



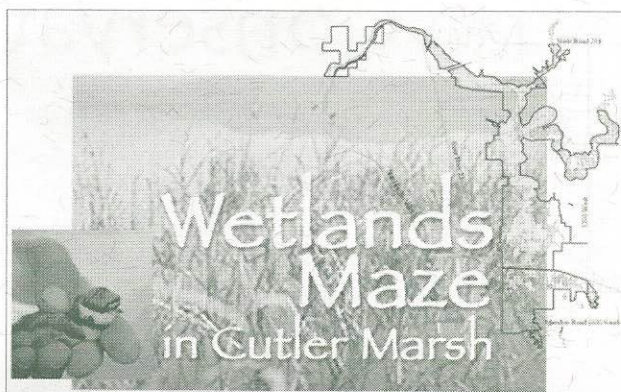
The Stilt

Volume 33, Issue 5
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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Celebrate!

It isn't often that a large international power company actively solicits input from a local environmental group and then implements their suggestions for improving wildlife habitat. When it happens, it's something to celebrate, and that's what we're doing Friday, May 7.



Utah Power, owned by PacifiCorp (and in turn owned by Scottish Power), has involved Bridgerland Audubon Society in many aspects of planning for and implementing their Resource Management Plan for Cutler Reservoir. True, the plan itself was required by the federal government, but PacifiCorp went out of its way to do it right. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on lessee changes, fencing, bank stabilization, automobile removal, and plantings, PacifiCorp built an elaborate foot bridge for hikers, designated much of the south end of Cutler Marsh off limits to big motor boats and jet skis, and gave BAS a

small grant for a wetlands environmental education web site. To cap it off, they arranged to dispose of 150 acres of mudflat habitat to BAS at a price lower than any other agricultural properties in Cache Valley!

Friday, May 7, we're going to celebrate the implementation of two local groups - Utah Power and BAS - of part of the fundamental mission of their parent organizations - National Audubon Society and Scottish Power. It all starts at the Cutler Marsh Marina at 9 a.m.. From there, we'll travel to our Barrens Sanctuary to dedicate its creation. Representatives from Scottish Power and

National Audubon Society will make short remarks and we'll have radio and TV coverage. Following that, we'll go birding through the marsh by car on our way back to Cutler Marsh Marina for lunch. And, just to complete the cycle, we'll spend the afternoon seeing the marsh from a duck's view in canoes.

This is truly a milestone in environmental conservation in Cache Valley, and our members should take pride in our accomplishments and join us for the celebration. If you'd like to help with logistics, call Bryan at (435) 752-6830.

-Bryan Dixon

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Chapter Notes

The Allen W. Stokes Conservation Award 2004

The Allen W. Stokes Award is given once a year by the Bridgerland Audubon Society to a member or members of the community that we feel deserve recognition for outstanding contributions to conservation goals.

The grazing management that Bret uses on the 4-Mile Ranch in Cache County is a model for the inclusion of wildlife in a ranching operation. He has protected sharp-tailed

ranges, setting an example we hope that other allotment holders will notice.

Just one example of “non-traditional” management by the Selmans is the use of

This year we are pleased to announce that our award goes to the Selman family of south Cache County and Box Elder County. The Cache County Selmans, Bret and Michelle, and children Cole, Elka, Wyatt and Julia live on a ranch south of Avon, where they raise livestock on 8,000 acres. Bret’s parents, Fred and Laura Selman have a farm on the Bear River in Box Elder County. This is the first time that the BAS award has gone to eight people, but we have learned that the entire family is committed to the stewardship of their land and public lands, so it seemed proper to present the award to the entire family.



Selman family members (from left) Bret, Laura, Fred & Cole.

grouse, deer, elk, moose, and even mountain lion and coyotes on the land. Bret feels that a healthy mountain lion population keeps the other predators in check and results in fewer, not more livestock lost. The Selman Ranch and the Cache National Forest grazing allotment are models of healthy

draft horses to dredge stock ponds so vehicles do not need to be taken into the back country.

The Selman family combines innovation with a sincere commitment to land conservation. We are proud to be their friends, and very pleased to recognize their achievements.

Audubon Calendar

May 2004

1 Trip to the Texas Gulf Coast. This five-day, BAS-sponsored trip to view the spring migration at Port Aransas, Texas, proved very popular and is now full. If you missed out this year, don't despair. We'll almost certainly try to do it again in 2005.

7 Cutler Marsh-Barrens Sanctuary Dedication. Bridgerland Audubon Society and Utah Power invite you to celebrate their partnership on the Cutler Marsh-Barrens Sanctuary Project. Meet Friday, May 7 at 9 a.m. at the Cutler Marsh Marina, approximately 6.5 miles west of Logan on 200 North (Hwy 30). We will provide transportation to the Barrens Sanctuary at the Cutler Marsh for the commemoration. Lunch will be provided at the Cutler Marsh Marina. Guided canoe trips will be available to heron and ibis rookeries in the afternoon. Bring binoculars, a folding chair, and dress for outdoors (light jacket, hat). There will be an opportunity to view birds through Amalga Barrens and Northern Cutler Marsh. For more information, contact Eve Davies, 801-232-1704, or Bryan Dixon, 435-760-0691. For more information about Cutler Marsh, see <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/wetlandsmaze/>

8 Sharp-tailed Grouse and General Birding. For the third year in a row we have graciously been invited by our ranching friends, the Selmans, to visit their property in extreme southern Cache Valley to observe sharp-tailed grouse doing their courting ritual. Following the grouse viewing, the Selmans provide us with a wonderful rancher's breakfast. Past participants on this trip have given it rave reviews and we are very grateful to the Selmans for affording us this opportunity. After breakfast, if there is interest, we can take those interested on additional birding of Cache Valley's south end. This trip is suitable for both novices and experienced birders. We will meet at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) at 5 a.m. Carpooling will be available. Those who do not opt for the extra birding will be back by 1 p.m. For more information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653, or Sue or Dave Drown, 752-3797.

12 BAS Board of Trustees Meeting. BAS Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. at the offices of Bio-Resources, 135 E. Center, Logan. Note the change in date this month to avoid conflicts with the Port Aransas trip. All interested are invited to attend.

14 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. Plan to head south this weekend for the 6th annual Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. The festival provides two days of bird-related workshops, field trips, and children's events on Friday and Saturday (May 14 & 15) at the Davis County Fairpark, 151 S. 1100 West in Farmington. There are just too many great events to list, so plan to visit the festival's website at www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com for a complete schedule of events and locations.

15 Mountain Plovers in East-Central Utah. The mountain plover is called "the ghost of the prairie" because it is so difficult to find. A very small group of these birds nest in east-central Utah, not far from the town of Myton. We will go there in search of them with an individual who has been



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.

monitoring them, and who, thus, knows where they are. We will meet in Roosevelt on the evening of May 14, sleep over in Roosevelt, and then use most of Saturday the 15th to find and view the mountain plovers and other birds such as grasshopper sparrows, black-chinned sparrows, and other hard-to-find birds. Those who want can then return home; the rest of us will sleep over a second night in Roosevelt, then proceed to the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, then to Flaming Gorge, and then back home via the Wyoming side of the Uinta Mountains. For more information on this trip, particularly lodging possibilities, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653 or Val Grant, 753-5370.

19 Birding by Ear for Songbirds and Owls. Bridgerland Audubon Society has several members who are experts on bird songs and calls. We will use their expertise to learn to identify songbirds by ear. When it gets dark, we will try to do more of the same with owl calls and songs. Come join us. We will meet at the parking lot at the mouth of Green Canyon at 6 p.m. Bring suitable clothing, binoculars, a good flashlight, and (most importantly) your inquiring ears. For more information call Dick Hurren, (435) 734-2653, or Dave or Sue Drown, 752-3797.

22 Great Bear River Bird Festival. Come and catch the spring migration with the folks from Bear River Bird Refuge in Brigham City. A day's worth of activities is planned this Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pioneer Park, 800 West Forest Street, Brigham City. A detailed schedule of events is included on p.5.

29 Bear River Celebration. The Bear River Celebration will be held Saturday, May 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Logan Fairgrounds, 500 West & 500 South in Logan. Come join us for food, fun, and activities to learn more about water conservation and the environment. Everyone is invited to this free event. For more information or for questions about the Bear River Celebration, please call USU Water Extension at 797-2580 or the Environmental Department at 716-9792.

BAS Road Cleanup Rally. Start Memorial Day weekend right by helping us clean up the road BAS adopted west of Richmond. Jim Hoffmann, who recently passed away, was always at the forefront of this activity. One way for us to honor him is to continue this activity with vigor. Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. Bring gloves and wear suitable clothing. Bags, safety vests, and trash pick-up sticks will be provided. Carpooling will be available. For those who desire, we will do some birding of the Newton/Clarkston area after the road cleanup. For more information, call Dick Hurren (434) 734-2653, or the Drowns, 752-3797.

31 Annual Bridgerland Audubon Society Birdathon. This is an affair where we call our friends and get them to commit to pay a certain amount (they chose the amount) to Bridgerland Audubon Society for each bird specie that we see during our full day of birding. It's much like the Christmas Bird Count except that it is a fundraiser for BAS as well. Come join us, you need not spend the whole day. Wear yourself out and have a great day of birding. For further information on where and when to meet and how to participate, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653, the Drowns, 752-3797, or Val Grant, 753-5370.

Future Forays

Hawaii—The Hawaii trip planned for late December 2004 or early January 2005 is a go. We have a firm commitment from our Hawaii contact to put us up in his fishing lodge (accommodations for up to 20 people) for five nights for \$100 per person, including bedding, and we have enough people committed to make the trip viable. The exact dates have not yet been decided and will depend to some degree on what is best for those who want to go. Air transportation to and from Hawaii and money for food will be the responsibility of individual participants. A \$100 deposit will put you on the list for the trip. For more information or to sign up, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge & Great Basin National Park— Watch for more on these trips in the June Stilt.

Regional Notes

Great Bear River Bird Festival

Keep on celebrating the spring migration with a trip over the hill to Bear River Bird Refuge for the Great Bear River Bird Festival Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The festival's primary venue is Pioneer Park, 800 West Forest Street in Brigham City. Here's a lineup of the day's events.

7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Guided Birding Tour - "Behind the Gates"

Sponsored by Wasatch Audubon and the refuge.

Meet at Pioneer Park

9 - 11 a.m.

Nature Photography Talk 'n Walk

Utah naturalist and photographer Jim McIntyre will kick off the day's events with a photography workshop.

Meet at the large, tan refuge maintenance building, 15 miles west of Brigham City on Forest Street.

10 a.m.

Adaptations of Birds

by Tracy Aviary staff.
Pioneer Park

10 a.m.

Team Birding Event

Sponsored by Bridgerland Audubon and the refuge.

Meet at Pioneer Park

10 a.m. - noon.

Birding by Bicycle

with Al Trout - Bring your own bicycle, binoculars, water and insect repellent. Refuge Manager Al Trout will lead you on a 1.5-hour-long casual bike ride.

Meet by the information kiosk 15 miles west of Brigham City on Forest Street.

11 a.m.

Identifying Raptors in the Field

Sponsored by HawkWatch International staff, using live birds.

Pioneer Park

1 p.m.

Roughing It Easy in the Woods

with author Dian Thomas.

Pioneer Park

1 - 2:30 p.m.

repeated 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Birding by Canoe with Bridget Olson

Participation is limited - first come, first serve. Canoes, life jackets and paddles will be provided. Bring your own binoculars, water and insect repellent. No one under 12 years old, please! Meet at the Refuge

2 p.m.

Wild World with James McIntyre.

This slide show will feature photographs and

sounds of wildlife he encountered in his travels around the world.

Brigham City Emergency Services Building - 442 West Forest Street

3 p.m.

Birdscaping Your Backyard

with Bill Fenimore, owner of The Wild Bird Center in Layton.

Pioneer Park

Activities and Food

We'll have activities for children, including some for Girl Scout badge work. Visit information booths sponsored by local organizations. Food will be provided by the Knights of Columbus during the day.

Art and Craft Show

A variety of local vendors will feature many different wildlife arts and crafts, as well as souvenirs, books and more!

Join us for the day's events!

For more information, watch your local newspapers prior to the event, or contact the refuge to receive a copy of the event schedule.

For more information

contact:

Betsy Beneke, (435) 723-5887 ext. 16 OR bear-river@fws.gov

Chapter Notes

The Carl M. Johnson Education Award 2004

Bridgerland Audubon's 2004 Carl M. Johnson Education Award winner, announced at the April 22 banquet, is Mount Logan Middle School Teacher Bryce Passey.

Bryce has been teaching for 22 years. During this time, he has actively worked to improve science education, both at his school and in other districts across the state.



Audubon's 2004 Education Award Winner Bryce Passey and friends at Willow Park Zoo.

He has written several successful science and technology grants, generating over \$80,000 to improve instruction for both teachers and students. This

money has provided a science department computer lab as well as field equipment used by students across the district. He also developed a state-wide, integrated data collection system for a stream monitoring program called "Utah's Stream Connections," now hosted by the Utah Education Network.

Bryce created a "real-world" data collection project called, "Mount Logan Middle School Bird Watching." Students used an integrated, multi-media approach to gathering

long-term data about the migratory patterns of song birds. This project gives students the opportunity to not only learn about science but to become

practicing scientists, and was recently cited by the Intel Odyssey Program as an outstanding example of the use of technology integration.

Bryce is always striving to give students meaningful educational opportunities that extend beyond the classroom and beyond the school day. These efforts have led to the creation of a variety of after-school and summer programs. These programs have been recognized throughout the state as effectively reaching students, especially those typically left behind in a traditional classroom.

His latest project is a literacy-based summer program, where students are given a two-week field experience, during which they go beyond reading a book and actually live the book. This program has been instrumental in allowing students who typically fall between the cracks to find success.

Welcome to BAS

New Members

Roberta Cooper
Judith Johnson
Melody M Lema
Amy Maddocks

Richard Olsen
Mark Peplinski
Lynne Rich
David Wallace

Renewing Members

Michael C Amacher
Stephen E Bialkowski &
Agnes Chartier
Mark W Brunson
John Carter
Marilyn Hammond
Elizabeth Johnson

James D Morgan
Richard J Mueller
Miiko Toelken

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

2001-2004 Merr Lundahl, 752-1707; 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

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Vice Pres. Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bmasslich@pcu.net
Outings Dick Hurren, 435/734-2653, hurrens@aol.com
Secretary Jamey Anderson, 881-1244, jameya@cc.usu.edu
Treasurer Susan Drown, 752-3797, drown6@attbi.com
Wetlands Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, alindahl@bridgernet.com
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Hotline Nancy Williams, 757-0185, nanwill@cc.usu.edu
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 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.