ARKANSAS CONSERVATION COALITION SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE

ASCA is a proud member of the Arkansas Conservation Coalition (ACC). By working through a coalition, the conservation community is able to speak with a unified voice about issues of common concerns.


ACC played a major role when the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control & Ecology Commission was restructured, effective July 1, 1994. That restructuring was designed to make the Commission more accountable to the public rather than special interests.

The Coalition is called in to consult with POE when proposed changes are being considered to state regulations dealing with the environment.

ASCA strives to be part of the resolution of these problems by working to effect solutions that are economically practical as well as environmentally sound.

Want more information on ACC? Contact Acting Coordinator Barry Hains (225-9006).

ASCA HELPS SPONSOR INTERNS

There’s a new face out at Pine Valley Mountain State Park this fall — Eloise Granek.

The park has selected Eloise to fill the 3-month position of Student Conservation Association intern funding from ASCA, Partners for Pineville and Arkansas State Parks makes this program possible.

We encourage our chapter members to go by the park this fall and say hello to Eloise. She calls Texas home but we hope she will find out that central Arkansas is a great place for environmental eduction.

Red-Carly, former SCA intern

HOTLINES

ASCA Rare Bird Alert: 753-9363. Call to learn what birds have been sighted and where, or leave a message about the birds you’ve seen. If you need information about Audubon, leave your name, number and someone will get back to you.

In Washington, DC...

National Audubon Hotline: 225-2445. (After hours press "4" as soon as you hear the recorded greeting.) A recorded message gives you background information and current status of Audubon’s priority issues. Available 24 hours 7 days. Updated weekly.


Congressional Reference Service: 225-225-1772. To learn the current status of any federal bill, call between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Be sure to have the bill’s number or official title ready.

PROJECT FEEDWATCH NEEDS YOU!

Across the country, people like you are watching birds for science. Each winter, thousands of Kitchen-window scientists count feeder birds for the most thorough bird survey of the year — the North America Project FeedWatch.

It’s easy and fun. Once every two weeks from November to April, you’ll record the numbers and kinds of birds at your feeders on special data forms. Scientists put your information to work right away and send you a quarterly report.

Based on your data, ornithologists study avian population trends and increase our understanding of regional distribution patterns.

Interested? Contact Project Feedwatch, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Cummings Road, Upton, NY 12080-4500 (Tel: 607-254-2114). [Note: There is a $4 charge to join the FeedWatch program.]

Audubon Society enrolled 38 class rooms in central Arkansas this year. That means 1000 impressionable young minds will learn the value of our environment.

STATE AUDUBON MEET OFFERS FALCONS AND FIELD TRIPS

The birds are coming! The 1993 Fall Meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be held October 29-31 at Ferrum Farm and Conference Center just west of Little Rock on Ferrum Road. Activities include both Friday and Saturday evening programs, as well as a number of birding field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings. AAS will coordinate the field trips.

Saturday evening’s guest speaker will be Bob West, who led the effort to reintroduce peregrine falcons in the Arkansas, Arcn area earlier this summer. West will entertain us with the tales of his experiences, both expected and unexpected.

Ferrum Farm has reserved a number of rooms for AAS. Meals are available for those who are registered for the meeting. Call Ferrum Farm (291-0060) to reserve a room. Tell them you are with AAS. Contact Barry Hains (225-9006) if you need more information or a registration form.
The President’s Message

September is the time of year ASCA’s Board of Directors must begin planning for the following year. A three-member Nominating Committee has the job of nominating officers, committee chairs and co-chairs for 1993-94. There are several offices and committees that need new volunteers. The office of vice-president will be vacant as Holly Felix will be nominated for president for the coming year and will become the president by the bylaws of ASCA. If you are interested in this position or any other, please notify the Nominating Committee.

The standing committees are where we could use the most help. We need a new Field Trip Chair. This is a fun and you don’t have to be an expert birder because there are lots of people to help out. The Education Committee can always use volunteers. The members have much work to do. All of our committees need more involvement from our membership. If any committee grabs your interest, please contact a Nominating Committee member.

The members of the Nominating Committee are Holly Felix, Nancy King and Forrest Mallard. Their telephone numbers are listed on page 2 of the Summer issue of the Society. If you have any questions concerning the offices or committees, get involved with ASCA and I promise you will get more out of it than you put in. I certainly have.

—David M. Phillips

Bird Notes and News—Notes and News—Notes and Notes

If it’s a slow summer for birding here in central Arkansas but sightings of rare and odd hawks have abounded. Perk Floyd and I trapped and banded a sub adult male Rufous Hummingbird on August 5th at the home of Frizzi and Cliff Stalifer in Searcy.

The “Hummingbird” stuck around and banded an adult male Rufous Hummingbird September 2nd at Barbara Muffler’s North Little Rock home. This is the third year Barbara’s had a Rufous Hummingbird at her feeder and we’ve banded all three. The two previous birds stayed through the winter, will this one?

There was a variant Ruby-throated Hummingbird with four legs that showed up at a feeder at Don and Helen Keyburn’s at Fairfield the first of August. An all white hummingbird with black eyes is coming to a feeder at the Green’s Ferry home of Betty Wright. It’s probably a Ruby-throated mutt. Betty reports other hummingbirds leave the feeder when the white one appears.

Visits around your property attract numerous hummingbirds and did you get a good view of the two birds? She fed over three gallons of syrup daily and went to four gallons once in mid August. (If anyone wishes to donate sugar to supplement Vivian, it would be greatly appreciated.)

Please report any hummingbirds that regularly visit your feeder—other than the Ruby-throated Hummingbird—to the Bird Band at 753-1723.

—Robert Craddock

Additional sightings reported to the trip... Susan Murray observed a dozen Mississippi Kites near Centerville and University on July 18th. Jennie Heinbockel reports seeing hundreds of white pelicans flying in formation while she was visiting Petit Jean State Park September 4th. And Lucille FULL told Edith Halberg on September 8th she was delighted to see a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in her Little Rock yard near Fair Park Boulevard.

Christmas Potluck

Dock the halls with Silver bells. It’s beginning to look a lot like... Ho! Ho! Ho! Yes! It’s time to mark your calendars for ASCA’s annual Christmas Potluck Supper. This year we will meet at Camp Alleghere again on Thursday December 8th starting at 6:00 p.m. Watch the December Stope for details and directions.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Sandra Majure

ASCIA Member News

Sure to check out the Summer 1993 issue of Arkansas Wildlife. Bill Shephard wrote an informative and entertaining article about ASCA’s Rare Bird Alert entitled “The Finder’s Magic Number: 755-855.”

This particular issue of Arkansas Wildlife, published by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, also features a special report by Jim Spencer on the declining numbers of summer migrants.

Congratulations to Neil Curry! Neil, an interpretive naturalist at Pinnacle Mountain State Park was one of the five finalists in the running for Arkansas State Employee of the Year. The honor went to another friend of ASCA, Randy Fraizer. Randy is Amber Acres’ Outstanding Student an awarder of PANS and director of the popular Arkansas Audubon Society Ecotour Camp.


ACSA Regional Representative to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors

Jan Bunch, 4003 East Valley Road, Springdale, AR 72764. Phone 417-885-5564, FAX 417-885-5561.

The trip is published by the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas. Please send all copy to the Editor: Nancy King, 2008 Arch St., LR 72206. The next trip deadline is November 15.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

See Membership Choices Below (Includes Audubon Magazine)

Please check one:

$20—Introductory (New Members Only)

$20—Student

$30—Individual

$21—Senior Citizen, Individual

$38—Family

$23—Senior Citizen, Family

$50—Sustaining

State Your Address _______ City _______ Zip _______

Local Chapter: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, NAS B-50, 717-8957

Thursday Night Programs

Woodpeckers and waterfowl are the subject matter of future ASCA programs.

Join the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA) and you automatically become a member of the National Audubon Society. ASCA will receive the bimonthly NAS Audubon magazine and the bimonthly ASCA newsletter, The Stop. It is important for new members to join through ASCA, so a portion of your dues supports local activities.

To join, complete the application and mail it check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.
ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE

CO-SPONSORED BY
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS & ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Proceeds support environmental education and conservation activities throughout the year. The sale location will be the same as last year at the Arkansas Wildlife Federation office, 7509 Cantrell Rd., (south side of Tanglewood shopping center, Cantrell and Mississippi) Room 104, Little Rock.

Sale days will be from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. one Saturday each month as follows: NOVEMBER 13 & DECEMBER 11, 1993, JANUARY 8 & FEBRUARY 5, 1994.

Mark these dates on your calendar now so you can restock your bird feeding supplies each month.

Sale items will once again include 25# bags of black-oil sunflower seed, niger seed (for goldfinches, and pine siskins), the world's best suet cakes (made right here in Arkansas by a birder who cares!), feeders of many sizes and styles, field guides and many other items to numerous to list.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Over the years our main birdseed has remained black-oil sunflower seeds. The reason is simple - research has shown birds prefer the black-oil seed two to one over the larger, striped seed. Sunflower seeds of all kinds are generally preferred to corn, millet or other choices by a large variety of birds. The black-oil sunflower seed is also an excellent source of nourishment for a large number of bird species. The oil within the seed meat provides a ready source of energy for birds. So the birds know what they like, and we know it is good for them as well!

We will be staffed to make the majority of our birdseed sales on the four Saturdays listed above. If you need bird feeding supplies before our first Saturday sale day November 13, call the AWF offices (663-7255) Monday-Friday. Also, in the event that you cannot come in on one or more of those days and you need some of our bird feeding supplies, call the AWF offices.
LOCAL BIRDERS LOG THOUSANDS OF MILES

BILL AND LYNDAL’S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE AT BIG BEND

We were cruising Route 67 to the Big Bend country of Texas—just south of Dallas. There Bill Shepherd and I discovered Dinosaur Valley State Park which is the summer home to the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the endangered Black-capped Vireo. Unfortunately, the birds had quit singing and were not to be found.

From this point on, the common roadside bird was the Painted Bunting! Right before Big Lake we spied numerous Cave Swallows as well as Cliff Swallows nesting in a calvert. The former is very limited in the U.S. Cassin’s Sparrow was fairly numerous along the road SW of San Angelo.

Shortly after entering Big Bend National Park, a Verdin greeted us. Big Bend has a variety of habitats within a short distance. Consequently one can see a relatively large number of unusual birds in a few days. We made two notable sightings: a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a pair of Wood Ducks, neither of which should have been in Big Bend at that time.

I added 28 new species to my U.S. list. Included were the Gray Vireo, Lucifer’s and Illia-throated Hummingbirds, Scott’s and Hooded Orioles, Pyrrhuloxia, Black-throated and Blue-chinned Sparrows.

To get the rare Collima Warbler, we made a round trip hike to Boot Springs that covered 12 miles and 3500 feet in elevation. It was worth it! We counted 25 singing birds and had some great looks. Bill, being a little wider traveled, added only one new bird to his list, the Gray Vireo. The weather was fine. If you have a spare week and want to do some great birding, I would highly recommend Big Bend.

-J. Lyndal York

ARIZONA DRAFTS NOVICE AND EXPERIENCED BIRDERS ALIKE

Southern Arizona is one of the country’s most numerous hot-spots for birding because of the wealth of avian diversity found in this geographically unique area. Bill Shepherd, Craig Stevens and I had the pleasure of birding there for six days in July.

We began in Portal, AZ at Cave Creek Canyon where we saw Strickland’s Woodpecker, Sulphur-bellied and Dusky-capped Flyers, Gray-breasted Jay, Irrooted Titmouse, and the highlight, a nesting pair of Elegant Trogons. Hiking at higher altitudes allowed us to view several different montane and boreal species such as Band-tailed Pigeon, Mexican Chickadee and Virginia’s, Grace’s, Red-bellied and Olive Warblers. At Ramsey Canyon Preserve we saw hummingbirds: Broad-billed, Violet-crowned, Blue-throated, Magnificent, Anna’s, Rufous, Broad-billed and Black-chinned—most of which could be seen at feeders next to the Preserve headquarters. Also in the area were two large Black-throated Rattlesnakes whose path we happened to cross (uneventfully).

We concluded our birding at lower elevation riparian and desert areas. A roadside rest stop saw Gray Jay, Thick-billed Kingbird, Rose-throated Bearded and Phainopepla.

If you haven’t been to southeastern Arizona yet—go there. The birds are great and the diversity of plant and animal life is fascinating. This was my first trip to the area, but it won’t be my last.

—Rob Dexter

WILD WEST WANDER IN WYOMING FOR COOL BIRDS

With the heat index topping 100 degrees in Arkansas, Mike and I loaded up the station wagon with coloring books, paints and kids and headed off to spend ten days of August in southeast Wyoming.

The days were sunny, cool and windy and the nights were downright cold...a delightful change from hot and humid. Grace saw her first snake, Nick fished, Mike related and I hitied in and around Cheyenne, Laramie and up in the Snowy Range.

Commonplace western birds were new and exciting to me. Flocks of Horned Larks camped on barbed wire fences. The famous Steller’s Jay and lovely Mountain Bluebird competed for “most dazzling blue” honors. I saw my first Sage Thrasher, Townsend’s Warbler, Mackinlay’s Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee and Yellow-headed Blackbird. We spotted numerous Ferruginous Hawks, declining in many states, but holding their own in the vast open prairies of SW Wyoming.

It was a breath-taking adventure to see the “real” untamed western frontier for the first time...and the birding was simply icing on the cake.

—Nancy King

WANTED: BIRD PHOTOS

The hope would like to publish more photographs of birds taken by our members. We’ll give you photo credit and an admiring audience. Send your work to Nancy King, 200 Ave, Strett, 13E 7226. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return.

NOVA SCOTIA: BIRDS AND BEER

I spent the first week of August traveling with a friend in Nova Scotia. It wasn’t strictly a birding trip—we did a lot of sightseeing, seafood eating and (if truth be told) Canadian beer-drinking. Nonetheless, birding occurred. One of the great things about Nova Scotia is even the most casual effort at bird watching is apt to pay big dividends.

We put in one day of “serious” birding plus many more hours of birding combined with other outdoor travel and activities. I added several new birds to my life list. Greater Shearwater, Northern Gannet, Great Comorant, Greater Yellowlegs, Purple Sandpiper, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Thick-billed Murre and Atlantic Puffin. Naturally I also saw a lot of ducks, shorebirds and sparrows which I wasn’t able to identify and wished for one of the eagle-eyed birders from ASCA to help me out. Among the interesting mammals spotted were moose, foxes, gray seals and minke whales. A great trip! I recommend it.

—Dick Smith