



# The Stilt

Volume 34, Issue 9  
November 2005

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

# Sustainability:

## *Exploring How to Live Well in Place*

**T**his fall, Bridgerland Audubon Society's monthly meetings will provide you with the opportunity to explore and discuss topics related to sustainable living in Cache Valley.

The meetings will be held in the Logan City Building's meeting room, 255 N. Main Street, Logan, at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Meetings will kick-off with community announcements related to BAS events and local environmental issues and will be followed by an informal presentation given by a local expert and a group discussion.

In November, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we'll explore the topic "sustainable food and sustainable buying" and ways in which we can better support our local economy during the holidays.

Coffee will be provided by Café Ibis. Please bring a dessert to share.

The following topics (at right) will be covered at the BAS general meetings.

If you or someone you know is interested in presenting and facilitating a discussion on one of these topics, please contact Kate at 797-0964 x 2 or Meg at 755-3239.

—Kate Stephens

### Upcoming General Meeting Topics

November 10  
*Sustainable Food & Sustainable Buying*

December 8  
*Family Rituals & Celebrations: Alternatives to Elaborate Celebrations & Gifts*

January 12  
*Building Sustainable Communities*

February 9  
*Exploring Nature: Connecting Children to the Natural World*

March 9  
*Visions for Sustainability*

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# State Notes

## High Mercury Levels Found in Two Duck Species on the Great Salt Lake

High mercury levels have been found in two species of ducks on the southern end of the Great Salt Lake, according to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Northern shovelers and common goldeneyes are the two duck species with high levels.

On Sept. 29, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) issued a waterfowl consumption advisory recommending people not eat either species of duck. Officials from UDOH, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and the DWR worked in partnership to issue the advisory. The results of testing that's been done so far is available in a Health Consultation document at the Department of Health's Web site ([www.health.utah.gov/enviroepi](http://www.health.utah.gov/enviroepi)). Eating meat from these two species could result in an intake of mercury that exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health recommendations, according to the UDOH analysis. There is no health risk to other recreationists on the lake.

### DWR Will Expand Mercury Study

A study to determine the level of mercury in ducks began this July when a small number of meat samples from several waterfowl species collected on the southern end of the lake last winter were tested. Mercury was found in several of the samples, so the DWR decided to collect a larger number of waterfowl in August. Lab results from those samples also were assessed by the UDOH, which led to the Sept. 29 waterfowl consumption advisory.

"The Division of Wildlife Resources, along with the UDOH and the lab at Utah State University, have worked hard to get these birds collected and sampled before the start of the duck hunting season," Karpowitz said. "Now we'll work hard, throughout the fall and winter, to collect more birds and learn more about the mercury situation on the lake."

"A lot of work still needs to be done," said Clay Perschon, Great Salt Lake Ecosystem project leader for the

DWR. "Only a small number of birds have been sampled so far, and all of those birds have come from the southern end of the lake. We don't know much about mercury levels in waterfowl using other areas of the lake.

### Mercury Working Group

The officials who issued the advisory have established a Mercury Working Group to coordinate and collaborate on mercury studies and investigations that are ongoing in Utah. Stakeholders from a broad base of state, federal and nonprofit agencies, industry and the public are members of the group. Information about this work group is available at

More information about the health effects of mercury can be found at

General information about mercury in Utah is available at

—Utah Division of  
Wildlife Resources



# Audubon Calendar

## November 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.*

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

**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 Saturday 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.

**10 BAS General Meeting.** Sustainable food and sustainable buying will be the topic of Bridgerland Audubon's November general meeting, which will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Logan City Building meeting room, 255 N. Main, Logan. All are welcome. Coffee will be provided by Caffé Ibis. Please bring a dessert to share.

**12 Birding the South End of Cache Valley.** Spend a morning looking for migrating waterfowl, hawks, and other birds of interest with local experts Sue and Dave Drown. Last November we had a very productive and fun day birding this area. Probable stops will include Hyrum Reservoir for ducks (maybe a long-tailed duck, trumpeter swan, or surf scoter), the Little Bear River bottom 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. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars and dress for the season. We will be back early afternoon. For more information, call Sue or Dave at 752-3797.

**19 Visit Logan's Wonderful Sewage Lagoons.** The Logan sewage lagoons are one of the real hotspots 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. Meet at 9 a.m. Saturday at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Caffé Ibis. 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 Dave or Sue Drown at 752-3797.



*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

**17 Annual Logan Christmas Bird Count.** Watch for details in the December Stilt. For more information on our CBC or to volunteer to help, contact Keith Archibald, 752-8258, [achie132@comcast.net](mailto:achie132@comcast.net), or Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, [bdixon@xmission.com](mailto:bdixon@xmission.com).

## BAS Road Cleanup a Success

The road cleanup west of Richmond was a smashing success this year. Ten people showed up at the Caffe Ibis (four were almost lost due to cardiac arrest when BAS president Val Grant showed up) and another four were waiting on the roadside. The entire length of road was picked up and afterwards ice cream was consumed at the Richmond Park. So be prepared for next spring. Join us in the treasure hunt.

—Val Grant

## Mad Migrant

Maybe you thought you had a long commute, but have sympathy for the bar-tailed godwit. A multi-national research team working at the Yukon Delta Refuge in Alaska and also in New Zealand have recently reported that this bird travels far. How far? Birds tagged in New Zealand ended up in Alaska following migration, making it the longest known migration over water of any bird. Unlike albatrosses, who are built for effortless pelagic soaring by the hour, and can float on the water surface, this shorebird must flap away all of those thousands of miles with few if any way stops. How do they do it? Even Boeing only managed to modify airliners to make that distance in the past decade. How did these birds route evolve? Obviously, birds that tentatively flew half the distance would be out of the gene pool for good (blub-blub). Maybe they originally flew over land and then started cutting corners over the sea. Clearly, these feathered migrants had the global village concept down before humans ever knew what lay over the horizon in a world our ancestors thought flat.

—Jim Cane

## Join the Econet!

If you're one of those gol-dang-left-wing-pinko-commie-queer-extreme-environmentalists that some congressmen like to talk about, then you'd probably like to get email reminders of upcoming events in northern Utah of interest to such folks. To join the list, send an email to [bdixon@xmission.com](mailto:bdixon@xmission.com). We use your address only for Econet messages. We also respect your privacy – we suppress the listing of all the recipients' addresses in the To: field when we send messages and we do not release these addresses to anyone. As a recipient, you're also entitled to submit a notice for distribution.

—Bryan Dixon



# Welcome to BAS

## New Members

Richard Dykstra  
 Laura Fisher, MD  
 Linda MacPherson  
 Sharon Moran  
 Marie Veibell

## Renewing Members

Brian Creutzburg  
 Jim Sinclair  
 Kazuko Toelken

## Transfers into Our Chapter

Taylor Andrew  
 Laurie Baefsky

# 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

## Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

President Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net  
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 Conservation 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 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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**Visit our website: <http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org>**

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