



Volume 30, Issue 3
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The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Certify Your Backyard AS A WILDLIFE HABITAT

It's that time of year to be thinking about planting. Under the snow lies a yard, and it's going to have to be tended. As Audubon members, you undoubtedly value wildlife. Why not combine this interest with your spring tasks? The National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program offers certification for yards that provide habitat for critters.

The normal yard maintenance routine is not exactly conducive to providing wildlife habitat. What most Americans do with their yards is plant some turf grass, and then spare no effort to keep it green and lush. In fact,

(National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Lab, Ann Arbor);

■ Americans spend an average of \$25,000,000 every year on lawns (Yale).

By spending a lot of money, Americans have been able to achieve an ugly sterility of landscape while poisoning their own water and air.

There is an alternative! You can plan your yard to be a great habitat for backyard wildlife. It's simple: provide food, water, cover, and places to raise young.

Food Think about food in two ways: feed-

ers and plants. One of the main foci of your project should be restoring native plants that provide fruits, seeds, nuts, and nectar. Hummingbirds like tube-shaped, red flowers like bee balm, wild columbine, and our native honeysuckles. Butterflies prefer flat or clustered flowers, such as purple cone-flower, phlox, and zinnias. Native plants are more suited to

the climate and soil of your yard and once established, will require less maintenance, chemical fertilizers, or extra watering.

Water Provide water and you will immediately get more wildlife in your yard. This can be as small as a birdbath or as extensive as a pond or wetland. There are a variety of heaters available to help you keep this water unfrozen all year.

Cover Be sure to provide year round cover for critters with evergreen trees and shrubs. Rock, log, and mulch piles provide homes for small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Places to Raise Young Don't cut down those dead trees! "Snags" provide nesting sites for

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■ about 50 Million acres (twice the size of PA) are in turf grass in the U.S., about half of this is residential (US News and World Report, 10/28/96);

■ 60% of water consumed on the west coast goes to watering lawns (*Redesigning the American Lawn*);

■ over 70 million lbs. of fertilizers are applied to residential lawns and gardens annually (U.S. News and World Report, 10/28/96);

■ a lawn mower emits as much hydrocarbon in 1 hour as a typical auto driven 50 miles

*What I'd
like to start
is a year
round
monitoring
program.*

Yo Campers

As your new prez and erstwhile leader, I'm going to try to fulfill a lifetime dream in the next year and I'm hoping Bridgerland Audubon will not only help but be the guiding force for an avian monitoring program in Cache Valley. Here's the deal. For the past 26 years I've been monitoring wildlife populations for fun and profit. The fun part is being up at dawn, counting and identifying birds along a transect, then watching the changes in species, abundance and distribution over the years. The really fun part, nirvana actually, is using your data to stop some renegade development. The profit part is earning enough to avoid begging on the corner of Main and Center plus the satisfaction of knowing that what you do now will provide the foundation for the future of our wildlife.

What I'd like to start is a year round monitoring program, initially of our bird life (through 11 years of monitoring all wildlife on Utah's oil shale tracts in the Uinta Basin, the birds were the first group of animals to respond to environmental change), then our vegetation, our mammals (mainly rodents: they show the magnitude of environmental change), also bats, rabbits and hares, carnivores and big game, then the reptiles (they didn't bother to change through a desert bloom, extreme drought, extreme cold and whatever else happened during 11 years), and lastly the amphibians. Where I'd also like to go is establishing invertebrate monitoring at the same time. Seem too ambitious? Not when you have the talent that lives in this valley. There are some birders here who know this valley and its bird life so well, they rank as the second best birding group in the US. I have no idea who's in first, but we'll remain humble until we have a few years of monitoring under our belt.



On March 16 at Alice Lindahl's house about 6:30 p.m. (1738 Country Club Drive in Logan — look for a flag with an image of a goldfinch at the driveway) we'll gather all interested birders to see how many transects we can set up in the valley, what it will take to collect the data, and who will be our data collectors. Keith Archibald has already been elected to walk the Amalga Barrens transect, so you need to be at Alice's to defend yourself. What I'm hoping for is establishing about 10 transects this year. We'll set up one or two on Saturday morning

(17 March) at the Barrens and show you what's needed. With another 8 transects around the valley, we can walk these bimonthly or monthly, depending on our turnout. We'll officially start in April so no one will be swamped with breeding bird numbers. You need to be good at bird identification and counting and estimating distance from a transect and putting up with mosquitoes, gnats and other mysteries of nature. Notice I said good, not excellent. Excellent is great and those who aren't, will be. For those who think they could spend 3-5 mornings walking a transect for 30 minutes to 2 hours every other month, please call me at 435/753- 5370 or show up at Alice's on March 16.

-Val Grant

WELCOME! New & Renewing Members

New members

Ruby D. Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Nate Trauntvein

Renewing members

Mr. & Mrs. John Barnes
W. A. Beutler
Max Elliot Brunson, Jr.
Carolyn R. Chase
Mervin P. Coover
Theodore W Daniel
Norbert V. Debyle
Margaret S. Dice
Gail Duerling
Rebecca S. Echols
Deborah Eshelman
Ruth B. Helm
Bill Jensen
Carol B. Johnson
Isabel Katana
Elizabeth Keller
Audrey McElrone
Eric J. Meyer
Loye I. Painter
Robert H. Peterson
Julie B. Pitcher
R. Ratliff
Michael L. Wolfe
Karen Wood

Audubon Calendar

Thursday, March 8, General meeting.

Where continents meet, a naturalist in Costa Rica: *Jack Greene* will take you on a tour of one of the Earth's richest ecosystems- geological history, fauna, flora, and cultures, and a personal botfly story to boot (not for the faint of heart!). Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 9, Full Moon Ski Trip. Come enjoy the magic of the landscape lit by the ethereal glow of the full moon. We'll hope for a lack of cloud cover as we ski up Temple Fork Road on a trip suitable for families and skiers of all ages. Skiing at night is a great way to see the land from a whole new point of view as the glow of the moon softens curves and casts muted shadows beneath the leafless trees. We may get to hear owls calling as well. Bring your own cross-country ski gear, dress in comfortable layers, and meet us at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis, 150 North 50 East, Logan, at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Jack Greene, 563-6816.

Saturday, March 10. Bald Eagles in Willard Canyon. Time to get the kinks out of your legs and prepare for a season of hiking. This annual outing is led by Jim Sinclair and Reinhard Jockel to observe Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and other raptors from a vantage point above the birds of prey. We leave at 10 a.m. from the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis (150 North 50 East, Logan) and carpool to Willard Bay State Park about 10 miles south of Brigham City. From there the group will drive to the Willard gravel pit and climb up the slopes to a breathtaking (literally) overlook of Willard Canyon. From this viewpoint, we'll be able to look down on roosting and flying eagles. We may even see some early season wildflowers evoking signs of 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 16. Bird monitoring planning & potluck. Alice Lindahl's house, 1738 Country Club Drive Logan, Utah, 6:30 p.m. Look for a flag with an image of a goldfinch at the driveway. Alice: 753-7744 or alindahl@bridgernet.com. See "Yo Campers," p. 2.

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.

Friday-Saturday, April 6-7. 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. Friday evening activities include a Stone Soup at Stone Reservoir dinner orchestrated by LeRoy Beasley. LeRoy will bring a Dutch oven and a base for the soup—you bring an ingredient to contribute to the pot. Then we'll gather round the fire at 7 p.m. for a discussion on grouse and the Grasslands lead by Ken Timothy, Forest Service biologist and a former student of Al Stokes'. Saturday, we'll get up before dawn to watch the birds on their leks, and then return to camp for breakfast. LeRoy is providing 2 gas stoves and griddles for community use. Afterward, we'll scout the Grasslands to look for other birds and creatures. We may even get to hear a loon! Return Saturday afternoon. LeRoy and Reinhard Jockel will co-lead the trip. Carpools encouraged; reservations required; call LeRoy Beasley at 753-7491.

Thursday, April 12, General meeting.

The speaker for the April Meeting is *Professor Dave Liddell*. Dr. Liddell will be talking about the **Ecology and status of the world's coral reef ecosystems**. He will be sharing insights and beautiful photography he has put together from 25 years of research in reefs around the world. Dr. Liddell is currently a faculty member of the Geology Department at Utah State University. Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, 7 p.m.



More Local Events

Landscape Frontiers Conference

April 5th, Eccles Center, USU Campus, 8 a.m. This conference explores possibilities, challenges, and case studies in sustainable design. It will familiarize participants with the issues and concepts of sustainability in the topics of land and resource use, planning, design, and implementation. Schedule of speakers and registration information is available at <http://www.usu.edu/~laep/fromthegroundup> or people can call Jared Barnes at 797-7466 for more info.

Utah Native Plant Society, Cache Chapter

The Utah Native Plant Society is dedicated to the understanding, preservation, enjoyment, and responsible use of Utah native plants. A local chapter is being formed. If you're interested, email Tami at unps_cache@hotmail.com.

More information about local events is available on the Green Calendar at: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/greencalendar/>

Nominations for the Allen Stokes Conservation Award Sought

Every year Bridgerland Audubon recognizes a member of our community who has helped to make our valley a better place for people and wildlife. If you know of someone who has helped further the cause of environmental protection, please nominate that person for this year's

conservation award. Since BAS instituted this award many years ago, we have recognized many who have established natural areas, saved wetlands from destruction, made a difference in the protection of Logan Canyon, established organizations to protect wildlife, and many

other activities. It can be awarded to an individual or a group. If you have a nominee, please call Alice Lindahl at 753-7744 or email a message to alindahl@bridgernet.com

-Alice Lindahl

Working Together for Farmland and Open Spaces in the Future Conference

The Bridgerland Audubon Society will be co-sponsoring a conference entitled WORKING TOGETHER FOR FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACES IN THE FUTURE. The goal of the conference is to increase community awareness of the value of agriculture and open space and to explore the tools that could be available to protect such lands. The agenda includes discussions and visual depictions of historical and future land use scenarios; the value of agriculture to the local economy; community values toward open space, agriculture, and development; tools and

policy changes required to protect agricultural and open lands; and the actions necessary to implement such tools and policies.

The key note speaker for the conference will be Daniel Kemmis, author of *Community and Politics of Place* and former mayor of Missoula, Montana. Mr. Kemmis was recognized by the Utne Reader in 1995 as one of its "100 Visionaries." The conference will be held April 3, 9:00 - 4:30 at the American West Heritage Center, Wellsville. The fee to cover lunch and breaks

is \$10 if registration is received by March 12th and \$12 after the 12th. The registration deadline is March 23. You may register through the Cache County Extension Agent, Clark Israelsen (or his receptionist Evelyn Andrew), 179 North Main #200, Logan, Utah 84321, phone 435/752-6263, fax 435/716-7159, clarki@ext.usu.edu. For more information or if you would like to be a sponsor for this event you may call or e-mail Cindy Hall at 752-7242 or cindyh@brag.dst.ut.us.

-Cindy Hall

Before You Go Fossil Collecting...

Last month's speaker on fossil collecting, Paul Jamison, was great. But we forgot to mention that there are some legalities and ethics involved in collecting minerals, fossils, and rocks.

While the rules are too complicated to go over completely here, it's important to remember that dinosaur bones, other vertebrate fossils, and

antiquities may not be collected at all, and there is no collecting allowed on government lands, including national parks. There are different rules for state and private lands, so be sure to review the regulations before you collect. More information is available at the Utah Geologic Society website (<http://www.ugs.state.ut.us/collrule.htm>). Two contacts for

people interested in fossil collection in National Forests: 1) Bob Randolph, USDA Forest Service Paleontology Coordinator for Utah - phone 801/524-3948; 2) Peter Ambrose, West Zone Paleontologist for USDA Forest Service - phone 970/874-6638, email pambrose@fs.fed.us.

(Certify...continued from page 1)

cavity-nesters. Also, a site should have a selection of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs for other birds. Piles of logs and rocks provide places to raise young for other animals. Butterflies require "host" plants that serve as food sources for butterflies during their larval (caterpillar) stage, and almost invariably lay their eggs on the host plant preferred by the caterpillar, so

make sure to include some of the host plants in your yard.

As of August 10, 2000 there are 26,885 certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat sites. Having your yard certified as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat site is easy. Just download and complete the application, then send it in with your \$15 registration fee. Applications

are available from the web (<http://www.nwf.org/habitats/index.html>) or from National Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 975, Newark, New York 14513-0975 or call 716-461-3092.

Logan could become a community recognized for its commitment to providing habitat for wildlife!



Kid's Corner

When I was a little girl my favorite story was *Sylvester, the Mouse with the Musical Ear* written by Adelaide Holl. Sylvester was a plump little country mouse who lived in a country meadow. He loved the sounds of the birds, the crickets, the wind blowing through the grass, and the silver sounds of the stream. Then one day, men from the big city came and built a road through the meadow. As shops and houses took over his meadow, the sounds changed from meadow sounds to city sounds. Sylvester did not like the roar of trucks and the loud blare of car horns. He wandered the noisy streets until one day he came upon a music store. He went inside and climbed up into a guitar. When the wind blew across the strings this guitar made soft, pleasant sounds. Sylvester liked his new home in the guitar. In fact, he learned how to make music by plucking the strings. People who heard the guitar playing itself thought it was a magic guitar. No one wanted to buy a magic guitar, except Tex, a singing cowboy. He bought the guitar that Sylvester lived in. They became great friends. They traveled together through the country and the city making pleasant sounds together.

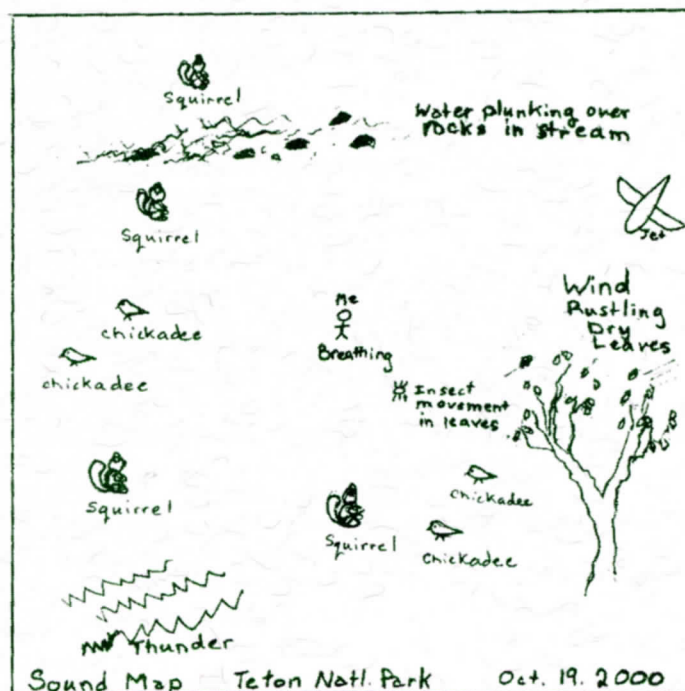
Sounds are all around us. Sometimes we get so used to sounds that we forget to notice them. March is a great time to really listen to the sounds of nature. As days become warmer, plants, animals, birds, insects and people become more active than during the cold winter.

Let's make a Sound Map. Gather together some paper, a clipboard, and a pencil or pen. Go outside. Sit in your backyard. Listen. You may hear a lot of bird songs in March, as this is the mating and nesting season. Male birds often sing to attract the attention of the female birds. Maybe you will hear wind blowing through the trees or cars passing on the street. If you are lucky, the tiniest insect sounds will reach your ears. With a pen, draw a small stick figure in the center of your paper. This represents you. Now, close your eyes and listen. **Every time you hear a new sound, open your eyes, try to find from which direction the sound is coming, then draw on your paper a small picture of what you think made that sound.** If the sound came from a chickadee in the shrubs on your right, then draw a bird on the right half of your paper. Each time the chickadee makes a sound draw another bird figure. Maybe you will discover a family of birds living in your yard!

Try making a sound map in many different places. Go up into the canyon and hike far away from the highway. A sound map made here will look very different from one made in a supermarket parking lot. Are you like Sylvester? Do you like some sounds more than others?

Here is a sound map that I made one morning last October while visiting Grand Teton National Park. Notice that even though I was far from a road I still heard a man-made sound. Can you find it?

-De Ann Lester
Volunteer Naturalist
Stokes Nature Center



Utah Conservation Corps

The Utah Conservation Corps (UCC), formerly known as the Bear River Conservation Corps, is an organization dedicated to improving the environment and the community through natural resources projects, service-learning, and environmental and outreach education. The UCC was organized by a group of committed citizens in the fall of 1999. In November 2000 the Utah State University Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC) agreed to take the sponsorship of UCC. The UCC and the ORC have similar missions to improve the environment through education and volunteerism.

The goals of the UCC are to partner with local agencies and schools to 1) promote the quality of public lands through natural resources projects, including creating, maintaining, and increasing accessibility to miles of trail in Cache Valley; 2) become environmental and outreach educators to schoolchildren in classes and in after-school programs; and 3) harness community volunteerism and impact the quality of public lands through involving 500 volunteers contributing 10,000 service hours to service-learning projects. The UCC will work with agencies like the City of Logan, Utah Department of Environmental Quality-Used Oil Division, Bear River Institute, USU Outdoor Recreation Center, America Reads, American Red Cross, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and The Volunteer Center to achieve these goals. The UCC is currently looking to fill the 18 part-time AmeriCorps positions as well as projects that help the UCC achieve its goals for 2001.

-Sean Damitz

Wilderness First Aid & WFR Recertification by Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS

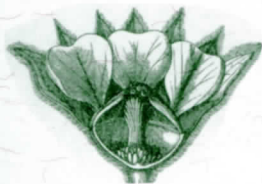
Sponsored by Allen & Alice Stokes Nature Center and Backcountry
Emergency Response Team

Fast paced and hands-on, this two day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics 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. Upon successful completion of the course a two year WMI of NOLS Wilderness First Aid certification will be issued or a WFR recertification. When: Saturday & Sunday, April 7 & 8, 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, gkgantz@earthlink.net, 435/258-2748



The seasons are easily 2 times too short. One blossoming just as the next begins to crowd it out. There are 4 seasons in one year, far too many for the time. Midwinter isn't really winter, it's the time when spring is pushing. It's a secret to a small circle of people who watch the on-rush of life starting in the pre-spring. Swans in a cold snowstorm, disappearing in grey, it's here.

I went birdwatching last Sunday, January 14, it's not prespring, not quite yet. I'm looking for everything, not finding much. I'm sensitive to time. The birds that should be south are south. The birds that come down from the north are down, but not in great numbers. Gail and I look for about 3 hours and find so little we're discouraged and head home. Not much here. The



next day it occurred to me that it had been a very unusual day. The bird solstice—one of a very few days of relative rest in the migratory realm. It doesn't mark the end of anything. It's the continuance of the start of pre-spring; swans — snow-geese — pintails — rush — life. That day was austere, quiet.

-Allen Christensen



White Lillies.
The lillies of the valley of the
1 Flower
2 Fruit
3 Seed
Lilium, or Peruvian lillies.

Utahns for Better Transportation

Utahns for Better Transportation (UTBT) has made great strides in stopping the massive program of highway expansion that will destine our region to more traffic, more air pollution, and more sprawl, and that leaves those who do not or cannot drive without safe, convenient ways to travel. In early January, the federal government gave final approval for the first 14-mile segment of the Legacy Highway in Davis County – a road that will impair some of the most important wetlands and wildlife habitat in North America. But UTBT was ready to respond: within a week after the final permit was issued, they filed a lawsuit in federal court to challenge the serious violations of federal law connected with approval of the highway. For the past three years, they have waged an uphill, underfunded campaign to oppose Legacy. UTBT has held its own so far, but UDOT has spent millions of dollars on high-priced lawyers and consultants to defend its highways-first policies. The State will spare no expense in this battle.

Now, UTBT has important new partners in this effort. Parsons, Behle, and Latimer, Utah's largest law firm, is representing them in a lawsuit to stop Legacy. While the firm has generously agreed to charge greatly-reduced rates, UTBT still needs to raise significant funds to support the litigation. The goal is to raise \$150,000. Of that amount, UTBT has raised over \$75,000 to date, from many people and in amounts ranging from \$10 to thousands of dollars, all appreciated greatly!

You can help in at least two ways. **First**, you can **add your name** to the growing list of members of Utahns for Better Transportation. Organizations include the Future Moves Coalition, Friends of Great Salt Lake, Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake League of Women Voters, Coalition for Liveable Streets, Great Salt Lake Audubon, Disabled Rights Action Committee, Hawkwatch International, Wasatch Clean Air Coalition, and the Utah Rivers Council. But UTBT also needs other sympathetic organizations and a large, diverse list of individuals to show massive support for transit, and against more highways.

Second, UTBT needs your **financial help** to support the critical lawsuit against Legacy. Because Utahns for Better Transportation is a coalition and not an incorporated entity, checks should be made **payable to Friends of Great Salt Lake**, a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation. Contributions are tax deductible. For more information check out the website at <http://www.utahnsforbettertransportation.org> or call or email us. **UTAHNS FOR BETTER TRANSPORTATION c/o Friends of Great Salt Lake, 1117 E 600 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84102.**

- Roger Borgenicht
Chair, Future Moves Coalition for
Utahns for Better Transportation
801/355-7085
future@xmission.com

- Lynn de Freitas
President, Friends of Great Salt
Lake for Utahns for Better
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The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

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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.

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.

Thanks to all of you who have donated to our fundraising campaign

Loye Painter
Linnea Johnson & Frank Messina
Debra & LeRoy Beasley
Lydia Trinca & Bill Masslich
John Carter
Karen Mock
Thorana & Victor Nelson

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 ☐ Renewing member

☐ Subscription only to the *Stilt*: \$20/year. Do not send *Audubon Magazine*.

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
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Logan, UT 84323-3501
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National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this, please check here.