MEETING CALENDAR

Friday, December 4: Seminar on reintroducing grey wolves to Yellowstone National Park, 3:30 p.m., room 216, Eccles Conference Center, USU Campus. See related article elsewhere in this issue of The Stilt.

Monday, December 7: BAS Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 112B, Biology & Natural Resources Building, USU Campus.

Thursday, December 10: BAS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Logan Library, 255 North Main Street, Logan. Tell your friends to come and have seals for dinner. Ron Ryel and friends will present a talk and slide show about their experiences among the Pribilof seals. The dinner part is a potluck. Bring your favorite Christmas casserole or whatever to share with the group. BAS will provide beverages and hardware.

Wednesday, December 16: BAS Planning Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Logan Library, 255 North Main Street, Logan.

WILDERNESS POETRY

The Utah Wilderness Association announces the Third Annual Utah Wilderness Association Poetry Competition. All poets are invited to participate in an exciting competition sponsored by the UWA. Send your unpublished poem, related to the theme of wilderness, its preservation, its life and values, its spiritual nature or any of the preceding themes, to POETRY/Utah Wilderness Association/ 455 East 400 South #306/ Salt Lake City, UT 84111. A prize of $100 will be awarded to the winning poet. The winning poem and the top five honorable mentions will be reprinted in a special centerfold of the spring, 1988 Utah Wilderness Association Review.

The rules: Poems must not exceed 40 lines, may be in any style and must be limited to the themes above. No more than three poems may be entered by any poet. Send two copies of each poem: one must include your name, address and phone number in the upper right corner; the second must contain the poem only, to guarantee anonymity during judging. Poets retain all rights. For notification of winners, send SASE. No poems will be returned. ALL POEMS MUST BE POSTMAKRED BY FEBRUARY 1, 1988.

Prize: $100 and publication in the spring UWA Review (Circulation 1500).


Quoted from UWA Poetry Contest Announcement/ TJG
CONTRIBUTIONS TO BAS
Recently, Bridgerland Audubon has received contributions from two local businesses. Pepperidge Farms, Inc., and Campbell Scientific, Inc. (through the direction of Joel Greene and Jan Saalfeld) have given our chapter generous donations. This is the second year both businesses have donated money to BAS. BAS salutes these fine companies and individuals for their generosity and decision to consider our chapter worthy of such recognition. These donations will be put toward the production of printing of trail guides, Audubon Adventures Classrooms, support for conservation issues and the purchase of a projector and screen for our monthly meetings.

— Ron Ryel

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
It is nearly time for the annual BAS Christmas bird count. This outing, scheduled for Saturday, December 19, is open to anyone interested in watching birds whether they are experts or just beginners. In fact, it's especially important that beginners participate—please join us. National Audubon is charging participants a $4.00 compilation fee this year; this money is used to compile all the Christmas Count data from across the country into the Christmas Count edition of American Birds. Traditionally, there is a post-count dinner for participants. At press time, this issue has not been resolved for this year. Contact Keith Archibald at 752-8258 for information on participating in the count and on the post-count dinner.

— Ron Ryel

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS
Janice R. Keif, Logan
Amalya Nativ, Logan
Leona K. Windley, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS
John Clatus Erlacher, Salt Lake City
Mike Jablonski, Logan
Buzz Kerbs, Newton
Frederick F. Knowlton, Logan
M. Jean Packer, Logan
Chris Riley, Logan
Penny S. Parnell Stone, Logan
Wayne Wurtsbaugh, Logan

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN
Since 1982, the National Audubon Society has been actively working to strengthen the Clean Air Act. At stake are agreements that will help in the national monitoring and control of urban smog, toxic air pollutants, acid rain, ozone depletion, and will help protect air quality in wilderness areas and national parks.

In the early 1980's environmentalists tried to strengthen the Clean Air Act, while industry made efforts in the opposite direction. The issue subsided somewhat in the interim years as concern shifted to the Clean Water Act and the Superfund, but now clean air legislation is coming up for consideration, and NAS has decided it is very important that we lend the weight and voice of the organization to support appropriate legislation.

Several concerns spark the Society's concern. Levels of ozone exceed federal health standards in 48 cities, and carbon monoxide levels exceed federal standards in 37 cities. The EPA estimates that other toxic air pollutants may cause as many as 2,000 cases of cancer each year. Acid rain seems to be one of the chief reasons for the decline of northeastern and Canadian forests and lakes, and also for increased acidity in some Rocky Mountain lakes. Furthermore, upper atmospheric ozone is rapidly diminishing. (Ozone at these high altitudes is our chief shield against the sun's ultraviolet radiation; the beneficial function of this atmospheric shield contrasts markedly with the corrosive effects of emission-produced ozone in densely-populated cities.) EPA estimates that sustaining the apparent current rate of upper atmospheric ozone decline could produce some 40 million cases of cancer over the next 70 years.

The United States should be particularly concerned about this phenomenon, since we use about 40% of the ozone-depleting industrial chlorofluorocarbons produced worldwide. As of August, 1987, the state of legislation meant to phase out the use of chlorofluorocarbons as refrigerants and propellants is that the Society asked individuals to encourage their Congressional representatives and Senators to co-sponsor bills S 570, S 571 and HR 2036. At the same time, the Mitchell-Stafford Clean Air Bill, which NAS supports, was moving to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and the House Health and Environment Subcommittee has introduced acid rain and urban smog legislation—both of which resolutions should probably be strengthened.

Two NAS efforts currently underway are to establish an Acid Rain Monitoring Network and to get kits and information on air pollution out to teachers and other interested parties. For more information on the Clean Air Campaign, call Steven Cannon at 752-1209, or contact

In addition to the Clean Air Act campaign, National Audubon has mounted four other Priority Conservation Campaigns. These focus on the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (this campaign was reviewed in detail in the November, 1987 issue of The Stilt, old-growth forests, Platte River protection and wetlands preservation. Future editions of The Stilt will carry articles on these critical conservation issues.

— Steve Cannon

HEY, BUDDY... WANNA BUY A HAWK?

No, it's not a line from a Marx Brothers movie... it's an offer made by the Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation (WFRC) through their Goshute "Adopt-a-Hawk" project.

In 1979, Steve Hoffman discovered a large, previously unknown fall migration of raptors along the crest of the Goshute Mountains in east-central Nevada, some 5,000 feet above the Bonneville Salt Flats. This discovery provides a unique opportunity to study the movements and population trends of western raptors. The goal of the Goshute Project and the WFRC founded in 1986 to sponsor it is conserving raptor populations throughout western North America (last month's edition of The Stilt reported Bob Atwood's and Keith Archibald's hike to the WFRC hawk migration station in the Wellsvilles). To date, over 5,000 birds of prey have been captured, banded and released in the Goshute project. Goshute-banded birds have been recovered in almost every western state and in Canada and Mexico.

Now you can join in the Goshute Project, without ever leaving your living room. By "adopting" a raptor banded in the Goshutes, you can make an important contribution to the conservation of these magnificent birds in the west. In return for your help, WFRC will send you an 8" x 10" certificate, suitable for framing, with specific information about your hawk: age, sex, band number and banding date. Along with the certificate, you'll receive a color photograph of the bird you're "adopting," information about its natural history and the latest WFRC newsletter (issued annually) describing the project's progress. If your bird is ever found, WFRC will promptly send you information on the find's location and significance.

This is a special gift. By adopting a bird, you are actively helping to preserve these magnificent birds throughout the west. The time to begin working for their conservation is now, before their numbers are reduced to dangerously low levels. WFRC is committed to this goal. Won't you help? This is a particularly appropriate time to do so, since "adopting" a hawk in a friend's name would be a meaningful and valuable Christmas gift. WFRC will send certificates and photographs in time for Christmas for all "adoptions" taking place by December 15.

"Adoption" prices are: Sharp-shinned hawk .......... $20
Cooper's hawk .......... $35
Red-tailed hawk ......... $50
American kestrel .......... $50
Northern goshawk .......... $75
Prairie falcon .......... $100
Northern harrier .......... $100
Golden eagle .......... $150

Membership in the WFRC is $15 annually. Contact WFRC, PO Box 304, Albuquerque, NM 87103. WFRC members can obtain discounts on all ornithological books in print from Powder Ridge Books, Rt. 1, Box 242, Shipman, VA 22971. Write for a catalogue.

— Adapted from WFRC News, No.1/ TJG

WANTED: BIG TRUCKS

The campus recycling project needs volunteers with pickup trucks to help transport aluminum cans to the recycler. We need rides about once or twice a month and each trip takes about an hour. Big trucks are best, but small ones would work, especially if they do not have a camper shell. This may seem like a silly request, but the biggest problem we are having is getting cans cleaned up and to the recycler in a timely manner. This same problem, on a larger scale, is part of what led to the demise of the last campus recycling effort, so our need for alternate transportation sources is not so silly.

We need as many alternates as possible, so even if you have a crowded schedule, please add your name to our list of potential rides. We would probably only call on you occasionally. Please call Rich Campanella at 752-3689.

— Bruce Pendery

WOLF REINTRODUCTION IN YELLOWSTONE

A seminar on reintroduction of gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park will be held in Room 216, Eccles Conference Center, USU campus, on Friday, December 4 at 3:30 p.m. This meeting, sponsored by the Wasatch Chapter of the Society of American foresters and the USU Department of Forest Resources, will be a good way to learn about proposed wolf reintroductions in Yellowstone. The speakers will be John Varley, Chief of Research in Yellowstone National Park, and Jeff Sidoway, eastern Idaho sheep rancher and chairman of the Animal
Damage Control Board of the National Wool Growers. Don't miss this important meeting. For further information, contact Scott Roberts, 750-1948.

— Bruce Pendery/ Chuck Warner

SEABIRDS ADD NUTRIENTS TO FLORIDA BAY

Audubon research on sea birds has just yielded a breakthrough advance in the esoteric field of nutrient cycling in tropical estuaries. Dr. George Powell, working in Florida Bay at Audubon's field research center in Tavernier, discovered that seabird defecations influence the type and density of marine plants growing in Florida Bay's shallow waters.

Scientists have labored for a long time to identify the role that nutrients play in estuaries. Marine plants form the base of major food chains in these bodies of water, in addition to serving as a primary source of protection and support for fish and invertebrates. Powell carried out an ingenious set of experiments that took advantage of double-crested cormorants' and royal terns' natural penchant for sitting on pilings and navigation markers. Powell constructed two types of artificial stakes: one like the navigation markers, on which birds could perch; the other too small for birds to land on. After a year he returned to see what effects the accumulated guano had on plants beneath their stakes.

Denser grass surrounded stakes that birds used as perches. Additionally, Powell observed around the bird stakes a grass that was rare except where birds had been roosting. His analysis of grass nutrient contents showed that it was enriched by phosphorus from the guano.

These results reveal that nutrients limit seagrass growth in Florida Bay. This contrasts with what happens in more temperate waters, where nutrients are not the critical limiting factor. Powell's results have important implications for conservation management because they reveal that small changes in Florida Bay's nutrient balance, either through removal or addition, will have a pronounced impact on the habitat. If nutrient inflow is cut off by channelization, as is happening to Florida Bay, seagrass growth will decline. This will likely be followed by a decrease in wildlife that depends upon marine vegetation in the bay. At the other end of the spectrum, dumping excess nutrients into these waters may affect the species composition of grasses and induce dramatic changes through over-enrichment.

Thus a study of seabird defecation alerts us to the delicate ecological balance prevailing in tropical estuaries.

WANT TO BE ACTIVE IN CONSERVATION ISSUES?

National Audubon gives you several ways to become involved in conservation issues:

• Come to a BAS conservation committee meeting. The next one is Monday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in BNR 112B, USU campus. Current areas of particular interest are Logan Canyon highway construction proposals and local streams and wetlands. We are following other issues and would welcome your participation, suggestions and help.

• Subscribe to Audubon Activist, a tabloid devoted to conservation issues and activism. (Send $9 to Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022.)

• Call the Audubon Hotline (202-547-9017) for information that is updated weekly on Audubon priority campaigns, and what you can do to help.

• Receive Action Alerts on key issues by subscribing to Audubon Activist and specifying which priority campaigns (wetlands, old-growth forests, Platte River protection, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, clean air) you wish to be involved in.

— Bruce Pendery

GET YOUR FEET WET

Audubon Activists move swiftly when it comes to dealing with polluters, unscrupulous developers, and those who just don't care. For $9—the price of Audubon Activist’s "complete activist" package—you too can help keep them on the run.

As a complete activist, you'll:
• Receive the bimonthly Audubon Activist
• Get Action Alerts from our Washington, D.C. office
• Be a part of our "telephone tree"
• Keep in touch with the front lines in Washington, D.C.
• Work with your local Audubon chapter on issues that are important to you

AUDUBON ACTIVIST

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society, Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022

CN 2
In Utah, as elsewhere, bird enthusiasts are almost as varied as the species they watch. Here “bird-watching” is graduating into birding, as traditional attitudes about avians are under assault. The state contains over three hundred native species to observe in the wild, and an increasing number of Utahns are not only joining the observation corps; they're making birds an integral part of their lives.

One way to combat a “frontier mentality” that is hostile to birds is through education. Introducing live birds into the elementary-level classroom is one option...

Besides dealing with the issue of cruelty to birds and to other animals, such educational programs also tend to discuss more controversial topics—such as loss of animal habitats. This may pose problems. Along with bucking the often-ingrained “frontier mentality,” such ideas (protecting the animals at the expense of human desires?) also run somewhat contrary to Utah's aggressive, develop-the-land, “pioneer” spirit. Birder Craig Kneedy sees the issue as being partly a religious one. People interpret Genesis in the Bible (“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the birds of the air”) to invite abuse of wildlife instead of as a stewardship. “It’s also contradictory in practice. This kind of thinking gives people a license to turn their backs on any kind of environmental issue.”

Kneedy says all of us on this planet would do well to “watch the bird,” because they're the “living barometers” of how our environment is doing. Carol Sharp agrees: “People think that birds don't matter because they're small, and because there is an overabundance of them. But they do matter. Frankly, I wouldn't wish to live in a world without birds.”

— Jill Smith
food value of a single limber pine seed. That this is not an entirely satisfactory strategy is attested by the fact that in years of limber pine cone failure nutcrackers may not breed at all. So perhaps a nutcracker can store enough Douglas fir seeds to keep it alive but not enough for the added energy needed to lay eggs and rear its young.

— Al Stokes

CANADA AND SURINAME JOIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORK

This summer, the Federal Governments of Suriname and Canada, along with the Province of New Brunswick, joined to dedicate a suite of critical shorebird habitat sites for membership in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). The areas dedicated lie in two widely separated areas: the Bay of Fundy and on the Surinamese coast. These sites are linked biologically by the migration of almost a million shorebirds, principally semipalmated sandpipers, that fly nonstop from the Bay of Fundy to Suriname.

Acting in his capacity as chairman of WHSRN, Audubon Sr. Vice President, Pete Myers, spoke at the dedication. He lauded the governments for their leadership roles in furthering international conservation. Myers pointed out that migratory shorebirds depend upon a chain of sites spread across the hemisphere. The director of the Surinamese Forest Service, Stanley Malone, expressed the commitment of his government to develop collaborative conservation ventures with other countries in the Western Hemisphere. Pauline Browse, member of the Canadian Parliament, congratulated WHSRN for its innovative approach to migrant bird conservation. She also cited the important role that local volunteers have played in building recognition for sites within the Bay of Fundy. Potential WHSRN sites exist in areas near many Audubon chapters. To date, over 35 governments have joined the program.

For information about the shorebird network activities in your area, please contact WHSRN, c/o the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022.

CHECK THE NOVEMBER NATURAL HISTORY

C. Allan Morgan, the photographer who spoke about Baja California whales at our spring banquet, has a two-page photo in the November issue of Natural History.

Titled “Green Mansion,” it’s a photo of a house sparrow nesting in a green traffic light, taken early one Sunday morning.

The accompanying article says that house sparrows, which are actually Old World weaver finches, have become one of the “five most numerous bird species in North America. Even the National Audubon Society no longer attempts to count house sparrows, simply placing the numbers at ‘lots and lots.’ Worldwide, scientists estimate, the species can be found in one-fourth of all habitable lands.”

Scientist Vince Cassone is convinced “the birds prefer the accoutrements of the city to any rural alternative. Although he mostly feeds his captive birds, millet, ‘they clearly prefer hamburger rolls. I guess that’s why they spend so much time around McDonald’s.”

— Jill Smith

SUNFLOWERS AS FEEDING STATIONS

This year we had several small black sunflower seeds volunteer in our raspberry patch. They grew plants eight feet tall with many individual seed heads. I first noticed finches feeding on these in early October, but since the plants were far from the house I wasn’t getting much close-up observation. So I pulled the plants up and tied them to a tree only 25 feet from our breakfast room windows. Within two days birds began feeding there. As I write this, there are as many as eight birds there at time—house finches and pine siskins. The house finches feed by perching on a branch and reaching up with their beaks to seed heads above them. In contrast, the smaller and lighter siskin tends to perch right next to a seed head and reaches over to get at the seeds. I already have plans for next year to grow many more sunflowers and to place the plants right next to the kitchen window so we can see the finches as we work at the sink only five feet away.

— Al Stokes

HOTLINE NOTES

The hotspot for unusual birds this month is none other than Logan’s own sewage ponds. On October 27, a week after they spotted 26 TUNDRA SWANS there, Ron and Larry Ryel saw a FERRUGINOUS HAWK, a WHITE WINGED SCOTER, and a GREATER SCAUP at the square lakes. Bob Atwood spotted a SURF SCOTER at the ponds November 8, a Cache Valley first sighting. It was still there on the 10th.

Meanwhile in Smithfield, a BLUE JAY has been making the rounds between Mack’s Park and Darrin Andersen’s feeder near the cemetery. It was seen this week in the park and at Steve Vanderwall’s feeder.
And in Logan, a SAW WHET OWL stopped in at Ron Ryel's, just long enough to wakt 'PARROWS have fed at Al Sto
If you missed getting your gla
need your name and number o
get your number on the list or
call Scott Cheney at 753-1893.

— Scott Cheney

UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING
Several members of the BAS planning committee spent the Halloween weekend on 200,000 acres of sage-scrub-confier-and-aspen, intact watershed called Deseret Ranch. The ranch, just south of Woodruff, is a living example that, when controlled correctly, range lands can actually improve with heavy grazing.

Ranch manager Greg Simonds led us and members of the Utah Audubon Council on an enlightening field trip, explaining his Holistic Range Management program and how cattle, wildlife, range and water can all coexist. By moving his cattle frequently, he said, Simonds has stopped erosion, raised the weaning weight of his calves, and rescued vital riparian habitat. He's also made the ranch better for not only the cattle, but for the bison, deer, elk, and antelope that also make Desert Ranch their home.

After the afternoon tour of the ranch, we gathered at the lodge for a hearty spaghetti dinner prepared by BAS's Sally Jackson, and then viewed a video on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge which is currently being considered for oil development.

Later, discussion turned to an issue closer to home—BLM wilderness. Jim Catlin of the Utah Wilderness Coalition, and Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association presented their proposals for BLM wilderness in Utah, and entertained questions. Then everyone went to the bunkhouse.

We capped off the meeting Saturday morning with BLM range videos, reports from all the Utah chapters of Audubon, and a call for a formal Utah Audubon Council. The next Audubon Council meeting was tentatively planned for spring in Provo.

— Scott Cheney
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.

CREDIT BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON W-52
Boulder, CO 80321

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name
Address
City
State
Zip

Check membership category desired.

☐ Student, Individual $20
☐ Student, Family $28
☐ Senior Citizen, Individual $31
☐ Senior Citizen, Family $39

☐ Check enclosed
☐ Please bill me

Send to:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter Membership Data Center
Box 2664
Boulder, CO 80321

Number of months membership:

☐ 12 months
☐ 6 months
☐ Introductory one year $20

$25.00
$30.00
$38.00
$18.00
$21.00
$23.00
$20.00
$28.00
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THE BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84321

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