



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

New Dam Proposed on the Bear River Downstream of Oneida Narrows

By Jean Lown

From Idaho Rivers United newsletter; www.idahorivers.org:

“The Twin Lakes Canal Company applied for a preliminary permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to build a new dam downstream from the existing Oneida Narrows dam on the Bear River. The canal company plans to construct a seven-megawatt hydropower facility and create a 200-acre reservoir that backs up to the existing dam. Ecologically and economically, this proposal is harmful to the Bear River and surrounding communities. Idaho Rivers United will fight this proposal to its death.”

“IRU will file to intervene on the preliminary permit application to FERC and birddog it every step of the way. We will also weigh in against the proposal when the canal company seeks water rights and other approvals from the Idaho Water Resource Board.”
The section of the Bear

River that flows through Oneida Narrows is a unique resource for teaching kayaking and canoeing because of the level of difficulty of the river (Class II) and the proximity of the road which makes it easy to scout and offers a number of access points so one can tailor the length of the run to the group. In addition to the natural rapids, the river has a couple of bridges and two diversions that offer the opportunity to teach about river hazards. In the summer and fall the water is warm, which enhances the enjoyment and safety for beginners. During most of the season there is no risk of hypothermia with a swim.

In addition to the benefits of this section of river for recreation, it is also a beautiful river corridor lined with steep, rocky cliffs, thick vegetation, and some pastoral farmland. In autumn the hillsides are adorned with blazes of red foliage. The upper stretch below the dam and the old bridge is open, pastoral

farmland with a few gentle rapids. The river and road part ways so one feels removed from the traffic. Ahead one can see the imposing cliffs of the Narrows. Once past the campground and into the Narrows the river picks up its pace among the rising cliffs.

While the overall view in the Narrows is imposing, the immediate view of the river bank below the road is less pleasing. Over the past decade the road has been widened repeatedly, pushing rocks and dirt onto the steep banks and causing erosion. The widening of the road has encouraged higher speeds so the dust clouds become a problem on busy weekends.

Each year around Memorial Day, western tanners use this corridor for their migration route. It's such a pleasure to watch flocks of bright yellow birds adorned with red

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Purchase Your Ross's Goose Today!

By Sue Drown
BAS Treasurer

This year's U.S. Fish & Wildlife Duck Stamp features a handsome portrait of a Ross's goose. Add to that the Junior Duck Stamp of a nice red-head duck. And, for \$20 for the pair, you also get the satisfying knowledge that all your money (less 2 cents on the dollar) goes to purchasing habitat for migratory waterfowl. The habitat purchased over the years can be found within our National Wildlife Refuge system and the related Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) that protect breeding habitat. You see, duck stamps are not just for hunters.

The Duck Stamp program has generated almost \$700 million dollars, all used to purchase land. Hunters must buy and sign these stamps as part of their licensing, but birders can simply buy, collect, and appreciate the stamps, guilt-free. No shivering in a blind on a cold morning required.

Recently, Pete Dunn, nationally recognized birder, author, and hero of mine, came to speak to birders at the Bear River Bird Refuge, and he mentioned that he purchases Duck Stamps every year. It got me thinking. I found it easy to get my Ross's goose at the

North Logan Post Office, but neither they nor the main Logan Post Office had the Junior Duck Stamp. If you want that, or any of the prior year stamps, try online at the USPS Postal Store, www.shop.usps.com, search "duck stamps", or www.duckstamp.com, though the latter had fewer products. The minimum shipping & handling charges are \$5 to 6. Now I have my Ross's goose stamp and a small rosy glow from supporting a place the goose itself can enjoy.



Audubon Calendar

November 2006

2 BAS Board of Trustees Meeting. Bridgerland Audubon's Board of Trustees meets at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Cache Valley Learning Center, 75 S. 400 West, in Logan. Enter through the building's west doors. All are welcome to attend.

4 Birding the South End of the Valley. Spend a morning looking for migrating waterfowl, hawks, and other birds of interest with local experts Sue and Dave Drown. For the last two years we have had a very productive and fun time birding the area. Probable stops include Hyrum Reservoir for ducks (in past years we have seen long-tailed ducks, trumpeter swans, and surf scoters) and loons, 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 Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot between Caffé Ibis and the Logan Fire Station (50 E. 150 North). Bring binoculars and a snack, and dress for the season. We will be back early afternoon. For more information call Sue or Dave Drown at 752-3797.

9 BAS General Meeting - Birds of Texas. Bridgerland Audubon Society took a long distance field trip this past spring to Texas, to witness the amazing annual migration fallout that occurs along the Rio Grande River. Join us at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Cache Valley Learning Center, 75 S. 400 West, Logan, as BAS board member Dave Drown shares some incredible photos and tells the story of this trip. Our bird identification workshop this month will emphasize birds that call Cache Valley home only during the winter.

11 Willow Park Zoo and the Logan River Golf Course for Beginners. To help beginning birders we will go to the Willow Park Zoo where we can view birds up close and personal. We will then go over to the trail that runs down the middle of Logan River Golf Course to test some of the skills we learn at the zoo. A good trip for families. Bring binoculars and dress for the season. Meet Saturday at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Caffé Ibis (50 E. 150 North) at 8:30 a.m. Carpooling will be available. For more information call Dick Hurren at (435) 734-2653.

18 Birding Southern Box Elder County. Our trip leader will scope out various locations in advance to see where the most and best birds are. We will then go to either Willard Bay State Park, the Bear River Bird Refuge, Salt Creek Wildlife Management Area, or a combination of these areas. This time of year is usually good for tundra swans, Bonaparte's gulls, and various other waterfowl. Willard Bay State Park often yields lost eastern warblers and owls. Please join us. Bring binoculars and dress for the season. Meet Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between Logan Fire Station and Caffé Ibis (50 E. 150 North). Bring a lunch because we will not return until mid-afternoon. Carpooling will be available. For more 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.

25

Visit Logan's Wonderful Sewage Lagoons. The Logan Sewage Lagoons are one of the real hot spots 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 with Keith Archibald and Sue Drown. Meet Saturday at 9 a.m. 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 Sue Drown at 752-3797.



Remember that gasoline is still very expensive, so if you are carpooling with someone, please remember to ask if you can help defray the cost of your driver's gasoline.

Announcements

107th Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendar—Saturday, December 17, 2006—for the 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, archie132@comcast.net, or Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, bdixon@xmission.com.

Join Econet

Want to get the latest in environmental happenings in northern Utah? Join the Econet email mailing list. Send an email requesting to join to bdixon@xmission.com. You'll get occasional emails alerting you to take action, but also announcing field trips and other fun events. Anyone who's on the list can submit an environmental announcement for distribution. All email addresses are hidden from the other recipients, the list is NEVER distributed, and we only send text, never attachments.

Boating the Bear Available

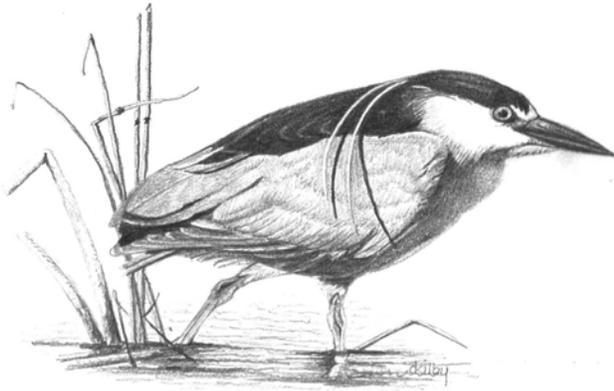
Copies of Boating the Bear are now available at the USU Outdoor Rec center, 1050 North 950 East, Logan, UT for \$15 each. Boating the Bear is the only river pilot to paddling 415 miles of the Bear River from Evanston, WY to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

Volunteers Wanted

Editor, Boating the Bear. Volunteer with excellent writing skills and reasonable paddling skills needed to update launch descriptions, etc. to bring this 1992 guide to the Bear River up to date. Major tasks are to update information on put-ins and take-outs, update sections below Soda Springs, etc.; editor doesn't need to paddle the entire river for this revision. Contact Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

Conservation Committee Members. Volunteers needed who have 3-4 hours per week to work on conservation issues for BAS. BAS prides itself on making a difference through informed science and rational actions. Issues include: wildlife habitat (especially for birds), dams, forest management, land use, wetlands, etc. Contact Bryan Dixon, Conservation Chair, 435-752-6830.

Conservation News



Bear River Bottoms

Sixteen volunteers spent over 225 hours conducting a bio-blitz on Pacifi-Corp lands in the Bottoms. The effort is to inventory the significant physical and wetland features so that, based on a “desired future condition” for each parcel, we can develop a management plan to address the shortcomings. Bio-West was good enough to donate a small motorized boat to move teams up and down the river. Juniper Systems donated the use of several of its new Archer handheld computers using ArcPad software with Trimble GPS receivers to map features. Both firms as well as the Utah Department of Environmental Quality also generously donated personnel for several days of the effort. It was fun walking these lands, noting the habitats, plant communities, and various bits of

historical farm equipment—not to mention some great bird sightings along the way. As of mid-October, we’ve finished over 540 acres with over 1,000 left to do. Volunteers will probably still be needed in November (contact bdixon@xmission.com). Special thanks to Mike Allred, Bridget Atkin, Amy Defreese, Joan Degiorgio, Kirk Earl, Jonathan Felis, Reinhard Jockel, Julie Johns, Eldon Peterson, Steve Ripple, Mike Roberts, Jan Saalfeld, Leila Shulz, David Tidhar, Amanda Townsend, and Dan Zmecnik for their labor.

Forest Plan

At the end of September, the Forest Service released a Preliminary Environmental Assessment on changes to the Forest Plan regarding Franklin Basin winter recreation management. Not unexpectedly, the proposed

action is identical to the snowmobilers’ proposal from the “med-arb” process last summer, which was rescinded following our successful lawsuit last spring. The “no action” alternative is the closure set forth in the 2003 Revised Forest Plan, which we supported as a reasonable compromise between motorized and non-motorized users. Totally unexpected were two other alternatives. One segregates these two uses into alternating two-week periods, and prohibits pedestrian access when the area is open to motorized use. The final alternative would bar anyone from recreating in Franklin Basin for the entire winter. Not only would the latter two alternatives be unenforceable, but it’s unclear exactly what the Forest Service hopes to accomplish by prohibiting pedestrian access. That would be a very dangerous precedent, to be sure. Comments are due October 29, before you receive this issue of the Stilt. The Forest Service seems intent on making the decision before winter, so we’ll keep you up to date on the outcome via postings on the Econet. (Sign up for the Econet email alerts by contacting bdixon@xmission.com).

By Bryan Dixon
BAS Conservation Chair

New Dam

(continued from p.1)

heads and black wings as they forage in the riparian area in their migration north. Brilliant yellow warblers add color contrast to the green vegetation during the summer. Other common birds seen along the river include Franklin's and California gulls, belted

kingfishers, snowy egrets, great blue herons, and occasional ospreys as well as numerous passerines.

Soaring above the cliffs one can view common ravens, red-tailed hawks, and turkey vultures. Occasionally deer can be viewed drinking at the river's edge. A few years ago a kayaking friend saw

a cougar fleeing from a river side deer carcass! Send comments to FERC telling them you don't want a new dam to inundate this section of a precious river canyon:

RE: Project 12486-000
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington D.C. 20426

Keeping the Roadside Clean ...and Having Fun Doing It



Ten enthusiastic BAS members turned out for our quarterly road cleanup west of Richmond on Saturday, October 14. Pictured left to right are volunteers Norm Campbell, Chris Campbell, Keith Archibald, Dick Hurren, Judy Archibald, Lyle Bingham, Jennifer Hoffman, Alan Hoffman (behind Jennifer), Jeff Allen, and Reinhard Jockel.

Welcome to BAS

New Members

Renewing Members

Transfers Into Our Chapter

Mr & Mrs John Barnes
Brian Creutzburg
Ruth Eller
Ann W Peralta

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

- 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
- 2006-2009 Ron Goede, 752-9650; Bret Selman, (435) 257-5260

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 Bryan Dixon, 752-6830, bdixon@xmission.com
- 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 Open
- Hotline Nancy Williams, 757-0185, nanwill@cc.usu.edu
- Webmaster Stephen Peterson 755-5041, cilslp@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 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.

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

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