

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in Room 215 of the Business Building on the Utah State University campus.

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 Vice-President — Nancy Warner, 752-7345
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Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as to *Audubon* magazine.

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Bridgerland Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 3501
 Logan, Utah 84321

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(We thought you would never ask.) Just complete the following application and enclose a check for the amount for the appropriate type of membership. Send it to:

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 3501
 Logan, Utah 84321

Check membership category desired.

- Individual / \$30 (H)
 Family / \$38 (J)
 Student / \$18 (K)
 Senior Citizen Individual / \$21 (N)
 Senior Citizen Family / \$23 (P)
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 Logan, Utah



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 13, No. 6

February 1985

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

○ = BAS event
 △ = Sierra Club event

LOCAL MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Tues., Feb. 5: Annual Planning Meeting — 6:30 p.m. at the home of Chuck and Nancy Warner, 2045 North 800 East in North Logan. Evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30, with the actual meeting starting at 7:30. Please feel free to join us for either or both of these events.

Thurs., Feb. 7: Cache Group Sierra Club Meeting — 7:00 p.m. on third floor of Taggart Student Center on USU Campus.

Fri., Feb. 8: Canyonlands Nuclear Repository Workshop — 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Eccles

Conference Center on the USU Campus. Please plan to attend this free workshop. Reservations are not necessary. For agenda, see "Canyonlands: National Park or Nuclear Dump?" article in newsletter.

Thurs., Feb. 14: BAS Monthly Meeting — 7:30 p.m. in NEW LOCATION, Room 202 of the Food and Nutrition Building on the USU Campus. The speaker will be Jim Gessaman, who will present information on the Goshute Mountains Hawk Migration Study. Everyone is welcome.

Wed., Feb. 20: Education Meeting — 7:30 p.m. in 112B in the Natural Resources Building on the USU Campus. Tom Cronkite, an instructional developer in the USU Agricultural Engineering Department, will lead a mini-workshop on the production of slide/tape programs and specialty slides. If you've got an idea and/or some slides for a program to add to the BAS Natural History Slide Show Series (see article in this issue), come and get some tips on how to put it together. Call Nancy Warner (752-7345) for more information.

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS AND OUTINGS

Sat., Feb. 2: Animal Tracks and Tracking — 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meet at Logan Library. Carpooling available. Allen Stokes will lead this field trip along the sloughs of the Bear River and wooded areas to look for tracks of our common mammals: meadow and deer mice, weasel, skunk, muskrat, raccoon, cat and dog, as well as a variety of birds. In addition to identifying the animals making the tracks, the group will attempt to determine

what the animal was doing at the time by tracking it for a distance. WEAR WARM CLOTHING AND BOOTS SUITABLE FOR WALKING THROUGH SNOW. A good family outing.

Sun., Feb. 3: Ski Tour in Logan Canyon — 9 a.m. meet at USU Student Center Parking lot. A chance to explore some snow shelters. For more details contact Vince Stack, 752-2654.

Tues., Feb. 5: Full Moon Evening Ski Tour — 7:00 p.m. meet at the Smithfield Golf Course tracks. Or, call Jean Lown (752-6380) to arrange a ride to Smithfield. Hot chocolate after skiing, at Jean's house.

Sat., Feb. 9: Sherwood Hills Ski Tour — 9:00 a.m. meet at USU Student Center Parking Lot. Beginner and intermediate skiing. For details contact Rosemary White, 752-7383.

Sat., Feb. 23: Waterfowl Trip — 1:00 p.m. meet at Logan Library. Short slide show at library to let you know what different species of waterfowl are often seen in Cache Valley and tips on what characteristics of the ducks you can use to identify them. Next, a visit to Willow Park Zoo to actually see the ducks, followed by a tour of the Sewage Lagoons to see the same waterfowl on the water and in flight. Bring binoculars, a field guide to birds, and wear warm clothing. Return by 4:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 23: Ski and Photography Tour — 9:00 a.m. meet at USU Student Center Parking Lot. Ever been disappointed by washed-out ski pictures? Come learn how to take good pictures in the snow. Bring your camera along on this ski and photography tour. For details contact Scott Smith, 753-3446.

Sat., Mar. 2: Bald Eagles at Willard Canyon (Field Trip) — This is a strenuous 2-hour climb by skis or snowshoes to a lookout above Willard Canyon 10 miles south of Brigham City. See many bald eagles as they fly in to their roost in the canyon and go through their spectacular aerial courtship displays. Leave at 10 a.m. from the University Radio Tower at 12th East and 7th North, and at 10:10 from Logan Library. Car-pooling available. Share gas. Bring warm clothing, lunch, and binoculars. A trip full of adventure and surprises. Shirley Badame, who has studied these eagles for several years, will be trip leader. Return by supper.

Sun., Mar. 3: Strawberry Canyon Ski Tour — 8:00 a.m. meet at Smith's parking lot on 4th North. All day intermediate ski tour in Idaho. Bring lunch and day tour gear. For details, contact Marit Snow (752-2654).

Sat., Mar. 9: Slide Share and Potluck — 6:00 p.m. at Chuck and Nancy Warner's, 2045 N. 800 E. Bring 10-12 slides from a summer trip, plus your favorite backpacking dinner or dessert to share. Some sort of punch will be available. Call Chuck or Nancy (752-7345) for more information.

Sun., Mar. 10: Logan Cave Tour — RESERVATION REQUIRED. Wear warm wool clothing and expect to get dirty and very wet. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, also a backup light (a second flashlight or candles with waterproof matches). Trip limited to 15 participants. Call Lynn McConville (752-7383) or Rosemary White (752-7383) for details and reservations. (Cache Group Sierra Club Tour.)

EDITOR'S NOTES

Each month I receive submissions for the newsletter from only a few people—Chuck and Nancy Warner, Allen Stokes and Betsy Neely being my most consistent contributors. Few others have braved the three flights of stairs to my office to hand me an article. Is anybody else out there? Have you nothing to say? I urge you to share your thoughts and experiences with the rest of the BAS membership. Tell us about your response to a field trip, or a backpacking trip you took on your own. Or write about an outstanding, nature-oriented class you are taking. Or share the thoughts of your grandchild as you revealed to him/her some natural wonder. Draw a picture; write a book review; complain to the editor! An article for the *Stilt* is not a lifetime commitment, it's just a simple gesture to show us you care. I'd be most happy to hear from you. Send/bring submissions to: Charlotte Wiggins, Editor *The Stilt*, English Dept. UMC 32, USU, Logan, UT 84322. (My office is in the Library, #367.)

The quote this month is from Wendell Berry's *The Settling of America: Culture and Agriculture*, a book I would recommend to anyone who cares about the fate of the earth: "... the care of the earth is our most ancient and most vital duty, and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish its remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope."

MOVING ON

Betsy Neely, who has served as the Chair of the Adult Education Committee for nearly two years, has accepted a position with The Nature Conservancy in Denver and will be leaving the first of February. Betsy has been instrumental in getting the Tony Grove Trail and Trail Guide project off the ground as well as coordinating Education Committee efforts such as the slide shows. We will miss her enthusiasm and ideas. Good luck in Colorado Betsy, and thanks!

CANYONLANDS: NATIONAL PARK OR NUCLEAR DUMP?

Many people have been lulled into a false sense of security over the recent events concerning the nuclear repository. Actually, Utah is not yet "out of the woods." The issues are too large and complex to explain in the space available in this newsletter, so please plan to attend the workshop being sponsored: "Canyonlands—National Park or Nuclear Dump?" It is FREE to the public, and reservations are not necessary.

Following is the workshop agenda.

8 Feb. 1985 — Eccles Conference Center Auditorium, USU Campus.

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome and introduction to the workshop
1:05 "This Unspoiled Land"—a slide presentation with music
1:15 Keynote speaker—former Congressman Wayne Owens
1:45 Slide talk on DOE activities and plans — Terri Martin
2:15 Questions from the audience
3:00 Break
3:15 Panel — Repository Safety Issues (20 minutes each)*
1. Nuclear waste radiological hazards
2. Transportation safety
3. Salt as a geologic medium
4. Military nuclear waste
4:45 Film — "The Sculptured Earth"
5:30 Workshop ends

*This portion of the program is not yet wholly confirmed. A last minute substitution might have to be made.

REPORT FROM ADOPT-A-REFUGE COMMITTEE

At the previous meeting on February 21, 1984, the committee was advised by Ronald Perry about the proposed actions to be taken upon the abandonment of the refuge because of rapidly rising water in the Great Salt Lake. By the next meeting on September 8, 1984, the refuge had been officially closed because of flooding. Peter Smith, Acting Manager of the refuge, reviewed the current situation at the refuge, including what actions have been taken and what decisions must be made in the future.

The current situation at the refuge is a dramatic change from previous years. Vegetation is almost gone, although some cattail came up in 70 inches of water. More bulrush than cattail remains, as it will stand greater densities of salinity than cattail. Duck nesting in 1984 was nil. Duck counts are greatly reduced—29,000 in 1984 compared to normal levels of 200,000 - 300,000. Counts of geese numbered 125, with a normal average of about 3,500. About 50% of the duck population on the refuge is now redhead ducks, and the numbers of coots have been greatly reduced.

Actions already taken to keep the damage minimal include the removal of the refuge headquarters to the Bell Telephone building in Brigham City, the storage of display materials from the refuge, and the reduction of refuge personnel. The sewer system at the refuge is currently non-functional, as is the culinary water system. Although buildings have been diked and pumping is done once a week, two of the buildings are standing in water and the roads are mostly covered. The Bear River Club Company has spent \$100,000 for the dike and other protective measures. The breaching of the Southern Pacific Railroad, accomplished in July, aided the refuge by

lowering the water level of the lake. This is probably only temporary, however, as winter and spring runoff of 1985 will undoubtedly increase the current water level, which was at 4208.13 feet above sea level in September. Also, this is only the third year in a wet cycle which might continue for several more years.

Future decisions to be made include whether or not to further dike and pump the headquarters area, where to come up with money for repairing the refuge, and how to reconstruct the refuge when the lake recedes. Until now, the refuge has been considered a prime nesting and production area, but with the large numbers of botulism-killed ducks, management might now profitably be turned to preventing botulism losses. Production is known to be considerably lower than the botulism losses. Additional management opportunities now present themselves upon reconstruction of the refuge when the lake recedes. These will be given in special recommendations of the committee to the local refuge and regional refuge personnel.

J. B. Low, Chairman
Adopt-A-Refuge Committee

BALD EAGLE FLOAT TRIP

A full day float trip on a calm stretch of the Colorado River is being offered by the Canyonlands Field Institute on March 2, 1985. The trip, beginning that Saturday at 8:30 a.m. near Grand Junction, Colorado, will provide opportunities to view wintering Bald Eagles, as well as waterfowl and other wildlife in Horsethief and Ruby Canyons. This early season raft trip will allow a special view of the red walled canyons as they awaken to spring. The air may be chilly, but there's also a good chance for bright sunshine. Participants should dress warmly and plan to stay dry in the boats, as the trip is on flat water. Hot drinks, lunch, and snacks will be provided, along with words of wisdom from the guest naturalist, Dr. Mike Perry of the Museum of Western Colorado. Group size is limited. The cost of \$28 per person includes river transport, lunch, and refreshments. For information and registration, please contact Canyonlands Field Institute, Professor Valley Ranch, P.O. Box 68, Moab, UT 84532, or phone 801-259-7750 or 259-6503.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS FOR THE WHOOPERS IN 1984

The first whooping cranes to reach the Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas to spend the 1984-85 winter was a pair believed to have arrived on October 31. Others continued to arrive in small groups, and by January there were 83 birds on the refuge and nearby islands. Fourteen are young of the year, which is a new record for total number of young. A 1982 hatched female was found dead on the refuge prior to this high count. There was no sign of disease, and the cause of death was attributed to a neck wound inflicted by a predator. Another whooper on its way from Canada to Texas did not make it on its own. It was found injured near Linton, North

Dakota, on October 31. The bird was captured and flown to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and is now recovering at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. It is estimated that as many as 90 whoopers may arrive in Texas from Canada when the final count of the season is made. Current estimates of the number of whoopers in the Rocky Mountain foster-parent flock is 35 to 38 birds. So the good news is that there is a substantial gain in the wild population.

The bad news is that eastern equine encephalitis, a virus spread by an uncommon species of mosquito, caused the death of seven whooping cranes at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland between September 17 and November 4. One of the Rocky Mountain birds was captured at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge when it appeared to be sick, and was sent to the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque to be treated for an infection.

— from *Grus Americana*
March 1985 Newsletter

TV SERIES A SUCCESS

The WTBS series "World of Audubon," which was aired in October and November 1984, reached an audience of nearly six million people, far exceeding the National Audubon Society's expectations. Also, the series recently won a CINE Golden Eagle Award. As a result, another exciting series is being planned for March. The broadcast times are as follows:

ON MARCH 21, THE "WORLD OF AUDUBON" BRINGS THE OUTDOORS IN

This Spring, Audubon Brings Your Television to Life Once Again. You'll be Immersed in Nature's Rare Beauty and Get Closer to our Most Vital Environmental Issues:

- * Puffins
- * Acid Rain
- * Loggerhead Turtles
- * Profile of Rachel Carson
- * Robert Redford's Institute for Resource Management
- * Clean-up of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River
- * Interview with Walter Cronkite



CLIFF ROBERTSON IS THE COMPELLING HOST
IN THIS SECOND OF THE SERIES "WORLD OF AUDUBON"

PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
AND SUPERSTATION WTBS

MARCH 21, 8:05 PM Eastern
MARCH 24, 6:05 PM Eastern
MARCH 30, 4:05 PM Eastern
APRIL 1, 9:05 PM Pacific

Check cable listings for channel

BAN ON LEAD SHOT MAKING SLOW GAINS

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission made conservation history by unanimously voting to require nontoxic steel shot state-wide for waterfowl hunting. The transition to using steel instead of lead shot will begin next fall, consummating a 1982 commission resolution supporting the conversion. Curtailing the use of lead shot will help curb the threat of lead poisoning for the thousands of cranes stopping in Nebraska each year during migration, as well as reduce losses to waterfowl.

Nebraska may have become the first state to announce a lead-shot ban by only a few months. Iowa is expected to require steel shot in 1985; Wyoming, Florida and New Jersey are expected to implement similar regulations banning lead shot in the near future. Pressure for banning lead shot has increased as it has become known that eagles and other birds eating lead-contaminated ducks may also be killed. The National Audubon Society is exerting influence on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to require use of steel shot on its refuges where hunting occurs. Resistance to this change has come from waterfowl hunters who believe steel shot damages the barrels of their shotguns, has less killing power, and costs more than lead shot. Is it time for Bridgerland Audubon to get involved in this issue?

A. Stokes

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE

If you wish to order a copy of the environmental assessments on Davis and Lavendar Canyon sites, call toll free (800-858-1600). The Department of Energy will send you a copy.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT POLICY REVIEW

Two years ago the BAS planning board decided to try holding the Christmas Bird Count on Mondays instead of the usual Saturdays. Because of recent complaints about this decision, the officers have decided to hold a special ½-hour meeting immediately after the regular monthly meeting on Feb. 14. Beginning at 8:35, BAS members will be asked to give their opinion on the date of the Christmas Bird Count. At the end of this meeting, everyone in attendance will be asked to vote on the issue. Those who feel strongly about the date of the Christmas Bird Count, please come and cast your votes. A simple majority vote will rule.

Chuck Warner

A GENTLE REMINDER

Please remember that the Bridgerland Audubon Society ALWAYS needs your help. Positions are available for volunteers of every shape and size, every age and skill. Please help us to keep the BAS an active, vital organization. Call Chuck Warner today, ask him, "How can I help?" then listen to him sing praises to your name while he answers you!

1984 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 14th annual Christmas Bird Count for the Bridgerland Audubon Society was held on Monday, December 17. While there was less snow this year than last year, it was much colder than 1983's outing. The day started with a temperature of 0°, but fortunately there was little wind, and ground fog was a problem only to the hardy souls who paddled down the Logan River. The 27 participants, divided into 14 groups, started as early as 4:00 a.m. to observe screech and saw-whet owls, with the help of playback of their calls. As always with the Christmas Bird Count, there were both surprises and disappointments. A hermit thrush in Smithfield was a first for our Christmas counts. Other rarities were pine grosbeaks (seen in three different places), both white-winged and red crossbills, and common redpoll. Missing entirely were gulls and Cooper's hawks, as well as last year's very rare white pelican, white-faced ibis, brambling, and blue jay sightings. The group as a whole saw 89 species and 13,500 individuals—down from the record-breaking 99 species and 20,500 individuals of last year. Participants were: Doug Allington, John, Terry and 1-month-old Jessie Barnes, Leroy Beasley, Keith Dixon, Dave Fisher, Kit Flannery, Karen Gonzalez, Reinhart Jockel, Dave and Kurt Kotter, Tom Lyon, Alice Lindahl, Jim Mindyas, Ron Rye, Alice Stewart, Al and Alice Stokes, Rich Valdez, Rick Vetter, Kent Webb, Kirk Williams, Rod Wilhelm, Eric Zurcher, and Keith Archibald and Mike Tove, co-compilers. Thanks to the last two for their work in organizing both the bird count and the fine dinner at the China House which was held afterwards.

Allen Stokes

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Audubon Education Committee met on January 16 to review the educational materials that have been developed by the group and to discuss how these materials and programs might be distributed through the Cache Valley School systems. The meeting was attended by both Audubon volunteers and teachers from some local elementary schools, providing a chance for a welcome interchange of ideas.

Currently, there are seven slide programs available. Four programs deal with animals: Monarch Butterflies, Red-tailed Hawks, Mule Deer, and Gila Monsters. The three other programs are: Pollination Ecology, Local Wildflowers, and Plant Use by Early Inhabitants of Cache Valley. The programs, each consisting of 20 slides, a glossary and references, are being rented out by BAS for \$15 apiece. PLEASE PASS THE WORD ON TO ANY TEACHERS YOU KNOW WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THESE SHOWS.

We hope to expand our list of topics by recruiting more volunteers to develop slide shows on any of the unlimited number of topics related to natural history that could be presented in the form of a slide show. Our meeting next month will provide an opportunity to pick up a few tips from a pro on the preparation of slide shows. On Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in NRB 112B, Tom Cronkite, an instructional designer at USU,

will show some techniques that can be used to produce specialty slides such as split scenes and title slides. Following this presentation, Tom will be available to work with individuals who are currently developing slide shows. If you've got an idea for a program and/or some slides, come and take advantage of this workshop.

We also now have a video available on Winter Bird Feeding. This 9-minute video, featuring Audubon's own Allen Stokes, was produced by a group of USU students, including Clay Essig, Linda Chappel, John Miller and Nancy Warner. We are hoping to distribute copies of this video to interested schools or groups at cost. For more information on this or other education committee activities, please call Nancy Warner (752-7345) or attend the next Education Committee meeting on Feb. 20.

Nancy Warner

LAST CHANCE

Comments on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan are due February 8! Contact Steve Flint or Chuck Warner.

BUILD A BIRD FEEDER FOR A BUCK — Continued

Last month's newsletter contained plans for a sunflower seed feeder which you could make for about a dollar. This month, plans for a \$1 thistle seed feeder are included. This feeder, designed by Fish and Wildlife biologists Alex Knight and Willard M. Spaulding Jr., can be built in about an hour.

Once you've built the feeder, don't fill it with bird seed from the grocery store. Send \$2.75 to Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for a copy of the report, "Relative Attractiveness of Different Foods at Wild Bird Feeders" (Stock Number 024-010-00587-4).

Thistle Seed Feeder

Materials needed: 1-liter plastic soft-drink bottle; three or four 3/16-inch wide, 5-inch long wooden dowels (straight, hardwood sticks will do); a single-edged razor blade or "X-acto" knife; 8 inches of wire or monofilament fishing line, a metal eye screw, a hand drill and small bit.

Soak the bottle in warm, soapy water to clean inside and remove label. Pull off the colored plastic base and discard.

Step 1: Make small parallel cuts in each side of the bottle with the razor blade, "X-acto" knife, or hand drill. Insert the dowels as perches. Alternate the radial alignment of each perch so that all sides of the bottle can be used.

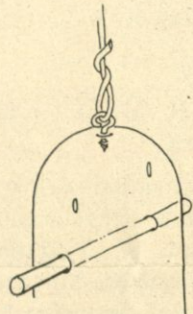
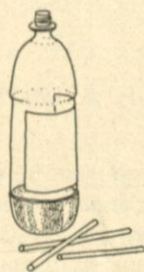
Step 2: At points about 1-inch below each dowel, make small ¼-inch long, 1/8-inch wide incisions through the bottle for feeding holes. Don't make the cuts too large—the correct size will allow birds to pick out individual seeds

yet prevent spillage. (A wood-burning needle will also make the right-sized feeding holes.)

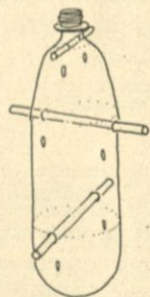
Step 3: Bore a 7/16-inch hole in the bottom of the bottle and insert the eye screw. When suspended, the bottom becomes the top of the feeder. Affix wire or monofilament line to the eye screw and tie.

Gas line antifreeze plastic bottles provide an easy way to fill both feeders with seed. Cut a funnel from a 12-ounce bottle with a coping saw about half-way up. The necks of this funnel and both feeder bottles will mate, providing a convenient way to fill them without spillage.

THISTLE SEED FEEDER



Steps 2, 3



Step 1



SURVEY RESULTS

Nearly one-third (76) of the members of BAS were contacted by phone for their response to the questionnaire that appeared in the December issue of the *Stilt*. Thanks to all who took the time to answer questions for Audubon volunteers Peter Landres, Jack Kirkley, Betsy Neely, Chuck Warner, Eric Zurcher and Nancy Warner.

Although many members said they joined the Audubon Society to further their knowledge and enjoyment of the natural world (20%), to receive Audubon magazine (25%) or for other reasons (13%), most people (41%) said they joined to support and be a member of a group active in protecting the environment. Nearly all of the members contacted (95%) said that they receive and read (96%) *The Stilt*.

About 40% of the respondents have participated on field trips in the past 12 months. Virtually everyone who has been on a field trip enjoyed the experience and learned much about our local environment, from plants in Logan Canyon to birds on the marsh. A number of people would like to see more physically active or "aerobic" field trips, such as cross country skiing or hiking. Some people would like more overnight outings such as the Teton trip.

Thirty-six percent of the respondents have been to at least one monthly meeting in the last 12 months. The people who attended these meetings generally thought the time and location were convenient. Many people, however, expressed concern that the quality of the meetings was "uneven," that is, running from good to poor.

Only about 23% of the respondents have attended the Logan Library Film Series in the last 12 months. Virtually everyone agreed that the films were excellent. However, some of the films do overlap with what is available on television.

A large majority (71%) of the respondents indicated that they would like to see BAS become more involved and active in environmental issues. However, some members would like to see our organization maintain a moderate position on environmental issues in order to avoid alienating local citizens. Concern for wilderness designation and preservation of wildlife habitat were the issues most frequently mentioned as being especially interesting to members. Other issues that were of interest, in order of decreasing importance, were the siting of the nuclear waste dump, Logan Canyon development, long term planning and zoning in Cache County, Forest Service management plan, and other problems including pollution of the Bear River and the Central Utah Project.

When the respondents were asked if they wanted to increase their participation by attending monthly meetings, 43% said yes while 46% said they would like to attend more field trips. Many people (32%) said they would like to increase their participation by attending the BAS Logan Library Film Series and a smaller number (25%) were interested in becoming BAS volunteers.

Responses to our request for comments or suggestions included:

- Increase our coordination with other environmental groups such as the Sierra Club.

- Sponsor more joint events with other groups, like slide shows, field trips and speakers.
- Increase BAS's role as an education and information source.
- Provide schedules for any upcoming environmental events via *The Stilt*.

We feel that many of these are excellent suggestions, and plan to consider them further at the Annual Planning meeting on February 5.

Nancy Warner

AUDUBON WILDERNESS RESEARCH BACKPACK PROGRAM

"Wyoming is," as Governor Ed Herschler says, "what America was." It's a land of wide open spaces, magnificent scenery, abundant wildlife, blue skies, and clean air. Part of the true west, Wyoming is one of the last frontiers with few people and over 3.08 million acres of designated wilderness. Millions more acres are in beautiful multiple use areas. The atmosphere in Wyoming is relaxed, friendly, open, and where people love the land.

If we are to continue to protect this wonderful natural heritage, we must strive to better understand it. However, ecological data are not available for many areas of Wyoming, particularly in the northwestern quarter of the state. Now new threats are posing new problems for Wyoming's environment; mining of coal, oil, gas, and even thermal energy potentially threaten even the remotest areas with acid rain, and the loss of natural geyser basins. In order to document the ecological makeup of these remote ecosystems, Audubon will be conducting a new Wilderness Research Backpack Program. Beginning in summer 1985, Audubon will sponsor a series of six, 14-day backpack trips designed primarily for basic ecological data collection in the Bridger-Fitzpatrick Wilderness in the Wind River Mountains and in other wilderness areas in surrounding mountain ranges which make up the immense Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. It will take years for the proper collection of data in all areas, so we must get started in 1985.

Each research trip will be based out of Trail Lake or other base camps nearby, where two days of orientation and two days of de-briefing and data organization will take place. That leaves 10 days of wilderness research backpacking. The trips will be coordinated with the regular Audubon Camp program so that the start would occur between Camp sessions and come back to Torrey Valley on the last Wednesday of a session.

Each backpack will have up to 15 participants, four trained staff, and two interns. Two semester credit hours of undergraduate or graduate university credit are available through the University of Wyoming Zoology Department at an additional cost. It is anticipated several graduate programs will develop from this Audubon program since total ecosystem studies will be stressed. That means we'll look at and compile baseline lists for plants, insects, fish, herptofauna, mammals, and birds. Both aquatic and terrestrial environments will be studied.

Here's your chance to help with original research and thus have a say in the protection and management of our natural heritage. Trips will be moderate in difficulty, so even conditioned beginners can participate. Five to seven miles will be covered each day with some excursions out of remote base camps. Over the two week period, you may see rises in elevation from about 7,500 to over 12,000 feet (it won't be all at once!). You'll have to carry your own pack with personal equipment and some group equipment; packs will average 30-40 pounds.

Staff will be members of the internationally known Bagdonas' Flying Circus, a University of Wyoming research group, noted for long term ecological studies. All will be trained in first aid, wilderness survival, and ecological baseline research. Plus all have wonderful personalities.

Help us protect our magnificent natural heritage by helping us define our wilderness ecosystems. Have a say in original research which will be used to formulate management decisions for all of us. Have the experience of a life-time observing, recording, and photographing wildlife and knowing you are helping to make a difference in the protection of these wilderness ecosystems.

BP1	June 7 - 21
BP2	June 21 - July 5
BP3	July 5 - 19
BP4	July 19 - August 2
BP5	August 2 - 16
BP6	August 16 - 30

Cost: \$375.00

Write to: National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley Ave., Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303.

