



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 1991

ENVIRONMENT AND THE LAW

Slow Going in Salt Lake

by Alice Lindahl

The 1991 Utah Legislative Session has been a difficult one for environmental issues. There have been plenty of disappointments as well as a few bright spots. We are encouraged to see that more wildlife and environmental groups are participating every year. Collectively we are becoming unignorable. A roundup of a few bills important to us follows:

Bear River Development Senate Bill 98. We attempted to have the Barrens Reservoir Project removed from the "approved" list in this bill. We managed to convince our Cache Valley senator, Lyle Hillyard, that this project needed removing, and he attempted to make that amendment in the Senate. He got only a handful of votes, however, for the amendment, which then failed. Senate Bill 98 passed the Senate unanimously with the Barrens Project intact. It now goes to the House, where we will again attempt to have it removed.

It would be great if those of you who care about the Barrens could write a note to Senator Hillyard thanking him for attempting this amendment. His address: 175 E. 100 N., Logan, 84321.

There is a lot not to like about SB 98 besides the Barrens problem. It puts the state in the dam-building business (with 75% subsidy to agricultural users), it gives new powers to the Water Conservancy Districts,

and increases future control of Bear River resources by the resource-greedy Wasatch Front. The legislature has always been very sympathetic to water projects and is, in our opinion, too eager to appropriate state funds to questionable projects.

The bill also states that project costs allocated to recreation, fish and wildlife are "not reimbursable." This euphemism means that the dam spillways or dikes and the impoundment itself will be paid for by taxpayers because they will go water-skiing on it. Water users would only pay for canals, pipes and pumps to deliver water to the user destination.

The Bottle Bill SB 130. The bill would require deposits on soft drink and beer bottles, providing a great incentive to individuals and industry to reuse containers. The original sponsor of this bill, Rep. Jerrold Jensen of Salt Lake City, withdrew his sponsorship under pressure from the opposition (the bottling industry and grocers). Fortunately, Senator Robert Steiner, a junior Senator and Democrat from Salt Lake, picked up sponsorship,

Please see LAW on page 3.

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CALENDAR

MEETING

Thursday, March 14. Bridgerland Audubon Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in Logan City meeting room, 255 North Main. This month's meeting is a prelude to a weekend field trip to Antelope Island scheduled for this spring. Mitch Larson, Superintendent of Antelope Island State Park, will tell what the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation's future management plans for the island are. His program will include a video on Antelope Island's bison herd.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 9. Annual Bald Eagle Trip. Bald eagles concentrate in Willard Canyon south of Brigham City to roost for several weeks while on their northward migration. During the day eagles forage over the Bear River Wildlife Refuge, then return to roost in the afternoon. The trip will leave from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot at 1 p.m. It is a 35-mile drive to Willard gravel pit. People can observe eagles from there. But most will want to climb about 1,000 feet up to a lookout on the north side of Willard Canyon for closer views of eagles as well as other raptors that might be migrating then. Come prepared for snow towards the top of the climb. On the way up we should see lots of signs of spring: mountain bluebirds, a few butterflies and blooming wildflowers. The climb is safe but fairly strenuous. There are easy walks near the parking place for children to enjoy. Return at your convenience. But those climbing to the lookout may not get down until about 5 p.m. Carpooling will be arranged. For further information call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

Saturday, March 9. Tracking Trip for Children. Children 7 to 14 will learn to read animal tracks and signs, and how to stalk or get close to wildlife. Register with Kayo Robertson, 752-3944. (See page 7.)

Saturday, March 23. Waterfowl Migration. Ducks and geese will be returning to Cache Valley, as will sandhill cranes and great blue herons. We will visit the Sewage Lagoons and the Mendon Road to observe courtship of waterfowl particularly and hopefully see sandhill cranes displaying. Leave at 1 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 4:30 p.m. Carpooling arranged.

Friday-Saturday, April 6-7. Annual Trip to observe courtship of sage and sharp-tailed grouse at Curlew National Grasslands. We will camp at Curlew Campground along the shores of Stone Reservoir just north of Snowville, a two-hour drive west of Logan. Get up early

Saturday morning to observe the grouse. After a leisurely breakfast we will visit several places to observe waterfowl and nesting red-tailed hawks. Return home early Saturday afternoon. This trip by RESERVATIONS ONLY—limited to 30 persons. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for further information and reservations.

Saturday, April 21. Spring Birds. A visit to the Benson-Amalga-Trenton area to observe marsh and land birds. Leave from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and return by noon.

Friday-Saturday, May 3-5. (Tentative, details in April *Stilt*.) A two-night camping trip to American Falls Reservoir famous for gulls and shorebirds, then on to Craters of the Moon National Monument. Return Sunday afternoon. Call Al Stokes for further information and carpooling arrangements. Idaho State University ornithologist Chuck Trost will join us for part of the trip.

Saturday or Sunday, May 11 or 12. Our famous Bear River Canoe Trips from Trenton down to Amalga. Leave at 8 a.m. from southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return about 3 p.m. By reservation only! Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for further information. Couples will be expected to provide their own canoes. Single persons will be placed with couples when space is available.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Kathy Anderson, Logan
Glenn M. Bell, Logan
Hugh and Katie Blanchard, Mililani Town, Hawaii
Miss Rebecca Colvin, Logan
John Covert, Hyrum
Chris Durrant, Logan
Adree Helm, Montpelier, Idaho
June Izatt, Thatcher, Idaho
Ms. Diana Jones, Logan
Mrs. T. J. Kindred, Hyrum
Jamie Larson, Hyrum
Carole Lisonbee, Logan
Ralph and Byrnece Maughan, Logan
Rev. Barbara G. McGarey, Logan
Seth Nafziger, Logan
Victor C. Reese, Preston
Adele B. Schaub, Benson
Thomas J. Schroeder, Wellsville
Andy J. Spiering, Logan
Laura Kay Teerlink, Logan
Cheryl de Troyes, Logan
Rene Walker, Wellsville
Robert W. Whitlach, Logan
Jody Williams, Salt Lake City
John Dana Williams, Logan

LAW

from page one.

but the bill faces formidable odds in the face of opposition by these powerful lobbies. The sad reality of Utah politics is that a bill has a lot better chance if it is sponsored and promoted by a senior influential member of the Republican Party, like Rep. Jerrod. But friends to the environment, like Sen. Steiner, will get more senior next year, so we will not be giving up on this issue. It looks bleak for this year.

Authorization for a Department of Environmental Quality SB 34. Despite a lot of support, including Governor Bangerter, and passing the Senate 20-5, this bill is hung up in the House. The opposition is coming from the employees of the state Department of Environmental Health, presently a subsection of the Health Department. Audubon supports this bill.

Wilderness Resolution HCR 13, by Rep. David Adams from Monticello. This resolution calls on the U.S. Congress to set aside only 1.4 million acres of BLM land in the state for wilderness designation. The BLM itself is recommending 1.9 million acres, and environmental groups want between 3.8 million and 5.7 million acres. This resolution passed the House and will be heard soon in the Senate. Audubon's position is that 1.4 million acres is inadequate, so we oppose this resolution.

Environmental License Plates HB 198 by Rep. Joanne Milner (Salt Lake). This bill would allow Utahns to buy an environmental license plate, which would cost about the same as a personalized license plate. The revenue collected would support State Parks and Recreation and award grants for environmental protection and awareness including wetlands and a wildlife habitat.

Creation Procedures for Water Conservancy Districts SF7, by Senator Dixie Leavitt, Cedar City. Although this was not an Audubon issue, I lobbied against it because of what it would do to our WCD protest petition drive in Cache County. It would allow the "counting of non-respondents." This means that the promoters of a WCD could send letters to out-of-county property owners. If these owners did not respond in 20 days by filing an "objection" (undefined in the bill) then the proponents could count these people as "for" the district. It passed the senate 25-1 and the house 38-29. To their credit, our three Cache representatives voted against it. Only five more House votes would have killed this bill. Had anyone else besides me mounted a significant objection, the bill would never have passed. I view this as a major failure of all organizations who have an interest in representative government. Where are they?

The legislative sessions end on February 27, so by the time you read this, we will be sorting out what happened in the last-minute melee. We clearly have a long way to go in state policy promoting environmental protection,

but we are making slow and steady progress. Many thanks go to our lobbyist, Wayne Martinson, who has done a wonderful job guiding us through the bewildering maze.

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Robert Atwood, Logan
Leanna S. Ballard, Logan
Leroy B. Beasley, Logan
John and Coralie Beyers, Logan
Nolan Bingham, Smithfield
Reed Bullen, Logan
Jim Burrus, Salt Lake City
Jeanne C. Chambers, Logan
Gail Duerling, Brigham City
Rebecca S. Echols, Providence
Mr. John Cletus Erlacher, Salt Lake City
C. Val Grant, Logan
William B. Hampton, M.D., Sault St. Marie, Wisconsin
Mr. Paul B. Holden, Providence
R.M. Holdredge, Logan
Mr. Reinhard A. Jockel, Logan
Gayle Knapp, Logan
Karen E. Krogh, Frostburg, MD
Dr. E. H. Berry Laughlin, Smithfield
Mr. Karl Launchbaugh, Logan
William and Marjorie Lewis, Logan
Carol Loveland, Logan
Craig McGregor, Thatcher, Idaho
June V. Neville, Alexandria, VA
Stan Olmstead, Logan
Ann W. Peralta, Millville
Karen Peterson, Wellsville
Mr. John N. Ream, Jr., Providence
Alison Thorne, Logan
Tim and Tammy Vitale, Logan
Homer and Elizabeth Walker, Logan
Kathryn C. Wanlass, Logan
Chuck and Nancy Warner, San Margarita, Cal.
T. Schroeder C. Webb, Wellsville
Mr. David S. Winn, Logan

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DILLON, MT 59725**

TO THE MEMBERS

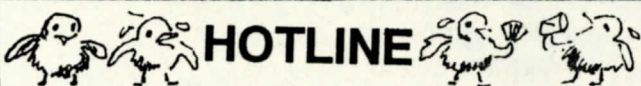
It's a joyful thing to have so many names to welcome and thank. I see it as a concrete sign of change in the great public mentality, a change that incorporates concern for and understanding of the wondrous web of life of which we are member entities. Those who join us, and rejoin us, are supporting a voice for far-sighted, scientific use of our resources, as well as contributing their essential presence to an organization founded to celebrate and enjoy the feathery denizens of the world. Everyone contributes in some measure, and that is appreciated.

The active core of Bridgerland Audubon is relatively small, however. That's normal, to be expected in any volunteer organization. Those who would like to become part of that group, the people that make things happen, are encouraged, urged, begged to make themselves known. Our conservation and education committees are always glad to include the talents of willing volunteers. There's work to be done in recycling, hospitality, field trips—where there's a will to work for the environment, we can help you find a way.

If this falls into the hands of a potential member, or someone who wants to give a gift membership, please bear in mind that it makes a difference HOW you join. If you use the entry form included in this newsletter, or any form marked "W52," Bridgerland Audubon receives a larger share of your membership fee—\$15, instead of \$5.50. It helps us work on local projects.

We look forward to meeting you in person at our entertaining general monthly meetings, on field trips through mud, snow, and even sunshine, or at our upcoming annual banquet, sure to be a gala event.

— Pat Gordon



I started serious birding (e.g., keeping a bird diary and carrying binoculars everywhere) only 14 months ago. It was the dead of winter—New Year's Day, in fact—and in no time at all I learned a Great Truth: It is far easier to survive the gloom and murk of a sunless February under an infamous Cache Valley inversion if one stops obsessing on the fog and focuses, instead, on feathers.

Sometimes, if it's too soupy to drive to where the birds are, one must rest content with simpler pleasures such as keeping the backyard feeder full of seeds and watching finch fights. Other times it's clear enough to drive out to the Logan River along the old Mendon Road

and see bald eagles sitting in the bare trees, watching for fish in the open water beneath them. One eagle was observed last month perched above our own "Pelican Pete" and his friend, its golden eye following their every move.

This is my first venture into writing up Hotline activity. Until now you've known me, perhaps, as the voice on the other end of the phone. Kayo Robertson's been the author of this column, doing a splendid job. I'll try to make a painless transition, and invite everyone who watches birds and other wildlife to call in about their "comings and goings."

Speaking of which:

- Kayo reports he saw a scrub jay, "singing to beat the band," in North Logan (1700 East and 1400 North) on February 6. Two days later he was lucky enough to spot a sage grouse pecking gravel on the roadside in Sardine Canyon.

- A Townsend's solitaire stopped to drink from Pat and Tom Gordon's backyard bird bath in Logan on January 30. Their crabapple trees have also hosted great hordes of cedar and Bohemian waxwings this month.

- Terry Barnes had a Stellar's jay in her Smithfield yard on February 18. Spring is coming, she knows, because the red-winged blackbirds have returned to her bird feeders. (I've had a Brewer's blackbird visit mine in Logan.)

The peregrine falcon spotted in January on Hyde Park Lane is still hanging out there, Terry says. The Barneses also entertain a group of white-tailed deer in the winter, who come right up on the porch to eat sunflower seeds out of the bird feeder. They also relish leftover Halloween pumpkins and decorative Indian corn—a novel way to recycle harvest home trimmings.

Do let me (753-6268 at home, 750-3299 work) or Val Grant (752-7572 home, 753-5370 work) hear about what looks interesting through your field glasses.

— Nancy Williams

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

Night Birds and Other Mysteries

I never hear other birders talking about their birding mysteries. Perhaps they don't have any. Perhaps I'm the only birder with confused karma. Take the screech owl, for instance.

We have a big willow tree in our back yard (it's not a weeping willow, for those of you who speak botany, but a sort of river willow). It's not quite the biggest tree in the neighborhood, but it has a certain willowy respectability. Starting early each spring, it becomes a favored perch of a western screech owl for a couple hours around 2 a.m. The owl turns up about half the nights in any given week, hangs around for an hour or two and then leaves. But though I've heard its distinctive call for some three years now, I've never yet seen it. I've tried waiting outside until all hours, armed with a flashlight, but it never comes when I wait. I've tried sneaking about in my pajamas, armed with a flashlight, but it always stops calling when I start sneaking. (Perhaps my pajamas awe it into silence.) Once I hid behind a curtain, armed with a flashlight, but when I heard the owl I got so excited I dropped the flashlight (it was one of those big Rambolights that use about 40 batteries and have shoulder slings) and nearly broke my foot. All those techniques (excepting only dropping the Rambolight on my foot) have worked with the great horned owls that occasionally visit the willow tree . . . but not with the screech owl. Why is that? Is it really just a neighbor who wants to see my sneak about in my pajamas?

And another thing: why is it that I only hear unfamiliar bird calls when I can't do anything about it? It's always when I'm late, for instance, that I hear a bird song that stands out like Mozart among the Beatles. Last week, as I was walking to work, I heard above the early-morning busy-body clamor of starlings and crows a lovely, melodic song cascading down from some dormant poplar trees across the street. It was vaguely finch-like, but more lush and sensuous, and completely unfamiliar. I could see a bird in the top of one of the poplars, but with the sun behind it I couldn't identify it. I walked slowly across the street to get a better look, staring into the tree tops and hoping it would sing again. But the next thing I heard was the ringing of the eight o'clock bells from Old Main, meaning I'd be at least fifteen minutes late for my meeting even if I started running RIGHT NOW. So off I went. I heard the mysterious bird only once more, after I'd gone about half a block up the hill. That time it sounded a bit like a Bronx cheer.

And how do birds know the *exact moment* when I stop looking at them for just a tiny fraction of a second to glance at my field guide? A strange bird will sit on a branch in direct view for upwards of three days while I try to memorize it (let's see: white eye-stripe above the eye. No, more of an eye-smudge, a little yellowish. I guess

it's under the eye. Um, wing bars. One wing bar. No, two. One and a half, sort of. Buffy chest and tail coverts. More yellow than buffy. Yellow on the chest and buffy on the tail. Well, more gray, really. Yellow and gray. Chestnut sides. OK: white eye-stripe through the eye, no wing bars, chestnut tail and gray-and-buffy sides. Now, where's that Peterson . . . ?) I have the field guide open in front of me in less than a tenth of a second . . . and the bird's gone, leaving nothing behind but a little tweety giggle. And I can never remember if it's a buffy eye-stripe with two yellow wing bars or a curly tail and spats. How do they know?

Well, never mind. I don't really care anyway. Walt Whitman was probably right. "You must not know too much," he said, "or be too precise or scientific about birds . . . ; a certain free margin, and even vagueness—perhaps ignorance, credulity—helps your enjoyment of these things." Sometimes I enjoy 'em beyond his wildest dreams.

— TJG

SWAINSON'S HAWK

Buteo swainsoni

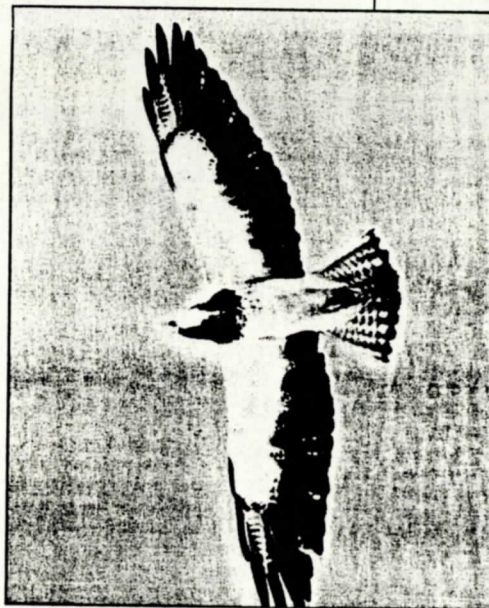


Photo by Brian K. Wheeler

The Swainson's hawk is one of the most distinctive raptors in North America. A bird of striking coloration and unusual feeding habits, it is perhaps most remarkable for its spectacular migration, which passes through a variety of threatened ecosystems in the Western Hemisphere. Each fall, virtually the entire population of the species leaves North America for its wintering grounds on the pampas of Argentina. Its breeding range stretches from northern Mexico to central Alaska, and individuals may fly 6,000 to 9,000 miles one way, only to return a few months later. (A Swainson's spends one-

sixth of its life migrating!) Among North American raptors, only the arctic peregrine falcon migrates as far.

As their migration funnels through Central America, Swainson's hawks congregate in huge flocks called "kettles," which resemble water boiling in a kettle as the birds spiral around a rising thermal of warm air, gaining altitude. Swainson's will mix with broad-winged hawks and with turkey vultures in kettles of over 100,000 birds. Counts at the Isthmus of Panama suggest estimates of about 300,000 for the entire population of Swainson's hawks.

On the southern Great Plains, migratory flocks of Swainson's are much smaller. Flocks of a few hundred birds often draw attention, hopping about a field eating grasshoppers like a flock of giant songbirds. Although well known as insect eaters, on the breeding grounds these versatile raptors take mainly small mammals, supplemented by lizards, snakes, and rarely, birds.

This buteo hawk is almost the size of the familiar red-tail, but is easily distinguished from other buteos by its bold markings. In flight the underwings have a "reverse" pattern; the leading part of the wing is light and the trailing part is dark. This pattern is less extreme on young birds but still noticeable. Perched birds exhibit a dark brown bib contrasting with a nearly white belly, but sometimes the belly is barred with rusty brown. Immature birds have a streaked chest and belly with much variation. Plumage variation is the rule rather than the exception with the Swainson's. Some birds are almost entirely black.

Swainson's hawk prefers healthy grassland habitat with occasional trees (and poles). After arriving on their breeding territories in April or early May, the brief courtship includes spectacular undulating flights, and is followed by nest building (by the male). Because of their relatively late arrival, Swainson's may find a previous nest occupied by another species. The nest is comparatively small and flimsy and is usually located in a tall tree. Incubation begins within three weeks of their arrival—this quick start gives young birds more time to grow and become strong fliers before their long fall migration.

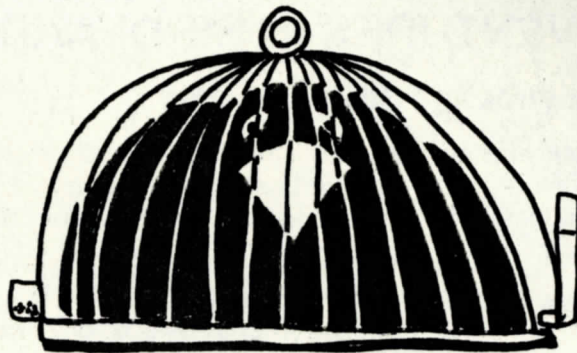
The normal clutch of two or three eggs hatches in about five weeks. As with many raptors, the female does most of the incubating and caring for the young, while the male hunts and provides prey. By their sixth week the young hawks are beginning to fly, and most Swainson's are off the nest by early August. The Swainson's marathon migration begins a month or so later.

Adopt-A-Swainson's Hawk

HWI is creating a special Adopt-A-Hawk category for these rarely banded birds. For \$250 you can adopt one of these extraordinary birds to support HWI's research efforts. Help us to address the serious threats faced by these long distance travelers!

Contact HawkWatch International, PO Box 35706, Albuquerque, NM 87176-5706.

— from *Raptor Watch*
Newsletter for Hawkwatch Int'l
Summer/Fall 1990



TIME TO STOP THE TRADE IN WILD-CAUGHT BIRDS FOR PETS

Do you know that there are more than 40 million caged birds in the United States? Most of these birds—parakeets, canaries, zebra finches, and cockatiels—are bred in captivity. But eight million birds, including most parrot species, were trapped in the wild as adults or nestlings.

The United States is the largest market for imported birds. At least half a million birds are imported each year, and thousands die before they ever reach stores. On average, a bird has no better than a 50-50 chance of surviving capture, transport, and sale.

As a result of the dramatic threat posed to many bird species by the pet trade, Audubon staff are involved in a joint effort with the pet industry, bird breeders, zoos, and animal-welfare and conservation groups to solve this urgent problem. The joint effort is known as the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade.

The group is lobbying for national legislation to ban the trade in wild-caught birds for pets and is seeking its introduction in Congress some time in the spring of 1991. You can help make a difference by buying only captive-bred birds for pets and encouraging retailers not to sell birds caught in the wild.

This spring Audubon will be launching its own International Wildlife Trade Program. A key component of the program will be an activist kit for chapters and individuals to help educate the public, campaign for bills, and monitor the enforcement of wildlife trade laws. General information on wildlife trade will also be provided for concerned citizens.

If your chapter is interested in becoming involved with wildlife trade issues, please contact Dorene Bolze, Director of the International Wildlife Trade Program, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; (212) 546-9297.

If you would like to work on this project, contact conservation chair Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

MASS POISONINGS THREATEN MANY BIRDS

Hawks, falcons and song birds are being killed illegally in Utah by farmers and ranchers trying to poison starlings, according to Jack Hallowell, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

He urged the public to be aware of the poisoning activities and report large numbers of dead or sick birds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

People should not pick up or handle these birds because of the danger associated with the chemicals, said Mr. Hallowell.

Thousands of starlings can gather around animal feedlots during the winter, creating a health and economic problem for the owner. Wildlife officials said information on legal ways to control these birds is available from the local County Extension Service or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control.

Migratory birds such as hawks, eagles and song birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Eagle Act and Endangered Species Act. Persons harming these birds can be prosecuted.

— from *The Salt Lake Tribune*
Jan. 20, 1991
page B7

COMES THE DAWN

Holzer, that is.

When the time comes to replace BAS officers, it's hard to find anyone willing to give up the privileges and pleasures of serving with such a jolly group. Our only retiree this year is John Mull, who hopes to finish his doctorate and get a job somewhere. He's been responsible for the fine array of programs we've had at our monthly meetings for the past two years. Taking over that rather daunting responsibility is Dauntless Dawn Holzer, the blonde body-builder biologist.

When asked why she agreed to do it, she said, "Because Al Stokes asked me to, very nicely. And I felt it was a great honor." She joins a long list of Al Stokes "honorees," who tend to get hooked on the feeling.

Dawn recently participated in her first body-building competition as a novice of medium height. She's worked for three years to be in condition, and says she'll never quit. "It's the fountain of youth," she said. "It's great to be strong, too." She placed second overall and received the award for "most muscular."

She works for USDA as a Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer. She's getting ready to trap any gypsy moths she can find this summer. We may all be learning about gypsy moths in the near future.

Dawn wants to hear your ideas for upcoming programs. You can talk to her (or a helpful machine) at 753-6047 (home) or 752-2662 (work).

WANTED: UPLAND GAME BIRDER

President Val Grant is looking for someone to take command of the upland game bird situation—at least to the extent of learning what's going on with our neighboring huns and chukars and blues and such. "There's stuff we can do," he says, to improve habitat, and that would help many non-game birds and other animals, also. Search your heart, and if you find room for these plump life forms, call Val at 753-5370

LIFE LESSONS

Workshop on War and the Environment

Audubon education is presenting an open forum seminar to discuss the environmental impacts of war. This forum is the second in a series and follows Sherm Jenson's workshop on Riparian Habitat. The seminar format will be one of "brainstorming" the topic, freely gathering from the pool of knowledge available. Every aspect of warfare, from production of materials, training and practice, to actual direct impacts will be assessed. If you know of experts in this field or would like to attend yourself please call Kayo Robertson (752-3944).

Tracking Trip for Children

My thanks to Jack Greene and Brian Dixon for conducting an excellent children's field trip on avalanches and snow safety. The next Audubon Children's Field Trip will be held Saturday, March 9, 1991. The topic will be "Wildlife Signs: Stalking and Tracking." The class will study what possibilities lie within an animal track beyond mere identification, how to "read" signs, and how to stalk, or get close to wildlife. Classes are free and open to all children aged 7 to 14, but size is limited. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. To register call Kayo.

My sincere thanks to Sherm Jenson and Steve Archibald for facilitating the riparian habitat workshop, and to Prent Klag for providing us with the Edith Bowen Kiva.

— Kayo Robertson
752-3944

RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

Cache Recycling Coalition is one year old. Something like a birthday party was held January 22, only it was called the First Annual Awards Dinner. The TV cameras weren't rolling, but local celebrities proudly accepted their awards and gave humorous accounts of their successful efforts in recycling. Those honored were:

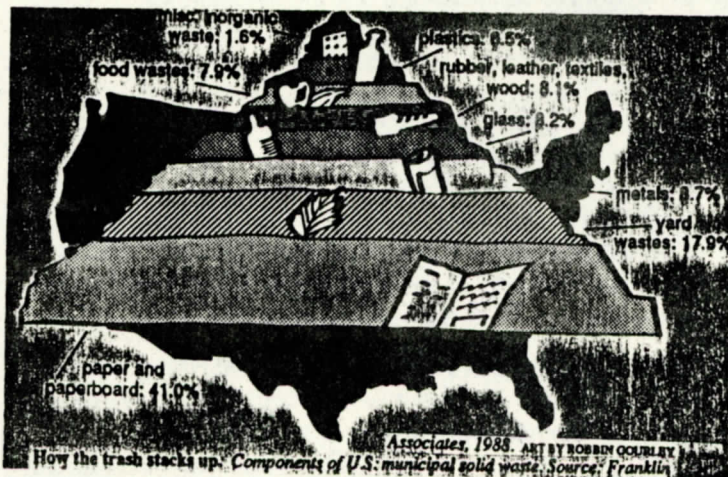
- Elaine Swensen and Summit School PTA (monthly collection day for recyclables)
- Andy Pederson, Valley Metals (assistance with Summit School recycling project)
- Harvey and Peggy Neuber, Seine Solutions (producers of net shopping bags)
- Wynne Smith, Frank Moody and Lane Browning (owners of Soft Bottoms Diaper Service)
- Cache Valley Boy Scout Council (long-term commitment to local recycling)
- Bill Meyer, Logan City Forester (Christmas tree recycling project)
- Sally Sears and Randy Wirth, Straw Ibis (business practices promoting waste reduction)
- Mike Nelson (education and involvement in USU Student Chapter of the Cache Recycling Coalition)
- Margaret Pettis and the South Cache Recycling Team (education and paper recycling in South Cache area)

On February 21 Nancy Fox hosted a social hour followed by a business meeting to set short-term and long-range goals.

February 26, 6 p.m., at the regular meeting of the County Council, Bob Bayn and Karen Shotwell made a presentation stressing needs for more drop sites, a solid waste management plan, and advisory positions for Cache Recycling representation on the Solid Waste Management Board.

John H. Adams, Executive Director, of Natural Resources Defense Council says: "The fight for energy efficiency is truly the environmental fight of the century." Recycling is helping by reducing energy consumption.

— Irma Moon



GESSAMAN TO LEAD GALAPAGOS CRUISE

June 21-July 2

Jim Gessaman, renowned biologist and ornithologist in our midst, will be leading a group of gallivaners to the Galapagos Islands this summer. Yes, Debbie's going, too. They're looking for a few adventurers to spend Midsummer's Eve in Miami, fly to Ecuador to absorb exotic foreign culture for two days, then fly to Galapagos to board a cruise ship and explore the isles. Jim anticipates great birding (Darwin's many finches, flamingoes, boobies of various foot hues); snorkeling with iguanas and sea lions; sally lightfoot crabs; and other wonders of evolution. He says the weather will be comfortably cool due to currents from Antarctica. The cost—\$2970—covers transportation and accommodations from Miami, with double rooms privately facilitated, and meals. Full details will be forthcoming in the April *Stilt*, but for those of you who have been waiting and watching for just such an opportunity, we wanted to share what information we have. The trip is being organized and promoted by Holbrook Travel, Inc., of Florida. For more information, contact them at 3540 N.W. 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609, or phone (904) 377-7111. Or call Jim at 563-9114. He might be some help.

P.S. Val Grant will be reporting on his recent trip to the Galapagos at an upcoming general meeting. You won't want to miss this educational extravaganza!

AUDUBON SCIENTISTS WORK FOR PETRELS IN GALAPAGOS

Attempts to assist the endangered dark-rumped petrel met with a major success this summer when four pairs of these rare seabirds nested in artificial burrows.

For three years, National Audubon Society, the Galapagos National Park, and The Charles Darwin Research Station have joined forces to test a novel plan to help the dark-rumped petrels on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos. This was the first year petrels produced chicks in the artificial burrows, 160 of which have been hand-dug in an extinct volcano on the island. Tape recordings of a bustling petrel colony are also used to attract prospectors to the man-made nests.

On July 9, the first egg was discovered in burrow B-19. Petrels bred in three additional artificial burrows as well. However, all four chicks, one of them still hatching, were killed by rats.

Dark-rumped petrels have a long breeding cycle that brings them to land for eight to nine months each year. They have an incubation period of 52 days and take an additional 110 days to rear their single chick. This slow development is necessary for birds that feed far from islands. Because the petrel chicks are left untended for several days between feedings, they are very vulnerable to exotic animals such as the black and Norway rats, which are now well-established on all of their known breeding islands. Dark-rumped petrels, distant relatives of the albatross, nest only in the Galapagos and Hawaiian Islands.

— from *Audubon Science Quarterly*
January 1991

PROTECT THE BARRENS

Unique Wetlands In Danger

Although it looks like we are unable to short-circuit the Barrens Reservoir project in the Utah legislature, there is plenty of reason for optimism that the promoters (State of Utah) will not be able to get permits to build the project. We will need to work diligently against this for years. Our best arguments:

1. Building the Barrens "Dam" would result in the loss of 1400 acres of wetlands. It provides nesting, resting and feeding habitat for over 100 species of birds and other wildlife. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) does not take this loss lightly. They can require up to three acres of wetlands to be created for every one acre lost, if mitigatable acres can even be found. This mitigation can cost between \$100 and \$25,000 per acre. Thus, between \$350,000 and \$105 million extra will be added to the cost of the project.
2. The cost of the preferred-size (100,000 acre-feet of water covering 4,500 acres) would be \$79 million for construction plus transfer and water treatment costs (which can double the total), plus mitigation costs. This amounts to \$790 per acre foot just for reservoir construction. The unknown costs for transfer and mitigation could triple the total. When you consider that farmers are having a difficult time when they pay \$5.00 or less per acre foot, the idea of "bringing new acres under the plow" sounds absurd, indeed.
3. Box Elder County does not need that much water. By the year 2010, an optimistic projection of new Box Elder water needs over today's will be 2,954 acre feet of water. Compare this to the 100,000 acre feet of storage in the Barrens. Over 5,000 acre-feet of water is presently available to them as untapped ground water within Box Elder County.
4. Water Conservation has not been promoted in any of the areas identified as users of Bear River water.

This spring, we need to take legislators, newspaper reporters, TV crews, radio people out to the Barrens to show them what a wonderful place it is. You can start by finding the place for yourself and taking your friends there. Join our Barrens Study Committee in the BAS Conservation Committee and help us find ways to protect it for the future.

— Alice Lindahl
753-7744

CHEESE PLANT CURDLES WCD PROTEST

In January, the judge ruled that the Protest Petition was inadequate because we had insufficient property value in Amalga, the smallest community in the valley. The law requires that we have 20% of the people and 20% of the property value. Although we had 30.11 percent of the property owners (53 signers), we only had 11.3% of the property value. This is because we failed to get the Cheese Plant, which is worth 50% of the value of the whole town. Two other large owners, Utah Power and Light and U.S. West chose to remain neutral. Thus, the judge is ruling that we must have the cheese plant in order to have a successful petition.

There is a chance that this ruling can be overturned, but it is a sad commentary on the Water Conservancy Law that a single entity can hold the majority hostage and force the creation of a WCD.

The case goes back to court on March 18, and a final decision on the adequacy of the "pro" petition will be made by April 1.

You may have read in the *Cache Citizen* that we thought the cheese plant had signed with us and it came as a big shock that we did not have it. Nothing could be further from the truth. The *Herald Journal* got it right in their editorial that called for a challenge of the WCD law.

It would be nice if it were so easy. We have calculated that it will cost \$50,000 to challenge the law. I, myself, cannot afford this, and we have already received generous donations from local friends just to run the petition campaign. If any of you have ideas about foundations or individuals who would contribute to getting rid of this WCD law, please let me know. Otherwise we will have no challenge of the law.

Even if the promoters do not form a WCD this time around, they will be back again, probably secretly, if we do not dump the WCD law.

— Alice Lindahl
753-7744

What Goes on in the Inner Sanctum?
or
**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT**

*By Mercedes Lee, Environmental Policy Analyst
Scully Sanctuary, Islip, NY*

Underpinning both Field Research and Sanctuaries, in the National Audubon Society Division of Science and Sanctuaries, is the Environmental Policy Analysis Department. Here, staff analysts interpret and integrate research that is carried on around the world in order to develop practical alternatives to practices that could be harmful to wildlife or the environment. The Environmental Policy Analysis Department (EPAD) is involved in a variety of projects at any one time, some of which provide direct support to Audubon's priority campaigns, such as the Platte River; others concern issues of a broader nature, such as global climate change.

Projects undertaken by EPAD typically draw upon a consortium of experts from outside consultants and academic scientists as well as from Audubon's diverse professional staff in Field Research and our New York, Washington, D.C., and regional offices. Audubon is often called upon to mediate disputes between developers and environmentalists and to give technical testimony at congressional hearings and in legal cases. In addition, The Columbia Law School Legislative Drafting Research Fund and Audubon often work together to draft model legislation on a wide variety of environmental issues.

Current EPAD Projects

ENERGY

Energy and its production are essential to modern life. While providing for the availability of goods and services, energy production and use have had serious consequences on the quality of the environment. Backed by years of research and computer modeling of future energy consumption and economics, our EPAD has developed the detailed Audubon Energy Plan. This report, periodically updated, includes proposals on improving energy efficiency, decontrolling energy prices, instituting strict environmental controls and conservation measures, and offers specific guidelines for state and federal action.

The Audubon Energy Plan illustrates well how scientific analysis can be used as a foundation for making policy decisions. Model legislation based on Audubon's Energy Plan was a major influence in motivating state action in setting appliance efficiency standards, which led to the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 and the 1988 amendments to the act which set efficiency standards for fluorescent lamp ballasts. Staff analysts also evaluate the harmful effects of energy sources, particularly with hydropower projects and nuclear power. Audubon has acted as mediator between environmentalists and developers in the James Bay, Canada, dispute and provided technical help on assessing the emergency plans of the Seabrook, New Hampshire and Indian Point, Pennsylvania reactors.

THREE MILE ISLAND

For the past several years, Audubon has been assessing the risks imposed by nuclear power, with specific emphasis on the nuclear power plant accident that occurred on Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, in 1979. Current research involves reevaluating the radiation doses resulting from the accident. Our work is in collaboration with the Epidemiology Department of Columbia University to examine possible links between radiation doses and cancer. This landmark study is one of the most sophisticated done on the epidemiology of nuclear power. The results of the accident are being scrutinized according to strict scientific standards, independent of government and industry politics, with no preconceptions either pro- or anti-nuclear. The experience and analytical tools developed in the course of this project will be applicable to studying other energy technologies, such as coal power, that emit pollutants into the air.

THE PLATTE RIVER

The Platte River offers refuge to millions of birds as they pause in their migrations for rest and replenishment. Flows destined for the central Platte in Nebraska are removed upstream by more than 100 projects, and this depletion in flow has substantially altered riparian habitats over the years, putting at risk species that cannot adapt quickly enough or find other habitat. Audubon's studies have revealed how important it is to act now to preserve adequate habitat along the river for existing populations of sandhill cranes and waterfowl, and to restore sufficient habitat for the recovery of threatened and endangered species including whooping cranes, interior least terns, piping plovers, and bald eagles. Our scientific work has entailed reviewing and analyzing technical literature on the roosting, breeding, and feeding requirements of the wildlife species that use the river; assessing how much water and sediment are needed in the system to maintain the braided character of the river; conducting field studies to determine the timing and quantity of water that is necessary to maintain nearby wetlands; and searching for viable alternatives to proposed water projects. To effectively address these issues we have published a report that was critically reviewed by state and federal government officials, developers, and colleagues. Primarily written for non-specialists, it synthesizes the scientific, legal, and political issues related to conservation of the Platte River.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

The efforts of our Environmental Policy Analysis Department on biotechnology concentrate on the land-use implications of this emerging technology and how it may affect biological diversity. The goal of our research is to identify natural systems

(continued on next page)

(NAS's Environmental Policy Analysis Department *continued*) and land areas of importance to wildlife that might be threatened by advances in biotechnology driving changes in the economics of farming and silviculture; and the possibility of bio-engineered species wreaking havoc on natural and managed systems. With our studies, initially headed by a faculty member on sabbatical from the University of Nebraska, we are focusing on the ecological effects of biomass production and identifying currently uncultivated land areas that are the likeliest targets for biotechnology in order that we can project which areas in the country are likely to need close monitoring and possibly protection.

OTHER PROJECTS

- * Marine Conservation
- * Solid Waste
- * Citizen Science -- Acid Rain
- * Climate Change
- * Impacts of Oil and Gas Development on Wildlife
- * Bicycles as a Transportation Alternative
- * Health Effects of Air Pollution
- * Physics and the Environment
- * Development Threats to Canada's James Bay

An important part of the EPAD is to communicate the results of our research to the public by preparing reports, testifying before Congress, and publishing articles in scientific and popular publications. Members of our Science Division routinely advise newspaper, television, and radio reporters, and staff of government bodies on the scientific aspects of pressing environmental issues.

Mercedes Lee has a degree in geology and a background in editorial work at Audubon. She acts as science editor for the Division, assisting the Science staff in reworking their technical publications for general readers. She also works on environmental policy publications related to the Platte River.

At the roots of conservation and environmental action lies the need to know how nature works -- how the environment functions, how plants and animals interact, and how human activities take their toll. This understanding does not come suddenly through revelations or seance. It grows from scientific inquiry, from relentless review, and from careful, reasoned analysis.

- NAS Science and Sanctuaries Division

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARD OPEN

If you have nominees for the 1991 BAS Conservation Award, please contact Alice Lindahl at 753-7744. We will be reviewing nominations in the next two months, and the award will be made at the Audubon Banquet.

BATEMAN CRANE PRINT

A limited edition print of a young sandhill crane has been donated to Bridgerland Audubon by the famous wildlife artist, Robert Bateman. He heard about our efforts to end the crane hunt in Utah, and donated the print to help out. These prints are worth over \$500 in the art marketplace. We will take silent bids on the print by displaying it in galleries in Park City, Salt Lake and Logan. We will take bids up until and including the BAS Banquet on May 2. We will open the bids at the banquet and then announce the successful bidder. Many thanks to Audubon member Mike Ryder of Park City for engineering this project for us.

BENEFIT FILM

The Utah Wilderness Association is pleased to announce a benefit film, "Tong Tana," presented by CINEMA in Your Face! 45 West 300 South in Salt Lake City on March 22. Two showings will be held, one at 5 p.m. and the other at 9 p.m. Price of admission is \$5. The benefit is part of UWA's 1991 Wilderness Forum. We are grateful to CINEMA in Your Face! for the generosity in making this benefit possible.

"Tong Tana: A Journey Into the Heart of Borneo" is an extraordinary documentary film about the Borneo Rainforest—the oldest on earth. It chronicles the life of the native Penans, who are resisting efforts by the Malaysian government to destroy their forest home. These people are being aided by a Swiss journalist named Bruno Manser, who has chosen to live with them in their nomadic way of life. He was recently awarded Outside magazine's *Outsider* of the Year Award for his efforts on behalf of the Penans.

The film is visually stunning as it portrays the beauty and wildness of this part of the earth. This is an event you won't want to miss.