



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

National Audubon Releases "State of the Birds"

On Tuesday, October 19, The National Audubon Society released the "State of the Birds", a report documenting the health and abundance of North America's birds. Appearing in the October issue of Audubon Magazine, "The State of the Birds" paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30 percent of America's bird species are in "significant decline," a situation that signals seriously degraded environmental conditions in the habitats these birds call home.

The bottom line: the state of the birds in 2004 is not sound. In particular, a disturbing 70 percent of grassland species; 36 percent of shrubland bird species; 25 percent of forest bird species; 13 percent of wetland species; and 23 percent of bird species in urban areas are showing "statistically significant declines."

According to "State of the Birds," these declines are

abnormal. Not part of the natural, cyclical rise and fall of bird populations, "statistically significant declines" are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

Audubon's President John Flicker sees a clear message in this report. "Like the canary in the coal mine warning the miner of danger ahead, our birds are an indicator of environmental and human health," he said. "Birds signal that we are at risk next."

But, Flicker also sees a clear path out of trouble. "People may have created these problems, but people can solve them, if we act now," he stated. To that end, Audubon is now addressing the findings of "State of the Birds" in its conservation agenda at the legislative and policy making level,

and in the states where the greatest conservation challenges exist.

Compiled by Audubon Scientist Greg Butcher, "State of the Birds" analysis makes the case for private and public action. Based on the report's findings, Audubon is advocating for improved grassland, forest, and wetland protection, stronger pollution controls, partnerships with private landowners, and backyard habitat programs for homeowners.

"State of the Birds" summarizes the status of nearly 700 birds species native to the continental United States, focusing on the condition of species in each of five habitat types: grasslands, shrublands, forests, wetlands, and urban areas (the fastest growing habitat type in the U.S.). Written using USGS Breeding Bird

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National/Regional



St. George Bird Festival

Enjoy three days of workshops, presentations, and field trips with other bird lovers at the second annual St. George Bird Festival, January 28-30. The centerpiece of the festival will be a Saturday banquet with keynote speaker BLM Biologist Mike Small, followed by a Sunday field trip to Vermillion Cliffs, Arizona, to view California condors.

The festival will take place at the Tonaquint Nature Center, Amphitheatre and Pavilion areas, with field trips leaving from the parking lot at Tonaquint Park, 1850 S. Dixie Drive, St. George, Utah.

For more information, call:

Marilyn Davis: 435-673-0996 or Charlie Sheard 435-879-2210
e-mail: kadavis@redrock.net or mcsheard@redrock.net

State of the Birds

(continued from p. 1)

Survey and Audubon's Watchlist - cross-referenced with Audubon's Christmas Bird Count data, the report will be issued on a yearly basis, and will inform Audubon's conservation agenda, identifying key areas requiring immediate action.

Birds not only serve as reliable indicators of environmental conditions, they also contribute greatly to the U.S. economy. Keeping birds - and their home habitats - in

good condition is not only a good conservation policy, it is also good business. The worth of birds beyond their aesthetic and conservation value is something that is beginning to be more fully appreciated, a situation that has created allies for bird conservation in small and large business, and local governments - entities that have been historically unlikely conservation partners.

"According to the U.S. Forest Service, 70 million Americans - one-third of all adults in this country - call themselves bird-watchers. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service notes that they contribute at least \$32 billion in retail sales,

\$85 billion in overall economic output, and \$13 billion in state and federal taxes, creating 863,406 jobs," continued Flicker. "Birds also contribute to the bottom line in more subtle ways, providing free pest and weed control, distributing seeds, and pollinating flowers and crops. American businesses and communities simply cannot afford to ignore the state of the birds."

A digest of the report was published in the October issue of Audubon magazine and a further analysis is available on the Audubon website, www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds.

Audubon Calendar

November 2004

6 Finish Road Cleanup Plus Birding. Join us as we finish our road cleanup responsibility and then, for those who want to, bird northern Cache Valley. Some years ago, BAS assumed responsibility for cleaning up the litter along a stretch of highway west of Richmond. In October, we cleaned up the worst two-thirds of that patch of road, but because attendance was light, we were not able to finish the job. Let's go out and finish the job and then do some birding in the extreme north end of Cache Valley where there is lots of good birding but where we seldom go. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars, gloves if you have them, water and a snack, and wear clothing suitable for the season. Bags and safety vests will be provided, as well as gloves for those who have none. Carpooling will be available. For more information call Jamey Anderson, 881-1244 or Andree Walker, 755-2103.

11 General Meeting—Galapagos 2004 - Naturalists Seek Out Darwin's Insights. Alice Lindahl, USU Biology Department, will present a fascinating look at The Galapagos Islands. Professor Lindahl will share with us the images and her thoughts from her latest trip, this past summer, to the Galapagos Islands. Join us at 7 p.m., Thursday at the Logan City Library's meeting room, 255 N. Main St., Logan. All interested are invited to attend. (Space is limited, so plan on coming early)

13 Birding Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge/South Box Elder. November has the highest numbers of waterfowl (including tundra swans) plus lots of other good things to see at the refuge. Come join us as we see what's there. Afterwards some may wish to continue to a couple of other hot spots such as Salt Creek and/or Willard Bay State Park. Beginning birders are welcome. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. Bring a snack and binoculars and wear clothing suitable for the season. For additional information, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

20 Birding the South End of the Valley. Spend the morning looking for migrating waterfowl, hawks, and other birds of interest with Bryan Dixon and Dave and Sue Drown. Last November we had a very productive and fun day of birding this area. Probable stops include Hyrum Reservoir for ducks (maybe a long-tailed duck or a surf scoter), Kendhall Hyde's property west of Paradise, and the fields, power poles, and brush in between. Beginning birders are welcome. Carpooling will be available. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. Bring binoculars and a snack and dress for the season. We will be back by early afternoon. For more information, call Sue or Dave Drown, 752-3797, or Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

27 Visit Logan's Wonderful Sewage Lagoons. 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. Ron Ryel. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. 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 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.

December 2004

4 Learn How Experts 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 really elaborate feeding and attracting setups. Bring binoculars and dress for the season. Most of the observing will be done outdoors. Leave at 9 a.m. from the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. 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.

18 Mark Your Calendars for the 2004 Christmas Bird Count. Saturday, December 18, is the date for this year's Logan Count Circle of the Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by Bridgerland Audubon Society. Each year, volunteers count all of the birds - that's every bird! - they can find within a 7.5-mile radius of Hyde Park. We've been doing this since 1955, and we're one of almost 2,000 count circles and 60,000 individuals participating in this important citizen science project; there's no other event like it. We need you - or at least your eyeballs - for all or part of that day. Beginners welcome; it's a great time to learn to identify our winter birds. The evening potluck and compilation is not to be missed, either. Our record is 99 species. Maybe this year we'll break 100! For more information, contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258, or Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.



Galapagos Birding Adventure News

Thanks to adventurous Audubon members all over Utah, the bookings for the Galapagos trips on May 30 and June 6, 2005 are almost filled up. The prospect was so inviting that we added a third boat, on June 12, that is already full. We still have three cabins available for the June 6th trip on the Archipel II. Two of the cabins will accommodate two people, and the third cabin has space for one solo female traveler.

If you would like to join us for this amazing birding odyssey please contact Alice Lindahl in Logan (435) 753-7744 or email alindahl@bridgernet.com. Details regarding the trip can be found in the September Stilt or (for those of you in the Utah hinterlands), visit the BAS website, <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/> for more details. There is a slide show of the amazing birds and bird behavior seen last summer, in June of 2004.

We would love to have you aboard. It is a life changing experience!

Welcome to BAS

New Members

A J Butler
Bill Chandler

Transfers Into Chapter

Max R George

Renewing Members

Bryan Dixon
David B Drown
Ruth Eller
Dawn Holzer
Linnea Johnson
Bradley Kropp

Gary C Lewis
Rosalie Mueggler
John Mull
Richard Ratliff &
Virginia Ratliff
Laura Selman

Marjorie Simard
Tim Slocum
Caroline St-Onge
Alison Thorne
Miiko Toelken
Karen Wood

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

2002-2005 Jim Cane, 713-4668; Richard Mueller, 752-5637;
Dick Hurren 435/734-2653
2003-2006 Ron Goede, 752-9650; Kate Stephens, 755-0608;
André Walker, 755-2103
2004-2007 Dave Drown, 752-3797; Jack Greene, 563-6816;
Melanie Spriggs, 245-4376; Reinhard Jockel;
Stephen Peterson.

Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

President Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net
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
Education Jack Greene, 563-6816, jgreene@lhs.logan.k12.ut.us
Newsletter Miriam Hugentobler, 752-8237, stiltnews@hotmail.com
Circulation Susan Durham, 752-5637, sdurham@cc.usu.edu
Hospitality Allen & Gail Christensen, 258-5018, gaichr@pdp.usu.edu
Hotline Nancy Williams, 757-0185, nanwill@cc.usu.edu
Webmaster Stephen Peterson 755-5041, cllslp@msn.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.



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P.O. Box 3501

Logan, Utah 84323-3501

Email: stiltnews@hotmail.com

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

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Holiday Cards With a Cause

Common Ground Outdoor Adventures is pleased to announce their 5th annual 'Holiday Cards with a Cause' fundraiser. This year we are pleased to offer seven new scenes including "Gifts of Love" one of Jerry's Coyote pieces. We are very excited to offer this card as it embraces the joyous, lively spirit of Common Ground and the youth and adults with disabilities that we serve. Cards are available in any quantity with customized imprinting available or can be purchased in gift boxes of 12 cards. All proceeds provide accessible and affordable recreational opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities in Northern Utah. Contact Common Ground at (435) 713-0288 for ordering information or visit www.cgadventures.org. Gift Boxes are also available for purchase at Fuhriman's Framing and Fine Art, AVA, Square One Printing, Shangri-La, and Logan Tourist Council.