



Arkansas Audubon Society

2026 - Fort Smith Convention Field Trips

Friday, April 24		
<p>F1 - Sunnymede Park 35°23'05.1"N 94°21'23.7"W</p> <p>Depart: 1:00 PM (10 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>A 10-minute drive from the hotel, this is an ADA compliant trail plus a gravel trail. No amenities but there is a Jam Mart close by. Mixed habitat of trees, fields, and river. 220 species seen in park and surrounding area. Notable species seen include Brown Booby, Long-tailed Duck, Nelson Sparrow, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Say's Phoebe. Leader: Sandy Berger</p>	<p>F2 - Springhill Park/Lock and Dam 35°20'33.3"N 94°17'43.0"W</p> <p>Depart: 1:00 PM (20 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Mixed habitat of woods, mowed fields and river. Restrooms available. See the new Fort Smith bypass bridge being built. Leader: Matt Matlock</p>	<p>F3 - National Historic Site 35°23'14.7"N 94°25'49.9"W</p> <p>Depart: 1:00 PM (near venue) - Easy</p> <p>Beginner-friendly bird walk, or for anyone wanting a walk that's close to the hotel. Just minutes from hotel. Paved trail from parking lot, going past the river, and looping back to parking lot. Leader: TBD</p>
Saturday, April 25		
<p>Sa1 - Sequoyah NWR 35°26'51.0"N 94°58'21.6"W</p> <p>Depart: 6:45 AM (40 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Two ADA walking trails. Six-mile auto loop with stops along the way. Mixed habitat of woods, fields, river, yielding a variety of species. The only amenities are outdoor toilets. Vian, OK Leader: Sandy Berger</p>	<p>Sa2 - Lake Fort Smith State Park and Shepherd Springs Road 35°41'45.5"N 94°07'08.7"W</p> <p>Depart: 6:45 AM (30 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Paved and gravel roads with stops along the way. Some short-distant walking. Forest migrants and possible lake birds Leader: Matt Matlock</p>	<p>Sa3 - Huckabee Nature Center/Torraine Lake 35°18'07.0"N 94°20'11.9"W</p> <p>Depart: 7:00 AM (15 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Mixed paved and easy dirt trails. Woods (wooded migrants) and lake. The center opens at 8:30. ADA compliant trails. ***There will be a description of how to best bird this area available at convention. Leader: Self-guided</p>
<p>Sa4 - Cherokee Prairie/Flanagan Prairie 35°20'07.4"N 94°02'50.8"W</p> <p>Depart: 6:45 AM (40 minutes) - Moderate</p> <p>Walking on "wet" prairies. Prairie migrants. No amenities. Wear appropriate footwear Leader: Bill Holimon</p>	<p>Sa5 - Frog Bayou WMA (Sharp Chapel and Blackland Roads) 35°29'13.2"N 94°13'38.0"W. GPS for Alma McDonal Depart: 6:45 AM (30 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Easy to medium. Mostly driving with stops. Possibly some levee walking. Any meeting at the Alma McDonald's, the time will be ~7:15am. Short break there for food and restrooms. Shorebirds and grassland migrants are target birds. Will possibly drive back through the Kibler bottoms searching for shorebirds after going to the WMA Leader: Taylor Long</p>	
Sunday, April 26		

<p>Su1 - Sunnymede Park 35°23'05.1"N 94°21'23.7"W Depart: 8:00 AM (10 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Local park. No amenities. Jam Mart nearby. Paved and gravel trails. Mixed habitat. On the Arkansas River. 220 species seen Leader: Self-guided</p>	<p>Su2 - Shores Lake 35°38'03.6"N 93°57'41.4"W</p> <p>Depart: 8:00 AM (50 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Mostly pine woods, and lake. Possible species include Brown-headed Nuthatches and Red Crossbills. Outdoor bathroom facilities. Good option for those heading east toward home. Leader: Matt Matlock</p>	<p>Su3 - Lee Creek Reservoir 35°29'20.7"N 94°24'34.0"W</p> <p>Depart: 8:00 AM (30 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>*Easy to Moderate. Some pavement, and dirt trails. Mostly lake and woodland species. Good destination for those heading out of town.</p> <p>Leader: Pam Carney</p>
<p>Su4 - Ben Geren Golf Course /Massard Prairie 35.31248558950186, - 94.36548614610524 Depart: 7:40 AM (20 minutes) - Easy</p> <p>Always a great trip, this location has a lot of different habitats. Jay Randolph, the director of Sebastian County parks, has worked for years to restore the course to native prairie. Hopefully he'll be able to join us. ***Golf carts will be supplied Leader: Sandy Berger</p>		