

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 26, No. 1

September 1997

Help Plan Audubon's Future In Utah!

The Audubon Council of Utah is developing a strategic plan that will be ready for council approval at the fall retreat.

A planning process has been under way since early spring. At the May 17 council retreat a preliminary strategic plan was reviewed and considered ready in draft form for extensive comment by Audubon members, chapters and boards. During the summer through early September, the review of this strategic plan is an important step.

The strategic plan is an attempt to provide guidance to Audubon's efforts in Utah for the future. There are two major reasons for developing a strategic plan at this point:

1. Audubon in Utah has many major projects. It makes sense to see how best to integrate all these wonderful pieces.
2. National Audubon Society is encouraging state offices including initial matching funds for these offices and Utah Audubon members should fully consider this option in a timely manner.

The following is a very brief summary of the June 5, 1997 draft plan:

1. "The Mission of the Audubon Council of Utah is to conserve and enhance Utah's natural environment with special emphasis on birds and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the biological diversity of the earth."

2. There are 11 major goals with specific objectives and tasks. The major goals include operation of sanctuaries, recreational birding and bird conservation, development of educational programs, habitat protection, advocacy, funding, research communications, building the grassroots, governance and a state office.

If you are interested in this planning effort **contact your Chapter President, Lee Shirley (782-5522), John Bellmon (773-0481), Mary Gracia (581-0345), Bryan Dixon (752--6830) or Wayne Martinson (355-8110).**

You are encouraged to get involved and help provide the vision for Audubon's vital future in Utah!

— Wayne Martinson
Utah Wetlands Coordinator
National Audubon Society

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September Calendar

Thursday, September 4, 7:00 p.m. BAS Planning Meeting. Note new time. September meeting will be at Bryan Dixon's, 10 Heritage Cove, Logan (255 E. 700 N.). If you have agenda items, issues, or suggestions, call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

Friday/Saturday, September 5/6. Sandhill Crane Days. For more information contact Margaret Pettis, 245-6747.

Thursday, September 11, 7:30 P.M. General Meeting. John Carter will be our guest speaker talking about "Livestock Grazing in the Bear River Range." Is it overgrazed? How do we assess a site? Please join us at the Logan City Building in the Meeting Room.

Friday/Saturday, September 20/21. Audubon Council of Utah Fall Retreat. See article on this page.

Field Trips

Saturday, October 4. Wellsville Hawk Watch. View raptor migration flights from the top of the Wellsville Mountain range. The trip involves a hike up Deep Canyon to the viewing area where volunteers from HawkWatch conduct their annual raptor count. Besides a chance to see large numbers of hawks and eagles migrating south along the ridge, the views and scenery are spectacular. The trip climbs about 3000' on a good but sometimes steep and rocky trail. Bring a lunch and water and appropriate clothes since the ridge is usually windy and cold. Rain is always a possibility. Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the parking lot just north of Straw Ibis on E. Federal Ave. Carpooling will be available. For further information call Jim Sinclair, 752-0061.

Friday/Sunday, October 10/12 (UEA Weekend). Annual Elk Bugling Trip to Jackson Hole. Most people arrive Friday, but you can arrive on Thursday and help trip leaders Terry and John Barnes spot the animals. Spend Saturday looking for bison, pronghorn, elk and other wildlife. After supper, go out to listen for elk bugling. Sunday is free for various hikes. Return by suppertime Sunday. This was one of Allen Stokes' favorite BAS trips, and we'll be remembering him around the campfire. Call Terry Barnes at 563-3910 (evenings and weekends) for reservations and carpooling arrangements. Bring your own food and camping gear and be prepared for temperatures around freezing at night.

Logan Canyon Nature Center

Currently we are looking for donations to build a collection of hands on items. They include: nests, skins, wings, bones, rocks, minerals, pine cones, bugs, pressed wild flowers, etc. If you have any of these items contact Lois Olson, 752-9086 (home).

Utah Fall Retreat

The Fall 1997 Audubon Council of Utah Retreat will be held at the Swanson's Environmental Center in Ogden Valley on September 20/21. The retreat is being hosted by the Wasatch Audubon Chapter.

Visit a great environmental center. It's a fun weekend with meetings, a Saturday potluck dinner and a scrumptious Sunday breakfast, and, oh yeah, time for birding, too. Come to share and set directions for Audubon's future in Utah. At this retreat the Council will be discussing Council By-Laws and the strategic plan, including whether or not to pursue an Audubon state office. General members are always welcome.

For more information call Bryan, 752-6830 or Wayne, (801) 355-8110.

Swanson's Environmental Center via Ogden Canyon

Travel east on 12th Street through Ogden Canyon to Pineview Dam. Cross the dam on Hwy. 162 and continue northerly until 162 terminates at Liberty crossroads (7.5 miles). Turn left for 1/4 mile to Junction (3300 East 4100 North) and continue north to 5100 North 3100 East Junction. There is a sign here that says "Ben Lomond North Ogden Pleasant View Stake Camp." This junction lies this side of the North Fork Bridge. Angle left here on a gravel and dirt road (dead end) and travel 1.6 miles to a parking lot. The Swanson Environmental Center is another .6 miles further up the road. If there is not enough parking space at the center, you may have to unload your gear and park back down the road at the parking lot.

Common Ground Bus Art Contest

COMMON GROUND has recently acquired a small 16 passenger school bus to be used for transporting people and gear on adaptive outdoor trips. The bus is in need of a creative paint job, and we'd love your input! The theme for the bus design is "Outdoor Adventures for People of All Abilities." In addition to seeing your creative work cruise the streets of Logan, the winner will receive a Free Pizza! Please send drawing, written or verbal description to: Common Ground, 1095 N. Main, Logan, UT 84341. Deadline, October 10, 1997. If you would like to advertise your business on the bus please drop us a line or give us a call! For more info, call Kate, 750-7171. Thanks for playing!

Email service provided by Digital Planet. Use the following addresses to contact your BAS leadership:

stilt@digitalpla.net – for newsletter items
audubon@digitalpla.net – for anything else

To Fingers! To Fingers!

Doesn't quite have the same ring, I suppose. Nevertheless, the pen IS mightier than the sword and it's time we started using it a bit more.

BAS has championed numerous causes over the years, and won many of them despite the generally pro-development, pro-highway, pro-dam political environment in Utah. We have won because our passion drove us to speak, but when we spoke we spoke with reason. The result is a level of support in the public far greater than many of us imagine. The continued success at fundraising for the Logan Canyon Nature Center has proven that again and again.

Part of our mission is environmental education, and we are active in providing "Audubon Adventures" to almost twenty fourth and fifth grade classrooms in the valley, environmental education grants programs for local teachers of \$2,000 each year, numerous trips for young and old to experience the wonders of nature, and now, "our" – that is, Cache Valley's – very own Nature Center where K-12 students will go for programs in all aspects of ecology.

Environmental education is critical. It is the only way we will ever approach "peace" on the environmental front. But it takes many years to have an effect. In the meantime, if we don't try to safeguard the environment for our successors, they will face fewer options for a balanced environment, and much higher costs—financially, socially, and spiritually—for there will be more serious problems with fewer alternatives.

There is no shortage of issues, and now that the Nature Center is almost open with good and dedicated people to carry it through, it's time for the rest of us to help them by making sure the issues are still being addressed.

Sherwood Hills wants another huge development, this time the 2002 Olympics, and they won't want to take it down after the official games, that's for sure. Should we fight it? Should we demonstrate that there are sensitive species and sensitive wilderness adjacent? We'd better speak quickly, if we want to have any influence at all, for Cache County elected officials have expressed their support even before the permit applications have been filed. The SLOC environmental review mentions that there has been no resistance from the environmental community regarding Sherwood Hills, unlike Wasatch Mountain State Park, the number one choice. For more info contact Barrie Gilbert, 752-0946.

The Sandhill Crane hunt is canceled for this year, but only in Cache Valley, and only this year. It will return. Meanwhile cougar hunting permits are being issued by the hundreds with little knowledge about how many are actually out there.

Several of our members are monitoring grazing leases in High Creek and Temple Fork (Spawn Creek) where severe overgrazing is leading to riparian destruction and stream sedimentation. We will be paying for water samples and taking pictures to document the destruction in order to argue for more conservative livestock leasing programs in our local national forests. For more info or to volunteer contact Allen Christensen, 258-5018.

Cache County is proceeding apace with housing and highway developments—covering over more and more habitat for single family homes and allowing subdivisions to be carved out of disappearing farmland. Interestingly, Cache County is operating without a land use plan, having failed to adopt one for over 20 years, even after months and months of drafts and public comments! Now, land use planning is not "new." Everyone does it—except us. One of our members reports that a "bunch of developers" dropped in on a county council meeting just as the plan was to be adopted this summer and scuttled the whole thing. It's enough to make you cry. For more info or to get involved contact Mae Coover, 752-8871.

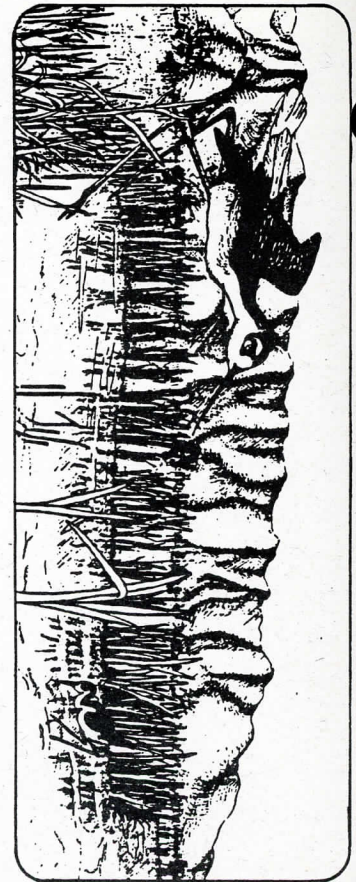
And then there's Amalga Barrens. With all the heat on the Honeyville Dam, the attention of the water barons is now to build high dikes around the marshlands south of Trenton and build a 200,000 acre-foot reservoir. And this time there will be lots of extra "benefits" because we'll be able to recreate (i.e., power boats and personal water craft) on it. What a treat! But where will the tens of thousands of ducks and shorebirds refuel on migration and build nests to raise their young? Details, details. Contact Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, for more info.

But there are good things, too. We've discouraged the Sherwood Hills motocross last summer. We've enjoyed large membership increases and our efforts at the Nature Center are being noticed throughout the valley and beyond our state. Our Audubon lobbyist is winning victories in the legislature with integrity and perseverance. And we are being asked to help support a new wildlife refuge along the Bear River above and below Trenton, named, appropriately, the Bear River Bottoms.

Yes, we have challenges. But we have the high road and intend to keep it. And with integrity, organization, and a little work, we can keep this valley livable a while longer. So, To Fingers! To Fingers! Let your voice be heard on the telephone, tapping out letters on the keyboard and participating in meetings so you will know the facts of each issue and can respond with the force of reason. It's a powerful tool, and we owe it to the next generation to use it effectively. To find out more, call your BAS Board of Trustees. If they don't know all the facts, they can point you in the right direction.

Let's have a great year together!

— Bryan Dixon, President



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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	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830
Vice President	Chris Wilson, 753-3769
Secretary	Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750
Treasurer	Susan Drown, 752-3797
Conservation	Nick Strickland, 750-5035
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Field Trips	Ron Hellstern, 753-8750
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
 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.

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.