



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 14, No. 10

June 1986

JUNE MEETINGS

Thursday, June 5 — 7:30 pm in Public Meeting room of the Logan City offices. Special showing of "Condor," the National Audubon Special which will be shown later on PBS. Narrated by Robert Redford, "Condor" is a study of this endangered species and the work being done to try to save this great bird.

Wednesday, June 18 — 7:30 pm in Conference Room #1 of the Logan City offices. BAS Planning meeting.

UNMASKING A MYSTERY OF EXTINCTION

A few years ago the black-footed ferret was extinct. At least that's what scientists suspected. Then, in 1981, a rancher's dog tangled with one of the elusive little predators in Wyoming's wilderness, and a whole colony was discovered.

Now, through stunning photography, this Audubon special brings to you the precarious life of the black-footed ferret. A classic story of North American wildlife desperately struggling to defy extinction.

World of Audubon Special, June 5, 9:05 pm eastern on SuperStation WTBS. Also on June 17, 10:20 pm eastern, June 22, 1:05 pm eastern and June 29, 6:05 pm eastern.

*The song of canaries
Never varies,
And when they're moulting
They're pretty revolting.*

— Ogden Nash

BLM HEARINGS

The BLM held public hearings on its wilderness recommendations on May 14 in Logan. About 125 people attended, and comments ran about two to one in favor of designating more wilderness than BLM's 1.9 million acre proposal. Many Auduboners spoke at the meeting, and Bridgerland Audubon made a statement as well.

Our position on BLM wilderness has been to seek as much improvement in the existing environmental impact statement (EIS) as possible. There are two aspects to this. First, getting more acreage added to the BLM's final proposal. Second, urging the BLM to make a stronger case for the 1.9 million acres it does propose, so that they are more likely to actually become wilderness. Towards these ends our statement made the following points: A rationale for decisions should be presented, primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities should be considered as stated in the Wilderness Act, the "Although unlikely . . ." should be eliminated from the preface of the EIS, "Potential" mineral reserves are not the same as proven reserves, and wildlife considerations which centered only around game and endangered species should be expanded to include the many other species found on these lands.

BLM will accept written comments on its EIS until August 15. The address is: BLM Utah State Offices (Wilderness Studies)/ 324 South State St./ Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303.

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

June 7, Saturday — Oxford Slough, National Wildlife Refuge.

Whooping crane, sandhills, many marsh birds readily observable from side roads and railroad right-of-way. The refuge is 15 miles north of Preston. Leave at 7:30 am from southwest corner of Fred Meyer parking lot. Return by early afternoon. Bring lunch and water.

June 9, Monday — Group hike planned by the Conservation and Education Committees of BAS. A "working field trip" consisting of a hike of the Riverside Nature Trail to determine points of interest to write about in the upcoming trail guide. Anyone who would like to help with this trail guide is encouraged to join the hike. Leave from Mike Jablonski's house (55 East 300 North in Logan) at 6 pm. For more information call Mike at 753-6964.

June 15, Saturday — Hyde Park Road and into Benson/Smithfield area. Rails, yellow-throat warbler, marsh wrens, savannah and vesper sparrows and many birds of field and wetlands. Leave at 7:30 am from southwest corner of Fred Meyer parking lot. Return by noon.

June 21, Saturday — Jensen Historical Farm & Wellsville Reservoir. Nancy Warner will show us her vegetable garden of the 1890's and how they handled the farm pests of that era. Then on to Wellsville Reservoir nearby for good birding. Leave at 8 am from in front of Old Logan Library at 1st North and 1st East. Return by noon.

June 25, Wednesday — Evensong in Green Canyon. Listen to the evening songs of hermit and Swainson's thrushes, black-headed grosbeak, and then, just as it starts to darken, the seldom-seen poorwill. Leave at 7 pm from the University Radio Tower at 12th East and 7th North. Return by 10 pm.

June 28, Saturday — Wildflowers of the Wellsvilles. An easy walk along dirt road and trail amongst the mountain maples and aspen. Profusion of wildflowers and some birding as well. Leave at 8 am from Old Logan Library at 1st East and 1st North. Take lunch. Return by early afternoon.

July 10, Thursday — Evening canoe trip on Cutler Reservoir. An easy paddle into a nesting colony of ibis, egrets and night herons. Enjoy the evening sounds. Leave at 6 pm from Old Logan Library. Wear tennis shoes, and bring a jacket and hat. Very few, if any, mosquitoes. ADVANCE RESERVATIONS, call 752-7345. Cost will be \$3.50 per person for those not bringing their own canoes. Return to Logan by 9:30 pm.

July 19, Saturday — Wildflowers of Tony Grove Lake. Leave 8 am from University Radio Tower. Take lunch, bird glasses. We will walk around the lake using the new Audubon nature trail guide. Return variable. Some may wish to hike into White Pine Lake or climb Mt. Naomi in the afternoon.

July 26, Saturday — Limber Pine Trail. Hike the 3-mile loop trail to the venerable limber pine, using the new Audubon nature trail guide. Go through subalpine fir and aspen forests, mountain mahogany and limber pines. See red squirrel and badger activity. Then drive to Tony Grove Ranger Station for supper and early evening birding at campground. Great place for mountain songbirds

including Calliope hummingbird, olive-sided flycatcher, thrushes, warblers. Leave at 3 pm from University Radio Tower at 12th East and 7th North. Take supper and water and mosquito repellent. Easy walking. Return by 9 pm.

August 2, Saturday — Geology of Cache Valley. The ever-popular Dave Liddell will take us up Green Canyon to the Temple Quarry to look for fossils and take us to the very shoreline of the Pacific Ocean as it was 400 million years ago. Then to the Logan Golf Course Rest Area to overlook the valley to see traces of the ancient Lake Bonneville; and finally to Dry Lake for further fossil hunting. Leave 8 am from University Radio Tower at 12th East and 7th North. Modest amounts of easy walking. Return by 1 pm.

August 9, Saturday — Canoe Trip on the Little Bear River. This is an easy trip going down Spring Creek (off Mendon Road) through a heronry and beaver activity amongst giant willows, then along giant cattail and bulrush stands. Leave at 4:30 pm from Old Logan Library. Return by 9:30 pm. Advance reservations required. Bring water and supper. \$3.50 charge for those without canoes. Call 752-9538 after August 3.

August 14, Thursday — Evening flight of ibis in valley. Watch several thousand white-faced ibis as they arrive in flock after flock at their roost just north of Valley View Highway near the boat landing. Also see flights of gulls, crows, cranes, and pelicans. Leave at 7 pm from Old Logan Library at 1st North and 1st East. Return by 9 pm. All observations will be from the roadside. Bring binoculars.

August 22/23, Friday/Saturday — Whooping cranes at Gray's Lake Wildlife Refuge, Idaho. A spectacular marsh where several thousand sandhill cranes nest and where eggs of the rare whooping crane are hatched and reared by foster sandhill cranes. Many other water birds as well. Camp at Forest Service campground nearby. On return stop at historic places along old Oregon Trail at Soda Springs. This is a 100 mile drive from Logan. Leave, if possible, at 5 pm from southwest corner of Fred Meyer parking lot and return by about Saturday noon. Take food and camping gear and spotting scopes if available. Call 752-2702 for carpooling arrangements.

September 6, Saturday — Kokanee Salmon Spawning. These brilliant red salmon swim up the Little Bear River above Porcupine Reservoir in early September to spawn in shallow water. Watch these fish work their way through rapids and defend their territories within 10 feet of the viewers on the bank. Leave at 4 pm from Old Logan Library at 1st North and 1st East. Return by 8 pm. Bring supper and water. About 20 mile drive south of Logan.

September 27, Saturday — Hawk Migration on the Wellsvilles. With favorable weather it is possible to see 200 hawks and eagles flying south along the ridge of the Wellsvilles. This is a 4-mile 4,000 foot vertical hike to reach the observation point. The trail goes through stands of large aspen, then up into fir before reaching the ridge. This is a good trail. Count on about 3 hours for the average person. The view from on top into both Cache and Salt Lake valleys is spectacular and worth the trip alone. Leave at 7:30 am from Old Logan Library and return by 5 pm. Bring water, lunch, windbreak.

LES LINE REMEMBERS OUR CHAPTER

Five years ago Les Line, Editor of *Audubon Magazine*, visited Logan and spoke at our annual dinner. He is now writing a story about walking sticks. He remembers eating at a restaurant where there were walking sticks for sale (i.e. Center Street Restaurant). So now Al Stokes has sent Les three of these walking sticks, which may appear in some future issue of *Audubon*. Fame comes to Cache Valley!

WANTED: DENSE BREEDING COLONIES OF LAZULI BUNTINGS

For a study on the breeding biology of lazuli buntings, we need to locate dense populations. Please write or call with information on breeding densities: Ann Baker, Zoology Dept., CSU, Fort Collins, CO 80523 - (303) 491-5307 or (303) 482-1719.

6,800 YEARS AGO

Evidence of an Indian settlement that dates back 6800 years was found in southwest Wyoming during construction of Exxon's \$750 million Shute Creek gas processing plant (HCN, 2/18/85). Archeologists uncovered 500 fire pit and food storage areas, as well as two female skeletons carbon-dated to be 1500 years old says Dave Vleck, Bureau of Land Management archeologist. Vleck says the site may have been a semi-permanent camp for nomadic hunter-gathers. The skeletons found will be reburied with the help of the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribal Councils and a representative sample of the artifacts will be displayed in the County museum in Kemmerer, Wyoming, and the Museum of Mountainmen in Pinedale, Wyoming. Consulting archeologists will choose between Western Wyoming College and the University of Wyoming in Rock Springs for a permanent display of the artifacts.

— from *High Country News*

RIGHTING A WRONG

The *Denver Post* reports that students from Mountain Open High School and Tanglewood Open High School spent part of April in the Navajo Nation trying to repair some of the damage done by Col. Kit Carson in 1864. Carson's troops invaded Arizona's Canyon de Chelly that year, destroying fruit trees and uprooting Navajo families. The students will plant 2,000 peach, plum and apple trees donated by Brigham Young University. Despite the free trees, they were \$4,000 short of their financial needs in early April. Those wishing to help, or desiring information, can write: Principal Arnold Langberg, Mountain Open H.S., 5050 S. Highway 73, Evergreen, CO 80439.

*The toucan's profile is prognathous,
Its person is a thing of bathos.
If even I can tell a toucan
I'm reasonably sure that you can.*

— Ogden Nash

CONSERVATION NOTES

- The BLM has begun releasing Resource Management Plans for its Resource Areas in Utah. These are the basic management plans that will guide activities on vast acreages of BLM land in Utah (much more than wilderness areas). If you are familiar with a particular BLM Resource Area you would probably find these documents interesting, and your comments would be particularly valuable.
- Several people, including Auduboner John Barnes, have recently expressed concern over the weed spraying program in Cache County and its impact on wildlife. If you have similar concerns or information, give John Barnes (563-3910) or Bruce Pendery (753-1628) a call.
- A bill proposing a 25 - 30,000 acre wildlife refuge on Provo Bay has been introduced into Congress by Representative James Hansen. The groundwork for this effort has been laid by the Salt Lake City Chapter's Jim Coyner, and it needs our support to succeed. Funding would not be through the deficit-ridden General Fund, so the bill has many supporters. Support a fine Audubon effort: Write Representative Hansen c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.
- Thanks to comments by conservationists (including BAS), the Mountain View Ranger District will prepare an environmental assessment for its proposed Gilbert Creek Timber Sale (alias Bull Park). This area is very important elk and moose habitat, and is also used by goshawk, pine marten, lynx, black deer, and an occasional wolverine. The assessment will be available this summer. The address is: Rod Howard/ Mt. View Ranger District/ Box 129/ Mt. View, WY 82939.
- BAS has registered its opposition to the proposed Mill Creek Dam on Blacksmith Fork. Our primary reasons for opposing the project are that it would destroy a Class 1 fishery, and its cost benefit ratio is marginal (or possibly even negative if more realistic alfalfa yield figures are used). Write your state legislators and the Department of Natural Resources and Division of Water Resources to register personal opposition to this or other Bear River water projects.
- BAS will begin an effort to ensure land use planning is given more consideration in Cache County this summer. Call Bruce Pendery (753-1628) if you would like to help.

UTAH WILDFLOWER HOTLINE

What's blooming? Where? When? For a current report on Utah wildflower blossoming and autumn color displays — April 1 to October 31, call the UTAH WILDFLOWER HOTLINE at 801-581-4969.

WELCOME

New members: C. T. Brown, Jeff Smith, Sherry L. Barker, E.A. Bean, C. Eckhardt, L.R. Firstone, Dean Liechty, Lewis L. Parker. Renewals: R.M.R. Holdredge, Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Pekins, R.J. Shaw, Yvonne Stokes, Kirk Williams.

ACID RAIN

There have been two breakthroughs on acid rain in the last few months, with a third in the works.

One: The National Academy of Science has released its third study on acid rain. The study confirms the linkage between pollution and acid rain, with sulfur emissions being a prime cause of environmental damage. Utility companies can no longer argue that further study is necessary to determine the cause of acid rain.

Two. President Reagan has finally acknowledged that acid rain is caused by pollution. He said this in March during his conference with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney. Mr. Reagan has previously passed the buck on this issue, always pushing for further study rather than action.

Three. A major bill to control pollution, and thus reduce acid rain, is before the House. This bill, HR 4567, calls for the following:

- reduction of nationwide sulfur dioxide emissions by 11 million tons by 1997.
- reduction of nitrogen oxides emissions from power plants by 2.5 million tons by 1997.
- reduction of nitrogen oxide pollution from cars and trucks.

This bill has a good chance of making it through Congress. Over 150 House members have endorsed it. The bill has widespread appeal, as it calls for pollution control in the 48 lower states (not just the 31 east of the Mississippi), will allow state governments flexibility in planning for pollution control, and incorporates the "polluter pays principle" (i.e. the major costs will fall on the big polluting states).

As of this writing, Congressman Jim Hansen has not endorsed this bill. If you would like to have an acid rain bill passed this year, please write to him and ask for his support of HR 4567.

— Mike Jablonski

MYTHBUSTERS

A new booklet, *Mythbusters #1: Demand/Forecasting* takes aim at electric utility forecasting and such myths as the belief that the only way to meet an increasing need for electricity is to invest in more coal and nuclear power plants. This is the first in a series of quarterly mythbusters the Safe Energy Communication Council says it has created to respond to the multimillion-dollar advertising campaigns of industry advocates, such as the U.S. Committee for Energy Awareness. To receive a free copy of each quarterly mythbusters analysis, write the *Safe Energy Communication Council*, 1609 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20009 (202/483-8491).

I once had a sparrow alight upon my shoulder for a moment while I was hoeing in a village garden, and I felt that I was more distinguished by that circumstance than I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn.

— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

ANOTHER CONCEPT OF ANIMALS

"We need another and wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creatures through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth."

— Henry Beston

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER NATURALIST?

The Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists are looking for people who love nature and enjoy interpreting it to others. The Volunteer Naturalists are community volunteers who, as a group, contract with the United States Forest Service to conduct environmental education activities in the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area for school children and for the general public. Prospective volunteers are selected by personal interview and are required to complete a 14-week training class on the natural history of the area. The 1986 class will begin in early September. To obtain further information and an application form, please contact Barbara Welsh at 297-2614 or June Hirsch at 745-2721.

CADASTRAL SURVEY

lines
fences
roads
straight across
the northern plains

jogs
because the world
is round
we treat it
as if it is
flat.

— Thad Box
copyright 1983

RAPIST

power
between his legs
defiles
virgin white
energy
stored
for millenia
drives
his pistons
smooth
soft beauty
ripped
pounded
dirtied
makes
him feel a man
without his
snowmobile
he is just
another
meat cutter.

— *Thad Box*
copyright 1983

LEARNED HELPLESSNESS

God, sex, love
strip mining
missiles and hostages
all have meaning
that I would like to
set forever
in poetry.
I am cramped
by my own meager talents
dampened
by what I have been
taught.

— *Thad Box*
copyright 1983

* * * * *

Behold the duck,
It does not cluck.
A cluck it lacks.
It quacks.
It is specially fond
Of a puddle or pond.
When it dines or sups,
It bottoms ups.

— *Ogden Nash*

National Audubon Society

CHARTER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

How Do I Join?

(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)
- Please bill me Check enclosed

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Nonprofit Organization
 BULK RATE
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 104
 Logan, Utah

Mac Coover
 275 W. 1050 N.,
 Logan UT 84321

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in the Council Room of the new Logan City Building, 255 North Main. Meetings start at 7:30 pm.

President

Ron Rye, 753-6077 (home)

752-2580 (office)

Vice-President

Tom Gordon, 752-6561

Secretary

Jillyn Smith, 750-1359

Treasurer

Betty Boeker, 752-8092

Conservation

Bruce Pendery, 753-1628

Education

Tom Cronkite, 752-0518

Membership

Al Stokes, 752-2702

Field Trips

Al Stokes, 752-2702

Newsletter

Charlotte Wright, 753-8072

Circulation

Liz Keller, 753-3294

Publicity

John Wise, 245-4127

Hospitality

Wendell Anderson, 752-1827

Board of Directors

Terry Barnes, 563-3910

John Barnes, 563-3910

Peter Landress, 752-7692

Jon Wrath, 752-0743

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Still*, as well as to *Audubon* magazine.

The editor of *The Still* invites submissions of any kind, due on the 18th of each month. Send to Box 3501 / Logan, UT 84321.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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

Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly