A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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IN THIS ISSUE
The President's Column... 2
Reportings to Rare Bird Alert 2
Breeding Bird Surveys 3
Welcome New Members!! 4
Calendar of Events 4
Hotlines 4

1992 Birdathon
The 1st Annual ASCA Birdathon is winding down and about one dozen birders with varying skills participate this first year. The reports given by participants at the May meeting were all similar: that everyone had fun, raised some money, and are already planning next year to identify even more species. Some of the participants pledged for their own sightings, choosing not to solicit anyone for contributions. Each person contacted individually, friends and business acquaintances and asked for their support. ASCA's Board had voted to dedicate any funds raised this year to support the Audubon Adventurers classroom program as well as research to help eliminate the need to kill birds that eat fish on commercial fish farms. Many of the sponsors chose to pledge a flat amount rather than a set amount per species identified. Sponsor contributions could be as small as $5 and as much as $25 per species (a total of $37 in one case).

After the Birdathon, participants notified their sponsors of what they saw, both those species that they expected to see as well as those that they weren't aware that were real. Hours spent birding and places visited also figured in most reports to sponsors.

Peters attended to Birdathon participants at the June potluck included a hummingbird feeder and an outdoor thermometer (donated by Kaufman Lumber), a manucise (courtesy of businessman Sherry Phillips) and a set of three Visits Nature Guides (courtesy of Hazel Feeding Ingredients). We thank these companies for their support of this worthwhile Audubon project.

Endangered Species Act Reauthorization
This summer the Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization. There will be several bills introduced trying to weaken or strengthen the Act. Presently there are two bills introduced in the House of Representatives that will weaken the Act. They are H.R. 3092 and H.R. 4608. However, one bill introduced that will strengthen the ESA and is endorsed by the National Audubon Society and other conservation groups is the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1992, to oppose H.R. 3092 and H.R. 4608.

July Field Trip
ASCA has a field trip planned for Saturday, July 18, to the Lone Fish Hatchery to see shoebills. Meet at the War Memorial parking lot at 7:00 am. Bring a lunch and drinks.

Stop the Parks" Campaign
By the time you read this the campaign to "Save the Parks" will be underway. Last year ASCA was among the plaintiffs who filed suit against the city of Little Rock and the Army Corps of Engineers to stop the construction of a commuter expressway along the Arkansas River. The road, if completed, would seriously damage the usefulness of the existing parks (LaFarge, Murray and Rehabsam) along the stretch of Rehabsam Park Road. The lawsuit was successful in federal court here in Little Rock and the city of Little Rock and the Corps chose to appeal to the 8th Circuit Court in St. Louis rather than deal with the problem here in Little Rock.

The event has been started to place the issue on the November ballot. A number of prominent supporters, including a former Little Rock mayor, have already joined the effort to save this area for recreation uses only—hiking, biking, walking and birding among others. If you care about the Rock and would like to help in this campaign (to allow the voters, and rather the city board Corp. to decide the ultimate disposition of this issue), please contact ASCA Treasurer Barry Haas (225-0509) who is helping lead the efforts.

What else can you do? Call any member of the Little Rock Board of Directors (371-4516 at City Hall) and tell them their support of this project will confirm your vote. They will listen if their position on this issue threat- en their political future! Your voice can, and will, make a difference.

NOTICE
If you think you have missed an issue of the SNIP, or you receive more than one copy, contact Myra or Carl Ruyven (see address on page 2).

Help Protect Endangered Species
Our national forests are home to some of our nation's most endangered wildlife and are a priceless resource. You can protect this resource by supporting the following legislation:

The Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Act (H.R. 169)
The National Forest Timber Cost Recovery Act (H.R. 842/S. 1344)
The President's Column

April was a busy month for ASCA. We participated in several joint efforts with other organizations. As a result, we had at least one event scheduled every week-end in April and early May. Some weekends we even had two or three events scheduled.

Holly Felix, ASCA's Field Trip Chairperson, has done an excellent job of scheduling various field trips for us. She has had trips to see and hear Rufus Grinnan drumming, a trip to Harris Bricker Wildlife Management Area and Camp Robinson Wildlife Management Area. Come join us on our field trips and you will be rewarded with the wonder of nature and the fellowship of good friends.

ASCA was also busy working with other organizations providing educational opportunities for people to learn more about birds. The annual ASCA Crab Bird Course was a stunning success with the help of the Staff of Pineland Mountain State Park. Later in the month we had two events on the same day. Carl Hunter filled in for Florence Maguire at the Stuartsburg Agricultural Museum by providing one of his outstanding programs. That same day ASCA joined the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department in its first Annual Spring Fling in Allsup Park. Barry Haus, Mary Ellen Stoddack and myself worked providing information about birds and ASCA and leading birdwalks.

As you can see, ASCA stays busy providing opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about birds and the environment. Come join us and share the fun.

— Drew Phillips

1992 AAS Fall Meeting

Make plans now to attend the Fall Meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society the weekend of October 29 through November 1. The meeting will be held at DeGray Resort State Park in Bismarck, AR (near Arkadelphia). The dates were changed last year, so if you have already arranged for your lodging, please check and make sure you have reserved the correct dates.

For anyone wishing to contact the DeGray Lake Resort Lodge, call 501-860-6191. They have reserved a block of rooms for AAS (make sure you mention AAS when you call). Many more details will be in the September AAS newsletter (and a future column, so stay tuned. Don’t be left out of the fun!

— Barry Haus

ASCA’s Regional Connection to the top National Audubon Board of Directors

Jan Bran, 4803 E. Sikes Rd
Springfield, MO 65809
417-866-5564

April Field Trip to Tar Camp Park

Fifteen enthusiastic birders made up the group for the ASCA Field Trip to the Tar Camp Park near Bedford, AR, on April 11. The group included at least four participants in the Crab Bird Course and a few other birders. We met at 7:45 A.M. in Little Rock, AR, then drove to Tar Camp Park. As we drove through the eastern section of the park, we saw several species of birds. The park, as usual, was loaded with woodpeckers: Red-bellied, Red-headed, Pileated, Northern Flicker, and Downy. Several hundreds of American Goldfinch, most in their nearly complete breeding plumage, foraged throughout the entire park.

Along the 3/4 mile nature trail we added Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-eyed Vireo and several others. One sharp-eyed member of the group, Gary Smith, spotted a pair of great-tailed grackles going to their nest in a large oak tree. There also appeared to be a hummingbird nest in the same oak, although on a different branch. It was, however, not active at that time. Other sightings were Great-crested Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-shouldered hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Purple Martin and Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

A total of 42 species were identified at Tar Camp. One bird kept singing all morning but somehow could not be identified. At least one promised to go straight home and listen to warbler tapes until it could be identified. What a day!

P.S. Tar Camp Park is a ‘don’t miss’ birding spot within easy driving distance for central Arkansas birders.

— Barry Haus

April 12, 1992

The Smith is published bi-monthly by the Arkansas Audubon Society of Central Arkansas. All editorial correspondence is to be sent to the editor, 7538 Powell Dr., Sherwood 72121. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Phone 417-465-000

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Check the Membership You Desire (includes Audubon Magazine)

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Name (Please Print)

Address

City, State Zip

Local Chapter: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, NAS #B-50

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.

July 1992 – 3

Get involved and make a difference.

Join the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA) and you automatically become a member of the National Audubon Society. You will receive the bi-monthly national Audubon magazine and the newsletter, published bi-monthly by ASCA. It is important for new members to join ASCA, as a portion of your dues supports local activities.

To join, complete the coupon and mail with check to Barry Haus, ASCA Treasurer, 2900 E. Doral Dr., Little Rock, AR 72212. Send change-of-address to P.O. Box 51091, Boulder, CO 80321-0911, and to Barry Haus, you won’t miss Audubon magazine!