



Volume 34, Issue 8  
October 2005

# The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

## Barrens Sanctuary Update: Management and Planning

**B**ridgerland Audubon Society is making slow but steady progress in planning and management for its Barrens Sanctuary on the floor of Cache Valley near Amalga. This spring, a generous snowmelt followed by prolonged spring rains led to some beneficial shallow flooding of Clay Slough, inundating the low-lying parts of our bird Sanctuary. Weedy species like teasel that had been invading these places during our drought succumbed nicely to the inundation. Pickleweed seedlings have since sprouted widely on the salt pans. The broad shallow pools that formed gave us some idea of outcomes that would result were we to decide to try providing some temporary containment of water on salt pans to favor north bound shorebirds and waders. Mark and Cheryl Brunson have docu-

mented seasonal dynamics of water and plant communities across the site by methodical photography from fixed waypoints for the past several years.

Security and control of the property seems to be effective and persistent now. Dumping of livestock carcasses has stopped. Smooth-wire fencing on the north and south boundaries, adjacent to roadways, has remained intact and continues to discourage the earlier intrusions by riders of ORVs and dirtbikes. Likewise, signage posting the property has gone unmolested this time, now that we have learned to staple signs unobtrusively to our wooden posts; they no longer entice target practice. Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) volunteers organized by Cary Wyler painted the tops of the fence T-posts orange to indicate that the Sanctuary is off-limits to hunting.

This is necessary for the safety of visitors and liability exposure of Board members.

Steven Peterson has initiated two monthly north-south bird transects running the length of the property and parallel to Clay Slough. In just the first two months, he counted 4,239 birds from 52 species at our 156 acre reserve (detailed in our summer 2005 Stilt newsletter). His bird survey methods are identical to those already being used by other Bridgerland member at three other valley sites. This will lend us insight as to what species nest at our site, which species use it during migration, and what species are unique or seem to be missing compared to the other sites. To assist in mapping nest and habitat locations, property boundary posts have been sequentially numbered the

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# Local Notes

## Remember the Bioneers Conference

Join the Utah Bioneers for our second Annual Conference at Utah State University October 14, 15, and 16<sup>th</sup>. Bioneers gathers people at the crossroads of ecological restoration, human health, and social justice.

USU will feature three days of plenary speakers from the National Bioneers Conference, the world's largest Environmental conference. This event, now in its 16th year, will be carried via sat-

ellite on the big screen at Eccles Conference Center.

Speakers from the national conference will include Bill McKibben (The End of Nature; Hope, Human and Wild ) David Orr, (Earth in Mind; Ecological Literacy ), and Janine Benyus, (Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature), together with many others (See [www.bioneers.org](http://www.bioneers.org) for the full program).

All are welcome to attend the conference. Advance registration is recommended, as space will be limited. You may opt for all three days, or if your time is limited, single day registration is accepted. There will be natural foods and catered food available, live music, and time to visit informally with speakers, organizers, and other Bioneers. For information, contact [extension.usu.edu/bioneers](http://extension.usu.edu/bioneers), or call 800-538-2663, or 435-797-0433.

## U.S. Forest Service – Struck Out Again

Together with representatives from Nordic United, Bear River Watershed Council, and Powder Ridge Ski Touring, we presented our case to the Region 4 Forester on September 16, and asked him to overturn the decision of the Wasatch-Cache Forest Supervisor to eliminate most of the Franklin Basin motorized winter closure. We got the feeling he was sympathetic, but didn't have a "process" to

use. In this agency, "process" trumps "purpose."

So, we lost, again. Expect to see hordes of snow machines in White Pine and Steam Mill Canyons this year, and almost a complete loss of quiet in Franklin Basin.

The decision to reverse the closure was arbitrary and capricious at best, and at worst demonstrates gross ignorance of non-motorized

users' needs and incompetence in dealing with multiple uses on the forest. Is it time to seek redress in the courts? We're consulting with environmental attorneys now. There may even be funding for such a precedent-setting effort. Stay tuned, human-powered winter forest users. It may not be over. Contact your BAS Board of Trustees if you have strong feelings about how we should proceed.

—Bryan Dixon

# Audubon Calendar

October 2005

*Carpooling is available for many BAS field trips. With the recent dramatic increase in fuel costs, please plan to share the cost of gasoline with your driver.*

**1 Visit to Cache Valley Historical Barns.** Efforts continue to preserve certain historically important barns in Cache Valley. Last year we had a great time observing some of these magnificent old buildings and doing a good bit of birding, including owling, along the way. Join us as expert Lisa Goede takes us to some of the barns we did not see last year. Meet Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring something to snack on and binoculars if you have them. Carpooling will be available. We will return in early afternoon. For more information, call Lisa at 752-9650 or Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

**2 Hike to the Hawkwatch Station at the Top of the Wellsvilles.** Although there are no official Hawkwatch folks on the peak this year, we will do our own. Great birding on a spectacular hike as fall colors are at their peak. Meet at 9 a.m. Sunday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Return by midafternoon. For more information, contact Jack Greene at 563-6816 or email [jackisgreene@yahoo.com](mailto:jackisgreene@yahoo.com).

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

**6 Camping Trip to Jackson, Wyoming, to View Elk and Other Wildlife.** Elk bugling in the Tetons, departing October 6 or 7 (depending on your schedule), returning October 9. Camping at Gros Ventre in Teton National Park. Elk and other large ungulates in peak of rut. Visit Teton Science School, hike to Hidden Falls, Taggart Lake. This is a classic folks, don't miss it! For more information contact trip organizer Jack Greene at 563-6816 or email [jackisgreene@yahoo.com](mailto:jackisgreene@yahoo.com).

**13 BAS General Meeting.** Please join us for Bridgerland Audubon's monthly gathering as we discuss the topic, "Living Sustainably in Place." As a group, we will define sustainability and then discuss how we can best put our values and beliefs into practice and support each other as we work to live more sustainably in Cache Valley. Community experts on sustainability will join in the discussion at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Logan City meeting room, 255 N. Main St., Logan. Coffee will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share.

**15 Fall Raptor Viewing and Identification for Beginning Birders.** There should be lots of migrating hawks and other raptors around Cache Valley at this time of year, so join us for a mostly driving trip around the valley to learn how to identify the various species that are passing through. Meet Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars. Carpooling will be available. We will plan to be back around noon. For further information call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653. An excellent family trip.



*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.*

**22 Quarterly Roadside Cleanup plus Birding.** Some years ago BAS assumed responsibility for cleaning up the litter along a stretch of road west of Richmond. It is currently time again to discharge this responsibility. We thus put out a special plea for support from all those who benefit from BAS activities. When we have a strong turnout we are able to take care of this assignment in short order, and have fun in the process. Meet Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 500 North). Bring gloves, and wear clothing suitable for the time of year. Bags and safety vests will be provided as well as gloves for those who have none. Carpooling will be available. Some may wish to do a little birding afterwards, if you do, bring binoculars and something to snack on. For more information call Jamey Anderson at 881-1244 or Andree Walker at 755-2103.

**29 A Wild Ride Through the Wilds of Western Box Elder County.** In response to requests from prior years' participants, we are offering this outing again. One participant called it the "funnest" trip he had ever been on. If you've never been to western Box Elder County, you owe it to yourself to come on this trip. We'll head out to the Spiral Jetty and Locomotive Springs via the Golden Spike National Monument. Then we'll come back northeast to Snowville and have a late lunch at Molly's Restaurant (or you can bring your own lunch) before returning to Cache Valley in fairly late afternoon. Bring binoculars and plenty of water. Meet Saturday at 8 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 Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

## November

**5 Birding Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge/South Box Elder County.** November has the highest numbers of waterfowl (including tundra swans) plus lots of other good things to see at or near the refuge. Come join us as we see what's there. Beginning birders are welcome. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Caffé Ibis (50 E. 150 North). Bring a snack and binoculars and wear clothing suitable for the season. Carpooling will be available. For more information call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

## Important Heads Up!

This year's Christmas Bird Count will be held December 17. Please begin making your plans now to attend this great event.

### Great Birding Property in Smithfield For Sale

Address: 73 North 330 East

House: (1400 sq. ft., first floor, 2 bedrooms and study/library; finished full basement with 2 bedrooms)

Property area: 0.23 acres

Full landscape: large perennial garden, three apple trees, many shade trees

Rear yard with a stretch of Summit Creek that flows out of Smithfield Canyon year-round; and a sturdy, functional bridge with built-in seating over the creek.

Secluded on a cul-de-sac; property to west and north of lot, owned by Smithfield City, will not be developed  
Property (haven for the occasional outbreaks of Eastern Blue Jays) and adjacent nature park regularly visited by serious birders in Cache Valley

Call Jim Gessaman at 563-9337 for more information

# Chapter Notes

## Barrens Update

*(Continued from p. 1)*

length of the Sanctuary by the YCC folks.

Our spring rains also favored the flora at the Barrens. Linda Kervin, Tom Jones, Reinhard Jockel and Jim Cane have been identifying the wildflowers, grasses and other plant species growing at the Sanctuary. Nearly a third of the 70+ species are not native, but thankfully, few of these adventive species are vigorously invasive. The list will be posted to our Bridgerland Audubon web site. A few starting patches of cheatgrass were discovered and will be removed early next spring. Teasel control is an on-going process, a few patches at a time, this year aided by both the flooding and a Youth Conservation Corps team. Dyer's woad was removed by hand. If you see it flowering or blooming out there, please tug it out.

Jim Cane's sidetrip to visit Andy Huber and his 300-acre "Growiser Reserve" north of LaGrande, Oregon

provided considerable insight into strategies that will work for rehabilitating 15 acres of upland at our Sanctuary. These two parcels were previously cultivated for dryland crops (wheat, barley, safflower) and are now thick with annual and biennial Eurasian weeds, mostly pigweed. We have contracted with a local farmer, Craig Rigby, to assist us in implementing a revegetation plan. He also has considerable knowledge of native grasses. This summer he has made a first application with glyphosate herbicide to remove the weeds (no natives were found among plants growing at these formerly farmed patches). Glyphosate is recommended by Nature Conservancy for such uses, as it is quickly bound in the soil, where it degrades with no detrimental breakdown products. Beginning with the first rains this autumn and continuing through the 2006 growing season, Craig will first plow and then periodically disc these two patches to mechanically control and (hopefully) largely eliminate competition from most of these Eurasian weeds.

If successful, then a year from this autumn we will acquire and plant seed of three to six locally native grass species adapted to our Sanctuary's fine basin upland soils (e.g. alkali sacaton, Basin wild rye, blue-bunch wheatgrass). Our emphasis will be on short-statured grasses with only a scattering of bunch and taller grasses, thus providing little visual cover for foxes, coyotes, racoons and their ilk that like to prey on young of ground-nesting birds. By going with just grasses at first, we are following Andy Huber's strategy for retaining the option of using a broadleaf herbicide if re-sprouting of the Eurasian weeds threatens first-year establishment of the young native grasses. At the Growiser Reserve, once Huber's seeded stands of native grasses become established, they effectively exclude most all invaders, even cheatgrass. In later years, gaps can be created in these grasslands to insert local native forb and shrub species suitable to the site (as partly indicated by our plant survey).

—Jim Cane

# Chapter Notes

## Stokes Nature Center: Thanks!

Here's a warm round of heart-felt thanks to all the donors to BAS' Family of Five Fundraising project. With your help, we raised the \$10,000 we needed to hire a Utah Conservation Corps educator to free up the Executive Director to seek larger grants needed for the longer term. Donors to the program so far include: Keith and Judy Archibald, Norbert and Mary Debyle, Bryan Dixon and Jean Lown, Val & Sue Grant, Alice Stokes, Diane Browning Oblock, Ivan G Palmblad, Melanie Spriggs, Mervin & Mae Coover, Edward & Deb-

orah Evans, Joanne Hughes and Dennis Welker, Frederick F Knowlton, Bryan & Nancy Williams, Deborah Eshelman, Jim & Mary Boone, Al Forsyth, James Graham, Richard J Mueller and Susan Durham, Wayne Wurtsbaugh and Linda L'Ai, Janis L Boettinger and Gene Schupp, Debby Bronson and Graham Hunter, Carl Brothersen, Rebecca S Echols, Jim & Debbie Gessaman, Stephen Peterson, Craig Reger, Maureen & Eric Wagner, Lucy and David C. Watkins, Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Beasley, Chris Himmel and Teri Peery, Russell M & Margaret R Hol-

dredge, Pam Riley and Bryan Spykerman, James E Kingsland, Gerald Scoville. BAS has demonstrated our dedication to environmental education.

Donations are always needed; we raise most of the SNC annual budget from local sources. If this program came at the wrong time for you this past summer, but you're now in a better financial position, send your check to Stokes Nature Center, POB 4204, Logan, UT, 84323-4202.

—Bryan Dixon

## Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 13-16, 2006

MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA – Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for our 10th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers. This year's festival will feature presentations by Kenn Kaufman and Nigel Marven.

For more information about the Festival, check out our new website at [www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org), or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2006 brochure, or register online. Both the brochure and online registration will be available in October 2005. The registration deadline is January 4, 2006 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

# Welcome to BAS

## Renewing Members

Carl Brothersen  
 Jacquelin Frantzen  
 Marilyn Hammond  
 Linnea Johnson  
 James D Morgan  
 M Coburn Williams

## Transfers into Our Chapter

Sean Keenan  
 William Lindsay

# Bridgerland Audubon contacts

## Trustees

2003-2006 Ron Goede, 752-9650; Kate Stephens, 755-0608; Andreé Walker, 755-2103  
 2004-2007 Dave Drown, 752-3797; Jack Greene, 563-6816; Melanie Spriggs, 245-4376; Reinhard Jockel; Stephen Peterson, 755-5041.  
 2005-2008 Jim Cane, 713-4668; Richard Mueller, 752-5637; Dick Hurren 435/734-2653

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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.

My check for \$20 is enclosed (this is a special first-year rate).

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

National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this, please check this box.

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 (make checks payable to Bridgerland Audubon Society) and this form to: Bridgerland Audubon Society, PO Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501 for a subscription to *The Stilt*.



# *The Stilt*

***Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society***

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**Logan, Utah 84323-3501**

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

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