



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 14, No. 8

April 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			

LOCAL 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.

5 Apr. (Sat): Utah Wilderness Association Evening of Music — Starting at 8 pm at the Utah State Fairgrounds in Salt Lake City, "The Disgusting Brothers" will sing music for wilderness in the Crafts Building. Tickets \$5 in advance, available at Cosmic Aeroplane, UWA, and Wasatch Touring, \$6 at the door. Beer and soft drinks available, valid ID required, NO MINORS. All proceeds benefit the programs of the Utah Wilderness Association.

8 Apr. (Tues): Conservation Committee Meeting — Room 112B of the Biology/Natural Resources Building on USU campus at 7 pm.

10 Apr. (Thurs): BAS Monthly Meeting — 7:30 pm in the Public Meeting Room of the new Logan City Building at 255 North Main. Dr. Steven R. Simms will discuss archaeological site destruction, using the example of southeastern Utah Anasazi sites. After an introduction to the ancient Anasazi culture and a slide presentation, the discussion will move to an exploration of the reasons why archaeology is done, what it is that is important to contemporary archaeologists and the necessary unity between

research, education, and preservations. Ways in which the interested public can join with professionals, avocationists, and federal land managing agencies to prevent the extinction of this nonrenewable resource will also be addressed.

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.

16 Apr. (Wed): BAS Planning Meeting — Room 112B in the Biology/Natural Resources Building on USU Campus. Starts at 7 pm.

19 Apr. (Sat): Utah Audubon Council Meeting — 9 a.m. at the Sugar House Garden Center, 1650 E. 2100 S. in Salt Lake City. See article in this issue for details.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 10 — Shorebirds at the Amalga Barrens. More than any other group of birds, shorebirds dramatize the great sweep of northward migration in spring. Many of these shorebirds winter far to the south, some in the southern hemisphere. Most breed far to the north in the tundra. And unlike our songbirds that move through single or in small groups, shorebirds usually occur in flocks of hundreds or even thousands, sweeping in to a marsh to feed shoulder to shoulder, bills dipping into the mud in eager search for food. Leave at 8 am from the southwest corner of the Fred Meyer parking lot and return by noon. Bring spotting scopes if available and foot gear suitable for wading through shallow water or mud flats. It is possible to see fifteen or more species of shorebirds on this trip as well as many other birds of marsh and water.

Sat./Sun., May 17 and 18 — Canoeing the Bear River. The stretch of the Bear River between Trenton and Amalga teems with birdlife and mammals such as beaver, muskrat, skunk, and deer. Highlight of the trip will be seeing great-horned owls and Swainson's hawk on their nests; and visiting a thriving

colony of great blue herons. A leisurely 15-mile paddle on rather quiet water. Leave at 7:30 am from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer parking lot. Return by 3 pm **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** There will be a charge of \$3.50 per person for those not having their own canoes. Call Allen Stokes starting the evening of Wednesday, May 14, for reservations and details of the trip. Trip will be repeated on Sunday.

UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

The spring Utah Audubon Council Meeting is coming up. This meeting brings together members of all Utah Audubon chapters to discuss ideas, policy and projects. Most importantly it provides a forum for members to meet and socialize in a largely informal setting. All Audubon members are encouraged to attend what is scheduled to be a most interesting and informative meeting that includes a visit to the proposed Utah Lake Wildlife Refuge.

The upcoming meeting is being organized by the Utah Audubon chapter of Salt Lake City. It is scheduled for April 19 and will start at 9:00 am at the Sugar House Garden Center, 1650 E. 2100 South, Salt Lake City. The Garden Center is located in the northeast corner of Sugar House Park.

A meeting of participants is scheduled for the morning. After lunch the group will travel to Utah Lake and visit the proposed Utah Lake Refuge. Jim Coyner, acting president of the Utah chapter and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, will lead the field trip. He is undoubtedly the most knowledgeable person on the proposed refuge and his leadership will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to see and learn about all aspects of the area.

Plans for lunch have not been set but it may be catered. For further information and information about car-pooling, contact Ron Ryel at 753-6077, evenings.

— Ron Ryel

TRIP TO WILLARD PEAK

Blue skies were the perfect weather for the outing to watch Bald Eagles at Willard Peak. Brigham City welcomed one and all with an officer clocking all of our speed as we came out of the canyon. Could it be that most were closer to the 60 mark than 55? Did everyone find the correct turn off? Certainly many high spirited Bald Eagle Audubon viewers did. The leader, now who could that have been, well anyway Allen was heading first in line to the quarry showing us the sites of ravens and bald eagles in flight. There were some who took heed to the leaders comments that just maybe staying down at the quarry would present one of the best views since there seemed to be a lot of bird activity. Many of us decided that just maybe the view would be better on the top. I am sure everyone who climbed, crawled up that rocky ledge and came back down has their own interesting story to tell. Some could climb faster than others so the group that was once large became many small groups. People were actually

getting out of sight of one another when Alice decided to request those just ahead of us to wait so we too might know the way up.

We looked down to see how far we must have climbed and crawled only to discover someone who was ahead of us was now heading down the mountain and had not passed us! It appeared that there were many deer trails that one could follow. To some of us following a deer trail was like a maze and to others they saw no problem in following the deer trail. A group of three people finally decided that no matter how much further we climbed it always seemed like the top was still miles away from our reach so instead we would consider turning back. Back? We didn't feel like we knew the way back down the ledge so decided that someone knowing of a road nearby, we thought it was nearby, would be the easier way down. One group we were told came onto a real steep incline and decided they needed to back track and look for another deer trail perhaps.

Now that this hike is behind us all I try to figure out is there an easier way. Unwinding a ball of string up the path would sure be a cumbersome procedure to mark the trail. I think dropping corn along the path sounds like a good idea and feed the wildlife at the same time hoping the animals don't locate it before the last person descends down the hill.

The body sure can ache after one of these hikes. Allen reports that he went to bed early, could it be that is his way of avoiding the aches, going to bed before they come?

Auduboners are great at watching for signs of wildlife on their outings. One audoboner asked another, "What animal up here would have consumed corn," as she looked down at some feces? I can't help but still laugh that she too was pooped from the hike and still trying to enjoy what was around her forgot that just feet ahead of her a dog had been traveling. Maybe next time the answer to her question could be, many animals had access to corn for that was the way the auduboners marked their trail!

I think tee shirts are in order saying: I ALMOST KEPT UP WITH ALLEN!

Sylvia Mahoney

SIGNS OF SPRING

Signs of spring in the Cache Valley are not difficult to spot even in early March . . . but you have to know where to look. That's where folks like Allen Stokes come in handy. In fact, on Saturday, March 1, Allen graciously led two expeditions for BAS members due to a scheduling glitch. I joined the early bird shift.

Unlike the typical early birds, we went in search of barn owls rather than worms. Our first stop was at an old barn where the owls had been recently observed. No owls were spotted by our group, but copious evidence of their recent presence was noted. Allen and several others collected droppings for the group to examine. It was apparent that barn owls find small rodents quite tasty. The skulls found in the droppings were easy to identify because they were nearly intact.

Our next stop was at an outhouse—but not for the obvious reason. This outhouse was on its side in a field along the road. Allen called our attention to it for two reasons. The first was a mouse nest built in a small space on one side. The second reason was that the outhouse was a "three-seater." This fact led to all kinds of speculation within the group.

We headed down the road to the sewage canal and pond. We walked along the canal following muskrat tracks. Along the way, we also spotted some passive solar dwellings occupied by voles. The voles had actually taken up residence under some old metal sheets which stayed quite warm in the sun. As we looked across the pond, we saw and heard pintail ducks and Canada geese in the distance.

We continued to wind our way around the valley, stopping to watch a tangle of garter snakes get an early dose of warm sunshine. We flushed a pheasant, identified green winged teals, and observed a hawk on a fencepost. Under a bridge crossing the Bear River, we spotted cliff swallow nests. Our final stop was at Wendell Anderson's cousin's house where we hoped to see some horned owls. Again, we found evidence of droppings, but no owls.

Wendell's cousin showed the group an impressive sight—a wasp nest that was at least ten inches in diameter. He had come upon the once active nest unknowingly. Apparently, he survived the surprise encounter, but the wasps didn't.

In addition to learning how to spot early signs of spring, Allen Stokes taught our group another important lesson. . . driving around in circles can be a very worthwhile activity here in the Cache Valley.

Elizabeth Walker

EAGLES FOR THOUGHT *

Some people think nature is just animals. But it's not. It includes plants and animals.

Eagles were the main part of the field trip. Allen Stokes was the leader. We went to Willard Canyon and we parked in a gravel pit. Then we hiked up the mountain. We stopped at a point to wait for some late comers. Then we hiked some more. We stopped almost at the top of the mountain and had lunch, talked and watched eagles about an hour.

The eagles flew threw the air. Allen told us a lot of neat facts about eagles. The eagles were aware we were there. So they did some neat dives and swoops.

I encourage everybody to join The Autpbon group. It's great fun for everyone. I really enjoy going on these neat trips because I meet some really neat people. Thanks for the great field trips and things you do to our envorment, Autobon Society.

Nichole Rindlisbacher

*Editor's note: As the author of this article is one of BAS's younger members, I have kept the original spelling and syntax in tact. I encourage more of our young friends to write about experiences, books, or field trips and send the articles to *The Stilt*.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Steve Flint will be one of several local conservationists sitting on an advisory board for the consulting firm CHM2 Hill which is investigating various options for future road construction in Logan Canyon. Steve has also been consulting with other groups and individuals regarding the need for and economic viability of dams proposed for the Bear River.

Mike Jablonski, Cindy Johnson, Rich Campenella, and I met with officials from the Forest Service (Neff Hardman, Mike Van Horn) regarding the feasibility of developing a trailguide for the Riverside Nature Trail in Logan Canyon. Their reaction was quite favorable, and a tour of this trail will be arranged soon so that anyone interested in this project can get a better feel for the trail.

BLM Wilderness is a hot item, and we have put up posters on the US campus and at Trailhead which provide information on the BLM proposal for people planning to hike southern Utah. The handouts are disappearing at an encouraging rate, and hopefully a few letters to the BLM will come of it. This is a project you can help on from the comfort of your own home: write the BLM by June 15, and be at the public meeting on May 14.

Audubon testified before the Logan Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding the destruction of Garff Gardens behind Chi Chi's Restaurant. The statement in essence said that while Audubon has no quarrel with developing businesses in downtown Logan, it should not be done at the expense of open areas and parks which are also important to our well-being. Land use issues will be a major focus of the Conservation Committee in the future. Merv and Mae Coover attended our last meeting and provided a great deal of insight on local land use, and the input or participation of other BAS members on any of these issues would be most welcome.

Bruce Pendery

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION SEMINAR WITH JON DUNN

Utah Ornithological Society, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Audubon Society and the Utah Museum of Natural History are co-sponsoring a seminar on shorebird identification to be given by Jon Dunn.

DATE: August 22, 1986, 7-9:00 pm, Division of Wildlife Resources, 1596 West North Temple, Salt Lake City.

August 23, 1986, all day field trip (location to be announced).

COST: \$15.00 per person LIMIT: 25 participants

Jon Dunn, a popular tour guide for WINGS since 1977 and field identification consultant for the American Birding Association, has lead bird tours in North America, Thailand, Malaysia and Kenya. He is co-author of *Birds of Southern California* and has written numerous articles on bird identification. In 1980, Mr. Dunn was hired by the National Geographic Society as the chief consultant for their new field guide which was published in 1983, and he is currently working on a revision

of that guide. Mr. Dunn has given lectures on shorebirds around the country including workshops for the American Birding Association.

Registration will be on a first-come first-serve basis and will end on June 1. If there is sufficient interest, a second workshop will be offered. Contact Ella Sorensen/ 3868 Marsha Drive/ West Valley City, UT 84120.

A SEA OF GRASS

The Denver Audubon Society invites you to attend the 12th annual Grassland Institute which offers a unique opportunity to familiarize yourself with this country's short grass prairie ecosystems. By blending the arts, sciences and humanities in their program, the Institute catalyzes a heightened awareness of the subtle intricacies of prairie communities. With summer touching off the lively interactions of plants and animals, what better time to investigate this living scape?

The Institute is held in Northern Colorado at the Crow Creek Campground on the Pawnee National Grasslands. Accommodations for tents and personal mobile camping units are available. Participants are expected to bring their own sleeping and camping gear. The Institute is open to 40 individuals who are in good health and are at least 18 years of age. Three quarter hours of university credit are also available through the University of Northern Colorado.

Some of the programs the Institute will host include: botanical sessions — grass taxonomy and communities; field sessions — insects, birds and other vertebrates of the grasslands; geology; land reclamation; and, opportunities to "Meet The Natives" — a tour of a local farm and ranch to talk with land owners about grassland economics and life style. All activities, which are led by qualified instructors, emphasize the intricate balance and personality of short grass prairie ecosystems.

Registration is \$250.00 which includes all meals and covers daily field trip transportation for participants. For more information on registration or programs, contact: Mr. Ed Butterfield/ 17410 E. Nichols Place/ Aurora, CO 80016 / (303) 690-5019.

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 per person and \$30 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. In registering make checks 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.

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

February 1, 1985 to January 31, 1986

April 26, 1985, marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of John James Audubon, and brought many events celebrating his life and work.

The society that bears his name was organized in 1886 in protest against the slaughter of millions of birds for fashion. Early members of the Audubon Society worked successfully to enact laws to stop the feather trade, protect birds and establish refuges.

Today the National Audubon Society has broadened its mission to protect all life, as well as the air, land and water that supports it. The organization has more than 500,000 members and 500 chapters, and maintains research efforts, educational programs and sanctuaries.

Utah State University has provided the base for the Bridgerland chapter. In the early 1970's Gar W. Workman, a professor of fisheries and wildlife, and graduate student David Beale organized the Audubon Film and Lecture series, with speakers from the national organization. Allen W. Stokes, also a fisheries and wildlife professor, helped organize the Bridgerland chapter in 1975, with USU students as officers. The newsletter, *The Stilt* (first known as *The Bunting*) was launched the same year.

The local chapter sponsors a variety of activities that promote awareness of the natural world, with the belief that awareness leads to a concern for, and active protection of, the environment. Today, chapter membership encompasses Cache County, contributing to the breadth of our programs in education and conservation. Each year sees local, state and federal officials turning to us more often for information and opinion.

The vitality of Bridgerland Audubon Society depends entirely upon its strong group of volunteers. In addition to the officers and committee chairs, numerous others have contributed in various ways to our activities, and to the strength, influence and quality of BAS.

Following are some of the 1985 activity highlights, for which we thank the many individuals who gave so generously of their time.

Programs: Monthly meetings, organized by Bruce Pendery, were held during the school year. Some topics were: hawk migration studies in the Goshute Mountains (James Gessaman); black-footed ferret conservation (Tim Clark); low-impact camping (Mac Brandon); Utah's alpine plants (Richard Shaw); deficit timber sales (Richard Fisher); and American concern for the environment (Paul Mohai).

Field Trips: Under the leadership of Allen Stokes, BAS sponsored more than 20 field trips, broadening our range to include geology, botany, animal tracking and astronomy. The annual October two-night trip to Jackson Hole to hear elk bugle and observe a wide range of wildlife continues to be a favorite, as do the canoe trips down the Bear and Little Bear rivers. BAS took six canoe trips, some with very large groups. In addition, we sponsored trips to see grouse courtship displays in Curlew Valley, bald eagles at Willard Canyon; hawk migration atop the Wellsvilles, shorebirds at Amalga Barrens; spawning of Kokanee salmon in the Little Bear River; and tours to Strawberry Canyon; Logan Cave; First Dam; Edgewood Hall; Dayton Marsh; Limber Pine Trail and Turner Campground.

Christmas Bird Count: Keith Archibald organized the 1985 Christmas Bird Count. More than 35 people participated, although many student members were away for the holidays, and the weather featured low temperatures, fog and deep snow. The count recorded 79 species, including a female Harlequin Duck—the first state record—on the Logan River.

Conservation: Steve Flint, committee chairman, has kept us alert to many local and national issues. Emphasis in 1985 has been on review and comments for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan, and on plans for the Logan City hydroelectric plant on the Logan River as well as other developments in Logan Canyon.

BAS co-sponsored a day-long workshop on "Canyonlands—National Park or Nuclear Dump?" at USU. This would have been largely impossible without the enthusiasm and dedication of Rich Warnick, USU graduate student and Utah Wilderness Association representative. BAS works with other chapters throughout the state on issues of concern to all of us.

Annual Banquet and Conservation Award: The annual BAS banquet, organized by Nancy Warner, provided an opportunity for those not usually active in BAS to hear more about chapter activities. The 1985 Conservation Award was presented to Jack T. Spence, USU chemistry professor, who has made outstanding contributions in the environmental arena for more than a decade. Bob Turner, Audubon regional vice-president, congratulated BAS for its wide range of activities, and Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association spoke about BLM wilderness.

Education: Betsy Neely and Peter Landres spearheaded the completion of two nature trail guides for BAS: *Limber Pine Nature Trail Guide* and *Tony Grove Lake Nature Trail Guide*. These projects were carried out with cooperation from the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Service. Nancy Warner and Lee Austin of KUSU-FM produced a three-part radio series on Utah's wetlands, copies of which are held by the Education Committee. Two more slide programs were added to the committee's holdings giving us a total of nine. Tricia Thompson completed a program—"Rafting the Colorado River." Nancy Warner, Wayne Padgett and Lee Austin produced a slide/tape entitled "Treasures in Our Backyard: Cache Valley Wetlands." All materials held by the Education Committee are available for loan to members and non-members alike. Elaine Watkins and Jan Young were interviewed by local stations KUSU-Fm and KVNU for and about John James Audubon's birthday.

Book Committee: Charlotte Wright and Nancy Warner organized a program wherein BAS will donate six books on an aspect of natural history to the Logan Library each year. The first book donated was given to BAS by the author, James MacMahon—Audubon's *Field Guide to the Deserts of North America*.

Fund Raising: Our participation in the Holly Fair activities was coordinated by Jan Young this year who, with the help of a long list of cheerful volunteers, succeeded in introducing BAS to many local residents we are otherwise unable to reach.

At last count, we had sold at least 2,200 pounds of sunflower seed this winter. John Barnes organized the collection and bagging of the seed while the Stokes', Reynolds' and Kellers' were good enough to store and sell the seed for us. The sunflower seed has become our greatest source of funds and is also a real bargain for those who feed birds.

The planning committee has been pleasantly surprised at how well the BAS t-shirts have sold. Thanks mostly to Peter Landres and artist Sue Douglas, we have been able to offer two designs in a variety of colors, sizes and fabrics.

Membership: Membership in BAS reached an all-time high of 285 on July 1. Liz Keller maintains membership records and is responsible for mailing our monthly newsletter; *The Stilt*. We have to give a special thanks to Liz because by the nature of her job; the only time she hears from someone is when there is a complaint, usually due to something she can't control.

The Stilt: The BAS newsletter, *The Stilt*, is published monthly, with the exception of July and August. *The Stilt* contains a calendar of activities and related events, reports of local and national activities, announcements, news items and features, book reviews, letters and thoughts about the natural world. We are grateful to editor Charlotte Wright for the professionalism she brings to this task.

Jillyn Smith

Last spring as I biked over the bridge that crosses Cutler Reservoir just north of Cache Junction, I noticed five dead rough-winged swallows on the road. By the time I had stopped and parked my bike a hundred yards beyond I saw other rough-winged swallows flying over and down onto the dead birds. They would alight for a few seconds and then fly off. Since this was the mating season, I thought that the mere sight of a swallow-like object on the ground was releasing copulation behavior.

I mentioned this in a letter to Alan Grenon, former Bridgerland Audubon president and keen birder, and have only now gotten a response from him. He says he remembers having seen swallows at road-killed swallows several times, as has Rick Enright. He has also seen purple martins, barn and tree swallows and perhaps other species make copulation or rape attempts, with some success, of other swallows on the ground. Often more than one male was involved in these attempts. The female was not soliciting, more likely just getting grit from the road or gathering nest materials. Alan feels that just the sight of a swallow on the ground seems to stimulate at least approach/inspection by others, with the probably "intent" being copulation. Have other readers noticed this same behavior? Alan thinks this behavior should be easy to study with use of dummies, or without.

Al Stokes

BIRDS OF PREY INCREASING

Five of North America's rarest birds of prey have made dramatic recoveries over the last 14 years, mainly because of the reduction of DDT and other persistent pesticides in the environment, according to ornithologists at Cornell University. Their analysis of data from the Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird surveys found that populations of the bald eagle, prairie falcon, northern goshawk, merlin and gyrfalcon have all soared.

As recently as a decade ago, the scientists noted, bald eagles were sighted in only 39 states. Now their number has increased by 92 percent to 37,000 and the living national symbol, which feeds mainly on fish, can be sighted in every state but Hawaii. The gyrfalcon, an Arctic species that feeds on snowshoe hares and grouse, has survived a close brush with extinction, its numbers rising fivefold since the early 1970's to 500. The number of peregrine falcons, which breed in cities and wilderness areas across to continent, have climbed 19 percent in 14 years to an estimated total of 1,200. But during the same period the population of Harris's hawk, a dweller of the Southwestern deserts, declined 38 percent to 5,600.

from *New York Times*
"Science Watch" section.

The grackle's voice is less then mellow.
His heart is black, his eye is yellow
He bullies more attractive birds
With hoodlum deeds and vulgar words,
And should a human interfere,
Attacks that human in the rear.
I cannot help but deem the grackle
An ornithological debacle.

— Ogden Nash

I do not know which to prefer,
The beauty of inflections
Or the beauty of innuendoes
The blackbird whistling
Or just after.

— Wallace Stevens

BLM WILDERNESS

The BLM's draft environmental impact statement recommends 1.9 of its 22 million acres in Utah be designated wilderness; at the very least 3.2 million acres qualify under the Wilderness Act. (See map, areas 1 and 2 are not shown.) Eighty-two areas were considered for wilderness designation, some were not recommended (e.g., area 10), most had only a portion of their potential acreage recommended (e.g. area 11), and a few were recommended for wilderness designation in their entirety. The BLM provides no rationale for deleting areas, but it seems conflicts with minerals, oil, coal, and uranium, off-road vehicle use conflicts, and insufficient solitude or primitiveness are common reasons. Several regions have particularly glaring omissions.

The Kaiparowit plateau has a huge potential for wilderness, yet much of this area was recommended for nonwilderness:

Paria-Hackberry — Potentially 135,822 acres of prime wilderness. BLM recommends 59,270 acres be designated. Apparently this is to preserve a coal haul route through Paria River Canyon, allow 20,000 acres of chaining, and because of potential uranium production. Areas this size are ecologically very important (especially riparian areas) and need to be protected in their entirety.

Wahweap — Potential for coal development is probably the reason recommendation is for 70,380 acres of wilderness rather than the full 134,400 acres. This area would have been the site of the Kaiparowit power plant.

Fifty Mile Mountain — The reason for recommending only 92,441 acres (out of 146,143) is difficult to deduce. There is some potential for coal development, but not on the entire area left out. This area is contiguous with a 576,000 acre wilderness that is proposed for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Burning Hills, The Blues, Death Ridge, Carcass Canyon — All were recommended for nonwilderness, primarily due to coal potential. Wilderness potential is about 200,000 acres.

Another area that is glaringly absent is the Mt. Pennell wilderness study area, heart of the Henry Mountains. In this area an 1800 acre chaining is proposed to benefit bison, although most of the forage produced would be allocated to cattle. Another reason for leaving this 74,300 acre area out is that some portions of it might be suitable for coal strip mining. The Bookcliffs region is also notable for the numerous areas proposed for nonwilderness (areas 68, 69, 70, 71, 73), and more information on these will be in the next *Stilt*.

As mentioned, there are several recurring reasons for leaving areas out. One is that areas lack "outstanding solitude" or "outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation." In fact, the Wilderness Act states a wilderness area must have "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." There is no need for primitive and unconfined recreation to be "outstanding," as the BLM repeatedly claims. Flat or open areas are also consistently left out for the above reasons, although how openness inherently prevents a wilderness type experience is unclear. If you know an area's character, comment on these facets, because the BLM repeatedly uses these criteria to disqualify an area.

Mineral potential is the most common reason for leaving an area out. The minerals potential for an area was deduced from geological characteristics, and adjacent producing fields or mines, rarely hard information such as drill holes. While the potential of some of these lands cannot be denied, their likelihood of development is almost universally low, especially given that there are developed mines in the Price area, western Colorado, and Black Mesa, Arizona. The BLM owns 22 million acres in Utah, and it rarely addresses whether lands clearly not suitable for wilderness have minerals potential equal or greater than that in potential wilderness areas. While the potential for minerals development is mostly speculative this much is a fact: wilderness as defined by Congress exists on a minimum of 3.2 million acres of BLM land in Utah (see map), and we have the opportunity to protect a large amount of valuable wildlife habitat, watershed, and scenery if we act.

The two most important things you can do are to write a letter to the BLM by June 15 commenting in detail on areas you have hiked in the past or visit this spring, and to attend the public meeting in Logan on May 14 (whether you want to speak or not). Times, addresses, etc. for these will appear in the May and June *Stilt*, or call Bruce Pendery (753-1628). If you would like to keep up on this and other public lands issues, consider subscribing to *On Public Lands* (\$10/Utah Public Lands Research/ PO Box 510863/ Salt Lake City, UT 84151-0863). The Conservation Committee will prepare formal testimony and written response on behalf of Bridgerland Audubon and we need help, but your personal comments are far more important than the group's. This is only the opening round in what will be a long process before Congress enacts a bill, but we need to start taking action now to ensure a substantial amount of wilderness is protected.

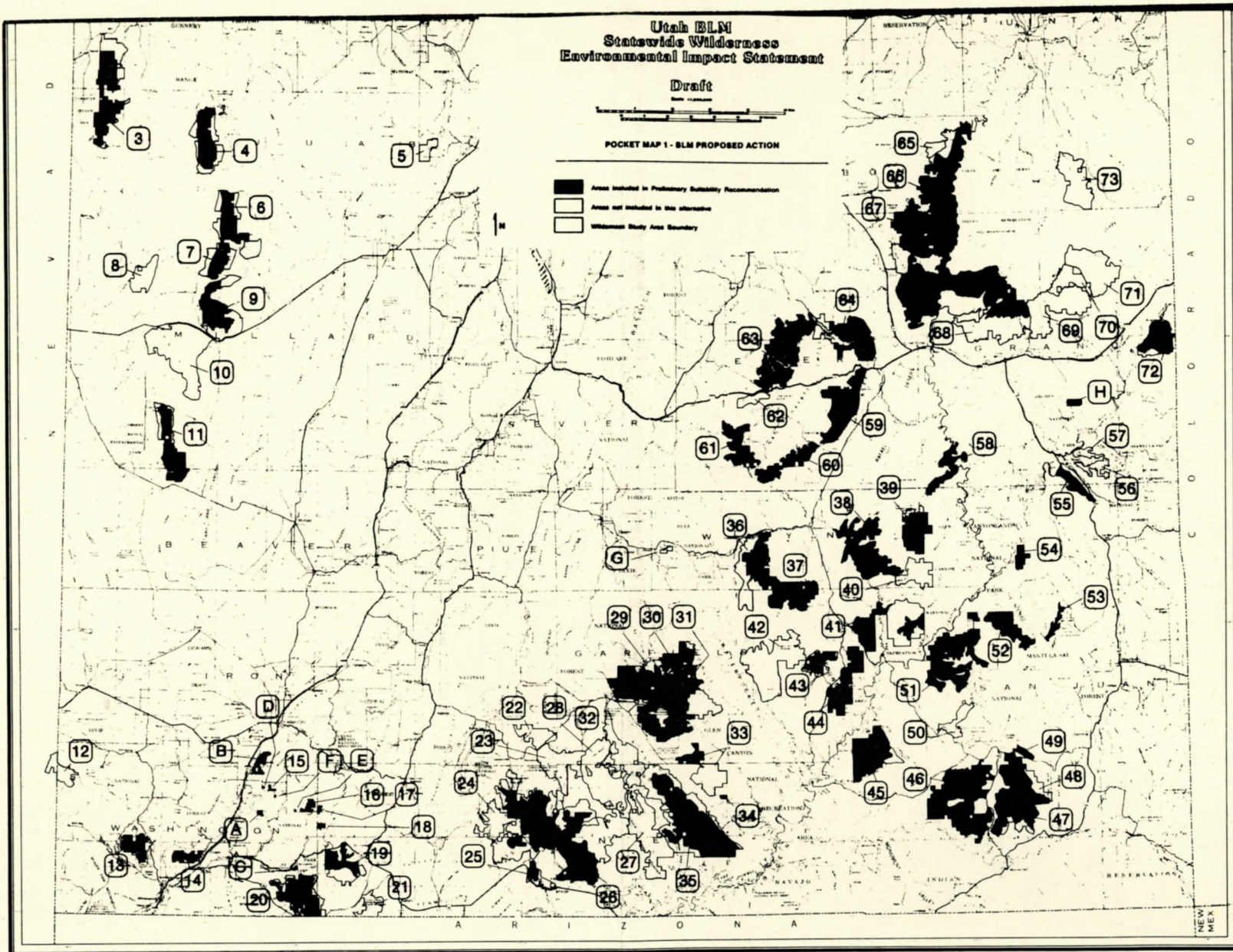
Bruce Pendery

Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement

Draft

POCKET MAP 1 - BLM PROPOSED ACTION

Areas Included in Preliminary Substantive Recommendation
Areas not Included in this alternative
Wilderness Study Area Boundary



INDEX TO MAP REFERENCE NUMBER/LETTER

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 North Stansbury Mountains WSA | 16 Deep Creek WSA | 31 North Escalante Canyons/The Gulch ISA Complex | 46 Grand Gulch ISA Complex | 61 Muddy Creek WSA | C The Watchman WSA |
| 2 Cedar Mountains WSA | 17 North Fork Virgin River WSA | 32 Carcase Canyon WSA | 47 Road Canyon WSA | 62 Devils Canyon WSA | D Taylor Creek Canyon WSA |
| 3 Deep Creek Mountains WSA | 18 Orderville Canyon WSA | 33 Scorpion WSA | 48 Fish Creek Canyon WSA | 63 Sid's Mountain WSA | E Goose Creek Canyon WSA |
| 4 Fish Springs WSA | 19 Parunovewap Canyon WSA | 34 Escalante Canyons Tract 5 ISA Complex | 49 Mule Canyon WSA | 64 Mexican Mountain WSA | F Beartrap Canyon WSA |
| 5 Rockwell WSA | 20 Canaan Mountain WSA | 35 Fifty Mile Mountain WSA | 50 Chassabon Canyon WSA | 65 Jack Canyon WSA | G Fremont Gorge WSA |
| 6 Seesaw Mountain WSA | 21 Moquin Mountain WSA | 36 Mt. Ellen-Blue Hills WSA | 51 Dark Canyon ISA Complex | 66 Desolation Canyon WSA | H Lost Spring Canyon WSA |
| 7 Howell Peak WSA | 22 The Blues WSA | 37 Bull Mountain WSA | 52 Butler Wash WSA | 67 Turtle Canyon WSA | I Daniels Canyon WSA |
| 8 Conger Mountain WSA | 23 Mud Spring Canyon WSA | 38 Dirty Devil WSA | 53 Bridger Jack Mesa WSA | 68 Floy Canyon WSA | |
| 9 Hetch Peak WSA | 24 Para-Hackberry WSA | 39 Horseshoe Canyon (South) WSA | 54 Indian Creek WSA | 69 Coal Canyon WSA | |
| 10 King Top WSA | 25 The Cocklecomb WSA | 40 French Spring-Happy Canyon WSA | 55 Behind the Rocks WSA | 70 Spruce Canyon WSA | |
| 11 Wah Wah Mountains WSA | 26 Wahweap WSA | 41 Fiddler Butte WSA | 56 Mill Creek Canyon WSA | 71 Flume Canyon WSA | |
| 12 Cougar Canyon WSA | 27 Burning Hills WSA | 42 Mt. Pennell WSA | 57 Negro Bill Canyon WSA | 72 Westwater Canyon WSA | |
| 13 Red Mountain WSA | 28 Death Ridge WSA | 43 Mt. Hillers WSA | 58 Horseshoe Canyon (North) WSA | 73 Winter Ridge WSA | |
| 14 Cottonwood Canyon WSA | 29 Phoebe-Death Hollow ISA Complex | 44 Little Rockies WSA | 59 San Rafael Reef WSA | 74 Red Butte WSA | |
| 15 LaVerkin Creek Canyon WSA | 30 Steep Creek WSA | 45 Mancos Mesa WSA | 60 Crack Canyon WSA | 8 Spring Creek Canyon WSA | |

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

A big welcome to our new members: Nancy Larsen, Arthur Mahoney, Stuart Richards, Nasir S. Anaza, Sherry L. Barker, E. A. Bean, W. A. Beutler, Glenn L. Butterfield, Kenneth L. Cramer, M. J. Crookston, Robert J. Crosland, C. Eckhardt, L. R. Firstone, Joyce Hendrickson, Christopher Himmel, Joanne Hughes, Dean Liechty, Roxie Marshall, Herta K. McClenahan, Howard Nivison, Lewis L. Parker, C. Ronda, Nanette Seeley, and Martha Stephens.

Another one to renewals and transfers from other chapters: Dean L. Mitchell, Bruce Ackerman, J. Lancaster and M. Alden, Christopher Amrhein, Shirley Badame, Mr. and Mrs. John Barnes, Sandra M. Borthwick, C. D. Cheney, Nancy Foxley, Reinhard A. Jockel, Krag A. Klungness, Karen Krogh, David F. Lancy, Carol Loveland, Ron Ryel, Ellen Spickerman, Nancy Warner, David S. Winn, Phillip J. Awank, and Hillyard, Low & Anderson.

LIVING LIGHTLY

Five hundred teachers in Milwaukee Public Schools own or have school access to *Living Lightly in the City*. These teachers will reach 15,000 children this year with activities designed to bring environmental concepts into the classroom. Fifteen hundred books have been sold to educators nationally as well as internationally.

The response from educators has been so good that we now have three books available: grades K-3, grades 4-6 and *Living Lightly on the Planet* grades 7-9. High school materials will be available in 1986. For more information contact Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee, WI 53217, (414) 352-2880.

Anyone interested in Western birds will want to peruse *Birds of the Great Basin, A Natural History*. Author Fred Ryser, Jr. has studied birds and mammals in the Great Basin of Nevada and parts of neighboring states for 30 years. He discusses the life histories, physiology, behavior, ecology and distribution of nearly 400 species of Western birds—those that live in, or migrate through, the Basin. Introductory chapters tell you how birds maintain heat and water balance in the desert extremes. For example, different birds have different methods of staying cool on hot days: many pant; some vultures and storks excrete on their legs; and while hawks soar on thermals to lose heat through convection, smaller birds stick it out in the shade because their metabolism rates and size are such that more heat would be gained from the effort of flying than would be lost. Text is interspersed lightly with color photographs and beautiful drawings by Jennifer Dewey.

University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 98557. Cloth: \$27. 604 pages, illustrated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Wild and scenic rivers
without in-stream flow
sex without insertion
intimacy lacking consummation
compromise perversions
the public accepts
diminish me
and leave
unfulfilled
the intent of Congress
and the expectation of Love.

21 November 1980
Thad Box

SHORT RAINS

Welcome rains
seedlings emerge
promise life
prosperity
tropical sun dries soil and seed
young plants wither
spirits sadden
a rain shower
brings hope
to be lost
leaves curl

brown
drop
plants die
their withered carcasses
rattle
small brown feet
guide a lumpy football
over bare ground
before the next rains come
Will their bodies too
wither like tender brown plants
before starvation's wind

21 May 1981
Thad Box

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.

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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.

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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:

National Audubon Society
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