THE Snipe

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Vol. XXI, No. 4 | A Chapter of the National Audubon Society | August 20, 1987

Here's part of the group of about thirty folks who showed up for the field trip to Mount Magazine on June 27. Although we didn't see a rufous-crowned sparrow, it was a beautiful day and we had a good time. We found a male scarlet tanager feeding young, and saw a female on the nest. Ovenbirds were singing everywhere but were hard to see; most people who tried finally managed to see at least one. Check the Calendar for future field trips, and come join us.

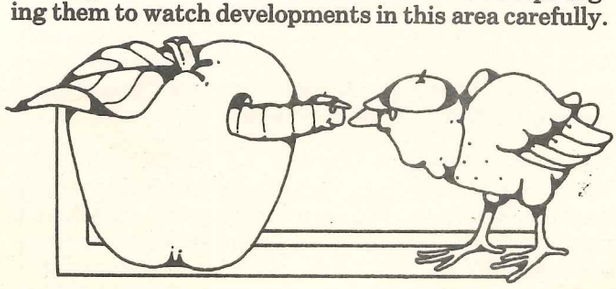
Conservation News

As usual, there's some good news and some bad news on the conservation front. In the good news department, Russellville seems to be looking at another source for water besides the north fork of the Illinois Bayou, one of the highest-quality streams still flowing undammed in the Ozarks. Paul Means, an activist in the Ozark Society, has been named to head the state Pollution Control and Ecology Department, which offers some hope that this agency may begin to "straighten up and fly right," as we Arkies say. A powerful grassroots effort is responding to the state Forestry Commission's plan to "manage" part of the Hobbs Estate in northwest Arkansas, converting hardwood forest to pine; several politicians are joining in to protest the plan. Officials of the Ouachita National Forest are re-examining their ten-year management plan, which was widely regarded as skewed toward clearcutting and other timber-industry ideals; watch for announcements of ways you can participate in the planning process. As for bad news, the Corps of Engineers is again looking at—can you believe this?—the Cache River. The Corps has received $300,000 of our tax money to study a flood-control project on the Cache. The Corps says this time it's operating under new guidelines that will allow flood control without damaging the environment. Uh-huh . . . We know they're telling the truth, 'cause they sent us a press release via passenger pigeon.

Deficit fans, here's a good one. Two environmental groups have estimated that the U. S. Forest Service's road-building program will mean *two billion dollars in losses* over the next ten years. These roads are built so that timber companies can cut more trees in remote areas, yet many national forests consistently lose money on timber sales. And the Forest Service plans to expand logging operations, in what amounts to a welfare program for timber companies.

It's getting harder to get into the woods without seeing destruction caused by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), or hearing their disruptive sound. The White River National Wildlife Refuge is seeking public input about the use of ATVs on the refuge. Write refuge personnel and tell them you support strict regulation of ATV use at White River; after all, it's supposed to be a refuge, right? The address is Refuge Manager, White River NWR, P.O. Box 308, DeWitt 72042.

ASCA members toured the Faulkner Lake area with officials of the Corps of Engineers recently, examining environmental destruction in the vicinity of a sod farm and ditching in the lake area. At the August board meeting it was decided to send a letter to the Corps urging them to watch developments in this area carefully.



Bird News

Are there still ivorybills in Mississippi? Jerome Jackson has hope. Jackson, a noted expert on the red-cockaded woodpecker, was playing a tape of an ivory-billed woodpecker's call at a Mississippi hunting club when he and a companion heard a response in the distance. The call grew louder and louder, and the bird, whatever it was, came within a hundred yards, Jackson said later. Jackson never saw the bird, but he's going back to the swamp again. "I won't stop till I find it," he says.

The naturalists at Petit Jean State Park are compiling a new bird list. If you have any interesting sightings, please send them to the park, Route 3, Box 340, Morrilton 72110.

Robbie Robin lived! Those who were on the Mount Magazine field trip may remember RR. Jane Gulley had him in a butter dish or some such thing, and the field trip leader made several sarcastic remarks about how he (or she) would soon be eagle food. But no . . . Jane raised Robbie to adultbirdhood, and the world has one more harbinger of spring. More news from the Eagle Lady and her bird rehabilitation center: Jane got in five young sharp-shinned hawks from Montgomery County; four survived and were later released. She also got two dark-phase Swainson's hawks from near Mena. And a bald eagle found last year near Palarm Creek is going to a zoo in Florida as part of a breeding program.

Bird sightings of note: Charles Mills found some black-bellied whistling ducks at Lake Millwood in early August. Bill Shepherd and Robert Lashley saw five rufous-crowned sparrows at Mount Nebo on August 1. Two roseate spoonbills returned to the Parker farm near Bayou Meto this year. Max Parker found two immature white ibis at Lonoke, and Mel White saw two upland sandpipers there August 9. Rae Ellen Odle saw a common loon at Lake Maumelle the second week of July—that's a very late date. Black-crowned night-herons were nesting near Metropolitan High School in early July. Neil Curry saw a medium-sized falcon stooping at a hawk at Pinnacle on July 7. Bill Shepherd found a previously unknown colony of red-cockaded woodpeckers in Monroe County in early August.

A mother killdeer was found incubating a golf ball in Springdale a couple of weeks ago. When the bird's picture hit the local paper some Tyson's employees provided it with a chicken egg, so its efforts wouldn't be all for naught. Sure enough, the egg hatched soon and the chick began following the killdeer around like—well, like a baby chicken. But the mama refused to pay any attention to it, and went back to sitting on the golf ball—with the chick right beside it.

Cathy Mitchell reports that she feeds dextrose sugar water to her hummingbirds instead of sucrose, and that they love it; it doesn't go bad the way sucrose does. She says you can get Dextrose USP in bulk from pharmacists or chemical supply houses.

Chapter News

Please read, sign and return P.

Proxy alert. Lately, Audubon chapters across the country have been working hard to strengthen the accountability and the grassroots characteristics of our organization. We've decided the effort will include nominating a separate slate of candidates for National Audubon's board of directors—experienced, well-qualified candidates with knowledge and appreciation of local chapter organization.

Soon, you'll receive a proxy statement from National Audubon that will ask you to sign away your vote, to automatically choose the candidates *nominated by the board itself.* This is the same board that has led us into the current financial crisis, which is also a crisis of confidence. **Please do not return this proxy.**

As soon as possible, ASCA will join with other Audubon chapters in sending out an **alternate proxy** statement for your signature. Signing this will mean a vote for a new slate of candidates, with representation from throughout the country and an understanding of the unique grassroots character of Audubon. Please wait for this alternate proxy, and then vote.

Nita Cross, a fifth-grade teacher at Williams school in Little Rock, won ASCA's annual scholarship to a National Audubon Society ecology camp. Ms. Cross chose the Wyoming camp for her two-week environmental study.

ASCA is ordering more copies of the second edition of the National Geographic Society field guide. This is generally considered to be the best bird guide for North America. If you want one, call Wendy Margolis, 664-8477.

Anyone who is interested in working on developing a plan for a wildlife sanctuary below the Lake Maumelle Dam, give Neil Curry a call: 868-5806 or 868-5297. This could be a valuable and interesting project, and we need some good people to help plan it.

September 26 is a big day for ASCA members. There's a hawk watch at Pinnacle Mountain State Park beginning at 9 a.m.. We've got a barge trip-cookout on Lake Maumelle from 3-6 p.m. Then Pinnacle is hosting a Starlight Concert at 7 p.m., and a star-viewing party from 8-10 p.m. See the Calendar, and call 868-5806 for details on the events at Pinnacle.

Zoo Day volunteers needed August 29-30. See Calendar.

Squeeze play? It has been rumored that National Audubon has been considering asking members, especially new members, to indicate whether they are interested in chapter membership, and, if not, to assign all their dues to National with no split for their chapter. This would throw our chapters for a loop; they need all the money they can get to work on local conservation and education projects. If you receive this sort of request please do not be misled about it, and let us know about it. This appeal would probably be aimed at members who live some distance from their chapter city. We can understand that a chapter may not mean much to these members, but, in truth, chapters have always been the backbone of the National Audubon Society.

Edith Halberg reports that this year's Arkansas Audubon Society Ecology Camp was the best ever. This camp for young people is training tomorrow's environmental leaders, and is one of the most important things state Auduboners do. ASCA and several other chapters donate money to help keep the camp operating—just one of the ways local members and chapters use their time and money for conservation.

The society has received a number of contributions in memory of Lowell Matthew Ozment, which will be placed in the fund for education in ornithology and ecology and for protection of the environment. The society expresses its appreciation to Lillian Andritson, the Bank of Malvern, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Boyle, Mrs. James D. Charton, Chester R. Cummins, Mary Catherine Reynolds Dalton, Robert Dawson, Kaye Gunneson, Margaret Hill, Lealdon Coy Langley, Ruth Ellen Lindsey, Lynn L. McFadden, Mrs. and Mrs. J. A. McEntire III, Ruth and Harris Pace, the Rebuilders Club, and Frank E. Thomas.

The fall meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be at Village Creek State Park, near Wynne, October 23-25. There are a few cabins available at the park, plus good campsites. Otherwise, there are motels at nearby Forrest City and Wynne. More details will be included in the AAS newsletter in September.

Continued

Calendar

Saturday, August 29, 8:30 a.m.: Field trip to the Lonoke fish ponds to see migrating shorebirds. Meet at the Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery parking lot, off Highway 70 west of Lonoke. Information: Mel White, 664-8786.

Saturday and Sunday, August 29-30: Zoo Days at the Little Rock Zoo. ASCA will have a booth set up to provide information on chapter activities. We need people to work two-hour shifts. You get free admission to all the activities. If you can help, call Cathy Mitchell at 225-5515.

Every Sunday in September, 2-3 p.m.: Natural history programs at Pinnacle Mountain State Park; call for topics. 868-5806.

Thursday, September 10, 7 p.m.: ASCA board meeting at the Game and Fish Commission Building. All members are welcome at board meetings. Information: Neil Curry, 868-5806.

Friday and Saturday, September 11-12: Two-day trip to Lake Chicot State Park near Lake Village to see herons, egrets, ibises, wood storks, etc. Barge trips out into the lake, programs, and other attractions. Camp out or stay in cabins at the park; take in as much as you want. Information: Jane Gulley, 225-2072.

Tuesday, September 22, 7 p.m.: Joint meeting of ASCA and the Sierra Club at the Game and Fish Commission Building. The program will be on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska and will be presented by Scott Highleyman, a lobbyist for the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Hawk watch at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. From the viewing platform near the Visitor Center you can see a long way along the Arkansas River valley, and with luck there may be ospreys, hawks, cormorants, and other migrants. There will also be films in the VC, and live birds of prey on display. Information: 868-5806.

Saturday, September 26, 3-6 p.m.: ASCA party barge cookout on Lake Maumelle. Plans aren't completely firm at this writing, but we'll float around awhile and then come ashore to cook burgers and hot dogs. It should be great fun, but you must make reservations to attend. There will also be a small fee to pay for barge rental. For details on what to bring, cost, etc., call Jane Gulley, 225-2072.

Every Saturday in October, 10 a.m.-noon: Fall rambles on the Rocky Valley trail at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Naturalist-guided walks to see fall colors and whatever else there is to see. Information: 868-5806.

Thursday, October 8, 7 p.m.: ASCA board meeting at the Game and Fish Commission Building. All members are welcome at board meetings. Information: Neil Curry, 868-5806 or 868-5297.

Friday and Saturday, October 9-10: Field trip to the Little Lewis area near Jay, Oklahoma, to see migrating white pelicans and other birds. Neil Curry has arranged a place for us to stay, and this should be a really excellent trip to an interesting area. For more details, call Jane Gulley, 225-2072.

Sunday, October 11, 1-3:30 p.m.: Program on "How to Attract Birds" at the Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center. Learn about feeders, bird foods, shelters, water, and other ways to attract birds to your yard. Information: 868-5806.

Friday-Sunday, October 23-25: Fall meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society at Village Creek State Park near Wynne. Watch for registration form in the fall newsletter of the state society, or call Wendy Margolis at 664-8477.

Saturday, October 31, 7-9 p.m.: An Owl Prowl at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, beginning at the pavilion in the West Summit picnic area. Look and listen for the three species of owl that live in the park; bring a flashlight and insect repellent. Reservations required. Information: 868-5806.

New Members

ALEXANDER
Norma Adams
R. May

CABOT
Jerry Price

DES ARC
K. Canfield

JACKSONVILLE
Paul W. Dean

LAKE CITY
Bill Qualls

LITTLE ROCK
Jim Allred
Virginia Combs
D. Daughenbaugh
Martin Fiser
Joseph Gibson
Mrs. R. N. Hall Jr.
C. Ingle
John H. Johnston
Norwood Jones
C. Lemke
Pat Mills
Randolph L. Mowry
Martha Nixon
Norma Rowell
Molly Satterfield
Tommie Smith
James M. Speck
Frieda Vogler
Angie F. Waldrum
Lynne Ware

LONOKE
Mrs. Don Dawson

MAUMELLE
Janet Nye

MOUNTAIN HOME
Henry H. Pattee

NORTH LITTLE ROCK
Tommy Finley
Tim Higgins
Marcel Lemieux
Randy Solomon

SHERWOOD
Jean Parker

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Check the Membership You Desire (includes Audubon Magazine)

Join the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA) and you automatically become a member of the National Audubon Society. You will receive the bimonthly national *Audubon* magazine and the *Snipe*, published from time to time by ASCA. It is important for new members to join through ASCA, so that a greater portion of your dues goes to your local chapter.

- ☐ Introductory (new members only) $20
- ☐ Individual 30
- ☐ Family 38
- ☐ Sustaining 50
- ☐ Student 18
- ☐ Senior citizen-Indiv. 21
- ☐ Senior citizen-Family 23
- ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

To join, complete the coupon and mail with check to Henry Halberg, ASCA treasurer, 5809 North Country Club, Little Rock, AR 72207. Send renewals to the same address.

Name (Please Print) : _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Local Chapter: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, NAS #B-50

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.

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Chapter News continued

ASCA's new phone service for rare bird reports and other information received more than fifty calls in its first two weeks of operation. The service, which will be run by Dorothy Metcalf, can be reached by calling 753-8496. You can listen for the latest reports of rare birds in the area, and when the message is over you can leave your own reports of unusual sightings. Remember, this alert will be only as good as the information that we give it, so please share your rare bird reports. The message also has other Audubon information, so call it anytime you want to know what's going on. And remember, please leave your name when you call, for whatever reason.

Congressman Tommy Robinson will be the guest at a meeting of the Sierra Club at 7 p.m. August 25 at the Game and Fish Commission Building. There will be a discussion period during which Robinson will answer questions about conservation issues. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Ed Pembleton is now working for National Audubon's Washington office after the big changes in the NAS structure. Many of you may remember that Ed was very active in our chapter until he moved to Kansas to join the Audubon regional office, and he's continued to be a good friend to ASCA. Ed will be the Water Policy Program Specialist, and we're sure he'll do a great job there for conservation on a national basis. You can write to him at National Audubon Society, National Capitol Office, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003.

President's Note

Taxes, deficits, arms-sale profits, the financial crisis of National Audubon—money is always of interest. But lately, your president and board have been taking a closer look at donations.

There are always two key concerns for environmental organizations. How do you get the money you need? And how do you prevent fund-raising from taking over? (National's big problem!) Our chapter needs money to operate; that's a fact of life. But we also need a lot more than money, and raising money is far from the most important thing we do.

In particular, we need a little bit of your time and attention (after your summer vacation). For example, we could use your help promoting our chapter at Zoo Days, August 29-30. (See Calendar.) Helping develop a sanctuary plan for the Lake Maumelle area, building birdhouses, doing more bird counts, helping with mailings . . . the list is endless, and the time of our committee chairpersons and officers is not. We always need your attendance at our meetings and your participation on special projects, like selling 50,000 pounds of bird seed this winter!

It is not easy to donate time and effort. For some of us, it's probably almost impossible. To many of our members, writing a check is easier. We are now considering how a memorial or foundation fund can be established. We would be very happy to receive that long-term support. But, if possible, try to invest a little more of yourself. We need *you.*

—Neil Curry

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS, AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

Neil Curry, Rt. 1, Box 33, Roland 72135, 868-5806, 868-5297
Vice-President: Tom Wittenberg, 311 Crystal Court, LR 72205, 666-0123, 666-7218
Secretary: Anne Crary, 523 N. Pine, LR 72205, 376-8015, 666-0584
Treasurer: Henry Halberg, 5809 N. Country Club, LR 72207, 663-1812
Editor: Mel White, 311 S. Cedar, LR 72205, 375-2985, 664-8786
Associate Editor: Jean Ann Waters, 1117 W. 52nd, NLR 72118, 224-6011, 753-5961

DIRECTORS:

Michael Saar, 103 Broadmoor Drive, LR 72204, 376-6671
Jane Gulley, 3103 Imperial Valley, LR 72212, 225-2072
Robert Lashley, 1602 Green Mountain, LR 72211, 227-4269
Rusty Baldwin, 618 S. Pine, LR 72205, 661-2218, 661-1179
Bill Shepherd, 2805 Linden, Apt. 3, LR 72205, 371-1706, 375-3918
Dorothy Metcalf, 3712 Lakeview, NLR 72116, 753-8496

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Field Trips:
Jane Gulley, 3103 Imperial Valley, LR 72212, 225-2072

Education and Youth Activities:
Cathy Mitchell, 11301 Southridge Drive, LR 72212, 225-5515

Conservation:
Mary Ellen Stockdale, 1101 N. Coolidge, LR 72207, 663-5801

Membership:
Henry Halberg, 5809 N. Country Club, LR 72207, 663-1812

Hospitality:
Florence Mallard, 2924 Dalewood Road, LR 72207, 663-8803

Telephone:
Chris Granger, 3 Holly Springs, LR 72212, 227-0258

Christmas Count:
E. P. Floyd, 16 Lakeside, Hensley 72065, 888-4252

Publicity:
Wendy Margolis, 5110 F, LR 72205, 664-8477

SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN

Senator Dale Bumpers, SD229 DSOB, Washington, D. C. 20510, (202) 224-4843; LR 378-6286
Senator David Pryor, 264 RSOB, Washington, D. C. 20510, (202) 224-2353; LR 378-6336
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Congressman Tommy Robinson, 1541 LHOB, Washington, D. C. 20515, (202) 225-2506; LR 378-5941
Congressman Beryl Anthony, 1117 LHOB, Washington, D. C. 20515, (202) 225-3772
Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, 2207 RHOB, Washington, D. C. 20515, (202) 225-4301

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