

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 18, No. 5

December 1989

WILDERNESS

An Essay by Tom Lyon

In September we celebrated the 25th anniversary of wilderness as a legal entity, thanks to the Wilderness Act of 1964. This essay was written for the occasion, and generously donated to The Stilt upon request.

I can't think of anything more worth celebrating than wilderness. When we say *wilderness*, we mean in truth the world as it naturally is—the whole, healthy system, and thus, existence itself. Although we tend somehow to lose sight of the fact, the universe is wild, wild to the core and to the farthest spinning dust at the edge of things. When we celebrate wilderness, we are actually giving thanks for everything: the pulse within us, the moose in the wet meadow, the blue sky, and at night the stars that are composed of the same elements as we, and the dark beyond the stars—what the poet Robinson Jeffers called "the deeper fountain."

And in a more limited way, historically, we have something to celebrate. The legal preservation of wilderness, I would argue, stands with the Constitution as one of the two great, original contributions America has made to humanity and the world. The Bill of Rights and the Wilderness Act may indeed be the most significant advances in practical ethics in the entire modern era. As Aldo Leopold said, we humans seem to be progressively, albeit slowly, widening our field of ethical concern.

But somehow, I confess, I can't feel much like celebrating. We have done these good things, we have made

these beginnings. But it takes only a moderately aware person to know that something is very wrong in the world today. Gathering and citing the evidence of decline, even crisis, has become almost redundant—once you see what is happening, everything is evidence.

We seem to have become a strange species, among all the forms that life has taken. We move like colonial animals in the currents, our heads all turning this way and that in unison—but what we move to is nothing as real as the pull of the moon on the ocean, or as nourishing as sea water. What moves us, so our daily life would seem to show, is our own politics and economics—our own strategies, structures, possessions and powers. With extraordinary cleverness we have built, in effect, a hall of mirrors seemingly as big as the world. Wherever we look, whatever we read, we see ourselves, over and over, in infinitely repeating images. The hall is now so vast, so intricately mirrored, so apparently all-reflecting, that we quite innocently worship it. Sometimes there seems to be nothing else.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, December 7. The monthly meeting of Bridgerland Audubon Society will happen at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Logan City Building, 255 North Main. This month Scott Datwyler will discuss the wide variety of skiing experiences available to us in our local mountains and bring us up to date on both cross-country and telemark skiing equipment.

In addition, Audubon's new lobbyist, Wayne Martinson, will be on hand to meet with BAS members.

Saturday, December 16. The Christmas Bird Count will send volunteers to peruse a 15-mile-diameter area centered in Hyde Park, continuing a long tradition of gathering data on the feathered citizenry. Early birders will set out about 4:30 a.m. to spy on owls. More reasonable types will form groups to cover certain assigned areas throughout the day. After dark, participants will find comfort at Tom and Pat Gordon's place (718 North 200 East, Logan), where they'll enjoy the traditional potluck supper and tally results of the quest. Tom is already at work on a hot rum punch for the occasion. To join this noble endeavor, call Keith Archibald at 752-8258.

For a historical, national perspective on the Christmas Bird Count, see "The Christmas Bird Count: 90 and Counting!" on page 14.

Monday, December 18. The Conservation Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Biology/Natural Resources Room 112B, on Utah State campus. Anyone wishing to become more involved in any conservation issue—Logan Canyon, wilderness, recycling, litter, etc.—is welcome.

Wednesday, December 20. The BAS Planning Committee will meet in Logan Library at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

THE NEW PUBLICITY DIRECTOR IS . . .

You'll never guess. Last month, Bruce Pendery said, "You ought to try to sell this position. It could be really valuable experience for somebody." This month he's saying, "I want that job!" Good selling, Bruce.

When the old calendar rolls around to January, Bruce will leave his post as head of conservation and take on the task of promoting Audubon and issues of concern to BAS. This work has long been divided among assorted people with no central plan. Bruce is excited about being able to concentrate his efforts on the general principles of Audubon. We can expect to see some interesting developments in the months to come.

MEANWHILE, IN CONSERVATION . . .

The ever-energetic Alice Lindahl has taken over leadership of the Conservation Committee. Active in many areas, particularly in protecting the Bear River and sandhill cranes, Alice brings a lot of experience, as well as enthusiasm, to the job.

AND RECYCLING . . .

The Moons of Mendon, Marvin and Irma, have accepted the assignment of official recycling representatives for Audubon.

Irma worked for 32 years as a nurse anesthetist, cooped up in operating rooms. "I vowed that when I retired, I would spend as much time outdoors as I could," she said. "Then, who should we meet but the Stokes? After you meet them, you can never falter—they're such an inspiration. It makes an Audubon addict out of you. One thing I like is having people of all ages in the group. A good mix makes it much more enjoyable."

Marvin taught speech and dramatics in Iowa and Texas and then worked for the Post Office in Brigham City. The Moons have been in Utah since 1960, and moved to Cache Valley in 1983. They have four children, one of whom, Eric, is active in a wildlife program with school children in California. The other Audubon members of the family are Mac, Mollie and Mattie, West Highland white terriers who accompany Marvin and Irma on their outings. Mac does not approve when birds swoop at him in large groups.

The Moons have attended meetings with the Cache Recycling Coalition, and are helping to establish recycling programs on campus and in the community through this group. Already, plans are under way for a pilot paper recycling program on campus, to begin winter quarter. The announcement that Logan City will provide receptacles for separated waste at the landfill was welcome, also. We look forward to exciting reports of progress on this front. Stay tuned!

T-shirts
for
Cache Recycling Coalition
for sale at
The Accent — 57 South Main

WILDERNESS from page one

The mirror is a jealous god, though, and it requires much sacrifice, first and chiefly our intelligence. We bow our heads humbly to *the* economy, as we say, as in the argument-settling sentence, "It will help the economy." Dazzled by our own reflection, urged on by momentum and by the growing pressure of our own numbers, we don't readily see what we are doing—don't see beyond the mirror, don't realize that the economy we serve is by nature insatiable. Anything can be brought to its altar. In the days following the Prince William Sound oil tragedy, the state of Alaska proposed tighter controls on ballast water at the Valdez terminal. The consortium of big oil companies known as Alyeska immediately "sought a court injunction to block these new pollution restrictions," as reported in *Audubon* magazine. The retainer fees of the Alyeska lawyers helped the economy. A vacant grazing allotment on the High Uintas, adjacent to recently-reoccupied bighorn sheep habitat, was this season routinely filled with domestic sheep. The permittee's fees, however tiny, helped the economy. Soon, a good deal of the pon-derosa pine forest on the Abajo Mountains may be cut down, the Burr Trail may be paved, the State of Utah may attempt to develop commercially its holdings within National Parks, and quite certainly the oil and gas industry will, wherever feasible, road and drill the Uintas. Let us remember that we all drove here this morning, no doubt helping the economy, each of our cars routinely, mechanically pumping out, among other products, one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile traveled.

Outside the hall built so cleverly by our relentless and insane economism waits the wilderness. Wilderness is not just an "area," as we deign to call it. It is the accumulated, continuing intelligence of the whole world, the health of the system, the energy that is, as far as we are ever likely to know, endless. *The* economy may seem like greatness to us, in our ignorance, but in the universe, the wild pattern of things, it is more like a moment's irritation.

What is beautiful though, lifting the heart before we even have a chance to think about what is happening, is the potency of these "areas" of ours. When we cross the line into the wilderness we immediately start to become a better animal. We remember how to walk, carrying a load. We breathe deeply, and we sweat, and hurt probably, in places, as part of the authentic effort of the day, not as a result of lifting weights or jogging. We don't wash as much. Our skin starts to feel taut and resilient. We notice our cheek muscles suddenly, about the third day in, from smiling. The body brings the mind along. At night, the wind comes through the woods, moving every needle of every tree, a deeply vibrant, bass, rushing

sound that yet has no particular hurry in it. The sound of the wild world, coming from somewhere endlessly far and going on, continuously. We go back to sleep, easy in it. Morning, and the wind dies down, and we gather up and walk some more, through the wonderfully long, lighted hours of day, and then quite naturally, timed with our sharpening appetites, the slanting of the shadows brings us into evening. While eating popcorn after supper we chance to look up through the dark trees, and there is Vega again, straight up, gleaming blue and bright. Just three or four cycles like this, with no traffic noise, nowhere to go, really, just walking, and a certain happy restoration, a bounce, becomes noticeable. We begin to loosen and expand and become more competent: see what is useful, true, and applicable, and what is not. We suddenly realize that the world has nothing more precious, more worth saving, more worth fighting for, than the song of one hermit thrush, or the quick appearance and flowing disappearance of one marten, or the way sunlight looks on the brown, deep velvet of a moose's rack. These things are alive to us now, and uncannily potent in their wildness, because our own wildness is coming alive. One of the powers, one of the great gifts, of wild country is to restore this birthright attentiveness.

When we are paying attention—that is, when our minds are natural and open like this—we see that we don't really know very much. But this fact is not distressing. What is before us, here outside the hall, is alive and changing, and what is most beautiful and most useful to the wild mind is precisely this sense of being on our toes, being in the present, discovering new things moment to moment. From this point of view man is not an administrator of what are called "natural resources," but instead, a learner, and not the kingpin of things, certainly, but what Aldo Leopold called a "plain member."

The wild mind is essentially—one might say *structurally*—re-spectful, because it feels itself to be part of the mysteriously alive, ongoing stream. The wild mind doesn't help the economy, but it preserves the world.

I will close with a poem by a wild man from the other side of the planet. When Nanao Sakaki was young, a draftee in the Japanese forces, he was assigned to western Kyushu, to watch a radar screen. On August 9, 1945, that screen showed a single B-29 bomber, unopposed, headed in the direction of Nagasaki. After the war, Nanao became, by degrees and over the years, a pet-wanderer in the ancient Japanese tradition, and eventually made his way to the American West, where in long mountain and desert rambles something about the back country seemed to fit beautifully with his mind and the way he had chosen to live. I don't know of a contemporary writer more at home in the wilderness—that is, the living world. The poem goes like this:

WILDERNESS

In the morning
After taking cold shower
—What a mistake—
I look at the mirror.

There, a funny guy,
Grey hair, white beard, wrinkled skin,
—What a pity—
Poor, dirty, old man!
He is not me, absolutely not.

Land and life
Fishing in the ocean
Sleeping in the desert with stars
Building a shelter in mountains
Farming the ancient way
Singing with coyotes
Singing against nuclear war—
I'll never be tired of life.
Now I'm seventeen years old,
Very charming young man.

I sit down quietly in lotus position,
Meditating, meditating for nothing.
Suddenly a voice comes to me:

"To stay young,
To save the world,
Break the mirror."

— Tom Lyon

Tom Lyon is an associate professor in the English Department at USU, and editor of the quarterly, Western American Literature. He has long been a respected spokesman for wilderness and the environment.

WILDERNESS IN UTAH

The idea of wilderness, as well as the amount of land receiving that protection, has come a long way in Utah. In 1984 Congress extended wilderness protection to about 700,000 acres of Forest Service lands in Utah, a twenty-fold increase. That is not the last we will hear about Forest Service wilderness in Utah—the law allows new areas to be considered in the future. But with the Forest Service bill passed, attention shifted to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

BLM began studying its lands in Utah for their wilderness qualities in the 1970's. That study—and an appeal by the Utah Wilderness Association—led BLM to conclude that there were 3.2 million acres that qualified as wilderness out of about 22 million acres of BLM lands in Utah.

Of the 3.2 million acres, BLM recommended that 1.9 million acres be designated wilderness in its 1986 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We're still waiting for the Final EIS and proposal, but it should be out soon.

So what is at stake? Simply put, some of the most spectacular and unique lands in the world. The Colorado Plateau, despite its aridity, is a monument to the power of water and wind. Those forces have created fins and arches, canyons and mesas, unequaled anywhere in extent, color and form. But most important, these lands have the power to stir the soul.

There is more to these lands than scenery, however. Southern Utah is probably the largest *de facto* wilderness in the contiguous states. It should be that in actuality. They contain riparian habitats that are crucial to life in these arid lands, and are home to several endangered fish species. Again, wilderness can help protect them. The Deep Creek Mountains are literally an island ecosystem; the Book Cliffs harbor some of the best big game habitat in Utah. Only wilderness designation will ensure they stay wild.

The Wilderness Act of 1964, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, sought to protect these kinds of lands and values with its declaration that wilderness "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man" In reaching that eloquent statement, however, there were many compromises along the rocky Congressional path to approval. (The current issue of *Audubon* magazine has an excellent article on how the idea of wilderness, the Wilderness Act, and the wilderness system evolved.) Grazing is permitted in wilderness and prior existing mineral leases can also be developed. Logging is banned, and roads are, too—sort of. On BLM lands, substantially unnoticeable and infrequently used "ways" do not disqualify an area from consideration as wilderness. Ways (or is it a road?) will be a bone of contention as various wilderness proposals and bills are considered.

And when it comes to contentiousness, BLM wilderness proposals in Utah certainly have that quality. First there are the wilderness groups—the Utah Wilderness Association (3.8 million acre proposal) and the Utah Wilderness Coalition (5.1 million acre proposal). These groups seem to spend as much time chastizing and criticizing each other as they do pursuing wilderness bills. In my opinion, however, both groups have strengths. UWA has more of a "vision" for wildlands in Utah and is more willing to talk with and try to reach understanding with people who are concerned about wilderness. UWC has more resources (people and money) and greater clout at the national level. Unfortunately, I doubt these groups will be able to work together soon; Bridgerland Audubon is attempting to work with both groups as much as possible.

Then there are the Congressional proposals. Rep. Wayne Owens has introduced a bill (H.R. 1500) calling for 5.1 million acres of wilderness. Rep. James Hansen introduced a bill (H.R. 1501) that would establish 1.6 million acres of BLM wilderness in Utah. Bridgerland Audubon is supporting Owens' bill, but we recognize Hansen has made a legitimate proposal that is far better than the "no more wilderness" proposals of some (his bill just does not go far enough). Currently there is no companion Senate bill, so a BLM wilderness bill for Utah is not likely soon. Nevertheless, we encourage you to write Rep. Owens expressing support for his efforts on behalf of wilderness in Utah.

Enough said on the politics of wilderness. The main thing is to visit Utah's desert country, enjoy those lands, then speak out for them at every opportunity. A good wilderness bill will come of it.

— Bruce Pendery

HELP WANTED: LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

At November's planning meeting, it was agreed that we need someone to act as liaison between ourselves, Bridgerland Audubon Society, a group of 264-plus members, and our new lobbyist, Wayne Martinson. This person should be able to convey the collective opinion of the membership to Wayne, and relay to the group his requirements—backup with letters, phone calls, cookies.

This will involve much telephone work during legislative sessions in January and February. Also tact.

If you find it tantalizing to rub elbows with power, this is the job for you. It's a chance to be a valuable link in the chain as Utah Audubon Council organizes to make itself more effective in the state legislature. Call Val Grant, 752-7572, if you're interested.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Patricia Fullmer, Logan
Scott and Heidi George, Logan
Mary B. Hill, Wellsville
Louise Murch, Vernal
Paul Wilson, Logan
C. Fraley, Logan
Robert Hibbs, Logan
Craig McGregor, Thatcher, Idaho
Reed G. Crockett, Logan
Maureen E. Ellis, Salt Lake City
Beverly and Jerry Ridenhour, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS

Loila Rae and L. Desmond Anderson, Logan
Leroy B. Beasley, Logan
Diane Behl, Paradise
John and Coralie Beyers, Logan
Elizabeth Boeker, Logan
Max Elliot Brunson, Jr., Logan
Kevin Connors, Logan
Mr. Anthony P. Cowen, Logan
Maureen Edwards, Logan
Bill Ehmann, Logan
Mr. Al Forsyth, Logan
Terry Griswold, Wellsville
Joanne Hughes, Logan
Frederick F. Knowlton, Logan
Harriette A. Lanner, Logan
Gary and Naomi McKean, Logan
Mr. Richard Schreyer, Logan
Mrs. Rosalie Mueggler, Logan
Ivan G. Palmblad, Providence
Karen Peterson, Wellsville
David Skabelund, Logan
Douglas E. Thompson, Logan
The Vitale Family, Logan
Mrs. Elaine H. Watkins, Logan
Ms. Wendy Greene, Smithfield
Jillyn Smith, Logan

BY THE WAY . . .

Membership in Audubon is not a bad Christmas gift. It shows the recipient that you have good taste in magazines and planets. It shows you care, not only for the person, but also for that person's habitat. (Without which, as you know, living things don't do well.)

Furthermore, and very importantly, if you use the attractive order blank found on the inside back page of *The Stilt*, Bridgerland Audubon receives \$15 of the membership fee. That's almost 300 percent more than the \$5.50 the chapter derives if a member comes to us through national channels. Think about it.

ONE MORE THING . . .

There may be those for whom you're not ready to spend \$20 to improve their status and outlook. For this group of nonetheless worthy individuals, we offer a subscription to this publication, *The Stilt*, locally produced and pronounced, for a mere \$5. They will receive 10 issues, monthly except for July and August when we're outside playing, and they will benefit from all kinds of information pertinent to staying alive and happy. Don't let it be said that you're not willing to share a good thing. Call Al Stokes for details. 752-2702.

ABOUT BIRDS

HOTLINE (750-6325)

The hotline is a clearinghouse for all kinds of natural history information. Characteristically, hotlines handle news regarding unique and rare bird sightings, but I would like to extend our effort here to cover any unique or interesting sighting in the local area. Anyone seen a cougar? Bear tracks up the hollow? Let us know. "Rare," "unique," and "interesting" are, of course, defined in the mind of the beholder. That is you.

I remember a young girl, a student of mine, who came running out of the bush on a field trip, ecstatic with her sighting of a most rare and marvelous creature. "What did it look like?" I queried.

She went on to describe a beautiful bird. The most beautiful bird she had ever seen. It had long black-and-white wings and a black body. Well, not black, you see, for this bird when it turned in the sun was all the colors: violets, greens, and white like the sun itself. Most important was the long tail that grew wide like a fan and then narrow again, waving up and down.

"I believe that you've seen a magpie," I said.

"But is the magpie a beautiful bird, a special bird?" the young naturalist insisted.

As I assured her that indeed it was a beautiful and special bird that she had seen, I wondered how long it had been since I had actually *seen* an uncommon magpie? If you should see something special and beautiful, let us know.

Our thanks to our man in the field, Keith Archibald, who recently reported a number of beautiful and special sightings. As most birders know, the autumn migrations often ride on storm fronts. Taking advantage of this phenomenon, Keith surveyed the Logan sewage lagoons during the storms of October 28 and November 4. He reports that the lagoons gave shelter to thousands of birds on these days. Notable among his sightings were the following:

- White-winged Scoter
- Surf Scoter (second local sighting ever)
- Franklin's Gull and
- Bonaparte's Gull (both late for this time of year)
- Thayer's Gull (note the dark adult eye and pink legs. (This is the second or third sighting of this bird locally.)
- Herring Gull (immature)
- Snow Geese
- Greater Scaup (a bird scarce to this area)

Later, November 15, he reported seeing an oldsquaw, an Aleutian Island migrant sparse inland, and a Ross' goose.

On November 14, Ron and Larry Ryel reported seeing a snow bunting, also at the sewage lagoons.

During winter quarter I'm going to be getting educated during the bulk of the day, so a couple of other birders have volunteered to take hotline messages if I'm not available. You can call Val Grant at 753-5370, or Nancy Williams at 750-3299 (work) or 753-6268 (home).

Anyone reading this who would like to be included when hot birding tips are available can call me to get on the list. And be sure to give us a call if you see something noteworthy so we can pass the word along.

— Kayo Robertson

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

To Build and Have Not

Like, I'm a nice person, OK? And this advertisement said "Bring birds flocking to your lot with a bird house," right? And so I go "hey, like, far out! I'm a cool dude; I'll build a bird house." And so I, like, sent for the plans, you know?

And so the plans come, right? And like they really mean it: build a bird house, man. Far freakin' out! Like I thought, you know, stick it together, right? But hey, they mean build it, you know, like with sawing and stuff! And with wood, too, man, I mean, whoa, right? And so I go, "hey, like, you only live once, right?" And so I buy this wood, OK? and nails and stuff like that. And a pencil. And so I follow the directions, man, I mean like by the numbers, OK? Like first you got to measure stuff and draw lines and all that. And all the time I'm going, "hey, birds flocking to my lot! I mean far out! Birds, man!"

So I got all these, like, pieces, OK? Like maybe a bird house blew up. So they're on the garage floor, and it's getting really, like, cold, you know? And so I go, "Birds, I'm, like, counting on you, man."

Then the instructions—we're talkin' mega-instructions, here, with 5 or 6 steps, OK?—the instructions say I gotta like choose my bird. I'm like, "hey, what, whoa, choose my bird? Like how do I choose my bird, man? You mean they don't, like, all come flocking to my lot?" And so I keep reading this step, see, and pretty soon I see it: like birds can't read, you know? and so you tell 'em who the house is for by how big the little door hole is! Hey! Like a blue bird gets one size, OK? and a finch gets a different size and a parrot gets a different size.

I'm like, "oh, wow! Choose your bird! Man, I can dig that! Whoa, choose your bird, far out!" And so I go, "What kind of bird shall I, like, you know, choose, man?" And so I go "hey, I know: I'll choose a chickadee, 'cause

that's a three-syllable bird that I can, you know, spell." You know, I'm like, "Hey, I'm going to have like a million chickadees flocking to my lot, man!" And so I go, "Hey, like what size is a chickadee door?" And so I look at the instructions, and they say like 1 1/8 inches. And I'm like, "Hey, man, that's a tiny hole for a three-syllable bird, you know?" And so I put in a 1 1/8 inch hole, like they said, OK? And then I put all the pieces together with the nails I bought so I've got, like, three bird houses. All with chickadee-size holes in them. And so then I go out in the snow—did I tell you this was like, winter?—and climbed up in the spruce trees. I'm, like, freezing my own chickadee off, you know? And so I nail them in the trees, like the instructions said. Then I climb down and waited for the chickadees to start flocking to my lot.

This was, like, 1986.

How long are you supposed to, you know, like, wait?

—TJG

BIRD CHECKLIST TO BE UPDATED

The Board of Directors in their meeting on October 19, 1989, voted to update and republish the Cache County Bird checklist. This list was last done in 1980. Since that time, considerable birding has increased our knowledge in the county. Many new species have been seen and new information about occurrence is available. Keith Archibald has been appointed chairman of the committee in charge of revision. If you have input that you wish to give, please call Keith at 752-8258.

200 CLUB FOR ACTIVISTS

Every month at least one issue discussed in *The Stilt* needs support from the public: county planning, state sale of lands, ancient forests, acid rain. We urge you to express your opinions by mail, phone or personal impact (non-violent).

However, from experience, we know it's easier not to, and the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, and does it really make a difference anyway, and what's his address, and it's probably too late already, and maybe after we bake brownies, and oh yeah! I meant to but . . .

Well, we believe it *does* make a difference. Our representatives at all levels plead for information on their

constituents attitudes. Your opinion, expressed, is the power of democracy in action. Unexpressed, its an unlighted candle, an unring bell, an arrow in its quiver. Potential power. Zilch. Dead weight.

To encourage you to turn potential power into effective action, Bridgerland Audubon is forming the Activists 200 Club. Its purpose is to motivate and recognize activism, much as the Birders 200 Club motivates and recognizes accomplishment in birding.

How Does It Work?

Beginning in January 1990 (right now is close enough), every letter, phone call, hearing attended or other act of involvement on a public issue will count toward recognition in the Activists 200 Club. Like the birders, we'll recognize those who reach 100 with a report in *The Stilt*. Further persistence will merit a tangible award of some sort—details are being cogitated. Perhaps at 150 we'll give a certificate of achievement signed by Robert Redford, and at 200, a rhinestone tiara with a big "200" to glitter over your brow. After 200, who knows? You could become an Activist Emeritus, or a Grand Slam, perhaps. These things will be decided in due time.



What counts? Certainly any contact with a public servant concerning public issues. But what about persuading a neighbor to use safer pest control, or to start recycling? What about picking up litter? Planting a tree? A bush? A marigold? Suppose you clean your room, thereby promoting world peace? If you have questions, call 752-6561. Your query will be directed to a committee of wise people who will deliberate these matters.

Keep track of your efforts. The honor system will prevail, but a list of your deeds will inspire others and raise your own spirits when you wonder why you were born. You can apply for membership simply by calling *The Stilt* (752-6561) and saying you plan to participate.

We want to encourage and recognize the valuable work that goes into bringing about positive change. As we head into the 90s, let's all renew our efforts, and perhaps when we come to 2000, we can feel more hopeful about the future than we can right now, with so many of our resources in precarious situations.

Best wishes for a sustained, productive effort—and thank you for caring enough to take action.

—Pat Gordon

FOR EXAMPLE . . .

At November's monthly meeting, the Audubon Special "Rage Over Trees" was shown. It was a video of the original program aired on TNT. This was a very generous act, as sponsorship was withdrawn shortly before the film was scheduled to be broadcast. It was a tremendous gesture of support for Audubon's public awareness efforts.

You can thank Mr. Turner by writing to Ted Turner, Turner Broadcasting, One CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia 30348-5366.

If you have not seen the video, it's available for the asking. Call Tom or Pat Gordon at 752-6561.

RECYCLING CAN BE PAINLESS

It really can. There are adjustments to be made, but amazingly it can become second nature. Recycling was something my parents did, long before it was trendy or even "necessary." My mother reused aluminum foil until it fell apart, and she never bought those convenient plastic food containers, like other mothers did. Instead she had the audacity to use mayonnaise jars and margarine containers! We were embarrassed to have our friends over because they thought she was pretty weird. But now I'm convinced she was just ahead of her time.

When I recently discussed recycling with my parents, my dad told me that 25 years ago, during the plastics boom, my mom wondered how people were going to deal with all those indestructible plastic products.

My parents were adamant conservationists when we were growing up in Southern California; my dad insisted we turn off the water while brushing our teeth and shampooing our hair! This was long before the water crisis was apparent in this area.

These values have stayed with me, and I was fortunate to have been brought up in that environment. Not everyone has had this kind of exposure, but I am confident that we all can incorporate recycling into our lifestyle. It can eventually become second nature.

It's not always easy to adopt new habits. My dentist told me to start flossing or end up with gum disease. Even though it takes little time to floss, it was at least two years before I made it part of my routine.

Awareness of the problem and ways to solve it are essential. I'm acutely aware of the waste every time I

take my dog for a walk on trash day. I am amazed at what people throw away—how much of it could be used again by someone or could be recycled. I had a geology teacher who eloquently stated, "We don't dispose of trash. we just redistribute it."

And we do have limited space on this planet. Burying it in the ground doesn't make it go away, nor does shooting it into space, sinking it in the ocean, or floating it on a barge. I sometimes think we're going to end up like the guinea pigs I had as a kid, when I went a week without cleaning their cage. They end up living in their own refuse. Look at the oceans and rivers we can't swim in. How many of you have cut your feet on glass in a creek or lake? I used to get oil on me when I swam in the ocean in Southern California.

We all need to think twice before throwing something away, and have different containers for each category of trash. And when friends come over and see that recycling works, they may want to do it also. I notice that I inspire others without being sanctimonious or preachy about it. No one likes to be told what to do, but they can learn by example.

When I moved to Logan, my boss had a bunch of glass jars and yogurt containers rattling around in his trunk. He was taking them to one of the grade schools on campus to be reused. That got me thinking, so I started collecting the same containers and giving them to the Children's House on campus. That led to recycling newspapers at work, with the help of Beth in the front office.

Pretty soon, one of the employees said Allsops (Mountain Fiber) would also take other paper products such as magazines, cardboard, envelopes, etc. Well, that really got me into full swing and I started a paper product recycling bag at home, along with drop boxes at work for xerox paper, computer paper, and other types of paper products (to go to Allsops).

I then discovered outlets in Salt Lake City (New Frontiers Market, Cheap Sports) that have bins for glass and plastics (hard containers including milk cartons and soda pop containers). So I refined my sorting process

Also heading in this same direction were my neighbors, and some friends. My neighbor approached me this summer about getting a recycling co-op started. We both have garages for storage, and we also go to SLC frequently. We figure that rotating the run to the recycling bins would lessen the burden while providing a service to recyclers who don't get to SLC a lot and therefore don't recycle as much.

Then we heard about the recycling effort on campus, and I had to get involved with that. It has evolved into the Cache Recycling Coalition, with a student chapter.

We want to get all of Cache Valley involved. This includes businesses, community and church groups, but most of all, each individual.

If there is a drop site with bins for different recyclables, people will be more apt to save and deposit all the "trash" that normally goes to the dump. And we know our landfill is getting full. The city of Logan is now planning a sorting facility at the landfill. We are very encouraged by this and hope that people will respond. I have been asked by several people to have a list of "how-to-recycle" tips. Hopefully that can be in the next issue. Until then, think before you toss something —maybe it can be recycled!

— Mary Manning

Mary Manning is an ecologist working for the regional office of the Forest Service. She is currently working on riparian classification for Nevada. She also serves as publicity awareness chair for the Cache Recycling Coalition.

Bridgerland Audubon Society, in support of the Cache Recycling Coalition (CRC), will be selling Christmas cards as part of CRC's fund raising activities to help promote recycling in the Cache Valley area. Cards are printed on 100 percent recycled paper and will be available for the cost of \$5.00 for a package of 6 cards or \$1.00 each. The cards (shown below) were designed by Jane O'Keefe of Logan, a supporting member of the CRC. Let's do what we can to help promote recycling in the Valley and throughout Utah.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Quantity _____ packs @\$5.00 each Total _____

Quantity _____ cards @\$1.00 each Total _____

Christmas cards can be ordered from Mary Manning, 860 North 1200 East, Logan, UT 84321 (752-1311 days, 753-1329 eves) or Susan Crook (753-3257 between 5 & 9 p.m. weekdays). All proceeds go toward the Cache Recycling Coalition (a non-profit organization).

BINOCULARS NEED SERVICE?

Your binocs are no better than the care that you take of them. Binocs need periodic cleaning and alignment. For Bushnell and Bausch & Lomb write to:

D.P. Bushnell and Co.
627 Bushnell Sq.
2828 East Foothill Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107

For ZEISS write to:

Carl Zeiss
1015 Commerce
Petersburg, VA 23803

SUNFLOWER SEEDS AVAILABLE

Sunflower seeds are available at three sources: Sunrise Cyclery - 138 North 100 East in Logan; Elaine Watkins - 1236 East 1900 North in North Logan; and Al Stokes - 1722 Saddle Hill Drive. Al Stokes has 24-hour a day self-service. No need to call. Price is \$18 per 50 pound bag with a refund of \$1 for every good large bag.

LOBBYIST HIRED: MORE HELP WANTED

After considering 25 applicants, the Utah Audubon Coordinating Committee has selected a lobbyist to work at the 1990 state legislature. He is Wayne Martinson of Salt Lake City. The Coordinating Committee had a hard choice. Of the five finalists we interviewed, all were eminently qualified, with perhaps 20 years combined experience working at the state legislature among them. We were amazed at the quality of the applicants, and especially their deep personal commitment to environmental protection.

Wayne was our choice, however, and with him as point man we look forward to increased visibility and effectiveness at the state legislature. It is tempting—and mistaken—to think "Well, now that we've got a lobbyist at the legislature 'good' bills will pour forth." Nothing could be further from the truth. Wayne will only be as effective as we make him. It's the folks back home whom a legislator cares—or worries—about, not lobbyists.

So, we have to organize to ensure that Cache Valley's legislators (Sens. Holmgren and Hillyard, and Reps. Prante, Olsen, and Bodily) know where you stand on the many important bills that will face the legislature. These include Bear River dam projects, nongame wildlife funding, recycling, public health (air pollution and toxics), and others. Unfortunately, fast moving bills and limited resources will not let us contact each of you individually. Therefore, if you are willing to call or write your legislator on a bill, please fill out and return this coupon.

Yes! I want to become more informed on issues facing the state legislature and contact my legislator when needed.

Issues I'm interested in:

Bear River Dams _____ Public Health _____

Recycling _____ Nongame _____ All _____

I am also willing to call other BAS members to notify them about pending actions _____

Name and Address _____

Phone () _____

Representative (if known) _____

Senator (if known) _____

Return Coupon to: Alice Lindahl
730 Hillcrest Ave.
Logan, UT 84321

Wayne will talk with the legislators, and let us know where a bill stands and whether it can be supported or not. We will make sure you get more information and let you know when you can help most. You have to make the phone call.

We're looking forward to this new level of involvement in Utah's future. It should be exciting.

— Bruce Pendery

INTERESTED IN DIAPER SERVICE?

Did you know that Logan *had* a diaper service? However, in February of this year the service was stopped due to lack of interest. If we can gather 100 or more people, they (Logan Laundry) will resume the service. Presently they have approximately 20 people. We need this economical, sanitary, environmentally safe method of handling diapers. Besides, it's convenient: they deliver, and supply a diaper pail and deodorizer, while saving you the expense, time and energy of washing and drying scads of diapers. (Or the expense, time and energy of paying and shopping for disposables.) (Excuse my language.) If you or your friends would like to sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact Pam Repko at 753-6786.

A SCHOLARSHIP WINNER REPORTS

It is amazing for me to think that just one year ago I had never dealt with the local Audubon Chapter. As a school teacher in Cache Valley, I have tried to work environmental education into my classroom in almost all subject areas. I've taken fifth graders to Yellowstone and to the Teton Science School, yet I wasn't even aware of the good things that were being done by people in my own backyard!

That changed when I was told of your scholarship program for educators. Although not a member, the local chapter seemed to welcome my interest in applying for this chance to sharpen my knowledge in science, the environment, and my ability to teach my students.

After receiving notification of my acceptance, I got down to the business of deciding which of the many educational opportunities available I would attend. I decided

EDUCATION

to revisit the Teton Science School. This choice proved to be a wise one. The training I received (as well as the first-hand experience) will definitely benefit my students as I prepare them for another winter experience there this winter.

My first course was a "Wildlife Canoe Trip" on Two Ocean Lake in the northeast corner of Grand Teton National Park. This day raised my appreciation level for the wisdom of setting aside land for the benefit of all living things. My companions and I watched moose, muskrat, trumpeter swans, beaver, and one very unconcerned grizzly. The beauty, harmony, and satisfaction were motivating as I enhanced my feelings for teaching of "our" place in the natural world.

My next course wasn't to take place for several more days. This gave me many chances to explore the living and non-living elements of Jackson Hole. Although I had spent many days in the area before, the chance to wander alone with no set schedule was a first. While there I was also able to make arrangements for my Cache Valley students for the next year at the Teton Science School.

My next course was "Alpine Ecology." This day was spent at the 10,000 foot level atop Rendezvous Mountain (via the Teton Village ski tram). My vision of plant and animal adaptation was certainly opened up! The variety of life at the alpine and sub-alpine elevations is spectacular. The broad views were wonderful, but the close-ups on plants that struggle and adapt has changed the way I will teach my students about the "plant world" and our responsibilities towards it.

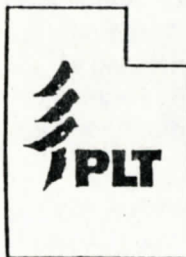
I hate to be too dramatic, but I want the people who support the Audubon Society to know how much I appreciate the good work they do. The money that was spent for my scholarship was not wasted. The knowledge and feelings that I have brought back will be translated into action in my classroom. I have a great deal of respect for people like yourselves who don't just talk—you put your feelings into action. For my self and my students, thanks!

— Steve Archibald

This article was submitted to the Bridgerland Audubon Education Committee by Steve Archibald, fifth grade teacher at Edith Bowen Lab School. Steve was one of four recipients of the summer educator scholarships through Bridgerland Audubon. This article for The Stilt is one of the requirements for scholarship recipients.

Steve is an enthusiastic supporter of environmental education in Cache Valley, a member of Audubon Adventures, and advisor for the fifth grade Science Club at Edith Bowen School.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE WORKSHOP



GOAL FOR PROJECT LEARNING TREE

To help students in grades K-12 become aware of their presence in the environment, their impact upon it, and their responsibility for it, and to develop the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the use and management of the environment—and the confidence to take action on their decisions.

Project Learning Tree of Utah and Edith Bowen Lab School are sponsoring a Project Learning Tree workshop on January 12 and 13, 1990, for teachers, community group leaders, and interested educators. Project Learning Tree, PLT, is an award-winning environmental education program designed to help educators teach basic science concepts as well as environmental issues. PLT helps children to develop the awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment necessary to make wise decisions about the use of the earth's natural resources.

Project Learning Tree, which focuses on trees and the forest environment as a content theme, is a forerunner of the popular Project WILD curriculum, which focuses on wildlife issues. The two programs complement each other nicely, and provide teachers with an excellent framework for the interdisciplinary teaching of hands-on science. PLT activities are useful for instruction in social science, natural science, mathematics, physical science, PE, art, and language arts. PLT is designed for all grade levels as well as for scout organizations, home school instructors, and adult audiences. PLT is also applicable to children with special needs.

The workshop is a dynamic, "hands-on" approach to teaching environmental science, and is a great place for teachers and other educators to get together and share ideas. Workshop participants will receive a curriculum activity guide, as well as many free packaged resources to be used in the classroom. Unlike many "hands-on" science workshops, PLT also reviews topics and presents activities to build presentation and feedback skills, higher level learning and critical thinking skills, cooperative learning, and strategies to make science "fun."

The 10-hour workshop will offer optional graduate or recertification credit. For more information, call Karen Matsumoto-Grah at 750-3468. More details will be available in the next issue of The Stilt.

NEW WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA NEAR RICHMOND

The Division of Wildlife Resources has made an excellent move. In September they dedicated a new wildlife management area (WMA) near Richmond. The 1875-acre parcel of benchland was purchased in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for wildlife habitat and recreational use under the federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration program.

This is particularly significant, as the bench areas are prime targets for development. This is the newest of several such areas administered by the DWR, and will be developed primarily for use by wintering elk and deer.

Members of the Cache Valley and Richmond Wildlife Federation chapters will assist the DWR in managing the area. With their assistance, the DWR will initiate a short-term, winter elk feeding program in the Cherry Creek area until sufficient natural forage can be developed to sustain the herd.

— Bruce Pendery

BOOK REVIEW

On the Wing

The Life of Birds: From Feathers to Flight

by Bruce Brooks

Humans will always be fascinated by birds, Bruce Brooks, author of *On the Wing*, explains, "There are not many activities we can do over and over again from childhood to later life without losing the innocent wonder that drew us in the first time. We learn to zero in on the secret attractions of things and explain them, and thus we grow harder to surprise; we learn habits of perception that tempt us to focus on the familiar and ignore differences, and thus grow harder to fascinate. This happens to us with the seasons, the arts, the food we eat, the people we see. But it never seems to happen with watching animals." In *On the Wing*, author Brooks sets out to capture and preserve the reader's "sense of wonder" and at the same time, establish an empathy for birds. He does this through artful storytelling about the natural history of birds, from the evolution of the feather to the adventure stories of shrikes, hornbills, and bowerbirds.

A tie-in to the PBS series *Nature*, *On the Wing* is an in-

depth examination of the physical make-up and behavior of birds. Author Brooks sets out to construct a bird "from scratch," exploring how a bird works together as a whole.

With over 150 color photographs, this book is a wonderful pictorial companion to Welty's *Life of Birds*, and an essential for birding enthusiasts. Brooks begins his book with a fascinating account of the evolution of birds, and continues taking the reader through the adventures of the adaptations of flight, feeding strategies of birds, nest building, raising young, and the "coexistence" of birds and humans.

Little-known facts and "bird hero stories" such as the woodpeckers who saved the Englemann spruce forests in Colorado, really make this book a gem for educators and bird trivia fans! *On the Wing*, like its television counterpart, *Nature*, not only examines the lives of birds in detail, but in a digestible format that is fun to read for the whole family.

Bruce Brooks is an award-winning novelist who first started writing about birds in 1973 as a reporter for the *Vineyard Gazette*, a newspaper that bumped Watergate

... an essential for
birding enthusiasts.

off the headlines to feature a story on a mating pair of marsh hawks! Brooks has observed birds across the Americas, Europe, and the Caribbean, and spent a summer studying ospreys on an island in Penobscot Bay. Brooks is also the author of three novels. He now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Brooks states, "This book should not teach anyone to feel secure in a comprehensive knowledge about birds. It should teach us all to be delighted that we can never find out enough. This, I have discovered, is what ornithologists have in common—in fact, it is why most have chosen to be ornithologists. As one of them told me, 'I never want to know everything: I just want to see it all out there tempting me to chase it. A complete understanding of birds is as hard to catch as a flying goldfinch.' I hope *On the Wing* starts you off on a lifelong merry chase."

Bridgerland Audubon has donated copies of *On the Wing* to Logan Library and the Anne Carol Moore Library at Edith Bowen School.

— Karen Matsumoto-Grah
Education Chair

MORE THAN JUST "A BOOK STORE"

When I went into A Book Store a couple of weeks ago, Diane Browning and Jan Tucker were sitting on the floor opening boxes and cataloging books, exclaiming over them, handling them carefully like treasures. Diane opened one package and jumped up to play *The Polar Express* cassette from the tape/children's book/gift package, read by William Hurt. We listened, entranced, as the train whistled and chugged through the dark carrying a small boy to the North Pole.

It's Christmas every day at A Book Store. Diane has about 20,000 titles in stock, and new books, cards and posters come in daily.

Cookies often sit on the counter, and tea is appropriately available in the room with the cookbooks. The card collection includes Earth Notes, printed on recycled paper. The store is guarded by Juniper, the book store cat, who is often carried around by customers, one of whom asked to please have her detached from his shoulder so he could buy his books.

Diane and Jan can talk about all the books, because they've read them, or they've read about them in *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, the *New York Review of Books* and the *New York Times Book Review*. Or they know what their customers have to say about them. Their love and enthusiasm for books is as palpable as Juniper.

"We're very receptive to suggestions by customers," Diane says. "We rely a lot on word of mouth. We get books people tell us are good, and books we've seen other places." It seems that Diane and Jan can always find the difficult books, books from small presses or unusual sources, and their special orders arrive quickly.

How many bookstores say to people, "I thought of you when this book came in?" or sometimes, "You must read this book. Take my copy."

Diane knows I have an 8-year-old nephew I often buy books for. Among the books she steered me toward was *The Great Waldo Search* by Martin Handford. Bryan loved it, and it alternately amused the dozen adults in my family over the Thanksgiving holiday.

A Book Store's selection for children is unusual because it includes so many good nonfiction books in nature and science. Next time Bryan gets one of the Eyewitness Books, a series for children that includes titles such as *Pond*, *Birds*, *Music*, *Seashore*, *Sports*, *Flag*, and *Early Man*. The illustrations are spectacular. Then again, maybe *The Eleventh Hour* elephant mystery book. But who gets *Princess Furball*?

A Book Store specializes in natural history, regional history, children's books and contemporary fiction, with "lots of things in between." I've built my collection of "how-to" writing books from A Book Store.

The natural history section is rich with field guides, essays, personal accounts, photography, and books by authors who have read from their work in A Book Store. In the latter category is Diane's "personal favorite," Thomas J. Lyon's *This Incomparable Land: A Book of American Nature Writing*, along with Terry Tempest Williams' and John Telford's *Coyote's Canyon*, a book of stories and photographs.

Some new books in natural history: *The Island Within* by cultural anthropologist Richard Nelson, about Alaska; *The Stars, the Snow, the Fire* by John Haines, also about Alaska; *Great Plains* by Ian Frazier; *Colors in the Wild* published by the National Wildlife Federation; and *Images of Nature*, photographs by Thomas D. Mangelsen.

(In the "in-between," I must mention the Tony Hillerman trilogy; *Eva Luna*, by Isabel Allende, a female Gabriel Garcia Marquez; *Green Fried Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*, by Fannie Flagg, in which a 40-year-old woman is told amazing stories by a nursing home resident; *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, about exactly that, by Allan Gurgania; and Umberto Eco's latest, *Foucault's Pendulum*.)

A Book Store, sometimes in conjunction with organizations such as the Utah Arts Council and the local chapter of the American Association of University Women, has sponsored a number of "author nights" over the last two years. Usually on Friday evenings about once a month, the readings run the gamut: poetry, fiction, nonfiction, young adult and children's books. In November, Margaret Rostkowski, Ogden English teacher and writer for young adults, read from her award-winning *After the Dancing Days*.

On December 15 at 7 p.m., Linda Sillitoe, co-author with Allen D. Roberts of *Salamander*, will read at A Book Store.

In October, A Book Store began a "Sunday Afternoon Coffeehouse" program, which features readings and storytelling by local people on the last Sunday of every month. In the first program, folklorist Ona Siporin told Halloween stories to a standing-room-only crowd. November featured three writers/actors, Ken Brewer, Dave Weamer and Jay Butler, reading from Paul Fleishman's Newberry Award Book, *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*.

On the afternoon of Christmas Eve, Logan writer and historian Robert Cole will read Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.

The January coffeehouse program features Helen Cannon, and Les Foote's band will play in February.

— Jillyn Smith

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: 90 AND COUNTING!

On the eve of the new century, 90 years ago, Frank M. Chapman, then editor of *Bird Lore*, (precursor to our own *Audubon* magazine), had an idea that brightened an otherwise cold and blustery winter's day.

Rather than partaking in the traditional "Christmas Side Hunt" of birds, why not go out and take a census of them? Everyone could participate—old and young, women and men—and it would be a lot more fun for the birds!

So the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count was born, the most popular outdoor activity of its kind in the world. Twenty-seven birdwatchers pioneered that first count; today, more than 42,000 people are expected to brave sometimes inclement weather in search of their feathered friends. There are Christmas counts in all 50 states, in Canada, in Mexico and Central America, and in South America. All together, these counts will tally hundreds of species and millions of individual birds.

The rules for conducting a Christmas Bird Count are simple: each count selects a date within a two-and-a-half week period around Christmas (this year, December 16, 1989 through January 3, 1990). Each count area is restricted to a circle 15 miles in diameter, and no two count areas may overlap. Within the chosen 24-hour period, birders scour the area looking for as many species and individuals as they can spot. While not in the official rules, most counts end with a hearty, well-deserved dinner where the final results are compiled.

Because of its longevity and durability—90 uninterrupted years—the Christmas Bird Count has contributed a data base of immense importance to researchers and wildlife biologists. Its picture of early-winter avian population trends, published exclusively in Audubon's ornithological field journal, *American Birds*, is helping scientists determine the relative abundance of many species and may even lead to winning endangered species status for some.

Anyone and everyone can take part in the Christmas Bird Count. To find out the date and particulars of the count in your area, contact this chapter, or write Christmas Bird Count, American Birds, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Good Birding!

— NAS Citizen Science

SNOWBASIN RESORT EXPANSION

How Will It Affect Wildlife?

A proposal has been made to expand the Snowbasin Ski Area into a year-round resort. This would involve the transfer of 1320 acres of wildlife habitat (currently U.S. Forest Service land) into private ownership. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement released by the Forest Service contains no preferred alternative.

Public meetings were held in November for all interested parties.

To obtain a copy of the DEIS to judge whether the impacts have been properly evaluated, write:

Dale N. Bosworth, Forest Supervisor
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Room 8320 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84318

Written comments must be received at the above address by December 29, 1989.

— Steve Flint

THE DESERT TORTOISE

Endangered Reptile?

The desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) is the largest reptile in the arid southwestern United States. It occupied historically a range that included a variety of desert communities in southeastern California, southern Nevada, western and southern Arizona, southwestern Utah, and throughout Sonora and northern Sinaloa, Mexico. Today it can still be found in most of these areas, although the populations are now largely fragmented and apparently declining over most of its former range.

Tortoises spend much of their lives in underground burrows which they excavate to escape the harsh summer and winter weather conditions of the desert. These animals usually emerge in late winter or early spring and again in autumn to feed and mate, although they may be active during the summer at times when temperatures are moderate. Tortoises are vegetarians, eating a wide variety of herbaceous vegetation, especially flowers of annual plants.

This slow-moving animal is vulnerable to a number of threats to the long-term survival of the species. The

See calendar entry on page 2—Saturday, December 16.

major problems include loss or degradation of habitat due to use of off-road vehicles, desert training maneuvers, various kinds of mining, grazing and other agricultural and residential development; "taking" (kill, collection) of individuals; excessive predation by other species, especially ravens; and fragmentation of habitat that can result from any of these factors.

More recently an unknown respiratory disease has been found in wild animals in a number of locations through much of the tortoises' range. This apparently fatal disease is believed to be spreading in the wild population, threatening to reach epidemic proportions.

Temporary Protection

Given the continued habitat loss and the rapid decline in numbers of tortoises brought about by the disease, the Fish and Wildlife Service determined tortoise populations north and west of the Colorado River to be an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. This emergency status will remain effective for 240 days, until April 1, 1990. On October 13, 1989, the Service officially proposed the Mojave population for endangered status.

Under the emergency provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the Mojave desert tortoise population receives the full protection given to any listed species. This protection includes a prohibition on "taking," which includes harming, killing or harassing desert tortoises or removing them from the wild. The "taking" prohibition applies to activities by public agencies, private enterprises or individuals. Each violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$50,000 and up to one year in jail.

The opportunity is available for interested people and organizations to present the Service with any additional information regarding the proposed listing of the Mojave population as an endangered species. The public comment period will last 90 days, ending on January 11, 1990. New or additional biological data and critiques of the Service's proposal and recent status review are encouraged.

Comments can be submitted to:

Salt Lake City Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2078 Administration Building
1745 West 1700 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104-5110

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
Conservation	Alice Lindhal, 753-7744
Education	Karen Matsumoto-Grah, 750-3468
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Pat Gordon, 752-6561
Circulation	Mike Jablonski, 752-0536
Publicity	Bruce Pendery, 750-0253
Hospitality	Mae & Merv Coover
Hotline	Kayo Robertson, 750-6325
Recycling	Marvin & Irma Moon, 753-4698
Board of Directors	87-90 John Barnes, 563-3910
	88-91 Dianne Browning, 752-5946
	88-91 Ron Ryel, 753-6077
	89-92 John Sigler, 753-5879
	89-92 Larry Ryel, 753-8479
	Cynthia Kerbs, 752-3251
	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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

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:

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Data Center

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

LOCAL CHAPTER _____

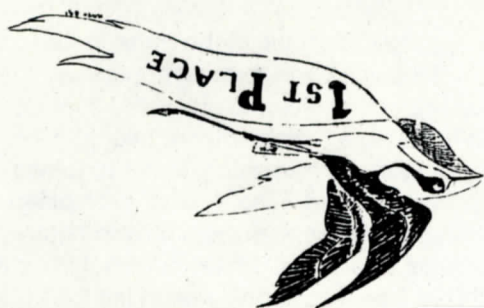


Bridgerland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84321

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER
— FOR CHAPTERS OF 300 OR FEWER MEMBERS—FIRST PLACE—1989 —



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

In this issue:

A Christmas Treasure—
Tom Lyon's Wilderness Essay

Help For Your Binoculars

A Report from TJG

... and much much more!