



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## RAC to Hear About Non-consumptive Wildlife Users March 1

Please attend the next Regional Advisory Council meeting, March 1, 6:00 p.m. at the Cache Hunter Education Center (about 3000 West on Valley View Highway) to hear a report from the Watchable Wildlife Study Group. Typically, we attend these RAC meetings only when we have to in order to protest killings of bears, cougars or Sandhill Cranes. We never feel wanted there; the room is always packed with hunters and fishermen who are giving us the evil eye from the edges of the room. The RACs are supposed to represent citizens' views and make recommendations to the state Wildlife Board that sets policy on a public resource – wildlife. Traditionally, however, the RACs have pretty much ignored concerns by non-consumptive users, care little about habitat preservation as the underlying cause of decreases in deer and elk herds, and focus only on how to hunt wildlife.

Now, however, the state has assembled a study group to analyze the needs for more programs like Watchable Wildlife. The Watchable Wildlife program, you'll recall, was started by the Forest Service some years ago to help people find places to appreciate wildlife in a non-consumptive fashion. It's been a very successful program with state maps, those brown signs with binoculars along the highways to indicate wildlife viewing opportunities, and some visible and effective spin-off programs, such as Partners in Flight. Some of the Study Group's preliminary findings to be presented March 1 include:

1. 85% of wildlife program funding comes from hunting and fishing licenses.
2. A broad cross section of the public believes all Utahns should be paying for both game and non-game species management.
3. With some minor modifications, a greater percentage of the public could be made aware of RAC meetings and encouraged to attend them and participate in the process.
4. Expanded public representation through the RAC process is necessary to promote the common interests of hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers for the benefit of all.
5. A greater percentage of the public should be made aware of numerous high-quality public outreach programs currently offered by DWR, including Watchable Wildlife, Wildlife Heritage, Project Wild, and Nature Tourism.

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# March Calendar

## Meetings

**Wednesday, March 1, 6:00 pm. Northern Regional Advisory Council to the Utah Wildlife Board, Cache Hunter Education Center, Valley View Highway.** The RAC will hear from the Watchable Wildlife Study Group on their findings regarding the need for more programs for non-consumptive wildlife appreciation. They need citizens to show up and support the cause. Just your attendance can be an important factor. (See details elsewhere.)

**Thursday, March 2, 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 ongoing projects, priorities and issues.

**Thursday, March 10, 7:00 pm, General Meeting 2nd Floor of Chapter Two Books, 130 N 100 E, Logan: The Wildlife of Ghana.** John and Ann Mull will share their experiences and photographs from their year in Ghana, focusing on the wildlife of that interesting country. The public is invited (bring your friends!); refreshments following.

**Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. Audubon Council of Utah Legislative Update.** We'll meet at the Ogden Nature Center to review the results of the 2000 Utah Legislature (Prozac will be available) and plan for the spring retreat. Carpooling will be available, leaving from Logan at 6:00 p.m. Call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, for more information.

**Friday, April 14, Annual Banquet.** Advance notice so you can put this date on your calendar! This year the banquet will be at the Aspen Grove Reception Center, 860 North 600 East; the speaker will be Dr. Fred Wagner and his topic will be wildlife of Yellowstone National park. Tickets will be \$20 per person, \$15 for students, beginning April 1. More details in the April issue of the *Stilt*.

**Saturday-Sunday, April 29-30, Audubon Council Retreat, The Amalga Barrens – A Place Misunderstood.** The spring retreat of the Audubon Council of Utah will convene at the Smithfield Senior Citizens Center at Mack Park in Smithfield, Utah at noon on Saturday. See article elsewhere for details.

## Field Trips

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

**Saturday, March 11. Bald Eagles in Willard Canyon.** This is a perfect trip to chase away cabin fever and get some exercise in early spring. This annual outing is led by Jim Sinclair and Reinhard Jockel to observe Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles. We leave at 10:00 a.m. from the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 N 50 E,

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 25. 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 is the peak of the waterfowl 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.

**Friday-Sunday, March 31-April 2. Zion National Park and Snow Canyon.** Join Jack Greene, BAS Education Chair, for a short but scenic trip down south to explore the natural history and ecology of the Colorado Plateau in one of the most profoundly beautiful pieces of our glorious planet. Depart Friday at 3 p.m. from Logan High School and return Sunday about 7 p.m. Cost: gas, bring own food, camping fees for Zion N.P. Moderately difficult day hikes. Call Jack Greene at 563-6816 for more information.

**Friday night and Saturday, April 7-8. Grouse Courtship Camping Trip.** Visit the Curlew National Grassland in southern Idaho to observe Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse strutting their stuff. We'll camp Friday night at the Curlew Campground north of Snowville at the south end of Stone Reservoir and get together at 7 p.m. around the campfire to listen to Ken Timothy, Forest Service biologist, discuss the grouse mating rituals. Saturday, we'll get up before dawn to watch the birds on their leks, and then return to camp for breakfast. Afterward, we'll visit other places at the Grasslands to look for other birds and creatures. We may even get to hear a loon! Return Saturday afternoon. Carpools encouraged; reservations required; call LeRoy Beasley at 753-7491.



## Remember:

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

Check for late breaking information and trips that were put together after the *Stilt* was published.

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

**Environmental Education** – This is a real case of “ya shudda been there.” The annual meeting of the Trustees of the Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center in Logan Canyon was held in late January, and it was a celebration of success. Just two years after it was officially opened, the SNC has cut out a place for itself in our local education scene. Over 70 schools participated in SNC programs last year involving 1,683 students between six and nine years of age. There are over 12 established curricula, a summer camp, and Saturday programs for the general public. They have three paid staff and a VERY active board of trustees. They’ve received several grants and an endowment fund has been established. (Yeah, right. As soon as they think they’re secure, we’ll just open up another one!) The most recent donations included over \$19,000 (net) from the November auction, and a generous \$50,000 from the Francis J. and Lelia W. Stokes Foundation and Stokes Family. In addition, there have been several \$2,000+ donations from various philanthropic individuals. It was a genuine pleasure to hear stories about their programs and see the enthusiasm of volunteers, staff and trustees. BAS members can take pride in their role in getting this nature center off the ground. I think it now qualifies as a “going concern.” If you haven’t joined as a member, get on it! If you’d like to make a donation of your own, it will certainly help. Please contact their Executive Director, Jen Levy, at 755-3239, <http://www.logannature.org> for more information.

**Conservation** – The Logan District Ranger has announced that they will prepare a full-fledged EIS for the North Rich Cattle Allotment Management Plan. This is good news because it means they should have resources to do a more thorough analysis of other impacts. This part of the district (south of the summit of Logan Canyon) gets extremely heavy use by ORVs, motorhome campers, woodcutters, etc. The area includes a major timber cut (the “Bear Hodges” project), and now historical grazing practices are up for review. The USFS knows the issues: cattle trampling riparian area, overuse of vegetation, manure in streams and springs, damage to wildlife habitat, etc. They promise a DEIS in April 2000 and a final EIS in September. We hope they can meet that schedule with all the other FS efforts going on (Forest Plan, Roadless Area Review, etc.) and we hope the analysis takes into account the value of untrammeled forest for all Americans. Stay tuned. If you have any questions, call Evelyn Sibbersen, USFS, 755-3620.

There was a bill before the Legislature to permit brine shrimp aquaculture in the Great Salt Lake. Audubon was worried because the shrimpers wanted to introduce new species that produced asexually. We feared what this might do to native, sexually-reproducing species if they escaped (how could they not?) as well as other worries, such as would they want to destroy wild birds once they found them eating the cultured shrimp? The shrimpers couldn’t agree among themselves about what was wanted and how to control the impacts, so the legislation died. Whew!

Here in Logan, BAS is opposing demolition of the Cache County Courthouse. The County Council seems determined to destroy this historic structure and, while BAS typically doesn’t get involved in historic preservation issues, we felt a need to speak up because this demolition will almost certainly destroy some magnificent trees – some of the oldest and most unique trees in Logan. Lately, the County Council, in their customary fashion, transferred the structure to the state in exchange for some other property, ostensibly to avoid complying with Logan’s historic preservation guidelines. What audacity! What utter lack of leadership! What myopia! Thanks to Mae Coover for dredging up the information used 20 years ago in the same fight! (It seems you don’t really ever win in the conservation movement – you just don’t lose.)

**On the Bird Front** – Todd Black is trying to set up a series of Breeding Bird Surveys in northern Utah. The BBS program collects data about the presence of breeding birds along the same route over a period of years to help determine changes in populations of wild birds. The commitment can be pretty small—one morning a year—or you can take on a route, involving several visits or routes. Call Todd at 245-5268 if you’re interested in helping out.

Went out birding in mid-February and saw geese all paired up, song sparrows singing on territories, and female mallards hiding among the rushes. Spring is coming.

Bryan Dixon, President

## Banquet Birding Bonuses

We stated earlier this year that we wanted to re-institute the BAS awards for listing. In years past, Allen Stokes used to present patches for having seen 150 species in Cache County and hats for reaching the 200 level. Earlier this year we announced a similar program for year lists, but we want to open it up. At this year’s banquet, we’ll recognize all those members who have identified 100, 150, and 200 total species within Cache County – not just in 1999. We’ll be presenting awards, so get your lists in to us as soon as possible. Mail your list to Reinhard Jockel, 123 North Main #10, Logan, or send them to BAS, P.O. Box 3501, Logan 84323-3501 (email: [stilt@xmission.com](mailto:stilt@xmission.com))



## RAC to Hear About Non-consumptive Wildlife Users

Continued from page 1

Our attendance is important to demonstrate support for a new approach to wildlife management in Utah. "Sportsmen"—those who consume wildlife—are not the only users of wildlife, should not be the only financial supporters of public wildlife agencies, and should not exercise such total control of the state's Division of Wildlife Resources. Only when we force the process to open up will we get wildlife management that's balanced and will we have any hope of rational wildlife management in Utah. For further information on the Study Group, call Debbie Goodman at 801-328-8501.

## Great Salt Lake Waterbird Survey

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project is in need of volunteers to participate in the 2000 Waterbird field season. This is the fourth of a five-year study of the temporal and spatial relationships of waterbirds on the Great Salt Lake in response to varying lake elevations. Observers work in teams and each team has a leader who is in charge of making sure their survey area gets covered once every ten days—that's a total of 17 survey periods from April through September. On some teams every person goes out every time and on others the team members rotate. Ideally it is best if people can commit to doing the whole season – but we do have an alternate team that will fill in when volunteers need to miss a time or two for vacation or whatever. People will be counting all waterbirds and doing some habitat and behavior surveying. Most survey areas can be counted in 2-4 hours. Orientation and some training are provided before surveys begin, but it is best if volunteers have previous birding experience. Pre-season meetings will be held March 27 (Salt Lake, 7 pm at the Natural Resources Bldg, 1594 W. North Temple), March 29 (Ogden, 7 pm at the DWR office, 515 East 5300 South). April 8 is a field trip training day, starting sometime in the morning, probably around 8 a.m. and meeting at the parking lot just before the start of the Antelope Island causeway. It's a big commitment, but those who have participated have really enjoyed getting to know the lake, the waterbirds and the people on their teams. For more information please contact Don Paul (721-9780 or [avocet@uswest.net](mailto:avocet@uswest.net)).



## Nominees for Board and Officers Set—Almost

After much searching and careful consideration, the nominations committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates that will appear on the ballot in the April *Stilt*.

President— open  
Vice President – Bill Masslich  
Secretary – Suzanne Pratt  
Board of Trustees – Mae Coover  
Board of Trustees – Teri Peery  
Board of Trustees – Don McIvor  
Board of Trustees – Ron Goede

In addition, Chris Wilson will take over as publicity chair, which is not an elected position, and which has been open. As you can see, we still need to find nominees for president (Bryan has decided its time for him to step down, although he promises to remain very active), and we hope to present a nominee when the ballot is presented for voting in April. If you know of a potential candidate, including yourself (seriously), please call me.

As indicated, the ballot for voting on this slate will be presented in the April *Stilt*. Your ballot will have to be received by April 14, the date of the annual banquet. Vote!

Bruce Pendery  
For the Nominations Committee

## SNOWBUNNIES OF NORTHERN UTAH

As the first moccasins dented our continent's forest loam, coast to coast rabbit trails already criss-crossed the landscape. Rabbit, long on ears, short on tail, and keen on senses, soon wove his way into the story of the North American human tribe. To eastern Indians, Rabbit was a devious and mischievous trickster, wise and foolish, powerful and impotent, serious and comical. In similar fashion Rabbit tracks trailed through the folklore of African-American slaves. You've heard tell about ol' Brer' Rabbit of Uncle Remus fame; "Oh no Mr. Man, please don' throw me in de briar patch!" Sneaking through uptight Mr. MacGregor's garden, Rabbit hopped from flickering blue vacuum tubes into the eager young minds of generations of lollipoppers as lazy, lovable Bugs Bunny, karmic nemesis of Mr. Elmer Fudd, defender of propriety and domestic bliss. When a returning sun melts the snow and stirs our blood, Rabbit manifests as Easter Bunny, guardian of lovers, fertility, and earthly renewal. In this guise Rabbit hides, within our reach, the promise of the seed within, the Egg of Estrus.



Rabbit, not primarily a gift to our mythological architecture or our gullets, live quite well according to their own devices and purposes. Northern Utah hosts four distinctly different species of rabbit and numerous races of each species. In the cold desert live the sage loving, lanky Blacktail Jacks. The higher rolling hills and foothills host Whitetail Jackrabbits. Large and wary these folks, like the Snowshoe Hares, turn white in the winter. The Snowshoes, or Varying Hares, live among the high mountain evergreens. The Cottontail is smaller, cuter, and more likely to be found along river bottom thickets or rocky outcroppings.

Among our deserts, mountains, and rivers the Rabbit People live rather peaceful lives and do their level best to produce a sufficiency of protein to feed masses of hungry, predatory creatures. The magnificent form of a sky born eagle was in all likelihood once a rabbit or two. Coyotes, bobcats, foxes, pioneers, owls, hawks and assorted road bums all owe homage to Rabbit as a source of provender. Unfortunately we've taken to slaughtering wild rabbits to make the range forage safe for cattle and sheep. A strange choice. Most have forgotten the flavor of rabbit stew or the warmth of a woven rabbitskin blanket.

Rabbits are often creatures of the night. Like many nocturnal animals, the back of a rabbit's eyeball is carpeted by a thin membranous mirror. This membrane reflects incoming light back again through the light sensitive parts of the eye and allows the rabbit to garner perhaps twice as much illumination from a given source as we humans. This is why a rabbit's eyes will glow in the dark against an intense beam of light. To avoid such a glare bunnies caught in our headlights either remain frozen, or turn directly away from the beam, often straight down the middle of the road, directly away from the oncoming auto and forty miles an hour too slow to stay there long. Some people drive slower at night in wild country to avoid crunching the bones of rabbits, mice, deer, and other nocturnals.

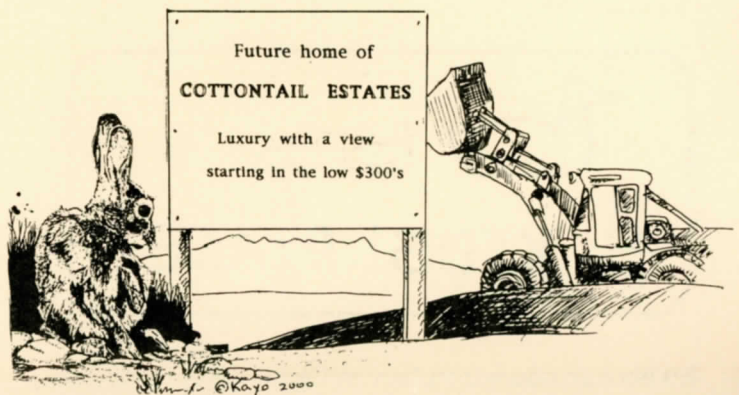
When a rabbit runs he touches down first with his front feet. The hind feet then swing forward on both sides of and ahead of the front feet. The rabbit is then in position for another powerful leap which leaves the larger back prints ahead of the forepaws, an inverted "V". Jackrabbits can leap upwards of forty feet per jump. When pressed rabbits usually travel in large circles.

In story, memory, and research, rabbit populations in the Great Basin have been like the hands on a grand cosmic clock. Massive populations of jackrabbits would "bloom" every seven to ten years. "Jacks" were so thick that every twentieth sagebrush hid a rabbit. Population lows were lean times for those who depended upon rabbits. Now this pattern seems to have been broken. It has been a long while since a rabbit boom hit the west desert country. This is important my friends. Does anybody notice?

Stalking rabbits requires practice, patience, and perseverance. Rabbit has two techniques for staying unseen and out of trouble. One is to stay very, very, not a twitch of the ear, still. The other is to run like hell. The weak link in this system is that often the rabbit can't seem to make up its mind which tactic to try, and either turns nervously around in its hiding place, or makes a fast break, only to stop a few dozen yards away.

This year there is a relative abundance of pygmy cottontails around the mouths of many local canyons with suitable "briar patch" habitat. Leave Fido at home and early or late in the day visit places that sport numerous tracks. Be quiet and still. You will likely get a look at one of our honest, unobtrusive neighbors.

*Kayo Robertson*



## Grazing to Be Evaluated on the Logan Ranger District

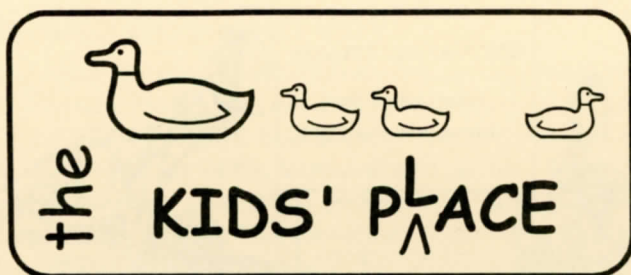
The Forest Service has decided to do an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental impacts of livestock grazing on the North Rich grazing allotment in the Logan Ranger District. An allotment is an area of National Forest where grazing is allowed. The North Rich Allotment is located south of the Logan Canyon Highway near the Limber Pine Trail. It includes the "sinks" area of the forest.

There are a number of sensitive species or species of special interest that occur in this area or that may occur there. They include the Lynx, Pine Marten, wolverine, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Owl, Flammulated Owl, Great Gray Owl, Goshawk, Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Forest Grouse, Spotted Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, and the Spotted Frog. Your comments will be critical to ensure that the Forest Service does not overlook or minimize the possible impacts of livestock grazing to these species, and to the forest ecosystem in general. Auduboner's know as much, or more, about the status of many of these species in the sinks area than the Forest Service, so your input is especially important.



To participate in this process you must write Brian Ferebee, District Ranger, 1500 East Hwy 89, Logan 84321. These letters should be received by March 10, 2000, so time is short. Even if your letter would be received after March 10, still send it because the Forest Service would probably at least put you on the mailing list to receive the draft EIS, which is expected out in April of this year. At this stage, called "scooping," the Forest Service wants to know what issues and alternatives you feel should be addressed in the EIS. If you can provide comments along those lines, please do, but at least write so you are on the mailing list and receive the draft EIS, which will provide something more concrete to comment on. The final EIS, which will determine livestock grazing levels and methods on the North Rich Allotment, is due out in September of 2000.

*Bruce Pendery*



It's been an odd winter here in Cache Valley, not much snow in town, warm temperatures, and (at least at our house) lots of mud. What can you and the kids do this month when it seems like sledding, skiing, and skating won't be options and you're sick of prying them out of the mud? How about going for a nest-hunting trip? Late winter is a great time to look for old bird nests before they're hidden by the tree leaves and without fear of disturbing newly nesting birds.

## Bird's Nests

### Why Do Birds Build Nests?

Unlike people, most birds don't build houses for everyday use. They build nests to protect their eggs from harsh weather and predators. Some people think birds originally just laid their eggs in shallow depressions on the ground or in existing holes (and some still do). But as the number of safe nesting areas decreased with increasing number of birds, it's thought that some birds were able to help their chicks survive by changing less desirable nesting areas and improving nest structures.

This behavior eventually resulted in the variety of nests we see today. Depending on the type of bird, habitat, materials on hand, and the builder's experience, birds can create their own tree houses, apartments, and castles!

### Ground Nests

Ground nests are usually very simple and are made from materials gathered next to the nesting area, such as grass, leaves, and pebbles, and sometimes are even lined with the parents' feathers.

An advantage of ground nests is that they take relatively little time to build, so the parent has more time to devote to the eggs. Ground nesting birds can keep their eggs just as warm as if they were in a sheltered nest, but they have to spend more time sitting on the eggs (and in some cases keeping them from rolling out of the nest!). Being on the ground means that they're more likely to meet up with predators. Hence these types of birds and their eggs are commonly well camouflaged and the nests are in places that predators can't easily get to.

Ground nesting birds include swans, geese, ducks, grouse, pheasants, and shorebirds. In our area, you can sometimes run across (almost literally) Killdeer, Mourning Doves, and Sandhill Cranes.

### Cavity Nests

Some birds build their nests in holes that they find or dig in trees or in the ground. These nests help protect the eggs and chicks from both predators (except for tree-climbing snakes and agile mammals) and harsh weather. Some cavity nesters even orient the entrance hole to the sun so that it helps keep the nest temperature comfortable.

Woodpeckers nest in tree cavities. Some woodpeckers will reuse the same nest cavity, but others will drill new holes each year in the same tree. It can take two to four weeks to drill a new hole! Some birds, such as owls and wood ducks, don't have a strong enough bill to dig their own nest cavity, so they use abandoned nests.

Bank Swallows and Belted Kingfishers are cavity nesters too, but they burrow several feet into the ground. Though birds aren't usually considered diggers, these species are quite good at it. Their nests are commonly found in sandy cliffs and near water. Burrowing birds often begin their nests by flying straight into the bank. After several knocks of the head, a dent is made that the bird can land on and use to start excavating. It's no wonder that the Belted Kingfisher's nest (which can be at the end of a tunnel 3 to 15 feet long) is often reused each year!

### Platform Nests

Platform nests represent a "second level" in nest building. They are more complex than the "first level" (ground and cavity nests) in that they're not on a flat surface and they're made entirely of materials that the bird has brought in, such as large twigs. Platform nests can be found in the forks of trees, on cliffs, or on poles. Some birds, such as Ospreys, add to their platform each



year, and these nests can reach gigantic proportions – five feet in diameter and seven feet high! Big enough, in fact, that House Sparrows and Grackles may borrow a corner or two for their own nesting needs. Platform nesters also include Swainson's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Golden Eagles, and Great Blue Herons.

### Cupped Nests

A third level of nest building is the cupped nest. Cupped nests take skill and time but for some birds, they may be worth it. Cupped nests have supportive sides that keep chicks from tumbling out and keep them warm when their parents are away. The small nests are also thought to be less obvious to predators and less desirable to larger birds that might take over a bigger nest.

Most cupped nests are built by first wrapping materials around a branch to form a ball. Next, the bird stands on the ball and pulls up the sides to make a cup. More materials are then added to camouflage and reinforce the nest. Not all birds can manage to make, or even get into, a cupped nest. It takes a type of bird (like songbirds and hummingbirds) with a great deal of wing control.

The American Robin builds a cupped nest that is supported mainly from below (statant nest) and is usually found in shrubs, trees, and on buildings. The outside base of the nest consists of a messy looking group of twigs and grass; inside is a cup of mud lined with fine grass. Black-billed Magpies build (statant) cupped nests, but they extend the sides up and over the nest. Magpies' nests are often large and conspicuous with heavy outer walls. They're lined with mud or cow dung, small roots, stems, and hair.

The Northern Oriole's nest is a hanging (pendulous) cupped nest that swings freely and has flexibly woven sides. It is attached to the far end of slender branches, making it safe from both climbing predators and nest robbers.

Barn and Cliff Swallows can create elaborate cupped (adherent) nests of mud pellets and straw that are lined with feathers. These nests can be found plastered on ledges and walls of buildings and under bridges. As many as 1,000 pellets, each carried separately, are needed to complete the nest. Unlike other birds that build a new nest each season, swallows will often reuse the same nest each year.

### Activities

Take a walk in your yard or a local natural area and look for nests that you can inspect close up (American Robins' nests are fairly common). Help your child identify and admire the work that went into building the nest. Bring along a bird guide so that you can show your child which bird made the nest. Always make sure to wash your hands after handling nests – some harbor pests.

Help your child make each type of nest. First, make "scrapes," which is the simplest type of ground nest. Have your child make a snow angel and discuss how it's very similar to nests some birds (like killdeer and tern) make. Then get some grass, twigs, straw, and mud (finally a good use for the stuff) and let your child try to build a ground nest (with grass), platform (with twigs), and cupped nest (use everything!). Compare the amount of time and effort making a scrape with other types of nests.

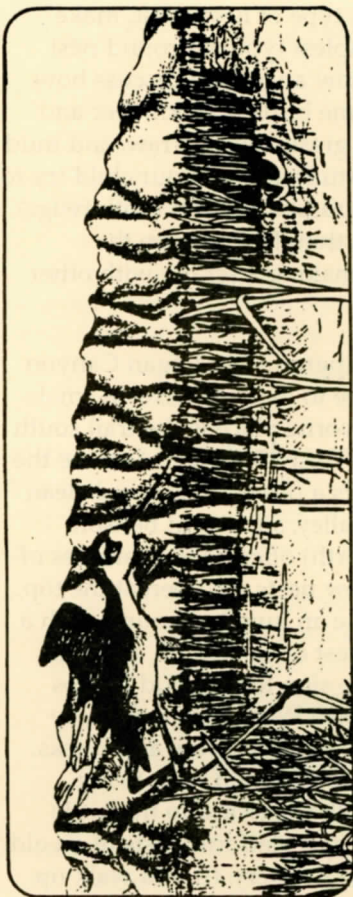
The Guinavah-Malibu Campground in Logan Canyon offers an easy and safe place to look for nests in small shrubs or trees. Another favorite place is the trail south of the Benson Bridge (3000 West 3700 North) where the PacifiCorp parking lot offers a place to park and clean restrooms. Bridges in the valley, such as at Benson Marina (4800 West 3000 North) offer good examples of swallow nests (Barn Swallow nests are open at the top, Cliff Swallow nests look like an inverted gourd, with a hole out the side). Travel west on 600 South and turn north onto a dirt road at the sign for the Bud Phelps Wildlife Management (4500ish West), where in early March you will see lots of paired up geese and ducks. Continue north one-half mile and then west to the parking lot and you can walk westward to the Little Bear River where you'll see the platform nests of an old, but active, great Blue Heron Rookery. (If you walk up close this time of year, you might even see a Great Horned Owl in one of the nests.)

*Krista McHugh*



*Art by G. Frehner*





BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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# THE STILT

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 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, 563-6616; Ron Hellstern, 753-8750; Merr Lundahl, 753-1707; Lois Olson, 752-9085
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