



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

the Hum of Spring



The arrival of spring in our mountains is heralded by the golden blooms of avalanche lily, the small candy-striped flowers of spring beauty, and the bizarre though inconspicuous flowers of steershead that bloom near the retreating snowdrifts. On our foothills, flowering spikes of death camas push skyward, and everywhere there is the buzz of spring. That buzz is what the flowering is all about, for it comes from the wingbeats of thousands of bees that are inadvertently playing the role of botanical matchmaker as they collect nectar and pollen for their own progeny.

As they forage at flowers, they accumulate a growing pellet of pollen moistened with nectar on this tibial surface of each hind leg, like two spoonfuls of ice cream, but looking like saddlebags made of pollen. Pollen, by the way, is the meat of a bee's diet, distinguishing them from their carnivorous kin, the wasps. So if you see

an insect bearing a load of pollen, rest assured that it is a female bee.

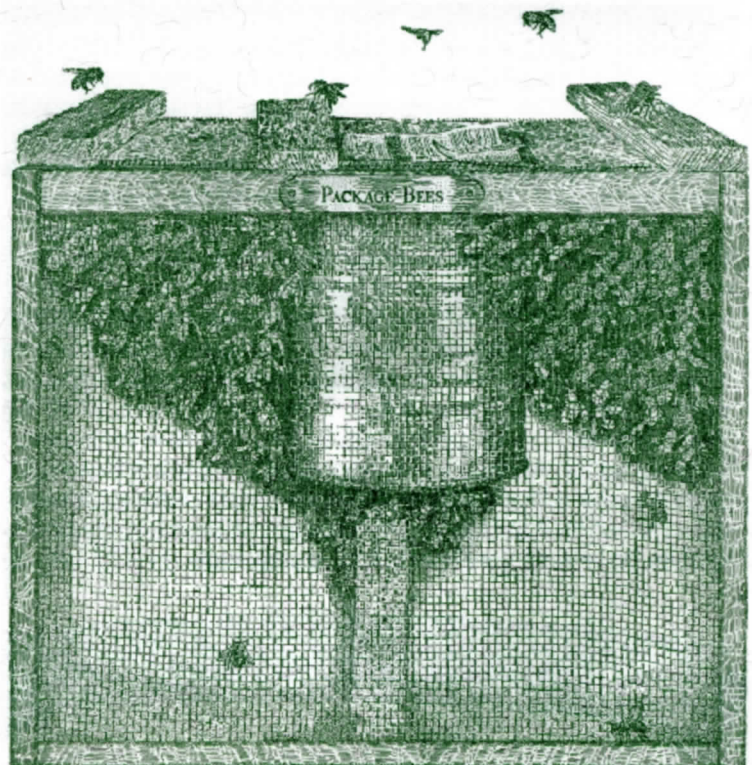
You will note that all of the dozen species of bumble bees flying here in the early spring are hulking furry beasts, and rightly so, for they are the hopeful queens for the coming

(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue:

Hum of Spring	1
- Jim Cane	
Annual Audubon Banquet!	2
Audubon Calendar	3
Book review:	4
<i>A History of Utah's American Indians</i>	
- Kayo Robertson	
Kid's Corner: Shine of a Hummingbird	5
- Krista McHugh	
Bear River Migratory Bird	
Talent Abounds at BAS Meetings	7
- Bill Masslich	
Local Information	7 & 8
Bear River Watershed Council	9
- Tim Wagner	

Cache Valley and its surrounding mountains are home to perhaps 250 species of bees, nearly all of them native. Only a few are social (honey and bumble bees, some sweat bees). Only the colonies of the European honey bee are perennial, reproducing in late spring by fissioning. Honey bee and bumble bee females are morphologically distinctive among our bees, as the tibial segment of their hind legs is expanded into a broad, concave surface.



A Banquet

Come join your fellow Auduboners! Relax and enjoy yourselves at the Audubon Banquet on Friday April 20th. The festivities start at 6:00 with libations, appetizers, and "old rock" music provided by "The Fossils" at the Aspen Grove Reception Center (890 North 600 East). There will be a buffet style dinner starting at 6:45. Ticket are available at Fuhrman's Framing & Fine Arts, Callaway's, and Chapter II Books for \$20.00 a person (\$16.00 for students).

Our speaker will be Scott T. Smith. He is a self

taught photographer whose favorite subject is the natural world. He got his first camera in 1979 and began to take photos on his outdoor adventures to share with family and friends. He has been a full-time freelance photographer since 1988 when he quit his "real" job and he and his wife, Mary, took a year off and lived in their truck exploring the back country for a year while he took photos.

His presentation is entitled: "No Outlet to the Sea: A Great Basin Odyssey"—images of protected, unprotected,

and endangered landscapes from the least appreciated, most ignored, and perhaps most endangered region of the U.S. Here in Cache Valley, we live in the furthest north-east valley of the Great Basin. His show will include images of a variety of landscapes in the Basin including the east shore of Great Salt Lake, BLM Wilderness Study Areas and recently protected BLM lands, national Wildlife Refuges, and USFS Wilderness areas.

Education and conservation awards will be presented. Recognition will also be given to those

Audubon members who have identified 100, 150, and 200 total bird species within Cache County. As an extra bonus you will be able to buy birdseed for \$10 a bag if you attend the banquet.

Please come support your local chapter. Hope to see you there!

-Teri Peery

Banquet Birding Bonuses

Once again this year we're recognizing BAS members who have reached significant goals in numbers of bird species identified in Cache Valley. Keeping bird lists is a fun way to learn about birds, habitats and nature. Trying to increase your "life list," or better yet a "year list," is also a good motivator to get outside on a regular basis, visit new surroundings and make new friends with whom to share the location of that rare Long-feathered Pollyfobble.

The rules for the Banquet Birding Bonuses are simple: Make a list of the species of wild birds you've identified in Cache County. If your Cache County life list has reached a new 100, 150 or 200 species goal since last year's banquet, mail in your list (or just the total number) to Reinhard Jockel, 127 North Main #10, Logan, 84321, or BAS Birding Bonuses, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, 84323-3501, or email it to bdixon@xmission.com. Deadline for submitting your list for this year's awards is April 13, 2001. Prizes include a one-of-a-kind checklist bandana for 100 species, an official Audubon bird call for 150 species, and a Lens Pen for 200 species, so tally up those birds and join the fun!

Election for BAS Trustees

The Board of Trustees recently nominated the persons listed on the ballot below for trustees. The bylaws of Bridgerland Audubon Society stipulate a maximum of four new trustees to be elected each year and they serve for a three-year term. (The Board may also appoint new trustees to fill open positions when trustees resign mid-term.) Only members of BAS may vote and each membership is entitled to one vote. To cast your ballot, cut out the form below and mail to: BAS, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501 before April 20. You may also vote at the Annual Banquet, Friday, April 20. All ballots must be received by Monday, April 30.

Board Nominees:

☐ Merr Lundahl

☐ Dave Drown

☐ Jack Greene

for the Birds

Audubon Calendar

Friday-Saturday, April 6-7. Curlew National Grasslands Grouse Trip.

Visit the Curlew National Grasslands in southern Idaho (about 2 hours north of Logan) 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 (near a parking area). 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 led 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. We expect mild temperatures (50-70) during the day, cooler in the evening (30s-40s). Carpools encouraged; reservations required; call LeRoy Beasley at 753-7491.

Saturday, April 7. Board & planning meeting 10 a.m. at 135 E. Center.

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.

Friday, April 20. Annual Bridgerland Audubon Society Dinner.

Guest speaker for the BAS Spring Banquet will be photographer **Scott T. Smith**, *No Outlet to the Sea: A Great Basin Odyssey*. Aspen Grove Reception & Party Center (860 N 600 E, Logan) 6 p.m. social, 6:45 p.m. dinner.

Saturday, April 21. Canoe Trip on the Logan River. Spend a leisurely half day (unless we get lost) paddling a short section of the Logan River as it winds its way to the Cutler Marsh. We put in a short distance west of town and take out at the Valley View Marina. This trip is flat water and suitable for all paddle craft. This will be a great time of year to get out in the marshes and do a little early spring birding as shorebirds and ducks move through the area. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis at 55 East 150 North, Logan. Bring binoculars and your own boat and PFDs. Boats may be rented from Trailhead Sports (753-1541), or Muddy Road Outfitters (753-3693). We should be back to town in time for lunch. For more information, call Keith Archibald 752-8258.

Saturday & Sunday, May 19-20. Yellowstone Wildlife Trip. Join Alan and Gail Christensen on this great outing to see the wolves, bears, elk, bison, and other exciting critters of America's first National Park. Alan and Gail have an uncanny ability for locating the charismatic megafauna, so you may not want to camp too close to them. But they do make great guides, and so far they've returned from every trip.

Meeting organizer: Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bmasslich@pcu.net

Outings organizer: Don McIvor, 753-2051, puma@cache.net

Lek: (noun)

Etymology: Swedish, short for *lekställe* mating ground, from *lek* mating, sport + *ställe* place.

Definition: an assembly area where animals (as the prairie chicken) carry on display and courtship behavior.

Review: A History of Utah's American Indians, edited by Forrest Cuch

*It is a simple,
respectful
request, "This
is our story.
Hear us."
The only
relevant
question in
human affairs
is "How do
we live here?"*

It is difficult to grow up young and close to nature in the Great Basin without an acute awareness of those who were here before. The rock writings, stone dwellings, tipi rings, arrowheads and phantom-like sense of humanity, other than our own, that once intimately and knowingly occupied this land is ever present. "Who were these people?" I wondered as a child, and were they, as western artist Charley Russell surmised, people whose god was the sun, nature their Bible; people who knew every page by heart? As a young man studying western American history, my sense of wonder turned to guilt and shame. I wrestled with questions of my own culture, the dominant culture, the conquest and racial/cultural genocide of these vanished humans.

Now, older, still passionate about my Great Basin homeland, I have come to realize that everything I know about Indians I have learned from books written by white men. It was then with a great sense of anticipation that I purchased *A History of Utah's American Indians*, the first history I am aware of written by members of the elder culture.

A History... is a hard read. It is well written, thoroughly documented and wonderfully illustrated with archival photographs, but what makes it hard is seeing through native eyes, hearing through native voices the sad story of conquest that is ours. There are two falsehoods that need to be removed, writes editor Forrest Cuch, Ute director of the Utah Division Indian Affairs. The first is that no people of importance lived in

this area prior to Mormon settlement. Second is that Utah Indians fared better "other" Indians outside our state boundaries. I had long ago dismissed the first notion. To be able to live here sustainably, without ruining the place, had always seemed to me the most important of human achievements. The second notion, that Brigham Young's "better to feed them than fight them" Indian policy led to a somewhat more humane treatment of Indian peoples was one I still believed. Yes, it is a hard read. The slaughter along the Bear River was, arguably, not the worst thing the dominant culture did to the Shoshoni. The story doesn't end there. Neither does it end with the removal of Indian children to White barracks schools such as the one Brigham City, where every Indian nuance was forbidden. Nor does it end with Utah being the last state forced to give Indian peoples the right to vote (1957), or the burning of the Indian town, Washakie, in 1960. The story itself, is not the hardest part of *A History...* to read. Human cruelty is a perennial and pervasive part of most human history. The hardest part of these stories is the tone. It is not angry, vindictive, self-pitying, or vengeful. It is a simple, respectful request, "This is our story. Hear us." The only relevant question in human affairs is "How do we live here?" For over 600 years six nations of people occupied the land we now call Utah. Before them, for some 10,000 years, there were yet other peoples. Though their ways and perceptions of the world were an enigma, a mystery, to the Manifest Destiny driven Anglo pioneers, they managed to live here in relative comfort and harmony. As we might someday

learn, this is no mean feat in a land of little water, thin soils, and harsh, variable climate; a land on the edge. Within a decade of Anglo inhabitation these peoples were largely destitute, starving, and dispersed from the most easily inhabited portions of their homeland. What might they have told us about living here?

A History of Utah's American Indians is the first step in a dialogue that should have begun some 150 years ago. The story is not finished. Though they represent the most impoverished segment of Great Basin peoples, Indians still exist. They have a voice. The elder cultures may yet remind us "to keep life simple remember two things: Love one another and love the earth." It is time to listen.

- Kayo Robertson

Kid's Corner

Shine of a Hummingbird

It's almost spring and time for the hummingbirds to return from their winter homes in Central and South America. Here in northern Utah, we can expect to see the black-chinned hummingbird, the broad-tailed hummingbird, and (with any luck) an occasional Rufous Hummingbird or tiny Calliope Hummingbird.

Hummingbirds are unique creatures that intrigue most of us, both children and adults alike, because of their size, feeding habits, and eye/ear-catching territorial diving displays. But for many,

the hummingbird's most entrancing feature is its brilliant color and sheen. No other birds possess such a wide spectrum of breathtaking colors. Depending on the type (*species*) of hummingbird, the male's shiny (*iridescent*) throat feathers (*gorget*) can appear to be blazing blue, violet, red, orange, or green. But have you ever wondered just how that metallic sheen is created?

The colors of many birds we see is caused by tiny compounds (*pigments*) in the feathers. Pigments are substances that absorb and reflect waves of light differently. For example, the pigments in the common raven absorb all the visible light waves, none are reflected back, so the bird appears

black.

The shiny portions of the hummingbird's feathers result from the structure of the feathers – not just pigments. The shiny feathers contain a special mixture of color cells (*pigments*) and air bubbles that resemble foamy pancakes. Light passes through this “foamy pancake” mixture, is broken apart and partially reflected back (*interference*). The colors that result are vivid, but can only be seen when light is hitting the feathers at just the right angles. That's why a hummingbird's gorget can appear black one minute and blazing red the next.

- Krista McHugh

Activities

Hang up a hummingbird feeder for your children to watch. Use a field guide to help them identify the visiting hummingbirds. See if they notice the male's shiny throat feathers (*iridescent gorget*).

Have your children paint a picture of a bird. Explain to them that tiny structures (*pigments*) in the paint are absorbing all of the colors of light except the one that is being reflected back – that's the color they see. Similar types of pigments are in birds feathers, so the birds appear black, brown, and red.

Blow bubbles with your children. Point out the shiny colors they can see in the bubbles when light hits it at just the right angle. Explain to them that special feathers on the hummingbird's neck bends and reflects light like the soap bubble, that's why they look so shiny.

Feeder Notes

Feeding hummingbirds this year? Here are some helpful hints on making hummingbird nectar and taking proper care of the feeders.

Nectar Recipe

This is an easy, inexpensive recipe for making homemade nectar. Birds seem to prefer it over the various instant mixes.

1 part white sugar
4 parts boiling water

Stir the mixture 1 to 2 minutes, or until the sugar is completely dissolved. Let the mixture cool.

Never use honey or artificial sweeteners! Honey may contain harmful microbes and it ferments easily. It can cause sores in the bird's mouth. Artificial sweeteners have no food value – they do not satisfy the bird's energy needs.

DO NOT use red food coloring in your solution. It's effects are not completely known, but it may be harmful. Most feeders have red coloration and that should be enough to attract the birds.

Feeder Care

To avoid making hummingbirds sick, plan on changing the nectar and cleaning the feeder at least every 3-4 days.

Don't use harsh detergent to clean your feeder. Rinse it out with hot water each time you change the nectar. You can disinfect it with a weak bleach solution (1 tablespoon of bleach in 1 gallon of water) but make sure to RINSE IT WELL.

Black spots in your feeder are mold. You'll need to scrub it with a good bottle brush. If you can't reach the spot with a brush try putting some sand and water in the feeder. Shake it to remove the mold.

- Krista McHugh



(Hum of Spring, continued from page 1)

summer's colonies. Their black fur is highlighted with bands or patches of yellow and sometimes orange or white hairs, which with practice can be used for their identification (<http://www.loganbeelab.usu.edu>). These fertile adult females were born and later mated the previous autumn, and have passed the frigid winter asleep like Rip van Winkle. With spring's warmth, they have awakened, and are now busily establishing and provisioning nascent nests, often in old mouse or vole nests. If successful, they will gain a small family of worker daughters that will take over the foraging, defensive and construction duties of their growing colony.



ny other bees that you are likely to encounter in the early spring here are honeybee-sized or smaller. Most

carry pollen in a brush of hairs on their hind legs, but females of the bee family Megachilidae carry their pollen dry in a brush of hairs beneath the abdomen. You are likely to notice individuals of one genus of this family in particular, the genus *Osmia*. They can be as big as honey bees, but more blunt in shape, and either a steely blue-black or sometimes a shiny emerald color. Some of these are mason bees, so named because



they partition their linear nest cavities with walls of mud. I've watched females of several species landing at patches of firm, wet clay along the lower reaches of the Jardine Juniper trail, mining clay and molding it into small pellets that they grip in their mandibles for the flights back to their nests.

One of the mason bees, the blue orchard bee, is beginning to be used for orchard pollination. It commonly visits apple bloom here in the Cache Valley, although it prefers willows and *Hydrophyllum* up in the mountains. At my home, I have attracted them to nest in old rounds of spruce into which I have drilled 5" deep holes 5/16" in diameter, faced southeastward, an artificial version of the abandoned tunnel of a wood-boring beetle that they would use in nature.



ou will find few wild animals can provide better entertainment in the confines of one's backyard.

Don't be shy about watching them closely at the nest or on flowers, for short of grabbing one in your bare hand, you won't be stung by these and other non-social bees. And with every load of pollen you watch her ferry home, realize that she has in turn left behind pollen on the stigmas of dozens of apple flowers. That pollen will fertilize

the flower's ovules, making seeds that will stimulate the growth of the apple fruit whose tangy crunch you will enjoy in the waning days of the coming autumn. By then, that mother bee will have been dead for months, but the next generation, her daughters and sons, will be physiologically preparing for winter's chill.

- Jim Cane



The lovely bee illustrations in this issue (including the "Package of Bees" illustration on the first page) are from *The Essence of Beeing*, text by Michael Lenehan, illustrated by Alice Leora Briggs, & published by Sherwin Beach Press (<http://www.sherwinbeach.com/>) Permission to reproduce them here was graciously provided by Alice Leora Briggs.

Bear River Migratory Bird Tours

The Utah Rivers Council is sponsoring Bear River migratory bird tours again this year. The tours will focus on Bear River wildlife and the effects of two proposed dams on the river. We'll learn what Bear River water development could destroy, including: Shoshone cultural sites, pioneer-era farms and the millions of migratory birds that inhabit the Bear River wetland ecosystem.

On Saturday, April 21, we'll tour by canoe, but space is limited to 30 people. This will give us a close up view of the river's birds and wildlife. Space is very limited so RSVP early. On Saturdays, April 28 and June 2, we'll lead migratory bird tours of the Bear River on land. We'll see some of the 220 species of migratory birds that inhabit the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

and hear about Native American cultural sites, family farms.

All the tours are free and include a picnic lunch at the site of the proposed Honeyville dam. For more information or to reserve your space please call the Utah Rivers Council at 801/486-4776.

Local Talent Abounds at BAS Meetings

As vice-president of BAS, my primary responsibility is to arrange speakers for our monthly meetings. OK. Where do I start? Well, the question is.... What might you, the hundreds of members of our enclave, be interested in hearing about? I figure we all have a few things in common. The love of nature perhaps. The idea that humans can exist on this planet in sustainable ways. The joy of learning or good companionship. The fact that we all live here, now, and can see the changes happening in our corner of the world and beyond. With this in mind, I began my search for speakers.

As I suspected, I did not have to look far. The valley is full of incredibly intelligent and dedicated people willing to share their time and ideas. Since September, when we started

meeting at the Logan City Meeting Room again, we have had the chance to meet and listen to an array of interesting folks. Dr. Rich Valdez informed us about how our thirst for electricity has affected the ecology of the mighty Colorado River. Paul Rogers showed us ways to plan our communities for people instead of cars. Beware of "snout-houses"! Mike Jablonski presented some great ideas for efficiently and safely lighting our communities while still enjoying the beauty of the stars. Why not? Dr. Vince Tepidino opened our eyes to the plight of pollinators and the consequence of their absence. Can you see the beauty of the world in a single flower? And just recently, Paul Jamison took us on a tour back in time with a wonderful collection of photos and fossils from our

surrounding mountains. Outrageously cool presentation.

I have enjoyed listening and learning from each of these people, and on behalf of Bridgerland Audubon Society and myself, wish to thank them all for their time and commitment. It has been great. My search for speakers continues, with the hope that if I find them, you will come. Come, learn, share some refreshments and get excited about everything there is to get excited about. Also, if you have ideas for speakers please call or drop a line: Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bmasslich@pcu.net

- Bill Masslich

Local Information

Teacher Inservice/preservice

workshops offered: 1. *Headwaters to Mouth, Exploring the Natural and Cultural History of the Bear River* From its headwaters in the high Uintahs to its mouth in the Great Salt Lake, participants will explore this remarkable and threatened riverine system on foot and by canoe. Activities will include measuring the human impact, story telling, journaling, restoration projects, creating a web page, map interpretation, and data analysis. Levels of Teacher Participants: upper elementary through grade 12. June 25-29, July 19-21 at Logan High School, Utah State University. Facilitators: Jack Greene, Logan High School, 435/755-2380, jgreene@lhs.logan.k12.ut.us & Ron Hellstern, South Cache Freshman Center, 435/245-6433. 2. *Ethnobotany/Ecology of the Middle Rockies & Great Basin* Teachers will explore the ethnobotany and plant ecology of the Rocky Mountain West and Great

Basin. The traditional cultural use of plants by Shoshone Indians, Latinos, and Asians will be examined. The ecological distribution of useful plants and the human impact on plant communities will be included along with restoration activities. Most days will be a combination of field work and lab work including travel to different habitat types and a visit to the Shoshone Indian Reservation. July 9 - 16. Facilitators: Gabriell DeBear Paye, West Roxbury High School, gdpaye@hotmail.com, (webpage: <http://www.usefulplants.com>) & Jack Greene, Logan High School, 435/755-2380, jgreene@lhs.logan.k12.ut.us. Costs: There is no registration fee. Costs will include \$15.00 for credit if you so desire, meals, and lodging if you need it. We have arranged for U.S.U. dorms at \$15.00/day. Car pooling will be utilized for transportation.

Earth Day Celebration. Earth Day is April 22st, but since that day is a Sunday, Logan City Environmental Division will be holding the Earth Day event on Saturday April 21st at the fairgrounds from 10-4. There will be games, a neighborhood cleanup, and arts/craft activities using recycled materials. We will have a few food businesses, guest speakers, and maybe musical performer(s). Would anyone in your family, neighborhood, friends, school, leaf club, religious groups, or other organizations want to volunteer to help facilitate the days activities? Contact Janna Simonson, Recycling Programs Coordinator, Cache Valley Clean Team, 435/716-9792, Logan City, Environmental Division, 950 West 600 North, Logan, Utah 84321. Email: jsimonse@logancity.org, fax: 435/716-9601, website: <http://www.cvcleansteam.org>.

More Local Information

Waterers Desperately Wanted (especially by the trees)

PacifiCorp is looking for volunteers to help water the newly planted trees at the Cutler Reservoir once a week during the hot summer months. All the trees are close to water; it only requires carrying a couple of five gallon buckets a few feet to each tree about once a week from mid-June to early September. If you, or a group of friends, can commit to one or more sites for one or more months this summer, please contact Eve Davies, 801/232-1704 (eve.davies@pacificorp.com) or Bryan Dixon, 435/752-6830 (bdixon@xmission.com).

Hawkwatcher News (and Home Needed)

(Jean and I recently received a warm note from Howard Gross, Executive Director of Hawkwatch International, the non-profit group that sponsors hawk observers every year on the Wellsvilles - watch for our field trip to the observation point next September. He was full of good news about HWI progress, and I thought I'd pass some of it on. - Bryan Dixon)

Howard: Things are going pretty well here. I've selected a top candidate for our Conservation Scientist position from a huge pool of resumes, and hope to have her on board sometime in March. We have had some discussions with PacifiCorp, UDWR, and USFWS about a GIS-based project to identify electrocution hotspots in their Utah grid, and to get a HWI crew out on the ground to identify offending poles for retrofitting (I was pleased to learn that PacifiCorp currently has 25 full-time pole inspectors). There are a lot of other exciting things going on here. This fall, we will expand our Flammulated Owl trapping/banding effort at our Manzano Mountains Project (NM) - last fall, we set a single season banding record for Flamm (94), and less than 500 have been

banded ever. We are also acquiring more funding for the satellite telemetry program. We could potentially be deploying 34 transmitters this fall on N. Goshawks, Golden Eagles, and Red-tailed Hawks in the Manzanos, Goshutes, and Chelan Ridge (Washington State). Also, we did exploratory work for a new site in Wyoming last fall, and will hopefully be following up on that work in Fall 2001 with concentrated efforts at the south end of the Wind River Range and two locations in the Star Valley vicinity. We are firing on all cylinders!! Also, check out the Feb. 2001 issue of the Condor for the HWI article about using stable isotope analyses to determine the natal latitude of Cooper's Hawks migrating through the Florida Keys.

(By the way, HWI needs to find a "home-away-from-wilderness" for its two hawkwatchers next fall. Over the years, various families have provided a place for these intrepid naturalists to rest and recuperate after camping on the Wellsvilles. They typically begin late August and observe until late October. They need a home for one or two nights a week where they can get warm, do laundry, repack food for the hike back up, and make phone calls to family. Any takers? For more information, call Bryan and Jean, 752-6830, Keith Archibald, 752-8258, or Hawkwatch, 801-484-6502, and ask for Mark Vekasy).

Birdseed Available

You can get great birdseed and support BAS at the same time: All (100%) of the profit (\$5) from this seed goes to support BAS and its many community projects. 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. The fifty-pound bags are

\$16, \$10 if bought at the annual banquet.

Bear River Institute is offering Great Basin Birding class starting April 2nd, taught by our own Don McIvor & Audrey McElrone. Call 797-7379 or see <http://www.ext.usu.edu/bri/home.htm> for more information.

Green Calendar: more local information is available on the green calendar, at <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/greencalendar/>

WELCOME! New & Renewing Members

New members

Diane & Craig Baum
Ralph Clark
Laura Ferguson
Kermit & Phyllis Hall
Steven McOmber
Rebecca Monhardt
Lana Powell

Renewing members

Robert & Lois Anderson
Beth Booton
Carolyn R. Chase
Gail Drew
John Ellerbeck
Kerkman Family
Jake Gibson
K. Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Gordon
Chris & Nathan Hult
Marjorie & William Lewis
Jeanna & Steve Livingston
Merr Lundahl
M. Jean Packer
Julie B. Pitcher
Paul Swaner
Ms. Marie Veibell
Maureen Wagner
Dr. Janet Lee Young

BRWC

New Organization to Protect the Bear River Watershed

The recently formed Bear River Watershed Council opened its full-time office this past month, complete with staff, in the heart of Cache Valley. The new non-profit organization will be located in the Center Street Plaza, 60 East Center Street, Suite 210 in Logan, Utah.

Members of this new group feel that the extraordinarily large geographical scope of the Bear River Watershed justifies the need for a full time effort, not only to address many environmental concerns that are not being addressed, but also to help coalesce ongoing efforts by other individuals and organizations within the watershed.

"This area is huge, at approximately 7,600 square miles, or 4.8 million acres, spreading into three western states," said Board Chair Tim Wagner. "Within that area are a lot of issues that need attention and the best way to start effectively addressing them is with a full time staff."

One major issue that BRWC will be immediately addressing is what the organization has dubbed the 'Bear River Mountains Conservation Corridor.' Smack dab in the middle of this mammoth watershed lie the

Bear River Mountains and this corridor is often referred to as the 'Utah gap.' It has been identified as the only migrational and habitat link between the northern and southern Rocky Mountains and is therefore a critical choke point for species diversity and sustainability. It is this conservation corridor that BRWC hopes to bring awareness to and ultimately protect for the future.

In conjunction with the conservation corridor, BRWC will be also be addressing a host of forest management issues on the Wasatch Cache and Targhee-Caribou National Forests since both areas dissect the Bear River watershed.

Also on the group's radar screen are the many regional problems associated with poor water quality. Because everything drains eventually to the river, water quality becomes the final tally on the ecological health of a watershed. And it's no secret that much of the Bear River is in a dire condition. Where cold-water trout species originally swam from the headwaters to the Great Salt Lake, now much of the river is only home to sucker fish and carp.

"We believe it's time to quit treating

the river as a landfill and instead give it the respect it deserves," said Vice Chair Dan Miller. "It's time to clean up this river for all of the river's users, from fish to wildlife to people."

Organizing and implementing the day-to-day operations of BRWC will fall into the hands of the newly hired Executive Director Sharon Falvey. Falvey, a hydrologist by training, is excited to tackle the many challenges that lie ahead for the new organization.

"We want to build a network of small town communities within our watershed to maintain a constant awareness on the issues that effect us all." Falvey said.

To become a supporting member, volunteer or learn more about the BRWC, please contact the BRWC at 435/753-8949 or log onto their upcoming web site at <http://www.brwcouncil.org>.

- Tim Wagner

Groaner

As migration approached, two elderly vultures doubted they could make the trip south, so they decided to go by airplane. When they checked their baggage, the attendant noticed that they were carrying two dead raccoons.

"Do you wish to check the raccoons through as luggage?" he asked.

"No, thanks," replied one of the vultures. "They're carrion."

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The Stilt

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Annual Bridgerland Audubon Society Dinner.
Friday, April 20th, Aspen Grove Reception & Party Center
(860 N 600 E, Logan) 6 p.m. social, 6:45 p.m. dinner.

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.com.

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

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

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National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this, please check this box.