



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 24, No. 2

October 1995

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, New Mexico. Wildlife enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy the spectacle of these migrating flocks.

The eighth annual Festival of the Cranes is scheduled to begin Thursday, November 16. By the last day, November 19, an estimated 12,000 people from around the world will have traveled to Socorro, swelling the population to twice its usual size.

In total there are more than one hundred scheduled activities listed in the 1995 Catalog of Events. Included are demonstrations, workshops, guided tours, exhibits, and an Artisans Fair. The 1995 Festival features keynote speakers Karen Hollingsworth, Arthur Morris, and Victor Emanuel.

Many events will be of interest to bird enthusiasts—from free workshops and demonstrations to a “Breakfast with the Birds” tour. Led by enthusiastic guides and featuring a gourmet breakfast basket, these tours will concentrate on looking for the rare and unusual bird species present on the refuge.

To amateur and professional photographers, a kit benefit enjoyed during the Festival is having access to areas in the 57,000-acre refuge that are usually closed to the public. Of special interest to photographers are photography workshops, a photography contest, and the keynote speakers who are nationally known photographers.

In addition to wildlife and conservation related activities, the

1995 Festival of the Cranes will spotlight the Socorro area’s rich environmental diversity, geology, and history with several guided tours. Destinations will include the Kelly Ghost Town and Waldo Mine, the Chihuahuan desert terrain of the Quebradas Backcountry Byway, bird-rich Water Canyon, the historical Fort Craig and Battle of Val Verde areas, and Native American petroglyph sites.

Theme T-shirts and sweatshirts for this year’s festival, designed by Socorro artist Vivian Olsen, will feature sandhill and whooping cranes in flight.

Advanced registration for the Festival is highly recommended, as most events have limited capacity. Festival of the Cranes, PO Box 743-NR, Socorro, NM 87801; phone: (505) 835-0424.

Contact: Peggy Mitchusson
Work Phone: (505) 835-1828
Home Phone: (505) 835-0900

Inside

PROTECTION OF BEAR RIVER ENVIRONMENT . . .	2
SENATE ALL WET ON WETLAND	3
SPECIES EXTINCTION ACT	3

Calendar

Thursday, October 12. BAS General Meeting. Jim Buress from Utah Power & Light will be presenting on the Cutler Reservoir Resource Management Plan which involves a number of improvements for recreational use as well as opportunities for wildlife. Join us at the Logan City Building at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, October 15. Stilt Deadline. Those who wish to submit articles or have information for the *Stilt*, please drop off your items in writing using the appropriate format, dates, times, etc. Any questions contact Lois Olson, 280 North 300 East, Logan, 752-9085.

Wednesday, October 18. BAS Planning Meeting. 7 pm. Chair and board members join to discuss projects and funding. As members, your input is always welcome. Brigit Burt will host this months meeting at 1000 North 320 West #4 in Logan.

Field Trips

Friday, October 6 thru Sunday, October 8. Annual Trip to Hear Elk Bugling in Jackson Hole. Camp at Signal Mountain Campground 25 miles north of Jackson. Spend Saturday looking for bison, pronghorn, elk and other wildlife. After supper go out to listen for elk bugling. Sunday free for various hikes. Return home by supertime. Call trip leader Terry Barnes at 563-3910 (evenings or weekends) for reservations and carpooling arrangements. Bring your own food and camping gear. Be prepared for freezing weather.

Saturday, October 14. Exploring a Beaver Colony. Visit an active beaver colony 25 miles up Logan Canyon up Franklin Basin Road. See the construction of dams, beaver lodge, food stores and trails. No walking required. Leave at 1 pm from the Forest Service Ranger Station across Highway 89 from Logan Golf Course. Carpooling available and all welcome. Wear red or orange cap of jacket if hunting is on. Return by 4 pm. Call trip leader Kayo Robertson at 752-3944 (evenings) if weather is uncertain. No reservations needed.

Saturday, October 21. Annual Clean-up. Meet at Fred Meyers at 8:30 am. BAS adopted this section of road several years ago as a way to help our community and provide a cleaner roadside for many bird and animal species which frequent the area. Bring your binoculars . . . just in case. Contact Sue Drown 752-3797.

Hospitality Chair Needed

Individuals would set-up and clean-up the refreshments provided at the General Meetings. Its a great way to meet everyone. Contact Brigit Burt for more information, 753-2794.

Protection of the Bear River Environment

Work has been continued on a section of the Bear River riparian region just south of Amalga. On an earlier workday, we had levelled off some steep areas of the river banks and planted willow stems. Most of the willows have started to grow and by next year should have stabilized the banks considerably. On the last workday we started to install a fence about fifty feet away from the river bank and laid down some matting on the slopes to prevent erosion of bare soil. To date, the major posts (railroad ties) have been placed and most of the metal posts between these posts have been hammered into the ground. We have also placed matting along approximately half of the bare bank areas where it is needed. There are still a couple of work days needed to finish this project. On future workdays, we will stretch the barbed wire along the fence posts, finish the laying of matting and plant some more willow stems. We also sprinkled grass seeds to help stabilize bare ground.

After this project is completed, we plan to start work on a couple of feedlots north of Amalga and also on some feedlots near Benson. Hopefully work will start on these two areas this year. If we run short of time then we will have to start work on them next year.

Many thanks to the volunteers who have put in their time and effort to repair our environment. If you would like to volunteer for future workdays, please call me (750-5035) and tell me how I can contact you when a workday has been scheduled.

— Nick Strickland

Attention Required

Please check your mailing label for your correct zip code. Any corrections should be directed to Susan Durham, 752-5637. Thank you.

NATIONAL NEWS

Back Door Attack On Arctic Refuge

The Senate Budget Committee has broken new ground by including revenue from oil production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the pending federal budget. This back door tactic to open the refuge buries efforts to ruin this pristine area in a budget quagmire. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which has been called America's Serengeti, is our country's largest wildlife preserve and is home to caribou, grizzly bears, wolves, foxes, musk ox and more than 130 species of shorebirds, loons, songbirds and geese. In May, senators in favor of drilling tried opening the refuge to the pending federal budget bill, making it more difficult to debate and vote on this crucial issue. President Clinton has pledged not to permit drilling, and needs to hear that he should veto a budget bill that allows development in the Arctic.

Opening the Arctic Refuge would mean offering 1.2 million acres of pristine coastal plain along the Beaufort Sea for energy exploration. Although this is only one-tenth of the refuge, the coastal plain is the most important calving ground for the porcupine caribou herd and is considered the biological heart of the refuge. Oil exploration and drilling will also unalterably change the wilderness character of this arctic ecosystem.

Action: Write or call your senators and ask them to oppose the inclusion of oil production revenues from the Arctic Refuge in the pending federal budget. Such a sweeping policy decision should be thoroughly debated in full view of the American public, not buried in a budget bill. Let your senators know you support full protection for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Call the White House Hotline (202-456-1414) and ask the President to veto a budget bill that opens the Arctic Refuge or rolls back other environmental protections. Contact: Evan Hirsche, National Audubon Society, 202-547-9009 (ehirsche@audubon.org).

No More Fish In The Sea?

Congress is debating changes to the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, the most important federal law governing conservation of our nation's living marine resources and the management of domestic fishing activities. HR 39, the House Resource Committee bill has passed and is awaiting floor action, probably in late September or early October. HE 39 falls short in addressing and correcting two of the major problems facing our marine fisheries: over fishing, and "bycatch" (the unintentional catching and killing of

nontarget fish and other marine wildlife in commercial fishing gear). In the meantime, the Senate Commerce Committee is working on a draft bill and may take action on it sometime in October.

Action: Call or write your representative and tell him/her that a strong Magnuson Act will revitalize fishery dependent jobs and help to repair marine ecosystems damaged by over fishing and bycatch. Insist that Magnuson be reauthorized this year. This important legislation has been delayed time and again. Stress that our marine fisheries are worth billions of dollars to the national economy, but that many are in such poor condition they are costing the government money, rather than fulfilling their economic and ecological potential. Contact: Marilyn England, National Audubon Society, 516-859-3032 (mengland@audubon.org).

Senate All Wet On Wetlands

Hearings took place in late July on S 851, the Senate wetlands bill. S 851 is very similar to the wetlands provisions contained in HR 961, the House "Dirty Water" Bill which passed in May and which Clinton has vowed to veto. Introduced by Johnston (D-LA) and Faircloth (R-NC), S 851 proposes a redefinition of wetlands. The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers estimates that the new definition would eliminate between 60 and 75 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands from protection under the Clean Water Act. Unlike HR 961, the Johnston-Faircloth bill would not require compensation to landowners whose property values were diminished by wetlands regulations. Senate action on redefining wetlands is possible in September, although that could slip into October. It's important to stop this attempt to define millions of acres of these precious habitats out of existence.

Action: Please write or call your Senators and tell them you oppose S 851. Ask them to reject changes to wetlands definitions that undermine protections for wetlands. Tell them how much local wetlands mean to you. Contact: Karen Ilardo, National Audubon Society, 202-547-9009 (kilardo@audubon.org).

Species Extinction Act?

House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AK) and Don Pombo (R-CA) dropped in their Endangered Species Act reauthorization bill September 7, after much delay. HR 2275 significantly weakens protection for threatened and endangered species by making their recovery discretionary to the Secretary of Interior or Commerce. In addition, endangered vertebrate populations such as wolves, grizzly bears and salmon will no longer be protected. Critical habitat for species cannot be designated without the consent of a property owner or without payment of compensation.

Destroying a listed species habitat on private land will no longer be illegal. And the bill includes a fiscally irresponsible takings provision that requires the federal government to compensate private property owners, or buy their land, if restrictions diminish the value of the land by 20% and 50% or more, respectively.

Action: Please write or call your Representative to ask them to oppose HR 2275, the Young-Pombo ESA bill. Contact: Randy Snodgrass, National Audubon Society, 202-547-9009 (snodgrass@audubon.org).

Where to Write or Call

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Repres.
Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

President William Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

White House Switchboard: (202) 456-1111
(comments office)
(202) 456-1414

Audubon's Strategic Plan: "CREATING A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION"

After more than a year's work, the National Audubon Society has completed a strategic plan that will take us well into the 21st Century. The process that led to the plan encompassed interviews, focus groups, and surveys that involved all of Audubon's staff and trustees, dozens of leading environmentalists, 700 Audubon chapter leaders and nearly 1,300 randomly-selected Audubon members.

The resulting plan maps Audubon's course for the next 25 years, dedicating the Society to bringing about a "culture of conservation." As approved by the national Board of Directors, the plan mandates that Audubon focus its campaigns and resources on conservation of

birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

The plan also calls for expansion of the Society's educational programs to nurture appreciation of nature and promote understanding of the essential link between ecological health and the well-being of human civilization.

The final component of the plan specifies that Audubon will invest in growing and strengthening its chapter network and field operations, so that they can serve as the primary tool of the organization's environmental advocacy.

In the coming weeks, Audubon will provide chapter leaders a full summary of the plan.

National Audubon and over 125 chapters regularly exchange information, news, birding tidbits and chapter success stories on the Audubon CompuServe Forum. This private forum can only be accessed by Audubon members with special IDs. However, Audubon members with current CompuServe IDs can gain access (see below). **Find out why newsletter editors and chapter leaders around the country call the Audubon Forum "a gold mine of Information."**

- ☐ I'm interested in getting timely news and information for our chapter newsletter through Audubon's CompuServe Forum. Please send a free CompuServe software kit to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My computer uses ☐ Macintosh ☐ Windows ☐ DOS software.

If you already have a CompuServe account, send an e-mail message to Phil Schaeffer, Vice President, MIS, at 71362,30 to request entry into Audubon's Forum. Please provide your name, officer title, if a ny, and chapter name. See you online!

Effective September 10, CompuServe pricing includes five free hours/month, access to the Internet and the World Wide Web and all other forums and services for just \$9.95/month. Additional usage is billed at \$2.95/hour.

Attention Audubon Chapters!

Camera-ready PSA's available from the Endangered Species Coalition!

We hope that you will include one of these attractive and important PSA's in your next newsletter.



**If you
think the
Endangered
Species Act
protects
only spotted owls,
think again.**

Jackie Buckley's leukemia is in remission thanks to medicines derived from the flower of the rosy periwinkle.

Half of today's medicines come from natural sources. The Endangered Species Act is the best protection these sources have. But now the Act itself is in danger.

Tell Congress to save the law that saves lives. For more information about how you can help, call **(202) 547-9009**.



**THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
PROTECTS**

© 1995 ESC

We all recognize the importance of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in protecting the bald eagle, the sea otter, the peregrine falcon, and other beloved wildlife.

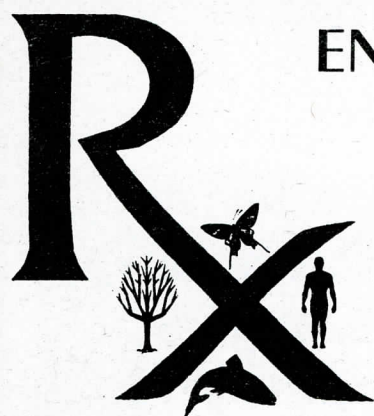
But many people aren't aware that the ESA protects hundreds of rare plant species -- rare plants which could produce the life-saving drugs that will cure cancer, or AIDS. In fact, more than half our medicines come from plants and other natural sources.

Jackie Buckley, the six-year old girl featured on the slicks, has become our "poster child." Jackie was a typical three-year old until she was struck by leukemia. Fortunately, she could be treated by medicines made from the rosy periwinkle, a plant endangered in its native habitat. Today, Jackie's cancer is in remission and she is leading a normal life -- and asking folks everywhere to "Please save the ESA."

Jackie's eager participation in our PSA campaign is not only a wonderful way of celebrating her dramatic recovery from leukemia, it also illustrates that when we protect species from extinction, we protect ourselves.

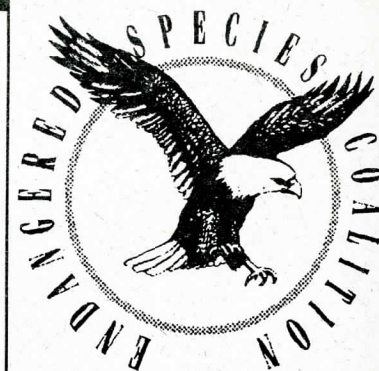
In addition to the half page ad (7 x 4 3/4) duplicated here, versions are available in full page (7 x 10), square third (4 5/8 x 4 7/8), and quarter page (3 3/4 x 4 3/4).

To be sent a copy of the four slicks, or for more information, please contact the Endangered Species Coalition at 202-547-9009.



ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION

MEDICINE BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Endangered Species Act keeps us healthy by safeguarding many of the species we rely upon to fight life-threatening diseases.

Now, we can voice our concern for the health of ourselves and the environment. Join people everywhere who are sending empty prescription bottles to their elected officials. Each bottle carries the message that we want the Endangered Species Act strengthened to safeguard the plants and other species that protect the health of ourselves and our children.

HOW IT WORKS

- Step 1) Preprinted stickers can be ordered free of charge, directly from us.
- Step 2) Fill out stickers in sets of four, address one to President Clinton, one to each of your two senators, and one to your representative, then affix stickers to empty medicine bottles.
- Step 3) Place labeled bottles in addressed envelopes (we suggest either 00 or 0 padded envelopes) and mail them to Washington. Bottles addressed to the President should be mailed to the Coalition. We'll present them to him all at once!

ADDRESSES

For President Clinton:
Endangered Species Coalition
666 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20003

For your two Senators:
The Honorable (name of your Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

For your Representative:
The Honorable (name of your Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

THE FACTS

- ✓ Many of today's most important medicines, as well as the foundation for research into future cures, come from a full range of species from the forests to the oceans.
- ✓ Nearly one quarter of the prescriptions distributed in the United States are based on substances derived from nature.
- ✓ The chemical treasury of nature is literally disappearing before we have the opportunity to assess it.
- ✓ If we protect nature, nature will protect us.



LETTER WRITING

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTS US

THE FACTS

- ✓ Over 40% of all **pharmaceuticals** used today are derived or synthesized from natural substances.
- ✓ Wetlands and forests, **ecosystems that purify our drinking water and filter our air**, are protected when we protect the habitat of endangered species.
- ✓ Endangered Species protect us by identifying early warning signals - like a canary in a coal mine - that could be threats to human existence.
- ✓ Thousands of jobs in businesses like the salmon fishing industry depend on strong protection for endangered species. In many cases **the Endangered Species Act brings economic prosperity**.
- ✓ The Endangered Species Act **protects our private property and tax dollars** from corporations who benefit financially from the destruction of the natural environment.

OUR SOLUTION

The Endangered Species Coalition, an alliance of over 225 environmental, scientific, business, religious, and animal welfare organizations, is working to renew and strengthen the Endangered Species Act. Our seven million supporters believe the Act must be reauthorized to include the following:

- ✓ **Getting ahead of the extinction curve:** Adopt a more proactive, rather than reactive, approach that would act as the least costly, most effective method of protection for species before they become endangered.
- ✓ **Enforcing the law:** Ensure that sufficient funds are available to enforce the law.
- ✓ **Saving species from the brink of extinction:** Set deadlines for both producing and putting in action the plans to recover a species.
- ✓ **Building partnerships with private landowners:** Offer financial incentives and technical assistance to landowners who are promoting the recovery of endangered species on their property.

(Date)

(Your name and address)

The Honorable (Congressperson's name)
U.S. Senate / U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510 / 20515

Dear Senator/Representative:

I am writing to urge you to oppose any attempts to weaken protection for endangered species. The landmark Endangered Species Act has protected us for 22 years, but is under siege in 1995. We depend on you to defend this vital law.

Please oppose the anti-ESA bills that have been proposed by Senator Slade Gorton (S. 768) and the bill that will be introduced by Congressmen Young and Pombo in the House of Representatives. Ensure that the 1996 budget bills do not prohibit the protection of endangered and threatened species. Make sure that federal officials are not prevented from enforcing wildlife protection laws.

The Endangered Species Act has helped prevent the extinctions of dozens of animals and plants, including the bald eagle and the gray whale. By safeguarding species like the bald eagle and its habitat, the Endangered Species Act also protects us. By removing toxic threats to sensitive species, we protect our own health and well being.

Natural sources are responsible for 40% of our pharmaceuticals, contributing billions of dollars to our economy each year. Most plant species have never been tested for their medicinal properties by western medicine. When we protect these species from extinction, we protect medical cures for ourselves.

Unless we act now, we stand to lose lifesaving medicines, productive agriculture, abundant fisheries, and biological diversity necessary for ourselves and our children.

My family is counting on your leadership on this critical matter.

Sincerely,
(Your signature)

THE STILT

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



Nonprofit Organization
BULK RATE
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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. Locations may change monthly. Check calendar page. Everyone is welcome to attend.

President	Brigit Burt, 753-2794
Vice President	Robert Schmidt, 755-9262
Secretary	Joanna Garrard, 753-2429
Treasurer	Susan Robertson, 752-4598
Conservation	Nick Strickland, 750-5035
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Field Trips	Al Stokes, 752-2702
Newsletter	Lois Olson, 752-9085
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637
Publicity	Beth Walden, 753-0080
Hospitality	
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268
Legislative Chairperson	
Trustees	
1992-95	Pat Gordon, 752-6561; Dawn Holzer, 258-5205; Val Grant, 752-7572
1993-96	Rebecca Echols, 752-2367 Richard Mueller, 752-5637
1994-97	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Ted Evans, 753-2258; Jan Anderson, 752-2946

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 _____

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 Susan Durham, 752-5637. Also, call Susan for new subscriptions or address changes.