Three of the most critical conservation and environmental protection laws, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act are now before Congress for reauthorization.

Our public lands are under attack as never before, as James Watt and his associates try to open up for development large areas of wilderness and wilderness habitat.

Write to your Senators and Congressmen.

AUBURN CALENDAR
MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

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 Forest Service Cemetery. Bring food, dishes and silverware. The society will furnish beverages. To get to Forest Service Cemetery (U.S. 65) to Woodson Lateral Road (Exit 12). Turn right (west) on Woodson Lateral Road 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. Park’s house is in sight, the second house on the right. Floyd sign on the house. Follow the Merganser signs all the way. Come early and have time for some birding. If you like nesting prothonotary warblers, bring your camera.

Thursday, July 8, 7:00 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting, St. Vincent Infirmary, Room S-1169; telephone before coming.

Thursday, August 12, 7:00 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting, St. Vincent Infirmary, Room S-1169; telephone before coming.

Thursday, September 9: Field trip, picnic, and regular meeting, at Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

4:30 p.m.: Field trip, meet at the Pavilion, on Highway 300.

6:00 p.m.: Picnic supper, at the Pavilion. Note that this is a picnic, not a potluck, so bring all your own food. The society will provide beverages.

7:30 p.m.: Meeting, at the Visitors Center, on Pinnacle Valley Road. Henry and Edith Halberg will give a slide talk on their recent trip to Panama. To reach the Pavilion, take Highway 10 to Highway 300. Follow Highway 300 for about 2 miles to the sign “Pinnacle Mountain State Park,” just beyond the bridge. Turn right into the Recreation Area and the Pavilion. To reach the Visitors Center from the Pavilion, continue north on Highway 300 and turn right on Pinnacle Valley Road to the Center.

Saturday, October 2, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Hawk Watch, at the Outlook at Pinnacle Mtn. State Park. Take Highway 10 to Highway 300 to Pinnacle Valley Road to the Visitors Center and Outlook. Sponsored by the Park.

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting, at St. Vincent Infirmary, Room S-1169. The nominating committee will be appointed at this meeting.

Thursday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.: Board of Directors meeting at St. Vincent Infirmary, Room S-1169. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of directors at this meeting.

Saturday, November 13: Field trip, to Lake Hamilton State Fish Hatchery. Meet at the hatchery at 9:30 a.m. All-day trip, bring lunch. Leader, Sam Slagle, 374-4978. Members of the Garland County Audubon Society are invited to attend.

Thursday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.: Annual meeting and potluck supper, in the Mattin Building at Aldersgate Camp, on Aldersgate Road. Bring food, silverware, and plates. The society will furnish beverages. Bring at least five of your best slides for the members’ slide program. Also bring something to hang on the birds’ Christmas tree at the Museum of Science. Directors will be elected at this meeting. To get to Aldersgate, go out 12th Street, which becomes Kanis Road, and turn left on Aldersgate Road, which is just before you cross over I-430; or go out I-630 to the end, turn left, on Shackleford Road, and left again on Kanis. Aldersgate Road is on the right, just after you cross over I-430. Areas will be assigned for the Little Rock Christmas Bird Count. Please make a special effort to bring children.

OTHER EVENTS


October 15-17: Regional meeting of the National Audubon Society, West-Central Region, at Fayetteville, AR.

October 22-24: Fall meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society, near Felsenthal Wildlife Refuge. Headquarters will probably be at Crossett or El Dorado.

November 4-7: Annual meeting (the 100th) of the American Ornithologists’ Union, in Chicago.
CHAPTER NEWS

At the March meeting, held in the Pulaski Room at UALR, part of the program was the showing of the film “Will the well run dry?” courtesy of Jeanne Jackson and UALR. Mel White presented a slide talk on the birds of Rocky Mountain National Park. Both programs were very well received. I regret that I was unable to be present. The Crash Birdwatching Course for beginning birdwatchers was held March 26 and 27; at Sears, Friday night for a teaching session on bird identification and systematics, and a field trip at Pinnacle Mountain State Park on Saturday morning. Those who took the course expressed themselves as very much pleased with it.

At the Board meeting on April 8, Scott Trotter discussed the “Wilderness Proposal,” a brochure and slide presentation being prepared for the Conservation Coalition by an environmental consulting firm. The slides and brochure will be used by a delegate who is going to Washington to lobby for wilderness in Arkansas. The ASCA Board voted to give the Coalition $200 to help prepare the brochure and up to $50 for mailing if required.

Dwayne Archer of Little Rock, a volunteer worker at Pinnacle Mtn. State Park, and Craig Sellers of North Little Rock have been selected as the ASCA’s scholarship winners for the 1982 Arkansas Audubon Society’s Ecology Camp.

The Jamison family has established the Ross Leslie Jamison Scholarship to the AAS Ecology Camp. Mark Thompson, Bishop of Little Rock is the 1982 recipient of the scholarship.

Beau James Bledsoe is the recipient of a scholarship to the AAS Ecology Camp given by members Dr. and Mrs. Carlos Araoz.

Theresa Lane, of the Methodist Children’s Home is the recipient of a scholarship to the Ecology Camp given by members Harry and Kitty Jones of North Little Rock.

Karen Ward has been appointed chairperson of Youth Activities and Cheryl Floyd is Hospitality Chairperson.

At the February meeting a committee was appointed to report on a suggested fund to receive contributions for rewards for reporting illegal killings of raptors, including eagles, and for rehabilitation of raptors. Scott reported at the April meeting that a fund should be set up from which payments could be made and from which Jane Gulley could draw as needed for her program and that the treasurer off the ASCA should administer the fund. The board voted to set up the fund and to authorize the actions described above.

The Tuesday Morning Bird Club is going great guns. A bunch of our most active female-type birders are having the time of their lives every Tuesday during migration season. If you want to join the group, call Florence Mallard at 663-8803.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Mimi Atkins, 1009 Wolfe St.
Ms. Grace S. Baker, 890 Medical Towers
Ms. Nancy A. Bode, Rte. 1 Box 38-C, Alexander
William B. Brozeth, 7018 South 12 St., Fort Smith
Mrs. J.R. Brewer, Rte. 1, Box 314, Scott
Richard C. Butler, c/o Peoples S&L, 123 West 3rd
Dr. Carey Carpenter, 2 Shadow Cove, NLR
Ms. Minnie J. Carson, 12440 Rivercrest Dr.
C. Cash, RD 4, Box 24-B, Alexander
Ms. Mrs. D. Deaturn, Rte. 4, Box 358, Alexander
Ms. Minnie Beth Delavan, 9300 Treasure Hill Rd., #907
Rev. & Mrs. Marcus P. Felde, 11 Brookridge Cove
Ms. Johanne Fuller, 20 Masters Circle
Ms. C.L. Gaskins, 1718 Lilac Circle
Carroll Hargrove, 6050 Atwood Rd., Apt. 10
Mrs. Heber Helvetson, 5 Longfellow Circle
Robert G. Hooks, 17 Lantern Hill Rd.
Vernon Kauppi, 1600 Glenda Dr.
Carl & Philemona Kittrell, 108 N. Claremont, Sherwood
Mrs. J. Lamb, 2203 N. Arthur
Ms. Gail Laster, 211 Donna Dr.
James A. Maye, 9600 Southridge Dr., Apt. 27
Mrs. Henry G. Miller, 204 McLmennon Trail
Mrs. Ray Ellen Odle, Lake Maumelle, Roland
Ms. Lynda Penton, 11904 Pilgrim Rd.
Stuart T. Pyburn, 38 11th St., W., Keansburg, NJ
Richard D. Reed, 2219 Westover
Ms. Margaret W. Reitan, P.O. Box 90, 4R
D.W. Schroeder, Box 7392, LR
M/M Jack Wood Sears, Box 94, Harding College, Scarry
Lloyd & Marie Sickle, 318 Shadwood Ln.
Ms. Margaret Skidels, 11914 Pinecone Forest Dr.
STONEFLOWER, 511 E. 7th St., Apt. E
Dr. & Mrs. R. Hairan Struble, 53 Longlea Dr.
Richard L. Thompson, 2204 Nasaas, NLR
Harold Jr., 7110 Oak Lane
Ms. J.M. Underwood, 1213 Lakeshore Pl., NLR

CONSERVATION

A priority message from NAS president Russ Peterson informs us that three of the most critical conservation and environmental protection laws are before Congress for reauthorization. They are The Endangered Species Act, The Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.

Add to these three the attack on our public lands by James Watt and his associates and we have four major battles on our hands.

National needs extra money right now to combat the attacks of the very wealthy “Special interests” who are doing all in their power to eliminate or reduce the effectiveness of the present acts.

So please follow through. You all should have received a copy of this Priority Message, dated April 28. The message, boiled down to three words, is “Send money now.” Also, write your Senators and Congressmen.

And the wilderness areas in the national forests in Arkansas are not at all secure. The administration would like very much to open them up to development.

WILDLIFE FILMS

We have the dates for the 1982-83 wildlife films. Write them on your calendar now. The dates are October 8, November 19, January 21, February 18, and March 4. We appreciate all the work that Jeanne Jackson has put into the series this year. It takes a lot of time; I know, I have been chairman.
BIRD NEWS

The April field trip, in Boyle Park, produced a good list. The best birds were a Swainson’s thrush, a hummer, a catbird and 10 species of warblers.

Edith and I saw and heard what was undoubtedly a reeve at Lonoke on April 11. The call is unique and diagnostic.

There were three Wilson’s phalaropes and a scissor-tailed flycatcher at Lonoke on the 23rd. Andy Pursley called to report an immature bald eagle at Mayflower on April 18 and an adult at Toad Suck Ferry on the 30th. That is late for eagles in Arkansas. The 1990 checklist shows the fourth week of March as the closing date, with scattered dates thereafter. And on April 30 Frankie Strange saw two of what were obviously female painted buntings on the river side of the old Mopac Hospital. Our 20 siskins were with us until Wednesday, May 5. One appeared on Saturday May 8.

Probably the best birds seen at Mena on May 1, during the AAS spring meeting, were the common loon in breeding plumage and the 23 double-crested cormorants on Lake Wilhelmina.

For the last two weeks our telephone has rung 4 or 5 times a day with the query “What are the little yellow birds?” They were goldfinches on their way north, of course. Now the goldfinches have apparently all gone, and the query is “This little birdie fell (?) out of its nest. What shall I do with it?” or “What shall I feed it.” We will be glad when the little birds are all fledged.

Bill Shepherd told us that a swallow-tailed kite was seen in Central Illinois on the Illinois Big (spring) Day. The last one seen before that was eight years ago. They used to be regular nesters in Illinois. At that time there were hundreds in the state, and they were seen all the way up the Mississippi Valley to Minnesota.

A note from Jack and Judy Trotter on March 28 says that birds are slow in western Idaho. A varied thrush wandered through and the sage grouse were drumming. Jack notes that the weather was bad, and I get the impression that he is blaming the slow birding on the weather. Both of them are fine and send their regards.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Hawk Silhouette is here by courtesy of the Chirp, the newsletter of the Audubon Society of Corvallis (OR). Trace it on black paper and stick it on your picture window. It will help to prevent small birds from trying to fly through.

Member Jim Peterson is at Leslie University, in Cambridge Mass., enrolled in the Audubon Expedition Institute. Here is his letter:

I climbed the ladder runs to the roof top. Children were scurrying by me and the old women with brightly colored blankets looked warmer than I did. A late afternoon sun pored a red light along the mesa to our east, but there was still a chilling wind. I could hear a constant drumming coming from somewhere below but could not see down into the plaza because of the crowd.

I remembered thinking at that point how removed the word “education” was from this small, desert Indian village. It was as if the word had no relationship to anything outside a classroom. Before I could complete this thought, however, a loud, low rhythm of voices echoed off the plaza walls. The crowd parted and let me squeeze in so I could look down. The color, sound, and motion of the experience made me sort of numb momentarily, and I shivered. The Zuni’s were starting to dance.

Shortly after the Zuni experience, I looked back at where I’d been at the first of the year. I understood now that I should have been better prepared for leaving the secure surroundings of Little Rock and dashing off for a nine-month expedition, travelling the U.S. by bus with the Audubon Expedition Institute. But I seriously doubt anything could have prepared me well enough for this kind of education.

As I was trying to find a place for myself on the program, this travelling bus load of students had studied glacial ecology in New Hampshire and Maine, watched whales off Cape Cod in Massachusetts, and worked on a Mennonite Farm for two weeks near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, not to mention all the canoe trips, backpacks, and various resource people we saw along the way. Experiences were racing by me at breakneck speed, and it wasn’t until Christmas break that I could finally digest what I’d learned.

In January we travelled to Florida, but the warm weather did not have the same effect on me as the condition of Florida’s natural resources. Tragically, the birds of Florida are far fewer now than in 1970 due to a natural drought and man’s decision to build, channel, and drain. The seriousness of the declining bird population and related water problems in Florida further clarified the value of education expeditions.

In February, as the expedition travelled west, the uniqueness of Southwestern ecology became evident. But again, man’s use of water has had a serious impact on the land. The over use of groundwater and over-grazing by domestic animals has reduced the life-carrying capacity of the land, and the damming of the Colorado River is slowly making the situation worse.

The Indians of the Southwest also have their share of environmental problems. The Papago Indians are being drained of groundwater from surrounding urban environments, the Navajo are beginning to feel the strain of a population boom, and the Hopi are trying to maintain their traditional values without yielding to the dictates of a dominant culture. Through all our contact with the

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Join the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas and automatically become a member of National Audubon Society. You will receive the bi-monthly AUDUBON magazine and the SNYPE, published from time to time by The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas.

Moving? Send change of address to H.N. Halberg-ASCIA, 5809 North Country Club, Little Rock, AR 72207 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.
Indians, however, more cultural stereotypes dissolved than a lifetime of textbooks could ever hope to accomplish, and I learned to look at my own culture through new eyes.

I now understand how really alive education can be. In some respects, sitting on a prickly pear cactus can have more educational value than any book could hope to achieve. Understanding your environment requires more than logic. If you have a feeling for your surroundings, if you use your senses as well as your mind, only then can you really say “I understand.” In this regard, traditional education will always fail.

Expedition education will draw me back for another year, but not strictly for the Masters degree, or the meeting of new people, or even the chance for travel, although all those things are appealing. I’ll go back to the Audubon Expedition School because, quite frankly, I need it. I need the physical strength that comes from sleeping out every night, the clarity of mind that comes from constant observation and questioning, and the strength of character that comes from knowing your environment and not just reading about it.

There’s an Indian joke that is currently popular that reads something like this: “Being culturally deprived is being white, middle-class, and with a color TV.”

I now understand what that joke means.

Sincerely, Jim Peterson

The April, 1982 issue of the “Ornithological Newsletter” of the OSNA carried this item: Three ornithologists are among the 25 U.S. biologists selected for 1981-82 Fulbright awards that will enable them to teach at foreign universities or conduct advanced research abroad. One of them is Douglas A. James, who is already in Nepal. A card from Doug reports rhododendrons as large as trees, some with 4 ft. diam. trunks.

Ornithologists visiting Maine this summer are invited to participate in the Main Breeding Bird Atlas Project, which has only two remaining field seasons. For information, write Bonnie Bochan, State Coordinator, P.O. Box 306, Winterport, ME 04496, Ornithological Newsletter of OSNA, April 1982.

Senator Bumpers has written, thanking Edith and me for writing him to support the Clean Air Act. He says that “I have always supported strong air-quality legislation and I will continue to do so.”

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Keep this Snipe. There will not be another until late summer.

Henry Halberg, Editor

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