



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

February 1991

BIRD COUNT

Keith's Comments

Forty-eight hardy souls spent the fifteenth day of the last month of the first year of the last decade of the 20th century braving temperatures ranging from -10°F to 15°F in search of the wily avian species of Cache Valley. And they each paid \$5 to do it. Such dedication.

The weather this fall was mild until very near the count day, when cold temps and snow moved in. We were still able to locate 92 species who decided to tough out the weather with us. This is one of our better years, species-wise, but total numbers were at 11,267, which is down. In recent years we've seen from 12,000 to 20,000.

The cold snap confined waterfowl to small patches of open water. However, numbers were still high, particularly with American widgeon, redhead and ring-necked duck.

Raptors were found in normal numbers: bald eagle-13; northern harrier-93; red-tailed hawk-53; rough-legged hawk-32; golden eagle-7; American kestrel-40.

The "chicken birds" were interesting this year. Grouse have always been hard to find and both blue and ruffed eluded us again. However, new locations were found for chuckar, gray partridge and sharp-tail grouse.

Please see COUNT on page 3.

LOGAN CANYON

February 15 Deadline for Letters

Many members of Bridgerland Audubon were present January 15 at the public hearing for the Draft Environmental Impact Study on proposed improvements to U.S. Highway 89 through Logan Canyon. Feelings ran high as strong arguments were presented for maximizing the safety and convenience of the road, and minimizing change in the canyon. Members of the Citizens for the Protection of Logan Canyon pointed out the merits of the Conservationists' Alternative. Representatives of Summit Cyclists protested the DEIS assertion that a wider road would benefit bicyclists. A strong delegation from the towns near Bear Lake aired the view that the road should be widened for safety's sake. Ron Lanner presented interesting statistics indicating that the wider, improved section of the road had 40 percent of the accidents over the last 20 years, and that signing had made a dramatic difference in the number of accidents at two dangerous curves. Slides were shown depicting

Please see CANYON on page 3.

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CALENDAR

All Bridgerland Audubon meetings and activities are open to the public. There is no charge, except for the annual banquet in April.

Monday, February 11. 7:30 p.m. Conservation Meeting. We will plan strategy on preventing the Barrens Reservoir. (Please see article on page 7.) All are welcome. Alice Lindahl's house, 730 Hillcrest, Logan. (Behind Frederico's Pizza.)

Thursday, February 14. 7:30 p.m. Bridgerland Monthly Meeting. "For the Benefit of the Birds." Dave Larson of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will present a slide show focusing on the decline of upland game birds, particularly pheasants, in Utah. The program will address the possible causes of this decline and outline the DWR's plans to curb this problem. 7:30 p.m., Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main.

Friday, February 15. Comments on the Logan Canyon DEIS will be received until this date.

Friday, February 15. Deadline, Utah Wilderness Society Poetry Competition. Postmarked by this date. Contact Margaret Pettis, (801) 359-1337 for details, or see January *Stilt*.

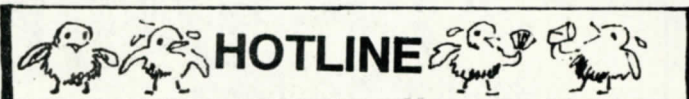
Wednesday, February 27. River Workshop. The Education Committee is sponsoring a series of adult education natural history workshops. The first workshop will look at how a river system functions and adapts to change, natural and man-made. Sherm Jensen and other professionals will lead the workshop. It will be held at the Kiva in the Edith Bowen Children's Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call Kayo Robertson at 752-3944 for details. (See article on page 6.)

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 9. Snow Study for Children. This month's outing will require snowshoes or skis. Children aged 7 to 14 are welcome. Wilderness ranger and teacher Jack Greene, and avalanche instructor Brian Dixon will lead the group to look at avalanche activity in Wood Camp Hollow. To register, call Kayo Robertson at 752-3944.

Saturday, February 9. Know Your Conifers. Learn the common conifers on the University campus. Determine how to tell age, annual growth, how long it takes to develop cones, and much more. Meet at the Information Desk in the Taggart Student Center at 1 p.m. We will return by 3:30 p.m. at the latest. The walk will be on sidewalks but wear warm clothing and boots. A good family outing. All welcome. No advance reservations needed. For additional information, contact Rob Lilieholm (NB 238, 750-2575).

Saturday, February 23. Searching for Beaver Activity Near Benson. Meet at Fred Meyer's parking lot, south-west corner, at 1 p.m. After exploring for a couple of hours, we'll have a bonfire and roast marshmallows. No reservations are needed, and everyone is welcome, members and non-members.



753-6268

January yielded a sighting of a peregrine falcon—Jan. 11. Terry Barnes and a bird count class from Edith Bowen saw the bird in the Amalga area. The kids were more impressed by the great horned owls they saw. Terry returned the following day, and saw two long-eared owls west of Benson. They were still hanging out there on the 19th.

This will be the last month for my work on the Hotline. The reins are now passed to Nancy Williams. My sincere thanks to Keith Archibald, Keith Dixon, Ron and Larry Ryel, Bob Atwood, Tom Lyons, and the many other birders who contributed to the column. For me it was a marvelous chance to learn a bit more about our local birds. From winter wrens to blue grosbeaks, gyrfalcons to bald eagle nests, each month brought word of birds I never dreamed shared our northern Utah home. Nancy's number is 753-6268.

— Kayo Robertson

MOST WANTED BIRDS

Have you ever wondered which species of birds are considered the most sought after for sightings, and correspondingly, the most difficult to see? A 1990 poll done by the American Birding Association showed the following as the most wanted Northern American species:

- 1 Black Rail
- 2 Boreal Owl
- 3 Gyrfalcon
- 4 Ivory Gull
- 5 Great Gray Owl
- 6 Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
- 7 Eskimo Curlew
- 8 Connecticut Warbler
- 9 Northern Hawk Owl
- 10 Yellow Rail

Two of these birds, the gyrfalcon and great gray owl, have been sighted in Cache County. The rest you will need to travel to see—and be very lucky, as well.

— Bob Atwood

COUNT

From page one.

Two barn owls were seen after being absent for several years. Our winters are just a bit much for these birds.

Crows were up to 343 from eight last year. We saw only 48 robins, with past years yielding as many as 1,200. Bohemian waxwings are usually seen in flocks of 100's or not at all. This year five stragglers appeared from somewhere. Starlings were at a record low of 2,703. Their highs have been near 10,000. Meadowlarks and juncos were up. Brewer's blackbirds and pine siskins were down—38 siskins this year compared to 2,111 last year!

While tallying 92 species, there were eight species represented by only one individual. These were pied-billed grebe, eared grebe, American white pelican, white-winged scoter, Virginia rail, least sandpiper, scrub jay, yellow-rumped warbler, and chipping sparrow.

Our injured pelican has spent four winters with us on spring-fed waters, which stay open in the coldest of times and allow him to earn a living fishing for carp. This year he was joined by a second pelican, placed there this fall by the Division of Wildlife Resources. This bird was also injured and unable to fly but stranded on water which would freeze as colder weather approached. The DWR came to the rescue and moved the bird which gave "Pelican Pete" a companion. They have done nicely together. It was decided not to count the second bird as he was artificially placed.

The group enjoyed good food and socializing at Merv and Mae Coover's home in Providence that evening. Thanks to the Coovers and all who participated.

— Keith Archibald

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Eared Grebe, 1; American White Pelican 1; Great Blue Heron, 5; Canada Goose, 228; Wood Duck, 4; Green-winged Teal, 21; Mallard, 300; Northern Pintail, 2; Northern Shoveler, 112; Gadwall, 348; American Widgeon, 199; Redhead, 86; Ring-necked Duck, 204; Lesser Scaup, 26; Common Goldeneye, 93; Barrow's Goldeneye, 13; Bufflehead, 5; Hooded Merganser, 2; Common Merganser, 6; Ruddy Duck, 6; Bald Eagle, 13; Northern Harrier, 93; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 53; Rough-legged Hawk, 32; Golden Eagle, 7; American Kestrel, 40; Merlin, 3; Prairie Falcon, 3; Gray Partridge, 56; Chuckar, 20; Ring-necked Pheasant, 143; Sharp-tailed Grouse, 7; Virginia Rail, 1; American Coot, 197; Killdeer, 22; Common Snipe, 48; Ring-billed Gull, 50; Rock Dove, 552; Mourning Dove, 16; Common Barn Owl, 2; Western Screech Owl, 3; Great Horned Owl, 6; Northern Pygmy Owl, 2; Short-eared Owl, 2; Northern Saw-whet Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Northern Red-shafted Flicker, 100; Horned Lark, 176; Steller's Jay, 2; Scrub Jay, 1; Black-billed Magpie, 537; American Crow, 343; Common Raven, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 274; Mountain Chickadee, 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown

Creepers, 6; Canyon Wren, 2; Marsh Wren, 4; American Dipper, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 27; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; Townsend's Solitaire, 24; American Robin, 48; American Pipit, 10; Bohemian Waxwing, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 249; Northern Shrike, 2; Eurasian Starling, 2,703; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; Rufous-sided Towhee, 24; American Tree Sparrow, 67; Song Sparrow, 84; White-throated Sparrow, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 62; Harris' Sparrow, 4; Dark-eyed (slate-colored) Junco, 5; Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco, 676; Red-winged Blackbird, 533; Western Meadowlark, 182; Brewer's Blackbird, 127; Cassin's Finch, 19; House Finch, 314; Pine Siskin, 38; American Goldfinch, 166; Evening Grosbeak, 82; House Sparrow, 1,266; White-winged Scoter, 1; Least Sandpiper, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 1.

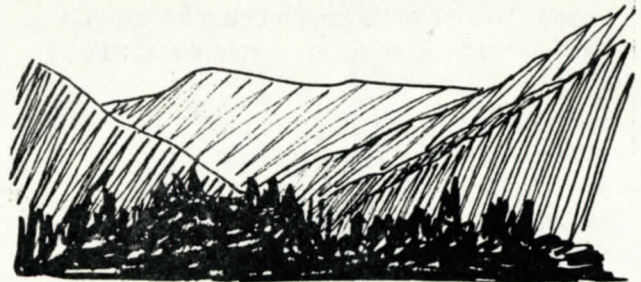
Total species: 92

Total individuals: 11,267

CANYON

From page one.

widening of the road at China Row, completely removing the overhanging trees and picnic spot; a sheer concrete retaining wall in Logan River allowing parking near Logan Cave; and a retaining wall along the Dugway climb. Gasps and hisses ensued from the audience. Not shown were the changes planned for Beaver Creek, where the water would be rechanneled.



Personally, I feel grateful for the opportunity to participate in an orderly decision-making process. The public hearing, while sometimes repetitious and tiring, has the advantage of letting us hear each other's positions, the better to deal with them. For example, the plea that the road must be widened because of medical emergencies in the canyon and Bear Lake, could be responded to with a proposal for better medical facilities in that vicinity or a helicopter service for such problems. A wider road is not the only solution. And as Prof. Lanner demonstrated, a straighter, faster road is not necessarily safer. Accident statistics comparing the improved lower canyon road with the middle and upper canyon sections involved in the proposal are not included in the DEIS.

An issue not discussed at the hearing was cost. If taxpayers are not interested in the outlay for these projects, surely we can't expect civil servants to be concerned.

For your information, here are a few statistics from the DEIS.

Standard Arterial-Low Speed (35-55 mph) (40 ft. paved)	\$39,722,400
Standard Arterial-High Speed (40-60 mph) (40 ft. paved, straighter curves)	\$45,257,200
Modified Standard (34 ft. paved) (9,000 feet of retaining walls in Middle Canyon)	\$38,627,000
Composite Alternative (25-50 mph) (Reroutes Beaver Creek)	\$34,391,600
Conservationists' Alternative (25-40 mph) (22-25 ft. paved)	\$15,630,740
No Action (maintain existing highway, replace structures as needed)	\$13,441,300

In general, the faster and straighter the road, the more changes will be made to the river and rocks. We will be living with those changes till death do us part.

The Conservationists' Alternative, which some of our members have worked on, aims to include improvements to enhance safety without damaging the canyon. At Logan Cave, instead of moving the river, it provides for parking about 500 ft. upstream from the cave. It raises the roadway where flooding occurs and provides for three additional climbing lanes, four paved parking areas, warning signs, and wider bridges.

You may not want to read the entire DEIS, but your comments can still count. At the very least, each letter adds to the overall impression of public concern for the canyon's future. Comments on some of the information in this article would be helpful. Send your thoughts on the matter to:

James Naegle
Utah Department of Transportation
4501 South 2700 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

Your remarks will be included as part of the Final Environmental Impact Study—if only as a number in a table of comments on various issues such as tourism, bridge replacements, signing, spot improvements, visual integrity, wildlife impacts, etc. If you have questions about your letter, contact Bruce Pendery, 750-0253, or Steve Flint, 752-9102. They've both been involved with this issue for years.

Please don't let inertia, a sense of futility, fear of betraying your ignorance, or any other powerful force deter you from taking part in this important decision. This could well be your last chance to make a difference in Logan Canyon's future. Put your ideas, general or specific, in writing, mail them by February 15, and hope for the best possible outcome for Logan Canyon.

— Pat Gordon

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

Wade and Eileen: Two Ducks

We visited my mother and sister, Gayle, in Colorado over Christmas, and providence afforded me yet another opportunity to inflict my medical attentions on a feathered friend. I have to share just a little bit of the spotlight with Gayle, because she had all the ideas and did all the work, but that's all right because I'm humble.

Mom and Gayle live in an apartment complex that has a quarter-acre pond with two resident ducks: an ancient white domestic duck named Wade, who lacks most of a wing and is afraid of the water, and his long-time significant-other, Eileen, who has a damaged foot and walks tilted. Wade and Eileen have been inseparable for years, and everybody in the apartment development shares a proprietary concern for their well-being. During the winter, several tenants chip in for bulk duck kibble, and hardly a day passes that half-a-dozen people aren't out dipping into the kibble and feeding the ducks. Wade and Eileen are also living decoys, luring wild ducks down to the pond for the residents to enjoy . . . and, in the winter, to feed.

As the temperature dropped during our visit, the pond began icing up. A fountain driven by a recirculating pump keeps the center of the pond ice-free in a normal winter, but it couldn't cope with the -25° cold. The fountain made an ice volcano out of itself, building a cone up about 8 feet or so, with a little spoo of water coming out the top; gradually the open water contracted to a ring around the volcano . . . and finally that froze, too. As the open water contracted, Wade, Eileen, and perhaps three dozen visiting mallards gathered closer and closer to the volcano until finally they were standing in the volcano's spray.

The wild ducks flew around a lot, visiting other ponds and such, thus keeping dry. Wade, however, may have lost a wing, but he was stupid. Unable to fly, he just stood in the spray and iced up. Gayle found him one morning when she went out to walk her chihuahua, Duffy (A chihuahua in -25° weather is a sight to behold, especially when he's bundled up until he's perfectly spherical, with four little leather-shod feet sticking out). Wade was just a little ducky head poking out of an ice ball, with scant hope of greeting spring. Eileen, who had managed to keep ice-free, was obviously concerned, but—she being no avian Einstein herself—hadn't really figured out that something was wrong. Probably Wade just needed some good scolding, at which she excelled.

The next thing I knew, there was Gayle at the door, with a little shivering chihuahua-ball on the floor and a big shivering duck-headed ice ball in her arms. Poor Wade was nearly defunct; one eye was iced shut, and his beak was hanging loosely open. Now and then he'd groan a little unducklike groan. In the distance, I could hear

Eileen's lonely, quavering quacks. It was the first time anybody could remember her being alone, and she clearly didn't like it a bit.

We took Wade into Gayle's den and tried to de-ice him, but since the de-icing entailed large-scale de-feathering, we changed tactics. Gayle put him into Duffy's traveling kennel—Duffy, when he stopped shivering, was outraged—with a bowl of water and some Doggy Yummies that looked vaguely like compressed alfalfa. He collapsed on the kennel floor with a thud.

We closed the door and began planning the funeral. (I thought a nice Christmas dinner would be a suitable memorial, but, considering my audience, didn't suggest it.) After about three hours of ignoring the muted, plaintive calls from the pond, we were surprised to hear a muffled "gronk" from the den. Wade, it seemed, wasn't quite ready for l'orange yet. He'd managed to spill his water all over the Doggy Yummies, making a wonderful mess, and was beginning to shed great blobs of ice. So Gayle worked him over for a while, and decided he really was beginning to thaw. She also decided that he really smelled much better frozen. He began drinking water shortly after that, and eating an occasional Doggy Yummy. That evening he was dry and standing up, muttering to himself. We thought it best to keep him indoors overnight, and by morning he had made an unimaginable horror of the kennel, and the den absolutely stank. It was clearly time for him to go outdoors and begin acclimating. It had warmed up to about 0° by then, which he seemed able to tolerate reasonably well.

After half a day in the kennel on the porch, during which time he recovered not only his quack but a vocal timbre and resonance reminiscent of a Pavarotti or a locomotive, Wade was, we declared, as acclimated as he was going to get. Gayle volunteered to take him back to the pond. She carried him downstairs looking—and sounding—like nothing so much as a lady playing a great, feathered bagpipe. The closer we got to the pond and Eileen, the louder and more agitated Wade became until, when the frozen pond came into sight, he gave a great, convulsive "QUAAWNK," burst free, and galloped off across the ice toward Eileen, flailing like a broken windmill.

Never in the whole of natural history, from the time the very first amoeba yawned and opened its eyes, has an animal been so profoundly and vigorously ignored as was Wade. Eileen could not have paid him less attention if he had been on Mars. She preened nonchalantly, polishing her fingernails on her lapel, and tilted off toward the tiny area of now open water. Stunned, Wade sat down on the ice and fell asleep.

But if the reunion was disappointing (I had visions of them slowly running toward each other through the snow, wings outstretched, while violins played.), it's gratifying to know that Wade survived my medical attention, indirect though it may have been. So far.

— TJG



WELLSVILLE HAWK WATCH 1990

The first migratory raptor flyway discovered in the Inter-mountain Region was in the Wellsville Mountains in 1976. On September 17 of that year, as the skies were clearing, Wayne Potts, Katie Fite, Chris Johnston and I counted over 150 hawks in 3.5 hours! Since then, almost 20,000 raptors of 17 species have been documented soaring over the world's steepest mountain range on their southward passage.

The 1990 count represented HawkWatch International's seventh season-long monitoring effort. From August 28 until October 20 Jane Kidd spent many long hours atop the Wellsvilles' windswept north observation point. A total of 2,433 raptors were tallied in 338 observation hours (7.2 raptors per hour). The big flight of the year occurred on September 16, when 213 raptors cruised past the lookout!

Highlights of the fall 1990 count include a record flight of Swainson's hawks (188, including 95 on September 30), 20 northern goshawks, 19 osprey, 12 peregrine falcons, 6 ferruginous hawks, 4 broad-winged hawks, and 2 bald eagles. The record low count for most species may have been a result of poor reproductive success this year combined with unfavorable weather during the height of the migration.

The 1990 Wellsville Raptor Count was partially funded by the U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest. HawkWatch International plans to conduct the eighth season of counting in fall 1991. For more information please contact: HWI, P.O. Box 35706, Albuquerque, NM 87176, or call (505)-255-7622.

— Steve Hoffman
HawkWatch International

PEPPERIDGE FARMS SUPPLIES COOKIES

Stephen Dufner made an offer we couldn't refuse when he hand-delivered cookies from Pepperidge Farms to our January meeting. These refreshments were enjoyed by all.

— Marjorie Lewis

CAMPBELL SCIENTIFIC MAKES DONATION

Bridgerland Audubon was pleasantly surprised to receive a generous contribution from Campbell Scientific recently. Paul Campbell, treasurer, explained: "Our last fiscal year was profitable, and the Board of Directors set aside some of the profits to be donated. The Board then allowed individual shareholders to designate recipients of donations in amounts proportional to the number of shares owned. Joel Greene and Janice Saalfeld asked that we contribute \$500 to the Bridgerland Audubon Society to be used as your directors see fit.

"I would like to extend to you and those who work with you a sincere thanks for the service you carry out in our society. I trust this contribution will be put to the best use possible."

Campbell Scientific has contributed toward sponsoring Audubon Adventures in the public schools, also. Audubon Adventures is a bi-monthly newsletter for third- to sixth-graders which is distributed to classrooms in each elementary school in Logan.

EDUCATION ACTION

Snow Study

Six young apprentice Eskimos learned of physics and physiology, adaptation and architecture, and how to stay warm in the winter on January's Snow Study for Children field trip series. The day finished with the construction of an igloo of notable proportions. The fragile arches held, the keystone block of snow was placed, and the last classroom session was held within a house of snow.

Audubon's Snow Study field trips are held each second Saturday of the month and are open to all children aged 7 to 14. Our next trip, February 8, will require snowshoes or skis (rentals are rather inexpensive) and will feature local wilderness ranger and teacher Jack Greene and avalanche instructor Brian Dixon. We will look at avalanche activity in Wood Camp Hollow. To register call Kayo Robertson at 752-3944.

Riparian Workshop for Adults

The Audubon Education Committee is sponsoring a series of adult education natural history workshops. These are free to the public and are designed as a hands-on workshop, not a lecture series. Be prepared to participate.

While making inquiries regarding the impact of Logan City's golf course on the Logan River, it became obvious to me that while the city planners had no understanding

of riparian or riverine habitats, my own knowledge was painfully slim. This, in spite of a lifetime largely spent wandering and wondering about aquatic systems.

Each week it seems we are asked to vote on a decision regarding wetlands. Due to the importance that wetlands and waterways play in our lives, the first of these workshops will be on the topic of riparian systems. It will not be issue-oriented, but rather will look at how a river system functions and adapts to change, natural and man-made. What happens when a road is placed parallel to a river? How about perpendicular? What is the impact of flooding, logging, grazing, and recreation on waterways? What is a healthy river? If you would like to become a more knowledgeable biotic citizen but don't have the time or finances for extended study, this workshop might be for you.

Our workshop will be led by Sherm Jensen and other experienced professionals. We will meet at the Kiva in the Edith Bowen Children's Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 27, 1991. Call Kayo Robertson at 752-3944 for details.

About the Educators

My thanks to Leanna Ballard, Terri Perry, Bobbie Bosworth, Jack Greene, Steve Archibald and Karen Matsumoto-Grah for volunteering their time and experience as partners on the Audubon Education Committee. These are all old warriors in the effort to revitalize our sagging education system. They are also individuals currently responsible for a number of other volunteer efforts.

Environmental education is still very much a grassroots battle in the USA. The past twenty years have demonstrated an all but calculated neglect for Earth education on the part of our public officials. Neither Logan City nor Cache County public schools have included the care of our country and planet as a significant part of their curriculum. Times are changing, but it is as critical a need now as ever to instruct our children, our fellows, and ourselves in the needs and wonders of our environment. If you have time, skills, or energy, please call Kayo and take a place on the Education Committee.

Kudos to Al Carlson, who is taking the message of peace into local classrooms. War is hard on living things. Also to Nancy Fox, who is traveling from class to class with her workshops on recycling. These workshops end with children creating their own "garbage art." Environmental education can, and indeed must, end with a smile.

Finally, an apology to those involved with the Edith Bowen native plants garden. I stated in the last *Stilt* that there were no outdoor science centers for children in the valley. Karen Matsumoto-Grah informs me that kids were involved in both the planning and planting of this garden and will be allowed back in the area when contract negotiations are completed with the USU Education Department. Sorry for any ruffled feathers.

— Kayo Robertson
Education Chair

RECYCLING REPORT

Irma's Household Hints

On these cold winter days when you drop in at the Logan Library for a warmup, go to the magazine rack and get to know these three: *Recycling Today* (monthly), *Resource Recycling* (monthly), and *Garbage* (bimonthly). These magazines will acquaint you with how dynamic and changing recycling is, and how many communities are working out recycling programs.

A new year. New opportunities. With war threatening, we're belatedly focusing on energy conservation. Some energy devices are inexpensive. Low-flow showerheads cost \$10-\$20 (with a 20-year guarantee), can reduce water use by 70 percent, and save a family of four about \$250 a year (depending on water and energy costs). Toilet dams are barriers that isolate part of your toilet's tank so that water in this section does not run out with the flush. Two toilet dams cost \$11.50. By installing two dams you can save 2-3 gallons per flush. For a family of four, that's 12,000 gallons saved per year. If 10,000 families installed dams, think of it—120 million gallons. Better to have toilet dams than the proposed Barrens Dam that will disturb bird habitat. You Audubon people get the picture.

— Irma Moon

GOOD NEWS FOR OLD NEWS

Here in Cache Vally we're fortunate to have not one, but two ways to recycle our paper. If it goes to Allsop's (via Boy Scouts or Senior Citizens) it becomes insulation. Building material is a reasonable use for forest products. Allsop's accepts dry cellulose in any form, although waxed milk cartons and glossy magazines must be a small percentage of the mix.

Valley Metals will accept newspapers to recycle as new paper. Anything that comes inside the newspaper is **newspaper**, including glossy advertisements and coupons, and should all be recycled together as newspaper. It is all recyclable Old Newspaper (ONP). More ONP recycling mills will be coming on line in 1991. They will use a process called "Flotation" to recoup the fibers and make recycled newspaper from it. Fibers can be recycled up to 12 times.

The "Flotation" process requires a mix of paper that contains clay (advertisements and/or magazines) and paper that does not (newsprint). Some time in 1991 we will see an increase in the demand for magazines; this will be the reason. Magazines will have to be collected separately, though!

Remember, it isn't recycled unless it makes it into the drop box/bin! If a location is full do not leave it; it is garbage when its not in the box/bin.

One other note about newspaper. Since 1976 newspaper has been printed with water-soluble inks. They contain no heavy metals or other toxic substances. Other printing generally still may contain metals and other toxins.

— Utah Sierran
January 1991

CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

It's time to submit your nominee for this year's Allen Stokes Conservation Award. As you all remember, we announce each year's winner at the annual banquet in April, so you can turn in your ideas to me this month. We'll decide at our March planning meeting.

In this year full of new recycling innovation, grassroots campaigns, Earth Day celebration, and environmental activism, I think we will have a hard time deciding who is the most deserving.

What kind of person are we looking for? There are no set requirements. We want someone who has made a difference for the environment. Either by setting an example or by some accomplishment, he or she has shown the rest of us how to get things done for our world. All of the priorities that Audubon has—recycling, habitat protection, wildlife preservation, governmental or political change for the environment, etc.—are the priorities for this award.

Drop me a note with your recommendation: Alice Lindahl, 730 Hillcrest, Logan, UT 84321. Or call: 753-7744.

BARRENS SLOGAN CONTEST

A group of BAS members is working out a plan to head off the developers at the Barrens, to prevent them from turning one of our favorite wildlife areas into a large square fetid sump.

We have a slide presentation, a fact sheet and some good ideas about how to keep the bulldozers at bay. You can help by submitting your idea for a slogan about how lush the Barrens really is. We'd like to print pamphlets and posters with our new motto. "Save the Barrens" just sounds so ordinary.

To get you started: "Shorebirds Need Mudflats, Not Cesspools," or how about "Barrens, Cache Valley's Shorebird Mecca?" I know some creative minds out there can solve this problem. Bring your ideas to our next Barrens Conservation Meeting on Monday, February 11, at my house, 7:30 p.m., 730 Hillcrest, Logan, in back of Fredrico's Pizza.

The Bad News. The Natural Resources and Agriculture Subcommittee in the State Legislature has approved inclusion of the Barrens Reservoir in a larger bill which covers many aspects of Bear River Development. It has not been filed as of this writing, but removing the Barrens approval will be a major effort of the Utah Audubon lobbying this session. If you have not signed up to make phone calls on this, it's not too late.

The Good News. In a speech to Senator Holmgren's Bear River Seminar on January 5, a spokesperson for the EPA warned the developers not to brush off wetlands loss as automatically "mitigatable." He also indicated that EPA approval will require that most of the water impounded has some immediate use. The Barrens Dam could fail on both of these requirements.

The Bottom Line. Box Elder County is the only customer (so far) for this water. The dam would store between 35,000 and 100,000 acre-feet, depending on which size option is chosen. Costs? Between \$27 and \$79 million just for construction. This does not include transport to users, costs of mitigation of wetlands or treatment. These items could double the expenses.

What are our best arguments? Memorize these and tell them to anyone who will listen. Argument 1: Box Elder County is presently growing by about 377 people per year. This increased population needs 102 acre-feet of new water per year. Box Elder's 5,000 acre-feet of developable ground water would accommodate these new people for the next 50 years, even if they never get around to practicing water conservation. The Barrens Dam would hold enough water for a population of 370,370 people, over 10 times the present population of all of Box Elder County.

Argument 2: The EPA could reject the permit application to destroy the 1400 acres of wetlands in the Barrens. There are stringent federal laws now to prevent wetlands destruction, and the agency is skeptical of the success of mitigation.

Give us a hand. Attend the meeting at my house to get informed and volunteer for one of the jobs to help make our campaign work. I think we have a good chance of winning this one if we can get enough energy behind it.

— Alice Lindahl
Conservation Chair

AND WHAT ABOUT THE WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PROTEST?

It's the question everyone is afraid to ask. What's happening?

The issue is still in court as of this writing. We assumed that if we turned in 9,000 names on a protest petition, that petition could speak for itself. Unfortunately, it is costing a fortune to defend that petition. Every time the judge meets with the two attorneys on each side, they quibble over little details and don't get very far. The district promoters would like to have the judge count as few of our protestors' names as possible, and we, of course, think they should all count.

All of this costs a lot of cash in attorney time and court costs. Further, the burden of verifying signatures falls on us, the protestors. The money we had hoped to use to challenge the constitutionality of the law is being eaten up by this earlier stage. It appears that the actual petition is meaningless unless we have about \$6,000 to defend it. Is this justice? The opposition does not seem to have a money problem.

I feel like one of those contestants in that horrible channel 13 show, "American Gladiators." The challengers are asked to do impossible things, and just when they start to get close to the goal, a gladiator swings in from offstage on a rope to deliver a body blow with the boots. Knocked to the mat below, the challenger must start all over.

I am reminded of a quote I read in *Inner Voice* (environmental conscience of the Forest Service) recently. "The difference between a revolutionary (us) and a politician (them) is that politicians live to fight another day, another battle. Revolutionaries, on the other hand, typically die in battle, no matter which side wins."

— Alice Lindahl
Conservation Chair

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Utah Audubon legislative network is in full swing, with Wayne Mortinson, our trusty and amazing leader, at its helm. Wayne has been invaluable as a lobbyist, staying on top of each bill as it develops, communicating our concerns to legislators, and providing guidance to our local lobbyists.

There are four legislative issues that Audubon is taking a stance on. Our primary concern is Bear River water development and allocation. We are working to delete the Barrens as a possible dam site.

Second, we are supporting the creation of a Department of Environmental Quality. We feel that a separate department for environmental quality would elevate the importance of environmental concerns and would insure the direct attention and involvement of the governor and legislature in making environmental health policy.

Third, we support the Utah Bottle Deposit Act, which we feel would reduce litter, encourage recycling and extend the life of our current landfills.

Fourth, we support Governor Bangerter's Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Appropriation. This money will help decrease agricultural runoff into our water supply.

— Nadene Steinhoff
753-0497 (home)
753-5064 (work)

NATURE CONSERVANCY CONTRIBUTES TO LOBBYIST FUND

The following letter arrived with a check to help with Audubon's efforts to promote legislation for the environment.

Ordinarily, we have to turn down the many requests we get each year to help financially on a lot of wonderful projects—after all, we're still 'struggling' with supporting the Conservancy's smallest state staff in two very high-ranking states (Utah—5th, Nevada—6th, in biological terms).

BUT . . . in the case of Wayne Martinson and the work he is getting done for Audubon and the people of Utah, we must make an exception. I worked with Wayne last year in the legislature when the Conservancy was working to transfer the Utah Natural Heritage Program to the Department of Natural Resources, and was very impressed with his knowledge and his all-important 'style' in working with legislators and state staff. I don't think that you could do better than Wayne, and we want to help out as best we can with his efforts on your behalf this session.

Though we may not be able to commit to contributing annually, we can at least send on this \$750 donation this year. Though it's not much, we know that you're putting it to good use and wish you the best of success and 'luck' with projects and issues at the legislature this year.

Sincerely,
Chris Montague
Director of Utah Projects
Great Basin Field Office

UTAH TO HOST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Bob Turner, our regional vice-president in Colorado, has decided the next Rocky Mountain Regional Conference will be held in Utah. The conference will be in 1992 or 1993, depending on whether Audubon's National Conventions are moved to even-numbered years. We are tentatively planning to hold the regional conference in the Provo area, with any luck, at Robert Redford's Sundance Institute. The conference will be in the late spring, summer, or early fall.

It should be great fun, educational (there will be numerous field trips), and a good way to meet Auduboners from throughout the country. Even Audubon's president, Peter Berle, will be there!

We'll be needing help as we begin planning the conference. How about pitching in?

— Bruce Pendery



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE SPRING RETREAT

Spring is coming—have faith—and so is the Audubon Spring Retreat, the statewide get-together of Audubon chapters. This year we'll meet on April 20 and 21. Put it on your calendar. It will be hosted by Utah Audubon of Salt Lake City.

While details are still being worked out, based on past retreats you can expect the following: limited but sufficient accommodations (for example, a roof over your head and bathroom facilities, but nothing fancy); great camaraderie and field trips. This is a chance to meet other Auduboners from throughout the state, many of whom bring birding expertise (or fish stories) and knowledge about various conservation issues. The fun and fellowship are always a boost to enthusiasm, helping us to carry on the good work.

— Bruce Pendery

SPOTTED OWLS AND SUWA ARE SAVING WINDMILL RIDGE

A 1989 Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance appeal stymied proposed logging on Windmill Ridge, located on the east slope of Boulder Mountain in the Dixie National Forest. While the appeal has been pending, the Dixie Forest has begun the process of inventorying spotted owls to prepare for their probable listing under the Endangered Species Act. The inventories in the vicinity of Windmill Ridge revealed a nesting pair less than six miles away in Capitol Reef National Park. This suggested to biologists that the Windmill Ridge area might serve as a critical summer foraging area for the owls. In response, the Forest Service has offered to withdraw the sale decision pending results from two years of spotted owl studies.

Editor's Question: Is anyone serving as a watchdog over timber sales in Northern Utah?

ATTRACTING BLUEBIRDS

*Winged lute that we call a bluebird,
You blend in a silver strain
The sound of the laughing waters,
The patter of Spring's sweet rain.
The voice of the winds, the sunshine,
And fragrance of blossoming things.
Ah! you are an April poem,
That God has dowered with wings.*

— Rexford

Prominent on farms as well as cities some years ago, was that noted symbol of spring, the bluebird. These members of the thrush family were often spotted over the open fields and around the orchards. Frequently during the summer the bluebirds could be seen perched on some post or branch, occasionally dropping to the garden below to harvest a caterpillar or weevil, or perhaps taking a mosquito midflight. With their bright blue color and warbling song, the bluebird has been a symbol of gentleness and love and held a friend of man.

Bluebirds have always nested in a cavity. It might have been in a hole chisled by woodpeckers in a dead limb, or possibly in a cavity of a weathered fence post.

But the same clean, efficient farming practices that have given us low cost, high quality foodstuffs have led to a decimation of the bluebird population. Some ornithologists have speculated that all three species of the bluebird—eastern, mountain, and western—could be nearly

extinct by the turn of the century. Venomous insecticides in use since the 1940s have contaminated the food supplies for wild birds and may directly affect the fragile bluebird as well. Wooden fence posts have been replaced with metal or plastic posts. In addition, orchards are trimmed more carefully, thus removing dead hollow limbs.

Perhaps even more seriously, the bluebird's well-being has been threatened by man's introduction of the English house sparrow and the European starling to this continent. These antagonistic birds have been known to kill the bluebirds and pillage their nests without provocation.

But friends of the bluebird have proven that the favorite native can be rescued. In 1959, a retiree in Canada took it upon himself to begin a conservation project of erecting nesting houses that eventually produced as many as 3,500 chicks a year. More recently, similar large-scale projects have been undertaken by the Audubon Naturalists Society of the Central Atlantic States and other conservation-minded groups.

Individuals can use similar techniques to bring the bluebirds back to their communities on a smaller scale. Bluebird nesting boxes can be bought or built and placed around the house and garden. If building your own, it is important to have the diameter of the hole in the nesting box exactly 1-1/2" to allow the fewest predators to gain entry. Also be sure to use long-lasting materials so that artificial preserving won't be necessary, as adding chemicals to the wood may keep the bluebirds away.



SAVE THE VANISHING RAIN FORESTS

When the new Congress convenes in Washington in 1991, they will be confronted by a Sierra Club united in its efforts to halt destruction of the world's tropical rain forests. A cornerstone of the Club's efforts is a new 4-color booklet, *Tropical Rain Forests: A Vanishing Treasure*. Using vivid language and photography, it shows how the mass extinction of plant and wildlife, the assault on indigenous people, and the threat to the global environment are caused by shortsighted and greedy national and international development.

Printed on recycled paper, this solutions-oriented booklet is available to Sierra Club members for \$4.00 (\$6.00 non-members), plus \$1.75 postage and handling. Checks payable to Sierra Club should be sent to Sierra Club, Dept. SA, PO Box 7959, San Francisco, CA 94120.

Challenges For Our Chapters

by Peter A.A. Berle, NAS President

It's Been A Good Year, On Balance

To many of us, impatient to change the world for the better, the progress of environmental legislation through Congress can seem excruciatingly slow. The payoff comes, after years of painstaking negotiations and sleepless nights, when a bill is finally passed and signed by the President.

Such is the case with the Clean Air Act: It took 13 years, but in late October, Congress at last approved a bill to reauthorize and strengthen this vital law. President Bush deserves credit for putting forth a proposal last year that helped put the legislation on course.

Besides the Clean Air Act, we got a solid new farm bill, with major improvements in wetlands-protection programs and pesticide record-keeping. Regrettably, the law does not stop the "circle of poison," the export of U.S.-banned chemicals and the import of foods treated

with them, but the Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy plans to take up the issue next year.

We applaud Congress' good sense in passing tough new oil-spill liability legislation making companies like Exxon fully accountable for their actions. President Bush also signed a bill to limit the export of raw logs from national and state forests in Oregon and Washington, reducing for the time being one cause of the accelerated logging of the giant trees.

We even—thanks in large part to our hard-working activists—put out some serious fires. Pressure from several senior senators, responding to outraged Auduboners and others, forced Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski to back down on his efforts to open the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. And Congress withstood an attempt by Oregon Senator Bob Packwood to cripple the Endangered Species Act.

So it's time to slap ourselves on the back, take a deep breath of fresh air—and then gird ourselves for the challenges ahead. It won't be easy. But that's why we're in this in the first place.

— Excerpted from the *Audubon Activist*
Dec. 1990

The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in the Meeting 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.

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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 _____

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

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