. The sea ice is rapidly melting due to climate change. Come compare your hand to a polar bear paw, or take a photo with a polar bear radio collar on at the Wildlife Education Center!



New Hours:

We will re-open after the holidays January 5th, 2016. The Wildlife Education will be implementing new hours for the New Year. The visitor center will be open from Tuesday thru Friday 8am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. We will be closed Sunday, Monday, and all Federal Holidays. As we enter a time of budget cuts and staff reductions, we appreciate your patience and your support.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Daniel Hunnel is our newest volunteer. He was born in Santa Ana, California, but grew up in Brigham City. He is a sophomore at Weber State University majoring in Zoology. His favorite animals are orcas and burrowing owls. He enjoys playing videogames, hiking, camping, and attending concerts. His favorite place to visit is Yosemite National Park. He enjoys watching action movies like Lord of the Rings. Daniel is a great addition to our front desk staff!



Newsletter Alteration:

Look for a different newsletter next month! We are changing to a quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to increase awareness of the great opportunities going on at the Refuge. This will help us reach a broader audience, and encourage community engagement.

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

- Dec. 24th-27th: Christmas Break—CLOSED!
- Dec. 31st-Jan. 4th: New Year's Eve—CLOSED!
- Jan. 18th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day—CLOSED!
- Jan. 27th: Volunteer Recognition Day—11:30am-2pm
- Feb. 15th: President's Day— CLOSED!



Volunteer Recognition Day—January 27th, 11:30am –2pm(ish)

Come celebrate and recognize those individuals who have contributed to the Refuge. Biologist, Howard Browers, will be giving a presentation on his recent bird banding trip to Ecuador! Additionally, a delicious luncheon will be provided. We deeply appreciate all our volunteers and hold this day in honor of those who have given so much of their time and efforts to make the Refuge a better place. Please RSVP to Jen at 435.734.6457.



Biology Update:

The Refuge is mostly frozen. We've had a cold snap with lows of 11-15 degrees! Most of the waterfowl is moving south for warmer weather. The rough-legged hawks, loggerhead shrikes and northern harriers hunt the Refuge now. Many of these birds of prey can often be spotted sitting on road signs, railings and sign posts.

Creature Feature: Bonaparte's Gull

- * The only gull that regularly nests in trees
- * Named after Charles Lucien Bonaparte who made important contributions to American ornithology
- * Eats small fish and large invertebrates
- * Bonaparte's gulls have a slate-gray head, small black bill, and bright orange-red legs and feet



Sassy Santa:

1. Who is Santa's favorite singer?
2. What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is lit?
3. What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas?

