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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 at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, September through May, at the home of Tom and Pat Gordon, (718 North 200 East, Logan). Everyone is welcome to attend.

President	Dawn Holzer, 258-5205
Vice President	Don McIvor, 563-6189
Secretary	Kristen LaVine, 753-5970
Treasurer	Susan Robertson, 752-4598
Conservation	Jaren Barker, 753-0242
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Lois & Randy Olson, 752-9085
Circulation	Tom Gordon, 752-6561
Publicity	Chris Sands, 755-9524
Hospitality	Bill & Marjorie Lewis, 753-8724
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268
Recycling	
Legislative Chairperson	Yvonne Wilder, 563-6437

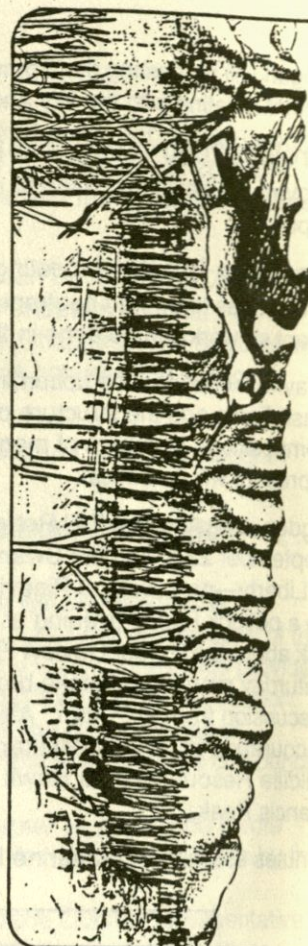
Trustees

1990-93	John Barnes, 563-3910; Rebecca Echols, 753-2367 Richard Mueller, 752-5637
1991-94	Keith Archibald, 752-8258; Ron Hellstern, 753-8750 Bill Ehmann, 752-1684
1993-95	Pat Gordon, 752-6561; John Sigler, 753-5879

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 280 N. 300 E., Logan, UT 84321.

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84321



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 22, No. 4

December 1993

Hawk Watching in Suburban Philadelphia

In late September I visited my brother in Philadelphia. I had headed forward to getting to the famous Hawk Mountain Sanctuary some 80 miles from Philadelphia. I had gone there many times when I was living in Philadelphia and wanted to see changes in the place. My brother suggested that we might head to Militia Hill. I had never heard of the place and was pretty skeptical when he said it was just three miles outside the city limits. I knew there was no mountain ridge where near there. So out we went, just a 15 minute drive to his home. What's more we drove right up to the observation point, got out and could relax on a comfortable porch just 30 feet from the car. There was a group of birders with binocs pointing high into the sky. Somebody shouted, "There's a kettle of broad-wings." All eyes and binocs turned to them. At first I couldn't see a thing until I realized that these 30 broad-winged hawks were high in the sky, circling in a thermal to gain height. Other hawks kept joining this group until there were a good 50 of them. After several minutes they peeled off singly toward the south, probably with one peeled for another thermal to help them along on their southward migration. The observers were typical gung-ho hawk-watchers, trying to reach agreement on the identity of each bird. It's as though one's honor and reputation were at stake should a single bird be misidentified. During a lull in activity I learned that "you should have been here yesterday." It seems that in two days some 14,000 broad-wings had flown over, with as many as three kettles in sight at a time. That's no small feat counting that many as they circled like pinpoints far above the lookout.

Asked Marylea Klauder, the organizer of the hawk watch, why hawks would pick this little hill just 330 feet above sea level. In a cautious manner she told me that perhaps it was the heat

generated from the mass of paved highways just below the hill that creates enough heat for thermals to form. She had started this hawk watch in 1988 while forming a bluebird nest-box trail in the park and noticed all the hawks coming through in the fall. Now she has 25 volunteers who take turns manning the lookout on a regular schedule, one compiler for each morning and afternoon of the three-month count. But the compiler always has plenty of extra eyes to help in spotting and calling out birds as they pass over. 1993 will go down as a banner year for already 16,434 birds had been counted up to the day we were there on September 20. The 16,000 broad-wings was more than twice the number seen in any previous year. It is such constant unforeseen events that make hawk watching so exciting.

I could see why this hawk watch is proving so successful with Marylea as organizer. She welcomes each newcomer with warmth, hands out numerous press releases that she has written, and even included us in the handout of donuts. I had thought that she must have been a member of the prestigious Wyncote Audubon Society, but she had gotten this started on her own. Should any of you readers ever get to Philadelphia in the fall by all means place Militia Hill on your itinerary.

— Al Stokes

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 \$32 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, UT 84323-3501

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. Also, call Tom for new subscriptions or address changes.

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Calendar

Saturday, December 4. Very young naturalists (3-6 yrs) will study "Seeds and Things." Phone Eddy Berry 755-0722 for reservations.

Thursday, December 9. BAS General Meeting at 7:30 pm. DWR biologist, Tom Bosakowski will entertain us with live video footage of his research in raptor behavioral biology. The video, entitled "Flight of the Harrier" shows various hawks and owls flying, fighting and feeding. Join us for an evening of great music and close-up views of these majestic birds.

Wednesday, December 15. BAS Planning Meeting at 7 pm. We meet at Tom and Pat Gordon's home.

Saturday, December 18. Young Naturalists will go on a cross-country ski trip.

Field Trips

Saturday, December 18. Christmas Bird Count. Participate in a nationwide scientific effort to census winter bird populations. There will be 10-12 groups covering various areas of the valley. Each group will be led by an experienced birder and anyone interested in participating is welcome. Bring binoculars. A potluck dinner will follow that evening. Everyone participating will be required to pay a \$5 fee to help defray costs of tabulation and publication of results. For details call Keith Archibald, 752-8258.

New Members

Sharon R. Bird, Logan
Ms. Tracy L. Bodrero, Clarkston
Roarke Donnelly, Logan
Randy Goodwin, Trenton
Dale C. Huffaker, Logan
Frank M. Kenyon, Hyrum
Alice Mac Pherson, Logan
Steven R. Meyer, Logan
Sharon L. Osowski, Logan
George L. Stewart, Jr., Richmond
Gilberto Urroz, Logan

You may have noticed the paper we're using for the *Stilt* has changed. Actually, only the color is different. This paper is still 100% recycled 20% post consumer waste.

Renewing Members

Michael C. Amacher, Logan
Desmond & Loila Rae Anderson, Logan
John W. Carlisle, MD, Logan
Linda A. Chisholm, Paradise
Kevin Connors, Logan
Windsor Copley, Mountain View, WY
T. W. Daniel, Logan
Ron Drickey, Logan
Edward & Deborah Evans, Logan
Tom & Pat Gordon, Logan
Virginia Harder, Logan
E.N. Hatch, Logan
Ken Hobson, Hyde Park
Dawn Holzer, Lewiston
Daisy & Trevor Hughes, Logan
Ms. Linnea Johnson, Logan
Fredrick F. Knowlton, Cornish
Irma & Marvin Moon, Mendon
Richard J. Mueller, Logan
Lois Olson, Logan
M. Jean Packer, Logan
Dr. Jack Payne, Placerville, CA
Robert H. Peterson, Logan
Carmen Reich, Logan
Pam Riley, Logan
Mr. Rex E. Robinson, Logan
Tovi Santiago, Jackson, WY
Jack Scherting, Logan
James P. Shaver, Hyrum
Andria Stark, Trenton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Taylor, Logan
Mrs. Elaine H. Watkins, Logan
Nancy Williams, Logan

Audubon Junior Naturalists Cross-Country Ski Trip

Audubon Junior Naturalists is a recently formed group of 6-9 year old children, who are interested in exploring the outdoors. On our first trip to Mill Hollow, we discovered 350 million year-old fossils, deer bones, scat, frost, tracks, and many more of nature's wonders. Come along in December and join us on a cross-country ski the afternoon of Saturday, December 18. We will team up with the Young Naturalists that day for a shared winter experience. For further information, call Nancy Messner, 752-6030, or Linda L'Ai, 755-0735.

Bridgerland Audubon Children's Program

The Bridgerland Audubon Society's Children's program remains alive and well. The Young Naturalists, ages 6 to teens, recently celebrated our third birthday with a journey to the Teton Science School. Other recent excursions include an outing at Tony Grove with tracker and former Director of the Teton Science School, Bruce Thompson. Our next outing will be a cross-country ski on December 18. Meetings are held at the Edith Owen school auditorium, from seven to eight o'clock, on the second Monday of each month and are open to all children. The topic for our December meeting will be a workshop on staying warm in winter.

Linda L'Ai and Nancy Messner have created a new Audubon children's group for kids ages six to nine. This group fills the gap between our pre-school kids and the young naturalists. Activities for this group are planned the first Saturday of each month. November's trip is an autumn walk up Mill Hollow.

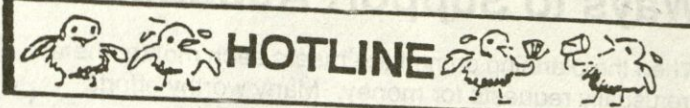
Eddy Berry and Kate Boyes are the mainstays for our pre-school naturalists. Activities are planned for whenever the demands for an outing by these bright-eyed young woods children reaches an intolerable level and one of us has a free Saturday. Our next activity is a "seeds and things" walk planned for the afternoon of December 4.

— Kayo Robertson

November General Meeting

A capt audience of 60 to 70 people traveled back in time to the Wasatch Front of pre-Columbian Utah at our last meeting. Dr. Steve Simms, USU Anthropology Professor, presented the provocative idea that wilderness is always included humans in its composition. Very possibly much denser populations of native Americans existed than history records. Many native populations were decimated by European-born diseases long before they had actual physical contact with the people.

Because of these previously denser populations, the existence of peoples inhabiting the Great Basin area was tremendously fluid. Bands of people were loosely tied to migrate and use available food sources in the appropriate season. Many of Steve's archaeological sites are found along the old fluctuating marsh areas of the Great Salt Lake. Temporary residences were set up seasonally to exploit spawning fish in the spring and harvesting in the fall. Ducks were also taken with the use of decoys! Regular flooding of the Great Salt Lake had a very negative impact on these types of food sources. Migration was essential for survival.



We at Hotline Central certainly hope your month was hotter, birdwise, than ours was. The best we did was see about ten common mergansers (maybe the first of the season?) with Reinhard Jockel on October 30 on the Bear River at Benson.

We also heard through the grapevine that Alice Stewart, a great birder in River Heights, had enticed a scrub jay to flit through her backyard.

Perhaps the hottest news, although not avian, is that *Stilt* editor, Lois Olson, and husband Randy welcomed a baby daughter November 9. Erin Rosemary weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces. She joins sister, Kira and brother, Sky.

If anything ever flies past your binoculars, please call. Meanwhile the Hotline purveyors head to the Oregon coast for a Thanksgiving week of hope for warmer birding.

— Nancy Williams, 753-6268

Mark Your Calendar: Banquet Set for January 27

Astronomers call it a conjunction or commiseration or conjunctivitis—the close association of luminaries as their paths converge. Such a moment is planned for Thursday, January 27, 1994. This is a good reason to find a new calendar and note the date. Local favorites have agreed to help make it a wonderful occasion just when we need it most! Nadene Steinhoff will sing for us—she's even been writing a new song for the occasion; Val Grant, much enjoyed as emcee and president of BAS in past years, practically leapt for joy at the opportunity to tell us about his work—"Field Biology for Fun and Profit"; and Dan Kramer, renowned chef, is miraculously free to feed us that evening—so save room for a luscious dessert. Furthermore, we had such a good time last year at the Bullen Center, we've arranged to meet there again.

That was the good news. The bad news is, costs are up, so we have to raise the ticket price. This year, tickets will be \$15. However, forewarned is forearmed, they say. Just save a little of your holiday cheer for when you really need it, during the doldrums of January (you skiers won't understand) and join the splendid Audubon group for enough food and fun to keep you going until spring.

Volunteers are heartily welcome to lend a hand with decorating, hors d'oeuvres, and publicity. Call me if you'd be willing to help with this party.

— Pat Gordon, 752-6561

Ways to Support Audubon

When the planning committee meets each month, there are usually requests for money. Many worthy efforts come to our attention, so spending the BAS treasury is no problem. However, much of the money we allocate comes from donations, large or small. There are several ways to help BAS raise money for environmental projects.

ALUMINUM CANS: Al Stokes has taken charge of donated aluminum cans for years. The proceeds go to the general fund. You can leave nicely packaged cans outside his garage on the west side. That's at 1722 Saddle Hill Drive in Logan.

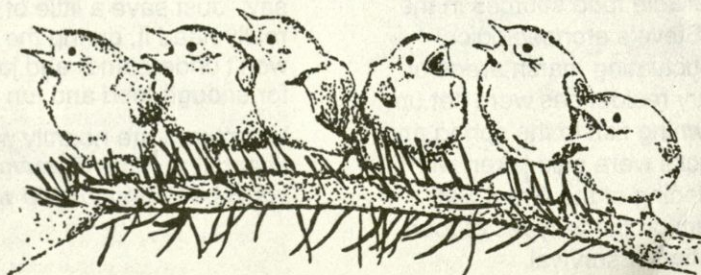
SUNFLOWER SEEDS: Usually, BAS raises one or two K selling sunflower seeds. This year, the crop was disappointing. At this writing, a few bags are still available at Sunrise Cyclery for \$15. For the desperate feeder of birds, Griffin is offering Audubon members a \$1.00 discount on 50-pound bags, making the price \$12.99.

GARAGE SALE: Your discarded items can support Audubon. For the last couple of years, Sue Robertson has hosted the garage sale/yard sale/swap meet at her home. She has some room to store smallish items, if you have clean-up fever. Call her evenings or weekends at 752-4598. The garage sale profits have averaged around \$500 each time, so these small donations add up.

WRITE A CHECK: Anytime you feel the urge to give a little (or a lot) to help wildlife and the people who enjoy having it around, you can get satisfaction by writing a check (cash is acceptable, too) to Bridgerland Audubon (BAS for the impatient) and mailing it to 1780 East 1400 North, Logan, UT 84321. Our treasurer will see that it's put to whatever use you specify: protection of Logan Canyon, refuge purchase, conservation, population education—whatever you want to help with.

INCLUDE BAS IN YOUR WILL: When you revamp your last will and testament, don't forget the group you supported during your lifetime. The work will continue after we're all moldering, so give a thought to some sort of contribution with what you can't take with you. A memorial trust, a tree planting—whatever you want to do. Just don't forget!

— Pat Gordon



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© Barbara J. Breen

LOCAL NEWS

Dear Auduboners,

I am concerned that in the flurry of current budget cuts, legislative antagonism, and reorganization within the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources we might lose or significantly weaken one of its most effective components, the PROJECT WILD program.

I am a fourth grade teacher. The teacher workshops that project wild offers educators are models in exciting, hands on science education. My teaching, and the teaching of many of my colleagues, has been upgraded significantly through these workshops. With the help of PROJECT WILD Naturescaping Grants and PROJECT WILD personnel we now have a beautiful outdoor science study area at our school.

DWR programs are now being evaluated on the basis of how much revenue they contribute to the state. Education does not provide immediate short-term economic gains. It is a long-term investment in the future. In just nine years my fourth grade students will be voters. They will be called upon to approve or disapprove many decisions regarding state policy towards wildlife and wildlands. In a future Utah, where demographers assure us fewer and fewer state revenues will be generated by traditional hunting and fishing sources, it will be these young people who decide the fate and direction of the Utah DWR. Without their understanding and support we could well lose much of our state autonomy in dealing with environmental issues. The PROJECT WILD program is our best assurance that this doesn't happen.

If you believe that education is one of our best bets to insure a liveable environment for our children please write to the following individuals and express your concerns that the Utah DWR's PROJECT WILD remain a strong component of our state's wildlife management effort.

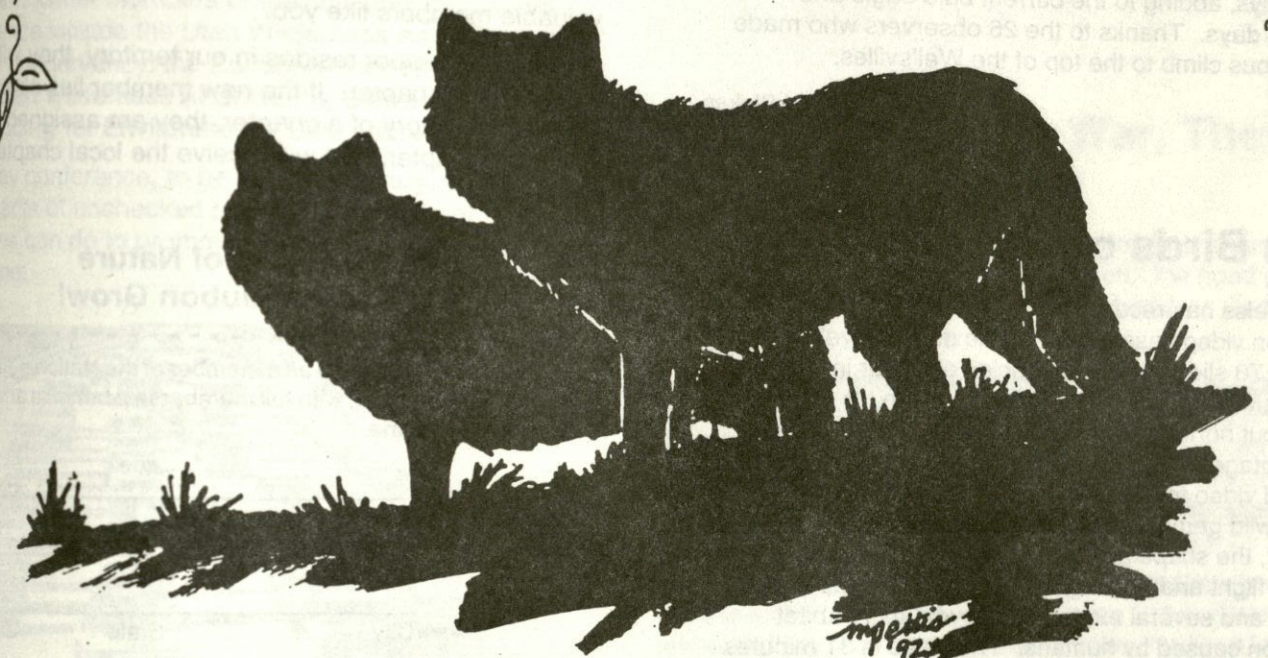
Thank you,

Kayo Robertson

Write to: DWR Director Robert Valentine and DWR Information and Education Director Don Pauls at 1596 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3195.

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS OF THE UTAH WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20
6:30 P.M. PIONEER TRAIL STATE PARK SOCIAL HALL
2601 SUNNYSIDE AVENUE (800 SOUTH), SLC



THIS IS A SPECIAL RENDEZVOUS. AS YOU ALL KNOW GARY MACFARLANE HAS ANNOUNCED HE IS MOVING ON AT THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. THUS WE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE GARY'S OVERWHELMING CONTRIBUTION TO UWA OVER THE LAST DECADE. WE HOPE EVERY UWA MEMBER AND SUPPORTER WILL COME BY TO GIVE GARY A ROUSING SEND-OFF!

WE WILL ALSO BE GRACED BY THE PRIZE WINNING POETRY OF MARGARET PETTIS, THE 1993 UTAH POET OF THE YEAR. SHE WILL READ A NUMBER OF SELECTIONS FROM HER BOOK, CHOKECHERRY RAIN, WHICH JUST RECEIVED THE UTAH POETRY SOCIETY'S PEARLE M. OLSEN BOOK PUBLICATION AWARD.

THE RENDEZVOUS HAS BECOME A RENOWNED CULINARY EVENT! PLEASE BRING A GENEROUS POTLUCK ITEM (ENTREE, DESSERT OR APPETIZER) TO SHARE, AS WELL AS YOUR OWN UTENSILS; WE'LL HAVE CUPS AND PLATES. RENEW ACQUAINTANCES, SWAP SUMMER TALES, AND SHARE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE NATURAL WORLD.

6:30 P.M. SOCIAL * 7:00 P.M. POTLUCK DINNER

FOLLOWED BY MARGARET'S POETRY, THE LONE PEAK AWARD AND GARY'S SEND-OFF.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT UWA:
455 EAST 400 SOUTH #306 SLC, UTAH 84111 359-1337**

First Annual Hawk Watch, September 25

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources put on what we hope will be an ever more successful hawk watch, with the help of the various Audubon Societies in Utah. Of the six stations the Wellsville lookout saw 297 hawks, more even than the famous Goshutes. Of the eight species seen the most common were sharp-shinned (79), Cooper's (52), red-tailed (44) and kestrel (109). DWR is planning to schedule more of these wildlife watch days, adding to the current bald eagle and kokanee days. Thanks to the 26 observers who made the arduous climb to the top of the Wellsvilles.

— Al Stokes

Utah Birds of Prey

Steve Weiss has recorded his "Utah Birds of Prey" lecture on video cassette for public use. Steve's lecture includes 78 slides of every species of raptor in Utah, mostly taken by him with a 400mm lens in his travels throughout northern Utah. The lecture also includes video footage of a prairie falcon diving at 200 miles per hour and video footage of various species of falcons hunting wild game. The slides focus on raptor nesting behavior, the shape and length of raptor wings producing different flight and hunting behavior, various raptor prey species, and several examples of avoidable habitat destruction caused by humans. The video is 31 minutes in length and is not broadcast quality. The lecture was filmed without a script, much as it has been delivered to audiences over the past several years.

Contact Steve Weiss at the Utah State University Merrill Library, 801-750-3661, for borrowing instructions. This video is not for sale and is not reproducible. Due to copyright restrictions, it can only be used for non-profit educational purposes. It may be borrowed from Steve on a two-day basis with a \$15.00 refundable deposit or a picture ID.



Flax
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1985 © Donna J. Barr

Give a Gift Membership

When you give your first gift, you'll receive the limited edition 1993 painted Bunting Suncatcher ornament. Give two or more gift memberships, and receive an additional bonus, Audubon's pocket guide, *A Selection of Familiar Birds of North America*.

The more memberships you give, the more you'll save. Your first gift, or your own renewal, is just \$30, and each additional gift is just \$20—a savings of 43% off basic membership dues! Remember, your chapter gets credit for each new membership and Audubon has more valuable members like you.

(If the new member resides in our territory, they will be added to our chapter. If the new member lies elsewhere and in the territory of a chapter, they are assigned to their local chapter, and will receive the local chapter newsletter.)

Give the Gift of Nature and Help Audubon Grow!

Please enroll this individual as a member of the National Audubon Society and the chapter, with full membership benefits and a year of *Audubon* magazine.

Gift to:
(PLEASE
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Each additional gift at \$20 (and for your bonus gift):

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Please make your check payable to National Audubon Society and send to: National Audubon Society Membership Dept., P.O. Box 51000, Boulder, CO 80321-1000.

REGIONAL NEWS

Population Growth, Ethics and the Environment

The issue facing humanity is more critical than the need to address our own growth and the use of resources.

AU is working to bring this issue to the attention of Utah's citizens and leaders by co-sponsoring a conference on Population Growth, Ethics and the Environment. Other members of the coalition sponsoring the conference include the Utah Wilderness Association, Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, the Northern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Sierra Club and Utah Society for Environmental Education.

The one-day conference, to be held in January, will focus on the impacts of unchecked population growth, and what Utahns can do to promote sustainability, education and planning.



Every day in the news we hear about problems such as increasing violence, reduced public safety, growing unemployment, environmental degradation and human suffering both across the world and in Utah. The cost of living is going up, but the quality of life is going down.

Increases in population and resource consumption are underlying causes of all these problems. Without a change in the way we think and live, social, spiritual and logical systems will continue to be strained beyond sustainability.

Utah we suffer from many of the problems facing the world. Because current efforts to address population problems seem insufficient, we must renew personal and public commitment to the long-term health of our community.

The issue of population and the environment is integral to the mission of Planned Parenthood. By co-sponsoring this conference, we hope to empower ourselves to preserve quality of life and the environment for future generations.

The Population Growth, Ethics and the Environment Conference will be held on January 29, 1994 at the University Park Hotel in Salt Lake City. The conference is open to the public, and everyone interested is encouraged to participate. A nominal registration fee will include lunch. To register or for more information, call PPAU, 532-1586 or 1-800-627-9558.

In Today's Range War, There Are No Good Guys

The trouble with westerns today is that no one is sure who the villain is. In the film "Unforgiven," the good guy, Clint Eastwood, is kind of bad, and the bad guy, Gene Hackman, is kind of good.

In earlier times, things were simpler. The bad guy came from the East, wore a silk vest and spoke in complete sentences. The hero slept with his horse, never bathed and only uttered an occasional "Yup or Nope." Indians, sometimes virtuous and sometimes not, usually stayed behind the mountain, sending up smoke signals.

Now the good guy works for the Wilderness Society and speaks with a Harvard accent. Wearing Calvin Klein jeans and L.L. Bean moccasins, he rides into town in a Range Rover to drive uncouth stockmen off the land, saving the West from overgrazing, pollution and bad living habits.

Whereas John Wayne rode after rustlers, these clean-finger-nailed vigilantes would round up lumberjacks and stockmen who they claim raid the U.S. Treasury. The issue is federal subsidies. The government sells timber and leases grazing land below actual cost. And this larceny, activists say, must stop. Orchestrating a public relations blitz, they insist that loggers and cowboys are ornery red-nosed bandits scooping gold from the Washington treasury.

Now the Range Rover gang has corralled the White House. Joining the posse, Clinton would make its agenda a reality. Proposing an approximate doubling of grazing revenues, he is also committed to ending subsidies on timber sales.

But whoa! This time environmentalists, not Indians, are blowing smoke. For on this issue, finding the real hero is harder than unmasking the Lone Ranger.

Ranchers and loggers do indeed get handouts. But such giveaways are mere cattle feed compared to the bloated

allowances environmentalists enjoy. Subsidies to outdoor recreationists—the self-same people represented by conservation organizations—dwarf the charity to others.

Nationwide, federal recreation user fees cover just three percent of costs. The public subsidy per wilderness visit per day is between \$14 and \$25. National park entrance charges cover only seven percent of operating costs. The Bureau of Land Management collects almost nothing from sportsmen, yet its grazing program turns a profit. And Forest Service net outlays for outdoor activities almost equal those to grazing and logging combined. A recent study by the Political Economy Research Center found that four Western national forests lost more than twice as much from recreation as from timber. An Oregon think tank, Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants, estimates that 1991 Forest Service timber sales produced a \$314 million deficit, while its grazing losses totaled \$35 million. These amounts together only slightly surpass the \$340 million the agency lost subsidizing recreation.

Outdoor recreation is, in effect, a middle-class entitlement. The typical park visitor earns \$50,000 yearly. By comparison the median U.S. family income is \$23,618, and the average western rancher earns \$28,000.

Despite these freebies, environmental groups clamor for more subsidies. Nearly all lobbied for the American Heritage Trust Act, which would have allotted \$1 billion a year to purchase land for recreation. Currently, they want Congress to provide \$1.25 billion annually for recreational land purchases by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

To be sure, Clinton proposes a raise in recreation fees that would generate \$36 million more for parks and \$13 million for forests yearly. But these miniscule amounts would have virtually no perceptible effect on net subsidies.

Fairness would therefore seem to demand that everyone pay full costs. Nevertheless, this might not be wise. A uniform no-deficit policy would be easy on recreationists but devastating to rural economies, accelerating the transformation of public lands into playgrounds.

Raising fees to the 31,000 ranchers who have federal allotments would net the government little but drive many stockmen off \$2 more for each of the 250 million visitor days it records annually, the agency could turn a profit and the average visitor would hardly notice the difference. Meanwhile, Forest Service timber sales currently contribute \$300 million to local communities in lieu of taxes. Ending deficit sales would probably require terminating these payments, thus devastating these localities.

As rural America died, the land would suffer. Most

scientists agree that good farming and logging is better than none at all. By contrast, outdoor recreation is an unmitigated threat.



Hikers carry seeds of noxious weeds into forests. They pollute wilderness lakes and streams with excrement. Their horses damage trails, spurring soil erosion. Once cattle leave, wildlife populations explode, threatening vegetation. Even today, deer are the number one threat to endangered plants throughout the country.

Thus, below-cost is not an environmental issue. It is a shootout between cowboys and recreationists over who controls land and who pays for it. Like the 19th century range ward where cattlemen fought railroad barons, it is a class war. But this time, no one knows who the good guys are.

— Alston Chase
Range Magazine
Summer/Fall, 1993

(Scholar/journalist Alston Chase writes a nationally-syndicated newspaper column on the environment, distributed by Creators Syndicate. The opinions expressed in this article are Alston Chase's own, and do not necessarily represent the editorial viewpoint of Range Magazine.)

Membership Rate Quick Reference

To put an end to the confusion on membership rates here is a handy reference chart for you.

Introductory rate	\$20
Renewal upgrades	\$20 second year renewal
	\$25 third year
	\$30 fourth year
	\$35 fifth year
	\$38 sixth year
Basic rate	\$35

Endangered Species Act Deserves Renewed Support From Congress

Newsweek writer Jerry Adler aptly described the Endangered Species Act as "a compact with the Earth in which humanity renounced for the first time its right to decide which species deserve to share space on the planet."

We humans are fortunate enough to share the earth with a variety of living organisms, estimated at somewhere between 5 million and 50 million species. Yet we are faced with the greatest rate of species extinction since the disappearance of the dinosaurs. In just 200 years, 80 U.L. plant and animal species have gone extinct. By the year 2050, scientists estimate we will be losing up to our species every hour.

By passing the Endangered Species Act in 1973, Congress declared that this "irreplaceable loss to aesthetics, science, ecology and national heritage" must be reversed. As a result of this country's historic decision to stem the tide, the Endangered Species Act has amassed a remarkable success record. Heartwarming examples of species rescued from the brink of extinction exist in every state.

To name but a few, the American alligator is fully recovered; the green pitcher plant is improving; the Aleutian Canada goose has increased from 790 birds in 1975 to 6,000 today; the gray whale population has doubled since its listing and is proposed to be delisted; the Apache trout is increasing, and the Minnesota trout has been saved. The American bald eagle, our national symbol, has increased dramatically in 40 states and is no longer in danger of extinction.

In our own state, we have succeeded with captive breeding of the Lahontan cutthroat trout and June sucker, though the habitat picture for the latter looks bleak. The Rydberg milk-vetch has recovered and been delisted. In 1981 we had no breeding bald eagles. Now 10 breeding pairs settle in Southern Utah every year.

But what happens when species become extinct? Some of the vanishing species can be of untold value to humans. The Pacific Yew of the Northwest's endangered ancient forests and certain soft corals near Hawaii pose very promising treatment for cancer. Skin compounds of vanishing frogs are potent antibiotics. The bay periwinkle provides a drug effective against leukemia. Half of all drug prescriptions written in the United States contain a drug of natural origin. Plants that may in the future provide important medicines may be lost before we discover their value.

Habitat loss is imperiling numerous fish species, a crucial food source and mainstay of many regional economies. In the Pacific Northwest, commercial and sport fisheries

for salmon, steelhead and trout provide 60,000 jobs and contribute approximately \$1 billion in personal income to the region. Already, more than 100 native runs of salmon and steelhead have been lost and 200 more are at risk.

There are those who criticize the Endangered Species Act as being irresponsible to private development. This is an overstatement (some would say "scare tactic"). Ninety-nine percent of all proposed development projects nationwide are permitted. To paraphrase former Secretary of Energy John Sawhill's comments in the *Wall Street Journal*, in the past five years some 34,600 development projects were evaluated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their impact on endangered species. Only 23—less than one-tenth of a percent—were halted because of species in jeopardy.

Put in perspective, in the same five-year period, 29 airplanes crashed into commercial or residential buildings in the United States. That means a developer during that time faced a greater chance of having an airplane crash into something he built than having a project stopped by the Endangered Species Act. In Region Six of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which comprises Utah and seven other states, only three of 144 federal actions reviewed from 1987 to 1991 were canceled due to conflict with endangered species.

The Endangered Species Act is now up for reauthorization. Bipartisan bills HR 2043 and S 921 reauthorize the Act and add a number of important measures: they promote the conservation of ecosystems rather than just specific habitats; they improve the process and make the process more accessible to local communities; and they provide conservation incentives to private landowners and authorize increased funding for the program.

However, the timber, mining and development industries are strongly supporting HR 1490, a bill introduced by Rep. Billy Tauzin, D-La., which, in contrast, would eliminate the most important provisions of the current ESA.

With the enactment of the HR 2043 and S 921, the traditional functions of the Act will be bolstered to provide a better process than it has been in the past.

— Parker Blackman and Pat Briggs
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