

THE PULASKI SNIPE

Vol. X No. 3

Newsletter of the Pulaski County Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

May 20, 1976

We have had a long and beautiful spring, so we hope that you have seen many new birds, and that your garden is flourishing. Never have we seen azaleas and redbud so early and so beautiful.

At the April meeting Randy Johnson, Ranger-in-charge of the new Pinnacle Mountain State Park gave a slide talk describing the park and the proposed plans for it. The field trip to the State Park and Sullivan's Island on April 17 was well attended. The Western Grebe was still present on Lake Maumelle, also a Common Loon. Sullivan's Island yielded Great and Little Blue Herons, American Bittern, King and Virginia Rails and Soras.

Thirty-eight persons enrolled in the beginners' bird-study course in April. They were exposed to a lecture on Friday night on systematics and fine points of identifying birds. On the field trip to Boyle Park on Saturday morning they were fortunate enough to see a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Catbird, and to hear a Wood Thrush sing. They saw a pair of Carolina Wrens feeding young in their nest in the pavilion, and learned how to tell the Common Crow from the Fish Crow by the call.

We hope that you saw the picture of member Dr. Bettye Caldwell in the Gazette recently. Doctor Cardwell was selected as one of the 1975 "Women of the Year" by the Ladies Home Journal. In the humanitarian and community service category, she was recognized for her leadership as the founder and director of the Center for Early Development and Education at Kramer School. Congratulations, Miss Bettye, we're mighty proud.

NAS has announced that people over 65 may receive a rebate of \$3.00 on their dues, if they so request. Student dues are now \$8.50.

Gary Graves and Bruce Tedford have just received their Bachelors' degrees from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Congratulations are in order; we are proud that our junior bird-study group helped to direct their education.

Gary has been appointed a research assistant at Louisiana State University. He leaves for Peru at the end of May for 6 months on an ornithological research project in the Upper Amazon basin, in an area which has been barely scratched, ornithologically speaking. Gary says he expects to see 600 life birds.

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, June 8, 6 p.m.: Picnic potluck supper at the pavilion in Alsopp Park. Bring dishes and silverware. The society will furnish beverages. The program will be a new Audubon slide series "Alaska: Wild Lands For Tomorrow". The photography is reported to be outstanding; it describes proposed national parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers and other opportunities for preservation in Alaska. The program has an excellent cassette tape script, so it should be well worth seeing and hearing.

Tuesday July 13, 6.30 p.m.: Picnic potluck supper at the E.P. Floyds at Hensley. Bring dishes and silverware. The society will furnish beverages. To get to the Floyd's take the Pine Bluff Highway (U.S. 65) to a point about 1 mile beyond the end of the double-barreled section. Turn right (west) on Woodson Lateral for 1 mile, then turn left (south) into the Lakeside Country Club entrance. Follow the blacktop. At the end of the blacktop turn left on the gravel road. Perk's house is in sight at this point, Floyd sign at the house. Follow the Merganser signs all the way. Chuck Preston of the Museum will talk on Owls. Note the time, six-thirty, not six.

Saturday, August 21, 3:30 p.m.: Supper field trip to Lonoke fish ponds to see shorebirds and waterbirds. Meet at the Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery on U.S. 70 at Lonoke. Bring supper. Leaders Edith and Henry Halberg, 663-1812.

Saturday, September 18: Field trip, place and time to be announced.

Sunday September 19, 6 p.m.: Regular meeting, in the planetarium of the Museum of Science and History, MacArthur Park, Little Rock. Roy Stout of the museum staff will give a talk on night bird migration, studies being done, and discussion of the means that birds use for direction finding, with emphasis on astronomical methods.

1976 - 77 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

We do not have the names of the films yet, but the dates of the films and the names of the speakers are:

Table with 4 columns: Date, Speaker Name, Date, Speaker Name. Rows include October 15, 1976 (Fran Hall), December 17 (Richard Kern), February 10, 1977 (Alvah Sanborn), March 1 (Herry Pederson), and April 6 (Stefan Kling).

The films will be shown in the same place as in past years, in the auditorium of the University Medical Center on West Markam Street, at 7:45 p.m. There is plenty of well lighted parking.

Family season ticket \$12.00; Individual \$6.00; Student \$1.50

CUT HERE

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Check the Membership You Desire (includes Audubon Magazine)

- Individual \$15.00 per year, Family \$18.00 per year, New, Sustaining \$30.00 per year, Student \$ 8.50 per year, Renewal

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Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible.

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and send to: Dr. J. Lyndal York, Treasurer, PCAS, 42 Pine Manor Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

Join the Pulaski County Audubon Society and automatically become a member of National Audubon Society. You will receive the bi-monthly AUDUBON MAGAZINE and the SNIPE, published from time to time by Pulaski County Audubon Society.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. William Abbot, 409 Shamrock
Ms. Elizabeth Baldwin, 1421 N. University, Apt. 319N
James Baskin, 1815 South Grant
Reggie Blackwell, 206 Music Mountain Rd., Hot Springs
Mrs. David A. Burris, Jr., 19 Shoshone Dr., NLR
John Casey, 517 N. Palm,
Melvin L. Clifford, 2619 South Lewis
Ms. Anne Crary, 516 North Pine
Hartzell Floyd, 3823 Magnolia, NLR
Owen Floyd, 1110 North Palm
Mrs. Nora E. Fogle, 7575 Cantrell Rd., Tanglewood Apt. 38
Miss Floreine G. Franklin, 6313 Longwood Rd.
Ms. Lois Merrill Griffin, 405 South Maple, Harrison

Dr. Neill W. Hart, 5 Beckwood
Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Henslee, 2 Ranch Valley Rd.
Dr. John Hughes, 5 Malcolm Cove
Grayson L. Lewis, Box 2132, LR
N. Marx, 31 Parkhaven Dr.
David O'Dell, 7000 Cloverdale Dr.
John Pate and family, 4115 Cooper Orbit
Alan Peek, 5 Crain Dr., Benton
Mrs. N.C. Pehrson, 10601 Kanis Rd.
Edward F. Pembleton, Museum of Science and History,
MacArthur Park
Dean C. Ragan, 5513 Southwood
Dr. & Mrs. L.G. Singleton, 21 Misty Court
V.L. Smith, 6608 Juniper Rd.
W.P. Spotts, 1104 Biscayne Dr.

BIRD NEWS

Vivian and Bill Scarlett report that they saw two Mississippi Kites in Allsopp Park on March 23, right across from their house on North Lookout. They saw five more on May 6.

Gary Graves, David Hunter, and Anice and Bruce Tedford have done it again. They saw 156 species on Saturday May 8 (2:00 a.m. to 8:15 p.m.) in Lonoke, Pulaski and Saline Counties. They saw 27 warblers and 17 shorebirds. The highlights were 2 Swainson's Hawks in Lonoke County, many ducks, both gallinules at Culler Lake, Willets at Lake Maumelle, Forster's Terns, Red-breasted Nuthatches, all 4 thrushes, Bay-breasted Warblers but no Cape Mays, Lincoln Sparrows and Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Sullivan's Island but no Grasshoppers.

Fred DeBrine showed a film on Channel 7 news of a sizeable flock of White Pelicans migrating up the Arkansas River on May 12, on the way to their nesting areas in the Northwest.

Carol (Mrs. Carl) Springer phoned to report that on April 27, four bluebirds were nesting in a martin house on an 18-foot pole at the Larry Dawson's on Teton Forest Road in the Pleasant Forest Addition.

The Ospreys of the southern New England coast and Long Island, N.Y. were practically wiped out by DDT in the 1950's and early 1960's. In 1948, 300 nests on Gardiners Island off the east end of Long Island produced an average of more than two fledglings per nest. In 1966, 55 nests produced a total of only four fledglings. The use of DDT was stopped in 1966; and at the present time the birds are producing an average of one fledgling per nest.

A similar resurgence is occurring among the Brown Pelicans of the California coast. A daily discharge of hundreds of pounds of DDT into the Pacific Ocean from the Montrose Chemical Corporation through the Los Angeles sewer system almost wiped out the pelicans on Anacapa Island more than 60 miles away. In 1969, 1,125 pairs of birds fledged only 4 young and in 1970 727 pairs produced only 5 chicks. In 1970 the DDT discharge was discontinued; and in 1974 1,286 pairs of pelicans fledged 1,185 young. The information about the Ospreys and pelicans was abstracted from the March 1976 issue of the EDF Letter.

COMMUNICATIONS

The NAS West Central Regional Conference will be held in the Missouri Ozarks the weekend of October 15-17; for which the precise location has not been selected. The conference is for NAS chapters in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. All chapters are urged to send delegates, and of course all members are welcome to attend.

Ken Smith, who received the first Arkansas Audubon Society Trust research grant, wrote the Gazette recently to point out that the concern in 1970 about the SSTs destroying the ozone layer was well justified. Recent research indicates that their worst fears were correct.

The National Forests are the center of a major controversy. The Forest Service's organic act (1897) specifically permits logging in National Forests, but only of mature, dead, and large growth trees, which must be individually marked for cutting. This of course means no clear cutting, but the intent of the act has been ignored for years. In 1973 the Izaak Walton League sued to halt clear-cutting in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia; which the court halted. In Alaska another federal court voided a contract with a paper company to cut 8.2 billion board feet in the Tongass National Forest in the next 50 years. As all paper companies clear cut they are very disturbed by the courts' decisions; and legislation is before congress to change the act. Two bills are before the Senate. One, sponsored by Hubert Humphrey, and backed by timber interests, would mean business as usual. The other, sponsored by Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, specifically limits clear cuts to 25 acres; clear cutting in the east to be only for purposes such as improving wildlife habitat, selection cutting to be the usual management technique, and Congress and the Forest Service to undertake extensive review of Forest Service activities. The above was abstracted from Time Magazine and the Arkansas Ecology Newsletter.

Keep this Snipe. It is the last one until September

Henry Halberg, Editor

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