PURPLE MARTINS

It is almost Purple Martin time again and the first scouts will probably be here next week. So keep your eyes open for the first arrivals. Lola Rea is going to talk on martins at our meeting on February 9 at the Museum of Science in MacArthur Park. Be sure to come to hear our own expert discuss our favorite bird.

We had a fine January meeting at the Museum of Science when Dick Gregory spoke and showed a film about the Game and Fish project to capture and transport alligators from Marsh Island off the coast of Louisiana to rivers, swamps, and lakes in southern Arkansas. We now have 200 new crocodilians of this endangered species to enrich our fauna.

The December meeting was, as usual, lots of fun. We are always surprised at what excellent photographers some of our members turn out to be when they show us their favorite slides.

The following were elected officers for 1975:

President: William M. Shepherd, Jr., 2125 Broadway, Little Rock 72206
Vice-President: Martin D. Floyd, 1002 East 9th, Little Rock 72202
Secretary: Mrs. C. R. Parker, 240 East “B” St., North Little Rock 72116
Treasurer: Dr. Carlos Araoz, 24 Glenridge Rd., Little Rock 72207
Editor: Henry N. Halberg, 5809 North Country Club, Little Rock 72207

Sixteen Christmas censuses were held in the state. The highest count was 97 species and 1 additional race at Millwood. Probably the best bird was the hummingbird at Magnolia. In Little Rock 20 census takers walked 48 miles and drove 325 miles to see 88 species, a new high. The Black-headed Grosbeak at the Don Oglesbys’ feeder was the best bird seen. Dave Hunter, our fearless leader, reported a Henslow’s Sparrow, new to the count.

On January 18 forty members and friends gathered at Holla Bend Wildlife Refuge for our annual field trip. There were three great shows. About 500 Snow and Blue Geese stayed in the fields in front of the headquarters while the members ate lunch and looked at the adult Bald Eagle who loafed in a tree a short distance away. The 1,000 Wigeons and 6 more eagles completed the show. Canada Geese, many Mallards, 1,000 Lapland Longspurs (one was an albino) and Horned Larks were extra dividends. We thank Refuge Manager Paul Daly and the Fish and Wildlife Service again for the hospitality.
AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST

We are going to have another photo contest this year, similar to last year's, to be announced shortly. For information call E. P. Floyd at 562-4306 or write him at 7123 Azalea Drive, Little Rock.

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, February 9, 2:30 P.M.: Regular meeting, at the Museum of Science and Natural History, MacArthur Park, Little Rock. Iola Rea will give her famous talk on Purple Martins.

Saturday, February 15, 9:00 A.M.: Boat trip on Lake Maumelle to see loons, grebes, ducks, and eagles. Meet at North Shore Landing. Leader, Bill Shepherd. No host trip, trippers will pay their own boat fare.

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 P.M.: Regular meeting, place and program to be announced.


1974 - 1975 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

At the University Medical Center, West Markham Street, at 7:45 p.m. Plenty of well lighted parking.

Tuesday, February 11
Tuesday, March 4

Tom Sterling
Harry Pederson

FOOTLOOSE IN NEWFOUNDLAND
THE BAHAMAS - Top to Bottom

Tickets – $1.25 Students – 50¢

Special rates for school classes and other children's groups.

Door prize at February and March films. Free ticket to the 1975-76 series. Drawing at intermission

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. N. F. Beverly, 7518 Choctaw, Little Rock 72205
Mr. H. K. Brewer, 344 N. Ridge Road, Little Rock 72207
F. I. Brown, 31 Beverly Place, Little Rock 72207
Mr. Owen D. Carroll & Family, 2808 N. Grant, Little Rock 72207
Beverly Ann Cross, 4718 Kenyon, Little Rock 72205
W. E. Davis, 523 E. 6th, Little Rock 72202
Heights Dog Grooming, 5516 Kavanaugh, Little Rock 72207
Mrs. R. C. Heldenbrand, Little Creek Ranch, Gepp, AR 72538
Robert L. Majors, 3510 Bryant, Apt. 42, Little Rock 72204
George W. McAlister, 8 Bliss Circle, Little Rock 72209
Dr. Tip C. Nelms, 9704 Catskill, Little Rock 72207
George E. Oswald, 1500 S. Taylor, Little Rock 72204
Miss Johanna Oswald, 503 W. 14th, Little Rock 72202
Mr. & Mrs. Frank M. Potter, 6 Ranch Valley Rd., Little Rock 72207
Fred J. Simmons, 113 Englewood, Little Rock 72207

ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

Dr. James H. Abraham, 24 Pine Manor, Little Rock, 72207
E. P. (Perk) Floyd, Rt. 1, Box 341 D, Hensley, AR 72065
Dr. William P. Scarlett, 4525 N. Lookout, Little Rock 72205
William M. Shepherd, Jr., 2125 Broadway, Little Rock 72206
Mr. and Mrs. C. Lewis Thoman, 464 West Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119
The Eastern National Wilderness Bill, creating 19 “instant” wildernesses and requiring wilderness studies in 40 more areas, was enacted in December. Two of the “instant” wildernesses are in Arkansas, Caney Creek Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest and Upper Buffalo Wilderness in the Ozark National Forest. These are the first statutory wildernesses in Arkansas. Three of the study areas are in Arkansas, Richland Creek in the Ozark National Forest, and Belle Starr Cave and Dry Creek in the Ouachita National Forest. Two areas in National Wildlife Refuges are also being considered for wilderness status, in the White River and Big Lake Refuges.

Buffalo National River: The National Park Service proposes to establish three wilderness units comprising 35,700 acres of the 95,730-acre Buffalo National River. They are Upper Buffalo, 2,200 acres, Ponca, 11,400 acres, and Lower Buffalo, 22,100 acres. Under the Park Service proposal, these units would not be established until all private rights have expired, which the service says will require a minimum of 25 years. The Ozark Society supports the Park Service proposal but recommends immediate wilderness designation for the three areas. The Society asserts that excluding lands the agency plans to acquire has no basis in the Wilderness Act. Congress has included such lands within wilderness boundaries on numerous occasions. As long as a private owner holds title to such lands, his rights of access, use and disposition are not restricted.

A hearing was held in Harrison on December 5 and letters were accepted for the record until January 4. However keep your ears and eyes open for further developments. We need to have these units established now, not 25 years hence.

Predator Poisons: Don’t forget to write to President Ford about predator poisons, and send copies to Senators Bumpers and McClellan and your congressman. The enclosed letter from National Audubon explains how important it is that you do so.

Blackbird Roosts: The Fish and Wildlife Service is making a census of blackbird roosts. Please write Thurman Booth, U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, Post Office Bldg., Little Rock, AR 72201, or call him at 378-5382 before February 15. He needs to know where the roost is, how big it is and when you saw it.

Be sure to read the constitution and by-laws and the covering letter enclosed with this Snipe. We will vote on them at the February meeting.

Henry N. Halberg, Editor

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 #..................

Local Chapter: Pulaski County Audubon Society

Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society

Send to: Dr. Carlos Araoz, Treasurer
Pulaski County Audubon Society
24 Glenridge Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207

Wel'd like to have you as a member. E. M. H.
Dear Member:

Enclosed with this issue of the Snipe is a proposed new constitution and by-laws for our society. For several years the officers of the society have regarded the organizational structure set out in our old constitution as somewhat inappropriate to our present needs. The National Audubon Society recently issued a new model constitution for chapters, and the new constitution that is being presented is based on that model.

Over a period of several months, the Board of Directors and a special committee have given careful attention to preparing this draft. It represents a major achievement of the presidency of Dr. Shirley Ann Gilmore, and I heartily endorse it. I hope you will read the document and give it your consideration, then come to our meeting February 9 prepared to vote on its adoption.

Sincerely,

Bill Shepherd
William M. Shepherd
President