

ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY

2018 Spring - Call to Meeting

The 2018 Spring Convention of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be held April 27-29, 2018, at **Double Tree Suites in Bentonville**, AR. We have blocked 20 King Suites and 20 double Queen Suites. Each room will cost \$114/night and includes a free breakfast buffet for each person staying in the room (up to 6 people, a \$12/person value).

To reserve a room with breakfast included, call the Double Tree at 1-479-845-7770 and use the code **AAS**. The cut-off date for making reservations at the special rate is April 13, 2018. Campgrounds in the area include: Prairie Creek, Hickory Creek, and Horseshoe Bend (call 877-444-6777 or go online to www.recreation.gov). There are native plant sales Saturday morning at Compton Gardens (3 miles away) and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (20 miles away). Other area attractions include Crystal Bridges Museum, Museum of Native American History, Compton Gardens, and Amazeum.

Complete the form below and mail with check to:

Robin Buff
5161 W Wheeler Road
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Mail by **April 13** to qualify for the **Early Bird Discount**. For questions, contact **Robin Buff** at **479-466-5600** or robinbuff@gmail.com

Spring 2018 AAS Convention

REGISTRATION FORM

(Include names of all attendees)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check here if this is your first AAS Meeting or if you have not attended for some time.

Meeting Registration # _____ @ \$25/AAS member
 # _____ @ \$35/non-AAS member \$ _____

Early Bird: before **April 13th = \$20/AAS member, \$30/non-AAS member*

**Students = \$10/person*

**Children under 16 with adult = free*

(You can Join AAS or renew for 2018 by going to www.arbirds.org. If you are not sure of your membership status you can contact me)

Vegetarian Other dietary requests: _____

Friday evening meal # _____ @ **\$30**/person \$ _____

Saturday evening meal # _____ @ **\$30**/person \$ _____

Donations to help pay meeting costs \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to Arkansas Audubon Society.

Please indicate which field trip(s) you are interested in using the assigned alphanumeric codes next to the field trip's description. Field trips are free to those who have registered for the meeting.

	Field Trip Code	# of Participants	Name/s of Participants
Friday, April 27			
Saturday, April 28			
Sunday, April 29			

**AGENDA
ARKANSAS
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

**2018 Spring Convention
April 27-29, 2018
Double Tree Suites, Bentonville, AR**

All programs and meals will be held at Double Tree Suites

FRIDAY, April 27, 2018

Field Trips	12:45 pm	meet at the fireplace in the lobby
Board Meeting	1:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Maple Meeting Room
Registration	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Hallway outside Ozark II & III
Dinner	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Ozark II & III
Evening Program	7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Ozark II & III

"Northwest Arkansas Tallgrass Prairie Restoration and Preservation"

Guest Speakers – Joe Woolbright & Joe Neal. Joe Woolbright is founder and CEO of Ozark Ecological Restorations, Inc. He manages habitat on most of the prairies in northwest Arkansas, including the big Natural Areas in the Arkansas River Valley. Joe Neal is co-author (with Doug James) of *Arkansas Birds* and is field trip leader for the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society.

Drawing for Door Prizes and Details of Saturday's Field Trips

SATURDAY, April 28, 2018

Breakfast (on your own)	6:00 am – 10:30 am	Bistro 301 Restaurant
Field Trips	see field trip descriptions for time	meet in lobby
AAS Trust Meeting	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Maple Room
Student Presentations	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Ozark II & III

"Don't stop the bee-at: The effect of noise interference on waggle dance communication and honey bee foraging"

Emma Gaither (Hendrix College)

"Make new fields but keep the old: Nesting success of Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in northwest Arkansas's remnant and restored tallgrass prairies"

Alyssa DeRubeis (University of Arkansas)

"Range Expansion Induced Hybridization in Two Songbird Species"

Alexander Worm (Arkansas State University)

40 th Anniversary of NWAAS Reception	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Ozark II & III
Dinner	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Ozark II & III
Evening Program	7:15 pm – 8:00 pm	Ozark II & III

"From Scarlet Tanagers to Saw-whet Owls"

Guest Speaker – Mitchell Pruitt, University of Arkansas

Business Meeting	8:15 pm – 9:00 pm	Banquet Hall
weekend checklist, door prizes, reports from Saturday's field trips, discussion of Sunday's field trips, etc.		

SUNDAY, April 29, 2018

Breakfast (on your own)	6:00 am – 10:30 am	Bistro 301 Restaurant
Field Trips	see field trip descriptions for time	meet in lobby

FIELD TRIPS

Please indicate on your registration form which of the following field trips you would like to attend. Sign-up sheets for Saturday and Sunday's trips will also be available at registration. Changes are OK at any point.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS – Trips will leave from the lobby at 12:45 pm.

F1 – Craig State Fish Hatchery at Centerton – One of the region's premier birding places, especially if you are seeking unusual species. It can be an outstanding spot to see fish-eating birds, marsh birds, shorebirds and open country birds. It has a series of ponds, some of which may be drawn down, exposing mudflats. Audubon Arkansas has designated this area as an Important Bird Area. (6.1 miles from Double Tree Suites)

F2 – Sinking Stream & Historic Van Winkle Trails (accessible), Hobbs State Park Conservation Area – "Sinking stream" refers to the habitat of streams going underground during periods of low flow. This is short, easy loop up the hollow formed by Little Clifty Creek. Pools that remain are interesting places to visit, both by birds and people. It can be a very birdy place – Wood Thrushes in summer, Broad-winged Hawks in the openings, great views of Acadian Flycatchers in the hollow. Native wildflowers abound. Van Winkle Hollow, particularly on the north side of highway 12, has high species diversity because of numerous habitats including forested slopes, moist thickets, old fields, a spring-fed stream and a highly variable Beaver Reservoir shoreline. Besides seeing a variety of birds, hikers in the hollow may also enjoy spring wildflowers in moist ravines and on the steep slopes that rise on either side of the hollow. Redheaded Woodpeckers benefit from the big snags along the Beaver shoreline. Nesting warblers in this and adjacent hollows (including Sinking Stream, below) and slopes include Kentucky, Hooded, Northern Parula, Black-and-white, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Louisiana Waterthrush. (17 miles from Double Tree Suites)

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS – Trips will leave from the lobby at Double Tree Suites.

SA1 – Craig State Fish Hatchery at Centerton – see Friday's field trip description. Departs at 7:30 am.

SA2 – Whitney Mountain at Lost Bridge (will stop at Martin Greer's Candy) & Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area – Whitney Mountain is on the north side of Beaver Lake, part of the Lost Bridge Community. This mature hardwood forest is a good place to find Cerulean Warblers and other forest birds. LOTs of caution here, there are only a few a few good places to stop and a few wide shoulders. **Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area (DENA)** has a fairly easy walk w/ interesting birding near the parking lot, big open fields, partially restored glade, and a relatively moderate descent to a wooded hollow. Birds at DENA are similar to those at nearby Whitney Mountain. Departs at 7:15 am. (23 miles from Double Tree Suite)

SA3 –River Valley: Frog Bayou and West Ark Sod – Frog Bayou Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in the Arkansas River Valley, right along the Arkansas River, south of the Alma-Dyer area. It established in 2005 by Arkansas Game & Fish Commission in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Good chance to see Blue-winged Teal and other duck species. Snowy Egret, Bell's Vireo, Sandhill Cranes and White-faced Ibis have been seen during this period. Also, Bobolinks, Dickcissels, Yellow-headed Blackbird flocks in wheat fields, Swainson's Hawks, lots of shorebird species if there are flooded fields. West-Ark Sod: good chance for Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, and other "grasspipers." American Golden-Plover should still be migrating through. Usually see Horned Larks at the sod farm, too. There is a fair chance for Swainson's Hawks that routinely use this area in spring migration. Departs at 8:00 am. (74 miles from Double Tree Suites)

SA4 –Chesney Prairie Natural Area (morning), Eagle Watch Nature Trail (afternoon) – Chesney Prairie is one of the few unplowed Tallgrass Prairie remnants left on the Arkansas portion of the Springfield Plateau. Nesting birds include Dickcissel, Painted Bunting, and Loggerhead Shrike. The approx. 1,500 acres of Eagle Watch Nature trail are part of the 500-acre SWEPCO Lake constructed to provide cooling water for the coal-fired plant generating electricity for NW Arkansas. Know for the Bald Eagles that frequent the area in winter, it can be quite birdy in the spring and summer, with a mixture of shorebirds, swallows, grassland and woodland species. This trip includes a stop at the famous Sleepy Hollow Store in Gentry for lunch and a bathroom break. Departs at 7:00 am. (22 miles from Double Tree Suites)

SA5 – Woolsey Wet Prairie - WWP is a wetland mitigation site adjacent Fayetteville's Westside wastewater treatment facility. The site is a former seasonal wetland associated with Tallgrass Prairie habitat. The area is attractive to birds otherwise hard to find in a rapidly developing urban environment. During the spring, the area is chock full of interesting birds. Rarities seen at this time of year include Northern Shrike, Purple Gallinule, American Bittern and Least Bittern. Other birds observed include Bank Swallow, Mourning Warbler, Palm Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow. Departs at 7:30 am. (24 miles from Double Tree Suites)

SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS – Sunday field trips are generally further away but are designed for participants that are heading back home as well as for area residents that desire a Sunday field trip. Departure times will be available no later than April 27.

SU1 - Ninestone Land Trust – Fun casual hike where we will identify birds and wildflowers, enjoy Piney Creek and soaring birds, picturesque bluffs, visit glade restoration areas, identify rare flowers. Bring something for a relaxing potluck at noon overlooking the famous waterfall. This can be a peak time during spring bird migration. Meet Judith Griffith at Ninestone Land Trust at 10:00 am. Bring a lunch; bathrooms available on site. (60 miles from Double Tree Suites)

SU2 – Cherry Bend in the Ozark National Forest - Cherry Bend has been a Mecca for birders for at least half a century, dating back to bird studies performed there by Doug James and others. It was and remains a wonderful place to see native birds and plants. Part of the secret is that it's an extensive, forested, east-facing slope that ranges from an elevation from 2100 feet at top to 1400 at bottom, all public lands. It can be pretty noisy along highway 23, but when quiet, you can hear birds for miles. Warbler species observed in 2017 include Ovenbird, Black-throated Green, Worm-eating, Cerulean, Northern Parula, Nashville, Hooded, Blackpoll, Tennessee. Wood Thrush, White-eyed vireo, and red-eye vireo are also present. (63 miles from Double Tree Suites)

SU3 – Devil's Den State Park – DDSP provides unique access to the hardwood forests of the Boston Mountains. There are several improved trails in the park that require walking. Paved roads provide access to campgrounds and picnic areas; these can provide access for those who don't walk trails. This area has the full range of resident forest land birds and can be outstanding during spring migration. Lee Creek with its riparian forest bisects the park and is a **magnet** for birds. (63 miles from Double Tree Suites)

SU4 – Upper Buffalo National River and Cave Mountain – This trip will explore parts of Lost Valley, the Boxley mill pond, and the upland forests along Cave Mountain Road. The birds in this area are highly diverse. Cave Mountain is an excellent place for Cerulean Warbler. The trip combines walking and driving, but none of the walking is extensive. (73 miles from Double Tree Suites)