



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Upper Northern Utah

September 1991

CACHE CRANES TARGETED AGAIN

For the third year, cranes will be sought by hunters in Cache and Rich counties. The "experimental" hunt allows 100 cranes to be taken in Utah each year, with the effect to be assessed after five years. This year 40 permits were issued for Cache, 60 for Rich County. The hunt will take place during the first two weekends in September. All of Rich County is huntable, but only a portion of Cache County. Possibly the lower number of permits and limited territory is a response to the protest of the hunt by BAS and results of the crane count which have shown locations of nesting cranes.

In 1989, 50 permits were granted in each county, with 28 killed in Cache and 32 in Rich. In 1990, after DWR held a public hearing and we presented the results of our research, 40 permits were issued in each county, and an area of Cache County south of Valley View Highway was declared off-limits, as it was known to be nesting territory. In Rich County 25 cranes were killed; in Cache, 21 hunters downed 10. The permits issued but not used may reflect the success of those who have tried to save cranes by buying hunting licenses and permits with the intention of preventing someone else from using them. This year the total number of permits is again 100, but the "safe zone" is retained. The hunt will take place a bit later in the year because Utah law prohibits opening a hunt on a Sunday. September 7 and 8, 14 and 15 are designated for the hunt, possibly

allowing more migrants to enter the valley, thereby limiting the resident nesting population and giving some protection to local birds.

Val Grant, president of BAS, explained: "We don't oppose hunting, but we feel this hunt is unjustified. With

geese, we all know there's a problem. The Division of Wildlife Resources and Bridgerland Audubon need to take a long hard look at the value of hunting cranes. Does it fill a real need concerning crop deprivation, or is it just a pleasure hunt? Nobody has shown that deprivation is a problem in Cache County. Compared to wind damages, the cranes don't even come into the picture." BAS has been concerned that the hunt will discourage cranes from nesting here, and deplete their numbers beyond what the slow reproduction rate of the cranes can replace. In 1990 we attempted to learn more about the numbers and dynamics of the resident population by counting cranes each Sunday morning between April and September.

This summer the BAS crane count has not been consistent, simply because of too many pressures on those in charge. Grant said, "I would like to find out who is really interested in following through to help with crane management, which is what we're involved in. I can get them started, but we need three people who are really dedicated to this effort." Anyone interested should contact Val Grant at 753-5370, or at the October meeting. There's work to be done this fall.

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CALENDAR

Saturday, September 7. Salmon Spawning. Observe spawning of kokanee salmon above Porcupine Reservoir. These salmon migrate up into the shallow waters of Little Bear River to spawn. One can watch the territorial defense and pairing of the salmon at very close range. Also observe where gulls, raccoon and mink have feasted on dying salmon following spawning. Leave at 4 p.m. from Fred Meyer's parking lot and return about 8 p.m. Bring supper. All welcome and carpooling available. No reservations needed.

Monday, September 16. Deadline for October *Stilt*. If you have information or ideas to share, send them to Pat Gordon, 718 North 200 East, Logan, Utah 84321.

Saturday, September 21. Fall Gathering of Utah's Audubon Chapters. Wasatch Audubon of Ogden will host visitors from north and south for an overnight confab. Besides the ever-enjoyable socializing, activities will include informative programs and potluck dinner. Plan to join other birders to explore the hot spots around Ogden.

Saturday, September 28. Observe Hawk Migration Ten Miles West of Logan. Leave at 1 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 5 p.m. From atop the ridge overlooking Cutler Reservoir there will be good views of numerous hawks and eagles migrating southward, often at very close range. While not as many hawks will be seen as on top of the Wellsvilles, one can drive right to the observation point on a good gravel road. A fine family outing. Bring binoculars. All welcome and no reservations needed. If cloudy, the trip will go the following day. Call 752-2702.

Wednesday-Friday, September 18-20. Outdoor Adventures for Cache County Track B Middle School students. Hiking, canoeing, exploring, geology and fossil hunting in Logan Canyon, Green Canyon and the Little Bear River. Cost is \$25. Call Cache County School, 752-3925. For more information, call Leanna Ballard 753-6722.

Saturday, October 5. Annual Hawk Watch Along the Crest of the Wellsville Mountains West of Logan. Leave from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by 4 p.m. The Wellsville Mountains are one of the major hawk migration routes in the Rockies due to the strong westerly updrafts that make perfect soaring for raptors. The 3,000-foot climb to the observation point takes about three hours. Bring warm clothing (it is often windy on top), binoculars and lunch. The climb through the colorful maples and aspen and the views alone, over Cache and Salt Lake valleys, are worth the trip. The trail is gradual and smooth. In case of cloudy weather the trip will go on the following day. For further details call Allen Stokes, 752-2702.

Friday to Sunday, October 11-13. A Three-day Trip to the Grand Teton National Park. We will hear elk bugling and see antelope courtship, moose and a host of other exciting wildlife. Leave Friday, October 11, at 1:30 p.m. from the University Radio Tower. Later departures will be arranged for those unable to leave that early. Camp at the Gros Ventre Campground. Each party will be responsible for its own food and cooking and camping equipment. Sleeping bags and tents may be rented from the University Outdoor Recreation Center. Nights will be cold but days warm. There will be a modest fee for campground use and for those riding in a University van. Advance reservations required. All welcome. Call Al Stokes, 752-2702, for details.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Joyce Anderson, Logan
Frances B. Brady, Providence
L. O. Cannon, Logan
Shyamal Chowdhury, Logan
Mr. R. T. Clark, Smithfield
Environmental Solutions, Mendon
Steve Flint, Logan
Maire Hawkes, Logan
Nancy Jorgensen, Lewiston
Craig Kendall, Logan
Jane Kidd, Logan
Jennifer A. Levy, Logan
D.L. Madhaus, Logan
Austin McHugh, Logan
Dr. Robert J. Miller, Preston
Linda Moore, Paris, ID
Janet Putnam, Woodruff
Renate Schaaf, Logan
Karen Shotwell, Logan
Penny S. and Parnell Stone, Logan
Thomas Underwood, Logan
Woodrow J. Welling, Logan
Dennis Wenger, Logan
Bruce Wilcox, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Patricia Bahler, Logan
Deborah Bishop, Logan
Mrs. Linda A. Chisholm, Paradise
Howard Deer, Logan
Diane Driscoll, Logan
John Ellerbeck, Logan
Joy Emory, Logan
Edward & Deborah Evans, Logan
Neil A. Frank, Logan
Laurie A. Freeman, Hyrum
Jim and Debbie Gessaman, Smithfield
Grah Family, Logan

Dawn Holzer, Logan
 John M. Howell, Logan
 Pamela Hudson, Logan
 Nancy E. Immel, Logan
 Isabel Katana, Logan
 Dr. James Kennedy, Logan
 Arthur Mahoney, Logan
 Barbara J. Miller, Logan
 Clyde Milner II, Logan
 Kevin Mohr, Providence
 Louise Murch, Vernal
 Kathleen Murphy, Templeglantine, Ireland
 Bruce M. Pendery, Logan
 Mrs. Pickett, Logan
 Beverly Ridenhour, Logan
 Ian P. Rose, Logan
 Charles L. Salzberg, Logan
 Dianne Siegfried, Providence
 David Skabelund, Logan
 Kim and Peggy Smith, Fayetteville, Arkansas
 Scott T. Smith, Logan
 Nadene Steinhoff, Logan
 Alan Stevenson and Catherine Sharpsteen, Logan
 Mrs. H. P. Thomas, Logan
 Kathleen Vanstyke, Providence
 Dr. Gar W. Workman, Logan

As of July 31, 1991, total membership in BAS was 284.

BARRENS REPORT—JUNE TO MID-AUGUST 1991

June 2 — According to our fearless leader (who slept in the weather was not conducive to doing the scheduled crane census. But since we were up, Kit Flannery and I drove the Barrens road and spotted 36 cranes from the car and heard several more to the south.

July 11 — Well before the eclipse of the sun, I picked up Bill Eudaly, budding birder and sometime movie actor from Atlanta, and took him around the valley to various birding areas. As we approached the Barrens from the west, we were astonished to find 58 Swainson's hawks blanketing the fields, posts and bales of straw. It was not a good day for mice! At the ponds we observed moderate numbers of avocets, stilts, long-billed dowitchers, and Wilson's phalaropes. There was also a good concentration of Franklin's gulls and a smattering of Californias.

July 30 — I hiked into the ponds and couldn't believe my eyes. There was no water! A small group of gulls couldn't believe it either. They stood forlornly at the edge of the former shoreline and stared at the mud. Nothing else was around. I wondered what happened to all the young shorebirds. On July 8 a wall of the West Cache Canal washed out near Preston and it was a week before water flowed again. I suspect all the water went to agriculture during a critical period for crops.

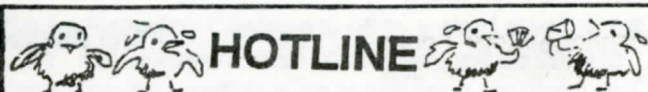
August 3 and 10 — Keith Archibald visited the ponds and was equally shocked at the absence of water. In his many years of birding here, he had never seen the Barrens this dry. Keith and Alice Lindahl checked with the hunting club caretaker and were assured water would be forthcoming, certainly by waterfowl hunting season.

August 16 — I made a quick trip to the Barrens to check on current conditions. Yes, some water had returned. About half of the far pond was covered. A short-eared owl and two ibises flew overhead and at least 19 sandhills fed in the marsh to the northwest. On the pond about a half-dozen each of yellowlegs (probably greater) and avocets fed along with a lone long-billed curlew, three stilts, and a small flock of peeps. At the far side of the pond a mixed flock of ducks rested. On the road near the gate, a beautiful Krider's redbill flushed from one post and flew to another nearby. There must be a few mice left!

— Larry Ryel

Later, we, too, saw the Krider's redbill and a dozen or more short-eared owls, one of which gave us a good show as it investigated a covey of pheasants. We also had a grand view of an inquisitive red fox who could see and hear us, and circled east of us no more than 150 yards away, as he moved south to catch our scent. A real treat—he was in full view for 600 unhurried yards.

— Tom Gordon



Traffic on the West Valley Road increased this summer due to the presence of a family of burrowing owls. Discovered by a mystery birder who approached Ron Ryel with the news, the birds have been perching predictably on roadside fence posts throughout the summer. The pair first sighted was joined in July by a total of four young. Evenings found them practicing their wing-work and hunting the tall grasses along the railroad tracks.

Kit Flannery reports a sage thrasher seen in June in the eastern foothills around 2100 South and 1800 East, and a Lewis woodpecker near the USU Research Park.

The thrasher was confirmed by Larry Ryel, who saw two of them, and a loggerhead shrike, on August 19.

Larry reported seeing a red-necked phalarope and four kinds of sandpipers—solitary, pectoral, western, and least—on the Logan sewage ponds August 17.

Keith Archibald reports two immature ferruginous hawks at the Barrens on August 19.

Larry Ryel happened upon a redbill who dropped the remains of a meal—a tiger salamander—between Hardware Ranch and Laketown, August 18.

**To report or inquire about current sightings, call
 Nancy Williams, 753-6286, or Kit Flannery, 563-5984.**



ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

"Look!" Pat called. "A new bird!" About the size of a fox sparrow, it had an orange-gold breast and vividly black-and-white striped head.

"It's new," I agreed, rummaging through the Peterson as the stranger vanished. I thumbed past birds and suddenly out leaped a Smith's Longspur. It looked almost absolutely, precisely, exactly like that! A quick look at the map showed Smith's Longspur frequently comes as close as 3,000 miles to Cache Valley. It's a bird of the frozen north, living on either tundra or airports (look it up), and had therefore mistaken our house for either an iceberg or a DC-10.

We had, of course, little hope of ever seeing it again. Imagine our surprise the very next day when, lo and behold, there it was in the lilacs, looking confused. It was surrounded by banner headlines proclaiming, "GORDONS DISCOVER ASTOUNDINGLY RARE BIRD IN BACKYARD!"

"We'll be famous!" I cried, racing for the telephone to call our friend the dentist and bird expert, whom we will leave anonymous to spare him any unwanted glory. In no time at all, our friend "Keith Archibald" (as we'll call him here) was creeping about in our bushes, gamely searching for a glimpse of the rare little bugger. No luck, of course; noticing how few caribou were lurking about, the bird concluded we were not a tundra and moved on.

"Perhaps," sighed 'Keith,' "it was a female black-headed grosbeak."

"Pish," we replied, "and tush. We know a female black-headed grosbeak when we see one. It is to laugh! Ha ha ha!"

We had, of course, little hope of ever seeing the longspur again. Imagine our surprise the very next day when, lo and behold, there it was in the lilacs, looking confused. "Get your camera," Pat whispered. "I'll call 'Keith.'"

I grabbed the camera, snapped on the 500-meter lens and carefully shorted the drive motor. "ClickWhzz!" the camera announced, taking a candid picture of my carpet. "Clickwhzzclickwhzzclickwhzzclickwhzzclickwhzz...." twice a second. By the time I reached the window from which we'd seen the longspur (which was no longer there), I had 31 carpet pictures, one couch picture, two surprised cat pictures and three wife-in-hysterics pictures.

We had, of course, little hope of ever seeing the longspur again. Imagine our surprise a few weeks later when, lo and behold, there it was in Yosemite National Park! I

trained my binoculars on it and ascertained that, no matter what "Keith" had thought, this clearly had a black-and-white striped head, completely unlike the black-and-yellow of a female black-headed grosbeak. I watched it carefully, quietly explaining to the dozens of Pat's awed relatives assembled for the family reunion that seeing a Smith's longspur so very far from either an airport or a tundra was an extraordinarily rare occurrence, and I wondered how large the banner headline would be. "FAMED BIRDER DISCOVERS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME RARITY," it would read.

I turned around to smile benevolently at the assembled multitudes and sign autographs, but they weren't looking at me. They weren't looking at the Smith's longspur. Instead they were looking at another bird. I followed their gaze, and saw something that rendered inconsequential all my earlier discoveries. There, before my wondering eyes, was a second Smith's longspur *actually being fed by a black-headed grosbeak!* "WORLD-FAMOUS BIRDER," the new headline read, "DISCOVERS AMAZING INCIDENT OF INTER-SPECIES COOPERATION!"

"It's a baby grosbeak," my brother-in-law muttered. "It's not a Smith's longspur, you dolt, it's a baby grosbeak."

A baby grosbeak. Well, perhaps it was, but I'm not sure: my brother-in-law isn't an ornithologist. I wish my friend "Keith" had been there.

— Tom Gordon

THANKS FROM TRACY AVIARY

Thank you for your support of the Aviary and, in particular, your donation towards completing the signing of all the birds here.



The first batch of sign information is now about to be sent to the manufacturer. When the sign which you adopted is made and sent to us, we shall be glad to forward a color copy to you.

In appreciation,

D. Grenville Roles
Curator

NOTE: BAS contributed \$200 to Tracy Aviary's signing project.

INVESTIGATING IDAHO

Field Trip May 31 to June 2

Al Stokes led a group of six into the wilds of Idaho in spite of weather that threatened to dampen more than our spirits. The threat turned out to be a bluff, however, and our courage, (or foolhardiness) was rewarded by an idyllic evening stroll along the Snake River at Massacre Rock State Park west of American Falls, Idaho. The river resembles a glassy lake at that spot; pelicans and western grebes enjoyed the peace, too. Several pairs of grebes were in a mating mood and gave us a good demonstration of their whistle-like calls, with occasional splashes and dashes to emphasize their point. A great-horned owl soared over the water near us, and a beaver showed that greenery atop the lodge doesn't guarantee that it's abandoned.

Jennifer and Shawn, Tom and Pat, and Al and Alice made up the company on this first annual trip. The small number made it possible to become acquainted with each participant, adding enjoyment to the excursion. We proved that couples from three generations can have a good time together.

At our woodsy camp (near solar-heated showers!) we particularly enjoyed orioles working on a nest, noisy kingbirds, and a plain titmouse behaving like a woodpecker.

Saturday we caravanned to Craters of the Moon National Monument, taking in the multi-decibeled nesting site of



California and ring-billed gulls. We could distinguish the nesting patterns of each species by the spacing.

At Craters of the Moon we explored the unusual landscape of recent volcanic activity (latest lava flow 2,000 years ago) which was enhanced by many tiny wild flowers growing in the black cinders. On a hike to the caves, we marvelled at the glorious colors of violet-green swallows nesting in the shade of the rocks. A rock dove seemed quite at home, also.

Al compiled a master list of 57 species seen on the trip. Now that the trail has been broken, future outings can expose other adventurers to these natural treasures within half a day's drive of home.

— Pat Gordon

PLANNING MEETING—JUNE

Val and Sue Grant hosted a potluck barbecue dinner meeting on Sunday, June 2. It combined business with pleasure, with the result that all previous attendance records were shattered. Larry Ryel, Nadene Steinhoff, Janell Larson, John, Terry and Jessie Barnes, and John's mother, Kayo, Sue and Cooper Robertson, Tom and Pat Gordon, John Sigler, Al and Alice Stokes, Bruce Pendery and Kim Sullivan were present. After the feast, Val called the meeting to relative order.

Janell presented a report on the annual banquet, with suggestions for improvements which included 1) a shorter program, 2) better food, 3) artwork from more artists, and 4) more volunteer involvement, to limit expenses.

Sue Robertson reported on our financial status, and

warned that we need to take action to protect our non-profit status.

John Sigler explained the maneuvers in progress with regard to purchase of Spring Creek Ranch for a nature center. Kayo Robertson discussed the situation relative to the purchase of St. Anne's Retreat for a nature center. Discussion followed regarding the ability of BAS to support both ventures, and it was agreed to contribute to both with a fund drive as plans are finalized.

Bruce Pendery reported that meetings with UDOT about Logan Canyon highway alterations were yielding satisfactory compromises. He credited letter-writers for contributing to the success.

Tom Gordon offered to take minutes at future meetings, guaranteeing improved reporting henceforth.

— Pat Gordon



WETLANDS WORK WITH HANSEN

Wayne Martinson of Salt Lake Audubon serves as our lobbyist to the state legislature, and also as the coordinator for wetlands protection in Utah. He organized a meeting with Rep. Jim Hansen in Ogden on August 14. John Bellmon, president of Wasatch Audubon, and John Sigler, Tom and Pat Gordon of BAS were present. The purpose of the meeting was to inform Hansen of our concerns about H.R. 1330, the Hayes bill, which would drastically alter the legal status of wetlands throughout the nation if passed. Martinson presented Hansen with pertinent materials prepared by National Audubon which clearly define our position, and Hansen asked that we submit specific changes we would like to see incorporated in the bill.

Hansen expressed interest in proposed changes at Salt Lake International airport which would affect 300 acres of prime wetlands, and said that all of Rich County would qualify as a bird refuge. He asked for our support in getting funding for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, as the political situation is changing and opportunities for funding may become scarcer in the near future. "Send letters every month," he said. (Address on page 9.)

EDUCATION REPORT

"Another great day in the mountains with kids" was a common journal entry for a busy Audubon summer. The Audubon Junior Naturalist Program, begun by Steve Archibald and Karen Matsumoto-Grah nearly two years ago, now hosts nearly 60 youngsters, aged 7 to 14. Our summer included numerous hikes, a campfire story night, a three-day journey to the Tetons and most recently, a backpacking trip up Steam Mill Canyon. We study history, science, and language arts, but most important we just spend enjoyable time together, in a respectful fashion in nice places. It is a wonderful privilege to watch these children grow in their understanding of themselves and the land. As a teacher I am awed at how readily these youngsters have taken to their journals. It is my hope that we might find some way to publish their thoughts and experiences to share with the larger Audubon membership.

Audubon also extended itself to the younger set in the form of a children's field trip series for pre-schoolers, aged 3 to 6. Trips included rocks, edible plants and insects. A "fossils and caves" trip is in the making but a date has yet to be set. These programs have become so popular that we always end up turning away 10 to 30 potential students.

My special thanks to Steve Archibald for his efforts with the Junior Naturalist program. Steve is certainly one of the most dynamic teachers I have ever met. Thanks also to Lori Anderson, Leanna Ballard, Kate Boyes, Roy Fritz, Jack Greene, Maureen Wagner and the many parents who have helped to make these programs successful.

— Kayo Robertson

OUR NEW LOOK

Did you notice? *The Stilt* is wearing the new folded look. Advantages are greater manageability for the reader, and fewer printing runs per issue. The paper is Conservatree 100 Natural Offset. It is labeled "100% Recycled, Environmentally Sound Paper." We have no information on the amount of post-consumer waste included in that percentage, but we'll keep asking. These days, the goal is to encourage recycling of paper by providing a market for the end product. "Natural" refers to the color. "Offset" means it works for the printer.

We ordered the paper through Treecycle in Bozeman, Montana. They're committed to distributing recycled paper products in this region, and will ship less than a pallet-load, even mere reams. We encourage you to contact them for your personal or business paper needs. You can talk to Rick Meis at (406) 586-5287, or write for a catalog to Treecycle, Box 5086, Bozeman, Montana 59717.

THE STILT PLACES IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Bridgerland Audubon Newsletter, *The Stilt*, one example of which you now hold, tied for third place in the National Audubon Newsletter Competition. Our first effort in a new category of competition, that of chapters boasting 300 to 900 members, our entry was considered and deemed worthy to share in an award with the *Chukar Chatter*, edited by Tom Moran of Grand Valley Audubon Society in Grand Junction, Colorado. Serving as one of the judges for the contest, I happened to evaluate *Chukar Chatter*, and I can assure you we are in very good company. I judged 25 newsletters, and it was one of two which I kept to serve as inspiration.

This year the judges' critiques were returned to the editors, and it appears that we lost points on activist information and encouragement, writing style, and art. Our strengths were chapter image (thanks to all of you who make it a genuinely admirable chapter); encouragement of chapter participation; nameplate design; quality of production (credit to Custom Printing and Diane Colston, typesetter extraordinaire); and variety of contributors—Alice and Larry and Bruce and Steve and Jean and Kayo and Al and Tom and Irma and Nancy and Kit and Martha and all the others who take the

trouble to share words with the members, that means you!

Neighbors of ours also received recognition for their newsletters. *The Pileated Post*, edited by Sharon Bergman of Bighorn, Montana, was mentioned honorably in the 300-900 category; and *The Utah Audubon Society News*, Larry Castle-Fericks, editor, from Salt Lake City received honorable mention in the over-900 category.

The top prize in 300-900 category went to *Saw Mill River Audubon Society Bulletin*, of Chappaqua, New York, edited by Sophie L. Keys and Anne Swain. Second place was roped by *Rustlin's*, from the Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society of McKinney, Texas. Jan Woolheater is the editor.

While recognition from NAS is nice, what really matters is what you think. It's your newsletter. Comments are always welcome, as long as you remember that I cry easily. I'd love to hear what you enjoy and what you consider a waste of ink.

— Pat Gordon, 752-6561

RECYCLING PROGRESS REPORT

Businesses Surveyed

Cache Recycling Coalition is off to a good start this fall of 1991. Our survey of local businesses will be done to determine their participation in recycling practices and merchandising. Questions such as: "Is there a separate address people can write to request that your store carry more items made from recycled materials?" and "What products would you stock if there was a demand?" are directed to business managers but reflect on citizen consumer willingness to create market change by choosing to buy recycled products. When you observe a store promoting recycling, be sure to take time to compliment their effort. Good will nudges help. The survey is a big project. If you would like to help, the questionnaire forms can be obtained by phoning 563-3096 or 753-4698.

New Recycling Plan for Paper

Mr. John Reese, president of Redi Therm Insulation in Salt Lake City, met with CRC members and local organizational representatives August 14 to discuss his plan for recycling waste paper. He proposes placing trailers (27' long x 8' wide x 13' high) at strategic locations in Cache Valley to serve as collection centers. When each trailer is filled, contact the company (toll free number) 800-544-1409. They will weigh and pay for the full one and exchange it for an empty trailer. The firm carries full liability insurance and works to keep a clean environment around the trailer. They accept mixed paper (newspapers, magazines, small boxes, junk mail).

They prefer to keep the mix at about 60-70% newspapers. But because they deal with such large quantities (12 million pounds of paper last year) they aren't overly particular about the mix in each trailer load. Organizations wanting an income source will monitor the trailers and set the rules governing access. Price per ton at the present time is \$10. The company does offer a convenient service and (as anyone who has ever had the chore of lifting or loading newspapers knows) an easier way to go. If the company functions as happily and enthusiastically as Mr. Reese himself, it should be a pleasure for all to do business with Redi Therm Insulation.

The Glow Goes On

CRC is still in the glow of being honored with the annual Al Stokes Award. Thank you! Like the little guy on the block, CRC has taken a share of rebuffs and bumps. It's reassuring to have encouragement from big, strong friends like Audubon. Thanks!

— Irma Moon

Library Recycles Magazines

Logan Library has a rack outside the entrance for "recycling" magazines. It's a great way to share *Audubon* and other magazines in lieu of sending them to the landfill (horrors!).

— Jean L

WANT ADS

There is no charge for members to use this space to advertise needs, services, or items to buy, sell, trade or give away.

For Sale: Lightweight Hiking Boots. Nike Baltoro, Women's size 7 1/2. Almost New—don't fit me. \$25. Jean, 752-6830.

PLANNING MEETING — SEPTEMBER

Val Grant will host a potluck dinner meeting at his home for trustees, officers and committee heads, and anyone else who is interested. It will be held Wednesday, September 18. Call Val (753-5370) or (752-7572) for details.

A PLEA FOR THE WHITE RIVER

Just south of Vernal is a lovely river which provides a lush riparian habitat in the midst of the desert. This river provides critical habitat for migrating waterfowl, and for a wide variety of songbirds and raptors. Visitors are likely to see beaver and deer. The character of this river changes with the flow; expect mildly challenging whitewater in spring. The canyon walls ensure solitude and splendid scenery. This river is among the few in Utah that offer easy whitewater, don't require a permit and are readily accessible for a weekend trip.

Why should I publicize the serene peace and beauty of the White River, south of Vernal? Well, the Bureau of Land Management is at it again. Despite nomination of the White River Canyon for Wild and Scenic River status, Wilderness Study Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the BLM is about to sell more gas leases that would allow drilling to intrude upon this canyon. Considerable drilling is being done on the plateau above the river; such drilling should be allowed to continue. But drilling should not be allowed within the canyon.

Even if you haven't visited the White River Canyon, if you believe such areas should be protected write to protest the BLM decision to sell more gas leases along the White River. Request that the Book Cliffs Resource Management Plan be revised before allowing any more leasing. Send your letters to: James Parker, BLM Director, 324 South State, Suite 301, Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303. To allow further leasing now would be a clear violation of the BLM's mandate to manage this canyon as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Send copies of your letters to: Congressman Bill Orton, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; David Little, BLM Vernal District Manager, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, UT 84078.

And, hey! what the heck, send one to our Congressman, Jim Hansen (it's only a 29 ¢ stamp).

For more information call Jean Lown, 752-6830.



NATIONAL NEWS

Wetlands

National Audubon is working to defend the nation's wetlands from a plan to weaken Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. A particularly drastic manifestation of this effort by a coalition of the Farm Bureau, oil and chemical industry, timber, home-builder and road construction interests is H.R. 1330, which would remove many wetland areas from protection and put the Army Corps of Engineers in control. (The present law mandates the Environmental Protection Agency with wetland supervision.) Our own representative, Jim Hansen, is one of 113 co-sponsors of the bill. National Audubon has produced some very helpful materials giving detailed comments on this bill and others. In Utah, wetlands comprise about one percent of our lands. (U.S. average is five percent.) Industrial and agricultural expansion, plus population growth, severely threaten our valuable wetlands, particularly those around the Great Salt Lake.

Ancient Forests

Audubon's message to Congress is "Please support H.R. 842, the Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1991." While attention is centered on the few remaining stands in the Northwest, the last five percent of this country's oldest forests, this legislation would protect forests in Utah, also. Boulder Mountain is being considered for logging. This is an ancient forest in a desert, where replacement is quite improbable. The Anasazi Indians used trees for building and fuel, and left behind an arid terrain. Another bill, H.R. 2463 (S. 1156 in the Senate), would convert this nation's National Forest System into plantation "tree farms." The Ancient forests of the northwest are a world treasure, not the property of timber companies, but of the American people. National Audubon is participating in what may be the last battle for these unique old-growth forests.

Arctic Refuge

The oil industry continues to press for the right to explore the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A "Fact Sheet" from NAS states:

Myth 1. "The country needs the oil." FACT: According to the Department of the Interior, there is an 80 percent chance that no commercially recoverable oil will be

discovered . . . We can save almost 300,000 barrels of oil a day (the best-case estimate for the refuge) by increasing the efficiency of our cars by two miles per gallon.

Myth 2. "The impact of development will be minimal."

FACT: This activity is likely to result in a population decrease or change in distribution of 20 to 40 percent in the caribou population; 50 percent in the numbers of snow geese using the area; and 25 to 50 percent in muskox populations, according to the U.S. Department of Interior.

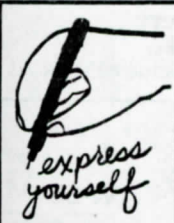
Myth 3. "We don't need this wilderness." FACT: Less than four percent of our original wilderness remains, and more than half is in Alaska. The Arctic Refuge's coastal plain is the last stretch of the 1,100-mile arctic Alaskan coastline not open to development.

Wild Bird Trade

The U.S. has the world's largest appetite for exotic wild birds for pets. For the past decade, the U.S. has imported about 500,000 birds each year. Many times this number of birds are captured from the wild because of mortality suffered during capture, transport, and quarantine—mortality rates of five to 80 percent depending on the species. Parrots are of particular concern. About 40 species of parrots, including several macaws, amazons, and cockatoos, could become extinct in the next ten years because of the pet trade and habitat loss.

National legislation is needed. The Exotic Bird Conservation Act was introduced in both the House (H.R. 2541) and Senate (S. 1218) on June 4, 1991. It will phase in a ban within five years on the importation of wild birds for sale as pets; requires licensing and record keeping for breeders; requires marking of wild birds; sets standards for handling and transporting; provides penalties for violations; and provides for public input and oversight. Audubon urges: Buy only captive-bred birds for pets, and support the Exotic Bird Conservation Act.

The Humane Society also requests help in persuading KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, currently the largest shipper of wild-caught birds to the United States, to discontinue the practice. You can help by writing to Mr. Pieter Bouw, President, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, P.O. Box 7700, 117 ZL Schiphol Airport, The Netherlands.



For further information on national campaigns, write to National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

To communicate with your representatives in Washington, write to:

President George Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500

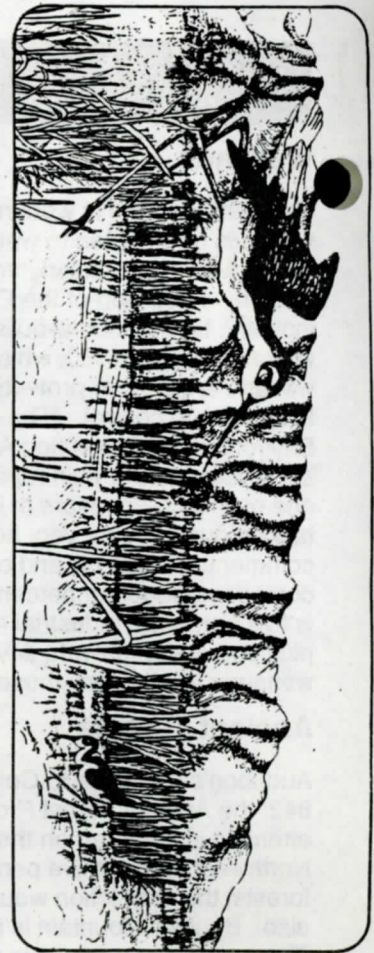
Senator Jake Garn or Orrin Hatch, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative James V. Hansen, Wayne Owens, or Bill Orton, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Mervin & Mae Coover
435 Canyon Rd
Providence UT 84332

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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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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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