

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November 1993

HAWKWATCH ON THE WELLSVILLES

On Saturday, September 25, the BAS made its annual trek to the top of the Wellsville mountains to observe the fall migration of hawks.

A large group of enthusiastic people of all ages journeyed to Mendon to the mouth of Deep Canyon where the trailhead was located. We had a great hike up the trail enjoying the beautiful fall colors of the bigtooth maples and quaking aspen. Many of the wild flowers were still in bloom.

As we traveled along the trail we became warmer and warmer from the continual climb, but once we reached the saddle of the Wellsvilles the cold northwest winds took hold. From the saddle we continued on up a narrow ridge to the lookout point of the north end of the Wellsvilles. From here we enjoyed the spectacular view of Cache Valley, the Bear River, the great Salt Lake and desert mountains to the west. As the day progressed the wind became stronger and chillier.

Hawks and other kinds of prey use this mountain range during their migration. The winds come from the west and hit this mountain range forming updrafts which make it easier for the birds to fly southward without having to expend a lot of energy beating their wings. The number of birds coming by then depends on how good the updraft is.

During the two-and-one-half hours we spent observing birds we identified sharp shinned and coopers hawks and a few red tailed hawks. In past years, 1985, 1988,

1992, we have also seen golden eagles, northern harriers and kestrel, and even a few rare falcons.

HawkWatch International founded by Steve Hoffman, a USU graduate, has been doing annual counts of migrating hawks in the fall at several sites in the Western United States. In the spring they do counts and also set up trapping stations to band these birds. From returned bands they get clues as to how the birds are doing in relation to their environment.

I would encourage people to join this organization.

HawkWatch International
21 G Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
Phone (801) 524-8511

— Reinhard Jockel

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**Wellsville Mountain Lookout
Raptor Migration Count Totals and Species Percentages
1977-1979 and 1987-1992**

	1977	1978	1979	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Total	% of Total
Start Date	6 Aug	4 Sept	6 Sept	7 Sept	3 Sept	3 Sept	28 Aug	25 Aug	23 Aug		
End Date	26 Nov	1 Nov	17 Oct	20 Oct	20 Oct	20 Oct	20 Oct	25 Oct	25 Oct		
Obs. Days	62	43	41	42	45	47	52	59	63	454	
Obs. Hours	290.5	236.5	245.1	295.6	370.6	316.1	338.0	417.2	427.5	2937.1	
Hawks/hr.	9.6	12.9	12.0	9.7	8.8	9.8	7.2	11.9	10.5	10.2	
SPECIES	NUMBER OF RAPTORS OBSERVED										
Turkey Vulture	6	12	10	11	8	9	1	39	15	111	0.4
Osprey	5	8	13	11	19	30	19	34	29	168	0.6
Bald Eagle	5	4	3	5	4	--	2	13	10	46	0.2
Northern Harrier	159	211	186	274	180	172	198	430	330	2140	7.2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	621	749	654	773	1064	833	554	997	990	7235	24.2
Cooper's Hawk	453	337	450	358	545	603	264	623	601	4234	14.1
Northern Goshawk	35	31	30	8	15	15	20	18	74	246	0.8
Unid. Accipiter	89	57	126	61	25	43	47	59	125	632	2.1
Total Accipiters	1198	1174	1260	1200	1649	1494	885	1697	1790	12347	41.3
Broad-winged Hawk	--	--	2	5	1	9	4	10	3	34	0.1
Swainson's Hawk	16	6	18	43	12	47	188	129	98	557	1.9
Red-tailed Hawk	313	260	249	396	397	415	303	908	571	3812	12.7
Ferruginous Hawk	2	--	3	6	11	8	6	16	13	65	0.2
Rough-legged Hawk	2	--	1	1	4	3	--	1	2	14	0.0
Unid. Buteo	8	12	26	12	5	5	34	17	38	157	0.5
Total Buteos	314	278	299	463	430	487	535	1081	725	4639	15.5
Golden Eagle	235	302	256	74	106	120	115	292	423	1923	6.4
American Kestrel	806	982	834	785	843	745	561	1307	1118	7981	26.7
Merlin	4	3	5	10	11	15	3	21	17	89	0.3
Peregrine Falcon	--	--	--	7	5	5	12	10	7	46	0.3
Prairie Falcon	3	13	12	10	7	11	16	13	17	102	0.3
Unid. Falcon	--	2	2	2	1	2	4	2	3	18	0.1
Total Falcons	813	1000	853	814	867	778	596	1353	1162	8236	27.5
Unid. Raptors	40	65	58	12	2	14	81	32	10	314	1.0
TOTAL	2802	3054	2938	2864	3256	3104	2432	4971	4494	29924	100.00

Calendar

Thursday, November 11. BAS General Meeting at 7:30 pm. USU Professor of Anthropology Steve Simms will tell us about the adaptations that allowed Native Americans to exist in this desert environment in a talk entitled "Ancient Americans in Great Basin Ecosystems." Be sure to catch this fascinating discussion and learn something about the archaeology and ethnohistory of this place we call home.

Wednesday, November 17. BAS Planning Meeting 7 pm at Tom and Pat Gordon's home 718 N. 200 E., Logan. Everyone is welcome to come and share ideas.

Field Trips

Saturday, November 6. A Visit to Bird Feeding Stations. A good chance to observe common winter birds and see various ways to attract birds. The highlight will be a visit to the home of Martha Balph where she has several dozen feeders that attract numerous birds. She will put out feed to attract a big flock of magpies for us to observe. Leave at 9 am from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot and return about noon.

Wind Cave Trip Logan Canyon

Saturday, October 9, a group of outdoor enthusiasts joined by naturalist Allen Stokes and botanist Reinhard Jockel adventured to Wind Cave, Logan Canyon. Various aspects of the local flora and fauna were discussed. The cave/natural bridge itself was partly formed by wind erosion, as the name implies, mostly by chemical weathering. The journey ended with a hot meal at Pizza Hut. The company was superb and the wind cave breathtaking.

— Dave J. Buys

Thanks, Yvonne!

As some of you may recall, last month we ran a "help wanted" ad for a legislative chairperson. Yvonne Wilder, a graduate student in the Range Science Department at USU, responded very enthusiastically. Yvonne was involved as a political activist in Florida with the "Greens" before her move to Logan. She will be organizing our Bridgerland phone tree of activists during the upcoming State Legislative session. If you are interested in being a part of the phone tree or helping out on the committee, talk to Yvonne at 563-6437.

Common Ground Outdoor Adventures

Thanks to all the Audubon members who helped make the fund raiser a huge success. We raised \$900 that will go toward adaptive outdoor recreation equipment.

Our next event is a potluck at Kassie Cloughton's house at 7 p.m. on December 1. This is a great opportunity for new people to come find out what we're all about. Bring some creative, interesting food—no hot dogs or potato chips. Bring your ideas for spring and summer trips. We'll have our summer scrapbook to pass around. Kassie lives at 96 E. 500 S. in Logan. Yes, her house is accessible. Give Kate a call at 753-5353 for more information.

First General Meeting Well Attended

Fifty-some people, old and new, met for our first general meeting of the year. We had a quick status report about the vandalism of the fence at Stewart Nature Park. Brad Skousen, an ambitious Eagle Scout, told us about his repair efforts, time and money spent so far on the project. After passing his red beret around the room, \$95 was raised to reimburse his expense.

Ken Jenner, a self-described man of action, modestly displayed a model of the bird feeder tray that he has designed. Materials will be donated to produce kits that will be for sale at Audubon's booth at Holly Faire (see related article).

Our guest speaker, wildlife biologist Vickie Roy, entertained us with slides and stories about the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. It was established in 1928. The dikes were built by C.C.C. crews with just hand tools and horses. Corrective programs were begun for carp control, furrow plantings and weed control. The refuge blossomed beautifully until it was completely destroyed by flooding of the Great Salt Lake in 1983. In 1990, the refuge was restaffed and redesigned. Since then, much of the natural vegetation has bounced back. Many different species of migrant birds continue to use the area as a staging ground. Nesting bird species are slowly making a come-back too.

Vickie also told us about Partners in Flight, an exciting new national network of professional biologists and conservationists working together to monitor populations of neo-tropical migrants. These are birds that breed north of the Mexican border, but winter south of it. A Utah State working group will be training volunteers to do survey work (birding by ear).

The meeting concluded with delicious refreshments served by our Hospitality Chairperson, Marjorie Lewis.

Planning Meeting Minutes

15 September 1993

Logan Canyon Environmental Education program update. Jack Greene has 4 (?) teepees that he tried to set up and get going this summer. Unfortunately, he has run into set-backs. The site is across from Tony Grove Guard Station. Jack has found a number of interested individuals including USFS employees, USU College of Natural Resources associates, and Cache Valley educators. He is trying to get a permanent building built by the Forestry Camp.

Stewart Nature Park. The master plan that was developed by Craig Johnson was approved.

Farmington Bay. Issue of 14,000 nests of black-necked stilts lost. Davis County Commissioners and COE take mutual blame. The second week of June is when the stilts nest. It appears that the state Audubon chapter is not very interested.

White-faced ibis. This bird may become a species of concern. Alice suggested we keep an eye on the birds, perhaps monitoring local nesting populations.

Utah Power and Light. Has finished Cutler Reservoir plan. Many areas of the Bear River (UP & L land) may be cow free, while in other areas the cow numbers may be vastly reduced. The plan includes rookery protection, and will provide for eight new parking lots, primarily for birding/canoe access. The net cost is approximately three-quarter of a million dollars.

Comments on the Honeyville Dam. The projected construction time for this proposed dam in the Box Elder Water Conservation District is 10 years. As the river is fairly degraded, the question becomes: should we mitigate below the dam or clean up the whole river? The dam, in effect, could benefit the bird refuge, but does the BAS want to get involved in something that is out of our territory? Comments: Maybe we could organize a series of trips to evaluate the situation? The general feelings of those in attendance were in favor of this idea.

Crane Day. This Saturday (Sept. 18) at 10 a.m. at the Benson Marina.

Karen Shepard. Congresswoman Shepard has taken a personal interest in the Bear River. Alice is sending her any relevant information she can find.

Proposed Conference. January 1994 will be a one day conference on Population Growth, Ethics, and the Environment. Al has many sponsors and has asked the Bridgerland chapter for \$500 to put toward the \$5,000 net cost. He believes the conference will be successful in putting Utah in a global framework. Comments: Tom Gordon pointed out that we need to make an annual budget before committing \$500. The committee will try to give Al an answer at the October planning meeting.

Banquet. Pat Gordon is organizing the banquet and would like suggestions for speakers.

Board Members. 1993 board terms expire at the end of April/May. At this time, membership should vote for the board members.

Holly Faire. Audubon has participated in the past with Jan Young being the organizer. Dawn feels that we might use this as a fund raising opportunity.

Wildlife Conference. This is coming up and the Utah Wilderness Association wants us to cosponsor. There is a \$50 fee. Comments: Tom Gordon proposed waiting a month before committing.

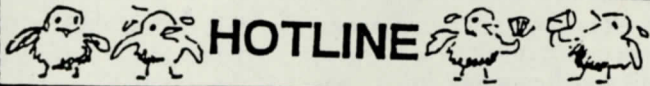
Bear River. From the regional meeting at Snowbird, Dawn reports that there is a coalition of Audubon chapters working on the river including those from Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. The chapters are pushing for an all-basin management orientation. Larry Means is coordinating this effort.

Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 18

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 lead 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.

Help Wanted

Do you like kids? Are you good at arts and crafts? Or do you just want to help Audubon participate in Holly Faire this year? Then you are just the person/people we are looking for. Volunteers are needed to help run the Audubon children's booth on December 2, 3 and 4. We will be painting tree ornaments and assembling bird feeders with the kids. Lots of people are needed to fill one to two hour time slots. Please call Dawn Holzer at 258-5205 if available and interested.



Gosh, it has been a long time since I put fingers to keyboard and wrote bird stuff. I had to wait an extra long time in order to get enough material for a column—there were so few rarities, I almost forgot my Hotline mission. Summer birding in Cache Valley was what fellow birder Keith Dixon calls “very flat,” especially in his own backyard river bank.

Actually, Keith was luckier than many; he hosted a male indigo bunting for most of August. It was a shy little fellow, but a few extremely patient observers got to watch as it molted from deep blue to mostly brown winter plumage; it departed August 26.

Dixons also noticed fewer late-summer hummingbirds this year than last, with the last calliope on August 26, the last rufous September 10 and a black-chinned September 18. Anyone see hummers later than this?

Early in the summer Kit Flannery entertained a lesser goldfinch in her Hyde Park yard. (Have you been to Kit's place? Makes you want to turn avian, it's such an appealing bird sanctuary—huge, spreading lilac bushes, fine old shade trees and little ponds with trickling water beckoning creatures great and small. Kit spends a lot of time in a tree house. Envy this woman!)

Where have all the birdies gone!

About that flat summer—did anybody else notice reduced numbers of insect-eating songbirds? Keith Dixon had only a few Audubon and MacGillivray warblers and an occasional solitary vireo, but no Wilson's warblers. I had no Wilson's either, though I counted one Nashville warbler. We pondered this strangeness, and thought perhaps the population downturn could be due to the lush, late, wet spring that brought us such a bumper crop of wildflowers—hence abundant food far from the madding crowds of town. Think about it: sunflowers really were everywhere.

Short-eared owls occupied another notable hole on the summer bird checklist. Last year they were almost profuse, especially in the fields west of Hyde Park and on the Amalga Barrens; you couldn't drive over the valley floor of an evening without seeing at least one of them perched on a fencepost or utility pole. This year, nada. Zip. Zero owls of the short-eared persuasion. Now, we great thinkers are thinking this is a more tragic absence, wrought probably by a long, cold winter of deep snowfields that deprived many owls of food. *Please call the Hotline if you saw a short-eared owl in Cache County this summer.*

Good news: The burrowing owls returned to their nesting ground south of Cache Junction early in July, about a month later than last summer. Anyone have info on their breeding success?

Hotline items:

- John Mull and Alice Lindahl, along with Alice's “Discovering Nature” class at the university, saw a ferruginous hawk October 6 on the airport road at about 1000 West.
- And the first dark-eyed junco checked in at Keith Dixon's yard September 30.

Sandhill cranes pack up, hollering . . .

Did you hear the wondrous racket put up by migrating sandhill cranes October 2 and 3? Howard Deer watched them all day, beginning with just a few birds calling and circling the clear blue sky in a V-formation, picking up a dozen more here and there, spiraling higher and higher, and finally swelling to a flock of 300 that flew out the south end of the valley. They are compelling to watch and to hear, honking their primitive, gurgling yodel as they fly in ever-higher circles. It's an autumn ritual I hope you don't miss. Last year sandhills were heard as late as November 3.

Speaking of autumn rituals, it's time to lay in a supply of black-oil sunflower seeds and check the condition of your bird feeders. Feeding winter's birds brings so much pleasure in return for the small investment, we should almost feel guilty! If you've been putting out that asylum-grade “wild bird food” from the supermarket and hosting mostly house sparrows, invest in a bag of the black and give it a test run. The better avian visitors—those sassy chickadees and Cassin's finches—have elegant taste, just like we do. We prefer eggs Benedict to dry toast in the morning, yes? Birds are no different. Running a high-class restaurant always brings 'em in.

Just as important as quality food is consistency. The little dears are creatures of habit, again like many humans. If we feed them once, they'll come again and again, and by deep winter they'll depend utterly on our kindness to get through their frigid days and nights. Please, don't even think of leaving for a vacation without making arrangements for a friend to fill your bird feeder. You wouldn't go away without making provisions for Fido the dog; don't forget your feathered friends, either.

Meanwhile, as you await Cache Valley's famous snows, keep an eye out for interesting bird moments and call the Hotline when you see something worth sharing. It doesn't have to be rare, though that's always fun. You could be like Will Pitkin of Hyde Park, calling to talk about the belted kingfisher angling successfully in his new backyard pond in September, or me (and hey, who can I call?) watching three dozen grackles touch down to eat fruit from our Russian olive tree the first week of October. Let's talk!

— Nancy Williams, 753-6268

Teton Trip Full of Life

The Audubon Group had a wonderful trip to the Tetons on October 1. The weather was great and the fall colors of the cottonwoods and aspens looked brilliant against the clear blue sky. The first day, on the road just north of the campground we spotted a herd of buffalo, which included a bull and around 20 cows. Just up the road from them, we saw four pronghorn grazing. The male herded his harem down into a gully. The whole group (approximately 40) traveled together up to Taggart Lake. We all enjoyed Al Stokes' explanations and the children's curiosity along the path through the burn area, which is in its seventh year of recovery. We aged the fire by the growth of the young lodge pole pines. Recent bear activity was all around. You could see where logs had been pulled apart, as the bear looked for tasty beetles. The work was so fresh that the grass under the newly torn log was still green and springy. The elk trails ran north to south across our path and through the stream. We saw fresh markings of a hungry porcupine on the bark of several trees.

We all had lunch up at the bridge outlet at Taggart's Lake where we saw a lone bald eagle. Later back at camp we saw a mother moose and her calf lying down for a rest at one of the unoccupied camp sites. They seemed undisturbed by the small quiet groups that came to see them.

That evening, we went to view elk migration. Our group barely whispered and were careful not to snap a single twig, while at the same time a large horse trailer banged its way up and down a nearby road. The elk must have been scared off. Better luck next year.

Coyotes were heard both nights howling at the full moon. That night while the campfire burned, smores were made and good tales about beaver and elk were told.

On the second day we explored Granite Canyon. The frosted trail followed the creek, almost reaching the alpine fir zone. Pikas were heard, but not seen in the lichen covered rock slides. On the journey back to Logan we made a quick stop to search for beaver. Only one dam was maintained, while many others were abandoned. Some looked for fossils in the rocky slopes above the creek. We arrived home traveling through the beautiful winding roads and fall colors of Logan Canyon.

— Nick and Susie Flann

Birding and Canoeing in Nebraska

You went WHERE for your vacation? Who ever thought of Nebraska as a vacation destination? After nine days of canoeing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness in northern Minnesota we stopped by to see former Loganites Pat and Craig Johnson in Brookings, SD. Craig asked what we knew about the Niobrara River

in Nebraska; not much except that it is a canoeing mecca. A quick look at the map indicated that Valentine, NE was just a few hours away. Since Pat and Craig had a new kevlar canoe we were anxious to be there for the first scratches so we talked them into skipping out of work the Friday after Labor Day.

Bryan and I drove on ahead and spent a day bird watching among the sand hills in strong winds at the Fort Niobrara and Valentine National Wildlife Refuges where we added a LeConte's sparrow to our list. Together with the McKelvie National Forest and the Niobrara River canyon, the Valentine area is birder heaven during migrations. Valentine NWR alone provides a list of 264 birds.

According to local literature, *Backpacker* magazine rated the Niobrara as one of the top 10 canoeing rivers in the U.S. A main attraction of the river is the six ecological zones that converge along the river canyon as well as numerous waterfalls from streams feeding the river. In 1991 the river was designated as a scenic river under the federal wild and scenic river legislation.

Judging by the number of outfitters in the tiny town and the scores of aluminum canoes we saw stacked on trailers, the river gets heavy use. Another popular river conveyance is 4-5 huge tubes roped together.

Our day on the river dawned calm (what no wind?) and clear. While the guys were running the shuttle, Pat and I stalked birds, keeping an eye out for poison ivy. I was rewarded with my first view of a brown thrasher.

Trip length can vary from a couple of hours to a couple of days. Our seven hours of solitude on the river were broken only by a small bovine herd (reminded me of home) and a man at one of the commercial campsites who complimented us on our choice of days. We could only imagine the river traffic during the Labor Day holiday. It was clear from the literature that this river is for beginners but the low water level kept us alert as we maneuvered to avoid rocks and ledges; even during early summer the depth averages only 2-3 feet. Despite the low flow the current moves along at a brisk pace and as much as we tried to lead our friends into trouble they managed to maintain the unscratched shine on their boat. There are a few riffles and one small rapid where we managed to surf the canoe. One person managed to get wet but we won't say who.

We saw osprey, merlin, kingfishers and yellow shafted Northern flickers. Combined with the warm sun, deep scenic canyon, clear water, and abundant waterfalls the peacefulness of the trip shared with long time friends added up to a perfect day.

Unless you consider hordes of inexperienced canoeists as a "moving gates" challenge, we suggest avoiding summer weekends on the Niobrara. Besides, we were told the birding is best in May and October. Our visit to Valentine, Nebraska was an unplanned delight.

— Jean Lown

New Members

Deanna Bradley, Logan
Chris Duffner, Clarkston
William P. Fullmer, Preston, ID
Ron Hellstern, Logan
D.L. King, Montpelier, ID
Erik Larson, Hyrum
Jill Morgan, Logan
David C. Nelson, Logan
Rosmarie Woffinden, Logan

Renewing Members

Leroy B. Beasley, Logan
Max Elliot Brunson, Logan
Claire S. Caldes, Brigham City
R & J Carpenter, Sewanee, TN
Scott Datwyler, Logan
E.N. Hatch, Logan
Don Hickman, Logan
Nathan & Chris Hult, Logan
BraE.H. Berry Laughlin, Providence
Mrs. Rosalie Mueggler, Logan
Mark Nafziger, Smithfield
Tim Slocum, Logan
Kim & Peggy Smith, Fayetteville, AR

LOCAL NEWS

Fourth Annual Utah Nonpoint Source Water Quality Conference

Although I had already attended about four conferences this last month, another good one, sub-titled "Choices and Trade-offs in Sustainable Natural Resource Management," was being held right here in Logan. As one of the charter members of the new Audubon's Bear of a Coalition I thought it might be a good opportunity to educate myself about water quality issues and meet some of the key players in this ongoing debate. Pat Briggs, Utah Audubon Council President; Kay Ingram, Snake River Audubon President from Idaho; and Wayne Martinson, our Utah Audubon Lobbyist also participated.

A pre-conference field trip highlighted cooperative pollution reduction efforts taking place on the Little Bear River Pilot Project. We toured a cement manure lagoon that was built to keep animal wastes from contaminating spring area. We also saw examples of fenced riparian areas, revegetation, solar water pumps, and high efficiency sprinkler systems. This is a volunteer cost

share program. EPA funds pay for about 75% of the improvements. Landowners pay the rest.

Speakers addressed the complexity of natural resource debates. Conflicts can be considered as dangerous as opportunities. Sharing of information and goals was strongly encouraged. Workshops discussed a range of topics from landscaping to education efforts to monitoring water quality.

The Audubon contingent was warmly welcomed by many agency and private people. I was somewhat surprised by the spirit of cooperation. There seems to be a recognition by all that now is the time to come together. Clean water will benefit everyone. Audubon has been asked to sit on the Cache County Water Quality Task Force. The Utah Audubon Council, at our last meeting decided to join the Department of Environmental Quality's Adopt-a-Waterbody program. The Bear River will be adopted by the four Utah chapters as our very own. There are some funds available for clean-up projects, etc.

I know that many members of Bridgerland Audubon have been involved/interested/concerned about the Bear River for some time. A committee will be formed to take the lead in identifying critical habitat areas for our three state Audubon's Bear of a Coalition. Volunteers will also be needed to plan projects and work on the Audubon Spring Retreat, which will focus on that Bear River and include Wyoming and Idaho chapters. If you care enough about the Bear, please call and get involved.

— Dawn Holzer, 258-5205

REGIONAL NEWS

Wetland Accomplishments and a Proposal for a Wetlands Reserve

This article briefly summarizes some of the major efforts the Chapters and I have been involved with since I began working as Utah Wetlands Coordinator in July 1991.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* published a year-long series and then compiled it in a tabloid called, "The Great Salt Lake—Utah's Amazing Inland Sea." The Great Salt Lake was dedicated as a site of Hemispheric Importance by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network on August 1, 1992. The Chapters helped support the building of a dike on Unit 1 of the Bear River Refuge, which was mostly completed in May, 1993 and will enhance about 600 acres of wetlands. Individuals have commented on various Army Corps of Engineer Permits

to dredge and fill. National Audubon officially acquired 107 acres on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake in December 1992. I have been working with a coalition on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake and one regarding the Bear River Delta. Bridgerland Audubon is focusing on the Bear River and Alice Lindahl has been heavily involved in the plans for Cutler Reservoir.

Although we have accomplished a lot there is, as always, a lot more to do. One of the major efforts I have been working on, particularly since the weekend of the Audubon Council Retreat field trip to the Great Salt Lake in April 1993, is the development of a South Shore Wetlands Ecological Reserve (SSWER). This is a proposal to manage over 10,000 acres to the west and the northwest of the Salt Lake Airport as a wetlands reserve. Dusty Dunstan, Director of National Audubon Sanctuary Department and Ella Sorenson have been helping immensely in this effort.

The major emphasis of the proposal is to recreate the old Jordan River delta, since the Jordan River flowed in this direction over 2,000 years ago. The 107 acres that National Audubon owns is included in the proposed area.

The reserve would include many different landowners, with the hope that a portion of this area would be a National Audubon Sanctuary.

The SSWER proposal was submitted to an interagency committee that developed non-binding, tentative plans on how to spend \$14 million on wildlife mitigation on the Great Salt Lake under the Central Utah Water Completion Act. The interagency committee recommended just over \$1 million for the South Shore Wetlands Ecological Reserve proposal. Also, Great Salt Lake Audubon has committed \$20,000 to buy land within the proposed area, if the parcel meets with the boards approval. The reserve will take a lot of work but the idea can come to fruition.

Feel free to write or call me on any wetland issue at 549 Cortez St., Salt Lake City, UT 84102-2122. Phone: 355-8110.

— Wayne Martinson

Utah Coordinating Council

Minutes for September 13, 1993

Meeting held at John Bellmon's home in Sunset.

Present: John Bellmon, Pat Bridges, Keith Evans, Dawn Holzer, Jeanne Le Ber, Wayne Martinson, Ray Smith

Pat began the meeting by asking those present to evaluate the structure of the Utah Coordinating Council. She feels that the structure should be evaluated on a regular basis. In addition she asked what direction the Council should be moving and questioned the need for

strategic planning.

Pat stated that 1) Dick Muller (Logan, not present) would like to see more structure in the Council and 2) Lilian Hayes (Provo, not present) would like to see the Council be more proactive.

John emphasized that the Utah Coordinating Council exists at the direction of the Chapters and that the Council acts on behalf of the Chapters. The basic intent of the Council is to coordinate between the four local Utah chapters.

There are currently no Bylaws and none are thought necessary at this time.

Structure of the Coordinating Council

- 1) Chair/treasurer (Pat)
- 2) A revolving secretary who will be responsible for distributing minutes of the Council meeting to each of the Chapters. The minutes of the Council meetings provide for accountability, and summarize topics of discussion. The distribution of minutes is the major means of keeping the Chapters and members informed of Council activities.
- 3) There is one vote per chapter (4 votes) and a vote must be unanimous in order for action to be taken by the Council.
- 4) Chapters can decide who the Council representative is and who the alternate is. Council representatives should keep the local Chapter boards informed about Council meeting proceedings.
- 5) All chapter members are invited to attend Council meetings.

The Council Provides a Means for

- 1) exchanging information between Chapters;
- 2) plans retreats; and
- 3) organizes on state issues.

Pat asked about the Council having a legal voice. If the Council was to take legal action it would need to be incorporated (501 3C). But since the chapters are incorporated it was deemed unnecessary for the Council to go through this process. Legal action would be taken through the chapters.

Wayne Martinson voiced some concerns he had regarding the reporting of his salary to the IRS. He was also concerned that the Chapters be sure that the amount of money they contribute to the lobbyist is not a higher percentage than would effect the Chapters non-profit status.

The Utah Coordinating Council will be joining with other State Councils to work on issues of regional importance. States involved are Wyoming, Idaho and Utah.

Wy	Larry Means (chair)
Id	Kay Ingram
Ut	Dawn Holzer

Logan will be hosting the Spring Retreat and this will be a joint meeting with the Wy and Id State Councils.

Project 2000 — Pat will fill out questionnaire from Governor Leavitt and route to other chapters for their input.

Partners in Flight meeting is September 23—this project has to do with neotropical birds and obtaining a grant so work can be done in this region.

Wayne mentioned the upcoming Wildlife Management Task Force and the structure of the Boards and their composition. Numbers of members and who they represent will be critical.

Ogden is hosting the Fall Retreat (Friday-Saturday, September 23-24) at the Swanson Environmental Center in Liberty—northwest of Pineview Reservoir. There will be a potluck Friday evening at 6:00 p.m., followed by a talk about the Forest Review Planning process. Saturday morning pancake breakfast and hike. Discussion from 9-11 a.m. After the meeting people are encouraged to join Bob Walters from the Division of Wildlife Resources for a Hawk Watch on the top of Francis Peak.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Le Ber

BETTER BIRDING

The following is an edited excerpt from the National Wildlife Federation brochure *"Wild Bird Feeding Preferences"*:

Oil (black) sunflower is the most popular seed with most seed-eating birds, especially chickadees, grosbeaks and finches. White proso millet is the most popular with cowbirds, various sparrows and doves. In general, birds attracted to elevated feeders (4 feet or more) prefer oil (black) sunflower seed while ground feeding birds prefer white proso millet. Buckwheat, whole oats and rice proved unattractive to practically all birds.

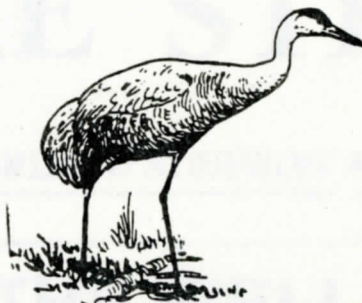
Peanut kernels are popular with blue jays, the tufted titmouse and the white-throated sparrow. Black-striped sunflower seed and cracked corn are the favorites of grackles. Starlings prefer peanut hearts, hulled oats and cracked corn.

Non seed-eating birds such as woodpeckers, nuthatches and other insect-eaters prefer suet, while hummingbirds always prefer sugar water. 🐦

Festival of the Cranes

Among the most awe-inspiring sights in nature is the annual fall migration of tens of thousands of sandhill cranes and snow geese to their wintering grounds on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, NM. Birders can enjoy the spectacle of these migrating flocks, along with an impressive lineup of experts and events at the sixth annual Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes November 18-21.

The action-packed four day program features authors Donald and Lillian Stokes, International Crane Foundation director George Archibald and other speakers, plus more than 50 exhibits, workshops, demonstrations and conducted tours, some in areas usually closed to the public.



An illustrated lecture by veteran birder-photographer Gary Froehlich and three workshops by famed publisher-photographer Karen Hollingsworth will provide tips to amateur and serious bird photographers.

Festival information and tickets are available from: Festival of the Cranes, P.O. Box 743 NR, Socorro, NM 87801; (505) 835-0424.

Sandhill Crane Tie

We are offering a beautiful limited edition "crane music" tie as a chapter fund raiser. Tie depicts our beloved cranes silhouetted against a beautiful wine colored sky as the cranes fly across the face of a full moon. Ties are hand made of high quality silk and would retail for \$50.00 or more. They are not available in stores, however as they are made especially for Audubon. They are \$32.00 each. We need to receive a minimum number of orders for this project to proceed. Should we not receive the minimum number of orders, we will return your \$32.00 for each tie.

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Orders must be placed
by December 10, 1993