



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 14, No. 7

March 1986

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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					

LOCAL EVENTS

1 Mar. (Sat): BAS Field Trip — Spring waterfowl and other signs of spring. Flying a kite isn't the only way to celebrate March. Join in this field trip into the valley to observe the hundreds of migrating waterfowl including the honking Canada geese, the calls of sandhill crane, redwinged blackbird males defending their territories from the tops of cattails, countless

numbers of wolf spiders on the forest floor in search of prey, and swelling buds of willows. Leave at 8 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Myers parking lot. Return by noon.

11 Mar. (Tues): Conservation Committee — 7 pm in room 112B of the Biology/Natural Resources Building on USU campus. See additional announcements in this newsletter to get an idea of some of our activities, then PLEASE JOIN US.

13 Mar. (Thurs): BAS Monthly Meeting — Our speaker will be John Kimball, Regional Game Manager of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. He will speak on moose and moose management programs in Utah. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm in the Council Room of the new Logan City Building, 255 North Main.

15 Mar. (Sat): BAS Field Trip — Bald Eagles at Willard Canyon. Climb up on the hillside overlooking Willard, 10 miles south of Brigham City to watch the numerous bald eagles fly into their roosting sites in Willard Canyon, and go through their remarkable soaring and mutual aerial displays. This warm south-facing slope brings other sure signs of spring—mountain bluebirds, the tiny white blossoms of *Dryas* that attract visits from the honeybees, a few butterflies, and rock squirrels. In addition we often have a good migration of redtailed hawks at close range. Leave at 10:00 a.m. from in front of the OLD Logan Library at 1st East and 1st North. Return varying to interests of group. Car-pooling available. Dress for climbing through snow. Please notice the time change.

29 Mar. (Sat): BAS Field Trip — Birding in Benson. A field trip for birding novices and those who like to sleep in on Saturday mornings. Waterfowl, great-horned owls, pelicans, and many other birds of marsh and river that have returned for the breeding season. Leave at 1:30 pm from southwest corner of Fred Meyer parking lot and return by 5 pm. Carpooling available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. Tickets are \$10.

11-12 Apr. (Fri-Sat): BAS Field Trip — Overnight camping trip to observe grouse displays. This ever-popular trip to the National Grasslands in southern Idaho north of Snowville is a chance to see the displays of both sharp-tailed and sage grouse at close range in the first light of dawn. Camp at the famous Twin Springs Campground on the historic California Trail where thousands of 49ers camped headed for the gold rush. Leave at 4 p.m. for the two-hour drive to the campground. Return shortly after noon on Saturday. Carpooling arranged. Persons unable to leave until after work can get a map and instructions on how to reach the campground. Be prepared for freezing temperatures and bring own camp gear and food. Stoves available. This is a developed campground with water, fire rings, tables, shelter, and toilets. For reservations and further information on carpooling call Al Stokes, 752-2702.

26 Apr. (Sat): BAS Field Trip — Learning your trees. Join botanist Mary Barkworth in a leisurely stroll around the Utah State campus to identify and learn about the habits of the many trees, both common and unusual. Who would have thought that there are pistachio trees on campus, or Ohio buckeye; or thought about why certain trees flower so much earlier than others. Leave at 1:30 pm from the west side of the Natural Resources/Biology building on campus. Return by 3:30 pm.

FEBRUARY SIGHTINGS

Despite our cold and miserable weather, birding has been very interesting. Lots of activity is apparent at feeders around the valley. Typical birds are house sparrows, house finches, American gold finches, pine siskins, black capped and mountain chickadees, flickers, and juncos. If you are out in the valley, you may have been ravaged by black birds which tend to chase other birds out. Betty Boeker has had more than her share of black birds. Tom and Marilyn Jones continue to have pheasants as regular visitors at their feeder in Mendon. Curt Williams and his parents have been seeing a hermit thrush. They knew it wasn't visiting the feeder but could not figure out exactly what it was eating. Finally they located it in some berries on a vine they have behind the house. Now that they know to look for it there they see it more often. Many, many waxwings have been reported throughout the valley. Both Bohemian waxwings and cedar waxwings are here in large groups. They can be seen swarming on trees with fruit such as crabapple trees, or they can be seen in large groups in the very tops of trees. Allen Stokes found the remains of two blue grouse near the canal at the golf course in Logan. They had been killed by raptors. It is very unusual to find blue grouse that low, even during the winter.

Our most exciting visitor was spotted by Pat Baylor. She began to see a small duck on Logan River beneath first dam which was unusual to her. A great bit of detective work on her part led to the exciting conclusion that it was a female harlequin duck. Although these ducks breed north of us, they have never been reported in Utah because they normally go west to the coast to winter rather than traveling south through Utah. As of January 19, this bird was still on Logan River. Watch for her just below the dam where she frequently feeds or along the river where it approaches Canyon Road below the water lab.

Keep your eyes peeled. Our coldest weather is behind us and the next few months will bring many feathered friends traveling through on their journey north or arriving back in Cache Valley for spring.

Please keep us posted of your sightings. 563-3910.

— Terry Barnes

The ostrich roams the great Sāhara.
Its mouth is wide, its neck is narra.
It has such long and lofty legs,
I'm glad it sits to lay its eggs.

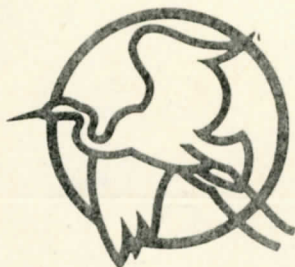
— Ogden Nash

AUDUBON REGIONAL CONFERENCES — A GREAT VACATION TRIP

Eight years ago I attended my first regional Audubon conference at Sierra Vista, Arizona in 1978 and it was this that got me hooked into going to every conference since then. The people in the Huachuca chapter really know how to lead super field trips including owling trips after dark that always succeeded in calling up some of those rarely seen small desert owls.

One trip was to The Hummingbird Capitol of the World in Ramsey Canyon. There must be 50 hummingbird feeders there and a steady stream of hummers coming and going at very close range. Besides the field trips will be the chance to meet our new dynamic Audubon president, Peter Berle and many others of the national and regional staff. The drive down from here can take you through great canyon and desert country chock full of Indian monuments. Otherwise, it is an easy flight to Tucson and limousine service over to Sierra Vista. I'm certainly going. Hope you will too.

Al Stokes



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

August 4-10, 1986

Sierra Vista, Arizona

Host: Huachuca Audubon Society

Theme: SAVING RIPARIAN HABITATS
OF THE SOUTHWEST

Conference Headquarters

Thunder Mountain Inn
1631 South Highway 92
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(602) 458-7900

Registration

The registration fee for the Conference is \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 for couples if you pre-register by July 15. If you register after July 15 the fee is \$20.00 per person and \$30.00 for couples. There is a daily registration fee for persons interested in participating on a daily basis of \$10.00/day. The registration fee is non-refundable. Send a check made payable to National Audubon Society. If you are attending the luncheon buffet, please include the \$7.00 cost in your check with the registration fee. Write to conference headquarters for further information.

GOODBYE AND THANKS

It has been my honor for these last two years to serve as President of BAS. The position has enabled me to work with a truly outstanding and dedicated group of individuals. Foremost among these are the members of the BAS planning committee. This group includes, of course, the other officers and committee chairpersons, but also many other less obvious folks so essential to the effective functioning of a volunteer organization such as BAS. There are those to whom I must give special thanks in a more personal fashion, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to the increasing success of BAS.

— Chuck Warner

BLM WILDERNESS

The BLM has released its draft environmental impact statement which recommends 1.9 million acres of land for wilderness designation in Utah. This is far short of what the Audubon Society supports (3.8 million acres), and the only way it will be increased is if you act now. The environmental impact statement comes in a daunting six volumes (Overview, West-Central Region, South-West Region, South-Central Region, South-East Region, and East-Central Region). Try to read the Overview, then zero in on some particular areas that interest you, and that have been left out of the BLM wilderness proposal. Visit one or several of these areas that have been left out (or had their size cut below potential), so that you can become familiar with an area. Then write the BLM by June 15 (BLM Utah State Office/ Wilderness Studies (U-933)/ 324 S. State Street/ Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303), and attend the public meeting in Logan on May 14, at 7 pm in the Mountain Fuel Supply Auditorium. Details regarding this proposal will be in future editions of *The Stilt*, and copies of the EIS are available from Bruce Pendery (753-1628).

— Bruce Pendery

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETS

The Conservation Committee met on January 21 and February 11 to zero in on several projects and issues. We plan to focus on local land-use planning (or the lack of it), especially with regard to the election next fall of the new county council. This is probably our best chance to influence planning in a comprehensive way, as opposed to piecemeal reaction to individual projects. BLM Wilderness proposals will also be a high priority issue, as will local water projects. Steve Flint has taken the lead on water issues and can provide more information about them. Mike Jablonski and Cindy Johnson are looking into developing a trail guide for the Riverside Nature Trail between Malibu Campground and Spring Hollow, pending Forest Service approval. This project will be done in conjunction with the Education Committee, and any others who are interested! If these or other projects (such as Logan Canyon road expansion), interest you—please come to the next meeting on March 11.

— Bruce Pendery

On Public Lands



We offer perspective. **On Public Lands.**

Now there's a monthly newsmagazine devoted to covering Utah public lands. **On Public Lands** offers the kind of in-depth analysis not available anywhere else.

Each issue comes with twelve tabloid pages packed with informative features, news, opinion and artwork designed to make public land issues understandable and easy to get involved in.

Start your subscription now, and as a charter subscriber you'll receive our 36-page booklet on Utah wilderness areas free. A \$3 value, **Utah's Wilderness: A Resource Guide** is the first overview of fifteen Utah wilderness areas. Maps, photos and descriptions of each area tell the story of wilderness management problems and opportunities facing the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

One year of **On Public Lands** (eleven issues) is just \$10 from Utah Public Lands Research, P.O. Box 510863, Salt Lake City UT 84151-0863. Or write for a free sample copy today.

WATER PROJECTS

A meeting to allow for public questions and input on water development on the lower Bear River was held in Logan on 12 February. I am sorry we could not announce this meeting in the previous newsletter, but we were given only a few days notice. Because many similar conservation issues materialize on only a couple of days notice, I urge you to be alert for announcements in local newspapers.

This meeting was organized by the Utah Division of Water Resources and the Utah Association of Conservation Districts. The driving force behind this water development is the state legislature; their purpose is to provide additional water for Salt Lake City. Of eight dam sites originally examined, they now tend to favor three: one on the Blacksmith Fork (disguised under the name Mill Creek; a site on the Little Bear may be substituted if there is opposition to Blacksmith Fork), one in Oneida Narrows below the existing dam (but the site may be geologically unsuitable), and one near Honeyville, which would actually divert water to Salt Lake City (and destroy 1250 acres of marshland).

The meeting revealed that:

1. They have not evaluated the alternative of supporting water conservation in Salt Lake City itself, although they claim they will look at it in the future.
2. They have very little knowledge of how rapidly reservoirs silt up.
3. They claim to have received very little opposition from conservationists on these three projects.
4. While they claim construction is years away, geological studies commence this year at Oneida as will planning for both the Oneida and Blacksmith Fork sites.

Reports summarizing public comments received during meetings last summer may still be available at the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, 1075½ N. Main, Logan. Comments regarding these plans should also be sent to this address.

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

People starve
land erodes
Conferences
 Committees
 reports
I am
 empty
 floundering
 grasping
I seek strength
 wisdom
 sensitivity
to respond to
 one tree
 one acre
 one person.

— Thad Box
(copyrighted)

DEED OF TRUST

Land
own it
save it
control it
warranty deed
legal-guaranteed
title of possession
that gives the right
to use
or abuse
until we return
to soil
we think we won
but instead
possesses us.

— Thad Box
(copyrighted)

JANOVY'S ON BECOMING A BIOLOGIST A HUMANISTIC VIEW OF THE PROFESSION

A biologist's world view is different from that of most of humanity. Concerned with the totality of the natural world, a biologist looks at the human species as only one of millions that have occupied the biosphere over the last three and a half billion years. So writes John Janovy, Jr., author of *On Becoming a Biologist* (Harper & Row, 1985). Janovy is a professor of biological sciences at the University of Nebraska, and the book is one in a series on professions. It is part memoir, part philosophy and part practical guide to employment in the field.

"When a group of engineers, all working on the same hydroelectric plant, get together socially, you can bet your subscription to *Audubon* that they don't talk about the river in terms of its aquatic invertebrate communities," he writes. "Attorneys, physicians, businessmen—all are consumed by human activities, conflicts, desires . . . A biologist studies 'nature,' however, and in doing so inevitably comes to regard humanity as the most effective competitor for the world's resources."

The conclusion is tinged with admiration and sorrow: "No other species' accomplishments approach humanity's accelerating cultural evolution, which in essence represents an escape from the restrictions of organic change [and] no other species seems to possess the power to destroy overnight what cannot ever, anywhere in the universe, to our knowledge, be replaced."

Janovy believes the best equipment for the biologist/teacher who faces a class of students who see a world filled with war, politics and money, is the biologist's wider world view. The biologist's foremost task, he writes, should be that of altering, if necessary, mind-sets and thought processes so that the students want to consider the long-term consequences of their actions, are able to interpret new material into a context which includes the nonhuman living world, have some sense of the processes that operate in living systems at many levels, look for evidence of the true character of things by studying their ontogeny, and are able to place *H. sapiens* into a proper time/space/species diversity framework—that is, to understand that the world did not begin in 1965, that it may not even be unique, and that we are certainly not alone in it.

In Janovy's spare book, biologists will recognize themselves, nonbiologists will recognize people they know, and students contemplating a career in biology will perhaps be stimulated to think about the field in some new way.

— Jillyn Smith

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

New: Marlen Beecher, Mr. P. Sutton Finch, Mr. & Ms. Allen Lyon. Renewing: Mervin P. Coover, Julie Danny Durrance, Richard and Karen Fisher, William B. Hampton, Paul B. Holden, N. Ross Smith, Pamela S. Johnson, David F. Lancy, Sharon McNichols, Selu McOmber, M. Jean Packer, Jack Payne, Mr. & Mrs. S. Richardson, Alison Thorne, T. Schroeder C. Webb, Kenneth L. Cook, Ronald C. Squibb. Welcome, and welcome back! We couldn't do it without you!

HIGH ADVENTURE

Join the Utah Wilderness Association in an adventure through one of the West's most spectacular and pristine wilderness regions. Treat yourself to five days and four nights of whitewater rafting. Revel in magnificent scenic beauty and sunshine as we explore the Green River, winding its way through Desolation Canyon, just as John Wesley Powell explored it 113 years ago.

The Utah Wilderness Association in cooperation with the College of Eastern Utah's Canyonlands Institute is offering you this exciting adventure for only \$300. A substantial portion of the proceeds of the trip are being donated to the U.W.A. to sustain our battle to preserve Utah's remaining wildlands.

SCHEDULE AND OTHER INFORMATION:

5 days; June 19 thru June 23. All meals, rafting equipment, and transportation are provided. Experienced licensed boatmen will serve as your guides. Just bring a tent, sleeping bag, personal articles and yourself! Upon receipt of your application we will send you our suggested packing list.

TRANSPORTATION:

Transportation will be provided from Price, Utah to the launch site (Sand Wash). You will be returned to Price at the end of the trip.

REMEMBER . . . this expedition is limited to 25 participants. First come; first served, so sign up now! A \$100 deposit will reserve your passage until June 1 and insure that you don't miss out on this remarkable opportunity.

For more information or to register write: THE UTAH WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION, 455 East 400 South B-40/ Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

THE FEDERAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM, including both operational and research aspects, was transferred from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture by action of Congress just before the winter recess. The move had been opposed by most conservationists. Transition teams from the two agencies hope to have the move effected in 3-6 months. Most ADC research was done by the Denver Wildlife Research Center, which will now be in Agriculture. The Ecology Branch of that Center will remain in FWS, but its administrative position is uncertain. (This transfer affects the staff of the Predator Ecology Project based on the USU campus with research facilities at Millville.)

From the Feb. 1986
Ornithological Newsletter

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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 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.

- Ron Rye, 753-6077(h) 752-2580(o)
- Tom Gordon, 752-6561
- Jillyn Smith, 750-1359
- Betty Boeker, 752-8092
- Bruce Pendery, 753-1628
- Tom Cronkite, 752-0518
- Al Stokes, 752-2702
- Al Stokes, 752-2702
- Charlotte Wright, 753-8072
- Liz Keller, 753-3294
- John Wise, 245-4127
- Wendell Anderson, 752-1827
- Terry Barnes, 563-3910
- John Barnes, 563-3910
- Peter Landress, 752-7692
- John Wraith, 752-0743

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

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

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