



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 27, No. 12

AUGUST 1999

Bird Boxes a Resounding Success

Last winter, after having been active in Bridgerland Audubon for a year or so, I wanted to find a way to repay BA. Seeing that bird nesting boxes were not a current project of BA and having had experience in building, installing and monitoring boxes in previous areas where I had lived, I concluded that constructing and putting up boxes for various cavity nesting birds might be a good way of helping out. The BA Board of Directors was supportive of the project and willing to foot the bill for materials, so, with the able assistance of a friend here in the Brigham Cty area by the name of Darryl Barker (not a birder but an excellent carpenter with good power tools) the project was undertaken. Duane Cox, an outstanding conservationist in the area provided helpful guidance on places where the boxes could be most usefully employed.

By spring, with the funds provided, we had constructed eight Barn Owl boxes, six Wood Duck boxes, six Screech Owl boxes and eight bluebird boxes. They turned out well, thanks to Darryl's expertise.

We were granted permission from the Logan River Golf and Country Club to install Wood Duck boxes on their property. The Coyote Research Center in Millville allowed us to install bluebird boxes on Center property. Several places along Logan River allowed us to put up Screech Owl boxes and some of the good farmers of Cache Valley allowed us to install Barn Owl boxes in silos that are no longer being used. It was gratifying to

see the support that individuals and entities gave to make this project work.

Alan Christensen and Bryan Dixon were great helpers in putting up the boxes. Alan was adept at hanging by one hand and one foot high up in silos, balancing Barn Owl boxes on the top of his head while he used a battery powered drill to secure them. Bryan dangled high in pines and other trees to accomplish the same with Screech Owl boxes. Alan also braved the almost impenetrable, mosquito infested willows at the back of the Logan River Golf and Country Club to put up Wood Duck boxes.

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August Calendar

Meetings

(No general meetings July-August.)

Saturday, August 7. Bridgerland Audubon Society Board of Trustees Retreat. All interested BAS members are invited to join us at the annual Board Retreat. We'll be reviewing the past year's activities and budgets, as well as planning our emphasis for the next year. This is a great way to get a comprehensive look at the organization and we invite you to participate with your own ideas about what we should be doing. Meet at the Stokes Nature Center beginning at 1:00 p.m. Potluck dinner. Contact Bryan Dixon 752-6830, bdixon@mission.com for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, September 25-26. Audubon Council of Utah Retreat. This is the semi-annual gathering of Audubon members from Utah to discuss issues and projects. We also get to do some fun field trips. This September, we'll visit the Gillmore Sanctuary, a 1400 acre refuge on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake, donated two years ago and managed by the National Audubon Society. Watch the September *Stilt* for more details, or call Bryan, 752-6830.

Field Trips

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

August 14. Wildflowers in the Bear River Range. Jack Greene, former Wilderness Ranger for the U.S. Forest Service will take us into the forest to look for wildflowers. We'll help you identify them and talk about how various plants have been used. (How many different species can you see from one point?) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Straw Ibis parking lot, 50 East 150 North in Logan. Bring daypack, lunch and water; return early afternoon. Carpooling will be available.

August 21. Back to the Amalga Barrens. Shorebirds are the earliest fall migrants. Catch them first at the Barrens. Join experienced birder, Bob Atwood, to help you identify shorebirds stopping over on their southward migration to chomp down on yummy mud bugs. We'll have some spotting scopes set up to get a close look. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Straw Ibis parking lot, 50 East 150 North in Logan.

Saturday, September 25. Annual Hawk Watch. Hike up to the crest of the Wellsville Mountains to witness one of the wonders of the avian world. Over 6,000 hawks migrate along the Wellsvilles between mid-August and mid-October. On a good day, we'll see over 100 raptors, including Golden Eagles, accipiters and falcons. We'll hike up Deep Canyon to a station monitored by HawkWatch International and get an

update from this year's watchers. The trail gains 3,000 feet in approximately four miles and is a bit steep in places, so wear sturdy footgear. We like to sit on top for a couple of hours to watch the hawks, and since it is usually cool and windy on the ridge, a change of layers a warm sweater and a good wind shell make the experience more comfortable. Bring lunch and water. Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the parking lot north of Straw Ibis (50 East 150 North in Logan); carpooling will be available. For more information or if bad weather makes the trip questionable, call Jim Sinclair, 752-0061.

Coming This Fall:

September. Canoeing the Logan River to the Cutler Marsh, birding valley hot spots.

October. Elk Bugling trip to Grand Teton National Forest, birding at the Sewage Lagoons, mountain hikes to look for migrating warblers.

Check Out Our New WWW Site!

We now have our own WWW site to keep you informed about our trips, meetings, events and conservation issues:

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ut/bridgerland>

Many thanks to Utah Birders for hosting a preliminary site this past year, but the new one, put together by Chris Wilson and hosted by National Audubon, gives us the flexibility to change content at a moment's notice, as well as archive materials which might be useful to our members. If you've got ideas or material to offer, contact Chris at: cwilson@sisna.com.

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 – We could use some fresh field trip ideas for the coming year, so think about some of the short trips you've done recently that were interesting and possible with families and pass those ideas on to Keith Archibald.

Environmental Education – See the article elsewhere on our Environmental Education Grants. We worked with the Stokes Nature Center to select the recipients this year, and there were some good ones!

Conservation – At a recent meeting in June, about 25 goldang enviramennalists got together to discuss the Amalga Barrens and Honeyville Dam proposals being studied by the Division of Water Resources. The consensus was that both projects are bad ideas, especially considering how little effort is going toward real water conservation on the Wasatch Front. The

group decided that a joint effort on behalf of saving both sites was the best approach and a mailing list is being established to keep folks informed. We hope this new effort at coordination will increase our clout with the decision-makers down state. Contact our own Conservation Chair, Bruce Pendery, 792-4150 or bruce@n1.net for more information and to get on the mailing list.

Also, regarding the Barrens, several people are working on a fancy brochure on the Barrens Dam site, assembling in one publication the facts about this project. The authors are making a strong effort to get all the numbers right and present an image of what this thing would actually look like. (Ack! You can't believe it!) If you can help out with time or financial donations for printing, give Alice Lindahl a call at 753-7744.

Did you see the insert to the *Herald Journal* on Logan Canyon? This was a terrific effort, principally by Kathy Gilbert, Dan Miller and John Carter, to present a strong conservation message to the general citizenry. BAS was one of the sponsors. If you haven't seen it, call Kathy Gilbert, 752-0946 to find where you can get a copy.

As a result of the efforts of several local folks, the Forest Service has decided to rest Spawn Creek again this year. If you've never walked up this drainage, now is the time. Go up Temple Fork just a half-mile and turn left (east) to follow Spawn Creek, a beautiful stream coming down from Temple Mountain. The vegetation is getting lush (again) and there are numerous new willow shoots along the creek. Compare this section to the first part of Temple Fork along the road. You can continue walking up the drainage and you'll find it narrows into a canyon and eventually climbs through cool conifer stands leading to the Bear Hodges plateau. We are watching this drainage to see how well it heals itself after years of hammering by cattle. See for yourself, because the bovine beauties will probably return next summer.

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. We live in a beautiful place, and we can keep it that way if we understand and appreciate it. If you've got friends who aren't BAS members, be sure to give them a copy of the membership form on the back of the *Stilt*.

— 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, or Lois at stilt@xmission.com.

Bird Boxes

Continued from page 1

Their efforts were not in vain. Monitoring of the boxes has shown that even in this very first year of installation the boxes have been a huge success. All of the Barn Owl boxes that were installed are in use. All but one of the Wood Duck boxes was used. (We even saw a pair of Mandarin Ducks, probably escapees from the Willow Park Zoo, on one of the duck boxes.) Half of the Screech Owl boxes were used; one apparently by an American Kestrel rather than a Screech Owl. And, although only a couple of the bluebird boxes were used, we feel good about it, because the boxes were installed a bit late and we are confident that more will be used next year.

We have additional boxes of all kinds now that have not yet been installed, so if anyone has a safe location that is deserving of a box of one kind or another, please let us know and we'll come out and install one for you.

Let's give our cavity nesting birds plenty of good homes!

— Dick Hurren

WILDLIFE HERITAGE CERTIFICATE

The Wildlife Heritage Certificate program is a way for people who enjoy watching and learning about wildlife to get involved and help pay for wildlife management. When you buy a Wildlife Heritage Certificate you receive a package of information including the Utah Wildlife Viewing Guide, a year's subscription to *Wildlife Review* magazine, a guide to feeding Utah's birds, a wildlife decal and more.

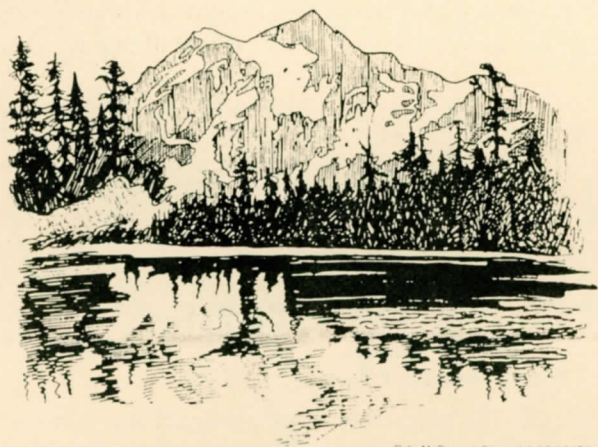
At a cost of \$15 (\$5 for children under 12) your annually renewable Wildlife Heritage Certificate also entitles you to free admission to special events like wildlife field trips and wildlife photography, bird identification and bird feeding workshops. Your \$6 Wildlife Habitat Authorization, required of all wildlife license and certificate buyers over 14 years of age, helps purchase, lease or enhance wildlife habitat throughout the state and access to it. The annual Habitat Calendar, free when you buy your certificate, shows you where the money goes.

To purchase your Wildlife Heritage Certificate, contact Utah Division of Wildlife Resources-WHP, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114, or visit <http://www.nr.state.ut.us/dwr/heritage.htm> and fill out their application form.

USFS Logan Canyon Field Trip

The USFS is organizing a tour of Logan Canyon on Thursday, August 12, to discuss Wild and Scenic Rivers/Road Construction; Roadless Inventory/Wilderness; Scenic Highway/Byway; Grazing/Livestock; Land Exchange/USU Partnerships; Threatened and Endangered Species and the Forest Plan Revision. They will provide transportation for the tour and coolers for drinks. Bring your own lunch and comfortable shoes for walking. The tour meets at 9:00 a.m. at the Logan District Office, 1500 East Hwy 89, in Logan, and plans to return by 4:30 p.m.

We need folks who can take a day off mid-week to attend and pass on what they learn to the rest of us. RSVP to L.J. Western at the USFS, 435-755-3620.



Peter M. Dornell from RE SOURCES

Environmental Aesthetics Conference

The Department of Languages and Philosophy at Utah State University will host a conference on Environmental Aesthetics on October 8-10, 1999. Featured speakers are Bruce Foltz (Eckerd College), "Environmental Aesthetics: A Programmatic View"; Andrew Light (SUNY-Binghamton), "Environmental Aesthetics and Environmental Restoration"; Darrel Morrison (University of Georgia), "In Pursuit of a Natural Aesthetic in Designed/Restored Landscapes"; and Holmes Rolston III (Colorado State University), "Aesthetic Experience in Forests."

Thanks to the generous support of the Utah Humanities Council, there is no registration fee for this conference. All presentations are free of charge and open to all.

For more information on times and location, please see <http://www.usu.edu/~langphil/eaconf.html> or contact Professor Diane P. Michelfelder at 797-2889.

— Diane Michelfelder

Fair Booth Fundraiser To Benefit the Stokes Nature Center

The First Presbyterian Church has a food booth at the Cache County Fair August 12, 13, and 14. One-half the proceeds will be donated to the Stokes Nature Center. We need volunteers to work the food booth, truck drivers to make deliveries, and lots more! If you can help contact Lois or Randy Olson, 752-9085.

Stop by the food booth to get your refreshments and fund a great cause. (We're the food booth in the brick building.)

New Members

Joanne E Francom
Jonathan Merriam
Audrey McElrone

Renewing Members

Beth Booton
Mrs Charles Chism
Straw Ibis
John Lowry
Michael J Stones
Kim Sullivan & Bruce Pendery
Richard E Toth
Paul C Ustach

E-mail service provided by XMission. Use the following addresses to contact your BAS leadership:
stilt@xmission.com – for newsletter items
audubon@xmission.com – for anything else

BAS and SNC Award Education Grants

The Bridgerland Audubon Society offered grants (between \$200-\$500) to teachers for the purpose of involving their students in outdoor hands-on-projects to reinforce core-curriculum objectives in science. Come meet these teachers, who are enhancing their science curriculum, on August 4 at 10:00 a.m. when BAS board members will present the funding for these grants.

Congratulations to:

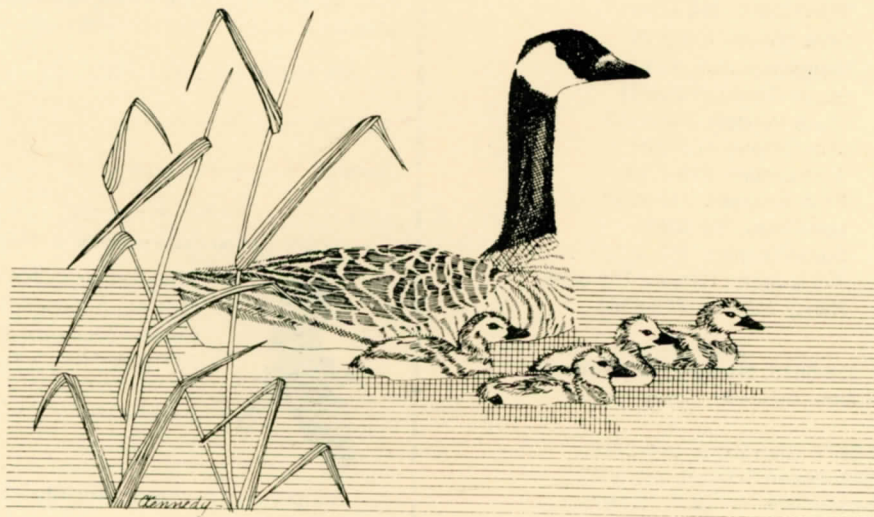
Jan Parent, fifth grade teacher at River Heights Elementary. Students will create a small wetlands area in an outside courtyard. Native Utah shrubs and perennials will be included in the landscape plan. The students would also like to build bird feeders and study the birds that visit the feeders.

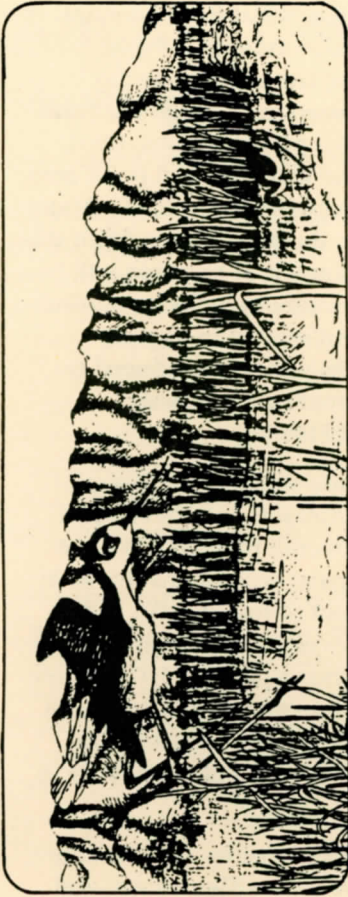
Ron Hellstern, ninth grade teacher at South Cache Center. Students will design and conduct a project involving the breeding and release of gallinaceous fowl (game birds). This project requires students to understand habitat needs of various fowl, their life cycles, mortality rates, behavior, diet, predator/prey relationships, and to comprehend the complexities of maintaining balance in these ecosystems. This project goes beyond the science core objectives involved in the roles of birds in ecosystems and will teach the students about the importance of sustainable bird populations.

Joyce Cline, fourth grade teacher at Park Elementary. Three years ago fourth grade students at Park Elementary received a grant from BAS to begin developing an Outdoor classroom. This area is now landscaped with native Utah plants, shrubs, trees, rocks and minerals. A running stream and pond area have also been incorporated to attract wildlife. Many birds welcome this oasis as do the students. With this second grant, further enrichment of this area will be pursued. Curriculum development includes natural ecosystem pest management related to organic gardening. Beneficial insects will be introduced to control the harmful ones creating a bio-oasis (Insectory-Beneficial Insect Habitat).

Marilyn Gutke, fourth grade teacher at Greenville Elementary. An outdoor classroom was developed about five years ago. The overall plan was to have representations of the different ecosystems found in Utah. This year development of the riparian and wetland habitats will be developed. A stream and two ponds will comprise the landscape plan. Utah native plants and shrubs will be planted to attract wildlife. Students will have a natural on-site classroom to discover the diversity of the plant and animal life in Utah.

Annette Jensen, second grade teacher at Wellsville Elementary. Students at Wellsville Elementary will create and develop an outdoor classroom. A master plan will be put in place and this area will be developed in stages. Wellsville Elementary hopes all grade levels will take advantage of this natural area to enhance the students' learning.





BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Nonprofit Organization
 BULK RATE
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 104
 Logan, Utah

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.