



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 17, No. 1

May 1989

WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT THREAT HEATS UP

COUNTY COUNCIL REFUSES TO HEAR PWWP POSITION

The Cache County Council did not do us any favors on April 4. It voted 6-0 to favor the promotion of a WCD, asking the *ad hoc* Water Development Committee to go out and get the signatures to form. They endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* committee, a misrepresentation of the facts designed to mislead the county council. The council's failure to see through the deceit (or worse, endorsement of the committee's clear attempts to thwart public-interest involvement) should be remembered at the next election. Only Sarah Ann Skanchy (who abstained) appeared to understand that the hidden agenda behind this was something that the council should NOT endorse.

Not only did the council not solicit public involvement, they refused to let PWWP speak. At least some of the council knew that Dennis Funk's (the council chair's) statement of the opposition (PWWP) position was false. Several PWWP members sat there helplessly listening to our position be misrepresented.

At least one member of the council (Bette Kotter) was so ill-informed that she got ready to make a motion to form a district. She had to be gently told that the district was formed by petition. "Oh," she said, "then I move we have a petition."

Alone, the PWWP membership cannot hope to get enough signatures to protest the WCD. We absolutely need people like you to bring in a few additional signers.

We think that we will look back on this campaign as a time when we tried to do something for Cache Valley's wetlands, its visual landscape, its taxpayers, and its introduction to the twentieth century limitations. We cannot afford to squander our resources any more, particularly those that are irreplaceable.

People for Wise Water Planning (PWWP) has decided to eliminate the threat of a Water Conservancy District (WCD) by obtaining the number of signatures needed for a protest petition. You received a copy of the petition and a brochure in your *Stilt* last month. Since so few signatures are need to form the district (1000) and so many are needed to protect (4000), this decision presents a formidable challenge. It is a decision not taken lightly by the steering committee of PWWP, a group of six shy people.

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CALENDAR

Saturday/Sunday, May 6-7. Two separate morning canoe trips down the Bear River. An easy 15-mile paddle to see about 60 species of birds, including a spectacular close approach to the great blue heron rookery below Cub River. Bring a lunch. We will see the areas UP&L has recently leased to the Division of Wildlife Resources for wildlife habitat improvement. Leave at 7:30 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return before 3:00 p.m. If you do not own a canoe, rent or borrow one early (we can help you with that). Reservations required. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

Saturday, May 20. Birding the Logan Canal below First Dam. This stretch of well-wooded slopes above the canal has turned up unusual warblers. Leave at 7:30 a.m. from the intersection of Fourth North and Sixth East.

Saturday/Sunday, May 20-21. Utah Audubon Society offers seminar on basin and range ecology, emphasizing how earth and life forms co-exist, rather than classification or identification. Held near Joy, Utah, about three hours' drive from Salt Lake. See article for complete details.

MEETINGS

Thursday, May 11. BAS monthly meeting. "The Battle of Bear River II." Alice Lindahl of People for Wise Water Planning will present a slide show to bring you up to date on the coming struggle to prevent the squandering of the Bear River and its tributaries. By this date, some of the skirmishes will be over, and we can only hope that the outcome will be more in the public interest than was the first Battle of Bear River. 7:30 p.m., Logan City meeting room, 255 North Main.

THREAT (from page 1)

The petition contains a space for Land Serial Number (also called a tax number). If you can find the number, great, if not, PWWP will look it up for you after you send it in. **WE NEED YOUR SIGNATURE SO MUCH, WE CAN DO WITHOUT THE TAX NUMBER!** Don't spend more than two minutes looking for it.

For a copy of the petition, call us or write PWWP, P. O. Box 3955, Logan, UT 84321.

Alice Lindahl (753-7744)
Bruce Pendery (750-0253)

APRIL PLANNING MEETING REPORT

Members of the planning committee and guest Jack Greene met April 19, 1989. Highlights of the meeting include:

Jack Greene's Nature Center Update. The Boy Scouts have approved use of the old legion hall in Logan Canyon as a nature center from September through May. BAS involvement is now limited to the education committee, who will work on a specimen collection and resource guide.

BAS Will Help Fund Lobbyist. Our share of the cost for a lobbyist is \$2,000, half of that due in June. Some of the money will be raised with an extra nickel per pound on the price of birdseed, some from direct donations, and possibly—la la la—proceeds from a summer concert, suggested by Alice Lindahl.

Logan Canyon Highway Status. The draft EIS on Logan Canyon will be available by June. Val Grant will mark the canyon and set up a tour, once the UDOT proposal is final.

Sherwood Hills Zoning Exception Discussed. It was noted that the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Department were against the Sherwood Hills' planned recreation zoning exception, and that it set an undesirable precedent, especially for the Stump Hollow area. It was agreed that BAS will oppose the precedent of making such zoning exceptions. The issue will be discussed at the June 6 City Council meeting. BAS members are encouraged to attend.

Changes at Bear River Refuge. Alice Lindahl reported that the Fish and Wildlife Department has taken significant new steps recently, including a plan to purchase 38,000 new acres, claiming new water rights, and moving the visitors' center to a location visible from the highway. Up to \$10 million will be needed. BAS members are urged to write letters to our federal representatives supporting this.

Sandhill Crane Hunt. BAS members are encouraged to attend the May 3 City Council meeting where the hunt will be discussed. Bruce Pendery noted that this is the first hunt that BAS has ever opposed, and our stance should not suggest any official position by BAS on hunts in general.

Support for River Otters. BAS willingly agreed to contribute \$100, joining with other Utah Audubon chapters and the Utah Trappers' Association to reintroduce river otters to Utah rivers.

Help Sought With Wood Duck Boxes. Jess Low has requested a successor to be responsible for this project. Call Jess at 752-2588 if you'd like a hand in encouraging these magnificent birds.

Recycled Paper Available. Due to an ordering mishap, anyone who wants 8 1/2 x 14-inch paper can purchase it from BAS at cost. Call Susan Robertson, 750-6325.

HOTLINE NOTES

Curlews, avocets, stilts, yellowlegs, shovelers, pintail, grebes, ruddy ducks, scaup, willets, sandhill cranes, Franklin's gulls, yellowheaded blackbirds, and a lot of other common Cache County species have straggled back into the valley, verifying to many of us that spring is really here. But spring migration is usually spotty. A few curlews fly in one day, a pelican shows up the next, and before most of us have had a chance to peek through our binocs, life has returned to the valley floor.

In May, the treetops should also come back to life. Watch and listen for warblers, blackheaded grosbeaks, lazuli buntings, northern orioles, western tanagers and the other species that summer in Logan. Keep track of when you see things, and call the hotline with your information. 753-1893. Thanks.

— Scott Cheney

ANNUAL CURLEW NATIONAL GRASSLANDS TRIP

Our chapter has been going to watch both sharptailed and sage grouse display on their traditional leks (dancing grounds) for the past nine years. Camping out in this remote part of southern Idaho at the very spot where thousands of people stopped during the Gold Rush of 1849 is always a wonderful experience. Hearing coyotes howl, great horned owls, snipe winnowing and the tireless sage thrasher singing through the night make for a time of real fellowship. A special treat was having the Lester family join us from Brigham City. The three sisters were keen and tireless participants. Olivia has shared her feelings and experiences with us in her story. Janimarie drew the sage grouse. It is always a joy to have families come on our field trips.

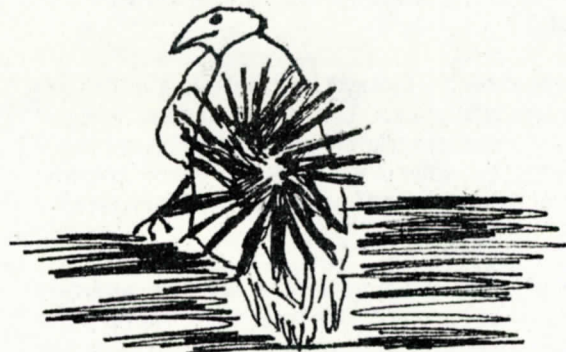
— Al Stokes

ME AND THE AUDUBON TRIP

Me and the Audubon, we went on a trip. There were some real nice people there. Well we got there and set up our tents and then we saw some people in a car drive up. There were not many tables there and so we said they could use our table. And then we all ate supper. We went to a campfire and learned about sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. Then we went to bed. (That ground sure was bumpy!) And at 6:00 a.m. in the morning we went to see the sharptailed grouse and sage grouse. We were sitting in the dark in our cars, then we saw a white tail flash, then all of a sudden all these little white tails started to pop up and they started to dance. Boy it was grand, it was fantastic. Then we went to a lek where we would see sage grouse but an eagle scared them away. So we went to the sand pits and saw some! They were neat and wonderful. Then we went to a pond to see birds, and saw lots of them and then we had lunch and went home!

— Olivia Lester
Age 8

Sage Grouse



By Janimarie Lester
Age 9

THE DETERMINED MALLARD

It was a week before the last big snow storm in 1988, in early April, that I first saw Maggie, the "determined female mallard." She was sitting on a nest under a wild rose bush on the west side of Logan Reservoir near First Dam. The nest was about 350 to 400 feet north of the dam, and only a yard from the edge of the road.

My first thoughts were, "What a stupid place for a nest—too close to the road, too easy for dogs, children and joggers to see." However, my own dog, Lester, either didn't notice her or just wasn't interested.

ABOUT BIRDS

During my daily walks with Lester that week I always checked on Maggie and found her always on the nest. Actually, she blended well with the ground cover, so perhaps she wasn't seen by everyone. She would open her eyes and watch us, but never moved.

I thought of Maggie when it snowed hard on the weekend. Saturday she was still there, snow or no snow. On Monday, however, more had fallen and the weather turned colder. There was no Maggie, and the eggs were gone. The rose bush had given her little protection from the snow, and I wondered if snow, cold, hunger, animals or people had been her problem.

However, in about five days, to my delight, she was back again, nesting slightly further from the road. Again, I watched her daily as I walked Lester. She had pulled some of her down out to line the nest—again—and it began to look rounder and to conform more to her body, with little twigs around the edges. This nesting lasted about a week, and then one day she disappeared again.

I thought possibly she had left for just a short time, but five or six eggs were there, uncovered and apparently abandoned. The next day only one whole egg remained. There was one broken egg and the rest were scrambled. Maggie came back in a few days, but her third try was also unsuccessful.

Three tries would be it, I thought, but believe it or not, on May 4, there she was again. This time she was back still further from the road and slightly south, but still not more than four feet from the edge of the road. On May 6, she was off the nest for a short time and I could see two eggs; on May 7, there were three.

Mallards usually lay one egg a day, with an average incubation period of 23 days. When she left the nest the eggs were well covered with down and sticks. Every day through the 17th she was there, and I began to think she might succeed through sheer determination.

On May 18 the road was wet from a recent rain. As I rounded the bend in the road, I saw a small form in the road 400 feet away. Hoping it was some trash, I thought of how the ducks are always in the road after a rainstorm. Yes, it was Maggie, hit by a car, squashed flat. Her nest was already raided and empty.

Wouldn't it be nice if we had a couple of signs warning drivers to watch for ducks in the road? And also, if the mallards had some area to build their nests near the dam? Five or six families of ducklings were raised that spring, surprisingly, but many more nests were destroyed.

— Pat Bahler

P.S. Two mallards were hit by blowgun darts in May. Animal control officer John Italasano spent many hours trying to capture them to remove the darts. He was successful with one.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH KNOWS WHERE THE BIRDS ARE

This past winter left people all across the eastern United States wondering where the birds were. Feeders went unoccupied and bags of seed bought in anticipation of flocks of winged guests gathered dust in garages and back hallways. But, for the first time ever, North American ornithologists can answer "where are the birds?" even as the winter snows linger on the ground. According to data compiled for Project FeederWatch, a continentwide bird feeder survey run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory, many birds appear to have stayed north this winter in the boreal forests of Canada. However, bird numbers at feeders across the continent's midsection and in the west were on a par with last winter.

The biggest gap in feeder attendance occurred among the aptly named "winter finches." This group includes such popular feeder visitors as the evening grosbeak, pine siskin, and purple finch. Both evening grosbeaks and pine siskins showed increases of 75-100% at feeders in the northeastern and southeastern United States where last winter flocks of hundreds stretched the bird seed budgets of many families. These decreases, however, were offset by dramatic increases in the numbers of pine siskins in the northwestern U.S. and Canada of evening grosbeaks in the northern Great Plains.

"Both siskins and grosbeaks are boom or bust species that wander nomadically across the continent, stopping wherever food is plentiful," says Erica Dunn, coordinator of Project FeederWatch. "Last winter was a boom year for them across the entire eastern third of North America. This winter they have definitely stayed north in Canada where there appears to have been an excellent supply of the tree seeds they feed upon. The relatively mild, snowless winter experienced in much of the East also probably contributed to these birds remaining farther north than in other years."

According to Dunn, "Last winter there were enough siskins for an average of seven to be counted at every bird feeder in North America throughout the entire winter. But what a difference a year makes. A few people in the northeast who were entertaining flocks of over 300 siskins every day last winter had none this year."

With some surveys estimating that 80 million people in the United States feed birds, the presence or absence of these winter finches attracts a great deal of attention. And, with annual birdseed sales now topping \$1 billion, winter finches even produce economic repercussions for seed companies and farmers!

SAVING WETLANDS

Project FeederWatch is already enlisting participants to help monitor feeder birds in the winter of 1989-90. Participants pay a \$9 annual fee to cover the cost of data forms, newsletters, and postage, and must be able to identify the common birds at their feeder. To include the birds at your feeders, write to Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850; or call (607)245-2414.

Note From Al Stokes

The occurrence of winter birds in this past winter is more like East than West coast. We have had virtually no evening grosbeaks except for Mendon and a few showing up in Logan in April. Siskins were here, but at greatly reduced numbers. Cassin's Finches were also uncommon until April when I had several dozen at my feeders.

We, too, have people overstocked with sunflower seed. But my advice is to keep on feeding into summer. Blackheaded grosbeaks enjoy them and the finches will stay around most of the summer. If you have as place to store an extra bag I would appreciate your buying a bag so that Jeff Keller doesn't have to store about 25 bags all summer.

Call me at 752-2702, or pick up at Sunrise Cyclery. As an added incentive you should know that we will be adding \$2 per bag starting next fall.

A BIRDY DIVERSION

Test your knowledge of our feathered friends by identifying the following definitions with names of birds: (Answers on page 7.)

1. Useful in lifting: _____
2. Fond of pear trees in December: _____
3. A prince: _____
4. What you're doing after a nine-mile hike: _____
5. A Communist survey: _____
6. A little league outfielder: _____
7. A type of fence: _____
8. A decoy: _____

— Judy Cherry
The Prescott Audubon Society in Arizona

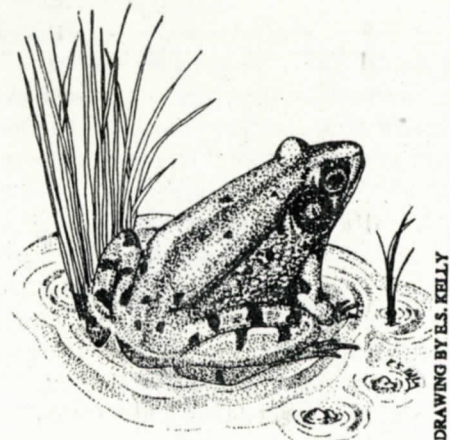
STOPPING TROUBLE BEFORE IT STARTS

This article is from the Audubon Activist March/April 1989. It seems timely for our area.

— Pat

In 1988 in Minnesota's Twin Cities, Audubon's State Representative Tom McGuigan and three chapters started an experimental program intended to halt or modify wetlands development before it starts. Called Wetlands Watch, the program uses the procedures for public comment established under the Clean Water Act's Section 404 provision, which prohibits the filling of a wetland without a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Now a total of nine Minnesota Audubon chapters covering 25 counties have joined the watch. The program has demonstrated tremendous potential for protecting wetlands. Chapters all over the country have made inquiries about how they can set up similar watchdog programs.

Each of the participating chapters has designated a coordinator to inspect threatened wetlands in its area and to submit comments and recommendations to the corps. Many of them got started by participating in a one-day wetlands identification workshop held last fall at the state Audubon council meeting.



Some of the Minnesota watchers' recent successes:

- Wetland Watch protests to the Corps and the governor's office caused the state to drop its plans to fill a 27-acre wetland to make training facilities for Olympic athletes.

- A developer who wanted to convert to commercial use a seven-acre wetland next to a nature center dropped his plans after he saw the many letters of opposition sent to the Corps by Audubon members and local citizens.

- The Mounds View city council voted down a project on a 10-acre wetland the developer claimed was not valuable to wildlife after Auduboners put their birding and plant identification expertise to work censusing the wetland. They proved the developer badly mistaken. Does it take a lot of know-how to be a wetlands watch coordinator? No, just a willingness to ask questions and to keep hounding the corps.

SAVING WETLANDS

The coordinators' best resources are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Both agencies are permitted by law to comment on all 404 applications, although their recommendations are advisory only. The coordinators have found agency staff eager to share their expertise.

Watchers have discovered they can draw on the knowledge and often the support of a battery of other people as well—corps staff biologists, city engineers, watershed planning and management commissions, local officials, and neighborhood people.

Now that the program is better known citizens often alert the wetlands watchers to problems. "What we find," says David Stamps, coordinator for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, "is that we're being clued into development projects weeks before the corps sends out its permit notice. At first, we'd get the public notice and have maybe 20 days to visit the site and make calls to the appropriate agencies and the neighborhood to find out if there was local support or opposition. Now we find that by the time the corps sends out the public notice, we've already been working on the project."

— ENL

BENEFITS OF WETLANDS

- Most birds and many other species of wildlife depend on wetlands for some part of their life. Waterfowl and wading birds are thoroughly dependent on wetlands.
- At least one-third of the nation's threatened or endangered species live in wetlands.
- About two-thirds of our shellfish and important commercial and sport species of marine fish are spawned in coastal wetlands.
- Wetlands provide rich sources of plant and insect life for fresh-water fish as well as hiding and spawning habitat.
- Wetlands absorb heavy rains and release the water slowly, preventing floods.
- Wetlands are natural water purification mechanisms; they trap sediments, detoxify heavy metals, and remove excess nutrients. Some towns even employ wetlands to treat sewage.
- At the edge of rivers and lakes, wetlands absorb the action of currents and waves, preventing erosion. Estuaries and tidal marshes reduce ocean storm damage.
- Wetlands are often hydrologically connected to groundwater systems and serve as recharge sites for aquifers.
- Wetlands are prime recreation areas for birding, fishing, hunting, trapping, nature study, and photography.

Opposing Forces Agree on National Wetlands Policy of 'No Net Loss'

Dissatisfied with the country's lack of progress in stopping the loss of wetlands, in 1987, former EPA administrator Lee Thomas asked the Conservation Foundation to organize a forum to discuss the issue. The Conservation Foundation—until recently headed by William Reilly, President Bush's new EPA Administrator—is known for bringing together the business and environmental communities to reach a consensus on difficult issues.

The resulting National Wetlands Policy Forum included representatives of four environmental groups (including National Audubon Society) and real estate development, oil and gas, timber products, and ranching and farming interests. Federal, state and local government officials and academic experts also participated. New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean chaired the group; Governors Booth Gardner of Washington and Carroll Campbell of South Carolina were vice-chairs.

In what Hope Babcock, Audubon's counsel and wetlands expert, calls a "stunning achievement," the forum has set the stage for a major push for wetlands protection.

President Bush endorsed its goal of "no net loss," and in January, the EPA announced a new policy of preventing any net loss of wetlands, the first time any of the federal agencies that oversee wetlands has committed itself to a broad, rather than piecemeal, approach to wetlands protection.

The forum made more than 100 specific recommendations to reform the nation's haphazard and largely ineffective wetlands-protection policies. One of its chief recommendations—and one of the most controversial to the environmental community—is that the responsibility for regulating the conversion of wetlands be delegated to the states. States would have to develop rigorous wetlands-protection programs first.

The forum hasn't closed shop yet. It will stay in existence for a year to help implement its recommendations. A forum committee, including Audubon's Hope Babcock, will be working to develop and pass specific legislative proposals. When legislation is introduced later in the year, activists should be ready to attend field hearings and to push for the strongest possible wetlands protections. Babcock will also be working with activists on the difficult challenge of making sure states develop good wetlands protection plans and are given the funding to enforce them vigorously. Also forthcoming are materials for chapters that will help them with their own wetlands protection programs. For more information, contact Hope Babcock:

National Audubon Society
801 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Suite 301
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 547-9009

—AMS
Audubon Activist

NEW JOURNAL OF NATURE WRITING

A new opportunity for writers and readers of natural history writing has appeared in Logan. *Petroglyph*, a journal published biannually, is inviting submissions and subscriptions.

"With this journal, we hope to contribute to a growing consciousness that we are inherently, intimately, and critically bound to the land, to the water, to the air, to life, and to nature," said assistant editor Dana Brunvand.

Creative poetry and prose based on nature and experiences in nature are sought, all points of view welcomed. Please submit two copies, typed and single-spaced, not to exceed fifteen pages of prose or six poems, and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Black-and-white graphics, illustrations and photographs are also welcomed. Technical scientific reports will not be considered.

Subscriptions to *Petroglyph* cost \$8 per year for individuals and \$16 per year for institutions.

To subscribe, submit material, or learn more, write *Petroglyph*, P.O. Box 3433, Logan, Utah 84321.

FEDERAL MAPS AVAILABLE

We're losing 400,000 acres of wetlands each year to agriculture and development. Or at least that's the commonly accepted estimate. No one really knows how much we're losing or how much wet habitat remains. In 1986, Congress ordered the Fish and Wildlife Service to map the nation's wetlands. The ensuing National Wetlands Inventory is more than 60 percent complete.

Activists can buy the government wetlands maps and get involved in their review and distribution. Contact your regional Fish and Wildlife Service office for details or call 1-800-USA-MAPS.

BIRD QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Crane. 2. Partridge. 3. Kinglet. 4. Puffin.
5. Red Poll. 6. Flycatcher. 7. Rall. 8. Wood Duck

STATE WATER PLAN

Utah State released a statewide water plan in January of this year. The plan basically introduced the concept of water planning and the agencies that would be involved in water planning at the state level. It did not address the actual issue of assessing the water resources of the state of Utah. Neither did it say how it would plan to meet those needs. As a planning document it was lacking. However, the hearings held in Logan by the Division of Water Resources made it clear that the document was planned only as a definition of the organization that would oversee the writing of the actual plan. The Plan did show where basin to basin water transfers were being considered by the state. To bring that home a little, they show a transfer of Bear River water from the Cache Valley (or basin) to the Salt Lake Valley.

At this point the Cache Group will submit comments that will ask for a more complete document. The actual economics and demographics of the basin transfers of water, or any water plans, were not addressed in the document. If you would like to take a look at the plan, or be involved in the comment process, call Llyn Doremus (753-5869) or Alice Lindahl (753-7744).

— Cache Group Sierra Club
Newsletter, *Cache News*

UTAH SEMINAR EMPHASIZES ECOLOGY OF BASIN AND RANGE

The
UTAH
AUDUBON
SOCIETY

Invites You
To Its

SEVENTH
BASIN AND RANGE
SEMINAR

SPRING 1989

The Seminar brings together students of nature, lay people and professionals, for field studies in the vicinity around Joy, Utah, an historic mining town near Delta, Utah. Formal classes will be held Saturday, May 20 and Sunday morning, May 21, for those folks interested in staying and camping overnight.

Our Purpose in offering this seminar is to provide local residents with an opportunity to understand this unique basin and range ecology which sustains us. We seek to illuminate the relationships among plant life, birds, humans and the physical characteristics of mountains, deserts and environmental managements. Our emphasis will be on how earth and life forms co-exist, rather than on classification or identification.

Participants accompany instructors for 3-hour classes in any of three sessions (two Saturday, one Sunday). A potluck dinner is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening followed by an informal campfire get-together and local archaeology talk. There will be ample time during the day for rest and assimilation. In most cases the classes will be held in close proximity to the Joy area. The seminar is designed to be a group experience, arranged to promote rapport and the exchange of ideas among participants, as well as the faculty.

Participants must be at least 6 years of age, and need not be members of an Audubon Society. the level of instruction is suitable for anyone with a sincere interest in learning more about our environment. All persons attending will be expected to be full participants in the seminars. Parents are required to supervise their children.

The Dates for the seminar are Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m. This time includes two field sessions, a lunch break, a potluck dinner, and an after-dinner campfire. The third session of classes will be on Sunday morning May 21. Sunday sessions will end by noon.

The Site is located in the vicinity of Joy, Utah, northwest of Delta, Utah. Travel time is about three hours from Salt Lake City, nearly all of which is on paved road. Registrants will receive directions by mail.

Accommodations are very primitive, but there is plenty of space in the area around Joy for camping. There is no water, so bring your own supply. Pit toilets are available, however no hook-ups exist.

Meals. Participants must provide their own lunches. Saturday's dinner will be potluck and we ask each participant to bring one dish to share. Utah Audubon will offer beverages for Saturday's dinner, and will provide grilled hamburgers.

Tuition for the seminar is \$20.00, \$10.00 for senior citizens (60 years of age or older). Children under 13 may attend free with a parent's supervision.

Registration will be accepted until classes are filled. Choices for classes are honored on a first-come, first-served basis. When registration is filled a waiting list will be maintained to cover cancellations.

Classes offered:

1. Ecology of raptors
Instructor: Sandy Boyce
2. Basin and Range Birds
Instructor: Craig Kneedy
3. Basin and Range Birds
Instructors: Margy Halpin and Jim Coyner
4. Desert/Wetland Ecology
Instructor: Peter Hovingh
5. Great Basin Insects
Instructor: Ned Bohart
6. Geology of the Joy Area
Instructor: Bill Case
7. Nature Drawing
Instructor: Kim Lewis
8. Nature Photography
Instructor: Brad Nelson
9. West Desert Archaeology
Instructor: Craig Harmon

Questions? Please call or write:

Utah Audubon Society
144 South 900 East #11
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
Terry Way, 468-2599 (wk), 486-2150
Jeanne Le Ber, 532-7384



Art by Kimberly Lewis

PROGRESS FOR THE GREAT SALT LAKE

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) is voluntary collaboration of government and private organizations that are committed to shorebird conservation. WHSRN gives international recognition to critically important shorebird habitats and promotes cooperative management and protection of the sites as part of an international reserve network. Launched in 1985, the reserve network now unites wildlife agencies, private conservation groups and other organizations in an innovative, international effort to solve conservation challenges faced by migratory shorebirds and their habitats.

Many shorebird species of the Western Hemisphere travel great distances between northern breeding grounds and southern wintering locations. These migratory birds depend upon habitat adequately spaced along a chain of traditional breeding, stopover and wintering sites. Migratory shorebirds concentrate in great numbers in a few essential and irreplaceable locations along these pathways, at times with large percentages of entire populations at a single place. Enormous numbers of birds and whole populations are at risk from environmental threats to these critically important habitats.

WHSRN highlights the key roles that sites throughout the hemisphere play in maintaining that chain. By becoming a part of the network, a site gains international recognition and support for local conservation efforts and wetland management.

Two types of sites are recognized. Hemispheric Sites host shorebird numbers either in excess of 250,000 birds over the course of the year or greater than 30% of a species' flyway population. Regional Sites harbor either more than 20,000 shorebirds in a year, or in excess of 5% of a flyway population.

Great Salt Lake - WHSRN Hemispheric Site!

The Great Salt Lake was nominated for inclusion within the WHSRN by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management, and just recently, the WHSRN Council approved the Great Salt Lake as a certified Hemispheric Site within the Network.

The Great Salt Lake is a magnificent ecosystem that provides extremely important aquatic and wetland habitat for a diversity and abundance of migrating and breeding

shorebirds. Tremendous congregations of southbound Wilson's phalaropes and red-necked phalaropes stop over to feed and rest at the Lake. Don Paul, of the Division of Wildlife Resources, counted over 400,000 Wilson's phalaropes on the lake at one time in the summer of 1982. The ready abundance of brine shrimp and brine flies at the lake provides an especially valuable food resource for the phalaropes and helps these migrants build the energy reserves essential for their journey to South American wintering grounds.

We know that the Great Salt Lake supports large numbers of other species of shorebirds as well. The recognition of its critical role in supporting populations of shorebirds will spark further efforts in developing a better understanding of their local habitat and conservation needs, we hope.

The Phalarope Connection

More exciting news! In recognition of the hemispheric significance of the Great Salt Lake to migrating Wilson's phalaropes enroute to southern locations, the Great Salt Lake has been "twinned" as a Sister Reserve within the WHSRN to Laguna del Mar Chiquita in Argentina. Along with other shorebirds, over 500,000 Wilson's phalaropes winter on this South American lake. The Sister Reserve designation highlights the international and ecological union between Great Salt Lake and Laguna del Mar Chiquita and the importance of the hemisphere chain of habitats critical to shorebird survival.

— *Utah Audubon Society News*
April 1989

UTAH RANKS LOW IN ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

The Challenge

Utah ranks third worst in the United States on their handling of five major environmental problems. Utah scored 12 out of a possible 50 points. Leaders in handling these environmental issues are California (42), Oregon (39), and Minnesota (38). The "State of the States" survey and ranking was done by Renew America, an educational organization working toward a sustainable future by promoting a safe and healthy environment. Their comparative and subjective evaluation was based on research material and data from surveys, federal agencies, academic institutions, private contractors, and national environmental organizations.

State environmental programs and policies were ranked on a scale from one to ten. The following areas were considered:

1) **Forest Management.** Comprehensive forest management laws with strong budgets and staffing relative to their forest resource used for reforestation, wildlife habitat enhancement, and water quality protection. Utah scored a 2.

2) **Solid waste recycling.** Mandatory recycling legislation, financial assistance and market development for recycled materials all incorporated into a solid waste management plan. Utah rated a 2.

3) **Drinking water.** Comprehensive drinking water program and policies for ground and surface water protection with adequate enforcement and water conservation programs were considered. Utah scored a 2.

4) **Food safety.** Pesticide use, residue monitoring, alternatives to conventional agriculture (sustainable agriculture programs, organic labeling and farm certification, integrated pest management), food additives, inspection and monitoring of meat, poultry, and seafood were assessed in state programs to promote the production and distribution of safe food. Utah rated a 3.

5) **Growth and the environment.** Land-use planning, water pollution control, air pollution control, energy conservation, solid waste management, and water conservation were considered. Utah scored a 3.

Steps in the Right Direction

The 1989 Utah Legislature passed the following bills which should improve the quality of Utah's environment. Thank you for your support and help on these bills.

1) Hazardous waste fees were increased from \$9 to \$20 per ton for out-of-state entities wanting to dispose of their hazardous waste in Utah. This fee is more in line with surrounding states.

2) A \$3 million state superfund was set up for emergency actions to address imminent adverse public health or environmental problems associated with hazardous waste releases and for matching funds for the Federal Superfund. Now we can speed the cleanup of hazardous waste sites.

3) A petroleum storage tank expendable trust fund was established to clean up petroleum releases.

4) Hazardous waste incinerator siting criteria were set up to limit the number of these incinerators allowed in Utah. Utah does not produce enough hazardous waste for even one incinerator.

— Doug Stark
Utah Audubon Society News
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BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT 1988

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Dues	1484.00	Still	1683.05
Seed	6969.80	Seed & bags	359.00
Donations	1210.57	Donations	381.97
Resale	1196.40	Resale	352.35
Recycle	639.00	Recycle	34.20
Cache Trails	806.20	CT Shares	576.45
Holly Fair	549.71	Holly Fair	322.92
Banquet	252.00	Banquet	430.00
Interest	579.50	Taxes	348.47
Miscellaneous	75.00	Conservation	105.20
	13,772.18	Club expenses	256.30
		Lobbying	315.56
		Projector & screen	552.03
			8,948.50

Net gain = 4823.60

Bank Accounts	Checking	Savings	Total
1/1/88	3590.18	5819.21	9,409.39
12/31/88	6096.82	8136.25	14,233.07
			4,823.68

Year	Income	Expenses	Net
1983	5,489.81	4,746.96	742.85
1984	7,261.08	6,388.16	872.92
1985	7,868.26	7,539.51	428.75
1986	10,739.61	7,760.81	2,978.80
1987	12,772.00	12,972.13	-200.13
1988	13,772.18	8,948.50	4823.68

NEW LEADERS IN WASHINGTON BRING CAUTIOUS HOPE

The last few months have brought a new political climate to environmental work in Washington. EPA has endorsed the policy of "no overall net loss" for America's wetlands. Bill Reilly, the new administrator of EPA, has taken a strong personal interest in the permitting process of Two Forks dam in Colorado, a dam that would have significant impacts on the critically important sandhill and whooping crane habitat downstream on the Platte River in Nebraska. The presidents of the National Wildlife Federation and Environmental Defense Fund and I recently met with Bill Reilly urging him to exert EPA's authority to reject a Corps of Engineers' 404 permit for the Two Forks dam. (See following article for good news.)

While we are less optimistic about the changes at Interior, Secretary Lujan will at least have a more open door policy to environmental views. We are all anxiously awaiting his assistant secretarial appointments, which will set the tone for the Bush Interior Department. Several environmental leaders and I recently presented a petition to Secretary Lujan urging him to reconsider his position endorsing oil

and gas development for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on the grounds that the factual basis for that position was seriously flawed. (See article on Arctic Refuge for more details.)

— Peter A.A. Berle
President
National Audubon Society

EPA DECISION BREAKS TWO FORKS DAM

The Platte River, which flows from high in the Rocky Mountains through central Nebraska to the Missouri River, remains a river under siege. But one major cloud has lifted from the Platte's future. On March 24, EPA Administrator William Reilly announced his decision to start proceedings that could lead to a veto of the proposed Two Forks dam, an environmental and economic monstrosity that threatens to degrade internationally known wildlife habitat on the river.

Saving the Platte has been a National Audubon Society High-Priority Campaign for more than two years, and your commitment as members and activists played a key role in this latest victory. Your letters, in concert with my pleas and those of many environmental organizations, convinced Reilly to take a personal interest in Two Forks and to make it an issue of national importance. Credit must especially go to the people of Colorado and Nebraska, who responded in overwhelming numbers during the past two years with informed, articulate, and impassioned opposition to Two Forks.

I applaud Administrator Reilly's wise and courageous decision. This was the first major environmental test for President Bush and his administration, and they have passed with flying colors. This action demonstrates that the new president is serious about establishing himself as an "environmental president." Under the process begun by Bill Reilly, the unacceptable adverse effects of Two Forks will become clear, making a veto of this project the only reasonable course of action.

I wish I could say that the possible demise of Two Forks means the Platte River is "saved" forever, but I cannot. Two major water projects remain very much on the drawing boards—Prairie Bend in Nebraska and Deer Creek in Wyoming. Together they pose the most imminent threats to the river and its wildlife. In addition, there is an opportunity, through the relicensing of Nebraska's Kingsley Dam, to improve on existing seasonal flows and better serve wildlife needs downstream. This action, pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, is crucial to a river that has lost 70 percent of its original flow.

Far from encouraging complacency, EPA's decision of Two Forks energizes National Audubon and its grassroots activists for the long-term battle to protect the Platte.

— Peter A.A. Berle
President
National Audubon Society

BUSH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

President Bush recently charted an ambitious course of environmental activism, promising to:

- Throw the book at ocean dumpers.
- Support aggressive criminal prosecution of those who damage the environment.
- Submit legislation to reauthorize the Clean Air Act.
- Suggest new standards to reduce industrial emissions that cause acid rain.
- Step up the Superfund cleanup program.
- Assure compliance with hazardous waste disposal.

The president didn't say how he proposed to meet all of his goals, but he told a group of state attorneys general that it was high time everyone from the president on down got with the program before it's too late.

The prosecutors welcomed his resolve. There were a few, however, who tempered their enthusiasm with old-fashioned skepticism.

Tom Miller, Iowa's attorney general, was one of the skeptics. "I heard all the right words," Miller said. "However, we have to recognize that words are the easy part."

As long as the president and Miller's fellow attorneys general also recognize "words are the easy part of it," the environment might have a chance after all.

— *Delaware County Daily Times*, Primos, Pa.

ARCTIC REFUGE NEEDS YOUR URGENT SUPPORT

Incredibly stunning in its beauty, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is still largely untouched by development. It is, in fact, the largest undisturbed wilderness in the United States. *Now we urgently need your help in the fight to protect the Arctic refuge from oil and gas development.*

As this article goes to press, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is due to vote on bills both for and against development. Regardless of the outcome, there

POLITICS

will undoubtedly be much to be done in the coming months to convince your senators and representative of the need to save the refuge.

An International Ecological Treasure

The Arctic coastal plain is the prime calving ground for the Porcupine caribou herd. The region's spectacular scenery and rich wildlife have led people to call the coastal plain the "American Serengeti." Ducks, swans, and loons nest on the plain and in the coastal lagoons; snowy owls, golden eagles, gryfalcons, and peregrine falcons nest inland. At least sixteen species of fish live in the streams and rivers of the plain. Wolves, foxes, and polar bears also roam the area.

Oil companies believe there could be significant amounts of oil under the coastal plain. In response to intense political pressure, in November 1986 the Interior Department recommended the plain be opened for leasing to the oil and gas industry. This recommendation was made despite the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's finding that oil development would result in a "major population decline" of the caribou herd—up to 72,000 animals lost. The agency also predicted that muskoxen and lesser snow geese populations would be cut in half and polar bear habitats would be critically disrupted.

Oil field development is a large-scale industrial activity. It requires huge quantities of gravel for roads, drill pads, airports, and seaports; equally huge quantities of fresh water will have to be obtained from the rivers of the plain. Pollution will affect the fragile tundra far beyond the actual edges of the facilities. Such effects have already been demonstrated at the nearby Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

Drilling in the Arctic refuge would destroy its pristine character forever. That is why Audubon has consistently opposed any industrial activity on the coastal plain.

Do We Need the Oil?

Even the Interior Department admits that there is a one-in-five chance of even finding oil, and a smaller chance still of finding it in large enough quantities to make drilling profitable. Nevertheless, industry states it is necessary to develop the plain to avoid dependence on foreign oil imports. Audubon believes that these arguments ignore some important facts:

- 94 percent of all the potential oil-bearing land in Alaska and 90 percent of Alaska's arctic coast are already open to the oil industry. These lands should be explored first.

- Sensible energy alternatives that do not threaten to destroy the coastal plain exist. For example, better fuel efficiency for cars: It is estimated that a mere 1.7 mile-per-

gallon improvement in fuel efficiency standards for cars would save more oil than drilling in the refuge could ever produce.

What You Can Do

Write to your senators and representative today. Give them the facts about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

We have a worldwide oil glut. Now is the time to implement conservation measures that will make our nation secure for decades without sacrificing this priceless treasure.

Address your letter(s) to:

- The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20519

- The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

For more information, contact Brock Evans, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

National Audubon's headquarters has been buzzing with activity since the Valdez disaster on March 24.

Dave Cline in Audubon's Anchorage office is the busiest of all. With daily reports to headquarters, Dave has kept the staff informed of all local cleanup efforts. His office is helping coordinate the collection of absorbent rags in Anchorage and Wasilla for the bird rescue center. Dave reports that community response has been terrific.

Volunteer efforts have been local. Those interested in contacting someone in Valdez about bird and marine mammal cleaning can call (907)835-4512. Dave warns everyone to plan on cold, wet, miserable weather and quarters for working. Also bring your own accommodations in the form of an R.V. motor home loaded with lots of water and food and warm clothing to change after a long day with the animals. There are not laundry facilities or other accommodations available right now.

The Alaska environmental community will soon announce creation of a Prince William Sound Cleanup Fund and will seek contributions throughout the nation.

Dave Cline advises that the most useful thing Audubon members can do is write to their representatives and President Bush, protesting the administration's continued

support of oil exploration on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon continues to be adamantly opposed to development of the world class refuge in the absence of a national energy plan when reasonable energy alternatives exist.

Audubon's science, government relations, and public affairs divisions have been active in keeping the public and press informed of the spill's effects on wildlife and Audubon's stance on oil development in Alaska's fragile ecosystems.

On April 5, Audubon announced a six-point plan of action in response to the Valdez incident. The plan was developed by Dave Cline in Alaska, Ann Strickland, Brooks Yeager and Brock Evans in Audubon's Washington D.C. Office.

The Audubon action plan calls for the following recommendations, intended to help protect the Alaska environment from further risk-taking and unnecessary ecological damage from oil and gas exploration, development and transportation:

- 1) Require a thorough examination of the entire Alaska oil delivery system
- 2) Develop a comprehensive protections plan for Alaska's marine environment
- 3) Establish a Joint Federal-State Oil and Gas Monitoring Team
- 4) Classify all toxic and hazardous wastes in Alaska oil fields under the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act
- 5) Acquire construction of state-of-art recycling and incineration facilities on Alaska's North Slope, and:
- 6) Require updated oil spill contingency plans with penalties for noncompliance.

Audubon President Peter A.A. Berle says, "The lack of responsible foresight for this incident extends beyond Alaska to the oil industry's stubborn refusal to look beyond the earth's rapidly diminishing oil supplies for answers to humanity's long-range energy needs. Without a systematic change in attitude, we can look forward to more shoddy clean-ups and meaningless apologies.

"The damage done to Prince William Sound cannot be measured in the number of animals lost, but only in the tremendous damage done to an entire environmental system," says Mr. Berle. "The Valdez incident has exosed not only the oil industry's inability to protect all the interrelated elements of the Alaskan environment, but also the extent of the systematic statewide problems in their Alaskan operations."

At this critical time, every Audubon member is a voice that needs to be heard in Washington. A letter to our representatives is the most effective tool we have to prevent the Valdez disaster from repeating itself in history.

WHALES HAVE FRIENDS IN LOGAN

The demonstration against Icelandic whaling held in Logan on March 25 was part of a nationwide day of protest orgajnized by Greenpeace. The purpose of the protest, sponsored locally by Peaceworks and attended by over 100 local residents, was to publiize that many U.S. food chains continue to purchase fish from Icelandic companies involved in whaling. Greenpeace asserts that the Icelandic fishing industry is in violation of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ban on commercial whaling. Criticism of the whaling has also come from within Iceland's scientific community, as evidenced by a petition sent to the government by a group of 21 biologists. The petition requests that Iceland respect the IWC moratorium on whaling and focus its attention on scientific research free-living whales. The sei and fin whales, two species that are closely related to the well-known blue and humpback whales, are most threatened by whaling activities.

A second day of national demonstration is scheduled for Monday, June 12, to coincide with the first day of the 1989 session of the Icelandic Parliament. The government of Iceland is particularly concerned about the recent loss of contracts with some U.S. food chains that is the result of a letter-writing campaign organized by Greenpeace. Those interested in voicing their opinion may write to the following U.S. companies that still purchase some Icelandic fish.

Write to:

Mr. J. W. Marriot, Jr. President
Marriot Corporation
1 Marriot Drive
Washington, D.C. 20058

Mr. Barry Gibbons, President
Burger King Corporation
17777 Old Cutler Road
Miami, FL 33157

Mr. James Near, President
Wendy's International
4288 West Dublin Granville Rd.
Dublin, OH 43107

Mr. David K. Chapoton, President
Tastee-Freez International
8345 Hall Road
PO Box 162
Utica, NI 48087

Mr. Jim Cataland, President
Arthur Treacher's Inc.
5121 Mahoning Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44515

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in the Council Room of the new Logan City Building, 255 N. Main. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. The BAS Planning Committee meets every third Wednesday, October through May, in the Logan Library at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
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- Education
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- Newsletter
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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.

- Val Grant, 752-7572
- John Mull, 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 Ryel, 753-6077
- John Sigler, 753-5879
- Larry Ryel, 753-8479
- Cynthia Kerbs, 752-3251
- Bob Atwood, 752-7012
- Office, 753-0012

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

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or current resident
435 CANYON ROAD
PROVIDENCE, UT
84332
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