



# THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 21, No. 9

May 1993

## OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The environment is for everyone to enjoy no matter what their abilities may be. The outdoors are more accessible today than ever before. Although many individuals with disabilities want to be included in outdoor programs, few opportunities have been made available to them. I am seeking the support of Audubon members to help in starting an outdoor outings program that includes individuals with disabilities. The program would give people the chance to explore the outdoors in an integrated setting with outdoor enthusiasts. People with and without disabilities would participate as equals. As most of us know, opportunities to get outdoors do amazing things for the mind, body, and spirit. Providing these experiences for people with disabilities can change lives, not only for individuals with disabilities, but for everyone

involved. The first organizational meeting for this Audubon sub-committee will be held April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Options for Independence, 1095 N. Main. We will discuss program goals, outings, and a name for the program. A second meeting will be held May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the same location. If this sounds like something you would like to become a part of, please contact Kate Stephens at 245-3072 or 753-5353.

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# CALENDAR

**Thursday, May 13.** General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Logan City Meeting Room, 255 N. Main. Steve Weiss will present his multi-media show "Utah Birds of Prey." If you're thinking of skipping this one because you've heard Steve talk in the past—don't! Steve constantly updates his talk, and his acquisition of a 400mm lens a little over a year ago should make the visuals especially pleasing! The show will also include some spectacular video footage of aerial hunters in action, and a discussion of the effects of environmental degradation on birds of prey.

If you'd like to study-up before the talk, stop by A Book Store or the USU Bookstore and pick up Steve's book, *Romancing the Falcon*.

**Saturday, June 19.** Annual BAS Rummage Sale. Details in article.

**Tuesday to Sunday, August 3-8.** Rocky Mountain Regional Conference in Utah. Time to mark your calendar for this summer's Rocky Mountain Regional Conference at Snowbird, Utah. There will be ample time for workshops, field trips, social interaction and key note addresses, etc. Look for more detailed information in this issue of *The Stilt* regarding cost, lodging, meals, field trip registration, etc.

## Field Trips

**Saturday-Sunday, May 8-9.** Antelope Island. Leave 8 a.m. Return Sunday noon. Note change in dates. Contact Dawn Holzer 753-6047.

**Monday, May 10.** Utah Audubon Leadership Birdathon. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by raising funds to support our Regional Wetlands Coordinator position. An all day trip will start from Sherwood Hills early Monday morning and end at the Bear River Refuge. Solicit pledges from your friends. Expect to see about 100 species of birds. Call Wayne Martinson at 355-8110 for details. Bird 'til you drop and contribute to a worthy cause.

**Saturday and Sunday, May 15 & 16.** Bear River Canoe Trips. Paddle the northern section of the Bear from Trenton to Benson. Swallows, cranes, waterfowl, owls and a heron rookery can be seen. See first-hand the condition of this life-giving natural resource. Bring a boat, life jackets, paddles, a lunch and some friends. Boating equipment is available for rent at USU Outdoor Recreation. Leave at 8 a.m. from Fred Meyer's parking lot. Contact Keith Archibald 752-8258.

**Those who wish to participate in Audubon field trips should come dressed for the weather.**

## Spring-Fall Field Trips

**Wednesday, May 19.** Road Clean-up. 5:30 p.m. -Dusk. Begin west from Richmond on the road to Trenton. Contact Sue Robertson 752-4598.

**Friday-Sunday, May 21-23.** Massacre-Rocks/American Falls Reservoir. Leave 5 p.m. Contact Tom Gordon 752-6561.

**Saturday, May 29.** Birding at Willard Bay State Park. Leave 8 a.m. from SW corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot. We'll look for spring warblers and shorebirds (spotting scopes provided). Return early afternoon. Leader Bill Ehmann 752-1684.

**Saturday, June 19.** High Creek Hike. Leave 8 a.m.

**Saturday, June 26.** Wood Camp Hollow-Forest Succession & Avalanche Recovery. 8 a.m.

**Saturday, July 10.** Spring Hollow Ecology of Ponds and Streams. 8 a.m.

**Saturday, July 17.** Tony Grove Ecology. 8 a.m.

**Saturday, July 31.** Green Canyon Ecology. Leave 8 a.m.

**Saturday, August 7.** Little Bear Canoe Trip. 5 p.m.

**Saturday, August 14.** Cutler Reservoir Canoe Trip. 5 p.m.

**Friday-Sunday, August 27-29.** Red Rock Lakes Camping Trip. Variable departure.

**Saturday, September 11.** Annual Kokanee Day. Porcupine Reservoir. Variable departure.

**Friday-Sunday, October 1-3.** Grand Teton National Park—elk bugling. 1 p.m. Friday.

**Saturday, October 9.** Hawk Migration on the Wellsvilles. 8 a.m.

## Young Naturalists Field Trips

**Saturday, May 1.** Spring Wildflowers. All interested 3-6-year-olds are invited, but space is limited and registration is required. To register call Eddy at 755-0722. 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**Monday, May 10.** Naturalists Skills. Bridgerland Audubon's Young Naturalists will meet 7 - 8 p.m. in the Edith Bowen School auditorium (please use the south entrance). The focus for this meeting will be on improving the skills that naturalists use, and all Young Naturalists, their families, and guests are invited to attend. A sign-up sheet for the May 15 field trip will be available at the meeting. For more information about the Young Naturalists, or to sign-up for the field trip, please call Steve Archibald (753-8488) or Kayo Robertson (752-3944).

**Saturday, May 15.** Mill Hollow. Bridgerland Audubon's Young Naturalists will take a field trip to Mill Hollow to study geology and botany. The group will meet in the parking lot behind the Edith Bowen School at 2 p.m. and return by 6 p.m. All interested Young Naturalists are invited, but registration is required. To sign up for this trip, call Steve Archibald at 753-8488.



## Kayak and Canoe Club Activities

### Flat Water Paddling, Semi-Monthly Starting in April.

First and third Tuesdays, April 6 (full moon) and 20, May 4 (almost full moon) and 18, June 1 and 15, etc. Provide your own equipment including cookies and libations. Look for birds and greening marsh grasses. Meet behind Trailhead Sports to be ready to leave by 6 p.m. Loosely organized.

**Friday-Sunday, April 30-May 2. White River Canoe Trip.** This fast-flowing river is ideally suited to beginner canoeists—mostly flat water and one Class II rapid which is easily scouted. Develop paddling skills to maneuver around cottonwood trees that have fallen into the river. The White River is located in a lovely desert canyon south of Vernal; the canyon was proposed as a wilderness area (current status: uncertain). Expect to see a variety of birds and bunches of beaver. Camping is primitive; participants are required to provide and carry their own food, and camping and cooking gear. Trip limit: 16 people, priority to club members. To sign up mail \$5 non-refundable deposit to Jean Lown, 10 Heritage Cove, Logan, UT 84321. (We will be using a shuttle service and must pay for parking permits on Indian reservation so there may be a small additional charge.) A pre-trip meeting will be scheduled a week prior to trip.

**Saturday, May 8. Bear River Scrub Contest.** 8 a.m. Meet SW corner of Fred Meyer parking lot 700 N. Main, Logan. In concert with the National River Clean-up Week in May, we'll travel the wondrous Bear River, plucking treasures from its waters and shores. Prizes for volume, most scientific discovery, item with least redeeming social value, and effort. (Gold medal last year went to Gerald Manis who navigated a floating log jam to save a tire from eternal "dam" nation. Danny Archibald won the "Effort Award" for gymnastics hanging from a tree going after a bottle.) Pickup truck provided at end of trip to haul away spoils. Great fun! Ask anyone who was there last November. We will coordinate our activities with other groups.

**Friday, May 14-16. River Safety and Rescue Seminar.** Friday evening lecture and pool session plus Saturday and Sunday on the river. Focus on kayak safety (as opposed to raft or canoe). Instructors: two experienced National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) instructors. This is not a NOLS sponsored activity. The Friday evening video and lecture will be open to all club members; bring a can or package of food for the community food bank. Friday evening pool session and Saturday/Sunday river trips limited to paid participants. Cost: \$75 for entire weekend. Enrollment limited. Participants must have their own gear. Sign up with Nancy Roberts, 755-9860, \$25 deposit required (payable to USU Canoe & Kayak Club); reminder due May 7, one week prior to workshop.

**Third Not-Even-Close-to-Annual First Dam Paddle Fest and Dead Fish Polo Game.** To be announced. Stay tuned to the grapevine and newspaper, but probably some Tuesday night in late April or May.

For more information on these trips call Jean or Bryan, 752-6830.

## Cache Hikers Hiking Twice a Week

Put on your hiking boots and join us on some hikes this season. Thanks to an enthusiastic crew at the planning meeting in March we will offer a week day hike and a Saturday hike each week.

Due to a lot of interest in a back pack trip, one will be scheduled in this area for July or August.

### Saturday May Hikes

May 1 — Wind Caves  
May 8 — To be announced  
May 15 — Right Hand Fork  
May 22 — Leatham Hollow  
May 29 — Gunsight Peak

### Wednesday May Hikes

May 5 — Wind Caves  
May 12 — Deer Fence Cliffside to Millville and return  
May 19 — Riverside nature trail  
May 26 — Right Hand Fork

All hikes will leave SW corner of Fred Meyer at 10 a.m. Be prepared with food, water, sunscreen, etc.

Call me 753-8415 for further information about these or upcoming events.

— Kennita Thatcher

## ANNUAL BAS RUMMAGE SALE

While you're cleaning out closets, the basement and garage in the coming weeks, set aside some of those things you know deep down in your heart you'll never wear or use again for the BAS Rummage Sale. The big event will take place **Saturday, June 19**, from 9 a.m. until noon at Sue Robertson's house, located at 1780 E. 1400 North in Logan. Sue has very generously offered the use of her garage and yard once again.

After working on this event for the last few years, Sue and I have learned some truths about what sells and what doesn't. Almost anything (in reasonable condition) that has to do with babies and children sells well. This includes strollers, baby equipment, toys, clothes, bikes and sports equipment. Tools, electronic equipment, books (not text books), linens, furniture and decorative items also sell well. So do "treasures" and unusual items.

Items that do **not** sell well include adult shoes, belts, mattresses, box springs, couches and anything that is dirty, missing crucial pieces or broken beyond repair.

Items can be brought to Sue's house in advance (call first if it is large 752-4598) to be stored and priced. If you would like to help price the night before the sale or help (even an hour) on the day of the sale call Sue (752-4598) or me at 753-4482. Your donations and/or help would be greatly appreciated.

— Elizabeth Walker





Before we get going on the longest list of the year—the “first spring sightings”—let me say that just because *The Stilt* goes on hiatus for the summer is no reason to assume Ye Olde Hotline closes up shop. No, no! Some very exciting things cruise through here while our newsletter’s relaxing in the hammock under the maple tree, and we do our best to alert the binocular troops. Last year it was a scissortailed flycatcher in our Back Forty that drew people from as far as Provo. This year, who knows?

Don’t forget to call when you see something strange, wonderful or interesting. Don’t forget to watch for the (hoped for) arrival of the burrowing owls out by Newton. Don’t forget your binoculars. . .

And now for the last list until September:

Reinhard P. Jockel reported a pair of long-billed dowitchers, doing that sewing-machine thing with their bills in the shallows near the fish hatchery on Valley View Highway March 28. He also saw a long-billed curlew and a snowy egret near the Benson Marina, same day.

American avocets were spotted by field trippers at the Amalga Barrens March 20. Pelicans were reported by Walt and Rosalie Mueggler on March 27, and the first black-necked stilt was reported April 1 near the fish hatchery on Valley View. (Speaking of pelicans, has anyone seen Pete, our flightless bird that winters near the fish hatchery? Last we heard of him was in February.)

Willetts were seen (and heard) April 3 at Amalga Barrens, in the company of two greater yellowlegs and eight long-billed curlews. Western grebes checked in April 1 in the marshes near Valley View highway.

Franklin gulls (two of them) were out standing in a field full of ringbills April 1 near the Benson church.

White-faced ibis were reported April 10 in Young Ward by both Karen Petersen and Reinhard. And those elusive wood ducks are still hanging out around the bridge on Park Avenue just north of Weslo.

Easter Day, April 11, brought a Swainson’s hawk (seen by Reinhard) and four blue-winged teal and a greater scaup at the 20-20 ponds (by Bryan and me).

Twenty cattle egrets showed up near Benson Marina April 18—also a double-crested cormorant and several Clark’s grebes. Three lesser yellowlegs appeared north of the Logan airport.

Hundreds of ducks were on the Barrens in late March—in the temporary (spring) ponds on either side of the road on the west side. We saw lesser scaup, shovelers, pintails, wigeons, Barrows and common goldeneye, buffleheads, redheads, mallards,

greenwinged teal and one hooded merganser March 24. Some are still there. Take a spotting scope.

Other interesting sights:

- A mature bald eagle feeding on a deer carcass in the Bear River, at the bridge south of the Amalga crossroads March 24.
- Three dozen male yellow-headed blackbirds, sitting in pyramid formation like a springtime Christmas tree on a pile of brush and old lumber, on the Amalga Barrens road March 24.
- A pair of savannah sparrows, building a nest at roadside in the Barrens, March 27.
- Mountain bluebirds have retreated to higher elevations, following the snow—we saw many at Beaver Mountain March 23.
- Evening grosbeaks, a kingfisher, rufous-sided towhees and a song sparrow in Jim Parrish’s yard in Avon, March 24-30.
- Red-breasted mergansers, at least a dozen, on Hyrum Dam April 4 (by Reinhard).
- Barn swallows April 17, and rough-winged and violet-green swallows April 18, again by Reinhard.

— Nancy Williams  
753-6268

P.S. : Reinhard saw the first tree swallows near Benson on March 14, a fact accidentally left off last month’s Hotline report. There was a long swallow-less period (perhaps he saw the scouts?), before he logged them again on April 10.

**Late Bulletin:** Bob Atwood saw a Dunlin in full breeding plumage along the Mud Flats near the fish hatchery.

## VOLUNTEER TO WATCH FERRUGINOUS HAWKS FOR DWR

Nesting Ferruginous hawks at Rush Lake near Tooele were not able to successfully produce young last year. The Department of Wildlife Resources suspects that off-road vehicle use near the nest sites have been spooking the sensitive birds off of the nests. DWR needs volunteers to watch the nests for four hour blocks on weekends through June. Contact Elise Peterson of Salt Lake Audubon at 364-3821 if you are interested.

— Dawn Holzer



## NEW MEMBERS

John Bedingfield, Providence  
Marlene Beecher, Logan  
Gerald A. Brunner, Logan  
Nilla Childs, Logan  
E. N. Hatch, Logan  
Mark Malmstrom, Logan  
Jennifer A. Matos, Logan  
Heidi McIntosh, Logan  
Mark Nafziger, Logan  
C. Oliverson, Preston, ID  
J. R. Parrish, Logan  
Roger & Karen Sandall, Preston, ID  
Patricia Schmidt, Hyde Park  
Audrie Turner, Logan  
David & Beth Walden, Logan

## RENEWING MEMBERS

Susan Allen, Logan  
Clifton Alston, Logan  
Robert Atwood, Logan  
Fred Baker, Logan  
Michael Blake, Logan  
Eric Cannon, Logan  
Dani Comer, Logan  
Kevin Connors, Logan  
Val Grant, Logan  
Paul B. Holden, Providence  
R. M. Holdredge, Logan  
Reinhard Jockel, Logan  
Douglas A. Johnson, Logan  
Karen L. Kreiger, Logan  
Karen Krogh, Frostburg, MD  
Loretta Lockett, Logan  
Gary & Naomi McKean, Logan  
Nancy Mesner, Providence  
Sue Robertson, Logan  
Alison Thorne, Logan  
Gene Truhn, Logan  
Maureen Wagner, Mendon

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

In the late summer of 1803, a young Frenchman who was a naturalist and a self-taught artist with a passion for birds, was sent to America to oversee his father's 200 acre farm near Mill Grove, PA. Even as a young child he had driven his family nearly mad with the nests, eggs, lichens, flowers, animals and MUD he brought into the household daily. He continued these habits in exploring the fields and forests of his new home, and in particular, began observing and sketching the birds of eastern Pennsylvania. He was fascinated with the phoebes that lived in a cave on his property, and tied silver threads around the legs of the young ones to find out if they returned to the same spot every year—the first known case of bird-banding in America. During this time, Audubon began to use wire to hold freshly killed birds in position while he sketched them. He wanted to draw the bird as accurately and scientifically as possible. He always posed the wired birds so that he could paint them lifesize and fit their entire body on a single sheet of paper. It was in this technique that he documented every known bird in eastern America, and discovered 21 new species of birds.

Audubon's keen awareness of the natural world sparked the choice of his name for a special group in 1896. The group was formed to prevent the extinction of the white egret. White egrets were disappearing because people were using their feathers to decorate women's hats. The Massachusetts Audubon Society succeeded in protecting the egrets, and soon other Audubon societies started to appear.

— *The Pelican*  
Audubon Society, Salt Lake City

## DWR NEEDS OUR HELP

The Utah State Department of Wildlife Resources is seeking help to aid them in wildlife observations. As you may know, a large portion of their budget was not funded this year. Therefore, they are actively seeking help from concerned birdwatchers, such as ourselves, to record nesting and foraging locations of certain avian species of special concern. (See list on following page.) Information needs to include an exact map location (mark it on a good map and we can figure out the coordinates later) and a habitat designation (identify plant types as best you can). Observations will be tallied and entered into a computer mapping system as a dataset.

— Dawn Holzer

Al Stokes still has sunflower seeds for sale.  
Stock up now for your fall and winter visitors.



## Special Concern Avian Species of Utah

### Extinct

Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*)

### Extirpated

California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)

### Endangered

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)\*

American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)\*

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)\*

### Threatened

Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)\*

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*)\*

### Sensitive

(S1: Due to declining populations)

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

(S1/S2: Due to declining populations and limited distribution)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)

Crissal's Thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*)

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)

(S2: Due to limited distribution)

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*)

Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*)

Three-Toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)

\*Federally listed Threatened or Endangered Species

## Wildlife Observation Form

Species

Date

Ad Juv Uncl

M

F

Uncl

(Circle)

Dens / Nests

Young/ Eggs

Animal Activity

DEAD

ALIVE

Elevation

Habitat

Animal Condition  
(Circle)

County

UTM X: \_\_\_\_\_  
Y: 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Location

Observer

Phone

Address

REMARKS:



# LOCAL NEWS

## PROPOSAL FOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CANYON LOOP

The Logan Ranger District of the USFS proposes to develop a loop for OHV use connecting Millville and Providence Canyons. Such development could have a serious adverse impact on wildlife, as the route passes through a UDWR Wildlife Management Area (Millville Canyon) and through deer and elk wintering grounds. It also would be detrimental to other users of this scenic area, including hikers and horseback riders. Noise and litter, already a problem in the lower parts of these canyons, would likely increase. Don't let this happen! I urge you to express your views to:

Chip Sibbersen, Recreation Manager  
USFS Logan Ranger District  
860 North 1200 East  
Logan, UT 84321

The following article appeared in a recent issue of *The Juniper Station*, newsletter of the Logan Ranger District:

### "Canyon Loop Being Built for OHV Users

"There is just something exciting about jumping into a 4x4 and bumping around on canyon roads. It's a pastime many Logan residents enjoy.

"The Logan Ranger District realizes it is also a pastime that is here to stay. While it may seem like the district is always closing roads, they are actually trying to manage the road system and motorized travel.

"To contribute to the OHV adventurers, the district and the Cache Rangers (a local 4x4 organization) have begun to develop a plan to develop thirteen miles of existing loop road for use by 4x4s, motorcycles and other types of OHV use.

"The existing roads up Millville Canyon, across the top and down Providence Canyon will actually be connected by a trail developed along the foothills between Providence and Millville Canyons. The trail will merge to the existing roads in these canyons, making it possible for users to start and end at the same location.

"The loop is easily accessible to the populations of Logan, Providence, Millville and Hyrum, said Jerry Brunner, forester at the district. The road and trail system is used during the summers by people who can ride from home.

"The project will take several years to complete. So far the district has worked on water control structures for the existing trail and road system. The next phase of the project is getting all the agencies and land owners together to determine the best way of connecting the

canyons along the foothills. If everything goes as expected, the trail and vehicle unloading ramps could be completed as early as 1995."

(Reprinted from *The Juniper Station*, Winter 1993, page 5.)

— Martha Balph

## CONSERVATION NOTES

I'm new to the position and already there are things to tell you about, some good, some bad. Unfortunately the bad is mixed in with the good and it is unlikely the good will happen without the bad.

I attended the Bear River Water Quality Symposium April 6-8. The good news is, there is a strong consensus among all groups involved that the Bear River is dirty and we need to move quickly to get it cleaned up. The bad news is, there was a strong bias toward development. People still believe the best way to solve water problems in the west are bigger and better water projects. I'm working hard to represent Audubon to ensure wildlife values are not compromised and hopefully enhanced.

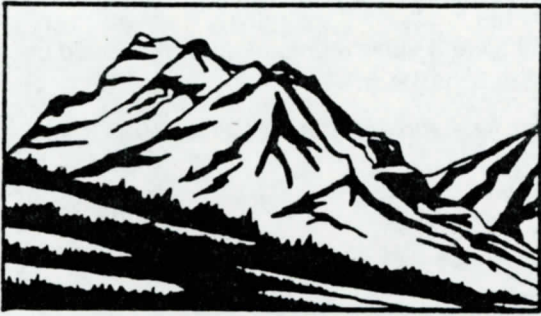
Good news (almost) for Sandhill Cranes. The Utah Wildlife Board voted 3 to 0 April 15 not to reconsider the Sandhill Crane hunt in Rich County. Unfortunately this does not mean a hunt will not be considered this year. DWR was given the responsibility by the board to form a committee to study and propose possible solutions to crane depredation. Although there was general agreement among all members—including the farm bureau—that a hunt is ineffective in reducing crop damage, DWR will most likely propose a hunt before any nonlethal methods.

Audubon has been fighting the crane hunt for a long time. We cannot stop now. As soon as we lose interest and slack off, there will be a hunt. Please send a letter (see the position statement of the U.W.A. for ideas) to Tim Provan, Director of the UDWR. Let him know how you feel about cranes and that a hunt is an unacceptable and ineffective solution to depredation.

Tim Provan, Director  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
1596 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

— Jaren Barker  
Conservation Chair





# Utah Wilderness Association

455 East 400 South #306/Salt Lake City, UT 84111/(801)359-1337

## STATEMENT OF THE UTAH WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION OF SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING

The sandhill crane is one of Utah's most unique birds. It is a spectacular wild migrant that graces our skies and valleys. It arrives in spring, summers in our valleys and gathers in great "staging" communities in fall to fly on to winter refuges in Arizona and New Mexico. We have a chance to welcome, celebrate and send it peacefully on its way . . . or designate it another "agricultural pest," a challenge to hunt.

In 1992 the Utah Wildlife Board made a strong statement in its vote to eliminate the short-lived sandhill crane hunt in Utah. It is hard to believe that this subject has risen again after that vote. We urge the Board to finalize the crane decision today and release the magnificent bird from this debate.

Crane hunting has always been controversial in Utah, due to its shadowy beginnings without public input in 1988, lack of data to support its benefit as a control of depredation that is at best debatable, and controversial in that it was proposed as yet another in the myriad Utah hunts that exist because the Division of Wildlife Resources continues to view wildlife primarily as subjects for recreational hunts. It is the latter more than any other reason that drew so many opponents to the sandhill crane hunt meeting in 1988; it is that premise that continues to haunt this annual decision by the Board. It is time that this decision be made once and for all. Utah hunters do not deserve "the opportunity" to hunt cranes, to quote DWR; **cranes deserve the right to flourish in our northern valleys.**

Increasing habitat destruction and human-caused mortality must cease as threats to Utah cranes. DWR's statement that "If we don't take them, our allocation (of the Flyway) goes to another state that does want to hunt them" (*Deseret News*, July 1, 1992) has no bearing on our management of Utah cranes. The birds, eeking out a living in Cache and Rich Counties, are a perfect candidate for "watchable wildlife," which the DWR supposedly espouses. DWR must abandon its "Flyway machismo" and let this hunt go. It is not an anti-hunting versus hunting issue. It is a case of putting DWR's nonconsumptive promises forth. No, hunting the bird and watching the bird cannot coexist. It is not possible in two small valleys with two small populations of birds for both hunters and watchers to enjoy the same wildlife. And since the birds had not been shot in Utah since before 1916, when the federal Migratory Bird Treaty was signed and settlers had eliminated the population, 1992 should signify the year when Utah settled this issue. That year over 100 cranes were spared when DWR's proposed permits were not approved by the Board. Is it so terrible to share Utah with the cranes? Most Utahns say NO!

**ALLEGATIONS OF DEPREDATION:** The Rich the icon County/Farm Bureau petition for relief from "ravaging cranes" must be responded to with **no action**. Documentation of significant crop damage does not exist, either from the USU study or from farmers. The crane "situation" is becoming known for its repeat appearance by local county leaders and Farm Bureau spokesmen who claim damage by cranes that is in most likelihood the result of Canada geese feeding in grain fields or nipping off spring shoots. Crane presence is often perceived as damage; as the USU study indicates, "High use of a field may alarm a farmer, but little damage may occur if the birds are not foraging. More farmers appear to lack the time to assess for themselves actual levels of damage they experience from cranes." For the Board to respond to undocumented damage with firepower, rather than **nonlethal, creative techniques** USU can offer, is unjustifiable.

**THE USU CRANE STUDY:** The DWR-commissioned report by Donald E. McIvor in his masters thesis found no significant damage by cranes. Any implication of damage, not supported by the thesis itself, would be solely a desperate attempt to justify a hunt! Nowhere in the thesis or supplement by Professor Conover is there any indication that damage to crops by cranes is occurring in a significant level in Cache or Rich County. There are many ifs, whens, could's and might's: although the authors "obtained few observations of cranes using grain fields, a flock of foraging cranes **could**



inflict significant damage in a short time period or pose a **potential** economic threat." Finding that "Little depredatory activity by cranes was observed in spring barley fields, that cranes disturbed a few barley plants in an apparent search for grain or anthropods, and along the edges of **some** fields all of the grain was stripped from ripening heads and plants were trampled," the authors noted this damage in only three fields, and average total damage amounted to a mere 1.4% of the crops. The authors suggest that farmers "encouraged rapid germination of corn and early harvest of grain to minimize the availability of these resources to cranes during periods of susceptibility to depredation."

As any agriculturalist with a healthy respect for the weather knows, a good blowdown could account for a much higher and quicker loss than what these cranes MAY have caused. Gaps in growing crops that are so readily blamed on depredating cranes could very well be "poor seed germination or temporarily clogged seeding equipment." In a February 8 phone conversation regarding his findings on February 8, Mr. McIvor stated it is "hard to extrapolate (damage) beyond one year given the many variables," which could include time of harvest, planting patterns, weather (early frost, drought, or blowdown), season length, rust scale disease, etc. In fact, "We found actual levels of depredation difficult to measure and it appears that current levels of depredation do not pose an economic threat to producers."

It would be preposterous to issue a crane hunt on the basis of equipment malfunction, weather damage and snap-judgment that waste-grain and insect-seeking birds are depredating in a significant level on farm crops. Do not RECONSIDER the hunt!

**WATCHABLE WILDLIFE:** We find it ironic that recent passage of the **Wildlife Heritage Act** by the Utah Legislature could take effect just as the crane loses its status as a "watchable species." For many the crane is of nonconsumptive wildlife use; the Board's recognition of the value of a species for other than shooting establishes its sincerity of attending to public values that not all "enjoy" wildlife with a bow, rifle, rod or pack of hounds. Utahns who would soon be able to purchase Wildlife Heritage certificates to fund **watchable wildlife** projects would see a fresh crane hunt as contradictory, indeed betrayal, and lose any sense of goodwill from the Heritage program's gesture. This would have serious consequences for a fledgling program that depends on good faith.

What a perfect maiden project for this new program: purchase lure crops to draw cranes from the fall fields and create a marvelous Utah viewing spot for crane enthusiasts. Exciting possibilities await all Utahns who want a part in the projects paid for by nonconsumptive dollars! Cranes and farmers would benefit. Cache County is a perfect site for viewing events such as CRANES BY CANOE or CELEBRATION OF THE CRANES when they arrive in the spring or stage to leave in the fall. I plan to contact the Cache County Chamber of Commerce about this event and enclose a flier I designed for a possible first Cache event. Resorting to the gun is single use and alienates all.

**BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY (BAS)** conducted exhaustive crane counts in Cache Valley in 1992. that report, the raw data of which I am including for your examination, shows:

a. **Reproduction rates are below replacement levels in resident cranes; only 2 to 3% of the birds in the breeding areas were young of the year** had only 10.7 chicks in weeks 1-6; and showing the arrival of the migrants, 775 cranes had 19 chicks in weeks 7-11—a paltry two percent success rate! And that is a margin of reproductive "success" that later hazards of the season would further reduce—a margin of reproductive success far below the figures proffered by DWR.

b. Both BAS and the USU authors observed that cranes "used grain fields in excess of their availability, and demonstrated slight avoidance of corn fields relative to their availability." When in Cache Valley in greatest concentration in the fall, cranes use non crop areas. Notice the **insignificant use of corn fields and the concentration of birds in pasture, stubble and grain fields**. From a local perspective, farmers' complaints of crane damage just don't match the patterns of use observed by this BAS/Bio Resources survey.

c. Total counts of birds within the five routes of crane activity in Cache County ranged from **350 birds** in the first half of the 13 week survey (July 12 through October 19; in the last two weeks, the birds had essentially left the valley) to 775 birds in the last half when staging was occurring and migrants were present.

Fairly typical of observations made by BAS in previous years, this impressive data contributes greatly to our understanding of Utah cranes and their migrant relatives. Hunting jeopardizes our crane population in already stressed habitat. DWR's callous disregard for a fascinating species has bred a controversy that drains valuable energy we all could spend on protecting habitat and restoring species. We urge you not to RECONSIDER the crane hunt.

**UTAH POWER AND LIGHT'S December 1991 license renewal application** to FERC for its Cutler Hydroelectric Project in western Cache County showed a steady decrease in its annual pre-migration staging counts of both young and adult cranes. From 1988 to 1990 crane numbers dropped from 775 to 430 (cranes were hunted in 1989, '90, and '91). Cranes are a vital member of the ecosystem.

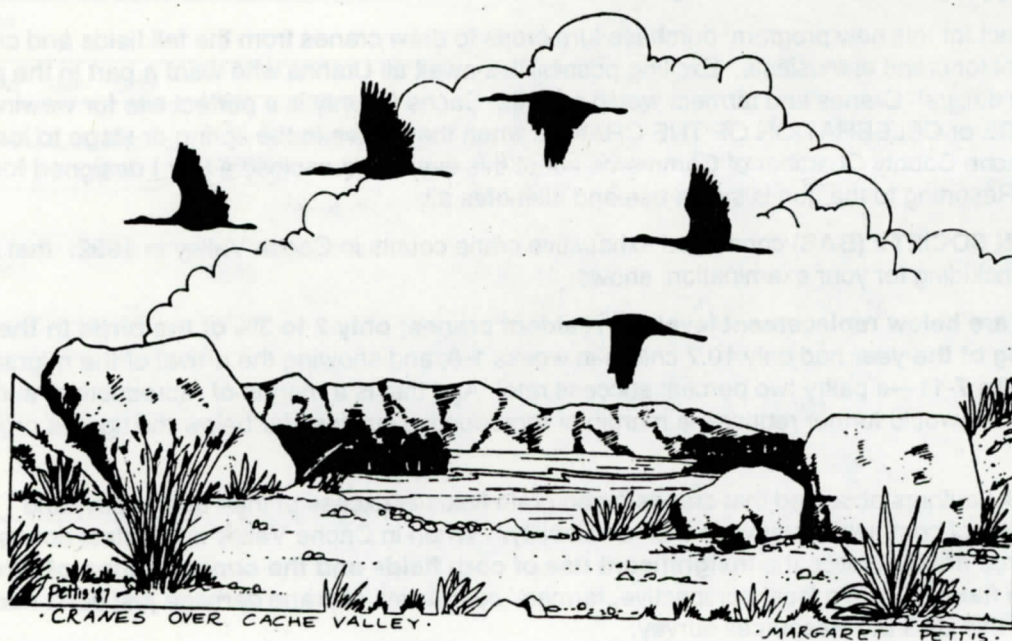
**A FLYWAY PERSPECTIVE:** Of the 17-20,000 cranes in the Rocky Mt. population, Idaho hosts nearly 10,000, the largest number of Western cranes. In an April 6, 1993 conversation with Gary Will, Idaho Fish and Game biologist and former



chair of the Subcommittee on the Rocky Mt. Population of Greater Sandhill Crane, Pacific and Central Flyways Study Committee, we learned that Idaho holds no crane hunt; there has been no request by hunters to hunt them, no desire by the IF&G or Wildlife Commission to hold a hunt, and no calls by grain farmers to kill the birds. Yet south of the border, DWR responds to "excess" or a "trigger number" in the Flyway with lust for a hunt with only about 350 summer residents. Utah is not a critical player in the Flyway Council despite the Utah Wildlife Board directive to end the hunt is highly inappropriate, not to mention threatening to the success of the few young Utah cranes that survive. The perception of the endangered whooping crane as an obstacle to Utah and other states' hunting of the sandhill crane is reprehensible and disregards biological concern for the cranes to "get a hunt" at any cost!

**UTAH'S MAGNIFICENT CRANES:** We invite you to come watch the cranes in their splendid dance of spring, see them fly overhead in graceful arcs, listen to their Pleistocene song of autumn evenings. Absorb the magical music. **WE URGE YOU TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION ON A SANDHILL CRANE HUNT, THIS YEAR OR IN THE FUTURE.**

— Margaret Pettis  
for the Utah Wilderness Association  
and the Utah Wildlife Manifesto





# EXPLORING SPRING CREEK

Spring Creek runs through the middle of Cache Valley, flowing into the Little Bear River just before it reaches Cutler Reservoir. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has recently purchased some property that borders the creek, and that is what this article is about. The map shows how to get to the property and the boundaries of the DWR land. In addition, Utah Power and Light (UP&L) lands are also shown and the surrounding private property is cross-hatched on the map. The DWR property has a small parking lot that has recently been constructed on the southeast corner of the lot. Some habitat improvement projects are planned, but it may be a few years before these are funded and implemented.

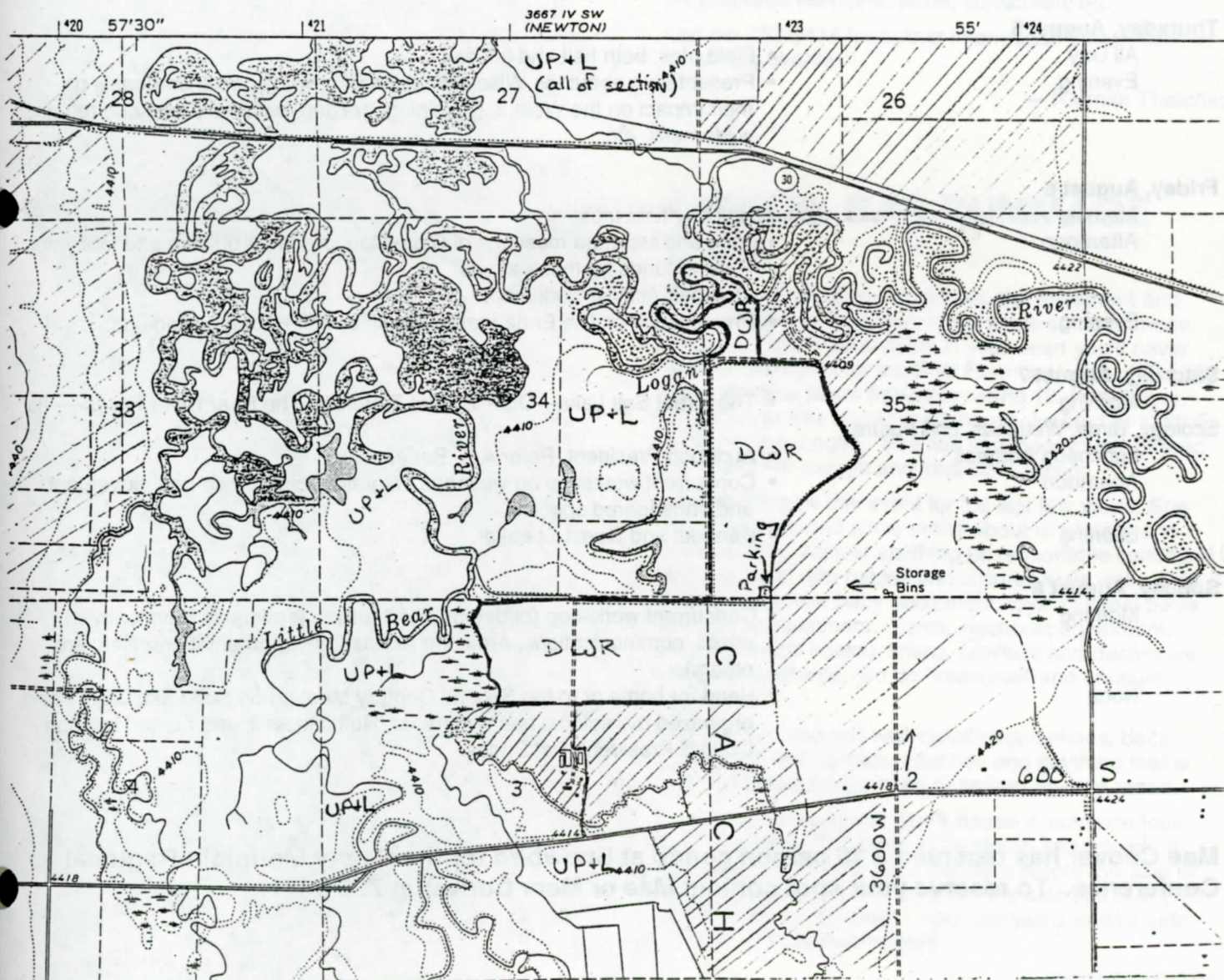
According to Dave Stevens, lands manager for UP&L in Salt Lake City, the surrounding UP&L lands are open to the public. There are grazing permittees that use the property and those who use the area are asked not to harass the cows, keep gates closed, and respect other infrastructure. Mr. Stevens mentioned that reductions in the number of cows is being considered.

Kayo Robertson has been developing a project proposal on the DWR property for habitat improvement and a possible nature trail. His fourth grade class was to be involved in the project, learning biology first hand. However, the DWR was reluctant to get involved. It is possible that the project may be pursued with UP&L on their lands. Stay tuned. . .

## Spring Creek Ranch



Private Land (other than UP&L)





# REGIONAL NEWS

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Snowbird, Utah — August 3-8, 1993

### Preliminary Agenda

#### Tuesday, August 3

- Arrival, get settled, socialize.

#### Wednesday, August 4

All Day  
Evening

- Field trips, both half and full day.
- Slide program by Stan Senner, describing Audubon's new high priority campaign "Birds in the Balance"—a synopsis of the migratory bird situation in the Americas and the role all of us can play.

#### Thursday, August 5

All Day  
Evening

- Field trips, both half and full day.
- Presentation about the Wise Use Movement with special emphasis on their impact on the West, e.g., mining, grazing, national parks and refuges, wilderness, etc.

#### Friday, August 6

Morning  
Afternoon

Evening

- Half day field trips
- Joint and separate meetings of State Councils, their officers and lobbyists. Raising funds for these efforts.
- Armchair Activist workshop.
- Presentation of The Endangered Species High Priority Campaign.

#### Saturday, August 7

Morning

Ecology, Birds, Wetlands, and Future.

Luncheon Address

Afternoon

Evening

- The Great Salt Lake—Our National Treasure; The Bear River Refuge—Its
- Audubon President, Peter A.A. Berle.
- Concurrent workshop on wetlands, migratory birds, wise use movement, and endangered species.
- Banquet and Guest Speaker.

#### Sunday, August 8

Morning

Noon

- Concurrent workshop (birdathon, fundraising, leadership development, ethics, communications, Armchair Activist, environmental priorities, and others).
- Head for home or to the Second Century Meeting (in Salt Lake City), being organized by regional board member, Ruth Russell, and hosted by Utah Council President, Pat Briggs.

Mae Coover has reserved a 10 person condo at Snowbird for the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference. To reserve your spot contact Mae or Merv Coover at 752-8871.



# National Audubon Society

## 11th Rocky Mountain Regional Conference

August 3-8, 1993

Welcome to the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference at Snowbird, in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah! Our host, the Utah Audubon Council, is arranging an exceptional schedule of fun events, complete with three days of field trips followed by two days of speakers and exciting workshops, all packaged in the stunning Little Cottonwood Canyon just outside Salt Lake City. Fieldtrips are planned for Wednesday through Friday (Aug. 4-6), and will focus on Utah's endangered wetlands and the Wasatch Mountain Range. Fieldtrip details, including sign-up procedures and costs, will be available after April 1st.

### Transportation

Snowbird is located just 29 miles (40 minutes) from Salt Lake City International Airport, which is served by 10 major airlines and is the western hub of Delta Airlines. Canyon Transportation, specializing in 10-person service, is highly recommended for transportation to Snowbird. Guests should call in their flight arrival/departure schedule to (800) 255 1841. The cost is \$15/person (with a two-person minimum in van). In addition, limousine service, car rentals, and taxi cabs are available.

### Meals

Snowbird has a variety of meal options (snack bars, grills, restaurants) so that no advance booking is necessary. In addition, some rooms have kitchen facilities. Saturday lunch and dinner will be planned meal functions.

### Registration

We encourage early registration and will mail out advance program and fieldtrip information to those who request it. To register early see the Registration Form below, to be returned to the **Audubon Regional Conference Office, 4150 Darley #5, Boulder, CO 80303**. Cancellations prior to July 1, 1993, will be refunded in full. Questions? Call (303) 499 0219.

### Lodging

All accommodation reservations should be made *directly* with Snowbird Resort (Phone: 800-453-3000) or by filling out the Lodging Reservation Form below and returning it to **Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, Central Reservations, Snowbird, UT 84092** by June 30th, 1993. Snowbird Resort will hold rooms for Audubon until July 1, 1993 *only*. Please note that prices given are for the room, *not* per person, and do not include tax. Reservations must be accompanied with a credit card number or a deposit of one night's lodging per room. Deposit will be refunded in its entirety if cancellation is received prior to 48 hrs. before arrival.

#### Registration Form

Please return this form to Audubon Regional Conference Office, 4150 Darley Ave., #5, Boulder, CO 80303. Full payment must accompany this form. Make your check payable to National Audubon Society (please print).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of your Audubon Chapter

#### Registration Fee:

\_\_\_\_ x \$25 per person = \$\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ x \$40 per couple = \$\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ x \$15 per person per day = \$\_\_\_\_

#### Lodging Reservation Form

**National Audubon Society Regional Conference,  
August 3-8, 1993.**

Send this reservation form to Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort, Central Reservations, Snowbird, UT 84092.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Total number in party: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Dep. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/Mastercard ☐ Am.Ex. ☐ Diners/Carte Blanche ☐

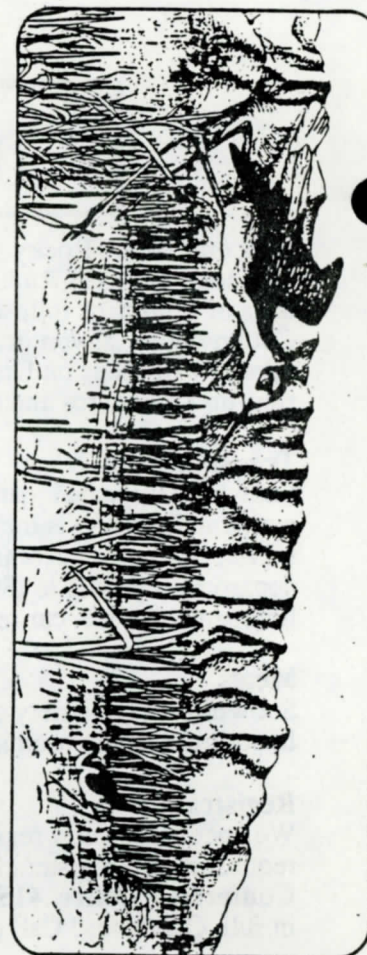
#### Rooms at The Lodge at Snowbird Nightly

- ☐ Bedroom (1-4 Persons)..... \$64
- ☐ Studio/Efficiency (1-2 Persons) ..... \$64
- ☐ One-Bedroom Condo/Studio Loft  
(1-8 Persons) ..... \$123
- ☐ One-Bedroom Condo with Loft  
(1-10 Persons) ..... \$182



# THE STILT

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



Mervin & Mae Coover  
435 Canyon Rd  
Providence UT 84332

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Logan, Utah

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	Bruce Pendery, 750-0253
Vice President	Dawn Holzer, 753-6047
Secretary	Tom Gordon, 752-6561
Treasurer	Susan Robertson, 752-4598
Conservation	Jaren Barker,
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	Marvin & Irma Moon, 753-4698
Legislation	Nadene Steinhoff, 753-0317
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.

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## 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.