

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 p.m. The BAS Planning Committee meets every third Wednesday, October through May, in the Logan Library at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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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 718 N. 200 E., Logan, UT 84321.

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Bridgerland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3501
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National Audubon Society CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

HOW DO I JOIN?

Complete the following application and enclose a check for the 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

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THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 15, No. 7

May 1987

MEETING CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 12: BAS Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 112B, Biology/Natural Resources Building, USU campus

Wednesday, May 13: Utah Wildlife Leadership Coalition will present plans to form a coalition of wildlife conservation groups, 7:30 p.m. in the Mountain Fuel Supply Auditorium, 45 East 200 North, Logan.

Thursday, May 14: General BAS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Logan Library, 255 North Main, Logan. The speaker for May will be writer/photographer John Flannery. See related article in this issue of *The Stilt*.

Wednesday, May 20: BAS PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, 7:00 p.m. at the Logan Library, 255 North Main.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, May 2: SHOREBIRDS AT AMALGA BARRENS. The best place to see 12 or more species of shorebirds and many other marsh birds. This is one of BAS' most popular field trips. Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the Fred Meyer parking lot and return by noon. Bring a spotting scope if you can.

Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17: CANOEING THE LITTLE BEAR RIVER. An easy, 15-mile paddle down river from Trenton to Amalga, with stops to see great blue heron nesting and great horned owls. Expect to see 60 or more species of birds. Bring your lunch. YOU NEED RESERVATIONS FOR THIS FIELD TRIP; call Al Stokes, 752-2702 beginning May 1. Bring your own canoe, or use one BAS

supplies for a nominal fee. One trip will take place on Saturday and a second on Sunday.

Saturday, May 30: CANOEING THE LITTLE BEAR RIVER. An easy two-hour paddle down Spring Creek and back up the Little Bear. The route will go under a great blue heron colony, and participants will observe lots of beaver activity and many nesting marsh birds. YOU NEED RESERVATIONS FOR THIS FIELD TRIP; call Al Stokes, 752-2702. Bring your own canoe, or use one BAS supplies for a nominal charge. One flotilla will leave at 8:00 a.m. and one at 4:00 p.m.

FLANNERY TO SPEAK

Writer/photographer John S. Flannery will present "Life on a Desert Island" at the May general Bridgerland Audubon Society meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Logan Library at 255 North Main Street. Everybody is invited.

In mid-December 1986, Flannery and his wife, Annie, a Utah State University graduate student in wildlife biology, left Cache Valley bound for the French Frigate Shoals in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Their ultimate destination was tiny Tern Island, 500 miles west of Honolulu, where their friend, USU graduate Rick Vetter, manages a national wildlife refuge. John and Annie spent six weeks as volunteers on the island, participating in wildlife studies.

The Flannery's experiences were featured in the Cache magazine of the *Logan Herald Journal* on March 15, 1987. John is a feature writer for USU Information Services and a freelance photographer.

— Jill Smith

GROUSE FIELD TRIP

It was cloudy but warm when we set up camp in the Twin Springs campground located in the Curlew National Grasslands. For the first campout of the season, scorched hot dogs and flaming marshmallows tasted good. Later, everyone gathered around the campfire for the traditional telling of tales about the early history of homesteading the grassland. Farms were plowed and planted, giant horse-drawn combines harvested the wheat. Hard times and the Depression caused many farms to fail. The government bought out the few homesteads that were left and allowed the sagebrush and grass to take over.

Early the next morning we were up and going by 5:30. We headed for the grouse leek in cars. Part of the group missed the turnoff and disappeared over the hill. The ranger, Ken, like a good cowboy rounding up strays, met them at the pass and headed them back. Meanwhile, back at the leek, the sharptailed grouse missed their appointment with the sunrise. A lovelorn female strolled across the territory like a wallflower at the prom, but no one asked her to dance. A few strays shyly hung around the edges, but for those of us who waited, the dance had been cancelled.

Off we went again, over hill and dale to find some sage grouse. We were rewarded by the sight of two males in the middle of a winter wheat field beak to beak in confrontation. They hurrumphed, air sacs full, and pompously paraded, putting on a great show.

Ken Timothy thought he knew of one more place where the sharptails could be seen; all we found were some feathers and feces

On the way back, Al Stokes and Tom Jones developed a long, lean aluminum can pickup machine.

A manmade pond and view of distant ducks and geese, and a hike up the hillside to see a packrat nest rounded off the trip.

— Marilyn Jones

SKULL COLLECTING THE EASY WAY

On the recent trip to Curlew Grasslands to observe grouse displays, the group climbed up to several packrat dens. There was soon a lively show and tell as the various members of the group brought out numerous skulls from where the packrats had brought them into their nests. First was the skull of a packrat, then what appeared to be the skulls of a porcupine and a jackrabbit. Finally, a skull with tiny incisors, a single long scimitar-sharp canine on each side of the lower jaw, and very tiny molars had the group perplexed at first. Somebody suggested weasel. That made sense, and one could almost hear the

anguished dying squeal as those long canines pieced the victim. Packrat dens may be easily recognized by "whitewash" or urine deposits used by the packrats as markers. They show up clearly on the vertical cliffs. Such sites or elsewhere may bring them over to Al Stokes to help her build her teaching collection of skulls, bones, scats, nests, and other objects of interest to

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING GOES WELL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

As of April 13, we have raised \$97 through our aluminum can recycling project for the scholarships to the Audubon Camp in the West. The price has just gone up to 25 cents per pound, which will make our efforts even more worthwhile. Thanks to the following new contributors: Eric Hanson, Mark Boyet, Terry Griver and her lab-maid, the Biology Department, Jill Smith, Lucy Jordan, Ron Ryel, Bob & Betty Taylor, Jean Lown, Tricia Thompson, Fawn Steigerwald, Dick & Sue Mueller, Pat & Tom Gordon, Phyllis Cochrane, Pat Bahler and several other elves who have dropped off their contributions.

That energetic, outdoor-minded fraternity, the FJWS, starting a service project to save cans for Bridgeport Audubon. Al Stokes got a special gift while visiting Tracy Aviary in April. A handsome young man approached him and wanted to strike up a conversation. Al, carrying a sack of cans he had just picked up on the grounds and told the young man about our project. In response, he pulled out his wallet and gave Al \$5.00 to help out. So special thanks to Mark Wimmer from Layton.

Al also has picked up some aspects of honeybee ecology. While scavenging cans at Willow Park on a sunny afternoon he noticed the many honey bees down in the trash barrels going after the residual pop in the cans. The bees frequented only those cans in the sun. Al learned from a zookeeper that the bees always do this in spring but not much later. Presumably honeybees prefer the nectar of wildflowers to the sugar in pop.

The University's recycling center has given Audubon \$100 and, in addition, its large stock of unsold notepaper which we will sell for 50 cents a pad. These will be for sale at the Banquet, on field trips, and at monthly meetings. Please spread the word about our can recycling project. There is a largely untapped goldmine of cans in the valley.

— Al Stokes

AUDUBON NATIONAL CONVENTION

Mark the dates of August 24-29, 1987, on your calendar and join us in Bellingham, Washington, for the National Convention. Scheduled are stimulating sessions on old-growth forests, spotted owls, and marine birds; "how-to" workshops; keynote speakers; and more.

The host chapters in the Pacific Northwest have assembled the most exciting array of field trips ever at a national convention. These trips include pelagic trips in Puget Sound, a day-long visit to the beautiful city of Vancouver, birding trips into the Cascades, the Olympic Peninsula rainforests, the Columbia Gorge and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, Mt. St. Helens, wildflower trips, Indian culture trips, and many more.

The convention site will be the Western Washington University campus which will give us very affordable meal and lodging packages (complete accommodations for five days will be in the \$200-225 range. Registration is \$50 for the convention. For more information, contact Ron Ryel, 825 North 600 East, Logan, Utah 84321 (phone 753-077).

REDWINGS AT FEEDERS

Al Stokes' article in the April *Stilt* has brought additional reports on the use of bird feeders by redwinged blackbirds. Lem Earl has been feeding birds at his home in River Heights the last two years. This year the first redwings showed up in late February. Some of them started to sing almost from the start. At first there were only one or two birds. Within a few weeks there were five, and now he has counted over 100 birds, mostly males. They come in somewhat hesitatingly, not aggressively, to the feeders, and seem to discourage other birds more by their presence than aggressiveness. They readily eat the black sunflower seeds. Lem has quit feeding as of April 1 because the redwings monopolize the feeders and consume so much seed. Terry Barnes reports that at the end of March she had over 30 redwings coming regularly, up from the five to eight she had in late February and early March. Al Stokes has seen only four pairs of two or three male redwings over the span of four weeks. Chuck and Nancy Warner keep a daily log of birds in their place. They first heard redwings about their home in North Logan on February 12. On the 15th they had six in their yard. They had the greatest concentration in March—mostly adult and immature males. They were still there on April 6.

Lucy Price has had small numbers of redwings at her home in Hyde Park for the last four to five years, starting in late February. They tend to discourage other birds, even the flocks of evening grosbeaks, just by being there. She finds they come most often at mid-day so she puts out sunflower seeds in early morning. She has never seen more than six at one time, unlike Woody Jeppson not far away on the west side of Hyde Park.

— Al Stokes

EDITOR'S EXCUSE

If this edition of *The Stilt* is shorter than the last two or three, it's only because it's not as long. The editor pleads lack of time this month. The editor also admits to a certain amount of grumpiness, which you can help to alleviate. The editor deeply appreciates the regulars who contribute to *The Stilt*, thereby making his job much easier. The editor would be less grumpy if more of you out there became regular contributors. Since there's sufficient grumpiness in the BAS area without the editor adding to it, won't you all help?

— TJG

SEVENTEEN SYLLABLES

Three crows pass over,
The dawn sky soft. They are gone.
They fly back, with straw.

— Pat Gordon

WETLAND REPORTS NEEDED

Our local wetlands are of great concern to the conservation committee. To protect these lands we need good, factual information. Whatever the discussion regarding wetlands, there is no substitute for facts, yet no one person has a complete knowledge of all the wetlands' values.

To fill this gap we are asking for your help. We would like to compile a notebook detailing the various environmental values in the wetlands. Do you know of something that should be included in this notebook?

For example, where exactly is the heron rookery located? How many nest there, how successful are their nesting attempts, where do they feed, what do they feed on, when do they arrive in and leave Cache Valley? What environmental disturbances would they be sensitive to?

Any information of this sort would be helpful. Fairly short (one-two pages) and concise descriptions would be best, and a list of references (published and personal) would allow additional followup.

Other possible reports include:

- White-faced ibis
- "National species of special emphasis" (e.g., Canada goose, mallard, pintail, canvasback, sandhill crane, etc.)
- Redhead, white pelican, black-crowned night heron, western grebe
- Mammal and fish species
- Current land uses and activities

- Wetlands classification, description, significance, location
- Pollution: sources, types, amounts
- Legal protection mechanisms: pertinent land-use planning regulations, "swamp-buster" provisions, dairy buy-out program, Clean Water Act, etc.
- Shorebirds
- Rare, endemic, sensitive plant species
- Plant communities
- Land ownership patterns
- River flows and reservoir operating plans
- Recreational value: canoeing, birding, hunting, etc.
- Anything else that interests you

Please send reports to Bruce Pendery in care of Bridgerland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3501, Logan. For more information, call me at 753-3726.

— Bruce Pendery

Audubon Adventures Update

Audubon Adventures tops 5,000 clubs!

With the start of a new calendar year, the youth program crossed the 5,000 club mark. A \$25,000 grant from the General Electric Foundation pushed the club numbers over 5,000, establishing 200 new clubs in communities where G.E. has facilities in New York, Connecticut, and Vermont.

Audubon Month

This year the April Audubon month focus will be on tropical forests. In addition to a special poster and leader's guide to be sent to all Audubon Adventures classrooms, a special packet is being assembled for each state information and education chief. Audubon chapter volunteers will assist by hand carrying the information to state capitols.

For more information on how you can sponsor an Audubon Adventures club, contact your chapter's education chairperson.



Audubon Camps and Ecology Workshops

Come join us in a celebration of nature . . .

. . . as we embark on Audubon's 50th year of excellence in environmental education and field natural history studies.

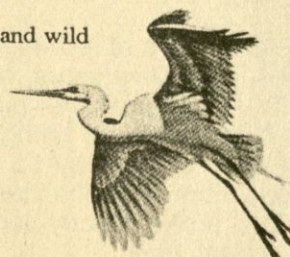
In superb natural settings, in the company of distinguished naturalists and fellow students who share your interest in nature, you'll search a pond for whirligig beetles and damselfly nymphs. Or dredge the ocean floor for starfish and sea urchins. Or investigate the riparian grotto home of the nocturnal oilbird. Or follow paths blazed by mountain sheep.

Field studies range from geology and marine life to birds, mammals, plants, insects, weather, astronomy, and renewable energy. For recreation you may explore a wild island in Maine, go rafting in Wyoming, roam the lovely, lush, deciduous woods of Connecticut. In Trinidad your studies will focus on such subjects as sea turtles, manakin leks, and tropical forest ecology.

Camp sessions for adults run for one or two weeks. College credit is available. There is also a session for children in Maine; introductory field ecology for educators in Connecticut; field ornithology in Maine; wilderness research and nature photography in Wyoming.

You'll learn to better understand and protect the wild creatures and wild places that we love. As it has done for so many others, this Audubon experience will enrich the rest of your life.

For a free color brochure write:
National Audubon Society
Audubon Camps and Workshops
613-D Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831



HIGHLIGHTS OF BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

February 1, 1986 to January 30, 1987

Ron Ryel, President

Our chapter has continued to strengthen its reputation as one of the most youthful and energetic chapters in the National Audubon organization. Started as a Utah State University chapter, it now has 280 members from all over Cache County and southern Idaho. Our chapter is recognized more as a leading conservation organization in the community, working to promote a better appreciation of the environment through education and working with government officials. Here are highlights of our activities. These were possible only through the hard work of the officers and committee chairmen and of dozens of other volunteers to whom I extend my thanks.

Programs Monthly meetings were held October through June. Tom Gordon arranged the programs and Pat Barton provided refreshments. Programs included the history of moose in Utah, archaeological sites in Utah, endangered breeds of domestic animals, edible plants and mushrooms, and grizzly bears, among others. In addition, Monday Family Night programs catered to children with speakers bringing their live ferrets, kestrel, snakes, and homing pigeons.

Field Trips For many persons our field trips are the main drawing card to Audubon and a major source of new members. There were some 30 field trips held throughout the year including the ever-popular two-night camping trip in the Tetons in October to listen to the elk bugle, the canoe trips down both the Bear River and the Little Bear River, the camping trips to observe grouse courtship, and the foster whooping crane program.

Christmas Bird Count This has become a real "event" with some 40 participants braving winter weather under the leadership of Keith Archibald. This year's mild December was fine for the birders, but poor for birds. Despite this, the total count of 84 species was higher than the 75 species seen in the bitter cold of 1985.

Conservation Bruce Pendery and Steve Flint have established a sense of confidence with the local staff of the U.S. Forest Service as our chapter has met to discuss the long-term plan for the Wasatch-Cache Forest, and generated numerous letters of comment from our members. In addition they got a huge turnout of our members and others for the hearings on the proposed changes in Logan Canyon highway.

A proposed dam on Blacksmith Fork south of Hardware Ranch would destroy miles of high-quality trout stream. To be more aware of this threat the Utah Audubon Council met on Blacksmith Fork. Paul Summers of the Utah Water Resources Division spoke, and the group saw first-hand the impact of such a dam during the field trip.

Alice Lindahl, outraged over the removal of most shade trees along Hillcrest Avenue in Logan, was instrumental in getting Mayor Newel Daines to create a committee to revise Logan's shade tree ordinance. Audubon members Fred Baker, Karen Fisher, and Al Stokes served on this committee and have recommended that Logan appoint a professional urban forester as well as a citizens' shade tree council. Additional activities of the Conservation Committee included helping with a very successful Land-Use Planning Seminar which most of the candidates for local office attended, and the generation of comments on the BLM wilderness proposal.

Nature Trail Guides Both the Limber Pine and Tony Grove Lake nature trails are now completed, with Audubon's attractive trail guides available. Mike Jablonski and Cindy Johnson are now writing a guide for the Riverside Trail with promise of financial support from Pepperidge Farms to publish it. The Forest Service has been most supportive of these projects.

Annual Banquet and Conservation Award Our fifth annual banquet drew a convivial group of Audubon members and friends for fellowship, good food, and David Stanley's talk about "The Folklore and History of Utah's National Parks." The annual Conservation Award was presented to former county planner Ken Sizemore for his steadfast efforts for what he considered proper land-use planning and zoning in Cache County. Thanks to Chuck and Nancy Warner and Tim Vitale for their share in this event.

Good Will and Warm Cuddly Feelings Helen Engle has said during her many pep talks to Audubon chapters that a chapter's key to success lies in being of service to the community and making the community feel good about the chapter. Our chapter has worked to these ends in numerous ways. Our booth at Holly Faire, the annual Christmas bazaar sponsored by The Alliance for the Varied Arts, has provided entertainment to countless children as they decorated Christmas tree ornaments or assembled their own bird boxes and bird feeders. Jan Young involved dozens of our members working at the booth while at the same time entrancing Holly Faire visitors as Big Bird.

Sponsoring Audubon Adventures in ten fifth-grade classrooms and including these children in our first Junior Christmas Bird Count has been a major contribution of Nancy Warner and Teri Peery. Feeding of birds has become the county's fastest growing hobby, abetted by Jan Young's bird study courses and our selling of some seven tons of sunflower seeds. John Barnes and his team procure the seed, and he, Elaine Watkins, Jeff Keller, and Al Stokes try to dispense it faster than the mice can consume it in their garages.

Our Audubon T-shirts have been a great success (a project of Peter Landres and Sue Douglas) as has the notepaper featuring a sandhill crane designed by former member Kim Lewis.

Publicity Our nine issues per year of *The Stilt* are mailed to 400 people to keep them informed of chapter activities. Jill Smith and Tom Gordon have served as editors, and Liz Keller as circulation manager and keeper of membership records. In addition, John Wise has handled the publicity through press and radio, with the result that "Audubon" is now a household word in Cache Valley.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY WILDERNESS RESEARCH BACKPACK PROGRAM

This program has been designed to provide you with a beautiful wilderness trek blended with a wide variety of ecological data collection activities in the Wind River Mountains and Absaroka Mountains of Wyoming. Throughout your explorations of mountain valleys, alpine lakes and peak tops, you will be surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in the Rocky Mountain west and, at the same time feel satisfied knowing that your work is adding substantially to the ecological knowledge of the area. While backpacking, you will learn from Audubon biologists the skills of bird and mammal censusing, bird banding, insect survey, plant identification, and herbarium collection. Two semester hours of credit are available from the University of Wyoming for participation in this program. The trip is of moderate difficulty; beginners are welcome and experts will not be disappointed. There will be approximately four basecamps with the longest stay being 3-4 days. For more information please contact: National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 499-5409.

Dates:	Session 1A	Wind River Mountains	June 21 - July 3, 1987
	1B	Absaroka Mountains	June 21 - July 3, 1987
	2A	Wind River Mountains	July 5 - 17, 1987
	2B	Absaroka Mountains	July 5 - 17, 1987

Cost: \$550.00

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IN WYOMING Program Description

Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, Yellowstone National Park, and Grand Teton National Park are the settings for this program led by professional photographer W. Perry Conway since 1979. W. Perry Conway is a nationally recognized wildlife photographer. His work is frequently published in both scientific and popular wildlife magazines, illustrated textbooks, calendars, and film strips. He is a frequent guest lecturer and sells stock nature photography through his own company the Aerie Nature Series.

This program covers skills and creativity in using 35mm cameras to photograph plants, mammals, and scenery. Lectures, demonstrations, and field work will cover the following topics: camera handling, exposure, lighting, subjects, film, lenses, filters, depth of field, composition, close-ups, blinds, marketing your photos, approaching animals, and ethics. Participants are asked to bring five slides for a participant slide show. Participants will also expose Ektachrome or Fujichrome film for a critique session. Days will also be spent on field trips and day hiking into varying life zones for field demonstrations and practice. Evening sessions are also planned. Participation is limited to 30 persons to insure a maximum of only 15 in each of two study groups.

For more information, please contact National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303 (303) 499-0219.

Dates: June 19 - 28, 1987 Cost: \$750.00