Purple Martins are back. Our harbinger of spring seems a little late this year; there were no really early reports of their arrival. But now they are here in full song, as bubbly as ever. We are now in the loveliest season of the year in Arkansas. The crocuses and early spring flowers are in bloom, and soon our hillsides will explode with redbud and dogwood, and azaleas in the northern hills. Browning was never in Arkansas in April.

President Carter deletes 1978 funding for 19 water-resource projects: We now have a new president, who understands certain ecological realities. Mr. Carter, as you know, has deleted funding for 19 water-resource projects from the 1978 budget submitted by the outgoing Ford Administration, pending review for environmental safety and economic necessity. The Cache River project is one of the nineteen. The National Audubon Society considers it extremely important that we let Mr. Carter know that we are grateful for his action. We are urged to write our congressmen and senators, with a copy to the president. Send it to him at The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500. Two copies to the congressmen should be addressed to them at House of Representatives Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; to the senators at Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20510. A letter to the governor will do no harm. Mr. Hammerschmidt is on the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, which handles Corps of Engineer projects and water pollution. Mr. Thornton is on the Committee on Agriculture, which handles forestry, pesticides, and small watershed projects.

On March 10 the Senate voted to restore 18 of the 19 projects to the budget, including the Cache project. Your letters are now needed more than ever, as the Senate may override a veto by the president. Senator McClellan voted to restore the funds, Senator Bumpers voted against restoration.

On March 11, neither intimidated nor swayed by the Senate’s action, Mr. Carter indicated that there were 38 more water projects that do not meet his administration’s economic criteria for continued funding. Three of them are in Arkansas, the Red River from Shreveport to Index, the St. Francis River, and Village Creek in northeast Arkansas.

On Saturday, March 12, Congressman Jim Guy Tucker stated on T.V. that he was not in favor of the Cache River project and that he believes that many of the people in his district agree with him. So now we have both Mr. Bumpers and Mr. Tucker in favor of discontinuing these projects. They need our support and our letters.

Alaska Lands Bill: Senator Henry M. Jackson (Wash.) chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has introduced the conservationist-backed Udall measure for protection of Alaskan lands (S. 500). The Ford administration bill (S. 499) is reportedly to be improved by the Carter administration. Your letters in support of S. 500 are needed.

AUDUBON CALENDAR
MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 19, 8:30 a.m.: Barge trip on Lake Maumelle and walking trip to Sullivan’s Island. Meet at North Shore Landing at 8:30. To get to the landing, take Highway 10 from Little Rock, then take Highway 300 several miles beyond Roland until the North Shore Landing sign is seen on the left. Cost will be between $2.00 and $3.00, depending on how many people show up. The barge trip will be followed by a trip to Sullivan’s Island in the afternoon. If you cannot go in the morning, meet at the front gate of the old Pulaski County Penal Farm at 1:00 p.m. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Leader, David Hunter, 758-2355.

Cancellation of meeting: The meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 has been cancelled.

Saturday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.: Field trip to Harris Brake to see warblers. Meet at the Game and Fish boat launching area 100 feet off Highway 10 and 100 feet east of the bridge over the Fourche La Fave River. Big brown sign “Harris Brake W.M.A.” at turnover point. Disregard all other signs that point the way to Harris Brake. Morning trip only, easy walking, about two miles. Bring lunch if you plan to be out all day. Petit Jean and Holla Bend are not far away. For information call Louis Huddle, 888-2896.

Friday, April 22 to Sunday, April 24: Spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society at Mena. Nonmembers welcome. For information write Miss Lana Cook, P.O. Box 1169, Mena, AR 71953.

Friday, May 6 to Sunday, May 8: Crash course for beginning birdwatchers. A short, intensive course on how to know the birds and field identification. A talk Friday night on how to identify birds in the field and a little systematics, with slides, study skins, and mounted birds; Saturday morning a field trip to see birds; Sunday afternoon a talk to discuss what you have seen and learned. Meet at the Museum of Science and History in MacArthur Park, Friday at 7:30 a.m. Price of course: family $5.00, adults $3.00, children 10 to 18, $1.50. Price includes cost of handouts. Registration limited to 50 persons. Contact Ed Pemberton at the museum, 376-4321.

Saturday, May 14, 3:00 p.m. to dusk: Field trip to the Sweet Home heronry to see the herons and egrets come in to roost in the evening. Best time for photography, 4 to 5 p.m.; best time to see the birds float in, in large numbers, just before dusk. The heronry is on the property of Tom Fiser, near the junction of Shamburger and Fiser (Fisher) Lanes. To get there, exit US 65 at Highway 338 (dixon Road), go east on US 65 on Dixon Road and the named lanes to the heronry. Fiser and Shamburger Lanes show on most Little Rock street maps. Leader, Perk Floyd, 663-4387 or 888-4252.

Sunday, May 15, 2:30 p.m.: Regular meeting, at the Museum of Science and History in MacArthur Park. Prof. Mike Hanson, of the Geology Department of UALR will talk on the geology of Arkansas. Note that this is the third Sunday.
Iola Rea (Mrs. John F. Rea) died February 14, 1977. She had been a leading student of birds and spokesman for bird-preservation in Arkansas. Over the years she gave countless talks about birds to garden clubs and other groups. The Purple Martin was one of her specialties. She kept several active martin houses in her back yard, and her talk on Purple Martins was PCAS’s standard February program for several years. It could be counted on to attract an audience that would fill the auditorium: of the Game and Fish Commission Building.

If anyone ever deserved the designation, “bird-lover”, it was Iola Rea. Her affection for birds was evident whenever she spoke of them, which was often. She maintained a winter feeding station (sometimes plagued, she said, by “cat trouble”). For a number of years she operated a bird hospital, where she took in and cared for sick or injured birds. Those that recovered were released; the rest were cared for as long as they lived. A few years ago, a Monk Parakeet took over one martin house and built an elaborate nest of sticks on one side of it. The Argentine exile could not have picked a more hospitable hostess. Iola pampered her “Polly” with offerings of apple slices and was rewarded with greedy acceptance and ear-piercing screeches of excitement.

At the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society in 1953, John Baker, then president, encouraged Iola to start a chapter of NAS in Little Rock. She came home fired by the idea, and talked it over with some fellow birders, then ran an announcement in the newspaper. The first small gathering that led to the formation of the Pulaski County Audubon Society was held in the Game and Fish auditorium one evening in December, 1953. Iola was elected historian, in later years she held the presidency and other elective posts. When the Arkansas Audubon Society was organized in 1955, Iola was a charter member. Later she served as its secretary and as convention chairman. She greeted and knew everybody, and was the unofficial hostess. The Pulaski Society has grown from that small beginning to about 450 members, the Arkansas Society to about 850 members.

Iola’s interest in birds was by no means limited to those in her yard. One recent spring I recall her telling me of her pleasure in being taken birding in Hindman Park on Saturdays by her husband and son. Already that year she had seen twenty-odd species of warblers.

When I was a high school student, she procured the loan of a bander’s trap which facilitated photographic documentation of a male “Spotted Towhee” (at that time considered a distinct species) from my feeding tray. That first contact with birders outside my family circle began my involvement with the Audubon movement. Thus my life is one of those in which she played a pivotal role.

Migrant warblers haven’t started to arrive this year, but Purple Martin “scouts” have appeared. So far, I have not seen one myself. When I do, though, I know that I’ll be reminded of Iola Rea. Many an Arkansan will share the experience; the sight of that first martin will bring a happy excitement, then warm thoughts of Iola, and a deep sense of loss.

Bill Shepherd

DR. GEORGE W. SMILEY

It was with great sadness that we read of the passing of our friend, Dr. George W. Smiley of Lake Village. It was at Lake Bois D’Arc during the Fall 1968 Meeting in Hope that we first met George and Virginia Smiley and birded with them there. We looked forward to seeing them at subsequent semi-annual AAS meetings to continue a friendship with them that ripened over the years, and where, unless illness prevented, they were always present. George had been ill for several months prior to his demise on January 12, 1977. The AAS has lost a good member and those of us who knew him this quiet, soft-spoken man have lost a friend who had gained our respect and love. Our sympathy is with Virginia in the period of adjustment that lies ahead.

H.H.S.

The above was written by Shug Shugart for the March AAS Newsletter. We of PCAS who knew George felt exactly the same way about him. I could think of no better tribute, so I have put it in exactly as Shug wrote it.

H.N.H.-Editor

1976 - 1977 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES, FINAL FILM

Wednesday, April 6  

Stefan Kling  

VANISHING EDEN

Admission $1.50 / Students 50 cents

The film will be shown in the regular meeting place, in the auditorium of the University Medical Center on West Markham Street, at 7:45 p.m. There is plenty of well lighted parking. There will be a drawing for a free ticket for the 1977-78 film series.

CHAPTER NEWS

At the February meeting, Frank Reuter, of UA at Monticello, gave us a fine talk on the Alaskan lands that need protection, the pipeline and its ecological effects, and some wonderful slides of Alaskan wildlife. Frank has spent considerable time in Alaska and is well versed in the current situation in the arctic.
Alana Peak, science teacher at Bryant High School, has been awarded the Society’s $300 scholarship for a two-week course at the Maine National Audubon Nature Study Camp this summer. Congratulations, Alana. We hope you see a puffin.

We had a fine field trip in February, and Bill Shepherd has written it up for us. Here is his story, for which your editor is very grateful.

On a raw February 19, Bill Shepherd lead 17 members and guests of PCAS on a field trip to two areas in the Grand Prairie region that have been purchased within the past year by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Rusty Blackbirds were feeding around pools in the bottomland forest at Smokehole. Some of the birds discovered that they needed to be wearing waterproof footwear and others learned the advisability of a right turn at Seaton Dump. At least 7 Short-eared Owls were flushed on Roth Prairie in the early afternoon. Soon thereafter, a prescribed burn was begun on the north half of the prairie. Now that you know how to get there, go back in a few weeks and see how the growth of wildflowers has been stimulated by the winter fire. But remember not to pick any of the flowers. Everything on these areas is protected for everyone and for all time. If one of us takes anything away, it diminishes what will be there for later visitors to enjoy. If each visitor took just a few flowers, the cumulative effect on the prairie would be adverse and considerable. “Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints.” And please be careful about the latter!

Members of PCAS can contribute significantly to the preservation program by making lists of birds observed on these preserved natural areas and submitting them for the files of the Natural Heritage Commission, at 500 Continental Bldg., Main at Markham, Little Rock 72201.

A few die-hards finished off the day with a visit to the Stuttgart airport, which yielded them looks at 16 Smith’s Longspurs and a flock of about 70 Lapland Longspurs. Surprisingly, there were only about half-a-dozen Horned Larks there.

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Dr. J. Howard Barnhard, 14 Pinnacle Dr.
Dr. Juanita Crutchfield, 1420 N. James, Jacksonville
Miss Jan Drew, 19 Koko Dr., NLR
Meredith Hawkins, 4014 S. Lookout
Ken Huggins, 14005 Sardis Rd., Mabelvale
Mrs. Harris McNeill, 1201 Koehler, NLR

Miss Kathy Metcalf, 4004 S. Hwy 161, Lot 40, Jacksonville
Mr. & Mrs. H.G. Miller, Box 7389
Ms. Gloria Rauch, 3 Sandstone Ct.
Frank Reuter, UA Monticello, P.O. Box 3489, Monticello
Richard P. Thiil, 1 Coolwood Dr., Apt. 14
Mrs. Tommy E. Tucker, Rt. 5, Box 439

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**SPRING SATURDAY SPECIALS**
AT THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY IN MacARTHUR PARK, LITTLE ROCK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>This one stinks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Buzzing by.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Roses are red, violets are blue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>All of this, and there's more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Right in your own back yard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Wings and things.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All about skunks.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Some insects buzz, some don't</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April rains bring May flowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arkansas' natural wonders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birds from your window</td>
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<tr>
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<td>From the Wright Brothers to the moon shot.</td>
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Admission - $1.00 per person
Museum members free

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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Check the Membership You Desire (includes Audubon Magazine)
- Individual ........ $15.00 per year
- Sustaining ........ $30.00 per year
- Family ............. $18.00 per year
- Student ............. $7.00 per year
- New
- Renewal

Name (Please Print) ____________________________________________

Address .....................................................................................

City ........................................ State ............ Zip No. .........

Local Chapter: Pulaski County Audubon Society

Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society

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

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GOSSIP

Mayor Fined: James Ryle, mayor of Greensburg, Ind. (pop. 8,500), was convicted in a U.S. District Court for giving the order that led to the shooting of at least a dozen garbage bags full of migratory Purple Martins. He was fined $50. The town had never even applied for—much less received—federal permission to act against the birds, which congregate each fall in downtown Greensburg.

Audubon Leader 2/25/77

Dove Hunting Outlawed: An Ohio appellate court judge, reversing an earlier decision, has outlawed hunting of Mourning Doves in that state. The issue had been in court since 1975 when, after 60 years, Ohio re-opened the hunting season for this species. Now, however, the court has ruled that the Mourning Dove is a song bird, protected under Ohio law, not a game bird, and cannot be hunted.

Audubon Leader 2/25/77

SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBERSHIP RATES

Senior citizens are eligible for a $3.00 reduction in membership dues, making individual dues $12.00 and family dues $15.00.

Henry N. Halberg, Editor

BIRD NEWS

The bird of the winter seems to have been the Tree Sparrow. It has been seen far south of its usual winter range in Arkansas, due to harsh winter conditions farther north. Luvois Shugart of El Dorado wrote that she found some Tree Sparrows in Callion, Union County.

Arkansas Audubon Society Newsletter 3/15/77

Perk Floyd saw two Bald Eagles, one adult and one immature at Lakeside in Saline County as late as February 28.

COMMUNICATIONS

We have the spring issue of the Mona Nature Club News Bulletin. The club now has more than 120 members, all of whom are working hard to make the spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society a success. The club is full of serious birders, who have good luck seeing lots of birds and finding wildflowers. The spirit of Lillian Leddy carries on.

We also have the March Newsletter of the Greers Ferry Audubon Society. Between meetings with Ray Jones of the Museum of Science and History and Perry Conway, NAS Assistant Regional Representative, as speakers, a meeting to build bluebird houses, and a special sale of wild bird seed, they are a very active group of people. Keep up the good work. Thanks for the Newsletter.