

THE SNIPE

*The Newsletter of the
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas*



Charles Mills

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March-May 2009

Lake Maumelle Trail Work Day

Stephanie Hymel

Stewardship Coordinator, Central Arkansas Water

Central Arkansas Water (CAW) is hosting a trail workday on Saturday March 21 from 10:00-2:00. CAW wishes to improve birder, hiker, and angler access to the lake. The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas has agreed to help. From the parking lot at the Jolly Roger's Marina we will shuttle to two nearby sites. CAW will provide lunch, gloves, and some equipment for lopping branches, removing small trees, and digging up small rocks. Please bring your own equipment (e.g. gloves, shovel, loppers, hand saw) if you have it. Bring naming suggestions for the new trails. And don't forget your binoculars and spotting scope – Red-throated and Pacific Loons have been seen recently on the lake.

In other good news, CAW is working with Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to establish a wildlife management area around Lake Maumelle. CAW will host a public meeting once a memorandum of agreement is signed. Additional plans to expand public use around the lake are in the works. 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. You can direct any questions you have to Stephanie Hymel, Stewardship Coordinator, at Stephanie.Hymel@carkw.com or 501-377-1331.

Update on Dark Hollow in North Little Rock

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is appealing a federal court decision that an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is required before a commercial development may proceed in the Dark Hollow area of North Little Rock. Federal judge Bill Wilson ruled last November that the Corps of Engineers "arbitrarily and capriciously" issued a permit to clear and develop these wetlands without first completing an EIS. A Bass Pro sporting goods store along with other retail outlets are planned for the Dark Hollow area.

The developers, not the Corps of Engineers, would be responsible for having the EIS done and would pay for its cost.

Wilson's ruling was well documented and cited numerous instances where similar projects had required an EIS to be performed in the past. It will be interesting to see if the change in administrations in Washington, D.C., will alter Corps proceedings like this in the future, although this appeal was filed shortly after the Obama administration took office. Federal law and court precedents would seem to strongly support Judge Wilson's ruling.

One case cited as a precedent by Judge Wilson in his ruling involved a lawsuit filed by the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas in 1990 against the Corps of Engineers and City of Little Rock to stop the extension of Rebsamen Park Road along the Arkansas River.

ASCA prevailed both in federal court here in Little Rock and on appeal to the 8th Circuit in St. Louis. Federal Judge George Howard ruled in 1990 that an EIS must be done before the road extension could proceed. Rather than do an EIS, the ruling was appealed to the 8th Circuit which concurred with Judge Howard's ruling. One area where the road extension would have gone through is now the Little Rock ramp up to the Big Dam Bridge that connects Little Rock and North Little Rock above Murray Lock.

Since the Bass Pro and other shops in the Dark Hollow area were first proposed years ago, Bass Pro has signed a deal to put a Bass Pro store in Memphis. There is speculation that Bass Pro will not continue to pursue another store so close to Memphis, but that remains to be seen.

--Barry Haas

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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As this is my first president's column, I would like to make an observation which some birders may or may not take for granted. Over the past two years of taking part in the field trips, lectures, and meetings of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, the great variety of people whom I have met cannot help but bring a smile to my face. Ages range from the young teens to the mid-seventies. The backgrounds include those who have lived in various parts of the country, and other parts of the world. Yet, no matter what the generation, the background, or the career of the participant, each comes together for the purpose of enjoying the wonderful birds which we have around us.

Although it may seem an obvious fact, the bright red Northern Cardinal you enjoy at your feeder would be recognizable to your great-grandmother who lived decades ago. The beautiful songs of birds brought enjoyment to the ears of those living in centuries past, indicated the approach of springtime, or signaled that harvest time was drawing near. Now we enjoy many of these same birds as long as we dwell at this place and in this time.

In light of this reality, we do well to preserve this wonderful feathered heritage we have inherited. It is for this reason that ASCA exists. Its participants receive education in conservation, bird identification, activities at a variety of birding areas around the state, and many

other topics in the sphere of nature education. The organization joins together to give a strong, united voice in the preservation of this natural heritage we possess when the public is asked to weigh in on such matters. The individuals come together to share their knowledge, their experience, and their excitement of birding and related activities. This provides the opportunity for learning, for teaching, and for lasting memories.

Over the next two years as I work with all of you, share in these experiences, and continue to learn, I hope that we will continue in the work with which ASCA has been diligent. Although this may sometimes require a bit of sacrifice in terms of our time, the goal for which we work should always be kept in mind: the enjoyment of the natural environment in which we live, educating our generation and the generation to which we will pass on this inheritance, and the preservation of this environment so that it will remain for generations to come. As I begin my term in this office, thank you to those who have served as officers in the past to bring ASCA to the point it is now. To those who are currently serving, I say keep up the good work, as it is very appreciated by many. Finally, to those who are asked to serve in the future, consider such a request as an opportunity to keep the enjoyment fostered by the group moving forward for years to come.



Little Rock Audubon Center ground breaking ceremony held November 14, 2008

Conservation News

Barry Haas

Update on Protecting the Lake Maumelle Watershed

Lake Maumelle provides 60% of the drinking water for roughly 400,000 central Arkansans. Given its importance to our economy and as a drinking water supply for so many people, Central Arkansas Water (CAW) hired a nationally recognized firm with expertise to help us develop a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to protect the lake. Currently Lake Maumelle is a very high quality water supply, primarily due to (1) mostly undisturbed forests covering about 90% of the watershed and (2) lack of development in the watershed, the area that drains into the lake. But increased development pressures in recent years was proof that protections needed to be developed and then implemented to ensure a continued high quality water supply for many years to come.

The Lake Maumelle Watershed Management Plan (the "Plan"), that cost CAW ratepayers over \$1.2 million, included input from scores of community interest groups and was ultimately a compromise. Since it would cost too much to buy the tens of thousands of acres of land in the watershed, some development would be allowed by the Plan, but not so much new development that the water quality would go down to an unacceptable level. Low water quality requires more costly treatment, resulting in a higher cost for poorer quality water that may contain low levels of toxic or carcinogenic substances. National concerns in recent years include low levels of pharmaceuticals in municipal drinking water supplies, and the best prevention is keeping such substances out of the water supply. How to do that? By reducing the number of households and people living in the watershed.

At its March 12 meeting the CAW Commission will be considering an "Agreement for Watershed Protection" between CAW and Pulaski Co. government. Ratification of that Agreement by CAW would essentially endorse a new draft chapter, Chapter 8, in the Pulaski Co. subdivision regulations dealing with the portion of the Lake Maumelle watershed in Pulaski Co. Unfortunately, the proposed Chapter 8 falls woefully short of the science-based protections in the Plan that was drafted and received consensus approval by scores of community groups, including large and small landowners in the watershed.

Pulaski Co.'s draft Chapter 8 includes some of the protections in the Plan, but leaves out the most important ones- minimum lot sizes, maximum percentages of undisturbed areas per lot, reversing the Plan's emphasis on a conservation design approach to new development in favor of a performance design approach favored by the largest private landowner (Deltic Timber), and endorsing sewage treatment plants as the norm rather than the exception, once again reversing the Plan. Bottom line- the proposed Chapter 8 gives large landowners in the watershed everything they didn't get in the Plan to the detriment of both small landowners and water users. Over time we could go from today's high quality water to a lower

but still acceptable quality water under the science-based Plan, but to an unknowable even lower water quality based on politics under Chapter 8. Science may be coming back into style, but evidently not here in central Arkansas.

So, who are the stumbling blocks to getting adequate protections in place for such an important public drinking water supply? Pulaski Co. Judge Floyd Villines and the Pulaski Co. Quorum Court along with the seven CAW Commissioners will make the decision, with the Pulaski Co. Quorum Court expected to take up the proposed Agreement in April if the CAW Commission approves it in March.

If ratepayers remain silent, what they will get is greatly reduced protections for their drinking water at a higher cost. The water quality may not be noticeably worse next year or the year after that, but over time that will be the ultimate result- worse and worse water quality at an ever increasing cost. Acceptance of the Agreement for Watershed Protection by CAW and Pulaski Co. essentially pushes protection of the watershed down the road when solving pollution problems will be much more difficult and costly.

Customers of CAW are strongly encouraged to make their voices heard by contacting CAW commissioners, Pulaski Co. Judge Floyd Villines and Quorum Court members by e-mail or phone. Here's their contact information:

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Pulaski Co. Quorum Court

Go to <http://www.co.pulaski.ar.us/quorumcourt.shtml> (or Google 'Pulaski Co. Quorum Court') and click on the 'Quorum Court Members' link to get contact info for your Justice of the Peace. Or you can click on the 'District Map' link if you don't know your JP on the Quorum Court.

It is vitally important that you contact all seven CAW commissioners plus Pulaski Co. Judge Villines plus your Justice of the Peace. The message? Tell them an agreement between Central Arkansas Water and Pulaski Co. that will result in inadequate protections for the Lake Maumelle watershed like those in the proposed Pulaski Co. Chapter 8 subdivision regulations is unacceptable. Science-based and community endorsed protections are in the Watershed Management Plan, and that is the level of protection you need to strongly endorse.

Let's use science, not politics, to protect our drinking water.

The Frugal Naturalist – Squirrel Baffles

Jim Dixon

I hate squirrels. Not all squirrels, just those in my yard. They eat my birdseed and suet and mock my Border Collie. I try to keep a couple of feeders and two or three suet dispensers going at once so I knew baffles were in order.

A quick check of Wild Birds Unlimited showed baffles to run from \$20 to \$50. Times four or five and it might be cheaper to just feed the squirrels. Even locally, baffles started at \$10 for a shallow plastic bowl. I decided to see what I could make my self with the goal being that each unit would be as inexpensive as I could reasonably make it.

What makes a baffle? One kind hangs over the feeder on some kind of pivot so it can easily shift as the squirrel tries to get around it protecting the food from above. Another kind attaches to the pole in a pole-mounted feeder and blocks the squirrel's access to the seeds from below.

Since price was key to this project, I went to my local dollar store. There I found some of the components I needed. First, I found a 9" metal baking pan. In it I saw the first type of baffle. On a second trip, I found a plastic deviled egg tray. I saw possibilities for it too.

Later, I bought a bag of practice golf balls, the hollow kind with holes in them, for about 10 cents apiece and some S hooks for about \$2 for a package of 4, easily the least cost effective component. The remaining component was stainless steel wire that I already had.

I drilled a hole in the 9" pan and then ran the wire through it and a golf ball, which would serve as the pivot. Add an S hook on each end and I had, for about \$2, a squirrel baffle. Before I called it good, I splurged and painted it green to match a feeder that I had.

Then I turned my attention to the deviled egg trays. I have a pole for feeders and needed a baffle on it too. I measured the pole diameter and fortunately had a wood bit to match. I then put a rubber O-ring on the pole and secured it with electrical tape. I slid the tray down the pole face down and had another low cost baffle. Having more stuff around the house, specifically chain and a key ring, I turned a second deviled egg tray into a birdbath.

The baffles do an excellent job keeping the squirrels at bay. Of course, nothing is 100% and occasionally I'll see a squirrel hanging precariously from the chain while contorting around the baffle to get to the good stuff. That's when I release the hound and enjoy the show.

Lonoke and Little Rock Christmas Bird Count Results

Dan Scheiman

Christmas Bird Count Complier

For the Lonoke CBC (Dec 14, 2008), 29 participants spent 67 hours and traveled 381 miles to tally 105 species and 290,245 individuals. The effort (number of observers, miles and hours) was down a bit compared to last year. This plus the high winds perhaps contributed to a lower species count (112 last year). The number of individual birds, however, was way up from last year (128,269), yet the only historical High Count this year was Dunlin (90 birds found by Kenny & LaDonna Nichols; the next highest was 22 on the 81st CBC). Notable species found this year were: Long-billed Dowitcher (44 birds across 3 parties), Western Sandpiper (1), Palm Warbler (2), Cackling Goose (4), Blue-headed Vireo (1), and the best bird of the count - Long-tailed Duck (1; Nichols).

For the Little Rock CBC (Dec 27, 2008), 23 participants plus 10 feeder watchers traveled 295 miles and spent 74.3 hours tallying 25,108 individuals of 98 species. The effort (number of observers, miles and hours) was

down compared to last year as was the number of species (106), but the number of individual birds counted was higher (17,865). In addition to thunderstorms, this year brought a number of High Counts (HC): Canada Goose (718 versus 502 in years past), Turkey Vulture (207 vs. 61), American Coot (171 vs. 138), Killdeer (284 vs. 151), and Mourning Dove (586 vs. 520). The cyclical nature of certain species was evident in the absence of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin this year. Unusual (US) birds found this year that are infrequently seen on this count were: American Wigeon (9 birds across two groups), Wild Turkey (5), Greater Roadrunner (1); Greater Scaup (2), and the best birds of the day - the first LR CBC records of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Glaucous Gull (found by Dennis Braddy and Jim Dixon)!

If you missed the fun and these good birds because you were sitting at home instead of birding, then please join us next year on these counts.

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.

March 12, 2009–Knowing Where You Are

Guest Speaker: **Jay Miller**

Program: **Knowing Where You Are Makes All The Difference**

Arkansas is made up of six natural divisions. Come hear which characteristics make living in each of these unique, and which state parks are located in these areas.

Jay Miller has worked for the Department of Parks and Tourism for over 30 years in several capacities, for the past twenty-five years as Chief of Park Interpretation for Arkansas State Parks. As head of the Program Services division, Mr. Miller is responsible for interpretation, publications, and exhibits, and oversees training and direction for the interpretation and education programs within Arkansas's 52 state parks and museums.

April 9, 2009 – Seasonal Gardening Tips

Guest Speaker: **Beth Phelps**

Program: **Seasonal Gardening Tips and Questions**

What should you be doing in the landscape and garden now? Ms. Phelps will discuss general horticultural chores and seasonal pests you need to be on the lookout for in your garden. Birding is the second most popular outdoor hobby in the US next to gardening. Come learn seasonal gardening tips for attracting birds to your backyard.

Beth Phelps has been an Extension Agent with the Pulaski County Extension Service for 15 years. Serving as Staff Chair, Beth coordinates the staff and educational programs offered in all programmatic areas through the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service in Pulaski County. Beth also manages the Master Gardener Volunteer Program for Pulaski County.

May 9, 2009 – International Migratory Bird Day

We will *not* have a regular meeting or program in May.

Instead, we would like to encourage everyone to join ASCA as we celebrate **International Migratory Bird Day** with a morning bird walk through **Allsopp** and **Murray Parks** in Little Rock. Afterwards we will gather together for lunch at the **Whole Hog Café** located at 2516 Cantrell Road.

This is a great time to visit, make new friends, and share stories with fellow birders. For specific details please see **May 9th field trip to Allsopp and Murray Parks** on page 6.

Arkansas Audubon Society Spring 2009 Convention

Jason D. Luscier

Arkansas Audubon Society Vice President

Mark your calendars . . . the **Spring 2009 Convention of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS)** will be held **April 24-26** at **Petit Jean State Park** in Morrilton. Friday registration (4:00-600 pm), evening meals, and programs will be at the Show Barn Hall at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute.

Special rate lodging is available at Mather Lodge within Petit Jean State Park. Queen rooms are \$65.00 a night. Call (501) 727-5431 to make reservations. You must reserve your rooms by March 24th to receive these special rates, be sure to mention you're with AAS.

There are several field trips planned for Friday afternoon and Saturday.

Guest speakers for the meeting include, Dr. Dan Scheiman from Audubon Arkansas on Friday night, and Maureen McClung, PhD student from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Saturday evening.

For more information or to download a registration form you can visit the AAS website at:

http://www.arbirds.org/AAS_meeting_spring_2009.pdf

If you have questions/comments or are willing to help with any aspect of the convention, please contact Jason Luscier at jluscie@uark.edu or call (479) 871-9199.

Congratulations

To Dick Baxter on completing his 2008 Big Year with a total of 318 species.

Way to go Dick we are proud of you!

Best Wishes

Best wishes to Doris Boyles who is recovering from foot surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you out on the birding trails soon.

The Birds

Dick Baxter

I started off 2008 like I had the previous three years, not really sure if I should go all out and do a Big Year, but that changed early in the year. I had no idea how many year birds I had by February 1st. I did know I already had a ton of rarities, and Big Years are made by rarities.

April 20th, was one of my most memorable days of birding in Arkansas. I started the day around 6:30 a.m. by scanning over a dried fish pond for shorebirds. I spotted Least, Semipalmated, Pectoral, and Spotted sandpipers. I noticed a pale spot on the driest part of the pond bottom. I was happy to see a Piping Plover in breeding plumage!

On May 10th, Kenny and LaDonna Nichols joined Ron Howard and I for a morning of warbler watching at Craighead Forest Park in Jonesboro. We started around 6:45a.m. and didn't stop until 5:00p.m. We saw 22 species of warblers, Painted Bunting, Lark Sparrow, and a couple of late Red-breasted Nuthatches. The best bird of the day went to a totally unexpected Clay-colored Sparrow.

The best birds in May were: Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, Swainson's Warbler, Common Tern, and Franklin's Gull in Desha County. In Jonesboro, I think Ron Howard and I saw just about every warbler that comes through Arkansas regularly, along with all the empids, Veery, and Black-billed Cuckoo.

On August 25th, I received a call from Kenny, he had found a Red-necked Phalarope at Des Arc.

On September 12th, Kenny found a Sabine's Gull at Dardanelle and a strange looking gull with a bunch of terns. It was a long way off, so we headed to Delaware Rec. Area to get a better look. . The bird finally got closer, and we identified it as a Little Gull! I think half the birders in Arkansas showed up to see that thing.

I ended the year with 318 birds, 23 chases, and 295 birds found either on my own or by my birding party.

A special thanks to Kenny and LaDonna Nichols, Dennis Braddy, Ron Howard, Charles Mills, and everyone else for helping me out.

Thanks to my wife, Sarah, for letting me get away with this.



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 more dedicated. For more information visit www.ascabird.org or contact Karen Holliday, ASCA Field Trip Coordinator at karenh@arkleg.state.ar.us or (501) 920-3246.

March 14, 2009

Delta Rivers Nature Center, Lake Saracen, and Bayou Bartholomew

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Dixon Road commuter lot, Exit 3 off I-530 south, then head towards Pine Bluff. We should arrive at the Delta Rivers Nature Center around 8:30 a.m. for anyone who would like to meet us there. On this trip, habitat will vary from bottomland hardwood forests, cypress and tupelo swamp, and open water. Waterfowl, raptors, and herons will be our target birds. Bring boots, water, and lunch.

Directions to the Nature Center—From Little Rock, take I-530 south to Pine Bluff going 35 miles until I-530 becomes Hwy. 65B. Go 6 miles, continuing past Lake Saracen (Lake Pine Bluff). Turn left onto Regional Park Drive (Convention Center Dr.). Continue on Regional Park Drive approximately 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Black Dog Road. Follow signs to the Nature Center.

April 4, 2009

Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area and Camp Robinson Special Use Area

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Mayflower commuter lot off I-40 west at Exit 135. This central meeting site will give us the option of birding Camp Robinson SUA, the Bell Slough WMA spillway entrance, or Bell Slough WMA south, depending on what birds are being seen in the area. We will be looking for early spring migrants and possibly Bachman's Sparrows. Bring boots and water. This is a morning trip only.

May 9, 2009

International Migratory Bird Day Allsopp Park and Murray Park

We will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 9th with a field trip to Allsopp and Murray Parks. Both parks have great habitat for spring migrants. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the lower entrance to Allsopp Park. From west Little Rock, take Cantrell Road to Cedar Hill Road. Turn right at the traffic light, go about 1 block and turn right into the park. We will meet at the far end of the parking lot, closest to the trail. From Allsopp, we will travel to nearby Murray Park.

Afterwards, we will gather for lunch at the Whole Hog Cafe, located at 2516 Cantrell Road. This is a great time to visit, make new friends and share stories.



Field Trip Reports

Stuttgart Airport

January 17, 2009

Ten intrepid birders, including two from Alabama, braved the cold and winds of eastern Arkansas to bird Stuttgart Airport (Important Bird Area). We saw our primary target species - **SMITH'S LONGSPUR**. Although we flushed them several times, no more than six could be seen at a time, and we never had a good look at any of them on the ground.

After most of the group headed to Roth Prairie Natural Area for Short-eared Owls, the four of us who stayed in hopes of getting better looks at longspurs flushed **THREE SPRAGUE'S PIPITS** from the grass patches between the apron and north-south runway. We even had one in the scope.

Following that, Samantha Holschbach and I drove the county roads enclosing the airport and found **LAPLAND LONGSPURS** mixed with Horned Larks. Finally, we birded Pine City Natural Area. We arrived at 3:00 and in no time watched a family of three **RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS** foraging a bit south of their cavity cluster. With that goal obtained so early, we had time to wander around the area. It was an enjoyable and fairly birdy hike but we didn't see anything else of note. --*Dan Scheiman*

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Dardanelle

January 31, 2009

Twenty-five central Arkansas birders spent a beautiful, fun-filled day in the field. Starting on Lake Dardanelle, we saw an adult **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** from the Nichols' property (aka Kiddie Pool Point), and had close-up looks at the second cycle **THAYER'S GULL** at Delaware Recreation Area.

At Holla Bend NWR it wasn't long before an immature **GOLDEN EAGLE** soared past us near the observation tower, giving scopable looks for some. While watching the eagle two **TUNDRA SWANS** and two unbanded **TRUMPETER SWANS** flew right by, making for easy size comparisons. Elsewhere in the refuge 7 green-collared Trumpeter Swans rested in a field. They were far away and had their heads down, making it impossible to read neck band numbers. We didn't see any American Tree Sparrows, but a **MERLIN** was an unexpected treat for those of us who spied it before it zoomed off. Although we had plenty of people to form a long line, we did not flush Short-eared Owls from the field across from the observation tower.

On Country Loop, south of Holla Bend, we did not find the Bewick's Wren and Harris's Sparrow that Dennis and Skip saw about an hour earlier.

Ten of us ended the day at the northern-most boat dock of Lake Dardanelle State Park. The Nichols have found that massive numbers of gulls roost on this part of the lake. Indeed swarms of gulls flew over but most of them lighted far out in the horrible heat shimmers. We turned to chumming (using snack food) to bring fly-bys closer. It worked like a charm, though only Ring-bills and a single Herring Gull took the bait.

Many participants saw one or more life- or state birds (and enjoyed great camaraderie). There were three birders under 18 with us - Ted Stiritz, Samantha Dixon, and Terry Moreland. As someone who started birding at an early age (11) and found guidance and encouragement from an Audubon Chapter (South Shore Audubon, NY), I am heartened by their participation and hope to see more of it.

--*Dan Scheiman*

Two Rivers Park and Lake Maumelle

February 14, 2009

Twenty-one birders gathered at Two Rivers Park for a Love-Bird Walk as a way to celebrate our love for birds on Valentine's Day and participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Three birders had never attended our field trips before; we hope they enjoyed the experience and will join us again and again. We saw 53 species for the day. At least two immature Bald Eagles soared overhead. A few lucky birders had great looks at a **HENSLOW'S SPARROW** in a broomsedge field (a first for the park), and everyone examined a treed **LE CONTE'S SPARROW**. A **GRAY CATBIRD** is a notable find in winter. Reliable at the park were at least two **VIRGINIA RAILS** along the main trail. By 11:00 we were on Lake Maumelle. Heat shimmers were completely absent, providing superb viewing across the lake. Unfortunately only one Common Loon was evident from one of the three access points we visited. A single **GREATER SCAUP** was the only other notable sighting. --*Dan Scheiman*

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

P. O. Box 6213
Sherwood, AR 72124

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Ross's Goose
Photo by Charles Mills

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

Chapter Only Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Membership Level:	Student/Senior	\$10 per year
(Check One)	Regular	\$15 per year
	Family	\$25 per year
	Supporting	\$35 per year
	Patron	\$50 per year

Make check payable to "ASCA" and mail to treasurer:
Ed Laster, 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 a Chapter Only Member, notify Leon Brockinton, c/o Brockinton Company, LLC at P. O. Box 6213, Sherwood, AR 72124. If a 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.

Find an Injured Bird?

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

<http://www.agfc.com/wildlife-conservation/rehabilitators.aspx>
or

http://www.agfc.com/pdfs/rehab/migratorybird_rehablist.pdf

*****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.