

## CHESNEY AND STUMP PRAIRIES TRIP—July 12, 2009 NINESTONE LAND TRUST TRIP—September 26, 2009

By Doug James

Joe Neal and Joe Woolbright led the July field trip to the Chesney and Stump Prairies joined by around 20 followers. The identification of prairie flora was a highlight. Attention getting birds were: 2 Northern Bobwhites calling incessantly, 1 Lark Sparrow, 1 individual of the fairly rare Loggerhead Shrike, and a single Painted Bunting.

Over 40 eager birders, primarily from the Fayetteville and Harrison areas, journeyed in September to the pristine habitats of the Ninestone Land Trust in Carroll County, welcomed by gracious hosts Judy Griffith and Don Matt. Cool temperature, clear sky, and newly arrived north wind provided perfect conditions for bird migration. Therefore, numerous individuals and/or groups of the following were seen overhead traveling southward: Broad-winged Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay plus a few Cooper's Hawks and one Osprey. After a sumptuous pot luck lunch Don Matt described the Land Trust phenomenon to the group, followed by an afternoon of more birding.

## FAYETTEVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT—December 20, 2009

Organized and compiled by Joe Neal and joined by 43 participants, the Fayetteville Christmas Bird Count tallied 92 species of birds on a mild day afield. This is a very impressive one-day count for northwestern Arkansas. Two more species were added in the count week. By far the most spectacular finds were a Sora rail and a fully adult male Rufous Hummingbird. Common Grackles continue to be very low in numbers, but for eight species it was the highest number ever found in the seven decade history of the count. Included in this group were: Red-Shouldered Hawk, Eurasian Collared Dove, Eastern Bluebird and Carolina wren.

For the first time, after existing for seven decades, the count this year was sponsored by the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society. Therefore, the local Society paid the fee for all our participants, a fee required by the National Audubon Society, which curates the results from across the New World.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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\_\_\_\_\_ **\$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 northwestern Arkansas. **Please make check payable to the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society**