



Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

Winter 2023–24 | Volume 68 | No. 4

Full-color newsletter available at <https://arbirds.org/AAS/Newsletter.aspx>

Bird-Friendly Arkansas

By PAM and JACK STEWART

AAS Bird-Friendly Arkansas Committee

This may be an excellent time to photograph your bird-friendly yard!



Does your yard look brown and desolate at this time of year?

Now may be the time for a closer look with a camera in hand. The feeder can provide color as cardinals, jays, and finches jostle for position on a perch. Beyond, though, you may find beauty and symmetry among your native plants. These inspiring examples from young photographer Quin Warsaw (more of his work available at [Snappy's View](#)) help us look beyond the ordinary.



Milkweed pod and sweetgum ball | Quin Warsaw



American Goldfinch and White-breasted Nuthatch | Jeremy Cohen

We are always searching for photographs that help validate the Bird-friendly Arkansas concept. Send your observations and photos to [**bfaudubon@gmail.com**](mailto:bfaudubon@gmail.com)

The Arkansas Audubon Society's certification program operates with a very small committee. New committee members are welcome. If you think you might be interested in joining us and would like more details, write to [**bfaudubon@gmail.com**](mailto:bfaudubon@gmail.com)

Newsletter and Membership Information

The Arkansas Audubon Society Newsletter is a quarterly publication of Arkansas Audubon Society Inc., a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization, 472 Rock Creek Rd., Hot Springs, AR 71913-9261. Issue dates are March, June, September, and December. The newsletter is provided to those who pay membership dues to AAS.

PLEASE NOTE: Announcements, articles, information, and/or photographs to be considered for an upcoming edition of *Arkansas Birds* should be submitted to the editor no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please send newsletter submissions to emilyrdonahue@gmail.com.

Membership renewals are due January 1st of each calendar year.

REGULAR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	Jan – Sept*	Oct – Dec**
Regular member	\$15.00	\$15.00
Regular Family	\$20.00	\$20.00
Contributing Member	\$30.00	--
Contributing Family	\$35.00	--
Sustaining Member	\$20.00	--
Sustaining Family	\$25.00	--
Student member	\$5.00	--

* Memberships paid in this quarter will cover membership through the end (Dec) of that year

** Memberships paid during this period (Oct – Dec) will include full membership for the following calendar year

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

Life Member (may be paid over a two-year period)	\$250.00
Patron of Arkansas Audubon Society	\$500.00

Payment of Dues:

Members have two options for payment:

- 1) Online credit card or PayPal payment through account created on the AAS website: <https://arbirds.org>
- 2) Check made to Arkansas Audubon Society and sent to:

Arkansas Audubon Society, P. O. Box 241421, Little Rock, AR 72223



Nesting Roseate Spoonbills (2nd nesting record for AR) | Miller Co.

Photo By Keith McFaul

Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Summer Season
1 June – 31 July 2023

By LYNDAL YORK
AAS Curator

Very surprising was an uninjured Ross's Goose at the Degray Lake Resort State Park Golf Course, Hot Spring Co 22 Jul (Hunter Collins). The lone Ross's Goose was flying around the golf course with Canada Geese. Other waterfowl included a Northern Shoveler in breeding plumage at the Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery, Benton Co 12 Jun (Quin Warsaw) and a Red-breasted Merganser at Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery, Benton Co 18 Jun (Carol Joan Patterson, Donald Ouellette).

The first report of breeding White-winged Dove in Arkansas was the appearance of a juvenile on the ground under a feeder in Arkadelphia on North 10th St., Clark Co 7 Jun (Melody Mathis).

Limpkins continue to move into Arkansas. In summer of 2023, a total of 10 Limpkins were reported around the state: On the Buffalo River below the Cane Branch (downstream of Mt. Hersey), Searcy Co 6 Jun (Maria Jastrzebski); On the banks of Little River at Hwy 41 landing near Horatio, Little River Co 15 Jun (Keri Cody); In Siloam Springs Lake Park, Benton Co 17 Jun (Miranda Kohout); Two on County Road 244, Calhoun Co 25 (Terry Clark); In Dale Bumpers White River NWR, Indian Bay, Monroe Co 25 Jun (Vicki Cothren); Two at Lake Sequoyah, Washington Co 17 July (Todd Ballinger). This is the second year for two Limpkins at Lake Sequoyah; At Lake Mirandy, Highland, Sharp Co 25 Jul (Lisa & Randy Auld); In the Dale Bumpers White River NWR, Monroe Co 27 Jul (John Gschwend).



*Common Loon | Benton Co.
Photo by Mel Green*

There were two reports of out of season Sandpipers. The first was an Upland Sandpiper at Queen Wilhelmina SP, Polk Co 30 Jul (Ivory Detter). The Upland is not normally found in a mountainous habitat or this early in the migration. The second was 14 White-rumped Sandpipers at the Arkadelphia oxidation ponds, Clark Co 3 Jun (Renn & Terry Tumilson).

An out of season Franklin's Gull was observed at rest and in flight at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 28 Jun (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols).

Two immature Common Loons were found in two different counties during the summer season. The first was at Arkansas River Trail, Big Dam Bridge at Two Rivers Park, Pulaski Co 3 Jun (Christian Herzog). The second at the end of AR 99 at Beaver Lake, 36°20'08.0", - 93°57'38.5", Benton Co 23 Jul (Mel & Geneva Green, Angela Scannell). It is very rare to have Loons in Arkansas in the summer.

A Glossy Ibis was photographed at Overflow NWR, Ashley Co 10 Jun (Cyndy Hardaker). The first nesting record for Miller Co of Roseate Spoonbills (*photo on page 2*) was established by Keith McFaul when three males and three females were found to be nesting on private property in the county.

A very rare Swallow-tailed Kite was seen flying over the Oppelo Bottoms, Conway Co 24 Jul (William Howard).

New AAS Members

Joe & Amy Hal	Cabot
Morgan Meador	Jacksonville
Michelle Cox	Little Rock
Aster Droste	Little Rock
Anna White	Greenbrier
Meredith Riddle	Little Rock
Nancy Felker	Garfield
Jennifer Dillaha	Little Rock
Laura & Steve Arnold	Little Rock
Deborah, Madelynn, Rebekah, Isabelle & Ryland Brown	Bryant
Joan Lipsmeyer	Harrison
Barry & Lisa Tedder	Jonesboro
Ruth Landers	N Little Rock
Margaret Sanderlin-Vincent	Witts Springs
Bonnie Cockings	Little Rock
Pamela Carney	Van Buren
Judy Steelman, Anna & Hallie Pridmore, & Har & Linda Bubb	Sherwood
Roger Massey	Conway
Raelynn Hillhouse & Cynthia Curatalo	Fayetteville
Gretta Vowell	Rogers
Anita Schnee	Fayetteville
New Life Members	
Dodie Angulo & Kittie Sanders	Fayetteville
Sandy Berger	Fort Smith
Lynn Foster	Rolland
Kay Crutchfield	Little Rock

Member News: Cold-weather Birding

By DOTTIE BOYLES
AAS News of Members Editor

January Artic Blast

Patty McLean shared, “The impact of January's Arctic Blast brought several nice surprises around the state. Large-bodied lakes provided open

Donations to the General Fund

Nancy Dockter
Steven Warmack
In memory of Norma Patterson
Charles & Susan Wilson
In honor of Craig Banikowski
Jeffery Banikowski
In Memory of Dr. William J McGowan
James McCarty
Rodney & Cindy Edwards
Bill & Connie Clark

water for thousands of geese and other waterfowl such as, Black Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, Common Merganser, Cackling Goose, and Trumpeter Swan. An American Bittern and a Black-crowned Night-Heron were seen in Lonoke County feeding together along a flowing ditch. Backyard feeders and bird baths (kept warm by adoring fans) attracted some unusual visitors also, including Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Rusty Blackbird. While not rare, various types of Dark-eyed Juncos were seen foraging around feeders including Oregon and Pink-sided. A nice silver lining to the bitter cold.”

The birds at the Holliday house enjoyed a “Spa Day” as temps dropped way below freezing. Late one afternoon, **Karen Holliday** re-filled the birdbath with hot water, because the water was getting low and the heater needed to stay covered. Immediately, several American Robins discovered the warm, fresh water and promptly began bathing with water flying everywhere! Karen said “They were thoroughly enjoying their very own avian hot tub!”

Karen also stated, “Lake Willastein (in Maumelle) froze over for several days. The resident flock of Canada Geese were not

happy. They would fly to different areas around the lake and attempt to land, instead they just skidded across the ice.”

With temps around freezing and snow predicted, **Karen Konarski-Hart** threw some scratch seed on the ground before leaving for church. She came home “to a carpet of White-throated Sparrows covering the back yard.” Later, just as the sleet started, she went out to top off the sunflower seed feeder and found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet devouring bits of suet on the same pole. She waited about two feet away thinking it would grab a bite and fly away. Instead, it took its time, bounced all over the suet pecking off bits and swallowing them on the spot. Karen said it didn't even give her a second look. Finally, it flew to a bush about three feet away, turned, and watched her fill the feeder.

Kenny and LaDonna Nichols reported large numbers of Pine Siskins -at least 50 every day-during the worst of the cold weather. Kenny said, “To be so small, they can sure eat a lot.”

New Yard Bird: Among the hordes of birds at their feeders during the January cold snap was a long overdue Rusty Blackbird. Yard bird #252. Congratulations Kenny and LaDonna.

2023 Arkansas Big Day

On May 3, 2023, **Kenny Nichols** and **Dick Baxter** broke the Arkansas Big Day record with 175 species. They started near Cabot, then birded the Conway area, followed by east Little Rock, Lonoke area, Prairie County, etc. and ended up at Dick's farm, in Desha County. The previous Big Day record, held by Kenny Nichols and Bo Verser, tallied 168 species, May 10, 1998. Kenny stated, “The surprising thing about our Big Day last spring, was it was done with about 30 minutes of planning over pizza the night before and no scouting. None. Additionally, most of our morning was spent birding areas we literally

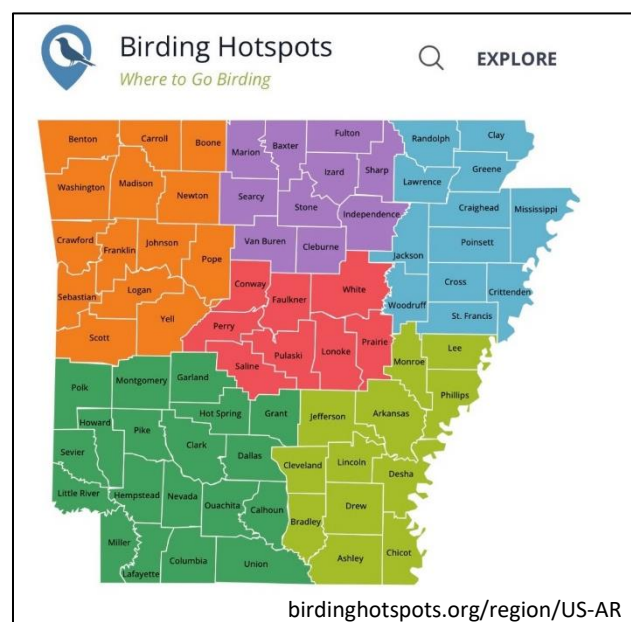
never bird. We hope to do better next spring, this time with a bit more planning and scouting.”

Arkansas Birding Hotspots

Patty McLean writes: Thank you to the members and birders across the state who have contributed to the Arkansas Birding Hotspots page, by submitting helpful tips, descriptions, and images for some of their favorite birding locations. We've made good progress over the months, adding helpful birding tips and location information for new birders, first-time visitors to a site, travelers across our state, etc. Arkansas currently has more than 1,750 official hotspots. We have information for over 1,030 of those, and habitat photos for more than 340. We'd like to increase these numbers. So, if you're interested in helping with this Arkansas Audubon Society-sponsored project, open the link and explore your favorite areas to see which hotspots need more information:

<https://birdinghotspots.org/region/US-AR>

Note: Site Editors review all submissions including photographs before they go live on the platform.



New Arkansas eBird Reviewer

By TAYLOR LONG

In November, Dan Scheiman was kind enough to fill everyone in on my transition into his former role as an eBird reviewer for Arkansas. Still, it's time I introduce myself and a couple of additional new reviewers with a more regional focus within the state.

I'm Taylor Long. I was born and raised in Fayetteville but spent most of my post-college years living elsewhere. A rather circuitous career path led me to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in 2016, where I've worked as a web designer for eBird ever since. In 2022, I relocated back to Fayetteville, where I continue to work remotely on eBird and plan to stay for the foreseeable future. I've cherished getting reacquainted with my hometown as a birder and making new connections in the birding community here. I'm now serving as the field trip coordinator for the Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society and, henceforth, as an eBird reviewer for the state of Arkansas.

I have three goals for eBird in Arkansas:

- 1) Increase the number of eBird reviewers in the state to allow for more focused local expertise and community engagement.
- 2) Demystify the eBird review process by developing online resources, building capacity for eBird mentorship, and creating more opportunities for open communication with reviewers.
- 3) Grow the community of Arkansas birders who regularly contribute to eBird so we can continue to monitor the status and trends of bird populations within our state.

As part of goal number 1, I've already enlisted two new eBird reviewers: Ragan Sutterfield and Ariana Rimmel. As central Arkansas birders, Ragan and Ari will focus on the following counties around Little Rock: Pope, Van Buren, Cleburne, Yell, Perry, Conway, Faulkner, White, Garland, Saline, Pulaski, Lonoke, Prairie, Hot Spring, Grant, and Jefferson. I'm thrilled and grateful that they're willing to volunteer their time to support the review process in this busy area of the state, where they have more local knowledge of birds and birders than I would.

Gary Graves continues to serve as the eBird reviewer for the North-central counties of Boone, Marion, Baxter, Fulton, Randolph, Newton, Searcy, Stone, IZard, Sharp, and Independence.

I'll be looking to add more regional reviewers in the new year with the hope of enlisting expertise from the Southern or Eastern parts of the state. If you know someone who has a firm grasp of how eBird works and good communication skills, I'd be happy to receive nominations at any time.

Finally, I'd love to take this opportunity to learn a little about what folks think of the eBird review process. Here's a short survey to share what you like and/or dislike about eBird review in Arkansas. The survey is anonymous, although you may optionally include contact info if you'd like to talk to someone directly about your feedback.

eBird Arkansas Reviewer Feedback Survey:

<https://forms.gle/JdWepsnvme8jymN4A>

I'm delighted to be a part of this birding community. Happy birding!

Halberg Ecology Camps: Support Our Future

By BARRY HAAS

Ecology Camp Treasurer

As this is being written in late January, the Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp is planning its 2024 summer camp sessions. This year, for the first time since June 2019 pre-Covid, we hope to have first-, second-, and third-year campers learning about the wonders and mysteries of nature in a hands-on learning environment.

The Camp Committee works throughout the year to ensure we have sufficient funds to continue holding the youth ecology camp sessions each summer. The youth who attend are our future leaders who, with their knowledge of the natural world, will help protect it for future generations. We pride ourselves in making sure that nature-loving youth from all walks of life have an opportunity to attend our camps. The generosity of countless donors helps fund a limited number of scholarships and tuition assistance.

We receive donations throughout the course of the year. You can make donations online at the Arkansas Audubon Society website

['arbirds.org/AAS/Donate.aspx'](http://arbirds.org/AAS/Donate.aspx)

or send a check made payable to "AAS Halberg Ecology Camp" or "Arkansas Audubon Society" to P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, AR 72223.

Important: to complete the donation online you must complete your method of payment with either PayPal or credit card AFTER it appears you have completed the process. If you didn't have to choose a payment method and complete that information (for example, your credit card number or log in to your PayPal account), your donation has not been completed even though you will receive an e-mail confirmation.

All donations are tax deductible, and are acknowledged by letter or e-mail (e-mail when possible to save on postage). If you have any questions regarding donations to the youth ecology camps, please let me know at:

bhaas@sbcglobal.net

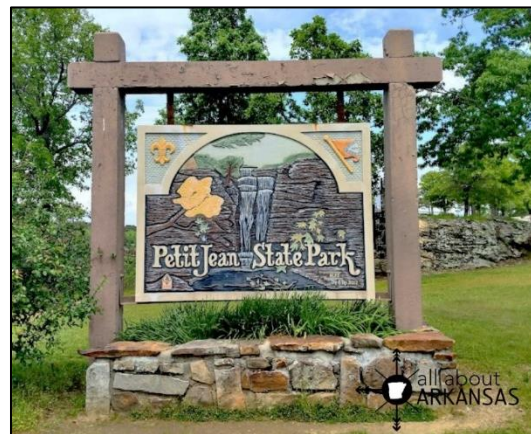
Mark Your Calendars

By LYNN FOSTER

AAS Vice President

Spring Meeting Notice

It's hard to believe but spring will be here before we know it, along with migrating birds and our spring meeting! Please mark your calendars for May 3rd and 4th, when we'll be meeting at the beautiful Petit Jean State Park in Morrilton. We're working on great speakers and field trips. Expect a Call to Meeting next month! If you just can't wait to reserve a room, AAS has a block of rooms, cabins, and campground space at Petit Jean. Call and make sure you say you're with AAS. You should alternatively be able to register online. Our group number is 756497.



Native Plant Sale in April

If you grow native plants (or want to grow native plants) and live in central Arkansas, mark your calendars for April 27. From 10 am to 1 pm, exhibitors, plant sellers, and experts will all convene at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library and Learning Center in Little Rock for the

biggest native plant sale in central Arkansas. Our own Kevin Krajcir will be telling folks how to create bird friendly yards! With plants from most of central Arkansas's native plant sellers and about 20 exhibitors (including AAS), this is an event you won't want to miss.

Ecology Camp Donations

(June 25, 2023 – January 23, 2024)

Fall Appeal

Susan Hardin & Barry Haas
 David & Terri Luneau
 Roselie Overby
 Keith & Rayma Jean Hawkins
 Sandra Key
 Ed & Sil Pembleton
 Ed Laster & Mary Roark
 Barbara Baker
 Joan Lipsmeyer
 Willa Harkey
 John Simpson
 David & Jean Parham
 Kevin Krajcir
 Rob & Lisa Doster
 Holly Childs

Fall Appeal (Parents/Grandparents)

Jimena & Michael Lopez
 Melissa Britt
 Ann Gordon
 Leigh Lassiter-Counts

Donations by Individuals

Ruth Anderson
 Richard & Kathy McCormick

Memorials & Honoraria

Allen & Kathleen Mueller,
 In memory of Maury Baker
 Robin Buff,
 In memory of Maury Baker
 Roger McConnell,
 In memory of Carolyn York
 DeLynn Hearn,
 In memory of Maury Baker and Carolyn Minson

Stacy Elliott,
 In honor of Matt Wilson
 Barry Haas & Susan Hardin,
 In memory of Carolyn Minson
 Edward & Cynthia Howington,
 In memory of Mack & Hervie Howington
 Dawn Graves,
 In honor of Terry & Judy Butler

AAS Trust Donations

Endowment-Memorial Fund

In Memory of Carolyn Minson

Loretta West
 Vic & Sharon Prislipsky

Kannan's Belize Trip

Brian & Angela Carson
 Robert & Lucy Johnson
 David Reed
 Dr. James Randolph
 Nancy Price

In Memory of Betty Baerg

Loretta West

In Memory of Dr. William McGowan

Laura Hardy

In Memory of Dr. Douglas James

Elizabeth M. Adam

Max Parker Fund

In Memory of Max & John W. Parker

Joseph L. Parker

To Opt-out of the Printed Newsletter:

Log in to your account at arbirds.org, click "My Web Account" from the drop-down menu, check the box next to "Save the cost and send me the AAS newsletter by email," and click update.

Note: You may still receive a paper copy because there is a minimum number that must be printed.