



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 12, No. 8

June 1984

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JUNE

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Planning meeting  
 7:30 p.m. NRB 112B.

Evening Trip to  
 Green Canyon.  
 See inside article.

Monthly meeting, speaker: Dr. R. Shaw,  
 7:30 p.m. at Logan Library.

Field trip, Fossil Fish Butte,  
 Wyoming. See inside article.

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This will be the last issue of the *Stilt* for this academic year. A big thank you to all who have contributed articles. Have a good summer and see you in the fall.

## MONTHLY MEETING FOR JUNE

The color and diversity of our local flora will be the subject of the monthly meeting to be held at the Logan Library on Thursday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Richard Shaw, USU botany professor and photographer will show some of his excellent wildflower slides and discuss their pollination. Additionally, Dr. Shaw will provide some information on the local habitats in which certain wildflowers species occur and how to effectively photograph them.

## MONTHLY PLANNING MEETING

The BAS monthly planning meeting for June will be on Tuesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in room 112B of the Natural Resources Biology building on the USU campus. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come.

## EVENING TRIP TO GREEN CANYON

An easy stroll along Green Canyon and a half-mile climb on the Preston Valley Trail to hear hermit and Swainson's thrushes, canyon wren and others. Then just as darkness arrives hear the rarely seen poorwill. Leave at 8:15 p.m. from the University Radio Tower. Return by 10 p.m., Thursday, June 21. Dress warmly in case of canyon winds. All welcome and no advance reservations needed.

## SUMMER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 30 — FOSSIL FISH BUTTE, WYOMING. This will be a real treat as geologist David Liddell takes us to this world-famous quarry where we can work over the tailings of shale for fish fossils—the kind one sees as wall hangings. Dave will point out other geological features en route and depict the vast seas that once existed here. Travel by van, for which a charge of \$6/person. Bring hammer and cold chisel, lunch, water and dark glasses. Advance reservations required. Call 752-2702. Limited registration. Leave at 7:00 a.m. from University Radio Tower. Return by supper.

Saturday, July 7 — BIRDING IN BENSON. This will feature nesting of yellow-headed blackbirds, marsh wrens, and coot. Good chance of seeing sora and Virginia rails, phalaropes and many other water birds. Leave at 8 a.m. from the University Radio Tower at 12th East and 7th North and at 8:10 from southwest corner of Grand Central Parking lot. Return by noon.

Thursday, July 12 — AN EVENING ON LOGAN MARSH.

This will be an easy canoe trip starting from the boat landing on Valley View Highway west of Logan and going as far as the large nesting colony of ibis, snowy egrets and night herons. Geese, cranes, terns, waterfowl and gulls featured. Leave from Logan Library at 6 p.m. and return by 9 p.m. Advance reservations required, call 752-2702. Charge of \$3/person for those not having canoes.

Saturday, July 28 — WILDFLOWERS AND BIRDS OF TONY GROVE LAKE. Enjoy the profusion of wildflowers on a leisurely walk around the lake and campgrounds. Masses of blue penstemon, scarlet paintbrush, columbine, elephant's head, and many more. Birds include white-crowned sparrow, siskin, mountain bluebird, western tanager, olive-sided flycatcher. Leave from the University Radio Tower at 8:30 a.m. Take lunch and return by early afternoon. Wear good hiking shoes. Those wishing to stay later can hike toward Mt. Naomi and see Williamson's sapsucker and experience the coming of a second spring as they climb higher! No reservations required.

## REPORT ON THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD MEETING, GREENWICH, CONN. May 3-6, 1984.

The Audubon board met at the Audubon Nature Center in Greenwich. This had the dual benefits of cutting costs to both staff and board members since most of us stayed at the Center's simple, but comfortable, lodgings. The Center itself includes some 120 acres of oak-beech-hickory second growth forest recovering from what had some 40 years before been pasture and farmland. The surroundings are spacious estates that in toto provide superb habitat for deer, raccoon, possum, fox and a myriad of birds. Say what you will, it is the wealthy tycoons of New York who have preserved more fine wildlife habitat on these estates than any other single effort.

The newly-formed Chapter Relations Committee of the board spent an entire day in the New York office going over the entire process of handling memberships. The board came away with the highest confidence in the way that Carmine Branagan has handled this matter with our Membership firm Neodata in Boulder, Colorado. Carmine has worked long hours and days with Neodata so that now she is satisfied that it can turn out reports on memberships to our chapters that meet their satisfaction. Neodata admitted its failure to realize the complexity of Audubon's memberships and thinks it has licked the problems. If chapters wish to receive credit for recruiting new members they should make sure to use the specially color-coded application cards—ones with borders and not those found as inserts in *Audubon*. These will be available from Chuck Warner.

Board members will attend all of the ten regional conferences held this year and act as sounding boards to relay members' and chapter concerns back to the board. Cecil Andrus, Bart Rea and myself will attend the Boise meeting.

Audubon's all-out effort to stop funding of the Garrison Diversion bondoggle in North Dakota is in full gear. Donal O'Brien, chairman of the board, has by his own efforts raised \$300,000 for this endeavor. Each board member received a special packet on Garrison with information about the voting records of their senators. It will take a turn-around of votes from 15 senators to stop Garrison. If any of you know either of your senators by all means talk to them, or ask your friends who know them.

I spent a full day with the Scientific Affairs Committee going over a report on the Society's Research program made by

a team of four eminent scientists for Audubon. The report was generally very supportive of Audubon's involvement in research. It did feel that in recent years there has been a serious lack of publications in scientific journals such that few scientists or Audubon members are aware of what Audubon has been doing with such species as the whooping crane, Atlantic puffin, reddish egret, wood stork and California condor. Steps are being taken to correct this in the next year.

We were treated to a preview of "The World of Audubon," the first of its hour-long TV shows to be aired by Turner Cable TV starting this fall. This pilot program is now being shown to a few select large corporations that we hope will act as sponsors.

After much back and forth Audubon's youth education program is going forward on two fronts. "Audubon Adventures" will have an insert in each of the six issues a year *Audubon Action* devoted to youth with suggested projects they might undertake. Coupled with this is the effort now started to have chapters work with specific schools or teachers to provide resources and speakers on whatever expertise they can provide. The second thrust is the OWL TV program being made jointly with the Canadian Young Naturalists Federation of Toronto. Our energetic and ever so persuasive Chris Palmer feels confident he can find sufficient sponsors to fund monthly programs throughout the school year.

In order to start up new projects the board approved the dropping of several old programs. The Audubon Film Series has been a steady drain on Audubon despite heroic efforts to get more chapters and communities to use this program. Others to be dropped include Audubon Art, the traveling exhibit of endangered wildlife previously supported by Celanese Corp., the extensive library at the national office, and the film-making department that over the years has produced several fine films including one of the puffin and on the Chilkat bald eagles. It is felt that Audubon can make these films better using outside producers. The position of a senior vice-president left vacant by resignation will not be filled.

All in all I felt that Audubon is doing well. If any of you readers have concerns about Audubon relay them to our Regional Veep Bob Turner and he will see that they get to National office and eventually to the board.

*Allen W. Stokes*

## BEAR RIVER CANOE TRIPS A GREAT OUTING

The canoe trips held May 26 and 27 were in midsummer weather and superb birding. Over 60 persons enjoyed the five-hour trip between Trenton and Amalga, including parties from Salt Lake City and Ogden. With the river at flood stage it was possible to take numerous shortcuts as well as explore various backwaters. Shortly after pushing off from Trenton Bridge on Saturday we spotted a skunk ambling along unconcernedly on the shore; the Sunday group saw a beaver dive at close range and later a muskrat swimming nearby. Our traditional stop at Shaw's Landing (ask Dick Shaw how this got it's name) turned up a few morels and lots of droppings of Canada Geese where they had been grazing. Because of the high water we were able

to paddle right beneath the nest of a great horned owl with several nestlings in downy plumage huddled down inside the converted magpie's nest. The two adults perched nearby in the tall willows.

The Swainson's hawk was nesting in its usual place where we stopped for lunch and chance for fellowship. Afterwards we took a little narrow passageway off the river so we could approach the large great blue heronry at close range. There were young in some nests and on Sunday the adults seemed to be staying close to the nests, perhaps to shade the young. Two deer swam across the Bear River just 75 yards above us, announcing their approach and departure from the riverbank with loud splashing.

The high water over the past two years has forced most of the beaver out of their traditional bank dens and into building beaver lodges amongst the willows at what had been once the river's edge. We saw three such lodges and probably missed others. Those missing this trip should plan on next year for a memorable experience.

## BIRD STUDY COURSE

Allen Stokes will teach a course on Bird Study the week of July 2-6. The course will consist of five hour-long lectures spaced over one week with optional field trips scheduled to give the participants opportunity to see the concepts presented in actual practice. Topics will include migration, territory, courtship and mate selection, nesting, and parental care. Lectures will be at 9 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center. This course is suitable for all ages above 12 years and no previous knowledge or field experience with birds is necessary. Cost of the course is \$20 payable at the Information Desk at the University Center. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for further details.

## MEMBERS SIGHT MORE THAN 150 SPECIES OF BIRDS IN CACHE COUNTY

Three more Audubon members received their Audubon shirt patch for having identified more than 150 species of birds in Cache County. At last count both Kirk Williams and Alice Stokes had seen over 160 species. Fred Wagner has seen 150 species. Kirk has been birding for just one year. His latest rare sighting was a black and white warbler in Smithfield Canyon. Birders should report their totals to Mike Tove or Al Stokes.

## FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee anticipates doing some trail maintenance and/or development this summer, possibly around Tony Grove Lake (in conjunction with the nature trail development) or at Limber Pine. As this is our last newsletter before summer, anyone interested in helping on this project should call Steve Flint (752-9102, home) or (750-2474, work). We will get back in touch with you as our plans progress.

*Steve Flint*

## THE GRIZZLY BEAR PROJECT

National Audubon now has people in both the National and Regional offices working on grizzly bear recovery. Currently they have a very successful program of issuing rewards to people supplying information which results in the conviction of grizzly poachers, but donations are needed to replenish the fund. Checks, payable to National Audubon Society, should be sent to Grizzly Fund, c/o Amos Eno, National Audubon Society, 645 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

## AUDUBON YOUTH PROGRAMS

The National Audubon Society is sponsoring a nationwide Audubon Youth Program with the purpose of aiding our youth in understanding and appreciating the environment. Audubon Youth Clubs will be formed in five sponsored classrooms in Cache Valley.

The target population for this program will be youngsters in grades 4-6, with materials written for a fifth grade reading level. The focus of the program will be a bimonthly newsletter called *Audubon Action*, which will be a supplement to *Audubon Action*. Feature articles and activity suggestions will encourage the students to become more involved with nature. A sponsored teacher will receive the bimonthly materials for the entire classroom, along with the student membership cards, and club buttons for each child. Twice annually the teacher will receive a leader's guide full of ideas, activities, and background information on the upcoming semester of materials in the youth supplement.

Bridgerland Audubon is allocating funds to sponsor five teachers; there is no cost involved for the school or staff. Volunteers will work with the teachers and visit the sponsored classrooms.

The Education Committee is in the process of identifying which teachers/schools will be selected for the youth program. Letters and questionnaires have been sent out to elementary school principals in Cache Valley (thanks to Diane Behl), in hopes that we may select interested and enthusiastic teachers. If you would like to work with an elementary school classroom this next school year, please call Betsy Neely (753-3763).

*Education Committee*

## NEWS RELEASE

National Association for Environmental Education  
International Conference 1984  
Chateau Lake Louise, Banff, Alberta, Canada

Environmental educators from North America and around the world will gather at Chateau Lake Louise, in Banff National Park, Alberta, from the 5th to the 9th of October. The theme of the meeting will be "International Perspectives on Environmental Education," and presenters from many countries are confirmed. Speakers who have agreed to attend are coming from Africa, Asia, Australia, the Middle East,

Canada and Europe and will address the conference themes of global futures, the World Campaign for the Biosphere, environmental education planning, and environmental education programs around the world.

Environmental education lies at the core of efforts to try and improve and maintain world environments. It is the long-term approach to dealing with environmental problems. This meeting will give participants an opportunity to learn how environmental education is being done and what the needs and opportunities are. Such education must be done in a range of settings, schools among them, and conferees will explore ways to address educational goals outside as well as inside formal educational settings. Members of environmental organizations are especially invited, for their opportunity to promote environmental education is great.

Registration for the full conference is \$75 or \$35 for a day. Room and meal expenses will be \$45 (U.S. funds). To register and for further information, contact NAEF, P.O. Box 400, Troy, Ohio 45373.

## PROTECT HUMMINGBIRDS

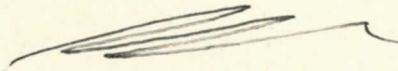
The following notice appeared in the February 1984 newsletter of the Ornithological Societies of North America:

"The Missouri Department of Conservation has drawn attention to the death of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds from red insulators on electric fences in that state. Electrocutation apparently occurs when a bird alights on the electric wire and probes its bill into the hole in the red insulator (as in a flower). Insulators in other colors, probably less attractive to hummingbirds, are available. Please alert landowners of this problem."

We pass this information on to you via the Washington Field Office of The Nature Conservancy, in hope we might prevent a similar misfortune to the high density population of Rufous Hummingbirds we enjoy on Vashon.

*- Joseph Van Os Nature Tours*

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Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in Room 215 of the Business Building, Utah State University.

Membership is gained by joining National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, New York 10022. Annual dues: \$18.00 student, \$25 individual, \$32 family: included is a subscription to *Audubon* (6 issues).

Members are encouraged to submit original articles to the *Still*. The editor reserves the right to edit as needed and select suitable articles for publication.

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Please make checks payable to: National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022. Check the membership you desire. All members receive bi-monthly issues of *Audubon* magazine.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This is:  a new membership  a renewal

- Individual \$30.00 a year
- Family \$38.00 a year
- Sustaining \$30.00 a year
- Student \$18.00 a year
- Contributing \$100 a year
- Senior Citizen \$21.00
- Senior Citizen Family \$23

Bridgerland Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 3501  
Logan, Utah 84321

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