



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 18, No. 4

November 1989

IF ELECTED . . .

LOGAN'S MAYORAL CANDIDATES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The candidates were asked to submit statements on environmental issues of concern to the city.

CLAUDE BURTENSHAW

Logan City has a tremendous interest and responsibility for protecting our environment. The city is the sole supplier of water, provides the means of disposing waste and has final control of land use. While we increase the ways to pollute our world through new technology, the city needs to be sensitive for new ways to insure pure, adequate water, the disposition of all waste: toxic, degree of degradability, recycling, landfill, etc. The city must also discover the better uses of land for economy and beauty.

Air pollution, though not within the jurisdiction of the city, will soon be a consideration of the city both for alerting agencies that monitor air quality standards and controlling the creation of pollution agents.

Maintaining freedom versus preservation of life itself will still be considered. The city, its officials—both elected and appointed—have a big task in responding to these changing forces.

RUSS FJELDSTED

On Recycling. The city sanitation department, in connection with sanitation engineers at Utah State University and Huntsman Chemical Corporation are constantly studying this problem and staying abreast of recycling and solid waste management. I am in favor of a recycling system as soon as citizens are educated and willing to support the costs of implementation.

The landfill in Logan City is meeting the needs of the county on a cost-efficient basis at present. However, the city/county is growing, and plans will have to be made to relocate the landfill in the future. This relocation will be very expensive, and will have to be dealt with as we grow. I would push the county to constantly re-evaluate this problem and to prepare citizens for the costs associated with change and upgrading the system.

(Please see **MAYORS** on page 2)

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CALENDAR

Thursday, November 9. The Bridgerland Audubon Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Logan City Building. The Audubon Special on ancient forests, "Rage Over Trees" will be shown. With luck, a specialist on spotted owls—endangered by logging the forests—will be on hand. All are welcome.

Wednesday, November 15. The BAS Planning Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Logan Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Monday, November 20. Education Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m. at Edith Bowen Lab School Library Kiva, on USU campus. We welcome anyone interested in environmental education in Cache Valley. Call Karen Matsumoto-Grah at 750-3468 for more details.

Monday, November 20. The Conservation Committee will meet, 7:30 p.m., in Natural Resources/Biology building, room 112B on the USU campus. Campus and community recycling efforts will be discussed. All are welcome. Call Bruce Pendery, 750-0253.

MAYORS from page 1

Sandhill Cranes. Since I do not hunt, I have a biased attitude about killing birds or animals. I'm delighted with the resurgence of the sandhills, and if elected mayor, would love to have a Sandhill Crane Festival in September 1990.

Kids would draw or paint the birds in school. Lectures and films could be given, canoe trips could be organized to see and photograph them, and an exciting tourist event, promoted by Bridgerland Travel Region and Logan City could draw attention to the subject. This could be an interesting educational venture. Farmers would be invited to present their side of the issue.

Golf Course. I have always been in favor of golf courses—everywhere, especially on the Logan River. I see it as the only way to keep the river protected from houses or business encroaching on its right-of-way. The city has invested \$1,300,000 in the land and needs to continue to exchange the wetland properties for other wetlands, outside of the course area, so the course can function for future generations. Golf courses are revenue producers and protect open space. Realty values are stronger because of golf courses. Our community course would be a critical element of a strong, quality economic development program.

Air Quality. Citizens must be made aware of the damage wood-burning stoves do to our air quality during winter inversions. This is a very touchy subject and must be dealt with from an educational perspective.

I also believe we should implement an inner-city bus system that people would use. This would save fuel and reduce some pollutants, although it is going to be incredibly difficult to get residents to reduce the use of the personal auto.

Bicycling is also high on the agenda. Bike trails or awareness needs to be reinforced. I am very much for use of bikes for inner-city transportation.

Trees. Our trees are valuable resources to help stem air pollution and bring great beauty. They must be managed,, and finally the city has a tree manager to implement a tree development plan. Education must be made available to all residents about types of trees, sizes, management, etc. I would be very aware of the necessity to promote proper tree management to beautify our city.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT?

The proponents of the Water Conservancy District have not yet turned in their petition to form a district. It is clear that they are having a lot more trouble getting the few signatures they need than the Box Elder WCD counterparts did. This is amazing, since the Cache County WCD needs only about 1000 signatures (a number we surpassed long ago in our effort to obtain signatures for a protest petition). We need 4000 protest signatures.

A major shift has taken place in the makeup of the district proponents. Those who are actively taking petitions around are landowners in areas that would be irrigated by the South Cache Project (dam construction on the Little Bear and Blacksmith Fork) and the Farm Bureau. Their message has shifted away from "We need a seat at the table" to "Sign here or lose your water rights" and other unsupportable threats. Thank goodness people in Cache Valley are too smart to buy these scare tactics. Our underground network tells us that the proponents are running up against a real problem: "People keep asking us difficult questions!"

People for Wise Water Planning are mailing petitions to out-of-valley landowners. They plan to put a copy of a petition in the *Herald Journal* with endorsements from prominent citizens. If we can raise more money, we will also send petitions to in-valley landowners.

Can you help? Sure. We need people to sit at tables to have petitions signed and we need envelope stuffers. If you can donate some time, please call me at 753-7744.

— Alice Lindahl

BEAR RIVER TASK FORCE HEARS ENVIRONMENTAL SIDE

The 1989 legislative session formed a task force to study and recommend a course of action to the governor and the 1990 legislature on what should (or should not) be done by the state to develop the Bear River. Since the task force was required to listen to the "environmental community," they set aside part of one session to listen to what we had to say. That happened on October 2.

John Sigler spoke for Audubon and six other environmental groups in Cache Valley, letting them know that we are well aware of the damage and cost of the dam projects envisioned by the state Division of Water Resources. The task force listened very carefully when he reminded them that the failure of the Two Forks Dam project in Colorado came about when the Denver Water Board failed to show that they had made the best use of other water available to them. In rejecting the project, EPA demonstrated that wildlife habitat is no longer sacrificed easily to provide as much water as developers want.

Thank you, John, for speaking for us.

— Alice Lindahl

SANDHILL CRANES

Where Do We Go From Here?

In the 1989 hunt, 54 cranes were shot, out of 100 hunting permits that were issued. This was not due to lack of skill on the part of Utah hunters. In Rich County, all of the 32 hunters that checked in got their bird. This is a far cry from the 30% success rate predicted by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Without the "protest" from about 40 non-hunters who bought and successfully drew permits, many more birds would have been lost. In fact, there were 14 more birds shot than the state's allotment on the flyway plan. Add to this the seven birds killed by a lightning strike at Benson in late September.

We sincerely hope that the Division can be convinced to cancel the hunt. A protest every year would be divisive and against the spirit of cooperation so much needed between consumptive and nonconsumptive users of wildlife. Even Norm Bangerter has gone on record opposing the hunt (*Salt Lake Tribune*, Aug. 14, 1988).

Our Cache Valley population of resident breeding cranes may be threatened by this hunt. Can our birds withstand the removal of 50 birds plus crippling losses every year? We still do not know how many birds actually nest here so we do not know the answer to the question.

Crane lovers will be selling items for Christmas that will direct proceeds to the farmers who tolerate and welcome cranes on their land. We will have details in the December *Stilt*.

You can borrow from me the Audubon Special Video "Crane River." It is a beautiful tribute to the Lesser Sandhill Cranes that migrate through Nebraska every spring. The message we like in this film is that Nebraskans really value their cranes for the inspiration and tourist attraction that they are. To Nebraskans, shooting them is unthinkable. They have 500,000 migrating cranes compared to our 1200-1600.

We also have a 30-minute slide show with script about our cranes in Cache Valley and about the hunting situation here. You can borrow the show and narrate it yourself, or request a narrator. It is geared toward school groups and small informal clubs. Please request it.

— Alice Lindahl



21 APPLY FOR LOBBYIST POSITION

We had 21 applicants for our lobbyist position! Many of them are experienced lobbyists and (even more amazing) are willing to work for only \$4,000. It is gratifying to know that there are so many dedicated environmentalists out there. It increases our confidence that we may be able to make a difference in the state legislature.

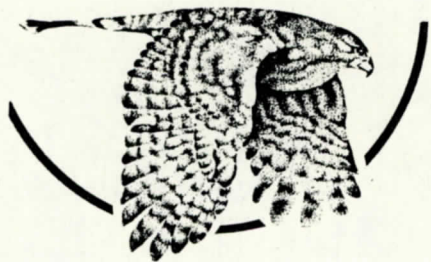
As a loyal *Stilt* reader, you can be sure that you will be getting calls this winter to do your part to call our representatives and senators on Audubon issues.

RAPTOR REPORT

WFRC MIGRATION STUDIES

Migration counts are useful in assessing changes in raptor numbers over large geographic areas. In eastern North America such studies began several decades ago. (A recent Hawk Migration Association of North America newsletter reported there are now 34 localities in the East where numbers of migratory raptors are being monitored on a season-long basis.) Until recently similar efforts have NOT been carried out in the West. Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation, Inc. and a sister organization in California (Golden Gate Raptor Observatory) are changing this. There are now five sites where migrant raptor populations are being intensively monitored in the West. Four of these projects are being conducted by WFRC: at the Goshutes, near Elko, Nevada; the Manzanos and Sandia Mountains in New Mexico; and the Wellsvilles.

(In the Goshutes in mid-April, 320 migrating raptors were seen within three days, as well as a flock of four whooping cranes!) A report on the Wellsville count follows.



FROM THE WELLSVILLES

Scott Stoleson did a great job on the Wellsville count last fall (the fifth season-long count since 1977). The Wellsville Mountains, in northern Utah, are considered to be the steepest mountains in the world, and the west escarpment serves to concentrate migrating raptors along a remarkably narrow corridor. This is an outstanding advantage for taking accurate counts of the migrants. Scott's 1988 count was, in some ways, similar to previous years. However, during the past two years we have become alarmed by the low numbers of northern goshawks. The 1987-88 average (11/season) is 65% below the numbers recorded from 1977-1979 (32/season).

Ten Years Later . . .

Comparison of the average 1987-1988 Wellsville count with the average 1977-1978 count.

	1977-1979	1978-1988	% Chg. ¹
Obs.Hrs.	720	672	
Hawks/Hr.	11.8	9.4	
SPECIES			
Turkey Vulture	23	18	+3.1
Bald Eagle	9	8	+7.7
Osprey	26	26	+25.0
Northern Harrier	523	432	+3.2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1972	1784	+12.9
Cooper's Hawk	1218	884	-9.5
Northern Goshawk	94	22	-71.0
Broad-winged Hawk	2	6	+35.0
Red-tailed Hawk	793	785	+23.5
Swainson's Hawk	28	55	+143.6
Ferruginous Hawk	5	17	+44.0
Rough-legged Hawk	2	4	+20.0
Golden Eagle	748	175	-70.8
American Kestrel	2536	1578	-22.3
Merlin	10	19	+1135.7
Peregrine Falcon	-	11	-
Prairie Falcon	26	17	-19.4
TOTAL RAPTORS	8474	55,958	-12.3

¹Calculations are based on number of raptors per 100 hrs. observed.

— from WFRC News,
Summer/Fall 1989,
No. 3

HAWK WATCH 1989

September 30

The last day of September was spectacular for those who ascended 3500 vertical feet to participate in the annual fall ritual of observing migrant hawks. About 25 intrepid souls were treated to a visual feast of south-bound raptors atop the Wellsville ridge. Our observational post was at the raptor lookout seated at the north end of the ridge. A strong steady wind blew up the west side of the ridge aiding the migrants in their journey and funneling them right past our group. The aerial displays were stunning and often the birds would stoop on

RAPTOR REPORT

the great-horned owl decoy. The stream of raptors from the north was quite steady for the three or so hours that our group was on the ridge.

Lisa Daly is this fall's raptor counter at the Wellsville site and she was a great help to the novices and experts alike with her identification skills. She conducts daily censuses throughout the fall for the Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation (WFRC).

As it turned out we came on the best day of the season (as of September 30) with a total of 281 raptors tallied! It is interesting to look at the hourly counts to see the variation in numbers coming through. Luckily for us the peak was between noon and 3 p.m.

Birds of note were the two golden eagles, one northern goshawk, and one peregrine falcon! By far the most common migrant was the American kestrel, followed by red-tailed hawks and the two smaller accipiter species. The two Swainson's hawks were fairly late migrants.

WFRC has monitored the fall raptor migration at this site since 1976 and the count averages 3,000 to 4,000 birds annually. This baseline data provides valuable information on the health and trends of raptor populations.

— Tom Gumbart

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Edward and Deborah Evans, Logan
Nancy E. Immel, Logan
Reed G. Crockett, Logan
Diane Driscoll, Logan
John M. Howell, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS

Elizabeth Cooper, Logan
T. W. Daniel, Logan
Daisy Trevor Hughes, Logan
Barbara Lilieholm, Logan
R. N. Malouf, M.D., Logan
Gary and Naomi McKean, Logan

HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER PLANNING MEETING

The meeting was held October 18, 1989, in Logan Library Room 2. Present were Val Grant, John Mull, Bruce Pendery, Karen Matsumoto-Grah, Pat Gordon, Dianne Browning, Bob Atwood, and Alice Lindahl.

Finances: Bruce, Pat and Karen were reimbursed for convention expenses. Jack Greene requested \$500 to support an education program in conjunction with the Forest Service based at the Legion Hall in Logan Canyon. The request was tabled. Funding for Audubon lobbyist was discussed. Total cost must be less than 20% of budget for all chapters represented, lest tax-exempt status be forfeited. BAS is raising its share by charging an extra nickel per pound on sunflower seeds, collecting donations on field trips, conducting a garage sale, and specific contributions.

Hotline: Val announced that Kayo Robertson will take over the Hotline responsibilities.

Publicity: We discussed the need for someone to handle publicity. Bruce urged a more active search, "selling" the position as valuable experience.

Recycling: The group discussed the need to get recycling projects underway both on campus and in the community. An attempt will be made to find someone to spearhead the effort.

Publications: Bob Atwood offered to oversee republication of the bird list in 1990. Dianne introduced an offer from Wasatch Publishing to reissue *Cache Trails*, if they can have the copyright. Further study of the matter was deemed prudent.

8 HOURS OF RAPTOR

Species

American Kestrel	175
Red-tailed Hawk	31
Sharp-shinned Hawk	27
Cooper's Hawk	23
Northern Harrier	7
Osprey	3
Swainson's Hawk	2
Golden Eagle	2
Peregrine Falcon	1
Northern Goshawk	1
Unidentified	9
TOTAL	281

Hour Raptors

10-11	1
11-12	27
12-1	91
1-2	86
2-3	44
3-4	29
4-5	3
5-6	0
TOTAL	281

WILD WORKSHOP

Stewart Nature Park: Bob summarized the history of this 4.5-acre parcel of riparian habitat, donated to the city by Mr. Stewart for use as a nature park. Bob proposed involving Audubon in plans which would include Eagle Scout projects such as building trails and providing information on the fauna and flora of the area.

Crane Festival: Alice introduced the idea of a crane festival to be held in September, as supported by Doug Thompson. He foresees a future in which our wetlands will be highly valued by tourists interested in birding. Alice emphasized the need for data on the cranes, as well as positive public sentiment.

WILD WORKSHOP FREE TO TEACHERS

What Is Project WILD?

Project WILD is a supplementary environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. It is designed to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills related to wildlife, people, and the environment which we all share. It involves kids and animals—the proven formula for generating classroom interest and participation. It can be used to teach most major subject areas including: language arts, social studies, math, science, PE, and art.

Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to share Project WILD materials with elementary and secondary educators and to show how to implement the techniques in their classrooms. Workshop participants will receive a basic Project WILD Activity Guide appropriate for their grade level and a Project WILD Aquatic Guide.

Who

Teachers K-12, all disciplines; administrators/educators; youth group leaders; home school educators; anyone interested.

Where

Edith Bowen Lab School, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-6700.

When

Friday, 17 November, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Saturday, 18 November, 8:30-4:30 p.m.

Cost

There is no cost for this workshop or for the materials. Optional USU credit is available for \$30.00.

Credit

Project WILD has been approved for one hour of graduate credit through Utah State University (\$30), or one hour of Utah state recertification credit (no charge).

What to Wear and Bring

Wear casual, comfortable clothes and shoes. We will spend some time outside, so be sure to dress appropriately. Also, please bring a sack lunch on Saturday.

Refreshments will be provided during breaks.

Workshop Facilitators

Ellen Petrick-Underwood, Utah Project WILD and National Park Service Naturalist.

Karen Matsumoto-Grah, Edith Bowen Lab School Administrator and Bridgerland Audubon Society Education Coordinator.

November Workshop in Cache Valley

Pre-registration is necessary in order to attend the Project WILD workshop. Please return this form by November 14, or sooner if possible. You are considered to be registered for this workshop after sending in this form unless you hear from us.

Mail To: Edith Bowen Lab School, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322-6700.

Name

Address

Phone

School/Organization name and address

Age level or grade (if teacher)

Subject (if teacher)

Enrollment is limited. If you register and then find you are unable to attend, please notify Karen Matsumoto-Grah at 750-3468 to cancel your registration so we can allow someone else to take your place.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS PLAN ON "MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE 1990s"

The Eighth Annual Intermountain Regional Environmental Education Leadership Conference was hosted by the Intermountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service, in Park City, Utah, on September 15-17, 1989. Environmental educators from Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Alaska gathered to discuss programs, projects and strategies that are currently in use in the Intermountain states.

A wide variety of topics was discussed, focusing on ways to "make a difference" in the decade of the environment. Emphasis was placed on strategies that addressed "thinking globally, and acting locally." We had many representatives from Utah, several from Cache Valley, who served on working committees to help develop a statewide vision for environmental education and conservation issues.

S.1076, National Environmental Education Act, sponsored by Senator Burdick (D/North Dakota), was discussed by CeCe Forget, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Denver. Details regarding this important Senate bill will be discussed at the next Education Committee meeting.

Vern Fridley, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Intermountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service was honored by the Forest Service in a special ceremony for his continuing contributions to quality environmental education in nationwide programs.

This was a worthwhile conference to remind educators of our environmental education priorities, as well as an opportunity to discuss the new direction of EE programs in the state of Utah.

— Karen Matsumoto-Grah

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEEDS NEW BLOOD

The Audubon Education Committee needs volunteers to act as resource people for local schools, community organizations, and scout groups. We particularly need people in the following fields: botany, entomology, geography, forestry, and earth sciences. If you would be willing to be a part of our resource directory, please call Karen Matsumoto-Grah at 750-3468.

HOTLINE: 750-6325

Our birding Hotline, long tended by Scott Cheney, who moved back east to go to Cornell Law School, cooled down over the summer. Kayo Robertson has offered to warm it up again. The new Hotline number is 750-6325.

Kayo (pronounced K.O.) and his wife, Sue, our stalwart secretary, have a three-year-old son, Cooper. Sue shares his interest in birding. She was instrumental in establishing bird count efforts in Star Valley and is particularly adept at recognizing songbirds by sound.

Kayo is returning to the academic grind as an elementary education major. He is back in Logan after 12 years in Wyoming. A commercial beekeeper, he writes children's books on nature, and guides fly fishermen through Wyoming, among other things. (See his illustration for the Teton Trip report!)

If you have information on interesting sightings, call him. If you want to be notified of local birding developments, call him. If you see something unusual, and you're not sure it's Hotline material, call him. You know who you are.



UTAH BIRDLINE: 1-530-1299

Call this number to hear about and report interesting or unusual sightings of birds in Utah.

BLUE TARP FOUND

I brought home from Red Rock Lakes, by mistake, a light blue tarp with corner grommets measuring about 10x14. Will the owner please claim. Call 752-2702.

— Al Stokes



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THE TETON TRIP: Among Multitudinous Mammals

More than 40 people, from a babe-in-arms to a 75-year-old, made the annual Bridgerland Audubon trip to the Tetons for the elk-bugling concert October 6 to 8, 1989. Arriving by van and private cars, we camped at Gros Ventre (Grow Vawnter) campground, some in tents, some in campers, one family in a motel.

With that number, Allen divided us into three groups: Terry Barnes led one, Hugh Harper from Boise another, and Allen Stokes, as trip leader, a third.

We saw about 150 elk, including a magnificent bull with huge rack near Timbered Island. This was at dusk, but visibility was fair.

Antelope bucks near Kelly were rounding up their harems and fending off other bucks. Highest count this summer was 188 pronghorn.

Our last morning we saw something we'd never seen before on this trip—90 bison near Kelly. The herd slowly migrated across the road, surrounding our vehicles. Their grunts and grumbles were clearly audible. We watched the interaction between bulls, cows and calves, and their reactions to us as photographers got pictures.

We stalked a bull moose with a dramatic rack as he headed toward the Gros Ventre River, soon followed by another bull moose, before both disappeared from sight.

Sunday morning we visited the Teton Science School and walked along Ditch Creek where we spotted a water ouzel on our way to see beaver dams. This area had many large aspen cut down by beaver and some interesting dam structures.

Our three groups went at different times to the Murie Ranch where Olaus and Mardy Murie, Adolph and Louise Murie lived and carried on their wildlife studies and where Inger and Bob Koedt now live also. We observed red squirrels at work and bear claw marks on aspen. Black bears have come through there but this year there were no berries on the hawthorn and little food for bears. Canada geese and mallards took off from the beaver ponds.

We heard nuthatches and chickadees calling through the woods, also ravens. Chris commented on too many airplanes flying over. Overhead noise was pretty noticeable for a national park of such beauty. And why not? Eighteen planes in every day to Jackson airport and 18 planes out, plus numerous smaller private planes. Where could the Jackson Hole airport be moved to? It would certainly improve enjoyment of the park if another site outside of the park could be found.

Wildflowers still out, but not in abundance, were the beautiful blue harebell, yarrow, lupine, Indian paintbrush. Nearly all the wildflowers had gone to seed, including fireweed

with its long plummy seedpods. Grasses were varied and still beautiful.

A walk along the Snake River showed how dramatically it had changed the courses of its side branches after its flooding of two years ago, changed its paths as well as the Murie and Koedt swimming holes.

Hugh, who has worked to save the riparian habitat (land along rivers and streams) of the Boise River for all to enjoy, told his group that the function of a flood plain wetland is to provide vegetation that slows down overland flow, reducing downstream damage, absorbing water which is released for later flows. It provides vegetation for a great diversity of wildlife.

They can build houses anywhere (and golf course, I add). Don't eradicate wetlands. Wetlands are outdoor laboratories and educational centers. Could Logan choose a different site for the proposed golf course instead of filling our Logan River wetlands with fill-dirt?

Hugh Harper has had much experience working first for Idaho Fish and Game, then U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, then Bureau of Land Management. He appreciates the importance of preserving our wetlands. Hugh says that President Bush is taking a stand on this and that every government agency has been instructed to give care and concern for saving our all-too-rapidly disappearing wetlands.

Terry's group got into higher country and had good views of elk up by White Grass Ranch as well as deep and remote woods experience.

Allen's group also got into higher country as they climbed the Beaver Creek trail to Taggart Lake. They found a dramatic stand of lodgepole pine coming in after the Taggart fire, and aspens actually coming in from seeds.

Many saw and heard picas at the Kelly Slide area and Kevin got close-up pictures. Trees we saw were Engelman spruce, Douglas fir, sub-alpine fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, hawthorn, willow, cottonwood, and the limber pine in clumps where the Clark's nutcracker had buried some unrecovered seeds. Chipmunks were harvesting Indian rice grass. Picas, a member of the rabbit family, were cutting grasses and weeds and gooseberry plants and storing them under rock overhangs for their winter food supply.

Tom identified a merlin for us, a bird I have rarely (never) seen so near, flying ahead of us from fence post to fence post. Other birds seen were finches, ravens, bluebirds, Clark's nutcrackers, hawks, starlings, nuthatches, chickadees—over 38 species altogether, and numerous waterfowl. We did not see or hear sandhill cranes, nor did we see a badger though they are here. We heard but didn't see coyotes, though they are up in numbers this year.

Our own food supply was not at all short as Reinhard had brought plums, dried fruit, and cookies from Carmen, Bill had brought cheese from Wisconsin, Hugh and Diane baked beans from Boise, Helen had made a delicious casserole, Kim a chocolate cake, Allen made breakfast oatmeal, and Jessie brought three little pumpkins from the Barnes' garden for our table decorations. It was nice to have the children along, Ross, and to hear Danny's cheerful voice as he helped Reinhard build the early morning fire as dawn was breaking. Jalaja, brought by Pat and Tom Gordon, was there from Sri Lanka.

Frost was truly on the pumpkin each morning. But nightfall saw Allen helping others by heating rocks near the fire, wrapping them in newspaper, and tucking them in sleeping bags. Hot cocoa tasted good in the mornings and roasted marshmallows were good with talk around the campfire at night. We could see the craters on the half moon through Tom's telescope. Afternoons were almost shirt-sleeve-weather.

It was a fine group of townspeople, students, staff, children, and we were pleased the *Herald Journal* had Tim and Kevin come to cover this trip which Allen, as field trip chairman for Audubon, leads each fall.

We appreciated having Alice's brothers along: Bill Harper from Lancaster, Wisconsin, still on the farm Alice grew up on, and Hugh and Diane Harper from Boise. Hugh and Diane have both volunteered their services to the summer program of Grand Teton National Park. Bill makes this pilgrimage each year that he can. The open freedom of camping at Gros Ventre campground fits us all.

Some of the group were going to climb up Garnet Trail to the meadows, others were going home by way of Yellowstone. The whole trip was a chance to get acquainted with these fine young, and older, people, and build up joy, appreciation, and knowledge of the outdoors in the interest of caring for our wild lands, wild creatures, learning more about them, and seeing that they each have a place in the sun.

I haven't said much about the geology and history, but it was all around us, even as the spirit of cooperation around camp was ever-evident. Chris and others volunteered to wash the dishes, Bill and Stan started the van with jumper cables, Tom Jones, Bill, Hugh and others got in a wood supply, everyone helped make camp delightful, weather was perfect, no disasters. As Tom said, "Add all the superlatives." Anyone who brought reading along, including me, found that any reading gave way to a wide range of experiences. All appreciated Allen's arranging for such a trip, and all contributed much by being along.

— Alice Stokes

TEXAS CALLS FOR HELP

DEAR AUDUBON MEMBER:

I know you live a long way from the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, but you have a tremendous opportunity to help us save some of the most important habitat in the nation . . . for birds and many species of other wildlife. The reason you have a unique opportunity to help is because one of the senators from your state is on a very important conference committee which

will decide on appropriations for national wildlife refuges, possibly as early as this week.

SENATOR JAKE GARN OF UTAH serves on the Interior and Related Agencies subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee and has been named to the conference committee to work out differences between House and Senate versions of this year's appropriations for the purchase of Wildlife Refuge lands. In mid-September, this conference committee will decide on the amount of appropriations to be allocated to various refuges across the nation.

We are hoping for an appropriation for the lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge that is equal to or greater than the appropriation recommended by the House of Representatives (\$10.5 million).

The Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge is designed to protect over 100,000 acres of wildlife habitat along a 200-mile stretch of the Rio Grande. The area slated to be protected includes some of the habitat characterized by Roger Tory Peterson as among the dozen top birding hotspots in the nation. A number of endangered species find refuge in this area, species which include the peregrine falcon, brown pelican, hook-billed kite, ocelot and jaguarundi. Many tropic birds have their northernmost range extension in this southern tip of Texas and are losing ground in Mexico as development hastens the conversion of thousands of acres of habitat.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since your Senator is in a key position to influence appropriations, it would be especially helpful for him to hear from his constituents supporting \$10.5 million or more for the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Texas has no representation on the Senate Appropriations Committee, so our support will have to come from Auduboners in other states. The more the Senators on the conference committee hear from their own constituents about the value of a particular area (particularly if it is out of their state), the more likely they are to actively support an appropriation.

Please write Senator Jake Garn and urge him to actively support appropriations for the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge in conference committee. Please recruit other chapter members in your state to do the same. If we have 12-20 letters to each Senator on the subcommittee, we will probably succeed. His address is: The Honorable Jake Garn, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Please help us save this important area—then come down and let us show you what your activism has done! It is a birding hotspot! If any additional information is required, please feel free to contact: Frontera Audubon Society, Wildlife Corridor Task Force, P.O. Box 8124, McAllen, Texas 78596 or Dede Armentrout, National Audubon Society, Ste. 1505, 2525 Wallingwood, Austin, Texas 78746, (512) 327-1943.

Thanks for helping wildlife!

— Dede Armentrout

BETTY BOEKER HONORED

Dr. Elizabeth Boeker, known to us as Betty, was recognized for many years of service to the Audubon Society and the environment of Cache Valley. The Allen Stokes Conservation Award was presented to Betty at the general meeting, Thursday, October 19, 1989, with more than 100 people attending.

Bruce Pendery, in recommending her for the award, wrote of her leadership in land-use planning as an example of her commitment to protection of the natural world in Cache Valley.

"In 1986 a move was afoot to dismantle all planning and zoning in Cache Valley. The county commission had replaced the county planner with a 'zoning administrator' and had their sights set on dismantling the zoning and planning regulations. That's when Betty stepped in.

"Appointed to a committee formed to 'review' the regulations, Betty was a voice of reason and objectivity. Those who would dismantle planning quickly ran aground when they encountered Betty's logic and persuasiveness. The result was that planning and zoning in Cache County survived, and the natural environment and the majority of Cache County citizens were the beneficiaries.

"This is but one example of Betty's service. Through wilderness and wetlands battles, by example and inspiration, she has been a leader in the conservation community."

According to Alice Lindahl, Betty has spent several years helping to hammer out a management plan for the wetlands in Cache Valley with the power company. "Her goal was to make the area more attractive to and productive for wildlife. It has been a long, sometimes frustrating, sometimes boring job, but Betty had the wisdom to know that here is something really worth protecting, and tenacity was required to see it through," Alice said.

"Betty thinks that the Valley wetlands can be enhanced by the planting of trees on the barren shores of Cutler Reservoir," Alice said. "She knows what it takes. Since she moved into her house in the country near Nibley in the middle 1970s, she transformed a featureless pasture into a little forest of over 150 trees. This wildlife-attracting plot can be seen for miles from every direction. When the power company expressed some reservation about 'Who will maintain the planted saplings on the Cutler Reservoir shores,' Betty calmly asserted: 'If necessary, I'll come out and water them myself.'"

Ann Schimpf, longtime friend of Betty and member of Audubon, said, "Betty knows the wisdom of steady

plodding behind the scenes . . . she's been your treasurer for more years than I can remember . . . but what makes Betty the most fitting candidate for this award is her sense of wonder, her deep love of the magic of the natural world."

Ann said, "Betty worked for years helping to get Utah Audubon Council going. It was little more than an idea when I left the valley in 1979; now you're hiring a lobbyist!"

She told of personal experiences shared with Betty—hiking, camping, sharing the outdoors with children, and taking up kayaking at an improbable age.

She concluded, "Betty is—simply put—an inspiration. If there is a hope for this planet to survive . . . and we must always have hope . . . it is for all of us to love the Earth passionately. In so loving it, we care deeply for it. Passion is inseparable from compassion. And Betty Boeker is an ongoing inspiration in my life and the lives of many to aspire to that depth of environmental stewardship."

Accepting the award, Betty said, "The Allen Stokes Conservation Award is something I've always wanted to earn, and I'm enormously pleased and grateful to have received it."

EARTH DAY 1990

The 20th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 1990, is fast approaching. In conjunction with Audubon Month, this important event promises to generate a high level of environmental attention. An organizing team called Earth Day 1990, based in Palo Alto, California, is placing Earth Day coordinators in states to achieve the goal of tripling the size of the environmental movement in the United States. Former Senator Gaylord Nelson, the father of the first Earth Day and honorary co-chairman of Earth Day 1990, notes "The most important single objective of Earth Day 1990 is a monumental worldwide demonstration by several hundred million people that literally shakes the political leadership of the world out of its lethargy." Audubon chapters have an unmatched opportunity to plug into the groundswell of activities developing around Earth Day, to showcase chapter programs, recruit new members, gain visibility and raise funds.

Earth Day 1990 will also begin the week-long Celebration of the Great Outdoors. The Celebration will focus on local land-use problems and solutions such as green belt legislation, wetlands protection, and other growth management options. Audubon's Education Department has developed materials for Audubon Month activities, and organizing materials are also available for both Earth Day and the Celebration of the Great Outdoors.

— Peter Berle

News from NAS

Some Post-Convention Thoughts

by Peter A.A. Berle

President, National Audubon Society

Think big. Challenge the system. Fight for what you believe in." These fighting words were uttered by John Turner, the new director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in September, at the National Audubon Society Convention in Tucson, Arizona.

Coming from a public official, those words are refreshing and should give us all hope that a new wind is blowing in our nation's capital. We will need our government's support—engendered by a renewed commitment on our end—if we are to fight effectively against an increasingly virulent anti-environment campaign by some narrow-minded interests on several specific environmental issues.

• After EPA chief William Reilly began a review of the Two Forks Dam project in Colorado that is likely to result in the project's veto, the Denver Water Board and other Two Forks partisans joined forces to mount an intense, multi-million-dollar lobbying effort to have Mr. Reilly's decision reversed. Only the overwhelming grassroots opposition to the project, led by Audubon, saved the day, and on August 29 EPA announced its intention to proceed with the veto process.

• Shrimp fishermen in the Gulf Coast refused this summer to install the simple devices known as TEDs—Turtle Excluder Devices—that can routinely save thousands of endangered sea turtles from drowning. Even though TEDs are required under federal law, the shrimpers blockaded ports and threatened violence to protest the rule, forcing the Administration to postpone enforcement. The National Audubon Society has called a boycott of shrimp in order to pressure shrimpers to obey the law.

• Before they had ever seen a single second of footage from "Rage Over Trees," the Audubon Television Special about ancient forests, the logging industry launched a massive publicity blitz to prevent the public from seeing the program and judging for itself. Our sponsor dropped funding for Audubon's entire television series, and several companies pulled their advertising, as a direct result of this campaign. Nevertheless, the show did air, and millions of people will have the chance to express their opinions—the democratic way.

Against the well-financed forces of industry and business, Audubon's greatest resource is its members. Audubon activists have turned the tide on Two Forks, and can also do so for sea turtles and ancient forests.

The need for our commitment to the environment has never been greater. At the recent Audubon Biennial Convention, Paul Ehrlich, the well-known scientist and population expert, asked everyone to give at least ten percent of his or her time to working to make the planet more livable. I say let's go for twenty percent.

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	Val Grant, 752-7572
Vice President	John Mull, 753-7079
Secretary	Susan Robertson, 750-6325
Treasurer	Betty Boeker, 752-8092
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	Bob Atwood, 752-7012
	Office, 753-0012

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

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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 _____

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Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

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REPORT ON THE TETON TRIP

BY

ALICE STOKES

EARTHY!

SEE PAGE 10

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