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Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of October through May, in the Council Room of the new building, 255 N. Main. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. The committee meets every third Wednesday, October 25th, in the Logan Library at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is

Val Grant, 752-7572
 John Muir, 753-7079
 Susan Robertson, 750-6325
 Betty Boeker, 752-8092
 Bruce Pendery, 750-0253
 Karen Matsumoto-Grah, 750-3468
 Al Stokes, 752-2702
 Al Stokes, 752-2702
 Pat Gordon, 752-6561
 Mike Jablonski, 752-0536
 John Wise, 245-6695
 Mae & Merv Coover
 Scott Cheney, 753-1893
 Steve Cannon, 752-1209
 John Barnes, 563-3910
 Dianne Browning, 752-5946
 Ron Rye, 753-6077
 John Sigler, 753-5879
 Larry Rye, 753-8479
 Cynthia Kerbs, 752-3251
 Bob Atwood, 752-7012
 Office, 753-0012

The Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a number of submissions of any kind, due on the 15th of the month, as well as the Audubon magazine. The Audubon Society, 718 N. 200 E., Logan, UT 84321.

Audubon Society



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 17, No. 2

October 1988

MEETING CALENDAR

Thursday, October 13: Regular BAS monthly meeting, 8:30 p.m. in the Logan City meeting room, 255 North Main Street. Featured for the meeting will be an Audubon film entitled "What Is The Limit?" The film explores the relationships between human population growth, environmental degradation, resource depletion and habitat destruction, and discusses ethics for future development. Following the film we will engage in heavy mingling and convivial chatter, becoming reacquainted after a long and busy summer. Refreshments will be part of the evening, so bring your appetite.

Monday, October 17: BAS Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 112B, Biology-Natural Resources Building, USU Campus.

Tuesday, October 19: BAS Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Logan Library Conference Room, 255 North Main Street.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Thursday, October 8: Geology of Cache Valley. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway 89 rest area just south of the USU golf course and return about noon. USU Professor of Geology David Liddell will conduct the field trip, making you feel as if you are walking into past ages wandering along the shores of ancient seas in search of fossils.

Thursday/Saturday, October 11/13: Birding for Beginners. This two-day program will begin with a 1 1/2 hour evening session on using binoculars, tips on identifying birds, good birding locations and selecting and using birding guides. A slide show will identify the most common fall and winter birds of Cache Valley. The evening session will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 11, in the Logan City meeting room at 255 North Main street.

Saturday will feature a field trip to help participants develop skill in identifying local birds. The field trip will leave at 8:00 a.m. from the Fred Meyer parking lot and will return by noon. All participants must bring a good pair of binoculars to use on both days. No reservations are required for this two-day program, and all are welcome.

Saturday, November 5: Attracting Birds to Your Garden. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Allen Stokes (1722 Saddle Hill Drive, Logan; Saddle Hill Drive is a two-block-long street about 950 North, northeast of the golf course). This will be a visit to three different homes to see various types of bird feeders, their locations, and the types of foods that will attract a variety of winter birds. Bring binoculars to identify birds at the various feeders.

Saturday, November 19: Fall Migrants and Gulls of Cache Valley. Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the southwest corner of the Fred Meyer parking lot and return around noon. We'll go to the sanitary landfill and sewage lagoons to observe gulls at a time in the year when some unusual ones often show up. Afterwards we will go to the Benson area to look

for hawks and owls, among other birds. We'll be back in time to attend the USU vs. U football game.

In addition to these planned trips, we have tentatively scheduled an additional trip. Watch the Logan *Herald Journal* and listen to the radio community calendar announcements about this trip:

Tuesday, November 1: Astronomy in Cache Valley. This will be an outdoor field trip with noted amateur astronomer Bill Lowry. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Foods/Nutrition Building on the USU campus (on 12th East just north of 7th North) for introductions and plans, and then go outdoors to gaze at whatever Astronomer Bill chooses [editor's note: Mars is great right now]. Dress warmly.

BUS SERVICE FOR CACHE VALLEY

A proposal to establish bus service in Cache Valley will almost certainly appear on the November 8 ballot.

The proposal would be for the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) to annex Cache Valley into its service district. Two routes in Logan are likely, as well as a route from Lewiston to Hyrum and Wellsville via Smithfield and Logan. Service from the valley to Ogden and Salt Lake, including the Salt Lake International Airport, would also be available.

Increasing sales tax from 6.0 to 6.25 percent would provide about 80 percent of the necessary operating funds, with the rest coming from fares. The tax increase would provide about \$850,000 each year, and would increase the average valley resident's taxes by about \$12 per year. Fares within the valley would be about 50¢, and fares to Wasatch Front communities would be about \$1.25. A survey by Dan Jones and Associates indicated that 78 percent of the people in Cache Valley like the idea of bus service in the valley, and 65 percent were willing to fund it with increased taxes. Of course, different people like the proposal for different reasons. For some it might provide mobility they don't have now, but there are other benefits, too: reduced air pollution, fewer oil wells in the wilderness and in critical nesting habitats. Personally, that's what I like best about the UTA proposal.

— Bruce Pendry

ALUMINUM CANS— KEEP THEM COMING!

With aluminum cans now fetching 40¢ per pound or better, our project of recycling cans is more worthwhile than ever. Just this week the, Forest Service reported being all out of our Tony Grove and Limber Pine Nature Trail leaflets, and shortly we will have a new guide for the

Riverside Trail above third dam. Our alumni has been going toward our education project.

I find that when I tell my friends and neighbors about the project, they are more than willing to help. Hearing the clank of a sack of cans being emptied into my house is like Christmas all year round. My contribution off at my home (1722 Saddle Creek) (National Resources-Biology, Union Engineering and other places), or take them to the Distributing at 345 South 6th West between 5:00 p.m. They will credit Audubon.

An exciting new educational effort is being set up in nature center up Logan Canyon. More issues!

NEW MAPS AVAILABLE

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest has a "travel map" for the Logan and Ogden area. The map shows where off-highway vehicles are prohibited and where they are permitted. Forest, conservationists' suggestions and vehicle access were ignored. Free copies are available from the District Ranger's office at 1200 East, Logan. Pick up a copy and think.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Gunvi Alin, Logan
Christine Beorchia, Smithfield
Scott B. Biggs, Logan
John R. Carlisle, Logan
Mrs. Hiram E. Dalton, Logan
Ms. Mary Dursch, Logan
Donna Forsberg, Logan
Rev. Kenn W. Green, Logan
Lance E. Heap, Logan
Gloria Higgins, Georgetown, ID
Gayle Knapp, Logan
Ruth Knight, Logan
D. Norton, Newton, UT
B.L. Parker, Logan
Dan Zamecnik, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Keith L. Dixon, Logan
Kevin Mohr, Providence
Ron Ryel, Logan

NATIONAL'S POSITION CLEAR

The Utah media incorrectly reported National Audubon's position on the recent sandhill crane hunt. The following, quoted from a letter to Dee Hansen, Executive Director of Utah's State Department of Natural Resources and written by Bob Turner, National's Western Regional VP, makes National's position clear (for an update on the status of the crane hunt, see the related article elsewhere in this issue of *The Stilt*).

The National Audubon Society strongly objects to the proposed hunting season for sandhill cranes. This controversial issue has been kicking around in the plains and Rocky Mountain states for years and needs to be put to rest once and for all.

Sandhill cranes have a far too low reproductive rate to be considered as a huntable species, i.e., averaging only one bird per year.

Secondly, sandhills do not become sexually mature for two or six years, and this further impacts their reproductive capacity.

Sandhills are experiencing the loss or degradation of their habitat over much of their breeding range, and this further stresses their population dynamics.

Finally, why risk upsetting the fragile whooping crane recovery program at Gray's Lake, Idaho, by permitting any sandhill hunting in this general area within the Intermountain Region.

It just doesn't make sense, when we have so many other huntable species, to add a species that has such different population dynamics."

— Bob Turner/TJG

... * * * * *

The parklands of America are the greatest mental health guardians we have."

William C. Gibson

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY INTERN PROGRAM

Interns in Audubon's Washington office are a part of the professional staff; learning and assisting in the fields of water issues, pollution, public lands, agriculture, pesticides, wildlife, population, and international issues. Each intern is assigned to a staff member in one of these areas and helps in substantive policy work, including lobbying, research, collecting materials, attending hearings and helping to prepare testimony, both for

Congress and for the administrative agencies. A small part of the intern's time is spent in helping with routine office work. Assignments are rotated to the extent possible, to vary the experience.

The following is a sample of a number of issues that the National Capital Office of Audubon will be working on during the course of the next several months:

- land management, including forestry and wilderness legislation
- water resources issues, especially the Platte River Campaign and the Clean Water Act, and also follow up to the hydro relicensing reform
- agriculture legislation, including extensive work on pesticides and groundwater protection
- wildlife, which will encompass a wide variety of issues such as the Endangered Species Act and the reintroduction of particular species into the wild
- pollution abatement, with emphasis on acid rain and toxic waste
- international issues, focusing primarily on the coordination and organization of international chapter groups, in addition to the international trade of wildlife; specific projects pertaining to population management

An intern is expected to devote full time to the program, preferably for a length of time ranging from three to six months. A few intern positions are available on a part-time basis. Six to eight interns may be engaged at any one time. Out-of-pocket expenses in connection with the work will be reimbursed.

The program is geared to college seniors, recent graduates or graduate students. In some cases college juniors might be considered. Individuals must display a high degree of initiative, maturity, motivation and responsibility. Knowledge of the general environmental field and machinery of government is important. The ability to write well is essential.

The Audubon Society will cooperate in every way with colleges and universities offering credit for intern programs or for work on special projects. It is the responsibility of the intern to make all necessary arrangements for receiving credit.

There is no application form. Interested individuals should submit a resume, a writing sample and a letter stating his or

her special interests and when he or she is available. References should be available if requested. Material should be submitted approximately two months before the individual desires to come, to 801 Pennsylvania Ave. SE/ Washington, DC/ 20003/ (202) 547-9009. For those interested in summer internships, materials should be submitted by the first of April.

THE PLATTE: A RIVER UNDER SIEGE

Water development projects threaten to dry up the Platte River in Nebraska—an essential migratory stopover for 500,000 sandhill cranes.

The North and South Platte Rivers are born high in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. After making a wide loop through Wyoming, the North Platte meets its sister stream in western Nebraska, and the combined waters flow eastward to join the Missouri River just below Omaha.

Because it bisects the central plains, the Platte has always figured prominently in migrations. The Oregon and Mormon trails followed the North Platte through the Nebraska Territory of the Louisiana Purchase. An interstate highway now parallels the river along the old emigrants' road. But for the thousands of years before even Native Americans first tasted its waters, the Platte was a landmark for great flocks of migratory waterfowl. The high-flying skeins and wheeling clouds of ducks, geese and sandhill cranes awed Indians and settlers. Today, drivers pull their cars off the highway to watch the birds.

But all is not well on the Central Plains. In just a few decades, we have altered the river so greatly that the pioneers wouldn't recognize it. So much water has been diverted from the Platte that its flow in central Nebraska has been diminished by 70 percent. For some wildlife species, that means a corresponding reduction in habitat. Additional water development projects—in various stages of planning, promotion or construction—threaten what remains. The migrating birds are in danger of losing an essential spring staging area.

When Oregon-bound settlers met the Platte River, it was a "mile wide and a foot deep"—a broad, braided stream. Each May or June its flow peaked as the snow melted, washing tons of sediment down from the distant mountains, and the Platte became "too thick to drink and too thin to plow." The high water scoured the river, leaving a wide, shallow channel with bare sandbars, bordered by marsh, wet meadows and prairie.

Early settlers quickly began breaking up the fertile prairie and irrigating the new cropland with water from the Platte. By the middle of this century, the river had already been changed; by now it has been completely transformed.

Major dam and diversion projects of the Bureau of Reclamation and local hydroelectric companies have claimed much of the watershed.

Reservoirs behind dams trapped the river's sediment. A proliferation of deep-well irrigation lowered the water table in many areas. The river crowded the river's edge and squeezed between narrow bridge crossings. Mud gouged sand and gravel from the channels, and lakes that invited housing developments.

Even though the Platte has been dammed, wildlife in an astonishing variety and abundance still thrives upon it still. But the threats to the river continue to multiply. For that reason, the Audubon Society, with its more than 100 members and 500 local chapters, has vowed to protect the prairie river. In concert with other environmental groups, the Society is fighting to stave off additional developments until water flows essentially guaranteed.

Audubon's West Central and Rocky Mountain offices, which have been working on the river since 1970, continue to be the focal point for information and action. Many Audubon chapters and state councils in the area are involved, and activists across the country are monitoring proposals and bringing political pressure to bear where necessary. Audubon's political and legal offices in Washington, D.C., are dealing with the western water law in their search for solutions to the problem.

You can join the team to protect the Platte's wondrous wildlife by writing: Platte River, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 301, Washington, D.C., 20003. Send a letter stating that in at least two instances, endangered whooping cranes were mistakenly shot during a sandhill crane hunt. (Researcher Drewein counters that the population is at least as much a threat to whoopers as the crane hunt, citing data showing that five whooping cranes have died of avian tuberculosis and one of avian cholera since 1982.)

If you are in the area and want to enjoy the spring migration along the Platte, you can visit the Sandhill Crane Sanctuary. Reservations are required. Contact Crane Watch, Lillian Annette, Route 2, Box 112-A, Gibbon, Nebraska.

UTAH "JUST SAYS 'NO'" CRANE HUNT

Utah Wildlife Board has decided not to issue permits to hunt sandhill cranes this year, but board chairman Paul Hingham said that the August 12 decision was a political

decision supported by the Utah Farm Bureau, and by several wildlife biologists who say that the Rocky Mountain sandhill crane population is too high, the Wildlife Board planned to issue 100 sandhill crane permits for a hunt. Hingham said the Board felt that was biologically necessary. The National Audubon Society, however, voiced strong objections to the proposed hunt (see Bob Turner's letter elsewhere in this issue of *The Still*), and the Wildlife Board also received 50 letters opposing the hunt.

The Rocky Mountain sandhill crane population is made up of cranes from the Pacific flyway which winter in New Mexico. This population has increased from about a thousand birds in the 1940s to 20,000 today, according to Rod Drewein, a University of Idaho wildlife researcher; the Fish and Wildlife Service's management plan for Rocky Mountain greater sandhill cranes calls for limiting hunting permits whenever the population rises above 16,000. Drewein claims the winter range hasn't enough food to support that population, and that consequently "there's a good chance" that the population will drop below 16,000 from sickness and lack of food.

Ron Klataske, regional vice president for National Audubon's west central division, questions whether adequate attempts have been made to develop alternative food sources in the New Mexico wintering area. Although Audubon endorsed the Rocky Mountain sandhill Crane Management Plan, that endorsement was not a blanket approval of crane hunts. "Each proposed hunting season needs to be examined," says Klataske, adding that in at least two instances, endangered whooping cranes were mistakenly shot during a sandhill crane hunt. (Researcher Drewein counters that the population is at least as much a threat to whoopers as the crane hunt, citing data showing that five whooping cranes have died of avian tuberculosis and one of avian cholera since 1982.)

This year, at least, no sandhill crane hunt will take place in Utah. Next year . . . who knows? "[Sandhill crane] management has a population range goal," says Skip Hingham, Central Flyway representative for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The sandhill population is now in the middle of that target range, but "there is no biological reason not to permit" a crane hunt.

ACID RAIN MONITORING NETWORK NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Citizens' Acid Rain Monitoring Network, launched by National Audubon in July 1987, has more than 200 dedicated volunteers measuring the acidity of rainfall in their areas. The monitoring network plays a pivotal role in Audubon's campaign to control acid rain. The results are circulated widely to the press and Congress by National Audubon through monthly press releases. Many monitors have had local news coverage. Some even have their pH readings reported as part of the local weather reports.

In order to complete our nationwide coverage, the network still needs dedicated volunteers in Utah. Responsibilities of an acid rain monitor include:

- a one-year commitment to the program
- collecting rain samples and measuring their acidity
- reporting the data via the HOTLINE—a toll-free number
- contacting your local media and congressional representatives regularly
- \$25.00 to cover the cost of the acid rain test kit.

Join the network today. Contact Ellen Brown, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, or call the HOTLINE: 1-800-832-RAIN.

—TJG

SEVENTEEN SYLLABLES

The praying mantis
tried to cross the parking lot;
Tuesday and today.

—Pat Gordon

CHAPTER ELECTIONS TASK FORCE REPORT

As many of you know, the Chapter Elections Task Force was officially created by Peter Berle and Donal O'Brien on February 25, 1988. This task force was an outgrowth of the original chapter leader meeting which took place at the national offices in Washington, D.C. on August 8, 1987 and which led to the implementation of the regionally elected directors and the election process.

The purpose of this task force is to evaluate the process by which regionally elected directors are nominated and elected and to make recommendations to the President

and board as to how the process should be conducted in the future. The final report and recommendations of the task force will go directly to the chairman of the board and the president of national after consultation with the Chapter Relations Committee of the board.

The task force has been working together, informally, even before its official creation in February. Our work has been carried out in writing, by way of conference phone call, and group meetings held in conjunction with the national board meetings. In order to evaluate the first, hurried, election, a questionnaire was prepared by the Task Force and sent to all chapters. We have received 343 completed questionnaires. A number of these included additional written comments. A copy of the survey results are available from chapter presidents. The information in the questionnaire and the comments have been reviewed and considered by the task force.

Because of the obvious need to carry out the 1988 elections for the regional board members, the task force recommended that we follow the same procedures used for the initial round of elections in 1987. This process was recommended as a temporary but necessary expedient. It is to be used only until the task force has prepared and submitted its report and recommendations concerning a permanent nominating and voting process. The task force is optimistic that we will have a final report ready to be submitted to the board by September 17, 1988, in time for the quarterly national board meeting. Hopefully, following this time table, any changes recommended by the task force can be put into effect by the board at the December annual meeting.

One of the principal aims of the task force is to devise a nominating and election system which enhances and maximizes the role of the chapters in its relationship with national and which also minimizes the role and responsibilities of national. Very clearly, different chapters have different ideas concerning the nomination and election process. Undoubtedly, the final process will be the result of considering many ideas and making many compromises.

A list of all of the task force members and their addresses and phone numbers is available for chapter presidents. Each of us would welcome any comments, questions or suggestions that you may have concerning the work of the task force.

CACHE VALLEY RECYCLING PROJECT

The Cache Group Sierra Club prepared and printed the enclosed recycling brochure. Bridgerland Audubon would like to thank them for their effort and for permission to send the brochure on to you. We hope this brochure will further our common goal of conservation and wise use of natural resources.

— Bruce Pendery

Audubon Institute Opens and Minds to America

By Libby Sciacchitano, Expedition

I spent my first summer as a master of the National Audubon Society Expedition at the Northeast Audubon Center in Shannock. The Expedition Institute is a high school and graduate degree program offered at Lesley College in Boston. Participants spend from one semester to up to two years in America in national parks, nature centers—Mother Nature is the guide. The experience is plenary and open-ended. Graduates go on to become leading environmental educators, activists, with an enriched sense of place and purpose.

As part of a full-year learning experience, I was able to explore a mountain peak during the traditional songs with village folk at night. I grew to know the melodies of the woods, I underwent a challenging educational process that emphasizes the interrelationship of all things. I learned natural history, anthropology, and local experts such as park rangers, Native American environmental educators, and traditional healers. My learning extended to first-hand encounters with natural and cultural wonders. All expedition members made up of staff members from every department. While our regional staff is stretched far too thin, the whole organization is gaining a better appreciation of chapter activities through regional team participation. Another important thing has happened: Chapters are giving financial support directly to their regional offices—an investment that will pay back big dividends in chapter effectiveness.

For nearly 20 years the Expedition Institute has been educating people while enriching their nature's ways. These experiences have been shared through environmental issues and environmental educators who share their understanding with others. I know it has been a perception immeasurably.

For more information, write: Audubon Institute, Northeast Audubon Center, 1000 Main St., Storrs, Conn. 06269, or call (203) 364-0522.

News from NAS

Remarkable Year

Peter A.A. Berle

President, National Audubon Society

The National Audubon Society, like most Audubon chapters, counts its years from summer to summer. Society's fiscal year ends June 30th. This year, the budget process had special significance, for just one year we had to make cutbacks that included some painful losses of valuable personnel. Understandably, there was a mood of turmoil, but, using the same tenacity, ingenuity, and energy that makes this Society such a great conservation organization, Audubon staff and members rallied to meet with the financial crisis. And I'm happy to report that Audubon of today is healthier and stronger than the organization of one year ago.

We finished this last fiscal year solidly in the black, and the board has approved a balanced budget for the current year. The new budget provides for reestablishment of the Northeast Regional Office. In just one year's time, we have put our financial house in order. We did this by cutting costs and raising \$1.8 million more than in the previous year. But this struggle is not over; given a \$30 million budget last year, we must raise an additional \$1.5 million just to stay even, assuming a 5% inflation rate.

The national board of directors has been restructuring, bringing nine chapter-elected members with diverse backgrounds onto this distinguished, policymaking panel.

Regional offices, which were affected by last year's budget cuts, have been augmented by regional staff members made up of staff members from every department.

While our regional staff is stretched far too thin, the whole organization is gaining a better appreciation of chapter activities through regional team participation. Another important thing has happened: Chapters are giving financial support directly to their regional offices—an investment that will pay back big dividends in chapter effectiveness.

The National Audubon Society has never had a stronger program. By bringing the strengths of every chapter of the Society to bear on select issues, we have had a tremendous effect. Our efforts have focused on our five national high-priority campaigns: protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, stopping acid rain, conserving old-growth forests, keeping water in the wildlife-rich Platte River, and saving wetlands.

Every department is flexing its muscles. The Capitol Hill office in Washington, D.C., after helping to authorize a strong Clean Water Act, has been pouring its

energy into reauthorization of two other flagship laws: the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act. As I write this, negotiations are proceeding on both laws. Audubon's legislative analysts continue to work on dozens of other local, regional, national, and international issues. Singlehandedly, Audubon arranged for an appropriation of \$4.2 million to purchase water rights for the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada. This is the first appropriation ever to buy water rights for wildlife.

The Science Department is seeing results from its groundbreaking research in areas such as energy policy and wildlife habitat management. The department has weighed in on the Arctic refuge and Platte River debates. In addition to its long-term field research projects, the Science Department is looking ahead to problems such as global climate change and the environmental effects of biotechnology.

The Sanctuary Department has had a good year in rounding out some of our protected wildlife habitats. For example, using dedicated donations, we were able to purchase buffer areas around Beidler Sanctuary in South Carolina, a rare, virgin, bald-cypress swamp.

Most chapter members are aware of the success of the Education Department's Audubon Adventures program, because chapters sponsor many of the nearly 7,000 classrooms involved. In an exciting new initiative, Audubon educators are reaching out to Native American and inner-city urban children.

Audubon's Television Specials now reach more than 20 million people and have won many awards for their excellence. The Television Department is collaborating with the Education Department in developing fascinating new computer software with an environmental education message.

AUDUBON magazine remains the most respected and elegant journal in the environmental field. Blockbuster issues on subjects such as the Arctic refuge and California wetlands are used by Audubon staff and members as education lobbying tools.

The Audubon Activist Network has grown into a powerful grassroots force that any chapter member can tap. Network members receive the bimonthly newspaper, *Audubon Activist*, and *Action Alerts* directly from the Capitol Hill office when legislative issues reach critical junctures. Membership in this network, which gives you the tools and information necessary to be an effective conservationist, costs \$9 per year.

In all, it has been a remarkable year for the National Audubon Society. With your continued support, next year's report will show even more progress.