WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

ALEXANDER: Dadye Yorkey
ATKINSON: Emmerland Godfrey
BAUXTE: Morris Boyd
BENTON: M. Afford, Ms. Shirley Gentry, Paul Hopgs, J.A. James, E. Jones, Mrs. Floyd M. Le, Robert M. Scott, L.F. Winchester, Sr., Dougway Wood
BRYANT: Barnes Tennis Club, Ms. Linda Daffon, Bill and Mary Harris
CARBOT: Dr. Ron Fowell, Nancy Klein, Mrs. M. Stokas, Mrs. W. Walker, Ms. Carol Wenzel
COLLIERSVILLE: Phillip Con
DES ARC: Mrs. Mildred N. Dalin, John H. Simmons
DEVALLS BLUFF: Gary Vammour
HENLEY: Mrs. Helen L. Bowden, Bonnie Fiehling
JACKSONVILLE: Mr. Edward E. Carter, Steve and Dave Holdent, Helen E. Tilt, John Williams
LITTLE ROCK: Morris Atter, Mr. Al Bass, Mr. Larry E. Soukau, Bill Becher, Cindy Church, Joseph Cook, Bill Bobbitt, Suzanne O'dell, Melissa Oldfield, Linda Fleming, J.L. Frant, Mr. Donald R. Fulton, David George, Norma Courson, Beverly Hatfield, Ms. Katherin L. Howard, Charles Harris, Mr. Nathan Jessman, Marv Jarres, W. Joseph Wilms, Keridah Kell, LVISIBLE, Ms. Robert Law, Mrs. Mary I. Ludvig, Mrs. Linda Mizer, Mr. Xavier Needs, Mark T, Nolen, Mark E. Perren, Jeff Perlett, Mr. Ron Blaisutti, Mr. Wendy J. Fleming, Susan Hoffmann, Marianne Bonnano, J. Michael Schagovin, Karen Stiles, Michael Stotts, Mr. James J. Turner, Mr. Alfred Tate, Mrs. Dorothy A. Thoengen, Penny and Ekelton Turner, Mr. Frederico T. Torelli, Kessie Wooler, Trace Wousand, Mr. D. Zoldatko
LONoke: Marilh Wehrih
MARE VALE: Bradley W. Kudler, Kasa Foster, Miss Kimyra Pal, Carter, C. Watz
MAUMELLE: Mr. Allen D. Shure
NORTH LITTLE ROCK: Mrs. J.M. Bonner, Bonnie Cowl, Bonnie Hidrige, Mrs. Louise D. Howell, Mrs. Melter Kiser, Mr. Tommey L, Peter, Robert Ralls, Mr. Chris Tarr, Mrs. James Tarr, Mr. Kevin Winer, Mr. Kevin Winer, Mr. Kevin Winer, Mr. Kevin Winer
OOLMBA: Miss Anmail K. Moorer
SHERWOOD: James Brabek, Lois D. Cillbon, Mr. Glen E. Covery, D.L. Darby, Mrs. Luci R. Gillham, Charles McMillan
SWEET HOME: Howard Brown

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
December 8, Thurs: ASCA Christmas Party, 8:30-9:00, University Park Adult Center, South Banquet Hall
December 17, Sat: Little Rock Christmas Ball - The perfect night for the office party dancing! Tired of the parking lot hassle and the temptation to do someone bodily harm? Give ASCA membership as holiday gifts to your friends and colleagues. Send your check along with the name and addresses and those who you wish to surprise to Barry Haas, ASCA Treasurer, 9000 Doral Drive, Little Rock, 72212 2626.

EASY SOLUTION TO THE CHRISTMAS GIFT CRUNCH
Our gift selection for Aunt Molly get you stumped? Have you worn out three pair of socks? The perfect gift for the office party dancing! Tired of parking lot hassle and the temptation to do someone bodily harm? Give ASCA membership as holiday gifts to your friends and colleagues. Send your check along with the name and address and those who you wish to surprise to Barry Haas, ASCA Treasurer, 9000 Doral Drive, Little Rock 72212 2626.

FALCON BOTTOMS NATURAL AREA RESULTS FROM UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP
The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, an agency of the Department of Environmental Quality, is involved in a unique partnership project for the Falcon Bottoms Natural Area. On October 12, 1994, at the S.A. campus, officials from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., and representatives of three industrial timber companies dedicated the land holdings that includes 740 acres along Bayou Dorecheat in Coconut and Catahoula Counties.

When the Arkansas Heritage Commission coordinated a systematic inventory of natural communities in southeastern Arkansas, Bayou Dorecheat emerged as one of the best maintained stream systems west of the Ouachita River. Its water quality is relatively high and the vegetation in its floodplain is largely intact. Encouraged when local citizens and other owners of land in the bottomlands offered strong support, the NHC found the best opportunities for conserving land through state acquisition in the reach of that bayou which runs northwest of Waldow and northeast of Stamps.

Development of the natural area will be minimal and permitted uses will continue to include public hunting, fishing, hiking, nature study, and other low-impact forms of outdoor recreation.

Acquisition of the Falcon Bottoms land was made possible by a grant of $242,135 awarded by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC) and $235,000 awarded by the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission for the purchase of land.

DO NOT TINT THAT TO THE CREEK PINNACLE RECYCLES
Save your uncorrupted trees for the Christmas Tree Recycling Program. Help create habitat, prevent erosion, and increase your angling odds. Call the Visitor Center at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 506-9060, for information about tree drop off locations and times. Over 1,500 trees were donated last year. The day one fee will be waived if you recycle your tree that day. And who knows, you may see a bird or two!
NEW BINOCULARS FOR CHRISTMAS?
RECYCLE THOSE GLASSES...GIVE THE GIFT OF DISCOVERY

The Fairfax Audubon Society of Northern Virginia is collecting used binoculars for education and conservation groups in the Americas. An old pair of binoculars can cost more than a new one, so contribute to the greener move to reduce, re-use and recycle.

For more information, contact: Revised Biotic Survey and Habitat Evaluation Report, as well as the habitat assessment report for the area.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ASCA CONCERNED WITH NAS MANAGEMENT

For several years now, ASCA members and directors have voiced concern about the management of the National Audubon Society (NAS). One such concern was the management of the New York office of Peter Berle, National Audubon Society's CEO. This, however, has taken care of itself in light of the recent announcement of his resignation.

But, other issues persist. Members have been "invited" to join the Society as potential new members even though not one member had been active with Audubon for years, have received multiple notifications of lapses in membership when memberships had not lapsed, and so on, indicating shoddy management of Society membership rolls. The contents of Audubon magazine has moved away from birds and birdwatching, topics for which the Society was originally formed. Members have been bombarded with calls and letters from high pressure solicitors seeking donations for NAS, constructed an expensive new headquarters in New York instead of Washington, D.C., the location of most other national environmentally oriented organizations and the site of nascent lobbying efforts. The list goes on...

I believe that many of these concerns are rooted in NAS board members being "out of touch" with the general membership of the Society. Currently, only one-fourth of the NAS board of thirty-six members is nominated and elected by the general membership. In response to these concerns, the ASCA Board of Directors voted to address these concerns in several letters written to Donald O'Brien, Chairman of the NAS Board of Directors. The ASCA Board proposed in these letters that the NAS bylaws be amended to require election of all NAS board members as terms expire and seats become available. The ASCA Board believes that in proposing this amendment, NAS can become a truly democratically governed organization for the first time in its history and in the process, effectively and accurately represent our views, set policy, and conduct Society business on behalf of all of us across the country.

—Holly Fink

WATER QUALITY STATUS REPORT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a report identifying runoff from agriculture and urban areas and municipal point source water pollution in the United States. The report was released in April of 1994 and was described as a "pivotal" of water quality issues.

The report stated that 40% of the lakes, rivers, and streams assessed remained too polluted to support fish, other aquatic life, boating, or other designated uses; agricultural runoff affected 72% of polluted rivers and 56% of polluted lakes; urban runoff accounted for 45% of polluted estuary miles and 24% of impaired lake acres; municipal point sources such as wastewater treatment plants impacted 59% of polluted estuaries.

Reports were submitted by 54 states, territories, tribes, and cities on 189 of rivers and streams in the United States. The data revealed that 96% of the rivers and streams assessed fully supported their designated uses and 4% were threatened. According to the report, the leading sources of river pollution are agriculture, municipal point sources, urban runoff and storm sewers, resource extraction, and industrial point sources.

The preceding was published in the Arkansas Waterway News, November 1994.

One Member's Perspective

THE INEVITABLE "WHAT'CHA LOOKIN' AT?"

For the past six years, I have had the opportunity to travel to one of Arkansas' 29 North American Breeding Bird Survey routes. The Poyen route begins near the small town of Poyen, Arkansas. It is a destination well before the cliff of dawn on a weekend day in early June.

I have been in Arkansas must begin our half hour before sunrise which means that I must be at stop number one at 5:30 a.m. That's no problem for someone who does not fit in the definition of a "morning person." At this early hour, for two or three stops, I will often record Clare's wiffling and barn owls. As I press on to the next stops and the sun begins to rise, the morning chorus of American Robins, Northern Mockingbirds, Carolina Wrens and Orchard Orioles begins. All are quite typical birds for this route that traverses the pastures and hardwood forests of rural Grant County.

The morning grows longer and so does my list of species. Great Blue Heron, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat and Summer Tanager are added to the list. The intent of the IBHS is not only to record all species seen and heard, but numbers of individuals as well. This is the vital information that ornithologists use in determining the "health" of bird populations. This is also one of the sources used in monitoring trends of nocturnal migrants that have been noted to be in decline.

One of the detections I have found to be doing bird censuses on public roadways is that no matter how inconspicuous the birds may look, they are constantly on the move and are likely to stand and wait for someone to approach and say, "What'cha lookin' at?" When I tell that person that I am just counting birds, I never fail to draw a blank or confused look followed by an immediate departure as if that person had just stumbled across some wrongdoings. I am always in on stop number 50—the last IBHS stop until next year. The bird songs are beginning to taper off somewhat, but not yet. I pick up birds such as Brown-headed Nuthatch, Hooded Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Eastern Wood-Pewee. At my last stop, an old, narrow bridge over Hurricane Creek, I record the weather conditions for the last time, then listen. Plateau Woodpecker, Waved Turkey, Hunting, and American Redstart are entered on the field sheet. I have finished the route and made my last contribution once again to monitoring the birds of summer.

—Bob Doster

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Indicate the Membership Type You Prefer (Includes Audubon Magazine)
Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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NAME (Please Print) _______________________________

ADDRESS  

PHONE ________________________________

CITY / STATE / ZIP ________________________________

Local Chapter: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, NAS 8-50

7XCH B50

North American Breeding Bird Survey: The Details

Since its creation in 1966, the North American Breeding Bird Survey (IBHS) has been collecting standardized information on North American bird populations. The IBHS is a Cooperative effort of over 2000 volunteer observers coordinated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The IBHS is composed of over 300 regular and 1 permanent survey routes established mainly along secondary roads throughout the continental United States and southern Canada. These routes are surveyed once annually. Each route is 24.5 miles long and consists of 30 stops spaced at 0.5 mile intervals. All birds seen and within 0.25 mile of each route during a three-minute observation period are recorded.

Join the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas and you automatically become a member of the National Audubon Society (NAS). You will receive the bimonthly NAS Audubon magazine and the bimonthly ASCA newsletter, the Spy. 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 with check made out to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, c/o Barry Haas, ASCA Treasurer, 1900 Doral Dr., Little Rock, AR 72213-2006. Send change of address to both National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001, and to the Spy if you will no longer receive either Audubon or the Spy.
THE BIRDS OF SUMMER -- WHERE DO THEY GO?

You have enjoyed them all summer—listened to their songs, admired their attractive plumage, watched them nest and raise their young—these birds of summer, the buntings, flycatchers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, dickcissels, warblers. Now they are leaving and we won't see them again until next spring.

"Of North America's songbirds, about 255 species are neotropical migrants. They nest in the U.S. and Canada, but spend most of the year in the neotropics—the Caribbean Islands, Mexican lowlands, and Central and South America. In the Midwest alone, 110 of these songbird species migrate each spring from the tropics. Here, they find plentiful food to raise their young."

"With fall comes a trip back to the tropics where they can find insects, nectar, and fruit, plus a milder climate. Most neotropical migrants depend on insects for food, so migration is essential to surviving our winter season. Some travel many days and weeks and thousands of miles, mostly at night, to reach their winter destinations in the tropics."

—From poster titled "Birds of Two Worlds" published for Partners in Flight, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Program.

Let's take a look at the winter home of some of our common summer species: Scarlet Tanager—Panama south to Bolivia, in tall trees of mountain forests.

FIELD TRIP ALERT!

Tours will be warm this winter with all the plans of birding trips in the making. At the last ASCA meeting, there was a round robin of field trip options discussed. Bill Shepherd would like to make another trip to the Stageyard Airport to see Henderson's Sparrow. Carl Raney said he will be going to Holla Hendl just about every Saturday this winter and if you are interested in going along, give him a call.

There was talk of owl hunting, tracking the Short-eared Owl, and sighting Smith's Longspur. The outcome of the discussion resulted in one easy solution to try to stay current with all of the activity—call the Rare Bird Alert Hotline at 753-9853 on a regular basis. It will be updated to bring you the latest information on field trip activity for this winter. If your feet just itch too bad to wait, call Bill Shepherd at 733-9908 or Carl Raney at 756-8008.

THE PROCESS OF REPORTING BIRD SIGHTINGS MADE EASY

How many of you are familiar with the National Audubon Society's "other" magazine, Field Notes? If you know that publication, you will recall that it was formerly called American Birds. The primary purpose of this magazine is to publish data pertaining to occurrences and distribution of North American bird species. If you are a Christmas Bird Count volunteer, that is where the reports are published.

The regional editors for the seasonal reports and Christmas Bird Count volunteers attempt to assure that only accurate observations are printed, and theirs is not an easy task.

So, how do they get the data? From many observers across the country, and this process begins with you. When you observe an unusual species, a bird far out of season, high numbers, or unfamiliar behavior, you can send your report to Max Parker, Curator of Bird Records for the Arkansas Audubon Society. ASC records formed the basis for our most recent state bird book and will be used in updating that volume. These records have contributed to the ASP Field List.

"We often hear people say, "I don't know what to report." For less than $1.00, anyone can request a copy of the Field List. Include a request for the reporting packet and Parker will send reporting cards and slips, and instructions. The Field List can be used as a guide as to what to report. Identifiable photographs of unusual sightings are appreciated. "A picture is worth a thousand words."

All submissions go into the ASC file, perhaps the most complete database of Arkansas bird observations. Each season, significant records are printed in the ASC Newsletter and these are also sent to the regional editor of Field Notes.

In Arkansas, we have two fine resources to help us in our bird reporting: Arkansas Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance and the ASC Field List (1991). The latter publication is available from Mr. Parker, 2-24.

For two copies, send thirty cents and a long, SASE with postage for two sources. For more information, call Mr. Parker at 337-4904.

Mrs. Helen Parker

The Arkansas Audubon Society, a statewide organization, is an affiliate of the National Audubon Society. It is an entirely separate organization from ASCA but with similar goals and purposes.

Reporting sightings to the Hotline does not take the place of reporting to the Arkansas Bird Records Committee.

ATTENTION TERN TRACKERS

ASCA member W.F. "Bill" Hailey is conducting a survey this spring. If you know of any Least Tern nesting areas on the Arkansas River, contact Bill at 225-2848. Identify nesting sites by nearest known land mark or river mile marker. When the survey is completed, site locations will be available to all ASCA members.
ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE
COSPONSORED BY
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
AND
ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Sale items include 25# and 50# bags of black-oil sunflower seed, wild bird seed, niger (for goldfinches and pine siskins), the world's best suet cakes (made right here in Arkansas by a birdier who cares!), feeders of many sizes and styles, field guides and many other items to spark your interest. If you are unable to visit the AWF office on these dates, call 663-7255, Monday through Friday mornings, and the friendly people at AWF will accommodate you.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

THE RUTH THOMAS SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Arkansas Audubon Society honors the late Ruth Thomas, Arkansas naturalist and columnist, by giving a scholarship to an Arkansas student to attend a one-week session of a National Audubon Society summer workshop or camp. Past attendees have given glowing accounts of their growth and experiences at the sessions. Applicants are encouraged to apply if their interests, activities, and future are to be directed toward the education of youth along environmental and/or natural history lines.

Applications and brochures describing the time and content of the sessions are available from the AAS Education Committee Chairman, Arthur A. Johnson, 53 Meadowbrook Drive, Conway, AR 72032, or call 501-227-5214. The AAS pays the full cost of tuition, room, and board at the Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut, Audubon Camp in Maine or Field Ornithology in Maine.

Completed application forms and recommendations should be received by March 1, 1995. The selection of the applicant will be made expeditiously to assure admission into the desired session.

—Arthur A. Johnson

ASCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SLATE OF NOMINEES PRESENTED

Florence Mallett, Mildred Glover, and Neil Curry as the Nominating Committee have presented a slate of nominees for the new term of ASCA Board of Directors. The following individuals will be voted on during the December meeting: Bill Shepherd, Mary Ellen Stockdale, Mildred L. Glover, John Holliman, Carl R. Raymon, and W.L. "Bill" Haines. Nominations will be taken from the floor as well, so come to support our board leadership!

In a little under four hours we had tallied 54 species with several of them unexpected. A good morning's birding just a stone's throw away from home right here in Little Rock.

—Barry Huns