

# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 22, No. 2

October 1993

## A Conundrum of Common Names

Rare bird alert! Flocks of sprigs, cow-frogs, fiddlers and blarling ducks have been seen returning to Cache Valley! (More commonly known as Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, Redheads and Gadwalls.) Can you guess what a brass-eyed whistler is? How about a jingler or a merry-wing? These are all other names for the Common Goldeneye. Did you know that the Bufflehead was also called the bumblebee duck, butter-back, butterball, butter-box, conjuring duck, dapper, dipper, dopper, marionette, robin dipper, spirit duck and wool-head?

Most of our birds have been known by many different names over the years. All plants and animals have a confusing list of so-called "common names." In 1753, the Swedish naturalist Karl Linne' developed our current system of categorizing life-forms. He decided to adopt a unique Latin name for everything. Genus and species names were given for biological specimens from all over the world by Linnaeus. (He even gave himself a Latin name!) This method simplified matters considerably for scholars so that everyone knew what everyone else was talking about.

When the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) was formed in 1883, they decided to agree upon an accepted list of common names that American birds would be known as. These common names would be used more commonly than the Latin names. Now, (and here's my pet peeve) the A.O.U. insists on changing common names every couple of years, ostensibly to

provide more descriptive names. But what, really, is the difference between the Black-shouldered Kite and the White-tailed Kite? Or the Ring-billed Duck and the Ring-necked Duck? Both birds have both features. I maintain that it is a plot to sell more copies and editions of birding field guides. You have to buy the new books to keep up with the new names.

Some of the more hard-core ornithologists in the group may wish to argue, but I would modestly propose that we return to the Latin names. Being scientifically inclined at a young age, and knowing no better, I began my bird-watching career by memorizing Latin names. *Phoenicurus ludovicianus* (Rose-breasted Grosbeak) and *Turdus migratorius* (American Robin) rolled off my tongue. I thought these were just as descriptive as the common names and more fun to say. However, to my chagrin, when I tried birding with other people, no one else knew what the heck a *Picoides villosus* was (Hairy Woodpecker).

See CONUNDRUM on page 3

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# Calendar

**Thursday, October 14.** BAS General Meeting at 7:30 pm Vickie Roy, a biologist at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, will give us an update on restoration efforts, and future endeavors for the refuge.

**Wednesday, October 20.** BAS Planning Meeting. 7 pm at Tom and Pat Gordon's home, 718 N. 200 E., Logan.

## Field Trips

**Saturday, October 16.** Elk bugling at Hardware Ranch. Those that missed the trip to the Tetons to observe elk can do it the easy way on this trip. Leave at 4 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Drive the 20 miles to Hardware Ranch and watch the elk that gather on the sanctuary of the feed grounds safe from hunters. Elk will be bugling, sparring and going through their normal courtship in full view from the Visitor's Center. Bring a supper. Return by 8 p.m. Dress warmly.

**Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23.** Birding for Beginners. This will be a two-part workshop for real beginners interested in getting started in birding. Friday meet at 7:30 p.m. in Natural Resources Room 105 to learn how to use binoculars and a slide show to acquaint participants with the common birds of Cache Valley and tips to identify birds in general. Saturday meet at 9 a.m. at the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by noon. Bring binoculars both Friday and Saturday—ONE PAIR per individual. The Saturday field trip will be open only to those attending Friday's meeting. All beginners welcome including children.

**Saturday, November 6.** A Visit to Bird Feeding Stations. A good chance to observe common winter birds and see various ways to attract birds. The highlight will be a visit to the home of Martha Balph where she has several dozen feeders that attract numerous birds. She will put out feed to attract a big flock of magpies for us to observe. Leave at 9 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return about noon.

## USU Canoe and Kayak Club

The club promotes white water and flat water paddling and rafting. Join the club to meet other paddlers and learn about local/regional paddling opportunities and issues. Membership is open to anyone in the community.

This short "newsletter" will summarize our activities. If

you would like to continue to receive news of club activities please join the club.

We sponsor pool sessions (practice rolls and strokes) and teach a beginning kayak class. Meeting activities include paddling and rafting videos and slide shows.

For information contact Jean Lown of Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

## Field Trip Highlights

### Kokanee Put on a Great Show

Some 35 persons drove the 25 miles to Porcupine Reservoir and on up the Little Bear River to observe the spawning of kokanee. When we first arrived we didn't see a single brilliant red kokanee. I thought, "Oh my, the run hasn't started yet." Fortunately a passerby assured us that there were plenty of salmon farther up. Sure enough almost a mile up the stream kokanee began to appear in large numbers. Some were already defending territories, chasing other contesting fish off the choice gravel bottom ideal for making a redd. These are places with fine gravel that the female scoops out by vigorously shaking her body time after time until the nest site is ready. Many males were resting side by side with females, waiting for the moment when the female would release her eggs so that he could fertilize them. Other kokanee were beating their way up the rapids, but far more were resting in deep pools to recover enough energy to make repeated spurts as they attempted to find a way upstream. Already some fish showed signs of growing weaker as seen by the white patches on fins and tail. All would die shortly after spawning and slowly drift downstream to the reservoir.

Kokanee live their first four years in the reservoir before making the run up the stream to spawn. The run is triggered by dropping water temperature. Because of this year's cool, wet summer the run was earlier than usual.

The Utah Department of Wildlife Resources sponsors an annual kokanee day on the Little Bear, Strawberry Reservoir and elsewhere. More and more people have learned about these spawning runs and are making a family outing to the event. For those who missed this trip you can still drive to the head of Porcupine Reservoir just south of Avon, walk through a locked gate about a half mile to the stream. By early October the run will be over with numerous kokanee dead or dying. Look for gulls feasting on them, or the tracks of mink and raccoon along the silty shores of the reservoir as they forage for the abundant food. Hopefully bald eagles may discover this rich source of food as they now do at many streams and reservoirs farther north where kokanee have been stocked.

— Al Stokes

## Conundrum

Continued from page 1

So, the next time someone tells you there are blatherskites or *Oxyura jamaicensis* or Ruddy Ducks on the 20-20 pond, you'll know what they're talking about. Or will you?

See if you can stump your friends with these "common names." a) Lawyer, b) Tiger Brant, c) Hickory-quaker, d) Moss-head, e) Big Blue Darter, f) Bird of Jupiter, g) Woodpile Quarker, h) Windhover.

— Dawn Holzer

a) Double-crested Cormorant, b) Snow Goose, c) Canvasback, d) Hooded Merganser, e) Cooper's Hawk, f) Golden Eagle, g) Ruffed Grouse, h) American Kestrel.

## HELP WANTED!

Would you be willing to help organize Bridgerland activists to contact legislators during the December-March legislative session? Hours are sort (1-3/week) and the rewards are great. You could be our new Legislative Chairperson! Contact Dawn Holzer at 258-5205 for more details.

## New Members

Diane Baum, Logan  
John & Coralie Beyers, Logan  
B. C. Bosworth, Hyde Park  
C. D. Cheney, Logan  
Brad Floyd, Logan  
Jeri Garner, Logan  
Marie Hawkes, Logan  
Betty Houghton, Portage, WI  
Isabel Katana, Logan  
Ginny Lessiak, Logan  
Katharine Lofdahl, Logan  
Craig McGregor, Thatcher, ID  
Colleen Atwood Riley, Logan  
Jack Schmidt & Barbara Rushmore, Lgoan  
Wendy Sanborn, Logan  
Thomas J. Schroeder, Wellsville  
Janet Shapero, Logan  
J. Smart, Logan  
Dan & Kendra Warren, Smithfield

## Renewing Members

Grant Allen, Mendon  
Patricia Bahler, Logan  
Anne B. Billaux, Logan  
Andrea Brickey, Salt Lake City  
Mrs. Linda A. Chisolm, Paradise  
Mr. Donald T. Cundy, Paradise  
Scott Datwyler, Logan  
Howard M. Deer, Logan  
Mr. Keith L. Dixon, Logan  
Joanna Endter-Wada, Logan  
Nancy Fox & David Fogel, Smithfield  
Mr. Al Forsyth, Logan  
Sue Sanborn & Jerry Furhiman, Logan  
Karla Hansen, Logan  
Ruth B. Helm, Logan  
John M. Howell, Logan  
Pamela Hudson, Hyde Park  
Molly Hysel, Logan  
Larry J. Jacobsen, Logan  
Mrs. Judith J. Johnson, Logan  
Marilyn Jones, Mendon  
Deann Lester, Brigham City  
Jennifer A. Levy, Logan  
Mariya Lowry, Logan  
James T. Malouf, Logan  
Austin McHugh, Logan  
Dr. Robert J. Miller, Preston, ID  
Barbara J. Miller, Logan  
Clyde Milner II, Logan  
Ivan G. Palmblad, Providence  
Virginia Parker, Logan  
J. R. Parrish, Paradise  
Kim Sullivan & Bruce Pendery, Logan  
Mrs. Pickett, Logan  
Mary Piette, Logan  
Beverly & Jerry Ridenhour, Logan  
Charles L. Salsberg, Logan  
Eugene W. Schupp, Logan  
Dianne Siegfried, Providence  
Environmental Stations, Mendon  
Mrs. L. A. Stoddart, Logan  
Kathleen Vanslyke, Providence  
Paul G. Wolf, Logan  
Dr. Gar W. Workman, Logan

## Have You Tried Thistle Seed?

Niger thistle is a sure-fire attraction for gold finches \$2 per pound. Thistle feeders are available at Shop-Ko and elsewhere. Give it a try. Call Al at 752-2702 or pick it up at the regular Audubon meeting.

# Common Ground Outdoor Adventure

## Outings

**Saturday, September 18. Big Cottonwood Canyon.**  
Drums and hikes. Meet at OPTIONS for Independence, 1095 N. Main at 9:30 a.m. We'll car pool to the canyon and eat lunch. George Grant of Salt Lake will lead us in a drum circle followed by an afternoon of hiking and exploring the canyon. Bring a lunch, water, and \$2.50 for the drum session. You will probably want sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear, and a jacket. There is limited space on this trip, so call in advance. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**Friday-Sunday, October 8-10. Arches National Park**  
camping trip. Meet at OPTIONS for Independence, 1095 N. Main at 12 p.m. on Friday, and we will car pool to Arches. The weekend will include hiking, cook-outs, and the chance to meet new people and soak up some incredible scenery. Anyone interested should come to the pre-trip meeting on October 6 at 7 p.m. For more info, call Kate at 753-5353.

**Winter trip in January.** Downhill skiing? Snow camping? Any suggestions? Details to be announced this fall.

## Next Meeting

October 6 at 7 p.m. at OPTIONS for Independence. Everyone is welcome. Trips are made accessible to people of all abilities. Accessible transportation is available if needed. For more information call Kate 753-5353.

FIRST EVER

# Walk & Roll Information:



Date: October 2, 1993

The Logan Canyon hike will be for people of all abilities. After the hike we will meet back at Spring Hollow for food, a drawing, and live folk music by **Megan Peters** of Salt Lake City.

Registration: 12:00 noon  
Hikes: 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
Dinner, Music,  
Drawing 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Registration is \$ 10.00. (12.00 after 9/30) and includes a T-Shirt and ticket for the post-hike dinner/barbeque. Registration forms will be used for the drawing. Dinner only is \$5.00, Kids under 12 are \$4.00 each; under 3, free.

Accessible transportation is available on a first come, first serve basis. For more information please call Kate Stephens at 753-5353.

In case of rain the fundraiser will be held at the Eagle's Lodge, 170 West 900 North in Logan.

## First Ever Walk & Roll Registration Form, October 2, 1993

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 per adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ T- Shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ (L)

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 per person (dinner only) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (XL)

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$4.00 per child = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Common Ground Outdoor Adventures, c/o OPTIONS for Independence, 1095 N. Main, Logan, UT 84321  
Include full payment with this registration form. Please make checks to Common Ground.

# LOCAL NEWS

## Mendon Road to Valley View Highway

Total acres: 2,200

UP&L acquired about 10 acres on Spring Creek to protect the only Great Blue Heron rookery in the valley. As you might remember, the previous owner threatened to cut the whole thing down and backed up the threat by removing about 25% of the trees and nests. We can all breathe a sigh of relief to know that the herons' nesting colony is safer than it has ever been.

UP&L will build a car pullover, parking lot (five small slots) and canoe launch off the Mendon Road on the Little Bear River, screened from the road by plantings. It will make a safer and more convenient access to paddling in pasture and riparian habitat.

The land all around the meanders of the Logan River will be managed strictly for wildlife. Previously, over 1000 cows used this area. There will be plantings for pheasants along Valley View Highway. There will be two recreational access points on the Logan River. A large one will replace the "Valley View Marina" (the large and unsightly gravel parking lot where we have been launching our canoes for years). This lot will be on the south side of Valley View Highway, to the west of the previous site and west of the new bridge that UDOT is building over the Logan River. This access will have a concrete boat launch, toilets, picnic shelter and space for 50 cars.

A smaller canoe access is planned just east of "the ditch" and west of the road to Benson turnout. This will have only six parking places, but will provide paddle boaters with a new and easy way to ride the Logan down to the big site as a take out.

The rest of the territory between the two roads will be divided up into blocks and managed as a short grass waterfowl area, using smaller numbers of cows to keep the grass short, but not pounded. In these areas, cows will be denied access to the creeks, so that plantings on the banks can reestablish a riparian woodland where it has been removed.

We have a lot to thank Utah Power & Light for in these projects. Next time you pay your power bill maybe you will think more kindly toward them. Keep tuned to upcoming *Stilt* articles to find out what is in store for the other four management units.

— Alice Lindahl

## Spring Creek Ranch

On August 28, the Division of Wildlife Resources dedicated the Bud Phelps Wildlife Management Area on the Mendon Road. It is not really a ranch, since the property purchased by the DWR does not contain any of the buildings of Spring Creek Ranch. It consists of 275 acres of irrigated fields and pastures adjacent to Utah Power and Light's extensive properties in the area.

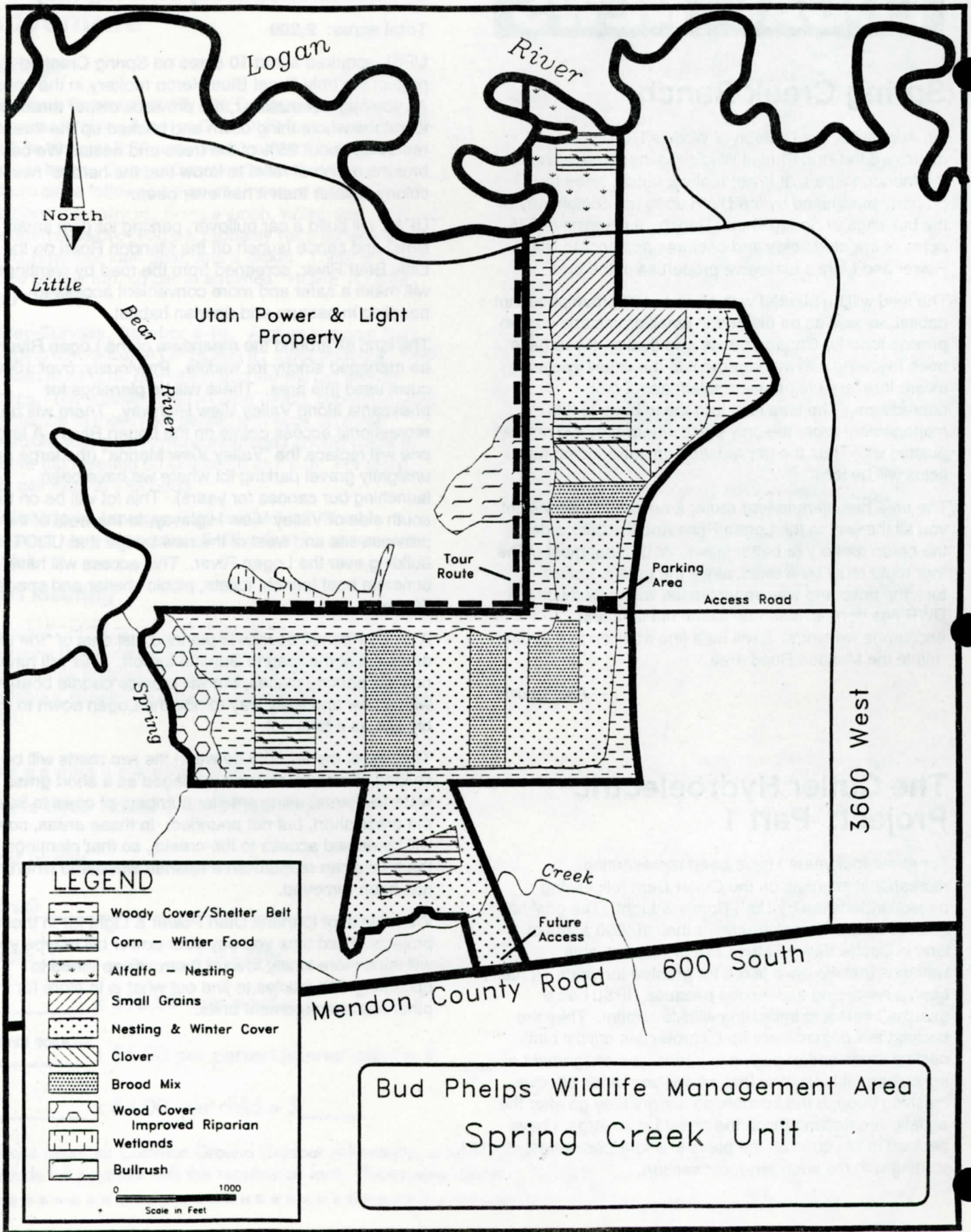
The land will be planted with shrubs to improve pheasant habitat, as well as be planted in small grains and corn to provide food for Canada geese and ducks. If you have been following bird management in the valley you are aware that farmers often complain about crop depredation. The idea is to lure these birds to this management area, the only place where they will not be pushed off. Thus the depredation on surrounding farm fields will be less.

The area has an auto tour route, a new road that will get you all the way to the Logan River and the back side of the heron rookery (a better view). At present most of the tour route must be walked, since the gate is locked. I took the drive and was very pleased with how much the DWR has done to clean up all the old junk and encourage wetlands. It will be a fine addition to a birding trip to the Mendon Road area.











— Alice Lindahl

## The Cutler Hydroelectric Project: Part 1

For about four years I have been representing recreational interests on the Cutler Dam relicensing project undertaken by Utah Power & Light. The goal has been to write a management for their 10,000 acres of land in Cache Valley. Much of it is very valuable wetlands that we have taken for granted for years. It has been a rewarding experience because UP&L has a genuine interest in improving wildlife habitat. They are backing this commitment up by protecting critical bird nesting areas and engaging in intensive management of agriculture. It is unlikely that we will see herds of cows crashing through the bulrush, so hungry they go after the aquatic vegetation. Since the project is so large, I have decided to fill you in on the plans in a four part series, starting with the southern-most section.



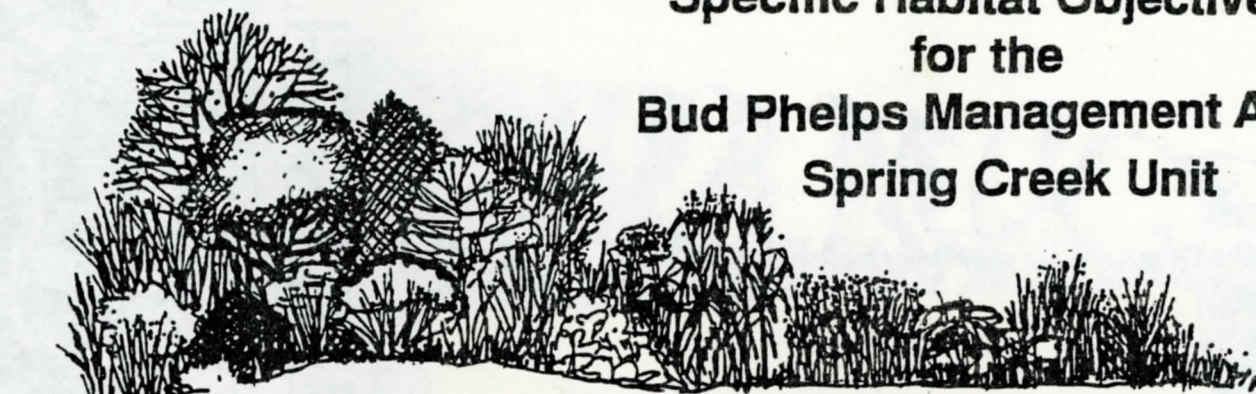
**LEGEND**

-  Woody Cover/Shelter Belt
-  Corn - Winter Food
-  Alfalfa - Nesting
-  Small Grains
-  Nesting & Winter Cover
-  Clover
-  Brood Mix
-  Wood Cover Improved Riparian
-  Wetlands
-  Bullrush

0 1000  
Scale in Feet

Bud Phelps Wildlife Management Area  
Spring Creek Unit

# Specific Habitat Objectives for the Bud Phelps Management Area Spring Creek Unit



## ┌ Woody Cover

- Improve diversity and density of existing riparian cover by planting an understory of shrubs and small trees (i.e., hawthorn, western plum, willow, wild rose, and golden currant).
- Create shelterbelts along roads and waterways to provide winter cover, travel corridors, and visual barriers for wildlife; increase safety and solitude for humans.

## + Food Plots

- Provide a variety of food types for various wildlife species.
- Establish standing corn, sunflowers, and annual weeds adjacent to winter cover.
- Plant corn to provide food during periods of deep snow.
- Plant grains such as wheat, barley, and millet in larger blocks for cranes and geese.

## + Nesting/Brood Cover ─

- Utilize no-till drilling into standing grain stubble to provide early nesting cover.
- Improve height and density values of existing nesting cover by interseeding various forbs and grasses.
- Leave areas of residual grasses, weeds and blocks of unharvested alfalfa.
- Plant "brood" mix of cereal grains, millet, kale, and canola adjacent to nesting cover.

### Management Goals for Upland Species

- Provide winter food, nesting and brood cover for various life stages.
- Maximize interspersation among cover types.
- Provide winter food sources adjacent to woody cover.
- Provide/improve winter cover with woody shrubs and tall annual forbs, and underplantings in existing tree cover.

### Management Goals for Waterfowl

- Provide food and nesting/brood-rearing cover for waterfowl and cranes.
- Create or enhance dense nesting cover adjacent to food plots and wetland areas.
- Provide food plots to lure waterfowl away from nearby farms to relieve depredation on crops.

### Management Goals for Other Wildlife

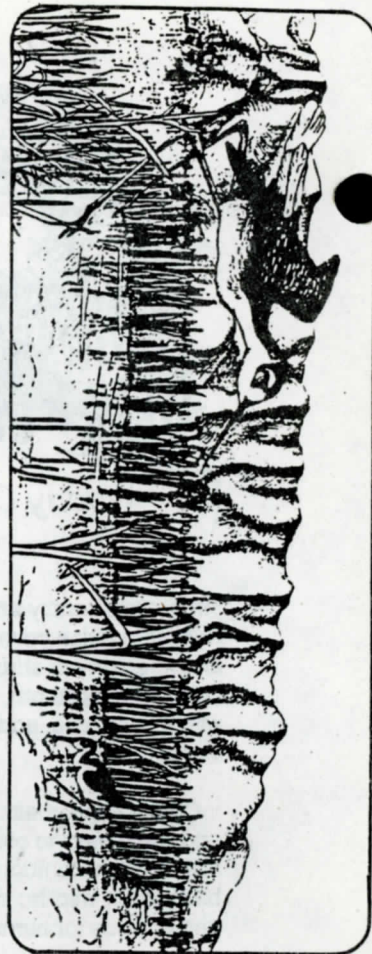
- Habitat objectives for pheasants and waterfowl will satisfy the needs of other resident and migratory species.

Cooperative efforts of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Mendon Wildlife Federation, and Pheasants Forever have resulted in the following accomplishments:

- Installation of a parking area, fencing and signage.
- Debris removal
- Planting of 16,000 tree and shrub seedlings.
- Establishment of 35 acres of small grains food plots.
- Extensive disturbance tillage for weed and forb establishment.
- Removal of hazardous interior fencing.
- Improvement of the irrigation system.

# THE STILT

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



Mervin & Mae Coover  
435 Canyon Rd  
Providence UT 84332

Nonprofit Organization  
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Logan, Utah

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in the Meeting Room of the new Logan City Building, 255 N. Main. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. The BAS Planning Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, September through May, at the home of Tom and Pat Gordon, (718 North 200 East, Logan). Everyone is welcome to attend.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| President      | Dawn Holzer, 258-5205  |
| Vice President | Don McIvor, 563-6189   |
| Secretary      | Kristen LaVine, 753-5970   |
| Treasurer      | Susan Robertson, 752-4598  |
| Conservation   | Jaren Barker, 753-0242   |
| Education      | Jack Greene, 563-6816  |
| Membership     | Al Stokes, 752-2702  |
| Field Trips    | Al Stokes, 752-2702  |
| Newsletter     | Lois & Randy Olson, 752-9085   |
| Circulation    | Tom Gordon, 752-6561   |
| Publicity      | Chris Sands, 755-9524  |
| Hospitality    | Bill & Marjorie Lewis, 753-8724  |
| Hotline        | Nancy Williams, 753-6268   |
| Recycling      |  |
| Legislation    |  |
| Trustees       |  |
| 1990-93        | John Barnes, 563-3910; Rebecca Echols, 753-2367<br>Richard Mueller, 752-5637 |
| 1991-94        | Keith Archibald, 752-8258; Ron Hellstern, 753-8750<br>Bill Ehmann, 752-1684  |
| 1993-95        | Pat Gordon, 752-6561; John Sigler, 753-5879                                  |

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as the *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Stilt* invites submissions of any kind, due on the 15th of each month. Send to 280 N. 300 E., Logan, UT 84321.

## National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$32 is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

**National Audubon Society**  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001  
LOCAL CHAPTER



**Bridgerland Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 3501  
Logan, UT 84323-3501

W-52

Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA

Subscriptions to *The Stilt* are available to non-members for \$5.00 per year. Call Tom Gordon, 752-6561. Also, call Tom for new subscriptions or address changes.