

Airplanes and the Audubon

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I guess that I never realized how much birds are a part of my life. I also never realized how much birds influence all of our lives. It became apparent as recently as last year when I joined the National Audubon Society. But lately, aside from the involvement with the Audubon, I really began wondering why do I, personally, get so much satisfaction from all of the "extra" work needed to become a certified sanctuary?

I began looking back, way back, and I remembered spending hours with my dad at the

Rookery at Lincoln Park Zoo, just watching and feeding the ducks there. Or sometimes we would go fishing off of the Horseshoe Pier at Montrose Harbor in Chicago. We never caught many fish, but we always enjoyed watching the gulls glide and dive around us.

I can remember the trips that we would take to the airports and the hours that we would spend watching man fly and land around us. I still marvel to this day at the miracle of flight. Maybe this is why, that now I so enjoy doing whatever I can to promote the wildlife around my golf course.

We all take great pride in our golf courses, especially on those days when everything looks just right ... almost perfect and the golfers are really enjoying themselves. It's always a pleasure to look at your handiwork, experience these peaceful moments, and feel proud.

Why not go one step further? Why not make our places more livable for our wildlife? Surprisingly most of the tools that are needed to manage for wildlife are already in place at your course. You only need to manage these tools, and your land differently, with a new outlook and attitude.

I can think of no better way to promote yourself, your public image, and enhance the environment all at the same time, than by joining the National Audubon Society. If you get involved you may also find that you may begin to "self-check" your actions and give more thought of what the land you are on has to offer you. You will feel better. Better about your actions, your golf course, and yourself.

You will also be making an environmentally sound statement in a wrongly perceived, environmentally unstable condition, your golf course. It shows to others that you are environmentally aware and that you have a genuine concern for your surroundings.

Whether you are employed to manage large tracts of land, or if you just own a house on a quarter acre lot, the earth that you occupy or manage belongs to **everyone**.



The "little guy" is "TR" with his dad when he was about 2 years old.

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