

# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 26, No. 10

June 1998

## The Logan River Summit—A Great Success

On Saturday, May 16, over 50 river enthusiasts attended a conference to learn about Wild and Scenic status for the Logan River. Yes, the Forest Service is updating its inventory of rivers along the Wasatch front for wild and scenic status. Drew Parkin, a national expert on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) gave a brief history of the act and how it applies now to the Logan River. The application process is not easy or short. Two key words define the process—eligibility and suitability. Eligibility is equivalent to an inventory and is the study of river features to determine which rivers qualify to be added to the WSR System. The suitability determination is where alternative management scenarios for eligible rivers are considered and where the decision is made as to whether the river be recommended to Congress for inclusion in the WSR System. The Forest Service is currently working on the eligibility stage. If you would like to know which specific sections of the Logan River drainage are being considered, write or call the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 125 South State, Federal Bldg., Salt Lake City, UT 84318 (801-524-5188) and ask to be included on their mailing list. We want to be proactive so the more people on that list the better.

Zach Frankel of the Utah Rivers Council spoke eloquently to the issue of water conservation in our state (the second driest in the nation) and the importance of rivers for our water supply. Wild and

Scenic status protects the water supplies of cities and many towns have chosen this option to guarantee a healthy water supply. Protection of the watershed is essential for river health. John Carter, a watershed ecologist, showed us pictures of healthy landscapes and then what our overgrazed forest lands look like. When land is overgrazed, too much water runs off the land too quickly, taking valuable nutrients with it. The end result is less underground water. When cattle graze in riparian areas they pollute the waters making it unfit for human consumption. Wes Johnson, of Trout Unlimited, informed us that the mission of their organization is the conservation and enhancement of the cold water fishery. This means healthy rivers and intact watersheds.

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# June Calendar

## Meetings

**Thursday, June 11, 5:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Monthly Planning Meeting** at the Logan City Hall meeting room, 255 North Main. All Audubon members are welcome to attend and share in the discussions.

**Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m. General Meeting** at the Logan City Hall meeting room, 255 North Main. Dave Pacheco, of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, will be inspiring us on southern Utah wilderness! Child care will be available. The public is invited and refreshments will follow the discussion.

## Field Trips

**Saturday, June 6, Another of those Bear River Canoe Trips!** Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (about 50 East 150 North) in Logan. We'll do another section of the Bear River, perhaps through the Bear River Bottoms south of Cornish. Back mid-afternoon. Bring canoe (or other paddle craft), PFDs, lunch and water. We'll do an on-water discussion of why the Bear River Bottoms are important to neotropical migrants. Questions? Call Bryan, 752-6830 (bdixon@digitalpla.net).

**Saturday-Sunday, June 6-14. Western Biodiversity Tour.** A new opportunity to enjoy the company of BAS members while experiencing some of the most spectacular sights in North America. The advantage of group travel discounts will enable us to see the diversity from the Salt Flats, to Lake Tahoe, to Yosemite National Park, to Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Pacific tide pools. Bring your camera and lots of film for this trip! Limited group size determines the final cost. Reservations a must! Call Ron or Wendy Hellstern BEFORE April 1, 753-8750.

**Tuesday, June 16, Canoe Trip to the Spring Creek Rookery.** Meet at 6:00 p.m. (sharp) at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (about 50 East 150 North) in Logan. We will put in on the Little Bear where it crosses the Mendon Road and take out about 1/4 mile away. On the way, we'll pass under a magnificent Great Blue Heron Rookery, first documented in 1946. We try to avoid the rookery during nesting season, but by mid-June the young are mature enough so if we're quiet we won't disturb them. Bring canoe (or other paddleable craft) and a picnic dinner if you wish. This trip takes about 1 1/2 hours on the water, so we should finish in the light. If not, there will be a waxing moon to guide us back! Questions? Call Bryan, 752-6830 (bdixon@digitalpla.net).

**Saturday, June 20. High Creek Waterfalls.** A 3-4 mile round trip hike up the bottom of High Creek Canyon to

view the beautiful waterfalls. Leaders will help identify forest plants and animals. Beaver ponds can be reached by going another two miles up the canyon. This place marks the northern end of the Naomi Peak Wilderness Area. Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the Forest Service Building at 1500 East Hwy. 89, return by early afternoon. Call Jack Greene, 563-6816.

**Board Stuff** (As opposed to bored stiff . . .)  
*BAS is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets once a month (see meetings listed in the Calendar). Good camaraderie as we fight the forces of evil and save the world. All BAS members are invited, of course.*

After reviewing the recent changes in staffing at the Nature Center (Sharon Ohlhorst resigned and Jen Levy is acting as director), the first thing the Board did at its last meeting was give away money. Insurance is costing us almost \$500 a year now to cover liability on trips, etc. We also agreed to cover \$1,000 of the cost of the Audubon Lobbyist at the Utah Legislature—and that's a VERY good deal for any of you who know Ann O'Connell! Bob Atwood requested \$100 for his scouts to build bluebird nesting boxes—a project sorely needed in Cache Valley. Finally, we agreed to co-sponsor the Crane Days Celebration, September 11-12 (advance notice—mark your calendars). While on financial stuff, we learned that the banquet yielded a net income of almost \$600, thanks largely to the silent auction. We extend our appreciation to not only the winning bidders, but those who donated the fine art and other items. And how about Ed Bangs' presentation on the USFW wolf recovery program? That was great!

BAS will be the host for the spring retreat of the Audubon Council. (The Council is the organization of the four Audubon Societies in Utah, helping to coordinate our lobbyist and actions on issues of statewide significance, such as opposition to the Legacy Highway route through Great Salt Lake wetlands.) We decided to have the retreat on the same weekend as Crane Days, scheduling the meetings for Sunday morning. The main topic for discussion will be the formation of a state office for Audubon in Utah. If you can open your house to one or two visitors from other regions for that weekend, please call me (Bryan) at 752-6830.

With the closing of In The Company of Friends, we've decided to move our inventory of books to the Booktable. Look there for the *Cache Checklist* (\$2), *Boating the Bear* (\$10) and any remaining copies of *Cache Trails*. (We're rewriting the latter.)

On issues, it looks like the Cache Water Policy Advisory Board may be moving away from a Water Conservancy District and toward a Special Improvement District. We think this is a good move because the governing board of a SIP is appointed by elected leaders, making it theoretically more accountable. However, we need folks

to stay tuned to make sure the details of the SIP are environmentally sound. As summer approaches, grazing monitoring will begin heating up. Several of the allotments are particularly bad on adjacent riparian zones. We'll be doing more documentation and water quality monitoring this summer in hopes of convincing the USFS to be more aggressive in either ending those allotments or requiring responsible management thereof. If this issue is something dear to you, call Allen Christensen (258-5018) to volunteer sometime. UDOT will be hosting a meeting on Monday, June 2 from 4-6 p.m. to solicit comments on their preliminary plans for road expansions along Rt. 89-91 to the Idaho border (so called Cache Valley Corridor Study). BAS was invited as a "stakeholder." This could include proposals for a major bypass east or west of Logan.

A number of other issues were raised and, as usual, we seem to be short of folks to dog them. We are not scheduling general meetings for July and August, but we are going to continue our trips (hikes and canoe trips) and a summer issue of the *Stilt* to keep our membership up to date, so if anyone has time this summer for conservation work, we have plenty of suggestions for work to do!

— Bryan Dixon, Prez.

## ZION FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Twenty-two adventurers, ranging in age from eight to adult, made the trek to Zion National Park, May 14-17.

All the kids who made the trip to Zion really learned a lot about nature, life and responsibility. We camped by the rushing Virgin River, and the occasional visit by a deer or two, made us aware of new things all around us.

Our first morning event, after becoming acquainted with the park at the Visitor's Center, was to hike to the top of Angel's Landing. For some of us, it was our first real hike, and our favorite. Besides the feelings of climbing a mountain, we watched an artist trying to capture the scenery in his drawings. The red rock is captivating. You don't want to go back to camp and you think about what nature can do in a minute or in a thousand years. We saw a lot of plants and birds that are different from Cache Valley.

When we arrived at the trailhead, the adventure seekers found a quiet place in the river by a large rock. Three of the girls lined up on the edge, making sure that everyone's camera was ready to go. We jumped high . . . and landed in cold water only three feet deep.

That afternoon we hiked into the Emerald Pools. The wind kept shifting and Kathryn Ahnder, Nic Gyllenskog, Shawn Curtis and I got soaked by the waterfalls. We also learned to wake up, take showers in

less than eight minutes, cook breakfast, and be ready to go hiking in 45 minutes. But that's the fun of camping!

"Saturday we visited Weeping Rock, then hiked up into Hidden Canyon. That was pretty cool. Just five feet from the trail edge are the cliffs that went down hundreds of feet. But the group was always safe and nobody ever goofed around on the trails.

"That night Ron and Wendy took us on a night hike and showed us some Native American rock drawings. That was neat to see. There were pools with desert toads singing in them. We stayed to watch and listen to stars and frogs. We also went to the Cinemax Theater to see "Treasure of the Gods" on a screen 80 feet long and six stories high. That was awesome!

Thanks to Audubon for putting together trips like this.

— Hallie Blackham and Brady Woolf  
Ron Hellstern, trip leader

## The Logan River Summit

Continued from page 1

Wendy Fisher, of Utah Open Lands, told us how planning for and maintaining open space enhances the quality of living in a community. She sighted Boulder, Colorado where AT&T sited their corporate headquarters because they thought their employees would like living there. Mike Timmons of USU's Landscape and Environmental Planning alerted us to the development that could occur on the lands which will come under the jurisdiction of the School Trust Lands as a result of the recently announced federal-state land swap in Logan Canyon. The new county master plan will come into play here. Only the ordinances for agricultural land have a higher priority than the ordinances for the forest zones. So, keep an eye. Should we tolerate commercial development at the Franklin Basin turnoff if ordinances were written to permit it?

In summary, Wild and Scenic designation is one way to protect the Logan River. Are there other mechanisms for protection? Is it politically feasible? These questions require study and if anybody would like to be involved, call Kathy (752-0946) or Tim (755-0286). There is work for everybody. In the meantime, call the USFS at the number listed above and get your name on the list of interested parties for Wild and Scenic Rivers in Utah. Remember the more people listed by the Forest Service, the better chance we have of carrying the issue forward.

— Kathy Gilbert, Pres. CPLC

Tim Wagner is to be congratulated for his marvellous job in coordinating all the volunteers for this conference. A special thanks to the Food Committee under the leadership of Derek Staab and Amanda Timmes for a delicious lunch.

# News From the Stokes Nature Center

The Stokes Nature Center continues to touch the lives of school children around Cache Valley. Here are a few journal writings from Mrs. Peery and Mrs. Van Slyke's third graders from Lincoln Elementary.

When we went to the nature center we learned about the earth. And we learned about a bug called a blood sucker. It gets under rocks for protection and they suck blood for food. (Josh Brown)

On April 29 my class and me went to the nature center. We learned about the Logan River and that the animals and insects need it and we also need it too. We divided in three groups. The abiotic group, the plant group, and the wildlife group. I was in the wildlife group. My group found leeches under the rocks in the water. We also found a ant farm under a rock and the ants were carrying ant eggs. We saw a deer hiding behind some trees. (Stacey James)

We went to the nature center on April 29. I was in the plant group. We saw some galls. Galls are homes to little, little bugs. Well, you're probably thinking how is a gall formed. Well, an insect lays her eggs on the plant and the plant doesn't really want the eggs so the plant forms a hard shell around the bugs so the bug doesn't eat any of the other parts of the plants so it actually kills the insect if it can't get out. We saw some buds that were green. We learned a new word. The new word was abiotic. Abiotic means not living. We saw a flower that is endangered. The flower only lives in Logan Canyon. We saw a beaver lodge. We saw grass growing in the water. We walked on a riparian area. A riparian area is a body of water surrounded by land. (Kae Lynn John)

## Antelope Island Trip

I have to say one thing first: if you think getting older means you can't hike as much any more, you are very wrong! To me it was amazing to watch Alice Stokes on this past trip to Antelope Island. She is still very active and I think that at times I was more tired than her on the hikes. Antelope Island is a great place to visit! I highly recommend going to Antelope Island (even if only for the day). I especially want you to go because this is the last year that the general public can camp at the Gar Ranch.

One of the funniest things to happen on this trip is that two people got stuck in the mud! While playing a night game of hide-and-peek with Allen Stokes, Jr., two of Alice Stokes' granddaughters jumped onto what they both thought was solid ground. Surprise: it was MUD! One of the girls sank in almost up to her knees. Once she got out she spent about an hour just searching for her shoes! Luckily both the girls were okay, just a little muddy. We saw many bison on this trip. Baby great

horned owls in the barn, a coyote, and a cotton tail rabbit under a rock by the visitor center were some of the great things to see. Along with many other animals and birds (the only ones I didn't like were the insects!). All in all, I think that everyone had an absolutely wonderful time, I know I did!

— Jessie Barnes

## Birds Seen on the Antelope Island Trip

GR = Garr Ranch (H) = Heard  
√ = I saw or heard (Reinhard Jockel)

- √ Eared Grebe — very many
- √ White Pelican
  - Double-crested Cormorant — a few
- √ Great Blue Heron — a few
- √ Black-crowned Night Heron — GR, a few
- √ White-faced Ibis — a few
- √ Canada Goose — a few
- √ Mallard — GR, a few
- √ Gadwall — a few
- √ Cinnamon Teal — a few
- √ Red Head — a few
  - Sora — (H)
- √ Virginia Rail — (H) GR, 1
- √ American Coot — many
- √ Black-bellied Plover
- √ Killdeer — GR, a few
- √ Com. Snipp — (H) GR, a few
- √ Long-billed Curlew — a few
- √ Willet — some
- √ Dowitcher spp — a few
- √ American Avocet — some
- √ Black-necked Stilt — some
- √ California Gull — very many
- √ Ring-billed G? — a few
- √ Ring-necked Pheasant — GR
- √ Chukar — a few
  - Sharp-shinned Hawk — R, 1
- √ N. Harrier — a few
  - Osprey — GR, 1
- √ American Kestrel — GR, a few
  - Barn Owl — GR, 1
- √ Great Horned Owl — GR, a family
- √ Hummingbird spp — 1
- √ Morning Dove — some
- √ Say's Phoebe — 1
- √ Horned Lark — many
- √ Cliff Swallow — some
- √ Black-billed Magpie — GR, 1
- √ Com. Raven — GR, a few
- √ Rock Wren — (H), a few
- √ House Wren — (H) GR, 1
  - Hermit Thrush — GR
- √ Loggerhead Shrike — 2
- √ Evr. Starling — GR, too many
- √ Orange-crowned Warbler — GR, 1
- √ Yellow Warbler — GR, some
- √ Yellow-rumped Warbler — GR, many
  - Virginia's Warbler — GR
- N. Water Thrush — GR, One was seen by friends of the Great Salt Lake, but I sure couldn't find it.
- Western Tanager — GR

- √ Western Meadowlark — GR, many
- √ Red-winged Blackbird — GR, many
- √ Yellow-headed Blackbird — GR, very many
- √ Brewer's Blackbird — a few
- √ Bullock's Oriole — (H) GR
- √ Brown-headed Cowbird — GR, a few
- √ Black-headed Grosbeak — (H) GR
- Green-tailed Towhee — GR
- √ Lark Sparrow — a few
- √ Vesper Sparrow — (H), a few
- √ Brewer's Sparrow — a few
- √ Song Sparrow — GR, some
- √ White-crowned Sparrow — (H) GR

63 species of birds seen and/or heard.

We missed the following seen last year:

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ruddy Duck           | Red Knot          |
| Golden Eagle         | Franklin's Gull   |
| Violet Green Swallow | Lewis' Woodpecker |
| Rough-winged Swallow | Lazuli Bunting    |
| Barn Swallow         | Dark-eyed Junco   |
| Wester Kingbird      | American Robin    |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet |                   |

### Sunflower Seed

Alice Stokes still has a few 50 lb. bags of sunflower seed left. To claim yours phone Alice at 752-2702.

## Utah Envirothon

Where can you find a group of "Generation X-ers" that really cares about the environment and is working to learn more about it? Had you been at Hyrum State Park, at Hyrum Reservoir, on May 2, you would have found quite a large group of us.

The 1998 Utah Envirothon, sponsored in part by the Bridgerland Audubon Society (thanks!), consisted of about six teams of high school students from the northern part of Utah, who, for the past six weeks had spent many hours learning all we could about the environment and ecology here in Utah.

Decked in tee-shirts and shorts, we all met together at about eight o'clock that Saturday morning, ready for a day of learning and competition. There were five stations located along Hyrum Reservoir and the Bear River to which we would move—Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife, and Watersheds. Here, experts on each topic enlightened us with a 25-minute presentation, followed by a test on the information they had taught us and our own knowledge. After many hours of socializing, enjoying the outdoors, laughing, learning, and just having fun, the team that scored the highest test score from each station was announced, followed

by the moment we all waited for, the announcement of the overall winning team. This team, which ended up being Mountain Crest High School (Hyrum), is to represent Utah in the National Envirothon being held in Michigan this summer.

Personally, I think the Envirothon was a wonderful experience. It was awesome to learn about our environment, and how the principles of ecology apply to us. I, being only a freshman, am anxiously looking forward to next year's Utah Envirothon, and hopefully many more to come.

— Emily Gorley

## New Members

- Ashley Anderson
- Benjamin Banham
- Joann Beckstead
- Sharon Bingham
- Deborah Eshelman
- Tom Hutson
- Elizabeth Keller
- Maye P Meservy
- Loye L Painter
- Mary Palley
- Keith Rennemeyer

## Renewing Members

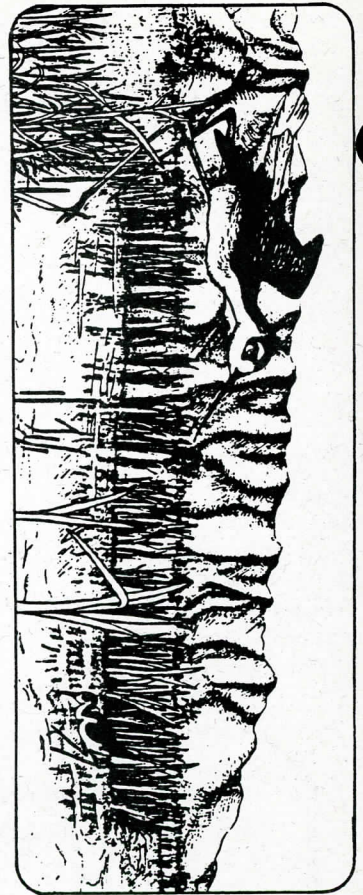
- Leon C Astle
- Fred Baker
- Martha Balph
- Kathleen Barker
- D Bigelpw & S Marychild
- Rebecca S Echols
- John Ellerbeck
- Glen Gantz
- Jack Greene
- Carolee Hammel
- Diane Hanson
- Tim & Jacquelyn Henney
- Alice Lindahl
- Lance L Littlejohn
- Louise Murch
- Jane Post
- Mark Ritchie
- Ron Ryel
- Robert Schmidt
- Tim Slocum
- Alan Stevenson & Catherine Sharpsteen
- Kathryn C Wanlass
- John K Wood
- Dr Janet Lee Young
- Doris Zemlicka

E-mail 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

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BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Nonprofit Organization  
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The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the first Thursday of each month, October through May, in the Meeting Room of the 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. The Conservation Committee will meet the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in Room 3 in Logan City Library. 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, 792-4150
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

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 Teri Peery, 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  
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.