



The Stilt

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Summer 2006

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Dan Miller Receives Allen Stokes Conservation Award

Dan Miller was the recipient of the Allen Stokes Conservation Award, presented at the BAS annual banquet on April 28. The award was presented for Miller's work on monitoring and documenting resource damage by motorized vehicles on the National Forest.

Dan Miller is a freelance photographer, book designer, and Executive Director of BRWC. He worked for Utah newspapers including: the *Lake-side Review*, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, the *Stan-*

dard-Examiner, and *The Herald Journal* – three years as the newspaper's photo editor. He is the author of several published books, including: *Utah! A Family Travel Guide*, *High in Utah*, *Visions of Antelope Island and Great Salt Lake*, and *Creatures of Habitat*. His photographs have appeared in such publications as *Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Rock and Ice*, *Salt Lake*, and *Utah Outdoors* magazines. He has a current book project about Desolation Canyon and the Green River.

Miller and his wife Diane Bush make their home in Richmond, Utah, where he serves on the Richmond Historic Preservation Commission. He has worked with citizen organizations, including the MX Information Center in Salt Lake City, one term as president of the Logan Canyon Coalition, two months as an intern in Washington D.C. for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and co-founded the Bear River Watershed Council. (BAS provided the original seed money for BRWC.)

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Andr  Walker Receives Carl M. Johnson Environmental Education Award

BAS recognizes those educators that have made substantial inroads in creating environmental literacy based on sound science and economics in our local area and beyond. Andr  Walker has implemented the BAS mission locally, throughout the state, and beyond, and was accordingly awarded the Carl M. Johnson Environmental Education Award at the 2006 BAS Banquet.

Andr  manages USU's youth education and outreach activities in the Aquatic, Watershed, and Earth Resources Department. An important element of this program is providing hands-on activities in camps, classrooms and water fairs. Since Andr  began running this program, it has doubled in size to almost 6,000 kids a year. She has been the prime mover behind the Bear River Celebration,

Natural Resource Field Days and Weber County's water fair. She is sought out statewide for her experience and insights on working directly with kids and on organizing successful large, water-focused events.

In collaboration with Nancy Mesner, USU Extension Watershed Specialist, Andr  has developed a number of lesson plans

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Local Notes

Franklin Basin, Round 2

The Forest Service has issued a Scoping Document for opening up the motorized closure in Franklin Basin that was a compromise established in the 2003 Forest Plan after so much public input from all sides. (See http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf/projects/proposed/Franklin_Basin_Winter_Rec_Project/wc_logancyn_scoping_4.14.06.pdf and [\[Winter_Rec_Project/scoping_map.pdf\]\(#\)\).](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf/projects/proposed/Franklin_Basin_</p>
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We don't know what made them think there was sufficient "purpose and need" to revisit this, and we don't know why they're putting so much emphasis on motorized recreation at the expense of non-motorized recreation when the former already enjoys over 540,000 acres of unrestricted access on the Forest. Comments were due May 15 without the required

30-day notice being posted locally. BAS and others have submitted comments and we'll await the Draft Environmental Assessment to see what alternatives the Forest Service decides to push. This never ends, does it?

If you want to get more active in this issue, we suggest you join Nordic United, a local non-profit organization dedicated to winter non-motorized recreation. See www.NordicUnited.org.

—Bryan Dixon
BAS Conservation Chair

BAS Wins RAPZ Tax Funding for the Logan Wetlands Park

Word's just in from BAS Treasurer Sue Drown that Bridgerland Audubon has been awarded \$30,000 in RAPZ tax funds towards work on a planned wetland park to provide bird viewing opportunities on Logan City property on 1900 West, just west of the landfill.

Drown said the wetland park will benefit both birds and birders, as well as helping to fulfill one of the City of Logan Environmental Division's goals, to increase public access to birding sites on city property.

Plans for the park, which has been dreamt of since the 1990s, call for excavation of a 14-acre shallow wetland playa, west of the existing ponds along the road. The property is part of the city's wetland mitigation bank, Drown said, and Logan City is partnering with Bridgerland Audubon to make the area more attractive to migrating shorebirds. BAS has pledged \$10,000 towards the collaborative effort, and the funds raised by the Birdathon will go towards that pledge.

Work already completed on

the wetland park includes preparation of landscape plans, donated by Dr. Craig Johnson of Utah State University's Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department and graduate student Alissa Salmore. The plans include a bird viewing deck, improved access road, and plantings of native grasses. Drown said the plans were a key element of her successful grant application.

"They made it all tangible," she said.

—Miriam Hugentobler
Stilt Editor

Audubon Calendar

Summer 2006

June

3 Big Sit Birding Activity. Please join us this Saturday for a Big Sit birding activity. Bring your favorite lawn chair, a cool beverage, and relax while watching and listening to birds in the area we choose to count as many bird species as possible within a 24-hour period. Big Sit participants can work in shifts. No one person needs to be on location the whole Big Sit. If you would like to participate or nominate an area that will produce the winning number of species, please contact Buck Russell at 755-6534, or winstonga@hotmail.com. It will be a fun day and a chance to showcase Bridgerland birders against other birders in the state.

10 Morning Birding by Sight and Ear. Join local bird expert Sue Drown for a morning of birding by sight and ear. Sue is a remarkable birder and is particularly knowledgeable about the songs of the birds we hear around us in the valleys and canyons. Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars and maybe some munchies as well. The trip will finish at about noon. For further information, call Sue or Dave Drown at 752-3797, or Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

17 Owls and Other Evening Birds in Box Elder County. One particular area in Box Elder County has burrowing owls, short-eared owls, barn owls, and great horned owls, all within a relatively small geographic area. Join Dick Hurren, who lives in the area and knows it well, as we explore this place and try to find these four species (plus perhaps even one more owl species) and the other evening birds and animals that share the area with them. Meet at 6:15 p.m. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) in Logan, or for those who might prefer, at Dick's home in Brigham City (1025 N. 450 West) at 7 p.m. We will then make the relatively short drive out to owl alley. Bring binoculars, and a flashlight might come in handy at the end of the trip when we try to find the fifth owl species. Although the majority of the birding will be done from cars, bring insect repellent for the short times we spend outside the cars.

24 Birding Some of the High Country in Logan Canyon. Local bird and wildflower expert Reinhard Jockel will lead us to some very interesting habitat high in Logan Canyon to enjoy both the flora and the fauna to be found there. Reinhard knows this part of the canyon extremely well and is an expert on both the birds and the wildflowers in this area. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars, water, insect repellent, and a lunch. Hiking will be moderate, so dress accordingly. We will return by mid-afternoon. For further 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.

July

8 Tony Grove Wildflower and Bird Walk. This is an annual event led by native wildflower expert Reinhard Jockel. Reinhard is a true expert on native flora. If you have never been on this trip, you owe it to yourself to come, and if you have already been, you will probably want to come again. We will take a slow-paced walk around the lake and up to several other locations. Reinhard will describe the flora, and others will describe the birds and other fauna. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars, water, a picnic lunch, and plan to have a great time. We will plan to be back by mid-afternoon. For more information call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

22 Adventures Up High in Logan Canyon. Sue Drown will lead us to some of the fascinating hot birding areas up high in Logan Canyon. Join local expert Sue as she takes us up out of the heat of the valleys and into the cool beauty in this high country. We will explore some areas where you almost certainly have not been and will see that, although the birds have ceased singing down where we live, they are still making music up high. Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars, water, a picnic lunch and insect repellent. We will plan to be back by early afternoon. For more information call Sue or Dave Drown, 752-3797.

August

5 Uinta Mountains Overnighter. For the last couple of years we have done a very successful full-day trip to the Uinta Mountains. This year we want to do an overnighter to the eastern end of the range to see some new country and to attempt to find white-tailed ptarmigan. To do this properly we want to have plenty of time, so we plan to overnight. Join us for this exciting effort. Meet on Saturday morning at 6 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars, camping gear, enough food to last a day and a half, and plan to have a really fun adventure. For more information call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653 or Dave and Sue Drown at 752-3797.

12 Geology Around Tony Grove Lake. Join esteemed local geologist Dave Liddell, who will acquaint us with the unique geology of the area around Tony Grove Lake. You will be fascinated by unknown things that have been hiding in plain sight right under our noses. Meet Saturday at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Be prepared to do some walking and bring a flashlight and a snack. For further information call Sue Drown at 752-3797 or Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

19 Antelope Island for Returning Shorebirds. The adult sandpipers and plovers that nest in the Arctic leave that area before their nestlings can fly and begin the migration south quite early. Many should be showing up along the causeway to Antelope Island by mid-August. Join us for a fun day of viewing these interesting critters as well as the normal life on the island. Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) and we will carpool down to the island. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. Bring a lunch or be prepared to buy one at the island snack shack. We will be back in Logan by mid-afternoon.

Trip to Hawaii. Our trip to the Big Island of Hawaii for five days of birding (plus an optional two days of birding on the island of Kauai for those interested) is a go. We have a firm commitment from our Hawaiian contact to put us up in his and his friend's fishing lodges (good accommodations for as many as 16 people), for five nights for \$150 per person including bedding. We will not take more than 16 people but will go with as few as six. Participants should plan to arrive at the Hilo airport on Wednesday, January 3, 2007. We will plan to have rental cars and share their cost. We will bird the big island the 4th through the 8th and will leave on the 9th. For those interested, we will then fly to the island of Kauai at the other end of the Hawaiian chain and spend an additional three nights for two more days of birding; then we'll fly home. The indigenous birds on Kauai are completely different from those on the Big Island. Those not interested in the extension will fly home directly on the 9th. Your flight plans to and from the islands should be made individually but coordinated with Dick Hurren, so we will know when to pick you up at the airport. A \$150 deposit to Dick, made out to Bridgerland Audubon Society (which will be for your room) is required by September 30, 2006. For further details call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653. Last year we had an extraordinarily wonderful time—come with us this January and we will again.

Conservation Award

(Cont. from p. 1)

These days Miller puts much of his energy into BRWC's Project MUD, which documents impacts from motorized recreation on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Project MUD trains and sends volunteers into our National Forests to document motorized impacts such as unauthorized roads, severe rutting, dispersed camping damage, and intrusions into wilderness areas. Volunteers take digital photos and GPS (Global Positioning System) waypoints, and BRWC compiles the information and uses it to address issues with the local Ranger District. They are making a difference, and in true Audubon style, they're making that difference based on data, without hyperbole.

Education Award

(Cont. from p. 1)

for younger kids along with Stream Side Science, a curriculum for 9th graders that has received national awards and was chosen by Governor Olene Walker as the curriculum in support of the governor's watershed initiative. The curriculum has been sent to over 500 educators in the region, and is now being adapted for use in several other states. Andree has also coordinated an extremely active educator training program for the past 5 years. In 2000, they provided 2 teacher training workshops to a total of 25 teachers. Due in large part to Andree's efforts, last year they conducted 20 workshops with over 250 teachers. As Utah's coordinator for Project WET, Andree targets about half of these training workshops to elementary teachers. The rest target middle and high school teachers, introducing them to hands-on, science-based activities that engage kids directly in their local watersheds and water bodies.

Andree is a great ambassador to the state for USU and for Extension. She is generous with her time and efforts. She has been a team member on many multi-agency monitoring and assessment activities around the state. Kids love her, she is extremely popular with county agents and teachers around the state, and she has earned the respect of her peers in Extension and partners in many agencies and organizations across the state.

Andree has also served as a volunteer at Stokes Nature Center revamping and teaching programs for children and on the BAS Board of Trustees, where she has organized our banquets (including providing some wonderful graphics for tickets and programs), and served as a liaison to the Stokes Nature Center. This summer she moves to greener pastures; we wish her well and continued success!

Chapter Notes

BAS Spring Trip to Texas

Have you ever seen a green jay, an anhinga, a tri-colored heron, a roseate spoonbill, a gray hawk or a white-tailed hawk? I did and I'm going to rave on about it. Talk about birds you'd have a hard time finding in Cache Valley or even Utah.

On a Bridgerland Audubon trip arranged by Sue and Dave Drown and the intrepid Dick Hurren, Janet Hurren, Judy and Keith Archibald, and Sue and I were treated to 201 different species of birds. We stayed in Harlingen, Texas and traveled to Sable Palm Grove Audubon Center, Bentsen State Park, Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges, and South Padre Island beaches and Convention Center plus a stop along a highway to see a nesting pair of Aplomado falcons.

For those who have fond memories of the hippie days and bright colors, a green jay is like an induced flashback. When you throw in scarlet tanagers, painted and indigo buntings, Altamira orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, gray-crowned yellowthroat, magnolia war-

bler and great kiskadees 20 feet away, the brain becomes overloaded and the optic nerve becomes frazzled (frazzled is a medical term of unknown origin). Throw in a clay-colored robin (beautiful song), black whiskered vireo (really rare), a northern beardless tyrannulet, green and ringed kingfishers, a red-crowned parrot, a red-billed pigeon, least terns, clapper rail (preening 4 feet away), plain chachalees, fulvous whistling ducks, and a least grebe, and life is good.

Some things, of course are puzzling. If there are "least" birds, why aren't there "most" or "greatest" birds? What does a bird with a beard look like? And why do they call a cross of an Altamira and Audubon's orioles a "smudgie?" These are mysteries of the ornithological world and beyond.

What wasn't a mystery was the thrill of birding with Sue Drown and Dick Hurren. I do this birding stuff for a living and I stand in awe of their talent. One fine example was an early evening in Harlingen, sitting in a city park

waiting for the red-crown parrots to come roost in the palm trees lining the front façade of K-Mart. After growing weary of waiting for the sun to set, we struck out to look in some other location in town—to no avail. Hence, hunger overcame "twitcher" feelings (twitchers are Brits who seek out new bird species for their life list), we turned onto a main drag and Dick yelled out, "Parrot!" I nearly crashed into a parked car, regained control, drove around the block and found the little blighter perched on a telephone line near a palm tree. We pulled into a small parking lot and watched this dude repeatedly fly into a palm tree, hang upside down and snag a palm seed in its beak, return to the wire and munch away. This was one of the many awesome moments.

I encourage you to join us on these forays into the unknown. Who would have thought that you could watch a male painted bunting from three feet away and live to tell about it?

—Val Grant
BAS President

Welcome to BAS

New Members

Masako Nakashio
Lyle W Bingham
Jake Gibson
Dirk Henningson
Jaron Livingston
Mrs Irma H Moon
The Shaw Family
Joyce & Bert Stokes

Renewing Members

Martha H Balph
Keith L Dixon
David Liddell
Melanie Spriggs

Mr & Mrs Robert E Taylor
Cheryl & Brett Adams
Swede Dahl
Dorothy Egan
Daisy & Trevor Hughes
Jen Levy & Sean Keenan

Steve & Jenna Livingston
Sharon Moran
Teri Peery & Chris Himmel
Tim Slocum
Daniel Webb
Daniel Zamecnik

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

2003-2006 Ron Goede, 752-9650; Kate Stephens, 755-0608
2004-2007 Dave Drown, 752-3797; Jack Greene, 563-6816;
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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Sanctuary Jim Cane, 713-4668, jimcane@cc.usu.edu
Conservation Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, bdixon@xmission.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, 752-5637, 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*.

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.



The *Stilt*

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JEAN M LOWN

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