



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 25, No. 3

November 1996

## “The eagles fate and mine are the same” – Edmond Waller

The annual fall field trip to Mendon Peak on top of the Wellsvilles took place October 5, 1996. Jim Sinclair led the group of about 20 individuals eager to experience the raptor migration once again. The Wellsville field trips have been cold and foggy the last two years; however, this year the sun's warmth put at least one hiker to sleep after lunch. No one seemed in a hurry to leave the peak, perhaps because of the sunshine, the brilliant fall colors and continuous sightings of birds. Rheinart Jockel and Brian Dixon were the last of the group to leave the peak.



The most numerous raptors counted were cooper's hawks and sharpshin hawks. These birds often dove repeatedly at an owl decoy placed in a tree just to the west below the peak. The thrill of the day came when Bryan Dixon spotted a peregrine falcon. Two golden eagles and a goshawk were also seen. A new record was set for the birds counted in one hour with 82 birds.

The official observers were volunteers for HawkWatch International. (HawkWatch, Int. conducts long-term

raptor monitoring and migration research at numerous sites across western North America.) Sue Thomas, a HawkWatch volunteer for three years and Scott Harris, a HawkWatch volunteer for four years kept counting and recording the birds all day particularly during the peak hours of 11 am – 2 pm (MST). Both Scott and Sue come from Boise, Idaho most recently and besides HawkWatch duties have done other work with wildlife. Sue stated she had enjoyed watching the behavior of whooping crane chicks in Maryland. In Yellowstone, Scott was fascinated observing wolf-coyote interaction. The observers were knowledgeable, enthusiastic and fun to be around.

We thought of Allen Stokes on that day, he led this trip many times—we miss him.

Let's look forward to next year's trip, hoping for great weather and many beautiful raptors.

— Kennita Thatcher

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# November Calendar Meetings

**Monday, November 4, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting: "Wolves and Grizzlies: Predation in Alaska's Denali National Park".** FAV Room 150 Fine Arts Bldg. Tom Walker, noted author, naturalist and wildlife photographer will present a lecture, illustrated with his spectacular slides, on the role of large predators on caribou, Dall sheep, mountain goats and moose. Tom is a long-time Alaska resident, log home builder and author of several books including his latest, *River of Bears*, the first book to document the world-famous gathering of brown bears at the McNeil River Sanctuary. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited. Don't miss this treat and an opportunity to meet the speaker!

**Friday-Sunday, November 16-17. Nature Center Weekend Retreat for BAS Board.** Logan Canyon Nature Center Board and interested BAS members. Two day retreat at the Teton Science School in Kelly, Wyoming (seven miles northeast of Jackson) to discuss the future of our nature center in Logan Canyon. We'll hear from Jack Shea, Executive Director of the School, and Steve Archibald, a teacher at the school, about how the TSS operates and what programs they have found to work. We'll also hear from Carol Warden, fundraising specialist for the National Audubon Society, on how to raise funds, and make a project financially sound. Cost is \$25 for the weekend, including meals and lodging Saturday night. If you're interested in attending, you must register with Jack Greene (563-6816) or Bryan Dixon (752-6830) by November 1.

## Trips

BAS field trips are open to all. There's always fun with new people to meet; and we're always watching for wildlife—especially birds; 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, November 9. Observe Red Squirrels.** We'll visit the home of some notorious squirrel lovers. Squirrels will be harvesting pine cones and other foods for the winter. There will be squirrel nests to explore as well as pine cone caches. Sound yummy? Join us for a morning of local exploring. Great trip for kids as well as adults. Meet at the USFS office at 1500 East Hwy 89 at 9:30 a.m. Back by noon.

**Saturday, November 23. Fall Birding.** Spend the morning looking for migrating waterfowl and hawks. Potential stops include Hyrum Reservoir for late ducks (maybe an oldsquaw or surf scoter?), Hyrum fields to find rough-legged hawks (maybe ferruginous?), and sparrows along the roadside (maybe a longspur?).

Beginner birdwatchers are very welcome. Carpooling available. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Straw Ibis and Sunrise Cyclery, approximately 150 North 50 East in Logan. Back by early afternoon. For more information, call Bryan, 752-6830.

**Saturday, December 7. How to Feed and Attract Winter Birds.** See the various types of feeders, seeds and water devices in use locally. Bring binoculars and dress warmly, but most observing will be done indoors. Leave at 9 a.m. from the USFS office at 1500 East Hwy 89. Back by noon.

**Saturday, December 14. 21st Annual Logan Christmas Bird Count.** A tradition in England since 1900, the CBS has been held in the same area in Cache Valley for the last 20 years. Last year we counted over 20,000 birds and 90 species. Teams are assigned particular areas and some folks start before dawn. Potluck dinner afterwards to go over the numbers and get a total. If you'd like to help out, call Keith Archibald, 752-8258

## Holy Faire Help Needed

Want to have a fun time helping kids make Christmas ornaments and bird houses? BAS will once again sponsor a booth at the Holly Faire December 5-7. Volunteers are needed to help out with the booth for two hour shifts. Call Bob and Betty Taylor, 752-7870.

## Activities of Your Executive

- BAS Vice President Barrie Gilbert
- Presented a slide talk at the October meeting to the membership
- Joined other members for a week-end roofing the Nature Center
- Had an Op Ed piece published in the *Jackson Hole Guide* regarding grizzly management in the Yellowstone ecosystem
- Signed a letter to President Clinton on behalf of BAS supporting forest habitat plans in the Pacific NW
- Had letters published (SLC and Logan) encouraging the USFS to better manage grazing in wilderness in Utah
- Attended two board meetings, strategy sessions with executive

We are anxious to know in what issues the members want BAS to get involved.

### Birdseed Available

Clean, Washed Seed  
50 lbs. for \$16.00

Purchase at Sunrise Cyclery or  
contact Nick Strickland or Alice Stokes.  
Bags can be turned in to be recycled,  
but no longer a monetary discount.



## Update: Logan Canyon Nature Center

In an accelerated effort to create a nature education center to serve the Cache Valley and beyond, volunteers have been working Saturdays and evenings at the former American Legion Lodge in Logan Canyon. They are tearing out interior walls, yanking down ceilings and shoveling broken glass, plasterboard, insulation and other debris into dumpsters provided by Logan City. They are turning the neglected and vandalized 1920s log building a mile from the mouth of Logan Canyon into a facility to teach students of every age about environmental stewardship. Programs will be modeled after the world-famous Teton Science Center in Wyoming.

The Center also will be used as a site for seminars and retreats by church, civic and social organizations. Plans call for a full-time program director and two live-in interns. Modest fees will be charged to users to cover maintenance and operating expenses.

In August, 1996, the First Presbyterian Church of Logan took title to the property from the Boy Scouts' Trapper Trail Council. An eight-person governing board representing the Presbyterian Church and the Bridgerland Audubon Society, which provided seed money for initial restoration, is directing the efforts of volunteers. The church and BAS have formed a partnership to restore and operate the facility.

Led by board members Glen Gantz and Chris Gaddis, volunteers have removed trees growing into the roof and exterior walls, installed a new metal roof, broken out interior walls and carted away vintage oil and septic tanks. Logan City empties loaded dumpsters at the site after every work weekend.

The following area citizens and groups are among many who have worked on the restoration project to date: Presbyterian Church youth group; Nature Club of Logan Middle School (with teachers Bryce Passey and Blair Larson); Chris and Nathan Hult; Julia Bolden; Joyce and Will Pependorf (she is the project's volunteer architect); Rick Hoff; Mike Sweeny; Jamie McEvoy; Paul, Jenny and Steve Archibald; Kayo Robertson; Bill Sedivy; Austin McHugh; Bryan Dixon; Jean Lown; Alan Christensen; Barrie Gilbert; Barr and Chris Bentley; Stella Palmeir; Bill Masslich; Sharon and Dave Ohlhorst, and Jack Greene.

The Boys and Girls Club of Cache County, led by Director Dave Calhoun, has scheduled a work day in November. The Center's Board chairman, Jack Greene, has emphasized that volunteers are welcome any time, however. He said any board member will happily provide access to the road and building when volunteers want to work.

A fund-raising drive will start in the spring of 1997, with the publication of a pamphlet describing the new

Center and its goals. Meanwhile, volunteers are making plans to address area civic clubs through the winter. The first such informational presentation was October 10 when Dr. Sharon Ohlhorst of USU's College of Natural Resources, Bryan Dixon of Campbell Scientific, and Tim Henney, a retired corporate public relations officer of AT & T, addressed the Logan Rotary Club.

Most of the work at the Center is being done by volunteers and much of the material and equipment required is being contributed at or near cost by local businesses. The new nature center is a non-profit organization.

Contributions in time, talent and/or funds can be made by calling any member of the Center's governing board. They are: Nathan Hult, 2735 N. 1250 E., North Logan, UT 84341, 753-7400 (office), 752-7538; Karl Van Weerd, 374 N. 970 E., Logan, UT 84321, 752-9538; Tim H. Henney, 1065 Grandview Dr., Providence, UT 84332, 755-6888; Jack Greene (Chair), 500 Summit Creek Dr., Smithfield, UT 84335, 563-6816; Chris Gaddis, 496 E. 250 S., Hyde Park, UT 84318, 755-3666 (office), 563-5687; Sharon Ohlhorst, 5080 W. 3400 S., Wellsville, UT 84339, 797-2580 (office), 752-2289; Milford L. Whitworth, PO Box 77, Logan, UT 84323, 752-2942; Glen Gantz, 11255 N. 2000 E., Richmond, UT 84333, 258-2748.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Writing for the Canyon — An Homage to Beauty

I am announcing a celebration of our best words, ideas, feelings, and artwork to honor and embrace our community's largest and finest canyon, Logan Canyon. The celebration will end this coming summer, after four seasons, when the essays, poems, stray thoughts, songs, artwork, stories, histories, and written joys and sorrows inspired by Logan Canyon will be published. Contributors will each receive a copy of the publication.

Last Saturday, in a formal way, we began the project. Under the leadership of Tom and Jan Lyons, a crew of young and old writers sat quietly beneath the vast prow of the China wall, listened, dreamed, watched, thought and felt this very special place. We put our perceptions into words about aspens and dust, rivers and rocks, and the absolute certainty that somewhere an elk was at that very moment shuffling through a carpet of colors.

I need your help. Mostly your writings, but also editors, financial contributions to defray publication costs, ideas to make this effort the best it can be. . . but mostly the best written thoughts you have about our canyon.

Please submit writings to Kayo Robertson, 10 S. 200 E., Smithfield, UT 84335 or call 563-8272).



# China Wall

*Great stone fortresses, perched high above the land,  
Untouched by time.*

*They wait, silent and solemn for the*

*Return of ancient masters.*

*Carved out of living rock of another far away world,*

*They wait, those Children of Forever.*

Kirsten  
Kjelgren

## Trumpeter Swan Observers Needed

As part of continuing efforts to restore a broader nesting and wintering distribution of Rocky Mountain trumpeter swans, 24 trumpeters were released at Bear Lake NWR this summer. These and other trumpeters, both marked and unmarked, may frequent sites in southern Idaho and Utah this fall and winter. Some of the Bear Lake swans may already be in your area. Observations of trumpeters and correct identification of marked individuals are essential to the evaluation of restoration efforts and planning of future strategies. Swans will be marked with neck-bands; some also are marked with colored dye. We need reliable volunteers who would like to help this monitoring effort. If you would like to learn more about trumpeter swans and assist with data collection, please contact Ruth Shea at 208-574-2455 or 208-754-8756.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The Audubon Council met in August to discuss impending legislative issues. They were and continue to be the following:

1. The Antelope Island access road and the Gillmor Sanctuary
2. Cougars
3. Elk ranching
4. Forestry practices on private lands
5. The Western Transportation Corridor now Leavitt's Legacy Highway
6. Water and dams
7. Open space issues

The first four items are relatively straightforward and easy for me to deal with as legislative items. Audubon is adamantly opposed to any road crossing the new Gillmor Sanctuary. Our stand and the reasons for it are simple and easy to articulate. The only difficulty is that there are good and reasonable people on the other side who will be sympathetic to our motivation but who may believe we are being inflexible when we are unwilling to compromise. However, the sanctuary is not a place for splitting the difference.

As protectors of all wildlife in a balanced ecological system, we all agree that the cougar should remain a protected animal. Since this summer's uproar over the Wildlife board's decision to allow a dramatic increase in cougar kills it will be interesting to see what legislation might emerge. It is possible that the new Cougar Coalition will find a brave legislator who will attempt to raise the penalties for illegally killing cougars back in line with those for other protected

species. At the least we should be able to stand in support for more monies for studying cougar numbers and range.

We will oppose elk ranching. It will be interesting to see who lines up on both sides of this issue.

Forestry practices regulation should be a bill we can support with enthusiasm; however, it may run into difficulties over the interpretation of private property rights. Hopefully, the version which has been carefully crafted by the forestry practices task force will survive Energy, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Committee scrutiny and pass through the legislature relatively in tact.

The Western Transportation Corridor is a bigger, more complex problem. The Council feels that Audubon should use any opportunity we have to promote our objection to building more roads as a solution to our transportation and growth problems. However, there is a school of thought within the environmental community which believes that it is useless to oppose the road and a better strategy is to work for the least destructive alternative. If placed in certain alignments the road might even protect wetlands. The question before the legislature will be allocating money to reserve the right-of-way for the corridor. It may take time to sort out what to do about this legislation.

If there was ever a time when Audubon was enthusiastic about dams it surely has passed here in Utah. At this point I cannot report any specifics for water legislation, although the State Water Commission seems determined to proceed with all possible pending projects, especially the one for diverting the Bear River. And it will be interesting to see what scenarios are forthcoming for completion of the CUP.



It might be argued that preserving urban open space is not part of my mission, however, as our cities expand we destroy more critical habitat for birds, especially migratory species. A task force established by the State and Local Legislative Interim Committee, the Air, Transportation, and Land Use Task Force, is working on a bill to help regions, counties, and cities confront urban sprawl. As always they are trying to craft legislation that has a reasonable chance of passage which means it is limited in scope. I presume Audubon will want to support their efforts.

Please sign up for the Audubon Lobby Corp. I try to limit my requests for you to call a specific legislator so you won't feel you are diluting your credibility, but I think you can imagine that sometimes fast changing circumstances might mean I will ask you to call on a second issue. Be sure to indicate if you are a one issue person for this year or have a strong preference for how or when you are contacted. Thanks.

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### Audubon Lobbying Network

Yes, I want to be an Audubon Lobbying Network Participant for the Utah Legislature.

Issues I am interested in:

- Wildlife. A special focus? Cougars \_\_\_\_\_, Elk \_\_\_\_\_ Another special interest \_\_\_\_\_
- Forestry practices on private land \_\_\_\_\_
- Resource issues. Particular project or site. \_\_\_\_\_
- Water issues. Particular project or site \_\_\_\_\_
- Habitat protection. Do you have a particular area in mind? \_\_\_\_\_
- Urban planning (preserving urban open space) Particular interest \_\_\_\_\_
- Others \_\_\_\_\_

I only want to be contacted about one issue \_\_\_\_\_

I only want to be contacted by \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (time of day)

I am willing to call other chapter members to tell them about pending actions.  Yes  No

I am willing to contact a legislator.  Call  Write  Fax # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail # \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to come to the Capitol during the session.  Yes  No

I can help in other ways (such as research, writing, mailings, etc..) Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

State Representative \_\_\_\_\_

State Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

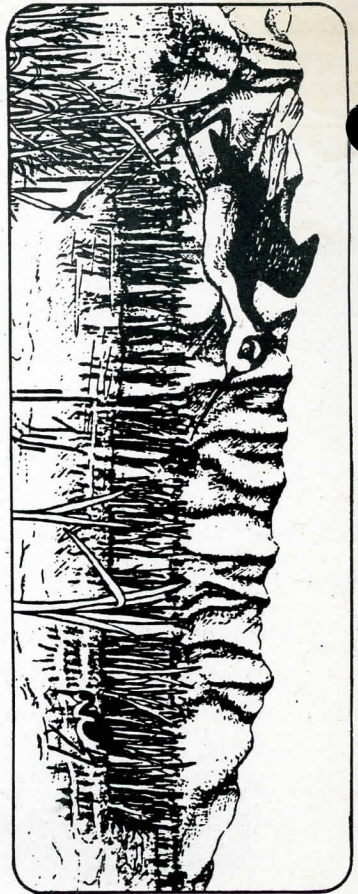
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Return coupon to: Ann O'Connell  
2727 Kentucky Ave.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84117  
Phone: 277-9046  
Fax: Same  
E-mail: 103306.301@compuserve.com

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BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Nonprofit Organization  
BULK RATE  
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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	Robert Schmidt, 755-9262
Vice President	Barrie Gilbert, 752-0946
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
1996	Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Rubin; Allen Christensen, 258-5018

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.