



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Utah Audubon Turns 90

This fall, we'll celebrate 90 years of Audubon in Utah! In 1912 a group of 17 men and women incorporated themselves as Utah Audubon Society to foster the legal protection of birds in Utah, and to introduce the study of birds to the public school curriculum. Utah State's bird protection law, promoted by the Society's first president, Claude T. Barnes, is still in effect today. In 1936 Utah Audubon Society affiliated with National Audubon Society, and in 1992 changed its name to Great Salt Lake Audubon.

On Saturday, November 2, 2002 GSL Audubon will hold a celebratory 90th

birthday gala at the Memorial House in Memory Grove, with a guest speaker from National Audubon. On this occasion we will also honor Dr. William Behle, considered the "father of Utah ornithology," author of many books and articles on ornithology, and mentor to present day bird authorities and advocates such as Professor Clayton White of BYU and Ella Sorensen. We feel proud and grateful that William Behle served many years as a board member & president of Utah Audubon Society. GSL Audubon will use this occasion to review past accomplishments, but also to look into the future via a slide

presentation and talk outlining future challenges and opportunities for our Jordan River and Great Salt Lakekeeper projects. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar and silent auction to raise money to support our growing programs in education, advocacy and restoration. Sit-down dinner starts at 7:30 p.m.

Buffet dinner donations are \$50 per person. Join us in this happy celebration and invite your friends. To reserve your place send your check to Carol Withrow, 519 Northmont Way, SLC, UT 84103, no later than October 18th, or call her at 363-0352

Wellsville Raptor Count Cancelled

The 2002 Wellsville Raptor Migration Project has been cancelled due to last minute recruiting difficulties, according to Howard Gross of Hawkwatch International.

The announcement was made September 3. Gross said the annual fall count, taken from atop

the Wellsville Mountains since the late 1970s, was called off after this year's prospective counters backed out for personal reasons, leaving no time to find replacements.

Hawkwatch has monitored raptor migration from the Wellsvilles on and off since 1977, accu-

mulating nearly 20 years of data on birds using the flyway.

"Please note that we have not told the raptors that the count is cancelled," said Gross by email. "So if you hike up to the top of the Wellsvilles on a splendid day this autumn, they should still be there!"

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BAS Chapter Notes

Get a Free Citizen Activist Toolkit—and Get Busy

You know the issues. You know there is plenty of work to do. But how do you go about it?

The folks at Seattle Audubon have assembled answers to many of the questions the conservation community faces in finding support for their causes. And now those answers are yours for the taking in a free online Citizen Activist Toolkit.

"This Toolkit was designed to assist citizen activists in their work on behalf of the environment, and describes the basic elements of grassroots advocacy—how to target an audience, influence decision-makers, get media coverage, formulate a compelling message, recruit and retain volunteers, and more," said Alyssa Wu of Seattle Audubon in a release announcing availability of the toolkit. Get your copy at <http://www.seattleaudubon.org/conservation/toolkit.html>.

Spread Some Cheer

Common Ground Outdoor Adventures announces its third annual 'Holiday Cards with a Cause' featuring local artist Jerry Fuhrman.

The card sale is a fundraiser for Common Ground, a non-profit organization that provides recreational opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. For more information or to order, call Common Ground at (435) 713-

Sanctuary Update

Getting Things Done: The Americorps Motto

On Monday, July 29th, two Americorps Volunteers (Norm Goltra and Sandra Schimmelpfennig) along with Carl Francis from Logan City Recycling labored for three hours sorting and removing the contents of the old dump at the east edge of our Chapter's new reserve at the Amalga Barrens.

During that time they removed three water heaters, two refrigerators, three metal vents, three 30-gallon plastic drums, three metal cattle feeders, two TV's, two wooden pallets, a wooden spool, one metal shelf, three wire cages, and enough orange twine to bale all the hay in Utah. All totaled they removed and recycled 1,890 lbs of metal, hauled a ¾-ton pickup truck load of lumber to the construction and demolition part of the landfill, and about a half a ¾-ton pickup truck load of rubbish to the dump. Our Reserve's neighbor to the east, Sidney Hansen, kindly permitted us vehicle access across his property to tote this junk away. Remaining are the bones of untold dumped cows that any visitors are welcome to take home or re-enact the opening scene from "2001: A Space Odyssey."

A few 55-gallon plastic containers contained suspect liquids

requiring identification for appropriate disposal. Testing revealed just dilute soap solution and an antiseptic. Ron Ryel was a great help in removing and disposing of these last drums.

Sandra again organized and led the Americorps efforts at the Barrens during the week of September 9. To deter periodic motorized joy rides and other inappropriate activities, the group stretched a two-strand smooth wire fence along the road to deter unwanted activities, and posted property markers around the perimeter of our Reserve declaring motor vehicles and guns to be off-limits.

Bridgerland Audubon is fortunate to have such cheerful, dedicated talent as Sandra's in our service. Now if only we can get her to run for public office!

—Jim Cane

Sanctuary Donors

Sue and Dave Drown
Philip Stafford
ATK Alliant Techsystems
(matching employer grant)
Dorothy Egan
Jack and Christina Greene

Thank You!

Audubon Calendar

October 2002

4 Chapter Two Books Reading. Chris Chester will read from his new book "Providence of a Sparrow: Lessons from a Life Gone to the Birds" at Chapter Two Books, 130 North 100 East, Logan, Utah, Friday at 7:30 p.m. "Providence of a Sparrow" is Chris Chester's witty, heart-warming account of his life-changing friendship with an orphan house sparrow. A reception and booksigning will follow. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call Chapter Two Books, (435) 752-9089.

9 BAS Board of Trustees Meeting. In a departure from our regularly scheduled 1st Thursday of the month, the board meets this month on Wednesday, October 9th at 7 p.m. at the offices of Bio-Resources, 135 E. Center, Logan. All are welcome to attend.

10 Yukon to Utah: Rebuilding Trumpeter Swan Migrations—a Talk by Ruth Shea. Does Utah hold the key to Rocky Mountain trumpeter swan restoration? What problems are jeopardizing Greater Yellowstone's trumpeters? How could Utah help restore them securely? How the *!#!#! do you tell them from tundra swans??? Come learn about one of Utah's rarest birds and the efforts to save the Greater Yellowstone nesting population. Speaker Ruth Shea, executive director of The Trumpeter Swan Society, Maple Plain, MN has studied trumpeter swans in the western U.S. and Canada since 1976 and lives in southeast Idaho, near Grays Lake National Wildlife Reserve. The talk will follow BAS's regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 10 in the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main, Logan.

12 Roadside Cleanup Rally. Some years ago, BAS assumed responsibility for cleaning up the litter along a highway west of Richmond. We are currently overdue in fulfilling our cleanup responsibility. We thus put out a special plea for your support in fulfilling our pledge. If we have a strong turnout, we can take care of this assignment in short order and have fun in the process. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North). Bring gloves and other suitable clothing. Bags and safety vests will be provided. Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Jim Hoffmann, 787-4053 or Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

19 Dry Canyon Stone Sculpture Stroll. The U.S. Forest Service and Logan City have done some wonderful work to make Dry Canyon east of Logan a delightful place for a nature stroll. In addition, Jerry Lowe has done some remarkable stone sculptures along the trail. Join outing leaders Jim Kingsland and Reinhard Jockel for a leisurely stroll up part of the canyon to enjoy its offerings. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North). Carpooling will be available. Bring binoculars, wear suitable clothing, and bring a few munchies to eat along the way. Return very early afternoon. For more information, call Jim Kingsland, 753-3154 or Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

26 Stone Soup Canoe Trip on the Bear River. Kind of a pot luck on water. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 East 150 North) to paddle the Bear River from the Preston/Weston bridge to Cornish. LeRoy Beasley will provide the basics for a soup, and you are encouraged to bring something for the pot. Bring binoculars, water and warm clothing along with you own boat (boats can be rented from USU Outdoor Rec, Trailhead Sports or Muddy Road Outfitters). We will return mid-afternoon. For more information, call LeRoy Beasley, 753-7491 (home) or 797-3248 (office).

Them Crop Killin' Cranes

When I moved to Cache Valley in September 1970, I was intrigued with the birding opportunities close at hand and was overjoyed (shaking uncontrollably with a big smile on my face) to find a pair of Sandhill cranes along the Mendon Road. I asked around and found that few cranes, if any, were known to nest in Cache Valley, although they'd been plentiful at some prior time. With time and no hunting the cranes returned to the valley over the next 20 years. Then Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' Tom Aldrich, waterfowl coordinator, decided that based on federal population counts, there were enough cranes in the system to sluice a few out of the population; this would be a great boon for hunters. Coincident with the "come to the valley and sluice a crane" campaign, two valley farmers aided and abetted the sluicing by claiming that cranes caused incalculable damage to crops by yanking corn sprouts out of the soil (a favorite trick of pheasants) and stomping wheat, barley, oats, and probably alfalfa into oblivion.

Of course, a hunt was then truly justified. "Them crop killin' cranes ah'll ruin me," cried a tenant farmer, "They're a menace," cried the other. Retaining some sense of ethical behavior at UDWR, they funded a study to determine the extent of depredation by the evil cranes. And lo, Don McIvor, currently of Nevada IBA fame, completed the study for his Master of Science

degree. And the results? Well, the state didn't like the results, not a bit. No significant damage to crops due to crane rage could be documented. What a deal! Now UDWR (read: good old friend of the cranes Tom) didn't have much justification for crane sluicing. Bio-Resources also had Briggy Thomas (the boss's niece and an awesome field biologist) monitor the population in 1992. She found a healthy crane population spread throughout the valley. I can't remember whether we had cranes hunting for one year, then it ceased, or whether it never got started. Be that as it may a Crane Days Festival was started by Great Salt Lake Audubon and flourished for several years.

Then Tom, he of infinite knowledge who can say he never did listen to another biologist who he trusted, reinstated hunting in Cache County. The Crane Festival ground to a screeching halt. Some dude sluicing a crane and dragging it out of a pasture by its legs is not endearing to crane aficionados, nor does it prove a "Kodak moment" for festival goers.

Well, hold on, cuz here come da judge doing a little theorizing about cranes. In the vast untested world of wildlife management, where are species we hunt to place some semblance of control over burgeoning populations. Hunting, that is, predation, is about the fourth order of control following weather,

food, and shelter. We hunt a species as a management tool. The problem with this approach is its assumption of generality, i.e., all species can be hunted. There are numerous assumptions for hunting and one old saw that rankles more than others is animals — wildlife — are dumb, rather instinct-bound and that's the problem. Any vertebrate uses its brain and senses to reason, to learn, to avoid, and to approach. They all make decisions. It appears the cranes, which for two decades had a safe haven in Cache Valley, have found out differently. The cranes appear to be a species that can't be hunted. Information transfer during winter and migrations can lead to an avoidance of an area, like Cache Valley. I know this works for starlings and it surely works for cranes.

We in Cache Valley have one of the most regal vertebrates in the world come to live with us each spring through fall. Rather than hunt them, let's welcome them. When or if the cranes cause crop damage, we can deal with the offending cranes. I know this rankles the damage-control folks, at least a few of them, because it's more profitable to just kill 'em all. How can you justify having a trapper sit around for a few years waiting for the call?

Give us a break, Tom, We've seen what your management has done to our populations. How 'bout sticking with waterfowl and leaving the cranes alone?

—Val Grant

Welcome to BAS

Renewing Members

Cindy A Hall	Alice Lindahl
Kermit & Phyllis Hall	Anne Shifrer
J A Hoffmann	Marie & Nick Strickland
Daisy & Trevor Hughes	Kim Sullivan
H Richard Hurren	Mr & Mrs Robert E Taylor
Bradley Kropp	

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

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

2001-2004 Merr Lundahl, 753-1707; Dave Drown, 752-3797;
Jack Greene, 563-6816

2002-2005 Jim Cane, 713-4668; Joyce McMullin, 713-4399;
Dick Hurren 435/734-2653; Jamie McEvoy, 753-3559

Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

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Webmaster	Chris Wilson, 753-3769, cwilson@sisna.com

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Stilt* invites submissions, 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.

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:
National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001
W-52 Local Chapter Code: 7XCHA

Note to new National Audubon members: To get on *The Stilt* newsletter mailing list without the usual 8 week delay, contact Susan Durham, 753-5637, sdurham@cc.usu.edu.

Prefer the local newsletter only? Send \$20 and this form to: Bridgerland Audubon Society, PO Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501 for a subscription to *The Stilt*.

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



The Stilt

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