

# THE SNIPE

*The Newsletter of the  
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas  
Established 1953*



Charles Mills

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[www.ascabird.org](http://www.ascabird.org)

March – May 2014

## Vertac Opens its Gates to Birders

*Jerry Butler*

Twelve birders showed up Saturday, February 15, at Vertac, a Superfund site, to get the "Premier Birding Tour" of a place that has been closed to the public for almost 50 years. We saw 43 species of birds while driving a loop around the 93-acre parcel of land within the city limits of Jacksonville. While the total number of species might not be impressive to some, the enthusiasm of finding a new location to bird in Central Arkansas was exciting. Especially since it was the prettiest day we've had since Christmas.

The group saw four species of ducks, five types of birds of prey, and three Eastern Towhees (a record for me on a single trip), and best of all, only one European Starling and no House Sparrows. No domestic dogs or cats either, just three fat, well-fed coyotes, and eleven white-tailed deer.

The trip was not an Audubon-sponsored event, though most of the people who showed up were Auduboners. The date for the Vertac visit was chosen by Terracon, the

environmental engineering firm that is working hard to clean up what was once an ecological disaster. Terracon wanted to host the trip during the Great Backyard Bird Count so the data collected could be submitted to e-Bird.

The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas already had a trip scheduled to Stuttgart the same day. It was considered better to allow a smaller group onto the plant site for this "maiden voyage" field trip and several who wanted to attend regrettably, had to be turned away.

Perhaps a larger group can be accommodated at a later time, and could also include those who are outside the serious birding community. That way we can infect them with our affliction that forces us to go out to see the feathered creatures that make our hearts sing.

If I can work out the details, perhaps Terracon will allow me to lead such a group to the site in connection with International Migratory Bird Day in May. I'll keep folks posted through the ARBIRD-L listserv.

## In Search of the Elusive American Woodcock

With permission from Pinnacle Mountain State Park personnel, Jim Dixon organized an American Woodcock watch party with the first held on Sunday, February 16. In previous years, woodcocks had been heard and seen in the fields about a quarter mile east of Highway 300, on Pinnacle Valley Road. This area is not open to the public.

As the sun began to set 13 birders gathered together to look and listen for American Woodcocks. As expected the birds began sounding off around 6:15 (20 minutes after sunset) and called for 20 minutes. There were at least three woodcocks present, two performing a display song and another going "zeet." Some in the group saw one bird fly briefly before disappearing in the field. A couple of Killdeer were not very happy with the woodcocks getting all the attention and buzzed the group twice with very loud calls of their own.

On Friday, February 21, Jim held another woodcock watch party. This time he was joined by 17 birders. Jim stated he became a little worried when 6:15 came and went with no sound from the woodcocks. However, with a little patience, the group began to hear the flight/display song. Before long an occasional bird could be spotted in the night sky. Another successful American Woodcock outing. Many thanks to Jim for organizing this event.

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# President's Column

## Part of a Bigger Picture

Jane Gulley  
ASCA President

It is the start of a new year and 2014 has already begun with some exciting birding opportunities. Rarities included Long-tailed Ducks near the Two Rivers Bridge, Sandhill Cranes on Frazier Pike, and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Pacific and Red-throated Loons at Lake Maumelle. As birders we are interested in seeing as many birds as we can and adding them to our life list, for those who keep list.

It is wonderful to know that all of these birding opportunities are close to us, but as members of Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA) we are part of a much larger picture.

Our Audubon club is associated with the National Audubon Society (NAS), and together we can have a significant impact. I was reading the year-end NAS Annual Report, *Visualizing the Future*, and was surprised to learn that 47 U.S. states have at least one Audubon Chapter. Online giving to Audubon increased 500% from 2011 to 2013, and 6,600 images were submitted to *Audubon* magazine's photography contest. NAS collected \$7.5 million dollars more than it did three years ago, but has cut administration costs by 21%.

Birders are part of a very active group. Four million people spent 1.1 million hours watching Project Puffin's bird cams. I know

I contributed to that total. I felt a little selfish spending time watching, but now I know I was in good company!

The most important information was how NAS uses scientific data to help protect the nation's flyways and critical habitat. I realized how closely we are all connected when I read that the comical looking and uniquely beautiful American White Pelicans I love to watch here on the Arkansas River nest in Minnesota, and 80% of their eggs contained a chemical dispersant called Corexit that was used in the BP spill in the Gulf.

Our NAS chapter, Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, helped with the collection of data during the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count, held in February. Please know you are part of a vibrant, valuable, exciting organization as an ASCA member!

I want to remind you once again that ASCA is looking for any papers, rosters, flyers, or other memorabilia you might have about Audubon Society of Central Arkansas or as we were formerly known, Pulaski County Audubon Society. You are welcome to contact me if you have anything you want preserved for future generations at the Arkansas Studies Institute a division of the Central Arkansas Library System.

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## Don't let your Membership Lapse!

Just a reminder, ASCA membership renewals were due January 1, 2014 and can be paid online via PayPal or Google Wallet through the Membership page of [www.ascabird.org](http://www.ascabird.org). Checks can be mailed to Jim Dixon, Treasurer, 11805 Birchwood Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211.

Regular Membership dues are \$15.00, for Students or Senior's – \$10.00, Family – \$25.00, Supporting – \$35.00, and Patron – \$50.00.

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## Welcome New Members

ASCA would like to welcome the following new members:

James Allen  
Jerry Butler  
Rick Ferrar

Eli Lewis  
Norma Patterson  
Randy and Laura Robinson

Stephanie Sexton  
Danny and Rhonda Townsend

# Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz- Calling All Birders!

*“Get Rusty” this spring to save a declining blackbird!*

**Why?** Over the past half-century, the historically abundant Rusty Blackbird has endured one of the steepest population declines ever documented among North American landbirds. Within the last 15 years, scientists have learned more about this bird’s breeding and wintering ecology. However, as with many migratory species, we know very little about Rusty Blackbird ecology, distribution, and habitat use during migration. Are there hotspots where many individuals congregate? Are there stopover areas that are used predictably each year, and are these locations protected? The Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz will address these and other



questions to help focus future research and conservation of one of North America’s most vulnerable blackbirds. We’re recruiting an army of birders to participate in this effort to help conserve this fascinating songbird. Will you accept our birding challenge?

**Who?** The International Rusty Blackbird Working Group, eBird, and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies are partnering with local organizations like Audubon Society of Central Arkansas to recruit volunteers.

**What?** Each participating state will have a 3-8 week target window during which birders will search for Rusty Blackbirds. Within this window, birders may explore favored birding haunts or newly identified areas that they suspect may harbor Rusties.

**When?** Spring 2014 is the first year of this three-year Spring Migration Blitz; the Blitz window for Arkansas is all of March.

**Where?** Get ready for a continent-wide event! The Spring Blitz will span the Rusty Blackbird’s entire spring migration range, from the wintering grounds in the southeastern United States, up the East Coast and through the Midwest to Canada and Alaska.

**How do I get involved?** Easy! Bird as you normally do, focusing on potential Rusty Blackbird habitat during March 2014. Seek the best-known places for Rusty sightings or explore uncharted territory. Make sure to report ALL of your observations to eBird (eBird.org) – we want to know both where you saw these birds and where you didn’t.

**Where can I learn more?** Visit the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group website ([rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz](http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz)) for information on identification, vocalizations, habitat preferences, and data to collect. Follow on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz](http://www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz)), or contact Arkansas’s volunteer coordinator Dan Scheiman ([birddan@comcast.net](mailto:birddan@comcast.net))

*The International Rusty Blackbird Working Group*

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## Rare Winter Visitors

*Dottie Boyles*

What started in December with a phone call to Karen Rowe with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission about a possible Snowy Owl in southeast Little Rock, turned into a rare bird phenomenon for the area.

Karen contacted Kenny and LaDonna Nichols and asked them to be on the lookout for the owl. On the afternoon of December 17, 2013, Kenny Nichols reported an immature Snowy Owl sitting on top of the Little Rock Port Authority building on Lindsey Road. A few local birders made a mad dash to the site just before dark to view this rarity. The next day the bird was spotted across the street at the LM Wind Power plant. Birders from around the state, and a few from out-of-state, were able to view and/or photograph this beautiful bird.

The follow day, the Snowy Owl disappeared prompting birders to search surrounding areas. What happened next was something no one expected. Unusual birds, especially for Central Arkansas, began popping up everywhere.

During the month of December, a Merlin was spotted on Thibault Road. A group of Sandhill Cranes, Inca Doves, and a White-winged Dove were seen along Frazier Pike. Although not rare for Arkansas, but a species in decline, Rusty

Blackbirds were found in several locations along both roads. Frazier Pike suddenly became a birding hotspot for Central Arkansas and birders flocked to the area in search of rarities.



Sandhill Cranes spotted in White County  
*photo by Gail Miller*

Record snow and ice storms up north brought other unusual species into the state. From December 2013 through February 2014, Long-tailed Ducks have been spotted in Arkadelphia; Lost Bridge North Park on Beaver Lake, northwest Arkansas; Beaverfork Lake, Conway; Lake Dardanelle, Pope County; Lake No. 1 in Lakewood, North Little Rock; and Two Rivers

*see Rarities on page 5*

## Little Rock and Lonoke Christmas Bird Count Results

Dan Scheiman

ASCA Christmas Bird Count Compiler

For the Little Rock CBC held Saturday Dec 14, 2013, 34 birders plus 8 feeder-watchers tallied 179,824 birds of 96 species during a collective 86.25 hours and 342 miles. The list includes two feral exotics, Mute Swan and Muscovy Duck, that are not countable for regular listing, but can be included in the CBC to help track their populations. High counts were set for Red-shouldered Hawk (14) and American Pipit (251). A male Spotted Towhee provided the 5th count record; it was in the same spot as the 2012 count, and most likely the same bird. But the bird that stole the show was the immature Snowy Owl that made the news. It was in the count circle on the 14th, but not seen by birders until the 17th, making it a count week bird, and of course a first for the count.

Due to severe thunderstorms and the threat of flash floods, the Lonoke CBC was postponed a day to Sunday December 22, 2013. Sixteen birders tallied 143,865 birds of a laudable 104 species during a collective 51 hours and 338 miles. While there were no high counts, and a few on the low side, the list of rare birds is impressive: 1 Red-breasted Merganser (4th instance on this CBC), 2 Eared Grebes (5th), 5 Cattle Egrets (7th), 1 Black-crowned Night-Heron (3rd), 1 Say's Phoebe (1st, possibly the same bird in the area last winter); 3 Tree Swallows (4th), 1 Bewick's Wren (44th, used to be common, now rare), and 1 Gray Catbird (2nd).

Thanks to all volunteers for your help in this season's counts! Join us again next season.

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## 2014 Great Backyard Bird Count a Huge Success

GBBC eNewsletter

With data still coming in, it was clear the 2014 Great Backyard Bird Count was on track to be another record-breaker! By February 20, participants from a record 131 countries had submitted bird checklists, eclipsing last year's 110 countries. A huge thanks to all who participated! Here are some of the impressive numbers reported to date.

The top 10 most frequently reported species (number of checklists reporting this species) were: Northern Cardinal with 53,540 checklists; followed by Dark-eyed Junco-51,186; Mourning Dove-44,278; Blue Jay-39,363; Downy Woodpecker-36,766; American Goldfinch-33,396; American Crow-32,381; House Finch-32,271; Tufted Titmouse-31,950; and Black-capped Chickadee-30,822.

The top 10 most numerous species (sum of the number of individuals observed across all checklists): Red-winged Blackbird-1,570,808; Snow Goose-1,223,082; Canada Goose-1,031,278; European Starling-542,477; Mallard-493,774; Ring-billed Gull-433,823; American Coot-417,504; Dark-eyed Junco-404,057; American Crow-328,601; and American Goldfinch-323,672.

Checklists came from Australia, China, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Iceland, India, Kenya, and even Antarctica! India was the clear superstar outside of North America with more than 3,000 checklists and the greatest number of species reported, a whopping 806! The United States logged 643 species with 112,281 checklists submitted, followed by Canada with 234 species, 12,340 checklists,

and Costa Rica with 554 species, 165 checklists.

Once again, in North America, California topped the leader board with the most checklists (8,472) and the greatest number of species (358).

GBBC participants had until the last day of February to enter their data for the four days of the count. Although much more data had yet to be recorded, here are some of the trends noted so far.

**Fewer Finches**-After last year's "superflight," this year's GBBC reports for 10 irruptive species (mostly finches) were down considerably. This includes reports for White-winged and Red Crossbills, Common and Hoary Redpolls, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Bohemian Waxwing.

**Snowy Owl Invasion Continues**-A massive irruption of Snowy Owls into the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes States of the U.S., as well as southeastern Canada, was easily seen in GBBC numbers. Preliminary results show participants reported more than 2,500 Snowy Owls in 25 states and 7 provinces of the U.S. and Canada!

**The Polar Vortex Effect**-The frigid cold in many parts of North America resulted in unusual movements of waterfowl and grebes. With the Great Lakes almost completely frozen, some species, such as the White-winged Scoter and the Long-tailed Duck, fled the frozen lakes and stopped at inland locations where they are not usually found at this time of year.

For more information visit the [GBBC website](#).

## Upcoming Programs

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.

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### March 13, 2014 – The latest on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Arkansas

**Speaker:** Bill Holimon, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) is a habitat specialist dependent on open, mature pine habitat of the southeastern United States. It likely was one of the more abundant bird species of the southern pine forest at the time of settlement, but numbers plummeted across its range due to loss of mature pine habitat and aggressive fire suppression. The ecology, habitat management, and efforts to recover this federally endangered species in the natural state will be discussed.

Bill Holimon is Chief of Research for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, a state agency focused on science-based conservation to protect our state's biological diversity. His expertise is avian ecology and has done field research on a variety of rare birds in Arkansas. A native Arkansan, he and his wife Devon live in Little Rock where they happily tend to their native plant garden and the various woodpeckers visiting their suet feeders.

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### April 10, 2014 – Snakes of Arkansas

**Speaker:** Jeremy Chamberlain

Over 38 species of snakes reside in the state. Come learn about their diverse ecology, ways to distinguish confusing species, and where they occur. There will be a slideshow along with live and preserved specimens. Also, there will be information on current research and conservation efforts for these interesting animals, done right here in Arkansas.

Jeremy Chamberlain is a PhD candidate at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he works in the herpetology lab of Dr. Matthew Gifford. He graduated with a B.S. in biology at Iowa State University in 2009. He got an M.S. in biology from the University of Texas at Tyler in 2011. His major research interests are the energetics of life-histories and the ecology of reptiles and amphibians. He plans on graduating in the spring of 2016.

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### May 2014 – No Regular Meeting

Please note: ASCA does not hold a meeting in May.

## Rarities

*Continued from page 3*

Bridge and Lake Maumelle in Little Rock. White-winged Scoters have been spotted at Beaverfork Lake in Conway, and Terry Lock and Dam in Little Rock. Spotted Towhees were reported in Little Rock, Camden, and Jonesboro.

Sandhill Cranes have also shown up in White County, Arkadelphia, and Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge.

Out-of-season birds included a Palm Warbler at Beaverfork Lake and a Louisiana Waterthrush at Lake Atalanta.

With so many rarities and a chance to add another species to one's life/year/state list, birds were not the only ones on the move. Below freezing temperatures, snow, and ice could not discourage birders from bundling up and heading out in search of Arkansas's unusual winter visitors, often running into each other at different locations.

Birding is much like a treasure hunt; you never know where the next "gem" will turn up.



Long-tailed Duck spotted near Two Rivers Bridge

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### A Bird Riddle

Jerry Butler posted a bird related riddle he wrote on the ARBIRD-L listserv. Since no one attempted to answer it, he wanted to give *The Snipe* readers a go at solving it. See if you can figure out the answer.

*What is an American religion, you get them with a salad at a café, and two rare ones have shown up in Arkansas lately?*

Think it over. Jerry will reveal the answer at the March 13th, ASCA meeting. You can email your answer to [jerrysharon.butler@gmail.com](mailto:jerrysharon.butler@gmail.com).

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### Paton's Birder Haven Saved

Over the years many birders from Arkansas have traveled to southeast Arizona and visited Paton's Birder Haven in Patagonia, the former residence of Wally and Marion Paton, who for years, welcomed birders to their backyard with its many feeders and birds. When a cry for help to save the property arose, thousands of birders and organizations, including ASCA and some of its members responded. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC), with Victor Emanuel and Tucson Audubon, were able to save Paton's Birders Haven in Arizona. With the money raised, the ABC recently completed the purchase of the property and is transferring ownership to Tucson Audubon for its longtime protection.

## Arkansas Audubon Society Spring Convention

ASCA encourages all birding enthusiasts to participate in the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) Spring 2014 Convention, May 2-4.

All functions and meals will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Jonesboro.

The conference will be a mix of field trips and bird-related programs.

Details and registration forms can be found on the AAS website at [www.arbirds.org](http://www.arbirds.org).

### Lake Maumelle Walking Tour

You're invited to a Lake Maumelle Walking Tour, Friday, April 11, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Join Audubon Arkansas for a morning trail walk and learn about Lake Maumelle. Bird with Audubon's Dr. Dan the Bird Man to see migrating songbirds, lingering waterbirds, and receive information on trails around the lake.

The meeting location will be determined later.

**Please RSVP by April 4.** Sponsored by Central Arkansas Water and Audubon Arkansas.

For more information, contact Uta Meyer at 501-244-2229, or [umeyer@audubon.org](mailto:umeyer@audubon.org).

### Snowy Owl visits Little Rock



Gail Miller photographed this Snowy Owl sitting on a wind blade at the LM Wind Power plant on Lindsey Road in Little Rock.



## ASCA Field Trip Schedule

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

*March 29, 2014*

### **Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge**

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in North Little Rock at the Other Center parking lot on the east side of the lot behind McDonald's. The Other Center is located across from McCain Mall, on McCain Blvd. Take Exit 1 West, off Hwy. 67/167.

We'll arrive at Bald Knob NWR at around 8:30 a.m. for those who want to meet us there. Target birds will be lingering ducks and early-arriving shorebirds, herons, egrets, and night-herons. If you own a scope, bring it. Very little walking will be involved. This is a great opportunity to compare the refuge's spring migrating species in breeding plumage with the fall migrants we'll see on our August 2014 trip. This is a morning trip.

There is no bathroom on-site. There is a McDonald's just off Hwy. 67/167 at the Bald Knob exit. Visit [www.fws.gov/baldknob/](http://www.fws.gov/baldknob/) for more information about the refuge.

*April 26, 2014*

### **Gillam Park and Little Rock Audubon Center (LRAC)**

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Gillam Park in the last parking lot past the swimming pool. Gillam has great habitat for migrating spring warblers. There will be moderate walking on fairly level but possibly muddy trails. When we finish at Gillam, we'll drive to the LRAC, where we'll bird the new wildlife observation trail, then assist with light trail maintenance. Bring work gloves and wear sturdy walking shoes or boots that you don't mind getting dirty. Last, we'll head to Industrial Harbor Road and Terry Lock & Dam to look for Western Kingbirds, and Painted Buntings.

Directions—Gillam Park is in southeast Little Rock near the airport. Address is 5300 Gillam Park Road, Little Rock. Take I-30 west heading south from Little Rock. Then exit onto I-440. Take Springer Road, Exit 1. Go south (left) on Springer. Then go approximately 1 mile to just past the LRAC. Turn right onto Gillam Park Road. Follow it to the end and into the park, to the parking lot past the old swimming pool.

*May 10, 2014*

### **International Migratory Bird Day Lake Maumelle and CAW Grass Farm**

May 10th is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) and our group will join thousands of other birders around the world by participating as citizen scientists counting the number of species seen while birding.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Jolly Rogers Marina on Lake Maumelle. First, we'll check various trails along Lake Maumelle for warblers, woodpeckers, and maybe a breeding-plumaged loon. Then we'll caravan to the Central Arkansas Water Grass Farm off Higginbotham Rd.; we'll have special access to a normally gated area. The Grass Farm is a mix of sod grass fields, fallow fields, woodlands, and riparian areas. Sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. Bring water and snacks. There will be moderate walking on level ground. This will be a morning trip.

Directions to Jolly Rogers Marina—the marina is approximately 10 miles west of Little Rock on Hwy. 10. Turn right at the white and black Jolly Rogers Marina entrance sign and drive down to the boat launch area. The marina address is 11800 Maumelle Harbour Rd., Roland, AR. GPS coordinates for the Grass Farm are 34.875172, -92.716715.



# Field Trip Reports

Karen Holliday, Field Trip Coordinator

January 18, 2014

## Delaware Park-Lake Dardanelle and Holla Bend NWR

Twenty-eight birders met at Lake Dardanelle. Our groups included a birder from Norway, Gunnar Numme. Our first stop was the Hayes Creek inlet where a Barrow's Goldeneye had been previously spotted. No Barrow's, but several Common Goldeneyes were present, plus Hooded Mergansers, Gadwalls, hundreds of American Coots, a Belted Kingfisher, and one American White Pelican.

Our next stop was Delaware Recreation Area. At the boat launch, mixed-in with the 100+ Ring-billed Gulls, was one Lesser Black-backed Gull and 8 Herring Gulls. Scattered across the lake in large groups were approximately 145 Common Goldeneyes. In the bay towards the power plant, a cooperative Long-tailed Duck spent enough time above water for good looks by everyone; a life bird for several. Also on the lake were 55 American White Pelicans, a couple of Horned Grebes, dozens of American Coots, plus a Brown Creeper and a Hermit Thrush in the trees.

We tried again at the Hayes Creek inlet for the Barrow's. Still no Barrow's, but to our surprise two Horned Larks landed on the shoulder of the highway very close to the group.

A quick stop at the dam netted us close to 100 each of cormorants, pelicans, and gulls.

On the drive to Holla Bend NWR, several Loggerhead Shrikes, American Kestrels, and one Sharp-shinned Hawk were seen. At the refuge, just past the headquarters, a pair of Bald Eagles were spotted sitting on a nest near the river. This is a new nest site. Our next stop was the spillway and boat launch where Bald Eagles have nested in previous years. No birds were on the nest, but a juvenile Bald Eagle was circling the area. A Winter Wren was our best find.

We continued to the open fields where the wind was so powerful we had to hang onto our scopes to keep them from blowing over. We observed 8 Trumpeter Swans and 2 Snow Geese for a few minutes before the wind and cold forced us back to our cars.

At the observation tower, a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese flew past, a group of pelicans circled briefly, and a large flock of Horned Larks were blown around by the wind. Below the tower, sheltered from the wind, we flushed 3 Fox Sparrows and 2 Swamp

Sparrows. Also seen on the refuge were numerous Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, and additional Bald Eagles.

With some daylight still left, Gunnar asked to see a Harris's Sparrow, so we headed to County Loop Road. We found a mixed flock of White-crowned Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Harris's Sparrows. A couple of Harris's Sparrows teed up giving everyone great looks.

We also had a mixed flock of Rusty and Red-winged Blackbirds and a flyover of Northern Pintails. Our total count for the day was 72 species. --Karen Holliday

February 15, 2014

## Stuttgart Airport

Forty-six people gathered at the Stuttgart airport for a full day of birding in great weather. We spent the morning at the Stuttgart Airport. Best birds there were 110 Smith's Longspurs, several Le Conte's Sparrows, Horned Larks, Northern Harriers, Snow Geese, a Bald Eagle, a Great Horned Owl, 5 Wilson's Snipe, and 1 American Pipit. Lapland Longspurs were a miss.



Birders at Stuttgart Airport  
photo by Dottie Boyles

After a lunch break, we drove to Roth Prairie Natural Area to look for Short-eared Owls, since we missed them at the airport. As we parked our cars, a Short-eared Owl flushed from the side of the road and flew into the prairie area. After a lot of high-fives in celebration of the owl, the group spread out along the edge of the field, then walked in a line across the prairie. We flushed three owls, one teed-up in the top of a bare persimmon for over five minutes, giving everyone great looks.

Other good birds seen were Vesper Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Greater White-fronted Geese, and a very dark Red-tailed Hawk. --Karen Holliday

# Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

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White-winged Scoter at Beaverfork Lake  
in Conway, Faulkner County  
*photo by Jackie Brown*

## Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

Chapter Only Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

### ASCA Dues Proration for New Members

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

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

All Membership renewals are due January 1 of each calendar year and can be paid online via credit card at [www.asca.org](http://www.asca.org) or mail a check to the address below.

**Make check payable to ASCA and mail to:** Jim Dixon, Treasurer, 11805 Birchwood Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211. Please note that "Chapter Only Members" will not receive *Audubon* magazine. To receive *Audubon* magazine, you will 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.

### Reporting a Banded Bird

To report a bird with a Federal Band or Color Marker you can visit the U.S. Geological Survey website at: [www.reportband.gov/](http://www.reportband.gov/).

### Find an Injured Bird?

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

[www.agfc.com/species/Documents/migratory\\_rehablist.pdf](http://www.agfc.com/species/Documents/migratory_rehablist.pdf)

*The Snipe* is sponsored in part by Little Rock's Wild Birds Unlimited, 1818 North Taylor St., Little Rock. Mention you are an ASCA member and receive 10% off your purchase.