THE ASCA SNIPE

Vol. XVI No. 2

Newsletter of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

March 3, 1982

AUDUBON CALENDAR
MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, March 18, 7:00 p.m.: Regular meeting, in the Pulaski Room in the Student Union at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. There will be a film on Arkansas water resources, "Will the well run dry?" courtesy of Jeanne Jackson and UALR. Mel White will present a slide talk on Rocky Mountain National Park. There is plenty of well-lighted parking.

Friday, March 26 and Saturday, March 27: Crash course for beginning birdwatchers. If you want to learn more about birds, sign up for the CRASH COURSE on how to know the birds and how to identify them in the field. The course will include a talk with slides, study skins and mounted birds on Friday, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Activity Room on the second floor of Sears University Avenue store, and a field trip on Saturday, March 27 at Pinnacle Mountain State Park from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meet at Kingfisher Trail, which is near the Pavilion on Highway 300. Bring lunch; drinks can be purchased at the park. Charges are minimal and include handouts; family, $6.00; adult, $4.00; children 10 to 18, $2.00. For reservations call Kathy Ratcliffe at 663-3319.

Saturday March 27, 8:00 a.m.: Field trip at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Members and friends are invited to join the bird walk of the Crash Course. Bring lunch and see above.

Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting at St. Vincent Infirmary, Room S-1169.

Saturday, April 17, 7:00 a.m.: Field trip to Boyle Park. Meet at Pavilion No. 3 (the YBMA Pavilion). Morning trip only.

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting at St. Vincent Infirmary, Room S-1169.

Saturday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.: Field trip to Tar Camp Corps of Engineers Recreation Area near Redfield. Take U.S. Highway 65 to the exit to Redfield and follow signs from Redfield to the Area. We should see flycatchers, orioles, and warblers. This is one of the best Recreation Areas for birding. There is a fine nature walk. The black-top road from Redfield to the Area runs through mixed deciduous and pine woods for several miles, along which birding should be good. Leader, Sam Slagle, 374-4978.

Saturday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.: Picnic potluck supper at the E.P. Floyd’s. Bring dishes and silverware. The Society will furnish beverages. To get to the Floyd's take the Pine Bluff Highway (U.S. 65) to Woodson Lateral Road (Exit 12). Turn right (west) on Woodson Lateral for one mile, then turn left (south) into the Lakeside Country Club entrance. Be sure to register at the clubhouse (lodge) as you go by. Follow the blacktop past the lodge and over the dam to the end of the blacktop, then turn left on the gravel road. Perk's house is in sight, the second house on the right. Floyd signs on the house. Follow the merging signs all the way. Come early and have time for some birding. If you like nesting prothonotary warblers, bring your camera.

1981-82 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES
COSPONSORED BY THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Friday, April 23, Fran Hall
KOOKABURRA COUNTRY

Admission - adult, $2.00; student, $1.00; Groups - scout troops and school classes, $0 each person; children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult.

The films are shown in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Auditorium, 4301 West Markham Street, at 7:45 p.m. Park cars in State Mental Hospital parking lot (#2) directly across Hopper Drive from the Student Union. From Markham Street, drive straight up Hopper Drive to its end, turn right, then immediately turn right again. The open gate to the lot is on your right. We thank the Commissioner of Mental Health Sciences for making the lot available.

No-host dinner with the speaker, at the Villa, 1510 S. University Ave. at 5:30 p.m. Call Henry Halberg at 663-1812 so that we may know how many to expect. The Society is very grateful to the University for cosponsoring the film series and for the use of the auditorium. The University has given us $100 to help pay for the films. The gift is very much appreciated.

OTHER EVENTS

April 30-May 2: Spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society, at Mena. For information write to Mena Nature Club, Miss Lana Cook, Treas., P.O. Box 1156, Mena 71953.

May 8, 9:30 a.m.: All-day workshop on "The future of Arkansas National Forests." The workshop will be sponsored by The Wilderness Society and the members of the Arkansas Conservation Council, of which ASCA is a member. Included will be discussion of oil and gas exploration in the national forests, timber management and timber use. Registration is $5.00; lunch will be served, cost $5.00. For further information call or write Ken Smith, Ark. Natural Heritage Comm., 500 Continental Bldg., Little Rock, AR 72201, 371-1706.

May 11-16: Annual convention of the American Birding Association, at Plantation, Florida. All the best birders in North America will attend. Good field trips to Everglades National Park, Corkscrew Swamp, Lake Okeechobee; also bird tours to Cuba, Jamaica and other places. For information, write ABA Convention 1982, P.O. Box 4335, Austin TX 78765.
CHAPTER NEWS

Chris Granger, our new president has a message for us. Chris was knocked down and injured by a fellow (unknown) skier who did not bother to stop. Chris is now recovering nicely, but she has had to have knee surgery and has had a lot of pain.

Thank you for your support during surgery and recovery from my skiing accident. I’ve enjoyed your cards, calls and visits. As I was told in a note from the Halbergers, I should have stuck with birdwatching. Special thanks to Scott Trotter, our vice president, for stepping in and conducting business.

While in California after my accident I sat on the deck at my brother’s house in the Sierra Nevada foothills and watched a hummingbird feed from Manzanita blossoms and bluebirds flying around the yard feeding on insects. What a change from Little Rock in January! Unlike me, many of our members have been out and about, sharing Audubon with the community or taking trips. Welcome back from Panama, Edith and Henry Halberg. Roberta Crabtree flew to Freeport, Tex. to see a hummingbird from Costa Rica (at her sister’s, where the Green Violetee was been).

Here at home Florence Mallard has organized a Tuesday morning outing group. They have been birding at Perk Floyd’s place on the lake. Call Florence if you would like to join the group. Roberta Crabtree entertained the Otter Creek Garden Club talking about building a backyard habitat for birds and Florence showed slides of National Audubon Summer Nature Study Camps and the Arkansas Ecology Camp for children. I talked about bluebirds, and Kathy Ratcliffe talked about feeders. What a team we made. Would your group like a speaker? Give us a call. Florence went to Barbara McAfee’s “Activity Group” at Horace Mann Junior High and talked about birds, then took the students on a bird walk. Kathy Ratcliffe visited the Brownie Troop at Forest Park Elementary School and gave a program on “Attracting birds to your yard”.

Congratulations to Neil Curry, this year’s winner of the ASCA scholarship to a National Audubon Nature-study Camp. Neil is the Interpreter-Naturalist at Pinnacle Mtn. State Park. He hopes to attend the camp in Maine. Sam Slagle is building more birdhouses. Be sure to visit Sam’s Bluebird Trail at the park. I hope to see you all at the March 18 meeting and the Crash Birdwatching Course the 26th and the 27th.

Chris Granger

The Red-headed Woodpecker Arm Patches have arrived, thanks to Roberta Crabtree. The price is $2.50, picked up, $3.00 mailed. Call 755-1723.

At the February directors’ meeting a committee was appointed to report on a suggested fund to which people could contribute rewards for illegal killing and rehabilitation of raptors, including eagles, and other birds.

At the same meeting our Board of Directors voted to give $100.00, as part of an award, to the person whose report led to the conviction of the man who shot an eagle in northern Arkansas. The importance of the report was acknowledged at a meeting of the Game and Fish Commission.

We are proud to call attention to the efforts of Perk Floyd, Jane Gully, Florence Mallard, and Kathy Ratcliffe, who have organized a weekly workshop teaching 8th and 9th graders at Horace Mann Junior High the basics of bird watching.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, all you newcomers. We need you and we need you. If you want to help, we have committees on which you can serve. Just let us know and we will fit you right in.

Ms. Susan Brady, 4220 A St. #3
Ms. Minnie J. Carson, 12440 Rivercrest Dr.
Ronald Estlick, 6612 Longwood
Fernand Fonssagvides, 21 White Oak Cir.
Joe Kaufman, 6221 Greenwood Rd.
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy D. Kendrick, 39 DeSoto Cir., NLR
Charles Kumpne, 526 Dixon Rd.
Dr. Eleanor Lipsmeyer, 2100 Rebsamen Park Rd. #208
Jay R. Marks, 4101 N. Walnut St.
Lloyd Munsey, Rte. 2 Box 266-A, LR

Mrs. Carol Reiner, 604 Nan Circle
Ray Rigs, 3733 Crystal Valley
Mrs. Winston Sherry, 7117 Shamrock Dr.
Julian E. Smith, 6623 Brentwood
Ms. Laurie H. Smith, 410 N. Walnut
Ms. Jean Soth, 113 Turkey Trot, Jacksonville
John W. Taylor, 30 Sunset Dr., NLR
Robert Tschieder, 6524 Brentwood
Dr. & Mrs. Martin Zoldey, 11601 Rodney Parham Rd.

CONSERVATION

Enclosed with this newsletter is “A summary of the Arkansas citizens’ wilderness proposal.” It is a proposal by the Sierra Club to create Wilderness Areas in the National Forests of Arkansas. It has been recommended by the Arkansas Conservation Council and adopted unanimously by our Board of Directors at their February 11 meeting. You are urged to write your congressman and our Senators immediately.

Our nation’s most important wildlife law, the Endangered Species Act, is in trouble. Scheduled for Congressional reauthorization this year, it has become the target of powerful economic interests and elements within the Reagan administration. You are asked to write letters and make phone calls to Administration officials and members of Congress supporting the ESA’s reauthorization.

I am sure everybody saw the papers on February 22, when “Secretary Watt announced a retreat on his plan to open Wilderness Areas to development — only to have critics charge him with a “massive public-relations deception.” “Watt’s new wilderness proposal seemed to cause even more dispute. After months of proposing increased drilling and mining in wilderness areas, Watt announced he would seek a moratorium on such leases through the year 2000. But when they studied the proposal, environmentalists felt they had been hoodwinked. The plan would protect the wilderness areas only for the next eighteen years, then release them for possible development. It would also prevent Congress from designating any new wilderness areas after 1987 and permit Interior to grant leases on lands still under study before Congress had a chance to preserve them.”

Newsweek, March 8, 1982.

The Administration continues to make waves in the environmental field, according to Audubon Leader:

On January 29 the president rescinded the executive order prohibiting use of predator poisons on federal lands. The Administration is bypassing Congress and the nation’s environmental laws by weakening and demoralizing the EPA, the principal agency charged with carrying out environmental protection programs. In the last year about 80 percent of EPA’s staff has been fired, downgraded, transferred, or quit, leaving much work undone.
The new Clean Air bill, H.R. 5252, could become a Dirty Air bill if it is passed. Much of the program that forces states to clean up unhealthy air would be seriously weakened.

On January 29 the heads of the nation’s three largest conservation organizations, National Audubon president Russ Peterson, the Sierra Club’s executive director J. Michael McCloskey, and the National Wildlife Federation’s executive vice president Jay D. Hair, met with Edwin Meese III, counselor to the President. “Mr. Peterson’s comment afterward was ‘If we needed any confirmation of the complete lack of respect the President and his team have for what we in the conservation and environmental movement stand for, we got it at this meeting.’ He saw little promise in further dialogue with an administration that holds views 180 degrees removed from those of environmentalists.

COMMUNICATIONS

The third Arkansas Audubon Society Annual Ecology Camp will be held from June 13 to June 18 at Camp Ozark. The camp is just west of Mt. Ida, on the bank of the Ouachita River. A total of 62 students will be accepted this year. Any young person 11 or 12-years of age, who wants to study at the out-of-doors, is invited to send for information and an application. The cost to the student is $100; the $125 balance of the total cost of $225 is paid by the Society. Some full or partial scholarships are available. To meet the total cost the Ecology Camp Committee needs the support of all members. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to AAS Ecology Camp, 5809 North Country Club, Little Rock, AR 72207.

The new Field List of Arkansas Birds is available. For 3 copies send a stamped, self-addressed, long envelope and 25 cents to Charles Mills, Box 68, Wilton, AR 71865.

National Audubon has announced a Student Employment Program at Audubon Ecology Camps, for students between 16 and 20 years of age. There will be Students Assistants and Maintenance Staff Members, and will pay varying amounts ranging from $400 to $840. President Chris Granger has information. Students may take the courses along with the regular attendees.

National Audubon has announced Audubon Summer Camps for Young People. There will be a session at the Maine Audubon Camp June 15-24 for youngsters 9-11 years of age; 12 and 13 year olds will travel in a caravan in Maine. There will be three joint sessions of the Wisconsin Camp and the Northwoods Center in Minnesota for 11-16 year olds and their families. Your editor has basic information.

National Audubon has announced that this year’s Birdathon will take place on April 24 and 25. Last year more than $92,000 was raised for local Audubon chapters and the national and regional offices.

Do you know about Sherry Langford’s Great Blue Heron picture? Prints are available, at $15. The proceeds will help support Joe and Vivian Stockton’s bird “hospital” in Siloam Springs, where they treat and rehabilitate wounded, sick, and injured birds, especially birds of prey. Joe wrote a nice piece in the Gazette on February 23. For a signed print send $15.00 to Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society, P.O. Box 681, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

BIRD NEWS

The Tuesday Morning Bird Club, Roberta Crabtree, Vivian Ferguson, Florence Mallard, Marion Molnar, Gale Stewart, Maria Sylvester, and Thelma Vollman, is now in full flower. New recruits are welcome. Last week they reported a Bald Eagle, Golden crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, and Ring-billed Gulls, and many other birds. Congratulations everybody. Why didn’t somebody think of this ten years ago?

Phyllis Kenney called in to tell us that Mr. Kenney saw a Sandhill Crane on the Pleasant Valley Country Club golf course on January 5, and Joel Ward says a Bald Eagle flew over the Federal Building in Little Rock on January 15.

All the members who took the bus to Holla Bend Wildlife Refuge on January 16 saw the Burrowing Owl that had established winter quarters in the high ground around an irrigation well. They also saw 1,500 Snow and Canada Geese, 50,000 Mallards, 8 or 9 Bald Eagles, and hundreds of Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks.

When Dorothy Howard broke up the ice in her bird bath in Mabelvale on January 12, the birds ate the small pieces of ice. I have learned a new trick. Thanks, Dorothy.

JoAnne Rife sent news of a Common Redpoll at her feeder in Harrison on January 25, 26, 29, and February 1. The report is well documented.

Florence Mallard, Bill Shepherd, Roberta Crabtree and Scott Trotter saw Terry Butler’s Ground Dove on his farm in Pangburn on February 6.

On February 15 Sookie and Sandra McCoy reported that a House Finch, banded no less, had been visiting their feeder in Stuttgart for several days.

The field-trip on February 20 to Pinnacle Mt. State Park and Lake Maumelle reported no eagles, but the 15 participants were very happy with everything from Common Loons to White-throated Sparrows.

Perk Floyd saw his first Purple Martin on February 20, near the junction of University Avenue and I-630, and over the lake near his home on the 25th. Tom Bonner announced sightings before the 20th on his TV show, “Little Rock Today.” Tom Mustichia saw a Bald Eagle near the I-40 Bridge over the Arkansas River on February 21, and Myrtle Skees discovered a Rufous-sided Towhee and an Oregon Junco in her yard on February 27.

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS, AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:
President: Chris Granger, 3 Holly Springs Court, 227-0258
Vice-President: Scott Trotter, 401 Fountain, 375-7928
Secretary: Barbara Shults, 11 Glenridge Rd., 225-2223
Treasurer: Richard A. Pyburn, 2 Granite Ct., Maumelle, 831-4700
Editor: Henry N. Halberg, 5809 N. Country Club, 683-1812

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Wildlife Films: Florence Mallard, 2924 Dalewood, 663-8903
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Conservation: Joel Ward, 5409 W. 10th, 664-6135
Membership: Amelia Metrailler, 1404 Kavanaugh, 663-0441

Publicity: Victoria Young, Rte. 3, Box 375-JJ, LR, 821-3508
Hospitability: To be announced
Telphone: Myrtle Skees, 7710 Briarwood Cir., 225-0964
Christmas Census: E.P. Floyd, 16 Lakeside Dr., Hensley, 888-4252
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☐ Student ......................................... 15.00 per year  ☐ Renewal

Name (Please Print): ___________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Your NAS membership number (renewals only) __________________________

Local Chapter: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, NAS #0401

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society and send to:
Richard A. Pyburn, Treasurer, ASCA, 2 Granite Court, Maumelle, AR 72118

Moving? Send change of address to H.N. Halberg-ASCA, 5809 North Country Club,
Little Rock, AR 72201 so you won’t miss your next Snipe. Notify National Audubon
Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022 to change the address for your
magazine.