

# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 25, No. 9

April 1997

## Wild Wings Over Wetlands

### 1997 Migratory Bird and Wetlands Day May 10

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 bird walks 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 — Provo
- Ouray National Wildlife Refuge — Ouray (April 26)
- Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge ( May 17)



Contact Frank Howe (801) 538-4764 or

Cecile LeBlanc (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!

# April Calendar

## Meetings

**Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 P.M. BAS Annual Banquet, Zanavoo Restaurant.** Tom Wharton will speak on "Finding a Voice for Nonconsumptive Wildlife Users in Utah."

**Wednesday, April 16, 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, 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 Timothy, Forest Service biologist, discuss the grouse mating rituals. Saturday, we'll get up before dawn to watch the birds giving their mating dances and displays on their traditional leks. Afterward, we'll return to camp for breakfast and organize some trips to visit other places at the Grasslands looking for other birds and creatures. We may even get to hear a loon! Return Saturday afternoon. Carpools encouraged; reservations required; call Bryan Dixon at 752-6830.

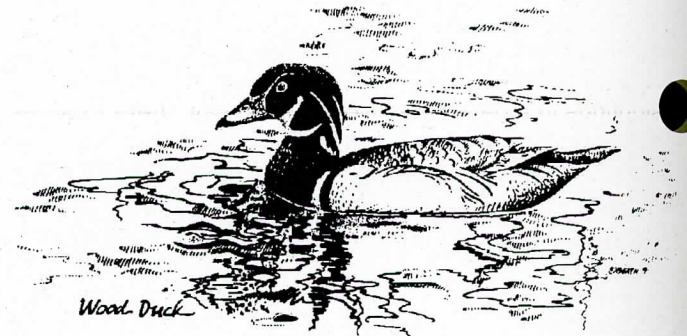
**Thursday-Sunday, April 24-27. Zion National Park Hiking and Camping.** Angel's Landing, the Narrows, Emerald Pools, Hidden Canyon, etc. Bring camping gear and food. Approximately \$45 will be charged to cover fees and transportation for those not driving. Leave South Cache Freshman Center at 3:00 pm the 24th and return around 6:00 pm on the 27th. Hikes range from novice to fairly strenuous. Limited to 24 people ages 14 - adult. Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

**Saturday/Sunday, May 3-4. Antelope Island Overnight.** Our annual trip to see the wonders of an island in the Great Salt Lake. Meet early Saturday morning. Carpooling available. Return Sunday afternoon. We will stop along the causeway to look for unusual birds (black bellied plovers, snowy plovers)

and camp on the island in a special campground with the friends of the Great Salt Lake. You can hike on your own or join us in group activities. We'll see interesting birds, wild flowers, bison, pronghorns and who knows what else! Advanced reservations required but not limited. Contact Ted Evans evenings, 753-2259.

**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.

**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 Users 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 visit with good friends and make new ones, so plan to join us. There will be at least two menu choices, a beef and a fish. Social hour begins with *hors d'oeuvres*, boxed wine 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 (\$11 for students).

## Your Handy BAS Guide to the Spring Bird Migration in Cache County

(Note: This article was first printed in the March 1995 Stilt. We are reprinting it for the new birders in Cache Valley.)

I need a Franklin's Pollyflobble. But they only migrate through Cache County during a short period. So, what I wanted to know was, when - **exactly** - is the Pollyflobble expected to arrive? For that matter, when are **any** of the migratory birds expected to arrive in Cache County? I mean, there's a lot of birding to do and you gotta target your efforts if you want to make the most of it!

The BAS Birds of Cache County, Checklist & Site Guide 1994 lists 242 species which have been seen regularly in Cache County and another 44 which have been seen at least twice in the last 30 years. (There were lots of changes to the older list, so you want the new 1994 edition, available at the next Aududon meeting, or from **A Bookstore** on 100 East in Logan.) This Checklist has information on occurrence by season along with preferred habitat for each species, and in the back there are handy descriptions of suggested travel routes to favorite birding sites.

Not all of these birds migrate, of course. And some of them are only seen on the fall migration. So, last year I asked several of the local birders to share their year lists with me, fired up the ol' PC and entered the dates of first sightings in a database. Needless to say, there's megagobs of data, and I'm not finished entering all of it yet. But, spring is almost sprung, and if anyone is gonna be able to use the results, I decided I'd best get them out there. So, here's the result.

The list below shows the date each spring migrant can be expected to show up in Cache County, based on the average of a number of first sighting dates. I've also printed the earliest date in the database, along with the standard deviation and number of observations. You can use the standard deviation to determine how variable the sightings (and presumably the arrival dates) are. Roughly, you'd expect about 2/3 of all sightings to fall within one standard deviation of the average date. So, if the average arrival date of the Franklin's Pollyflobble is April 12, with a standard deviation of 7, then 2/3 of the first sightings fall between April 5-19. If you report a Franklin's Pollyflobble in late February, everyone will be **real** excited, know whadda mean? You get the idea.

Mucho thanks to everyone who's provided me with data so far. They may not know who they are, but they include: Alice Stewart, Al Stokes, E. Hanson, Ed Sparks, Gail Christenson, Ivan Palmblad, John and Terri Barnes, J. Smith, J. Sullivan, Keith and Martha Dixon, Mike Tove, Nancy Warner, Pete Schropp, Bob Atwood, R. Roehlman, S. Silcox, S. Jacoby, Steve van der Wall, and special thanks to Larry Ryel and Keith Archibald.

- Bryan Dixon

## Expected Date of 1st Bird Sightings

Common Name	Avg Date	Earliest Date	StDev Days	No. Obs
Ring-billed Gull	03/06/95	02/18	8	15
Snow Goose	03/11/95	02/25	14	5
California Gull	03/11/95	02/23	11	16
Cinnamon Teal	03/12/95	02/19	14	16
Sandhill Crane	03/14/95	03/03	7	16
Sage Sparrow	03/14/95	03/04	12	4
Say's Phoebe	03/18/95	03/05	17	4
American Avocet	03/28/95	03/16	6	20
Eared Grebe	03/31/95	03/10	11	19
Franklin's Gull	03/31/95	03/07	11	19
Greater Yellowlegs	04/01/95	02/18	14	18
American White Pelican	04/02/95	03/22	8	4
Long-billed Curlew	04/03/95	03/27	5	19
Tree Swallow	04/04/95	03/15	15	17
Black-necked Stilt	04/05/95	03/23	6	19
Red-breasted Merganser	04/05/95	03/19	14	16
Swainson's Hawk	04/05/95	02/22	18	16
Mountain Bluebird	04/05/95	02/28	32	15
Savannah Sparrow	04/06/95	03/15	11	15
Western Grebe	04/07/95	03/16	15	19
Lesser Golden Plover	04/08/95	04/08		1
Dble-crested Cormorant	04/09/95	03/13	19	17
Common Loon	04/10/95	03/28	8	18
Willet	04/10/95	03/30	7	18
Mourning Dove	04/11/95	02/20	23	15
White-faced Ibis	04/13/95	03/30	6	18
Snowy Egret	04/13/95	03/29	13	14
Vesper Sparrow	04/14/95	03/16	13	10
Clark's Grebe	04/14/95	03/25	19	9
Snowy Plover	04/14/95	03/22	11	14
Horned Grebe	04/14/95	03/24	17	9
Blk-crowned Night-Heron	04/14/95	03/11	12	18
Barn Swallow	04/15/95	03/31	7	17
Lesser Yellowlegs	04/15/95	03/25	11	15
Turkey Vulture	04/16/95	03/29	17	16
Baird's Sandpiper	04/16/95	03/27	10	12
Cattle Egret	04/20/95	03/27	14	14
Long-billed Dowitcher	04/20/95	03/29	13	15
Osprey	04/20/95	04/06	15	10
Blue-winged Teal	04/22/95	04/03	14	12
Bonaparte's Gull	04/23/95	04/10	15	5
Cliff Swallow	04/25/95	04/16	7	13
Violet-green Swallow	04/25/95	04/03	18	14
Solitary Sandpiper	04/26/95	04/11	11	4
Marbled Godwit	04/28/95	04/21	6	10
Caspian Tern	04/28/95	04/07	17	16
Western Sandpiper	04/28/95	04/17	13	13
Black-bellied Plover	04/28/95	04/16	7	8
Least Sandpiper	04/28/95	04/13	10	11
Semipalmated Plover	04/29/95	04/17	9	11
Bank Swallow	04/29/95	03/31	14	13
Sanderling	05/01/95	04/17	11	6
Green-tailed Towhee	05/01/95	04/24	5	7
Dunlin	05/01/95	04/07	12	8
Wilson's Phalarope	05/01/95	04/20	11	14
North Rough-winged Swal	05/01/95	04/13	13	13
Forster's Tern	05/02/95	04/10	12	15
Semipalmated Sandpiper	05/02/95	04/22	9	10
Yellow-rumped Warbler	05/02/95	02/16	26	13

Common Name	Avg Date	Earliest Date	StDev Days	No. Obs
Fox Sparrow	05/02/95	03/29	33	11
Lazuli Bunting	05/04/95	04/18	12	15
Rock Wren	05/05/95	04/24	10	4
House Wren	05/07/95	04/21	10	15
Yellow Warbler	05/07/95	04/27	7	13
Orange-crowned Warbler	05/07/95	04/21	9	17
Western Kingbird	05/08/95	04/16	11	17
Red-naped Sapsucker	05/08/95	03/31	22	12
Northern Oriole	05/08/95	04/18	9	15
Nashville Warbler	05/09/95	05/02	6	5
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	05/09/95	04/24	10	14
Great Egret	05/09/95	04/27	10	6
Chipping Sparrow	05/10/95	04/21	10	14
Red-necked Phalarope	05/10/95	05/02	8	10
Spotted Sandpiper	05/10/95	04/08	16	15
Black-headed Grosbeak	05/10/95	05/02	5	15
White-throated Swift	05/12/95	04/18	18	15
Western Tanager	05/14/95	05/02	6	12
American Bittern	05/14/95	04/19	17	11
Virginia's Warbler	05/14/95	04/25	13	14
Calliope Hummingbird	05/15/95	04/14	20	15
Common Yellowthroat	05/16/95	05/05	8	12
Wilson's Warbler	05/17/95	05/06	7	10
Black-throated Gray	05/17/95	05/01	13	11
Warbling Vireo	05/17/95	05/06	10	14
Dusky Flycatcher	05/17/95	05/07	11	11
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	05/18/95	05/12	6	7
Black-chinned	05/18/95	05/04	9	11
Black Tern	05/19/95	04/26	11	10
MacGillivray's Warbler	05/19/95	05/01	14	15
Brewer's Sparrow	05/19/95	04/21	19	8
Lark Sparrow	05/19/95	05/08	11	11
Stilt Sandpiper	05/20/95	05/14	7	3
Solitary Vireo	05/21/95	05/11	16	11
Grasshopper Sparrow	05/22/95	04/20	27	7
Eastern Kingbird	05/23/95	04/28	12	10
Common Poorwill	05/24/95	05/06	18	8
Flammulated Owl	05/25/95	04/18	22	8
Western Wood-Pewee	05/25/95	05/07	16	13
Bobolink	05/26/95	03/28	21	12
Lincoln's Sparrow	05/27/95	05/05	16	8
Yellow-breasted Chat	05/28/95	05/17	12	10
Willow Flycatcher	05/30/95	05/09	13	12
Gray Catbird	05/31/95	04/28	17	11
Sage Thrasher	06/01/95	04/14	38	5
Swainson's Thrush	06/01/95	05/10	18	12
Hammond's Flycatcher	06/03/95	05/17	16	7
Common Nighthawk	06/03/95	05/17	11	13
Olive-sided Flycatcher	06/03/95	05/20	11	10
Purple Martin	06/05/95	05/17	13	8
Burrowing Owl	06/08/95	04/11	39	4
Cordilleran Flycatcher	06/08/95	05/12	16	8
Williamson's Sapsucker	06/10/95	05/18	17	7
Blue Grosbeak	06/20/95	06/02	21	4
Rufous Hummingbird	07/19/95	07/02	10	6

## Join us for the Annual Grouse Trip to Curlew National Grasslands

In the early spring the male Sharp-tailed and Sage Grouse put on courtship displays complete with dancing, booming, and pounding the earth to attract the females. This "dancing" or "strutting" takes place on a lek, a patch of ground used year after year by the same grouse individuals. While we have leks in Cache Valley, they are few and far between and not readily visible. What to do? Well, go where they are common!

And that's what we'll do on the annual BAS Grouse Trip, scheduled for April 18-19.

We'll meet Friday night at the Curlew Campground north of Snowville at the south end of Stone Reservoir. Ken Timothy, Forest Service biologist, will join us at 7 p.m. Friday evening around the campfire to familiarize us with the grouse mating rituals. Saturday, we arise before dawn to watch the birds on their leks, and then return to camp for breakfast. Afterward, we'll visit other places at the Grasslands to look for returning waterfowl and songbirds. Return Saturday afternoon.

### Directions to the Campground:

From Logan, take Route 30 West (200 North in Logan) until it ends north of Tremonton. Pick up I-15 South for just a few miles until you can take the exit for I-84 West toward Snowville. Take the first Snowville exit and turn right (north) at the end of the ramp. Continue north through Snowville. After leaving the interstate, you will enter the Curlew National Grasslands at about mile 5.2, and at mile 6.7, the road bends to the right. Take this bend and almost immediately after this bend take a left (north) into the Curlew Campground.

### Alternative Accommodations

In 1996, the Outsider's Inn was still located in Snowville, a brown brick motel just north of the Flying J gas station near the eastern Snowville exit on I-84. The original office for the motel had been torn down, but a temporary office was located in a small trailer attached to the north end of the motel. Telephone (801) 872-8232, office hours 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

### Special Notes

- At this time of year, the water at the campground will not be turned on. There are vault toilets, but bring your own food, drinking and cooking water.
- It could be cold at night, and it could even snow. Be prepared!
- Bring flashlights, for we'll be up before dawn on Saturday.

Please register with the trip leader, Bryan Dixon, at 752-6830, so he can plan for the number of people. If not home, leave a message on the answering machine and he'll call you back!

## To Whom It May Concern

In the fall of 1995, the Bridgerland Audubon Society (BAS) of Logan, Utah was approached by a group of local high school students requesting support for a project. The students were attempting to get a resolution for a sustainable society adopted by the U.S. Congress. The outcome was the formation of SCARCE, Students Concerned About Resource Conservation and the Environment under the auspices of BAS, and a donation of \$1000 to defray costs for their travel to lobby in Washington, D.C.

Since that time, SCARCE has accomplished things beyond their wildest imagining. Called the Spectrum of Light Youth March, they recruited student delegates from 22 states to meet them in Washington, D.C. to meet with their national legislators and hold a rally on the National Mall. Since that time, their efforts have spawned an upcoming national and international event. They will be returning to D.C. this April, hoping to have their resolution adopted by Congress.

SCARCE will be returning to Washington, D.C. this April departing on April 8 and returning April 13. If you are interested in going with us, please contact Jack Greene at 563-6816 or email [jackgreen@sisna.com](mailto:jackgreen@sisna.com). Also, visit our web page at [www.erols.com/slym](http://www.erols.com/slym). This April, we will be meeting with youth from other states, including several national and international youth organizations (which we have become) to plan strategy and lobby our legislators to adopt our Resolution for a Sustainable Society. Also, we will be attempting to form a new youth coalition for a sustainable future. Wish us luck!

## To Participants and Supporters of the 1997 Spectrum of Light Youth March

Let me add my voice to those congratulating you for your hard work and vigorous campaign on behalf of a sustainable environment. Your dedication serves as an inspiration to everyone concerned about the future health of our planet and the resources on it.

I am thrilled and in awe of your efforts to organize and undertake the Spectrum of Light Youth March in Washington, D.C. You had a significant impact, helping to promote the Resolution for a Sustainable Society, and helping to urge Congressional action on important issues such as designating the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

The greatest challenge our society faces is to promote a broad-based environmental ethic based on the principles of sustainable resource use. Through your efforts, you have taken us closer to that goal. Congratulations, and keep up the good work!

— Daniel P. Beard

## New Members

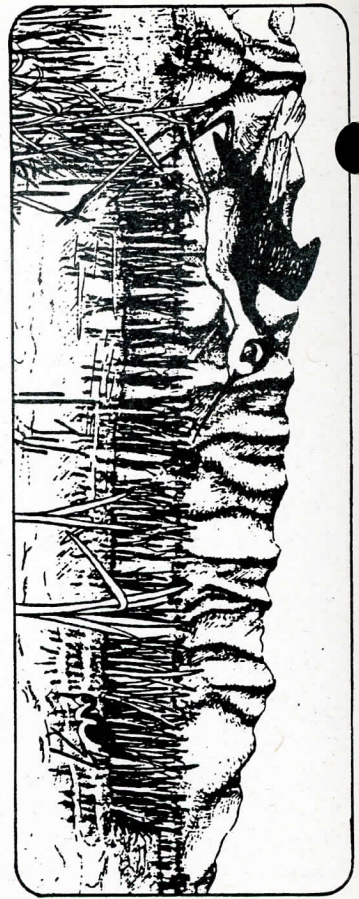
Micah R Austin  
Randee Bassett  
Matthew Betts  
Diana L Bever  
Jim Bilskie  
Valli Brothersen  
Kathryn Broughton  
Michael Bybee  
Dewitt S Dominick  
John Fitch  
Matt Flitton  
Terry Griswold  
Craig Hadfield  
Anna Holden  
Christopher Kurek  
Casey Larsen  
Jennifer Lindbloom  
Melissa Lindley  
John Lowry  
Mason Kids  
Hal Moffitt  
Emmie Riggs  
Janet Shapero  
Evelyn Sibbernesen  
Trisha Sisson  
Staci Smith  
Erik Stewart  
Dr Twain Tibbetts  
Sandra Wiebe  
Taryl Williams  
Michael L Wolfe

## Renewing Members

Joyce Anderson  
R K Archibald, DMD  
Patricia Bahler  
Martha Balph  
C D Cheney  
Gail Duering  
Rebecca S Echols  
John Ellerbeck  
Everton  
Tom & Pat Gordon  
Ron Hellstern  
Jim & Sharon Smock Hoffman  
Dawn Holzer  
Jen Levy & Sean Keenan  
Harriette A Lanner  
Gene Lee  
Austin & Krista McHugh  
Nancy Mesner  
Ann W Peralta  
Mark Ritchie  
Michael J Stones  
Dee J Taylor  
Kennita Thatcher  
Louise Thomas  
Jeffrey W Watkins  
Nina B Wilson  
Theresa Zmola

# THE STILLT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 P.O. Box 3501  
 Logan, Utah 84323  
 Vol. 25, No. 9  
 April 1997



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	Barrie Gilbert, 752-0946
Secretary	
Treasurer	Susan Drown, 752-3797
Conservation	Nick Strickland, 750-5035
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Field Trips	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830
Newsletter	Lois Olson, 752-9085
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637
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 Ruben, 797-2490; Allen Christensen, 258-5018
1997-99	Jack Greene, 563-6816; Lois Olson, 752-9085

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stillt*, as well as the *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Stillt* invites submissions of any kind, due on the 15th of each month. Send to 280 N. 300 E., Logan, UT 84321.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

## 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 Stillt* are available to non-members for \$5.00 per year. Call Susan Durham, 752-5637. Also, call Susan for new subscriptions or address changes.