

**Northwest Arkansas  
Audubon Society**

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## **A NEW BOOK ON BIRDS IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**

*By Joe Neal*

Nine counties in northwest Arkansas are now or have been in past years home to approximately 338 bird species. Some like a long-billed curlew at Siloam Springs in 2007 were a one-day wonder: here today, gone tomorrow. Northern cardinals at our bird feeder remain all year, joy in color and song. *BIRDS IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS* is a project sponsored by NWAAS. It is subtitled *AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE*. You know that elastic word, ecology. It's about the interrelationship between organisms, like birds and the environment. This book is full of people watching birds and student research projects. The text details basics about who saw what bird, when, how many, and where. This book is part of an ongoing effort to re-launch the NWAAS. It appeared in the fall of 2008 that Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society would disband. That's quite a paradox, isn't it? We live midst great natural beauty. We value wild birds that bring so much grace to the Ozarks. As Audubon Board member Scott Michaud told me, the question for any enterprise is the same whether you are selling underwear at Wal-Mart or promoting native wildlife. What of obvious value is offered? With many details about birds that grace our Ozark homes, this new book is one potential value offered. Nightbird Books, on 205 W. Dickson Street in Fayetteville hosted an event for this new book at 6pm on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, which attracted an audience of 70. The program included a PowerPoint presentation of original bird photography by Jacque Brown of Centerton and David Oakley of Springdale. The book is for sale at Nightbird for \$12.95. It is also available by mail by sending Joan Reynolds a request: [joanreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:joanreynolds@gmail.com). The cost is \$12.95 plus \$3 for mailing.

## **FIELD TRIP TO CENTERTON FISH HATCHERY**

*by Doug James*

Twenty-one birders, guided by Doug James and Jacque Brown, went afield in the late morning to search this water-bird environment and thereby encountered 36 avian species on an overcast day with little wind, some drizzle at the end, 65 degrees Fahrenheit. It was rather a pleasant day.

Within the cast of 36 primarily expected bird species, sightings of special interest were: a Lesser and Greater yellow-legs standing side by side for all to note differences, plus an arm-length view of a pair of Warbling Vireos and a female Northern Cardinal repeatedly singing the male song. The highlight of the day was an excellent close-up study of a lone female Brewer's Blackbird glancing at us through her diagnostic dark iris.

## **CHESNEY PRAIRIE TRIP WARM AND TOASTY!**

*by Joe Neal*

About 20 folks made our field trip on July 12 to Chesney Prairie Natural Area and nearby Stump Prairie. Joe Woolbright had mowed trails at both places, so it was easy to walk through the areas, even with tall native grass and lots of flowers. At both places we were amazed at big swaths of purple blazing stars. We also found typical birds in open habitats: Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting in a snag, an active Orchard Oriole nest, Dickcissels everywhere, a Bell's Vireo at Stump, brilliant American Goldfinches on flowering ashy sunflowers, Loggerhead Shrikes, and a couple of Lark Sparrows. At one point an Upland Sandpiper may have flown over -- it sounded like one called. Probably was -- Andrew Scaboo found Uplands later in the day at Woolsey Wet Prairie. Thanks to everyone who braved a hot mid-July day.