

**Oral History Interview of  
Roland Wauer**

**Interviewed by: David Marshall  
December 3, 2015  
Bryan, Texas**

**Part of the:  
*Natural History***

© Southwest Collection/  
Special Collections Library



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

**Southwest Collection/  
Special Collections Library**

15th and Detroit | 806.742.3749 | <http://swco.ttu.edu>

## Copyright and Usage Information:

An oral history release form was signed by Roland Wauer on June 18, 2009. This transfers all rights of this interview to the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, Texas Tech University.

This oral history transcript is protected by U.S. copyright law. By viewing this document, the researcher agrees to abide by the fair use standards of U.S. Copyright Law (1976) and its amendments. This interview may be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes only. Any reproduction or transmission of this protected item beyond fair use requires the written and explicit permission of the Southwest Collection. Please contact Southwest Collection Reference staff for further information.

### Preferred Citation for this Document:

Wauer, Roland Oral History Interview, December 3, 2015. Interview by David Marshall, Online Transcription, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. URL of PDF, date accessed.

*The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library houses over 6,300 oral history interviews dating back to the late 1940s. The historians who conduct these interviews seek to uncover the personal narratives of individuals living on the South Plains and beyond. These interviews should be considered a primary source document that does not implicate the final verified narrative of any event. These are recollections dependent upon an individual's memory and experiences. The views expressed in these interviews are those only of the people speaking and do not reflect the views of the Southwest Collection or Texas Tech University.*

*The transcribers and editors of this document strove to create an accurate and faithful transcription of this oral history interview. However, this document may still contain mistakes. Spellings of proper nouns and places were researched thoroughly, but readers may still find inaccuracies, inaudible passages, homophones, and possible malapropisms. Any words followed by "[?]" notates our staff's best faith efforts. We encourage researchers to compare the transcript to the original recording if there are any questions. Please contact the SWC/SCL Reference department for access information. Any corrections or further clarifications may be sent to the A/V Unit Manager.*

## Technical Processing Information:

The Audio/Visual Department of the Southwest Collection is the curator of this ever-growing oral history collection and is in the process of digitizing all interviews. While all of our interviews will have an abbreviated abstract available online, we are continually transcribing and adding information for each interview. Audio recordings of these interviews can be listened to in the Reading Room of the Southwest Collection. Please contact our Reference Staff for policies and procedures. Family members may request digitized copies directly from Reference Staff.

Consult the Southwest Collection website for more information.

<http://swco.ttu.edu/Reference/policies.php>

### Recording Notes:

*Original Format:* Born Digital Audio

*Digitization Details:* N/A

*Audio Metadata:* 44.1kHz/ 16bit WAV file

*Further Access Restrictions:* N/A

*Related Interviews:*

### Transcription Notes:

*Interviewer:* David Marshall

*Audio Editor:* N/A

*Transcription:* Katelin Dixon

*Editor(s):* Katelin Dixon

*Final Editor:* David Marshall

## Interview Series Background:

The Natural History oral history collection includes interviews with individuals involved in biological field research, especially in mammalogy and ornithology. Most of the interviewees are faculty members in biological sciences at research universities. The collection focuses on academic studies in botanical and zoological taxonomy, ecology, conservation, and animal behavior.

## Transcript Overview:

This interview features Roland Wauer, a former naturalist for the National Parks Service. Wauer, an avid birder, recounts his trips to Mexico and his career as a writer. Wauer also discusses his recent work documenting butterfly species.

**Length of Interview:** 00:35:58

Subject	Transcript Page	Time Stamp
Christmas bird counts	5	00:00:00
The process of birding	7	00:06:34
The people of Mexico and birding	10	00:13:30
Working for the National Parks Service	12	00:20:05
Retirement, writing, and butterflies	17	00:31:18

## Keywords

native plants and wildlife, Palenque, Mexico, Yucatán Peninsula

**David Marshall (DM):**

The date is December 3, 2015. This is David Marshall interviewing Ro Wauer at his home in Bryan, Texas. And let's talk about your Mexico work a bit. This was on behalf of the National Parks Service or—?

**Roland Wauer (RW):**

Well, I got interested in going down to Mexico early, early on, like in 1960, or probably like 1958 or something like that. And I just went down there when I was working at Death Valley and drove down and kind of fell in love with the place. And then once I moved to Big Bend in 1966, it was just right there across the river, and so I spent a lot of time in Mexico. And I went down there a lot of times to do Christmas bird counts, and there was a cadre of about a dozen people from Texas that we'd go down there right after Christmas and go all the way down to Palenque and Chichen [Itza] and all the areas; but on the way down there, we would visit a whole bunch of other states. One of my friends I went down there with, a guy named Jim Tucker, who was living in Austin at the time, his thing was he had to see every state in Mexico. And so that worked well for me, so we would be driving along, and I'd see a bird out there, and I'd put it on my list as a new bird for that state. So it just came to be a regular thing that—probably did that for six or eight years in a row. But then I decided to spend more time down there, so I'd go down with just two or three people, would hit some of the key areas, like my favorite was the Catemaco area and Palenque down on the Yucatán and all those sites, kind of fell in love with a lot of them. Coba was a brand new archeological site they were just opening up, and it was just a fascinating area, with a great big lake, with the ruins and everything, so that was kind of a surprise when I discovered that place, but most of it was just wandering around. Then I bumped into a guy at Catemaco, Bill Schaldach was his name, and he was an old timer that had spent most of his life down there, and he had a—he lived at Catemaco, he had a wife there—but he had a cabin up there on Popo [Popocatepetl], and we would go up there and wander all over the place, looking for some of those rare seed eaters.

DM:

Popocatepetl in Puebla?

RW:

Yeah. It was just kind of a—you know opportunities. I would take off two or three weeks at a time. Course the family didn't necessarily like that. That led to problems, eventually, but it was something that was pretty important in my way of thinking because I was an avid birder. But you know it's interesting that in the last ten, twelve years, I've spent all my time looking at butterflies. They were all over the place, but I didn't really see too many of them or didn't identify them. And I was looking for some slides not too long ago, and behind the ruins at Palenque, and here was a cracker, which is a big butterfly, and I had it marked "moth." (laughter) Little I knew about butterflies at the time. But it was just a great opportunity to visit all those



sites because the people that went down there had special places that they'd go; we'd do Christmas counts—Christmas bird counts—at these places. And after that, we'd go on down to various places near Guatemala and other localities and a couple times in the Yucatán, primarily because there were birds there found only in the Yucatán.

DM:

In winter or always?

RW:

Well for the most part, on those Christmas counts were in the wintertime. But then, with a small group of people, I began to make longer trips, at different times of the year. I know one time I left Santa Fe and met some friends at Nogales, and we took the train to Tepic and then rented a car there and drove all the way down to the Yucatán and back and ended up at Santa Ana. So that was kind of a special trip; I think that was almost three weeks. I don't remember exactly. But you'd go down there and find four hundred and fifty to five hundred species, which was a pretty good list.

DM:

Did you find enclaves of areas where lots of migratory birds came in and wintered? I mean just an oasis of birds, or were they pretty well distributed across the Mexican states?

RW:

Well, we would shoot for various habitats that we knew of where we would expect to find certain things. So if you're looking for an Aztec thrush, you'd go up into the mountains where the Aztec thrush had habitats.

DM:

How did you know these things? Was this already published, some of this information?

RW:

Very little of it was published at all. There was—the first good book that was done was by a guy named Blake, can't remember his first name.

DM:

What year are you talking about?

RW:

About 1965 or something like that, maybe earlier. And then when Peterson came out with his Peterson field guides, that helped considerably because the Blake book only had—didn't have

any color in it; it was drawings and so on. It was really very good, in fact the information in there was excellent, but it was kind of hard sometimes to identify exactly what you were looking at.

DM:

Can you remember the title by the way?

RW:

I think it was called *Birds of Mexico*. It's in my book on Birding Mexico, all that stuff's in there. By the way, all those trips that I took down there are described and discussed in there.

DM:

Well besides Blake, how would you find out where to look for birds? Would you ask locally, or did these birders that you went with know, or—?

RW:

Most of them—most of the people I went with didn't know, but we would all do a lot of research, and there were two or three people that knew the area down there, and we'd make contact with them. Kenn Kaufman, as an example, who did the Kaufman series. He'd gone down there a few times, and we always met him someplace. But there were choice areas that we would go to, then birding behind the ruins of Palenque somebody would say, "Hey have you been over to such and such place?" We'd say, "No, where's that?" I remember one time I was looking for an aplomado falcon, which is a medium-sized falcon that hunts birds in yucca habitat, and I was talking to somebody behind the ruins there at Palenque, and he said, I asked if he'd seen an aplomado falcon. He says, "I'll tell you where to go, tonight just as they turn the lights on in downtown Palenque, if you go and sit on the cathedral steps, just at dawn an aplomado falcon will fly down one side the street picking up cicadas in the lights, cross right over and go on the other side of the street." And that was light for aplomado falcons.

DM:

And sure enough it happened that way? Wow. Pretty good.

RW:

And so a lot of that—you know birders are like anybody else that has this network of friends and people they associate with. You can pretty well know exactly where you're going, and then all the way down there you'd stop and find some new place and so on, and pretty soon there was—there were two or three books that came out fairly early, Edwards—Edwards is the one guy that had a book early on just after Blake's, before the Peterson stuff, that had a lot of really good hints as to where to go to find things. So there were those, and then oftentimes you'd wander around, like I was always looking for an imperial woodpecker, which, it's probably extinct, but I was in the Maderas del Carmens, and I found a tree that had great big woodpecker holes in it,

and I photographed that, and I had—the next time I was up there I took illustrations of the imperial and all the woodpeckers up there, and I bumped into a bear hunter up there, and talked to him about the birds, and I pulled out this picture—this illustration—I had of all the woodpeckers, and I asked him if any of these occur up here. And he pointed at all the right ones: the hairy woodpecker, and the downy, and the ladder back, and he pointed at the imperial. He said, “Yeah,” he says, “There’re up here.” He says, “I used to shoot them and eat them. I haven’t seen any recently.” (laughter)

DM:

I saw your folder. You have a folder on imperial woodpeckers. Were you looking at publishing an article on it or something?

RW:

Yeah. But there was—it’s a network, just like anything else. During the early years—now there’s a lot of really good books, and people go down there all the time, earmark exactly where to go to see things. But I was kind of an explorer as much as anything else. And then I did lead some tours down there, Smithsonian groups and some other organizations for a while, and then I got involved with butterflies. You know, once you’re involved with butterflies—

DM:

That’s it. You’ve reached the top.

RW:

Yeah, all the thousands of places I’ve been throughout Mexico and everywhere else, not even looking at a butterfly.

DM:

Have you ever been to the place where the monarchs go? I can’t remember where that is.

RW:

I’ve never been there, no. That’s one place I keep telling myself, “Well, I know where that is; that’s easy to get to. Sooner or later I’ll go there.” I just never did.

DM:

Yeah. Well that’s what I kind of had in mind when I thought, Is there a place where birds go? Any particular species, just cluster in one area, or are there any bird species that you know of that do that? Just go to one locale, like the monarchs?



RW:

Well, not in the same sense that the monarchs go into those fir forests. But all the native tropical birds, they spend their winter in Mexico and Central and South America. But a lot of them get down into that Southern Mexico area, and you can get a lot of the things down there that you'd have to go into Central America, or further down to see if you know where to go, during the wintertime. But I found out that my Mexico trips were kind of serendipitous; I'd go down there to see something and wander over someplace else and hear about something, and you go over there, and sure enough you find it. You find something different.

DM:

That really sounds like a fun way of doing it, too, kind of spontaneous. You can wander, and poke around. We were down in Buenos Aires one time, and there were Canada geese. How did that happen?

RW:

They're probably resident down there, aren't they?

DM:

I mean how would they make that push across equatorial South America to get to cooler climates? You ever heard, or read about that, or want to speculate on that?

RW:

No, Canada geese are everywhere. Nowadays you can find them anywhere practically in the Western hemisphere.

DM:

You would just think that being a cool climate bird, they wouldn't go that far south, but I guess conditions being right.

RW:

Well I found dozens of Canada geese in summer on the Death Valley golf course.

DM:

Is that right?

RW:

Yeah, so they're there.

DM:

They're adaptable. What about the people of Mexico? Were there birders among them that you would hook up with, or did you see any interest among locals?

RW:

It's amazing how many Mexicans know the birds. I'm not talking about the people that live in the towns, but once you get out into the village, they see things, and they know things. They may not know—or very few of them know the American terms for those birds, but if you could show them a picture of something, even some little warbler that you know is in the forest here someplace, and a farmer will look at it and say, "Oh yeah, right over there, if you just walk up that trail." It's just amazing to me the people that live there know the land. And they're some of the kindest, nicest people you'll ever meet.

DM:

So there's another resource you could call upon, talk to somebody in the area who can point to where the birds are, particular birds.

RW:

And over the years, there's been—there's usually some young adult that kind of advertises in all the larger cities where there's bird populations that will take people out to, and I guess a lot of these guys make their living that way, what meager that is. But there's a lot of—Mexico, the people that live out of cities just know a great deal about what's there, not just the birds and the mammals, but the trees and the—like one of the books that I first—*Naturalist Mexico* that they changed the title to *Birders Mexico*, which I didn't agree with—that's more about vegetation and all that, so that's what I was trying to do with that is talk about the habitats and what occurs in each of those habitats. And it sold really pretty well, but then they decided, Well there's more birders than there are naturalists, so let's change the title.

DM:

It's a marketing deal.

RW:

Yeah, hasn't sold nearly as well. But I—you know it's really sad when you think about it that it's almost impossible to get into Mexico anymore; there's just so many problems down there. I've got friends that've flown down to Cancun, or gone down into the Yucatán, and they say it's reasonably safe down there.

DM:

Little American colonies down there, tourist colonies.

RW:

But up around Northern Mexico is just horrible. I've got friends that they've got a house in Del Rio, but she's the manager of the Maderas del Carmens, which is those mountain ranges just south—

DM:

This is Bonnie McKinney?

RW:

Yeah, Bonnie McKinney. And they no longer drive. You know it's only about 120 miles from Del Rio to Múzquiz and another 40 miles down to their gate, but they have to fly back and forth; they're afraid to now.

DM:

Because of the traffic, the drug trafficking. Wow. That is sad because those people are so used to that country down there. It's not like newcomers who are afraid of the unknown environs.

RW:

Yeah. I imagine the tourist industry in Mexico was really a pretty important industry, but it's sure gone to hell.

DM:

So you went to all thirty-one states, and did bird counts in all thirty-one states. Is it thirty-one? Anyway, all the states of Mexico?

RW:

Yeah, I've got a bird list for every state in Mexico. I didn't go down there and do a count in every state, but when I'd go through the state going somewhere else, I'd keep track of all the species I saw in each state on those little checklist things I gave you. That's a result of that.

DM:

So I'll mention for the recording that you're talking about a donation of thirty-some odd checklists or so, a few dozen checklists of the birds of Mexico, and these are mostly winter, Christmas checklists?

RW:

All year.

DM:

All year? What else is in the box; you're donating a box of files on your work in Mexico. You had one for example on the imperial woodpecker. Are these species studies, or trip preparation notes?

RW:

Yeah, mainly trip preparation notes and digging out all the kind of information I could about a trip I was going to take. I think the imperial woodpecker one is pretty small; it's just records or some publications that people have done on them, and basically they're extirpated now I think.

DM:

So you think this is an extinct species?

RW:

I think so.

DM:

Since when?

RW:

Oh I don't know. I'd say—I was, in 1966, my first year at Big Bend is when I found that tree that I thought had imperial woodpecker holes in it. And then there were some friends from Austin that were down there, and they thought they saw an imperial woodpecker about the same locality where I had photographed that tree, so I went back not long after they were down there and spent a week just searching for that, and didn't find anything. But the best evidence I think that they were in there was that bear hunter who looked at the drawings, said, "Oh yeah, used to shoot them, eat them, don't find them anymore."

DM:

You know them pretty good if you've shot them and eaten them. You can probably identify them. Let me ask you about—you worked down at Big Bend for how long?

RW:

My first visit was '65. I went down there to see some friends and to see the Colima warbler. I was working at Death Valley at the time. And then—no I was working at Zion National Park at the time. And then I got an offer to be the chief naturalist at Big Bend in '66, so I went down there, and I worked there until '72.

DM:

Wow, quite a long time.

RW:

Yeah, six years. And then I—from there I went to their Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe, so I was still involved with the biology of Big Bend, and so I was there for six more years, so for about twelve years or so I was involved one way or another.

DM:

Seems like you were doing a lot of mammal work down there, too. Weren't you working on black bear studies and this kind of thing?

RW:

No, I was involved with giving permits and such to do studies as the chief naturalist, but I was not personally involved with bears at Big Bend. I was—anytime somebody came down that was doing those kinds of studies then I would give them a permit. I would spend some time with them, so I felt like I was involved, but it wasn't my project.

DM:

Clyde [Jones] used to speculate a little bit about the Carmen Mountain whitetail deer being a separate species, possibly. Did you ever hear anything about that or know of anyone who was studying that or have an opinion on it?

RW:

Well yeah, the Carmen whitetail deer, which also occurs in the Maderas del Carmens and just in the Chisos, that was a deer that was isolated. About fifteen thousand years ago, the entire lowlands in Big Bend was forested.

DM:

And some of that remnant forest is in the upper Chisos too, right?

RW:

Yeah, and then as the area became dry, the forested area shrunk, and the desert came in, and mule deer moved in the lowlands, and they pushed the whitetail up in the highlands, and so that's the only place they're found now.

DM:

Okay, but are they distinct enough from other whitetail deer to call them a species, or are they a variety?

RW:

I think they're a sub-species.



DM:

That's interesting. But apparently there was some recent speculation because I remember Clyde talking about this, that they could be a separate species—of course that's always a difficult proposition, I know, always room for interpretation there it seems like.

RW:

Well, one of Clyde's colleagues—I can't remember his name now, who was a mammologist—he was always talking about unique speciation among the deer and other things. What was his name? I want to say Nelson, but that's not right. But you know Maderas—the Carmen whitetail deer in the Chisos, and they're also in the Maderas, and they're also over in—what's the state park over there?

DM:

There's Big Bend Ranch State Park.

RW:

Not lowlands, but up in that higher area, there's a mountain range there.

DM:

Oh, Chinati.

RW:

Yeah, at Chinatis.

DM:

They're up there?

RW:

Yeah.

DM:

Well, that's interesting, the idea of them being remnant from twelve thousand years ago, so that earlier climate.

RW:

It was interesting, there was a guy, a paleontologist that would go into woodrat middens in the Dead Horse Mountains, and with these sticks that look like tree ring samples; I forget what they call them anymore. He'd go into woodrat houses, where all the woodrats had been living there for thousands of years, their ancestors, and pull that out and identify the pollen. And so through that, he was able to date when the changes took places.

DM:

That's amazing. Well that would make it really interesting being chief naturalist—to see people come in with these ideas, to kind of be on the cutting edge of the latest ideas in biology.

RW:

Yeah, my tenure at Big Bend was really pretty special because as the chief naturalist, my job was giving talks and walks and organizing visitor activities and all that kind stuff. But the guy that I replaced—really good guy, Doug Evans—he had been there for five years just before me, and they had redone the general management plan, which meant that you had to do all this Mickey Mouse stuff getting ready for the general manager plan, and Doug had spent all of his time working on these articles and these papers getting ready for this. So here I come, and that was all done, so my job was implementing all that stuff. You know doing the road guides and the trail guides and doing all the booklets and the river guide, all that kind of stuff. So I just really hit it perfect.

DM:

Now in this period, were you going over into Mexico a lot?

RW:

Not a lot. I had—my first trip down there was when I was at Zion. I went down on the West Coast and kind of fell in love with Mexico, and that's one of the reasons I was interested in moving to Big Bend, and so once I got there, then I started getting into the Maderas del Carmens a lot, then from there into other places and eventually every place in Mexico. But it was a slow—it was just something I had done early on but never really had an opportunity until I went to Big Bend and then all of a sudden, boom, there was times that—and during those years, today most of the employees there—and this is true for most of the national parks—are paper pushers. I mean there's so much crap that has to be done in all those offices, whether you're the ranger or the naturalist or administration. But in those years you could get out, like I scheduled my own time. I would get off at noon on Monday and wouldn't have to be back until Wednesday night or something like that, so I scheduled—and I did that for all the seasonal people that worked for me, too. And so we got really a lot done just wandering around the park getting into things that hadn't been seen much before.

DM:

Which was outstanding because it makes you an expert on the park.

RW:

Yeah. Now I think a place like Big Bend, it takes even someone like myself that spent almost all of my extra time outdoors wandering, I'd say its two and a half years or so before you really feel like you've got a handle on things. Pretty soon you can identify eighty percent of the plants. You

know all this kind of stuff, and then it all begins to fit together. But the trouble is today with the people in the parks they don't have time, they don't allow them time to get out, or they don't want to for whatever reason. And there're a few people, like at Big Bend there's a botanist that gets out quite a bit and so that person knows the plants, but it's—things have changed a lot. Things in the Park Service began to change drastically in 1972. In 1972 there was that riot at Yosemite National Park.

DM:

I don't remember that story. What—?

RW:

Well I don't remember exactly what had happened, but a whole bunch of people—hippies of the time—came in there and just wrecked the campground and all that kind of stuff and caused all kinds of problems. And so right after that, all park service new employees beginning in '72 had to go through a ranger training session, which is an eight-week thing as I recall. And all those guys that came out of that came out as cops. You know very few people that went through that came out as resource management; it was all law enforcement, maintenance of buildings, and all that kind of stuff. So that really changed the attitude of park employees a lot during that period, and sure the buildings were better protected, and the visitors were better protected, but a place so far away as Big Bend, they didn't really need all that to happen. Now of course border patrol is everywhere on the border.

DM:

What about liability issues? Was there a time when liability issues really hit the parks hard? Or did they ever?

RW:

Not during my period.

DM:

I would just think that now—it's such an issue everywhere else.

RW:

Well definitely now. But there were very few problems. I know that—I remember a time that—there was a ranch right outside the park there, Rosita's Ranch, where somebody—I guess I shouldn't really tell this story because I can't remember it—but somebody got in a wreck out there, was right on the border, and they tried to sue the park, and that was—I don't remember any more about that.

DM:

That was back when you were there, though?

RW:

I think I'd just left.

DM:

So mid-seventies or so—? '73?

RW:

Yeah, I was there '66-'72.

DM:

What year did you retire by the way?

RW:

'89. May '89. Turned fifty-five in March and retired in May.

DM:

Yeah. How old were you?

RW:

Fifty-five.

DM:

Wow. And then you started really writing?

RW:

That's right

DM:

Oh by the way, in the Mexico files—I know that you had some publications come out of Mexico. I remember specifically the Colima warbler article. Do you remember any other articles that came out of that work in Mexico? You had your bird lists. You had at least that one book on birding in Mexico. Were there others?

RW:

There were a lot of reprints, like what pops into my mind right now of one that I did on finding a—on Tiburon Island—finding a great blue heron and an osprey on the same cardon cactus, nesting. Things like that.

DM:

Really? On the same cactus? We have a list of all of your articles so we can look through and see what was done in Mexico. Anything else you can add about the Mexico collection or your work in Mexico?

RW:

Well after I retired—I switched from—after I retired I moved to Victoria—and you’ve seen that place, haven’t you? And that big garden out front. And I planted all kinds of stuff attracting hummingbirds. All of a sudden I realized there were a hell of a lot more butterflies out there than there were hummingbirds, so that really got me involved with butterflies, and I started learning those. And then one day I had a white-striped longtail out there, and I went into the house, and I said, “Betty, look at this.” She says, “I don’t want to see a butterfly.” “Well come on, look at it.” And so she walked out there, and here was this long-tailed skipper, and that was her butterfly number one. And so one of the reasons I guess I stayed with butterflies so long, you know, constantly, is that she really got involved with butterflies, and she’d never really—she’d like to see a big duck or something pretty but never really as much of a birder. But there were a number of years we spent a lot of time looking at butterflies, the two of us together, in particular going down to Mexico and I got tied in with a couple of the different groups, Smithsonian groups and some other outfits that toured down there, so I was one of the two or three leaders on several of them. And we went together and stayed down there, usually didn’t go very far just down to probably stayed overnight at Mante and did the Gomez Farias area and southern Tamaulipas and places like that. But it was just the whole world. It’s kind of like when I moved out to the Virgin Islands, all of a sudden here’s a desert ecologist looking at the coral reefs. Wonderful. It’s just a real world apart. But every park had that too. I think one of the reasons I enjoyed my park years so much is that I was always building collections, not physical collections, but doing bird counts and seeing how many birds I could find in all those parks, and making checklists and all that kind of stuff. And every park generally has a bird checklist, but when I got involved with butterflies, then I did that book on finding Texas butterflies—I think it includes seventy-two sites; I think there were only a half-a-dozen sites that had checklists of butterflies, just nobody kept lists. You’d go over to the Piney Woods, and there were two or three people there that would go on out and see butterflies and make a day list. But there were very few people that actually made lists to help others.

DM:

Well that’s got to be kind of exciting just helping to open up a new field, that you know people are going to follow, it just hadn’t happened as quickly as with birds.

RW:



Exactly. Turn that off, and let me before I forget about it let me give you the name of that—

*[End of Recording]*

