



# The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

## Butterflies & Bees Chill Out

Summer's balmy weather has past. The frenzy of growth, bloom and reproduction is done. So what has become of all of the butterflies and bees that graced our summer meadows and gardens? Unlike birds, no bee migrates to warmer climes, and only a few of the butterflies do (such as the monarch). Bees and butterflies stay right here, toughing it out.

In a few instances, the individuals that you see next spring will be the same ones that flew this autumn, just like the chickadees we count at Christmas. Butterflies that overwinter in some protected cavity as adults include the mourning cloak, red admiral, question mark, and the species of commas and tortoiseshells. You will see these flying again on the first mild days of early spring.

Among bees, the overwintering generation of all

bumblebees consists only of mated queens-in-waiting. These will have found a protected place to hide out and hibernate through the icy days of winter. They all mated the autumn before (no male survives the winter) as their natal (birth) colonies were dying out. These wannabees (argh!) were the great big fuzzy jobs that you saw lumbering about at your goldenrod flowers and will see again early next spring. They labor to rear a first generation of daughters who will then work for their mother, the queen.

Likewise, many of the non-social bees that you see early in the spring also go through the winter as adults, both males as well as females. But they will not leave their natal nest cells (and sometimes cocoons) until their first flight next spring. The blue orchard bee and its relatives are good examples for this overwintering strategy. Overwintering as

an adult means that you don't need a spate of warm weather to complete your metamorphosis; you are ready to go when a day is warm enough for flight.

As a group, bees, butterflies and moths are versatile in their strategies for surviving winter's chill. A few moth species persist in the egg stage, such as tent caterpillar moths. A few butterfly species, notably the fritillaries, get through the winter as a partially grown caterpillar. But most butterflies and moths pass the snowy silence as a chrysalis or pupa, that miraculous transformative stage between the chow-hound caterpillar and the graceful, winged adult.

Nearly all non-social bees that fly in late spring or summer likewise hibernate (or technically, diapause) in

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# Chapter Notes

## Help Survey the Barrens for Birds

Bridgerland Audubon needs your help is determining just which bird species we have breeding out on our Barrens Sanctuary.

Some of the birds we see out there are no doubt just cruising through (the hawks and cranes, for instance). Others are definitely nesting there; I've seen short-owls on nests, fledgling Virginia rails slipping through the reeds behind a parent, and new nests of marsh wrens.

But who else?

This is where we need your help. If you recollect having solid evidence for any other bird species seen nesting or with young out at the Barrens, please let me know (Jim Cane, 713-4668).

Next year, we will continue the search in earnest, hopefully with the ability to specify the location in the Sanctuary with some accuracy.

## Simple Fence Fix Needed

Do you have the tools and skill to mend a smooth (barbless) wire fence that has been cut? If so, your help is needed. One or more vermen (that is, scum or low life) have again vandalized our Barrens Sanctuary property. This time, they cut the upper strand of wire at the place where the big drain pipe passes under the gravel road that forms the north boundary of our property. This is the pipe that carries water from the duck club across the road southwards into the head of Clay Slough on our property. The break is on the east end of the gravel road. The fence follows the road embankment, so it is high and dry right along the road.

We would be very grateful to anyone that will make this repair. Call Jim Cane (713-4668 eve.) for any questions or to inform us that you have done the deed. We will sing your praises!

## Boise-Cascade Drops Roadless Policy Lawsuit

Big news from Rainforest Action Network.

"Boise-Cascade Corporation, largest logger of US old growth forests throughout the 1990s—and one of the largest purchasers of old growth forest products internationally—has agreed to eliminate logging or selling forest products from endangered areas worldwide."

They also promise to end conversion of native forests to monoculture plantations, AND they are withdrawing their lawsuit to overturn the US Roadless Conservation Policy on National Forests (of local relevance to implementation of our new Forest Plan on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest).

—Jim Cane



# Audubon Calendar

November 2003

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

**7 Utah Ornithological Society Fall Conference.** The Utah Ornithological Society is hosting their annual fall conference November 7 to 9, 2003 at the University of Utah, Aline Wilmot Skaggs biology building. There will be a keynote address and reception on Friday evening; scholarly, general interest and member presentations on Saturday; and field trips on Sunday. The Utah birding community is invited to participate in an informative, interesting and fun weekend of events. UOS members and non-members are welcomed. For detailed information please visit the UOS website at <http://www.utahbirds.org/uos/> and follow the link to conference information and registration form.

**8 Birding South Box Elder County.** Bird southern Box Elder County with us. We'll hit spots like Salt Creek Wildlife Management Area, Mantua and Mantua Lake, Box Elder CG and Willard Bay. In past years we've seen such unusual things as a northern Parula warbler, a red phalarope, and broad winged hawks. A few bald eagles will probably be in by this time. Meet Saturday at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the season. Carpooling will be available, beginning birders are welcome. Bring something to munch on because we will not be back until early to mid afternoon. For more information call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

**13 General Meeting - New Observation Opportunities at Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge.** Bob Roundy, refuge manager for Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge, has received grant money to build a mile-long, ADA-compliant walkway, hunting blind, and observation blind with kiosks and informative signs. He would very much like to partner with groups such as Audubon that might provide volunteer help to plan and build these projects. Join us for a talk with Bob at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Logan City Library meeting room, 255 N. Main Street, Logan.

**15 Visit Logan's Wonderful Sewage Lagoons.** It may seem odd to some, but the Logan Sewage Lagoons are one of the real hot spots in our area for both late-migrating and overwintering waterfowl. The birds are safe from hunters and have a nice, ice-free place to lounge. Please join us for a trip there with Dr. Keith Archibald and Sue and Dave Drown. Meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the season—a cold wind often blows through the lagoons. Beginning birders are welcome. Carpooling will be available. We will finish up around noon. For more information, call Keith, 752-8258; the Drowns, 752-3797; or Dick Hurren, (435) 734-2653.



*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.*

**22 Fall Birding in Southern Cache Valley.** Spend the morning looking for migrating waterfowl, hawks, and other birds of interest with Bryan Dixon and Sue and Dave Drown. Probable stops will include Hyrum Reservoir for late ducks (maybe a long-tailed duck or a surf scoter), Hyrum and Paradise Fields for hawks, and roadsides and brush for unusual sparrows, etc. Beginning birders are welcome. Carpooling will be available. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars and dress for the season. We will be back by early afternoon. For more information call Sue or Dave, 752-3797 or Bryan, 752-6830.

**29 How to Attract and Feed Winter Birds.** See the various types of feeders, feeds and water devices in use locally as we visit some people who have elaborate feeding and attracting setups. Bring binoculars and dress for the season. Most of the observing will be done outdoors. We will leave at 9 a.m. from the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the season. Carpooling will be available; beginning birders are welcome. We will finish up in early afternoon but people can leave early if they need to. For more information call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

## *Future Events*

**Christmas Bird Count.** This year's Christmas Bird Count will be December 20. Save the date!

**Extended Forays.** We are thinking about taking extended trips to South Texas (late April – early May 2004) and Hawaii (late summer 2004). We have free lodging in Hawaii, but we need to have some idea of how many people would be interested in such trips before we make concrete preparations. You don't need to make a firm commitment; we just want to know whether it is worth our while to make plans for such far away places. Let Dick Hurren know within the next two months if you have any interest. He can also provide you with more information regarding these tentative trips.

## *Chill Out*

*(Continued from p.1)*

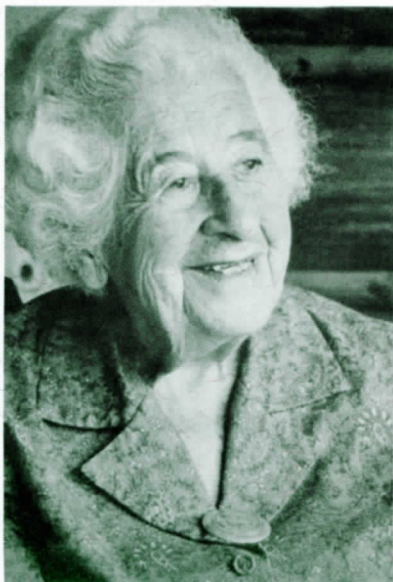
their individual natal nests as a well-fed grub. Come warm weather, this individual transforms to a pupa, and transforms again to an adult that flies away to feed, mate and (if female) found its own nest. They are the seeds, if you will, of the next generation of pollinators.

When you are out birding, snowshoeing, or skiing this winter, stop at a quiet place, hold your breath and listen. You may hear the slumbering of butterflies and dozing of bumblebees.

—Jim Cane



# Regional Notes



**Mardy Murie**  
August 18, 1902 - October 19, 2003

Moose, Wyoming— Mardy Murie, known to many as the mother of the American wilderness movement, died peacefully at her Teton ranch last month at the age of 101.

Murie was perhaps best known for her work towards establishment of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She was the recipient of The Audubon Medal in 1980, The John Muir Award in 1983, The Robert Marshall Conservation Award in 1986, and The Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

Former BAS board member Merr Lundhal shared Murie's 100th summer at Mardy and Olaus Murie's former ranch in Moose—now known as The Murie Center. Merr shared this poem with us shortly after she returned to Logan.

## Once to the Lake with Mardy Murie

One hundred years ago a solid baby girl  
smiled in the washtub.  
Today she sits on a reclining chair  
sleeps there like her cat Pooto  
across the room.

In her fire-warmed cabin  
I plunk out "Bethena" on the upright piano;  
Mardy's head bobs to the waltz  
"nee nee nee neeee dha daah daah"  
she sings like a native elder.  
Earlier we'd gone to the lake, witnessed  
aspens blazing orange and gold  
crisp yellow cottonwoods,  
crimson hawthorns.  
In a moment of rare clarity the shape of Tetons against sky—  
Her crystal blue eyes drowned me:  
"Do it. Love it," she said,  
never defining "it."

I imagine "it" for her—  
the first woman graduate of the University of Alaska,  
an Arctic dog sledding honeymoon,  
raising children in the Teton Wilderness;  
expeditions to the Sheenjek and Crow River,  
testifying before Congress—

This afternoon snow falls soft and serene  
I don't have much to say, so  
I leave her sleeping— dreaming, I hope—  
and step out into the tender and delicate storm  
thanking her for visions of possibility.

—Merr Lundhal

# Local Notes

## What's up with the Utah Conservation Corps?

Hopefully, most of you have heard about the Utah Conservation Corps (UCC). Three years ago, Sean Damitz organized a group of concerned Cache Valley citizens to start an AmeriCorps program dedicated to conservation service work, community volunteerism and environmental education. This year, the UCC has 30 members ranging in age from 18-31 with diverse socioeconomic, education, religious and geographic backgrounds. This group of young adults has made a tremendous difference in northern Utah and throughout the region. Since 2001, the UCC has created or maintained over 180 miles of trail, built or repaired 35 miles of fence and restored over 830 acres of habitat. They have also

worked with thousands of Cache Valley students conducting a variety of environmental education programs, including field-based wetlands education and the annual Earth Day tree planting at Steward Nature Park. The UCC has also worked with Bear River Association of Governments to preserve several old historic barns in the valley that would have otherwise been lost.

UCC projects are typically conducted in partnership with the National Park Service, Forest Service, BLM, state agencies, schools and non-profits. Members are divided into crews of six or seven which include one crew leader. The UCC asks that the project sponsor provide matching funds for each 40 hour work week. UCC members can also be individually placed

with agencies or non-profits. Prices are negotiable for worthy projects with limited budgets.

The UCC would like to conduct more projects closer to home. This past year, the UCC had a fantastic experience working with Bridgerland Audubon Society at the Amalga Barrens Wetlands Sanctuary cleaning up trash, building fence and installing boundary markers. It felt great to give back to our local community and place. If you or your organization is interested in working with the UCC, please give us a call or e-mail at (435) 797-0964 or [ucc@usu.edu](mailto:ucc@usu.edu).

Thanks for supporting a great cause in our community...

Happy Trails!

—Kate Stephens



# Welcome to BAS

## Renewing Members

Kerkman Family  
 Glen Gantz  
 James Gessaman  
 Jack Greene  
 R N Hirst, Jr  
 Gary C Lewis

Jennifer MacAdam  
 Ron Ryel  
 Jim Sinclair  
 Louise Thomas  
 F H Wagner

## New Members

R Archibald  
 Marilyn Hammond  
 Lyman Jensen  
 Don Standing  
 Straw Ibis

# Bridgerland Audubon contacts

## Trustees

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  
 2003-2006 Ron Goede, 752-9650; Kate Stephens, 755-0608; Andree Walker, 755-2103

## Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

President Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net  
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 Webmaster Chris Wilson, 753-3769, cwilson@sisna.com  
 Sanctuary Jim Cane, 713-4668, jimcane@cc.usu.edu or Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, bdixon@xmission.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 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.



# *The Stilt*

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