

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 23, No. 5

January 1995

Robins Compete For Mountain Ash Berries

Two years ago in early spring I noticed that robins feeding in my mountain ash tree were quite intolerant of each other. A feeding robin rarely tolerated another robin that tried to feed on the same side of the tree—about 16 feet in diameter. Only a robin that was on the other side and perched somewhat higher was tolerated. I assumed that the intervening branches acted as a shield and made attack from another robin too difficult.

This year starting in early November robins started feeding in this same tree on the prolific crop of berries. The leaves were still on the trees. There have been as many as a dozen robins feeding simultaneously without intolerance. I speculate that the abundant food supply now and the dense foliage make defense of the food supply both unnecessary as well as far more difficult. The leaves have started to fall this week and I will be interested in seeing if robins become less tolerant. If not, then this will suggest that its not screening but food abundance that is the most important factor. I hope readers with mountain ash trees will share their observations.

— Al Stokes

BAS Annual Banquet

We still need an organizer for the banquet.
Are you interested in helping?
Contact Dawn, 258-5205.

Hardware Ranch

Hardware Ranch opened on Friday, November 25, 1994. Hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. seven days a week. Cost of a sleigh ride through the elk is \$3.50, which includes free hot chocolate or coffee. Children age three and under ride free. Night sleigh rides and all you can eat chicken and rib dinners are offered on Friday and Saturday evenings. Cost is \$30 per couple and reservations are needed. Call Hardware Ranch at 245-3131 or 245-3329.

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Calendar

Thursday, January 12. General Meeting, 7:30 pm
Logan City Building. BAS will share its meeting time and place with the USU Canoe and Kayak Club. We will be cosponsoring a meeting to bring in Linda Merigliano, from the Jackson Ranger District, Jackson, Wyoming. Linda will bring us up to date on the Snake River Management Plan, including what sort of resources are included and how we can offer citizen input. Meet in the Logan City building at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 18. BAS Planning Meeting, 7 pm. Help decide how to spend all of that hard-earned Audubon money. Chair and board people strongly encouraged to attend. Other member's attendance and input is always welcome. Al Stokes will host this month at 1722 Saddlehill Drive in Logan.

Winter Field Trips

Saturday, January 21. Tracks in the Snow. Kayo Robertson will lead this trip in the flat open fields near Benson Marina. Unless the snow is more than 12 inches deep good boots will suffice. Kayo will help participants identify the animal making the tracks and what it was doing. Weasel, mice, fox, dog plus magpie and pheasants should have left sign. Leave from the southwest corner of Fred Meyer's parking lot at 9 am and return by noon.

Saturday, February 4. More Tracking. Kayo Robertson will lead this trip to Guinivah Campgrounds where red squirrel, cottontail rabbit, weasel, mice and deer tracks should be abundant. Snowshoes or skis may be advisable. Leave at 9 am from the Logan Ranger District Office on Highway 89 just across the highway from Logan Golf Course. If questions about the weather call Kayo at 563-8272. Return by noon.

Saturday, February 18. Beaver Colony Revisited. Al Stokes will take the group to Franklin Basin, 1.5 miles off the Logan Canyon Road, to see how active beaver have been in winter. The Franklin Basin road is well used by snowmobiles so it should be possible to hike in. Others may choose to ski. Meet at 1 pm at the Forest Service Ranger District on Highway 89 across highway from Logan Golf Course.

March trips will include a visit to the USU greenhouses, going to the bald eagle concentration west of Brigham City, and a trip to observe waterfowl. Look for details in the February *Stilt*

Bring some friends, including children, on these trips.

USU Outdoor Recreation Center

The USU Outdoor Program is sponsoring a series of nine outdoor adventure slide shows starting Wednesday, January 4 and continuing throughout winter quarter. The first show is on "Avalanche Awareness and Safety" and will be presented by Bruce Tremper, director of the Utah Avalanche Forecast Center in Salt Lake City. All shows are free and open to the public. All shows are Wednesday nights, 7:30, HPER 114.

— Kevin Kobe
Coordinator Outdoor Program

Last Monthly Meeting

Our December show and tell slide meeting was well-attended by about forty people. Eight or so members brought some of their best slides to share with the group. We covered a huge range of topics from Cache Valley wilderness areas to bats, African village life, high Arctic landscapes, rare Cache Valley birds, hazards of the Australian outback and an archaeological dig. And it only took about an hour! Many of the slides were of professional quality. Program coordinator, Don McIvor, picked a winner with this great idea. Let's make this an annual event! I know there are plenty more talented photographers out there.

We also had a chance to meet our new Utah Audubon Council lobbyist, Ann O'Connell. Ann had available copies of several proposed bills for the upcoming state legislative session. See her article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information about them. Ann, a retired school teacher, is very articulate and well organized. We all look forward to working with her this year.

Renewing Members

Michael C Amacher
Budge Clinic
Mrs Linda A Chisholm
Merv & Mae Coover
Windsor Copley
Norbert V Debyle
W Bryan Dixon
Nick & Susie Flann
Patricia Fullmer
William B Hampton, MD
Ruth B Helm
John A Kadlec
Elizabeth Keller
Richard J Mueller
John M Neuhold

Sharon L Osowski
Mary I Piette
Pam Riley
Mrs Sandra Romesburg
Renate Schaaaf
Miiko Toelken
David S Winn
James L Woodson

New Members

R Burger
Kurt Finlayson
Levy Fredenc
Leslie B Jorgensen
Rebecca Luras

LOCAL NEWS

Crows in Logan

When I arrived in Logan in 1952 crows were a rarity in Logan. Now they are year-round residents and seemingly increasing. It seems to be the nature of birders that we pay scant attention to common birds. It would make a fine activity for our Audubon members to undertake a study of the natural history of crows in and about Logan. Crows are highly conspicuous through their size, calls and flight. It should be easy to collect information on their feeding, roosting and breeding habits. I intend, my self, to spend more time observing their winter roosting habits since they roost in the spruce trees in the cemetery and others close to home. If you would like to be part of a team to make this ongoing study we could meet to decide on how to proceed. Give me a call at 752-2702.

— Al Stokes

Sand Hill Crane Days '94!

On December 13, the organizers of Sandhill Crane Days '94 presented \$1,000 to the Governor's Wildlife Heritage Committee for the future protection and appreciation of cranes in Utah.

Donations to the crane fund were solicited to establish lure crops in Cache Valley to attract cranes from fall grain crops and to continue to celebrate, rather than kill, the beautiful migratory birds as they pass through Utah on their fall migration.

The first Sandhill Crane Days were held in Cache Valley on September 9-10, 1994, during which a prize winning Audubon film on cranes was shown, field trips were taken to observe cranes and other birds, and a dinner/program were offered at a campground in Logan Canyon. To limit impact on wildlife, participation was limited to 100 folks. Many conservation groups (including Utah Wilderness Association and Utah Audubon Society) helped underwrite the festival; all profits are being donated to the Heritage Committee to finance nonconsumptive enjoyment of wildlife.

Money donated to the Wildlife Heritage Fund will be used to protect wildlife species and important habitat, institute wildlife education programs, and fund research. The program was created by the 1993 Legislature. Public contributions to the Fund will be the focus of much publicity in months to come.

REGIONAL NEWS

Bureau of Reclamation

Audubon nationally has signed a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, both parties pledging to work together whenever possible.

Does this sound odd to some of you familiar with typical Bureau projects, especially here in Utah? Well, strange things are happening, at least strange to some of us who have been involved in conservation issues for 25 or more years. A new and very welcome wind is blowing throughout the government agencies these days. More and more they have been recognizing the need for *stewardship*, not just exploitation, of the national heritage they are in charge of. The mandate from above (at least in the last two years) has been very much toward this end, and the younger generation of staff, especially, have total commitment to this direction. Hey, we have to protect our natural resources and their ecology or guess what?—there won't be any left to protect.

The Bureau of Reclamation, a latecomer to this thinking, agency-wise, is endeavoring to deal with some of the terrible situations they have created in the name of progress. Following Berle's Memo of Understanding, or agreement, Audubon ex-staffer Ed Pempleton has been meeting with Bureau personnel throughout the country to talk about projects and how Audubon volunteers can help. We can help in many ways, some rather technical—bird censuses, monitoring wetland mitigations, sitting on technical and planning advisory committees—and some rather physical, e.g., helping to pull out exotic plants which have grown up along riparian areas and reservoir banks.

By April or May Bureau biologists and restoration people will have come up with ideas on how Audubon in Utah can participate, and will talk to the chapters at our semi-annual retreat. In the meantime, if you would like to help on any of these future projects, please call me at 582-4431.

— Pat Briggs

Utah Audubon Council Chair

Holly Faire A Huge Success

THANK YOU to all of the people who volunteered to staff our annual children's booth at Holly Faire. Over 300 different people helped out. Our sales of bird houses to build and tree ornaments to paint made a total of \$487.69 for our chapter! Extra special thanks to Al Stokes for roping in volunteers, Ken Jenner for cutting all the lumber, Jan Young for pouring all of the plaster of paris ornaments and Anderson Lumber in Preston for donating all of the wood materials. This has become an annual tradition. Holly Faire has already asked us to return next year. So we hope to see you all there again!

Utah Audubon Legislative Agenda

The State Audubon Council has endorsed the following bills which are to be presented to the state legislature in January. These bills were at least in the draft stage at the time of discussion.

A Single Game Board

A single game board in place of the present two boards. Members appointed by the governor from a list presented to him by a committee also of his appointees. The members of the nominating committee are required to be representative of specific groups which include sportsman, agricultural interests and nonconsumptive interests.

Land Conservation Task Force

An interim committee to study the preservation of open land. The membership is to include one representative from land conservation interests. It will present legislation to the '96 legislature.

Exemption From Rollback Taxation on Agricultural Land Placed in a Conservation Easement

The privilege of non-payment of certain property taxes will be extended to lands dedicated to a conservation easement.

A Law Forbidding the Introduction of Non-Native Species

The impetus behind this bill is the problem of non-native fish that compete with game fish but hopefully it will be expanded to include plants and other terrestrial species.

Public Access to School Trust Lands in the Book Cliffs

Perhaps to include procedures for negotiation for conservation easements and an extension to other trust lands.

Higher Fines for Fish and Game Violations

Raise fines for trophy violations to market value.

The council also wishes to support legislation to facilitate the purchase of non-game license plates and funding non-motorized trails.

The council agreed that the Water Reuse-Sewage Effluent bill is of prime interest but deferred judgment until hearing the opinion of a water lawyer. As of now it appears that this may be a top priority for Audubon. The crux of the bill is the question of "beneficial use" versus water in the stream for wildlife.

There are other bills that may be of interest to you personally. I may not know about them all so please contact me, even about rumors of bills. It is in the nature of the political process that dreadful things can happen without anyone noticing.

It is clear that Audubon members are deeply concerned about state legislation. You have committed to hiring a lobbyist. This is impressive, yet I hope you will be willing to do more. We need to impress the legislators that I and other Audubon representatives who appear on the hill represent a sizeable and cohesive group with sympathy from the general public as well. You know what I am asking. Please sign up to call or write. Fill in the form. Call or write me. I would like information on your senator or representative because this allows us to target them. But do not be chagrined if you do not know this information. It is easy to lose track and boundaries are sometimes changed. I can find out for you if you will ask for help.

— Ann O'Connell
277-9046

AUDUBON LOBBYING NETWORK

Yes, I want to be an Audubon Lobbying Network Participant for the Utah Legislature by becoming informed on the issues and contacting my legislators.

Issues I'm interested in:

- Wildlife
- Other Natural Resources Issues
- Environmental Health
- Please Specify Particular Issues

I am willing to call other chapter members to tell them about pending actions. Yes No

I would like to come to the Capitol during the session.
 Yes No

I can help in other ways (such as research, writing, lobbying, mailings, etc.) Please specify _____

State Representative (if known) _____

State Senator (if known) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

(W) _____

Return coupon to:
Ann O'Connell
2727 Kentucky Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT 84117

277-9046



1995
COLORADO PELICAN FESTIVAL
April 28-30, Greeley

Three Days of Fun. Celebrating Our Wildlife:

- Field trips
- Workshops
- Pawnee National Grasslands
- Nature art
- Merchant discounts
- Our famous Walk-Like-A-Pelican Contest (be sure to enter!)
- Programs
- White Pelicans
- Banquet
- Local hot spots
- Star gazing

Full information: Platte & Prairie Audubon Society, PO Box 3354, Greeley, CO 80633. Or call: 303-330-5082 or 303-351-0166.

Utah Wildlife News

You don't have to wait for Bald Eagle Day (February 4) to catch a glimpse of our nation's living symbol of freedom, and a welcome winter visitor to Utah. During the day, bald eagles forage widely and are most often spotted along streams and lake shores, hunting for careless fish or ducks. Look for them perched in the tops of large trees or on frozen lakes, resting as they look for prey. Toward evening, bald eagles form communal roosts for the night. It is not unusual to see 30 or more eagles in the same roost tree, usually a large cottonwood. Daytime bald eagle roosts are often high in remote mountain areas, protected from humans where visibility is excellent.

Volunteers Clean Up Wildlife Property/Erect Wood Duck Boxes

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources maintains 22 acres of land in Morgan County known as Stoddard Slough. The Slough was a fish hatchery from the early 1940s through the mid 1960s. Although the hatchery is not in use anymore, the Division plants rainbow trout in the old hatchery ponds several times during the summer months to provide some of the only public fishing access in Morgan County. Many anglers have success if they have a little patience and are willing to try several different baits!

Unfortunately, many unthinking anglers leave trash behind—soda cans, fishing line, bait containers and other trash. This litter is not only unsightly to other people who want to enjoy the area, but some of the debris washes into the water. Fishing line can become entangled around the necks and feet of waterfowl in the area.

Boy Scout Jared Farr, North Ogden, wanted a project to obtain his Eagle badge and decided to supervise a crew of other scouts to help clean up the area. They picked up a lot of the trash left by fishermen and also removed some old debris left over from when the hatchery was active. In addition, Jared built four wood duck nest boxes and placed them at various locations throughout the Slough. Wood ducks have been seen in the area for the past few years, but have not nested in the area due to a lack of nesting sites. Hopefully, the ducks will find the new boxes to their liking and raise young ducklings next year.

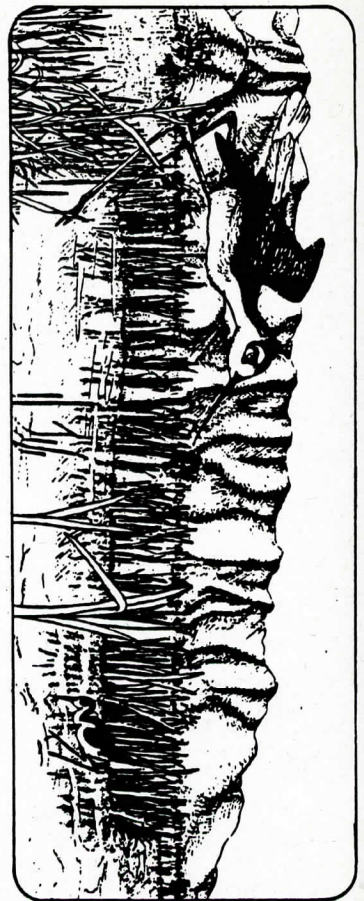
Projects like these not only enhance wildlife habitat, they also provide valuable community service. The Division of Wildlife Resources encourages scout groups and other volunteer organizations to become involved in community service projects on Division lands and improve the quality of wildlife habitat and the quality of human recreational experiences. Please contact an Information and Education officer at your nearest Division office if you would like to become involved in similar projects.



Mervin & Mae Coover
435 Canyon Rd
Providence UT 84332

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
Logan, Utah 84323



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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. Locations may change monthly. Check calendar page. 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	
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Lois & Randy Olson, 752-9085
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637
Publicity	Beth Walden, 753-0080
Hospitality	Bill & Marjorie Lewis, 753-8724
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268
Legislative Chairperson	
Trustees	
1992-95	Pat Gordon, 752-6561; John Sigler, 753-5879; Val Grant, 752-7572
1993-96	Tom Gordon, 752-6561; Rebecca Echols, 752-2367; Richard Mueller, 752-5637
1994-97	Scott George, 753-3918; Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Barbara Rusmore, 755-0758

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 \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, CO 80322-1001



LOCAL CHAPTER _____

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P.O. Box 3501
Logan, UT 84323-3501

W-52
Local Chapter Code
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Subscriptions to *The Stilt* are available to non-members for \$5.00 per year. Call Susan Durham, 752-5637. Also, call Susan for new subscriptions or address changes.