



THE STILT

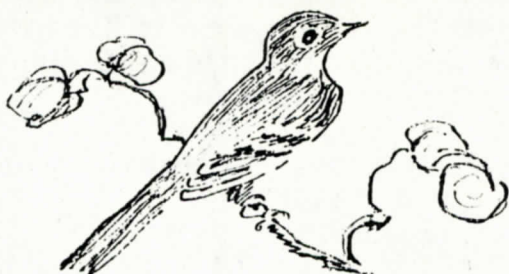
BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 18, No.1

September 1989

BAS BIRDERS REPORT LEAST FLYCATCHER IN UTAH

LEAST, BUT NOT LAST



Although most bird watching involves looking through the window at your bird feeder or being afield with binoculars in hand, if you are alert, you can often find birds while pursuing other activities. On June 18, Ron Ryel and Corinne Melmer were riding their bikes in preparation for the upcoming Tour of Two States. As they approached Beaver Dam from the west, Ron heard the "che-bek!" call of a least flycatcher, a bird he had never found in Utah. Nor had anyone else, as we were to learn.

As soon as they returned to Logan, Ron called Keith Archibald and me about his observation. The four of us immediately went back armed with binoculars, tape recorders, field guides, and cameras. We had no trouble seeing the bird and verifying Ron's identification. The least flycatcher is one of the difficult-to-distinguish group of *Empidonax* flycatchers, five of which have been recorded in Cache County. The songs and calls of these species are often the best means of identification. Ron, having grown up in southern

Michigan, was well acquainted with the least flycatcher, a common bird there.

Consulting *Utah Birds: a Revised Checklist* by Behle, Sorensen and White, we were surprised to learn that the least had never been documented for the state. It was not even listed as "provisional" or "unverified." This is especially surprising because this species breeds as close as Wyoming and Montana.

The word spread quickly and birders arrived from as far as Salt Lake City later in the day and from Provo the next morning. Birders would expect to find new birds in Beaver Dam Wash in extreme southwestern Utah, but not Beaver Dam, a small settlement just west of the Cache County-Box Elder County line! The lesson here is to be alert no matter where you are. Birds can fly and the adventurous and the lost can show up in the most unlikely places.

— Larry Ryel

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CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Monday, September 25. The Conservation Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in BNR 112B (Biology-Natural Resources building on Utah State campus). If you want to learn more about road construction proposals in Logan Canyon, our wetlands preservation efforts (including the water conservancy district protest), or any number of other conservation issues, plan to attend. These meetings aren't stuffy. Free-wheeling discussion of environmental philosophy, attitudes and strategy is encouraged. Call Bruce at 750-0253 for more information.

Saturday/Sunday, September 30/October 1. The Audubon Council meets at the Ogden Nature Center. There are overnight accommodations (bring pad and sleeping bag), and some cooking facilities, as well as many nearby restaurants. Details are still being worked out, but a field trip, discussion of issues, and comradery with Auduboners from throughout the state are the normal bill of fare. (See article, "Utah Audubon Council To Meet" on page 4.) Call Bruce at 750-0253 for more details.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, September 9. Spawning of kokanee salmon. These brilliant red salmon swim up the Little Bear River above Porcupine Reservoir to spawn in shallow water. Watch these fish work their way through rapids and defend their territories within 10 feet of the viewers on the bank. Explore nearby packrat dens. Leave at 4 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 8 p.m. Bring supper and water. This is a 20-mile drive from Logan. Car pooling available.

Saturday, September 23 and again on

Saturday, September 30. Hawks on the Wellsvilles. View hawks and eagles atop the Wellsvilles. This is a 4-mile and 3500-foot climb on a good trail to the lookout. The trail goes through colorful stands of aspen, maple and conifers before reaching the ridge. Count on three hours for the average person. From the top, the view of both Cache and Salt Lake valleys is spectacular and worth the trip. Leave at 8 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return not later than 5 p.m. Bring water, lunch, wind-breaker. If it is raining or overcast, the trip will go the following day. Call 752-2702 if trip is in question.

Friday-Sunday, October 6-8. 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 swans, and Barrow's goldeneye. Tour-

ism 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. A van will be available for approximately 10 people—cost is \$10 per person. Each party will be responsible for bringing its own food, cooking and camping gear. Indian summer is the rule, but it may get as cold as 20 degrees by early morning, so bring plenty of warm clothing and sleeping gear. **ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 4.** Call Al Stokes at 752-2702. Leave as soon Friday afternoon as possible and return Sunday afternoon.

LOBBYIST WANTED

The Utah Audubon Council, composed of Audubon Society chapters in Provo, Salt Lake City, Ogden and Logan, is looking for a dependable person to lobby at the state legislature during the 1990 session. The focus will be on wetlands and water issues. The position will run from November through February. Salary will be \$4000. A willingness to live in Salt Lake City much of this time is crucial. Send resumes to:

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

**Deadline: September 25, 1989
Call 753-7744 for more information.**

YOU'RE READING A WINNER!

Early in August I opened a letter from National Audubon. "Congratulations!" it said in bold type. "You have won first place" (*Sure, I thought—just send in this entry/order form, and if your name is drawn . . .*) "in the National Audubon newsletter contest for chapters of less than 300 members." (*Is this for real?*)

The letter went on to explain how there had been 200 entries. The finalists were judged on one standard: "Does the newsletter present a healthy breadth of coverage that

● makes a strong contribution to the Audubon Cause, makes the chapter seem like a fun, meaningful, effective organization and inspire readers to get involved?" *The Stilt* was clearly outstanding by this standard, they said.

Furthermore, the prize is airfare and hotel accommodations for the convention in Tucson.

Well, I'd just like to say, "Yeah, we all know the editing is brilliant, but in comparison with all the other efforts that enter into it, my share seems quite small. However, I'll be glad to go to Tucson and accept the award anyway."

Why did *The Stilt* win?

First of all, we have a very active chapter which gives *The Stilt* plenty to say.

Secondly, a few regular contributors—Al, Steve, Bruce and Alice—keep us all informed of what's going on. A variety of other contributors add a lot, too. One judge particularly enjoyed the children's work in the May issue.

Thirdly, Tom Gordon, ex-editor and husband (not ex-), gave me the foundation to which I added a few frills when I took over this job.

Fourthly, Diane Colston, our typesetter/publisher, does a wonderful job of putting the paper together and getting it mailed.

● Besides, our masthead is the nicest I've ever seen on a newsletter.

I'm really very honored—and grateful—to be noticed by National Audubon. It's such a splendid organization I'm proud to be a member and deeply pleased with their approval of our efforts.

Now, once I get this issue on its way, I can concentrate on really important matters like what to wear for the award ceremony. Would sequins be environmentally hazardous, do you think?

— Pat Gordon

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Clifton and Diane Alston, Logan
Miss Libby Book, Richmond
Nolan Bingham, Smithfield
Kenneth W. Brewer, Logan
Stephen A. Compton, Logan
Marilyn Dagley, Newton
Diane Driscoll, Logan
Nana Earl, Logan
Maureen Edwards, Logan
C. Christian and Madelle P. Friess, Logan
● Christopher Ghicaders, Logan
Mr. R. Goodwin, Logan

George E. Hart, Logan
Mr. and Mrs. A. Hudson, Preston
Larry J. Jacobsen, Logan
Kent Jenson, Hyrum
David F. Lancy, Logan
Deann Lester, Brigham City
James T. Malouf, Logan
Madeline R. Mazurski, Providence
Heather McSharry, Logan
Kim Pruitt, Providence
Sarah Reeder, Logan
Beverly and Jerry Ridenhour, Lincoln, Nebraska
Michael Roskelley, Logan
David Salinger, Logan
Chip Sibbernson, Providence
Janice L. Tucker, Logan
Nana Earl, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Donna Anderson, Providence
Patricia Bahler, Logan
John R. Carlisle, Logan
S. Blaise Chanson, Logan
Mrs. Charles Chism, Richmond
W. Bryan Dixon, Logan
Armand W. Dodson, Richmond
Donna Forsberg, Logan
Donna L. Gordon, Logan
Grah Family, Logan
Dr. Charles Hawkins, Logan
Marty C. and Mark Judd, Logan
Janice R. Keif, Logan
Jean M. Lown, Logan
Steven MacFarlane, Providence
C. A. Milner, Logan
Irma and Marvin Moon, Mendon
B. L. Parker, Logan
Bruce Pendery, Logan
L. H. Piette, Logan
D. Reed, Logan
Carmen Reich, Logan
Ms. Pam Riley, Logan
Julie Robinson, Logan
Ron Ryel, Logan
Charles L. Salzberg, Logan
Catherine Sharpsteen, Logan
Dianne Siegfried, Providence
Kim and Peggy Smith, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Mr. Alan Stevenson, Logan
Mrs. L. A. Stoddart, Logan
Dr. Michael J. Stones Family, Logan
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Taylor, Logan
Mr. John K. Wood, Logan
D. M. Wells, Logan
John Wraith, Logan

LOCAL UPDATE

RAPTOR MIGRATION ON THE WELLSVILLE MOUNTAINS

The Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation will again be conducting a count of migrating raptors on the Wellsville Mountains. A WFRC observer, Lisa Daly, will monitor migration along the ridge from August 28 to October 20. This fall's count will be the sixth since the study began in 1977. Migration counts from the past three years (1987-89) will be compared with a three-year count that began in 1977 to detect any population changes that have occurred over the past decade. According to WFRC President Steve Hoffman, the preliminary data from the Wellsvilles and other sites in the West indicate that the migratory populations of some western raptor species are declining.

The WFRC welcomes visitors to its ridgetop observation spot. To reach the site, head west on 3rd North in Mendon and follow it to its end. From the small, dirt parking area the trail climbs steadily through Deep Canyon and onto the ridge (approximately 3 miles). Once on the ridge, turn right (northwest) and proceed approximately 3/4 of a mile to the observation point. The hike takes 2-3 hours. Though they may not be needed, clothes for both cold and wet weather should be taken along. Anyone wanting more information on the count or on directions to the site can call 753-7079. See this issue of *The Stilt* for the date of the BAS's fall field trip to the Wellsvilles.

For more information contact:

Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation
PO Box 35706
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87176-5706
(505) 255-7622

— John Mull

CONSERVATION YARD SALE: A NEW TRADITION

If you had been there at 7 a.m. you might have made off with this priceless treasure: Al Stokes' felt Stetson. He'll never give up his baseball cap so don't look for that.

On June 24 BAS observed another first: the first time the conservation committee has ever made any money for the chapter. We have traditionally been a drain in the opposite direction.

Many thanks to all of you who contributed your treasures, large and small. We netted \$504.25! The figure is not a typo. This put us over the top in our campaign to make

money for the Audubon state legislative lobbyist. It didn't take us long to spend it, did it?

Yard sales have everything: local culture, recycling ethic, something for everyone, a fun morning, and some cleaner closets at my house. We probably could have made more money with better pricing, but we certainly had happy customers.

We have decided to make this a summer tradition. Please **DON'T THROW AWAY, OR GIVE AWAY ANYTHING THIS YEAR.** We will have a really amazing yard sale if we all save for a whole year. If you have something to donate this year and need to get it off your hands, call me (753-7744) and we'll find a place to store it. Thanks.

— Alice Lindahl

SEARCH ON FOR AUDUBON LOBBYIST

We easily reached our goal of \$2,000 which is our chapter's share to support the state lobbyist. You may notice that your sunflower seeds cost a little bit more this winter. They are still a bargain.

Many thanks to those of you who generously donated your hard-earned cash. Your investment will help all of us.

The chapter representatives are now in the process of looking for applicants. If YOU or someone you know is interested in this challenging position, send your resume and cover letter to Bruce Pendery, Bridgerland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84321.

There are no particular qualifications. The main attributes needed are courage, a sense of humor, an understanding of Utah issues of interest to Audubon (water development, wildlife protection, toxic waste management, recycling, etc.), and basic knowledge of Utah Logic.

The 1989 Legislature meets for six weeks in late January, early February, so the lobbyist's work would be full time then. Duties would be part-time during November and December and late February, when planning and wrap-up occur.

Watch this space in upcoming newsletters for news of the successful candidate and YOUR opportunity to participate in this year's state legislative issues.

— Alice Lindahl

WILDLIFE BOARD APPROVES CRANE HUNT

On June 22, the Wildlife Board voted 3-0 to allow a sandhill crane hunt in 1989. Both BAS and Utah Audubon were on hand at the hearing to voice protest against the hunt. On August 11, the Division of Wildlife Resources had a drawing to choose 50 hunting permits for Cache County and 50 permits for Rich County. Three hundred and thirty people applied for permits. These allow shooting on September 2-4 and September 9-11.

The bright side is that at least 50 percent of the permits drawn were protest permits: people who bought them with the intention to not use them, thereby "saving" a crane. Many protesters are hunters.

This protest was encouraged by the newly-organized group, Project: Spiral Sky Dancer. The goal of the organization is to eliminate future hunts by showing the DWR and the Wildlife Board that the great majority of Utah residents would like to keep the sandhill crane off the game species list. There are not "too many cranes." There is "too little crane habitat."

The Sky Dancer group intends to do this by going to bat for the crane where it needs the most help: habitat protection. The group will raise money to help pay for decoy crops to keep down depredation of Cache Valley farm crops. By finding solutions other than shooting, we can make friends with the farmers and preserve this priceless aspect of Cache Valley—an abundance of wild cranes for all to see and enjoy.

You can help by buying an expensive Crane T-shirt, available now from A Book Store and Trailhead Sports. All profits will be used for habitat protection, not anti-hunting rhetoric.

— Alice Lindahl

CANYON CLEANUP SEPTEMBER 9

The U.S. Forest Service and local Boy Scouts are organizing a canyon cleanup in conjunction with a nationwide clean-up day Saturday, September 9. Volunteers will meet at First Dam at 9 a.m. to get their assignments and trash bags.

If you would like to participate, call Pat Gordon at 752-6561. Audubon will form a group, but individuals are welcome to help on their own, also. Simply take your willing hands to the appointed spot and say, "Use me."

WETLANDS IMPROVEMENT IN CACHE VALLEY

Utah Power and Light has asked Bridgerland Audubon to help them identify areas on their lands that need improvement. They own the floodplain from the Mendon Road north to Benson. This means almost all the cattail and bull-rush marshes around the Logan, Little Bear, Spring Creek, and Cutler Reservoir. That's right, all the good part. They also own scattered parcels of flood plain from the Idaho border south to Amalga.

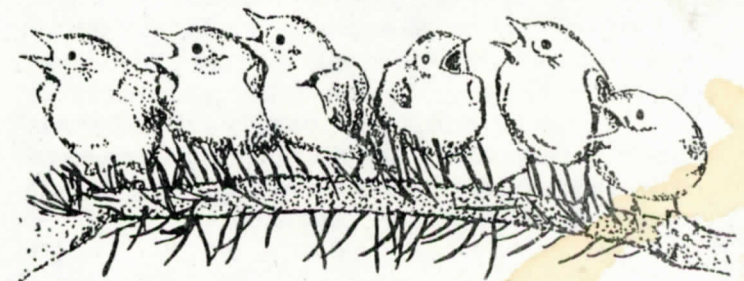
If a place you visit on UP&L land has eyesores, or pollution problems, or is important to wildlife, they want to know about it: unstable banks, critical wildlife areas, questionable water quality discharges, car bodies, garbage dumps, overgrazing, trampled riparian zones, etc.

Bridgerland Audubon has pledged to help with the effort by planting willows, removing dumps, and generally keeping an eye on things.

If you would like to help with this worthwhile project or just give us information on problem areas, please call Alice Lindahl at 753-7744.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP AT NEW HIGH

After fluctuating at 245-256 members over the past five years we now have 266 members as of July 1, 1989. Thanks to all of you who talk up Audubon and influence others to join. Remember that for every new member that we recruit we receive \$15 from National Audubon. If members come from National Audubon's efforts, we get only \$5.50. If you need membership applications see Al Stokes or one of the other officers. Keep them in your car and take them on trail hikes. Just to stay even in members requires a lot of work. Our 85 new members this year represent 32% of our total memberships. That means we lose about the same number after one or two years. So each of you can help by including new members on field trips at meetings and getting them involved in other chapter activities. Of our members, 164 have 1-4 years of membership; 61 have 5-9 years; 19 have 10-14 years; 15 have 15-19 years; and 4 have 20 or more years. Congratulations to all of you members.



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URGENT APPEAL FOR LETTERS

Utah Plans to Sell Land in National Parks

By the time you read this, the state land board will have held seven hearings throughout the state (but none north of Salt Lake City) on this proposal. But your written comments will be accepted until September 15.

The state proposal is to begin, within one month, selling off state land holdings within Arches and Capitol Reef National Parks, Dinosaur National Monument, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Goshute and Navajo Indian Reservations (over 100,000 acres). Any type of development—even mining—would be encouraged regardless of its impact on the park.

*As an example of how the state
wants to promote development
at all costs,
the state has offered to pay
legal fees when
access roads through park lands
are challenged.*

This is a threat to everyone who enjoys the carefully planned development of these parks. They are not wilderness—far from it—but they reflect our nation's long standing commitment to protect our national parks from economic exploitation so that their natural values can be preserved and enjoyed by people in years to come.

The magnificence of Utah's park lands is our best hope for increased tourism. It makes no sense to diminish their beauty with mining, ranching, or other commercial development. (*Tom and I spent a night in Dinosaur across the river from a flock of sheep. Their frequent bleating made us feel like we were back in Hyrum. — Pat.*)

One developable parcel to be actively marketed includes the famous Jacob Hamblin Arch in Coyote Gulch, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Promotion of a parcel in Arches National Park will emphasize the fact that the famous geologic feature known as the Eye of the Whale is located on the property. The plan touts that scenic arch as an "attraction for potential developers," and describes this Arches parcel as having "excellent potential for development as a campground and associated amenities such as convenience store, showers, curio shop, etc.

Furthermore, the draft marketing plan may generate little or no income because of potentially costly incentives it would offer for mineral development. The plan proposes, for example, to offer mineral leases at a reduced rate to offset added expenses a lessee may incur in constructing access roads through a park area, and to offer legal assistance to lessees who confront legal challenges to road development. The board also proposes to allow lessees to subtract the cost of constructing access roads from royalty payments.

While inholdings need to be removed from the National Park system, they should be traded for other federal lands suitable for development outside of the National Park system. Wayne Owens has introduced this type of legislation. The state, ignoring park service plans, has, in the past, tried to trade these lands for National Park Service lands along Lake Powell. This is not an acceptable solution.

What to Do

Write the Governor and send a copy to the State Land Board.

- Express your outrage at the "sell off the parks" plan.
- Adamantly oppose the "Lake Powell" exchange.
- Urge the state to work cooperatively with federal land managers to trade state lands out of the parks into areas more appropriate for development, such as lands near existing towns.

Governor Norm Bangerter
State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Scott Flandro
State Land board
3 Triad Center, Suite 400
355 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

Write Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan, and send a copy to Senator Jake Garn and Orrin Hatch and Congressmen Wayne Owens, Howard Nielsen and Jim Hansen.

- Tell Lujan to oppose the Lake Powell exchange and reject any efforts by Utah to blackmail him into it by threatening to sell off pieces of the parks.
- Support trading state lands out of Utah's parks, but urge him to deny any exchange that would trade state lands into areas where development could harm Utah's national parks or public lands deserving of wilderness designation.

UTAH AUDUBON COUNCIL TO MEET

The fall gathering of the Utah Audubon Council will be Saturday, September 30, and Sunday, October 1 at the Ogden Nature Center. The program is as follows:

Saturday 10 a.m. Panel Discussion: "How are natural resource agencies responding to the interests of the rapidly-growing non-consumptive users? Participants will be drawn from state, federal and university groups. Moderator will be Margy Halpin, Urban Wildlife Biologist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Noonish: Lunch at the Nature Center—bring your own.

1:20 p.m. Field trip to Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area west of Ogden. Excellent for waterfowl and shorebirds at this time of year. Val Bachman, manager of the area will be our host and discuss restoration of the area now that the lake has receded.

Saturday supper: Potluck at the Nature Center.

Saturday evening: Continuation of the morning's discussion—a very open session where everybody can contribute.

Saturday night: Sleep at the nature center—no beds but ample floor space for sleeping bags, or sleep outdoors. Washrooms and kitchen available for those wishing to cook their breakfast.

Sunday 8 a.m. Roundtable for each chapter to present issues of state and local concern including progress in getting a lobbyist for the Utah Legislature. Adjourn by noon.

This weekend program is a splendid time for fellowship, seeing new habitat, and getting to know people from your own and other Audubon chapters. Carpooling available. Call Bruce Pendery at 750-3066 (work) or 750-0253 at home. Or call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for further details and carpooling. No charges for this gathering other than your own meals. PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR AND COME!

HANSEN PERSUADES CONGRESS TO FUND BEAR RIVER REFUGE

Thanks to Congressman Jim Hansen, Congress has appropriated \$600,000 to start the restoration of this world-famous refuge. Plans are to move the visitor center close to attract more visitors. Dikes are being redesigned to provide more favorable nesting areas, and additional marshlands to the east will be added. Please write James Hansen, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515 and thank him for this success in a tight budget year.

WASATCH AUDUBON ACTIVE, ENTHUSIASTIC

Al Stokes attended the annual picnic of the Wasatch (Ogden) Audubon Chapter on August 15 at the Ogden Nature Center. This chapter got its start by holding a Christmas Bird Count nine years ago. Participants had such a good time that they wanted to hold regular meetings. Within a month they had the necessary 35 new members needed to be chartered by National Audubon. They have now outstripped Bridgerland Audubon with a membership of about 360.

Among their achievements are providing *Audubon Adventures* to 38 fifth-grade classrooms. Each child receives six issues of *Audubon Adventures* containing suggested activities for inside and outside the classroom. Many of the individual classrooms are sponsored by chapter members at \$30 per classroom. Once the idea caught on, teachers have been clamoring to be included. The chapter's goal is to provide *Adventures* to every fifth grade classroom in Weber and Box Elder counties.

The chapter raises enough money from recycling cans to send one or two persons to the Audubon Ecology Camp in Wyoming. Another very successful activity has been the building and placing of bluebird boxes in the mountains east of Ogden. Trips are made in spring to check on the use of the boxes and again at the end of summer to repair and clean the boxes—a fine way for volunteers to be helpful. Al was impressed by the enthusiasm of the members and the broad distribution in ages.

HOW ABOUT BIRDING IN MEXICO AT CHRISTMAS!

Montana Audubon Council Vice President and biology professor, Dr. Jack Kirkley, is organizing a birding adventure to western Mexico this Christmas (December 25 -January 6). The group will search for birds in the Sierra Madre highlands east of Mazatlan and in the subtropical jungles near San Blas, Nayarit. Members may choose to participate in the San Blas Christmas Bird Count. Trip fee will include a \$200 tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Wildlife Fund of Montana. Limited spaces will be filled on a first come basis. For more information and to reserve a spot write Jack Kirkley, Dept. of Biology, Western Montana College, Dillon, MT 59725.

BIOLOGIST FIGHTS BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN UTAH

Creation of the biological Aerosol Testing Facility at Utah's Dugway Proving Ground presents a threat to public health as well as a threat to world peace, a leading geneticist told a Utah State University audience.

Jonathan King of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said the Dugway facility, which is the largest part of the Army's Biological Defense Research program, is "politically destabilizing."

If the United States builds a test facility, other nations will think they need one, King said, "not to defend themselves against the United States, but against their historical enemies—Greeks and Turks, Iraqis and Iranians, Pakistanis and Indians."

King said the Dugway facility will pose a public health danger to the citizens of Utah.

"Biological agents, as anyone knows who has children, are not like chemical agents. They spread. They mutate. You

"This is the most dangerous kind of research imaginable."

lose control over them. They don't know about national boundaries. They don't know about religion, ideology, or uniforms. The black plague, the Hong Kong flu, polio, AIDS spread all around the world. All humans are susceptible.

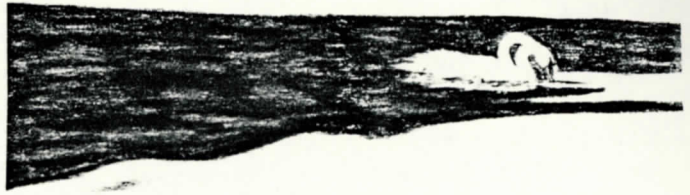
"This is the most dangerous kind of research imaginable, research with organisms specifically designed to be hazardous to humans and animals. Such agents will be brought from all over the United States for testing in Dugway," King said.

The only sound policy in terms of national security and public health, King said, is to terminate the program and to put the money into health and medical research administered by the National Institutes of Health.

King said about 1,000 biologists, chemists and biomedical scientists have signed a pledge opposing the use of their research for military purposes, and he invited Utah scientists to join the group.

"Utah is on the front line," King said. "What happens in Utah is far and away the most important. Shutdowns generated by local opposition will enable other things to occur."

— Jillyn Smith



RED ROCK REFUGE TRIP BIG SUCCESS

The resonant honking of North America's largest waterfowl, the majestic trumpeter swan, filled the air as we arrived to set up our tents at the Upper Lake Campground in Red Rock Lakes Refuge in southwestern Montana's Centennial Valley. The air was crisp after a light rainfall and dusting of snow. From our tents in a beautiful grove of aspens we looked out on the lake, home to thousands of birds. As dark fell, we gathered around the fire to hear some "mountain man" stories from Tom Gordon. The night was brilliantly starry and cold, getting down to 30 degrees, but not until we were all snug in our sleeping bags.

Saturday morning, after the early morning fog cleared, the refuge management team from Lakeview headquarters met with us to explain the management of the swan population and other wildlife in the refuge. They discussed new ideas about fencing and using grazing as a management tool.

Red Rock Lakes Refuge, we learned, is a very important nesting area for the rare trumpeter swan. When the refuge was established in 1935 there were only 100 swans in the tri-state area of southwestern Montana, southeastern Idaho and northwestern Wyoming, with diminishing habitat accounting for ever-decreasing numbers of swans. As the refuge provided protection and solitude, the swans increased and peaked in the early 1960s.

Because trumpeters are not instinctive migrators, this population became dangerously dense. Alert to the possibility of decimation by disease, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has introduced swans from these lakes to habitats in Oregon, Nevada, South Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota and to zoos and parks throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe.

After badgering the rangers with questions, we broke up into groups for hiking or canoeing on Red Rock Creek. The canoers had fun twisting and turning to maneuver the stream, but nearly all got wet. The hikers, however, mostly stayed dry. We investigated long-abandoned pioneer homesteads whose cabins and barns had sad-looking caved-in roofs and clusters of swallow nests under the

eaves. In one cabin we startled a young skunk that ran around in circles from the forlorn junk-strewn kitchen to the bedroom. We visited a cemetery, carefully maintained by the Lakeview citizenry, whose occupants date from the valley's earliest settlement.

The grandeur of this wilderness area is unsurpassed. We're all most thankful to Al and Alice Stokes for arranging the trip, and for their warm hospitality to all the campers. The Red Rock Lakes Refuge rates a 10!

— Helen Leyrer

BOOK REVIEW

Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape

by Barry Lopez

I've spent the summer vicariously visiting musk oxen, narwhals, polar bears and icebergs, through the power of Barry Lopez' pen. The book jacket calls *Arctic Dreams* "a monumental, magical book." It is that, but it is also FAT—hefty, substantial, long—about 400 pages. I mention size because it derives from two important qualities of the book: it is well designed—readable type on good paper—and it is thorough. This is a long look at the Arctic, what it is and what it has meant to various people.

Lopez combines the vision of a naturalist, scholar and philosopher with the language of a poet. He delves into the lives of animals; prehistoric civilizations in the Arctic; ice in its multiple manifestations; the light peculiar to the north and the strange rhythms it imposes on living things; migration; and human exploration, from the journeys of St. Brendan of Ireland in the early sixth century A.D. to industrial development today—never again will I be able to take a map of the Arctic for granted.

One of my favorite morsels is the story of a group of Eskimos exploring the north. Led by a shaman who was convinced there were unknown Eskimos living somewhere far to the north, about 40 people left Baffin Island in 1856. More than half turned back along the way, but in 1863 the travelers found the Polar Eskimos in northern Greenland. The two groups had been separated during the Little Ice Age (1450-1850). With the return of warm weather, the kinds and numbers of animals changed and the Polar Eskimo did not have great success hunting them. In the intervening years they had lost the necessary skills. The Baffin Islanders retaught them about the kayak, bow and arrow, and fishing.

Lopez shows restraint in dealing with environmental issues. He acknowledges the despair of seeing the land and people treated with disrespect, but his main business is to show the reality of the north through the eyes of a thoughtful, sensitive man.

Arctic Dreams is available at Logan Library.

— Pat Gordon

Arctic Update

Audubon Toughens Stand Against Drilling in Arctic Refuge

In the wake of the catastrophic Valdez oil spill, at its June meeting the board of directors of the National Audubon Society developed a stricter policy on the controversy about opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Last year, Audubon opposed drilling until and unless careful research could show that wildlife and the environment would not be harmed. After examining the evidence of the last two years, the Society has concluded that this criteria cannot be met, and therefore *unconditionally opposes any form of oil extraction in the refuge and urges that it be designated wilderness.*

The oil industry sees the refuge as its highest priority onshore drilling site, and President Bush continues to publicly support oil exploration there. Legislation that would open the refuge to drilling has stalled in Congress, largely in response to the spill; however, proponents of the legislation still plan to forge ahead.

At the Audubon board meeting, board member Scott Reed summed up the need for the protection of the refuge as wilderness: "The whole proposition to drill in the Arctic, to construct the trans-Alaska pipeline, and to ship the oil by tankers across the seas was promoted and sold to the public upon the representation that no serious harm would ever happen to natural creatures....

"Big Oil lied about the risks and the remedies. Big Oil cheated by evading the double hull commitment with the full concurrence of the United States Coast Guard. Big Oil and the state and federal governments were grossly negligent by failing to stock and man the response boats and equipment. Investigation and public disclosure to date has yet to find an area of protection in which something was done right....

"Our position must be 'nevermore.' Arctic National Wildlife Refuge must be just what the name describes, a wildlife refuge.... The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is off limits."

To prevent a recurrence of the Valdez disaster, Audubon is also moving on other fronts. The Society joined with other environmental organizations in several lawsuits against Exxon; staff in Washington, D.C., and Alaska are pressing Audubon's six-point strategy, which includes updated and stringent oil spill contingency plans and a protection plan for Alaska's marine environment; and Audubon's experts renewed their call for development of alternative energy sources and energy-saving regulations.

Concerned Auduboners should take this opportunity to write their legislators, requesting full wilderness protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

NATIONAL AUDUBON

ANCIENT FORESTS PLANNED FOR DESTRUCTION

The American ancient forest, an interlocking community of life that has survived throughout human history, at least since the time of the world's first known emperor, Sargon the Great of Sumeria, over 4,000 years ago, is scheduled to be eliminated. Plans for the next five years will, for all practical purposes, completely eliminate these unique, irreplaceable forests from any other use except wood production. At the end of five years there will still be lots of trees standing; but they will almost all be in patches between the clear cuts and along the logging roads; there will literally be no forests remaining except what Congress chooses to protect.

When the first white men came to the Northwest, there were about 19 million acres of ancient forest in Oregon alone. Today, the best estimate of the six westside forests of Washington and Oregon, plus the three northern California forests, prepared by Dr. Peter Morrison, consultant for the Wilderness Society, is a total of about 2 to 2.4 million acres—between 5 and 10 percent.

National Audubon Society is so concerned about the fate of the remaining American ancient forests that it considers the protection of ecologically significant and valuable remaining stands of it as one of its top five "High Priority Campaigns."

We believe it is essential that Congress take firm and direct steps to do the following:

1. Impose a halt to logging plans, at least until a more thorough inventory and analysis is made.
2. Introduce legislation to protect these ancient forests. This may require a new system, such as an Ancient Forest Preserve System. But we are convinced, after years of working with the Forest Service and BLM, that the agencies will not do it. The whole performance, so far, has been very much in the other direction, unfortunately.

Please let your legislators know that killing off the ancient forests must stop immediately. If they do not act quickly, there will be nothing left to protect.

— Excerpts from testimony by Brock Evans, Vice President for National Issues, National Audubon Society, at a joint hearing of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy and the House Interior Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, June 20, 1989.

Full Agenda Planned for Audubon Biennial Convention

National Audubon Society's star-studded biennial convention will be held in Tucson, Arizona, September 12 to 16, 1989. The theme is **Our Southwest: Challenged by Growth**. Sessions will focus on the escalating development pressure on the region's wildlife, water, air, and scenic beauty.

A full schedule of events is on the convention menu. The keynote address will be given by Paul Ehrlich, world-famous population ecologist. Actor Cliff Robertson, honorary chairman of the Audubon BIRDATHON, will be presenting awards for citizen activism. Representative Morris K. Udall will be honored for his many years of championing environmental causes.

Interesting and useful workshops will cover a plethora of topics--wetlands, water policy, agriculture, global warming, air pollution, and groundwater. Participants will also be able to strengthen their fundraising and activist skills, discover Audubon's new computer and video teaching tools, and learn about Audubon's international program.

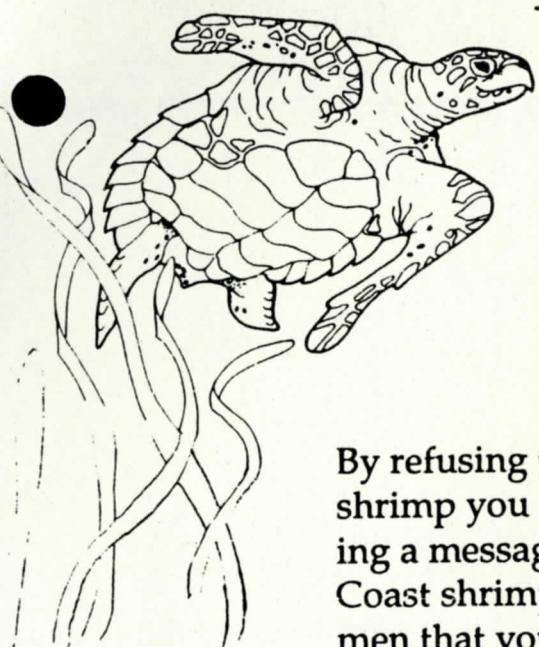
There will be time to play, too. Trips include birding and sightseeing in the Grand Canyon, birds and natural history of southeastern Arizona, a natural history tour of the Gulf of California, and a six-day birding tour of the Alamos area of Mexico.

The convention is being held at the Doubletree Hotel, near Randolph Park in Tucson. Accommodations are available at the Doubletree and Viscount Suite hotels at a special rate of \$50 per night. Registration is \$60. Field trips are extra. Everyone is invited! Sign up now to reserve your place. For a brochure, write: Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Ave., #5, Boulder, Colo. 80303, or call (303) 499-3622.



YOU CAN SAVE A SEA TURTLE RIGHT AT YOUR TABLE DON'T BUY SHRIMP

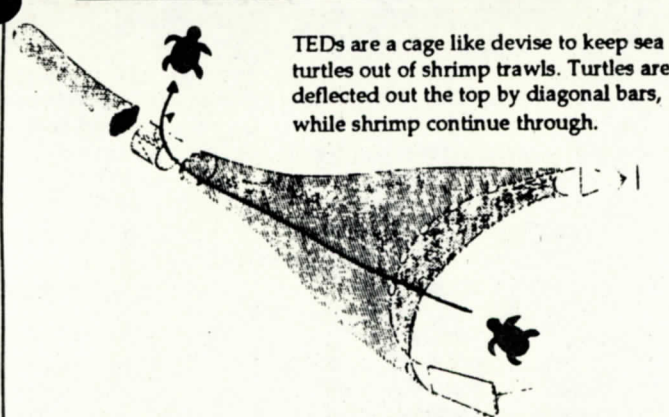
Over 11,000 endangered sea turtles drown in shrimp fishing nets each year.



By refusing to buy shrimp you are sending a message to Gulf Coast shrimp fishermen that you don't

condone their refusal to use the one device that can prevent them from killing turtles; Turtle Excluder Devices, also known as TEDs.

HOW THE TURTLE EXCLUDER WORKS



TEDs are a cage like device to keep sea turtles out of shrimp trawls. Turtles are deflected out the top by diagonal bars, while shrimp continue through.

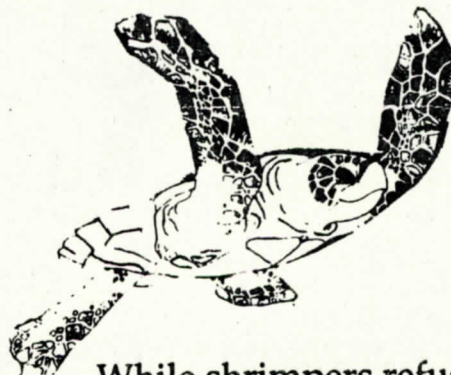
TEDs are inexpensive (\$25 - \$400), and — according to the few shrimpers who fish with them — easy to use.

After 10 years of study and long debate in Congress, the federal government required TEDs starting May 1, 1989. Some shrimpers complied with the law and are currently using TEDs. Gulf coast shrimpers however, refused to use the devices.

Secretary of Commerce Mosbacher caved in to shrimper's illegal and violent protests and has retreated to weak and unenforceable regulations.

Use of TEDs remains the most effective, efficient, and enforceable way to protect sea turtles.

For over 100 million years, sea turtle hatchlings have struggled up through the sand, scampered to the surf, navigated the open seas, and returned to the beach to lay their eggs. These remarkable creatures have outlasted the dinosaurs. Now, they face their final days at the hands of man.



While shrimpers refuse to use TEDs, sea turtles will continue to drown. It's that simple.

Until shrimpers stop catching sea turtles, let's tell them to not bother catching shrimp either.



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

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Larry Ryel, 753-8479
89-92 Cynthia Kerbs, 752-3251
Bob Atwood, 752-7012
Office, 753-0012
- 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.

Bridgerland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3501
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ATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.
Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

☐ My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.
Send this application and your check to:
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Chapter Membership Data Center
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