

THE SNIPE

The newsletter of the
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas



Charles Mills

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September – November 2012

Birders Flock to see Tropical Visitor

Dottie Boyles

Every year Lake Norrell, a 265-acre reservoir, located in Alexander, is drained as part of the alternative water source for the city of Benton. While checking to make sure his boat was still afloat on August 9, Pat Martin, a resident of the lake, noticed a strange bird perched upon his dock. His wife, Vickie Martin, who works for the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism, told him to take a picture of it and she'd take it to work to see if I could identify the bird. I am embarrassed to admit it, but for some reason my mind went completely blank when I first looked at the photograph. I decided to e-mail the image to Dan Scheiman, Kenny Nichols, and Jeff Wilson when all at once it occurred to me the bird was a Brown Booby. My heart began racing!

After calling Vickie, telling her the name of the bird and stating it was probably a first state record, I ran to her office to get directions to her house. I told Vickie I was taking off for the rest of the day and I'd see her when she got home. I asked if it would be okay if I notified a few people as 'witnesses', and she said "sure."

When I called my mom, Doris, and told her to get our gear ready there was a Brown Booby in Alexander, she thought I was trying to tell her a joke, but suddenly realized I was talking about a sea-bird in Arkansas. By the time we arrived at 3:30 p.m., Kenny and LaDonna Nichols were already on the scene, but hadn't seen the bird. They left to get gas and search another nearby lake. Charles Mills soon arrived and had only been there 15 minutes, when Doris began exclaiming, "I've got the bird! I've got the bird!" At 4:30 the Brown Booby flew around the cove and landed on the Martin's boat dock. Charles and I began snapping photos. I called Vickie, who was still at work, and told her the bird was still there. I asked permission to post the sighting on the ARbird-L listserv and she said that was fine with her. I

warned her there would be lots of people coming to see it, but she said that would not be a problem. Little did she know what a sensation this bird would create among the birding community. By the time Pat and Vickie arrived home, 17 very happy birders were standing in their backyard admiring Lake Norrell's newest resident.

Donna Haynes notified the American Birding Association's "ABA Blog" and Dan Scheiman posted the news to ARbird-L. Soon birders from around the state and country began flocking to Lake Norrell.



photo by Charles Mills

Normally seen in the Caribbean, this bird was significant not only as a first state record for Arkansas (pending acceptance), but it is the farthest inland a Brown Booby has ever been reported.

Saturday morning, Lake Norrell resident Chris Peach, noticed several people standing on the Martin's boat dock sporting scopes and cameras. He pulled up in his pontoon and asked what they were looking for. Michael Linz explained they were looking for a rare bird. Chris, who had noticed the strange bird earlier in the week,

See Brown Booby on page 2

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President's Column

Jane Gulley

Summer Reflections

This has been a hot summer. I was sitting in the shade in a lawn chair, drinking ice tea, when I looked at my phone and the official temperature in Little Rock was 107!

I have been trying to conserve water by using soaker hoses instead of our sprinkler system. The challenge is daunting. Mark Brown, with the Pulaski County Extension Service, can help evaluate your sprinkler system and make sure it is up to date and running efficiently. He also gives advice about water conservation directed specifically for lawns and plantings in suburbia.

For those of you who know me, you know my yard is my true treasure. I have many Arkansas native plants, thanks to Mary Ann King and Pine Ridge Gardens in London, Arkansas, and many plants given to me by dear friends. It is painful to see them suffer, but nature is a mighty force and I can only do so much. The USDA has moved Arkansas from 7b to 8a on the growing maps. That means we are warming up generally and really warming up this summer.

As I was sitting in my lawn chair, I was watching birds in my yard. I watched a Blue

Jay sitting on the fence with his mouth open like a dog panting. Later I saw his head tilt and he was watching a Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly that was flitting around the yard. I planted my Pipevine plant three years ago and this is the first year I have had it used as a host plant. The Blue Jay didn't pursue the butterfly.

I decided to Google Pipevine Swallowtail and learned the butterflies and their larvae are toxic because their host plant, the Pipevine, is toxic. Other butterflies including our state butterfly, the Diana Fritillary, mimic the Pipevine Swallowtail to keep from being eaten. As I watched the juvenile Blue Jay, I wondered how it knew not to eat the poisonous butterfly. We have lived in our home 42 years and I remember our son, Samuel, playing in the yard when he was a toddler. He put anything and everything in his mouth.

When you come to ASCA meetings you can ask questions about the birds in your yard and exchange stories with lots of friendly folks.

Of course you could use Google but that is not nearly as much fun as the camaraderie at our ASCA meetings! Come join us.

Jane Gulley
ASCA President

Brown Booby in Alexander

continued from page 1

said he knew where it might be hanging out and offered a ride for a closer look.

Besides the Martin's boat dock, the bird also spent time on Scott and Tina Salmela's dock. When Scott and Tina realized the rarity of this species in Arkansas, they graciously opened up their home and deck for the parade of birders flocking to see the Brown Booby. Chris' wife, Jaimie, offered boat tours during the week.

How the bird arrived in Arkansas and that far inland is anyone's guess. During the time the Brown Booby was first reported on August 10, until its departure on the morning of August 21, 345 people from every corner of Arkansas, plus 13

other states had traveled to get a glimpse and take photos of this rare visitor.

On August 25, a Brown Booby was spotted near the dam site on Canyon Lake in Texas. We can only hope this is the Lake Norrell Brown Booby trying to make her way back to where she belongs.

To make things even stranger, on August 26, I received a phone call from Shea Lewis, a Regional Supervisor for the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism, reporting a possible juvenile Brown Booby on Lake Hamilton. A photo had been posted on the Arkansas Tourism Facebook page. After hearing the news, Kenny Nichols exclaimed, "This is crazy."

South Florida Birding and Butterflying

Dan Scheiman

I have visited southern Florida many times throughout my life, especially because my step-grandmother moved from New York to Kendall in 1980. Back then Kendall was in the countryside, close to the Everglades, connected to Miami by a one-lane highway. Today, her development has been consumed by metropolitan Miami, though it is still just a few miles from the national park. Thanks to family visits, I was birding southern Florida as soon as I became a birder in 1987. Among my earliest life birds were the Burrowing Owls and Painted Buntings that inhabited the fields in her neighborhood, though today those birds and their fields have been displaced.

As a result of my frequent visitations, the last in 2006 after I had become an avid butterflyer as well, I had seen most of southern Florida's specialty species with some notable gaps. Samantha had been to FL as well, but not as an active birder. So with a need to see birds and b'flies, and a visit to my step-grandmother overdue, we vacationed there during May 18-25, 2012.

Our first destination was Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for tropical butterflies. Julia and Zebra Heliconians were everywhere! Polydamas Swallowtail and Baracoa Skipper were easy gets. Multiple Monk Skippers nectared on a beautiful blooming tree. But the showstopper was the Atala, a unique hairstreak colored jet black with neon blue spots and an electric orange abdomen. We also saw many of their squat, orange caterpillars feeding on coontie, a cycad.

Florida has many escaped exotic birds, only a few of which are considered established and thus countable. Among those is the Red-whiskered Bulbul. We relished watching three of these crested songbirds in a Pinecrest subdivision; life bird for Sam. We also saw Monk and Mitred Parakeets; only the former is countable. For our next shot at adding to Sam's life list, we headed north to Palm Beach and Martin Counties for the endemic and endangered Florida Scrub-Jay. Long, hot hikes in the sun at Juno Dunes Natural Area and Jonathan Dickinson State Park netted Sam her first look at Common Ground-Dove but no scrub-jays. Maybe we should have instead gone to Archbold Biological Field Station, famed for its long-term scrub-jay research.

On day four we headed for the Keys, where I had the best chance of getting my four most-wanted life birds, not to mention more specialty butterflies. But first we stopped in Florida City for a bathroom break and to add Common Myna to our life lists. I had seen this species

before, but it was only recently considered countable. Our first stop in the Keys was just after the toll booth on Card Sound Road. Here we saw Magnificent Frigatebirds gliding overhead, a Gray Kingbird on a powerline (lifer for Sam), Prairie Warblers in mangroves, and my first target: Black-whiskered Vireo! Later we would hear these vireos all over the Keys, singing throughout the day.



photo by Dan Scheiman

Samantha Scheiman in Key West Florida

A mosquito-ridden walk through Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park yielded a Fulvous Hairstreak but not the Mangrove Cuckoo I had hoped for; one had been seen recently according to eBird. However, the habitat was really interesting. This park contains one of the largest tracts of West Indian tropical hardwood hammock in the US. It is home to 84 protected species of plants and animals, including Schaus' Swallowtail, which we also did not see.

At John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, where I had taken a glass-bottom boat ride long ago, we saw Sam's life White-crowned Pigeons. This species is also fairly common in mangrove forests. Our next stop, Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park, is a former limestone quarry. Today, visitors can walk along eight-foot-high quarry walls to see cross sections of the ancient coral. For you botanists, a variety of plants are labeled along the park's trails through the hammocks. After a few more stops, we reached our base for the next two nights—Marathon Key. After a dinner of fresh fish, which I took advantage of all four nights in the Keys, we stood outside the Marathon Airport at dusk to watch our life Antillean Nighthawks do acrobatics and sing *pity-pit* in the night sky.

Up before dawn the next morning for another shot at Mangrove Cuckoo at National Key Deer Refuge. Key
see South Florida Birding on page 4

South Florida Birding

continued from page 3

Deer, the endangered, diminutive subspecies of White-tailed Deer, tamely walked suburban streets and refuge trails. We had great looks at two Tricolored Herons and two Clapper Rails among the mangroves, but still no cuckoo. The tiny Eastern Pygmy-Blue was a life butterfly for us.

Back on Marathon Key we stopped at the Government Center where Least Terns, and our life Roseate Terns, were bringing fish to their rooftop-raised young. When the heat of the day came on, we cooled off at Bahia Honda State Park. As we relaxed in the water, Sam's life Reddish Egret foraged a few feet away. Also enjoying the beach were lingering shorebirds—Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Short-billed Dowitcher—most of which were still in non-breeding plumage. That night we revisited our nighthawk neighbors.

Another early arrival at Key Deer Refuge, this time to a trail where a refuge biologist said she had seen Mangrove Cuckoo. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was close, but no cigar. Our consolation prizes were four new butterflies: Florida Duskywing, Martial Scrub-Hairstreak, Great Southern White, and Hammock Skipper. From there we continued distally along the Keys to Key West, stopping next at the Key West Botanical Garden for butterflies amid the native plant arrangements. Among many of the species previously seen was our life Long-tailed Skipper, a blue-backed beauty.

We slept-in the next morning and then enjoyed touristy things, including a cruise for wild Bottlenose Dolphins and snorkeling above a sponge garden. For our

last morning in the Keys, we went to where the Birder's Guide to Florida says most people get their Mangrove Cuckoo: Sugarloaf and Saddlebunch Keys. It seemed like all the mangrove specialists, including saltmarsh mosquitoes, were making noise—except for Mangrove Cuckoos. Admitting defeat, we motored back to the mainland and our flight home.



photo by Dan Scheiman

Caterpillar of the Atala butterfly

What a trip! I got four of the seven life birds I had hoped for, plus six life butterflies. Samantha added 11 birds and 21 butterflies. We saw and did so much, yet there is more to see and do on future visits, including trying again for those sneaky scrub-jays and cuckoos.

P.S. At all the businesses we patronized, we left the new AAS Birders Mean Business cards, designed by Kelly Chitwood and available at conventions. Often we handed one to an employee and explained why birds are good for their local economy. I encourage you all to do the same, no matter where you bird.

Birders at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge



photo by Tim Schultz, courtesy of Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

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 13, 2012 – The Governor's Energy Plan

Guest Speaker: **Lev Guter**

Program: **The Governor's Energy Plan: Moving Arkansas Beyond Coal?**

Gov. Beebe is creating Arkansas' first Energy Plan in over thirty years. Parts of the plan will come up for a vote in the state legislature next spring, while other parts will become regulations. The Arkansas Energy Office has made ten recommendations to the Governor, which he may or may not include in the final plan. This presentation will describe the ten energy recommendations and the process for input that the Governor is using. Lev will also discuss the state of Arkansas' electricity production, and what the possibilities are for a cleaner future to move us beyond burning coal and other fossil fuels.

Lev Guter is the Associate Organizing Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign in Arkansas. He joined the Sierra Club in 2009. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, where he concentrated his studies in Environmental Law. After receiving the Maryland bar, he worked on political campaigns involving clean energy issues.

October 11, 2012–Spain Birding

Guest Speaker: **Dr. Lyndal York**

Program: **Birding Spain from the Pyrenees to the Delta de l'Ebre**

During May 8-24, 2012, Lyndal York and Bill Shepherd traveled to Spain where they birded many locales in the northern section of the country from low to high elevations, from marsh to steppe. They saw fabulous birds such as the Lammergeier, White-backed Woodpecker, Red-billed Chough, and Alpine Accentor. Lyndal saw 115 life birds, Bill picked up nine. Travel along with them as Lyndal presents his photos of birds and scenery from the Spanish Pyrenees across to the Mediterranean.

Lyndal York, Ph.D, is Professor Emeritus at the Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He is also Webmaster for ASCA and Arkansas Audubon Society.

November 8, 2012 – Halberg Ecology Camp

Guest Speaker: **Liz Fulton**

Program: **The Halberg Ecology Camp: What happens at camp never stays at camp**

Arkansas Audubon Society's Halberg Ecology Camp, held each June at Camp Clearfork, is for 11- and 12-year-olds. Each day campers go on early morning bird walks, attend indoor and outdoor hands-on classes, have fun canoeing and swimming, and enjoy guest speakers. Many kids have had their lives changed for the better by the experience. Funding comes from student tuition or from scholarships given by Audubon chapters, other nature groups, and individuals. Come hear more about this program and learn why you should support it.

Liz Fulton is Executive Director of Arkansas Audubon Society's Halberg Ecology Camp. She has a long and distinguished career as a high school biology and ecology teacher. She is now an Adjunct Professor at UALR, and newsletter editor for the Arkansas Science Teachers Association.

Check-list of North American Birds

The July issue (Vol. 129, No. 3) of the *Auk* reached me yesterday. As we have come to expect, it contains a supplement (No. 12) to the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, beginning on p. 573.

It was something of a relief to find no changes this year in the English names of any Arkansas bird species. There's a change in order, however, that many will notice. From now on, kestrels and other falcons will appear right after the woodpeckers (and far from the hawks and New World vultures).

There are also a few changes of genus (for those who notice such). Until now, Calliope Hummingbird was in its own genus, *Stellula*. That genus has been dropped and the Calliope is now another *Selasphorus*, along with Rufous, Broad-tailed, and other hummingbird species that haven't yet been firmly identified in Arkansas. Two new genera have appeared, *Antrastomus* and *Haemorhous*. Our Eastern Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow are now in the former genus; Purple Finch and House Finch have been placed in the latter. *Antrastomus* means "cavemouth" in Greek. *Haemorhous* means "bloodpourer." Aptly descriptive, right?

Whenever in doubt, check this source:
<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/full.php>.

But I should admit, the large number of tropical species included makes it sometimes slow and difficult to find what you are looking for.

Bill Shepherd

Happy Birders



LaDonna & Kenny Nichols, Dan Scheiman, and Karen Holliday, smile after seeing a Brown Booby in the backyard of Pat & Vickie Martin.

The birding community would like to express its gratitude to Pat & Vickie Martin, Scott & Tina Salmela, and Chris & Jaimie Peach for their hospitality, boat tours, and over all kindness. They opened up their lives, homes, and backyards to complete strangers, and made a lot of people very happy.

Arkansas Audubon Society Fall 2012 Call to Meeting

The 2012 Fall Meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be held November 2-4, 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn and Texarkana Convention Center in Texarkana, TX. Registration opens Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. All activities, programs, and meals will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn/Texarkana Convention Center

A block of rooms at this brand-new hotel (opens Oct. 1) is being held at the rate of \$87.00 per room per night plus tax. You have until **October 18** to reserve a room at the discounted rate. To make a reservation, send an e-mail to Melanie Holland at melanie.holland@hilton.com. Be sure to put "Arkansas Audubon Society" in the subject line. In the body, include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, bed preference, and number of nights. Or, fax this information to 903-792-1070. When the hotel opens, hotel staff will contact you to get your credit card number and give you a confirmation number.

The cost of registration is \$20.00 per person. To qualify for the Early Bird Discount (subtract \$5.00), mail your registration to Karen Holliday by October 18. The Saturday evening meal is \$24.00 per person.

Friday's field trips will begin at 1:00 p.m. Evening events will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a Camp/Trust Reception and member slide show.

Field trips for Saturday are: Red Slough WMA, OK; Dam Site and Atlanta State Park, and Lake Wright Patman, TX; Miller County-Red River Area, AR; Millwood Lake, AR; and Rick Evans Grandview Prairie WMA, AR. Dinner begins 6:15 pm, and the evening program at 7:30 .pm. Guest speaker David Salomon, of Dallas, TX, will discuss his research on penguins.

For more information or to download a registration form, visit the AAS website at: www.arbirds.org. For questions please contact Karen Holliday at 501-920-3246 or ladyhawke1@att.net.

*Karen Holliday
AAS Vice President*



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 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 15, 2012

Arboretum Trail-Pinnacle Mountain State Park

Meet at the parking lot of the Arkansas Arboretum Trail at 8:00 a.m. The trail is a ¾ mile loop, so late arrivals can easily catch up to the group. Fall migrants are our target birds. If time allows, we'll also walk the Kingfisher Trail. The Arboretum Trail and Kingfisher Trail are paved with slight inclines. Bring water. This is a morning trip.

Directions to the Arkansas Arboretum Trail: Take Cantrell Road/Hwy. 10 west to the Hwy. 300/Hwy. 10 intersection. Turn north on Hwy. 300. Go approximately three miles, turn right onto Pinnacle Valley Road. Follow it until you see the Arkansas Arboretum sign and parking lot on your right.

October 6, 2012

Arkansas River Trail

October is "Birds and Butterflies." Birders, butterflyers, and photographers are all welcome. Let's share our knowledge! Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the NLR Riverview Skate Park on River Road in North Little Rock. We'll look for lingering fall warblers in the trees at the park, then continue to where River Road dead ends at the Arkansas River Trail gate. We'll walk the trail along the base of the bluffs and old quarry on the north side of the river. We hope to see pelicans, ospreys, terns, and similar migrants. As the morning warms up, we'll focus on butterflies, which are still plentiful in October.

The park and trail are level and paved. Wear sturdy walking shoes because we'll also be in grass. This trail goes to the Big Dam Bridge, but people can turn around at any time. Bring water. This is a morning trip.

Directions: From I-40 take Exit 153-Levy Exit. Turn south onto MacArthur Drive/Pike Ave (Hwy. 365). Continue south to the roundabout. Bear right off the roundabout at the 3rd St. exit. Take 3rd St. to River Road. Go west along the river to the NLR Riverview Skateboard Park (2801 River Rd. NLR).

GPS coordinates are 34.76954, -92.29716

November 17, 2012

DeGray Lake and Resort State Park

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the commuter lot at I-430/I-630 Shackleford Road in Little Rock. We'll arrive around 8:45 a.m. at the park's lodge for anyone in the area who would like to join us. Our target birds will be eagles, waterfowl, and gulls. Bring a scope, water, and snacks. You can bring your lunch or eat in the restaurant at the lodge. Dress warm, the lake can be windy and cold.

Address for the park is: 2027 State Park Entrance Road, Bismarck, Arkansas 71929. Go to www.degray.com for more information about the park.

GPS coordinates are 34.24562, -93.14840



Field Trip Reports

Warren Prairie Natural Area

June 2, 2012

Bill Holimon, ornithologist and Chief of Research for the Natural Heritage Commission, conducted a fascinating expedition! He gave an overview of the habitat, unique soil types and topography of the prairie, and outlined the substantial efforts by several agencies and private companies to make Warren Prairie NA suitable for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW), Henslow's and Bachman's Sparrows, as well as several threatened native plant species. Warren Prairie now supports successfully reproducing RCW pairs.

Eastern Bluebirds, Yellow-breasted Chats, Prairie and Pine Warblers were calling. Fly-over's included a Pileated Woodpecker and multiple Red-headed Woodpeckers. After walking to one of the RCW nesting sites, we set up scopes a suitable distance away so as not to disturb the birds. Within minutes, the parents arrived, triggering quite a racket from the single RCW chick. We were able to determine that one parent bird was from the group of birds brought to Warren Prairie from the RCW population at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

We walked to an unused RCW nest cavity to check for interlopers. Bill demonstrated how he uses a camera on a telescoping pole to remotely peer into cavities to see if they have been taken over by flying squirrels, ants, tree frogs, or smaller birds. The camera revealed a pair of flying squirrels had confiscated the nest box. Bill demonstrated how he removes the squirrels and vacuums out the cavity to remove their nesting material, making it suitable for RCW's. Bill accomplished all this while belted to the tree and standing on a very narrow ladder 30 feet in the air.

We finished the day impressed with the dedication of Bill and others who have spent years persevering to bring RCW's back to Arkansas; and for the uniqueness of Warren Prairie's salt slick barrens, saline plains, and prairie mound woodlands. The Natural Area is also a global National Audubon Society Important Bird Area. We saw and heard 36 species of birds, including vocalizing Northern Bobwhites, another species rebounding in the Natural Area. --Karen Holliday

Dr. Lester Sitzes, III Bois D'Arc Wildlife Management Area

July 14, 2012

Light rain ended by the time 17 birders made the first stop at the lake. As we exited our cars, birds were flocking in trees, soaring back and forth across the lake, and diving in and out of the reeds. We didn't know where to look first! The squawks, whinnies, and yelps of the gallinules drew us to the lake. There we saw adult Purple and Common Gallinules with small chicks balancing on long legs and gigantic feet. Laughing, we watched as the babies tottered across the large pads of water lotus. Black-bellied Whistling ducks circled the lake, some stopping to perch on ducks boxes, others along the shore. One group flew directly overhead, whistling as they went by.

Aningas rested in the trees, spreading their wings to dry; or soared overhead, their distinctive cross outline making them easy to spot. Other trees were full of Little Blue Herons, Snowy, Great, and Cattle Egrets. A few Green Herons foraged

among the water lotus. Least Bitterns would call, pop up from the reeds and then immediately go back down. One finally froze with its bill pointing up in the classic bittern pose and everyone was able to admire its colorful orange and white neck. A mix of hundreds of Northern Rough-winged, Tree and Cliff Swallows, and Purple Martins swooped along the surface of the lake. Also seen were Forster's Tern, Spotted Sandpiper, American Coot, Mississippi Kite, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Yellowthroats, and Black-and-white and Yellow-throated Warblers. Just before leaving the lake, we spotted two very large alligators lurking in the water, much to everyone's delight.

It was a rewarding day and several of our newer birders racked up an impressive list of life birds. We netted 56 species for the trip. --Karen Holliday

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge

August 21, 2010

The weather was sunny and cool as 34 birders gathered for a pleasant day of birding. Our group included three people from Oklahoma plus a very enthusiastic 10-year old who added 25 birds to her life list. Best birds of the day included five Wood Storks, an American Golden-Plover, and 15 American Avocets. Shorebirds were present in large numbers, including 35 Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Other species seen were: Black-necked Stilt, Upland and Stilt Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, Long-billed Dowitchers, and Wilson's

Snipe. Present in plentiful numbers were Great, Cattle, and Snowy Egrets, and Great Blue, Green, and Little Blue Herons. Birders spread out around the refuge and reported seeing a mix of birds including: Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Least Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Bewick's Wren, Black Terns, Bald Eagle, Wood Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, and Yellow, Wilson's and Prothonotary Warblers. The final combined tally was 79 species for the trip. --Karen Holliday

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

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A Brown Booby thrilled hundreds of visitors during its stay on Lake Norrell in Alexander, AR.
photo by Dottie Boyles

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

Chapter Only Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

ASCA Dues Proration for New Members

Membership Level	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec*
__Student/Senior	100%	75%	50%	100%
__Regular	\$10	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$10
__Family	\$15	\$11.25	\$7.50	\$15
__Supporting	\$25	\$18.75	\$12.5	\$25
__Patron	\$35			\$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