



# Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society

NEWSLETTER February 2009

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## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS to August 2009

**Saturday, February 21**, 10. am to noon, Walker Room, Fayetteville Public Library, Presentation by UofA Professor Malcolm Cleaveland on "Climate Change Coming Soon to a Planet Near You."

**Saturday, February 28**, 10 am to noon, Wal-Mart Room, Bentonville Public Library, Presentation by UofA Professor Malcolm Cleaveland on "Climate Change Coming Soon to a Planet Near You."

**Saturday, March 28**, 10 am to noon, Walker Room, Fayetteville Public Library, Presentation by UofA Carl Hitt on "The Hawks that Nest in Fayetteville's Wilson Park."

**Saturday, April 4**, 10 am to noon, Wal-Mart Room, Bentonville Public Library, Presentation by UofA Carl Hitt on "The Hawks that Nest in Fayetteville's Wilson Park."

**Saturday, May 2**, 10 am to noon, Wal-Mart Room, Bentonville Public Library, Presentation by Dr. C. Joan Patterson on "Searching for the Rare Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas."

**Saturday, May 9**, 10 am to noon, Walker Room, Fayetteville Public Library, Presentation by Dr. C. Joan Patterson on "Searching for the Rare Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas."

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE to August 2009

*Scheduleld by Joe Neal*

**Sunday, March 15**,: Wedington WMA around sunset (for woodcocks)

**Saturday, April 18**,: Centerton Fish Hatchery (for spring shorebird migration) 10 am

**Saturday, May 2**, Lake Fayetteville (for spring neotropical migrants) 8am

**Saturday, June 6**, Upper Buffalo NR/Cave Mountain (for forest breeding birds) Phone Joe for time/location info

**Sunday, July 12**, Chesney Prairie Natural Area (tallgrass prairie flora) 1pm

**Sunday, August 16**, Centerton Fish Hatchery (for fall shorebird migration) Time TBA

*For more information concerning the field trips*

*contact Joe Neal phone: 479-521-1858*

*email: joecneal@att.net or joeneal@uark.edu*

**DIRECTIONS TO THE WOODCOCK SITE, SUNDAY, MARCH 15 FIELD TRIP.** The site is in the Small Game Area of the Wedington Unit of the Ozark National Forest. From the intersection of Hwy. 412 and Interstate 540 in Springdale, go about 13.2 miles west on Hwy. 412. Look for Kincheloe Road on the north at about 12.6-12.7 miles. Keep going another 0.5 miles and turn onto the southern part of Kincheloe Road. Travel west on Kincheloe Road about 1.3 miles to Forest Service Road 1754 (on the right). We will meet at the intersection of Kincheloe Road and FS 1754 at 5:30 PM. If you arrive late, drive less than a mile down FS 1754 and find us. We will sit and wait for the woodcocks in the parking area, so a folding chair would be convenient.

### **Mission of the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society**

The mission of the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world through education, environmental study, and habitat protection, and to promote awareness and enjoyment of local and regional natural areas.



### Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society

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## CHESNEY CHILLY BUT REWARDING!

An amazing 25 people braved the Chesney Prairie Trip January 11, despite temperatures in the 20's and a strong wind. The highlight of the trip was definitely the short-eared owl, seen by all those who hadn't left early. Also seen were bald eagles, a plethora of white-crowned sparrows and fox sparrows as well. Many people in the group enjoyed flushing a covey of about fifteen northern bobwhites and then discovering where they had roosted for the night in the grass: Joe Neal says there was evidence of a "poop ring" caused by the bobwhites nesting in a circle with all the birds looking out and the poop collecting in the center!

Many people in the group went to Warren Field's house before the trip and were served with a delicious Costa Rican bird coffee while watching the feeders. Highlights of this pre-trip viewing included a pine siskin and comfortable viewing of white-crowned sparrows.

Joe would like to add that besides people from our immediate area, the group included visitors from Little Rock, Forth Smith and Van Buren, citing this as evidence of the strong interest people have for opportunities to get and out into natural settings to see things.

The NWAAS would also like to take the opportunity to thank Joe Woolbright and his crew from Ozark Ecological Restorations Inc., for the really good walking trails throughout the whole of the 82 acres. Great job, guys!

## WOOLSEY WET PRAIRIE JUST AS CHILLY

A group of 20, including many from the Chesney chill described above, once again braved very cold weather, this time to view birds at the Woolsey Wet Prairie on February 15. Everyone marveled at how well the prairie restoration was progressing at the site producing a patchwork of wet and higher dryer grassy environments. Many birds were encountered, especially sparrow species, but in particular 3 Le Conte's Sparrows were flushed and one perched in full view of the group. Also, a Loggerhead Shrike was found there, which is a species that is becoming very rare in Arkansas and elsewhere. (We wonder how many more frigid field trips Joe Neal has scheduled.)

## BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS (OR HAPPY BLUEBIRDS!)

Stephen Peck at the waste management facility in Tontitown has recently contacted Jason Luscier to request help with a new bluebird trail to be set up at the site. Mr. Peck has all the supplies for the job but does not have the manpower and would like to host a set-up day soon and is willing to provide lunch to any volunteers who could come out and help. Anyone interested should contact Jason Luscier at [jluscie@uark.edu](mailto:jluscie@uark.edu): Jason wants to see what degree of interest there would be in the project.

For those of you who have not been to this facility before, it is an excellent place to view a number of species of birds, so volunteers could do a little birding while working on this project, which would be an excellent one for community outreach. Thanks in advance for all your help!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Here's another exciting opportunity to do public outreach for the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society Chapter! Michelle Viney, from Audubon Arkansas, had received a request from Hobbs State Park to do an exhibit on birds for their new visitor center opening event! The exhibit would be Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Hobbs State Park, and set up would likely be just outside the visitor center. Set-up would be in the morning and the exhibit would run until mid-afternoon. Multiple volunteers will be needed! This is an awesome opportunity to recruit new chapter members. We will need a few volunteers to help get a NWAAS exhibit ready and a few volunteers to help the day of the exhibit. If you are interested in either or both of those service opportunities, please email Michelle Viney at [mviney@audubon.org](mailto:mviney@audubon.org) or call the office at 479-527-0700.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings. Permit me to introduce myself. I am Douglas James the newly elected President of the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society, which of course is a regional chapter of the National Audubon Society. After a recent investigation it was determined that I joined Audubon in my youth around year 1940. I have been leading groups on bird watching field trips since grade school. The same election on December 17, 2008, that elected me also elected other new officers: Vice President Joanie Patterson, Treasurer Ann Paillet, Secretary & Newsletter Stephanie Cribbs. Joe Neal will continue to arrange the field trips. Our first pressing task was to arrange future meetings and field trips and produce this newsletter containing that information.



### NORTHWEST ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

B52  
7XCH

Mail to: Ann Paillet, Treasurer, 4736 West Plymouth Rock Place, Fayetteville, AR 72704

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

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

PLEASE SELECT:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 **Introductory Membership to the National Audubon Society** which is for 1 year and includes subscriptions to both the Audubon Magazine and the NWAAS newsletter, and membership in both the National and Northwest Arkansas Audubon Societies. **Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society.** (Note that after the first year, annual membership is \$40.00 per year.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 **Local Chapter Membership** –which includes 1 year's membership in the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society only. You will receive the NWAAS Newsletter. 100% of your membership fee is used for NWAAS activities in Northwest Arkansas. **Please make check payable to the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

Northwest Arkansas Audubon  
Society  
NEWSLETTER



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FEBRUARY 2009

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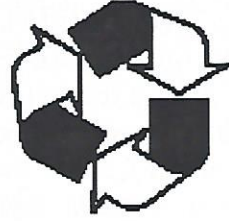
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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWAAAS>

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