

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 25, No. 4

December 1996

Learning About Red Squirrels

On November 9 we went to Alice Stokes' house to play in her backyard and learn about red squirrels. First we met at the Forest Service Station. Then we drove to her house.



1985 © Pete McDonnell From "RE:SOURCES"

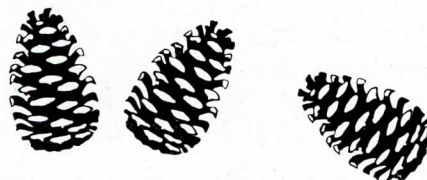
When we walked into her backyard, Ben said, "There's a squirrel in a tree." Then the squirrel climbed up the tree and jumped on a thick telephone wire. He made noise and followed us everywhere we went. Alice told us that squirrels have their own territory and don't like it when people or other squirrels go into their territory.

We found pine cones that were chewed by the squirrel. The children thought of names for the squirrel. Ben said, "Nutsy." Martin Welker said, "Twinkleberry." John said, "Cliffhanger." We went back and saw a woodpile and that's where the squirrel lived and hid things.

We found lots of chestnuts and crabapples in a cupboard in the playhouse. Ben was climbing trees and I said he was a red squirrel because he had a red sweatshirt on.

It was really fun to see the squirrels. At the end we put peanuts on top of a feeder and hoped the squirrels would go eat them. We ate lots of the peanuts.

— Jon Walker
Ben Walker



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December Calendar

Meetings

Thursday, December 12, 7:30 P.M. General Meeting in Logan City Building. 255 North Main, Logan. Guest speaker to be announced—watch for notice in the local newspaper and radio stations, but judging by the last few, it's bound to be good. Refreshments provided.

Wednesday, December 18. BAS Planning Meeting. **7:30 P.M.** (note a bit later time). At the home of Bryan Dixon, 10 Heritage Cove (255 East 700 North, Logan). Officers, Chairpersons, and Trustees meet to discuss issues and make plans for meetings, activities and projects. General members are always welcome, for they often have the best new ideas!

Trips

BAS field trips are open to all. 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.

Saturday, December 7. How to Feed and Attract Winter Birds. See the various types of feeders, seeds and water devices in use locally. Bring binoculars (we'll have some extra pairs) and dress warmly, but most observing will be done indoors. Leave at 9 a.m. from the USFS office at 1500 East Hwy 89. Carpooling available, back by noon.

Saturday, December 14. Writing for the Canyon. This is the second of a series of trips to generate writings and art work of Logan Canyon to be published in a book. (See article in the November *Stilt*.) All ages welcome. Bring sitting pad, warm clothing and writing or art materials. This time we'll go to Dewitt Campground, a small out-of-the-way campground below the Wind Caves. Meet 9:00 A.M. at the parking lot between Straw Ibis and Sunrise Cyclery, approximately 150 North 50 East in Logan. Return around lunch time. For more information, call Kayo, 563-8272.

Saturday, December 21. 21st Annual Logan Christmas Bird Count. Please note change in date! A tradition in England since 1900, the CBS has been held in the same area in Cache Valley for the last 20 years. Last year we counted over 20,000 birds and 90 species. Teams are assigned particular areas and some folks start before dawn. Potluck dinner afterwards \$5.00 fee to offset the cost of compiling the results—students are free. If you'd like to help out, call Keith Archibald, 752-8258

New Members

Keith Coleman
Jim Durtschi
Muriel Dyer
Casey Haslam
Straw Ibis
R G Altop
Laura Lo
Bill McCammon
Mountain Crest High School
Suzanne Parker
Bryce Passey
Gisela Sassen
Max Schillinger
Kelly A Schofield
Paul C Ustach
Rosemarie Woffinden

Renewing Members

Marion A Andersen
R Burger
John W Carlisle, MD
W Bryan Dixon
Kristi L Green
Linnea Johnson
David Klagge
Frederick F Knowlton
Jen Levy & Sean Keenan
Richard J Mueller
John M Neuhold
M Jean Packer
Tovi Santiago
Dianna F Wittkopf
Michael C Amacher
Fred Baker
Joyce Cline
Windsor Copley
Marilyn Jones
Josh Lawler
Peggy Linn
William Masslich
Barbara G McGarey
M Jean Packer
Erica W Peralta
Rena Everton
Kim & Peggy Smith
Marie & Nick Strickland
David S Winn

E-Mail Network Lives!

If you're not on the Audubon Alert Network, you're missing e-mail notices about the latest activities and events. Alerts are sent out on issues, outings, and rare bird sightings. If you'd like to be on the list, send an e-mail with "subscribe BAS" in the subject field, and please include your real name in the body of the e-mail message. Send it to: bdixon@cache.net and we'll put you on the list.

LOCAL NEWS

Request for Community Support for Natural Area

Hyrum Lake State Park is asking for your support and input. We are proposing the acquisition and limited development of an area located directly west of Hyrum Reservoir dam site.

The 10-acre parcel is owned by the United States Government-Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and is minimally developed and administered by the South Cache Water Users Association (Association). The present development consists of two buildings, some piping, three erosion walls, and a storm drain. There is a gravel road to access the site and on some grassy areas scarred by previous vehicle use. The ground cover consists of native grasses, cottonwood, box elder, choke cherry, and small shrubs. There is a small stream, marsh areas and five ponds possibly created due to seepage from the reservoir. The site lends the potential for education of all ages in bird, plant, and wetland identification.

Our objective is to expand the facilities at Hyrum State Park, to better serve the residents of Cache Valley and the State of Utah. With limited land base, it is our goal to bring this parcel of land under Utah State Park management. The vision is to manage and interpret a natural area in close proximity to Hyrum State Park, the local community and educational institutions. It is important to conserve one of the last natural areas that is publicly owned in Cache Valley, yet still allow its residents to access and enjoy this unique area. It is our belief that the area should have limited access and be operated on a reservation only basis. There would be a fee charged for use of the area, as with all State Park facilities. The area will be used primarily as day and group use, but we reserve the right to allow limited camping under special circumstances (ie. Eagle Scout). The proposed development would make the area safe for the user, protect existing resources and keep future impact to a minimum. The changes we recommend are:

- Transfer the land management from Primary Jurisdiction Zone to Recreation Management Zone.
- Improve the access road to the site. At present there are areas sloughing off due to erosion and water

damage.

- Install fencing around the area the Association has developed.
- Put in a gravel parking lot at the base of the dam where the road levels out. This area has already been impacted by vehicle use.
- Nestle a Sweet Smelling Toilet (SST) or two in a camouflaged area.
- Place a few picnic tables or a pavilion with picnic tables adjacent to the parking lot to provide groups with a gathering area for instruction or lunch.
- Create a nature trail, install benches and marker posts to keep visitors on the trail.
- Place self-guided interpretive signs pertaining to the flora and fauna of Cache Valley.

Funding sources will be sought at a later date from state general funds, and partnering with potential user groups. At this time, we are soliciting recommendations and support for the project. A cooperative relationship between the Association, Division of Wildlife Resources, the BOR, and other interested groups will ensure the area is not overused and to improve habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.

We have worked closely with the BOR, as per the draft contract, to attain this goal. It is our understanding that any change in land management status of this parcel will be opposed by the Association. Their objection to this change is that public access will increase the potential risk of damage to their irrigation investment. A closer working relationship with the Association would result in better law enforcement and emergency response, pooling of resources to secure funding for such things as fencing, stream rehabilitation, etc., and a better cooperative management of the entire reservoir. We believe opening the area to education and interpretation would result in better public understanding of the natural area and its adjacent water facilities, resulting in less chance of vandalism.

We are asking for you, the potential user, to offer your support through letters, which we can take with us on appeal to the Association. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Letters of support should be sent to: Lee Gyllenskog, Hyrum State Park, Hyrum, UT 84319.

Banquet Helpers Needed

Come on, now, it's not that hard. We have notes from years past, and several experienced organizers are available to help out, but we need a few souls to pull things together for our banquet this spring. If you're interested in being the coordinator or helping out with some of the details, please contact Suzanne Marychild (245-4687) or Bryan Dixon (752-6830).

REGIONAL NEWS

Audubon of Utah Council Retreat – September 20-22

The Fall, 1996 Audubon Council of Utah retreat was hosted by the Great Salt Lake Audubon Chapter and was held at Camp Tuttle in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Thanks to members of Great Salt Lake Audubon, especially Penny Ciak, for a wonderful week-end retreat.

The retreat was very well attended with 34 people coming from four chapters (Salt Lake City, Ogden, Logan, and St. George). Participants gathered at the camp on Friday evening for an informal social. Dan Beard, Rocky Mountain Regional Vice President introduced himself, as did Carol Warden, the new Development Director for the Rocky Mountain Region and on Arnosty, State Director of the National Audubon Minnesota State Office.

Reports

Lee Shirley, Chariman of the Audubon Council of Utah, conducted the Saturday Council meeting. We started with short reports. The following are just a few highlights. Bryan Dixon, Conservation Chair, Bridgerland Audubon, spotlighted work on the new Logan Canyon Nature Center that the chapter is co-sponsoring. Penny Ciak, President, Great Salt Lake Audubon, featured water conservation and the Decker Lake restoration project. Arnold Smith, President, Wasatch Audubon, emphasized Audubon Adventures and reported on the recent death of long time Audubon activist John Nelson. The Council applauded the efforts of Marilyn and Keith Davis, who are organizing the newly formed Red Cliffs Audubon Chapter in St. George. Marilyn discussed their activities including a float in a parade and birding articles for the local newspaper. Wayne Martinson, National Audubon Utah Wetlands Coordinator, told about the Davis County Wetlands Preservation Plan and the Western Transportation Corridor study. Ella Sorensen, Gillmor Sanctuary Manager, focused on recent experiences of Bridgerland Audubon members during a recent field trip to the Sanctuary as well as additional funds obtained for the Sanctuary from the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission. Dan Beard emphasized a Riparian Habitat Project that was funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and will be implemented in each of the six states in Audubon's Rocky Mountain Region. Ann O'Connell, Lobbyist, Audubon Council of Utah, highlighted the Forestry Practices Act that will likely be before the 1997 State Legislature as well as the study of a roadway to Antelope Island from the south. John Bellmon reported on recent state BLM directions for grazing.

Future Directions and State Office

Dan Beard provided a short summary of National Audubon's recent strategic planning process and discussed why National is moving to deliver services through state offices. This was followed by a thorough discussion by Don Arnosty, who described why the Minnesota state office was established, how it's financed, and how it works.

After a lunch break, we came back for a 2½ hour session facilitated by Don. We began by asking people to throw out their "Dragons," i.e., what concerned them most about establishing a state office. The major Dragons were: how can we finance the office; office and issue management (including relationships with chapters and governance); and, finding people who would have the time to make it happen given their existing responsibilities.

After discussing the Dragons, people were asked about their "Dreams." What could or should a state office do? We went around the room several times listing items on large sheets of paper. After this, each person voted for their top issues. The top vote getters were (in order): recreational birding and bird conservation, environmental education, habitat protection, fund raising, advocacy, research, and public relations.

Dan Beard concluded by asking the Council to authorize the "national" staff to work with the Council and chapter presidents to develop a more detailed plan for how to establish a state office and present that plan at the spring retreat. The plan would include recommendations for fund raising and governance. Each chapter caucused and endorsed this approach.

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning

Saturday night after a great pot-luck dinner, Audubon members had further discussions about a state office. Dan Beard shared some of his experiences as head of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and as U.S. House of Representative Staff working with the Central Utah Project Completion Act.

Sunday morning was great birding with Ray Smith and Jeanne LeBer. Then, wonderful pancakes were prepared by Dan Johnson and Keith Evans and other members of Wasatch Audubon.

Audubon members then drove to the Jordan River at 10600 South. There, Ty Harrison, Botanist from Westminster College and Bill Yates from Great Salt Lake Audubon, conducted a walking tour of part of the proposed wetlands preservation and restoration sites proposed by Great Salt Lake Audubon and South Jordan City.

A Call to Action

Audubon is adamantly opposed to the construction of a road to the southern tip of Antelope Island. The project can be stopped if we all act immediately. The road will pass through the Audubon Gillmor Bird Refuge and cross the existing causeway to the southern end of the island. The Audubon position is that the road is incompatible both with our refuge, which is for birds not people, and the solitude and extraordinary wildlife diversity of southern Antelope Island. While the latter area is for the enjoyment of people as well as wildlife, its quality would be seriously diminished by the introduction of drive-by tourism.

Furthermore, the road and causeway will create serious environmental damage. An improved roadway through the south shore area will create major losses for the Gillmore Sanctuary. Bird nesting and feeding sites will be destroyed by its construction and the completed road will divide habitat. Southern Antelope Island will incur the same damage. The improved causeway will further restrict an already compromised water circulation which is critical for the health of the lake and its wetlands and will impound water during times of rising lake levels which will back up into and destroy nesting sites.

The proponents of the road argue that it will improve the lake shore habitat (an eyesore to some), enhance tourism, and create educational opportunities. We know that the Salt Lake south shore is not a wasteland because we appreciate the biological value and the austere beauty of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem, but do understand that the general public must be taught to appreciate these qualities. We also know that this area must not be sacrificed to automobile tourism. If Antelope Island is turned into a drive-through tourist attraction it will be spoiled for its current use by the citizens of the Wasatch Front. It is a destination for nature lovers, hikers, and recreational bikers.

Automobile tourism will bring too many cars and too many people who most likely will not appreciate what they see. Antelope Island requires both time and knowledge to be appreciated. As for easily accessible education for the casual tourist there are now many other such sites around the Great Salt Lake and there will be more in the future. The Kennecott restoration, the Layton/Kaysville marshes, Farmington Bay, and the South Shore State Park come immediately to mind. Even the Gillmore Sanctuary will include educational viewing sites. The bottom line in all these arguments is that these rare and fragile areas should not be sacrificed to development.

Audubon is joined by The Friends of Great Salt Lake, The Nature Conservancy, and The South Shore Coalition in opposition to this project. Other groups will join forces with us. However, now is the time for Audubon members to act. A feasibility study is in the works; however, we know the project is feasible. The

question is whether the project is necessary or desirable.

Here is what you can do:

Write a letter. Remember that you are writing as an individual. The chapter and council presidents will express the concerns of the organization. Write the consultant doing the feasibility study for this project. She is: Ms. Diana Atkins, Fehr & Peer Associates / 64 East 6400 South, Suite 330 / Murray, UT 84107. Send copies to: Mr. Courtland Nelson, Director / Division of Parks and Recreation / Department of Natural Resources / State of Utah / 1594 West North Temple, Suite 116 / P.O. Box 146001 / Salt Lake City, UT 84114-8001. FAX: 538-7378. Mayor Deedee Corradini / City and County Building / 451 South State Street / Salt Lake City, UT 84111. FAX: 535-6331.

The easy way to do this is to use a fax. Your local copy center can fax for you at minimal cost. If you have not tried out this method of communication, practice now as in readiness for the coming legislative session.

Attend an Open House. The consultant for the feasibility study will hold open houses for public input and education. Come register your opinions. December 10 and 11, 5:00 - 9:00 a.m. Division of Natural Resources (in the lobby), 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City.

Birdseed Available

Clean Seed
50 lbs. for \$16.00

Purchase at Sunrise Cyclery or
contact Nick Strickland or Alice Stokes.
Bags can be turned in to be recycled,
but no longer a monetary discount.

Pick-up your sunflower seed supply
as soon as possible.
These individuals have limited space
for winter storage.

The Birds Thank You!

Audubon Lobbying Network

Yes, I want to be an Audubon Lobbying Network Participant for the Utah Legislature.

Issues I am interested in:

- ☐ Wildlife. A special focus? Cougars ☐, Elk ☐ Another special interest _____
- ☐ Forestry practices on private land _____
- ☐ Resource issues. Particular project or site. _____
- ☐ Water issues. Particular project or site _____
- ☐ Habitat protection. Do you have a particular area in mind? _____
- ☐ Urban planning (preserving urban open space) Particular interest _____
- ☐ Others _____

I only want to be contacted about one issue _____

I only want to be contacted by _____ at _____ (time of day)

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

I am willing to contact a legislator. ☐ Call ☐ Write ☐ Fax # _____
☐ E-mail # _____

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

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

State Representative _____

State Senator _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Return coupon to: Ann O'Connell
2727 Kentucky Ave.
Salt Lake City, UT 84117
Phone: 277-9046
Fax: Same
E-mail: 103306.301@compuserve.com

Christmas Bird Count

From Small Beginnings, Great Things!

In 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman and other conservationists were disturbed by the slaughter of birds in an annual Christmas event called the "side hunt." The team that shot the most birds and other small animals was the winner. As a protest and an alternative, Chapman, then editor of *Bird-Lore* magazine (predecessor of *Audubon*), organized 27 friends in 25 locations on Christmas Day, 1900, to count birds rather than shoot them. The results were published in *Bird-Lore*, February 1901: *"While the exceptionally fine weather on Christmas day was a sufficient inducement to take one afield, we trust that the spirit of wholesome competition aroused by Bird-Lore's bird census added materially to the pleasure of those who took part in it. The results of the census are both interesting and instructive. . . On the one hand the almost entire absence of such northern species as the Cross-bills is noticeable; on the other, the mild season and prevailing absence of snow evidently accounts for the presence of a number of species rarely observed in December. . ."*

Counts that first year were held in 13 states and 2 Canadian provinces as follows: • Keene, H.H. • Belmont, Cambridge (Fresh Pond), Boston (Arnold Arboretum), and Winchester (near Mystic Pond), MA • Bristol and Norwalk, CT • Central Park, N.Y. City and Auburn to Owasco Lake, N.Y. • Englewood, Moorestown, and Newfield, N.J. • Neshaminy Creek and Upper Delaware River above Philadelphia, Delaware River Meadows (Tinicum Twp., Delaware Co.), Germantown, Wyncote, and Fairmount Park, PA • Oberline, OH • Glen Ellyn, IL • North Freedom (Sauk Co.), WI • La Grange, MO • Baldwin, LA • Pueblo, CO • Pacific Grove (Monterey Co.), CA • Scotch Lake (York Co.), New Brunswick and Toronto, Canada.

The Counts Continue

Today over 45,000 people from all 50 states, every Canadian province, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the Pacific Islands, participate in more than 1650 counts held during the annual two-and-a-half week period. Each Christmas Bird Count circle is 15 miles in diameter, approximately 177 square miles. Counters try to cover as much of the circle as possible in a 24-hour calendar day, counting each individual bird and species they see. This year's counts will take place between December 20, 1996 and January 5, 1997.

Why Do Them?

Birds are indicators of overall environmental health. Christmas Bird Count data over time in any given area provides valuable insight into the long-term health of bird populations and the environment. Counts are also fun, even for non-birders or "birders-in-training" – drivers and record-keepers are among the other participants needed!

For More Information: Contact Geoff LeBaron; NAS; 700 Broadway; New York, NY 10003; phone 212/979/3083; FAX: 212/353/0321; e-mail: <glebaron@audubon.org>

National Audubon Society
Chapter Networker



Do You Have An Address Change or Membership Question?

If you need to change your address or if you have questions about your membership status, you can contact Neodata directoy. (The National Audubon Society contracts with Neodata for database management.)

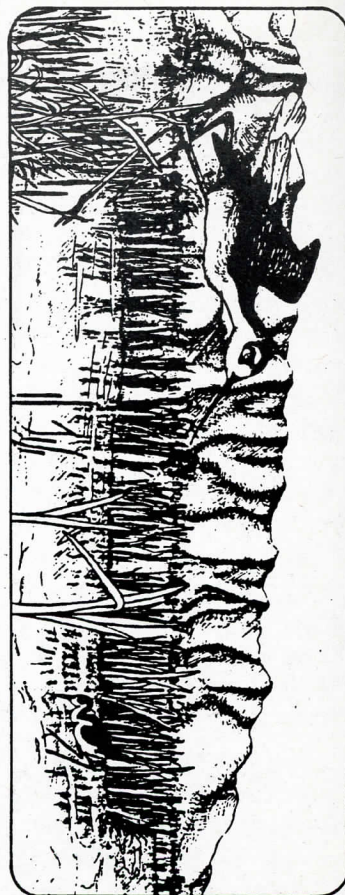
Neodata by mail: Members can write to Neodata at National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529 with their address changes. All changes can take up to six weeks to go into effect, since mailing labels are printed a month in advance.

Neodata 1-800-274-4201. This number is for all members who have questions about their membership status, or who have a change of address.

If you contact Neodata, but your problem or request cannot be handled by Neodata's operators, then you can contact Bridgerland's circulation chair, Susan Durham (752-5637 or sdurham@cc.usu.edu) and she will help resolve it.

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BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
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Nonprofit Organization
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 104
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	Barrie Gilbert, 752-0946
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

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.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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.