



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 17, No. 1

September 1988

MEETING CALENDAR

Monday, September 12: Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 112B, Biology-Natural Resources Building, USU Campus.

Wednesday, September 21: BAS Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., Logan Library Conference Room, 255 North Main.

Saturday-Sunday, September 24-25: Utah Audubon Council meeting, Kelly Grove in Hobble Creek, east of Springfield, UT. See related article elsewhere in this issue of *The Stilt*.

NOTE: There will be no BAS regular monthly meeting for September.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, September 3: Kokanee salmon spawning. Leave at 4:00 p.m. from the Fred Meyer parking lot and return by 8:00 p.m. The brilliant red Kokanee salmon swim up the Little Bear River above Porcupine Reservoir (about a 20-mile drive south from Logan) in early September to spawn in the shallow water. Watch the fish work their way through the rapids and defend their territories within 10 feet of observers on the bank. **BRING SUPPER AND WATER** on this field trip.

Friday-Saturday, September 9-10: Whooping cranes at Gray's Lake Wildlife Refuge, Idaho. Leave at 5:00 p.m. Friday (or very soon thereafter) from the Fred Meyer parking lot and return by noon on Saturday. The Gray's

Lake Wildlife Refuge (about a 100-mile drive from Logan) is a spectacular marsh where several thousand sandhill cranes nest and where eggs of the rare whooping cranes are hatched and reared by sandhill crane foster parents. Many other birds inhabit the refuge as well. We'll camp in the U.S. Forest Service campground nearby, and on the return trip will stop at historic places along the Old Oregon Trail at Soda Springs. **BRING FOOD AND CAMPING GEAR** on this trip, and spotting scopes if available. Call 752-2702 for carpooling arrangements.

Friday-Sunday, September 16-18: Trumpeter swans at Red Rock Lakes Refuge, Wyoming. This will be a 2-night camping trip at a wild refuge famous for its trumpeter swans. In addition to the camping, you'll have a chance for hiking about and seeing many swans and other waterfowl. **YOU NEED ADVANCE RESERVATIONS FOR THIS TRIP;** call Al Stokes, after September 5, at 752-2702.

Saturday, September 24: Hawk migration on the Wellsvilles. Leave at 7:30 a.m. from the Fred Meyer parking lot and return by 5:00 p.m. With favorable weather, you can see 100 hawks and eagles flying south along the ridge of the Wellsvilles. The four-mile trail to the observation point climbs 3,300 feet vertically through stands of aspen and fir. It's a good trail, and an average person takes about 3 hours to reach the observation point. The spectacular view of the Cache and Salt Lake valleys from the top of the Wellsvilles is alone worth the climb. **BRING LUNCH, WATER AND A WINDBREAK** on this field trip.

Friday-Sunday, September 30 - October 2: Elk bugling in the Tetons. This trip will feature elk bugling at dusk in mountain meadows. Antelope will be in the midst of the breeding season as will moose. We can also expect to see coyote, pika, red squirrel, trumpeter swan, and Barrow's goldeneye. Tourism will be at a minimum so it should be easy to observe wildlife relatively undisturbed. Camping at Gros Ventre Campground at the south end of the park, about 4 1/2 hours from Logan. Each party will be responsible for bringing its own food, cooking and camping gear. Indian summer is the rule, but it may get down to as cold as 20 degrees by early morning, so bring plenty of warm clothing and sleeping gear. **ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 28.** Call Al Stokes at 752-2702. Leave as soon Friday afternoon as possible and return Sunday afternoon.

WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PROPOSAL

Plans to form a Water Conservancy District (WCD) in Cache Valley are still afoot. In July, the ad-hoc committee investigating water development in Cache Valley made two recommendations to the County Council:

1. disseminate the educational information developed by the ad-hoc committee, and
2. form a water conservancy district.

I see three areas of concern regarding a WCD:

1. property taxes could rise as much as 0.04% (2 mills),
2. the board of directors of a WCD is not elected but appointed by the County Council, and
3. wetlands almost certainly would be damaged by WCD-promoted projects.

There are other problems. Proponents of a WCD cannot state what needs a WCD will meet (expect generalities like "the Bear River is Utah's last watering hole, so we had better develop it"). Proponents will not state what projects will be built. Would Mill Creek Dam on Blacksmith Fork be built? No one will say. Conserving water is never part of the discussions.

The County Council will be considering this matter in upcoming meetings. A letter or phone call to your county councilor and to County Executive Bruce King regarding this proposal would be valuable. If you would like more information call Alice Lindahl (753-7744) or Bruce Pendery (753-3726).

— Bruce Pendery

A NEBULOUS DRAFT EIS FOR LOGAN CANYON ROAD?

The latest word from the Utah Department of Transportation is that the Draft EIS on the Logan Canyon Road will be released for public comment this fall, but it will not contain a "preferred alternative." While this approach may be legal, it is certainly very unusual. It also puts all concerned citizens in a very difficult position. Unless there are major changes in the document from what we have seen previously, the EIS will be so flawed that it will not be a suitable decision-making document. Do we trust that UDOT will be responsive enough to public input and select a reasonable alternative, or do we ask that the EIS be rewritten properly . . . as it should have been in the first place? I would appreciate your comments; please call me in the evening at 752-9102.

— Steve Flint

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Terry A. Hall, Smithfield
Dean Liechty, Logan
Arthur Mahoney, Logan
Beth Parkinson, Logan
Mike Walsh, Logan
Ms. D.E. Zemlicka, Millville

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS

Emil Albrecht, Logan
Wendell B. Anderson, Logan
Thomas & Patricia Bahler, Logan
Ronald L. Beard, Preston, ID
John & Coralie Beyers, Logan
Ms. Wanda Bingham, Oxford
Elizabeth Boeker, Logan
Max Elliot Brunson, Jr., Logan
Dave Burkhard, Logan
John W. Carlisle, MD, Logan
S. Blaise Chanson, Logan
Marion B. Cherry, Cedar City
Mrs. Charles Chism, Richmond
Kevin Connors, Logan
Mr. Gerald Deutscher, Montpelier, ID
W. Bryan Dixon & Jean M. Lown, Logan
Armand W. Dodson, Richmond
The Grah Family, Logan
James A. & Sharon Smock Hoffman, Hanalei, HI
Joanne Hughes, Logan
Daisy Trevor Hughes, Logan
David Jaye, Sun City, AZ
Marilyn Jones, Mendon
Marty C. Judd, Logan
Janice R. Keif, Logan
Frederick F. Knowlton, Logan
Harriette A. Lanner, Logan
Alice Lindahl, Logan
Steven MacFarlane, Providence

Mrs. Connie R. Mecham, Logan
 Barbara J. Miller, Logan
 Travis L. Miller, Logan
 C.A. Milner, Logan
 Irma Marvin Moon, Mendon
 Mrs. Rosalie Meuggler, Logan
 Betsy Neely & Alan Carpenter, Ft. Collins, CO
 Bruce Pendery, Logan
 L.H. Piette, Logan
 Beverly & Jerry Ridenhour, Logan
 Ms. Pam Riley, Logan
 Charles L. Salzbert, Logan
 David Skabelund, Logan
 Allan Stevenson & Catherine Sharpsteen, Logan
 Mrs. L.A. Stoddart, Logan
 Dr. Michael J. Stones Family, Logan
 Mrs. Elaine H. Watkins, Logan
 T. Schroeder Webb, Wellsville
 Mr. John K. Wood, Logan

SEVENTEEN SYLLABLES

Near the waterfall
 the striders have a rocky time
 yet here they are

— Pat Gordon

THE BIG BIG DAY

It was a dark and stormy night on Wednesday, May 18, but that didn't deter three stalwart bird watchers from their appointed rounds—well maybe a little bit. Instead of starting at 4:00 a.m., we delayed a half hour. Amazingly enough the rain stopped about that time and, aside from a few sprinkles, didn't reappear the rest of the day.

When we began, the one-day birding record ("Big Day") for Cache County was 139 species set by Ron Ryel, Mike Tove and Rick Vetter in 1984. We thought we might be able to break the record with a little luck. Both Ron Ryel and Keith Archibald had made graded lists based on their experiences of how easy it would be to see each of the species which might be present in the County at this time of year. The scale went from number ones, the "should gets," to the number fours, the things of birder's dreams—those never or almost never seen in the County at this time of year. In order to break the record, we would have to get nearly all of the number ones, a fair share of the number twos and threes and even a few fours. This in turn depended on our success in picking a date when the combination of migrants, winter visitors and summer residents was as large as possible. In addition a week day seemed better because there would be less traffic, especially in the canyons.

Cache County has an abundance of excellent places to find birds. So many that it's impossible to cover them all adequately in one day. We visited Benson Reservoir, Logan Dry Canyon, canal trail, Logan Canyon to Spring Hollow Campground, Avon, Hyrum Reservoir, Willow Park, Logan sewage ponds, Newton Reservoir, Newton, The Barrens, Logan Canyon to Tony Grove Ranger Station and Beaver Mountain, Green Canyon, North Logan, and finally Mendon Road near College Ward. We had scouted many of these places ahead of time and had a pretty good idea of what we might find in each locality.

The first bird was a robin, which we woke up in my yard when I was picked up. Fueled by periodic forays to various fast food establishments, we rushed from spot to spot. Sporadic tallies during the day gave us hope we could come close to the record. We missed several "should gets," but found some we didn't expect, including two I had never seen in the County—Great Egret and Sage Thrasher. But the BIG find was a first County record—a Hooded Warbler on the canal trail.

It was getting dark near the Tony Grove Ranger Station when a Red-breasted Nuthatch sounded off—number 140! We found more species at Beaver Mountain. Then in the dark of Green Canyon, a calling Poorwill became number 150. By the time we headed down the canyon, we had also heard Flammulated and Saw-whet Owls and a drumming Ruffed Grouse. The final species was a Great Horned Owl near College Ward at 11:50 p.m.—number 154! It was a very long, but incredibly satisfying day. I slept well, knowing we had smashed the old record by an amazing 15 species!

Subsequently we discovered that we had also broken the old Utah record of 150 species set in 1985 by a group covering a wide area in the southern part of the state.

— Larry Ryel

EDITOR'S LAME EXCUSE

This issue of *The Stilt* is an abbreviated one. The primary reason for that is that it's short, which comes about from both a paucity of length and a maximum of minimum. So it goes. I don't think anything crucial is missing . . . and next month's issue will make up for this one. I'm looking forward to several contributions for next month (from you, and you two, and that guy over there trying not to be noticed, and these three right in front), so don't disappoint me.

— TJG



© Laura Zerzan From "ECONEWS"

THE AUDUBON CAMP IN THE WEST

Charley and Sue Beck have lived in Torrey Valley near Dubois, Wyoming, since homesteading Trail Lake Ranch in the 1920's. They still live near the ranch, site of Audubon's Camp in the West, and the spirit that it took to endure 40°-below-zero cold in a cabin is hard to imagine. Hard, that is, until you learn that Sue, 84, has only recently been forbidden her annual climb of Grand Teton by Charley, 91.

The Becks sold much of their land to Wyoming Game and Fish in 1958, to assure its protection (about 900 bighorn sheep inhabit the area). Trail Lake Ranch itself fell to the University of Wyoming, and for the last 26 years National Audubon has leased the ranch for its adult ecology camp.

And what an enjoyable and educational experience a visit to the ranch is. The first week of the four 2-week summer sessions is spent in ecology workshops: ornithology, mammology, geology, aquatic biology and others. The second week is less structured and oriented more toward outdoor skills such as rock climbing, hiking and canoeing.

Ah, yes: canoeing, especially the canoe race. This "race" is somewhat racy. Ladies might consider pink tights, a black miniskirt and a cheap fake leopard-skin gown. Gentlemen might sport a toga. Racers are judged and the winners selected according to three criteria: time, amount of money raised through pledges (over \$800 was raised this year), and answers to a quiz (typical question: "how many types of shrubs appear along Torrey Creek?" typical answer: "two: live ones and dead ones").

Then there's the weather report. This nightly skit, a requirement for teachers attending the camp for college credit, seems to be a way to show that even mundane facts can be made lively and entertaining. Watch out Willard Scott and Johnny Carson . . . you've got some stiff competition.

All in all, the Audubon Camp in the West is a great way to learn about ecology and natural history, have a lot of fun, and meet interesting adults of all ages . . . the more interesting since most of the campers come from the east and west coasts, and the discussions are therefore not the same old western public lands issues. If you would like more information on the Audubon Camp in the West, contact a Bridgerland Audubon officer.

— Bruce Pendery

THE TWISTED SERPENT

Although I watch out for the copperheads that crawl near my Arkansas home in the warm months and conceal themselves in the brush and under the trash piles (and for the cottonmouths in the creek bottoms and the occasional rattler that passes through our area), I don't share the alarm that many of my neighbors have—a

continuing terror, it seems, that causes them to think "Snake!" whenever they set foot outdoors and keeps them close to house, vehicle, and road. Now there's no doubt that some of our reptiles are venomous, even deadly, but this real danger can't be the cause for the apprehension ever-present in people's minds when they live in the woods. Instead, their dread must be the result of our culture's attitude toward nature—an attitude that adopts the snake as a symbol of nature's threat to man even in these days when there's much talk about ecology and concern for natural conservation. Here's how I reason:

We make widespread use of nature, exploiting it in increasingly efficient ways, extracting from it more and more raw materials for human use, and constantly modifying it to make it conform more closely to human needs and ideals. From this exploitation comes the exhaustive search for oil, the changing of green plants, the diversion and deepening of streams, the grading of rough land to provide smooth highways, the modification of wilderness into tamed parks. Further, such uses of nature are apparently sanctioned by the Bible: Genesis 1:28 and 29 provide mankind with dominion over animal life and make the human race a free gift of all plant life.

Yet even with such determined and widespread use of nature and with the divine right to do so made explicit the Judeo-Christian religions, man in our culture fears and despises nature. Perhaps this is so because the ideas of dominion and gift make him feel not only above but separate from all animals and plants. At any rate, he hides from nature behind artificial walls and uses an array of manufactured gadgets to protect himself from heat and cold and rough and wet. If he notices nature at all, it's as something viewed safely from afar, and he seldom gets closer to it than a porch railing or a car window. As much as possible, he lives protected by flat, smooth surfaces, calm air, geometric patterns, contrived sounds. Even if he makes his living close to nature—by farming, say, or by earth moving or timber cutting—it's with a dollar goal in mind, and in the evening he retreats to the safety of his air-conditioned house where by watching an artificial TV world he avoids even the disturbing thoughts of his own nature. Folks who live in the Arkansas woods (as I do) make this barrier complete with bright outdoor lights—totally incongruous city street lights they seemed to me when I moved to the Ozark hills—that force the natural dark out of their clearings. (These brilliant lamps come on automatically at the slightest hint of dusk or gloom.) Thus each woods dweller assures—for a monthly fee to the electric power company—that moonlight and starlight will nevermore intrude on his cozy man-made environment!

The fear of nature that causes man to shut out the night sky is just as evident—perhaps more so—in his attitude toward snakes. It's true that poisonous snakes are dangerous, but their place in people's minds is far out

or proportion to the actual risk. Thus it is that when a few people on our road meet at someone's house for an evening's get-together, the talk turns inevitably to snakes—the poor snake used, I think, to represent all that's feared in nature. But I've learned to dread this discussion more than its subject because I've heard it all so many times before—and because the evening's "beware" session will be limited solely to poisonous reptiles. No one will say, "Beware of missing regular solitary walks in the moonlight." No one will caution, "Your life may be shortened if you don't explore the deep woods hollows or take early morning swims in the river." And no one will mention the soul-stunting effect of not reading Thoreau or Eisley . . . or John Fowles' book *The Tree* (an expansion of his essay, "Seeing Nature Whole," in *Harper's*, November 1979). Instead we all confirm—ritually—our loathing of snakes. Yet in my rational, more healthy, moments, I recognize the serpent as an image of its creator, much more so I think than man, because it doesn't repudiate nature, the creation, hence doesn't repudiate the creator.

Our culture's view, its abnormal fear of snakes, likely originated in the Biblical account of the temptation of Eve. In Genesis 3, the serpent ("more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made") induces Eve to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Of course, she does eat . . . and Adam does too . . . and God punishes them. Thus a snake becomes responsible for the original humans' being driven from the Garden of Eden. To make matters worse for the snake, tradition has it that the Eden serpent was really Satan himself in disguise—as emphasized in Milton's long poem, "Paradise Lost." With such an evil reputation for centuries, it's little wonder that snakes are so high on the list of things we fear. Through Biblical teaching and long-standing belief, this emotional feeling is built into each of us whether we're aware of its origin or not.

Genesis 3 does more than tell the story of temptation in the Garden. It relates that God himself has decreed eternal enmity between serpent and man because of the events concerning the tree of knowledge. And it punishes man for his God-defying sin by condemning him to till the "cursed" ground. Man's life is to be a painful, hated one—of thistles, thorns, sweat, dust, and death. This condemnation contrasts sharply with the world view of those who have a joyous, satisfying experience with nature and the soil. It's small wonder, I would say, that people who spend much time inside church walls are bound not only to look with terror at snakes but also to see honest outdoor toil as torture and nature as an enemy. Conversely, it's small wonder that the small proportion of our society who are truly outdoor folk should doubt the verity of Genesis 3!

The presence of these opposing points of view causes painful conflict. For example, I sincerely doubt what I read in Genesis 3. Yet I'm a product of my culture.

I'm surrounded by machines and contrivances to ward off or control nature, and I'm constantly adding modern conveniences to my already ample collection. Not too long ago, I labored at a distasteful, nerve-wracking job for a whole year so that I could buy a new pickup—my handcart and my eighteen-dollar trailer would have served quite well instead. Sometimes I rationalize myself away from the outdoors to sit by the fire in my synthetic environment with the shades drawn and the radio blaring. And sometimes outdoors, I fear a particularly lush natural setting—because snakes crawl there! Though the fear is based on what people say, not on nature itself, my determination to escape from cultural conformity has failed during this moment of panic.

Despite this failure, I have moments when I see clearly that I'm a part of nature. At such times, I feel no separation from nature or the creator of nature—feel no need for salvation, only a need for strength not to retreat from nature permanently. If I'm swimming alone, examining the bottom rocks of our Buffalo River, say, totally immersed in running, natural water, how could I feel otherwise? (I'm thankful I've paid little heed over the years to my culture's oft-repeated admonition not to swim alone.) Or if I've pedaled my bicycle many uphill miles to reach the summit of a Utah or Arizona mountain pass (I did it often in years past), I feel separated only from the humans I've seen, safe (!) from nature behind the glass and glitter of their automobiles. Then I'm glad to be outside rather than inside—I know too well the separation I've felt inside. Or if I'm camped alone in the woods or desert, I may remember the warnings—you'll get wet, you'll be cold, you'll not be able to stand the bugs, you'll be lonesome, you can't row a canoe upstream, you'll have snakes in your bed—but when none of these dire predictions come to pass, I see that I truly belong to nature, not to a nature-fearing society.

Although seemingly bad things do happen—in summer, the midges and flies bite painfully; in winter, my aging fingers and toes turn white; thorns scratch me and stubborn vines impede my woodland travel; the skunk behind our kitchen casts his spray through the open window—such events are valuable in showing the folly of the dominion-over-all-nature concept of Genesis. If I react naturally, I see that such "bad" things are useful in adding zest to a life that might be drab if it conformed to the artificial standards of modern society. So I scratch the bites and slap the bugs (and learn the sweet places where they're naturally scarce), walk carefully around the thorns and vines, and keep my fingers warm through naturally stimulating exercise. Even the skunk's odor dies away after a bit, especially if a little corn meal is scorched to hasten the natural process. And truly, the despised snake (including the ubiquitous copperhead) can be greeted as a good neighbor; he has no desire to meddle in my business (as only men are apt to do). It's evident to me that all parts of nature—including man—will fit together

smoothly if we forget contrived dominion and use natural reason to overcome unnatural fear.

However, I'm not a purist. Too frequently I leave nature and return—captive, it may be—to my soft, warm, synthetic dwelling and to my culture. But although I succumb to routine and return to non-nature (or perhaps even anti-nature), I remember the times when I've been fully alive, and I long to return. Most of my cherished memories are of simple experiences and adventures outdoors. They are all good memories. The ugly Biblical concept of serpent is not my symbol for creation.

— James T. Boone
Copr. 1983
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UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION SYMPOSIUM

Several organizations interested in Utah's outdoor recreation possibilities will jointly sponsor an Outdoor Recreation Symposium at the Olympic Hotel in Park City, UT, on 21-22 September. Participants will include members of Utah's land management, economic development and tourism agencies, local governments, universities and outdoor recreation groups. Sponsors of the symposium include the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Utah Recreation Association, BLM, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, Utah Travel Council and others.

The symposium's goals are three-fold, according to their brochure: "pool[ing] resources and ideas to better serve public needs for outdoor recreation, build[ing] partnerships to make more of Utah available, understood, enjoyed and cared for by residents and tourists, and initial[ing] action to chart and shape the future for Utah outdoor recreation development."

Registration for the symposium is \$60, payable to Utah Outdoor Recreation Symposium; mail to Program Coordinator Garth Heaton, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 8230 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84138. For more information, contact Heaton at (801) 524-5030.

GRAY SQUIRRELS SEEN IN CACHE VALLEY

Professor Arthur Holmgren recently watched two adult gray squirrels running back and forth in his driveway near Logan Golf Course. After an hour they disappeared and he hasn't seen them since. Holmgren's neighbor Allan Stokes confirmed his sightings and identification of the gray squirrels. Gar Workman, Wildlife Extension Specialist at Utah State University, has had calls in the past from people purporting to have seen gray squirrels in

Cache Valley, but these have all turned out to be a somewhat similar rock squirrel. However, the rock squirrel is smaller, has a far less bushy tail and holds its tail close to the ground rather than over its head as does the gray squirrel. According to Workman, Holmgren's sightings are the first confirmed sightings of gray squirrels in Cache Valley. The closest known location for established gray squirrels is 100 miles north of Cache Valley.

Gray squirrels can be a mixed blessing. While interesting to watch, they do rob bird nests of young and, because they are voracious feeders, quickly become a nuisance to persons wishing to attract birds to feeders. Dr. Workman would be interested in getting reports of other sightings of these bushy-tailed newcomers to Cache Valley.

— Allan Stokes

FALL GATHERING OF THE UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL

The Utah Audubon Council, consisting of members of all Audubon chapters in Utah (Logan, Salt Lake, Ogden, Provo and Cedar City) will meet on September 24 and 25 at Kelly Grove in Hobbie Creek, just east of Springville, Utah. Saturday afternoon will involve a field trip to inspect the proposed Utah Lake National Wildlife Refuge, an area chiefly on the east and south portions of the lake. A potluck supper will follow, and discussions and a slide show about refuge issues will round out the evening. Sunday morning will be devoted to whatever issues the several Audubon chapters wish to raise. One issue to be considered is promoting a Non-Game Wildlife Stamp as a means for the non-sportsman to support wildlife. A second issue might be a response to the question, "Is there a philosophical basis for opposing the hunting of wildlife?"

Kelly Grove has excellent camping facilities and no reservations will be necessary. People should plan on arriving by Saturday noon and staying through Sunday noon. Call Cynthia Kerbs to arrange carpooling (752-3251).

— Al Stokes

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

The 1989 Audubon Calendars are now available in bookstores and gift shops nationwide. They make perfect holiday gifts for friends and family—and their sales contribute substantial support to the Audubon Cause.

Four different calendars, each a treasure trove of outdoor photography, make up the year's all-star line-up: The Audubon Nature Calendar, the Audubon Sea Life Calendar, the Audubon Wild Animal Calendar, and the Audubon Wild Bird Calendar. The three last feature introductory essays by Audubon magazine editor Les Line.

Look for all four Audubon calendars in your local bookstore or chapter gift shop.

September Audubon Celebrates Ancient Forests

AUDUBON magazine, National Audubon Society's flagship publication, puts its powerful print and incomparable images at the service of those fighting for America's great virgin forests, East and West. In its September 1988 issue, AUDUBON once again calls attention to one of the society's high-priority campaigns, the nationwide effort to save our precious old-growth forests.

The cornerstone is an article about Redwood National Park. Called "Unfinished Redwood," the story chronicles one of America's most profound and most bitterly fought conservation battles, and tells why, 20 years after its creation, the redwood sanctuary has an aura of a forgotten park. Montana's black-timber country is featured in "That Special Thirst," author Paul Quinnett's poignant commentary on the values of uncut forests.

Life in the forests is celebrated as well. "The Beaver Is One Smart Rat" relates author Hope Ryden's observations of a beaver clan that has set up dam-keeping in a New York state park, and ten pages of color photographs show the hidden beauty of mosses.



Audubon Experience Makes Travel a Must

If faraway places beckon you, and the spirit of adventure lives within you, by all means take note: National Audubon Society has developed a very exciting travel program. This year Audubon sent Sandy Sprunt, Pete Myers, Susan Drennan, and other top ornithologists and naturalists from the Audubon staff to lead and lecture on trips to Patagonia, Baja, Antarctica, Alaska, and other exotic locales.

Audubon trips are designed for individuals with a keen interest in the natural beauty and resources of the land and its peoples. In 1988-1989, trips will be leaving for Australia, Greece, Indonesia, and Africa, among other places. Check AUDUBON magazine for details, or write Jane Hunt, Travel Administrator, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022; (212) 546-9140.

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Catch Potomac Fever

National Audubon takes its local activists seriously. So, to help you ignite your concern into real, hard-hitting action, Audubon's Washington, D.C., office offers an intensive week-long citizen lobbying training workshop each year. The last one was held in April 1988.

Participation is by invitation only. Approximately 20 volunteers are chosen by Audubon regional offices. Participants chosen will have shown the potential and serious interest in working with Audubon, both locally and nationally, on important environmental issues.

The workshop begins on Saturday evening and runs through Friday evening; the schedule is demanding. During the week, attendees meet with key agency and administration officials, Members of Congress, and the staffs of other environmental groups. There's even a chance for lobbying on a particular issue.

The workshop costs \$275; many local chapters will pick up the cost. National Audubon takes care of other expenses, such as plane fare, hotel, and meals.

If you're interested, let your Audubon regional office know, or write National Audubon Society, Action Desk, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

Heron Study Under Way on Florida Bay

By Dr. George Powell, Research Biologist
National Audubon Society

Young great white herons raised this year in Florida Bay colonies are leaving home with tiny radio transmitters strapped to their backs. An Audubon research team is spending days and nights on the bay studying this pure-white race of the familiar great blue heron. Recent monitoring of the great white heron population in Florida Bay has indicated that these birds are in trouble. An earlier study raised the possibility that the birds were no longer able to find enough food to successfully raise their young. In an attempt to test this hypothesis and to discover some of the other causes behind the population decline, the research team has focused on the young birds and their struggle to survive.

Sightings of herons marked with wing tags established that most of them did not survive their first year, and those that did surprisingly seemed to leave Florida Bay and move north—some as far away as Texas and Georgia. To get more data, the Audubon team has begun radio-tagging young birds. Nestling great whites receive their transmitters just before they are ready to leave the nest. Daily radio checks from a boat keep tabs on the young while they are still close to their nests. Many young are lost to starvation, disease, parasites, and predation soon after leaving the nest, but some survive to fly north, where their movements are tracked from a small plane.

The evidence suggests that parasites and predators—including the bald eagle and possibly alligators and raccoons—play a role in heron mortality. However, results so far point to starvation as the major cause of death among the young birds. Great whites leave the bay within a few days after their parents stop feeding them, quickly move north, and settle in the Everglades. There, they must find an abundant food supply to make up for their inefficient foraging abilities. Our study indicates that they are not finding what they need. The ecological problems of the Everglades—man-made and otherwise—may be placing yet another species at risk.

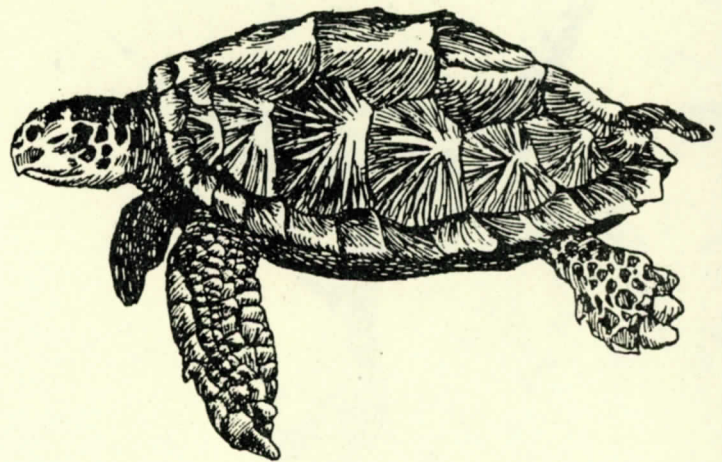
Audubon and Stroh Renew TV Partnership

The Stroh Brewery Company has extended its sponsorship of the Audubon Television Specials for another two years. Said Audubon President Peter Berle, "We are immensely grateful to Peter Stroh and The Stroh Brewery Company for their continued support."

Audubon's acclaimed television specials reach more than 20 million people on SuperStation TBS and on public television stations. A new Audubon Special, "**Sea Turtles: Ancient Nomads**," will air on TBS this fall. Air dates are October 7 (10:05 p.m. EST); October 15 (10:05 p.m. EST); October 22 (8:05 a.m. EST); and October 25 (9:05 p.m. Pacific Time).

A number of exciting new materials are also available from National Audubon's Television Department: videocassettes of the television specials with accompanying teacher's guides; **Life in the Balance** by David Rains Wallace, the companion book to the specials; **Audubon Wildlife Adventures** computer software with activities designed to supplement the TV specials; and an **Audubon TV News Bulletin** with complete information on TV programs and projects.

For information, write Audubon Television, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, or call (202) 546-9009.



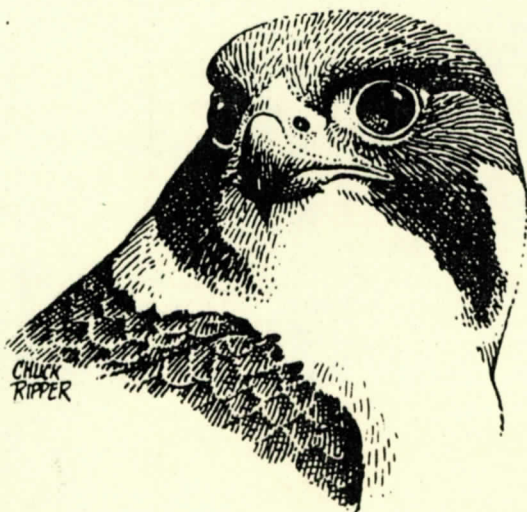
Beidler Builds on Success

A jewel in the crown of Audubon sanctuaries, the Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina is situated on Four Holes Swamp north of Charleston and includes the largest known tract of virgin tupelo and bald cypress trees left in the world. With a hugely successful land acquisition campaign, the sanctuary now claims more than 5,443 acres—nearly 2,000 acquired in the last two years alone.

The campaign was largely the work of dedicated Audubon volunteers, and was boosted by a \$700,000 challenge grant from the Goodhill Foundation. It added critical forested wetland habitat to the Audubon sanctuary system. Wetlands protection is one of National Audubon's five high-priority issues.

Future acquisitions at Beidler Forest will target sections of the floodplain, critical bluff slopes that support several rare plant species, and important parcels of upland habitat. Buffering the upland areas helps ensure that the swamp's wildlife inhabitants have protected areas to escape to if prolonged flooding drives them from the lowlands.

The Francis Beidler Forest is open for visitation year-round. For information, write National Audubon Society, Francis Beidler Forest, Route 1, Box 600, Harleyville, SC 29448. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



Acid Rain Monitors Still Needed

Audubon's Citizens' Acid Rain Monitoring Network, launched in July 1987, has more than 250 dedicated volunteers measuring the acidity of rainfall in their areas. The network plays a pivotal role in Audubon's campaign to control acid rain. The results are circulated widely to the press and to Congress by the society via monthly press releases. Many monitors have attracted local news coverage, and some even have their readings included in local TV weather reports.

The network still needs volunteers in selected geographic areas of the following states: Arizona, Hawaii, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and West Virginia. If you reside in one of these states and you are interested in this project, please contact Elaine O'Sullivan, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, or call the Acid Rain Hotline at 1-800-832-RAIN.

Great Lakes Regional Conference

The town of Williams Bay, Wisconsin, will be the site of the 1988 Great Lakes Regional Conference this October 14-16. George Williams College, located at the west end of Geneva Lake, will provide a wonderful setting for Audubon chapter members to gather with regional vice president Dave Newhouse and others. Please reserve the weekend of August 14-16 for this event. To obtain registration information, simply fill out the coupon below and mail to Dave Newhouse, National Audubon Society, 7 North Meridian St., #400, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204.

Name _____
Chapter _____
Address _____

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.

National Audubon Society

CHAPTER

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Board of Directors

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

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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

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