



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol. 19, No. 2

October 1990

## SURPRISES IN CRANE COUNTRY

A small army of crane counters spread throughout Cache Valley during the two weekends prior to the sandhill crane hunt to assess the status of the population. To the amazement of our leader, Val Grant, who totaled the reported sightings, there were 407 cranes spotted on August 19, approximately double the summer resident population. The following Sunday, August 26, 356 were seen.

The increase in August is apparently a result of early migration due to drought. Rod Drewian reported early movement in Idaho. It seems the cranes were staging in Cache Valley prior to further migration.

Aerial surveys by the Division of Wildlife Resources tend to confirm our count. They report seeing 504 cranes on August 22, 542 on August 29, 486 on September 5, and 496 on September 12.

The hunt took place on the first and second weekends of September. Forty permits were issued for Cache Valley, with a central part of the valley off limits. Tom Aldrich of DWR reports that 21 hunters took a total of ten cranes in Cache Valley. Asked to speculate on the reason for the low success rate, he said, "Participation was about the same as last year, around 55 percent. But the cranes seem to be a lot spookier. Farmers say it's easier to scare them out of fields with shellcrackers than it was before the first hunt." Two of the dead cranes were hatched this spring. Hunters spent an average of 9.2 hours per crane.

In Rich County, where forty permits were also allotted, 32 hunters shot 25 cranes, 12 percent of whom were young. Hunter hours per crane averaged 3.6.

### CRANE HUNT RESULTS

	Cache	Rich
Hunters	21	32
Cranes Killed	10	25
% Young	20	12
Hunter hrs/crane	9.2	3.6

P.S. Our striking contribution to the fashion scene, "Safe Haven for Crane" T-shirts, are available in several delectable colors at Accents, 57 Count Main. At \$10, they're fine buys. Think of those on your Christmas list who need shirts. For each shirt sold, \$5 goes to protect local resident cranes.

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**Friday to Sunday, October 5-7.** Elk bugling in the Tetons. This trip features watching and hearing elk bugle at dusk, and a chance to see bison and pronghorn at close range, as well as other wildlife (pika, moose, ??) Leave Friday afternoon as schedules permit. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for reservations and details of the trip.

**Thursday, October 11.** Bridgerland Audubon Society general meeting. The topic will be "Barn Owls in Utah." Dr. Carl Marti of Weber State will tell us about their ways and means. 7:30 p.m. in Logan City Building, 255 North Main.

**Saturday, October 13.** Summit Cyclists Bicycle Club sponsors a Cider Ride to Paradise to watch cider being pressed and to partake of the fresh product. Approximate distance is 30 miles. Maps are provided so riders can set their own pace. Call Jean Lown, 752-6830

**Monday through Wednesday, October 15-17.** Outdoor Adventures for Middle Schoolers. Canoeing, hiking, birding, time travel and soil study. See article on page 5, elsewhere in this issue, or call Leanna Ballard, 753-6722, for more enticing details.

**Thursday, October 18.** BAS Planning Meeting, 7 p.m. Held in Val Grant's office at Bio-Resources, 135 East Center. All are welcome to attend, especially those who would like to take a more active role in the organization.

**Saturday, October 20.** The "Boeker Breaker," a run/walk sponsored by the USU Women's Center, takes off at 9 a.m. Betty Boeker, USU chemist and 1989 recipient of the Allen Stokes Conservation Award, designed the somewhat zany race course. Participants may register for a 4k walk, a 5k run, or a 10k run, and will receive complimentary refreshments and visors. Approximately 50 door prizes will be awarded, and music will be provided by Nadene Steinhoff. Registration is \$8 through Oct. 19, \$10 on Oct. 20. For further information contact Betsy Cooper, 750-3264, or the USU Women's Center, 750-1728.

**Saturday, October 20.** A Trip to the Zoo. Al Stokes will lead this trip to observe waterfowl and other native animals, plus look at their behavior. Meet at the south entrance to Willow Park Zoo at 8:30 a.m. If time permits we will visit the Sewage Lagoon to observe waterfowl and gulls. Return before noon.

**Saturday, November 10.** How to Keep From Getting Lost. Geography professor Ted Alsop will hold a workshop on mapping and orienteering on the USU Campus. Following an indoor introduction he will send us out to find buried treasure. A great outing for all ages. BRING A COMPASS. Ted will provide maps. Meet in Room 105 of the Natural Resources Building at 1:00 p.m. Finish by about 3 p.m.

**Saturday, November 17.** Attracting Birds to Feeders. Visit several homes to see how best to attract birds and to identify those birds coming to the feeders. Bring binoculars and dress warmly. Leave from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot at 8 a.m. and return by noon.

**Saturday, December 8.** Weeds in Winter. Using a key, we will try to identify the common weeds from their seed heads. At the same time we will observe what birds and mammals might be feeding on them. Leave from the Fred Meyer parking lot at 1 p.m. and return by 4 p.m. Trip location will depend on snow conditions.

**Saturday, December 22.** Annual Christmas Bird Count. Call Keith Archibald if you wish to participate.

## MEMBERSHIP MOUNTING

Bridgerland Audubon Society has reached an all-time high in its membership: 316, up from 266 in the previous year. It is great to have this added strength as we work for ever better programs in education and legislation where numbers count.

But we can't rest on our laurels, for Audubon chapters have about a 33 percent annual turnover in membership. To compensate, we need to get the word out, involve our friends and neighbors in our activities, and make it easy for interested people to join. I recommend that we carry a few membership forms in the glove compartments of our cars so when we meet people on trips or elsewhere we will have one ready to give out. Call me for promotional materials, and let's keep this chapter growing.

— Al Stokes  
752-2702

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Pamela Hudson, Logan  
W. Barry Southerland, Logan  
Mrs. James Pickett, Logan  
Patrick Clark, Logan  
Leila M. Shultz, Logan  
Geovanni Jimenez, Logan

## THANKS RENEWING MEMBERS!

Lee Brinegar, Salt Lake City  
Isabel Katana, Logan  
Barbara Lilieholm, Providence



## A WELCOME DONATION

Thanks to William Hartley, visiting professor of veterinary medicine from Australia, who is in Logan for several weeks. He has made a gift of \$20 to support Bridgerland Audubon's programs.

## PONDERING CATTLE EGRETS

On September 1 I saw 66 cattle egrets feeding amidst a herd of cattle about one-half mile north of Valley View Highway on the road leading to the Benson Marina. Has anybody found any evidence of nesting in Cache Valley? Or seen juveniles in amongst adults? Where is the nearest breeding colony?

— Al Stokes

## ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

### A Little Q and A

Instead of our regular columnist this month, we are pleased to present Mister Bird Question Answering Man, internationally recognized expert and author of *The Big Book Answers To Questions About Birds And Plumbing*.

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**I want to watch birds. How can I start?**

It's easy. Practice watching doorknobs, then generalize.

**I'm considering buying new binoculars. How should I evaluate them?**

Good question! Very often people buy new binoculars because they're on sale, or because they look just like the ones Robert Mitchum used in "The Enemy Beneath," or some other silly reason. Here are a few tips. First, find the little numbers on them that say "8 x 24" or "10 x 50" or something like that. All binoculars should have those little numbers on them. Check to see if one eyepiece can be removed so you can pour in your secret stash of whisky. Do they have a strap? What color are they? These things can be too easily overlooked.

**I have a chance to go birding in Borneo. Any tips?**

Always say, "please." Wear clean underwear in case of an accident. Remember your toothbrush. Buy low, sell high.

**Why has the community of ornithological taxonomists designated certain grosbeaks as *Emberizidae***

**and others as *Fringillidae*?**

What?

**It's very difficult for me to distinguish a western flycatcher from a willow flycatcher.**

Of course it is. Both belong to the genus *Electrolux* and are characterized by identical corsets. Study after study has shown that both are as musical as Brillo. Try asking somebody.

**I saw a big black bird in a bush, but I don't know what it was. Can you tell me?**

Yes, I can.

**A bird always awakens me early in the morning, but I can never see it. It goes, "hooHAHAHA, hooHAHAHA, whoopiewoopiewoowie PEWI" Do you know what it is?**

You didn't tell me where you live, so I can't say for sure. In the Midwest, that clearly is a Pileated Prankster. If you're in the East, however, it's probably a Nauseated Prankster (in the Northeast or in Washington, D.C., between the Potomac and the Soldier's Home, Lipschitz's Nauseated Prankster). In the Pacific Northwest, see your doctor.

**What's the difference between a house finch and a rosy finch?**

About three beers.

**Are you sure it was Robert Mitchum in "The Enemy Beneath"?**

Of course. You're thinking of "National Velvet" with Elizabeth Taylor.

**Why do birds fly south for the winter?**

I'm not going to touch that. I don't need straight lines.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mister Bird Question Answering Man will be happy to answer your questions, too. Send them to the editor, with \$50 per question for postage and handling, and watch for the answers in the next Mister Bird Question Answering Man column.

— TJG

## SUNFLOWER SEEDS AT SUNRISE CYCLERY

The sunflower seeds are dwindling down to a precious few—eight bags full, at this writing. They are available at Sunrise Cyclery, 138 North 100 East, for \$18 per bag. Bags are fundable for \$1 each, and 5 ¢ per pound goes to support our intrepid lobbyist.



## "MISSING MIGRANTS" WINNER REVEALED

If you've been following this saga, you're aware that the stylized bird picture on pages 81 and 82 of the May Audubon is the subject of a hot birding contest. Al Stokes challenged birders to identify the 45 species depicted, with the result that Jan Young and the team of Jeanne Le Ber and Ray Smith made supreme efforts and sent carefully labelled entries. Realizing belatedly that only the artist could judge this contest with authority, we sent the entries to Charley Harper, who graciously studied the entries and sent this reply:

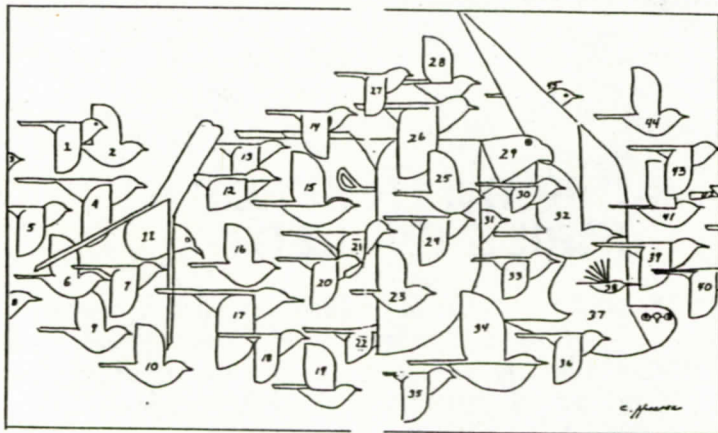
Looks like the Jan Young entry is the winner. I can find only one correction on it. Several of them are close calls. Which reminds me once again of how difficult it is for an artist to decide what the quintessential specimen of a particular bird should look like. Comparing all the guide books with skin specimens and the real bird, one finds that they are all slightly different, sometimes very different. Because of all this, I am enormously pleased to find that so many of my designs are identifiable by expert birders.

My print publisher, Frame House Gallery, is producing a litho of the painting. I'll have them let you know when it is available.

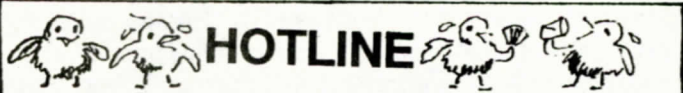
Sincerely

*Charley Harper*

Congratulations are in order for Jan, and for the LeBerre/Smith team. They all made a splendid showing in the realm of competitive birding. As a reward, they will receive their entries, embellished with brilliant orange notations by the artist. Those of you who merely wondered what all those birds were, and sent not even wild guesses, will have to make do with the diagram below. Check your May Audubon magazine for the full impact.



1. Black-throated green warbler
2. Tennessee warbler
3. Whip-poor-will
4. Scarlet tanager
5. Blackpoll warbler
6. Blue-winged warbler
7. Yellow-throated warbler
8. Philadelphia vireo
9. Golden-cheeked warbler
10. Bay-breasted warbler
11. Yellow-billed cuckoo
12. Eastern wood-pewee
13. Blue-gray gnat catcher
14. American redstart
15. Red-eyed vireo
16. Townsend's warbler
17. Yellow-bellied sapsucker
18. Worm-eating warbler
19. Cape May warbler
20. Golden-winged warbler
21. Great-crested flycatcher
22. Uncertain. Maybe another #12
23. Northern parula
24. Grulean warbler
25. Canada warbler
26. Wood thrush
27. Black-and-white warbler
28. Prothonotary warbler
29. Broad-winged hawk
30. Black poll warbler
31. Gray-cheeked thrush
32. Northern oriole
33. Magnolia warbler
34. Swainson's thrush
35. Blackburnian warbler
36. Hooded warbler
37. Swallowtail kite
38. Ruby-throated hummingbird
39. Northern waterthrush
40. Black-throated gray warbler
41. Kentucky warbler
42. Veery (tail)
43. Bachman's warbler
44. Chestnut-sided warbler
45. Swainson's warbler



Our so-called Hotline was pretty tepid this month. Kayo declared a sabbatical due to getting NO calls. So this is not really the Hotline report; it's a compilation of the hearsay I've heard said lately, in case anyone thinks the birds are on sabbatical.

Nancy Williams was delighted to report an osprey in the Benson area on September 15. Veda dePaepe saw two "very tall, white birds" southwest of the airport on September 9. She was unable to see well enough to be sure what they were, but for reports like this the Hotline could be useful. Someone with a spotting scope might have been able to clear up the mystery. I was pleased to find a MacGillivray's warblers in my bushes September 12. How exciting this is depends on who you are, I guess.



Speaking of close to home, an observation: Early in the summer, our feeders went empty for a week or so. The yard got quiet for a while, but when we started feeding again, we noticed that several chickadees had become regulars. Perhaps leaving the feeders empty caused the finches to thin out enough to allow the chickadees a spot at the trough.

Lastly, hot off the front porch, Terry Barnes reported seeing 36 hawks from the highway between Smithfield and Logan. "Migration is on!" she said on September 20.

Please call Kayo (or Nancy or Val) with whatever makes your pulse rate rise when you're out there under the sky. Let's make this Hotline a valuable tool for those who want to see what's going on.

— Patricia

## HOTLINE NUMBERS

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

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS

The Outdoor Adventures in Discovering Nature fall program will be offered for middle school year-round students in September and October. "A" track class went September 24, 25 and 26; "D" track will go October 15, 16 and 17.

What is this all about? A canoe trip to see the fall migrating birds will be led by Bobbie Cleave and Gordon Bosworth. We'll be hiking in Logan and Green canyons, taking a walk through time at Utah State University Geology department, and building our own soil profiles. More fun stuff is possible, too. For more information, call Leanna Ballard at 753-6722.

## YOU, YOUR NEWSLETTER AND REALITY

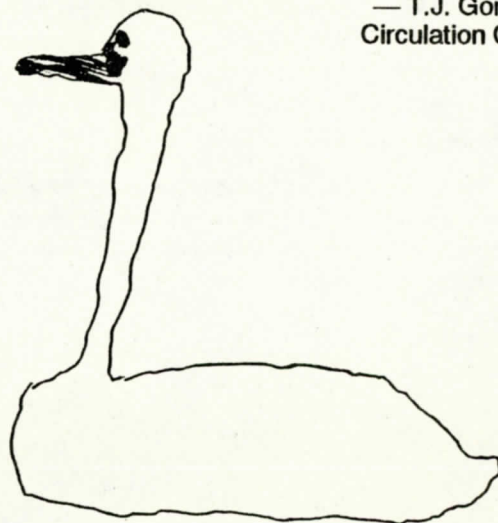
Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society entitles an individual to a subscription to *The Stilt*, and we mail a copy of each edition to each member. The basis for our subscription list is National Audubon's summary membership list, which National publishes annually and updates monthly. We automatically enter subscriptions for all new members appearing on National's list, and automatically delete subscriptions for all individuals whose memberships have lapsed.

Occasionally, a member will fail to renew a membership through oversight. To assure that nobody misses an issue unnecessarily, we will hold people on our mailing list for two months after they appear on National's lapsed list; if after the second month, they do not appear as renewing members, we'll drop them from the mailing list.

We have had subscribers in the past who wish to receive *The Stilt*, but who do not wish to become members of BAS or of National Audubon. We will be happy to include them in our mailing list, but ask that they purchase a subscription to *The Stilt* for \$5.00, which will cover the cost of printing and mailing for one year.

The bottom line: if you get this issue of *The Stilt* but don't get another, it's because National doesn't carry you as a member of BAS and/or we don't have a record of your purchasing a non-member's subscription. Please call the editor or the circulation department (same phone number: 752-6561) if (1) you think we've fouled up your records, (2) you wish to join BAS/National Audubon to avoid missing future issues of *The Stilt*, or (3) you wish to purchase a non-member's subscription.

— T.J. Gordon  
Circulation Czar



By Jessie Barnes, Age 5

## RED ROCK REFUGEES REJOICE

September was a great time to go to Red Rock Refuge with friends from Audubon. Red Rock Refuge is just into Montana and west of Yellowstone. This is the second trip for Bridgerland Audubon.

Do you prefer being in the mountains, by a lake, near small canoeing streams, or in the flatlands? Whatever your pleasure you can find it at Red Rock Refuge. The campsite is between a large lake filled with ducks, geese, and trumpeter swans and the steep mountains with rocky cliffs and evergreen forests. The view in any direction is beautiful and different. What a place!

This relatively isolated spot has sage flatlands with antelope and jackrabbits. There are willows with moose. Evergreen areas with porcupines. Mountains with elk and bears. Both whitetail and mule deer are in the area. Fox hunt and coyotes howl.

It was a great trip for those who wanted to canoe the lake or streams, walk the roads, hike into the mountains and bugle for elk, or just sit in camp in a lounge chair and watch the lake. At night it was almost magical to hear the various waterfowl out on the lake.



Carl Mitchell, who manages the refuge, spoke to us about his concerns for the trumpeter swan population, for whom the refuge was originally established in 1935. At that time, there were fewer than 100 swans in the tri-state area. Now, 400 to 500 of these magnificent birds call the refuge home. Winter migrants swell the population to around 1,500, which worries Carl. He fears avian cholera. Attempts have been made to relocate some of the young birds. Crowding may force the swans to find their own destinations, for better or worse. If we have open water, Cache Valley may look good to them this winter.

We also enjoyed a brief visit from a young moose who trotted into camp. Carl explained that the calf had been separated from his mother that morning when a truck came between them. Mom made it over the fence, but Junior couldn't. So the refuge staff cut fence wires to enable him to find his way back to her. We were witnesses to his anxious search.

This trip was made best of all by the companions from Audubon who made the trek. For those of you who did not go on this trip I can only say, "You missed it!" Put this one on your calendar for next year.

— Terry Barnes

## ESCAPADES IN YELLOWSTONE

**Audubon Rocky Mountain Regional Conference  
Mammoth Hot Springs  
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming**

By Val Grant

Alice and Al Stokes and Sue and Val Grant represented Bridgerland Audubon at the recent regional conference in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming. All four Utah chapters were represented. Field trips led by the Montana Auduboners, our hosts, covered various aspects of Yellowstone Park's beauty and majesty. Bob Turner, our regional VP, and Anne Avril, office manager par excellence, plus Peter Berle, Liz Raisbeck, and Ken Strom, our fine banquet speaker, plus a wonderful bunch from National Audubon gave us their insights into current and future areas of emphasis.

One of the most intriguing and sobering talks came from Pat Baldi, Director of Audubon's Population Program in Washington, D.C., and Ken Strom, Manager of the Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River near Gibbon, Nebraska. Audubon established similar study sites in the U.S. and

foreign countries to compare management and conservation practices. One of these pairs was the Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River and sandhill crane migration and the Indus River in Pakistan and its crane migration. In a country supporting a much higher human density than the U.S., Ken expected to provide remedies to help conserve the cranes and their habitat on the Indus. What he found was a river that retained all its essential characteristics: a healthy, functional, braided stream, despite high human density and centuries of use. The same pattern was repeated at the other pairs of sites. Are we in trouble or what? Seems so. Our desire for short-term benefits in this country may cost us our environmental heritage.

After this bombshell on Friday night, Liz Raisbeck, VP for Regional and Governmental Affairs, cheered us on Saturday morning. She outlined roles played by National, Regional and Chapters in the Audubon team. Dusty Dunstan then gave us a new campaign goal called "Wetlands," asking that each chapter begin identifying and mapping its important wetlands before they disappear. Later Saturday morning a lively, balanced panel on wolf reintroduction into Yellowstone provided a diverse view of the wolf's role in our environment. In the afternoon a panel on Old Growth forests emphasized our need in Utah to identify any old growth stands we have and look to their health and welfare. For the rest of the day we met in various workshops or talked with some wonderful Auduboners from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and points beyond, and swapped lies while quaffing root beers and mineral water.

I then proceeded to miss a great slide show on Yellowstone by Tom Murphy but managed next morning to watch a couple of bull elk and their harems troop about the land with calves frolicking hither and thither, cows trying to pay little attention to frolicking calves and this one bull trying to keep the above group in some semblance of order, adding an occasional bugle so the neighboring bull would know I.M.1 TOUGH DUDE was in charge here. To end up this fine stay, a panel on State Councils gave a wonderful presentation (especially our one and only favorite lobbyist Wayne Martinson) on Audubon Council and lobbyists in the West. We need to evaluate Montana's Audubon Council and full-time lobbyist and council director, Janet Ellis, and get enough support for Wayne "full-time" Martinson. We all said fond farewells, envious of those who stayed an extra day, and drove off into a dither of road slugs, flatland foreigners and assorted conveyances that spelled "light rail reduces the hassle."



# NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

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## ANCIENT FOREST CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR HELP

The partnership among chapters, activists, and the National staff to save ancient forests has intensified this year, with five Adopt-A-Forest coordinators on board, over 120 volunteers mapping 45 national forests and over 75 Adopt-A-Forest and affiliated groups providing technical and financial support (including over two dozen Audubon chapters) for the campaign.

Thus far the army of Audubon mappers has completed maps documenting the extent and location of clearcuts and remaining unfragmented ancient forests in nine forests, and has completed about 80 percent in 10 more. All 45 forests should be mapped by 1993.

These maps are now in the hands of chapters and Adopt-A-Forest groups who use them to understand and evaluate forest resources. Many have become regular participants in the on-the-ground management of their forests

If you are interested in helping to protect the forests in your community, whether in the Pacific Northwest or in other parts of the country, you can visit your own National Forest Service office as a first step. There you should ask for information on proposed timber sales, road construction, habitat protection measures, and recreational possibilities. In this way you can discover possible threats to habitat before it's too late and mobilize your community to take action.

Sometime next summer, Audubon is aiming to produce a Adopt-A-Forest manual, which will provide an introduction to the Forest Service and explain national forest management as well as a more technical mapping manual, which will provide detailed information on how to prepare useful maps of forest areas. Please write Jim Pissot in the Washington State Office (see below for address) if you would like to be notified once the manuals become available.

The other element in our battle to save the ancient forests is crafting sympathetic federal legislation. We need to fight off a nightmare bill (S. 2762 and H.R. 5094), introduced by Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR) and Congressman Les AuCoin (D-OR) that requires continued commodity production (logging, mining, and grazing) at today's levels, no matter what the environmental consequences. The proposed legislation would have a drastic negative impact on every national forest in the country. It would:

- Limit the powers of the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to lowering logging quotas by more than 1%;

- Require the Secretary to consider opening previously protected lands;
- Insulate logging plans from court-ordered injunctions;
- Limit judicial review of potentially illegal timber sales;
- Require the Secretary to sell the maximum amount of timber allowed in a particular forest plan.

You can help stop this bill by chapter members writing their representatives and senators. Tell them we vigorously oppose H.R. 5094 and S. 2762 for the above reasons. Please add that instead you would like them to co-sponsor the Ancient Forest Protection Act (H.R. 4492), which is supported by Audubon and the rest of the environmental community, and introduce similar legislation in the Senate.

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**Write your members  
of congress to oppose  
the Hatfield-Auction threat  
to your national forests.**

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The primary goals of H.R. 4492 include:

- Declaration of ancient forests of the U.S. as a national and world treasure;
- Establishment of a National Ancient Forest Reserve System, which would protect essentially all remaining ancient forests on federal lands in Washington, Oregon, and California—approximately two million acres;
- Creation of an associated forest network to assist threatened and endangered species to migrate and reproduce;
- Prevention of logging and road-building within the system.

Another bill, the Ancient Forest Act H.R. 5295, should not be confused with the Audubon-supported H.R. 4492. The former is an extremely weak bill that falls far short of the protection measures needed.

Utah's Representatives are James Hansen, Wayne Owens and Howard C. Nielsen. Write to them at: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Senators are Jake Garn and Orrin Hatch, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Audubon chapters in the Pacific Northwest may have contacted you already asking you to join in their nationwide letter-writing campaign. If you haven't heard from them, but would like to coordinate efforts, contact Jim Britell at (503) 332-9075.



The fight to save our ancient forests is important to all of us, not only because of the unique nature of the resource, but because the Endangered Species Act is coming under threat as a result of the debate over the spotted owl. Loggers are getting together with other groups to start efforts to weaken or destroy the Act through congressional amendments. The Act is critical to conservation efforts across the country. Many chapters have used it to successfully fight off threats to wildlife and wildlife habitat in their communities. Our efforts to save the ancient forests must therefore also stress the need to save the Endangered Species Act.

Contact: Jim Pissot, Ancient Forest Campaign Coordinator, National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 462, Olympia, WA 98507



**Ancient Forests**

If you have time and energy for this cause, there's a need for someone to take charge of this issue locally. Encouraging members to write letters, speaking to groups, showing the video "Rage Over Trees"—these are jobs that need doing. Please call Conservation Chair Alice Lindahl (753-7744) to discuss possibilities.

## AUDUBON ACTIVIST FREE FOR A PROMISE

Activists in Audubon chapters across the country helped turn the tide on a number of critical environmental issues this year—winning scenic designation for the beautiful Niobrara River, halting sales of old growth timber, and passing a strengthened Clean Air Act, among others.

Chapter leaders and activists have told us that our news journal, *Audubon Activist*, has proven indispensable in terms of providing up-to-date information on how Audubon members can get involved in these and other issues. In fact, you have often asked why the publication is not made available to the entire membership!

In response to this need, we are making the *Activist* available on a complimentary basis to all Audubon members who make a pledge to take action on environmental issues over the year. It will also be coming out monthly, so that we can deliver timely information when it is most needed. And we have redesigned its look, to help make it more accessible and easier to read.

With these changes, we hope to increase the ranks of Audubon activists by 20,000 this year. That's 20,000 more people to write and make phone calls on the issues you are working on. You will be able to access our files for names of activists in your congressional districts so you can send them Action Alerts or phone them about local issues as well.

Contact: Connie Mahan, D.C. Office.

In late September we will have an *Audubon Activist* brochure available for distribution in your communities. The brochure will provide members with a pledge of action they can send in to become an Audubon activist. It will also include an option for non-members who can pay an introductory membership fee, then receive the *Activist* as a benefit of membership.

Contact: Barbara Linton, New York Office.



## WE WANT **YOU** FOR "THE BILLION POUND DIET"

"The Billion Pound Diet" is the theme of an education campaign that will be launched the week of October 22-28. It will focus on ways we as a nation can cut annual "greenhouse gas" emissions (mainly carbon dioxide) by 1 billion pounds per year, as well as drawing attention to the environmental and economic implications of current policies. BAS will be operating a table in the Taggart Student Center to spread the word. To find out how you can help in this education campaign (no experience or technical skills required) call Dave Humphrey at 752-0746 (evenings).

— Steve Flint

## LUST FOR IVORY THREATENS WALRUS

Since the recent international agreement that bans the trade in elephant ivory, walrus heads, stripped of their tusks, have been turning up along the Alaska coast. Native Alaskans are allowed to kill unlimited numbers of walrus and to sell carved ivory. It is said that some Eskimos are illegally exporting raw ivory to foreign markets for carving in lieu of elephant ivory. The Marine Mammal Protection Act prevents the Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing hunting regulations until it can be proven that the walrus is depleted. Dave Cline of Audubon's Alaska-Hawaii office is urging the service to "draw up a conservation plan for the walrus before the situation gets out of hand." Such a plan would insure that the Pacific walrus is not overharvested.

— Audubon Activist  
May/June 1990



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR LITTLE BEAR RIVER RESTORATION

INTERESTED IN ACTUALLY RESTORING PART OF  
THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT?

The Little Bear River Watershed has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as one of 37 national demonstration projects for river and riparian area restoration and nonpoint source pollution control. This is to be a cooperative effort between several federal, state, and local government agencies as well as private landowners and interested members of the public. Agency personnel hope that actual restoration can begin this fall, and warm bodies are wanted and needed. Anyone interested in participating in hands-on restoration work—planting willows and installing pylons and root wads, for starters—this fall, or review of management plans later in the year, please contact me in the evenings at 563-6487.

— Chris Kelly

## CATBIRD?

Last spring a pair of robins nested in the lilac next to our kitchen window. We enjoyed watching them in the mornings. Their nest was built just inches from the feeder that serves finches and chickadees in the winter. The nest sat empty for the last few months, until one morning we looked up from our coffee and muffins to find to our surprise our youngest kitten curled-up in the nest—sound asleep! Apparently she had discovered the nest served as a fine place of refuge from our large part lab who "plays" a little too rambunctiously to suit her. That was several weeks ago. Now the kitten uses the nest every day for a nap bed; only the fast-growing kitten now has to hang it's paws and tail out, and rests its chin on the edge of the nest. What a strange sight we see from our window! I guess a birder never knows quite what to expect. No doubt the robins would be surprised too, if they visited the "old home."

This enterprising young feline desperately needs a good home, as does its sister. They are both cute and friendly, and would make wonderful fireside friends this winter.

For adoption information please phone us at: 752-3251. Happy birding.

— C. P. Kerbs



Mervin & Mae Coover  
435 Canyon Road  
Providence, UT 84332

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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, 752-4598
Treasurer	Dianne Browning, 752-5946
Conservation	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Education	Karen Matsumoto-Grah, 750-3468
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
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Circulation	Tom Gordon, 752-6561
Publicity	Bruce Pendery, 750-0253
Hospitality	Mae & Merv Coover
Hotline	Kayo Robertson, 752-3944
Recycling	Marvin & Irma Moon, 753-4698
Trustees	
1987-90:	John Barnes, 563-3910; Dianne Browning, 752-5946
1988-91:	Ron Ryel, 753-6077; John Sigler, 753-5879
1989-92:	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.  
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## National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

**Yes, I'd like to join.**

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

☐ My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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LOCAL CHAPTER



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

W-52

Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA

Subscriptions to *The Stilt* are available to non-members for \$5.00 per year. Call Tom Gordon, 752-6561.