

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 27, No. 7

MARCH 1999

Attracting Birds and Butterflies to Your Garden Is Easy

Monrovia, a leading grower of container plants, and the National Audubon Society are making it easy for people to create a backyard environment that is friendly to a variety of birds and butterflies. Beginning in Spring 1999, select garden centers nationwide will offer the Audubon Habitat Collection of plants. "Look for plants in Monrovia Craftsman-green colored containers with a special Audubon label," explained Pam Wasson, director of marketing at Monrovia. "Posters and bed markers will identify the collection in the garden center, and informational brochures that you can take home will have handy tips for success." Each of the 200 plant varieties in the collection was selected by the highly respected National Audubon Society.

According to a spokesman for the National Audubon Society, Jesse Grantham, through this joint effort with Monrovia, we believe we can educate gardeners about the important role plants play in a healthy environment, and how those plants complement each other in the survival and health of birds, insects, and other wildlife. "We hope to introduce millions of people to birds and plants, and the relationship between the two. With an understanding of that relationship, people may be greater advocates for the protection of their environment."

Grantham points out that the two leading American pastimes are gardening and bird watching. "Birders are interested in learning how to attract birds to their own

backyards, and gardening enthusiasts can add diversity to their gardens with plants that help attract beautiful birds and butterflies. This is just a natural fit, and the Audubon Society is so pleased to be working with Monrovia to encourage people to garden for wildlife."

Founded in 1905 and with over 550,000 members in 518 chapters throughout the Americas, the National Audubon Society advances its mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

To find the nearest garden center offering the Audubon Habitat Collection, call toll-free 1-888-Plant It! For a free brochure about gardening for birds, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: Monrovia Audubon Habitat Collection, PO Box 1385, Azusa, CA 91702-1385.

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March Calendar

Meetings

Tuesday, March 2, 7:00-8:00 a.m. Forest Breakfast at JB's Restaurant. Meeting with local USFS District Ranger, Brian Ferebee, to discuss concerns and issues on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The agenda for this coming meeting includes discussing how the USFS management plans for the Northern Goshawk (currently listed as threatened) might affect grazing allotment management plans. We will also hear from a rancher recognized as a responsible grazing permittee about his concerns related to new allotment management plans. Anyone is welcome; breakfast on your own.

Thursday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting, at the home of Bryan Dixon, 10 Heritage Cove, Logan. All BAS members are invited to join us as we review projects, priorities and issues.

Thursday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. General Meeting, African Wildlife. This month's speakers are Jim and Debbie Gessaman and Kim Sullivan, who visited Africa for professional reasons and decided to stay and see the wildlife. Slides, poetry, and lively descriptions of a world most of us won't see for ourselves. Refreshments will be served afterward. Bring your friends!

Thursday, March 18, 7:30 p.m. Conservation Committee Monthly Meeting. Join other activists in Room 2 of the Logan Library to learn about and work on conservation issues in Cache Valley and Utah—wetlands, forestry, wildlife and more. BAS is involved in numerous issues and we could use your help. For more information, contact Bruce Pendery, 792-4150.

Field Trips

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

Saturday, March 13. Bald Eagles at Willard. This is a perfect trip to chase away cabin fever and get some exercise in preparation for spring. This annual outing is led by Jim Sinclair and Reinhard Jockel to observe Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and other raptor from a vantage point *above*. We leave at 10:00 a.m. from the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan) and carpool to Willard Bay State Park about 10 miles south of Brigham City. From there the group will drive to the Willard gravel pit and climb up the slopes to a breathtaking (literally) overlook of Willard Canyon. For a change, we'll have the vantage point from above the eagles (which probably makes them really nervous, don't you think?) and we'll look for others roosting in the conifers across the canyon. We may even see some wildflowers poking up toward the spring. It's a strenuous hike, so bring good boots, warm clothes and

lunch. Return by late afternoon. If in doubt about the weather, call Jim at 752-0061.

Saturday, March 20. Birding the Sewage Lagoons. Ah, sewage... Covering 200+ acres of our valley floor, the Logan Sewage Lagoons are known affectionately as the Square Lakes, an endearment coined by those who've climbed the surrounding mountains and looked down on their unnatural shape. But though unnatural, they are a haven for waterfowl, a refuge of open water isolated from hominids where they can mingle in relative peace. "Relative," because late March and early April are the peak of the water fowl migration, and these birds are on their way north with lusty hearts and ambitions for new families. They'll find nesting sites in the lakes and streams of Idaho, Montana and Canada where they find swarms of insects and rich plant life to feed their young. They pause in Cache Valley for a bit of R&R. We'll see thousands of them chasing each other, trying to impress the opposite gender, and strutting their avian abilities. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan) to carpool to the lagoons; we return by lunch. For more information, contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258.

Saturday, March 27. Amalga Barrens - Returning Waterfowl and other Early Migrants. This is the first of several trips to the Amalga Barrens, an area in Cache Valley famous (or infamous, depending on how you feel about dams...) for its shallow ponds that attract tadpoles, aquatic invertebrates, and the critters that feed on them—namely birds! Short-eared and Barn Owls may also be there, and we could find Sandhill Cranes or even some falcons. It's a bit early for the shorebirds, but you never know if you don't go! Leave from the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan) at 9:00 a.m. and return by lunch. For more information call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

Saturday, April 3. Canoe the Logan River from "Ditch-down". Leave from the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan) at 9:00 a.m. to canoe a wonderfully sinuous stretch of the Logan River, ending at the Valley View Marina. The trip is approximately three hours long and all flat water. We'll see a variety of waterfowl, including nesting geese, and along the way we'll have a chance to poke into a beaver dam and explore side channels until we're hopelessly lost. Bring your own canoe and paddles, and lunch rations might be a good idea. (Anybody got a rescue flare?) Boats may be available for rent at Trailhead Sports or the USU Outdoor Recreation Center. For more information, call Keith Archibald, 752-8258.

Saturday-Sunday, April 10-11. Audubon Utah Retreat. Join other Audubon members from across Utah for birding, fellowship, eating, more birding, more eating, oh yeah, and a short meeting. We convene at the Morgan County Search and Rescue Lodge at noon on Saturday. We'll spend the afternoon birding at the sewage lagoons and local environs before returning to

the lodge for a potluck dinner. After dinner and jabber, you can set up a tent on the grounds or throw out a sleeping bag on the floor of the lodge. Sunday, we get up before dawn to drive to a local Sage Grouse lek to watch annual mating rituals almost as weird as our species. Then, it's back to the lodge for breakfast provided by the Wasatch Audubon, and a business meeting from 9 a.m. until noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other goldang environmentalists and get inspired for our own conservation efforts. For more information carpooling or directions to the lodge, call Bryan Dixon at 752-6830, or e-mail him at bdixon@xmission.com.

Saturday, April 17. Valley Migration Trip. Tour Cache Valley to monitor the spring migration. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan). We haven't set the full itinerary yet, but we promise some "secret" spots you may not have found yet, including some special places to overlook marshes and the Bear River. Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Larry Ryel, 753-8479.

Saturday, April 24. Amalga Barrens' Shorebirds. If you don't have the Long-billed Slinky-necked Mudpoker on your life list, here's your chance. Shorebirds can be really tough to identify, which means you can find some really unusual ones if you look hard enough (and no one else is watching). The Amalga Barrens offer mud, mud, and more mud, full of invertebrates just ripe for a long billed Whojewhatzit to scarf down. If you've been wondering what all the hoopla is regarding a possible dam at the Barrens, this is your chance to witness a rich piece of habitat and learn why it's so unique in Cache Valley. We'll provide spotting scopes to make identification easier and guides to entertain us as they argue among themselves about the "fringe on the scapulars of that dowitcher - has to be a short-billed, eh?" Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan). Carpooling will be available. Call Ron Ryel for more information, 753-6077.

Coming Outings - Watch for details:

Saturday, May 1. Gilmoor Sanctuary on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake, an official NAS Sanctuary accessible via Antelope Island.

Saturday, May 8. International Migratory Bird Day.

Saturday, May 15-16. Bear River Canoe Trips.

Friday, May 21. Edible Plants.

Saturday-Sunday, May 22. Logan Canyon Field Trip.

Stokes Nature Center

Join us at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 for the Tales and Trails program—Can You Find Me? A Book About Animal Camouflage. This program is designed for 6-8 year-olds; families are welcome! Come explore the importance of camouflage as it relates to the survival of animals.

Dr. James MacMahon to Speak at Banquet April 6!

The Annual Banquet has been set for Tuesday, April 6 at the Coppermill Restaurant, with the social hour beginning at 6 p.m. In addition to fellowship, awards, elections for new trustees and a silent auction (I know, it seems like everyone's having them these days, but it IS a neat way to raise money!), we've got a great speaker—Dr. Jim MacMahon, Dean of the College of Natural Resources. If you can donate some items for the auction, please contact Ron Hellstern, 245-0643 or Robert Schmidt, 755-9262. Teri Peery is this year's organizer, and she could use some little bits of help, call her 753-3249.

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

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

Outings - Well, it's here again. Longer days, warmer temperatures, and hints that winter didn't kill everything. Spring is just around the corner, and already, thousands of birds are circling the skies, grouping and ungrouping in the dance of migration. This year, we've got more outings to more places than ever before. Most of our trips are local, after all we've got a rich environment right here in Cache Valley. But don't pass up the trips to Willard to see our National Bird, to Morgan for the Audubon Retreat, or the Gilmoor Sanctuary at the southern end of the Great Salt Lake. Best to mark your calendar now, because spring only comes once a year!

Environmental Education - BAS will be working with the Stokes Nature Center this year to offer the Environmental Educational Grants program. We'll make 3-5 grants of \$300-\$700 each to local teachers to enable them to undertake some environmental project they couldn't do otherwise. If you're a teacher and want details, contact our Education Chair, Jack Greene at 563-6816, or e-mail the Nature Center at nature@logannature.org. Requests for proposals will go out this spring with awards in time for fall classes.

Conservation - Well, the WCD failed. Isn't it amazing how all of the elected officials in Cache Valley can sign on to an issue and have 70% of the electorate vote against them? Clearly, somebody doesn't understand something. This is not meant to deride the elected officials, for they devote a helluva lot more of their lives to public service than most of us, and most of them are sincerely trying to serve the public interest. Rather, I think it's an indication of the complexity of "water issues" in our valley. Nearly everyone admits that we need water resources planning, but we differ about how to fund it, manage it, and give it direction. We also differ about where it should go—dams vs. ground water development vs. water conservation vs. just letting the Wasatch Front have the stuff! We shouldn't

forget that quality issues are just as critical as quantity. Anyone who's paddled the Bear River and seen manure piles on the banks, houses with septic systems and lawns right at the edge, and fields tilled up to the shoreline knows that we've got plenty of land use management to do if we want to affect our water quality. The WCD may be dead for the moment — proponents are forbidden from another attempt for two years— but demand remains for water resources planning. Groups of citizens continue to meet to hash out a new approach. Hopefully these efforts will learn from the past and involve all of the parties.

On behalf of BAS, Bruce Pendery, our Conservation Chair, submitted an excellent letter in response to the Forest Service's scoping document for the North Rich Grazing Allotment Environmental Assessment. Contact Bruce or come to the regular Conservation Committee meetings the third Thursday of each month if you want more specific information. We'll continue to work with the Forest Service on this, as well as other issues, such as ORVs.

On wetlands, we're moving forward with plans for a project on Cutler Marsh. Thanks to Eve Davies, biologist for Pacificorp, we've learned much more about the good deeds that company is doing to protect and enhance habitat in the valley. This summer, we'll be organizing work parties to lend a hand to protect a resource dear to all environmentalists in Cache Valley. We've also learned that Pacificorp is not just permitting, but *encouraging* citizens to use their lands around the Cutler Marsh. This includes the roadways through what appears to be the Bud Phelps Wildlife Management Area. Feel free to walk the roadways through that area in to Pacificorp property. We should stay on the roads to avoid disturbing nesting waterfowl, but otherwise, enjoy yourselves!

Now that the WCD vote is over, many of us are moving forward with a proactive effort to identify and monitor the wetlands in the valley. We'll have more details at the next Conservation Committee meeting.

The Forest Service Land Swap is official—the State of Utah gave the USFS 17,000 acres and received 3,000 acres in return. Though smaller, the state acquisitions are more valuable lands including Beaver Mountain Ski Area, and they retained control of the Franklin Basin intersection. Many citizens have serious concerns about development in these places, since the overriding mandate of the new owner—the School Institutional Land Trust Administration—is to make bucks, big bucks if possible. We have no illusions that they will care one wit about environmental concerns or impacts on the Logan Canyon if it means less cash for SITLA. The Logan Canyon Coalition is dogging this issue, so if you want to get involved, contact Dan Miller at dmill235@aol.com or 258-4432.

Other Notes – We'll be looking for new trustees for the BAS board to be decided by election in April. If you or anyone you know is interested, contact any of the BAS officers or current trustees.

BAS has a new e-mail address: stilt@xmission.com. Use it to contact either the *Stilt* or any of us on the Board.

There's also a new WWW site for Utah birders, www.utahbirds.org. Check it out! It's got hotline sightings, information on birding various counties in Utah, and it even has the BAS checklist. Of course, if you want a printed copy, check the Book Table bookstore downtown.

On a more serious note, our insurance company has informed us that they will not be responsible for losses, liabilities and damages as a result of our computer systems encountering the Y2K problem. On a less serious note, we have no computers.

At the April Banquet we will announce a new program to award prizes to birders who break the 100, 150 or 200 species marks on their life lists for Cache Valley birds during 1999. We hope this will encourage more of our members to pay more attention to the avian life around us and we're sure it'll be fun. Look for rules in the April issue of the *Stilt*, but start that list now, for some species may not wait around until April!

See you around this spring!

— BD, Prez

New Members

Clint Carroll
David Choate
Dr Kathryn Fitzgerald
Karen Lindsey
Merrilyne Lundahl
Ross Peterson

Craig Riger
Don & Patty Rowan
Steven W Rosen
Alex Solla
Matt Stevenson
Beth Walden

Renewing Members

Marion A Andersen
Desmond L & Loila Rae F Anderson
Joyce Anderson
Mr & Mrs John Barnes
Anne D Brown
Carolyn R Chase
Swede Dahl
Anne Dobbmeyer
Gail Duering
John Dymerski
Kerkman Family
Patricia Fullmer
Glen Gantz
Mr & Mrs T J Gordon
James A Hoffman
Anna Holden

Reinhard A Jockel
Mark Leonhardt
Logan Library
Jamie McEvoy
Nancy Mesner
Diane Browning Oblock
Ann W Peralta
Robert H Peterson
Mark Ritchie
Carl J Saunders
Dr R J Shaw
Louise Thomas
Ms Marie Veibell
M Coburn Williams
Mr James L Woodson
Doris Zemlicka

Bird Seed

Bird seed is still available. Get it at Sunrise Cyclery, 138 North 100 East, Logan, where 50 pound bags sell for \$16. Too heavy to lift or don't have the means to pick it up? No problem. Call 563-6816 to make arrangements for free delivery!

Wilderness First Aid

& Wilderness First Responder Refresher

Allen & Alice Stokes Nature Center

and

Backcountry Emergency Response Team



Backcountry
Emergency Response Team



Logan Canyon, Utah

April 17 to 18, 1999

Course Fees: \$100 Course fees include instruction and all course materials.

Certification: A two year SOLO Wilderness First Aid certification is awarded upon course completion. The course does not include CPR. A two year SOLO WFR recertification certificate is awarded to WFR who successfully complete the course.

Instructors: This course will be taught by the staff of Wilderness Medicine Institute, Inc. and SOLO Wilderness Medicine. The Institute staff have taught all levels of wilderness medicine courses for organization as NOLS, Outward bound, and U.S. Forest Service as well as many colleges and outdoor programs.

Wilderness First Aid: The Course. This course is designed to provide outdoor leaders, guides and rangers with an introduction to first aid and patient care in remote settings.

Special topics include, but are not limited to: wound management and infection, realigning fractures and dislocations, improvised splinting techniques, patient monitoring and long term management problems, plus up-to-date information on environmental emergencies. Emphasis is placed on principals of treatment and decision making, not the memorization of lists.

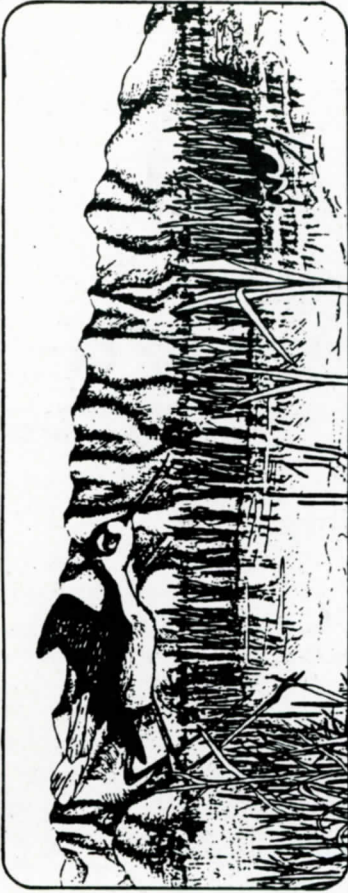
This course can be used to recertify a current Wilderness First Responder card from SOLO, NOLS, WMA or WPT.

Registration: To register for this course, send your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address with a \$50 nonrefundable deposit. If using this as a WFR refresher, please enclose a copy of your current card.

Contact: Glen Gantz,
Backcountry Emergency
Response Team (BERT),
11255 North 2000 East,
Richmond, Ut 84333, (435)
258-2748,
ggantz@digitalpla.net

Make checks payable to:
Stokes Nature Center





BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 3501
 Logan, Utah 84323
 March 1999

THE STILT

Nonprofit Organization
 BULK RATE
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 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 | |
| 1995-98 | Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Ruben, 797-2490; Allen Christensen, 258-5018; Doug Tempel, 755-6774 |
| 1996-99 | Jack Greene, 563-6816; Lois Olson, 752-9085
Ron Hellstern, 753-8750; Merr Lundahl, 753-1707 |
| 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.

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.