

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 26, No. 9

May 1998

Wild Wings Over Wetlands

Migratory Bird and Wetlands Day May 9, 1998

Experience the return of Spring! On Saturday, May 9, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Partners in Flight are celebrating the beauty of birds and the wonder of wetlands with our 5th Annual Migratory Bird and Wetlands Day. Naturalists, spotting scopes, and information will be available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with hourly bird walks and wetlands interpretation at most locations.

The event will be celebrated at the following locations across the state:

- City Creek, Salt Lake City
- Ogden Nature Center, Ogden (bird walks only)
- Layton Wetland Preserve/Farmington Bay WMA
- Jordanelle Dam/Rock Cliff Nature Center (10-15 miles north of Heber)
- Matheson Wetland Preserve, Moab
- Canyon Park, Coal Creek, Cedar City (bird walks only; May 16)

Related events include:

- Ouray National Wildlife Refuge Open House, Ouray (April 25)
- Deseret Wildlife Festival, Bloomington Park & Elementary, St. George (May 1-2)
- Bear River Bird Festival, Bear River Refuge, Brigham City (May 16)

We are looking for volunteers to help us deliver our message about the importance of wetlands and riparian areas to Utah's birds and the importance of Utah's wetlands and birds to the environment. We can use help handing out materials and assisting with bird walks.

Everyone is welcome to bring boots and binoculars and come out to enjoy our wetlands and wildlife!

Contact Frank Howe (801) 538-4764 or Cecile LeBlanc (801) 538-4864 for more information and watch your paper for updates and details.

— Dr. Chris Wilson

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May Calendar

Meetings

Thursday, May 14, 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, May 14, 7:00 p.m. General Meeting at the Logan City Hall meeting room, 255 North Main. Frank Howe, from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, will be our speaker. Dr. Howe is currently the Non-game Avian Program Coordinator for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. His job includes monitoring, managing for and studying all of Utah's unhunted bird species (it's a dirty job, but someone has to do it!). He has worked with the UDWR for six years as the Avian Program Coordinator and the Utah Partners in Flight Coordinator. He has also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Pierre, South Dakota for two years mapping habitat and monitoring populations of least terns and piping plovers. Child care will be available. The public is invited and refreshments will follow the discussion.

Saturday, May 16. Logan Canyon Summit—A Conference of Ideas, at the Beaver Mountain Ski Lodge in Logan Canyon. This all-day symposium will explore the values of the Logan Canyon environment for us and for future generations. An effort will be made to designate the Logan River as a "Wild and Scenic River" to ensure its protection. Sponsored by BAS and CPLC, with speakers including Rick Bass (frequent author for *Audubon* magazine), Zach Frankel (Utah Rivers Council), Wendy Fisher (Utah Open Lands), and others.

Thursday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. Conservation Committee Meeting at the Logan City Library, Room 3. Here's your chance to get involved in local issues, from grazing and forest resources, to water quality and dams, to community planning. We'll share the progress of current efforts and plan for new ones. For more information, call our Conservation Chair, Bruce Pendery, 792-4150.

Field Trips

Saturday/Sunday, May 2/3. Annual Field Trip to Antelope Island. Join trip leaders Alice Stokes and Don McIvor for an overnight camping trip to the largest island in the Great Salt Lake. We'll meet at the southwest corner of the Logan Fred Meyer parking lot at 8 a.m., May 2. From there we'll caravan south and reconvene on Antelope Island. Saturday's itinerary includes a talk on the island's bison herd (led by USU researchers); a bird walk led by the author of *Birding Utah*; and an evening talk about the island's unique environment (led by State Park Ranger, Tim Smith). We'll camp at the historic Fielding-Garr Ranch. Bring

camping gear, drinking water, food, and \$9/car to cover entrance/camping fee. Sunday will be less structured and we'll make our way back by Sunday afternoon. Questions? Call Alice, 752-2702, or Don, 563-6189, to reserve your space.

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 Ron Hellstern, 753-8750.

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.

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.

Issues continue to be a big part of the Board's activity. We have drafted a response to the USFS's response to our letter. (When they respond to *that*, we'll send our response.) The thrust of this effort is to convince them to require management plans for the grazing permittees in the Bear River Range. John Carter has completed an excellent analysis of the problems with some of these allotments and the weakness in the monitoring systems being used to control them. (Copies can be had by contacting Bruce Pendery.) We simply must prevent these grazing permittees from damaging soils, streams, and wildlife habitat.

A meeting of the Cache County Water Policy Board is scheduled for April 21, at which time we expect them to seek a resolution endorsing a Water Conservancy District. Some of the proponents of the WCD have noble goals—seeking a funding source for hydrological research which can be used to thwart downstate interests from taking water which may be needed by Cache Valley residents. They also want funding to help implement programs to clean up the Bear River. The county government—staunch fiscal conservatives that they are—has been unwilling to fund such forward looking programs. However, the ends can't justify the means, such as revolve around the county's unwillingness to step up and fund research on water resources in Cache County (so as to prevent down state interests from acquiring rights to our future water supplies), or to fund programs to rein in the sources of pollution (mainly agricultural) to the Bear River. Proponents feel that if the county won't do it, they need to turn to another entity, and a WCD is easy to form and somewhat autonomous, so they don't need to rely on the county for funding. While BAS is in line with much of their goals, the ends don't justify the means (formation of a WCD is an inherently undemocratic process), and we fear that an independent water organization will try to develop unsound projects to justify a continued existence. We'll have a more complete report at our May meeting.

At the last board meeting we heard a favorable report on a meeting with Doug Thompson, mayor of Logan City. We raised specific issues and he responded. He favors a west side bypass for Logan City, but wants to use 1000 West, if at all possible. The city has undertaken for a \$1.25 million "point-destination" study to understand better the transportation needs of citizens. Our second question concerned recycling. Mayor Thompson supports recycling and wants the city to move toward a "pay as you throw" program and a central sorting facility—city-operated curbside pickup is probably not feasible. Concerning nature

trails inside Logan City, Mayor Thompson said the Parks Department is getting precious few people who say they want them and lots of land owners who say they don't want them in their backyards. We've got to start attending those meetings if we want the city to build walking and nature trails. Then, much to our relief, the Mayor said he didn't want to see a Water Conservancy District. He opposes the undemocratic way they're formed and believes there are better ways to do the work needed, including perhaps a special improvement district.

Ron Hellstern reported that outings are still on track and the May and June calendars are about full. We are looking for ideas for July and August.

The Audubon Council (an organization of the independent Audubon societies in Utah) is moving forward with plans for a professional staff and office for Audubon of Utah. The founding documents are in final draft form and will be debated at the council meeting in St. George, May 2-3.

And then, there was the banquet. You had to be there. But if you weren't you can find a report elsewhere in this issue.

If you'd like to get some of this gossip first hand and fresh, join us at the next board meeting, May 14 at 5:30 at the Logan City Hall.

— Bryan Dixon, President

Birdathon – Be There!

May 30 is the day. Cache County is the place. And birds are the name of the game. Just how many different species can we see in one day, and how much moola can we raise for good deeds?

The Birdathon is, admittedly, a bit of a gimmick, but it's a fun one. We ask individuals to pledge \$X per species seen and then each team goes out to see a bunch of them. This year's team leaders include:

1. Todd Black (755-6872)
2. Gordon Bosworth (563-3488)
3. Allen Christensen (258-5018)
4. Bryan Dixon (752-6830)
5. Val Grant (752-7572)
6. Jack Greene (563-6816)
7. Terry Hall (753-9772)
8. Ron Hellstern (753-8750)
9. Dick & Janet Hurren (734-2653)
10. Bill Masslich (753-1759)
11. Don McIvor (563-6189)
12. Laurie Ness (752-4998)
13. Bryce Passey (563-5262)
14. Teri Peery (753-3249)
15. Doug Temple (755-6774)

You make a pledge for one of these team leaders, either per bird or lump sum. Team members will also try to call each of our members to encourage them to help out financially, as well as join us on the day itself, for it is truly an exciting day, trying to cover as many habitats as possible at just the right time of day to see as many species as possible. The record for our birdathons is 143, and almost every team can see 100. While this is fun for advanced birders, it's also fun for beginners, because you can tag along and see (and hear) species you may overlook otherwise!

This year's funds are dedicated 25% to the Stokes Nature Center for binoculars and other educational materials, 25% for an Audubon State Office in Utah, and 50% for BAS's own conservation and environmental education projects.

To participate as either a donor or birder, call the Birdathon Coordinator, Allen Christensen, 258-5018, by mid-May.

Banquet Highlights

This year's banquet was a big success with over 130 people attending. We enjoyed the food of the Coppermill Restaurant. The banquet featured the music from our local musicians, "Once in a Whilers." The Allen Stokes Conservation Award went to Shawn Swaner for his knowledge and leadership contributions with CPLC. This organization in partnership with others worked with UDOT on the Logan Canyon road changes. Shawn found a way to keep the integrity of the Logan Canyon road intact through his persistence, knowledge, and ability to work with UDOT. The Carl Johnson Educator award went to Gordon & Bobbie Bosworth. Both these individuals have been dynamic and enthusiastic educators, parents, friends, animal lovers, and environmentalists. Through their work as teachers and forest rangers they share their love for this wonderful earth in all they do.

Edward Bangs gave a dynamic talk on "Wolf Recovery in the U.S." He stated that the wolf recovery in the U.S. is going very well despite the controversy that surrounds this issue. The biggest reason for controversy surrounding the reintroduction of wolves comes from how we as humans perceive wolves. If we look back in history at some characters in books where wolves are used, like "Little Red Ridinghood," we certainly seem to know all there is to know about wolves, their evil and ferocious. According to Bangs, research indicates wolves food preferences are similar to other carnivores, such as the cougar, and in fact show lower numbers of prey animals eaten, such as lambs, than the cougar. Perception is a powerful aspect of our belief system and it will take many years to change the perception of the wolf. In fact it seems to be a controversial issue even the politicians have sunk their teeth into. If you missed the banquet this year be sure to put it on your calendar for next year!

Audubon Council Spring Retreat

Date: Weekend of May 1-3, 1998

Place: Toniquin Nature Center

Directions: Travel south on Interstate 15 to St. George. Take Exit 6 (Bluff St.); go past Bluff St. south to Hilton Dr. and then turn right on Hilton Dr. to Dixie Dr; turn right to Toniquin Park which is on the right side of the road (marked by a big black boulder at entrance). The park is located at the foot of the large bluff on which the St. George Airport is located.

Facilities: Toniquin Park has two gazebos, a playground (at the entrance), several tables and grills, and a nature trail that borders the Santa Clara River. At the far end of the parking lot is a paved walk that leads to the Toniquin Nature Center, which will accommodate our meetings. The Nature Center has a large meeting room which holds 45 people, large picture windows looking out on a pond next to the Santa Clara River, composting toilets, electricity, but no running water or kitchen facilities. We will need to use the Parks grilling facilities and use throw-away dishes and utensils. GSL Chapter will provide charcoal briquets for those planning to grill, as well as paper plates and cups for hot beverages. We will also provide juice and bagels for breakfast. Red Cliffs Chapter will provide hot water for those making hot beverages, and a large ice cooler for storage of a limited supply of perishables. There are numerous motels along near-by Bluff Street. For those preferring to camp out, they can sleep in bags on the grass in the park. The field surrounding the Nature Center itself would be too weedy and rough to be comfortable. Those with campers can use the parking lot in the park. You can obtain recreation information by calling BLM at 435-688-3230.

Retreat Program

Saturday: Breakfast in the park followed by a morning of birding. Pack a lunch and beverage for the day.

5:00 p.m. Potluck dinner in the park

6:30 p.m. Slide presentation by a speaker to be chosen by Red Cliffs chapter.

7:30 p.m. Audubon Council of Utah business meeting

- Brief reports by chapter presidents
- Presentation and discussion of a new Council structure and by-laws
- Progress report on planning for the possible formation of an Audubon State Office in Utah

Sunday: Breakfast in the park, followed by a 2-3 hour birding excursion.

We plan on seeing many of you there to meet with new members at Red Cliffs Audubon and enjoy birding in this spectacular country.

New Members

Kendra Anderson
Levell F Bradley
Zack Brown
Elizabeth J Mattox
Ann & John Mull
Maggie Nelson
Kara Tuttle
Amber Westerskaw

Renewing Members

Micah R Austin
Mr & Mrs John Barnes
Dani Comer
Shawn Curtis
Ana & Hank Easterling
Dr E H Berry Laughlin
Sharan Maughan
Robert Schmidt
Dorie Stolley
John K Wood
James L Woodson
Theresa Zmola

Capitalization of Bird Names

Close scrutiny of birds shows that there are large and small differences between them. Scientists have arranged all living things, including birds, in a system that indicates how they are related and the order in which they evolved. There are hierarchies of resemblances and differences. One of the liveliest aspects of ornithology is the ongoing research that tries to ferret out the true relationships of groups of birds and whether certain forms should be considered distinct species or only subspecies. The system we use today to name all plants and animals was developed by a Swedish naturalist named Carolus Linnaeus over 200 years ago. He realized that common or colloquial names were unreliable for purposes of permanent classification. Even today the word "robin" indicates one bird to an Englishman and a different species to an American. Common names often cause confusion. That is why, back in 1758, Linnaeus gave each bird a name made up of two words, usually derived from Latin or Greek. The first word is the name of the genus, or group of closely related species, and the second word is the particular species. The genus and species are combined to form the scientific name. Each creature in the animal world has a unique scientific name shared by no other. That is why, in the list posted on the Audubon Web site, we included all of the bird's scientific names.

The English name of each of our birds is also given in the list. There are rules governing the capitalization and hyphenation of birds' names. No one who just knows

birds casually is expected to either remember or figure out unaided how birds' names are correctly written in English. Therefore, you can always get them right by consulting the list.

It might be helpful to go over a few of the general rules of written bird names. When writing your own name you always capitalize your first and last names, *e.g.*, Sam Spade or Lucy Brown. When writing the English name of a bird species, you should always capitalize its first and last names, *e.g.*, Scarlet Tanager or Winter Wren. This avoids confusion with other modifiers in the sentence. For example, "the secretive, tiny, Black Rail..." If you are referring to unspecified birds use lower case letters, *e.g.*, "those herons over there," or "that sparrow on the ground." If a species has a three-word unhyphenated name, all three words are capitalized. For example, "the graceful American White Pelican..." Many birds have compound or hyphenated "first" or "middle" names. Only the first letter of the compound name is capitalized: Red-throated Loon, or Long-billed Curlew. However, if a bird has a compound "last" name, then both parts of the compound name are capitalized: Eastern Screech-Owl or American Golden-Plover.

To assure accuracy we will be updating the posted list whenever the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist Committee issues supplements announcing recent name changes. The Web site address is:
<<http://www.audubon.org/bird/na-bird.html>>.

You can save the list on your hard-drive and refer to it whenever you need to know the correct spelling or form of a bird name. Add these names to your Spelling dictionary so your documents will automatically be spell-checked.

To receive a printout of the list on the web site, for those who don't have access to the Web, contact:

NAS Chapter Services Office
1104 Fernwood Ave., #300
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Phone: 1-800/542-2748
FAX: 717/763-4981
e-mail: <chapter_services@audubon.org>.

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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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

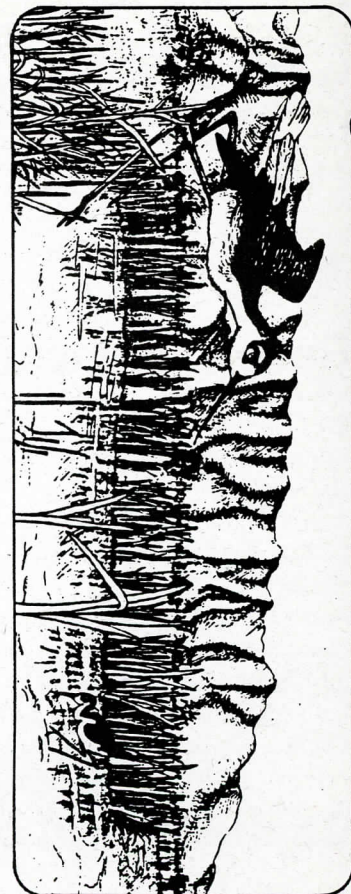
1995-98 Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Ruben, 797-2490; Allen Christensen, 258-5018
 1996-99 Jack Greene, 563-6816; Lois Olson, 752-9085
 Ron Hellstern, 753-8750
 1997-20 Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Robert Schmidt, 755-9262
 Teri Peery, 753-3249; Mae Coover, 752-8871

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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P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84323
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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.