



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

A History of Conservation: Audubon's Centennial Anniversary

On January 5, 2005, National Audubon Society celebrates its 100th year as one of the nation's leading environmental conservation organizations.

The Audubon Society had its beginnings in 1886, when George Bird Grinnell created the first Audubon chapter. As a child, Grinnell, attended a schoolhouse along the Hudson River in upper Manhattan, which happened to be Audubon Park. His teacher was Lucy Audubon, wife of the late, great bird artist, John James Audubon. Lucy conducted a class, in those days, out of her second story bedroom. Young Grinnell would wander the house, discovering very interesting rooms, including an old loft, where boxes of bird skins and copies of Mr. Audubon's ornithological biography were scattered. Being exposed to these materials from the great artist and ornithologist, Grinnell developed an interest in all things wild. Later in life, Grinnell became the chief editor of the magazine, *Forest & Stream*, where he shared his passion

for hunting within the pages of the magazine, but with an eye for conservation. Grinnell was a leader in campaigns against hunting birds for market meat and the wholesale slaughter of millions of birds for the plumage on women's hats.

Following the lead of the American Ornithologists Union, formed in 1883 for bird protection, Grinnell began his campaign for a private, protective organization in this country by writing in an editorial for *Forest & Stream* on February 11, 1886 - "We propose the formation of an Association for the protection of wild birds and their eggs, which shall be called the Audubon Society." It seemed appropriate to Grinnell to name the Society after John James Audubon, after being exposed to the rooms, lofts and books of the great bird artist's old home.

Grinnell then published a magazine in February 1887 called, "The Audubon Magazine," with a portrait of John James Audubon on the cover. It was published in the interests of "The Audubon Society for the Protection of Birds." Membership

was free and an annual subscription to the magazine was 50 cents. Interest grew very rapidly, with membership in New York State topping out at 39,000 people. The rapid growth of this Audubon Society took Grinnell—who did not have the time nor the staff at *Forest & Stream* to keep up with the membership and managerial demands—by surprise.

As the slaughter of birds continued for plumes and meat, Grinnell gave the Society up, publishing the magazine's second and last volume in December 1888.

The outrage over the killing of birds for their plumage for women's hats continued into 1896. This is when Harriet Hemenway, of Boston, read an account of the destruction of heronries in Florida. Ornithologist T. Gilbert Pearson wrote about going to a swamp to see beautiful herons on their nests or standing in the trees, only to find the lifeless forms of eight of the birds. They had been shot down, and the skin bearing the plumes

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Chapter Notes

Join the 200 Club

Would you like to learn more about our rich bird life in Cache Valley in the coming new year?

Bridgerland Audubon invites you, whether you are a BAS member or not, to join us as we explore Cache Valley and adjoining areas of northern Idaho in the coming year and become a "200 Club" member. The 200 Club is a group of birders who have documented sightings of 200 or more species of birds.

To help beginning or intermediate birders interested in building their lists, BAS will sponsor a series of outings led by bird expert and BAS board member Reinhard Jockel. Participants are also invited to our regular Satur-

day morning field trips led by Dick Hurren, especially those for beginners!

The goal for those participating is to make a list of all the birds they see, starting in January 2005 and ending December 2005. Lists will be turned in at the end of 2005 and must include name of bird, where/location of habitat, and date when seen. We will recognize the people who get the most species in our newsletter, *The Stilt*. A checklist of Birds of Cache County, published by Bridgerland Audubon Society, would be helpful, but is not required for participation. Checklists are available for \$2.10 at Bio-Resources, Inc., 135 E. Center, Logan.

For more information on 200

Club outings, please contact: Reinhard Jockel
123 N. Main St. #10
Logan, UT 84321

Reinhard's place is right above The Sportsman in downtown Logan. Enter from the parking lots in between the Sportsman and the Old Courthouse and former jail. Go up the metal stairway and at the top turn left to #10. If he is not there, leave a note. Alternately, you may call Stephen Peterson, 755-5041.

Reinhard would also like to receive lists of birds from "professional" birders who have seen well over 200 species in Cache Valley and would appreciate any help they can give.

Plan on Delta in March!

The Audubon Council of Utah (that's you!) will meet in Delta on March 5-6, 2005 in conjunction with the Snow Goose Festival. The festival gets underway Friday the 4th, so arrive then if you can. Council activities will begin at noon on Saturday and continue until about noon on Sunday.

More information about the Snow Goose Festival, scheduled for February 25-26 and March 4-5 this year, will soon be available online at: www.millardcounty.com/sgf_attractions.html (currently the 2004 schedule is shown). Accommodations in Delta are also listed, including a Best Western motel and

RV parks. We recommend making reservations well ahead. Check the Wasatch Audubon website for more definite and complete information: www.wasatchaudubon.org. Call Lynn Carroll, 801-392-8216 with questions. Plan to join us for geese, fun, and fellowship!

Audubon Calendar

January 2005

1 200 Club Birding. This is the first of six trips we will be offering in 2005 that are designed particularly for those very serious birders who want to try to find 200 species of birds in Cache Valley during the calendar year. These trips will be led by local expert Reinhard Jockel, who is not only good with visual birding, but also a gifted birding-by-ear expert. Anyone is welcome to attend, but the trip is designed primarily for experienced birders who are working on their 200 Club list. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring something to munch on, because the trip will run into the early afternoon. For more information call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653 or Val Grant 753-5370.

12 BAS Board of Trustees Meeting. Bridgerland Audubon's Board of Trustees meets this Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the offices of Bio-Resources, 135 E. Center, Logan. All are welcome to attend.

13 BAS General Meeting/Discussion of Nordic Skiing Opportunities with Nordic United. Bridgerland Audubon invites you to come spend an hour or so discussing regional nordic skiing opportunities and issues with Josh Archibald and Stu Reynolds, current and past presidents of Nordic United. Nordic United promotes non-motorized recreation in northern Utah and is working toward providing quality nordic skiing opportunities for everyone to enjoy. Refreshments will be provided. The meeting will be held 7 p.m. Thursday at the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 S. Main. All are welcome.

15 Antelope Island in Winter. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) for a morning and early afternoon of nature watching at Antelope Island State Park in 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 down low enough to see also. Unusual birds are often seen both from the causeway leading to the island and on the island itself. In past years such oddities as snow buntings, black rosyfinches and Lapland longspurs have been sighted on this trip. Unusual waterfowl are often seen in the lake, and falcons are often seen chasing them to try to have them for dinner. Bring warm clothing, binoculars, and a lunch or be prepared to buy something at the snack bar on the island. We'll also make a short stop at Mayor's Pond in Brigham City, where unusual waterfowl are often found in winter. We will plan to be back by mid-afternoon. For more information call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

22 Skiing, Birds, and Perhaps Beaver. Join local cross-country skiing experts Jim Cane and Linda Kervin as they ski/snowshoe to what we hope will still be an active beaver colony to study the inhabitants, their architecture, and their friends. Meet at the Logan First Dam parking lot at 9 a.m.; return early afternoon. Dress warmly and bring your own skis or snowshoes—do not come without one or the other. Bring something to drink and some "munchies" if you feel so inclined. Carpooling up to the start of the trail will be available. For more information call Jim or Linda at 713-4668.

29 Winter Bird Walk for Beginning Birders. Experienced birders are also welcome, but this trip is designed primarily for beginners. Our experts, Bryan Dixon and Jean Lown, 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 Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Carpooling will be available. For more information call Bryan or Jean at 752-6830.



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.

February

5 Winter Birding In and Around Smithfield. Smithfield and its environs often contain some very interesting birds during the mid-winter period. We plan to visit Mack Park, the Smithfield Cemetery, and other spots around the town that have lots of birds. Owls may be seen on this trip. Meet at 9 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Dress warmly and bring binoculars and some "munchies." We will hook up with our guides, Smithfield residents and wildlife experts John and Terri Barnes, in Smithfield. For more information, call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

Audubon Centennial

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stripped from their backs. Hemenway was pushed by this story to organize the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Out of this was to emerge strong, national legislation for the protection of birds, networks of sanctuaries, and many more Audubon chapters, which were founded later in 1896. These Audubon chapters endured and came to be what we know today.

Another key figure of the Audubon movement was William Dutcher, former businessman, who was instrumental in setting up wardens to protect birds. An acclaimed wildlife artist, Abbott Thayer, was not only gifted at drawing and painting, he was very keen on raising money for Dutcher's conservation projects.

By the end of 1903, 37 state Societies existed, but Dutcher was concerned with no structure or staff, on a national level, to bring these

state chapters together, in order to carry out a long-term crusade of bird protection. Dutcher felt that the best thing to do was to incorporate the organization. In 1904, Dutcher was made aware that a Mr. Albert Willcox, a wealthy New Yorker who felt very strongly about the persecution of animals of all kinds, had written into his will that he would give to The Audubon Society, \$100,000. Mr. Willcox met with Dutcher and told him that he was deeply concerned with the terrible destruction of birds and game animals. Willcox told Dutcher that in order to incorporate the Societies, he would need to employ a paid secretary, which he agreed to fund for the next two years, at \$13,000 annually. Willcox also told Dutcher that if he was convinced that the persons who agreed to serve as board members "are of a class that will faithfully carry out the present purposes and plans of your society, I may not limit the sum [of his bequest] to \$100,000.

Excited with this unexpected financial backing, Dutcher contacted many key mem-

bers of the Audubon Societies, including Grinnell, John E. Thayer in Massachusetts, and others. At a meeting in the winter of 1904, these prominent members agreed to the incorporation of a national Audubon organization, supported by paying members.

On January 5, 1905, The National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals, was put into existence. When Willcox died in the summer of 1906, he kept his promise and The Audubon Society received \$100,000 to establish an interest-bearing endowment fund. And because Willcox was happy with and approved of the way Dutcher had put together the board members, he left the Society one-half of his residual state, which came to a total of \$331,072.

From George Bird Grinnell to Harriet Hemenway and on to William Dutcher, The National Audubon Society became a reality.

—Stephen Peterson

Welcome to BAS

New Members

Dale Azevedo
C A Benson
Jane Erickson
Brad Hawkes

Ron & Wendy Hellstern
Christopher Keeley
Linda Ranaldi
Julie Ripplinger

Renewing Members

Fred Baker
Martha H Balph
Karen Beard & Andrew
Kulmatiski
Christopher Cokinos
Alene S Fornoff
Ronald W Goede

Reinhard A Jockel
Jim Cane & Linda Kervin
Philip Parisi
R J Shaw
Elaine H Watkins
J & E Wellingo

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, 755-5041

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
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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.



The Stilt

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

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