



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 15, No. 8

June 1987

MEETING CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 9: 7:30 p.m., BAS Conservation Committee Meeting, room 112B in the Biology/Natural Resources Building, USU campus. This will be the final meeting of the Conservation Committee for the season.

Monday-Saturday, August 24-29: National Audubon Society 1987 National Convention in Bellingham, Washington. Audubon chapters in the Pacific Northwest, jointly hosting the National Convention, will sponsor field trips to Puget Sound, to the Cascades, to the Olympic Peninsula rain forest, to the Columbia Gorge, to Mt. St. Helens and others. Contact a BAS officer for applications. Complete accommodations for the five-day convention will run approximately \$225. See the related article elsewhere in this issue of *The Stilt*.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

BAS has scheduled many field trips for summer 1987, including trips to Green Canyon, Cutler Reservoir, Tony Grove Lake and other select spots. Refer to the separate Summer 1987 Field Trip Schedule included with this issue of *The Stilt* for complete details, and post the schedule as a reminder.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Beginning in June, the Bridgerland Audubon Society commences its summer schedule. Although the BAS officers and committee members remain active during the summer, several meetings and other activities are suspended for the months of June, July and August.

The Stilt: This issue of *The Stilt* will be the last of the season; the next regular issue will appear in September. In the interim, if BAS officers or committee chairs need to contact members, they will do so through phone calls or a special mailing.

Monthly General Meetings: Regular meetings will be suspended until September. The September issue of *The Stilt* will carry information on the speaker for September.

Monthly Planning Meetings: Regular monthly planning meetings will be suspended until September. A meeting may possibly occur in August, in which case interested parties will be contacted by telephone.

Conservation Committee Meeting: Conservation committee meetings will be suspended for the summer months to recommence in September. The conservation committee will remain active during the summer, however, and will continue to monitor such issues as the Logan Canyon Highway project and BLM wilderness proposals. If you have time to support Conservation Committee activities during the summer, please contact Bruce Pendery.

EDITOR'S GRUMPINESS DIMINISHES

Many thanks to all of you who responded to my plea for articles. I appreciate your support, and I know those who read these pages do too.

— TJG

BAS CONSERVATION AWARD

Taking a stand in defense of conservation isn't always easy or enjoyable. This year's recipient of the Allen Stokes Conservation Award, Alice Lindahl of Logan, demonstrated that defending conservation principles can involve both confrontation and compromise.

For Lindahl, a commitment to save the trees along Hillcrest Avenue in Logan meant finding herself in the middle of a public and political tug-of-war concerning the mature shade trees on that street, which had been targeted for removal in order to improve sidewalk and street conditions.

Sadly, Lindahl lost in her defense of the trees, which the city removed, eventually replacing them with saplings. But if she lost that particular battle, her dedication and commitment to conservation have contributed to winning the war for citizen involvement in local conservation issues. Not only has a citizen's advisory board for shade tree policy emerged from the confrontation, but Logan City has improved its tree maintenance program as well.

In addition to her personal commitment to local conservation issues, Lindahl is also professionally involved in conservation, as a field zoologist. Currently she is undertaking a study of the invertebrate communities in Capitol Reef National Monument. She has taught biology, worked as a park ranger and worked as a field scientist in several states. She is completing a graduate degree in ecology from Duke University. Her overall goal, she says, is becoming a natural historian and a defender of natural resources.

Six outstanding nominations were submitted for consideration for this year's Allen Stokes conservation award. In addition to Lindahl, the following nominations were made:

- * Nancy Warner, Logan, for her persistent and consistent commitment to local conservation issues, and particularly for her dedication to environmental education;
- * Paul Jensen, mayor of Trenton, for his continuing support of long-range land use planning in Cache County. Jensen, a past member of the Cache County Planning Commission, also promotes focusing population growth within existing urban areas and protecting open space in the unincorporated areas;
- * Kenneth R. Cardon, Benson, for his local and regional roles in administering the soil conservation districts and for his commitment to preserving soil, water and other natural resources in Cache County;

- * Rudy Lukez, Logan, Chairperson of the Cache Group Sierra Club, for his organizational skills in several local issues and for his commitment to maintaining open communications between the many groups having vested interests in the natural environment, and

- * Jim Catlin, Salt Lake City, public lands coordinator for the Utah Chapter Sierra Club, for his long-term commitment to assessing the quality of public land management in Utah and for his involvement in the Utah BLM wilderness study and the proposal to expand Canyonlands National Park.

Selecting this year's recipient was a difficult task. Many thanks to the members of this year's conservation award committee for their help and support: Tim Vitale, Julie Clark and Tricia Thompson.

— Diane Browning
Conservation Award Committee Chairperson

HELP! LOGAN CANYON IS IN TROUBLE!

Despite your letters and comments at the Logan Canyon Highway scoping meetings, CH2MHILL has not yet eliminated the intensive-development alternatives from their study. Ignoring the restraints of the Forest Plan, they continue to consider alternatives which would link substantial portions of the river with a retaining wall, channel the river into a ditch for hundreds of feet near Logan Cave, and make massive cuts into the hillsides in the narrow portion of the canyon. The goal of these modifications? To increase speed!

CH2MHILL is now preparing drafts of many portions of the impact statement. We need volunteers to help review these documents to remove false and misleading statements. A bureaucrat in Washington, D.C., might believe CH2MHILL when they say the culvert in Amazon Hollow is a "major bridge" in need of replacement. We know better! Five of the 10 "major bridges" listed by CH2MHILL are not even bridges! To make Logan look like a vital regional hub, they talk of the IRS, the Geological Survey, the Veterans' Administration and congressional offices here . . . but we know these offices don't exist! We know many people fish the river between Right Hand Fork and Temple Fork . . . but CH2MHILL says ". . . this section was not heavily utilized; only eight people were observed fishing there during all of 1982."

Please help. Call me at 752-9102 in the evenings if you can volunteer some time to help critique these impact statement drafts during the summer. Unless we remove the numerous false statements in these documents, they will be used to justify the intensive-development alternatives.

— Steve Flint

PURPLE MARTIN RESEARCH

The purple martin has been managed by man longer than any other species of North American bird. In fact, American Indians were attaching hollowed-out gourds to the poles of their wigwams in order to attract purple martins long before Europeans arrived in the New World.

However, according to the *Outdoor News Bulletin* (vol. 41:8), scientific evidence indicates that purple martin populations are declining in many parts of the birds' breeding range. I'm told that a few years ago they were regular visitors to Tony Grove Lake, but no one has reported seeing them in quite a while.

The Purple Martin Conservation Association has established a Colony Registry Program in order to locate as many martin colonies as possible to facilitate needed research. If you know of any purple martin colonies, please help by contacting the Purple Martin Conservation Association, PO Box 178, Edinboro, PA 16412.

(Adapted from *Outdoor News Bulletin*)

— Chuck Warner

IDAHO WILDERNESS

A bill that would designate 3.9 million acres of wilderness on National Forest lands in Idaho has been introduced in Congress. This bill is supported by Audubon chapters in Idaho, and three areas near Cache Valley are of particular interest to us in BAS.

The proposed Cache Peak Wilderness near Malad would be 15,000 acres, and the proposed Cache Crest Wilderness, west of Montpelier, would encompass 22,000 acres of wildlands. Most significant, the Mt. Naomi North Wilderness would be contiguous with the existing Mt. Naomi Wilderness and would include some 12,000 acres. If you have hiked in these areas and would like to see them designated wilderness, be sure to write the Idaho congressional delegation, and let Utah's representatives know your views as well.

— Bruce Pendery

RECYCLING EFFORTS PAY

BAS received \$450 in grants from the USU recycling committee recently to fund our recycling efforts. Al Stokes was awarded \$100 which will be added to monies raised by the recycling program to finance a scholarship to Audubon's Camp in the West. If you have aluminum cans to donate, any BAS officer would be happy to take them.

Chris Riley and I were awarded a \$350 grant to support our campus recycling effort, which consists of four appropriately labeled barrels placed on the USU campus (in the lobby of

the new BNR building, on the second floor of the old BNR building, at the entrance to the Merrill Library and in the Taggart Student Center's Hive). The grant will cover operating expenses and an advertising campaign. We also hope to buy a can crusher with the grant funds to increase the efficiency of our efforts.

We're seeking volunteers to increase our efforts on campus. We have four more barrels we'd like to place, possibly in such locations as the vending machine areas in the Engineering, Business and Fine Arts buildings, and the Food and Nutrition building. Can you spare about two minutes a day to check on a recycling barrel and keep the area around it clean? It might take a bit longer, once a week or so, to transport cans from a field barrel to the collection point behind the Student Center . . . but you might see a bird or two on the way. Please call me if you can help.

All proceeds from the actual recycling go to the BAS, either to the scholarship fund or into the general fund. To date, we've recycled about 100 pounds of aluminum from the campus collection barrels. Chris and I have had help from both Rich Campanella and Marjorie Lewis, which we very much appreciate.

Last but not least is the third leg of the recycling triad: bring YOUR aluminum cans to a BAS monthly meeting and someone will be happy to take them off your hands.

— Bruce Pendery

AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

The morning after the BAS banquet, several of us dragged ourselves out of bed and headed to Ogden for the Audubon Council meeting. Representatives from Utah Audubon and host Wasatch Audubon met us at the Ogden Bay Refuge for a morning of conversation and birding in the mostly-flooded area. We spotted 30 to 40 species of waterfowl and shorebirds; the area is by no means a complete loss.

After lunch we turned to business: the Utah Lake Refuge and BLM wilderness, the two conservation priorities for National Audubon in Utah. Jim Coyner reported that a commission in Provo has reviewed the Utah Lake proposal, and with any luck Rep. James Hansen will reintroduce the bill to establish the refuge soon. We'll keep you informed.

BLM wilderness proposals were a second item of business. Audubon has not decided whether or not to endorse the Utah Wilderness Association's (UWA) proposal or that of the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC). We discussed these proposals and gave our preliminary views. This led to an interesting proposal by Gene Knoder from the Audubon Regional Office. He suggested that before deciding

whether to endorse UWA or UWC, we invite Brock Evans, Audubon's Vice-President for National Issues, to Utah for a field tour of the proposed wilderness areas. The tour would occur immediately before the Audubon Council's fall meeting, which will hopefully take place in Cedar City, and at which the endorsement decision will then be made. John Bellman of Wasatch Audubon is chairing a committee that will make arrangements for this tour, and Brock Evans has tentatively agreed to accept the invitation.

The most exciting aspect of this tour is that it represents an inter-chapter effort that could coalesce into an elected state Audubon Council. Communication between Utah's five chapters has been weak, and a statewide elected council could help alleviate this problem, promoting all of Audubon's interests in Utah, not just conservation issues. Furthermore, since budget cuts have forced the Regional Office to work increasingly with statewide councils rather than individual chapters, such an elected council would assure Utah of continued visibility at the regional and national level.

— Bruce Pendery

SEVENTEEN SYLLABLES

Old man in the field
Haloed against the late sun
White dandelions

— Pat Gordon

SEEN ANY HUMMINGBIRDS LATELY?

Dale Ashcroft, an employee of the Willow Park Zoo, wishes to photograph a nest of active hummingbirds so he can use the photo in his education programs in the schools. If you know the location of an active nest, call Dale at 753-4736, or call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

CONDOR CAPTURE

The last free-flying California Condor is no longer free-flying. Audubon biologists, working with federal and state wildlife agencies captured the last free-flying condor on Sunday, April 19. This bird is now one of the 26 condors held at the Los Angeles and San Diego zoos in a captive breeding program aimed at ultimately reconstituting the wild population. Audubon is firmly committed to the eventual release of California Condors back into the wild, and stresses that those concerned about this magnificent species should work doubly hard to insure the protection of its habitat.

PBS SCHEDULE FOR NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SPECIALS

The PBS schedule for the National Audubon Society Television Specials for **Season Two: Summer 1987** appears below. Underwritten by The Stroh Brewery Company, this season will include several outstanding wildlife and natural history films. A companion book to the Audubon Television Specials, *Life In The Balance* by David Rains Wallace (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich: 1987) will be available in September from bookstores throughout the country.

Sunday, July 12, 8:00 p.m. — GALAPAGOS: MY FRAGILE WORLD (narrated by Cliff Robertson)

Sunday, July 19, 8:00 p.m. — DUCKS UNDER SEIGE* (narrated by John Heard)

Sunday, July 26, 8:00 p.m. — CONDOR (narrated by Robert Redford)

Sunday, August 2, 8:00 p.m. — THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK FOOTED FERRET (narrated by Loretta Swit)

Sunday, August 9, 8:00 p.m. — COMMON GROUND: FARMING AND WILDLIFE (narrated by Dennis Weaver)

Sunday, August 16, 8:00 p.m. — ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION: PANTHERS & CHEETAHS (narrated by Loretta Swit)

* NOTE: DUCKS UNDER SEIGE can also be seen on Super Station WTBS, on June 5 (10:05 p.m. EDT), repeating on June 20 (10:05 p.m. EDT), June 28 (3:00 p.m. EDT) and June 29 (11:00 p.m. EDT). Don't miss this timely program; in 1985, the population of ducks in North America was at its lowest level in more than 30 years.

HELP SAVE A WILDLIFE REFUGE

John Flannery's slide show and lecture at the May 14 BAS meeting, "Life on a Desert Island," ended with a plea to help save Tern Island as a wildlife refuge. A small island in the French Frigate Shoals, north of Hawaii, Tern Island is home and breeding ground to many species of sea birds, as well as the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal. Refuge managers, now living on site, gather daily information about the island life . . . but that may not last. To help support year-round refuge management and aid in protecting the area's wildlife, please write to:

Robert A. Jantzen
Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
18th and C Streets, Room 3256
Washington, D.C. 20240

— Jill Smith

AUDUBON YOUTH CLUB ACTIVITIES

A pair of robins building their nest, a starling feeding its young and two male house sparrows squabbling over a female were only a few of the sights witnessed by nearly 100 children who participated in the Audubon Youth Club (AYC) birdwatching trip on Friday morning, May 15. Bridgerland Audubon Society volunteers assisted 5th-graders from Lincoln, Millville and Edith Bowen elementary schools as they sought to locate and identify birds in the various residential and riparian areas, pastures, parks and thickets of their neighborhoods.

All participants saw and/or heard several familiar species of birds including robins, magpies and chickadees. Most of the AYC members were able to see some birds they'd never noticed before, such as barn swallows, black-headed grosbeaks and yellow warblers. Ray Linhart's Lincoln Elementary School class observed 35 species of birds in and around Hyrum, with the help of group leaders Alice Steward and Pat Gordon. Alice Lindahl, Ed Sparks and Dale Krebs helped Dorothy Dobson's class from Edith Bowen spot 24 species on the USU campus, in the cemetery and in Alice Lindahl's back yard. Ruthe Poehlmann, Chuck Warner and Nancy Warner pointed out 20 species in residential areas and pastures of Millville for the young birders in Rocky Maughan's class.

The kids were impressed with the variety of birds living in their neighborhoods, concluding on several occasions that "birdwatching" is fun! It sure beats arithmetic, anyway.

Many thanks to the AYC teachers and volunteers who made this event possible. For those of you who wanted to help but couldn't . . . want to help with an AYC Christmas count?

— Nancy Warner

JOURNAL ENTRY: APRIL 7, 1985

For the two weeks spring has tried its darndest to break through, a rooster pheasant has been crowing each morning about 6 a.m. only five feet from my bed. This morning, Easter morning, I witnessed a very special sunrise service for one: from the window I watched him feeding amidst the sparrows under the feeder. Several times he leaned back against his long tail feathers, threw out his magnificent breast, fluttered his wings, and with his head thrown back uttered his harsh, unmelodious "krack-krick." What a display! He wears a crazy-quilt of improbable colors and patterns: breast of iridescent plum to vermillion; leopard spots; scallops, bars, speckles in brown, beige, white, gold; an aquamarine rump; crimson eye patches on his head of more iridescence . . . this time purple/blue/green, and with horns yet. He stands out against the snow still covering the ground . . .

— Kit Flannery

STUDY IN DENALI PARKS

An exciting trip is being offered this summer (late July and early August) to study the natural history of the Denali Parks of Alaska. Travel is by train and river rafts on this 12-day backpacking expedition. College credit is available; the total cost is \$450. For complete, detailed information, write the instructor: John Wenger, P.O. Box 240171, Anchorage, AK 99524-0171. Or phone him at 907/562-5723.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Charles Baldwin, Logan
Thomas J. Lyon, Logan
Bob Trowbridge, Providence

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS

R M R Holdredge, Logan
Kathy VanSlyke, Logan
Homer & Elizabeth Walkey, Logan
Kirk Williams, Smithfield
Scott T. Smith, Logan

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK AND CLASSROOM

The Glacier Institute is offering a series of field courses to be taught on-site in Glacier National Park, with emphasis on outdoor learning. Classes will run from late June through mid-August, depending upon the class. Instructors are professionals with a special feeling for the park that they will share with you. Spend a weekend or a week exploring the park and expanding your interests in natural sciences, art, photography, history or education. The cost of each course includes quality instruction, transportation (except for Exploration classes) and, in some cases, college credit. Registration for the classes will be through Flathead Community College, and registration by mail is a must to reserve space. For further information, contact The Glacier Institute, PO Box 1457, Kalispell, Montana 59903, or phone 406/752-5222 (after June 19, 406/888-5215).

A FISH STORY

An Alaska Airlines flight was delayed at Juneau recently while the aircraft underwent inspection for damage following a mid-air collision between the Boeing 737 and a fish. Right. According to an AP story in the Spokane, Washington *Spokesman-Review*, the aircraft took off from Juneau, and about 400 feet past the runway's end crossed the flight path of a bald eagle carrying a fish. As the big bird approached the little bird, the law of the jungle prevailed and the eagle dropped its prey, which hit the "eyebrow window" at the top of the cockpit. The flight returned to Juneau for inspection, which revealed a greasy spot and some scales, but no damage. The eagle escaped injury, but the fish is missing and presumed dead.

— From *High Country News*, 27 April 1987

NATIONAL AUDUBON 1987 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

"Ancient Forests—Priceless Treasures" is the theme and focus of this important international meeting of Audubon Society members and others interested in one of the most pressing conservation issues of this century. Those attending the convention will spend five days (August 24-29) in the stunning natural splendor of the Pacific Northwest learning about efforts underway to protect the ancient old-growth forests of Oregon, Washington, southwest Alaska and northern California. Attendees will also learn about international efforts by Audubon and other concerned organizations to save the rapidly diminishing tropical rain forests and associated plant and animal species around the world. For a listing of field trips to be conducted, and registration information, contact a BAS officer or the editor of *The Stillt*. If you have any questions about the convention, call the convention hotline, 303/499-3622, or write Audubon Convention Headquarters, 4150 Larley, Suite 5, Bolder, CO 80303.

— TJG

AUDUBON PLATTE RIVER CAMPAIGN

Audubon recently launched a national campaign to permanently protect the Platte River in central Nebraska, a unique ecosystem considered one of the nation's most important migratory bird habitats. By accepting the challenge to lead efforts to recover and protect the Platte, Audubon joined two of the west's most heated controversies: the debate over the importance of instream flows for wildlife conservation and efforts to defeat the Denver Water Department's proposed Two Forks Dam.

In many areas, the once wide, unvegetated and braided river channel is now plant-choked and confined to narrow channels. About 95 percent of the habitat preferred for roosting by whooping and sandhill cranes and for nesting and feeding by least terns and piping plovers—a wide river channel with vegetation-free sandbars interspersed with shallow, open water—has been lost. Conservationists assert that additional water developments, including the proposed Two Forks Dam, will only exacerbate the problems and loss of habitat. At a public hearing in Denver on February 28, Dr. Carse Pustmueller, Audubon's Rocky Mountain region Platte River Coordinator, presented a detailed analysis of the Two Forks Draft EIS, characterizing it as "inadequate and unacceptable." Copies of her testimony are available from the Regional Office.

With the addition of the Platte River as a national priority, the Rocky Mountain Region is now fielding three major environmentally devastating water projects: the Central Arizona Project, the Central Utah Project and several Platte River projects in Wyoming and Colorado.

— Audubon Leader, April 1987

COYOTE UPDATE

A formal appeal of the helicopter gunning of coyotes in the Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area has been filed by the Sierra Club, Utah Wilderness Association and Wasatch Mountain Club. Based on information obtained from the Forest Service, the Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service, and others involved in the ongoing controversy, the new appeal raises several major points.

First: when aerial gunning was used in 1985, the Forest Service said it was an alternative to ground control methods. In fact, however, aerial gunning and ground control have been used concurrently for several years. The "alternative" had not replaced earlier methods.

Second: aerial gunning of coyotes was first presented as a means of protecting sheep flocks in the wilderness; however, the Forest Service is now saying that it is part of an integrated "coyote control plan" for all wilderness and non-wilderness areas around Mt. Naomi.

Third: the public comment period was unreasonably short. Even though 80 written and oral responses were received by the Forest Service in the six-day comment period at the end of January, the agency made its final decision in under two days.

The gunning period for 1987 has expired; wool growers will have to apply for a new permit later this year for the 1988 winter season . . . unless, of course, the Chief and Regional Foresters rule in favor of conservationists and coyotes. No decision date has been set.

The three conservation groups plan to pursue this issue as far as possible. A major effort has gone into the effort. Principal authors of the appeal were Jack Spense, Tom Lyon, Dick Carter, and Gary McFarland. The Utah Wilderness Association has been the chief organizer of the appeal process.

— Cache Group Sierra Club, *Cache News*, May 1987

UTAH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City will sponsor two adult education programs this summer that may be of interest to BAS members: a course on Utah raptors and a "Day With a Naturalist" series of nature walks.

The Utah Raptor course will be taught Tuesdays from June 23 through July 14 at 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in room 319 at the museum. Jo Stoddard will teach the class, which will emphasize the physiology of the birds and their adaptations rather than identification and field work. Cost is \$40.00.

"A Day With a Naturalist" will be a series of guided nature walks in the Wasatch. June 20 will be "Spring Wildflowers of the Wasatch Foothills" with Pam Poulson; Alyce Hreha will conduct "Trees and Shrubs of the Wasatch" on June 27 and will also conduct "Wildflowers of Albion Basin" on August 1. Each trip is limited to 20 participants, and will last from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The series is sponsored in part by the State Arboretum of Utah.

The museum is also offering a number of extended trips: Teton Crest Trek, Galapagos Islands, Grand Canyon and Zuni. Call the museum at 801/581-4887 for dates, cost and other information.

— From the *Utah Audubon News*, 39:4, May-June 1987

BIRDERS FLOAT BEAR RIVER IN THE RAIN

Oregon-like weather on May 17 was not enough to deter 21 birders from an 11-mile trip down the Bear River from Trenton to Amalga. Ponchos, rain pants, and baseball caps were all in place when we launched from the Trenton Bridge amid plops of large raindrops.

Perhaps the rain kept the birds at home in their roosts on each side of the river. We tallied up 50 species of birds and two of mammals (not counting cows and people) on the 4 1/2 hour trip. The activity of birds and the good fortune of having very sharp-eyed observers along more than compensated for the gloomy weather. Communication between boats was handled by the sharp maneuvers of kayaker Jym Waidler.

Trip highlights included a nose-to-beak look at two great-horned owls, their horns drooped below horizontal by globs of water. We paddled side-by-side with two Canadian geese families. The gosling numbers were six and eight. "Look how well-behaved they are!" commented a mom with two of her own fledglings along.

The lunch spot provided us with sunshine and the aerial acrobatics of a red-tailed hawk. The show became a *Pax de deux, trois, quatre* as some red-winged blackbirds decided the hawk needed some needling.

We counted 30 active nests at the heron rookery just south of the confluence of the Cub and Bear Rivers. No young heron fuzzy heads were yet visible, but there was something going on because each nest contained a sentry-type parent.

Along the length of the river, black-crowned night herons were posted just above the water, looking like Egyptian statues. These birds were working hard on mind control: "These people don't see me; I am invisible. . ."

We practiced thought control, too. "This is how Jim Bridger traveled around Cache Valley." Around two bends and the spell was broken—Jim Bridger never brought in car bodies or private garbage dumps or cows! The sweet bovine faces with their pink plastic ear tags are not that bad to look at, but their numbers sure do trample down the banks. The rockchucks we saw had chosen rip-rap for a talus slope.

Maybe it's not too soon to think of asking the Utah parks to buy a piece of this beautiful and historic river greenway so that paddlers will always be able to see riparian habitat and birds. It's not going to be very much fun when the entire Bear is inhabited by those sweet slow elk and recent fossils of past Detroit glories.

— Alice Lindahl

A WHALE OF A TIME

I was one of about 60 people who had a whale of a time April 24 at the annual BAS banquet.

We did a little vicarious cetacean-watching.

For an hour I wore an orange lifejacket and sailed the deep blue waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez, amazed again and again at the giant swimming mammals. Once in a while I was dazzled by white sands, when we went ashore to see washed-up baleen, a whale bone or a barnacle carcass.

I liked it. Consequently I just watched.

So I didn't take notes about the length of the whales, or the patterns of spots, flukes, flippers or spouts, or the difference between a false and a true killer whale (did anyone get that?).

But because Tom is soliciting copy, I thought I'd write something about Allan Morgan, our leader on the whale-watching expedition.

When I found Morgan at the Salt Lake airport, he was wearing a green Arizona Feed & Seed cap and carrying a laptop computer, a 200-pound camera bag, and a book about orcas.

Some years ago, he earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado. But he decided he preferred taking photographs to working as an engineer and making cameras.

"I like being my own boss," he said.

He is colorblind, which at one time kept him out of flight school.

In his camera bag he carried a two-foot-long lens covered with camouflage tape. When he takes pictures of birds, he often stays in the car and uses a window mount for his camera. He said that birds are tolerant of cars, but not so tolerant of a photographer setting up a tripod.

He keeps notes on a Radio Shack TRS-80 computer. It's about the size of a notebook and easy to use, he said.

He has been photographing whales for more than 10 years, as a naturalist on Baja, California whale-watching trips. He once taught about invertebrates at the Audubon Camp of the West, and he spent four years as a photographer for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson before he launched out on his own.

He likes photographing animals of all sizes, and his camera-finger gets itchy when he hasn't shot film for awhile. Like for a few hours.

On a flight with John Flannery, Morgan got a birds-eye view of Cache Valley and shot some film. Later I drove him to the west marshes where he photographed avocets, lesser yellowlegs and black-necked stilts, using the window mount.

"I see a lot more when I take photographs," he said.

On the return trip, near the Salt Lake airport, we stopped to see a variety of ducks, great blue herons, egrets, dowitchers and more yellowlegs.

It seemed fitting.

He seemed to like flying and flyers.

Of one magnificent photograph of a breaching great blue whale, spreading its flippers, he had said, "This is a picture of the early evolution of flight in mammals."

National Audubon Society **C H A P T E R** **M E M B E R S H I P A P P L I C A T I O N**

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Nonprofit Organization
 BULK RATE
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 Logan, Utah

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.

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

- Ron Ryel, 753-6077
- Jillyn Smith, 750-1359
- Scott Cheney, 753-1893
- Betty Boeker, 752-8092
- Bruce Pendery, 753-3726
- Nancy Warner, 752-7345
- Al Stokes, 752-2702
- Al Stokes, 752-2702
- Mike Jablonski, 753-6964
- John Wise, 245-6695
- Pat Barton, 752-1784
- Terry Barnes, 563-3910
- John Barnes, 563-3910
- John Wraith, 752-0743
- Larry Ryel, 753-8479
- Dianne Browning, 752-5946

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