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# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 16, No. 3

November 1987

## MEETING CALENDAR

**Thursday, November 12:** BAS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Logan Library, 255 North Main (despite some discussion about changing the BAS meeting location, the November meeting will take place at the Logan Library). Dale and Cindy Kerbs will deliver a presentation entitled, "Ecology Camping in the Wind Rivers"; see the related article in this edition of *The Stilt*.

**Monday, November 16:** Education Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Logan Library, 255 North Main Street. Anyone interested in helping with Audubon Youth Club Christmas Bird Count this December should attend. We can use your help! Call Nancy Warner at 752-7345 for more information.

**Wednesday, November 18:** Planning Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Logan Library, 255 North Main Street.

**Thursday, December 10:** Mark your calendar now for sharing Christmas goodies among the Pribilof seals. Ron Ryel and friends will show slides and tell us the seals' secrets. This will be a potluck. Details in the December edition of *The Stilt*.

**Thursday, January 14:** BAS General Meeting. Al Winward from the U.S. Forest Service, Ogden, recently gave a popular presentation to regional science teachers entitled "Research Natural Areas: What Good Are They?" We

snapped him up for our January meetings. He'll show slides and talk about natural research areas close to us. Details in the January edition of *The Stilt*.

## WHAT'S AN ECOLOGY CAMP?

Dale and Cindy Kerbs, recipients of BAS' "Ecology Camp of the West" scholarship, will present a talk entitled "Ecology Camping in the Wind Rivers" at the November BAS General Meeting (7:30 p.m. in the Logan Library). The Kerbses will show slides of wildlife and facilities at the Audubon Ecology Camp of the West in Torrey Valley of Wyoming's Wind River Range, and will tell us about the University of Wyoming-sponsored Wilderness Research Backpack Program, based at the Audubon camp near Dubois.

Dale Kerbs is a photography major at USU, and is also studying wildlife. Cindy is a USU student in environmental sciences and social issues, and has a particular interest in wildlife.

— Jill Smith

## CLOSE FRIENDS ARE WARM FRIENDS

Ten or more chickadees usually huddle together at night in a feathery ball deep in a tree cavity to conserve body heat. They slow their breathing from 95 to about 65 times a minute, also to save energy.

— The Duncraft Flyer! TJG



## CHAIRPERSON, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLLY FAIRE

We need a chairperson and about 40 volunteers to help with the BAS booth at Holly Faire the first weekend in December.

In addition to being fun for the participants, the BAS Holly Faire booth is an important fund-raiser for the chapter . . . and the birds like the results. The booth offers children and adults the opportunity to build birdhouses from kits and paint dough ornaments that have been made ahead of time. Last year people painted more than 200 ornaments. BAS also takes orders for birdseed at the Faire.

The Chairperson must coordinate the volunteer schedule, see that the booth is erected and dismantled, and be responsible for the cash box. Jan Young, who has chaired the Holly Faire activity for several years, will order birdhouse and bird feeder kits and will help make ornaments during November.

Volunteer booth-staffers will work 2-hour shifts supervising booth activities and making sales. We need to staff the booth during all three Holly Faire days:

Thursday, December 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday, December 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For information and to volunteer, contact Jan Young at 258-5445.

— Jill Smith

## SUNFLOWER SEEDS AVAILABLE

Hurry, hurry, hurry! Get your seeds for winter. BAS has sunflower seeds available at \$.30/lb. in 50-pound bags. That's only \$15 per bag, plus a \$1 bag deposit. (You'll get this \$1 back for each bag returned in good condition.)

You can get your seed from any of three locations:

Reynold and Elaine Watkins, 1236 East 1900 North  
Logan (752-1724)

Allen and Alice Stokes, 1722 Saddle Hill Drive,  
Logan (752-2701)

Sunrise Cyclery, 138 North 100 East, Logan  
(753-3294)

— Jill Smith

## ELECTION RESULTS

(The following is excerpted from a letter to Chapter Presidents from National Audubon.)

"The results are in from our first-ever elections conducted in each of our nine regions to select nominees to the Board of Directors of National Audubon. Seventy-two percent of our 503 chapters participated in the balloting process. The nine winners were chosen from among 48 highly-qualified candidates . . .

"Please make an effort to (a) advise your membership that these people are standing for election pursuant to the new National Audubon policy set forth in recently-adopted amendments to our By-Laws, and (b) urge your members to support these individuals by promptly signing, dating and returning National Audubon's proxy when it arrives in late October. Included in the proxy package mailed to all members will be a description of the new procedure and how it developed, the list of nominees with short bios, and the By-Law changes."

The Rocky Mountain Regional nominee is Harriet Marble of Chester, MT. She is a wildlife manager and naturalist, president of the Montana Audubon Council and active with the Missouri Breaks chapter. She has held gubernatorial appointments to both the Montana Environmental Quality Commission and the Montana Fish and Game Department Non-game Advisory Council.

— Jill Smith

## AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

As *The Stilt* went to press (went to Xerox?) the Audubon Council meeting was being planned for October 31 and November 1 at the Deseret Land and Livestock Company headquarters; Greg Simond, manager of the 200,000-acre ranch, will host the meeting. Several BAS officers and members were planning to attend; BLM wilderness proposals were to be one agenda item. A full report on the council meeting will appear in next month's edition of *The Stilt*.

— Jill Smith

## BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

The Book Committee, an affiliate of the BAS Education Committee, is once again seeking suggestions for our annual gift to the Logan Library. This year, as in the past two years, our chapter will give the library six books dealing with some aspect of natural history. Think about which books you would like our chapter to donate this year, and call Nancy Warner at 752-7345 with your suggestions.

— Nancy Warner



## AVIAN ARTISTRY: BIRDS OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER

The Alliance for the Varied Arts (AVA) Gallery will host an exhibit of avian art from November 4 to November 25. The exhibit will feature wood carvings by Craig Jones of Smithfield, paintings by Sandra Bickmore of Smithfield, and soft art by Kit Flannery of Hyde Park. The show will be a munificent medley of night-hunters, marsh-fishers, seed-scratchers and pond-paddlers of swamp, savannah, shore and fantasy—arboreal and terrestrial—stalking, soaring, courting and calling.

The AVA gallery is located at 290 North 400 East in Logan. Gallery hours are 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

— Kit Flannery

## AVON DAM PROPOSED . . . AND OPPOSED

By filing for a water appropriation from the Little Bear River, the State Division of Water Resources has indirectly proposed to locate a 200-foot-high dam 2 miles south of Avon. BAS opposes the state's application to appropriate water for this project.

The state has not substantiated a need for this project. The proposed dam would inundate and destroy several miles of free-flowing stream, including part of Davenport Creek which is sufficiently remote to support beaver. The state has adequately addressed neither the potential interference with winter deer migration nor the ability of the geology to safely accommodate this dam.

Stay tuned to *The Stilt* for details.

— Steve Flint

## THINK CHRISTMAS

Bridgerland Audubon Society T-Shirts are going for \$6.50 each. The current stock of adult sizes is low, but Al Stokes will take your special order for color, size, fabric and long- or short-sleeve specifications. Al has a good stock of children's sizes. These T-shirts make great Christmas presents for adults and kids of all sizes . . . even for the newborn!

Also available is the Peterson Field Guide Series book on Hawks. The price is \$10.50, including tax, which is a savings of more than \$4.00 from the list price.

See or call Al Stokes for both T-shirt and hawk books (752-2702).

— Al Stokes

## WRITING NATURAL HISTORY; DIALOGUES WITH THE AUTHORS

A winter-quarter writing course at the University of Utah will include four public programs featuring discussions between prominent natural history authors. The course, "Writing for Readers," was designed by U of U professor Edward Lueders to enable students to write "clearly and personably" from their own areas of specialization. Lueders, who holds one of two 1987-1988 Liberal Education Council University Professorships at the U of U, has tailored the course to include an orientation to what he sees as the increasingly prevalent field of "imaginatively-crafted non-fiction writing."

As part of the course, Lueders will offer four public programs, jointly sponsored by the Liberal Education Council and the Museum of Natural History, to show the importance of such writing in contemporary culture. The programs will feature dialogues between prominent authors in the natural history field who will discuss their purposes, problems and experiences writing as naturalists for today's general readers. Lueders will moderate.

A list showing the schedule, topics and featured speakers for each program appears below. All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium on the University of Utah campus.

Feb. 1, 1988: "Ecology and the Human Imagination"

\* Barry Lopez (*Arctic Dreams, Of Men and Wolves*)

\* Edward O. Wilson (*Of Human Nature, Biophilia*)

Feb. 8, 1988: "The Evocation of Place and Natural Process"

\* Ann Zwinger (*Run, River, Run; Wind in the Rock*)

\* Robert Finch (*The Primal Place, Outlands*)

Feb. 15, 1988: "Natural History in Cultural Contexts"

\* Terry Tempest Williams (*Pieces of White Shell*)

\* Gary Paul Nabhan (*Gathering the Desert*)

Feb. 22, 1988: "Natural History as Literature"

\* Paul Brooks (*Roadless Areas*)

\* Edward Lueders (*The Clam Lake Papers*)

— Nancy Warner



## GRIZZLIES 1, OIL COMPANIES 0

The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service have withdrawn a permit that would have allowed Fina Oil and Chemical Company to drill an oil well in Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest, on one of the best grizzly areas in the lower 48 states. In a protest to the Department of Interior's Board of Land Appeals, the National Wildlife Federation charged that the agencies issued the permit even though they knew their environmental analysis of the area was deficient.

— *National Wildlife*, Nov-Dec 1987/ TJG

## KEEP THE ALUMINUM CANS COMING!

Audubon's recycling program is two-pronged. Al Stokes has been taking cans from off-campus at his home or office (Natural Resources-Biology room 281). On campus, several receptacles marked "Bridgerland Audubon Society" encourage people to recycle aluminum cans. (You can also bring your aluminum cans to the BAS general meeting.) To date, the recycling effort has brought in \$350. With the price of aluminum at \$.30 per pound, your efforts will go a long way toward our Audubon Camp Scholarship fund.

Be sure to attend the November BAS General Meeting to hear Cindy and Dale Kerbs, the 1987 recipients of the BAS Audubon Camp Scholarship, talk about their experiences this year at the Audubon Camp in the Wind River Mountains.

— Al Stokes

## SPOTTED OWLS

*Ecology*, one of the journals published by the Ecological Society of America, has published its first "Special Feature." This feature deals with the conflicts over the preservation of the spotted owl in western North America.

The four articles in the feature address the biological, economic, conservation and political aspects of the spotted owl situation. The owls live exclusively in old-growth conifer forests of Western North America (currently a conservation priority issue with National Audubon), and each pair requires a large area of forest for successful breeding. These forests represent a substantial fraction of the timber industry's future profits. Reducing the forests to small tracts will deprive the spotted owl of suitable habitat and may lead to its extinction. Most of the forests the spotted owl inhabits are on federal lands, and the U.S. Forest Service seeks to preserve the owl while protecting the local economy. Actual management of individual tracts will likely favor timber harvesting at the expense of the owl's habitat.

This Special Feature in *Ecology* represents a significant attempt on the part of an "academic" society to come to grips with the real-life intricacies of current academic problems.

— Steve Flint

## BIRDING HOTLINE

Have you seen any rare, unusual, out-of-place or otherwise interesting birds lately? If so, several others would like to see them too. Let other Cache Valley birders in on your good finds by calling the Birding Hotline. Scott Cheney will take your calls and then spread the word so all valley birders will know of unusual sightings before they're long gone. If you have a bird to report or if you would like your name and number added to the hotline list, call Scott at 753-1893.

## TETON TRIP TERRIFIC TREAT

The Teton elk bugling trip was a great success. Some 35 people ranging in age from a few months to 73 years spent the weekend in Teton National Park. Unlike most previous trips, the weather was so mild that the water never froze in the campground's drinking pails. As we were cooking supper Friday night, Chuck Warner spotted a western screech owl flying into a large cottonwood overhead. With the aid of a flashlight we all had a super view, and it even called for us. Not far off, a great horned owl was also calling.

Saturday midday we spent at the Murie Ranch, where Mardie Murie showed us about her elegant log home with all of its Eskimo art and fabulous library. Otter had been running all over the mud flats down along the Snake River; the tracks perplexed us until we spotted telltale scats consisting only of fish scales and bones. If the otter were fat and happy, other animals were less fortunate. In almost every little depression, including hoof-prints of moose, we saw thousands of small snails that had been isolated by falling water. Seeking escape in these wet depressions, they became trapped when the depressions dried up. We thought the snails dead until someone pointed out that a snail can close its watertight operculum and avoid desiccation. Sure enough, crushing one snail showed the tissue was still living. This is an excellent example of how natural selection and adversity work together.

Saturday evening the group got far away from the heavy traffic on a back road and were rewarded by a resounding concert of elk bugling. One bull must have been less than 100 yards away from us as he repeatedly bugled in response to John Barnes's elk call. John heard cows near the bull and figured that the bull wasn't about to leave them to challenge John.



Sunday, some hiked into Taggart and Bradley Lakes through the two-year-old burned area and saw how lodgepole pine seedlings were coming in thickly where the good soil was. Lower down in sandy, drier soils, scarcely a seedling appeared.

Sunday evening, the group was offered marshmallows roasted over bison chips, but only a few intrepid souls tried them. Al Stokes maintains that nobody along the Oregon Trail died from the effects of cooking over these chips. (editor's note—nobody from the Oregon Trail is around to vouch for them either, Al.)

— Al Stokes

## SEVENTEEN SYLLABLES

Near the autumn path  
magpies in a maple wood  
glide through the spectrum

— Pat Gordon

## ALASKAN WILDLIFE REFUGE ENDANGERED

One and a half million acres of the 10-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Alaska may be opened for oil and gas leasing. The refuge is extremely valuable wildlife habitat (a caribou herd numbering 180,000 animals uses the area, for example), and its size and remoteness make it true wilderness. Although estimates predict only a one-in-five chance of locating commercial quantities of oil and gas, the Department of Interior recommends leasing the area for exploratory drilling. At the same time, the Reagan administration refuses to promote or even consider conservation as a viable alternative.

Protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of National Audubon's Priority Conservation Campaigns. Audubon's position is that wilderness management and protection is the best way to conserve the wildlife resources of the ANWR, unless additional scientific evidence confirms that petroleum extraction can be compatible with the refuge's fragile ecosystem and wildlife values, and unless our nation's energy needs can only be met by extracting the oil presumed to be there. Neither of these conditions has been met.

National Audubon is encouraging letters to key congressmen on this issue. Both Jim Hansen and Wayne Owens sit on the House Interior and Insular Affairs committee, chaired by Morris Udall (D-AZ), which will consider the matter. Their addresses are:

Representative Morris K. Udall  
Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative James V. Hansen  
1113 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Wayne Owens  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

For more information on the ANWR campaign, contact Bruce Pendery at 753-3726.

In addition to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge campaign, National Audubon has mounted four other Priority Conservation Campaigns. These focus on clean air, old-growth forests, Platte River protection and wetlands preservation. Future editions of *The Stilt* will carry articles on these critical conservation issues.

— Bruce Pendery

## WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PROPOSED

The Bear River Water Development Committee (BRWDC) has proposed a water conservancy district for Box Elder, Rich and Cache Counties. The oversight BRWDC, formed last summer, consists of representatives from water development committees in all counties abutting the Bear River.

Definition: So what is a water conservancy district?

- \* Water conservancy districts are formed to put water to beneficial uses; historically these have been agricultural uses, although municipal uses are becoming increasingly important.
- \* In multiple-county districts, 10 percent of property owners in unincorporated areas of each county (or 500 people, whichever is less), and 5 percent of the property owners in incorporated areas (or 100, whichever is less) must sign a petition to form a water conservancy district.
- \* When the proper number of signatures is obtained, the petition is filed in state court; if no protests occur, the district is formed.
- \* Forming a water conservancy district requires no review of environmental or social impact; some economic review may be required.



- \* In multiple-county districts, the governor appoints a board of directors; the district then has all the powers of a public or municipal corporation, including powers of condemnation and taxation (up to one-half mil).
- \* A water conservancy district is formed in perpetuity, and any project that the board decides to pursue is deemed a public good.

**Protest:** Provisions for protesting the formation of a water conservancy district exists, but protesting a district is more difficult than establishing one. A protest requires 20 percent of the landowners in both unincorporated and incorporated areas to sign a petition protesting formation of a water conservancy district. If enough signatures are obtained, the petition is filed with the court, which then denies formation of the district.

**District Development Plans:** The BRWDC has not announced specific plans for this water conservancy district. Current law requires that the petition to create a district set forth the "purpose of the contemplated improvement," but whether this calls for specific plans or only a general statement of intent is unclear.

The motivating force behind efforts to form this water conservancy district seems to be a concern that Salt Lake City and/or Salt Lake County are preparing to "raid" the Bear River Basin water. Salt Lake City and County have announced a need for 50,000 to 100,000 acre-feet of additional water. Although there are sources of water nearer to Salt Lake City that would be cheaper to develop, practicality may have nothing to do with Salt Lake City's calculations. They could raid Bear River Basin water simply because they might need it someday, because it is currently unappropriated, and because they have the political clout to claim and develop the resource.

**BAS Position:** We're facing a dilemma. Although current law seems unacceptable, particularly in terms of impact analysis requirements, we don't know which is worse: having a local conservancy committee develop the water or having Salt Lake City/County develop it. Until we have more information, BAS plans to do the following:

- \* Work for changes in current law, especially relating to environmental impact assessment,
- \* Oppose formation of the proposed water conservancy district, and
- \* If a district is formed, try to assure that the board of directors is representative of all viewpoints.

Your opinions and suggestions on this issue would be most welcome and appreciated.

— Bruce Pendery

## DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT HISTORY AVAILABLE

Wayne K. Hinton's *The Dixie National Forest: Managing an Alpine Forest in an Arid Setting* has just been released. The book deals with management of a forest which constitutes an important cultural, social and economic resource to the population of southern Utah. It focuses on the background and development of the forest, but also treats the character of the society that depends on the forest, and thus treats the history of the forest and its management from a rather broader perspective than might be expected.

Order copies from U.S. Forest Service, Dixie National Forest, Cedar City, UT.

— Jill Smith

## BIRDING IN THE WELLSVILLES

The Wellsville Mountains continue to be an exciting place to watch the hawk migration and to observe species rare to northern Utah. The journey to the hawk-watching site begins in Mendon. Drive west from the center of town on 3rd South until the road ends. From there it is a 2-hour hike to the ridge, and a 1.5-hour hike along the ridge to the best hawk watching spots.

We made the trek to the top on September 23, 1987. The scenery was spectacular; fall colors paint the hillsides better than any artist's brush could. On the climb to the ridge, we observed 13 bird species. In order, these were northern flicker, golden eagle, song sparrow, rufous-sided towhee (voice only), Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, red-breasted nuthatch (voice only), yellow-rumped warbler, red tailed hawk, mountain blue bird and rock wren. The most exciting event on the way up was seeing a sharp-shinned hawk demonstrating its formidable flying skill in a high-speed chase down the canyon after a smaller bird.

We enjoyed shade most of the way up to the ridge and arrived on top about 11:30. The climb is steep, but the trail is good. Once on top, we were rewarded with a magnificent view of Cache Valley to the east and the Great Salt Lake to the west. The view is worth the climb even if you don't have hawk fever. We hiked on up the ridge to the migration-watching hot spot Steve Hoffman discovered in 1976 while he was doing graduate work at Utah State University. This year the Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation (WFRC) has had Joe Didonato, an experienced hawk watcher, on the ridge since September 7. On the day we were there, Joe was joined by Fred Tilly, who will man the watch to the end of September. These guys identify hawks as easily as the rest of us spot robins in our back yards.



The best hawk watching begins shortly after noon. During the four hours that we were there, we observed more than 60 raptors, including numerous sharp-shinned hawks, Cooper's hawks, northern harriers, American kestrels and red tailed hawks. Especially exciting was seeing a Swainson's hawk, a ferruginous hawk, two osprey, a first-year northern goshawk and a broad-winged hawk. We also saw Clark's nutcrackers, Townsend's solitaires, pine siskins and barn swallows. All told, we saw 25 species of birds, 11 of which were raptors, including all three North American accipiters. Joe told us that as of September 23, the high-count days for 1987 were September 8 (240 hawks) and September 9 (222 hawks). This is an earlier peak than local birders anticipated.

We came off the mountain tired, but with pleasant memories of a day well spent. If WFRS counters are there next year, you will be most welcome as an interested observer, either as part of the BAS-sponsored annual trip in September or as an independent birder.

— Robert D. Atwood and R. Keith Archibald

## **HABITAT EQUALS CRITTERS: DUCKS UNLIMITED WORKS TO SAVE WETLANDS**

"If you've got the habitat, you'll have the critters," says Bud Phelps. Phelps talked to the BAS General Meeting last month about the 50-year history of Ducks Unlimited (DU), and about the organization's recent efforts and habitat enhancement techniques used in Canada, where some 70 percent of North America's waterfowl are raised.

Phelps was Allan Stokes's first master's student at USU, where he worked on chukar partridge. He spent 25 years with the Utah Department of Fish and Game, 11 of those years as director. He has just retired from another 11 years with DU as a field supervisor for the Pacific Flyway.

Ducks Unlimited is a non-profit organization whose purpose is preserving, enhancing and conserving wetlands, Phelps said. DU works with farmers, conservation organizations and government agencies to keep wetland habitats productive. The DU wetlands are home to 251 species of birds, more than 100 species of animals and 19 species of fish.

"Seventy percent of U.S. wetlands have been lost," said Phelps. "About 450,000 acres are lost each year." DU was incorporated during the depression, when concern was raised about the decline in game bird numbers. "It was thought then that if DU could raise \$6,000 per year for five years, the ills could be cured," Phelps said. In its first year of existence, DU raised a surprising \$90,000. Each year thereafter saw a growth in dollars raised. The \$50 million

mark was passed in 1976, \$100 million in 1980, and \$200 million in 1983.

DU began hiring professional wildlife biologists in 1966; they had 885,000 acres set aside in Alberta in 1982. In 1985, they began using Landsat to help evaluate wetlands habitats.

DU aims to raise \$66.7 million this year. Eighty percent of the money raised by DU goes directly into wetland resources, Phelps said. The remainder is used for staff salaries and a magazine.

— Jill Smith

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

Harry Armstrong — Geneva  
Edward Atkinson — Logan  
Craig H. Campbell — Providence  
Steven Cannon — Logan  
S. Blaise Chanson — Logan  
Mr. Donald T. Cundy — Logan  
Mr. Jim Doherty — Logan  
Jennifer Frisch — Logan  
Donna L. Gordon — Logan  
D.L. Hansen — Smithfield  
Mrs. Susanne Hull — Preston  
David Kaye — Sun City, AZ  
Howard Nivinson — Richmond  
Mr. Robert W. Nocella — Logan  
Dr. Michael Norton — Logan  
Mr. Andrew Roby — Logan  
David Skabelund — Logan  
Mr. Athar A. Tarig — Logan  
Mr. Brien J. Whittington — Logan

## **THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS**

Desmond L. Anderson — Logan  
Wendell B. Anderson — Logan  
Tom & Patricia Bahler — Logan  
Mrs. A.W. Beutler — Logan  
Betty Boeker — Logan  
Max Elliot Brunson, Jr. — Logan  
Kenneth L. Cook — Logan  
Windsor Copley — Mountain View, WY  
Mr. Anthony P. Cowen — Logan  
Scott Datwyler — Logan  
W. Bryan Dixon — Logan  
Armand W. Dodson — Richmond  
Kim Duerling — Brigham City  
P. Sutton Finch — Whitefish, MT  
Charles Harris — Missoula, MT  
Mrs. Bernard Hays — Logan  
Joanne Hughes — Logan  
Jean M. Lown — Logan



R. N. Malouf, M.D — Logan  
Margaret Maughan — Wellsville  
Gary & Naomi McKean — Logan  
Sharon McNichols — SLC  
Fay Oliverson — Preston  
Fred Behm Orc — Logan  
Ivan G. Palmblad — Providence  
Ronald P. Steward — Logan  
D. M. Wells — Logan  
John Wraith — Logan

## CONGRATULATIONS

Several winners in the National Audubon Society's Chapter Newsletter Contest received awards at the National Audubon Society Biennial Convention in Bellingham, Washington last August. We congratulate three Rocky Mountain Region chapters on their recognition: The Heart of the Rockies Chapter's "Hawk Talk" and editor Nancy Rae Vickery for their Category III second place award, the Yellowstone Valley Chapter's "Yellowstone Valley Flyer" and editor Lila Weber for the newsletter's Category II second-place award and for the special conservation award it earned by telling "members everything they needed to know to comment on a national forest management plan," and the Maricopa Audubon Society's newsletter for its recognition.

— TJG

## STRIP MINING BRYCE CANYON?

Well, not quite. But plans are afoot to begin strip mining coal from a 28,000-acre tract less than 10 miles from Bryce Canyon's southern border. The plans, a joint venture between Utah International, Inc. (UII), and Nevada Electric Investment Co., was submitted for approval to Utah's Division of Oil, Gas and Mining office on 31 July 1987. The plans call for a round-the-clock strip mine to extract some 4.5 to 5 million tons of coal annually. If approved, this plan would constitute a major threat to one of America's favorite and most scenic national parks.

Granted the operation would be outside the park boundaries. Nonetheless, it would have a severe impact on the very conditions that make the park so attractive (over 300,000 visitors reach the park each year). Specifically, the strip mining operation would be noisy; its 24-hour-a-day operation involving blasting and heavy equipment would be clearly audible in the park, destroying the natural silence the Office of Surface Mining compared to that of a "high quality sound studio." The mining would severely limit visibility. Dust and smoke raised by the blasting and heavy equipment would greatly degrade the exceedingly high air quality, drastically reducing the current 100-mile visibility. Since the operation would go on round-the-clock, the necessary

flood lights would combine with particulate pollution to virtually eliminate the popular star-gazing activities and ranger-led night sky walks now taking place at Bryce. Transporting the strip mined coal to Nevada Power's proposed 1000-megawatt Harry Allen power plant, 25 miles northwest of Las Vegas, will require a 180-mile slurry pipeline. To transport the coal, UII plans to withdraw 2500 gallons per minute from the culinary-quality groundwater supply. Experts fear that such a withdrawal would deplete the Navajo aquifer far beyond its ability to replenish itself. The consequent drying up of wells and springs could destroy a way of life and an economy Kane County ranchers have known for generations.

If you feel that the natural attributes of Bryce Canyon are worth preserving from the effects of the Alton strip mine, write some letters. Write to Utah Governor Norm Bangerter, 210 State Capital, Salt Lake City, UT 84114. Express your concerns; insist on thorough impact studies; note the danger the slurry pipeline presents and request fair, impartial hydrology studies; question the existence of a market for this coal. Send copies of your letter to the Utah congressional delegation, and to Dianne R. Nielson, Director, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 355 West North Temple, 3 Triad Center, Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203.

— Adapted from *Utah Sierran* 20, 10 Oct 1987/ TJG

## VOLUNTEER BIRD FEEDER WATCHERS NEEDED

If you can tell a blue jay from an evening grosbeak and are willing to write down the numbers of birds you see on one or two days each week of the winter, you're invited to join Project FeederWatch. With your help, we hope to answer some questions about birds coming to feeders all across North America, where they come from and where they go.

Project FeederWatch is a cooperative research project of the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory. It's modelled on Ontario's successful 10-year survey in which some 500 participants showed, for instance, that male evening grosbeaks winter further south than do females.

If it sounds interesting, please join us. To answer questions on a continental scale, we need thousands of observers across America, and you needn't be an expert: we're interested in common species, not exotic rarities. Counts are made over a 1-2 day period each week for 20 weeks and participants record their observations on computer-readable forms, but you're not obliged to watch each time.



To cover costs, we require an annual registration fee of \$7; we hope you'll consider this necessary evil simply part of your bird feeding costs. In return for your season's observing, we'll send you an annual newsletter and report on the season's results, plus "Bird Scope," the Laboratory of Ornithology's annual cooperative research program newsletter.

To take part, send your name, address and \$7 registration fee to Project FeederWatch, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (make checks payable to "Project Feeder-Watch"). We'll send you full instructions and record forms. Welcome to the project!

Adapted from Bighorn Audubon Society newsletter/ TJG

### LOGAN CANYON NOW LIMBO CANYON

The environmental impact statement prepared by CH2M Hill and dealing with the modifications to the Logan Canyon highway is in limbo. A preliminary copy of the draft EIS is, presumably, squirreled away at UDOT; nobody but UDOT staffers has seen it. UDOT refuses to release it until a wetlands inventory is complete, and that will take probably two more months. Stay tuned . . .

— TJG

### REQUIESCAT IN PACE

The dusky seaside sparrow is no more. According to the May/June 1987 issue of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, the subspecies officially became extinct on June 16, 1987, when the last individual, an aging male, died at Walt Disney World's Discovery Island Zoological Park in Orlando, FL. The dusky was one of several sub-species of seaside sparrows native to Florida that have suffered from extensive losses of coastal salt marsh habitat. Another subspecies, the Smyrna seaside sparrow, is thought to have become extinct some time ago. A third subspecies, the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, was listed as endangered in 1967 along with the dusky.

— Adapted from the Utah Audubon Society News/ TJG

### NEWS FROM NAS

THE DECISION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS at their May meeting to reduce Audubon field staff in order to meet budget goals generated a lot of confusion and turmoil. This was understandable, because we did not at the time have a workable plan for maintaining chapter liaison services, and Audubon's work on a regional basis. In addition, we did not do a good job of communicating with chapter leaders. After a healthy internal debate, some positive results emerged:

First: The restructuring of the field offices, while still painful, has not been as drastic as it seemed at first. We lost some valuable people, but we still have nine regional offices and four state offices. In some areas, chapters are helping with the fundraising to keep offices open.

Second: A board committee and an advisory group made up of chapter leaders developed a plan by which chapters will directly elect nine of the 36 board members. This is an important and complicated process that must be accomplished quickly this first year. Your chapter leaders have been fully briefed on the process, and we hope all of you will participate.

Third: Any consideration of changing the way members are assigned to chapters or the formula by which chapters and National share dues will be deferred and will only take place (if at all) after the election of chapter-selected board members. This election will take place at the annual meeting, December 4, 1987.

Fourth: We have resolved to improve communications within Audubon. This column, prepared especially for chapter newsletters, is one part of that effort.

Peter A. A. Berle  
President, National Audubon Society



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	Ron Ryel, 753-6077
Vice President	Jillyn Smith, 750-1359
Secretary	Scott Cheney, 753-1893
Treasurer	Betty Boeker, 752-8092
Conservation	Bruce Pendery, 753-3726
Education	Nancy Warner, 752-7345
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Tom Gordon, 752-6561
Circulation	Mike Jablonski, 753-2259
Publicity	John Wise, 245-6695
Hospitality	Pat Barton, 752-1784
Board of Directors	Terry Barnes, 563-3910
	John Barnes, 563-3910
	John Wraith, 752-0743
	Larry Ryel, 753-8479
	Dianne Browning, 752-5946

Birders' Hotline — 753-1893

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  
Logan, Utah 84321

## 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Nonprofit Organization  
BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 104  
Logan, Utah

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

MERVIN COOVER  
or current resident  
275 W 1050 N  
LOGAN, UT  
84321