Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society
Winter 2018/2019 | Volume 63 | No. 3

full-color newsletter available at arbirds.org/ArkansasBirds.pdf

Bird Friendly Yards Program Expands to 89 Certified Yards Throughout Arkansas

By PAM and JACK STEWART
AAS Members

As of November 30th, 2018, Arkansas Audubon Society's Bird Friendly Yard program has 89 yards certified either as "Bird Friendly" or "Working to Become Bird Friendly". This is good news because research published this autumn adds emphasis to the importance of planting species native to the local ecosystem.

According to the report, which studied Carolina Chickadee populations in yards of home owners near Washington DC, at least 70% of the nesting area must be in native plants for the Chickadee population to remain steady. Less than 70% native plants, and the population declined.

Why are native plants so important? The answer is that birds require insects to feed their nestlings. However, our native insects are most often able to only digest plants with which they have evolved, in other words, plants native to the local ecosystem. Many insects, or their larvae, feed only on leaves from a few specific genera or families of plants. Thus, the fat and protein-rich caterpillars (up to 400/day) chickadees require to feed to their young, are found only where these native plants are growing.

Beyond the needs of birds, insects provide food for frogs, fish, bats, and much other wildlife. They also pollinate many of our food crops! Yards landscaped with native plants can make up for habitat lost to development, and act as bridges to parks and natural areas. Thus, AAS Bird Friendly Yards make a valuable contribution toward feeding birds, wildlife, and humans.

Send questions concerning plants or birds to bfaudubon@gmail.com.

Recently certified participants in the program:

Teresa & Randy Shinn	Benton Co.
Patricia Cromwell	Marion Co.
Tony Heindel	Marion Co.
Gabriel &Cyrus Grandon	Boone Co.
Karen Geiger & Calvin Doody	Garland Co.
Extension Office Pollinator Garden, Alan Gregory, Chairman	Boone Co,
Billie Kay Miller	Baxter Co.
David & Sandy Davies	Conway Co.
Louanne Lawson	Newton Co.
Cheryl Childers	Crawford Co.
Garri Alvis	Washington Co.
Mary Branton	Washington Co.
Richard Taylor	Ouachita Co.
Issac & Jennifer Ogle	Washington Co.
Donna & Kelly Mulhollan	Washington Co.
Allan & Kathleen Mueller	Faulkner Co.



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 MonroeAA@hendrix.edu.

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

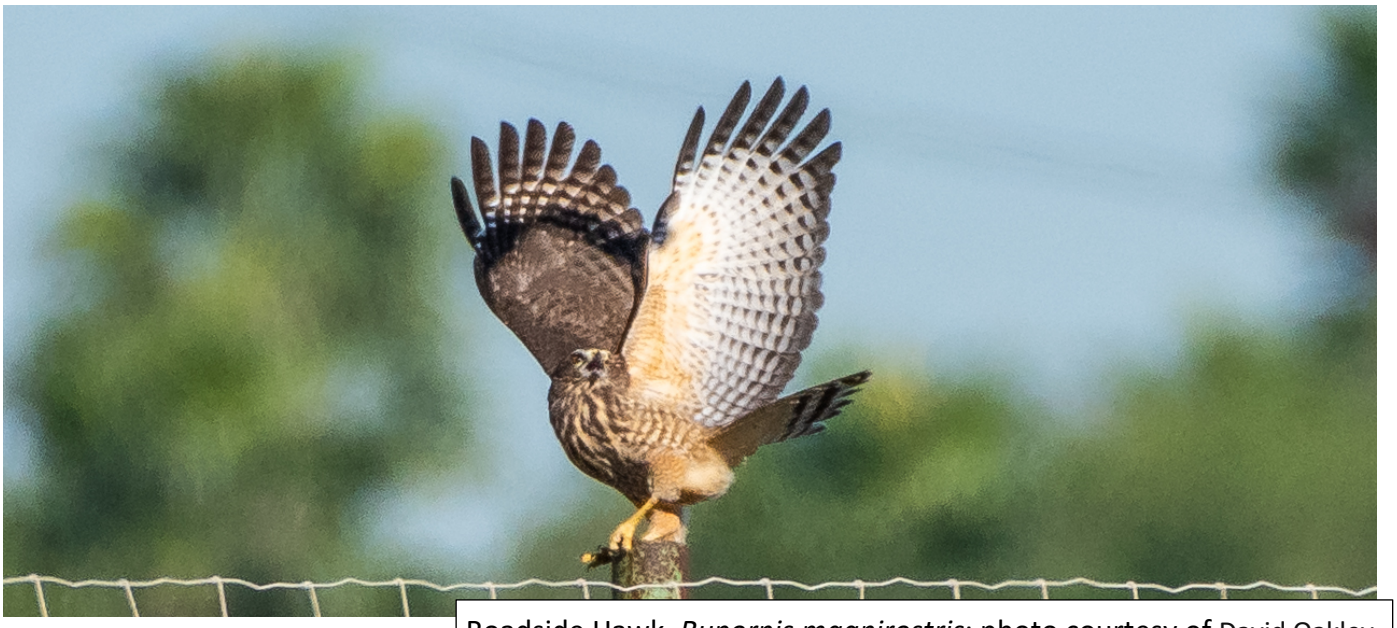
Please enter my membership in the Arkansas Audubon Society as a:

(AAS Dues Prorated for New Members)	Jan-Jun 100%	Jul-Sept. 50%	*Oct. - Dec. 100%
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



Roadside Hawk, *Rupornis magnirostris*; photo courtesy of David Oakley.

Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds
The Winter Season: December 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018

By KENNY NICHOLS
Member, Bird Records Committee

Exceptional anywhere in the US, a **Tundra Bean-Goose** taken by a hunter near Dumas, *Arkansas* 25 Jan (Chase Milligan) was a most unexpected first for the state.

Rare and local, 3 **Tundra Swans** were south of Atkins, *Pope* 21 Jan (Ron Duvall); 4 were photographed at Lake Magness, *Cleburne* 9 Dec (Kenny Nations).

Very rare so far west, an **American Black Duck** was seen at Lake Magness, *Cleburne* 7 Jan (Michael Linz, Patty McLean).

Long-tailed Ducks were well represented with five reports: singles were observed at the Alma Wastewater Treatment Plant, *Crawford* 21 Dec (Sandy Berger); Poole Fish Farms, *Prairie* 26 Dec (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols); Walden's Landing on the Mississippi River, *Phillips* 3 Jan (Dick Preston); Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 1 Jan (K&LN); and Beaver Lake, *Benton* 3 Feb (Joe Neal, Joan Reynolds).

An adult male **Common Merganser** was present on Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 31 Dec (K&LN).

Rare but annual, a **Western Grebe** was on Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 18 Jan & 27 Feb (K&LN).

Locally uncommon, a pair of **Inca Doves** at Mena 8 Jan (Verna Inman) was a first for *Polk*.

There were two **Rufous Hummingbird** reports: a bird present since 13 Aug at Pangburn, *White* was last seen 31 Dec when the nighttime temperature dipped to 3 degrees (Terry & Judy Butler); an adult female present at a feeder in El Dorado, *Union* since "late fall" was last seen 19 Jan (Jody Fite).

Locally rare and very difficult to find, **King Rails** were documented at Choctaw Island West W.M.A., *Desha* 14 Dec and 19 Jan (Jason McCallie). The latter was the first January sighting since the 1950's.

Three **Sandhill Cranes** observed near the Siloam Springs airport (Benton) 10 Dec (JN) joins just a handful of historical sightings for the Ozarks; five were seen at a somewhat traditional location near Arkadelphia, *Clark* 3 Dec (Evelyn Good).

Rare winter shorebirds for the season include: single **Dunlins** observed west of Conway, *Faulkner* 17 Dec (Rhonda Townsend, Danny Townsend, Stacey Benson) and at the state fish hatchery in Centerton, *Benton* 19 Dec (Matt Gideon, Parker Ring); twenty **Long-billed Dowitchers** near Stuttgart, *Arkansas* 22 Dec (Tim Tyler); and lone **Spotted Sandpipers** at Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell* 3 Jan (K&LN) and on the Spring River, *Fulton* 28 Dec (Bob Foehring).

The 650 **Bonaparte's Gulls** counted on Lake Maumelle, *Pulaski* 30 Dec (ML, PM) was the highest count ever recorded for the state.

Rare but annual, an adult **Laughing Gull** was found at Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell* 24 Feb (K&LN).

An adult **Mew Gull** carefully observed at Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell* 9 Jan (K&LN) was a long-overdue first for the state.

An extended mid-January freeze that left Lake Dardanelle almost completely covered in ice resulted in an extraordinary number of gulls; among those observed 18 Jan were 2 **Iceland Gulls** and an unprecedented 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (K&LN).

Lake Maumelle, *Pulaski* continues to be the hotspot for rare loons; highlights this season include a pair of **Red-throateds** and a **Pacific** 30 Dec (both ML, PM).

Very rare in any season, an adult **Brown Pelican** was photographed below Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell* 3–9 Dec (K&LN).

Ten **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were observed roosting in a cypress swamp south of Lonoke, *Lonoke* 12 Dec (K&LN). This is a high count of this very rare winter resident.

Rare in winter, 12 **White Ibis** were photographed in eastern *Miller* 8 Jan (Patrica Walthall).

An impressive 75 **Bald Eagles** were counted near Flanagan Prairie Natural Area, *Franklin* 8 Dec (JN, Joe Woolbright).

There were three **Rough-legged Hawk** reports for the season: a female returning for the fourth consecutive winter near Possum Grape, *White* 7 Jan (ML, PM); one at the Stuttgart Airport, A*rkansas* 7 Dec (JN, JW); and one photographed north of Bono, *Craighead* 3 Feb (Rhett Raibley).

Golden Eagles are rare but annual. There were four sightings for the season: one at Hobbs State Park, *Benton* 1 Jan (JR, JN); one at Holla Bend N.W.R, *Yell* 6 Jan (Sandy Berger); one in the Boxley Valley, *Newton* 8 Jan (Nathan Davidson); and one at Lollie Bottoms 15 Jan (ML) was just the second for *Faulkner*.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** originally radio-tagged and banded 31 Oct 2017 was photographed roosting in a cedar tree at McIlroy Madison County W.M.A, *Madison* 26 Feb (Mitchell Pruitt).

A **Peregrine Falcon** observed at Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell* 3 Jan (K&LN) was the season's only report of this rare winter visitor.

There were two **Prairie Falcon** sightings for the season, both in the Arkansas River Valley: one south of Atkins, *Pope* 14 Jan (ML, K&LN, Charles Lyons); and one at Cherokee Park near Morrilton 29 Dec (Sheena Hare, Gail Chance, Brent Clay) that was a first for *Conway*.

Rare and now nearly annual, a **Say's Phoebe** was photographed east of Jonesboro, *Craighead* 1 Dec (Than Boves).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was photographed in St. Charles, *Arkansas* during the White River CBC 30 Dec (Jacob Wessels, Alex Worm, Emily Donohue). This species is very rarely encountered in mid-winter.

Rare in winter, **Blue-headed Vireos** were sighted at East End, *Saline* 11 Jan (Devin Moon) and the Piney District of the Ozark National Forest, *Pope* 18 Dec (Chris Kellner).

A **Tree Swallow** photographed at Cook's Landing, Little Rock, *Pulaski* 30 Dec (Donna Haynes, Adam Haynes, Lincoln Haynes) was an excellent find of a species seldom encountered in mid-winter.

Rare and declining, a **Bewick's Wren** was found in Little Rock, *Pulaski* 16 Dec (Dan Scheiman, Samantha Scheiman, Jeremy Chamberlain, Uta Meyer).

Two **Townsend's Solitaires** were discovered on Mt. Magazine, *Logan* 28 Dec (Don Simons); three were found at the same location 13 Jan (ML, Bob Harden, Randy Robinson, Karen Holiday, Jane Wiewora, Michael Nicodemus). Though very rare elsewhere in the state, this species is now almost annual at this location.

Red Crossbills were observed and their calls recorded at three location this season: 25 were at Ninestone Land Trust near Metalton, *Carrol* 13 Dec (Judy Griffith, JN, Pooja Panwar, Anant Deshwal); 13 at Hobbs State Park, *Benton* 16 Dec (JN, JR); and 7 at Bella Vista, *Benton* 30 Jan (Cheryl Hall, JN, PP, JW, Jackie Woolbright). Call analysis later revealed that both Type 2 and Type 4 were present.

Nearly annual, a **Spotted Towhee**, present throughout the season, was photographed coming to a feeder in Cabot, *Lonoke* (Karen Hammond, Margaret Morgan).

Rare so far east, a **Harris's Sparrow** was spotted on the Lonoke Christmas Bird Count, *Lonoke* 17 Dec (KH).

A long-staying **"Gray-headed Junco"** photographed at Hobbs State Park, *Benton* 28 Feb (Karen Garrett) was just the second occurrence of this subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco.

Very rare in winter, a **Baltimore Oriole** photographed coming to a feeder in Lamar, *Johnson* was present 24 Dec–22 Jan (Pat Knight).

A **Summer Tanager** observed 2 Jan in Harrison, *Boone* (Sandra & John Hiller) was an unexpected sighting of this very rare winter visitor.

A very late **Dickcissel** was photographed in *Clark* on 13 Dec (Tim Kaufman).

New Arkansas Audubon Society Members

Gwen & Ralph Williams, Bentonville
Cathy & Mike Mayton, Little Rock
Steve Sitton, North Little Rock
Tammy Miller, Little Rock
Jeff & Jean Trahan, Shreveport, LA
Gilbert & Geraldine Alvis, Springdale
Gabrielle Hargrove, Gillett
Rhett Raibley, Jonesboro

Donations to General Fund

Catherine Connelly, in honor of Jennifer O'Brien's birthday
Rebecca Hardin, in memory of Margaret Haas

Your Trust at Work: AAS Trust Report

By DAN SCHEIMAN
AAS Trust

The call continues for all members, past Trustees, and past grantees to help grow the Endowment-Memorial Fund to $200k by the 50th anniversary in 2022. We need about another $33k within four years. Investment income

from the fund pays for grants like the ones below. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: Barry Haas, Treasurer, P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, AR 72223. My thanks to those who have donated, and a special thanks to Dr. Ragupathy Kannan who continues to use his overseas birding tours as a fundraiser for the Trust.

At the fall 2018 meeting the Trustees gave 5 awards totaling $5,960.

- Emily Donahue (M.S., ASU) cached $760 for her study of the winter ecology and physiology of Loggerhead Shrikes.
- Kevin Krajcir (M.S., ASU) received $1,000 to explore the relationship between warblers and their feather mites. He is also the winner of the Dough James Award, for this ground-breaking research and for his contribution to this Society as our Publicity Chair.
- Doug Raybuck (Ph.D., U. TN) netted a record $2,400 to explore Cerulean Warbler winter ecology in Colombia. He also heads up a multi-country, multi-university, multi-disciplinary team studying the full annual life cycle of this species of high conservation concern.
- Jacob Wessels (M.S., ASU) is also studying Cerulean Warblers, and now has another $800 to continue his work previously supported by our Eulalia Araoz Memorial Grant.
- Joseph Youtz, (M.S., ASU) was awarded $1,000, including the Max Parker Award, to continue his examination of Prothonotary Warbler occupancy of fragmented woodlots.

In response to Ninestone Land Trust's request we challeged them to do their own fundraising to match Trust funds to up $500. With help from Joe Neal's plea on ARBIRD-L they accomplished this in a matter of hours! Now they have over a thousand dollars to apply to habitat restoration

Member News: Theses, leucism, and travels around the world, all in the name of birds!

By DOTTIE BOYLES
News of Members Editor

Mitchell Pruitt defended his Master's thesis at UA-Fayetteville November 27. His research on Northern Saw-whet Owls will be published as two scientific papers. He plans to start a Ph.D. program with Professor J.D. Willson, who stepped in as his major professor after Kim Smith's sudden death in April. Photo courtesy of Joe Neal, taken on November 27 at Pruitt's presentation.

Gail Miller (Conway, Faulkner Co., AR) reports the leucistic White-throated Sparrow that wintered at her place last year, returned again this winter. Gail said, "Last year, it was slow to make its way to the house and feeders. I saw it more in some thickets down in my pasture. But, this year, it showed up at the feeders fairly quickly. I've often wondered if the same birds return to my place in the winter. Unless a bird is really unique, like this one, you would never know." Photo, bottom left, courtesy of Miller.

Bob Harden and **David Oakley** are back from what has become their annual Thanksgiving birding/butterflying trip to the lower Rio Grande Valley. This year they spent ten days in the valley and their hunts ranged from South Padre Island in the east to Falcon State Park to the west. Due to inclement weather (drizzling rain and temperatures in the mid-fifties) their search for butterflies was limited so birding became the primary





objective. Highlights for the trip including a beautiful Roadside Hawk, a tropical species common from Mexico to Argentina and only casual in winter to the Rio Grande Valley; and a Masked Booby that seems to have set up residence on a pier at South Padre Island. These birds were lifers for Bob and David. They also spent some time looking for the Aplomado Falcon that has been reintroduced to south Texas. They found one perched on a post off a highway near Port Isabell and were very surprised when it subsequently joined a second in a field nearby. Two butterfly lifers for both were a beautiful Four-spotted Sailor and an equally striking Banded Patch. They are looking forward to next year with some anxiety as to what they might find relative to the border wall construction scheduled to begin next February in areas including the National Butterfly Center and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. Photo, bottom right, page 5, courtesy of Oakley.

A long time goal to see all of Arkansas's 52 state parks was accomplished by **Dottie Boyles** on October 5th with a visit to Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area in Hempstead County. **Doris Boyles**, **Cindy Franklin** and **Bill Burnham** were also there. On October 30th, Doris, along with Cindy and Dottie, stopped by Bull Shoals-White River State Park (Marion Co.) and Ozark Folk Center (Stone Co.), the last two parks on her list. Along the way, Cindy, Doris and Dottie have spent endless hours exploring dirt roads, farm fields, ponds, streams and lakes in their quest to record birds in all of Arkansas's 75 counties.

This summer **Sandy Berger** spent five weeks in New England. Highlights were a trip to Eastern Egg Island with Project Puffin founder Steve Kress. She picked up three life birds which included Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, and Black Guillemot. She also did a whale watch out of Lubec, Maine. Sandy said, "I was so excited to see whales that I completely forgot I might see some seabirds. Then I saw the Great Shearwater, also picked up a Wilson's Storm-Petrel. It was very exciting. The whales Fin Whales...the second largest mammal in the world."

Mild Weather Favored the 39th year of Ecology Camps

By RENN TUMLISON & TAMZEN TUMLISON BRYANT

Photos courtesy of Tamzen Tumlison Bryant

Temperature during the 39th year of Halberg Ecology Camps was quite warm during the day but typically dropped to cool nights for sleeping. Short rains fell one day each week. A walk-in cooler failed during camp. As usual, however, the camp staff supported by the camp committee was able to quickly handle problems, save food, get the cooler repaired and conduct the camp without missing a step. We flowed through another great pair of sessions with some good experiences for the campers and staff.

This year accomplished the 56th session of the Halberg Ecology Camp, being the 19th year the camp has held two sessions, and 39th year to hold the camp. The first session of the camp was held June 10-15, and the second session was June 17-22. In the past, we occasionally have had a camper who had a parent who was once a camper. This year, we were informed by a mother that she had attended this camp 34 years ago, and a father who had attended 30 years ago. If parents who attended this camp when they were kids want to have their kids also attend camp, it must have meant something special to them. We agree.

Campers originated from 21 counties of Arkansas (down 5 from last year), including 45 towns (same as last year), with out-of-state campers from Oklahoma and Texas. Little Rock, Fayetteville, Hot Springs, and Yellville were the dominant sources of Arkansas campers, accounting for about 40% of the students.

Classes were enriched by early morning bird walks, evening herp (amphibian and reptile) walks, and "bug" watches aided by a lamp set up against a white sheet. Junior campers went to six classes twice through the week (Aquatic Biology, Botany, Entomology, Geology, Ornithology, and Mammalogy/Herpetology).

Senior campers took a field trip away from camp on Wednesday, touring the Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest to study fire ecology, habitat restoration, and plant ecology. They also saw nests, chicks, and adults of the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. The camp appreciates the support of the Forest Service personnel who guided the trip to experience this management success.

Several activities were available during recreation time, including swimming, canoeing, volleyball, ping pong, bird nest building, chess, and story-telling. Evening learning programs kept the campers entertained. The same presentations were given in both sessions: Herpetology instructor Kory Roberts presented about alligators and showed a live specimen, and rehabber Lynne Slater of "HAWK" gave a presentation and showed a Red-tailed Hawk. Ornithology instructors Donna and Kelly Mulhollan (otherwise known as the folk group "Still

on the Hill") gave a concert on Wednesday of the second week, preceded by a short talent show by staff and campers. Both weeks, other programs included get-acquainted games, a showing of the classic (original) "The Lorax" film by Dr. Seuss, showing of a film about a man raising a brood of turkeys, other learning games related to nature, and a camp review slide show set to music and shown Thursday evening.

Director ("Camp Boss") this year was Robin Buff, aided by Assistant Director Kevin Krajcir. Publicity Coordinator was Tamzen Bryant. Senior campers were taught by Janet McAllister and Rob Seal the first week and Aaron Hinterthuer replaced Janet the second week. Both weeks, Aquatic Biology teachers were Ella Caraway and Whit Hyde, Botany was taught by Jackie Scott and Jonathan Harris, and Adaire Middleton and Raven Bough taught Entomology. Geology was taught by Ikram Bahran and Melissa Craig during week 1 and Rick Jones replaced Melissa for week 2. Adam Schaffer and Rick Jones taught Ornithology week 1, then Kelly and Donna Mulhollan taught week 2. Renn Tumlison taught Mammalogy and Kory Roberts taught Herpetology both weeks.

Camp nursing duties were handled by Michae Gartin the first week and Jetta Roberg the second. Robin Campbell served as Activities Director. The Kitchen Director was Chamisa Wheeler, assisted by cooks Amanda Harris and Colorado Harris. Helpers who ensured that utensils were clean were Zoe Paladino and Michael Gartin for week 1, and Denver Squires replaced Michael for week 2. Camp custodian was Bronwyn Odom. Lifeguard was Amelia McAllister. Mary Margaret Harris volunteered both weeks.

We try to provide fun classes, good food, great recreational opportunities, and a strong learning environment incorporated with all endeavors. Financial assistance to help some of the campers attend was generously provided by several individuals, local organizations, and state agencies. The campers wrote "thank you" notes to their benefactors, and their comments reflect how this camp affected their lives. Many campers mentioned their favorite classes, and all classes were mentioned as the favorite of someone.

At the age of these campers (11 and 12 usually), many have not been away from home before, and some become homesick. The camp has a way of helping them through it

"Camp has been so much fun so far. We have been canoeing, swimming, learning, and exploring. At first I was super nervous and scared but then I made so many friends and I was OK."



"I was very homesick Sunday night and Monday morning but then I was good for the day. I made many friends…now I do not want to leave the camp! I really enjoy the classes and learning more about nature!...I am now having a lot of fun and hope I get invited back!

Other comments were very succinct, but others went into detail about the fun learning experience they had.

"Thank you for letting me have this camp experience, I love being here."

"The classes are well taught and very fun."

"My favorite subject is all of them."

"I was ecstatic to know I got invited back. I love all the staff."

"I am having so much fun and learned a lot about the earth, rocks, water creatures, and animals."

"…this is the most fun I've had before. My favorite thing here is basically everything."



"It is the most fun place I've been to in a long time. It is a great hands on experience that I will remember for a lifetime."

"Thank you for everything that you have done for us campers. You are awesome! I love this camp and I hope that some of us campers will be able to come back…because it is so amazing."

"I have learned and seen a lot of things. I have learned lots about different areas…I would like to thank you for the memories I made. Even if I don't make it back, I have my memories and my camp sisters."

"I held and touched a snake for the first time…it is a great way to experience nature at this camp."

"I am extremely happy that I am able to attend such an outstanding camp! …I will continue to study and learn more about the environment."

"Thank you so much for sponsoring me to this very educational (and awesome!) camp. I have been able to learn about so many cool things…"

"While I was here I've learned some words I could not even pronounce. I loved being here I've met new and amazing people. I would love to come back next year. P.S. I loved all the classes."

"Thank you so much for letting me come to this amazing camp. I am having soooooooooo much fun learning all about ecology. Every day I learn something new in a really, really fun way…When I joined camp, I only had one friend along with me, but just like that, I met some really nice and funny people. Everyone in my camp is so extremely joyful."

"Halberg Ecology Camp has helped open my eyes to nature's connections. Being back has helped me gain a deeper understanding of the blessing it is to live in such a beautiful place. This understanding I dearly hope to continue…I find it a blessing to work with such amazing instructors. I treasure this experience."

The last event on Thursday evening of each session was a review of camp based on images taken by Publicity Director Tamzen Bryant and other camp staff. Set to music to help set a mood, the week in review also was presented to the parents on Friday morning to provide them a glimpse of the camp. Power was cut to the whole camp before the presentation on Friday of the second week, but true to our expectations of the camp, we find a way. In this case, Kory Roberts had a connection in his truck that allowed us to power the slide show in spite of the otherwise camp blackout. The song "Pass It on Down" by Alabama exemplifies camp philosophy and is a musical backdrop for part of the slide show. The slide show, set to different music, will be available through a link on the Arkansas Audubon Society web page: http://www.arbirds.org/halberg_ecology_camp.html.

Again this year, the publicity director posted images to Facebook (search *Arkansas Audubon Society Ecology Camps*) so parents would be able to see images of the camp activities, and sometimes their campers, while camp was in session. Parents rate the camp 5 of 5 stars, and have weighed in on the effect of camp on their kids (and thus, on their parents):

"My daughter…has enlightened us with her new-found knowledge all weekend…I highly recommend this camp for any student that is interested in science."

"What a wonderful science camp. Our daughter says it's the best thing she has ever done!...All three of my daughters have now attended."

"[Student name] had the best possible first camp experience. She hasn't stopped telling us about what she learned and all of the fun she had."

The web page has 499 likes and 508 followers!



Photo of students in mammalology getting to compare furs of mammals from different climates to see fur adaptations, courtesy of Tamzen Tumlison Bryant.

Halberg Ecology Camp

By BARRY HAAS
Ecology Camp Treasurer

Having served as treasurer of the Halberg Ecology camp for just over 20 years now, it grieves me every year when we have even a single unfilled first-year camper opening. That's a lost opportunity for a 5th or 6th grade boy or girl who could have learned incredible new things

about the complexities of nature. One of the best gifts you can give a 5th or 6th grader is to make them and their families aware of this nature education opportunity.

What's even more challenging than raising enough money to hold camp each summer? Recruiting the 50 first-year campers each session, 100 total. This past June we only managed to fill 85 of those 100 nature education opportunities. In June 2017 we did a little better by filling 91 of those 100 openings.

The Halberg Ecology Camp held its first session in 1980, and has held one or two sessions every summer since then. In 2001 we added a second session each June.

The Halberg Ecology Camp has room for up to 50 first-year campers each session. We also invite 12 campers back for a second year of nature study each session. Then in 2007 we added the Johnson Advanced Camp for a dozen third-year campers to expand their nature studies each July.

The Halberg Ecology Camp's annual Fall Appeal has been ongoing since the first of November. We continue to receive donations from Arkansas Audubon Society members, parents and grandparents of former campers, and others who choose to support this exceptional hands-on environmental experience. It can be a challenge to raise sufficient funds for all three camp sessions. The Fall Appeal is an important source of our overall funding. Camper tuition is less than the actual cost per camper to run the camp. We strive to make the camp as affordable as possible to give every nature loving boy and girl the opportunity to expand their knowledge of nature at camp.

We invite you to support the youth ecology camps, and our efforts to help educate the next generation about nature. Checks should be made payable "AAS Halberg Ecology Camp" or "Arkansas Audubon Society", and mailed to P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, AR 72223. All donations are tax deductible, and acknowledged by letter or e-mail (e-mail when possible to save on postage expense).

AAS Trust

By BARRY HAAS
AAS Trust Treasurer

The Arkansas Audubon Society Trust's Endowment-Memorial Fund continues to slowly grow. As of November 30, the fund is up to $168,901.43, the highest total in the Trust's 46-year history. The goal is to reach or exceed the $200,000 mark by 2022 when the Trust will celebrate its 50th anniversary. That leaves just over $31,000 to reach that goal.

The Trust also has the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Fund that totals $628.34. Those funds are reserved for grants involving endangered RCWs.

Another fund at the Trust was established in memory of Max Parker in 2008. It currently has $17,279.90. Grants from the Max Parker Fund are restricted to projects involving Arkansas birds.

If you would like to support the Trust, all donations are greatly appreciated. Your donated funds will be used to increase our knowledge about the natural world around us, especially birds. Checks should be made payable "AAS Trust" and mailed to P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, AR 72223. An acknowledgement is sent to all donors.

Fall Convention Report: Birding Across Borders

By DAN SCHEIMAN

There’s something to be said for holding our convention in a corner of the state. Though it may make it harder for some Arkansans to attend who live in another corner, it does make it easier for birders in neighboring states. Our Texarkana, AR, meeting location attracted not only Texarkana, TX, birders, but also Candy and Vas Anandagoda from Plano, TX. Five folks joined us from Shreveport, LA, including our speaker and trip leader Charlie Lyon. Our other speaker Kevin Morgan came up from Baton Rouge, LA. Roselie Overby drove over from Oak Grove, LA, which is akin to the southeast corner of AR. Diane Pedicord and Holly Van Auken call Oklahoma City, OK, home. Brent Spink drove all the way down from MN, though admittedly it was to visit his birder brother Eric in Texarkana. But the winner of the furthest traveled was Don Spencer, who visited us from the U.S. Virgin Islands! Okay, so he too was visiting his brother in Little Rock.

This cross-border birding theme was also reflected in our field trips. On Saturday a group headed out to Lake Wright Patman, TX. The ever-popular Red Slough WMA, OK, was offered all three days, giving some birders their first taste of this hotspot. For almost every birder in attendance, the trip to Bundrick Farms was a first; some even chose that location all three days. Though it is in

Lafayette Co., AR, you cross an ecological border as you go from the upland forests that predominate the Gulf Coastal Plain to the flat, ag-dominated landscape of the Red River Valley. Historically, the south bank of the Red River formed part of the US-Mexico border until the Texas Annexation of 1845.

State and county borders may be important to us for listing, but birds don't care. Cross-border fall migration was in full swing that weekend. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and warblers were winging their way south from the northern US and Canada. Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills were up from their southern breeding colonies. Did those Cave Swallows breed in AR or cross our border after breeding? Nearly 400 Sora, 70 Virginia Rails, six King Rails, both species of bittern, and hundreds of Marsh Wrens were forced to cross into the open by rice combines, though they would not have had so much stopover habitat at Bundrick Farms had rice been harvested earlier. Collectively we tallied 131 species over three days, a testament to the diversity to be found by birding across state lines.

So I don't overdo this theme, I'll close by saying congratulations and great job to our VP and my wife Samantha Scheiman. Her first convention to organize was a success! I'm proud of her. My gratitude to all of you who contributed to the planning and execution. My appreciation to everyone who attended, no matter how many borders you had to cross to get there.

Notes from Your President

By ROBIN BUFF

The AAS 2018 Fall meeting at Texarkana was quite the meeting. We had two excellent presenters, Kevin Morgan and Charlie, and numerous exceptional field trips for registrants. I was able to participate in the Bundrick Farm field trip on Sunday morning and added numerous birds to my life list. I participated in my first AAS Trust meeting and found the process of discussing the requests for trust money and awarding the money based on the merit of each request EXTREMELY INTERESTING.

At the Friday board meeting the AAS board discussed changes to the delivery of our newsletter. The board decided to move from a printed newsletter to one that is delivered digitally to AAS members. Not only will this save a HUGE amount of money, it is better for the environment. The option of having some of the newsletters printed for members that don't use the internet and for new members was discussed. Please email me or write me with any input you would like to give on this change in newsletter delivery. Note that members will continue to receive the printed newsletter unless they opt out. If you'd like to opt out, please email our membership chair Cheryl Childers (cherylchilders@outlook.com) stating your request, name, and mailing address with the email subject, "Printed AAS Newsletter Opt Out." Another option to opt out is to complete the below form and mail it to Cheryl at: 1149 Rosellas Way, Alma AR 72921.

Lastly, I would like to mention the passing of Dr Doug James in the wee hours of Monday, December 17, 2018, at the Willard Walker Hospice Home in Fayetteville, a day after the annual Fayetteville Christmas Bird Count. I was moved by the fact that the area I was counting birds in use to be Dr. James' standard CBC route. It is my understanding that birds seen outside his window at hospice on that Sunday were included in the count. Doug was my major professor at the University of Arkansas where I received my M.S. in Zoology. He will be sorely missed.

Printed Newsletter Opt-out Form:

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

To opt out of receiving our printed version of the newsletter, please complete this form and mail it to: **Cheryl Childers, 1149 Rosellas Way, Alma AR 72921**

Ecology Camp Donations

(May 20- November 30, 2018)

Fall Appeal

Rebecca Hardin & Grady Hinton
Susan Hardin & Barry Haas
Wayne & Marty Lynch
Brantly & Kate Buck
John Calhoun
Terry Pressly
Carolyn Minson
Margaret & Richard Lincourt
Danny & Minnie-Beth White
Dan & Samantha Scheiman
Jane McGregor
Maury & Barbara Baker
Babara Shults
Terry Singleterry
Ann Gordon
Cindy Franklin & Bill Burnham
John & Donna Simpson
Hannelore Kerr
Joan Lipsmeyer
Harriet & Jerome Jansma
Rickie Sterne & Chrisanda Button
Bruce & Patricia Dale
Audrey & Dick Velnetske
Jane & Tom Gulley
Dottie Patterson
Keith & Rayma Jean Hawkins
Ed Laster & Mary Roark
Willa Harkey

Fall Appeal (Parents & Grandparents of Campers)

Eric & Milanne Sundell
Cheryl & Norman Lavers
James Windsor
Josie Farrell
Frank & Mary Reuter
Allan & Kathleen Mueller
Katherine & Wesley Quinn

Donations by Individuals

Claire Shaw
Dr. Karama Neal

Scholarships & Tuition Assistance

Hot Springs Village Audubon Society
Garland County Audubon Society
Three Rivers Audubon Society
Arkansas Native Plant Society
Arkansas River Valley Audubon Society
Ann Gordon
Ozark Chapter- Arkansas Native Plant Society
Susan & Jeffrey Hoeper

Memorials & Honoraria

Loice Kendrick Lacy (wedding gift to John Hasley & Ananya Majumder)
Linda & Patrick Smithson in memory of Grace Kellner
Cheryl & Kenneth Holtz in memory of Grace Kellner
Gary & Tameria Ritchison in memory of Grace Kellner
Paul Cavanagh in memory of Grace Kellner
Joe & Sue Stoeckel in memory of Grace Kellner
Tom & Erika Nupp in memory of Grace Kellner
Mostafa Hemmati in memory of Grace Kellner
Robin & Brian Lasey in memory of Grace Kellner
Cindy Dixon in memory of Grace Kellner
Cheryl & Clay Chaney in memory of Grace Kellner
Doug & Misty Barron in memory of Grace Kellner
Cindy Jacobs in memory of Grace Kellner
Eric & Kim Lovely in memory of Grace Kellner
Valli Wanzer in memory of Grace Kellner
Jamie & Mike Dalton in memory of Grace Kellner
Kate Culwell in memory of Grace Kellner
Linda & Jeff Norris in memory of Grace Kellner
Lisa & Keith Webb in memory of Grace Kellner
Jorista & Kory Garrie in memory of Grace Kellner
Bruce & Anice Tedford in memory of Grace Kellner
Melinda Wilkins in memory of Grace Kellner
John & Angela Jackson in memory of Grace Kellner
Jeff & Jill Robertson in memory of Grace Kellner
Susan Hardin & Barry Haas in memory of Grace Kellner
Donna & Anthony Sherrill in memory of Grace Kellner
David & Melissa Rupe in memory of Grace Kellner
Nancy Ludwig in memory of Margaret Haas
Ann Gordon in memory of Margaret Haas
Linda & Douglas Morse in honor of Claire Shaw's 81st birthday (Claire is the great niece of Edith & Henry Halberg)

AAS Trust Donations

(May 20 – November 30, 2018)

Endowment-Memorial Fund

Richard & Mary Cohoon, in memory of Bettye Zoe Brittenum
Bill & Toka Beall, in honor of Doug James' 93rd birthday
Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, in honor of Lyndal York
Mrs. Peggy Ackerman, in memory of Robert Shults

Names and Addresses of Legislators, AAS Officers, and Committee Chairmen

Senators and Congressmen
Sen. John Boozman, 141 HSOB,
Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-4843
Sen. Tom Cotton, 124 RSOB,
Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-2353
Rep. Rick Crawford, 2422 RHOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-4076
Rep. French Hill, 1533 LHOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-2506
Rep. Steve Womack, 2412 RHOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-4301
Rep. Bruce Westerman, 209 CHOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-3772

AAS Officers
President: Robin Buff, 5161 W. Wheeler Road, Fayetteville, 72704-5946, (479) 466-5600, bufffayar@aol.com
Vice President: Samantha Scheiman, 219 Beechwood St., Little Rock 72205, (501) 280-9024, samantha.scheiman@gmail.com
Secretary: Cindy Franklin, shickshinny@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Wayne Lynch, P.O. Box 2426, Hot Springs, 71914, (501) 617-4585, wmlynch@cablelynx.com
Editor: Allison Monroe, (501) 259-0195, monroeaa@hendrix.edu
Curator: Lyndal York, 42 Pine Manor Dr., Little Rock, 72207, (501) 663-2192, lrbluejay@gmail.com
Immediate Past President: Adam Schaffer, 1807 NW Buckskin Ave., Bentonville, 72712, (479) 283-0318, adamschaffer2@yahoo.com

AAS Halberg Ecology Camp Committee
Executive Director: Tamzen Tumlison Bryant, ttumlison@gmail.com
Co-Chairs: Ann Gordon, chesterann@gmail.com, (479) 369-4277
Maury Baker, 29 Pandilla Way, Hot Springs Village, 71909, (501) 922-6077, mbbaker@suddenlink.net
Treasurer: Barry Haas, P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, 72223, (501) 821-4097, bhaas@sbcglobal.net

AAS Trust
Chairman: Dan Scheiman, 219 Beechwood St., Little Rock, 72205, (501) 280-9024, birddan@comcast.net
Treasurer: Barry Haas, P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock 72223, (501) 821-4097, bhaas@sbcglobal.net

Committee Chairmen
Conservation: Maureen McClung, mcclung@hendrix.edu
Education Co-Chairs: Ann Gordon, chesterann@gmail.com, (479) 369-4277
Jack Stewart, jampack1@mac.com, (870) 715-0260
Finance: Cindy Franklin, shickshinny@hotmail.com
Membership: Cheryl Childers, cherylchilders@outlook.com
News of Members: Dottie Boyles, ctboyles@aristotle.net
Publicity: Donna Haynes, birdiehaynes@yahoo.com
Website: Lyndal York, 42 Pine Manor Dr., Little Rock, 72207, (501) 663-2192, lrbluejay@gmail.com

Address Service Requested

Arkansas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2426
Hot Springs, AR 71914

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Little Rock, AR
Permit No. 204