

Western Nevada Wild



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Summer is Here!

With the weather starting to warm up across the Western part of Nevada people are starting to take their days off and use them up outdoors. Just being outdoors has lasting positive effects on both children and adults. Whether you are sitting on a flat rock listening to the Truckee River, or you are hiking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains you are soaking in the benefits of Nevada. It is the goal of the Nevada Department of Wildlife to try to educate the public on being good stewards of our environment, and try to show the public how to receive the maximum benefits from our great state. It is our hope in the Wildlife Education program that we can somehow try to reach each and every outdoorsman or woman in some way. We have begun to publish this quarterly newsletter in an effort to expand our reach, and hopefully our contact information to interested people. Please enjoy the spring newsletter and contact us if you have any questions about what we offer in NDOW's Wildlife Education programs.

THANK YOU!

Check out NDOW on
Facebook and Twitter.



River Wranglers

River Wranglers is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving, exploring and celebrating Nevada Rivers. Once a part of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension community outreach, River Wranglers is directed by Linda Conlin, long time Nevada resident and community organizer. Funded by a grant from the Carson Water Subconservancy, Western Nevada RC&D and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Conlin works with students in the Carson River watershed.

"I love working with kids in outdoor settings," says Conlin. She delights in training high school students to mentor elementary kids, a win-win situation because when high school students teach, they learn the subject well. Elementary kids love working with their



high school mentors and many exclaim that their field trip to the river with River Wranglers is "the best trip ever!"

Students do projects in bioengineering, working with local conservation groups. They harvest willows, bundle them and anchor them on bare banks...banks that now have lush stands of willows stabilizing the soil. Students wrap trees to protect them from beaver damage, build wood duck boxes and bat houses, all this in addition to water chemistry, looking at aquatic insects and learning about the watershed.

To learn more about River Wranglers go to www.riverwranglers.org



Outdoor Activity

Summer is a great time to get outside with so much going on. At Oxbow there's a goose nested high up in a hawk's nest and we've seen quite a bit of activity with the mink, beavers, and muskrats. Deer have been spotted both at Verdi and Oxbow and the birds are busy preparing for the warmer weather. While out, have the kids try a nature treasure hunt. See how many of the following they can find:

1. Find three different shapes of leaves. Bring them home and draw them.
2. Find an animal home above your head.
3. Find an animal home under the ground.
4. Find something in nature that starts with the first letter of your name. Now use the names of your friends and family.
5. Find a walking stick that's just your size.
6. Stand still and be very quiet for a moment. How many birds can you hear? What other sounds do you hear?

Connecting Children with Wildlife

By Jennifer Cassady

The Connecting Children with Wildlife program is off to a great start with over 200 kids experiencing the outdoors and exploring Nevada wildlife. So far we've had fun with field guides, discovered life under river rocks, studied habitats, enjoyed watching deer, and investigated wild evidence. It's so rewarding to see the kids learning with their friends and families through hands on experience while getting their shoes dirty and their hands in the water.

Coming up in our series of family trail hikes we have amazing adaptations, batty bats, and a special presentation about owls by Amy Leist from the Great Basin Bird Observatory. Each

event is designed for the elementary student and their family. There will be a short presentation incorporating games and projects as well as a nature hike.

Visit us at the Verdi Nature Center inside the Verdi community library on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

You can also come see us at the Oxbow Nature Study Area on the third Saturday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and on the third Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please dress for the weather and prepare to have a wild time.

Wildlife Feature - Canada Geese

This most common of North American geese, the Canada Goose is often misnamed "Canadian Geese" or "Canadian Honkers." These large birds migrate south in late fall and north in early spring. With a distinctive call, Canada Geese are often heard long before they are actually seen.

The Canada goose has a long black neck and head with a white band on its cheeks that runs under its chin like a strap. It has black feet and a light tan body with lighter brown or white under its tail. Its black bill has lamellae, or teeth, around the outside edges that are used as a cutting tool. Males and females look alike, although females are usually a little smaller than the males.




The Canada goose can be found in a wide variety of habitats including lakes, bays, rivers and marshes. It often feeds in open fields and grasslands. On land, the Canada goose eats

a wide variety of grasses, including salt grass and Bermuda grass. It uses its bill to yank the grass out of the ground. It also eats corn, rice and wheat. In the water, the Canada goose sticks its head and upper body under the water, stretches its neck out and uses its bill to scoop up food from the mud and silt.

Canada geese migrate in large V-shaped formations. They migrate at a slow pace. Male Canada geese can be very aggressive they will often attack predators with their wings and bill.

Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in  boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

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BEAREV

							
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LARDALM

							
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KABCL REAB

											
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CORNAO

					
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KSNUK

				
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MIKN

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NIOBR

				
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LOW

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TUTRO

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HARCYSIF

							
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Solution:

Muskrat, beaver, mallard, black bear, mountain lion, raccoon, skunk, mink, robin, owl, trout, crayfish, Truckee River

Contact Us

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