



Charles Mills

THE SNIPE

The Newsletter of the
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

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December 2020 – February 2021

December Meeting Features The Pigeon

Dan Scheiman

Since we can't have a potluck we'll have a regular Zoom meeting on December 10 at 7 p.m. Jane Gulley will be presenting a program on The Pigeon: Boon to Mankind, Intelligent, Amazing, Beautiful (Part 1).

Throughout history, the pigeon (*Columba livia*) has been treasured as a source of companionship and protein, admired and utilized for its unique navigational and athletic abilities, and even worshiped as a timeless symbol of God's grace. Today, it may be more maligned than it deserves. Jane Gulley will teach us about the role pigeons have played in our societies and renew our sense of appreciation for the pigeon.



Pouter Pigeon | Photo: Jane Gulley

After the presentation we'll conduct an important point of business – elect officers and board members for the upcoming year. So exercise your right to vote!

Jane Gulley is a long-time ASCA member and past president. After getting degrees from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and Memphis University, she taught high school American History and English. Later started a program on the conservation of bald eagles that became a nationwide model, for which she was inducted into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame. In addition to eagles, she raised pigeons for 34 years and competed with racing pigeons and in National Pigeon Association sanctioned pigeon shows.

Little Rock and Lonoke Christmas Bird Counts

Dan Scheiman

ASCA Christmas Bird Count Compiler

Now in its 121st year, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a community science program and the nation's longest running bird survey. Have no doubts that your participation is meaningful – thousands of scientific studies have used CBC data, including National Audubon's climate change report *Survival by Degrees*.

I organize two counts: Little Rock is Saturday, December 19, and Lonoke is Sunday, December 27. Contact me at birddan@comcast.net or 501-366-0840, and [specify the count](#). Due to COVID-19 concerns, the number of participants in the field will be limited. If you live inside the count circle I encourage you to contribute by being a feederwatcher instead; I can also assign you to roam your neighborhood, as residential areas are typically not well covered by parties in the field. Please contact me for arrangements. I will check that you live inside the circle and provide instructions and a spreadsheet.

There are many other counts across the state. Contact State Compiler Leif Anderson for more information. Participation is free. Make your birding count for the birds!

Fork-tailed Flycatcher Thrills Birders



Michael Linz

Dick Baxter discovered a Fork-tailed Flycatcher perched on a power line along Hwy. 4, in Desha County, on Nov. 16th. The bird, a 2nd state record, was still present several days later, much to the delight of many birders.

President's Column

ASCA Officers

President

Cindy Franklin
meshoppen@hotmail.com

Vice-president

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

Recording Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Newsletter Editor

Dottie Boyles
ctboyles@aristotle.net

Board Members

Joan Ellison
joan.ellison7@gmail.com

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

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

Lance Runion
lancerad2000@yahoo.com

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

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

Christmas Bird Count Compiler

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

Conservation

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

Field Trip Coordinator

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

Hospitality

Karen Holliday
ladyhawke1@att.net

Webmaster

Jim Dixon
jamesdixonlr@att.net

Friends, I think we can all agree the year 2020 has been a doozy. The pandemic, the shutdown, the economy, and the election have made this a fraught year. As the year draws to a close, all the issues that have afflicted us look to spill into 2021. Yeah, us!

First the virus. As we move into the holiday season, please be vigilant with your pandemic precautions. Yes, we all have pandemic fatigue. When I think about the chaotic events in western Asia, the Middle East, and northern Africa that drive desperate refugees to a drowning death in a last chance bid for a better life, Americans remain remarkably insulated from the harsh realities faced by too many people in too many lands.

In this time of contagion, mask wearing should be as much a civic duty as voting. It is becoming clear masks offer personal protection as well as community protection. Likewise, we should all use hand sanitizer freely to prevent contact transmission. And lastly avoid crowded spaces, especially indoor spaces, even with family outside your immediate circle of contacts. Meeting

outside is always better than inside. Limited contact is always better than extended contact. We can save lives and manage this virus if we follow these precautions to reduce everyone's potential exposure. All of these actions are time tested public health measures that do make a difference if enough people participate. Remember, this pandemic will pass in the fullness of time.

The Christmas Bird Count tradition will continue this year, but like everything else in our lives, it will be different. All the precautions we have observed this year will still be in effect. Field teams likely will be smaller. I encourage folks who want to participate and who live within a count circle volunteer to be a feederwatcher or survey your local neighborhood as neighborhoods are often undercounted.

Most of all, be safe and take care of yourself and your loved ones during the holiday season. We shall look forward to visiting again in person without masks once effective vaccines become available sometime in 2021.

*Cindy Franklin
ASCA President*

ASCA Membership Renewal

Just a reminder, ASCA membership renewals are due January 1, 2021 and can be paid on-line via PayPal through the membership page at www.ascabird.org.

Checks can be made out to ASCA and 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

Welcome

The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas would like to welcome the following new member:

Shawn Southerland

Great Backyard Bird Count

Mark your calendars for the 2021 Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday, February 12th, through Monday, February 15th.

For more information on participating in this fun event visit: gbbc.birdcount.org.

Upcoming Programs

NOTE – All upcoming meetings will be online via Zoom. Visit ar.audubon.org/events to find and register for each meeting. Registration takes the place of a sign-in sheet. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

December 10, 2020 – The Pigeon: Boon to Mankind, Intelligent, Amazing, Beautiful – Jane Gulley

Our annual potluck has been cancelled, instead we will meet via of Zoom. Jane Gulley will present a program on the amazing Pigeon. See page 1 for details.

After the presentation we'll conduct an important point of business – elect officers and board members for the upcoming year. So exercise your right to vote!

January 14, 2021 – Annual Business Meeting

ASCA can exist only with active participation by its members. Our annual business meeting is your opportunity to provide input into activities for 2021 and help start the New Year off right for our organization! All members are encouraged to attend via Zoom.

Due to the number of topics covered, there will be no program or guest speaker for this meeting.

February 11, 2021 - Birding with Needle and Thread Dottie Boyles

This program will explore the love of birds through the medium of needle and thread. Artwork will feature birds on quilts, from the National Quilt Show as well as private collections, cross stitch, embroidery, and much more.

Dottie Boyles works for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Grants Division. Her hobbies over the years have included oil painting, collecting owl figurines, stamp collecting, needlework, and birding. She's always been interested in birds, but didn't become a serious birder until 2001.

ASCA Field Trips Cancelled

*Karen Holliday
ASCA Field Trip Coordinator*

With continuing COVID-19 concerns, plus our priority to keep members of our birding community healthy and safe, the Officers and Board Members of ASCA decided to suspend all monthly field trips until further notice. Due to the necessity of maintaining strict social distancing, it is not feasible at this time to hold large group activities. We will keep you posted.

ASCA has a list of recommended places to bird in Central Arkansas posted on their website: <https://wp.ascabird.org/birding/birding-hotspots/>.

Election of Officers and Board Members

The election of ASCA Officers for 2021-2022 and Board Members for 2021, will take place on Thursday, December 10th via Zoom.

All officers and board members agreed to serve for another term. During the November 12th business meeting Cindy Franklin presented the slate of nominees as follows:

Officers serve two-year terms:

President: Cindy Franklin
Vice President: Dan Scheiman
Recording Secretary: Barry Haas
Treasurer: Jim Dixon
Editor: Dottie Boyles

Board Members serve one-year term:

Joan Ellison
Jane Gulley
DeLynn Hearn
Lance Runion
Bill Shepherd
John Webb

ASCA members are welcome to make nominations before the election is held.

Swallow-tailed Kite spotted in Pulaski County



Cindy Franklin

On Sept. 6th, Cindy Franklin discovered a Swallow-tailed Kite soaring along AR 440, near Rixey Road. Rare to Pulaski Co., the bird remained in the area for several days.

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

P. O. Box 6213
Sherwood, AR 72124

Forwarding and return postage guaranteed.
Return service requested.



© FlutterbyBob Photography

American Wigeon | Photo: Bob Harden

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.ascabird.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:
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.

