

Memo



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 20, No. 6

Upper Northern Utah

February 1992

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS



Mild weather and smiling faces were the order of the day on December 14 when 50 bird watchers spent the day counting any and all birds seen in our Audubon Leica Christmas bird count circle.

Perhaps you noticed

the new name. Leica Optical Company has made a major cash contribution to help fund the C.B.C. This will allow Audubon to maintain the participation fee at \$5.00 for the next two or three years.

We counted 13,677 birds of 88 species. These are about average numbers for the last 15 years. This endeavor has become a yearly outing with good friends of both human and avian types. It never gets old to peek into an empty silo with a birding friend and see a handsome barn owl looking back at you.

Hawks are spending the winter with us in big numbers. Which would indicate that there are also lots of little furry critters to dine on. A total of 93 red-tailed hawks is the most ever counted on our C.B.C.

All six of the expected owl species were seen. No jays, nuthatches or creepers were seen. One winter wren

was a good find. Most feeder birds were down in numbers except juncos and American goldfinches.

This is a scientific endeavor and I appreciate the efforts of the area leaders and participants in being thorough and accurate. There were 50 participants who spent 113 party-hours and 483 party-miles. The results follow: Great Blue Heron, 6; Canada Goose, 504; Wood Duck, 16; Green-winged Teal, 14; Mallard, 242; Northern Shoveler, 28; Gadwall, 707; American Wigeon, 100; Northern Pintail, 10; Canvasback, 1; Redhead, 22; Ring-necked Duck, 278; Lesser Scaup, 86; Common Golden-eye, 84; Barrow's Goldeneye, 25; Bufflehead, 25; Hooded Merganser, 3; Common Merganser, 3; Ruddy Duck, 17; Bald Eagle, 9 (adults 7, immature 2); Northern Harrier, 32; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Northern Goshawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 93; Rough-legged Hawk, 58; American Kestrel, 36; Merlin, 2; Prairie Falcon, 3; Chucker, 4; Ring-necked Pheasant, 196;

Please see CBC on page 3.

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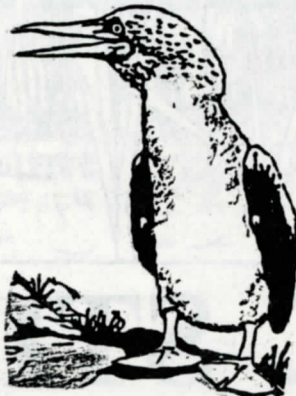
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# CALENDAR

## Thursday, February 13. General Monthly Meeting.

7:30 p.m. in the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 North Main. "The Darwin Archipelago, The Galapagos Islands." Jim Gessaman, Norbert DeByle, and Val Grant will share their various journeys to these magical islands. Jim, a biology professor at USU, Norbert, a forestry prof., and Val, an environmental consultant, are abundantly qualified to discuss present and future issues of management and conservation of these rare areas. Slides will feature exotic species of plants, reptiles, land and sea birds that have never developed a fear of man.



## Saturday, February 15. Deadline for Stilt

Submissions. Readers of *The Stilt* are interested in your birding experiences or anything newsworthy relating to the environment. Children's stories, reports, or drawings are especially welcome. Mail or deliver your submission to Pat Gordon, 718 North 200 East, Logan, Utah 84321. Call 752-6561 for further clarification.

## FIELD TRIPS

### Saturday, February 8. Conifers Among Us.

Bridgerland Audubon Society will hold a field trip to learn about conifers and their ecology. Rob Lilieholm will point out the common conifers growing on the Utah State Campus. He will help you identify each species by needles and cones and point out growth habits and value for wildlife and the timber industry. Leave at 1 p.m. from the Information Desk in the Taggart Student Center and return by about 3 p.m. The walk will stay on roads and sidewalks for the most part. A good family outing. All welcome and no reservations needed. If in doubt about the trip being cancelled because of weather call 752-4793.

### Saturday, February 22. Beaver on the Bear.

Observe beaver activity along the Bear River 10 miles west of Logan. Observe bank dens, food stores, trails and where beaver have cut trees. The trip will end with a marshmallow roast over a warming fire while trip leader Al Stokes talks about the history of the early fur trade in Cache Valley. Leave at 1 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return about 4 pm.

All welcome. No reservations needed. Carpooling available. A fine family outing. Be prepared to walk in snow.

### Saturday, March 7. Eagle Watch in Willard Canyon.

Watch bald eagles as they fly into their roost in Willard Canyon south of Brigham City. Eagles are seen from the gravel pit above Willard. But most hikers will want to make the somewhat rigorous 1,000-foot climb to a lookout for closer views of eagles and other raptors. Spring comes early on the sunny south-facing slopes with mountain bluebirds, butterflies and some wildflowers in bloom. For those remaining below there are easy walks on the level.

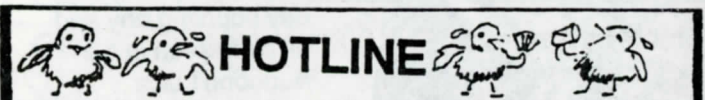
Leave at 11 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return at your convenience. All welcome. No reservations needed. Carpooling available. Bring a lunch. For further information call Al Stokes at 752-2702.

### Saturday, March 15. NEW TRIP. Eagles at the

Refuge. A close-up look at some of the 500 or so bald eagles on the Bear River Wildlife Refuge where they feed during the day from the dikes. Spring waterfowl migration will also be underway.

Leave from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot at 8 a.m. and return in early afternoon. Bring lunch and spotting scope. Dress warmly. Bear River Refuge staff will take us into portions of the refuge normally closed to the public where the eagles are undisturbed. Trip leader will be Larry Ryel.

If in doubt about the weather call 753-8479.



Yo, birders! There's been a little action on ye olde hotline despite the cold in the air. Some of you have already discovered that we got a new toy for Christmas—the long-awaited answering machine—and have been greeted by announcements from the Twilight Zone (courtesy of our 15-year-old son Patrick, who spends a lot of time there). Thanks for being long-suffering. We do edit for content but sometimes are sabotaged.

Howard Deer celebrated 1992 by birding on New Year's Day and was rewarded for getting the year off to a proper start with the sighting of a loggerhead shrike, in the marshes alongside the Bear River. He was driving on 3800 North, having just turned west at the T intersection at the river's oxbow in Benson, when he saw it. Four days later he saw a prairie falcon out near Logan-Cache Airport.

Reinhard P. Jockel and Al Stokes also rang in the new



year appropriately and spotted 29 birds, including lots of ducks at the Logan sewage lagoons. Their partial list includes green-winged teal, common goldeneye, mallard, gadwall, widgeon, shoveler, redhead, lesser scaup, ringneck, bufflehead, ruddy duck, coot and two Canada geese.

Reinhard also managed to spot Smithfield's elusive winter wren January 2 on Summit Creek by Mack's Park. It was exciting: "I grew up in Germany where I saw them a lot, and you can't mistake its song." On January 8, he saw a bald eagle on the canal that runs along Canyon Road in Logan. Bald eagles feed primarily on fish, so look for them around any open water in the valley from now until spring.

Providence had some excitement the first week in January when a Cooper's hawk began frequenting yards and feeders in the central area of town. Edna Berry called in the report and was greeted by one of our son's stranger messages. (Sorry, Eddy!)

Fifteen gray (Hungarian) partridge came down from the hills where they usually hang out to take a break along the airport road January 11, and Al Stokes spotted them that morning. It was the first time he'd seen gray partridge so far down in the valley, he said.

I personally have not seen one single out-of-the-ordinary winged creature lately, though I'm happy to say I keep company with a person who has. Spouse Bryan reports a flock of 100 black-capped chickadees descended on our suet feeder just minutes after I ran out of the house to do errands January 4. They returned January 5, again while I was on some mission of mercy, and have not been seen since. Every time I see one or two pairs of chickadees at our feeder now, he swears he is not making this up just to make me fall on my sword or something.

Thanks for calling, and please keep it up.

### Hotline Reports, December-January

12-16-91 Second ever recorded sighting in Utah of Yellow-throated warbler, in SLC's Liberty Park.

12-30-91 Cooper's hawk cruising feeders at Eddy Berry's in Providence.

1-5-92 Merlin perched in tallest trees, Larry Ryel's neighborhood, several days.

1-9-92 Raven, Kit's Quarter-acre; two Ravens sewage ponds, by Larry and Ron Ryel.

1-9-92 Hooded merganser, for several days at 20-20 pond, College Ward, by Larry Ryel.

1-12-92 Lapland Longspur, near west Ogden salt plant, by Larry and Ron Ryel.

1-12-92 Mergansers, 12 common and 6 hooded, on 20-20 Pond; a flock of tree sparrows on Mendon-Valley View Road, by Sue Robertson.

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

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Continued from page 1

Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1; Virginia Rail, 4; American Coot, 16; Killdeer, 6; Common Snipe, 39; Rock Dove, 835; Mourning Dove, 3; Common Barn Owl, 3; Western Screech Owl, 7; Great Horned Owl, 12; Northern Pygmy Owl, 2; Short-eared Owl, 23; Northern Saw-whet Owl, 5; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 22; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Northern Flicker, 79; Horned Lark, 53; Clark's Nutcracker, 4; Black-billed Magpie, 541; American Crow, 228; Common Raven, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 235; Mountain Chickadee, 6; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Marsh Wren, 2; American Wren, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 11; Townsend's Solitaire, 98; American Robin, 413; American Pipit, 1; Bohemian Waxwing, 8; Northern Shrike, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 44; Eurasian Starling, 4494; Rufus-sided Towhee, 16; American Tree Sparrow, 44; Song Sparrow, 59; White-throated Sparrow, 3; White-crowned Sparrow, 34; Harris' Sparrow, 1; Dark-eyed (SL Col) Junco, 2; Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco, 675; Dark-eyed (Gr-hd) Junco, 7; Western Meadowlark, 7; Red-winged Blackbird, 119; Yellow-headed Blackbird, 2; Brewer's Blackbird, 168; Cassin's Finch, 6; House Finch, 292; Red Crossbill, 6; Pine Siskin, 375; American Goldfinch, 336; Evening Grosbeak, 7; House Sparrow, 1469; American White Pelican, 1. Total Species, 88; Total Individuals, 13,677.

— Keith Archibald

## VAGARIES, VARIABLES AND VACILLATIONS

Since the conjunction of Winter Solstice and Full Moon, some strange sightings at Kit's Quarter-acre:

- ... male kestrel flew several times at dawn into my front porch where house sparrows roost at night
- ... juncos and starlings have practically taken over the peanut-butter feeder from the chickadees
- ... usually ground-feeding juncos feed inside a three-sided, elevated box feeder
- ... house sparrows and red-wing blackbirds have learned to semi-perch and quickly peck a seed before sliding off the narrow footpaths of hanging cylindrical feeder.
- ... have seen zero house finches with head tumors (whereas about 50% of males had the disfigurement last year)
- ... despite "expert" pronouncement, that birds have no feet feelings, most of my birds scrunch down on their cold feet when it is near zero.



Highest day-counts of five Januarys, of the most fluctuating species at my feeders:

Jan '88 — 40 Pine siskins

'89 — 4 "  
'90 — 38 "  
'91 — 43 "  
'92 — 1 "

Jan '88 — 13 Evening grosbeaks

'89 — 0 "  
'90 — 14 " (quadrupled in April)  
'91 — 45 "  
'92 — 0 "

Jan '88 — 4 Red-winged blackbirds (1st ever at feeders)

'89 — 74 "  
'90 — 137 "  
'91 — 35 "  
'92 — 13 "

Jan '88 — 15 House sparrows

'89 — 48 " (2 per week taken by Sharpshin)  
'90 — 14 "  
'91 — 4 "  
'92 — 71 "

All other feeder bird numbers stayed fairly constant over the years.

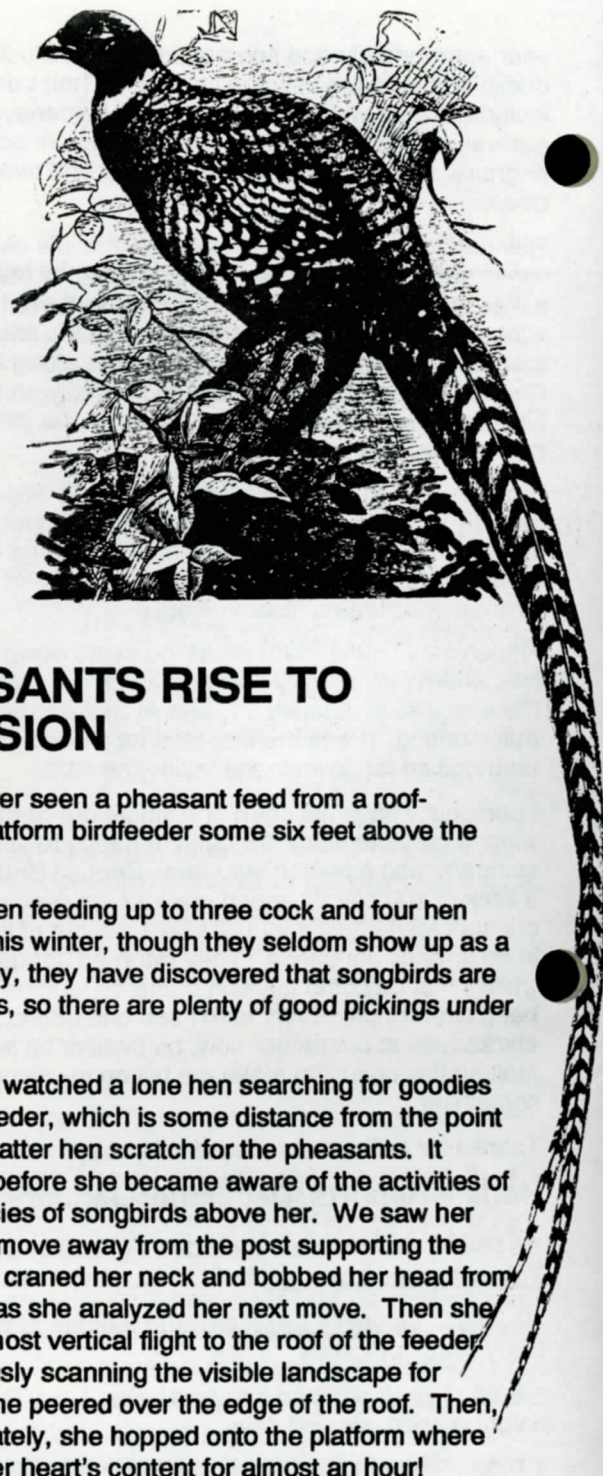
Also, the Christmas card bird count was down from the past four years . . . by 1/3 from last year's arrivals. Not one Puffin, nor any Chickadees appeared this year. However, I received two new species of owls to add to this particular bird-list.

— kit flannery

## BIRD REFUGE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 23, 1992, saw the return of the annual Christmas Bird Count to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Many thanks to Bridgerland Audubon, especially Val Grant, who diligently conducted the count during the past years when the refuge was unstaffed. This year's count was successful. The weather was overcast, but not too cold or windy for the birds or birders. Thirteen people participated in the count for a total of 18.5 hours, covering 109.25 miles. They counted 43 species (not including four additional species sighted earlier in the week but not on count day) and a total of 8,777 individuals were seen. Canada goose, mallard, and your friend and mine, the European starling, were the most abundant species. New species of special interest were a rock wren (seen by V. Arnold Smith and Keith Evans near Corrine) and a rosy finch (seen by John Barnes on the refuge). Thanks to all who participated, and I hope to see you all back on the refuge when the birds return in the spring.

— Vickie Roy



## PHEASANTS RISE TO OCCASION

Have you ever seen a pheasant feed from a roof-sheltered platform birdfeeder some six feet above the ground?

We have been feeding up to three cock and four hen pheasants this winter, though they seldom show up as a group. Lately, they have discovered that songbirds are messy diners, so there are plenty of good pickings under the feeder.

Recently we watched a lone hen searching for goodies under our feeder, which is some distance from the point where we scatter hen scratch for the pheasants. It wasn't long before she became aware of the activities of several species of songbirds above her. We saw her deliberately move away from the post supporting the feeder. She craned her neck and bobbed her head from side to side as she analyzed her next move. Then she made an almost vertical flight to the roof of the feeder. After cautiously scanning the visible landscape for predators, she peered over the edge of the roof. Then, very deliberately, she hopped onto the platform where she fed to her heart's content for almost an hour!

Oh, yes. She's been back several times since we first saw her make the big leap. On occasion she's been accompanied by one or more of her friends. However, they don't seem to catch on and haven't tried to follow her to this platform of plenty.

This is the first time we've had the opportunity to witness adaptation of species accomplished all in a short period of time. What's next? Will we be watching Cache Valley pheasants in fruit trees feeding on succulent spring buds? Will we, too, need to adapt, and begin to construct pheasant-proof feeders for songbirds?

— Merv Coover



## GOOD NEWS FOR SUNFLOWER SEED BUYERS

### Best Buy in Town

Bridgerland Audubon Society will be able to buy sunflower seed this fall for 15¢ per pound from the grower. We bag, transport and retail this at no cost to the chapter or consumer thanks to the good will of Tom Jones, Norb DeByle, Larry Ryel and Gar Workman. I hope you will spread this news so that we can maximize our sales for the benefit of the chapter and its programs.

Sunflower seed is available at the home of Al Stokes—1722 Saddle Hill Drive—for #15 per bag (plus \$1 deposit on the bag refundable on return, or bring your own container). Sales tax included. We think this is the best buy in Cache Valley. If nobody is home, just follow the instructions on Al's front door. 24-hour service 7 days a week.

— Al Stokes

Griffin Farm and Garden Supply at 730 S. Main St. is offering members of Bridgerland Audubon a 15% discount on all bird feeders and supplies. Take a copy of *The Stilt* as evidence of membership.

## LOBBYING FUNDS REQUESTED

Bridgerland Audubon is seeking funds to support the work of Wayne Martinson in the Utah Legislature. This is part lobbying and a lot of basic education of lobbyists on issues. BAS contributes \$330, or \$1 per member, from your dues. We are seeking \$2,000. The big issue this year is making sure that the state's "school lands" are managed properly. Teachers have introduced a bill to give them a greater say in how the lands are managed. We fear this might lead to unwise sale or commercial development of these lands—most of which are one-square-mile parcels entirely surrounded by other state or federal lands. Our lobbyist can be a strong spokesman for language in the bill to minimize the risk of unwise use. Your contribution of \$10 or more would be a great help. Make checks payable to the Bridgerland Audubon Society and mail to Sue Robertson, Box 3501, Logan, Utah 84321.

— Al Stokes

## WATCH FOR BANDED LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES

### Please

Hello, I am a graduate student in the Raptor Biology program at Boise State University, and am writing in search of some assistance with my research. I am studying sagebrush-nesting loggerhead shrikes in southwest Idaho. I used color bands to mark nearly 200 adult and nestling shrikes last field season. As far as I know, I am the only person color-banding loggerheads in the U.S., so any sightings of a color-banded shrike should be one of "mine." As you can imagine, I would be very interested in hearing about any banded shrike sightings, and that is why I am writing.

At present there is no good indication of where Idaho's shrikes winter, so even one observation would greatly increase our current understanding of these birds. Although Loggerhead Shrike populations are declining across much of their historical range, probably for a variety of reasons, the population in this portion of the country appears strong. A more detailed understanding of their habits may help explain other declines.

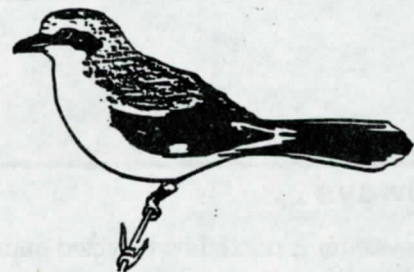
For this reason, I have concentrated my research efforts on this population, and am primarily interested in particular aspects of their breeding ecology. However, I felt there was a chance, admittedly small, that someone may happen across one on a winter territory. If you could keep this in the back of your mind on future birding jaunts, and pass it on to other local birders, I would really appreciate it.

Anyone who does sight one will be rewarded with a great deal of my gratitude, and I will happily send them a history of the individual bird observed (if the colors can be identified), as well as more information about my specific research. Thank you, and happy birding.

— Chris Woods

### ATTENTION BIRDERS

HAVE YOU SEEN  
A COLOR-BANDED



LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE?

Adult and nestling Loggerhead Shrikes have been color-banded to southwest Idaho, and any sighting of one on a winter territory would be greatly appreciated. If you spot one, please contact: Chris Woods, Raptor Research Center, Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725. (802) 385-3262.



# LOGAN CANYON OPTIONS WEIGHED

## Planning Meeting Report

December 18, 1991

Val Grant convened this special meeting to discuss our options with respect to Logan Canyon.

Steve Flint discussed the present state of the EIS concerning Logan Canyon. It shows some minimal descopeing from the DEIS, but only in areas where previously intended alterations to the canyon have not proved feasible. The preferred alternative still recommends options that significantly degrade the canyon. CH2M Hill is to issue the final EIS sometime in March; UDOT has scheduled no further public hearings on the EIS.

BAS' options are essentially four.

1. Public hearing: We could request and support an additional public hearing on the EIS.
2. Letter-writing campaign: We could man a telephone bank and call people to urge additional letter-writing in support of the Conservationists' Alternative.
3. Using Eccles grant: We could use the grant from the Eccles Foundation to support additional conservation- and education-oriented work.
4. Legal action: We can undertake legal action against UDOT if they continue with the existing Preferred Alternative.

We felt that at this point, since UDOT is not required to act upon public input, neither the public hearing nor the letter-writing campaign would be beneficial. We therefore approved proceeding with Jeff Appel's plan to arrange a meeting in January with UDOT to either come to a final agreement on the Preferred Alternative or tell them we will take them to court. We also approved seeking an individual to coordinate several proposed education-related activities including video production, public opinion polls, high school presentations and others.

— TJG

### As always . . .

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. It is also recyclable. We use soy ink for the printing process.



# EXEMPLARY RECYCLERS RECOGNIZED

On January 28, at the Second Annual Awards Dinner, the Cache Recycling Coalition gave recognition awards in four categories: individual, group, educational, and business.

Susan Crook, who served as C.R.C.'s first president and as chair of board during the first two years of C.R.C.'s existence, was honored with the individual award. Her countless hours of volunteer work and her outstanding leadership helped create a sound organizational structure.

The group award was given to River Heights' Civic Club for their efforts in promoting and in coordinating recycling activities in the River Heights area.

The educational award went to Ron Hellstern for his inspired teaching of ecology class students at North Cache Middle School.

Logan Regional Hospital received the business award. Their spectrum of recycling included such programs as the use of cloth diapers and the mulching of Christmas trees.

For C.R.C., in presenting the awards, there is happiness and satisfaction in knowing each award represents the work of many volunteers dedicated to recycling. Recycling is group effort based on individual commitment. With the award recognitions, we all can feel renewed in the need to make recycling succeed.

— Irma Moon

## PAPER RECYCLING ROLLS ON

Over eight tons of paper passed through our collection site at the Fred Meyers parking lot during January. Last month's wish was to fill the trailer every two weeks, and it came true! Redi-Therm Insulation pays \$20 per ton. With declining profits from sunflower seed sales and aluminum collection, these funds are important to the BAS treasury.

Thanks to all who have contributed. We're glad to take any and all paper products (except wax paper and carbons). Paper can be bundled, bagged, or just tossed into the trailer.

If anyone is willing to become the liaison with Redi-Therm, the job is open. Call me at 752-6561 if you have an impulse to help Bridgerland Audubon in this way.

— Pat Gordon





## CACHE VALLEY WETLANDS

The greatest threat to our local wetlands right now is piecemeal destruction. When a landowner wants to dump construction debris, he often chooses a patch of cattails on his property—an area he might view as “useless.” In order to enlarge a planting area, some farmers may drain a field where springs bubble up and create a wet meadow. An area that was a half acre, attractive to ibis, avocets, phalaropes and egrets, becomes a six-inch wide ditch that is no longer useful to us.

Many pastures in Cache Valley are classified as “wetlands” even though they are not wet for the entire year. Seasonal ponds also qualify as wetlands.

Many people are unaware that it is illegal to fill or drain a wetland without a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. This is true even on private land. The Corps will issue the permit if the permittee agrees to mitigate the loss. He or she must create a new wetland of comparable value and size in order to compensate for eliminating the old wetland.

If you see a wetland being filled or drained in Cache Valley, call me or the wetlands 404 permit volunteer (see want ads). We will find out whether the landowner has obtained a permit. If not, a mitigation plan can be devised or the owner may be required to reinstate the wetland.

We don't want to run roughshod on farmers. Many are having a difficult time keeping their farms functioning. They often create wetlands with leaking irrigation ditches and are then required to get a 404 permit if they fix the leak. It would help if those of us who enjoy watching birds in agricultural lands offer to lease wetlands from them or obtain an easement on the land which requires it be left in wetland in the future. Many farmers would welcome our attempts to find solutions to an otherwise confrontational situation.

If the area is to be drained to build a parking lot or industrial building, the permitting process can point to better available locations that will cause less trouble in high water years. The Logan Street Department informed me that there was a spring and marsh on 2nd East between 1st and 2nd North in the “old days.” In modern times the Logan crews keep pulling up the street to repair damage and put in new drainage pipes. How much nicer it would have been to have a park there with a pond rather than the frequent expense of forcing it to be a street. We paid a big price to keep the city blocks uniform.

— Alice Lindahl  
Conservation Chair

## ENVIRONMENTALISTS VISIT STATE LEGISLATORS

Representatives from Audubon and other environmental groups visited with our local legislators prior to their attending the legislative sessions in Salt Lake City.

Discussion with the legislators focused on management of the state school lands, a priority issue for the Audubon lobbying network. The group of educators, parents and students expressed the opinion, contrary to the official Utah Educators Association position, that the concern for our children leads to preservation of the beautiful lands that belong to them. To sell our unique landscape to the highest bidder for a short-term profit would be short-sighted and would cheat future generations.

Our lobbyists were pleasantly surprised at how much they enjoyed the visits, and felt that the meetings were truly productive.

Audubon thanks educators Jack Green, Lee Bodily, Steve Archibald and Kayo Robertson, all-round lobbyist Alice Lindahl, and students Heidi Blankenship, Cameron Brown, Dale Franchina and Heidi Green.

— Nadine Steinhoff

## SUPPORT SPONSOR OF AUDUBON TV SPECIALS

It is still important to express appreciation to General Electric for sponsoring Audubon shows like “The New Range Wars,” about overgrazing on public lands.

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



## WANT ADS

### Help Wanted

**Cache 404 Permit Reader.** The Conservation Committee needs a volunteer to read permits submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers to drain and/or fill wetlands in Cache Valley. This person would read about four permit applications per year, go out and find the site, and report to the membership if it looks like granting the permit will destroy valuable wildlife habitat. Contact Alice Lindahl, Conservation Chairman, at 753-7744 if interested.

**UWLC Representative.** Bridgerland Audubon needs a volunteer to represent us at the Utah Wildlife Leadership Coalition meetings in Salt Lake. This is a group of sportsmen's clubs and recreation clubs that attempt to protect Utah's recreational resources in the legislature and in the state agencies. The volunteer would need to drive to Salt Lake once a month to meetings held in the Div. Wildlife Resources building, usually a Tuesday evening. Contact Alice Lindahl, Conservation Chairman, 753-7744.

**Education Chair.** BAS has had a series of outstanding educators to lead local field trips and organize educational programs with schools. Once again, the job is open. Requirements: Love of the environment and a desire to share your knowledge and perspective with others. Audubon works to fill a need for environmental education in this area. Contact Val Grant, 752-77572 (home), or 753-5370 (work).

**Publicity Chair.** Basic responsibility: Promote BAS activities through notices in newspapers, posters, radio announcements. Improve public awareness of local Audubon efforts. This work is vital to maintain a vigorous organization. Contact Bruce Pendery, 750-6253.

**Coordinating Council Rep.** Attend bi-annual meetings with other Utah Audubon chapters. Sharing experiences and problems strengthens all of us in our common goals. Contact Bruce Pendery, 750-0253.

**Refreshment Elves.** Mae and Merv Coover are always glad to have help with the refreshments for the general monthly meeting. Baked goods or other edibles add cheer to the gathering, as well as increase the attendance. Call the Coovers at 752-8871.

**Paper Recycling Monitor.** This is mainly a supervisory position. Main responsibility is to call Redi-Therm when the paper collection trailer is nearly full, or when a problem needs resolving. Someone who frequently passes Fred Meyers could handle this job easily. The paper recycling saves a lot of paper as well as making money for BAS. Call Pat Gordon, 752-6561.

**Garage Sale Coordinator.** Come spring, we'll have another garage sale to advertise and staff. This is a big fund raiser, so you see your efforts pay off in \$\$\$ and \$\$\$\$. Call Alice Lindahl, 753-7744.

**Garage Sale Donors.** Don't forget to save those items you've grown beyond (in one way or another) for the spring garage sale.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION



American University  
Washington, D.C.  
June 13 - 19, 1992

For more information write to: Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Ave. #5, Boulder CO 80303.

## KLAMATH BASIN BALD EAGLE CONFERENCE

The 13th Annual Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference will be held February 14-16, 1992 at the Oregon Institute of Technology Student Union Building, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The Klamath Basin of northern California and south-central Oregon—home to over 170 species of breeding birds and world famous for spectacular flocks of migratory waterfowl—hosts the largest concentration of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states. The Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference coincides with the presence of wintering waterfowl and eagles so that conference participants can enjoy these magnificent birds. 1992 marks the Thirteenth Annual Bald Eagle Conference. The Conference originated in 1979 to educate people about the value of Eagles. The purpose of the Conference is to share information, increase awareness, and gain understanding of our wildlife resources . . . especially our national symbol, the bald eagle. This year's conference theme is: Ecological Health of the Klamath Basin.



# NATIONAL NEWS

## H.R. 4045 WOULD STRENGTHEN ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

A package of amendments that would significantly strengthen the Endangered Species Act has been introduced in the House by Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.). One provision would broaden the act to protect all endangered species in an ecosystem, not just those officially listed.

The bill, H.R. 4045, was introduced November 26 with 30 original cosponsors. Audubon and about 30 other conservation and civic groups are seeking cosponsors for the bill—the first step in a drive to strengthen the ESA, which is up for reauthorization. Audubon, instrumental in engineering the amendment to broaden the act, has launched a grassroots campaign to improve species protection. However, lawmakers influenced by development interests have introduced two bills to weaken the act and are expected to introduce others.

Though the existing ESA is considered a landmark law, Studds' bill expands the scope of the act by making it more "preventative," according to Randall Snodgrass, Audubon's director of Wildlife Policy. Under current law, species receive protection after they are listed as endangered and are often well on their way to becoming extinct. Additionally, there is a backlog of 3,800 species awaiting decisions on whether they should be listed.

Snodgrass says the amendment broadening the act to protect both listed and candidate species as well as the ecosystems they depend on will "propel the ESA into the 21st century."



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"These changes will make the law more proactive," he says. "They extend the goals of the act beyond conservation of species on the brink of extinction. It prevents them from ever reaching that point. It really does take the law a giant step forward."

The bill also emphasizes multi-species recovery plans for both listed and candidate species and their ecosystems. Current recovery plans usually focus on just one listed species. Other key amendments would:

- Set deadlines for recovery plans. Nearly one-third of all listed species do not have recovery plans. Deadlines would increase the pressure to enact recovery plans.
- Allow citizens to file suit immediately for violations of the act. Under a 1989 Supreme Court ruling, residents must wait 60 days before filing suit—even if a species is in immediate danger of extinction.
- Increase funding for the act to \$144.3 million by 1997. The act historically has been underfunded.
- Authorize federal agencies to enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which prohibits illegal trading of imperiled species.

Snodgrass says he expects a companion bill to be introduced in the Senate shortly after the congressional session begins in January. The House bill has been referred to the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Studds is chair of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, which will have jurisdiction over the bill.

### Action

Write to your representative and ask him or her to cosponsor H.R. 4045. Let your representative know that the act is a key environmental law that must be strengthened for the protection of species and their habitats.

### Contact

Randall Snodgrass or Jim Waltman, National Audubon Society.

— Steve Cusick  
from *Audubon Activist*  
January 1992



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 STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Logan, Utah 84321



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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.

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

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