

Audubon Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Retreat

May 17-18 8 A.M. (or later) Saturday - 1 P.M. Sunday Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, near Brigham City, UT Meeting Site and Accommodations at the Canadian Goose Duck Club

Hosts: Bridgerland Audubon Society
Contact Alice Lindhal (801) 753-7744 (h) for bunk reservations and information.
(801) 797-4063 (w) or email alindahl@biology.usu.edu
Thanks to: Allen Esplin, Canadian Goose Duck Club

Bridgerland Audubon will host the spring retreat for all Audubon members in Utah. We will plan to join the celebration the refuge is planning to show off the amazing recovery of the wetlands and to bring state residents out to the site to get acquainted with this marvelous place. Saturday will be devoted to field trips and helping the refuge staff man spotting scope stations.

As you are probably aware, National Audubon is encouraging the establishment of state offices and this will be an opportunity for you to be involved in this decision.

We have chosen the Canadian Goose Duck Club as the site for our meeting because we had such a wonderful time there in 1992 and because they graciously invited us back. The refuge has reached another critical point in its history. Rebuilding after the floods, acquisition of new land, raising money for a new visitor center have come together. The refuge now needs the support of Utah citizens who care about wildlife (us) to help them build a dike to the 21st century. (Just a little joke, there.)

Saturday night the refuge has planned a BBQ and kickoff for the Friends of the Bear River Refuge, and we will attend that as part of the retreat.

You can attend just one activity or all of them. If you would like to stay overnight in the bunkhouse at the Canadian goose Club, please call Alice (number above) to reserve a bunk.

We hope to see you there!

May Calendar Meetings

Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 P.M. <u>BAS Planning Meeting</u>. Note new date. At the home of Bryan Dixon, 10 Heritage Cove, Logan. Officers, Chairpersons and Trustees meet to discuss issues and make plans for meetings, activities and projects. General members are always welcome.

Thursday, May 8, 7:30 P.M. General Meeting at the Logan City Offices. 255 North Main. David Dominic, member of the Board of Directors of National Audubon Society will speak on the new directions for NAS and what this means for local societies. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Saturday, May 10. Trees and Trails Day at Stewart Nature Park, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Come help with plantings and sprucing up trails. There will be a variety of activities for families to participate in as we celebrate Migratory Bird Day. For more information contact Jack Greene.

Friday-Saturday, May 17-18. <u>Audubon Bear River Migratory Bird Retreat</u>, 8:00 A.M. (or later). See article for more info or contact Alice Lindahl 797-4063 (work) or 753-7744 (home).

Trips

Thursday-Saturday, May 8-10. Whitewater Rafting the Colorado and Green rivers and hiking in Arches National Park. \$135 includes meals, guides, fees, rafting 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. <u>Biodiversity Tour.</u> 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.

April 8 Annual Banquet a Success

This year's banquet was a great success. Over 115 people attended an evening at the Zanavoo Restaurant in Logan Canyon.

Tom Wharton, Recreation Editor of the *Salt Lake Tribune*, spoke on "Finding a Voice for Non-consumptive Wildlife Users in Utah." He said that, traditionally,

wildlife management policy has been dominated by agriculture and hunting groups. These groups no longer fairly represent the majority of recreationists as hunting, fishing and other consumptive uses decline. Moreover, the attitudes of many of the policy making bodies have shifted to the right and have spurned and even denigrated non-consumptive users. The result has been a strong, almost irrational, backlash against all consumptive users. Wildlife management has become polarized, emotional and politically charged.

There is common ground, however. If people can resist stereotyping and look for points about which they agree, they can begin to forge new policies and programs that improve the lots of both nonconsumptive and consumptive users. Wharton suggested that Audubon societies may be just the groups to catalyze this reconciliation. Audubon is seen by the community as one of the few moderate environmental organizations. If Audubon can get its members appointed to management boards, and encourage more education about wildlife management—both consumptive and nonconsumptive—it can have a significant effect on the new policies.

Prior to Wharton's talk, Bryan Dixon gave the State of the Society address for President Robert Schmidt who was out of town. Some of the highlighted points were:

- Remembrance of Allen Stokes, who passed away last July. Allen was dearly loved by many in BAS and was our most vocal and enthusiastic spokesman and leader. We miss him very much and remember his inspiration.
- Membership has increased from 315 last year to 385 this year, in part due to Ron and Wendy Hellstern's successful efforts which recruited over 34 new youth members.
- The establishment of the Logan Canyon Nature Center has involved many dozens of individuals, thousands of volunteer hours, and tens of thousands of dollars in donations. It is surely one of the most important projects BAS has taken on in recent years and has captured the imagination of our community at large. Bryan thanked the businesses in the community who have donated time and materials.
- General meetings have been well attended with interesting talks on conservation, wildlife, and members' travels to other countries.
- Outings have continued to be a major part of BAS's activities, and attract people of all ages to have fun experiencing our natural world. Ron and Wendy Hellstern have recently taken over our Outings program, and are doing a fine job, and the leaders of these outings deserve our thanks.
- Environmental education has continued with BAS donating \$2,000 in grants to local educators for programs in the public schools. This program will continue for at least two more years. We also provide Audubon Adventures to 17 local schools.

- Conservation projects have included fencing cattle
 from the riparian zone along the Bear River,
 challenging the motorcross development at
 Sherwood Hills, and various comments from our
 members on local grazing and resources
 management practices. Together with the other
 chapters in Utah, we also employ a lobbyist who
 works with our legislature to promote stronger
 environmental legislation.
- Donations have been generous from the Birdathon, bird seed sales, solicitations for a match for the Environmental Education Grant program above, and for the Logan Canyon Nature Center. Special thanks to the Stokes' and to Dr. Keith Archibald for their extra contributions to our program.
- Also special thanks to two board members who plug away each month to keep BAS running. Lois Olson has continued to do a remarkable job on our newsletter, The Stilt. She has devoted many hours to this time consuming job, and pulled it off without fail for several years. Sue Drown has kept our books and accounts and filed the necessary paperwork for taxes, licenses, etc. This, too, has demanded untold hours of work to keep us legal and functioning. Her help has also been crucial in keeping track of the Logan Canyon Nature Center project.
- Last, but not least, are the efforts put forth by all of our Board members and Chairpersons, who attend meetings, debate issues, and provide the direction and much of the effort for BAS's activities.
- New directions for the coming year include more special features in monthly programs designed to attract families, another birdathon fund-raiser in 1998, more trips and conservation projects, opening the Logan Canyon Nature Center, and the third year of the Environmental Education Grant program.

BAS is regarded by National Audubon as one of the most active societies of its size. This is due to the enthusiasm of its members. If you'd like to become more involved—either a lot or a little—don't wait to be called, contact one of the BAS Board members and we'll find a place for you!

Bryan then presented the Carl Johnson Educator of the Year award to Glen Gantz, who has coordinated the rebuilding of the Logan Canyon Nature Center. He has put in well over a thousand hours of his own time since last summer, and without it, the project would not have gotten this far. Tim Henney then presented the Allen Stokes Conservation Award to Mae and Merv Coover, who have been actively involved in conservation activities since before many of us were born. Their unending and indefatigable energies are an inspiration!

In all, the evening was fun, entertaining and educational. Suzanne Marychild once again was the organizer, and deserves all our thanks for making it such a success as demonstrated by the hubbub before and after the meal. If you missed it this year, we missed you. Be sure to look for the announcements for next year.

Wild Wings Over Wetlands Migratory Bird and Wetlands Day

Experience the wonders of wetlands and the beauty of birds! On Saturday, May 10, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Partners in Flight are celebrating the return of spring with our 4th Annual Migratory Bird and Wetlands Day. Naturalists, spotting scopes, and information will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with hourly birdwalks at most locations.

The event will be celebrated at the following locations across the state:

City Creek, Salt Lake City
Cutler Marsh, Logan
Ogden Nature Center, Ogden
Jordanelle State Park, Rock Cliff Nature Center
Matheson Wetland Preserve, Moab
Mathis Park, St. George
Layton Wetland Preserve/Farmington Bay WMA
Provo Wetlands Interpretive Park
Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, Ouray (April 26)

Contact Frank Howe (801) 538-4764 or Cecile LeBlank (801) 538-4864 for more information and watch your paper for updates and details. Bring your boots and binoculars and come out to enjoy our wetlands and wildlife.

Grouse Watching: A Good Weekend Trip to Curlew National Grassland

On April 18 a group of about 22 birders gathered at the campground by the lake in Curlew National Grassland. The last group came in about 8 p.m. and joined the main party who were then relaxed around a crackling, cheerful campfire. The campfire was thanks to the hard work of Leroy Beasley and Carolyn St-Onge who made an expedition to collect the firewood.

On Friday afternoon and night there were periodic clouds, rain showers and clearing skies but the temperature was quite good. Hale-Bop comet was sighted about 9 p.m. We did not hear any loons but the coyotes gave us a chorus during the night. We all got up at the crack of dawn and headed out to the leks with our leader, Ken Timothy (U.S. Forest Service Ranger). Again, thanks to Leroy who provided a van, a large number of us were able to travel in one vehicle. The first stop was at the leks of the sharp tailed grouse and they gave us a fine active display. Estimated numbers were 25 to 30 birds. On the way back to camp, we stopped to look at the sage grouse but they did not want anything to do with us and flew far away. When we got back to camp, the highlight of the day was a sausage and pancake breakfast provided by Mary and

Norb DeByle. After breakfast we drove north and did some birding along the upper end of the reservoir. There were several osprey flying around and a short eared owl. The final stop was at two ponds to the east of the reservoir where we found an American bittern.

Most of the group went home on Saturday afternoon except for a small group who decided to stay another night and go looking for the sage grouse again on Sunday morning. So once again we were up at the crack of dawn and headed out to the sage grouse leks. This time they took no notice of us and we spent two hours watching them strutting around. The number of birds was estimated to be between 15 to 20. Finally, we went back to camp for lunch and left for Logan in the early afternoon. The bird count, which of course included sharptail and sage grouse, was 68.

Thanks especially to Bryan Dixon and Jean Lown for organizing the trip and the company of very cheerful, enthusiastic birders.

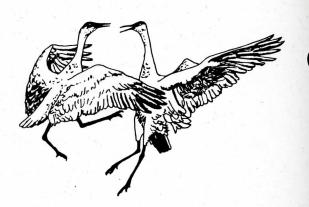
The following birds were seen: bittern, red winged blackbird, yellow headed blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, cormorant, coot, sandhill crane, crow, long billed curlew, mourning dove, canvasback, gadwall, redhead, ring necked duck, bufflehead, cinnamon teal, mallard, greater scaup, ruddy duck, flicker, wigeon, Canada goose, snow goose, Western grebe, Clark's grebe, eared grebe, pied billed grege, evening grosbeak, sage grouse, sharptailed grouse, ring billed gull, California gull, ferruginous hawk, red tailed hawk, northern harrier, kestrel, great blue heron, dark eyed junco, kingfisher, killdeer, ruby crowned kinglet, meadow lark, horned lark, common loon, magpie, osprey, short eared owl, great horned owl, pheasant, raven, American robin, common snipe, song sparrow, savannah sparrow, fox sparrow, vesper sparrow, brewer's sparrow, house sparrow, starling, rough winged swallow, barn swallow, tree swallow, caspian tern, sage thrasher, yellow rumped warbler, willet, marsh wren, turkey vulture.

New Members

Dr Carolyn Barcus Scott Hendry David & Kim Lewis Barbara Lilieholm Elizabeth Newman Jamie McEvoy Sandra M Robertson Philip R Stafford Nancy Wood

Renewing Members

Joyce Anderson
Mr Warren Brown
Gerald L Byington
Eric R Cannon
Edward & Deborah Evans
Kerkman Family
Karen E Krogh
Dr E H Berry Laughlin
The Long Family
Janis Parent
Sue Sanborn & Jerry Fuhriman
Robert Schmidt
Maryl A Sedivy
Janice Tucker
Dr Janet Lee Young



SANDHILL CRANE DAYS '97

September 5 & 6 Cache and Box Elder Counties, Utah

Come Celebrate the Autumn Migration of Utah's Sandhill Cranes Through Cache Valley!

Friday Evening: Special Guest, Kent Clegg whose spectacular experimental airlight flight to escort a band of cranes from Idaho to New Mexico was featured on NBC's program, "Coast to Coast"

Saturday a.m.: Guided canoe or bus trips through Cache Valley's crane marshes and fields

Saturday Afternoon: Special, private tour to discover the birds of the Bear River National Migratory Bird Refuge with Division of Wildlife Resources

Avian Biologist Frank Howe

Saturday Evening: Dutch Oven dinner in the canyon

Festival cost: \$35
Tours are limited to 100 guests

Call now: (801) 245-6747 or 523-6225

Legislative Report — 1997

Victories

We have a new state fish, the Bonneville Cutthroat, to put in our new state pot, the Dutch Oven. Congratulations to Laura Lee Graham and all the trout people. I hope we can all bite tongues and smile enigmatically when people include the state fish in their snide remarks about state pots and fruits. The protection of officially listed endangered species received some funds from a tax on brine shrimp revenues. I do not approve of the legislative strategy used to pass this measure although the endangered species fund needed the money. Am I being too moralistic? The bill was ramrodded through at the last moment. I suppose we can look upon this as a constructive use of the end justifying the means philosophy, but I still do not like a maneuver that eliminates discussion. In its original

form the bill included a water tax which legislators quite correctly considered to be a new tax policy needing much more thought and public debate. This will be an interesting topic for the interim legislative committee meetings. In another suspect area the legislature funded some Antelope Island roadwork but not the road from the mainland to the south end that we opposed. However, during committee debate a legislator did speak out in support of the causeway concept so we must not relax our guard. It is of special interesting that the division of Wildlife Resources did perhaps even better than could have been hoped in the appropriations game in spite of the legislature's overwhelming need to find road revenues. Hopefully DWR has passed beyond the era of bad feelings it has suffered from in recent times.

Disappointments

Audubon and the Division of Forest, Fire, and Sovereign Lands were sorely disappointed in the slow and painful dilution of the forestry practices bill. As so often happens in the legislative process, a task force was appointed to study logging on private lands to see if legislation was needed. It had representation from many interest groups and designed a moderate and hopefully inoffensive bill. During the session it was slowly whittled away until nothing remained but an extension program located at Utah State University, a fine institution, but not the Division of Forest Fire, and Sovereign Lands. I can only presume that legislators did not want to give the forestry folks any more power. Logging on private lands needs regulation urgently in order to prevent the decimation of what few private forests remain in Utah. Where do we go from here?

Defeats

The wildlife and conservation community (most of it) put its heart and soul into forestalling a bill to allow elk ranching. We supported the Wildlife Board's call for a year's study of the practice, but to no avail as you no doubt know. In the House most Democrats plus a few urban Republicans voted no. The Senate vote was very discouraging. I hope we will let our senators know of our dismay.

I suffered through some of the venting over the Escalante National Monument and scolded the House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee for wasting the public's time in posturing. After that I ignored this kind of behavior.

I admit that I do follow land use planning issues even though Audubon tries to focus its attention on wildlife. It is impossible to do otherwise since habitat is all important. Land use planning and agricultural open space preservation were rejected. The senate bill to encourage planning along the Wasatch Front urban areas did not even pass out of the Senate. Evan Olsen's bill to allow rural counties to raise funds for agricultural land preservation failed by two votes in the House. However, this latter matter will be studied over the interim.

Non-consumptive groups believed that the bill to return cougar poaching penalties to a more equitable level would get only token consideration but even that hope was too optimistic. The bill was never discussed, buried in the House Rules Committee. Regulation of outfitters met a similar fate when sponsor Brad Johnson could not get the outfitters to

sign on. Members of each category of guides felt they deserved to be exempted.

Mixed Results

There were two fearful "takings" bills lurking in the wings during the session. One was scaled down into a job for another lawyer who will act as an ombudsman for both the complaining citizen and the agency involved in a particular "takings" complaint. A tough job if not one with a serious conflict of interest. The other "takings" bill never appeared before legislators who did stick to their guns and refused to allow some last minute introductions. An off-highway vehicle bill which was intended primarily to strengthen safety measures was improved somewhat in language for protecting sensitive lands. Recreational Impact Fees were installed to help compensate volunteer rescue teams for some of their costs. We maintained that the 25 cents that has been attached to the habitat stamp is not equitable taxation and is offensive in concept since it has no relationship to habitat improvement. The sponsor Representative John Valentine would appreciate suggestions that would spread the tax fairly among all who might require rescuing. Personally I think that includes all of us and therefore the money should come from the general fund, but unfortunately I am being politically unrealistic here. Fairness in taxation is always more difficult than it should be. Let me know if you have any suggestions.

Related Matters

Wildlife groups do a lot of networking during the legislative session. For example we were encouraged by DWR's enthusiasm for reviving the Wildlife Heritage License. I hope you have seen them on sale at some wildlife event. If you have not, call DWR and get some. In the same vein a coalition is working to support the Watchable Wildlife Initiative. We support a bill to enact a federal tax on products used in the out-of-doors that will be introduced in Congress some time soon. Watch for more specific legislation on this legislation so you can write your congressman.

Issues For 1998

A legislative committee will consider Evan Olsen's strategy for preservation of agricultural lands. I think we can be hopeful that he will succeed next session. Unfortunately the task force that has been studying urban land use planning was not reinstated, a severe disappointment. Legislators from both sides of the aisle suggest that the legislature will not act on land use planning in any kind of a timely fashion so the only hope is for an initiative from the people as was done in Oregon. The Wildlife Heritage License will face sunset review, a matter we can work on with the interim committee that oversees wildlife, energy, natural resources and environment. Our work is cut out for us. Taxing water will be discussed, a very contentious topic. Should urban water users be taxed to save endangered species threatened by rural water developers? Next session we will need to be alert to efforts to weaken the regulations required of elk ranchers. And I predict more bad road proposals.

Agenda for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Retreat

Saturday, May 17

8 am - 10 am — Guided Birding Trips of your choice. Meet at the old refuge headquarters area at the public tour area called "Unit 2"

8 am - 10 am — Organized bike ride around Unit 2. Meet at old refuge headquarters area.

10 am - noon — Visit birding stations around the 12 mile public tour route, birders with spotting scopes will be available to find birds and dispense birding wisdom. There will be stations such as a kid's corner, bird banding, botulism, hunting, water monitoring and swans at the refuge.

11 am - 1 pm — Check in at the Canadian Goose Duck Club (directions follow this agenda). Locate your bunk or tent site and get your bearing so you can find your way home in the dark. This would make a good lunch spot if you

bring a picnic lunch.

12 pm - 2 pm — The Knights of Columbus will have a lunch available at the old refuge headquarters at Unit 2. You will be able to buy hamburgers and similar fare from them. The refuge will have (possibly, a falconer there and other booths with local natural history activities.

2 pm - 4 pm — Birding stations around the tour routes, continued.

5 pm - 6 pm — Dutch Oven Dinner at Young Intermediate School in Brigham City. Tickets are \$7.00 each and will be available from the refuge office. Audubon chapters, and various outlets in Ogden and Salt Lake. Contact your chapter president to see where they are available. BAS can buy tickets from Alice Lincahl. Directions to the school can be found after the agenda.

6 pm - 7 pm — Visitation Plan for the Bear River Refuge, a program hosted by Bob Valentine, comments by Rep. Jim Hansen, Young Intermediate School Auditorium. Al Trout, Refuge Manager, will outline the plans for the refuge.

7 pm - 9 pm — Organizational Meeting for Friends of Bear River Refuge with opening remarks by Terry Tempest-Williams.

Sunday, May 18 — Audubon Council Retreat Meeting

8 am - 9 am — Breakfast, hosted by Bridgerland Audubon Society.

9 am - noon — Meeting. Agenda items includ:

Gillmor Sanctuary

• State Legislative Session

• Carol Warden, Development Director, Rocky Mountain Region will speak on membership issues.

Audubon Coucnil of Utah Draft Strategic Plan

Noon - 1 pm — Lunch at the club, bring your own fixings.

Overnight Options

Bunk at the Canadian Goose Duck Club (bring sleeping bag). There is space for tenting at the Club. Please make reservations with Alice for either of these two options, bunk space will be handed out on a first-call basis. The club is way out on the marshes by itself—no neighbors—so it should be exceptionally quiet and great for morning birding. There are motels in Brigham City if you pefer.

What to Bring

Binoculars, camera.

Mud resistant clothing: boots, rain pants, rain parka, even if it is not raining.

Picnic lunches for Saturday and Sunday.

A folding lawn chair (there is not much seating at the club).

Lunch and drinks in a cooler.

Sleeping bag and tent.

Directions to Canadian Goose Duck Club (see map)

1. Going north on I-15 from Ogden, take the second Brigham City Exit (#366), Forest Street, going west.

2. Drive straight out Forest Street. It is 11 miles to the Canadian Goose Duck Club and 16 miles to the old refuge headquarters from the freeway exit.

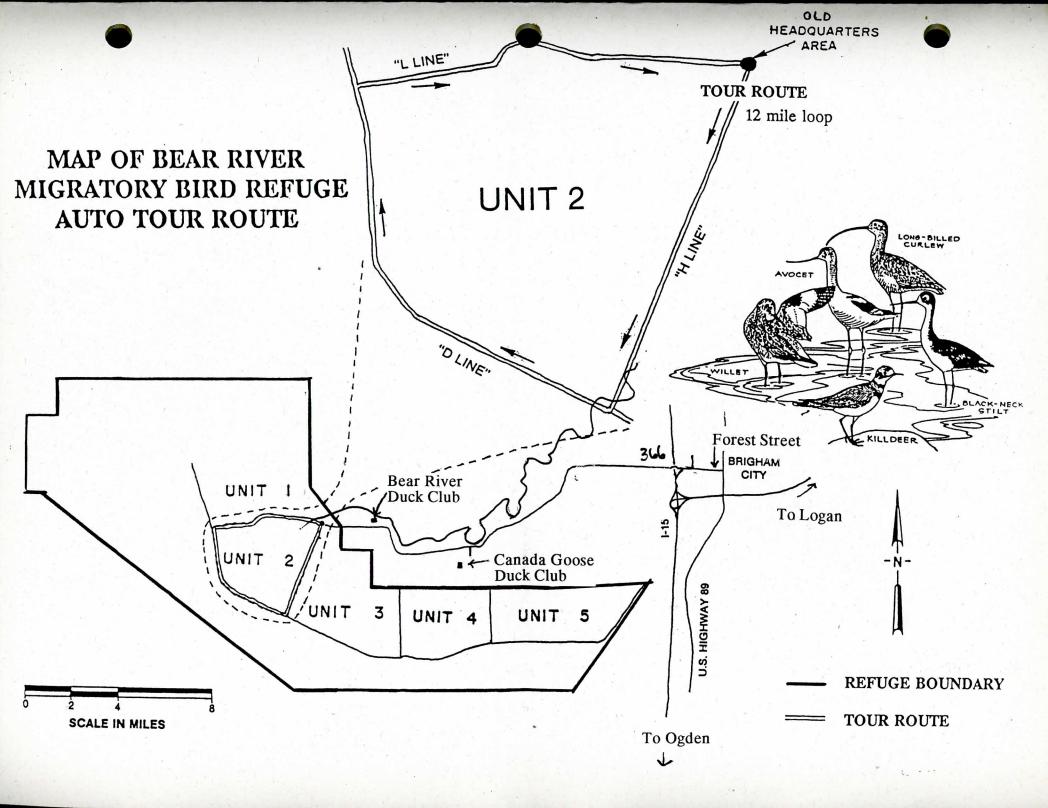
3. Follow the refuge road until you see a sign for "Canadian Goose Duck Club" on the left. The Bear River is very close to the road at this point, called "Whistler's Bend." There is another sign to the reguge "5 miles ahead" right at the duck club.

4. Turn left (south) into the club parking lot. The club building is barn-shaped.

Directions to Young Intermediate School — 830 Law Drive, Brigham City

1. Starting from Main Street in Brigham City, go west on 700 South.

2. Turn south on 600 West. The school is located at 585 West (Law Street) and 830 South.



Logan, Utah Permit No. 104 **DIA9** U.S. Postage **BULK RATE** Nonprofit Organization

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 Circulation Hospitality Hotline

Robert Schmidt, 755-9262 Barrie Gilbert, 752-0946

Susan Drown, 752-3797 Nick Strickland, 750-5035 Jack Greene, 563-6816 Alice Lindahl, 753-7744 Bryan Dixon, 752-6830 Lois Olson, 752-9085 Susan Durham, 752-5637 Tim & Jackie Henney, 755-6888 Nancy Williams, 753-6268

Trustees

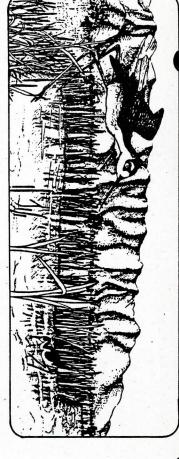
1994-97 Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Ted Evans, 753-2259; Jan Anderson, 752-2946 1995-98 Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Ruben, 797-2490; Allen Christensen, 258-5018 1997-99 Jack Greene, 563-6816; Lois Olson, 752-9085 Ron Hellstern, 753-8750

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.

NAME

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.

ADDRESS —		
CITY —	STATE —	ZIP —
Please ma	ke all checks payable to the National	onal Audubon Society.
	Send this application and your check National Audubon Society	

eck to: Chapter Membership Data C 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.