



Arkansas Audubon Society

2024 - Little Rock Convention Field Trips

Friday, October 25

<p>F1 - Little Rock Port Authority and David D. Terry Park Depart: 1:00 PM (5 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>The Little Rock Port Authority (34.716003, -92.178468) hosts a variety of habitats that attract various target species (raptors, shorebirds, Loggerhead Shrikes). This portion of the trip will largely involve birding from the car as you drive through various parts of the port. Once done at the port, you will head down the road to check for other forest and wetland species at David D Terry Park (34.667676, -92.160785). This park abuts the Arkansas River, where waterfowl, cormorants, and pelicans can be found flying overhead this time of year. Attendees will gather in the hotel atrium to carpool and will depart at 1 pm. Leader: Dottie Boyles</p>	<p>F2 - Lake Maumelle Depart: 12:30 PM (30 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Lake Maumelle is a large lake west of the Little Rock metro area. During the winter, the lake boasts large rafts of ducks and coots and numerous grebes and loons. These waterbirds begin showing up by the end of October. There are numerous stops just off of Highway 10. Most do not involve much walking from the parking lot to scan the lake. Some stops, like Bufflehead Bay (34.864497, -92.570969), include short, paved trails where migrating warblers, sparrows, kinglets, and creepers can be found. Major stops will include Bufflehead Bay/Marina, Loon Point, and Vista Park. Attendees will gather in the hotel atrium to carpool and will depart at 12:30 pm. Leader: TBD</p>	<p>F3 - Two Rivers Park Depart: 12:30 PM (20 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>This park (34.797396, -92.382994) is bounded between the Little Maumelle River and the Arkansas River. Its closest trailhead is approximately 20 minutes from the convention hotel. The park contains a mixture of wetlands, pine and deciduous forests, and open habitats. Migrants are usually in high numbers throughout the park due to its proximity to the water. Numerous sparrows, gulls, terns, and American White Pelicans will be possible at this time of year. Attendees will gather in the hotel atrium to carpool and will depart at 12:30 pm. Leader: Stephanie Sexton</p>
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<p>F4 - Beginning Birder Trip-- Lorance Creek Natural Area Depart: 1:00 PM (10 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Lorance Creek Natural Area (34.586924, -92.254035) is owned and managed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. This approximately 400-acre property protects diverse habitats where the Gulf Coastal Plains and Mississippi Alluvial Plains ecoregions meet. A paved trail and wooden boardwalk take visitors down into the swamp. These woodland habitats will allow visitors to likely see migrating warblers, kinglets, creepers, nuthatches, and various woodpeckers. Please note that this trip will be catered towards beginning birders; the leader will provide tips and tricks for binocular use and bird identification to folks who are new to the pastime of bird watching. More seasoned birders are still welcome to attend! Attendees will gather in the hotel atrium to carpool and will depart at 1 pm. Leader: David Luneau</p>	<p>F5 - Bird Banding Hacks and How-Tos Depart: 12:45 PM (5 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Join other bird banders for an afternoon session on bird banding. The first half will include time for a group discussion about issues in bird banding. Bring your questions about methods, tips and tricks, or other concerns, and be ready to offer your advice! An example discussion topic is how banders can alter their methods to band safely during the summer as our climate continues to change. This is meant to be an open discussion about questions that bird banders have. Then, following a short break, we will move outside for a bit of "show and tell" regarding various banding innovations (e.g., unique ways to set up mist net poles). If you have any innovations to share with other banders, bring them to share! The symposium will be held at the Little Rock Audubon Center (34.706833, -92.253362). Attendees will gather in the hotel atrium to carpool (since parking is limited at the center) and depart at 12:45 pm. The session will begin at 1 pm. *NOTE: This session is specifically for bird banders and banders in training; we ask that folks who do not band birds partake in one of the other trips of the day. Leader: Kevin Krajcir- *point person</p>	
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Saturday, October 26

<p>Sa1 - Birding and Bird Banding at the Little Rock Audubon Depart: 7:30 AM (5 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>This trip will start by observing a bird banding demonstration at the Little Rock Audubon Center (34.706833, -92.253362) before heading to the Little Rock Port Authority and David D Terry Park for bird watching. Group 1 will observe bird banding from 7:45 - 8:45 AM. Experienced volunteers from both societies will be on-site to lead the banding work and education. Then, after a short bathroom break at the Audubon Center, attendees will head to the Little Rock Port Authority to search the open habitats for blackbirds, raptors, shrikes, and late shorebirds. Lastly, this trip will visit David D Terry Park for forest-dwelling species and waterbirds that can be seen along the Arkansas River. This trip will depart from the hotel lobby at 7:30 AM; participants should be gathered and ready to carpool by then. Leader: Kevin Krajcir, Sarah Morris</p>	<p>Sa2 - Birding and Bird Banding at the Little Rock Audubon Depart: 7:30 AM (5 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>This trip will include bird watching and a bird banding demonstration at the Little Rock Audubon Center (34.706833, -92.253362). Group 2 will birdwatch for about 1 hour along the Audubon Center's trails, where sparrows, kinglets, and wrens can be found. Then, from 8:45 - 9:45 AM, this group will observe the bird banding demonstrations near the center. After a quick bathroom break at the center, this group will then head down the street to birdwatch in Gillam Park for the remainder of the trip. The mixed woodland habitats here should provide sparrows, nuthatches, warblers, and woodpeckers. This trip will depart from the hotel lobby at 7:30 AM. participants should be gathered and ready to carpool by then. Leader: Uta Meyer and Kevin Krajcir</p>	<p>Sa3 - Birding and Bird Banding at the Little Rock Audubon Depart: 7:30 AM (5 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>This trip will include bird watching and a bird banding demonstration at the Little Rock Audubon Center. Group 3 will birdwatch for about 2 hours in Gillam Park (34.702658, -92.252912) to start their trip. The mixed woodland habitats here should provide sparrows, nuthatches, warblers, and woodpeckers. Then, from 9:45 - 10:45 AM, this group will get to observe the bird banding demonstrations near the center. Finally, after the banding demonstration, this group will birdwatch along the Audubon Center's trails, where sparrows, kinglets, and wrens can be found. This trip will depart from the hotel lobby at 7:30 AM. Leader: Ari Remmel and Kevin Krajcir</p>
<p>Sa4 - Birding at Two Rivers Park followed by Bird Banding Depart: 7:15 AM (20 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>This park (34.797396, -92.382994) is bounded between the Little Maumelle River and the Arkansas River. Its closest trailhead is approximately 20 minutes from the convention hotel. The park boasts a mixture of wetlands, pine and deciduous forests, and open habitats. Migrants are usually in high numbers throughout the park due its proximity to the water. Numerous sparrow species, gulls, terns, and American White Pelicans will be possible at this time of year. Attendees will gather to carpool, then this trip will depart from the conference center at 7:15 AM to head to Two Rivers Park. This group will then move to the Audubon Center for bird banding at 10:45 - 11:45 AM. Leader: Cherrie-Lee Phillip, Kevin Krajcir</p>	<p>Sa5 - Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area (North and South) Depart: 7:15 AM (30 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>This conservation area, located 30 minutes from the conference hotel, sits along the southern edge of Lake Conway and boasts a variety of habitats that attract numerous species throughout the year. From the parking lot at Bell Slough South (34.938922, -92.418094), you will enter the trails which are likely to host numerous sparrows, warblers, and other fall migrants. Sparrows will be the focus in the grassy fields of this portion of the management area; uncommon migrants, such as Nelson's Sparrows, LeConte's Sparrows, and Sedge Wrens, will be possible. Afterwards, you will venture up the road to Bell Slough North (34.959511, -92.404989), where from the dam, you will enter the trails which are likely to host numerous sparrows, warblers, and other fall migrants. Depending on time availability, this trip may check on other sites around nearby Lake Conway. Attendees will gather to carpool, then this trip will depart from the conference center at 7:15 AM. Leader: Matt Matlock, Steve Gabrey</p>	

Sunday, October 27

Su1 - Warren Prairie Natural Area
Depart: 7:00 AM
(1hr30min) - Moderate

Warren Prairie Natural Area (33.579639, -91.986443) is co-owned and co-managed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and The Nature Conservancy. This large natural area near Warren in south central Arkansas is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes from the conference center. Various habitats are managed at this site, including pine-oak woodlands and saline soil barrens, and each host unique plant and bird communities. While on the trip, Bill will highlight the site's management and the ecology of the federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker following his Saturday evening presentation. Target species of this trip will include Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Henslow's Sparrows, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, and numerous other species. Attendees will gather to carpool, then this trip will depart from the conference center at 7 AM. Attendees can expect to return to Little Rock around 1 PM for a late lunch. This trip will involve a long car ride as well as walking (possibly 1 to 2 miles) across uneven terrain and unpaved trails. Muck boots are highly recommended as the trails here can be wet and muddy. Leader: Bill Holimon

Su2 - Birding and Bird Banding at the Hendrix Creek Preserve
Depart: 7:15 AM
(35 minutes) - Easy

The Hendrix Creek Preserve is an urban greenspace adjacent to Hendrix College's campus in Conway, AR. This small space actually provides critical stopover habitat for many migratory species, as evidenced by this hotspot's respectable eBird data. Dr. Maureen McClung, with the assistance of her students and volunteers, is studying the avian communities that use this space during fall migration by conducting a bird banding study. Attendees of this trip will get to observe the bird banding operations at the site. Attendees should meet at the big parking lot east of the preserve (35.105208, -92.436337), where leaders will split the entire group into smaller groups. One group will observe bird banding first, then bird watch in the preserve afterwards; the second group will do the opposite. Attendees will gather to carpool, then this trip will depart from the conference center at 7:15 AM. Leader: Maureen McClung, Ari Remmel and Kevin Krajcir