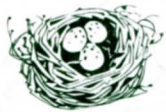


The Stilt

Volume 31, Issue 7
August 2002

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Sanctuary Fundraising Continues



"To date, over 73 members and friends have donated over \$7,300 in response to the mailing alone—"

On May 31, BAS submitted a grant proposal to the Intermountain West Joint Venture for a project totaling \$62,000 to purchase and protect 156.4 acres in the Amalga Barrens. We are in the process of paying Bio-Resources for the first 80 acres and have a letter of intent from PacificCorp as willing to sell us another 76.4 acres. We have received generous promises of donated services from the following:

- Todd Sherman, Wetland Resources, for a complete wetlands delineation, including maps;
- Cindy Johnson, Natural Resources Consulting, and Ron Ryel for an environmental assessment and monitoring program;
- Kate Stephens, Utah Conservation Corps, for UCC crews to help put in fencing and boundary markers and for cleaning up some debris on the southeast perimeter.

In addition, we had signs made at the Utah Correctional Industries at real cost savings.

We've broken this project into three phases:

Phase one: acquisition of the property, followed by detailed mapping of wetlands, soils and vegetation, and commencement of two years of monitoring for vegetation, avifauna and water quality in preparation for a detailed use plan. This phase will also secure the boundaries by installing boundary markers and a simple fence along the road to block motorized vehicles.

Phase two: based on two years' of data, development of a plan for use as a refuge and/or environmental education site. This may involve installation of some basic infrastructure if appropriate, such as a small parking area, a short trail, and water containment structures to maintain shorebird habitat as long as possible each spring and summer.

Phase three: perhaps add an observation blind, information signage and formal environmental education programs aimed at all ages.

The response to our funding requests has been nothing short of phenomenal (See Donors, p.2)! In May, Alice Lindahl organized a letter and brochure that were mailed to all of our mem-

bers. Within two days of the mailing, checks began arriving in our post office box. To date, over 73 members and friends have donated over \$7,300 in response to the mailing alone – yes, those zeros are correct. Combined with other donors this winter, loving donations in memory of Melle Washington, and proceeds from the April banquet, we've raised almost \$18,000!

If you haven't donated yet, keep in mind the Isabel Katana challenge grant. We've applied for grant funds to help pay for the purchase of the additional acreage, but they're not assured. Moreover, we will incur management and other costs as we take over the ownership of this 156-acre parcel. If all goes well, we could even attempt to acquire some of the neighboring habitat of slightly higher ground that not only serves as a buffer but also provides a more varied habitat in its own right. Please send your check today to Bridgerland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501. And add a note that it's for the Isabel Katana Barrens Challenge!

—Bryan Dixon

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Chapter Notes

Isabel Katana Challenge Grant

Been waiting to make that donation to BAS for the new Barrens Sanctuary? Wait no more! Ms. Isabel Katana has offered to match donations for the Sanctuary up to her limit of \$1,000. Make your check payable to Bridgerland Audubon Society, and mail it to Alice Lindahl, 1738 Country Club Drive, Logan, 84321.

Many, many thanks to all the donors who have given so generously thus far. Special appreciation to Ms. Katana for helping to lead the charge!

Stilt Takes National Audubon Award

At its quarterly meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society presented Stilt Editor Georgen Gilliam of Bridgerland Audubon Society with the award for best newsletter among chapters our size.

We'll have the original framed and sent to Georgen in Nantucket. She certainly deserves our thanks and congratulations, and we want her to know she is sorely missed in our community.

If you'd like to send Georgen your personal congratulations, her email address is: georgen@nha.org.

Lost a pair of binoculars? Val Grant may have found them. Call him to identify and reclaim, 753-5370.

Amalga Barrens Wetlands Sanctuary Donors

Thanks to those who have generously made contributions to the Sanctuary fund (Please let us know if we've missed you!)

Lennert and Janet Anderson, Keith Archibald, Leon and Blanche Astle, Robert Atwood, Martha Balph, Thomas and Patricia Bahler, Jim and Patsy Berry, Janis Boettinger, Nan and T.Y. Booth, Mark and Sheryl Brunson, John and Coralie Byers, Patricia and Cliff Cahoon, Mary Carigan, Herb and Helen Champ, Carl Cheney, Kevin Conners, Ted Daniel, Mary and Norbert DeByle, Anne DeJardins and Tim Slocum, Lula DeValve, Keith and Martha Dixon, James and Shelly Dyer, Thomas and Helga Dyson, John Ellsworth, Deb and Wayne Eshelman, Ted Evans, Barbara Farris, Laura Fisher and Bob Bissland, LeAnn Follett, Alene Fornoff, Joan Forsgren-White, Kathy French, Sue Fuhrman, Patricia Gardner, Kathy Gilbert, Diana Glenn, Tom and Pat Gordon, Barbara Hale, Ruth B. Helm, Lyle Henderson, James A. Hoffman, Dawn Holzer, Nathan and Christine Hult, Ilona Jappinen, Brad and Ellen Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Joe W. Jones, Norman Jones and Lynn Meeks, Laura M. Johnston, John and Linda Keith, Joyce Kinkead and David Lancy, David H. Kotter, Norman LaBarge, Julie Landeen, Dean and

DeAnn Lester, Jennifer Levy, David Lewis and Kim Corbin-Lewis, Richard Major III and Tere Champ-Major, Carl and Jeri Malouf, Wayne Martinson, Curtis Maughan, Ed and Jane McCollough, Krista and Austin McHugh, Steve McOmber, Nancy and Robert Mehler, Eric Meyer, Karen Mock, Sheldon and Sharmeen Moore, James D. Morgan, Dick Mueller and Susan Durham, Silvia Niehuis, George and Jeanette Norton, Diane and Bill Oblock, Janet Osbourne, Loye L. Painter, Ivan Palmblad, Bruce Pendery, Richard and Virginia Ratliff, Virginia Ream, Sandra Robertson, Kayo Robertson, Charles and Sandra Romesburg, Betty Russell, Larry Ryel, Sara and Charles Salzberg, Raymond and Roselena Sanders, Richard and Kathleen Schockmel, Eugene Schupp, Sally Sears and Randy Wirth, James Shaver, Jim Sinclair, Peter Slonek, Ron Smith, Alice Stokes, Merlin Tams, Robert and Betty Taylor, John and Kennita Thatcher, Scott and Ann Theurer, Alison Thorne, Jan Tucker, Marie Veibell, Eric Wagner, Robert and Blandine Washington, Robert and Joan Washington, George and Barbara Welkie, Michael and Marieluise Wolf, John and Margaret Wood, Theresa Zmola

Thank You!

Audubon Calendar

August 2002

10 The Highlands with Eve Davies and the Selmans. Join us for another exciting adventure with PacifiCorp Biologist Eve Davies and the ecology-minded Selman ranchers on some of the high country grazing land. There will be plenty of wildlife to see, and we will also observe some more of the life of sheep/cattle ranchers in our area. Come dressed for the rough country and bring a pair of gloves; we may help the Selmans put in a section of fencing. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North, Logan) Bring binoculars. The Selmans will provide lunch for those who RSVP to Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653. We will return in early afternoon.

17 Migrating Shore Birds. The adult shore birds that nest in the arctic and sub-arctic regions of the far north head south very early in the migration season and begin showing up here in Utah in August. Based on observations by our experienced birders who will act as scouts, we will go to the location in our area where the greatest number of them happen to be this year. Our first choice will be the Barrens in northwestern Cache Valley but if our scouts find that another location is much better (i.e., the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge west of Brigham City or the Antelope Island causeway in the Great Salt Lake) we will go there instead. Call Dick Hurren, (435) 734-2653, or Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, a couple of days in advance to find out which spot we have chosen. We will leave at 8 a.m. from the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North, Logan). You'll want to bring "munchies" or a lunch if we end up going to the Bear River Refuge or to Antelope Island. Bring binoculars (or reserve a pair from Dick) and bring a spotting scope if you have one. Carpooling will be available.

24 A Day Trip to Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho. Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge north of Soda Springs, Idaho, is an important staging area for migrating Sandhill cranes and other marsh/grassland-loving birds. Whooping cranes are often seen there at this time of year as well. Today's trip will leave from our regular spot (the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North, Logan) at 8 a.m. and will last the entire day. This is a 200-mile round trip, so bring a good lunch (including water or a beverage), "munchies," and binoculars. We will plan to be back before dark. Carpooling will be available. Call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653 or Allen Christensen, 258-5018, so we will know approximately how many people plan to make this trip.

Ongoing: Nomination forms and site criteria for the Audubon Important Bird Area Program in Utah are now available. Cutler Marsh and the Amalga Barrens are the two Cache Valley sites currently under consideration for inclusion in this program. If you have ideas for other potential important bird areas, contact one of BAS's IBA team members: Val Grant, 753-5370, Keith Archibald, 752-8258, or Kim Sullivan, 792-4150.

Field Trip Notes from Young Naturalists

BAS's Spring Field Trip to Cutler Marsh with PacifiCorp Biologist Eve Davies

I wasn't interested in field trips, especially on Saturday mornings when I could be in bed! I don't remember being truly astonished by landscapes, although I do think that I've had more experience of different landscapes than most kids my age. I usually just say, "Wow!" but that's about it.

A couple Saturdays ago, I went on Audubon's Saturday morning field trip to the Cutler Marsh with Eve Davies from PacifiCorp. There were about 15 people who went. Well, when my mom first said that we were going to some marshlands I wasn't thrilled about it at all. But since I didn't have anything else planned, I didn't argue.

Finally, the day came and we were heading to the marsh. On the way, we stopped a couple times to see some birds. I tried really hard to find the birds everyone was looking at; being amazed by. But for some reason, I couldn't! And I wasn't very happy with that.

BAS's July Canoe Trip on the Bear River with Bryan Dixon

My name is Kristina Roy. I am 6½ years old. I went on my first Audubon canoe trip this July! My mom and dad, my little brother, and three other canoes went with us on the Bear River.

We got out of the cars and walked around to look for a

Eve showed us three access points where we could walk into the marsh — two on the east and one along Valley View highway. As we were walking through the new trail south of the Benson Marina, we saw the revegetation efforts. I could see all the work that people have put in to improve the marsh. All the plants they've planted were growing well. After just one year, the wild currants are 2-3 feet tall, and some of the willows are 5-6 feet tall. All the other plants looked like they were doing very well, too.

They put big rocks a few feet from the shoreline to break the waves, and now plants are growing inside the rock line to help stabilize the bank. It was a big success. They also have a new foot bridge that lets us walk in a circle over 2 miles, so we got to see far into the marsh.

We saw long-billed curlews, short-eared owls flying in broad daylight, and a yellow-headed black bird (I think I'll never forget this bird's name or what it looks like). The Boy Scouts made nesting boxes for burrowing owls. I'm pretty sure the owls

good place to put the canoes in the water by the Cornish bridge. We saw swallow's nests under the bridge. We all got in our canoes and paddled downstream.

Soon we saw great blue herons, ibis, eastern kingbirds and more bank swallows. As we came around a bend we heard the trumpeting of Sandhill cranes. Then we saw two fly up from

know about them, because we also found some guts and bones of a vole that an owl must have eaten. Eve was very happy to see the guts! That's because the meadow voles are a real problem at the marsh. They eat the new plants put there to stabilize the soils.

As we were walking, we saw the most amazing thing! We saw a small garter snake that had a vole in its mouth! The vole was squeaking and wriggling; asking for help! I think the snake finally got somewhat scared of us and went away with its vole. I don't know if I'll be able to see such a scene in my life again.

We also picked up all the trash we saw on the trail. I think it looks a lot better now. The whole trip was a great experience for me and it was full of excitement and fun. I wanted to thank Bridgerland Audubon Society for such an opportunity. Thanks so much!

— Michelle Kang

Editor's Note: If you missed this trip with Eve to Cutler Marsh, plan on joining us for an uplands field trip she'll be leading on August 10. See our calendar for details.

behind the trees. I kept wanting to see a pelican, but we never saw any that day.

After that we looked for a good place to take the canoes out. When we found one, we saw lots of little frogs. My little brother Patrick fell into the river. My mom saved Patrick and I saved the frog.

— Kristina Roy

Welcome to BAS

New Members

Mr & Mrs Richard H Berrett
Valerie Bowles
Dana Worley

Renewing Members

Anne D Brown
Keith L Dixon
James Dyer
Joan Labby
Alice Lindahl
Mrs Meredith Matlack
Janis Parent
Craig Reger
Lawrence A Ryel
Anne Shifrer

Leon C Astle
Mr & Mrs John Barnes
Mrs Charles Chism
Joyce Cline
James Dyer
Patricia Fullmer
Jake Gibson
Joyce Kinkead & David
Lancy

Jennifer MacAdam
Eric J Meyer
Thomas J Schroeder
Michael J Stones
Wayne Wurtsbaugh

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

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Vice Pres. Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bmasslich@pcu.net
Outings Dick Hurren, 435/734-2653, hurrens@aol.com
Secretary Suzanne Pratt, 713-0197, suzap@cc.usu.edu
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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

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

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