



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

They're Back...

The only time I spoke to Wayne Owens, former congressman from Utah, he told me that he wanted to live to see wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park. He worked tirelessly towards that goal. It was maybe too much to hope that they would be able to make it to Utah for decades. Wayne died while on a peace mission in Israel over the holidays this year, but he did live to hear of the Yellowstone wolf that made the trek to Utah, near Morgan in late November.

The prediction is that more will come. A study from USU indicates that the state could support 200 wolves and a survey done by the Salt Lake Tribune shows that 61% of Utah residents are in favor of its return.

The return of the native wolf is controversial. The Utah Wolf Forum has been established to facilitate an understanding of the consequences

of wolves coming to Utah and to work with interested citizens to ensure that the State of Utah will develop a plan for managing wolves. Their mission is: Assisting Utahns in the assimilation of naturally recolonizing wolves into Utah, through science-based planning and education. Their goals are to:

and legal issues regarding natural wolf recolonization in the state; and

4) Work to protect suitable habitat for wolves in Utah.

You can support this group by contacting them through their web page. Healthy ecosystems contain preda-



Now What?

1) Establish a strong partnership with the Division of Wildlife Resources, hunters, ranchers, the Ute tribe, and other concerned Utahns to address the wolf issue together.

2) Use science, particularly ecology and conservation biology as the basis for decision-making, management and planning regarding wolves in the state.

3) Educate Utah citizens on the biological, social, economic, ethical

tors and the wolf deserves a place after too long an absence. <http://www.brwcouncil.org/html/utwolforum.html>

BAS member Robert Schmidt has been a key player in setting the stage for a scientific evaluation of wolf recovery in the west. Here is the link to the USU wolf report: <http://www.brwcouncil.org/html/wolvespages/assests/nrei>.

—Alice Lindahl
Conservation Chair

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Local Notes

Refresh Your Wilderness Medical Skills in Time for Summer with These Classes

Wilderness First Responder - Recertification (24 hours)—April 4, 5, & 6, 2003—Stokes Nature Center. Are your wilderness medicine protocols on the tip of your tongue or in the bottom of your pack? This three day (24 hours) scenario-based course is designed as review and practice of evacuation and decision making guidelines. It also provides wilderness medicine practitioners with current updates in the wilderness medicine field. It may be used to recertify current Wilderness First Responder and Wilderness EMT (wilderness portion only) certifications from the following organizations: WMI, NOLS, SOLO, and WMA. CPR is included. There will be a written examination at the beginning of this course. View a course outline at <http://wmi.nols.edu/courses/outlines/wfrrecert.html>. Cost is \$165. Preregistration is required. Contact Glen Gantz gkgantz@earthlink.net, (435) 258-2748

Wilderness First Aid (16-24 hours)—May 3&4, 2003—Stokes Nature Center. If you plan to spend time in the backcountry you need to be prepared. Fast paced and hands-on, this two or three-day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel and work in the outdoors. This course is pre-approved by such organizations as: the American Camping Association, the United States Forest Service, and other governmental agencies. It may also be used for wilderness medicine recertification by those with previous training. We recertify current cards from the following organizations only: WMI, NOLS, SOLO, and WMA. View a course outline at <http://wmi.nols.edu/courses/outlines/wfa.html>. Cost is \$140. Preregistration is required. Contact Glen Gantz, gkgantz@earthlink.net, (435) 258-2748

Get Ready for the Audubon Banquet

The annual BAS Banquet is set for Wednesday, April 16, at the Copper Mill Restaurant. Tickets go on sale this month, starting March 21, at Fuhriman's Framing & Fine Art and Chapter II Books. Cost is \$20.

Watch next month's Stilt for more information.

Our speaker will be USU Fisheries and Wildlife Professor Robert Schmidt. Education and conservation awards will also be presented.

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with music and a social followed by a delightful dinner. Please come support your local chapter.

Audubon Calendar

March 2003

1 Birding Around Logan for Beginners. This Saturday morning trip is intended to help beginning birders identify the birds, particularly hawks and waterfowl, that winter or pass through Cache Valley. We will visit several different habitats in the valley. We will take plenty of time to make sure all participants see and are made aware of the identifying characteristics of the various species located. People of all ages are welcome on this trip. Meet in the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and the Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North, Logan) at 8:30 a.m. We should be finished by about noon. Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

5 BAS Board of Trustees. Bridgerland Audubon's Board of Trustees meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the offices of Bio-Resources, 135 E. Center, Logan. All interested are invited to attend.

8 Bald Eagles at Willard for Hikers and Non-hikers. A good trip to help us chase away cabin fever and get some exercise. This is an annual outing led by Jim Sinclair to observe bald eagles, golden eagles and other raptors. This year we will have a challenging hike for those who are up to it and an easy trek on flat ground for those who prefer that. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North). From here the group will travel to the entrance to Willard Bay State Park in Box Elder County. Avid hikers will head up to the ravine above the Willard Gravel Pit, where they will be able to look down on eagles and other raptors soaring below. The less-avid hikers will explore both the north and south parts of Willard Bay State Park, where bald eagles and many other birds of interest will be found. Box Elder County participants may prefer to meet at the entrance to Willard Bay State Park at 9:50 a.m. Bring a lunch. Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Jim Sinclair at 752-0061 or Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

13 General Meeting. Spring is just around the corner and with it the revival of the plant kingdom. Come spend the evening learning about some of our local green treasures as Frank "Buddy" Smith, renowned local botanist, presents "Common and Rare Plants of Logan Canyon and Other Botanical Novelties". The presentation will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main, Logan.

15 Sewage Lagoons/Amalga Barrens for Returning Waterfowl. The Logan Sewage Lagoons offer a treasure trove of migrating waterfowl in late winter/early spring. Join local expert Keith Archibald as he shows you the large numbers of waterfowl in the area and points out rare species in their midst. Meet at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North) at 9 a.m. We will return by lunch time. For more information, call Keith Archibald 752-8258 or Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

22 Cutler Marsh Canoe Trip. We just can't wait to get back on the water! It will be early, maybe a chance of rain, but join Jean Lown and Bryan Dixon as we paddle a section of the Cutler Marsh to look for migrating waterfowl and enjoy the placid water. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 E. 150 North). Bring your own canoe (rentals are available at USU Outdoor Recreation, 797-3264; Muddy Road Outfitters, 753-8388; or Trailhead Sports, 753-1541), lunch and warm clothing. Return mid-afternoon. For more information, call Bryan or Jean at 752-6830.



If you'd like to come along on a field trip but do not have binoculars, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653. He'll try to find a pair for you to use.

26 Sustainability Conference at USU. Sustainable Landscapes, a non-profit USU student association, is holding its annual Sustainability Conference March 26th-27th. This year's theme, Uncommon Ground: Collaboration and the Nature of Design, attempts to bring together students, educators, community leaders, and business innovators to gain access to information and training regarding sustainable design in the Intermountain West. For more information, visit the conference's website at www.sustainablelandscapes.org.

28 California Condors at Vermillion Cliffs. Join us on an extended foray March 28-30 down to the Utah-Arizona border to find California condors and other wildlife in this enchanting country. We will travel individually or in small groups to Kanab on Friday, where we will overnight. Early Saturday morning we will convoy to the Cliffs area. Dick Hurren has been to the area and has found condors in the past; he thinks he can find some for you again. We will also do general wildlife viewing throughout the day, as we make the rather lengthy loop and return to Kanab Saturday evening. People will then return home on their own on Sunday, or as they see fit. You must make your own motel/camping arrangements for the Kanab area. Dick can provide you with the names and numbers of motels and campgrounds. If you plan to go, you must let Dick know in advance. He can be reached at (435) 734-2653.

Looking Ahead to Spring



End of April

Extended Foray to Lytle Ranch Preserve in Southwestern Utah. The Lytle Ranch Preserve is located in the extreme southwestern corner of Utah near the Nevada and Arizona borders. Since it is part of the Mojave Desert, it has a very different set of birds and other wildlife than the rest of Utah. Scott's orioles, vermilion flycatchers and many other more tropical birds are often seen there, and lots of migrating songbirds heading north should also be there at this time of year. We might even see a desert tortoise. Join us for a two-nighter to see what we can find. If there is interest we can visit Snow Canyon and other sights as well. For info on carpooling and accommodations, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653. If you plan to take part, you must let Dick know in advance.



End of May

Extended Foray to Yellowstone, and Not Just for Wolves. We plan to take a three- or four-nighter to Yellowstone near the end of May. There will be plenty of opportunity to observe wolves, but we will also take special birding side trips. For more information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

Chapter Notes

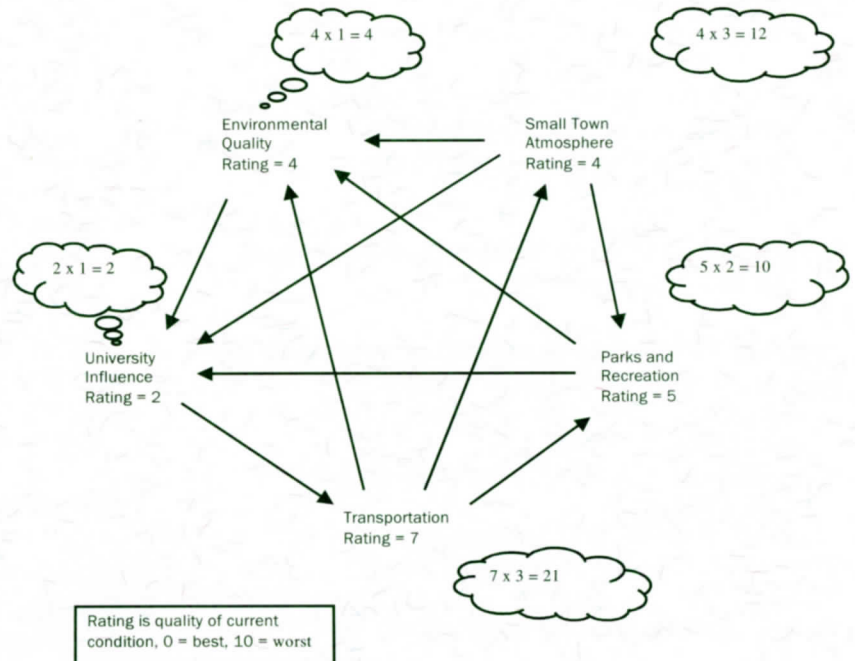
The City of Logan is revising its city plan and met with Audubon members in February to gather issues and concerns from the environmental community. Here, Audubon President Val Grant recounts the results of that meeting.

Hello Campers,

We had a great general meeting on February 13 regarding what factors are most important in the city of Logan to us, the Auduboners. What we came up with was a list of five major topics (see p. 6). Under each topic we listed the main points of concern and qualifiers.

After a truly interesting process of dealing with sticky notes and assembling the list, Bryan Dixon drew a graph (at right). We had to decide, for each major topic, how that topic affected the others. Hence, we decided that small town atmosphere influenced environmental quality, parks and recreation, and university, and so on. Arrows were going everywhere.

We also had to rate each topic on a scale of 0 (da best) to 10 (do woist). Hence, the highest rating, 7 for transportation, rated it as the area needing the most improvement. Then in a flash of magic, with the deft direction of Logan City's Jay Neilsen and Michelle Mecham, Bryan counted the



number of arrows pointing away from each topic. Are you still with me? Since transportation had 3 arrows pointing away from it, (i.e., it influenced 3 other topics), Bryan, without a calculator, multiplied 3×7 for 21. And lo, what is our most important focus for work? TRANSPORTATION. Next is small town atmosphere, then parks and recreation. If we solve these, we have cured our environmental problems.

What we need from you, our loyal and courageous chapter members is: How in someone's name do we solve the transportation problem, keep a small town atmosphere, and get more green space? We need your input. This means that

whoever doesn't respond, your name will be sent to John Ashcroft and then not even the Lord knows what may happen. The purpose of the exercise is to help Jay and Michelle construct a survey for Logan city dwellers to help direct the future of the place we live. So please send in suggestions. Many suggestions. And we will go through a similar process, combining your suggestions to help direct solutions. Our future depends on you! Buy bonds! And send us any suggestions for the topics listed on page 6. The bonds can wait a while. I just got carried away in the current war fever.

—Val Grant
BAS President
Email biores@mtwest.net

Environmental Interest Group

Concerns and Issues

1) Parks and Recreation

More natural areas that support wildlife (such as Stewart Nature Park)

- More green areas
- Provide space for winter wildlife habitat

More city parks, interconnected for pedestrians

- Expand exercise options and facilities
- Create at least one very large city park
- Maintain Willow Park Zoo

Keep and expand trees, especially along streets

- Maintain a diversity of trees

Retain and expand both pedestrian and bicycle trail system with easy and frequent access

- Retain and increase access to the canal system of trails
- Develop trails along other waterways, such as the Logan River
- Increase access from foothill neighborhoods to National Forest boundaries

Reduce hunting and motorized recreation

2) Transportation

Mass Transit

- More routes and buses
- More and better bus stop shelters
- Regional bus system (to Wasatch Front)
- More bike racks on buses
- Incentives for public to use mass transit

Increase non-motorized options

- More bikeways
- Connect walking and bicycle trails
- Improve sidewalks and bicycle access in areas with sprawling strip development
- Incentives for public to ride bikes and walk

Make streets more pedestrian-friendly and safe

- Longer walk lights at intersections
- Under-pavement sensors at stop lights should detect bicycles

Promote alternative fuel vehicles

- In city fleets
- Incentives for the public

3) Environmental Quality

Clean the air – reduce the brown haze

- More pollution controls on motorized vehicles

Save water quality

- Control pollution from non-point source runoff, such as from automobiles

Promote water conservation

- Make tiered water rates more expensive for larger users
- More xeriscaping and low water consumptive planting on municipal and private property

Improve recycling options and availability

Maintain the views of the mountains by restricting bench development and building heights

Implement a dark sky ordinance

4) University Influence

Promote more positive relationships between USU and town residents

Promote arts on campus for the community

Promote outdoor recreation opportunities through the university available to the public

Increase education opportunities for citizens

Maintain access to extension information and expertise local and statewide

5) Small Town Atmosphere

Less large corporate restaurants and shopping, fewer "box stores"

- Fewer fast food restaurants

Diverse community activities

Improve downtown

- More accessible downtown
- More diverse and vibrant small businesses
- Improve traffic flow through downtown by making 100 or 200 East and West one way
- Increase affordable housing in city center

Do not marginalize older neighborhoods

Improve public safety and sense of security

More consideration for those with disabilities

Retain ethnic diversity

Welcome to BAS

Renewing Members

Jeanie Boynton
John Butcher
Audrey M Eisenhauer
R M & MR Holdredge
Nathan & Chris Hult
Mrs. Ruby D Kemp

Heather L Keough
James P Shaver
David S Winn

New Members

Laurel Anderton &
Steve Walker
Rebecca J Jones

Transfers into Chapter

Mark Johnson

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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Secretary Suzanne Pratt, 713-0197, suzap@cc.usu.edu
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Hotline Nancy Williams, 757-0185, nanwill@cc.usu.edu
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.



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Logan, Utah 84323-3501

Email: stiltnews@hotmail.com

Visit our website: [http: www.bridgerlandaudubon.org](http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org)

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