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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 13, Thurs., 7 pm: ASCA monthly meeting and get-together at Lake Millwood for water birds. See story.

November 8, Sat., 9 am: ASCA field trip to see Hudson’s Sparrow near Brown. See story.

November 8, Sat., 9-5: ASCA Annual Birdseed Sale. See further information in this issue.

November 12, Sat., 7:30 am: ASCA trip to Huey Fish Hatchery. See story.


December 3, Sat., 9-5: ASCA Annual Birdseed Sale.

December 8, Thurs., 5-8:30: ASCA Annual Christmas Potluck (mark your calendar now). University Park Adult Center. Details in December issue.

December 17, Sat.: Little Rock Christmas Bird Count. Contact Lyndall York, 663-2129.

December 18, Sat.: Lonoke Christmas Bird Count. Contact Lyndall York, 663-2129.


January 14, Sat., 7-9 am: Hillie Boad National Wildlife Refuge bus trip. Details in December issue.

February 4, Sat., 9-5: Last Saturday of ASCA’s Annual Birdseed Sale.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

ALEXANDER: David H. Lowder
BENTON: Bill Black, Janet Clifford, E. Moore, A. Hope
COTTONTOWN: Elton Soullie, Mrs. Dennis Williams
JACKSONVILLE: William B. Ashley, Barbara Brooks, J.D. Elliott, L.K. Hill, Karl Fleischbein, Sally Holland, Veronica Eisen

NELSVILLE: Lillian Crowe
NORTH LITTLE ROCK: Mickey Elmore, Susan Fenton, John Framer, Rocky D. Lumbart, Kerby L. Simpson
RUDOLAND: Danielle Graham

THE AUK

Vol. XXVIII, No. 5
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

THE SNITE

NAS PRESIDENT BERLE TENDERS RESIGNATION

On September 16, Peter Berle, President and CEO of National Audubon Society, tendered his resignation effective August 7, 1995. Berle will have served 10 years in his post by that time.

NAS, like other national environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, has experienced a severe budget crunch in recent years. One theory put forth for the deficits is the election of Bill Clinton as President and Al Gore as Vice-President resulting in membership drops as more Americans believe the environment will be better protected than under the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Berle’s leadership at NAS has come under fire in recent months both at the grass roots level and from NAS Board members. A vote of no confidence by the NAS Board of Directors in March 1994 failed to pass, but did receive a significant number of dissenting votes. Criticism of Berle has centered on his fiscal leadership, or lack thereof. Other criticism has concerned financially mandated staff cutbacks, the specifics of which met with disagreement from both chapter and regional Audubon leaders.

One casualty of the budget crisis was Ed Pemberton, Director of the Water Resources Program in the Washington, D.C., office. Audubon’s presence and continued influence on national and regional water quality issues was jeopardized with the firing of Pemberton. News of the Pemberton firing caused a firestorm of protest within NAS leadership ranks. NAS and national water issues will clearly become more important in future years.

Will Audubon be prepared to deal with them?

FALL FIELD TRIPS HEAD SOUTHWEST FOR PRAIRIE AND SHORE BIRDING

Date: Saturday, October 15
Time: 7:30 a.m.
Destination: Lake Millwood near Chadron
Objectives: Pelicans, gulls, ducks, geese, wading birds, a jaeger, if we’re lucky.

P.V.I. All day trip: bring drinks, lunch, etc.

Lender: Med Wale (664-8766) will coordinate trip. Charles Mills will load at Millwood.

Continued on Page 4

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Continued on Page 4

CAUTION

The Arkansas Breeding Bird Atlas (ABBIA) is not running. Some of you may remember that ABBIA is the first ever compilation of Arkansas breeding birds. The multi-year project kicked off its initial breeding surveys earlier this year and the results are still trickling in to Dr. Kimberly Smith at the University of Arkansas.

What we do know at this early stage is that it will take many more volunteer birders to complete this project within the next several years. A total of 875 plots must be assessed and then the data compiled. You don’t need to be a world-class birder either. It just needs to be interesting to you.

If you are interested in helping with this research during next year’s breeding season, contact Kim Smith (575-3325) in Fayetteville. There is the time to start getting ready for next year’s ABBIA research.

[Note: ASCA has contributed $1,000 total in 1993-94 to help see this project through to completion. Another $1,500 is committed through 1997]
**ARKANSAS BREEDING BIRD TAPE RESULT OF COOPERATIVE EFFORT**

The August Snipe had an article (page 3) about the Arkansas breeding bird tape project. We thought you might be interested in how such a project is funded. So we are printing a letter ASCA just recently received:

**Dear Friends,**

*I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of the ASCA gift of $915 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).* Your contributions will help support the Partnerships for Wildlife Fund project in Arkansas.

*Development of Migratory Breeding Bird Survey and Monitoring Techniques.*

*As you may know, this is the first year for implementation of the program.* This is an exciting program that brings together federal, state, and private partners in support of important non-consumptive wildlife conservation initiatives. Arkansas’s "Development of Migratory Breeding Bird Survey and Monitoring Techniques" study is a particularly worthwhile effort, and we are pleased to join you in supporting it.

*On behalf of everyone...thank you for your generous support of this program.*

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Of the $7,500 in funding needed for the project one-third had to come from private sources like ASCA and other Arkansas groups. Federal and state agencies also came up with one-third of the project costs. The result of the project, a breeding bird song tape, will be a valuable tool for many Arkansas birders for years to come. It goes to show us what we can do when we work together. Here’s a tip from the Audubon to Karen Vayn for bringing this project to us.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Indicate the Membership You Prefer (Includes Audubon Magazine)

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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**ADDRESS**

NAME (Please Print) | PHONE

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Local Chapter: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

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**BIRIDING THE ARKANSAS RIVER**

Ever wanted to go on a different birding trip? Here’s your chance: The annual Corps of Engineers River Navigation System inspection trip. Unlike past years, the Corps has rescheduled its annual inspection trip from August to October. The temperatures will be mild and we may see some different species than in years past. ASCA, along with other organizations, is extending an invitation to invite members and friends along on segments of the trip.

The day trips are scheduled as follows: Tuesday, October 11, James W. Trimble Lock to State Line and then Trimble Lock to Ozark-Jeta Taylor Lock; Wednesday, October 12, Ozark-Jeta Taylor Lock to Dardanelle Lock and then on to Arthur V. Omund Lock; Thursday, October 13, Arthur V. Omund Lock to Toad Suck Ferry Lock and then on to Murray Lock; Monday, October 17, Murray Lock to David D. Terry Lock, then Terry Lock to 1 & D No. 5 and on the C&O Marine Terminal, Pine Bluff. Tuesday, October 18, C&O Marine Terminal at Pine Bluff to Emmett Sanders Lock, then to Joe Hardin Lock

**THIEVES MAKE OFF WITH HALBERG ECOLOGY CAMP SUPPLIES**

Every summer, the Edith and Henry Halberg Audubon Camp holds a one-week environmental campaign for 11- and 12-year-olds. Imagine the staff’s shock when they went to a storage building to gather their supplies and found them gone! Although $37,000 worth of books and equipment had been stolen sometime during the winter. This included everything from field guides on geology and botany to binoculars and chemistry sets.

With a lot of resourcefulness, the camp counselors managed to scrape together enough borrowed materials to stage not one, but two, camp sessions in June. But they need help. Needed are both cash contributions and donations of books and equipment to replace those that were stolen. If you are in position to help, please contact Catherine H facts (666-1036), Chairwoman of the Ecology Camp. Catherine knows what books and supplies are still needed for next year’s camp session. Cash contributions, large or small, will be used to purchase replacement supplies.

ASCA donates $1,000 every year to the camp for use for scholarships, equipment or whatever is needed. One hundred and two young people from all across Arkansas attended this summer’s first two daily sessions. Current ASCA Vice-president Rob Dozer, a graduate of the first Ecology Camp a dozen years ago, can attest to the value of the camp. The qualifications of the camp instructors are impressive, including Ph.D.’s and many others with a long list of professional credentials.

Let’s educate our 11- and 12-year-olds about the environment. After all, the world we leave our kids and grandkids is at stake.
STROLL BY THE RIVER AT MURRAY PARK

One of the best fall birding sites in the Little Rock area is Murray Park on the south bank of the Arkansas River between downtown and the I-430 bridge. The river makes a natural travel corridor for migrants, including water birds and small land birds such as warblers and sparrows. October is probably the peak month for seeing a good variety.

From Cantrell Road (Highway 10), follow Riverfront Drive past the Allied offices to Rebsamen Park Road; follow it 1.0 mile past the golf course to the Murray Park entrance on the right.

Drive toward the downstream boat-launching ramp and park near the soccer field. Walk around the parking area, scanning the river for Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, and anything else that happens by. It’s not unusual to see Bald Eagles along here in the winter. Check the bushes upstream from the launching ramp for sparrows.

Return to the riverside end of the soccer field and walk downstream. A trail of sorts will lead you into an area of scrubby trees and bushes surrounding an Arkansas River backwater where Warbling Vireos nest. This area is excellent for migrant land birds. For some reason (no doubt the abundant willows), migrating Yellow Warblers seem eager to find birds here than any other place locally.

Just downstream is an extensive sandbar covered by similar habitat; cross over to it if you can. (High water sometimes makes this impossible, and it times you may have to use a beaver dam as a bridge.)

Several good birds have shown up here over the years, including Merlin, Inca Doves, Alder Flycatcher and American Tree Sparrow. Wander around wherever the trail leads you, always watching for the abundant poison ivy.

The easiest walking is right along the riverbank. You may find shore birds on the river pools on the bank side of the sandbar. In fall, constantly check for river-following migrants: American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Osprey, gulls, and terns, especially Caspian in fall. Grassy areas are good for Sedge and Marsh wrens, and you may even flush up a Sora. You can walk quite a ways downstream before reaching an impassable cut in the sandbar.

— Mel White

ON THE WINGS OF PIONEERS:
BIRDBING THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark (and 31 others not so often mentioned) traveled more than 7,500 miles from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River and back again over a period of two years and four months in 1804-06. Among the many scientific, cultural and economic accomplishments of the expedition was the identification of at least 134 species of birds, many of them new to science.

I recently had the pleasure of traveling with my family for more than 7,200 miles along the Lewis and Clark Trail (by car, not by boat) over a much shorter 29-day period. We outdid the explorers by identifying 167 species of birds, but we were equipped with better optics and field guides and were not so concerned with where our next meal was coming from. Seventeen of these birds were new to us, but all were well known to science.

The Lewis's Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker, named for the two captains, were our primary bird objectives. We saw the Clark's Nutcracker first at a picnic area in Yellowstone and then at nearly every picnic area for the rest of the trip. We saw two Lewis's Woodpeckers on a utility pole in Idaho but never saw any more after that.

While traveling through the plains, we saw Bobolink, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant. In the Rocky Mountains, we picked up Great Gray Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Calliope Hummingbird, Gray Jay, Olive-sided Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler and Gray Vireo. When we got to the Oregon coast (where the sun actually shone for two straight days), we saw Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. All birds have been duly recorded in my computer database on a state-by-state basis.

In addition to seeing many 'life' birds on our expedition, we learned some interesting history. For instance, did you know that Thomas Jefferson masterminded the Lewis and Clark Expedition and, while serving as President of the U.S., taught Lewis (his private secretary) the art of preserving bird skins? Also, Jefferson was an enthusiastic birder who kept his own list of birds seen around his home. Without a computer?

—David Laneau

FALL FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Date: Saturday, November 5
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Meet: Intersection of Hwy 65 & Dixson Rd at Hwy 65 Commuter Parking Lot
Destination: Saline soil prairies in Cleveland County near Rison.
Objective: Rare Henslow's Sparrow.
FYI: Bring lunch, drinks, boots.
Leader: Bill Shepherd, 375-3918 or 324-9613.

Date: Saturday, November 12
Time: 7:30 a.m.
Meet: Christ the King Church parking lot
Destination: Rusk Fish Hatchery at Lake Hamilton and Arkansas ponds.
Objective: Shorebirds, ducks. (Early surveys show an upswing in duck populations.)
FYI: Bring lunch and drinks.
Leader: Barry Haas at 225-5096.
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.

Primary sale hours will be from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. one Saturday each month as follows: November 5 & December 3, 1994, January 7 & February 4, 1995.

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

Sale items will once again include 25 and 50 lb bags of black-oil sunflower seed, wild birdseed, 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 too numerous to list.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Over the years our primary 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 sunflower seeds. Sunflower seeds of all kinds are generally preferred to corn, millet or other choices by a large variety of birds. The black-oil sunflower seeds are also an excellent source of energy and nourishment for a large number of bird species. The oil within the seed meal 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!