



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 18, No.

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BAS 1989: THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

I was recently informed that it is the time of year when the president needs to report on what has happened in Bridgerland Audubon in 1989. For your future presidents, this is one of those items that nobody mentions when one extols the virtues and rewards of serving in such an esteemed position. Be forewarned that these Auduboners also expect you to pay attention to what's going on about you. This is rather new for me. I don't mean I'm totally zoned out (though some might disagree); my attention is usually focused on events outside Logan and usually outside Utah. This past year my concerns were monitoring mule deer, bald and golden eagles and shale reclamation, plus initiating a wildlife ranch application at an oil shale mine in Colorado; tracking down elusive populations of stolonous pussytoes and collecting baseline data on topsoil, vegetation and wildlife at a gold mine in California; plus preparing for a rather lengthy field season studying black-footed ferrets, desert tortoises, Utah prairie dogs, bald eagles, and a plethora of sensitive flora along a pipeline from Wyoming through Nevada.

Since my election in March 1989, you've forced me to refocus on my immediate surroundings which I've been taking for granted the past 19 years. In so doing, I've met and worked with an exceptional group of individuals: Al and Alice Stokes, Cynthia and Dale Kerbs, Alice Lindahl, Bruce Pendery, Pat Gordon, John Wraith, Mae and Merv Coover, John Sigler, Karen Matsumoto-Grah, Susan and Kayo Robertson, John and Terry

Barnes, Diane Browning, Larry and Ron Ryel, John and Ann Mull, Betty Boeker, Tom Jones, Jill Smith, Bob Atwood, Steve Flint, Keith Archibald, Bryan Dixon. It's like a Who's Who of Fine Folk and Premier Conservationists. Actually, the best way I can explain 1989 is to give you a list of chapter members and let you be as thrilled and awed as I am by our people, who they are and what they do.

With this talent, my duties have been relatively simple; I just sit back and admire. I see people become excited about our new lobbyist, about sandhill cranes; water conservancy districts; box elder bugs and poet Bill Holm; our Conservation Award winners, Bruce Allsop and Betty Boeker; our field trips; and our award-winning newsletter, *The Stilt*. These people are excited about being alive and active and concerned, and doing rather than talking. What appealed to me last March still gives me that twinge of magic and that is the substance of this chapter. What is said is meant and what is started is

(Please see **BAS 1989** on page 3.)

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CALENDAR

Thursday, January 11. 7:30 p.m. Bridgerland Audubon Society's first monthly meeting of the last decade of the 20th century (Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main.)

A Photographer's Year on the Road

Photographer Scott Smith will present slides from the year he spent visiting natural areas throughout the U.S. Smith's travels took him to national parks, national monuments, and wilderness areas. His show will include slides from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, the deserts of Southern California, and the Appalachian Mountains of the eastern U.S.

Bring a pen and writing board to participate in the "write-in." We'll spend a few minutes writing letters on issues of public concern. Bring suggestions for topics and relevant addresses.

Monday, January 15. Submissions for *The Stilt* are due. We could use some poetry, prose, personal experience, letters to the editor, cartoons, drawings, children's work—as well as the standard fare of reports and announcements. Send to 718 North 200 East, Logan. 752-6561.

Monday, January 22. 3:30 p.m. Education Committee Meeting. Edith Bowen Lab School Library Kiva on the USU campus. A short videotape on tropical rainforests will be shown, and refreshments served. All are welcome to attend.

Monday, January 22. 7:30 p.m. BAS Conservation monthly meeting. Place: 730 Hillcrest, Logan (in back of Frederico's Pizza). On the agenda: state legislative session (in progress), UP&L wetlands plans for Cutler Reservoir, our efforts to collaborate with the Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Crane Hunt. For more information call: 753-7744.

February meeting: (Feb. 8? Feb. 15?) Mr. Al Trout, Manager, Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Brigham City. Title: The Fall of the Great Salt Lake, the Rise of the Bird Refuge.

Mr. Trout was hired in the summer of 1989 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to oversee the rebuilding of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. The plans involve much more than repairing the retaining dikes. Acquisition of new lands between the old refuge and the freeway would allow the creation of new wetlands and the building of a visitor center to attract tourists from the freeway. He will tell us in detail what the plans are and how we can help make all this come true.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 13. Getting to Know Conifers, or how to tell a spruce from a pine. On this trip you will learn to recognize the differences between pine, spruce, fir and junipers; to tell how much a tree has grown in a given year and differences between years and trees; how a tree holds its needles; and how long it takes for a tree to produce its cones. This will be a splendid trip for all ages and easy going.

Leave at 1:00 p.m. from the Information Desk in the University Center and return no later than 3:30 p.m. We will stick to sidewalks and roads but wear warm boots.

Saturday, January 27. Animal Tracks and Signs. Meet at the rest area on Highway 89 just south of Logan Golf Course at 1:00 p.m. Return by 4 p.m. We will drive to the mouth of Card Canyon, 8 miles up Logan Canyon, and then hike on foot about a mile up the road in Card Canyon. We should see tracks of snowshoe hare, red squirrel, mice, deer, and coyote plus a few surprises. By following tracks we can tell what the animal has been doing, whether walking or running and sometimes what it has been eating. We could see Clark's nutcracker, Townsend's solitaire, kinglets and others. Unless the snow is deep and soft, good hiking boots will do. A good family outing. Call 752-2702 if the weather is uncertain, in which case the trip will go elsewhere in the valley.

Saturday, February 10. More on Tracking. Leave at 1 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's. Return by 4 p.m. We will drive to Benson Marina and then ski across the wide-open snow-covered fields west of Logan River. In this open country it is possible to track mice, weasel, fox and other animals for long distances and see their manner of feeding or hunting prey. With luck we will find where a predator has been successful in its hunt. If there is insufficient snow we will make this a birding field trip in the Benson Area. If in doubt call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

LOST & FOUND

After the Christmas Bird Count Potluck, items surfaced.

A clip board.

A spatula.

Two tin trays.

Call 752-6561 to reclaim.

BAS 1989

From page one completed. There's none of the fluff that surrounds so many organizations that lack a solid foundation. There's talent and dedication in this chapter that would take a corporation into the Fortune 500 in no time. To say the least, I'm impressed. The chapter gets the job done in an easy-going fashion, reminiscent of a sign I saw at Manny's Beach Club in Mexico: No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problem!

Now I don't mean to imply that we can sit back and rest on our laurels. We've some sandhill crane celebrating to do, some water conservancy district issues that need clarification (like how can Box Elder County take any of our water and live to tell about it), some studying of the Logan Canyon Highway EIS (Yes, Virginia, it should be done this year), some recycling of our waste (any tips will be welcomed and published), some field trips to learn from our best teacher, Mother Nature (Yes, guys, she's real and only so resilient and tolerant) and of course, some more celebrating of Earth Day's 20th anniversary (I ate granola for the first time on Earth Day 1970); never eaten it since, but what the hey, you have to try new directions and actions).

In January we'll start something new at our monthly meetings: We'll write letters. Please bring pencils and a writing board; we'll supply some paper. If you have a cause that needs some action, be prepared to let us know. And start racking up points in the Activists 200 Club.

With that, I look forward to meeting and working with many more of you in 1990. For those I haven't met who are maybe, just sort of, wondering who I am, I'm the guy imitating a bear, a laughing bear, no less, and I'm known to do or say something exceptionally crude at least once a day. See you soon.

— Val Grant

See Highlights of 1989 - page 5.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Leanna S. Ballard, Logan
Lee Brinegar, Salt Lake City
Ilene S. Freeman, Hyrum
Jim and Debbie Gessaman, Smithfield
Kurt Gtkecht, Logan
Michael J. Hoffer, Logan
Judith Johnson, Logan
Kirk Johnson, Logan
Ms. Diana Jones, Logan
Clyde H. Lay, Logan
C. Leppert, Logan
Tovi Santiago, Logan
Honore Spickerman, Logan
Robert H. Stewart, Richmond
Chris and Diane Terry, Logan
J. Keith Webb, Logan
Brian Atkinson, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Wendell B. Anderson, Logan
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis A. Civile, Logan
Mr. Windsor Coplen, Mountain View, Wyoming
Margaret and Del Dyreson, Logan
Marilyn Hammond, Logan
Arthur H. Holmgren, Logan
Ms. Linnea Johnson, Logan
M. Jean Packer, Logan
Stuart Richards, Trenton
John W. Sigler, Logan
Marsha Swartzfager, Layton
Wynlee Tallmadge, Logan
Mr. David S. Winn, Logan
Ms. Wendy Greene, Smithfield
Jillyn Smith, Logan

BAS PLANNING MEETING SUMMARY

December 20, 1989. Present were Val Grant, Sue Robertson, Pat Gordon, Bob Atwood, Bruce Pendery and Alice Lindahl.

NATURE PARK. Bob Atwood presented a proposal to develop Densil Stewart Nature Park in cooperation with Logan City and The Cache Valley Boy Scout Council. The board approved. A meeting with representatives of all three groups will take place January 10, 1990, to make plans.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AT BEAR RIVER REFUGE. Al Trout has requested a count for the refuge this year. Val Grant offered to head it up on January 1.

EARTH DAY PLANS. Bruce Pendery explained Earth Day celebrations with regard to College of Natural Resources activities. BAS could prepare a booth for their Environmental Fair on April 18 and 19. Bob Turner of Denver may be able to come. A field trip to marsh areas is possible. Bob Atwood suggested involving the Scouts in a tree planting project. The board decided to plan the annual banquet for Thursday, April 19.

SPRING BIRD COUNT. Val Grant proposed initiating a good scientific monitoring program to include a crane count.

AUDUBON COORDINATING COUNCIL. Bruce reported on progress with by-laws to unite the four Audubon chapters in Utah, with care taken to ensure chapter autonomy. He hopes to have a document ready for formal adoption in April.

LOBBYIST. Bruce reported on success of lobbyist Wayne Martinson and four or five callers. They changed a couple of votes on the Bear River Task Force regarding an amendment to require that alternatives to dam-building be considered. The amendment lost by one vote, but the changes indicated good results from lobbying efforts. The need for a legislative chair on the board was reiterated.

PEOPLE FOR WISE WATER PLANNING. PWWP reported results of their petition drive, estimating a cost of \$1 for each petition signed. They requested \$500 for advertising and mailing. The request was tabled.

CRANE T-SHIRTS. Alice displayed designs for T-shirts to be marketed on behalf of crane protection. Everybody liked them, especially the one with dancing cranes all over the whole shirt.

SUCCESSION. Val humbly agreed to continue as chapter president for another term. General celebration ensued.

— Pat

HOTLINE SUMMARY

Tundra swans, 8-10, Bear Lake; **Sage Grouse**, 38, Woodruff; **Rosy Finch**, about 100, east of Bear Lake; **Golden-crowned kinglet**, Bear River Range. (Ray Smith et al, SLC Audubon, Nov. 24, 25) **Bald eagle**, 1, Logan Sewage Lagoons. (Bill Dehman, Nov. 11) **Oldsquaw**, male, 1, Logan Sewage Lagoons. (Karl Launchbaugh, 11-27) **Red crossbill**, about 6, Beaver Mt. (Bill Dehman, Dec. 3) **Bald eagle**, mature, 1, Logan River Dams. (Kayo Robertson, Bobbie Bosworth) **Winter wren**, 1, Logan Canal Trail. (Tom Lyon, Larry Ryel, Nov.-Dec.) **Scrub Jay**, 1, Logan City. (Keith Dixon, Nov.-Dec.) **Harris sparrow**, 1; **White-throated sparrow**, 1, **Steller's Jay**, 1; all in Logan City. (Al Stokes, Nov.-Dec.) **Elk tracks**, 1 set, east slope of Wellsville Mts. (Kayo Robertson, Dec. 3) **Golden eagle**, mature, 1, Hyde Park. (Bobbie Bosworth)

HOTLINE NUMBERS

Kayo Robertson	750-6325
Nancy Williams	753-6268
Val Grant	750-5370



Winter Wren

HOTLINE

On Wings of Words

One of the greatest qualities of being human must certainly be that of imagination. Eyes see in but one direction at a time but imagination sees everywhere at once. As I turn my gaze from mountains and rivers to books and ideas, joining the urban ranks who walk pavement instead of paths, I find it ever more important that others become eyes for me. This is the joy of being part of the Audubon Hotline: to close the books, lean back, and let my mind be sparked by what others have seen. It is but a short flight of the imagination to find myself being carried across the impossibly turquoise waters of Bear Lake on the wings of wild tundra swans, or to wash through the sage with a hundred rosy finches, filling the moment with life and action, then vanishing into the cold winter wind; or to wonder about that magic line north of Ogden Canyon where no oaks grow, and why one lone scrub jay with an injured bill left its fellows and home to journey beyond the line. What has the oldsquaw west of Logantown seen on his travels? When he closes his eyes in slumber does he hear the lilt of sea chanteys, the roar of surf on rocks? And what of the elfin winter wren along the canal? It must surely know and love the small of things, the nook and crevice and tiny avenues through the brush and tangle. Does it feel loneliness, or is it at peace so far from the north woods? My imagination can stand next to Bill Dehman and watch a bald eagle flush frantic ducks from the sewage lagoons, its broad and powerful wings flapping like sheets of canvas . . . good clean predatorial fun. And if this were not enough I can share an "ah!" with the Bosworths as their spirits are lifted on the wings of a mature golden eagle, sailing low across their Hyde Park dwelling, sunlight flashing from its cape as it fixes the valley with a fierce hunter's eye.

And when my mind returns home and my gaze shifts back to books, bills, and a sinkful of dishes, I get a warm comfort from the knowing that all these marvelous creatures are my neighbors who, just like me, are going about their business, just next door. Thanks for your sightings!

— Kayo

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1989

Birding

- Least flycatcher reported in Utah for first time.
- Peregrine falcon—first in 14 years—sighted during Christmas Bird Count.
- Three birders break previous personal records for number of species seen within Cache County in one year: Ron and Larry Ryel, 228; Keith Archibald, 224.
- Breeding grasshopper sparrows discovered north of Clarkston.
- Outstanding fall migration includes sightings of lesser goldenplover, oldsquaw, surf scoter, glaucous-winged gull and Ross's goose.
- Tens of tons of sunflower seeds sold.

Field Trips

- First trip to Red Rock Refuge in Montana.
- New collection of donations on field trips yields approximately \$300 for lobbyist.

Membership

- New high of 266 memberships, many representing families.

Wilderness

- Bruce Pendery makes presentation in support of Wayne Owens' 5.1 million-acre wilderness bill at National Audubon Convention in Tucson.

Wetlands

- BAS members involved in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process as UP&L seeks renewal for Cutler Dam Plant. This will result in the 7000 acres surrounding Cutler Reservoir.

Publicity

- Bill Holm, box elder bug poet, speaks at annual banquet. (He was wonderful.)
- Teton field trip gets big write-up in *Herald Journal*.
- Holly Faire booth sold all birdhouses and feeders.

Conservation

- Betty Boeker and Bruce Allsop recognized for contributions—first time Conservation Award given twice in one year.
- Audubon members testify against first sandhill hunt in 72 years.
- Pendery and Flint maintain vigilant watch as plans for Logan Canyon highway are formulated.

Recycling

- BAS joins Cache Recycling Coalition.
- First garage sale nets over \$500 for lobbyist.
- Aluminum can recycling provides three scholarships to Teton Science School.
- BAS supports Logan City's Christmas tree recycling project, reaching approximately 3500 people.

Newsletter

- *The Stilt* wins first place for chapters smaller than 300 members in National Audubon's newsletter contest.

Politics

- BAS member Doug Thompson directs Cache-Rich Tourist Council, supporting preservation of habitat for birds and birders.
- Jay Bagley serves on Governor's Bear River Task Force, leading re-thinking of dam-building.
- Wayne Martinson becomes first lobbyist for Utah Audubon Council, signifying growing unity and effectiveness of four Utah chapters.
- People for Wise Water Planning unites diverse groups in first petition to protest a water conservancy district in Utah.

Education

- BAS members help establish a native plant demonstration garden near Edith Bowen School.
- Birds of Prey Workshop from Tracy Aviary is sponsored by BAS.
- Audubon Adventures subscriptions go to 12 classrooms—approximately 384 children.
- Environmental education workshops Project WILD and Project Learning Tree reach 83 teachers and other adults.
- Field trips for classes and scout groups bring 1,417 children in touch with their environment.
- Two Junior Audubon Bird Counts are conducted, one in January, one in December.
- Trail guides for Riverside, Limber Pine and Tony Grove are distributed through U.S. Forest Service.

BIRDS

TUMORS IN HOUSE FINCHES SEEN

House finches in Cache Valley have been seen this fall with tumors at the base of the bill, crossed beaks and in one case a greatly extended lower mandible. An article in the recent issue of *Journal of Field Ornithology* sheds light on this disease.

Elliott McClure writes that lesions have been noted over much of the western range of house finches in the past 50 years. Data from 10 years of banding in southern California suggest that about a third of house finches contract lesions from an avian pox virus. The number of infections was greatest in winter and amongst birds crowded at feeders. Lesions were present most often on the feet, but also occurred on the mandibles and about the eyes. Birds blinded in one eye often learned to tilt the head so as to see out of the remaining good eye. Some infections caused the upper mandible to stop growing but not the lower one, resulting in a "shovel-nosed" condition.

I have seen such birds at my feeders in past years, but to date all the house finches at my feeders seem normal. McClure made no mention of the disease among other finches at his feeders, but perhaps there were none. I suspect that the disease should spread quickly to Cassin's finches, pine siskins, and goldfinches here in Cache Valley where they occur so frequently at feeders. I hope readers of *The Stilt* will report their own observations.

— Allen Stokes

We've noticed a couple of house finches with deformed heads at our feeder this year.

— Pat

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW FINDS AL STOKES

An adult white-throated sparrow has been coming regularly to the Stokes' feeder at 1722 Saddle Hill Drive. People are welcome to see this rare visitor from farther east. It has even been singing occasionally. If nobody is home, look over the gate to the west of the garage to the first feeder along the fence. If not there it tends to stay in the dense vines above the feeder.

FOUL WEATHER FOWL-WATCHING

Upon awakening Saturday, October 28, I was greeted by the sudden appearance of winter. Being a skier I welcomed this change but it did not bode well for a casual excursion to search for birds. Snow hung in the trees and the air was gray and wet. As I arrived in Fred Meyer's parking lot the snow began falling quite steadily and I wondered if anyone else was crazy enough to want to go birding this morning. Audubon field trip stalwart Reinhard Jockel arrived shortly before the designated hour of 8:00 a.m. Then we were joined by Austin McHugh, a recent Logan arrival who moved from Maine, and a reporter and a photographer from the *Cache Citizen*. The latter two did have their doubts about the sanity of the others in the crew.

So this was the corps of diehards who took off in the snow to Willow Park Zoo. With the increasing light on the new snow the day was becoming quite beautiful. We enjoyed fine close-up views of the waterfowl here. This stop let us work on some of the details of waterfowl field identification.

Next we stopped briefly at a pond across from the zoo and we flushed a great blue heron from its night roost. Typical Logan birds flew overhead such as red-shafted flickers and American goldfinches.

Then we travelled to the sewage lagoons to see the wildfowl in their native habitat. At the entrance we were greeted by a flock of water pipits. Next we were welcomed by a pleasant town employee who made sure we were not hunting and then informed us on the bird status of each pond. The waterfowl here were quite wary but by observing from our vehicle and getting out slowly and quietly we managed to get excellent views of most of the species present (especially thanks to the Bushnell Spacemaster II).

The flocks on the ponds were very large, ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand (obviously we did not conduct a thorough census). Species seen here included: eared grebe, Canada goose, mallard, gadwall, American widgeon, northern shoveler, redhead, canvasback, lesser scaup, bufflehead, and ruddy duck. Certainly there were others but the cold kept us from lingering too long outside the car.

We all concluded that it was a fine trip. So in the future remember that inclement weather does not preclude good birding. Just be sure to dress appropriately. Happy Birding!

— Tom Gumbart

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

A Flying Pox

I have a friend who is afflicted with warts. Warts. They pop up, unbidden, like goose-bumps on a cold day.

In Detroit, a man has suffered from hiccups for 36 months straight, with no time off for good behavior.

In Seville, eighteen people and a pig were possessed by demons who compelled them to do the frug for three weeks without rest.

I do not feel sorry for my friend with warts, nor the man with hiccups, nor the frugging populace of Seville. Rather, they should feel sorry for me.

I have starlings.

The problem, I think, is that I look like a soft touch. Somehow, in birdese, I broadcast a message: "Lonely would-be ornithologist with slaving penchant for starlings has trees with holes for nesting and grass with worms. All the starlings in western North America welcome." I feel as if I'd been on one of those TV shows where Harry the Hypnotist asks for volunteers and gives them post-hypnotic suggestions. Somehow my internal, subliminal Harry has directed me to attract starlings, and I can't help myself.

Can anybody help me?

For instance: I built a bird house tailored (so I thought) to the express, written and attested requirements of flickers.

I made it the right size. I made it the right shape. I made it of the right material. I filled it with the right shavings. I put in the right-sized hole. I placed it at the right height in the right sort of tree. Flickers came and looked at it. Mr. and Mrs. Flicker even posed and danced and flaunted what they had all around it.

Then they went away. Starlings moved in.

Because, thanks to my internal Harry, I'd somehow put up a garish sign visible only to birds that said "NO FLICKERS NEED APPLY" and "STARLINGS WELCOME; LOW RENT."

So last summer, in addition to the starlings that invaded the hollow tree I have in the front yard, I had starlings invading the house I thought I'd built for flickers in the back yard. Stereo starlings.

Is there a solution? Can I defeat Harry the Subconscious Hypnotist? Dare I hope to find a way to discourage starlings? Can anybody help me? If you know of a way, short of high explosives, to exclude black Eurasian birds in this day of integration and forced busing, please let me know. Just write it on a piece of paper and drop it off at my house. You'll recognize my house: it's the one that looks as if it's in an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

— TJG

AUDUBON JUNIOR CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

An Audubon Junior Christmas Bird Count was held on Friday, December 15, 1989 with 60 Edith Bowen Lab School 5th graders led by die-hard Bridgerland Auduboners and parent volunteers.

The 5th graders were divided into two working groups—one in the morning, and one in the afternoon, covering different locations in Cache Valley. Birding locations included First Dam in Logan Canyon, the marshlands near Amalga, North Logan, and Edgewood Hall in Providence. A Christmas Count checklist was provided for each birder, who also recorded weather conditions and other interesting observations.

Dorothy Dobson, 5th grade teacher at Edith Bowen, began the junior bird count 4 years ago, along with Allen Stokes. It has caught on as an exciting tradition at the lab school, and the Audubon Education Committee hopes to expand this program throughout the Logan and Cache School Districts as a part of their outreach program.

Audubon Education Committee member John Van Niel gave one-hour presentations on bird identification and bird adaptations prior to the bird count to familiarize students with local bird species, and to introduce them to the concept of field identification. Audubon group leaders included Alice Lindahl, Terry Barnes, Tom Gumbart, and Karen Matsumoto-Grah, as well as teachers Dorothy Dobson and Steve Archibald (who both subscribe to Audubon Adventures).

The Junior Christmas Bird Count was extremely successful, with 34 species and a total of 426 birds observed, despite poor weather conditions in the afternoon. Species observed included the American dipper, common and Barrow's goldeneyes, prairie falcon, downy woodpecker, red-breasted nuthatch, and feral peacocks!

The Audubon Education Committee hopes to use the bird count project as a springboard to launch an Audubon Junior Naturalist Program in Cache Valley beginning Spring of 1990. This program will be an after-school "club" open to 4th and 5th graders in both Logan and Cache School Districts, and will be run by Steve Archibald and Karen Matsumoto-Grah. Projects in the Cache Valley area are already in the works, which include establishing bluebird nest boxes in Logan Canyon, and a bird population census in Edgewood Hall, Providence.

We welcome suggestions, comments, and inquiries about our Christmas Bird Count or Junior Naturalist Program. Interested schools should contact Karen Matsumoto-Grah at 750-3468.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT NOW SERVES SCIENCE, TOO

Imagine a research team 42,000 members strong. Ranging in age from 9 to 90, they're up before dawn in their quest to outdo one another in a daylong data collection binge. Then contemplate a database with more than a billion entries. It spans 90 years and includes more than a thousand species of birds sighted in the Western Hemisphere. That's the Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, the world's largest and oldest wildlife survey.

A statistician's nightmare? Possibly. But increasing numbers of scientists say that it's also a scientific windfall.

More than ever before, biologists and wildlife scientists are making use of the Christmas bird count, which this year runs from December 16 until January 3. This annual census covers 1,550 locations in all 50 states, as well as Canada, the West Indies, and Central and South America. It began quite modestly in 1900, when 26 bird-watchers turned out to protest a tradition in which teams of hunters tried to kill the most wild birds and mammals in a single yuletide afternoon.

Its popularity as a holiday outing has grown through the decades.

The survey was never meant to be a scientific exercise. But now, thanks to the efforts of a few scientists and computerized data processing, the Christmas bird count data are leading to scientific insights and results that are changing the course of conservation.

*"So far 200 scientific papers . . .
have relied on data from the
annual count."*

The information has found a secure place within the scientific literature. So far 200 scientific papers, most of them published during the past 15 years, half of them in refereed journals, have relied on data derived from the annual count. And scientists expect that number to increase. "It will rise exponentially," predicts Terry Root, an assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan. "With conservation issues you've got to be looking at a much larger scale than we have been in ecology." No other surveys are as all-inclusive or comprehensive, says Root, who hopes to use the data to track the effects of global warming on bird populations.

Until now, much bird research has focused on breeding success and strategies. But Gregory Butcher, a bird-counter since he was 11, now a scientist at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y., thinks more biologists are beginning to realize the important role that winter plays in a species' survival. His analysis of black ducks has documented a 35-year decline in their numbers, most likely due to destruction of winter feeding grounds in the wetlands of Long Island and the Chesapeake Bay. Butcher believes that further examination of the bird-count data will highlight the need to preserve winter feeding habitat as well as breeding habitat. "It's going to be the next great revolution in conservation," he predicts.

— Elizabeth Dennisi

Excerpted from The Scientist, Dec. 11, 1989.

POLITICS AND THE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

On December 5, the Cache County Council, in a surprise move, voted to promote the formation of a district, including spending county money.

This means taxpayer money will be used to promote a minority petition that will result in more taxing of all taxpayers. This seems non-representative.

Some members of the council indicated that they voted to promote the district when they learned about the "threat" of water filing by Box Elder's Bear River WCD. We have failed to educate our council. There is no way a WCD has magic powers to prevent a filing. Individual citizens can protest a filing and the state engineer has a say over the appropriateness of a filing, but a WCD has nothing to do with it. The scare tactic was successful with our council.

We WILL file a protest petition. We are halfway to our goal of 4,000 property owner signatures. (Recall: to form a district takes 1000 signatures, to protest a district, 4,000 signatures with higher property value requirements). We have raised enough money to support a mass mailing of petitions. So far we have been able to send out 3,700 of them and the returns are running 43% response and rising.

**WE NEED MONEY TO REACH THE OTHER 15,000
PROPERTY OWNERS. EVERY DOLLAR YOU
DONATE SENDS OUT 3 PETITIONS!**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED YOUR PETITION YET,
GET WITH IT!**

Send donations and requests for petitions to: PWWP,
P.O. Box 3955, Logan, UT 84321 or call 753-7744.

— Alice Lindahl

THE 1990 BAS AL STOKES CONSERVATION AWARD

Every year, at our spring banquet, we recognize the contribution of a deserving individual or organization in the area of conservation. In the past we have given the award to activists, farmers, companies, and just plain people who have done something to help the environment and make life better for all of us.

Please help the conservation committee by nominating deserving individuals or groups. Write me a letter or call. Tell me what the person has done and why you think they are deserving. That's it. The only caution I would have is that we do not award it to someone who is simply doing his/her job. To be given to a person employed, say, in environmental protection, their effort must be "over and above" their job description.

— Alice Lindahl



OK GLADYS, SIGN ME UP FOR THE ACTION COMMITTEE,
... ESCAPE ISN'T WORKING!

ONE LETTER A MONTH, THAT'S ALL WE ASK

As of January, I will be taking over the chairmanship of the conservation committee. We have some impressive mountains to climb, and we can't do it alone. Every week, we miss an opportunity to effectively promote environmental issues because we are so few on the committee. PLEASE come to our meetings and help us. We need your advice, wisdom, and encouragement. If you think that you don't KNOW enough about the issues, that's another reason to come, not to stay home. You will find that we fly completely by the seat of our pants, and every bit of participation is used to the max.

The rest of you who will never come to our meetings: we need you to write letters. They don't have to be laser-printed. In fact, public officials are MOST impressed by a personalized scrawl on stationery that has a few butter smudges on it. So every month there will be a LETTER ALERT in *The Stilt*. Do your part and spend these few minutes to help us out. This month's LETTER ALERT concerns the Bird Refuge (see the article "Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge"), so DO IT NOW.

— Alice Lindahl

OUR LOBBYING EFFORT

We are on the threshold of the 1990 legislative session. It starts January 8.

Our lobbyist, Wayne Martinson, has been hard at work researching the issues. He has already activated our telephone network for a proposal to include two amendments to the Bear River Task Force bill at the hearing stage.

All four chapters got together to choose six bills that are of most interest to Audubon. There were 18 pressing prefiled bills that we were forced to choose among. During the session, many more will surface. Here is a summary of what we chose.

1. THE WILDLIFE GENERAL FUND INITIATIVE: The Division of Wildlife Resources is requesting \$2 million to enlarge their program to include more than hunting and fishing. We support this.

2. BEAR RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSIGHT: The 1989 Bear River Task Force is requesting \$1.5 million to allow the Division of Water Resources to study the potential dam sites on the Bear River. We will support it only if amendments are included to study other sources of water for the Wasatch Front, including conservation. We also will require professional oversight on the Division's figures and conclusions.

3. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL APPROPRIATION: Utah needs to increase funding for the monitoring of Utah's streams, lakes, and reservoirs in the face of decreasing federal dollars for this purpose. We support it.

4. WASTE TIRE RECYCLING: This bill would require a deposit on tires to take care of their recycling when they die. There are 10 million old tires now lying around Utah. This fund would get them moving. We support it.

5. COMPREHENSIVE RECYCLING BILL (Rep. Piganelli): This bill requires cities to reduce their waste stream by 25% by 1992. It mandates the purchase of recycled paper and creates a sales tax exemption for industries which purchase recycled materials. We REALLY support this bill.

6. AMEND OR ENSURE PROPER REPRESENTATION ON H.B. 61 THE WILDERNESS STUDY BILL (Rep. Adams): We would like to make sure that some pro-wilderness interests are represented on a state task force which is developing a state position on wilderness.

Last year, the Sierra Club ranked all 104 legislators on their performance on 6 environmental bills. The possible scores ranged from -100 (voting "wrong" on every bill) to +100 (voting "right" all the time). The lowest score actually achieved was -50 by David Adams (Republican-

Monticello) and the highest was a tie of +90 by Reps Pignelli and Julander, both Democrats from Salt Lake.

Here is how our five Cache Valley legislators fared in the scoring:

Rep. Stephen Bodily (R-Lewiston)	+30
Rep. Evan Olsen (R-Young Ward)	0
Rep. Frank Prante (D-Logan)	+20
Sen. Lyle Hillyard (R-Logan)	0
Sen. John Holmgren (R-Bear River City)	+20

Clearly, there is room for improvement.

It is not too late to join our telephone network and make this lobbying effort a reality. In no area of our chapter is it more important to have our participation. **THE LOBBYIST CANNOT CALL OUR LEGISLATORS FOR US.** In fact, if some of you don't sign up and make these phone calls, our lobbying effort just won't work. You will get up-to-date fact sheets during the session. We have made this easy for you. Sign the coupon below and mail it today.

+++++
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
+++++

LEANNA RETURNS TO TETON SCIENCE SCHOOL

Last spring I began attending the Audubon Education Committee meetings with Ann Peralta, my partner and co-director in Cache County school's environmental education program. We wanted to find out what was already being done with environmental education in the valley, to see what resources might be available and hear about other people's efforts in that area.

Through Karen Matsamoto-Grah we learned about the Audubon Scholarships and I was delighted at the possibility of returning to the Teton Science School for a class. In March of 1988, with Al Stokes' help with arrangements, Ann and I spent three valuable days up there observing seventh graders from Jackson Hole in their session. The TSS staff were extremely helpful in sharing curricula and ideas for our program and we hope to have a close, ongoing relationship with the TSS as we try to get something similar to their program established here in Cache Valley.

I chose to take Kim Fadiman's "Patterns in Nature" course, because I felt that it would have immediate applicability to our program. "Patterns in Nature" covered a wide array of interesting subjects, ranging from building our own collection of tessellating polygons to discussion of logarithmic apertures in cameras; from the principle of parsimony found in the hexagons of beehives, baking chocolate chip cookies and soap bubbles to how rivers use elliptic integrals to equalize energy expenditure.

We discussed the four basic patterns found in nature: explosions (seed dispersal, volcanoes, energy dispersion), spirals (growth), meanders (energy), and branching (transporting fluids through tree branches, blood vessels, plumbing, river systems). We spent a beautiful, sunny afternoon out in the field discovering Fibonacci number sequences in leaf and flower arrangements and found that the whole botanical world is built around these numbers.

From the top of the hill just north of Jackson, we had a perfect view of river meanders, riffles, river terraces and oxbows that enhanced our understanding as we discussed river systems. Kim also explained much of Jackson Hole's geologic history through different features of the landscape below us.

For me, watching Kim's remarkable teaching skills in action was as valuable as the facts he taught. A masterful, engaging teacher, when explaining how lizards dissipate heat, he prostrated himself on the ground and did a series of push-ups himself, complete with special tongue effects, much to the delight of us all. He also shared with us the pleasure of eating lunch on the sundeck of Dornan's with its fabulous view of the Tetons. Our daily sojourn over to Dornan's for lunch enabled me to discuss with several of the Science teachers in our course what they were doing to implement environmental education in their own classrooms. Sandy Leotta, a biology teacher in Casper, Wyoming, has kept in touch to let me know of developing and ongoing programs in Wyoming.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity the Audubon scholarship afforded me to attend this course and I feel that it will greatly aid me in our efforts to put together a quality program for the children of cache Valley. Thanks!

— Leanna Ballard

BAS BANNER AVAILABLE

Special thanks to Sally Jackson who has made an eye-catching blue and white banner for Bridgerland Audubon Society measuring 3 x 4 feet with suction-cup hangers. Anybody wishing to use this for special occasions may borrow it. Call Al Stokes 752-2702.

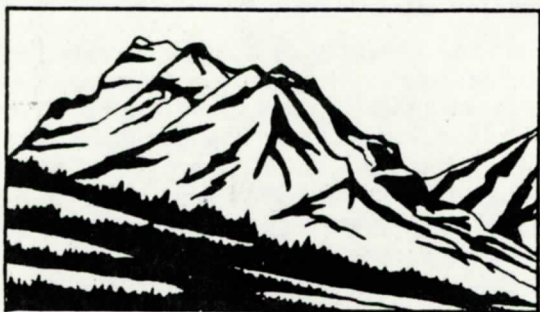
POETRY CONTEST

All poets are invited to participate in an exciting competition sponsored by the Utah Wilderness Association.

Send your unpublished poem, related to the theme of wilderness, its preservation, its life and values, or its spiritual nature, to POETRY/Utah Wilderness Association, 455 East 400 South, #306, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. A prize of \$100.00 will be awarded to the winning poet. The winning poem and the top five honorable mentions will be published in the spring issue of the *Utah Wilderness Association Review* (circulation of 1500).

RULES: Poems must not exceed 40 lines, may be in any style and must be limited to the themes above. No more than three poems may be entered by any poet. Each poem must be accompanied by a \$3.00 entry fee. Send two copies of each poem: one must include your name, address and phone number in the upper right corner; the second must contain the poem only, to guarantee anonymity during judging. Poets retain all rights. **ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 15, 1990.**

For further information contact Margaret Pettis, UWA Poetry Coordinator, (801) 359-1337, at the address above.



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Drawing by Pam Strickler

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WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE?

John Sigler, Larry Ryel, and John Barnes attended a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) public scoping meeting on revitalization of the Bear River Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. The refuge, located west of Brigham City, Utah, was inundated by the rising waters of Great Salt Lake following the high water years of 1983-1985. Prior to flooding the refuge supported large populations of various species of waterfowl and provided innumerable recreational opportunities.

(Please see **REFUGE** on page 13.)

A RECYCLING PRIMER

THE NEW 3 R'S

Recycle

Recycling implies re-using, but what we're doing is sending that bottle or plastic container to some place where it will be broken up or melted down, hopefully to then be made into another usable form.

Trash sorting is very simple. A container (box or grocery bag) for glass, hard plastics (shampoo, hand lotion containers, milk cartons, soft drink containers—no plastic bags yet), aluminum cans, and paper products can be arranged strategically for optimal tossing convenience. The glass and plastic containers should be rinsed, with lids removed (unless they're plastic), but luckily the labels CAN stay on!

The Cache Recycling Coalition has a neighborhood recycling co-op in which members alternate trips to the Patagonia Outlet in SLC for drop-off of the glass, plastics and aluminum cans. The proceeds go to The Nature Conservancy for purchase of sensitive habitat in Utah.

The low-grade paper can go to Allsops (Mountain Fiber) which makes cellulose insulation. They can take essentially any paper product, including newspaper, magazines, cereal boxes, cardboard, envelopes, etc. (no carbon paper). You can drop this off at their place in Hyrum, or contact any of the Scout troops. High grade paper, such as computer and xerox (office ledger) paper, could go to the students on campus for their recycling program. Contact Stephanie Comfort at 750-5818 for details. The proceeds go towards maintaining the program.

Steel cans, labels removed, are accepted at Cache Salvage in Millville.

Reject

If we recycle, that's great, but there's the true "closed-loop" process, (i.e. returnable glass bottles that are sterilized and used an infinite number of times) and then there's the plastics problem. There are a variety of polymers such as PET, PVC, PS, LDPE, Etc. that must be melted down and made into secondary products; the refining process produces toxic chemicals, and new resins are introduced each time. Essentially, we're still making plastics, and there isn't a strong market yet for these secondary products (e.g. plastic logs for homes).

The "biodegradable" plastic bag apparently is a misnomer. To learn more about this, the journals *Garbage*, *Resource Recovery*, *Waste Age*, and *Recycling Today* are at the Logan and USU libraries for more information. I suggest avoiding plastic bags and reusing the ones we've got.

The next step, then, is to reject products in overpacked, non-biodegradable, and/or non-recyclable containers. We need to be responsible consumers not only in terms of contents, but also packaging. A perfect example is ketchup or jelly in the squeezable plastic bottles, which are multi-layered plastic (thus not easily recycled). Most of those products are still packaged in glass, and although they may be breakable and hazardous to children, I did fine growing up with glass containers. Single serving microwave meals, single package fruit juices, cookies and granola bars . . . the list goes on. We've been spoiled by convenience, but I'll bet we can adapt to the "old ways" again.

Re-use

This brings us to the final, most effective and lasting step—re-use. If we reject wasteful products and re-use what we already have, we reduce the initial problem.

So what can we do? Buying in bulk can have very low impact, especially if we bring our own grocery bags, plastic bags and/or containers (for nut butters, oils, and spices). If you eat meat, go to a butcher shop where the meat is wrapped in paper that could go to Allsops for insulation; you avoid the polystyrene (styrofoam) tray and the plastic wrap. Watch also for recyclable packaging, such as cereal and cake mix paperboard boxes.

We should go back to the days of refillable milk, wine, and beer bottles. The White Owl has returnable beer bottles and doesn't use aluminum cans. Beer on tap is also a great idea.

And of course we should always have our travel mug nearby for coffee breaks, and a container on hand in lieu of a styrofoam "doggie bag" at restaurants.

Fast food take-out trash is a serious problem, but I read in *Newsweek* (Nov. 27, 1989) that McDonalds is trying to recycle its styrofoam containers, and they were first in eliminating the ozone-depleting CFC's (chlorofluorocarbons) from their styrofoam.

These are just a few suggestions of how we can adopt a lifestyle that reduces waste and also increases awareness of the far-reaching implications of our purchases. I read about thousands of plastic tampon applicators washing up on the beaches in the east coast; we've all seen photos of seals and birds caught in the plastic six-pack holders. (Clearly the stuff doesn't just go away; it always comes back to haunt us.)

We can stop all this at the source, and each of us can make a difference by example. If you have any other great "3-R" tips, let me know. Or better yet, come to the next meeting of the Cache Recycling Coalition, and share your ideas!

— Mary Manning

753-1329

REFUGE

From page 11

The December 7 meeting, attended by approximately 100 individuals representing diverse views and concerns, was the first step in the FWS-sponsored process scheduled to produce an environmental assessment (EA) in late 1990. The FWS presented four basic alternatives for public review and comment:

1. No Fish and Wildlife Service Management — Refuge would be allowed to revert to "natural" conditions. Public entry prohibited. Wetlands protected under existing statutes. Some land might be sold.

2. Partial Restoration — Dikes and water control structures would be repaired. No buildings or towers would be repaired on the refuge. Public use would include bird-watching, hunting, and and fishing.

3. Enhancement of Existing Refuge Lands — Refuge buildings restricted to temporary structures. No public use facilities. Existing refuge lands managed more intensively. Water fowl and migratory bird use expected to increase. Public use would include bird-watching, hunting, and fishing.

4. Refuge Enhancement and Land Acquisition — Approximately 38,000 acres would be added to the Refuge's existing 65,000 acres. Acquisition would be either purchased or by easement of surface rights (e.g., for water and surface activities). Acquired lands would be developed to increase waterfowl use of the area. A visitors center would be established near the freeway (I-15) to promote tourist use of the area which would include auto tour routes. Bird-watching, hunting, and fishing would be primary activities.

Money to buy the needed property can be obtained from either the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (Duck Stamp money) or from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. An additional source of money is a direct Congressional appropriation specifically earmarked for ground purchase.

Bridgerland Audubon members can write to the Service and express their views on which alternative should be selected, what services or types of activities should be promoted or supported (such as bird-watching towers, observation areas, auto tour areas, canoe "trails," boat and foot hunter access routes, and other amenities). The address is:

Al Trout, Project Leader
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
862 South Main, Suite 9
Brigham City, Utah 84302

or

Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Representatives from Senator Garn and Senator Hatch were at the meeting and answered several questions. Representative Hansen has already attempted to obtain funding. BAS members should consider either writing a separate letter to our Congressional delegation members or forwarding a copy of their Fish and Wildlife Service letters to one or more of the elected representatives.

One additional thought. A potential requirement for additional water for the new refuge may be tied to one of the proposed Bear River dams now being considered by the Legislative Bear River Task Force. As you may recall, various conservation groups in Cache Valley have spoken out against unrestrained dam building. We may be put in a position of having to support a Bear River dam to facilitate complete development of a new, revitalized Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. To make the most of this opportunity to participate in the redevelopment of a valuable wetland/bird/hunting/fishing/looking/etc. resource, write a letter to the Service, express your views, and let your elected representatives (both Utah and national) know your feelings and desires.

— John Sigler

OLD GROWTH DEFENDERS WIN SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN FINAL FOREST BILL

The timber industry's program of liquidation of the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest suffered a setback this fall, as environmentalists hoping to halt indiscriminate logging and save the spotted owl emerged from a major battle on Capitol Hill with some significant gains.

Millions of acres of publicly owned old-growth forest, with trees up to 1,000 years old, 250 feet high, and 30 feet around, are at issue. By Congressional decree, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management must sell some 70,000 acres of Pacific Northwest old growth to the timber industry each year. Not only is this a non-sustainable rate of logging, but it also threatens wildlife dependent on the ancient forests, especially the rare spotted owl.

Until recently, the problem was seen as only regional in scope, making it difficult for environmentalists to enlist the support they needed to force Congress to review the relevant legislation. However, an all-out campaign by Audubon and the Ancient Forest Alliance to make this a national issue, like saving the Grand Canyon or the Everglades, has begun to pay off.

CONSERVATION

After the Senate passed an appropriations bill this summer that continued high rates of old-growth logging and sharply limited citizens' legal rights to challenge timber sales, more than 100 members of the House signed a letter to Rep. Sidney Yates, Chair of the House Interior Appropriations Sub-committee, urging him to hold firm in his negotiations with the Senate and not let the ancient forest be sacrificed to business as usual.

The Tide Is Turning

As a direct result of this lobbying, the joint House-Senate Appropriations Conference Committee voted in September for significant changes in the government's policy on cutting old-growth trees on public lands in the Pacific Northwest, changes the timber industry had lobbied fiercely against.

Most importantly, the total forest volume authorized to be sold to industry from public lands in Washington and Oregon is one billion board feet *less* than the level for the last two years, though still unsustainable at 9.6 billion for the combined fiscal years 1989 and 1990. And for the first time in any federal statute, the public agencies were directed to "minimize fragmentation" of the remaining old-growth forests and to conduct timber sales and logging operations in such a way as to protect spotted owl habitat.

There are some problems, too, the biggest one being that about 120,000 acres of ancient forest are required to be sold to the industry. Citizens' legal rights taken away by the Senate bill were only partially restored. But overall, the stage is now set for strong permanent protection for next year.

The legislation has come none too soon. America's last ancient forests are nearly gone. As Brock Evans, Audubon's front man in the fight to preserve the ancient forests, says, he has seen the "the once magnificent dark green carpet torn asunder by thousands of bare brown clearcuts, and the churned-up wasteland of huge stumps and gullies running mud into once-clear streams."

The Next Step

There is much more work to be done, however. An appropriations statute is only effective for one year; we must work together to get legislation permanently protecting the ancient forests.

Audubon leaders from the Northwest met in early November to hammer out their agenda for forest legislation. Brock Evans explains that Audubon will emphasize two main issues: permanent protection for the best and most significant stands of old growth (between 2 and 3 million acres in Oregon and Washington too); and reformed forestry practices that protect the essential components and biodiversity of the forest ecosystem.

Despite the turning tide in Congress, the timber industry remains a strong lobbying force, with powerful congressional allies. This summer, the industry turned its might

on Audubon, causing the Stroh Brewery Co. to pull its sponsorship of Audubon's series of television specials. Loggers had threatened to boycott Stroh's beer if Audubon aired its television special, "Ancient Forests: Rage Over Trees," which documented the dispute between loggers and environmentalists. Letters from timber interests also caused the Ford Motor Co., Exxon, Sears, Michelin Tires, New York Life Insurance, Citicorp, ITT Hartford, Stroh, and *Omni* magazine to cancel ads on the show.

What You Can Do

Audubon and the ancient forests need your help if we are to win the legislative battles yet to come. You are invited to join the Audubon Ancient Forest Leadership Network, and take a leadership role in coordinating and mobilizing the citizens in your congressional district for the fight ahead. Contact Brock Evans or Jim Pissot at Audubon's Washington, D.C. office; Dan Taylor at Audubon's Western regional office; or Tom Shoemaker at the Washington state office, P.O. Box 462, Olympia, Washington 98507, (206) 786-8020.

To help win back commercial sponsors for Audubon's Television Specials, express your support of the program in a letter to Ted Turner, Turner Broadcasting, One CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366.

— Tensie Whelan
from the *Audubon Activist*,
Nov./Dec/ 1989

FROM BROCK'S DIARY

Regarding the Ancient Forest Bill

Privately, I believe, after 25 years of campaigning and being involved in the bitter struggles with the industry in the Northwest, that this is the largest, and most important strategic battle of all. In many ways it is to us what Stalingrad was to the Russians . . . After being beaten and battered and bruised so long, they won a great victory, inflicted terrible losses on the other side, and were placed in a strategic position of great power from which to roll forward. After that time, the final outcome of the war on the Russian front was never in doubt, even with many hard battles yet to come. And the same is true with us . . . after now, after this day, the final outcome will never be in doubt . . . we are going to win it, and win it big. We will have more battles and more losses, yes, but victory, in terms of rescuing the last of the ancient forests, in terms of true biological/ecological management practices, including perhaps a better Forest Service, is ours, assured, forever some day, whether I continue to play part in it or not.

— Brock Evans
National Audubon Society
Vice President for National Issues

FOREST SERVICE POLICY ON OLD GROWTH

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19—Old-growth forests are valuable as diverse and productive ecosystems and will be managed as such under a new national policy announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

"For the first time as an agency, we are recognizing the importance of old growth on a national level," Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson said. "Old-growth forests are important ecosystems that we are just beginning to understand. We've learned enough to know that a significant share of them deserve to be protected and managed for posterity."

The Forest Service has developed a position statement embracing the many significant values of old growth. The statement includes guidance on old-growth definitions, land use decisions, silvicultural practices, and research.

"For example, we will reduce the use of traditional clear-cutting methods," Robertson said. "Instead, we will increase the retention of residual trees, snags, dead-and-down material, and logging debris."

Other actions include:

- Reducing the fragmentation of old-growth forests;

- Maintaining future options for significant old-growth forests until more is learned about them by selectively locating timber sales;
- Managing some forest stands on extended rotations to develop their old-growth values as well as provide for timber products;
- Creating future old-growth forests through management activities as well as natural events;
- Getting a better idea of how much old growth exists and where it is located;
- Increasing research efforts directed to old-growth ecosystems and their management. For example, in fiscal 1990 a \$1.051 million increase is funded for old-growth research.

"We do not anticipate an immediate impact on our timber sale program since our forest plans provide for many old-growth values," Robertson said. However, there will be an impact when we complete the final forest plans in California, Oregon, and Washington, and as we amend or revise other forest plans due to a greater emphasis on old-growth values."

The Forest Service also has developed a national ecological definition of old growth forests based on structural attributes that can be identified and measured. "This generic definition will guide the development of specific definitions by forest types and provide consistency in identifying the extent and location of old-growth forests through our forest inventories," Robertson said.

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
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	Bob Atwood, 752-7012
	Office, 753-0012

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

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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.

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ADDRESS _____

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Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

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