



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 20, No. 2

October 1991

RYEL'S QUEST: THE BENCHMARK BIRD

Here, on a long pew, sit several hopeful humans, accoutered with you-wouldn't-believe-how-many-thousands-of-dollars-worth of binocs and cameras. Ten feet away is a clothesline hung with several multi-orificed cylinders adorned with seductively-red faux flowers filled with phony nectar. Talk about bear-baiting! Dozens of desperately pugnacious hummingbirds screech and clash bills with each other for their share of food. They are battling not only their own species, but at least ten other hummer species, as well as wasps, bees and butterflies. This is a life-or-death matter. Two hours without food and these tiny dazzlers will starve to death.

I love seeing them. Nine species in 20 minutes is overwhelming. But it seems hardly sporting and even a tad unethical for the Birders to add to their lists these unnaturally-lured birds, as I tell my SeriousBirdingCompanion. SBC harrumps that, with my point of view, I shouldn't list the birds I bait to my yard with seeds each winter. Hmhmhmhm.

Someone murmurs reverently, "Look at the supercilious, the margins, the gorget . . ." These are not birdwatchers, as I am. They are Birders, with encyclopedic knowledge and \$900 binocs. They have travelled hundreds of miles to this Southern Arizona oasis with a shopping list of rarities to take home on paper. Most of them, like my SBC, are after the berylline and white-eared hummers, and the eared trogon.

While SBC and others stay for hours, for days, glued like barnacles to the bench at Ramsay Canyon Preserve, I hike the trails. I'm a long-time whatever-watcher, just as excited and curious about blue beetles, red manzanita, black swallowtails, ochre lichens and green darners as the painted redstarts.

Perhaps I could understand this esoteric scavenger hunt if you won money, or a trophy, or new binocs for attaining a long list of birds. All they get is a yearly ranking amongst their 6,000 or so peers in some obscure pamphlet. My SBC is currently ranked 29th for his list of birds seen in the U.S., but 124th in North American birds. What??! The U.S. listers may include Hawaii. The North American listers may not include it, nor Bermuda, nor Mexico, but can count birds seen in two French Islands off Canada, and Attu Island which is 15 degrees west of Hawaii. Oh?

This particular SBC, in the past two years, has travelled 18,000 miles in North America to add 11 birds to his
Please see QUEST on page 3.

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CALENDAR

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 colorful maple and aspen, and the views over Cache and Salt Lake valleys are worth the trip. The hawks are a bonus. 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.

Thursday, October 10. General Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main. John Anhold, from the U.S. Forest Service Pest Management office in Ogden, will speak on the ecology and control of the gypsy moth. This insect, currently the most serious forest defoliator in the U.S., is a recent arrival in Utah. We can become part of the solution by finding out what it looks like, how it got here, where it occurs and what to do about it. John coordinates the Utah gypsy moth eradication program. He has had experience with the insect in both the eastern and western infestations and can discuss the differences. The Utah program is a cooperative effort of state, federal and local agencies incorporating cutting-edge techniques of bio-control, trapping, and a pioneer non-target butterfly and moth study.

Friday to Sunday, October 11-13. Three-day Trip to 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.

Tuesday, October 15. Stilt Deadline. The *Stilt* rejoices in several regular contributors who write from the pure impulse to share information. Anyone may join this sterling group by sending whatever they deem worthy of the membership—jokes, stories, articles, poetry, cartoons, illustrations—to Pat Gordon, Editor, 718 North 200 East, Logan, Utah 84321. Call 752-6561 for encouragement or to make excuses for not getting things in ON TIME.

Wednesday, October 16. Planning Meeting. 7 p.m. Bio-Resources, 135 East Center. These mysterious happenings are open to anyone with an interest in what Bridgerland Audubon does. Committee heads, officers and trustees discuss progress, problems and plans. Attending is a good way to learn how you might become involved for our mutual benefit.

Saturday, October 19. Roadside Cleanup Day. Bridgerland Audubon is in charge of a scenic stretch of road between Richmond and Lewiston. Twice a year we gather to police the grounds, gathering litter into bags to be picked up. We spend a couple of hours and have a pretty good time. Call Sue Robertson (752-4598, evenings) to get involved. This is interesting birding country, too, so don't forget your binoculars.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Y. Fannesbeck, Logan
Marilyn and Tom Jones, Mendon
Andy and Lauren Keller, Logan
Donald T. Cundy, Paradise
Janet Putnam, Woodruff
Penny and Parnell Stone, Logan
Woodrow J. Welling, Logan
M. Hart Evans, Logan
Tovi Santiago, Jackson, Wyoming

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Desmond and Loila Rae Anderson, Logan
Leroy B. Beasley, Logan
Max and Elliot Brunson, Jr. Logan
Windsor Copley, Mountain View, Wyoming
T. W. Daniel, Logan
Joanne Hughes, Logan
Harriette A. Lanner, Logan
Deann Lester, Brigham City
Rev. Barbara G. McGarey, Logan
L. H. Piette, Logan
Nancy Williams, Logan
Chris Carlson, Logan
Janice Tucker, Richmond

RYEL'S QUEST continued from page 1

Life List, which, as he sits hour after hour at the feeders, stands at 699. SEVEN HUNDRED is birding nirvana, the PhD of Birding, a feather in one's cap (ahem). On one of my treks back to check the progress, I ask SBC how much money each of those birds had cost over his 40 years of playing this game . . . er, sport, as I am curtly corrected . . . he was not amused, so I didn't even ask about what each of the 2,263 birds from 18 countries on his World List must be worth. At last, No. 700 arrives! "Hurray," sez I, "I'll get the champagne." "But I wanted the berylline to be 700 . . . more of a coup," he moroses, "not this white-eared." Paraphrasing J. Gordon-you-know-who, I quip, "The trick is not to care." Then I point out the elusive emerald jewel to him, the much desired berylline, but he misses her brief appearance. Such invectives. Such anguish. Moreover, the champagne, sitting for two hot days in the now ice-less chest is unfit for human consumption.

As we hiked up to find the trogon, I wondered if Beluga-blimp, above us to spy on wetbacks, also picks up the strange shenanigans of us Birders. Oh, not that I'm including myself. But if I was . . . well, I did see 23 birds I'd never seen before. But who's counting???

Oh, yeah, Larry is. Congratulations, Dr. Ryel, on arriving at the Benchmark 700!

— Kit Flannery

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**1992
Calendar**

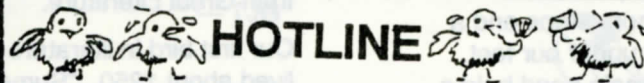
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- Drawings of the animals and their habitats by Jane O'Keefe (Mendon)
- Tracking and identification data



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Strange and wonderful eastern visitors that passed our way this summer:

- A black and white warbler was seen by Mary DeByle on May 18, walking up and down an ash tree trunk in her backyard, nuthatch-style (characteristic B&W warbler behavior).
- Apparently traveling the scenic route, a rose-breasted grosbeak migrated through the valley the last week of May. It showed up in Paradise at Scott and Linda Chisholm's around the 18th and, the following week, feeding in Will Pitkin's Hyde Park yard.
- Val Grant says he almost couldn't believe his eyes May 26 when he bumped into a bobolink out near Valley View highway where he was counting sandhill cranes.
- I had a similar experience May 31 when I opened the door that leads from kitchen to deck and came eyeball-to-eyeball (well, pretty darn close, anyway) with a blue jay. We gaped at each other for half a minute before he fluffed his necklace, perked up his crest and flew.

Other gifts that came with summer included a close look at a pair of Caspian terns fishing at Newton Dam (mid-July), a successful effort to entice Bullock's orioles to nest and feed in our backyard apple trees (thanks to Martha Ralph's kind loan of a special oriole feeder), and of course those wonderful burrowing owls bobbing on fenceposts by the railroad tracks west of Benson Marina.

Hope you all had a great birding and soul-renewing summer, enough to warm you well as we go into fall's migrations. Please call to report your sightings (or call if you want to be notified when rarities fly through the area)—my number is 753-6268, Kit Flannery's is 563-5984.

Peace be with you.

— Nancy Williams

BARRENS REPORT

Mid-August to Mid-September 1991

August 17 — With the return of water to the Barrens, I wanted to find out if the birds had also returned. This time the welcoming committee consisted of two ibises sailing past and a Krider's redbill, which flew low overhead as I walked to the far pond. I was heartened to find the area is again populated by a variety of species. Shorebirds included: 17 stilts, six avocets, five greater yellowlegs, nine Wilson's phalaropes, four killdeer, three western sandpipers, and two pectoral sandpipers. I also estimated there were more than 100 ducks. The majority were gadwalls, with smaller numbers of cinnamon teal, pintails and redheads. Ring-billed gulls, 16 of them, rested on the north shore. To the northwest 17 cranes fed and called to one another.

August 19 — Keith Archibald finally had a chance to look for the Krider's redbill and instead found two juvenile-plumaged ferruginous hawks!

August 20 — Now it was my turn to look for a bird. I did indeed find one ferruginous hawk. Its companion had apparently left the area. I spent nearly an hour observing this bird with binocular and scope while it rested and hunted for prey. As far as I know, it was not seen here again.

September 8 — No short cuts today. Recent rains forced Ron Ryel and I to follow the regular road into the ponds. A newly created puddle accommodated seven greater yellowlegs. Further on, in the first regular pond, we found three semipalmated plovers, a Baird's sandpiper and 10 killdeer. A few more steps and a short-eared owl flushed from almost under our feet. Three harriers hunted nearby. The main pond held a variety of species including 16 avocets. Four stilts, 20 red-necked phalaropes, nine greater yellowlegs, 11 ibis, two Franklin's gulls, and about 750 assorted ducks, mostly gadwalls and shovelers. The air was filled with swallows. Violet-greens and cliffs predominated with a few barns and banks mixed in. We were surprised not to find the usual flock of cranes, but we did hear a few calling. Later, heading east on the Barrens road, we found 11 long-billed dowitchers and a few shovelers and gadwalls south of the road. Further to the north, we found two short-billed dowitchers, 12 greater and two lesser yellowlegs, 10 Baird's sandpipers, and a lone willet.

September 13 — Alice Lindahl and I drove down the Barrens road in a hard rain. We hoped to get an idea of crane numbers in the valley, but the rain and fog hampered our efforts. We decided not to walk into the ponds in the rain. Along the road we noted a flock of vesper sparrows, some redheads and shovelers, several red-tailed hawks and a "black" rough-legged hawk.

— Larry Ryel

September 15 — Sue Robertson, with son Cooper and myself, visited the Barrens. We tried three times to walk, but were driven back by mosquitoes each time. They were so thick they made breathing hazardous, even though we slathered ourselves repellantly. A few swallows weren't yet controlling the abundance. From the road we saw avocets, harriers, a pair of ruddy ducks, several vesper sparrows, a meadowlark or two, and one sage thrasher.

— Pat Gordon



ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

The Bird In Literature

Birds have informed all great English literature. All your big names have written about birds at one time or another. However, as every English major knows, authors who write great literature almost always mean something other than what they say. This is an agreement they have with English teachers. We are therefore quietly proud (having once been an English major myself) to offer the following observations on Birds from Great Literature.

Our first bird in literature comes from Anonymous, who lived about 1250. "Sumer is icumen in," he wrote, "Lhude sing cuccu!" Most English majors believe that style-conscious Anonymous was not celebrating the summer's first cuckoo, but was actually imploring his lady friend Lhude to sing about Italian shoes, an interesting English folk tradition of the day.

Moving ahead about 125 years we come to about 1375, which was about when Geoffrey Chaucer, with admirable observational skills, noted in *The Parliament of Fowls*, that "The goos, the cokkou, and the doke also so cride, 'Kek kek, cookkou, quek quek.'" While some have found in this statement a veiled reference to the squabbling of England's parliament of people, English majors know that veiled references had not yet been invented. Chaucer was simply recording the calls of three noisy English birds, now extinct.

Moving ahead about another 125 years, we come to about 1500, which was about when John Skelton remarked in *Poems Against Garnesche*, "That byrd ys not honest that fyleth hys owne nest." Actually this is a veiled reference—one of the very first in English. It refers to Queen Maude the Fat (so called because she

was Queen) and her barbarous habit of spreading pudding on tourists. In fact, it's one of the best veiled references English majors know about.

Approximately contemporaneous with Skelton, and also living at about the same time, was John Heywood, who cleverly noted in his *Proverbs* that "One swallow maketh not a summer." This, English majors know, is a veiled reference to Skelton's veiled reference to Queen Maude the Fat, and a subtle comment on the number of wheels left on Skelton's wagon. While this isn't as good a veiled reference as Skelton's veiled reference, it still ranks right up there.

William Shakespear (known to his friends as "Wm.") was Great Literature's most famous writers about birds. "Between two hawks, which flies the higher pitch?" he asks in *King Henry VI, Part 1*, referring, as English majors know, to the deplorable custom of dividing King Henry into parts. "I will make thee think thy swan a crow," he simpers in *Romeo and Juliet*—an oblique reference to drying stuff from the moat and smoking it. "The eagle suffers little birds to sing," he declaims in *Titus Andronicus*, and, in *Hamlet*, "The bird of dawning singeth all night long." Read backwards at half-speed by six or more people, these ringing iambs reveal a sinister message about men in tights. You have to listen carefully.

There's much more, of course: Wordsworth ("O cuckoo! shall I call thee bird?"), Franklin ("he is a Bird of bad moral Character;"), Rorty ("There is a peewee bird that cries, 'la, sol, me'"), Field ("A large cold bottle, and a small hot bird!"), and others. Time and space prevent us from engaging in further critical analysis here, but we will personally answer the questions of any curious reader who cares to write. No explosives, please.

—TJG

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Steam Mill Hollow

**Audubon Junior Naturalist Backpack Trip
August 15-16, 1991**

Two of my "best days of Summer 1991" were spent in Steam Mill Hollow with 18 junior and five other adult naturalists. This backpack trip, led by Steve Archibald and Kayo Robertson, was the culminating summer event of the Audubon Junior Naturalists' group. The beauty of the area, the richness of the experience and amount of learning that went on will long be remembered by all participants.

This group has grown tremendously in their understanding of the natural world and each other. The degree of cooperation and kinship that has developed between the members of this group is inspiring to watch and reflects on the kind of direction and leadership they are receiving from Steve and Kayo.

Our trip included journal writing, with the students imagining themselves traveling through the Steam Mill

area 100 years ago. Along the way, skillfully written stories from that era came to life as the students shared excerpts from their journals. The children worked well setting up camp and cooking dinner together. After dark, Jack Greene led us to a "listening rock," where we talked about using our other senses besides sight, as the animals do. Around the campfire, Steve shared stories from Beverly Hungrywolf's book *The Ways of My Grandmothers*, including "The Woman Who Married the Big Dropping." (This kind of humor is greatly appreciated by this particular age group.)

After breakfast the next morning, we left for a day hike into Steam Mill Lake. Sunlit meadows filled with late-blooming meadow arnica and fleabane daisies greeted us as we followed the trail along the stream. We made stops at the old Steam Mill boiler and at a "storytelling rock," where more stories from 100 years ago were shared. We ate lunch at the lake and made it back to camp in time to pack up and hike back to Franklin Basin by late afternoon.

Throughout the trip, Steve and Kayo, by example and instruction, provided wonderful role models to help these children gain their own sense of environmental accountability. The memories and the attitudes being formed through these experiences will make a long-term difference in how the members of Junior Naturalists will view, and hopefully provide for, our natural world in the future.

— Leanna Spjut Ballard

Our Trip To Red Rock Refuge



1990 © Cheryl Sweeney/illustrator

The third BAS trip to Red Rock Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Montana on August 23-25, included Al Stokes and his cousin, Esther Gally from Cuernavaca, Mexico, Esther's daughter, Nuri, and Nuri's two sons, Sammy and Habio. In spite of a language barrier, the boys had a great time with Jessie Barnes and her friend Jenny Elwell. High spirits prevailed. Jessie's mother, Terry, Tom and Marilyn Jones, Susie and Rosie, the Schnauser sisters, Reinhard Jockel, Tom and Pat Gordon, the Carters were also present. Jessie compiled this report for us.

We saw a toad. We saw a moose and a baby and they were pretty. Can you guess two big white birds we saw that are endangered? Whooping crane and trumpeter swan. Endangered means there are not very many of them left in this world. If we don't save them they will be extinct like dinosaurs and no one will be able to see them again.

— Jessie Barnes, 6 years old

HIGHLIGHTS OF SEPTEMBER PLANNING MEETING

The BAS planning meeting/potluck took place at Val Grant's house on 18 September 1991. Those present, in addition to enjoying each other's cooking and Val's barbecue mastery, accomplished the following:

- Deferred action on a Cache Valley Birdathon until we see the response to a future article in *The Stilt*,
- Discussed and approved the By-laws,
- Received a Treasurer's Report from Sue Robertson noting (1) that BAS must decide, based upon contributors' wishes, how to handle the donations made for the St. Ann's project, (2) that we will postpone the fall garage sale until spring, and (3) that because of AVA's move, we will not have any income from Holly Faire this year (there being no Holly Faire planned),
- Discussed potential candidates for nomination to the National Audubon Board as a Rocky Mountain Regional representative,
- Discussed some riparian habitat degradation at Jensen Historical Farm and BAS's potential role in its restoration and protection,
- Received a report from Al Stokes on successful field trips and possible sites for future field trips,
- Received a report from Dick Mueller on the status of the proposed Spring Creek Ranch Nature Center and discussed the role BAS should play in pursuing the project,
- Received a report from Dick Mueller on the National Convention in Estes Park,
- Discussed general roles and responsibilities of committee chairs,
- Received a report from Bruce Pendery on Wayne Martinson's role as National's Utah Wetlands Coordinator,
- Reviewed and discussed a BAS promotional brochure prepared by Pat Gordon and Bruce Pendery,
- Approved Bruce Pendery's request to hire Jeff Appel to review the current UDOT position on Logan Canyon and advise BAS on what if any action to take now,
- Discussed means of improving our crane counts next year,
- Received a report from Pat Gordon on her survey of *Stilt* readership,
- Asked for volunteers to take our senators and representatives birding (Bob Atwood, Larry Ryel and Pat Gordon volunteered, but others are welcome), and
- Bid a fond farewell to Cynthia and Dale Kerbs, who are moving to Durango, CO, and whom we will miss.

— TJG

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Crane Hunt Results

The Wildlife Board voted 3-1 last June to hold the third crane hunt in Utah. This year they approved the letting of 40 permits in Cache County and 60 permits in Rich County, up 20 from last year but 20 short of that requested by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

This year the following cranes were killed during the hunt.

	<u>Sept. 7-8</u>	<u>Sept. 14-15</u>
Cache County	11	2
Rich County	23	12

Utah Audubon officially opposed the 1991 hunt, based on the small resident population of cranes and potential risk to our nesting birds. With dwindling wetlands habitat and encroachment of housing development in wet meadows and pastures, some day all of our cranes will be gone. Park City has now lost all of its cranes due to human encroachment in the Snyderville Basin. Cache Valley appears to be headed in the same direction, and the crane hunt hastens this process.

The Wildlife Board continued the requirement that the land between Valley View Highway and the Mendon Road be closed to the hunting of cranes and the early goose hunt. Farmers in the area tell us that hunters were shooting there on the first day of the hunt. We don't know if they bagged any cranes.

Many people have asked me why Utah hunts cranes. I finally got up the nerve to put this question to Tom Aldrich, the DWR promoter of the hunt. His answer: "Novelty." There is still no data or evidence concerning crane damage to crops, but there is currently a study underway in the USU Wildlife Department on the subject.

The officials managing the Rocky Mountain flyway want the overall number of wintering cranes lowered by 3 percent. The reason that the Division of Wildlife Resources is willing to shoot as many as 100 of our 160 nesting cranes is that Idaho refuses to shoot cranes; they have 10,000 cranes nesting there. Utah has permits that Idaho does not use, but of course, they must all be shot in Utah.

This year, with colder, wetter weather in early September, the birds are staying in Idaho. Thus, the hunting pressure has fallen on our local birds.

If you would like to do something for next year's targets, you could write a thank you letter to the new board member who voted "no" on the hunt. He is Mr. Scott Urie, 283 Dewey Ave., Cedar City, Utah 84720. Or call (801) 586-6222.

To continue the crane count next summer, we need to line up a few people dedicated enough to pass out maps, call volunteers, and generally keep the count consistent. If you would be willing to help, call Val Grant (753-5370) or Alice Lindahl (753-7744).

Bear River Development

The Bear River Task Force will meet on December 21 to hear the results of environmental and engineering studies concerning the priority rankings of various Bear River dam site proposals. The group is anxious to get some project going. Preliminary hints suggest that the Barrens star is falling, Oneida Narrows and Honeyville are rising, and Hyrum enlargement has gone from not-on-the-list to favorite son. We have not seen any specification or plans on the Hyrum enlargement, but BAS conservation committee will study it this fall.

Whichever project is recommended by the task force, last year's 1991 Bear River Development Bill divvied up all future reservoir development among the "big boys" on the Wasatch Front and Cache Valley. We would get at least one fifth of the water in any project up to a maximum of 60,000 acre feet.

As soon as a project is envisioned, there will be a big panic to buy in to our maximum share, whether we need it or not. The same will happen in Ogden, Salt Lake and Box Elder County. That is what Finlinson's bill is designed to do: create panic. Hang on to your seats.

At least we don't have WCD ready to dig into taxpayers pockets to jump on the runaway train. The decision of whether or not to buy into a dam project rests with Cache municipalities and water companies.

Water Conservancy District

First District Court Judge Low dismissed the petition to form the Water Conservancy District on August 29, 1991. The protestants, (People for Wise Water Planning), had submitted five motions for dismissal on five different grounds, but the judge ruled to dismiss on only one. That's all that was needed and the judgement on the other four motions became moot and unnecessary.

Many who have followed the case would have welcomed dismissal on one of these other grounds. However, the beleaguered PWWP board welcomed the dismissal, period!

Here are the motions submitted:

(The winning motion)

1. The petition promoters changed the boundary of the proposed WCD at filing, omitting Clarkston, Logan and parts of the unincorporated county. Thus, the county-wide petition that was circulated was not the petition that was filed. Signers signed only the county-wide petition, not the revised petition.

(The unconsidered motions)

2. The pro-petition did not reveal benefits of the proposed district, as required by law.

3. Many signatures on the pro petition were obtained using misinformation, forgery, and high-pressure tactics, which brought the whole petition quality under question.

4. The pro petition had inadequate numbers of signatures.

5. The WCD law is unconstitutional.

We are now working toward getting the elected county officials to take a leadership position in water planning. This will be PWWP's future role. This other big job is to figure out a way to pay the ghastly attorney bills, presently \$30,000 and growing.

— Alice Lindahl
Conservation Chair

MUELLER'S RESPONSES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

At the June BAS planning meeting Al Stokes asked me if I would be interested in attending the Audubon National Convention in Estes Park, Colorado. "Maybe, let me think about it," I said. Those of you who know Al realize that my reply was translated as "Yes, sure, absolutely, no question about it." To make a long story short, I did go to the meeting and Al was right—it was a great experience.

The theme of the convention was "Audubon in the Americas," and an impressive contingent of South and Central American conservationists was present. The number of Audubon chapters is increasing rapidly in this part of our hemisphere and we can all be proud of our society's international activities.

As a long-time passive member trying to become more active, I found the panels and small group sessions to be full of good ideas on all aspects of chapter activities (membership, programs, field trips, conservation, etc.). I'll probably be a real pest at planning meetings this year with all of my "new" and "good" ideas.

In addition to all of the meetings, exhibits and field trips that were available, the best part of the convention was just meeting other members of what several speakers referred to as the "Audubon Family." Some are hard-core birders, others don't even own binoculars. Some are dedicated environmental activists, others never even write their congresspersons; but all support the Audubon mission of habitat and wildlife preservation and are, by and large, a fun, diverse and interesting group of people.

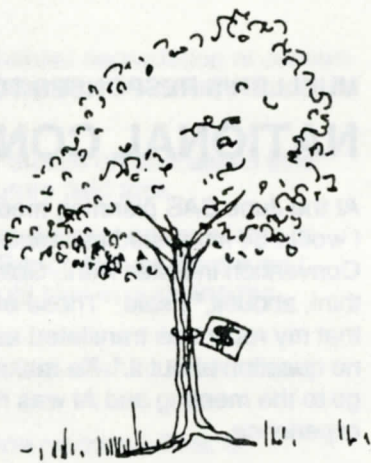
I found that individual chapters are also diverse in their size, goals and range of activities. However, whether they have 300 or 3000 members, every chapter seems to depend on a small but dedicated group of 10 to 20 individuals who really get things done. The importance of maintaining and replenishing that core group was emphasized again and again.

The take-home message that I remember best came from several long-time active members who felt that the time and effort that they had invested in Audubon activities over the years had paid a handsome dividend in improving the quality of their lives. In other words, if you've been thinking of getting more involved, don't put it off until next year. "Just do it."

— Dick Mueller

RECYCLING EXCITEMENT

Guess what! Bridgerland Audubon Society is in the paper recycling business! Redi-Therm Insulation, which produces a cellulose insulation material from recycled paper products, needed a sponsor for their collection trailer at Fred Meyer's. That meant they needed someone to call when it's almost full and accept payment. "We can do that!" we said, collectively.



© Barbara Cushmore From "RE:SOURCES"

There are several aspects to recycling paper. First, by reusing paper, we save trees. Cellulose insulation does the job that log cabins did with logs. Second, we save energy. In a recent study, homes with 3,000 to 4,000 square feet reported heat bills between \$32 and \$70 over a three-year period. Third, we save landfill space. Nationally, 41 percent of our solid waste is paper products. And now, fourth, the money we earn from this source goes to support worthy environmental projects. We can expect \$125 to \$150 per trailerful.

All clean paper products are accepted. They can be tied with string or contained in paper or plastic bags. Assorted paper (small boxes, labels, etc.) can be collected in a cardboard box—recycle the whole package. Please remove paper clips or the metal wire on notebooks, and any non-paper parts, such as plastic bubbles. Staples are permissible—a magnet removes them during the shredding process. No waxed paper,

such as milk cartons, please. When you load the paper into the trailer, load the front end first. Keep piles about five feet high. If it gets deeper, there's a problem with the scales.

If you notice any problems at the drop-off site, please contact Pat Gordon, 752-6561.

Naturally, BAS would appreciate having you bring your paper to this particular site, but there are three other collection trailers in the valley: Richmond, at North Cache Middle School; in Hyrum, South Cache Middle School; in River Heights, River Heights Elementary School. These permanent, large receptacles make recycling paper much more convenient than it has been. No more chasing traveling drop-off points around town, or driving far enough to offset the cost of the paper with the cost of gas. This progress may bring a new crop of recyclers into the fold.

Conserve Paper by Fighting Junk Mail

Are you one of those who don't like receiving the equivalent of 1.5 trees of unrequested papers in your mailbox each year? If so, DO THIS: Write to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 11 West 42nd Street, P.O. Box 3861, New York, New York 10163-3861. Send them your name and address in ALL its mailing list permutations. This will reduce current mailings and should prevent new companies from getting your name.

WANT ADS

Any member may use this space to advertise whatever, free of charge.

CANOE FOR SALE. Dagger Caper-T solo/tandem Whitewater Canoe with Float bags, Foote saddle, D-rings. \$695 or best offer. Call Bryan at 752-6830.

BIRDER NEEDS BOOTS. Birder and college student has tight budget and similar footwear. Needs to buy women's size 10-10 1/2 hiking boots. (Men, if you have boots that might work, call. Boots are unisex.) Veda DePaepe, early mornings or evenings, 750-0307.

CALENDARS AVAILABLE. Bridgerland Audubon is selling Cache Valley calendars (by Jane O'Keefe and Scott Smith). They make fine Christmas gifts for anyone with a soft spot for Cache Valley. Photographs and drawings, as well as historical information, will keep them interesting throughout 1992. They sell for \$9.95, with \$2 going to BAS coffers. Call Pat Gordon, 752-6561.

CHRISTMAS CARDS. Handcrafted original designs on recycled paper. Collage, mostly. Send something special and support a local artist. Order now. Pat Gordon, 752-6561.

COSTA RICA BECKONS

Gessaman to Lead Tour January 17-29

Costa Rica has been called the Switzerland of Central America.

Straddling a range of mountains with peaks higher than 12,000 feet, Costa Rica looks down on the Caribbean on one side and the Pacific on the other. At its narrowest point, only 75 miles separate the Pacific from the Caribbean. Active volcanoes climb sharply from lush jungles. In the fertile heartland, coffee thrives, and bananas are harvested along the coast. In the national parks, 14 tropical plant habitats are found. In Costa Rica, you will experience a world as lush as any that has ever flourished on earth.

Jim Gessaman, Professor of Biology at USU, is an ornithologist, ecologist, physiologist and author on

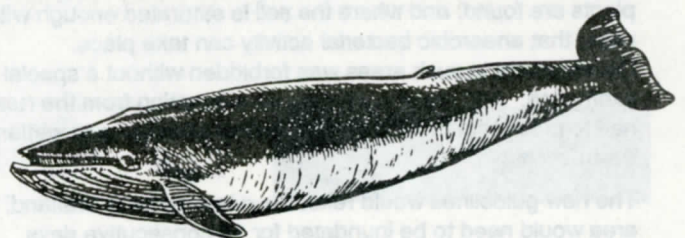
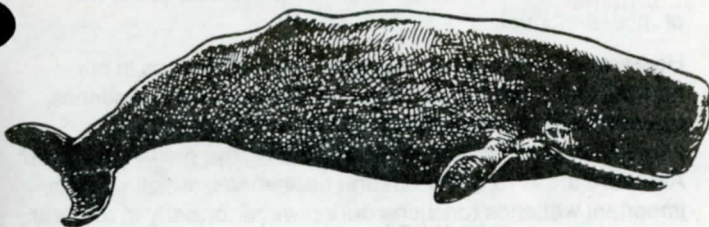


various aspects of birddom. Since 1980 he has led several birding expeditions to Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and the Galapagos Islands. In 1986 he taught a college ornithology course during a 100-day voyage around the world.

This tour will focus on three different regions of Costa Rica:

1. The Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve. Home to hundreds of orchids and other plant species, this is one of the best-known birding localities in Central America. The resplendent quetzal, widely acclaimed as the most beautiful bird in the New World, is a major attraction here.
2. The tropical lowland rainforest around the Tropical Studies Field Station at La Selva. From the lodge's spacious balcony parrots, jacamars, hummingbirds, motmots and exotic birds can be viewed.
3. Santa Rosa National Park, a deciduous dry forest in the northwestern province of Guanacaste. Howler monkeys are abundant here. The trip also includes a visit to San Jose and an active volcano, and experiencing the northern beaches.

Cost is \$1,779, which covers round-trip economy-class air transportation from Miami, hotel accommodations, all meals and more. For more information contact Holbrook Travel, Inc., 3540 N.W., 13th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32609, or phone (800) 451-7111.



Ahoy, Educators! "Whales" Software Is Here!

The National Audubon Society announces the long awaited arrival of its new interactive educational software program—"Whales."

"Whales," the second in the Audubon Wildlife Adventures series, makes the learner the central character in five different stories—tracking, observing, and identifying whales; going on a treasure hunt in an old whaler's mansion; rescuing beached or injured whales; working with a whale population model; and rescuing another sea mammal, the manatee. The learner's knowledge of the whale's natural history and conservation, as well as her reading, writing, and math skills, are enriched through these activities.

"Whales" was developed by the same team that created "Grizzly," which recently won honors for being among "the year's best educational and creative software programs in the science and nature category" from *Home Office Computing Magazine*, which also called it "one of the most engrossing simulations ever."

Audubon Wildlife Adventures software is available in computer stores nationwide, and makes a great Christmas gift.

NATIONAL NEWS

WETLANDS ENDANGERED BY PROPOSED GUIDELINES

Deadline for Comment: October 14, 1991

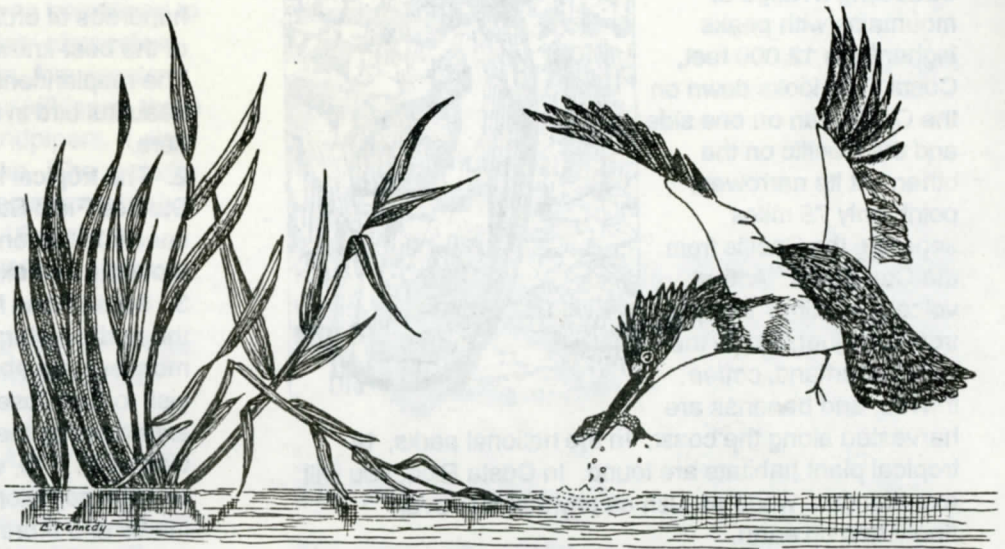
The Bush administration recently published its proposed revisions to the 1989 Wetlands Delineation Manual, the guide used by the EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies to identify and determine the boundaries of wetlands. Most of the changes in this technical document were motivated not by sound wetlands science, but by political pressure from pro-business interests within the administration, acting in collusion with oil and gas, home-building, and farm lobbyists who wish to deregulate millions of acres of easy-to-develop wetlands.

The public has until Monday, October 14, to comment on the proposed manual. We must take this opportunity to urge the President to maintain the scientific integrity of the Delineation Manual, and to uphold his pledge of No Net Loss of Wetlands.

The 1989 manual spelled out what a wetland is: any depression where water accumulates for seven consecutive days during the growing season, where certain water-loving plants are found, and where the soil is saturated enough with water that anaerobic bacterial activity can take place. Development in such areas was forbidden without a special exemption. And anyone wanting an exemption from the rules had to prove that there was no practical alternative to wetlands destruction.

The new guidelines would relax the rules: to be a wetland, the area would need to be inundated for 15 consecutive days during a growing season, or saturated with water up to the surface for 21 days. The redefined growing season is shorter, and the number of plants accepted as wetland indicators is smaller. The provision requiring proof of no viable alternative to filling in a wetland will apply only to "highly valuable" areas—the top rung on a new classification ladder to be worked out over the next year by a federal panel. Another change would permit more extensive "mitigation banking," which requires landowners to restore lost wetlands or create new ones in exchange for destroying an existing site. Critics charge that there is no scientific body of evidence to prove that man-made wetlands are a substitute for the real thing.

National Audubon's wetlands team needs examples of how the proposed manual will affect wetlands in our area. The most helpful things they can get from us are first-hand reports about



what valuable wetlands resources will not be delineated as wetlands, and therefore no longer be protected, under the proposed manual.

How would the proposed changes affect resources in our region? Are there specific areas which are clearly wetlands, but which are not saturated for 21 consecutive days or inundated for 15 consecutive days during the growing season? Are there areas (e.g. bottomland hardwoods) which perform important wetlands functions during winter or early in the year, but are not wet for long enough during the newly defined "growing season"? Are there wetlands which would be "chipped away" at the margins, permitting unrestricted development up to the edge of "wetter" areas?

Submit your comments to the EPA, addressed to Mr. Gregory Peck, Chief, Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch, mail Code (A-104F), U.S. EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Wayne Martinson, Utah Wetlands Coordinator for Audubon, would be glad to talk further about the manual and would also appreciate receiving any of your comments. His phone number is 355-8110.

— Compiled from comments on the Wetlands Delineation Manual by the National Capital Office Wetlands Team, and excerpts from "War Over the Wetlands" by Michael D. Lemonick, *Time*, August 26, 1991.



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.

LETTERS NEEDED FOR HIGH UINTAS

Deadline: October 9

Developmental appetites are eyeing 32,000 acres of the Uintas North Slope. The area includes all national forest lands in the East Fork and Middle Fork Black's Fork, from the forest boundary to the High Uintas Wilderness. The Forest Service describes these as "some of the most picturesque areas in a drainage noted for its scenic qualities." A draft environmental impact statement was spurred by oil and gas industry attempts to lease the East Fork and a general uncertainty on the part of the Forest Service about managing the area.

The East Fork Black's Fork is noted for its wild character. The last reported sighting of a native bighorn sheep (prior to recent reintroductions), was made in an area the Forest Service is now considering for oil and gas development. Moose, pine marten, goshawks and the great gray owl reside in extensive old-growth stands. The flora and fauna of the North Slope are unique in Utah, resembling the Northern Rocky Mountains more than any other Intermountain range.

The DEIS proposes several alternatives, from "No Action," to extensive timber harvesting, oil and gas development, and domestic sheep use. Several alternatives would allow ATVs on the Bear River-Smith's Fork trail, a route now used only by hikers and horseback riders.

Early each summer 18,000 sheep make their way up the Black's Fork; come fall, 72,000 dainty hooves return, leaving 65 percent of the driveway's rangeland in unsatisfactory condition, according to the DEIS. Of course, the sheep eat a bite or two during the summer. Yet, not one alternative proposes reducing the number of sheep in the Uintas. To understand and appreciate the impacts of the sheep drive, the high basin grazing allotments must also be considered. This analysis of all the issues and assumptions around grazing of

sheep is desperately needed.

Timber cutting is contemplated in the Middle Fork's old-growth lodgepole pine and spruce forests. Rare old-growth obligate wildlife species like pine marten, goshawks, hairy woodpeckers, and great gray owls would be pushed closer to the brink of extirpation.

But the greatest threat manifests in oil and gas leasing plans. Extensive wet and dry meadow complexes would be sacrificed, and the goshawk threatened. Some alternatives would allow development throughout the roadless country right up to the wilderness boundary.

The Uintas are Utah's single largest tract of wilderness land. Included in the study are 15,000 acres of roadless lands that conservationists have long proposed as critical additions to the 460,000-acre High Uintas Wilderness.

The Forest Service is soliciting comment on the East Fork Black Fork DEIS until October 9, 1991. Please write to Steve Ryberg, Evanston District Ranger, 1565 Highway 150 South, Suite A, Evanston, Wyoming 82930. Consider making the following recommendations:

1. No oil and gas leases in the analysis area, particularly the roadless area south to the North Slope road.
2. No timber harvesting. Maintain all old growth and old-growth related species. Do not fragment habitat with timber harvesting or road-building.
3. Close the Bear River Smith's Fork Trail and all roadless lands to vehicle use.
4. Reduce the number of sheep using the analysis area. Analyze the grazing allotments and the driveway.

— George Nickas, Utah Wilderness Association
from *Utah Audubon Society News*, September 1991

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 pm. The BAS Planning Committee meets the following Wednesday, October through May, in the Logan Library at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

President	Val Grant, 752-7572
Vice President	Dawn Holzer, 753-6047
Secretary	Tom Gordon, 752-6561
Treasurer	Susan Robertson, 752-4598
Conservation	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Education	Kayo Robertson, 752-3944
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Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Pat Gordon, 752-6561
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Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268
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1989-92:	Larry Ryel, 753-8479; Bob Atwood, 752-9284, Office, 753-0012
1990-93:	John Barnes, 563-3910; Rebecca Echols, 753-2367 Richard Mueller, 752-5637

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

National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

☐ My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

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Bridgerland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84321

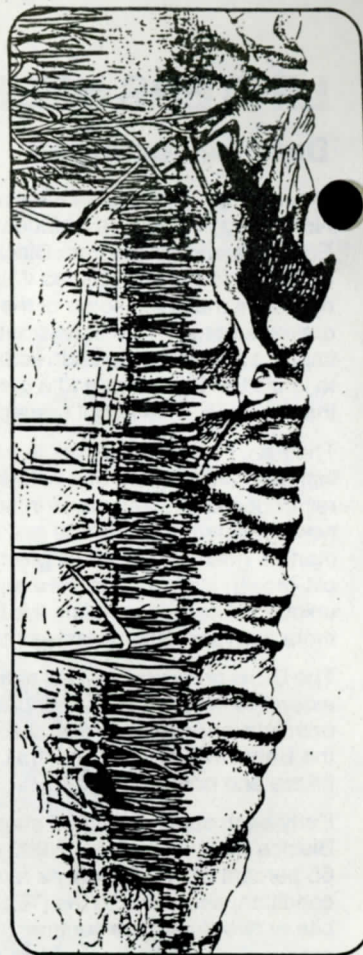
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Subscriptions to *The Stilt* are available to non-members for \$5.00 per year. Call Tom Gordon, 752-6561.

THE STILT

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