



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 14, No. 2

October 1985

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

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	31		

## LOCAL MEETINGS, PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

**5-7 Oct (Fri thru Sun): Elk Bugling in the Tetons** — The 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. Camp at the Gros Ventre Campground ten miles north of Jackson. Call Al Stokes (752-2702) for advanced reservations, which are REQUIRED. One van available; others will carpool. Leave at 4 pm Friday if possible, but otherwise as people can get off. Return Sunday afternoon.

**10 Oct (Thurs): BAS Monthly Meeting** — Rod Drewien of Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge will speak on whooping cranes. Room 202 of the Food and Nutrition Building on the USU Campus at 7:30 pm.

**16 Oct (Wed): Education Meeting** — In the Natural Resources Building on USU Campus, Room 112B. Starts at 7:30 pm. 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. Call Nancy Warner for more information (752-7345).

**19 Oct (Sat): Attracting Birds in Winter** — Meet at the home of Al Stokes, 1722 Saddle Hill Drive, at 9:00 am. Al will talk about the kinds of feed, feeding stations, and kinds of trees and shrubs he has found successful in attracting birds to his home.

**28 Oct (Mon): Library Program** — At 7:00 pm at the Logan Library, free of charge and open to the public. Jim MacMahon will bring snakes he has collected on his many trips to the desert and tell fascinating aspects of their lives. This is family entertainment, lasting about one hour.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**3 Nov (Sun): OWL/TV** – Sometime between 5:00 and 7:00 pm, the first of ten half-hour shows co-produced by Audubon and the Young Naturalists Foundation. Check your TV schedules.

**25 Nov (Mon): Library Program** – Dale Ashcroft, who has worked at Willow Park Zoo for 7 years, will bring live animals and tell how a zoo can complement watching animals in the wild. Program at the Logan Library at 7:00 pm.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

It is the time of year when I have an excuse for being a poor typist: the university has not turned the heat on yet, and my little space heater warms only my feet. My fingers remain cold and stiff, unwilling to do what they deem as unnecessary duty—typing. They'd even rather do dishes; at least the water is warm.

This month I'd like to remind you all that we'll once again be calling for volunteers. We still need a secretary, for instance. And several committees need more members. Our "old leaders" would like a chance to step down and let new ones serve. Be thinking of what you'd like to do to help.

Because Bruce Pendery handed me such a nice poem this month, I'll forego a literary quotation which might detract from "The Condor." Thanks to all who have turned in articles.

— Charlotte Wright

### THE CONDOR

*The great bird moves its feathers on the air  
like fingers playing on an instrument,  
the instrument of wind; it climbs and scarcely moves  
while steady thermals push  
its giant wings still higher till it soars  
beyond my sight completely, though it peers  
through strange red eyes  
upon my face below.  
Its kind is dying from the earth; its wings  
create a foolish envy among men.  
Its shadow knew the mammoth and he passed,  
floated above the sabertooth, now gone,  
saw the first spearmen on the bison's track,  
banked sharply, went its way alone.  
Its eyes are larger than its searching brain;  
the creature sees like a satellite,  
but exists within  
an ice-age world now dead. This bird cannot  
understand rifles, multiply its eggs,  
one hidden on a cliff face all it has.  
Its shadow is now passing from the earth  
just as the mammoth's shadow at high noon.  
Something has gone with each of them, the sky  
is out of balance with the tipping poles.  
No huge, tusked beast is marching with the ice,  
no aerial shadow tracks the passing years.  
Only below the haze grows deeper still,  
only the buildings edge up through the murk.*

*Planes fly, and sometimes crash, but no black wing will write  
the end of man, as man's end should be written  
by all the condor wings beneath high heaven.*

— by Loren Eiseley  
in *The Innocent Assassians*,  
Scribners, 1973.

Thanks to Bruce Pendery for finding and sharing this poem with us. He says it reminded him of the endangered whooping crane as well as the condor. The whooping crane will be the subject of the program of the BAS October meeting, with speaker Rod Drewien of the Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

## CYCLISTS EVENTS

The following events are being sponsored by the Summit Cyclists Bike Club. Both rides follow back roads and offer opportunities for birding, sightseeing, exercising, and communing with both nature and people.

Saturday, October 5 at 10 a.m., there will be a 50 mile ride on back roads (only 3½ miles on Rt. 91) to Franklin, Idaho to visit Pioneer Relic Hall and La Tienda. Bring a lunch to eat in the town park, or eat at the Sportsman's Cafe. Call Jean Lown for information, (752-6830).

On Saturday, October 12 at 10 am, there will be an "Apple Cider Ride" to Paradise—a 30-mile round trip. Watch cider being made. Purchase some to drink there or take home (bring your panniers). Bring snacks to share. Call Julia Wisselman at 752-0906 for more information.

## MT. NAOMI HIKE

Where were you July 13? If you weren't hiking the Mt. Naomi Trail, you missed a wonderful hike. It was a perfect day with intriguing hikers in country so pretty one ached to look at it. This Bridgerland Audubon Society outing was led by Al Stokes, a veritable walking encyclopedia of nature lore. He answered hiker's questions with more questions, and the result was thoughtful replies or pensive silence.

As Robert Redford (Utah's principal natural resource) aptly says, "putting foot to ground" forces one to see what is immediately around him—including other hikers and rocks. The rocky Naomi Peak Trail wanders through beautiful glacial moraines with snow along the ridges until mid-July. Some wildflowers to be spotted are buttercups, bluebells, wild geranium, elephant's head and vivid Indian paintbrush. Bird-watchers can enjoy the bluebird, rufous hummingbird, pine siskin, cliff swallow and maybe an eagle soaring overhead.

Stumbling along this boulder-strewn trail, one remembers the field trip notice: "Hike the new nature trail recently completed by Bridgerland Audubon Society. Return variable." Variable indeed. Eight hardy, energetic, slightly crazed souls hiked the Mt. Naomi Trail (elevation 9,979 feet) into early evening. (The smarter ones in the group had left for home hours ago, probably reclining on their patios now, sipping



lemonade. They had enjoyed a pleasant walk around Tony Grove Lake, using the new self-guided nature trail.) Not easily deterred, the determined bunch ascended Naomi Peak to find coffee can waiting for them, containing not coffee but a register maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey. Also awaiting them was the tremendous view atop Mt. Naomi, clear, clean air and a stillness to be savored. Ah, those sipping lemonade don't know what they missed. To capture autumn and camaraderie and a new perspective, hike Mt. Naomi.

## A SUMMER REPORT

Each summer we look forward to spending weekends at our cabin up in the mountains between Hardware Ranch and Randolph. Because it is near the 8000-foot elevation, we see many birds which we don't often see at home. This was a really fun year. YELLOW BELLIED SAPSUCKERS and WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER nest in dead tree snags nearby. The OLIVE SIDED FLYCATCHER greets us from his perch with a delightful call. We get to see many of the species which you expect to see in the high mountains, such as the TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, CLARK'S NUTCRACKER, and the PINE GROSBEAK. This year the STELLER'S JAY provided us a special treat by discovering our feeder and coming in frequently. We had never had the opportunity to see one so close. A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE chose to visit briefly, a first for our cabin list. Moose were around but we did not see as many bulls as last year. The saddest thing we noted was the dearth of mule deer compared to other years. In years past it was not uncommon to see 20 in an evening drive; this year we were lucky to see 6 or 8 in an entire weekend. We only saw one set of twin fawns during the entire summer! The most significant visitor was not a bird, but a black bear. Fresh sign was found in middle August on the lower point overlooking the Curtis Creek drainage. We were excited to find the sign although we got no glimpse of the traveler. It was a good summer! Now we are looking forward to autumn. We will look for you on the field trips and at the meetings.

*John, Terry, and Jessie Barnes*

## WETLANDS DOCUMENTARY

On October 2, 9, and 16, at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm, KUSU (91.5) will present half-hour programs on "Wetlands in Utah: Their Conservation and Management." The sponsors are the USU Ecology Center, Utah Endowment for the Humanities, Utah Division of Natural Resources, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

## SUNFLOWER SALES TO BEGIN

John Barnes is in charge of ordering and getting this year's supply of sunflower seeds. He will need help to bag and weigh them. Call him at 563-3910 if you can help. The seed will be available by the end of October, weather permitting, at the homes of Elaine Watkins (752-1724) and Al Stokes (752-2702). Price will probably be 30¢/lb in 50-lb bags.

## MIGRATION

Allen Stokes reported a strong migration on September 19. The heavy rainstorm of September 18 had stopped about 7 am. The skies began clearing by 8:30. Almost at once he began to see a strong flight of warblers in his garden, mostly WILSON'S WARBLER, but also several MACGILLIVRAY'S and an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. As he watched in his garden, he saw about 15 separate flocks of waxwings fly south—all at about 15th East in Logan. Flocks varied from as few as 6 birds to 75, all flying fast without landing. By 10 am the flights were over, although the warblers kept on feeding in the pine trees of his garden.

## BRIDGERLAND T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

We are still offering Bridgerland Audubon T-shirts for sale. There are two designs (barn owl, stilts), each available in both dark and light ink, depending on the background color of the T-shirt. Colors available include teal, coral, lilac, cobalt blue, forest green, brown, light blue, moss green, navy, silver blue, charcoal gray, and more. Adult sizes range from small to extra large, and some children's sizes. We have 100% cotton or 50/50 cotton/polyester, both Hanes brand. To order, specify 1) design, 2) ink color, 3) T-shirt color, 4) size, and 5) shirt material. Cost is \$7 for adult sizes and \$5 for children's; both prices include tax. Call Al Stokes (752-2702) or Nancy Warner (752-7345) to order.

## BACK ISSUES

Last year I called for anyone having old issues of *The Stilt* to send them to me or drop them by my office. I received issues from Billings, Montana, from the Editor of the *Yellowstone Valley Flyer*, and from a few people here in Logan. I would still like to get some more of the back issues, if any of you have them lying around. If you're on campus, send them to: Charlotte Wright/UMC 32. Or, send them to my home address: 274 East 100 South, Logan, UT 84321.

## WINGTIPS

*WingTips* is a new journal for people interested in birds. *WingTip's* purpose is to provide information on various aspects of ornithology, especially for those who want to go beyond simple identification of birds. It is an information source for what is happening in ornithology today. There is one section on endangered birds of North America. *WingTips* wants to help provide a bridge between amateurs and professionals, encouraging information to cross in both directions.

*WingTips* is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter); annual subscription price is \$10.00. Publisher and editor is Helen S. Lapham, P. O. Box 226, Lansing, New York 14882.



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.

President	Chuck Warner, 752-7345
Vice-President	Bruce Pendery, 753-1628
Secretary	
Treasurer	Betty Boeker, 752-8092
Conservation	Steve Flint
Education	Nancy Warner, 752-7345
Membership	Allen Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Allen Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Charlotte Wright, 753-8072
Circulation	Liz Keller, 753-3294
Publicity	
Hospitality	Alice Stewart
Board of Directors	Wendell Anderson, 752-1827
	Terry Barnes, 563-3910
	Jim Gessaman, 753-1195
	Peter Landres, 752-7692
	John Barnes, 563-3910

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

## 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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