

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 25, No. 1

September 1996

Logan Canyon Nature Center Wants You!

The need for a nature center to teach nature and environmental responsibility has been on the minds of Cache Valley educators and socially responsible community leaders for many years. When he learned that the Boy Scouts were interested in relinquishing ownership of the log structure, built and formerly owned by The American Legion, a mile from the mouth of Logan Canyon, Rev. John McGrary of Logan's First Presbyterian Church gained his trustees' agreement to acquire the site at no cost. The future nature center will be owned by the church but operated as a partnership by the church and the Bridgerland Chapter of Audubon.

The church is in the process of taking title to the structure from the Scouts, and volunteers under the direction of a newly named Board of Directors are starting to restore the facility after years of vandalism and neglect. Three members of the board represent BAS. They are Chris Gaddis, Glen Gantz and Jack Greene, who was named chairman. Four members of the Presbyterian congregation serve on the board. They are Karl Van Weerd, M.L. Whitworth, Nathan Hult and Tim H. Henney. (Messrs. Hult and Henney are also Audubon members.) Rounding out the board is Sharon Ohlhurst, a professor in the College of Natural Resources at USU who, together with Greene, is planning an ambitious teaching program for grades kindergarten through college graduate level.

The site will also be used as a retreat by the Presbyterian Church and other churches, schools and environmentally-conscious (and curious) organizations.

Users will be charged a fee to cover costs of upkeep and operations.

Fund-raising efforts are underway to pay for the restoration required inside and outside the building. Bridgerland Audubon has pledged substantial dollars to the refurbishment, and roughly half the proceeds from the Presbyterian Church's recent food booth at the Cache County Fair will be used for the project. An auction, and appearances by board members before local civic and service groups, are in the offering. Henney is fund-raising chairman. Members of the fledgling committee include Greene, Mae and Merv Coover, Scott Detweiler, Robert Schmidt, and Ben Sinclair, director of development for USU's College of Natural Resources. Sinclair for five years was director of development for the Teton Science Center, after which the Logan Canyon Center programs will be modeled.

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September Calendar

Meetings

Thursday, September 12, 6:00 P.M. General Meeting and Potluck Supper at the home of Alice Lindahl and Jim Haefner, 1738 Country Club Drive, Logan. (Go east on 1000 North, turn right on 1600 East, then left on Saddlehill Dr. and after two blocks, right on Country Club Dr.) Newcomers are especially welcome. Meet some new faces and hear about events of the summer. Bring a dish of your choice. BAS will supply soft drinks; bring other libations as you wish. For more information, contact Robert Schmidt, 755-9262 (evenings).

Wednesday, September 18. BAS Planning Meeting, 7 P.M. Officers, Chairpersons,, and Trustees meet to discuss issues and make plans for meetings, activities and projects. General members are always welcome. This month's meeting at the home of Robert Schmidt, 1665 East 1350 North, Logan.

Trips

BAS field trips are open to all. There's always fun with new people to meet; and we're always watching for wildlife—especially birds; Unless stated otherwise, reservations are not needed, trips are open to all ages, and carpooling is available. If there is a trip you would like to lead or one you'd like to see offered, please call Bryan Dixon at 752-6830.

Friday-Sunday, September 19-21. Audubon Council Strategic Planning Meeting – How do we organize a State Audubon Office? National Audubon is moving to establish more state offices. This weekend retreat will take place at the Tuttle Camp high in Big Cottonwood Canyon east of Salt Lake City, and will help plan for our office (when we're not birding, hiking, playing sandlot volleyball or eating). Dan Beard, Rocky Mountain V.P., will be there along with a professional facilitator. Arrive Friday night. Meetings and a field trip on Saturday. After breakfast Sunday, we'll finish up and do some hikes in the afternoon. Beginners and veterans are welcome. We need your thoughts for the future. For more information, contact Penny Ciak 265-0376, Keith Johnson 467-6497, or Bryan Dixon 752-6830. There will be a \$10 fee to cover rental of cabins.

Friday-Sunday, September 27-29. Annual Trip to Hear Elk Bugling in Jackson Hole. This year, the trip is a bit earlier—on the full moon!—and at the peak of the elk hormones! Camp together at the Gros Ventre Campground approximately 10 miles northeast of Jackson. Most people arrive Friday, but you can arrive on Thursday, as trip leaders Terry and John Barnes will be there early to spot the animals. 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 by supertime Sunday. This was one of Allen Stokes' favorite BAS trips, and

we'll be remembering him around the campfire. Call Terry Barnes at 563-3910 (evenings and weekends) for reservations and carpooling arrangements. Bring your own food and camping gear. Be prepared for freezing weather.

Saturday, October 5. Annual Hawk Watch. Hike up to the crest of the Wellsville Mountains to witness one of the wonders of the avian world. Over 6,000 hawks migrate along the Wellsvilles between mid-August and mid-October. On a good day, we'll see over 100 raptors including golden eagles and falcons. We'll hike up Deep Canyon to a station monitored by HawkWatch International and get an update from this year's watchers. The trail gains 3,000 ft. in approximately four miles and is a bit steep in places, so wear sturdy footwear. We like to sit on top for a couple of hours to watch the hawks, and since it is usually cool and windy on the ridge, a change of layers, a warm sweater and a good wind shell make the experience more comfortable. Bring lunch and water. Leave at 8:00 A.M. from the parking lot north of Straw Ibis (about 55 East and 150 North in Logan); carpooling will be available. For more information or if bad weather makes the trip questionable, call Jim Sinclair, 752-0061.

Saturday, October 12. Logan River, River of Change. This field trip will explore the Logan River, from Franklin Basin to the Cache Valley, studying the riparian zones along the way. We'll get to understand the interrelationships of the geology, hydrology, wildlife (including the beaver colonies we saw last year) and plant communities in one of the most beautiful and controversial river corridors in Utah. Leave at 8:00 A.M. from the parking lot north of Straw Ibis (about 55 East 150 North); carpooling available as usual. This trip involves only short walks so is suitable for all ages and abilities. For more information, contact Kayo Robertson, 563-8272.

Saturday, October 19. Annual Roadside Cleanup. It's opening day of deer season and if you're not a hunter, we've got the perfect outing! BAS has taken responsibility for cleaning up the litter along a highway west of Richmond. So, what better hunting alternative than to spend a few hours out in the valley exploring the archeological remnants of our civilization? And so conveniently located, too, no digging necessary! Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the parking lot north of Straw Ibis (about 55 East 150 North in Logan). Fewer than 10 people can finish our section in just a couple of hours, and then you feel like a million bucks for the rest of the day. For more information contact Sue Drown, 752-3797.

Logan Canyon Nature Center

Continued from page 1.

Volunteers hope to have the center sufficiently restored and equipped to open by winter. Eventually it will have a full-time program director, interns, and a "clientele" drawn from throughout Utah and neighboring states.

Volunteers are about to begin the arduous task of repairing and remodeling the facility to meet the building code and make the structure functional. The Logan Canyon Nature Center is a non-profit organization with limited funds. They need to reduce construction costs wherever possible to achieve this year's goal of opening the center for limited use by the onset of winter. The board is seeking person power and materials needed to repair and upgrade the building.

If you have contacts in the following trades and would be willing to help the LCNC acquire the materials and/or talent as a tax-free donation or at a reduced cost, please contact the following:

Glen Gantz (258-2748, e-mail: ggantz @ cache.net)
Tim H. Henney (755-MUTT)

The following are needed:

- new windows
- new doors
- heating system
- new septic system
- lumber
- paint
- light fixtures
- insulation (installed)
- 1 new bathroom (handicap accessible)
 - 4 toilets
 - 4 sinks
 - 4 shower stalls
 - fixtures (fan, lights, dispensers, etc.)
- electrical (wire, switches, plugs, etc.)
- sheetrock (prefer installed)
- commercial grade linoleum
- kitchen for live-in resident
 - small stove & refrigerator
 - sink
- bathroom for live-in resident
 - toilet, sink, shower

Logan Canyon Nature Center's mission is to provide a place where students of all ages can explore and learn about the ecology, natural and cultural history of Logan Canyon; develop nature stewardship skills; and experience spiritual renewal. Programs will contribute to the development of an ecologically conscious citizenry able to think critically about natural resource issues. The facility's priority will be to help people understand the ecology of the land around them and their relationship to it.

1996 Birdathon Fund-raiser a Success

"Ugh! Rain. It's raining buckets out there. I wonder if the rest of the group is awake. Should we head out anyway? It'll probably clear up – it never rains more than an hour or so around there, and if we get going now we'll be just in time to see the sharp-tailed grouse dancing. That'll be a good start to the day.

"On the other hand, if it keeps raining, I could just stay in bed. Yeah. That'd be just fine.

"NO! Get up! Get going!"

That was the conversation I had with myself about 3:00 a.m. last May 18, the day of the 1996 Birdathon. Well, it didn't stop raining. It rained ALL day and we STILL had a great day of birding!

Birdathons were invented by National Audubon as a fun way to stimulate contributions. The idea is to get folks to pledge "X" amount per species you see on a given day. Then, you spend hours and days planning the route, looking for the hard-to-find species that add to the list. On the designated morning, you pick up the other lunatics in your group (sorry guys, but it's true, face it) and start before first light looking for owls, spend all day running around and finish up after dark looking for still more owls.

Originally, all of the funds went to National, but in recent years, National changed the program so that the local chapter keeps half the funds and can even request a particular project for National's share. Well, Al Stokes got our Birdathon started in 1995 and we raised \$6,700 in one day. This year we didn't quite hit that target, but it wasn't because the birds.

Our group (composed of Keith Archibald and Jean Lown, my wife) got up out of warm, dry bed and headed out to northwest Cache Valley to start the day and it continued to rain, and rain, and rain. Needless to say, we never did see the sharp-tailed grouse dancing. We did get wet, though. (Soaked was more like it.) However, on the way back to town for dry duds, our luck started to change when we caught a glimpse of a short-eared owl flying over the fields.

After changing to dry clothes (and brewing up more coffee), we headed back out, determined to hold our own in the "friendly competition" between the other groups we knew were afield. At least we hoped we weren't the only fools getting soaked!

Sure 'nuf, the other groups were out and about and doing all right judging by the lunchtime reports at our rendezvous at Alice Lindahl's house (poor Jim, her husband, had to put up with all these nuts).

After lunch Alice and Larry Ryel headed for the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and the rest of us headed for the Logan Sewage Lagoons where we were treated

to the sight of almost a thousand red-necked phalaropes and over a dozen black terns!

After the lagoons, Terry Hall and Reinhard Jockel led us to a common barn owl and some lark buntings—neither of which had been seen in Cache Valley in years. Nice job, Terry!

On the way, we found a rough-legged hawk, a common bird in the winter, but rarely seen in May, which complemented the ferruginous hawk we'd seen earlier, and which also is rare in May.

Splitting up again, each group headed off in a different direction to try to fill out The List. We met again in Green Canyon at 8:00 P.M. for a futile attempt at Northern pygmy owls—how could we miss them? We did, however, hear canyon wrens and the sound of a ruffed grouse drumming. Ah, blessed ears!

It was dark when we left Green Canyon and we were running out of possibilities. Down in the Island, we finally found a Western screech owl, and then, on a roll, headed out in the valley at 11:30 P.M. trying to find the elusive American bittern, but to no avail, and as the day ended at midnight, we were forced to give it up.

Ah, but it was a glorious day! We fielded seven teams, with over 20 observers. One group led by Bill Masslich, which included Ron Ryel, Sue Drown and young Zane Masslich, found 134 species! (Amazing—even with the rain!) We raised over \$5,300, not bad for beginners. This was our first Birdathon without Al's notorious arm twisting! At our debriefing (aka potluck dinner) a few weeks later, we discussed ways to improve the fund-raising and ways to increase the count. Next year, we'll do better, raise more money, and we're gonna see more birds! Let it rain!

Special thanks to the team leaders who were responsible for soliciting the contributions (and then collecting them): Gordon Bosworth, Allen Christensen, Terry Hall, Val Grant, Alice Lindahl, and Bill Masslich.

And thanks to all the extra eyes and ears: Keith Archibald, Terry and John Barnes, Sue Drown, Reinhard Jockel, Barbara Kerkmann, Jean Lown, Larry Ryel, Ron Ryel, and I KNOW I'm forgetting someone.

And of course, extra special thanks to all of the donors who came through to ensure that our environmental projects get the funding they need:

Andy Anderson
R. Keith Archibald
Mike & Peta Arnold
Mary Barkworth
Dale Bartos
Steve Bilbao, Environmental Health Services
Jim Bilske
Beth Booton & Ron Munger
Debby Bronson
Leslie Brown
Canine Concepts
Kathleen Capels
Saundra Cavalcanti

Chrystal Christensen
Kevin Connors
Mervin & Mae Coover
Reed G Crockett
Ms. Swede Dahl
T.W. Daniel, Utah State University
Scott Datwyler, Trailhead Sports
Charles Davis, Davis Chrysler Dodge
Veda Depaepe
Michael Devitt
Marnie Dortsch
Chris Dufner, Stephen Dufner
Rebecca & D'Arcy Echols
Jack & Kristine Edwards
John Ellsworth
Environment Club, Mountain Crest High School
Edward & Deborah Evans
Barbara Farris & Stuart Reynolds
Steve & Karen Flint
Jerry Furhiman & Sue Sanborn
Judy & Alan Gibbons
Val Grant, Bio Resources
Val & Sue Grant
Terry A Hall
Wilfor Hansen
Lane Hartle
Ruth B. Helm
Rand & Suzanne Hendricks
John Hernandez
Laura Hickerson
Paul Hodgins
Paul Holden, Bio/West
Dawn Holzer & Rob Roy
Alan Huestis, Fast Focus Productions
Daisy & Trevor Hughes
Jerry Hughes, GEOGraphics
Mike Jablonski, NR Systems
Kenneth F Jenner
Paul & Jalaine Jensen
Sherm Jensen, White Horse Association
Tom Jensen & Bruce Haslem, JHCH Architects
Reinhard Jockel
Larry & Maggie Jones
Rudy D. Kemp
Frederick & Josephine Knowlton
Brad Krop
Steve Lanigan
Glenn Leonard, Sue Morgan
Chris Leuke
Joe K.K. Li
Edward & Barbara Liese
Ray Lynn
William Masslich
Austin & Krista McHugh
Bill McManus
Frank Messina
Rosalie & Walter Meuggler
Kay Mulleneaux
Vickie Noble
Diane & Bill Oblock (Grapevine Restaurant, A Book Store)
Ivan Palmblad
Janis Parent
Ms Alice Perkins
Robert H Peterson
Fred Post
John N. Ream
Carmen Reich
Beverly & Jerry Ridenhour
Marianna Roetto & Brian Kelly
Kathy Ruggeri
James Russell
Lawrence Ryel

Ron Ryel
 Renate Schaaf
 Maryl & Billy Sedivy
 Dr. R.J. Shaw
 Leila Shultz
 John Skujius
 Frank Smith
 Square One Printing
 Stark Family
 Alan Stevenson & Catherine Sharpsteen
 Allen & Alice Stokes
 Jon Takemoto
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Taylor
 Glen & Pat Bohm Trostle
 Rich Valdez
 Marie Veibell
 Dennis Weaver
 Tony Wegener, Architectural Design West
 Dennis Welker
 M.Coburn Williams
 Paul Willie, Mountain States Property Management
 Lamar Windberg
 Diana F. Wittkopf
 Linda Woertendyke, Logan High School Science Department
 Paul G. Wolf
 Michael & Marieluise Wolfe
 Charles & Leotta Wood
 Wayne Wurtsbaugh, Linda L'Ali
 Becky Yeager
 Nabil Youssef

Remembering Al Stokes

In October or November, Bridgerland Audubon will devote the *Stilt* to memories you have of Al. Please submit your personal recollections that you think that other BAS members would appreciate. Mail to the newsletter editor, Lois Olson, 280 N. 300 E., Logan, UT 84321. If you know former BAS members who do not get the *Stilt*, please pass this request on to them and ask them to contribute as well. If they send their current address, we will send them a copy of that *Stilt*. Thanks!

Bird Seed

Don't forget those birds as migration season approaches. Bird seed is still available at \$16 for 50 pounds. You can buy it at Sunrise Cyclery. Many thanks to Jeff Keller for providing this service.

Mornings on the Marsh

Does your department, group or association need a monthly, weekly pick-me-up? Consider this: Imagine meeting at the ORC early one summer morning, hopping in a van trailing a set of canoes. You drive 15 minutes to a marsh in the valley, where you paddle around listening to birds greet each other, and get some exercise. By 10:00 a.m. your group is back at work.

The Outdoor Program at USU is starting this service for any group that is interested. We provide canoes, life jackets, paddles, and drive you to and from the marsh. You provide the group of people (maximum 12), the marsh provides the mental tune-up. Call us to reserve your morning on the marsh.

For more information: 797-3264.

New Members

John Devilbiss
 Anne Dobmeyer
 John Ellerbeck
 Mike Jablonski
 Mark Leonhardt

James D Morgan
 Frank J Redd
 Andrew Semadeni
 Nelson B Wadsworth
 Dan & Cindy Waker

Renewing Members

B Hallenbeck & J Baker
 Martha H Balph
 Marlene Beecher
 Stephen Bialkowski
 Odel & Pat Bodrero
 Mrs Marie L Borg
 T W Daniel
 Scott Datwyler
 Edward & Deborah Evans
 Virginia Harder
 Loraine Heiliger
 Tim & Jacquelyn Henney
 Betty Houghton
 John M Howell
 Daisy & Trevor Hughes
 Chris & Nathan Hult
 Bradley Kropp
 Deann Lester
 William & Marjorie Lewis

Lance Littlejohn
 Clyde Milner II
 Harvey Mohr
 Louise Murch
 Diane Browning Oblock
 Mark E Peplinski
 Keith Riggie
 L C Roberts
 Ron Ryel
 Voni Rivas
 Charles L Salzberg
 Sue Sanborn &
 Jerry Fuhriman
 Renate Schaaf
 Eugene W Schupp
 Kerri Taracena
 Mr & Mrs Robert E Taylor
 Kathryn Wanlass
 Nina Wilson

Hardware Ranch Management Plan

The second meeting for the Hardware Ranch Management Plan occurred on August 1. The meeting began with a wagon tour. We saw the corral area for the elk, camping area with cabins (soon to be removed) and alfalfa fields. We also had the opportunity to see much of the area encompassed by the ranch.

The planning portion of this meeting consisted of discussing the current program inventory, program constraints, and brainstorming. **CURRENT INVENTORY** – Hardware Ranch is currently open to the public during times when the elk are present (usually late November to mid-March). There are displays for visitors to read, sleigh rides, dining in the visitor's center, and snowmobile trails. **CONSTRAINTS** – Hardware Ranch was purchased with money from Pittman Robertson, so the ranch must abide by constraints laid out within the grant. These constraints primarily deal with the maintenance of wildlife. **BRAINSTORMING** – The following are proposed programs: expanded displays, fix camping, lodging, more educational programs, nature/cross-country ski trail, enlarging the visitor's center, habitat improvement and protection, guided nature hikes, clean-up of the ranch (left-over farming equipment, camper waste, etc.), fee parking for snowmobiles, and summer activities.

The next meeting will be on September 9. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Anne Seitz (753-4150) or e-mail: SLVX5@CC.USU.EDU. Your input is valuable and would be greatly appreciated.

LOCAL NEWS

Planning Meeting Minutes

Sherwood Hills

The county attorney has ruled that the Board of Adjustment failed to overturn the Planning Commission's denial of the motocross race track because they did not have the necessary three votes as required by law. Sherwood Hills therefore has 30 days from the attorney's letter to file an appeal in First District Court. It is hard to see what they could appeal, however, since the appeal is limited to claiming that the decision was "arbitrary or capricious," when in fact the majority vote was in their favor—there were just enough votes to overturn. Bruce Penderay and Bryan are considering a guest commentary to the newspaper suggesting that the Planning Commission really should have made more effort to articulate what uses are allowed in the forest recreation zone—i.e., what constitutes "consistent with the natural and scenic resource." Such rationale will be more important in similar future decisions. Allen said there were restrictions placed on Sherwood Hills when it was first built that should limit the kinds of activities they can promote there. Allen offered to look into this history.

Vankampen's Golf Course

The Corps has granted a 404 Permit to Jed Vankampen to fill approximately three acres of wetlands along Mendon Road and construct a golf course adjacent to the heron rookery. BAS missed the deadline for public comments, but Bryan submitted a letter and copies of scientific articles recommending a 300 meter buffer between human activities and a GBH rookery. That action prompted the Corps and the USFWS to review their decision and incorporate language into the permit to require designs which would not lead to abandonment of the rookery. Alice showed a map of the area and gave some historical insights such as Vankampen's cutting of trees in 1992 which led to destruction of 22 nests. The 404 permit will require wetlands mitigation and advance approval of the plans for the golf course. It seems unlikely that Vankampen will be able to raise the necessary capital for such a venture given his financial problems in the past, but we should stay on top of the permit process to ensure that proper restrictions are put in place to protect the rookery. Bryan agreed to call Ann O'Connell, Audubon's lobbyist to see if there is an attorney who might help, and to write a letter objecting to the granting of the permit so our position will be on record. Alice will contact the Nature Conservancy in Salt Lake City to see if they might be interested in trying to acquire the property. Alice also offered to contact Bob Turner of NAS. Jack mentioned several other individuals who might be contacted to lend some support.

Sandhill Crane Hunt

Safe for this year in Cache County—the hunt was cancelled. Alice thinks that recent population numbers counted in Colorado below 16,000 may mean that any hunt, even in Rich County, would be illegal. Alice agreed to contact the USFWS to check on this. Margaret Pettis now plans to hold the Crane Festival September 6-7, and will need several guides to go on the buses to help people find birds on the field trips. Volunteers should contact her or Alice.

Appointment to Hardware Ranch Advisory Council for DWR

Alice nominated Anne Seitz to represent BAS on the Council. She is willing to attend each meeting and report to us on the issues. The nomination was approved unanimously. We need to find ways to encourage DWR to open the area to more non-motorized activities. Most people now feel like it is overrun by snowmobiles and are not interested in going there.

REGIONAL NEWS

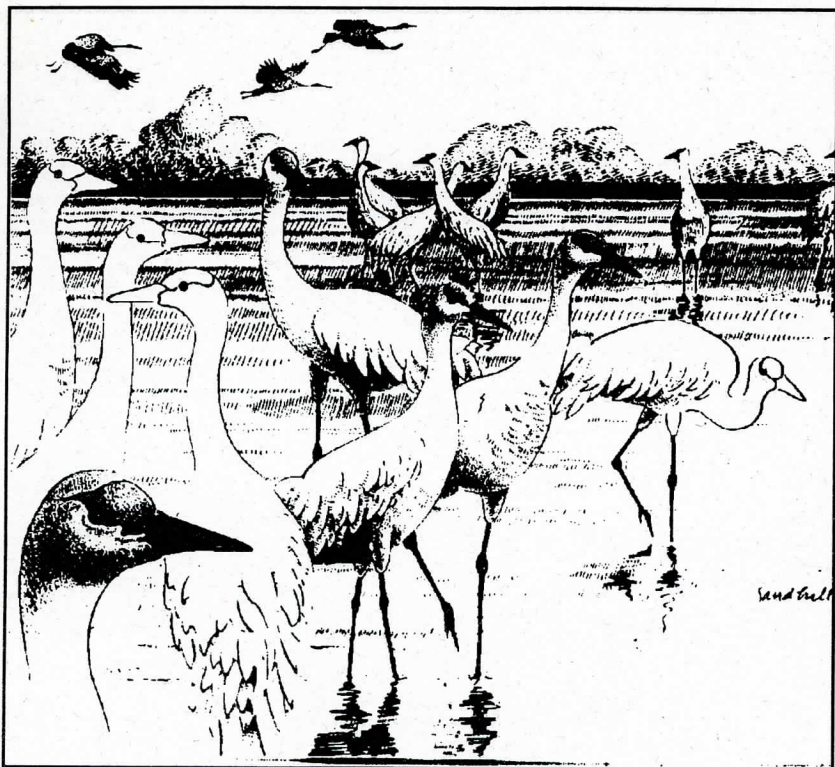
Report on Elk Ranching

There are more ominous threats to birds and the environment than usual this legislative season, but right now they have not been articulated as bills for the legislative session in January. So at this point I can only describe one issue in detail and that is a proposal for legalizing elk ranching in Utah.

The ranchers who hope to raise elk claim that they can raise more of them than they can cattle in the same space, and they do not use the open range. Furthermore there is a growing market for the end products which are meat and the velvet stage of the antler. Thus elk ranching is touted as a profitable endeavor for the small ranch. The saving the family farm argument.

Elk meat is low in fat and is served in restaurants throughout the west as a gourmet or exotic item. The health food argument? And evidently right now much of what is served is in fact red deer meat from New Zealand. The America first argument.

Antler harvesting is the truly exotic part of this enterprise. Antlers in velvet are cut off, frozen, dried, powdered and sold in capsules as a restorative medication in Asian countries. America is just beginning to capture a small share of this large and growing market. It is the real money making part of elk culture along with the subsidiary business of raising breeding stock, although proponents explain that meat production is always a fall back income for them if the herbal medicine market should fail. I noticed that elk ranchers are concerned that antler harvest may be



Don't Miss
Utah's Third Annual Celebration

Sandhill Crane Days '96

September 6-7 — Cache Valley

September 8 — Box Elder County

Your chance to see and learn about the magnificent cranes that migrate through Northern Utah each fall.

Friday, September 6 — 7:00 P.M.

Join us for a jolly social and guest presentation in The Coppermill banquet hall, 50 N. Main, Logan. Visit the displays of regional "bird" art!

Saturday, September 7 — 7:00 — 11:00 A.M.

Bus tour of the Bear River marshes: see herons, ducks, owls, songbirds, hawks, and, of course, hundreds of sandhill cranes. Scopes and guides are provided; bring your binoculars and camera gear.

1:00 — 4:00 P.M. Birding "Your Way"

Choosing among four ways to spend your afternoon:

- Canoe the Logan River (expert birders will guide you)
- Stroll and identify birds (again, an expert birder will lead you)
- Meet with HawkWatch in the path of raptors' fall migration
- Enjoy a film on fascinating natural history

6:00 — 8:00 P.M. Social and Dinner by the River

Enjoy trading tales of the day with new and old friends and share a fine catered meal under a leafy canopy in lovely Logan Canyon.

8:00 P.M. A Performance for Cranes

As evening stars emerge above rustic Guinevah Amphitheater, listen to stories and tales celebrating the avian world.

Sunday, September 8 — 9:00 A.M.

A special interpretive presentation by the staff of the **Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge**. Gather at the refuge headquarters (15 miles northwest of Brigham City) for a short presentation on autumn life at the refuge and the Great Salt Lake.

Register today! Participation is limited to 100.

Call (801) 266-1728 or write to The Spirit of Utah Wilderness, 1234 Sherman Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84105 for a brochure. Cost: \$30.00. All proceeds will be donated to a fund to establish lure crops for Utah cranes.

**Sandhill Crane Days '96 is sponsored by The Utah Wildlife Manifesto,
Bridgerland Audubon and Great Salt Lake Audubon**

misunderstood by the public so they explain that herbal medicine is an ancient and honored tradition in the east and they are not taking advantage of their customers in any way. And they explain that the removal process is done carefully with a preparatory lidocaine shot, etc. Evidently elk live to be fifteen years old under this regimen. When the rare elk escapes the fenced area it hangs around the periphery waiting to be let back in. The happy elk argument.

Opponents of elk ranching have two points of attack. One, domestic elk pose a health and genetic threat to the native wild population. Two, domestic elk are incompatible with the American wildlife esthetic.

Evidently much of the domestic elk stock is contaminated with New Zealand red deer genes and there is evidence from DWR's in neighboring states contrary to the rancher narratives about escaped elk loitering near their pens. Most escaped elk remain at large. If they carry diseases of exotic or rancher manipulated genes they are a threat to the health and genetic integrity of the wild population. Ranchers argue that their stock is descended from surplus Yellowstone elk (100% American) and is certified disease free. Opponents respond that the states that have allowed elk ranching are very sorry to have done so for many reasons not the least of which is the expense of searching for and capturing escaped animals. I should add that the elk ranchers' response to this complaint is that one disreputable exotic animal collector is responsible for most of the run-aways.

Finally, it should be of interest to nonconsumptive wildlife lovers that the hunting community is at least worried about this legislation if not outright opposed to it. Hunters are distressed by the unsettling vision of docile domestic herds of tagged and antlerless elk. The Watership Down argument.

— Ann O'Connell

NATIONAL NEWS

Discount on Nature Company Merchandise for Members

We are pleased to announce a new benefit of Audubon membership. The Nature Company, a retail chain specializing in books, clothing and gifts with an outdoors theme, now offers members of the National Audubon Society a 10% discount on purchases. Members need only to show their membership card or their Audubon affinity Visa card to be eligible for the discount.



Announcing the release of **National Audubon Society Interactive CD-ROM Guide to North American Birds**

published in June by Knopf New Media

This exciting CD-ROM, compatible with both PC: Windows 3.1 or 95, and Macintosh, contains:

- 2,000 color photos of 723 species
- Vocalizations from Cornell Lab of Ornithology for 700 species
- 700 range maps
- Personalized, multiple life lists that can be printed out
- Trip planning resources for visiting birding sites
- Quick-time video . . . and much, much more – over 6,000 screens in all!

Authoritative text comes from the two *National Audubon Society Field Guides to Birds of North America: Eastern Region and Western Region*, Pocket Guides, Master Guides, and Nature Guides, as appropriate, and *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*.

Suggested Retail \$56.95.

Includes a free National Audubon Society Pocket Guide.

Visit the Knopf Home Page at
<http://www.randomhouse.com> to demo the CD ROM.



Nonprofit Organization
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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 | Robert Schmidt, 755-9262 |
| Vice President | |
| Secretary | |
| Treasurer | Susan Drown, 752-3797 |
| 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 |
| Hospitality | Tim & Jackie Henney, 755-6888 |
| Hotline | Nancy Williams, 753-6268 |

Trustees

1993-96 Rebecca Echols, 752-2367
Richard Mueller, 752-5637

1994-97 Bryan Dixon, 752-6830; Glen Gantz, 258-2748;
Ted Evans, 753-2259; Jan Anderson, 752-2946

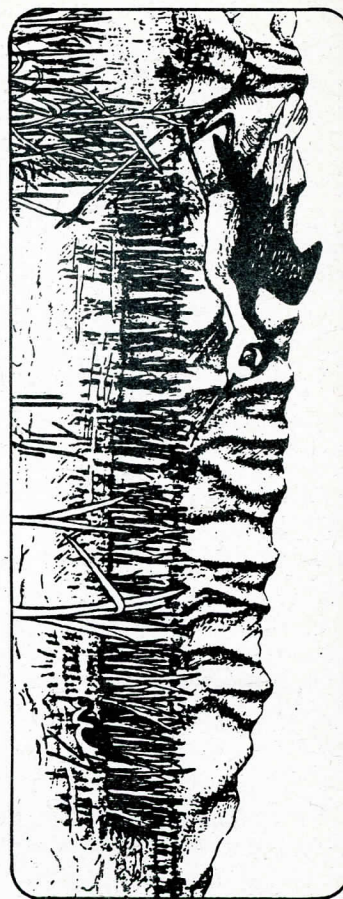
1996 Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Rubin; Allen Christensen, 258-5018

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THE STILT

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