



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 16, No. 1

September 1987

## MEETING CALENDAR

Thursday, 10 September: 5:30 p.m., regular BAS monthly meeting. This meeting will be a pot-luck at Upper Guinavah Campground in Logan Canyon. Bring a dish to share and eating utensils; BAS will provide the beverages. Allen and Alice Stokes will report on the National Audubon Society Meetings in Bellingham, Washington, which they attended. We'll also have musical entertainment. This will be an excellent meeting to introduce BAS to potential new members, so bring a few recruits.

Upper Guinavah is about seven miles up Logan Canyon from Logan, just beyond Spring Hollow. The Malibu-Guinavah turnoff is on the right side of the road; after entering the campground, turn left, cross the bridge and drive to the cul-de-sac. We've reserved the campground beginning at 5:00 p.m., and we'll post "Bridgerland Audubon" on the sign.

Wednesday, 16 September: 7:00 p.m., BAS monthly planning meeting at the Logan Library, 255 North Main Street.

## FIELD TRIP CALENDAR FOR FALL

Saturday, September 5: Kokanee Salmon spawning. Leave at 4:00 p.m. from the southwest corner of the Fred Meyer parking lot with supper and water for a 20-mile drive to the Little Bear River east of Avon. The brilliant red kokanee salmon swim up the Little Bear to spawn in the

clear, shallow water where they can be seen within 10 feet of observers. Fishery biologist John Sigler will tell about the life history and behavior of the kokanee and the work of the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources in introducing this land-locked salmon into Utah. Return by 8:00 p.m. This is a fine family/social outing. No reservations are required, and carpooling will be available.

Friday/Saturday, September 11/12: Whooping Cranes at Gray's Lake Refuge, Idaho. Leave at 5:00 p.m. (or as soon as members can) from the Fred Meyer parking lot for the 100-mile drive to Gravel Creek campground adjacent to Gray's Lake Refuge. The next morning we will meet with biologist Rod Drewein to hear him talk about his program of hatching whooping crane eggs by sandhill cranes on the refuge. There should be a thousand or more sandhill cranes as they converge at Gray's Lake before heading south. Seven adult whoopers have spent the summer there and about 12 young whoopers have been reared by the sandhills. Return about noon Saturday. Call Larry Ryel (753-8479) or Alice Lundahl (753-7744) for carpooling and information on how to reach the campground.

Saturday/Sunday, September 12/13: Raptor migration project. This field trip will be conducted by the Utah Audubon Society and Steve Hoffman, the project leader. The trip will be to the Goshute Mountains south of Wendover, Nevada, leaving on Saturday and returning on Sunday. For information, contact Andy White, 5690 Pheasant Lane, Salt Lake City, UT 84121; telephone 572-1780 days or 272-0626 evenings.



Saturday, September 26: Hawk Migration atop the Wellsville Mountains. We have moved this field trip up a week to avoid the snow that has thwarted our climb the last two years. Leave at 7:30 a.m. from the southwest corner of the Fred Meyer parking lot and return by 5:00 p.m. or earlier. With favorable weather (clear with westerly winds), you might see 200 hawks in the course of the day as they fly south along the ridge of the Wellsvilles. The four-mile trail to the lookout climbs 3,000 feet through stands of aspen and fir. It's a good trail and the average person takes about three hours to reach the lookout. The spectacular view of Cache and Salt Lake valleys from the top is alone worth the climb. Bring lunch, water and a windbreaker. If you have questions about the weather, call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5: Elk Bugling in the Tetons. Camp for two nights at the Gros Ventre campground within Teton National Park to observe elk and hear their thrilling bugling at dusk; see pronghorn and bison at close range; explore off-the-beaten-track places. Groups will leave as early Friday afternoon as possible and return Sunday afternoon. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for details on transportation and meals . . . and call soon: the trip is limited to 35 participants.

### KEEP THE ALUMINUM CANS COMING

To date, we have raised \$260 from recycled aluminum cans. The price for aluminum is now \$.30 per pound. This is a year-round project. Ask your friends and neighbors to help out; it's amazing how many people have cans stored in their garages, just awaiting a "good cause." And swallow your pride and scavenge at city parks, ball parks and Forest Service picnic areas.

Special thanks to Gordon Bosworth, seasonal Forest Service ranger, for collecting so many cans at Tony Grove and elsewhere. This summer, Bridgerland Audubon gave partial scholarships to Cindy and Dale Krebs, who attended the Audubon Ecology Camp in the Wind River Mountains for two weeks, and to Mary Bedingfield-Smith, who attended a course at the Teton Science School.

— Al Stokes

### BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP AT 249

The National Audubon Society, and Bridgerland Audubon in particular, continue to appeal to a widespread group of people interested in the environment, in field trips, in monthly meetings or just in reading the superb *Audubon* magazine. I find many people eager to join a group like ours. All they need is a membership application in their hands. First-year introductory memberships cost only \$20, and students can join for \$18 per year. Talk up BAS with your friends and bring recruits to the meetings. September's monthly meeting, a pot-luck at Upper Guinavah Campground, is an excellent opportunity for potential new BAS members to get their feet wet. So to speak. Get membership applications from any BAS officer . . . and remember, every new member recruited through our efforts brings \$15 into the chapter coffers.

— Al Stokes 2

### LOGAN CANYON HIGHWAY UPDATE

Because CH2MHILL has refused to evaluate the environmental impacts of their spot-improvement alternative, a group of conservationists including Steve Flint, Tom Lyon, Jack Spence and others has developed a Conservationists' Spot-Improvement Alternative to address highway modifications between Logan Canyon's Right Hand Fork and the Forest Service boundary east of the summit. This alternative does not evaluate proposed modifications in the six miles between the Bear Lake Overlook and Garden City.

The Conservationists' Spot Improvement Alternative recommends the following:

- Replacing bridges with slightly wider (28') structures. Upper and Lower Twin Bridges will be adjacent to existing structures, and all other bridges will be on the same alignment as they are now.
- Providing a number of paved turnouts which should be plowed in winter.
- Installing meaningful signs for curves, approaching intersections and roadside attractions. Many of the few existing signs are unsatisfactory.
- Constructing turning and deceleration lanes at the Tony Grove and Beaver Mountain road intersections.
- Constructing short climbing lanes above Red Banks campground, above Amazon Hollow and along Middle Sink.
- Enforcing the present speed limit.

The Conservationists' Spot Improvement Alternative rejects certain modifications proposed by CH2MHILL. These include:

- Installing a climbing lane on the Dugway.
- Replacing Lower Twin Bridge with a three-lane bridge.
- Making seven gigantic road cuts to straighten curves.
- Intruding the highway into the river at Logan Cave

The Conservationists' Spot Improvement Alternative would improve safety, relieve some traffic congestion and minimize damage to the river and the canyon. CH2MHILL's alternative would not necessarily improve safety, since it would encourage higher speeds. The extensive cutting and filling CH2MHILL proposes would damage the river and increase erosion. Furthermore, in addition to violating the concept of "visual retention" expressed in the Forest Plan, the CH2MHILL alternative would generate massive quantities of rubble. CH2MHILL has refused to consider the problem of disposing of this rubble.

We are interested in your comments, questions and suggestions. Please call Steve Flint at 752-9102 in the evening.

— Steve Flint



## JOURNAL ENTRY: 1976

I'm sitting outside our tiny cottage in Karen, continually moving my chair with the small shaft of sun finding its way thru our forest. No one told me that Nairobi means cold. With binocs and birdbook have spent the day ID'ing our daily visitors, usually in flocks. Yesterday brought gorgeous cinnamon-tailed paradise flycatchers, yellow white-eyes and fire finches. Today it's several hartlaub's turacos, which sound like crows with laryngitis. But what a sight as they run up tree trunks and along branches like roadrunners, and glide silently through trees seemingly a blackish form. When they alight and I get binocs on them, however, I see the indigo, iridescent green, crimson. Also had dark-capped bulbuls and slatey flycatchers today. There are olive thrush building nests and many of the weavers and sparrows. The beauties are the hovering sunbirds and the red-cheeked cordon bleus bathing in a mud puddle nearby. A brown kite soars overhead.

— Kit Flannery

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL WILDLANDS

The North Mt. Naomi and Cache Crest roadless areas in Idaho north of Logan are under consideration for wilderness designation. Your letters can help influence the outcome.

North Mt. Naomi is a 24,000 acre roadless area adjacent to the existing Mt. Naomi Wilderness in Utah, running from the state line to Willow Flat. Wilderness designation would provide protection for the deer, elk and moose residing in the area, and for a yet-well-preserved ecosystem with few mineral and timber conflicts. It will also protect important watersheds for several Franklin County communities and preserve the scenery along the Cub River.

Cache Crest is a 38,000 acre roadless area encompassing the Worm Creek drainage between the North Mt. Naomi area and Bear Lake; only the small dirt road from Franklin Basin to Willow Flat separates this area from North Mt. Naomi. Deer, elk and moose live in this area, and the Bloomington Lakes and many streams provide excellent fishing. Wilderness designation for Cache Crest will preserve this habitat, preserve a backcountry flavor to camping in the Snowslide Canyon area, and protect the area from increasing ORV abuse.

Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus is the most important person to write to. You need not be an Idaho resident to have a voice in this decision; Andrus has a responsibility to listen to all public land users. Also write (or send copies of your letter to Andrus) to Congressman Stallings and Senator McClure. Please write today. Here are the addresses:

Governor Cecil Andrus, The Statehouse, Boise, ID 83720; Rep. Richard Stallings, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 205515; Senator James McClure, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

— Adapted from *Utah Sierran*, 20, 8, August 1987

## NEW FIELD GUIDE REVIEWED

Clark, W.S. 1987. *A Field Guide to Hawks, North America*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 198 pp. + 26 plates.

Hawks, the latest in the Peterson Field Guide Series, is quite a departure from previous volumes. Whereas most guides cover hundreds of species, this one considers only 39, albeit in considerable detail. As used in this book, "hawk" is a shorthand way of saying "diurnal raptor." All 33 regular North American and six accidental species of vultures, ospreys, kites, harriers, accipiters, buteos, eagles and falcons are included.

You don't have to do much bird watching before you discover that a lot of hawks can be very difficult to identify. In part, this is because hawks are characteristically seen flying or perched at great distances. It's usually impossible to "sneak" up on them. But more importantly, many species occur in a bewildering array of plumages due to color phases and sex and age differences. On the other hand, species, such as our three accipiters, can appear disconcertively alike. Furthermore, flight patterns can vary considerably because of the weather, the kind of prey sought, the progress of the breeding season, and the terrain. I'm always startled to see a Northern Harrier circling high in the sky instead of flying low over the fields or marshes as it's "supposed" to do.

This volume represents the state-of-the-art in field identification. The text is very comprehensive. For each species, there are sections on plumages, similar species, flight patterns, behavior, status and distribution, subspecies, fine points, origin of the name, and measurements. Range maps are shown for all native species except the Condor. If you still want more information, there are 33 pages of references.

When using a field guide, most people immediately turn to the pictures. The artist, Brian Wheeler, has produced 26 excellent plates, all but two in color. Each species is depicted at rest and in flight and usually in several plumages. As if that weren't enough, there are also 241 small black and white photographs which further illustrate identification points.

Will this book let you identify every hawk you see? Probably not, but your odds will have increased considerably. If you plan on hawk watching in the Wellsvilles, this book is a must.

*A Field Guide to Hawks, North America* retails for \$13.95 plus tax. Al Stokes will have copies available at the monthly BAS meetings for \$10.50, tax included.

— Larry Ryel



# National Audubon Society

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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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 Rye!, 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
- Tom Gordon, 752-6561
- 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 Rye!, 753-8479
- Dianne Browning, 752-5946

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