



The *Stilt*

Volume 36, Issue 6
Summer 2007

Newsletter of Bridgerland Audubon Society

Help Birds Make It Safely to Their Summer Breeding Grounds

Each year from March to June, 5 billion birds in North America – including songbirds, hummingbirds, raptors and others – make their way from their winter homes in the south to their summer breeding grounds in northern areas. Their migration is wrought with perils, such as storms, limited food supplies, and exhaustion. Compounding these natural threats are the ones created by humans, including the bright lights and tall structures of cities, prowling domestic pets and toxic lawns.

People can provide a safer journey for migrating birds, especially when the birds stop in their yards and communities for rest and food. The Audubon At Home program urges people to take the following steps to help ensure a successful spring migration for our feathered friends:

- Turn off lights at night: Birds become disoriented by artificial light, which often results in fatal collisions with buildings, homes, and other structures. To prevent this, turn off exterior and interior lights during the peak

migration hours of midnight to dawn. Outfit exterior lights with top and side shields to direct the light downward, where it is needed. If you work in a high-rise, advocate for “lights out” during migration season.

- Prevent window collisions: Many birds strike windows after being startled off a feeder, seeing escape routes mirrored in reflective glass. To avoid this, reduce reflectivity with light-colored shades, blinds, or drapes; place netting or a screen in front of the window; or stick decals closely spaced to the outside of windows. Place bird feeders either within 3 feet or more than 30 feet of windows – at 3 feet birds do not have an adequate distance to reach a high speed and are less likely to get injured. At more than 30 feet birds are more likely to recognize the window.

- Keep cats indoors: Cats – domestic, stray, or feral – kill an estimated hundreds of millions of birds each year. Ground feeding birds,

such as cardinals and quail, as well as young, immature birds, are the most vulnerable. Keeping cats indoors helps keep the birds outdoors safe, and it also reduces risks to cats, especially from injuries and disease.

- Eliminate pesticides: U. S. households use 102 million pounds of pesticides in their homes and gardens annually, which kill several million birds each year when the birds ingest tainted insects, seeds and other food sources. Use the least toxic alternatives for combating pests.

- Keep feeders stocked and clean: Birds will need places to rest and refuel, so make sure that your yard includes native plants and your bird-feeders are well-stocked. Along with feeders and native plants, provide a source of fresh water for the thirsty travelers. Adding a drip to a bird bath or pool greatly increases its attractiveness to migratory birds as it adds

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Chapter Notes

BAS Announces Its Annual Awards for Conservation and Education

BAS is pleased to announce its 2007 Awards for Conservation and Education. The awards were presented at our annual spring banquet, held April 26 at the Coppermill.

The 2007 **Allen W. Stokes Conservation Award** was given to **Issa Hamud, Logan City Environmental Director**, on behalf of Logan City, for his tireless work to establish Logan City's outstanding recycling program. This program, now in its tenth year, collects an average of 290 tons of recyclables per month from residential customers, representing 4 percent of the total solid waste. In addition, the city operates a separate collection for green waste, which represents another 9 percent of the total. The effect of diverting these two components is understated, however, because they account for almost 20 percent of the volume – and it's volume that fills the landfill. By separating recyclables, green waste, and construction debris (a relatively clean waste that

doesn't even require ground water monitoring), the city has already extended the life of the landfill by over 1-1/2 years. In addition, the city operates a recycling center at the landfill for residential hazardous wastes, including tires, used oil, unused pesticides, computers, TV sets, herbicides, paint, batteries, and other chemicals. Recycling saves energy, prolongs natural resources, and prevents environmental contamination. Dr. Stokes would have been proud of such a strong environmental ethic growing in the halls of our own Logan City.

The 2007 **Carl M. Johnson Education Award** was given to **Bill Masslich, partner in the Cache Valley Learning Center**, who in 1996 left the world of environmental consulting to earn his teacher certification and dedicate himself to expanding the knowledge of our youth. Bill soon landed a position as a teacher at the Cache Valley Learning Center, a private school started in 1992. In 2005,

Bill became a junior partner in the school, and he and his wife, Penny Trinca, along with Tim Slocum and Ann Desjardins, expanded the school by purchasing the former Head Start and Logan Business College building on 100 South in Logan. The Cache Valley Learning Center now enrolls 84 students and is one of the most prestigious private schools in the valley. Bill's boundless enthusiasm for science and discovery – witnessed by his focus on hands on outdoor experience – makes indelible impressions on every youth passing through his classes. His commitment to ensuring that our children find their own passion for the natural world is one of the key prongs in the attack on nature deficit disorder. Bill's work is an outstanding example of what Carl Johnson stood for, and we're pleased to welcome Bill Masslich as this year's award recipient.

Audubon Calendar

Summer 2007

June

5 Board of Trustees Meeting. BAS Trustees meet at 7 p.m. this Thursday at Cache Valley Learning Center, 75 S. 400 West, Logan. Enter through the building's west doors. All are welcome to attend.

16 High Country Birding and Wild Flowers. Local bird and wildflower expert Reinhard Jockel will lead us to some very interesting habitat high in Logan Canyon to enjoy both the flora and fauna to be found there. Reinhard knows this part of the canyon extremely well and is an expert on both the birds and the wildflowers in this area. Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 N.). Bring binoculars, water, insect repellent, and a lunch. Hiking will be moderate, so dress accordingly. We will return by mid-afternoon. For further information, call Buck Russell at 512-9641.

30 Spring Creek Canoeing and Birding. Come bring your canoe or kayak and explore the Little Bear River and Spring Creek. There will be a chance to observe numerous ducks and shorebirds, with the possibility of seeing barn owls and great blue herons. Bring a lunch and something to drink and plan on spending approximately 3-4 hours paddling on the river and through associated marsh areas. Only basic canoeing or kayaking skills required. Meet in the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 East 150 North) at 7 a.m. Saturday. Trip will be led by Dave Liddell. Please feel free to contact him if you have any questions (davel@cc.usu.edu, 435-881-3120).

July

7 Tony Grove Wild Flowers and Birds. This is an annual event led by native wildflower expert Reinhard Jockel. Reinhard is a true expert on native flora. If you have never been on this trip, you owe it to yourself to come, and if you have already been, you will probably want to come again. We will take a slow-paced walk around the circumference of the lake. Reinhard will describe the flora, and he and others will describe the birds and other fauna. Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars, water, a picnic lunch, and plan to have a great time. We will plan to be back by mid-afternoon. For more information, call Buck Russell 512-9641.



If you'd like to come along on a field trip but do not have binoculars, call Buck Russell (435) 512-9641. He'll try to find a pair for you to use.

14 Antelope Island and the Causeway. At this time of year the causeway to Antelope Island is loaded with migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, and the island itself is packed with migrating songbirds. Come join us as we observe this event. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring a picnic lunch or plan to purchase a burger or something at the snack stand on the island. Bring binoculars and a scope (if you have one). We will return in mid afternoon. For more information call Buck Russell at 512-9641.

August

11 Perseids Meteor Shower and Perhaps Owls. Come spend an evening exploring the summer skies. We will travel to a dark sky site off the Tony Grove Lake road and spend the time from sunset till the wee morning hours looking at the splendors of the summer milky way. The Perseid meteor show will also be taking place this evening. Several telescopes will be set up. Bring a lawn chair, telescope and binoculars if you have them and dress warmly. Meet in the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 East 150 North) at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Please contact Dave Liddell (davel@cc.usu.edu, 435-881-3120) if you have questions.

25 Tony Grove Geology. Come experience awesome geology, beautiful wild flowers, and numerous warblers. USU geologist Dave Liddell will talk about the geology of the Tony Grove area and lead a hike around the lake. For the more adventurous among you, there will be a visit to a cave located high above the lake. Please note that helmets and lights are required to visit the cave. Also, the hike to the cave is short, but strenuous. Meet in the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 East 150 North) at 8 a.m. Saturday. Feel free to contact Dave if you have any questions (davel@cc.usu.edu, 435-881-3120).



Remember that gasoline is still very expensive, so if you are carpooling with someone, please remember to ask if you can help defray the cost of your driver's gasoline.

Help Birds Make It Safely to Their Summer Breeding Grounds

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noise and movement. Reduce the risk of spreading disease at feeders by regularly cleaning them with a nine-to-one water-bleach solution, or a dilute vinegar solution (three-to-one) or non-fragranced biodegradable soap.

For more information on how to keep birds safe, visit the Audubon At Home website at www.audubonathome.org (go to the "Keeping Wildlife Safe" link on the left-hand side of the page).

Welcome to BAS

New Members

Mrs. Ruth P Carter
Mrs. Rebecca Huffman

Renewing Members

Jaron Livingston
Mr. Theodore J. Kindred
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Livingston

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

2004-2007 Dave Drown, 752-3797; Jack Greene, 563-6816; Reinhard Jockel; Stephen Peterson, 755-5041
2005-2008 Jim Cane, 713-4668; Richard Mueller, 752-5637; Dick Hurren 435/734-2653; Jennifer Hoffmann, 713-4935
2006-2009 Ron Goede, 752-9650; Bret Selman, 435/257-5260; David Liddell, 245-2705

Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

President Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net
Vice Pres. Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bill@cvlc-logan.org
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Treasurer Susan Drown, 752-3797, drown@cc.usu.edu
Wetlands Alice Lindahl, 787-1594, faalice@cc.usu.edu
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Sanctuary Jim Cane, 713-4668, jimcane@cc.usu.edu
Conservation Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, bdixon@xmission.com

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Stilt* invites submissions, due on the 15th of each month. Send to stilt@bridgerlandaudubon.org.

National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to contribute to Audubon and receive the Bridgerland Audubon newsletter, *The Stilt*, and the *National AUDUBON* magazine, as a:

_____ **New** member of the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon.

My check for \$20 is enclosed (this is a special first-year rate).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



Please make all checks payable to National Audubon Society and send with this card to:

National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001
W-52 Local Chapter Code: 7XCHA

National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this, please check this box.

Note to new National Audubon members: To get on *The Stilt* newsletter mailing list without the usual 8-week delay, contact Susan Durham, 752-5637, sdurham@cc.usu.edu.

Prefer the local newsletter only? Send \$20 (make checks payable to Bridgerland Audubon Society) and this form to: Bridgerland Audubon Society, PO Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501 for a subscription to *The Stilt*.



The Stilt

Newsletter of Bridgerland Audubon Society

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Visit our website: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org>

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