

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

Membership is gained by joining National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Annual dues: \$13.50 student, \$20 individual, \$25 family, included is a subscription to *Audubon* (6 issues).

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# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 13, No. 7

March 1985

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

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	29	30
31						

○ = BAS event  
 △ = Sierra Club event

### LOCAL MEETINGS, PROGRAMS, & FIELD TRIPS

**Sat. March 2: Bald Eagles at Willard Canyon** — 10 a.m. at University Radio Tower at 12th East and 7th North; 10:10 at Logan Library. 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 also go through their spectacular aerial courtship displays. Carpooling 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. March 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, sponsored by Cache Group Sierra Club. Bring lunch and day tour gear. For details, contact Marit Snow (752-2654).

**Tues. March 5: Planning Meeting** — 7:00 p.m. in room 112B of the Natural Resources/Biology Building on the USU campus. Please plan to attend this meeting where we can all share our ideas and concerns. The next planning meeting will be held the same hour and place on April 2.

**Sat. March 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. March 10: Logan Cave Tour** — RESERVATIONS 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 candle with waterproof matches). Trip limited to 15 participants. Call Lynn McConville (753-5874) or Rosemary White (752-7383) for details and reservations for this Sierra Club Tour.

**Mon. March 11: Library Film Series** — 7:00 p.m. at the Logan



Library. "Social and Breeding Behavior of the American Bison," will be shown. It is about how male bison develop a social hierarchy which in turn determines how successful a given bull will be in gaining access to cows during the mating season. A splendid analysis of the specific signals a bull uses—signals that may be seen in almost identical form in domestic cattle.

**Thurs. March 14: BAS Monthly Meeting** — 7:30 p.m. in room 338 of the Ag Science Building on the USU campus. John Weaver of the US Forest Service in Jackson, Wyoming, who is in charge of the Endangered Species Program for the Bridger/Teton National Forest, will speak on Grizzly Bear Management.

**Wed. March 20: BAS Education Committee Meeting** — 7:30 p.m. in 112B in the Natural Resources/Biology Building on the USU campus. Topic to be announced. Call Nancy Warner for more information at 752-7345.

**Sat. March 23: Wildlife on Skis** — 9:00 a.m. at the University Radio Tower at 7th North and 12th East. Return by 4:00 p.m. A fairly easy ski trip up Wood Camp Hollow or Franklin Basin, depending on snow conditions. Bring your own skis, lunch, water. Carpooling available. Trip leaders Don and Pam Sanda know both skiing and wildlife.

**Mon. March 25: Library Film Series** — 7:00 p.m. at the Logan Library. "Polar Ecology" will be shown. Food chains and predator-prey relations shown in the relationships between the lemming and its chief bird predator, the pomarine jaeger; and between the penguin and skua.

#### COMING UP IN APRIL

**April 2** — BAS Planning Meeting at 7 p.m. See next month's newsletter for more details.

**April 12/13** — BAS field trip: Courtship Displays of Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse at Curlew National Grasslands. Leave Friday afternoon (times arranged) and drive 90 miles west of Logan to camp at the Twin Springs Campground on the old California Trail used by thousands of 49ers in the Gold Rush days. Get up before dawn to observe the dramatic displays of these prairie grouse. Return for a late breakfast at the campgrounds, then look for sage thrasher, rock wren, and the homes of pack rats in the nearby cliffs. Return home by 3 p.m. Saturday. This trip by advance reservations only. Call Allen Stokes at 752-2702 for reservations and details on trip.

**April 22** — Library Film Series: "Animal Parents — Evolution of Parental Behavior." See next month's newsletter for more details.

#### EDITOR'S NOTES

In addition to the positive feedback I get from Chuck Warner each month (and he's so desperate to have someone do the newsletter that he compliments me no matter what I do)—I also get some negative comments. Some of you have suggested that I be a bit more diligent about getting the newsletter out on time, because you aren't getting your copies of *The Stilt*

until after the first meeting or field trip has already been held. I certainly apologize for that. Putting out the newsletter is a long process, with many hands in the pie along the way. But I'll try to stoke the fires a little, and do my part to hurry things along. In the meantime, IF YOUR NEWSLETTER DOESN'T GET TO YOU BY THE 1st OR 2nd OF THE MONTH, please call me at home (753-8072) or at my office (750-2717), and I'll be glad to let you know about the meetings and field trips.

From Margaret Mead's essay "New Superstitions for Old": "Over time, more and more of life has become subject to the controls of knowledge. However, this is never a one-way process. Scientific investigation is continually increasing our knowledge. But if we are to make good use of this knowledge, we must not only rid our minds of old, superseded beliefs and fragments of magical practice, but also recognize new superstitions for what they are. Both are generated by our wishes, our fears and our feeling of helplessness in difficult situations."

— Charlotte Warner

#### REMINDER: TV SERIES

Remember that on March 21, 24, 30 and April 1, WTSB will present the second "World of Audubon" series. Check last month's newsletter for details.

#### WE'VE MOVED!!!

Don't forget that our regular monthly meetings have been moved to room 202 in the USU Food and Nutrition Building at 7th North 12th East. It's the first room on the left if you enter the doors facing west. This room is easy to find, and parking is much more convenient for most people.

#### ALLEN STOKES CONSERVATION AWARD

Bridgerland Audubon is now actively seeking nominations for this year's Allen Stokes Conservation Award. Please inform your members that we want to honor a person or an organization for their service to the Bridgerland environment. The recipient could be for some outstanding recent deed or deeds, or a long term and continuing contribution. We are looking for people who care, and who express that care through their actions. The Award will be given at the annual banquet of Bridgerland Audubon in April. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 1985. Please give us a name.

— Tom L.

#### THE "200 CLUB" AND BIRD HOTLINE

The 200 Club was started for those with an interest in birding in Cache County. Anyone who wishes to participate will receive an Audubon patch upon reaching 150 species, and a Bridgerland Audubon "200 Club" cap upon reaching 200 species sighted within Cache County. Beginning birders are asked to have sightings of rare or unusual birds verified by another, more experienced birder.

The bird hotline was created to form a telephone network whereby interested parties would be alerted to the presence of rare birds seen within the county. I have agreed to oversee the hotline as well as the 200 Club. Anyone interested in participating in either of these programs should contact me at 563-3910. I would appreciate any information on rare or uncommon birds seen in the area so that I may pass it on to others.

— John Barnes

#### THE ANATOMY OF POWER

I have been reading John Kenneth Galbraith's book by the above title. Power today rests with the organization far more than with individuals. The days when an individual like a Henry Ford, Andrew Carnegie, or Jay Gould could sway government or the public to his/her way of thinking or action have given way to the organization as source of power. Thus it is the large corporation, better yet, the entire industry (such as oil, automobile, or steel) which has the power to persuade. By the same token we find that efforts to treat the land more carefully come about most effectively through the conservation organization. But Galbraith emphasizes that the fewer the purposes the organization serves, the greater its influence in relation to its members. For instance, the National Rifle Association exercises great power among voters and legislators in the United States. This reflects the narrowness of its purpose—the preservation or legalization of the right to possess and, presumptively, to use lethal weapons. There is now at the level of the National Audubon board of directors some discussion on whether Audubon has not extended its concerns so broadly (the threat of nuclear war and global population growth) that it has become less effective in winning converts to the conservation movement. Some view the Sierra Club as a more effective political lobby than Audubon just because of its somewhat narrower range of purposes.

There is a way, however, for a broad-gauge conservation organization such as Audubon to retain its ability to influence the government, and that is through special consortiums. Thus, when the future of wilderness areas in Utah was coming to a head with hearings in Washington on the issue, Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association persuaded members of the Sierra Club and Audubon to join forces. There was, as a result, an impressive delegation at the hearings. Both Sierra Club and Bridgerland Audubon, as well as other Audubon chapters in Utah, paid for members to go to Washington. Several years ago, there was an even more united and narrow coalition to bring about passage of a "good" Alaska Lands Bill, something

that would not have been possible had each conservation organization acted on its own.

On the whole, however, I believe Galbraith correct—to be really effective in our ability to convert others to our beliefs, we need to have a narrow enough mission so that most of our members will rally to the cause. Is this why today so very few members actually come to meetings, go on field trips, or turn out for special strategy sessions? Perhaps they have no clear picture of Audubon's mission. Maybe one way to remedy this is to publish several times a year in *The Stilt* the statement of "The Audubon Cause." If you have thoughts on the broadness or narrowness of The Audubon Cause, let me know so that I may share your views with others on the National Board.

Allen Stokes

#### NOMINATIONS READY

It is the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following persons be nominated for the coming year:

President — Charles Warner

Vice-President — Bruce Pendrey

Treasurer — Betty Boeker

Director — John Barnes

These nominations will be voted on at the March meeting, so please attend.

#### DO SOMETHING FOR THE GREAT SALT LAKE

As you know, the state plans to do "something" about the rising Great Salt Lake and has hired a consultant to prepare an EIS. We will have an opportunity to comment on the "scoping document" which sets out the issues to be considered. This document will probably have been issued by the time you receive this newsletter. Keep in mind that the rising lake may be used as an excuse to promote consumptive water use by building dams on the Bear River and increasing irrigated acreage. One other suggestion which has received considerable support is pumping water onto the western desert. Other important options have received little consideration. If you want to comment on this document and influence the direction of the state's activities, call me immediately, 752-9102 (evenings) or 750-2474 (weekdays).

— Steve Flint

#### RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

White Winged Crossbill: Seen at Logan City Cemetery, 2-2-85 and Smithfield City Cemetery, 2-2-85, 2-10-85.

Common Redpoll: Alice Stewart, Logan, at feeder.

Rosy Finch: John Barnes, Smithfield, at feeder; Stephen VanderWall, Smithfield, at feeder; also other feeders in area.

Pine Grosbeak: Smithfield City Cemetery, 2-2-85, 2-10-85 and 200 East 400 South, Smithfield, 2-5-85 thru 2-8-85.



## ACID RAIN IN THE WIND RIVER RANGE

Because of the construction of two natural gas "sweetening" plants (which emit sulfur dioxide) in southwestern Wyoming, the possibility of acid rain damage in the Wind River Range has received considerable attention recently. Because of their geology, they have been described as potentially "the most sensitive mountain range to acid rain in the Lower 48." Industry claims most of the acid precipitation is due to sources elsewhere (Utah, Arizona, Los Angeles).

In the last newsletter, a survey of many of our members revealed that 71% believed the BAS should be more active in environmental issues. This is an outstanding opportunity for people to help examine this acid rain issue in more depth and at the same time to get involved in the regulatory process, (as no doubt gas "sweetening" plants will continue to be built throughout the region). For more information, call me at 752-9102 (evenings) and 750-2474 (weekdays).

— Steve Flint

## REPORT ON FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, February 2, Bridgerland Audubon Society sponsored a field trip on Animal Tracks and Tracking. The trip was led by Allen Stokes, and the others participating were Franny and Jeff Yearyea, Reinhart Jockel, Gennie Thomsen, and Dave Burkhard.

We started off at the Logan Library, where Allen explained briefly the tracks characteristic of some of the different animal families. We then went across the street to the lawn of the Logan Tabernacle. There, with the use of an old brown stick, we took turns being four-legged animals, learning how the length of the backbone and the pace of the animal influence the pattern of the animal's tracks. Besides learning a lot from this, we gave the motorists something to wonder about as they drove by.

We spent the rest of the afternoon at Guinevah campground up Logan Canyon. Among the tracks we saw there were deer, red squirrel and weasel. The highlights of the day were the porcupine tracks we saw and followed. They led us first to a dense area of dogwood, willows and other shrubs and bushes, by the river. It was here we discovered what seemed to be the porcupine's den: a well-protected little shelter underneath all the brush. In it we found a great many porcupine droppings. A little further on, we found the porcupine himself, busily feeding up in a willow tree. Allen climbed up the tree to see if the porcupine would come down, but the little fellow had other ideas, and just kept on feeding higher up the tree. We spent the rest of the time watching the porcupine and enjoying our surroundings.

— Dave Burkhard

## CORRECTION

Last month's newsletter contained an article about the slide programs available from the Education Committee. It stated that the seven educational programs were for rent from BAS for \$15. Actually, the slide shows are FOR SALE for \$15. apiece. Sorry about the confusion!

## FORMER AUDUBON PRESIDENT ALAN GRENON HITS THE JACKPOT

Our own Alan Grenon, now doing graduate work at the University of Michigan, took in three Christmas Bird Counts in December. It was at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nebraska that he had the thrill of his life. He writes, "Rick, Mom, David Starr and I spent the day on the refuge. In with seven white-fronted geese we found a larger bird that Rick and I eventually identified as a probable bean goose. It was later verified, and we went back up and saw that it had no marks of captivity. It later made lots of media, including national newspapers and 'All Things Considered' on National Public Radio . . . The poor refuge. Most of the eagles had to alter their behavior and roost somewhere else when hundreds of people showed up the next weekend. This was a first for Nebraska." Good going, Alan! Alan, by the way, is a member of Bridgerland's "200 Club" and made one of the first sightings of the purple grackle in Cache County—right from his room in the East High Rise.

— Allen Stokes

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

For the last three years Mike Tove has worked very hard to make our Christmas count a big success. We have been fortunate to have someone willing to devote the hours required to do a proper job, and we hope that Mike will be available to continue in this tradition. It was decided at the February meeting that we would return the count to a Saturday this year (Dec. 21)—weather permitting. We all agreed that the count should be as high quality and as much fun as possible.

Feelings ran high at the meeting, and we were obviously not all in agreement over the details of how the count should be run. I would like to challenge everyone who has expressed an interest, to help us insure an even better count this year. Make a commitment to help, first of all, by writing down your ideas on how to improve or run the count. Then send them to me—we'll consider them and get back to you. We need input and dedication at all stages of this event to prevent confusion and hard feelings in the future. Send comments to: Chuck Warner, 2045 North 800 East, North Logan, UT 84321, or call 750-1346.

## GRASSLAND INSTITUTE

Denver Audubon Society's 11th annual Grassland Institute will be held June 9-16. This program, held on the Pawnee National Grasslands in Northern Colorado familiarizes participants with the short-grass prairie eco-system and heightens awareness of the subtle interactions of prairie communities. The Institute blends the arts, sciences, and humanities to form the basis for viewing the prairie. Man's role and impacts are also assessed.

If you would like a brochure for further information, please write or call: Ed Butterfield, 17410 E. Nichols Place, Aurora, CO 80016, (303) 690-5019.

## SOMETHING WILD

A reminder to do something wild again this year. For the year now, you can actively participate in helping Utah's game wildlife. When you fill out your Utah Tax forms, be sure to check line 34 to designate all or a portion of your refund contribution to the Wildlife Fund or if you owe taxes check 40 and add your tax deductible donation to the tax you owe. Your money will be used to aid the Game and Fish Department's Nongame Branch help rare and endangered species, identify and protect valuable wildlife habitat, and conduct research on the needs and natural history of our nongame wildlife.

## AUDUBON ENERGY PLAN

Bridgerland A.S. has just received a copy of THE AUDUBON ENERGY PLAN 1984.

This document outlines Audubon's stand and suggestions on energy development and conservation. People sometimes wonder why Audubon is in the energy business. The answers are simple:

Energy use is the major cause of air pollution and acid rain. Energy resources lie under environmentally valuable land. Exploration for and extraction of energy resources are major threats to wilderness and wildlife.

A large-scale synthetic fuels industry threatens to radically alter huge segments of Colorado and Kentucky.

Coal strip-mining damages rural lands.

Pipelines and transmission lines crisscross the landscape.

Oil spills contaminate beaches and threaten coastal ecosystems.

Buildup of nuclear wastes threatens to contaminate the environment.

Increased use of fossil fuels may cause changes in climate.

Dependence on foreign oil may increase risk of war.

Increased use of nuclear power around the world may increase the risk of nuclear war by spreading technology that can be used for nuclear weapons.

If you're interested in looking at either the Plan or at the official Plan summary, contact Chuck Warner (750-1346). I strongly recommend that you read this extremely important document.

## CANYONLANDS DECLARED SUITABLE FOR NUCLEAR DUMP

Despite recent news reports that sites next to Canyonlands National Park are no longer in the running for a nuclear waste dump—DON'T BE FOOLED! The park remains in serious jeopardy, because the much-publicized DOE decision was only a draft form, and thus subject to change. In addition, DOE did not declare both Davis and Lavender Canyons, both close to the park boundary, as suitable for a nuclear dump. WIDESPREAD PUBLIC OPPOSITION IS ESSENTIAL to discourage DOE from changing its mind and naming any of these sites as finalists for its nuclear waste dump.

A nuclear dump would be a huge, mile-square industrial complex, located less than a mile from the Park boundary if

built at Davis Canyon's site. In addition, a nuclear-haul railroad and/or highway would have to be built running to the site. And massive drilling and testing would take place even before the complex would be built. Major impacts from this testing, construction and operation of a nuclear dump would include noise, destruction of visual aesthetics, diminishment of quality of visitor experience, and damage to irreplaceable archeological sites.

What can you do? WRITE NOW! Comments due to DOE by March 20, 1985. Send copies of your letter to each address listed below. SPEAK OUT! Share your opinions with anyone who will listen. Points to make in your arguments, whether literary or verbal, include: opposition to any further consideration of the Canyonlands sites for either testing or dump development, challenge of the DOE's conclusion that these sites are "suitable (citing unacceptable impacts to Canyonlands National Park), and objection to DOE's dismissal of noise and visual impacts as "insignificant" because "only a small number of visitors in remote, hard-to-reach areas will be affected."

### Addresses:

U.S. Dept. of Energy, Comment-EA, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Interior Bldg., C St. at 18 & 19, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

Representative \_\_\_\_\_, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Governor Norm Bangerter, State Capitol, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

FOR A COPY OF THE DAVIS OR LAVENDER CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, call 800-858-1600. FOR MORE INFO WRITE: Don't Waste Utah Campaign, Box 1563, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 (801-532-4796).

