



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Celebrate Cutler Marsh at the Wetland Maze's Coming Out Party

On October 14, wetlands enthusiasts will gather at the Cutler Marsh to celebrate the establishment of the Wetlands Maze. PacifiCorp has designated that part of Cutler Marsh from the Mendon Road north to the railroad trestle just south of Benson Marina as a protected area to be managed for water quality, wildlife habitat and low-impact recreation. Motors over 25 hp are prohibited (including a prohibition on personal watercraft).

It all began in early 1999, when PacifiCorp awarded a GreenCorps grant of \$2,000 to Bridgerland Audubon Society for a "Wetlands Maze" project to help protect this valuable marsh. This project helps to fulfill the Resource Management Plan developed for the Cutler Dam relicensure in 1995. That plan recognized that the south part of the Cutler Marsh is very shallow and sediment loads are high, but that it is a rich habitat for birds, mammals, fish, and a host of other creatures. In fact, this part of the marsh includes the Great Blue Heron rookery south of Valley View and the Cattle Egret and White-faced Ibis rookeries north of Valley View.

The Wetlands Maze project included four key components. First, PacifiCorp adopted a policy restricting motorized use to low horsepower craft to avoid re-suspending sediments in hopes of increasing light to stimulate bottom dwelling plants in the marsh and also to avoid disturbing wildlife. Second, canoe and hiking trails were designated to encourage the public to visit the marsh. Third, signs were created to educate visitors about recreational opportunities and wetlands ecology. Fourth, a web site was established



—Photo by B. Truitt

to make educational materials available, including wildlife photographs and a downloadable map of the Wetlands Maze. In the near future, PacifiCorp will be building a bridge over the abandoned railroad trestle to help block off motor boats and provide an easy loop path for walkers to get closer to the marsh.

Volunteers who donated significant amounts of time to this project included Todd Black, Georhen Gilliam, Joan Labby, and Patty Rowan.

So, here's where the rest of the BAS members are needed! On Saturday, October 14, at 1 p.m., we need volunteers to help plant trees and install the signs at both Benson and Valley View Marinas (everyone should meet at Benson Marina, approximately 5000 West 3000 North). Feel free to bring canoes to check out the new canoe trails. Refreshments will be available and we should have a grand time.

—Bryan Dixon

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If you can commit to helping out ahead of time call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830 or Eve Davies 801/232-1704. In the meantime, check out the web site. It's chock full of information. <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/wetlandsmaze>.



"We intend to start advertising the availability of small BAS grants (say \$200-700) for the benefit of local environmental efforts."

President's Message

In early September BAS held a combined "retreat" and board meeting after our summer break. This was a daylong event at Mae Coover's house.

The retreat portion of the meeting was intended to deal with "big picture" kinds of things. We considered our finances and spending priorities in detail, and outlined a program to improve our outreach to members and potential members. Relative to finances and spending we made the following decisions. BAS, due to the generosity of a local supporter, has the vast majority of its assets in several stocks. They have been "good" stocks and we have prospered, but like all small portfolios, they can be subject to fairly wild swings in value. Therefore, we decided to sell half of each of the stocks and put the proceeds into a socially responsible mutual fund so as to diversify our assets. We have to identify the mutual fund before we actually sell the stock, although several possibilities were discussed. It was determined that BAS's mission as well as the values and views of the original donor made investment in a socially responsible mutual fund appropriate.

We also discussed our program spending priorities. In the recent past much of BAS's program spending has been in the form of a number (probably a dozen per year or more) of grants to various local activities. Many of these have been conservation education ac-

tivities being pursued by local teachers, but we also contribute significantly to our own conservation efforts and those of other local groups. We do not at this time have one "big" spending priority or program, such as launching the Stokes Nature Center was several years ago. We have a diversity of little programs we fund. After some discussion we decided we like this approach, at least for now. We decided it was useful outreach for BAS to contribute to many worthwhile local environmental efforts. Not only was it decided we like this approach for now, it was also decided to formalize it somewhat: we intend to start advertising the availability of small BAS grants (say \$200-700) for the benefit of local environmental efforts.

But that said, we also recognized that we could in the future want to pursue a "big" project—like creation of an Audubon state office or being forced into a major campaign to stop the Barrens Dam. Right now we have a nice "nest egg" that would certainly allow us to initiate a major project, if we desire. But last year we spent about \$4000 more than we took in. If we continue to do that, our nest egg—and ability to launch a "big" project—could be whittled away over the course of several years. Therefore, the board decided to launch a limited funding raising effort, with the goal of raising \$4000. The basic idea is to raise enough money to allow us to continue funding the numer-

ous small projects we have been funding without impairing our future ability to launch a major project if desired or needed. We will attempt to raise the \$4000 by direct solicitation of BAS members—please consider sending us a donation (its tax deductible)!

Relative to membership, we will be launching several activities under the guidance of our secretary and new membership chair, Suzanne Pratt. Suzanne will be pursuing several activities with the goal of keeping the members we have, finding new members, and staying in touch with members who have decided to let their membership lapse. Much of this will involve improved communications—thanking new and renewing members personally, the development of a brochure describing what we do, etc.

Having completed the retreat, we moved on to our regular board meeting. We discussed the possible formation of an Audubon state office that would be funded by National Audubon and the four chapters in Utah. We support this effort, with the caveat that we have to have a better understanding of our financial responsibilities before we fully commit. We also named Mae Coover and Georgen Gilliam as our representatives on the Stokes Nature Center board. Both Mae and Georgen are on the nature center board and are BAS trustees or officers as well.

—Bruce Penderfy

Audubon Calendar - October 2000

Wednesday, October 4

Monthly Board Meeting

Our next board meeting will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 4, at the home of Teri Peery, 516 E. 700 South, River Heights.

Thursday-Sunday, October 5-8

Jackson Hole, Wyoming - Bugling Elk

Annual Trip to Hear Elk Bugling in Jackson Hole. We'll circle the wagons at a campground northeast of Jackson (Gros Ventre, if it's open). Spend the last days of fall looking for bison, pronghorn, elk, coyotes, and other wildlife. The highlight of the trip is the haunting calls of the bugling elk. Sunday free for various hikes. Return by suppertime Sunday. This was one of Allen Stokes' favorite BAS trips, and we'll be remembering him around the campfire. Call Terry or Jesse Barnes at 563-3910 (evenings and weekends) for reservations and carpooling arrangements. Bring your own food and camping gear. Be prepared for freezing weather.

Thursday, October 12

General Meeting

Paul Rogers of the U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region is the featured speaker at our general meeting at 7 pm in the Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, Logan. The topic is urban sprawl.

Saturday, October 14

Logan Sewage Lagoons - A Hunting Season Hangout

Why, you ask, would we want to Bird the Logan Sewage Lagoons? Because the birds are there! Why are the birds there? Because they're safe as hunting season pushes the ducks to havens like the sewage lagoons where we can see the "regulars" in large numbers and usually find some "irregulars," too. Meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance to the Sewage Lagoons (aka Square Lakes) on 600 North in Logan as far west as you can go. We're usually finished within two hours, but those who want to bird longer can head out into the valley looking for other critters. For more information, call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

Saturday, October 21

Stone Soup Canoe Trip on the Bear River

Kind of a pot luck on water. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot near Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East) to paddle the Bear River from the Preston/Weston bridge to Cornish. LeRoy will provide the basics for a soup, and you are encouraged to bring something for the pot. Bring binoculars too, water and warm clothes along with your own boat (boats can be rented from USU Outdoor Rec, Trailhead Sports, or Muddy Road Outfitters). We'll return mid-afternoon. For more information, call LeRoy Beasley, 753-7491.

Saturday, November 11

The Trees of Winter

This will be a joint field trip with the Stokes Nature Center, and is offered to coincide with their open house. We'll meet at 9 a.m. at the Nature Center parking area (on the left, about 1/4 mile up Logan Canyon). From there we'll car pool to our destination—determined by group interest and weather—probably Spring Hollow or Wood Camp Hollow. On a short hike our trip leader, extension forester Mike Kuhns, will lead us through a forest ecology lesson. Discussion will include how trees adapt to winter, winter tree identification, and how aspect and altitude affect the types of trees that grow in an area. We'll bring along an increment borer and age a few trees, and maybe talk about the roll of fire in our local forests. Return to the parking around noon in time to enjoy the open house. For more information, call Mike Kuhns, 753-2237 or 797-4056.

Saturday, November 18

Birding the Northern Salt Lake Valley

November is a shoulder month in Northern Utah—a time in the season where anything can happen with the weather or the birds. We're planning a morning of birding the northern Salt Lake Valley. Cold weather could drive a gyrfalcon down from the north, or warm weather could find warblers lingering at Willard Bay—you just never know. Local guide Dick Hurren will keep an ear to the ground and an eye to the skies and determine our destination. Could include raptors en route to Promontory Point, waterfowl at Salt Creek WMA, the Bear River Refuge (if they get any water!), Willard Bay, or points undetermined. Meet at the Straw Ibis parking lot (150 North 50 East), we'll car pool over to Dick's place in Brigham and start birding. Binoculars, water, and a lunch recommended. Return mid-afternoon. For details call Don McIvor, 753-2051.

Saturday, December 16

Christmas Bird Count Alert!

This is BAS's 23rd Annual Christmas Bird Count. The count 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 at the home of Sue and David Drown (1776 East 1400 North) 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.



"The air was fall air. It was particularly bright and clear, with that soft fall light that so enhances scenery, and just a little cool."

Almost Fall in Cache Valley...

Sitting through a daylong meeting is a little hard, even when it's with friends. Especially on a Saturday. Even if it's a productive meeting that in some small way will contribute to environmental quality in Cache Valley.

As discussed elsewhere in this *Stilt*, the BAS board held a daylong board meeting in early September where we did many things that should help us continue contributing to local environmental conservation and education. Still, I wanted out of there. I had planned to go backpacking with a friend as soon as the meeting was over, so I wanted it over from the time it started. Thus, come 5 p.m. when we adjourned, I blew the doors off and headed for High Creek and the Mount Naomi Wilderness.

Like usual, the outdoors did not disappoint. While this trip was very short—a quick overnigher—it was a particu-

larly nice reminder of how lucky we are to be close to the many beautiful outdoor places in Cache Valley. Fall was at the door everywhere. Some of the aspens and maples were beginning to turn, especially up high. Many of the geraniums and various members of the sunflower family had definitely passed their summer prime, and were blood red or shedding seed. But some lupines and a few other species were still flowering, perhaps "hoping" to still set a few seeds before winter. Not quite fall, but very close.

The air was fall air. It was particularly bright and clear, with that soft fall light that so enhances scenery, and just a little cool. By the time we got to High Creek Lake on Sunday we were in something of a reverie, not to mention a sweat. Every rock and cliff on the ridgelines stood in sharp relief. The Mount Naomi Wilderness is

a beautiful place and that was as clear as ever on this trip.

Wildlife was also cooperating. Blue grouse were out in droves. I think a chipmunk at High Creek Lake had experience working the tourists. We broke down right on schedule and gave it some sunflower seeds, which it promptly stuffed into its cheeks and stored in its cache. Most enjoyable of all was the yearling moose, which stood for several minutes in one of the old beaver ponds at the head of High Creek in an utterly classic moose-like setting with water dripping from its mouth.

Nature repaid me on this trip, as it usually does. I guess that's why we sit through daylong meetings: the chance to help protect these lands is worth a few "lost" Saturdays.

—Bruce Pendery

Items of Regional Interest

Festival of the Cranes at Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society invites you to attend the 13th annual Festival of the Cranes at Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and Socorro, New Mexico from November 16-19, 2000. This festival celebrates the arrival of the thousands of sandhill cranes that winter at and near the Refuge. For more information or a program about this festival call 505-835-1828 or check the website at www.friendsofthebosque.org

Conservation Plan for Ouray National Wildlife Refuge Now Available

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, located in the Uintah Basin, is now available.

You can obtain a copy of this plan at www.r6.fws.gov/larp or you can request a copy of the Plan or the Summary by writing to: Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, HC 69, Box 232, Rantlett, UT 84063-9729

Audubon Council of Utah Seeks Full-Time Lobbyist

Audubon Council of Utah is looking for a full-time lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session, mid-November through mid-March. Could that person be you?

Find out by visiting our website for a complete job description. Want to know even more? Contact our former lobbyist, Ann O'Connell, at 801/277-9046, or Mary Garcia at 801/581-0345.

Board Seeks Environmental Education and Conservation Proposals

Bridgerland Audubon seeks to continue its tradition of funding environmental education programs among schools in Cache Valley.

Past grants have paid for Audubon Adventure classroom adventure packets (teacher packets covering eight hands-on activities, background and video) and backpack ecology field kits (equipment and supplies for ecology experiments that can be taken home as family activities). We have also helped defray costs of student participation in Envirothon competitions or even

just bus travel to Stokes Nature Center for programs.

In the coming months, the Board will entertain brief, focused conservation and environmental education proposals in the amount of several hundred dollars from valley teachers in need of funding for their environmental education projects.

We will also consider requests for small grants from people engaged in other conservation projects and activities. Examples could include plantings to enhance riparian areas, or perhaps

even limited funding to defray the costs of mobilizing citizen input on environmental issues, among others. Funding will in part be contingent upon the success of a local fund raising program being initiated by the Board this year that will earmark support for BAS's educational outreach program.

A requirement of funded proposals will be a brief summary report with pictures of the supported activities to be reported at a local Bridgerland Audubon meeting, in the Stilt or a local newspaper.

—Jim Cane

Stokes Nature Center Fundraising Auction Set for November 11

The Stokes Nature Center Dinner/Auction Fundraiser will be Saturday, November 11 at the Copper Mill Restaurant.

For \$20 (\$16 for students), you will be entertained, fed, and seen at the social event of the season (not to mention supporting nature education in Cache Valley!) Tickets will be available from 18 October to 8 November at the Nature

Center, Chapter Two Books, the USU Merrill Library Special Collections & Archives, Callaway's, and Fuhriman's Framing & Fine Art.

Donations (auction/raffle items) are being solicited until 28 October, so if you have a treasure or skill you would like to share for a good cause, please call Jen at 755-3239 or email at nature@logannature.org.

Also on November 11 - The Stokes Nature Center Third Annual Open House. Come celebrate our fourth anniversary of nature education in Cache Valley. Free programs will run throughout the day. Look for more detailed program information soon! We hope to see you there!

—Georgen Gilliam

"You will be entertained, fed and seen at the social event of the season"

Cache Valley Unitarians Form "Green Group"

A new group has formed within the Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists that is dedicated to promoting sustainable practices and acting on environmental concerns from a spiritual point of view.

The group is called the Green Group and has the following mission statement:

"We commit to affirm and promote the respectful protection of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part through personal practice, education, and community action."

The Green Group meets on the last Monday of each month at 7 pm, at Dan

Robert's home, 255 S. 100 East, Logan, 753-6014. The next meeting is scheduled for October 30. Any interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information contact Green Group leader Susan Buffler at e-mail address: subuff@mendel.usu.edu, phone: 752-4275.

—Susie Flann



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WWW.BRIDGERLANDAUDUBON.ORG

Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, September through June, in the Logan City meeting room, 255 N. Main St., Logan. Meetings start at 7 p.m. The BAS Planning Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, September through June. Locations change monthly. Check calendar page. Everyone is welcome.

President	Bruce Pendery, 792-4150
Vice President	Bill Masslich, 753-1759
Secretary	Suzanne Pratt, 713-0197
Treasurer	Susan Drown, 752-3797
Wetlands	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Suzanne Pratt, 713-0197
Field Trips	Don Mclvor, 753-2051
Newsletter	Miriam Hugentobler, 752-8237
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637
Hospitality	Georgen Gilliam, 787-4018
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268

Trustees

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
2000-2003	Mae Coover, 752-8871; Ron Goede, 752-9650 Don Mclvor, 753-2051; Teri Peery, 753-3249

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Stilt* invites submissions of any kind, due on the 15th of each month.

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 to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to National Audubon Society.
Send this application and your check to:
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
PO Box 51001 · Boulder, CO 80322-1001



Local Chapter _____

Bridgerland Audubon Society
PO Box 3501
Logan, UT 84323-3501

W-52
Local Chapter Code
7XCHA

Subscriptions to the *Stilt* are available to non-members for \$20/year. Contact Susan Durham, 752-5637 (email sdurham@biology.usu.edu) for new subscriptions or address changes.