**YOUTH VOLUNTEERING**

There are many interesting learning opportunities for children at the banding station. It is important to remember that the safety of the birds and volunteers is our top priority. Children ages 10-14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. The parent or guardian is responsible for direct supervision of the child, including accompanying the child on every net check. Kids ages 15 and older may volunteer without parental or guardian supervision with the permission of the station manager and their parent/guardian. It may be possible to find a mentor to accompany a youth if the parent or guardian is not available. Please contact April at April.HardingScurr@aksongbird.org if you are interested in finding a youth mentor. Youth volunteers will be trained to open, close and check nets, extract birds from the nets, bird safety in regards to banding, recording data and other volunteer duties as assigned by the station manager. In order to help youths stay focused, only one youth is allowed at the banding station per shift, and it is recommended that children 10-12 only volunteer for half shifts. Please sign up for youth volunteering on our regular volunteer calendar, found on our website. Please put the word ‘youth’ by your name.