



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 27, No. 11

JULY 1999

## Bridgerland Audubon Field Trips

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

**Wednesday, July 7. Benson to Benson Marina Canoe Trip.** Another evening canoe trip along the last stretch of the Bear River as it enters Cutler Reservoir. This section has some beautiful meanders and tree lined shores. We've seen beaver and Great Horned Owls from the boats. Near the end of the trip, we'll meet some fishermen who've been at it *non-stop* for five years. Meet at 6 p.m. at the parking lot next to Straw Ibis, 50 East 150 North in Logan. Bring your own boat and snacks. We should finish the trip right at dark, so mosquito repellent would be a great idea! For more information, call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

**Saturday, July 10. Herbs to Know and Love.** Mark Chatney (an infectious lover and graduate student of snakes and lizards) will take us on a field trip in Green Canyon to seek out reptiles. We'll try to find as many lizards, snakes and amphibians as we can and learn about their lives and times. Afterward, we'll head to the Stokes Nature Center where we'll get to see several species up close and participate in their regular Saturday program. Carpool from Straw Ibis parking lot (50 East 150 North, Logan) at 8 a.m. The Nature Center program starts at 10:30 a.m. and costs \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. Return early afternoon. Public is invited. For more information call Keith Archibald at 752-8258.

**Saturday, July 17. Bear River Bottoms Canoe Trip.** The Bear River Bottoms consist of seven parcels of floodplains land totaling approximately 1342 acres along the Bear River from north of Cornish to almost Amalga. Pacificorp originally purchased them from landowners that complained about fluctuations in river levels as a result of hydropower operations at Oneida Narrows. In 1988, Pacificorp leased them to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to be managed for wildlife habitat. Surrounded by private lands, they are hard to visit except by boat. We'll paddle a stretch of the Bear from Cornish to the bridge east of Trenton and explore some beautiful riparian zones and side channels. There is a heron rookery near the river and last year the cormorant nesting tree was still standing. Bring your own canoe (contact Trailhead Sports or the USU Outdoor Recreation Center for rentals); meet at the parking lot near Straw Ibis at 50 East 150 North in Logan, at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water, binocs and rain gear. Contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258 for more information.

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# July Calendar

## Meetings

(No general meetings July-August.)

**Thursday, July 1, 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting** at the home of Bryan Dixon, 10 Heritage Cove. All BAS members are invited to join us as we review projects, priorities and issues.

## Field Trips

Continued from page 1

**Saturday, July 31. Forest Ecology Field Trip.** Spend a day with a local forester exploring the woods. It ain't all just trees, you know. Dr. Fred Baker will lead us into the T.W. Daniels Experimental Forest, owned and managed by the USU Forestry Department. We'll explore various tree-based ecologies, including the lodgepole pine and spruce-fir stands in Bear Hodges area. Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the parking lot north of Straw Ibis, 50 East 150 North in Logan. We'll carpool to the site in Logan Canyon; bring lunch and water, binocs, and a small pack, 'cause we'll be hoofing it among the trees. For more information, call Fred Baker at 797-2550 or 753-2714.

## Coming In August

**August 7.** Wildflowers in the Bear River Range. Jack Greene, former Wilderness Ranger for the U.S. Forest Service leads us to find beautiful blooms.

**August 14.** Birds and mushrooms near Naomi Peak. Join us for a good strenuous hike into the alpine bowls along the Mt. Naomi ridge looking for nature stuff.

**August 21.** Back to the Amalga Barrens. Shorebirds are the earliest migrants. Catch them first at the Barrens.

## 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** – Hail, yes, we went canoeing! And, yes, it did hail! With the summer weather finally on us, we're actually getting out on some more field trips. One evening trip found seven boats of paddlers waiting patiently at the pavilion at the Valley View Marina for a thunderstorm to pass (I knew that structure was put there for some reason.) At one point the hail was pounding on the roof and we were glad to be out of the weather. Then, a sucker hole appeared, and believing the worst was over, we ventured forth to paddle to the White-faced Ibis rookery on the far side of the marsh. No sooner had we launched than it started to rain again, but once water-borne there was no turning this soggy crew back. The rewards were ours, however, as the rain stopped, and the sun came out low in the western sky to create a full DOUBLE rainbow in the

east. We paddled to the rookery but didn't dally for fear of disturbing them (it wasn't because we feared white stuff all over our heads, you know). Then, we headed south to find rookeries of both Snowy and Cattle Egrets along the east shore with an occasional Black Crowned Night Heron and gobs of swallows. It was nine o'clock when we landed back at the marina, and to our surprise, the mozzies were only a minor nuisance. Verily, we were blessed.

We have had a couple of other canoe trips since then and they were well attended, so we're planning more in July. Join us if you like, or pick up a copy of *Boating the Bear*, the guide to the Bear River published by BAS and explore for yourself. There are also hiking trips to the Bear River Range to the east, and in September, we'll head up to the Wellsvilles for the hawk watching eyrie.

**Environmental Education** – One of the hot news items is a new employee at the Stokes Nature Center. Jen and Lois welcomed Kim Kuta as the new Lead Naturalist. Kim isn't exactly new to the SNC. She's been a volunteer this past year and is good with kids. Kim is completing a M.S. degree in Biology at USU with research focusing on bees.

And a last minute reminder to teachers – funding proposals for Audubon's Environmental Education Grants are due at the Stakes Nature Center by June 30. If you need an application, check out their web site.: <http://www.logannature.org/grantcoverletter.html>.

**Conservation** – It's getting bloody hard to stay on top of things. The Analysis of the Management Situation is in the works at the moment as the Forest Service moves forward on their "planning process." We're already being asked for comments on roadless areas with only a short time to respond—ostensibly by July 1! I haven't had time to check this out, but I understand you have to use their forms, which are only available at the 1500 East Hwy office in Logan. In all, the AMS seems like a reasonable approach except the FS is ignoring their own inability to implement things like ORV monitoring, timely control of grazing leases, gathering of data to support timber proposals, etc., etc. Seems like every time you ask them to look into something the answer comes back that they just don't have the resources. I'm beginning to think the only reasonable approach is to cut back on grazing, off-road vehicle access, and timber sales until they can monitor the situation. That's one analysis.

Sometimes our "local issue" is really being decided somewhere else. Such is certainly the case with the Barrens. The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (formerly the Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District) held a public hearing June 15 on their proposed budget, and thanks to the investigative work of some SLC environmentalists, we learned that \$3 million was being proposed for pipeline rights of way north to Willard. The obvious use of such purchases is



to make it easier to build a pipeline from dams on the Bear River, whether at Honeyville or the Barrens. A number of citizens—including Amalga and Box Elder County residents—traveled to the meeting to express their concern. Approximately 75 people attended, but only one—Dennis Strong of the Division of Water Resources—spoke in favor of the projects. The rest told of how the dams would destroy an entire community, inundate traditional burial grounds, ruin wildlife habitat, create unnecessary hazards, and cost a mint! The JWCD board reacted as if they hadn't really been hearing that side of the issue, and maybe they really hadn't (after all the Division of Water Resources is not going to argue *against* dams). In the end, they decided to keep the appropriation in the budget because it could also be used for a pipeline from Willard Bay. In truth, this was a victory—75 concerned citizens were able to educate a standing powerful well-funded development board. Their personal appeals had an effect not possible in a study or consultant's report. Citizens made the difference. To be sure, the battle is not over. But we made some good points, and the optimist would say we moved some attitudes. Special thanks to BAS members Nadene Steinhoff, Mae and Merv Coover, Irma and Marvin Moon, and to our SLC Audubon representatives, Mary Gracia Connell (Audubon lobbyist) for their time and energy in attending and speaking at the meeting.

Another citizen input has helped to blunt the disappointment of the Sandhill Crane hunt scheduled for Cache County in September. After the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District meeting, Irma and Marvin Moon stayed in SLC for the Wildlife Board meeting. They were unable to persuade the Board to cancel the hunt, but they did persuade them to designate an area 1.5 by 11 miles east of Mendon as an "exclusion" zone where cranes will not be hunted. Sandhill Cranes weren't always common in Cache Valley, having been heavily hunted in the past. It's hard to see them hunted again after having made such a dramatic recovery. In fact, Sandhill Crane Days Festival organizers cancelled the event this year because they just couldn't embrace the "see 'em today, plug 'em tomorrow" scenario proposed by the DWR. It's damned hard to make progress in environmentalism and it's harder yet to watch it evaporate. Hopefully, this exclusion zone will be a chance for many folks to enjoy this natural phenomenon and maybe local government will begin to recognize that living wildlife is beneficial, too.

So, woods, water, and wildlife. That's a good summary for this mid-summer report. But, it IS mid-summer, and the most important thing for all of us is to head out of doors into the woods and marshes to experience this natural world and rejuvenate our souls. Get to it!

— Bryan Dixon, President

**WANTED:** Assistant Editor for the *Stilt*. We're looking for another volunteer to help put out our monthly newsletter. Requires an interest in conservation, collecting stories and attention to timely and regular publication. If this interests you, contact Bryan at [bdixon@xmission.com](mailto:bdixon@xmission.com), or Lois at [stilt@xmission.com](mailto:stilt@xmission.com).

## News From the Stokes Nature Center

Thanks to the F.J. and L.W. Stokes Foundation and Stokes Family for their significant gift to the Stokes Nature Center Foundation. Our endowment, established in 1998, is a fund that is set up to generate income in the form of interest. The principal is invested according to the advice of the SNC Endowment Committee. This endowment will help insure the financial future of our center. If you would like to contribute to the SNC Endowment please call Jen at 755-3239.

Homer and Elizabeth Walker of Massachusetts gave a substantial sum "in appreciation of Allen and Alice Stokes."

### 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](http://www.logannature.org)

#### Summer Story Afternoons

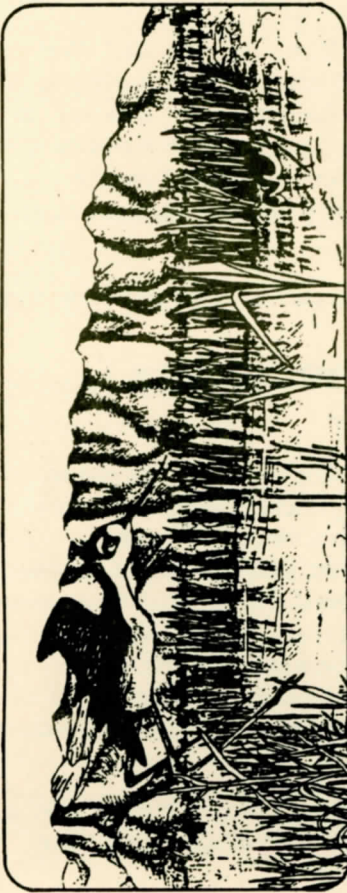
This activity will be held for all interested 5-7-year-olds. We will meet them at the gate at 2 p.m. and have them back at the gate at 4 pm. Parents are welcome to attend!

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, 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)





BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 P.O. Box 3501  
 Logan, Utah 84323  
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# THE STILT

Nonprofit Organization  
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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         |
| Conservation   | Bruce Pendery, 792-4150       |
| 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.