

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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JUNE 1999

What's New At the Stokes Nature Center



There are three new faces at the Stokes Nature Center—Ayme Adams, the caretaker; Norbert Debyle, who has joined the board of directors; and Kim Kuta, the lead-naturalist. Ayme will be here for the summer. Not only will Ayme be taking

care of the building, she will also help teach the summer programs. Ayme has experience working with young people as an instructor for EarthFire, a non-profit educational foundation. Norbert Debyle has been a long time member of BAS and has been a strong supporter of the Stokes Nature Center right from the start. He brings a wealth of knowledge and background in forestry, hunting and fishing. Norb has recently stepped down from the Hospice board of directors and offers a fresh perspective for the Stokes Nature Center board of directors. The staff at the Stokes Nature Center just hired Kim Kuta as the Lead-Naturalist. She will be helping Lois Olson on all of the youth programs and will coordinate the weekend family programs.

The Stokes Nature Center IS growing! This school year it served 65 classrooms in Cache Valley (twice as many as last year). This could not have done without the support of the Cache Valley community and especially Bridgerland Audubon Society.

Nature Center Activities

Check out the following summer activities at the Stokes Nature Center.

Little Dippers Day Camp

For children starting second and third grade in the fall.

Session I — July 27-30, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session II — August 3-6, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Nature Center Members \$50 – Non-Members \$60

Big Dippers Day Camp

For children starting fourth and fifth grade in the fall.

Session I — July 19-23, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Session II — August 9-13, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Nature Center Members \$80 – Non-Members \$90

Space is limited! Registration and pre-payment required. A few scholarships are available. Please call the Stokes Nature Center at 755-3239 for more information or visit our web site at www.logannature.org

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June Calendar

Meetings

Thursday, June 10, 6:00 p.m. General Meeting – Canoes on the Cutler Marsh. Enough meetings already! This month's general meeting will be held in canoes on the Cutler Marsh. Speakers will be various avian and mammalian representatives of Local Ecosystem, Unlimited. Refreshments on your own. Bring your own canoes or contact Trailhead Sports or the USU Outdoor Recreation Center for rentals. See June 10 listing under Field Trips for details.

Field Trips

All BAS trips are open to the public. For more information, call the trip leader listed at the end of each description.

Thursday, June 10. White-faced Ibis Rookery Canoe Trip. Paddle across the Cutler Marsh to visit a noisy rookery of ibis and sneak into a hidden channel to spy on shorebirds. You might want to bring dinner to eat on the water as we watch the young birds learning to fly and you might also want to wear a hat! Meet at Straw Ibis parking lot, 50 East 150 North, Logan at 6:00 p.m. Return around dark. Canoes can be rented from Trailhead Sports or the USU Outdoor Recreation Center. For more information contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258 or archie@xmission.com.

Saturday, June 12. Tony Grove Woodpeckers and Hummingbirds. Tony Grove is the place to be to find Lincoln's Sparrows, Three-toed Woodpeckers, Broad-tailed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Golden-crowned Kinglets, those difficult Empidonax Flycatchers, and many other mountain birds. June is the time to be there, as the snow has just left, the trees are not fully leafed out, and the birds are still singing. Whether you want quiet solitude to appreciate the nuances of bird song, or a spirited walk along the various mountain trails, the opportunities are there. Bring water, lunch, and meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan). Return by early afternoon or stay for a longer walk. Carpooling will be available. Call Bob Atwood, 752-9284, for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, June 12-13. Annual Bear River Canoe Trips. The May trips were rained out, so we've rescheduled for a weekend in June. Two one-day trips down our own Bear River to explore the wildlife and riparian habitats. We're sure to see some good warblers and the occasional beaver and muskrat. Ponder the Great Blue Heron rookery that went from 100 nests in 1986 to ZERO in 1997 and now back to over 40! Reservations required and numbers limited; rent canoes at USU Outdoor Recreation or Trailhead Sports. Call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, to register for Saturday, or Don McIvor, 563-6189, to register for Sunday.

Wednesday, June 16. Spring Creek Rookery Canoe Trip. An evening trip to visit the enchanting Great Blue Heron Rookery on Spring Creek. Our earliest records of this rookery go back to a Master's Thesis written by L.J. Leatham in 1947. We've counted up to 75 nests past years. By mid-June, the young should be mostly fledged so we shouldn't disturb them. Meet at the Straw Ibis at 6:00 p.m. Back around dark. For more information contact Bryan, 752-6830 or bdixon@xmission.com.

June 21-30. BAS Northwest Ecology/Marine Biology Summer Course. Activities and Itinerary: Hiking, camping, backpacking in Mt. Rainier National Park, Olympic National Park Coastal area, Hoe Rainforest, and Fort Clatsop. We will be backpacking into the coast on the Olympic Peninsula for three nights and four days to explore the coastal environment and take measurements for the Olympic National Park. Afterward, we will explore the temperate rainforests in Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks. We'll also study the local culture of Makah Indians and visit Fort Clatsop where Lewis & Clark spent the winter on their journey to search for a western river passage to the Pacific Ocean. For further information and to register, please call Jack Greene at 563-6816. Schedule: June 21 - June 30, includes travel. Cost: \$300 (includes transportation, meals, camping fees, and instruction). Limited to 10 individuals plus two instructors (Park Service limits in backcountry). You must register with a \$100 deposit to hold your place by June 15.

Coming Outings – Watch for details:

July 10 – Herbs to know and love.

July 17 – Bear River Bottoms Canoe Trip.

July 31 – How does a forest work? A field trip to explore forest ecology, Fred Baker.

August – Wildflowers in the Bear River Range, Jack Greene

August – Birds and mushrooms near Naomi Peak

August – Back to the Barrens

What's New At the Stokes Nature Center

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Summer Story Afternoons

This activity will be held for all interested 5-7-year-olds. We will meet them at the gate at 2 p.m. and have them back at the gate at 4 pm. Parents are welcome to attend!

The cost is \$15 per child per session or one session free with a new Stokes Nature Center \$35 Family Membership (limit of two siblings free with each new membership). Registration is limited to 15 children. Pre-payment required to guarantee registration.

Session I — Tuesdays, June 22, 29; July 6, 13 – 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Session II — Tuesdays, July 20, 27; August 3, 10
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (snacks will be provided)

“Analysis of the Management Situation” – Forest Planning Gets Underway

At the Logan Ranger District office on April 29, the U.S. Forest Service held the second of 11 regional information sessions regarding revision of the 14-year-old Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. By law, these plans must be revised every 10-15 years, so the current plan must be replaced by the end of the year 2000. Currently available is a “Preliminary Analysis of Management Situation” (right!) and the more detailed 100-page parent document is available upon request or on the web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/wcnf>.

The AMS proposes to divide the National Forest into large management units that consist of, or are bounded by, entire watersheds. In our region, these units will be: Logan Canyon,

Blacksmith Fork Canyon, Cache Valley Front, Bear River Range and the Wellsvilles Mountains. Special attention is mandated for four issues: watershed health and restoration, sustainable forest management, national forest roads and recreation. An Environmental Impact Statement (with alternative management proposals) will accompany the Forest Plan. They envision the final product to essentially be "environmental zoning" that prescribes the "types, levels and mixes of activities based on the capability and suitability of the land."

Based on the composition and questions of the audience at the recent open house, it appears the following issues will be important to Audubon: 1) Wild and Scenic River designation for parts of the Logan River, 2) resolution of recreational conflicts between motorized access and travel by foot or ski, 3) wilderness expansion, 4) minimizing impact of livestock grazing, 5) logging, 6) wildlife and 7) enforcement of existing land use and access regulations. Several ORV enthusiasts at the meeting groused that Chief Dombeck's video message never mentioned or portrayed ORVs or snowmobiles when depicting various recreational uses of the National Forest – but this may be indicative of the fact that the public in general doesn't really think of ORVs as traditional forest recreation. Clearly, "the devil will be in the details." Expect the final document to address in some detail 1) prescribed burning, 2) Northern Goshawk habitat protection and possibly two other species of concern (lynx and cutthroat trout). We would also expect (hope for?) proposed closures of some old logging roads and other limitations on ORVs. In general, the USFS is not prepared to respond to specific issue questions at this juncture, as very little has been defined in detail. However, by the same token, they may be impressionable and open to issues that need to be addressed or our perspectives on those issues. The Logan office has begun to integrate volunteers (well, OK, students taking classes for credit) to aid them with specific monitoring projects, an opportunity that seems relevant to Audubon members as well (for instance, grouse counts and sightings, if organized and quantified, could be useful).

The next milestone for input will be the final proposal for the Forest Plan, which will be present in USFS meetings in September.

— Jim Cane

NOTE: Also missing from the AMS was any mention of implementation. When asked, the FS presenters said this was only a plan and did not include consideration of implementation. We commented that this is why "plans just sit on the shelf." Planning theory has incorporated implementation for over 20 years, but the Forest Service doesn't seem to realize it. Guess we've got some basic work to do on the foundation of this thing.

— Bryan Dixon

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

BAS is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets once a month (see Calendar). All BAS members are invited, of course.

Outings – Well, Mother Nature caused us to cancel our May canoe trip down the Bear River, but we're not giving up – we've scheduled more! Check out the other trips, too, for June is a wonderful time to explore the plant life in the lower elevations or visit Tony Grove (if it ever stops snowing). If you've got an outing you'd like to lead or want to see us lead, contact Keith Archibald, archie@xmission.com, or 752-8258.

Environmental Education – Check our Jack Greene's trip offering to the Pacific Northwest! That should be a great opportunity to learn about a different ecosystem.

Conservation – Looks like some of the County Council are actually considering some structure other than a revamped Water Conservancy District for water planning in Cache County. My optimism may be premature, but we can always hope. Watch the paper carefully and call your county representative to voice your concern that we not establish just another good-ol'-boy organization with its own mill levy to undertake projects we don't need (like the Barrens dam).

On the "woods" front, the FS has begun to evaluate the appeal on the Bear Hodges project. They have listened to the appellants and are considering their comments. We'll try to watch this issue, but you should feel free to contact John Carter, 753-6062, or Kathy Gilbert, 752-0946, for a more timely update. If you belong to the High Uintas Preservation Council, Citizens for the Protection of Logan Canyon, or the Logan Canyon Coalition, know that your leadership is dogging this one closely.

At the recent Forest Breakfast, Fred Houston described the road realignment in Temple Fork. This is being done to attempt to reduce the sedimentation in the stream from vehicle use, camping and grazing. They hope to finish the project by September, and re-vegetate it next spring. They also promise to limit grazing in that drainage to give it a chance and adopt an "order" as well as install some barriers to discourage ORVs from leaving the new trail.

Congratulations to Merr Lundahl on winning a \$3,000 scholarship to USU! I understand that part of the application involved a writing sample, and her submission included an article published recently in the *Stillt*. We encourage others to submit articles as well. Who knows, you could win a Pulitzer!

Also on a positive note, we want to thank certain members of the Barrens Company for providing us access from time to time. The ponds at the Barrens attract some unusual wildlife, including recently, Whimbrels, Dunlins, and Red Knots, in addition to the ho-hum boring stuff, like Barn Owls, Short-eared Owls, Peregrine Falcons, swans, Snow Geese, various sandpipers, Short- and Long-billed Dowitchers, Blue-winged Teal, Red-necked Phalaropes, etc., etc. We'll try to plan some more trips into this wonderful habitat this summer as young shorebirds are migrating back south.

— Bryan Dixon, President

New Members

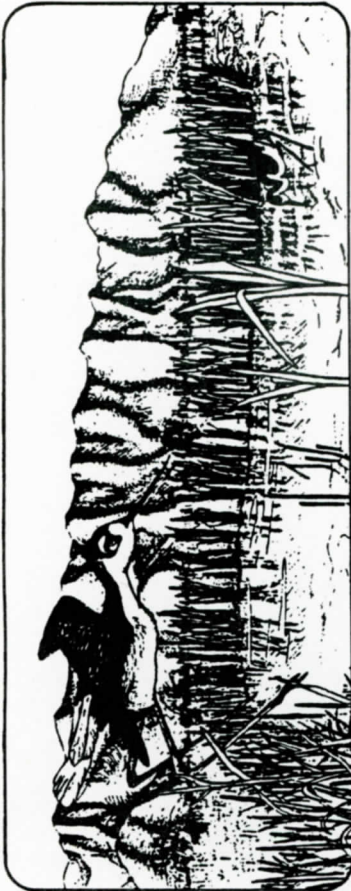
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Cindy A Hall

R N Hirst, Jr
Larry J Jacobsen
Nicola Oscen
Judith T Straquadine

Renewing Members

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Martha H Balph
Kathryn Broughton
Amanda R Cangelosi
Joyce Cline
Keith L Dixon
Diane Hanson
Joan Labby
Alice Lindahl
D Bigelow & S Marychild
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Louise Murch

Maggie Nelson
Diane Browning Oblock
D Obroy
M Jean Packer
Janis Parent
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Alan Stevenson &
Catherine Sharpsteen
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BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 3501
 Logan, Utah 84323
 June 1999

THE STILT

Nonprofit Organization
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 Permit No. 104
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The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, September through June, in the Meeting Room of the Logan City Building, 255 N. Main. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. The BAS Planning Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, September through June, 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
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Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Field Trips	Keith Archibald, 752-8258
Newsletter	Lois Olson, 752-9085
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637
Hospitality	Tim & Jackie Henney, 755-6888
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268

Trustees

1996-1999 Allen Christensen, 258-5018; Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Ruben, 797-2490; Doug Tempel, 755-6774

1997-2000 Mae Coover, 752-8871; Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Teri Peery, 753-3249; Robert Schmidt, 755-9262

1998-2001 Jack Greene, 563-6816; Ron Hellstern, 753-8750; Merr Lundahl, 753-1707; Lois Olson, 752-9085

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.

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 _____

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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.