

PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Newsletter

NO. NINE

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1988

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This will be the last of a series of ramblings that I have provided for our newsletter as your President during the past three years. Soon we will have a new slate of officers elected and installed. A regular change of the guard is what keeps an organization vital and vibrant.

The past three years have seen a lot of activities. There were many good field trips, educational evening meetings, a lot of friendships, some good battles on the conservation and ecology fronts, and much data gathering for migratory, wintering and breeding surveys. We were involved in educating school children and adults, and we sold bird seed. There was something for everybody, and indeed, many members found some program or issue in which to participate.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the officers, directors, and committee members who have worked so well and so hard with me on the Board of Directors. I also thank all the members who have given so generously of their time when we needed people to carry out surveys, sell seed, bring cookies, or do whatever we asked. It is that spirit which makes an organization come alive. Thank you all for that support and I hope that you will continue to help your next officers and directors, so that their reign may be as happy and successful. I promise that I will continue to do my share.

L. H. Princen
President



AUDUBON MEETINGS

DECEMBER 14 - MEMBERS NIGHT

The Botany Section is invited to our meeting. Bring your favorite slides or movies that relate to plants or nature.

Anyone is invited to bring their favorite piece of nature artwork to display to the group. (you don't have to discuss it unless you would want to)

JANUARY 11 - POTLUCK

Bring your favorite dish to share with the group. The Christmas bird counts will be discussed.

FEBRUARY 1 - THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT FOREST PARK NATURE CENTER: THIS IS BEING HELD A WEEK EARLIER THAN OUR NORMAL MEETING TIME!

TOM SEGERSTROM, director of the Great Plains Wildlife Research Institute, Casper, Wyoming, will be our speaker. The topic will be "Wyomings' Wildlife - A Web of Wonder". We are jointly sponsoring this speaker with Forest Park Nature Center.

His sixty minute presentation is a rich encounter with the spectacular wildlife in Wyoming. Here, are the largest nomadic herds of big game on the continent raved only in Africa. Eleven species of grazers can be found in this wildlife museum of Americas past. Predators, songbirds, birds of prey and a myriad of small mammals revolve around the roaming of large herbivores and the vast landscape. This program will dramatically increase the pleasure of wildlife viewing by people who plan to visit the West.

SUBJECT: Shawnee National Forest Management Plan

On August 15, 1988, the Audubon Council of Illinois and the National Forest Service, Eastern Region, entered into a settlement agreement concerning the future management of the Shawnee National Forest. The agreement was signed by J. O. Smith, president of the ACI.

If anyone wishes to read a more detailed report by J. O. Smith of the plan, please contact the Editor.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17-PEORIA COUNT-contact Louise Endres at 682-8500 (evenings)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23-CHAUTAUQUA COUNT-contact Dr. Bjorklund at 677-3012

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31-CHILLICOTHE COUNT-contact Dick Collins at 246-8677

Everyone is welcomed to participate-we need volunteers!

Record-breaking Birdathon

The 1988 Birdathon is history—and what history was made! One-hundred and sixty-one chapters raised a total of \$200,900—both record-breaking numbers. Three thousand people went birding; nearly 700 prizes (all donated) were awarded to 90 chapters. Top prizes included Zeiss, Leitz, Nikon, Minolta, and Swift binoculars; Minolta and Polaroid cameras; Roger Tory Peterson Field Guides from Easton Press; Gates Gloves; Timberland Boots; Pacific Coast Feather Down Comforters; Audubon Ecology Camp Scholarships; *Audubon Adventures* subscriptions; and Audubon Sanctuary vacations for two. Congratulations to all!

More birdathon records: the Dallas Audubon Society saw 259 species by sending 11 teams out all over the state. The Everglades, Florida, chapter raised the greatest amount of money—more than \$15,000—while the Santa Clara Valley, California, chapter had the most money in pledges: \$750 per species!

One of the most important reasons for the unprecedented success of this year's Birdathon was that chapters could allocate 50 percent of their proceeds to the national program or office of their choice while keeping the other half for their own conservation activities. This, of course, can bring the money as close to home as your regional office, for example, or an Audubon sanctuary in your area. Attracting sponsors and raising money is easy when you can tell folks where the money is going.

Next year's Birdathon is expected to include another 100 chapters and to see great increases in the amount of funds (and fun!) raised by all. Go for it! ■

BANNER MARSH/RICE LAKE

The Illinois Department of Conservation held a public hearing on Wednesday, November 16, at Canton High School to receive reactions on the latest version of the future plans for Banner Marsh and the Rice Lake areas. Conservation concerns were expressed by members of the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, Illinois Audubon Council, Peoria Audubon Society and others. Also, well represented were various fishing, hunting, and trapping interests.

Almost everyone expressed appreciation for the way DOC staff had addressed critiques and criticisms presented orally and in writing last spring when an earlier version of the draft was presented. The latest plan is a great improvement for everyone concerned, but it is not totally satisfactory. Even under the multiple-use concepts there are opportunities to improve the properties as well as their uses with more consideration of conservation issues. Two glaring examples are the present plan to rotate certain resting and hunting areas for waterfowl every three days or so, and the fact that there will only be 500 acres of land off-limits to hunting and fishing at the north end of Banner Marsh. Another 500 acres or so should be added on the south end near the town of Banner. That would still leave several thousand acres for other uses.

I am sure that the final version will still have to be put on paper and that there is still opportunity to speak your piece. If you have some ideas or a pet peeve, please write to the director of DOC, Mr. Mark Frech, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62707.

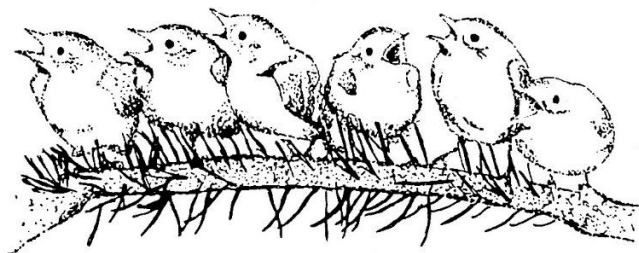
L. H. PRINCEN

Many Pied-billed Grebes seen on Spring Lake this fall; at one time 40 were reported. The White Pelican spotted or reported first at Rice Lake on 7/25 was later joined by another pelican 9/2 and they were last seen by Virginia Humphreys 9/27. Was this their last appearance? Great Egrets spotted in the Sparland area 10/12 & again 10/20 by Louise Augustine and once again on 10/29 and a few were at Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge. One Cattle Egret seen at Duck Island Farm gravel pit on 10/16 by Louise Augustine. Snow Geese seen 9/24 at Duck Island Farm by Louise A. & on 10/18 at Fulton Banner by Virginia H. & also at Duck Creek Station area. They will be seen now until late November. Ring-necked Ducks on Spring Lake seen by Brenda Onken & Dave Williams 10/16; many were also seen on 10/30 too. Ruddy Ducks came to Chautauqua 9/25 seen by Louise A. On 9/24 many at Rice Lake from Duck Island farm & also many seen 10/18 & 10/30. A male Hooded Merganser seen at Rice Lake Headquarters 10/22 by Louise A. & others & a female there 10/30. Peregrine Falcon seen at Rice Lake 9/17 & again later by Louise A. Two Black-bellied Plovers at Duck Island gravel pit 9/19 by Virginia H. & 10/15; by Louise A. 10/22 & also by 5 members of Dr. Bjorklund's trip & Louise A. reported several in Marshall Co 10/30. Golden Plovers seen late 10/2 at Duck Island gravel pit; reported later but date lost. On 9/4 four Semipalmated Plover at Duck Island gravel pit by Brenda Onken & again 10/22 at gravel pit. 10/30 in Marshall Co by Louise Augustine. Greater Yellowlegs at least 10 seen in Marshall Co by Louise A. & Virginia on 10/23 & later 10/30. Lesser Yellowlegs at Duck Island gravel pit 10/16. The two Sanderlings seen earlier were seen again 9/27 at Duck Island gravel pit & again 10/2. Few sighted this fall. Those Pectoral with heads held high & the great difference in size between the largest female & smallest male was noticeable 10/15 at Duck Island gravel pit & seen by Louise A. in Marshall Co 10/30 also. 2 preening Franklin's Gulls reported by Brenda O. at Duck Island gravel pit 10/9 were seen once later. Even the Foresters Terns were seen 10/9 at Duck Island farm & again by birders later. What was the last date you heard the Chuck-will's Widow & the Whip-poor-will?

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker visited Jubilee State Park & was spotted by Louise A. & Virginia 9/24, & one later came to Hillcrest Woods 10/20. The 2 Brown Creepers hunting for food in an old Oak tree 10/20 were watched by Virginia in the late evening & again 10/21. Brenda had reported a Brown Creeper also earlier. A creeper seen in Tazewell Co at the Crumley Farm 10/28 was spiraling up a tree branch, then dropping down to another. Two Carolina Wrens have been visiting Eunice Tjadens yard—she noted them again 10/20 & Louise A. had one 11/1. A Golden-crowned Kinglet visited Brenda O.'s yard on 10/20 and a Ruby crowned was in Virginia's yard in the late evening in the Dogwood tree. Many Kinglets seen & heard late this fall. Bluebirds have been reported in Peoria Co & many seen & heard along the road going to Old Fondulac Park in Woodford Co 10/18 & 10/25. Those in Fulton Banner also gave that plaintive call of "Cher Wee". A Winter Wren seen only once & heard at the Crumley Farm in Tazewell Co 10/6. Imagine 10 or more Hermit Thrushes in a bush at Jubilee Park on 10/5 by Louise A. & Virginia. Later 10/13 Brenda O. & Virginia saw one at Fondulac Park, Woodford Co. Eunice T. 10/20 had Cedar Waxwings at her bird bath. Many reports of Cedar Waxwings by people who aren't birders! More than usual Yellow-rumped Warblers have been seen & heard. Virginia saw her first 9/23 but she has seen them every day in October to the 28th at Fondulac Park, some eating poison ivy berries. Thirteen were seen at one time in Woodford Co and all immature except one, heard & saw in yard & Hillcrest alley & woods. Vesper Sparrow reported in Woodford Co 10/16 & later in Mason Co. Savannah Sparrow reported 9/23 in Woodford Co. Fox Sparrows & Juncos, they were first seen by Dave Williams & Brenda O. at Fondulac Park 10/3. Have heard of many sightings of both species since. 10/19 Fox Sparrow so colorful but silent at the Crumley Farm along Spring Creek Tazewell Co. Many Rusty Blackbirds seen in Sparland area 10/12 by Louise A. Brenda had in her yard 10/18. On 10/23 Louise A. reported a huge flock of Rusty again in Marshall Co. A few Brewers have been spotted in Fulton Co & Marshall Co by Louise A. Various reports of White-throated Sparrows as they call or whistle "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody". Did they call to you 9/21 or before? Last year it was 9/28 when they came calling in my yard. Many reports in late October of small flocks. White-crowned Sparrows reported early, but Brenda had them in her yard at Roanoke 10/20 Woodford Co. She saw 10/22 in Fulton Co. I saw them in my back yard 11/4 (Peo Co). If you see or heard of a Harris Sparrow, please pass on the information!

Pine Siskins have arrived 10/30 in Mason Co—seen by Dave Williams. Immature Scarlet Tanager in Old Fondulac Park sitting in a bare tree—how beautiful!—on 9/28. Dr. Princen & Greet added a new bird to their "yard list" the last of October....a Pileated Woodpecker!! After 26 years! What is your yardlist total?

Virginia Humphreys



Barbara J. Breen

1,000 Bird Species At Risk Of Extinction

More than 1,000 of the 9,000 species of birds in the world are now at risk of extinction, three

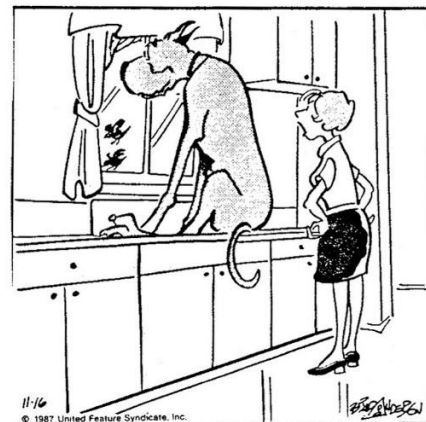


Jackass penguins are South Africa's most endangered bird.

times more than a decade ago, according to the International Council for Bird Preservation.

The most dramatic changes have occurred in the tropics. In Indonesia, for example, 126 bird species are now listed as threatened; in 1978 there were 14. Throughout the tropics, the number of threatened parrot species has almost doubled in the past decade.

Three Stanford ecologists warn that if human population continues to expand, "a world of hungry, unhappy people" will have only such "weedy" species as starlings, house sparrows and grackles—which thrive in people-altered environments—as their remaining bird companions.

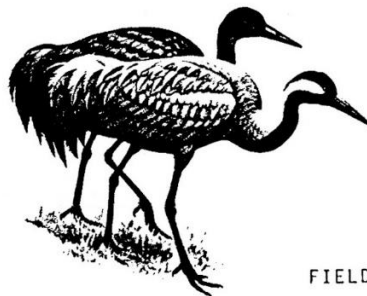


"You'll have to watch the birds from another window."

Ozone Costs Billions In Crop, Tree Losses

Ozone air pollution causes more than \$5 billion a year in crop losses and untold damage to forests in California and along the entire East Coast, according to the World Resources Institute.

A study by the environmental think tank identifies ground-based ozone as the chief culprit in damage to such major crops as wheat, soybeans, corn and peanuts in the Midwest and Southeast. It is also blamed for serious declines of white pine forests on the East Coast and ponderosa and Jeffrey pines near Los Angeles. The study found that ozone often causes more damage than acid rain.



FIELD TRIP RESULTS

The October 2nd field trip to Johnson Sauk Trail State Park included the sighting of 40 species. Four people were present on a beautiful sunny, warm day. Highlights of the trip include a pied-billed grebe, cooper's hawk, a red-tailed hawk, great crested flycatcher, red-breasted nuthatch, golden crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, black throated green warbler, bay breasted warbler, black & white warbler and an american redstart.

Louise Endres

On Saturday, October 22, 15 persons enjoyed the annual fall tour of the Illinois River Valley south of Peoria. The day was clear, temperatures brisk 33-58°F, and the wind calm. The autumn colors were excellent despite earlier predictions that the drought would spoil fall coloration. While we did not record the diversity of species of some prior years, 71 species were observed, most of them seen well. Highlights include & both color morphs of the Snow Goose, as well as Canada Geese: fourteen species of ducks which included a Hooded Merganser, an Osprey, many Red-tailed Hawks, a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, Belted Kingfisher, Black-bellied Plover, both Ruby-Crowned and Golden-Crowned Kinglets, Fox, Song, Swamp, and White throated Sparrows, Great Blue Herons, Great Horned Owl, Northern Harrier, and a few Great Egrets were still present in the Chautauqua-Clear Lake area, as were more than 75 Double-crested Cormorant.

We missed some of the "regulars", but welcomed first time participant, Rand Thompson, an environmental science major at Bradley.

Dick Bjorklund

On November 5th 15 observers were led on a car-hike through the MSD grounds in Canton. It was a cloudy, windy day but 60 species were observed. Highlights include Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Snow Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Purple Finch, Eastern Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Creeper, Ring-necked Pheasant, 15 species of duck which include Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Canvasback, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, a Harrier and a Rough-legged Hawk.

Bert Princen



Audubon Adventures Reaches Out to Minorities

With the start of the 1988/1989 school year, Audubon Adventures, the youth education program of the National Audubon Society, is anticipating an enrollment of 250,000 youngsters in 8,000 classroom clubs.

A special outreach effort is expected to raise the enrollment of minority students to 30,000. Target cities include Cleveland, Ohio; New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Newark, New Jersey; Bridgeport and Hartford, Connecticut; and San Francisco, California. Among the minority groups, 4,000 Native American children are already enrolled, including 2,400 from Alaska.

Audubon Adventures and National Audubon's environmental education efforts were recently recognized with a prestigious Golden Eagle Award from the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. ■

News from NAS

Opportunities Ahead in '89 by Peter A.A. Berle, President National Audubon Society

The best part of my job is meeting Audubon people and visiting places that Audubon is trying to protect. I combined these two pleasures in late August by meeting with some chapter leaders in Fairbanks, Alaska, and then traveling to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon Alaska Regional Vice-president Dave Cline, my two sons, Macgill Adams—a wilderness guide and member of the Anchorage chapter—and I walked the length of the refuge. We began in the Sadlerochit Mountains and hiked 75 miles along Marsh Fork Creek through the coastal plain to the Beaufort Sea. We saw lots of wildlife and reaffirmed our conviction that this refuge is worth fighting for. This year, in a victory for conservationists, Congress gave up trying to pass legislation that would open the refuge to oil drilling. The industry will be back next year and we will have our hands full in trying to win permanent protection for this world-class resource.

After four years of hard work by conservationists, a strengthened Endangered Species Act finally made it through Congress. Most recently—and also after years of effort—Congress reauthorized and improved the nation's badly outdated pesticide law, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In order to get the act through, legislators left out some important but controversial provisions, including groundwater protection. However, it is a positive step forward.

Audubon is recruiting volunteers interested in this country's foreign aid policies because Congress will soon begin rewriting the Foreign Assistance Act. Write: Foreign Assistance Action Project, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

We also have a terrific hands-on action opportunity for people concerned about the rapid loss of ancient forests—especially in the Pacific Northwest. Our new Adopt-a-Forest program teaches you how to defend your favorite places in national forests. Volunteers are out there right now mapping, investigating, consulting with Forest Service officials, and saving trees. For more information write to Brock Evans at the above address.

Thanks to chapters, board members, and staff, Audubon finished the fiscal year in the black. Our Development Department reached 101 percent of its goal. As of July 31st, more than 9,000 Auduboners were carrying the new Audubon Visa card. This piece of pocket credit has excellent rates and returns a small percentage of each purchase to Audubon. So far, the Society has netted about \$30,000 from the Visa program. If you do not yet have your Audubon Visa, write to Marketing, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. ■

Endangered Storks Make Tentative Gains By Tom Bancroft, Research Biologist National Audubon Society

Wood storks were listed by the federal government as endangered in 1984, and their current status is of concern to many biologists and conservationists. Recently, a team of Audubon biologists analyzed the data on breeding populations of the wood stork in the southeastern United States for the period 1959 through 1985. Their analysis provides some interesting new information.

The best news is that the southeastern population of wood storks appears to have stabilized. In 1960, approximately 10,000 pairs of wood storks attempted to nest in Florida. In the late 1970s, that number was down to between 2,500 and 5,000 pairs. By 1985, however, the population had increased and stabilized at 5,000-6,000 nesting pairs.

The analyses have also uncovered a disturbing trend: a northward shift in the geographical center of nesting. During 1958-1960, the breeding population of storks was centered south of Florida's Lake Okeechobee. By the 1980s, the center of nesting had shifted to the southern part of Polk County, 130 kilometers to the north. Concurrently with this shift, the southern colonies declined by 84 percent, from 8,800 pairs in 1960 to fewer than 1,500 pairs in 1985.

Two factors seem important in explaining the observed shift in the center of breeding. Storks nesting in the northern part of the range appear to have been much more successful than those in the south, with the result that annual production has exceeded annual mortality in the north, while the reverse has been true in the south. The second factor is that adult storks and/or their offspring that once nested in the south are now nesting in northern colonies in some or most years.

Both of these factors appear to be related to the availability of adequate feeding habitat in the two regions. In the south, the acreage of five important wetland feeding habitats decreased by 35 percent between 1900 and 1973. Furthermore, many of the remaining wetlands have been modified dramatically, either by impoundment, partial drainage, or manipulation of normal hydrologic cycles. These managed wetlands may not provide an adequate food base for storks if they fail to concentrate fish at the proper water depths and in the proper seasons. The northern region, on the other hand, contains many independently functioning small stream systems, lakes, marshes, and farm ponds that provide many feeding options for the storks. The availability of favorable feeding habitat may well explain the greater success of the northern population.

Although south Florida no longer supports the number of breeding wood storks it once did, this region may still be critical to the preservation of the species. The south remains an important nesting area and may be an important wintering location for storks from throughout the southeastern United States breeding range as well. That the southeastern wood stork population has stabilized is reassuring. The northward shift of nesting sends us a message that the environments of south Florida on which the stork depends are in trouble, something we have heard from other species as well. ■

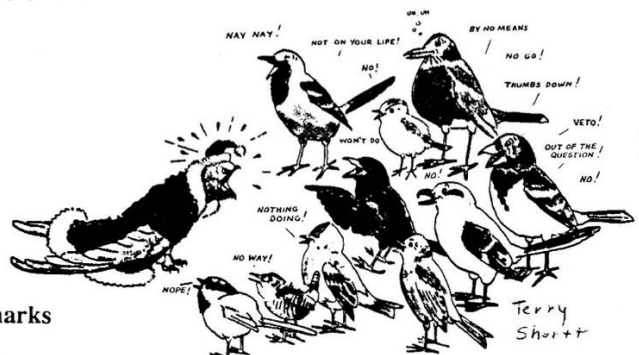
Scientists Explore Risks of Superconductivity

Dr. Jan Beyea from Audubon's Environmental Policy Department recently joined a host of physicists and industry leaders at Robert Redford's Institute for Resource Management to ponder the implications of superconductivity. The last few years have seen enormous advances in superconductors—specialized materials that, when cooled to abnormally low temperatures, conduct electricity with little or no resistance. The current frenzy of research is expected to lead to the eventual development of room-temperature superconductors, making the technology more economical.

While scientists predict superconductivity will one day have a major impact in many areas of modern society, it will be some time before its applications reach a scale where they might be environmentally disruptive. Thus, Beyea feels that we still have an opportunity and an obligation to channel its growth into environmentally benign directions.

Despite the promise of enhanced electrical conductivity, the scientists concluded that the new technology will not significantly improve the efficiency of power transmission. In fact, calculations suggest that even if all long-distance transmission were based on superconductors, power losses would be decreased by only three percent.

Moreover, massive deployment of superconducting devices would greatly increase the intensity of magnetic fields in the environment. This poses potential human health threats, and could interfere with magnetic-based animal orientation, such as bird migrations. Clearly, Beyea asserts, further environmental research will need to proceed as the new technology evolves. ■



"But why wouldn't I make a good Santa? . . .
I go down a chimney every night!"

Audubon Special Looks at Sharks

People have always behaved viciously and with seeming hatred toward sharks. As a result, several species are now greatly reduced in number. The gentle basking shark is severely threatened, and the great white, the supreme marine predator, is remorselessly hunted by souvenir collectors. There have also been setbacks in blue and thresher shark populations. The next Audubon Television Special on SuperStation TBS confronts the challenges facing these extraordinary marine creatures.

Sharks are an indispensable part of the marine ecosystem. They are no more unlimited than whales, dolphins, big cats, and other animals and birds for whom our concern has long been established. They have much more to fear from humans than we have to fear from them.

This Audubon Special contains dramatic footage shot in oceans around the world. Its message is clear: Unless action is taken, the story of sharks may be the story of whales all over again.

The air dates are December 16 (10:50 PM Eastern), December 24 (4:05 PM Eastern), December 27 (9:20 PM Pacific), and December 30 (10:05 PM Eastern). The program will premiere on Public Television in June 1989. Peter Benchley, author of *Jaws*, is the narrator. ■

Information, Please By Barbara Linton and Ann Stevens National Audubon Society

OK. You've always wanted to know the answer to the question, "Are there special contact lenses for nighttime birding?" Who do you call for the answer? You could ask your friendly chapter bird expert. Or, you could call Information Services at the New York office of National Audubon.

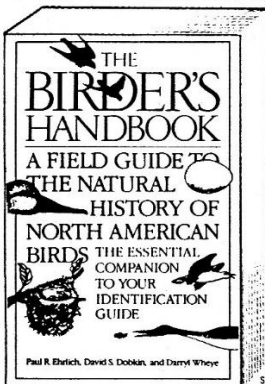
Information Services handles a whopping 30,000 inquiries a year, from queries about bird behavior to requests for background materials on acid rain. During the school year, about half of the calls and letters come from students, mostly in the elementary grades. The topics of interest include wildlife, endangered species, pollution, and other environmental issues. We fulfill hundreds of requests from teachers who are looking for educational materials for classroom use. We provide reading recommendations, information on the Society and its programs, and back issues of Audubon magazine.

And then, of course, there are birds. The general mail consists of questions about bird feeding and bird species—the favorites are bluebirds, purple martins, and hummingbirds. Of the approximately 6,000 phone calls received annually, problems with pigeons and woodpeckers are scattered throughout the year, while calls about injured and baby birds predominate in spring and summer. When it comes to the feathered tribe, no question is too silly. One caller even wanted to know if birds will eat spaghetti with clam sauce.

Besides answering questions, Information Services refers some callers to other organizations that have a specialty in a specific area. We help newspaper and magazine reporters check facts, and—as "communication central" for Audubon, we distribute brochures to our regional offices, sanctuaries, and chapters. If we can be of any assistance to you, please drop us a line! ■

"Required reading for all
birders, naturalists, and
conservationists."

—David S. Wilcove,
Ecologist, The
Wilderness Society



"Serious birders
will gain
enormously
from this
extraordinary
new guide."
—Roger Tory
Peterson

Fireside
Books
Simon & Schuster Inc. • A Gulf • Western Company

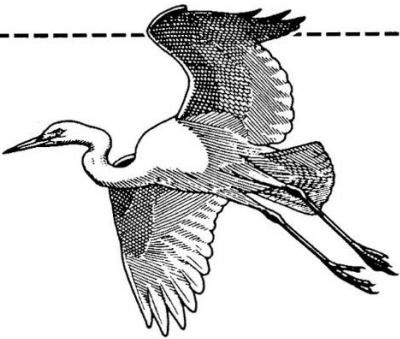
Birders Hail New Field Guide

The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds is a new book by Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. Originally previewed in *American Birds*, National Audubon Society's field-birding journal, the *Handbook* is a major new addition to every birder's bookshelf. Its 800-plus pages are a cornucopia of information, yet the book is compact enough to earn the "field guide" in its title.

Species accounts appear on left-hand pages of the *Handbook*; they summarize with words and symbols the key information on each bird's biology, nesting, feeding, eggs, habitat, conservation, etc. The right-hand pages contain fascinating essays on related topics, from bird migration to brood parasitism. The curious can find out how owls hunt in the dark or about birds and the law. Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographical information make this book an invaluable resource.

The *Birder's Handbook* costs \$14.95 and is available in bookstores. ■

INTRODUCTORY OFFER: National Audubon is offering this special one-time rate of \$20 to new members-individual or family. This is for a one year membership in the National Audubon Society and Peoria Audubon Society.



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, Colorado 80322-1001

LOCAL CHAPTER

Peoria Audubon Society
Peoria Academy of Science
1125 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614

G-66

Local Chapter Code
7XCHA

Announcing Audubon Wildlife Adventures

Audubon Television has just released all-new computer software to complement the TV series. The first disk, entitled "Grizzly Bears," introduces players to that magnificent animal through a series of four interactive stories.

Taking the part of a park ranger, a research biologist, or a natural resource developer, the player searches for creative solutions to the conflicts between people and the bear. Additional software in the *Audubon Wildlife Adventures* series includes "Whales," "Sharks," and "Poacher Patrol." Each title comes with a curriculum guide with expanded activities. "Grizzly" is now available from your local software retailer; "Whales" will be out next year.

For more information, contact: Christopher Palmer, Vice-president and Executive Producer, Audubon Television Programs, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; (202) 547-9009.



AUDUBON and Activism Work for Each Other

Readers of AUDUBON usually enjoy the magazine's beauty and the elegance with which it presents environmental topics. But activists should not forget that the magazine is also one of the finest political tools available. During the past year alone, the magazine has run more than a dozen articles focusing on the National Audubon Society's High Priority Campaigns, including six on wetlands, two on acid rain, and three on old-growth forests. The entire May issue was devoted to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The magazine also covered a broad array of other topics of NAS concern, including pesticides and international issues.

AUDUBON does more than provide nicely packaged information, however. It is also a vital tool for effecting change. For example, Washington lobbyists used the May issue on the Arctic Refuge to reach Capitol Hill, and the magazine's thorough analysis of the financial loss that clearcutting of Alaska's Tongass National Forest means to the federal government was bound to recruit budget-conscious congresspeople into the environmental camp.

Look for the upcoming March issue focusing on the world's oceans, and a spring issue about the problems of the Platte and Rio Grande rivers. Expect, too, more vital information on acid rain, wetlands, and other crucial issues. When honing your weapons for the next battle, don't forget that one of the sharpest tools at your disposal is AUDUBON.

Activists who want to do even more—to get behind the scenes and into the fray—can join Audubon's Activist Network. The network gets you a subscription to the bimonthly newsmagazine of environmental issues, *Audubon Activist*, and puts you on the mailing list for Action Alerts on especially urgent issues! You also receive National Audubon's Hotline number for up-to-the-minute news. For membership in the Activist Network, send \$9 to Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Tucson to Host '89 Audubon Convention

The Tucson Audubon Society, ably assisted by five other Arizona chapters, will be hosting the Biennial National Audubon Society Convention, from Tuesday through Saturday, September 12-16, 1989, at the Doubletree Hotel at Randolph Park in Tucson. An impressive array of field trips to various Southwestern ecosystems will be offered before, during, and after the convention. Programs will be designed around the convention theme, "Our Southwest—Challenged by Growth."

Audubon's convention office in Boulder, Colorado, will be handling the administrative details, including registration, and will be glad to answer your questions. A brochure giving full registration and field trip details will be available after the first of the year. Audubon President Peter A.A. Berle is asking all chapters to consider sending at least one representative to the convention to help chart the Society's future course.

For more information, contact: Gail Turner, Convention Coordinator, 4150 Darley, Suite 5A, Boulder, Colorado 80303, or your local chapter leader.



GRANDFATHER CLAUSE MEMBERS OF THE PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

If you care to continue your membership with the Peoria Audubon Society and receive the newsletter, please pay your dues made out to the Peoria Audubon Society and mail to:

Mrs. Greet Princen
677 E. High Street
Peoria, IL 61614

Family membership: \$8.00
Single membership: \$5.00

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