



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 21, No. 1

September 1992

YARDBIRD OF THE YEAR

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Lands in Logan

An undertone of urgency was in the familiar voice that punctured my morning dreams: "Honey, come look," my husband said. "I think we have a rare bird in the yard."

I'm told I leaped out of bed. (I really can't remember things when I'm still asleep, but that's the story.) It was July 2, a cloudy morning, but even in the grayish light and before my first cup of coffee I could tell that the bird perched on the wire at the rear of our yard was a stranger.

The naked-eye evaluation indicated a very pale breast and long, dark tail. With binoculars we could see its dark eye and flycatcher beak, dark wings and at least two long tail feathers, the right one kind of skewed, or maybe a couple of inches shorter.

We got out the bird book. A scissor-tailed flycatcher? Couldn't be! Peterson's field guide picture was breathtaking, an elegant black-and-white bird trimmed underneath in salmon pink. We peered at our bird again. It obligingly preened itself, tucking head underneath wing and flaring its long, forked tail. Yes! It had pink wing linings!

We sneaked out the door to the deck and set up the spotting scope as quietly as possible. We hauled out Audubon's master birding guides and the 20-pound bird encyclopedia and looked at more pictures. Yes, it had to be a scissor-tailed flycatcher—but who would ever believe us?

We needed proof, confirmation from an unimpeachable source. When you see a UFO, the first thing you look for is someone very credible to vouch for your sanity.

So we phoned Larry Ryel, famous for his long life list (his world list was 2,263 as of December, 1991, and his Cache list is now 247). By the time he arrived the bird had flown—but miracle of miracles, just moments later returned to its same perch. Larry peered through the spotting scope. "There's no doubt about it," he said, pronouncing the hoped-for imprimatur.

Wow! We spent the next few minutes breathlessly enjoying little zinging feelings. Larry crept around the yard with a telephoto lens, shooting photos. He called his son, Ron. I called Terry Sadler's Utah Hotline in Salt Lake City. We marveled at the incredible good fortune—the genuine serendipity—that led this *rara avis* to land at the home of the BAS Hotline-keepers. Why here, we asked ourselves? Why us?

Please see FLYCATCHER, page 3.

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CALENDAR

Bridgerland Audubon Society

Field Trips

Friday-Sunday, August 28-30. Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge. This two-night camping trip to southwest Montana takes us to the home of trumpeter swans. We will camp in a woodsy lakeside campground with abundant wildlife. Last year's campers saw moose, coyote, fox, frog, chipmunk, and white-tailed deer, as well as many birds, including a magnificent whooping crane. Call Tom or Pat Gordon at 752-6561 for details.

Saturday, September 12. Kokanee Day. Bridgerland Audubon and Cache Sierra Club will assist the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in its First Annual Kokanee Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Division will be trapping kokanee just above the inlet to Porcupine Reservoir and taking eggs and sperm to get fertilized eggs to use for further transplants in reservoirs throughout Utah. DWR will also provide tables with information about kokanee. Bridgerland Audubon will help provide staff for these tables and lead visitors to places where they can easily see male kokanees establishing territories and courting females. It should be possible to watch California gulls catch kokanee as they are migrating upstream or drifting downstream after they have spawned. The exposed mudflats of the reservoir are excellent places to see tracks of raccoon and mink and coyotes. The viewing site is just 30 minutes from Logan. Volunteers may call Al Stokes at 752-2702 or leave names and phone numbers on the answering machine. No advance knowledge about kokanees is necessary. Volunteers will be trained on the spot.

Saturday, September 26. Hawk Watch on the Wellsvilles. Leave at 8 a.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return in mid-afternoon.

Saturday, October 3. Hawk Watch above Beaver Dam west of Logan. Leave at 1 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by 6 p.m., or take supper. Drive right to the lookout and later walk the half-mile to the lookout onto Cutler Reservoir. Hawks and natural history.

Friday-Sunday, October 9-11. Annual camping trip to the Tetons. Leave Friday afternoon. Camp at Gros Ventre Campground. Return Sunday afternoon. Observe elk bugling, moose, pronghorn, red squirrels, bison and the beauty of the fall foliage.

Saturday, November 7. Hike to Wind Caves. Leave at 1 p.m. from southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by 5 p.m. Geology, wildflowers, good fellowship.

Saturday, November 21. Visit to bird feeding stations

to observe winter birds. Leave at 8 a.m. from southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by noon. Beginners will learn how to build and set up feeders and what to feed birds.

Saturday, December 5. Birding in Benson. Leave at 1 p.m. from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. Return by 5 p.m. Winter migrants will be in the valley such as rough-winged hawks, tree sparrows.

Saturday, December 19. Annual Christmas Bird Count. Call Keith Archibald if you wish to participate. Telephone 752-8258.

A NOTE FROM CACHE HIKERS

The first hiking season of Cache Hikers has been terrific. I want to thank all the leaders for sharing such spectacular sights. The Cache Hiker Bulletin was typed and copied by Jim Sinclair. Thanks, Jim! Fall hiking continues through October.

Wednesday, September 2. High Creek Trail. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Information 753-8724 or 245-6064.

Saturday, September 5. Spring Hollow Trail. Meet at 8 a.m. Information 753-8415.

Wednesday, September 16. Leader's Choice. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Information 753-8415.

Saturday, September 19. High Creek Trail. Meet at 8 a.m. Information 753-0080.

Saturday, September 26. Audubon Hawk Trip to Wellsville Mountains. Meet at 8 a.m. Information 752-2702.

Saturday, October 3. Jardine Juniper Trail. Meet 9 a.m. Information 753-4284.

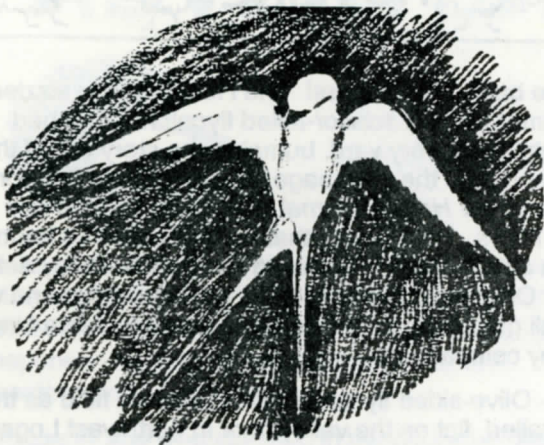
Saturday, October 10. Crimson Trail. Meet 9 a.m. Information 753-8415.

A potluck dinner is scheduled for September 18, 6 p.m. at 881 East 150 North, Logan (John and Kennita Thatcher). Bring a dish to share and utensils. We will review our first session and discuss possible winter outings. A video showing the eventful and beautiful Saturday hikes will be shown by Jan Sinclair. Join us. If you are interested in getting your name on our mailing list, call 753-8415.

Thanks to Bridgerland Audubon Society for its support!

— Kennita Thatcher

FLYCATCHER from page 1.



The scissor-tailed flycatcher is Oklahoma's state bird, a common roadside attraction from there through Kansas and west Texas. It's also a meandering sort, with sightings recorded in every western state. The last time its kind was spotted in Utah was three years ago, at Scofield Reservoir in Price Canyon.

Word began to spread, aided by our brainstorming over whom to call. Within the hour after Bryan first spotted it, the scissor-tailed flycatcher began to attract visitors. Ron and Corrine Ryel came first, and then Terry, Jessie and John Barnes. Tim Vitale, Keith Dixon, Al Stokes and Tom and Jan Lyon stopped by and we all stood, gawking, under the utility line while the bird munched grasshoppers. Clearly it wasn't bothered by open-mouthed humans. Everybody laughed and shook rueful heads about the fact that Keith Archibald, who probably has the longest Cache Valley bird list of anyone, was up Logan Canyon with his scout troop, missing this amazing morning. (Oh all right, I admit it, some folks were tickled pink that they'd now be one up on Keith.)

Robins and magpies began to notice and harass the visitor, driving it from its perch.

I put on more coffee. The sky got more threatening and finally spilled over in steady rain around noon. Reinhard Jockel biked through the weather, arriving minutes after the bird had disappeared. He stayed through lunch and had his patience rewarded when it returned. It had discovered a greater smorgasbord of bugs in the open field that borders our yard on the south, and was flycatching up a storm. More people came and went.

And then it was gone again. About this time, naturally, the first contingent from Salt Lake arrived—Terry Sadler, Ella Sorenson and her teenaged son, and Craig Needy. The Hotline people. REAL competitive birders—Ella and Craig are ranked first and second in the state in numbers of avian critters on their Utah life lists, and Ella edits Utah Birds. Nice, nice people who had canceled their afternoon appointments and driven 100 miles to see this rarity, which had suddenly vanished.

Would it come back? I made tea, put out some cookies and wished I possessed a guest book. This was turning into a genuine social occasion. The Salt Lakers spotted the flycatcher across the field and drove around the block to get a closer look.

By suppertime the sky had cleared and the late afternoon sunlight was bright golden. The bird was still out in the field, perching on fenceposts and wires, darting out into the weeds to catch insects and returning to its perch to eat them. In the clear light it looked spectacular, its pink and white underparts flashing beneath the black-bordered wings and tail.

Keith Archibald, home from the hills at last, was able to watch and photograph it until dusk, successfully defending his "title." He noticed it had some unusual companions—two olive-sided flycatchers, birds that usually stay higher up in the mountains.

Friday morning, July 3, the scissor-tailed flycatcher was still out in the field feeding, though it had moved a couple of house-lengths west. The weather was clear and cool with a light breeze, and since we'd watched it eat enough to fly clear to Texas without refueling, we figured it might leave any time. But it stayed through the day, showing off for another two dozen visitors including Merrill Webb, from Orem, and two cheerful BYU finance professors who came armed with spotting scopes and telephoto lenses as big as howitzers.

By this time I was giving guided tours on the west side of "our" field and had put a message on the phone answering machine giving directions to the flycatcher's most current location. Strangers were arriving, people who'd heard from a friend of a friend that there was a scissor-tailed flycatcher in the neighborhood. Everyone we met was cordial, polite and interesting; no "slob birders" came to our house. We enjoyed it immensely—although obviously it helped that I wasn't teaching this summer and had time to play hostess instead of having to trot off to work.

Saturday morning before dawn the flycatcher flew. More Salt Lake birders dropped in to see it a day late, but their trip wasn't a complete loss because they'd heard there were purple martins somewhere up Logan Canyon—did we know where? We did, and they went home happier.

Oh yes—and our own Alice Lindahl was talking to Marilet Zablan, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at a wetlands dedication in Salt Lake early in August, and Marilet told her about another biologist friend who'd seen a scissor-tailed flycatcher at the Bear Lake Overlook on July 30 but didn't tell anybody and had sworn Marilet to secrecy because everybody would think he was crazy if such a story got out . . . and we read in the *Jackson Hole News* that Grand Teton National Park hosted a scissor-tailed flycatcher on May 15 this year. They get around.

We still sit out on our deck and wonder whose pasture our flycatcher's hunting now. Meanwhile, we've nailed an Oklahoma license plate to the utility pole out back, hoping to make the place look more like home to the next vagrant. Just in case.

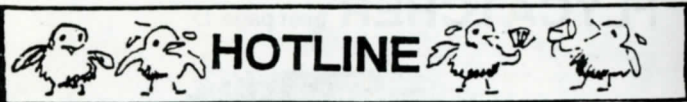
— Nancy Williams

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Fred Baker, Logan
Michael Blake, Logan
R. and J. Carpenter, Huntsville, Alabama
Dani Comer, Logan
Joanna Endter-Wada, Logan
Linda Hansen, Logan
Molly Hysell, Logan
Shaunda Kennedy, Logan
Karen L. Krieger, Logan
Karyn McCreary, Logan
Ann Rich, Smithfield
Yvonne Wilder, Smithfield
Paul G. Wolf, Logan

THANKS, RENEWING MEMBERS!

Grant Allen, Mendon
Odel and Pat Bodrero, Mendon
Max Elliot Brunson, Jr., Logan
John R. Carlisle, Logan
Chris Carlson, Logan
Donald T. Cundy, Paradise
Susan Douglas, Logan
Diane Driscoll, Logan
Edward and Deborah Evans, Logan
The Grah Family, Logan
Mr. R. Goodwin, Logan
Ms. Wendy Greene, Smithfield
Dr. Charles Hawkins, Logan
Dawn Holzer, Logan
Marilyn and Tom Jones, Mendon
Andy and Lauren Keller, Logan
Jennifer A. Levy, Logan
Mrs. Meredith Matlack, Los Alamos, N.M.
Austin McHugh, Logan
Barbara J. Miller, Logan
Louise Murch, Vernal
Mrs. Pickett, Logan
James P. Shaver, Hyrum
David Skabelund, Logan
Alan Stevenson and Catherine Sharpsteen, Logan
Dr. Robert J. Miller, Preston, Idaho
Kim Sullivan and Bruce Pendery, Logan
Kathleen VanSlyke, Providence
Mr. Woodrow J. Welling, Logan
Bruce Wilcox, Logan



Welcome back, *Stilt* readers! The Hotline really sizzled this summer when a scissor-tailed flycatcher touched down right in our very yard, bumping the story out of this column and onto the front page. It was hot enough for coverage in the *Herald Journal*, *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News*. Hot enough that we dedicated 48 hours between July 2 and 4 to throwing the Cache Valley debut party for Oklahoma's state bird. It was lots of fun and we hope y'all got to see it. Other Hotline entries seem kind of pale by comparison.

July 2 — Olive-sided flycatchers in the same field as the scissor-tailed, flat on the valley floor in northwest Logan instead of up in the mountains near Tony Grove Lake where they belong, first seen by Keith Archibald. (They stayed around until the weather heated up in mid-August.)

July 2 — Purple martins nesting in aspen snags along the Tony Grove Lake road, reported by Tom and Jan Lyon.

July 14 — An American bittern in flight at Valley View boat landing, plus about 10 black terns and western and semipalmated sandpipers at the sewage lagoons, reported by Alice Lindahl. She also spotted young sandhill cranes with their parents along Valley View highway.

August 16 — Cormorants are hanging out at Tony Grove Lake and the black terns are still on the lagoon, says Alice.

Most Amazing Summer Vacation Sightings

Larry Ryel went to Alabama and Florida and boosted his awesome Lower 48 Life List to 647 species, spotting a Bahama mockingbird in a state park near Miami. (Don't let that intimidate you, he's only got 304 in Utah—and here in Cache he thinks he's probably third, behind Keith Archibald and his son Ron.)

Alice Lindahl saw her most interesting summer sighting right here at home while teaching a "Discovering Nature" class for USU, when she and the class watched a black-necked stilt mob a marsh hawk to defend its two babies. She says it repeatedly flew at the hawk, striking out with its long legs.

Bryan and I saw about 50 great egrets at the Malheur Refuge in eastern Oregon, and hit the Oregon Coast in time to see migrating flocks of whimbrels and ruddy turnstones on the beach in front of our rented piece of heaven. But our most wondrous sight was a gray whale, spouting and breaching as it swam south past the panoramic windows of the Adobe Restaurant in Yachats, so close we could see it without the binoculars I had (naturally) worn to dinner.

Want to share what you've seen this month or over the summer? Just call!

— Nancy Williams, 753-6268

ADVENTURES IN BIRDLAND



The Case of Creative Binoculars

It was hot. A siren wailed in the distance, a scalpel slashing through the velvet night. I sat at the battered desk, drinking cheap whisky from a Dixie cup, playing paperwad basketball against myself with the wastebasket. I was losing.

Suddenly she was standing in the doorway—tall, honey-blond, legs that didn't quit. "You have to help me," she breathed.

"Maybe I do and maybe I don't, doll," I said. "What's the beef?" Her perfume filled the room and ripped into my brain. It was like violets. Spring violets.

"It's Fast Eddie," she said. "He's cheating."

"Are you sure, doll?" I asked.

"I'm sure. I wouldn't be here if I weren't. He claims 623." She undulated toward the desk and dropped a package on it. "Here's a retainer," she said. Then she was gone. Slowly the scent of violets cleared, but only from the room.

I opened the package. It was an ABA checklist. Virgin.

I watched Fast Eddie from the front seat of my beat-up Ford. I hate stakeouts. I hated them when I was a real cop. I hate them more as a rent-a-cop. Still, a guy has to make a living. Fast Eddie was standing in his window, watching something with binoculars. I shifted a little, to see what he was looking at, and saw a movement out of the corner of my eye. I turned quickly, but not quickly enough. Willy the Weasel coshed me with a field guide, and the lights went out.

I woke up slowly and opened my eyes. The room was spinning. I was in bed. She was there. The smell of violets filled the room, digging into my brain. Spring violets. "How did I get here?" I asked.

"It was my legs," she said. "They didn't quit." She leaned over me. Her long hair brushed my face. The lights went out again. This time I liked it.

I spotted Fast Eddie hiding behind the window frame, first peering through his binoculars, then writing furiously

I followed his gaze and saw what he was looking at. I knew then that I had him. I raced up the stairs and slammed into his room. "Drop it, Fast Eddie," I said. "It's all over."

"You ain't got nothing on me, copper," Fast Eddie snarled, throwing down the checklist. "How'd you find me, anyway?"

"I followed your punk," I said, nodding at Willy the Weasel, cringing in the corner. I picked up the checklist. I opened it and ran my finger down page 7. The ink was still wet under *Laysan Albatross*. "I saw it, Fast Eddie. It wasn't a Laysan albatross. It was a crow. You've been cheating. You don't have 623. You probably don't have 500."

Fast Eddie slumped. "Only 312," he muttered. Suddenly he turned and sprang forward, his hands grasping at Willy the Weasel's throat. "It's your fault, you little creep! He followed you!"

Willy the Weasel was too fast for both of us. Before I could do anything, he sidestepped and brought his field guide down on the back of Fast Eddie's neck. Fast Eddie crashed to the floor and lay still. "Only 312," Willy the Weasel sneered down at the limp form. "I guess they won't call you *Fast Eddie* no more. I guess they'll call you *Slow Eddy* from now on."

"Don't get smart, punk," I said. "You're in this with him."

"Not a chance, copper," Willy the Weasel said, pulling out his own checklist. "I got 546. *Confirmed!*"

It was hot. I sat at the battered desk, playing paperwad basketball with the wastebasket. Suddenly the scent of violets filled the room. Spring violets. She'd come to pay me off. I looked up. She was standing in the doorway. She was on Willy the Weasel's arm.

"I don't like the company you keep," I said.

"He's got 546 confirmed," she said. "How many have you got?"

I didn't answer. My checklist lay in my pocket, empty. She smiled a cold, thin smile, and then she was gone.

That's how it is in this business. You win some, you lose some. I sat at the battered desk a long time, trying to wash the scent of spring violets out of my brain with cheap whisky from a Dixie cup. A siren wailed in the distance, a fingernail drawn against the blackboard of the night.

—TJG

SUMMER VISITOR REACHES 100-CLUB LEVEL

Judy Sherman, wife of Curt Macomber, member of the New World String Quartet, is an avid birder. She recently saw her 100th species within Cache County, qualifying her for recognition as a 100-Club birder. She has been a model in her precise recording of where and when she saw each species for the first time. Congratulations, Judy!

She is now working on achieving the next milestone, the 150-Club. Birders who tally that number of birds are rewarded with a handsome patch. Those who go on to find 200 are presented with a nice hat, which they wear proudly at all times, day and night, even in the shower.

— Al Stokes

CHAPTER ACTION

Board Meeting Highlights

Summary of the BAS Board of Director's Planning Meeting held at Logan Library on 12 August 1992:

Sue Robertson presented a Treasurer's Report showing that our cash position has improved somewhat from last year.

We discussed committee assignments, noting that several committees need new chairs and that we need a new editor for *The Stilt*. We also named two new committees, Finance and Banquet.

We discussed several requests for BAS funding including the Utah Wetlands Project, Audubon Adventures, trail guides and others. The newly-named Finance Committee will review all such requests and develop a first-cut 1993 operating budget to present at the January planning meeting.

We covered several conservation issues including the crane hunt, restoration of the UP&L lands along Bear River, the Utah Land Swap, grazing permits, the golf course and Logan Canyon.

— TJG
Secretary

Better Board Than Bored

Four members of the BAS Board of Directors expire this year, their terms, that is, so the search is on for interested members to sit in their chairs. What, you immediately ask, does a board member do? According to President Bruce Pendery, they run the show, with a lot of

help from the officers and committee chairs. The Board decides how much money is spent on various programs, what our positions on issues are, and stuff like that. Ideally, and traditionally, board members have taken on "special projects," such as the Stewart Nature Park sponsored by Bob Atwood, and the continuing Barrens report, Larry Ryel's doing.

How much time does it take? Board appointments are for three years. Monthly meetings average two hours. Other activities vary with the individual. This is a great way to become involved in BAS with a flexible time commitment.

If you are interested, or know of a likely suspect, call Bruce Pendery at 750-0253. There are many fringe benefits, including rubbing elbows with kindred spirits and bolstering your self-respect. If you're willing to spend some time in support of environmental issues, local or otherwise, this is an effective way to use your energy.

FINANCE COMMITTEE FORMED

At the last meeting of the BAS Board of Directors, a Finance Committee was formed to assess requests for funding and develop an annual operating budget. Bob Atwood will chair the committee, and Sue Robertson and Tom Gordon will serve as members.

Bob asks that all committee chairs who anticipate funding needs in 1993 submit brief requests and budgets to him no later than 31 December 1992. If you are not a committee chair, but are involved in something (or know someone who is involved in something) that would benefit from BAS funding, you should also have a proposed budget to Bob by the 31st. The finance committee will review those requests and present a first-draft budget in the January Board meeting.

AUDUBON PRE-SCHOOL NATURALISTS

Thanks to the good efforts of Eddy Berry, Kate Boyes and a host of caring mothers and fathers, Bridgerland Audubon's pre-school field trip program is now a year-round function. The group meets once a month and explores one aspect or another of local natural history. The age limit is toilet-trained to age five or six.

This summer's adventures included a fossil hunt, a cave-science trip and a wet-sneakered short course in stream

ecology. September's exploration will be the mountain forest. The trips are free but registration is limited. For more information call Eddy Berry (755-0722).

Enclosed is a poem produced by the team of toddling spelunkers after the cave trip. For more information call Eddy Berry at 755-0722.

— Kayo Robertson

THE CAVE ADVENTURE

We went into a cave.

As you go deeper,
The ceiling goes higher,
And you go lower.

Bats and woodrats

Holes
Water

Dark and cool,
Dark and cool,
Dark and cool.

Audubon Pre-school Naturalists

AUDUBON JUNIOR NATURALISTS

The Bridgerland Audubon Society's Junior Naturalists are planning an October adventure to Yellowstone Park to coincide with the U.E.A. convention. The group is currently working on a field guide to the Sink's Hollow area of Logan Canyon. Summer activities included a midnight, moonlight canoe trip on the local marshes, a botanizing trip up Green Canyon and a backpacking journey to Gibson Basin. Junior Naturalists is open to any child nine or older. For more information call Steve Archibald (753-8488) or Kayo Robertson (752-3944).

ANTELOPE ISLAND EXCURSION

Lark buntings and thousands of golden iris greeted us as we crossed the south causeway to Antelope Island last May. The road, not long ago submerged in the Great Salt Lake, was rough, keeping our pace perfect for birding. Watching stilts, avocets, black terns, and other birds that filled the marshes and salt pans beside the road made driving to the island part of the fun.

The several dozen folks fortunate enough to join this Bridgerland Audubon trip camped by the historic Fielding Garr homestead, built in 1850. From the Salt Lake City side of the lake, this spot is just a tiny patch of green. But the plant life supported by both the lake and freshwater springs make the area more important than its size might indicate. This growth provides a haven for wildlife, most notably long-eared owls, and well-established trees formed a cool oasis for us. Some bison from the Antelope Island herd also seemed to prefer the area. They could be seen quite clearly from our camp, roaming back and forth, grazing, congregating at the springs higher up the slopes.

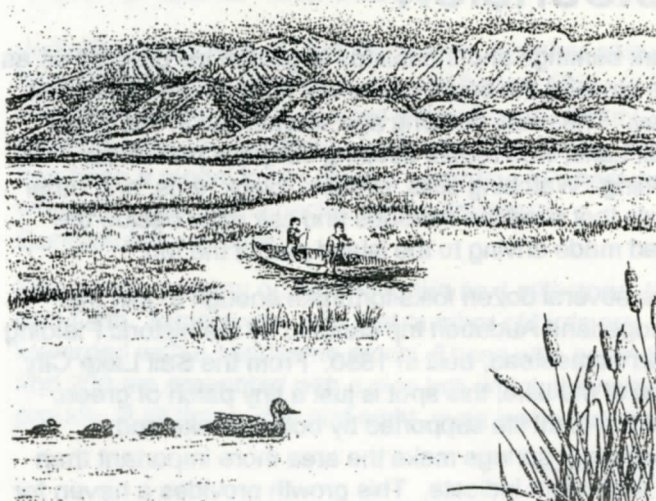
Activities during our two days on the island varied. Two young men spent the entire trip, minus twenty minutes here and there for meals, hiking the island's hills. Several energetic groups went exploring and found burrowing owls, curlew chicks, and an avocet rookery. Many of us took advantage of the island's north beach, swimming, making sand castles, honing stone skipping skills, or bird watching from a prone position. Ten years ago, before the north causeway to the island was washed out by the lake's rising waters, humans and their buildings were the most prominent features here. Now more birds than humans use the beach, sidewalks are nearly obliterated by sand, and one building, its entire front side destroyed by waves, holds hundreds of swallows, circling and circling around inside the peak of the roof.

The pace of our evening camp life quickened when a few children discovered a tiny field mouse in the middle of the site. News of the find seemed to spread telepathically among the kids, most of whom had been less than enthralled by the bison, and soon about 10 children were chasing the mouse through camp. When they finally caught it, their first thought was to keep the mouse; as they thought more about it, though, they decided to set the mouse free in the nearby trees. Both the process these kids used to reach consensus and their focus on what was best for the mouse seemed hopeful signs.

Thanks to Al Stokes and all the others who helped make this trip possible.

— Kate Boyes

BOOK REVIEW



Boating the Bear

Edited by Jim Boone

Design and illustrations by Jane OKeefe

Maps by N. Samarrae

Published by Bridgerland Audubon Society

Cost: \$9.95

Available at Logan bookstores

This much-needed book covers the river from Evanston, Wyoming, to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, a distance of 420 miles by water but only 65 miles by air. In addition it covers the lower Logan, the Cub, and the Little Bear River. The book is the brainchild of the late Mike Dalton, enthusiastic canoeist. It lay dormant following Mike's move to Washington. Jim Boone's enthusiasm and dedication have brought this book to fruition. Jim is an avid boater who hopes to encourage the use of non-motorized boats of all kinds. He himself has built a number of rowboats and uses them regularly on the Bear and Cub.

The book has 16 small-area maps showing access and take-out points and mileages. Jane OKeefe's illustrations of plants and wildlife likely to be seen while on the water add immeasurably. Separate essays on the geology, history and wildlife add interest to one's journey downriver.

Jim's delightful writing style makes this 100-page book the ideal boater's companion and stimulates exploring less well-known stretches of the Bear and its tributaries.

— Al Stokes

BOOK REVIEW

Audubon Perspectives: Fight for Survival

This book is the companion volume to the eight Audubon Television Specials airing on TBS and PBS. Its chapters closely follow their prime-time counterparts, uniting image and word to bring the reader a more in-depth, gripping account of nature's fight to survive the ravages of human progress.

Chapters are: Humanity and Nature: The Ancient Conflict; Wolves; Sharks; Sea Turtles; Ancient Nomads; If Dolphins Could Talk; Ancient Forests: Rage Over Trees; Arctic Refuge; Crane River; Greed and Wildlife: Poaching in America; Humanity and Nature: Tomorrow's Dilemma.

The author, Roger L. Di Silvestro, is chief staff writer for the Audubon Television Specials.

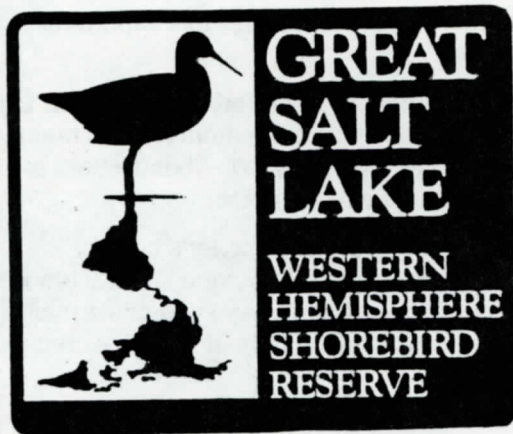
A copy of this large, full-color volume has been donated to Logan Public Library by the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon Society.

MUSICAL MESSAGES

Two music videos produced by National Audubon have been contributed to Logan Public Library. They set the message of environmental awareness to popular music. They could be used to enliven any class or meeting concerning the world's resources. The songs are "We Can Run," by the Grateful Dead, 4:24 minutes; and "Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology)," by Marvin Gaye, 3:11 minutes.

GREAT SALT LAKE HEMISPHERIC SHOREBIRD RESERVE

In special recognition of the tremendous value of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem to shorebird populations, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network has designated the Great Salt Lake as a Hemispheric Site within an international chain of sites that provide critical habitats for shorebirds. The Great Salt Lake and its wetlands support a fantastic abundance and diversity of shorebirds during migration and breeding periods.



Among the migratory shorebird species that rely on the Great Salt Lake habitats are the Wilson's and red-necked phalaropes. In mid- to late summer these species congregate on the lake in dramatic numbers, reaching nearly a million individuals at times. The phalaropes and other migrating shorebirds depend on abundant food resources available in the productive wetland and aquatic habitats of the Great Salt Lake. These migrants stop at the lake to feed and build energy reserves necessary for the long-distance flights they make to South American wintering grounds.

In further acknowledgement of the hemispheric significance of the Great Salt Lake to migrating shorebirds, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network has "twinning" the Great Salt Lake as a Sister Reserve to Laguna del Mar Chiquita in Argentina. Along with other shorebirds, over 500,000 Wilson's phalaropes winter on this South American lake. The Sister Reserve designation highlights the international and ecological union between the Great Salt Lake and Laguna del Mar Chiquita and emphasizes the importance of the hemispheric chain of habitats critical to shorebird survival.

A public dedication ceremony was held on August 1 at Farmington Bay to dedicate the Great Salt Lake as a Hemispheric Site within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The public participated and helped celebrate the magnificence of the Great Salt Lake, its wetlands, and the truly spectacular wildlife populations that they support.

— John Bellmon
The Pelican
 July 1992

CATTLE ALLOTMENT STUDY MOOVES FORWARD

The study of the North Rich cattle allotment by the Logan Ranger District has continued to move forward.

Stan Miller, range conservationist with the Logan Ranger District, said that since November, 1991, they have taken input from the public and special-interest groups and compiled a list of issues relating to the cattle allotment.

Miller said they have combined most of the issues into three main ones:

- Concern over the condition of areas along streams as well as the upland areas.
- The potential damage caused by cattle to wildlife and plants.
- The economic impact of reducing the number of cattle which graze on the area.

The ranger district is now looking for alternatives.

"We are looking for alternatives from the public," Miller said. "We are also looking for alternatives from permittees, environmental groups, interested wildlife groups and government agencies.

A no-action alternative is one of the actions being considered.

Miller said that another issue they are facing is what the projected future conditions or ecological status of the area should be.

"We need to write a management plan which complies with the national environmental policy act," he said. The management plan will contain provisions as to management of cattle on the allotment.

The North Rich cattle allotment contains 22,300 acres of national forest land, 1,900 acres of private land and 3,300 acres of state land. The land is grazed by 1,288 head of cattle.

from *The Juniper Station*
 Logan Ranger District Newsletter
 Spring 1992

As always . . .

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



WOLF RECOVERY: FACT VS FEAR

On May 29-30 the Greater Yellowstone Coalition held its annual meeting in West Yellowstone, Montana. The above question figured prominently in a wolf recovery update, at which I represented Audubon. While the answer might seem to be a resounding "of course conservationists care," recent events suggest a cloud over this picture. I refer specifically to the disturbing rise of the so-called "wise use" movement, a coalition of pro-development groups funded by the extractive industries, well-funded, and anti-wolf. Using grassroots organizing techniques perfected by conservationists, they recently helped completely gut the Yellowstone Vision process, an effort aimed at coordinated ecosystem management and sustainable development. Conservationists were literally out-organized, out-lobbied, and out-shouted at public hearings.

Could the same thing happen to the Yellowstone Wolf Recovery process? Absolutely, if we don't wake up to the danger. Thus far, we have conceded the emotional high ground to our opponents on this issue, preferring to rely on the facts, common sense and logic to carry the day. They may not. While we have been addressing this issue with our heads, our opponents have been attacking us with every bit of emotion they can muster, straight from the *heart*. They perceive (incorrectly) that wolf recovery will mean an end to their livelihoods, communities, and way of life. They also perceive (correctly, I believe) that wolf recovery is *symbolic* of the waning of the "Old West" resource-extraction, boom-and-bust economies and local control of public lands. In its place is rising a "New West" based on resource protection, scenic values/recreation, service industries, and sustainable development. They are fearful, angry, and they act and turn out accordingly.

We would do well to emulate some of their passion to go with the biological and economic facts which are all on our side. We cannot lose sight of the powerful symbolism of wolf recovery. Do we understand that we are literally about to change the course of wildlife/human history by restoring North America's preeminent carnivore in the *world's* first national park? That struggle is ours to win—or lose. Who cares more, you and I, or wolf recovery's foes?

What You Can Do

1. Get on the mailing list for wolf recovery information: Yellowstone N.P. and Central Idaho Gray Wolf EIS, PO Box 8017, Helena, MT 59601.
2. The next round of Wolf EIS "scoping sessions" will be coming up in the first half of August. These will test public sentiment on a variety of wolf recovery alternatives, and will be critical in shaping the EIS direction. Comments will be written rather than

testimony. Please, don't miss this important opportunity.

3. Write a short letter to Secretary of the Interior Lujan, your Congressmen and Senators and tell them you support wolf recovery, *period*. These letters are read and they do make a difference.
4. Consider becoming your chapter's contact person/organizer for Yellowstone-Central Idaho wolf recovery. I'll be happy to send you direct mailings of background information to help organize chapter responses.
5. On dates to be determined, an additional round of August public hearings (verbal comments) will be held in Cheyenne, Helena, Boise, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Washington, D.C. Foes of wolf recovery hope to grandstand at these hearings to gain political leverage for the November elections. A strong turnout by conservationists is absolutely *critical* at this stage.

Secretary of the Interior Lujan
Interior Building
C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Senator Garn or Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative James Hansen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MIGRATORY BIRDS CAMPAIGN MANAGER JOINS AUDUBON STAFF

Wildlife biologist Stanley Senner will be joining Audubon's staff to head up the migratory birds campaign. Stan will be working out of our Boulder office, lending his outstanding skills to this rapidly growing program. He is on a special assignment for Audubon's Science Department, in recognition of the nationwide urgings for the Society to play a major leadership role in this field.

Most recently, Senner has been the Restoration Program Manager, Division of Oil Spill Impact Assessment and Restoration for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage in connection with the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Among his many ornithology-related memberships and appointments, Stan is on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, on an Advisory Committee on the birds of North America for the

American Ornithologists' Union, and on an advisory committee for the Smithsonian Institution's Migratory Bird Population Project. He is also Chairman of the Board of the US Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), and was the former director of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania.

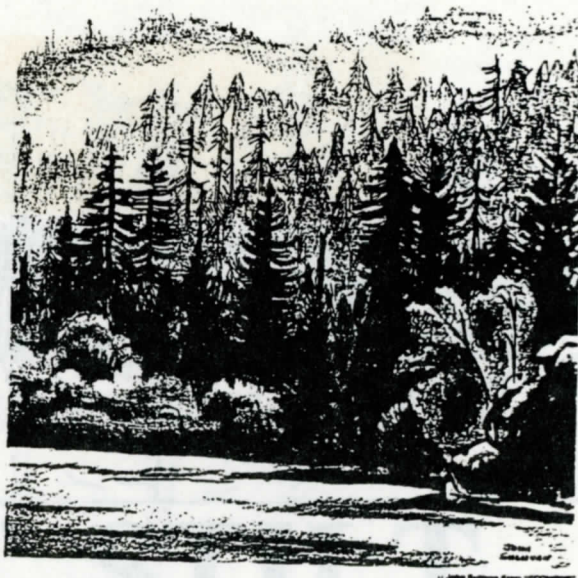
I should also add that several chapters in the region are likewise "running with this ball."

— Bob Turner
Rocky Mt. Region
Vice President

ANCIENT FORESTS NEED YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON

For 150 years we have cut our native forests without thought or consequence. We now know that forests provide us with clean air, clear water, and healthy fisheries. They moderate the climate, are a source of medicines, and serve as genetic banks for a wondrous array of plant and animal life. The result of countless centuries of evolution, they will not regenerate at mankind's pleasure. In the Pacific Northwest, nine-tenths of the virgin woodland has been hauled to the mill; on the continent as a whole, less than 5 percent survives.

Now, after two years of national outcry and legislative debate over the fate of Pacific Northwest's ancient forest-ecosystem, the first full House committee vote is finally coming, for better or worse. H.R. 842 "The Ancient Forest Protection Act" was dropped from consideration by both the Interior and Agriculture committees. Instead, The Forest Service's so-called "Gang of Four" scientific panel recommendations, none of which is as strong as the H.R. 842, have been serving as the vehicle for debate on ancient forest legislation. In April, a skeleton bill, H.R. 4899, was introduced, leaving it up to the committee to fight with each other over which



alternatives, strong or weak, the committee would recommend. A number of amendments, both pro-forest and pro-industry, have been attached to the bill. The final bill now being offered falls very short of strong forest protection. But the debate still continues. We urge you to voice your concern to Congress because this bill will set a precedent for ancient forest protection across the rest of the U.S.

Two other bills have been introduced which seek to protect virgin forests on unprotected national parks, refuges, and BLM lands in the United States. H.R. 1969, "The Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Act," currently has over 40 co-sponsors in the Congress. Senator David Boren (D-OK) has also just made a commitment to introduce a companion bill to H.R. 1969 in the Senate by the second week of June 1992 which is a very significant positive development.

Call the Capital Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Urge your congressperson to strengthen H.R. 4899 to protect our ancient forests. Tell them to co-sponsor H.R. 1969 to protect virgin forests on public lands. Encourage your senators to co-sponsor Senator Boren's companion bill to H.R. 1969.

ACT LOCALLY



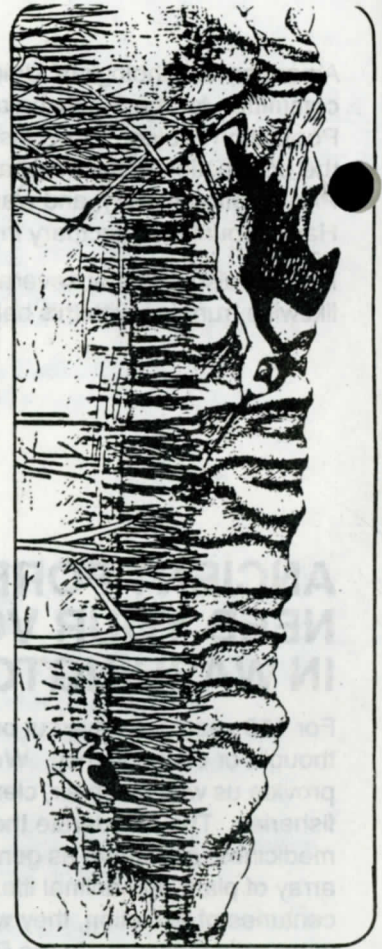
Save Logan Canyon

Bumper stickers available for \$1.00 at A Book Store, Trailhead Sports, and The Straw Ibis (when they're not sold out.)

Mervin & Mae Coover
435 Canyon Rd
Providence UT 84332

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501 — Logan, UT 84323-3501



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The Bridgerland Audubon Society meets the second Thursday of each month, October through May, in the Meeting Room of the new Logan City Building, 255 N. Main. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. The BAS Planning Committee meets the following Wednesday, October through May, in the Logan Library at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

President	Bruce Pendery, 752-0253
Vice President	Dawn Holzer, 753-6047
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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

LOCAL CHAPTER



Bridgerland Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3501

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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.