

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE 1991

BIRD REFUGE FANS, UNITE!

The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge needs our comments on their recent environmental assessment for restoration and enhancement of the refuge after destruction by the 1983-84 floods. For once we are supporting the most developmental alternative: the most expansion and the most enhancement of water development to manage the wetlands impoundments.

The preferred alternative would make the refuge even better than it was before the flood. The visitor center will be located on newly acquired land near the freeway, where casual travelers will learn something about wildlife. There will be a larger number of smaller impoundments, allowing the refuge to manage different habitats more closely. There will be more water for creation of new wetlands and to lessen the botulism problem.

Please attend the hearing to speak for the expansion alternative. It will be held on June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Box Elder High School Auditorium, 380 South 600 West, Brigham City.

If you cannot make it to the hearing, please write a letter endorsing the enhancement (preferred) alternative. Deadline: June 19. Send to:

Mr. Al Trout, Refuge Manager Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge 866 South Main Brigham City, UT 84302

If you would like a copy of the document or want to carpool to Brigham, call Alice Lindahl, conservation chair, 753-7744.

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CALENDAR

Friday-Sunday, May 31-June 2. <u>Visit to Crater of the Moon and American Falls Reservoir.</u> 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.

Wednesday, June 5. 7:30 p.m. <u>Public hearing</u> on restoration and expansion of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Box Elder High School Auditorium, 380 South 600 West, Brigham City. For information and carpooling, call Alice, 753-7744.

Thursday, June 13. 9 a.m. <u>Crane Hunt Hearing</u>. The Wildlife Board will hold a public hearing to take public comment on (among other issues) whether or not Utah will conduct another sandhill crane hunt. Please try to attend to speak up for the cranes. Box Elder Junior High, 1800 South 500 East, Brigham City. For carpooling call Alice, 753-7744. See related article on page.

Saturday, June 29. BAS Yard Sale. 1780 East 1400 North, Logan. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. See article on page 10. Donate, then come and buy! This sale will support the Water Conservancy District protest. Call Alice, 753-7744, or Sue, 752-1510 or 752-4598, to deposit your things.

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, June 8. Canoeing the Little Bear River.
Leave at 4 p.m. from southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 9 p.m. This is easy paddling down through a nesting colony of great blue herons, with signs of muskrat and beaver activity, plus cranes and numerous songbirds. Bring supper and binocs. By reservations only. Call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

Saturday, June 22. <u>High Creek Canyon Hike</u>. 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.

Wednesday, June 26. Evening flight of cranes, ibis, geese and gulls. Leave at 7 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's and return about 9 p.m. Drive out to Benson near Butler Marsh to see this spectacular flight of birds using the marsh for roosting. Bring insect repellent.

Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27. Birding for Beginners. While this trip will be open to everybody, emphasis will be on the use of binoculars, how to identify birds by field characters, and learning the choice birding spots close to Logan. Leave at 8 a.m. from Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 10 a.m. Every participant should have binoculars and a field guide to birds. No reservations needed.

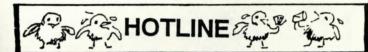
Saturday, July 13. Wildflowers and birds at Tony Grove Lake. Leave at 8 a.m. from the University Radio Tower south of Logan Cemetery and return after lunch. (You may prefer to meet at the Tony Grove Lake turnaround at 9 a.m. Walk around the lake using the Audubon trail guide, or the shorter walk around the campgrounds and back to the lake. Wildflowers should be spectacular at this time. Take lunch to eat along the lakeshore.

Thursday, July 18. <u>Canoe trip to visit the nesting ibis</u> and egrets on Cutler Reservoir. This is an easy two-mile paddle starting from the boat landing on Valley View Highway five miles west of Logan. Leave at 5:30 p.m. from Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 9 p.m. Enjoying the sunset and tranquility of the marsh in itself is worth the trip. Call 752-2702 for reservations and canoe-pooling.

Friday-Sunday, August 23-25. Red Rock Lakes
Refuge Camping Trip. A memorable experience
camping along the shores of Red Rock Lakes amidst
moose, pronghorn, trumpeter swans and numerous
wildflowers. The refuge is about a six-hour drive on I-15
to the Montana border. Return by the famous Harriman
Ranch west of Yellowstone on the Henry's Fork.
Wintering swans use the open water there. Call Al
Stokes at 752-2702 for carpooling and details on times
of departure.



Saturday, September 7. Kokanee salmon spawning on the Little Bear River. The brilliant red kokanee migrate out of Porcupine Reservoir 20 miles south of Logan into the shallow waters of the Little Bear River where one watches the salmon at very close range as they defend territories. Leave at 4 p.m. from Fred Meyer's parking lot and return about 8 p.m. Call 752-2702 for carpooling. Bring a supper.



Did you happen to witness that amazing flurry of orangeand-black butterflies the first weekend of May? Hundreds of thousands of Painted Lady butterflies migrating north from the Mexican border passed through Utah in one of the largest butterfly migrations this century. By May 5 they had made it into Cache Valley to flutter along highways and byways (and die on car windshields, alas). There were some mighty happy barn swallows along the canal on 200 West in Logan.

This is the last Hotline report for the summer, but do keep the calls coming. I know I'm hard to catch and I've donned sackcloth and ashes over not having an answering machine for my phone, but things may be looking up. (I was fundamentally against the darned things until last week when I realized I could be using one to screen the flood of telemarketing pitches. Now I'm reconsidering, so perhaps there's hope for those of you who have great birds to report but can't find anyone to tell.) Meanwhile, Kit Flannery has graciously volunteered to join the Hotline "ears club." You may call her at 563-5984, but be sure to let the phone ring long enough for her to emerge from her work room and answer it.

Kit's back yard pool and "Little Quarter Acre" in Hyde Park, she says, have logged 104 species! She had a white-throated sparrow in her yard in November for four days—"my last thrilling thing," she notes—and hosted several less-than-common feathered friends in April. She reports a yellow-rumped warbler on April 15, white-crowned sparrows (April 18), ruby-crowned kingle (April 21), a Lincoln sparrow (April 26) and an orange-crowned warbler (April 30).

Pat Bahler had the thrill of watching an osprey dive into First Dam on May 4 and emerge victorious—it perched in a tree and proceeded to eat a very large fish, she said.

Reinhard P. Jockel saw flocks of lazuli buntings at Smithfield's Mack Park May 5, as well as a green-tailed towhee and a cowbird. That same day he stumbled into warbler heaven up Birch Canyon, finding orange-crowned, yellow, Nashville and Audubon warblers. He also saw a rock wren atop the ridge overlooking Smithfield Canyon. The week before, he saw small sandpipers and ruddy ducks out by Benson and a rednaped sapsucker up Providence Canyon.

Alice Lindahl hosted a common grackle at her feeder the first week of May—not something to holler about in the midwest, but a rarity in Cache Valley.

May 25 — Jim Haefner came upon two bitterns thunderpumping at each other by the Valley View marina, just before the bridge.

My big excitement was seeing several pairs of bluewinged teal on the Bear River at Amalga and a little flock of ruddy ducks in Benson on May 5. Call Kit or me this summer when you spot an uncommon, weird, beautiful, strange or just plain interesting bird or beast. Call, too, if you wish to be notified of the preceding sorts of sightings so you can expand your life list, test out your new binoculars or simply enjoy the company of fellow birders. We'll do our best to keep you informed.

Nancy Williams, 753-6268Kit Flannery, 563-5984

BARRENS REPORT— MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY

April 20 — I led sixteen enthusiastic Auduboners on the Spring Birds field trip. The Barrens, as usual, provided a good show. The actors included avocets, stilts, waterfowl, egrets, herons, cranes, willets, long-billed curlews and both greater and lesser yellowlegs.

April 24 — Keith Archibald and I did a quick check of the area and found no new species.

April 27 — I censured the shorebirds as part of the Point Reyes/Pacific Flyway project. As you may recall, it rained, snowed, hailed, and sunshined that day in 15-minute segments. I waited until the afternoon and managed to do the census without a drop of precipitation! The migrants had predicted the weather better than our forecasters and only a single marbled godwit and six "peeps" remained. I counted 165 avocets and 50 black-necked stilts.

April 30 — A cursory scan of the main ponds produced five marbled godwits, a few of both kinds of yellowlegs, seven caspian terns, and a small flock of unidentified "peeps" in addition to the usual residents.

May 8 — I was greeted with a low fly over by a dozen pelicans. New arrivals included a sora rail, 204 long-billed dowitchers, and 115 Wilson phalaropes. Also present were a group of 15 Baird's sandpipers, five caspian terns, and a good collection of ten species of waterfowl.

May 13 — Sue Robertson spotted the year's first least sandpiper.

May 25 — Alice and Jim visited the Barrens Sunday evening after a rainy day. They saw a short-eared owl, many nesting savannah sparrows, about 50 Wilson's phalaropes, 42 cranes sacked out north of the big lake, and about 50 pelicans who soared in around 7 p.m., apparently to spend the night. They also saw a lot of other stuff. There were more birds in one place than anything they saw on their trip to England and India, Alice said.

— Larry Ryel

HOUSE FINCH EYEBROWS DISCOVERED

On May 17 I saw two female and three male house finches at my kitchen window feeder. Both females were fluffing and posturing in a routine designed to overcome any and all masculine scruples of the finchy variety. Lady finches don't have much to flaunt, but these two had here-to-fore unnoticed frills. Their ammunition included very obvious sets of eyebrows, appendages much like human eyelashes placed where our eyebrows would be. They appeared to be hinged at the front, capable of flattening backwards to the head, becoming invisible in that position.

This sighting raises several questions: Does Roger Tory Peterson know about this? Do other species have eyebrows? Do males prefer females with fancy foreheads? Were these eyebrow displays actually part of a mating come-on, or were they a threat to the other female? Do boy birds have eyebrows? And why do the females have to work so hard, anyway?

The feminine gyrations produced no visible effect, the males preferring to stuff themselves with sunflower seeds. On another occasion, a single frilly female at the feeder was in such a state that she ignored the bullying of a male Cassin's finch, even when he pecked her on the head. He had to physically push her out of the feeder. Ordinarily, one forward hop suffices to trigger flight in the less assertive bird.

— Pat Gordon

GRYZZABELLA'S BIRD COUNT

May 8, 1991

An overcast day, warm wind blowing birds up from Mexico, apparently. I was too busy to sit and watch all day, but spotted from my south-facing window 28 species-my all-time Big Day in "Peaceable Queendom." I've cut back the feeding to a single cylindrical feeder and scattering a couple of handfuls of sunflower seeds on the ground near the pond. Waiting their turns at the feeder were the bully blackbirds (red-wings), Cassins, house and goldfinches, a pine siskin, chickadees and evening grosbeaks. Underneath the bushes were house sparrows, a hen pheasant, a house wren, and greentailed towhee. Drinking and bathing in the rock-lined pond were lazuli buntings, starlings, robins and vellowrumped warblers, (both Audubon and white-throated Myrtles). Ruby-crowned kinglets flitted above water; a black-headed grosbeak watched it all from the maple tree. Overhead were barn swallows, a flock of ibis. Franklin and California gulls, a kestrel, rock doves and sandhill cranes. And all this with a calico carnivore lurking in brush and rocks for hours.

Today, Gryzzabella-the-Glamour-puss did not get lucky. But I've kept her own Yard List for the two years of her life here.

At age six months she started honing her hunting techniques with swallowtail butterflies, dragonflies, a sphinx moth and numerous grasshoppers. After one and a half years of predation—and bringing all her results to show me—she is responsible for "harvesting," "culling," whichever is the current buzzword: 2 house sparrows, 7 starlings, 8 robins, 1 yellow warbler, 2 house finches, 1 junco, 3 bats, 3 shrews, 9 gartersnakes, a nightcrawler, numerous flies and box elder bugs, 23 mice and 29 voles.

Perhaps one-fourth of the critters may have lived through the trauma, since she is clever enough to bring them in and directly to the bathtub so they can't escape, whereupon the mistress of the manor does a catch-andrelease program when possible.

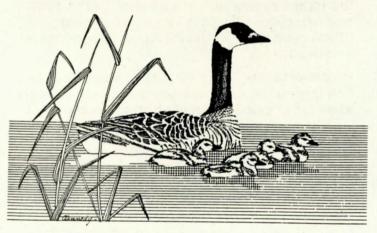
- Kit Flannery

P.S. Update: As we go to press, Gryzzabella claims another 3 female cassins and 2 male house finches.

VIDEO REVIEW

C'mon Geese!

If you haven't seen it you've missed a real treat. Bill Lishman, a Canadian wildlife sculptor and flyer, raised and trained a dozen Canada goose goslings to be his flying partners.



The story begins with the hatching of Bill's students and ends as they head south for the winter. In between is a marvelous record of outdoor classroom training with the Canadian landscape as the backdrop, both on the ground and in the air. The aircraft is an ultra-light plane and the geese fly in formation with Bill and the aircraft.

Adults as well as children will be fascinated by this film which is the 1990 winner of two U.S. national film and video awards. We'll be happy to loan the film to Audubon members and for classroom use.

— Merv and Mae Coover



THE LAST PARROT

Casualties
Of ravished Eden, these
Green Amazonian angels, seized
In greed, sedated,
Crated, suffocated:

Dreams
Too late to heed their screams
Are by degrees erased
As island-wild survivors waste
Their genes, unmated.

— Martha Balph

TROUBLED TIMES FOR SANDHILL CRANES

Editor:

Every spring the Silver Creek area is home for sand cranes. As few as four or five years ago, there were as many as thirty of them in the area. They came to nest here and would stay until mid-summer when the ponds would dry up. Between dogs running unattended and irresponsible gun owners, the population of cranes was down to six. This past week, someone has been shooting the sand cranes and as of today, I couldn't find one live crane. The sand cranes brought enjoyment to many people in this area and they will be missed. For whoever slaughtered those beautiful birds, you are not welcome in the Silver Creek area.

Carla Davis

This unhappy letter appeared in the Park City newspaper this April. It highlights a major problem we have in hosting sandhill cranes in Utah—our urban sprawl is pushing them out. They have enough trouble holding their own in our state without a hunt, since we are not the mountain meadow wilderness we once were.

In Cache Valley last year, the 35 to 44 known nesting pairs produced only six successful young. Dogs, bikes and human intrusion surely take their toll in Cache Valley. Our crane population is having plenty of trouble without the added pressure of hunting.

Last year's drought conditions sent the Idaho cranes down early so that hunters had other targets besides our resident cranes. This year we may not be so fortunate. The Division of Wildlife Resources is proposing 50 permits for Cache County (up 10 from last year) and 90 for Rich County (up 50 from last year). Our territorial birds number about 60 this year (down from 74 last year) plus 50 in the nonmated flock in the Barrens. If the wet weather continues into the fall, and migration does not bring the birds down before the hunt, and if every hunter got a bird, almost half of our cranes could be removed. Clearly, the hunt targets far more birds than are produced by our resident population.

We do not know how many cranes nest in Rich County, so the impact on them is unknown.

The hunt is too risky. Please attend the Wildlife Board hearing in Brigham City (Thursday, June 13, 9 a.m., Box Elder Junior High School, 1800 South 500 East, Brigham City) and tell the Wildlife Board how you feel about protecting the cranes. The next day, June 14, 9 a.m. is when the Wildlife Board actually makes its decision and discusses the data among themselves. It is often more interesting than the public testimony. Call me if you would like our latest report on the cranes' status and/or carpooling to Brigham.

We could use more help in our crane counts. Sunday mornings 8-10 a.m. Meet at the Fred Meyer parking lot.

If you cannot make the hearing, please write to the head of the Wildlife Board and appeal for a cancellation of the hunt BEFORE June 13. He is a very nice person and sympathetic to cranes: Mr. Robert Valentine, 520 East 100 North, Brigham City, Utah 84302. (734-2031)

MARCH BIRDING TRIP

What a Chance!

Being only a short time in Utah, I had the great opportunity to join one of the special field trips of the Audubon Society to the Logan Sewage Lagoons and to the marshes at Bear River along Mendon Road. This field trip was led by Al Stokes—nothing has to be added there!

On Saturday, March 23, there met a group of quite interested people eager to get to know something new—like me—or to bunch up their knowledge on the bird world of Cache Valley in springtime.

All gave us a short introduction about the ducks and geese species and then it was our turn to look and watch for them. Already after an hour we discovered many more birds than I ever expected. Due to the number of participants, each focusing binoculars on different cardinal points aligning their sights to something with the shape of a bird, we soon counted a whole series of different magnificant-looking ducks, geese and gulls. I wrote down all those new species names in order to draw up a little day checklist. What funny names, but each has its significance considering specific differentiation features, like: large spatulate bills (northern shoveler); cinnamon-colored bodies (cinnamon teal); it took me a long time to identify ruddy duck. I realized that this brownish sprinkled plumage is still the winter plumage.

Of course, Al asked us also to study the identification of males and females, their behavior during courtship, their social behavior, their way of flying (who is followed by whom. . . !) Very interesting aspects!

At the marshes near Mendon Road the grassland was covered with droppings from Canada geese. We were happy to see a golden eagle flying above us, a flock of pelicans, a blue heron and a lot of tracks on and in the ground. Al told the story of each track, and our knowledge grew and grew! For the first time in my life I saw a beaver lodge and sandhill cranes! What beautiful birds, what a special way of flying!

After three hours we drove back.

My advice: If you come from far away, like me, from Austria, and you want to know why the California gull is Utah's state bird, why willow trees die with heron nests on them, what a tumbleweed is, what lives under cow dung—go and enjoy a field trip with Al Stokes. What a remarkable personality.

- Elizabeth Huber-Sannwald

Can you imagine: A lovely, primitive campsite under the shade of stately old trees...herds of bison in the distant landscape... fellowship and marshmallows around a fire fueled by buffalo chips... hikes to ridges for a view of the island, the Great Salt Lake and the mainland in the company of newfound friends?

No-see-um's?!?

Red-wing and yellow-headed blackbirds, long-eared owls, long-billed curlews, California gulls, Baird's sandpipers, horned larks . . . painted lady butterflies migrating by the thousands . . . early American West farm and ranch buildings?

This is just a thumbnail sketch of the experience enjoyed by those on the trip to Antelope Island May 4 and 5. For more help imagining, read on.

- Merv and Mae Coover

THE BEAUTY OF ANTELOPE ISLAND

Through my experiences, I've discovered that beauty exists in all of nature. In some areas, such as many of the national parks, beauty screams out at you from every direction, until your senses are overwhelmed and you find it hard to take it all in with the same exuberance you originally had. And other places may seem like desolate wastelands, totally void of beauty. Too often, Antelope Island is classed with these barren areas, and is seen as having very little aesthetic value. But to see any piece of nature as lacking beauty is merely due to the observer's untrained eye and closed mind.

On our trip to Antelope Island, I experienced scenes of splendor that far surpassed any expectations I might have held beforehand. The great multitudes of birds so captivated me that I virtually ignored the bison which I

had previously been so eager to see. I merely viewed the herds from afar so that I could spend more time soaking in the many other nature dramas that were continuously going on around me-scenes such as a northern harrier being chased across a meadow by a pair of aggressive red-winged blackbirds, or the great swarms of painted lady butterflies fighting their way northward, the unwary having their lives snatched from them by hungry sage thrashers. Or the nest of longeared owls at the ranch. Or a peregrine falcon which soared high above us, scanning the area for prey. All of this beauty, and I still haven't even mentioned the many shorebirds and waterfowl which were so prevalent. Or the beauty of the lake when the sunlight sparkles on its surface in the late afternoon. Or the everpresent song of the western meadowlark. And the shimmering dewdrops in dawn's first light.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, its barrenness,

Long-eared Owl - Antelope Island



Antelope Island holds many pleasures for the observant visitor. I hope this first exploration will lead to many more Audubon trips to this unique setting.

— Craig Fisher

CANOEING IN THE RAIN

We had been watching the weather all week—hoping that it would turn sunny and warm for our Audubon canoe trip down the Bear River. But at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday dark clouds were rolling over the Wellsvilles. The Bear River Range was shrouded in snow and clouds. And it was raining.

The weather, though, was not about to keep anyone at home. Vehicles bearing canoes converged on the Fred Meyer parking lot. We gathered there, received our instructions from Al Stokes, and headed out to the 'put in' point near Trenton.

The sky spit at us and threatened snow the whole way. We unloaded our canoes in the rain. Then the clouds backed off with shreds of sunshine highlighting the greening foothills. A pair of sandhill cranes flew close above us. Swallows darted and swooped seeking insects. A snowy egret was stationed in the willows at the river's edge. We knew it was going to be a fine day. One by one we slid our canoes down the bank and joined the swallows on the river.

We started out slowly, gliding over the flat, glossy surface of the river. We wanted the day to last. At times, though, cold breezes, choppy water and rain hurried us along.

We found many treasures along the Bear that day. Wonderful company certainly—including Chataugua, a warm, friendly little dog who rode in the bow of her canoe with her good friend Karri. We also learned about the unpredictability of Audubon canoes. These canoes will

sometimes, without warning, shift broadside in front of numerous oncoming canoes—turning upstream into the current so that its occupants can get a better glimpse ofthe owl in its nest. Or, a canoe may suddenly plow into the brush along the river's edge or find itself on a sandbank because its occupants stopped paddling to watch white pelicans glide bright against a dark purple sky. You have to canoe a bit defensively in this group and with good humor. Then let someone else watch out when you suddenly backpaddle to see a beaver slide down the bank and disappear underwater!

Not everything along the Bear River can astound you with its beauty. In many areas the banks of the Bear are used as dumps. Refuse spreads down the bank like mine tailings—chunks of concrete, old tires, bailing twine, dead cattle, an old lawn chair. One dairyman uses the riverbank as a pen for his heifers and dry cows—muck and mud right down to the river's edge. Its hard to comprehend since a near-vertical riverbank can hardly be a safe place for dairy cows.

But on we floated—along a gentle river, facing the cloudy Bear River Range on one turn and the shining snow-capped Wellsvilles on another. Hawk, owl, crane, cormorant, ibis, tern, goose, pelican and Great Blue Heron graced our passage through the light and shadow of threatening storms. We reached the 'take out' all too soon. The clouds finally won and turned the sky completely grey. We left the river promising each other— "We have to do this more often."

Rebecca Echols

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

Canoeing the Bear

An epic literary excursion upon an epic riverine excursion. We stood in silence on the bank and gazed at the rushing water, and tried to think of something else to do, that we really orter.

The river raged and spumed and foamed; our trepidation filled the air; we closed our eyes and launched the boat upon the mighty Bear.

Shouts of exultation sprang from ev'ry jubilant throat because, although 'twas early yet, we hadn't sunk the boat.

Cast off, then, my hearty crew! Adventure waits, and more! Let go the rope! Let go the line! We have to leave the shore! Into the current we bravely drove As quickly as we durst, and true to form, as is our wont, we got our aft end first.

As we shot past them, going backwards, Other canoers stared with wonder. "Can we help?" they called to us, "For you'll all soon be asunder!"

"No, no," we cried, "all is well.
There is no call to panic."
"That's what they said," our passengers muttered,
"on the H.M.S. Titanic."

The captain now addressed the crew, knowing that she harbored some faint suspicion, just a guess, that he knew not port from starboard.

"Oh please, my dear," the captain whined, "if you love me well, take thy custom hardwood paddle and paddle to port like hell."

Like a voyageur of old she strove to give the frail craft speed. And the captain, steering from the stem, soon had the old boat treed.

"We're in a tree," the crew reported,
"there's something wrong with your steering."
"I said PORT!" the captain bawled,
"There's something wrong with your HEARING!"

We 'scaped the tree and got to lunch, and enjoyed a fine repast, but for our riders' constant question: "Why are WE always LAST?"

Then off again, away we muddled, Swallows flying 'round us, And it's only by the grace of God that the river didn't drowned us.

We stuck in the mud. We tangled trees. We paddled through foul-of-cattle. But we got through. And we saw birds. And thus we won the battle.

Not Marathon, not Thermopylae, not even Midway can compare with the triumph that we felt, surviving the mighty Bear.

But even that triumph pales away before an awesome other: Once again, as captain and crew, we also survived each other.

-TJG

AUDUBON EDUCATION REPORT

May's field trips for children found a dozen young naturalists circled around a Coleman stove brewing up a lunch of some 15 species of wild edible plants. Every dish was green and not a bite was left over. These ravenous palates were the same as those that glue themselves tight when offered greens from the garden or grocery store. I scratch my head and wonder! Poison awareness and plant conservation were stressed mightily on this excursion.

A window of sun in a rainy weekend shone on our preschool field trip. What did we learn? That being in a group, learning in the out-of-doors can be a mighty fine experience.

Help! Our pleas for teachers to accompany our field trip programs have been well received, but we need writers and planners. Twenty thank-you notes to Teacher of the Year participants can take a lot of time but must be done. We also need someone to help organize our adult education program. If you've time, ability and inclination to lend a hand, please call Kayo Robertson at 752-3944.

"CARL JOHNSON TEACHER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD" ESTABLISHED

In 1991 Bridgerland Audubon Society presented the first Teacher of the Year award. The award results from a desire to recognize and support a growing corps of teachers committed to fostering the art, skills, awareness and attitudes necessary to take care of our planet.

Searching for a suitable name for the award, Kayo Robertson, Education Chair, asked many dedicated environmental educators who had influenced them. The name that kept popping up was "Carl Johnson."

Professor Johnson taught conservation education and field biology in the education department at Utah State University. His master's thesis, "Biology Teacher's Guide to Cache County, Utah, and Vicinity," 1963, was the first document to deal with environmental education in this area. By training teachers, he extended his enthusiasm for the natural world into classrooms he never saw. He was a popular teacher who led many field trips. He also worked extensively with the Boy Scouts. His activities continue; when Kayo tried to reach him regarding the naming of this award, Professor Emeritas Johnson was with a group of fourth graders at Yellowstone.

Therefore, it was deemed thoroughly fitting to call our new honor "The Carl Johnson Teacher of the Year Award."

JACK GREENE

1991 Teacher of the Year

Jack Greene, science teacher at Logan High, was awarded the Carl Johnson Teacher of the Year plaque for 1991. This award goes to a teacher of youth whose environmental education emphasis demonstrates quality, duration, extension beyond the classroom and actual participation with nature—not just books and assignments. Ten teachers were nominated from the Cache District and one from the Logan District. We congratulate all who are working in this vital effort.

Jack Greene, in addition to his duties as a teacher and wilderness ranger during summers, has been involved in many innovative projects related to environmental education. At Logan High School, he has organized a group called LEAF (Logan Environmental Action Forum) to promote environmental education. This group of students has organized recycling at their school and put on an environmental assembly that was nominated for best assembly. Plans are in progress to extend the group to the other high schools in the valley.

As a wilderness ranger, Jack developed a no-trace wilderness education program for Wasatch-Cache National Forest, to teach campers and hikers how to enjoy the wilderness without marring it.

With the Boy Scouts, he helped form the Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Quality for Smithfield.

He developed a Riparian Protection Committee to oversee conflict on range allotments within Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

He developed a Forest Service grant to produce a guidebook on Logan Canyon. The first part of the project, a children's version written by Kayo Robertson, is now available at Logan District Ranger Station, 860 North 1200 East, and at A Book Store. Cost is \$5, with proceeds to go to environmental education.

Jack was instrumental in establishing the Ogden Nature Center, and served as their Director Naturalist. He is currently spearheading the effort to establish a nature center here.

Jack Greene's dedication, perseverence, and irrepressible enthusiasm represent all that we hope to encourage in presenting the "Carl Johnson Teacher of the Year Award." His stature as a teacher and environmentalist sets a high standard for this new award, and makes it a valued prize for future recipients.

ALLEN W. STOKES CONSERVATION AWARD 1991

BAS is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Allen W. Stokes Conservation Award is the Cache Recycling Coalition.

This group has been active for several years in Cache Valley, building support for changing our throwaway lifestyle. They have gone far beyond convincing the small handful of environmental groups to change their wasteful ways. They make presentations to church groups, municipalities, government types, etc., and have managed to reach out to many new people with the message that a sustainable future is the only one we want for future generations.

The leaders in this effort, Susan Crook (founding inspiration), Nancy Fox (past president) and Bob Bayn (present president) were all called upon at the awards banquet to accept the award. Bob sums up CRC this way: "Our goal is to put ourselves out of business." By this he means that recycling can pay its own way if the private sector will build a recycling industry and create a demand for our garbage. In the meantime, we have CRC to provide assistance on where to take plastics, paper, and glass and to encourage curbside pickup of recyclables.

Congratulations to this wonderful and deserving group.

This is the fifteenth Allen W. Stokes Conservation Award given by BAS. The purpose of the award is to "...recognize achievement in the conservation of the resources of the earth through education, activism, or inspiration by one's own efforts. The award can be given to an organization, business or an individual. If the recipient does this conservation work through his or her own profession, the effort is recognized to be above the typically expected achievement."

The award is given annually at the spring banquet.

Previous Award Winners

- 1978 Duane Cox, College Ward Beekeeper, advocate of habitat protection.
- 1979 Ann/Dave Schimpf. Developed Cache Trails and many permanent conservation institutions in Cache Valley.
- 1980 Douglas Eames. Manager, Willow Park Zoo.
- 1981 Gary Smith. Writer, environmentalist.
- 1982 Joseph/Inez Berger. Managers of Hardware Ranch.
- 1983 Design West Architecture. Efficient building design.
- 1984 Tom Lyon. English professor, writer, outdoor advocate.
- 1985 Jack Spence. Chemistry professor, Cache Sierra Club founder, wilderness advocate.

Please see AWARD on page 10.

AWARD from page 9.

- 1986 Ken Sizemore. Cache County planner, zoning advocate.
- 1987 Alice Lindahl. Environmentalist, resisted tree removal in Logan City.
- 1988 Neff Hardman. Mendon farmer, enhancement of pheasant habitat.
- 1989 Bruce Allsop. Founded Mt. Fiber, manufactures home insulation from recycled paper.
- 1989 Betty Boeker. Chemistry professor, Audubon treasurer, canoeist.
- 1990 Steve Flint. Researcher, advocate for Logan Canvon.
- 1991 Cache Recycling Coalition. Reducing solid waste county-wide.

CONSERVATION GARAGE SALES

An Exercise in Recycling

Friends of the environment in Cache Valley tend to be long on enthusiasm and creativity and short on money. If we spent all our time earning money, there would be no time left over for the really important things, would there? This year has been particularly terrifying in the money department for the conservation committee since we have had to hire lawyers to defend ourselves from the menace of the Water Conservancy District. We can't flog money from our friends who have so little, so what to do? Most of us in this merely impoverished category cannot write a big check but often have something of value around the house that isn't needed any more. I am eyeing that noisy gas lawn mower since I have graduated to a push mower. My guitar has shown me clearly that I have no musical genes. Why not donate one such hasbeen treasure to one of our conservation yard sales? It's better than selling it outrigh tsince it promotes recycling. requires no up front money and makes friends.

For the first time we have TWO yard sales. One for the WCD battle and the other for our lobby program. You can pick your issue or donate to both. Save up that stuff and call Alice (753-7744) or Sue (752-1510) to deposit your things. It would be greatly appreciated if you could deliver the stuff, but if unable, we will fetch it.

June 29, Saturday 8 am-1pm. THE WATER CONSER-VANCY DISTRICT FIGHT yard sale. All of the proceeds will go toward the legal battle. We have a wonderful, generous, brilliant, dedicated lawyer. He really deserves to be paid. Location: Sue Robertson's house, 1780 E. 1400 N. Logan

September 28, Saturday 8 am-1pm. THE LOBBY PROGRAM YARD SALE. All proceeds will be spent in hiring our state lobbyist, Wayne Martinson. Location: Sue Robertson's house, 1780 E. 1400 N. Logan.

Go out to your garage today and dust off those treasures. You would be surprised what people want.

- Alice Lindahl

THE RELUCTANT CONSUMER

I hate shopping. Like most people, I get if over with as quickly as possible, going to the same store and grabbing the same brand each time. Changing habits takes time and energy.

Last year's Earth Day hoopla inspired our local grocery stores to carry recyclable paper products and push reusable shopping bags. But alas, it did not catch on. All but Albertson's discontinued their "Hope" brand and "Green Mark" paper products, and Albertson's is down to paper towels and tissues. I still don't see anyone but me using reusable totes.

So, fellow, shoppers—buy these Albertson's paper products and ask the other stores to carry them. Thank them for doing so. Make that extra effort to search them out, then reward the store by shopping there. Thank Smith's and Albertson's for giving 5 cents credit for bringing your own bag.

When you have some time for a little consumer research, share it with *Stilt* readers in this column. I would love to know which copier places use recycled paper and which will give you a financial break for making two-sided copies.

- Alice Lindahl, Conservation Chair

Note: For starters, Kinko's Copies and Square One recycle their waste through Cache Recycling Coalition, and offer recycled paper (ask). Square One charges 5 cents for the first copy on a sheet, 4 cents for the second side.

-Pat

LOGAN CITY BUYS COSTLY, DIRTY POWER PLANT

BAS testified in the Logan City council meeting in May that we didn't like the idea of approving the plant in Cache Valley without first informing the public of how much this would harm our treasured (but not perfect) clean air. The plant will dump 250 tons of pollutants into the air per year, the equivalent of emission from 12,000 to 18,000 new cars, and will cost \$8.65 million.

The council took the advice and assurance of the promoters of the plant that it would be the "cleanest technology available." These folks do not live in Cache Valley and are making money from this sale, so they are the last persons from whom to solicit advice in the public interest.

I told the council that the people of Cache Valley should be the ones to decide how much dirty air they can tolerate and how much they are willing to spend to keep it clean. It's our home. Unfortunately, I got the strong message that Logan council wanted to hurry up and make this decision before the public got wind of it. They had considered it "for six months" already. They did not ask Logan residents what they thought of it, nor did they give any consideration to non-Logan residents who will be stuck with the new air pollution but not the electrical benefits (since the rest of the county are mostly UP&L customers).

I thanked councilman Loye Martindale for voting against this plant, and I hope some of you will, also.

Alice Lindahl, Conservation Chair

LOGAN CITY'S RESPONSE

For more than a year Logan City has been working to install a new plant to supplement current sources of electrical power. "We're trying to come up with something that will stabilize our rates to our customers," said Jay Larson, project specialist for Logan City Power and Light. Much of the power Logan uses comes from Glen Canyon Dam. Last summer, due to environmental concerns regarding the Colorado River, our allocation was reduced 10 percent, but our cost increased 45 percent. Purchases from other suppliers are also subject to change.

Logan's demand for power has grown about 3 percent per year, from 26 million kilowatt-hours in 1950, to 276 million in 1991. To prepare for this growing demand, Logan City will build a combined-cycle facility using three natural gas engines. The 1964 engines will be refurbished to near-new condition utilizing the latest internal combustion technology including Cooper's Cleanburn System. Cost of the plant will be \$8.65 million, compared to \$12.8 million if new equipment were purchased. The facility will be located at 450 North 1000 West.

To obtain the required permit from the Utah State Bureau of Air Quality, emission studies have been done. Study of the dispersion pattern is now under way. Anticipated pollutants include: nitrous oxides—246 tons/year; carbon monoxide—243 tons/year; sulfur oxides 40 tons/year; volatile organic hydrocarbons and unburned hydrocarbons—95 tons/year. By comparison, these totals will be lower than emissions from Logan's deisel plant as it was used in the 1960s. No plume will be visible from the 65-foot smoke stack.

Tracy Allen, project engineer, said, "If this were a business, we'd be meeting minimum standards. But as a municipal service we're doing everything possible to protect air quality. We're preparing to meet stricter air quality standards, if necessary," he said.

Jim Neal, project manager, said, "We need to look at how we impact the overall atmosphere. By buying power from distant sources, we don't avoid the environmental results. By having power produced locally, we take responsibility for our own pollution as the price for our own power. If citizens are concerned, I'll be glad to answer their questions." (750-9940) The Bureau of Air Quality will be holding public hearings to inform the citizenry and hear their comments.

WANT ADS

Help Wanted

SECRETARY. We're looking for a person, male or female with an organizational flair and a passion for detail. Must read, write, and enjoy taking minutes at monthly meeting. Call President Val Grant, 753-5370 or 752-7572, or Pat Gordon, 752-6561.

GARAGE SALE MANAGER. For the past two years BAS has raised more than \$500 at a garage sale. This year we have a yard and storage space offered, but still no one to direct traffic, post bills, etc. If you (or someone you have influence with) would cheerfully take on this temporary assignment, give Sue Robertson a call at 750-6325.

UPLAND GAME BIRDER. Who will tend the chicken-birds? Val Grant is looking for someone to learn what there is to learn about our local chukars and pheasants, etc., and their habitat, with the idea of knowing what's going on and taking constructive action if necessary. Call Val, 752-7572, or Keith Archibald, 752-8258.

WETLAND WATCHDOG. Have you seen those holes Logan City calls "mitigation"? We need an observant person to check out the local activities that affect wetlands. A willingness to learn is the primary requirement. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, if interested in helping protect these fragile areas.

BEAR RIVER WATER QUALITY VOLUNTEER. The State of Idaho has appropriated money to clean up the Idaho portion of the Bear River. We hope that Utah will take heed and put some pressure on polluters on our side of the line. The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District wants a BAS volunteer to participate in this project. It would involve hiking and/or canoeing the Idaho Bear several times, as well as attending meetings with some very nice people. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

FOREST SERVICE GRAZING VOLUNTEER. No, you won't be eating any bunchgrass. The USFS Cache Ranger District wants BAS volunteers to help with a cooperative program to assess potential overgrazing problems. It would involve about six hikes in the Wellsvilles this summer and filling out forms about what you find. It's a marvelous opportunity to help protect our public lands in a positive way. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

Trading Post

USED BOOTS WANTED. Birder and college student on tight budget needs to buy women's size 10-10 1/2 hiking boots. Got an old pair in the closet you don't plan to wear anymore? Perhaps a pair you were thinking of sending to a charity? Let my buy them. Call Veda DePaepe, early mornings or evenings, 750-0370.

SEE AFRICA. D'arcy Echols says you can travel to Africa cheaper than going to Preston. To check this out, call him at 753-2367.

HOPS SCALE. Veteran birder and brewer of beer needs cheap scale to measure ounces of hops. Call Tom, 752-6561.

Save Boulder Mountain from the Forest Service:

Protest the Noon Flat Timber Sale Today

by

Bill Patric, National Forest Advocate for the Utah Wilderness Coalition's Boulder Mountain Project sponsored by the Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance

Descriptions of Boulder Mountain invariably seem to lean on superlatives. It can't be helped. Even the late Edward Abbey, hardly ever at a loss for words, called Boulder Mountain "superlatively scenic".

Rising to more than 11,000 feet, its forest is the highest in North America. The mountain's abundant alpine lakes and ponds offer "world class" fishing, yielding record trout. Huge old growth Ponderosa pine crown Boulder's slopes, part of an unbroken transition of life zones from arctic-like tundra to slickrock canyons. Deer, elk and antelope graze its meadows while black bear and cougar lurk in the sheltered shadows of its wooded coves and eagles soar above. Several extraordinarily rare plant species are found nowhere else and ancient habitation sites are silent reminders of a long gone Fremont culture.

Boulder top, the 50,000 acre summit of the mountain really more of a plateau — is a stark, wide open, lonely place with lake and boulder dotted meadows and stands of stunted spruce. Perhaps the oft mentioned notion that Boulder top is "a piece of Alaska floating above the Utah desert" best sums up its unworldly feeling. A dramatic volcanic cap rock rim defines the top all around the mountain, providing overlook views the likes of — nothing else . . . Hike up there and see for yourself, to Bown's Point, Chokecherry, Government, Lookout Point. Better yet, find your own grandest view of them all . . . Just be sure to look beyond the Henry Mountains for the La Sals a hundred miles to the east or south to the jagged broken horizon that is Monument Valley. Seek out the intricate canyons of the Escalante and don't overlook misnamed Thousand Lakes Mountain (some forgotten cartographer's mistake, the name was originally intended for Boulder Mountain) which rises to the north off a redrock pedestal.

But while more and more people are discovering Boulder Mountain, a western wonder outstanding even in Utah, the Forest Service seems reluctant to recognize that this resource offers more than logging and grazing. In fact, based on ambitious timber plans, you'd think the Dixie National Forest sees the mountain as little more than a wood fiber source.

To date, live trees have never been cut on Boulder top. Dead wood has been salvaged over the years, the result of a major Spruce Bark Beetle infestation in the 1920's. But if the Dixie Forest gets its way, more than 16 million board feet of Englemann spruce are scheduled to fall to chainsaws on Boul-

der top over the next five years in the highest commercial timber harvests ever attempted.

To put this 16 million board feet in perspective, it equals close to 70 percent of the current annual harvest from the entire Dixie National Forest. In terms of area, the 6,800 Boulder top acres proposed for logging represent about two percent of the Dixie's suitable timber base. Sounds like a lot of wood from one area. And when you see the small, stunted nature of the Boulder top spruce, two by four framing stock at best, you realize it will take a whole lot of trees to achieve that 16 million board foot target, all according to the Forest Service with "select" cuts. Indeed, it appears most of the trees will have to be selected. Add



to this a network of roads and skidder trails, and new descriptions like "sacrifice area" come to mind for Boulder top.

The first of the five proposed Boulder top cuts is the Noon Sale (originally called the "Stink" sale — seriously — the Forest Service changed the name, perhaps hoping folks would be less apt to raise one). The Dixie is currently accepting comments for its analysis of this 4.5 million board foot. 1.850 acre cut. And yes, as the Utah Wilderness Coalition's advocate for Boulder Mountain, I'm asking you to send yours . . .

Foremost, let the Forest Service know if you're opposed to the Noon Sale and make your comments as specific as possible. Provide more than opinions — the Forest Service needs to hear reasons. And remember, whether you've experienced the natural beauties of Boulder Mountain or just hope someday to visit it and find more than stumps and roads — it's your mountain!

Raise your own points, the more the better, though the following concerns seem particularly significant:

- 1) Area Analysis Despite repeated requests from environmental groups and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Dixie Forest has never developed a comprehensive "area analysis" long range management plan for Boulder Mountain. Such planning, however, is essential for sound management of such a fragile, unique resource. Urge the Dixie Forest to conduct an area analysis for Boulder Mountain before embarking on timber sales. Boulder Mountain is too precious to be piecemealed by a series of narrowly focused projects that fail to assess the cumulative impacts of road building, riparian damage, fragmentation of habitat, etc. A vision for the mountain is desperately needed, but so far the Forest Service has been nothing but short sighted.
- 2) Wildlife Impacts The Forest Service rates Boulder top as "high priority" deer and elk summer range. The impacts of intensive timbering activity on such critical habitat can not be adequately addressed without a comprehensive analysis.
- 3) <u>Regeneration</u> There is no evidence that regeneration will occur at over 11,000 feet. Until adequate studies have been carried out, no Boulder top timber sales should be approved.
- 4) <u>Poor Quality Timber</u> Forest planners called Boulder top a "marginal commercial forest" in a 1975 Environmental Impact Statement, citing "low volumes per acre, poor timber quality and poor access". The situation has not changed in 15 years.
- 5) Below Cost Timber Sales The Dixie, which has the largest timber program of Utah's National Forests, also ranks second only to the Ashley Forest in losses from below cost timber sales (a net loss of 727,000 of your dollars in 1989 according to the Forest Service's own reports). You don't need to be an economic genius to predict which way that loss figure will go if the Forest Service proceeds with its Boulder top plans. When road building requirements and hauling distances are calculated, it doesn't make sense (including dollars and cents) to harvest such low value, slow growing spruce at 11,000 feet. Still, the Dixie will gladly tell you all the "benefits" of the Noon Timber Sale demand to see its true costs.
- 6) Bark Beetle Control The "benefit" the Forest Service is quickest to point to is that a Spruce Bark Beetle infestation will be averted if timber on Boulder top is harvested. In other words, to save the trees cut them. Bark Beetles are nothing new, they're an integral part of a natural spruce forest ecosystem. Tell the Dixie how you feel about this highly questionable and all too often used "management" rational.
- 7) <u>Small-Scale Salvage</u> Seven very small mills in Wayne County have been relying primarily on beetle-killed dead wood salvaged off Boulder top for 50 years (a steady source of mine

shaft props for the coal industry). Ask the Forest Service what chances these small operators have competing with large timber companies? The Noon timber sale, for example, can only hurt small entrepreneurs who, ironically, have long been the ones operating on a scale appropriate for a high desert forest.

- 8) Roads and Off-Road Abuse Extensive road building and upgrading will be required for the Boulder top sales. Besides diminishing solitude and backcountry opportunities, new and improved roads will impact alpine lakes with siltation and the pressures of increased vehicle access (over fishing, riparian damage, damage to vulnerable meadows, litter, etc.). Furthermore, the Forest Service already admits that off-road vehicle abuse is "out of control" on Boulder top. Unfortunately, more roads mean more off-road vehicle use and abuse. Let the Dixie know your position on road building, starting with the Noon Sale, on Boulder top.
- 9) <u>Biodiversity</u> Express concern for Boulder Mountain's unique mix of species, particulary its rare, endemic plants which to date have not been adequately inventoried.

Again, the most important thing is to state if you are against the Noon Sale, and why. Tell the Forest Service you support a no action alternative. Logging is an appropriate multiple use of the Dixie National Forest, but, with the exception of traditional and relatively benign salvage cutting, not on Boulder top. It's never had a live timber harvest and there are no good reasons to start now. Removing low value spruce from a uniquely rich mountain ecosystem is not the best use of North America's highest forest, the "throne of the Colorado Plateau".

Please send your <u>Noon Timber Sale</u> comments as soon as possible to:

Mr. Marvin Turner, District Ranger
Teasdale Ranger District, Dixie National Forest
P.O. Box 99
Teasdale, Utah 84773

Copies sent to the following will also help:

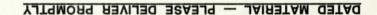
Mr. Hugh Thompson
Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest
P.O. Box 580
Cedar City, Utah 84721-0580

and

Mr. Gray Renolds
Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service Region 4
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401

Please also send a copy of your letter to (and, if you wish, inquire for more information from): Bill Patric, Boulder Mountain Project, Utah Wilderness Coalition, c/o 177 East 900 South, Suite 102, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. Phone: (801) 350-8676

The Utah Wilderness Coalition is grateful for your help. Get the word out ... Help Save Boulder Mountain!



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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.

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Hotline Recycling Legislation Trustees Val Grant, 752-7572 Dawn Holzer, 753-6047

Susan Robertson, 752-4598
Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Kayo Robertson, 752-3944
Al Stokes, 752-2702
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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

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

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