

# THE SNIPE

*The Newsletter of the  
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas*



Charles Mills

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Volume 46 Issue 1

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

December 2011 – February 2012

## **ASCA's Annual Potluck & Silent Auction Audubon Arkansas Center, Little Rock**

Join us on Thursday, December 8, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the Audubon Arkansas Center for our Annual Potluck and Silent Auction.

This fun event is a great opportunity to enjoy wonderful food, spread some holiday cheer, and exchange stories with fellow birders.

Our Silent Auction is a critical source of funds for ASCA. Auction items can be purchased or hand made. If you are bringing an item, please be there before 6:00 p.m. so your item can be labeled and placed.

Bidding will begin by 6:15, and dinner will be served around 6:30. ASCA will provide the drinks, plates, cups, and eating utensils.

The Audubon Arkansas Center is located on the southeast side of Little Rock at 4500 Springer Blvd. To get there take I-440 to exit 1, Springer Blvd. Go south

on Springer. Cross the railroad tracks, then look for the Center and Audubon Arkansas sign on the right.



*photo by Dan Scheiman*

Bring your favorite dish and join us on December 8 for a fun-filled evening and a chance to visit with fellow birders from around the state.

## **Little Rock and Lonoke Christmas Bird Counts**

*Dan Scheiman*

*Christmas Bird Count Compiler*

The days are getting shorter and the weather is getting colder, but that doesn't mean the birding has to slow down! It is Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season again. The CBC is an Audubon citizen science program and the nation's longest running bird survey – this is the 112<sup>th</sup> year.

On count day participants count all birds they encounter within their assigned section of a 15-mile diameter circle. Birders of any skill level are welcome.

It's a great opportunity to learn from experienced birders! You can bird for as long as you like.

ASCA sponsors two counts: Little Rock on Saturday, December 17, 2011, and Lonoke on Monday, January 2, 2012. Contact the compiler, Dan Scheiman at [birddan@comcast.net](mailto:birddan@comcast.net) or 501-244-2229 if you would like to join one or both counts. There are many other counts across the state. See page 4 for more information or contact Leif Anderson at [Leifanderson@fs.fed.us](mailto:Leifanderson@fs.fed.us) or 479-284-3150 ext. 3151. Hope to see you out there!

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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## JANE GULLY

### Reflections of 2011

This article finishes my first year as President for the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA), and it is difficult for me to believe 2011 is almost over. I was so concerned about assuming the duties of leading the group, especially following in the shadow of Rob Weiss.

The first thing I did was brush up on my knowledge of parliamentary procedure. The second thing was wring my hands in despair when Rob told me about the National Audubon Society's annual report. All of that has worked out. The ASCA group is formal but not stuffy and the rules of order came back to me, much like riding a bike. Rob is incredibly organized and helpful. He had all the information needed for the annual report from his term as ASCA President. All of you who are members of ASCA should be proud of the people who serve in leadership positions. Each person has been dedicated, knowledgeable, and truly committed to the mission of Audubon.

Our Vice President Dan Scheiman has had excellent speakers for our programs. For any of you who have ever tried to find speakers you know what a challenge that can be! Our programs are informative and the presenters have been very willing to discuss and answer questions. I have been impressed with the content of the programs, but more importantly inspired by the enthusiasm, intelligence, and creativity of the presenters themselves. I hope each of you will give yourself a painless, educational treat and come to a meeting. Remember, the business part of the meeting is conducted after the presentation and everyone is welcome to stay.

Our Field Trip Coordinator Karen Holliday always plans interesting field trips. She often spends hours scouting an area a week or two before the group arrives. She keeps us moving in quest of the next exciting bird sighting, and

takes extra time to help new participants. The group seems to feel a common bond of camaraderie and is always willing to help locate and identify birds for others. If you are not sure of the protocol for birding, then please join us. You will learn the rules are few. People frequently ask me what they have to do to go "bird watching." I tell them to join us and all their questions will be answered. It will be a fun and rewarding experience.

I would like to mention one other person from our group, although I could go through the list of officers and board members and mention how each person makes ASCA successful. For several years Barry Haas has been dedicated to the fight to keep Lake Maumelle a clean and safe supply of drinking water for over 400,000 central Arkansas residents. I recently found myself in a personal predicament when a lifelong friend wrote a letter stating her displeasure over ASCA's involvement in the proposed regulations for Lake Maumelle. I forwarded the letter to Barry because I did not feel qualified to respond. Barry took the letter, went through each stated concern, and answered with factual information. Some of my friend's statements were not based on fact but on misunderstood partial information. Barry's reply was respectful, thoughtful, and thorough. Each of you should be pleased to have a person as knowledgeable and thoughtful as Barry representing ASCA's interests in this ongoing and critical debate.

I didn't have room in my allotted space to talk about our fun outing to see the movie, *The Big Year*, but will do so in my next article, so stay tuned.

If you would like to be part of a wonderful group, then please join us, and take advantage of all the opportunities ASCA has to offer!

*Jane Gulley*  
ASCA President

# Blue Birds of Happiness: How to Identify Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks and Eastern Bluebirds

*Samantha Scheiman*

Individually stunning, each of Arkansas' blue birds offers a unique shade of blue—whether a deep indigo, rich royal-blue or cerulean—to observers when all three are present in spring, summer, and fall. It might seem difficult to distinguish between these songbirds that are commonly found throughout Arkansas, especially when you catch only a quick flash of color. To remedy this conundrum, a number of clues exist to tell these beauties apart.

First of all, if a blue bird is seen in winter, it will almost certainly be the Eastern Bluebird, a year-round resident. The male exhibits a sky-blue back, an orange throat and breast, and a white belly; the female is a faded version of the male. The largest of the three, the Eastern Bluebird sings a mellow string of whistles that sounds like “cheer cheerful charmer.”

“Eastern Bluebirds commonly nest in bird houses, and we had a pair nesting in our yard for several years,” noted Allan Mueller, avian conservation project leader of The Nature Conservancy. “One year a pair of Downy Woodpeckers excavated a nest cavity in a dead tree in the yard and raised a brood. The next year the Bluebirds abandoned their bird house and successfully nested in

the old woodpecker cavity. I guess the ‘natural’ cavity was better.”

The slightly smaller Blue Grosbeak has a thicker bill than a bluebird's, the male showcasing a royal-blue plumage and rufous bars on the wings. The female is a pale gray-brown color accented with buffy bars in the upper wings.

Indigo Buntings closely resemble Blue Grosbeaks but can still be readily distinguished. The male's blue color is only marginally brighter and lighter than the grosbeak's, but the bunting lacks rufous wing-bars, a key difference. The female bunting, while also drab like the female grosbeak, has a finely-streaked breast, whitish throat and only faint wing bars. As a side note, Indigo Buntings migrate at night, navigating by the stars to their destinations.

Like brilliant stars themselves, these blue birds shoot through backyards, fields and open woodlands, beckoning you to catch them if you can. Armed with an arsenal of ID tips, perhaps now these shining stars of the bird world are within identifiable reach.

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## Arkansas Big Year Update

*Mitchell Pruitt*

With the coming winter, my big year has picked up speed once again! Away with the slowness of mid-fall and here with the exciting uncertainty of what my final ABY winter will bring. Since the end of fall migration, new species have been slow coming. However, winter is revving up and I expect to get, best case-scenario, at least 20 more species and maybe more.

Some of my most recent "fun times" have been spending a surprisingly hot October day sitting in the woods near Pine City waiting for a Red-cockaded Woodpecker; walking around in wet fields at 7:00 a.m. searching for Nelson's Sparrow; a long, extensive search

for Common Ground-Dove that involved walking a country mile and sinking over the boot-line in mud; and another long, extensive search for Red-throated Loon. They may not sound like fun to most, but I call it building character and so far my persistence has almost always been rewarding in the end. In the coming month I feel more times like these are on their way and I am ready for them.....and December 31.

As I write this, I have a count of 299 species. Only one more until 300! Thanks to everyone who has helped me make this year happen and to those whose help will continue until the big 1/1/2012.

*Editor's note:* The Arkansas Audubon Society held its fall meeting in Rogers, November 18-20. While on a field trip to Beatie Prairie, near Maysville, Mitchell received a call about a possible Long-eared Owl at Chesney Prairie; he and several others headed that way. The search for the owl came up empty. However, an American Tree Sparrow made species #300. The owl was heard the next day.

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## Birding a Big Year

"Every day you're in the field, you learn something. You go places you wouldn't normally go, see things you wouldn't normally see, meet people you wouldn't normally meet. And you have fun you wouldn't normally have." -Bert Filemyr

# 112<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is now in its 112th year, making it North America's longest running bird survey. Each year, over 2000 counts are conducted throughout North America from December 14 through January 5.

**What's involved:** Each 15-mile diameter count circle has a compiler. The circle is broken into sections with a group of volunteers for each. Each group tries to find all the birds in their area, within a calendar day. You count the birds you actually see and hear, not the birds that should be there.

All counts could use more volunteers. However, some are in need of extra help. Please consider participating in

more than one, especially counts that may involve a drive or have fewer than 10 volunteers.

**Skill and time levels:** Any skill level is welcome and the time you spend is flexible. Some may watch their bird feeder(s) for an hour, while others go for 15+ hours in the field.

**Fees:** There is a \$5 fee, unless the count is sponsored (\*). There is no charge for feeder watchers or anyone under the age of 18.

**For more information contact:** Leif Anderson at 479-284-3150 ext. 3151 or email [Leifanderson@fs.fed.us](mailto:Leifanderson@fs.fed.us); or a CBC compiler listed below for details.

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Closest town</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Crooked Creek	Wed 14	Sally Jo Gibson	Harrison	<a href="mailto:sjogibson@windstream.net">sjogibson@windstream.net</a>	870-741-5805
Jonesboro	Wed 14	Jim Bednarz	Jonesboro	<a href="mailto:jbednarz@astate.edu">jbednarz@astate.edu</a>	
Mississippi River SP	Thur 15	Tara Gillanders	Mariana	<a href="mailto:tara.gillanders@arkansas.gov">tara.gillanders@arkansas.gov</a>	870-295-4040
N. Fork-Illinois Bayou*	Thur 15	Sarah Davis	Hector	<a href="mailto:sadavis@fs.fed.us">sadavis@fs.fed.us</a>	870-446-5122
Mountain Home	Fri 16	Alice Snyder	Mountain Home	<a href="mailto:alice.m.snyder@gmail.com">alice.m.snyder@gmail.com</a>	
Village Creek SP	Fri 16	Adam Leslie	Wynne	<a href="mailto:adam.leslie@arkansas.gov">adam.leslie@arkansas.gov</a>	870-238-9406
Buffalo Natl. River	Sat 17	Roy Stovall	Tyler Bend	<a href="mailto:roy_stovall@suddenlink.net">roy_stovall@suddenlink.net</a>	870-736-0505
Conway	Sat 17	Allan Mueller	Conway	<a href="mailto:akcmueller@gmail.com">akcmueller@gmail.com</a>	
Fort Smith	Sat 17	Bill Beall	Fort Smith	<a href="mailto:billtoka@mynewroads.com">billtoka@mynewroads.com</a>	
Little Rock*	Sat 17	Dan Scheiman	Little Rock	<a href="mailto:birddan@comcast.net">birddan@comcast.net</a>	501-244-2229
Fayetteville*	Sun 18	Joe Neal and Mike Mlodinow	Fayetteville	<a href="mailto:joeneal@uark.edu">joeneal@uark.edu</a> <a href="mailto:mamload@hotmail.com">mamload@hotmail.com</a>	479-521-1858
Bayou DeView*	Mon 19	Steve Osborne	Brinkley	<a href="mailto:jsteveosborne@gmail.com">jsteveosborne@gmail.com</a>	479-970-8429
Hot Springs Village*	Mon 19	Lynn Sackett	Hot Springs Vlg.	<a href="mailto:tlsackett@sbcglobal.net">tlsackett@sbcglobal.net</a>	501-922-9060
Pine Bluff*	Wed 28	Rob Doster	Pine Bluff	<a href="mailto:rob_doster@fws.gov">rob_doster@fws.gov</a>	
Wapanocca NWR	Sat 31	Dick Preston	Turrell	<a href="mailto:dickpreston@bigriver.net">dickpreston@bigriver.net</a>	
White River NWR	Sat 31	Keith Sutton	St. Charles	<a href="mailto:catfishdude@sbcglobal.net">catfishdude@sbcglobal.net</a>	501-847-9643
Lonoke*	Mon Jan 2	Dan Scheiman	Little Rock	<a href="mailto:birddan@comcast.net">birddan@comcast.net</a>	501-244-2229
Holla Bend NWR	Tues Jan 3	Leif Anderson	Dardanelle	<a href="mailto:Leifanderson@fs.fed.us">Leifanderson@fs.fed.us</a>	479-284-3402
Lake Georgia Pacific/ Felsenthal NWR	Thur Jan 5	Leif Anderson	Crossett	<a href="mailto:Leifanderson@fs.fed.us">Leifanderson@fs.fed.us</a>	479-284-3402

Several counts have yet to be set. Contact Leif Anderson for details or subscribe to ARBIRD-L for regular updates.

## \*Sponsored Counts:

Fayetteville: Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society.

Hot Springs Village: Hot Springs Village Audubon Society

Little Rock and Lonoke: Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

North Fork of the Illinois Bayou: U.S. Forest Service

Pine Bluff: Three Rivers Audubon Society

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## Trumpeter Swans Return to Arkansas

Trumpeter Swans have returned to Arkansas for the winter. For swans with collars please note the color and the alphanumeric code. Report the information to Karen Rowe, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, [krowe@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:krowe@agfc.state.ar.us). She will get back to you and let you know the origin of the swan.

## **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.

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### **December 8, 2011 – Potluck and Silent Auction**

#### **Location: Audubon Arkansas Center**

Join us on Thursday, December 8, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the Audubon Arkansas Center for our Annual Potluck and Silent Auction. This fun event is a great opportunity to enjoy some wonderful food, spread some holiday cheer, and exchange stories with fellow birders.

The Audubon Arkansas Center is located at 4500 Springer Blvd. For more information and directions see page 1.

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### **January 12, 2012 – Annual Business Meeting**

The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas will hold its annual Business Meeting on January 12, at 7:00 p.m. All ASCA members are encouraged to attend. This meeting will be held at the John Gould Fletcher Library located at 823 Buchanan Street.

ASCA can only exist with active members and this is your opportunity to provide input into activities for 2012.

Due to the number of topics that need to be covered and discussed; there will be no guest speaker or program at this meeting.

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### **February 9, 2012 – Kenya Birding Safari**

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Dan Scheiman

**Program:** Kenya Birding Safari

Dan will share sights, sounds, and stories from his July 4-17, 2011, Kenya birding safari. He, his wife Samantha, and three other birders hired a guide to introduce them to the wonders of Africa during the peak of wildebeest migration. They visited a variety of habitats from rainforest to arid scrubland in several national parks and reserves including: Maasai Mara, Samburu, and Lake Nakuru; the latter famous for hosting millions of flamingos. They experienced up-close looks at most of Kenya's large mammals such as lions, elephants, and zebras. Of Kenya's 1,100 bird species, they saw 433 including hornbills, sunbirds, mousebirds, greenbulbs, barbets, and bustards.

Dr. Dan Scheiman is Vice President of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, and Bird Conservation Director for Audubon Arkansas. Dan has a B.S. from Cornell University, M.S. from Eastern Illinois University, and Ph.D. from Purdue University. Together, he and his staff monitor birds and other wildlife, restore wildlife habitat, and help Arkansans improve their local environments. Dan has been birding for 24 years. In the six years he has lived in Arkansas he has seen 339 of the 410 bird species documented in the state.

## **ASCA Election of 2012 Board Members**

The election of Board Members for 2012, will take place on Thursday, December 8.

The Nominating Committee included Barry Haas, Susan Staffeld, Robert Bays, and Rob Weiss, who served as chair. At the November 10 meeting, Rob presented the slate of nominees, as follows:

#### **One-year term as Board Members:**

1. Doris Boyles
2. Edie Calaway
3. Jim Dixon
4. D. DeLynn Hearn
5. Ellen Repar
6. Bill Shepherd

Our current secretary, Samantha Scheiman, is unable to finish her term due to a scheduling conflict. The nominating committee is working to fill this position and hopes to have a nominee in place by the December meeting. Our thanks to Samantha for the great job she has done as secretary this past year.

Any ASCA member is welcome to make a nomination from the floor before the election is held.

*Rob Weiss*  
*Nominating Committee Chair*

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### **Eurasian Wigeon Visits Arkansas**



*photo by Lloyd Spitalnik*

An odd looking wigeon was discovered by Mike Todd at Benwood Lake on November 16, around 2:00 p.m. After obtaining better looks, it was determined by Mike and Jeff Wilson, both from Tennessee, to be a Eurasian Wigeon. If accepted by the Birds Records Committee, this will be a first state record for Arkansas. Benwood Lake is located in northeast part of the state.

## Gallery 26 Presents the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Art Show

Gallery 26 is holding its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Art Show, November 12, 2011 – January 14, 2012. ASCA's own Dale Provost is one of the featured artists with several works on display. Birds are the subjects for many of her paintings.

Gallery 26 is located at 2601 Kavanaugh Blvd., Little Rock.

A few of Dale's paintings can be viewed on her website at:

<http://www.pbase.com/daleprovost/gallery26> 2011

### Central Park



Painting by Dale Provost

### Great Backyard Bird Count

Mark your calendars now for the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) to be held February 17-20, 2012. The GBBC is a joint effort of National Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate. It's free, fun, and easy—and helps the birds.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see.

For more information visit:  
[www.birdsource.org/gbbc/](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/)



## 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 lifebird 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.

*December 2011*

### Little Rock and Lonoke Christmas Bird Counts

ASCA is once again sponsoring the Little Rock and Lonoke Christmas Bird Counts. The Little Rock count will be held on Saturday, December 17 and the Lonoke count on Monday, January 2.

To participate in one or both counts, contact Dan Scheiman at [birddan@comcast.net](mailto:birddan@comcast.net) or 501-244-2229. Specify which count(s) you are interested in joining.

*January 21, 2012*

### Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Dardanelle

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Mayflower commuter lot, off I-40 west, exit 135, and from there carpool to Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge. We should arrive at the refuge headquarters around 8:45 a.m., for those who would like to meet us there.

Our target birds will be Bald Eagles, Short-eared Owls, waterfowl, swans, and sparrows. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Some walking will be in tall grass so boots are recommended. If time permits, we will check Lake Dardanelle for gulls and other water birds. This will be an all-day trip.

*February 18, 2012*

### Two Rivers Park and Lake Maumelle

In conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count being held February 17-20, we will meet at Two Rivers Park at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 19. The Park has a diverse population of sparrows that provides a great opportunity to work on identifying those "little brown birds". Knee-high rubber boots are highly recommended for walking in the fields.

We will continue on to Lake Maumelle after finishing at the park. Loons, mergansers, ducks, and grebes are easily found on the lake this time of year. Bring water, snacks, and your scope if you have one. This will be a half day trip.

Directions to Two Rivers Park: Take Hwy 10 west to the stoplight at Pinnacle Valley Road, just past the Kroger Store. (Look for the brown sign for Maumelle Park.) Turn right at the light. Follow County Farm Road approximately 4 miles, bear right and go through the gates into Two Rivers Park. Go approximately ¾ of a mile to the first large parking lot on your right, located across the road from the bathrooms.



# *Field Trip Reports*

## **Willow Beach Park, Terry Lock & Dam, Toltec Mounds State Park**

*September 17, 2011*

Willow Beach Park is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers picnic and campground facility located on Willow Beach Lake, an oxbow lake just off the Arkansas River. Cool temperatures and intermittent rain showers did not discourage 21 birders from enjoying the day. Our first birds were two small groups of Northern Shovelers flying overhead. A Belted Kingfisher chattered across the inlet, and numerous Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants dotted the shoreline and water's edge. In the trees, we found Cedar Waxwings, Orchard Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers. A Red-shouldered Hawk perched on a utility post long enough for up-close looks and photos.

Our next stop was the David D. Terry Lock and Dam. We were hoping for early arriving gulls, but couldn't find any.

Near the dam site we saw Loggerhead Shrike, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and several Killdeer.

Our final stop was Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park. Park Interpreter Robin Gabe gave us a very informative tour of the mounds area and the boardwalk that meanders along the banks of Mound Lake, another oxbow of the Arkansas River. Highlights there included: Carolina Wren, three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, a migrant flock of 20 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Summer Tanager, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Eastern Bluebird, and a flock of 60 Canada Geese.

We finished the morning with a total of 40 species.

*--Karen Holliday*

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## **Joe Hogan Fish Hatcher and Bob Long Road**

*October 22, 2011*

A beautiful sunny morning started with 23 birders exploring the Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery in Lonoke. Several Eurasian Collared-Doves were among the first birds spotted. Dozens of Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons were scattered around the fish ponds. A nice surprise was finding three Loggerhead Shrikes. A Northern Harrier flushed a large group of shorebirds. Once they settled down, we tallied two Wilson's Snipe, several Long-billed Dowitchers, dozens of Least Sandpipers and other peeps, one Greater and several Lesser Yellowlegs. Other birds included Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Pied-billed Grebe, Belted Kingfisher, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Driving along Bob Long Road we stopped to check several of the minnow ponds. Only one pond was drained. There we found Pectoral Sandpipers among many of the same shorebird species seen earlier at the fish hatchery. More Northern Harriers, one American Pipit, and a Horned Lark were also spotted. In the filled ponds we found Ruddy Duck, Northern Shoveler, and Pied-billed Grebe. It was a fun morning with great weather, good birds, and a terrific bunch of birders. *--Karen Holliday*

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## **Nimrod Lake**

*November 12, 2011*

Our goal was to explore Nimrod Lake because the location is rarely monitored. The group, consisting of eleven birders, detoured briefly by Lake Maumelle to search for a Red-throated Loon reported the day before. The loon could not be relocated so the group proceeded on to Nimrod Lake. There we checked several access areas and found Ring-billed Gull, Pine Warbler, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Cooper's Hawk, Common Loon, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Gadwall, Scaup species, and Chipping, Swamp, and White-throated Sparrows. We saw two adult Bald Eagles feeding juveniles, plus three additional eagles. The highlight was watching a small flock of Wild Turkeys.

By early afternoon, we headed back to Lake Maumelle for a second try at the Red-throated Loon. This time we found it just off Vista Point. The loon was easily spotted swimming with three Common Loons. A life bird for several in the group!

We checked the inlet on the other side of the causeway at Vista Point. There we found five male and two female Hooded Mergansers, Gadwall, Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, two more Common Loons, and a large flock of American Wigeons feeding in the grass along the bank of the inlet.

*--Karen Holliday*

**Audubon Society of Central Arkansas**

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Red-bellied Woodpecker  
by Samantha Scheiman

**Audubon Society of Central Arkansas**

Chapter Only Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Membership Level:	Student/Senior	\$10 per year
(Check One)	Regular	\$15 per year
	Family	\$25 per year
	Supporting	\$35 per year
	Patron	\$50 per year

Make check payable to "ASCA" and mail to treasurer:  
Ed Laster, 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.

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**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/Pages/SpeciesWildlifeRehabilitation.aspx>

**\*\*\*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.