



The Stilt

Volume 3, Issue 2
February 2001

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Vol 30

BAS Educational Initiatives

Audubon Adventures

Occasionally, Bridgerland Audubon is asked what we do with the money we receive. One of the many things BAS funds is educational initiatives like Audubon Adventures.

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for children in grades 4 through 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, Audubon Adventures presents basic, scientifically accurate facts

about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes to teachers packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or Individual Kit (serving 1 student). The kits include four separate packets of Audubon Adventures, an environmental newspaper just for kids; a Classroom Resource Manual, filled with hands-on activities, duplicating masters, and research material; Audubon's Animal Adventure video tape; a classroom wall certificate; and internet projects.

The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and homeschoolers.

BAS has provided funding for Audubon Adventure programs in all of the elementary and middle schools in Cache Valley.

LEAF (Logan Environmental Action Force)

LEAF (Logan Environmental Action Force) is a local environmental club that operates out of Logan High School and has received funding from BAS for a number of projects. Mr. Jack Greene is the advisor of the group and without his dedication to the group LEAF would not exist today. LEAF consists of about 33 members. LEAF is responsible for the recycling program and various activities such as the phone book drive and conscientious commuter day at Logan High School. Recently LEAF helped sponsor a kids' activity at the North Logan Library. LEAF also participates in teaching at the local elementary schools with the Cache Valley Clean Team, monitoring a wetland, and certain members of LEAF in the past have attended national environmental summits and taken part in Envirothon. The Logan City School Board recognized LEAF with a service award last year. LEAF has a lot of charisma and is having a spectacular year.

—Katie Trieu
Logan High School

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BAS Educational Mini-Grant Available

Bridgerland Audubon grants small sums of money (between \$100 and \$500) to teachers and parents of students in Cache Valley classrooms for the purpose of implementing a classroom project in environmental education. The applications will be considered by a committee in Bridgerland Audubon, then approved by the Audubon board at their monthly meeting. Please submit this application at least two months before you need the funds. After the education activity has taken place, a teacher or parent will be required to write a newsletter article for the BAS newsletter, *The Stilt*, describing the use of the BAS funding.

Application forms are available at:
<http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/education/edgrant.pdf> or call Alice Lindahl at 753-7744 or email her at alindahl@biology.usu.edu

A President's Parting Notes



The most significant thing that occurred at the January board meeting was the board's approval of Val Grant as the new BAS president. He is replacing me due to my impending one-year departure to Washington, D.C. Many of you know Val, and I am sure you will agree he will keep BAS moving along and active in its numerous activities. Actually, Val was president about 10 years ago, and he did a fantastic job then.

We also met with Nadene Steinhoff and Jen Levy of the Stoke Nature Center and finalized the arrangement between BAS and the Nature Center that will allow for us to appoint two nature center board members. As I said in a prior message, the nature center, rightfully, wants to strike out on its own now that it has become more established and stable, but BAS wanted to continue to play a strong, but not dominating, role in the nature center since we and the First Presbyterian Church founded the nature center. It took about six months to work through this, but we all felt a good structure (2 appointments) was worked out, and both groups reaf-

firmed their strong support for each other.

Alice Lindahl gave us an update on the fund raising effort she has led on our behalf. She said we had raised well over a thousand dollars to date. I would like to thank all of you who have donated; your donation will make it possible for BAS to continue to fund many worthy education and conservation projects. If you put the fundraising request in your "to do" pile, I hope you will consider acting on it now that holiday season crunch is over.

The board discussed the Utah Rivers Council's (URC) efforts to protect the Bear River and offered BAS's support for those activities. The URC appears to have redoubled its efforts to prevent dam construction on the Bear River, including opposition to the Barrens Dam at Amalga. We hope to work with the URC committee focusing on the Bear River, and hopefully our local focus combined with the URC's presence in Salt Lake City will create a synergy (don't you just love

those trendy words, maybe I can work "paradigm shift" in here somewhere) that stops the dams.

Finally, Jack Greene brought three of his students to the meeting to report to us on their experiences at environmental leadership training programs. BAS provided support to these students to help defray travel expenses and tuition. Our money was well spent. I think it is fair to say the board was very impressed by how competently and passionately these young environmentalists presented themselves. So impressed it made another small donation to their efforts, and is considering similar proposals to support similar activities Ron Hellstern's students are engaged in. Stilt articles on these activities should appear in an upcoming issue.

Well, enough's enough. I will look forward to seeing you when I return in one year.

- Bruce Pendery

Bear Lake Christmas Bird Count: Dense Fog, Record Number of Species



A total of 56 species of birds were observed by 18 people probing the dense fog around Bear Lake on December 28. This represented a new high for number of species in only the fourth year for the Bear Lake Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which started in 1997. The old record from the second year of the count, 1998, was 55 species. Thirty-eight and 50 species were seen in 1997 and 1999, respectively.

Birders, including quite a contingent from Bridgerland Audubon Society, working in 8 to 10 parties logged 14 hours and 13 miles on foot, 3 hours and 2 miles on cross-country skis, and 22 hours and 171 miles by car. The 15-mile diameter count area is centered in the south end of Bear

Lake between Pickleville and Rendezvous Beach State Park and includes all of the lake up to the Idaho border and valley lands and mountains around the south end of Bear Lake. Highest elevations in the count area come close to 9000 feet along the Bear Lake Summit.

Total number of birds was the lowest in the 4 years of the Bear Lake counts at 1904 individuals. Total numbers for the first three years were 2,266 in 1997, 8,196 in 1998, and 2,951 in 1999.

The lake was mostly open with only localized shoreline areas covered with ice. Consequently, water birds were well represented in the species list. Some new high counts

were recorded for Trumpeter Swan (6), Green-winged Teal (12), Common Merganser (85), Ring-billed Gull (24), American White Pelican (1), Great Blue Heron (1), and Eared Grebe (1). Record low numbers were seen for Canada Goose (89) and American Coot (56).

Away from the lake the action was still good. New high counts were recorded for Golden Eagle (7), Black-billed Magpie (317), Common Raven (26), Bushtit (30), Brown Creeper (8), Marsh Wren (2), Song Sparrow (5), Cassin's Finch (37), and Evening Grosbeaks (49). New lows were observed for American Goldfinch (21) and Dark-eyed Junco (2).

(Continued on page 3)

Audubon Calendar

Thursday, February 8, General meeting.

Paul Jamison is the featured speaker for February. The title of his presentation is *Fossils of the Bear River Range*. The Bear River Range is composed mostly of sedimentary rocks such as limestone, dolomite, shales and sandstones that were laid down hundreds of millions of years ago during the Paleozoic Era. During this time shallow warm oceans often covered much of present day Utah. Evidence of creatures that inhabited these waters can be found in many locations in the Bear River Range in the form of fossils. Paul will be discussing the paleoecology of these organisms with emphasis on Crinoids, his favorite group of animal from this time. His presentation will include a slide show and a great collection of fossils from the Bear River Range. Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 10, Winter Animal Tracks.

"To one who lives in the snow and watches it day by day, it is a book to be read. The pages turn as the wind blows; the characters shift and the images formed by their combinations change in meaning, but the language remains the same. - It is a shadow language, spoken by things that have gone by and will come again." So said Alaskan poet John Haines. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot north of Straw Ibis, 150 North 50 East, Logan, for a field trip to investigate the stories written in snow around Cache Valley and Logan Canyon. Great trip for children and adults alike to speculate on winter wildlife happenings. Dress warmly; return by lunch. For more information, contact Kayo Robertson at 563-8272.

Thursday, March 8, General meeting.

Topic to be announced. Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 31. Amalga Barrens. Returning Waterfowl and other Early Migrants.

The Amalga Barrens in Cache Valley are famous (or at least they will be until the dam builders show up!) for their shallow ponds that offer an abundance of tadpoles, aquatic invertebrates, and the critters that feed on them - namely birds! Short-eared and Barn Owls may also be seen at the Barrens, and we could find the season's first Sandhill Cranes or even some falcons. It's a bit early for the shorebirds, but you never know if you don't go! We'll probably make a stop at the oxbow-overlook on the Bear River before arriving at the Barrens. Leave from the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan) at 1 p.m. and return around 4 p.m. For more information, call Bryan Dixon at 752-6830.

Thursday, April 12, General meeting.

Topic to be announced. Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, 7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, April 13-14. Curlew National Grasslands Grouse Trip.

Visit the Curlew National Grasslands 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. for a fireside discussion of the mating rituals of grouse. 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 Don (753-2051) for more information.

Welcome! New & Renewing Members

New members

Ashley Anderson
Wendy Mee
Sue Sanborn & Jerry Fuhrman
Laurie A. Ward

Transfers into chapter

Holly Bartlett
Laurelynn Brooks
Kathryn Fitzgerald

Renewing members

Loila Rae F. & Desmond L. Anderson
Brooke Bigelow
Kevin Connors
Patricia Fullmer
James Graham
Terry Griswold
R. M. & M. R. Holdredge
Dawn Holzer
Reinhard A. Jockel
Linda Kervin & Jim Cane
Kim & David Lewis
Gary C. Lewis
James D. Morgan
John M. Neuhold
Carl J. Saunders
Alison Thorne
M. Coburn Williams



(Continued from page 2)

The Bushtit had to be the bird of the day and was a first for the fledgling Bear Lake CBC. Four people got a chance to see a flock of these gems working service berry and sagebrush stands on the foothills east of the lake.

Dennis Austin once again spearheaded the Bear Lake CBC and was very pleased with the effort and data gathered. A big thanks to Dennis for his effort and to all who helped including: Alicia Austin, Ann Austin, John Barnes, Eddy Berry, Allen Christensen, Darin Duersch, Barb Farris, Dick Hurren, Reinhardt Jockel, Jim Kingsland, John Mann, Bill Masslich, Zane Masslich, Bill Petersen, Stuart Reynolds, Vincent Reynolds, and Max Runyon.

-Bill Masslich

WINTER NOTES - BEAR RIVER RANGE

Coyote tracks are abundant everywhere, especially above 7,000 feet. Less cougar sign than anytime in the past decade. Perhaps 30-40 cougar, legal and illegal "harvest" taken from the Cache again this year. Do fewer Cougar mean more Coyotes? Meanwhile "Wapiti Bluffs," "Deer Bluffs," blind man's bluff luxury homesites eat away at the last vestige winter range.



One sign of Cougar – the animal itself.
8,700 feet above the valley – 100 yards distant.
That stare, then a liquid orange leap over a snow bank, and gone. Rare daylight sighting.

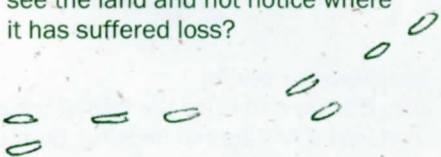


"... the only generalization needed to account for the mule deer decline throughout the West is that practically every identified trend in land use and plant succession on deer winter range is detrimental to deer. Hunting pressure and predators might be controlled, and favorable weather could permit temporary recovery, but deer numbers ultimately are limited by habitat quality and quantity."

Browse on winter range is terrible this year.
Hot, dry summer.
Mule deer seen – about 120, four bucks.



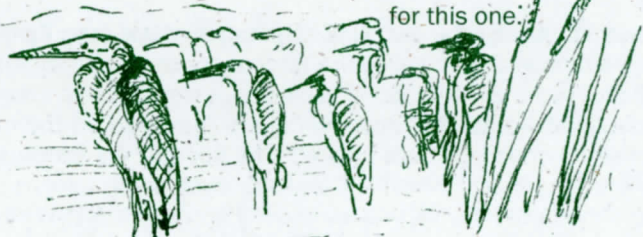
Lone Whitetail jackrabbit tracks above Clarkson. Thirty years ago they were many. How do I learn to see the land and not notice where it has suffered loss?



Olaf Wahmo, USFS Biologist

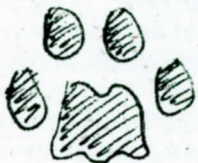


On a BRI field trip up Blind Hollow.
150 yards of eagle wing prints that chase frantic coyote tracks round and round. Pursuit and evasion frozen in snow. I would have liked to have been on time for this one:



Over 100 Great Blue Herons sit together on the ice. I've never seen such a thing before. Otherwise the refuge is frozen and barren.

A Goshawk plucks a partridge from the ridge above Green Canyon and circles by me, clutching its now lifeless-meal. Eight more partridge cluck frantically among the mahogany.



Only one Bobcat track. A small one. Bobcats grow slowly. 12 pounds the first year. About one moose per canyon. No elk sign. I believe they've been shot off the face regularly for about six years. Winter hunts. Now they winter elsewhere.

Absolute dearth of valley voles and mice. Seems to be a three year cycle. Boom and bust. Few fox and pheasants also, after several years of abundance.

KAYO - 2001

Kid's Corner

Eagle's Eye-View

A predator (an animal that kills other animals for food) that hunts from the air needs more than flying ability and speed. It also needs tools for the hunt. An eagle's eyes are one of the amazing tools they have to help them capture their prey.

Eagle eyes are huge compared with the size of the eagle's head. Some eagles have larger eyes than people! The eyes face forward, and the fields-of-view of the two eyes overlap. This is called binocular vision. The brain gets slightly different messages from each eye about the same part of the picture. From this, the bird's brain works out distance and speed - important information for a hunter.

Eagle vision is about eight times sharper than human vision. Eagles scan the ground from high above and can see a rabbit from a mile away. From the same distance humans couldn't even see the rabbit with binoculars!

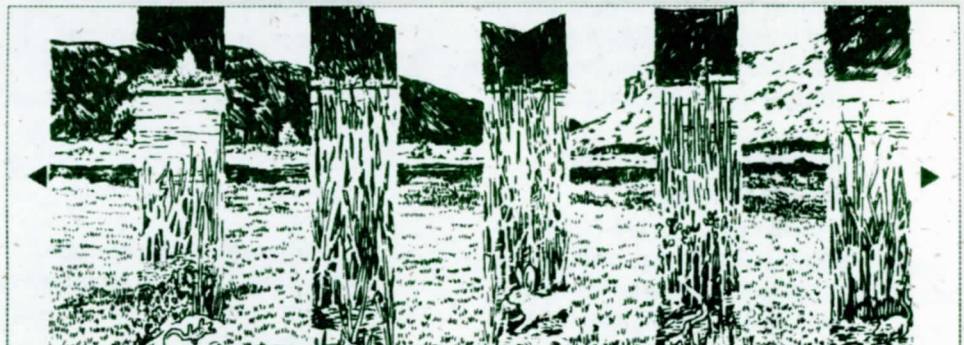
**From the same distance, what can an eagle see that you cannot see?
Follow the directions below to get an Eagle's Eye View!**

To Assemble:

1. Cut out the scenery strip below.
2. Cut the dash lines on the "Eagle's Eye View" strip to make slots.
3. Weave the scenery strip first over, then under all the slots. Follow the directions and move the strip so you can see an Eagle's Eye View!

If you would like an opportunity to view Bald Eagles up close, plan to attend the Utah Division of Wildlife Resource's Bald Eagle Day. This year's Bald Eagle Day will be Saturday, Feb. 3. Division biologists will set up spotting scopes, and will answer questions and teach visitors about these majestic birds, at viewing sites throughout the state. For viewing locations and additional information please visit <http://www.nr.state.ut.us/dwr/wildnews.htm>, and select the winter wildlife viewing link.

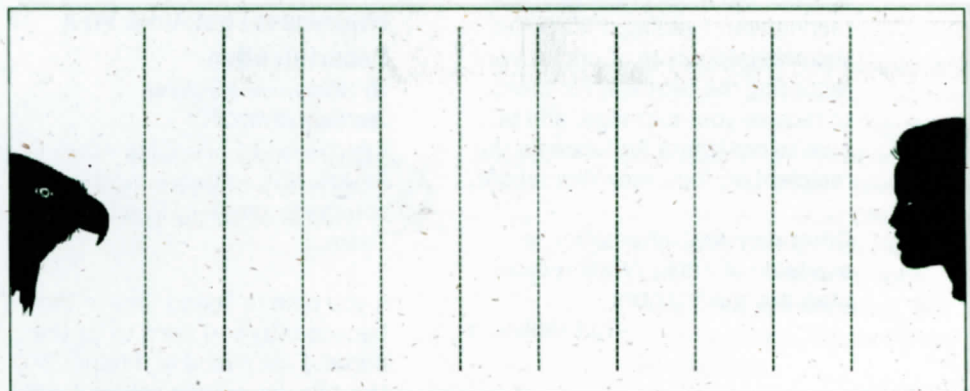
Source: Cooper, Ann C. 1992. *Eagles: Hunters of the Sky*. Denver Museum of Natural History and Roberts Rinehart Publishers, Niwot, Colorado.



Scenery Strip

Directions:

Cover the eagle and observe what a person sees. Cover the person and see the same scene through eagle eyes!



Eagle's Eye View

Items of Regional Interest

Great Backyard Bird Count

It's time for the fourth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Between February 16 to 19, you are invited to join the national count of birds at your feeder or in your neighborhood.

The idea is simple: Count the birds in your backyard or neighborhood on any or all of the four count days. Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate (longer is better) so that you'll have a good sense of what birds are in your area. Then, report only the highest totals for each day. To report your findings, fill out the State Great Backyard Bird Count Checklists to submit your highest counts for that day.

More information is available in the latest issue of *Audubon* (Jan-Feb 2001) and from their website (<http://www.birdsource.org/>).

Recycling Available for Printer Cartridges

A local company, LASER PRECISION (9 South Main Providence), recycles used printer cartridges. Audubon members can help reduce landfill waste, support local jobs, and help get funding for some of our local projects by contacting Vern Fielding, 752-0004, vern@laserpre.com. Contact Vern regarding the best way for them to receive your cartridge, and be sure to designate Audubon as the recipient of their recycling rebate.

Other recycling information is available at: <http://www.recycle.utah.org/guide2.html>

-Ron Hellstern

Birdseed Available

It's been a good year to feed birds—all years are. I've had a Western Scrub Jay coming to my feeder all winter. I'm not sure why he picked my house to frequent. My best guess is that it's the locally-grown black oil sunflower seed sold by BAS for \$16 a 50-pound bag. I know the Jay doesn't know that all (100%) of the profit (\$5) goes to support BAS and its many community projects. I know that you can buy seed for less, but not delivered to your door. If you want black oil sunflower seed with a whole lot more potential delivered to your door, just call Allen Christensen at 258-5018 after 3:30 p.m. or leave a message.

-Allen Christensen

ECOS Event

Tuesday Feb 13 at 5:30, TSC Auditorium - "End Commercial Logging" - a short movie, presentation, and discussion about the campaign to end commercial logging in our National Forests.

For more green community events, see the Green Calendar, sponsored by BAS: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/greencalendar/>

Wilderness First Aid & WFR Recertification

By Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS

Sponsored by Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center and Backcountry Emergency Response Team.

If you plan to spend time in the backcountry you need to be prepared. Fast paced and hands-on, this two day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine top-

ics for people who travel and work in the outdoors. This course is designed to provide outdoor enthusiasts an introduction to first aid and patient care in remote settings. Special topics include, but are not limited to: wound management and infection, realigning fractures and dislocations, improvised splinting techniques, patient monitoring and long term management problems, plus up-to-date information on environmental emergencies. Emphasis is placed on principals of treatment and decision making, not the memorization of lists. Upon successful completion of the course a two year WMI of NOLS Wilderness First Aid certification will be issued or a WFR recertification. This course is pre-approved by such organizations as: the American Camping Association, the United States Forest Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and other governmental agencies.

When: Saturday & Sunday, April 7 & 8, 2001, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., optional CPR Friday night 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday night 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center in Logan Canyon, two miles from Logan, Utah. Cost: \$130 plus \$20 if you want to include CPR certification.

To register contact: Glen Gantz, (435) 258-2748, gkgantz@earthlink.net.

Call for Board Members

The annual election will be held in April. If you're interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, contact any current member.

Utah Power Completes Footbridge at Benson Marina

Well, Utah Power may not walk on water, but they sure made a big contribution to naturalists who want to walk above it. This past month, Utah Power completed a new foot bridge in Cutler Marsh that offers great views south into the Wetlands Maze. This project was part of the recrea-

tion improvements promised in the Resource Management Plan developed for the 1995 relicensure of the Cutler Hydro Project. The footbridge was built over the abandoned railroad bridge pilings just south-east of the Benson Marina (3000 North) in the Cutler Reservoir and closes a 2.5 mile loop trail that begins and ends at a new parking lot west of the boat launching facility. (Maps

available at <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/wetlandsmaze/>) The trail gives you access to the heart of the marsh without needing a canoe, and promises many good bird sightings from the raised railroad grade. Utah Power has also built two new Osprey nesting platforms – one north and one south of Benson Marina. Check 'em out!

- Bryan Dixon



Thank You Generous Donors

Our fundraiser has been a big success. Since our letter went out in December, we have raised \$8,300 to fund environmental education projects in Cache Valley schools and conservation projects in the valley. Thanks to the members who helped us so far.

*Blanche & Leon Astle
Martha Balph
Brooke Bigelow
Mae & Merve Coover
Susan Durham & Dick Mueller
Wayne & Deborah Esbelman
Amy Eskelsen
Barbara Farris
Pat & Tom Gordon
Lyle Henderson
Margaret & Russell Holdredge
Joanne Hughes & Dennis Welker
Christine Hult
Janet Hurren & H. Richard
Joan Labby & Thomas Nickel
Nancy Mesner & Chris Leucke
Arla & Eric Meyer
Ivan Palmblad
Julie Piteber
Marsha Rawlins
Ron Ryel
Jim Sinclair
Derek Staab
Alice Stokes
Kim Sullivan & Bruce Pendery
Alison Thorne
Miiko Toelken
Pat Bohm & Glen E. Trostle
Marie Veibell
David Winn*

Most of you got our fundraising letter in the mail last month. In case it got lost in the holiday clean-up, you have another chance to contribute to our education and conservation programs. Just clip out this panel and mail it with your contribution.

Yes, I would like to contribute to B.A.S. (check one).

\$ 25 \$50 \$100 other

Please check the program fund you prefer:

Education Conservation

Both Education and Conservation

**Please make checks payable to:
Bridgerland Audubon Society**

Tear off this section and mail it with your check to:
**Bridgerland Audubon Fundraiser
c/o Alice Lindahl, Conservation Chair
1738 Country Club Drive
Logan, UT 84321**

If you would like to sponsor an Audubon Adventures Classroom, check here: _____

Please specify the teacher and school you would like to help:

Or, have us pick a classroom for you. _____

Let us know who you are so we can send you a receipt for your tax return. All contributions are tax deductible. Bridgerland Audubon is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (for Audubon Adventures donors) _____



The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84323-3501
Email: stiltnews@hotmail.com

Nonprofit Organization
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Logan, Utah

Visit our website: <http://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. Everyone is welcome.

President	Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net
Vice Pres.	Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bmasslich@pcu.net
Secretary	Suzanne Pratt, 713-0197, suzap@cc.usu.edu
Treasurer	Susan Drown, 752-3797, sdrown@jwscpa.com
Wetlands	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, alindahl@biology.usu.edu
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816, jgreene@lhs.logan.k12.ut.us
Membership	Suzanne Pratt, 713-0197, suzap@cc.usu.edu
Field Trips	Don McIvor, 753-2051, puma@cache.net
Newsletter	Georgen Gilliam, 787-4018, geogil@ngw.lib.usu.edu
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637, sdurham@cc.usu.edu
Hospitality	Allen & Gail Christensen, 258-5018, algail@uswest.net
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268, nanwill@cc.usu.edu

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 McIvor, 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. Send to stiltnews@hotmail, or to Stilt Editor, Bridgerland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501.

National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to contribute to Audubon and receive the Bridgerland Audubon newsletter *The Stilt* and the *National AUDUBON* magazine, as a:

- New member of the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon.
- Renewing member of the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed (\$20 membership dues)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



Please make all checks payable to National Audubon Society and send with this card to:
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.