December Birding to Costa Rica

Just when the Midwest is headed for the deepfreeze, you could be in Costa Rica enjoying 70 degrees and sunshine with a dozen other birdwatchers.

The Tuesday natural history tour of Costa Rica’s finest birding places is December 27, 1992 through January 6, 1993, for the main trip. An optional four day extension to Tortuguero National Park is available for an extra $490 with a single supplements and undergraduate credit is available from Arizona College, amounts vary.

Expert leadership from Raphael Campos, one of Costa Rica’s top birding and nature guides, is an outstanding feature of the trip. Raphael studied with Gary Stiles, author of the field guide to birds of Costa Rica. His professional work included developing the master plan for Manuel Antonio National Park, and he is on the faculty of UCLA.

Trip cost from Kansas City is $2690 and includes just about everything. This is about $1,000 less for midwesterners than those leaving from Miami. Call Eloise Hart (816) 361-6691 for more information.

Field Trip to Lake Chico

ASCA’s field trip August 29 will be to Lake Chico State Park. Meet at War Memorial Stadium parking lot and we will leave at 6 a.m. The trip will be led by a State Park Ranger who has recently seen Tricolored Heron and Roseate Spoonbill on the lake. Interested people can stay for the evening but that is optional. If you do, you may need to reserve a room nearby. Come prepared for a long day—bring food and drinks. Call Holly Felix at 225-9610 if you have questions.

Birding Equipment

If anyone has birding equipment to sell or is interested in buying equipment, contact Ed Davis at 565-7541. He is compiling a list of what is available and who has it.

Calendar of Events

August 13, Thursday, 7:00 pm: ASCA monthly board meeting at Game & Fish Commission building. All members are welcome.

August 29, Saturday, 6:00 pm: ASCA field trip to Lake Chico State Park (see article above).

August 29, Saturday, 16:00-18:00: Pond

Flood at Pinion State Mountain. This flood will give a closer look into this watery world. Meet at East Summit Parking lot.

September 10, Thursday, 7:00 pm: ASCA monthly board meeting at Game & Fish Commission building. All members are invited to come and find out what ASCA is doing and what our concern are.

September 15, Tuesday, 7:00 pm: Dr. Carmen de la Maza will present a program on rainforests at the Blue Flame Room of Alaka Gas at 46 E. Capitol in Little Rock. ASCA

Hotlines

ASCRA Rare Bird Alert 753-5853. Call to learn what birds have been sighted and when, and leave a message about the birds you’ve seen. If you need information about Audubon, leave your name and number and someone will get back with you.

In Washington, DC

National Audubon Hotline: 202-447-9617, ext. 2354. (After hours press "4" on the telephone key- pad as soon as you hear the recorded greeting.) A recorded message gives you background in- formation and current status of Audubon’s priority issues. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The message is updated weekly.

National Wildlife Federation Legislative Hotline: 202-279- 4655. A 4-minute message updated every Tuesday. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you can call when the rates are cheaper for this area. It is great for conservation activists who like to follow the issues, or just to keep informed.

Congressional Reference Service: 202-224-1772. To learn the current status on any Federal bill, call between 900 am and 600 pm. Be sure to have the bill’s number or official title ready; the service is free, but the call is.

Senators and Representatives

Senator Dale Bumpers, 229 Hart Office, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-4843; LR 324-4286

Senator David Pryor, 227 Ross Office, Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-224-2355; LR 324-4235

Representative Bill Alexander, 233 CHOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-4076

Representative Floyd H. 1212 Office, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-3712

Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt, 2119 Office, Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-225-2506

Representative Ray Thornton, 1214 Office, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-5607

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Audubon Adventures

As summer rolls along toward the begin- ning of yet another school year, ASCA is getting ready for the Audubon Adventures pro- gram. Last year we funded 54 classes with over 3,600 students in grades 4 here in cen- tral Arkansas.

Audubon Adventures is now a worldwide environmental education program with over 500,000 elementary students enrolled in this country alone. It has been expanded abroad to the former Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Helping to educate the next generation is a big part of ASCA’s yearly budget. We have fundraisers like the annual Bird Seed Sale with the Arkansas Wildlife Federation, and, for the first time, this year added a Birdathon. The Birdathon raised money for a good cause and we had fun birding to boot. Would you like to help fund this worthwhile project? If you want Audubon Society about $100 for one day of class for 32 stu- dents. But ASCA is able to enroll classes for a total of $35 (including our administrative costs). NAS privately raises the additional necessary funds. Do you have a daughter or grandchild who would benefit from this educa- tional program? Teachers rarely have the mate- rial and supplemental aids provided for them. If you are intrigued and would consider contributing to this fall’s Audubon Adventures budget, contact Education Chairwoman Donna Jean Daniel (855-0714) or Barry Haas (225-5946).

Checks for any amount may be made out to ASCA (Audubon Society of Central Arkansas) and mailed to Treasurer Barry H. Haas, 3122 Douglass Circle, Little Rock, AR 72212-9320. We periodically receive memorial contributions to the Audubon Adventures fund.

Northwestern Arkansas Audubon has received contributions to fund over 130 classes each of the past two years. Can we match that achievement?

Thelma Hazel Hollen, retired, an attorney for the General Accounting Office, Washington, D.C., died July 28, 1992. Hollen was a former active member of ASCA and the Arkansas Audubon Society. She was a member of Winfield United Methodist Church and a member of the Arkansas Audubon Society. She was a member of Winfield United Methodist Church and a member of the Arkansas Audubon Society. She was a member of Winfield United Methodist Church

One day was spent on Capitol Hill talking to members of Congress and their staff about critical environmental legislation being consid- ered. Three members of Congress spoke to the assembled Audubon group on the U.S. Capitol steps at noon that day. All these elo- quently urged immediate action in support of these cornerstone environmental laws which are under attack by a powerful coal- ition of industry and business forces. As for- tune would have it, President Bush showed up in front of them and told them the same thing (accompanied by President Boris Yeltsin of Russia). Wonder what Bush (and Yeltsin) thought of all those environmental activists on the Capitol steps and how he described the scene to Yeltsin?

The following is a brief rundown on the environmental legislation being followed: (1) wetlands legislation includes a good bill (H.R. 4255) which would provide strong protection for wetlands, and another bill (H.R. 1330) that would speed up the destruction of much of our remaining wilderness on the 20,000 acre strong bill (H.R. 4045) to reauthorize and strengthen the Endangered Species Act; and (3) two good bills (H.R. 4245 and H.R. 4392) to protect a por- tion of the few remaining ancient forests still left. After lobbying on the Hill during the day, NAS hosted a gathering that evening for members of Congress and their staff. Many NAS members were later continuing until the day’s events were over.

What can you do to help? Take a few minutes to write your Representative and both Senators in Washington (addresses on the back page of the Snipe) and urge their support for strong environmental protection — please include the bill numbers whenever writing them about legislation. Ask them to support and cosponsor H.R. 4225 on wet- lands, H.R. 4045 on the Endangered Species Act and H.R. 842 and H.R. 4889 on ancient forests. NAS members work diligently to get this legislation passed.

Your letter makes a difference. Don’t need a letter be a long letter, just genuine and heartfelt. Let your representatives in Congress know how strongly you feel about the need to protect the environment in the above mentioned areas, and how you vote partisan or how progressive you feel on these critical issues.

Barry H. Haas

A non-profit organization P.O. Box 15044 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Rainforests of South America

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas and Partners for Pinelake, Inc. are cosponsoring a program by Dr. Carmen de la Maza, one of the foremost authorities on rainforests. She is a professor at the University of Chile, Santiago, and is working for the Forestry and Parks department in Chile.

The meeting will be in the Blue Flame Room in Alaka Gas, 400 E. Capitol, 7:00 pm, September 15.

If you do not want to park on the street, Stephens, Inc., 111 Center Street and Trappnell Hall, 423 E. Capitol, have given us permission to use their private parking lots, at our own risk.

Florence Mallard

NAS Biennial Convention

The National Audubon Society (NAS) build its biennial national convention in Washington, D.C. from June 13-19. The rea- son for holding the convention in the nation’s capital was to give Audubon activists from around the country an opportunity to lobby members of Congress on reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act and other critical environmental legislation under discussion. ASCA was represented by former President Barry Haas.

One day was spent on Capitol Hill talking to members of Congress and their staff about critical environmental legislation being consid-
The following editorial comment is by former ASCA President Barry Harris who is working with a group named "Save the Parks" to defeat the proposed extension of Buffaloe Park in Little Rock.

Most of you who have been moving to the Snake for the past 30 months know that ASCA has been involved in the fight to preserve the parks along Buffaloe Park from the City of Little Rock. The city leadership (if one can accurately call it leadership) has been determined to build this commuter extension regardless of certain special interests. A federal lawsuit, decided in April 1991 in favor of the plaintiffs (opponents of the mad extension), has been in the appeals court in St. Louis ever since. Opponents of the project have made repeated offers to compromise by allowing the Board of Directors to put this single issue to a vote, or eliminating the road-use lawsuit to commuters - the city would have more capacity for the Snake, remains divided in their determination to tam this down Little Rock's throat.

By the time you read this "the Save the Parks" coalition may have enough signatures to allow "all the citizens of Little Rock to vote on this proposal, not just the seven board members who have come to be identified with certain special interest groups.

A special meeting was called to discuss the project's potential impact on the citizens of the state. This meeting was attended by several local officials, including the governor.

A decision was made to vote on the project's completion. It is hoped that this will show that the people recognize their need better.

It's time to back the project out of the city's political landscape.

Everyone who wants to save the parks should be at the hearing on November 11.

In case you lose, call the director of the state's parks.

July Picnic

ASCA had its annual summer picnic at Mountain Park on June 12. We had approximately thirty people in attendance and good fellowship was enjoyed by all, along with many delicious foods to eat.

There were two highlights to the bird walk held before supper. First, Sherry Phillips had a large Copperhead snake with large fangs. Second, and not as noticeable, a bird standing still in front of her face, and then we all got a wonderful view of an immature Red-shouldered Hawk just behind the park office.

A special thanks to Carl Ransom for arriving early and cleaning the picnic area for us.

We would like to invite you to come next time. You'll be glad you did.

-- Drewe Phillips

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**Save the Parks**

A Spring Morning in Eden

With strolling weddings and a merry trill, a Rufous-collared Sparrow was announcing spring in Eden. In the middle of the morning, it was a second day of hiking in Buffaloe Carlino National Park. It was March 12, 1992. Lyndol York, ASCA's webmaster and one of Eden's resident birds, had to be reminded about the first day. His assistant editor Nancy King and her husband, Mike Mcgonagall, at their temporary home, came to Eden to pick up. Lyndol and I rolled down the lane, turned right, and begin to wind our way through the wooded areas of Eden. San Jose was just coming to life this Thursday morning as we hurried along one way after another. One of the biggest highlights that leads to Puerto Llano, on this Central American country's Caribbean coast. We stop and turn to look at the harbor, seeing the huge, wood-planked buildings the huge, brick-walled Carlino National Park.

Soon we had a walk at the park entrance between drifts of pith of clouds, crossed the continental divide, and started our descent down the Caribbean slope. We know where to park and find because Nancy had showed us to do this two or three times. We had already experienced these rich green rainforest habitats; we just had spent enough time in them yet.

We started freshing of perhaps five acres, where a hillside weather station overlooks the Rio Sucio rushing fur below. (Photographs and notes - but only our immediate area - that we could find the real "dirt" for the first time that may come to mind. Don't think of eroding farmland upwards from the sustaining forest is a "hot" material from a volcano) The clearing had been productive in late morning on Tuesday and proved equally so at this earlier hour. Some of the birds here were familiar species like Bicolored Thrashers. Others were more exciting. In what seemed like so nice a day, we registered seven species of tanagers, including four members of the genus Tangara: Bay-headed, Golden-winged, Slate-throated, and Emerald, their

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**King County, Republic of Central America**

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Dennis W. Howard, 420 Almond, Lewiston, ME 04240, 225-6967
Telephone: Sherry Phillips (see above)

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

For membership, write to Myra Ransom, 3123 Cypress, Lewiston 72116 or call 758-8968. It is important that new members join ASCA through ASKA, a portion of your dues supports local activities.

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**FIELD GUIDES AVAILABLE**

We have National Geographic field guides to the birds of North America at $12.50 each (you, the price has gone down from $20). We also have 3 of the Peterson's Western garden book at $10 each (these are being sold at our cost and will not be replaced). If you need one of these field guide books, please note the gift to someone who wants one for himself or herself, please call Barre Harris 225-6596.

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**añe's Regional connection to the top National Audobon Board of Directors**

Jed Burch, 304 K, Raynor, IL Springfield, MO 65559

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Join the Audobon Society of Central Arkansas (ASKA) and you automatically become a member of the National Audobon Society. Your membership dues are a biannually national Audobon magazine and the Snake. ASCA, published biannually by ASCA. It is important to new members for you to join through ASKA, so ASCA, so its portion of your dues supports local activities.

To join, complete the coupon and mail with check to Barre Harris, ASKA Treasurer, 3900 Rural Dr., Suite 101, P.O. Box 1800, Shreveport, LA 71173 or call (318) 477-0671 or change-of-address to P.O. Box 11001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001, or to Barre Harris, ASKA, so you won't miss Audobon or the Snake.