**Fun stuff for summer. Please take a look at the Calendar in this Snipe for upcoming events. Note especially the potluck dinner at Perk Ford’s house June 4. This is always one of the best events of the year; Perk has an amazing variety of birds in his back yard, and it’s a great place to sit, eat, visit, and watch the sun set. Earlier that day, there’s an important series of environmental debates at UALR; see the listing. Mark your own calendars to remember our other meetings and field trips. Do it now!**

The controversy over the shooting of herons, egrets, grebes, and other wading birds at fish hatcheries in Arkansas continues. This is a very bad situation, with an arm of the U. S. government issuing permits, based on shaky claims of monetary losses, for private citizens to kill great numbers of birds that only a few years ago began making a comeback in Arkansas from threatened status. Officials in other states with similar situations have not taken this means of addressing the issue, and the scientific illogic of the permits is apparent even to non-scientists. An incompletely poorly done article in the *Arkansas Gazette* sought only to stir up trouble, and succeeded. This issue goes far beyond simply being able to bird-watch at fish farms, and ASCA is continuing to find ways to stop this killing.

The fight against the Lee Creek boodoggle at Fort Smith is still going forward. The Oklahoma Wildlife Federation is taking legal action against the dams on this free-flowing stream, and the Arkansas Wildlife Federation is pursuing the issue as well. (If you’d like to contribute to the effort to save this stream, send a check to Dorothy Metcalfe, AAS Treasurer, 3712 Lakeshore, North Little Rock, AR 72116; note “Lee Creek Fund” on the check.) Oklahoma Gov. Henry Bellmon, after pledging his opposition to the dams to environmentalists, seems to have backed down. Please stay alert to ways you can support those working to save Lee Creek.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a list of 30 migratory nongame birds that may be experiencing population declines. These “species of management concern” are listed by region, and 19 of them occur in Arkansas (although not all of them are listed as of special concern in our part of the country). Here are the 19: those listed in our region are in boldface: Common Loon, American Bittern, Least Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Trumpeter Swan, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Rail, Snowy Plover, Black Tern, Common Barn-Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Bachman’s Sparrow, Henslow’s Sparrow. Observers can help keep these species from slipping to threatened or endangered status by reporting all the information about them that they gather in the field.

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**AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

Vol. XXII, No. 3

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

May 4, 1988

At the April board meeting, ASCA voted to contribute $500 to Pinnacle Mountain State Park to help pay for a seasonal employee in the invertebrate program. Pinnacle presents programs to hundreds of children, trying to instill in them an understanding of ecology and a sense of respect for the environment.

Neil Carrey says about 50 people showed up for his program on hummingbirds April 30 at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. As more and more people put up feeders, more are wanting to know something about their tiny visitors. Neil also reports that, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Bluebird, Sam Slagle, there is a good crop of bluebirds at the park this year. If you want to see some of them, call the park at 886-5806 and they’ll put you on the track. ASCA has a number of bluebird boxes for sale; call Barry Haas, 225-6096 if you’re interested. And also . . . Pinnacle plans another breeding bird survey in the park sometime in June. If you know bird songs and can help, call Neil at the park and let him know.

First reports from the state meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society at DeGray Lake are that it was an excellent one. There were 123 people registered, and those attending enjoyed programs by Jerry Jackson on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and by Bill Shepherd and Joe Neal on new hummingbird records in Arkansas. Watch the *Snipe* for word about the fall meeting.

Bird notes from all over: Perk Ford reports that birds are back at the heronry on Scott Hamilton Drive in Little Rock, though they’re in a slightly different location. This year there are four species present: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, and Little Blue Heron.

Florence Mallard found Yellow-headed Blackbirds on the County Farm Road April 20, and they remained there for a few days. Roberta Crabtree saw Bobolinks there the same day. Mike Staar saw 120 White Pelicans at Clarksville March 27. Charles Mills reported a Western Grebe at Lake Millwood in April, and Swainson’s Hawk and Hudumian Godwit in the area. Lance Peacock saw 45 Willets and a Marbled Godwit at Little Rock. A Reeve (that is, a female Ruff) was seen at Lonoke in mid-April.

Wendy Margolis and Dotty Metcalfe were among a group that visited the Texas Golf Coast in April. While there they saw a Black-legged Kittiwake and a Western Tanager, among many other good species. Mel White made a trip to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in March and ran into some of the resident rarities, including Crede Hawk, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Blue Bunting, and Tropical Parula. He also ran into an ex-Little Rock Audubonber, Cathy Adams, who moved to Houston several years ago. Cathy has turned into a hard-core birder, and makes trips all over the country chasing rare birds. She’s doing fine and says “hello” to all her friends in ASCA.

The field trip to Harris Brake April 23 went well, after we had under a tree out of the rain for about 10 minutes; the weather was fine after that. There weren’t many warblers, but we saw

Join the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA) and you automatically become a member of the National Audubon Society. You will receive the bimonthly newsletter, the *Snipe*, published twice a month by ASCA. It is important for new members to join through ASCA, so a portion of your dues supports local activities.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

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

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some good birds: Osprey, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Black Tern, Tree Swallow, and, perhaps most interesting, several Willets perched on snags in the lake.

The best bird ID book is the National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America. We’ve ordered a new supply; call Wendy Margolis (666-8477) to reserve your copy. If you’ve called before and we were sold out, call again now.

Calendar

Every Saturday in May, 8 a.m.: Bird walks at Kingfisher Trail at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. ASCA members will lead short trips around an easy-walking trail with lots of good birds. Information: 668-5806.

Every Sunday in May, 2 p.m.: Natural history programs on a variety of topics at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Call for specifics: 668-5806.

Thursday, May 12, 7 p.m.: ASCA board meeting at the Game and Fish Commission building off west Markham Street. All members are welcome at board meetings. Information: Tom Wittenberg, 666-0123, 666-7218.

Saturday, May 14, 8 a.m.: Field trip to Holland Bottoms near Jacksonville. This state-owned property has wetlands, open fields, and heavily wooded areas so we should see a good variety of birds. Bring a sack lunch and something to drink: also bring insect repellent. Meet at Christ the King Church, Highway 10 and Rodney Parham, at 8 a.m. Information: Barry Haas, 225-5096.

Saturday, May 28, 2 p.m.: A program on “Animal Orphans” at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Park naturalists will talk about the proper way to care for some of the most common young animals, while emphasizing that most “orphans” found in the wild should be left strictly alone. Information: 668-5806.

Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Environmental debates at UALR. Representatives of the U. S. Forest Service, Sierra Club, the City of Fort Smith, public-interest groups, and other organizations will debate some of Arkansas’s most critical environmental issues, including Lee Creek, nuclear waste, the Ouachita National Forest plan, and farm conservation. This will be an interesting and important meeting; please try to attend. It’s free, in the Recital Hall. Information: Nick Brown, 569-3320.

Saturday, June 4, 6 p.m.: One of our most popular events of the year, the potluck dinner at Perk Floyd’s house at Lakeside Country Club. Bring something to eat, your own plates, and silverware; ASCA will furnish the drinks. Come early to bird or canoe if you like. Directions: go south on the Pine Bluff Highway to Woodson Lateral Road (exit 12). Turn right on Woodson and drive a mile. Turn left into the Lakeside Country Club. Stop and register at the clubhouse. Follow the blacktop over the dam to the end of the pavement, then left on the gravel road. Perk’s house is the second on the right. There are always lots of good birds around, and the food is abundant. Information: 888-4252.

Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m.: ASCA general membership meeting in Room 131, Education 2 Building, at the UA Medical Center. Max and Helen Parker of Malvern, two of the top birders in the country, will present a slide program on birding in Texas. This should be an excellent program on a state with a wide range of wonderful birding opportunities. Information: Gary Cook, 562-3161, 666-8335.

Saturday, June 11, 8 a.m.: Field trip to Mountain Magazine west of Dardanelle. Last year we saw several Scarlet Tanagers, including a female sitting on the nest, plus Ovenbirds, warblers, and interesting wildflowers. Magazine is the highest point in the state, and has a quite different environment from Little Rock. Join leader Wendy Margolis in exploring this fascinating place. Bring a sack lunch and something to drink (there’s no water on the mountain). Information: Barry Haas, 225-5096.

Saturday, June 11, 1 p.m.: Program on beekeeping at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. See the live bee colony. Information: 668-5806.

Saturday, June 18, 8 p.m.: Star party at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. View planets, stars, etc., through telescopes, if the sky is clear. Information: 668-5806.

Thursday, July 14, 7 p.m.: ASCA board meeting at the Game and Fish Commission building off west Markham. All members are welcome at board meetings. Information: Tom Wittenberg, 666-0123, 666-7218.

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