



The Crane

Alachua Audubon Society

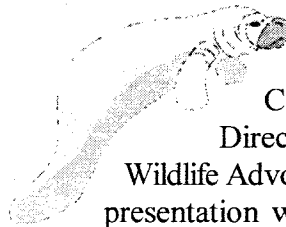
Volume 43 Number 2 ❖ October/November 2001

You're invited to attend...

AAS October and November Programs

Laura Smith will speak on the development and effectiveness of the Paynes Prairie underground ecopassage which runs underneath Highway 441. The ecopassage was developed to reduce "road kill" on the highway and provide safe passage for creatures across the prairie. Laura will discuss the planning, construction, and results thus far of the ecopassage. She has been active in the project since the early stages and is still involved in the research after its completion.

Sat., Oct. 20
~Ecopassage~



Susannah
Lindberg,
Campaign
Director for The

Sat., Nov. 10
~Manatees~

Wildlife Advocacy Project, is our speaker. The presentation will focus on the legal and policy aspects of manatee protection as well as some general information about the species in regard to the death rate and causes of manatee deaths in our area.

***Programs begin at 2 p.m. and will be presented at the Tower Road Branch Library,
3020 SW 75th Street. Refreshments will be served.***

Join us on this field trip: Saturday, October 6, 6 a.m., Guana River State Park

Meet trip leader John Hintermeister at 6 a.m. at Powers Park on Hawthorne Road (SR-20), about 4.4 miles east of Waldo Road. Our first stop will be the Volano Beach boat ramp where we will look for shore birds and waders, and then we will go on to the hawk platform at Guana River State Park. We'll spend some time here with the Peregrine Falcon counters who maintain a vigil during the a couple of weeks each fall. With any luck we'll see some falcons ourselves as they head down the beach on their migration route. We'll then go into Guana River State Park and look for thrushes, tanagers, migrating warblers, and the like. The officially led part of this trip will end around noon, in time to go to lunch at one of the local beach communities. If it is more convenient for you to meet at the Volano Beach boat ramp at 8 a.m., it is located on A1A on the right-hand side of the road before you cross the bridge into Volano Beach. Let John know you'll be meeting us there (462-1109).

See inside for more October and November field trips.

Inside this issue of *The Crane*:

Order Form for Friends of Morningside Bird Seed Sale



Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, October 13, 8 a.m., Bolen Bluff Trail
Rex Rowan will lead this half-day trip on the Payne's Prairie. We'll be looking for wrens, sparrows, and later migrants. Meet at the trailhead for Bolen Bluff, on US 441, 4.3 miles south of SR-331 (Williston Road). Bring some water and dress appropriately to ward off the mosquitoes, which are often particularly fierce on this trail.

Saturday, October 27, 7:30 a.m., Hague Dairy
The dairy often brings us many interesting sparrows, pipits, and blackbirds, including the Yellow-Headed Blackbird that is usually spotted out here a time or two during the fall or winter. We also often enjoy watching the raptor behavior here as well. Join trip leader Andy Kratter for this half-day trip by meeting at the tag agency on NW 34th Street just south of US-441.

Saturday, November 3, 8 a.m. U.S. Fisheries Dept.
This is our first field trip to this area so we're not quite sure what to expect. The habitat includes ponds, open fields, and ditches so this may be another chance to practice on sparrows and also see some old favorites like meadowlarks, bluebirds, and a variety of wrens. Meet at Talbot School on NW 43rd Street just South of NW 53rd Avenue at 8 a.m. in order to be part of this exploration of new bird territory for Alachua Audubon. This will be a half-day trip.

Saturday, November 10, 8 a.m., La Chua Trail
Meet at DEP District HQ: going east on University Avenue, cross Waldo Road, turn right onto SE 15th Street, and proceed 2½ miles. When the road turns left, keep going straight across the 3-way intersection, through the gate, and down the road to the parking lot. Be on time: when the ranger shuts the gate, there's no way in. Howard Adams will lead this half-day walk onto the Paynes Prairie basin. The water levels have changed so much in the past few years in this area that we never know quite what will appear. Northern Harriers, Sedge Wrens, Palm Warblers, and Swamp Song, and Savannah Sparrows are likely, but there's no telling what we'll find. The fun is in the looking, and there's nearly always a surprise at La Chua.

Saturday, December 1, 8 a.m. Chapman's Pond
We will explore several ponds in the Tower Road area on this half-day trip. We'll get to practice on our ducks, winter warblers, and sparrows. This is also a habitat that is changing as the bird-friendly plants in this area mature and also as GRU expands the shallow ponds that may attract waders and also shorebirds in the proper season. Chapman's Pond has been one of Ron Robinson's special interests, so meet him at the Home Depot on Tower Road about 0.3 miles south of Newberry Road.

Board Meetings

Alachua Audubon Society board meetings are held on the second Wednesday evening of each month and are open to all Audubon members as well as to the general public.

Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. and place is Room 2-001 at Buchholz High School.

October 10

November 14



"Hope" is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without words and never stops — at all.

- Emily Dickinson

For year-round 24/7 AAS information:
Call SunDial Bird Line: 335-3500
ext. BIRD (2473).

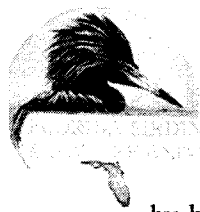
Visit AAS Web Site:
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud>

The Crane is published bimonthly throughout the year. 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 AA S dues. Non-Audubon members may subscribe to *The Crane* for \$8 annually. All checks for subscriptions or changes of address should be mailed to Paul Moler, Membership Chairman; see back page for address. Submissions to *The Crane* are welcomed. Please limit each article to no more than two pages.

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

Festivals this month in Florida

Oct. 4-7, Clearwater



The 4th annual, this festival features more than 30 field trips for birders of all levels, workshops for beginners and life listers, seminars by local and internationally known bird and wildlife experts, keynote addresses by birding authorities, and Nature Expo with major corporate exhibitors.

For a registration kit including a list of area hotels offering special rates for the Festival, call (toll free) 1-877-FL-BEACH or go to www.PCEF.org. For additional information, call 1-800-822-6461.

Festival registration is \$10 and includes admission to the Nature Expo. Half-day field trips are \$40, full-day trips are \$60, keynote addresses are \$10, and workshops are \$5.

Oct. 11-14, Panhandle



Florida Panhandle
Birding & Wildflower Festival

- First annual - Festival sites include St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, St. George Island State Park, Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, St. Joe Timberlands.

Registration fee is \$20 and includes tours to all state and federal facilities. Separate guided tours on private properties range from \$15 to \$35. Seminars are \$6 each.

For more information contact The St. Joe Wildlife Sanctuary & Educational Center, Inc. (850) 229-9464 or www.birdfestival.org. E-mail: info@birdfestival.org.

Audubon Assembly 2001

Nov. 1-4, Orlando

Creating a Culture of Conservation

"You Make the Difference"

Join hundreds of Audubon members, volunteers, leaders, birders, conservationists and scientists for the largest conservation priority setting conference in Florida. Enjoy, three days of fun, learning and decision-making at the Audubon Assembly 2001 in Orlando, Florida.

- Grassroots and Chapter Leadership Training Workshops
- Expert Speakers and Programs on environmental and wildlife issues
- Exciting field trips to wildlife sanctuaries and boat rides through natural habitats
- Attendees include Audubon members, local state and federal government agencies and our partners in the environment. College classrooms are invited to participate.
- 24 different workshops on how to be involved and be leaders in your community
- 13 different field trips to sanctuaries and birding havens throughout the surrounding area
- 2 general sessions, the first to review the 2001 conservation priorities and begin discussion on the 2002 priorities. The second session will be to approve the 2002 priorities.

Each day will end with a series of high caliber speakers, outstanding food and great entertainment. Friday night, Disney's Animal Kingdom will host an adventure dinner at their Flights of Wonder area. The night will be filled with cascading birds and Caribbean cuisine and music. Special Guest Speaker is Senator Bob Graham. Saturday night, Sea World will host a dinner and private Shamu show. Educators and diverse wildlife will trot through the reception. Special Guest Speaker is Governor Jeb Bush.

If you would like further information about the Assembly, please contact Erin Petra at 305-371-6399 or epetra@audubon.org or at our web site www.audubonofflorida.org.

Palm Point... (and the creation of the PPP)

by John Winn

This is a report on the field trip in early September to Palm Point, as well as some additional thoughts.

In last month's *Crane*, which came out before the field trip, I wrote what one of the field trip participants called "a glowing account" of birding at Palm Point. Maybe it was on account of it that nearly 40 people showed up for the trip. I'm certain that some of them had never been to Palm Point before and were expecting the trees to be dripping with fall migrants. As it turned out, except for all the Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, the birders probably outnumbered the birds. That happens sometimes. We saw only six species of warblers. And when I say "we," I mean collectively as a group, for I didn't see all of those warblers, and I don't think anybody else did either.

To anyone who was disappointed in the scarcity of birds, all I can say is come back again sometime to Palm Point, and maybe you'll hit it on a better



day when there might be a dozen migrant warbler species and a whole lot else. Or maybe not. I've been to Palm Point on days when there was absolutely nothing there, days when six warblers – individuals, not species – might seem like an absolute bonanza.

The thing is this: you have to remember the Birder's Three P's. Those are patience, persistence, and what? You supply the third – perseverance, perspective, perception, petrol, whatever you think fits the situation. (*I've just now made up the Three P's, and I guess I need a little help.*) The point is that seeing birds, or any wildlife for that matter, isn't like watching Nature on PBS. There are good days and bad days, and you have to just keep working at it.

Anyway, for the record, the warblers were Parula, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Common Yellow-throat. We also saw and heard three of the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks which have been hanging around the county and got to see a Red-shouldered Hawk snatch a dragonfly on the wing, so there were a couple of neat things. Actually, there usually are. You just can't count on it.

**Deadline for articles for the
December/January
issue of *The Crane* is:
November 24.**



Submit articles via e-mail to evperry@aol.com. Via mail: disk or hard copy to Evelyn Perry, 9419 SW 67th Drive, Gainesville 32608. Telephone 371-2917.

Help Needed for Sanctuary Clean-up

We will meet October 14 at the Colclough Pond Sanctuary for a half-day exotic plant removal workshop. Several invasive plant species are in the sanctuary, and manager Bob Simons would like some help in getting them under control. Volunteers will be used to hand pull *Ardisia crenata* plants. The sanctuary is located between South Main Street and Williston Road, just north of where the two merge. The parking lot is at the north end of SW 1st Way. The workshop will run from 8:00 to 12:00.

Western Wings

by Dana & Nancy Griffin

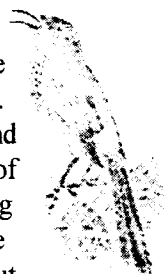
To celebrate a pair of retirements (ours) and break in a couple of pairs of relatively new binoculars, we hit the road this summer, aiming to sample the bird life of Western North America – and sample we did! Our excursion, which began in Gainesville in mid-July, took us to Vancouver Island with a number of stops in between.

For beginners like ourselves finding new birds practically everywhere we swung the glasses was duck soup. But beyond just adding names to a list, observing birds and bird behavior quickly became a compelling fascination. Here are a few trip highlights:

West Pueblo, Colorado. The West Pueblo Inn, a motel built on bunch grass-sagebrush prairie, draws wildlife like a magnet. Curve-billed Thrashers and Scaled Quail came in from the foothills to poke and rake through the flower beds and shrubbery. Western Tanagers, Pine Siskins, Lesser and American Goldfinches worked the heads of sunflowers that crowded the edges of the parking lot. And then there were the rabbits! These were mountain cottontails, and a dozen or so were out every morning browsing the well watered motel lawn. What perplexed us was the behavior of one of these bunnies that would immediately hop over when the quail showed up and insert himself into the middle of the covey. Far from spooking the birds, they would admit the rabbit into their midst and then everyone, quail and rabbit alike, closed their eyes for a short siesta. Someone may be able to explain this behavior, but not us.

Horsetooth Reservoir, Colorado. Serving as Fort Collins' water supply, Horsetooth is a great birding spot, especially for seeing and hearing Canyon Wrens. High rocky bluffs thrust eastward from the reservoir, providing ideal habitat for this species. On an early morning hike, we came across several flitting about on ledges and promontories. The song of this wren, a florid cascade of notes, is unforgettable. And what a beak this small bird sports! Long and decurved, it's the perfect tool for extracting invertebrates from narrow rock crevices.

Buffalo, Wyoming. In the sagebrush flats near the town's only wetland preserve, we came across half a dozen Brewer's Sparrows, a species that might serve as the continental standard for drabness. The author of one field guide asserts that these birds appear to have a blank expression – whatever that might mean. We will remember these fairly tame little sparrows for teaching us how critical it is to observe a bird in its natural setting to gain any understanding of its survival strategy. The light tan earth tones of this species match very well the color of the sun baked soil it moves around on, an aspect of its biology that a field guide illustration often misses.



Crossfield, Alberta. Just east of the railroad tracks are two ponds that on the day we stopped by were hosting some 20 or so Eared Grebes. A few of the birds had nearly



grown young in tow or riding on their backs. But one bird (we chose to think of her as the female) was still incubating a pair of eggs. This struck us as odd given that was late August. Most of the parents had their young almost ready to

leave for the season, so what might possibly explain this one bird's late effort at parenthood? A kid at the Petro-Canada station offered this explanation: "It's likely those durn magpies made off with her first eggs. Now, she's settin' again." And what likelihood was there that she'd get to raise a second family and leave with them all before the onset of cold weather? Again, our filling station authority: "If she's lucky, she'll make it; if not, she won't!" That pretty well covered all the options and reminded us of how birds and birders share at least one inescapable fact – in life we're all playing the hand we're dealt, and so we wished our grebe the best and moved on.

Paint Pots Trail, Banff National Park. In what surely is one of North America's most gorgeous settings, Paint Pots Trail is special. Springs gush forth creating a large seep that flows slowly downslope over rich ochre-red clay beds. Native peoples make annual treks here to gather this natural dye for decorating everything from pots to people. They regarded the place as sacred because of spirits that called to them from the forest. Today we know that these "spirits" likely were male Pine Grosbeaks. And in elegant testimony to biological, if not spiritual, continuity, on the morning of our hike up to the springs these colorful birds were at their appointed posts – usually the crowns of tall evergreens – pumping out their cheery song. This encounter with Pine Grosbeaks served up an important lesson. Be very careful when evaluating plumage color. Photographers and artists all know this, but with the male Pine Grosbeak, we could see just how variable a single color can appear to be depending on light. Turning this way and that at the top of his singing tree, the male would appear deep red, pink or cinnabar, all as a function of the angle of the singer to the sun. Birding does have its nuances as we were learning.



Standley Park, Vancouver. The bustling metropolis of Vancouver has its own Central Park, a patch of greenery

called Standley Park that comes complete with an ocean view. It's likely the easiest place in the Pacific Northwest to get a close up view of Pelagic Cormorants. A steep foot path leads down from Prospect Point to a paved jogging trail. Here one emerges near the base of a 100 foot rocky bluff and clearly within firing range of these sleek black birds. Upon returning from a feeding spree, the cormorants make for jutting ledges some 30 or so feet above the trail. They then turn their rear ends outward and evacuate. The white splotches on the path below identify the high probability zone. Experienced joggers give the birds a wide berth.

Lantzville, Vancouver Island. A lovely bed and breakfast spot outside this small community provided a couple of delightful birding days. The owners had generously positioned several platform feeders at various places in their English-styled flower garden. The feeders rarely

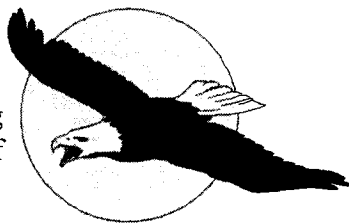


lacked diners. Both Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches came to feed along with Pine Siskins and Spotted Towhees, but the birds we found the most fascinating were the Chestnut-backed Chickadees. These constantly chattering waifs descended on the feeders like street urchins with designs on a sidewalk vendor's apples. They grabbed a sunflower seed and made off for the dark cedar forest rimming the garden, only to reappear when least expected. This is the only species of chickadee known from Vancouver Island.

Campbell River, Vancouver Island. Campbell River, an east coast town north of Nanaimo, is where we got our best views of Northwestern Crows, diminutive relatives (some say the same species) of the American Crow. At low tide, when we were in the area, great flaccid tangles of rock weed and kelp cover the shoreline rocks. This substrate seems to attract the crows as it does gulls of diverse species. At one place we saw small flocks of Mew and Bonaparte's Gulls having a quiet sit on this marine salad which was rapidly heating up in the afternoon sun. Another behavioral mystery confronted us. Thousands of kelp flies buzzed over the plants. The Mew Gulls paid no attention to the insects, while the Bonaparte's Gulls constantly snapped at all flies that came reasonably close. Here is a unique field character of limited use, but at Campbell River it seems to work!

Pacific Rim National Park, Vancouver Island. Our western birding trip ended in a search and rescue Zodiac, tossing and turning among the impressive swells of the north Pacific. The trip was advertised as a whale watching opportunity with occasional passes by islands where seals

and birds could be seen. One gray whale did show up to excite the large mammal enthusiasts on board, but we most enjoyed the brief time the boatman was willing to spend near seal island. He maneuvered the inflatable to within about 50 feet of the rocky shore to give us a close view of Steller's sea lions. A small herd had hauled out onto the rocks for a mid-day snooze. Two bulls had positioned themselves slightly apart from the cows. The bulls are enormous – up to 12 feet long and weighing a ton. They come with the disposition of a brown bear – possibly not surprising given the common evolutionary history of these seemingly different animals. All along the periphery of the herd, Glaucous-winged and Heermann's Gulls stood at attention, looking for all the world like plaster lawn ornaments but undoubtedly alert to the slightest opportunity for food. Slightly offshore among the undulating kelp fronds, rafts of Pigeon Guillemots and Common Murres bobbed like black and white corks. We may have been the only ones on board that wished we could have stayed longer, but the operator sensed that his sports had had enough. We were all wet to the gills, most having swallowed some part of the Pacific Ocean, so the Zodiac's nose was turned in the direction of home. As we approached the dock, a Bald Eagle glided past, giving us one last view of British Columbia's extraordinary bird life, and serving as a fitting conclusion to our summer of western birding.



AA\$ Purpose and Goals

The board, along with members' input, is seeking to update the Mission Statement of Alachua Audubon Society. Below is the current statement. If you have any ideas on how we can make meaningful changes, please call Scott Flamand at 331-0035. We will appreciate your participation.

"Alachua Audubon Society is a public service organization that seeks to advance appreciation of nature, to protect wildlife and wild places, and to promote the prudent, sustainable use of natural resources. We do this by the following means:

1. Presentation of authentic natural history information at regularity scheduled public meetings and on expertly led field trips.
2. A program of youth education that will develop knowledge and a sense of responsibility towards nature.
3. Maintenance and interpretation of sanctuaries.
4. Distribution of authoritative and timely information on conservation issues through our newsletter, electronic media, and other means."

Audubon EagleWatch Workshops

Audubon of Florida offers a unique volunteer opportunity through "Audubon EagleWatch," a monitoring program of nesting Bald Eagles. This program seeks information about eagles, nest locations, nesting activities, and possible threats or disturbances of active nest sites.

Through workshops, volunteer participants are educated in Bald Eagle natural history and nesting biology, applicable laws, the identification of nest threats, and the verification of previously unrecorded active nests. Data compiled from the program is forwarded to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to supplement their annual aerial eagle nesting survey. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Florida now boasts the largest population of resident Bald Eagles in the continental United States, but concerns over loss of habitat have delayed the delisting of the birds from the Endangered Species List. Monitoring the eagles' nests is a critical component of the species' continued recovery.

If you are interested in participating in Audubon EagleWatch, please call (407) 644-0190 or e-mail EagleWatch@audubon.org for more information. Workshops scheduled for October and November are:

Clearwater - Sat., Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-12 noon at Harborview Center. Please call 1-800-822-6461 for a registration packet for the Birding Festival and Nature Expo. There is a \$5 charge to attend the expo, or \$10 for the entire festival. Call Lynda White at 407-644-0190 for more information.

Sarasota - Sat., Oct. 20, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd. (941) 474-3065.

Orlando Metro Area - Sat., Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. at Audubon Assembly 2001, Orlando Marriott Hotel, 7499 Augusta National Dr. (407) 851-9000.

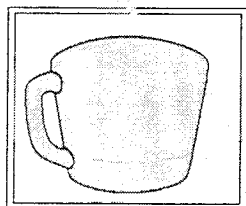
Workshop attendance is requested but not mandatory to receive nest assignments. If you attended a past workshop, you are encouraged to refresh your knowledge about eagle nesting biology and share some of your monitoring experiences with new volunteers. Please join Audubon of Florida in this exciting adventure of EagleWatching in Florida!

- Lynda White, Project Coordinator



Shade Grown Coffee - Another Look

by Alan Keitt



A lachua Auduboners had a nice glimpse of some of the issues around the global coffee trade and its effects on songbirds in Mike Meisenburg's article in last month's *Crane*. In it he chose to concentrate on the issues of coffee growing on bird populations, entirely appropriate for an Audubon newsletter. I would like

to point out however that humans as well as birds are affected by the move towards "intensive sun grown" coffee plantations.

Coffee is second in value only to petroleum as an export commodity. As Mike points out it has no intrinsic value in human nutrition. However, it has been a cash crop for perhaps 15 million low end farmers who traditionally raise shade grown coffee admixed with other crops in what has been a reasonably sustainable manner. Several studies have documented that traditional coffee plantations provide very good habitat for both migrant and resident birds. I have done field work on competition between migrant and endemic birds in Jalisco, Mexico with my daughter-in-law. We worked in a number of small coffee plantations which had quite diverse flora and fauna. At that time there was no good evidence for significant competition of neotropical migrants with indigenous species.

The story of the conversion of traditional coffee plantations to intensive coffee cropping with its high inputs and mechanized harvesting is available on a very good web site of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (<http://natzoo.si.edu/smbc/>). Following the links to shade grown coffee will yield both comprehensive and concise information about the causes and consequences of this massive project. Rather than recount this story here, I would point out some of the conclusions that I draw from reviewing these sources.

Industrialized coffee production is unsustainable and has created huge environmental problems due to both erosion and chemical pollution. The clearing of shade canopies in the steep Latin American terrain has created what have been called green biological deserts with markedly increased erosion potential. Hurricane Mitch was an accident waiting to happen.

The industrialization of coffee cropping mirrors similar efforts in many other crops. A common end result of such industrialized production worldwide is the displacement of small holders by a handful of landless, poorly paid farm workers and a siphoning of profits to increasingly remote owners, processors and retailers.

The increase in production has created a huge coffee glut which has driven the price down from about \$2 per pound to the grower to below 50 cents a pound. In Costa Rica, where USAID subsidization has resulted in one of the highest rates of conversion to "sun tolerant" varieties, this has resulted in a drop in the value of coffee exports from about 30% to 6% of their total exports over the past decade. Similar huge dislocations have occurred throughout Central America, the Caribbean islands and northern south America. (I thank Mickey Swisher of IFAS and a veteran of many years of field work on agroecology in Costa Rica for these figures.)

The new regime does not preserve the traditional shade grown acreage by intensifying production on a relatively smaller acreage -- in fact it threatens the old regime. The global system of industrial agricultural production has destabilizing impacts that spread far beyond the margins of croplands.

Mike tells us that decisions are rarely black and white. I agree, but this does not obviate our need to make choices. Here is one case in which I believe that we need not equivocate about our preferences. I feel that on the matter of selecting our coffee, both ecological and social issues are compelling. Audubon as a movement has been slower than other environmental organizations to recognize the convergence of social justice issues with environmentalism. I believe that by buying Fair Trade coffee, AAS members will benefit both birds and campesinos and the environment on which they depend. And don't be misled by Starbucks' claims to support the Fair Trade movement. At present it amounts to 0.1% of their product.

Fair Trade and organic coffee is now widely available and can be ordered on the Internet. I also buy it at Book Gallery West in the Millhopper area.

Pertinent web sites:

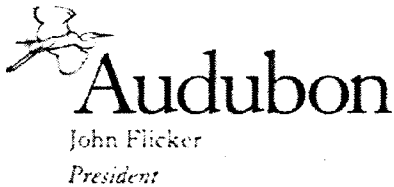
www.fairtradefederation.com

www.cafecampesino.com

<http://natzoo.si.edu/smbc/Products/Factsheets/fxsht1.htm>
(A very good overview from The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center)

http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/projects/songbirds/0520_side2.html (A very good article from the viewpoint of a US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist on the situation in Puerto Rico.)

C  ffee



700 Broadway
New York, NY 10003
Tel: 212-979-3199
Fax: 212-353-0377

September 21, 2001

Dear Chapter Leader:

On September 11, our staff at Audubon House in Lower Manhattan watched in horror as terrorists destroyed the nearby World Trade Center. Combined with the attack on the Pentagon and the downing of an airliner in Pennsylvania, it was a disastrous day for us all. At Audubon, we were fortunate all our staff are safe. Our sympathies continue to be with those less fortunate.

As we all struggle with this tragedy, we must begin thinking about how to adjust to new realities. As a consequence of these events, changes will occur in our society. As the country reorders its priorities, we at Audubon will recommit to our past ideals, and prepare for the future.

The events of September 11th bring into focus what is most important to us – our families and loved ones, our communities, our freedoms, and the other core values that make our society strong.

For over 100 years, Audubon has been an American institution promoting values important to our society. We believe people are an important part of the solution to the environmental challenges we face. We believe that strong communities are the foundation of a strong country, and that a healthy environment is essential for our families, society, and a prosperous economy. We believe that the world we leave to our children must include a diversity of wildlife, and protected places such as refuges and parks. Now more than ever, conservation is patriotic.

Our 500 Audubon Chapters are engaged in their communities in local projects with adults, children and families to foster and protect the values we cherish. Our network of community-based Audubon Centers connects people to nature, and provides places of reflection and rejuvenation during difficult times. At all levels of government, Audubon is promoting environmental policies that reflect the hopes and aspirations of people in the communities we serve.

Audubon will continue to provide leadership to our members and society at large, keeping environmental protection and environmental values at the forefront of decision making. From the Arctic to Latin America, from preserving Important Bird Areas to encouraging healthy habitats in backyards, Audubon has relevance to our daily lives and to our national agenda. Our programs, our Chapters, and our Centers will continue to enrich the lives of every American by insuring the protection and restoration of birds, other wildlife and their habitats throughout the Americas.

Sincerely yours,

John Flicker
President



For Audubon Chapters Only: Special Fall Gift Offer

Give a gift and support your Audubon Chapter!*

Your Chapter receives \$15 for each gift you give!

(September - December)

Dear AAS Chapter Member:

As a loyal, devoted member of the AAS Chapter, you already know about the benefits of being a member in the National Audubon Society. You know how each membership supports vital efforts to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitat. You know the importance of the local AUDUBON chapters and nature centers. You know the delight in receiving the award-winning AUDUBON magazine.

An Audubon membership is a wonderful gift for the holidays or any time of the year! Why not share the discovery of Audubon with your friends and family?

THERE'S NO BETTER GIFT YOU CAN GIVE.

Your friends, family and co-workers will be reminded of your thoughtfulness throughout the year when a new issue of AUDUBON arrives.

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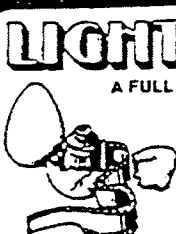
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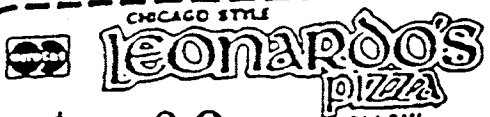
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