

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November 1997

Noted Author and Anthropologist, Richard Nelson, to Visit Logan

In conjunction with the release of his latest book, *Heart and Blood*, noted author and cultural anthropologist, Richard Nelson, will visit Logan on Wednesday, November 19. He will give a presentation, *Heart and Blood: Society's Treatment of Wildlife*, at 7 p.m. in the Eccles Conference Center auditorium on the USU campus.

As an anthropologist, Nelson focuses on human relationships to the natural world. He has spent many years studying the Eskimo and Athabaskan Indian people in Alaska. His latest book, *Heart and Blood: Living with Deer in America*, explores the complex relationship between people and deer, with particular attention to hunting.

Heart and Blood begins as Nelson, himself a hunter, tracks a deer on a remote island off the Alaskan coast, from there he travels to a deer hunting ranch in Texas, a state park in California, a Wisconsin forest on opening day of hunting season (where animal rights activists and hunters face off) and the suburbs of Denver and New York. Nelson examines all sides of the hunting debate.

With a deep reverence shaped by his work among the Eskimo and Indian peoples in Alaska, Nelson forces us to look at society's treatment of deer as a means of examining our own place in, and responsibility to, nature.

"As human populations explode, the problems of living in our ancient situation on earth, animal among animal, also explode," writes William Kittredge. "What to do, how to save the only world we know how to inhabit and thus ourselves, our kin? How to proceed? We could begin by listening to Richard Nelson, a good man who has been all his life preparing to write this sane, clear-eyed book."

Nelson was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1941. He attended the University of Wisconsin and received his doctorate in anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Based on his experiences in Alaska, Nelson has written several books, including *Shadow of the Hunter*, *Make Prayers to the Raven* and *The Athabaskans*. He was the associate producer and writer for the award-winning public television series about Koyukon Indian life, *Make Prayers to the Raven*.

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October Calendar

Thursday, November, 6, 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Monthly Planning Meeting. At the home of Bryan Dixon, 10 Heritage Cove, Logan. We will be discussing issues such as in Cache County Comprehensive Plan, formation of a state office for Audubon, Bear River Bottoms, etc. All Audubon members are welcome to attend and share in the discussions. For more information (or directions), call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

Thursday, November 13, 7:00 P.M. General Meeting at the Logan City Building in the Meeting Room. The November meeting will feature Peter Kung of Biological Consulting and Survey firm in Logan. Peter will be speaking on using GPS Survey and GIS mapping to protect harpy eagles in Venezuela and Panama. Peter's work with this new technology has helped him make great strides in protecting the largest eagle on earth in a relatively short time. Remember the earlier time! A special room will be available with university volunteers to accommodate those who wish to bring their children.

Field Trips

Saturday, November 1. Cache Valley Birding With an Expert. Keith Archibald will lead us to various hot spots around the valley. We'll check for loons at Hyrum Reservoir, a variety of waterfowl at the sewage lagoons and marshes. A great trip for beginners and families. Bring binoculars, field guides, and warm clothes. Meet at Fred Meyers at 8:00 a.m. Return around 11:00 a.m. Call 752-8258 to reserve a spot.

Saturday, November 15. Schoolyard/Backyard Habitat for Birds. Join Cache Valley educators for a tour of local school outdoor classrooms. Get some tips on how to improve your backyard to attract wild birds and butterflies. We will also visit several local homes to witness action at their bird feeders. Meet at Fred Meyers at 8:00 a.m. Return at 11:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, field guides, warm clothes and great ideas. Call Ron or Wendy Hellstern to register, 753-8750.

Saturday, December 20. Annual Christmas Bird Count. The CBC is conducted every year in the same 15 mile diameter count areas in countries around the world. Compilations are sent to a central database and an annual report is published to describe trends in bird populations. We put over a dozen teams in a circular area centered in Hyde Park, and manage almost every year to find 90 species. It's a wonderful and fun-filled day with birders of all levels of skill. We meet that evening at someone's home for a potluck supper and reports from each team. If you're interested in leading or participating on a team this year, contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258.



Laura Zerzan From "ECONEWS"

Field Trip Reports

Fall on the Bear River

On October 18, nine intrepid birders stepped into canoes, determined the direction of downstream flow, and set themselves adrift to cover 15 miles of the Bear River. Undaunted by a 70 degree sun drenched day, glorious fall colors on the distant hillsides, great flocks of migrating waterfowl, and fine companionship, all nine participants did their best to have a good time.

Let me quickly dispel the notion that this was some kind of pleasure trip by pointing out that we gathered on that recent Saturday morning to initiate a long term censussing project to track bird activity on the Bear River Bottoms Wildlife Management Area. This 1,300 acre parcel along the flood plain of the Bear River will be the focus of upcoming habitat restoration efforts to benefit a variety of wildlife species, including passerines, shorebirds, and waterfowl. BAS trustees and officers recently expressed an interest in supporting this effort, both in financial support to help match seed money provided by the National Audubon Society and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and in sponsoring biannual trips down the Bear River to survey for bird activity.

This past Saturday we split into two groups to cover the 15 miles at a more leisurely pace. The northern group, who put in west of Lewiston and took out at the Richmond-Trenton bridge, recorded 29 species. The southern group, handicapped by a smaller team, but blessed by superior birders (Rhinehardt), recorded 34 species. Both groups saw two large flocks of tundra swans (~170)—one accompanied by three snow geese. (Later in the day, Bryan Dixon reported seeing a large flock of swans resting at Amalga Barrens.) Other great sightings included hundreds of ducks (mallards, green-winged teal, gadwalls), spotted towhees, golden eagle, American pipits, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, and greater yellowlegs.

If you didn't make the trip this time, your next chance will come in May when we journey out for a spring survey. Join us!

Special thanks to Bryan Dixon for his help organizing the float trip, to all the participants for their expertise, enthusiasm, and good spirits, and to Joan Wilson and Pam Kramer who drove up from Ogden to join the expedition.

— Don McIvor

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

Noted Author

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Nelson also wrote the book, *The Island Within*, about his personal journey into the natural world surrounding his home in Alaska. He received the John Burroughs Award for this book. In 1991, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded Nelson a creative nonfiction writing fellowship.

Nelson's life centers on wildlife watching, hiking, surfing, kayaking, subsistence hunting and fishing, and camping with his partner Nita Couchman in the wildlands and waterways of the Pacific Northwest coast. He is an environmental activist and past president of a local conservation society, working to protect our remaining old-growth temperate rain forests.

Nelson's visit to Logan is sponsored by the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Program, the Honors Program, the program in Anthropology at Utah State University, and the Logan business, In the Company of Friends. For more information, call In the Company of Friends, 752-9089.

— Sharon Ohlhorst, Executive Director
Logan Canyon Nature Center

Board Stuff (As apposed to bored stiff—)

BAS is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The venue is always listed in the Calendar of this newsletter, and varies depending on the issues to be discussed and who's made the latest batch of cookies. All BAS members are invited, of course.

The last board meeting was held at the new Logan Canyon Nature Center to hear Sharon Ohlhorst, the new director, describe the programs to be offered at the Center. The first event at the Center, a teachers' workshop held on September 26, gave Cache Valley teachers a first-hand look at the facility as well as exposure to several other environmental education organizations who had set up tables and displays. Student volunteers escorted groups of arriving teachers up the trail, directing their attention to cards hung on shrubs, rocks and trees which described various natural features of interest. As a result, nine local classrooms scheduled time in November for student workshops utilizing LCNC programs and providing some income to the Center. Sharon also announced an open house for October 18, and the formal dedication November 1. We're on our way!

Conservation issues are an increasingly important part of the Board's agenda. Mae Coover organized a committee to review and comment on the CCCP (Cache County's Comprehensive Plan, not the Russian version of USSR). The quality of writing in the plan is pretty weak, but the essence is a push toward more responsible land use policies which at least attempt to

control growth. BAS's comments on the plan focused on the omission of biological resources as an important aspect of life in Cache Valley. We also commented on the need for more control in the FR40 zone, and more explicit goals and objectives in the plan. (This is the first plan we've ever seen that didn't have goals and objectives! The only such statements in the plan are in the back in the form of notes from the citizens meetings.) No question, it's painful to read this document, but if you care about land use control in Cache County, you should stop by the planning office at 160 North Main and get a copy. The Council will be having another work meeting on Tuesday, October 28, and have scheduled a public hearing for November 11. Both meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. at 120 North 100 East. Plan to give them your thoughts, or contact Mae Coover, 752-8871.

Bruce Pendery, BAS's new Conservation Committee has begun to organize his troops, too. A meeting was held at the home of Karen Palmer, Associate Conservation Chair (is that really a title?) on October 6 to discuss the various issues we're facing in northern Utah. High on the list are stopping the Amalga dam, and persuading the Forest Service to either enforce the conservation aspects of the grazing plans active on the Wasatch-Cache forest, or terminate them. Of course, there are other issues as well and we'll be looking for individuals willing to put some time into information gathering.

In the meantime, Ron Hellstern is continuing to schedule more outings (look for separate articles on the hawkwatch hike, the elk bugling trip, and the Bear River Bottoms canoe trip). Check out the Calendar for a variety of trips from three hours to three days.

Chris Wilson is also seeing to it that we have some very interesting monthly meetings. If you missed Jim and Debbie Gessaman's October slide show on the Johnston Atoll wildlife sanctuary/nerve gas incinerator, well, you missed an intriguing and entertaining evening. November's speaker promises to be just as interesting, so join us November 6. A recent addition to our monthly meetings is child care. Yep, all us yuppies who had kids want to come to the meetings, but need someone to look after the young 'uns. So, from 7-8:30 during our monthly meetings we have some great student volunteers who look after the kids, teach them a bit about some aspect of nature, and then bring them back just in time for some of Jackie Henney's munchies. You gotta love it; the perfect combination!

So, as you can see, there's a lot going on these days with BAS. If you've been hanging out on the fringes of our membership, just getting *The Stilt*, why not come to some of the activities. Bring your friends, for our trips and meetings are open to all. And if you feel like getting involved in some of the conservation issues, believe me, there's plenty to do.

See ya birdin'.

— Bryan Dixon, Presidential Poobah

New Members

Michael F Butkus
Myron E Madsen
Sharan Maughan
Jennifer Smotherman

Renewing Members

Leroy B Beasley
Stephen Bialkowski
John E Butcher
Merv & Mae Coover
John Dymerski
Joanne Hughes
Gene Lee
Rosalie Mueggler
Mary I Piette
Sandra Romesburg
Lawrence A Ryel
Charles L Salzberg
Jim Sinclair
Nancy Williams

Environmental Youth Award

The Earth Systems Science class at South Cache Freshman Center was chosen by the Environmental Protection Agency to receive the Region 8 President's Environmental Youth Award. Audubon youth members Micah Austin and Anna Holden were designated as participating in significant programs, such as satellite telemetry tracking of migrating Swainson's hawks, tagging migrating Monarch butterflies, monitoring native songbird species and constructing a large nature habitat area. Teacher, Ron Hellstern, will accompany them to an awards ceremony held at the White House in Washington, D.C..

Technology is marvelous. Nature is miraculous.

— Ron Hellstern

BAS Awards Six Environmental Education Grants

Continuing in the third year of this five year program, BAS awarded small grants to six local education projects:

Douglas Beach, at South Cache Freshman Center, was awarded \$282 for a project to raise various plants from seeds. Students will research plants which can be grown locally, and measure soil characteristics such as pH, nutrients, and moisture to determine proper treatments to ensure seed germination and growth. Some of the plants will be grown to encourage wildlife

to enter the outdoor classroom, and other plants will include annuals to be planted at the Hyrum City offices.

Chris Davis, at Hillcrest Elementary, was awarded \$453 to develop a butterfly garden as a first step to creating an outdoor nature discovery center at Hillcrest.

Ron Hellstern, at South Cache Freshman Center, was awarded \$348 to cover the renewal fees for the Cornell Feedwatch Program on behalf of 29 elementary, middle and secondary classes in both the Cache and Logan districts. These classes already have binoculars, field guides and feeders.

Blair Larsen, of Mt. Logan Middle School, won a grant for \$400 for a "courtyard beautification design" and planting at the school. Her students will learn about plantings and keep records on their project. A major objective of the project is to try xericaping—what a concept here in arid Utah!

Lanette Pettit, of Greenville Elementary, won a modest, but important, grant for \$94 to purchase magnifying loops for her students so they can look at the smaller aspects of nature in their excursions throughout the year.

Ms. Pettit then teamed up with Marilyn Gutke and Scott Perkes, also at Greenville Elementary, for another project funded at \$500, to purchase and learn to use global positioning and weather instrumentation, as they participate in an international weather reporting project called GLOBE. These students will be collecting data on atmospheric, soil, hydrologic and biological conditions around their school and transmitting it to the international data base.

The Board wishes to congratulate all of these teachers for their commitment to science and nature teaching. The Board also decided to begin the next round of soliciting proposals earlier, starting next spring, so if you are a teacher or know of a teacher who might be interested, make sure you follow *The Stilt* closely.

Sponsor a Classroom for Audubon Adventures

BAS is currently sponsoring the *Audubon Adventures* magazine for 17 classrooms in Cache Valley. This magazine focuses on a variety of nature and wildlife themes and comes complete with a teacher's guide. There are eight issues each year, and the cost is \$35 per classroom. If you'd like to sponsor a classroom, send a check for \$35 to BAS, and note if there is a particular class you'd like to sponsor.



We (You) Built It and They Came!

The blood, sweat, tears, and money supplied by Audubon, the First Presbyterian Church, and countless other community groups and individuals has paid off. We truly have a nature center and people have come. Last month we reported on the open house for school teachers and we can report that many of them have booked visits for their classes already and that many are signing up for our teacher workshops.

On Saturday, October 18, we had our first open house for the community and over 200 of you showed up. Everyone seemed very excited that Cache Valley now had a nature center and very impressed with how far we had come in so little time. Mark Vinson provided a wonderful hands-on collection of aquatic insects from the Logan River and the mayflies obliged by hatching as we watched. Shelley Witt came with her Sally Snag program which features a wonderful array of animal puppets which emerge from the 7 ft. tall snag to talk about the importance of trees, both in life and death. Paul Jamison shared a wonderful collection of fossils from Logan Canyon and Jack Greene and his students talked about the changes in plants as they prepare for winter. Some made bird feeders and many took advantage of a mammal and bird collection borrowed from USU to learn more about the local inhabitants. The five "touch boxes" we had prepared were a big hit. The 0.3 mile walk to the building was "signed" with tags posing some question or providing information about some important feature along the way. Over 20 volunteer naturalists helped us in this venture and contributed greatly to its success.

Jen and I want to thank all of you who have helped with this effort and encourage you to contact us with your ideas and specimens. We have the appropriate permits and will focus

our collection of plants and animals of Logan Canyon and Cache Valley.

At this point I probably should introduce you to Jen Levy, the Assistant Director who also came on board in September. Jen has worked as a naturalist in a number of places, including Hardware Ranch, went through the resident program at the Teton Science School, and is currently finishing her masters degree in the Forest Resources Department under the direction of Dale Blahna. With her on board we have been able to move along twice as fast.

In November we will be conducting class programs on the topic of nature preparing for winter and a teacher workshop on "Plants and the Four Seasons" focusing on plant needs, survival strategies, and seasonal adaptations. Our family programs will be held on Saturday, November 8 and 22 with a two hour program in the morning and again in the afternoon on aquatic ecology and the insects to be found in the Logan River. There will be lots of hands on collecting and observing and fun for all ages. There will be a small suggested donation for this program, but the center will be open to all visitors on these Saturdays from 9:00 - 5:00 with volunteer naturalists and staff available on site. For further information call 755-3239.

For those interested in helping the nature center grow and prosper, there will be a volunteer meeting on November 5 at 7:30 in room BNR 278 (USU campus) and on November 6 at 4:00 in room NR 204 (USU campus). We will talk about the center and our various volunteer needs including: volunteer naturalists, fundraising and grant writing, specimen procurement and preparation, web page, service projects, etc. I look forward to seeing you one of these Saturdays and ask that you encourage your local schools to visit with us.

— Sharon Ohlhorst, Executive Director
Logan Canyon Nature Center

Dedication

So many volunteers, so many hours, so many donated materials and dollars. The dream we've nurtured for so many years has come true. We now have a place in Cache Valley independent of any one educational institution which will provide environmental education programs to all students - young and old.

Our natural world is a wonder none of us fully appreciate, but all of us depend on for the richness in our daily lives. What better way to encourage its protection than by teaching others how it works, the role we play in the short dramas of our lives, and how to ensure that our children - and generations of children to come - get the opportunity to laugh with glee at new discoveries and breathe deeply in awe of the magnitude of glory around us?

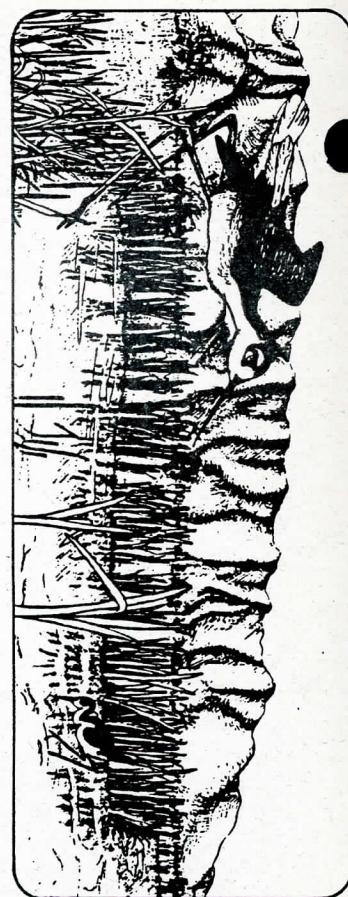
Allen, when he was alive, and Alice even now, have helped so many individuals like me and you to learn about our world, ask questions about what we don't understand, and commit of our own lives to teaching others about the critters, plants and substance that make up our spinning globe. We have accepted the challenge to continue their work (really, now, what else could you say when Allen took your elbow with a "I've been thinking you'd be a great one to..."), and to celebrate our mission and the Stokes' own lives committed to us, we will be dedicating the new nature center as:

ALLEN AND ALICE STOKES NATURE CENTER IN LOGAN CANYON
Saturday, November 1, 1997

Nonprofit Organization
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THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
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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	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830
Vice President	Chris Wilson, 753-3769
Secretary	Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750
Treasurer	Susan Drown, 752-3797
Conservation	Bruce Pendery, 750-0253
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

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1995-98 Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Ruben, 797-2490; Allen Christensen, 258-5018
1996-99 Jack Greene, 563-6816; Lois Olson, 752-9085
Ron Hellstern, 753-8750
1997-20 Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Robert Schmidt, 755-9262
Terry Perry, 753-3249; Mae Coover, 752-8871

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
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LOCAL CHAPTER _____

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