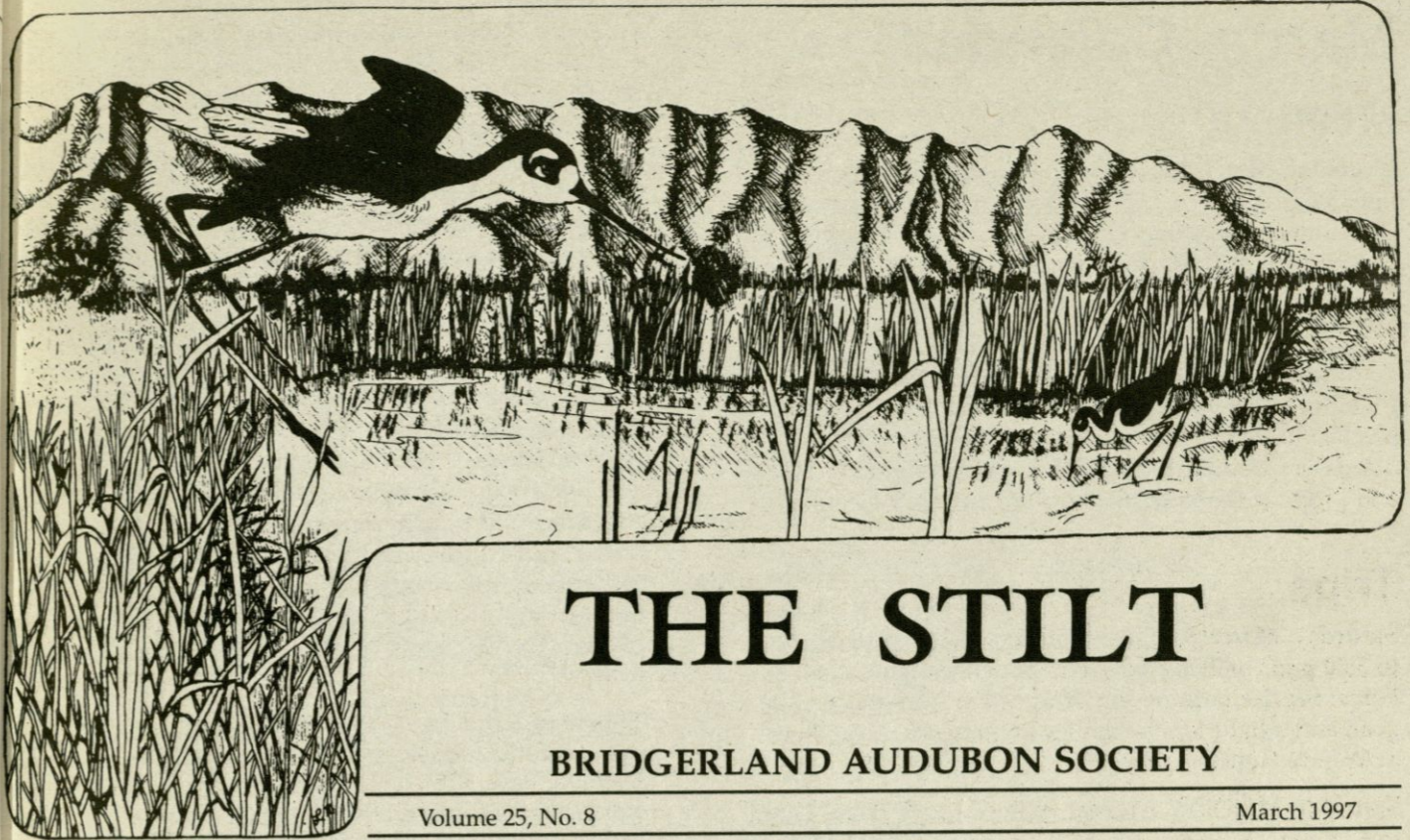


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THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 25, No. 8

March 1997

Should Domestic Elk Be Raised In Utah?

At this time, the Utah House has passed a bill to allow the farming of domestic elk in Utah. The bill awaits a similar vote in the Senate.

The Utah Wildlife Board, at its 19 December 1996 meeting, passed a resolution asking the State Legislature to postpone enactment of this legislation until questions regarding raising domestic elk are answered to the Board's satisfaction.

Why should conservationists be concerned about the development of this industry in Utah?

- There are risks of new diseases being transferred from domestic elk into the wild elk population. Wild elk could be killed in order to prevent the spreading of a disease introduced by domestic elk.
- There is a concern that escaped domestic elk could affect the genetic structure of wild elk populations. Eradicating a cluster of genetically-contaminated elk would probably require the culling of wild elk from a specified area.
- Safeguards do not exist that prevent wild elk from being poached and included in domestic elk herds.
- Questions regarding who should be responsible for the costs of depredation from predators on domestic elk have not been answered.
- Questions regarding who is responsible for the damage to agriculture from escaped domestic elk have not been answered.

- Questions regarding the legal and ethical hunting of domestic elk on elk farms have not been answered.

Unfortunately, no fencing is 100% escape-proof. Domestic elk will escape over time, and somebody, probably the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, will be forced to expend time and money to monitor escaped animals or herds. These personnel and financial resources will come out of other financially stressed wildlife-related programs. This proposal, at the very minimum, requires additional study and development. In the meantime, the citizens of Utah would be much better served with greater attention given to our existing native wildlife, and less given to the development of a domestic elk industry that may provide a short-term financial gain for a few farmers at the cost of long-term environmental damage to Utah's unique combination of natural resources.

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THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84323
January 1997

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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 |
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| Hospitality | Tim & Jackie Henney, 755-6888 |
| Hotline | Nancy Williams, 753-6268 |
- Trustees
- 1994-97 Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Ted Evans, 753-2259; Jan Anderson, 752-2946
- 1995-98 Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Rubin; Allen Christensen, 258-5018
- 1997-98 Jack Greene, 563-6816; Lois Olson, 752-9085

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 change.

March Calendar

Meetings

Thursday, March 13, 7:30 P.M. **General Meeting, Logan City Offices, 255 North Main.** Sue Morgan and Glen Leonard will be showing slides of their backpacking trip in Costa Rica, with observations about the wildlife. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 P.M. **BAS Planning Meeting** at the home of Robert Schmidt, 1665 East 1350 North. Officers, Chairpersons, and Trustees meet to discuss issues and make plans for meetings, activities and projects. General members are always welcome.

Trips

Saturday, March 8. **Cross-Country Ski Trip 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at Temple Fork in Logan Canyon. Meet at Forest Service parking lot. Bring water, sun glasses, ski gear, and a light lunch. Novice to moderate level. Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

Saturday, March 15. **Annual Willard Eagle Hike, 10 am to 5:00 pm.** 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 (2000'), so bring good boots, warm clothes and lunch. A couple of routes of varying difficulty to the viewing area are available. Good viewing is also possible from the gravel pit without going to the top. Meet at 10:00 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by late afternoon. If in doubt about the weather, call Jim Sinclair at 752-0061.

Saturday, April 5. **Flatwater Canoeing on the Bear River** to witness seasonal changes, erosion controls, and cleanup procedures. Meet at the old County Courthouse, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Good family outing. Bring water, hats, sunscreen, and snacks. Some canoes will be provided (first come-first served). Limited to 25 people unless you bring your own canoe. Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

Friday night and Saturday, April 18-19. **Grouse Courtship Camping Trip.** Visit the Curlew National Grassland in southern Idaho to observe sage and sharp-tailed grouse strutting their stuff. We'll camp Friday night at the Curlew Campground north of Snowville at

the south end of Stone Reservoir and get together at 7 p.m. around the campfire to listen to Ken Tammen, Forest Service biologist, discuss the grouse mating rituals. Saturday, we'll get up before dawn to watch birds giving their mating dances and displays at traditional leks. Afterward, we'll return to camp for breakfast and organize some trips to visit other areas at the Grasslands looking for other birds and grouse. We may even get to hear a loon! Return Saturday afternoon. Carpools encouraged; reservations call Bryan Dixon at 752-6830.

Thursday-Sunday, April 24-27. **Zion National Park Hiking and Camping.** Angel's Landing, the Emerald Pools, Hidden Canyon, etc. Bring camping gear and food. Approximately \$35 will be charged to cover fees and transportation for those not driving. Leave South Cache Freshman Center at 3:00 pm on the 24th and return around 6:00 pm on the 27th. Hike range from novice to fairly strenuous. Limited to 25 people ages 14 - adult. Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

Thursday-Saturday, May 8-10. **Whitewater Rafting** the Colorado and Green rivers and hiking in Arches National Park. \$135 includes meals, guides, fees, equipment and permits, and transportation from Layton to Moab and return. Leave South Cache Freshman Center on May 8 at 6:00 am and return to South Cache May 10 at 8:00 pm. Bring camping equipment and river clothes. Ages 14 - adult. Limited to 35 people. Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

May 31-June 8 or June 7-15. **Biodiversity Tour.** Experience the Salt Flats, Great Basin Desert, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park and Monterey Bay Aquarium/Tidal Pools. Camping and hiking in some of the West's most scenic and diverse environments. Here's your chance to climb Half Dome and walk the trails of John Muir. Costs have not yet been finalized. Limit to 20 people. Ages 12 - adult. Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

Tom Wharton to Be Speaker at April 8 Annual Banquet

It'll be beautiful (we promise) Tuesday, April 8 at the Zanavoo Restaurant a few miles up into Logan Canyon for the annual Audubon Banquet. This year's speaker is Tom Wharton, Recreation Editor for the Salt Lake Tribune and advocate for wildlife in Utah, speaking on "Finding a Voice for Nonconsumptive Wildlife in Utah." The annual Conservation and Education awards will be presented, and election of new officers and trustees will take place. It's always wonderful to dine with good friends and make new ones, so plan to bring us. There will be at least two menu choices, a beer and a fish. Social hour begins with hors d'oeuvres, beverages and soft drinks at 6:00 P.M. with dinner starting at 7:00. Look for tickets at Sunrise Cyclery, In the Company of Friends, and the Straw Ibis, with prices at \$15 (for students).

Call for Nominations

This spring we will elect officers and new members to the Board of Trustees. A nominating committee has been formed, chaired by outgoing President, Robert Schmidt, to offer nominations to be held at the annual banquet on April 8 (see story elsewhere in this *Stilt*).

Officers serve for two year terms and the positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The president conducts monthly general and planning meetings and directs the activities of our various chairs (conservation, outings, etc.). The vice president arranges for and introduces speakers, and fills in for the president as needed. The secretary writes up minutes of the planning meetings, collects and distributes our mail and maintains our records. The treasurer maintains our accounts, pays our bills and generally keeps the IRS from knocking at our door.

Trustees serve for three year terms and we can elect up to four in any given year. Trustees are responsible for setting policy at the monthly meetings and they generally fill in where needed on various projects where they have an interest.

If you would like to serve in one of these positions or know of a good candidate, please contact Robert Schmidt, 755-9262; Ted Evans, 753-2259; or Peter Ruben, 755-9333 prior to March 13. Nominations from the Board will be printed in the April *Stilt*. (Late nominations will also be taken from the floor but won't appear on the ballots.)

New Members

Andrea Andersen
Dustin Anderson
Melanie Anderson
Monica Beckstrom
Nils Bergson
Carolyn Cheal
Mr Vance Davis
Faith Godfrey
James Graham
Andrew D Guss
Brooke Jaggi
Shyler Jensen
Peter Kung & Zan Merrill
Angela Mathews

Corey E Nielsen
Ramsey Neilsen
Amber Nyman
Lance Petersen
Misty Petersen
Klare Price
Amanda Raben
Becky Rickson
Dawn Sanow
Jeffrey P Spruance
Joy Tanner
Susan West
Andrena White
Sandra Wilson

Renewing Members

Clifton & Diane Alston
Mr & Mrs John Barnes
Jenifer & Gary Belovsky
Budge Clinic
Ted Pease & Brenda Cooper
Mr John W Devilbiss
Joy Dougherty
Glen Gantz
Katherine Gilbert
Jack Greene
Mr Al Jones
Mark Leonhardt

Stephen Luck
William Masslich
Mrs Meredith Matlack
Micah Nielsen
Linda B Rawlins
John N Ream, Jr
Beverly & Jerry Ridenhour
Dr R J Shaw
Mr Nelson B Wadsworth
F H Wagner
M Coburn Williams
Gar W Workman

Bridgerland Audubon Supports Logan Canyon Nature Center

The Board of Trustees for Bridgerland Audubon Society reaffirmed their commitment to the Logan Canyon Nature Center project with a gift of \$5000. At their 19 February meeting, the Trustees committed these funds to the Logan Canyon Nature Center for the development of educational programs, with the funds to be matched with \$5000 raised from other sources in order to encourage individuals and businesses in Cache Valley to contribute to this important endeavor.

"It is the hope of Bridgerland Audubon Society that the Logan Canyon Nature Center be a permanent and important addition to the science education programs already available in Cache Valley," announced Robert Schmidt, president of BAS. "This gift demonstrates our commitment to this goal, and Bridgerland Audubon looks forward to working closely with the Logan Canyon Nature Center to insure its success."

"The Logan Canyon Nature Center has received a phenomenal number of donations in both material and labor to restore the old American Legion Hall in Logan Canyon. Bridgerland Audubon's gift has moved the Nature Center to its next phase, and its most important mission—to develop educational programs that will be taught in a stimulating outdoor environment," stated Glen Gantz, member of the Board of Directors for the Logan Canyon Nature Center. "The Logan Canyon Nature Center is very thankful to Bridgerland Audubon for such a great start in developing funding for the educational programs of the Nature Center."

Contributions to the Logan Canyon Nature Center can be sent to the Bridgerland Audubon Society with a notation on the check or envelope that says "Nature Center." Mail to: Bridgerland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323.