



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 14, No. 4

December 1985

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

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

**3 Dec. (Tues):** BAS Planning Meeting — 7:00 pm in room 112B, Natural Resources/Biology Building on the USU campus. Please feel free to join us.

**9 Dec. (Mon):** Library Program — 7:00 pm at the Logan Library, Barrie Gilbert will present "Brown Bears, Salmon and Fisherman." Gilbert spent the summer at Katmai National Park in Alaska observing brown bears at close range, to see how bears and people can share salmon within very

narrow confines without harm to either. He will recount his experiences with an illustrated talk.

**11 Dec. (Wed):** Pot Luck — The Utah Native Plant Society, Cache Valley Chapter, will hold a pot luck at the home of Wayne Padgett at 6:30 pm. For more information, call Kate Dwire (753-6436) or Wayne Padgett (753-3854).

**12 Dec. (Thurs):** BAS Monthly Meeting — 7:00 pm in the Eccles Conference Center on the USU campus. The room number will be posted on the doors of the building. This is a joint meeting with the Sierra Club, so we can all get better acquainted. The topic is "Gearing up for Cross-country Skiing." PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME AND PLACE.

**18 Dec. (Wed):** Education Meeting — Call Nancy Warner for more details. Please support this important aspect of Audubon.

**21 Dec. (Sat):** Christmas Bird Count — For more information, call Mike Tove, 753-0281.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**9 Jan. (Thurs):** The Ultimate Environmental Issue — Sierra Club program on nuclear war and its effects on the environment. 7:00 pm in the Student Center, room 347, on the USU campus.

**11 Jan. (Sat):** Ski and Soak — A Sierra Club field trip to Crystal Hot Springs. Call Lynn (753-5874) or Catherine (752-1996) for details.

**25 Jan. (Sat): Full Moon Ski** — Sierra Club overnight trip. Stay in a Yurt and ski under a full moon. Call 753-5874 or 752-1996 for details.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Huachuca Audubon Society will be hosting next year's Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, August 4-10, 1986 in Southeastern Arizona.

Huachuca Audubon Society is planning an outstanding array of field trips which will take you into some of the best birding spots in the Southwest. The Chiracauhuas and Huachuca Mountains, Patagonia/Sonoita Creek, Ramsay Canyon, Audubon's Research Ranch, the new Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, the Rio San Pedro riparian zones and other exciting spots.

Life listers should have many exciting opportunities to add specialty hummingbirds; black, grey and zone-tailed hawks; Montezuma quail; hopefully an elegant trogon, becard, and sulphur bellied flycatcher; and many more.

The conference will center on issues of that area with special emphasis on riparian wetlands and their importance. We'll have more information on this in February.

## INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY

The 1986 Institute of Desert Ecology, sponsored by the Tucson Audubon Society, the Arizona State Parks Board, and the University of Arizona, will be held May 2, 3, 4 and 5 this year. Cost of the 3-day program is \$190, the 4-day program is \$210. A \$30 deposit with application must reach the Institute by April 1, 1986. For more information, call or write: Ms. Karen Nickey, Director/Institute of Desert Ecology/30-A North Tucson Blvd./Tucson, AZ 85716/Phone (602) 749-9808.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

Those of you who are not members of the Bridgerland Audubon Society but receive copies of *The Stilt* each month, please send \$3 immediately to: Treasurer, BAS, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84321. This money is needed to cover the cost of printing and mailing *The Stilt* to those who do not pay dues. If your \$3 is not received by the end of December, your name will be taken off the mailing list.

## SEEKING NEW OFFICERS

The BAS Nominating Committee is accepting suggestions for new officer nominations. We will need to replace both president and vice-president this year. If you know someone,

including yourself, who you feel could fill either of these positions, please write to BAS Nominating Committee/ P.O. Box 3501/ Logan, UT 84321, or call Terry Barnes at 563-3910.

## FALL AND WINTER BIRDING

It has been a fascinating month for birding in Cache Valley. Fall migration provides some special opportunities for those willing to brave some of our weather in order to see what is coming through. The Logan Sewage lagoons, strange as it may seem, are a great place for birding during the fall migration. The ducks and geese always have an eye for havens protected from hunters. Some very special birds seen by Mike Tove and then by other fortunate birders as the word spread, included lesser golden plover, snow goose, greater scaup, Thayer's gull, Herring gull, Ross' goose, snow bunting. A female white winged scoter, usually an ocean bird, found its way to Cache Valley. This is only the second Cache County sighting for this unusual visitor. Another interesting sighting was a hybrid white-fronted/Canada goose. It had most of the markings of a white fronted goose but it had an unusual white marking on its face and under its chin. This mark was less distinct than the one usually seen on the Canada goose, but was very similar. This is the kind of bird that drives you nuts when you have not been birding for long and you search endlessly through the field guides for a description that matches. Kirt Williams saw a pygmy owl up Smithfield Canyon. Our most exciting report was that of a Heerman gull, which also spent a brief visit at the sewage lagoons. The sighting will be a state first if the report is accepted by the records committee of the Utah Field Ornithologists. The Heering gull is almost never seen inland; it usually sticks to its favorite habitat, the ocean.

It seems that everybody's feeders are picking up in activity. Get that seed out if you haven't begun. Feeding birds in your yard makes the Cache Valley winters much more interesting. The birds which feed on smaller birds have already located the feeders. Tom and Marilyn Jones had a shrike and we had a kestrel looking for easy pickings.

Winter is a great time for birding. Watch for rough legged hawks which have arrived for the winter. Although I haven't heard reports yet, bald eagles can often be seen in the canyons during the winter. Kestrels leave the trees and become regulars near barns where cattle are being fed. Don't put your binoculars away for the winter. It is a great time for birding. Keep us posted of your sightings. Terry and John Barnes, 563-3910.

— Terry Barnes

## ACTIONS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 5

Jeff Gosse requested support of the Intermountain Water Alliance in its work to educate Utahns on alternatives to the Central Utah Project. Voters of 12 counties within the Central Utah Water Conservancy District are being asked to approve a municipal water debt of one-half billion dollars. CUP has long

failed to consider less costly alternatives, especially greater efficiency of water use by the ultimate users. One hundred dollars was approved to support the Water Alliance.

Logan City is seeking contributions of art from Cache Valley artists. Nationally known, Kit Flannery has offered to provide a 6 x 8 foot wall hanging featuring Cache Valley wetlands. The chapter approved sending \$100 to help pay for this \$1500 piece of art to be hung in the new City Library Building on North Main Street.

Nancy Warner is organizing a first-ever Children's Christmas Bird Count for Cache Valley. This will be a two-hour count on Friday, December 13 with five fourth-grade classrooms involved. There will be a preliminary explanation of the purpose of the count with a slide show to help the children become familiar with common winter birds. After the count day there will be a follow-up to pool the counts of all five groups. Nancy still needs volunteers. Call her at home 752-7345 or at work 750-2655.

Betty Boeker presented her annual treasurer's report. See below. David Lancy has contributed \$50 to Bridgerland Audubon in appreciation of the fine work the chapter is doing and especially the wonderful weekend his family had on the Audubon Tetons Trip (see account in the October *Stilt*). He encourages the chapter to have more overnight camping trips. A special thanks to the Lancy family for its generosity.

## CONSERVATION REPORT

Superfund — We joined Audubon chapters throughout the country in signing a letter to the House of Representatives listing specific measures to make the Superfund Reauthorization Bill more than just a cosmetic attempt to hide the hazardous waste problem.

Woodburning stoves — Last fall many manufacturers began to offer catalytic converters on their stoves. These devices promote more complete combustion, the same as catalytic converters on cars. For an evaluation of some of these stoves, see the October issue of *Consumer Reports*, available at either the Merrill Library on USU campus or the Logan City Library.

BLM Wilderness — The draft EIS on statewide BLM wilderness will be available in January. Get your winter reading now by writing: Gregory F. Thayne/EIS Team Leader/Utah State BLM Office/ 342 South State/ Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303. This is likely your last chance for input on which lands the BLM will recommend for wilderness.

— Steve Flint

## EDGEWOOD HALL FIELD TRIP

The first real snow storm of the season didn't discourage a group of 15 people from taking an early winter field trip to Edgewood Hall. We gathered at the Logan Library and car-pooled to the impressive estate south of Providence, where we were joined by a group of scouts and their parents.

Allen Stokes was the leader of an interesting natural history walk around the estate, where an unusual combination

of native and introduced plant and bird species are found. At the entrance, we watched Black-billed Magpies flying overhead, observed male and female peacocks perched in a Larch tree, and tasted the sweet (but large-pitted) fruits of a Hackberry tree. The Larch (Larix sp.) a deciduous conifer, and the Hackberry (Celtis sp.), a member of the elm family, are both native to North America but do not occur naturally in this area.

The large pond south of the house provides for the winter needs of a group of Mallards, numerous Canadian Geese, and a Mute Swan—an Old World species commonly seen in the Northeast U.S. and distinguished by a prominent black knob at the base of its orange bill. A beautiful pair of Wood Ducks residing at this pond were observed huddled together on the shore. Some people also saw a muskrat swimming and an American Widgeon dabbling.

As we continued our walk, Allen pointed out various animal tracks in the snow, including deer, rabbit and the large 3-toed tracks of peacocks. He drew our attention to the "deer browse level" of the apple and conifer trees, and the browsed branch and twig tips of the Norway spruce (Picea abies), juniper and fir (Abies sp.) trees which had been snipped off by the deer. We saw the distinctive signs of porcupine on the spruce and fir trees where the animals had scratched away large patches of outer bark to forage on the soft nutritious inner bark. Allen also showed us some potential and/or abandoned nesting cavities in trees, and explained that an abandoned Magpie nest may soon serve as a winter shelter for a Great Horned Owl.

Large groups of Robins and Cedar Waxwings were seen feeding on the Juniper (Juniperus sp.) and Hawthorn (Crataegus sp.) berries, as well as the fruits of the Russian Olive tree (Eleagnus angustifolia). Allen explained that these fruits provide a critical food source for the birds at this time of year, while the birds in turn assist in the dispersal of the seeds. We also saw Northern Flickers, Evening Grosbeaks, and Townsend's Solitaires.

Towards the end of our walk, the Mahoney family shared delicious homemade apple leather with the group—a definite treat. Although the temperature was chilly, all who attended appreciated the beauty of Edgewood Hall, covered in the frosting of Cache Valley's first real snow this winter. We also noticed as we drove back to Logan that the snowflakes were getting larger and falling more densely.

— Kate Dwire

## CHANGES

Alice Stewart will no longer be writing her monthly column. Those with bird sightings they want to report, please call John or Terry Barnes, 563-3910. Alice has also stepped down from her position as Hospitality Chairperson. John J. Wise (245-4127) is now in charge of Publicity, so those of you who need to get a message to the media, call John! THESE CHANGES ARE NOT YET REFLECTED IN THE LIST OF OFFICERS, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO MARK THEM ON YOUR OWN COPY OF *THE STILT*.

## TREASURER'S REPORT 1984-85

<u>Income</u>	
Sunflower seed, net	2163.00
Dues	1482.00
Interest	298.47
Resale items, net	162.60
Slide shows, net	68.95
Holly Fair, net	52.34
Contribution	<u>10.00</u>
total income	4237.36

<u>Expenses</u>	
Stilt printing and mailing	1043.01
Club expenses	436.53
Scholarship	500.00
Contributions	400.00
Taxes	282.43
Education	129.54
Film series	123.50
Banquet	169.07
T-shirts	38.00
Workshops	17.72
Canoes and vans	13.52
Trail guides	<u>18.00</u>
total expenses	- 3171.32

NET INCOME 1984-85 1066.04

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## BUDGET FOR 1985-86

<u>Income</u>	
Sunflower seed	2200.00
Dues	1500.00
Interest	300.00
Other	<u>200.00</u>
projected 85-86 income	4200.00

<u>Expenses</u>	
Stilt	1200.00
Trail Guides	1000.00
Scholarship	500.00
Club expenses	400.00
Contribution (UWA)	300.00
Taxes	300.00
Education & film series	250.00
Banquet	<u>150.00</u>
projected 85-86 expenses	4100.00

## SUNFLOWER SEED SALES

The 5½ tons of seed that came in October 19 was all sold out by November 9—a record both in quantity and dispatch of selling it. Those seeking more seed should contact John Barnes, Al Stokes, or Elaine Watkins. John Barnes will probably not pick more seed until we have 1½ tons of firm orders. A 50-pound bag costs \$15, plus \$1 deposit on the bag. Thanks to John and Terry Barnes, Alice Kindahl, Jan Young, John Wraith, Marilyn and Tom Jones for loading and hauling the seed. And to Elaine Watkins, Jeff Keller and Al Stokes for selling it. And to you for buying it. Both the BAS and the birds appreciate your help.

## UTAH RARE PLANTS

In fall, 1985, three rare Utah native plant species were added to the federal list of threatened or endangered species, and are now officially recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The new listed species are:

- 1) Townsendia aprica, Last Chance Townsendia, threatened
- 2) Primula maguirei, Maguire Primrose, threatened
- 3) Erigeron maguirei var. maguirei, endangered

This brings the total number of Utah plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act to eleven. Two other species (Asclepias welshii and Cycladenia humilis var. jonesii) were also proposed for listing last year and may be listed soon.

Cache Valley residents may be especially interested in the listing of Primula maguirei, the Maguire Primrose, which occurs only in Logan Canyon. This beautiful pink-purple-flowered member of the Primrose family grows in a few places along rock face ledges for about a nine mile stretch of Highway 89. Although adjacent canyons with similar habitats have been searched, no other sites have been located.

If you are interested in learning more about Utah's plants, consider joining the Utah Native Plant Society. The Cache Valley Chapter is planning a series of monthly programs through the winter and several field trips for the spring and summer (including a trip to see the Maguire Primrose). On December 11, we are having a get-together pot-luck. All are welcome—please join us. For more information, call Kate Dwire (753-6436) or Wayne Padgett (753-3854).

— Kate Dwire

## POETRY CONTEST

The Utah Wilderness Association is sponsoring its first annual Wilderness Poetry Competition. First prize is \$50; deadline for entry is January 15, 1986. Anyone may enter by sending no more than 3 unpublished poems and an entry fee of \$2 to POETRY, c/o Utah Wilderness Association, 455 E. 400 S. B-40, SLC, Utah 84111. The poems must be related to the theme of wilderness, its preservation, its life and values, its spiritual nature. Poems must not exceed 40 lines, but may be written in any style. Send two copies of each poem—one with your name, address and phone number in the top right corner;

the second copy containing the poem only, to guarantee anonymity of the poet during judging. Poems must be postmarked by January 15.

## TRAVEL WITH NAS IN 1986

National Audubon has recently instituted a Travel program in which local chapters can earn a "commission" for each person from that chapter who travels with NAS. The program consists of twelve trips (listed below). The primary goals of this program are to raise funds for both NAS and the local chapters, to stimulate interest in natural history, and to offer travel in selected groups with people of like interests.

If you are planning to go on any of these trips, please let NAS know you are a member of Bridgerland Audubon Society and want the bonus to go to your local chapter. You need not be a National Audubon member to participate in these tours. For additional information contact Carol Covington, National Audubon Society, 950 3rd Avenue, New York, NY 10022, (212) 546-9140.

TRIP	DATE
Baja Circumnavigated	Jan. 23 - Feb. 6
Tanzania & Kenya - The Livingstone Safari	Feb. 11 - Feb. 27
The Seychelles	Feb. 26 - Mar. 17
The Red Sea & Eternal Sinai	Mar. 17 - Apr. 3
Creek Islands & the Adriatic	May 7 - May 23 & Sept. 14 - Sept. 30
Alaskan Odyssey	May 26 - June 7 & Sept. 14 - Sept. 30
Great Houses & Gardens of England and Wales	June 9 - June 20
Kenya Highlights	June 20 - July 4
The Danube & Romantic Germany	July 13 - July 27
African Hinterlands (Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe)	Sept. 4 - Sept. 22
Great Barrier Reef & Coral Sea	Sept. 27 - Oct. 15
The Nile: History & Splendor	late October

## ROGER TORY PETERSON—A VERY HUMAN BIRDER

Those interested in knowing more about Roger Tory Peterson will find Paul Brooks' article in the December 1985 issue of *Country Journal* delightful reading. Brooks was a junior editor when the young, avid bird-watcher Peterson came to Houghton-Mifflin in 1933 with his new concept of bird identification, having been previously rejected by five other publishers. Brooks traces, through the eyes of a close personal friend, Peterson's meteoric rise in the field of bird identification and in bird art. While newer bird guides are providing a challenge to Peterson's field guides, the name Roger Tory Peterson is undoubtedly second only to that of John James Audubon in the minds of Americans.

— Al Stokes

## T-SHIRTS

The sale of our BAS T-shirts has been so good that we've all been taken by surprise. We are about to order our third printing. If you would like to assure your size and selection, this is the time to call Al Stokes (752-2702). Shirts are still selling for \$7 for adult sizes and \$5 for children's. Tax is included in that price.

## FROM THE UTAH AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Audubon Bird Committee would like to continue the chapter's newsletter series "Where to Birdwatch in Utah." First we have to give our sincere thanks to those who wrote articles on their favorite birding spots in last year's newsletter: Dave Jensen, Clyde Morris, Harry Spencer, Bob Bond, Rick VanWagenen, Joelle Buffa, Stephen Carlile and Jana McKinney. They all wrote fine articles which I'm sure helped open up hours of birding enjoyment for our chapter members.

Once again Dave Jensen starts off the series with his inspiring birding article in this month's newsletter. Who will write next month's article? or Decembers? Aprils? Can you give to others some tips on the best birding spots around Utah Lake? the Uintas? Salt Lake? the West Deseret? Capital Reef Park? the Wasatch Mountains? Cache County? or any other location? How about your favorite birding spot that others would love to bird but just don't know about yet? HELP US! If you even have a glimmer of interest in writing an article please contact Clyde Morris at work, 524-5437 or home, 484-8156. Suggestions on good places to write about or even who you would like to see write about a certain place can help the committee. We have our ways to making these wishes come true. Come on. Share with the rest of us. Phone the committee now.

EDITOR'S NOTE: BAS members could write to Utah Audubon Society News/ P.O. Box 9419/ Salt Lake City, UT 84109.

### HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS READ HIGH COUNTRY NEWS to find out what's happening in the Rocky Mountain Region. They read it because the 15-year old newspaper helps readers around the country understand the issues facing the west. And, HCN helps environmentalists who live here keep in touch with each other. Subscribe today to the paper for people who care about the West.

I'm enclosing \$18 for a one year individual subscription (24 issues).  
I'm enclosing \$25 for a one year institutional subscription (24 issues; libraries, government agencies, businesses).  
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High Country News, Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428 (Advertisement)

**National Audubon Society**  
**C H A P T E R**  
 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

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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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- 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 Still*, as well as to *Audubon* magazine.

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