

Men



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 20, No. 3

Upper Northern Utah

November 1991

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS AT LOGAN HIGH

LEAF, Logan Environmental Action Force, was formed last year at Logan High School. This group of very dedicated, energetic and talented students has made a substantial difference in the environmental awareness and behavior of Logan High.

During it's first year, LEAF accomplished the following:

- a) Designed and sold over 60 LEAF T-shirts to students, faculty and families.
- b) Placed a recycling container in every classroom and serviced them weekly.
- c) Placed aluminum recycling bins in the hallways.
- d) Transported paper from Mt. Logan Middle School to Allsop's for recycling.
- e) Established the first "Earth Week" at the high school with activities including contests, assembly, classroom activities and tree planting.
- f) Prepared a booth at the USU Environmental Fair.
- g) Circulated a petition, collecting over 300 signatures from individuals, which was given to the County Council encouraging them to take action on a recycling plan for the county.
- h) Assisted with field trips for local environmental education programs like "Outdoor Adventures" of the Cache District.

This school year LEAF plans to add the following projects:

- a) Prepare skits on recycling and other environmental themes for elementary schools.
- b) Coordinate projects and activities with the Cache Recycling Coalition and USU.
- c) Assist with development of Stewart Nature Park in Logan.
- d) Sponsor retreats which will get other valley schools interested in participating in similar events.
- e) Adopt the National Forest Wind Caves trail.
- f) Establish a "Junior Naturalist" chapter at LHS to provide field trips for elementary schools.

If you would like to become involved, give us a call!

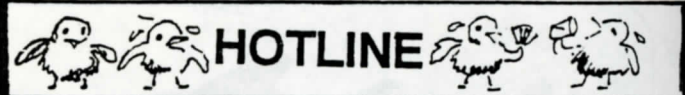
— Jack Greene  
752-7051

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# CALENDAR



**Saturday, November 9.** Hike to Wind Caves. This is an easy climb from the Logan Canyon Highway to the spectacular complex of caves. Townsend's solitaires should be defending their winter feeding territories with song. Box elder bugs will be hibernating within the caves. And we often find scats of porcupine, deer and other animals. A fine family outing. Leave at 1 p.m. from the Ladybird Rest Area south of Logan Golf Course. Return by 4 p.m. Carpooling.

**Thursday, November 14.** General Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main. "Proposed Clear-cutting in Southern Utah Forest." Scott Smith, local photographer extraordinaire and Bill Patrick of the Utah Wilderness Coalition will present slides and information on proposed timber sales on scenic Boulder Mountain. They are working to promote public awareness and encourage comments for the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement. This promises to be an evening of inspiring photos and social action.

**Friday, November 15.** Deadline for *Stilt* submissions. The editor welcomes material from regular or irregular contributors, long or short. Children's writing and artwork, and good news of any sort, are especially appreciated. Meeting this deadline helps us get *The Stilt* mailed on time.

**Wednesday, November 20.** Planning Meeting. All interested in the sundry doings of Bridgerland Audubon are welcome to attend. These meetings keep us aware of what all the officers and committee heads are up to. We'll gather at Bio-Resources, 135 East Center, at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, November 23.** Tour of Bird Feeders. This will be a visit to the homes of Alice Lindahl, Al Stokes and Martha Balph to see the various kinds of bird feeders and foods that prove successful in attracting birds. A feature will be the visit to Martha Balph's home where she has some 30 feeders of various kinds as well as bird houses. She will put out her special magpie food that draws in over 50 magpies each morning. Leave at 8 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return by noon. A fine trip for the family. Bring binoculars.

**Saturday, December 14.** Christmas Bird Count. Details will appear in the December issue, or call Keith Archibald (752-8258). Mark your calendar and plan to help make this a record year.

September 21. Veda de Paepe: one adult whooping crane, Rich County.

September 29. Keith Archibald: red phalarope, Logan's sewage ponds.

October 3. Larry and Ron Ryel: mew gull, Logan's sewage ponds.

October 9. Larry and Ron Ryel: herring gull, Logan's sewage ponds.

To participate in the give and take of Hotline information, call Kit Flannery, 563-5984. She's using her answering machine to help keep us up-to-date on sightings of interest.

## BARRENS REPORT

### Mid-September to Mid-October 1991

September 21 — Kit Flannery and I were amazed to find 63 sandhills, both young and adults, along the drainage area to the east of the ponds. The main pond held an interesting array of shorebirds: 34 greater yellowlegs, 51 avocets, 22 long-billed dowitchers and 20 Baird's sandpipers. The east side, some 450 ducks, mostly green-winged teal, with smaller numbers of cinnamon teal, gadwall, mallards, and others, fed and rested. Six ring-billed gulls and five white-faced ibises rounded out the assemblage. We also saw three pipits and another ibis along the Barrens road to the east.

October 1 — With the waterfowl hunting season scheduled to start on October 5, I wanted to get in one more survey of the area. Hordes of mosquitoes were waiting for my blood and seemed unduly eager to partake of it. After a few steps of "toughing it out," I slathered on the repellent. In the week-and-a-half since my last visit, the shorebirds had declined by about two-thirds. Avocets numbered 36, but they were accompanied by only one greater yellowlegs and six killdeer. The teal had pretty much left and had been replaced by a little over a hundred pintails, gadwalls and mallards along with a couple of redheads and one coot. A few ring-billed gulls stood on the shore. I heard one crane call, but did not see any.

— Larry Ryel

## BIRD HOUSE AND FEEDER KITS

As Holly Faire is not happening this year, Bridgerland Audubon Society will not be staffing a table for the sale and construction of birdhouses and feeders. However, some kits are available. Call Jan Young at 245-3645 (home) or 753-5502 (work) for details.





## ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND

### Birding with "Ol' George"

"Ol' George" as he's known locally, has one blind, milky-white eye and a questionable temper. The locals respect Ol' George for his intimate knowledge of the sloughs and backwaters that lace Florida's Kennedy Space Center, and for his legendary unpredictability. The visitor is cautioned about Ol' George in tones of respect verging on awe, with a clicking of tongue and slow shaking of head.

I was not at Kennedy for the birding, of course, but since I had a few hours of daylight each day I felt compelled to break in my brand new *Eastern* field guide. Kennedy is blessed with a bewildering variety of white wading birds. Not only are there snowy egrets by the hundreds and cattle egrets by the dozens, but also reddish egrets in the white phase, great egrets, and white-phase great blue herons. There are also glossy and white ibis, wood storks, gallinules, osprey perched on every telephone pole, and great flocks of turkey and black vultures, but distinguishing between the several white waders became my goal.

It rained constantly. It rained the sort of rain that westerners construe as punishment for something. Nobody in Florida seemed to notice, because Florida floats. But owing to the incessant rain, most of my birding was done from the car. Since the roads through the Space Center have no shoulders and offer scant parking, most of my birding was from a *moving* car. And since I was driving ... well, you get the picture. I explained my plight to one of the Kennedy folks, and he offered to take me to a place we could park for a while. I accepted his offer, and on my last evening there we went out to a backwater on the north edge of the Space Center. Egrets covered the grassy field on the other side of the slough; they perched in the moss-hung trees along the banks; gabbling petulantly, they strode back and forth in the shallows between the near bank and a mossy log undulating gently in the slough. It was a golden opportunity: the rain even let up momentarily. I eased out of the car.

"Y' awl watch out foah Ol' Jawudge, naow," my companion said as I slunk away through the sawgrass and palmetto. Seeing nobody around, I pressed on, determined to find out if those little egrets had yellow or black feet or, heaven forbid, the greenish legs of immature little blue herons. From where I was I couldn't see; the palmettos screened everything from me except a pair of anhingas drying their wings, cormorant-like, on a snag. I decided to move upstream a little to have a look at the group of birds in the shallows by the log. I crept around the palmettos as quietly as I could and peered into the shallows.

The log was gone. While I was trying to understand that, I heard my companion shout from the car, "Gawdon, y' awl bettah get yo' ayuss up heah NAOW!" His tone could have been no more urgent if he'd told me my pants were afire. I got up there. "Didn't I tell y' awl to watch OUT foah Ol' Jawudge?" he asked, looking over my shoulder. I turned around and looked into the biggest, toothiest yawn I've ever seen in my life. The missing log, aka "Ol' George," was an American alligator big enough to swallow a Buick. He closed his mouth with a soggy snap and stared at us for a moment with his good eye, dark and yellow-rimmed, and then slipped his 12-foot bulk back into the water. I'd never even heard him come out.

"We feed him road kill," my companion said while we drove back to the parking lot where I'd left my rental car, "so when he sees folks, he thinks 'heah come the vittles.' He ain't never chased nobody, since about a month ago, but he has ornery spells now an' again. Now an' again, he surely does."

I'll probably go to Kennedy again, and I'll probably even do some birding, as time permits. Assuming, of course, that I stop hyperventilating.

—TJG

Coming soon  
to a wall near YOU...!

**WILDLIFE  
WATCH**

### 1992 Calendar

- Beautiful full-color photos by Chris Mortensen (Logan)

- Field-guide and behavioral info

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

- Tracking and identification data



M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
R	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
C	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
H	29	30	31				

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## COUNTING CRANES WITH THE DWR

Dawn was just lighting the Eastern sky as I parked at Benson Marina Thursday, September 19. Stars twinkled high overhead while Western grebe, coot, Canada geese and sandhill cranes chatted to each other across the calm black water. Water levels were down several feet, adding a musty odor to the cool air. I was soon joined by my guide for the morning, Joel Huener, from the Division of Wildlife Resources, who had agreed to show me how he determines the percentage of sandhill crane chicks in Cache Valley each fall.

We headed north toward the Barrens, passing through many morning fog banks, and began the search for flocks of quietly feeding cranes. Joel pointed out a white great egret to me, noting the distinctive black legs. Another first on my life list! He explained that our goal for the morning was not to count every crane we could find, but to survey as many flocks as possible in the areas where they traditionally fed at this time of year. We had to complete the task quickly for three reasons: 1.) the flocks move around between fields; 2.) heat waves form to distort the slender crane images; and 3.) the cranes return in late morning to the riparian vegetation to rest. My prior crane counting experience had been at a leisurely pace and I asked Joel for some visual clues to help spot cranes faster. He suggested, for distant scanning, looking for the tall pale-colored post-like image, with a bent top, the head. Note if the objects are evenly spaced, because cranes space themselves out when feeding in a flock. But, he cautioned, without a spotting scope, even distant bales of hay suggest large flocks. Joel has repeated this twice-each-fall survey for several years and knows just which farmers have recently harvested their grain and which meadows the cranes frequent for breakfast. We rolled quietly up to our first group in a fog-shrouded meadow and Joel quickly hoisted a spotting scope to the truck window glass. First he counted all the members of the flock, then meticulously examined the head of each flock member for the telltale red patch, present only on birds over one year old. If members of the flock flew off before Joel was certain of their age, we dropped that flock from the survey results and moved on.

We zig-zagged the roads of the Bear River drainage for four hours, stopping 12 to 15 times. In meadows, alfalfa stubble, pastures and grain stubble, flocks ranged from only two to 130 birds. In three weeks all would head for the wintering grounds in New Mexico and Old Mexico

near and on the lower Rio Grande. In addition to noting their heads, Joel scanned each leg for any I.D. bands, and wings for the distinctive black and white plastic streamers of previous capture studies, but found none.

When we finished, the survey showed 6.5 to 7 percent of Cache Valley flocks to be young of this year. Joel said 6.0 to 8.0 percent is average for most years.

Each week's ground survey is matched by an aerial count, the goal of which is to tally every single crane in their traditional fall staging area in one morning. On September 25 I once again had the pleasure of joining the DWR and Joel Huener to observe the second half of a fall crane count, this time from the Cessna 185 sky wagon. An aerial count is usually a three-person project. Joel counted from the left side of the plane, Sam Manes counted the right side from the copilot seat and our able pilot Carl Downing flew our plane and searched far ahead for the next animals while we counted what we passed. From Ogden we flew first to Rich County. I was lucky. The morning was cloudless and calm, the hillsides a mosaic of red, orange, green, yellow, brown and silver fall vegetation. In the hill country, we flew over disinterested elk and mule deer, their antlers clearly visible. Pronghorn fled from the plane on the flatlands, but the cranes did not seem to mind our noisy flyovers. Headsets and microphones allowed us to talk through the roar of the engine and, because aerial counting of both Canada geese and cranes is so intense at airplane speeds, Joel and Sam each used a hand held tape recorder to compile their sightings. To our delight, we spotted a lone whooping crane in a flock of 70 sandhills. It stood almost a foot taller than the sandhills and its red cap was brighter than the other cranes. Its bilateral yellow leg bands identified it as a member of the Idaho transplant experiment. Sadly, Sam noted that only 13 to 14 transplanted whoopers remained alive, none had reproduced and the project was being phased out. Next we winged south of Bear Lake to Cache Valley and finished the morning crossing and recrossing the western half of the county in search of cranes.

I am grateful for this opportunity to participate with the Utah DWR. I gained a new perspective on crane surveys and added two new birds to my life list. The final figures given were; Cache County, 867 sandhills; Rich County, 482 sandhills and 1 whooper.

— Veda DePaepe





## HAWK HIKE

October 5, 1991

While the annual climb to the Wellsvilles is billed as a hawk watch it is far more than that. When Steve Hoffman first suggested to me that I make that 3000-foot climb I thought that madness. But each year that I have made

this trip I continue to get the greatest of satisfaction. To be sure it is spectacular to watch the hawks and eagles go zooming past as they glide southward on the strong updrafts from the westerly winds. But I find the three hours spent with others on the way up equally satisfying. The 40-odd people that made the trip on October 5 were strung out over a mile or so as each sought companions with the same stamina and interests. Deep Canyon is well named, for we were almost to the ridge before the sun shone down on the frosty trail. The scenery changed steadily as we climbed, first through brilliant mountain maples, then willows and finally into aspen, fir and great masses of mountain ash with a heavy, heavy crop of orange and red berries. By the time each group had reached the ridge top where we all gasped at the breathtaking view out over the Salt Lake Valley we had gotten to know each other well.

With only gentle westerly winds the hawk flight was low. There were masses of lady-bird beetles beneath the few small sagebrush clumps and amidst the rocks, where they will hibernate. Deer and coyote droppings made me wonder if those animals enjoy the good view, too, for their food supply there must be minimal. Between watching hawks come by we all had a grand time socializing or basking in the warm afternoon sunshine. Don't miss out on this trip next fall.

— Al Stokes

## TREKKING FOR TROGONS

"Good afternoon, this is the North American Rare Bird Alert #91-138, August 18, 1991. We have reports of continued sightings of three to five eared trogons at the upper end of Ramsay Canyon, 1,000 vertical feet and one and a half miles above Mile Hi, between the Narrows and Hamburg Meadow."

My serious birding companion, Larry Ryel, phones me with this recorded news from his subscription Hot Line.

And soon we head south to locate the 'wetbacks' strayed 10 miles across the Mexican border into Arizona. Having done so, they are now fair game to North American bird listers.

Two days later, we start up the Huachuca Mountains; I am surprised at this oasis after days of desert. We hike through sycamores and horsetails, past endemic frogs, watch acorn woodpeckers play Chinese checkers with acorns. Up we go, through alligator juniper, oak and manzanita, past coues' deer and gray squirrels, over a fault line . . . serenaded exquisitely by canyon wrens and harshly by Stellar's jays. We step across Ramsay Creek's waterfall and start up to the meadow, into Coronado National Forest.

We are passed by two birders heading down canyon. "Someone at the meadow already heard them heading down," they offered. We ask what the call sounds like. "Oh, once you hear it, you'll know . . . Sort of like a barking fox attacking cackling chickens." I stop to laugh, catch my breath, and see painted redstarts, red-faced warblers and bridled titmouse (mice)s.

We trudge past two birders just sitting in the forest and ask if they've seen the trogons. No, but their cousin had, just three days ago at this very spot. "They only perch in pine trees and are silent . . . never make a sound."

Three aerobic birders puff past us up the trail. "They leave the meadow by 10 a.m., you'd better hurry," they gasp. Four people stride quickly down-canyon, "They flew squawking over our head minutes ago." What did they sound like? "Exactly like if you rub your hand over an over-inflated balloon . . . believe me, you'll know it when you hear it." Hamburg Meadow, smaller than my lawn, produces more birders but no cackling, barking, rubbing. Someone offers, " . . . the sound is like a combination of these gray-breasted and Steller's jays, only different, but you'll know it when. . . ."

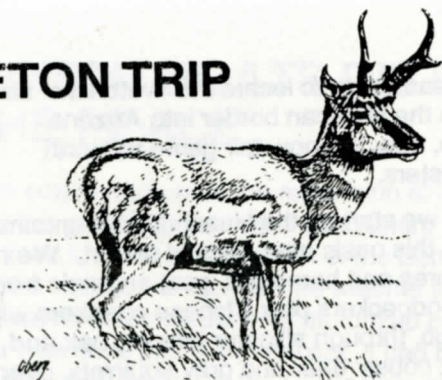
We'd also heard they/it appears regularly at the overlook at 4 p.m., so down we head to wait with others. Nothing, except a really strange person without binocs or camera running up the mountain, adding to his particular list of conquests. Thirteen of us have crossed paths all day by now . . . from can't see to can't see. And it becomes apparent just how ludicrous this is, so we laugh and joke. I'd like to end this by reporting that the minute we relaxed and quit trying so hard, the beautiful red and greengreen birds circled rewardingly above our heads. However, what did circle, and only 40 feet above our sweaty bodies, were four turkey vultures casting huge, pterodactyl-like shadows over us.

We left the mountain, at least for that day, outsmarted by a bird, or three, or perhaps five. But since I've learned that the choicest birding spots in the world are usually stinking sewage ponds and rat-infested dumps, this particular day spent hiking an oasis was absolutely delightful to me. Of course, I'm not a lister but this is my story, her story. Serious birding companion probably had other thoughts about the day. But that's his-story.

— Kit Flannery



## TETON TRIP



Warm, sunny days and cool, clear nights marked this year's BAS trip to the Grand Tetons. About 40 participants made Gros Ventre campground their base for the weekend's activities.

On Saturday morning the "magic," as Terry Barnes puts it, began with a sighting of a bull moose in a field not too far from the campground. Eagerly equipped with our binoculars, cameras, etc. we stalked after him until he ambled our way and we all beat a hasty retreat. What a fine way to start the weekend!

Next, our caravan of a dozen cars, vans and trucks came upon a herd of pronghorn (Are they true antelope?). The male had a restless harem of 14 females, and one of them actually fled from the herd. The male dashed madly after her before deciding to quit before he lost the rest of the herd.

Along our way to the Teton Science School a bull moose and two cows were spotted lounging in an aspen grove. At the Murie Museum we were fortunate enough to run into Eric Stone, curator, who let us view a video on Mardie Murie and her lifelong work to preserve wilderness. She is truly an inspiration to us all.

After lunch we were off to the Gros Ventre Slide area. Everyone hiked down to the lake and took various routes back. Hiking on top the debris "dam" of the slide gave an idea of the immense proportions of the slide. We even heard a few pikas—eeenk eeenk!

That evening we listened to elk bugling. For those of us who hadn't heard an elk bugle before this was quite a treat! Even our nightly entertainment—guitarists Dave and Rick—couldn't quite match that sound (although they tried while yodeling!)

Before dawn on Sunday Terry Barnes took a group to Lupine Meadows to see what they could of predawn wildlife. The university van group went on a delightful hike up Death Canyon. Contrary to its name the canyon was full of life—ruffed grouse, pikas, lots of squirrels and chipmunks, too.

Even though we all missed Al and Alice the weekend was quite a success. The van group's dinner meals were yummy and filling (special thanks to Jeanne Sullivan). Let's hope next year's weather is just as good!

— Christine Beekman

## Minutes from

## OCTOBER PLANNING MEETING

The BAS Planning Meeting took place on 16 October 1991 at Bio-Resources. Significant reports and decisions included the following.

- Heard from Jay Bagley on the current status of state-wide planning efforts and agreed to support a call for an independent review of reports funded by water development proponents;
- Elected to suspend campus aluminum recycling as not cost-effective, and to supplant the income from it with income from the new paper recycling effort;
- Heard a report from Pat Gordon on the status of the paper recycling effort;
- Agreed (with Alice's acceptance) to nominate Alice Lindahl to be the Rocky Mountain Regional representative on National Audubon's Board of Directors and to seek support for her nomination from the other Rocky Mountain Audubon Councils;
- Heard a report from Kennita Thatcher and agreed to support her efforts to begin a walking/hiking club in Cache Valley;
- Heard from Larry Ryel about his and Keith Archibald's progress on updating the Cache Valley checklist;
- Asked Jan Young to investigate the feasibility of BAS' participation in "Novemberfest" at the Recreation Center in lieu of this year's cancelled Holly Faire;
- Heard from Alice Lindahl on National's efforts to form a population committee and agreed to join in a Utah coalition with the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and Planned Parenthood in support of this committee;
- Heard a report from Alice on her visits to Representative Jim Hansen's office regarding wetlands legislation and his interest in supporting Audubon-sponsored amendments to the Hayes bill;
- Heard from Alice about National's interest in an Audubon Sanctuary in Utah and the extent to which they are willing to support it;
- Received a report from Dawn Holzer on November's general meeting and discussed the nature and philosophy of the general meetings; and
- Discussed the Annual Meeting including speaker search committee, banquet arrangement and slate of officers to present.



## LEADERS NEEDED FOR KIDS' OUTINGS

Although our pre-school and Junior Audubon field trip programs have been very successful, Kayo now has a full-time J.O.B. I teach fourth grade at a local elementary school. The job seems to require about 10 hours a day and a good chunk of the weekend. I am ready to step down, or at least back, from my Chair at the Audubon Education post. Any takers?

Our field trips for kids have become so popular that we have had to turn away a few dozen applicants for each trip just to keep numbers manageable. The groups have grown so large that we no longer advertise. We have had a good response of teen and adult help on these trips, but so far no one has been willing to lead an outing. I will continue to work with Steve Archibald and the Junior Naturalist group. Unless a new leader is forthcoming the pre-school program will have to go on the back burner.

Last Friday and Saturday saw 40-some kids, aged five to 14, high in the Bear River Range, writing about natural history. We've worked with some of these students now for nearly two years. They would rather be in the field with their notebooks on a Saturday morning than home watching television. This doesn't surprise me.

The limiting factor on these programs is simply a lack of adults willing to roll up their sleeves and head for the hills with a car full of kids. If you think this type of effort might be for you please call Kayo Robertson (752-3944) or Steve Archibald (753-8488).

— Kayo

## THE INNUMERABLE STILT

In a former life, in a State far away, I used to write more than my share of technical reports. The rules of scientific writing dictate that one must refer to periodicals by volume and number, not month.

Thus, when I decided to arrange my accumulated *Stilts* in order, I discovered that a most fascinating and original system of numbering had been used. At first I thought this had been designed by very ingenious people who wanted to thwart scientists from ever being able to cite an article from *The Stilt* in a scholarly publication. But that's "nonsense." Everybody wants to see his or her name in print. It has to be more sinister than that. I now favor a "coded message" hypothesis. The problem here is that I am unable to crack the code. My training in advanced algebra, the calculus, infinite series, differential equations and mathematical statistics was of no use here. Like-wise several years of practical experience, such as counting dead loons and deer droppings, provided no clues either. Therefore, I will present the data and perhaps one of you readers can solve this enigma.

Supposedly a *Stilt*-year begins with the September issue

and runs through the following June, 10 issues in all. Sounds simple, but let me continue. For example, in 1986-87 there was no September issue, so that October's *Stilt* became Volume 15, Number 1 or 15 (1) in a literature citation. What follows is most interesting. What I suppose was the November issue has no volume, number, month nor year given. There was no December issue, but January 1987 was 15 (3) followed in order by 15 (4), 15 (5), 15 (6), and 15 (7). Finally there was no June issue. Continuing, September 1987 was Volume 16 Number 1. The issues that follow, October 1987 to June 1988, were numbered in order: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Curiously for Volume 17 (1988-89), the sequence was almost perfect: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 1, and 9. At this point, I was ready to believe that 10s were forbidden, but read on. The numbering for Volume 18 (1989-90), was very peculiar: 1, 2, 4, 5, none, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 10. This was the only year of the five described here that got all the way to 10 and it had two! I know it's hard to believe, but things get curiously and curiously! Volume 19 (1990-91) began with 19 (1) followed by 19 (2), 19 (2), 18 (3), 18 (none), and the rest of the issues have no volumes or numbers at all! Now speaking as a statistician, I consider it highly improbable that these year sequences contain merely random errors. Furthermore it appears a real conspiracy is involved. The *Stilt* had at least three editors during these five years.

I have exhausted all my avenues of investigation. I hope one of you can solve this problem. Perhaps the science of numerology, with which I am not familiar, will prove useful. Gamblers may notice "pairs" and "flushes" and other clues here.

At any rate, is it any wonder that the *Stilt* keeps winning National Audubon Society awards? I for one will be eagerly awaiting each and every issue of Volume 20 (or whatever).

— Larry Ryel

*Editors' Note: Ah, sweet mystery of life . . . who can say what surprises Volume 20 will bring? Will this be the year we get it right? Be sure to stay tuned (subscribed) for the next thrilling installment of "Newsletter Numerology."*

*Ex-Editor's Note: Picky, picky, picky!*

## WASATCH AUDUBON HONORED

National Audubon Society President Peter Berle presented our neighbors in Ogden with the "Outstanding Education Achievement Award" for sponsoring "Audubon Adventures" subscriptions for 61 classes. Students reached were tallied at 1,952. Congratulations to Wasatch Audubon for this impressive accomplishment.



## MOTOR BOATS DISTURBING THE PEACE

I am concerned about the expansion of motor boating and the proliferation of semi-permanent water ski courses in the marshes south of the Benson Marina in Cache Valley. As an avid bird watcher and paddler I am dismayed at the intrusion of motorized boating in an area that was once prime bird habitat. I had heard that the plan for re-licensing of the Cutler Dam set aside the area south of the Benson Marina for non-motorized boating. Until last year our informal group of Wednesday evening paddlers frequently visited the area and were able to view an abundance of waterfowl in the area.

Last year a water ski course was set up south of the old railroad bridge abutments. One evening we were almost run down by two men (water skiers) who purposefully came as close as possible at full speed to terrorize us. This year there are two additional water ski courses in the vicinity and no birds to be seen when the motor boats are around. At least one additional water ski course is set up north of the marina.

High speed motorboats are not compatible with canoeing or wildlife. The marshes adjacent to Cutler Reservoir are prime waterfowl nesting areas. Due to the speed (and subsequent noise) desired by skiers, just one motorboat in the vicinity precludes the enjoyment of non-motorized boaters and surely must affect wildlife populations. We've already "written off" enjoyable access to Hyrum, Porcupine and Newton Reservoirs during the water ski season. We are concerned about the further encroachment of high-powered motor boats in this sensitive ecosystem.

What is the plan for controlling the expansion of motorized boating in the marshes in Cache Valley? Once a water ski course is established it will be very difficult to eliminate that use in the future. The water skiers are establishing "ownership" by setting up permanent courses. If the intention of the re-licensing plan for Cutler Dam is to limit motorized boating in portions of the marshes, restrictions need to be implemented now. If there are plans to limit motorized boating what are the plans for enforcement? Our experience of being terrorized by the water skiers last summer leads me to believe that simply posting signs will not be enough.

— Jean Lown

*Comments may be addressed to Stan DeSousa, Director of Hydro Engineering, PacificCorp, Public Service Building, 920 S.W. Sixth Ave., Suite 1000, Portland, OR 97204*

## WAYNE WADES IN FOR WETLANDS WORK

Beginning July, the Rocky Mountain Region of National Audubon has hired me to work as a Utah Wetland's Coordinator on a part-time basis. Also, I will continue working as the lobbyist at the Utah Legislature for the Audubon Coordinating Council of Utah.

The Utah wetlands effort is important, in part, because the Great Salt Lake and its surrounding marshes is such a vital area for the Pacific and Central flyway. The Utah effort is of even more importance now, since the Great Salt Lake is receding and there are major planning efforts underway which will greatly affect the lake. One effort that would improve the northern Great Salt Lake wetlands is the attempt to fund enhancement and expansion of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Two other major efforts under way include development of an Intermountain North American Waterfowl Management Plan Joint Venture and an attempt to develop a Utah Wetlands policy.

In order to ensure vital grassroots assistance to protect wetlands, a Wetlands Coordinating Committee has been established under the auspices of the Utah Council. This wetlands committee mission is to preserve and enhance Utah's wetlands. The committee has established the following four subcommittees in order to work on this mission: Policy planning and permitting; Technical information; Education and public information; and Acquisition. Alice Lindahl and Jack Greene are both helping with this effort. Other Bridgerland members are encouraged to help as well.

Working in the Utah Wetlands Coordinating role is an exciting and wonderful challenge/opportunity. With the help of Audubon members and in coordination with others we can help preserve and enhance Utah wetlands.

Please feel free to call me about Utah wetlands or Utah legislation at 355-8110.

— Wayne Martenson

## WETLANDS COMMENT DEADLINE POSTPONED

In October's *Stilt*, NAS asked for comments on proposed changes to wetlands management guidelines, due October 15. Good news! We now have until December 14 to get it together. See the last issue for more information, or call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.





## BRINE SHRIMP: PAUCITY OR PLENTY?

We all know the basics: there are algae and brine shrimp (*Artemia salina*) and brine flies in the Great Salt Lake and not much else. The lake is too salty for fish to survive, but the shrimp thrive. They're not like edible shrimp but are fairy shrimp, best known as the "sea monkeys" fed to aquarium fish.

Bird watchers and wildlife biologists have known for a long time that these little delicacies fuel Wilson's phalaropes, eared grebes, shovelers and probably many more species. Most of us are unaware, however, that the Great Salt Lake is host to over 600,000 phalaropes every year during July and August. Wildlife Resources studies show that the Wilson's phalaropes arrive at the lake weighing 65 grams and depart on a nonstop flight to Argentina weighing 114 grams (on average) four to six weeks later after eating brine shrimp and brine flies. These flocks are estimated to be a large portion of the world's population. A large percentage of the world's eared grebes do the same. The lake, then, provides critical migrating stopover habitat for these birds. In recognition of this, the lake has been designated a site in the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network. It is one of only 13 such sites, and it qualified on the basis of the phalaropes alone.

But there is a new consumer on the scene. In the last decade the brine shrimp industry has mushroomed. There are presently 12 companies that scoop up the shrimp eggs during the winter, dry them and ship them overseas to be sold to the edible shrimp farming industry in Southeast Asia. Newly hatched edible shrimp are fussy eaters. They must have live microscopic animals (zooplankton) so newly-hatched *Artemia* are the cheapest way to satisfy the need.

The harvest of brine shrimp has increased from 400,000 pounds (200 tons) in 1985 to 11,000,000 pounds (5,500 tons) in 1989. That is a 28-fold increase due to increasingly efficient harvest techniques and favorable conditions for shrimp. During 1990, shrimpers harvested 6,000,000 pounds. The industry estimates that it made \$10 to \$11 million last year. It looks like brine shrimp are on the decline but the efficiency of harvest is increasing constantly.

The 1991 Utah legislature set up a task force on the brine shrimp industry to determine who should get the benefit of the fees and a share of the profit from the industry. I have been attending these sessions as an observer, and am very concerned that the state does not know if this harvest is detrimental to the birds and the shrimp. So far the brine shrimp have been treated like an unlimited resource. There is no attempt to limit the number of harvesting boats, the tonnage of harvest or determine what the need of wildlife is for forage on these organisms.

The Utah Wetlands Committee in the state is watching this issue and will keep you posted. The spectacle and flight of the phalaropes is comparable to other world class migratory flight sightings, and we in Utah should make this better known and be on guard to protect their food resources.

— Alice Lindahl  
Conservation Chair

## LAWMAKERS AND LOBBYISTS GET READY

Its time to gear up, once again, for the state legislative session. As usual, the legislators meet for six weeks in Salt Lake City in January and February. Utah Audubon will be there for the third year and so will many of our issues. Recycling, non-consumptive wildlife license, instream flow, are on the docket again. We expect the funding for a dam project on the Bear River to be pushed forward. Our program works because our members are willing to get legislative updates and call our legislators with Audubon's positions. We are very fortunate that our representatives are very approachable and welcome our participation.

If you would like to join the network, please fill out the form below and help us make a difference for Utah's environment.

— Alice Lindahl

YES, I want to join the Utah Audubon LOBBYING NETWORK and become informed about issues and contact my legislators.

Issues I'm interested in:

- ☐ wildlife
- ☐ water projects
- ☐ environmental health
- ☐ all
- ☐ other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to come to the capitol during the session.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

I can help in other ways (such as research, writing, artwork, mailing)

Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Return coupon to or call:

Alice Lindahl  
730 Hillcrest  
Logan, UT 84321  
753-7744



# RECYCLING

## Paper

During October a new recycling partnership was begun. Bridgerland Audubon is sponsoring a collection trailer for waste paper in cooperation with Redi-Therm, a cellulose insulation manufacturer from Salt Lake. The trailer is in Fred Meyer's parking lot, south of the store on 700 North. There has been concern over what this development will mean for Allsop's, the local insulation producer, but it was decided to support the improved convenience of the new system.

In spite of initial problems, the response has been encouraging. Fred Meyer's has not only provided space for the trailer, but contributes considerable paper and cardboard. At this writing, the trailer is approximately half full, thanks to many paper recyclers. Another helping hand came from Glenn's Electric, who provided signboards for the site.

The door to the trailer seems to present a problem. Many people leave their paper outside, rather than fuss with the unfamiliar roll-up door. Pretend it's a garage door—it's really easy to open. Then close it when you leave, please.

All paper is welcome—magazines, junk mail, newspapers, cardboard boxes. (Incidentally, if you're in need of boxes for mailing or packing, this is a good place to look. Re-use is the best form of recycling.) Wax paper and carbon paper are not encouraged, because they don't absorb the fire-retardant material used in the insulation.

Jeanne Sullivan has been keeping the vicinity of the trailer neat. Please help her by putting all paper inside the trailer. Stack it about five feet high, from the far end working toward the door. If any of you Auduboners see paper sitting outside, please take a few minutes to move it inside. We want to keep Fred Meyer's happy with this arrangement, and not let it become a problem for them.

## Magazines Recycled at Logan Library

Outside the entrance to Logan Library is a rack for informational materials and used publications. You can recirculate all your magazines there when you're ready to part with them. Word has it, the rack is full in the morning and empty by evening.

## Egg Cartons

Macey's has a rack for recycling clean styrofoam egg cartons. Another recycler, though it may seem unlikely, is the Logan Shoe Clinic. If you go in there, you'll understand. They have tortoises, lizards and birds in the shop, and apparently, some chickens at home. They sell amazing eggs, with shells like ceramic and whites that seem to be solid protein. They like to get the cartons back.

— Pat Gordon

# FREE POPULATION LECTURE

**John M. Paxman  
Salt Lake City  
November 14**

John M. Paxman, renowned expert on issues of family planning and population on an international scale, will address an audience on Thursday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m. The lecture will be held in the University of Utah Fine Arts Auditorium and is sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Utah and the Mormon Women's Forum.

Mr. Paxman, currently teaching at Harvard University, is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at Boston University, School of Public Health. In addition, he was Director of Policy Programs for The Pathfinder Fund, a consultant for International Planned Parenthood Federation in London, and a Research Associate in International Law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He has done strategic planning for the World Bank, Washington, D.C., and worked with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Pan American Health Organization and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

He will be speaking about extreme population positions that exist internationally, using examples such as Romania where forced childbearing was sanctioned, and China, where a restriction on the number of children born exists.

Somewhere between these two extremes, the U.S. exists, struggling with reproductive rights, the problems associated with increasing numbers of citizens living in poverty, and the environmental impact of a growing population. In addition, the U.S. is responsible in many cases for establishing criteria for the funding needed by third world nations to control their exploding populations. The political climate in this country plays a huge role in international family planning. The repercussions of those political decisions will be discussed from a global perspective.

The lecture is free of charge. For more information, please call Catherine Moore at Planned Parenthood of Utah: 532-1586. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744, to join carpool from Logan.



# NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY



## RETURN OF THE EGRET

A letter from Peter Berle, National Audubon President, contained the following: "We have heard from you and our members and our Board. Too many people don't like the flag, and we, as a membership organization, are responsive to your views. You have reminded us how important the egret is as part of our heritage. We agree and we will display it consistently. After the blue flag inventory is used up, you will see the Audubon name on our publication in conjunction with our classic egret . . . . At our recent Board meeting, the Directors passed a resolution, which I heartily endorsed, reaffirming our commitment to protecting birds and other wildlife and wildlife habitat. . . . This includes educating the public about the results of population pressures on the natural world, lobbying for water quality, wetlands protection and the safe management and minimization of wastes—as well as working for sound wildlife management and public acquisition of certain critical lands."

### Range War Show Sparks Trouble for Sponsor

Peter Berle also requested letters in support of Audubon's sponsor for the film, "The New Range Wars," about the devastation of our public lands in the West by overgrazing. The cattle lobby and the National Inholders' Association lobby have launched an all-out campaign to try to persuade General Electric to drop its underwriting of Audubon television. They are seeking boycotts of GE products and deluging the company with mail.

It is urgent that GE hear from the other side—from thousands of Americans who care enough about our message to write or call GE in support of Audubon television. He writes, "Please send a letter to GE as a private citizen, or call the number below. Praise GE for underwriting Audubon TV specials and request that they continue to do so. Every TV show we produce reaches 20 million Americans with a powerful environmental message. We need your help to continue these messages."

Write to: Mr. Jack Welch, Chairman of the Board, General Electric, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06431. Telephone (203) 373-2971.



## BIRDATHON, ANYONE?

Each year, National Audubon encourages each chapter to conduct a Birdathon, which is a fundraising/birdwatching event. Everyone involved gathers pledges, goes out and finds as many birds as possible, and participates in related parties, prizes, and profits. Half the proceeds go to the Western Region office, the other half to the chapter treasury. This event is something like the Christmas bird count, without boundaries and without the ice. In our chapter category, under 299 members, the winning chapters earned \$8,900, \$6,400, and \$2,800. In the Boulder, Colorado, office, Bob Turner and one other employee earned \$400.

Thus far, Bridgerland Audubon has not birdathoned. We lack a leader to take charge of it. Is there anyone out there, in the silent-but-listening membership, who would like to take this on? National provides plenty of helpful materials, including a slide show and a Birdathon ambassador program to help chapters get started. It would be a responsibility of limited duration, result in a day of fun for many, and bolster our well-tapped bank account.

If you are interested, call President Val Grant at 753-5370, or Pat Gordon, 752-6561.

## WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

The greatest threat to wildlife is loss of habitat. So in addition to research, education, and political action programs, National Audubon Society protects special rare habitats. We do this by buying, leasing, or volunteering to patrol selected areas.

For a brochure on these sanctuaries, write to National Audubon Society, Sanctuary Department, 93 West Cornwall Road, Sharon, Connecticut 06069; telephone (203) 364-0048. Some sanctuaries have limited access. You must make arrangements in advance. It is important to plan well in advance, since at some sanctuaries the wardens may have to meet you in a boat. There is no camping or picnicking allowed, but the wardens can direct you to suitable spots nearby. The wardens also provide birdwatchers with information about where to go and what to see.



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.



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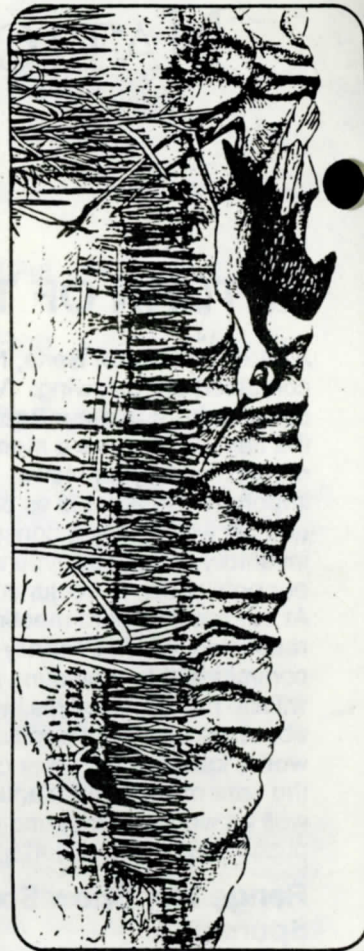
The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in the Meeting Room of the new Logan City Building, 255 N. Main. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. The BAS Planning Committee meets the following Wednesday, October through May, in the Logan Library at 7:00 pm. Everyone 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
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Pat Gordon, 752-6561
Circulation	Tom Gordon, 752-6561
Publicity	Bruce Pendery, 750-0253
Hospitality	Mae & Merv Coover, 752-8871
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268
Recycling	Marvin & Irma Moon, 753-4698
Legislation	Nadene Steinhoff, 753-0497
Trustees:	
1988-91:	Ron Ryel, 753-6077; John Sigler, 753-5879
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.

# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 3501  
Logan, Utah 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

LOCAL CHAPTER



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

W-52

Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA

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