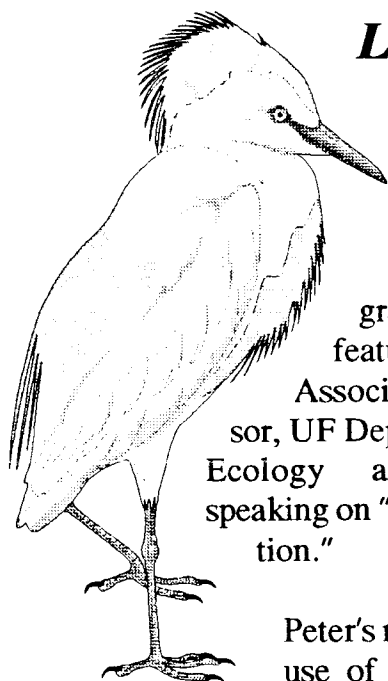




The Crane

Alachua Audubon Society

Volume 41 Number 2, September 1999



Learn the latest about **"Everglades Restoration"** *on September 25*

This month's program meeting will feature Peter Frederick, Associate Research Professor, UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, speaking on "Everglades Restoration."

Peter's research involves the use of wading birds as an "indicator species" to gauge the health of an ecosystem. Because of reliable records relating to Everglades bird populations extending back to the early 1900s, it is possible to compare today's bird populations to earlier ones. The numbers show that some species have declined by as much as 90 percent. Is this due to decreased water flows and/or increased contaminants? Is the whole Everglades system on the verge of collapse? Will the proposed restoration measures be in time? These are some of the questions Peter's research is trying to answer.

Any increase or decrease of bird populations often very much depends on reproductive success. Peter's intensive field season to

monitor breeding runs from January to June and involves aerial surveys of colonies of egrets, White Ibis, and Wood Storks, as well as ground surveys by airboat of hard-to-find wading birds. It appears that 50-70% of some adult wading bird species in the Everglades either don't breed or are unsuccessful. Why? And is this consistent with historical records?

Please join us to get some insight on the prospects for the Everglades. We meet at 2 p.m. in the Millhopper Branch Library at 3145 NW 43rd Street.

... Field Trip Coming Up This Weekend **Saturday, September 4, 7:30 a.m.**

San Felasco Hammock State Preserve

Meet in the parking lot of the Hunter's Crossing Publix (NW 53rd Avenue and NW 43rd Street) to carpool; this will prevent crowding in the parking lot and save most of us the \$2 parking fee. Fall migration is always a little chancy in early September, but we should have a fair shot at Kentucky Warblers, Worm-eating Warblers, Ovenbirds, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and Veeries, as well as such resident species as Hooded Warblers and Acadian Flycatchers.

This Month's AAS Calendar

➔ Wednesday, September 8, 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

All AAS members and the public are invited to attend monthly board meetings. Location: Conference Room of the Florida Museum of Natural History, UF campus.

➔ Sunday, September 12, 8:00 a.m. Palm Point and Lakeshore Drive

Meet at Palm Point, on Lakeshore Drive (CR-329B) about 1.5 mi north of Hawthorne Road (SR-20). Lush lakeside foliage makes the west shore of Newnans Lake a hotspot in fall migration. We can hope for 10-15 species of warblers, including Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, Yellow, Prairie, and Prothonotary Warblers, American Redstarts, Northern Waterthrushes, and, if we're lucky, Golden-winged, Blackburnian, and Cerulean Warblers. In addition to the common wading birds, the lake itself may offer returning Bald Eagles and migrating Black Terns.

➔ September 18 - All day North American Migration Count

Experienced birders are needed for this county-wide survey. Call Mike Manetz at 377-1683.

➔ Saturday, September 25, 2:00 p.m. "Everglades Restoration"

See front page.

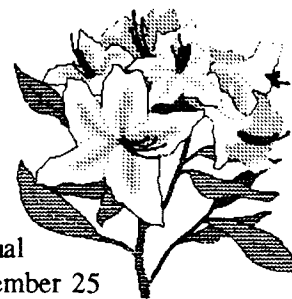
➔ Sunday, October 3, 6:00 a.m. Guana River State Park

Meet at Powers Park, on Hawthorne Road (SR-20) 4.4 miles east of Waldo Road. The early departure will bring us to St. Augustine at about 8:00. The first half of October is prime time for migrating Peregrine Falcons along the Atlantic Coast, so we'll spend the first hour or two on the hawk-watching platform. We've seen as few as two and as many as 38 in past years, as well as Merlins, American Kestrels, and, once, a Sooty Shearwater. Afterwards we'll go warbler-watching in the park's oak woodlands. This will be about the peak of the songbird migration, so 10-15 species of warblers isn't an unreasonable expectation, and we may see thrushes, grosbeaks, and tanagers as well. Bring water and insect repellent - also a sandwich, unless you want to head to St. Augustine for lunch when the trip ends in the early afternoon.

Native Plant Sale This Month

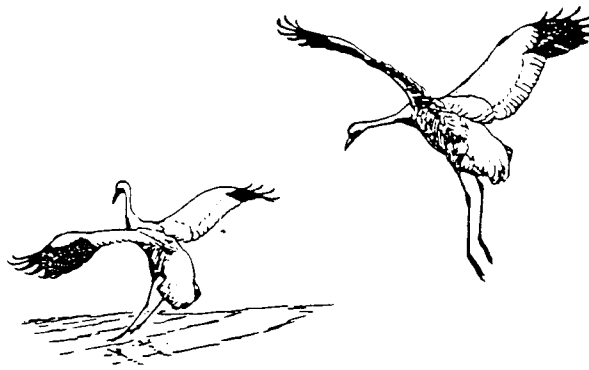
The Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is hosting its annual plant sale on Saturday, September 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is held at Morningside Nature Center, 3540 E. University Avenue.

A large selection of Florida native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers will be available from local nurseries. There will be nature walks, workshops, environmental booths and children's program. For more information or a listing of plants to be sold call Gary Paul at Morningside at 334-2170.



It was early September, a red bright day of Indian summer sun and stillness, and the beach bird stood immobile for a time, observing the turtles and a muskrat, two black ducks and a green heron, as if certain of its central place in a strange and beautiful universe.

— Peter Matthiessen
American naturalist and writer

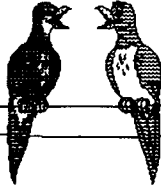


The Crane is published monthly throughout the year except June and July. Content of *The Crane* is the sole responsibility of the editor and fulfills stated objectives and goals of Alachua Audubon Society. Annual subscription to *The Crane* is included in AAS dues. Non-Audubon members may subscribe to *The Crane* for \$8 annually. Submissions to *The Crane* are welcomed, can be e-mailed or on disk or hard copy, and must be received by **September 24** to be included in the October issue. Please limit each article to no more than two pages. Mail or bring your disk or hard copy to Evelyn Perry, The Branch Office, 519 NW 60th St., Suite A, G-ville 32607. Or fax to 331-2585. Or e-mail evperry@aol.com.

***The Crane* is printed on recycled paper.**

Around the County...

by Mike Manetz



Fall migration in Alachua County continued at a rather slow pace through the first three weeks of August. I regularly check the birding hotlines from other parts of Florida, so I can tell you that birding was equally slow at most of the best birding spots around the state, and we shouldn't take things too personally; but the birds that did choose to be seen locally were quite exciting. One of the best was reported by Rex Rowan from Lakeshore Drive. He and Scott Borderieux were there on Aug. 13 and found a female **Canada Warbler**. A Canada is a great find any time in the fall, but theirs was the third earliest ever reported in the state and by far the earliest in our county. **Kentucky Warblers** made their first appearance at San Felasco Hammock on Aug. 14. Rex got our first **Golden-winged Warbler** at Lakeshore drive on the 20th, and the following day John Hintermister and I found a **Cerulean Warbler** in the swamp along CR 2082. By my reckoning we had, including our breeding species, tallied eighteen species of warblers in the county by August 21.

The water level at Chapman's Pond was relatively low in early August and attracted some shorebirds and waders. On Aug. 7, a few **Lesser** and a **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Pectoral**, **Solitary**, and **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported, along with an astonishing 150 **Glossy Ibis** and a few very early **Blue-winged Teal**. By the next week, rising water levels had forced most of the birds to go elsewhere. Another fall sighting of note was a kettle of 10 **Swallow-tailed Kites** seen migrating over the town of Alachua by Pat Burns on the 30th of September.

One avian species that seems to be expanding its range in Florida is the **White-winged Dove**. A western species, the **White-winged** has long been known to stray into the panhandle in small numbers during late fall, with some individuals and small flocks wintering along the west coast. Add to this the growing numbers of breeding **White-wings** that have been imported and then released in southern and central Florida, and you would figure that eventually they would reach Gainesville. On August 19, Christine Romagosa, who has been researching another explosive colonizer, the **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, reported a **White-winged Dove** on the U of F campus. Keep your eyes open; **White-wings** could be appearing soon at a department store parking lot near you.

Thanks to those who shared their sightings through August 25, 1999

Note from Editor:

Special Listing on Last Page of This Issue

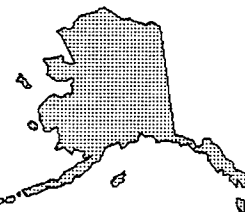
On the last page of this issue of *The Crane*, you will find a listing of field trips and programs (prepared for you by David Wahl and Rex Rowan) for the full club year.

If you're already an Audubon member, please cut it out from the newsletter (or run a copy of it) and keep it for year-round reference.

If you are not already an Audubon member, use the other side of the sheet and join. We'll be happy to send you another copy of the listing of trips and programs. Okay?

Sea Kayaking in the Prince William Sound

by Karen Johnson



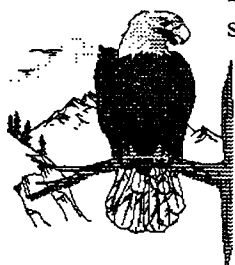
The last week in July, I went sea kayaking for a week in the Prince William Sound with a group called Wilderness Birding Adventures. Although clearly not the peak migration time for seeing rarities, there is no such thing as a bad trip to Alaska, and we were not disappointed.

We started off in Whittier where a charter boat carried us, our kayaks, and gear and food for eight people for eight days about 55 miles Southeast and dropped us off on a remote peninsula on Whale Bay to get us started. The Mew Gulls, Glaucous-winged Gulls, Arctic Terns, Pigeon Guillemot, and Northwestern Crows were thick. Our second night's camp was on a peninsula on Icy Bay near a large Black-legged Kittiwake colony. We could hear them squawking incessantly, and whenever they were disturbed they would fly en masse off the cliffs and it looked like a magnificent kittiwake waterfall. All through the night we heard glaciers calving in the distance, and that evening we also had a black bear about 50 feet from our camp.

The next day we kayaked through an ice field up the Nassau Fjord to the Chenega Glacier. The kayaks had to go single file and even at that it was impossible not to occasionally slide into the ice floes that surrounded us. As we went closer to the glacier, we would see an avalanche, then hear the thunder of the calving, and then in a minute or two the waves from the avalanche would bounce our kayaks from side to side. There were dozens of harbor seals sitting on the icebergs. That night our guides made us burritos for supper with frozen margaritas chipped from the floes that had washed up on shore, and our lemon cheesecake "set up" by using an iceberg as a refrigerator.

During the remaining days in the Sound, we saw Spruce Grouse, Common Loons, Wandering Tattlers, Surfbirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Wilson's Warbler, Black Oystercatchers, Harlequin Ducks, Marbled Murrelets, and many Bald Eagles. We also saw two more black bears and a couple dozen sea otters, many with pups.

To a casual observer, the Sound looks as if it has recovered pretty well from the *Exxon Valdez* spill ten years ago, but at our last campsite our guide turned over some stained-looking rocks and found a lot of tar balls. The original spill killed more than one quarter of a million sea birds and many thousands of mammals. Of the 28 species damaged by the spill, only two are officially considered to be "recovered:" river otters and eagles.



During the second week of the trip, we went by car to Homer and Seward in the Kenai Peninsula. There we saw Tufted and Horned Puffins, Pelagic Cormorants, Common Murres, Black Turnstone, a pair of Varied Thrushes, Red-necked Grebes, Steller's Jay, White-winged and Surf Scoters, Alder Flycatcher, and an absolutely elegant pair of Pacific Loons. We also saw Orca whales, Steller sea lions, mountain goats, Dall sheep, and moose. Of the 52 total species of birds we saw, I think the two species of loons were my favorite. Maybe memories of their dramatic summer plumage and haunting calls will keep us cool during the rest of the hot Florida summer.

New Members Joining During August

Debbie Beliles; Ken Bostwick; Gainesville Work Camp; Monica Curtis Cooper; Cathy Dewitt; Thomas Frisbie; Margie Frye; M. Gastiger; Mary Godwin; Judy Halling; Caro Hare; Marcella Hebel; Keith & Jill Herndon; Marjorie Herritage; Virginia Huffman; Lonnn Kaduce; Harold Knowles; Yvonne McCallim; Merle Middleton; Joseph Niebling; Richard Nolan; Mrs. Edward Oehmig; Betty Ann Riley; Charles Robbins; Maxine Sawyer; Kathleen Spink; Diane Swinson; Edward Wells; Audrey Wright; Mike Wright.

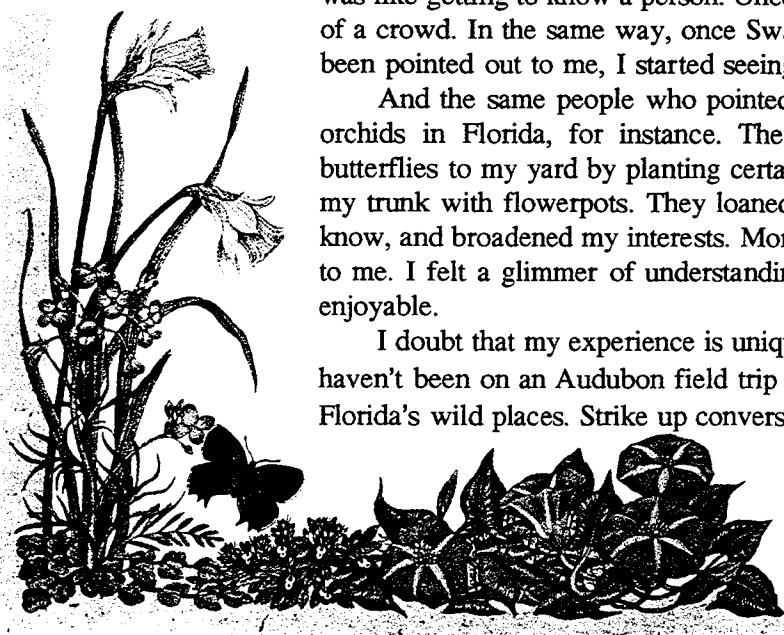
Why You Should Go on Audubon Field Trips

by Rex Rowan

In the beginning, I liked birds. Those I was able to recognize I had puzzled out from the Peterson and Robbins field guides. I didn't belong to the Audubon Society, and I didn't know anyone else who was interested in birds.

Twelve years after I became a birdwatcher, I joined Audubon and went on my first field trip. I expected to meet fellow bird enthusiasts, and I did - but I also met wildflower enthusiasts, and tree enthusiasts, and butterfly enthusiasts. They put names to plants and insects I had always wondered about. So that tall plant like a green ostrich plume bore the curious name of Dog Fennel! So that lovely, fragile lavender flower was called Meadow Beauty! So these things had names too!

I discovered something very interesting: once I knew the names of these creatures, I started to see them. It



was like getting to know a person. Once you're familiar with someone, you can pick him out of a crowd. In the same way, once Swamp Tupelo and Blazing Star and Gulf Fritillary had been pointed out to me, I started seeing them everywhere I went.

And the same people who pointed them out told me other things as well. There were orchids in Florida, for instance. They showed me some. They told me I could bring butterflies to my yard by planting certain wildflowers; they dug up their own gardens to fill my trunk with flowerpots. They loaned me books that familiarized me with things I didn't know, and broadened my interests. More things became more interesting and more beautiful to me. I felt a glimmer of understanding about habitats and ecology. The world was more enjoyable.

I doubt that my experience is unique; something similar may be in store for you. If you haven't been on an Audubon field trip before, come along this year as we explore some of Florida's wild places. Strike up conversations. Ask questions. And learn everything you can,

keeping always in mind the words of Walt Whitman's *The Song of the Open Road*: "Nature is rude and incomprehensible at first, / Be not discouraged, keep on, there are divine things well-envelop'd, / I swear to you there are divine things more beautiful than words can tell."

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

It's time to send in your check to sponsor *Audubon Adventures* in Alachua County classrooms. If you've been a sponsor in past years, you know how rewarding sponsorship is (to you) and important this program is to students. For some, it's the first exposure they have to learning about the environment and wild birds and animals. Who knows? In one of the classrooms you sponsor, there may be a future ornithologist who one day can say, "I became interested in birds back in elementary school from a publication we got called *Audubon Adventures*."

Teachers who have used the materials request it year after year, and students really seem to like every issue, judging from the letters of appreciation they send to their sponsors.

The *Audubon Adventures* program is aimed at Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade classrooms. Each sponsored class receives 4 sets of newsletters, one for each student, crammed with information and activities. Also, there is a video and a teacher manual with additional information and activities on the topics.

Audubon members sponsored 62 classrooms last year—that's about 1,650 kids who received high-quality environmental education! We hope to at least reach that number or surpass it this year with your help! This is a tax-deductible contribution your part.

If you need additional information, call Susan Sommerville at 378-2808.

Fill out the form below (or reproduce it) and mail it with your check for \$36 for each classroom you wish to sponsor. Do it now, as the order needs to go in to National Audubon Society by October 1. Thanks for your support!

Please make checks payable Alachua Audubon Society and mail to Susan Sommerville at 3756 NW 28th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605.

Name	_____
Address	_____ _____
Telephone	_____
No. of classes at \$36 each	_____
Preference, if any, of school or teacher	_____ _____
Amount enclosed	_____
You may list my name as a sponsor in <i>The Crane</i> .	
Yes	_____
No	_____

Alachua Audubon Society Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees, 1999-2000

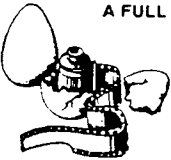
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 Vice-President.....Tom Webber 392-1721
 Secretary.....David Wahl 336-6206
 Treasurer.....John Winn 468-1669
 Membership.....Paul Moler 495-9419
 Programs.....John Winn 468-1669

Field Trips.....TBA
 Education.....Susan Sommerville 378-2808
 Conservation Chair.....TBA
 Birding Classes.....Kathy Haines 372-8942
 Festival Coordr.....Scott Flamand 331-0035
 Publicity.....Karl Miller 377-5940

The Crane Editor...Evelyn Perry 331-2223
Crane Circulation.Margaret Green 378-3314
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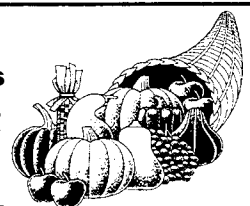
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ALACHUA AUDUBON SOCIETY

1999-2000 Activities and Field Trips

DAY	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	MEETING PLACE	LEADER
1999					
Sat.	9/4	7:30	San Felasco Hammock - migrants - A	Hunters Crossing Publix	Rex Rowan
Sun.	9/12	8:00	Palm Point/Lakeshore Drive - migrants - A	Palm Point	John Winn
Sat.	9/18	All day	North American Migration Count		
Sat.	9/25	2:00	Program: "Everglades Restoration"	Millhopper Branch Library	
Sun.	10/3	6:00	Guana River State Park - falcons, migrants - D	Powers Park	Rex Rowan
Sat.	10/9	8:00	Bolen Bluff Trail - B	Bolen Bluff Trail	Bryant Roberts
Sat.	10/16	2:00	Program: "Rainforest Birds of Chile," "Heritage Forests"	Millhopper Branch Library	
Sat.	10/30	6:30	Cedar Key - shorebirds, seabirds, late migrants - D	Target	TBA
Sun.	11/7	7:30	Hague Dairy - blackbirds, pipits, sparrows - B	Tag agency	TBA
Sat.	11/13	2:00	Program: "Florida Panthers" (*1)	TBA	
Sun.	11/21	6:30	Hamilton County mines - waterbirds, waders (*1) - D	Tag agency	TBA
Sat.	12/4	8:00	Persimmon Point - sparrows (*3) - C	District II HQ	Howard Adams
Sat.	12/11	8:00	La Chua Trail - B	District II HQ	Tom Webber
Sun.	12/19	All day	Christmas Bird Count		
2000					
January 8-9			St. Marks NWR - waterbirds (*2) - D	St. Marks visitor center	John Hintermister
Sat.	1/22	2:00	Program: "Gardening with Native Plants" (*1)	TBA	
Sat.	1/29	6:00	Ft. Clinch/Hugenot Park - shorebirds, seabirds - D	The Exchange Publix	Rex Rowan
Sat.	2/12	6:00	Merritt Island NWR - shorebirds, waterbirds - D	Target	John Hintermister
Sat.	2/19	2:00	Program: "Polar Bears"	TBA	
Sat.	3/11	8:00	Camps Canal/Cones Dike - sparrows, waterbirds (*1) - B	Bolen Bluff Trail	TBA
Sat.	3/18	2:00	Program: "Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Goethe SF" (*1)	TBA	
Sat.	3/25	6:00	Three Lakes WMA - caracara, snail kite (*1) - D	Target	Bryant Roberts
Sat.	4/8	7:30	San Felasco Hammock - spring arrivals, migrants - B	Hunters Crossing Publix	Craig Parenteau
Sat.	4/15	6:30	Citrus Buffer Preserve - spring arrivals, migrants (*1) - D	Target	Rex Rowan
Sat.	4/22	6:00	Wards Bank/Ft. George Island - migrants, shorebirds - D	The Exchange Publix	Rex Rowan
Wed.	4/26	6:30 pm	Annual picnic (*1)	TBA	
April 29-30			St. Marks NWR/St. George Island SP (*1)(*2) - D	St. Marks visitor center	TBA
Sat.	5/6	8:00	Bolen Bluff Trail - A	Bolen Bluff Trail	TBA

CODES

- (*1) Call SunDial birding line 335-3500 ext 2473 for meeting times and places, details, and/or to confirm
 (*2) Call Rex Rowan 371-9296 for local motel information if you're staying overnight
 (*3) Call Rex Rowan if you wish to participate

ESTIMATED DURATION (from meeting place to destination and return)

- A = 2-3 hours
 B = 3-4 hours
 C = 4-6 hours
 D = 6 or more hours

Alachua Audubon Society
P.O. Box 140464
Gainesville, FL 32614-0464

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud>

MEETING PLACES

Bolen Bluff Trail: on US-441 4.3 miles south of SR-331 (Williston Road)
 District II HQ: from University Avenue south on SE 15th Street; when the road curves left, go straight down Camp Ranch Road
 The Exchange Publix: NW 13th Street & NW 39th Avenue
 Hunters Crossing Publix: NW 43rd Street & NW 53rd Street
 Millhopper Branch Library: 3145 NW 43rd Street (south of NW 39th Avenue)
 Palm Point: from SR-20 (Hawthorne Road), north on Lakeshore Drive (CR-329B) 1.5 mile
 Powers Park: on Hawthorne Road (SR-20) 4.4 miles east of Waldo Road
 St. Marks visitor center: from US-98 in Newport (Wakulla County), south on CR-59 to the visitor center
 Tag agency: NW 34th Street (SR-121) just south of US-441
 Target: shopping center on Archer Road (SR-24) just east of I-75

PLEASE JOIN US! NON-MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

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The Crane

September 1999



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To join Audubon on 3 levels (National, Florida, and Alachua), fill in this application and mail to:

Paul Moler, 7818 Highway 346, Archer, Florida 32618

Check the level of membership desired and enclose your check payable to:

National Audubon Society

If you have any questions, call Paul at 495-9419.

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