

# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 24, No. 9

May 1996

## Utah Power Files Notice of Intent

On April 1, Utah Power/PacifiCorp filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to apply for new hydroelectric licenses for portions of the Bear River Project. The facilities covered in this re-licensing will include the Soda, Grace-Cove and Oneida hydroelectric power plants.

FERC's licensing process now requires that impacts on fish, wildlife, recreation and other resources be given equal consideration to power generation, and UP is seeking public input at an early stage in this application. The published schedule is:

- April 1996 — Notice of Intent filed
- May 1996 — First Public Hearings
- 1996-1997 — Conduct scientific studies
- 1998-1999 — Prepare license applications
- 2000-2001 — FERC conducts environmental reviews
- 2002 — FERC expected to grant license

Issues expected to be raised will include assurance of minimum flows for aquatic life, scheduled releases for white water and other recreation, improvements to facilities to enhance water quality, and additional capital improvements to make public access to the waterways easier and safer.

To facilitate public involvement in the process, FERC is publishing the *Bear River News*, a newsletter for anyone interested in the project. The first issue arrived in mid-April. To request your own free subscription, contact Susan Metcalf, Utah Power/PacifiCorp, 825 NE Multnomah, Suite 1525, Portland, OR 97232, or call (503) 464-6316.

Utah Power made a number of changes in their Cutler Dam/Cutler Reservoir project as a result of input from the public and Bridgerland Audubon Society played an important role in that process. If you'd like to be more involved, plan to attend the general meeting on May 9, at 7:00 P.M. when we'll organize a group to follow this new re-licensing project.

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# Calendar

**Thursday, May 9. Cache Valley Conservation Issues Update.** There are many conservation issues of interest to residents of Cache Valley. These include Logan Canyon, the Bear River and associated wetlands, local predator control programs, and environmental education efforts, to name a few. This meeting is an opportunity to get an update on issues that affect our quality of life locally and globally from experts and activists. Call Robert Schmidt at 755-9262 if there is a particular issue that you would like addressed. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. in the Logan City Building, 225 North Main. Refreshments will be served! For more information, contact Robert Schmidt, 755-9262 (evenings).

## Field Trips

BAS field trips are open to everyone. Good companionship and there's always someone along who knows interesting tidbits about our natural environment. With the coming of spring, there is an abundance of activity. 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-Sunday, May 4-5. Antelope Island Overnight.** Our annual trip to see the wonders of an island in the Great Salt Lake. Leave early Saturday morning (carpooling available) and return Sunday night. We'll stop along the causeway to look for unusual shorebirds (like black-bellied plover, snowy plover, etc.) and camp on the island in a special campground all to ourselves. You can go off hiking on your own or join a naturalist for guided walks. We'll see interesting birds, wildflowers, mountain goats, buffalo, and who knows what else? Advance reservations required but not limited. Contact Ted Evans, 753-2259.

**Friday Evening, May 10. 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. We'll search out some edible plants and cook them up for a fashionably late dinner. Trip limited to 10 people, and registration is required two weeks in advance. Materials fee, \$5. For more information call Kayo Robertson, 563-8272.

**Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12. Annual Bear River Canoe Trips.** Two one-day trips along our nearby Bear River to explore the wildlife and riparian habitats. We're sure to see some good warblers and the occasional beaver and muskrat. One year we even had an elk swim the river just in front of us! Ponder the

disappearing Great Blue Heron rookery and maybe see some owls on the nest. Reservations required; rental canoes at USU Outdoor Recreation and Trailhead Sports. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, to register.

**Saturday, May 18. Annual Birdathon.** How many different species can you see in one day? This is a fundraiser for Audubon environmental education and habitat improvement projects. We ask donors to pledge some amount for each species seen. Last year one group saw 112 species in one day; another group saw 98 species by noon; and we raised over \$6,000 last year that went towards Bear River cleanup and the Audubon Wetlands project at the south end of the Great Salt Lake. (We also had a lot of fun, but that's beside the point—or is it?) for more information, or if you know of a donor who might like to be contacted, call Bryan at 752-6830.

**Mid-May Mid-Week Heron Rookery Canoe Trip.** A leisurely two 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 nesting behavior.

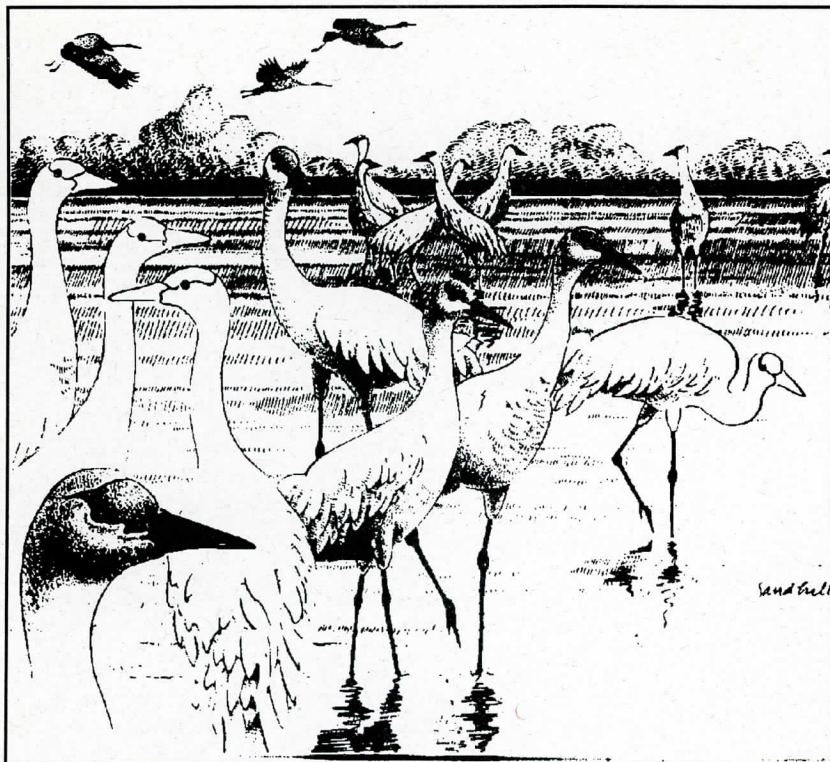
## Summer Trips

Bridgerland Audubon usually suspends its monthly meetings and the newsletter June–August, but that's only because we're all busy playing. Here's some "playing" you might want to join:

**Saturday, June 15. Coldwater Lake Hike.** A short hike to a small pond perched on the east side of the Wellsville Mountain Wilderness Area. Fabulous time for wildflowers, warblers, and butterflies. Great for families and children. The adventurous can continue on the trail to reach Stewart's Pass on the crest of the Wellsvilles for a spectacular view of the Great Basin.

Main trip leaves 8:00 A.M. from the U.S. Forest Service office, 1500 East Hwy 89, and back by early afternoon. For more information, call Jack Greene, 563-6816, or Louise Murch, 755-3620.

**Saturday, June 29. High Creek Waterfalls.** A 3-4 mile round trip hike up the bottom of High Creek Canyon to find some beautiful waterfalls, cool and refreshing on a hot summer day. Leaders will help you identify forest plants and animals. The adventurous can continue on to the Beaver Ponds, two miles further up the canyon. This is the northern end of the Naomi Peak Wilderness Area, a jewel in the Bear River Range. Main trip leaves 8:00 A.M. from the U.S. Forest Service office, 1500 East Hwy 89, and back by early afternoon. For more information, call Jack Greene, 563-6816, or Louise Murch, 755-3620.



Don't Miss  
Utah's Third Annual Celebration

## *Sandhill Crane Days '96*

September 6-7 — Cache Valley  
September 8 — Box Elder County

*Your chance to see and learn about the magnificent cranes that migrate through Northern Utah each fall.*

### **Friday, September 6 — 7:00 P.M.**

Join us for a jolly social and guest presentation in The Coppermill banquet hall, 50 N. Main, Logan. Visit the displays of regional "bird" art!

### **Saturday, September 7 — 7:00 — 11:00 A.M.**

Bus tour of the Bear River marshes: see herons, ducks, owls, songbirds, hawks, and, of course, hundreds of sandhill cranes. Scopes and guides are provided; bring your binoculars and camera gear.

#### **1:00 — 4:00 P.M. Birding "Your Way"**

##### **Choosing among four ways to spend your afternoon:**

- Canoe the Logan River (expert birders will guide you)
- Stroll and identify birds (again, an expert birder will lead you)
- Meet with HawkWatch in the path of raptors' fall migration
- Enjoy a film on fascinating natural history

#### **6:00 — 8:00 P.M. Social and Dinner by the River**

Enjoy trading tales of the day with new and old friends and share a fine catered meal under a leafy canopy in lovely Logan Canyon.

#### **8:00 P.M. A Performance for Cranes**

As evening stars emerge above rustic Guinevah Amphitheater, listen to stories and tales celebrating the avian world.

### **Sunday, September 8 — 9:00 A.M.**

A special interpretive presentation by the staff of the **Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge**. Gather at the refuge headquarters (15 miles northwest of Brigham City) for a short presentation on autumn life at the refuge and the Great Salt Lake.

### **Register today! Participation is limited to 100.**

Call (801) 266-1728 or write to The Spirit of Utah Wilderness, 1234 Sherman Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84105 for a brochure. Cost: \$30.00. All proceeds will be donated to a fund to establish lure crops for Utah cranes.

**Sandhill Crane Days '96 is sponsored by The Utah Wildlife Manifesto,  
Bridgerland Audubon and Great Salt Lake Audubon**

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### **Saturday, August 3. Tony Grove Wildflowers Hike.**

A family hike in the Tony Grove area to study wildflowers and mountain birds. This spot was chosen by the American Birding Association for one of their annual convention field trips, so it's got to be rich! The basins around Tony Grove harbor quiet groves of trees, limestone sinkholes, and rich meadows. The adventurous can continue on to the Naomi Peak summit, and if the thunderstorms are quiet, enjoy a panoramic view of northern Utah, stretching from Cache Valley to the Uinta Mountains. Main trip leaves 8:00 A.M. from the U.S. Forest Service office, 1500 East Hwy 89, and back by early afternoon. For more information, call Jack Greene, 563-6816, or Louise Murch, 755-3620.

## **USU Canoe and Kayak Club**

### **River Safety and Rescue Courses (2)**

For paddlers and rafters

Video: Thursday, May 9, 7:30 P.M. NFS room 102 — for all boaters; no charge.

### **Weekend Course**

May 11-12, two full days of activities; Saturday will be dry land training, Sunday will be spent practicing skills on the Weber River. \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members; \$10 deposit required.

### **River Safety and Rescue Refresher**

For boaters who have taken a comprehensive course Saturday, May 18 on Oneida Narrows of the Bear River Contact: Glen Gantz, 258-2748; ggantz@cache.net Fee: \$15 for equipment that will be distributed among participants after the workshop.

### **Paddlefest and Dead Fish Polo**

Annual flat water paddling festival at First Dam; date to be announced.

### **Paddling Trips**

Contact Jean Lown, 752-6830.

## **Trustees and Officers Nominated for May Elections**

At its April meeting, the Board nominated the following people for offices within BAS:

### **Officers and Chairpersons**

President, Robert Schmidt

Vice President, Barrie Gilbert

Conservation Chair, Nick Strickland

Education Chair, Jack Greene

Membership Chair, Alice Lindahl

Newsletter, Lois Olsen

Circulation, Susan Durham

Hospitality, Tim & Jackie Henney

Hotline, Nancy Williams

### **New Trustees**

1996-1999 — Allen Christensen, Suzanne Marychild, Peter Rubin

The elections will be held at the general meeting May 9, 1996, and prior to the elections, additional nominations will be taken from the floor. Individuals who are interested in one or more of these offices are encouraged to contact Robert Schmidt at 755-9262 ahead of time for more information.

## **Bird Seed**

Don't forget those birds just because the snow has gone! Bird seed is still available at \$16 for 50 pounds—a great deal! You can buy it at Sunrise Cyclery. Many thanks to Jeff Keller for providing this service!

## **Fowl Play**

Kit Flannery recently ventured to "Saltair," a wildlife area near the airport. A flamingo, famous for making its home there for more than seven years, inspired the following poem.

January juxtasposition:

Refinery's looming smokestack

Arabian-nights pavillion

Interstate Eighty causeway

Great Salt Lake's snow-shore

Andean flamingo, Pink Floyd

Brilliantly breaks his fast

In frozenness sieving shrimp

From brine through baleen,

Head wagging side-to-side

Underwater, up-side-down.

Zoo-born, pellet-fed, cagey

Floyd had eluded wing-shearing,

Defected seven years back on black

Wings never before used,

Instinctively enroute to Peruvian

Saltpond never before seen.

Over Zion's saline sea, Halleluja!

Floyd saw delight.

Converted for time if not eternity

As came revelation:

This MUST Be The Place!

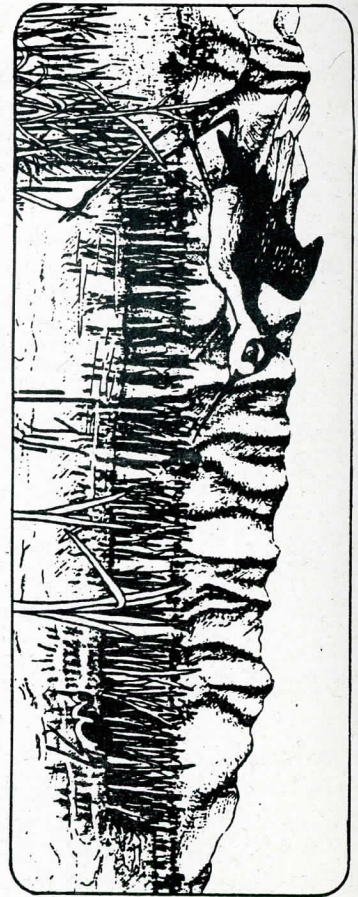
kit flannery

Saltair

February 6, 1996

# THE STILT

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



Nonprofit Organization  
BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 104  
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	Robert Schmidt, 755-9262
Vice President	
Secretary	
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
Hospitality	Tim & Jackie Henney, 755-6888
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268

Trustees

1993-96	Rebecca Echols, 752-2367
	Richard Mueller, 752-5637
1994-97	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Glen Gantz, 258-2748;
	Ted Evans, 753-2259; Jan Anderson, 752-2946

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.