

THE SNIPE

The Newsletter of the
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas



Charles Mills

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Volume 45 Issue 4

www.ascabird.org

September – November 2011

Lake Maumelle Lake Sweep

Stephanie Hymel

Stewardship Coordinator, Central Arkansas Water

Central Arkansas Water (CAW) will be hosting its Third Annual Lake Sweep on the south shore of Lake Maumelle, Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas has agreed to help out. We will meet at Jolly Roger's Marina, off Hwy 10, for clean up site locations, instructions, and tools. Various sites around the south shore will be selected to spruce up, pick up trash and debris, and do basic trail maintenance. CAW will provide lunch, gloves, and some equipment for lopping branches, removing small trees, and digging up small rocks. Please bring your own equipment (i.e. gloves,

shovel, loppers, hand saw) if you have it. Please join us as we work to keep our recreational areas clean and have some fun out around beautiful Lake Maumelle.

CAW encourages responsible use of the lake and its surrounding property, and works to educate the public on the importance of this resource to Central Arkansas.

For more information contact Stephanie Hymel, Stewardship Coordinator, Central Arkansas Water, at Stephanie.Hymel@carkw.com or 501-377-1331.

WANTED!

Sightings of banded Smith's Longspurs

Abby Powell

Smith's Longspurs have been banded on their breeding grounds in the rooks Range of Alaska and the Alaska Cooperative Fisheries and Wildlife Research Unit would like to learn more about their wintering areas and migration routes. If you have a sighting, please send as much detail as possible (color combination, date, time, location, flock size/composition) to:

Abby Powell
Alaska Cooperative Fisheries and Wildlife Research Unit
Department of Biology and Wildlife
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7020

or by e-mail at: abby.powell@alaska.edu

Please record band combinations. Colors include S (silver service band), B (blue), G (green), O (orange), R (red), W (white), Y (yellow).

Birds banded as nestlings have two color bands on one leg and one S on the other leg. Sexes look similar in basic plumage. Photographs are also welcomed!



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

JANE GULLEY

Come Join Us

As I sat down to write this article I got an email with Karen Holiday's field trip proposals for the next several months and I thought I would share this story.

Last week I took a friend to a clinic to have some medical tests run and for part of the time I sat in the waiting room by myself. I started visiting with a woman who was there with her gravely ill daughter, also having tests. The lady and I started visiting and she told me her husband had just retired. Many of my friends are going through the same experience; we call it unspoken later life trauma. It is an adjustment! This lady had a real problem. She and her husband had moved to Arkansas to help care for their daughter and her four children ages 6 through 14. The lady's husband had been a workaholic with no hobbies or interests. They joined a church in their new hometown here in Arkansas. The lady had made some friends and carved out time once a week to meet with the women to knit prayer shawls. The husband said the men already had friends and he didn't feel included. She even signed him up for the older men's golf group and the husband seemed excited about it, but when he got home he told her the men were pretty good golfers and he didn't feel comfortable with the group.

The woman said, "What can I get him interested in doing so he will get off the couch and meet some people?" I immediately said, "Bird watching!" I told her that bird watching was the

perfect activity. It does not take a big investment of money to get started, and he can attend the Audubon birding field trips and not join as a member until he checks it out. He would see interesting places in Arkansas and no one cares if he is a "good" birder or not because the group welcomes all levels of participants. She could go with him and they could take the grandchildren, or he could take the grandchildren and give her a break. He would feel good about himself, meet nice folks, and have a fun time seeing beautiful Arkansas. I told her the group often carpoled and sometimes we didn't always know the people we rode with, but ended up making friends along the way. I told her about having fun picnics in unique places and getting to know each other. I told her the group was diverse in age, finances, knowledge, and any other ways she could think of. I told her about the ASCA website and how they could check out activities. I do not know how this story will develop.

Now think about yourself! You are way ahead of the lady's husband. You are an Audubon member; probably know more than redbird and bluebird, and already have an interest in birding. Come join us on a field trip. You don't have to be a good birder, but you will meet new folks, get to see interesting sights, eat in unique places, and have fun experiences. Your age doesn't matter; your binoculars don't have to be fancy. We share birding books and information. Please come as you are. We want you to join us.

*Jane Gulley
ASCA President*

Through the Eyes of a Child

*Thomas 'Paw-Paw' Finnie
Louisiana*

Our daughter Katie was cutting her six year-old son's hair on their back porch late one afternoon. Our grandson, Grant said, "Look Mom, a Hunting Bird!" Katie remarked, "What in the world are you talking about son?" as she continued with his hair. Only minutes later Grant exclaimed, "Look Mom, there's another one!" Our daughter smiled and asked, "Okay Grant just what in the world is a Hunting Bird?" Grant stated, "You know Mom, the little birds that Paw-Paw likes. They stick a straw in the flower and suck out the juice."

Our daughter turned around, saw a hummingbird at their feeder, laughed and said, "You mean a Hummingbird, Grant." He remarked, "No Mom, a Hunting Bird. Paw-Paw knows."

Kenya Birding Safari

Dan Scheiman

Samantha and I had the opportunity to bird Kenya during July 4-17. We accompanied fellow Arkansas birders Allan and Kathleen Mueller, and Allan's brother Bruce. Allan secured our own bird guide, Moez Ali, a native Kenyan now residing in Arizona.

Our adventure started in high-gear at Nairobi National Park. Set on the very edge of the bustling capital, the park is extensive rolling savannah grassland and acacia woodland. It offers a great introduction to the fantastic and diverse avifauna of Kenya, and gives this city the highest bird list of any capital in the world. As you can imagine, just about every bird was a lifer! Ostrich, White-bellied Bustard, Blue-naped Mousebird, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Rattling Cisticola, Variable Sunbird, and Little Bee-eater were not only new species but new families for us. Helmeted Guineafowl and Egyptian Geese, domesticated in Arkansas, ran wild. Superb Starling, Malachite Kingfisher, and Gray Crowned Crane were stunners. Red-billed Oxpeckers foraged on the large mammals, and boy did we see large mammals – Maasai Giraffe, Lion, Plains Zebra, Hippopotamus, Impala, Grant's and Thompson's Gazelles, Warthog, Cape Buffalo, Jackson's Hartebeest, Blue Wildebeest, Waterbuck, and Bushbuck. Here, as in many of the reserves with big game, you have to stay in your vehicle at all times. Fortunately, our minivan with a pop-up top gave us a panoramic view.

With our appetites whetted, we headed north to the verdant grounds of the Blue Post Hotel in Thika. That afternoon and the next morning we had our first hornbills – Silvery-cheeked and Trumpeter – three more sunbirds – Green-headed, Amethyst, and Collared – as well as Giant Kingfisher, Spot-flanked Barbet, Red-billed Firefinch, Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike, and Hamerkop, a bizarre, hammer-headed wader.

From there we left the lush central highlands, headed north, crossed the Equator, and arrived at Samburu National Reserve. It is predominately hot, semi-arid acacia woodland interspersed with open bushed grassland, riverine thickets with palms and figs, and huge isolated rock outcrops. Birds abounded in this dry landscape where it hasn't rained since October 2010. Once again the hornbills were stand-outs – Northern Red-billed, Eastern Yellow-billed, and Von der Decken's. We had excellent looks at Black-faced Sandgrouse, a bird that can be hard to spot and is more often seen flying away or flying by. Heuglin's (Three-banded) Courser was another cryptic but uniquely

patterned ground bird we saw well. Vulturine Guineafowl resemble old men, having bald heads ringed with bristles. Lilac-breasted Roller, Golden-breasted Starling, and Purple Grenadier added color to the dusty brown landscape. Africa's smallest antelope, Dikdik, were everywhere, as were the proportionately long-necked and long-legged Gerenuk. We had to back up to get out of the way of a herd of African Elephants. It was a treat to witness three young male lions stalk (unsuccessfully) an Impala.

An afternoon and following morning on the cool, tropical grounds of the Naro Moru River Lodge at the base of Mt. Kenya netted us Crowned Hornbill, Tacazze Sunbird, Red-fronted Parrot by the dozens, and the gaudy Hartlaub's Turaco. Not to be outdone were the captivating Guereza Colobus Monkeys in the garden, and the nocturnal Eastern Tree Hyraxes that sounded like mechanical monsters in the night.

At the Kinangop Highland Grassland Important Bird Area we met a local conservationist with Friends of Kinangop Plateau who is trying to provide economic benefits for farmers who protect and manage tussock grasslands for the endemic and endangered Sharpe's Longclaw, a type of pipit. He helped us get great looks at this rare bird. We were duly impressed by the exceptionally long tails of the blackbird-sized male Long-tailed and Jackson's Widowbirds; the latter is an East Africa endemic. From a vantage point in these highlands we admired the expanse of the Rift Valley before descending into it.

From the shore of Lake Naivasha we picked up waterbirds: Red-knobbed Coot, Little Egret, Gray Heron, Yellow-billed Stork, Blacksmith Plover, Pink-backed Pelican, and more. In the US a nickname for cuckoos is raincrow. But it is Africa's Red-chested Cuckoo that incessantly says "it will rain" no matter what the forecast. At night we heard hippos bellowing; in fact we were not allowed to walk the grounds then because these huge animals graze on the lawn and walk between the rooms, as Allan and Kathleen can attest.

Lake Nakuru National Park is the most famous of the Rift Valley's shallow alkaline lakes because it hosts spectacular concentrations of Greater and Lesser Flamingos, sometimes numbering 1.5 million birds in a good season! We saw a mere 150,000 lessers and 5,000 greater. Alongside the flamingos, thousands of other waterbirds crowded the shoreline: Great White Pelican,

Continued on page 4

Kenya Birding Safari cont.

Long-tailed Cormorant, Gray-headed Gull, Whiskered Tern, White-winged Black Tern, Saddle-billed Stork, Black-winged Stilt, and much more. The yellow-barked acacia woodland and surrounding savannah harbored Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, White-fronted Bee-eater, Grey-crested Helmet-Shrike, Broad-billed Roller, and Green Woodhoopoe. A pair of enormous courting Southern Ground-Hornbills was a sight we will never forget. And who could forget the large mammals – White and Black Rhinos, Spotted Hyena, Black-backed Jackal, Rothschild Giraffe, and more of what we saw before.



Dan Scheiman

White Rhino at Lake Nakuru National Park

Again we crossed the Equator heading northward en route to Lake Baringo National Park. It is a slightly alkaline lake surrounded by spectacular rocky scarps, dense acacia thornbush, and impressive towering basalt cliffs in a hot, arid climate. The landscape resembled Arizona, and even featured prickly pear and mesquite (as introduced invasive species). Weavers abounded – Little, Lesser Masked, Northern Masked, Village, Chestnut, and Golden-backed – many of which took advantage of the trays of rice put out for them by hotel staff. Two local conservationists, the “Baringo Boys,” showed us staked-out nocturnal birds, which they amazingly manage to track in all that bush. We saw day-roosting African Scops-Owl, Northern White-faced Owl, two Grayish Eagle-Owls, Slender-tailed Nightjar, and Nubian Nightjar. A boat tour along the lakeshore, among the hippos and Nile Crocodiles, allowed us close looks at Goliath Heron (the world’s largest), Striated Heron (split from our Green Heron), Squacco Heron, Purple Heron, African Darter, African Openbill Stork (unique bill), and Black Crake. A highlight was when our boat driver signaled to the pair of African Fish Eagles nesting on our hotel grounds. He threw a fish in the water and an eagle swooped down for it, but not before a crocodile nabbed the fish!

The scenery changed dramatically again when we entered Kakamega Forest National Park, the easternmost extension of the Congolese rainforest, which covers much of Central Africa and just barely reaches into Western Kenya. Formerly a healthy tract of prime forest, today Kakamega is barely a fragmented remnant due to logging and clearing for agriculture, and as a result it harbors many localized and endemic plant, animal, and bird species not found elsewhere in Kenya. Some sought-after specialties of this fantastic forest island that we saw include: Great Blue Turaco (unreal color scheme), Blue-headed Bee-eater, Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Turner's Eremomela (endangered), Southern Hyliota, Yellow-bellied Wattle-Eye, Pink-Footed Puffback, Red-headed Malimbe, Dark-backed Weaver, Joyful Greenbul, African Broadbill, and Red-chested Owlet; the latter two were lifers for our expert guide, which tells you how hard they are to see. A local guide and representative of the Kakamega Environmental Education Program told us about his efforts to teach children and encourage locals to protect the forest through development of economic alternatives like butterfly farming.

Our last three days were spent in Maasai Mara National Reserve, world-famous for its spectacular migration of almost two million wildebeest and zebras that thunder across the vast plains and river crossings; it was right out of the Discovery Channel! We stayed just outside the park at a permanent “luxury” tent camp with solar-powered lighting, and no running water but flushing toilets and showers in each tent. Inside the park it was the safari you think of when you think safari. In one lucky day we had a big-cat sweep – Lions, Cheetahs, a Leopard, and even the elusive Serval. White-backed, Lappet-faced, and Rueppell's Griffon Vultures squabbled over a kill. Two Ostriches courted and mated in a wing-wagging, head-swishing display that still makes me giggle. Secretarybirds, long-legged raptors specially adapted to a terrestrial lifestyle, strode through the grass. Kori Bustard rounded out the list of large birds I most-wanted on this trip.

Overall it was a phenomenal adventure that exceeded my expectations. Collectively we saw 433 bird species out of 1100 in Kenya. I added 410 life birds, 43 life mammals, and countless memories. With so many species, a diversity of habitats, relative ease of travel, access to large parks, and a friendly English-speaking population, Kenya is definitely a destination I recommend. To view photos of our trip visit: <http://www.pbase.com/birddan/kenya>.

Upcoming Programs

The ASCA meets at 7:00 PM the second Thursday of each month at the John Gould Fletcher Library (**except where noted****), located at 823 Buchanan Street, on the corner of Buchanan and H Streets, just off North University Ave. The programs are free and open to the public.

September 8, 2011- Stream Restoration

Guest Speaker: Joy DeClerk, Ouachita Rivers Project Manager, TNC
Program: The Nature Conservancy's Stream Restoration
Location: Please note this meeting will be held at the Audubon Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock**

The Nature Conservancy's Arkansas Field Office has successfully planned and implemented several key demonstration watershed restoration projects around the state. TNC's aquatic team assesses and prioritizes degraded reaches of Arkansas's rivers with existing high biodiversity. Then they work with private landowners and key partners to restore these reaches through implementation of the "Natural Channel Design" method. Ms. DeClerk will highlight several projects implemented in the Delta, Ouachita, and Ozark Mountain Ecoregions.

Joy DeClerk has worked as the Ouachita Rivers Project Manager with TNC since April 2005. She graduated from Hendrix College in 2002 with a double major in Environmental Studies and Economics and Business.

October 13, 2011 – Least Terns on the Arkansas River

Guest Speaker: Greg Petrick
Program: Colony Success of Interior Least Terns on the Arkansas River
Location: Please note this meeting will be held at the Audubon Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock**

Greg will discuss how habitat variables at different scales predict Least Tern colony use and success on the Arkansas River, and what that means for creation of new nesting habitat through dredge material placement and other practices.

Greg is an MS student in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology at Arkansas Tech University. He started in 2010 and works under Dr. Tom Nupp. He has a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from the University of North Dakota. He has worked seasonal jobs with the North Dakota Game and Fish department, USFWS, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. For the latter he worked with Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Missouri River.

November 10, 2011 – Non-native Invasive Species

Guest Speaker: Susan Hooks
Program: Non-native Invasive Species Identification and Control
Location: Please note this meeting will be held at the Roosevelt Thompson Library in Little Rock**

Susan is a Forest Botanist/Ecologist/Range Program Manager for the Ouachita National Forest in Hot Springs. Her job duties include botany, plant ecology, and managing the range program. Her talk will include identification and control of non-native invasive species; plus information on native species to plant for habitat and food for birds.

Susan was born and raised in North Little Rock. She holds a B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Arkansas at Monticello and a M.S. degree in Plant Taxonomy from Northeast Louisiana University. She is currently the only botanist on the Ouachita NF.

Hillcrest Harvestfest Celebration

The Hillcrest Harvestfest celebration, to be held on Saturday, October 15, will begin at 7:15 a.m. with a bird walk in Allsopp Park lead by Audubon Arkansas Bird Conservation Director Dan Scheiman. All levels of birders are welcome as we search for fall migrants and early winter visitors. Binoculars will be available or bring your own. Afterward attend the Harvestfest breakfast at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church (Ash and Woodlawn), then enjoy the rest of the festival.

For more information contact Karen Hart at hartwnkkk@aol.com, 501-258-7757 or www.harvestfest.us.

****ASCA Meeting Location Changes**

We have temporarily changed our meeting room location for the next three months.

****Please note the September and October meetings will be held at the Audubon Arkansas Nature Center and the November meeting will be held at the Roosevelt Thompson Library.**

The Audubon Arkansas Nature Center is located at 4500 Springer Blvd., Little Rock. To get there take I-440 to exit 1, Springer Blvd. Go south on Springer. Cross the railroad tracks. Look for the Nature Center and Audubon Arkansas sign on the right.



Dan Scheiman

The Roosevelt Thompson Library is located at 38 Rahling Circle, in west Little Rock. For directions visit their website at: <http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/about/locations/thompson.aspx> or call 501-821-3060.

From West Markham Street turn right onto Chenal Parkway. Then turn right on Rahling Rd. about 0.2 mi. Take the second right onto Rahling Circle, the library will be on the left.

Big Year Update

I am still picking up new species for my big year though it has slowed down somewhat. Birds have become fewer and harder to find. The main reason I believe is it has just been so HOT lately! I expect the birding to pick back up again in the next few weeks and am very excited to see what the hurricane season and winter months might bring to Arkansas.

By reading above it may sound like it's been a slow summer for me, but actually it's been pretty busy I just didn't get great results on some of the trips I took. All in all it has been a pretty good season and I've managed to acquire some of the more uncommon birds for my year list. Some of these are: Neotropic Cormorant at Bald Knob, Tricolored Heron on the Okay Levee, Piping Plover and Red-necked Phalarope at Treadway's, Swallow-tailed Kite near Gillett, and Roseate Spoonbill, Least Bittern, and Fulvous Whistling-Duck all in Desha and Chicot Counties. ABY now at 281.

See ya around,
Mitchell Pruitt

“Night Herons on the Town”



Painted by Dale Provost
Acrylic on paper, 11x14



ASCA Field Trip Schedule

ASCA sponsors numerous field trips throughout the year. The trips are open to all and carpooling is available for trips outside of Little Rock. This is a great opportunity for novice birders to meet and learn more about birds from experienced birders, or perhaps a chance to see a life bird for those who list. For more information visit www.ascabird.org or contact Karen Holliday, ASCA Field Trip Coordinator, at ladyhawke1@att.net or 501-920-3246. Always bring plenty of water with you.

September 17, 2011

Willow Beach Use Area and Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park

Our first stop will be the Willow Beach Use Area on the Arkansas River, near Terry Lock and Dam. Meet at Willow Beach at 7:30 a.m. at the fishing pier. See directions below. We'll bird around the area before traveling to Toltec Mounds State Park, off Hwy 165, where we'll walk the Knapp Trail and tour the Visitor Center. Depending on time, we may stop by the Plantation Agriculture Museum and check the oxbow behind the facility. Our target birds will be warblers, vireos, terns, herons and egrets along the river and in the Bald Cypress backwater. Note: There is a \$3.00 per person, entrance fee for Toltec, which includes a guided tour for our group.

Bring plenty of water, snacks, sun block, and a hat. There will be some walking on paved trails and boardwalks, so comfortable shoes are recommended. We'll finish around noon.

Directions to Willow Beach: From the intersection of I-440 and US 165 in North Little Rock, travel east for 2.5 miles on US 165, then go south 3 miles on Colonel Manard Road, then west 1 mile on Blue Heron to the parkway at Willow Beach Park.

October 22, 2011

Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery and Bob Long Road

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Prothro Junction commuter lot, I-40 East, Exit 157, southeast side of the interstate. Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery, just west of Lonoke, is the largest state-owned, warm-water pond hatchery in the United States. After searching the hatchery, we'll head south on Hwy 31 to Pettus and turn east onto Bob Long Road. We'll check the numerous minnow ponds along the road. Our target birds will be lingering shorebirds, early arriving gulls, and first-of-the-season sparrows. If you have a scope, bring it. Very little walking will be involved. Wear sturdy shoes as we may be standing in dirt and grass on occasion. Bring water and snacks. This is a morning trip.

November 12, 2011

Nimrod Lake

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the west Little Rock WalMart parking lot (northwest corner) on Hwy 10/Cantrell Rd. We'll caravan to the dam site at Nimrod Lake and start our exploration with a short walk across the dam. Then we'll explore County Line and Carden Point, Sunlight Bay, and if time permits, Carter Cove. Our target birds will be eagles, Osprey and waterfowl. Walking will be limited. Bring binoculars, scopes, drinks, and lunch. We should be back to Little Rock by mid-afternoon.

The 3,550-acre Lake Nimrod is Arkansas's oldest lake created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It was formed following the 1942 completion of a dam on the Fourche LaFave River. The lake is west of Little Rock on Hwy 60. The Ouachita National Forest borders the lake's south shore. State Scenic Hwy 7 Byway passes by its east end. For more information visit: www.swl.usace.army.mil/parks/nimrod/index.htm.



Field Trip Reports

Mount Magazine State Park

June 11, 2011

It was an unusually warm day for June as nineteen birders headed to Mount Magazine State Park. At the Visitor Center, we met up with Park Interpreter Don Simons. The Center has several feeders that hosted colorful American Goldfinches and swarms of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Don led us to the hang-glider area to look for Rufous-crowned Sparrows. We had not been there long before one was spotted in a dead tree. It stayed long enough for everyone to get great looks and for the photographers in the group to get photos. We walked along the walkway in front of the lodge where

we spotted Scarlet Tanager, Black-and-white Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Northern Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, and a Red-tailed Hawk gliding by at eye-level. Next we explored the Benefield picnic area and trail where we saw and heard Yellow-breasted Chat, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Pileated Woodpecker. We also saw numerous butterfly species. We enjoyed lunch on the mountain then headed back to Little Rock. Our species count for the day was 29.

--Karen Holliday

Witt Stephens Nature Center and Wetlands Trail

July 16, 2011

Twenty-five birders met at the Witt Stephens Nature Center in the River Market district of downtown Little Rock. The Center, an Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC) facility, was opened in 2008 and overlooks the Arkansas River. We started at 7:30 a.m. trying to beat the worst of the heat. Jane Gulley, a Master Gardener as well as a birder, explained how she and other Master Gardeners established the flora for the Center's grounds. The grounds include beds of native plants found throughout the state and many plants are hummingbird-friendly.

We started the morning with a walk around the Center scanning for birds. We spotted Green Herons, Eurasian Collared-Doves, Eastern Kingbirds, a Mississippi Kite, a Baltimore Oriole, ratty-looking Cardinals, and lots of Rock Pigeons. Next, Ken Forman, herpetologist for the Nature Center, gave us a brief history of the Wetlands Park and Trail, which is a joint venture between the Nature Center and the Clinton Presidential Library. The Park is located on 13 acres of riverfront area below the Clinton Library. Ken gave us a guided tour along the boardwalks and pavilions that make up the Park. There were numerous Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Purple Martins swooping and darting after the abundant dragonflies and damsel flies. A highlight was seeing the large bat condo AGFC has built. They hope to establish a substantial bat colony, with an eventual goal of 50,000 bats. We finished the morning with a tour of the Nature Center and a count of 22 bird species for the day. *--Karen Holliday*

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge

August 27, 2011

A record 44 birders attended. That is one more than the number of species I recorded, though with so many people present I'm sure I did not hear about every species seen. It was also hard for me to tally birds due to the wonderful distractions of socializing with friends and searching for new species. A handful of early birders among us saw the White-faced Ibis previously found by the Nichols. It mysteriously vanished by the time the rest

of us arrived. A flock of 30 eclipse-plumaged Northern Pintail were not only early but a record number for an early date. Jeff Wilson saw two Buff-breasted Sandpipers before he joined the group. He also spotted a Baird's Sandpiper and took the time to make sure we all got on the bird and recognized its field marks. Thanks, Jeff, and thanks to all who withstood the heat in search of birds. *--Dan Scheiman*

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

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Great Horned Owl
Drawing by Samantha Scheiman

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

Chapter Only Membership Application

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

ASCA Dues Proration for New Members

Membership Level	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec*
	100%	75%	50%	100%
__Student/Senior	\$10	\$ 7.50	\$ 5.00	\$10
__Regular	\$15	\$11.25	\$ 7.50	\$15
__Family	\$25	\$18.75	\$12.50	\$25
__Supporting	\$35			
__Patron	\$50			

*New Memberships paid in the last quarter (Oct-Dec), will include full membership for the following calendar year.

All Membership renewals are due January 1 of each calendar year.

Make check payable to ASCA and mail to:

Ed Laster, Treasurer, 64 Bouresse Drive, Little Rock, AR 72223. Please note that "Chapter Only Members" will not receive *Audubon* magazine. To receive *Audubon* magazine, you need to join the National Audubon Society (NAS).

Address changes should be sent to the following: If Chapter Only Member, notify Leon Brockinton, c/o Brockinton Company, LLC at P. O. Box 6213, Sherwood, AR 72124. If NAS member, notify both Brockinton Company and NAS at P. O. Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001.

The Snipe is published quarterly by the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas. Our mission is to encourage programs and activities supporting all things natural, wild, and free, especially birds, bird habitat stability and improvement, as well as to promote fellowship among members, educate and inspire the public, and champion the highest standards of ethical outdoor conduct.

Arkansas Rare Bird Alert (RBA)

The RBA lists rare and unusual birds found throughout the state and if possible directions to these birds. **To report or hear the latest sightings**, call 501-753-5853. The number is listed as J.J. Audubon in the phone book. It is the only white page listing with the last name Audubon

Find an Injured Bird?

For a listing of an AR Game and Fish Commission authorized Migratory Bird Rehabilitator in your area, you can visit their website at:

http://www.agfc.com/species/Documents/migratory_bird_rehablist.pdf