CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2, Sat, 9 am to 5 pm: ASCA Birdseed Sale date. Location is Arkansas Wildlife Federation office (603-7255) at 7590 Cantrill Rd., Room 104 (south side of Tanglewood Shopping Center, Cantril & Mississippi), Little Rock. Contact Barry Hass at 225-5006 for more information. See page 3.

December 2, Sat, 9 am to noon: Pinnacle Mountain State Park (PMSP) Christmas bird count. Novice birders are invited to join experienced birders to search for the birds, wood, ponds and streams of the park to document winter birds present. Call 808-5806 for more information.


December 10, Sun, 2-4 pm: Streamside Stroll at PMSP. Join a park interpreter for an extended hike along one of the major streams in the park. Bring binoculars. Call 808-5806 for meeting location.

December 14, 5:30-9:30 pm: Annual ASCA Arkansas Christmas Potluck. Bring a dish, some favorite slacks, and enjoy the good food and good company. Location is at the University Park Adult Center, 600 W. 12th St. in Little Rock. Contact Barry Hass at 225-5006. See page 1.

December 16, Sat, 7-8 pm: Caroling in the Forest - Yuletide cheer at the West Summit Picnic area of PMSP. Warm refreshments served. Call PMSP at 808-5806.


December 17, Sat: Lonoke Christmas bird count. Contact Lyndol York at 603-632-2912.

December 19, Tues: Lake Chicot Christmas bird count. Call Lake Chicot State Park, 501-265-5480 for more information.

December 23: Christmas Tree Recycling. Save your tree from the landfill. Bring used-decorated trees, wreaths and garland to those listed below. They make great cover ground for wildlife, insect and birds. Call 808-5806 for details.

January 6, Sat, 9 am to 5 pm: ASCA Birdseed Sale date. Location is Arkansas Wildlife Federation office (603-7255) at 7590 Cantrill Rd., Room 104 (south side of Tanglewood Shopping Center, Cantril & Mississippi), Little Rock. Contact Barry Hass at 225-5006 for more information. See page 3.

January 13, Sat, 7:30 am: ASCA’s annual Hobbs Bend National Wildlife Refuge field trip. Hop on a heated touring bus for a journey to see bald eagles, snow and Canada geese, ducks, gallo and many other wintering species. Seating is limited; reservations are a must.

Cost is $10 per person for bus fare. You need binoculars, food and drink, warm clothing and an interest in seeing good birds. Call Barry Hass at 225-5006 to reserve your seat. Don’t be left out in the cold! See page 2 article.

January 20 & 21, Sat & Sun: Eagle Awareness barge tours on Lake Mammelle. Join PMSP naturalists looking for eagles, loons, ducks and other species usually seen on the lake. For reservations and ticket information call 808-5806. Seating is limited.

January 27, Sat: Waterfowl Watch at PMSP. Call 808-5806 for details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

BENTON: Gary Wilson
NORTH LITTLE ROCK: B. Siddiqui.
WARD: Karen Cates.

ASCA CHRISTMAS POTLUCK
It’s time for ASCA’s Christmas Potluck, and once again this year it will be held at the University Park Adult Center, 5401 W. 12th St. in Little Rock. Make a note on your calendar for our regular meeting night of Thursday December 14. Everyone needs to bring along his or her tastiest dish of food and some favorite birding adventure slides. ASCA is now again supplying plates, utensils, beverages and other trimmings. We have reserved a banquet room from 5:30-8:30 pm. Anyone wishing to help set up the decorations should arrive at 5:30 or shortly after. Everyone else needs to be there by 6 or so, or we should start chowing up the food around 6:15.

Bring some bird slides to share with everyone. ASCA will provide a slide projector. The potluck is a great opportunity to meet other birding enthusiasts in a relaxed setting. Plan to attend and have some fun.

For those of you looking for a Christmas present for your birding friends or family, we have National Geographic field guides, Enjoying Birds More (a book), Peterson’s First Guide to Birds (for beginning birders) and Entertainment *600 book* (see article on this page). So come on down and join us for what always proves to be a good time—good food and friendly people.

From the Chat, newsletter of the Audubon Society of Convalia, OR.

ASCA CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Vol. XXIX, No.6 A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

ASCA Christmas Potluck

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The Snipe

Dec/Jan 1995/96

ELECTIONS ARE COMING, ELECTIONS ARE COMING

At the December potluck officers and Board of Directors elections will take place. ASCA is still looking for interested birds to fill positions ranging from Editor (with a computer and desktop publishing skills) to anything else available to you of the Snipe, several Board members and chairs for conservation, telephone and fundthrir.

Want to try your hand at one of the above and help ASCA? Read the President’s column on page 2 of this issue; find out about our rewards. Call Bob Dustin (228-7946) or Harry Hass (225-5006) for more information.

ASCA extending a big "Thank you" to Tamara Tidwell for her Editor work in the Snipe. Tammy kept the Snipe looking great and packed with interesting bird news.

ASCA HOT-ITEM BENEFITS CLUB

COFFERS & MEMBERS’ WALLETS

How many of you know what the Entertainment *600 book books* are? They contain hundreds of 2-for-1 offers from restaurants and bars to fancy restaurants, discount coupons, entertainment events such as the Ark Symphony Orchestras and Wildwood, and many other discount coupons too numerous to mention. Entertainment *600 book books* are available now from ASCA and are selling like hotcakes.

These coupons are great for families on the go. Keep one in your car you will always have discount coupons handy for those spontaneous stops that help make life a little easier.

This is a new fundraiser for ASCA, so please support us by purchasing your Entertainment *600 book books* from us. Call Harry Hass (225-5006) for more information or to place an order. We will have the *600 books available at the Christmas Potluck December 14.

DOMESTIC CATS TAKE HEAVY TOLL ON WILDLIFE IN CITY AND COUNTRY

[The following is from the Black Hills Audubon Society’s Echo which credited a Lynnwood, Wash., animal welfare society publisher for the story.]

What comes to mind when you think about the problems confronting wildlife? How about oil spills, poisons in the environment, or the possibility of being shot or hit by cars? All of these factors certainly can affect wildlife, but there is another danger that accounts for numerous wildlife injuries and deaths every single day—domestic cats.

Cats represent a major threat to wildlife in urban, suburban and even rural areas. Many cat owners are unaware of the dangers their feline companions pose to other animals. There are many cats straying around the wildlife. The following questions address some misunderstandings about cats.

Do cats usually injure and kill a significant number of wild animals? Yes. In one study, wildlife rehabilitators in Washington state reported that 17 percent of the animals in their care were injured by cats (compared with 2 percent hit by cars or 1 percent poisoned).

Can I teach my cat not to hunt wildlife? No. Hunting is instinctive behavior that cannot be modified through training. Even cats that have been declawed are still able to hunt and kill. But you can prevent attacks by keeping your cats indoors or confined in an outdoor enclosure.

Do predatory animals play an important role in keeping wildlife populations balanced and healthy? Do prey populations keep in balance of nature? No. Large natural predators, the keystone species of the ecosystem, are introduced and maintained by humans. Populations of other predators are kept in balance by a variety of factors, but the number of cats continues to grow. A 1985 study by the Washington Department of Wildlife found that there are at least 20 outdoor cats per block in.

Continued on next page.
HOLLA BEND EAGLE TRIP

ASCA has scheduled its annual trip to Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge near Hardy on Saturday, January 13. Species normally seen on the trip include bald eagles, snow and Canada geese, mallard duck, assorted shore birds, and many other small mammals such as otters. Deer and other wildlife are also commonly seen during the refuge tour. The tickets make a great gift at $10.

The trip is one of our all-time favorites with up to 80 people making the trip in years past. The annual January ski trip is a great opportunity to get out of the house in the dead of winter and see some thrilling sights with others who enjoy birdwatching.

Holla Bend trip led to a very rare find in the state. One of the cats trailing the bus headed east toward Ford junction for the trip home. Shortly after departing the Holla Bend refuge it spotted what turned out to be an extremely rare fork tailed flycatcher, an Arkansas first. The flycatcher made both state and national rare bird hotlines. A member of birders added this rare find to their life lists over the next few days before the flycatcher disappeared.

Mark your calendar now for January 13. The December Snap has more details about the trip. If you want to reserve a seat now on the bus, contact Harry Hays (225-5066).

Holly Felet

Continued from page 1

a typical urban neighborhood, and this representation disproportions profligate posse on wildlife.

Since cats are hunters, don't they fill a niche in the food chain? Yes. Cats that do the most damage to wildlife are usually well-fed pets that do not need to hunt to survive. Though they have retained many of their hunting instincts, they are nonselective predators.

Can cats live happily indoors? Yes. Indoor cats lead long and healthy lives, more than tripling the expected life span of their outdoor counterparts. They avoid the dangers of traffic, diseases, parasites, poisons, and fights with other pets.

Can I do anything to keep my neighbor's cats from killing birds in my yard? Yes. Talk with your neighbors and share your concerns. Many people are unaware of the pressures that their pets put on wildlife populations and the benefits of outdoor life. Suggest they keep their cats indoors, especially during the spring and summer when wild animals are raising young. If your neighbors are unwilling to keep their cats in, ask them to put the bulbs on the animals' collars. This makes it harder for cats to sneak up unnoticed on wildlife, but bulbs are not always effective and they do not help the wild animals to escape. Also, do not feed birds if there are starving cats in the area, or you may be luring the birds to their death.

You may want to take measures on your own to discourage offending cats. Scat repellents will keep animals out of marked garden areas. You can discourage cats from entering your yard with water sprayed from a hose, sound or spray can. A gentle blast of water will deter cats without injury. If you are persistent, they will get the message that they are not wanted on the premises.

ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE

CO-SPONSORED BY

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
AND
ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY!

Primary sale hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. one Saturday of each month as follows: December 2 of 1995, January 6 and February 3 of 1996.

Sale items will once again include 25# and 50# bags of black-oil sunflower seed, mixed birdseed, Niger seed (for goldfinches and pine siskins), the world's best bird 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.

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 Road (south side of Langley Shopping Center, Cantrell & Mississippi), Room 104, Little Rock. We will be staffed to make the majority of our birdseed sales on the Saturdays listed above. If you need bird feeding supplies before a Saturday sale day, call the AWI office before noon at 663-7284 Monday-Friday. Also, in the event that you cannot come on one or more of the scheduled Saturday sale days and you need some of the bird feeding supplies, call the AWI office.

Thanks for your continued support!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

$20

$30

$23

$23

$30

$20

NAME (Please Print)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Percentage

"Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCAs)") and you automatically become a member of the National Audubon Society (NAS). You will receive the bimonthly NAS Audubon magazine and the newsletter, the Snap. It is important for new members to join through ASCAs, as a larger portion of your dues supports local activities.

To join, complete the application and mail with check made out to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, yo Barry Hays, ASCA Treasurer, 3900 Dolan Dr., Little Rock, AR 72217-2856. Send change of address to both National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 51801, Boulder, CO 80322-1801, and to Barry Hays, so you will not miss either Audubon or the Snap.

Local Chapter: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, NAS #5-30

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R50

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