



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

In Search of the White-faced Ibis

The evening canoe trip was, well, bad and good. Nineteen folks showed up July 22 to explore the Cutler Marsh to see if the White-faced Ibis had, indeed, abandoned their rookery. We put in at the Valley View Marina, one of the new boat launch sites on Cutler Marsh constructed by

fledged their young. Arriving on the site, we were surprised to find that, for the second year in a row, both the ibis and gulls have abandoned this part of Cutler Marsh. Why? The water seems the same, the vegetation seems the same.

One theory for their absence posits that they originally came to Cache Valley in large numbers during the mid-1980s when their preferred nesting habitat at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge was inundated by the unusually wet years. Lately, as the BRMBR has recovered, perhaps the birds have rediscovered the refuge and prefer it to Cache Valley. Anyone have a better theory or has anyone found the moved rookery site?

Disappointed at not finding the ibis and gulls, we instead poked into the sinuous channel of Swift's Slough (outlet for the Logan Sewage Lagoons) until we arrived at Kuntzler's Beach, a mud flat on the eastern edge of the marsh. Exiting the reeds, we

found egrets, avocets, stilts, and cranes taking advantage of the quiet summer's evening to chow down on those invertebrates. The water was so high that we just continued south until we found an outlet back to the main marsh. From there, we headed far to the west, where we unsuccessfully searched for a more direct way back to the put-in. Even though some canoeists were able to push through the reeds, we decided it probably didn't "go" all the way, so we returned to the main channel.

In all, it was a splendid way to spend a summer's eve, tooling around a calm marsh, relatively bug free, warm and calm, with the best of company all around. We're planning another evening canoe trip in August, so check the outings list, grab a canoe, and join in.

— Bryan Dixon



PacifiCorp. Heading north into the maze of Cutler Marsh, we tried to memorize the route back as we wound our way through islands of reeds, rushes and cattails. Finally breaking out into open water, the group cruised NE toward the outlet of Swift's Slough, where for many years hundreds of ibis and Franklin's Gulls had hatched and

Items of Local Interest

Need Hawkwatch hosts for Aug - Oct

Hawkwatch International is still looking for host families for a pair of Wellsville hawkwatchers this season. Over the years, several families in Cache Valley have provided a place for these intrepid naturalists to rest and recuperate after camping on the Wellsvilles. They typically begin late August and observe hawks until late October. They need a home for one or two nights a week where they can get warm and dry, do laundry, repack food for the hike back up, and make phone calls to family. For those new to HWI, the Wellsvilles were the first of over a dozen hawkwatching sites in the western United States. The Wellsville site has been monitored for about 20 years and the data goes into important research on the health and migration of raptors around the world. If you can offer a room in your home for part of the period, please contact Hawkwatch immediately. You can reach them at 801-484-6502, or email Mark Vekasy at mvekasy@hawkwatch.org

- Bryan Dixon

Outings Organizer Needed

Bridgerland Audubon is looking for an energetic and committed individual to organize outings. Responsibilities include arranging two outings a month, each with a leader, writing a description, and sending it to the *Stilt* editor and the BAS web master. Board members are good sources of ideas, and many trips are annual events, requiring only a few calls. Please apply soon to Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net.

Primo Seed Available

Some people think that summer is not bird feeding season: nonsense! Call Allen Christensen at 258-5018, and he'll deliver the most excellent sunflower seed available to your door for the mere price of \$15 a bag.

BRWC NEWS

3 National Forest Revise Plans

Three national forests within Region 4 and the Bear River Watershed are about to make critical decisions regard-

ing ecosystem and watershed management that will guide forest management for the next fifteen years. These three forests create the "Heart of the West" corridor that provides habitat for species migration between the northern and southern Rockies, including the recently listed Canada Lynx. The un-developed nature of this "conservation corridor" has an intrinsic value to all Americans, of both current and future generations.

The Bear River Watershed Council would like to encourage citizens to persuade these forest managers to integrate this corridor concept into all management decisions. Your comments are critically important to the success of biodiversity protection and this NEPA action.

PLEASE WRITE A LETTER TODAY!

Correspondence should be sent to:

(Deadline: September 18, 2001 See the plan: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wcnf/>)
Wasatch-Cache Planning Team
8226 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

(Deadline: To Be Announced, 2001)

Pete Karp, USFS
Uinta National Forest
88 West 100 North
PO Box 1428
Provo, UT 84603-1428

(Deadline November 1, 2001 See the plan at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/curlew/index.htm>)

Jerry B. Reese, Forest Supervisor
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Need Information? Keep checking the BRWC web site at: <http://www.BRWCouncil.org>. BRWC will be publishing key points for citizens to comment on for all three forests. They also have extra copies of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest plan at their office at 60 East Center St. #210, Logan, UT 84321. 435/753-8949. Or review the WCNF Plan on line at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wcnf/> Three oral comment meetings for the WCNF are scheduled to be held on 30 August in Logan.

Audubon Contacts

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w e l c o m e

New members

John W. Evans
Diana T. Glenn
Jake Mann
Jennifer Sinor

Transfers into Chapter

Heather Keough

Renewing members

Janis L. Boettinger
Anne D. Brown
Renee Chi
Brenda Cooper & Ted Pease
Georgen Gilliam
G. Hunter & D. Bronson
James E. Kingsland
Wendy Mee
Louise Murch
Eugene W Schupp
Straw Ibis
Paul C. Ustach

Audubon Calendar

There will be no general (second Thursday) meetings in the summer. See you 13 September. 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.

Saturday, August 4. Ted Daniels Forest Tour. Spend a day with local foresters exploring a local woods. It ain't all just trees, you know. Dr. Fred Baker and other forest researchers will lead us into the T.W. Daniels Experimental Forest, owned and managed by the USU Forestry Department. We'll explore various tree-based ecologies, including lodgepole pine and spruce-fir stands. Leave at 8 a.m. from the parking lot north of Straw Ibis, 50 East 150 North in Logan. We'll carpool to the site in Logan Canyon; bring

lunch and water, binoculars, and a small pack, 'cause we'll be hoofing it among the trees. Return by 3 p.m. For more information, call Fred Baker at 797-2550 or 753-2714.

Wednesday, August 22. Canoe Trip. Float past the mountains in the cool of the evening. Meet at Straw Ibis parking lot at 6 p.m. For more information, call Jean Lown & Bryan Dixon 752-6830.

More community events are available at: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/greencalendar>

Lamar in May

Bart said, "Why don't you meet me in Yellowstone in late May, I have a biologist friend who knows the ropes. We'll see the wolves and some grizzlies. We'll see a lot of things."

That invitation started my annual northerly trek to Yellowstone the weekend before Memorial Day.

Every year I go I see things that belong in books. Interactions so intense they keep you glued to a spotting scope for hours. Dramas like watching grizzlies and wolves vie for the rights to a kill, or seeing a wolf pack single out and chase down an adult bull elk, only to lose it in the soda butte river, injuring a member of the pack in the effort. One year we saw a wolf tree a black bear. It's a pinch me trip every year. Did I mention watching an amo-

rous grizzly pair cavorting on the hillside for about an hour? Boy can they relax.

The Lamar Valley has long been a special place. It's on the north side of the park, just off the Yellowstone Plateau. And it happens that because of elevation and weather patterns, the snow is mostly gone when the elk calve. Elk calving is the big attraction. It attracts all the big predators, including us. If this trip sounds like your kind of Audubon trip, ask those of us who go about it: Mae and Merv Coover, Terry and John Barnes, Gail and Allen Christensen.

The Lamar is a happenin' place the weekend before memorial day.

- Allen Christensen



