

Skimmer



Fall 2011
October—December
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The Francis M. Weston Audubon Society

In Need of Another Ark

Dam by dam, mine by mine, farm by farm and city by city, Earth is being remade before our eyes. Conservation will have to be revolutionary for any significant proportion of Earth's biological treasures to be retained.

We will have to invent new ways of humans and wildlife living together—and of humans wanting to do so. We live now in the Anthropocene; an epoch of extinction defined by humanity's overwhelming impact, including that oxymoron called “sustainable development.” Wildlife is becoming irrelevant.

Much of Earth's most productive, species-rich wild habitat is gone. People now influence more than 83% of Earth and it now takes 38% of Earth's ice-free surface to feed our 7 billion people—and two billion more are expected by 2050. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) states that 47,677 species are now at risk of extinction, including 12% of the birds, 21% of the mammals, 32% of the amphibians, and 27% of the reef-building corals.

Constantly hunted, the populations of most big predators are being sliced into fragments too small to be genetically and demographically viable. The results are loss of breeding populations, inbreeding and unbalanced sex ratios. In the early 1990s, only 20 to 25 inbred Florida panthers were left. They had heart defects, poor sperm quality, poor fecundity and some males with only one or no descended testes. The population was headed for extinction. But then, in 1995, eight female Texas panthers were introduced to Florida. By 2009, Texas-Florida offspring had replaced over half of the original inbred animals and were enjoying greater viability, fewer genetic abnormalities and, I love this, “were better able to climb trees when pursued by scientists.” In recent years, as many as 60 cubs were born. But only five of the eight Texas pumas bred and one contributed almost half the cubs—more inbreeding. We are all stuck with genetics. Unless Florida habitat has enough prey to carry a population of several hundred panthers and, perhaps, several populations, it is only a matter of time before they are in trouble again. Species preservation requires sustaining a number genetically and demographically large and diverse enough to survive.



USFWS

Bill Conway, Bronx Zoo Director

Virtually all populations of sizable wild animals restricted in reserves or diminished habitats will need some level of zoo-like curatorial care such as population management, scientific research and veterinary support. Sustaining wildlife in small reserves will require genetic and demographic exchanges and translocations. And clearly zoos must champion *parks* in every way they can, including providing political and financial insulation from those seeking to diminish their protections.

We can preserve some wildlife in the zoo that would otherwise be lost, but not those wonderful wildlife spectacles of social species whose stirring grandeur is often so far outside of the realm of human experience that it hardly seems real. They can only be saved in place. Zoos can breed wildebeest but not the Serengeti. Even under the most fortuitous of circumstances they cannot breed viable populations of many animals for very long. There has to be habitat for them. Large animals that compete with humans for food may persist solely in reserves. Outside such reserves, only a fauna compatible with human agriculture, manufacturing and dwelling space is likely to be tolerated. As nature shrinks, the future of wildlife will depend upon more and more acts of human compassion and interest.

I first hiked Patagonia's shores 51 years ago; has development left anything? Are there still whales, elephant seals and sea lions, guanacos, penguins, terns, albatrosses, rheas, condors, and cormorants in Patagonia? Yes, there are, *because of change*. The Wildlife Conservation Society's studies, its long-term presence, establishment of local staff and conservation organizations, have led to new wildlife laws, parks and collaborative policies. However, conservation is a muddy river. Without scientific monitoring of each 'natural' ecosystem, the answers we need to conserve wildlife will stay hidden. But we took those steps. Where

I counted 1,387 elephant seals in 1964 there are now 52,000. Where there was virtually no conservation, there is now a constituency of scientists, authors, politicians, students, and an awakening public.

During the next 50 years, the only hope for many wonderful and charismatic populations of wild animals will depend on stewardship, including park protection and zoo-based care. Zoos must help parks and conservationists to buy time for as much wildlife as they can, for as long as they can. And for what we do not save, there are only museums.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Field Trips

□ **Saturday, October 8, Ft. Pickens: Birding.** Merilu Rose will lead us to look for fall migrants along the Ft. Pickens portion of Santa Rosa Island in the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Bring insect repellent, beverage and a picnic lunch. Meet at 7:30 am in the sound side parking lot located at the entrance to Ft. Pickens. We plan to finish in early afternoon.

□ **Saturday, October 22, Ft. Morgan: Birding.** Peggy Baker will lead us to look for migrants along the upper Gulf Coast. Expect some moderate walking in sand. There will be a small entrance fee to the Fort. Bring a picnic lunch, drinks, and insect repellent. Meet at 7:30 am in the Big Lots parking lot located on the east side of Navy Blvd. south of Highway 98 in Warrington. We plan to return by mid-afternoon.

□ **Saturday, October 29, Mobile Botanical Gardens: Native Plants.** James Burkhalter will lead us through the Mobile Botanical Gardens, situated on 100 acres of land. The gardens are a blend of cultivated areas and natural habitats, including a fragrance and texture garden, fern glade, herb garden, a longleaf Pine habitat of 40 acres, as well as other gardens. Meet at 7:30 am in the Publix's parking lot located on the corner of Nine Mile Road and Pine Forest Road. We plan to finish by noon. Bring a picnic lunch to join James at the picnic tables in the gardens.

□ **Friday thru Sunday, November 25-27, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge: Birding.** Morris Clark will lead us on a long weekend birding trip to see a large variety of birds including wintering waterfowl, wading birds and Bald Eagles. We plan to arrive Friday in time to bird the afternoon and will finish Sunday around noon. A boat ride down the Wakulla River within the State Park will be included. Ten rooms are being held for us at the Best Western Wakulla Inn & Suites located on Highway 98 near Crawfordville until October 24th. To make your room reservations call 850-926-3737 ask for the FMW Audubon group rates (king at \$65 & double queens at \$75 plus tax). The group rates will be honored for late reservations if rooms are available. To sign up send a \$30 per participant contribution to FMW Audubon Society and call Morris Clark at 968-5498 and leave your name, telephone number and e-mail address or email him at morrisclark@cox.net. A detailed itinerary will be emailed in early November.

□ **Saturday, December 10, Urban Pensacola Winter: Birding.** Bob and Lucy Duncan will lead us to look for wintering birds at several good locations in and around the City of Pensacola. We plan to visit Project Greenshores, the new Admiral Mason Park pond, Long Hollow, and other areas as time permits. Meet at 7:30 am at the Visitors' Center at the north end of the Pensacola Bay Bridge. We plan to finish by noon.

Chapter Meetings

Pensacola State College, 7:00 pm, Main Campus, Baroco Science Center, Room 2142, unless otherwise noted. Guests are welcome! Invite a friend!

□ **Thursday, October 27—Ms. Marianne Korosy**, Audubon of Florida's Important Bird Area coordinator, will present a program entitled **"Flyways and Byways: Florida's Important Bird Area Program."** Florida has 100 designated IBAs that encompass a range of natural habitats within the Atlantic Flyway: forests, grasslands and shrublands, coastal beaches and tidal marshes, and migratory stopover habitats. Marianne has a master's degree in geology from FSU and is a PhD candidate in conservation.

□ **Thursday, December 8—"Celebrate the Season with Bird Photos"** The program will consist of a slide show of bird photos taken by various members of our Society. Members attending are requested to bring a snack or dessert.

Board of Directors Meetings

Monthly, Thursday, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1, 7 pm, Baskerville-Donovan Bldg., 449 West Main Street, Pensacola. Open to all members.

Other Events

□ **October 8-9, Short Birdwalks** will be led each day by FMWAS at the Munson Community Heritage Festival (9 am to 5 pm) at the Krul Lake Recreation Area on Hwy 4. See page 3.

□ **October 8-20, Hummer/Bird Study Group fall bird banding session** at Fort Morgan. Starts at dawn each day and usually ends about mid-afternoon.

□ **October 15, Roy Hyatt Environmental Center Open House**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

□ **December 17—Christmas Bird Count** To participate, contact Bill Bremser at 850-934-3395 or billbremser@gmail.com. See page 6.



Artists and Designers—We are looking for an artist to design the next T-Shirt for our chapter. If interested contact Sue Peters-Ferre at soupysue@mchsi.com or Dana Timmons at timmons.dana@gmail.com for guidelines.

From the President

Dana Timmons

The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been swarming our feeders every morning and evening. Chimney Swifts have been seen circling the old Hygeia Coca-Cola Plant on Palafox Street by the hundreds. So far, hurricane season brought us Tropical Storm Lee and hundreds of offshore specialty birds along our coast. Purple Martins and Swallow-tailed Kites have mostly left their northern nesting grounds to go to their winter homes in the tropics.

Fall is on top of us as the Audubon New Year begins, and we are looking for volunteers to meet the chapter's needs. In past years we have found some poor (victim) volunteers and dumped more weight on them than an ox team could pull. However, this year we are organizing leaders to take on small assignments. Audubon store leader, Sue Peters-Feree and Bird-A-Thon leader

Les Kelly are our newest recruits, each having talents that can be used to further our chapter's goals. Perhaps you are good at public speaking, making cookies, teaching a class, leading a bird walk. If you would like to volunteer please contact me at timmons.dana@gmail.com

Also, this year Florida Audubon has asked us to define areas in Northwest Florida which are important to birds. These can be places that are important to migrating or nesting birds. Florida Special Places are featured on the Audubon of Florida website and will help visitors find local birding areas. This special place can be a state park or local area that is important to you! Please call me with your ideas.

Gulf Islands National Seashore-Naval Live Oaks has always been a special place to me because of the

rich history that it brings to our doorstep. The magnificent Live Oaks that were once used as structural elements of the US Naval fleet have become a resting habitat for thousands of neo-tropical migrants as they venture to and from the tropics. Visitors come to this place for its rich history and may not understand how important this protected area is to our birds. During the spring, I spotted a Bobolink along the beach near the picnic area. I wondered about the trip he had just made and I was thankful he had found a place to rest and forage before he continued north. Tell us about your Special Place here in Florida.

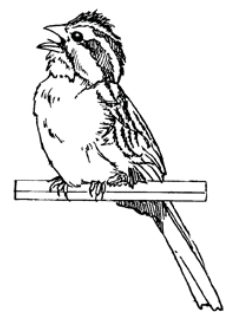
“Let’s Go Birding”

EDUCATION

Peggy Baker

One of the major goals of FMWAS is to promote an understanding and awareness of the wildlife in Northwest Florida. In an effort to enhance public awareness and appreciation for the animals that dwell in our varied habitats, the Education Committee has initiated a series of bird walks for anyone interested in the world of nature. We hope that our efforts will lead to the preservation of important bird habitat.

Our bird walks will focus on the beginning birder. An Audubon volunteer will be present at an established “birdy” location to help to identify local birds. The beginners will get instruction in the use of binoculars and spotting scopes, and be given pointers on identifying local birds in our backyards, parks and seashores. We want you to help us publicize these bird walks to anyone who might be interested in birdwatching. The walks will be about 2 hours duration. Bring your binoculars. If you don't have any, come anyway. Please call the leaders for further information.



October 8 and 9, 10:00 am and 2:00 pm —Peggy Baker (850-564-1482) will lead walks at the Munson Community Heritage Festival in search of local resident birds and fall migrants. Come to the Audubon table for the walks.

November 12, 8:00 am—Jim Brady (for details, call Peggy Baker-850-564-1482) will be at Project Greenshores on Bayfront Parkway in Pensacola to help ID the birds that can be seen on the rocks and in the vegetation there.

December 30, 8:00 am—Dana Timmons (850-934-4521) will be in the parking lot of Gulf Islands National Seashore, Naval Live Oaks, 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway to help find wintering birds.



Gone, I hope, are the dog days of August, that horrid windless month with high humidity, staggeringly hot temperatures and drought. Who wants to bird in that kind of weather? As I write this on the first day of September, a tropical system is churning in the Gulf, but it's pleasantly cool and thoughts of cold fronts entertain.

AUGUST ENNUI - Some intrepid souls did go out and find "good" birds. Opal Beach was a common destination for Brenda and Jerry Callaway and the Duncans. It's a long, hot mile in soft sand to the mudflats there, but it seldom disappoints. On 28 Aug, Brenda and Jerry found 6 **American Avocets** and three rare **Red Knots** and Brenda photographed a rare **Baird's Sandpiper*** the next day. The Duncans' trip there on 31 Aug yielded 14 species of shorebirds, including 52 **Western Sandpipers** and 26 **Semi-palmated Sandpipers**, plus 7 species of terns. Dave Sparks photographed a striking **Marbled Godwit** there 7 Sep.

AND THEN CAME LEE - What a way to end summer! A birder could not have planned a better weather situation than what Tropical Storm Lee produced. Without angst of hurricane winds and property damage or significant storm surge, birders went to Pensacola Beach to bird. No evacuations or road closings to the beach meant access normally unavailable during hurricanes gave birders salivating for pelagic species an exceptional opportunity. And *did it pay off!*

The morning of 4 Sep found 10 fanatic birders hunkered behind the elevated rest room at the entrance to Ft. Pickens with scopes at the ready. With SSE winds 25 - 30 mph in our faces, we got protection from the building and waited for things to happen between squalls. Before the morning was over, we tallied 2 **Sooty Terns***, 2 **Bridled Terns*** (one of which was a very obliging bird seen earlier at Quietwater Beach) and the area's 6th **Brown Noddies.***

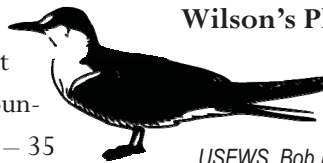
One would think we'd had enough pelting by blowing sand and horizontal rain, but the next morning found some of us back again for more punishment. This time the wind was south about 25 - 35 mph and the squalls had more punch. But a steady procession of **Sooty Terns*** flying east along the surf line and sometimes right over the restroom made it worthwhile. We tallied 179 Sooties in the course of 4 hours, a record

for our area (the previous record was 15). Thousands of Sooty Terns breed in the Dry Tortugas, the closest significant colony. A few have bred on the Chandeleur Is. from time to time. Caught up in strong SE winds, these birds went with the flow and wound up along the northern Gulf Coast. A few **Bridled Terns*** were also tallied on 5 Sep. Lucy Duncan relieved me and took the late morning shift. Along with the Callaways, she identified a **Masked Booby***, another tropical stray, as it flew by along with the 'sooties'.

Topping off the list of great tropical pelagic species, an exhausted **Audubon's Shearwater*** was found on 5 Sep and taken in to Wildlife Rescue of Northwest Florida for rehab. And the Gulf of Mexico's probable first **Black-capped Petrel*** was taken to Emerald Coast Wildlife Rescue in Ft. Walton Beach for rehab. There were multiple reports of **Magnificent Frigatebirds**.

ODDS & ENDS - A rare morph of the "Great White Heron", a "**Wurdeemann's**" **Heron***, turned up near the Duncans' home in Gulf Breeze on 2 Aug. Surveys of the birdlife of Taminco Sanctuary by Bruce Furlow, Les Kelly and Larry Goodman keep turning up interesting birds. Two **Tree Swallows** on 16 Aug were very early and four handsome **Lark Sparrows** on 29 Aug were a great find. James Pfeiffer had found another one at Ft. Pickens the previous day. Rare but regular in August, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher*** was found by me on an exposed perch near my Gulf Breeze home 24 Aug. It's the only reliable spot in the entire state where the species can be expected to turn up. On 27 Aug, Lucy and I spotted a **Dickcissel*** near our home. This species normally migrates to our west. An estimated 200 **Red-eyed Vireos** counted by the Callaways at Ft. Pickens on 2 Sep was an all-time high. While driving along Scenic Highway, Gordon Tetlow spotted a **Roseate Spoonbill*** 7 Sep; only the 10th area record.

A bright, mild Saturday morning 10 Sep found 11 birders joining us for the FMWAS field trip to Opal Beach where we found 18 species of shorebirds, including such rarities as **American Avocet**, **Marbled Godwit**, **Wilson's Phalarope** and 3 **Baird's Sandpipers**. A great morning topped with a **Peregrine Falcon** flyby made the walk well worth it.



USFWS, Bob Hines

** Species with asterisks require documentation for processing to become part of the ornithological record. The Skimmer welcomes reports of noteworthy birds. If you have something to report, please call Bob or Lucy Duncan at 932-4792.*

Even though my bachelor's degree was in biochemistry, my real love was biology. In graduate school, I took every field biology course available in part to get some fresh air after relentless chemistry labs, but most of all because I loved observing nature. When we got to the stage in life where we could afford some serious trips, I had a dream list. Three of the important tenets of biology are biomass, biodiversity, and evolutionary theory. I didn't even realize at the time that I was prioritizing based on biology, but it certainly turned out that way.

Biomass: When my husband Dan asked what my number one dream trip would be I immediately answered, "The plains of East Africa." We started planning and saving, and in January 1973, we joined a tour to Kenya and Tanzania. It was beyond our dreams. We had studied for a solid year and still were baffled at the number of species and the sheer number of individuals. The Serengeti Plains lived up to expectation and the scenery and birdlife called for exposure of 36 rolls of film. In 1983, we went on a shorter trip to Kenya, and even though the habitat was more fragmented, it was still a very special place.

Biodiversity: In 1982, we joined a tour to primitive camps along the Peruvian Amazon. By then, we were serious about birds, but there were no field guides to study.

We had to read about the birds and extrapolate from there. The term biodiversity was not in common use, but we knew it when we saw it. The biggest shock was the outrageous number of tree species. When you come from an area with monotypic stands of pines, a completely mixed forest is amazing. It also explains the huge numbers of insects and birds. All those plants need pollinators and seed distributors.

Evolutionary theory: Darwin's experience on the Galapagos Islands is the mother's milk of comparative evolution and the impetus for the development of modern biology. His study of the finch distribution on the islands and their anatomical differences set him to wondering why and that led to the theory of evolution. Having visited the Galapagos and looked at those finches tells me that he was one heck of an observer. Some of the differences were nuances and without Darwin, we might still be wondering.



Mangrove Finch by Lori Ulrich, Galapagos Conservancy

There are many other places that biologists salivate over, and so much more to learn.

BOOK REVIEW

I picked an old friend off the shelf recently, *Divorce Among the Gulls*, a short book, only 200 pages, by an entomologist with lessons long on wisdom for all of us. It was certainly worth reading again.

William Jordan uses a kind of reverse anthropomorphism, or rather he allows a variety of lower life forms to show us pathways for our own lives. Fruit bats in Australia teach us that communal living depends on finding the subtle balance between cooperation and independence; termites cooperate to build Manhattan Islands with skyscrapers nine times taller, proportionally, than the Empire State Building; Western Gulls on the Farallon Islands show us when marriage is solidly immutable, and when it's time to make a change; and medflies enlighten us concerning courting behavior as well as selecting partners who carry the genetic code for generational advancement, while cockroaches teach us the lesson of False Pride.

But most of all, Jordan's tales of animal wisdom bear on a simple, germinal theme: evolution; not the lofty, scientific deliberations of Darwin's sagacious followers, but his simple observations of how a Willet, on the beach at Dana Point, California has learned to adjust to the catastrophic changes thrust upon it by human intervention, and has thereby, of urgent necessity, constructed strategies for survival—not of a species over time, but of an individual in its own short lifetime: Evolution in the blink of an eye.

A word of caution: Any complacency about human superiority, evolution's integrity, or the illusions associated with human perceptions—about anything—is sorely tested in these tales, especially in *Cockroach Memoirs*. This is a book to read, and read again. (*Divorce Among the Gulls*, William Jordan; North Point Press, San Francisco, CA, 1991.)

Jere French

DID YOU KNOW?

If every American home replaced just one light with a light bulb that's earned the ENERGY STAR, we would save enough energy to light 3 million homes for a year, save about \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to those from about 800,000 cars.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy

BLACK BEARS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) called to tell us they were NOT going to issue 'trophy' hunting permits for Florida Black Bears. Jennifer Hobgood's Viewpoint piece in the Pensacola News Journal suggested that, and we had a notice in the last Skimmer suggesting members let FWC know how we felt. Dave Telesco of FWC said they received over 4000 calls and emails.

BIRD FRIENDLY

Support your chapter—buy your “Shade Grown” and “Bird Friendly” coffee from the web site

www.smallbatchroasters.com

For every order placed, 25% of the sales on regular priced items and 10% of sale priced items will be donated to our chapter. Make sure you list Francis M. Weston as your Audubon chapter on the check out page. Enjoy organic, environmentally friendly, shade grown coffee and help your chapter.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES FOR 2011-12

Please continue to support our Environmental Education program by sponsoring a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade classroom to receive a year's subscription to Audubon Adventures (4 sets of environmental newsletters.) With a \$50 contribution we can provide materials for one classroom or for one issue for

150 students who visit the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center.

Send whatever you can afford to our mailbox, noting it is for Audubon Adventures on your check. Please clip and enclose the following form. Many thanks.



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Sponsor's name _____ Sponsor's address _____ Amount enclosed _____

If you would like to send a set of Audubon Adventures materials to a specific teacher (3rd, 4th or 5th) please include:

Teacher's name _____ School name _____ School address _____

WHAZAT?

Itz-it! On the afternoon of the 4th day of a birding field trip, we arrived at our lodging in the Chiricahua Mountains in SE Arizona. We were excited for a chance to see “our most wanted bird.” All but three of us took off and hit the woods in search. Three of us elected for a little R&R in the swimming pool. As we relaxed floating in inner tubes, a bird landed on a wire. Seeing a creamsicle-colored orange belly, we grabbed our binos from poolside exclaiming Itz-it. We got it! At dinner, well rested and smiling we just had to tell our story—an Elegant Trogon. For the rest, they had to wait until the next day, when, yes, we all had wonderful looks at a pair coming and going from the nest. *Carol Ascherfeld*

Christmas Wreaths and Greenery Fundraiser

The fresh scent of pine, cedar, and fir can fill your home during the holiday season. For the second year, our chapter will offer wreaths and greenery for sale during the holidays. Contact any board member to place an order. Local sales will be delivered in early December, and sales to your out of town friends can be handled with direct delivery. Orders are due no later than November 8. The holiday greenery brochure and price lists are online at

<http://www.fmwaudubon.org/>

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

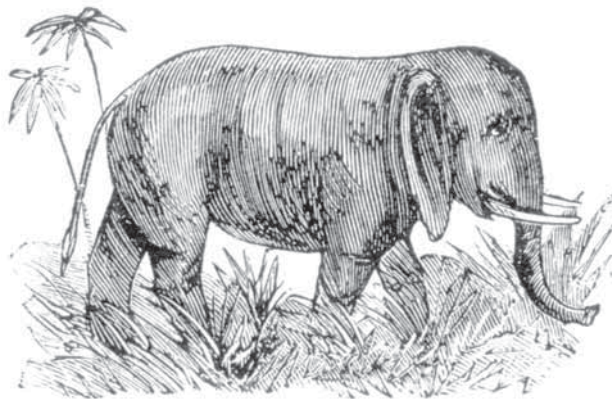
The Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held this year in Pensacola on Saturday, December 17. This year is the 112th CBC conducted by the Audubon Society, a tradition which was started in 1900. Every person wishing to help during the CBC is very welcome. Expertise level is not a criterion, the more eyes and ears we have the better the results. If interested contact Bill Bremser at 850-934-3395 or billbremser@gmail.com. Compilation will be at 6 p.m. at Bill and Greta Bremser's home in Gulf Breeze with food and refreshments for all volunteers. Hope to see you there.

Back in 1948 when Bill Conway and I were selling ice cream and dressing chimpanzees in silly costumes at the St. Louis Zoo, we didn't anticipate the huge changes in the wind that were soon going to transform American zoos from circus-like amusement grounds to conservatories of wildlife.

For us, during those first years following The War, zoos were all about lion tamers cracking whips, elephants standing awkwardly on their hind legs, and chimps driving little electric cars along the zoo's pathways. Circus you bet, but in that pre-television age of tainted innocence zoos could bring you exotic creatures that could make you hope one day to run off to equatorial Africa or Borneo, to bring 'em back alive—and sell 'em to a zoo.

Growing up in Webster Groves, Missouri, Conway chose his own career path early in life, and I still remember his bedroom lined with glass cases of lizards and snakes. At Washington University he studied biology, and it was there at the zoo that he got his introduction to an irresistible career—from which he has never looked back.

My college path took me in a different direction, but Conway stayed with Biology, and upon graduating he worked for various zoos before moving on to the Bronx Zoo in New York, where he eventually became director, remaining there for the next forty years. During his tenure he played a major part in changing the long-range goals of zoos in New York, and eventually everywhere, from entertainment venues to the havens of species preservation that they have become today. Now in retirement he continues efforts to redefine the goals of the American zoo through The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with the aim of safeguarding wildlife worldwide—and slowing the processes of extinction. For his many years of service Bill Conway was awarded the National Audubon Medal, in 1999.



Concerned, as many of us are, for the future of zoos as well as natural habitat, I asked him, “in protecting habitat, what should be the role of zoos?”

“Your question dips a toe into a hot stew of world change and scientific understanding. I believe that all zoos must be protective conservation organizations. The survival of wildlife is becoming the zoos' ultimate educational and conservation goal.”

But can the WCS, which he has guided for so many years, manage to slow the rate of extinction and loss of habitat? A recent issue of *Smithsonian* details the problems faced in just one area of Borneo's Tanjung Putting National Park, where the premier species, the orangutan, is on the verge of extinction—due to the encroachment of palm oil plantations, vital to the national economy.

So, how do organizations like WCS hope to overcome trenchant odds? For his part Conway offers the following summary for the future: **Zoos must** 1) coordinate all conservation efforts to avoid duplication of effort, 2) maintain endangered species breeding programs in-house, 3) manage scientific/medical staffs both in-house and in the field, 4) maintain an alliance with other conservation organizations, like the Crane Foundation, 5) educate the public to enlist their support in conservation policies nationwide, and 6) zoos must take an active role in worldwide wildlife habitat restoration.

Zoos can save endangered specimens—the odd Sumatran Tiger or Malaysian Orangutan—but saving an entire species *in situ* will require considerably more effort, planning, and international cooperation than we've seen to date. Here at home we are hard pressed to sustain our local zoo, let alone save the orangutan.

The future for wildlife is daunting, as Conway has clearly described on our front page (*for the full text email jerefrench@bellsouth.net*). Do we have the willingness to meet the challenge?

Francis M. Weston Audubon Society
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Oct. 27—7:00 p.m.
 Chapter Meeting

**FLORIDA
 IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS**

*See page 2 for details of
 meetings, field trips and
 other events.*



about 25% postconsumer waste

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The National Audubon Society occasionally makes its membership list available to carefully selected organizations whose mailings you might find of interest. To have your name omitted from this list, please check here.