

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in Room 202 in the USU Food and Nutrition Building at 7th North and 12th East.

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Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as to *Audubon* magazine.

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

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National Audubon Society

CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

How Do I Join?

(We thought you would never ask.) Just complete the following application and enclose a check for the amount for the appropriate type of membership. Send it to:

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84321

Check membership category desired.

- Individual / \$30 (H)
 Family / \$38 (J)
 Student / \$18 (K)
 Senior Citizen Individual / \$21 (N)
 Senior Citizen Family / \$23 (P)
 Please bill me Check enclosed

Name _____

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THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 14, No. 1

September 1985

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

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

14 September (Sat): Shorebirds at Amalga Barrens — Leave at 8 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's Parking Lot at 8th North and Main. Return by noon. This trip to the shorebird hotspot of the valley is always good for surprises, as not only shorebirds but many other species of water birds are visible. Spotting scopes will be available, as well as expert birders to help you sort out one shorebird from another.

28 September (Sat): Hawk Migration Atop the Wellsvilles — Leave from Logan Library at 8 am. Return by late afternoon. Transportation available. The Wellsvilles are probably the best place to observe hawk and eagle migration in northern Utah. Up to 300 individual birds have been counted in a single day. This is a 3,000-foot climb to the ridgetop on a fine trail, but count on 2½ hours to reach the lookout. The view alone is worth the climb. Bring warm clothes (for it is often windy), lunch and water. If there has been an early snowstorm, bring footgear suitable for the climb. Call Al Stokes if you have questions about the trip.

LOCAL MEETINGS, PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

September (Fri): World of Audubon on TV — Award-winning Audubon program at 7:35 p.m. (Eastern Time) on WTBS.

September (Sat): Spawning of Kokanee Salmon — Leave from Logan Library at 4 p.m. and return by 7 p.m. Bring picnic supper and water. Transportation available. A fishery biologist will be on hand to tell about the history and life cycle of the bright red salmon which spawn in the Little Bear River above Porcupine Reservoir, where we'll be taking our field trip.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5-7 October (Fri. through Sun): Elk bugling in the Tetons — This is our most exciting and popular trip of the year. Hear and watch the huge bull elk bugling as they challenge other bulls for access to the cows. Try your hand at calling and stalking elk on Timbered Island. There will be chances to see pronghorn along Mormon Row where the old bucks will be defending

their harems; watch the tiny pika store its winter hay crop at the Gros Ventre Slide; and walk along the Snake River bottoms at the Mardy Murie Ranch. Camp at the Gros Ventre Camp-ground ten miles north of Jackson. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** Call Al Stokes at 752-2702. There will be one van available; others will carpool. Leave at 4 p.m. Friday if possible, but otherwise as people can get off. Return Sunday afternoon by way of Gray's Lake Refuge to see both SANDHILL and WHOOPING CRANES.

16 October (Wed): Education Meeting — 7:30 p.m. in NRB 112B. Some ideas for new projects this year include: conducting a Christmas Bird Count for community kids, having a t-shirt design contest for the Audubon Youth Club classrooms, holding a conservation story-writing contest, and designing materials to help the local foresters in their anti-litter campaign. There are a number of projects we could spend our time and energy on this year, so please come and share your ideas! People of all ages, backgrounds and sexes are encouraged to participate—no previous experience required! Call Nancy Warner for more information at 752-7345.

19 October (Sat): Attracting Birds in Winter — Meet at the home of Al Stokes, 1722 Saddle Hill Drive, at 9 a.m. Al will talk about the kinds of feed, feeding stations, and trees and shrubs he has found successful in attracting birds to his home. To date he has seen 155 species from his place. He will show slides of the most common winter birds that come to feeders. **INVITE SOME FRIENDS TO COME ALONG.** There is no better way to attract new members to Audubon.

3 November (Sun): OWL/TV Premier — Sometime between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., the first season of OWL/TV will begin. The ten half-hour shows will be immediately repeated, so we will have twenty consecutive weeks of OWL/TV in prime Sunday evening family viewing time.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome back to *The Stilt* pages. I hope you enjoyed your summer as much as I did mine, and that you accomplished much more than I did!

I think everyone needs a refresher on my editorial policy. I heard from a lot of BAS members last year, but would like to hear from even more of you this year. Don't let someone else speak for you; your ideas and observations are important, too. I'll accept articles of any kind: long or short, typed or hand-written (but legible, please), interesting or boring. Write about your experiences on field trips, your observations on the natural world, your favorite books or places to bird-watch, your favorite gripe. I'd like to see a little art work this year, too.

Please have all submissions to me by the 18th of each month. Send them to: Charlotte Wright/UMC 32/Utah State University/ Logan, UT 84322. Or, you may drop them off at my office in Animal Science 102 (where I am Editorial Assistant for Tom Lyon), or by my home at 274 East 100 South in Logan. I look forward to hearing from you.

This month's quote is by Isak Diresen: "If only I could so live and so serve the world that after me there should never again be birds in cages....."

DAMS AND RESERVOIRS . . .

The waters of the lower Bear River Drainage hold great appeal for the members of the Utah Legislature these days. Flood control was a topic on everyone's mind last January when they met, and before the session was completed, the Division of Water Resources (DWR) had been mandated to develop a water management plan for the Bear River Basin. Currently, the DWR is conducting a study of seven potential reservoir sites on the Bear, Little Bear, Malad and Blacksmith Fork Rivers. Representatives of various outdoor and environmental groups were invited to attend a meeting conducted by DWR on August 6th for the purpose of identifying potential problems associated with the sites under study. Bridgerland Audubon Society was represented at this meeting by Wendell Anderson, Betty Boeker, Steve Flint, Nancy Warner and Eric Zurcher. Other groups represented were Sierra Club, Native Plants Society, The Nature Conservancy, Cache Valley Anglers and the Boy Scouts.

The sites DWR is studying include Oneida, Amalga, Avon, Millcreek near Hardware Ranch, Honeyville, Washakie on the Malad River and Promontory west of the Bear River Bird Refuge. All of these sites are suitable for dam development, based upon DWR's engineering studies. DWR is planning to develop four of the sites based on funding availability, physical and legal constraints and environmental and social concerns within a period of about 25 years.

DWR is seeking public involvement in this long range planning effort in three principal forms: small meetings with special interest groups in which issues and concerns are raised, forums where concerns and their possible solutions are addressed, and finally, public hearings on particular sites. The special interest group meetings are nearly completed now. Forums and public hearings will be held this fall and DWR will present a preferred alternative to the legislature when they meet in January next year.

If you'd like more information about this project, contact those Audubon members who were in attendance at the August 6th meeting, or Public Involvement Coordinator for DWR here in Logan, Don Drage (752-3456).

— Nancy Warner

BOOK COMMITTEE FORMING

Just when you thought BAS had enough committees, along comes another one, the newly-formed Book Committee. We thought it would be a good idea to purchase an Audubon-oriented book every other month to donate to the public library. We'll put a brief notice in *The Stilt*, and perhaps a book review in the *Herald Journal*, for each book purchased. We welcome your input, whether as a member of the committee or just an interested person. Phone Nancy Warner (752-7345) or Charlotte Wright (753-8072) with your book ideas.

TAKE A HIKE!

Freshly painted wooden boxes at Tony Grove Lake and Limber Pine Trail now hold the nature trailguides produced by members and friends of Bridgerland Audubon Society. Wasatch-Cache National Forest Service personnel finished installing the markers on the Limber Pine Trail in mid-July, and have been stocking the trailguide boxes with the guides ever since. According to Forest Service employee Gordon Bosworth, the trailguides are very popular among local residents and tourists alike. Although recycling of the trailguides is encouraged, Gordon (or Boz to many) said many users are taking them along as souvenirs. Apparently, the guides are not contributing to the litter problem in the forest.

The Limber Pine Trail is located at the top of the pass leading to Bear Lake, and offers broad views of the lake and the "sinks" area as well as the infamous limber pine. It takes about thirty or forty minutes to hike this trail—longer if you look for tardigrades! The Tony Grove Trail starts on the dam adjacent to the day-use parking lot and goes around the lake, passing through forest, meadows and ancient geologic formations. One should allow approximately an hour to walk this nature trail. Birders and botanizers have been known to take longer.

The production of these trailguides was truly a group project, with Betsy Neely and Peter Landres heading up the efforts on Tony Grove and Limber Pine, respectively. Betsy Neely, Mark Seegars, Nancy Warner and Eric Zurcher wrote the Tony Grove Trailguide, and Steven Cannon provided the illustrations. Peter Landres and Cecilia Voss Egar wrote and illustrated the Limber Pine guide. Susan Douglas did the cover illustrations for both guides. A number of people reviewed the guides and made editorial comments, suggestions and corrections, including Mary Barkworth, Betty Boeker, Helen Cannon, Kent Downing, Ron Lanner, Tom Lyon, Madeline Nazurski, Rick Schreyer, Leila Shultz, Allen Stokes, Karla VanderZanden and Chuck Warner. Thanks to all! (Apologies to anyone who may have been overlooked here . . .)

So, if you're feeling the urge to go for a short, leisurely hike, try one of these new options—there are still (we hope) plenty of good days left for walking. Take a friend along and help spread the word about these new trailguides available in Logan Canyon. And let us know of any ideas you may have for improving the guides in future printings.

— Nancy Warner

THE "200 CLUB" AND BIRD HOTLINE

A reminder that the "200 Club" will give an Audubon patch to anyone reaching 150 species, and a Bridgerland Audubon "200 Club" cap to anyone reaching 200 species sighted within Cache County. Also, remember to call the bird hotline when you sight a rare bird within the county. John Barnes is in charge of both the hotline and the "200 Club." Keep him busy by calling 563-3910 with your information.

EARLY BIRD NOTES

Summer's far too short! It couldn't be September already! Where did the summer go? All the clichés seem to fit. Yet for this birder, the fall migration eases the pain of the end of summer and thoughts of a long winter.

Many shore birds start their migration in July. Keith Dixon reports that the main influx of south-bound RUFOS HUMMINGBIRDS occurred in Logan the last few days of July. My own experience this year with migrating RUFOS HUMMINGBIRDS was on July 25 in Juneau, Alaska. I was walking on a dike that separates the wetlands from a stand of Sitka Spruce and Alder. There were extensive patches of six foot high fireweed. In the fireweed and spruce were twenty or more RUFOS HUMMINGBIRDS and at least ten RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS. The plumage is so different in the male, female and immature hummingbirds that they almost appear to be three different species.

On August 11, Mike Tove phoned and told me that he had seen a PECTORAL SANDPIPER. He had also seen SIMI-PALMATED, WESTERN, LEAST and BAIRD'S SANDPIPER and RED-NECKED PHALAROPE. I went out and saw the four species of peeps and what I thought was the PECTORAL SANDPIPER, but it was late in the day and I couldn't be sure. Fall migration is more challenging than spring because so many of the birds are in winter plumage or somewhere in between breeding and winter plumage.

There have been some interesting sightings in Cache Valley this summer. Richard Burns, who had the ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK hit his garage door last spring, had a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO in the woods near his home at third south and fifth east for about six weeks in June and July. Steve Vanderwall also had a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO in his yard in Smithfield the latter half of July. On July 24, Al Stokes had a BLACK-THROATED GREY WARBLER in his backyard. Ron Ryel and Keith Archibald saw a RED-EYED VIREO. Eric Hanson saw a PALM WARBLER in lower Logan Canyon. This is the first record of one in this area, and the fourth sight record for Utah.

There were probably many more good sightings, but I have not been able to contact very many birders. Maybe when our birders as well as birds migrate home for the fall, more reports will be available for the next issue of *The Stilt*.

— Alice Stewart

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS POPULAR

June and July saw almost every Saturday filled with field trips, including a hike to the Old Limber Pine followed by supper at the venerable Tony Grove Ranger Station where we saw three species of birds nesting in old woodpecker holes in the same aspen tree. Can you guess which species? See page 5 for the answers.

Over 35 persons hiked the new Tony Grove Lake Nature Trail, and eight stalwarts climbed up to Mt. Naomi after lunch.

A trip to Oxford Slough north of Preston was rewarded by good views of a WHOOPING CRANE that has spent its summers there, as well as many other marsh birds.

On a new trip, we made a loop by canoe down Spring Creek and back up the Little Bear River, ending up only 300 yards from our starting point. This went past the great blue heronry where there were beaver denning, and along stretches of river bordered by giant cattail and bulrush towering 8 to 10 feet above us. Some 70 persons enjoyed this experience on two separate trips.

— Al Stokes

MEMBERSHIP AT NEW HIGH

Our chapter's members reached an all-time high of 285 as of July 1, one more than in the previous year. Of some concern is the drop in student members from 57 to 38. Strong student involvement has always been something that other chapters around the country have admired in our chapter. Students have played key roles serving as officers and heading up projects, to say nothing of their enthusiasm and energy. Let's see what we can do to attract more students this coming year.

A characteristic of the Audubon Society is the loyalty of its members. Our chapter is no exception. We congratulate the following for their sustained long-time memberships.

10-Year Members: Jean Adamson, Emil Albrecht, Bob Blanchard, Betty Boeker, Jeanne Chambers, Jim and Nancy Conant, Edna Cornia, R. N. Hirst, Jr., Art Holmgren, Sally and Jack Keller, Fred Knowlton, Fred LaBar, David Lancy, Alice Lindahl, Tim Malan, Patricia Martin, Danny Mei, Rosalena Sanders, Richard Shaw, David Smith, Kim and Peggy Smith, Al and Alice Stokes, Merlin Tams, John Tautin, Joe Vinson, Coburn Williams, Dave Winn, Gar Workman, Phil Zwank.

15-Year Members: Reinhard Jockel, Sandra Romesburg, Tex Sordahl, Twain Tippetts, Kathryn Wanlass, Oliver Grah Family, Jan Young.

SPECIAL \$20 INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

Audubon is now offering an introductory one-year membership for \$20, as compared to the regular membership of \$30. This brings the six issues of *Audubon* and six issues of *Audubon Action*, as well as membership in Bridgerland Audubon Society with its ten issues of *The Stilt*. This is a splendid way to get new members into Audubon. If you don't have our regular application forms, give your friends an application from a recent issue of *Audubon*. Mark it with Introductory Offer \$20 and also put down W-52 so that our chapter will receive credit for generating this membership, thus bringing \$6.50 to our treasury. If you want application forms see Chuck Warner or Al Stokes (752-2702).

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following have joined Audubon between January 1, 1985 and July, 1985. Some of these are former members who have renewed after a lapse of a year or more. Welcome to all of you and we hope that you will join in on our meetings, field trips and activities.

Mrs. B. Anderson, L.M. Bodrero, Shirley Badame, Roger Banner, Ron L. Brown, Max Brunson, Jr., D. Buhler, Steve Cannon, Roger Cheramie, Swede Dahl, Joye Downs, Nana Earl, Gary Edge, Mrs. Rawna Fencil, Bradley Floyd, John Ford, Rev. and Mrs. Ken Green, Lorraine Herr, Reed Godfrey, V. Gaddie, Cindy Haggas, Mrs. Bernard Hayes, Mrs. Argyle Henrie, Gilbert Hill, Keith Hoffman, R.B. Ivory, Clara Kram, Scott Jones, Mrs. H. Kemp, Kraig Klungness, Harriette Lanner, Harvey Moore, D. Obray, Reed Olsen, Clair Oursler, Susan Parker, John Pearce Family, Drew Peterson, Sue Provenza, Michael Roskelley, Mr./Mrs. Scott Ruppel, Skyview High, Jillyn Smith, Ethel Sorenson, Ellen Spickerman, C. Walton, Carolyn/Bryan Welch, Leora Windley, Barbara Wize.

SLIDES OF CACHE VALLEY BIRDS AVAILABLE ON LOAN

Our chapter has a collection of over 30 slides of our most common birds. These are suitable for showing to scout or other groups and are available from Al Stokes, 752-2702.

SUNFLOWER SEED SALES

Bridgerland Audubon will again be selling the choice small black sunflower seeds that are a "must" to attract EVENING GROSBEAKS, FINCHES and CHICKADEES. The price will probably be 30¢ per pound. Seed should be available by late October. Last year we sold 7½ tons of this seed and ran out before the birds left us. Tell your friends about these seeds and help them get started on this popular pastime. Over 30% of American families now feed birds. For orders, call Al Stokes at 752-2702 or Elaine Watkins at 752-1724.

A VOTE OF THANKS

The reauthorization of the Clean Water Act has been winding its way through Congress this year. The Senate unanimously approved a bill strengthening the Act in July. Both Senators Hatch and Garn were present for the vote. According to an article in *Audubon Action*, the bill, which still faces House approval, places stricter regulations of discharges of toxic substances into the nation's waterways, increases penalties for violators of clean water regulations, and limits the availability of waivers that have allowed polluters to delay compliance. Enhanced protection of our waterways and wetlands could provide some obvious benefits, especially here in Utah, where an expanding population will continue to put more pressure on water resources. Thanks are due to Senators Hatch and Garn for their positive votes. Write to them at: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. For further information on the Clean Water Act reauthorization, call Audubon's recorded hotline at 202-547-9017.

— Nancy Warner

PROVO BAY—POTENTIAL NEW WILDLIFE REFUGE

Provo Bay has long been eyed by land developers and Provo City for drainage and development. This prime water-fowl marsh surrounding Utah Lake is very valuable in terms of wildlife. Thanks to efforts by the Utah Audubon chapter, members of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Eugene Knoder of National Audubon staff, there is now a strong move to turn these wetlands into a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge. A meeting on July 12 resulted in a plan of action, with Gene Knoder being responsible for seeking support in Washington. We can look forward to a report at the meeting of the Utah Audubon Council later in September.

— Al Stokes

NEW UTAH BIRDING SOCIETY FORMS

The Utah Ornithological Society is devoted exclusively to the study of birds in Utah. Its quarterly journal *Utah Birds* will publish studies, research and other information about Utah birds. Unlike some ornithological journals, *Utah Birds* is highly readable and enjoyable. The first issue contains articles on Carl Marti's long-term barn owl studies in northern Utah; bird records from Utah's hottest birding spot, Beaver Wash near St. George; and a description of our hard-to-distinguish EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS. Membership is \$6. Make check payable to Steve Hedges and mail to Utah Ornithological Society, Box 1042, Cedar City, UT 84720. Bridgerland member Jim Gessaman is serving on the UOS board.

— Al Stokes

SUMMER ECOLOGY CAMP

It was my privilege this summer to represent Bridgerland Audubon Society through scholarship at the Ecology Camp of the West in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming. What a fantastic experience! Every day was filled, from early morning bird walks to the late night campfires following the evening programs. Many of the participants were teachers. Ages ranged from students to the more mature accomplished birders and world travelers who wanted to add just one more page to their log of memorable life experiences. One 79-year old philosopher credited Thoreau for the change of perspective in his life, and he gained the respect and love of all as he kept reminding us of the "oneness" of all life. Isn't that what ecology is all about?

Like many, I suppose, I previously considered ecology from the short-sighted viewpoint of simply recycling aluminum cans, conserving energy and protecting the environment from pollution and destruction. But through the varied and integral course study we gained a greater understanding of the ecological relationships of the living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) aspects of the environment, thereby gaining a heightened awareness of the intricate and delicate systems which can be and unfortunately are being disturbed by human "management."

One of the staff of enthusiastic experts was Karolis Bagdonas, an avid entomologist and authority on butterflies and moths. He feels a great urgency in the study he has initiated of the effects of acid-rain on the ecosystem of the Greater Yellowstone area. He is recruiting groups of fifteen participants to go out two weeks backpacking to collect data. He would welcome any interested; contact the local chapter for information. Scholarships and credits are available. Watch for an article by Karolis in the *Audubon* within the next few months.

An educator from SLC, Becky Hall, taught a workshop in "Project Wild," an activity-oriented program in conservation education emphasizing wildlife. Similar workshops are available free of charge for interested teachers, with excellent manuals for grades K-12. One school district in California owns and operates a natural science center where entire classes go for a week to learn experientially of the natural world. The geology instructor at camp, Jim Peterson, helps coordinate the Audubon Expedition Institute, a traveling high school and college with the slogan—"Wild America is our Campus." How can we adequately teach natural science without the see, hear, touch, taste, smell and feel experience? We all feel an urgency to develop awareness and sensitivity in our youth, who will inherit the responsibility of protecting the delicate balance of nature on this planet.

The final morning of camp, the staff lead us up to a spot where we could take one last panoramic glimpse of the beautiful Torrey Valley we had come to know, love and respect. Each instructor told us what this special place means to them. Peg Abbot, director of the camp and winter resident, encouraged us to search for a place in the busy world to which we were returning that might be really special to us, "and visit it often, as often as you can."

— Marlene Beecher

HISTORY OF BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON

Elaine Watkins, chapter historian, has assembled an impressive amount of material about our chapter—meetings, field trips, back newsletters, newspaper stories, etc.—all professionally mounted in two large notebooks. This is a priceless resource for persons wishing to trace the history of the many projects our chapter has undertaken over the years. Special thanks to Elaine for taking on this much-needed project.

T-SHIRTS SELL LIKE HOTCAKES

Have you seen our Bridgerland Audubon T-shirts? They come in sizes children to X-Large and all colors of rainbow. Some with stilts, others with an owl. \$7, tax included. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 if interested.

ANSWERS

The birds seen in old woodpecker holes in the aspen tree were HOUSE WRENS, TREE VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW, and YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.