

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 26, No. 5

January 1998

HawkWatch Report from Logan, Utah

National Board member David Dominick sent details of Bridgerland Audubon Society's HawkWatch in the mountains in October. I hope you all had as hawk filled autumn as they did.

"The vantage point is on the north end of the Wellsville Range, north of Salt Lake and west of the Wasatch range. The trail starts at 5600' and climbs cruelly to 8600' in three miles. The trip down is every bit as hard as the trip up, with one's toes taking a lot of abuse until the floor of Cache Valley is finally reached.

"We enjoyed a 100 bird day with wind blowing straight from the Salt Lake at a cold gale force, the strongest wind of the day for the hawk point. This made for slow fly-by's for the birds, all with wing surfaces reduced to a minimum as they maintained their forward glides. Great views and color variations to be seen from directly below; to the side; to top views below the craggy crest. We spotted Peregrine, Prairie, Osprey, Golden Eagles (one mere speck over the Bear River Refuge) and everything else between except Goshawk.

"Two phenomenal volunteers from HawkWatch International have camped out and counted raptors for 7-10 hours per day since mid-August, and will remain there until October's end. It was a

thrilling day notifying us all that fall is close behind these wild raptors that appear as specks out of the north."

Thank you David, for the windy and mountainous tale! Accounts of lengthy migratory bird species are uplifting for this writer, and I am sure for readers as well.

(David Dominick is a member of BAS and also a member of NAS's Board of Directors. This article appeared in National Audubon Society's *Membership Matters* newsletter, Nov-Dec1997.)

Inside

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| AMALGA BARRENS DAM MEETING | 2 |
| NATURE CENTER NEWS | 3 |
| BIRDS OR COFFEE? BOTH! | 4 |
| 1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION | 5 |

October Calendar

Meetings

Thursday, January 8, 5:30p.m. **Board of Trustees Monthly Planning Meeting.** At the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main. Since the first Thursday is New Year's Day, we moved the Board meeting to just prior to the general meeting. We'll be discussing issues and plans for upcoming activities. All Audubon members are welcome to attend and share in the discussions. For more information call Bryan, 752-6830.

Thursday, January 8, 7:00 p.m. **Why Are Song Sparrows Singing Christmas Carols all Winter?** January meeting of the Birdgerland Audubon at the Logan City Building 255 North Main. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Kim Sullivan, associate professor from the Dept. of Biology at USU. Kim recently returned from a sabbatical studying the winter behavior of song sparrows in Washington and the San Juan Islands. Kim will share results of studies on the unusual singing and territorial behavior of sparrows in the winter. A separate room for children, with student volunteers, will be available, so bring the whole family. Refreshments afterwards.

Thursday, January 15, 7:00 p.m. **Conservation Committee Meeting** the third Thursday of each month in Room 3 of the Logan Library to discuss conservation projects. All members are invited to participate.

Field Trips

Saturday, January 10. **Natural Signs of Nature.** Come along and explore animal tracks, scat and other signs of winter activity. Depart from Fred Meyer at 9 a.m. return 12 noon. Please pre-register by January 6. Contact Kayo Robertson, 563-8272 (10 people minimum). Bring your family for this one and wear warm clothing.

Amalga Barrens Dam Meeting a Success

Tuesday, December 16 had over 75 people questioning the need for a dam at the Amalga Barrens. The audience was diverse, from farmers who lived in Amalga to bird lovers, to legislators and local officials. The format of the meeting was a panel presentation followed by questions from the audience. The panel included Senator John Holmgren, Mayor David Wood of Amalga, Larry Anhder, Vice Chairman of the County Council, our own Alice Lindahl, Dr. Jay Bagley from the Utah Water Research Lab, and Dennis Strong, Assistant Director of the state Division of Water Resources. They all did a great job, and the questions from the floor were insightful and challenging. Bruce Pendery will provide a more complete write-up in the February *Stilt*, but we should thank the many BAS volunteers who helped make the evening a success. They included: Keith

Archibald, Rosie Mueggler Erni, Jack and Christina Greene, Alice Lindahl, Wayne Martinson, Don McIvor, Ann O'Connell, Bruce Pendery, Mary Piette, Tim Wagner, and I'm sure I've missed some. And special thanks to Nancy Bartelt who helped arrange the venue.

— Bryan Dixon

Board Stuff (As opposed to bored stiff . . .)

BAS is governed by a Board of Trustees which (usually) meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The venue is always listed in the Calendar of this newsletter.

The committee monitoring the **Draft Cache County Countywide Comprehensive Plan (CCCP)** is having to exercise some patience as the County Council has pushed its adoption to sometime in January. BAS was successful in getting some very good language in the plan about conserving our biological resources—good job, Mae! Mae Coover will be looking for more help in the coming months to monitor the updating of the zoning ordinance. Please call her if you can help with this effort, 752-8871.

Bruce Pendery announced regular Conservation Committee meetings the third Thursday of every month in Room 3 of the Logan Library at 7 p.m. Anyone is invited, and the agenda will be regular review of the status of our conservation work and planning for the next steps.

Ron Hellstern was given \$500 toward a National Environthon program for high schools in Cache County. There is another \$2,000 being provided by the local soils conservation organizations.

Citizens for the Protection of Logan Canyon has been invited to send a letter out with the *Stilt* to explain their new directions in monitoring planning and development in Logan Canyon in addition to the highway work. For more information, call Kathy Gilbert, 752-0946.

The Annual Banquet date has been moved to Tuesday, April 7 at the Coppermill Restaurant. Suzanne Marychild and Teri Peery are organizing the event. Call them to volunteer your services.

Jack Greene announced that we now have *Audubon Adventures* placed in 25 schools in Cache Valley. Good job, Jack!

We also received \$2,900 in donations from companies and an individual recently. We are planning a big fund drive in the spring to help raise money for various projects. The exact plans are the subject of the Board meeting in February at the Coover's home.

There is a lot going on, as you can see. It's fun to work with this group of dedicated individuals. If this is something you'd like to help with, please call any of the Board members or just come to a meeting!

— Bryan Dixon, President

News from the Allen & Alice Stokes Nature Center in Logan Canyon

Our biggest news from November is the November 1 Nature Center dedication and renaming. We are all thrilled to be able to honor and get inspiration from all the contributions that Allen and Alice have made in our community. The day was cool but the spirits and good feelings provided a wonderful warmth and the event was attended by over 100 supporters of the Nature Center, including most of the Stokes family and others traveling from Salt Lake City, Vernal and Jackson, Wyoming.

Other exciting news from November is that we hosted 11 class visits—mostly second grades and most for a program on plant and animal survival strategies for winter.

November also saw our first family program series. We extend a heartfelt thanks to Mark Vinson (and his two sons) for putting on two excellent Saturday programs about the aquatic insects of the Logan River. We found some really neat critters (one group even snagged a sculpin!).

Upcoming family events include a **Snow** program on January 10 and 24. The programs will be from 9:00 - 11:00 and 1:00 - 3:00 and will provide an introduction to winter ecology, including the different strategies used by animals for survival in the winter and various properties of snow. A \$3.00 per person fee is requested.

The February program will cover **Animal Tracks and Sign** and will be held on February 14 and 28 from 9:00 - 3:00. Our program will start at the nature center with an introduction to animal tracks and other sign. We will then journey out into the snow to look for and follow tracks. For the second part of the program there will be two options—one group will stay close to the nature center and look for signs along the Logan River while a second group will travel farther up the canyon. A \$5.00 per person fee is requested for this program. Please call 755-3239 if you have any questions or want to register for either of these programs.

We continue to succeed because of the excellent pool of volunteers we have. Please give us a call at 755-3239 if you are interested in volunteering, have items you would like to donate, or are interested in receiving information on how to become a Nature Center member.

— Sharon Ohlhorst
Executive Director



Thank You

Dear Bridgerland Audubon Society:

On behalf of the organizers of Sandhill Crane Days, I want to sincerely thank Bridgerland Audubon Society, and Alice Lindahl in particular, for donating \$2,000 to our festival.

That money, raised from the sale of t-shirts during the highly controversial debate over the hunting of cranes in Cache County, signifies the intense interest there was, and is, in the protection of local and migrating cranes that find refuge in our valley. Thanks to the efforts of Alice, Utah Wilderness Association, Utah Wildlife Manifesto, members of BAS and Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, the hunting of cranes no longer occurs here; we are still addressing solutions to crane depredation in Rich County, the only Utah county where cranes are hunted.

We have established a fund, to which your contribution has been added, with which we intend to finance a lure crop project, the actual purchase of habitat, or instigate the leasing of lands the birds use in their fall staging for migration. This is a complicated issue involving public wildlife, private land, and a mix of management schemes; there are many avenues to pursue. We are working with Alice, as our local representative on the Regional Wildlife Advisory Council, and will develop our projects in 1998. This generous donation to our nonprofit account brings us much closer to our goal—protection of cranes in Utah.

The crane festival is unique in Utah. It is privately funded, not connected to the state wildlife agency, and is limited in scope to impose minimal disturbance as we "ecotour." To succeed, support for the festival must be community-based. We encourage BAS to play a major role in future festivals. Please extend a warm invitation to your members to contact us to lend a hand in leading birding trips, help with details of the festival, and spread the word of Crane Days. Our precious world of wildlife is worthy of celebration!

Sincerely,

Margaret Pettis for Lynette Brooks, Keith Johnson and Kim Richardson

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

Birds or Coffee? Both!

Loss of habitat to industrial agriculture in third world countries is a well known problem. Those of us who drink coffee should know that our practice may be contributing to direct loss of bird habitat. As a coffee devotee, I asked Randy Wirth, Co-owner of Straw Ibis to describe the situation and what we can do about it (short of giving up the bean). His reply follows.

— Bryan Dixon

Dear Bryan,

Thank you for the opportunity to share information on "Shade vs. Sun Coffee" and our particular bent, "Shade Grown Organic."

Coffee is the world's largest commodity in terms of dollars traded save oil and armament! There are over 60 countries growing coffee. In the last forty or so years coffee in this country has been used as an advertised "loss leader" in supermarkets to bring in customers. The need for growers and coffee roasters to produce the cheapest product possible has not only had an adverse impact on the quality of coffee being offered in supermarkets but has also adversely affected the rain forests and the working conditions of the people who work the fields where coffee is grown. "Green revolution" methods of boosting agricultural output have increasingly been employed in coffee farming. Traditionally, coffee was farmed within the rain forest or on plantations that had a variety of trees in addition to coffee. The trees provided needed shade for traditional *arabica* root stocks that were not sun tolerant and provided a diverse economic basis for small family farms which could not exist on coffee production alone, given the whims of volatile world coffee markets. These trees provided many of the nutrients needed by the coffee plants along with tremendous bio-diversity including natural biological controls for some of the more menacing coffee tree problems. The trees also provided shade for field workers, building materials, wood for cooking, and fruits, nuts, and other products for home and market.

So why would a small farmer want to change all this? The answer is that they do not want to change to "sun technified plantations" even with the promise of three to four times the production. However, government subsidies including money from the United States are being used to promote "Sun Technified" systems that include heavy inputs of pesticides, herbicides, artificial fertilizers, and sun tolerant hybrid coffee root stocks. Trees are, in fact, a liability in such a system of agriculture. Where the consumer used to be able to count on organic certification alone to insure that environmental concerns were being addressed, organic "Sun Technified" plantations have entered the market place to meet the needs of large supermarket roasters attempting to capitalize on the "health conscious consumer." Since 1970 there has been increasing use of "Sun Technified" agriculture through cutting and burning of rain forests, and through the elimination of hedgerows in already developed plantations. In just Mexico and Central America, nearly 2 million acres of forest are being lost every year!

Today, most people are aware, in general terms, of the importance of the world's rain forests. As regards migratory birds specifically, "there are about 150 species . . . of birds . . . which are sometimes or frequently found in shaded coffee farms in their winter range." Shade plantations offer a full range of biological diversity, but Sun Technified plantations are by comparison "a biological desert."

While it would be great if everyone called their elected officials and wrote letters to the government of Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, and Guatemala (and the other 60 countries, remember?), it would not have as great an effect as a large consumer vote for the alternative to "Sun Technified coffee." Currently, the differentials offered to farmers for either organic certification or shade certification do not justify their participation. Most of those who participate do so because their traditional practice and lack of capital have kept them from the "green revolution." But, with consumer support, it is much more likely that these small farms can be convinced to continue traditional cultural practices and larger farms to return to shade and/or organic farming in hopes of larger premiums in the future. Base your consumption choices on the results of research conducted through the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, the U.S. Forest Service, Audubon and the American Birding Association who have allied with local roasters who support shade grown coffee. Use your consumer vote where there is an alternative!

— Randy Wirth, CoOwner/Head Roaster
Caffe Ibis Coffee Roasting Company

Hand In Hand

I love living here. I love being touched by where I live—by snow in the valley, a river behind the trees, mountains, alpenglow, birds, quiet. But I feel confused by my age. I think that where I live is under constant assault. I'm saddened by some of the changes and by a sense of loss. And I often feel as though I'm in the minority.

But recently I received the CPLC Newsletter, *Canyon Views*. Well, I thought it was a really good newsletter and it made me feel less confused and more a part of a growing concern. The direction that CPLC has taken is just right—expanding it's sphere to include not only the highway but all other Logan Canyon issues. Bridgerland Audubon Society has already benefited from CPLC by working with them and John Carter (Willow Creek Ecology) on the grazing problem.

To increase our influence on Logan Canyon issues, such as recreational travel plans, prescribed burns, zoning and land swaps, timbercuts, and grazing, we need to support CPLC. In fact, I'm going to send money and renew my membership right now.

— Allen Christensen
BAS Board Member

(You can, too. Send \$10 for a regular membership to: CPLC, P.O. Box 3608, Logan, UT 84323-3608.)

The 1998 Legislative Session

I suppose that there are two ways to look at the fact that there are so many challenges at the legislature this season. Is this a wonderful opportunity for the citizen to make an impact? Or is the world going to hell in a basket?

First, please sign up with the Audubon lobbying network. (See enclosed form.) We work by phone, FAX, and e-mail. However, if you prefer to be on your own, there is information below for contacting your legislators at the capitol during the session. All lobbyists please remember that you are speaking for yourself and not Audubon. Your chapter board or the State Audubon Council speaks for us collectively.

I recommend that Audubon members write, call, or visit their legislators. We are highly articulate and persuasive individuals. Furthermore, it is very worthwhile to communicate with lawmakers because normally they hear very little from constituents on most issues. And it is not a waste of time to call or write on high profile issues since your well reasoned or original argument will stand out in the mass of canned campaign letters and calls. Try to find a fax you can use if timing is critical and phone lines are jammed. The copy stores have them. Hopefully by the time the session begins I may have private e-mail addresses for some legislators.

Ways to Contact Your Legislator at the Capitol

Senate: 319 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Phone: (801) 538-1035 Fax*: (801) 538-1414
Toll-free: 1-800-662-3367
(During Session)
TDD (801) 538-1457

House of Rep.: 318 State Capitol, SLC, UT 84114
Phone: (801) 538-1029
Fax*: (801) 538-1908
Toll-free: 1-800-662-3367
(During Session)
TDD (801) 538-1029

Audubon's Lobbyist:
Ann O'Connell, 2727 Kentucky Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84117 — Phone and Fax: (801) 277-9046
E-mail: 103306.3012@compuserve.com

*When you FAX be sure that the legislator's name is big and clear at the top of the message.

Audubon Lobbying Network

____ Yes, I want to participate in the Audubon lobbying network for the Utah Legislature.

____ I am willing to lobby on most issues selected by the Audubon Council of Utah.

____ I wish to concentrate on the following:

I am willing to call other chapter members to tell them about pending actions. ____ yes ____ no

Contact me by:

____ phone (W) _____ (H) _____

____ FAX at this number

____ by E-mail at this address

I would like to come to the Capitol during the session.

____ yes ____ no

I can help in other ways (such as research, writing, mailings, etc.) Please specify. _____

Any other advice or instructions: _____

State Representative: _____

State Senator: _____

(If you need this information call your county clerk. She will have your address on a computer and can give you the information more quickly than I can, although I can get the information if you are unable to do so.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

A phone number in case e-mail or fax fails somehow:

Mail or Fax to: Ann O'Connell, 2727 Kentucky Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84117

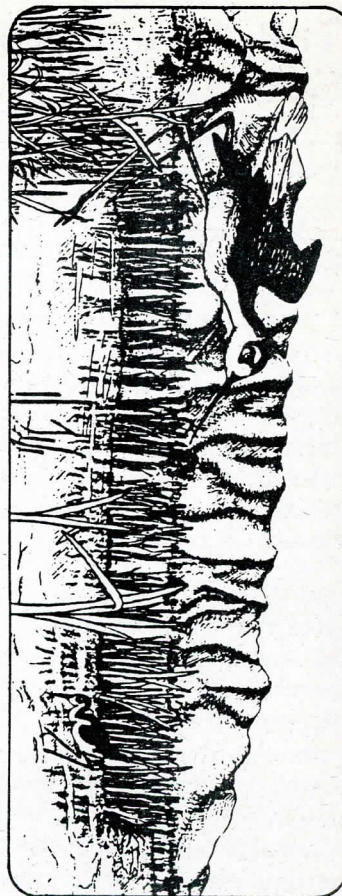
Phone and Fax: (801) 277-9046

E-mail: 103306.3012@compuserve.com



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BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 3501
 Logan, Utah 84323
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Nonprofit Organization
 BULK RATE
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 Logan, Utah

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.