

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 23, No. 2

October 1994

“I Don’t Think This Is Kansas, Toto”

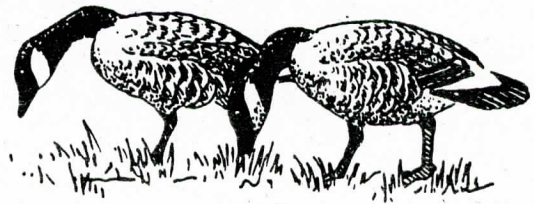
A good way to add to your bird list is to visit a different habitat. Sometimes all it takes is a change from one side of the hill to the other, or from the bottom of a canyon up to the ridge. But, after a while, you have seen most of the common birds and new ones take a lot of effort. At that point, the best strategy is simple: go to another country, preferably someplace far away and on an island. “Cheating!” I can hear it now. Probably so, but it was still fun.

Australia for seven weeks was a gas. One day we saw over 30 new species in just a few hours. Every time we’d turn around, there would be another strange shape and color. Some were the same: Great Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel. Others looked like some strange cousin of birds around here; the Masked Finch a Cassin’s Finch with Halloween-colored bill; the Straw-necked Ibis a White-faced Ibis that fell into a puddle of bleach. But, the others, ahhh... Like the Emu—six feet tall and prehistoric. Or Albert’s Lyrebird—a pheasant-sort of thing skulking along the rainforest floor with its tail arched forward over its face in showy postures aimed at the girl lyrebirds somewhere out there. And the bower birds, corvid-like guys that build romantic arches out of 12" sticks and decorate the ground around the bower with blue or white bits of toothbrushes, bottle tops, clothespins, or whatever nearby campers left lying around (and only certain shades of blue, too). The odd part is they keep the inside of the bowers “spic and span.” Toss some of the decorations into the center of

the bower, and Jake the Bowerbird would come back in a huff, look you in the eye with contempt, and then, as if greatly inconvenienced, move the decorations back out where they belonged.

Yeah, you might want to check it out. If you get the chance, go someplace far away with a local bird book, and have at it. It’s so easy to see new birds, there ought to be a tax on it!

If you’d like up-to-date info on birding in Australia, give us a call—Bryan and Jean, 752-6830.



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Calendar

Thursday, October 6. Paddler Party, 6 pm, 96 East 500 South, Logan. All paddlers and prospective paddlers are invited. Food and beverages provided. Bring some slides to show. RSVP 753-4517 or 752-6830. For info call Jean Lown, 752-6830.

Thursday, October 13. BAS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm. Here's something to get you in the mood for changing seasons, and to help keep those Utah winters in perspective. Our first monthly general meeting for the fall season will feature tales of ice and snow from world travelers Debbie and Jim Gessaman. Ice and snow? Sounds like your driveway in January? Nope. Jim and Debbie will share slides and tales from their recent trip to **Antarctica**. This is a great chance to learn a little about one of the remote continents on Earth—sure to be a great travel log!

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16. Utah Audubon Council Retreat. See page 5 for more details.

Wednesday, October 19. BAS Planning Meeting. Sessions are open to all members, but officers, chair-people and board trustees are particularly encouraged to attend. Pat and Tom Gordon will host this month's meeting at 718 N. 200 E. beginning promptly at 7 pm.

Field Trips

Friday/Sunday, October 7-9. Elk Bugling in the Tetons. Camp for two nights at Gros Ventre Campgrounds within Grand Teton National Park. Observe bison, antelope, moose, beaver, and of course elk. Go out Saturday evening with Terry Barnes to watch the huge bulls bugle and challenge other bulls and have them respond to her own elk bugle. A van will leave at 1 pm Friday with a charge of \$10 per person. Others will leave as their schedules permit. Count on 4 1/2 hour drive from Logan. Be prepared for sub-freezing temperatures at night but sunny, warmer weather by day. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS NEEDED.** Call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

Sunflower Seed

Sunflower seed will be available starting October 8 at Sunrise Cyclery or the home of Al Stokes, 1722 Saddle Hill Drive. Price is \$16 per 50-pound bag. Bring any empty bags for a \$1 refund per bag (Stokes home only). If Al is not home read instructions on garage door and help yourself. Make all checks to Bridgerland Audubon Society.

News From Afar

John and Ann Mull have moved to Granville, Ohio where John will be teaching biology at Denison University. For years while in Logan John and Ann provided hospitality for the official hawkwatchers on top of the Wellsvilles.

Rob and Sally Jackson will be moving from Palo Alto to Austin, Texas in December where Rob will be teaching at the University of Texas, Austin. Their second child David Alexander Jackson was born in August. Sally was a mainstay of our chapter during the years they were here including making the attractive "Bridgerland Audubon Society" banner we use at our meetings and other celebrations. To my knowledge she is our only member to have been treed by a bull moose.

Still Seeking

BAS Audubon still needs a legislative chairperson to coordinate with Utah State Audubon Council and the new lobbyist we are hiring. Plan on attending a few organizational meetings in the Salt Lake or Ogden area before the state legislative session (November and December) and activate the BAS phone tree during the session (January and February). No experience required, only enthusiasm. Requires about 4-6 hours/month. Call 258-5205 for more details.

Science Equipment Needed

Here's a great opportunity for you to do a little house cleaning—plus—be a tremendous asset to local students.

Our "Earth Systems" science classes at the South Cache 9th Grade Center will be involved in several innovative projects and programs this year. We could certainly use equipment to assist us in our studies.

We are specifically looking for: binoculars, hand lenses, telescopes, field guide books, aquarium/terrariums (with or without the plants or animals), bird feeders & houses, all types of plant seeds, lumber and poultry netting, bark mulch, weather station (barometer, thermometer, rain gauge), etc.

If you have access to any of the above items and would like to donate (or loan) them to us please drop them off at our school, or call 245-6433 and we will be happy to pick them up at your home. Thank you for your assistance.

Ron Hellstern
South Cache 9th Grade Center
Hyrum, Utah

New Members

William E Avery
Ms S Coulbrooke
Kim Fowler
Dustin T Hansen
Marty Judd
Cindy Madison
Jeanette Norton
Estelle Ritchie
Saundra Schimmelpennig
Bert J Walton

Renewing Members

Joni Andersen
Patricia Bahler
Martha Balph
Marlene Beecher
Stephen Bialkowski
Anne D Billaux
Tracy L Bodrero
Max Brunson, Jr
John R Carlisle
Mr & Mrs J B Clifford
T W Daniel
Howard M Deer
Ted & Debbie Evans
Karen Fasy
Al Forsyth
Mrs Martha R Hansen
Chuck Hawkins
John M Howell
Joanne Hughes
Deann Lester
Mariya Lowry
Don McIvor
Rosalie Mueggler
Michael & Mary Lu Roskelley
J R Parrish
Gene Schupp
Kate Stephens
Mr & Mrs Robert E Taylor
Mrs Elaine H Watkins

Hotline

The weather's been dry as a soda cracker. Nevertheless, shorebirds call this place home—and sharp-eyed birders have spotted some rarities locally.

Hot Bird of the Month honors go to Bob Atwood, who saw a Sabine's gull September 1 at the Hyrum sewage lagoons. The bird normally flies about 20 miles off the Pacific coast, and has a distinctive "W" black-and-white wing pattern.

Running a close second in the honors department is Keith Archibald, who alerted the troops to a common tern that camped out mid-September along Valley View highway. Several people confirmed the sighting, an exercise made easier because of the common tern's choice of companions—several Forster's terns. The birds are quite similar, but the common tern has a darker, less forked tail and sootier wing tips.

Other notable migrants that pass through regularly but are always a treat to see were an osprey, seen "hanging out on a telephone pole" near their Benson home on September 14 by Daniel and Kendra Warren, and a great egret in the water south of Valley View highway the morning of September 20, seen by me.

Also seen and reported this month:

Sept. 1 — Sandpipers at the Hyrum sewage lagoons—including Bairds, least, spotted and solitary, by Keith Archibald.

Sept. 4 — Three Townsend's warblers, and flocks of yellow-rumped warblers near Tony Grove, by Keith Archibald.

Sept. 5 — White-throated sparrow (immature), seen in the Nibley yard of Kathleen and Tony Strelch, and reported by Val Grant.

Sept. 10 — A gathering of Swainson's hawks, perhaps the beginning of the annual mass exodus, in stubble fields near Hyde Park, reported by Swede Dahl.

Sept. 17 — Red-eyed vireo, flitting among the standing corn stalks in our garden, eating bugs.

Sept. 25 — A broad-winged hawk, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon and ferruginous hawk, all seen from the top of the Wellsvilles by Brian Dixon and Jean Lown. Brian also says the Amalga Barrens are still full of shorebirds, including both greater and lesser yellowlegs and possibly short-billed dowitchers, for people willing to hike in to the third pond.

Best Vacation Bird Honors

This prize has to go to Kit Flannery, who played in Nova Scotia in July and came home with 13 new species including the Atlantic puffin, black razorbill, great cormorant and common eider. She also delighted in "loon mummies, with loonlings on their backs." Which just goes to prove that Brian Dixon, who writes elsewhere in this issue that the best way to inflate your Life List is to leave the USA on your vacation, is absolutely right.

So we're on to fall, and colder weather. Keep your eyes sharp and your birdfeeders full, and call when you see something neat. We'll keep the answering machine warm.

Nancy Williams
753-6268

Crane Days A Success!

The First Annual Cache Valley Sandhill Crane Days was a resounding success on all accounts. One hundred birders from all around the state flocked to Cache Valley the weekend after Labor Day to celebrate the glories of our spectacular crane migration.

Over \$1000 was raised to donate to the state's Utah Wildlife Heritage Fund to purchase lure crops to attract cranes that may feed on local grain. In addition, approximately \$6800 was contributed to the local Logan economy in food, lodging and other purchases by participants.

Thanks to all of the people who volunteered and especially to the sandhill cranes for making this festival a true celebration of cranes. The group enjoyed a lively social, beautiful bird art and the nationally acclaimed Audubon movie "Crane River" on Friday night downstairs at the Coppermill restaurant.

Early Saturday morning the group boarded four LTD busses and drove directly to locations near the Bear River marshes where cranes had been spotted. Busses were stocked with several spotting scopes and knowledgeable trip guides who narrated interesting details of crane biology and lore. Hundreds of cranes were seen performing marvelously; flying overhead, calling out and dancing. Stops were made at several locations throughout the valley for ample crane-viewing and at the edge of the Wellsvilles to hear about Hawkwatch International's efforts to monitor the raptor migration.

Some of the group attended the optional historical walking tour of downtown Logan. Another social and a delicious Dutch oven dinner were hosted in Logan Canyon on Saturday evening. A beautiful rainbow preceded our meal, but was followed by actual rain just after dessert was served. The poetry and story-telling planned for the outdoor amphitheater had to be cancelled. But look for it again next year!

That's right, plans are already underway for an improved Crane Days '95. The small, but dedicated group of organizers learned a lot this first year and want this to continue to become a bigger fund raiser for crane protection. We want to be able to show the Utah Wildlife Board that a continued hunt for cranes (34 killed in Rich county this year) is not only ill-advised, but also not cost effective. To do this we will need more help.

We need people for planning, public relations, advertising, brochure and poster design, TV and radio interviews, field trip coordinators, picture-taking, artists, entertainment planning, catering contacts, sponsorship seeking, accounting, kid's activities, T-shirt design and sales, etc., etc. The sky is literally the limit! If you care about cranes in Utah and want to help or have suggestions contact me at 258-5205

Last, but not least, thanks to the many who did help this year by planning, volunteering or participating:
Organizers—Margaret Pettis, Lynnette Brooks, Keith Johnson, Meridene Alexander and Jaren Barker;
Spouses—Dick Carter, Rhett Brooks, Joan Johnson and

Rob Roy; Spotters—Kim Richardson, Dick Carter and Colleen Dinsdale; Artists—Ellen Klompf, Richard Johnson and Sally Wolfe; Field Trip Guides—Al Stokes, Val Grant, Don McIvor, Ray Smith and Jean LeBer; Logan Tour Guides—Kim Richardson and Sam Reynolds; Origami Cranes—Martha Balph; Story-tellers—Ona Siporin and Alexa West; Sponsors—A Bookstore, The Grapevine Restaurant, Bridgerland Audubon Society, Utah Wilderness Association, Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, Hawkwatch International, The Nature Conservancy, Bridgerland Travel Region, Utah Wildlife Manifesto, International Crane Foundation, and Humane Society of Utah; Businesses—Hy Olsen Catering, Logan Transit District, Coppermill and Straw Ibis.

Dawn Holzer

LOCAL NEWS

The Grass Is Greener On The Other Side

If you don't believe me, go take a look at the 1/2 mile stretch of riparian habitat along the Hell Hollow road 10 miles north of Hardware Ranch. Logan Ranger District head Bill Thompson, decided this critical wildlife area needed a rest from grazing by domestic stock, so he worked a deal with the permittees to fence it off without significant impact on the grazing rights. This was the first summer where this segment of the stream was "rested" and the results are dramatic already.

I was fortunate enough to visit the site in late July to collect some baseline data for a long-term study which Bill hopes to involve Bridgerland Audubon in, along with Forest Service personnel. Ranger Thompson will attempt to document changes in flora and fauna which he predicts will come as the area recovers. What I observed was most encouraging.

The area already abounds with wildlife as a healthy mix of wetlands, cold desert shrub, and aspen communities are adjacent to the stream bottom. Numerous beaver ponds, many of them active, offer excellent brood ponds for dabblers and foraging for shore birds. In my brief half day encounter, well beyond the peak of wildlife activity, I counted 30 different species of birds, eight species of mammals, including direct sighting of a weasel hunting in tangle of wood debris below the beaver dam, a coyote in the sage covered hillside, several western garter snakes, fresh deer and elk sign which find the four foot fence easy passage.

Bill would like to see Audubon become involved in some of the monitoring, to document short and long term change in comparison to riparian areas adjacent to the fenced site. I hope we will see fit to do so, not only for the science data it would generate, but also for the joy spending time in such a rich natural area.

Jack Greene
Seasonal Ranger

REGIONAL NEWS

Retreat With Utah Audubon Council, Oct. 15 & 16, 1994

Day 1 – All Audubon members and friends are cordially invited to attend the annual fall retreat hosted by Mt. Timpanogos Chapter. The focus will be on Utah Lake Wetlands and the environment of the proposed Monks Hollow dam and reservoir.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Mountain Springs (Exit 265 to Springville) for rest stop and car pooling.

Monks Hollow damsite is in Diamond Fork, 7.2 miles up canyon from turnoff on U.S. 5-60 in Spanish Fork Canyon. Head south on I-15 to Spanish Fork-Price Exit 261, then go 11.3 miles up Spanish Fork Canyon on U.S. 6-50 to Diamond Fork, where you will exit. Drive 7.2 miles on paved road to the proposed Monks Hollow damsite, unmarked, but apparent from evidence of exploration working. This is our meeting place.

Dr. Kevin Colver will join us. Many of the bird songs of his new CD were recorded in this area.

Following lunch (bring your own) at Palmyra Campground, we will drive to Benjamin Slough and Goshen Bay for an overview of the Wetlands of Utah Lake.

Timpanogos Chapter will host the group for supper at the Family Tree restaurant in Santaquin.

Note: Bed and Breakfast will be coordinated by Peg Hamilton. Call her at 489-5874 to reserve a roosting spot for Saturday night, and to let us know if you plan to join us.

Day 2 – Birding at Daybreak! Meet at Provo River Bridge at 7:30 a.m. on West Center Street for carpooling. Route will follow the dirt road along the dike on the south side of the Provo River. Mike Monson will lead the birding. This is a favorite area for Mike. Since March, he has seen a variety of birds. Over 60 species have been counted recently in this area. If you have any questions about our daybreak birding, call Mike at 225-3713.

Following birding, we will meet at 9:00 am at Utah Lake State Park headquarters for juice, rolls, and a business meeting. Following this our retreat will adjourn.

If you have any questions about the retreat, call Lillian Hayes at 375-9647.

Nature, Bird Watching, Music-Audio Business

EarthSong, a new recording company in Utah, has now released its first compact disc: "Songbirds of the Rocky Mountain Foothills," a narrated guide containing exceptional quality digital recordings of the region's songbirds.

Kevin J. Colver, M.D. is one of the few natural sound recordists in the Intermountain West, actively recording and archiving songs and calls on the area's native bird species. Colver has now released a compact disc, "Songbirds of the Rocky Mountain Foothills," which takes the listener on a narrated bird walk through the region's gambel oak covered hillsides and up the cottonwood-shaded canyons. Thirty-three species are presented in sparkling digital clarity.

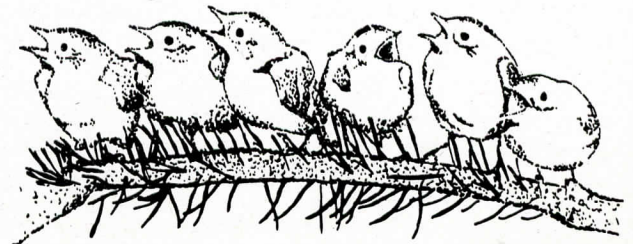
Dr. Colver first became interested in bird songs while jogging through the woods on a spring morning, in 1989. Keeping his eyes on the dirt road to avoid rocks and ruts, he discovered that birds were easily located and identified by ear as they sang from the dense vegetation. When a search for a tape of the local birds proved fruitless, he set out to make his own.

After completing a college course in nature sound recording at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Dr. Colver gathered a significant collection of field recordings. These recordings are now archived for research and educational purposes in Cornell's Library of Natural Sounds, and several of them are also included amongst the "best available sounds" found in the newly released Roger Tory Peterson's field guide *Western Bird Songs*.

EarthSong expects to release ten additional productions featuring the songbirds of major habitats across the country. The next production will be "Songbirds of the Southwest Canyon Country," followed by "Songbirds of the High Rockies." "We hope to have the country covered, from the Florida Everglades to the Pacific Northwest Rain Forest." "Songbirds of the Rocky Mountain Foothills" will be found in selected stores and birding catalogs, and from Dr. Colver's Payson office at (801) 465-9278.

EarthSong
Kevin J. Colver Productions
114 North Clark Lane
Elk Ridge, Utah 84651

Home (801) 423-1810
Work (801) 465-9278





Mervin & Mae Coover
435 Canyon Rd
Providence UT 84332

THE STILLT

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



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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. Locations may change monthly. Check calendar page. 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 | Susan Durham, 752-5637 |
| Publicity | Beth Walden, 753-0080 |
| Hospitality | Bill & Marjorie Lewis, 753-8724 |
| Hotline | Nancy Williams, 753-6268 |
| Legislative Chairperson | |
| Trustees | |
| 1991-94 | Keith Archibald, 752-8258; Ron Hellstern, 753-8750 |
| 1992-95 | Pat Gordon, 752-6561; John Sigler, 753-5879;
Val Grant, 752-7572 |
| 1993-96 | Tom Gordon, 752-6561; Rebecca Echols, 752-2367;
Richard Mueller, 752-5637 |
| 1994-97 | Scott George, 753-3918; Bryan Dixon, 752-6830;
Barbara Rusmore, 755-0758 |

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 \$20 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

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

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