



THE STILT

MAY 1991

WATER: POLITICS AND PRACTICALITY

The Barrens

The future of a favorite birding spot looked a little brighter this month when the Division of Water Resources announced that the Barrens Reservoir site was looking "less feasible than it did just six months ago." They cited destruction of 1400 acres of wetlands as a major factor.

In addition, the use of Barrens water to irrigate the Bonneville Bench, north of Tremonton was deemed to be economically unfeasible, even if we gave the water away." In other words, the cost of piping and ditching water to the benchland would be more than farmers could afford to pay, even if the Barrens Reservoir could be built for free.

This issue is a good example of how political patronage can overcome common sense and economics. The Barrens was proposed to satisfy political promises to Box Elder even though it was commonly known to be an unsound project. By building unrealistic hopes in the Box Elder legislators, the more powerful legislators in Salt Lake secured the Bear River Development Bill. With the legislative session safely over and the Bear River Bill in the bag, it is safe to announce that the project is a "dog" (apologies to our pets).

BAS will not alter its plans to evaluate environmental losses if The Barrens were built. We have seen projects vault from last place to first place and back again. Until we get all the nails pounded into the demise of this project, we will continue to pursue research into the wildlife values out there.

The Water Conservancy District

The promoters of the Water Conservancy District handed the WCD protesters an edge this month when they acknowledged that 47 names listed on the "pro" petition were forged. In addition, the person who did the forging stepped forward. He is former Cache County Commissioner Marion Olsen, one of the leaders of the petition drive.

A sobering aspect of this revelation is what a tremendous amount of power WCDs have for a few people to cause someone of Mr. Olsen's stature to risk so much to see one formed. The Cache WCD pro petition is the first one that has ever been scrutinized by anyone. The flawed law with its vulnerable petition provisions have never looked so bad.

The other flaws in the "pro" petition will be judged by First District Court in July. Be prepared for boiling water to turn into a geyser.

— Alice Lindhal
Conservation Chair

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CALENDAR

Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5. Antelope Island Trip. An overnight camping trip to Antelope Island State Park under the leadership of Mitch Larsson, superintendent, to observe bison and the many migrating water and land birds. Since the island is open to special groups only, we will have the island to ourselves. This is a first-ever trip for Bridgerland. Leave at 8 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot to carpool and caravan to the south end of the island. We hope to have several experienced birders from Salt Lake to take us to birding hot spots. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for further details on schedule and camping arrangements. Advance reservations required.

Monday, May 6. The esteemed cooks for the Annual Awards Dinner would be grateful if you signify your intentions to attend by purchasing tickets by this date. Tickets are \$12 per plate at A Book Store, 130 North 100 East.

Friday, May 10. The aforementioned cooks insist that we have a final count to them by this date. So if for some reason you're not able to take care of this business by May 6, we still want you to join us. If you want to eat with us (see details on page 5) be sure to sign up by May 10.

Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12. Bear River Canoe Trips from Trenton down to Amalga. Two separate trips, one Saturday and one Sunday. 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. Couples will be expected to provide their own canoes. Single persons will be teamed up with other singles or placed where space is available. Expect to see 60 species of birds and visit a great blue heron nesting colony. Bring your lunch.

Saturday, May 11. Children's Field Trip. Children from 7 to 12 years of age are invited to join Kayo Robertson for an outdoor shopping trip. He'll be looking at local wild edible and medicinal plants. Call for reservations. Kayo, 752-3944, or Kate Boyes, 753-8349.

Wednesday, May 15. Annual Bridgerland Audubon Society Awards Banquet. Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Aspen Grove Reception Hall. Jim MacMahon will speak on "Global Change: Past and Future Flora and Fauna." See full story on page 5.

Saturday, May 18. Children's Field Trip. The very young, ages 3 through 7, will be exploring a nearby canyon with Kayo this morning from 10 to noon. This nature walk requires reservations, which can be had by calling Kayo Robertson at 752-3944, or Kate Boyes at 753-8349.

Saturday-Sunday, May 18-19. Basin and Range Seminar. Utah Audubon Society of Salt Lake sponsors this weekend seminar for field studies in the Raft River Mountains northwest of Salt Lake City. This is the ninth years for the seminar. Tuition is \$25, \$15 for senior citizens, free for those under 13. Among the classes offered are "Animal Behavior," instructor Dr. Ailen Stokes; "Capturing the Essence of the Raft River with Pen and Brush," instructor Margaret Pettis; and "Basin and Range Birds," instructor Dr. Larry Ryel. Registration deadline is May 10. Call 583-4041 for more information.

May 31-June 2. Visit to Crater of the Moon and American Falls Reservoir. This is a first-ever trip. Camp Friday night at Justice Park near American Falls Reservoir to observe nesting colonies of California and Franklin's gulls and shorebirds; then camp Saturday at Craters of the Moon National Monument with its spectacular volcanic cones and lava flows. Wildflowers should be at their peak. Return Sunday afternoon. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702 for further details on schedule, carpooling and equipment.

Saturday, June 22. High Creek Canyon Hike. We visited this beautiful canyon last August. We want to see it in June for its abundant birdlife and wildflowers. Leave at 7 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by mid-afternoon. No reservations required. Easy walking on a good trail. Fine family outing.



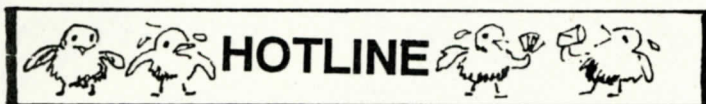
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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Barr Bentley, Logan
 Laura Fisher, Providence
 Ms. Shirlene Haas, Logan
 Sheri Kopka, Logan
 Heather McSharry, Honolulu, Hawaii
 Keisuke Nakazaki, Logan
 Mrs. Donald Newman, Logan
 Jalaja Thillainathan, Logan
 Maureen Wagner, Mendon
 Sally Bishop, Logan
 Shanda Fallau, Logan
 Mr. Tim Kruse, Logan
 Martisa Register, Logan
 Jay D. Leslie G. Terry, Logan
 Mrs. T. J. Kindred, Hyrum
 Brent R. Paull, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Susan Allen, Logan
Clifton and Diane Alston, Logan
R. K. Archibald, DMD, Logan
Gary Drew, Logan
C. Val Grant, Logan
Ms. Dorothy Lewis, Logan
Steven MacFarlane, Providence
Steve McOmber, Logan
Chip Sibbersen, Providence
William F. Sigler, Logan
Chuck and Nancy Warner, Santa Margarita, California
Barry Wollenzien, Logan
Crain McGregor, Thatcher, Idaho
Barbara J. Miller, Logan



Spring's arrival continues, in spite of occasional snow squalls. Bird reports include:

March 17 — Keith Archibald spots the first avocets at the Amalga Barrens.

March 23 — Black-necked stilts on Valley View highway (Keith, again). Reinhard P. Jockel spots a Franklin gull at the sewage lagoons.

March 24 — Reinhard spots a fox sparrow on the Riverside Nature Trail in Logan Canyon.

March 24 — Keith sees a sage thrasher, north of Clarkston.

March 28 — Bob Atwood sees a kettle of 15 Swainson's hawks at Dry Lake in Wellsville Canyon (according to Keith).

March 29 — A greater yellowlegs is spotted by Reinhard Jockel at the boat landing off of Valley View highway. He reports the first yellow-headed blackbirds, too.

March 31 — Fifteen pelicans fly over Cache Junction, and Newton Dam plays host to a common loon, a double-crested cormorant, and about 10 red-breasted mergansers. Keith Archibald calls them in, along with the first Franklin gulls at the Barrens and the "square ponds."

April 7 — Tree swallows (between Smithfield and Newton) and a Savannah sparrow (at the Barrens) are reported by Reinhard.

April 10 — Greater and lesser yellowlegs are seen on the western end of Hyde Park Lane (behind the Logan Airport) by Terry Barnes.

April 13 — Snowy egrets, cattle egrets and great blue herons land alongside Valley View highway. (I spied 'em.) There's a loon at First Dam (seen by Don McIvor). Lone snow goose hanging out with Canada geese at Clay Slough—spotted by Glen Leonard.

April 16 — Bill Ehmann observes six loons and a couple of osprey on Newton Dam.

April 20 — The loons are still there.

Thanks to you all—and keep the calls coming!

— Nancy Williams
753-6268

BARRENS REPORT

Late March to Mid-April

March 30 — Bill Ehmann reports that five tundra swans are still present.

April 11 — I forgot that the weather at the Barrens can be a lot more severe than in Logan. After battling a north wind and escalating snowfall, I made it to the first pond and gave up.

April 15 — Several BAS members escorted a writer-photographer team from the Salt Lake Tribune (watch for an article on May 5). A red fox was mousing while overhead willets and long-billed curlews displayed. white-faced ibises, savannah sparrows, and marsh wrens had arrived. Avocets, stilts, Canada geese, about eight species of ducks, California and Franklin's gulls, and sandhill cranes were present in good numbers.

April 16 — Ron Ryel wanted a last look before he left for Germany. He spotted a dozen new year-birds for his list including Baird's sandpipers, greater and lesser yellowlegs, tree and rough-winged swallows, and a caspian tern.

April 19 — Three short-eared owls were hunting in mid-morning along the road.

April 21 — Rain filled the Barrens, turning them into mirrors for noisy stilts and romantic cinnamon teal couples. From the road Tom and Pat Gordon watched cattle egrets swallow rodents still kicking. Blue-winged teal and a pair of shovelers were enjoying the wet, and four sandhill cranes flew in.

— Larry Ryel

THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT

Kit Flannery and I observed a Canada goose inspecting the western-most great blue heron nest at the Mendon Road rookery on April 4. When I checked again on April 15, it appeared that the female was incubating. That first step for the goslings will be a long one!

— Larry Ryel

EAGLES EN MASSE

On Thursday, March 21, I drove to Salt Lake City and saw numerous bald eagles in the basin just north of the Sardine Summit (Dry Lake). I estimate there were around 100 standing around on the ground. When I returned to Logan around 1 p.m., the eagles were more active. Some were flying and landing at the edge of the lake, some (30 to 40) were in the small group of trees at the east side of the lake, and others were standing on the ground up away from the lake shore. There were ducks on the lake. I also saw two bald eagles east of the highway near Sherwood Hills. They were on the ground.

Since I was alone and did not stop, I did not try to count the eagles. My estimates may be high, but needless to say, there was a large number of bald eagles in the area.

— Roger Banner

STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR BIRD CENSUS

Please send all bird sightings and number of birds seen around Strawberry Reservoir to:

Ray D. E. Smith
144 So. 900 E. Apt #11
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
532-7384

Strawberry Reservoir Visitor Center is compiling a checklist for the public. Count will be kept for a full year.

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

You may recall a couple months ago an article about Wade and Eileen, the domestic ducks who reside at my sister Gayle's apartment complex, and Gayle's heroic race against time to thaw out and save Wade from a cruel death within the grip of an ice ball the size of a couch. That article prompted a flood of letter, in which Gayle was kind enough to point out that I got everything wrong: Eileen isn't Eileen at all, but I-Lean. Furthermore, I-Lean doesn't lean: Wade leans. I-Lean only wades (which Wade doesn't). It's all so simple. She also assured me that Wade and I-Lean had survived the winter, although it was no sure thing for a while.

I-Lean, after her anticlimactic reunion with Wade, stopped eating. First she began to dodge the little duckie-yummies aimed at her, and after about four days she and Wade vanished.

"The office at the complex," Gayle relates, "is in a 'Pond House' on stilts above the pond. From my apartment, one can see beneath the Pond House, if one goes outside, lies on one's stomach, places one's right cheek on the ground and cranes one's neck. Since there was no sign of either Wade or I-Lean anywhere else on the pond, I went outside, lay down on my stomach, placed my right cheek on the ground and craned my neck to look beneath the Pond House. Underneath the Pond House, in among the stilts, I could see exactly zero ducks. Wade and I-Lean, I feared, were dead."

[Aside: have you ever wondered what birds get in heaven? Hooves, maybe? Or wheels?]

After a couple weeks, Gayle mentioned the ducklessness to the apartment complex manager, expecting the manager to produce an obituary and leftovers. To her surprise, however, the manager opined that Wade and I-Lean were hiding out under the pond house: they'd probably found the heat tape wrapped around the water pipes and were spending all their time huddled up against it. Gayle was dubious. "Wade and I-Lean," she said, "are simply not that smart."

Another week went by, still with no sign of the ducks. I-Lean, Gayle decided in a flash, had found the heat tape, and assumed that the tape was as warm as it was ever going to get again, so she'd laid an egg. "In previous years, she'd tried laying eggs," Gayle says, "and the best I'd give her is a 'C.' Now here are she and Wade trying to hatch an egg on the ice because they think it's spring! The poor little egg is warm on top and frozen on the bottom, and any day the ice will melt and down will go baby, cradle, and all! I had an overwhelming urge to run outside, lie down on my stomach, place my right cheek on the ground, crane my neck and yell, 'Eggs can't swim! You're getting an "F"!'"

The advent of warmer weather proved the manager right: Wade and I-Lean emerged from beneath the Pond House, with no sign of ducklets and looking none the worse for their seclusion. They became increasingly restless, and soon they undertook their annual migration from the pond to the concrete walk in front of the apartments, where they waddle up and down complaining because nobody is flinging duckie-yummies at them. "Through Wade and I-Lean," Gayle reports, "we are taught that life is an unending cycle. Their obnoxious, nasal 'GRONNNK' at all hours and the stuff you step in after dark shows us that once again, even after the bitterest of winters, spring has sprung upon the West."

— TJG

BANQUET PLANS EVOLVING

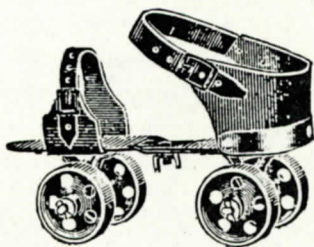
The long-awaited Annual BAS Awards Banquet promises to be a good time once again. Since last month we've lined up some interesting door prizes and decided on the menu.

Chicken a l'Orange (Saucy Bird)
Potato Casserole (Specialty of the House)
Fresh Green Salad (Fiberific)
Rolls with Butter (Prophetic Food)
and save room for
German Chocolate Cake (Yes, please)
to be sloshed down with
Soda, Coffee and Wine

We'll gather at the Aspen Grove Reception Center, 860 North 600 East in Logan, for a social hour beginning at 6:30. Dinner will be served at 7:30 and the program will follow. Music and art work will be there to soothe the harried soul. Val Grant, our notorious president, will preside. The honorable recipient of the Allen Stokes Conservation Award will be revealed, and Dr. James MacMahon will improve our minds.

Tickets are now on sale at A Book Store, 130 North 100 East. You are urged to buy your tickets before May 6 if at all possible, but there's a bit of leeway for those who can't get it done before May 10. Early is helpful, but we can handle a few additions until the 10th. Better late than never.

If you've never been to one of these banquets, make it your adventure of the month. You're sure to meet some fine people and have an enjoyable evening. Besides, we need you to make it complete. Please come.



GARAGE SALE

Save your discards for the upcoming BAS Garage Sale. In the last two sales we raised more than \$500 (per sale) for lobbying costs. Let's do it again!

EXCITING SPEAKER

"Global Change: Past and Future Flora and Fauna." That's the working title of the talk following dessert. It holds intriguing possibilities, don't you think?

Those who have heard Dr. James MacMahon speak agree that he will not be boring. "His ability to relay information in a racy, raucous way is second to none," said one anonymous source. "Jim will never let facts stand in the way of a good story," affirmed another. Other comments include: "Darts are more of a passion than pool." "He still roots for Notre Dame." "Throws good parties." "Extremely way better than average teacher." "Outrageously good cook." "His \$20,000 kitchen was recently flooded."

In spite of the foregoing, he has managed to become Dean of the College of Science. He received the first annual Governor's Medal for Excellence in Science and Technology in 1987. He was invited to be a member of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Coordinating Panel on Effects of Climate Change on Terrestrial Ecosystems, and the Committee on Global Decline of Amphibians and Reptiles by the National Academy of Science. His research interests center on the organization of natural communities during the process of succession. In addition to more than 90 technical and popular articles, he has authored two books, including a field guide to North American deserts.

The truth is, nobody knows what to expect from our speaker, except that he'll be worth hearing.

PLANNING MEETING REPORT

April 17, 1991

Attending: Alice Lindahl, Janell Larson, Sue Robertson, Dawn Holzer, Bruce Pendery, Rebecca Echols, Pat Gordon, Kayo Robertson, Dick Mueller, and Jack Greene.

The meeting was held at Alice's house. She served mint tea, beer and animal crackers.

Banquet Arrangements. Janell reported on the banquet business. (Details are above.) Alice said, "We've never had such spiffy organization before."

Logan Canyon: Bruce Pendery reported on current activities regarding the proposed improvements to Hwy 89 through the canyon. Bruce, Steve Flint and lawyer

Jeff Appel met with UDOT last week to let them know we're serious about protecting Logan Canyon, but would prefer to avoid a lawsuit. Bruce said UDOT is under pressure from the Federal Highway Administration to bring the road up to "standard." Ten years ago, UDOT's plan was to merely improve the bridges, a plan we could concur with. At present, they want to work toward a toned-down composite alternative. Bruce et al. agreed to change the conservationists' alternative somewhat, such as allowing a raised roadbed near Beaver Mountain to let the wind help clear snow. Bruce and friends plan to meet with the Forest Service soon to coordinate plans.

Award Nominations: Alice distributed a list of nominees for the Allen Stokes Conservation Award. After discussion, it was decided to present a second award to an outstanding environmental educator each year. The education committee will be responsible for selecting the recipient. Results will be announced at the Annual Award Banquet on May 15.

Wetland Worries: Kayo brought up the problem of recent conflicting reports on local wetland areas. He expressed concern that the mitigation for developed wetlands consisted of a hole below the dump which was filling with water, and proposed a search for someone to monitor the wetland situation. Alice described the help available from National Audubon, and Jack Greene suggested that some of his students might be able to help.

Nature Center: Jack Greene made an exciting presentation about St. Ann's, a possible site for a nature center eight miles up Logan Canyon. A small group of teachers has been trying to work out a purchase for months. He told about his previous experiences with nature centers, explaining his enthusiasm for the project. He showed slides of St. Ann's, which has 13 buildings, including a main lodge and cafeteria. It was originally built by the Hatch family in the 1920s. He used words like "incredible magic place," "charm found in very few places," kind of celestial experience." (From 1952 to 1970 it was a retreat for Catholic nuns.) He described the financial situation as disappointing (in that they haven't yet found a way to buy it), but hopeful (there are some promising new leads). The group was anxious to see the place and to help make this vision a reality.

Planning meetings are held monthly the Wednesday following the General Meeting. Anyone interested in learning about BAS activities or becoming more actively involved is welcome to attend. Meeting time and place vary occasionally, so it's a good idea to contact Val Grant for current plans.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year Ended December 31, 1990

Checking, 1-1-90	4,731.89
Savings, 1-1-90	2,416.43
CD's	6,260.77
<u>Total cash, beginning of year</u>	<u>13,409.09</u>
Memberships	1,902.50
Fees	2,150.42
Grants, Donations	9,222.45
General Fund	1,602.02
Logan Canyon	5,000.00
Boeker Memorial	637.00
Lobbying Fund	1,983.43
Interest Earned	940.52
Fund Raising Revenues	10,710.41
Fund Raising Expenses	(7,255.86)
Other Receipts	353.20
<u>Total Support and Revenue</u>	<u>18,023.64</u>
Stilt	2,712.58
Education Committee	2,476.19
Conservation Committee	279.81
Operating Costs	2,704.86
Logan Canyon	1,204.86
Lobbying Fund	1,500.00
Sandhill Crane Project	617.35
Donations, Grants	1,649.75
Dues and Fees	170.00
Professional Fees	50.00
Miscellaneous	1,200.45
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>11,860.99</u>
Net Activity, 1990	6,162.65
Checking, 12-31-90	8,452.17
Savings, 12-31-90	2,837.29
CD's, 12-31-90	8,282.28
<u>Total Cash, End of Year</u>	<u>\$19,571.74</u>

THURSDAY EVENING BIKE RIDES . . .

Explore Cache Valley by bicycle. Birding and sight-seeing are encouraged. Meet at the Logan Recreation Center, 195 South 100 West, 6 p.m. Return by approximately 7:30-8:00 p.m. depending on distance. Ride at your own pace, maps provided. Riders are encouraged to wear helmets, carry water and bring tools to fix a flat tire. Each week a ride leader will provide route information and participate in the ride. Rides begin the first Thursday in May and continue through the end of August. Short rides (10-20 miles) will be scheduled in May with longer rides in June and July. When longer rides (25-35 miles) are scheduled a shorter option (15-20 miles) will be offered. Mountain bike rides will be scheduled occasionally. May rides will focus on birding. For information contact Jean Lown, 752-6830.

AND WEDNESDAY PADDLES

A Bunch of canoeists, kayakers and other assorted floaters are gathering each and every Wednesday night for an evening of friendly paddling in Cache Valley. Typically, these interesting folk also swap stories—purported to be true—and even gawk at the wildlife and less sentient plant life. The Bunch is somewhat loosely and indirectly affiliated with both the Human Race and the United Goldarned Henvarmenalist (UGH), but otherwise is unattached, unorganized and irresponsible. Should you want to join this esteemed conglomeration, you should show up behind Trailhead Sports (170 N. Main, Logan) between 5:45-5:55 p.m. on any or every Wednesday night. The assemblage will usually debate where to go at that time, and struggle to be gone by 6:00 p.m. Return time is at the discretion of the attendees. Every effort is made not to go exceedingly fast or long, and to promote such activities as "having a beer," "socializing," and "generally exchanging sage advice on This or That." Needless to say, if you have particularly good cookies, you should bring gobs of them. Should you need more information, you might try to contact either John Jensen 752-8774 (currently answering-machine-less), or Bryan Dixon 752-6830.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Summer Program for Sixth- to Eighth-graders

May and June bring opportunities for outdoor adventures, and Leanna Ballard has arranged a program to make those opportunities available to every middle-school student in Cache Valley. A series of day field trips to Hardware Ranch and Logan Canyon provides opportunities to explore ecological relationships in local environments, led by a coalition of trained, professional community environmental educators.



For Cache County students, three schedules are available.

May 13-16 — "C" Track

May 21-24 — "B" Track

June 10-13 — "A" Track

Logan City students can participate June 17-20.

The schedule includes:

Monday—Day hike through the forest, scavenger hunt, games and prizes—Logan Canyon

Tuesday—Animal life in the water and on the land—Hardware Ranch

Wednesday—Plants, geology, and soils in the web of life—Green Canyon

Thursday—Canoe trip on the Little Bear River

Contact Julie Henderson, Cache County School District, for registration information (752-3925)

A Student's Perspective

Now, getting up early was not the highlight of my day. I think I speak for lots of others, too, but at the end of the day, you knew it was worth it. On a typical day, all you do is get up, eat breakfast, get on a bus, and go to school. But on the days of the Outdoor Adventure program, it goes like this: Get up, eat breakfast, get on a bus (sound familiar?) but THEN, go canoeing, hiking, or to Hardware Ranch.

Instead of the stuffiness of an indoor classroom, the outdoors is your classroom. Imagine canoeing on a warm afternoon with a slight breeze. Sounds great, doesn't it?

Imagine hiking by streams and plants and animals, and playing games at the end of your day, right after a lunch in the shade of the large pine, cottonwood, and maple trees.

Imagine being with your friends and actually having fun learning. That's what you get with the Outdoor Adventure program.

— Nancy Peralta
Sixth Grade Student
Spring Creek Middle School

AN ORGY OF OPINIONS

THE RIGHTS OF CATS vs THE RIGHTS OF BIRDS

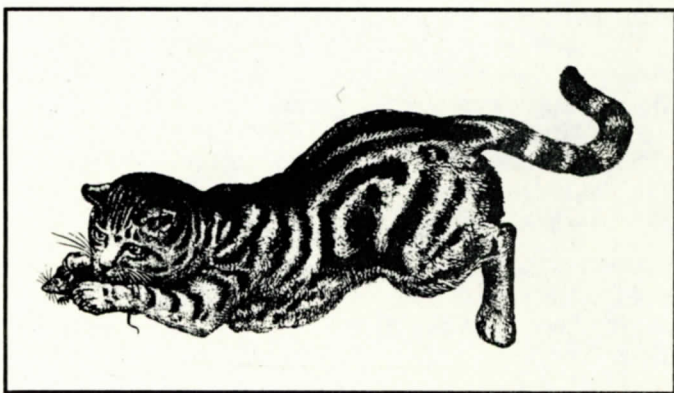
Most communities in the United States have ordinances to license dogs and keep them under constraint. There are few such restrictions for cats. Cat lovers claim that it is impossible to keep cats from wandering. So cat-owners currently seem to have the right to let their cats roam free.

But as more and more people derive enjoyment from birds, there is a growing conflict of interest between cat-owners and bird-lovers.

I spoke to a staff member of Logan's Animal Control program recently. She said that as soon as a lawsuit involving cats is settled, Logan City will consider adopting an ordinance requiring all cats to be vaccinated against rabies, be licensed, and be kept under constraint. This may face considerable opposition for this represents a major departure from tradition.

But certainly our only recourse is to trap trespassing cats and have them taken over by the Animal Control program. These cats are held for four days and then killed if not claimed by the owners. Without a license the city has no way to notify the owners. I do not feel comfortable trapping such cats, for it is bound to create animosity with my neighbors. I do not know the cat owners so cannot tell them my concerns. Perhaps the time has come for Bridgerland Audubon Society to take a stand on this issue.

— Al Stokes



Unless they are belled, roving HOUSE CATS (*Felis domesticus*) are very destructive to bird populations. The new lighthouse keeper's cat on Stephens Island, New Zealand, brought home a tiny, flightless bird never before seen by scientists, then another and another, until it caught no more. One cat caused the extinction of the STEPHENS ISLAND WREN (*Xenicus lyalli*).

For better or worse, humanity affects most species on Earth. Some we eat, some we displace, and some we support—as livestock, pets, or wildlife. Interrelationships of species are intricate, and our actions alter ecology beyond our own backyards.

When we feed birds, we enhance our own environment with their presence. We also change the birds environment. By offering easy meals in a small area we create a focus for competition with its accompanying stress and effect on genetic development. (E.g., bolder birds are rewarded, thrive, and produce more young.) We also encourage birds to frequent more hazardous locations: crowding at feeders promotes disease transmission; birds in town are more likely to be killed at windows or by cars; and the concentration of activity at feeders attracts the attention of cats and dogs.

When we make pets of animals, we make them dependent on us for food and protection, and exert control over their activities. Dogs and cats are discouraged from pursuing their territorial and social inclinations. Their family lives are eliminated or altered beyond recognition as a natural phenomenon. They have been bred to suit the taste of humanity, and experience deprivation and fear in our machine-loving culture. Their need for physical and mental stimulation is often disregarded.

A domestic animal is not a natural extension of humanity, but a wild animal manipulated to co-exist in our company. To deprive cats and dogs of the freedom to move about their territories is an example of our willingness to harm other species for our own benefit—even when that benefit includes protecting other species, such as birds at feeders.

Like other predators (whose habitats we occupy with our homes), cats and dogs serve to strengthen the prey species by eliminating the weak or unwary. The process of exploring the outdoors and hunting appears to be important to these carnivores, as they frequently use freedom to practice these skills.

Birds at feeders can be protected with careful placement, plentiful cover, and warning devices. It is my hope that any Audubon policy aimed at protecting birds will not cause further limitations for species which have already endured much at our hands.

— Pat Gordon

OPINIONS continued

Now, About Those Litter-Picker-Upper Signs

The following is a letter to James Naegle of the Utah Department of Transportation. If readers wish to add their opinions to his pool of information, they may address comments to him at 4501 South 2700 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84119.

Dear Mr. Naegle:

I have some questions about the proliferation of large and expensive highway signs for the "Adopt a Highway" litter control program. Driving along I-15 I see roadsides littered with trash alongside signs touting some organization which is supposedly keeping the highway free of litter.

First of all, I would like to know how much each sign costs and the cost of erecting the sign. Whatever the expense, the litter is at least as bad as any other stretch of highway; I see no visual benefit of the program. Secondly, the signs themselves are ugly and intrusive, especially along scenic roads such as Logan Canyon. I-15 is filled with visual pollution from billboards; these signs don't improve the situation.

What are the criteria for the free advertising afforded the groups who sign up to pick up litter? How often do they have to clean the roadsides? For how many years are they obligated to the task? Will the signs be removed (at additional cost to the taxpayer) if they do not fulfill their intentions?

If your agency insists on promoting this program I strongly suggest that you consider much smaller (and less intrusive) signs such as those used for a similar program in Idaho. The smaller signs are far less offensive and I trust they are significantly less expensive. I want to see my tax dollars used to maintain the roads, not to advertise various organizations. I fear the program simply encourages littering since someone else will pick up the trash.

I am not a curmudgeon. I participate in the Bridgerland Audubon Society road cleanup program in Richmond and the Logan Canyon cleanup sponsored by the Beaver Mountain Ski Patrol. Please do not erect an expensive sign along the stretch of highway which these groups occasionally maintain. Logan Canyon does not need additional signs. In fact, I encourage you to remove the existing litter cleanup signs in Logan Canyon; they are ugly and intrusive.

I would appreciate answers regarding the criteria for erecting the signs and the costs involved. Whatever the cost, I do not feel this is a wise use of tax dollars. Beaver Mountain Ski Patrol has been picking up litter in Logan Canyon for years without any signs proclaiming that fact.

Sincerely,
— Jean M. Lown

BOOK REVIEW

The Audubon Ark—A History of the National Audubon Society by Frank Graham, Jr. 1990 Alfred Knopf. \$29.95

The title of this book is well chosen, because Audubon now encompasses far more than birds, the image the general public still holds of its activities and mission. Also our membership is indeed a miscellaneous mix of persons. An average 90 percent of Audubon members are recruited through the mass mailings from National Audubon Society. Some members may have joined to get the splendid magazine; others joined through an emotional appeal to support conservation, for clean air and clean water and endangered wildlife. About 20 percent of Audubon members become actively involved one way or another in their chapters—attend programs, field trips, and serve on education or political action committees. Some just enjoy the opportunity for fellowship with other outdoor types on field trips. But very few feel any strong attachment to the National Audubon Society as such. There may be skepticism as to just what NAS actually does. A recent independent survey made for NAS revealed that the public (and I think this would include most NAS members) cannot identify Audubon's mission. Small wonder, for each chapter has great autonomy in both its activities and policies. Chapters do not all think alike on hunting, grazing, or predator control, for instance. I may add, from my six years on the board of National Audubon Society, that staff and board members don't think alike on such matters either. I often felt that policy was set by Les Line, the powerful editor of Audubon, through the very articles that he chose to publish.

Frank Graham traces the growth of Audubon from the few fervent bird-watchers who rallied behind the few activists to preserve the endangered egrets being threatened with extinction by the trade in feathers for women's hats, through the gradual growth in numbers in the Midwest and finally Far West. For the longest time the myopic board of National Audubon acted as though the separate chapters and state societies did not exist. To be sure, in the late 1970s National Audubon created ten regions with a vice-president for each whose job was to foster the growth of chapters and their activism through biennial regional conferences and visits to separate chapters. Bob Turner, our regional vice-president, has done much to create statewide Audubon councils and their concern for statewide issues in legislation and state conservation agencies. It took a revolt in 1987 from chapters throughout the country demanding a greater representation on the board for Audubon's 500-odd chapters to win a more important role in setting policy at the national level. As a result nine of the board's 36 members are now nominated and elected by the separate chapters.

When I first attended board meetings the "money-bags," largely from New York and the Atlantic coastal states, with backgrounds in banking and big business, sat on one side of the long table; scientists and activists sat on the other. The former were primarily concerned about balanced budgets, the latter, programs. That distinction has weakened as a result of this revolt.

The growth of Audubon has by no means been steadily upward. For one thing, Massachusetts Audubon, whose history goes back to the late 1890s, has retained its autonomy and influence over other New England States. Those states are essentially off-limits to NAS. Florida Auduboners have retained a strong territorial right and only recently have formed a somewhat tenuous joint membership with NAS. It took the Earth First movement of the late 1960s to generate the great upsurge in membership and growth of chapters. Each president of National Audubon, appointed by the board, has imposed his own goals upon NAS. It was Russ Peterson, who served in the 1980s, who took Audubon from its essentially bird-oriented mission to a truly global organization. Russ felt that Audubon had to lead on an international scale and coined the expression "Think Globally — Act Locally." He introduced the Audubon-Ted Turner TV specials, a population section, and turned the Washington office into a powerful lobby. Graham plays down the somewhat brutal turnover during Peterson's term of office of senior staff who did not measure up to his expectations or agree with his goals. Peter Berle, Peterson's successor, has succeeded in building a very loyal staff, operated with balanced budgets, and won the loyalty of Audubon chapters.

This book is well worth reading for Audubon members. It is a must for those who seek to build the effectiveness of Bridgerland Audubon as a member of the national team.

— Al Stokes

Available at Logan Library.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW

This essay was one of about 100 submitted to the Cache Recycling Coalition's Essay Contest.

What would our world be like in one hundred years from now if we didn't recycle anything and continued to use up our natural resources? Some of the things we would probably see happen are:

First, it wouldn't take long for all the landfills to fill up and we would have to take up more land to make new ones. A typical family of four throws away 14 bags of garbage a

week or 60 bags a month—one ton a year! It wouldn't take long before garbage would be piled on the sides of the roads which could cause diseases to spread. And it would also cause a lot of pollution to the water and air. One plastic bag takes 20 to 30 years to disintegrate; a glass jar would still be in the ground in one million years.

Second, one hundred years from now, if we didn't recycle, we would have to harvest thousands of additional acres of trees and rainforests. This would cause additional losses to our wildlife. We would also lose the oxygen which these trees produced.

None of us would like to live in a world like this. There are some things we can do now to make sure this doesn't happen.

We can help save our resources by recycling. We can refuse to buy products that are not recyclable. We can buy items with little wrapping. We can separate our waste and take it to recycle bins. We can compost our yard waste and kitchen scraps. We can make sure that businesses don't pollute our water and air. And, we can educate people to make them aware of the need to recycle and save our resources.

We live in a wonderful and beautiful world and we want it to be that way one hundred years from now!

— Mike Budge

Spring Creek Middle School

TYRANNOSAUR: A SONNET

In pictures, why does the tyrannosaur
Never close its jaws? you asked of me.
How simple was the question—yet, you see,
I had no consciousness of it before
Your child's eyes mine awakened to explore
How, in our too human nature, we
Make scapegoat dragons out of bones to be
In terror of the beast within no more.

We stalk the earth in our omnipotence,
Foul seas and trample trees. This we accept,
The better to progress; yet underneath,
As children doomed, we mourn our innocence:
Tyrannosaurs once loved and played and slept
And closed their mouths. The young ones had no
teeth.

— Martha Balph

WANT ADS

Help Wanted

SECRETARY. Since Sue Robertson took over the BAS treasury duties, we've been scribe-less. We need a literate person to take minutes at our planning meetings. Call Val Grant, 752-7572, or Sue Robertson, 750-6325.

GARAGE SALE COORDINATOR. Frustrated junk dealers can do great things for our lobbying efforts by organizing a garage sale. We have the place available, but lack someone to take command of this fundraising project. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

UPLAND GAME BIRD TENDER. Val Grant wants someone to take on the job of watching the chukars and huns and pheasants and such, with the idea of knowing what can be done to improve their habitat. If this area of birding interests you, call Val, 752-7572.

WETLAND WATCHDOG. With all the political business about the Barrens, the WCD, and Logan Canyon, we're stretching our activist ranks pretty thin. There's a need for someone to concentrate on the overall wetland picture, to be aware of what's happening throughout the valley. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

Trading Post

SPOTTING SCOPE. Jean Lown and Brian Dixon are looking for a good deal on a used scope. This might be your excuse to upgrade. Call them at 752-6830.

ARTICLES FOR *STILT*. Send your comments, stories, or artwork to *The Stilt*. We have about 400 subscribers and we're always glad to hear from a new voice. Don't hide under a bushel if you have something to share. Deadline is May 15 for the June issue—the last until September. Call Pat Gordon at 752-6561, or send things to 718 North 200 East, Logan, Utah 84321.

ITEMS FOR WANT ADS. This is a new feature for *The Stilt*, and I'd like to keep it interesting. If you have a kid who sells worms, you want someone to go birding with, or have something to buy, sell, or trade, use this space to communicate your wants. Call or write Pat Gordon, as above.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Most drilling proponents assert the Persian Gulf War is only the latest illustration of the need to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to help break the nation's reliance on foreign oil. Massive oil production from ANWR would actually contribute little to the nation's long-term energy security: 3.57 billion barrels of oil (which is the Interior Department's best guess as to the amount of oil likely to be recoverable from ANWR) could be used up in about 210 days at current consumption levels (if the nation used nothing but ANWR oil). Instead of sacrificing irreplaceable arctic habitat for, at best, small, short-term gains in oil demand supplies the country should focus on reducing long-term oil demand through energy conservation and renewable sources of power. (See next month's *Stilt* for "Audubon's Energy and Environment Initiative.")

Ask your senators and representative to cosponsor S.39 and H.R. 39 designating the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness. Remind them that the refuge is an irreplaceable part of our nation's heritage that deserves protection for future generations.

AUDUBON IN THE AMERICAS



AUDUBON NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 21 - 27, 1991

Estes Park Center
YMCA of the Rockies

- ◆ Learn more about Audubon's international role in protecting forests, wetlands and wildlife.
- ◆ Explore the natural history of the Rockies on a variety of unforgettable field trips and tours.
- ◆ Hear our keynote speaker, Ted Turner, communicator extraordinaire.

Youth Programs!
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"America's Festival!"

Write *today* for a brochure with all the details.

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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.

President
Vice President
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Dawn Holzer, 753-6047

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Nancy Williams, 753-6268
Marvin & Irma Moon, 753-4698
Nadene Steinhoff, 753-0497

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
1990-93: John Barnes, 563-3910; Rebecca Echols, 753-2367
Richard Mueller, 752-5637

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.

B.A.S.
Award
Banquet
May 15
Wednesday

See page 5 for tantalizing details.