

THE SNIPE

The Newsletter of the
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas



Photo by Charles Mills

What's Inside

President's Column	Page 2	Big-Tic-Day	Page 5
Conservation News	Page 3	Recent Bird Sightings	Page 6
Raptor Rehabilitation	Page 4	Upcoming Field Trips	Page 6
Upcoming Programs	Page 5	Field Trip Reports	Page 7

Volume 41 Issue 3

www.ascabird.org

June - August 2007

Arkansas Box Turtle Survey

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

by Michael Warriner

If box turtles are to remain a familiar sight in Arkansas, we need to know how they are faring. One of the best places to start is simply determining where these turtles occur and how frequently they are observed. Gathering empirical data will help us begin to understand the status and population trends of these species.

Through the Arkansas Box Turtle Survey, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) is asking Arkansans to become "turtle-watchers" to help provide information about box turtles across the state. Participation in the survey is open to anyone who observes a box turtle at any location in Arkansas. Whether you see one box turtle or a dozen, each observation will provide beneficial data. While box turtles are relatively harmless, we discourage participants from picking up specimens and certainly do not want any turtles removed from the wild as part of the survey. Your turtle sightings can be reported online at <http://www.naturalheritage.com/citizen-science/boxturtle> or you may contact the ANHC 501-324-9619 to receive reporting forms in the mail.

How to Participate in the Survey

The survey form will ask you to include as much information as possible about the site where you saw the turtle. If your observation involves a turtle crossing the road, an identifying name, number, mile marker or distance from a landmark will be helpful. Reports of dead turtles on roads are just as important as those found alive. Box turtles found dead along roads can provide very useful information about the impact of road mortality. There is no limit on the number of turtle sightings you can report and any turtle photos would be

great too. If you have a GPS unit, you can also provide the site's coordinates (preferably in decimal degrees).

If You Find a Sick or Injured Turtle

If you find a sick or injured turtle, make note of the location the turtle was found, and contact the Wild Child Alliance at 501-912-0498 or the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at 1-800-482-8845 or 1-800-482-9262. Either organization will put you in contact with a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. If it is safe to do so, (no chance of turtle getting re-injured, not a high traffic area, etc.) the turtle will be returned to the general vicinity after treatment and rehabilitation, so please note the location.

What is the Status of Arkansas's Box Turtles?

Arkansas hosts two species of box turtle, the Three-toed Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*) and Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata ornata*). The Three-toed Box Turtle can be found nearly statewide. Chances are if you see a box turtle in your yard, it is most likely a Three-toed Box Turtle. The Ornate Box Turtle is restricted to parts of the state that once contained tallgrass prairie.

While often perceived as common, box turtles could be quietly disappearing from landscapes across this country. The Ornate Box Turtle is already identified as a species of conservation concern in Arkansas. In addition, there are no hard data to support the contention that Three-toed Box Turtle populations are secure. Results from studies across the U.S. suggest that box turtles are becoming less common.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BILL SHEPHERD

ASCA OFFICERS

President:

Bill Shepherd
501-375-3918
stoneax63@hotmail.com

Vice-president:

Dan Scheiman
501-280-9024
birddan@comcast.net

Recording Secretary:

Susan Hardin
whizcats@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:

Barry Haas
501-821-4097
bhaas@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor:

Dottie Boyles
ctboyles@aristotle.net

Board:

W. F. "Bill" Hailey
501-225-2848

D. DeLynn Hearn
delynnh@iwon.com

Ed Laster
501-868-6004
elaster523@sbcglobal.net

Sherry Phillips
501-228-5245

Drew Phillips
501-228-5245
drewmilp@yahoo.com

Bill Saunders
501-664-2539
wasaunders@aristotle.net

Christmas Bird Count Compiler:

Dan Scheiman
501-280-9024
birddan@comcast.net

Conservation:

Barry Haas
501-821-4097
bhaas@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality:

Sherry Phillips
501-228-5245

Rare Bird Alert:

D. DeLynn Hearn
501-771-4686
delynnh@iwon.com

ASCA Webmaster:

J. Lyndal York
501-663-2192
lbluejay@sbcglobal.net

Field Trip Coordinator:
Open

ASCA to Support Conservation Science in Central America

ASCA's board voted at the April 12 meeting to contribute \$300 to the "Adopt a MoSI Station" program of the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP). MoSI stations are places distributed around Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean islands where mostly local volunteers mist net and band wintering birds in an effort to create a science-based framework for conservation decision making in the American tropics. The program focuses during winter on selected bird populations in the American tropics, many of them populations of species that nest in North America. In other words, MoSI is aimed ultimately at protecting and managing habitats for many bird species that we consider "ours"—but during the months when they are not living with us. In English, the Latin American program is called Monitoring Overwintering Survival; in Spanish it's *Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal* and *MoSI* for short.

The IBP oversees the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) stations in North America, some 500 of them, which mist net and band birds during their breeding seasons. MoSI is a recent offshoot of the MAPS program and serves a complementary purpose.

Kristi Streiffert's article in the winter 2007 issue of the *Living Bird*, published by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, explains how many dedicated MoSI volunteers in economically disadvantaged tropical countries have to do their banding work under extremely difficult conditions and cover their own expenses because the program is so severely underfunded. On the other hand, arrangements can be made for qualified volunteers from North America to assist local people with their fieldwork and cash contributions can go a long way

towards helping the MoSI program succeed.

An individual or group can sponsor a MoSI station by contributing at least \$300. The sponsor will receive photographs and updates from the "adopted" station. In ASCA's case, Susan Hardin will receive the reports and will share them with the ASCA membership from time to time.

David DeSante, executive director of the IBP, explains the importance of the MoSI effort in the following terms: "Of all the funds spent to address declines in migratory species, the vast majority is spent on the birds' breeding grounds. Now, if the bottleneck is winter survival [due to a shortage of suitable wintering habitats] and you put all your effort into increasing hatchlings, you are just increasing the number of birds that die each winter."

For more information visit their web site at: <http://www.birdpop.org/MoSI/MoSI.htm>

The board encourages ASCA members to consider helping us raise our chapter's level of support by contributing additional funds through the chapter. Anyone who wishes may send an earmarked check in any amount to ASCA treasurer Barry Haas before the end of June. At that point, Barry will forward to the IBP a check representing the \$300 in chapter funds plus the contributions of individual chapter members. Barry's postal address appears in the list of officers in this and every issue of *The Snipe*, and we'll let you know through the next *Snipe* just how much the final ASCA donation amounted to.

--Bill Shepherd

Conservation News

Barry Haas

BFI Mounts Second Campaign to Expand Little Rock Landfill

Once again BFI Waste Services has begun the process to expand its landfill on Mabelvale Pike just south of Asher Avenue. BFI had started this process several years ago, but there were so many opponents that BFI decided not to continue the permit application process that appeared doomed to fail. Well, just like the shark in the movie "Jaws", BFI is back again for another attempt.

So, what's the problem? We need landfills for all the stuff we throw away, right? Yes, we need landfills, but Pulaski County already has two landfills that are nowhere near capacity. And neither of them are located in such a critical wetlands area as the BFI landfill. The BFI landfill sits at the junction of Fourche Creek and Rock Creek, the most critical point for storm water drainage in Little Rock.

Incredibly, the BFI landfill has received garbage from a number of counties other than Pulaski County. Does it make sense for garbage from a number of other more rural counties to be trucked into and dumped inside the Little Rock city limits?

Audubon Arkansas, the state office of the National Audubon Society, has been working to improve the Fourche Creek watershed by replanting trees, removing

trash, testing the water, and involving a number of youth in their environmental education efforts. The location of the BFI landfill in this critical watershed works against cleaning up adjacent waters. The Fourche watershed is more valuable as a vibrant urban wetlands park that can be used for multiple recreational uses.

BFI, which purchased the landfill from a previous owner, should never have been allowed to expand the landfill in the past. We need regulators to finally shut down the BFI landfill once it reaches its current capacity.

What can you do? Call the Pulaski County Regional Solid Waste Management District (PCRSWMD) at (501) 340-8787 and tell them you do not believe there is a 'need' for the BFI landfill expansion and ask them to oppose the expansion. That is the first regulatory hurdle the expansion must clear. The PCRSWMD is comprised of Pulaski Co. Judge Buddy Villines plus the mayors of the county's eight cities. Let these mayors know you are opposed to another BFI expansion.

For more details you can contact Barry Haas bhaas@sbcglobal.net or (501) 821-4097 in Little Rock

Where ARE those Birds?

Several birders this year are working on their AR Big Year and AR State List. As anyone who has ever tried to achieve this knows, it takes a lot of dedication and little bit of insanity to accomplish this. It can not, however, be achieved without the help and eyes of fellow birders. So while you are out birding this year, if you find or know of a rare or unusual bird, please let the following people know. As of May, here are the number of birds reported for each birder.

State List

Bill Hailey – 226
Ph: (501) 225-2848

Dan Scheiman – 299
Ph: (501) 366-0840
Email: birddan@comcast.net

State & Big Year

Doris Boyles – St: 287 Yr: 215
Dottie Boyles – St: 289 Yr: 224
Ph: (501) 224-0302
Email: ctboyles@aristotle.net

Big Year

Dennis Braddy – 280
Ph: (501) 772-7633
Email: dmbbraddy@comcast.net

Welcome New Members

James McHaney, Jr. of Little Rock
Frank James of Maumelle
Mr. & Mrs. Haskell Dickinson of Little Rock

Raptor Rehabilitation

by Rodney Paul

Raptor Rehabilitator, El Paso, Arkansas

Why would anyone want to be a wild bird or raptor rehabilitator? They do not receive funding from state or local governments. Except for the occasional donation, all expenses are 100% "out of pocket." The start up cost can be around \$6000 for building materials and government fees. Yes, they have to pay the government a fee and meet strict building requirements to allow them to do this for free. They are on-call pretty much 24/7. They travel, many times for several hours, to pick up an injured bird, only to have it humanely euthanized due to its injuries. Sometimes, they have just sat down to dinner with their family, when a call comes in and they have to go and retrieve an injured or sick bird.

So, why do they do it? I have two answers to this: raptors are a very important part of our ecology and they do it for the love of the birds.

Raptors are magnificent animals from the majestic Bald Eagle to the lowly vulture; we often take for granted what they offer us. For example, the ugly Black and Turkey Vultures, are nature's garbage disposals. Think of all the animal carcasses that would be lying around if it wasn't for vultures.

The beautiful Barn Owl is nature's mousetrap. Think of all the mice that would invade our grain bins or even our houses if it wasn't for them. The Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks sitting on the telephone pole, on the

side of the road, also are waiting for prey such as rats and mice.

Our other elusive owls, the Barred, Great Horned and Screech Owls, also are very adept at what they do towards rodent control. All of our birds of prey have their place in nature.

The ultimate goal of the rehabber is to be able to release these beautiful birds back into the wild. Only 25% of birds of prey make it past their second birthday due to human intervention, mainly vehicle strikes. Cell phone and power line towers also are a threat to these birds and we are constructing new towers daily. Unbelievably, we are still taking in raptors that have been intentionally shot.

A big goal of the rehabber is education. Rehabilitation without education is kind of pointless. Many rehabbers have educational birds that cannot be released due to injuries. They take these birds to various functions to try and educate the public, especially our young people, about the benefits these birds provide and the laws we have in place to protect them.

Not too many years ago, if you purchased a hunting license in AR, on the backside, it encouraged you to shoot hawks. Thankfully we are getting away from that kind of thinking through education and conservation.



Want to Help Build a Temporary Home for Eagles and other Large Raptors in Central Arkansas?

At its April Board meeting the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA) approved a \$500 donation to Rodney Paul, a federally licensed raptor rehabilitator who lives in El Paso, Arkansas.

Rodney is midway through the process of constructing a flight pen that can be used to rehabilitate eagles and other large raptors here in central Arkansas. Currently large raptors must be transported to far northwest Arkansas, the nearest location of an approved

flight pen. Over \$3,000 has been spent to date on the flight pen, with about that much more in funds needed to complete the facility.

The ASCA Board is hoping that individual members will consider making donations in addition to ASCA's \$500 to help Rodney finish the flight pen.

As a licensed rehabber, Rodney is also required to give educational programs about his rehab work. ASCA is planning a field trip on Thursday, July 19th to visit

Rodney's rehab facilities. Check the field trip schedule on page 6 for more information.

Want to help Rodney finish this much needed flight pen? Please consider a donation made payable to "ASCA" and mail it to treasurer Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, AR 72223. Please include a note with your check that your donation is for the large raptor flight pen. Your donation is tax deductible.

--Barry Haas

Upcoming Programs

The ASCA meets at 7:00 PM the second Thursday of each month at the John Gould Fletcher Library, 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.

June 14, 2007 – Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska

Guest Speaker: **Taldi Walter**

Program: **From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska**

Alaska is the largest of our states, encompassing more than 600,000 sq. miles of rugged mountains, grinding glaciers, endless tundra, diverse temperate rainforest, and winding coastlines. From the Spectacled Eider and Yellow-billed Loon found in America's Arctic to the Black Oystercatcher and the Marbled Godwit found on the southern coastline, Alaska's birdlife diversity is astounding.

Taldi Walter joined the National Audubon Society's Washington DC Policy Office as the Alaska Field Coordinator. Taldi will present an informative slideshow showcasing some of the important natural areas and brilliant birds found in wild Alaska. The presentation will explore some of Alaska's natural treasures set aside decades ago for the benefit of wildlife and the American public. She will highlight the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest, and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

July 12, 2007 – Migration and Towers

Guest Speaker: **Erin Macchia**

Program: **Migration and the Dangers of Towers**

Erin Macchia is a Ph.D. student at Arkansas State University. Each year, thousands of birds are killed during their migration north. Erin will talk about migration, the dangers of towers, and her research (and try to recruit more citizen scientists). If you want to learn more about her research or contact her to help, please visit her website at:

<http://evs.astate.edu/macchia/>

August 9, 2007 – Program To be Announced

ASCA will have its regular monthly meeting on, Thursday, Aug. 9, at 7:00 pm. Please check our web site at www.ascabird.org for more information.

Big Tic Day in TN-AR-MS

by Jeff Wilson

Located here in Memphis, TN, where 3 states come together and being on the Mississippi River, in the greatest flyway in the US, I get a lot of "total tickers" coming through, adding, "tics" to their state lists. I enjoy taking these birders out and introducing them to my large patch. We have some great birding locations in all three states nearby.

Just for kicks, I thought I'd try to get 100 species in each of the three states in one day. Mike Todd humored me and came along with the Ol'Coot, just to keep me out of trouble, but the whole trip would have been impossible without his young eyes and great birding ears as I drove.

As you can tell, it was done at a fairly easy pace because there were too many great birds to look at, all dressed up in their spring finery. We started late because we became discouraged on Saturday when discovering the concentration of ducks and shorebirds had left on the Northern Express, Friday night, quickly dropping our chances, but we decided, what the heck!!

Looks like, with a little cooperation from the birds, more rain (we are in a serious drought) and more time, you could get somewhere around 360 tics in a day around here.....I wonder what the top "Total Tics" in a day would be?

Three State---Big Tic Day

May 6, 2007 6 am – 8 pm

Mike Todd and Jeff R. Wilson

Total Tics – 329

TN – 111 6 am – 10 am

Memphis-Ensley Bottoms-Shelby Co.

MS – 106 10:30 am – 3:30 pm

DeSoto and Tunica Co. – Horn Lake-Fish ponds-Arkabutla Lake

AR – 112 4 pm – 8 pm

Crittenden Co.-Island 40 Chute-Wapanocca NWR

Total Species Seen – **153**

Species seen in all 3 States – **75**

Species seen in 2 States – **27**

Species seen in 1 State only – **51**

Species of Note:

California Gull - Rare in MS - Arkabutla Lake

Brown Creeper - Late in MS - Bass Landing, DeSoto Co.

Bell's Vireo - Rare in East AR Delta – Wapanocca NWR

Sightings from Around the State

Here is a partial list of some of the unusual birds being reported from around the state.

March 3rd, a **Red-necked Grebe** was seen at Treadway Fish Farm in Prairie Co.

March 7th, Don Simons saw a **White-tailed Kite** near the Benefield Picnic Area on Mount Magazine.

March 8th, Nick Anich found ten **Sandhill Cranes** in Poinsett Co.

March 17th, Kelly Jobe saw a **White-winged Scoter** at Cook's Landing in North Little Rock.

March 22nd, Dennis Braddy found a **Ruff** at Treadway Fish Farm.

March 24th, while searching for the **Rock Wren**, Charles Mills noticed a single **Cave Swallow** flying with a group of **Cliff Swallows** at the Millwood Lake spillway. On March 25th, a displaying male **Great-tailed Grackle** was seen near the Okay Levee.

April 2nd, Don Simons, found a **Townsend's Solitaire** at Mount Magazine.

April 6th, Rob Doster and Delos McCauley found 6 **White-faced Ibises**, 4 miles north of Humnoke in Lonoke Co.

April 8th, Mary Alice Beer reported a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** visiting her feeder in Fairfield Bay.

April 11th, a **Sora** was heard by Dennis Braddy and Skip at Two Rivers Park in Little Rock.

April 13th, Kenny and LaDonna Nichols located a single **Hudsonian Godwit** at Saul's Fish Farm, just off Hwy 38. The next day, Dick Baxter and Nick Anich found 15 godwits in the same pond.

On April 15th, at Bald Knob NWR, Lyndal York and Ken Dayer reported having a "two godwit day", with a **Hudsonian** and a **Marbled Godwit** present in the same pond at the same time.

White-winged Doves have been seen in Batesville, Harrison and North Little Rock.

May 3rd, Carolyn Minson photographed a **Lazuli Bunting** in Hot Springs Village.

May 9th, Dennis Braddy reported seeing **Western Kingbirds** on Industrial Harbor Road in Little Rock.



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 for more information about upcoming field trips.

~~~~~  
*June 16, 2007*

### Stuttgart Airport

**We will meet at the south end of the commuter parking lot at I-630 and Shackleford Road at 7:00 am.** Our target birds for this trip will be Painted Bunting, Bell's Vireo, and other breeding grassland and shrubland birds as well as a variety of butterflies and wildflowers. At the Stuttgart Airport, there is always something interesting to see. We will also visit either Roth Prairie or Konecny Prairie that afternoon. Bring your lunch, plenty of water and **don't forget your bug spray**. For more information please contact Dottie Boyles at [ctboyles@aristotle.net](mailto:ctboyles@aristotle.net).

~~~~~  
July 14, 2007

Mount Magazine State Park

Mount Magazine is the highest point in Arkansas. This park offers the best chance of seeing the Rufous-crowned Sparrow and the Diana Fritillary. Mt. Magazine is beautiful this time of year with a wide variety of birds, butterflies and wild flowers. Plus it could be much cooler on top of the mountain than here in Central Arkansas. **We will meet in the northwest corner of the Wal-Mart Super Center located on the corner of Chenal Parkway and Highway 10 at 7:00 am** and carpool to the mountain for those interested. We should arrive at the Visitor Center around 9:45 for those who would rather meet us there. You may bring your lunch or try out the restaurant in the lodge.

~~~~~  
*Thursday July 19, 2007*

### Rodney Paul, Raptor Rehabber, in El Paso, AR

**We will meet at Christ the King Catholic Church parking lot on Rodney Parham, just south of Hwy. 10 at 1:00 pm.** Rodney is currently up-grading his raptor pen so he can handle eagles. ASCA has contributed to this effort. He has a number of interesting guests that he is currently rehabbing; including owls and hawks. For more information contact Ed Laster at (501) 868-6004.

~~~~~  
August 18, 2007

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge

The shorebirds will be on their southerly migration to their winter homes in Central and South America. Bald Knob is known for attracting rare birds and anything is possible this time of year. Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills and Marbled Godwits have been seen on past field trips. Bring your lunch, plenty of water and don't forget the bug spray. **We will meet at the Other Center parking lot behind McDonald's, in North Little Rock at 7:30 am.** We should arrive at the refuge between 9:00 & 9:30. For more information please contact Dottie Boyles at ctboyles@aristotle.net.



Field Trip Reports

Rick Evans/Grandview Prairie Wildlife Management Area

March 3, 2007

Twelve birders enjoyed a sunny but windy day at Rick Evans/Grandview Prairie WMA. Our target bird was HENSLOW'S SPARROW. We made a valiant effort to flush one but never did. Later, Kelly Chitwood was gracious enough to lead us to her property south of Lake Greeson where she saw a SPOTTED TOWHEE several times this winter. Unfortunately we didn't see it, but we did find 4 Eastern Towhees. Kelly's Dad gave Craig and Dale Provost some fresh and cleaned Rainbow trout. Craig later said they were delicious! We tallied 35 species for the day. --Dan Scheiman

Bufflehead – 7	Killdeer – 1	Hermit Thrush – 2	Song Sparrow – 5
Double-crested Cormorant – 16	Red-bellied Woodpecker – 3	American Robin – 18	Swamp Sparrow – 10
Great Blue Heron – 1	Downy Woodpecker – 1	Northern Mockingbird – 3	White-throated Sparrow – 1
Great Egret – 1	Eastern Phoebe – 1	Yellow-rumped Warbler – 4	White-crowned Sparrow – 5
Northern Harrier – 2	Blue Jay – 1	Field Sparrow – 4	Northern Cardinal – 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1	Purple Martin – 5	Savannah Sparrow – 2	Eastern Meadowlark – 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 4	Tufted Titmouse – 1	Le Conte's Sparrow – 22	American Goldfinch – 20
	Carolina Wren – 1	Fox Sparrow – 1	

Boyle Park

April 21, 2007

Thirteen adults and two children attended the ASCA field trip through Boyle Park in Little Rock, Saturday, April 21st. This was the first ASCA field trip for four of our attendees. The weather was perfect and birds were singing everywhere we walked. At one point a rabbit tried to join us on the trail, but quickly changed it's mind and hopped off under a bush. We watched a Red-headed Woodpecker excavating a nest cavity from a dead tree. It would enter the cavity and then come out with a mouth full of sawdust. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers let us know we were not welcome near their nesting site and scolded us both times we passed by. Barry Haas pointed out an oak tree with three trunks, side-by-side and equal size. We also found a dead catfish that weighed between 20 to 30 lbs and wondered how it got in such shallow water. PU. The odor was awful. We tallied 42 species for the trip. --Dottie Boyles

Great Blue Heron	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Crow	Black-and-white Warbler
Canada Goose	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Fish Crow	Kentucky Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Carolina Chickadee	Common Yellowthroat
Red-shouldered Hawk	Northern Flicker	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow-breasted Chat
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
American Coot	Great Crested Flycatcher	Carolina Wren	Indigo Bunting
Mourning Dove	Eastern Kingbird	Wood Thrush	Eastern Towhee
Belted Kingfisher	White-eyed Vireo	American Robin	Field Sparrow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Red-eyed Vireo	Brown Thrasher	Swamp Sparrow
	Blue Jay	Nashville Warbler	White-throated Sparrow

Allsopp and Murray Parks

May 12, 2007

To celebrate International Migratory Bird Day, ASCA sponsored a field trip through Allsopp and Murray Parks in Little Rock, on Saturday, May 12th. Of the 16 people who attended the walk several, had never been to either park and were excited to find a new place to bird in the Little Rock area.

The Mississippi Kite was the first bird to greet us at Allsopp Park, we were able to locate the tree where they were building their nest. We also found the nesting cavity of the Red-bellied Woodpeckers, who were busy feeding babies. Fledgling Chickadees were staying very close to their parents and the

fledgling White-eye Vireo, which had been seen earlier in the week, was calling but stayed just out of sight on Saturday.

At Murray Park we found a very "decorated" (with trash) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nest, a Baltimore Oriole nest and a bee 'nest'. We didn't get very close to the latter. Near Pavilion 2, we found the Yellow Warbler in the same location it was seen last year. However, it wasn't very sociable and flew off before everyone had a chance to get a good look at it.

We tallied 34 species for Allsopp Park, 34 species for Murray Park and 52 species for both parks combined. --Dottie Boyles

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

300 S. Rodney Parham Road, Suite 10
Little Rock, AR 72205

Forwarding and return postage guaranteed.
Return service requested.



Black and White Warbler
Photo taken at Mt. Magazine
by Robert Herron

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 Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Ct., Little Rock, AR 72223-9201. Please note that "Chapter Only Members" will not receive *Audubon* magazine. To receive *Audubon* magazine, you need to join the National Audubon Society (NAS).

Changes in address should be sent to the following. If a chapter only member, notify Jetletter at 300 S. Rodney Parham, Suite #10, Little Rock, AR 72205. If a NAS member, notify both Jetletter and the 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.

Who to contact if you 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.