



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 26, No. 7

March 1998

Teaming With Wildlife

Dr. Terry Messner, from Utah State University, spoke in February at the BAS meeting about a proposal for funding wildlife diversity. This proposal is being pushed by concerned citizens and is a program that would be administered by the Fish & Wildlife Service. The proposed program would be funded by a tax on the manufacture of outdoor products.

Some people think that they are already paying for wildlife conservation through taxes; this is a myth. The truth, the vast majority of fish and wildlife have no reliable source of income, whatsoever! Some people are worried, "It's taking all of my money for this stupid wildlife tax," they say. But in reality, it's only a modest 5% surcharge. Compare that to how much fun you have with the product!

Did you also know, it costs less than a movie or ball game to pay a small fee on outdoor equipment. The most common user group is women. This may come as a surprise, but on average women between the ages of 35 and 40 spend billions every year on gear. We need to look to the future and endorse this proposal for funding wildlife diversity.

Teaming with wildlife is one way to preserve our animal inhabitants. We need to focus on what is at stake here. Not just how many hours we have to cut down on water skiing, but how many species we are going to cut out of the food chain because of pollution.

Businesses can "team with wildlife" by "sponsoring" it. Come on, give it a try, if you do, the next time you pull a deal, you'll feel a lot better about yourself! For instance—you won't be able to sell a fishing pole if there are no fish left!

— Haylee Parker

Inside

COMMUNITY BIRDING CLASS	3
GREAT SALT LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN	3
NATURE CENTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE	4
LOBBY ALERT	5

March Calendar

Meetings

Thursday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Monthly Planning Meeting at the Logan City Hall, 255 North Main. The Board decided to try meeting just prior to the monthly general meeting to reduce the number of evenings we all have to be away from home. This schedule will continue for the rest of the spring. We'll bring a bunch of sandwiches and all chip in for the cost. All Audubon members are welcome to attend and share in the discussion, but if you don't usually attend, please call Bryan in advance, 752-6830, so we can plan the food.

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. Neotropical Reptiles and Amphibians will be this month's March meeting of the Bridgerland Audubon at the Logan City Building 255 North Main. It will be presented by Dr. Joe Mendelson, an assistant professor in biology at Utah State. When he's not teaching he's planning research trips to the New World tropics to study small frogs in tropical pools in the rain forest.

Joe's first trip was to Guatemala 10 years ago when a civil war was raging and he didn't speak a word of Spanish! In spite of these apparent handicaps, Joe discovered a new species of toad in a remote part of the country (*Bufo cambellii*). It didn't scare him off either. He went on to study all sorts of reptiles and amphibians in Mexico and Peru, and this is what his slide show will be about.

Joe has been teaching Biology 101, a very hard class to keep happy and awake. His students say, "I wouldn't miss a single class!" So why not come to this BAS meeting and see what the excitement is about?

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3. Audubon Council of Utah Retreat. Held twice a year, Great Salt Lake Audubon will host the next retreat at the Lytle Ranch west of St. George. Those of you who have been to the Lytle Ranch know it's a tremendous birding spot, being south and low elevation enough to be the only home in Utah to a number of species. Camping will be available. Topics of discussion will include the State Audubon Office, conservation issues, and that Roadrunner somebody saw scoot past at the last break. Field trips around the site mixed in. For more information call Bryan, 752-6830.

Field Trips

Saturday, March 7. Bald Eagles at Willard. A chance to see spectacular birds of prey roosting at Willard Bay State Park 10 miles south of Brigham City. The group will then travel to the Willard gravel pit and climb up a narrow ravine to a more gentle ridge for a great view of Willard Canyon and majestic raptors soaring at eye level. Wildflowers may be adding color along the way.

The hike is strenuous, so bring good boots, warm clothes and lunch. Leave at 10:00 a.m. from the Fred Meyer parking lot, return by late afternoon. Call Jim Sinclair, 752-0061.

Saturday, March 21. Amalga Barrens. Perhaps more famous now than ever, the Barrens are the site for their shallow ponds full of tadpoles, aquatic invertebrates, and the amazing waterfowl that feed upon them. An added highlight is taking the opportunity to experience this area now proposed to be covered by a man made reservoir. Enjoy the owls, Sandhill Cranes, and hundreds of ducks and shorebirds that may fill this area, weather permitting. Spring migration wants you as a witness! Bring your binoculars/scopes and meet at Fred Meyers parking lot by 9:00 a.m., return at lunch. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

Friday-Saturday, April 10-11. Grouse Courtship Display trip to the Curlew National Grasslands north of Snowville. We'll camp at Stone Reservoir about six miles north of Snowville and enjoy a campfire talk by Ken Timothy, USFS ranger. Saturday, we'll arise before dawn to visit the traditional leks of the local Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse and watch them perform. Then, back to camp for breakfast and a partial day birding in the area before returning home early afternoon. For more information call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

Thursday-Sunday, April 23-26. Springtime Wonders of Zion National Park. Waterfalls, wildflowers, and desert birds will abound as we see the glories of spring burst in scenic red rock country. We'll see the IMAX theater presentation, ranger talks, and hike in several places, including: Angel's Landing, the Narrows, Petroglyph Canyon, Checkerboard Mesa, Weeping Rock, Emerald Pools, etc. Carpooling and camping will keep the costs reasonable. Reservations required; call Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3. Antelope Island Overnight. Annual trip to see the marvels of an island of the Great Salt Lake. Leave early Saturday and return Sunday night. Unusual shorebirds can be seen along the causeway, and we'll camp in a select area reserved for our group. Hike on your own, or join a naturalist for guided walks. Birds, wildflowers, mountain goats, bison, what more could you ask? Advance reservations required. Group leader to be announced.

Thursday-Saturday, May 14-16. Colorado River Rafting and Arches National Park. Float the most famous river of the West. Enjoy the thrills of white water with professional guides as we cruise through mighty red rock canyons. Desert flora and fauna will garnish the experience along the Colorado and Green Rivers. We'll also hike into some of nature's finest architecture in Arches National Park (such as Delicate Arch featured on the Utah license plates). Food and transportation are included, but reservations are required. Call Ron or Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750.

Saturday, May 16. Great Bear River Bird Festival.

Second annual event at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Brigham City. A variety of workshops and activities are planned again, including bird banding demonstration, binocular and spotting scope showcase, birding tours, an open house at the venerable Bear River Club, duck hunting equipment demonstrations from Browning Arms, bird photography workshops, children's nature craft workshop, and even a mini-birdathon with prizes! Great fun for the whole family. Watch for details in coming months.

Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31. Annual Bear River Canoe Trips.

Two one-day trips down our Bear River to explore the wildlife and riparian habitats. We're bound to see waterfowl and warblers and maybe beaver or muskrat. One year an elk swam the river in front of us! Ponder the disappearing Great Blue Heron rookery and possibly see owls on the nest. Reservations are required, canoes may be available. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

Community Birding Class

Coming this spring to the Stokes Nature Center is our first birding class open to the community. Several of our most knowledgeable local birders are putting together the details and plan to offer it sometime beginning in April or May. A series of classroom and field sessions, the course will be open to all. Watch for details in April's *Stilt*.

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.

First item on last month's agenda was to formally appoint two new members to the Stokes Nature Center Board. Barbara Graham, local businesswoman, and Rocky Maughan, fifth grade teacher, were unanimously approved to serve new terms. They both bring a love of the out-of-doors and enthusiastic support.

Conservation reports covered several issues. A meeting is planned with the Forest Service for March 10 to discuss several grazing allotments on the Bear River Range where land and water resources are being severely damaged by livestock. John Carter has years of data which we will present and use to justify our request for more oversight of these allotments, enforcement of the requirement for management plans, and potential reductions in density.

It appears there won't be a bill in this year's legislature directly related to the Amalga Barrens, but local agricultural leaders are pushing ahead to formalize some structure for water development. Whether that

means a Water Conservancy District and development of the Amalga Barrens Dam remains to be seen, but we've got some work to do to make sure the definition of "the problem" is correct and the solutions being sought don't do more damage to our world than benefit.

It was noted that the County Council has now adopted a Comprehensive Plan for Cache County. Thanks to efforts by several BAS members, the county added some language near the end of the process to recognize the importance of biological resources and set the stage for their protection. We're particularly concerned about wetlands, especially with more talk about a new highway west of Logan, and the large tracts of private land in the FR40 zones in Logan Canyon and other places. We don't want more development like what has occurred at the mouth of Franklin Basin. Commercial developments are of particular concern. The process now moves to the writing of the ordinances which put flesh on the bones of the plan.

Plans for the April 7 banquet are continuing. A speaker from the Montana Division of Fish and Wildlife is being sought to present the latest on the wolf reintroduction plan in Yellowstone. The venue this year is the newly remodeled Coppermill Restaurant.

The last part of the meeting was devoted to planning for programs and fund raising. We've decided to hold a Birdathon this year on May 30. Teams are being assembled to gather donations. The idea is to ask donors to pledge \$X per bird species seen that day. We'll be donating 25% of the proceeds to the Stokes Nature Center, 25% to the formation of a state office for Audubon, and 50% for BAS' ongoing conservation and education programs. Please call Allen Christensen if you're interested in participating (all skill levels are needed), and expect a phone call asking for your member donation from one of the folks on the committee. Each of the last two Birdathons in 1995 and 1996 raised approximately \$6,000 and we hope to do better this year.

If you'd like to become involved in the Board's activities, just jump right in. Call any board member listed on the back of the *Stilt* to volunteer.

— Bryan Dixon, President

Great Salt Lake Management Plan

In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands is preparing a comprehensive management plan for Great Salt Lake and its environs. In order to provide the public an opportunity to comment regarding the issues to be addressed in the plan a public meeting is scheduled for Brigham City at the historic County Courthouse, 1 South Main, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

A mailing list of persons interested in receiving planning information and documents is being established. For more information contact Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, P.O. Box 145603, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5703.

Call For Nomination of Officers

All BAS members are invited to submit nominations for BAS officers and trustees. Our bylaws call for elections every two years in even years. Officer positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All of the current officers have agreed to be nominated for another term, but if you or someone you know is interested, please let us know. We'll print ballots in the April *Stilt*. Ballots will also be distributed at the Annual Banquet Tuesday, April 7, and must be received by close of business Thursday, April 9.

Also open for nomination are up to four members of the Board of Trustees, the governing body of BAS. Trustees serve three year terms and determine the policies, programs and financial priorities of the organization. For more information about any of these positions or to submit a nomination, contact any officer or trustee listed on the back of the *Stilt*, or contact audubon@digitalpla.net.

Stokes Nature Center Saturday Program Schedule

March 14 & 28: "Local Geology - Rocks, Fossils, Dirt"
Learn about the Geology of Logan Canyon and the surrounding area.

April 11 & 25: "For the Birds"
Learn about birds - habitats, adaptations, how to best observe them and how to feed them.

May 9 & 23: "Plants and Their Uses"
Learn about the many ways wild plants are used.

On the Saturdays listed above, we will be open from 9:00-5:00 with volunteer naturalists on site. Please call the nature center at 755-3239 for further information and times of the featured programs.

The Nature Center is looking for volunteer help in a variety of capacities: 1) Someone is needed to manage the selling of our T-shirts. This involves maintaining inventory records and placing orders as necessary. 2) Individuals are needed to help advertise our various event. This involves contact with local news agencies on a regular and reliable basis. 3) Individuals are needed to help our very dedicated, but also very small and overworked, fundraising committee. Call Sharon at 797-2580 for more information.

— Sharon Ohlhorst
Nature Center Director

New Members

Dorothy Cannon
Jack Cheney
Julie Conlin
Martha R Hansen
Steven Haas
Angela F Henney
Bret Jehman
Jim Cane & Linda Kervin
David Kirby
Allen Lowe
Chris McGillicuddy
Jeff Norman
Suzanne F Pratt
Mr Richard Ratliff
Trisha Riggs
Sharon Sayad
Doug Tempel
John Zsiray

Renewing Members

Marion A Andersen
Kent R Baker
Mrs Marie L Borg
Mark W Brunson
John W Carlisle, MD
Ted Pease & Brenda Cooper
Lula C DeValve
Kerkman Family
Karen Fasy
Patricia Fullmer
K Gilbert
Mr & Mrs T J Gordon
Mr Terry Griswold
Berkley Hendricks
James A Hoffman & Sharon Smock-Hoffmann
Bill Jensen
Dr E H Berry Laughlin
William & Marjorie Lewis
Nancy Mesner
Diane Browning Oblock
Janis Parent
Mark E Peplinski
Linda B Rawlins
Dr R J Shaw
Rex E Robinson
Kennita Thatcher
Louise Thomas
Marie Veibell
F H Wagner
M Coburn Williams

Lobby Alert

Now is the critical time for two bills. First, HB 50: Local Option Sales Tax for Agricultural Conservation Easements (Evan Olsen) is again tabled in the House. There are two amendments on the floor; one from Rep. Olsen, which would allow a choice of easements for ten years of perpetuity. One from Rep. Tom Hatch for ten year easements only. The argument for the ten year easement is that it would not devalue the land to the point that the farmer could not borrow money. To keep the easement, it could be renewed. (Remember that banks say they base their decisions on cash flow not land value.) Planners will tell you that perpetuity is critical. I do not think citizens will tax themselves for a short term easement. I certainly would not.

Second, SJR 10 will probably be discussed on the floor beginning the week of February 23. It is the Wildlife Numbers resolution that proposes a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds majority for initiatives on wildlife matters. It sailed through the Senate with three no votes, but it needs a two-thirds majority itself in both houses. It could be stopped. Audubon asks you to vote no on this resolution because the constitutional amendment it proposes would mean that some of the citizens of Utah would not have the same rights of petition as others.

A super majority for any initiative regarding the Taking of Wildlife SJR 10 would mean that a two-thirds majority would be required for any petition concerning the taking of wildlife (hunting regulations). This super majority implies that hunting regulations are weightier matters than constitutional amendments or changing the form of local government. These are done with a 50% plus one majority of the voters. In Utah the two-thirds super majority has been limited to votes of the legislature on constitutional amendments and their override of petitions of the people.

The Slippery Slope Argument. Some hunters are fearful of a successful petition drives those in other states that have eliminated baiting bears, hounding cougars, and some types of traps. Although these are controversial practices even among hunters, the argument is nonetheless made that if such a petition succeeded here, it would be the beginning of a slippery slide that would end with a ban on all hunting. This line of reasoning is specious; it borders on paranoia.

A Lack of Trust in the Citizens of Utah. Supporters of this resolution have no faith in the voters of Utah. It is almost impossible to imagine a time when Utahns would refuse the right to hunt to their friends and neighbors or make it impossible for the Department of Wildlife Resources to manage wildlife.

An Analogy to Free Speech. We are all aware that if we want to enjoy the right to free speech we must extend the privilege to everyone, even those with opinions we abhor. The analogous right to petition

one's government for redress of grievances must also be evenly extended to all. Opponents of the bill can argue that limiting the initiative rights of those who do not approve of some hunting practices is also the first misstep on a slippery slope. What group will be the next target? This distortion of the petition process could initiate a divisive and even dangerous trend in Utah politics

Legal Questions. It is true that super majorities are used in the American system of government. It is also true that the Legislative Review Note says that "a limited legal review of this bill raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns." However, a case can be made that this amendment will be attacked under the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. It is not unreasonable to predict a protracted and expensive legal battle over this amendment.

Conclusion. Utah Audubon membership is made up of hunters and non-hunters alike who care deeply about wildlife. We also care deeply about the fairness of our political and decision making processes. Whereas all interested parties might agree that the petition process is not the wisest way to make wildlife or any other policy decision, we must insist that if any citizens can use this political tool it must be equally accessible to all. Please vote no on SJR 10.

Ways to contact your legislator at the Capitol:

Senate

Address: 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 Representatives

Address: 318 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Phone: (801) 538-1029
Fax*: (801) 538-1908
Toll-Free: 1-800-662-3367
(During session) TDD: (801) 538-1029

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

The National Audubon Society Board of Directors

will meet at the Hotel Santa Fe
in Santa Fe, New Mexico

March 19-22, 1998

NAS Board Meetings are open to the public.
If you wish to participate in field trips and meals,
registration is required. For more information, contact

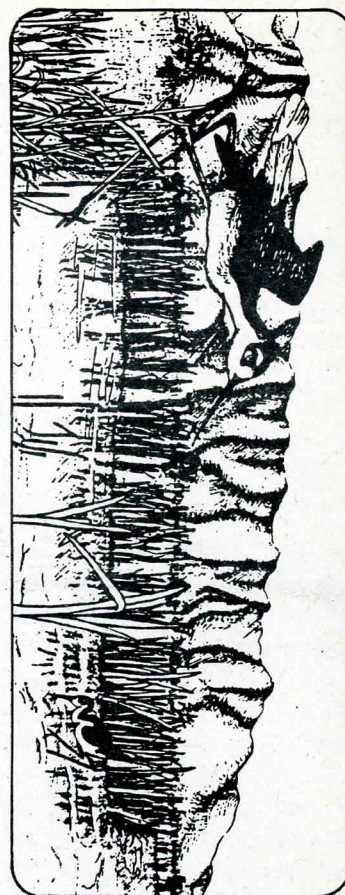
Betsy Hax

Special Assistant to the President's Office
212-979-3156

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THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 3501
 Logan, Utah 84323
 Vol. 26, No. 7
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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.