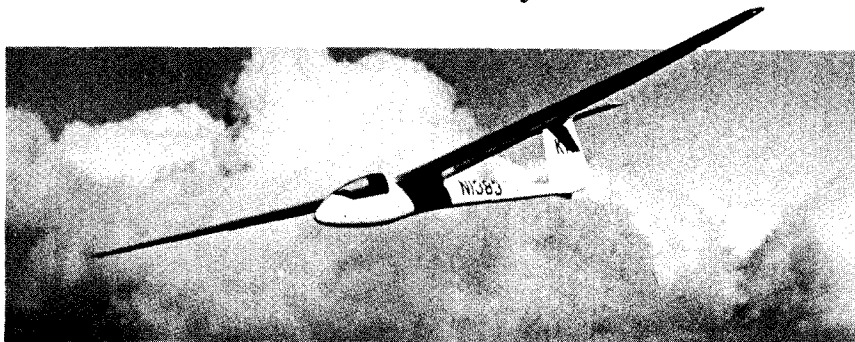


Twenty Off-Trail Trips for Offbeat Travelers

by Susan Ochshorn



GEORGE UVEGES



WILDERNESS SOUTHEAST

Soaring over southern California, top, canoeing on the Ogeechee, above, and trekking in New Mexico — "No 747."



SOUTHWEST SAFARIS

country may think, the East has places to climb mountains. Mount Washington Valley is one. Beginner and intermediate climbers can sign up with North Country Mountaineering in Hanover for 15-day excursions preceded by intensive instructions in rock climbing and mountaineering. Small groups spend the first week in the valley ascending eight peaks and the second week in picturesque Franconia Notch. Provisions, guides, and instruction will run you \$550.

Soaring from the stars. The sailplane sure ain't no 747! Engineless, it rises on currents of air, swirling about in space. For adventures in flight, the Santa Monica-based Soaring Society of America will provide all the rules of the game as well as a directory of soaring sites in the U.S. Introductory flights are available for as little as \$20 and it is possible to become proficient even if you are not Charles Lindbergh reincarnate.

Hang gliding. Man has always fancied himself in flight, even given the legacy of ill-fated Icarus. Now you don't have to be Peter Pan to glide through the stratosphere. With the help of a collapsible, aluminum-tubed Dacron kite (known in the trade as a Rogallo glider), you can live out your fantasy amid the country's fields and hills. The Los Angeles area, home of the U.S. Hang Gliding Association, is a favorite site, but there are places to glide throughout the nation. Rates for a three-hour introductory session average about \$20.

Trekking in the Southwest. For eclectic explorers eager to penetrate the vast and rugged terrain of the southwestern U.S., Southwest Safaris in Santa Fe leads small groups in bush planes, jeeps, and rafts through Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. Hike through ancient cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde, take a jeep through the canyonlands of Utah, or board a raft down Gooseneck Canyon on the San Juan River. Fly over the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, and Chaco Canyon, 13th-century settlement of the Anasazi Indians whose complex network of roads and drainage patterns is visible in stark relief from the air. Ex-

Jeeping in the desert. In The Tracks of Fremont, a Nevada outpost, invites you to follow across the Mojave Desert and the Great Basin, through hot springs, salt flats, sagebrush, sage steppes, and marshes. Small groups of 15 travel in GMC trucks accompanied by expert naturalists eager to impart skills for survival in the desert and to share their historical and cultural knowledge of this frontier. Eight days and nights for \$615.

Pack-tripping in the Chiricahua Mountains. If you love to go a-wanderin' with your knapsack on a back that is not your own, this trip is for you. Price Canyon Ranch in Douglas, Arizona, is home base for four- to 12-day horseback explorations of more than 400 miles of wilderness trails that range through altitudes from 5,000 to 9,000 feet. Clinics orient inexperienced pack-trippers. Rates are \$50 per day per person including food, lodging, instruction, and all gear except personal belongings.

Canoeing on the Ogeechee River. Georgia's mid-Piedmont is the home of this untamed, black-water river. Pines,

palmetto, unexplored swamps, magnolias, and giant cypresses. For seekers of wildlife, this Southern Safari provides occasional glimpses of otters and alligators as well as a large storehouse of not-so-wild shrimp and clams. Wilderness Southeast, a self-described "school of the outdoors" based in Savannah, provides careful and dedicated guidance in river exploration. Camping, good meals, and a shuttle to get you back to your car at trip's end. Departures May 20, July 19, October 5, and November 2. May trip is six days, July trip is four; the others are three days

Heli-skiing in the wilds of Wyoming. Tired of battling the claustrophobic crush of your neighborhood ski slopes? A solution is at hand. From December through April you can hop on a helicopter in Jackson Hole and be transported to a winter wonderland of deep-powdered solitude in the Teton National Forest area. Not a soul in sight. Just you and the snow. Single runs, \$25; 20 runs, \$450; 50 will cost you \$1,000.

Mountaineering in New Hampshire. Contrary to what the rest of the



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Last year, The Travelers settled the largest single claim in its history: 14 million dollars because of the collapse of the roof of the Hartford Coliseum.

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“Splendid time to come to Britain,



TWA Getaway Tours. Pound for pound, some of the best ways to see Britain.

old boy. This pint's on me"

Geoffrey Moss, at "The Philharmonic" pub, Liverpool.

"The Philharmonic" has been my pub for quite a time. I'm able to come in at the same time every day, and see my mates standing in the same spot, then we have a few pints and play dominoes. Nice feeling—like a club. New faces are always welcomed.

"Like this American couple the other day. They walk in, total strangers, ask what kind of local ale is good, I put in my bit of advice, and straightaway, we're carrying on talking and laughing like we'd all been chums for years. Then I taught him how to play darts. He won. Bit cheeky, don't you think?"

Great people. Great values.

Great Britain. Can you honestly say, after meeting Geoffrey Moss, that you could see Britain without stepping into a pub? Didn't think so.

Can we honestly say that Britain is one of the greatest vacation values this side of the Atlantic? Yes. And here's why.

TWA Getaway Tours. America's number one choice to Europe.

They can take you all over Britain and save you pounds all around.

Up to Scotland. Great buys on tweeds and tartans. Dinners of fresh salmon and wild game. Edinburgh, where pipers will pipe for the sheer joyous pride of it. And the scenery. It seems like even the hills wear kilts. Plaids of green peat and purple heather. Incredible.

Windsor. Oxford. Warwick. Stratford-upon-Avon, where you'll see something you'll never forget—a Shakespeare play, performed where he wrote it.

The countryside. Thatched cottages hidden in sleepy valleys. Apple cider. Honey and jams and jellies on scones warm from the oven. Delicious.

Of course, a TWA Getaway Tour gives you time to get around London quite nicely, thank you. By the by, the Tower of London is 901 years old this year. Admission is still only \$2.45, and that includes a look at the Crown Jewels.

And a good seat at a London theatre costs just slightly more than half what it costs on Broadway.

Getaway to Wales. A land wealthy in castles like Carreg-Cennen, a mist-shrouded ruin that has a magical effect on all who enter. Perhaps because it was

once the home of Merlin the Magician. And you can't beat the price of admission. It's free.

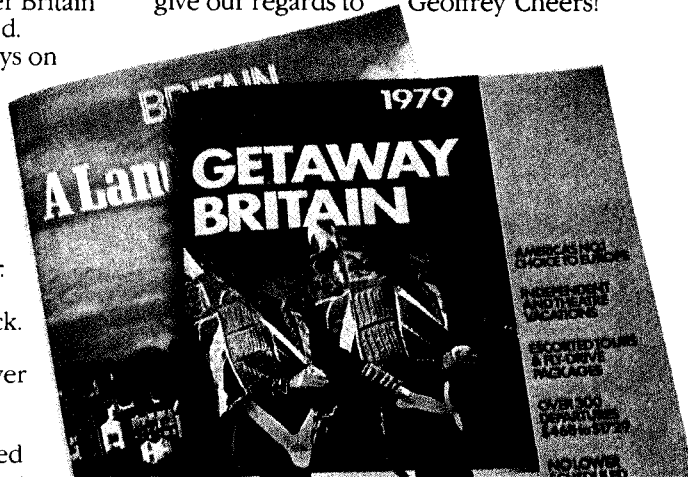
So is the British Museum. And the National Gallery. And for only \$12, you can pick up an "Open-to-View" ticket that opens the doors and drawbridges of more than 525 castles, palaces and mansions.

Come for nine days, a fortnight, or more. A TWA Getaway Tour can take you from London to Wales to Scotland. It includes round-trip economy jet air fare, hotels, breakfasts, and more.

On some you're practically on your own, while on others you're escorted on luxurious motorcoaches. Or you can take a Fly-Drive vacation with a Hertz rental car.

They all include dollar-stretching discounts at shops and restaurants, theatre tickets, and much more.

Free for the asking. Send for these free brochures. Then see your travel agent. And if you're ever in Liverpool, stop in at "The Philharmonic" pub and give our regards to Geoffrey Cheers!



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peditions from one to six days range from \$199 to \$800.

Rafting in the Grand Canyon. The Colorado River is the avenue of adventure. With the largest rapids in the U.S., it is also a mine of geological information. Numerous professional tours, with oar- or motor-powered rafts to choose from. Wet, splashy, break-neck-speed exhilaration in sessions ranging from long weekends to two-week excursions. Costs with equipment, food, and guides range from \$450 to \$700. Prerequisite: ability to endure variations in temperature, bugs, rain, wind, scrapes, and the unexpected upset of your craft.

Dogsledding in Mt. McKinley National Park. Brrrrrr! Bring your warmest woolies for this chilly excursion into arctic Alaska. Icy mountains and rolling tundra. Day tours, sponsored by Denali Dog Tours in McKinley Park, are \$100 for two people; limit one person per team for trips of several days. Cost includes team of huskies, driver, meals, and for overnight journeys, lodging in range-patrol cabins or heated tent camps. No lazy man's idyll, these trips require that all participants work with the musher to drive the sled over the trails. Stamina and coordination are essential.

Houseboating on the Mississippi. Light out for the territories Huck Finn style in the American heartland of Iowa. Tall bluffs, oaks, maples, weeping willows, deer, abundant fish and wildlife. Camp on isolated sandbars and watch the great river flow. A-1 Rental Center in Dubuque sports a cast of 8 houseboats, the most luxurious of which is a 40-foot electric vessel complete with air conditioning, six-speaker stereo system, and a generating plant for appliances. Sleeps eight to 10 people for a weekly rate of \$850 June through September. Lower rates off-season. Huck never had it so good.

Ballooning over the Bay. According to adventure connoisseurs, the San Francisco Bay area is one of the best sites for ballooning, because of its favorable weather conditions. Introductory flights over the Napa Valley, San Francisco Peninsula, or the Bay region average about \$100 for two. Some operators offer sunrise floats over the lush California countryside, capped by champagne. Available year round. Up, up, and bye-bye!

Kayaking in North Carolina. Smoky Mountain white waters provide a scenic school for adventurers interested in learning how to maneuver

these crafts of Eskimo origin. Nantahala Outdoor Center, in Bryson City, offers classes for beginners and advanced kayakers on the Nantahala, Chattooga, Little Tennessee, and French Broad rivers. Weekend clinic, \$100. Five-day clinic, \$200. Package includes instruction, equipment, lodging, food, and transportation to and from rivers.

Deep-sea diving in Wisconsin. Wisconsin, you say? Yes, at the bottom of Lake Michigan and Green Bay lie sunken wooden sailing ships and steamers, their spilled cargoes of ore and other goods patrolled by salmon, perch, and salamanders. Half- and full-day dives can be arranged by chartering boats from On The Rocks in Ellison Bay for \$8 to \$12. May through October.



San Francisco in a basket—"best site"

Bush flying in Alaska. Neither rain, nor snow, nor hail, nor frigid tundra temperatures keep Arctic mailmen from their appointed rounds. Fly with them out of Nome on Munz Northern Airlines to remote Eskimo settlements. Destinations include Shishmaref, a faraway outpost on the Bering Sea under the Arctic Circle, White Mountain, and Gambell, a bird-watcher's Eden. Arid tundra spotted with caribou, reindeer, bears, and moose, all for under \$100.

Bicycling on the Virginia loop. An inexpensive and healthy mode of transportation, the bicycle has rapidly pedaled its way into travelers' itineraries. Bikecentennial, a national organization, based in Missoula, Montana, sponsors a 14-day, 300-mile trip through historic and scenic Virginia. You'll visit the Chesapeake Canal (where a partially restored mule tow-path has been converted into a hiking and cycling road), Harper's Ferry,

Charleston, and Civil War-renowned Fredericksburg. Then on to the northern end of the fertile Shenandoah Valley, panoramic Skyline Drive, and the Virginia Piedmont. Departures from Washington, D.C., May 14, 21, June 11, 18, and September 10.

Caving at Big Horn. A paleontologist's paradise awaits in a Wyoming mountain cave. Earthwatch, a Massachusetts matchmaker, unites researching scientists with laymen interested in donating time and manpower to their cause. Descend into a 65-foot vertical shaft by free-fall rappel or scaffold to examine antelope, bear, and camel skeletons on the cave's 20,000-year-old bottom layer. Observe environmental changes during full glacial, late Pleistocene, and Holocene periods. Staging area is Cody, Wyoming. Your tax-deductible \$725 (the money is recycled into the research project) covers camping, food, and equipment. Three-week field trips in June, July, and August.

Parachuting. If soaring or hang gliding isn't your fancy, join the 30,000 parachutists who are keeping this country jumping. You needn't be Evel Knievel to partake in this sport (or art form, as some divers call it). Old and young who are sound in spirit and body can be trained to dive. First jumps, including equipment, instruction, and air transportation, cost from \$55 to \$80. The U.S. Parachute Association, in Washington, D.C., can direct you to your local jump center.

Hiking in the Sierra Nevada. The Great Outdoors is big business in California with the stunning Sierra one of its most formidable resources. Natural beauty abounds, as do mountaineering expeditions specially tailored to individual needs. One- and two-week excursions offered by the Mountain People School in San Anselmo; departures from San Rafael. Trips into the Tahoe National Forest emphasize wilderness skills such as campcraft, cooking, first aid, and survival techniques. Opportunities for rock climbing and exploring off-trail areas.

Windjamming off Maine. Sail away in the cool waters of northernmost New England on schooners. Work with crew or just relax by swimming, fishing, and exploring coastal towns and islands. Itineraries include Swans Island, Boothbay Harbor, Vinalhaven, Stonington (a fishing village built on granite terraces), and Penobscot Bay. Group charters, available from June through September, run about \$250 a week. ●

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In recent years, the steel industry has found it difficult to generate sufficient funds to invest in all the newer and more productive facilities desired. Steel imports dumped into our country, soaring costs, and heavy environmental demands have all taken their toll on profits.

Solutions to these and other problems will help us generate additional funds for capital investment...help us adopt new technology wherever practical to cut our costs and improve our profitability. Bethlehem will continue to seek those solutions.

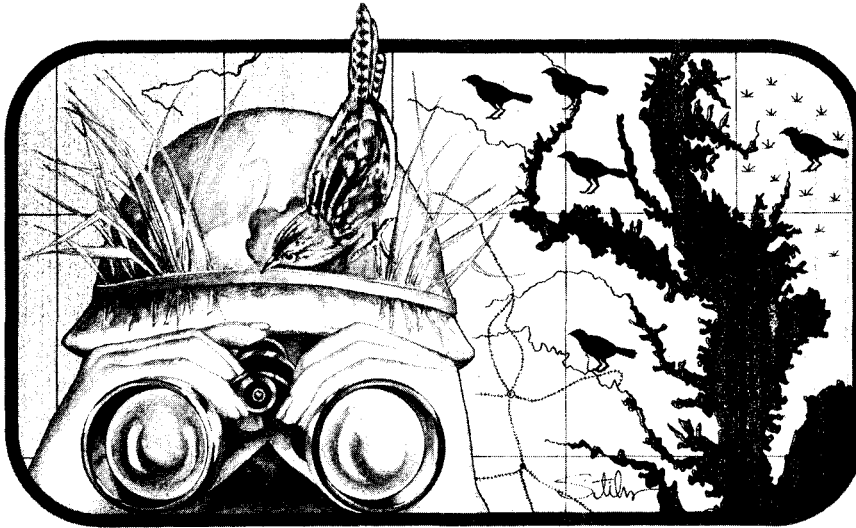
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Watching the Feathers Fly

by Jonathan Evan Maslow



OF ALL THE SPORTS that approximate war, perhaps none comes closer to the full-fledged military encounter than birding. What?—I hear you choking—surely you cannot mean bird-watching!

Well, no: not exactly. You see, bird-watching is that most pacific, pastoral pursuit of the high-minded conservationist, the eccentric widow, and the curious adolescent, himself a rare species. I mean *birding*, the highly competitive sport that has been quietly replacing traditional bird-watching in this country—is something altogether different. Birders are out to count species of birds, not to pine over feather and song. They go forth for the glorious goal of amassing the longest list of species, not for pausing in quiet contemplation of the red-breasted nuthatch in flight.

Birders do not shiver in a cold blind. They storm the countryside in platoonlike detachments, during daylong campaigns in which no quarter is given. They scout, deploy specialists, and coordinate a highly mobile assault on foot, in cars, motorboats, and, sometimes, small planes. And they come armed with the most advanced technology of the birding-industrial complex, from tape recordings of predator calls (dandy for routing shy warblers from thickets), to low-level explosives like cherry bombs (fine for flushing marsh birds from their roosts when tossed in from a speeding auto).

Birding does have a secondary environmental justification: Knowing how many birds are to be found in a

given locale on a given day helps ornithologists plot population trends and habitat changes. Each Christmas week the National Audubon Society, harnessing the efforts of the birders in the interest of conservation, sponsors a nationwide bird count.

Environmentalism could no doubt use the services of eight million bird-counters (the current total, according to the Commerce Department's estimate). But the true birder, or "lister," as he is sometimes known, secretly scoffs at the nature-for-nature's-sake types. After all, he has his "domestic life list" to increase and, provided he is wealthy enough, his "world life list," which can run to over 5,000 species. While the bird-watcher is wasting time in peace and solitude, our birder is busy strategizing to add "exclusives," or rare birds, to his embossed record book. And when birders gather for their team counts—well, there's the honor of the regiment to uphold.

I traveled to southern New Jersey for last year's Audubon-sponsored count. While Aurora still snuggled under her pink cloud comforter, an insistent hammering came at my motel-room door. It was not a pileated woodpecker, but birding's Napoleon, David Cutler, in paratroop boots and flyer's jacket, field glasses around his neck, tape recorder in hand, Roger Tory Peterson in his hip pocket. In the parking lot, Cutler's silver-gray Cadillac convertible pawed the ground in eagerness. The battle of Cape May, New Jersey, was about to commence.

Cutler has campaigned at Cape May,

and numerous other places, for almost 40 years, rising through the ranks of the Boy Scouts to the enlisted men and thence to his present exalted position as Group I leader. No one would deny that Cutler rates his command. Although he claims that "listing really isn't my thing," he has cornered the white-naped manakin, found the snowy cotinga in the steaming jungles of Panama. Pressed to abandon his modesty, Generalissimo Butler admits to having notched upwards of 650 species on his domestic life list.

More important for my present purpose, Generalissimo Cutler has repeatedly led the winning group at Cape May, scoring on one occasion a record count of 118 species. "A crack birder has three qualities," says the Generalissimo, who numbers people as well as he does birds. "One, he's devoted. Two, he has a good memory. You win this game by moving fast. And three, he's a planner."

Cutler produced a topographical map of Cape May with the group territories marked in bold red. "My people will cover the entire territory once over lightly in the morning, meet at noon to decide what we still need, then divide up again for the afternoon mop-up operation." He added with no note of apology, "Sorry I can't take time to show you much about birds today. A bird count isn't the best day to see birds, I'm afraid."

The Generalissimo's strategy had been activated long before sunrise, when his group's handpicked owl specialist, Dr. Ed Reimann, hit the fields and woods around Cape May Airport with a tape recording of owl calls. When they hear potential territorial interlopers, owls protest. Dr. Ed simply listened for the telltale screech or hoot, and chalked them up as finds for Group I.

With Dr. Ed in the woods, Jim Meritt, New Jersey editor of *Audubon News*, scouring hedgerows and thickets, and two younger birders advancing over Group I's northern marsh, the Generalissimo had deployed his troops. Now I accompanied him in the Cadillac (top down in wintry weather) along the Cape May causeway. He drove in the left lane, swerving to avoid oncoming cars and climbing the shoulder to search the edges of the great marsh