

ENLISTING THE SUPPORT OF THE TEXAS BIRDING COMMUNITY
INTO THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROCESS, WITH COMPARISONS
TO TEXAS WATERFOWL HUNTERS

A Thesis

by

JASON ANDREW LEIFESTER

Submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies of
Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

August 1994

Major Subject: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences

ENLISTING THE SUPPORT OF THE TEXAS BIRDING COMMUNITY
INTO THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROCESS, WITH COMPARISONS
TO TEXAS WATERFOWL HUNTERS

A Thesis

by


JASON ANDREW LEIFESTER

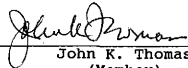
Submitted to Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

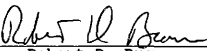
MASTER OF SCIENCE

Approved as to style and content by:


Clark E. Adams
(Chair of Committee)


Keith A. Arnold
(Member)


John K. Thomas
(Member)


Robert D. Brown
(Head of Department)

August 1994

Major Subject: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences

ABSTRACT

Enlisting the Support of the Texas Birding Community
Into the Wildlife Management Process, With Comparisons
to Texas Waterfowl Hunters. (August 1994)

Jason Andrew Leifester, B.S., Texas A&M University
Chair of Advisory Committee: Dr. Clark E. Adams

Previous studies of wildlife users in Texas have concentrated on consumptive users -- hunters and anglers. This thesis examines a prominent nonconsumptive user group: birders. Hunting, the major source of funding for wildlife programs in Texas, is declining in the United States, while birding is increasing. In this study, Texas birders and waterfowl hunters were compared using mail-out surveys with questions addressing commitment (participation, expenditures, social relations), attitudes on state agency wildlife management practices, and demographic and socioeconomic variables. Statistical analyses (general linear models and Chi-square tests) showed that birders are highly committed to their pastime, spending more time in the field and much more money on their hobby than the waterfowl hunters. Birders tended to feel that the State concentrates wildlife management practices too heavily on hunters and game species, while ignoring their concerns. Both groups opposed involuntary means of gathering nongame funds from the public. Birders and waterfowl hunters were

highly educated, wealthy, and white, while birders were much older on the average. These results suggested that birders should be integrated into the wildlife management process in Texas, and that particular attention needs to be given to recruiting young birders and minorities. A follow-up study of casual birdwatchers in Texas, who outnumber the avid birders of this study, was recommended.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents, Winston and Jeneva Leifester. They have been a constant source of encouragement to me throughout my education, from grade school to graduate school. Educators themselves, they have taught me to love the pursuit of knowledge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Clark E. Adams, my committee chairman. He was always available to help me with problems I encountered in my research. However, he also encouraged me to work independently, and was patient when things went slowly.

I also appreciate the support and advice of the other members of my committee. Drs. Keith A. Arnold and John K. Thomas provided unique and helpful views. Dr. Arnold departed from the familiar confines of ornithology to provide his insight. Dr. Thomas once again accepted one of Dr. Adams' students with his customary grace and charm.

This project could not have been completed without the support of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Nongame and Urban Wildlife Program and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. I also appreciate Ducks Unlimited's timely response to my request for their Texas membership list.

I would like to thank Kay Cook, MacAlister Maxwell, and Sara Maynard for their help in preparing the mailouts and for keeping the office atmosphere entertaining. I appreciate Nita Leifester for her help and for answering "Yes" to the most important of questions. Finally, I am grateful to Mike Brown for helping develop the survey covers and Jerry Cooke for his assistance in the analyses.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT.....	iii
DEDICATION.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vii
LIST OF TABLES.....	ix
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION.....	1
II LITERATURE REVIEW.....	3
Hypotheses.....	8
III METHODS.....	11
Study Design.....	11
Pretest.....	11
Survey.....	11
Data Collection.....	13
Response Rates.....	13
Nonresponse Follow-up.....	14
Data Analyses and Statistical Tests.....	16
Limitations.....	16
IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	19
Descriptive Results.....	19
Demographics.....	19
Birding/Waterfowl Hunting Activity....	28
Birding/Waterfowl Hunting Companions.....	35
Reasons for Birding/Waterfowl Hunting.....	43
Factors Preventing Birding/Waterfowl Hunting.....	45
Expenditures and Organizational Memberships.....	49
Beliefs About Statements on Hunting and Management.....	53

CHAPTER		Page
	Beliefs About Suggested Nongame Funding Sources.....	60
	Hypotheses Tests - Results.....	66
V	CONCLUSION.....	88
	Management Implications.....	90
	Future Research.....	91
	LITERATURE CITED.....	93
APPENDIX A	QUESTIONNAIRES.....	98
APPENDIX B	WATERFOWL HUNTERS: NONRESPONSE TELEPHONE SURVEY.....	113
APPENDIX C	BIRDERS' COMMENTS ON THE BIRDING SPARK.....	117
APPENDIX D	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: BIRDERS.....	156
APPENDIX E	HUNTERS' COMMENTS ON THE HUNTING SPARK.....	187
APPENDIX F	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: HUNTERS.....	209
APPENDIX G	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: NON-WATERFOWL HUNTING DUCKS UNLIMITED MEMBERS.....	230
	VITA.....	237

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	Page
1 Demographic characteristics of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) in 1993.....	20
2 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by childhood residence categories.....	22
3 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by current residence categories.....	23
4 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by highest education level completed.....	24
5 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by family income categories.....	26
6 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=698), waterfowl hunters (n=501), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=181) in 1993 by occupation.....	27
7 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by method of deriving income....	27
8 Days, trips, and miles birding/waterfowl hunting in Texas and out-of-state over the year preceding the survey, from a sample of Texas birders (n=680) and waterfowl hunters (n=460) in 1993.....	29

TABLE	Page
9 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=504) in 1993 who indicated having been birding/waterfowl hunting by month over the year preceding the survey.....	31
10 Number of trips taken to various Texas areas by a sample of Texas birders (n=613) and waterfowl hunters (n=420) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.....	32
11 Number of trips taken to various Texas habitats by a sample of Texas birders (n=613) and waterfowl hunters (n=420) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.....	33
12 Other states and countries most often visited by a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.....	36
13 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 by other family members who go birding/waterfowl hunting.....	37
14 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 by who introduced them to birding/waterfowl hunting.....	38
15 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 by who they introduced to birding/waterfowl hunting.....	40
16 Birding partners at selected ages in the lives of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) in 1993.....	41
17 Waterfowl hunting partners at selected ages in the lives of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993.....	42
18 Mean responses of a sample of Texas birders (n=718) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 given to reasons for going birding/waterfowl hunting.....	44

TABLE	Page
19 Mean response of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) given to factors that prevented them from birding/ waterfowl hunting more often in Texas in 1993...	46
20 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=578) in 1993 by factors that prevented them from birding more often in Texas.....	47
21 Percentage of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=426) in 1993 by factors that prevented them from hunting more often in Texas.....	48
22 Estimated expenditures of a sample of Texas birders (n=703) and waterfowl hunters (n=515) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.....	50
23 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by purchases of Conservation Passports over the year preceding the survey....	52
24 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) in 1993 by purchases of hunting licenses or duck stamps for conservation purposes over the year preceding the survey.....	52
25 Conservation, birding, and hunting organization memberships of a sample of Texas birders (n=717), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=180) in 1993.....	54
26 Mean responses concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) in 1993.....	55
27 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718) concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management in 1993.....	56
28 Percentage of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=518) concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management in 1993....	57

TABLE	Page
29 Percentage of a sample of non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management in 1993.....	58
30 Mean responses concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management from a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) in 1993.....	61
31 Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718) concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management in 1993.....	62
32 Percentage of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=518) concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management in 1993.....	63
33 Percentage of a sample of non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management in 1993.....	64
34 Results of Chi-square analysis comparing family incomes of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.....	67
35 Results of Chi-square analysis comparing education levels of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.....	67
36 Results of a general linear model comparing years of experience birding/waterfowl hunting of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.....	69
37 Results of a general linear model comparing the ages of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.....	69

TABLE	Page
38 Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by days, trips, and miles spent birding/waterfowl hunting in Texas and out-of-state.....	71
39 Results of Chi-square analysis comparing months during which a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 took at least 1 birding/waterfowl hunting trip.....	72
40 Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by number of memberships in conservation, birding, and hunting organizations.....	73
41 Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by expenditures.....	74
42 Results of Chi-square analysis comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by other family members who go birding/waterfowl hunting.....	77
43 Results of Chi-square analysis comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by who introduced them to birding/waterfowl hunting.....	78
44 Results of Chi-square analysis comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by who they introduced to birding/waterfowl hunting.....	80
45 Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by opinions on statements about hunting and management.....	82
46 Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by opinions on statements about proposed means to get funds for nongame wildlife management.....	86

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Users of wildlife resources have often been divided into nonconsumptive and consumptive groups. Nonconsumptive wildlife users are those who do not directly remove the wildlife from the environment. Consumptive users are represented by hunters and anglers. Members of both groups have reason to support the conservation of wildlife resources, but the roles they play concerning wildlife conservation differ in both real and perceptual ways.

Consumptive users of wildlife, represented in this study by active waterfowl hunters, support the conservation of wildlife resources through their purchases of hunting licenses and equipment, as well as by sales taxes on hunting supplies. Nonconsumptive users, represented by avid recreational birders in this study, do not support wildlife resources in these ways, and are often viewed by consumptive users as receiving a "free ride". However, nonconsumptive users do provide support through memberships in conservation and environmental organizations and by other means.

Participation in hunting in Texas is declining (Texas

This thesis follows the style of The Wildlife Society Bulletin.

Parks and Wildlife Department 1990), while the numbers of nonconsumptive users, birders in particular, are increasing in the State and nationwide (McMath 1989). This trend is a reasonable source of concern for government agencies responsible for the management of wildlife (e.g., the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)), and has prompted wildlife agencies to seek a broader base of public support for their management practices (Lyons 1982).

In this study, consumptive and nonconsumptive wildlife users in Texas were characterized through a statewide survey of waterfowl hunters and birders. Study objectives were to:

1. assess users' levels of commitment to sustaining wildlife resources;
2. investigate differences and similarities in users' attitudes concerning agency (TPWD) wildlife management practices;
3. examine users' levels of awareness of and opinions on methods that have been attempted in Texas and elsewhere to increase support for wildlife management among nonconsumptive users.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The importance of social science information in the management of wildlife is finally being accepted by the traditional wildlife management community (Witter and Sheriff 1983; Alward et al. 1984). Government agencies in charge of managing wildlife resources now recognize that decisions cannot be based solely on biology (Langenau 1984). Human interests and activities must also be considered.

Hunters and birders are convenient groups for study for several reasons. The importance of hunting in Texas is well-known, and a wealth of information has been gathered about hunter activities and attitudes (Thomas and Adams 1982; Adams and Thomas 1983; Thomas et al. 1984; Dowd 1993). Furthermore, 45% of the TPWD's budget comes directly from licenses and fees charged to consumptive users (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 1990). Less well-known is the importance of birding in Texas. Texas boasts the greatest number of bird species of any state in the nation, including many that can only be seen here (Kutac 1989). This diverse and unique avifauna encourages not only a large population of resident birders, but also attracts visitors from other states and countries.

The large numbers of birders, their organization (e.g., birding clubs) and their expenditures make them a worthwhile group to study. In a general survey of the U.S. public, Kellert (1985) found that a quarter of the respondents reported that they had participated in birdwatching. When he narrowed his definition of "birdwatcher" to individuals who could identify numerous species ("committed birdwatchers"), only 3% qualified. Although absolute numbers are difficult to determine (depending largely on the definition of "birdwatcher" one uses), birdwatching has been recognized as the second fastest-growing pastime in the country to outdoor gardening (McMath 1989). This growth in birding has also been reflected in the change of organizational membership. Many birders, particularly active recreational participants, join organizations that promote their interests. The American Birding Association (ABA) has experienced almost a doubling of its membership, to over 10,500 nationwide, in the last 2 years (Stevenson, Development Director, ABA, pers. commun.).

The expenditures of birders have also been examined. In a nationwide study, Wiedner and Kerlinger (1990) found that active birders had an average annual income of between \$25,000 and \$35,000, and that they spent an average of over \$1,800 per year on their hobby. A study of ABA members found an average yearly income of \$50,520 for its members,

and expenditures in excess of \$3,300 per year (Wauer 1991). Birders can also have a tremendous economic impact near "hot spots", those areas that host an unusually diverse, concentrated, or unique bird community. For example, studies at Point Pelee National Park, Canada, have shown that birders spend almost \$4 million in local communities during the month of May alone (Dodge 1988; Hvenegaard et al. 1989). Famous hot spots are also found in Texas, including High Island, the Rockport area, and the lower Rio Grande Valley. A survey conducted at High Island during spring migration (April and May) in 1992 estimated that birders spent over \$2.5 million there during that brief period (Eubanks et al. 1993).

A final reason for selecting birders for the purposes of this study is the similarity between hunting and birding. For example, habitat damage and disturbance of wildlife often occur due to the actions of large numbers of birders in pursuit of a new or rare species (Wilkes 1977; Boyle and Samson 1985). These activities bear resemblance to consumptive use of wildlife in their overall effect on habitats.

Other actions of recreational birders are much like hunters. Birders stalk their quarry. Many birders also keep lists of the species they have identified. When new birds are seen, they are added to the birders' lists, becoming trophies that have been collected, although not

killed. In a study of the satisfaction levels of birders, Applegate and Clark (1987) found that although birders generally reported higher levels of satisfaction following a trip than did hunters, the most knowledgeable birders reported lower levels of satisfaction. They, like hunters, had very specific goals, which were less likely to be fulfilled than those of the "average" birder, who is content to see any bird species.

Witter and Shaw (1979) compared the beliefs of birders, hunters, and wildlife professionals concerning wildlife management. They found general agreement on such subjects as wildlife values and the role of sport hunting in wildlife management. However, they noted that birders were dissatisfied with the lack of attention given to nongame species by government agencies. Rather, birders felt that funds and management centered around game species. As they perceived that their interests were not being met, few birders gave monetary support to the government wildlife agencies. Instead, birders tended to join multiple conservation organizations. Over 90% belonged to at least 3 such organizations, while more than one-half were members of at least 5 organizations. In comparison, only 6% of the hunters surveyed belonged to at least 3 conservation organizations. Thus, while the birders in the study conducted by Witter and Shaw (1979) did not disapprove of agency actions, they did not view

their interests as being represented. Consequently, they gave their financial support elsewhere. Considerable potential exists for cooperation between government wildlife agencies and birders (and nonconsumptive wildlife users in general), who have been neglected as a source of agency support in Texas.

The idea of increasing support from nonconsumptive users for wildlife management (as administrated by the agencies) has been approached in different ways. Some states have taken a general approach, such as including a voluntary tax checkoff on the state income tax form (Manfredo and Haight 1986; Moss et al. 1986). However, Texas has no state income tax. Other states have implemented increases in state sales taxes for this purpose (Shaw and King 1980).

The problem with taxation methods is that they fail to specifically identify and target the nonconsumptive user. For example, birders are not limited by season. They can practice their sport virtually anywhere, and they have no required license. Not surprisingly, birders tend to express doubt about proposals for taxes on birdwatching equipment or supplies, while favoring continued measures on hunters (Kellert 1985).

The state of Texas has recently implemented the Conservation Passport program, which has targeted nonconsumptive users. Once purchased, the Passport allows

a holder to enter state lands (for day use) free of additional charges. However, a limited marketing effort and accessibility may limit program success with birders. Many of the birding hot spots in Texas are located in state parks (Kutac 1989), which could provide needed motivation for Texas birders to participate in such a program.

In summary, government wildlife agencies have recognized the need for social science data in effective decision-making. Data currently indicate that the types and numbers of wildlife-user groups are changing. Participation in hunting is declining, while nonconsumptive use, such as birdwatching, is rapidly increasing (Adams and Thomas 1989). Therefore, it may be necessary for the wildlife resource agencies to examine strategies that effectively broaden their clientele. This goal has not been achieved to its full potential.

Hypotheses

H1: Texas hunters are more socioeconomically diverse than birders.

Previous studies indicate that birders tend to be a very highly educated and have a high mean income (Witter and Shaw 1979; Weidner and Kerlinger 1990; Wauer 1991). More birders would be expected to hold professional jobs than do hunters. Although a recent survey of all types of

Texas hunters appears to indicate substantial differences between hunters and the expected characteristics of birders (Adams et al. 1993), the more specialized subset of waterfowl hunters may be more socioeconomically similar to birders (Witter and Shaw 1979).

H2: Texas birders are as highly committed to their pastime, and consequently, to the sustainability of wildlife resources, as are hunters.

Commitment is divided into 3 components: consistent or focused behavior, side bets, and degree of affective attachment (Buchanan 1985; Ditton et al. 1992). Consistent behavior indicates the activity has taken a primary role in the participant's activities, while other activities are secondary or rejected. Consistent behavior can be measured by such indicators as amount of past experience or frequency and duration of participation in an activity.

Side bets occur when things of value, such as financial or emotional resources, are invested in an activity. These may be measured through organizational memberships or money invested in equipment or travel.

Affective attachment to the goals and values of an activity is a continuum of behavior ranging from simple continuance to "control", dedication to the norms and values of a social network. Affective attachment includes such measures as status in an organization and the number of social relations formed through participation in an

activity.

High levels of commitment to wildlife resources have been demonstrated among birders. For example, birders tend to spend much money on their hobby (Wiedner and Kerlinger 1990; Wauer 1991), and they join many conservation organizations (Witter and Shaw 1979). In addition to the side bets aspect of commitment, consistency of behavior, indicated by the number of days afield per year, has been investigated (Wiedner and Kerlinger 1990). These examples suggest that birders are likely to be highly committed to the protection of the wildlife resources that their hobby relies upon.

H3: Texas birders, as do hunters, favor many agency management programs, and would be willing to support agency efforts representing birders' interests.

Witter and Shaw (1979) demonstrated that birders tend to be attitudinally similar to hunters on such subjects as the role of hunting in wildlife management. If the TPWD made a more aggressive and visible attempt to promote the management of nongame species and the habitat they depend upon, nonconsumptive wildlife enthusiasts may improve their monetary support of the TPWD. However, the TPWD has yet to develop a workable method of obtaining the additional support it desires.

CHAPTER III

METHODS

Study Design

The data for this study were gathered via a mail survey, based on a modified version of Dillman's (1978) Total Design Method. This proved to be more cost-effective and inclusive of respondent groups than other methods considered, such as on-site interviews.

Pretest

A pretest was performed to clarify the survey's questions. Students within the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department and employees at the TPWD who actively bird or hunt waterfowl were given rough drafts of the survey. They were then asked to make critical comments on questionnaire. Some problematic questions were then altered.

Survey

The names of 978 Texas birders were obtained from the membership lists of the ABA and the Texas Ornithological

Society. The ABA was chosen as the primary source of birders for 2 basic reasons. This organization caters to active recreational birders who are most likely to be spending much time in the field as well as much money on their hobby (Wauer 1991). Also, Witter and Shaw (1979) targeted ABA members in their earlier study.

For the waterfowl hunters, Ducks Unlimited (DU) provided a random list of 1,300 Texas members (N=23,000). DU members were chosen for several reasons. For consistency, the choice of waterfowl hunters who were members of an organization was desirable since the birders' names were chosen from such groups. Witter and Shaw (1979) also looked at DU members in their study. Finally, Bryan (1979) indicated that duck hunters are at the upper end of the hunting specialization continuum, which would correspond to the active birders targeted in this study.

Members of both groups of potential respondents were each sent a copy of the 7 page, 32 question survey. Two versions of the survey were made, 1 for birders and 1 for waterfowl hunters (Appendices A and B). Each question corresponded to an identical or analogous question in the other survey.

The survey covered several subjects, each with multiple questions. Identification of respondents' commitment included questions on participation, expenditures, and social relationships. Several sets of

questions examined beliefs and attitudes about hunting, agency wildlife management practices, and possible means of increasing support for nongame wildlife. Finally, a variety of questions on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics were included.

Data Collection

On 16 September 1993, a package including the questionnaire (with cover letter) and a postage-paid reply envelope was mailed to all potential respondents. On 30 September 1993, a combination reminder/thank you postcard was sent to everyone. Finally, on 14 October 1993, a package like the first one, with an additional explanatory note, was mailed to those who had not yet replied. Returned questionnaires were accepted for analysis until 4 January 1994.

Response Rates

Of the 978 questionnaires mailed to the birders, 702 were returned, giving a raw response rate of 71.8%. Fifty-five (5.6%) were returned as undeliverable (typically a result of no forwarding address available) or because the person was not a birder or had died (12 cases). When these were removed from consideration, the effective response

rate for the birders was 76.1% (and the actual sampling error was $\pm 1.6\%$).

Of the 1,300 surveys mailed to the DU members, 726 were returned, for a raw response rate of 55.8%. This group had 32 (2.5%) questionnaires returned as undeliverable or for other reasons (only 1 was deceased). This taken into account produced an effective response rate of 57.3% (and the actual sampling error was $\pm 3.5\%$).

Nonresponse Follow-up

In April 1994, nonrespondents from the DU mailing list were contacted by telephone to determine nonresponse bias. (Birders were not contacted due to the high response rate for the group.) Thirty members of DU (a sampling error of $\pm 17.4\%$) were called and asked a brief version of the survey, including questions about days/trips waterfowl hunting in Texas and out-of-state, reasons for and factors preventing waterfowl hunting, age, sex, and current residence (Appendix B).

The nonrespondents were expected not to be waterfowl hunters. As the questionnaire cover read "1993 Survey of Waterfowl Hunters", non-waterfowl hunting DU members may have discarded it, thinking it did not apply to them, despite the fact that the cover letter asked them to answer a smaller set of the questions. The nonresponse telephone

survey backed this assumption. Of the respondents who returned surveys, 71% were waterfowl hunters. In the nonrespondent group only 33% were waterfowl hunters.

The small number of nonrespondents who were waterfowl hunters (10) precluded statistical comparison, but a visual inspection suggested a possible trend. The nonrespondents hunted waterfowl for fewer days on average in Texas over the preceding year than did the respondents (3.7 and 11.9 days, respectively) and took less waterfowl-hunting trips in Texas (2.3 and 9.7 trips, respectively). Also, none of the nonrespondents had hunted out-of-state. These data indicated that the few nonrespondents who did hunt waterfowl were not as active as the respondents.

Nonrespondent waterfowl hunters were also asked open-ended questions on the primary reason they go waterfowl hunting and the factors that prevent them from waterfowl hunting as much as they would like in Texas. The 2 most common responses to the first of these questions were "to be close to nature" and "personal challenge". These were also among the top 3 reasons cited by the respondents. When asked for factors preventing waterfowl hunting, the nonrespondents cited "not enough time due to work", "not enough time due to family commitments", and "not enough money" most frequently. The first 2 of these were also the top reasons given by the respondents.

Age, sex, and size of current residence were

determined for all nonrespondents. The average age was 46, which was also the average age for non-waterfowl hunting DU members who responded to the survey. The nonrespondents were 90% male, compared to over 96% male for the respondents. The bulk (> 60%) of both respondents and nonrespondents lived in towns of 10,000 to 49,999, 50,000 to 250,000, or cities of over 1,000,000.

Overall, the nonrespondents seemed to be primarily non-waterfowl hunters. The ones who did hunt were less active, but hunted for the same reasons and were prevented from hunting by the same factors.

Data Analyses and Statistical Tests

Data analyses included simple frequency distributions and other descriptive statistics. Additionally, Chi-square tests and general linear models (SAS Inst. Inc. 1985:433-506) were performed to determine significant ($P \leq 0.05$) differences between birders and waterfowl hunters on selected questions.

Limitations

Several limitations became apparent upon receipt of the surveys from the respondents. Recall bias was one such limitation. In an effort to limit this, most questions

directed the respondents to only consider the year immediately preceding their reception of the survey. However, the survey was mailed out just before the 1993 waterfowl hunting season was to begin. Thus, almost a year had passed since the hunters had last been in the field. Some of the birders, not limited by seasons, indicated difficulty remembering every trip they took or dollar spent birding.

Another limitation was the misinterpretation of questions, which occurred despite the use of the pretest (and the recycling of many of the questions from previous surveys). Several questions seemed particularly prone to this problem (Appendix A), and are discussed below.

A series of questions were about "trips" taken by respondents. A trip was explicitly defined as an "outing at least one mile from home for the specific purpose of going birding" (or "duck/goose hunting"). In some cases, however, the birders in particular may be guilty of overestimating their trips by including backyard birding or incidental observations while driving.

Another problem involved a question asking respondents to list how often they had gone birding or waterfowl hunting with other people at various stages in their (the respondents') lives. A small but noticeable number mentioned going with their sons or daughters when they were less than 18. Unless these respondents started their

families at very young ages, they misread the question, believing it was asking who they went with at various stages in their partners' lives.

Finally, one potential problem that was anticipated involved using the DU membership list to target waterfowl hunters. Many people join for conservation purposes, and do not hunt. DU indicated that about 60% of their members were waterfowl hunters; therefore, we chose a correspondingly larger sample size to reach a sufficient number of hunters.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the responses to the questionnaires are summarized, providing a qualitative analysis of how the birders and waterfowl hunters responded to questionnaire items. Additionally, a large number of non-waterfowl hunting members of DU returned their surveys. They answered an abbreviated set of questions, and their results are also presented. Where relevant, comparative notes to earlier studies are included. The results of the hypotheses tests comparing birders and waterfowl hunters are also given.

Descriptive Results

Demographics

Birders had a mean age of 56 (Table 1). Over 32% of the birders were over 65 years of age. The mean age for waterfowl hunters was 41, with 6% over the age of 65. Non-waterfowl hunting members of DU averaged 46 years of age, with 11% over the age of 65.

The groups were not racially diverse; 99.0% of the birders, 98.6% of the waterfowl hunters, and 96.8% of the non-waterfowl hunting members of DU were white. There were no black respondents in any group among the handful of

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) in 1993.

Characteristic	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
Sex (%)			
Male	55.8	99.8	96.8
Female	44.2	0.2	3.2
Ethnic/Racial Background (%)			
White	99.0	98.6	96.8
Black	-	-	-
Asian	0.1	-	-
Hispanic	0.6	0.8	2.1
Other	0.3	0.6	1.1
Age (mean in years)	56	41	46

racial/ethnic minorities.

Males made up the majority of DU respondents, including 99.8% of the waterfowl hunters and 96.8% of the non-waterfowl hunting members of DU. The birders were much more evenly distributed with respect to gender, with males making up 56% of the respondents.

The different groups show similar patterns in childhood and current residences (Tables 2 and 3). As expected, more of each group live in larger urban areas now than when they were children. Currently, 47% of the birders, 35% of the waterfowl hunters, and 24% of the non-waterfowl hunting DU members live in cities of 250,000 or larger, compared to 23%, 27%, and 19%, respectively, as children.

All groups had high levels of completed education (Table 4). Only 6% of the birders, 7% of the waterfowl hunters, and 10% of the non-waterfowl hunting DU members had a high school education or less. Over 74% of the birders had at least a bachelor's degree, with 39% having completed a post baccalaureate degree. Almost 61% of the waterfowl hunters had completed at least a bachelor's degree, with 22% having a post baccalaureate degree. Of non-waterfowl hunting members of DU, 62% had at least a bachelor's degree, with 20% having a higher degree.

Most of the waterfowl hunters (70%) and the non-waterfowl hunting DU members (67%) had total family incomes

Table 2. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by childhood residence categories.

Residence Category	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
Farm/Ranch	12.8	13.1	17.6
Rural Area	8.4	8.6	11.2
Town < 2,500	7.9	4.3	7.5
Town 2,500-9,999	11.2	9.2	10.7
Town 10,000-49,999	18.4	20.9	16.0
City 50,000-249,999	18.0	16.6	17.6
City 250,000-499,999	9.5	5.3	6.4
City 500,000-999,999	6.7	6.8	5.3
City > 1,000,000	7.1	15.2	7.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by current residence categories.^a

Residence Category	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
Farm/Ranch	5.7	5.9	9.1
Rural Area	9.9	11.1	9.6
Town < 2,500	2.9	3.3	3.2
Town 2,500-9,999	5.9	6.1	7.0
Town 10,000-49,999	12.4	18.9	22.5
City 50,000-249,999	16.6	19.5	25.1
City 250,000-499,999	13.2	3.7	4.8
City 500,000-999,999	9.8	5.7	3.2
City > 1,000,000	23.6	25.8	15.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

^a Mean length of time (in years) lived in Texas: birders = 35.3, waterfowl hunters = 31.9, non-waterfowl hunters = 36.3.

Table 4. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by highest education level completed.

Education Level	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
None	1.7	-	-
Less than high school	0.3	0.8	1.1
High school graduate	4.3	6.1	8.6
Military/Trade	1.1	1.6	1.6
Some college	14.5	23.8	22.5
Associate degree	3.8	7.0	4.8
Bachelor's degree	35.8	38.5	41.7
Master's degree	21.3	9.8	8.6
Ph.D	9.1	0.6	0.5
Professional	8.1	11.7	10.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

over \$50,000, while only 53% of the birders had family incomes over this amount (Table 5). Over 17% of the duck hunters and non-waterfowl hunting DU members had family incomes over \$130,000, compared to 12% of the birders.

The Nam-Powers Occupational Status Score was used to classify the respondents' reported occupations. The largest percentage of each group had managerial/professional occupations (Table 6). This category included 41% of the birders, 46% of the waterfowl hunters, and 45% of the non-waterfowl hunting members of DU. The greatest difference was in the number of retired individuals. Almost 36% of the birders were retired, compared to 6% and 11% of the waterfowl hunters and non-waterfowl hunting DU members, respectively. This corresponds to the reported method of deriving income, in which 38% of the birders reported receiving retirement income, in contrast to 7% of waterfowl hunters and 13% of non-waterfowl hunting DU members (Table 7).

Wauer (1991) performed a nationwide study of ABA members in 1989 and listed some results from a similar 1975 study. The most noticeable difference was in age. In 1975, the ABA birders had an average age of 38; in 1989, they averaged 51 years of age. Witter and Shaw (1979) looked at ABA and DU members nationwide. Their birders had an average age of 49. These results, along with the average age of 56 for birders in this study, indicated an

Table 5. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by family income categories.

Income Category (in dollars)	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
< 10,000	9.5	1.2	3.2
10,000 - 19,999	4.5	2.5	3.7
20,000 - 29,999	8.6	7.8	8.0
30,000 - 39,999	11.9	9.2	6.4
40,000 - 49,999	12.3	9.2	11.2
50,000 - 59,999	8.6	11.7	11.2
60,000 - 69,999	9.9	10.5	10.7
70,000 - 79,999	7.3	9.4	8.0
80,000 - 89,999	5.4	5.7	7.0
90,000 - 99,999	3.1	4.7	4.3
100,000 - 109,999	3.9	4.7	4.8
110,000 - 119,999	1.5	3.5	2.7
120,000 - 129,999	2.0	2.3	1.6
> 130,000	11.6	17.6	17.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=698), waterfowl hunters (n=501), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=181) in 1993 by occupation.

Occupational Category	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
Managerial/Professional	40.8	45.5	44.8
Technical/Sales/Support	8.9	27.7	21.5
Service	0.3	1.8	4.4
Farming/Forestry	1.1	1.8	4.4
Production/Crafts/Repair	0.9	7.4	6.6
Operators/Laborers	1.0	4.2	2.8
Students	2.6	5.6	3.9
Housewives	7.7	-	0.6
Unemployed	0.9	0.4	-
Retired	35.8	5.6	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 7. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=488), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by method of deriving income.*

Payment Method	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
Hourly wages	8.5	15.4	14.4
Salary	36.5	45.2	42.8
Commission	2.1	13.5	10.2
Self-employed	16.2	29.3	27.8
Retirement income	38.1	6.6	12.8

* Multiple responses possible.

aging trend for birders.

The birders in this study were more evenly divided with respect to gender than in earlier studies (Witter and Shaw 1979; Wauer 1991), which were typically about 75% male. Wauer (1991) reported similarly high levels of education and income.

The waterfowl hunters were similar to those in earlier studies (Witter and Shaw 1979; Dowd 1993) with respect to age, sex, and race. However, they differed in several other categories from Dowd's (1993) general survey of Texas hunters. The waterfowl hunters were better educated, held more managerial/professional jobs, and made more money. More of them also tended to live in urban areas during their childhoods and currently.

Birding/Waterfowl Hunting Activity

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their birding or waterfowl hunting activities over the year preceding their reception of the survey. The survey specified that partial days counted as full days, and that a trip was "an outing at least one mile from home for the specific purpose of going waterfowl hunting/birding".

Waterfowl hunters had taken an average of 9.7 trips, covering 11.9 days and 886.1 miles within the state of Texas (Table 8). Additionally, this group averaged 0.6 trips, 1.2 days, and 258.4 miles waterfowl hunting out-of-state. Birders, not limited by season, had higher numbers

Table 8. Days, trips, and miles birding/waterfowl hunting in Texas and out-of-state over the year preceding the survey, from a sample of Texas birders (n=680) and waterfowl hunters (n=460) in 1993.

Group	Mean	Standard Deviation	Range
Texas:			
Birders:			
Days	41.8	48.8	0 - 321
Trips	25.3	35.4	0 - 300
Miles	2,945.6	4,289.2	0 - 73,000
Waterfowl Hunters:			
Days	11.9	10.7	0 - 60
Trips	9.7	10.1	0 - 60
Miles	886.1	1,423.0	0 - 18,000
Out-of-state:			
Birders:			
Days	17.2	21.2	0 - 165
Trips	2.8	3.6	0 - 32
Miles	4,592.1	7,048.0	0 - 50,000
Waterfowl Hunters:			
Days	1.2	3.7	0 - 35
Trips	0.6	2.6	0 - 35
Miles	258.4	1,139.9	0 - 14,000

in each category. They had averaged 25.3 trips, 41.8 days, and 2945.6 miles birding within the state of Texas. Birders had means of 2.8 trips, 17.2 days, and 4592.1 miles birding out-of-state over the previous year.

The lack of a limited season for birders also contributed to the differences in monthly reports for the groups' activities (Table 9). Birders were active throughout the year, with the highest reported participation rates in the spring months. The highest percentages of waterfowl hunters went hunting in the months corresponding to the hunting season in Texas, particularly November through January.

The respondents were also questioned about the number of trips they took to different areas (Table 10) and habitats (Tables 11) within Texas to bird or hunt waterfowl over the previous year. Waterfowl hunters reported the greatest average number of trips to their own leases (3.1) and other privately owned land (2.3). Birders visited a much broader array of Texas areas, with roadsides (13.5) and their own land (9.8) listed, on average, most frequently.

Of the Texas habitats listed, waterfowl hunters had, on average, taken the most trips to rice fields (2.8) and inland lakes/reservoirs (2.3). Once again, birders had taken trips to many more habitat types, with inland lakes/reservoirs (7.7) having the highest reported average.

Table 9. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=504) in 1993 who indicated having been birding/waterfowl hunting by month over the year preceding the survey.^a

Month	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters
January	66.0	63.1
February	64.6	18.5
March	71.4	0.8
April	80.3	-
May	78.2	0.2
June	58.0	0.4
July	53.8	0.2
August	58.0	-
September	69.0	17.3
October	64.0	7.7
November	66.0	63.9
December	64.3	76.4

^a Multiple responses possible.

Table 10. Number of trips taken to various Texas areas by a sample of Texas birders (n=613) and waterfowl hunters (n=420) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.

Area	Mean	Standard Deviation	Range
Birders:			
my own land	9.8	45.8	0 - 365
other privately-owned land	6.6	21.5	0 - 275
state management areas	2.3	11.0	0 - 210
national wildlife refuges	5.7	16.6	0 - 300
state parks	5.8	11.4	0 - 150
national parks	1.6	7.1	0 - 100
national forest land	0.8	2.1	0 - 30
state forest land	0.6	1.3	0 - 10
roadsides	13.5	36.9	0 - 365
public beaches	4.4	11.9	0 - 200
private sanctuaries	2.8	10.5	0 - 200
city parks	5.6	17.6	0 - 300
Waterfowl Hunters:			
my own land	1.2	3.7	0 - 30
other privately-owned land	2.3	5.3	0 - 50
state management areas	1.1	3.0	0 - 20
national wildlife refuges	0.3	1.3	0 - 12
my own lease	3.1	8.3	0 - 60
land leased by others	1.4	3.7	0 - 30

Table 11. Number of trips taken to various Texas habitats by a sample of Texas birders (n=613) and waterfowl hunters (n=420) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.

Habitat	Mean	Standard Deviation	Range
Birders:			
coastal marshes	5.6	15.7	0 - 210
coastal bays	4.7	12.8	0 - 200
inland marshes	4.1	12.6	0 - 210
inland lakes/reservoirs	7.7	24.0	0 - 365
bottomlands	3.6	12.3	0 - 200
rice fields	2.1	5.1	0 - 50
other cultivated fields	4.1	18.3	0 - 270
eastern deciduous forests	2.7	8.5	0 - 100
central TX juniper/oak	5.2	20.3	0 - 365
pineywoods	1.9	5.5	0 - 50
brushland	4.0	21.1	0 - 365
grassland/prairies	3.8	15.1	0 - 300
western mountains	1.2	6.6	0 - 150
desert	2.0	19.1	0 - 365
urban areas	4.7	14.9	0 - 270
beaches/mudflats	6.1	16.7	0 - 200
offshore (pelagic)	0.3	0.8	0 - 10
Waterfowl Hunters:			
coastal marshes	1.4	3.9	0 - 40
coastal bays	0.2	1.0	0 - 10
inland marshes	0.5	2.3	0 - 25

Table 11. Continued

Habitat	Mean	Standard Deviation	Range
inland lakes/reservoirs	2.3	4.7	0 - 30
bottomlands	1.2	3.5	0 - 30
rice fields	2.8	6.5	0 - 50
other cultivated fields	1.0	3.7	0 - 50
farm tanks	1.1	3.4	0 - 40

Respondents were also asked to list other states and countries (Table 12) where they had taken birding/waterfowl hunting trips over the previous year. Every state in the nation had been visited by birders. Of the 5 states most frequently visited by birders, each with ≥ 100 respondents listing them, 2 are Texas border states (Louisiana and New Mexico). The other 3 are states known for their bird diversity: Arizona, California, and Colorado. The waterfowl hunters had hunted in 20 states. Only 2 had more than 20 respondents list them. Both, Arkansas and Louisiana, are Texas border states.

Birders reported traveling to 72 countries to pursue their hobby. Neighboring countries Mexico (98) and Canada (84) were the most frequently reported destinations. Costa Rica (48) was another popular country to visit. Only 17 waterfowl hunters reported visiting foreign countries to go waterfowl hunting. These countries included Mexico (11), Canada (4), and Argentina (2).

Birding/Waterfowl Hunting Companions

Birders listed their spouses (57.6%) as the family member who birded most frequently (Table 13). Waterfowl hunters indicated that their sons (32.0%), brothers (24.1%), fathers (22.8%), and other relatives (27.4%) were the most common other family members who hunted waterfowl.

When asked who introduced them to the sport (Table 14), birders listed friends (39.2%) or themselves (44.4%)

Table 12. Other states and countries most often visited by a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.^a

Group	State	Country
Birders^b:	Arizona (153)	Mexico (98)
	New Mexico (153)	Canada (84)
	California (119)	Costa Rica (48)
	Colorado (116)	Venezuela (18)
	Louisiana (110)	Belize (17)
	Florida (71)	Guatemala (13)
	Oklahoma (62)	Germany (10)
	Alaska (56)	Ecuador (9)
	Washington (56)	Australia (7)
	Arkansas (53)	Switzerland (7)
Waterfowl Hunters^c:	Louisiana (29)	Mexico (11)
	Arkansas (21)	Canada (4)
	Oklahoma (8)	Argentina (2)

^a Numbers in parentheses represent number of respondents reporting at least 1 trip to the state or country with the primary purpose of birding/waterfowl hunting.

^b Birders reported traveling to all states and 72 countries.

^c Waterfowl hunters reported traveling to 20 states and 3 countries.

Table 13. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 by other family members who go birding/waterfowl hunting.^a

Family Member	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters
No one	25.8	26.1
Father	4.9	22.8
Mother	6.4	1.0
Son(s)	17.7	32.0
Daughter(s)	13.9	5.0
Brother(s)	6.1	24.1
Sister(s)	8.5	0.4
Spouse	57.6	10.4
Other relatives	14.4	27.4

^a Multiple responses possible.

Table 14. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 by who introduced them to birding/waterfowl hunting.^{a b}

Instructor	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters
Father	7.9	45.0
Mother	8.9	1.3
Son(s)	2.2	0.1
Daughter(s)	0.6	-
Brother(s)	2.5	7.5
Sister(s)	1.1	0.2
Spouse	16.2	0.2
Other relatives	6.3	17.8
Friend(s)	39.2	54.8
Myself	44.4	17.0
Scouts	2.1	-
Teacher/professor	10.0	-

^a Mean age: started birding = 31; started hunting waterfowl = 17

^b Multiple responses possible.

most frequently. Waterfowl hunters most frequently cited their fathers (45.0%) and friends (54.8%) as their instructors. Birders began participating at an average age of 31, compared to 17 for waterfowl hunters.

The majority of birders (66.9%) taught friends to go birding (Table 15). Many birders also reported teaching their spouses (43.8%), sons (28.9%), and daughters (39.3%). The majority of waterfowl hunters (68.5%) indicated teaching friends to hunt waterfowl, and 37.6% taught their sons.

Both groups were also asked with whom and how often they went birding/waterfowl hunting with various partners at different ages in their lives (Tables 16 and 17). Respondents indicated having gone birding/hunting frequently (=2), seldom (=1), or never (=0) with each partner during each of 5 age categories. The mean results are given.

When less than 18 years of age and between 18 and 34, birders went birding by themselves most often; friends were the next most frequent birding partner. In the younger category, "father" was the third most cited partner, replaced by "spouse" in later years. In the 35 to 54, 55 to 64, and over 64 age categories, friends were the most frequent birding partners. In the first of these groupings, "myself" ranked ahead of "spouse" as the second most frequent; these reversed in the last 2 groupings.

Table 15. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 by who they introduced to birding/waterfowl hunting.^a

Student	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters
Father	10.0	4.2
Mother	12.8	0.3
Son(s)	28.9	37.6
Daughter(s)	29.3	10.2
Brother(s)	9.1	13.1
Sister(s)	12.0	1.0
Spouse	43.8	18.7
Other relatives	25.7	17.8
Friend(s)	66.9	68.5
No one	6.6	8.3

^a Multiple responses possible.

Table 16. Birding partners at selected ages in the lives of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) in 1993.*

Partner	Mean Response By Respondents' Age Category				
	<18	18-34	35-54	55-64	>64
Father	0.47	0.22	0.16	0.05	0.02
Mother	0.37	0.20	0.19	0.06	0.04
Son(s)	0.09	0.26	0.38	0.32	0.27
Daughter(s)	0.05	0.24	0.30	0.22	0.21
Brother(s)	0.21	0.14	0.12	0.08	0.08
Sister(s)	0.05	0.11	0.17	0.13	0.09
Spouse	0.04	0.96	1.18	1.30	1.19
Other Relatives	0.16	0.20	0.23	0.16	0.15
Friend(s)	0.76	1.26	1.51	1.53	1.44
By Myself	1.21	1.33	1.42	1.20	1.12
Strangers (met in field)	0.33	0.65	0.83	0.76	0.68

* Choice categories: 2=frequently, 1=seldom, 0=never

Table 17. Waterfowl hunting partners at selected ages in the lives of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993.*

Partner	Mean Response By Respondents' Age Category				
	<18	18-34	35-54	55-64	>64
Father	0.97	0.56	0.26	0.12	0.23
Mother	0.05	0.02	0.01	-	-
Son(s)	0.15	0.21	0.58	0.58	0.45
Daughter(s)	0.02	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.06
Brother(s)	0.52	0.46	0.25	0.02	0.03
Sister(s)	0.03	0.01	-	-	-
Spouse	0.04	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.06
Other Relatives	0.55	0.51	0.32	0.32	0.24
Friend(s)	1.24	1.56	1.61	1.43	1.26
By Myself	0.72	0.83	0.70	0.49	0.33
Strangers (met in field)	0.14	0.22	0.19	0.14	0.09

* Choice categories: 2=frequently, 1=seldom, 0=never

In all age categories, waterfowl hunters cited friends as their most frequent partners. In the less than 18 and 18 to 34 categories, they listed their fathers and themselves as the next most frequently. In the 35 to 54, 55 to 64, and over 64 age groupings, waterfowl hunters went out most often (after "friends") with their sons or by themselves.

Dowd (1993) also investigated social relationships in her general study of Texas hunters. Like the waterfowl hunters of this study, male family members were the primary hunting partners.

Reasons for Birding/Waterfowl Hunting

Respondents were given a list of reasons for going birding or waterfowl hunting. They then indicated their first (2) and second (1) most important reasons. All other reasons were given a value of 0. Seven of the possible choices were identical or analogous for each group, while two were unique to 1 or the other group. Mean responses for both groups are given in Table 18.

The 2 most important reasons given for birding were "fascination with birds" (0.83) and "to be close to nature" (0.80). Hunters listed "to be close to nature" (1.00) and "to be with friends" (0.62) as their 2 most important reasons for waterfowl hunting. These 2 reasons were among the top 3 given in Dowd's (1993) statewide survey of all types of hunters ("for meat" was the number 1 reason).

Table 18. Mean responses of a sample of Texas birders (n=718) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) in 1993 given to reasons for going birding/waterfowl hunting.^a

Reason	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters
COMMON REASONS:		
To be close to nature	0.80	1.00
To be with friends	0.08	0.62
To be with family	0.07	0.17
For business reasons	0.04	0.04
For trophies/listing	0.17	0.04
Personal challenge	0.25	0.40
For exercise	0.04	0.02
BIRDERS ONLY:		
Aesthetics (beauty of birds)	0.33	N/A
Fascination with birds	0.83	N/A
WATERFOWL HUNTERS ONLY:		
For meat	N/A	0.14
To participate in game management	N/A	0.06

^a Choice categories: 2=most important reason, 1=second most important reason, 0=all others

Factors Preventing Birding/Waterfowl Hunting

Most birders (80.6%) and waterfowl hunters (82.2%) identified which factors prevented them from participating in their respective wildlife-related activities as often as they would like in Texas. Each factor in the questionnaire was followed by a 5-point scale ranging from "not all important" (1) to "extremely important" (5). Results are presented as both mean scores for each factor (Table 19) as well as frequency of response on each factor (Tables 20 and 21).

A majority (> 50%) of birders reported that "not enough time due to family commitments" and "not enough time due to work" were moderately to very important factors that prevented them from birding more often in Texas. "Loss of habitat where I like to go birding" was reported by 49.7% of the birders.

Most (> 66%) birders reported that "lack of interest", "scarcity of birds in the places I like to go birding", "too many birders in the areas I go", "too many hunters in the areas I go", "involved in other recreational activities", "personal health/age", "unethical birders present", "hearing negative comments about birders from the public", and "my friends no longer bird as often" were not at all or only slightly important factors that limited their time spent birding.

Table 19. Mean responses of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) and waterfowl hunters (n=518) given to factors that prevented them from birding/waterfowl hunting more often in Texas in 1993.^{a b}

Factors Preventing Waterfowl Hunting/Birding	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters
lack of interest	1.2	1.4
scarcity of ducks or geese/ birds in the places I like to go hunting/birding	1.9	2.7
loss of habitat where I like to go hunting/birding	2.6	2.5
too many nonhunters/birders where I hunt/go birding	1.5	1.6
too many hunters where I hunt/go birding	1.9	2.1
involved in other recreational activities	1.8	2.6
not enough time due to family commitments	2.7	3.0
not enough money	2.2	2.1
personal health/age	1.7	1.3
not enough time due to work	3.0	3.2
land access restrictions	2.2	2.7
poachers or unethical hunters/unethical birders present	1.3	1.8
have to drive too far	2.2	2.2
hearing negative comments about hunters/birders from the public	1.1	1.2
my friends no longer hunt/ bird as often	1.4	1.9
lease cost too high	N/A	2.5

^a Percentage of respondents indicating factors preventing them from waterfowl birding/hunting: birders = 80.6%, hunters = 82.2%

^b Choice categories: 1=not at all important, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=extremely important

Table 20. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=578) in 1993 by factors that prevented them from birding more often in Texas.

Factors Preventing Birding	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
lack of interest	90.5	5.5	2.2	1.0	0.7
scarcity of birds in the places I like to go birding	52.1	21.3	13.5	9.0	4.2
loss of habitat where I like to go birding	32.7	17.6	21.1	16.8	11.8
too many birders in the areas I go	69.6	17.5	8.3	3.6	1.0
too many hunters in the areas I go	56.3	19.6	12.1	6.9	5.2
involved in other recreational activities	56.2	18.3	18.0	5.9	1.6
not enough time due to family commitments	31.3	14.4	18.9	22.3	13.1
not enough money	43.1	20.1	14.9	12.6	9.3
personal health/age	69.4	9.5	8.0	5.4	7.8
not enough time due to work	33.9	7.6	9.7	20.6	28.2
land access restrictions	42.9	19.9	16.6	12.1	8.5
unethical birders present	79.1	12.1	5.4	2.4	1.0
have to drive too far	41.0	18.5	22.1	12.5	5.9
hearing negative comments about birders from the public	94.3	4.0	1.4	-	0.3
my friends no longer bird as often	77.8	9.7	7.8	3.6	1.0

^a Choice categories: 1=not at all important, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=extremely important

Table 21. Percentage of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=426) in 1993 by factors that prevented them from hunting more often in Texas.

Factors Preventing Waterfowl Hunting	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
lack of interest	77.7	11.5	7.3	1.9	1.6
scarcity of ducks/geese in the places I like to go hunting	29.1	15.7	22.3	17.4	15.5
loss of habitat where I like to go hunting	37.8	16.2	18.3	18.1	9.6
too many nonhunters where I hunt	69.0	13.4	10.1	4.7	2.8
too many hunters where I hunt	46.0	17.8	21.8	9.9	4.5
involved in other recreational activities	24.4	19.0	30.3	21.1	5.2
not enough time due to family commitments	20.7	16.2	23.7	26.3	13.1
not enough money	46.0	20.9	16.7	10.1	6.3
personal health/age	81.2	10.1	4.7	2.6	1.4
not enough time due to work	19.2	13.8	20.0	24.6	22.3
land access restrictions	34.7	14.3	15.5	18.3	17.1
poachers/unethical hunters present	59.8	16.0	12.2	5.2	6.8
have to drive too far	42.0	20.2	21.8	10.6	5.4
hearing negative comments about hunters from the public	89.7	4.9	2.1	0.7	2.6
my friends no longer hunt as often	51.6	19.0	20.0	6.6	2.8
lease cost too high	43.4	10.8	16.9	15.0	13.8

^a Choice categories: 1=not at all important, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=extremely important

Most (> 66%) waterfowl hunters felt that "not enough time due to work" was a moderately to extremely important factor preventing them from hunting more often. A majority (> 50%) reported that "scarcity of ducks/geese in the places I like to go hunting", "involved in other recreational activities", "not enough time due to family commitments", and "land access restrictions" were moderately to extremely important factors. Two other factors, "loss of habitat where I like to go hunting" (46.0%) and "lease cost too high" (45.7%) were also highly registered concerns by waterfowl hunters. In Dowd's (1993) survey of Texas hunters, "lease cost too high" and "no place to hunt" were the most important reasons preventing respondents from hunting more often.

Most (> 66%) waterfowl hunters felt that "lack of interest", "too many nonhunters where I hunt", "not enough money", "personal health/age", "poachers/unethical hunters present", "hearing negative comments about hunters from the public", and "my friends no longer hunt as often" were not at all or only slightly important reasons preventing them from hunting more often.

Expenditures and Organizational Memberships

Respondents were asked how much they had spent over the preceding year in each of a number of categories related to birding or waterfowl hunting (Table 22). Within the categories provided, the birders had spent an average

Table 22. Estimated expenditures of a sample of Texas birders (n=703) and waterfowl hunters (n=515) in 1993 over the year preceding the survey.

Group	Mean (\$)	Standard Deviation (\$)	Range (\$)
Birders:			
Basic Equipment	283.5	546.3	0 - 5,000
Food/Lodging	1,001.4	1,595.6	0 - 15,000
Transportation	993.5	1732.8	0 - 30,000
Magazines/Books	163.8	316.1	0 - 5,000
Dues/Contributions	248.1	878.8	0 - 15,000
Fees, Permits, etc.	47.1	112.3	0 - 2,500
Guided Tours	596.4	1,897.2	0 - 20,000
Phone Calls	23.1	62.3	0 - 950
Waterfowl Hunters:			
Basic Equipment	337.9	568.5	0 - 7,500
Food/Lodging	204.4	391.9	0 - 5,000
Transportation	239.1	552.0	0 - 8,500
Magazines/Books	42.3	98.7	0 - 2,000
Dues/Contributions	170.5	338.1	0 - 3,000
Fees, Permits, etc.	69.1	75.6	0 - 800
Guided Hunts	96.4	303.4	0 - 4,000
Lease Costs	284.7	908.0	0 - 10,000

of \$3,357 on their sport; the waterfowl hunters had spent an average of \$1,444.

For birders, trip related expenses were larger than other categories. They spent an average of \$1,001 on food/lodging and \$994 on transportation. The categories representing the greatest mean expenditures for waterfowl hunters were for basic equipment (\$338) and lease costs (\$285).

In a nationwide survey of ABA members, Wauer (1991) reported that birders spent an average of \$3,374 per year on birding. Dowd (1993) reported much lower expenditures for hunters in Texas, with the majority spending < \$100 on equipment, < \$50 on transportation, and < \$15 for food/lodging.

All respondents were also questioned about the State's Conservation Passport (Table 23). Only 5.2% of the waterfowl hunters and 4.8% of the non-waterfowl hunting DU members had purchased a Passport over the preceding year. Of the remainder, 76.1% of the hunters and 81.3% of the non-waterfowl hunting DU members had never heard of the Passport.

Almost half (45.0%) of the birders reported buying a Conservation Passport over the preceding year; 15.0% had never heard of it. Birders were also asked if they had purchased a hunting license or duck stamp strictly for conservation purposes over the preceding year (Table 24).

Table 23. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=187) in 1993 by purchases of Conservation Passports over the year preceding the survey.

Group	Yes	No, But Heard of It	No, Never Heard of It
Birders	45.0	40.0	15.0
Waterfowl Hunters	5.2	18.7	76.1
Non-hunting DU Members	4.8	13.9	81.3

Table 24. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=717) in 1993 by purchases of hunting licenses or duck stamps for conservation purposes over the year preceding the survey.

License/Stamp	Yes	No
Hunting License	8.9	91.1
Duck Stamp	11.4	88.6

Only 8.9% had purchased a hunting license; 11.4% had bought a duck stamp. Witter and Shaw (1979) reported even lower numbers of birders purchasing hunting licenses (2%) or duck stamps (6%).

Respondents were asked to record how many conservation, hunting, and birding organizations they belonged to (Table 25). Birders and waterfowl hunters belonged to an average of 5.5 and 2.2 organizations, respectively. Non-waterfowl hunting DU members belonged to an average of 2.0 organizations. Witter and Shaw (1979) reported that over half of the birders in their study belonged to at least 5 organizations.

Beliefs About Statements on Hunting and Management

Respondents were given a series of statements about hunting and management and asked to indicate their level of agreement on a 5-point scale, ranging from "strongly agree" (1) to "strongly disagree" (5). Results are presented as means for each statement (Table 26) by group and as frequency distributions by statement (Tables 27, 28, and 29).

Most waterfowl hunters (88.2%) and non-waterfowl hunting DU members (84.6%) agreed or strongly agreed that "hunting should continue as a management tool". Birders were divided on this statement. The majority of birders (55.1%) disagreed or strongly disagreed that "hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation". The

Table 25. Conservation, birding, and hunting organization memberships of a sample of Texas birders (n=717), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=180) in 1993.

Group	Mean	Standard Deviation	Range
Birders:			
International	0.6	1.3	0 - 15
National	2.8	2.4	0 - 20
State	1.1	1.1	0 - 8
Local	1.0	1.0	0 - 8
Waterfowl Hunters:			
International	0.3	0.6	0 - 6
National	1.3	1.1	0 - 9
State	0.4	0.7	0 - 6
Local	0.2	0.4	0 - 2
Non-waterfowl Hunting Ducks Unlimited Members:			
International	0.2	0.5	0 - 4
National	1.2	1.1	0 - 6
State	0.4	0.7	0 - 3
Local	0.2	0.6	0 - 5

Table 26. Mean responses concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management of a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) in 1993.*

Statement About Hunting/Management	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
Hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation.	3.5	2.5	2.3
Hunting should continue as a management tool.	2.8	1.7	1.7
Endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment.	1.9	2.6	2.9
A good balance exists in TX between game/nongame wildlife management.	3.3	2.4	2.4
Nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters.	1.7	3.6	3.1
Nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases.	3.3	3.8	3.5
Wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX.	2.6	3.6	3.6
The need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private property rights.	2.4	3.0	3.3
Wildlife management benefits primarily game species in TX.	2.5	3.5	3.3

* Choice categories: 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree

Table 27. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718) concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management in 1993.

Statement About Hunting/Management	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation.	4.3	17.4	23.1	31.3	23.8
Hunting should continue as a management tool.	9.9	35.2	27.3	18.2	9.3
Endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment.	39.7	39.1	13.6	6.1	1.4
A good balance exists in TX between game/nongame wildlife management.	3.0	22.0	29.0	30.5	15.5
Nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters.	47.2	38.2	9.1	3.5	2.1
Nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases.	4.1	11.3	38.7	37.6	8.2
Wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX.	16.4	33.6	21.4	23.3	5.3
The need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private property rights.	22.4	38.0	17.4	16.0	6.1
Wildlife management benefits primarily game species in TX.	17.5	39.1	22.8	18.4	2.1

^a Choice categories: 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree

Table 28. Percentage of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=518) concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management in 1993.

Statement About Hunting/Management	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation.	21.4	36.3	20.7	14.3	7.3
Hunting should continue as a management tool.	50.4	37.8	8.3	1.9	1.5
Endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment.	21.4	30.5	24.5	17.0	6.6
A good balance exists in TX between game/nongame wildlife management.	12.4	50.8	27.4	6.9	2.5
Nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters.	3.9	17.6	18.3	30.9	29.3
Nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases.	2.1	11.4	17.8	40.5	28.2
Wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX.	3.7	15.6	15.8	43.1	21.8
The need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private property rights.	10.8	29.5	22.8	23.6	13.3
Wildlife management benefits primarily game species in TX.	3.7	19.9	18.1	42.1	16.2

^a Choice categories: 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree

Table 29. Percentage of a sample of non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) concerning beliefs about statements on hunting and management in 1993.

Statement About Hunting/Management	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation.	21.6	45.2	21.2	9.1	2.9
Hunting should continue as a management tool.	45.2	39.4	12.5	1.4	1.4
Endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment.	13.5	26.0	27.4	23.6	9.6
A good balance exists in TX between game/nongame wildlife management.	9.1	49.5	34.6	6.7	-
Nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters.	5.8	31.3	19.2	29.8	13.9
Nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases.	3.4	14.9	25.0	38.5	18.3
Wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX.	1.9	17.8	17.8	47.6	14.9
The need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private property rights.	6.7	21.6	22.6	32.2	16.8
Wildlife management benefits primarily game species in TX.	3.4	20.7	25.0	40.4	10.6

^a Choice categories: 1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree

majority of the hunters (57.7%) and most non-waterfowl hunting DU members (66.8%) agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.

The majority (> 50%) of waterfowl hunters and non-waterfowl-hunting DU members agreed or strongly agreed that "a good balance exists in Texas between game/nongame management". Birders were divided on this statement. The majority of both DU groups disagreed or strongly disagreed that "wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in Texas" and "wildlife management benefits primarily game species in Texas". Conversely, the majority of birders agreed or strongly agreed with these statements.

Most waterfowl hunters (68.7%) disagreed or strongly disagreed that "nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases". The majority of non-waterfowl hunting DU members (56.8%) disagreed or strongly disagreed, while birders were divided.

Most birders (85.4%) agreed with the statement "nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management should equal those of hunters". Over half of the waterfowl hunters disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. Non-waterfowl hunting members of DU were divided.

Most birders (78.8%) agreed or strongly agreed that "endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment", and 60.4% felt that "the need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private

property rights". The majority of waterfowl hunters (51.9%) agreed or strongly agreed with the first statement, but were divided on the second. Non-waterfowl hunting DU members were divided on both statements.

Witter and Shaw (1979) asked several of the same questions of birders and waterfowl hunters. In their study, more birders agreed that hunting should continue as a management tool, and fewer felt that wildlife management primarily benefits hunters than did the respondents in this study. Both studies found similar opinions by birders about the weight placed on nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management and the source of nongame management funds. Waterfowl hunters gave similar opinions in both studies.

Beliefs About Suggested Nongame Funding Sources

The respondents were offered a list of possible sources of funding for nongame management. Responses were in the form of a 5-point scale ranging from "strongly oppose" (1) to "strongly favor" (5). Means (Table 30) and frequency distributions (Tables 31, 32, and 33) for each question by group are provided.

The majority of birders favored or strongly favored the proposal "increasing fees for hunting licenses". The majority (> 50%) of waterfowl hunters and non-waterfowl hunting members of DU, however, opposed or strongly opposed this suggestion.

Most (> 70%) of all 3 groups opposed or strongly

Table 30. Mean responses concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management from a sample of Texas birders (n=718), waterfowl hunters (n=518), and non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) in 1993.^a

Statement About Nongame Fund Sources	Birders	Waterfowl Hunters	Non-waterfowl Hunters
increasing fees for hunting licenses	3.4	2.3	2.5
adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax	3.1	2.7	2.4
add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment	3.6	2.9	3.0
adding 50 cents to driver's license fee	2.9	2.8	2.5
placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales	2.4	2.1	2.0
adding 50 cents per month on electric bills	2.1	2.0	1.9
establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts	4.1	4.0	3.8

^a Choice categories: 1=strongly oppose, 2=oppose, 3=not sure, 4=favor, 5=strongly favor

Table 31. Percentage of a sample of Texas birders (n=718) concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management in 1993.

Statement About Nongame Fund Sources	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
increasing fees for hunting licenses	5.4	16.7	22.7	38.3	16.9
adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax	13.3	22.3	18.2	34.1	12.0
add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment	6.8	11.3	15.0	48.6	18.2
adding 50 cents to driver's license fee	13.4	26.7	21.4	29.5	8.9
placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales	22.9	34.8	23.0	13.0	6.3
adding 50 cents per month on electric bills	31.6	40.7	14.5	8.9	4.3
establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts	3.2	4.7	10.0	38.6	43.4

^a Choice categories: 1=strongly oppose, 2=oppose, 3=not sure, 4=favor, 5=strongly favor

Table 32. Percentage of a sample of Texas waterfowl hunters (n=518) concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management in 1993.

Statement About Nongame Fund Sources	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
increasing fees for hunting licenses	30.1	35.1	14.3	17.2	3.3
adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax	23.4	27.2	14.3	29.2	6.0
add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment	20.3	21.6	12.2	36.7	9.3
adding 50 cents to driver's license fee	22.4	23.9	14.3	29.7	9.7
placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales	38.4	34.7	13.9	8.5	4.4
adding 50 cents per month on electric bills	43.2	32.4	12.4	8.9	3.1
establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts	9.1	5.2	11.0	36.1	38.6

^a Choice categories: 1=strongly oppose, 2=oppose, 3=not sure, 4=favor, 5=strongly favor

Table 33. Percentage of a sample of non-waterfowl hunting Ducks Unlimited members (n=208) concerning opinions about proposed methods to get funds for nongame wildlife management in 1993.

Statement About Nongame Fund Sources	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
increasing fees for hunting licenses	25.5	32.2	16.3	21.2	4.8
adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax	26.9	31.7	15.4	22.1	3.8
add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment	16.3	23.6	12.5	39.9	7.7
adding 50 cents to driver's license fee	23.1	33.2	13.9	25.5	4.3
placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales	38.9	36.1	13.0	9.1	2.9
adding 50 cents per month on electric bills	43.3	36.1	9.1	10.1	1.4
establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts	6.2	8.2	13.5	44.2	27.9

^a Choice categories: 1=strongly oppose, 2=oppose, 3=not sure, 4=favor, 5=strongly favor

opposed the recommendation "adding 50 cents per month on electric bills". Most waterfowl hunters and non-waterfowl hunting DU members felt similarly about "placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales", as did the majority (57.7%) of the birders.

Birders were divided on the proposal of "adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax", while the majority of waterfowl hunters and non-waterfowl hunting DU members opposed or strongly opposed it. Most birders (66.8%) favored or strongly favored the proposal to "add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment"; waterfowl hunters and non-waterfowl hunting DU members were divided on this suggestion. Birders and waterfowl hunters were divided about "adding 50 cents to driver's license fee", while the majority of the non-waterfowl hunting members of DU (56.3%) opposed or strongly opposed it.

Finally, all three groups favored or strongly favored (> 72%) the proposal to "establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts".

Adams and Thomas (1989) performed a survey of the Texas public, and also asked respondents' opinions on several of these mechanisms for generating more funds for general wildlife programs. The general public favored (> 70%) increasing hunting licenses and adding a sales tax on outdoor recreation equipment. They were evenly divided on changes in driver's license fees and fees on real estate

sales. Like the birders and waterfowl hunters, they opposed the suggested addition to electric bills.

Hypotheses Tests - Results

H1: Texas hunters are more socioeconomically diverse than birders.

Birders were expected to have higher levels of income and education than the waterfowl hunters, and more were expected to hold professional jobs. This hypothesis was based on studies done on general hunters, although an assumption was made that waterfowl hunters, being highly specialized, might be more similar to birders socioeconomically. Comparisons between the two groups on income and education were made using Chi-square tests.

In general, this hypothesis was not supported. Chi-square analysis showed a significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$) between the two groups for both total family income and highest level of education completed (Tables 34 and 35). Although incomes were fairly similar and widespread for both groups, a greater percentage of the waterfowl hunters had incomes in the higher categories compared to birders, while more birders had incomes in the lower categories.

Although a higher percentage of the birders had completed master's degrees or Ph.d's than had waterfowl hunters, a greater percentage of the latter group had a

Table 34. Results of Chi-square analysis comparing family incomes of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.

Degrees of Freedom	Chi-square Value	Probability
13	60.18	< 0.001

Table 35. Results of Chi-square analysis comparing education levels of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.

Degrees of Freedom	Chi-square Value	Probability
9	96.89	< 0.001

professional degree (law, medicine, veterinary) (Table 4). A visual inspection of the occupations of the respondents shows that a smaller percentage of the birders had professional occupations than did the waterfowl hunters. More of the waterfowl hunters did have technical, sales, or support jobs, while a much greater number of the birders were retired.

H2: Texas birders are as highly committed to their pastime, and consequently, to the sustainability of wildlife resources, as are hunters.

Birders were expected to be as committed, or more committed, to birding than waterfowl hunters were to their sport. The different aspects of commitment were tested by a variety of methods, and comparative tests were performed. Consistency of behavior was tested by examining the amount of past experience and frequency of participation. Side bets were compared using organizational memberships and expenditures. Finally, affective attachment was measured using several questions on social relations.

The general linear model (GLM) showed no significant difference between birders and waterfowl hunters with respect to years of experience in their hobbies (Table 36). Respondents in both groups had an average of about 25 years of experience. Birders were significantly older (Table 37)

Table 36. Results of a general linear model comparing years of experience birding/waterfowl hunting of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Model	1	357.93	1.28	0.2581	0.001
Error	1213	339089.18			
Total	1214	339447.11			

Table 37. Results of a general linear model comparing the ages of a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993.

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Model	1	71871.39	380.78	0.0001	0.238
Error	1219	230081.86			
Total	1220	301953.25			

than waterfowl hunters on average (56 compared to 41), but they started their pastime at a much later age (31 compared to 17).

The number of days, trips, and miles taken by birders and waterfowl hunters (both in and out-of-state) were compared using a GLM test. The differences were significant in all cases, with birders having higher levels of participation in each category (Table 38). However, these findings are certainly confounded by the fact that birders are not limited by a season, and can bird any time of the year. Additionally, a Chi-square analysis on months in which respondents reported taking at least one trip showed that waterfowl hunters did not differ significantly from birders in January or November, and significantly more hunters reported taking trips in December (Table 39). These months correspond to the waterfowl season in Texas.

The first measure of side bets was organizational memberships (international, national, state, and local). The GLM showed that birders belonged to significantly more organizations in all categories (Table 40).

Respondents gave estimates of their expenditures in a variety of categories. In 2 of these, "basic equipment" and "membership dues/contributions", the GLM showed no significant difference between waterfowl hunters and birders (Table 41). In all but one of the remaining categories that were common to the two groups ("food and

Table 38. Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by days, trips, and miles spent birding/waterfowl hunting in Texas and out-of-state.

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Days in Texas:					
Model	1	249535.02	170.72	0.0001	0.129
Error	1157	1691100.53			
Total	1158	1940635.54			
Trips in Texas:					
Model	1	66026.26	82.92	0.0001	0.068
Error	1131	900578.64			
Total	1132	966604.90			
Miles in Texas:					
Model	1	1150419813.1	98.66	0.0001	0.081
Error	1118	13036976473.3			
Total	1119	14187396286.4			
Days Out-of-state:					
Model	1	72123.58	264.05	0.0001	0.185
Error	1160	316850.60			
Total	1161	388974.18			
Trips Out-of-state:					
Model	1	1318.67	125.39	0.0001	0.099
Error	1141	11999.41			
Total	1142	13318.08			
Miles Out-of-state:					
Model	1	5055768235.4	171.43	0.0001	0.134
Error	1105	32589024706.1			
Total	1106	37644792941.5			

Table 39. Results of Chi-square analysis comparing months during which a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 took at least 1 birding/waterfowl hunting trip.

Month	Degrees of Freedom	Chi-square Value	Probability
January	1	1.00	0.316
February	1	253.05	< 0.001
March	1	603.59	< 0.001
April	1	764.83	< 0.001
May	1	724.13	< 0.001
June	1	435.68	< 0.001
July	1	392.59	< 0.001
August	1	442.73	< 0.001
September	1	317.08	< 0.001
October	1	387.23	< 0.001
November	1	0.52	0.473
December	1	20.63	< 0.001

Table 40. Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by number of memberships in conservation, birding, and hunting organizations.

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
International:					
Model	1	29.00	24.68	0.0001	0.020
Error	1234	1449.10			
Total	1235	1478.10			
National:					
Model	1	612.15	163.85	0.0001	0.117
Error	1232	4602.67			
Total	1233	5214.81			
State:					
Model	1	143.95	166.41	0.0001	0.119
Error	1234	1067.46			
Total	1235	1211.40			
Local:					
Model	1	173.27	275.92	0.0001	0.183
Error	1234	774.95			
Total	1235	948.22			

Table 41. Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by expenditures.

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Basic Equipment:					
Model	1	893137.97	2.89	0.0890	0.002
Error	1220	376638043.06			
Total	1221	377531181.03			
Food/Lodging:					
Model	1	187565123.78	122.43	0.0001	0.092
Error	1212	1856741713.13			
Total	1213	2044306836.91			
Transportation:					
Model	1	167905386.37	90.37	0.0001	0.069
Error	1211	2250076453.62			
Total	1212	2417981839.99			
Magazines/Books:					
Model	1	4369234.93	70.55	0.0001	0.055
Error	1217	75366600.61			
Total	1218	79735835.55			
Dues/Contributions:					
Model	1	1776191.25	3.59	0.0580	0.003
Error	1219	603178119.25			
Total	1220	604954310.85			

Table 41. Continued

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Fees, Permits, etc.:					
Model	1	144850.36	14.96	0.0001	0.012
Error	1216	11773823.59			
Total	1217	11918673.95			
Guided Tours/Hunts:					
Model	1	74219239.16	35.02	0.0001	0.028
Error	1220	2585238244.51			
Total	1221	2659457483.67			

lodging", "transportation", "magazines/books", and "guided tours/hunts"), birders reported spending significantly more than waterfowl hunters. In the category "entry fees, licenses, permits, Conservation Passport, stamps", waterfowl hunters spent significantly more.

Finally, the social relationships of birders and waterfowl hunters were compared. Respondents were asked if other members of their families birded/hunted waterfowl, and the results were compared with Chi-square tests (Table 42). Significantly more of the waterfowl hunters reported that their fathers, sons, brothers, and "other" relatives took part in their hobbies. Significantly more birders reported that their mothers, daughters, sisters, and spouses were active in their pastime. These results reflect the overwhelming majority of males in the waterfowl hunter group (99.8%). There was no significant difference in the number of respondents reporting that no one in their family went birding or waterfowl hunting.

When asked who introduced them to their hobbies, significantly more waterfowl hunter reported that their fathers, brothers, other relatives, or friends introduced them (Table 43). In contrast, significantly more birders identified their mothers, sons, spouses, or themselves as starting them. The results for daughters and sisters were not significantly different between groups.

Birders reported teaching their hobby to their

Table 42. Results of Chi-square analysis comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by other family members who go birding/waterfowl hunting.

Family Member	Degrees of Freedom	Chi-square Value	Probability
No One	1	0.26	0.612
Father	1	88.94	< 0.001
Mother	1	22.52	< 0.001
Son(s)	1	34.30	< 0.001
Daughter(s)	1	26.08	< 0.001
Brother(s)	1	82.63	< 0.001
Sister(s)	1	40.91	< 0.001
Spouse	1	283.92	< 0.001
Other Relatives	1	32.33	< 0.001

Table 43. Results of Chi-square analysis comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by who introduced them to birding/waterfowl hunting.

Instructor	Degrees of Freedom	Chi-square Value	Probability
Father	1	229.92	< 0.001
Mother	1	31.78	< 0.001
Son(s)	1	9.19	0.002
Daughter(s)	1	2.90	0.089
Brother(s)	1	17.25	< 0.001
Sister(s)	1	3.53	0.060
Spouse	1	89.47	< 0.001
Other Relatives	1	40.33	< 0.001
Friend(s)	1	29.85	< 0.001
Myself	1	101.68	< 0.001

fathers, mothers, daughters, sisters, spouses, and other relatives significantly more than waterfowl hunters (Table 44). The hunters taught their sons and brothers significantly more than did the birders. There was no significant difference reported for teaching friends or teaching no one.

These results generally support the hypothesis. The birders had as much experience in their hobby as did the waterfowl hunters. The birders spent more time and travelled greater distances. They belonged to more organizations and spent more money on their hobby. Finally, their social relations related to their hobby were significantly different.

H3: Texas birders, as do hunters, favor many agency management programs, and would be willing to support agency efforts representing birders' interests.

This hypothesis was tested by examining respondents' mean answers to questions concerning attitudes on hunting and management practices and suggested methods of increasing support for nongame management. The results of waterfowl hunters and birders were then compared using a general linear model.

On the questions concerning hunting and management practices, birders and waterfowl hunters had significantly

Table 44. Results of Chi-square analysis comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by who they introduced to birding/waterfowl hunting.

Student	Degrees of Freedom	Chi-square Value	Probability
Father	1	14.31	< 0.001
Mother	1	66.14	< 0.001
Son(s)	1	10.65	0.001
Daughter(s)	1	64.96	< 0.001
Brother(s)	1	5.20	0.023
Sister(s)	1	53.51	< 0.001
Spouse	1	84.78	< 0.001
Other Relatives	1	10.74	0.001
Friend(s)	1	0.39	0.534
No One	1	1.37	0.241

different responses in all cases (Table 45). However, both groups agreed (on average) that "hunting should continue as a management tool" and disagreed that "nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases". However, the magnitudes (Table 26) of the responses were significantly different.

In response to the proposals "hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation" and "a good balance exists in TX between game/nongame management", the groups had significantly different opinions. Birders disagreed on average, while waterfowl hunters agreed (Table 26). The groups had significantly opposite opinions concerning the statements "nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters" (which also had a particularly high R^2 value (0.449), indicating that group membership contributed significantly to this answer), "wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX", and "wildlife management benefits primarily game species in TX.

When given a list of possible sources of nongame management funds, birders on average favored "increasing fees for hunting licenses", "adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax", and "add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment", while the waterfowl hunters, in general, opposed these. As would be expected, the statement on increasing hunting license fees produced the largest R^2 value (0.197), indicating differences

Table 45. Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by opinions on statements about hunting and management.

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl population:					
Model	1	314.80	225.76	0.0001	0.155
Error	1234	1720.68			
Total	1235	2035.49			
Hunting should continue as a management tool:					
Model	1	395.53	376.09	0.0001	0.234
Error	1234	1297.79			
Total	1235	1693.32			
Endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment:					
Model	1	136.46	121.05	0.0001	0.089
Error	1234	1391.09			
Total	1235	1527.55			
A good balance exists in TX between game/nongame wildlife management:					
Model	1	277.11	271.09	0.0001	0.180
Error	1234	1261.43			
Total	1235	1538.54			
Nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters:					
Model	1	1086.87	1005.20	0.0001	0.449
Error	1234	1334.26			
Total	1235	2421.14			

Table 45. Continued

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases:					
Model	1	68.49	69.79	0.0001	0.054
Error	1234	1210.94			
Total	1235	1279.43			
Wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX:					
Model	1	283.90	218.47	0.0001	0.150
Error	1234	1603.55			
Total	1235	1887.45			
The need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private property rights:					
Model	1	89.27	61.46	0.0001	0.047
Error	1234	1792.33			
Total	1235	1881.60			
Wildlife management benefits primarily game species in TX:					
Model	1	299.73	259.34	0.0001	0.174
Error	1234	1426.17			
Total	1235	1725.90			

attributable to membership in either the birding or waterfowl hunting group.

Both groups opposed the suggestions "adding 50 cents to driver's license fee", placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales", and "adding 50 cents per month on electric bills". Both groups favored the choice to "establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts".

Birders and waterfowl hunters had significantly different responses (although just in the magnitude of agreement or opposition in some cases) in all suggested forms of nongame support, except for the suggestions concerning driver's license fees and the proposed lottery fund (Table 46).

With respect to the hypothesis, these results would indicate that birders were not necessarily opposed to current wildlife management practices (i.e., they are not opposed to hunting). However, results do indicate that birders perceived the State as being more concerned with game species and hunters. Birders also felt that nonhunters' opinions should carry more weight.

The results also showed that birders were not as supportive of possible means of increasing nongame funds as was expected. They tended to oppose or establish a neutral position on methods that targeted the general public, such as fees or taxes on real estate, driver's licenses,

Table 46. Results of a general linear model comparing a sample of Texas birders and waterfowl hunters in 1993 by opinions on statements about proposed means to get funds for nongame wildlife management.

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Increasing fees for hunting licenses:					
Model	1	399.44	303.17	0.0001	0.197
Error	1234	1625.84			
Total	1235	2025.28			
Adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax:					
Model	1	50.67	31.23	0.0001	0.025
Error	1234	2002.36			
Total	1235	2053.03			
Add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment:					
Model	1	132.20	88.72	0.0001	0.067
Error	1234	1838.74			
Total	1235	1970.94			
Adding 50 cents to driver's license fee:					
Model	1	4.77	2.95	0.0860	0.002
Error	1234	1997.29			
Total	1235	2002.06			
Placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales:					
Model	1	43.64	32.85	0.0001	0.026
Error	1234	1639.07			
Total	1235	1682.70			

Table 46. Continued

Source	Degrees of Freedom	Sum of Squares	F Value	Prob. > F	R Square
Adding 50 cents per month on electric bills:					
Model	1	8.37	6.94	0.0090	0.006
Error	1234	1487.44			
Total	1235	1495.81			
Establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts:					
Model	1	5.14	1.35	0.245	0.001
Error	1234	4681.61			
Total	1235	4686.75			

electric bills, and general sales tax. They favored methods targeting hunters (licenses) and outdoor equipment buyers, as well as the suggested lottery fund.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The results of this study indicated that Texas birders were highly committed to their pastime. They were highly educated, wealthy professionals who spent a great deal of money (almost 2.5 times the yearly amount spent by the waterfowl hunters in this study) in pursuit of birds.

They also spent more time in the field, taking many more trips over more days, covering more miles than the average waterfowl hunter. Their activities took place throughout the year. Birders traveled to every available habitat in every corner of the state, and frequently left the state and even the country to go birding. Of course, Texas' fame as a birding state also attracts great numbers of birders from other parts of the world. A large percentage of the expenditures reported by the birders in this study went toward trip-related expenses.

All of these factors should make birders a desirable addition to the clientele of the TPWD, the principal steward of this State's wildlife resources, both game and nongame. Indeed, the State has targeted the nonconsumptive user, through the Conservation Passport program. Although 45% of the birders had purchased the Passport, 40% had heard of it, but did not purchase one.

Several reasons may have prevented more of the birders from purchasing the Passport. The attitude questions indicated that although the birders were not in outright opposition to hunting, they still perceived the State as catering primarily to hunters and game species. They also felt that nonhunters' views on wildlife management need to carry more weight in Texas. These results indicated that birders do not see the TPWD as addressing their area of interest. The large number of conservation organizations joined by birders suggested that Texas birders were searching for alternative ways to protect the resources they were concerned about. Additionally, several of the birders complained that the Conservation Passport was hard to obtain, requiring a special trip to a state park. They wished that it could be purchased at a sporting goods store or through the mail (Appendix D).

When asked about possible mechanisms for increasing support for nongame management, birders favored increasing hunting license costs and taxing outdoor equipment. However, they tended to oppose general approaches such as additional fees on real estate or electric bills. These results may also be a result of the perception of the state as being game-oriented, or may be simply a case of "let's tax the other guy so I'll get the benefits for free".

Nevertheless, the TPWD would benefit from encouraging and promoting birding in Texas, particularly if it can

convince birders that the agency is also serving birders' interests. Several factors were of interest here. Texas birders, on average, were old, and they started birding late in life. They were also wealthy and white. These indicated an exclusivity of the hobby that may prevent large numbers of new recruits from joining the ranks. However, the fact that birders in Texas tend to be of an older subset of the population suggests that retired residents may be targeted to be introduced to birding as a wildlife-related activity.

Management Implications

One of the keys to involving birders in wildlife management is to attract new birders to the hobby. Of special interest is young people, almost absent in this study. Dowd (1993) showed that hunting as a child positively influenced adult participation in the sport. The current study showed that familial ties were not as important in initiating new birders as they were in initiating new waterfowl hunters. Thus, it may be useful to have programs involving birding presented through public schools, or through special workshops or field days offered by the TPWD.

Minorities were also almost completely missing in this study. This may be of special concern, as minority numbers

are rapidly increasing nationwide, and particularly in Texas (Murdock et al. 1992), where they are projected to make up over half of the total population by the year 2025. Minorities still lag behind whites in average income, and the apparent expense of birding may be a barrier. Although birding can be very expensive, it does not have to be so. Many birders purchase state of the art optical and photographic equipment and take trips to the far corners of the world. However, birding can be as simple as buying an inexpensive pair of binoculars and a field guide and searching the local neighborhood during one's spare time.

In general, the TPWD needs to more actively publicize its research and protection of nongame wildlife, possibly in conjunction with private organizations that already have an established clientele of birders. This would help establish a bond between the birders and the TPWD, possibly encouraging greater financial support for the state from birders. The comments provided by both the birders and the DU members (Appendices C through G) may also provide special insight into how these groups got started in their hobbies, and what their special areas of concern involve.

Future Research

This study targeted highly committed, active birders who were members of 2 birding organizations in Texas.

These are not the only people who watch birds and spend money on the hobby. Of course, there are equally active birders who do not join such organizations, and were not reached by this study. Research performed in the field, at birding hot spots and in areas where a remarkable rarity had been spotted, could allow these birders to be reached.

There are also many casual birders ("birdwatchers") around the state. Birdwatchers probably far outnumber the avid birders selected for this study. Kellert (1985), in a nationwide public survey, found that 25% of the respondents reported participating in birdwatching in the previous 2 years. Although most of these people may not be taking trips and buying sophisticated optical equipment, they may be spending money on bird seed, bird houses, books, and other birdwatching-related equipment.

A general public survey in Texas would be desirable to more fully understand these birdwatchers and their habits. However, the survey would have to have a very large sample size to reach a sufficient number of birdwatchers. The 1991 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (U.S. Department of the Interior et al. 1993) sampled 129,500 households across the nation, and included questions on nonconsumptive wildlife activity. If more specific questions relating to birding were included, the results could be used by State wildlife managers to gain a better understanding of Texas birdwatchers.

LITERATURE CITED

- ADAMS, C. E., C. W. RAMSEY, M. DOWD, AND K. H. COOK. 1993.
A 1992 comparison of resident and nonresident hunters.
Final Report. Texas Parks and Wildl. Dep., Austin.
71pp.
- , AND J. K. THOMAS. 1983. Characteristics and
opinions of Texas hunters. Proc. Annu. Conf.
Southeast. Assoc. Fish and Wildl. Agencies. 37:244-
251.
- , AND ----- . 1989. Public uses of Texas wildlife and
natural areas. Final Report. Texas Agricult.
Experiment Station, College Station. 82pp.
- ALWARD, G. S., B. J. SULLIVAN, AND T. W. HOEKSTRA. 1984.
Using socioeconomic data in the management of fishing
and hunting. Trans. North Am. Wildl. and Nat. Resour.
Conf. 49:91-103.
- APPLEGATE, J. E., AND K. E. CLARK. 1987. Satisfaction
levels of birdwatchers: an observation on the
consumptive-nonconsumptive continuum. Leisure Sci.
9:129-134.
- BOYLE, S. A., AND F. B. SAMSON. 1985. Effects of
nonconsumptive recreation on wildlife: a review.
Wildl. Soc. Bull. 13:110-116.
- BRYAN, H. 1979. Conflict in the great outdoors: toward
understanding and managing for diverse sportsmen

- preferences. Sociological Studies No. 4. Bur. Public
Adm. University of Alabama, University, AL. 99pp.
- BUCHANAN, T. 1985. Commitment and leisure behavior: a
theoretical perspective. Leisure Sci. 7:401-420.
- DILLMAN, D. A. 1978. Mail and telephone surveys: the
total design method. John Wiley and Sons, New York.
325pp.
- DITTON, R. B., D. K. LOOMIS, AND S. CHOI. 1992.
Recreation specialization: re-conceptualization from
a social worlds perspective. J. Leisure Res. 24:33-
51.
- DODGE, D. G. 1988. Point Pelee birders are big business.
Borealis. 1:49.
- DOWD, M. 1993. Social influences on declining number of
hunters in Texas. M.S. Thesis, Texas A&M Univ.,
College Station. 133pp.
- EUBANKS, T., P. KERLINGER, AND R. H. PAYNE. High Island,
Texas: case study in avitourism. Birding. 25:415-
420.
- HVENEGAARD, G. T., J. R. BUTLER, AND D. K. KRISTOFIAK.
1989. Economic values of bird watching at Point Pelee
National Park, Canada. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 17:526-531.
- KELLERT, S. R. 1985. Birdwatching in American society.
Leisure Sci. 7:343-360.
- KUTAC, E. A. 1989. Birder's guide to Texas. Lone Star
Books, Houston. 194pp.

- LANGENAU, Jr., E. E. 1984. Utility of socio-economic research in wildlife management. Trans. North Am. Wildl. and Nat. Resour. Conf. 49:43-53.
- LYONS, J. R. 1982. Nonconsumptive wildlife-associated recreation in the U.S.: identifying the other constituency. Trans. North Am. Wildl. and Nat. Resour. Conf. 47:677-685.
- MANFREDO, M. J., AND B. HAIGHT. 1986. Oregon's nongame checkoff: a comparison of donors and nondonors. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 14:121-126.
- MCMATH, R. M. 1989. The birdwatching boom. Adweek's Marketing Week. 30:32-33.
- MOSS, M. B., J. D. FRASER, AND J. D. WELLMAN. 1986. Characteristics of nongame fund contributors vs. hunters in Virginia. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 14:107-114.
- MURDOCK, S. H., K. BACKMAN, R. B. DITTON, N. HOQUE, AND D. ELLIS. Demographic change in the United States in the 1990s and the twenty-first century: implications for fisheries management. Fisheries. 17:6-13.
- SAS INSTITUTE INC. 1985. SAS user's guide: statistics. Version 5 ed. SAS Inst. Inc., Cary, N.C. 956pp.
- SHAW, W. W., AND D. A. KING. 1980. Wildlife management and nonhunting wildlife enthusiasts. Trans. North Am. Wildl. and Nat. Resour. Conf. 45:219-225.
- STEVENSON, L. R. Development Director and Chief Financial Officer, American Birding Association. Pers. Commun.

- Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY. Oct. 21, 1992.
- TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT. 1990. Annual report: 1989-1990. Texas Parks and Wildl. Dep., Austin. 120pp.
- THOMAS, J. K., AND C. E. ADAMS. 1982. An assessment of hunter's attitudes and preferences concerning Texas wildlife and wildlife regulatory policies. Final report (P\R No. W-107-R) i-xxvi + 419pp.
- , D. GILL, AND C. E. ADAMS. 1984. Environmental perceptions of licensed Texas hunters. The Environmental Professional. 6:255-263.
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. 1993. 1991 National survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC. 124pp.
- WAUER, R. 1991. Profile of an ABA birder. Birding. 23:146-154.
- WIEDNER, D., AND P. KERLINGER. 1990. Economics of birding: a national survey of active birders. Am. Birds. 44:209-213.
- WILKES, B. 1977. The myth of the non-consumptive user. Canadian Field-Naturalist. 91:343-349.
- WITTER, D. J., AND W. W. SHAW. 1979. Beliefs of birders, hunters, and wildlife professionals about wildlife management. Trans. North Am. Wildl. and Nat. Resour.

Conf. 44:298-305.

-----, AND S. L. SHERIFF. 1983. Obtaining constituent
feedback: implications for conservation programs.
Trans. North Am. Wildl. and Nat. Resour. Conf. 48:
42-49.

APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRES

BIRDER SURVEY

In the following questions, please tell us about your birding activity and experience.

1. Approximately how many days since this time last year did you spend on birding trips in Texas and out of state? (Trip = outing at least one mile from home for the specific purpose of going birding. Include partial days as full days.)
 - a. _____ days in TX
 - b. _____ days out of state
2. How many trips did you take since this time last year to go birding?
 - a. _____ trips in TX
 - b. _____ trips out of state
3. Approximately how many miles did you travel since this time last year while making trips to go birding?
 - a. _____ miles in TX
 - b. _____ miles out of state
4. During what months did you make at least one birding trip since this time last year? (Circle months.)
 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
5. To how many conservation and birding organizations do you pay separate dues? (ex. National Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Texas Ornithological Society, Ducks Unlimited, etc.)
 - a. _____ international
 - b. _____ national
 - c. _____ state
 - d. _____ local
6. How many birding trips have you taken to each of the following Texas areas since this time last year?

a. _____ my own land	h. _____ state forest land
b. _____ other privately-owned land	i. _____ roadsides
c. _____ state management areas	j. _____ public beaches
d. _____ inland wildlife refuges	k. _____ private sanctuaries
e. _____ state parks	l. _____ city parks
f. _____ national parks	m. _____ other (_____)
g. _____ national forest land	
7. How many birding trips have you taken to each of the following Texas habitat types since this time last year?

a. _____ coastal marshes	j. _____ pineywoods
b. _____ coastal bays	k. _____ brushland
c. _____ inland marshes	l. _____ grasslands/prairies
d. _____ inland lakes/reservoirs	m. _____ western mountains
e. _____ bottomlands	n. _____ desert
f. _____ rice fields	o. _____ urban areas
g. _____ other cultivated fields	p. _____ beaches/mudflats
h. _____ eastern deciduous forests	q. _____ offshore (pelagic)
i. _____ central TX juniper/oak woodlands	r. _____ other (_____)

8. To what other states or countries have you taken birding trips since this time last year? Please list the states/countries and the number of trips taken to each. (Example: AK (2), Mexico (1))

a. States: _____

b. Countries: _____

9. Indicate which of the following is the most important reason (insert a 1) and the second most important reason (insert a 2) you go birding.

- a. to be close to nature
 b. to be with friends
 c. to be with family
 d. for business reasons
 e. for listing
 f. personal challenge
 g. for exercise
 h. aesthetics (beauty of birds)
 i. fascination with birds
 j. other(_____)

10. Who else goes birding in your family? (Check all that apply.)

- a. no one
 b. father
 c. mother
 d. son(s)
 e. daughter(s)
 f. brother(s)
 g. sister(s)
 h. spouse
 i. other relatives

11. How often did you go birding with each of the following people during these ages in your life? Disregard ages older than your present age. (Please indicate frequently (F), seldom (S), or never (N).)

	A < 18	B 18-34	C 35-54	D 55-64	E > 64
a. Father					
b. Mother					
c. Son(s)					
d. Daughter(s)					
e. Brother(s)					
f. Sister(s)					
g. Spouse					
h. Other Relatives					
i. Friend(s)					
j. By Myself					
k. Strangers (met in the field)					

12. Who introduced you to birding? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> father | g. <input type="checkbox"/> spouse |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> mother | h. <input type="checkbox"/> other relatives |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> son(s) | i. <input type="checkbox"/> friend(s) |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> daughter(s) | j. <input type="checkbox"/> myself |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> brother(s) | k. <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify _____) |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> sister(s) | |

13. Did you introduce any of the following people to birding? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> father | g. <input type="checkbox"/> spouse |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> mother | h. <input type="checkbox"/> other relatives |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> son(s) | i. <input type="checkbox"/> friend(s) |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> daughter(s) | j. <input type="checkbox"/> no one |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> brother(s) | k. <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify _____) |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> sister(s) | |

14. Please circle the number that indicates your level of agreement/disagreement with the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation	1	2	3	4	5
b. Hunting should continue as a management tool	1	2	3	4	5
c. Endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment	1	2	3	4	5
d. A good balance exists in TX between game/nongame wildlife management	1	2	3	4	5
e. Nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters	1	2	3	4	5
f. Nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases	1	2	3	4	5
g. Wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX	1	2	3	4	5
h. The need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private property rights	1	2	3	4	5

- i. Wildlife management benefits primarily game species in TX 1 2 3 4 5
15. (A) Have you purchased a Conservation Passport since this time last year?
 a. YES b. NO (but am aware of the Passport) c. NO (don't know what the Passport is)
- (B) Did you buy a hunting license or duck stamp for conservation (nonhunting) purposes since this time last year?
 a. license: YES NO; b. duck stamp: YES NO
16. Would you oppose or favor the following ways of getting additional funds to support nongame programs in Texas? (Circle your responses.)

- | | Strongly Oppose | Oppose | Not Sure | Favor | Strongly Favor |
|--|-----------------|--------|----------|-------|----------------|
| a. increasing fees for hunting licenses | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. adding 1/8 cent to the general state sales tax | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. add one-cent sales tax per dollar on outdoor recreation equipment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. adding 50 cents to driver's license fee | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. placing a fee of \$1.00 per \$1,000 on real estate sales | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. adding 50 cents per month on electric bills | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. establish a nongame wildlife fund from state lottery receipts | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
17. Please estimate how much you have spent on birding since this time last year in each of the following categories:
- a. Basic equipment: \$ _____
- b. Food and lodging: \$ _____
- c. Transportation: \$ _____
- d. Magazines/books: \$ _____
- e. Membership dues/contributions: \$ _____
- f. Entrance fees, licenses, permits, Conservation Passport, stamps: \$ _____

- g. Guided tours: \$ _____
- h. Phone calls (to rare bird alerts, etc.): \$ _____
18. Are there factors that prevent you from birding as much as you would like in Texas?
- a. YES (go to question 19) b. NO (go to question 20)
19. If YES, to what extent do the following prevent you from birding more often in Texas? (Please circle the number that indicates how important each item is to you.)

Not at all Slightly Moderately Very Extremely
Important Important Important Important Important

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. lack of interest | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. scarcity of birds in the places I like to go birding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. loss of habitat where I like to go birding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. too many birders in the areas I go | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. too many hunters in the areas I go | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. involved in other recreational activities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. not enough time due to family commitments | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| h. not enough money | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| i. personal health/age | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| j. not enough time due to work | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| k. land access restrictions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| l. unethical birders present | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| m. have to drive too far | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| n. hearing negative comments about birders from the public | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

- o. my friends no longer
bird as often 1 2 3 4 5
20. What was your approximate total family income before taxes in 1992? (Check one.)
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. [] less than \$10,000 | h. [] 70,000 - 79,999 |
| b. [] 10,000 - 19,999 | i. [] 80,000 - 89,999 |
| c. [] 20,000 - 29,999 | j. [] 90,000 - 99,999 |
| d. [] 30,000 - 39,999 | k. [] 100,000 - 109,999 |
| e. [] 40,000 - 49,999 | l. [] 110,000 - 119,999 |
| f. [] 50,000 - 59,999 | m. [] 120,000 - 129,999 |
| g. [] 60,000 - 69,999 | n. [] 130,000 + |
21. What is your present occupation? _____
22. How are you paid? (Check all that apply.)
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| a. [] hourly wages | d. [] self-employed |
| b. [] salary | e. [] retirement income |
| c. [] commission | |
23. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Check one.)
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| a. [] none | g. [] bachelor's degree |
| b. [] less than high school | h. [] master's degree |
| c. [] high school graduate | i. [] Ph.D |
| d. [] military, trade school | j. [] professional (law, medicine, veterinarian) |
| e. [] some college | |
| f. [] associate degree | |
24. What was the year of your birth? 19 _____
25. Are you: a. [] male or b. [] female?
26. Are you: (Check one.)
- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. [] White | d. [] Hispanic |
| b. [] Black | e. [] Other (please specify _____) |
| c. [] Asian | |
27. How long have you lived in Texas? _____ years
28. How old were you when you started birding? _____ years old
29. Which of the following categories best describes the place you live now? (Check one.)
- | |
|--|
| a. [] on a farm or ranch |
| b. [] in a rural area but not a farm or ranch |
| c. [] town with fewer than 2,500 people |
| d. [] town with 2,500 - 9,999 people |
| e. [] town with 10,000 - 49,999 people |
| f. [] city with 50,000 - 249,999 people |
| g. [] city with 250,000 - 499,999 people |
| h. [] city with 500,000 - 999,999 people |
| i. [] city with 1,000,000 or more people |

30. Which of the following categories best describes the place in which you spent most of your childhood? (Check one.)

- a. [] on a farm or ranch
- b. [] in a rural area but not a farm or ranch
- c. [] town with fewer than 2,500 people
- d. [] town with 2,500 - 9,999 people
- e. [] town with 10,000 - 49,999 people
- f. [] city with 50,000 - 249,999 people
- g. [] city with 250,000 - 499,999 people
- h. [] city with 500,000 - 999,999 people
- i. [] city with 1,000,000 or more people

31. How did you get started in birding - the "spark"?

32. Comments: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?
Please use this space for your comments.

If you would like to receive a summary of this study, check this box:

Your participation in this study is greatly appreciated. Please place your completed questionnaire in the return envelope and mail as soon as possible.

WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

In the following questions, please tell us about your duck/goose hunting activity and experience.

Do you primarily hunt for:

a. ducks, b. geese, c. both, or d. neither

(If you do not hunt ducks or geese, please answer only questions 5, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 32.)

- Approximately how many days since this time last year did you spend on duck/goose hunting trips in Texas and out of state? (Trip = outing at least one mile from home for the specific purpose of going duck/goose hunting. Include partial days as full days.)
 - _____ days in TX
 - _____ days out of state
- How many trips did you take since this time last year to go duck/goose hunting?
 - _____ trips in TX
 - _____ trips out of state
- Approximately how many miles did you travel since this time last year while making trips to go duck/goose hunting?
 - _____ miles in TX
 - _____ miles out of state
- During what months did you make at least one duck/goose hunting trip since this time last year? (Circle months.)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
- To how many conservation and hunting organizations do you pay separate dues? (ex. National Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, NRA, Ducks Unlimited, etc.)
 - _____ international
 - _____ national
 - _____ state
 - _____ local
- How many duck/goose hunting trips have you taken to each of the following Texas areas since this time last year?
 - _____ my own land
 - _____ other privately-owned land
 - _____ state management areas
 - _____ national wildlife refuges
 - _____ my own lease
 - _____ land leased by others
 - _____ other(_____)
- How many duck/goose hunting trips have you taken to each of the following Texas habitat types since this time last year?
 - _____ coastal marshes
 - _____ coastal bays
 - _____ inland marshes
 - _____ inland lakes/reservoirs
 - _____ bottomlands
 - _____ rice fields
 - _____ other cultivated fields
 - _____ farm tanks
 - _____ other(_____)

8. To what other states or countries have you taken duck/goose hunting trips since this time last year? Please list the states/countries and the number of trips to each. (Example: LA (2), Mexico (1))

a. States: _____

b. Countries: _____

9. Indicate which of the following is the most important reason (insert a 1) and the second most important reason (insert a 2) you go duck/goose hunting.

- a. to be close to nature
 b. to be with friends
 c. to be with family
 d. for business reasons
 e. for trophies
 f. personal challenge
 g. for exercise
 h. for meat
 i. to participate in game management
 j. other(_____)

10. Who else goes duck/goose hunting in your family? (Check all that apply.)

- a. no one
 b. father
 c. mother
 d. son(s)
 e. daughter(s)
 f. brother(s)
 g. sister(s)
 h. spouse
 i. other relatives

11. How often did you go duck/goose hunting with each of the following people during these ages in your life? Disregard ages older than your present age. (Please indicate frequently (F), seldom (S), or never (N).)

	A < 18	B 18-34	C 35-54	D 55-64	E > 64
a. Father					
b. Mother					
c. Son(s)					
d. Daughter(s)					
e. Brother(s)					
f. Sister(s)					
g. Spouse					
h. Other Relatives					
i. Friend(s)					
j. By Myself					
k. Strangers (met in the field)					

12. Who introduced you to duck/goose hunting? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> father | g. <input type="checkbox"/> spouse |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> mother | h. <input type="checkbox"/> other relatives |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> son(s) | i. <input type="checkbox"/> friend(s) |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> daughter(s) | j. <input type="checkbox"/> myself |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> brother(s) | k. <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify _____) |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> sister(s) | |

13. Did you introduce any of the following people to duck/goose hunting? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> father | g. <input type="checkbox"/> spouse |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> mother | h. <input type="checkbox"/> other relatives |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> son(s) | i. <input type="checkbox"/> friend(s) |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> daughter(s) | j. <input type="checkbox"/> no one |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> brother(s) | k. <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify _____) |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> sister(s) | |

14. Please circle the number that indicates your level of agreement/disagreement with the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Hunting is necessary to prevent waterfowl overpopulation	1	2	3	4	5
b. Hunting should continue as a management tool	1	2	3	4	5
c. Endangered species should be protected even if it means higher unemployment	1	2	3	4	5
d. A good balance exists in TX between game/nongame wildlife management	1	2	3	4	5
e. Nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management decisions should equal those of hunters	1	2	3	4	5
f. Nongame management funds should come primarily from hunting license purchases	1	2	3	4	5
g. Wildlife management benefits primarily hunters in TX	1	2	3	4	5
h. The need to protect critical wildlife habitat supersedes private property rights	1	2	3	4	5

18. Are there factors that prevent you from duck/goose hunting as much as you would like in Texas?

- a. YES (go to question 19) b. NO (go to question 20)

19. If YES, to what extent do the following prevent you from duck/goose hunting more often in Texas? (Please circle the number that indicates how important each item is to you.)

Not at all Slightly Moderately Very Extremely
Important Important Important Important Important

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. lack of interest | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. scarcity of ducks/
geese in the places
I like to go hunting | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. loss of habitat where
I like to go hunting | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. too many nonhunters
where I hunt | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. too many hunters
where I hunt | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f. involved in other
recreational
activities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g. not enough time
due to family
commitments | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| h. not enough money | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| i. personal health/age | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| j. not enough time due
to work | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| k. land access
restrictions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| l. poachers/unethical
hunters present | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| m. have to drive too
far | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| n. hearing negative
comments about
hunters from the
public | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| o. my friends no longer
hunt as often | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| p. lease cost too high | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

20. What was your approximate total family income before taxes in 1992? (Check one.)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> | less than \$10,000 | h. <input type="checkbox"/> | 70,000 - 79,999 |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> | 10,000 - 19,999 | i. <input type="checkbox"/> | 80,000 - 89,999 |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> | 20,000 - 29,999 | j. <input type="checkbox"/> | 90,000 - 99,999 |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> | 30,000 - 39,999 | k. <input type="checkbox"/> | 100,000 - 109,999 |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> | 40,000 - 49,999 | l. <input type="checkbox"/> | 110,000 - 119,999 |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> | 50,000 - 59,999 | m. <input type="checkbox"/> | 120,000 - 129,999 |
| g. <input type="checkbox"/> | 60,000 - 69,999 | n. <input type="checkbox"/> | 130,000 + |

21. What is your present occupation? _____

22. How are you paid? (Check all that apply.)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> | hourly wages | d. <input type="checkbox"/> | self-employed |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> | salary | e. <input type="checkbox"/> | retirement income |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> | commission | | |

23. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Check one.)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> | none | g. <input type="checkbox"/> | bachelor's degree |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> | less than high school | h. <input type="checkbox"/> | master's degree |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> | high school graduate | i. <input type="checkbox"/> | Ph.D |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> | military, trade school | j. <input type="checkbox"/> | professional (law, medicine, veterinarian) |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> | some college | | |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> | associate degree | | |

24. What was the year of your birth? 19_____

25. Are you: a. male or b. female?

26. Are you: (Check one.)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> | White | d. <input type="checkbox"/> | Hispanic |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> | Black | e. <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify _____) |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian | | |

27. How long have you lived in Texas? _____ years.

28. How old were you when you started duck/goose hunting? _____ years old

29. Which of the following categories best describes the place you live now? (Check one.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> | on a farm or ranch |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> | in a rural area but not a farm or ranch |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> | town with fewer than 2,500 people |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> | town with 2,500 - 9,999 people |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> | town with 10,000 - 49,999 people |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> | city with 50,000 - 249,999 people |
| g. <input type="checkbox"/> | city with 250,000 - 499,999 people |
| h. <input type="checkbox"/> | city with 500,000 - 999,999 people |
| i. <input type="checkbox"/> | city with 1,000,000 or more people |

30. Which of the following categories best describes the place in which you spent most of your childhood? (Check one.)
- a. [] on a farm or ranch
 - b. [] in a rural area but not a farm or ranch
 - c. [] town with fewer than 2,500 people
 - d. [] town with 2,500 - 9,999 people
 - e. [] town with 10,000 - 49,999 people
 - f. [] city with 50,000 - 249,999 people
 - g. [] city with 250,000 - 499,999 people
 - h. [] city with 500,000 - 999,999 people
 - i. [] city with 1,000,000 or more people

31. How did you get started in duck/goose hunting - the "spark"?

32. Comments: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?
Please use this space for your comments.

If you would like to receive a summary of this study, check this box.

Your participation in this study is greatly appreciated. Please place your completed questionnaire in the return envelope and mail as soon as possible.

APPENDIX B

WATERFOWL HUNTERS: NONRESPONSE TELEPHONE SURVEY

	Call 1	Call 2	Call 3
Interviewer Initials:	_____	_____	_____
Date:	_____	_____	_____
Time:	_____	_____	_____
Status:			
Call Back:	_____	_____	_____
Busy Line:	_____	_____	_____
No Answer:	_____	_____	_____
Refused:	_____	_____	_____
Wrong Number:	_____	_____	_____
Time interview started:	_____	Completed:	_____

Hello, I am _____ with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. May I please speak to _____?
?

NO..... When would be a good time to phone him/her?

YES, THIS IS HE/SHE..... Last September we sent you a survey on Texas waterfowl hunting. We are now doing a follow-up on those who did not respond to the survey, for comparative purposes. Could you take a moment to answer a few questions? (If respondent says that he/she is not a waterfowl hunter, ask if you may still ask him/her a few questions.)

NO..... Thank you for your time. (Hang up.)

YES..... Go to question #1.

1. Do you primarily hunt for:
 - a. ducks
 - b. geese
 - c. both
 - d. neither (go to question # 9)

2. Approximately how many days since this time last year did you spend on duck or goose hunting trips in Texas?

3. Approximately how many days since this time last year did you spend on duck or goose hunting trips out-of-state?

4. Approximately how many trips did you take since this time last year to go duck or goose hunting in Texas?

5. Approximately how many trips did you take since this time last year to go duck or goose hunting out-of-state?

6. What is the most important reason you go waterfowl hunting? (Ask as open-ended question, enter below.)
 - a. to be close to nature
 - b. to be with friends
 - c. to be with family
 - d. for business reasons
 - e. for trophies
 - f. personal challenge
 - g. for exercise
 - h. for meat
 - i. to participate in game management
 - j. other (list _____)

7. Are there factors that prevent you from hunting waterfowl as often as you would like in Texas?
 - a. no (go to question # 9)
 - b. yes

8. The most important factors are: (Ask as open-ended question, enter below.)

- a. [] lack of interest
- b. [] scarcity of birds where I hunt
- c. [] loss of habitat where I hunt
- d. [] too many nonhunters where I hunt
- e. [] too many hunters where I hunt
- f. [] involved in other recreational activities
- g. [] not enough time due to family commitments
- h. [] not enough money
- i. [] personal health/age
- j. [] not enough time due to work
- k. [] land access restrictions
- l. [] poachers/unethical hunters present
- m. [] have to drive too far
- n. [] hear negative comments from the public about hunters
- o. [] my friends no longer hunt as often
- p. [] lease cost too high
- q. [] other (list _____)

9. What was the year of your birth? 19____

10. Sex of respondent? (Do not ask; judge by name/voice.)

- a. [] male
- b. [] female

11. What is the population where you live now?

- a. [] farm or ranch
- b. [] rural area (not farm or ranch)
- c. [] town < 2,500
- d. [] town with 2,500 - 9,999
- e. [] town with 10,000 - 49,999
- f. [] city with 50,000 - 249,999
- g. [] city with 250,000 - 499,999
- h. [] city with 500,000 - 999,999
- i. [] city > 1,000,000
- j. [] don't know (Name of city/town: _____)

Thank you very much for your time. Have a nice day.

APPENDIX C
BIRDERS' COMMENTS ON THE BIRDING SPARK

SCOUTS

Girl Scouts.

Boy Scout birder provided the spark.

Scouting.

Boy Scouts - Bird study merit badge. Rekindled by a friend.

Boy Scout bird study merit badge begun at Boy Scout camp.

Bird study merit badge required to be Eagle Scout. Had older friends who were active Scout birders.

An aunt who was a birder and the need to get the Boy Scout Bird Watching Merit Badge.

Boy Scouts

Have always been interested in "nature". Found birding could be done everywhere and it provided the way to relieve stress and strain from other functions. The spark came from scouting at first as it challenged me to learn to identify by different methods, i.e. song, flight, bird habits. Also competitive and by counting species could reach goals.

Assisting son with requirements for merit badge in Scouts

Boy Scouts.

Leading Girl Scout Troop.

Curiosity and later Boy Scout summer camp.

Norma Stillwell had me bring my Girl Scout troop to her home to watch birds through her study windows. We later attended Audubon camps in Texas, Wisconsin, Maine, California.

Boy Scouts.

Bird Study Merit Badge was a requirement for Eagle Scout Rank. At summer camp I had an outgoing, knowledgeable medical student that ran the camp infirmary and he led early morning bird study walks. None of us had binoculars and he taught us the local birds by song, habitat, appearance and actions. This was in 1939-1940.

Became merit badge advisor for Boy Scout troop for bird watching.

When I was 13 or 14, I had to pass "bird study" merit badge to get my Eagle Scout award. The camp counselor who taught the class was a 15 or 16 year old, pretty sharp birder. I decided to continue birding on my own. After that, until I met a couple of "real" birders leading some Junior Audubon birders. With their help, I became a constant birder and learned fast. The next summer, I became the camp nature director at 15!

When Dad started teaching me about birds when I was studying for the Boy Scout badge for "bird study". My list as a Boy Scout was over 300 species.

In Boy Scouts as leader. Son.

Boy Scouts plus mother's encouragement.

Moved next to an 80 acre undeveloped city park. Found there were field guides. Had to lead Cub Scouts in a monthly "bird theme".

Early - Boy Scouts/nature trips with my father. Serious - visit to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

Boy Scouts/son/merit badge.

When we moved to state, there were yellow warblers in our yard. I didn't know what they were - everyone I asked said "wild canaries" - no way! I bought a bird book to figure it out and was hooked. Although I didn't really bird as a child, my mother taught me backyard birds - was always interested and noticed activity and did Girl Scout bird badge age 10-12.

My son was working on bird watching merit badge. Later worked for National Park Service where a naturalist with a degree from Cornell worked - joined TOS, ABA, Audubon, etc. Have travelled to Mexico, Central America, Alaska, Australia, Kenya, to see the birds.

Nature study merit badge and a year and a half later finding a rare bird and getting my name in print about it at age sixteen.

INDIVIDUAL BIRDS

Saw a painted bunting on vacation on St. Simon Island, Georgia. Several years later moved to Texas with a lot of birds we didn't know.

While fishing at the age of 16, saw several painted buntings come down to the water to drink not far away. I had to know more about them.

A male painted bunting at a bird feeder in my back yard.

Singing male painted bunting at Enchanted Rock State Park picnic area.

Encountered storm-downed migrants feeding in grass on walk to work (painted and indigo bunting) - curious to know identity.

My husband noticed a field alive with spring migrants on the campus of U.T. and showed them to me - indigo buntings and painted buntings mostly. We contacted a friend who was very knowledgeable - he answered all of our questions.

- Remembering seeing orchard oriole (northern) in our orchard.
- My twelve year old son brought in a beautiful painted bunting he had shot.
- Having seen blue wing, green wing, and wood ducks that had been killed by hunters when a child - for food.

Seeing a painted bunting through a binocular.

1. I saw a beautiful painted bunting in the hill country in 1976.
2. In 1977 a "blowdown" resulted in two weeks in May of great birds in my back yard. I was hooked!

I saw a beautifully colored bird in my yard that just had to be from Mexico! Turned out to be a painted bunting. Then wondering what all those birds were that we saw as we fished the Texas coast. Then National Geographic offered a set of birds of the U.S. - and I was lost!!!

Went with a friend and caught a glimpse of a painted bunting. Realized that birding represented a world of beauty as well as a challenge.

Seeing a colorful bird in a field behind our tent one day when we were camping. I found out later that this bird is a painted bunting. I decided to learn more about birds and how to identify them, as I like to go camping and hiking a lot and knowing what I am seeing in the way of birds seemed fun.

We bought a lake lot on upper Toledo Bend Reservoir in late 1980. I began to see great blue herons, great egrets, other herons (black-crowned, green-backed, and yellow-crowned), purple gallinule, painted bunting, prothonotary warbler, orchard oriole, and many more beautiful birds I had never seen in my own backyard such as red-headed and pileated woodpeckers. Need I say more! I began to wonder what these birds were. My daughter gave me my first bird book, "The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region" for Mother's Day in May of 1981. I consider it one of the best gifts of my life. Being outdoors and sharing many special moments seeing and identifying new birds, and seeing them again each season when they return has given my many pleasurable moments in my life.

First time I saw a painted bunting while on a trip to east Texas (Saratoga, Texas).

Painted bunting (male) in driveway.

Seeing a painted bunting at parents' feeder, Kerr County, and then a male vermilion flycatcher soon after.

Seeing a male painted bunting on my first birding field trip "hooked" me. I've been "addicted" ever since.

Wife took me birding to see painted bunting she had seen with other women (Audubon members) on a weekday.

A pair of painted buntings built a nest in our backyard. I had to buy a field guide to identify it, and I was on my way.

From a friend who introduced me to all of the birds here that I had no idea were here -- especially painted buntings and cedar waxwings.

I saw a painted bunting on a fence while driving through the country.

A flock of cedar waxwings landed in a tree near the window where I was washing dishes. I was excited to see the beauty of the birds up close. I wanted to know what they were. I got in my car and began searching the area for more waxwings. Later as I became more interested in other birds, I joined an organization in our city where I received help and encouragement. My North American life list at present is important to me - 686 birds - looking for 700.

I picked up husband's binoculars and saw a cedar waxwing.

A scarlet tanager outside my high school class window.

I was experimenting with a pair of binoculars I had received as a gift. I saw a movement in a pine tree and zeroed in on it. It was a male western tanager.

I saw a scarlet tanager in bright sunlight through binoculars at age 5.

Lived in the country in a farmhouse for 8 years. Saw a spectacular bird - decided it was time to learn bird names. (Parenthetically, it was a scarlet tanager.)

The friendly mockingbirds and flying of purple martins.

With my children I mistakenly identified shrikes for mockingbirds; when my error was pointed out, I realized how easily I make other errors, so I began to pay more attention and to reap spiritual and daily benefits.

When I was a young mother-homemaker, home all day, I began to notice the birds in my yard and put feeders. I began to see birds other than the ones I'd known from childhood - cardinals, Inca doves, mockingbirds.

When I saw birds in my backyard and my husband gave me a bird book and binoculars for Christmas - yellow-headed blackbird, titmouse, chickadee, and catbird, cardinal, mockingbirds.

Seeing roseate spoonbills.

My boyfriend saw a roseate spoonbill during his daily jog - this was his "spark". His interest got me birding.

Walking down the alley from my parents' home in Kingsville to a wooded vacant lot, then sitting with my back against a large mesquite tree while mixed flocks of gnatcatchers, kinglets, warblers, green jays, etc. flitted around me. I didn't need binoculars, they came so close. And I didn't know what most of them were when I first started this watching on winter evenings. It became a routine in the 7th and 8th grades.

While we (wife and I) were visiting a cemetery outside Hebbronville, TX (arid country, cemetery was irrigated and was an oasis) a flock of green jays engulfed us. We immediately became birders.

Bought binoculars Christmas 1981 to observe long-billed curlews and green jays in neighborhood.

I saw a large flock of about 1000 sandhill cranes and a long-billed curlew in south Texas, beside the highway near Aransas NWR.

Interest in whooping cranes.

Whooping crane trip to Aransas NWR with a friend who was a birder.

It all began with a little black-chinned hummer who built her nest on a low branch in our mulberry tree. A hummingbird feeder was only a few feet away. I watched her nest and defend her territory diligently and then observed her two little ones grow and fledge.

"Strange" bird landed on patio and I had to know what it was - it was a flicker - I was hooked.

I saw a flicker in the yard and looked in the encyclopedia to see what it was. Later I discovered the Peterson "Field Guide to Birds of Texas", and my interest in identifying birds grew. Then I found a local group with whom I could go birding and I was hooked!

I watched a red-bellied woodpecker spend a week excavating a hole in a dead tree, only to be evicted by European starlings once the job was finished.

A friend asked me to get up at 4:00 in the morning, go to a pond in Baja California, and find a phainopepla. As I lowered my borrowed binoculars onto that red eye, I knew I had been missing much of nature's beauty and secrets. Hence started my quest to identify and understand the birds. I do not read novels now, I read field guide books (mostly in North America). I love teaching young people how to hunt with their binoculars; to teach they do not have to take possession of a creature to enjoy the hunt.

Backpacking in Big Bend; came across birders who had spotted a Colima warbler. The loaned me binocs to look at the bird, and when they said that was the only place in the U.S. to see it, I was hooked. It also helped that was in Big Bend during spring migration!

Ex-wife companion showed me a white-breasted nuthatch on nest in cavity where tree bark had pulled away from trunk. Saw the bird from ten inches away. Took four to five more years to become birder but God bless that woman. It may have been the riches gift in my life.

I tried to identify a killdeer and my son started me to watch and study the birds.

When I was a sophomore at Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas, a friend offered to take me birding at White Rock Lake. It was a brilliant May day. The time with a friend was satisfying, but the "spark" was ignited when I caught excellent sightings of an eastern kingbird picking berries, and a yellow-billed cuckoo perched on a branch. I was hooked by the experience of being outdoors, with friends, enjoying a new awareness of the natural world.

When (at age 16) bluebirds nesting in martin house at lake fledged into lake - Dad and I rescued them with fish net. At age 50 began seriously with project on raptor nest habits for Minnesota county parks (snowshoes and great horned owl "ears" in nests!).

Texas Nature Conservancy annual meeting trip to Wynne Ranch on Matagorda Island. We walked about fifty yards from the dock to fresh water and brackish marsh area. From one spot we saw kingfishers, herons, kites, egrets, osprey, anhinga, owl, shorebirds. I was enchanted.

I "captured" a black-capped vireo on audiotape.

Watching a family of scissor-tailed flycatchers.

Walks in country areas in England until eight years of age. Seeing skylarks and English robins. As an adult, when I joined an Audubon club in Minnesota.

Saw two mature eagles dive to catch fish in the Red River. Beautiful.

Downy woodpecker excavating an old mimosa tree in front yard - so diligent and focused - what is this odd-looking critter? - know it's a woodpecker, but what kind? A few bucks and a Peterson's "Birds of Texas" solved the mystery, but was surprised to learn there were five or six woodpeckers right here in Beaumont - and so it goes...

I've always liked nature/camping. There were two "sparks". As a child I was fascinated with a nature show about anhingas. When I saw one in the wild, I realized that no matter how remote or exotic the bird was, I could go out and see one. The real "spark" was seeing the blue color of a bluebird. That such colors existed in nature, and in birds that

were there all my life but I never noticed, makes me want to see every bird I can.

I became interested in birds in the third grade, while living in a semi-rural area in Enterprise, Alabama. I still have all the bird books I acquired at this time. However, I started really active listing in 1972 when I could not initially identify a rufous-sided towhee in my dad's yard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

A friend invited me to drive to Corpus (5 hours) to see the jabiru stork in 1981. We left at 2:00 a.m. It was my first birding trip.

Memories from my childhood and the woods, and my first purple finch on my windowsill.

As a child I started noticing birds. A rose-breasted grosbeak at baseball practice really kicked it off.

Purple gallinule in our yard - I looked it up in a book of Audubon paintings and then decided to check all the birds I could recognize. My first list was 10 birds. I started learning the rest.

Seeing pine grosbeaks in backyard feeder in Fargo, ND, during winter storm.

The first time I heard the cry of an overwintering loon through the early morning fog on Sam Rayburn Lake - I was hooked.

Moved into new, wooded, undeveloped area with many birds - mother-in-law showed me a yellow-bellied sapsucker! Soon joined local nature-birding organization - saw Audubon films.

My wife saw some "sparrows" that did look like the rest (English sparrows) at our feeder.

I saw a vermilion flycatcher on Christmas day. I decided to search for other beautiful birds. Richard Pough spoke at our garden club and I started a hobby that I have followed around the world and every day.

Feeding birds during winter - using a field guide to identify a junco.

While hiking with my brother who was starting to bird - He showed me a female towhee, which I thought was beautiful.

Wilson's warbler in a short-leaf pine.

Back Bay Christmas Bird Count - Spent day birding with Paul Sykes at Back Bay with most of the world's population of greater snow geese overhead all day.

The first bird that caught my attention was a male American kestrel hunting a field behind my house. Had to buy a field guide to identify the bird, which led to a feeder to attract more birds which led to more books, a class on bird identification, life list and trips to see even more birds.

While fishing in a riverbottom lake, a bird, later identified as a prothonotary warbler, lit on the side of the boat. This and a pair of binoculars (wife) was the spark.

As far back as I can remember I was fascinated by all living things. As

a 10 year old in New York City I discovered the bird books next to the mammal books in the library and became fascinated by birds. During a winter trip to Ohio the next year I saw evening grosbeaks and other birds at my cousin's window feeder - and I was hooked!

As a child my mother often spoke of the plight of the whooping cranes. I went to see them in 1981 at Aransas NWR and was "hooked".

I had an extended illness and was curious about a bird with a blackish head and orange sides. I bought a bird book (Golden Guide). It was a rufous-sided towhee.

1. Somehow "noticed" an American goldfinch while on a walk.
2. Five years later, joined Audubon birding course for companionship in a new city.

Baltimore oriole nested in back yard in a weeping willow tree. That sparked mine and my family's interest in identifying the birds that passed through our yard.

As part of a docent training program - when I saw the first tufted titmouse through binoculars.

Yellow-billed cuckoo flew into a window at my house. I was astounded that there were birds in my own yard that I'd never seen or heard of before. As a child, also, I had pet birds.

Big Bend with family. Place on map said "good place to see birds". O.K., let's see the birds. Up pops a strange bird. I get to park headquarters and buy "Birds of Texas" by R.T. Peterson and go back to spot to see birds and then look page by page till I see the strange bird. It was a black-billed cuckoo. I was smitten! I had been primed by a novice birder that my wife and I played bridge with. I have since been to Russia, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Canada (5), Caribbean, Ecuador, Galapagos to look at birds.

I saw some sparrows and decided to try to identify them.

The first time I saw a hooded warbler.

I looked at a hummingbird with binocs.

The "spark" was a red-bellied woodpecker which landed on tree just outside my bedroom window. Then other birds which came to our farm home after that including a pileated woodpecker which perched in the same tree. I combined this interest with my other garden club interest of wildflowers. First went to Cornell's summer courses in photography and field work and censusing, then took a grand Texas tour with Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. Other tours followed. My interest grew. I share my interest and enthusiasm by giving talks on birds to garden clubs and other small groups and organizations.

Beautiful birds in Goliad and Bee Counties sparked my curiosity - especially the "Up the Creek Crane", a great blue heron, my uncle's colloquial name.

Observed interesting birds while on a general hike (specifically avocets and ladder-backed woodpeckers).

Fascinated with crows when young. Never was much interested with other birds until about 4 years ago, a ruby-crowned kinglet was flitting about

right outside our window and I had to find out what it was.

Seeing white-breasted nuthatches at age 62 "close up" through my window, and then great crested flycatcher in yard, neither of which I knew even existed.

Watching thousands of ducks flying south (upper New York state).

Nighthawk over movie theater in Stamford, CT, on July 6, 1973. Had a conversion experience.

The spark was an interest in seeing a bird in the field and matching it with a picture in a field guide (first one was pileated woodpecker). Now I'm working on a M.S. thesis on this species at SFASU.

A pileated woodpecker was working on a tree right by a window of our house. He got my attention and I had to know more about him so I went to the library and checked out a Peterson field guide to the birds of Texas.

In my backyard in southeastern Louisiana, in 1974, and saw a bright orange and black male Bullock's oriole on a day after a violent storm had passed from the northwest. My friend and I went to the bookstore and bought two field guides, and got tuned in to bird world.

I first noticed the beauty of birds by observing ring-necked pheasant and American kestrel that lived in fields around our house. After moving to Texas, we put a bird feeder in the back yard and I was fascinated with the variety of birds and found it was fun to recognize and identify a bird never seen before. The credit belongs to my husband and a work friend. The work friend introduced us to a birding class run by Ed Kutac. I was hooked. A beautiful bird or duck with the morning light showing off their vivid colors is truly a wonderful peaceful experience.

My husband took me to Okeefenokee Swamp on a canoe trip. I was enjoying the birds very much. When two swallow-tailed kites flew a figure 8 over our heads, I was hooked.

Noticing migratory ducks on ponds in City Park in New Orleans on early morning solitary drives, and wanting to be able to identify them.

Freeze: 1983 - Fallout of many species in the soybean field behind my house. Incredible.

Move to and residence in Venezuela for 5 years. Surrounded by its fabulous bird life and the leisure to enjoy!

TEACHER/PROFESSOR/CLASS

Teacher in elementary school.

Advanced biology teacher who was brilliant, enthused, and dynamic - course requirement was to start a life list. He brought in 2 live-trapped great horned owls - spectacular!

Third grade teacher took me to Armand Bayou Nature Center.

During a course in field zoology while pursuing an undergraduate degree in field biology. Teacher had a PhD in ornithology. I continued birding on my own after that but was introduced to American Birding Association

by a friend several years later.

High school teacher.

I was always intensely interested in nature and the out-of-doors - a high school teacher encouraged me to actually go out to look for birds, rather than simply observing what came my way.

Our third grade teacher would take us birding on our lunch hour - we were in the redwoods of northern California.

A teacher took me birding and a few birds amazed me (northern yellowthroat, cinnamon teal).

A college biology teacher was active in the National Audubon Society, and encouraged me. Also, an older friend has encouraged me to continue.

High school biology teacher.

Chemistry teacher - science club - speaker - high school.

1. An elderly professor who taught ornithology.
2. Seeing a "dipper" feeding underwater in a stream in Oregon.

A professor got me going.

Attended a bird ID course through a local school district (a continuing education class).

Had always enjoyed seeing birds in nature and the backyard, but it was a birding ID class I attended while searching for a new hobby that got me "hooked". I couldn't believe how many varied and beautiful creatures were flying around waiting for me to discover them and their world!

My brother became interested in birding. I went with him on a long weekend trip to the Valley. Then I took a bird identification class and became "hooked".

Have always fed birds - saw an ad in paper for bird watching classes.

Took a beginning birding class at Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Took a beginning birding class at Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Taking an ornithology class.

Bird ID class and enthusiasm of instructor and classmate (offered by Fort Worth Audubon).

Taking a bird identification class.

Enrolled in an ornithology class my junior year in college.

Took a class after becoming interested while I was a young mother and housewife - had always been interested in science and knowing names of things - birds just really fired my imagination and led to interest in other areas of natural science also.

Attended Warren Pulich's bird identification classes and field trips. Thrilled to see and be able to identify birds with the use of binoculars.

Attended Warren Pulich's bird identification classes and field trips. Thrilled to see birds in binoculars!

General interest for many years with birdhouses, etc. Took a bird identification class in 1973 and got hooked! Persons in bird club (not Audubon) very helpful, friendly and eager to help me in every way.

Put up bird houses in my new home and bought Peterson's book. Later years took a bird identification class and I got the spark.

- 1) Ornithology class in college.
- 2) Friend in medical school.

I became interested in birding because I joined an organization called Friends of Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. There I met people that were birders. Having been interested in nature most of my life, I decided to go birding, attended a bird I.D. class, went out birding with some experienced birders and was "hooked".

I have always enjoyed observing birds, but was given an opportunity to attend a bird class, and then I was hooked.

My wife and I were looking for a pastime or hobby we could share and do together, so we took a bird I.D. class together.

Always had an interest - didn't have the books, etc. Took a class with a friend.

Spouse saw advertisement at library for a beginner birder's class.

Audubon bird ID class for beginners.

Took a class from Jean Lentz.

I started hunting, fishing, and trapping when I was very young. I developed a real love for the outdoors; consequently, I began college as a fish and wildlife biology major. In college, I took an ornithology class. I've been birding ever since.

I have been a friend of Ed Kutac's for 27 years. In 1985, I finally took one of his classes and have been hooked ever since.

I have been a friend of Ed Kutac's for 27 years. In 1985 (after our family - five children - was grown) I took one of his birding classes and have been addicted ever since.

Field trip in a biology of birds course at UT Austin. Excellent friends in the class became a close group with birds our first thing in common.

Interest of friends - took 2 UT informal classes with Fred Webster and a class from Ed Kutac.

Decided to take a birding class.

Friend showered me with books, then took birding class from Ed Kutac. I was hooked.

Fred Collins and Rob Deshayes - Houston Audubon Society classes on natural history, birding, and plants.

Continuing education class.

Took undergraduate course in ornithology at Texas A&I University.

Adult continuing education course at local university.

College courses towards a B.S. degree in biology.

College course.

Ornithology course in college.

Birding activity of academic advisor in graduate school. Joined Houston Audubon Society, been birding off and on since that time.

I was spending a lot of time out-of-doors doing wildflower photography - wondered about birds, took a continuing education course on birding, got hooked, and have remained hooked.

Wondering what the birds in the backyard were. Took a course at the local college on bird identification.

- (1) Environmental education courses in school.
- (2) Friends.

A college course in ornithology.

I started dayhiking about ten years ago, and started noticing and hearing the birds. At the same time, I was taking a wildlife rehabilitation course, and was lucky enough to have Jane Lyons as a teacher. My first dark-eyed junco, and my first yellow-billed cuckoo I remember vividly, identifying them while walking alone at McKinney Falls State Park.

Not sure - I've always been interested since very young. When I was 20 a summer course in ornithology cemented my interest and turned me into an addict.

Biology course in high school and surroundings.

Interest in nature; retired; took bird I.D. course with Gene Blacklock.

A friend who was a birder taught a course at night in birding at a local university.

Urged by certain friends, took informal courses at UT.

College field biology courses.

Ed Kutac's course.

Continuing education course at Museum of Natural History.

Feeding birds in backyard after moving to the East Coast and then taking an adult education course on birding.

Adult continuing education.

Taking ornithology at Stephen F. Austin State U. I was amazed at the diversity and beauty of all those "tweety" birds. I had never taken the time to look at them.

FAMILY

SPOUSE

Met my husband at college, dated throughout college, and he introduced me to birding, did Christmas Bird Counts. Now we are very involved with several Christmas Bird Counts, conduct owl prowls, and hawk watches.

Husband and friend.

My husband and I started together gradually. Curiosity led me to study birds. The more I studied - the more went birding - the more enthusiastic I became. It is a really neat sport.

Husband's and friends' interest.

My husband retired, became interested, and got me interested.

I had birded with my husband but not seriously until I quit working in 1975. Then I had a friend who taught me what she knew.

My husband was interested and I wanted to go with him.

Husband is an avid birder. I already enjoyed being outdoors and he got me interested.

Was on a trip with my now-husband who's been birding for over 25 years. He showed me a belted kingfisher (in the scope) who was beating a very large fish against a tennis court fence post in order to kill it and eat it. I was hooked It was in Matagorda, TX.

Husband.

My husband was an avid birder. I traveled with him to find new birds and got "hooked".

Always loved out of doors. Wanted to share a hobby with my husband. Think birds are beautiful creatures.

Husband.

From my late husband - whose awareness of the natural world was always with him. I was fortunate he shared it with me.

My husband was not athletic but did enjoy hiking in woods, etc. and birding seemed to be something we could both enjoy.

A husband who loves birds.

To be with boy friend, my future husband.

My former husband (now deceased) was interested in and studied wildlife management. When retirement neared, following military career of moving, a new interest seemed indicated to avoid "let down", and first feeder, books, and binocs purchased, plus joined birding club. Continued increase in interest and expertise until spouse had bander's permit and we banded for several years. Birding continued until husband's final illness.

Husband.

My wife sparked my interest - she showed me the great diversity among species, both in number of species and in their behavior.

To support my wife's interest in birding.

From going with my wife.

Evolved from enjoyment of outdoors and general nature. Encouraged by my wife.

My wife took ornithology as an elective course in college (SFA) so she had some interest. We visited Big Bend N.P. in 1984 (second year of marriage) and she took her binoculars to look at birds and I got "hooked"!

Love of nature. Wife's previous interest. Love of travel.

Wife's interest/being in natural setting.

My wife and I and our two daughters went on many long camping vacations in the U.S. west, northwest, and Canada and we enjoyed seeing and observing birds. My wife and I, later (after daughters away from home, in college and/or working) went on birding trips led by Audubon Society. We also studied various bird and birding books and we love nature and the outdoors.

Wife introduced me to birding.

My first wife took an ornithology course in college. I was always outside anyway and I was always curious about all flora and fauna. So, we started.

My wife encouraged me to start.

From my wife - interest.

Wife took course in ornithology.

My wife got interested in birding.

To be close and with my wife. Friend got her interested and I caught the bug.

My wife wanted to do it, so I bought a spotting scope and "discovered" the "big birds" - waterfowl, waders, and raptors. Being in natural areas and the challenge of identification hooked me.

To start a hobby my wife and I could enjoy together.

Spouse started it - I'll finish it.

Spouse.

My spouse was an avid birder and I helped find pictures in books as we studied sparrows or ducks for field marks. I have great attention for details and this fit in with my abilities. There is always the unexpected find that makes every outing have potential. Besides, the birds are lovely!

My spouse is a biologist and rancher with a keen interest in all of the environment. His particular interest in mammals and birds was

transferred in our relationship.

My spouse was interested, so we took a weekend tour. It was fun, so we tried a second tour. Then we were hooked.

Spouse gave me a bird feeder.

My spouse.

My spouse shared his interest with me.

AUNT

My aunt took me birding and started my list. Then I saw a green jay!

I spent my summers and weekends at my aunt's home in the country and that was the "spark".

An aunt who is an avid birder.

My aunt gave me bird book, binoculars, and took me to her lake cabin and property birding. She also took me to Audubon Society meetings and gave me memberships in Dallas County Audubon Society and Texas Ornithological Society. I became interested and studied biology in college. My master's degree is in zoology and my area of research interest was bird behavior and avian ecology.

A bird book my aunt allowed me look at when I had been a "good boy".

Being held in my aunt's lap learning to read by naming birds in a bird book. Being taken by the hand and walked to the base of small tree that held a bald eagle's nest - the bird swooped low over my head during a trip to Florida, 1946.

GRANDPARENT

My grandfather was an old-fashioned naturalist. He took me with him on hundreds of trips.

My grandfather, as a youth and teenager, recalled many times how the flocks of passenger pigeons still darkened the skies in Wisconsin.

Seeing my Grandmother attract and handfeed a rose-breasted grosbeak.

My mama (grandmother who raised me) knew and was interested. Later I married a birder, went on many field trips. He led trips.

Grandmother gave me a bird book when I was a child. Following surgery (age 35) when unable to work, I began walking and birding more seriously. Began birding with other local people, joined San Antonio Audubon, and went on field trips.

The "spark" came from my grandmother - bless her heart!! She got me interested in birds and nature and outdoor activities when I was young.

A great grandmother who said "Look at the downy woodpecker" or "Look at the cedar waxwing."

SON, DAUGHTER

Son's interest in zoology, marine science, eventually leading to ornithology.

Son took my wife and I and showed us "how".

My five year old son needed someone to take him birding. Also, a friend made a talk at a Garden Club meeting about birds and the Audubon Society.

My interest is natural with a major in biology and botany. My son was doing a science project on the plant and animal kingdoms. When he got to birds using old National Geographics' pictures, he was "hooked". He got me interested so we were birding partners for many years, but, the farther he went in school (college), the less time he had, the more time I had. My deep interest in birds led me to be a rehabilitator for 20 years. Now, I still give some "bird talks" and lead a "birding group" here on the ranch with bi-monthly trips October through May, 5-7 day trips spring and fall.

My son got me started.

My son started and then got me interested.

Taking 10-year-old daughter birding.

PARENT

My mother and father joined the Mena Nature Club when I was a youngster (1971). But I got into it big time after my first Christmas Bird Count in 1979.

Father was professional naturalist at AMNH.

My parents always birded and had a love of the outdoors. My father is a biologist and I was exposed to nature all of my growing-up years, and have continued to love nature as an adult as a result of my exposure as a child. I have always enjoyed feeding and watching birds on family camping trips, but I think it was a magnificent hummingbird that came to a coke can feeder near Pagosa Springs, Colorado, that cinched my interest!

My interest in birds, wildlife, and nature started at a very early age due to my father, grandfather, and uncles.

Father bought pair of binos for Christmas. Took them on our regular walks in the park and discovered birds!

My father took me out to the water well drilling rig with him. He drilled for water while everyone else was drilling for oil in east Texas. He taught me to see - not just look and to hear, not just listen. It didn't really matter if I knew the name/species of the bird or bug or tree or flower, etc. He expected me to be able to describe the bird to him. This has been carried with my "birding" through the years - much to the disgust of many of my birding friends who have found "listing" the most important part of birding. I'm also a photographer, strike two!

Loved to go birding with my father as a young child - at age 18 saw my first bird through binocs - yellow-shafted flicker.

Began birding with father when young. As an adult, after child had grown - went on OG trip - and took up birding for myself.

Step father took me on trips and teacher in college helped me.

Father's interest.

My father, a new birder, bought a spotting scope on a visit from Kansas, and he asked me to take him birding to try it out. I took him to Brazos Bend State Park, hoping there might be something for him to see in April. The first bird we saw was a male anhinga spreading its wings to dry. I thought it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen and I was hooked.

Father's interest in natural history. He introduced me to careful observation, including birds.

Tagging along with my father when I was very young.

Father.

My father introduced me.

Through my father, friends, and interest in nature.

Probably my father and Boy Scouts.

Dad built birdhouses, fed birds in winter, and provided water for birds. He taught me their names and imitated their calls.

My dad's interest after ill health and age kept him from being outdoors. Best birding for him was at kitchen table with cup of coffee and binocs in hand. Also, Professor Warren Pulich's patience and mentoring.

I've always been fascinated by nature. In 1983, my mother and sister visited me and my family and we went to South Padre Island. My mother suggested we visit Laguna Atascosa, and that day I was hooked. I needed an outdoor hobby to replace hunting which as a youth I enjoyed. Hunting as a means of replacing predators that no longer exist is important for deer population control, but I no longer have the desire to kill anything. Birding gives me a good way to get out, use my outdoor skills, and exercise my observational talents. Birding can challenge both the mind and the body.

Watching birds at feeder with mother when growing up.

Sitting with my mother watching cardinals on a winter morning eating suet and seeds.

Growing up in Rio Grande Valley before the brush was all cleared - birds everywhere - Mother a birder and Mrs. Irby Davis a marvelous high school teacher.

At home with my mother. But then watching birds at a feeder in Iowa over Christmas about four years ago. Then I got a feeder, then a field guide, then a birding class with Ed Kutac - then birding, birding, all the time I can.

My mother got me started, and I enjoy looking at birds and listing them.

Motherly encouragement.

When I was a kid, my mother would look at bird books with me. Then I retired and started watching birds again.

Mother's interest in birds in yard.

My mother fed birds, watched them, read about them, and talked about them.

Although mother never went "birding" per se, she always showed an interest in birds and taught me to appreciate their beauty, songs, and behavior. Later, ornithology classes spurred me on.

Mother fed winter birds.

My mother feeding the birds in the backyard.

My mother always pointed out the backyard birds. I received binoculars as a gift at age 6; age 7 received life-sized plastic bird models, which I had to paint and assemble. I loved those birds - the whooper was the first one I completed. It still brings a warm, peaceful feeling whenever I think of that model or see a picture of a whooper, even though I've never seen one.

- 1) Mother's enthusiasm for nature.
- 2) Boy Scouts - Bird Study Merit Badge, then Nature Director for Scout camp.

Interest of parents and relatives in outdoors generally and therefore exposure to nature as a child. "Spark" was fascination that an Indiana state park ranger could I.D. birds high in trees by song/call.

Parents pointing out interesting birds when we were hiking or camping.

I have a life-long interest in science, nature, and esthetics. My interest in natural history was sparked by my parents' interest in agriculture and love of the land, although they themselves did not pursue studies of the life sciences or devote themselves to related recreation.

Went on birdwatching trip each spring with parents.

I was frequently exposed to many types of outdoor activities growing up. I had an early fascination in science and nature that was encouraged by my parents, both through vocal support and through books and gifts I was given growing up.

I birded with my parents until I was in college. I went out with them occasionally after that. Then I did not specifically "bird" intently until I was 40. At that point my children were old enough to leave at home.

My parents took our family on many trips all over the U.S., mostly to mountain areas. I think - after my own children grew older - I wanted to relive that part of my childhood. Birding was a natural progression from that desire.

I appreciated what my parents experienced and I liked the outdoors, but it took getting out of high school and away from home before I started birding on my own.

Parents took me birding until I was about 15. Then when I was 24, I was looking for something to photograph. I focused on birds but soon

realized it was easier to just look at them. Been birding ever since.

BROTHER, SISTER

My brother was president of Hawaii Audubon Society and took us on the Hawaii Audubon Society birdathon in 1989. We gradually took more interest in birds after that.

Brother and friends. Excitement of seeing new birds. Some competition. Trips out of doors with friends.

Brother and sister-in-law avid birders.

At a low point in my life, my sister took me to Brazoria NWR. The sheer numbers and beauty of the birds made it inevitable. Nature and saving nature made more sense than anything else I could come up with!

I always enjoyed being outside with nature and liked birds. The "spark" came after visiting my sister (a baby birder) in Ohio, where we did some hiking and a little birding. After returning home and buying a Golden N.A.B.G., I identified an eastern screech owl and great crested flycatcher in my back yard. I was hooked.

My sister took my wife and I on a trip.

IN-LAWS

Father-in-law birded, showed me the birds of the Adirondacks.

IDNUM=67

I had always been an "observer" - but after I was married, my father-in-law gave me a bird bath and that did it!

Father-in-law had a purple martin house.

My brother-in-law took us on the Hawaii Audubon Society's birdathon in 1989. We gradually took more interest in birds after that.

Walking my dogs on LBJ Library. Wanted to know what a killdeer was. My sister-in-law in Joplin, Missouri, worked at a bookstore - gave me Peterson's guide to birds of Texas.

Mother-in-law's interest in birds.

Father in law who is president of the Sierra Club sent me Birds of Texas for my birthday while I was in medical school.

My sister-in-law was a birder. I went on a birding trip with her and then got hooked.

Grew up on farm on outskirts of town where I spent much time in creek bottoms. Had a general base interest from that. Then my father-in-law, who was an active birder, renewed my interest by teaching me the "fine points" of bird watching.

My sister-in-law came from California to see the whooping cranes and I went with her. It was a wonderful introduction to birding in Texas!

FIELD GUIDE, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE

Gift of a National Geographic book on birds and then a gift of a pair of Sears binoculars.

Hunted all my life; Peterson's field guide to birds of Texas was spark.

Mother got me a field guide, probably to get me to do something besides shoot birds with air rifles.

I grew up spending time in Rockport. About two to three years ago, I noticed a field guide in a store and started flipping through it. This laid some groundwork which lay dormant for a year or so. Then I read Connie Hagar: Life History of a Texas Birdwatcher by McCracken. This book was the "spark".

A gift - Peterson's field guide for Texas - a pair of binoculars - and a home in the suburbs within a bike-ride of the country.

Found Peterson's Field Guide in school library.

My wife and I kept seeing strange birds at our favorite picnic spot. So we bought a field guide by Roger Tory Peterson - "The Birds of Texas and Adjacent States".

Liked to watch bird behavior as a kid. The "spark" was probably my first field guide, which showed how many birds were "out there".

Watching birds under the lawn sprinkler during 50s drought. I soon got my first real field guide with Exxon gasoline stamps or some such giveaway. Peterson's 1st guide to Texas birds. After that I bought my first binoculars.

Bedridden with rheumatic fever at age seven. Mother, to keep me quiet, loaned me her binoculars and bird books (early Peterson's), suggested I look at the birds outside my second floor windows in the trees of the woods west of Houston. When I could identify the birds, I painted them with tempura and watercolor onto sheets of brown wrapping paper taped to my bedroom wall. She saved the paintings...

A student/friend gave me a bird book and a bird feeder.

A Golden Guide bird book let me know what was in my backyard and then it was on to the parks and other wildlife areas.

I always loved the outdoors and the challenge of trying to identify birds caught my interest when I was about 9. A relative gave me a bird book when I was in the hospital at that time and it "sparked" my interest.

Someone gave me a bird book.

I grew up with a love of nature and have always admired birds. When I moved to Houston in 1964 I suddenly became aware of the large variety of birds and bought a bird book (Peterson). From that point on I was "hooked". Unfortunately, I developed Parkinson's Disease and can no longer bird.

When I was a grade-school youth, we summered at a lake in Michigan, and a neighbor lady used to take my brother, myself, and her two sons on nature walks. I collected turtles at the time, and thought the rest of nature a little dull. Then, in 1945, at age of 16, I got a job as a

forest lookout with U.S. Forest Service in the panhandle of Idaho, a big change for a boy raised mostly in Indianapolis, Indiana. I had a Peterson guide to western birds, and with nothing else to do, marked it with the dates I saw various birds. I worked there three summers, and made a trip to Yosemite on way out in 1947 and marked a park list with what I saw. Then came college, Army, and work, work, work after infantry and air force service. In 1973, soft and overweight, I started May 1 on the Appalachian Trail. It infuriated me that I didn't know what birds I was seeing - I had a manual for flowers and trees, but nothing for birds. When I got home November 3, I decided to spend some time learning birds, starting January 1, 1974. I birded with some friends (my wife and son didn't care for it), got involved in Indiana Audubon, started taking paid trips, etc. By 1979, I had passed 600 in U.S., and had more than 1000 Worldwide. Then, I started working on a history book, and didn't get back to serious birding until I retired and moved to Texas July 1, 1987. I got back into birding, served two years as president of Texas Ornithological Society, added another 75 birds to my U.S. list, but have now slowed down as I am working on some books again. I still do bird surveys of LRGVNR tracts three days a week with a friend, but seldom much more since the beginning of the year.

When I was in high school I used to check out Peterson's "The Birds of Texas". I would sneak it home and read it from cover to cover. I was hooked on birds from then on. I really didn't start "watching" birds until I was a junior at SWT and joined Travis Audubon. Ed Kutac took me under his wing. The rest is history!

Gift of a Peterson guide from sister-in-law.

Finding the old Peterson book in the college library.

Was aware of birds from an early age. Got Peterson's guide to Texas birds in junior high school in 1960s. Birded on my own for years. After college and law school, joined the Ornithology Group of Houston Outdoor Nature Club and associated with "hard core" birders and became one myself.

Looked at father's bird books. Wanted to see as many as possible. Enjoyed beauty.

Birds fascinated me as a child. They still do. Before I could read, I could identify probably 30 species by sight and song. These were our backyard birds. Dad bought me a really basic bird book with about 100 species in it, and I kept wondering (as a child) when red-eyed vireos and American redstarts were going to come to my feeders -- after all, cardinals, white-throated sparrows, and juncos were at the feeders!

A family friend had a book which caught my interest. The illustrations still seem more real to me than some of the species that I have been seeing most of my life. I was too young to read the text at the time.

Small bird-books I bought as a child.

Books bought by parents for me - seeing a red-headed woodpecker.

Company sent me to Fulton, Texas, to change gas charts in brush and had to take company boat to Redfish Bay to well platforms and saw bird on pilings and platforms. Did not know what they were and wife bought me a bird book. Read weekly "Bird Notes" in Caller Times and learned about bird club and joined same.

Park ranger at Big Bend presented a program on wildlife in the park. The next day I bought a "Birds of North America" book to help identify what I was seeing and I've been "hooked" ever since.

From my earliest remembrance I was always fascinated with birds. I picked up dead birds from the neighborhood and buried them in my back yard. Some time in 1961 I read a book about what birdwatchers were supposed to do... Keep list and records. So my first list started on January 1, 1962.

National Geographic books - Song and Garden Birds of North America and Water, Prey, and Game Birds of North America - which I took out of a library for information on animal extinction for a research paper I wrote while a senior in high school.

One day, I picked up a book by Warren Pulich, "The Birds of Tarrant County", and I want to try to find all those birds that were found there. I've been looking ever since.

Interested. Then a daughter-in-law needed a book on "Birds of Mexico". So I became interested in Audubon where I bought the book. Also, a friend.

When I was younger I always liked to look at the birds in and around my yard, around 9 to 12 years old. Then I got a bird book for Christmas when I was 9 and this fueled the interest even more.

Some houseguests to our second home in Rockport, Texas, gave us a bird book and Betty, my wife, got interested in gulls, terns, etc. out in front of the house (sits on the water) and we got hooked from there.

Had 15 cent bird book as child and knew local birds. Cousin showed me bluebird nesting in metal twine holder on old hay baler - had hole for the twine. Interest rekindled by son's cub scout bird badge and endeavor and appearance of Roger Peterson's "Texas Birds" plus sighting of a painted bunting.

- 1) Articles in local newspaper about how this area is thought to be some of the best in the world - we learned when we moved here.
- 2) A most charming ranger on a bird walk in Big Bend National Park in 1986.

A weekly birding column in the daily newspaper.

Read story about "bird watching" in "My Weekly Reader", a grade school newspaper.

Newspaper articles about birding and beginner outings.

One of our sons gave us a subscription to Audubon magazine.

Moved from Ohio to Texas. Good binoculars stolen - \$25 replacement and Peterson's guide and article in Audubon Magazine saying seven or eight people had seen 600 species in A.O.U. area. Along came A.B.A. and articles from newswriters Kay McCracken and Marjorie Adams.

An article in "Natural History Magazine" on "Rare and Seldom Seen Birds of North America". The article reminded me of my wife's earlier experience birding with some friends and I pursued birding as an opportunity for her and me to share an outdoor activity.

Read an article in a magazine, then met a birder.

The Audubon magazine at the library where I worked - joined - took an evening class and started going out with a group of women on Tuesdays.

CAMPING, HIKING, BACKPACKING

I was the physician for a group of 8th graders camping in Big Bend National Park. A ranger led a birding afternoon. That was "it" for me.

When camping with a friend at Lost Maples State Park.

Birds at a campsite in Colorado.

Noticing different birds while camping which led to binoculars and a bird book and has progressed over the years.

East Texas camping trip with friends, casual birders, during migration. It seemed like an inexpensive hobby - paperback book and cheap binocs. Ha!

Camping.

Hiking with a friend.

Saw birds while hiking and couldn't identify them.

Backpacking with my brother who was a birder.

Started backpacking and began observing birds.

HUNTING

Became interested while hunting and fishing in Arizona.

I was once a hunter and fisherman. I moved to a city where there was no such thing. Birding turned out to be the alternative.

Waterfowl hunting.

Hunting game birds. Just like to observe birds, but will not go out of my way to do so.

Grew from my general interest in out of doors - fishing and hunting.

Duck hunting.

Observing birds while deer hunting and ordering National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America.

Father and grandfather's hunting activities.

Poor fishing.

It was in the summer of 1970, when I was a summer intern with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. I was fishing in a pond at a small state wildlife refuge. I was looking at a log that had a branch sticking up out of it. The large branch all of a sudden took off, and turned out to be a great blue heron. Between that and the fact that I was awed because

my boss could separate red-tailed hawks from red-shouldered hawks, I was hooked. Working with Dr. Arnold's snipe crew cemented the addiction.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography for outdoor articles.

I bought a camera. While checking books out of the library on photography, one was on nature photography. I decided bird photography was what I wanted to do. Since I felt I needed to know as much as possible about birds, I joined the Audubon Society. I since have got so interested in birding, I very seldom take pictures anymore.

Photography!

Photographing birds with my husband, bird banding and skinning.

Photography.

Through wildlife photography.

BINOCULARS

Binoculars on kitchen table as a child. Backyard feeding as a child.

In 1978 I bought a cheap pair of binoculars at a Woolco department store in Denver, just before a camping trip to the Leadville area. Though I had a difficult time differentiating gray jays from nutcrackers (and was convinced I had discovered a hybrid population), I found myself fascinated with the realization of just how diverse our avifauna is. Since that time I've become addicted to optic quality, identification and distribution literature, species-specific travel, and even watching birds(!).

Used a pair of binoculars on a bird and have been hooked ever since. One of the most fascinating things I have ever done. Needless to say, you can tell I enjoy birding.

My mother was birding and everyone in my family likes nature, but it was not until 1988 that I decided to try birding. I just thought I would try it and see whether I enjoyed - had been reading a book about nature of Yucatan and needed an avocation. Decided to start gradually, but when I began to look through binoculars and actually see birds, I became very interested. It also made getting out in the outdoors easier - providing an incentive and a rationale (A woman by herself is still a bit of a curiosity, but binoculars label her a "birder" and seem to provide more acceptance.) - so it was not so much a "spark", as a growing interest - but seeing birds more closely was biggest factor - songs next.

Purchased binoculars for football games. Wife discovered very "unusual" "duck" through them while fishing one morning. Nothing would do till she figured out what solitary little duck-like bird had that ring around its bill. She bought a book - that did it!

My mother's love of nature and a pair of binoculars for my tenth birthday.

Looking at birds first time through binoculars.

Receiving binoculars as a present "sparked" the birding from backyard casual observations to an almost obsession.

In order to observe birds coming to backyard feeders, my husband went out and purchased two pairs of binoculars instead of one. I credit this as the critical event that opened the door to birding for both of us. Sharing equipment would have dampened interest for both of us. The next important event was going on an Audubon field trip and meeting other birders for the first time.

Getting a pair of binoculars from my fiancée.

Wife bought me a pair of binoculars when I retired.

My husband and I got a pair of binoculars as a wedding gift and a trip to Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania. My sister-in-law introduced us to birding.

Had binoculars for football. Couldn't identify "duck" in Oklahoma. Husband bought me a book (it was a pied-billed grebe). Saw area to check sightings in book - that was it!

? - Excuse to pack binoculars as kid.

Simultaneous gift of binocs and Peterson - Texas - I went birding "nuts".

BIRD FEEDER, BACKYARD BIRDING

Birdfeeders in backyard peaked my curiosity as to which birds were doing the feeding.

A friend's birdfeeder got us interested, so we bought one and began to identify birds.

My lover and I started watching bird feeders. Then, because of careers, we moved 1500 miles apart, after which the spark occurred. We would get together at her place and bird there, and when I was in my state I would bird in a beautiful field there: sparks!

Interest in natural systems. Backyard bird feeder. Lived in Colorado - had hummingbirds in profusion.

In 1960, we moved into a new home in an area with open spaces and many trees (not fully developed). One winter my mother was visiting and she put up a bird feeder (our first). We were absolutely amazed at the variety of birds in our own back yard! We bought binoculars and a field guide and a scope and were on our way!!

Back yard bird feeders which the children first put up as Scout projects.

Feeding birds.

Operated feeder.

My mother fed birds in our backyard for years. When my parents bought a weekend lake home we began birding "in the field". Soon after I joined our local Audubon chapter. With friends having a common interest, I really got into birding.

Started feeding birds in backyard and joined local Audubon group.

New winter birds at our feeder in Missouri.

Moved to Washington D.C. - saw birds I hadn't seen before - put out feeder, then it started.

Feeding birds in the back yard. I wanted to know all about birds, so I joined the Audubon Society, met other birders, and began serious birding elsewhere.

Feeding birds in our backyard, finding out about the local nature club at the county fair, attending their meeting and going on the field trip. At that point, I was hooked and as our sons got older and required less of my time, I devoted my time to birding.

Backyard bird feeding, my children's interest, then Audubon field trips.

Our family had been aware of birds which led to back yard feeding. This was a family activity which increased awareness of our natural world. The avian and mammal wildlife were common in our urban setting, exciting and a pleasure.

My office window overlooks a backyard. On a cold day in November, I saw a flock of small birds working their way quickly through the trees in the yard. I was curious about the birds and bought a field guide later that day. I later went out with my binoculars to see what else I could find.

Bird watching in the garden - spring migration.

I was interested in trying to identify birds in our yard.

Was interested in trying to identify birds we were seeing in our yard.

Watching birds in my backyard. There were lots of them then and their behavior was fascinating.

Interest in neighborhood birds.

Watching birds in the backyard which backed up to wooded area where there were many birds.

From observing common species of birds in my back yard.

I started watching birds in the yard when I was a young mother housebound with babies. It provided recreation and intellectual stimulation.

Curiosity about birds in my back yard.

Watching while at country house.

Back yard birding in Brooklyn, NY.

Brooklyn back yard birding.

The "spark" came from within. I just became interested in the birds coming to my yard.

I began identifying backyard birds.

As I studied after school in a wooded area near my home, I began noticing birds at age 12. I've been "hooked" ever since.

Backyard birding.

Started watching birds in yard.

Backyard birding in Massachusetts. Spark grew into flame because of birding trips with the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

FIELD TRIP, TOUR, NATURE CENTER, CLUBS, AUDUBON

Joined an Audubon field trip in Pensacola, Florida.

I saw a National Audubon Society wildlife film and had a chance to join. When I went on a field trip with the club, I saw a large flock of pelicans soaring and circling and I was hooked.

Went with a friend to a New Jersey Audubon Society field trip.

Took a trip with Peregrine Tours.

Went on field trips led by Audubon Society and looked at bird books. I have always been fond of birds and animals and the "outdoors".

I was teaching life science/biology and was always interested in natural history. A neighbor invited me to a local chapter Audubon meeting - on birds off Prince Edward Island - gannets. I was captivated. I then went on a field trip with the local Audubon Society. From that moment I was hooked and became a field trip leader, section leader of the local Christmas Count, participated in breeding bird censuses, and became a board member of local Audubon Society - in 3 years. The rest is history.

Nearing retirement I needed an outdoor activity and went on a few field trips with Phoenix Audubon. I like the flexibility.

Went on a nature field trip in 1976 to Rockport and South Padre sponsored by the Houston Museum of Natural Science - that trip did it!

First field trip. Liked the suspense of locating the bird; then focusing binoculars; seeing the beauty of the birds and then the identification of the bird.

Audubon field trip to Galveston.

I participated in 10 field trips with a renowned naturalist (Robert A. Vines) the summer I was 14. We kept bird and plant trip lists. I was thoroughly amazed and somewhat overwhelmed by his identification skills. I watched birds casually for the next 25 years. Then, one spring, my husband and I signed up for a 3 day tour of High Island, Texas, in April. A couple of years later we took a week-long trip with the same tour operator to SE Arizona in May. The "spark" was the variety of new birds seen in such a short time and the adventure of seeking them out. I think I was most struck by the instinctive drive of the species to perpetuate themselves in the face of diminishing resources.

Normal part of school activities on "nature field trips" with plants and insects.

Nature trip to Australia.

A natural history tour to Australia.

A birding tour in Big Bend with Roland Wauer.

Took a nature tour up the Amazon and the leader was a birder and very charismatic.

Reading an article in the newspaper and an advertisement for Ben Feltner's Peregrine Tours. Took a tour and fell in love with birding.

While visiting Tikal with an archaeological group. I birded with one of the tour members and was hooked.

An April trip to High Island.

Visited the Fort Worth Nature Center one winter day and the naturalist spent two hours explaining the birds at the feeder to my husband and I. He (John Karges) referred me to the local Audubon Society and I went on a field trip.

A naturalist on an Alaska trip sparked my latent interest.

Accidental, unplanned trip to the Austin Nature Center with my daughter.

Went to High Island, met people from all over world, and saw lots of great birds.

Seeing birds in Kenya.

Lifelong interest in outdoors... Don't really know... First outing with Travis Audubon was influential, particularly because of an excellent trip leader who was helpful toward beginners. (Joined Audubon Society after seeing magazine in public library.) Other factors which provided "spark" - pet birds... seeing birds on outdoor trips.

Birded in Rio Grande Valley with Dr. Irby Davis. He took me on all his trips in the Valley plus two summers in Mexico.

Interested as long as I can remember. Started a list of species, 1979, on road trip to Alaska.

S.E. Arizona trip with my fiancée.

A trip to Big Bend with my sister to get away from husband and kids. Many birders were there to find the Colima warbler. We liked to hike and had binocs - so we started looking at birds, too. We had field guides to birds already and were moderately interested in birding. But that trip was the "spark" that started the "fire".

I started by noticing birds in the woods near where I grew up, but the "clincher" was a September trip to Fire Island, New York, with the local Audubon chapter - lots of hawks and migrants I had never seen before on an incredible autumn day along the coast.

As a child, my relatives showed me common Texas birds and I watched birds often. At the age of 49, I went on my first birding trip and really got "hooked". Received positive comments from birding experts.

Went along for the trip with three birders and fell in love with birding. We went to Bentsen State Park for five days - the spark!

Canoeing and nature study trip to Everglades National Park, Florida.

Visit to a National Wildlife Refuge and viewing a spectacular display of thousands of migrating geese.

Vacation to Concan, Texas, during spring migration.

Traveled to a vacation resort located next to a national wildlife refuge in Florida. Became interested in watching shorebirds on the beach.

Visit to the Everglades.

Visit to the Everglades.

I was stationed in Guatemala - I spent two years in remote areas. The amount of neotropical species attracted my interest.

Trip with friends to southeastern Arizona.

A trip with friends to Trinidad and Tobago. Close friend is an ornithologist.

- (1) North side of Grand Canyon - 1961.
- (2) Connie Hagar - Rockport, TX.

Went to Africa.

Birds in the desert - Sonoran Desert.

1. A visit to the Everglades where the birds stayed and let me look at them and then my book.
2. High Island during a fallout of warblers.

Spring in High Island.

On a trip to Big Bend Texas with a friend who was a birder and she showed me a beautiful male Scott's oriole.

Research in the Tropics - surrounded by many exotic birds.

High Island trip during spring migration.

Local nature center.

Introduction to birding program for docents at Houston Arboretum and Nature Center.

Started volunteer work at local Nature Center and took birding classes for very good teacher there. Met other birders more experienced than myself and started making birding trips with them.

Worked at Dallas Natural History Museum; was made liaison with Dallas Audubon. No spark, just part of job. It really fit into my desired lifestyle.

Local nature club.

Through nature activities at the Heard Natural Science Museum.

Junior Audubon Club in 5th grade in Norman, Oklahoma.

Alice Audubon Society - Alice, Texas 1967.

Interest early in life - peaked and developed through Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Audubon Bird Count

Curiosity, being outdoors, start of an Audubon chapter.

Joined the Audubon Society and a master birder took me under his wing.

Christmas Bird Count 1986 - local Audubon group.

Joined local Audubon Society in 5th grade.

While attending an "Involvement Day" by Jacques Cousteau in Houston, I stopped by the Houston Audubon Society booth and was persuaded by the friendly members to join. Their first newsletter that I received mentioned a birding weekend to the Rio Grande Valley. Out of curiosity, I went. I was hooked. Have since birded in 38 countries and many states. I plan to continue as long as I am able. I am 79.

Attending local Audubon.

Joined NAS, married a birder, became active member at Heard Museum.

Although I birded occasionally in graduate school and as a parent of young children, my interest in birding really was sparked about five years ago when I participated as a member of Audubon Naturalist Society in Maryland on bird trips with Claudia Wild and discovered all the ocean and bay habitats.

FRIENDS

Friend introduced me - on a bird trip to the Rio Grande Valley.

I missed a field trip that was going to the piney woods. My friend, the person that dragged me out to this trip, suggested we go to High Island. That was all it took. I returned to High Island six days in a row.

Enthusiasm of others; access to nature.

Friend.

I have always been interested but had no friends to bird with. Joining the Outdoor Nature Club and Ornithology Group gave me birding friends. A shrike on a telephone wire was a "spark".

A friend (elderly lady) in Milwaukee took me under wing along with Emil Urban (author of Birds of Africa).

My wife and I vacationed with friends in Florida. They were enthusiastic birders and we caught their enthusiasm.

Moved from Midwest to Louisiana where birds were more numerous. Met Bob and Juanita Krebs, George Lowery, Bob Neuman, and many other enthusiastic birders.

Enthusiastic friends invited me along on a bird outing.

Bought a house on a Texas lake and a friend visiting me started naming the birds around.

In college with friends also enrolled in wildlife management.

Introduced by a friend.

Trip to a national park - came back with questions about all those different birds. A birding friend took me on several outings and I was hooked.

Friend demonstrated some species.

Began working with an avid birder who "lit the spark".

The hilarious stories a friend told me about how much fun a birding trip was.

Friends and students who were birders.

I was traveling with a birder, who stopped frequently to point out birds and I suddenly realized how many fascinating things there were all around me. It was much more interesting and fulfilling than any other social activity.

Started going out with a friend in Midland. I caught her enthusiasm for birds and learning new species. It has made my life much more enjoyable to know birds and be able to enjoy them.

Although friends casually introduced me to birding, I really only got interested when I spent a winter's afternoon alone in a state park - during which time I watched a palm warbler for several hours.

Friends.

Needed hobby. Wife suggested. A friend took me birding.

Friend who birded and I got interested while out in nature.

Friends included us on birding trips.

Friend was a birder. He took me to High Island during spring migration.

The enthusiasm of friends.

Trips to enjoy out of doors and wildflowers with a friend who was a birder.

With a friend behind our house at a woodland border. Saw 4 types of woodpeckers, hawk, kinglet, titmouse, and gnatcatcher - beauty, detail - God's handiwork.

Loved being outdoors. Always enjoyed watching the birds but didn't know that young people (that is, not "little old ladies in tennis shoes") identified birds as a hobby until a friend took me birding. I latched on to the sport immediately because it fit in with the activities I enjoy most: being outside, traveling, being with other people (or being alone), satisfies my curiosity about nature.

A friend's (Chuck Sexton) interest and encouragement, plus a six-month trip through the western U.S. and Canada in 1978.

A Christmas Bird Count with a committed birding friend.

Friends took us with them and we were hooked.

Friends started birding.

A man I was dating invited me to accompany him on a Christmas Count.

Renewed childhood interest when traveling with friends - combined with enjoying outdoors and nature photography.

I went out a few times with a friend who is a birder, then found I was going out alone - and frequently! I was hooked.

Friend who was experienced birder.

I've had a life long interest in wildlife and natural history. I joined Audubon many years ago but did not start "birding" until 1970. A friend, Lillian Brown, who helped found the Central Texas Chapter of Audubon taught me bird identification and also to go beyond birding and learn the life histories of birds and other wildlife. What a wonderful world we live in to know we must never stop learning.

Always interested in nature. Spark provided by friend who birded and by family members who birded.

Going along with friends - their enthusiasm and knowledge.

Had a new friend who had joined Audubon and was to shy about going to their meetings - but was getting newsletter listing local and out of town field trips - it sounded like fun and good fellowship so I agreed to join her. Changed our lives forever!

"Caught it" from a friend.

A coworker in Louisiana.

Our best friends bought a ranch 7 miles south of Junction, Texas (in 1970). We mothers spent as much time as possible out and about, with the 5 kiddos we had between us, and by ourselves. We noticed how different the birds were there (from home) so we put up some feeding stations around the house - then we bought a Peterson's Birds of Texas to find out what they were and we were off. We live near Freeport and when a small item appeared in the local paper about the 1972 Freeport Christmas Count, we checked into it, enlisted the dads to babysit for the day, and met all these people with the same interest as ours. The first couple of years we had tried, without much success, to find out more about what we were seeing (our town was small, no library or bookstore) and our new hobby. Through our new friends we found out about AOU, ABA, and started taking short local trips. The next year we helped start a local bird club.

Casually, I introduced myself to birdwatching when I was young, although my interest never extended beyond the confines of my community. Seriously, as a freshman in college, a close friend introduced me to birding - as a diversion from classwork, as an aesthetic experience, and eventually, as a consuming pastime.

My roommate in college was a "rabid" birder.

In 1955 I kept hearing from friends of a group they had formed to go out and look for birds; one special friend invited me to go along with them one day. I went, and that is all it took.

Neighbor showed me a "rare" (to Austin) migrant bird.

A friend started me.

A birding friend invited me to Galveston in April 1961. It was a "wave" day. When I stepped out of the car in Kemper Park the first thing I saw was a redstart. Been hooked ever since.

Someone asked me to bird with him.

A friend encouraged me.

Friends I have started birding and enjoyed it.

A friend took me birding at lunch "brown bag".

A friend showed me my first bird and I was hooked in about 10 minutes flat.

Norma Stillwell (Checklist of Dallas County) invited me to go with her. I learned birds had names.

Friends.

Fellow scientists in Washington D.C. shared information about ABA, etc.

A coworker's personal interest in birds. Importance of bird populations as indicators of trend analysis, e.g. habitat loss, etc.

Moved to home near coastal marsh - met birder while exploring the marsh on 1st visit.

Friend organized bird watching club in community where I lived.

Friends came from Florida - avid birders who knew about Texas Gulf coast treasure.

Met Mrs. Connie Hagar of Rockport, Texas, and Mrs. Kay McCracken of Corpus Christi, Texas, and they got me interested in birding.

Friends invited me to go birding with them.

A little old lady in tennis shoes infected me with the bug.

Friend and interest - personal.

Finding a friend with same interest in birds and herps.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nature walks; birds are beautiful, fascinating, and sometimes a conspicuous part of nature.

Had parakeets as pets all my life (as a child) and loved birds. Went on a one-day outing with Leisure Learning and realized how much fun it was to be outdoors and have something to "look at" besides the landscape.

I finished graduate school and had time.

I am interested in seeing the countryside, but don't hunt or fish.

Birding gives me a reason to get out.

As a child I was always intrigued by birds and the outdoors in general but my fascination remained at the general level. But things truly got in gear shortly after my ordination and my return to the states from Rome where I had finished my last four years of studies. I was assigned to a parish in Milford, Connecticut on Long Island Sound, near the mouth of the Housatonic River. A member of my parish and a volunteer aiding the parish youth group, Kevin Gunther, was an avid birder and quasi-warden for the New Haven Bird Club's Bird Sanctuary. Kevin lived with his family on the Sanctuary property and often invited me to join him on his walks along the beach. As we walked along he would point out and identify bird after bird, "There's a dunlin and there's a ruddy turnstone." His enthusiasm was contagious. Before I knew it, I had my own field guide, and binoculars and was inexorably hooked. That was 1971. Thanks Kevin!

Birds were a part of my environment and I have always been interested in them. The number of birds that were in Oklahoma in the 1920s is comparable to the abundance of birds that are now in Venezuela. What did we do to the birds? When I was a boy in the late 1920s and early 1930s, I used to record the kind of bird nests I found and make records of success of each nest. My parents recognized the value of birds and my brothers and me were not permitted to kill and molest birds. We wanted to kill birds with our slingshots, but if we did we got a whipping. I have 1280 acres of land (farm and ranch) in Oklahoma which I plan to donate as a wildlife reserve. I remember how many birds there were, and now there are so few.

I cannot remember a time it wasn't my greatest interest, even when too young to use binoculars.

Just started observing bird behavior.

Interest in outdoors.

Country living put in contact with bird life.

(?) Maybe was lonely and needed something new to do.

Proper identification and names of birds. Did not want to continue calling birds black bird, red bird, field lark, bull bat, etc.

I have been "birding" as long as I can remember. I started keeping track of what I had seen after a trip to the Rio Grande Valley at age 15.

Moved from Indiana to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and found birding was exciting. Lots of help from LSU people.

I was an avid shell collector and botanist - was hired by the Welder Wildlife Foundation to conduct guided tours and various other duties - learned the birds in order to answer questions - now birding has completely replaced shelling - but am still an avid gardener (plant for the birds).

I was travelling to an area that was rich in birds, but not for the reason of birding. An associate at work told me of some unusual species in the area and that I should try to observe them. I purchased a recommended bird guide and the hook was set.

Natural interest.

It was an inexpensive, interesting family activity.

My own volition. I was drawn to it, perhaps by nature programs on PBS.

Liked nature, especially birds, outdoors, science in general. Also "collected" - hunt, taxidermy - but since stopped for ethical reasons. Later on, added companionship, adventure, etc.

Interested as child in Canada. Bought condo in Galveston Beach and was interested to learn the birds on the beach.

First word was "bird", first sentence was "See the bird". Began listing at age seven.

Was just always drawn to birds.

I needed two hours to graduate - Bob Neil at UTA was doing the checklist at Buscher State Park. He gave me the two hours credit for helping do his surveys and doing research.

By seeing birds in my natural environment and becoming interested.

Always interested - bird attracted me even as a child.

Birds!

Interest in biology and in naming things.

I was always interested in the out-of-doors.

Occupy my time when I was ready to retire.

I was always interested in birds. I really became interested when I was stationed at Cornell University and had a close association with Authur A. Allan.

Can not remember - it just happened.

Job related.

Curiosity as to what was the species of birds I saw.

General interest in nature and outdoors.

Lifetime interest in birds. Retirement provided more opportunity.

Bird research project.

A disgust with the frivolous pastimes in which I was engaged, a desire to get back to nature, and an overwhelming desire to know the names of those birds I kept seeing around me.

My family's summer home was on the Canadian lakeshore (Lake Erie) where I could watch the gulls nesting on "Gull Island". This resulted in my beginning to look for other nesting species, etc. etc.

Fascination with birds.

Helped June Osborne (who writes books on birds and leads birding tours through Continuing Education at Baylor University) lead trips to Concan, TX. I am a Gerontologist and knowing the birds is not only enjoyable to

me, but it also gives me an extra tool in my field.

Boredom (!) and curiosity.

Can't remember.

When I had hepatitis and was not able to be active physically - birding was a great diversion.

The love for birds. I do a lot of back yard and area birding. There are four of us who have birded together for the last 15 years. We have had many good birding and fun trips.

Time spent on my grandparents' farm as a child; it was located in the pineywoods and I spent hours roaming the woods watching the birds. Became officially a "birder" when I joined the local Audubon club.

Evolved from early interest in birds.

Had a trailer on Brazos River near Cleburne, Texas. One Sunday in the fall of 1963 an elderly gentleman and son were using binoculars to see birds. Out of curiosity, I introduced myself, inquiring as to what they were doing. "Birding." He told me his name, C. W. Christian, and son. He taught at Baylor University. He had lunch at the restaurant and forgot his book. I mailed it to him at Baylor and ordered one for myself. His name is in "A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas" - Peterson on preface page vii. Wife gave me binocs for Xmas, 1964.

South Texas.

Love of nature at an early age, and subsequent appreciation of and respect for ecosystem balances and biodiversity helped me to develop further interest in (and great joy) in "birding" during my graduate school ecological research.

Born in the Big Thicket and have love the birds and animals my entire life.

Nature interest; assisted a bird bander.

No definitive spark - born with an interest in all living things.

Finding my first bird nest with eggs.

Birds singing.

Don't know.

Older man advertised to form bird study group.

Through a unit on nature in my second-grade class. I was assigned the task of labeling a poster with the appropriate bird names to identify (Fuertes) paintings that were posted. I was given a copy of Pough's Eastern Guide (with Ekleberry's illustrations) to use to identify the birds on the poster. Captivated by the pictures of such diversely beautiful creatures, my brother and I started watching birds - and saw species identifiable in the book (e.g. a male Baltimore oriole on the school grounds).

I've always enjoyed spending time outside and am interested by animal, bird, and plant life. My interest in identifying birds developed when

I was in the Peace Corps in Africa. I had learned the fundamentals of identification from a family friend before going there and became fascinated with the colors and varieties of birds I saw.

Interested in nature, retired, had time.

Always interested.

I heard Frances Williams give a talk on birds in Midland County.

General interest in nature.

Work in Yellowstone National Park.

Like Topsy (?), it just grew!

I saw a documentary on PBS about Roger Tory Peterson. I said to myself - "I want to do that." I sought out the local chapter of National Audubon and discovered that the Fort Worth chapter had some of the best birders in the state.

I always knew what birds were in my backyard as a child, because my parents bought me Herbert S. Zim's Golden Nature Guides and encouraged me to use them to identify birds, trees, insects, etc.

I started birding for real in graduate school at CalTech when I met a friend/colleague who was a birder. I became more fanatical after my post-doc, when I met people who were called when rarities showed up (in California) and who loved to chase these rarities. Between 1975 and 1991 I went birding nearly every weekend, on the average.

General interest in nature narrowed to birds - don't really know why.

Wanted an alternative hobby when I no longer participated in long-distance bicycle touring. I found birding more enjoyable than bicycling but am beginning to feel sometimes gave up bicycling prematurely!

When we first moved to Texas, I was struck by the differences (and varieties) of vegetation from that of my New England background, but also with the differences and variety of bird life. At my wife's suggestion we inquired into the local bird club and became members. We met so many wonderful people who shared their experience, knowledge and enthusiasm in birding, that who could resist getting involved in this fascinating and addictive recreational activity.

I've spent a lot of time in the country, and I am curious about nature - curiosity was the spark.

Working with them and observing their fascinating behavior.

Wanting to do something that did not require a lot of money and to do by myself. Enjoy being outside and still learning on each trip.

Seeing the diversity of birds that live and migrate through south Texas.

Moving to Texas. The interest was always in the background of my formative years. It gradually escalated as I moved around the United States. Hawaii made me more aware of birds but abundant species in San Antonio got me really moving!! My love of birds goes hand in hand with my second passion - photography! As an amateur I specialize in bird photography.

I like animals and nature. I try and have tried to identify all creatures. I have continued birding because they can be seen easily, even when not actively birding and there are good field guides.

As part of the recovery program from a partial resection of my upper left lobe (TB) I started walking outside 15 minutes the first week, and added 15 minutes every two weeks. To occupy myself I started watching birds.

Part of family fun.

Curiosity about sights and sounds of birds; appreciation for specifics of different birds - i.e. color, habitat, food, nesting, migration, songs.

Moving to New Mexico and being "outside". Right environment to be in nature and become more aware of the variety of birds in different local environments (habitats).

Time spent on my grandfather's farm in North Carolina. My brothers, cousins, and I were always interested in wildflowers, birds and trees.

First got interested from friend in college doing local birding in Dallas area. Then we took a trip to the Texas coast and the diversity of habitats and birds got me hooked.

I was embarrassed to know so little, less than the eight year olds I was teaching in Nacogdoches. I was reared in a prairie city.

Via being in the field butterfly collecting; "suddenly", birds were there, too.

At age 6, I spent two months in bed following a severe relapse from red measles. My mother, aunt, and a good neighbor each ordered sets of free bird cards from Arm and Hammer baking soda. I taught myself to read from bird cards and have continued that interest to present (age 65).

I have always love trees - birds - the outdoors. After my second marriage, I had the time and money to really "go birding".

Frances Williams, long time Midland County/Texas birder, presented "Midland County Birds" in a brown bag lecture series. Couldn't believe all that beauty and challenge and relaxation (mental) was just a binocular away.

The challenge and frustration identifying shorebird species at our cabin down the Laguna. Then those ugly little sparrows caught my eye. I've been completely hooked on birding since I fell in love with the (now very beautiful) sparrows.

Challenge and I have always loved outdoors. Hopefully I'll now have more time to go birding. I love to see birds and hope to go to Galapagos and Ecuador in March.

Birds taking bath under sprinkler.

Early childhood interest in wildlife; kept domestic birds in my early 20s.

Was too young to remember.

Enjoyed being outdoors and just got hooked on identifying the birds that

were there.

While doing business in Central and South America for 10 years, at noon I would find a city park or rural area and bird watch for an hour or so. I've been a bird hunter all my life.

Really got started when I move to the Mississippi coast in 1969, a month after Hurricane Camille had hit. While surveying the damage I became fascinated by the numerous birds in the area..

Curiosity; general interest in natural surroundings. I am a geologist and amateur naturalist.

I have always been a "naturalist" and birds seemed the most visible and charismatic of the vertebrates. It is easy to bird and associate with other birders.

Love of the outdoors.

APPENDIX D
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: BIRDERS

HUNTING ON STATE PARKS, WILDLIFE REFUGES

- * I would strongly prefer that hunting not be allowed in state parks at any time.
- * I'm shocked that it's still legal to kill mountain lions on sight.
- * Need to pursue additional land acquisition - for a state this large there isn't that much parkland open to the public.

Please, please help prevent the state legislature from allowing hunting on state parks.

Yes - Never never never close access to state parks because of the interest of some special interest group (hunting).

There should be no hunting in public parks (State Parks included). There should be no entrance charges for parks/public land!!

I think that Texas Parks and Wildlife is still concerned more with hunters rather than general use of public lands. I disagree with so called "recreational hunting" in state parks.

I think that "recreational" hunting in state parks is a disaster and very unfair to birders.

I do not believe hunting should be permitted on National Wildlife Refuges. I also don't believe that fishing should be allowed in areas of heavy concentrations of migratory birds during bird migrations. I believe there should be wildlife management areas set aside for hunters. I don't believe that funding for non-game management should come from sources that would directly affect persons on fixed incomes.

Frankly, hunters scare the hell out of me. I know most are reasonably well behaved and competent. But, a number are not!! Calling an area a wildlife refuge and then allowing hunting there is a travesty - a very sick joke. Even consider allowing hunting in state parks shows how uncaring and unimaginative our legislature is!!

I find it shocking that hunting is allowed in state parks.

I am deeply concerned about opening state parks to hunting! We have used state parks to see wildlife when I was raising children because this was the only place wildlife was "unafraid" and easily observed. Hunting in these "refuges" will be a terrible thing. I will not renew my Conservation Passport as a result, and I have been purchasing these since they were first available.

I think hunters should not be allowed to hunt on wildlife refuges. If so, wildlife no longer have places of safety from hunters, and the word refuge no longer has meaning in these areas.

I feel that Texas Parks and Wildlife places too much importance on consumptive uses of parks, i.e. hunting and fishing. It also seems unfair to allow hunting of deer in state parks where the animals are subjected to non-threatening humans for most of the year.

HUNTING, HUNTERS, ANTI-HUNTING

I answered no to 15 because I bought them both to use for hunting. I think nongame programs definitely need definite financial support but suspect the money would probably be spent elsewhere.

This survey seems better than most - at least not obviously biased. While I'm personally now "anti-hunting", that should just be considered a personal vote, not a directive for others. Though I'll do my best to "enlighten" friends!

Especially re. Question 14, I am not against hunting and believe for instance that hunting is a useful management tool for controlling our excess deer. However, I strongly believe that Texas wildlife management has been, and still is, primarily for the hunter and rancher rather than for the environment or non-consuming users of the out-of-doors. Texas Parks and Wildlife has changed tremendously for the better in recent years, but, overall, there is still much emphasis on aiding ranchers and other largest landowners and hunters. We need a better balance, which means more emphasis on nongame and protection of nongame wildlife habitat.

I don't oppose hunting, but it seems to get most of the media coverage. Birders are usually portrayed as cranks. After I began birding, I quit hunting because my prime motivation for hunting was getting outdoors. Birding allowed me to do so year round. Birding is a great lifetime sport that can be as challenging or as easy as one desires.

-I feel that much more emphasis should be placed on conservation of our wildlife and natural resources; habitat destruction and declining species populations (not only for birds) are important issues which need to be addressed more adequately.

-I feel that hunting is overused and overpromoted as a wildlife management tool - hunting should be de-emphasized, and conservation should be promoted instead!

Identify large areas for limited compatible activities rather than make everything multiple use. Hunting is not consistent with any of my activities.

I'm not against hunting but I feel it is unnecessary to management of waterfowl populations. Birding has opened many wonderful opportunities to enhance my life - travel to 49 of 50 states, and some foreign countries to enjoy nature and to meet interesting people. This country is so beautiful. Due to my husband breaking his hip, this has not been a typical birding year. We usually travel (camp) much more.

Parks and Wildlife should not emphasize hunting so much except for white-tailed deer. TP&W should also drop hunting seasons for all rails, cranes, woodcocks, and other similar birds, and mountain lions, bobcats, and similar fauna.

In addition to my activities as a birder, I am also actively involved in an animal welfare organization - in Houston. I also belong to and support financially national organizations such as the Humane Society of the U.S., the American SPCA, National Wildlife Federation, and so on. I also am against laboratory testing on animals, and any other cruel or inhuman practices on animals. I disdain the barbaric sport of hunting. I enjoy observing wildlife of all sorts.

My father was an avid hunter and took me with him. I always enjoyed these nature outings as a child although the hunting part always disgusted me. Thanks for doing this!

I was an avid duck, goose, and deer hunter most of my life, now I never hunt; birding is more fun.

My current financial situation prevents me from birding as much as I'd like, since I can't afford gas and lodging, and my car is not very reliable. I hope the situation changes soon. However, I would be willing, at any time, to contribute to any program promoting non-consumptive use of our natural resources. Just a note: Although there are some fine people at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, that agency still revolves around hunting and hunters. Witness the "Texas Wildlife Expo" in October. Bad enough that birding is ignored, they don't even hold a similar "expo" for birders, etc. They should have called it "Hunter's Expo".

Give birders an equal voice with hunters and conservationists in deciding public policy.

Birders, hunters, fisherman, and recreational sportsmen should share a commitment to intelligent use of habitat and resources. Farmers, ranchers, and the above should share problem solving on use of resources with growth and development.

It is unfortunate that in America there is a general misunderstanding and mistrust between sportsmen and environmentalists.

FEES, TAXES, FUNDS, CONSERVATION PASSPORT

My main comments would be on question 16. I realize a. is the easiest, but I think hunters are taxed enough for non-hunting things. I think that b. would be easier to sell to the general public, if not the legislature, than c.; d. and e. would "fly" if you could convince people that it would help replace species being killed on the highways (d.) or that since expensive property is taking up wildlife space that tax would go to help keep space for wildlife. I think that Electric companies have been terribly overburdened by what I call religious ecologists that have about one oar (or less) in the water. Steam-generated power, perfectly legal and respectable, has killed thousands and thousands over the years with exploding boilers. Atomic energy is clean, and all of the nonsense electric companies have to go through to get permits and fight hysterical imbeciles is a crime. If you could get the legislature to do g., this would be the most palatable for the public, but the legislature is in no hurry to give up an "easy" source of money for their projects.

Regarding nongame funding, I advocate taxation based on consumption. User fees and the passport accomplish this in part. I would like to see a nongame or non-hunting stamp (like a duck stamp) or a voluntary contribution check-off on utility bills. I believe hunters and non-hunters can and should co-exist. Hunters have paid their way for years with license fees and I would like to see a way for non-hunters to make a contribution too, to help insure a future for birds and birders. Regarding birding "trips", relatively few are made exclusively for birding. Probably 50% of the trips and 20% of the days in questions one and two were solely devoted to birding. Most trips are in conjunction with a family fishing or camping trip or occasionally a business trip. I carry a small pair of binoculars in my car and when I travel, because birding, like walking, can be done almost anywhere.

This movement toward asking birders and others who enjoy nature to pay fees is the worst possible concept. Birding should not be considered a form of hunting. Treating it as hunting will restrict this activity by people in Texas and limit the tourist dollars brought in by visitors from out of state. Management should be provided by general tax dollars and not specific taxes and fees. The non-consumptive use of Texas wildlife

is growing and needs to be encouraged, not discouraged. Anything that limits the activity (and thus the education of the public) will work against saving the important ecosystems we have left in the state. Charging someone a fee to watch a bird violates the public sensibilities. This survey seems to have as its underlying purpose, the aim of determining just how easy it will be to impose such fees on users. I wish you had been more straightforward in describing your purpose in the introductory letter.

I do not favor an increase in revenue for wildlife management by taxes, fees, etc. increases. I do favor switching existing revenues to wildlife management. Hunters, birders, agencies, and other experts should work together as partners to further and improve wildlife management.

Preserve more habitat and pay taxes on it through users' fees.

I would like to see Texas adopt a non-game funding program similar to Missouri, which has a 1/8% sales tax designated for this purpose.

Endangered species conservation is a benefit to all society, therefore expense should be paid by all, not only by weakening the property rights of a few. Funds should come from appropriations and special taxes.

We bought a Conservation Passport in January 1992, got the temporary receipt, then never heard another thing. We got two newsletters but no opportunity to renew or expiration notice or anything. We would gladly maintain our membership if it could be made continuous with renewal notices, etc.

I recently wanted to purchase a Conservation Passport and had to call three Texas Parks and Wildlife offices to get the information on how to do so. I will purchase one next time I go to Huntsville State Park - but why can't I purchase one by phone and charge it to a charge card - think Texas Parks and Wildlife is very slow to promote both stamps and passports! As we do not have an income tax check-off - think there should be an easier way than stopping at a park! Not always are the entrances manned - and birders get up early! Do think birders should shoulder some of the expense for non-game conservation! As I am 70+ and my husband is 78, we have a Senior Citizen Passport but would be willing to contribute! Have you considered approaching all outdoor clubs - birding, shelling, botany, etc. and ask them to consider collecting 50 cents a year (or a dollar) from each member as part of their dues - and passing this along to non-game conservation? (And in turn asking each club to appoint a member to attend an annual meeting with Texas Parks representatives in order to have an input on non-game conservation policies.) Our birding trips are fewer than they used to be - as we are both in our 70s we no longer care to make as many long drives as we have in previous years and we have thoroughly birded Texas; so at present our main interest is attracting birds to our own back yard. We have a yard list of 136 species.

I find that it is difficult to buy Conservation Passports and nongame stamps. Local TP&W offices usually do not have them. I do not subscribe to TP&W magazine and do not visit a state park often. My passport is outdated and I would like a new one! I guess TP&W does not do renewals of passports and sale of stamps through mail because of expense, but it would sure assist me. I would buy and renew yearly for sure.

Birding has been a life long habit - I bird wherever I am, however these answers are based only on those trips specifically for birding. I have been president of the local Audubon Society and have spent many hours and

dollars showing people from everywhere birds, both those that are now listed as endangered in our area and in the tropical cloud forest of Mexico. I have not bought a Conservation Passport since my husband has a lifetime passport. However, I am considering buying one since I learned that the state park and wildlife department does not receive state (general) funds.

- (1) If Texas continues the nongame stamp and print program, improve the quality of the prints.
- (2) Sell conservation passports at commercial outlets, Audubon sanctuaries, fishing piers, etc. etc., photo stores, ice houses, at least everywhere that hunting and fishing licenses and binoculars are sold.

I love birding in Texas with its different geographic areas and variety. I think there should be more effort on a state level to involve more people in conservation efforts and birding is a way to do that. The state should fund more education effort about our natural areas available for birding. More tourism information should be available on birding. The Conservation Passport needs more press as a way to raise revenue for wildlife management that benefits wildlife not hunters. There must be restrictions on hunting in state parks during migration and breeding of birds to cause the least disruption. More wetlands need to be saved for birds, to be available during migration. Texas has been controlled by hunters too long in its wildlife management effort!

Know Conservation Passports prevent people from enjoying State-supported parks etc.

I would like to see the Texas non-game stamps promoted more widely and sold in places with easier access - perhaps post offices or sporting goods and book stores. I really like the Conservation Passport idea - keep it up!

- 1) This questionnaire did not address bird photography. I think a lot of birders eventually get into bird photography.
 - 2) The Conservation Passport is a great idea. Hunters have covered most of the cost for too long, and this allows non-consumptive users to contribute.
- 1.) Yes. I intend to by a Conservation Passport - all birders should.
2.) I'm not anti-hunting.

Send out information on how to purchase non-game stamps and make other contributions to wildlife management in Texas.

Nonconsumptive use of outdoor resources will be more important in future planning and gradually hunting will fall into even more public disfavor that it enjoys at present. Alternative funding mechanisms need to be considered. Also, environmental protection needs to be a paramount concern for humanity, for when the earth is too dangerous for other species, it becomes too dangerous for us. Birding promotes an earth friendly ethic and gives one a greater appreciation for the diversity of nature and how important that diversity is.

Regarding 14-h, private property rights are not and cannot be absolute, otherwise there would be nothing to stop your neighbor from opening a landfill in his front yard, to use an extreme example. No one should have the right to destroy or threaten a species God took billions of years to create.

Florida, New York, and soon Hawaii have used license plates to raise

funds. Florida manatee plate raised millions for non-game. I'd like to see a non-game campaign including bumper stickers, caps, etc. heighten public awareness and raise funds. Public has a false sense that TPWD is safeguarding non-game future. Need high profile program, good PR. "Save a place for Texas wildlife." "Get to know Texas natives." The ole boys in Austin must give way to more "modern" thinking people if important ecosystems not species are to be preserved!!

I am a life member of the NRA. I strongly believe that hunting and birding can peacefully co-exist. I know many other hunters who are also birders and conservationists. I favor a license for birding to raise funds for habitat conservation rather than hunters and fisherman having to pay for all of the other outdoor enthusiasts use of the resource to maintain wildlife areas.

In reference to Question #16: Nearly all families in Texas enjoy family outings - getting out and away - and enjoying all nature. Many of these people don't hunt, fish, or bird watch avidly - yet they appreciate all nature has to offer. However conservation and wildlife management are funded, it appears to me, should be the burden of all the people. License fees have already risen so much the past few years - I paid \$35.00 (as did my husband, my mom, and my dad) just to be able to go to Black Gap for 3 days. We did fish, but it seemed unfair to have to get a hunting/fishing permit for that amount when the main objective of my going was to birdwatch. Our preservation of our natural resources should be a priority of our state government and funded by all.

In the matter of funding nongame programs, I feel that birders and other nongame consumers should share the cost. We shouldn't expect hunters or noninterested citizens to pay for what we enjoy. I also feel strongly that birders, hunters, fisherman, etc. need to band together in a common cause: preserving our environment so that all might benefit.

Birders should contribute more funds to nongame management activities.

Additional funds for nongame management should come from those people who want to support it.

Sure, I hope you get results. However, I believe that birders should pay for nongame support. The general public has a funny way of thinking about "birders" without asking them to support it. You'll come up and I'll take you birding.

I used to bird a lot more before my kids were born. Good luck raising money for nongame species in Texas.

I was instrumental in the creation of the High Island sanctuary. Birders will pay for places that benefit birds and them. Hunting licenses have become too expensive and if I buy one TPWD thinks the money is from a consumptive user and then tells me they don't (?) to nongame whatever because hunting license pays the bill. I stopped buying hunting license.

Beside my own area, I have enjoyed birding in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Sanibel Island, Florida. I have birded quite a bit in the Corpus Christi area, and have also been on birding trips to Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. I am not well enough informed on wildlife management and the fairest ways to support our nongame programs in Texas to give my opinions. Sorry.

I think many birders would be willing to help pay the cost for increased land purchases for the establishment of additional wildlife refuges or

sanctuaries.

Two surgeries and a 93 year old mother have kept me from birding more than casually the past year. In the past I've taken many birding trips (tours) and have been quite active locally. I would favor a raise in American Birding Association or Audubon dues with that to go to the states for wildlife management or anything that those using public lands would pay for. I don't feel my past year's experience is very typical of a Texas birder as I have been so limited due to poor health. But maybe a lot of us are casual birders. Good luck on your study.

Hunting provides excellent conservation money. Hard line birders are extremely naive and quite cheap when it comes to paying for other than their own self interests (list). Few can discuss the Nature Conservancy, etc.

I think that we birders do not pay our fair share of the cost of maintaining non-game habitat. It appears that the national wildlife refuges have begun to cater more and have become more aware of birders.

I live in Austin, TX. I am a very conservative person and generally vote republican (I only say this to emphasize that I am not an environmentalist wacko.) However, even I am alarmed at the rapid depletion of Hill Country land tracts and greenbelt areas due to the building of apartments and strip malls (especially between 183 and 360). I also am greatly in favor of using a portion of the lottery proceeds to pay for wildlife. I think more needs to be done in setting aside land in central Texas to work on replenishing the bobwhite quail population. I would love to hunt them but their numbers seem to be decreasing so I don't allow myself to do so. This survey is a great idea!

I am a hunter and a birder, and I am concerned with the prevailing opinion that one cannot be both. I think birders and hunters have more in common than they think. Also, I do not think nonhunters should have a prominent voice in wildlife issues until they start paying their way.

I would recommend a \$1.00 user fee for birders when visiting State Parks - or at least each person should have a Passport.

I hope you publicize the results on the economic impact.

The economic importance of recreational birding and related nature study has been vastly underestimated in the past. I feel that it has surely overtaken hunting in overall revenue generated. The state of Texas needs to assess this change and to address the utilization of non-game wildlife in a more realistic fashion. I am not anti-hunting, but to continue to spend such a disproportional amount of available resources on consumptive use of wildlife is ignoring reality and represents a short-sighted view of utilization of dwindling natural resources.

Pleased to see this survey; believe that birding is underrated as a source of tourism dollars.

There is a tremendous potential for ecotourism in Texas that is being ignored by the state.

A few developing countries are beginning to realize the importance of tourism as a result of "birding". Many U.S. areas are also promoting "birding".

I appreciate your doing this survey. I hope you will use the results to

help encourage agriculture-type tax exemptions for landowners who manage their land for wildlife. Also, results can (and I hope will) be used to promote ecotourism. Sorry it took so long. It took me a long time to count birding trips.

I wish we could estimate the total economic impact of birders in Texas, both residents and nonresidents.

Texas Parks and Wildlife needs to concern itself more with the overall health of the state. They presently blatantly cater to the needs and wishes of the hunting public. Non-consumptive use already generates large amounts of income for the state coffers.

Is this for tourism? Many Latin American countries are realizing the economic value of bird watching.

The Minnesota (MOU) newsletter has a column called "Birding is the Answer" - and it is. Can calm and excite at the same time - can be enjoyed anywhere, any time, alone or with others - you immediately belong wherever you move or go - PLUS! the awesome wonder of BIRDS. Personally would be willing to support habitat by purchasing a yearly license for the privilege.

Was just at 1993 Hummer-Fest at Rockport. Having this type birding in different type bird areas would be great and bring money to Texas - interest of new birders. Love Passport with notices of field trips.

PUBLIC ACCESS

I would like to see more accessible land that is specifically allocated for wildlife preservation in the Central Prairie area of north and central Texas. There is very little there now.

Would like to be able to bird a number of the areas by myself which are managed by state of Texas but access restricted to small part of area - or to guided groups only.

This survey seems rather limited in that it focuses too much on "trips" and does not emphasize the importance of conservation as a way of being. Travelling a long way just to "list" a bird is undesirable. What we need is to improve habitat everywhere, especially in or near cities and to make functional natural areas accessible. Lack of access to land and water is a major drawback of living in Texas and probably in most parts of the U.S.A. and of the world for that matter.

P.S. I did not realize that hunting licenses or duck stamps could be purchased for conservation purposes. Unless hunting is done in a highly ethical manner and restricted to procuring food, or in rare instances for population control of the hunted species (because of our interference with predators and destruction of habitat), I am against that "sport". The lack of understanding of and love of the natural world that occurs in most hunters I know is appalling, especially among lease-holders. Rural natives I know (this includes family members and friends in the West Texas ranch country where I grew up) are far more likely to have a respect for their prey and to be aware of the wholeness of the natural world than hunters who troop in once a year just to shoot something. I believe that it is essential for our mental (spiritual) well-being that land and habitat for birds, other animals, flora, and "lower" forms be restored and rehabilitated everywhere. We are of nature, and we need to be able to experience its diversity, beauty, and surprises where we live. Why can't we have bird parks, ponds, mudflats, expanses of rehabilitated

grasslands, greenbelts, parks for walking, etc. interconnected in our midst? Going far afield occasionally (at great expense and effort) is something most of us may do, but we desperately need to be a part of a beautiful, fascinating world full of birds and flowers and hope in the places where we spend most of our time. By the way, I give several hundred dollars a year to organizations (such as the Nature Conservancy, Xerxes Society, native plant societies, etc.) out of a rather modest salary. In the overemphasis we have on hunting in this state, contributions like mine, which go to private endeavors to preserve and restore nature, are unnoticed or at least unappreciated. Yet people of my convictions far outnumber hunters. It is time that we redress this imbalance.

There is too little access to land in Texas. I am a hunter (but I go to New Mexico and Colorado) and land owner.

I mind the lack of public land in Texas. Other states have more public access land for hiking and birding. It's a long drive to a national forest or park from San Antonio. I would bird at Nature Conservancy areas and Passport areas if I didn't have to make reservations or bird with a group!

We spend a lot of time camping in state parks. I feel that more trails (closed to bicycles) are needed to allow access to birding.

There is very limited access in Texas (especially compared to Wisconsin and Minnesota). Very few ranchers allow birders onto their property. Large areas such as Welder, Matagorda, etc. seem to limit access based on your doctorate or job position (i.e. TP&W etc.).

Some of the best birding is on private land (i.e. Welder). Access seems to be limited to research and similar or "who knows who".

I would like to see more bird sanctuaries made available for nature lovers and birders. I think the establishment of these areas are extremely important. I also would like to see access to birding places the world over made more accessible for the "handicapped" and disabled. Not only those people wheelchair bound, but also those who are hampered with arthritis, prosthetic legs and arms, canes, etc. They appreciate the beauty and joy of birding as much as I and others do if not more. We all in these times of stress need to take all the time we can to "stop and smell the roses" and appreciate nature, especially the birds.

Birding in Texas is too restricted due to the tremendous private land holding. I came from the Chicago area where there are thousands of acres of public forest areas.

- (1) Believe the state of Texas should work closely with the Nature Conservancy to protect sensitive and/or unique habitat.
- (2) Believe the "open beaches" policy of the state of Texas is very detrimental to beach nesting and feeding animals, and must be changed. Public ownership is fine, but unlimited access at all times of the year is a serious problem.

Texas is desperately in need of more public lands.

EDUCATION

Bird banding and related activities are very worthwhile for education of the public and should occur more in Texas state parks.

I am a firm believer in protecting all natural resources - birds, trees, wetlands, everything. Help us to know when and who to write or call to help protect these things. Education at a very early age is the key. My first grade children are very concerned about the damage to the environment and what they can do to help. They make wonderful environmentalists and great birders. They are great recyclers, too! Is this printed on recycled paper?

See #16g... perhaps a special lottery ticket could be sold. It would require matching a required number of mammals, birds, endangered species, etc. It would be a scratch-off ticket. It might introduce someone to birding, etc. or make them aware of issues unknown to them. "Education" can be achieved in many ways besides a classroom. Alternative prizes might be hunting license, Conservation Passport, etc. - state parks camping/cabin...

The Texas and most of USA education appears to fail to give most students any insight into the complex interrelationships of biological systems. With most of the population living in cities, this problem of perception of future (and current) voters is bad news for our biological diversity. Field trips alone are not likely to help reverse the trend without teachers/guides who have a broader comprehension and knowledge than is the current case. I submit our associations interested in wildlife must generate a larger impact on the general school education system at the elementary and junior high level to reverse this education/voter deficit.

Programs to involve youth are needed.

We must find ways to promote birding/conservation to children.

Scouting no longer requires bird study badge for Eagle rank - this seriously reduces the number of youngsters who are exposed to birding.

I haven't been as involved this year because there isn't very much offered to my age group. I would like to see more programs for my age group (fourteen years old).

I share with my birding classes and other groups how abundant neotropical migrants were before WWII and DDT. (1) We need to train the young to be wildlife protectors. (2) We need to offer more assistance to third world countries, some of which have ten times more endangered species in their small countries which represent a minuscule size compared to North America.

Birding classes for senior citizens would be well attended if they were inexpensive and given the publicity so those interested could know about them.

I am very pleased that more interest has been taken in getting young people involved in conservation and birding. If taught at a young age to appreciate nature, people would take better care of and enjoy more all the things "nature" has to offer.

We need to inform the public that birdwatching isn't just for "grannies" in Reeboks! Many are well-educated, young, males from upper class families (and where are the single young female birders?).

We went to Audubon wildlife films and there were made aware of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club and its Ornithology Group. We immediately joined both and learned so much from the older, more experienced members at meetings and field trips. Birders seem to enjoy sharing their

knowledge and expertise!

I appreciate the efforts the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are making in conservation, and the guided tours being offered birders.

Encourage more youth in birding, nature study. Possibly have programs that generate income or monies to set aside for scholarships.

I've been banding birds 15 years. Have had a banding station in Galveston for 13 years (Dr. D. Arnold) for monitoring spring passerine migration. I support the methods of Nature Conservancy - I don't agree that other systems dictating conservation will be effective. Teaching conservation (sans pseudointellectual and weak data) is a winner for all.

SURVEY AND ITS QUESTIONS

Answers to #14 are "loaded". There are specific legislative proposals that we could better respond to.

The tone of questions sounds like a wildlife management rather than a true scientific approach. Your questionnaire is biased.

I'm sorry I didn't answer everything, but did the questionnaire compilers sit down and time themselves on calculating this stuff (questions 3, 6, 7, 17)? Next time, please make it quicker to answer. It took me about forty minutes to complete what I did complete.

My "normal" method of dealing with surveys is to answer every question with wild baloney because of an anarchist streak and the belief that surveyors tend to find answers which support their own pre-disposed notions. Today I've abnormally answered true and wish you the best of luck. Thanks for giving me opportunity to recall the blessing recounted in question 31.

For some questions in this survey (especially #'s 3 and 17), I can't imagine people will have very accurate answers unless they're willing to spend lots of time searching their records. (Note: I was not willing to do so - my estimated error factor is probably 50%.)

Questions 1-7 are approximates as I made one trip of three weeks but visited various places of #6 and #7, so called each visit one trip.

Another time ask us to keep track of information in #6, 7, 3, and 17 ahead of time, i.e. for the following year. It is so difficult to estimate and very time consuming to hunt up records and calendars.

Question 14g unclear. Wildlife management as a whole benefits hunters more than it benefits wildlife.

Some of these questions are difficult to answer, with a number of times (ex. 6-8). On most of our trips we may pass through and bird several types of habitats on one trip and we may bird several states on one trip rather than one.

I never answer questions on income and usually throw such questionnaires away.

- (1) You do not have anything about personal safety, a factor of vital and, unfortunately, growing importance.
- (2) You do not have anything about bird vocalizations.

A lot of your questions are really difficult to answer: especially those dealing with monies spent.

There are times when my business takes me to areas where we can stay over and get in some bird watching (I don't "bird", I watch birds). In those instances, my travel will be reimbursed by a client and we assume our meals and lodging. Or not. There are times when we stay with friends/family and do not incur lodging costs and our meal cost is reduced. There are times when we drive... other times, we fly. Some times we camp out etc. The meaning of this paragraph is: we don't know and we don't keep track.

Now to meatier parts.

I used to hunt and I used to smoke. I stopped hunting in 1962, but I still have all of my guns. I will never use them again, but I still have them. I quit smoking at 9:30 a.m., 12 December, 1983. I still want a cigarette. However, I do not take one.

What's my point? Having been addicted to different things, I think that I understand why people do those things. I may no longer have my addictions, but I still appreciate and understand those who do and I try very, very hard not to tell others what is good or bad for them and what they should or should not do with their lives.

I stopped hunting because I no longer enjoyed it. That was a personal decision and was not influenced by any other individual(s). I do not object to other people hunting, as long as it does not endanger my safety. I was not a casual hunter and I know that hunting can be more than recreational. It can also benefit the wildlife and the environs in which they live. I know that hunters can make my personal pleasures even better by their activities.

Rather than asking people whether, or not, they object to certain activities, ask them if they would like to be informed of the beneficial aspects (or non-beneficial) of hunting activities. I know that hunting benefits bird watchers, and I know that educational programs about the benefits of hunting and wildlife management exist. Of course, there are those who will not want to know and there are those who will never believe that hunting is beneficial. That's fine. That's what freedom of choice is all about.

Personally, I think that fishing is more detrimental to wildlife and the environs than hunting. All of that oil, gas, beer cans etc. flying out of the back of those 8000 horsepower bass boats as they go flying through a raft of waterfowl...

The question about income is not appropriate.

If you do this again clarify days birding from birding trips. Or, did you equate a day of local birding with a "trip"?

My answers are very broad estimates - this questionnaire is really long - hope you get good response, however.

All of this is a guess about miles and trips. We bird almost every weekend - all weekend. Plus we spend about six weeks a year on birding trips.

It would have been useful to differentiate between birding and bird watching. Items 6 and 7 are confusing. Most trips cover multiple categories: primary and secondary destinations would have been useful.

In response to #3b - I made a non-birding trip to Florida but managed to spend a day birding on Loxahatchee W.R. So I put no miles down for this.

What are you going to use this survey for?

Some of the questions are poorly designed. (I have experience creating marketing surveys.) What you might try to do is find a more direct way of weeding out hard core birders from occasional birders. Asking a hard core birder to enumerate how many trips to each habitat and how many trips made in each life stage with whom is frustrating to the respondent. Also, question 14c reveals the questionnaire's own bias by implying that saving birds would mean loss of employment (not necessarily the case).

I tried, but these questions were hard to answer accurately. I bird every day some but take few trips and some trips are half and half.

I'm enclosing mine and my husband's in the same envelope to save you postage and, far more importantly, to allow you to assess differences. These result primarily from differing interpretations of the questions. After calling your office to inquire, I changed mine significantly. Problems begin on page 1 (see portion circled in red). According to that, we made only one trip, the pelagic. But we are constant birders. Further, we maintained two residences, one in Victoria, where we were nearly every weekend with access to Aransas NWR and Rockport. My son lives in Corpus, my mother-in-law in Tyler. We tend to combine purposes: visiting relatives or attending conventions or traveling for pleasure, but are always on the outlook for birds. On our 4,272-mile auto trip this summer, my husband kept a continuous list for example. (To use Ed Kutac's distinction, my husband is a birder while I am a birdwatcher.)

We are both PhD's in English, mine with special emphasis on rhetoric and communication. I've marked some suggestions/ comments about your questionnaire in right margin. If, as a service to birding in Texas, I can help you hone the items, I'll be glad to do so. Call me at 696-1485.

Finally, all these suggestions and long comments result from the secretary (?) who answered when I called 845-2598. She responded to my queries and urged me to include comments/explanations. I have no intention of interfering. Very nice - clean, crisp - design of cover.

I don't understand what you're after. Why 14g and i? Apparently, you don't consider them the same question. Are you looking for some feeling against hunters?

I do not keep lists and/or records of most activities. If you want this type of information please notify us in advance.

May should have included a category that would include people who watch birds at feeders in their yard or who participate in feeder watch projects.

It's difficult to quantify birding into numerical boxes when it is a part of your everyday life. Also - some years would produce very different responses!

Question #14 was problematic; I answered neutrally to most of the sub-questions because they seemed vague. Consider sub-question "e": If one disagrees, one may disagree because one thinks that nonhunters should have greater influence of opinion on wildlife management decisions, or oppositely, one may disagree because one thinks nonhunters' influence of opinion should be less than that of hunters.

If you want accurate answers, you should notify us a year in advance to take detailed notes. My figures are wild guesses in some cases.

Next time - let us know far ahead of your survey and we will bother to try to keep some records of our birding. From my recollections (mileage, etc.) this will be a very inaccurate one.

P.S. If it helps preserve habitat, it's worth it.

This survey will be biased toward ABA/TOS ideas. There are many people who are not "birders" and are non-competitive "bird-watchers" interested in ornithology, migration, avian physiology, etc. (not the longest list).

This questionnaire is primarily geared to city people making many and long birding trips. There are many birders, like myself, who bird every day in their own area and combine birding trips with trips taken for a number of other reasons. I bird wherever I go, but do not make many birding trips for that one purpose!

It was difficult to place exact dollar figures and amounts of time to the questions. I bird every weekend of the year and do lots of trips within Texas and to other areas when time permits. The need to work and earn money to pay for food and rent is a big limitation on time spent birding. I enjoy seeing different habitats as I travel, not just mere bird listing. I like to understand the total ecology of an area. I'm learning more about wildflowers now, for instance. As John Muir said, everything in nature is hitched together. Eventually, an attraction to birds leads to a love of all nature. I go on trips where I know I will see no "lifer" bird but will learn more about the total ecology of the area. I worry about the growing loss of habitat and wish I could do more to help. Sometimes I feel guilty spending money for my own personal enjoyment instead of donating to more conservation causes. But I do what I can in little ways. As a birder, I feel I am an "ambassador" of the natural world. I talk about birding at work and with non-birders. Just spreading the word about how important the environment is to me and I hope they will appreciate it more too. Birding has been the most important factor of my life, superseding career, family, or anything else! All my friends I met in the Ornithology Group. I always wish I was birding in some exotic place instead of the normal day to day routine. A desire to escape perhaps? Or a desire to be closer with our genetic past, our natural roots? Who knows, but I am drawn to nature and cannot turn away.

Under Question 17, I excluded \$26,000 on the purchase of a recreational vehicle this past year. At least 50% of the miles my husband and I drove this vehicle for birding trips. I have noticed a trend toward buying 4-wheel drive sports sedans or vans among our birding acquaintances, so it may be worth investigating further (particularly as a tax basis for wildlife programs).

The set of questions in item 14 includes some horrendous questions. 14(c) and 14(h) are particularly troublesome. They fall into the category of "Have you stopped beating your wife?" - type questions. I don't accept the (hidden) premise of them.

This particular year has been difficult due to changes in job and residence. Have attended ABA conferences, state conferences in years past as well as local Christmas counts, hawk and warbler migrations and done much local birding on weekend excursions. You might want to add questions related to practice and experiences beyond most recent year.

DECLINING POPULATION, HABITAT LOSS

Species, once lost, cannot be regained. Habitat, once lost, is extremely difficult to reinstate. As with human disease, prevention of loss is the best approach.

I continue to be aware of the declining duck population and warbler species.

Need to protect birds from environmental problems such as old oil pits.

I am greatly concerned about the increasing degradation of the natural environment which brings with it increasing pollution of air, land, and streams (and aquifers). The ever-increasing urban sprawl is not sustainable and is damaging the foundation of the biological world - of which we are a part. Birds are the best indicators for monitoring this degradation (because they are relatively easy to find and inhabit so many diverse habitats) and they are declining rapidly. Some local and state organizations (for example, in Maryland) use bird populations to monitor the effects of development. Also of use are the bird counts done by the Audubon Society chapters and hawk counts.

I have enjoyed TFW recent inclusion of articles on birds and birding in its magazine (which I take). As to birding, the development, loss of habitat along the coast seems to be particularly problematic. Some land use regulations establishing greenbelts and buffer zones instead of allowing wholesale development of bays and coastal areas would appear helpful. While I hunt and fish also, I frequently observe a total disregard of bag limits. You definitely need more enforcement officers and imprisonment of game law violators.

Most significant problem with birding is decline in numbers of neotropical migrants on upper Texas coast.

I have birded for many years now, with ten to eleven of them in Texas. We most definitely are losing our birds - maybe not species but numbers within the species. Unfortunately, I feel only those of us that go out on a regular basis, weekly, as I do, are the ones that really can notice or tell the difference. Educating the public is greatly needed so we can preserve our new land instead of building on it. A way to control the building on open property is to keep people out of the country so the need to build is not there. Birds and preserved land is what we want - not more people.

The twenty-eight years I've been birding - the number of birds have fallen and the loss of habitat is going bye bye. I do up to five or six Christmas Bird Counts and you can really see the difference. People and money are winning.

The scarcity of birds has contributed to my loss of interest. I used to be able to bird from my window.

I enjoy birding very much. Over the few years I have been birding, I've noticed the decline in the numbers of birds I have seen in the past. To me it's very sad. I hope somehow we can save the habitat. We have lost so much to development.

Concern with decline in numbers of birds in places I have birded through the years - optimism for the future due to increasing numbers of birdwatchers - especially young people. Thank you.

Better management of endangered species. Once a bird, animal, plant is gone nothing can replace it. Continue control of brown-headed cowbirds. Those birds are one of the main factors in the decline of some birds.

I'm very pleased and excited by recent federal and stated prioritization for the protection of neotropical migrants, coastal woodlots, and

bottomland hardwoods. Also, your waterfowl question (#14a) should differentiate between ducks (almost threatened) and geese (overpopulated).

I'm very concerned regarding draining/loss of wetlands on Galveston Island and general loss of habitat due to too many people.

Habitat loss and pollution need to be Texas' first priority, or there will be little to "manage" in the future.

I believe in the protection of species and habitats, but only by properly reimbursing private property owners - not running roughshod over their interests.

I would like Texas to play a higher role in areas where neotropical birds nest, as well as, stopping points on their migration. By role I mean preserve more land for these species.

Texas has some magnificent birding areas but they suffer from (possible) depredation due to population increases, "development", etc. Specifically needed: 1) coastal marshes/wetlands need protection; 2) more cooperation in endangered species areas, such as the agreement in Austin via a vis black-capped vireo and g.w. warbler; 3) continuing education to prevent the "it's moving, let's shoot it" attitude so prevalent in Texas; 4) work towards balancing ranching vs. overgrazing that threatens so much public land.

In the seventeen years that I have been birding as a hobby, it is very obvious that species in every area are declining in numbers. It is just harder to find birds in certain areas and I am concerned. Thanks for being interested. It is a great pastime.

Birding is analogous to looking through a microscope and seeing parts of the world that are always there but otherwise unknown. I am very often amazed by the birds that may be seen, and by the gulf in knowledge and awareness of birds that exists between birders and non-birders. Protection of bird habitats is very important to me.

1. Birds are a marker for health of the environment. Efforts toward improving native bird populations will improve all native species.
2. Off-set/compensation programs don't work. That is, creating a wetland habitat to off-set destruction elsewhere results in destruction of native healthy wetland and creating of biologically inert land. Witness Freeport marshes which were destroyed and compensated for by creation of sterile dredge fill. A double tragedy.

I love birding. Habitat loss is sickening.

Thank God for Clinton and Babbit. A few more years of the Republicans and the environment would be irreparably trashed.

Recent restrictions on travel around Attwater NWR have almost ruined one of our favorite birding areas. It seems to us that the current manager(s) doesn't know what he is doing. In general, nongame wildlife management is terribly important, not just to birders, but as a reflection of the quality of our environment. I strongly support the Clinton administration's policies of limiting destruction of public lands by private enterprise, and applaud all efforts of TP&W to preserve nongame habitat.

Protect the habitat for the wildlife regardless of who goes to see it.

Protect the trees so the birds will have a place to live!

Birding has enriched my life; given me the opportunity to make friends with people with a common passion; put my feet on the trails of Texas; and given me concern for the preservation of habitats for wildlife in general and neotropical migrants in particular.

Educate county governments not to destroy roadside brushline habitat!

Birds seem to be declining steadily due to various factors - forest elimination, cowbirds, etc.

The increasing loss of habitat in the U.S. and the tropics will seriously hamper birding if not checked. The time for action is now.

During my earlier years, I had the pleasure of observing huge concentrations of migratory birds. When I started birdwatching 15 years ago, the impression was that, although plentiful, the numbers had sharply declined. As an avid outdoor person, a concern developed regarding man's impact on our natural world. This has led me to a commitment to be active in environmental and conservation efforts to slow and hopefully reverse the trend of bird population decline. I hope that my grandchildren's grandchildren will have an opportunity to enjoy our natural world as I have. If the trend isn't slowed or halted, they will not. Birds are the indicator.

I would emphasize that the key to conservation is getting the title to key areas and managing the land in favor of the avifauna.

I think it is extremely important that we set aside as much habitat as possible for rare and endangered species - birds and others. As they say, extinction is forever, and it would be tragic if our descendants could only see pictures.

There are definitely fewer passerines around Dallas and I hear the same from New England, New Jersey, Indiana, etc., in rural areas as well as metropolitan. The Texas Hill Country, too.

- 1) A commitment to worldwide habitat protection is primary environmental issue for U.S.A.
- 2) Very committed to develop birding in 3rd world countries as economic alternative to habitat changes.

Private landowners hold the key to developing and sustaining a nonconsumptive resource policy in Texas. i.e. Promoting birding through habitat conservation. Texas policy-makers, in spite of the economic boon of conservation through hunting, have failed so far to recognize this.

I have been disappointed with the value many Texans place on conservation and protection of such critical habitats for wildlife - values which are reflected in state policies and political sidestepping.

Some wildlife management issues may be contrary to management of birds.

Thank you for conducting research - I hope it will lead to better habitat protection in Texas.

We need to do more to protect coastal Texas habitat. Also, why doesn't Texas have an established migratory bird observatory (i.e. like Cape May) somewhere along the Texas coast?

I am most concerned with irresponsible commercial and municipal use of private and public lands, such as the Houston west side airport project and the gravel parkway project. I can't help but feel these projects are primarily designed to make a small number of wealthy people even wealthier, at the expense of the environment. I am very interested in management policies that mitigate these situations.

Page 3, question 14c: Protecting endangered species does not necessarily directly relate to employment. The lumber industry should consider how their failure to replant is more destructive. Farmers and ranchers are not encouraged or taught that clearcutting is harmful to land (erosion) as well as to animals (loss of habitat).

In addition to comments to 14c - I think there are alternate jobs to be developed in the conservation area and job loss arguments may be unfounded. If conservation dollars spent lobbying could be put to use in the field of reconstructing lost habitat everyone would gain.

All "parks" - city - county - state are too mowed and sterile. Park indicates sterility and vanishing of wildlife in the city. Instead of using imagination in planting and stream control, cities mostly mow, spray, and concrete the creeks - the birds decline from habitat they've used for hundreds of years - very sad.

You should have asked "How long have you been birding?" Under 5 years would have completely different picture - they use state parks and forests. Over 10 years are looking for rarer birds and travel out of country and state more.

Re: 19n: The public should be aware of the general ethical behavior of birders. 1900 (as of 10\2\93) people visited the rare blue-footed booby at Granite Shoals on Lake LBJ at a house. Owner said birders were nicest people she met. Birders clean up beaches after fisher folk. Birders do not litter!

Busy schedule prevents as much birding as I'd like. Have noticed fewer birds at my feeders in past 10 years.

I favor stronger gun control laws. Stiffer penalties for "birding" law breakers. Decline of neotropical migrants.

MISCELLANEOUS

We retain our TOS membership to keep up on "what's happening" in Texas.

I did not fill out much of the specific details, since I do not consider myself an "active" birder at the moment. I birded a lot for about 15 years, but recent commitments preclude the hobby for me. I try to get out whenever I travel.

Had a time trying to remember all the facts. But I did have help from husband.

After being widowed a second time, I was suffering the "empty nest syndrome" once more and the challenge of my new game, plus the friendship and help from all the wonderful birders I met really brought me a brighter future to look forward to!

I have many wonderful personal birding stories and would like to share one with you. If you can touch one child in fifty about the joys of nature it is worth it!! Ten years ago, when in Alaska, way away from civilization, almost to Russia, I was birding for warblers. On my second

day there, I made friends with the son of our pilot. He was around twelve years old, very reclusive and seemed unmotivated and unhappy and in my opinion did not have enjoy a good family life. I asked if he did no want to walk to Seldovia with me and find the small bird named the "warbler" with my binoculars. He said yes. Every day after that he could not wait to go. use the binoculars and find whatever bird there was to be found. Later I heard from a friend of that pilot as saying this youngster was happier, doing better in school, and asking for binoculars. Now I hear he has finished school and is a ranger in one of the parks. Does that not make me feel good or what.

My dollar figures are very rough estimates... maybe + or - 30% tolerance. If the human population doesn't stop growing, birds, nature, and man are doomed within a couple centuries.

What else is special about birding? Feeling perceptually alive to what's going on around you, loving being alone in nature, teaching others about birds.

While I have a life list, somewhere around 500, I don't make a big deal over it and haven't updated it for several years.

I almost gave up birding five minutes after I got my first bird book (Peterson). The first bird I tried to look up was a "house sparrow". It wasn't there with the other sparrows. Then - I had heard "rain crows" but had never seen one. It wasn't there either.

Regarding #15 - We use the Blue Bonnet sticker for access to state facilities. Regarding #1-4 - July 15 to September 16 was spent out of state as follows: one week in Arkansas, two weeks in Colorado, one month in the state of Washington. We stopped while driving to these points to observe birds and we birded informally at each destination while fishing, hiking, etc. Regarding #7 - Circumstances did not permit birding most of the areas for the past year. We have birded the majority of areas in previous years.

I'm not a "bird watcher" - I am and was taught to be aware of birds and all God's creatures - insects, amphibians, etc. ad infinitum. I read nature reports from many sources including England. Hence my membership in "The Littoral Society", "Ornithological Society", "Natural History", and various Horticultural organizations and publications. We own, operate, and guard with our life's blood the "Head of the River Ranch" - used by Dr. Clark Hubbs (Ichthyologist-UT) and Angelo State University Dept. of Biology as their natural biological lab. Our ranch includes two miles of the head springs of the South Concho River and Cole Creek and 2500 acres of forest - burr oak, etc. Terry Maxwell of A.S.U. can give you any further information you might care to have!! We don't use poison sprays.

Thanks for doing this info-gathering.

I'm an Aransas Wildlife Refuge volunteer. We make a bird survey of the Refuge's main visitor spots every Friday.

Birding has led me to have the courage to travel (field trips) alone after the death of my husband - always at home with other birders - have gone from deepest rain forests to far Arctic tundra - not only birds are enjoyed, but all facets of our natural world!

We used to go birding more before we had a baby this year. We went at least twice as much the previous two years - both in state and out of

state. We also went to more of the habitats described.

Good birding is one of the reasons I continue to live in Texas.

I have birded in many countries of the world while on trips with my husband for business purposes. Have lived and birded in Japan and England. This year's frequency is not indicative of my usual birding habits, either in Texas or in the rest of the U.S.

I'd like to especially single out for appreciation the "birder-friendly" efforts of Superintendent Kelly Bryan (Davis Mountains State Park), whose positive attitude infects the staff.

Birding has made me a traveler, sight-seer, camper, hiker, and given me the chance to visit and see the beauties of this earth.

I am a biologist and I work primarily on birds (black-capped vireo in particular), therefore it could be said that I spend part of every day birding. I look at birds on every trip away from home whether the trip is a birding trip or not.

I love going to other countries to admire nature, the birds, the rain forest, cultures, and wildlife.

The nicest people are "birders". It is a real pleasure to watch birds and birders! Ha ha. We love to watch our feathered friends.

This was not a typical year for me. I usually make one or two or three trips out of town, but not out of state, and several near home birding outings.

Birding has been and continues to be amazing to me - like spectacular jewels, that can't be stolen, don't have to be cleaned, and occur when least expected. Thank you.

Except for frequent checks in yard and nearby cemetery (variety of habitats) birding is confined to class field trips (as instructor) and birding tours in Mexico (leader and guide).

Foreign trips were not primarily for birding, but birding is always important part.

Birding has opened up many new worlds for me - ecology, butterflies, native plant gardening, habitat conservation, efforts, and ecotours (Costa Rica, Mexico last year, and Venezuela next year).

My father was more or less an amateur naturalist, although certainly not trained. His love for the outdoors encouraged me to look closely at wild things. Since I developed an interest in birds I have branched out into other interests - flowers, butterflies. I have been involved in the environmental movement since Rachel Carson's Silent Spring was published. For 25 years I have counted on my route for the Breeding Bird Survey. Also, I have done countless Christmas Counts, have participated in other birding research.

Am a volunteer at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. Worldwide birding has certainly made my two retirement years to date very interesting and fulfilling.

On item #11, although we never actually went birding when I was <18, my parents and two brothers taught me to identify the 15-20 most common

birds in our area.

Saw first frigatebirds two weekends ago and saw it again today while driving from Freeport to Galveston. Took an interesting trip to southeast Arizona last August and saw some great birds, wildlife.

Went to Bentsen-Rio Grande Park for first time recently - "tremendous" - need more places like it - natural state and hope you can complete the lower Rio Grande corridor.

Yesterday (17 September 1993) was my 77th birthday. One way or another, I still hobble around birding and keeping bird records every day. My figures on preceding pages are obviously old guesswork.

Due to school constraints, last year was not an active birding year for me.

Sometimes or usually my trips combined a number of different habitats sequentially. I do keep a year list and a life list which went international two years ago. I just bought a computer program to keep track of world list. Please do something valuable with this study.'

Someone needs to make a list of birding etiquette. Until we had our first child this past January with a complicated pregnancy, we birded a lot more frequently than what I noted for this past year.

I birded a lot between about 1978 -1987. Then I got married and my birding friends got married and the number of bird trips dropped substantially. I have previously made birding trips to Peru, Africa, Australia, Singapore, Europe, so I used to spend much more on birding than I do now.

I was fortunate to help start an Audubon chapter when I first started birding. A professor of ornithology (also an author - Hugh Land) shared his knowledge and enthusiasm with us - so I learned much in a short time.

Since 1965, when I was a member of the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club, I keep a life list; now 495 species recorded. In the Sunday newspaper, Del Rio News-Herald, my column "Feather Flyways" is published. For forty years, I contributed to National Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, and plan to join about fifteen friends for the next count of over 100 species.

I probably do more birding because of my work. I may be on a state managed area (my office is on a fish hatchery!) every week/day. So, some of my answers could be debated. I tried to list trips/days specific for birding. Also, my out-of-state vacation was to visit relatives, but locations in Idaho, Montana, selected or influenced by my desire to go birding there (i.e. Glacier N.P. in Montana).

Birding now goes along with lepidoptery, which was an outgrowth of my birding hobby - and I travel in pursuit of both (not as a collector, however, but as a photographer of moths and butterflies). Many of my trips are now combined, sometimes competing interests.

I'm not a good one to send this questionnaire to - my whole life and everything in it revolves around birds and birding.

Volunteered and coordinated group of birders for weekly bird surveys to provide up to date information weekly to birder-visitors. For two years haven't missed a week - Aransas Wildlife Refuge. Summer 1993 two weeks

Earthwatch team observing loons.

I do some birding in the backyard, some in state parks. Sometimes we take weekend trips to go birding.

I have been much more active in the past in terms of specific birding trips, guided tours, etc. Now, I have been so busy in my job the last several years that most birding is done on or near our rural property and incidental to other travels.

I am proud to have a daughter who has become an excellent birder. One of our sons is beginning to get interested in birding.

I enjoyed working on the Breeding Bird Atlas Project and would be willing to participate in future projects.

I believe ornithology can be an important part of birding and is not well addressed in Texas.

Birders are nicer people to associate with than nonbirders on average.

Birding is the most fulfilling, energizing, exhilarating hobby\sport\art\science on the planet! Leads one into geology, botany, etc.; perfect complement to travel, and Texas is greatest birding state by far. Question #19 note - Loss of habitat concerns me, but I can't honestly say it keeps me from getting into the field, there are so many great places here on the upper coast.

Birds are very important in our lives. Feeders, housing, and daily watching provide great entertainment.

Yes. I study birds. I study nature. I study everything that moves and everything that doesn't. I specialize in herpetology, ornithology, and spiders. I am also a docent at the Fort Worth Nature Center. One more thing - got any job openings in nature study?

I have a large number of birding books, magazines, American Birds reports that would be very beneficial to a university ornithology department for research purposes (or for your department as well). I would be pleased to donate these to any Texas university or agency that can use them. I am close to 70 years of age but very active physically and mentally. I still teach Japanese language and geology to adult education agencies.

I also do some birding on trips that are not solely for birding purposes. Both in and out of Texas.

Would also like you to know we travel to west Texas (Big Bend, Davis Mountains, Guadalupe Mountains) 2-3 times a year and to the coast (Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Padre Island) 4-5 times a year. We have visited/birded most parts of Texas at some point.

My husband and I have participated in many Christmas Counts of birds by Audubon Society, put on slide programs in Dallas and Fort Worth and McKinney about birding and nature - We have also led numerous field trips to acquaint new birders with Texas birds.

My wife and I have participated in many Christmas Bird Counts by the National and Local Audubon Societies. We have developed and presented color slide bird and nature programs (including those on Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Alaska, etc.). We have led numerous birding field trips -- particularly to acquaint new birders with the

birds of Texas. We not only "bird", but we observe and enjoy the beauties of nature (animals, wildflowers, rivers, lakes, woods, etc.).

Why do you assume that all those who work with birds are birders?

We have visited 33 foreign countries, all states, all but two Canadian provinces, 8 islands.

My husband works for an airline, so I can fly very cheaply. This is how I've been able to travel so much to bird in the last years.

Just that birding is a therapeutic thing and I just wish I had savored each "lifer" more thoroughly.

Our home is registered with the National Wildlife Federation as a home habitat. We also participate in Cornell University's Feeder Watch Program. My husband records all species seen in our sanctuary.

Our home is registered with National Wildlife Federation as a "home habitat". We are able to see many birds each day as they come to feed or drink. We also participate in Cornell University's Feeder Watch program.

Due to my husband's illness, I have not travelled as much this year as in the past.

I wish we would have more birders in Texas, especially in west Texas, the Valley, and coastal areas, and San Antonio. All of these places are underbirded. I try to cover some San Antonio hot spots as often as possible.

Up until this past year, I birded much more frequently than now. Since September, 1992, I have been on home dialysis, four exchanges a day. This curtails my birding activities. I can't go out and stay all morning or day as I did in the past. I still manage to see some birds and keep a few records, and still enjoy it immensely.

There is more to birding than listing. By observing birds and other animals, reptiles, etc., a person can find one's self in nature. Once this happens it becomes easier and rewarding to accept the world as it is and not just man's world. An the end result is the realization that we are the keepers of what God built and gave us.

Yes, a wish. I wish someone would build a five acre island about 30 miles out in the Gulf. It would be a good site for a bird observatory and a great benefit to migratory birds.

This has been a slow birding year for us. We spent from April 1992 to July 1993 building a vacation cabin, so did not take our usual birding trips. Normally we take a 3-5 week trip.

This has not been a typical year due to poor health. Have been to Costa Rica two times, Arizona one time, California several times, Northwest and British Columbia one time, Maine, Blue Nose Ferry, Nova Scotia one time.

Have made many trips for birds several years ago. Antarctica, Galapagos, Arctic, Shetland Islands, Hawaii (Maui for nene goose in 1967) - Don't go as much as formerly.

My birding activity for the last 12 months period is not representative of a normal 12 month period due to illness of a parent.

Good way to avoid stress.

We have in the last year organized a club in our area for birders. It has boomed to near a hundred members. We have an excellent program man in David Dauphin who is a real birder himself. The club is the Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club, Liberty, TX.

Texas is the greatest place in the U.S. for birding. We love it, the variety of habitats and closeness to Mexico make it unbeatable.

Moved to St. Louis one year ago.

Birdwatching is a hobby that is relaxing and regenerative to the spirit. Can be enjoyed on a seldom, part-time, or full time basis depending on time and money and desire.

Seems like some of the newer birders are in it for the competition (most #'s on a list). Also, birding is basically becoming a "rich-man" hobby... many magazines have switched from birding in the U.S. to foreign destinations, leaving the "not-so-rich" birders with feelings that they may have started a wrong hobby.

I have attempted to help or volunteer my help in the Audubon group and in TOS but find I am not needed. I find TOS to be very male-oriented with the same people (or click, if you will) running the organization. I have found that birders in this state are very unfriendly, as opposed to the state I moved from, who were very friendly and eager to get together and bird.

We have started a B&B for birders located at Smith Oaks Woods in High Island, TX. I would like to promote the area for year round birding. We host the Bolivar Christmas Count, and would like to see more networking to record birds seen on the upper Texas coast. We keep an active list of birds seen in the area as well as an annual rare bird list on our 4'x8' board in front of Birder's Haven. We have started beginning bird classes which we hope will also help to promote the High Island area.

I have a winter cabin in Mission, Texas, near Bentsen State Park at which I usually reside during the winter months, and birds when I can. Recently had a stroke which is affecting my writing!

Wife and I live full time in a motor home (have for 10 years) - travel almost continuously.

My husband and I are full time RVers. We more or less move when the birds do. It is such a thrill to see a new bird, but sad to realize that species may not be around in a few years. We also volunteer to help with bird banding from time to time.

Would like to see more women birders. Too few in Texas with little respect for them. Texas is dominated by male birders and particularly in the part of Texas where I live.

Identified 413 species in Texas this year.

Sorry to be late with this. Seems like everybody in family taking turns with virus!!

My 'Thanks' to you for offering this survey to birders.

All answers are very general estimates.

I have birded more in the past and plan to again. I have been to High Island 3-4 times, Davis Mountains once, Port Aransas 2-3 times, Rio Grande Valley once. Most trips were because of one mentor. I'm glad you sent the follow-up card, because I had misplaced this and forgotten it.

Since my husband died, I don't have any friends who are into birding.

Birds and birding changed my life forever.

Birding has been very special to both me and my husband and we have some beautiful memories of places - birds - and the people we have met. Birders are caring, friendly people.

I use birding as an excuse to see the United States, people, different habitats - foods - customs. I also use birding as an excuse to list or collect the common, and more importantly, the rare or unusual.

Birding is a wonderful way to see the world. I enjoy (1) the birds, (2) the birders, the flora, the fauna, the natives, the culture, the religion, the agriculture (I am a farmer.), the architecture, the economy, the scenery, geography, the cities, some of the tourist attractions, i.e. the Taj Mahal, etc. etc. Not necessarily in that order.

As you can tell, I'm a bird nut! One trip to Attu and I've been really hooked. Made 2 really dear friends that I go on bird chases with and we all have 700+ lists, as well as several good state lists.

This was in some ways an atypical year. I did not travel much for the explicit purpose of birding.

Thanks for sending me the survey!

I belong to the ABA plus local clubs, and I think it is very important that birding be a pleasurable experience for all concerned. The birder and the property owner where the birds are!

I bird every day... Doesn't everyone?

Current resident of Panama - Texas birders are welcome to visit with me in Panama City for weekend outings with the Panama Audubon Society.

Cost may be more - have used Elderhostels - don't keep good records of what I've spent. Have gone on tours in the past. Walk more than 2 miles 5 days a week - check birds - fall and spring.

Love to bird - Have birded in 35 countries, 7 continents. Sorry I am late with this report.

I spend some of each day on my farm, 18 miles from San Angelo, so I bird some nearly every day. My binoculars are never far from me!

My husband had a stroke January 1992 and is recovering nicely but he has enjoyed watching birds at the feeders. I have been a member of the local birding club for 9 months and my husband has joined too. Planning a monthly field trip with the club.

Birding has added tremendous enjoyment to my life. Through it I have made life-long friends, traveled to areas and foreign countries where I

had never been before, and met many interesting people.

I'm just very proud to be living in Texas now where there are so many wonderful areas to bird and so many species to observe.

This past year has not been very typical: we moved, are still maintaining 2 places (the old one hasn't sold yet) and are building a house. In more normal years, we go birding several times a week, about twice a year in other states or countries.

This has been a most "unbirding" year for us. We've move from Tarrant County to Erath County and began construction on a dwelling "on the cheap" - that means a lot of personal involvement. So this has been an unusually poor 15-18 months of birding except for the twice weekly trips for Tarrant to Erath and utility wire sightings!! Historical questions are relevant, but we'd surely have more birding trips, with other and with just the two of us, in normalcy had been in vogue.

Went to Rockport and out with Connie Hagar 7 years both spring and fall. Attended tours to Europe with ? Crowder 1963 - organized my own tours 1966 after leading tours for him 3 years. Continued until 1983 - still attended other tours for few years, to 1987. Birded refuges and all over the states privately and with groups. I doubt that my figures will help you. We didn't want to ignore the survey.

Birding is a great recreational activity!

When my children, now 6 and 3 years old, get older, I'll be able to do more local birding.

Summers now in mountains of North Carolina (nice and cool) and birds galore at feeders in country home in woods. Living on Gulf Coast, we go birding frequently nearby.

Austin birders are great. As a young birder in Austin, I met Ben Feltner, Vic Emanuel, James A. Tucker, and Ed Kutac, they all birded with me and helped me! These people are good people, not stuck up! I'm a birder, a lister, county list, yard list, I enjoy birds and go to all areas of the state seeing birds. I do chase rare birds! Texas has so many areas to visit, it's real hard to visit all the areas. I do make a yearly trip to High Island, Big Bend, Davis Mountains, and Rio Grande Valley. Also the Guadalupe Mountains are something I'd like to be closer to.

I live at the end of a dead end street and have cows to the south of me and to the west - consequently, I have birds of all kinds - almost as many as I see away from home. In general if I am at home, I'm birding.

I cannot remember a time when I was not interested in birds. I plan a trip to Costa Rica (return) in April 1994.

Great way to get peaceful!

Would bird more if family and work did not require so much of my time now.

The second "spark" came in 1958 when my wife gave me my 1st really good binoculars as a Christmas present.

Some of the ultra benefits I've derived from birding are all of the nice people we've met. Birders are very accepting, patient people, that are

almost always helpful and nonjudgmental. Some of our best friends are birders. A real asset because you can always bird.

I apologize for my response time. I have just moved to New Orleans. My birding has been very restrictive during this past year due to commitments. I have not kept good notes during this time and these data may be biased by my memory.

Since the winter of 1978-79, we have been spending part of the winter in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas - usually 4 months. The rest of the year we live in Oklahoma.

Good luck on your survey! I'm sorry I'm not more help, but I don't keep extensive records of my birding activities.

We have a travel trailer and have found birding a great way to see the out of the way places all over the country. We have been from Churchill to south of San Diego and from the Dry Tortugas to St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea taking the trailer as far as possible - then commercial.

Birding has made my retirement life! Great therapy, tremendously interesting.

I lead birding tours professionally and have for many years, so birding is my business as well as my hobby, and I'm involved in it pretty much every day of my life in some way or another.

We do keep a life list and it's always fun to see a new bird that can be added to the list. But the list does not drive our birding experience, just seeing a spending time to really watch the birds increases my appreciation of wildlife and nature. And if you are fortunate enough to have the money, it's real easy to invest up to \$5000 on optics without blinking because of the enjoyment gained from birding.

After 3 years of "widowhood" and some birding trips, I remarried recently and am introducing new spouse to pleasure of birding. We have a ranch in country on Edward's Plateau and while we live in city, we spend at least 1/3 of our time on the ranch where I do most of my birding now. Since I do my birding on our own land, it was difficult to answer some questions correctly. I am still and will continue to support the Nature Conservancy since I feel that is a good way to protect species.

Sorry I didn't get this completed and back to you sooner, but I've been swamped with volunteer work (non-birding) lately - "birding" has been very rewarding to me for years.

My interest in birds led to hobbies in wildlife photography, watercolor painting, woodcarving, and bird banding. All of these, I now share with children as an outgrowth of my job as superintendent of schools.

I birded extensively in Texas when I was there but I have not returned since 11/91. I am now mostly into neotropical birding, but do bird whenever I can.

I have been a professional bird tour leader for four years now, leading approximately 150 days of tours per year. These days, plus the direct costs of my food, lodging, transportation, etc. are included in the above totals.

Texas is at least as good as California for birding and we have a (used

to have?) great migration.

I'm afraid I've been no help.

My last effort at teaching the Boy Scouts was in 1940. Since then I have made very few trips specifically for bird study - but we take along binoculars and bird books on nearly every trip anywhere. The three trips I show this year were to take my daughter from Dallas to see the loons at Sabine Lake and brown pelicans in the Gulf.

Howdy. Dr. Adams: I am a former student of yours from the class of '91 at TAMU. I teach a wildlife management course as part of our Ag. Science curriculum, each semester. If there is any additional information you would like from a younger age group, please contact us in Alvin. Keep up the good research; your work is a great asset to us all.

Health problems this year do not make a year representative of my usual birding activities. However, I live on an inland bay in Rockport where one can spend a birding hour on the way to the grocery!

We enjoy the 10 or so parks, natural areas, and wildlife management areas within 75 miles. We also enjoy the wild flowers, trees, and other wildlife in the area, though birds are our primary object. Since we are retired, we go to the parks, etc. mid-week. No crowding! We took advantage of our Passports (1992-93) with programs at Kickapoo and the Davis Mountains.

My wife's impaired vision has precluded our activity. I am encouraged that she may decide to participate on a limited basis. Binocs still go where we happen to go.

Do not consider myself an avid bird watcher, very casual. Someone else bought my membership to the Texas Ornithological Society.

I have taken classes in field identification of birds by probably the finest instructor in this field. His name is Gene Blacklock. His value to birding in the state is unmeasurable. His love of birds and all nature is totally infectious.

Texas is a great place to bird.

Birds have brought many oddities into my yard. Two hummingbird rituals; the up and down flight, and also the round (circle) flight. They say goodbye before they depart for migration. They love to be spoken to. A mocker sang to me each day as I watered the yard. A downy woodpecker talks to me every day. (I do talk to the birds and believe that they, like all animals, love it.)

1. Listing is fun but can become a curse.
2. Birders should be avid and informed conservationists.
3. It is richly rewarding to add other study such as the flora to our study of birds.
4. I believe that God created all things, and am sad that so few birders seem to share this belief.

This is not a true picture of my lifetime birding experience. I have enjoyed many of our public, national, and state parks. Due to poor vision and other problems, I am limited. Sorry I was late. Good luck to you.

The fact that I am a wildlife biologist/manager means that I do not share

all of the same views as most "birders". However, I love the birds as much as anyone or more.

It's a wonderful way to stay active, get your mind away from daily stress, etc. Puts many cares into perspective. We have been so pleased in the state facilities and personnel. It's alarming to think that recent cutbacks in personnel might affect all this.

Birding heightens your awareness and appreciation of all nature. You must slow down and really see for the first time, in some cases. Please pass on my concern against recent news of staffing cutbacks at state wildlife areas.

Do not have data for question 3. Have moved to Colorado in the past 4 months.

Sorry this response is late. We are addicted birders. Betty is the chairman of the Rockport/Fullerton Hummingbird Celebration and along with Jesse Grantham of Audubon, started the Friends of Connie Hagar organization. Our only problem now is that all this organizational work often interferes with our birding.

This report is skewed for the current year. I have birded less in Texas than normal because of finishing several book projects on other subjects. Have studied wildflowers and butterflies in addition to birds.

I think this is an excellent study, and look forward to the results. Birding is the coming recreation in this country.

Until about a year or so ago I was an extremely active birder, birding at least 2-3 days a week, mostly in Texas. My present situation prevents all but sporadic involvement. Although I do bird from my car to and from the office in a nearby town.

There is more to birding than just listing. More articles on the wonders of birds and flight.

I would like to be - and was for many years - daily active in birding. For the last year have been self-employed and have no time but commute 48 miles one way daily and keep lists in 4 counties that I drive through. Also property lists and occasional trips.

Birding is a wonderful hobby for all ages and can be a pleasant recreational activity no matter where you are. Unusual sightings can be made from roadsides or the home. I am most involved now in promoting conservation of birds through the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. I serve as the state bird chairman and the regional (Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Oklahoma) bird representative of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

There are many closet birders who don't join organizations because of the misconceptions that birding or other conservation groups are mini protestors and not people like themselves who enjoy watching and identifying birds in their natural surroundings.

I feel that Texas Parks and Wildlife is beginning to respond to the needs of nonconsumptive users. I have had some wonderful trips to WMAs and SNAs using the TCP.

More and more ranchers seem afraid to let any "bird work" be done on their land. They are afraid an endangered species may be found that

causes them to lose control over their own land.

Just wish family commitments could allow me more free time to travel and teach others. (I teach 2-3 bird I.D. classes per year and volunteer at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge.) Also give talks about birds to civic organizations in U. Tx. area: "How to get started birdwatching" and "Texas is for the birds"!

In pursuing the "beyond birding", I became interested in wildlife rehabilitation. I have held permits to rehabilitate wildlife for about 12 years. In this way, I hope to repay some of the enjoyment I've had observing wildlife. I also hope to pass along some of the knowledge and love of nature I've gained by educating others interested in learning more about nature. P.S. Often hunters bring injured birds to me for rehabilitation that they find in the field.

(a) In early 1988, I had surgery for the removal of my larynx and in April 1993 had a cataract removed in one eye and am anticipating the second cataract removed in the near future. Although my interest in birding remains high, my birding activity has naturally been curtailed in recent years.

(b) Do not feel that the loss of jobs is very often a result of protecting endangered species. With imagination and certain accommodations to people, many jobs could be created in the environmental/conservation field. Feel however that emphasis on habitat/ecosystems would be more beneficial than stressing endangered species per se.

The resources and beauty of the outdoors should be available to all. Regulations are essential, but accommodation of all interests should be the goal. Proper evaluation of checks and balances (cost-benefit) should be accepted by all involved.

APPENDIX E
HUNTERS' COMMENTS ON THE HUNTING SPARK

FRIENDS

Roommate at college.

A friend took me into the marsh when I was 16 and I shot my first duck.

My best friend in high school got me started.

A friend took me to an inland marsh for my first hunt - it was wonderful - the challenge of "calling", watching - the beauty of the marsh in winter - I like water and cold weather.

A neighbor-friend took me on an early "teal" hunt to the open tidal marshes near Matagorda. I was hooked.

Myself and two veterinary classmates began fishing together when we met in vet college in 1972. We had all hunted small game previously. We saw ducks, bought 6 decoys and a used canoe, and began.

Went hunting with a friend.

Even though I thought duck hunting was crazy because of the bad weather conditions which seemed to be favored, a friend in law school convinced me to go an I really enjoyed seeing the ducks come in to the decoys.

Friends in high school.

Was invited and went.

Friends, comradery, and access to great hunting in Matagorda County.

With friends in college.

Hearing stories and witnessing the results of friends' fathers' duck hunts. Lots of reading in Sports Afield Monthly.

Watched hunts on VCR rented tapes, and talked a friend into taking me. After that hunt, I immediately purchased decoys and camouflage for my boat.

I had friends who lived for duck season. They worked all summer on blinds and counted the days until the levees were opened and the corn fields flooded. I attended a DU dinner and caught the fever there amongst the champion callers and furious bidding.

Friends and I hunted after school and on weekends.

Two of my best friends in junior high school took me to their secret spot. In one shot, I knocked down 5 teal and retrieved all of them. My friends told everyone what I had done, and I became known as "the duck slayer".

Friends.

Friends for fun.

Was taken to help others shag ducks at "duck lake" in Valley. Then allowed to shoot with a single shot 410. Graduated to a 20 gauge at 10 years old. Spent nearly every weekend shooting ducks until 12, when moved to city.

Invited by friends, fellows at work; also family.

Was invited to go.

Went out with a friend one day and got hooked.

- (1) Friends.
- (2) Enjoy outdoors.

A friend got me interested.

Jumping wood ducks from creeks on Saturday mornings with my best friend.

Had hunted quail and dove, and invited by a friend to go on a guided hunt.

Friend introduced me!

With friends.

Was hunting with friends the first time. One friend called in a small flock of speckle bellies to our decoys. I shot my first goose that day and have been hooked ever since.

A friend took me to where the "ducks are" - McFaddin marsh near Port Arthur.

Going with friends.

A friend took me hunting. Hooked!!

Friends took me hunting with them.

As a child, I read about duck hunting, and since I never hunted the way they hunted in the books, it was all a big mystery to me, as was the great mystery of migration. I would sit and watch the waterfowl go by and think, "Where have they been and where are they going?" A friend took me the first time to "really" go duck hunting - a new experience. It just mushroomed thereafter. I go to see the waterfowl.

Always interested, introduced by a friend.

Friends introduced to bird hunting.

Wildlife science PhD program - everyone else hunted ducks. Always liked outdoors, hunted upland game a lot prior to that.

A friend that had a lease who had been hunting for thirty-five years took me.

Hearing my friends talk about it.

Started going with my sister's boyfriend.

Went with friends.

High school classmates inviting me to participate in local hunts.

Hunting doves with friends in high school. Later duck hunting while working in Kansas.

A guided trip with my friends, 10-12 people, of all experience levels.

A friend took me hunting.

Watching ducks along Texas coast and seeing others hunting while I was fishing in coastal bays. Being invited to go goose hunting with a friend.

Friends.

Invited by friends, cousin.

Friends invited me to their lease several times over 2 years. I joined the lease the third year.

Friends and reading literature.

Asked by friends.

Friends in another company invited me to go.

Friend in a social club. Also, association with Ducks Unlimited and a skeet club.

New next door neighbor introduced me to the activity.

Met a new friend that duck/goose hunts. Began to train my own retriever.

Asked by friends when I was in the Air Force (in Texas).

In high school with friends.

Friends. Father didn't hunt much. Schoolmates and I hunted public land and cheap leases. Always loved the outdoors.

Friends asked me to go. I was already a small/large game hunter and shooter for fun.

A friend lived on a farm with stock tanks.

The first time my friend took me duck hunting we accidentally spooked up a roost of about 3000 geese which flew overhead at about 30 yards. Since then, I have loved just watching birds fly around.

Hunting with friends; hearing their stories.

Friends.

Friends invited me.

A close friend invited me to join him on a guided hunt near Wharton.

Friend's ranch.

Friends.

Went with friends and really enjoyed it.

Friend asked me to go.

Friend invited me to start hunting his private land like his father had

in the past. I had also enjoyed few scattered previous invitations from other friends over previous years.

Best friend.

A friend took me out on a duck hunting trip.

I grew up doing a lot of hunting - mostly rabbits, squirrels, and quail. Because of the decrease in habitat, my friends started hunting ducks and geese. One of my friends became a regional director for DU and got me to join even though I do very little goose hunting (no duck hunting).

Hunt with friends.

Watching shows on television and reading books and magazines.

Friend.

Hunting trip to a friend's farm lake.

Friend needed partner due to back injury.

Freshmen in high school - friend asked me to go with him on hunt early in morning on rice fields near Eagle Lake. Most incredible sight is seeing a flock of hundreds of thousands of geese taking off at once, the sound gave an appreciation for nature and hunting that has never left.

Friends.

Invitation from a friend.

A friend knew I enjoyed hunting and invited me to go duck hunting.

Went out with a friend to my ranch and we spotted ducks circling in and shot them (with licenses).

Friends.

With friends after I moved from Houston to Madisonville.

By invitation.

A friend invited me on a duck hunt.

With friends.

Friend took me the first time. I had always hunted game birds, small game, and deer prior to going into the service.

Friends.

Friends and business associates got me started.

Friends showed me duck hunting then other friends showed me goose hunting. I have never really fell wholehearted into harvesting ducks, but I enjoyed the first hunts and like 2 to 3 hunts with my kids and wife for a couple of meals.

Becoming friends with individuals who were involved in Ducks Unlimited and hunting with these people, involving my sons as they became old enough to go along.

A friend invited me to go with him to his father's land one weekend. After a hunt that morning and afternoon on Saturday and Sunday, I realized how much I enjoyed this type of hunting.

Friend's invitations.

Went with friends who hunted.

Invitation and to be with friends.

Relocated to area with no quail hunting - found a friend to duck hunt and go to the woods with.

Hunting with friends.

Through a friend.

Became friends with an avid hunter/fisherman when we moved to a smaller town from a large city.

Trip with friends.

Going out with friends.

Friends; wanted to start hunting.

Wanted to hunt ducks/geese for years. Invited by a neighbor who purchased a guided hunt through local Ducks Unlimited chapter "silent" auction.

Invited to go with a friend.

A friend and I started duck hunting on our own and enjoyed it a great deal.

Friend challenged me to go "freeze" with the boys. Friend doesn't go any more. I now chair D.U. chapter.

Friend took me to the coastal marshes east of Houston and that was that. I had always considered dove and quail hunting at the top of the list. I now have a new list.

Went with friends and have been going with same ones ever since then.

My father did other types of hunting. I started waterfowl hunting with friends of mine.

Friends took me.

My best friends and I saw a lot of ducks at his "tank" and decided to buy some calls and decoys and give it a try. The three of us shot 2 birds each our first morning out. We were hooked! The biggest high is when they decoy right in on you and you realize your decoy spread, blind, and calling brought them in.

At 17, it was just another way of hunting and we hunted every time we could for whatever was in season. At age 37, after 20 years of not hunting ducks, I became bored with deer hunting, which I had continued to do. The challenge of successful duck hunting was more rewarding and the complexities of weather, access, equipment, identification, hunting with someone, and use of a dog were fresh ideas.

Hunting trips with friends to an El Campo farm.

Like all types of hunting - especially waterfowl hunting.
Friend took me waterfowl hunting and I've been hooked since.'

Friends where I worked invited me.

A friend in Oklahoma taught me to duck hunt, identify different ducks, estimate range, etc., but most importantly, let me see how a marsh comes alive around a hunter set up in a blind before light.

Friend got a shotgun for graduation. I figured he would like duck hunting. So I took him.

Be with friends I liked hunting with.

A friend I dove hunt with asked me to go.

Friends took me to their land.

Friends got me started, plus I am involved with the local DU chapter.

Went out hunting with a friend.

Stories from my friends got me interested and stories from my father about hunting ducks when he was younger. I went to McFaddin NWR and I really enjoyed the hunt; I was hooked.

Hunting sea ducks (scoters/oldsquaws) with friends and black ducks by myself on coastal waters of Long Island, N.Y.

With university friends.

Friends.

Ducks Unlimited, and people I met there. Also, a friend that is an avid hunter.

Just by meeting people who were into the sport, which soon started and interest.

Friends took me out.

With friends.

Friends introduced me to it.

Fellowship with others.

Invited by close friends.

Going with friends at age 13 or 14.

I started hunting with friends in the Lake Whitney area in the early to mid-70s. The limit was 10 10-point ducks/day, and lots of ducks. It was really action-packed fun then!

Friends.

Friend took me.

Friend invited me hunting in December 1967. Been hunting as often as I can since.

Hunting on an old lake behind my house with a 410 and decoys a friend gave me.

With a friend.

A close friend grew up hunting ducks/geese, always tried to get me to go. I would not go - didn't sound like fun. Moved to northwest Texas (Lubbock), major culture shock, moved back to east Texas, ready, willing, and able to do anything outdoors. My first morning, 20 degrees F, 20mph wind, ice everywhere on the river. I loved it. There is nothing like the rush you get from the sound of setting wings as they drop in.

I was always fascinated with the annual migration and one of my high school buddy's father taught us how.

FAMILY

FATHER

My father.

Trips with father and brother.

My father and my uncles took me hunting.

Went with father - fell in love with hunting.

My father was an avid hunter. We lived near rice fields and excellent hunting habitat. Easy access as a young person to good hunting.

Father took me; able to spend time with father.

My father took me duck hunting and I also hunted with friends. Nothing compares to seeing a flock of mallards decoy and come in to your spread.

Grew up in south Louisiana near marshes, waterways. Father is a hunter.

Father.

My father started my duck hunting - we hunted or fished every weekend he was able.

Father took me.

Father took me at a very early age. Started with dove hunting, retrieving father's birds.

Through my father as a young lad. At an early age it was the most important thing in my life.

Going hunting with my father.

Taken hunting with my father since I was 6 or 7. Didn't get to carry a gun for a couple more years.

Hunting with my father.

My father started taking me when I was very young, about 9-10 years old. We only jumped ducks off of ground cattle tanks and only hunted ducks while we were quail hunting. When I was about 16 years old, I began doing more duck hunting alone and I fell in love with it. I fell in love with the beauty of mainly puddle ducks - pintails, mallards, teal - and with their instinctive intelligence. Many times I sit in a blind or sneak up on a lake and just watch them for hours, practicing calling and never fire a shot. I love learning more and more about ducks and their habits just from doing this. I will duck and goose hunt for the rest of my life and I love the taste of their meat, but I am greatly concerned for the reduction in numbers of ducks, and I have seen it myself year after year. Thus, I only kill about 3 ducks a year.

Accompanying my father on annual Thanksgiving day hunts. Goose hunting at first light and the morning. Afternoons were for walking parklands for ruffed grouse or sitting around potholes for ducks.

Father.

I started when I was 6 years old. My father used to take us several times a year.

My father loved hunting ducks and I learned from him.

I am a fourth generation Texas hunter who grew up on quail and duck stories. My father hunted ducks on the California marshes. I have to hunt close to home on our area lakes. I feel fortunate to live within 80 miles of several fine lakes such as Rayburn, Marval, and Toledo Bend. My buddy and I hunt dove and ducks together and have since college.

Went with father and friends.

My father carried me piggyback to blind in early teal season.

My father introduced me to hunting. Spending time with him outdoors was very appealing. Duck hunting was always my favorite. Chasing the big beautiful birds in the east Texas bottomlands was challenging and fun.

My father started me hunting.

My father taking me.

Spending time as a child with my father every weekend during the season.

Being out in nature. Going out with my father and brothers.

I got to go with my father and grandfather.

My father took me hunting all the time as a kid.

Father's enthusiasm for hunting.

My father started bringing me hunting at a very young age.

With my family (father and brothers).

Father took me and was an excellent duck caller as well as a very avid hunter who enjoyed the outdoors.

Being outdoors with my father.

Father took me initially, then started hunting ducks/geese with friends in high school - hooked.

Father and son hunting trip to one of the most beautiful lakes in Texas: Caddo.

Father and grandfather introduced me as a child. In college, group of friends gave me the spark.

Outdoors with father and friends.

Time with my father and friends.

Father's interest.

Father.

My father and brother.

My father took me. It seemed like the natural thing to do, hunting.

My father introduced me to the sport. Then in high school my friends and I enjoyed this sport a lot.

My father.

Father took me hunting - friends at school kept spark alive.

Hunted upland game birds a lot growing up in Idaho. Time spent with family (father and brothers) was very important. Such time spent instilled in me a great love of the outdoors and a desire to be an active participant in the natural cycle of things.

My father and I did a lot of hunting.

My father was a hunter, but he died when I was 11 years old. It was after law school before I was able to get back into hunting.

Father took me out to watch the geese come in each fall.

A friend; father.

I started hunting waterfowl with a friend and his father at about age 11. I started getting on leases at 16 and I started my own guide service at 24. I am now in partnership with someone and we lease land in Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge.

Father and grandfather had weekend hunting lease/lodge. Sons were encouraged to participate.

Father and uncles hunted.

Father and his friends. Pheasants first.

Like father, like son!

Went with my father.

Father took me out to lease. Have loved it ever since.

Father-son trip.

Went with father and older brothers - camping, hunting.

Father.

I saw the enthusiasm my father and older brother had for the sport.

Taken hunting by father.

Weekends with father at company hunting camp in south Louisiana.

My father was manager of a hunting and fishing club.

Father took me goose hunting along with my grandfather.

Hunting on a small lake in northern Wisconsin with my father; bailing a leaking wooden boat; freezing my butt off at the crack of dawn until that first flight of widgeon turned back toward our decoys!

Father-son companionship.

I have always loved ducks; going to the park to feed them was a childhood love. Father would always let me help him clean the ducks he had shot before I was old enough to hunt.

My father duck hunted and took me with him.

Started with father and uncle at age 5 - shot first 2 ducks, green-winged teal and scaup. Looking back on it, I don't think I had much choice. I tell my patients I was brainwashed at an early age.

Father - hunter.

My father had been hunting for many years.

My father took me the first time and hunting took hold.

Father.

Father - general hunting. Duck hunting friends.

Father and older brother influence.

Companionship between father and son.

Father took me.

Father.

With my father as guide.

Hunting with my father.

Father.

Father.

Hunting with my father.

Father; close by.

With my father and later my brother.

Started hunting at an early age with my father in eastern Arkansas - plenty of ducks.

Trips with my father.

Father and uncle took me as a child.

Father's interest/support.

Hunting with my father and friends.

Grew up in coastal North Carolina. Everyone hunted ducks. Those that didn't were considered to be genetically deficient. My father introduced me to it. All my friends hunted waterfowl. We lived only for duck season, and still do.

Father.

Trips with my father.

Going with my father to our hunting lease with uncles, cousins, and dad's friends.

Opportunity to hunt with my father.

Father took trap shooting.

My father took me. I am fourth generation Texas duck hunter. It is in my blood.

My father and I were taken on hunts by people he worked with.

With my father in Louisiana (north).

Going with father and grandfather.

My father instilled the sport in me. I am an avid (addicted) duck hunter.

My father got me started in duck and goose hunting.

My father took me.

My dad took me hunting and to see the geese on local winter wheat pastures and to identify ducks at the small local lake near my hometown, Terrell, Texas.

My dad got me started in duck/goose hunting.

My dad was a rice farmer.

Dad and dogs.

My dad took me.

Started with my dad.

Growing up in outdoors around wildlife; encouraged by my dad.

Dad.

I started hunting with my dad at an early age. We hunted greater Canada geese on family land; these geese have been coming to this spot for hundreds of years. I have always enjoyed goose hunting, but after my first duck hunt, I was hooked forever. Watching and identifying waterfowl and other birds and other wildlife is forever ingrained in my soul. I would like to see waterfowl hunting preserved for my children and their children, if nothing but for the purpose of getting together and getting out with family and friends.

My dad would take me whenever he went and I got to carry one home. That was pretty special for a 4 year old. Also, seeing all the ducks and getting that rush when it was time to shoot.

Dad took me when I was a kid.

Dad - family quality time.

Dad would always hunt ducks and geese, etc.

My dad was an avid duck/goose hunter in Louisiana when he was growing up. My dad took me hunting all the time here in Texas.

Dad/grandfather/uncle gave me a gun and took me out.

My dad took the "boys" everywhere.

Started when I was a kid, by my dad, and have loved it ever since.

My dad introducing me to the outdoors at an early age - 8 years old.

My dad took me on that first hunt. It was great. However, ever since I could walk, I enjoyed being in the outdoors.

Living on a farm and my dad had a great love for hunting and fishing, wildlife in general, which he passed on to me.

My daddy loved to hunt and he took me with him.

Hunting with my dad by jumping ducks off of creeks and stock tanks.

Wanted to go with dad.

My dad.

Being with my dad.

Outdoors with my dad. The beauty of a sunrise on the water. The flight and takeoff of ducks on the water.

Dad took my brother and I to Port O'Connor at an early age.

Dad.

Going with my dad jump-shooting in the old river sloughs.

My dad took me on a foggy morning while I watched him shoot some ducks.

I went hunting with my dad.

My dad took me to the blind when I was quite small. (We lived on the Missouri River in northeastern Kansas.) At 9 he gave me a shotgun and

taught me how to use it. He always said, "If you are not going to eat it, don't kill it."

Mainly going with dad and his friends.

Watching my dad call ducks and watching the ducks circle many times before deciding to come in through pin oak trees to light on back water.

Seeing my dad bring home his kill.

My dad.

My dad took me to a friends marsh.

I got started in duck/goose hunting by going out hunting with my dad and other relatives when I was about 4 years old. We hunted in Lissie on the Lissie prairie, and I loved it.

My dad had been a guide before I was born. His interest, and the fact that we lived in Anahuac, Texas, made it natural for me.

First hunt with dad.

My dad took us to my granddad's farm tank which was loaded with wood ducks and mallards and I might have shot 2 boxes of shells and never killed one, but I thought it was incredibly exciting, fascinating, and appealing.

Duck hunting on the Brazos with my dad.

My dad coming home after duck/goose hunting and showing me the birds and telling me about the hunt and the beautiful marshes and bottomland areas that he had been in and the great times in the fields spent with his friends.

Went often as a young boy (6 or 7 years old) with my dad, uncle, and grandpa. I went for several years before I was able to shoot.

Dad took me.

PARENT

Parent.

GRANDFATHER

Grandfather took me when visiting Wharton from west Texas. Now I live in Houston and this is the best bird hunting available.

My grandfather fed us duck 1 or 2 times a year and then in 1964, he gave me his Remington 870, which I still shoot when I really want to hit. My 2 sons and I share about 12 shotguns. I also shoot a 20 gauge. I now collect duck art. I continue because my sons love ducks and duck hunting.

Geese were around where I worked with grandfather on rice farm. Also had a roost pond.

Grandfather's time with my father and I. Ducks Unlimited Brazoria County

program.

Grew up in northwestern Arkansas. Always heard about duck hunting as a child. Grandfather and uncle took me pond jumping at age 14.

When I was about 10 years old, I was visiting my grandparents. Granddad and I went out to his ranch to check the cattle. I had just received a .410 shotgun that I was very proud of. He said I could bring it. We passed a tank that usually had ducks on it. I crawled up the tank dam and shot a mallard drake. I was hooked, especially after grandma cooked it with dressing. Good memories...

BROTHER

Going with older brothers.

My brother enjoyed it, and I became interested in it through them. Listening to them tell stories about how much fun it was.

Brother.

Brothers and friends.

Hunted other birds as a child. Brother and brother-in-law got me into duck hunting.

My older brother started me at age 8 - I am now 76.

Through my brothers taking me with them. You may say it was a family tradition.

Brother.

UNCLE

Had 2 uncles who thrived on hunting wood ducks in the bottomland. They needed someone to swim out and "fetch" the ducks.

My uncle took me when I was 18... I still remember the trip.

Taking my BB gun hunting with my great uncle.

My uncle took me - I was 11 years old.

With an uncle on grandparents' farm.

I started goose hunting with my uncle when I was 12 and loved it ever since.

A family trip to an uncle's hunting/trapping camp in Louisiana. We "hunted" ducks and geese. I killed one goose and was hooked.

I have an uncle who is an avid duck hunter. He taught how to shoot wood ducks as a teenager. It was not until I went to the Louisiana delta for the first time that I became "hooked".

My uncle took me to a farm pond. 25 degrees, cold and windy. Showed me how to call. I was fascinated. We did not kill any ducks, but saw a few.

My uncle took me. My father was dead. This is a special uncle who taught me to hunt and fish.

Had an uncle that hunted and read "Outdoor Life" and was a great Texas sportsman. Had an English teacher in 1951 who put "Outdoor Life" in school library.

Started hunting with some uncles of mine and have enjoyed it ever since. I enjoy going and watching birds work - I don't have to kill ducks and geese to have a good time.

My uncle was a game warden in Arkansas, and he and my father got me interested.

BROTHER-IN-LAW

Brother-in-law introduced me to the sport.

Brother-in-law took me.

My brother-in-law brought me several times and I wanted to get my son (13 years) into duck/goose hunting.

I went hunting with my brothers-in-law and friends a few time and fell in love with hunting and being in the outdoors.

With a brother-in-law and close friend. I've always had an interest in hunting, but knew very little about duck and goose hunting. There's a lot to learn.

Brother-in-law invited me on a hunt.

FATHER-IN-LAW

Was invited by father-in-law.

Father-in-law.

Went with my father-in-law, the best duck hunting partner a person could have.

FAMILY

Who knows - long time ago - grandmother encouraged me.

Spouse was from Stuttgart, Arkansas, and she talked about it all the time, so I had to try.

Tagging along with older relatives.

Read about it. Started going with relatives and friends.

Invited to go with relative.

Visiting my cousin in a rural area. He got me interested in hunting.

Family hunted.

I grew up in a hunting family in Michigan.

With family.

My family always had a "deer" lease and for a few years we had a waterfowl lease in Brookshire, Texas. The interest still remains, but the restraint is time and money.

Family hunting trips - local.

I was raised in the country, where that the "meat on the table" was what we brought home from the hunt. Hunting has always been a part of my entire family. Hunting today with friends and family is my continuing spark.

To hunt with my family.

Family involvement.

My family had an annual goose/duck trip to Eagle Lake.

Family.

I love to hunt and grew up in a hunting family. It was only natural that when the opportunity came to go duck and goose hunting, I went. Some friends who I use to let dove hunt on my own ranch took me duck and goose hunting the first time.

DOGS

My father took me duck hunting for the first time when I was 11. The "spark" came from watching the dogs work, listening to the calls, putting out the decoys, discussions of the best ways to put out the decoys, and shooting my first wood duck.

Helping train dogs (bird dogs).

Training retrievers for hunt tests and trials. Wanted to get dogs real field experience. Enjoyed it.

Received a Lab retriever as a gift.

Watching them fly over. I enjoy sitting in my hunting boat with my Lab. It's like nothing else matters, nothing to worry about.

Got a yellow Lab. Trained her and started hunting.

I started hunting with friends in college and became very avid when I got my first black Lab retriever.

Went with a friend who was an excellent caller and had Labradors. I loved to watch the dogs work.

Was given a black Labrador retriever for college graduation. Trained him to retrieve. Practiced and became a very good shot with shotgun.

I bought a Lab with field trial blood lines. Started field training when she was 6 months old. I hunt for the dog work as well as all the other reasons in question 9.

Got a Lab puppy.

The chance to go hunting and get out in the woods when I could not afford a deer lease - started duck and goose hunting and raising Labrador retrievers and enjoy it all.

I dove and deer hunted with my father as a child and always enjoyed that - but that was on our own land. He died in 1973 and I didn't hunt again nor was I "sparked" until a friend gave me a Lab puppy from excellent duck dog parents. I trained "Moon" to hunt myself and went hunting with friends who had been hunting guides. I've been hooked ever since.

Retriever.

MISCELLANEOUS

Hunting on our lake.

Hunting out of guided trips in the Matagorda Bay area.

The love of hunting.

I enjoy the "great" outdoors. I enjoy shooting and just getting out.

Duck/goose hunting is a common recreational activity in my area.

Love of the outdoors and wildlife.

Liked to be outside and shoot ducks.

Nature in the morning before daylight.

General love of hunting of all types.

Was fishing on Caddo Lake with my dad and saw some men calling in and shooting ducks. They were so pretty and yet could be called in and decoyed. It was what I wanted to do. One time was all it took to hook me for life.

A man I ordered appraisals from thanked me by taking me goose hunting in Katy.

The love of the outdoors and the thrill of watching ducks come to the decoys when I call them.

Ducks Unlimited.

The challenge of calling the ducks close, and the speed and sneaky way they fly and appear!

Got loaded into a truck and was told we were going goose hunting!

I lived in southern Louisiana.

While hunting other creatures.

Too long ago to remember.

My first trip was the spark, the beautiful morning on the bay, sound of the water, wind, and beautiful sunrise. Then the "real" spark, the first

flight of ducks!

I just enjoyed it.

Like to hunt!

Went hunting data.

As a little kid, I saw them flying.

Shooting mallards over corn fields in Nebraska when I was 13.

First season to open in the Panhandle. I do not hunt dove because I don't like to eat them. I will not hunt something I will not eat.

Watching ducks land on a tank that was on the farm where I grew up.

Getting ducks/geese to come to calls and decoys.

I have always wanted to hunt birds; i.e. ducks, geese, turkey, dove, quail, pheasant. After my divorce, I had the time and the inclination.

I started duck/goose hunting at a young age, and have continued it ever since.

When I was 16, watching the sun rise over the duck pond - the view was incredible.

I enjoy outdoor activities.

Went on short afternoon hunt with cousin in Tennessee. Liked action and beauty of season.

Enjoy all types of outdoor activities an all types of hunting.

Reading when I was 12 years old and talking to the old timers and game warden in the area.

I was given a Stevens .410 single on Halloween night. I went on my first hunt the next morning.

The call of the wild.

Hunted as a youngster for squirrel and quail, advanced to ducks and geese after moving to Houston area with closer proximity to coastal hunting opportunities.

Wanted to experience more time in coastal marshes other than fishing, adventure conquering and enjoying nature. Inclement weather, challenge of reaching hard-to-get-to areas. Doing something in winter other than staying warm in front of TV.

Traditional Thanksgiving hunt.

Hunted on stock tank.

We used to have a duck pond and ducks.

Moved to country in Oregon with ducks within walking distance of my home.

Avid interest in being outdoors and romantic impression of what duck

hunting is all about. Stories from books and hunters.

Liking to be outdoors!

I was fascinated with the way ducks could maneuver.

Invited on a guided goose hunt in Garwood, Texas. The thrill of watching the birds never left me.

Personal interest.

Outdoors and firearms.

Started seeing duck on own ranch while hunting other birds.

Living in an area where hunting was available, and I had the time and money to use professional guides.

Hearing the wings of teals zip over my head when I was twelve, coupled with the sounds of mallards coming in before sunup.

Jump shooting over ponds in West Texas; shooting over rag spreads from Palacios to Anahuac.

My first hunt! Was great.

Reading a Field and Stream magazine as a teenager.

The man for whom I worked summers and holidays during college always talked about how much he loved to duck hunt. He took me hunting during Christmas break following the first summer I worked for him. We hunted with his brother and another friend. I already enjoyed other types of hunting and immediately fell in love with duck hunting. The time we spent hunting makes up some of my fondest memories. I love the challenge, the time spent outdoors, and the companionship that goes along with duck hunting.

A mentor introduced me.

At a young age I had a big desire to waterfowl hunt. No one in my family was a waterfowl hunter. Maybe it was the fall flight that caught my attention.

The opportunity. I had always wanted to, but my parents did not, so I had no real opportunity.

Went on a duck hunt as a guest, put on by a company we did business with.

Was fishing/camping on Matagorda Island, and learned of public hunting opportunity. Took it up on my own and was immediately hooked.

Lived on a large 30,000 acre plus ranch in Wharton County and it just came naturally.

Buying a shotgun.

It is a challenge to see if you can get the flocks to come in with just decoys.

Fun.

When winter came, the ducks and geese would land on our ponds and grain fields. Good eating.

Great and challenging sport with the edge given to the ducks at the time I started hunting. They still have the edge on me at 50.

I was at school and heard a boy blowing a duck call. I asked him what it was and when he told me, I became interested. The rest is history. I would rather go duck hunting now than just about anything else.

It's fun.

Most of my early recreation was on lakes - it was a natural lead in, however. When I moved to Houston, I became much more involved in the sport due to proximity of rice prairie.

Extension of deer, dove, and quail hunting.

Ease of access to places to hunt.

By hunting all types of game.

Didn't care for deer hunting and wanted to do something with more

I was born with the "spark".

Interest in nature.

Always enjoyed it from age 11 on.

Loved the outdoors and listening to others talk about it.

Always hunted: deer, turkey, doves, quail, ducks, squirrels, rabbits.

Trip to Stuttgart, Arkansas, on Peckerwood Lake and rice fields.

Reading about it in outdoor magazines and listening to "old timers" talk and tell stories.

Jumping stock tanks "illegally" in Lubbock, Texas, where I attended Tech.

The only good hunting on public land.

I had never bird hunted as a child, and have always love outdoors and shooting flying objects. The sport.

I love "water". Always love to fish. Can duck hunt in morning, fish afterwards.

Deep interest in hunting in general.

There were plenty of ducks and geese in our area due to peanut farming. I took up the sport and on my own lease became very efficient at it. Later, peanut production and area lands changed (ownership, cattle) and the hunting became harder and I started hunting Oklahoma, the Red River, and Texoma. I have deep love and respect for my memories of my hunts and experiences.

First time I made a clean shot to bring down a hard flying duck.

Love to hunt.

A complementary trip from a business associate to Mexico.

I grew up hunting; still enjoy it.

Ducks Unlimited banquet.

Started with hunting trips sponsored by business contacts.

The love of outdoors and being at the lake.

Duck, goose, and quail hunt in Houston, Texas, area.

Living in Houston, the goose hunting in Katy is great.

Out in the open range in Amarillo.

Started hunting by myself on private creek and shot first duck.

I've always had a high interest in hunting since I was a child, but no one to hunt with!!

The thrill of the hunt.

Wanted to participate in any hunting possible.

Interest in shooting as a child. Also, living in a city with 80,000 limited my outdoor activities as a child, therefore I am now highly interested.

Coon hunting - dogs to hunt; then squirrels and one day I jumped some greenheads off the creek and it was "on".

Enjoy being outdoors. Live in an area where ducks and geese go for the winter.

I saw a mallard on a stock tank and decided to hunt ducks.

Our land was flooded by a reservoir and that's what started me duck hunting annually.

As a part of game bird hunting: dove, quail, etc.

Started as a child to prevent depredation of waterfowl on grain in the fields on our farm near Taft, Texas.

I duck hunted some as a teenager.

APPENDIX F
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: HUNTERS

PUBLIC LANDS, ACCESSIBILITY

I think a draw permit for prime duck/goose hunting areas would be a huge success, much like the present one for deer, alligators, etc. on state parks/refuge areas. Select a few prime areas and charge a \$2 or more application fee to raise funds and acquire other areas to hunt waterfowl.

Would like to see regulated hunting on all state parks etc. where possible, i.e. Brazos Bend State Park.

I would like to see better access to the areas we hunt now (refuges), more dove and quail areas to hunt (public), lower license fees, stamps, etc.

I believe that more people would hunt waterfowl if the state and federal wildlife agencies would concentrate on obtaining quality farmland for refuges. Goose and duck hunters need to have better access to the hundreds of thousands of acres of rice in this state. Some of the best hunting in Texas is in the flooded rice fields of southeast Texas and access for hunting on foot is usually better than in the marshes.

The cost of leases and loss of habitat limit my access to hunting. My lease fees are extremely high as compared to other states! Private land access is very limited to hunters and creates a great deal of bad feeling from hunters on limited income. This may cost Texas its hunters some day. Thank you for the opportunity.

I think more people would hunt if they had more easily accessible areas to hunt and if they had the skills to be more successful. I'd like to see more improvement in the number of accessible hunting areas and also some state sponsored clinics to help hunters improve their skills (i.e. calling, decoying, etc.).

Top priority - make more state and federal lands accessible for public hunting. Leases are out of sight.

I often hunt the beaver pond areas of the Canadian River between Lake Meredith and Plemon's Forest area. In the past year, landowners have installed locked gates which deny hunters access to public land. Some new gates were installed north of Phillips refinery, but so far have not been locked. This is my prime hunting area, and if all these gates are allowed to continue to be or will be locked, it will become too expensive for me to hunt. I will not be purchasing hunting license if I have to travel 75 miles or more, buy a boat, or have to buy a 4-wheel drive vehicle!

State should continue to provide the great access to public hunting areas. Improve habitat in existing wildlife management areas. Encourage game wardens to respect hunters and not treat everyone as a criminal. Funds for wildlife management need to come from existing sources. License, stamp, etc. Children's license needs to be reduced. Children don't hunt as often and high fees discourage parents from purchasing permits for 1 or 2 hunts.

I think access to wildlife management areas is critical for many like myself who will do a little extra work for free access to good hunting areas. The extra work keeps out those who would take advantage and those who put forth the work help regulate all hunters to obey the laws.

I have not hunted in Texas at all. I am stationed in El Paso and it seems too difficult and costly to get access for hunting. I generally

hunt 2 to 3 states a year for birds and big game. All hunts are self-guided on public land. The cost of hunting in Texas has kept me from hunting Texas at all.

I think that Texas hunting in general is very expensive relative to other states. There are very few opportunities to hunt on public land. There needs to be some well-managed public areas for waterfowl hunters that are accessible, even without a boat. This could be financed by charging daily fees.

Major problem with Texas hunting is lack of public hunting areas.

I wish there was more public information about duck populations and health. Also, sometimes I find it difficult to find information on public hunting lands and regulations in my area. I would like to see more public awareness of conservation and also the areas that are available for public access to hunt and observe wildlife.

I've only been hunting ducks and geese for one season. I went out several times, spent a lot of money, had a good time being outdoors, and never got a thing. I think that's pretty typical of the vast majority. Make hunting more accessible to more people. It's very hard for the average person to find a place to hunt.

There needs to be more accessible lands to hunt on. I would suggest a lottery system. Your wildlife management areas are first come, first served. This is great if you like getting into a duck hunting blind at 12:00 p.m. to wait for the next morning so you beat the other hunters to a prime area. Get a lottery for area - limit access to accredited hunters. The refuges are wide open to idiots who are only interested in hearing the sound of guns shooting off.

I would spend more time each year duck hunting if I could gain access (cost effectively) to more quality hunting areas.

STEEL SHOT, BAG LIMITS

Much enthusiasm has been lost due to the restricted limits, loss of habitat, and the advent of steel shot. I feel that due to steel shot, many birds are killed that are never recovered.

Approval of bismuth shot as an alternative to steel.

Steel shot is a huge problem for me as the guns I want to hunt with are family heirlooms that would be damaged by steel shot. There should be an exception to allow lead shot on ducks in central Texas. And, we've got to get bismuth shot approved as an alternative to steel shot ASAP! Thanks!

If waterfowlers have to use steel shot, all other shotgun hunters (i.e. quail, dove, rabbit, squirrel) should have to also! Birds do not pick up lead shot from mud under water in marshes - they get it in plowed fields holding very shallow water.

I still see no use for steel shot. Too many wounded birds!! Either go back to lead or bring on bismuth or another alternative.

Would like to see a better shell solution to steel shot. Also, more game warden patrols, after the game violators.

Why no mention of the use of hunting dogs in this questionnaire? Steel shot? Bismuth? The real answer to why I go duck hunting is that to me, the wild duck (and particularly the black duck) personifies and embodies wilderness and nature. A duck or goose on the wing is a sight I never want to be without.

The reason I quit duck and goose hunting is because I am NOT going to use steel shot in my shotgun as it will score the barrel. There will be more crippled and lost ducks and geese from steel shot than eating lead shot!

I hope the limit can one day be raised, but not at the price of ending the sport to future generations. I also hear that all of our conservation is wasted as ducks and geese are slaughtered in Mexico. Steel shot is a joke!

Of all the other hunting I do, I enjoy duck hunting most of all. The restrictive bag limits and shooting days have not discouraged me. It is the feeling of being there that brings me back.

I enjoy going duck and goose hunting. However, with the duck population so depressed and the bag limits decreased, I have decreased my outings.

I feel that the bag limits should be regulated for area you are hunting. Example: In Corpus Christi, there are thousands of redheads everywhere. You can only kill 1 per day, but there are maybe 100 bufflehead, and you can get 3 of those. Why can't bag limits be regulated around the number of birds in one particular area/region.

Point system needs to be revamped. Duck hunting for 3 birds is ridiculous. I hunt in Mexico because of the Texas point system. Thus, my funds also go to Mexico for this reason.

Concerning Question #19, on the type of things that prevent duck and goose hunting, the fewer bag limits per hunt (3) have greatly reduced both my own and my friends' level of interest. My reasoning follows. Sometimes, we don't feel like spending the money or time to go out and get our limit in 30-45 minutes. It seems as if you're spending so much time and money for such a short period of time. Because of this, we have been doing more dove hunting where the limits are bigger and you're in the field for longer periods of time.

Question #1: I used to hunt primarily for ducks, but as the goose population grows and ducks (and duck bag limits) decline, I am shifting more to goose.

Question #14a: Goose population more so than duck.

Why is it that Canada and Mexico shoot lead, have larger limits, and longer seasons? We spend more money for what we get, and our state government cannot set the limits. We know how many ducks we have and when the season dates should be. I thank you for this survey.

I believe that limits on ducks should be kept the same (not increased for sure) and goose limits should be decreased.

Yes - I love hunting, but ducks and limits are so low it's tough to justify the expense and time.

With the cost of equipment - guns, shells, and clothing, etc. - and I need to mention the low, low limit of ducks, duck hunting is not as much fun as it used to be.

I think that there should be a 4 duck limit instead of 3 with just 1 pintail (drake only).

I love to duck and goose hunt. However, duck hunting is too hard for me at my age. Also, the limit is too low.

Conservation is important, as are wetlands. The duck limits are too low and the duck population needs to be increased.

Game limits and legislation have reduced interest.

On why I don't hunt as much as in the past, with limits at three ducks, it does not make it as much fun to go out and hunt. It's not worth the time and effort.

It is sad that so many hunters have quit duck hunting due to lower limits, thereby causing the current funding crisis. Perhaps more education designed to persuade hunters to duck hunt because of all the other benefits (see question #9). Short limits is a lame excuse.

Well-trained dogs (retrievers) are the greatest conservation tool available. Skyblasting and poor shot selection are responsible for almost all injured, but not killed and retrieved, birds. Aggregate limits (such as 50 ducks per year) should be an option. Protection of inland wetlands should be stronger.

Texas is such a large state, the seasons and limits should vary for each region of the state.

Too hard to go duck/goose hunting because of time and too little limit on ducks.

Up the limit!

Raise more money so we can expand duck limits like goose to 10. Killing 3 ducks is almost not worth the time, trouble, and expense to hunt.

- (1) Dates on goose hunting: opening October 30 - too early - open late November to end of February.
- (2) Goose limits on darks - need to change - ends too early (January); snows - 10 - OK - hardest limit to fill.
- (3) Duck limit is a joke and the way they have a split season.
- (4) I think harsher laws and penalties on people take away hunting privileges.
- (5) Need to keep places like hunting in Mexico outlawed - people slaughter the birds there. People like myself are the ones who are penalized for this way of hunting. It is getting to the point where you can't afford to hunt (deer included) and fish because of some people. Something needs to be done so people like I and next generations can enjoy the outdoors and watching big "V"s fly by or a flock of teal pass you at 50mph. Thank You.

Limits are low on ducks, and identification of species and sex sometimes a problem for old fossils.

I don't hunt much in Texas/USA because of the point system - it is too easy to get in trouble.

Please keep and if possible expand September teal season.

I enjoy early teal season, but I see so many people shooting at mottled

ducks (most of them miss), that I would rather not have early teal season. I think you should have a question about how many people use retrievers for duck/goose hunting.

There are very few people who lease duck hunting land for hunting and those who do are \$300-\$450. The season is too short. It doesn't last long enough for the weather to get cold. There are not enough duck hunters in Texas to cause a problem with the population except maybe on the coast in south Texas. Split the state into zones - north-south. Most duck hunters don't hunt more than twice a year anyway.

When the late season for ducks is pushed back, as it was last year, it eliminates at least 8 hunting days from high school students. Opening of the late season has traditionally been very close to Christmas vacation for public schools. I am a high school teacher in a relatively rural area, and a significant number of our students are duck hunters. Some were very disappointed last year about being out for vacation for 8 days before being able to hunt. I also know that there were others that said, "This is when we are out and we are going to hunt anyway." And they did.

I wish we could shoot one canvasback a year, with a special tag for such bird. I see thousands of them every year.

Duck season should start later in Texas and end later. Have the same amount of days, but start it later in the year.

I don't hunt ducks anymore because I feel that if the ducks are so scarce we have to put points on what we can shoot, they must really be scarce. I love wildfowl too much to add to the hunting pressure, so I abstain.

Another reason I have lost some interest in duck hunting is the limited numbers and types that establish limits.

I believe that the game laws on duck hunting are very good. I just wish the season was longer.

Too many restrictions on types of birds. Some birds are wasted because of species.

There has to be a solution to getting the populations back up with all this money we spend to support waterfowl management. It is too expensive to hunt for 3 ducks.

The second split should open before Christmas, because this allows students on Christmas vacation more time to hunt. In addition, the public hunting areas, such as McFaddin NWR, Sea Rim, and Texas Point, should offer more days during the week for hunting access because it is usually less crowded at these times.

Consider adjusting seasonal dates by locality, i.e. Texas coastal areas vs. Texas prairies. Birds concentrate at different times in these areas.

Need a later season on ducks to coincide with the colder weather and late winter fronts in north Texas.

Wish duck season would extend further into January. Deer hunters are often present in areas I want to duck hunting and I do not want to get shot for interrupting a deer hunt. Also, it seems larger numbers of ducks do not arrive until January.

ANTI- AND NON HUNTERS

I am worried about anti-hunting sentiment. I do not believe that the cessation of hunting is good for the game and certainly would destroy one of life's most pleasurable activities.

Nonhunters and anti-gunners need to be taken very seriously. They do not care about presenting facts. They are just concerned with presenting their beliefs and ideals on hunting and gun control. Education is the key to this situation.

Open up Rio Grande for more hunting in and around El Paso. This is really the only spot to hunt ducks except for private farm ponds. You do a great job. Don't let the anti's tell you how to run your business or take over your authority.

I hope this does not turn out to be an "anti-hunting" survey - I would be very disappointed in Texas A&M if it is. Hunting and fishing is an outstanding tool in raising children to appreciate nature and keep them out of "city problems". Millions of parents are doing responsible parenting by taking their children hunting and fishing. I strongly oppose most things the Sierra Club, Friends of the Animals, etc. stand for because they are so radically overboard on so many things. Several years ago I was working on water conservation in Texas for the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and during a talk about Texas water problems, I mentioned El Paso and their water shortage. The Sierra Club state president interrupted and said he didn't feel sorry for El Paso because God never intended for people to live in a place like El Paso. This is typical of their extremism.

I feel that in order to keep anti-hunters off the backs of us hunters, we must fund programs ourselves and not ask them to pay. I also plan to do a lot more hunting in the next years to come, so I wouldn't mind doing another survey.

The burden of protecting and conserving all wildlife is in the best interest of all public, but most of the public is not sufficiently informed to make a decision other than based on emotional issues such as hunting/anti-hunting or anti-gun/pro-gun. Public education should be a portion of the expense of new revenue without increasing administrative costs.

I hope as part of the larger picture (nationally) TPW is working diligently to effectively counter anti-hunter extremist activities and protect our hunting heritage now and especially in the future.

I am a life member of NRA. Do not like anti-hunting anti-guns no-knows. If it wasn't for hunters, wildlife would go downhill.

I hope that anti-hunting and anti-gun groups don't lead our governments into banning guns and hunting on state, federal, or private lands.

I am not sure what you meant by "nongame management funds". If additional funds are raised, they should go toward improving habitat, then use the remainder for a P.R. campaign against anti-hunting groups.

I am extremely involved in a Texas based waterfowl habitat conservation group (W.H.A.T. Ducks). We will raise \$30,000 for Texas habitat preservation September 23, 1993. Non- and anti-hunters do not do anything for habitat preservation, yet they endanger our hunting tradition and resource. Without waterfowl hunters, habitat and other

conservation will cease and the resource will succumb to development and agricultural practice.

Nonhunter/environmentalist true agenda is to prohibit hunting.

Regarding question #14 g and i: wildlife management benefits everyone equally. I don't feel that nonhunters' opinions are viable until they begin to share some of the financial burden when it comes to managing the wildlife. A burden that is placed squarely on the shoulders of hunters while wildlife is enjoyed by everyone. Additionally, the cost for licenses and stamps is getting a bit out of control. As the price of licenses goes up, so does the amount of regulation that is imposed upon the hunter, who is going to be ultimately squeezed out of the market. Then who is left to foot the management bill. It won't be the so-called "conservationists".

I have been hunting for years. The game wardens when I was a young man were great to us with help, teaching and not being smart asses. The game wardens today treat the hunters like second class people. I have never had any type of hunting fines and neither has my son. I thank the old game wardens of my youth for that help and understanding. The nonhunter needs to look at both sides of hunting. Looks like the nonhunters are becoming game wardens to harass the hunter. Everything else the state does for hunting I have no problems with.

I would like to see more hunters' opinions than nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management.

Hunting should be preserved for all to enjoy. We've done well for thousands of years. The "wackos" need to stay home!

Waterfowl hunting should not be continued for the sole purpose of management, even though that might be what we have to tell publicly to the "bunny huggers", the "believers in utopia for all living creatures". They would not understand the brisk autumn morn on the marsh at sunrise, with a good dog and a good gun, watching the ducks fly against a background of an approaching norther above beautiful hardwood colors, of red, gold, and yellow... No, they would not, definitely!!!

14e: It appears that environmental groups have too much say and receive too much publicity without making any financial contribution. Environmentalists have brought charges without adequate consideration of the consequences, i.e. air conditioning refrigerants, Subtitle D.

I'm happy that anyone cares enough to do research. I would be disappointed if the responders' good faith and truthfulness is misconstrued by such groups as the Sierra Club. In our state, they abuse their power by convincing environmental and nature experts that they have John Q. Public behind them. I would advise using caution as to information rendered to that group. Goose hunting in my part of Texas is rare. Ducks are hard to come by, not due to their rarity, but rather because they don't visit my area in great numbers. A higher bag limit here would have no impact on the state's harvest.

I love to waterfowl hunt and hunting in general and will continue to do so and defend the rights of others to do so for as long as I can.

I believe that there is no one as familiar with nature as someone that has grown up surrounded by nature. Hunting is a part of nature and I hear too many people speak against hunting that probably know no more about nature than putting on their knee socks with pith helmets and

walking down a well groomed path to look at some birds. This seems to make them experts on the subject. There is much more to hunting than pulling the trigger on a weapon. On some of my best hunts I never shoot anything. But I enjoy eating game and will always be a hunter, as will my sons and their children and so on. I am a 6th generation Texas hunter and landowner. I know that no one cares more about the land and the game on it than the rancher that owns it, and I resent having people from the city (with no more knowledge about nature than they could pick up at the local anti-hunting rally) try to tell me and other landowners and hunters that we are terrible people. I know too much about the history of this land and its people who settled it to accept that.

I fear radical extremists such as the Sierra Club seriously injuring hunting and business in Texas.

While I support "almost" anything to protect both game and nongame (fish, animals, birds), as well as nature, I am extremely opposed to federal and state governments exercising a "form of eminent domain" without restitution to those property owners who fall victim to a warbler, a white owl, a blind salamander, a plant, etc. It is unbelievable that such economic consequences can be forced on property owners without recourse! The special interest groups are only "doing things right" rather than "doing right things right" with other people's property. And that "ain't" right! Economic cost, job loss, and the need for more government controls, rules, regulations, taxes, etc. are not even a consideration as to the well being of snail darters. C'mon...

HABITAT, DUCK POPULATIONS

This was thorough. I just wish we had more ducks and better habitat.

To increase duck habitat, make your lakes deep in the middle with deep bar ditches radiating out into a flat plain like spokes on a wheel. A levee should surround the entire project so that the entire area should be about 1 foot under water except for bar ditches and middle. Stupendous duck habitat! Beyond belief!

As said above, I am greatly concerned in the reduction of numbers in ducks. Especially pintails, since they are my favorite duck. I try to do all I can in creating a better habitat for ducks on our farms and ranch in the high plains of Texas, but, due to the small amounts of rain we have received in the last 10-11 years, it is almost impossible. I want strict laws against poachers and better preservation of habitat in the northern breeding grounds of Canada. I belong to several waterfowl and wildlife conservation groups, but they need more help. I have always felt Texas could do more or improve their standards for preservation of habitat. Poachers in the Mississippi flyway and especially poachers in Louisiana need to be caught, fined, and imprisoned for poaching ducks and geese and I am all for backing law enforcement for this.

Habitat improvement for ducks, in my opinion, will do very much to aid "non-game" species also.

I am interested in wildlife conservation and habitat management.

More money to private landowners who will dedicate areas as habitat.

I support wetland conservation. Also, the protection and management of our wild game.

I wish environmental issues would die down. Our hunting habitat has survived many years and many natural disasters. Why does a spotted owl (etc.) all of a sudden need millions of acres at the expense of someone's job? Gun control is wrong; criminals will commit crimes with whatever weapon they have. Guns don't commit crimes; people do!!

I think that the wildlife habitat and hunting could be improved considerably if in conjunction with state parks and wildlife, farmers and/or landowners would be given an incentive to plant their land to feed (The government pays the landowners not to plant.)? Don't you think it would be better to pay landowners to plant feed and be better for both wildlife and hunters?

It's the habitat, stupid!

I would like to see the governments of the countries involved in D.U. abide by the conservation of habitat that they say they endorse, see Mexico abide by limits, and finally, see more ducks fill our skies with programs that will increase their numbers. Work to keep 'em flying!

It is important for people (the public) to realize that loss of habitat, not hunting, is responsible for most of our wildlife problems, especially waterfowl.

All habitat management for waterfowl helps large numbers of nongame species. Without hunting, all wildlife would suffer along with many communities due to the loss of millions of dollars in revenue.

Texas needs to work on more habitat for the state.

Would like more information on government money or loans for wildlife projects. Would like to produce more and better habitat for all wildlife where I hunt - deer, turkey, duck, hogs, quail, and doves. Thanks for your interest.

In times of poor duck populations, I would favor closing the season for one year to help build the population, as opposed to the split and very short seasons in years past.

Hunting is a tradition in our family. I think that loss of duck populations has contributed toward a great number of hunters (and their tradition) not going out as much. I love the outdoors and want to see duck population come back like goose populations across North America and deer population here in Texas.

I have a deep love for waterfowl. I will never forget the time when I killed my first duck. I hope one day I will be able to share my love for duck hunting to my son and to also offer it as a ministry to young people. That is why I hope to see the populations increase so I can carry out these dreams.

I believe they should close duck season for 2 years for numbers to increase. I've personally never missed a year duck hunting, but I think the wait would be worth it for all hunters. It's not possible, I know, because of the money it draws each year. If more emphasis was put on the bird and less on the money, it would be better.

I would agree to several years of no hunting if it would benefit populations of ducks.

I use to hunt waterfowl, but now the fall flights are so low I don't feel

like hunting them. If the populations stabilize and we start doing more to protect wetlands, I'll start hunting them again. I still buy a duck stamp every year. Your questionnaire seems skewed. I'm not an anti-hunter. I just haven't hunted waterfowl in the last few years.

I did not hunt last season. I hunt where I have a weekend house. Our duck wintering population has fallen through the floor. We don't know why. You might hunt all morning and see only 3 or 4 ducks. If you kill those, then you've killed everything you say. I don't enjoy that. I don't like to feel as if I'm persecuting the game. Our lakes used to harbor thousands of ducks; now it's only dozens. I now get more enjoyment from deer hunting.

I could harvest a lot more birds than I do. I detest anyone who opposes managed hunting if they don't contribute in some form or fashion.

I stopped duck hunting to allow game to recover.

Wildlife is like any other resource; it must be managed. I'm for managing wildlife, all forms, but would prefer the government not be the primary group responsible - they cost too much. Wildlife needs to be managed for profit, sport, and aesthetic value in that order or it will not survive.

I truly believe in wildlife management, preferably the combination of private, corporate, and public support. I strongly support DU and their cooperation with state and federal agencies.

I personally feel that TP&W doesn't do enough for Texas waterfowl hunters.

Please preserve "our" wetlands!! You're doing an outstanding job; keep it up!!

We need more wetlands. We need to get Mexico to adopt conservation and/or "limit" regulation.

COSTS, TAXES, FEES

(A) I feel strongly that the hunters bear almost all costs of game/nongame conservation-management while other beneficiaries (non-hunters) bear little or no cost burden - yet they gripe the loudest and seem to be having more input/impact.

(B) Increased costs of hunting to the little guy have driven duck hunters out of the sport. I have been actively involved on banquet committee for Fort Bend Chapter of DU for six years. Our most frequent comment: "We can't justify \$50 in license and stamps, plus \$50-\$100 cost per trip just to shoot one or two ducks."

I do not believe in protecting certain species, please help take the government out of lives as best we can, or taxes, bums, and minorities are going to put status quo on the endangered species list. Let nature take its course!!!!

I thought the questions regarding "nongame" programs were unclear (16). I'll never complain of a hike in license fees as long as the funds are primarily earmarked for land and game conservation.

Question 19: I would be very surprised if the answers to question 19 were not skewed as a result of the way the question is

worded. I'm not sure I answered it correctly.

Question 16: Hunters and homeowners are already paying a large portion of the cost for game and nongame programs. I think nonhunters should be helping to pay for nongame programs at the same level as hunters.

Question 14c: I'm not sure how I feel about endangered species. Maybe they are supposed to become extinct. Maybe not!

Question 14e: Equal is impossible to gauge. However, the constitution does not "say" that I can decide whether nonhunters can "tell" anyone they cannot hunt game animals. If I could, I would find nonhunters a hobby that would keep them away from hunting issues.

I do not think that hunters should carry the burden of nongame programs in Texas. Hikers and campers should contribute more in some way. I do not favor having nonhunters having decision-making powers on hunting and fishing game laws in Texas.

In the past I would purchase the license and stamps (dove, duck, fish, archery, etc.) all at one time. Now, with increased costs, I only purchase the stamps if I will be needing them. Last year I only purchased a turkey stamp.

My hunting is limited because renting a lease that has sufficient acreage is costly and requires extensive maintenance for a small group of hunters (3 to 4). Also, I like guided hunts because of their access to large tracts.

I believe more people would go duck/goose hunting if it were not for money problems. Many of my friends would love to hunt every weekend, but just can't afford it. Hunting is an expensive sport (guns, shells, land, taxidermy).

Put a 1 cent tax on tobacco and alcohol to go toward wetlands restoration. Provide some funds for habitat to be restored on private land if needed by using 1 cent per dollar of lottery money collected. Thank you for caring about the public's opinion.

Overall cost (all inclusive) for all hunting is out of hand. The average guy cannot afford it.

Question 16: Non-consumptive users need to start carrying their share of the load. Why no mention of required license or stamp for them?

Question 19: Not impressed with ambiguity of question and available responses.

It gets harder and more expensive to hunt each year. I didn't hunt last year for a number of reasons that all add up to it is harder each year to hunt. Leases are harder to get and more expensive.

Taxes raised on duck stamps and guns and shells need to be spent on duck and goose habitat in Texas.

Question #16: Why should people who don't use nongame parks or facilities have to pay for them? Tax the people who use them. Not my grandmother! For example - birdwatchers - have a birdwatching stamp! I guess college professors are still tax and spend liberals. P.S. I have been taxed out of an enjoyable sport! (Fee this! Fee that!) A fee is a tax! Any questions?

- (1) Out of state license fees are extremely low compared to other states. They need to be raised.
- (2) From my personal observations, and from talking to wildlife

biologists and state game wardens, it appears that many state game laws (such as extended doe season and 3 buck counties) have no biological merit, and may even be detrimental. Many appear to be based on the personal wishes of those making the laws. I am not familiar with waterfowl laws, but perhaps the entire system of lawmaking needs to be looked at.

Too many fees.

Wildlife is like any other resource; it must be managed. I'm for managing wildlife, all forms, but would prefer the government no be the primary group responsible - they cost too much. Wildlife needs to be managed for profit, sport, and aesthetic value in that order or it will not survive.

It appears the licensing and stamp costs are getting out of hand. I and most hunters would like to know exactly where the money is going when we buy our license.

Texas A&M has been detrimental to hunting in many areas by convincing landowners who use to lease their land for a fair price to charge all they can get. This has placed hunting in Texas out of reach financially for many and created a whole generation of poachers and road hunters. I feel A&M is greatly responsible for this and should have seen many people who have had leases for years lose them after the rancher or farmer went to one of your seminars on "Hunting as a Cash Crop."

I feel resident and state licenses should not increase in cost. They are high enough already.

Too many novice or outlaw duck hunters. Increase duck license to \$200.00. Clean up the mess.

The number 1 obstruction for myself to continue hunting is the expense. I would not like to increase that expense in any way for nongame management.

If I had a relatively inexpensive, close place to hunt, I would go quite often. Since I have neither of these, I rarely get to go, though I would like to hunt much more.

Fees from hunters for licenses, stamps, etc. need to be earmarked for game management in Texas. Funds from hunting/fishing fees should not be allowed to be used for any other purposes.

Those who squawk the most about hunting yet enjoy the presence of wildlife in general pay the least to provide habitat for animals.

Would like to see more money spent on wetlands for duck breeding and see a stronger program for having farmers being paid not to disturb breeding habitat and have lands converted back to that end. Would support this with contributions. I would like my sons to enjoy what I enjoyed with my father.

See if there's a way for legislation to regulate lease prices! It's becoming more of a business than a sport.

No new taxes or tax increases for any reason. Let the strong wildlife survive - if too weak to survive let them die and make room for others. Stop the wetland laws from stealing land from individuals. This law is too powerful.

My pet peeve has been the difficulty - impossibility - of obtaining Texas duck stamp for my holiday guest on an impromptu duck hunt. Seems that they could adopt a rule permitting one to drop the stamp fee in the mail and then be excused from a fine if apprehended by game warden.

In the past I introduced many of the sons of my nonhunting friends to hunting. I supplied "everything". Since the cost of license and stamps has gone ballistic, I don't offer near as often. My older (my age) friends have quit buying licenses and stamps because of cost.

Most of hunting time is spent in Arkansas due to friends living there. Do not want to pay for out of state license (too high) when they live in a border town (Texarkana).

Believe nonhunting campers etc. should pay their share of the cost of game and nongame management. Would like to see Conservation Stamp - say \$3/year for park use. Hunters and fisherman will still pay their fees even if increased. Also would like to see assistance program for low income workers - many fish and hunt illegally.

I am a birdwatcher as well as a hunter of migratory and non-migratory game birds and animals. I do believe that the hunters pay too much of the expense of all conservation. Nonhunters need to pay their share, but I'm not sure a good, equitable method to provide for it has yet been devised.

I believe that (for me) to enjoy nature you have to participate in it. I don't particularly like "killing", but I enjoy being part of the life process and the feeling I get from it. Waste truly aggravates me and I don't shoot at anything that I don't think I'll kill and I eat everything that I kill. Unfortunately, the cost of duck hunting has gotten so expensive, I realize that it is not available to everyone and this is sad. I am use to programs that target individual groups such as hunters or property owners and favor fund raising that taxes all citizens.

I would like more information to be available on which lakes can be hunted and the general rules and regulations for each lake. The cost of deer hunting in Texas is outrageous!

I really enjoy the outdoors and hunting. I think it would be tragic if all these opportunities were to end because of lack of funds.

When I was growing up, there was no lack of places for my father and I to hunt, both on public and private lands. Hunting has become such a big business and so costly that I will not be able to afford to share this sport with my 3 sons the way my father shared it with me. It is another sad commentary on our changing world.

EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS

It is most important that my son and his son can continue to hunt in Texas. I'm concerned that there are those who want to do away with this. Perhaps education is the answer.

- Better education to the public where funds are distributed from hunting licenses, bird stamps, etc.
- More positive articles in the media as to how hunters contribute to better wildlife management through funds derived from hunting licenses, stamps, and excise taxes on sporting equipment.
- Good luck on your thesis and/or doctorate!

I would like to see more public relations work combating the negative effects of ill-informed opinions of animal rights activists and promote the positive conservation effects of the majority of hunters and fisherman.

We need more young people in duck/goose hunting - keep them off the streets. We need to find or discover a way to take children hunting/fishing etc. This is a fabulous sport; I hope we never lose it. Get more people involved.

I would like to see more public relations work combating the negative effects of ill-informed opinions of animal rights activists and promote the positive conservation effects of the majority of hunters and fisherman.

We need more young people in duck/goose hunting - keep them off the streets. We need to find or discover a way to take children hunting/fishing etc. This is a fabulous sport; I hope we never lose it. Get more people involved.

The general public lacks knowledge concerning the difference between a harvest to manage game levels versus cruelty to animals.

Hunting is taking a bad rap in this state and the country. More positive information about hunters and hunting needs to be published to offset the negative press currently being force fed to the American public.

I think more effort should be put forth to inform people how important it is not to litter public recreation areas. It is not only ugly, but it can be dangerous to wildlife and hunting dogs (especially bank fisherman).

We need to work with young people more in hunting and fishing. We have a problem with too many single people raising their kids. As sportsmen, we need to take some of our money and take these kids hunting.

Hunting, conservation, wildlife management, and public education - all these are very important to me. Education of our youth is very important to the future of wildlife in the state of Texas.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, LAW VIOLATORS

The game wardens need to develop a spirit of friendship and teamwork with hunters who are honest and ethical. It would create a positive environment for all of us.

- (1) Game violators punished more severely.
- (2) Game wardens with more consideration for nonviolators.
 - (A) Some experiences negative when not in violation.
 - (B) It's a tough job, but they are public servants, and should not accuse all of guilt unless proven otherwise.

I would like to see game wardens patrol public lakes and hunting lands more during duck/goose season.

I believe it is important to hunt with the proper attitude. A hunter should follow the rules and respect his quarry. The proper attitude is almost always present in a person if his joy of hunting is slightly tinged with the sadness of killing a beautiful game bird.

I wish everyone would abide by the rules and stop hunting when they get their limit. We unload, watch the birds fly, enjoy being out and the companionship. There are so many people that love to brag about getting over their limit and don't think about the future. A lot of these were raised this way. Sure, I wouldn't hunt if there was not the chance to bag some game, but even when we get skunked we still have a successful hunt.

Poachers and unethical hunters should be shot.

TP&W officers on the Red River and Texoma area need to concentrate on illegal hunters and fisherman. I see flagrant violations all the time. Mostly they watch for some deer hunters and fisherman. I see pelicans, hawks, etc. killed every year. Not to mention broken limits, and non-retrieval of game birds. Area officers need airboats. Any participation on my part in this area to deter illegal duck and goose hunters could be brought to my attention if officers need help or information on the area.

If it were not for the fact that I own 80 acres adjacent to a national wildlife refuge and belong to a duck hunting club with air boats, I don't know where I could hunt that wouldn't be overcrowded with some of the worst sportsmen I have ever seen or heard of. Couldn't you have saved the state some money by not putting this glossy cover on the survey?

MISCELLANEOUS

I can't be of much help as I am 83 years old.

I think duck hunters, with few exceptions, are the most law abiding, conservation minded hunters in the U.S. They are a "cut above". I'm proud to be a pretty good one. It's the only hunting I do.

I still hate getting up at 4:00 a.m. Can you get the birds to fly later?

Waterfowl hunting becomes a passion for many who try it. Not necessarily killing ducks (I was probably unsuccessful 30% of the time.) is required, just the possibility of it. It is not for everyone, yet I feel that every young person would benefit from the experience of a duck hunt. I hope this survey is able to generate more funds for all wildlife.

I think it is a shame to have a governor like Richards who runs ads while trying to get elected - that shows her in a hunting/shooting mode, then vetoes our right to vote for a concealed carry permit. I know that we don't hunt ducks and geese with a handgun, but...

Hunting ducks/geese is the greatest stress reliever in the world.

I deer hunt, squirrel hunt, dove hunt, but duck hunting is the most beautiful type of hunting, with the most comradery.

I live in Texarkana, with most hunting by me on Arkansas side of state line nearby. I have enjoyed goose hunting trips to Eagle Lake area and Panhandle in the last 2 seasons with excellent hunts.

Duck hunting has always been my favorite - don't go much now as is lots of hassle. Love to eat wild ducks - they are the premiere game bird for my wife and I. We shoot lots of dove, but duck (wild) is the choice meal.

I hunt during the season more frequently than most men my age, but seldom fire my gun. I harvested no ducks or geese in the past year.

Would hunt 50 times a year if allowed by family members. I'm also a taxidermist, and mounted over 50 ducks and geese in 1992. Thanks for choosing me. The expenses I put down - my wife discovered and she's rather envious!

I would like to know if you are planning to do a similar study on quail?

Duck and goose hunting is a great experience, one that can be shared and enjoyed with and by the family.

TAMU '89 graduate.

Hunt with and train a Labrador retriever, a great companion and conservationist.

Yes! You'll do a good job for Texas, and the hunters of Texas.

I prefer the stubble fields of Canada, where there are no leases or fees or guides - the hunting and shooting is up to you!

Where around Laredo can I hunt? Or near Laredo?

I can't understand why Lufkin DU has went up to \$75.00 a couple for banquet tickets. I would really like to know where all the money goes. You can't see much happening around here as for waterfowl.

I am primarily a scattergunner, so I am concerned with game available to my type of shooting. I reload, shoot clay a lot, and raise and train my own Labs. We usually bag enough ducks for several meals. I also like to putter around in my wife's kitchen. The bottom line is this - I enjoy being out with the birds - just seeing them and talking to them makes the trip a success. Having game to eat and watching a new puppy retrieve is icing on the cake. I hope I can pass this feeling along to my sons.

Many years ago, I hunted with my grandfather, who was a pure quail hunter. My first shot bird was a meadowlark, which I had to eat that night for supper. A duck is much better eating than a meadowlark.

To me, bird hunting has a mystical quality hard to describe. I enjoy it thoroughly.

I drove 350 miles each way every weekend last year to go deer, dove, quail, hog, and turkey hunting in south Texas. Duck hunting (goose too) is available less than 15 miles from my house, but it just isn't worth the time, effort, and results. My leisure time is gold, and I'm willing to do anything in order to achieve a successful hunting or fishing weekend (except for baiting birds).

I hope my two sons have the opportunity to enjoy duck and goose hunting as much as I have. I think this is the best way to have an understanding between you and your children.

The reason I have not hunted in the last year is a matter of logistics. I grew up on the Gulf coast and now live in southwest Texas, where waterfowl hunting is scarce.

I spend my hunting time with hog, deer, turkey, dove, and quail.

My answers may not be applicable or may weight the survey in some way due to the fact that I have never duck or goose hunted in Texas. I considerable duck hunting in Florida prior to moving to Texas 5 years ago, and I intend to start hunting in Texas and also to make trips to Florida to hunt in the future.

I would really like to see some recognition for all the fathers in Texas who got their children started in hunting ducks/geese.

I am a falconer, so typically I take fewer than 10 ducks (sometimes less than 5) in an entire season. I do, however, "hunt" as many days as a serious duck hunter.

Reason I do not hunt more is due to overhunting - it is too hard to get a blind at Somerville and the next decent population of birds is 4-5 hours away and leases are expensive, especially to only use 1-2 times in season.

Keep up the good work!

I'd go duck hunting even if I had no gun.

One of the reasons I don't hunt as much is that all 3 of my black Labs died in a 2 year period and due to family commitments. I haven't replaced and trained a new dog.

Duck hunting (not goose) in a fresh water marsh is the best outdoor experience in a lifetime of outdoor experiences I have ever known. I could write a book on the subject and my memories. It requires great skill, thought, planning, and hard physical work. It is spiritually renewing. It is delicious to eat. It is a thrill and an adventure. I hope it lasts forever.

The love of the outdoors and learning about the life of animals and birds has always been my desire. I love to prepare game birds and animals to eat, but meat is the least important aspect of my outdoor activities.

Income represents my father, mother, and myself as I still live at home. Gig 'em class of '91.

I am not just a waterfowl hunter. I love to hunt all types of game, leaving none out.

I started hunting with a gun after many years and now hunt with a camera about as often as I shoot.

Airboats are a problem on the coast. They disturb all waterfowl and other wildlife as well as redfish. Should be strong limits on their use.

I think this questionnaire was a very excellent idea.

I am convinced that taking my two sons hunting and fishing at six and eight years of age created an interest in outdoor sports of this type. That gave them an enjoyable outlet for their energies and certainly kept them out of trouble. In addition, I believe the taught respect for the rights of other hunters or fisherman carried over into other aspects of life. Both are professionals and still hunt and fish.

As a committee man for Ducks Unlimited, I feel a certain sense of responsibility to protecting the environment and creatures of this world. As a businessman, I also feel that environmental extremists should not

abuse the system in order to prevent business and industry from growing. I believe there is a happy median for business and endangered species. I also believe that too much of our environmental policy is influenced by the media and 10% of extremists on each side of the issue who shout the loudest. I feel most hunters fall in the 80% in between the extremists and are probably more concerned with the actual welfare of endangered species than the extremists on either side.
P.S. Hook 'em Horns

Duck hunting remains a very special outdoor recreational activity.

I will not waterfowl hunt without a trained retriever at my side. I started duck hunting by jump shooting on creeks and ponds, then trying to find your ducks in the weeds, brush, water, etc. Never again without the pleasure of watching a well-trained dog work. I suggest you guys try it. Thanks.

I have only duck hunted about 3 times. I am on a lease that has 2 duck ponds that have been set up by the state. I am not going to hunt for ducks this year.

Duck and goose hunting over the years has allowed me to return to the outdoors. It has also created some of my strongest friendships and fondest memories.

I own several (6) DU guns. I am a collector. I will hunt more for deer (trophy) than ducks. Geese: I have only shot less than 10 on private leases. But I will make some duck hunts with my kids to show them more of nature; to take a few; to have one mounted; to enjoy the wing shooting; to observe other wildlife.

Watching a dog perform by retrieving it after shooting a bird.

What is this survey for? Reason and purpose?

I'm only 18 and not the head of the household. I may not get to hunt as much this season because I'll be at school in Dallas (SMU).

I am an avid big game hunter and trophy fisherman. Duck/goose hunting is exciting and I will be an avid participant in the future. I consume the animals/fish that I take.

I have no idea what nongame management is and nothing about programs of funding.

I wish my dad and I were closer and feel if he had had more time and money and interest when I was young, think we would both be happier now.

I still hunt very often; however, I have concentrated more on upland birds and smaller birds, such as dove and quail.

I like to duck hunt because it is hard, takes a lot of work, can be miserable and challenging, and is best early in the morning and I do it because most people won't. That way, I'm not just a mindless idiot following the crowd. I hate sports, especially watching football, baseball, etc. on TV. I hate TV.

I didn't get to hunt as often as I would have liked last year because my hunting area was flooded over.

Area I normally hunt has been missing 1 or both of the following critical

items necessary to attract and hold ducks: (1) adequate rainfall in the fall to fill the bottomland swamps and (2) food shortage: low acorn and pecan crop.

I raised my son and daughter to hunt and fish using dad's motto. They both like the outdoors, to watch and observe as well as to shoot and catch. If you don't hunt ducks, I can't explain the experience. If you do hunt, I don't have to.

Game wardens spend too much time on big lakes during duck season where someone would have to be a fool to knowingly break the law. Game wardens never venture into the bottomlands where most game laws are broken. Landowners and loggers (drunks) have no respect for the bottoms. A rich person will buy hundreds of acres of land and then sell the land. The loggers cut trees right up to the river bank and the banks of sloughs. Bulldoze roads wide enough to drive two diesel rigs side by side. Bulldoze roads 1-2 feet deeper than the surrounding ground. When they finish and it rains, the entire road is 1-2 feet deep in water. So, they move over and make another road. Fill up creeks with yards and yards of dirt to get across. When it rains, all the dirt washes off, so, they fill them up with more dirt, again and again. All this to get to 800 acres which contains 100 year old hardwood trees. In the process, they devastated the other 700 acres. The landowner has not stepped foot on the place in the three years this has gone on. He now has the 1500 acres for sale. I can no longer get to the duck hunting holes that I have hunted all my life. This land could have been logged with much less damage to the land. The loggers did not know how to build a road in the bottoms. Also, neither the landowner or the loggers seemed to give a damn about what they did to the land. That was the last of the hardwood bottoms of that kind in my area. Trees 4 feet in diameter were common.

Avid duck hunter most of adult life. Have not hunted in last 5 years because son and other hunting partners moved away. No longer have incentive to overcome lethargy.

From September to January (end) I hunt doves, ducks, and geese 3 days + per week. I enjoy nothing more. I now hunt with a dog (Lab) and urge everyone to do the same.

There are a lot more geese and ducks in northeast Texas near Sulphur and Red Rivers than people realize. Sorry it took me so long. Go Hogs!

Thank you for your efforts in this survey. Please forward you results to the lawmakers. Maybe we can get some help for the ducks.

Please do not allow new airport on Katy prairie.

I did not hunt last year at all. Had personal problems, but do hunt and plan to this year. Am very active in Ducks Unlimited and am on state council of DU.

I would like to know more about wildlife rebuilding projects that I could help with.

I'm not able to hunt on this lake due to law restrictions, but very much enjoy the birds we have here, and enjoy doing my part to help their development. I am putting wood duck boxes on my farm. I live on Lake Houston. Did not do any hunting last year due to time constraints and unable to get with a group that hunted. But plan in the future to hunt with sons, age 4 and 8. Had I answered the first few questions, they would have been probably below average.

Thanks!

I think this is a great study. Good luck and have a great huntin' year!

There is not enough room.

I only lived in Katy for 1 1/2 years. I presently reside in Louisiana. I started duck hunting at age 10 on the Katy prairie. Moved to Louisiana at age of 28. Have hunted Louisiana for past 24 years. Hunted a total of 42 years. Only age will slow me down.

My hunting has slacked off over the last several years as I have been building a family and a business. However, the future looks promising (if I could find waders for 3 and 5 year old sons).

How about trying to protect private property rights?

Sensible management of wildlife can enable all of us to harvest a fair number of game of all types. We very seldom take limits of any game when we hunt, but we are successful enough to enjoy game. The true reason we hunt is the quality time with family and friends, and anyone who has never listened to and seen the earth wake up or ducks coming in to land at dawn probably won't understand. My respect is such that most of my duck hunting now is with a Canon AE-1 35mm camera. The ducks like it better, too. I also am a participant in the Federal Wing Survey, as is my older son.

Some questions/response options in this survey were poorly worded and detracted from what I believed was its intended focus.

- (1) We need more hunting areas consistent with Type II.
- (2) The oil spillage tanks associated with all those pumps across the state look like ponds from the air. It's my understanding that thousands of ducks a year are killed trying to land in them. Low cost methods of protection would please me greatly.

U.S. fish and game needs to change pattern of data collection. Should look to "other breeding" areas instead of old standards. May find more birds. Go back to point system - will increase interest.

Hunting is a chance for you to spend time with nature and your friends and family. You just can't put a price on those moments. Shooting your first deer or duck and watching your dogs first retrieve are all moments every hunter will cherish forever.

APPENDIX G

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
NON-WATERFOWL HUNTING DUCKS UNLIMITED MEMBERS

NO LONGER HUNT WATERFOWL

I stopped hunting several years ago because I do not like the taste of game meat, and I do not like to kill animals. I still support legal, ethical hunting. I still purchase a hunting license every year to aid the state wildlife management effort.

I don't hunt geese or ducks anymore. My retriever got old and so did I. I still hunt dove, quail, deer, turkey, and wild hog. I gave all my duck and geese decoys to hunters.

When I was younger, 10-18 years of age, I did some duck hunting with my dad. He stopped duck hunting with due to poor health and I hunted only one time since. I am anticipating a few goose hunts this season.

I retired from hunting as I have from employment. I hunted waterfowl for 42 years. Enjoyed it very much. I'm too old to hunt now, but support conservation of waterfowl so others younger than I can enjoy hunting as I in the past.

I used to hunt ducks, but over the past years, there hasn't been enough money or time (cost of shells and stamps).

I've hunted and shot many pheasants, ducks, geese, deer, bear, etc., but gave up hunting when I came to Texas.

I stopped duck hunting for three primary reasons: (1) leases are too expensive, (2) licenses and stamps are too expensive, and (3) bags are too small.

I don't goose or duck hunt any more, but I feel DU does more for wildlife as well as geese and ducks, as any of the other conservation clubs or associations. I enjoy birdwatching and bird photography.

I quit duck hunting when the cost for a license and stamps was more than I wanted to pay, considering the small amount of duck hunting I did. I think fees for the Parks and Wildlife Department should come from all Texans, not just hunters or fishermen.

When I was duck/goose hunting, I commonly hunted in Louisiana. Other than hunting with a son that has lived in Wyoming and Arizona in recent years, I have not been hunting in the Gulf region for probably 10 years.

I like being a winter Texan. Enjoy birdwatching now. Thirty years ago I was a hunter.

I don't hunt ducks at present. I am not against it, I just believe the season should be closed until there are greater numbers of ducks.

I no longer hunt because I was forced to sell the ranch on which we hunted.

I used to hunt ducks and geese but for the last 30 to 35 years have spent most of my time hunting quail and doves. Also, duck and goose hunting became a lot different as to types and numbers for your limit.

Do not hunt ducks any longer due to small limit.

In my job with the SCS, a large portion of my time is spent in habitat management for wildlife. I have not duck or goose hunted for several years, but plan to begin hunting waterfowl again. I am in favor of

anything we can do that will have a positive effect on wildlife, but feel we must be careful where we obtain the funding. We do not want to fuel the fire of nonhunters.

I hunted as a young man, but lost interest during a military career and never picked it up again.

HUNT OTHER GAME

A longer dove season or longer split season would be nice, and have deer season start later in the season, primarily for the cold weather.

I'm a bird hunter - dove, quail, etc.

I mainly hunt deer and doves on our ranch in south Texas. I feel that conservation of ducks or other fowl is already over-emphasized. I feel that enough money is already spent for these purposes.

I support hunting as a wildlife management tool as long as sportsmanship is observed (i.e. no hunting with automatic weapons). My personal values prevent me from becoming an avid waterfowl hunter. I don't like the taste of duck! I feel that it is unethical not to eat what you have hunted. I choose to support conservation through organizations.

Hunting activities limited to dove and quail.

I do not hunt ducks or geese, but would like to. I spent most of my childhood dove, quail, and squirrel hunting. I have recently rediscovered hunting, but am concerned about all wildlife and our environment. I do feel that conservation an hunting can thrive if managed properly as well as provide the education necessary for stable wildlife coexistence.

The deer bag limits should be changed - Jasper County - if there is as many deer as the experts claim there is.

I am a hunter of all types of game, but do not hunt geese or ducks because of the scarcity of birds and places to hunt. I support various conservation groups to help promote the welfare of game birds.

I primarily hunt whitetail, quail, and turkey. The state should prosecute those groups and individuals who physically, in their person, interfere or attempt to do so with our hunting privileges.

I do not hunt ducks or geese because I am too busy fishing and hunting quail, deer, dove, and turkey. Also, hunting leases are too expensive. I buy a waterfowl stamp each year to help pay for conservation in case I decide to hunt ducks or geese at a later date.

NONHUNTER, CONSERVATIONIST

I love game and nongame fowl, birdwatching, and believe strongly in conservation.

I belong to conservation organizations to protect wildlife and habitat from fools who think like: "The only good snake is a dead snake." "All bats are nasty." "If I want to kill it, I'm going to, and I don't care what endangered means." I think you all do as good a job as can be done with all the politics you have to deal with! Thanks for asking for my

opinion!

I'm not a bird hunter. I only joined DU to support their group. Also, I thought this was a voluntary form, but this is the third follow-up, so I've completed it with little effort so I wouldn't be bothered again.

Though unable to hunt at times, I still buy my license with all the stamps regularly each year, because I firmly believe that fees and regulated hunting is the best way to preserve wildlife, and in my opinion, may be the only practical reason for the preservation of some species (what else can you do with lions, tigers, etc.). Multiple choice questions such as 14, 16, and 19 seem wanting. "Don't know" might be a good category.

14a. Do declining habitat and natural predators do this

14c. Practical sense? or cancel a dam project to save minnows

14d. I thought they go hand in hand. Maybe not.

14e. Doubtful. Are hunters asking to restore the wolf?

14f. Isn't that where they are coming from?

14g. Is this a trick question?

14h. See 14c above, or How can it be done?

14i. Another trick question?

16a-16f. I picked the smallest groups to pin this on, assuming you want to be successful.

16c. Gov. Richards won't let you. I tried to get all of this for the school fund.

19. Didn't go into this one but "hunting other game" seems like an appropriate category for a hunting questionnaire not covered adequately by 19f.

I do not kill ducks, geese, turkeys, other large birds. Why? I don't know! Game preservation should be paid for by all.

Not an avid bird hunter. I'm from Galveston and joined for the conservation aspect. This I believe would also be good for the fishing I enjoy.

I recently attended the dinner in 1992. This is how I became involved with Ducks Unlimited. I haven't hunted duck/goose ever in my life. The only hunting I have ever done is deer hunting.

Since I am not a waterfowl hunter, I don't think my comments will be much help.

I am not a hunter, but favor wildlife management and conservation of the outdoors.

TAXES, FEES, FUNDS

Leave taxpayers alone. Cooperate with business for sponsors, etc., if you think new funds are needed. Further, it's obvious from the 947 on the back that this is not an anonymous survey. I resent that. How can you guarantee confidentiality without anonymity?

I think the general public has no idea that the hunting and fishing population supports most conservation efforts; by this I mean financially.

Waterfowl management benefits all Texans, not just those who hunt. As such, it's a state resource to be supported, at least in part, from general revenues.

Sportsmen already bear most of the cost of wildlife programs and benefits seem to be declining, ownership of firearms is in danger of being lost. The Constitution seems to count for nothing any longer. I presently am teaching a 4-H trap and skeet class to teach young shooters and hunters a skill and appreciation for wildlife.

I think the general public should know what the fee for a hunting license is spent on. How the funds are used for everyone, not just hunters.

Hunters support game management through their hunting licenses and organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, NRA, etc. Let the birders and other non-hunters form organizations that will do likewise.

Wildlife, both game and nongame management, has almost exclusively been paid for by hunters in Texas and several other states. It is time that the cost is shared by others.

I strongly oppose any more money being raised to support nongame programs. For instance, here is a breakdown of what I pay every year to hunt and fish in southeast Texas, and I might add I think this is more than my fair share.

Texas Comb. Hunting and Fishing License -	\$25
Texas Saltwater Stamp -	\$7
Archery Stamp -	\$7
Louisiana Basic License and Saltwater -	\$61
Type II Permit -	\$35
Total -	\$135

And this price of course does not include all the boat registration, permit to drive ATV's, and license fees which I think has completely gotten out of hand.

I would like to see more state money spent on state parks and wildlife management areas. I think lottery money is way to pay for upgrades.

I support nongame funding although I do believe conventional wildlife management benefits nongame species - at least to some degree.

This survey is a waste of my time and probably tax money.

MANAGEMENT, HABITAT

I feel that wildlife management for game and nongame species is very important in the aid of preserving the ecosystem as a whole. Regardless of those who hunt or do not hunt, we should all take part in a group effort to preserve our wildlife internationally. We need more wildlife management and stiffer penalties for those who abuse our wildlife resource.

Stop government and commercial interest dam and channel construction to prevent coastal erosion and loss of wetlands. There is excess farm land already available.

There is a government obligation to protect wildlife. Government needs to actively pursue wetlands purchase and to raise ducks and geese for release after the hunting season (similar to fish hatcheries).

Discontinue the use of pesticides and the draining of wetlands. Make it mandatory that hunters kill 1 doe or 1 spike before taking a buck. Institute a 5 year moratorium on duck hunting to permit them to come back - hunt only geese during that period.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate. Sorry I was late. I have been out of the country. I strongly favor a balanced approach to wildlife management. I strongly disagree with nonhunters dominating or dictating to hunters. While I'm not a waterfowl hunter, I strongly believe hunting is a fundamental right. However, I believe hunting should be balanced with species needs. Thanks.

Duck limits do not warrant the expenditure of time/money to hunt them at their current population, hence DU efforts.

Managing our wildlife is important. Education over taxes.

Protect the wetlands, eliminate pollution from the bays.

We should get government out of managing anything. Government is usually the very worst at managing anything!

MISCELLANEOUS

More emphasis should be placed on privately run hunting operations and less on state run operations. Less bureaucracy, and changes can be made quicker for the sake of wildlife.

Don't re-elect anyone.

Item 14g should read: "Wildlife management benefits primarily wildlife."

Question #26: I see no category for American.

Should also study upland bird hunting.

I would like to see a similar survey for all types of hunting and fishing.

Please do a study similar to this on deer hunters.

Your general opinion poll does not fit my situation. Do not hunt in the state of Texas.

I favor morning only hunting on even days of season, and evening hunting on odd days. This will give waterfowl more feeding and resting time. Lengthening the season enough days to compensate for half day hunting.

Duck hunting is almost nonexistent due to almost no place to hunt.

Wish I had more time!

Keep up the conservation work!

- (1) More youth programs coming from the local and state levels.
- (2) More hunting areas that would benefit the aged.

I feel nonhunters' opinions on wildlife management should not equal hunters', because their knowledge of balanced ecosystems, wildlife, hunting, and fishing is usually minimal or nonexistent. Their actions and opinions are primarily based on emotions, not facts.

A need to control the egret population is urgent. They are ruining the rest ponds and rice fields in my area. If they land near a quail and her

young they eat all of the young in seconds. They eat every frog, mouse, rat, grasshopper, and any other insect or animal they can swallow. They also cause extreme damage to rice when it starts to head by walking on the rice and breaking the heads down. Damage to my fields this year was about 400 pounds per acre.

The spark of hunting was given to me by my dad at an early period in my life. I in turn give this spark to my boys at an early age. Not only do they love to hunt, but they have the memories of the good times with their dad.

VITA

Jason Andrew Leifester

Personal Information

Born: March 3, 1969, Brenham, Texas
Permanent Address: 1301 Barthelow Apartment 39-D, College
Station, Texas 77840

Educational Background:

1991 - 1994 Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas
Major: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Degree: M.S., 1994

1987 - 1991 Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas
Major: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Degree: B.S., 1991

Professional Experience:

1992 - 1994 Graduate Research Assistant
Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

1990 - 1992 Field Biologist
Troy Ecological Research Associates
Prudhoe Bay, Alaska

Texas A&M University



R14817989440