

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 23, No. 6

February 1995

COMPETITIVE BIRDING

While most birders are content to enjoy an outing to observe birds, there are some local members who have the true competitive spirit. A recent insert in *Utah Birds* reveals just how driven these individuals are. The A.B.A. & North America list including Alaska sets a goal of achieving 700 species in a life-time. Larry Ryel, who has made at least two trips to the Aleutians, now stands at 720- far ahead of the next Utahn, Parler Gay at 670. For all 50 states, but excluding Canada, Ron Ryel stands at 698. For Utah, retired dentist Craig Kneedy has seen 352 species, but Craig makes a point of covering Utah pretty thoroughly, especially the Mohave Desert in the southwestern tip of Utah. Our Cache County record holder is Keith Archibald at 270, with Ron Ryel at 261 and his dad Larry at 255, Bob Atwood, a relative newcomer to this game is closing in fast with 246 birds. For those struggling to reach the Cache-200 Club status, it is encouraging to learn that Keith Archibald, Ron and Larry Ryel have all seen over 200 species within Cache County in a single year. However, there are still other lists for which the more sedentary birder can strive. Al Stokes has seen 129 species from his yard east of Logan Golf Course since 1970 thanks to retirement, excellent habitat, good views of the mountains and spending a lot of time in his garden. His criterion for a "yard" bird is one that he can see or hear while standing in his yard. Perhaps his two rarest birds were a brown thrasher and clay-colored sparrow caught in traps.

Don't be dismayed by these formidable lists. How about keeping a list of birds you see from your office window or from home to work, etc. In any event keeping tabs of the birds you see is good discipline and sure to bring surprises.



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Calendar

Thursday, February 9. Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm. Logan City Building. Our monthly meeting will warm all of us from the cold and snow. John and Linda Wortendike will share slides and stories from their recent sabbatical in Belize and the Caribbean. Meet in the Logan City building.

Wednesday, February 15. BAS Planning Meeting, 7 pm. Chair and board people join to discuss projects. Every member's input is always welcome. Val Grant will host this month at the offices of Bio-Resources at 135 East Center in Logan.

Field Trips

Saturday, February 4. Annual Bald Eagle Day. Sponsored by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Leave at 10 am from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's and caravan to the Public Hunting Ground 15 miles northwest of Brigham City. Last year we saw over 200 bald eagles at this site. DWR will serve hot chocolate and have information table at the lookout point.

Saturday, February 18. Beaver Colony Revisited. Leave at 1 pm from the Forest Ranger Station across highway from Logan Golf Course. Return by 5 pm. We visited this beaver colony 1 1/2 miles up Franklin Basin off the Logan Canyon Highway. We saw a large beaver lodge and three dams, one above the other, and where beaver had stored food. In the upcoming trip Kayo Robertson will lead the trip to see if beaver remain safely in their lodge and under water. Or maybe we will see from the tracks in the snow how much they have been coming out on land for food. The Franklin Basin road is well used by snowmobiles so it should be possible to hike in. Others may choose to ski or snowshoe. Kayo will help interpret whatever tracks the group may see.

Saturday, March 4. Bald Eagles at Willard. This annual outing to observe bald eagles above the town of Willard is one for the intrepid and for those seeking to escape Cache Valley's cabin fever. First stop will be at Willard Bay State Park about 10 miles south of Brigham City where eagles have been roosting all winter. From there the group will drive to the edge of the Willard gravel pit and climb up a narrow ravine to a more gentle ridge and on up to a splendid lookout overlooking Willard Canyon. From there one can see eagles flying in, then circling at eye level before heading up the canyon to roost in large Douglas firs. While hiking we may see some early wildflowers already in bloom, mountain bluebirds on their way north and even some early-emerging ground squirrels. Intrepid leaders will be

Reinhard Jockel and Jim Sinclair. Leave at 10 am from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 5 pm. Bring lunch and wear good boots suitable for the climb. Usually the snow is pretty well melted off by then. If in doubt about the trip call Jim at 752-0061.

Saturday, March 18. Waterfowl and other early migrants. Waterfowl should be here in good numbers. In addition great blue herons will be back at their rookery on Mendon Road as well as sandhill cranes. Leave at 8 am from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by noon.

Common Ground Outdoor Adventures

Saturday, January 28. Cross Country Ski Trip. 9:30-11:30 – Volunteer Orientation
12:30-3:30 – Ski

Meet at Temple Fork road in Logan Canyon at 9:30 am or OPTIONS for Independence. 1095 N. Main, at 8:45 am if you want to carpool. The orientation is required for those who want to volunteer throughout the season. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday, February 8. Adaptive Outdoor Adventure Slide Show, 7:30 pm. HPER 114, Utah State University.

Saturday, February 25. Cross-Country Ski Trip. Meet at OPTIONS, 1095 N. Main at 9:30 am. Location to be announced.

Friday, March 3 - Sunday, March 5. Overnight Cross-Country Ski Trip.

Tentative Location: Yellowstone/Teton Area.
Pre-Trip Meeting: Wednesday, March 1 at Todd Sherman & Kassie Claughton's, 96 East 500 South in Logan. The Pre-Trip will start at 7:30 pm and is mandatory for all who want to join us on the trip.

Saturday, March 18. Cross-Country Ski Trip. Meet at OPTIONS, 1095 N. Main at 9:30 am. Location to be announced.

All trips involve people with and without disabilities and are adapted to accommodate everyone's needs.

For more information call 753-5353 and ask for Kate or Shauna.



Cheaperin Postcard

USU Outdoor Recreation Center

The USU ORC continues its slide show series with: "Rainforests of Southeastern Alaska," Wednesday, February 1, by Fredrik Norrsell.

"Wildlife, Skiing and Scenic Photography," Wednesday, February 8, by Chris Mortenson and Ron McBride.

"Sea Kayaking in Alaska," Wednesday, February 15, by Eric Newell.

All shows are Wednesday nights, 7:30 pm, HPER 114 and are free and open to the public.

There is still room left on a winter camping trip February 17-19 that will take place in Logan Canyon. And for a more formal introduction into winter camping, there is still room on a Winter Camping Clinic in late February.

For information on these events or on other clinics, trips and workshops being offered during the winter quarter, call the ORC at 797-3264.

Kevin Kobe, 797-0551
Coordinator Outdoor Program

More About Crows

Al Stokes has been intensifying his observations of crows since his article in the January *Stilt*. He has a flock of over 100 crows that roost regularly east of the golf course after first assembling noisily in some tall elm trees on the north end of the golf course. They seem to roost single or in small groups in the spruce trees in his neighborhood. Others may be roosting in the junipers above the golf course.

Ron Atwood has seen some 800 crows flying east in River Heights presumably to roost up one of the canyons.

Al has turned up some unsuspected good observers in this study. Seth Sparks, the sexton at Logan Cemetery, has only seen crows in the last four years using the cemetery. Asked if he thought they were roosting there, he said he didn't think so for he hadn't seen any droppings. Pretty astute!

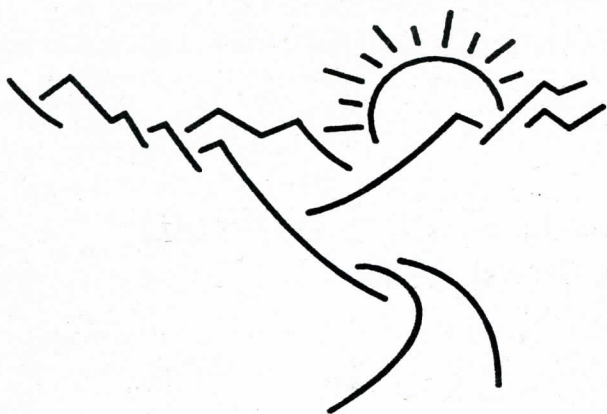
Then the operator of the monster trash compactor at Logan Landfill has been keeping an eye out as well. Keith Archibald will provide the annual counts of crows from the Christmas Bird Count. John Carlisle has been keeping watch on crows on the golf course. But Al hopes others will be able to provide information on where crows are roosting and what they are eating. Call Al at 752-2702, but he'll be in Costa Rica until February 15 keeping an eye on scarlet macaws and the magnificent quetzal.

New Members

David B Brown
Scott Carles
James Gessaman
Jack Greene
Scott Griffiths
Kurt Gutknecht
Bob & Linda Hendy
Bill Jensen
David Klagge
Stacy Krieser
Michelle Loeser
Rulon Maughan
Peter Paton
Barbara J Rowley
Mr & Mrs Mark Sullivan

Renewing Members

Grant, Pam & Mark Allen
Clifton & Diane Alston
Robert Atwood
Mr & Mrs John Barnes
Leroy B Beasley
Dani Comer
Kevin Connors
Joy Dougherty
Gail Duering
Rebecca S Echols
Nick & Susie Flann
Tom & Pat Gordon
Virginia Harder
RM & MR Holdridge
Molly Hysell
Douglas A Johnson
J A Logan
Ryan & Sonia Manuel Dupont
June Neville
Jack Payne
Alice Perkins
Linda B Rawlins
Colleen Atwood Riley
John A Scherting
James P Shaver
Alison Thorne
Maureen Wagner
David & Beth Walden
Rene Walker
Kathryn C Wanlass
M Coburn Williams



CPLC

Citizens for the Protection of Logan Canyon

MEETING: Thursday, March 2, 1995 TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Logan City Hall, 225 N. Main

THE BATTLE FOR THE PROTECTION OF LOGAN CANYON IS NOT OVER. THERE IS STILL MUCH TO FIGHT FOR. UDOT IS IN THE PROCESS AND HAS THE FUNDS TO DESIGN AND REBUILD THE BRIDGES. THIS IS THE FIRST STAGE. THERE ARE STILL MANY ASPECTS OF THE CANYON THAT NEED PROTECTION. MOST IMPORTANT IS OUR WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN STRONG AS A MEMBERSHIP AND WATCH HOW EFFECTIVELY UDOT PUTS INTO EFFECT THE HARD FOUGHT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE WETLANDS, RIPARIAN AREAS, LOGAN RIVER, AND SO FORTH. IF UDOT DOES NOT FOLLOW THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THEM BY OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM AS WRITTEN IN THE RECORD OF DECISION, THEN CPLC WILL TAKE UP A WHOLE NEW FIGHT AGAINST UDOT.

Our meeting will discuss the following issues:

1. We need technical and research support for the Cat Team representative. The Citizens Advisory Team (CAT) is where our continued voice, involvement and influence with regards to the road design will be expressed. The more knowledgeable our representative the more influence we can hope to achieve.
2. We need to monitor the Forest Service Plan which will be modified to permit road construction. Here we are hoping to win some concessions we were not able to with UDOT. This is due out in March, 1995.
3. We need to examine the development in the Canyon as it relates to the recent land swap. The State of Utah now owns 80 acres near the Beaver Mountain turnoff. The state is mandated to manage this land as part of the Public School Trust Fund; it is suppose to make money for the schools. It will be much easier to zone for recreational facilities and restaurants.

The protection of all aspects of Logan Canyon will be a continuous battle. We need your willingness to be a part of CPLC and we need your concern that the canyon maintains its beauty, environmental diversity, and richness for many years to come.

With all of these challenges, your commitment to actively participate in CPLC is critical. Due to the strength and the involvement of our members, we were able to negotiate with UDOT and win a number of concessions. We are in the process of incorporating and organizing into a formal group. To solidify our membership, we are asking for a \$10 (\$5 for students) membership fee to cover the cost of mailing and newsletters. Please fill out the membership application and bring it with you to our March 2 meeting or mail to us.

CPLC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Areas of Expertise or Willingness to Volunteer _____

☐ Regular Member (\$10) ☐ Student Member (\$5)

I wish to make an additional contribution of: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other _____

Send to: CPLC
C/O KATHY GILBERT
1636 SUNSET DRIVE
LOGAN, UTAH 84321-4308

LOCAL NEWS

Christmas Cougar Visits Providence

Jay and Jan Anderson had a surprise as they drove west on 300 South, Providence, after dark on December 19. A clearly feline creature suddenly appeared in their headlights and dashed across the road in front of the car. As it disappeared into the ditch and the darkness, a long, substantial tail was clearly visible bringing up the rear.

The cat was too big to be a neighborhood kitty, even large by bobcat standards, but it just didn't have the long profile of an adult cougar. Perhaps 60 pounds in size, it was small for cougar, but the tail was an undeniable give-away.

A conversation with a Fish and Game officer the next day suggested that the feline rover was, indeed, a yearling female cougar.

(Incidentally, the backyard the cougar was heading into was also the location of a white magpie sighting by the Andersons several months ago. When wildlife-watching, don't overlook your own backyard.)

Can't Wait To Go Native?

Go Native! Those are the buzz words describing Utah's Passport to Wildlife Adventure. The new *UTAH WILDLIFE HERITAGE CERTIFICATE*, soon available at all DWR offices, will help fund such non-consumptive wildlife programs and activities as: Cache Valley's Sandhill Crane Days; badly needed wildlife studies and research; a centralized data bank of Utah wildlife populations; watchable wildlife events like Bald Eagle Day; and establishment of natural areas which preserve native wildlife habitat.

In addition to the annually renewable *HERITAGE CERTIFICATE*, your passport will contain a handsome decal for proud display on a vehicle and passport inserts which guarantee incentives at many nature-related businesses and activities around the state.

The certificate is a creation of the Utah Wildlife Heritage Advisory Committee, created in 1993 by the State Legislature to "advise the Wildlife Board and the Division regarding the development and promotion of a Wildlife Heritage program."

The 1995 *HERITAGE CERTIFICATE* is available from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (1596 W. North Temple/Salt Lake City, UT 84116) for \$15, children under 12 for \$5. Don't miss your opportunity to go native!

Audubon's Smithfield Natural Area

Bridgerland Audubon has invested in a quarter acre of superb wildlife habitat on Summit Creek in Smithfield. Although its dimensions aren't particularly impressive, the biological diversity is quite amazing. So far I have catalogued 12 woody species including several volunteer apple trees, chokecherry, wild rose and squawbush which are loaded with winter foods for a flourishing wildlife population.

The mature cottonwoods serve as roosting sites for raptors including redtail, roughleg and swainson hawks, several species of owls, an occasional turkey vulture and rarely, a bald eagle. The mammal population thrives as well with weasel, red squirrel, chipmunk, raccoon and even bobcat frequenting the area. Dead cottonwoods, both standing and downed, function as den trees for a myriad of life.

The natural area is a critical link between Smithfield and the mountains to the east. It is adjacent to Mack's Nature Park which citizens of Smithfield began improving last summer by planting numerous native species which had been lost to irrigation development. We are attempting to expand the protection of this natural corridor along Summit Creek by working with the city and property owners in zoning and purchasing these vital lands.

Jack Greene



1994 Christmas Bird Count

This year's bird count was enjoyed by 52 observers in the field and approximately 16 feeder watchers. The weather was fantastic. On some years, when getting out of bed at 4:00 am, you would be greeted by a thermometer outside your window dipping down to -10 degrees F. However, this year the temperature was barely below freezing.

The weather cooperated and so did the birds. We tallied over 15,000 birds of approximately 95 species. Some species were particularly impressive in their numbers. With open water available because of the mild temperatures, our winter ducks were here in record numbers. Four species were tallied at the highest numbers ever; Ring-necked Duck (285), Lesser Scaup (87), Common Goldeneye (237), Barrow's Goldeneye (99). Other birds, particularly well represented as compared to past years, were Northern Shoveler (540), Ring-billed Gull (69), Winter Wren (5), American Dipper (18), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (24), and Townsend's Solitaire (148).

The Christmas Count has become an enjoyable winter tradition for those who participate. We have as many or more participants as any count in Utah. There were 14 other counts conducted in 1993. Following is a summary of results.

REFUGE	OBSERVERS	SPECIES	INDIVIDUALS
Bear River	8	44	8,708
Cedar City	21	55	4,507
Dinosaur National Monument	7	32	1,863 (117 Starlings)
Fish Springs N.W.R.	6	45	8,581
Heber Valley	14	57	2,808
Jordan River	19	63	17,046
Kanab	14	71	8,080
Logan	55	91	12,040 (3,948 Starlings)
Moab	17	65	8,156
Ogden	14	71	22,501 (9,736 Starlings)
Provo	49	94	36,158 (22,733 Starlings)
St. George	17	93	18,409
Salt Lake City	51	90	17,834 (10,392 Starlings)
Zion National Park	36	73	3,641

I threw in a few Starling numbers just to prove that Starlings will someday inherit the earth.

Alice Lindahl and Jim Haefner graciously supplied their newly acquired home for the pot luck dinner and compiling session. A very comfortable venue. Thanks Jim and Alice!

Join us next year and let's keep our count as the best supported in the state.

Keith Archibald

REGIONAL NEWS

Spring Migratory Bird Conference in Boise, Idaho May 19-23, 1995

Put the dates of Friday, May 19 through Tuesday, May 23 on your calendar for our next regional conference in Boise, Idaho! The conference will be hosted by the Golden Eagle Audubon Society, will have as its theme Audubon's Migratory Bird Program and will bring together several key players in the program, both from the Audubon staff and from federal and state agencies.

Boise is a particularly strategic location as it is the headquarters for both the BLM's migratory bird program and their international raptor work, and is also the location of the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey. Field trips will take place to the Snake River Canyon Birds of Prey Natural Area and to Al Larson's popular bluebird trails in the surrounding foothills, as well as short walking trips along the Boise River Greenway. Just as in 1984 we are fortunate to again have access to the lodging and meal services at Boise State University, so that individual meals and/or multi-day packages will be available. Please check on the form below your anticipated meal requirements, so that we may give an estimate to the caterer. Lodging is on a first come, first serve basis so we encourage you to send in your request early. There are several motels adjacent to the campus should you prefer this option and there is also a campsite not far from the University. Hope to see you there!

- Registration: \$15/person (no registration fee for children)
- Lodging (Approximately \$16/person/night):

Fri. ☐ Sat. ☐ Sun. ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐

Names of those requiring accommodations:

(1) _____ (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

- I (we) expect to purchase meals at the university cafeteria: Yes ☐ No ☐
- I am interested in more information on the children's program: Yes ☐ No ☐
- Please sign me up for the following field trips (prices to be determined to meet costs):
 - (a) Bluebird Trail Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐
 - (b) Snake River Float Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐
 - (c) World Center Birds of Prey Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐
- I would like to attend the Saturday Evening Banquet (Approximately \$16) Yes ☐ No ☐

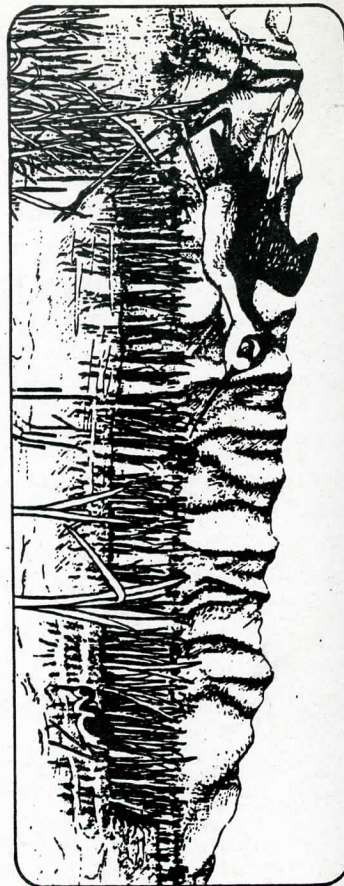
Please return this form with your registration fee (check made payable to National Audubon Society) to National Audubon Society, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 4150 Darley Avenue #5, Boulder, CO 80303. Tel: (303) 499-0219.

Banquet

W. Bryan Dixon
Jean M. Lown
10 Heritage Cove
Logan UT 84321

THE STILT

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



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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
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Conservation
Education
Membership
Field Trips
Newsletter
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Publicity
Hospitality
Hotline
Legislative Chairperson
Trustees

Dawn Holzer, 258-5205
Don McIvor, 563-6189
Kristen LaVine, 753-5970
Susan Robertson, 752-4598

Jack Greene, 563-6816
Al Stokes, 752-2702
Al Stokes, 752-2702
Lois & Randy Olson, 752-9085
Susan Durham, 752-5637
Beth Walden, 753-0080
Bill & Marjorie Lewis, 753-8724
Nancy Williams, 753-6268

- 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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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 Susan Durham, 752-5637. Also, call Susan for new subscriptions or address changes.