



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 28, No. 3

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Forest Plan – Ok, It's Time. Write! Go!

The Forest Planning process is impossible for most of us to understand, but it's moving forward and it will determine how the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will be managed. Will it be for motorized recreation, grazing and timber? Or will it be for wildlife, habitat and human-powered recreation?

This summer, the ORV crowd stirred itself into a feeding frenzy when a few "enthusiasts" alleged (falsely and irresponsibly) that the Forest Service was trying to eliminate ORV access on the forest. Though that would be a dream come true, it wasn't reality. Nevertheless, they turned up in force at meetings, putting to shame the environmental community. Where were we? We sent in comments - and they were read - but we weren't heard above the din created by the motor crowd.

Now the "Proposed Action" for the Plan Revision has been published and the FS is asking for input. Ours should be an overwhelming "more non-motorized acres," "less grazing," "timber cutting only when really justified," and "enforcement of existing regulations." We should plead for habitat. We should demand that the east slope of the Naomi ridge be free of all motorized vehicles (including snowmobiles) from the Idaho border to Highway 89 and from the Franklin Basin Road to the Cache Valley. We should urge for the roadless areas around Logan Peak to be formally declared "roadless." We should ask for public access to the canyons that empty into the Cache Valley (including Birch Canyon and Smithfield Dry Canyon). We should ask for public foot access to the mouth of Mollen's

Hollow. We should remind the USFS that a forest is for wildlife and ecosystems and a refuge from the strains of urban life, not for roads and resource exploitation.

So, it's time. Audubon members can make a difference because we are intelligent. We can write passionate and meaningful letters. The Forest Service wants to do the right thing, and they need to point to a constituency that will back them up. That's us. That's YOU.

There isn't much time before the official deadline - **it's November 1** - but if you miss it, write anyway because it will have an impact. Check out the Forest Plan Revision at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wcnf>. **Write a 2-3 page letter to:**

Bernie Weingardt
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Attn: Revision Team
8236 Federal Building
125 S State St
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
Or e-mail to: revision/r4_w-c@fs.fed.us

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November Calendar Meetings

Thursday, November 4, 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.

Thursday, November 11, 7:00 p.m. General Meeting, 2nd Floor of Chapter Two Books, 130 N 100 E, Logan: The Effects of the 2002 Olympics on the Utah Environment. Diane Conrad from the Salt Lake Olympic Committee (SLOC) will be the featured speaker, and her topic will focus on the effects of the 2002 Olympics on our local environment. The public is invited; refreshments following.

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, November 13. Stokes Nature Center Open House and Fundraising Dinner. Open house, 10-2 pm; dinner/auction starts at 6 pm. Spend the day at the SNC exploring the natural world in one of their exhibits or just sitting with others in the woods outside. Then return to town for dinner at the Coppermill Restaurant with silent and live auctions for some of the most interesting offerings around—raft trips, birding trips, Christmas decoration services, Italian dinners, wine tasting evenings, as well as beautiful artwork and myriad other items. Tickets will sell out, so get yours early by calling the Stokes Nature Center at 755-3239.

Saturday, November 20. Pre-winter Birding for Hawks and Things. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot north of Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East in Logan). We'll head out in the valley searching for late migrating waterfowl on the reservoirs and hawks hunting the fields. We might find a short tail along the Bear River to search for those elusive "dickey birds." We should see Ferruginous as well as Rough-legged Hawks. If folks want to continue after lunch, we might head up into the mountains to find a short hike to do among the conifers. Beginning birders welcome - this is a great way to work on your Cache Valley Bird List. We'll return around lunchtime - unless we find Gyrfalcons, that is. For more information, call trip leader, Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

Saturday, December 4. Return to the Sewage Lagoons. Winter's coming on and water is starting to ice up. Some birds are still migrating though, and we often see very unusual waterfowl this time of year, such as Oldsquaw, unusual loons or scoters. The Logan Sewage Lagoons are not generally open to the public, so here's your chance to visit a rich, if rather odd, habitat. On last year's CBC, some observers watched a Peregrine Falcon chase down a Ruddy Duck at the Lagoons. Meet at 10 a.m. (why be masochistic?) at the

parking lot north of Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East in Logan); return by lunch. Some of us may decide to continue birding in the afternoon and go to Hyrum Reservoir, so if that strikes your fancy, come prepared with lunch.

Saturday, December 18. Christmas Bird Count Alert! BAS's 23rd Annual Christmas Bird Count. The CBC is conducted every year in the same 15-mile diameter area with compilations sent to a central database for an annual report and analysis. We'll put over a dozen teams in the field and hope to find 90+ species (in December no less). A wonderful and fun-filled winter's day for birders of all levels of skill. After the count, we'll meet for a potluck supper and the annual compilation. If we're lucky, someone will have seen something really unusual which means you should leave a little time the next day to go see it for yourself! If you'd like to help out, contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258. Cost is \$5 per person to cover national compilation costs.

Remember:

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ut/bridgerland>
Check it for late breaking information and trips that were put together after the *Stilt* was published.

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.

Environmental Education - The hot news is the Stokes Nature Center Banquet and Fundraiser November 13 - BE THERE! The SNC needs our money. And we're better off with their programs than a significant amount of our cash. This is the future for environmental awareness in Cache Valley - we MUST support it.

Conservation - Two issues need your attention. First, the USFS has released its Proposed Action in Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan Revision. There is a great deal of language about managing on watershed boundaries as well as protecting habitat and river corridors, and also restricting motorized use to existing roads. There's even a recommendation for more wilderness - adding the lands north of Highway 89 to the ridgeline and from the mouth of Logan Canyon to the Jardine Juniper. but language in the Plan is weak on enforcement, particularly when it comes to motorized recreation. The Plan also fails to apply truly non-motorized categories for many roadless areas.

The problem with the Forest Plan is that even if we were to win concessions regarding more non-motorized uses and protections of habitats, who will enforce them? The USFS spends precious few resources on law enforcement on these lands now and there is no commitment in the Plan for increased emphasis on implementation. See the section on the forest plan elsewhere in this issue - write a letter NOW and attend the meetings November 30 and December 2.

On another issue, the BAS Board has taken a formal position on the Crane Days Festival vis-a-vis the crane hunt in a letter to the DWR:

12 October, 1999

John Kimball

Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources

Dear Mr. Kimball,

At the September Audubon Council meeting Bob Walter and Wes Shields came to discuss the state's Watchable Wildlife program and we were asked to take over the Sandhill Crane Days Festival that was held in Cache Valley the past few years. Bridgerland Audubon Society does not believe a Sandhill Crane Days Festival is tenable so long as there is a hunting season on Sandhill Cranes in Cache Valley. Bridgerland Audubon Society will not support, and will actively oppose, a festival organized by other groups until the crane hunt is ended.

The Sandhill Crane Days Festival in Cache Valley was a celebration of the return of this species after years of decimation by hunting and loss of habitat. Cranes are an easily observed avian species that exhibit lively and interesting behaviors and therefore serve as an anchor for outings to observe other wildlife. The festival was organized by a handful of volunteers who sacrificed many hours to host the event and lead activities. The organizers were compensated only by the thanks of the participants who marveled at the beauty and intriguing behavior of these large birds.

Several arguments have been made to justify continuing the festival despite the hunt. We believe each argument is weak and unpersuasive.

First, although farmers addressing the Utah Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Councils attempted to justify hunting cranes as a way to reduce crop depredation, these are spurious and misleading arguments. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulates hunting of the greater race of the Sandhill Crane to keep their numbers at about 18-20,000 so as to prevent overpopulation of the winter range. Each state in the flyway, including Utah, is allotted a certain number of birds to shoot. Utah's allocation is 100 when populations are healthy and Cache Valley hunters are only permitted 45 birds. These numbers can't have a significant effect on the overall population. The real reason for the hunt in Cache Valley is quite clearly to give a few vociferous hunters yet another animal to shoot. This seems irresponsible at best and immoral at worst.

Second, the DWR wants citizen groups to organize wildlife festivals to bolster their watchable wildlife program but, unlike traditional hunters, these citizens are interested in living animals, they don't want them one week and have them hunted the next. DWR personnel are obviously out of touch with non-

consumptive users of wildlife if they think we should celebrate yet another species to be hunted.

Third, some have argued - particularly merchants in the hospitality and tourism industries - that local business could benefit from a festival in Cache Valley and the Chamber of Commerce believes would support a festival merely to attract money. However, they need to understand that there is more to life than money. It is our opinion that this is a shallow and self-serving argument with respect to Sandhill Cranes and is unworthy of consideration. Indeed, if they were truly interested in wildlife as a part of the community, they would seek an end to the hunt and look for ways to reserve wildlife.

Fourth, festivals serve to teach the public about wildlife conservation. However, Bridgerland Audubon Society leads dozens of such trips each year that readily accomplish this goal without tacitly supporting the destruction of such wildlife. We would do the public a disservice indeed to promote an activity that implicitly legitimizes the destruction of such a majestic bird as the Sandhill Crane.

Therefore, given that crane hunting is not justifiable from a natural resource, recreational, or environmental education standpoint, for so long as there is a crane hunt, Bridgerland Audubon Society will urge Audubon societies in Utah to withhold support for crane festivals and actively work to boycott such events. We should not participate as registrants, we should not agree to lead festival outings and we should provide no information to any potential sponsoring organization that might help them organize such a festival.

If and when the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the state Wildlife Board end the crane hunt, we will again support Sandhill Crane Days and celebrate once more this majestic species in our midst.

— end of letter —

As always, if members disagree with the Board's position, we want to hear from you.

Outings - If you joined us for any of our outings lately, you got a treat. Twenty-seven people went on the Tetons elk bugling trip and it was wildly successful - moose, elk and lots of other critters. See a summary by Terry Barnes elsewhere.

The Hawkwatch hike was nothing short of phenomenal. By the time most folks left they had seen over 150 birds. They left too early, though, because by the end of the day, the hawkwatchers had totalled over 320! Steve Hoffman, founder of Hawkwatch International, was on hand and put on a wonderful show of enthusiasm. How can any one guy be that excited about raptors?

Then, there was the Sewage Lagoon trip. Twenty-five people came to see what was going on with sewage. At

first, it seemed like just the regulars - billions of Gadwalls, some Mallards, Eared Grebes, Buffleheads, and common gulls, but then folks noticed some Canvasbacks. Everyone got good looks at this regular, but uncommon duck. After two hours of "same old," we were going to pack it in when we noticed one more bird - a large white water bird swimming among the masses. After debating, disbelieving, and determined discourse, we decided - it was a Trumpeter Swan! That's the first one found in Cache Valley for years. Yes!

As we get into the colder weather, don't stop birding or getting outside. The mountains will be safe again soon, and the valleys will start to gather their winter populations of wildlife. We'll be taking a few more birding trips before the Christmas Bird Count in December, so join us. There's always room for beginners and experts to help them out. See you out there.

— Bryan Dixon, President

Forest Plan - Ok, It's Time. Write! Go!

(Continued from page 1)

If you can give them details, do so. If you don't have time, give them comments like those above. It's your job to demand quiet places free of machines and cows, rich in habitat and wildlife. It's their job to figure out how to provide it.

You can view sample letters on our WWW site (www.audubon.org/chapters/ut/bridgerland) or on the WWW sites of the Logan Canyon Coalition (LogCanCoal@aol.com) or High Uintas Preservation Council (www.HUPC.org/HUPC_FP_alternative.htm), or you can call me (phone number on the back of the *Stilt*).

Then, on November 30 and December 2, attend the **Alternative Development Workshops at the Logan Middle School Cafeteria**, 875 North 200 East beginning at 5:30 p.m. These sessions are supposed to help the FS develop alternatives for the EIS. yes, they'll be boring. Yes, the Forest Service will try to form small groups of disparate citizens to develop impossible consensus on alternatives. Yes, it will be frustrating, and yes, it could even be intimidating if the motor crowd shows up in force. But if you don't show up, your friends - and the forest - will be left high and dry.

Write now, right now. Be there then. It's time.

— Bryan Dixon

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

Report of the Audubon Council of Utah Fall 1999 Meeting

Approximately 25 people attended the Retreat. A Saturday afternoon field trip was followed by a potluck and a presentation from DWR that evening. Sunday morning's business meeting was followed by a field trip to the Gillmor Sanctuary. Following are the minutes from the meeting, with Mary Gracia presiding.

DWR's Wes Shields presented data about Sandhill Crane hunting and festival activities in neighboring states. DWR would like the Sandhill Crane festival resumed in Cache Valley despite the reinstated crane hunt. Bridgerland believes the hunt and festival are incompatible. Non-consumptive wildlife watchers continue to wield little influence in management decision-making and feel intimidated by some hunters at the RAC meetings. DWR was urged to promote their Wildlife Heritage Certificate program.

Since the last meeting, letters were sent in support of various appointments and also to support Better America Bonds (habitat acquisition by local governments) and amending the Land and Water Conservation Act to use money for conservation. Also opposed dam building in a letter to Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. Sent letter to *Salt Lake Tribune* disagreeing with their editorial in favor of the Legacy Highway, but the letter was not published. Decided to resubmit it.

The Utah Outdoor Interest Coordinating Council (formerly funded by CUP) is reorganizing with Audubon representation to provide volunteer advocacy for responsible water policy to the CUP.

An annual budget of \$4,500 for the Council was approved. Council meetings to discuss legislative issues will be held November 30, January 11, February 8, all at 7 p.m. at the Ogden Nature Center.

Ann O'Connell, Audubon Lobbyist reported we were unsuccessful in defeating either the elk ranching legislation or money to Met Johnson's wife for "environmental education" (a sham for right-wing propaganda). She needs better communication with members such as a phone tree set up before the next session. Most effective methods of communicating with legislators are (in descending order) letters if there is time, faxes if time is too short for a letter, calling legislators at home on weekends and evenings (generally they appreciate calls), but e-mail is unreliable.

Each society gave a report on activities in the past few months.

Proposals to dam the Bear River and move water to the Wasatch Front continue, with Honeyville and Amalga

Barrens usually mentioned. Bridgerland has been attending meetings of the Water Conservancy District and of the Division of Water Resources. Ann attended recent meetings of legislators and water people in which they planned to first build a pipeline from Willard Bay (with little opposition), then let Cache Valley people decide where (not if) a dam will be built. We need to inform the public of the huge monetary and environmental costs of the dam(s) (Bridgerland is producing a brochure about the Barrens), combine forces to oppose both of the two sites, alert legislators to the costs and our opposition before legislative proposals are presented, emphasize conservation and oppose any component of the system, including pipelines.

GSL Audubon asked for clarification of other societies' positions on the Legacy Highway. The Council voted to oppose the highway in any form. Wasatch and Bridgerland support that position. GSL will continue to oppose any Legacy Highway construction and will contact other chapters about specific actions they propose.

Wayne Martinson spent a lot of time working on a state office without much progress, do we support further efforts at this time. GSL would like to see it pursued now, as they have recently been dealing with complicated issues like managing grants and hiring. It was agreed that if GSLA starts an office, it could later evolve into a state office.

It's Bridgerland's turn to host the retreat in the Spring. They will probably include a field trip to Amalga Barrens. (Minutes prepared by Lynn Carroll, 1563 Swan St., Ogden, UT 84401; (801) 392-8216; bradlynn@earthlink.net.)

Fall Teton Trip

Another autumn—another trip to the Tetons for Bridgerland Audubon. This is always a magical trip and there is always something especially memorable about each trip. Jessie has been going since she was 11 months old: 14 trips. I began to go before she was ever born so more than 14 trips for me. I will always remember my first trip when Allen Stokes handed me some coyote scat to determine what it had been eating. He caught me by surprise that day but after that I was ready for his "surprises" and his lessons.

We usually have between 20 and 40 people on the trip. This trip over 25 ventured forth, including 10 teenage girls who were willing to role out at 6:00 a.m. to see what animals were out and about. Jessie and I had lots of good help with Jack Greene and Louise Murch along. Each of them gave star tours each night because it was so clear. We even got to see Jupiter and five of its moons. We had those who had been before and those who were first timers. Lois Olson was there with her family and her mother, Gene Clements, and her

mother's friend, Beverly, who flew in from Illinois. Jennifer MacAdam and Jim Kingsland were newcomers to the Tetons. Marilyn Lundahl returned to a place she knows well after her trips to the Teton Science School in high school. Barbara Kerkmann and her two girls are beginning to be regulars and love to hike. Anne Anderson with Cassie, Jessie, and Carl brought with them their welcome enthusiasm. Tara, Liz, Laura, Shannon, Jennell and Shara added to the others made the largest contingent of teenage girls we had ever had on this trip. Nathan and Christine Hult are seasoned regulars. Roger Burger managed to slip off in his canoe a time or two for quiet reflection.

When we arrived on Thursday one of the first things we noticed was a fire burning slowly on the mountain above String Lake. A display at the Moose Center informed us that the fire started with a lightning strike on September 1. In a month it had only burned 900 acres and was being allowed to run its course. We watched it each night. On Saturday the wind whipped the Teton area throughout the day. By late afternoon we realized the fire had grown significantly in size. After dark we stood on the shore of String Lake and watched the fire burning intensely just across the lake and reflected in the water. The fire had dropped down from a spot halfway up the mountain all the way down to the lake and spread to the north and the south. As a gust would hit the trees, which were just beginning to burn, they would burst into an incredible spire of flame. Seconds later we would watch the gust ripple the lake and then hit us. We watched for a long time. For us this will always be the year of the fire.

On Friday morning we went to a spot near the Oxbows. An Osprey flew up the river and landed in a tree near us, giving all a chance to see it. While we stood there, coyotes began to howl all around us. Then elk began to bugle nearby. It made it worthwhile to get up so early. Next our adventures led us out into the willow flats below the Jackson Lake Dam. There we stood and watched a magnificent bull moose lying in the shade while a cow moose and her two calves laid in the sun. The reds, golds, and browns of willows, grass, and moose were spectacular. Throughout the half hour we stood quietly watching, the mother and her calves were vocalizing to each other. Then the calves nursed briefly until their mother moved them off. They were big enough that weaning was probably beginning. Finally we heard another bull moose approaching. I got a quick glance at his rack above the willows before he was turned back by some approaching people who did not see him coming. Daddy bull did get up when he approached and followed the cow into the willows. We headed back to make breakfast after a long morning of watching wildlife.

Friday evening we watched a large bull elk with a herd of about 40 near the road just south of Timber Isle. As we watched we heard a bugle on the timbered ridge and spotted another six point bull who worked his way

down the ridge and out onto the flats, slowly approaching the other bull's herd. The herd bull headed towards him and they bugled at each other until the challenging bull turned away. Then another six point bull came out onto the flats from the trees. We watched the herd bull try to keep his cows together and keep the other two bulls from stealing any of his cows.

Usually the meadow at White Grass Ranch is a sure bet for hearing great elk bugling, but not this year. Both nights we were there it was unusually quiet, probably due to the winds which were blowing hard both nights. However, I will never forget sitting with Alice Stokes the year Allen died and hearing the most incredible elk bugling I had ever experienced. The elk were bugling all around us. They were so close we could hear them step and hear their antlers hitting the trees as they walked. It was one of the most magical moments I had ever experienced. There was also the night of the lunar eclipse which we watched from the steps of the abandoned White Grass Ranch with elk bugling nearby.

I have followed Allen Stokes to White Grass Ranch, to the Gros Ventre Slide, up the trail to Taggart Lake, and out to the river behind Olaus and Mardy Murie's place. He roused me out of my tent early in the morning more times than I have roused out others. When I feel the responsibility for the adventuresome who accompany us, I ask myself, "Where would Allen want us to go today?" The answer always comes clearly.

When Jessie and I reflect back on each trip, we find each one unique in some aspect or another. But it is the people who make this trip so much fun. The familiar faces and the new faces light up simultaneously at the sound of elk bugling nearby. Allen and Alice gave us a wonderful gift by taking us on this trip through the years. We are now fortunate to have the opportunity to share their gift with others.

— Terry Barnes

Teton Elk Bugling Trip

I had a great time on the Elk Bugling trip up in the Tetons. I saw and heard elk bugling. I also got to see a forest fire on the side of the mountain by the lake. Every morning my family woke up at six o'clock and went to look for animals in the park. We saw moose, deer, birds, and coyote. Driving back one night after watching the fire, we almost ran over a porcupine, we had to swerve out of the way. On Saturday afternoon, Terry took us to a special place along the river. We looked for animal tracks and found lots of elk tracks. I looked and looked for a long time and then found a track of a bobcat. Louise used her animal track guide to help me learn what track I had found. Terry had some plaster to cast the track. Now I have a track to keep. I'll never forget this trip.

Written by: Sky Olson
Age 10

- E Elk were so loud in the Tetons
- L Liked the Bull Elk antlers
- K Kids to play with
- B Be so cold in the morning
- U Under a blanket of stars
- G Getting to see a mountain on fire and watch it through a telescope
- L Loved the evening campfire and making s'mores
- I In the morning seeing the sunrise
- N Never want to leave all the animals
- G Getting to go along the river to look for animal tracks

By Kira Olson
Age 7

Bear Lake Bird Count



© Laura Zerzan From "ECONEWS"

For Audubon members who feel a single Christmas bird count is not enough birding over the holidays, an additional count will be conducted on December 28, 1999, the 26th anniversary of the enactment of the

Endangered Species Act. This count area, titled Bear Lake, Utah, is centered near Garden City. Using the experience and advice of Logan's Christmas Bird Count compiler, Keith Archibald, the Bear Lake area became the 14th established count in Utah in 1997. The count area includes all of Bear Lake on the Utah side, the dry slopes on the east side of Bear Lake, the conifer slopes on the east side of Bear Lake to the drainage divide between Bear Lake and Logan Canyon, and extends southerly to the south edge of Round Valley. Although species diversity will be somewhat lower than that for the Logan Count, an estimated 50 species and about 6,000 birds are expected. Highlights from 1997 and 1998 included an Osprey, Western Grebe, Tundra Swans, Pine Grosbeaks, California Gulls, large flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, 20 Bald Eagles/year, and a lazy bobcat. For information contact Dennis D. Austin at 245-5261.

Bird Seed

Bird seed is still available. Get it at Sunrise Cyclery, 138 North 100 East, Logan, where 50 pound bags sell for \$18. Too heavy to lift or don't have the means to pick it up? No problem. Call Allen Christensen, 258-5018, to make arrangements for free delivery! Delivered seed is \$16/bag.

The Utah Legislature - Year 2000

As your state legislative lobbyist I spend the interim (time between legislative sessions) attending many, many meetings and too many workshops. Often they are not as informative as I would like, but I have a suspicious nature and feel I need to see what our policy makers are plotting. This year is especially frustrating for me. Even as we approach the end of the fall season I have little idea of what our legislative issues might be. Here are brief comments on some possibilities.

The CUP, Its Audit, and Where Should the Water Go?

Most of the big construction projects are done and the reservoirs are filling. Now debate is over where the water ought to go. The original intent (remember the project is 43 years old) was to use a large proportion for agriculture. However, currently the Utah Rivers Council and others are asking whether that is the *best use* for Utah today. They suggest that much of the remaining water be brought to the Wasatch Front where more municipal and industrial water is predicted to be needed some time early in the next century. They ask how important is agriculture to the state economy? If we are moving water about should it not go to where the people need it?

The recent CUP audit should make us uncomfortable with the state's business as usual philosophy. At the least, public moneys have been sloppily handled. Conflicts of interest abound. But what is most disheartening to me is the lack of responsibility exhibited by a majority of the members of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Legislative Interim Committee. Their attitude can best be paraphrased as these water managers are all good guys, experts on water management who know what is best for the rest of us. They do not want the admittedly unpleasant task of investigating further. Would they want to make their friends uncomfortable? They passed the embarrassing questions on to the State Water Development Commission, a group made up mostly of representatives of the water establishment. That looks like a dead end to me. The state legislature could use the audit to stimulate discussion on what our water policy should be in these times of explosive growth. But it looks like the legislature will try to avoid anything that might be perceived as disturbing the old boy network.

Non-Point Source Water Pollution

I suspect the legislature will again be asked to put some funds into programs to help the agricultural industry work with contaminated run-off from farms, ranches and feedlots. It is very slow going. Agriculture creates pollution that is not always easy to control. All non-point water pollution is by definition difficult to contain and agricultural interests protest with some justice that they cannot bear the expense. We know farm families are struggling to remain in agriculture because the farmer does not receive fair value for his products. And furthermore we are coming to realize that a farm or ranch may often be preferable to subdivision or ranchettes. The agriculture dilemma is a good example of why conservation groups cannot ignore national political issues. Our national farm policy appears to be driving the farmer off the land in favor of industrial agriculture. (See CAFO's below.)

Water Conservation

Will courageous Representative Judy Buffmire of Salt Lake step forward with another water conservation bill this session? Last session she, along with others, was criticized for sponsoring money bills outside the regular appropriations process. I don't know if this was just general legislative grumpiness or a portent of a policy change for this session. The issue has at least two sides as is usual in legislative politics. On the surface it seems fair to object to the plethora of individual funding bills that are added piecemeal to the formal budget process complicating the budget balancing process. On the other hand, if legislators are not allowed to sponsor any legislation that involved funding, there would be few opportunities to start any new programs. And water conservation is a new idea in Utah. We all know that legislative leadership will have a lot to do with what procedures will be put in place and could rule with an iron hand, but I hope that this knotty question will be discussed out in the open on the floors of the House and Senate. I would predict a really fine debate. Like everyone else I complain a lot about the legislature but must admit that they can be very thoughtful on a fundamental political question such as this one.

Transportation Policy

I predict that the legislators do little or nothing new in transportation. They must be dreadfully tired of the I-15 rebuild and probably won't have any money for other projects. I cannot imagine that they will be able to proceed with the Legacy Parkway that soon. However, I am right about half the time. I hope that everyone in Audubon realizes that the new Alignment D is not the magic bullet that its proponents hoped for.

The Great Salt Lake Plan

The Department of Natural Resources is working on an historic planning document for the Great Salt Lake. The report has taken longer than expected to no one's surprise, but will probably be presented to the legislature this session. I presume that Audubon will have a lot to say. We were critical of an earlier draft but are hopeful that this will be a plan that will put the biology of the lake first.

Wildlife and Habitat

I have heard that there will be some discussion of how habitat money is being spent. I can say no more at this point. However, please tell me if you have information or have an option I need to hear.

Hog Farms

I can only suppose that we have them because rural county commissioners like them. Rumors about an anti-CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) campaign come and go. I see nothing specific at the moment. I suspect that the water quality people are doing the best they can under the circumstances.

Lobbyists

You are the most important part of our lobbying network. Legislators will tell you that it is their constituents they listen to. Write or talk to them now. The experts say that a personal relationship is best. Writing a letter is very important. Calling is OK. E-mail is mostly ignored in times of stress. I can tell you from personal experience that many of our legislators do use and appreciate e-mail communication but some are internet illiterate. Mine likes to communicate by fax at his home. The best idea is to find out now what is most agreeable with yours. They all claim that it is very effective to call them at home. They all deny being annoyed. When they are actually in the capitol building I recommend a fax rather than a phone call. The most conscientious phone operator will be overwhelmed in the heat of a serious phone campaign. You can hope a fax will result in a sheet of paper that arrives at the legislator's desk. Spend some time now hunting down a fax in your neighborhood. Copy services all have them.

What I most would like to see happen this session is for each Audubon Society in the state to set up a local lobbying network. In fact I could imagine two of them, one for e-mail and one for the old fashioned phone tree. You know who your activists are and who would be most effective in contacting each other. I know we are first a birding group, but I also have observed that we all talk politics. Organize through existing activities and friendships. Perhaps you could plan to act on a current issue at every event you hold from now until March, the end of the legislative session. If you make the effort to create a lobbying network now, it can be used for local events and issue later.

A Plea for Lobbyists - Audubon Lobbying Network

_____ Yes, I want to participate in the Audubon lobbying network for the Utah Legislature.

_____ I am willing to lobby on most issues selected by the Audubon Council of Utah.

_____ I wish to concentrate on the following: _____

I am willing to call other chapter members to tell them about pending actions. _____ yes _____ no

Contact me by:

_____ phone (W) _____ (H) _____

_____ FAX at this number _____

_____ by E-mail at this address _____

I would like to come to the Capitol during the session. _____ yes _____ no

I can help in other ways (such as research, writing, mailings, etc.) Please specify: _____

Any other advice or instructions: _____

Representative in the State Legislature _____

Senator in the State Legislature _____

(If you need this information call your county clerk. She will have your address on a computer and can give you the information more quickly than I can although I can get the information if you are unable to do so.)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

A phone number in case e-mail or fax fails somehow: _____

Mail coupon to: Ann O'Connell, 2727 Kentucky Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84117

Or Fax to: (801) 277-9046 (phone also) — E-mail: 103306.301@compuserve.com

Like Computers?
Can you spare some time
each month?
We need your help!

Volunteer
Needed at
Stokes Nature
Center!

The Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center
Volunteer Position Announcement
Membership Database Manager

Established in 1997, the Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center (SNC) is a private, nonprofit nature education facility located in the Cache National Forest in northern Utah. The building serves as a headquarters and classroom while Cache Valley and the Bear River Mountain Range serve as a laboratory. SNC offers on-site programs as well as field trips within the forest and throughout Cache Valley. The highest priority for the Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center is to provide quality natural science programs for school children, teachers, and the Cache Valley community.

Description: This is a part-time position that will require 10-20 hours per month. The database manager will work closely with the Executive Director and be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Nature Center's membership database. This includes: updating new and renewing members, generating renewal letters, thank you letters, and other letter campaigns, assisting with newsletter mailings, and distributing member benefits.

Salary/Contract: This is a volunteer position. Due to the training required for the position, we would prefer someone who could commit to at least one year.

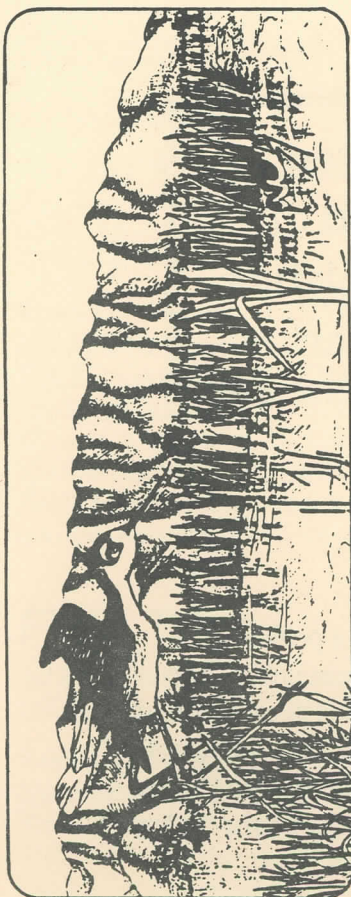
Qualifications: Interested individuals must be computer literate and comfortable troubleshooting both computer and printer problems. Prefer someone with experience working with Word and Access 97 for Windows. Qualified individuals must be organized, able to work independently, and provide their own transportation to the Nature Center.

To Apply: Please contact:

Jen Levy, Executive Director
Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center
P.O. Box 4204
Logan, UT 84323
435-755-3239



Position starts immediately.



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84323
Vol. 28, No. 3
NOVEMBER 1999

Dave Workman

Georganna

Janice

Leonid

Geoffrey day chemist

UT 10 years

anti-poll.

Blodgett

3 years. 4500

1984 enviro. address

sports culture

Issues

Banana

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Logan, Utah

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, September through June, in the upstairs of Chapter Two Books, 130 N. 100 E, Logan. 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. Locations may change monthly. Check calendar page. Everyone is welcome to attend.

President	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830
Vice President	Chris Wilson, 753-3769
Secretary	
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

1997-2000	Mae Coover, 752-8871; Teri Peery, 753-3249
1998-2001	Jack Greene, 563-6816; Ron Hellstern, 753-8750; Merr Lundahl, 753-1707; Lois Olson, 752-9085
1999-2002	Jim Cane, 713-4668; Allen Christensen, 258-5018; Val Grant, 752-7572; Dick Hurren, 734-2653

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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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 \$10.00 per year. Call Susan Durham, 752-5637. Also, call Susan for new subscriptions or address changes.