Conservation

Reduce gas consumption.
If gas consumption for each family vehicle were cut by one gallon, about 20 miles, greenhouse gases would be reduced by one million tons. But more gas-guzzling vehicles leads to more petroleum dependence, which means more global warming, increased pressure to open up areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil production, and a greater risk of oil spills.
Consider trading in the sport utility vehicle, van, or 4x4 for something that gets at least 28 miles to the gallon. Or think about a no "drive day" one day a week. Walk or ride a bike.

Rethink landscape services that use pesticides and herbicides. Some services will tell you spraying is "safe." They'll assure you their pesticides and herbicides are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). And they will probably say spraying is necessary if you want an attractive yard. Don't be fooled! According to the EPA, no pesticide can be considered safe; not even the ones registered with their own agancy. Pesticide use is often unnecessary. It endangers your pets, threatens your family's health, destroys wildlife, and pollutes the environment. Pesticides also kill critical pollinating species like honeybees, as well as the insects that songbirds need to survive and feed their young. Get rid of them, and if your yard service won't use them, change services and find another company that will. Or you can always skip the yard service altogether.

Turn your lawn into wildlife habitat
Get the Backyard Wildlife Habitat packet from the National Wildlife Federation, or from Wildbirds Unlimited for around $20. You can have your yard officially certified as backyard wildlife habitat with the NWF.

Keep your cat indoors
Domestic cat predation is one of the leading causes of vanishing songbird populations. If your cat goes outdoors, it may be killing hundreds of birds a year. Most pet care, animal welfare, and conservation experts recommend that pet cats stay indoors all the time.

Crash Bird Course

Saturday, April 10th from 8am - 3pm, ASCA
Crash Bird Course. It will be at Pinnacle Mountain State Park and is designed for beginners to the hobby of bird watching. Instruction on bird finding, identification, bird songs, equipment and field guides will be covered. The class will include a field trip in the park guided by experienced birders. Class size is limited to 40. A fee of $8 per person or per family is payable at the door. The fee includes field guides, handouts and refreshments. Bring a sack lunch. Sponsored by Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, over 40 species are usually seen on the field trip.

Reservations are required. Call 868-5806.

May 15th.
10am to 3pm.
Feeder Wash
1818 N. Taylor
L.R. 666-4210

Marvin Winston of Wild Bird's Unlimited is repeating his very popular feeder wash offer. $2 per feeder, and he will steam clean them for you. This will help prevent the spread of diseases between the visitors to your feeders.
ASCA made over $400 when this was held last fall, as all proceeds are donated back to us. So mark your calendar now while you are thinking about it and afterwards drive out to Maumelle Park for our picnic which starts at 4pm. For details see page 3.

The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, a chapter of National Audubon.
A MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD was still present near Fort Smith, but just across the border in Oklahoma. Cross the Arkansas River by the Garrison Ave. bridge in Fort Smith. Take the first exit to the right ("Moffett Stockyards" exit). Turn left and drive under the overpass. Turn right into old Hwy 64. Look for the birds on the wires on either side of the road. If not there, look for it on the only huge pair of trees to your right a little way down, by an old dilapidated but occupied house. I estimate the exact spot to be just a few hundred yards from the Arkansas border. (Perhaps a gust of wind will blow it into Arkansas)

Pinnacle Mountain State Park needs you to volunteer to help out in many areas. Call Arthurnie Harrison today 868-5806 and tell her you want to help. One suggestion is to be trained as a volunteer trail guide to lead school groups around the kingfisher trail, or how about helping with the bluebird nestboxes?

Kelly Morrissey

Our Next Meeting is.....

Thursday April 8th, 7pm We are going to have a "snake extravaganza." Dave Mullin from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway will be bringing as many snakes as he can. We always get big crowds when we have live critters, so come on down and join in the fun.

Saturday April 10th. from 8am - 3pm, ASCA Crash Bird Course.

Reservations are required. Call 868-5806. It will be at Pinnacle Mountain State Park and is designed for beginners to the hobby of bird watching. Instruction on bird finding, identification, bird songs, equipment and field guides will be covered. A fee of $8 per person or per family is payable at the door.

Saturday, April 24th at 07:30am We will take a local trip to Boyle Park one of our birding hotspots. Meet at the footbridge over the creek at the north end of the Park at 0730am. The best place locally for spring migration. Afterwards visit Pinnacle Mountain State Park for the "Festival of the Sun" celebration of Spring at the Arkansas Arboretum.

The spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be held April 30 - May 2, 1999 at Central Baptist College (CBC) in Conway. Send your registration fee and meal money made out to AAS to: Rob Doster, AAS Vice President 2321 Blackwood Road, Little Rock, AR 72207 or parula@swbell.net

Kelly Morrissey

In "Waiting to Fly: My Escapades with the Penguins of Antarctica," field researcher Ron Naveen captures the spirit of the gentle and charming creatures that stole the author's heart sixteen years ago. The penguins in this delightful and informative book emerge as distinctly resourceful, beguiling personalities. If you have any interest in field ornithology, Antarctic exploration, or these charming flightless birds, "Waiting to Fly" will pull you in.

Kelly Morrissey

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Thursday May 13th. 7pm Keith Sutton will talk on wildlife photography.

Saturday May 15th. 4pm. The Annual ASCA picnic is being held a little earlier this year, when, hopefully, it will be cooler. The picnic will be from four to nine p.m. at pavilion #7 at the Maumelle Park Corps of Engineers Campground. (Not at Pinnacle Mountain as mentioned in the Snake March edition.) Driving west on Cantrell (Highway 10) past I-430, watch for the campground signs. Take Pinnacle Valley Road and follow the signs to the campground. Pavilion #7 is to the right just inside the gate, one we have used before. ASCA will provide drinks, utensils, and plates. You are asked to bring a favored dish or two to share with everyone.

We meet at the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Building, #2 Natural Resource Drive, Little Rock, Take West Markham Street west until just before it crosses I-430 and turn right onto Natural Resource Drive and follow the AG&FC signs. Our regular meetings consist of a speaker followed by a business type meeting where the financial and other matters of the society are discussed. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be looking forward to meeting you, and bring a friend. You don’t have to be an Audubon member.

NAME (Please print).................................................................................................................................

ADDRESS..............................................................................................................................................

CITY..................................................STATE..............ZIP.................................................................

Membership Application

Questions? 1-800-274-4201 or locally 501-821-4097

Please, Make checks payable to NAS

INTRODUCTORY (USA)...............................$20

INTRODUCTORY STUDENT/SENIOR.......$15

BASIC ANNUAL..............................................$35

Make check to NATIONAL AUDUBON, and mail to Barry Haas, ASCA Treasurer, 804 Konrad Court Little Rock, AR 72223-9201. It is important for new members to join through ASCA so a larger 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 Jeltzler, 3005S. RODNEY PARHAM, SUITE #10, LITTLE ROCK AR 72205 so you will not miss AUDUBON magazine or The Snake which are both included in your subscription.

B50 7XCH

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