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June 1990

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON PADDLES THE BEAR

By Elizabeth T. Walker

was a motley and jovial crew of 23 (including two couples from Salt Lake and several international students from USU) that paddle-powered nine canoes down 15 miles of the Bear River on a recent Saturday morning. From Trenton to Amalga, the intrepid paddlers observed, analyzed and identified evidence of bird and wildlife activity taking place along and above the river's banks. The threat of dark clouds, blustery winds, intermittent rain spits and occasional thunder rumbles proved empty until the very last moments of this wonderful trip.

Trip leader Al Stokes challenged his fellow paddlers to discover the animals and birds that call the banks of the Bear River home. Using tracks, scat, dens and gnawed trees as clues, it was determined that beavers, badgers, muskrats and foxes reside along the Bear River banks. During our lunch break, across from the heron rookery, pheasant feathers and fish bones were spied at the mouth of a den. This evidence suggested the home of a fox. (I was told that the hardy group that took to the river the following morning actually observed a mother fox and three pups just north of the Trenton bridge where they put in.)

The birding was abundant. Prior to firing up our canoes, I led the group under the Trenton bridge to observe the differences in the nest-building habits of barn swallows and cliff swallows. Once on the water, the more experienced birders among us were called upon to

distinguish among the different hawks that were sighted. Tom Gordon noted the "headlight" that indicates a Swainson's hawk. Flocks of Canada geese, ibis, great blue herons, a lone pelican, U.F.O. ducks and killdeer were also spotted.

After lunch, at least four great horned owls were observed perched in a large dead tree. Earlier, Al had pointed out several large magpie nests that great horned owls had commandeered. Apparently, the owls can't build nests of their own. We also spent some time on the river bank across from the heron rookery. Though 103 nests were counted, it appeared that only 40 were active. (This number may be disputed. No two group members counted the same number of active nests—the range was 25 to 43.) Al explained that the concentration of heron droppings eventually kills the trees, and the herons must seek new nesting sites.

Please see PADDLE on page 3.

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CALENDAR



Saturday, June 16. The Audubon Junior Naturalist Program will meet every other week during the summer as follows: Saturday, June 16; Monday, June 25; Saturday, July 14; Monday, July 23; Saturday, August 11.

We will meet weekly in September to prepare for our trip to Yellowstone National Park. Meeting places will vary; please call Steve Archibald (753-8488) before each meeting. Times and meeting places will also be announced at each prior meeting.

Thursday, June 21, 9 a.m. Crane Hunt Hearing. The Utah Wildlife Board makes the decision on whether or not to approve the hunt at the yearly small game hearing. Speak at the hearing. Ask the board to require that Utah data be used to justify a hunt, and insist that Utah data be made available. The hearing will be held in the Division of Wildlife Resources Auditorium, 1596 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Call Alice Lindahl (753-7744) to arrange carpooling.

Friday, Saturday, July 13, 14. Project Learning Tree Workshop. College of Natural Resources, Utah State campus. This workshop is designed for teachers, community group leaders, and interested educators. PLT is an award-winning environmental education program designed to help educators teach basic science concepts as well as environmental issues. PLT helps children develop awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment necessary to make wise decisions about the use of the earth's natural resources. The 10-hour workshop will offer optional graduate or recertification credit. To register, call Karen Matsumoto-Grah at 752-2197.

Saturday, July 14. Bridgerland Audubon Garage Sale. 9 a.m. till we feel like quitting. Items are accumulating—including a Franklin stove and cement blocks. Donations are welcome at this point. All saleable goods are appreciated. Dale and Cynthia Kerbs (752-3251) can pick up items you wish to part from. We also need to borrow portable tables or sawhorses and boards. This merchandising carnival is held to raise money to pay our lobbyist to represent our interests at the State Legislature. All saleable goods are appreciated. 718 North 200 East, Logan. And don't forget to come with money!

Friday, August 11. Education Committee Potluck Meeting. Tony Grove. Call Karen Matsumoto-Grah at 752-2197 for more details.

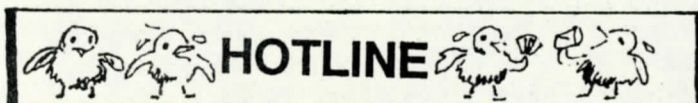
Wednesday, August 15. Deadline for September *Stilt* submissions.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Cleo T. Brown, Providence
Ron Brown, Logan
Debby Darby, Logan
Paulene A. Gregory, Newton
Lois Olsen, Logan
John Van Niel, Logan
Gary Pedersen, Richmond
Martha Stephens, Montpelier, Idaho
Kass M. Tebbs, Logan
David Whipple

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Michael C. Amacher, Logan
Mr. and Mrs. John Barnes, Smithfield
Nolan Bingham, Smithfield
Jillyn Carpenter, Logan
Jeanne C. Chambers, Logan
M. Christiansen, Logan
Mrs. Hiram E. Dalton, Logan
Mr. P. Sutton Finch, Whitefish, Montana
C. Val Grant, Logan
Mrs. Bernard Hayes, Logan
James A. Hoffman and
Sharon Smock Hoffman, Hanalei, Hawaii
David F. Lancy, Logan
Alice Lindahl, Logan
Jillyn Smith, Logan
Nadene Steinhoff, Logan
Mrs. L.A. Stoddart, Logan
Diane F. Wittkopf, Smithfield



The most startling sighting reported to the hotline this month was a common egret first spotted along the Valley View Highway by Tom Lyons and later near Benson by Nancy Williams. Lyons indicates that he has seen another common egret in the valley in the early '70s.

Nancy Williams reports an osprey near Mendon and a Forster's tern near Benson. She says kingbirds seem to be plentiful in the west part of the valley.

Newcomers to the area, for me, are the cattle egrets. I was asked to be on the lookout for this bird in the '70s by a biologist friend. I now see that they are abundant almost everywhere. At present, the snowies are also in residence.

Thanks for your calls.

—Kayo

HOTLINE NUMBERS

Kayo Robertson, 752-3944; Nancy Williams, 753-6268; Val Grant, 753-5370.

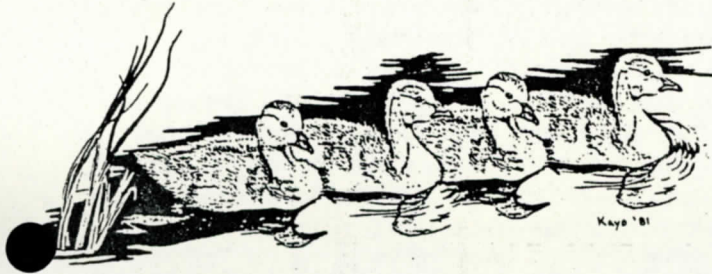
PADDLE

From page one

There is, however, no question about the combined number of sightings for the two weekend trips. Forty-seven bird species were observed. The great horned owls were the highlight of my trip.

As the recorder (sans notebook and pen) for Saturday's jaunt, I was awarded a great horned owl pellet. It was strongly suggested that I dismantle it and report my findings herein. Pansy that I am, I have yet to tear into it to discover first-hand (literally) what pleases a great horned owl's palate. It is still sitting in a baggie on my kitchen counter. It appears to be looming larger every day. I will gladly pass it on to anyone who is more mature than I about these things. (Call 1-800-PELLET)

Despite the intrusion of a great horned owl pellet into my life, I enjoyed my day on the Bear River immensely. I can't think of a better investment of a Saturday than to spend it with a fine bunch of fellow paddlers poking around a river bank with Al Stokes.



A family of goslings kept pace with our canoes as their agitated parents watched from a distance

BIRDING IN WILLOW PARK

Willow Park Zoo has recently published a checklist of wild birds seen there. There are 77 birds on the list, including eared grebe, wood duck, white-winged scoter, turkey vulture, screech owl, lazuli bunting, pine grosbeak, and vesper sparrow. Dale Ashcroft, zookeeper, has been seeing a Lewis woodpecker down there this spring. Ask at the zoo office (near the monkeys and parakeets) for the list.

CHALLENGE TO BIRDERS

Al Stokes has thrown down the gauntlet to all birders worth their field guides. He directs attention to pages 81-82 of the May *Audubon* magazine. You will notice a picture of many birds, stylized, by artist C. Harper. How many can you identify? That is the question. Send your lists to Al, 1722 Saddle Hill Drive, Logan, Utah 84321. The winner (or winners) will receive the ultimate glory—recognition of their achievement in *The Stilt*. Please respond by August 1. Good luck, undaunted

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

Life, Death, and Lunch

When I was a child I thought it was close to a miracle that birds came to eat bread crumbs my grandfather scattered. I think back on my childish wonder with amusement—and some regret at the loss of a child's wonder. But at least I can still feed the birds. I have feeders for finches, siskins, an occasional sparrow and (in season) grosbeaks. Recently I've fed a few goldfinches. And a lazuli bunting.

Unfortunately, I also have cat feeders, where I serve up finches, siskins, etc.

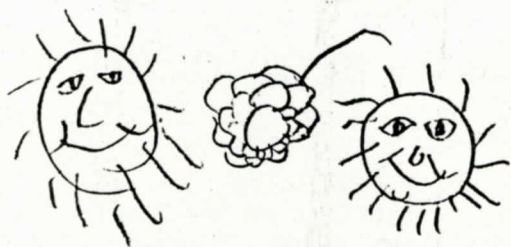
We have two cats of our own, but they are no problem. They're old. One was a reject from the ark who survived by standing on the pile of unicorns. She stands on top of me whenever she can. The other is younger, but she's either simple or she never studied cat. Her idea of interaction with birds is to lie down in the bird bath. Anyway, both cats have been declawed, so the worst they could do is to give a bird a good pummeling.

No, it's the neighbor cats. One is a slim black cat that drifts in on little fog feet, wafting through the red-osier dogwood. His eyes are exactly the color of dogwood leaves; when you look at him, you seem to see right through him, like smoke, and aren't sure you see him at all. This ninja-cat briefly coalesces under a backyard feeder, envelops a bird, and vanishes. No disturbance; a shark would make more fuss taking a minnow than this wraith makes taking a grosbeak.

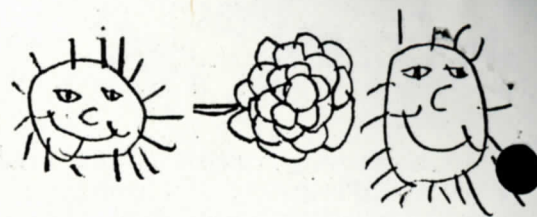
Then there's an orange tabby the size of a condominium. He looks as if he'd swallowed a hand grenade and stopped the ensuing explosion mid-boom. He pounds across the street, rattling windows, and stretches out Sphinx-like beneath the feeder. Actually, I think he's less interested in birds than in image. He sits quietly, slowly turning his noble visage this way and that, regarding the world benignly through droop-lidded eyes, and I don't think he's much of a threat to the birds unless he sits on one. Still, he is a cat at the bird feeder.

Occasionally a black and white cat tries his luck. This cat is not spotted, striped, or pinto. This cat looks like a medical experiment: it's divided along the belt line; it wears black pants and a white shirt. Remember in art class, they told you that light colors advance and dark colors recede? This cat looks like it's revolving. It reminds me of one of those optical illusions that looks either like a little old lady or a turnip, depending. It really confuses the birds. They stop eating and begin to argue about whether it's coming or going, and pretty soon there's one missing bird.

I throw things to discourage the cats. Unfortunately, all I have to throw are handfuls of dirt, which make unsatisfactory missiles that rather amuse the cats. Sometimes I yell at them and chase across the yard after them. I've thought about buying a slingshot, but the only time I ever used one, I nearly broke my nose. If it deters the cats only momentarily, at least it keeps the neighbors entertained.



SUMMER FIELD TRIPS



SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, June 14, 21, and 28. Birding Trips. Leave at 7:30 a.m. from southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by 9:30 a.m. Trips will cover birding hot spots such as Mendon Road, Airport Road, Sewage Lagoons.

Saturday, July 7. Field Trip for Kids. Open to all children. Meet at the KUSU radio tower near 700 North 1200 East at 8 a.m. for carpooling; return in the afternoon. We'll study the natural history of the Tony Grove area. Lunches, water, day packs, a notebook and pencil and appropriate clothing are required. Reservations required, also. Call Kayo Robertson at 752-3944.

Thursday, July 19. An evening on Cutler Marsh by canoe. Leave at 6 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 9:30 p.m. An easy two-mile canoe trip from the boat landing on Valley View Highway west of Logan and going to the large nesting colony of ibis, Franklin's gulls, and snowy egrets. Just watching the sunset and enjoying the solitude of Cutler Marsh is a spiritual experience. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** Call 752-2702 starting July 15. There will be a \$5 charge for those not bringing their own canoes.

Saturday, July 21. Wildflowers of Tony Grove Lake. Enjoy the profusion of wildflowers on a leisurely walk around the lake or campgrounds. Masses of penstemon, paintbrush, columbine, elephant's head and many more. Leave from the University Radio Tower south of the cemetery. Bring lunch and return by early afternoon. No reservations required. Carpooling.

Thursday, July 26. Evening flight of ibis, cranes, gulls. Leave at 7:30 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 9:30 p.m. Watch the spectacular flights of ibis, sandhill cranes, geese and gulls into their roosts on the east side of Cutler Marsh. No reservations needed. No walking, but bring some insect repellent.

Saturday, August 11. A hike up High Creek Canyon. This is a new field trip to a choice canyon east of Richmond. Audubon may well be involved in buying up the grazing rights so as to help restore this riparian area to its rightful beauty. Leave at 8 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by mid-afternoon. This will be a hike on good trail of about two

miles each way. Bring lunch, water. No reservations needed.

Saturday, August 18. Little Bear Canoe Trip. Leave at 4 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by 9:30 p.m. This is an easy trip down Spring Creek past the heronry and back up the Little Bear, a paddle of about three miles. Bring your supper and binoculars. There will be a charge of \$5 for those not using their own canoes. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 starting August 9. We should see cranes, eastern kingbirds, marsh wrens and others. Just being on this stream in late afternoon is a wonderful experience.

Friday to Sunday, September 14-16. Camping trip to Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge to see trumpeter swans, many waterfowl and moose among other things. Camp at a beautiful campground by the lake with tables, water and latrines. Hear about management of swans from refuge personnel, do a little canoeing or just hike about. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for arrangements on carpooling and details of how to reach the refuge.

Saturday, September 8. Kokanee Salmon Spawning. Leaving at 4 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by about 7 p.m. A chance to observe these brilliant red fish at very close range as they move up above Porcupine Reservoir to spawn in shallow water. A walk along the shore of the reservoir should turn up tracks of raccoon and mink. For the more adventurous we can explore a pack rat den. Bring supper. Carpooling available.

Saturday, September 29. Hawk Migration on the Wellsvilles. Leave at 8 a.m. from Fred Meyer's parking lot and return about 4 p.m. This trip involves a 3500-foot climb to the top of the Wellsvilles on a good, but sometimes steep, trail. The view from on top is spectacular. With favorable winds we should see up to 100 hawks and eagles. The hike itself will pass through brilliant maples and aspens. Bring lunch and water. It is often very windy on top, so dress appropriately. If it is overcast the trip will take place the following day. Call 752-2702 if in question. No reservations needed. Carpooling.

Friday-Sunday, October 5-7. Elk bugling in the Tetons. This trip features watching and hearing elk bugle at dusk and observing bison and pronghorn at close range as well as other wildlife. Leave Friday afternoon as schedules permit. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for reservations and details on the trip.

FIRST FIELD TRIP FOR KIDS BRINGS 'EM BACK ALIVE

May 5 marked our first field trip for kids. Nine explorers under the age of seven examined Green Canyon. Sue Morgan, professor of Geology at Utah State, introduced us to rocks and the stories they might tell if we could learn to look and listen. The stories we heard were of time and change, water and fire, and ancient creatures that lived when the earth was new; good stories that taught important lessons. Morgan's sharp eye led her to a piece of flint that had been fashioned by humans long before the Age of Nintendo. We all went home with pockets full of rocks and packs full of tales.

Our next journey will be on Saturday, July 7. See the summer field trip schedule for details.

AMALGA BARRENS IN APRIL

Having been warned of foul weather and ceaseless winds, our group of 23 birders, led by Larry Ryel, enjoyed a warm, sunny, mosquito-free afternoon on April 21, observing shorebirds on the Amalga Barrens. Assisting Larry's expert birding was Peter Paton, a newly arrived biologist from California, working through USU on a Great Salt Lake shorebird study.

Thirty-five species were counted at three pull-offs. The enthusiastic "conk-ka-ree" calls of redwing blackbird confirmed it was spring, as did yellow-headed blackbird, cinnamon teal, snowy egret, avocet, great blue heron, black-necked stilt, robin, magpie, starling and western meadowlark, all adding their honks, quacks, squeaks and whistles.

Next stop, a grassy field, revealed insect-hunting long-billed curlew and a cruising Swainson's hawk. Drought had reduced most of the wet meadow to mud pans, so we walked the dry lower road to the sheet of vital water at the Barrens where we were greeted by the nervous "plee-eek" calls of the avocet. White pelican, sandhill crane and mallard winged in overhead. In addition to earlier species, we now saw Franklin's and California gulls, Canada geese, shoveler, long-billed dowitcher, willet, Wilson's phalarope, white-faced ibis, greater yellowlegs, northern pintail, killdeer, marbled godwit, water pipit, and on the dike, a male savannah sparrow treated us to 15 minutes of close-up singing while a northern harrier, barn swallow and rock dove circled overhead. I personally added six new species to my list.

Thank you, Larry Ryel and Peter Paton.

— Veda DePaepe

WHO SPEAKS FOR CARP?

A year ago I took my nine-year-old grandson to participate in the Carp Catch, part of the activities of the College of Natural Resources. The kids were obviously enjoying themselves, chasing the fish as they darted about. But eventually the carp became so exhausted they just lay there; anybody could just pick them up. I began to wonder if this is "sport." We have come to recognize that Man is just part of the Earth and not here to dominate the living things on Earth. So on the recent celebration of Earth Day, I have a troubled conscience about being part of what seems to me an insensitive treatment of animals. To be sure, I do not object to hunting or fishing. I can justify these sports because Man makes some consumptive use of these animals. But I do object to the mere use of jackrabbits as living targets. Am I a voice in the wilderness, or do others share my feelings? I look forward to other views in future issues of this publication.

— Al Stokes

1990 ALLEN STOKES CONSERVATION AWARD

Bridgerland Audubon Society is proud to announce that this year's conservation award was presented to Steve Flint, a longtime BAS member and our most dependable person on all conservation issues.

The 20th anniversary of Earth Day was a special one. Therefore we decided that this year's award should go to a person who personified the ideals that the Earth Day founders had in mind: a commitment in one's personal lifestyle.

Steve has been the point person on Logan Canyon for years. He is not intimidated by the worst aspect of these issues: the fat EIS documents, the bureaucracy, the years of long boring meetings, the engineering contractors, the evasion. It's probably the most difficult single job BAS has ever taken on, and Steve has shouldered it without hesitation.

Steve takes on all the "fat document" issues. We thank him for summarizing all the EIS's for us in a way that I never can—before the deadlines! From wilderness to the Thousand Springs Power Plant and the Water Conservancy District, Steve is our local expert.

Steve also lives the conservation lifestyle that the rest of us give lip service to. He bikes everywhere and grows his own vegetables. Junk mail envelopes are his notebooks. He doesn't make a trip to Salt Lake without rounding up recyclables to take along.

Our hats are off to you, Steve, for showing us by example the true spirit of stewardship of our Earth. Cache Valley is a better place because you are here.

— Alice Lindahl
Conservation Chair

50 Simple Things Kids can do to save the Earth.

By Earth Works Group, Earth Works Press, Berkeley: 1990

Book review written by Carrie White, Fifth Grade, Edith Bowen Lab School

This is the first of a series of book reviews written by children for children. Please send children's book reviews to Karen Matsumoto-Grah, Education Chair, Bridgerland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84321. We would like to compile these reviews and make them available to local schoolchildren in Cache Valley. Thank you.

This book tells important facts about our planet and what kids can do to save it.

I was surprised to learn that toilets use 5 to 7 gallons every time one gets flushed! It starts as fresh drinking water, too! In *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth* there's a way to stop toilets using so much

water. That way is to put something in the tank. The best thing is a plastic jug (milk, laundry, that stuff). Fill it with small rocks and water. Then put the cap on. After that, put it in the toilet tank, but not in the way of the arm or chain that helps flush the toilet. That way you'll save 1 to 2 gallons of water every time you flush.

There's also some feeding tips for birdfeeders, and tips for birdbaths as well. If you make a birdbath, don't use metal. It gets too hot in summer and freezes in winter.

There's experiments at the back of the book like recycling paper, being a junk food detective, and smog control.

I think other kids will like the book. It's easy to read and has fun activities. Kids may not think they can help, but they can!

WHY UTAH AUDUBON OPPOSES THE CRANE HUNT

The Sandhill Crane population in Utah has been slowly increasing in the past few decades. This bird inhabits wet meadows in Cache and Rich counties. Migrating flocks pass through Utah in April and October.

Urbanization and intensive agriculture has greatly decreased the available nesting habitat for cranes. However, about 45 pairs are attempting to nest in Cache Valley in spring 1990. We do not know if they produce enough young to maintain or increase their numbers.

In 1989, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources initiated the first Sandhill Crane hunt in 72 years. Utah Audubon opposed that hunt and will oppose the 1990 hunt if one is planned. The reason is lack of sufficient data to justify a hunt.

Audubon's Position

National Audubon and local Audubon chapters do not oppose hunting. We recognize the need for hunting of many game species in order to stabilize their populations.

We cannot support the need for a hunt when local small populations do not produce enough new birds every year to offset those taken during the hunt.

The Need for Data

The Sandhill Crane hunt is a recreation and a depredation (crop damage) hunt. In order to justify this hunt, the Division of Wildlife Resources should provide enough information to show that the hunt will not deplete the nesting population in Utah.

We need to know:

1. How many birds nest in Cache and Rich Counties?
2. How many young are produced in Utah?
3. How much damage is done to crops?

Only then can we know that the hunt will or will not harm the local population, and whether or not the hunt helps farmers.

The burden of proof that the hunt will not harm the resident population normally does not rest with the public. However, in the event that the information is not available any other way, Audubon has the resources and expertise to conduct a valid scientific count.

The following sources of mortality are known for 1989: 54 birds killed by legal hunting; 7 killed by lightning; about 10 killed by poaching. Total known dead is 71. Crippling loss, winter mortality and poaching deaths are not known.

What Audubon Is Doing to Help

Counts—Bridgerland Audubon is conducting weekly counts using ten teams to cover every road in Cache County. This project started on April 22 and will continue until the last of the birds depart in November.

The data set will tell us how many birds fly through Cache Valley, how many stay and nest, where they nest, where they feed, where they roost, and how many young are produced.

Fund Raising—Audubon wishes to financially support the farming community on whose land the cranes live and feed. We also support a crane refuge area, where cranes can go when farmers attempt to move them away from their crops.

We are currently raising money through the sale of T-shirts, cards and mobiles, as well as direct donations. These funds will pay farmers for crop losses.

What You Can Do

Join the Count—Help us count cranes in the valley. We meet Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Fred Meyer parking lot in Logan. Call Alice Lindahl (753-7744) if you would like to participate.

Speak at the Hearing—The Utah Wildlife Board makes the decision on whether or not to approve the hunt at the yearly small game hearing. Speak at the hearing. Ask the board to require that Utah data be used to justify a hunt, and insist that Utah data be made available.

Date: Thursday, June 21, 9 a.m.

Place: Division of Wildlife Resources Auditorium
1596 West North Temple, Salt Lake City

Write—To the Utah Director of the Division of Wildlife Resources. Ask him not to recommend the hunt unless the division can demonstrate that enough birds are produced here to offset the hunting losses.

Mr. Tim Provan, director
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1596 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

For more information, contact Bridgerland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, Utah 84321 or call Alice Lindahl, Conservation Chair, 753-7744.

CRANE T-SHIRTS: \$10

What a deal! These beautiful shirts, available in turquoise, jade, and peach, feature a striking crane design on the front, the words "Safe Haven for Cranes" on a sleeve, and a hole in the top that most heads fit through. Spend the summer promoting the cranes while you eat, sleep, mow the lawn, etc. \$5 from each shirt sold goes to support the cranes need for habitat. The other \$5 pays for the shirt. Definitely one of the finer causes of our time.



T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cost: \$10/shirt

No.	Size	Color	Amount
TOTAL			\$

SNOW BASIN LAND SWAP UPDATE

Sun Valley Corp., funded by Sinclair Oil, is hoping to exchange purchased lands "of equal value" for 1320 acres of alpine Forest Service land located at the base of Mt. Ogden. This will mean the usual wilderness subdividing of hundreds of condominiums, hotels, a golf course and parking lots. At present it is roadless and semi-wilderness harboring wildlife and wetlands, and is the source of much of Ogden City's watershed.

I have lived in Ogden for twenty-one years and I cannot remember a civic issue more divisive than this proposed development. The smell of millions of dollars promised for the commercial sector and tax revenues for the city and county has generated a loud and resolute cadre of support for the developer. The whole affair is championed by senators Hatch and Garn, Rep. Hansen, the Chamber of Commerce and the *Ogden Standard Examiner*.

In early February, after the release of an EIS, Dale Bosworth, Forest Supervisor of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, decided that the Forest Service would trade away only 200 acres for development instead of the 1320 acres wanted. Many think this was a decision of courage and foresight.

The commercial and political factions were very upset with this refusal to fully comply with Sun Valley's plan. They complained that no real profits could be made on so little land. In his decision's defense Mr. Bosworth noted that Snowbird operates a four-season resort on forty-five acres. In addition, Sun Valley owns 7,000 acres of subdividable land one-and-a-half miles away from the base lift facilities. In the wake of this, Senator Hatch has not endeared himself with the Forest Service and many of his constituents by calling it a "dumb-ass, boneheaded decision."

We are now in the appeal process which is to be decided by Stan Tixier, Regional Forester.

Meanwhile, the Sierra Club, Save Our Canyons, The Audubon Society and the Coalition To Save Snow Basin have filed their own joint appeal. We argued in it that even the 220-acre trade is unjustified and arbitrary. Also, we require that if it is traded the Forest Service must calculate the minimum acreage possible to make the resort economically feasible and revise the 1985 Wasatch-Cache Management plan which at the moment does not allow such development. Indeed, if the Forest Service does accommodate the developer for his economic reasons, then the whole process of EIS review is superfluous. We expect the Forest Service to manage our lands chiefly for environmental, multiple recreation use and wildlife preservation reasons. If these factors are seriously weighed and valued as the Forest Service should, the Sun Valley developer has no place at Snow Basin.

At the regional level Mr. Tixier's decision is expected on or before early July. Meanwhile, good reader, you may help him make his decision by reinforcing our view that prime public alpine land is not to be traded away to developers for their private profit. If Snow Basin goes this route then a dangerous precedent is set putting in jeopardy all such public land for the future. Write: Mr. Stanley Tixier, Regional Forester, US Forest Service, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401

— Jock Glidden
Snow Basin Ad Hoc Chr.
from *Utah Sierran*
May 1990

WILDLIFE INVENTORY: WILL YOU HELP?

The Utah Wilderness Association is conducting a survey of wildlife species in Utah. You can help by reporting what you see. The first segment of the inventory is geared toward the August 15 meeting of the Utah Wildlife Board, where the harvest of bears, cougar and all furbearers will be decided. But this is a long term project to inventory what users of Utah's wildlands are actually seeing (and not seeing).

The UWA is particularly interested in reports of black bear, pine marten, cougar, river otter or wolverine. Record what you see: the animal, scat, tracks, or other evidence. Where did you see it? What was the terrain like? Give date, time, and weather conditions. Include sketches and other details whenever possible.

Please develop the same information for other species, also. Afield and alert, we can play a vital role in identifying their occurrence. In this state of vast public lands, we can provide invaluable citations to help expand the scope of Utah's nongame program. Return your completed information by August 10, 1990, to Utah Wilderness Association, 455 East 400 South #316, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. (359-1337)

— Margaret Pettis

UTAH'S WAR ON THE GYPSY MOTH

The gypsy moth was discovered in August 1988 in the Olympus Cove area of Salt Lake County. Subsequently, state, federal and local agencies formed the Gypsy Moth Decision and Action Committee to evaluate the impact of the gypsy moth in Utah and propose actions to deal with the insect.

A quarantine encompassing the Olympus Cove area became effective in April 1989 to minimize the movement of egg masses, larvae and pupae from the area on recreation vehicles, refuse, and other outdoor items. Dipel 8L, a *bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) formulation, was applied to the Olympus Cove block during May 1989. As a result of publicity surrounding the Olympus Cove project, Gypsy Moth populations were also confirmed in Bountiful and Provo during May and June.

Seven days after the last B.t. application, larval counts indicated a 95 percent reduction in larval numbers. Egg mass counts conducted in fall 1989 indicated a 98 percent reduction from 1988 counts on the 10 sites surveyed.

The Decision and Action Committee implemented a gypsy moth detection project aimed at covering the state every three to four years. Pheromone traps attract the male gypsy moth with a synthetic female gypsy moth scent. Male moths were collected in six counties: Utah, Davis, Salt Lake, Morgan, Summit and Wasatch.

In 1990, more than 20,000 acres in Salt Lake, Davis, and Utah counties will be treated with B.t. during May and June. Detection trapping will take place in 22 counties, including Cache County. Delimitation trapping (the alluring scent) will be used in the six counties known to be affected. The quarantine will be expanded to 150,000 acres in Utah, Davis and Salt Lake counties. All these activities will cost approximately \$2.5 million.

You, the Moth Inspector

The United States Department of Agriculture has published a pamphlet designed to help prevent the moving of gypsy moths from infested areas into non-infested areas. Program Aid Number 1329 "Don't Move Gypsy Moth" contains color pictures of all the life stages of the insect and instructions on finding and destroying them.

If you are moving from state to state, you are responsible for making sure you are not moving a serious pest along with your outdoor household articles—toys, vehicles, lawn furniture. In Utah, those moving from infested to non-infested countries should search and destroy, also.

ONEIDA NARROWS DAM PLANNED

A developer has revealed plans to construct a dam on the Oneida Narrows of the Bear River. This facility would be below the existing dam and would flood the part of the river which receives the heaviest recreational use. The BLM is beginning the environmental impact process and is soliciting comments on the scope of the issues to be examined. At this point we do not need any technical detail; just express your concerns (what issues need to be addressed?) based on your personal knowledge of the area.

Based on past information we can expect the developer to make the following two claims: the whitewater is dangerous and would best be flooded. The present UP&L dam releases surges of water which impair fish survival in the river; the new dam would eliminate these surges.

While the first claim is clearly spurious, the second is more insidious. The same result can be achieved in a few years without any new dam construction. Utah Power and Light will have to renew its Federal permit for

the operation of its Oneida Station Dam in a few years. At that time public pressure can bring about a change in the operating procedures for this dam, eliminating the release of surges of water for peaking power production.

By the time you read this, the public meetings will have been held, but there is still time for written comments.

Send them by June 19 to:

Idaho Falls District BLM Office
940 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Refer to File # I-26870, Bear River Narrows Hydroelectric Project.

— Steve Flint

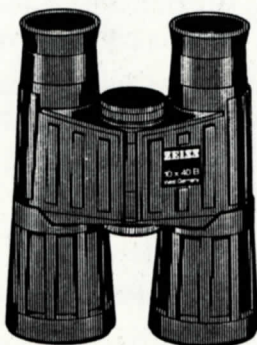


BILL HOLM ON FLIES

Bill was our Boxelder Bug Poet. This excerpt is from his book, Coming Home Crazy: An Alphabet of China Essays, Milkweed Editions, 1990, was submitted by Jillyn Smith.

I spent half a year smashing flies into the ceiling and walls of my Chinese dormitory room. They came in through the screenless windows, along with the yellow loess dust, humidity, and loudspeaker noise. Mosquitos and sparrows were scarce, but the window offered them welcome too. During one of the multitudinous Chinese campaigns—the four antis, the Great Leap Forward, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution—the former probably got sprayed to death inside Xi'an and the latter persecuted and then clubbed into local extinction. I heard a story that after the Party issued a directive to kill sparrows who ate grain that could otherwise feed the swelling population, Chinese citizens stayed in the streets for days, banging noise makers, shouting and generally frightening the sparrows off whatever perch they might find. The birds hovered till they dropped in droves from exhaustion, after which the citizens summarily slaughtered them. The Chinese, being practical, and close to starvation at the time, probably ate sparrow stew, stir-fried sparrow, and three-sparrow soup for days afterwards. As an example of what the Party can accomplish when it puts its mind to its task, the campaign succeeded. To this day, Chinese cities are remarkably birdless. Whatever spare grain they saved, the politicians accomplished the murder of music and silenced the fluttering of wings.

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If you're in the market for binoculars, check with D'arcy Echols, our local Zeiss dealer. He can offer BAS members good prices on Zeiss equipment.

CHANGING BUSES

Under a Hudson, Ohio, dateline, the *Washington Post* tells of yellow school buses that are now running on natural gas: "There are no clouds of exhaust, no fumes. There's hardly any smell of burning fuel, not much more noise than a window air conditioner."

The conversion to natural gas takes about three days and \$1,000 for a standard car or light truck. The business manager of the Hudson School District says, "We save roughly \$10,000 a year on fuel and probably \$100 per bus on routine maintenance."

Italy took the lead in conversion to natural gas, with about 300,000 vehicles, followed by the Soviet Union, with 200,000. Why aren't we doing more in the United States?

— From the *Washington Spectator*
May 1990

SCIENCE WRITERS' CAMP: SUMMER 1990

A one-week summer Science Writers' Camp will be held at Edith Bowen Lab School July 16-20, 1990. This camp will focus on natural history and language arts as an integrated learning experience about local ecosystems. Skill building will focus on the following areas: nature observation skills, interviewing techniques, data collection and recording, basic field sketching and drawing, and creative writing.

The diverse range of ecosystems in Cache Valley will allow students to experience first-hand a variety of natural areas, and to observe wildlife and flora as a subject for writing and drawing. The field course will focus on developing their own nature journals. Students will learn basic data collection skills, and will keep daily field journals containing field observations as well as field sketches and creative writing. Data collected in the field will be transformed to prose and poetry, and field sketches refined to finished drawings.

Classroom activities will range from writing exercises to presentations by guest speakers. Featured speakers include local field biologists, as well as Mark Stackhouse of Tracy Aviary. Field trips will include the Cache Valley marshlands, Limber Pine Trail, and Mantua Fish Hatchery.

The instructor for the field course is Karen Matsumoto-Grah, Education Director for Bridgerland Audubon Society and program specialist for Edith Bowen Lab School. Ms. Matsumoto-Grah is a guest instructor for Teton Junior Science School in Kelly, Wyoming, and is a former naturalist for the National Park Service in Denali Park, Alaska.

Enrollment is limited to 15 students, grades 3 through 6. Tuition is \$100.00 for the one-week workshop, which includes basic materials, transportation costs, and snacks. To register, call Edith Bowen Lab School at 750-3085.

VAN NEAL IN 150 CLUB

John Van Neal is the newest member of the Cache 150 Club. John arrived in Logan in the late summer of 1988 and has been avidly birding ever since. While picking up a canoe at my home he mentioned he was at 149 species. When I mentioned that we had calliope hummingbirds at our feeders his ears pricked up. While Alice gave him a dish of applesauce with yogurt as lure, John soon had spotted the hummer and his 150th species. So welcome, John. You'll be getting your Audubon patch soon.

You other readers, let me or Pat Gordon know as you reach the 100, 150, or 200 level.

— Al Stokes

You Can Help Pass the ANCIENT FOREST PROTECTION BILL!

The Problem

America's last great stands of ancient forest are being cut down at a rate faster than the logging of the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil. These are your National Forest lands. Each day we lose about 300 acres. Current mapping shows that within five or six years, there will be no forest left unprotected. The fight to protect these forests has been waged for 50 years. These forests are a world class treasure, the heritage of everyone. These are not just "trees;" this is an ancient forest, found nowhere else on the planet. But public and private policy for the last 40 years has been to liquidate this forest.

The Solution

Audubon chapters and forest allies now have a bill in Congress that can put a stop to the destruction. We have 34 co-sponsors, and your representative can make a difference.

H.R. 4492, THE ANCIENT FOREST PROTECTION ACT OF 1990

- Declares that the ancient forests of the United States are a national and world treasure, and have far more value as a living ecosystem than by being replaced by a sterile log farm.
- Establishes a National Ancient Forest Reserve System, protecting essentially all remaining ancient forests on federal lands in the Pacific Northwest.
- Creates a network of "associated forests" to connect the already fragmented forests.

**Please write your Representative today.
Ask him to co-sponsor H.R. 4492,
The Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1990.**

The Honorable -----
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
(For most of us, that's James Hansen.)

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 the following 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	Dianne Browning, 752-5946
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, 752-3944
Recycling	Marvin & Irma Moon, 753-4698
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	Dianne Browning, 752-5946
	Ron Ryel, 753-6077
	John Sigler, 753-5879
	Larry Ryel, 753-8479
	Cynthia Kerbs, 752-3251
	Bob Atwood, 752-9284
	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

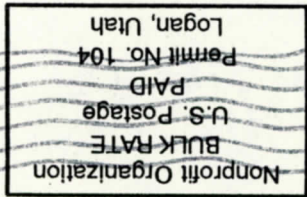
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If you are having any problems with delivery of *The Stilt*, contact Mike Jablonski,
distribution honcho, 752-4200.