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The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Vol 30

Pondering the Christmas Bird Count

The 25th annual CBC on December 16th was remarkable in its unremarkableness.

Although we had no knock-your-socks-off surprises, we found 93 species - a respectable number for a high mountain valley in mid-winter, don't you think? We always look for trends in species and try to infer causes, such as changing food sources (e.g., rodents, conifer cone crops) and weather (cold, warm, windy, etc.), and tax policy (well, maybe not taxes), but the story isn't clear this year. Of course, many of these birds are migratory, so their presence is influenced by conditions in faraway places, but frankly, my dear, we don't have a clue about what's going on here.

We had record cold temperatures in November, but they moderated in early December. Then, as you recall, we had gale force winds that closed Logan Canyon just a day before the count! Fortunately, in the hours before count day a brief high pressure resulted in clear skies which revealed a waning moon to guide the early morning owlers. Temperatures were a bit nippy (15° F) in the morning, but the day warmed up to just below freezing, making it pleasant for a winter's day. The cold weather had frozen many of the small rivulets and marshes, but larger water bodies were generally open. The ground was covered by a thin layer of fresh snow, protecting seeds and rodents from the appetites of the less skilled birds. Winds were light and a bit of sun in the morning got the birds moving about. But by late afternoon, it became overcast and parties reported large "bird-free zones" towards the end of the day. Those still out at sunset, however, were treated with a spectacular alpine glow from the low winter sun shining on the Mt. Naomi Wilderness area.

This year, 62 birders took to field and feeders. We found a lot of birds for a cold mountain valley in December, but we didn't break our highs of 98 species in 1983 and 97 in

1987. Here's a comparison with last year:

	1999	2000
Total # Seen	22,898	15,997
Total # Species	93	93
# Observers	66	62

We seemed to have had fewer record high counts than normal:

Species	2000 Record	Old Record	Old Record Year
Ring-necked Duck	568	438	1997
Lesser Scaup	228	180	1999
Wild Turkey	18	1	1997
Northern Pygmy-Owl	3	2	1998 (et al.)
Northern Flicker	106	100	1990
Black-capped Chickadee	344	299	1992
Red Crossbill	52	35	1983

We thought we might see some pattern in the taxonomic groups of birds, but results were always mixed. Within the ducks and geese, we found high numbers of Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaups, and Northern Shovelers. This year continued the unusually high numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes, correlating with reports from elsewhere that indicate a increase throughout the northwest. At the same time, however, Gadwalls and Buffleheads were down. It was also interesting that, while not really a duck, we only saw FOUR American Coots - most years we see dozens or hundreds, and in 1995 we saw 1,231! There was no apparent correlation with divers or dabblers.

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President's Message

Unlike last month where there was a specific focus to this message—money—the December board meeting dealt with various issues. For that reason, I will address some of them in more of a bullet form.

- Georgen Gilliam, the *Stilt* editor, has started a new project—the Green Calendar. This is a summary of various meetings of interest to environmentalists, ranging from BAS general meetings and field trips to announcements of activities at the Stokes Nature Center. It will be available in print and on the web (<http://www.bridgerlandaudubon.org/greencalendar/index.html>). Watch for it—we will try to post it widely, and if you have a contribution you can contact Georgen at geogil@ngw.lib.usu.edu.

- By the time you get this you will probably have received our fundraising brochure in the mail. Please consider contributing to BAS—we need your support to keep up our wide array of activities!

- As I write, we are still looking for a new president due to my departure to Washington, D.C. I am confident that by the time you read this we will have a new president—several people have expressed interest, but they need to think about it a little while before committing.

- We are pursuing efforts to establish a relationship with the Bear River Institute of Experiential Education (BRIEE). BRIEE is an adult education program at USU that conducts "short course" environmental programs that include extended field trips. It may be possible to coordinate some of our field trips with theirs, although

we will keep our field trips free and open to the public.

- Similarly, we discussed getting more BAS members involved with the wetlands monitoring program that Brian Nicholson has established in Cache Valley (see articles elsewhere in this *Stilt*). Please consider participating in this program—it's a great way to get outdoors, learn more about wetlands, and contribute to their protection.

- The Utah Rivers Council has increased its efforts to protect the Bear River. It has started a committee that will specifically address possible dam building on the Bear River, including the Barrens Dam at Amalga. We will become involved in this work, and are considering other ways we can help the URC succeed in these efforts.

- The board approved \$500.00 for publication of the Great Salt Lake Birding Trails Map. This map, which is being developed by Wasatch Audubon in Ogden, will be a high quality map of approximately 50 birding hot spots in northern Utah, including short written descriptions of the areas. A number of Cache Valley sites are included. Watch for it!

Finally, I would like to make a personal plea. Please consider going to one of our upcoming general meetings. Attendance, frankly, has been down somewhat over the last few months. But the meetings are great. The December Speaker was Mike Jablonski, who is a member of the River Heights city council, and he gave a fantastic presentation about how outdoor lighting can be economically and effectively modified to reduce the "glow" that

erases nighttime stars. He told us about his efforts to get River Heights to adopt an ordinance to regulate outdoor lighting so it still meets legitimate needs while not lighting up everything else—outer space for example. It was anything but dry political commentary. The January speaker will be Vince Tepedino who will tell us about the close relationship between the many rare plants in southern Utah (and perhaps elsewhere) and the equally rare and unique insects that pollinate them. Almost as good as the speakers are the refreshments afterwards and the chance to mingle with people. All meetings are the second Thursday of the month at the Logan City meeting room (255 North Main) and they start at 7:00 p.m. Please consider coming, you won't regret it. And invite a friend.

— Bruce Pendery

New & Renewing Members

New members

Janis L Boettinger
Eric J Meyer
Catherine St Onge

Renewing members

Patricia Bahler
Ben Baldwin
C D Cheney
David & Susan Drown
Joanne Hughes
Larry J Jacobsen
Douglas A Johnson
Linnea Johnson
Kennita Thatcher
Jo Ann Wilson

Audubon Calendar

Saturday, January 6, Winter Birding Trip in Cache Valley.

The lives of birds go on, even through the heart of winter and despite the cold and snow. Come learn and teach others how to identify hawks, winter ducks and those mysterious little brown birds flitting through the hedge rows. Dress warmly and be prepared to take short walks through the woods and meadows. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot north of the Straw Ibis, 150 North 50 East, Logan. Return by lunchtime. For more information, call Bryan at 752-6830.

Thursday, January 11, General meeting.

Vince Tepedino, scientist at the USU Bee Lab, will talk about his research. **Pollination and plati-tudes: What studies of the reproductive biology of rare plants in the western United States can tell us about "pollinator decline" and coevolution.** Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, 7 pm.

Thursday, February 8, General meeting.

Paul Jamison is the featured speaker for February. The title of his presentation is **Fossils of the Bear River Range**. The Bear River Range is composed mostly of sedimentary rocks such as limestone, dolomite, shales and sandstones that were laid down hundreds of millions of years ago during the Paleozoic Era. During this time shallow warm oceans often covered much of present day Utah. Evidence of creatures that inhabited these waters can be found in many locations in the Bear River Range in the form of fossils. Paul will be discussing the paleoecology of these organisms with emphasis on Crinoids, his favorite group of animal from this time. He presentation will include a slide show and a great collection of fossils from the Bear River Range. Logan High School. Logan City Building meeting room, 255 North Main, 7 pm.

Saturday, February 10, Winter Animal Tracks.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot north of Straw Ibis, 150 North 50 East, Logan, for a field trip to investigate the stories written in snow around Cache Valley and Logan Canyon. Great trip for children and adults alike to speculate on winter wildlife happenings. Dress warmly; return by lunch. For more information, contact Kayo Robertson at 563-8272.

Cache Valley Residents Monitoring Local Wetlands

In the past, federal money was allocated through the Swamp Acts to drain, ditch, dredge, and fill our nation's wetlands. Today, as a result of federal funding and support, volunteers in Cache Valley are working to protect these remarkable ecosystems. This program, initiated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), relies on volunteers to monitor the bio-physical characteristics of wetlands. These include birds, vegetation, water quality, macroinvertebrates, and surrounding land use. By taking such a detailed look at these characteristics, volunteer monitors can discover how wetlands function, identify threats to wetland health, and contribute scientific data to the process of ecosystem management.

Cache Valley has tremendous wetland resources. We are currently monitoring four sites, but more help is needed. We invite BAS members to learn about a local wetland and assist UDWR

by applying your birding skills, wading into a marsh to conduct water quality tests, collecting macroinvertebrate samples, and examining unique vegetation communities. Additional opportunities exist to evaluate land use, gather GIS data, research site and watershed history, and establish photo points.

Volunteers will receive approximately 10 hours of training on wetland ecology and monitoring techniques. Training sessions will be held at the convenience of the volunteers. Actual monitoring requires a commitment of approximately 3 hours a month but is dependant on the number of volunteers and the monitoring technique(s) in which a person is involved. For more information contact Brian Nicholson (797 2580) or Audrey McElrone (797 7053) or by email at monitoring@utahwetlands.org.

-Brian Nicholson



Brian Nicholson, Barbara Stevens, & Dan Zamecik monitoring the vegetation at the 20/20 ponds.

As the accompanying article shows, Bridgerland Audubon has a great opportunity to contribute to learning about, and thus ultimately protecting, wetlands in Cache Valley. But that can only occur if you get involved in the wetlands monitoring program. Please consider getting involved!

— Bruce Pendery

(Continued from page 1)

Raptors were also a puzzle. Kestrels and Rough-legged Hawks continued a strong showing over the last few years, and three of the last four years we've seen a Peregrine Falcon. Perhaps the early snows were the reason, pushing the Rough-leggeds down from the far north and at the same time, pushing the Red-tailed Hawks and Prairie Falcons further south (both of these latter species were unusually low, in fact "RT"s were the second lowest since 1989). However, another "raptor" of sorts, the Northern Shrike, usually makes its appearance only when pushed down from the far north, but we only saw one bird this year, whereas we usually see about 6 or so.

Some game birds registered high numbers (Chukars were the 2nd highest ever and one team found 18 Wild Turkeys). However, we got skunked on Gray Partridge, Blue Grouse, Ruffed Grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse. Hunters have reported lower Ring-necked Pheasants populations this year than in recent years, and we found the same. (One hypothesis proposed at the potluck was the terribly high number of cougars, don't you know...)

Owls were a curious bunch, as usual. Northern Pygmy Owls seem to be at an historical high - we found three on count day and two had been seen on the days before the count. On the other hand, we missed Northern Saw-Whet Owls, a similar forest owl, for the second straight year. Common Barn Owls had enjoyed a burst in populations the last few years, but were somewhat reduced this year, perhaps responding to the cold weather in November (Barn Owl populations in Cache County tend to be temperature sensitive).

Other species also posted some high numbers. We found three Stellar's Jays - all in the valley, none in the mountains. Northern Flickers set a record high of 106, but other woodpeckers were about normal. The small seed-eaters were unusually abundant. Black-capped Chickadees set a record high, but also strong were Mountain Chickadees, Song, White-crowned, and Tree

Sparrows, as well as Spotted Towhees and Dark-eyed Juncos. We also recorded both White-throated and Harris' Sparrows.

Western Meadowlarks posted their 2nd highest appearance of our 25 years, and, if they survive the winter, promise a musical Spring as their songs are some of the first heard when the days grow longer. Then too, were high numbers of thrushes - record numbers of American Robins and unusually abundant Townsend's Solitaires - perhaps having been driven out of the mountains by the brutal weather the day before?

Low numbers also presented some puzzles. Remember all those American Crows roosting in the center of Logan? What happened to them? We found only 23 instead of the usual hundreds (910 in 1999). Low numbers were welcome, however, for some species - both European Starlings and House Sparrows, considered exotics in the U.S., were down significantly.

Lastly, we had some interesting sightings of irruptive birds, those that follow their food supply instead of the north-south migration routes. When we see them, they usually appear in large numbers. At the top of a wind-swept ridge high above Birch Canyon, one observer found 600 (exactly, he said) Gray-crowned Rosy Finches (now THOSE took some effort!). Rosy Finches only show up on our count in about 50% of the CBCs (although one year we had 2,350 of them along the benches above Lundstrom Park). The Smithfield team found 52 Red Crossbills (only seen on 7 of the past 25 counts) among the conifers in the cemetery.

At the end of a rewarding day we then gathered for the potluck. Once again, Dave and Susan Drown generously opened up their house. After chowing down on some great grub and some killer desserts, we organized the group and began the ritual of the compilation. As we went through the list, species by species, sector leaders read off their totals and the numbers were fed into a computer. As each species was read out, an appointed historian compared this year's results to highs and lows in years past. At the end, we enjoyed the surprises from parties who

found birds not on the regular list.

It was a grand time for everybody, whether in the mountains or out in the marsh. Special thanks to those who helped out on the count: Jamey Anderson, Keith Archibald, Bob Atwood, Dennis Austin, Jessie Barnes, John Barnes, Terry Barnes, Mike Becker, Gordon Bosworth, Dick Brune, Jim Cane, Donna Capasso, Allen Christensen, Gail Christensen, Creed Clayton, Marianne Crawford, Mary DeByle, Norb DeByle, Bryan Dixon, David Drown, Susan Drown, John Ellerbeck, Barbara Farris, Chris Ghicadus, Georgen Gilliam, Val Grant, Adair Holden, Joanne Hughes, Dick Hurren, Janet Hurren, Glenn Jarrell, Reinhard Jockel, Liz Josephson, Linda Kervin, Jim Kingland, David Kotter, Joan Labby, Caitlin Laughlin, Alice Lindahl, Andrea Low, Jean Lown, Merr Lundahl, Bill Masslich, Audrey McElrone, Don McIvor, Eric Meyer, Sherie Mitchell, Ann Mull, John Mull, Mary Nelson, Bruce Penderly, Natalie Podgorski, Lawrence Ryel, Bill Sedivy, Frank Smith, Alice Stokes, Nick Strickland, Kim Sullivan, Christine Terry, Miranda Trostle, Dennis Welker, and Dan Zamecnik.

So, has it been a cushy winter? The Rough-legged Hawks down from the north and Red Crossbills and American Robins down from the mountains would suggest not. On the other hand, we only saw one Northern Shrike pushed down from the north, and we found both Ring-billed and California Gulls, which would suggest that the winter hasn't been particularly harsh. We're flummoxed, without a simple explanation. If you'd be interested in analyzing the results for yourself, (data for the Logan Christmas Bird Counts is available back to 1976) send a SASE (with two stamps) to BAS, P.O. Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501. We'd be interested in publishing your observations and hypotheses in the Stilt.

Please join us next year for the 26th annual CBC. It will be Saturday, December 15, 2001. You'll have a grand time, and contribute to the longest running source of data on bird populations in the world. We need you, beginner or expert. See you next year.

- Keith Archibald & Bryan Dixon

Kid's Corner

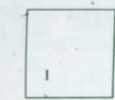
Snowflakes

Winter is finally here! We celebrate winter's arrival by making snowmen, playing in the cold white fluff that covers the earth, and catching snowflakes on our tongues. A long time ago, a young boy in Vermont did more than just catch snowflakes on his tongue. He was so fascinated by snow that he caught flakes to study under a microscope. This boy, named Willie Bentley, learned that snow crystals usually have six sides and that no two flakes are the same. As he grew, Willie felt sad whenever a snowflake melted because all record of its beauty was lost. So, he started sketching the snowflakes he studied, drawing as many as 100 flakes each winter. Then, when he was seventeen, his parents bought him a special camera (it was taller than a newborn

calf!) to photograph snowflakes. He once took 100 photos during a two-day storm. For the rest of his life, Wilson Bentley continued his study and love of snow and became known as Snowflake Bentley. You can read more about him in Jacqueline Briggs Martin's book, *Snowflake Bentley*, and see many of the incredible pictures he took in the book *Snow Crystals* by Wilson Bentley himself. To make your own six-sided snowflake, follow the directions below. When you're done, see if your snowflakes look like any that Snowflake Bentley photographed.



Make a snowflake!



1. Take a square sheet of paper, about 9 ½ by 9 ½ inches.



2. Fold it so it makes a big triangle.



3. Fold it again into a smaller triangle.



4. Now fold the small triangle into thirds, making sure that all your edges are lined up (you should have two rabbit ears poking up).



5. Cut off the rabbit ears, and you're ready to create your own snowflake.



6. a. To make a "plate crystal," cut away on both sides and the top, as indicated by the arrows, OR . . .



b. To make a pointy "stellar crystal," cut away most of one side (for example the side where the arrow is pointing), and then cut fun patterns on the remaining side.

Help Protect Habitat at Hyrum and Newton Reservoirs

Hyrum and Newton Reservoirs here in Cache Valley are reservoirs owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau has undertaken efforts to develop management plans that will guide efforts to provide—and regulate—recreation at the reservoirs, as well provide for protecting wildlife habitat. These "Resource Management Plans" are being developed locally through Bio/West consulting.

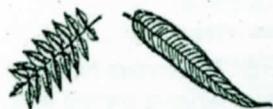
Your input to these plans is needed if wildlife and wildlife habitat is going to be fully considered. I doubt, for example, that either the BOR or Bio/West are aware of the loons that use Newton Reservoir, and if BAS members don't point these sorts of things out, they probably will not be considered in the plan. If you know of significant wildlife resources that should be considered and protected you should let Bio/West know about them. Suggesting means by which species can be protected would also be useful (e.g., close certain areas to power boats). To stay fully informed about the status of this project you should also get on the mailing list Bio/West maintains. You can contact Chris Sands at Bio/West to make comments and get on the mailing list. The address is 1063 West 1400 North, Logan, Utah, 84321 (752-4202).

In about February 2001, Bio/West will release details of alternative management plans. These plans will range from a Resource Conservation Emphasis Alternative to a Recreation Development Alternative. Your comments on the plans, and how they should be modified, will be critical. Following development of the plans, a draft Environmental Assessment will be released, followed by a final EA where the preferred alternative will be selected. There will also be opportunity to comment on these stages of the planning, and I hope you will do so.

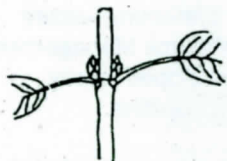
—Megan Barker
Program Director
Stokes Nature Center

— Bruce Pendery

Our tree had leaves that are broad, thin, & deciduous:



Opposite on the twig:



Leaves that are simple (one blade attached to a stalk or petiole), and the leaves palmately lobed (like fingers on the palm of a hand)



Leaves 2-1/2" wide or less, with sharply toothed edges & sharp angles between the lobes: It is a Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*).



Field trip—Trees of Logan Canyon

I thought for sure that I was overdressed for this outing because highs were in the 70's this time last year. However, I immediately realized that I was underdressed when I stepped out of the car at the Stokes Nature Center parking lot. Temperatures were in the low teens with a stiff canyon wind and a few inches of snow on the ground. Luckily Reinhard Jockel's knowledge of the canyon paid off once again. He strongly recommended going to Wood Camp Hollow (Jardine Juniper Trail) which was an open sunny area maximizing our warmth on a cold November morning.

Our speaker was Dr. Mike Kuhns, Extension Forester for USU who gave us a handout "Key to the Trees of Logan Canyon" (available on the web at <http://www.ext.usu.edu/natres/trees/index.htm>). It was a very helpful handout in identifying the trees on the Jardine Juniper Trail. We were able to identify Maples, Blue Elder (Elderberry), Boxelder, Quaking Aspen, Chokecherry, Douglas-fir, and Juniper.

Identifying the Canyon (Bigtooth) and Rocky Mountain Maples

turned out to be a challenge because the first examples of each were growing in the same place. Once we realized that it became much easier. We then identified Blue Elder (Elderberry) and Boxelder. Contrary to their common names, they are not related because the Boxelder is not a true elder but really a maple. Mike also showed us a quick way to identify a Chokecherry tree by looking for the black fungus growing on its branches.

As we hiked up the Jardine Juniper Trail, Mike pointed out the Douglas-fir trees on one side of the trail and the Juniper trees on the other. He explained that each species of trees were growing on a slope that best maximized their growing conditions. The Douglas-fir trees were on a north facing slope maximizing water and shade whereas the Junipers were on a south facing slope maximizing sunlight and arid conditions. Mike also pointed out that the southwest facing slopes in the northern hemisphere are the hottest and driest slopes because they receive the most

sunlight at its peak intensity.

As we looked at the Junipers, Reinhard Jockel pointed out the Townsend's Solitaires that we were hearing along the hike. He explained that they feed on the berry like cones or fruit of the Junipers. Mike helped us identify the two types of Juniper in Logan Canyon by looking at the color of their fruit, blue for Rocky Mountain and red-brown for Utah.

We tapped two trees not for syrup but to determine their age, a Douglas-fir and a Bigtooth Maple. The ages were determined by counting the rings on a plug removed from the tap. Mike added about ten years to the ring count to take into account the time the tree grew to the place where he tapped it. He estimated the Douglas-fir to be 125 years old, but the Bigtooth Maple was more difficult. Its rings were too close together to get an accurate count, but he estimated its age at 75 years old.

Although the morning temperatures were cold, the sunny skies along with Mike Kuhns' expert knowledge made the trip more than worthwhile.

BRI Field Courses for Winter & Spring

As winter has now officially found us, it is a great time to enhance your skills and knowledge of this snowy season while exploring our local canyons. The Bear River Institute (BRI) of Experiential Education has seven field courses offered from February to April, 2001. Several courses focus on winter and the unique natural history and recreational opportunities which can be found in the Bear River Range. Class size will be limited to 8 participants for **Winter Ecology: A Yurt-bound Ski Tour**, in-

cludes 4 preliminary evening classes and culminates in a 4-day yurt experience, and will include study of plant and animal adaptations of winter, a search for interesting sign and terrain, and a thorough study of the snowpack and avalanche potential. For those who yearn for camping in the snow, **Winter Explorations in the Bear River Range** provides a diversity of evening discussions, day field sessions, and a 3 day backpacking trip. Our beloved Don

McIvor will be joining Audrey McElrone in offering **Great Basin Birding**, a great chance for novice and intermediate birders to improve their observation skills while exploring habitats in the Great Basin. To request a catalog or find out more information call 797-7379 or stop by the Eccles Conference Center, room 103, at Utah State University. If you like to find information online, we can be found at www.ext.usu.edu/bri. See you in the snow.

This bird has low emissions!

Here's a good "Jeopardy" question for you? What's a SULEV?

Ah! Come on now. You must know that one!

Give up?

OK, it's a new bird first seen in California but identified too late to be included in the new National Audubon Society *Sibley Guide to Birds*. However, California's strict emission rules define it as a "Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle."

Why bring that up? Well, because BAS members Merv and Mae Coover have recently captured one and are now proud owners of a Toyota Prius (subspecies). After all these years you may not be able to identify them in anything but their sage-green Ford LTD. Yes, they bought a new car for the first time in 21 years. They held out all of that time for a car that is a lot kinder to the environment than

has yet been seen in this country. And, they invite you to join their duet of "Ohs!" and "Ahs!" over their new toy.

According to *Consumer Reports*: "Even after the 'wow factor' of the Prius hybrid design wears off, the car is still an inviting, well designed, functionally useful car. The remarkably high mileage makes this a cost-effective commuting car, and the Prius is also practical enough to take on longer trips. The gas/electric drivetrain works flawlessly and doesn't call attention to itself."

Merv and Mae expect, based on an average of EPA, Toyota and *Consumer's Report* claims for miles per gallon for the Prius, to triple the value of their gasoline dollar and fraction the emissions of most autos today.

Environmentalists have agonized for years over the impact our auto-

mobiles have had on air and water purity and on resource depletion. Suddenly, with the rise in gasoline prices, we have to face facts and none too soon for the sake of our earth.

Consumer Reports presents the Prius as: "a small four door sedan that seats five. It employs a 70-hp, 1.5 liter gas engine, augmented by an electric motor that adds another 44 hp. This dual power plant is mated to a continuously variable transmission (CVT), an up-and-coming type of automatic that's designed for high efficiency and improved fuel economy. The Prius shifts automatically among gas, electric and combined modes, depending on the driving situation; an in-dash monitor lets the driver know which mode it's in. Under California's strict emissions rules, the Prius is rated as a SULEV (Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle)".



That's some kind of a bird!

Wildlife Heritage Certificates Now Available Online

The Wildlife Heritage Certificate program is a new and exciting way for people who enjoy watching and learning about wildlife to get involved and help pay for wildlife management. When you buy a Wildlife Heritage Certificate you receive a package of information including the Utah Wildlife Viewing Guide (first time Heritage Certificate purchasers only), a year's subscription to *Wildlife Review* magazine, a wildlife decal and more. At a cost of \$20 (\$10 for children under 12) your annually renewable Wildlife Heritage Certificate also entitles you to free admission to special events like wildlife field trips and wildlife photography, bird identification and bird feeding workshops.

When the Utah Legislature created the Utah Wildlife Heritage Certificate program in 1993, they anticipated

these trends in participation and economic contribution. While hunting and fishing remain high on the list of favorite outdoor activities among Utahns, wildlife watching is surpassing them.

The Wildlife Heritage Certificate offers anyone who wants to support wildlife programs an alternative to buying a traditional hunting or fishing license. Unfortunately, the DWR has not been able to devote significant funding and personnel to the program. With the recent failure of the 2000 Congress to pass the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), the outlook is bleak for the state agency's budget to make up this shortfall without Utah resident support financially and socially for the conservation of the state's wildlife populations (the majority of

which are nongame species) and their habitat.

2001 Wildlife Heritage Certificates, may be purchased at the six Division offices. However, they are not available from license agents. The Certificate application is available at the Division website: <http://www.nr.state.ut.us/dwr/heritage.htm>; available for those 12 and over online (must be purchased with a credit card) at <https://secure.e-utah.org/serv/hflonline> or may be purchased from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources-WHP, 1594 W N Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114.



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