



# The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

## BRWC Launches Project MUD

Something's happening to our public lands in Utah, especially along the urban foothills. As the current population boom gears up with motors and heads for the hills and meadows, our wild lands are being loved to death.

More people have more money and more free time for recreation. In the last decade alone, they've turned a stampede of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) loose on public lands, with little knowledge of the harm they can create. While the majority of OHV users participate in recognized legal use, it's the "renegade" minority that causes problems.

Citizens who visit our pristine lands to experience quiet and solitude find themselves con-

fronted by the noise, pollution and disturbed landscapes created by this illegal off-road invasion. The evidence is obvious: illegitimate roads and trails, excessive erosion, noxious plant distribution. Fewer and fewer places to enjoy peace and quiet remain.

To document the damage to our public lands, the Bear River Watershed Council (BRWC) has launched a new volunteer program called Motorized Use Data Project (Project MUD). The initial effort will focus on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's Logan Ranger District, but the group hopes to expand their efforts south into the Ogden Ranger District and north into Idaho's Montpelier Ranger District.

Project MUD will accurately identify and col-

lect data on illegal routes and ghost roads, as well as areas degraded by erosion, compile the information, and report the findings to the Forest Service and the public.

BRWC spokesman Dan Miller said "Project MUD is a way for local citizens to help the Forest Service protect public lands by collecting data on illegal routes made by the small percentage of OHV users who don't stay on designated trails. Miller added that he would like to see concerned OHV users get involved who care and are interested in protecting their privilege to ride.

Volunteers will adopt a 7.5-minute quadrangle map, go into the field to record written and photographic observations relating to illegal motor

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# Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

This is a great year to take part in the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival!

Held in Farmington on the third Saturday in May and continuing the following week (May 17-24), Great Salt Lake Bird Festival attracts bird watchers from all over the United States.

The Great Salt Lake has recently been spotlighted as one of America's best bird watching sites by national publications, including *Sunset*, *National Audubon*, *Bird Watcher's Digest* and *The Nature Conservancy* magazine. Local sites specifically mentioned

include Great Salt Lake Birding Trails, Antelope Island, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, and the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Salt Lake Bird Festival offers field trips to all of these sites. You can visit the sites acclaimed in these prestigious na-

tional magazines with an experienced guide.

The Great Salt Lake and surrounding areas are coming into prominence as unique sites to see a lot of birds. The festival takes advantage of many beautiful public and private bird watching sites.

On Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, many workshops will be held at the Davis County Fair Park in Farmington, Utah.

Visit the art show featuring professional and student artists. All booths and workshops are free. Bus and van field trips and the festival dinner

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## Project MUD

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ized use. BRWC will make portions of the data available to the public on their web site ([www.BRWCouncil.org](http://www.BRWCouncil.org)), which will also allow volunteers to share their observations.

Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Pratt Johnson said, "Project MUD will offer the mechanism for active citizen participation in the management of our public lands. These observations will

provide baseline data for current motorized use and be invaluable for future observations and comparisons."

BRWC hopes the observations will also help Forest Service officials understand what is currently happening on the ground and encourage increased enforcement in trouble spots. Forest Service managers could also use this information to help motorized users understand their negative impacts, consequently helping preserve

critical wildlife habitat and important watershed areas.

Volunteers need to provide their own camera, film, and compass and have some general knowledge of map reading. BRWC will issue field packets consisting of a 7.5-minute map, FS Travel Plan, clipboard, pencil, data forms and instructions to each volunteer.

For more information contact: Dan Miller at (435) 258-4432.

# Audubon Calendar

May 2003

**3 Antelope Island and the Causeway.** This is a great time to visit this island state park in the middle of the Great Salt Lake. There are likely to be countless thousands of shore birds along the causeway leading to the island, and the island itself will have a large variety of migrating and resident songbirds, as well as big game. Please join us on this Saturday morning trip, which is suitable for both adults and children, and for experienced and novice birders. Meet in the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 East 150 North) at 8 a.m. Bring a lunch (or bring money to buy one on the island) because we will not be back until mid-afternoon. Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

**7 BAS Board of Trustees Meeting.** The Bridgerland Audubon Board of Trustees meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the offices of Bio-Resources, 135 E. Center. All interested in attending are welcome.

**8 The Great Salt Lakekeeper: Community Action in Natural Resource Stewardship.** Jeff Salt, Great Salt Lake Audubon's new executive director and Great Salt Lakekeeper, will present an overview of GSLA's Community Action Program, which combines community service (environmental service) projects, advocacy, research, resource planning, and as a last resort, litigation. In May 2001, GSLA became a member organization in the Waterkeeper Alliance, an international network of riverkeepers, baykeepers, and soundkeepers. The keeper model is based on the Hudson Riverkeeper program, which has successfully brought about over \$3 billion in remediation and enforcement actions along the Hudson River since 1983, and helped to restore one of America's most important waterways. Bobby Kennedy Jr. is currently President of the Waterkeeper Alliance, with 104 member programs worldwide. For many years Bridgerland Audubon has been involved in issues affecting our watershed. Would we be interested in formalizing our role as Bear Riverkeeper? The talk will follow our regular general meeting at 7 p.m. in the Logan City Library meeting room, 255 N. Main.

**10 Cutler Marsh with Eve Davies.** Join Senior PacifiCorp Biologist Eve Davies for a fascinating view of the PacifiCorp property surrounding the Cutler Marsh and see some of the great innovations Eve has put into place to make the marsh more wildlife friendly. This trip will be of value to individuals interested in the flora around the marsh as well as to those interested in the birds and other fauna. Meet in the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis at 8:30 a.m. We will be back around noon. Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

**15 Yellowstone, and Not Just for Wolves.** Join us for a four-day, three-night trip to Yellowstone National Park. There will be plenty of time to observe wolves doing all the things that wolves do, and we will also make special side trips available to find birds of interest and to see the other attractions in the park. Allen and Gail Christensen have been doing this for years and are real experts, especially on the wolves. For information on accommodations call Allen Christensen, 258-5019. For general information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

**17 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival.** This week-long festival kicks off Saturday at the Davis County Fair Park in Farmington. Events include a fun run, birding trips with some of the state's best birders, and if the weather cooperates, an ultralight plane demonstration by Kent Clegg. Be sure to check out the list of field trips, workshops, and children's activities on the festival's web site, [www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com](http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com) (and see a related story on p.2 of this newsletter).

**24 Birding the Lower Cache Valley Canyons.** This is a wonderful time of year to bird the lower elevations in the canyons around Cache Valley. Both resident and migrating songbirds will be in abundance. It is also a great time of year to be out in the great outdoors enjoying nature. Dr. Keith Archibald, one of the state's top birders, will lead this trip. Meet in the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis at 8 a.m. Return in early afternoon. Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Keith Archibald 752-8258, or Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

**31 Bear Lake Wildlife Refuge and More.** Many of us regularly visit the Bear River Bird Refuge west of Brigham City but few of us get up to the Bear Lake Refuge at the north end of Bear Lake. Join us for a trip there to see the birds and other animals; they are quite different from those we see in Cache Valley. We will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis. Bring a lunch, because we will not be back until mid-afternoon. We will, however, make a stop for raspberry shakes in Garden City. For more information call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

## Looking Ahead...

**Mid-June Boating the Upper Bear River.** This is an annual overnight float and camping spectacular. For more advance information call Bill Masslich, 753-1759.

**Other Extended Forays in the Offing.** The Uinta Mountains, the Ruby Mountains in Nevada, Great Basin National Park, and Deseret Ranch.

## GSL Bird Festival

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have fees.

This year's keynote dinner speaker is Kent Clegg. He is excited to come to Utah and bring

his Dragonfly ultra-light airplane. Many will remember Kent's work with whooping and sandhill cranes. He raised many from chicks. He became 'Father Crane' to these birds and along with his ultra-light airplane, he taught them to migrate to winter grounds in New Mexico. This is a fascinating and successful story captured on a CBS docu-

mentary. Kent will offer a free demonstration of his ultra-light plane at noon, Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Davis County Fair Park (weather permitting).

Another highlight of the 2003 festival is the annual Fun Run/Walk and Bike Ride held at Antelope Island State Park, Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. This event is for all ages. Signs tell participants where they would be if they were migrating birds from Canada to Mexico. Proceeds from this year's event are dedicated to help with conservation efforts in San Blas, Mexico, which is Great Salt Lake's sis-

ter site through the Shorebird Sister Schools program. Last October's Hurricane Kenna destroyed bird habitat, bird observation towers and student equipment including binoculars. The Great Salt Lake Bird Festival is collecting money and binoculars donations through May 24, 2003.

Register now for these fantastic field trips, fun run, and dinner. For more information, visit the festival's web site: [www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com](http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com) or call Davis County Tourism at 801-451-3286, or e-mail [tour@co.davis.ut.us](mailto:tour@co.davis.ut.us)

# Welcome to BAS

## New Members

C D Cheney  
 Jesse &  
 Catherine Logan  
 Philip Parisi &  
 Susan O Shapiro

## Renewing members

Michael C Amacher  
 Karen Beard &  
 Andrew Kulmatiski  
 Stephen E Bialkowski  
 Swede Dahl  
 Ronald W Goede

## Transfers into chapter

Linda F Baker  
 Wanda Guthrie

# 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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**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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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Visit our website: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org>

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