

# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 23, No. 3

November 1994

## Where Are All The Animals?

*(Cassie Anderson, in third grade at Edith Bowen School, has shared some sights and feelings she experienced on her recent trip to the Tetons with Bridgerland Audubon Society.)*

When I was hiking one day, I saw a bear where we (my mom and I) had just bushwhacked. We must have turned up an ant hill or two. Then soon after when we were by a lake we saw a moose and a beaver dam. The moose was eating water lilies, then it swam in the pond and then the moose got in the middle of the trail so we went off of the trail again and we saw that the moose was pregnant. A few minutes after the moose, we saw what we thought was a bald eagle, but it ended up as a great gray owl, but when we went under it it did not just fly away it just sat in the tree. The day before this we saw a group of bison by a small lake. We saw a lot of antelope and elk.

**My Feelings** — When my mom had said "Look Cassie, there is a bear," I was very nervous. When we saw the moose my mom said when they are pregnant or have a child they are most dangerous to people because they will run at a fast speed. I was surprised that the owl just sat there in the tree and looked at my mom and I. I liked seeing the bison, it made me feel happy.

On Sunday my new friends tried to push a tree off a cliff but they couldn't push it down. Then we went to hit buoys in the water, you know the type to tie boats to. The buoys got hit every now and then. When they got

hit they had a strange sound. When we got back the tree had fallen down. It was hanging by two roots and the boys climbed down the tree but I did not. I went on the swing and I had a lot of fun. Then I had to go on a hike. I had a lot of fun on the hike but my feet hurt. I hit my shins on a big rock. I loved eating by some moose in the river, Beaver Creek. It was so fun. I saw a lot of baby fish. They were so funny I thought they were very entertaining in the water. I saw a lot of horses and kids my age on that hike. I also saw a lot of lakes. On the way back I grazed my leg. THE END.

— Cassie Anderson

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# Calendar

**Thursday, November 10.** Join Veda Depaepe for a fascinating talk and visual presentation on bats. Our General Meeting begins at 7:30 pm in the Logan City building.

**Wednesday, November 16.** BAS Planning Meeting. Open to all members, but officers, chairpeople and board trustees are particularly encouraged to attend. Bryan Dixon and Jean Lown will host this month at 10 Heritage Cove (700 N. 250 E.) at 7 pm.

## Field Trips

**Saturday, November 5.** Observe Red Squirrels. Bridgerland Audubon Society will go to the home of Al Stokes to observe red squirrels. Squirrels will be harvesting pine cones and other foods for the winter. There will be several squirrel nests to explore as well as the caches. Meet at 1 pm at the University Radio Tower on 1200 East across the street from the Foods and Nutrition Building, then drive to the nearby Stokes home. Trip will wrap-up by 3 pm. All welcome. No reservations needed. A fine trip for children as well as adults.

**Saturday, November 12.** How to Feed and Attract Birds to Your Garden. See the types of feeders, seeds and water devices. Bring binocs and dress warmly, but most observing will be from indoors. Leave at 9 am from the University Radio Tower at 1200 East, south of Logan Cemetery. Return about noon.

**Saturday, November 19.** All About Conifers. How fast does a conifer grow, how long to produce a cone; how old is a tree. Then learn to identify some conifers by constructing your own identification key. A fine family outing. Meet at the Information Desk in the Taggart Student Center at 1 pm and wrap-up by about 3 pm.

## Common Ground

### Outdoor Adventures

COMMON GROUND, an integrated outdoor program for people with and without disabilities, has obtained funding to purchase sit skis for the 1995 winter season! This fall, we'll be conducting trainings and planning ski trips. Starting in January, we'll be cross-country skiing once a month, and downhill skiing at Beaver Mountain twice a month. Volunteers are needed! For more info call Kate or Shauna at 753-5353.

**Wednesday, November 2.** Potluck Planning Meeting. Join us at Dave's place at 5:30 p.m. to discuss dates, trainings, trips, and the ski party on November 12.

Good people and good food! Dave's address is 1228 Island Drive.

**Saturday, November 12.** Ski Party. Kick-off the ski season and get to know the COMMON GROUND ski volunteers. Music, food, and location to be announced.

**Saturday-Sunday, November 19-20.** Park City Adaptive Ski Instructor Training Clinics. This is a great opportunity to learn from one of the best adaptive ski programs in the nation. The clinics will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are for volunteers as well as professional ski instructors. If you want to volunteer at the instructor level, you must attend! We'll spend the night in Park City, so bring your sleeping bag, etc. Transportation will be provided. For information on registration, call 753-5353.

WATCH FOR SKI TRIP DATES  
IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

## Pictures Available

If you were among the crowd attending our social and business meeting (not!) at Sue Robertson's house in September, you may be interested to know prints of our group photo are available. Even though there was a lot of griping about having to pose, I have to say everyone looks happy and healthy! If you were there, or if you'd just like a picture of Al and Alice surrounded by some of their admirers, I'll send you a color print if you'll send me some money to cover printing and delivery. Here's the details: 3 1/2 x 5s are \$1.25; 5 x 7s are \$3.50, and 8 x 10s are \$7.00. Send your requests to 267 East Center, Smithfield 84335.

— Don McIvor  
753-6268

## Wood Chips and Compost Available At Dump

Logan now has a chipper that makes wood chips of tree limbs. These wood chips are available free at the dump on 200 North just west of 10th West. Use this mulch in your garden beds this fall or help contribute by dropping off your grass cuttings, leaves or branches there. After all, this is one way to encourage recycling. Let's help make this a success.



**Mystery of the month:** Two blue jays—yep, the eastern variety—spend some time October 16 in the lush and wild Hyrum backyard of Marcia and John Martin. One week later, two blue jays are spied hanging out in Hyde Park at Kit Flannery's inviting roost. Possible solutions: (a) these are the same two birds, checking out all the best avian hotels and restaurants in Cache Valley; (b) these are four different birds each of which just happens to have exquisite taste in rest stops; (c) this heralds an invasion of blue jays, which will soon displace the crows in the valley; (d) none of the above, all of these people need new glasses.

We throw (d) out immediately, since all the spotters have impeccable bird-watching credentials, and (c) won't work because it's pure speculation. That leaves (a) and (b) as possibilities. . . stay tuned and keep your eyes open. If the jays stay in Cache Valley through the winter—which has happened at least once in years past—we can track them. According to Peterson's guide, they are expanding their range. Please call me if you spot them.

Incidentally, Marcia Martin says she noticed the jays at her place because they were harassing Chitters, a great-horned owl that's lived with the Martins for seven years since being rescued as an injured fledgling. I first met Chitters on Halloween night two years ago and was immediately smitten. The owl is available to visit school classrooms and local groups; call Marcia (245-5849) for information.

**Rarity of the month:** Kit Flannery reported a parasitic jaeger at Bear River Bird Refuge in Box Elder County October 1. The charcoal-colored gull-like bird is generally a sea-going denizen; Kit says it may be the first of its kind sighted in Utah. All right, Kit!

Other interesting reports include an osprey at First Dam on October 2, by Reinhard Jockel; a red-naped sapsucker "that missed the bus to Mexico" in mid-October at Jim Parrish's yard in Avon; and a white-throated sparrow in Alice Lindahl's Logan yard on October 7. Alice also witnessed 150 sandhill cranes grouped on the road to Benson (from Valley View Highway) on October 5.

**Late-but-great vacation bird report:** Ron Hellstern phoned in this neat bird list from a July trip he took to Snow Canyon, in the St. George area, and I misplaced it in the craziness of getting ready to profess knowledge to journalism majors. Ron, I beg 1,000 pardons! Here, for the record, is what Ron saw: a greater roadrunner, a blue grosbeak, a green heron (on the Virgin River), a ladderbacked woodpecker, and a phainopepla—"which

looks like a big black bird with a mohawk haircut," he says, and is responsible for transporting parasitic mistletoe from tree to tree.

That's all, folks. Keep those calls coming when you see something.

— Nancy Williams

## Grand Teton Trip



© Pete McConnell From "RESOURCES"

Katie, Veda, Kate, John, Frederic, Catherine, Carrie, Gary, Alice and Al arrived late afternoon Friday at Signal Mountain Campground. After a cold night in the tent, we were awakened by the clatter of the dishes made by Al who was preparing breakfast. By mid-morning at Jenny Lake we observed the squirrels bustling about collecting their food reserves for the winter, and grouse were quietly feeding. Then we shared peanut butter sandwiches with a beautiful Steller's jay, while a bald eagle whirled above our heads. On our way back to the campground we saw bunches of pronghorns and deer and several families of moose. At dusk, we went to see elk and found a large bunch with two males observing and trying to intimidate each other. The surprise of the day happened a few minutes later when a black bear was running along the road, trying to cross over to the other side. The next day we took a nice hike to Taggart

Lake. Part of the trail wove through a young pine forest recovering from an eight-year-old fire. We could already see the return of beauty.

In conclusion, we learned a lot about animals, plants and people, by listening to the innumerable explanations of Al and by observing nature. We learned how a pronghorn buck manages to get his four disobedient does across a busy road. We learned how to date a post-fire pine regeneration by counting the branch whorls. We learned how to wrap hot rocks to warm up our sleeping bag during cold nights, and we each found friendship with nine other nice people.

— Catherine Collett

Editor's note: Catherine and Frederic Levy are at USU for a year as postdocs. They have joined Audubon as members.



## New Members

Ted Alsop  
Bart Avery  
B Hallenbeck & J Baker  
Don P Bodrero  
Nick Bouwes  
Edmund D "Butch" Brodie, Jr  
John E Butcher  
Terra Bowles  
Faye Campbell  
Becky Canning  
Joyce Cline  
Jim Edwards  
Scott Erickson  
Sabrina Ferreira  
Evelyn H Gnehm  
Mrs Sally H Heaton  
Rhett Hilton  
John C Hutchinson  
Alice V Johnston  
Daniel Judd  
Frank Keepers  
Suzanne Parker  
Alice Perkins  
Helen Roberson  
Carolyn & Scott Saulnigr  
C Seamons

## Renewing Members

Desmond Anderson  
Nolan Bingham  
Danny & Norma Blubaugh  
Claire S Caldes  
John W Carlisle, MD  
Reed G Crockett  
Robert Diehl  
Ron Hellstern  
Ken Hobson  
Dawn Holzer  
Daisy & Trevor Hughes  
Nathan & Chris Hult  
Linnea Johnson  
Marilyn Jones  
Frederick F Knowlton  
Harriette A Lanner  
Mariya Lowry  
Irma Moon  
Mark Nafziger  
Michael P O'Neill  
Sue Sanborn & Jerry Fuhriman  
Tovi Santiago  
Dianne Siegfried  
Tim Slocum  
Kim Sullivan & Bruce Pendery  
F H Wagner  
Nancy Williams

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When I was hiking one day, I saw a bear where we (my mom and I) had just bushwhacked. We continued to hike until we saw a moose in the lake and a beaver dam. The moose was eating water lilies, then it swam to the bank and walked in the middle of the trail so we went off of the trail again and we saw that the moose was pregnant. A few minutes later we saw what we thought was a bald eagle, but it ended up as a great gray owl, but when we went under it it did not just fly away it just sat in the tree. The day before this we saw a group of bison by a small lake. We saw a lot of antelope and elk.

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— Cassie Anderson



1985 © Donna J. Barr



## Get To Know Your Neighbor

Although old man winter has only recently fore-shadowed his arrival, it is not too early to begin anticipating the return of our migrant songbirds to their Cache Valley breeding grounds. Next summer, augment your birding ability by investigating the breeding ecology of your favorite species. Behavioral observations of courtship displays, nest building and defense, and the feeding of nestlings provide excellent opportunities to learn the natural history of the local species. Besides, it's cheap and it's easy. The only requirements are time, patience and the willingness to venture off the trail (tolerating whiplashes to the face by pesky shrubs and the occasional stumble over sneaky logs).

Observing the courtship behavior and nest construction methods of even the most common species is very intriguing. All you have to know is where to look. Finding nests is surprisingly simple—wherever you happen to be birding, just listen for the chipping call of females. During the breeding season, females chip only when they are off the nest, whether gathering nesting material or foraging. Since they don't stray off the territory defended by their mate, a chipping female is a dead giveaway to a nest nearby (generally within a 50 mile radius). After detecting the female, watch her closely to see if she is carrying nesting material or food, and then stealthily follow her to the nest. If you lose sight of her just sit and wait. Females often use the same route to gather materials. But take caution—if you are too near the nest and the female notices you she will purposely avoid it. Patience and silence are key. It is quite helpful to know whether the species nests on the ground, in shrubs or in trees. You can find this information in *The Birder's Handbook*. A couple of tips: If you happen to see a courtship display and copulation, look in that immediate tree or shrub for the nest. Mating almost always occurs in the same plant as the nest. Also, a female foraging very rapidly and clumsily, almost stumbling through the branches, is usually incubating eggs and in a hurry to grab a bite to eat. Watch her closely as she won't be off the nest for long. Once you've found the nest relax in a comfortable and inconspicuous place and observe.

Watching a bird construct a nest using only its beak is fascinating. In some cases the male contributes to the effort, but generally the female is responsible for building. Compare nesting materials and nest locations among several species. If the nest is low enough, try peeking inside it after the female has left to see if the nest has been parasitized by the dreaded brown-headed cowbird. BUT, to prevent abandonment, be very sure you do not damage the nest or the surrounding vegetation. ALSO, keep a sharp eye out for potential predators. They may determine nest locations by watching you.

Pay close attention to how the adults approach their

nests and each other. Courtship displays for many songbird species are poorly documented. This summer I was lucky enough to witness a reverse mounting in a pair of cassin' finches. This behavior occurs after the male mounts the female and copulates with her, when the female then jumps on top of the male in a reverse mount. This may be a way of strengthening the pair bond between the two.

Equally as interesting during the nesting period is the nestling stage. Once the eggs have hatched the adults are especially wary of predators and often vigorously defend their investment. The size and amount of food brought to the nest is a good indication of how old the nestlings are. If you are lucky you may even catch them at the moment of fledgling. Just remember, the more time you invest, the more you will see.

So now you have no excuse to spend any time indoors next summer or doing mundane chores like mowing the lawn. And forget about any plans for a birding cruise to Costa Rico. Just clip this article, magnet-ify it to your fridge and dream of warm summer days here in the valley, getting to know your neighbors a little better.

— John Styrsky



National Audubon Society  
&  
Turner Broadcasting  
present

### The World of Audubon 10th Anniversary Special

Join hosts Lauren Hutton and Richard Dean Anderson on this remarkable adventure, featuring Audubon's most powerful and controversial films of the last decade.

Premieres on TBS SuperStation  
Sunday, November 20, 1994  
at 9:00PM (EST)

Encores: Monday, November 21 at 12:00AM (EST)  
Saturday, November 26 at 10:05AM (EST)  
Monday, November 28 at 2:35AM (EST)

**BE SURE TO WATCH!**



## Utah Audubon Council Retreat

A bedraggled flock of birders met in Provo to tour various wetland sites. Unfortunately, cold, wet weather prevented us from seeing very many birds. We were entertained, however, by marvelous local historians Bob and Linda Carter and Rell Francis. Proposed Utah Lake Wetlands Reserve Sites at Benjamin Slough and Goshen Bay were toured as was a proposed dam site at Monk's Hollow up Diamond Fork Canyon and its mitigation site, already under construction.

Rocky Mountain Regional Director, Bob Turner, gave us the good news that funds have already been raised to employ Wayne Martinson as Wetlands Coordinator for another year. Also, NAS is beginning a long term strategic planning process. National President Peter Berle will be resigning in August next year after 10 years of service.

Also, this year is the first year that the Rocky Mountain Region raised more money than any other region in their Bird-a-thons. Hats off to all the other chapters who participated. Anyone in our chapter interested in taking this project on?

Next year's Regional Conference plans have already been made for the first week of June (mark your calendars now) at Boise State University. Look for an all-day Snake River float trip, Al Larson's famous blue-bird trail and desert birding trips, too.

Wayne Martinson addressed the group about new wetlands issues emerging. Along with the North American Waterfowl Plan, there is an "Intermountain West Joint Venture" coalition forming to identify critical areas for waterfowl and shorebirds in Utah. Cache and Rich counties have been named as one of the nine focus areas in the state. US Fish and Wildlife Service, along with other agencies, organizations and interested parties will be meeting locally in November to develop a conservation plan and seek matching funds. We have been asked to be a part of this. Anyone wanting to get involved in this, please let me know immediately.

— Dawn Holzer  
258-5205



## NAS Goes High Tech

The National Audubon Society has established an electronic forum on CompuServe, a national computer network, which can be accessed by any Audubon member who also has a CompuServe membership. (Also accessible via the Internet, but you still need a CompuServe membership.) This service provides three major services: Messages, Networking, and Libraries.

The Messages section is basically a group of public written conversations, and you can ignore, respond to, or simply download each thread of messages on a particular subject. Each message identifies the author and the original source of the thread, so you can "network" with them by sending private e-mail or (image) even call them on the telephone.

In addition to the stream of messages that go back and forth, there are "libraries" of files on a variety of topics. These can be downloaded and used by interested members. The library topics are:

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Legislative Updates | 7. NAS Publications           |
| 2. Issues/Reports      | 8. Chapter/Region Newsletters |
| 3. Press Releases      | 9. Forum How Tos              |
| 4. Testimony           | 10. Hot Stuff                 |
| 5. Fact Sheets-Issue   | 11. Graphics                  |
| 6. Fact Sheets-How To  |                               |

The files in these libraries can be searched by age (in days) or topic (e.g., "water quality," or "takings") if you're after a particular subject.

There is an abundance of information in this forum from all over the country, so it's impossible to say much about the contents here. An example of the usefulness of the forum is a recent announcement of an EPA grant program for environmental education projects. I saw the announcement and sent a brief description through the U.S. Post Office to several local environmental educators. One of them had a good project called the number listed for the EPA contact and received a packet of application materials in time to apply for the recent deadline.

If you'd like more information on how to subscribe, give me a call at 752-6830 (e-mail: wbdixon@cc.usu.edu). If you're not interested in joining this sometimes (often, actually) confusing world of electronic bulletin boards, but want updates of particular subjects, let me know what you're interested in and I'll keep an eye out for you.

— Bryan Dixon

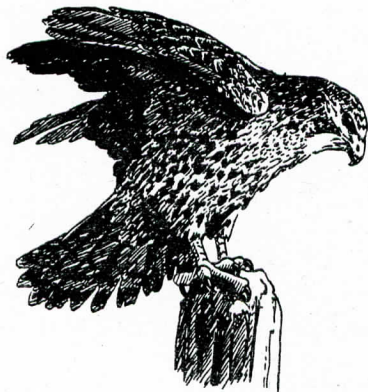


## Book Review

***Neighbors to the Birds, a History of Birdwatching in America***, by Felton Gibbons & Deborah Strom, Norton and Company, 1988

Ever wonder why it's particularly hard to get close to birds? I mean, you just want to LOOK at them, right? Well, remember that we used to eat them. Not just ducks and geese, either. We're talking robins, finches and other songbird morsels. And also remember that optics like our modern binoculars and cameras weren't available from mail order when Audubon and his contemporaries wanted to look at birds. If you claimed to have seen a rare species, you'd better have had a specimen in hand, or you were ornithological toast. "What's hit is history, what's missed is mystery."

The 19th century was particularly hard on birds. Victorian fashion (that most marvelous mark of civilization) dictated that ladies' hats be adorned not just with the plumes of egrets and herons, but wings of grouse and even whole birds like sparrows and blue-birds! And then there was the Christmas Side Hunt, where noble hunters would arise from Christmas dinner and stroll the grounds for exercise, shooting any bird which crossed their path. Whew! 'Tis the season to be jolly, unless you've got feathers—in which case you're just jelly.



Well, things have changed. To meet the threat of mass extinction, the editor of Forest and Stream formed the first Audubon Society in 1883 to denounce the use of birds for millinery and decoration. (Oddly enough, Audubon himself was known to blast dozens of individuals to get just the right subject for a painting.) Soon thereafter, similar local societies of bird lovers sprouted up all over the east coast to echo the cry (left wing pinkos!), and prompted the federal Department of Agriculture to begin investigating the value of wild animals. The American Ornithologist's Union created a Model Law in the 1880s to define species suitable for hunting and protect other birds, but it was the determination of local Audubon societies that pushed the Model

Law through the state legislatures. The independent nature and power of our local Audubon societies perseveres, as proven by the fanatical drive of the Wise Use Movement.

But, in addition to the political perspective, the history of bird watching provides a fascinating foundation for modern bird study, and Gibbons and Strom do a wonderful job of story telling in *Neighbors to the Birds*. They begin with Josselyn's reports in 1672 that only 120 species lived in New England. From Josselyn, the authors describe the efforts, successes and failures of early naturalists such as Mark Catesby, William Bartram, Alexander Wilson, and John James Audubon. The history of the 1800s plume wars is followed by a masterful weaving together of the many threads of 20th century birding and conservation. Gibbons and Strom paint with words the portraits of early discoveries and modern iisters, scientists and policy makers. It's the old "Ah-hahhh!" experience.

No longer will I take for granted the abundance of field guides and organizations like Audubon, the AOU or the American Birding Association. We have a history. I'm not alone in my listing lunacy. and if you're a feather finder and want to know your roots, I'd highly recommend *Neighbors to the Birds*.

— Bryan Dixon

Logan Canyon

featured in

*Audubon Magazine*

Nov/Dec 1994

"Keeping Logan Canyon"  
by Rick Bass



Mervin & Mae Coover  
435 Canyon Rd  
Providence UT 84332

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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. 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	

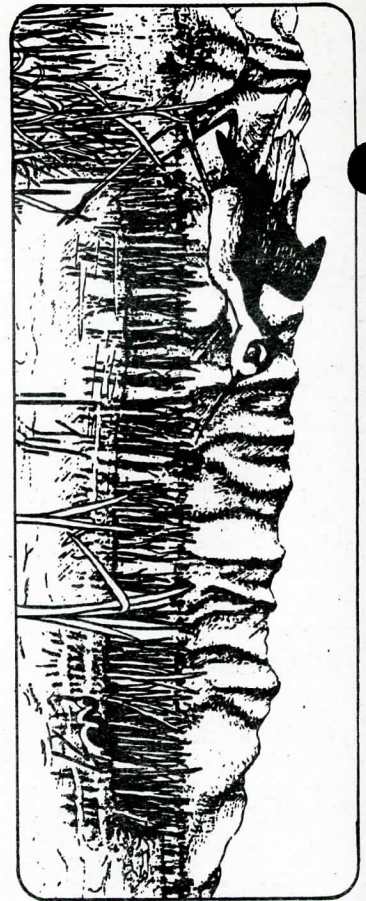
1991-94	Keith Archibald, 752-8258; Ron Hellstern, 753-8750
1992-95	Pat Gordon, 752-6561; John Sigler, 753-5879; Val Grant, 752-7572
1993-96	Tom Gordon, 752-6561; Rebecca Echols, 752-2367; Richard Mueller, 752-5637
1994-97	Scott George, 753-3918; Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Barbara Rusmore, 755-0758

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.

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BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 3501  
Logan, Utah 84323



## 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, CO 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.