

The Snipe

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The Newsletter of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

www.ascabird.org

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Petit Jean Audubon Society

This is a complimentary copy of the Snipe going to the members of the Petit Jean Audubon Society. This issue list the activities from December through February. All activities are free and open to non-members. If you have an interest, please feel free to join us on any activity and if you have questions about any activity, program or field trip, please feel free to contact any officers listed on page 3.

Christmas season is upon us, it's time for the annual **ASCA Christmas Potuck**

This year the potluck will be held at Faith Baptist Church Family Life Center, Thursday, December 9, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. ASCA will provide drinks, plates and utensils. Please bring a dish or desert. There will not be a silent auction this year.

Directions to Faith Baptist Church Family Life Center.

From the South/East on I-40: Take the Levy exit in North Little Rock. At the light, turn right. This road will become Camp Robinson Road within about a block, so stay on this street until you reach the church at the corner of 56th and Camp Robinson From the North/West on I-40: Take the Levy exit in North Little Rock. Turn left at the end of the exit ramp. In approximately one block at the light turn right and cross the railroad track. At the second light, turn left onto Camp Robinson Road. Stay on this street until you reach the church at the corner of 56th and Camp Robinson.

BILL HOLIMON

Do you care if our Audubon chapter folds?

Do you like the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas? Do you want to see it continue as a viable organization? If so, do you think it is best that this chapter remain affiliated with the National Audubon Society or should the chapter become an independent organization? If you consider these issues important, please attend our annual planning meeting on January 13, 2004 at the Fletcher Library at 7:00 pm. We will be electing new officers and we are in dire need of individuals that are willing to provide leadership as Chapter President, Chapter Vice-President, and Newsletter Editor.

The number of members that are consistently active in our chapter activities has dwindled to a near critical threshold. In addition, those members that are consistently active have served the chapter in various officer capacities in the past, are in need of a break, and in some cases are unwilling to serve in an officer capacity during the next term that begins in January. If you like our chapter and think it is a worthy endeavor, please step forward and help out. Your help could make a big difference and would be greatly appreciated.

Arkansas Rare Bird Alert (RBA)

The RBA lists rare and unusual birds found throughout the state, and if possible directions to these birds. To report or hear the latest sightings, call (501)753-5853. The number is listed as J.J. Audubon in the phone book, the only white page listing with the last name Audubon.

Its time to renew Chapter Only Memberships for 2004/2005

To find out when you last paid you dues, please contact Barry Haas via phone or email; 821-4097 or bhaas@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming Programs of the ASCA

The ASCA meets at 7:00 PM the second Thursday of each month at the John Gould Fletcher Library which can be found at 823 Buchanan Street, the corner of Buchanan and H Street just off North University Avenue. The programs are free and open to the public.

December 9, 2004: ASCA Christmas Potluck

Faith Baptist Church Family Life Center– 6:30 p.m. For directions see page 1.

January 15, 2005: Annual business meeting.

There will be no formal program at this meeting. This meeting is critical to the future of ASCA. See the President's Column on page 2 for more information.

February 9, 2005: To Be Announced

In the future please check the ASCA website www.ASCAbird.org for future Announcements pertaining to this program. Or feel free to contact any of the officers on the right hand side of this page for further information.

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Vacant: Education, Outreach, and Publicity

Christmas Bird Counts

There will be several Counts around the state this year. Below is a partial listing for Arkansas. For these to be successful, volunteers are needed.

Wednesday, December 15

Crooked Creek Sally Jo Gibson sjogibson@alltel.net
(Harrison)

Saturday, December 18

Arkadelphia	Max Parker	max.parker@earthlink.net
Conway	Martha Johnson	amjohnson@alltel.net
Ft. Smith	Sandy Berger	fsbirdlady@yahoo.com
Illinois Bayou	Leif Anderson	leanderson@fs.fed.us
Little Rock	Lyndal York	jlyork@aristotle.net
Magnolia-L. Columbia	Sterling Lacy	slacy@magnolia-net.com
Pine Bluff	Rob Doster	calcarius@comcast.net

Tuesday, December 21

Holla Bend Leif Anderson leanderson@fs.fed.us

Upcoming Field Trip Schedule

The ASCA sponsors numerous field trips throughout the year. The trips are open to all and carpooling is available for trips outside of Little Rock. This is a great opportunity for novice birders to meet and learn their birds from more experienced birders. Perhaps a chance to get a life bird for those dedicated birders. Contact Drew Phillips, Field Trip Chairman, at 501-228-5245 or drewmilp@yahoo.com for more detailed information about any of the upcoming trips.

December 18, 2004: Little Rock Christmas Bird Count December 19, 2004: Lonoke Christmas Bird Count

There will not be a scheduled December Field Trip. I encourage you to participate in the Little Rock and Lonoke Christmas Bird Count. Contact Lyndal York (501-663-2192) for more information.

JANUARY 15, 2005 HOLLA BEND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

We will meet at the Christ the King parking lot at 7:30 AM. We should arrive at the front gate of Holla Bend around 9:30 AM. We will look for geese and Bald Eagles as well as other winter residents of the refuge. This trip will not involve a great deal of walking. Bring a sack lunch.

February 2005 To be Announced

In the future please check the ASCA website www.ASCAbird.org for future announcements pertaining to this fieldtrip. Or feel free to contact Drew Phillips, Field Trip Chairman, at 501-228-5245 or drewmilp@yahoo.com.

Calliope Hummingbird returns to West Little Rock

Last year a Calliope Hummingbird made a rare winter visit to west Little Rock. Apparently the bird liked the hospitality so much that it decided to return again this winter. Now he has a complete gorget. If you would like to visit, please call Mr. or Mrs. Major at 501-821-3034 for both permission and directions. The bird is wintering at the Major's home. If no answer, call Max or Helen Parker at 501-225-6589 for directions.

Field Trip Report

Lake Dardanelle, November 20

The weather was great as ten birders left Little Rock for Lake Dardanelle. A total of 27 species were tallied for the day. Highlights were, Bonaparte's Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, scaup, Gadwall, Fish Crow, Wild Turkey, Red-shouldered Hawk, and two Bald Eagles.

The Rock Wren was seen on the Russellville side of the Lock and Dam – on the Dardanelle side, we watched as a Great Blue Heron, pondered what to do with a large fish he caught, only to have it stolen and eaten by another Great Blue.

At Kiddie Pool Point, Mel White's scope tried to take a swim in the lake, but was saved by a protruding tree root. Kenny Nichol's caught up with us there and treaded several with a tour of their new lake home. One of the Bald Eagles made in impressive fly by no long after we arrived.

Robert Herron took pictures of the Rock Wren and the Great Blue with his fish. They are posted on his website at www.pbase.com/rherron

Florence Mallard

Florence Sickel Mallard of Woodlands, Texas, died Sunday, September 26, 2004, after a long illness. She was 87 years old. Born in Stuttgart, Arkansas, Florence Sickel was the only daughter in a family with five children. She married in the early years of World War II to Henry Clay Mallard, a local small businessman. In the early '50s, the family moved to Alabama to pursue a business opportunity. She returned to Little Rock after the death of her husband, in 1964, where she worked as a school secretary at Pulaski Heights Elementary School, until her retirement.

In the late 1970s, Florence Mallard became a devoted birder, after attending an Audubon camp in Maine. This became her passion. She spent many happy hours in the Arkansas countryside pursuing sightings of the rich bird population that resides or passes through the state. She was occasionally a traffic hazard when she would suddenly hit the brakes of her car should an interesting bird appear on the roadside. Her car bumper warned "Caution-Sudden Stops-Bird Watcher." While Florence would sometimes complain about the weather, however, if you put her on a frigid riverbank at the daybreak with the chance to see a new bird species, she was a most intrepid outdoorswoman. In her later years, when she was encouraged to walk for exercise, the "walks" would consist of a few hundred feet followed by long pauses peering through binoculars, often with a grandchild in tow.

Growing out of her passion for bird watching, Mrs. Mallard became an avid conservationist. She was active in numerous environmental and conservation causes in Arkansas, serving as President of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (1980-81) and a coordinator for the Arkansas Conservation Coalition. Governor Bill Clinton recognized her stewardship by appointing her to the 1980 Task Force on Timber Management. She was the founding President in 1991-92 of the Partners for Pinnacle, a group established to invigorate the moribund Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Never afraid to challenge thoughtless development by the powerful, she was instrumental in preserving Faulkner Lake for the people of Arkansas.

Florence Mallard received numerous awards in recognition of her service. These include the 1984 William Dutcher Award; the 1985 AWF-Sears Conservation Achievement Award; and the Arkansas Wildlife Federation named her Conservationist of the Year in 1985, citing her work as State Audubon Conservation Chair. She was honored by the Arkansas Times in 1989 as an Arkansas Hero.

Mrs. Mallard died in the Woodlands, Texas, where she had moved for health reasons to be near her son George. In addition to him, his wife, Susie, and granddaughter, Stephanie, she is survived by her son, Dr. Henry Clay Mallard, his wife, Catherine, and grandson, Jeremy, of New York City.

Funeral services were held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Tollville, Arkansas, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004 .

I would rather go birding that get into controversy. However if we are to continue birding, it is imperative that we assume responsibility for speaking out against environmental practices.

Florence Mallard, The Pulaski Snipe, October 14, 1981