



# Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

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## Spring AAS Convention Dazzles with Beauty of Cedar Falls and Indigo and Painted Buntings

By **SARA BELK**

Former Camper at AAS Ecology Camps

The spring Arkansas Audubon Society convention at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain (the old WinRock Farms estate) was exciting. I've been to five Audubon conventions, and this one was by far my favorite.

When I arrived I was worried that the torrential rain that we had received over the previous two days would affect the birding trips, but the rain disappeared right before we set off to Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge. The Indigo Buntings and the Painted Buntings were the highlight of this expedition for me. My mother was thrilled to see Bald Eaglets in their gigantic nest being cared for by one of their parents. While distant, the enormous size of the nest made it visible to us even without the aid of binoculars.

After a delicious dinner, the Friday evening program was a screening of the film *The Messenger*. It captured the problems birds face during migration.

On my Saturday morning outing, I didn't see any new birds to add to my life list. But the Cedar Falls made up for that. The falls were so beautiful. The amount of water pouring over the falls was incredible. I guess seeing the falls this beautiful was one good outcome of all the rain we had this spring.

I am always excited to go the Arkansas Audubon Society conferences each time one comes up. In the past, I always thought the reason was because of the trips we take and all the birds we see. But this time, I discovered that the real reason that I keep coming back, is because I love seeing the people at those conferences. I learn more from them than I ever would from a book or any article on the Internet. I can't wait for the next conference in the fall.



*Birders discuss the Say's Phoebe sighting at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge. | Photo: Lyndal York*

I am honored to begin serving the Arkansas Audubon Society as its new president. My connection with the AAS began as a summer camper over 20 years ago! I've just returned from another week at our camp, my 16th in total. The students were as curious and engaged as ever. The forest, however, has experienced many changes in that time. The Whip-poor-wills are no longer so numerous as to affect your sleep. This year the kingbirds did not return; last year the Wood Thrush failed to show. The need to protect birds and the vibrant communities they are part of is as necessary today as in Rachel Carson's day. I will cry the year the Wood Thrush fails to return to my house.

Thankfully I'm not the only one who feels that way, nor am I the only one working to prevent that future from becoming reality. With your help, I hope to continue the AAS' important work in education, research, and conservation. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

**-ADAM SCHAFFER**  
**President, Arkansas Audubon Society**

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## 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.*

**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.**

The newsletter is provided to those who pay membership dues to AAS.

Send newsletter submissions to [samantha.scheiman@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.scheiman@gmail.com).

**Membership renewals are due Jan. 1 of each calendar year.**

Please enter my membership in the Arkansas Audubon Society as a:

<b>(AAS Dues Prorated for New Members)</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 100%</b>	<b>Jul-Sept. 50%</b>	<b>*Oct. - Dec. 100%</b>
Regular Member	\$15.00	\$ 7.50	\$15.00
Regular Family	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Contributing Member	\$30.00	-	-
Contributing Family	\$35.00	-	-
Sustaining Member	\$20.00	-	-
Sustaining Family	\$25.00	-	-
Student Member	\$ 5.00	-	-

\*New Memberships paid in the last quarter (Oct. - Dec.) will include full membership for the following calendar year.

### SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

Draw check to Arkansas Audubon Society and send to: Wayne Lynch, Treasurer, P.O. Box 2426, Hot Springs, AR 71914

# From AAS Ecology Camper to Scientist

By **RENN TUMLISON**

Instructor at AAS Ecology Camps

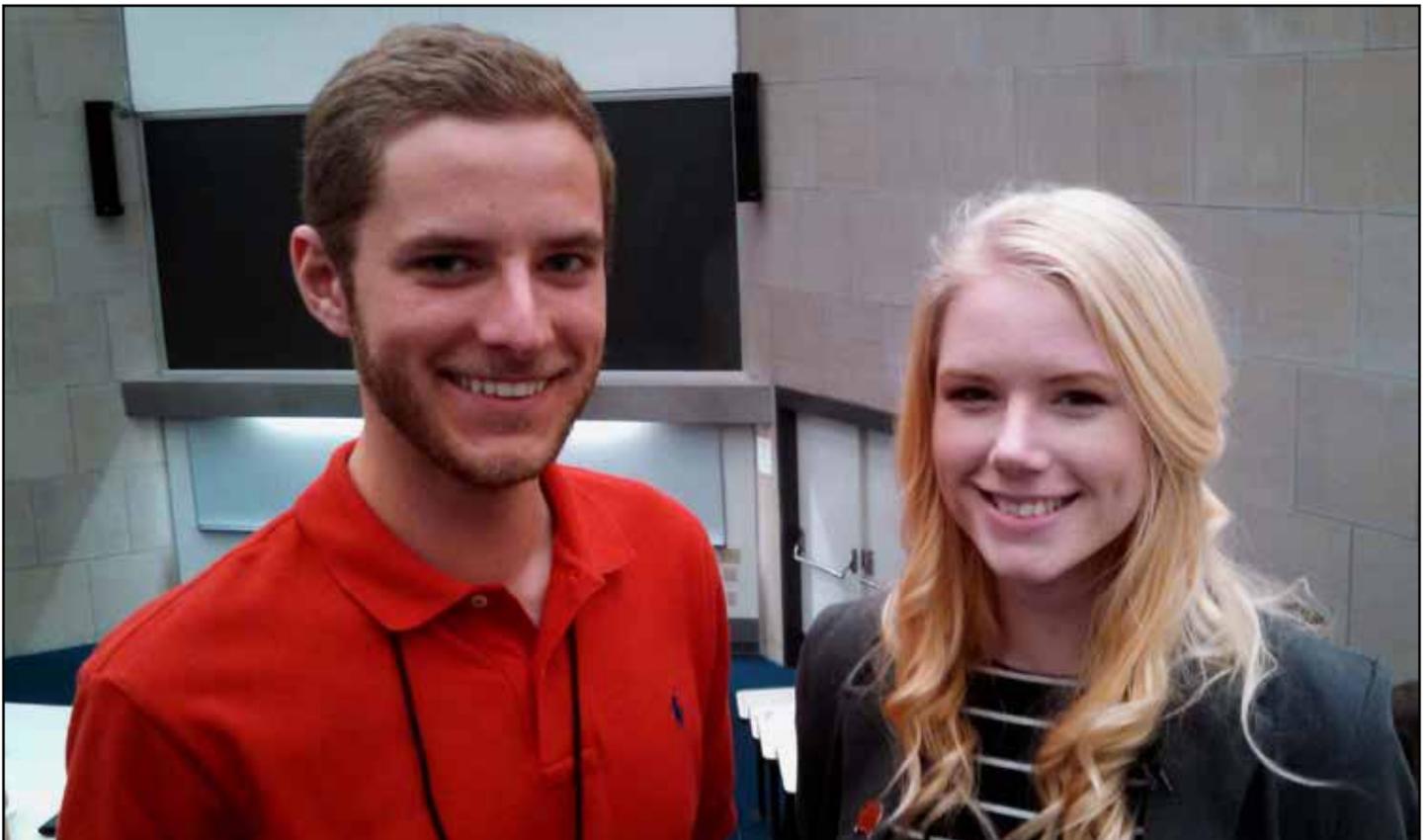
What happens in camp doesn't necessarily stay in camp. The first weekend in April of 2016, the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville hosted the 100th annual meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science. This is a gathering of scientists from across the state, where university faculty, their graduate or undergraduate students, state wildlife and conservation personnel, and other naturalists present results of their research.

I had just finished at the registration desk when a young lady stopped me and asked: "Didn't you used to teach at the Audubon Camp?" I responded, "still do." She, Jessa Thurman, told me that she had been to camp in 2005 and after high school went to college at Hendrix. Starting with a major in English, she took a class in natural history which reminded her so much

of the Audubon Camp that she changed her major to Biology, and she was about to graduate. At the Academy of Science meeting, I watched her do a very good job of presenting results of her undergraduate research "Seed preference of the eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) in relation to the seed dispersion of Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*).

Jessa's was the fourth presentation in the Vertebrate Biology session. The first presentation was "History and current status of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in Arkansas," delivered very well by Mitchell Pruitt, who also was a camper in 2005 and now is about to graduate from the University of Arkansas.

There may be others who have attended camp and gone on to degrees in natural science and even presented research at meetings. I would love to mention anyone who has done so, but these are just a couple of younger folks that I do know about. There can't be much doubt that the Ecology Camp leaves lasting positive impressions on the campers we serve.



Mitchell Pruitt and Jessa Thurman—former ecology campers and modern natural science researchers. | Photo: Renn Tumilson

# Member News: Spring Fever (including Acute Chicken Fever) Infects Birders; Cure is More Birding!

By **DOTTIE BOYLES**

News of Members Editor

The entire Arkansas Audubon Society community would like to extend our condolences to **DeLynn Hearn** in the passing of her husband, Buryl Dunlap, on March 22. He was born July 11, 1954 in DeQueen, AR. Buryl was a Master Gardener. He is survived by his two children Miranda Hagans (Joe) and Aaron Dunlap (Tara), six grandchildren, and two sisters. DeLynn and Buryl met through the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas. Our thoughts and prayers go out to DeLynn and the family during this difficult time.

The end of March through early April found **Kathleen and Allan Mueller** in Belize for 12 days. They spent one week diving and birding (poor birding) on the coast followed by five days at Chan Chich. Chan Chich lived up to its reputation. The guides were all excellent and the birds flashy (parrots, toucans, oropendolas, guans, curassows, and hermits) and diverse. Forty-six lifers for Allan.

**Dan and Samantha Scheiman** turned a travel tragedy into a triumph. On March 26 they arrived at the Little Rock Airport, ready to meet a tour group in Honduras. When the airline said Honduras would not let Dan in with a passport that expired in less than six months, they were floored. After pulling themselves together they decided to go to Puerto Rico (PR) instead—no passport required and they were already packed for a tropical vacation. With tools like TripAdvisor, eBird, and a PR field guide app, they could figure out where to stay, where to bird, and what they were looking at. On the grounds of Hacienda Siesta Alegre the life birds included the widespread Zenaida Dove, Greater Antillean Grackle, Mangrove Cuckoo, and Red-legged

Thrush, as well as the endemic PR Woodpecker, PR Screech-Owl, PR Lizard-Cuckoo, and PR Tody (their favorite bird of the trip). In El Yunque, the only tropical rainforest in our National Forest system, they added PR Bullfinch and PR Spindalis. On the other side of the island they hiked the dry coastal forest of Guanica and easily added three more endemics—PR Flycatcher, PR Nightjar, and Adelaide's Warbler. The introduced Venezuelan Troupial was a brightly colored bonus.

At higher elevation in Maricao State Forest, they heard though never saw PR Vireos but got great looks at endemic Elfin-woods Warblers, a species discovered in 1968. Among the mangroves in the coastal community of La Parguera, the pair jumped for joy when flocks of critically endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbirds flew by. Their final three days on the island they wished would never end, as they enjoyed the luxurious surroundings and food of Casa Flamboyant, nestled within El Yunque. Nine endemics were easy to see, including poolside views of PR Oriole and PR Tanager. Overall, they saw 61 species, 30 life birds, and 15 of the 17 endemics. One other memorable experience was a nighttime float through a bioluminescent bay, a true wonder of the natural world. Dan and Sam say they could not have had a better experience if they had planned it in advance. And to top it all off, they still get to go to Honduras next March; Dan's new passport is already in-hand!

The Three Birding Amigos (a.k.a. **Don Simons**, **Shea Lewis**, and **Jay Schneider**) traveled to southwestern Louisiana in late April with hopes of catching a fallout. They visited Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge where they were treated to all three ibis, both whistling-ducks, families of King Rails, and gators. Oak Grove provided a singing Willow Flycatcher. A mid-afternoon stop at a nature

trail in Sabine National Wildlife Refuge was almost overwhelming with a dense stand of mulberries loaded with fruit and migrants. Crossing into Texas above Interstate 10 they spotted a Swallow-tailed Kite. They visited Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and the Houston Audubon Society's High Island sanctuaries. On the way home they stopped at Red Slough in southeastern Oklahoma and picked up a few species for the trip. Each tallied over 100 species. Shea and Jay picked up a few lifers.

February through April found **Michael Linz** adding species to his state and life lists. During a four-week road trip he birded Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi. In February, Michael and Patty McLean spent several days in Alabama. Among the 103 species recorded were Little Gull and Whooping Cranes. In Georgia, a Varied Thrush was added as a life bird. April found Michael and Patty in Washington for the Olympic Peninsula Birding Festival (161 species, 30 life birds). A trip to Victoria, Canada yielded 67 species and 3 lifers. Highlights included Skylark and Redwing.

Mid-April found **Joe Neal** suffering from "Acute Chicken Fever." He called **David Oakley** and the two headed for The Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in northeastern Oklahoma to find a cure. There they found three leks all booming with male Greater Prairie Chickens. One lek contained eight birds.

In April **Dorothy Cooney** shared, "My husband and I just returned from a 10-day trip to Big Bend, in far west Texas. We've been going there for years and love the place! I added three lifers while there: Black-throated Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole, and about 100 Yellow-headed Blackbirds! Jackrabbits were everywhere, plus a bobcat at our campground, and a gorgeous male muledeer paid a visit one morning!"

**Lance Runion** traveled to High Island and the Bolivar Peninsula, Texas in late April hoping to see a fallout. Alas, there was no fallout given the nearly constant winds from the gulf, and most of the birds

seen could easily have been found here in Arkansas. However, shorebirds were plentiful including a few lifers like Piping and Snowy Plovers and a white morph Reddish Egret. The group was also entertained by a Clapper Rail bathing in a pothole near Rollover Pass.

On May 13, **Mitchell Pruitt** was recognized at a reception as a Distinguished Graduate from the Bumpers College, graduating Cum Laude with honors, and was runner-up for the Best Honors Thesis. The following day, Mitchell graduated from the University of Arkansas with honors. He will begin his Master of Science studies in August with Dr. Kim Smith. In the meantime, He plans to spend a week birding the Adirondacks of New York before beginning his Conservation Learning internship at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania. His internship will be from mid-May to mid-July.

In his spare time, Mitchell has been busy burning up the road to Oklahoma to see Greater Prairie Chickens at The Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve (April) and Black-capped Vireos in the Wichita Mountains (May). Also in April, Mitchell and David Oakley traveled to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in south Texas. Mitchell said it was an awesome trip with a total of 148 species, 22 lifers, and 12 American Birding Association birds.

It's hard to believe **Samantha Dixon** has grown up right before our eyes and will be graduating from Little Rock Central High School this year. She will be attending the University of Arkansas at Monticello this fall. Samantha plans to study natural resource management.

**Bill Burnham and Cindy Franklin** spent 26 days in February and March on a Wings tour to Argentina, Uruguay, the Falkland Islands, and Chile. They netted approximately 280+ life birds including albatrosses, penguins, petrels as well as whales and sea lions. They walked out over Iguazu Falls, sailed around Cape Horn, and went into the Andes for condors and Diadem Sandpiper-plovers.

## Bird Friendly Yards: An Initiative to Help AR Wildlife



*Cedar Waxwing in mulberry tree.* | Photo: Gail Miller

**By PAM AND JACK STEWART**

AAS Members

Ever feel that kudzu and concrete are taking over the world? Then there's vinca, English ivy, *Sericea lespedeza* ... the list goes on and on. Stilt grass crowds out our native wild flowers. As a result of all this alteration, we are, as wildlife biologist Jerry Davis says, "starving our birds."

The Arkansas Audubon Society BFY initiative is an effort to increase bird habitat. A BFY is a Bird Friendly Yard, one which provides food, water, shelter, and safe nesting places. The most important step in creating a bird friendly yard is the replacement of invasive plants with native plants.

Even birds which feed on berries and seeds as adults, feed insects to nestlings. The majority of our insects are adapted to feed only on native plants. By planting species native to your area, you bridge distances between fragmented local ecosystems, supporting not only birds, but butterflies, other pollinators, and wildlife. Yards don't have to be sterile places of smooth mowed non-native grasses. They can have borders, corners, or larger areas dedicated to native plantings providing nectar, seeds, berries, insects, shelter, and nesting places.

Besides opening the door to non-native invasive

species, our modern world has removed many places where birds once lived and nested, or rested during migration, and added hazards such as windows, invisible to birds, and lights that brighten the night sky confusing migratory routes. Some simple steps can be taken to reduce bird hazards. Bird feeders, nest houses, and bird baths also add habitat and provide refuge important during migration and harsh weather.

The BFY criteria is a list of actions anyone can take to make a yard bird friendly. You can use the list and accompanying information and explanations posted on the AAS website, and you can register, receive a book of suggested yard plants native to most parts of Arkansas, as well as a guide to non-native invasive species. Once your yard is bird friendly, you can apply for certification, listing on the website, and a yard sign if you wish. [http://www.arbirds.org/Yard/yard\\_bird\\_program.htm](http://www.arbirds.org/Yard/yard_bird_program.htm)

By following the BFY criteria and encouraging neighbors and friends to do the same, we can make Arkansas the largest bird sanctuary in the USA!

Arkansas Audubon Society will be offering two-day workshops Sept. 17–18, 2016. Bird Friendly Yards will be one of these workshops. Go to <http://www.arbirds.org/2016%20Adult%20Workshop%20Flyer.pdf> for more information. For questions or suggestions email us at [bfaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:bfaudubon@gmail.com)

## New AAS Members

Adam Haynes, Little Rock  
 Bruce & Patricia-Rogers Dale, Albuquerque, NM  
 Megan Foll, Pleasant Grove  
 Pat Yates, Little Rock  
 Rosemary Seidler, Shreveport, LA  
 Bob Harden, Jacksonville  
 Gary Thomas, Delaware  
 Candance Ware, Maumelle  
 Zonya Collum, Bella Vista  
 Marian Berry, Little Rock  
 Caleb & Tamzen Bryant, Springdale  
 Lesley Daly, Leslie

## Memorial for Rob Fisher

David Minnigan  
 Kyle Miller

## Donations to General Fund

Adam & Donna Haynes  
 Mary Bess Mulhollan  
 Josie Farrell  
 Grady Hinton / Rebecca Hardin  
 Adam Schaffer  
 Richard & Margaret Lincourt  
 Rick & Chris Cash

## AAS Trust Donations (Feb. 16-May 20)

Susan Hardin in memory of William Lindsay Cloud, DDS  
 Dan & Samantha Scheiman  
 Ragupathy Kannan to "90 for 90" Fundraiser

## Wedding Gift Donation for Sterling Lacy's Grandson and Bride (Stephen Hasley & Amanda)

Loice Kendrick Lacy

# Conservation Corner: Letters Support Protection of Greater Sage-Grouse, Arctic Ecosystems, and More

By **MAUREEN McCLUNG**

Conservation Chair

**W**e have taken a few conservation actions since the update last winter. Below are summaries of letters we either signed on to or authored ourselves. For a more detailed look at our letters, visit [www.arbirds.org](http://www.arbirds.org) and click on the "conservation" link.

### Letters authored by other groups

- Addressed to Senators Boozman and Cotton and authored by the Bird Conservation Alliance, this letter supports the Bureau of Land Management's proposed mineral withdrawal to protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, but requests that more priority areas be included.
- Addressed to President Obama and authored by the Alaska Wilderness League, this letter encouraged the President to continue working to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

### Letters we authored

- Expressed our support of removing the Bella Vista Lake dam in order to restore the natural flow of the Little Sugar Creek. Though Bentonville Mayor McCaslin and city council members heard our comments, the planned reconstruction of the dam will proceed.

- Urged state representatives to support the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act (HR 4480), which would permit the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to restore habitat, conduct conservation research, and raise awareness of the plight of these imperiled seabirds.
- Opposed the renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit (ARG590000), which allows for the storage and land application of animal waste products in Arkansas. Although the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality has decided not to renew the permit, C&H Hog Farm near Mt. Judea will remain operational until a decision can be made about its individual permit.
- Asked state representatives to support the Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act (HR 4558), which would allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to collect compensation for damages caused to National Wildlife Refuges from the parties responsible for the damages. Currently, money for repairs comes from the agency's operating budget, and so less money is available for management programs, and ultimately the American taxpayer foots the bill.

If you have conservation concerns you would like to bring to the attention of the AAS, please email [mclung@hendrix.edu](mailto:mclung@hendrix.edu)

# Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

## The Fall Season: August 1 – November 30, 2015

By **KENNY NICHOLS**

Member, Bird Records Committee

A single **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at Holla Bend NWR 25 Aug (Matt Gideon) was a first for *Pope*.

A large mixed flock of geese containing an incredible 30,000 **Greater White-fronted Geese** and 2,000 **Ross's Geese** was north of Harrisburg, *Poinsett* 19 Nov (Doug Raybuck).

Very rare in fall, an adult male **Cinnamon Teal** was discovered on an Arkansas Audubon Society field trip to the Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds, *Clark* 14 Nov (Michael Linz, Dan Scheiman, Samantha Scheiman, m.ob.).

Rare in fall, single **Surf Scoters** were reported from three locations: Lake Fayetteville, *Washington* 18 Oct (Joe Neal); Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 3 Nov (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols); and DeGray Lake, *Clark* 15 Nov (Karen Holliday, Delos McCauley, Dottie Boyles, m.ob.).

Very rare in any season, 2 **Black Scoters** were identified on Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 8 Nov (K&LN) while a single was seen on DeGray Lake, *Clark* 15 Nov (KH, DeM, DB, m.ob.).

Very uncommon in migration, 12 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 8 Nov (K&LN).

An **Eared Grebe** at the Boyd Point Waste Water Facility, Pine Bluff, *Jefferson* 14 Aug (DeM) was early by at least two weeks.

A **Brown Booby** was photographed at Dierks Lake, *Sevier* 2 Nov (Mary Harris, Rhonda & Danny Townsend). Remarkably, this makes the fifth occurrence for the state.

Rare but increasing, a **Neotropic Cormorant** was seen near the Lake Chicot Pumping Station, *Chicot* 25 Aug (ML).

A very late **Anhinga** was noted flying low over the Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds, *Clark* 14 Nov (DS, SS, ML, m.ob.).

An immature **Tricolored Heron** north of Arkansas City, *Desha* 19 Aug (K&LN) was the only report of the season.

An immature **White Ibis** photographed at SWEPCO Lake near Gentry 26 Sep (Mike Martin, Jay Stout, Loren Holloway) was a first for *Benton*.

Rare in any season, though somewhat less so in fall, 4 **Plegadis sp. Ibis** were discovered foraging at the south end of Grand Lake, *Chicot* 19 Aug (K&LN).

A single **Roseate Spoonbill** was north of Arkansas City, *Desha* while 3 were just east of Grand Lake, *Chicot* 19 Aug (both K&LN).

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Crockett's Bluff, *Arkansas* 9 Sep (Jay Hitchcock) was the season's only report.

An excellent count of 538 **Broad-winged Hawks** was made at Mt. Magazine State Park, *Logan* 21 Sep (Ed Laster, Keith Hawkins).

There were two **Swainson's Hawk** reports for the season: a light-morph adult at Kibler Bottoms, *Crawford* 8 Aug (Will Britton) and a very late bird near Arkadelphia, *Clark* 14 Nov (ML, DS, SS, m.ob.) that was the first November report in 13 years.

Rare in migration, 7 flyover **Sandhill Cranes** were reported near Hector, *Pope* 8 Oct (LA); another was spotted flying over Dardanelle, *Yell* 21 Oct (LN); and 3 near Arkadelphia, *Clark* 14 Nov (ML, DS, SS, m.ob.) were thought to be wintering.

There were three **American Avocet** reports: groups of 22 and 26 flying over Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 8 & 13 Oct (K&LN) respectively and 26 at the DeQueen Wastewater Plant, *Sevier* 24 Oct (Michael Sims, Glenda Sims, Jeremy Sims).

Very uncommon, a lone **Willet** was seen near Chicot Junction, *Chicot* 19 Aug (K&LN).

Migrant **Sanderlings** were spotted along the Arkansas River near Kibler, *Franklin* 3 Aug (JN) and Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell* 9 & 12 Sep (K&LN).

A high count of 186 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** was made near Kibler, *Cranford* 24 Aug (JN).

A single adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 3 Nov (K&LN). This species is now a permanent winter resident at this location in small numbers.

Rare in any season, a **Common Ground-Dove** was seen and photographed at Wapanocca NWR, *Crittenden* 24 Oct (Gaynell Perry, Virginia Reynolds, Nitya Vittal).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Dardanelle, *Yell* 15 Aug (K&LN) was the season's only report of this rare migrant.

A successful mist-net operation at the Ozark Natural Science Center, *Madison* captured **Northern Saw-whet Owls** throughout the season, with the highest count being 5 birds captured and 2 additional birds heard 6 Nov (Mitchell Pruitt, Melyssa St. Michael, Martin Campbell).

Rare in fall, there were three **Rufous Hummingbird** reports: an adult male photographed near Hattieville, *Conway* 16 Aug (Lillian Franklin, Keith

Franklin, Pat Zimmerman, Gail Miller ph.); one in Alexander, *Saline* 28 Oct (RT, DT); and one in Little Rock, *Pulaski* 15 Nov (Roy Stout).

Less than annual, a "**red-shafted**" **Northern Flicker** was identified in Siloam Springs, *Benton* 12 Oct (Daniel Mason, Zipporah Mason).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was near Centerton, *Benton* 3 Oct (David Chapman, JN).

Rare in fall, a calling **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was discovered at Millwood Lake, *Hempstead* 30 Aug (Charles Lyon, Jeff Trahan).

An incredible 40,000 **Purple Martins** were counted at a roost in Little Rock, *Pulaski* 3 Aug (Jerry Butler).

Rare but steadily increasing, 3 **Cave Swallows** were found in rural *Miller* 16 Aug (Charles Mills).

A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was near Hector, *Pope* 11 Oct (LA) while as many as 3 were at Dardanelle, *Yell* 7 Oct through the end of the season (K&LN).

Rare and declining, a transient **Bewick's Wren** was observed near Hector, *Pope* 8 Oct (LA).

A pair of **Tennessee Warblers** at Craighead Forest Park, *Craighead* 4 Nov (DR) were late by nearly a month.

A **Palm Warbler** was at Woolsey Wet Prairie, *Washington* 23 Nov (MP, Kendell Lloyd).

## Ecology Camp Donations: February 16 - May 20, 2016

### Fall Appeal

Steve & Laura Arnold  
Sheree & Ted Rogers

### Fall Appeal (Parents/Grandparents)

Zachariah Dorwart

### Memorials and Honoraria

Francie & Brian Bolter in memory of Betty Courtway  
Don & Ann Godfrey in memory of DeeEtt Riedmueller  
Sue & Arliss Dickerson in memory of Rob Fisher

### Scholarships and Tuition Assistance

Arkansas Native Plant Society  
Cheryl & Norman Lavers  
John & Donna Simpson  
Audubon Society of North Central Arkansas  
Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association  
Garland County Audubon Society  
Carlos Araoz in memory of Eulalia Araoz & in honor of  
Barry Haas  
Foothills Plant Society  
Texarkana Audubon Society  
Hot Springs Village Audubon Society

# AAS Trust Gives Eight Awards Totaling \$4,937 for Research and Habitat Restoration Projects

By **DAN SCHEIMAN**

AAS Trust Chair

**W**ith the 90-for-90 Fundraiser having come to a successful close, the Trustees have identified a new challenge to all of us for growing the Endowment-Memorial Fund. The 50th anniversary of the Trust is in six years. By then we want your help to reach \$200,000; **that's \$50,000 in six years.** Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: Barry Haas, Treasurer, 804 Konrad Ct., Little Rock, 72223. Trustee Ragupathy Kannan will continue to donate a portion of the profits from his international bird tours, so ask him how to sign up at ragupathy.kannan@gmail.com. Many thanks to Bill Shepherd for completing his third stint on the Trust. Susan Hardin has graciously agreed to come on board. This season the Trustees gave eight awards totaling \$4,937. The Spring 2016 grantees are:

- **Leesia Marshall** (formerly an AR grad student, now a professor at Louisiana State University at Alexandria) was awarded \$955 to find out whether Northern Saw-whet Owls make it all the way to Louisiana during a 4th-year migratory irruption
- **Jacob McCauley** (M.S., Arkansas State University) was granted \$482 to quantify heavy metal bioaccumulation by aquatic organisms from abandoned lead and zinc mining along the Buffalo National River.
- **Ninestone Land Trust** will put \$750 to good use restoring glade and savannah habitats.
- **Pooja Panwar** (Ph.D., University of Arkansas at Fayetteville) is this year's Doug James Award winner with \$500 to put towards validating the reliability of ecoacoustic methods to assess bird diversity in three different habitats of northwest Arkansas.
- **Dixie Grammer** (M.S., University of Arkansas at Little Rock) will use \$300 to help her understand interactions between Turkey and Black Vultures while roosting and feeding.
- **Sara Harrod** (Ph.D., Arkansas State University) has \$500 for examining population dynamics of Eastern Bluebirds in response to climate change at longitudinally contrasting regions.
- **Bailey Perlinger** (B.S., University of Arkansas at Little Rock) is studying the phenology of fall webworms in central Arkansas using \$450 from the Trust.
- **Mitchell Pruitt** (soon to start his M.S. at University of Arkansas at Fayetteville) was awarded \$1,000, including the Max Parker Award, for expanding his study of the movements of Northern Saw-whet Owls in Arkansas.

## Ecology Camp Donations Always Encouraged

By **BARRY HAAS**

Ecology Camp Treasurer

It's mid-May, and we are actively recruiting 11- and 12-year-old boys and girls for this year's two Halberg Ecology Camp sessions. As of May 20 we have 65 of our hoped-for 100 first-year campers lined up. With just over three weeks to go until the start of the first session, we will be working hard to find those 35 other nature-loving youth.

Our generous donors provide scholarships and tuition assistance for those campers whose families can't afford the regular \$325 tuition.

Your donations help ensure the next generation has the same love for and knowledge of nature we do. Checks should be made payable "AAS Halberg Ecology Camp" or "Arkansas Audubon Society" and mailed to 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, AR 72223-9201. Donations are tax deductible, and acknowledged by letter or email.

# Adult Nature Workshops to Feature New Courses About Monarch Butterfly and Bird Friendly Yards

By **BARRY HAAS**  
Ecology Camp Treasurer

The Arkansas Audubon Society Adult Natural History workshops will be held the weekend of September 17-18 at Ferncliff Camp in Ferndale.

We are offering the "Aquatic Biology" workshop by Robin Buff for a second time. Two new workshops will be "The Monarch Butterfly: In Nature, In Your Yard and In the Classroom" by Ruth Andre, and "The Bird Friendly Backyard" by Pam and Jack Stewart plus a

number of guest presenters, a new format for one of our workshops. "The Bird Friendly Backyard" workshop will be very different from Pam's "Landscaping with Native Plants for Birds and other Wildlife" workshop.

If you are interested in attending one of these workshops, please e-mail Barry Haas at bhaas@sbcglobal.net for a workshop flyer and registration form. Each workshop has a limited number of openings. These workshops have been held since 2004, and many folks look forward to attending one each fall. It's a great learning experience for us grown-up nature lovers.

## Changes to Arkansas Audubon Society Bylaws Proposed, to be Voted Upon at Fall Convention

By **AAS BOARD**

At its April 29 meeting the Arkansas Audubon Society Board discussed the amendments below to AAS Bylaws. The amendments reflect the way business is currently being conducted by the Ecology Camp Committee and AAS Trust. The Bylaws amendments, which require 30 days written notice to AAS members prior to a vote, will be voted on during the Fall Meeting. The Board is recommending approval of the amendments.

*Draft Amendments to AAS Bylaws Article XI Ecology Camp Committee*

Proposed changes in bold text: "The Ecology Camp Committee shall be composed of the chair and three or more appointed members. The chair or co-chairs shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the Society. This committee shall be responsible for all aspects of the Edith and Henry Halberg AAS Ecology Camp **and the Art and Martha Johnson Advanced Camp**, including fund raising, camper recruitment, staff hiring and camp publicity. **This committee shall also be responsible for all aspects of any adult nature workshops.** This committee will also select recipients of the Iola Rea Scholarship. The chair or co-chairs shall appoint members of the committee and an Ecology Camp treasurer who shall be responsible for all Ecology

Camp finances. The chair or co-chairs shall submit an annual report and a financial report to the Board of Directors at the fall meeting of the Society."

*Draft Amendments to AAS Bylaws Article XII AAS Trust*  
Proposed changes in bold text: "The AAS Trust shall consist of five **Trustees** appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the AAS Board of Directors plus the president of the Society, an ex officio member. No other officer of the Society shall be eligible to serve **concurrently** as a **Trustee**. **The Trustees shall appoint a treasurer, either a Trustee or non-Trustee, who shall conduct the fiscal business of the trust at the direction of the Trustees.** The Trust Agreement, made October 28, 1972 and amended May 5, 1973 **and October 13, 2001**, shall govern the operation of the trust. **Delete the following sentence since the AAS Education Committee now selects Ruth Thomas recipients: The trust is also authorized to select recipients of the Ruth Thomas Scholarship.** The trust shall submit an annual report and a financial report to the Board of Directors at the fall meeting of the Society."

*Note- The original Trust Agreement capitalizes the word Trustee, but uses lower case for the word trust. To be consistent the proposed changes to Article XII of the AAS Bylaws also capitalize Trustee and use lower case for trust.*