

# THE SNIPE

The Newsletter of the  
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas



Charles Mills

## What's Inside?

President's Column	Page 2	Upcoming Programs	Page 5
A Thousand Miles	Page 3	Upcoming Field Trips	Page 6
The Perfect Mix	Page 4	Field Trip Reports	Page 7

Volume 50 Issue 2

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

March – May 2016

## Card-inal Club's Mission Accomplished

Dan Scheiman

In January the Card-inal Club completed its purpose — all 34,174 records in the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) card file were made available online. Before 1986, bird records were written on index cards and housed in Doug James's office at UA-Fayetteville. In this digital age the AAS Board decided these records needed to be accessible to everyone. This was done in a three-step process. Step 1 consisted of scanning each card, which Carolyn Minson and Ann Gordon, with technical support from David Luneau, did nonstop for seven days. For step 2, 39 volunteers and I transcribed each card into spreadsheets, a task completed in just 7 weeks, faster than anyone anticipated. Finally, for step 3, AAS Curator Lyndal York and I uploaded the files to the Bird Records Database and eBird, respectively.

Those 34,174 cards actually resulted in 39,802 individual records because more than one date or species was given on some cards. The card file included many records from Oklahoma, a few from Mississippi and Tennessee, and even some from Florida, Wisconsin, Ontario, and Saskatchewan as a result of birds banded in those regions then recovered in Arkansas. eBird now has records for 412 of Arkansas's 417 species (counting extinct

and extirpated species). About 5,000 records tripped eBird's filters, but only 26 were marked as rejected by the Bird Records Committee at the time. The database contained over 2,400 unique locations, most of which had to be reconciled in eBird; many thanks to Devin Moon for additional help with that part, as it was way more time consuming and tedious than I predicted.

Thank you to all who contributed their sightings to the card file; today's efforts have been in honor of those who birded before us. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the Card-inal Club volunteers who stepped up to support our birding community, which also included: Chuck and Ruth Anderson, Jane Anderson, Leif Anderson, Barbara Baker, Liz Bliss, Francie Bolter, Molly Boyd, Dottie Boyles, Robin Buff, Terry Butler, Eleanor Bragg, Chris Cash, Sara Caulk, Lynn Christie, Laura Davis, Jim Dixon, Samantha Dixon, Cindy Franklin, Lenore Gifford, Jane Gulley, Amy Hall, Keith Hawkins, Claire Holmes, Jo-Ann Jennier, Chris Kellner, Ed Laster, Michael Linz, David Luneau, Marty Lynch, John Matejka, Maureen McClung, Devin Moon, Allan Mueller, Mitchell Pruitt, Kitty Sanders, Adam Schaffer, James Swim, and Pat Yates.

## Christmas Bird Count Results

Dan Scheiman

ASCA Christmas Bird Count Complier

For the Little Rock CBC held December 19, 2015, 32 field birders and 5 feederwatchers tallied 32,377 birds of 92 species over a collective 76 hours and 334 miles. New high counts were tallied for American Coot (229) and Winter Wren (11). Unusual birds were Green-winged Teal (10th record), Greater Roadrunner (5th), and Rufous Hummingbird (11th, but still an irregular occurrence within the circle).

For the Lonoke CBC held January 2, 2016, 29 volunteers tallied 212,208 birds of 103 species over a collective 53 hours and 273 miles. They tallied new high counts for Ross's Goose (2,516), Killdeer (1,483), and Savannah Sparrow (1,754 blew away the old record of 845). Unusual birds were Cackling Goose (8th record), Horned Grebe (10th), American Avocet (2nd, first was 1968!), Merlin (10th), Smith's Longspur (10th), and Lark Sparrow (4th). Even though it was the 37th time Northern Bobwhite had been tallied, it is unusual because the last time it was recorded was 2001.

## **ASCA Officers**

### **President**

Cindy Franklin  
meshoppen@hotmail.com

### **Vice-president**

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

### **Recording Secretary**

Vacant

### **Treasurer**

Jim Dixon  
501-258-1914  
jamesdixonlr@att.net

### **Newsletter Editor**

Dottie Boyles  
501-224-0302  
ctboyles@aristotle.net

### **Board Members**

Robert Bays  
baysrr@att.net

Joan Ellison  
joan.ellison7@gmail.com

Jane Gulley  
501-225-2072  
janegulley@comcast.net

D. DeLynn Hearn  
501-472-8769  
warblingvireo@yahoo.com

Darrel Meyerdirk  
dmeyerdirk@comcast.net

John Webb  
501-707-7742  
emrgee@att.net

### **Christmas Bird Count Compiler**

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

### **Conservation**

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

### **Field Trip Coordinator**

Karen Holliday  
501-920-3246  
ladyhawke1@att.net

### **Hospitality**

Doris Boyles  
501-224-0302  
ctboyles@aristotle.net

Karen Holliday  
501-920-3246  
ladyhawke1@att.net

### **Rare Bird Alert**

D. DeLynn Hearn  
501-472-8769  
warblingvireo@yahoo.com

### **Webmaster**

Jim Dixon  
501-258-1914  
jamesdixonlr@att.net

# President's Column

These last couple of weeks despite some chilly temperatures my jonquils have gotten down to business with their cheery little yellow cups now dotting the yard in company with early crocus scattered here and there. They are not native to North America so I suppose I would do away with them if I was a native plant purist, but I'm not. I like their presence this time of year when most other plants are just beginning to stir as the temperatures moderate.

The birds know spring is coming. All the local residents are wearing their finest colors and talking smack to each other. White-throated Sparrows are practicing their songs before leaving for their summer homes in the north. It won't be long before the geese and ducks and other winter water birds make way for our summer residents.

Audubon's Birds and Climate Change report issued in 2015 cast doubt on the future of many birds we take for granted. If planet warming continues unchecked, a good many birds we take for granted across the continent will fade from the landscape within the next 30-75 years. It's hard to know which environmental actions among

all the plans proposed will yield tangible results over time, let alone which ones will give us the biggest bang for our bucks. Doing nothing seems the least best option available. In case you haven't seen the report, it is here: <http://climate.audubon.org/>

I'm sure we've all noticed by now 2016 is an election year. Bird watching is not a partisan activity. We don't wear conservative or liberal tags to tell us apart. We are simply birdwatchers in the moment, and because we deliberately get out into the countryside throughout the year in pursuit of this hobby, we become, by default, advocates for the environment. Some may be more active in their advocacy than others and that's okay. Regardless of the politics of the moment, I would ask everyone in the birding community, this year especially, to be good environmental stewards, to be advocates for at risk birds to the extent each of us is able, and to speak up for the environment and for those plans that attempt to slow down or neutralize the effects of climate change. Please consider making your voice heard by voting in November.

*Cindy Franklin  
ASCA President*

## Welcome New Members

ASCA would like to welcome the following new members:

Thomas and Nina Boston  
Dr. James Campbell  
Laura Davis  
Carrie Dawson  
Genoveva Gilbert  
Jo-Ann Jennier  
Robert and Elizabeth King  
Dorothy Marecaux  
Pamela McCain  
Gladys Whitney  
Nancy Young

## Don't let Your Membership Lapse!

If you haven't renewed your membership to ASCA it's not too late. Renewals were due January 1, 2016, but can still be paid on-line via PayPal 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.

### Membership Level

Regular Membership – \$15.00  
Students/Seniors – \$10.00  
Family – \$25.00  
Supporting – \$35.00  
Patron – \$50.00

## A Thousand Miles

*Don Simons*

*Mount Magazine State Park, Park Interpreter*

Recently the three birding amigos (Jay Schneider, Shea Lewis, and Don Simons) set out on another adventure. We planned to chase a rare gull east of St. Louis but it disappeared a week earlier. So we decided to ramble around Arkansas and work on our state lists.

We started at Delaware Recreation Area on Lake Dardanelle. Nothing very unusual was found there. A Royal Tern and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen just below the dam. After lunch we toured Holla Bend NWR. Walking the levee trail we saw a lot of red-phase Fox Sparrows and Hermit Thrushes. Finishing up before sunset, we received news of a Brambling in western Little Rock. Suddenly we were glad that gull in Illinois disappeared.

Arriving at the parking lot around 8:30 the following morning, a dozen early birders gathered to wait. We did not have to wait long, when the home owner came down to greet and lead us up to the house. Once inside we only needed a few minutes before the Brambling came to the feeders. This was lifer #731 for me.



Brambling | Photo: *David Oakley*

After a celebratory visit to Krispy Kreme we continued on to Stuttgart Airport. Driving slowly we spotted an American Pipit. While scanning a field with Horned Larks we were able to pick out a few longspurs. Most were Laplands. But two were different. Even though it was not in its normal short grass habitat, one showed field marks of a Smith's Longspur. The other proved to be a McCown's Longspur. If accepted by the records committee this will be Arkansas's third of that species. We were in the process of moving closer for photos when a harrier caused everything in that field to scatter.

Searching in vain we were unable to find Henslow's Sparrow at Warren Prairie. Just before sunset we were treated to the arrival of at least six Red-cockaded Woodpeckers coming in to roost in their cavity inserts.

My old stomping grounds of Chicot County brought back many memories of what is now the most under-birded corner of Arkansas. Due to its location in the southeastern

most corner of Arkansas and along the Mississippi River, it has proven potential to produce more vagrants than any other area of the state. Unfortunately, there are no hardcore birders living there at this time. I listed 282 species there before I moved to Mount Magazine in 2000 (more have been recorded since).

Starting at the Tourist Information Center of the southern end of Lake Village, we worked northward along the lakeshore. At the docks near the city square an adult Bald Eagle flew just overhead. A feeding frenzy at the mouth of Connerly Bayou produced a lot of pelicans, gulls, terns, and hundreds of cormorants. I estimated there were 40 Forster's Terns on that section of lake. This is not uncommon. Then Jay announced "Cranes" as nine sandhills flew slowly just above treetops. Just one Sandhill Crane is impressive, but nine in a line, wingtips nearly touching was awesome.

Driving the levee along the Mississippi River has always been a great way to bird. It provides a high vantage point with little to no traffic. Wide open farmland on one side and riparian woods broken by borrow pits on the other side. We got on below Grand Lake about a mile from the Louisiana line.

There were a lot of ducks and geese on both sides of the levee. Some Cackling Geese swam in a borrow pit separately from other geese. Further down was a mixed flock of snows, blues, speckle-bellies, and Ross's. A conservative estimate suggested there were 5,000 geese grazing on fresh grasses. What a thrilling sound they made when they all launched at once.

Heading west, Conway Cemetery became my 51st Arkansas state park to visit. I have only one left to complete the list. It was not very birdie but made for a pleasant stop.

Millwood Lake added a few species to our trip list including a rare winter record for Spotted Sandpiper.

At Rick Evans Grandview Prairie WMA we picked up Henslow's Sparrow.

At the Arkadelphia oxidation ponds we spotted a female Long-tailed Duck, a male Cinnamon Teal, and Greater Scaup. Thanks very much to Glenn and Evelyn Good for their help.

Our last stop was Vista Point on Lake Maumelle. Previously reported Pacific and Red-throated Loons were still present. To our surprise a Red-necked Grebe put on a show not far from our vantage point. It spent more time underwater than on the surface, making it hard to get a scope on it. When I finally did get a long look at its field marks, its yellow bill was a clincher.

We covered nearly a thousand miles, tallied over a hundred species, added lifers and state birds to our lists, and had a great time, all here in Arkansas.

## The Perfect Mix in Hawaii

*Karen Holliday*

In January, my husband Ray and I, plus seven additional family members, spent nine days on the island of Kauai, Hawaii's oldest island. We rented a home with a large covered lanai situated right on the water's edge. Even before unpacking, I set up my scope on the lanai and started scanning for birds and whales. Daily views included constant sightings of Humpbacked Whales frolicking and breaching, periodic views of Spinner Dolphins, and one very large shark. A dozen Green Sea Turtles spent every morning riding the swells and feeding on the algae-covered rocks. Brown Boobies would fly past skimming the ocean's surface or pausing to dive into the water.

Kauai is known as the "Chicken Island" because of its large population of Red Junglefowl (Moa), Hawaii's first introduced bird, who run free and have interbred extensively with domestic chickens. My brother spent several mornings trying various methods to chase the resident rooster out of the yard because the bird would launch into incessant crowing at 4:00 a.m. Less vocal yard birds were White-rumped Shammas, Japanese White-eyes, Red-crested Cardinals, Zebra and Spotted Doves, plus chattering Common Mynas. At low tide, Wandering Tattlers, Pacific Golden-Plovers, and Ruddy Turnstones poked around the lava rocks. In the field across the street were Hawaiian Geese (Nene), Chestnut and Scaly-breasted Munias, Java Sparrows, Cattle Egrets, House Finches, House Sparrows, and large flocks of Rose-ringed Parakeets. Except for the migrant shorebirds and Nenes, these species are all introduced and have replaced the native birds.



Backyard view from the rental house, Poipu | Photo: *Fred Kiener*

A day trip to the north end of the island included a stop at the lighthouse overlook at Kilauea Point NWR. This is the place to see pelagics. The site is host to several nesting pairs of Laysan Albatrosses, plus over 1,000 Red-footed Boobies nesting in the short bushes on the steep hillside. We watched as several Albatross

lined-up and waddled down the open grass runway known as the "landing strip", then launched themselves one by one off the cliff. Also seen were White-tailed Tropicbirds and Great Frigatebirds. At the Hanalei NWR, a quick scan of the ponds and taro patches netted significant numbers of the Hawaiian subspecies of Stilt, Coot, Moorhen, and Duck, all subspecies of our wetland birds and all on the endangered list. Also seen was an indigenous Black-crowned Night-Heron.



Hawaiian Goose (Nene) / Photo: *Ray Holliday*

I arranged a full day of birding with guide Jim Denny, author and photographer, who has lived on Kauai for 35 years. Our goal was to search for the few remaining forest endemic species found only at the highest elevations on the island. Erckel's Francolins and their chicks, plus flocks of Munia's fed along the edges of the road to Waimea Canyon.

After a white-knuckle ride in Jim's four-wheel drive truck up the final three miles of a narrow winding track of slippery clay mud dodging boulders and potholes, we arrived at the trailhead of the Alaka'i Swamp at the top of the Canyon. We walked the Pihea Trail, first crossing the swamp, which is actually an alpine bog, then entered the native rainforest. We were very lucky to spot several Elepaios, Apapane, Anianiau, and Amakihi, all native birds and close to being placed on the threatened list. Because there are so few birds, the forest was eerily quiet. Avian malaria and introduced predators have devastated the populations of most native birds. A front blew in bringing fog, then heavy rain, which shut down the birds, so we slogged back to the truck. Because of the rain, the drive back down the muddy track was just as hair-raising, sliding sideways in several places. Jim was an amazing driver and returned us safely back to Poipu.

The trip was a perfect mix of family time, sightseeing, whale watching, and good birding opportunities. I added 17 new species to my life list.

## **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.

---

### **March 10, 2016 – State of Sustainability in the City (of Little Rock)**

**Speaker:** Melinda Glasgow, Sustainability Officer, City of Little Rock

Everyone has a vision about what Little Rock needs to become by 2020. With public input and guidance by the Mayor's Sustainability Commission, the City has developed an achievable Sustainability Roadmap, with goals that will both save precious resources and add quality to the lives of all our citizens. Melinda will share how our city is becoming more sustainable.

Melinda Glasgow began her career with the City of Little Rock in 2008 as the Recycling Program Coordinator. She is now the Sustainability Officer. She also serves as the Executive Director of Keep Little Rock Beautiful, and is involved with Friends of Fourche Creek. In her current capacity she has developed and coordinates several ongoing programs and events for the City, including LRecycles, and Recycling on a Roll. Melinda's position affords her the opportunity to quickly green-light programs that benefit the City's sustainability goals through government and private collaboration. Melinda's communication background includes developing public awareness programs for Heifer International and media relations for several nonprofit organizations.

---

### **April 14, 2016 – Audubon's Native Grass Production Project**

**Speaker:** Jonathan Young, Field Projects Coordinator, Audubon Arkansas

Audubon Arkansas's Native Agriculture to InVigorate Ecosystems (NATIVE) project is focused on training underserved farmers in the Grand Prairie and Mississippi Delta to grow local genotype native warm season grasses for seed production. This bird-friendly crop is critical to the restoration of tallgrass prairie habitat in the Grand Prairie region. Jon will talk about the project's successes and challenges, as well as how this project will help birds on a landscape-scale in eastern Arkansas.

For the past three years Jon Young has worked one-on-one with grass seed producers, providing reliable technical assistance in the field. His other duties as Field Projects Coordinator for Audubon Arkansas include biological monitoring, reforestation, invasive species control, and maintenance of the Little Rock Audubon Center and its nearly 500 acres.

---

### **May 2016 – No Regular Meeting**

**Please note:** ASCA does not hold a meeting in May. Go out and enjoy migration!

---

### **IMBD 2016 - Spread Your Wings for Bird Conservation**

Mark your calendars for May 14, 2016. International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), the signature program of the Environment for the Americas, is the only international education program that highlights and celebrates the migration of nearly 350 species of migratory birds. For more information visit: [birdday.org](http://birdday.org). May 14 is also the second eBird Global Big Day.

Please join ASCA on May 14, as they celebrate IMBD and Global Big Day with a bird walk to Gillam Park and the Little Rock Audubon Center.

### **Fourche Creek Clean Up**



*Photo: Friends of Fourche Creek*

The Friends of Fourche Creek will host a clean up on Fourche Creek, Saturday, March 12, from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM.

Meet at Interstate Park, 3900 S. Arch Street, Little Rock.

Bring your own boots, waders, gloves, water bottle, litter grabbers, canoe or Jon boat.

For more information visit their website: [ar.audubon.org/events/fourche-creek-cleanup](http://ar.audubon.org/events/fourche-creek-cleanup).

---

### **Native Plant Society to hold Plant and Bird Walk**

The Native Plant Society will hold a plant and bird walk at Gillam Park on May 15 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. All birders are welcome.

Eric Sundell will be identifying native plants while Dan Scheiman will be pointing out birds along the way.

Bring lunch, water, walking stick, and lots of DEET. **Please note:** In case of rain this event will be cancelled.

Visit glades and cypress bottoms, with lunch at the pavilion. You are free to leave whenever you please.

---

### **Art for the Birds**

Art for the Birds will be held again this year at the Rialto Gallery in Morrilton, April 29 through June 19.

The exhibit celebrates birds. Artwork can be anything from painting to photography to sculpture. It can be realistic or abstract, large or small.

Bill Thurman will be providing the music during the reception. Plus awards!

For more information contact George Hoelzeman at [galleries@grhstudios.com](mailto:galleries@grhstudios.com).

## eBird Global Big Day May 14, 2016

On May 14, the second eBird Global Big Day (GBD) will be held. The event sponsored by eBird and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology was created as a way to engage a worldwide network of birders to go out and count birds in support of global bird conservation. The goal for 2015 was to try and record more than half of the world's species of birds through eBird in a single calendar day.

Last year, more than 14,000 people in 135 countries submitted almost 45,000 checklists, featuring 6,085 species of birds; all in a single day. More importantly, it introduced eBird to hundreds of new people, resulting in thousands of valuable checklists of bird sightings that are used for science and conservation worldwide.

There are many ways to get involved with GBD. At its simplest, participation in GBD 2016 just means that you go birding and submit an eBird list from that day. May 14 is also International Migratory Bird Day, the day of the North American Migration Count, and just a great time to be outside in nature.

Last year in Arkansas, 57 people participated resulting in 132 checklists, and 181 species. Out of Arkansas's 75 counties, only 23 reported activity. Let's see if Arkansas birders can do better this year.

### Royal Tern Visits Lake Dardanelle Dam Site



Michael Linz photographed a Royal Tern sitting close to a Ring-billed Gull at the Lake Dardanelle Dam Site Public Use Area in Russellville on January 8, 2016.



## 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 26, 2016*

### Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, White County

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in North Little Rock on the east side of the Other Center parking lot near 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 the Bald Knob NWR around 8:45 a.m. for those who want to meet us there. Look for the line of cars parked on Coal Chute Road. The refuge is a National Audubon Important Bird Area.

Target birds will be lingering ducks and early-arriving shorebirds, herons, egrets, and night-herons. Very little walking will be involved. If you own a scope, bring it. Bring water, snacks or lunch. There is no bathroom on-site. There is a McDonald's just off Hwy. 67/167 at the Bald Knob Exit 55. GPS Coordinates: 35.260233, -91.571903

*April 23, 2016*

### Lake Sylvia Recreation Area, Perry County

We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the west Little Rock Walmart on Hwy. 10/Cantrell Rd. in the northwest corner of the parking lot. We'll caravan from there to Lake Sylvia. Lake Sylvia is an 18-acre lake nestled in the Ouachita National Forest surrounded by pines and hardwoods. Migration will be gearing up, so spring migrants will be moving through the area. The Lake Loop Trail and the Wildlife Trail are unpaved, with fairly level walking. The Trees of the Forest Trail has informational placards along the trail identifying common trees in the area. This trail is paved and has fairly level walking. Bring water and snacks. There is a picnic area if you want to bring your lunch. The park will be open and bathrooms available. There is a \$3 per vehicle day use charge.

Directions—Lake Sylvia is off Hwy. 9, nine miles south of Perryville and 1 mile north of the intersection of Hwy. 10 and Hwy. 9. From Hwy. 9, turn west at the brown-colored Lake Sylvia sign onto Hwy. 324. Go four miles to the park entrance. It is about a 45 minute drive from Little Rock. GPS coordinates are: 34.8822836, -92.8102027.

*May 14, 2016*

### Gillam Park and the Little Rock Audubon Center, Pulaski County

Come help us count birds for International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Gillam Park at the last parking lot past the swimming pool. Gillam has great habitat for spring warblers and other migrants. There will be moderate walking on fairly level, but possibly muddy trails. When finished at Gillam, we'll drive to the Little Rock Audubon Center and walk the wildlife observation trail. Last, we'll head to Industrial Harbor Road and David D. Terry Lock & Dam to look for Western Kingbirds and Painted Buntings. This is a morning trip. Bring water and snacks. Wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots.

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 going towards the airport. Take Exit 1-Springer Road. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left onto Springer Road. Go approximately 1 mile to just past the LRAC. Turn right onto Gillam Park Road. Follow it into the park to the last parking lot past the swimming pool.



# Field Trip Reports

Karen Holliday, Field Trip Coordinator

## Lake Dardanelle and Holla Bend NWR

January 30, 2016

Due to a heavy snowfall in Central Arkansas on January 22nd, the field trip to Lake Dardanelle and Holla Bend NWR was postponed until January 30th. Highlights during the trip were a Western Grebe at Delaware Recreation Area on Lake Dardanelle, plus one adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, and one adult Herring Gull. Multiple Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets gave the group great looks. At least two newer birders said the kinglets were their favorite bird of the day, a good reminder to enjoy our common birds as well as our uncommon ones.



Ring-billed Gull | Photo: David Oakley

At the Lake Dardanelle Dam Site Public Use Area on the Russellville side, we did not find the previously reported Royal Tern nor the Neotropic Cormorant. We did find one juvenile Herring Gull mixed in with lots of Ring-billed Gulls and Double-crested Cormorants.

At Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge, we spotted three Bald Eagles, a small flock of Wild Turkeys, one American White Pelican, a few ducks, a possible Merlin, a Winter Wren, and lots of sparrows, but no Northern Harriers nor Trumpeter Swans.

At County Road 57/Country Loop, New Neely, off Hwy. 154, not far from Holla Bend NWR, we found four Harris's Sparrows mixed in with White-crowned Sparrows, a Greater Roadrunner, and finally a Northern Harrier, but no Bewick's Wren.

It was a fun day with a huge flock of birders (46) and absolutely perfect weather.

--Karen Holliday

## Two Rivers Park Bridge and Two Rivers Park

February 13, 2016

In spite of the prediction of very cold temperatures, gusty winds and a wind chill of 21 degrees, twenty-nine birders, one dog, and a birder on her bicycle, flocked to the south entrance of the Two Rivers Park at the walking bridge in west Little Rock. The sunny day helped keep everyone fairly warm. First bird of the day was an adult Bald Eagle, spotted by the early-arriving cycling birder. We strolled along the dirt trail that skirts the Arkansas River and spotted Fox Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, swarms of Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Pine Warblers, two Orange-crowned Warblers, 30+ American White Pelicans, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, Buffleheads, Gadwalls, Common Goldeneyes, and a herd of deer. The best bird of the walk was a Blue-headed Vireo, who put on quite a show for everyone.

Next the group caravanned to the main entrance of Two Rivers Park. Walking through the "swamp" entrance netted us a Winter Wren, two Hermit Thrushes, a female Common Goldeneye, a Swamp Sparrow, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and a juvenile Bald Eagle soaring overhead. The group spread out in a long line across the grassy field hoping to flush sparrows. The sparrows that did tee-up were numerous Savannah,



Birders gather at Two Rivers Park on a chilly morning | Photo: Theba Lolley

Field, Song, Vesper, and White-throated. A Sedge Wren was also flushed. A scan of the river awarded us with close looks at a large flock of American White Pelicans.

Back at our vehicles and way past the noon hour, most birders headed home. The least tired from all the walking was the cyclist birder. A few hardy birders continued on to Lake Maumelle to chase loons.

--Karen Holliday

# Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

P. O. Box 6213  
Sherwood, AR 72124

Forwarding and return postage guaranteed.  
Return service requested.

First Class  
Presort  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Little Rock, AR  
Permit 588



Western Grebe  
Photographed at Lake Dardanelle on  
January 30, by *Michael Linz*

## 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 both Leon Brockinton, c/o Brockinton Company, LLC at P.O. Box 6213, Sherwood, AR 72124, and Jim Dixon, Treasurer, 11805 Birchwood Dr., Little Rock, AR 72211. 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, visit their website: [http://www.agfc.com/species/Documents/migratorybird\\_rehablist.pdf](http://www.agfc.com/species/Documents/migratorybird_rehablist.pdf).

**Wild Birds Unlimited**, 1818 N. Taylor Street, Little Rock, AR 72207. Phone: 501-666-4210  
\*Mention you are an ASCA member and receive 10% off your purchase.