

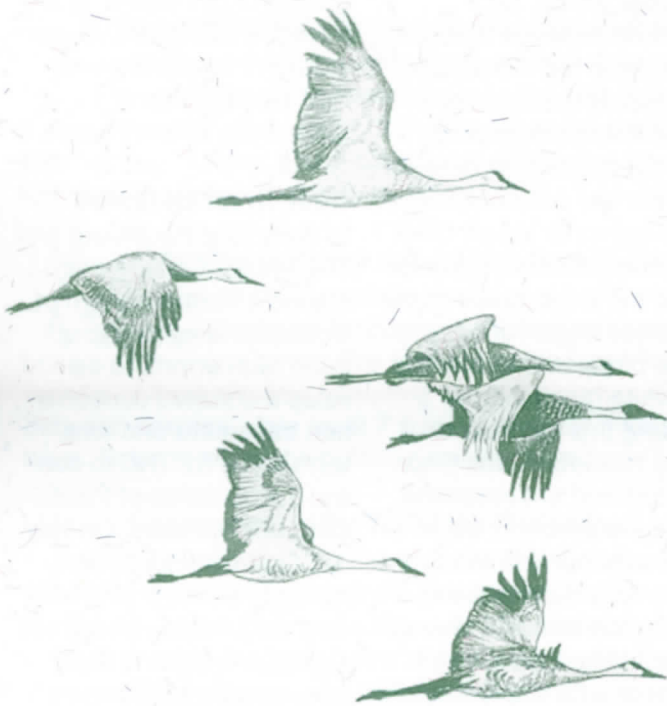


# The Stilt

Volume 35, Issue 7  
September 2006

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

## Focusing on the Birds



We hope you will join us there to enjoy this season's excellent lineup of speakers, who will present different aspects of the birds of Utah, and more specifically the birds of Cache Valley.

Each meeting we will report on past field trips, upcoming events and conservation issues as well as providing updates on birding hotspots and unusual species sightings around the valley. Bird identification workshops will also be presented each month by local birding experts and will spotlight specific birds common for the time of year. And of course, no meeting would be complete without refreshments.

We encourage all those interested in conserving, enhancing and enjoying nature to join us on the second Thursday of each month for a fun-filled and educational time. All meetings are open to the general public.

—Stephen Peterson

### 2006 Meeting Lineup

#### September 14

**Presentation:** Raptors in Nature and Art with Wildlife Sculptor and Falconer Greg Woodard  
**Bird ID Workshop:** Raptors of Cache Valley

#### October 12

**Presentation:** Important Bird Areas of Cache Valley  
**Bird ID Workshop:** Migrating Waterfowl

#### November 9

**Presentation:** BAS Spring Field Trip to Texas with Dave Drown  
**Bird ID Workshop:** Birds that call Cache Valley home during Winter

#### December 14

**Presentation:** Building Birdhouses and Feeders  
**Bird ID Workshop:** Backyard Birds

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With the start of fall migration, BAS is making a move of its own.

Our general meetings this season will be held at a new venue, and their focus is returning to the birds.

After years in the Logan City meeting room, BAS has a new home—Cache Valley Learning Center, 75 S. 400 West, in Logan.

# Conservation News



*Based on early summer counts of white-faced ibis using the rookery on Cutler Marsh, the area has been put forward as an Important Bird Area of Global Significance.*

## Cutler Marsh Ibis Count

Thanks to the efforts of Russ Beck, Adam Brewerton, Chris Cokinos, Reinhard Jockel, Jean Lown, Kacey Lundstrom, Wendy Peacock, Bruce Pendery, Stephen Peterson, Kim Sullivan, David Tidhar, and Dan Zamecnik, we've been able to document between 4,000 and 8,000 white-faced ibis using the rookery on Cutler Marsh in early summer. That's over 5 percent of the world's population and enough to convince Wayne Martinson, Utah Important Bird Area Coordinator, to put forward Cutler Marsh as an IBA of Global Significance. Thanks folks!

## Cutler Marsh Motorboat Restrictions

In a surprise move in May, the local DWR Conservation Officer, Verl Hanchett, proposed to close the Horseshoe Bend where the Bear River enters Cutler Reservoir to motorboats, and especially water skiers using courses set up in protected portions of the reservoir. This would violate terms of the Resource Management Plan for Cutler Reservoir that provided motorized access to the north end,

and more importantly, would push water skiers into the south marsh, which we worked very hard to get designated as the Wetlands Maze and off limits to motors over 25 hp. Mr. Hanchett believes that waterskiing in the Horseshoe is reducing the number of geese killed on opening day, but there is no data on whether the overall goose kill is higher or lower. DWR also doesn't seem to understand the importance of the Wetlands Maze for non-game birds, and especially the white-faced ibis. A meeting this summer to find a resolution was disorganized and unsuccessful. There will probably be another attempt this fall to find a way to protect the Horseshoe and still provide water skiing that doesn't interfere with the Wetlands Maze and is also enforceable.

## Project MUD

The Bear River Watershed Council ([www.brwcouncil.org](http://www.brwcouncil.org)), recipient of our Stokes Conservation Award, is continuing its documentation of legal and illegal motorized routes on the Logan District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. They've found a number of clear violations, but also a number of places where illegal routes were and are being honored. BRWC is

still looking for volunteers. They provide training, and the GPS device, camera, and maps you'll need to get good data. This is a powerful effort to regain control of our public lands from the onslaught of reckless ORV users. It's even fun! You'll get to visit places you haven't been.

## Bear River Bottoms

In early July, PacifiCorp and The Nature Conservancy signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging good faith efforts to develop a donated conservation easement and long term lease for TNC to control 1,800 acres of PacifiCorp bottomlands. On July 18, Gov. Jon Huntsman, himself, announced TNC's new \$43 million Living Lands and Waters fundraising campaign, which includes the BRB (as well as the conservation easement for the Selman Ranch). We are now undertaking preliminary surveys of birds, invasive plants, debris piles, etc. to help develop a preliminary management plan that will guide the legal documents. Several BAS members, including Jim Cane, Jack Greene, Linda Kervin, Jean Lown, and Richard Mueller, have helped with documentation and there'll be lots more work to do this fall

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Audubon Calendar

## September 2006

**7 BAS Board of Trustees Meeting.** Starting this fall, the BAS Board of Trustees will meet on a new date at a new location. Board meetings will be held the **first Thursday of each month** at 7 p.m. at **Cache Valley Learning Center, 75 S. 400 West, Logan**. Enter through the west doors. All are welcome to attend.

**9 General Birding.** We are intentionally leaving the location of this field trip open because we want to be able to choose the best spots when it gets nearer the actual date of the trip. We will do some scouting around during the week prior to the trip and will go to those spots that appear to have the best potential at this particular time. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North) in Logan. Bring binoculars and perhaps a snack. We will plan to finish up in very early afternoon. For further information call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653 or Sue or Dave Drown at 752-3797.

**14 Raptors in Nature and Art with Greg Woodard.** Preeminent wildlife sculptor, Greg Woodard, will share with us his incredible works of art and passion for birds of prey. A Utah native, Woodard's sculptures are displayed throughout the Intermountain West and he is a master-class practicing falconer. He will bring with him one or two live falcons, so be sure not to miss it! Our bird identification workshop will focus on the raptors of Cache Valley, including natural histories and identifying field marks to distinguish the differences between species. Join us at 7 p.m. at our new meeting location, the Cache Valley Learning Center, 75 S. 400 West. Enter through the building's west doors.

**16 Annual Trip to the Top of the Wellsvilles.** Let local naturalist and hiker Reinhard Jockel lead you on a hike up to the crest of the Wellsville Mountains to witness one of the wonders of the avian world. Thousands of raptors (hawks, eagles, etc) migrate along the Wellsvilles during the fall migration season. On a good day we'll see over 100 raptors of different species. We'll hike up Deep Canyon and we'll plan to have lunch and spend some time on top watching raptors drift by. The trail gains 3000 feet in approximately 4 miles, so be prepared, and be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring plenty of water. You'll also need to bring a good wind shell for the summit. Bring binoculars, lunch and water. Leave at 8 a.m. from the parking lot between Logan Fire Station and Caffé Ibis in Logan. Carpooling will be available. For further information call Dave or Sue Drown at 752-3797 or Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

**22 Audubon State Council Meeting.** Audubon State Council will hold its fall retreat Friday, Sept. 22 through Sunday, Sept. 24 at the Stokes Nature Center in Logan Canyon (directions at [www.logannature.org](http://www.logannature.org)). Council members are invited to join our annual fall Kokanee salmon/fall birds field trip above Porcupine Reservoir on Saturday (see field trip announcement, below). BAS members are welcome to join the group at Stokes Nature Center at 5:30 p.m. Saturday for a pot luck dinner, followed by an evening with Lynn Tennefoss, National Audubon Society Vice President, State Programs and Chapter Services. Breakfast will be provided by BAS at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, followed by chapter reports, state program/project updates, UAC business, etc. Please join us—you will be richly rewarded! Email Jack Greene: [jackisgreene@yahoo.com](mailto:jackisgreene@yahoo.com) or call 435-563-6816 for information or reservations.



*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.*

**23 Annual Kokanee Salmon Run.** Come with us and local fish expert Ron Goede to learn the spawning habits of this inland salmon variety. Ron will explain the ecology and natural history of this unique fish and will take us to places where we can view them up close. This should be an excellent trip for families. Birding in this area is also good, so bring your binoculars and plan to have fun. The last few years we have seen both bald eagles and ospreys on hand to get their share of the fish. We will leave at 8:30 a.m. from the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Caffé Ibis. Carpooling will be available. Bring a snack and binoculars. We plan to return in early afternoon. For more information call Ron at 752-9650 or Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

**30 Elk Bugling at Jackson, Wyoming.** Join us for the best of the Teton National Park where the fall colors and large ungulates (bison, elk, moose) will be in full lust(er)—elk bugling, moose grunting, bison snorting—it's all there for your enjoyment! We will be camping at the Gros Ventre campground near Kelly, Wyoming, a wonderful place with lots of moose in our midst, coyotes serenading, and a billion blazing stars over our heads (assuming it's not snowing!). Most will depart from Logan Friday afternoon, Sept. 29 and return Sunday afternoon Oct. 1. We will meet at the Caffé Ibis at 2:45 p.m. for carpooling. Contact Jack Greene at jackisgreene@yahoo.com or 563-6816 for further information.

## October 2006

**7 Our Annual Visit to Area Historical Barns.** This will be the fourth time we have done this trip and it gets better every year. An effort is underway to preserve certain barns in and around Cache Valley that are of special historical significance. Join us as resident expert Lisa Goede takes us to some of these beautiful structures that are part of our heritage, and tells us about their historical significance and uniqueness. This year we plan to go a bit further and visit barns in the Mink Creek, Emigration Canyon and perhaps even Bear Lake Valley. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station. Bring a lunch and binoculars if you have them, because in previous years we have found both barn owls and great horned owls roosting in the barns. For further information, call Lisa 752-9650, or Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

## January 2007 Trip to Hawaii

The Hawaii trip for five days of birding on the Big Island of Hawaii (plus an optional two days of birding on the island of Kauai for those interested) is a go and we need to firm up exactly who is going. We have a firm commitment from our Hawaii contact to put us up in his and his friend's fishing lodge for five nights for \$150 per person including bedding. We will take no more than 14 people. Participants should plan to arrive at Kona airport on Wednesday, January 3, 2007. We will plan to have rental vehicles and share their cost. We will bird the Big Island January 4 - 8 and will leave January 9. 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 there. Then we'll fly home. Those not interested in the extension will fly home directly on January 9. Your flight plans to and from the islands should be made individually but coordinated with Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653. Last year we had an extraordinarily wonderful time.

# BIONEERS

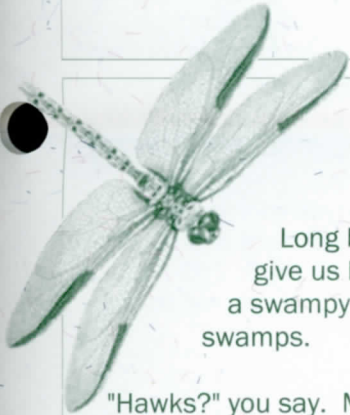
## 2006 Utah Bioneers Conference

*Our Third Annual Conference*

**October 20, 21 and 22, 2006**

Eccles Conference Center, Utah State University, Logan, Utah  
And USU Regional Campuses at Vernal/Roosevelt and Brigham City

<http://extension.usu.edu/bioneers>



## Dragons and Damsels

Long before any dinosaur descendent had thought it could fly (and give us birds), back when the coal that generates our electricity was still a swampy goop, there were mosquito hawks cruising through those swamps.

"Hawks?" you say. More formally known as dragonflies (which alight with their wings spread out) and damselflies (which fold their wings over their backs), these first rulers of the sky have become a passion akin to birding for some enthusiasts. Here in Logan, you have no doubt seen dragonflies winging about singly and in groups. Perhaps you have noticed that they don't all look the same. If your curiosity is thus piqued, you'll want to visit Dragonfly Central at:

<http://odonatacentral.bfl.utexas.edu/>

Here you will find an online field guide to all of our nation's dragonflies, including color pictures, text, maps and more. You can also download a checklist for the state of your choosing (e.g. Utah). Some of the interactive map features won't work with some web browsers (e.g. Firefox), but the more useful features do. Armed with all of this, we can all enjoy learning a little more about these exquisite aerial predators.

—Jim Cane



## Conservation

*(continued from p.2)*

and next spring. If you've got plant identification experience, GPS or computer mapping experience, or just interest, you're welcome to help. Some work requires a canoe or kayak, other portions of the BRB are accessible by land.

### Critical Lands Task Force

BAS is represented on the Cache County CLTF, whose goal is to develop a program for publicly funded critical lands conservation (including purchase, conservation easements, etc.), and build the political support to convince the County Council to move it forward. They're in the early phases of this process and hope to have something on the ballot for fall, 2007. This would

be an important mechanism to save private lands from development. For more information, contact Jack Green, 563-6816, jackisgreene@yahoo.com.

### URC Bear River Brochure

Merritt Frye, Utah Rivers Council, is putting together a short brochure to encourage people to take advantage of the various recreation opportunities all along the Bear River. She has solicited feedback, and is trying to showcase a few representative places where individuals can bird, hunt, fish, paddle, etc. She's relying on existing sources, such as our Bird Checklist of Cache County, and Boating the Bear, for details.

### Forest Plan

The Forest Service released a scoping docu-

ment last April to do exactly what tried to stop in our lawsuit last year—reducing the area in Franklin Basin closed to snowmobiles by the 2003 Forest Plan by 55 percent and adding a groomed snowmobile road between the Franklin Basin and Tony Grove parking lots. We submitted comments, as did several other environmental organizations and individuals. We're now waiting for the Environmental Assessment to appear. It's possible the FS will do the right thing and simply implement the 2003 Forest Plan that we all worked so hard for...we'll have to see.

—Bryan Dixon

For more information on any of these topics, contact Bryan Dixon, 752-6830 or [bdixon@xmission.com](mailto:bdixon@xmission.com)

# Big Sit Results

After the thrill of the chase in the Bird-a-thon, we enjoyed the leisurely pace of a Big Sit in beautiful Logan Canyon. During the Big Sit we parked ourselves on comfortable chairs and counted all of the birds we could see or hear from a 17-foot diameter circle. Our site was on the nature trail at Spring Hollow in Logan Canyon, which gave us a great cross section of riparian and mountain birds. We brought lawn chairs, spotting scope, snacks, and drinks to enjoy a great morning of conversation about life, birds and the universe. After the Big Sit was over we had a picnic near the hummingbird feeders at the Spring Hollow caretaker site. We saw a total of 24 species in the Big Sit. Everyone had a great time and would like to make this a traditional event for Bridgerland Audubon.

—Buck Russell

# Welcome to BAS

### New Members

Ruth P Carter  
Carl Cheney

### Renewing Members

Laurie Baefsky  
Young Ben-Jacob  
Fred C Brasfield  
Norbert V Debyle

John Dymerski  
Deborah Eshelman  
Edward & Deborah  
Evans  
Margaret McHugh

### Transfers into Our Chapter

Dale Azevedo

# 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; David Liddell, 245-2705

### Bridgerland Audubon Contacts

- President Val Grant, 752-7572, biores@mtwest.net
- Vice Pres. Bill Masslich, 753-1759, bill@cvlc-logan.org
- Outings Dick Hurren, 435/734-2653, hurrens@aol.com
- Secretary Jamey Anderson, 881-1244, jameya@cc.usu.edu
- Treasurer Susan Drown, 752-3797, drown@cc.usu.edu
- Wetlands Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, alindahl@bridgernet.com
- Education Jack Greene, 563-6816, jackisgreene@yahoo.com
- 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, clslp@msn.com
- Sanctuary Jim Cane, 713-4668, jimcane@cc.usu.edu
- 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, 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*.



# The *Stilt*

*Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society*

P.O. Box 3501

Logan, Utah 84323-3501

Email: [stiltnews@hotmail.com](mailto:stiltnews@hotmail.com)

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

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## Don't Miss Our First Meeting of the New Season

**New Location**  
**Special Guest**

### Raptors in Nature & Art with Greg Woodard

Preeminent wildlife sculptor, Greg Woodard, will share with us his incredible works of art and passion for birds of prey. A Utah native, Woodard's sculptures are displayed throughout the Intermountain West and he is a master-class practicing falconer. **He will bring with him one or two live falcons, so be sure not to miss it!** Our bird ID workshop will focus on the raptors of Cache Valley, including natural histories and identifying field marks to distinguish the differences between species. Join us at 7:00 p.m. at the Cache Valley Learning Center, 75 S. 400 West. Enter through the building's west doors.