



Hello Fellow-birders:

We've moved into spring here in Central Illinois. Daffodils and crocus are up and blooming, trees are budding out, and our birds are courting and building nests.

The biggest topic being discussed these days is, of course, the Exxon oil spill in Alaska and how it is affecting wildlife and our beautiful Alaskan shoreline. It's heartbreaking watching the animals and birds suffering and dying on televised newscasts. I'm proud of our American people for the way they have united to protest the occurrence, urge Congress for better laws and controls, and for volunteering their time and money in helping to clean up the mess resulting from the oil spill.

Keep up the good work and continue urging our government and industry to prevent such an incident from happening and also to be better prepared if such should happen again in the future. Let's hope not.

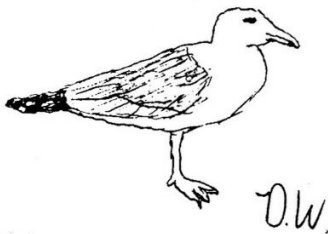
Marjorie B. Tattersall, President

A "BIG THANKS" to all who donated towels and helped package them for shipment to Alaska. We especially thank member Bert Princen for his help in arranging for Forest Park Nature Center to be our collection point and for obtaining speedy shipment of our boxes to Alaska. Our first shipment was 988 lbs. and arrived in Anchorage the next evening. We have a second and last shipment going out the week of April 24th. Joedy Wake, a former East Peorian who is an Air Force jet engine mechanic in Anchorage, originated the drive. Monetary contributions will still be accepted by Peoria Audubon Society at Forest Park Nature Center and then forwarded to the Alaska Audubon Society. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

#### MAY 10, 1989

7:30 p.m. - Membership Meeting at Lakeview Museum.  
Room A/B. This will be the final meeting of the year.

PLEASE CONSULT FUTURE NEWSLETTERS FOR SUMMER EVENTS.  
OUR MEETINGS WILL BEGIN THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE  
MONTH ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1989.



#### Middle Fork Update:

Congratulations! As a result of our participation with other clubs and organizations, approximately 60,000 signatures have been collected throughout Illinois in support of designating the Middle Fork a "Scenic River". Newsletters and newspapers around the state are carrying the message to Springfield and to Washington, D.C. The word is out, so now let's do all we can. Please send a letter of support to Secretary Manuel Lujan, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Every letter is a message from another concerned citizen to our government officials, so let's be heard.

Sierra Club

#### MAY 13, 1989

#### WARBLER WALK AT THE COLLINS FARM

Meet on Saturday at 8:00 am at the Collins Farm which is on Route 26, Spring Bay Road, which is 3.7 miles south of Lacon, or 3 miles north of the Santa Fe tracks. Call Dick Collins if you plan to attend at 246-8677.

#### MAY 20, 1989

#### THE CASE OF THE INVISIBLE BIRDS

Tiny birds hide high up in forest trees—even though you can't see them; "Homes" will attempt to unlock their secret identities. Join us for an avian "Name that Tune!"

For all ages  
7:00 a.m.

Forest Park Nature Center

#### PEORIA AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

When the horsechestnuts open pale green fingers to the strengthening spring sun and bluebells chime to the music of the river it is time to slip a canoe into the clear quick water of the Middle Fork of the Vermillion River. Recent rainfall provided gentle impetus. With a little effort to negotiate riffles and rock gardens, leisure for birding, botanizing, geologizing and zoologizing was abundant. Belted kingfishers gave their rattling call and dropped in jewel-blue flashes to feed while turkey lazily rode thermals. Gravel bars of glacial till displayed a variety of specimens. Sharp-toothed beavers had converted cottonwood trees into conical stumps. Minimal human impact, evidenced first by rickety iron bridges, deepened at a modest power plant and abandoned, slowly-revegetating strip mines, yet remained relatively unobtrusive.

Our fifteen-mile trip took a leisurely six and a half hours, including a long lunch break. Maps, canoes, and shuttle service are available at a concession near Kickapoo State Park entrance. The shuttle mechanics are quick and convenient. Kickapoo State Park lies just north of I-74 about six miles east of Danville, approximately a two-hour drive from Peoria.

Definitely qualified to be a National Wild and Scenic River, letters on behalf of the Middle Fork of the Vermillion are particularly needed to Dept. of the Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, Senators Dixon and Simon, Governor Thompson, and your representative.

Mary Bodell

NOTE: I met Clark Bullard, head of the citizens group to save the Middle Fork and he thanked the Peoria Audubon Society for their \$100 contribution.

March 14—Two reports of an interesting morning at Mendenhall. Many Rusty Blackbirds, 2 Hooded Mergansers & 9 Green-winged Teal. March 15—Tree Swallows came to Mendenhall. One mature Bald Eagle at Rice Lake. March 16—Several Woodcock reported in Fulton Co. March 18—See Dr. Bjorklund's Field Trip Report. March 19—Reports of many skeins of Canada Geese going north. March 25—Bluebirds & Tree Swallows looking over Bluebird houses at Fulton Co Banner. March 27—A Great Egret and 2 Mute Swans seen at Spring Lake by Madlin Mahoney. April 1—See Dr. Princen's field trip to MSD report. April 2—Dave Williams had a Common Loon, Purple Martin, Barn Swallows at Spring Lake and a Hermit Thrush in the park. April 5—Smith's Longspurs seen in front of Cat Mossville Plant but later seen in Mason Co & by Louise Augustine's house; also seen April 7 by Dave Williams in Peo Co. April 7—Winter Wrens reported again at "old Hites Place" in Peo Co. April 9—Horned Grebe spotted in gravel pit, Duck Island Farm by Vicki Kiefer & party. April 12—Oldsquaw reported at Hamm's Marina by Louise Augustine. April 16—At Spring Lake an Osprey showed for Louise Endres and at Rice Lake area Louise Augustine saw an Osprey. April 16—Brenda Onken & party reported hearing 2 Whip-poor-wills in Sand Ridge State Park. April 16—Thirty-five Double Crested Cormorants were seen at Big Lake by Brenda Onken & Vicki Kiefer. April 16—Bonaparte Gulls still seen at Duck Island Farm but first seen on 3/1. April 18—Hermit Thrush & Ruby-crowned Kinglet still greeting "birders" in the rain at Forest Park Nature Center. Was the White-crowned Sparrow singing his beautiful "goodbye" song? April 18—Hundreds of Cedar Waxwings still seen in many areas, Peo Nature Center & Sandridge State Park.

Virginia Humphreys

Printed below for your interest is a memo Peter Berle, President of National Audubon, received from Dave Cline, Audubon's Regional Vice President for Alaska. Dave's memo reports on site from Valdez and Prince William Sound where he has been helping to coordinate volunteers in the effort to rescue birds and otters:

APRIL 3 '89 02:36

FROM NAS AK

TO NAS NY

PAGE 001



## National Audubon Society

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE  
308 G STREET, SUITE 219, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

### MEMO

April 2, 1989

TO Peter Berle  
FROM Dave Cline *Dave*  
RE Alaska Oil Spill

It's 2:00 A.M. I have just returned from Valdez to my office in Anchorage. As you requested, I have been monitoring the oil spill cleanup and the impacts of the spill on Prince William Sound and the wildlife there.

I simply don't have words to describe the overwhelming mess the oil companies have perpetrated on this pristine environment. If Alaska is nature at its best, the oil spill is man at his worst.

Anyone who cares about wildlife would be sickened at what I have seen. Walking on a two-mile stretch of beach, I saw more than 500 dead birds -- 20 species in all, including murrelets, cormorants, scoters, goldeneyes, eiders, and even eagles. I found four bald eagles dead on the beach. Their plumage was blackened by the thick oil which destroys the thermal insulation of their feathers, causing the birds to die of hypothermia. But you only see the birds that have managed to struggle to shore where they shiver to death. The majority of the dead -- 50% to 90% -- you never see. For them, their oil-sodden plumage weights them down and, losing buoyancy, they drown.

The worst may be yet to come. In the next two to three weeks, millions more birds will be arriving in Prince William Sound on their spring migration. It also occurs to me that in the nearby Copper River Delta, there will soon be some 5-20 million shorebirds. A mere shift of the wind could wash oil up onto the delta's banks, destroying the site of the largest congregation of shorebirds in the world. It scares the hell out of me to think of it.

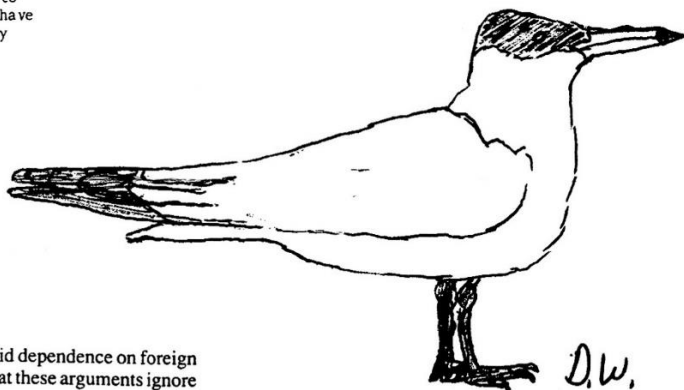
Auduboners and other environmentalists by the hundreds have been calling the office, offering to work at rescuing birds and otters. I have been helping to coordinate their well-meaning efforts, but I fear that the job is overwhelming us.

The cleanup is not going well. Only about 3% of the oil has been recovered to date. Exxon did too little, too late. I'm no lawyer, but I would define Exxon's nearly complete lack of preparedness for a spill as criminal negligence. And these are the same people who are so eager to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Can we expect any better of them up there?

We have got to stop this kind of mess from ever happening again. We have to fight the oil lobby in Congress. We have to prevent further oil spills and we have to stop the oil companies before they destroy the Arctic Refuge. To do it we'll have to arouse every one of Audubon's half-a-million members to help us in every way they can. Together, we can do the job. We've got to do it.

I'm tired. Good night.

AMERICANS COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION



### An Audubon Action Alert

## Arctic Refuge Needs Your Urgent Support

**I**NCREDIBLY STUNNING IN ITS BEAUTY, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is still largely untouched by development. It is, in fact, the largest undisturbed wilderness in the United States. *Now we urgently need your help in the fight to protect the Arctic refuge from oil and gas development.*

As this article goes to press, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is due to vote on bills both for and against development. Regardless of the outcome, there will undoubtedly be much to be done in the coming months to convince your senators and representative of the need to save the refuge.

### An International Ecological Treasure

The Arctic coastal plain is the prime calving ground for the Porcupine caribou herd. The region's spectacular scenery and rich wildlife have led people to call the coastal plain the "American Serengeti." Ducks, swans, and loons nest on the plain and in the coastal lagoons; snowy owls, golden eagles, gyrfalcons, and peregrine falcons nest inland. At least sixteen species of fish live in the streams and rivers of the plain. Wolves, foxes, and polar bears also roam the area.

Oil companies believe there could be significant amounts of oil under the coastal plain. In response to intense political pressure, in November 1986 the Interior Department recommended the plain be opened for leasing to the oil and gas industry. This recommendation was made despite the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's finding that oil development would result in a "major population decline" of the caribou herd—up to 72,000 animals lost. The agency also predicted that muskoxen and lesser snow geese populations would be cut in half and polar bear habitats would be critically disrupted.

Oil field development is a large-scale industrial activity. It requires huge quantities of gravel for roads, drill pads, airports, and seaports; equally huge quantities of fresh water will have to be obtained from the rivers of the plain. Pollution will affect the fragile tundra far beyond the actual edges of the facilities. Such effects have already been demonstrated at the nearby Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

Drilling in the Arctic refuge would destroy its pristine character forever. That is why Audubon has consistently opposed any industrial activity on the coastal plain.

### Do We Need the Oil?

Even the Interior Department admits that there is a one-in-five chance of even finding oil, and a smaller chance still of finding it in large enough quantities to make drilling profitable. Nevertheless, industry states it is nec-

essary to develop the plain to avoid dependence on foreign oil imports. Audubon believes that these arguments ignore some important facts:

- 94 percent of all the potential oil-bearing land in Alaska and 90 percent of Alaska's arctic coast are already open to the oil industry. These lands should be explored first.
- Sensible energy alternatives that do not threaten to destroy the coastal plain exist. For example, better fuel efficiency for cars: It is estimated that a mere *1.7 mile-per-gallon improvement in fuel efficiency standards for cars would save more oil than drilling in the refuge could ever produce.*

### What You Can Do

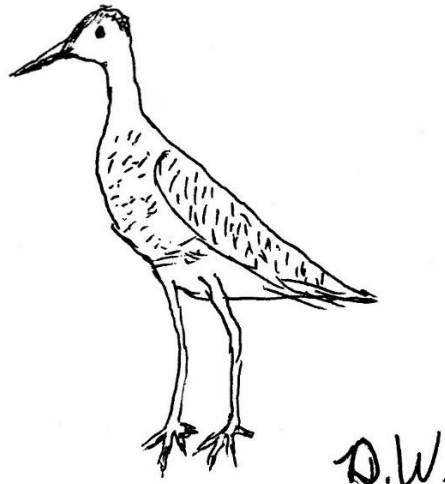
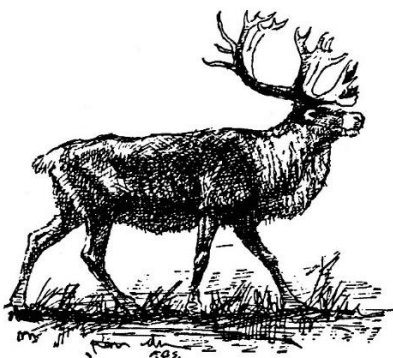
Write to your senators and representative today. Give them the facts about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

We have a worldwide oil glut. Now is the time to implement conservation measures that will make our nation secure for decades without sacrificing this priceless treasure.

Address your letter(s) to:

- The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510
- The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

For more information, contact Brock Evans, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.



An article of interest for all!

National Audubon Society

950 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022 (212) 832-3200 CABLE: NATAUDUBON



April 6, 1989

TO: Chapter Newsletter Editors

FR: National Audubon's Public Affairs Office

RE: The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

National Audubon's headquarters has been buzzing with activity since the Valdez disaster on March 24.

Dave Cline in Audubon's Anchorage office is the busiest of all. With daily reports to headquarters, Dave has kept the staff informed of all local clean up efforts. His office is helping coordinate the collection of absorbent rags in Anchorage and Wasilla for the bird rescue center. Dave reports that community response has been terrific.

Volunteer efforts have been local. Those interested in contacting someone in Valdez about bird and marine mammal cleaning can call 907-835-4512. Dave warns everyone to plan on cold, wet, miserable weather and quarters for working. Also bring your own accommodations in the form of an R.V. motor home loaded with lots of water and food and warm clothing to change after a long day with the animals. There are no laundry facilities or other accommodations available right now.

The Alaska environmental community will soon announce creation of a Prince William Sound Cleanup Fund and will seek contributions throughout the nation.

Dave Cline advises that the most useful thing Audubon members can do is write to their representatives and President Bush, protesting the administration's continued support of oil exploration on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon continues to be adamantly opposed to development of the world class refuge in the absence of a national energy plan and when reasonable energy alternatives exist.

Audubon's science, government relations, and public affairs divisions have been active in keeping the public and press informed of the spill's effects on wildlife and Audubon's stance on oil development is Alaska's fragile ecosystems.

On April 5, Audubon announced a six point plan of action in response to the Valdez incident. The plan was developed by Dave Cline in Alaska, Ann Strickland, Brooks Yeager and Brock Evans in Audubon's Washington D.C. Office.

The Audubon action plan calls for the following recommendations, intended to help protect the Alaska environment from further risk taking and unnecessary ecological damage from oil and gas exploration, development and transportation:

- 1) Require a thorough examination of the entire Alaska oil delivery system
- 2) Develop a comprehensive protections plan for Alaska's marine environment
- 3) Establish a Joint Federal-State Oil and Gas Monitoring Team
- 4) Classify all toxic and hazardous wastes in Alaska oil fields under the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act
- 5) Require construction of state of the art recycling and incineration facilities on Alaska's North Slope, and:
- 6) Require updated oil spill contingency plans with penalties for noncompliance.

Audubon President Peter A.A. Berle says, "The lack of responsible foresight for this incident extends beyond Alaska to the oil industry's stubborn refusal to look beyond the Earth's rapidly diminishing oil supplies for answers to humanity's long range energy needs. Without a systematic change in attitude, we can look forward to more shoddy clean-ups and meaningless apologies."

"The damage done to Prince William Sound cannot be measured in the number of animals lost, but only in the tremendous damage done to an entire environmental system," says Mr. Berle. "The Valdez incident has exposed not only the oil industry's inability to protect all the interrelated elements of the Alaskan environment, but also the extent of the systematic statewide problems in their Alaskan operations."

At this critical time, every Audubon member is a voice that needs to be heard in Washington. A letter to our representatives is the most effective tool we have to prevent the Valdez disaster from repeating itself in history.



BREEDING BIRD CENSUS:

Your Help is needed in the Breeding Bird Atlas program with the Illinois Department of Conservation. Many counties in our state do not have the number of active birders we are fortunate to have in the Peoria area. For those who wish to help out in our locality, please call Bert Princen at 691-0519.

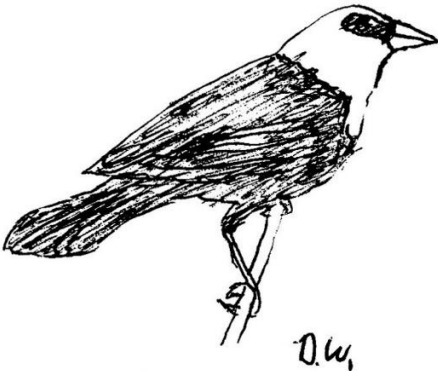
The Illinois Dept. of Conservation will be sponsoring some block-busting weekends for all interested people willing to travel some distance to counties that need to be studied. Please contact Vernon Kleen, Natural Heritage Division, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, 524 S. Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1787---or call him at (217) 785-8774. It could provide you with a fun-filled and educational weekend, and give you the opportunity to meet new fellow-birders and share their experiences. The "Block-busting Weekends" are:

- |            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 27-28 May  | Pope and adjacent counties      |
| 3- 4 June  | Madison and adjacent counties   |
| 10-11 June | Hancock and adjacent counties   |
| 17-18 June | Fayette and adjacent counties   |
| 24-25 June | Whiteside and adjacent counties |
| 1- 2 July  | Sangamon and adjacent counties  |

On Saturday, March 18, seven persons braved near zero wind chill from strong WNW winds, an over-cast sky, and occasional snow flurries for the annual late winter/early spring trip along the Illinois River, Peoria to Havana.

Sixty-eight species were seen of which twenty-three were ducks, geese (Great White-fronted, Snow, Canada), and swans (six Tundra & four Mute). Many of the duck species showed courtship behavior. Many Great Blue Herons had returned to the Clear Lake Colony site along with Turkey Vultures in the Sand Ridge Forest area. Raptors seen included two immature Bald Eagles, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed & Rough-legged Hawks, and numerous Kestrels. Though a bit early for most shore birds, the first flycatcher, an Eastern Phoebe was seen at the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery. The Robin migration was at its peak, along with the return of Grackles and Red-wings. Participants enjoyed the antics of Purple Finches, White-breasted Nuthatches, Titmice, Chickadees, and Cedar Waxwings during a lunch and hot chocolate stop at Bjorklund's Sand Ridge Forest residence.

Richard Bjorklund



FIELD TRIP NOTES

Sixteen observers participated on April 1st at the MSD in Canton. Sixty species were sighted. The temperature ranged from 24-45° F. and it was windy. The following were sighted: Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Common Egret, Great Blue Heron, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Bert Princen

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Published by the National Audubon Society

DMP



TBS: Crane River--A World of Audubon Special Sun., May 28, 10 P.M., Sat., June 3, 9:05 A.M.,  
Sun., June 11, 11 P.M., Sun., June 18, 11 P.M. **Travel the World with Audubon in 1989**

DISCOVERY CH.: Profiles of Nature: Birds of the Arctic Tundra---Thurs, May 4, 9 P.M.  
Fri., May 5, 1 P.M.  
Bluebirds---Thurs., May 25, 9 P.M.  
Fri., May 26, 1 P.M.  
The Coot---Tues., May 30, 9 P.M.  
Sun., June 4, 1 A.M.  
Great Horned Owl---Tues., May 23, 9 P.M.  
Sun., May 28, 1 A.M.  
Herring Gull---Sun, May 16, 9 P.M.  
Fri., May 21, 1 A.M.  
The Loon---Tues., May 2, 9 P.M.  
Fri., May 7, 1 A.M.  
The Marsh/Wetlands---Tues., May 11, 9 P.M.  
Wed., May 12, 1 P.M.  
Warblers---Thurs., June 1, 9 P.M.  
Fri., June 2, 1 P.M.

The Year of the Eagle---Mon., May 17, 9 A.M.  
Tues., May 18, 4 P.M.

Secrets of Nature/Eyes of a Hawk--Sparrowhawk---Sat., May 22, 1:30 A.M.  
Mon., May 24, 9:30 P.M.  
Thurs., May 27, 11:30 P.M.

Wonders of the Wild/Birds of Prey---Mon., May 8, 8 P.M.  
Fri., May 12, 11 P.M.

Shorebirds---Tues., May 29, 8 P.M.  
Fri., June 2, 11 P.M.

#### Audubon Specials Return to PBS This Summer

PBS will be airing eight Audubon Television Specials this summer on **Sunday nights at 8:00**. Check your local listings for details.

July 9 Greed, Guns, and Wildlife  
July 16 Grizzly and Man: Uneasy Truce\*  
July 23 Whales  
July 30 Crane River  
Aug. 6 Wood Stork: Barometer of the Everglades  
Aug. 13 Messages from the Birds  
Aug. 20 Sharks  
Aug. 27 Sea Turtles

\*First place winner, 1989 North American Outdoor Film/Video Awards, Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Audubon Television now keeps you up-to-date on all its programs, videos, computer software, and myriad other educational and environmental projects with its new **Audubon TV News Bulletin**. The Spring 1989 issue is now available. To be placed on the mailing list to receive this quarterly newsletter, simply drop a note with your name and address to Audubon Television, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003.

#### Sea Turtle TV Special

**Sea Turtles: Ancient Nomads** will premiere on PBS stations across the country this summer. The show tells the story of the plight of the sea turtles and one scientist's attempts to quell their shockingly high mortality rate. That scientist is Dr. Archie Carr, founder of the Tortuguero Research Center in Costa Rica, one of the first research centers dedicated to the study and protection of sea turtles.

Sea turtles are the single most exploited animal in the world, with seven species facing extinction. The population is being decimated by international demand for turtle shell, leather, meat and eggs, as well as by the loss of nesting beaches due to pollution and commercial development.

Another factor leading to the loss of sea turtles is accidental drowning in the nets of shrimp fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. The Special shows how turtle excluder devices (TEDs) attached to shrimp nets allow sea turtles to escape with little inconvenience to shrimp fishermen.

This beautifully photographed Special is narrated by actress **Jane Alexander**. It is a must-see for all people interested in the conservation of endangered species. It was produced by **Bob Nixon** and **Karen Kelly**.

#### Audubon Specials on Videocassette

We often receive questions about where to obtain videocassettes of the Audubon Television Specials.

**FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES:** Those who want to use the Audubon TV Specials for educational purposes can purchase the videocassettes through WETA-TV in Washington, DC. An excellent **Teacher's Guide** is also available. Write to WETA-TV Educational Activities, P.O. Box 2626, Washington, DC 20013 or call 800/445-1964.

**FOR HOMES:** In January, **Vestron Video** released the first three Audubon Television Specials into the home video market. Your local video store should be carrying **The Mysterious Black-Footed Ferret, Panthers & Cheetahs: On the Edge of Extinction**, (both narrated by **Loretta Swit**) and **Condor** (narrated by **Robert Redford**). Eventually all the Specials will be available in video stores across the country.

The next three programs will be released by Vestron in April, 1989. They are **Galapagos: My Fragile World** (narrated by **Cliff Robertson**) **Ducks Under Siege** (narrated by **John Heard**), and **Woodstork: Barometer of the Everglades**, (narrated by **Richard Crenna**).

If you have any questions about the availability of Audubon Specials or if you would like to obtain a free copy of a beautiful poster about our home video releases, please call our office in Washington, D.C. 202/547-9009.



#### Audubon Television Special Examines One of the World's Most Feared Animals — Sharks

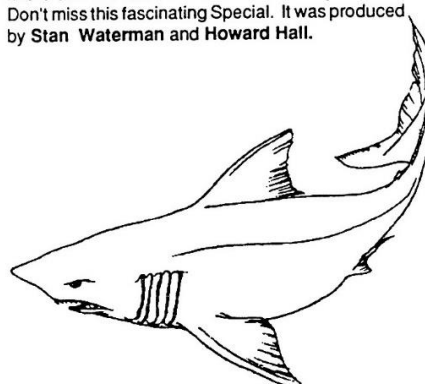
Of the 300 species of sharks known to science, fewer than two dozen have ever attacked people and only three or four are considered truly dangerous. But fear of these animals has led to a history of slaughter and a decline in shark populations. **Sharks** examines the concerns of marine scientists doing their part to learn more about this misunderstood predator in order to prevent it from becoming threatened.

The focus of the film is that humans should not do to sharks what they have done to whales and other endangered creatures. We have to act now before sharks become endangered. **Unless action is taken the story of sharks will be the story of the whaling industry all over again.**

Sharks are more vulnerable than we realize. They reproduce slowly and have a very low number of offspring. Excessive pressure on them can quickly lead to extinction. This is of particular concern because the number of shark-fishing tournaments is increasing rapidly, and new shark fisheries are being developed.

Ranging in size from the 40-foot whale shark to some deep-water sharks that never attain a foot in length, these animals provide valuable medical resources in two ways. First, sharks may one day contribute to the arrest of cancer in humans through an anti-carcinogen found in their cartilage. Second, sharks provide a vital ingredient in the creation of artificial skin for human burn victims.

**Sharks**, narrated by **Jaws** author **Peter Benchley**, will premiere on PBS stations across the country this summer. Don't miss this fascinating Special. It was produced by **Stan Waterman** and **Howard Hall**.



#### Project Canadian Arctic and Greenland July 26-August 9

Cruise the fjord-cut shores of the sub-Arctic, where bird and mammal life abounds, on the *MV World Discoverer*. Whales, walrus, seals, polar bears, black-legged kittiwakes, and northern fulmars share these rich waters with a few local vessels and you. Prices start at \$4,751, including airfare from New York and a tax-deductible contribution.

#### Islands of the Flores Sea and Torajaland August 30-September 13

Explore exotic Indonesia from the air-conditioned comfort of the *MS Society Explorer*. Cruise remote islands where the cultures and wildlife have felt few effects of the Western world. Includes an overnight excursion to Torajaland, home to a virtually isolated people. Prices start at \$3,941, including airfare from Los Angeles and a tax-deductible contribution.

#### Australia and Papua New Guinea October 5-23

Journey to Cairns on Australia's northern coast, in Queensland. Set between tropical rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns is an ideal base for numerous activities. Snorkel and sail along the reef, then opt for an exploration into the Daintree rainforest or whitewater raft down the Barron River. Continue to Papua New Guinea. Famous for its primitive tribes and birds of paradise, Papua New Guinea's attractions are ideal for the avid birdwatcher or anthropology enthusiast. Prices start at \$4,266 (not including airfare) and include a tax-deductible contribution.

#### Wildlife of India and Nepal December 3-20

Rich in history, culture and religion, diverse in wildlife and avifauna, the Indian subcontinent rivals any other destination in terms of scenery and grandeur. Where else can one view exotic birds as the sun rises over the marshes of Keoladeo National Park and then watch the sun set over the Taj Mahal the same day? Prices start at \$3,477 (not including airfare) and include a tax-deductible contribution.

For further information, call (212) 546-9140, or write for free travel brochures:

Travel Department  
National Audubon Society  
950 Third Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

#### EXPEDITION INSTITUTE CATALOG AVAILABLE

For the first time, the Audubon Expedition Institute is offering a free catalog with complete listings and descriptions of all expedition programs, courses, and faculty.

The Expedition Institute, whose motto is "Wild America is Our Campus," is both an educational program for high school, college, and graduate students and a unique outdoor living experience.

To order your free catalog, write to:  
Audubon Expedition Institute  
Dept. N  
Route 4  
Sharon, Conn. 06069

#### "Crane River" Examines The Platte River

If the average American knows anything at all about the Platte River, it is most likely to be about its role in the relatively recent development of the West. Images of mountain men, Indians and covered wagons would come to mind.

Yet the Platte River in Nebraska is an astonishingly rich wildlife resource of world-class proportions. It is an ecosystem that plays a key role in the lives of many species.

Seven to nine million ducks and geese stop at the area each year. But most spectacular of all, half a million sandhill cranes gather there each spring on their annual migration to northern breeding grounds.

It is a wildlife event that has few rivals. The cranes roost at night on shallow sandbars in concentrations of up to 20,000 per mile. Each dawn, huge flocks fill the sky as the cranes fly out to nearby fields and wet meadows to spend the day feeding.

**Today the Platte is a river under siege.** Four water projects, aimed at utilizing the river's water resources, are presently under active consideration. The results would no longer be "merely" restricting the vital flow of water and sediment. If all of these projects and others being planned were actually approved, they would call for the diversion of more water than exists in the Platte.

This very important and timely Audubon Special, narrated by **Leonard Nimoy**, will premiere on SuperStation TBS on **Sunday, May 28 at 10:00 PM (Eastern)**. It will be repeated **Saturday, June 3 at 9:05 AM (Eastern)**; **Sunday, June 11 at 11:00 PM (Eastern)**; and **Sunday, June 18 at 11:00 PM (Eastern)**. **Crane River** will premiere on PBS this summer. It was produced by **Wolfgang** and **Sharon Obst**.

## Audubon International Youth Camp in Virginia

### Environment as a Window to the World

As recent media coverage so clearly portrays, environment links people together far and wide. National Audubon Society is pleased to announce a new environmental education youth camp which focuses on this global aspect of environmental concern and opens a window to the world.

Co-sponsored with Legacy International, the Audubon Youth Camp in Virginia gives young people ages 11-14 a special chance to learn about themselves, about nature, and how they relate to our natural environment by exploring both local environmental wonders and global relationships. Campers also "travel" to different countries of the world through exploration, discussions, and projects with our international staff and guests.

The expansive beauty of nature unfolds before our eyes as participants hike on the historic Appalachian Trail, observe pond creatures and stream life, and explore the famous Dixie Caverns. We'll also discover how connected the nations of the world are through a closer look at how a chocolate bar is made, and how exhaust fumes from a car in New York City affects U.S. relations with Canada. Together we will develop planetary awareness, make lasting friendships, and most importantly, learn what each of us can do to preserve the natural environment. Evenings are filled with cultural festivals, star gazing, night hikes, and fun.

This experience will broaden horizons for camp graduates and illumine the course of their lives for years to come.

Dates: August 17-26, 1989

Cost: \$750

For information and applications write:  
Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops  
National Audubon Society  
613 Riversville Road  
Greenwich, CT 06831

## Audubon Adventures Goes Global

Audubon Adventures, National Audubon's youth education program, introduces children in grades 3-6 to the wonders of the natural world. Through hands-on learning exercises led by their teachers, kids develop a sense of responsibility for their immediate environment.

Now, a pilot program funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation aims to foster awareness about international environments and cultures. Audubon's first-ever Global Youth Network has taken off in New York City and Newark, New Jersey, where classroom teachers and students exchange a variety of materials with counterparts in Korea, China, Japan, and Barbados. Inside an "Audubon Exchange Box" students place—and receive—letters, drawings, photographs, maps, bird checklists, pressed plants: anything that enables them to overcome language and cultural barriers and learn about their pen-pals' environment.

The program helps develop students' writing and research skills, their understanding of science, geography, and foreign cultures, and their awareness of the environment, locally and globally. Future link-ups will occur between U.S. Adventures classrooms and classrooms in Europe, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean region.

### Intern or volunteer...

#### Get Top-Notch Experience at Audubon Sanctuaries

The National Audubon Society offers students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain training and experience in sanctuary management, while providing Audubon with much needed help.

Internships, usually for three-month periods, are available throughout the year at sanctuaries from coast to coast. They are an ideal way to learn about diverse ecosystems and develop outdoor skills.

Interns do everything from leading nature walks to running visitor centers; from collecting biological data for the sanctuary monitoring program to original ecological research; and from manual labor to building displays. Other program benefits include:

- Career-enhancing, hands-on experience in all phases of wildlife sanctuary work
- Valuable references and a stronger resume
- College credit (by arrangement)
- Personal instruction
- Free housing, utilities, and uniforms
- Eligibility for scholarships to attend an Audubon Ecology Camp.

The Sanctuary Department also offers a variety of volunteer positions at several sanctuaries. For more information on internships and volunteer opportunities, write:

National Audubon Society  
Sanctuary Department  
93 West Cornwall Road  
Sharon, Conn. 06069

## Will Hydropower Doom James Bay?

by Jenny Hansell, Science Information Manager  
National Audubon Society

Audubon chapters in the Northeast are working to slow down the purchase of hydropower from the Canadian province of Quebec until more studies are done on the effects of hydrodevelopment. The power is being marketed by a government-owned utility, Hydro-Quebec, and is to come from an enormous series of dams planned for rivers that empty into James Bay in northern Quebec. Located about 700 miles north of the U.S.-Canadian border, the bay provides a critical staging area for migrating birds. Shorebirds and waterfowl flock by the millions to the bay's coastal marshes and intertidal flats in spring, summer, and fall to feed, molt, and nest. It is also an important feeding ground for ringed seals, beluga whales, and polar bears.

Hydro-Quebec has already installed four power stations on La Grande Riviere, flooding thousands of square kilometers of caribou habitat and forcing the native population of Cree Indians to change their lifestyles drastically. Additional projects include three proposed power stations on the La Grande and the damming and diversion of several other rivers. The ecosystem of James Bay depends on the timing and level of water flows. If all these projects were completed, the flow of two-thirds of the water entering the bay would be affected. This could have a major effect on salinity, nutrient availability, and ice cover in the bay, seriously endangering the birds and marine mammals that depend upon it.

Hydro-Quebec has not prepared a Cumulative Environmental Impact Statement for these projects, which would be required under the National Environmental Protection Act were they to be constructed in this country. Many northeastern states have expressed the intention to purchase power from these developments, and Hydro-Quebec has suggested it won't proceed with development without their commitment. Concerned Auduboners, particularly in Vermont, Maine, and New York, should pressure their utility commissions not to purchase power from Hydro-Quebec until an impact statement is done. For more information, contact Dr. Jan Beyea, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022; (212) 546-9300.



## NAS Convention to Feature Southwest

COME TO NATIONAL AUDUBON Society's Biennial Convention this fall to enjoy the Southwest's spectacular scenery and renew your commitment to the environmental cause. The gathering, to be held in Tucson, Arizona, September 12 to 16, offers field trips to some of the Southwest's best birding spots, a taste of its fascinating history and culture, and an introduction to its environmental challenges.

The theme of the convention is "Our Southwest: Challenged by Growth." In the last few decades, as Americans migrated south in search of opportunity and warm weather, the Southwest experienced unprecedented growth. Many of the convention sessions will focus on the escalating pressure for development this boom has brought and how it is threatening the region's wildlife, water, air, and scenic beauty. This is a problem that communities in all parts of the country are facing.

### Workshops and field trips

Noted conservationists and public officials have been invited to participate in discussions of such subjects as wilderness and wildlife protection, western water resources, forest management, off-road vehicle use, and grazing on public lands.

There will also be sessions and workshops on a wide variety of local, national, and global environmental problems, including Audubon's high-priority issues—acid rain, the Platte River, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest. Participants are invited to help get Audubon's new society-wide wetlands preservation campaign off the ground.

As always, the convention offers lots of opportunities to explore the region. Among the field trips to choose from are a variety of birding outings as well as visits to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, a hummingbird banding station, and historic mining towns.

For two days during the convention, a shuttle bus will run between the convention site, the University of Tucson campus and its many museums, and the downtown Tucson shopping and historic area.

You can turn your visit to Arizona into a full-blown vacation by signing up for one of the tours preceding or following the convention. These include birding and sightseeing in the Grand Canyon, the birds and natural history of southeastern Arizona, a natural

history tour of the Gulf of California, and a six-day birding tour of the Alamos area of Mexico. Also on the pre- and post-convention agenda are one-day outings, including a hike up a rugged riparian canyon, a butterfly watch, a ghost-town tour, and a visit to the Kitt Peak Observatory and the Indian reservation in which it is located.

Audubon is also holding a special Ecology Camp the week before the convention, in the Chiricahua Mountains of southwestern Arizona.

### Send for a free brochure

The convention is being held in the Doubletree Hotel, near Randolph Park in Tucson. Accommodations are available at the Doubletree and Viscount Suite hotels at a special rate of

\$50 per night. Registration is \$60 per person. Field trips are extra. Everyone is invited; sign up early to reserve your place. For a convention brochure, write: Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Ave., #5, Boulder, Colo. 80303 or call (303) 499-3622.

## News from NAS

### EPA Decision Breaks Two Forks Dam by Peter A.A. Berle President, National Audubon Society

The Platte River, which flows from high in the Rocky Mountains through central Nebraska to the Missouri River, remains a river under siege. But one major cloud has lifted from the Platte's future. On March 24, EPA Administrator William Reilly announced his decision to start proceedings that could lead to a veto of the proposed Two Forks dam, an environmental and economic monstrosity that threatens to degrade internationally known wildlife habitat on the river.

Saving the Platte has been a National Audubon Society High-Priority Campaign for more than two years, and your commitment as members and activists played a key role in this latest victory. Your letters, in concert with my pleas and those of many environmental organizations, convinced Reilly to take a personal interest in Two Forks and to make it an issue of national importance. Credit must especially go to the people of Colorado and Nebraska, who responded in overwhelming numbers during the past two years with informed, articulate, and impassioned opposition to Two Forks.

I applaud Administrator Reilly's wise and courageous decision. This was the first major environmental test for President Bush and his administration, and they have passed with flying colors. This action demonstrates that the new President is serious about establishing himself as an "environmental President." Under the process begun by Bill Reilly, the unacceptable adverse effects of Two Forks will become clear, making a veto of this project the only reasonable course of action.

I wish I could say that the possible demise of Two Forks means the Platte River is "saved" forever, but I cannot. Two major water projects remain very much on the drawing boards—Prairie Bend in Nebraska and Deer Creek in Wyoming. Together they pose the most imminent threats to the river and its wildlife. In addition, there is an opportunity, through the relicensing of Nebraska's Kingsley Dam, to improve on existing seasonal flows and better serve wildlife needs downstream. This action, pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, is crucial to a river that has lost 70 percent of its original flow.

Far from encouraging complacency, EPA's decision on Two Forks energizes National Audubon and its grassroots activists for the long-term battle to protect the Platte.





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