



# The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

## New Birding Opportunities At Bear Lake NWR

**B**irders, canoeists and nature lovers take note — add Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge to your list of spring and summertime destinations. Although not quite as popular or large as Bear River NWR east of Brigham City, Bear Lake NWR offers area birders another choice of a nearby destination with excellent birding opportunities.

Located just north of Bear Lake, the refuge encompasses 18,050 acres of open water, marshes, wet meadows and other habitats that provide nesting, resting and foraging for thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds. Nesting colonies of Franklins gulls, white-faced ibis, double-crested cormorants, black-crowned night herons and great blue herons are a few of the attractions. Recent management efforts have also reduced the number of carp, result-

ing increasing numbers of canvasbacks using the refuge for resting and nesting.

Plans for a new observation trail and canoe trail are also in the works for the Rainbow Management Unit of the refuge. The proposed mile-long observation trail will access a mixture of upland and marsh habitat and be ADA accessible. A photography blind, hunting blind, three kiosks, and eight interpretive signs will be some of the new features along the trail. Additionally, a 1.4-mile canoe trail will tie into the new foot trail and provide access to about 70 acres of the refuge not previously accessible to the public. Construction will begin on these projects this spring and they may be open to the public as early as this coming summer during the weekends.

Rob Bundy, manager of the Bear Lake National

Wildlife Refuge, came to Logan to speak at the BAS February general meeting. He has been at the refuge for only a year and a half and has been working hard to make the facility more enjoyable and educational for visitors. At the same time Rob has not lost track of his primary job of maintaining a functional wetland complex for waterfowl and shorebirds and was beaming with excitement as he talked about other things going on at the refuge. Intensive water level management, carp removal, channel dredging, controlled burning and soil disturbance are just a few of the techniques used to maintain productivity and diversity in the wetlands.

A trumpeter swan restoration project is also underway at the refuge, making it a great location to observe these magnificent birds. Releases of 16 birds in

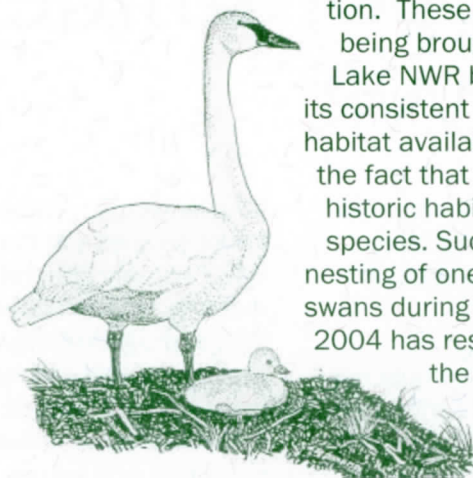
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## Bear Lake NWR

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the last two years have been successful, with several of the young birds returning to the refuge following migration. These birds are being brought to Bear Lake NWR because of its consistent water and habitat availability and the fact that it is historic habitat for the species. Successful nesting of one pair of swans during 2000-2004 has resulted in the production of six cygnets.

Eleven more birds are scheduled for release this summer.

Rob was also excited about a proposed fisheries/wetland enhancement project that would add a new management unit to the refuge. This proposed 508-acre unit would be managed intensively to provide access for spawning Bear Lake cutthroat trout into St. Charles Creek at the same time improving the quality of wetlands on the site. So as you can see, its not all about the birds.

If you would like to visit the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge take Highway 89 through Logan Canyon to Garden City. Proceed north on 89 to a well marked gravel road approximately half way between Montpelier and Ovid. Take this road to the south for about 5 miles until you reach the refuge boundary. The main office for the refuge is located in Montpelier at 370 Webster Street, phone number (208) 847-1757.

—Bill Masslich  
BAS Vice President

## Pencil in These Audubon Trips

**Mid-May** We are planning to take an overnight foray to Myton Bench in eastern Utah in mid-May to see the birding sights there, and particularly to find the elusive mountain plover. We are in touch with individuals who have been part of the monitoring of mountain plover in Utah, so we believe we have a very good chance of finding these phantoms. We are awaiting word of which weekend in May will be the best time. There is a campground just outside Duchesne, one or two motels in Duchesne, and more in Roosevelt. We'll

travel Friday night to Duchesne (about a 4-5 hour trip), track down the plovers Saturday morning, check out the Pariette marshes and active ferruginous hawk nests, then look for five endangered plants in the immediate area.

**January 2005** We are also making plans for a trip to the big island of Hawaii. Most of Hawaii's endemic species of birds are in rapid decline, and a number may go extinct within the next few years. We plan to see these marvelous birds before that can

happen. This trip is tentatively planned for early January 2005. We know an individual on the big island who will house us (up to 20 of us) for free. So if you haven't been to Hawaii, or want to go back, please come and join us. We know this is way out there in the future, but we want to give you plenty of time to work it into your schedule. For more information, call Val Grant, 753-5370; Sue and Dave Drown, 752-3797; or Dick Hurren, (435) 734-2653.

—Dick Hurren  
BAS Outings Chair



# Audubon Calendar

## March 2004

**3 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.

**6 Antelope Island in Winter.** Because we were snowed out on our scheduled February trip to the island, we have rescheduled. Meet at 8 a.m. (Early start because of the long drive) in the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) for a morning and early afternoon of nature watching at Antelope Island State Park on the Great Salt Lake. At this time of year the bison and pronghorn are usually easy to see up close and bighorn sheep may be in view. Coyotes are also usually easy to spot. Unusual birds are often seen both from the causeway leading to the island and on the island itself. A single snow bunting was recently sighted and black rosyfinches are sometimes on the island in sizeable flocks. Unusual waterfowl are often seen in the lake, and falcons are seen on the island. Bring warm clothing and binoculars, and either bring a lunch or be prepared to buy something from the snack stand. Carpooling will be available. Be prepared to pay \$1.50 per person for the entrance fee to the state park. We'll plan to be back by mid-afternoon. We'll also have a car that can return by early afternoon if there are those who must. For more information, call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653

**11 Community-Based Ecotourism & Environmental Education in the Cloud Forests of Northern Ecuador.** The cloud forests of northern Ecuador are one of the most biodiverse areas on earth. Environmental education and sustainable income generation projects could be the last hope for their survival. Two projects working toward the conservation of primary Andean cloud forests will be presented: "Amigos del Bosque," a youth ecology club and "Jambi Sacha," an indigenous women's medicinal plant cooperative. Hear about these projects following our general meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main, Logan.

**13 Late Winter Birding of the Newton/Clarkston Area.** This is a part of Cache Valley that we as birders sometimes neglect. Join us for a morning of birding to this area to see what it has to offer. Generally, if larkspurs or snow buntings are in the valley, this is where they will be. Also Dick Hurren knows where some owls are in this part of the valley, and we are hoping that Newton Lake will be at least partially ice-free by this time so we can look for loons, mergansers, etc. Sue and Dave Drown know this area well and will head up this trip. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. Bring suitably warm clothing for this time of year and binoculars. You might also want to bring along some munchies. For further information, call Sue or Dave Drown, 752-3897.



*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.*



**20 Bald Eagles at Willard.** An annual trip to chase away cabin fever and get some good exercise! We will travel to Willard Bay State Park and divide into two groups. Those who are fit will hike part way up the mountain above Willard for a spectacular view of bald eagles and other raptors that roost there and then circle overhead as they move down to the bay to catch fish and other prey. Jim Sinclair will lead this group. Those who would rather stay on flat ground will get a tour of both parts of Willard Bay State Park with Dick Hurren. Depending upon where the most eagles are, we may also drive over to the Salt Creek wildlife management area. Bring good footwear if you intend to hike up the mountain, warm clothes and a lunch. Meet in the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station at 10 a.m. For more information, call Jim Sinclair, 752-0061.

**27 The Sewage Lagoons and Bud Phelps Wildlife Management Area.** We will make one last trip to the Logan Sewage Lagoons to see migrating waterfowl and will then go over to the Bud Phelps wildlife management area to do more of the same. This is the time of year when very unusual waterfowl can turn up on their migration north. Sandhill cranes should be around in substantial numbers and a few early shorebirds might also be migrating through. The trip leaves from the parking lot between Café Ibis and the Logan Fire Station at 9 a.m. We will return by lunch. Wear suitable clothing for the season and bring binoculars. We will have several spotting scopes as well. For more information call Keith Archibald, 752-8258 or Sue or Dave Drown, 752-3797.

## Whose Nest Is It?



It's a trumpeter swan nest. Trumpeters typically lay about six eggs per year, but may lay as many as 15!

# Welcome to BAS

## New Members

Harvey Neuber  
 Laura Selman  
 Caroline St-Onge  
 Lucy Watkins

## Renewing Members

David Anderson  
 Tim Boschetti  
 Anne D Brown  
 Merv & Mae Coover  
 Lu Georgi  
 Jesse & Catherine Logan  
 Eric J Meyer

Philip Parisi & Susan O  
 Shapiro  
 Lawrence A Ryel  
 John & Kennita Thatcher  
 Miiko Toelken  
 Michael L Wolfe  
 J Norton & G Wooton

Wayne Wurtsbaugh &  
 Linda L'Ai

# 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 Wallker, 755-2103

## Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

President Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net  
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 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.





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**Visit our website: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org>**

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