



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Taking Stock at the Barrens

Now that we've closed on the Amalga Barrens Sanctuary property, we need to start formal monitoring. The objective is to understand the habitat as it is so we can develop better plans to improve it. For example, did you know there are only two soil types? Did you know the pH of the water coming in from the north is 9.5! YOWZA!!

We already have a great deal of information. There are soils maps, a wonderful wetlands inventory donated by Todd Sherman of Wetlands Resources, and several volunteers, including Cheryl Brunson, Mark Brunson, Jim Cane, Barbara Daniels, Eric Meyer, Brian Nicholson, Greg Perry, Andrea Walker, Dan Zmecnik have spent hours taking photos and sampling for water quality, bird species, macroinvertebrates, etc. (You know, I'm always torn about whether to list volunteer names; afraid I'll miss someone, but wanting to thank those who are putting in time and effort. Please pardon me if I've left you out, but contact me because we can

count your time as part of the match toward grant proposals.)

In order to formalize these efforts, a monitoring committee met recently and established the following data needs. Listed with them are tentative directors, whose job it will be to organize volunteers, acquire the necessary equipment, establish a schedule for collecting the data, and making sure that it gets put into a database:

1. Birds - Val Grant and Bryan Dixon
2. Small mammals - Val Grant and Jamey Anderson
3. Amphibians - Jack Greene
4. Macroinvertebrates - Alice Lindahl and Andree Walker
5. Water chemistry - Alice Lindahl and Andree Walker
6. Vegetation - Cheryl Brunson and Jim Cane
7. Terrestrial invertebrates - Jim Cane and Val Grant
8. Soils - Jim Cane
9. Photo documents - Cheryl Brunson)
10. Database - Jamey Anderson and Andree Walker

You'll notice that for some topics we have only one director, and several directors have volunteered to manage more than one topic. We're looking for others to help fill in the gaps and help share some of the load, so if one or more of these topics piques your interest, please contact one of us. You don't need to be an expert on that topic, just willing to find those who are. If you don't want to direct the effort, but are willing to help collect data, please contact one of the directors of that topic. Most of them are trustees for BAS, so their phone numbers are listed in the Stilt, others are listed in the phone book.

Monitoring will start this January and continue on varied schedules throughout the year. We hope to have a good baseline within 12-18 months that we can use to guide our first substantial interventions. Some of these may include water diversions, plantings, non-native vegetation removal, etc.

For more information, contact Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

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Audubon Calendar

January 2004

7 Board of Trustees Meeting. BAS Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m. at the offices of Bio-Resources, 135 E. Center. All interested are welcome to attend.

8 General Meeting - Hanging out with Mountain Gorillas. A year ago, David Lancey, USU anthropologist, organized an expedition to Uganda to film primates in the wild, especially the play of juveniles. The richest material by far was obtained from three separate troops of mountain gorillas filmed in reserves in Uganda and Rwanda. David and colleagues will show video and still photographs of their visit with these extraordinary creatures. Thursday, January 8, 7 p.m., Logan City Meeting Room. You won't want to miss this one!

10 Winter Bird Walk for Beginning Birders. Experienced birders are also welcome, but this field trip is designed primarily for beginners. We will take extra time to be sure all participants see the various birds in and around Logan in winter and learn the birds' distinguishing characteristics. This should be a good trip for parents with kids as well as for other novice birders. Walking will be modest. Dress warmly, bring binoculars, and bring something to snack on along the way. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North, Logan). Carpooling will be available. For more information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

17 Those Wonderful Sewage Lagoons Again. It may seem strange to some to keep going back to this place each month during winter, but it is not available to the general public, and if there are any unusual waterfowl in the valley, they are apt to be hanging out at the lagoons. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North, Logan) for a guided tour. Carpooling will be available. If you haven't been to the Sewage Lagoons before, you will be amazed by the number and diversity of waterfowl there. Dress warmly, bring binoculars, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. We will be finished around noon. For more information, call Sue or Dave Drown, 752-3797, or Keith Archibald, 752-8258.

24 Super Vole Saturday. Yes, folks, it's another thrilling day of Vole Monitoring! Saturday, January 24, we're beginning our monitoring program of small rodents at the Barrens Sanctuary by trapping voles in Sherman live traps - 144 of them - traps, that is. We'll have placed them out the night before with tasty repast in each one. When the vole goes in to partake, we'll delay him a tad until we can weigh, sex, and age them. Seems a small price to pay for science. Come see how it's done and get to know this special place a bit better. We'd recommend very warm clothing and leather gloves (a little Kevlar in the fingers wouldn't be a bad idea...). Val Grant and Jamey Anderson will be on hand to show you how it's done. Leave at 8 a.m. from the parking lot between Café Ibis and Logan Fire Department on 50 East 150 North; return late morning. For more information, call Val at 752-7572.



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.

31 Skiing, Birds and Perhaps Beavers. Join us as we ski and snowshoe to what we hope will still be an active beaver colony to study the inhabitants, their architecture, and their friends. Meet at Logan First Dam at 9 a.m., return early afternoon. Dress warmly and bring skis or snowshoes. The trail we will be skiing on is gradual and should not be too taxing. Bring something to drink and munchies if you are so inclined. Carpooling will be available to the trailhead. For more information, call Jim Cane, 713-4668 or Dick Hurren, (435) 734-2653.

Extended Forays

BAS has a few longer trips planned over the coming year, including an overnigher to the Myton Bench area of eastern Utah in mid-May to view mountain plovers and endangered plants; a 4-day trip to Port Aransas, Texas in early May for the spring migration; and even a January 2005 trip to Hawaii to see rare endemic species. If you would like to be included in plans for the Port Aransas or Hawaii trips, call Val Grant, 753-5370; Sue and Dave Drown, 752-3797; or Dick Hurren, (435) 734-2653.

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

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- 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 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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