



THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

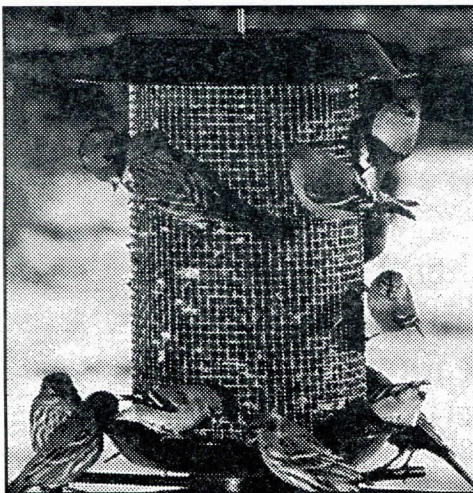
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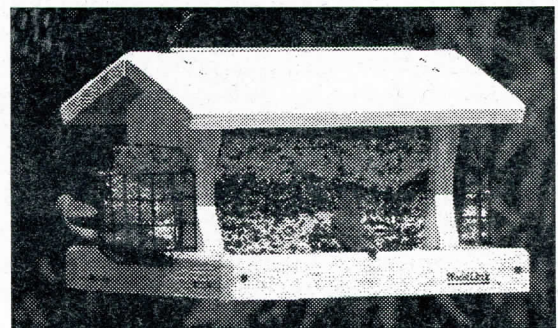
Wanted: Truckers and Pluckers – of Birdseed, That Is

We've made arrangements to supply you with clean sunflower bird seed again this year. The seed needs to be picked up in mid-October, so if you've got a full-sized pickup, you could be a big help. Call Norb Debyle, 752-5949, to offer your services. The 50 lb. bags will be sold for \$16 again this year and will be available toward the end of October at Sunrise Cyclery.

800 East. These make great bird attractions and you can watch the birds pick out the seeds. And there's no dirty bird feeder to clean up when they're done! Take your own sacks or boxes and go anytime. Any sunflower heads not harvested by us will be left for the wild birds, but, hey, why not lure the wild birds to your own back yard? And, since they're experimental plants, maybe your birds will grow to thirty feet tall!



We've also been invited to pluck our own. Don Veirs of the USDA at Utah State University invited any and all Bridgerland Audubon members to help themselves to the sunflower heads which were grown for experimental purposes in a field on the north side of 1400 North and just east of the USU greenhouses on



Inside

BOARD STUFF	2
STATE OFFICE FOR AUDUBON IN UTAH?	3
AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATION	4

October Calendar

Thursday, October 2, 7:00 p.m. BAS Planning

Meeting: Will be at Bryan Dixon's, 10 Heritage Cove, Logan (255 E. 700 N.). If you have agenda items, issues, or suggestions, call Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

Thursday, October 9, 7:30 P.M. General Meeting at the Logan City Building in the Meeting Room. Jim and Debbie Gessaman will be our guest speakers. The topic of their presentation will be: "Johnston Atoll: Seabirds and Nerve Gas." Jim and Debbie will be sharing their experiences visiting a site where birds are apparently thriving in the shadow of a nerve gas incinerator. Please note the earlier time and remember to bring your children. There will be a special room reserved for children and college volunteers available to entertain the youngsters with a special nature program just for them.

Field Trips

Saturday, October 4. Wellsville Hawk Watch. View raptor migration flights from the top of the Wellsville Mountain range. The trip involves a hike up Deep Canyon to the viewing area where volunteers from HawkWatch conduct their annual raptor count. Besides a chance to see large numbers of hawks and eagles migrating south along the ridge, the views and scenery are spectacular. The trip climbs about 3000' on a good but sometimes steep and rocky trail. Bring a lunch and water and appropriate clothes since the ridge is usually windy and cold. Rain is always a possibility. Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the parking lot just north of Straw Ibis on E. Federal Ave. Carpooling will be available. For further information call Jim Sinclair, 752-0061.

Friday/Sunday, October 10/12 (UEA Weekend). Annual Elk Bugling Trip to Jackson Hole. Most people arrive Friday, but you can arrive on Thursday and help trip leaders Terry and Jessie Barnes spot the animals. Spend Saturday looking for bison, pronghorn, elk and other wildlife. After supper, go out to listen for elk bugling. Sunday is 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 and be prepared for temperatures around freezing at night.

Saturday, October 18. Bear River Bottoms Canoe Trip and Bird Count. Meet at Smithfield Implement at 8:00 a.m. We'll take canoes and paddle the Bear River between Cornish and Amalga to count the birds in the 1,300 acre Bear River Bottoms Management Area. Bring warm clothes, lunch and something to drink, binoculars and bird books and shoes you can get wet while we tromp around on the banks. The long term objective is to be able to track changes in the bird populations as we improve this stretch of riparian habitat. For more information, contact Don McIvor, 563-6189.

Saturday, October 18. Logan Canyon Nature Center Open House. The LCNC will host an open house for the public to see the new Nature Center and meet with the staff. Hours for the open house are 9-5 and the public is invited for any part of that time. Special activities will be going on throughout the day to illustrate the kinds of programs the center will provide. Park at the pull-off on the north side of the road 0.7 miles from the mouth of the canyon and enjoy a pleasant walk along the Logan River up to the center. Bring the kids to show them where they'll be going for some of those fun science field trips! For more information, call the LCNC at 755-3239 or the new director, Sharon Ohlhorst at 797-2580.

Friday-Sunday, October 24-26. Bridgerland Audubon Youth Trip to Teton. The Bridgerland Audubon Youth Outdoor Club will be taking a trip to the Teton and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Serving as a leadership retreat, the Teton Science School will provide housing and meals for the group. The 1997-98 calendar of activities will be planned, along with some exciting hikes and adventures! Cost is \$60 for ages 12-18. Call Ron Hellstern, 753-8750, for details.

National Assignment

Wendy Hellstern, Audubon's secretary and teacher at Greenville Elementary, has been named to the National Advisory Board for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Wendy was flown back to Ithaca, New York recently to assist in developing a curriculum for the new "Classroom Feederwatch" program to be used in grades 5-9. The program is currently being piloted by approximately 150 schools throughout the nation.

Logan Canyon Nature Center

Currently we are looking for donations to build a collection of hands on items. They include: nests, skins, wings, bones, rocks, minerals, pine cones, bugs, pressed wild flowers, etc. If you have any of these items contact Lois Olson, 752-9086 (home) or E-mail me at stilt@digitalpla.net.

Board Stuff (As opposed to bored stiff...)

BAS is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We have different venues, depending on the issues to be discussed and who's made the latest batch of cookies. Watch for notices in the *The Stilt*—all BAS members are invited, of course. Each month, I'll try to write in the *The Stilt* about some of the issues being discussed by the Board.

Nick Strickland has resigned as Conservation Chair in order to do some traveling with his wife Marie during the coming year. Nick was instrumental in a variety of projects during his tenure, but the most memorable will

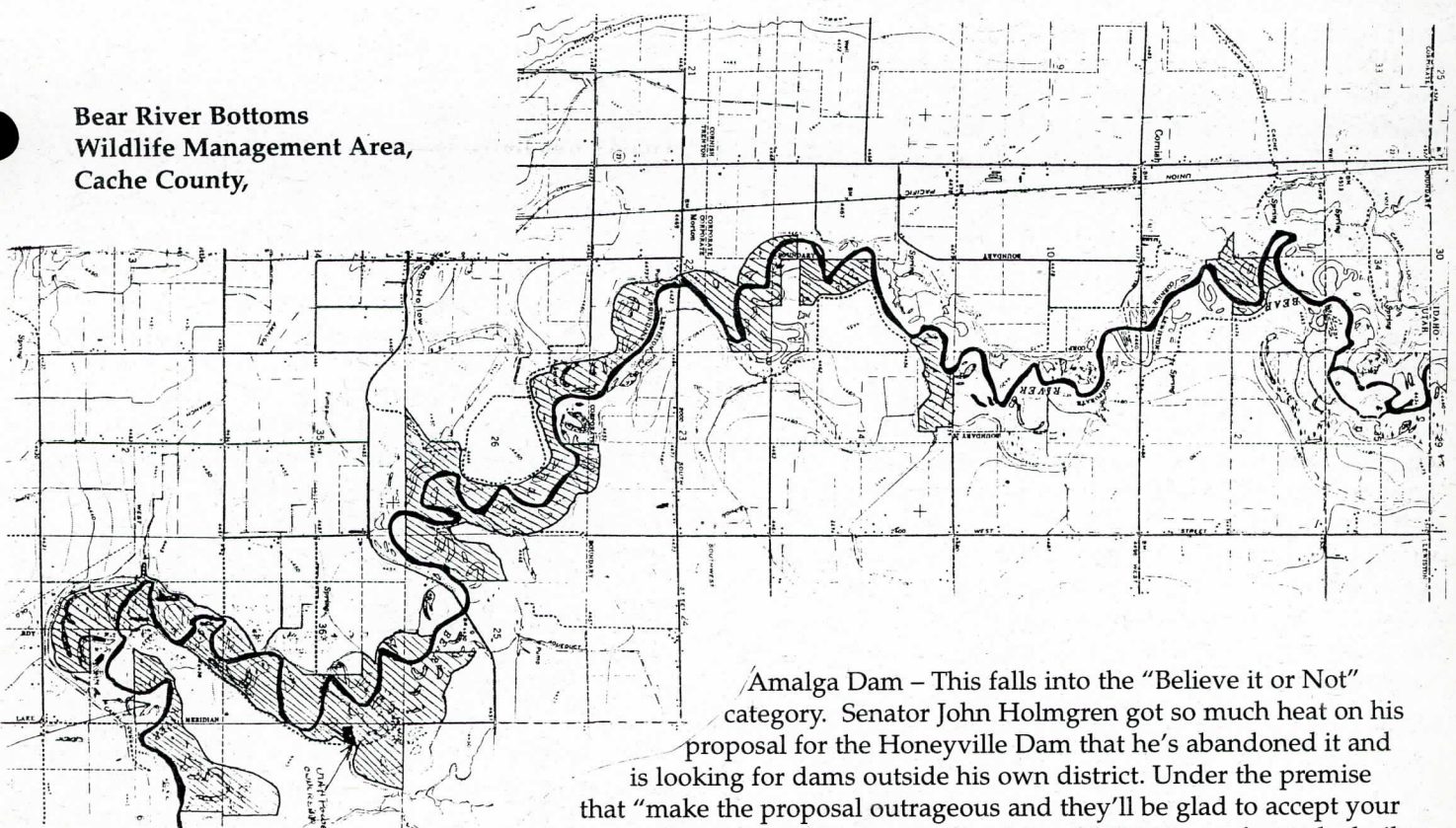
be his work to fence cattle away from the riparian zones along the Bear River. The Board has appointed his successor, Bruce Pendery, who was very active in years past as both Conservation Chair and President. After completing law school a year ago, he's now setting up practice with the law firm of Nathan Hult (LCNC Board) and Suzanne Marychild (BAS Board). Although he's in good hands with this firm, he's going to be plenty busy, so he'll need lots of help with issues. If you have some time to help out on grazing, dams, timber sales, wetlands preservation or any of the myriad issues involving our local environment, give him a call at 750-0253. Look for updates on issues in future *Stilts*.

The Board also appointed Terry Barnes to the LCNC Board. The LCNC is governed by a Board of Directors of 6-10 people appointed in equal proportions by BAS and the First Presbyterian Church. Terry Barnes is known for leading the Elk Bugling Trip to the Tetons each fall (see trip announcement in this *Stilt*) and a regular on the Christmas Bird Count. She serves the LCNC as director of fundraising. Her counterpart appointed by the FPC is Rick Hoff, who also serves as LCNC Treasurer.

Also, at the September meeting, the BAS Board pledged \$2,000 to the Crane Days organization headed by Margaret Pettis and Alice Lindahl. Most of these funds were raised from t-shirt sales in the late 1980s which were being held in our treasury waiting for a good project to benefit cranes. Crane Days, Inc. is developing a program for lure crops to reduce depredation of farmers' fields by migrating cranes in the fall. We're hoping this will reduce the demand for the fall crane hunt and make it easier for everybody to watch these magnificent birds.

The speaker at the September general meeting was John Carter of Willow Creek Ecology, who, with poignant understatement, made a solid case that riparian areas in our Benson River mountains are being grazed to death. If you missed it, you missed a good presentation. BAS is helping out with volunteers and part of the cost of water samples (all the better to sue them with, my dear). October's speakers, Jim and Debbie Gessaman, are also noted for a good blend of nature appreciation and environmental awareness. They'll be showing slides of the Johnston Atoll near Hawaii and describing the environmental threats to bird life there. Join us for an interesting evening and tasty treats afterward!

Bear River Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Cache County,



Amalga Dam – This falls into the “Believe it or Not” category. Senator John Holmgren got so much heat on his proposal for the Honeyville Dam that he's abandoned it and is looking for dams outside his own district. Under the premise that “make the proposal outrageous and they'll be glad to accept your real, but smaller project” he's proposed a dam of 220,000 acre-feet to be built at the Barrens. This dam and the attendant pipeline are estimated at about \$300 million—that's eight zeros! The main beneficiaries would be urban residents in the Salt Lake Valley and Jet Ski enthusiasts. The losers would be tens if not hundreds of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl and taxpayers. If this concept just gets your blood boiling, get involved! Call me or Alice Lindahl (753-7744). We're planning a series of meetings to develop a strategy to point out how dumb this project really is.

—Byran Dixon, Presidential Poobah

State Office for Audubon in Utah?

National Audubon Society is trying to close their regional offices in favor of new offices in each state. They argue that staff at the state level can more effectively address local issues, raise funds for projects and help coordinate local chapters' efforts. While this would seem to be true, local chapters are worried that funding a state office and managing the personnel will stress an already overwhelmed nucleus of active volunteers, reducing overall the effectiveness of local chapters. They wonder if this is mostly just an effort to improve National's income statement, as they would be able to keep the dues they formerly spent on the regional offices. These were the issues discussed at the last few Audubon Council retreats, the last of which was held September 20-21.

It is clearly impossible for the current nine regional offices of NAS to provide very timely or extensive services to every state. They're just too far away from most of us and too few in number. Historically, they were formed to address some issue in a state which had national interest and then remained to serve other states on an as-needed basis with more or less first hand experience in the real issues faced by local chapters. They also distribute the NAS staff throughout the country, rather than all holing up at the Washington, D.C. office. Our own regional office is located in Boulder, Colorado, and currently consists of three people, including a secretary.

Over the past year the number of state offices has grown from five to fourteen. NAS has helped with substantial grants to these state offices, and Utah would be no exception. National is offering \$75,000 per year for the first two years to get us going, leaving the other half of the projected \$150,000 annual cost to be raised in the state. After the first two years, we'd be on our own. The office would consist of a director, a development director (fundraising) and an office manager. Even in Utah, it seems that a full-time staff should be able to raise that kind of funding—and think of the advantages of having our very own professional staff available to work with state government and help raise funds for local projects like our Logan Canyon Nature Center.

However, we're worried. As anyone on the LCNC Board can tell you, fundraising has been successful—over \$100,000 raised for the LCNC in the past year, almost all of which from Cache County—but most people are hesitant to do it. It takes effort and time to identify, contact and work with donors. Won't the state office be tapping some of these same donors, thus reducing the funds available for our local projects? National ways not, that there are many sources of funding that have gone untapped, and any serious effort by an organized local office should bring in far more than they cost.

So, funding sources may exist that would support a state office, but who's going to manage them? The four Audubon chapters in Utah—Bridgerland, Wasatch (Ogden), Red Rocks (St. George) and Great Salt Lake (everyone else)—are each independent organizations, with their own charters, 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status and leadership. Unfortunately, it seems that most of the really active members are already in the leadership. A state office will need its own board of directors to set up procedures, hire and direct staff, oversee operations, and help with fundraising. What woodwork do they think these extra people will come out of?

Other state offices have found such people and funds from within their states. There are folks who are less interested in the really local issues (county, planning, keeping the city golf courses from eating up wetlands, etc.) and prefer the challenge of working with the legislature and state agencies on water policy, wildlife management programs, and sanctuaries. Looking around at the things our population keeps buying (cars, boats, skis, breadmakers, etc.), and the robust economy in Utah, you've got to believe there's money out there for conservation work. Why shouldn't we give this state office a chance? Maybe we should grunt it out, put in the hours to get it started, and then require the staff to raise their own costs? If it fails in a few years because folks got burned out or fundraising wasn't successful, are we any worse off?

These are difficult decisions to make. The Audubon Council, consisting of representatives from each of the four chapters, is struggling with these decisions right now. They have asked each chapter's board to discuss the issues and reach a consensus by the next council meeting in December. At our October Board Meeting, we'll be discussing the state office, so if you've got some interest in this exciting (i.e., scary) proposal, let's hear it. Call me for more information or just show up at the monthly board meeting. We do have a positive effect on Utah's environment, we just need to figure out how best to continue that work.

— Bryan Dixon

Current Issue

The Division of Air Quality/Air Monitoring Center (DAQ/AMC) is seriously considering closing the ambient air monitoring station based in Logan. The assumption has been made that the last two years of data is representative of the Logan area. We are concerned about the accuracy of that assumption and feel that withdrawal of the monitoring station is premature.

During the two winter seasons that data has been collected in Logan, the weather has been unseasonably mild. The first winter of 95/96 did not produce normal December and January temperatures until mid-February and then the cold spell and slight inversion

only lasted a week (during which our highest PM10 level was measured for the season).

The second winter of 96/97 produced mild temperatures with numerous storms that did not allow inversions to start. Typically Cache Valley is subject to inversions that can begin in November and last on and off through February. These are the type of scenarios during which we would like to sample Logan's air quality.

In consideration of the new PM2.5 rule that EPA is developing, Logan exceeded the proposed standard of 50 micrograms/cubic meter in the short time the sampler was installed earlier this spring.

Our office and Board of Health, Cache County, and private interest groups invested a lot of time and effort to have a station located in the Logan area, and we would like to see it remain until a realistic sample is taken. We would appreciate your support in this matter.

The Bear River Health Department and Board of Health, Cache County, and private interest groups invested a lot of time and effort to have a station located in the Logan area, and they would like to see it remain until a realistic sample is taken. BAS members are encouraged to write to county and city officials, letter to the editor, and the State Division of Air Quality.

— Jack Greene

Renewing Members

Desmond & Loila Rae Anderson
Patricia Bahler
Mindy Bell
Beth Booton
Max Elliot Brunson, Jr.
Roger Burger
Kevin Connors
M Cooley/Logan HS
Howard M Deer
Dewitt S Dominick
Chris & Wendy Gaddis
Carolee Hammel
Robert Hammond
John M Howell
Daisy & Trevor Hughes
Barbara Keer
Bradley Kropp
John Lowry
Harvey Mohr
Michael O'Neill
Bryce Passey
Pam Riley
Ron Ryel
Renate Schaaf
Marie & Nick Strickland
Mr & Mrs Robert E Taylor

New Members

Candice Y Aarde
Linda & Neal Bettiniger
Libby Book/Mountain Crest HS
Ronda L Browning
Janice Durst
Mike Engle
Joanne E Francom
Lynn Green
Todd Hallock
Diane Hanson
Berkley Hendricks

Bird-Watching Series Premieres Soon on Public Television

Next to gardening, bird-watching is the most popular hobby in North America. Now, in co-operation with other major television producers, NWF has created a TV series for the 65- to 73-million bird lovers in this country.

BirdWatch With Don and Lillian Stokes premieres on PBS in October and will run for 13 weeks. The hosts, authors of best-selling nature books, will show viewers how they have landscaped their five-acre property in Carlisle, Massachusetts, to attract more than 140 species of birds.

The magazine-style show features a half-dozen other segments on such topics as identifying birds, understanding bird behavior, getting started in bird-watching, birding hotspots, activities for kids and conservation success stories.

"A deeper purpose of the show is to help viewers understand the vital connection between birds and their environment and how important conservation of habitats is to birds' survival," says Chris Palmer, president of National Wildlife Productions.

Joining NWF as producers of the show are Don and Lillian Stokes, Connecticut Public Television and the Company for Home Entertainment.

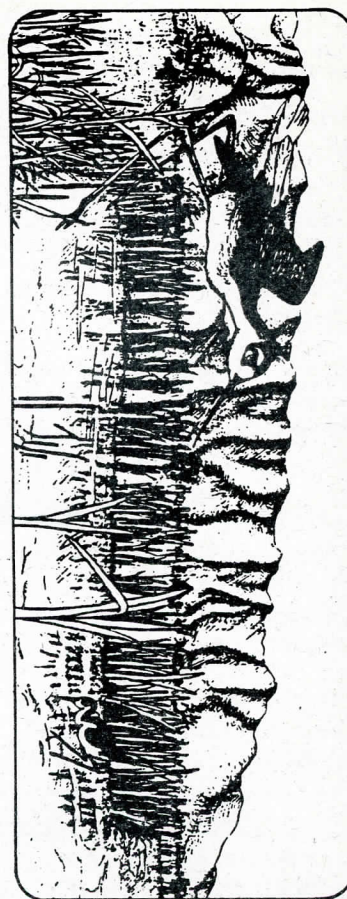
Email service provided by Digital Planet. Use the following addresses to contact your BAS leadership:

stillt@digitalpla.net – for newsletter items
audubon@digitalpla.net – for anything else

LOGAN UT 84321-3300
TO HERITAGE COVER
JEAN M. LOWN
DIXON W. BRYAN

THE STILT

BRIDGERLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3501
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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	Bryan Dixon, 752-6830
Vice President	Chris Wilson, 753-3769
Secretary	Wendy Hellstern, 753-8750
Treasurer	Susan Drown, 752-3797
Conservation	Bruce Pendery, 753-7400
Education	Jack Greene, 563-6816
Membership	Alice Lindahl, 753-7744
Field Trips	Ron Hellstern, 753-8750
Newsletter	Lois Olson, 752-9085
Circulation	Susan Durham, 752-5637
Hospitality	Tim & Jackie Henney, 755-6888
Hotline	Nancy Williams, 753-6268

Trustees

1995-98	Suzanne Marychild, 755-5571; Peter Ruben, 797-2490; Allen Christensen, 258-5018
1996-99	Jack Greene, 563-6816; Lois Olson, 752-9085 Ron Hellstern, 753-8750
1997-20	Glen Gantz, 258-2748; Robert Schmidt, 755-9262 Terry Perry, 753-3249; Mae Coover, 752-8871

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.