

The Adventures at Face-Plant Pond

- J. Duxbury

Spring 2000

With the daily chores finished, the staff went for an evening stroll to search for spring migration rarities. Many of the ponds in the natural area are completely drained due to the arid conditions this spring. In an attempt to cross a small pond which looked dry in the darkness, Tyler soon found out the difference between drained and dry. The mud was thick and grabbed its victim quickly. Struggling to keep his momentum going, Tyler unfortunately lost his balance and pitched forward onto his face. The mocking laughter coming from Charles soon faded when the mud took hold of its second victim, Charles' boot. Richard "New Guy" Krikun and I sat back, took pictures and watched the "veterans" entertain us.



After making such a sacrifice, at least we managed to see some good birds up close: Semi-palmated Plovers, Dunlin, Lesser Yellow-legs, Killdeer, American Avocets and Solitary Sandpipers. The darkness also hid us from flying ducks and it was a thrill to have Green-winged Teals zip by only feet from us.

All in all, I think it was worth the effort. We were just glad Tyler had a change of clothes because he stank of slough mud. The pond is now aptly named "Face-Plant Pond" by Charles. Off to a great start this year!