

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 N. Main. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. The BAS Planning Committee meets every third Wednesday, October through May in the Logan Library at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

President Ron Ryel, 753-6077 (home)  
752-2580 (office)

Vice-President Tom Gordon, 752-6561

Secretary Jilllyn 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 Tom Gordon, 752-6561

Circulation Liz Keller, 753-3294

Publicity Wendell Anderson, 752-1827

Hospitality Terry Barnes, 563-3910

Board of Directors John Barnes, 563-3910

John Wraith, 752-0743

Larry Ryel

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

The editor of *The Stilt* invites submissions of any kind, due on the 15th 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

SPECIAL \*COLLECTIONS  
MERRILL LIBRARY, UMC 30  
LOGAN, UT  
84322

## National Audubon Society CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### HOW DO I JOIN?

Complete the following application and enclose a check for amount for the appropriate type of membership. Send it to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
Box 2664  
Boulder, CO 80321  
Credit Bridgerland Audubon W-52

Check membership category desired.

- Introductory one year/ \$20
- 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

### FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Wednesday, Feb. 3 — 7:00 p.m. The conservation committee will meet in room 112B of the Biology-Natural Resources Building on the USU campus. Call Bruce Pendery for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 12 — 7:30 p.m. Regular monthly meeting at the Logan Library, 255 North Main Street. Larry Ryel will give a "Kirtland's Warbler Update." The endangered warbler breeds only in lower Michigan. A management program to save the species is being undertaken by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Michigan Audubon Society. Ryel served on the board of the Michigan Audubon Society for nine years.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 — 7:00 p.m. BAS planning meeting at the Logan Library, 255 North Main Street.

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, Feb. 14 — 1:00 p.m. Animal tracks on skis. Field trip participants will put on skis for a three-hour tour of fields near Benson to see the tracks of weasel, deer, mink, red fox and rabbits. Last year Allen and Alice Stokes said they saw a place where three mice had been killed by a hawk or owl, and one by a magpie. Allen says this is a great way to learn about the habits and habitats of small animals. No great skill in skiing needed, he says. Meet at the southwest corner of the Fred Meyer parking lot. Call Allen at 752-2702 for more information.



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 15, No. 4

February 1987

Saturday, March 7 — Bald Eagles in Willard Canyon. This will be a chance to see 50 or more bald eagles as they fly into their roost near the mouth of Willard Canyon south of Brigham City and perform their spectacular aerial courtship flights. Leave at 10:00 a.m. from southwest corner of Fred Meyer parking lot. Return variable depending on interest of different parties. For the closest views count on a two-hour climb up to a pinnacle looking over Willard Canyon where the eagles soar and circle. We will attempt this only if the snow has largely melted off the ridge. Otherwise we will observe the eagles from somewhat lower down as they fly back from the marshes to the canyon.

Because of the steep, southwest exposure of these hillsides, spring comes early. There will be a few flowers in bloom, butterflies and honeybees working on them, and mountain bluebirds. Bring lunch and water, daypack for carrying excess warm clothing you will shed during the climb. Carpooling available. Call 752-2702 for questions about weather, etc.

— Al Stokes

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

With the advent of a new year, *The Stilt* has a new editor. I'm not the least bit ashamed of begging for help from potential contributors . . . so consider this a plea. If you have anything you think would be of interest to BAS members, please send it to me at 718 North 200 East, Logan, 84321. I take articles, announcements, interesting trivia, poems, excerpts from other publications (properly credited) and nearly anything else. Have you been feeding caribou in your back yard? Did a turkey vulture visit your bird feeder? Write about it on anything—your computer, old envelopes, dollar bills, whatever. But please get it to me no later than the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's edition of *The Stilt*. I expect an outpouring. Thanks!

—Tom Gordon

## SEVENTEEN SYLLABLES

Haiku is an ancient form of poetry from Japan, consisting of three lines of five, seven and five syllables respectively. Thanks to proximity to the editor, Pat Gordon has offered to submit one such poem for each issue of *The Stilt*, until someone complains. In reading haiku, one should not seek anything beyond the obvious, but allow the details pictured to suggest a larger scene, and enjoy whatever thoughts or feelings it may bring to mind.

Blowing snow like sand  
Stiff ramrod teasel bend, bend  
Reluctant dancers.

—Pat Gordon

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendell Ashcroft, Chris Riley, Ronald P. Stewart, Earl Timpke, Tim Vitale, L. Medrano, David Sidwell.

## THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Shirley Badame, Mervin Coover, M. J. Crookston, Lucinda Haggas, Dean L. Mitchell, Mrs. Sandra Romesburg, Ellen Spickerman, Marsha Swartzfager, Joan Walker, M. Coburn Williams, Phillip J. Zwank, James L. Woodson.

## UTAH NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY TO MEET

The Utah Native Plant Society will hold its February meeting on Monday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Logan Library. Dick Hildreth of the Utah Arboretum is the featured speaker, and will discuss the arboretum's history and goals.

## GET YOUR CAN TO THE MEETING

Your aluminum can, that is. Beginning in February, BAS will have a pickup truck at each regular monthly meeting for the express purpose of giving members anybody—a place to deposit recyclable aluminum cans. You've been saving 'em; you've got your basement full of 'em; they're forcing you out into the cold because you never remember to take them to a recycling center. Here's your chance to get rid of 'em . . . bring your aluminum cans to the regular BAS meetings. All proceeds will go to the BAS.

## IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT BRINGS NO GOOD

On New Year's Day I hiked the Riverside Trail between Third Dam and Guinavah Campground. When I reached Guinavah I noticed all the willow limbs that had broken off during a severe windstorm last fall. I quickly noticed how many of these limbs had been chewed on. I thought at first this might be the work of snowshoe hares, but I soon saw how many of the branches had been chewed well above reach of snowshoes. So it must have been porcupine work. Porkies usually feed high up in the large willows at Guinavah and I have often seen the tracks in the snow and even followed them to their winter lair beneath snow-covered clumps of red-osier dogwood. But there was not enough snow for tracks. A porcupine is remarkably agile despite its appearance and it can climb far out onto slender branches. However, whether it is feeding from the ground or on a branch, it limits its feeding to the upper half of the branch. I think this is partly due to that short neck and inability to twist it easily to get beneath a branch.

The windstorm had dropped many branches of both elders, but not one has been touched by animals.

We generally think of a porcupine eating bark, and in a sense that is true. But actually, the porcupines eat only the soft, moist nutritious cambium layer beneath the bark. It leaves the outer bark in piles beneath where it has been feeding. That's a good place to find porcupine droppings, they're, about 3/4 inch long and very woody in make-up. As I looked up into the willow trees I couldn't see any signs of the porcupine having fed up there. So I suspect in a few more weeks, as the fallen branches drop out more, that the porcupine will prefer the live tissue of standing trees.

—Allen Stokes

## ALDO LEOPOLD LAND ETHIC RESOLUTION

The following (edited) version of Senator Robert Kasten, Jr.'s (WI) introduction of a joint resolution commemorating Aldo Leopold's 100th birthday appeared in "*The Wildflower*" (September/October 1986, No. 218).

"Mr. President, January 11, 1987, will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Aldo Leopold. Leopold was a man of conviction. He was a tireless advocate for the stewardship of our renewable natural resources. To professionals and laymen alike, Leopold was a titan in the conservation movement. He was more than a man ahead of his time; Aldo Leopold is a legend.

"This man has been described as a professional forester, game manager, scientist, teacher, writer, philosopher, and a gentleman. Leopold graduated with an M.F. from Yale University Forestry School. After leaving Yale in 1908, he entered the U.S. Forest Service as a forest assistant in Arizona. He also served as supervisor of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico and as assistant district forester of the southwestern district of the Forest Service. Leopold's experiences as a forest manager sparked his interest in the preservation of wilderness areas and, largely through his determined efforts, he helped establish the Gila Wilderness Area in New Mexico as the first national forest wilderness.

"Leopold is perhaps best known for the years he spent in his home State of Wisconsin. He was associate director of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI, and became a game and forestry consultant in 1923. While privately employed, Leopold completed the now classic treatise, *Game Management*. In 1933, he was appointed professor of game management at the University of Wisconsin, a chair that he held with distinction until his death in 1948.

"Leopold was also very active in a number of conservation organizations. He was an organizer of The Wildlife Society and the Wilderness Society and also served as president and vice president, respectively, of these organizations. At various times, Leopold was director of the National Audubon Society and vice president of the American Forestry Association. He served on the council of the Society of American Foresters. Leopold also served as president of the Ecological Society of America.

"While Leopold will be remembered for his professional endeavors, he also will be remembered for his book, *A Sand County Almanac*. Leopold's 'sand farm' in Wisconsin inspired writings that were collectively published posthumously in 1949. Like any literary classic, *Sand County* has withstood the test of time and is still read enthusiastically by college students and weekend naturalists alike. His opening passage in the foreword sets the tone of this masterpiece:

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

"These wild things, I admit, had little human value until mechanization assured us of a good breakfast, and until science disclosed the drama of where they come from and how they live. The whole conflict thus boils down to a question of degree. We of the minority see a law of diminishing returns in progress; our opponents do not."

"The conservation ideology that Leopold espoused and the focus of his philosophy of resource stewardship is embodied in what he described as a 'land ethic.' He stated in his *Sand County Almanac* that: 'A land ethic changes the role of homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such.' The exemplary dedication to resource conservation that Leopold demonstrated as a professional and as a private citizen prompted the National Wildlife Federation to name him to its conservation hall of fame in 1965.

"Leopold's land ethic is timeless. The continued drainage and conversion of our wetlands; the despoiling of our air, soil, and water; the unabated erosion and denuding of our prairies, deserts and ranges; and the accelerated destruction of our forests, bear witness to this fact. The very conservation issues Leopold identified more than 35 years ago are still to be resolved. Many, in fact, have grown in scope and magnitude.

"In order to commemorate the 100th birthday of the man who truly is the father of conservation, I would like to introduce the following Senate joint resolution. I hope my colleagues will join me in marking January 11, 1987, as a day for all citizens of this great Nation to celebrate the monumental achievements of Aldo Leopold."

I'm not sure whether the resolution was adopted or not... but it certainly should have been.

—Bruce Pendery

## IMPORTANT MEETING ON LOGAN CANYON HIGHWAY

In early March, the official "scoping" meeting will be held for the Logan Canyon highway project. This will be your last chance to voice your concerns before the consultants (CH2M Hill) write the EIS. We will soon be sending out a separate mailing with the dates and locations of the meetings, some information on alternatives that may be considered, and some of our concerns. You may also want to attend the Sierra Club meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, 5 February in the Logan City Hall meeting room. Their meeting will feature a presentation on the Logan Canyon highway project. If you have questions, call me at 752-9102 (evenings).

—Steve Flint