

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 24, No. 6

February 1996

Bird Banding Training and Certification Course Offered

Are you looking for new birding frontiers? The world of bird banding awaits you! Banding is a fantastic opportunity to see birds up close; learn about their plumages, molt sequences, and life habits; and by participating in established banding programs, contribute in a direct way to their conservation. Imagine capturing a bird and knowing that it traveled to Latin America and returned to the exact spot at which you banded it the year before! Holding and then releasing such birds is an experience that literally moves some people to tears.

The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), based in California, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a global approach to the preservation of birds and their habitats. IBP coordinates a large-scale, cooperative program called Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS for short) that consists of a network of about 400 banding stations throughout the continental U.S. and Canada. These stations are operated by a wide assortment of contributors, including government agencies, nonprofits, educational institutions, independent banders, and IBP itself. Birds banded at MAPS stations provide critically-needed information on productivity and survivorship that can help identify the causes of long-term population declines. MAPS is endorsed by the National Biological Service and Partners in Flight and relies primarily on the contribution of data from volunteer cooperators.

IBP offers low-cost bird-banding courses at locations throughout the U.S. during June and July. The registration fee for a one-week course is \$400, which includes all instruction and materials; room and board is usually \$100-\$200 additional. Upon completion of the course, capable students will be certified as banding assistants. IBP will help place course graduates as volunteers or apprentices in banding projects near them to acquire the additional experience necessary to obtain a banding permit. Graduates are encouraged to assist at (or establish) a MAPS station in their area. The operation of a MAPS station requires a commitment of one morning (six hours) every ten days from May or early June through August for a total of 9-12 mornings a year, all of which can be on weekends.

For additional information and registration materials, please contact Kenneth Burton, The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956; phone 415-663-2051; FAX 415-663-9482.

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Calendar

Wednesday, February 21. BAS Planning Meeting.
7:00 P.M. Chair and board members join to discuss projects and funding. As a member, your input is always welcome. Brigit Burt will host this month's meeting at 1000 North 320 West #4 in Logan.

Tuesday, February 27. Annual Banquet. This year's banquet will be held on February 27 at the Bullen Center on South Main in Logan. Gathering begins at 6:30 for social hour, followed by dinner, catered by Bill Oblock, Chef and owner of the Grapevine Restaurant. The Allen Stokes Conservation Award and the Education Award will be announced and we've got a great speaker lined up (Steve Hoffman from Hawk-Watch International).

Field Trips

Trips are an important aspect of Bridgerland Audubon's programs. They get you out the door and are guaranteed to get you into something interesting and introduce you to new friends and places! All trips are led by friendly and knowledgeable folks who can show you stuff (that's a technical term) about our environment you may not have noticed. Unless stated otherwise, reservations are not needed, trips are open to all ages, and carpooling is available. If there is a trip you would like to lead or one you'd like to see offered, please call Bryan Dixon at 752-6830.

Saturday, February 10. Winter Animal Tracks
Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the southwest corner of Fred Meyers for a field trip to investigate animal tracks in Cache Valley. Animals on the ground leave evidence of who they are and what they do, easily seen preserved in Winter's snow. Even birds leave evidence in their footprints and marks left by wing feathers on take off. Great trip for children and adults alike to speculate on winter wildlife happenings. All theories entertained! Dress warmly; return by lunch. For more information, contact Kayo Robertson at 563-8272.

Saturday, March 9. Bald Eagles at Willard
A perfect trip to chase away cabin fever and get some exercise. This is an annual outing led by Jim Sinclair and Reinhard Jockel to observe Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles and other raptors. First stop is 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 a splendid overlook of Willard Canyon and graceful raptors soaring at eye level on their way to roosts in the firs above. We may even see some wildflowers poking up toward the spring. It's a strenuous hike, so bring good boots, warm clothes and lunch. The start is relaxed, however, as we don't leave until 10:00 A.M. from the

Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by late afternoon. If in doubt about the weather, call Jim at 752-0061.

Saturday, March 23. Returning Waterfowl and other Early Migrants

Early spring is the perfect time to see those odd ducks (the feathered kind!), geese, and other waterfowl. Sandhill Cranes should be returning and Great Horned Owls should be sitting on eggs. Great Blue Herons will be in the rookeries loudly discussing whose nest is whose! The official beginning of the Spring Migration! Be there! Trip leaves from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot at 8:00 A.M. and returns by noon.

Upcoming Trips

April

Grouse Courtship Camping Trip An overnight trip to Snowville and the Curlew grasslands to observe Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse in their mating displays. May even get a loon or two! Trip by reservation only, so watch for details.

Tree and Trails Day A work trip to help out our local Stewart Nature Park.

May

Annual Bear River Canoe Trips Two one-day trips down our Bear River to explore the wildlife and riparian habitats. We're sure to see some good warblers and the occasional beaver and muskrat, and one year we had an elk swim the river just in front of us! Reservations needed.

Antelope Island Overnight A trip to see the wonders of an island in the Great Salt Lake. Camping, and shorebirds, and buffalo, and who knows what else! Reservations needed.

Annual Birdathon How many different species can you see in one day? This is a fund raiser for Audubon environmental education and habitat improvement projects. We ask donors to pledge per species seen. Last year the top group saw 112 species in one day—one group saw 98 species by noon! We raised over \$6,000 last year and did a lot of good. (We also had a lot of fun, but that's beside the point—or is it?)

Heron Rookery Canoe Trip A leisurely 2 hour canoe trip to float under the magnificent Great Blue Heron Rookery. By then, the chicks will have hatched, and if we're quiet, we'll minimize disturbance and see some wonderful sights.

Edible and Medicinal Plants Here's your chance to explore the variety of plants growing here in Cache Valley that have been found to have direct value as food or medicine for people. Yum!

Christmas Bird Count Results

December 16 started with a hoot - literally. Parties took to the forests with owl tapes and voice calls to look for owls - the 20th annual Christmas Bird Count in Logan was underway. This was the 95th count nationwide, and with no valley snow and a very warm fall here in Logan, it was anyone's guess where the birds would be hiding.

	1994	1995
Total # Species Seen	93	89
Total # Individuals	15,149	22,983
# Observers	66	52
# Parties		
Party hours by foot	58	70
Party miles by foot	63	70
Party hours by car	56	67
Party miles by car	508	603

The total number of species was well below the record, but total individuals seen was the highest ever recorded. This was due in part to large rafts of waterfowl at the sewage lagoons. Records for individual species seen included the following:

Species	1995 Record	Previous Record	Record Year
Eared Grebe	44	5	1982
Great Blue Heron	37	20	1982
Tundra Swan	11	5	1992
Hooded Merganser	7	4	1987
Common Merganser	60	33	1978
Red-tailed Hawk	115	93	1991
American Coot	1,231	197	1990
Ring-billed Gull	2,120	69	1994
California Gull	220	1	1993
Western Screech-Owl	10	7	1994
Canyon Wren	9	4	1989

Species missing but usually seen on the CBC included Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail and Clark's Nutcracker (in 1987, 186 were seen!). Killdeer was a near miss with only one bird seen in the Amalga area. Two very unusual species were reported, but despite the experience of the observers, they were so unusual that we were unable to convince the national compilers without a "bird in hand" so they were not included on the list.

While it would seem that we should have seen more species due to the mild weather in December, the afternoon was snowy and windy, which drove the passerines into the hedges. Moreover, with little snow on the ground, populations were widely dispersed, and not all that cooperative in presenting themselves.

Still, it was a good time, and everyone seemed to have fun, whether up in the mountains, or out in the marsh. Special thanks to Alice Lindahl and Jim Schaefer for hosting the potluck after the count where we gathered for a record number of lasagnas. And thanks to those who helped out on the count:

Danny, Keith and Paul Archibald	Val Grant
Bob Atwood	Terry Hall
Jessie, John and Terry Barnes	Dave Hewitt
Mike Becker	Dawn Holzer
Jim Bilsky	Reinhard Jockel
Edna Berry	Liz Josephson
Anne Billaux	Barbara Kerkmann
Todd Black	Marjorie Lewis
Scott Cheney	Alice Lindahl
Allen and Gail Christensen	Jean Lown
Arlene Cohen	Merrilyne Lundahl
Mae and Merv Coover	Jan, Max and Tom Lyon
Veda DePaepe	Bill Masslich
Bryan Dixon	Don Mclvor
Keith Dixon	Lori Ness
John Ellerbeck	Bruce Pendry
Barbara Farris	Jim Roper
Kit Flannery	Larry and Ron Ryel
Glen Gantz	Bill Sedivy
Chris and Wendy Gaddis	Frank Smith
	Kim Sullivan
	John Wagner

Data for the Logan Christmas Bird Counts back to 1976 are now available on a Microsoft Access database for those who would like a copy in electronic form. A paper copy of the totals is also available. Contact Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.



Annual BAS Banquet

Master Chef Bill Oblock will cater a special buffet dinner on February 27, 1996. Social hour begins at 6:30 P.M. at the Bullen Center, 43 South Main, Logan. Special music will be provided by a local group and Steve Hoffman of HawkWatch International will speak on the Vera Cruz River Project. The Allen Stokes Conservation Award and the Education Award will both be announced as part of the evening's festivities. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$11 for students and are available at A Bookstore, Sunrise Cyclery and Smiling Moon Toys. For more information, call 753-5571, (David and Suzanne).

Generations Together For A Sustainable Future

When: April 12 and 13, 1996

Why: To emphasize the need for a sustainable society based on a healthy environment

Where: On the National Mall at Washington, D.C.

Who: Kids of all ages, elementary through college

Participants will have the chance to:

- Initiate action on a resolution for a sustainable society based on a healthy environment.
- Form partnerships with your national leaders to work towards a healthy, sustainable society.
- Meet other youth from across the nation and around the globe who have the same mission.
- Hear inspirational youth and adult speakers.
- Be entertained by youth who will emphasize the importance of our respect for our planet to present and future generations of all life.
- Become part of a continued effort to see our dream become reality.

Day 1:

- Present a resolution for a sustainable society to the President and Vice President of the United States at the White House.

- Present a resolution for a sustainable society to your legislators.

Day 2:

- Presentations by a series of youth and adult speakers and entertainers.
- Exhibits on the environment.
- Youth delegates planning a strategy for victory.

Sponsored by: SCARCE (Students Concerned About Resource Conservation and Environment) of Bridgerland Audubon Society and Earth Day XXV

Travel: You are encouraged to car pool, van pool, charter a bus, or arrange discount air travel by contacting Delta Air Lines, or U.S. Air

Cost: \$10 registration fee.

Overnight Accommodations: By your arrangements, discounts are offered by the following: J.W. Marriot, National 4-H Center.

For Further Information Contact: Glen Gaskins, Earth Day XXV, at 410-997-8533, fax 410-997-4418 or, 9007 Lambskin Lane, Columbia, MD 21045; Jack Greene at 801-563-6816, or e-mail, .SLC4C@CC.USU.EDU

USU Winter Quarter Outdoor Education Slide Show Series

Going on its 4th consecutive year, the slide shows are from people like you adventuring all around the world. Come on in, plant yourself into a comfortable chair and relax. Wednesdays, HPER 114, 7:30 P.M.

- Feb. 7 "Canoeing the Yukon River in Alaska" and "Alaskan Brown Bears." Free.
- Feb. 14 "The Real Classroom is Outside." Outdoor opportunities with USU's Outdoor Program. Free.
- Feb. 21 "When Two Worlds Collide." Free.
- Feb. 29 "Banff Festival of Mountain Films: Best of the Fest." \$5.00.

Today, more than 6,000 enthusiasts journey to Banff, Alberta each year with the express purpose of viewing the world's finest mountain films and videos. If you didn't travel to Banff, you can still see the best films and videos right here on the USU campus! **Thursday, February 29, 7:00 P.M.** Cost, \$5.00.

**New Shipment
of
Cleaned Birdseed
\$16.00 for 50 lb. bag
\$1.00 off for returning bag
Pick up your spring seed at
Sunrise Cyclery
138 North 100 East
Monday – Saturday
10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.**

REGIONAL TRIPS

Elderhostel to be Held at Working Ranch, Moab, UT

Event Date: February 25 – March 2, 1996

Contact: Jon Orris, CFI Student Program Director
Phone: 1-800-860-5262 or 1-801-259-7750

The Redd family and Canyonlands Field Institute will host a unique opportunity for people ages 55 and over to learn about the history and geology of Canyon Country this winter. A LaSal Mountain Elderhostel trip has been scheduled for February 25 – March 2. Participants will be guests of Hardy and Sunny Redd at their working guest ranch in scenic LaSal, Utah and will learn about ranching—past and present, and enjoy tales of cowboys and cowgirls. A full day trip to the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park, and a side trip to Newspaper Rock State Park to visit a huge prehistoric rock art panel are other highlights of the week. The especially mild winter being experienced in Canyon Country makes this a particularly appealing adventure. Participants may bring spouses of any age or companions age 50 or older to help them enjoy the beauty of the LaSal Mountains and the splendor of Southeastern Utah's spires, arches and canyons. People can register for the trip by calling Elderhostel International and at 1-617-426-8056. More information about the program can be obtained by calling Canyonlands Field Institute at 1-800-860-5262 or 1-8-1-259-7750.

Canyonlands Field Institute offers a variety of programs throughout the year. To receive a current program catalog phone 1-800-860-5262.

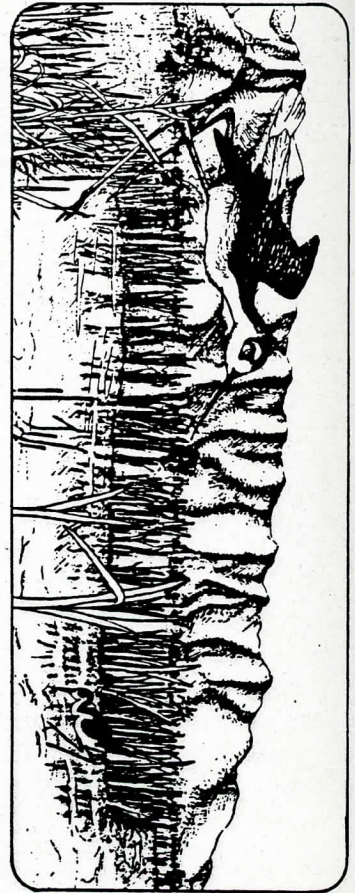
Eleventh Annual CFI Eagle Float

Canyonlands Field Institute, working with State and Federal Agencies, will again sponsor an eagle count on the Colorado River. This year's full day raft trip will be held on March 2. Participants on last year's trip spotted 33 species of birds, including 15 golden eagles and 7 bald eagles, while floating the Loma to Westwater stretch of the Colorado River. Sightings of two nesting pairs of bald eagles were a highlight of the trip. Local biologists will again be on hand to share their knowledge of these magnificent birds. Cost of the all day trip is \$80 and includes lunch and snacks. Data collected on the trip will contribute to agency raptor counts. Anyone who is interested in participating should contact Canyonlands Field Institute at 1-800-860-5262 or 801-259-7750.

Nonprofit Organization
 BULK RATE
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 Logan, Utah

THE STILL

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



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	Brigit Burt, 753-2794
Vice President	Robert Schmidt, 755-9262
Secretary	Joanna Garrard, 753-2429
Treasurer	Susan Drown, 752-3797
Conservation	Nick Strickland, 750-5035
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Lois Olson, 752-9085
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637
Publicity	Beth Walden, 753-0080
Hospitality	Tim & Jackie Henney, 755-6888
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268
Legislative Chairperson	

Trustees

1992-95	Dawn Holzer, 258-5205; Val Grant, 752-7572
1993-96	Rebecca Echols, 752-2367 Richard Mueller, 752-5637
1994-97	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Ted Evans, 753-2258; Jan Anderson, 752-2946

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Still*, as well as the *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Still* 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 Still* are available to non-members for \$5.00 per year. Call Susan Durham, 752-5637. Also, call Susan for new subscriptions or address changes.