
Bird feeding is steadily gaining in popularity particularly in the colder months, and this can help the birds through some very difficult times of poor natural food supplies. However, if the feeder is not kept clean it may contribute to the spread of diseases among your visitors. The causative organisms include viruses, fungi, parasites and bacteria.

Don’t let your pleasure of seeing our songbirds up close be marred by finding sick or dead birds in your yard. Here are 8 ways you can minimize any disease problem.

• Give them space: Provide plenty of feeders.
  • Clean up wastes: Remove wasted seed and droppings with broom.
  • Make feeders safe: Use feeders without sharp edges.
  • Keep feeders clean: Clean and disinfect feeders regularly using one part chlorine bleach to nine parts of tepid water. Make enough solution to immerse an empty cleaned feeder completely for 3 minutes. Allow to air dry. Once a month should do, but weekly cleaning could help more if you notice sick birds at your feeders.
  • Use good food: Discard food that smells musty, is wet, looks moldy or has fungus growing on it. Disinfect any container that holds spoiled food and the scoop used to fill feeders.
  • Prevent contamination: Keep rodents out of stored food. Mice can be carriers of bird diseases without being affected themselves.
  • Act early: Don’t wait until you see sick birds. Act now.
  • Spread the word: Encourage your bird feeding friends and neighbors to do the same.

Nominations Needed

Your nominations are needed for the election to be held at the Christmas potluck on December 11th. Why not consider running for office yourself this year. You will have plenty of support from the other officers and directors of ASCA, and you will have the opportunity to learn about the environmental issues of concern to us in central Arkansas, and the nation. So, if you have been thinking about it, procrastinate no longer, give Barry Haas a call at 225-5096 and volunteer.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has a web site at: http://www.agfc.state.ar.us
Don’t forget our own homepage which is newly redesigned to include a bird feeding guide: http://www.aristotle.net/~asca/

ASCAS’s DEC/JAN 1997-98 The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

The AAS Halberg Ecology Camp

Planning for the 1998 Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp has already begun and with this new year come several changes. As you may already know, Catherine Hepinstall our camp director for the past several years, has found it necessary to resign from this position and has asked me, Kristin Huddle, to assume her job for the upcoming year. To say the least, I consider it an honor, privilege and a challenge to be following in the footsteps of such well-respected individuals as Catherine and her predecessor, Edith Halberg.

This year we also have several new members serving on the Ecology Camp Committee as well as a new slate of officers. Our new members are Audrey and Dick Velnetske of Fairfield Bay and Josie Farrell of Hot Springs Village, who is replacing Wayne Tice who, unfortunately has had to resign. Additionally, both Catherine Hepinstall and Phyllis Bartlow will be returning as committee members. This years new slate of officers includes Art Johnson, Chairman, Martha Johnson Recording Secretary, and Barry Haas Treasurer. We are most fortunate to have a cooperative, "working" camp committee whose members are committed to ensuring the continued stability and growth of this exceptional camp.

As you know, for the past eighteen years this camp has consistently provided nearly 1,000 children from throughout the state of Arkansas with a unique "in the field" environmental education taught by an exceptionally knowledgeable and talented staff. As a former educator with a lifelong love of nature, I can think of no more effective type of environmental learning experience than that provided by the camp. Truly the Halberg Ecology Camp is an outstanding environmental educational project.

Please note: If you have an article for publication send it to Robert Lasheby, 11 Cynthia Cir, Little Rock AR 72205-4618

Next Snipe deadline is January 15th.

A chapter of the National Audubon Society Volume XXXII Issue 6 E-mail: ascas@aristotle.net URL: http://www.aristotle.net/~asca/index.html

The Snipe

The AAS Halberg Ecology Camp

Seasons Greetings

However, for the camp to continue providing the best environmental education possible for our state's children, your generous financial support is needed now more than ever. Increasing expenses over the past several years, including a $700 increase in the annual rental fee for Camp Clearfork and the recent purchase of a much needed camp insurance policy, have resulted in our camp having to operate at a deficit over the past several years. While the Arkansas Audubon Society will soon be initiating a new fundraising campaign to better provide for the camp's long term financial stability, your continued financial support at this time is especially critical to help meet the immediate needs of our upcoming camp in June of 1998.

To make your financial contribution, please send your donation to the treasurer,

Barry Haas
3900 Doral Drive
Little Rock AR 72212
If you have any questions or need to talk about a donation, please contact Barry Haas at (501) 225-5096
And, remember, contributions made before the end of the year are deductible for 1997
In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation for all of the support and invaluable assistance provided thus far by the camp committee members, and I especially want to thank Catherine Hepinstall for her continued input and guidance. She is to be commended for the excellent job she has done serving as camp director!

Kristin Huddle
Executive Director.
Bird Puzzler

Answers from Aug/Sept Snipe:

British jet = Harrier
Jingles = Bellbird
Married to Jesus (with all due respect) = Nunbird
An outfitter = Flycatcher
Not sure of the words = Hummingbird
A victim of Exxon Valdase = Oilbird
A Scotman on the beach = Sandpiper
A happy dog = Wagg tail
A feathered frume = Catbird
A backpacker = Canvasback

New Puzzler

What bird is (a):

Doctors advice to fat monkey
Root for a place to put trash
Chimps in window@Sax’s 5th Ave
BB King on a good day
How a little Jackdaw gets fed
Carolla Holer
I-95 rapier
How to order a pizza delivery
Envious recluse.

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

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Vice-President: John Holleman, 4011 Front Dr. Benton 72015, 547-6955(h), 370-912009(W), 944-7038(Cellular), 370-9373(FAX)
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Norma Childers, 31 Julia Chambers Dr. Jacksonville, AR 72076, 962-5205(H), 370-6753006
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
Field Trips: Mel White, see entry about Education & Youth Activities: Dale Holleman, & Norma Childers see their entries above.

Hotlines:

Asca Rare Bird Alert: 753-5853 Learn what unusual birds have been seen locally. Have a question about Audubon? Then leave a message here, or ASCA@arkivestitle.net
National Audubon Hotline: 202-861-2242 After hours press 4 when getting busy
National Wildlife Federation Hotline: 202-797-6655 A 4 minute message updated on Tuesdays 24hour/7day.
Congressional Reference Service: 202-224-1772 Learn status of any Federal Bill, have number or title of bill ready. 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Senators and Representatives
SEN: Dale Bumpers: 202-224-3541, LR 324-6336 sen@bumpers.senate.gov
SEN. Tim Hutchinson: 202-224-2353, LR 324-6336
REP. Jay Dieckow: 225-3772, PB 536-1211
REP. Marvin Berry: 225-4676, JB 972-6688
REP. Vic Snyder: 202-225-2506, LR 324-5941

Birdseed (No) Sale

Many of you have been looking in the Snipe for information about our annual birdseed sale held jointly every year with theArk Wildlife Federation. We were very successful for years thanks to our many supporters, but increased competition from numerous retailers has filled what once was a vacuum for quality bird feeding supplies. So ASCA will not be holding a birdseed sale this year. Some supplies are still on hand, so contact ASCA Treasurer Barry Haas (225-5096) if you are needing feeding supplies. We may have some items on hand at the Christmas potluck December 11.

Audubon Membership Application

Make check to NATIONAL AUDUBON, and mail to Barry Haas, ASCA Treasurer, 3900 Dead Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212-2826. It is important for new members to join through ASCA so a large portion of your dues support local activities. Send address changes (not new memberships) to both NAS, PO Box 51001, Boulder CO 80322-1001 and to Jethere, 300 S. Rodney Parham, Suite #10, Little Rock AR 72205 so you will not miss AUDUBON’S magazine or The Snipe which are both included in your subscription.

7XBP B50

Family / individual = basic rate. Senior = 62 years or older. Student = full time student.
FIELD TRIPS

The Audubon Christmas bird counts are now a December tradition. It was in 1900 that ornithologist Frank Chapman and many other conservationists were disturbed at the slaughter of birds at an annual holiday event called a "side hunt," in which the winner was the team who had shot the most birds. As a protest, on Christmas Day of that year, Chapman organized 27 friends in 25 locations. Instead of shooting birds, they counted them. That simple protest turned into the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count. Today, more than 45,000 people from all 50 states, every Canadian province, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and many Pacific Islands participate in this annual bird census.

Will you join us this year?

Saturday, December 20th: Times vary. It's time for the Little Rock Christmas Bird Count. Anyone interested can contact Lyndal York at 663-2192 or 686-5816. We appreciate any help you can give us. Become a citizen scientist and help gather information that will be of help to conservationists. You will be placed in a team with other birders and take to the field to do a census of the birds seen. If you are a beginner this is an excellent time to learn from the more experienced members of our organization.

Sunday, December 21st: Times vary. It's time for the Lonoke Christmas Bird Count. Anyone interested can contact Lyndal York at 663-2192 or 686-5816. We appreciate any help you can give us. Become a citizen scientist and help gather information that will be of help to conservationists. Again, groups of observers take to the field to do a census of the birds seen.

Saturday, December 27th: It's Pine Bluffs turn to do a count. Call Rob Doster 664-7964 or 569-2281 to be included.

Saturday, January 3rd: The White River Refuge count comes next. They usually meet the night before and go owlimg and have a cookout, before birding the following day. Call Keith Sutton at AG&F 223-6300 and see what they are up to this year.

Saturday, January 17th (January 24th in case of bad weather): Our annual trip to Holla Bend. This year we will not be riding a bus, but car pooling. Remember it is $4.00 per car to enter the refuge. This is shaping up to be a bumper year for geese, so expect lots of Snow Geese, and some Bald Eagles.

Meet at the commuter parking lot at 1-430 and 1-630 at 7:30 A.M. to carpool. Call Barry Haas 225-5096 and your best birding slides and stories from 1997 and join the fun. Dinner will begin around 6:30 p.m. If you would like to help set up and decorate, plan to arrive around 5:30 p.m. ASCA will provide plates, utensils, drinks and everything else needed. Remember to bring some bird slides so we can enjoy them too. Year in and year out this is one of our most popular events as it offers a chance to meet other birders in a jovial setting. So come and join everyone in the festivities. Elections- the December potluck will be the occasion for officer and Board elections. ASCA is always looking for folks willing to volunteer for chapter leadership positions.

(Continued on next page)
Christmas Party
225-5096

6p.m. on Dec. 11th

The University Park Adult Center
6401 W. 12th St.

- Bring your favorite potluck dish.
- ASCA will supply drinks/utensils.
- To help set up come at 5:30.
- Bring slides and stories to share.
- Election of leaders.

The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

--- Turn over for our calendar of events ---