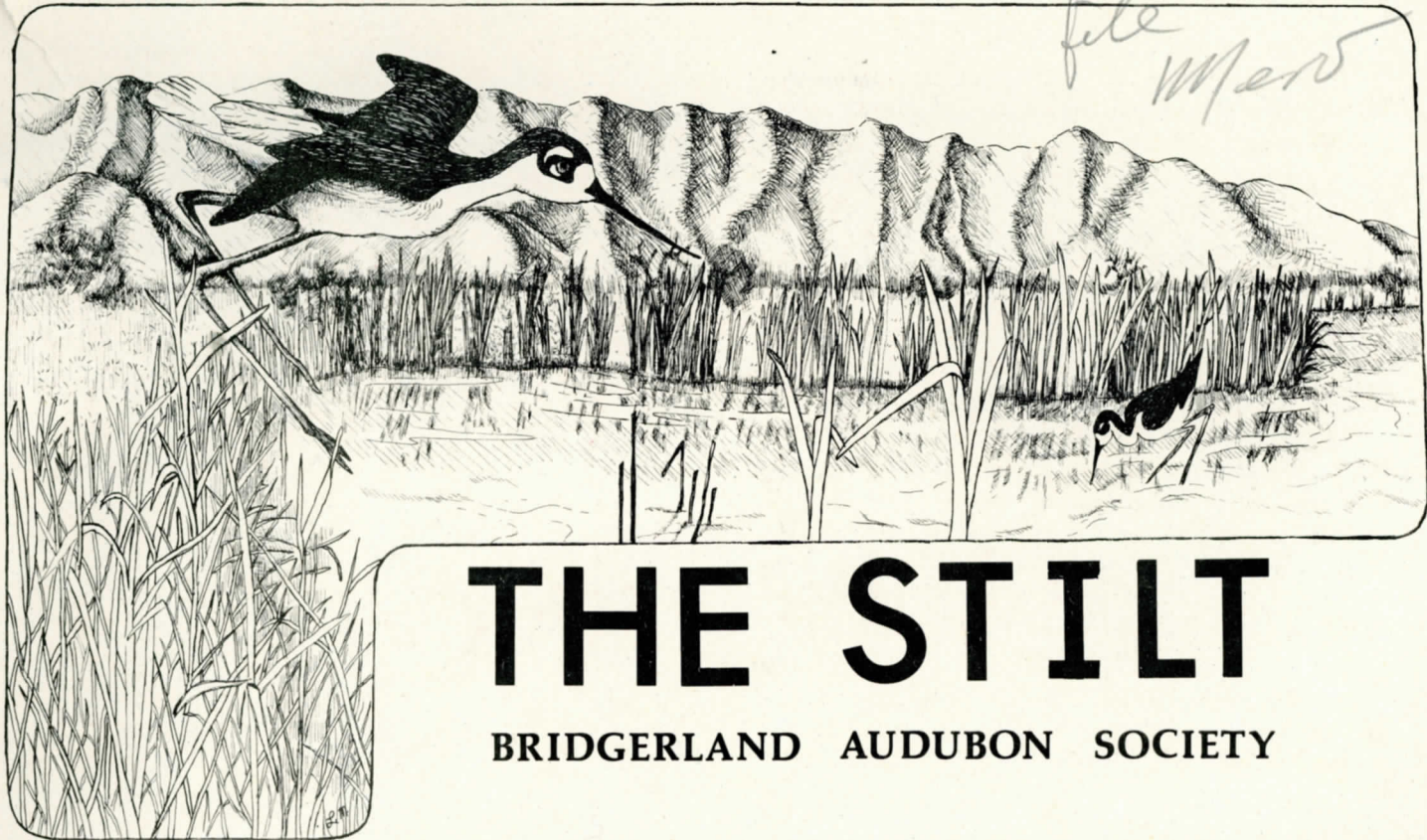


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THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 14, No. 6

February 1986

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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	

LOCAL EVENTS

4 Feb. (Tues): BAS Annual Planning Meeting — 7 pm in room 112B of the Biology/Natural Resources building on the USU campus. JOIN US!

6 Feb. (Thurs): Sierra Club — Avalanche forecasting will be discussed at 7 pm in the student center, room 347. Learn how to avoid trouble in the backcountry by understanding how avalanches occur.

8 Feb. (Sat): Sierra Club — Avalanche workshop. Practice with Peeps finders, learn rescue and avalanche avoidance techniques. For time and place, contact the Sierra Club.

11 Feb. (Tues): Conservation Committee — 7:30 pm, room 112B of the Natural Resources/Biology building on the USU campus. Everyone is welcome. Please support this most urgent aspect of Audubon.

13 Feb. (Thurs): BAS Monthly Meeting — 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the new Logan City Library (250 N. Main). David Madsen, Utah State Archeologist, will speak on the topic of Archeological Resources and Vandalism in Southern Utah. Also, election of new officers will take place at this meeting. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION.

15 Feb. (Sat): BAS Field Trip — 5 pm, meet at the home of David and Martha Balph (1344 Canyon Road). BE PROMPT. We will be observing deer behavior at a feeding station. Dave Balph will point out various aspects of aggressive behavior amongst the deer as they crowd around several pans of feed placed along the opposite bank of the Logan River. Watch the reaction of feeding deer as newcomers try to win a place at the feed; see how fawns cope; witness the role the mother plays in helping her young gain access to food. Dave is an expert in feeding strategies of animals. Observations will be from indoors, so no special footgear or warm clothing is needed. Trip will end by 6 pm.

19 Feb. (Wed): BAS Education Meeting — 7:30 pm in NRB 112B on USU campus. Call Nancy Warner for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1 Mar. (Sat): BAS Field Trip — SIGNS OF SPRING IN CACHE VALLEY. Leave at 1:30 pm from the southwest corner of the Fred Meyer store parking lot. This trip will be out in the valley to observe early spring arrivals, including waterfowl, sandhill crane, blackbird, and song sparrows. Hopefully, horned owls and wolf spiders will make a surprise appearance, too. There won't be much walking; just a lot of looking. A good family outing.

8 Mar. (Sat): Sierra Club — Spring skiing in Logan Canyon or the Wellsvilles. Call Sierra Club for details.

22 Mar. (Sat): Sierra Club — Trip to the Planetarium, Natural History Museum, and other places in Salt Lake City. Call Sierra Club for details.

4 Apr. (Fri): BAS Annual Banquet — For the fifth consecutive year, members and friends of BAS will gather for dinner, conversation, and appreciation for the individual or group that will be receiving the Conservation Award. This year the banquet will be at the Cottage Restaurant. In past years we have been fortunate to have speakers such as Les Line and Bob Turner from National Audubon, author and conservationist Mardie Murie, and Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association. This year's banquet will feature another fine speaker—David Stanley, Assistant Folk Arts Coordinator at the Utah Arts Council. He will give a slide presentation entitled "Folklore and History of Utah's National Parks." Stanley will illustrate how Utah's national parks provide a rich source of legends and tall tales, providing us with a commentary on different attitudes toward nature. Make plans to join us for the BAS Annual Banquet this year. For more information and reservations, please call Chuck or Nancy Warner at 752-7345 in the evening or on weekends.

EDITOR'S NOTES

This month, Al Stokes handed me a stack of poetry by Thad Box, Dean of the College of Natural Resources. I was unaware that Dr. Box was a poet, and was pleasantly surprised to read the thoughtful, impressive poems. With Thad Box's permission, I'll put a poem or two in each of the next few issues of *The Still*. Please note that these poems are copyrighted, and therefore cannot be used without the author's permission. Thanks to Al, and to Thad, for sharing.

STEWARDSHIP

In the beginning
God made heaven and earth
heaven he kept a mystery
land he trusted to his creatures
I hope God has done better
with Heaven.

"Stewardship" is my favorite, because I like the twist of thought at the end. "Requiem for a Tree," which follows, has the same sort of theme.

REQUIEM FOR A TREE

Newspaper
Toilet paper
and paper plates
Rusty cans
metal pans
Milk cartons
Truck tires
and disposable crates

A carpenter died on a wooden cross
the death of a tree was humanity's loss

Corporate profits and free enterprise
Will keep us moral, slender, and wise

A tree grows
Rubbish flows

Wood pulp, cash flow, and the souls of men
Mingle as a million trees die for our sin.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

President — Ron Rye. Ron grew up in Lansing, Michigan, where he was an active member of Audubon and a keen birder. He received his BS degree in Wildlife management at Michigan State, and his MS in Wildlife at Utah State. He is now a senior member of the Ecosystems Research Institute, an environmental consulting firm in Logan. Ron is a member of the Bridgerland Audubon 200 Club, with 208 local species to his credit.

Vice-President — Tom Gordon. Tom is a technical writer and editor for the Utah State Space Center. As an undergraduate, he majored in zoology at Berkeley, and he has graduate degrees in both American Studies and English Literature. He has a firm conviction that we have a responsibility to the earth and must do everything possible to pass it on to future generations in good condition.

Secretary — Jillyn Smith. Jill has degrees in biology and zoology from Arizona State, and in journalism from the University of Arizona. A native of Escalante, she has been working in Information Services at Utah State since her arrival here a year ago. She volunteered for the position of secretary—bless her soul!

Treasurer — Betty Boeker. Betty has been active in the Bridgerland chapter since her arrival here in 1975. Betty has been treasurer for many years, and has kept fine records despite the transgressions of Al Stokes (and perhaps a few others!) with record-keeping. Besides her responsibilities as treasurer, Betty has played a sterling role as lobbyist, and has retained an active role in local issues as well.

3-Year Council Member — John Wraith. John has been an active participant at meetings and at the information table on campus. He will start on his PhD program in soil physics this year, so we can look forward to having him here for a few years.

THANK YOU

To the Bridgerland Audubon Society: Thanks for your organization's support of \$100 for a productive cause. Please keep us informed and updated on the Bear River.

— Intermountain Water Alliance

SPRING "ED VENTURES" EXPLORE CANYON COUNTRY OF S.E. UTAH

Spring comes early to the Canyon Country. And what a better way to explore this fascinating land of red rock spires, arches, ancient cultures, and unique desert plants and animals than with those that really KNOW it. The non-profit Canyonlands Field Institute of Moab, Utah announces its spring series of "ED Venture" seminars that feature natural and cultural history of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and surrounding wild country. CFI's programs also include workshops on Sandstone Climbing and River Rescue and Safety; Naturalist-guided backpacking trips can be arranged for one or more persons.

April ED Ventures include: CANYON COUNTRY PHOTOGRAPHY with noted landscape photographer, Tom Till; BIRDS OF THE CANYONLANDS; SANDSTONE CLIMBING WORKSHOP (beginner); RIVER RESCUE AND SAFETY WORKSHOP; and ECOLOGY OF DESERT WATERWAYS. Scheduled for May are: RIVER RESCUE AND SAFETY; DISCOVERING NATURE WITH YOUR CHILDREN; GEOLOGY OF THE STANDING UP COUNTRY and DESERT WILDFLOWERS. A three day float trip on the San Juan River in early June will highlight ANASAZI CULTURE and ROCK ART.

Canyonlands ED Ventures are designed for adults and families and because they are mostly scheduled on weekends, are easily accessible to those in the Four Corners states. Congenial guest instructors accompany each ED Venture that usually involves day excursions from the Moab area; some trips explore the rivers, canyons and mountains using jeep, rafting or horse outfitter services. Group size is limited and credit is available for many of the seminars. For more information, contact Canyonlands Field Institute, Box 68-PR, Moab, UT 84532 or call 801-259-7750.

BURR TRAIL UPDATE

On Dec. 13, the Conference Committee on Appropriations decided to appropriate \$8.1 million for improving the Burr Trail—contingent upon the passage of authorizing legislation by the U.S. Congress. This means that while Congress has set aside \$8.1 million for improving the Burr Trail, the money cannot be spent unless Congress passes additional legislation specifically

authorizing its expenditure. In 1986, we will probably see one or more bills authorizing improvement (or possibly preservation) of the Burr Trail introduced into the appropriate House or Senate Committees. Anyone who has pictures, engineering expertise, money or time to help—please call National Parks and Conservation Association's Rocky Mountain Regional Representative at 532-4796.

ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARD

We are currently accepting nominations for this year's Conservation Award which will again be presented at the Annual Banquet. If you have a suggestion for us to consider, please write to Chuck Warner/Bridgerland Audubon Society/PO Box 3501/ Logan, UT 84321.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This year's Audubon Christmas bird count was enjoyed by 37 observers. The count circle ranges from Smithfield to Providence and Malibu Campground to Cutler Marsh. The observers were split into 10 groups that covered their areas from as early as 4:30 am to as late as 6:00 pm.

The harsh winds in December apparently took their toll on the birds. Only 75 species were observed. When the data of the last 10 years are tabulated, some interesting observations can be made.

The total of 75 species seen was the second lowest in 10 years. Waterfowl numbers were noticeably lower, with several species (Canada Goose, Northern Shoveler and Gadwell) at 10-year lows. This correlates with the Federal Waterfowl Management officials observations of low nesting success in Northern breeding grounds.

Northern Harriers and American Kestrels were at 10-year lows, while Rough-legged Hawks were at 10-year highs. An interesting observation was approximately 20 Rough-legged Hawks in about 20 acres around the Logan Airport, apparently feeding on an abundance of mice. No Grouse, Chucker or Gray Partridge were observed this year.

A Pygmy Owl observed at close range by Allen Christensen was an exciting find. Red-shafted Flickers were low. Three Scrub Jays were seen by Chuck and Nancy Warner in Green Canyon. This was only the third time in 10 years. Black-billed Magpies were in good numbers with 556. Nuthatches and Kinglets were in very low numbers or absent completely. Starlings were above average at 7234. House Sparrows, another introduced bird, was at a 10-year high of 2924. Snow Buntings are a rare bird, but six were seen at Logan Sewage Lagoons. Two Rosy Finches were observed by Richard Head at his feeders. For only the second time in 10 years, Common Redpolls were counted: Eric Zurcher saw two along the Logan River.

Thanks to those who participated, especially to Alice and Jim for opening their home for the potluck dinner and compilation session. We will count again next year. If you haven't participated, plan to join us in 1986.

— Keith Archibald

**WILD & SCENIC RIVERS
ACTION COMMITTEE**

Intermountain Water Alliance
168 W 500 N SLC UT 84103
(801) 531-7330

10 January 1986

Dear Friends:

The time is at hand when your letters in support of wild and scenic river designation for Westwater, Ruby and Horsethief Canyons of the Colorado River and for the other segments of the 1979 Colorado/Lower Dolores study are really needed. PLEASE WRITE A LETTER TODAY.

Last Tuesday a few of us from the Intermountain Water Alliance and the Utah Guides and Outfitters met briefly with Congressmen Nielson and Hansen and with Nielson's staff to explain the need for legislation this year. They were unaware that a major national bipartisan effort is underway to enact preservation bills for a number of rivers, and that Utah has an opportunity to take advantage of this moment to make the Colorado our first wild and scenic river.

Our congressmen are interested, but they will not act unless they see public support for a bill.

We are making this special appeal to you because letters to Hansen and Nielson at this moment will create the kind of attention we need.

IN YOUR LETTER TO CONGRESSMEN HANSEN AND NIELSON:

1. Describe the unique recreational and natural qualities of Westwater, Ruby and Horsethief Canyons in your own words. If you have been on river trips in the area, describe your most memorable experiences.
2. Explain that the study river protection for the Colorado/Lower Dolores river segments will be lost in less than three years unless Congress acts.
3. Point out the importance of the area to Utah tourism. In 1985 alone, the Bureau of Land Management recorded nearly 12,000 passenger-days of river use in the permit season (April-October).
4. Explain the lack of conflicts with a wild and scenic designation, as most all the land along the river is federal with only a few private inholdings (none in Westwater Canyon proper).

Please send a copy of your letter to Congressman Bruce Vento. (Address follows.) Also, please provide a copy to IWA.

Congressman Jim Hansen	U.S. House of Representatives
Congressman Howard Nielson	Washington, D.C. 20515
Congressman David Monson	" "
Congressman Bruce Vento	" "

— from INTERMOUNTAIN WATER ALLIANCE
168 W. 500 N./ SLC, UT 84103

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SOUGHT FOR
CANYONLANDS FIELD INSTITUTE**

Canyonlands Field Institute, a young, non-profit, outdoor education organization offers a challenge to a courageous, creative wizard. If you can conjure money, manage people, work magic with planning and grant writing and are bewitched by "canyon country fever," APPLY. Salary dependent upon fundraising success. Write: Canyonlands Field Institute, Box 68, Moab, UT 84532.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Welcome to new Audubon members:

Beatrice Berle, Marty Judd, Jane O'Keefe, Russ Rasmussen, Ed Sparks, Gary Edge, Tawna Fencil, Drew Smith, R.B. Weiser, Nancy Larsen, Stuart Richards, and Jeff Smith.

Thanks to Renewing Members:

John Beyers, John Carlisle, Jeanne Chambers, Windsor Copey, Edna Cornia, John Erlacher, Eileen Fesco, Cindy Haggas, Wm. Hampton, Art Holmgren, Margaret Maughan, Betsy Neely, Drew Peterson, Don Phillips, Griff Roberts Family, Sandy Romesburg, Melanie Shaw, Scott Smith, John Tautin, Twain Tippetts, and Fred Wagner.

TRACKS ARE CLUES

Animal tracks, according to Dorcas Miller in *Track Finder*, are only clues. On Saturday, January 11, Allen Stokes taught a group of would-be trackers how to examine those clues left in the snow to determine the identity of the animal that made them. Examining animal tracks is an ideal chilly Saturday afternoon activity in Logan, where both snow and tracks abound.

As a newcomer to Logan, I was pleased to hear Allen say that you don't have to leave your own backyard to develop your track identification skills. True to his word, Allen began our afternoon adventure right in his own backyard. As soon as we had isolated a set of tracks, we began applying some of the terms we learned during our briefing. We looked carefully at each print, the straddle or width of the track, and also at the stride or distance between prints. Before long we were able, with careful prodding from Allen, to identify magpie, rabbit, weasel, and pheasant tracks. We even identified tracks from the clandestine visits of a neighborhood cat that can't stop slipping over the back fence to gaze wistfully at the birdfeeders located beyond its reach.

Allen then decided it was time to broaden our horizons. As we followed him down the street, our new-found confidence began to waver when we couldn't distinguish between front and hind paw prints in a set of tracks left by a reluctant Chesapeake Bay retriever. After an extended discussion of leap, stride and gait and some refereeing by Allen, we came to a consensus and moved on up the hill to the canal by the golf course.

The snow covering the frozen canal yielded tracks and scat that indicated deer. We also spotted a clump of fur that Cindy from Hardware Ranch identified as elk chest hair. A few in the group mentioned recent morning elk sightings in the area.

As we continued along the canal, we observed small tracks that began at the canal and ended at a tree. As if to confirm our suspicions, a red squirrel began dropping the remains of his lunch from his perch high above us. Through the trees we spotted a herd of deer, no doubt heading home. The deer sighting prompted a discussion of "stotting," the deer's curious habit of bounding into the air when startled. We took a closer look at the deer tracks to distinguish pattern differences between a usual gait and "stotting."

As we headed back along the canal, Allen made an offer most of the group couldn't refuse. He suggested a ride out to North Logan to view a pair of great-horned owls that were nesting in a tree within a few yards of the Landeens' house. The owls were impressive to say the least, though they did not return our admiration. After looking at them from every angle possible, we went in search of what proved to be an elusive porcupine despite the fresh tracks. Still, we all agreed that Allen Stokes can do and see more in three hours than the rest of us can manage in a whole day.

I suggest that you invest a little time and \$1.50 in the booklet, *Track Finder*. Prowl around your backyard. See if you can identify who has been visiting you this winter. No doubt, you'll find some clues.

— Elizabeth Walker

LIBRARY BOOKS

The Logan Library is six books richer because of the Bridgerland Audubon Society. A list of the books donated by BAS (though some are still on order and have not been received yet):

Children's Books — Joseph Cornell, *Sharing Nature with Children*; Whitley Strieber, *Wolf of Shadows*; and Terry Tempest Williams, *Between Cattails*.

Adult's Books — Joan E. Lentz, *Birdwatching: A Guide for Beginners*; Stephen W. Kress, *The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds*; and James MacMahon, *Deserts*.

The BAS Book Committee had a great time selecting these volumes, so don't hesitate to check them out. Also, if you have suggestions for next year's selections, get in touch with Nancy Warner or Charlotte Wright.

NEW RECORD FOR WHOOPERS WINTERING IN TEXAS

All 16 of the young whooping cranes banded in Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada made the southward migration safely to the Texas Gulf Coast. This is a new record for a season's crop of young birds since tabulation commenced in 1938. A total of 94 birds have been counted on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and nearby islands. This is ten more than last year. Dr. Roderick Drewien reported that the Rocky Mountain whooper fall staging activities this year were about two weeks earlier than normal. Two birds in the experimental flock decided to migrate separately this fall (1985) by taking a route east of the Rockies. These birds summered in Wyoming then appeared near Hudson, Colorado on September 10 and stayed the rest of the month. As soon as this year's final population figures are established, we will publish a supplement newsletter with the information.

As of late December, Dr. Drewien had located 24 adults and four juvenile foster-parent reared whoopers in New Mexico. But he believes that more than 30 are alive.

— from *Grus Americana*, newsletter of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association

BINOCS NEED CLEANING OR REPAIRING?

Al Stokes has found the Bushnell company to be highly reliable, quick, and inexpensive for binocular repair. Send to: Bushnell and Company/ 627 Bushnell Square/ 2828 East Foothill Drive/ Pasadena, CA 91107.

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in Room 202 in the USU Food and Nutrition Building at 7th North and 12th East.

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Conservation
- Education
- Membership
- Field Trips
- Newsletter
- Circulation
- Publicity
- Hospitality
- Board of Directors

- Chuck Warner, 752-7345
- Bruce Pendery, 753-1628
- Betty Boeker, 752-8092
- Steve Flint
- Nancy Warner, 752-7345
- Allen Stokes, 752-2702
- Charlotte Wright, 753-8072
- Liz Keller, 753-3294
- Alice Stewart
- Wendell Anderson, 752-1827
- Terry Barnes, 563-3910
- Jim Gessaman, 753-1195
- Peter Landres, 752-7692
- John Barnes, 563-3910

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

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

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

Dated Material — Please Deliver Promptly

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Mac Cooper
275 W. 1050 N.
Logan UT 84321

National Audubon Society
C H A P T E R
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 _____

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