

THE SNIPE

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The Newsletter of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

www.ascabird.org



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Cave Swallow Visits Southwest Arkansas

2005 has been a wonderful year for birding in Arkansas. From the Common Redpoll seen in Danville to the Scott's Oriole in Storey. Birders are now blessed with yet another find. On the morning of May 29th, Charles Mills of Ogden, Arkansas, spotted and photographed an immature Cave Swallow near the dam site on Lake Millwood. Also present and available for direct comparison were 80-100 Cliff Swallows. The Cave Swallow will be a First Arkansas Record-pending acceptance by the Arkansas Bird Records Committee.

Charles stated, "For those who may be unaware, Cave Swallows have in recent years been steadily expanding their range to the east and north through Texas. A number of people, including myself, have been anticipating their eventual appearance for quite some time."

In one of those happy coincidences that can make birding so interesting, the timing of this discovery came within 12 hours of a conversation in which Charles was urged, by a friend in northeast Texas, to get out and look for Cave Swallows in Arkansas.

Charles also said that it was only right that he be the first to see a Cave Swallow in Arkansas, since one had 'dumped' on him, many years ago, while entering Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.

Congratulations Charles for keeping a watchful eye open. We can only hope the Cave Swallow returns next year so that more Arkansas birders can enjoy seeing this rare visitor.



Immature Cave Swallow
Photos by Charles Mills

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

DREW PHILLIPS

Greetings Birders and Friends,

It is still unbearably hot outside, but better weather is on the way. That means our fall field trips will be more pleasant than they have been of late. The best way to get to know our fellow birders is to attend our field trips. A typical trip will have several experts, journeymen and neophyte birders. So, no matter your skill level, you will fit right in. The goal of every field trip is to have a good time, enjoy our companions and make sure everyone gets a good look at each species we find. The thing I like most about our hobby is the care expert birders will take to help those just starting out to identify what we see.

The next best thing to getting a life bird yourself is helping a companion get a lifer of their own. We have several good trips lined up for this fall. Please come join us.

We also have excellent programs at our monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Recently, we've had presentations on butterflies, dragonflies and grassland birds. We are quite fortunate being located in Central Arkansas because of the resources available to us. This fall we have several outstanding programs in the process of being scheduled.

Please check the appropriate section of this newsletter or on our website www.ascabird.com for more detailed information on both field trips and programs.

If there is a special place you would like to go on a field trip or a program subject you would like to learn more about, please contact me. We are always looking for new ideas.

I hope to see you soon!

Good Birding!
Drew M. Phillips
ASCA President

Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed

The Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed is providing free boat tours of Lake Maumelle the second Saturday of each month. The purpose of the boat tours is to educate the public on the characteristics of The Lake Maumelle Watershed and the threats to this clean water source.

Representatives of Central Arkansas Water, Sierra Club Central Arkansas Chapter, US Geologic Survey and Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed will be on board to provide information. The boat departs at 9:15am from the Jolly Rogers Marina located on Lake Maumelle. *It is also a great time to bring your binoculars and view the wildlife.* Tour last approximately 2 hours.

To reserve a seat on the boat please contact Kate Althoff at (501) 223-2744. Seating is provided on a first come and first serve basis and reservations *must be requested before noon* on Thursday before the Saturday tour.

Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed is a grassroots coalition that formed in response to a proposed state law that would have allowed unregulated development on Lake Maumelle. Lake Maumelle along with Lake Winona is the source of drinking water to 360,000 people in Central Arkansas. The proposed state law was defeated but Lake Maumelle is still facing many threats and for this reason Citizens Protecting Lake Maumelle continues to advocate for sound management of this community resource.

www.ProtectArkansasWater.org

Workshops held by AAS

Two concurrent adult workshops will be held by the AAS beginning with lunch Friday Sept 16 and ending with lunch Sunday Sept 18. One workshop will be on tree identification and the 2nd will be on entomology. The location for both workshops will be Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center near Ferndale, just west of Little Rock. You can visit the Ferncliff Camp web site for more information: www.ferncliff.org

We have reserved a number of rooms at Ferncliff Camp. Cost for each workshop is \$190 for those staying two nights at Ferncliff Camp and \$130 for those who plan to commute. The price includes: seven meals (lunch Friday through lunch Sunday) and instruction materials to take home with you.

In Oct. 2004 AAS held its inaugural adult workshop with Eric Sundell, who teaches at the U of AR Monticello, teaching 16 adult students how to identify a number of Ark. tree species on the grounds at Ferncliff Camp. We are repeating that workshop. Eric readily agreed to teach what he describes as a beginner's or refresher intermediate tree ID workshop. This fall we added a second workshop on entomology that will be taught by Phoebe and George Harp, retired faculty from Arkansas State University.

If you interested in attending please contact me, Barry Haas (bhaas@sbcglobal.net or 501-821-4097) as soon as possible. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. I can also answer any questions you may have about the workshops.

An Endangered Act

Kevin Pierson

Director of Conservation, Audubon Arkansas

A new bill being drawn up in the House Resource Committee of the US House of Representatives could severely limit the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A draft of a bill was leaked on June 17, 2005 titled "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act". In addition to completely repealing the Endangered Species Act in 2015, the bill would immediately: **1)** eliminate the requirement to recover endangered species - only protect, **2)** remove habitat protections from areas that did not have a documented population of the species currently on the site and **3)** weaken independent national oversight of the program and allow State by State de-listing of species.

More information about this draft bill can be found at: The Defenders of Wildlife website www.defenders.org and Center for Biological Diversity Website www.sw-center.org/swcbd/

Closer to home, U.S. Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) have announced a bipartisan effort to "update" the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Lincoln and Crapo are partnering to write legislation that will address several areas of the ESA. The two Senators are to co-chair a working group in Congress that will coordinate efforts with the appropriate committees of jurisdiction in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. So far, Lincoln and Crapo have not specified a time frame for introduction of the measure, which is still being drafted.

Senator Lincoln can be contacted through her website <http://lincoln.senate.gov/> for additional information on the bi-partisan efforts.

Trumpeter Swan Society

The Trumpeter Swan Society is holding its 20th Trumpeter Swan conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa, October 20-22, 2005. There is a growing wintering population of Trumpeter Swans in Heber Springs, Arkansas. As Trumpeters increase in the Upper Midwest, we hope more birds will migrate safely to southern locations. Heber Springs is one of the few success stories.

One of the goals of this conference is to highlight the breeding populations of the Interior Population of Trumpeter Swans and to plan ways to promote safe winter migration.

If you are interested in attending this conference a brochure is posted on our web site (see below).

Sincerely,

Madeleine Linck
Administrative Assistant
The Trumpeter Swan Society
ttss@threeriversparkdistrict.org
www.trumpeterswansociety.org

Ivory Billed Woodpecker Print and Stamp

Larry Chandler, artist

The painting "Elusive Ivory" that was selected by Cornell Lab of Ornithology to use in their press release and shown on CNN, ABC, FOX and major newspapers, will be released in a Conservation Print & Stamp.

This is being done in co-operation with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Nature Conservancy. The sale of both print and stamp will help fund the efforts of the three groups.

The prints are being offered in an edition of 20,000, plus 500 Arkansas Governor Editions and 1400 First sifers Signature Editions.

When the prints and stamps are available they can be purchased from Grisham's Art in Jonesboro, AR (1-800-232-2409) or on line at:

www.grishamsart.com
www.ivory-bill-woodpecker.com
www.larrychandlerart.com



Prints and stamps will be available to dealers and conservation groups. Thanks for your support of this "The Greatest Ornithological Re-Discovery of the 21st Century.

ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY CALL TO MEETING

2005 Fall Convention
October 28 – 30
Brinkley Convention Center

The 2005 fall convention of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be held on **October 28-30**, in Brinkley, Arkansas. Friday **Registration** will be at the **Amerihost Inn** from 4:00-5:45.

For **accommodations** contact **Amerihost Inn** at **(870) 734-4300**. Be sure to mention Arkansas Audubon Society to get the room rate of \$49.50 + tax, breakfast included.

Directions:

From the west, Little Rock etc., take the Brinkley exit off I40. Turn left after the exit ramp to cross over the interstate. The Amerihost Inn will be on the left after the overpass

From the east, take the Brinkley exit and turn left on to route 49. The Inn will be on the right, just before the I-40 overpass.

Meals and Programs will be at the Brinkley Convention Center. Directions will be included in your registration packet.

Complete the form and mail to:

Jack Stewart, AAS Vice President
P.O. Box 632
Jasper, AR 72641

Mail by **October 10**, to qualify for the **Early Bird discount** and subtract **\$5** per person from the registration fee.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please place an "X" in the box if this is your first AAS meeting or if you have not attended for some time.

Meeting Registration # _____ @ \$20/person \$ _____
Early bird October 10 or before \$15/person
Children under 16 with adult free

Friday evening meal # _____ @\$14/person \$ _____

Saturday evening meal # _____ @\$14/person \$ _____

Donation to help pay meeting costs \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to Arkansas Audubon Society

For questions contact Jack at 870-715-0260 or jackstewart_us@yahoo.com

AGENDA

Friday, October 2

Board Meeting 12:30 – 3:00 pm
Registration (Amerihost) 4:00 – 5:45 pm
Supper 6:15 – 7:15 pm
Evening program 7:45 – 9:00 pm
Speaker: Dr Jim Bednarz and students
Program: Research reports

Explanation of and sign-up for Saturday field trips
Followed by members slide show

Saturday, October 29

Field Trips As arranged on Friday
Committee Meetings As designated by committee chairs
AAS Trust Meeting (Amerihost) 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Workshop 3:00 – 4:00 pm
AAS Trust Reception-Mallard Room 5:15 pm
Dinner 6:15 – 7:15 pm
Business Meeting 7:00 – 7:45 pm
Evening Program 7:45 pm
Speaker: Marty Hansen
Program: Birds in Flight
Bird checklist and explanation of Sunday field trips

NOTE: All events at Brinkley Convention Center, Mallard Room unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Programs of the ASCA

The ASCA meets at 7:00 PM the second Thursday of each month at the John Gould Fletcher Library, which is 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, 2005 – Karst and Cave Ecology

Guest Speaker: **David Kampwerth**
Program: **Karst and Cave Ecology**

Mr. Kampwerth, Karst Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Arkansas Field Office will give a presentation on karst and cave ecology and the numerous species that utilize those habitats. Come underground with ASCA as we learn about these important and often overlooked habitats and species. Cave on.

October 13, 2005 – Bird of the Big Woods

Please note this meeting will begin at **7:15**

Guest Speaker: **David Luneau**
Program: **Bird of the Big Woods: An Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the 21st Century**

David Luneau's program will describe the history, decline, rediscovery and hope for the future of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Search strategies and techniques will be described and the video from April 2004 that was the centerpiece of the evidence from the search will be shown.

November 10, 2005 – New Species and Global Rarities

Guest Speaker: **Theo Witsell**
Program: **New Species and Global Rarities: The Importance of Xeric Habitats for Arkansas Plant Diversity**

This slide show will focus on the high diversity of plant species in the driest of Arkansas' plant communities: glades, barrens, prairies and dry woodlands. Emphasis will be on plant communities and rare plant species. Arkansas' newest plant species, Pelton's rose-gentian, will be highlighted. This species is known from just two places in the world, both in Saline County Arkansas.

December 8, 2005 – ASCA Christmas Potluck and Silent Auction

Mark your calendars now to attend the annual ASCA Christmas Potluck on December 8th at 6:30 p.m. This year the potluck will be held at Magnolia Lodge in Little Rock. Also we will hold a Silent Auction, which is a critical source of funds for our society. So start now gathering or making items to bring to the auction. Be sure to watch for the next issue of The Snipe or check out our web site at www.ascabird.org for additional details and directions to this fun event.

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Vacant:
Education, Outreach,
Publicity, Christmas and
Migratory Counts



ASCA Field Trip Schedule

The 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 their birds from more experienced birders. Perhaps a chance to get a life bird for those dedicated birders. Check out the web site at www.ascabird.org or contact Drew Phillips at (501) 568-3182 or (501) 228-5248 for more information about upcoming field trips.

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*September 10, 2005*  
**Fourche Creek Float\*\***

**We will meet at the boat launch in Interstate Park off Arch Street at 7:30 AM.** We will take a canoe trip up Fourche Creek and see first hand the work being done by Audubon Arkansas' effort to restore this long neglected resource on the southern part of Little Rock. **We will have enough room for 16 people on the canoes provided by Audubon Arkansas.** However, if you have your own canoe you are welcome to bring it. This trip will require moderate exercise. Be sure to bring plenty of water and bug spray. **Please call Drew Phillips** at (501) 568-3182 or (501) 228-5245 **\*\*to make reservations** or if you would like more information.

"Fourche supports healthy populations of dragonflies and thus very few mosquitoes. If anyone owns a copy of the field guide to dragonflies, he/she might want to bring it along." - Bill Shepherd

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October 22, 2005
Millwood Lake

Charles Mills has graciously agreed to guide us on a field trip in his home territory. This is always a great trip. We almost always find something rare or unusual. This trip only requires moderate exercise. Be sure to bring a lunch we will be a long way from restaurants or fast food places. **We will meet at the I-630/Shackleford Road commuter parking lot at **7:00 AM**** Please note early departure time. Call Drew Phillips at (501) 228-5245 for more information or any questions you may have.

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*November 12, 2005*  
**Lake Dardanelle**

**We will meet at Christ the King Catholic Church parking lot on Rodney Parham Road just south of Hwy 10 at 7:30 AM.** Waterfowl, gulls and the opportunity for something rare will be the main attraction. This is always a productive trip and a lot of fun. We may make a side trip to **Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge** on the way back. Bring a sack lunch or pick up a sandwich at a local restaurant. Call Drew Phillips at (501) 228-5245 for more details.

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December 2005
Lonoke and Little Rock Christmas Bird Counts
Dates to be determined

We will join with others to participate in the Lonoke and Little Rock Christmas Bird Counts. **Please check the Web site www.ascabird.org for details as they become available** or you may also contact Drew Phillips at 228-5245. There will be more information on this in the next issue of The Snipe.



Field Trip Reports

Mount Magazine

June 18, 2005

Fifteen ASCA birders attended the June field trip to Mt. Magazine, in search of the **Rufous-crowned Sparrow**. The weather could not have been better and as always the view from Mt. Magazine is spectacular. We managed to finally see two **Rufous-crowned Sparrows**, the first male Don Simons tried to show us wasn't very cooperative, but the second male put on quite a show for us. Other birds of interest included: **E. Phoebe, American Goldfinch, Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Hooded Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, E. Wood-Pewee, Tufted Titmouse, Indigo Bunting, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Chimney Swift, Turkey Vulture, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Carolina Wren.**

Several species of Butterflies were also seen: **Great Spangled Fritillary, Diana Fritillary, Orange Sulfur, American Snout, Eastern-tailed Blue, Painted Lady, American Lady and Pearl Crescent.**

Report by Dan Scheiman.



ASCA Birders at the highest point in Arkansas
Photo by Dottie Boyles



Searching for the elusive Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Photo by Dan Scheiman

Lorance Creek Natural Area and Tar Camp Park

July 16, 2005

ASCA led a walk to Lorance Creek and Tar Camp Park, located between Little Rock and Pine Bluff.

Lorance Creek is a BEAUTIFUL spot, birds or no birds. List of birds seen included: **Eastern Wood-Pewee, Chipping Sparrow, American Crow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, E. Bluebird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Carolina Wren, Acadian Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee, Red-eyed Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great Blue Heron, Summer Tanager, Chimney Swift, Hairy Woodpecker.**

Tar Camp Park – **Summer Tanager, N. Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Wood Thrush, Carolina Wren, Blue Jay, E. Wood-Pewee, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Crow, Fish Crow, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, E. Kingbird and N. Mockingbird.**

Butterflies also seen: **Hackberry Emperor, Summer Azure and Pearl Crescent**

Dan Scheiman
Little Rock, AR