



# NEWS

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

February 20, 1997

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## **REPORT SHOWS WILDLIFE WATCHERS ARE BIG SPENDERS**

More than 76 million Americans watched, photographed, and fed birds and other wildlife in 1991, spending \$18.1 billion, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report. This spending generated nearly \$40 billion in total economic activity across the country, supporting 766,000 jobs and resulting in \$3 billion in state and Federal tax revenues.

Equipment and other expenditures accounted for \$10.6 billion of the \$18.1 billion in direct expenditures, according to the report, "1991 Economic Impacts of Nonconsumptive Wildlife-Related Recreation." Of this amount, nearly a third was for off-road vehicles, tent trailers, motor homes, and pick-up trucks.

Wildlife watchers spent \$7.5 billion on travel-related goods and services. Of this amount, 40 percent was for food and drink, 35 percent was for transportation, and 19 percent was for lodging. They also spent \$2.2 billion on cameras, film, and developing and \$1.5 billion on wild bird food.

The report noted that 109 million Americans participated in wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and fishing. By comparison, 105 million attended major league football, basketball, hockey, and baseball games in 1991.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Publications Unit at 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 130, Arlington, VA 22203; telephone: 703-358-1711.

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