



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 16, No. 5

March 1988

MEETING CALENDAR

Thursday, March 10: Regular BAS monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Logan Library meeting room, 255 North Main Street. A potpourri of natural history slides from around the world. See related article elsewhere in this issue of the *Stilt*.

Wednesday, March 16: BAS planning meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Logan Library conference room, 255 North Main St.

Sunday-Tuesday, March 26-29: Western Regional Conference, Asilomar, California. The Western Regional office is hosting this conference. This outstanding event, which will take place on the beautiful Monterey peninsula, offers history, current topic discussions, "how-to" workshops, birding and good Audubon company. Contact Ron Ryel, Cynthia Kerbs or Tom Gordon for registration information.

Thursday, April 21: Annual BAS banquet, 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Bird Restaurant, 19 North Main, Logan. William Platts, PhD, from the USU Fisheries Department and the head fisheries biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in this region, will present a talk entitled "Good Beaver, Bad Beaver." Next month's issue of the *Stilt* will carry details.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, March 5: Bald Eagles at Willard Canyon. A close look at 50 or more eagles as they fly in to roost. Leave at 10:00 a.m. from the southwest corner of the Fred Meyer parking lot; return variable. Bring a lunch and warm clothes.

Friday-Saturday, April 8-9: Grouse courtship. Overnight camping trip to Curlew National Grasslands in southern Idaho to observe both sage and sharptailed grouse on their dance grounds. Camp at historic Twin Springs campground. YOU NEED RESERVATIONS FOR THIS TRIP; call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

COYOTE CONTROL IN MT. NAOMI WILDERNESS

The U.S. Forest Service recently reached a decision in the ongoing controversy surrounding coyote control in the Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area. The decision applies to the Cottonwood Sheep Allotment only. An excerpt from a letter by Stanley R. Miller of the local Forest Service office follows:

The decision notice was approved for a four-year period, and allows trapping, calling and shooting, and effective repellants, for predator control during the four-year period.

Aerial control with the helicopter is allowed this year (1987-1988 winter); and will continue to be allowed the remaining three years, if losses exceed a determined percentage for each year. To allow helicopter control

during the winter of 1988-1989, losses must exceed 1.5 percent during the 1988 grazing season. For helicopter control to be allowed during the winter of 1989-1990, losses must exceed three percent during the 1989 grazing season. To use helicopter control the final winter of the approved four-year period, losses must exceed four percent during the 1990 grazing season.

The following mitigation measures are also to be implemented:

Calling and shooting will be confined to specific areas where losses were occurring.

Trapping will only be allowed in specific areas where losses occur and no traps will be allowed on or adjacent to any National Forest hiking trails, or areas of high human use.

Helicopter control will be limited to the winter months with no more than three flights permitted annually. Flights will also be limited to the specific area identified on the current year's map. For subsequent years control will be limited to areas identified by APHIS and approved by the Forest Service. Areas of control may change each year but will be limited to the Cottonwood Allotment.

Guard dogs, supplied by the permittee, will be required to be with the sheep band throughout the permit period.

We appreciate your interest and assistance in resolving this issue.

HOTLINE NOTES

Most migrant birds traditionally move out of Cache Valley during January and February, and this year has been no exception. This month, nobody reported any rarities, but some uncommon birds have stayed over the winter. The American white pelican seems to have endured the cold; Larry Ryel saw it at the fish hatchery on February 16. Al Stokes still gets an occasional visit from Harris' sparrows that have frequented his feeder all winter.

On January 30, the mid-winter count turned up over 70 species. Pine grosbeaks in Providence, a saw-whet owl at the mouth of Green Canyon, and merlins out in the valley were the most uncommon species spotted. Since then, Larry Ryel spotted a flock of Clark's nutcrackers up Card Canyon, and Charlie Crisafulli reported red-breasted mergansers and cinnamon teal on the Bear River. There's also been a rumor of a snowy owl around Hyde Park; if you hear about or see a snowy owl, call the hotline so we can all get a look.

Spring is near, so thaw out your binoculars and look for spring migrants. Report sightings or interesting rumors (they don't even have to be about birds) to the Hotline at 753-1893.

— Scott Cheney

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Adelaide Bohart, Logan
Diane Boyl, Logan
Bret Duke Moscom, Logan
Mary Hunnicutt, Wellsville
Joseph Roberts, Columbia, SC

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS

Dr. & Mrs. E. H. Berry, Smithfield
Dick Carter, Hyrum
Eileen A. Fesco, Alexandria, VA
Reinhard Jockel, Logan
William & Marjorie Lewis, Logan
Mr. John Tautin, Laurel, MD
Alison Thorne, Logan
T. Schroeder, C. Webb, Wellsville

NATIONAL REP REPORTS TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION CHAPTERS

(Editor's Note: The following report from Harriet Marble, the Rocky Mountain region's representative to the National Audubon Board, appeared in the February issue of the *Audubon Leader*, the Region's newsletter for chapter leaders. It is reprinted here in full.)

Report to the Rocky Mountain Chapters and Members from Harriet Marble Your Rocky Mountain Representative to the National Audubon Board

Thank you for the marvelous support you showed to the nine chapter-nominated national board members. As your national board representative, I feel a great responsibility to adequately represent the wishes and views of the Rocky Mountain Region of Audubon. I ideally would like to visit each chapter in this region. However, when you realize we have 42 chapters located in an area stretching from Canada to Mexico, a personal visit to each seems unlikely. So, if your budget will allow, please add me to your chapter newsletter mailing list. This will help me become aware of your local needs and concerns so I can better represent you on the national board; of course, I will try to visit as many of you as I can.

The nine chapter-nominated board members attended our first national meeting in New York City in December. Because of my background (M.S. in wildlife management)

and geographical location in Montana, I felt I could best serve Audubon and the Rocky Mountain chapters by participating on the following national board committees: chapter relations, scientific, sanctuaries, special gift giving and Platte River. I have interest in all the other committees and will follow their actions also. The scientific committee is concerned with the Yellowstone ecosystem, grizzly bears, wolves, etc.—all areas which I have been involved with here in Montana. The Platte River/sandhill crane/dam issue involves our region and I want to be involved with Audubon's action to save the cranes. Habitats for wildlife are disappearing much too fast and I think the sanctuary program provides to Americans areas in which to reflect and learn about our natural heritage.

The bottom line, the dollar, and how to spend it, brought on the "Audubon revolution" which allowed my election. I am responsible, with others, to seek funding for the programs we all are attracted to in Audubon. From this first Board meeting I learned that our vice-presidents are doing all they can to tighten their belts and still provide a quality program whether it is education through Audubon Adventures, TV specials, sanctuaries, camps, or Christmas Bird Counts or saving animals and habitat or etc. Each of us may have one or two areas we particularly love about Audubon and you can direct your monies to these programs via the Birdathon. The board is asking each of you to participate in the Birdathon. One half of your earnings can go to your chapter and the other half to the Audubon program of your choice (American Birds, Audubon Adventures, TV, sanctuaries, regional offices—whatever).

The next National Board meeting will be very close to this region. We are meeting March 17-20 in Kearney, Nebraska, and you are invited to attend.

The Audubon Society has become a better organization—the grassroots will be heard. Thank you for your support. I can be contacted at: P.O. Box 649, Chester, MT 59522. (406) 759-5257 office or (406) 759-5211 home.

SAVE MONEY ON PETERSON FIELD GUIDE

Our chapter can get any of the paperback Peterson Field Guides at a 50% discount. Here's a chance to build up your reference library at 25% off the list price, and earn a little money (the other 25%) for our chapter. Just call Al Stokes at 752-2702 and tell him which of the following titles you want. Prices shown are list; your price will be 25% less, and we'll add sales tax. These are the paperback prices; clothbound volumes will be \$4 to \$5 additional.

Pacific Coast Shells	\$11.95
Mammals	\$12.95
Hawks	\$13.95
Birds of Britain and Europe	\$17.95
Animal Tracks (Murie)	\$12.95
Rocky Mountain Wildflowers	\$12.95
Mushrooms	\$13.95
Stars and Planets	\$12.95
Rocks and Minerals	\$10.95
Western Reptiles and Amphibians	\$12.95
Mexican Birds (clothbound)	\$15.95
Western Birds' Nests	\$11.95
Southwestern & Texas Wildflowers	\$12.95
(Good for So. UT, too)	
Western Butterflies	\$14.95
Western Bird Songs (cassettes)	\$29.95
Peterson First Guides in these titles	\$ 3.95
Wildflowers	
Insects	
Mammals	
Peterson Field Guide Coloring Books in these titles	\$4.95
Mammals	
Birds	
Fishes	
Butterflies	
Shells	
Reptiles	
Wildflowers	

THE DEADLINE FOR PLACING ORDERS IS MARCH 15; books should be here by April 15.

— Al Stokes

MARCH MEETING TO OFFER NATURAL HISTORY TRAVELOGUE

Escape to the place of your dreams, be it Logan Canyon or Morocco, on March 10 at the BAS Natural History Travelogue.

At 7:30 p.m., in the meeting room at the Logan Library, we'll take long hops and short stops around the world—Mexico, South America, Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and maybe even such exotic locales as Wyoming, or Georgia—to look at trees, fungi, mosses, reptiles, birds, mammals, people, clouds, rocks and more.

Everyone is invited. And, unlike other world tours, this odyssey is free!

We've asked several people each to show us 10-15 of their favorite natural history slides, and it promises to be a good show. But you may have photographed your yak or red-winged blackbird from a different angle. Look in your slidebox and find 10 to 15 slides to add to our travelogue. Please call Jill Smith at 750-1359 (days) or 753-6109 (evenings) by March 8 to list your part of call on our itinerary.

— Jill Smith

YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION OFFERS NATURE CLASSES

The Yellowstone Association for Natural Science, History and Education offers 63 different classes in various natural history disciplines. Two of special significance to Audubon Society members: "Birds of Yellowstone" and "Birding Yellowstone."

The "Birds of Yellowstone" course is an introductory ornithology course (2 quarter hours available through the University of Montana) emphasizing identification and ecological relationships of birds in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Field surveys include a hike to the summit of Mt. Washburn, a breeding bird census on Blacktail Deer Plateau, observations of osprey nests in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, a boat trip on Yellowstone Lake and many opportunities to observe waterfowl on the pothole lakes of Lamar Valley. Course leaders will make every effort to tailor instruction to enrollees' individual needs. Amateur birders, including novices, teachers, undergraduate and graduate students will find the course valuable and informative. "Birds of Yellowstone" will be conducted from 27 June through 1 July; cost is \$195.

"Birding Yellowstone" is a fast-paced course, limited to 10 enrollees, whose objective is to see as many Yellowstone bird species as possible in two days. The class will feature early morning departures to visit prime locations and varied habitat sites with a goal of more than 50 species including osprey, bald eagle and trumpeter swans. The course will also offer many opportunities to see the parks other animal residents. "Birding Yellowstone" will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, with a session on birding in Yellowstone, and will run through June 26; cost is \$65.

Both courses will be conducted by Richard F. Follett, author of *Birds of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks* and *Birds of Crater Lake National Park*. He is a specialist on the birds of Yellowstone, where he worked seven years as a ranger-naturalist and compiled the park's bird checklist.

The Yellowstone Association offers many other courses in addition to these, including a course in fire ecology, a course in learning outdoor photography and others. For registration and other information, contact The Yellowstone Association, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, (307) 344-7381, ex. 2349.

NATURE CONSERVANCY AIDS IN PRESERVING STRAWBERRY RIVER CORRIDOR

Nestled in a steep-walled canyon in northern Utah's high plateau country in Duchesne County, the Strawberry River corridor supports a cottonwood-willow community

threatened throughout the southwest, provides important raptor habitat, and embraces one of the state's most productive fisheries. In concert with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Nature Conservancy has acquired a 700-acre tract here in addition to an option on another 1700 acres. When completed, the preserve will protect a seven-mile stretch along the Strawberry River and will be managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

— *Nature Conservancy Magazine*, Jan/Feb 1988/TJG

SPRING EDVENTURE SEMINARS EXPLORE UTAH NATIONAL PARKS

Spring comes early to the Canyonlands in Southeastern Utah. And what better way to explore this fascinating land of red rock spires, arches, ancient Indian cultures, and unique desert plants and animals than with those who really KNOW it? The Canyonlands Field Institute of Moab, Utah, a non-profit organization, announces its spring series of Photography Workshops and Canyonlands, EDventures, trips and seminars that feature the natural and cultural history of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and surrounding wildlands.

Spring PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS include "Introduction to Nature Photography" and an advanced "Aspens to Desert: Photographing the Colorado Plateau Landscape" with noted photographers Tom Till and Steve Mulligan.

EDVENTURE SEMINARS for adults and families, one-day, weekend or weeklong, are diverse as their titles: "The Bookcliff Peoples"; "Backpacking Fish and Owl Canyons"; "Burr Trail Mountain Bike Ecology Trip"; "Grand Gulch Archaeology" and "On the Rainbow Trail" (hiking with packstock support); "Navajo and Hopi Lands" (van tour); "Desert Wildflowers Workshop"; "Pothole Ecology"; "Birds of the Colorado River Wetlands"; "Writing from Nature in Arches"; and "Landscapes of Lake Powell" (houseboat, tour boat and hiking). Teachers planning their summer calendar will be interested in "Understanding the Desert Sky" and "Teaching about the Natural World" in June and "Ecology of the Colorado Plateau" set for August.

Backpacking and day outings can also be arranged by request with notice. For more information on the programs offered by Canyonlands Field Institute, call (801) 259-7750 or write Canyonlands Field Institute, Box 68, Moab, UT 84532.

Transplanted Puffins Return to Maine's Seal Island

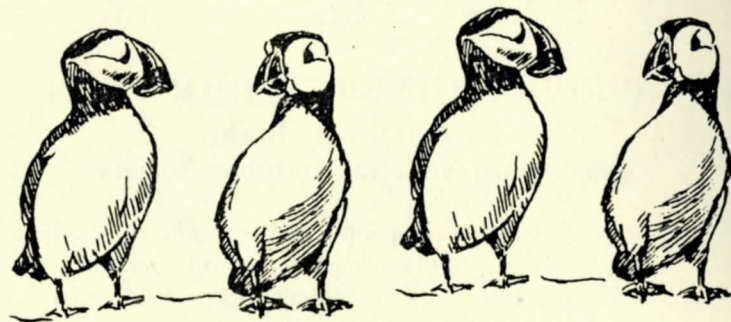
by Dr. Stephen Kress, Audubon ornithologist

The effort to restore Atlantic puffins to Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge off the coast of Maine had its first important success this summer with the sighting of two three-year-old puffins that had been transplanted as chicks to the island in 1984. Until the 1850s, Seal Island was the largest puffin colony off mid-coast Maine. But by 1887, fishermen who captured adult puffins for food had wiped out the colony.

The Seal Island Project began in 1984 as a cooperative program of the National Audubon Society, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Modeled after the successful earlier effort to restore puffins to Eastern Egg Rock in Muscongus Bay, the Seal Island Project has taken on the ambitious task of rearing and releasing 1,000 transplanted puffin chicks over the six-year period 1984-89. Scientists want to learn more about puffin survival and growth rates and the behavior associated with the formation and growth of colonies.

In 1984, 100 ten- to twenty-eight-day-old puffin chicks from Great Island, Newfoundland, were transplanted to Seal Island. They were reared in artificial burrows and fed a diet of silversides, placed in the burrows by research assistants. After fledging from their nesting island, puffins spend the next two or three years at sea. The restoration project is based on the assumption that transplanted birds that survive will return to the Maine coast rather than their natal home in Newfoundland.

Every year since then, additional chicks have been reared and released at Seal Island. To date, the project has



successfully fledged 534 of 549 transplanted chicks, a success rate of 97 percent. The project will transplant 200 chicks each year in 1988 and 1989.

Perhaps the most important lesson learned at the previous restoration project at Eastern Egg Rock is that there is likely to be great variation from year to year in the number of puffins that return. After leaving their nesting islands, young puffins must find food on their own. Even in a natural colony, fledgling puffins are not fed by their parents and must rely on a mix of instinctive feeding behavior and learned fishing skills. It takes a great deal of luck for a young puffin to avoid predators and raging North Atlantic storms, as well as human-created hazards such as oil slicks and fishing nets. Most young puffins probably die at sea their first winter.

Apparently, once every several years sea conditions favor the survival of transplanted puffin fledglings. Because the odds for survival fluctuate so greatly, transplants must continue for many years.

Although the return visits of transplanted puffins to Seal Island are encouraging, establishment of a new colony is far from assured. The success of the project will ultimately depend on one or more years when 50 percent or more of the young return, providing the "critical mass" necessary for puffins to stay and breed.

Acid Rain Monitors Deluge Media

Audubon's Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network is making headlines and newscasts all around the country, thanks to volunteers participating in the project. In more than 39 states, activists are testing the pH of each rain and snowfall, and reporting the results to news media in their communities.

The project is newsworthy because Audubon has linked a national story—acid rain pollution—with a local story: the monitors in each community. A news conference announcing the program generated a lot of publicity, but much of the credit goes to Audubon volunteers.

Several acid rain monitors contacted local television stations and demonstrated their testing equipment on evening newscasts. Dozens of newspapers have interviewed volunteers for stories about the project, and many have run photographs. Every time it rains or snows, some monitors

are reporting pH readings to TV weather forecasters who are using the information regularly. Audubon's message has also been heard on hundreds of radio stations in the United States and Canada.

For years, acid rain has been viewed as a regional problem, affecting only the Northeast. But Audubon volunteers are helping to change that perception. Data from the Citizens Network show that many parts of the country are experiencing extremely acidic rainfalls, which means the environment is being stressed. Through the widespread media coverage of Audubon's network, millions of Americans know more about acid rain pollution. Members of Congress are also aware of the Citizens Network and this will help our efforts to pass strong, effective acid rain legislation.

AUDUBON OFFERS SERIOUS FUN

by Peter A.A. Berle

President, National Audubon Society

There are outstanding people and programs throughout the National Audubon Society, and it is our ability to tie these strengths together that makes us such an effective conservation organization. The 504 local chapters are a key component of this network. Your Audubon chapter gives you an opportunity to meet with others in your community who share your interest in wildlife and your concern about the environment.

Can you devote an hour a month to the Audubon Cause? An hour a week? Or some part of every day? Chapters are flexible and welcome any level of commitment. Audubon also adapts to many different *kinds* of involvement. Would you like to help arrange field trips? Write for the newsletter? Analyze forest management plans? Survey local wetlands? Lobby in the state capital? Or participate in the Birdathon?

The Audubon chapter that sends you this newsletter will appreciate whatever time, interests, and skills you have to offer. Your contribution will be amplified by the entire National Audubon Society. And, while you are helping protect wildlife, you will enjoy the high-spirited camaraderie that characterizes Audubon chapters.

The Audubon Activist

From the outside, conservation issues often seem complicated and impenetrable. Many Audubon members want to help stop pollution and the destruction of wildlife habitat, but do not know where to begin. Whether you are new to the environmental front lines or a savvy veteran, the *Audubon Activist* is your ticket to greater effectiveness. This bimonthly newspaper, published by National Audubon Society, gives you background information on important conservation issues, the latest legislative picture, and advice from other Auduboners who are fighting the same battles.

As a member of Audubon's Activist Team, you will also receive occasional "Action Alerts," which are one-page summaries of issues that need your urgent attention. This system works; your voice will be heard.

For a free sample issue of the "Activist" (subscriptions are \$9 a year), write: *Audubon Activist*, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. ☐

Arctic Issue Heats Up

The oil industry, with the full support of the Reagan Administration and the Department of Interior, is making every effort to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Conservationists are equally determined to keep the industry out of this large and most northerly refuge.

Congress must decide whether the Arctic refuge will remain our last great unspoiled wilderness or become another Prudhoe Bay. Since the oil industry knows that their best shot is while Reagan is still in office, its high-dollar lobbyists are turning up the heat on representatives and senators.

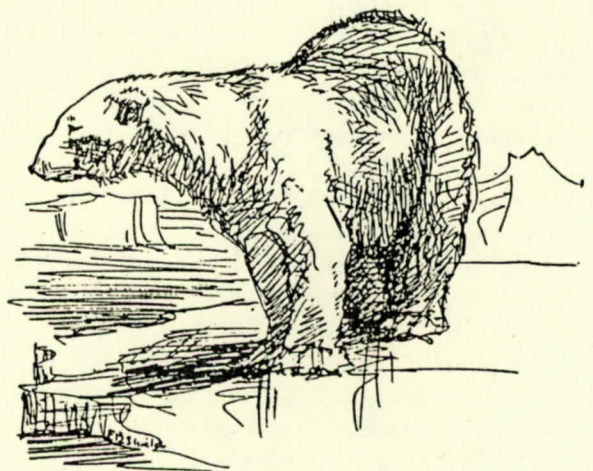
Many of you have been following this issue—one of National Audubon Society's high priority campaigns—in the pages of *Audubon Activist* and in this newsletter. Now is the time to take action.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has delayed consideration of pro-development legislation THREE times, thanks to the letters and phone calls from Auduboners around the country asking that the committee look for alternatives to opening up the refuge.

But now, the oil and gas industry is redoubling its efforts to move legislation forward. This is a crucial time for the refuge in the Senate, and more letters to your senators are needed—particularly if your senator sits on the Energy Committee. Key votes on that committee include: Weicker (Conn.), Ford (Ky.), Bumpers (Ark.), Melcher (Mont.), Bingaman (N.M.), and Conrad (N.D.).

Even if your senator is not on this list, let him or her know that you oppose oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It's important that we tell our side of the story now, as the oil and gas lobbyists make the rounds. Write your representative in the House as well.

If you would like more information on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or other issues, please call Connie Mahan at Audubon's Washington, D.C., office, (202) 547-9009.



ROBINS AND CRABAPPLES IN LATE WINTER

February 4, 1988. About this time every year I get reports of robins feeding on the slightly fermented crabapples to the point of becoming intoxicated. It is this time of year that the hard apples of fall have had enough freezing and thawing to become soft and easily removed from the stem. So it was that I noticed some 30 robins feeding on the crabapples that had fallen beneath one of the neighbor's crabapple trees. Others were feeding in the tree itself. The fallen fruit was in a circle about 12 feet in diameter. Robins were pecking at the fruit, for unlike the Russian olives; a crabapple is too large for a robin to swallow whole. Rarely was a robin left unchallenged while so feeding. Other robins would hop over and take over the crabapple at which the initial owner would move off or at times come right back to reclaim its food. At such times the robin dropped its wings in typical threat posture. So there was a constant challenging and taking of fruit amongst the 15 or so robins feeding on the ground at any one time. Other robins were feeding in the tree. It was no easy task for a robin to remove an apple from its stem. Its beak was not able to open wide enough to get a firm grip. A robin's efforts reminded me of the Halloween game where an apple is hung on a string from its stem, the game being to grab the apple in one's teeth to pluck it from the stem. Without the use of hands this becomes very difficult. One strategy is to make a violent jab at the apple hoping that one's teeth would pierce the skin and hold. This was the common strategy that robins were using. Over a minute or two their jabs had made enough holes in the fruit so that eventually they could grab and remove the apple from its stem. The slender stems on which the robins had to perch to reach the fruit made for a shaky perch, and while reaching for the apple the robin would often lose balance, have to flutter to regain balance and start over again. Because of this problem a robin would let many apples fall to the ground. This seemed to be the source of all the apples on the ground.

So why doesn't a robin play smart and just feed on the fallen fruit? I noticed that whenever a robin was successful in holding on to the apple it was trying to remove from the tree it then flew off a good 20 feet or more to a spot on the ground where it could feed undisturbed. Perhaps those robins high on the peck order find it easier to feed on fallen apples.

— Allen Stokes

RUSSIAN OLIVE—VALUABLE WINTER WILDLIFE

On February 3, I took a walk along the canal that borders the golf course near my home. I soon spotted a porcupine ambling up from the frozen canal and across the crusted snow to a lone Russian olive tree some 12

inches in diameter. The porcupine approached the south side of the tree, which was slightly leaning toward the south. The animal put its paws on the trunk as though to climb it. Almost at once it changed its mind and walked around to the opposite side where the trunk was leaning in its favor as well as having a large branch four feet above the ground. Without hesitation the porcupine climbed up the trunk and on into the top of the tree where there were dense clusters of olives. The porcupine used one paw to gently pull a cluster to its mouth so that it could strip off the olives one by one.

I later went up to the tree and could see where the porcupine had walked from tree to tree and could see tracks leading down from above the golf course. I suspect the porcupine was using the shelter afforded by Castle Rock or other prominent outcroppings as its den, for I have seen porcupine scats there in the summer.

As I continued my walk along the canal I noticed where there was a mass of deer tracks beneath several Russian olive trees. I have watched deer feeding at such trees, often standing on their hind feet to reach the last available fruit. Still farther on I noticed what at first I took for light brown deer pellets. They turned out to be Russian olives on the ground. I thought that deer had knocked these off the tree while feeding and just hadn't eaten those on the ground. I passed two more such clumps of fallen fruit before deciding to investigate. As I did, I heard robins in the Russian olive above me. Backing off for a better view I saw robins flying back and forth between the Russian olive and a taller Chinese elm 50 feet away. The robins feeding above me showed no intolerance of each other, in sharp contrast to the lone male robin that had defended mountain ash berries in my garden (see the February *Stillt*). Many robins fed side by side with up to 15 birds in the same tree. This made sense, for with such an abundant crop of berries there was no need to waste time and energy on chasing other robins away.

I wondered why robins were flying back and forth between the Russian olive and the Chinese elm so frequently. I then zeroed in on individual birds and saw how when a robin flew into the Russian olive tree it would soon pluck an olive in its beak, deftly turn it so that the long axis was in line with its beak and then swallow the fruit in a single gulp. The bird would then soon take a second olive. But then would follow one or two minutes before the robin took a third olive. By then the robin's crop was visibly distended. At that point the bird generally took off for the Chinese elm to perch. Never did I see a robin swallow more than three olives and sometimes only two. But why should robins fly across to the elm trees? I noticed how the branches of Russian olives are vertical or nearly so and in addition have sharp spines. In contrast the elm's branches were smooth and many were horizontal. It made sense that robins were picking a far more comfortable perch to digest their recent meal.

While feeding a robin often took a berry in its beak, gave it a little twist as though rolling it in its mouth, then let the fruit fall to the ground. Some robins dropped three or four before finally swallowing one. So this accounted for seeing so many olives on the ground beneath the tree. Later I inspected the ground beneath Russian olive trees where deer had been feeding so heavily and could find virtually no fruit on the ground. My guess is that by next morning deer would have cleaned up the fallen fruit beneath the tree that I had been watching.

A Bohemian waxwing that was feeding in the same tree gave me the chance to compare its feeding behavior with that of the robins. Because of its smaller size a waxwing can perch farther out on slender twigs than a robin and thus pluck fruit unavailable to robins. However, the waxwing's lighter beak proved a disadvantage. The waxwing had to tug hard to remove an olive from its stem. Even then it often dropped it, at times while turning it to get a better grip. I noticed that the waxwing always held its beak upwards while trying to swallow an olive and made several gulps before finally getting the fruit down. Hence, although a waxwing seems unable to feed as rapidly on olives as a robin, it can reach olives unavailable to robins. This would be a definite advantage later in the winter as more and more of the fruit had been harvested.

So in the course of two hours I had seen how two mammals and two birds had used this exotic fruit as wintertime food. Other birds use it also, including starlings, and even flickers.

— Allen Stokes

RECYCLING ALUMINUM PAYS

According to the September 1987 *Pennsylvania Game News*, "A record 33.3 billion aluminum beverage cans—representing 1.2 billion pounds—was recycled in American last year. That's about half the cans produced, according to the Aluminum Association, and works out to 139 cans for every person in the country. It also brings to 7.6 billion pounds the total recycled in the 1980s. Each pound of recycled aluminum saves 7.5 kilowatts of electricity." At current prices, each can you turn in to our Audubon Scholarship project brings us a little over one cent. But even more important, you are saving electricity with its accompanying air pollution at the generating site, and are helping to clean up the environment. Yes, we are continuing this project year-round, so tell your friends to save their cans. Turn them in at Al Stokes' garage, or if easier, at the Audubon repository at the driveway that goes past the north side of the Student Center.

— Al Stokes

NEW AUDUBON OFFICERS ELECTED

Annual elections for Bridgerland Audubon Society were held at the February 11 general meeting. Three of six slots on the ballot were filled by new officers, while incumbents will continue to serve in the three remaining positions.

Newly elected are: Cynthia Kerbs, President; John Sigler and Ron Ryel, Board of Directors. Cynthia is a student in Environmental and Social Sciences at USU, and attended the Audubon Ecology Camp this past summer. John is an aquatic biologist, and is co-author of a recently released book on the fish of the Great Basin. Ron, who is an environmental consultant, has served as president of the society for the past two years. Incumbents who have agreed to keep up their excellent work include: Jillyn Smith, Vice President; Scott Cheney, Secretary; and Betty Boeker, Treasurer.

In an appointed position, Sally Jackson has consented to take over the Education Committee from Nancy Warner, who has done a superior job for many years. Sally has experience working in environmental education in California, and we are confident she will continue to provide strong leadership in this important committee. The chair of the Hospitality Committee remains open, and we would be pleased to have anyone who is interested in this position contact Cynthia Kerbs.

Our congratulations to these new and continuing officers, and let's all resolve to pitch in and make their jobs as easy and rewarding as possible!

— Jon Wraith

STARLINGS ARE SMART

When you drive along 1400 North, north of the Stadium, you will often see a flock of a hundred or more starlings perched on wires tightly together. If you look more closely you will see that these birds have perched right over an open spring and pond in a pasture north of 1400 north. While this might not seem to be much added warmth, remember that natural selection favors those individuals that have seized on even the slightest means of enhancing their survival or fitness for the upcoming breeding season.

— Al Stokes

HIGHLIGHTS OF BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

February 1, 1987 to January 31, 1988

Ron Ryel, President

Our chapter has continued to strengthen its reputation as one of the most youthful and energetic chapters in the National Audubon organization. While started as a university chapter, it now has 280 members from all over Cache County and southern Idaho. Our Chapter is recognized as a leading conservation organization in the community, working to promote a better appreciation of the environment through education and working with government officials. Here are highlights of our activities over the past year. These were possible only through the hard work of the officers and committee chairs and of many other volunteers to whom I extend my thanks.

Programs Monthly meetings were held October through June. Jill Smith arranged the programs, and refreshments were provided by different people each month. Programs included life on a desert Pacific Island, the work of Ducks Unlimited, an overview of the Pribilof Islands, and edible Utah plants among others.

Field Trips For many persons our field trips are the main drawing card to Audubon and a major source of new members. There were some 30 field trips held throughout the year including the ever-popular two-night camping trip in the Tetons in October to listen to the elk bugle, the canoe trips down both the Bear River and the Little Bear River, and the camping trips in Idaho to observe grouse courtship and the foster whooping crane program.

Christmas Bird Count This annual event continues to attract a large number of participants with some 35 people braving winter weather under the leadership of Keith Archibald. This year's mild fall and early winter was fine for the birders and well as the birds, with low snow cover allowing for easy access to much of the count area. The total count of 98 species was only one short of our all-time record.

Conservation Bruce Pendery continued to do an excellent job as our committee chair. In addition to his organizational duties, he has been representing environmental interests on an ad-hoc committee appointed by Cache County to study water-related needs in the county and has been keeping an eye on developments toward BLM wilderness designations in Utah. Steve Flint continued to do an excellent job representing BAS at meetings of the ID team involved in discussing proposed changes to the Logan Canyon highway. He also was instrumental in helping develop an informational tabloid on the proposed highway for general distribution within the county. Under the initiative and direction of Chris Riley and Rich Campanella, a program was developed to recycle aluminum cans at Utah State University. More than 100 pounds of cans are now being recycled each month. Al Stokes continued with his neighborhood recycling of cans as well.

Nature Trail Guides Both the Limber Pine and Tony Grove Lake nature trail guides were reprinted this past year and given to the Forest Service to be distributed. Mike Jablonski has been coordinating the production of a guide for the Riverside Nature Trail with financial support from Pepperidge Farms and Campbell Scientific to publish it.

Annual Banquet and Conservation Award Our sixth annual banquet drew a convivial group of Audubon members and friends for fellowship, good food and Allan Morgan's talk on the "Great Whales of Baja, California." The annual conservation award was presented to former BAS president Alice Lundahl for her courageous stand on preserving Logan's shade trees as well as her interest in preserving Cache Valley's wetlands. Thanks to Scott Cheney for organizing the banquet and to Diane Browning for heading up the award committee.

Good Will A chapter's key to success lies in its service to the community. Our chapter has worked to these ends in numerous ways. Our booth at Holly Faire Christmas bazaar continues to provide entertainment to countless children as they decorate Christmas tree ornaments or assemble their own bird boxes and bird feeders. Jon Wraith and Jan Young involved dozens of our members to work at the booth. Sponsoring Audubon Adventures in 10 fifth-grade classrooms and involving these children in our annual Junior Christmas Bird Count has been a major contribution of Nancy Warner and Teri Peery. Feeding of birds continues to be a growing hobby in the county with our selling of some seven tons of sunflower seeds. John Barnes and team go get the seed while he, Elaine Watkins, Jeff Keller and Al Stokes try to dispense it faster than the mice can consume it in their garages.

Publicity Our nine issues of *The Stilt* go out to 300 people to keep them informed of chapter activities. Tom Gordon has done an excellent job as editor and Mike Jablonski as circulation manager and keeper of membership records. In addition, John Wise, Chuck Warner and Jill Smith handled the publicity through press and radio releases and posters.

Birdathon Means Money and Prizes

Plans are well under way for the 1988 Audubon Birdathon, which is scheduled for April 1 to May 15. The Birdathon is Audubon's way of raising money while doing what we enjoy most—watching birds. Participants seek pledges from contributors for every bird species they can find in a 24-hour period. For example, if you had promises from 20 people to contribute a quarter per species, and you sighted 64 species, you would raise a total of \$320, which would be used to support Audubon programs.

Participating chapters that raise the most money can win terrific prizes. This year there are more prizes than ever. Chapters will be divided into three categories based on membership size (300 and under; 301-999; 1,000 and over) and prizes will be awarded on the state, regional, and national levels. Chapters that win a prize may designate the recipient on whatever criteria they deem appropriate. Here are just some of the prizes that will be awarded to the best Birdathoners:

Audubon videoguides to Birds of North America from
MASTERVISION

Outdoor boots from TIMBERLAND

Audubon computer software from ADVANCED
IDEAS, INC.

Binoculars from MINOLTA, NIKON, SWAROVSKI,
SWIFT, and ZEISS.

Outdoor gloves from GATES

Comforters from PACIFIC COAST FEATHER

Hanging bird feeders from the BROWN COMPANY

Baby Elephant Folios from ABBEVILLE PRESS

Cameras from CANON, MINOLTA, and POLAROID

Audubon bird seed from SEABOARD SEED

Travel from TRAVEL DYNAMICS

Birding tour from WINGS, INC.

Scholarships to AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMP

Vacation packages to AUDUBON SANCTUARIES

Classroom subscriptions to AUDUBON
ADVENTURES

Leather-bound sets of Roger Tory Peterson's *Field
Guide to Birds of North America* from EASTON
PRESS

Luggage from ORVIS

Cruises from SPECIAL EXPEDITIONS, INC.

Binocular mounts from INNOVATIVE ENERGIES,
INC.

For the complete list of prizes and information on how to get involved in the Audubon Birdathon, contact your Audubon chapter or call 1-800-832-7246.

Auduboners Flock Together at Biennial Regional Conferences

Become a part of a National Audubon Society tradition this year by attending the biennial regional conference in your area. Join National Audubon staff and board members, chapter leaders, and fellow conservation activists in workshops on important local and national environmental topics, including NAS high-priority issues. Other workshops will focus on environmental education; developing activist skills (including publicity and newsletter editing); and citizen involvement in monitoring the environment. As always, the agenda includes socializing, entertainment, and educational field outings.

Dates and locations are listed below. For registration information contact: National Audubon Society Regional Activities, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

Western/Rocky Mtn.	March 26-29	Asilomar, Calif.
Northeast/Mid-Atlantic	June 16-19	East Stroudsburg, Pa.
Southwest	Aug. 5-6	Santa Fe, N.M.
Great Lakes	Sept. 23-25	to be determined
Southeast	Nov. 11-13	Florida

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River Conference	March 25-27	Kearney, Neb.
Prairie Conference	June 11-12	Pawhuska, Okla.

Audubon Ecology Camps

Spend a week or two at an Audubon ecology camp in Maine, Connecticut, or Wyoming this summer and take home a new awareness of how nature works. Explore the maritime environment at the camp on Hog Island in Maine, an Audubon tradition for more than 50 years. Get an introduction to field ecology while hiking the woods and meadows of the Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut. Or learn about the geology and wildlife of the remote Wind River Mountains in Wyoming at Audubon's Camp in the West.

Camp sessions, for adults 18 and older, run one or two weeks. College credit is available. The Maine camp also has a field ornithology camp and a session for children ages 10 to 15; the Wyoming camp has special photography and wilderness research sessions. The Connecticut program includes introductory field ecology workshops especially for educators.

For a brochure, write: Registrar, Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops, National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, Conn. 06831.

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

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 m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

- Cynthia Kerbs, 752-3251
Jillyn Smith, 750-1359
Scott Cheney, 753-1893
Betty Boeker, 752-8092
Bruce Pendery, 753-3726
Sally Jackson,
Al Stokes, 752-2702
Al Stokes, 752-2702
Tom Gordon, 752-6561
Mike Jablonski, 753-2259
John Wise, 245-6695
Scott Cheney, 753-1893
Rich Campanella, 752-3689
Steve Cannon, 752-1209
John Barnes, 563-3910
Jon Wrath, 752-0743
Larry Ryel, 753-8479
Dianne Browning, 752-5946
Ron Ryel, 753-6077
John Sigler, 753-5879

Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Still*, as well as the *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Still* invites submissions of any kind, due on the 15th of each month. Send to 718 N. 200 E., Logan, UT 84321.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

Bridgerland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84321

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

MERVIN
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or current resident
430 CANYON ROAD
PROVIDENCE, UT
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