



# Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

Fall 2021 | Volume 66 | No. 3

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

## Arkansas Audubon Society Bird-Friendly Yard Report

By **PAM and JACK STEWART**

AAS Members

Native garden maintenance tip from Mariellen Griffith: "Primary maintenance in my garden is in the pathways. I grow clumps of plants (3-5) together which keeps weeds from growing." An overview of two of her garden beds is shown below.



Mariellen Griffith

### AAS has an updated website!

Go to [arbirds.org](http://arbirds.org), where the Bird-Friendly Yards Certification/Application form and supporting information can be found. In addition, you can contribute to the website page by sending your gardening tips for minimizing maintenance, eliminating invasive plant species, and problems you've overcome. Also, photos depicting examples of yards or gardens are welcome. They may help others who are planning a garden. Finally, we can help find answers to your questions about birds and plants. Please write to us at >BFaudubon@gmail.com.<

### Newly Certified Yards:

Pulaski County  
George E Pike Jr.  
Carroll County  
Mariellen Griffith

**Total Bird-Friendly Yards: 133, ranging in size from 50 sq ft. to over 100 acres!**

### Book Recommendation

The book *The Nature of Oaks* by Douglas Tallamy has interesting information about the importance of oak species to insects, birds, other wildlife, and humans. Tallamy's writing is amusing, fun to read, and informational.

### Reminder:

We now have aluminum BF yard signs available to Gold level "yards".



Pam Stewart

### Keep feeders clean!

As seed feeders are stocked for fall, be sure the feeder is cleaned occasionally. A hand-sprayed solution of dilute bleach (nine parts water to one of bleach) or a vinegar solution (50 to 50) will help to prevent spreading infections bird to bird. For more information: <https://www.audubon.org/news/three-easy-important-ways-keep-your-bird-feeder-disease-free>

# 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 [emilyrdonahue@gmail.com](mailto:emilyrdonahue@gmail.com)

## 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



*Five-striped Sparrow (left) and Berylline Hummingbird (right) photographed by Michael Linz in SE Arizona.*

## Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Fall Season

1 August – 30 November 2020

By KENNY NICHOLS

Member, Bird Records Committee

An estimated 20,000 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were just east of Lodge's Corner, *Arkansas* 15 Oct (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols).

Rare sea ducks this season included a **Surf Scoter** at Big Lake WMA, *Mississippi* 2 Nov (Timothy P. Jones); a single **Black Scoter** at Alma Wastewater Plant, *Crawford* 3 Nov (Vivek Govind Kumar) and three at Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 31 Oct (K&LN). Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were at Lake Conway, *Faulkner* 30 Nov (Ed Laster) and Lake Dardanelle 1 Nov (K&LN).

Very rare in any season, a **Common Ground-Dove** was photographed 30 Oct, at Pine Bluff, *Jefferson* (Tamalyn Block Wortham, Karen Hatcher).

Rare but steadily increasing, **White-winged Doves** were at Harrison, *Boone* 1 Sep (Sheree & Hank Rogers, Tim & Stephanie Barr); White Hall, *Jefferson* 11 Oct (Margie & Dave Nanak); and Little Rock, *Pulaski* 29 Oct (Gary Morris).

The season's only **Rufous Hummingbird** report was that of a bird photographed at Conway, *Faulkner* 9 Nov (Eilish Palmer).

The first since 2013, a single **Yellow Rail** was flushed during an organized rail search near Arkansas City, *Desha* 30 Oct (K&LN, Dick Baxter, Michael Linz, Patty McLean). A **Black Rail** observed at the same location 27 Oct (ML, PM) was the first since 2001.

Locally rare, two **Virginia Rails** were at Lake Sequoyah, *Washington* 27 Nov (Todd Ballinger, Ginny Halterman).

Only the fourth for *Crawford*, two **Common Gallinules** were at Lee Creek Reservoir 29 Sep (Fillmore Dryden); a single at Arkansas Post National Memorial, *Arkansas* was a surprise on the late date of 22 Nov (Caitlin De Bellis, Kevin Krajcir).

Just the eleventh occurrence for the state, a **Long-billed Curlew** was photographed at Bald Knob N.W.R., *White* 12 Sep (Donna Haynes, Adam Haynes, Lincoln Haynes).

Rare in fall, a **Red-necked Phalarope** was at Boyd Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, *Jefferson* 23 Oct (ML, PM).

Rare but annual, a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** was at Lake Dardanelle 5 Oct (KN).

Rare in any season, a **Laughing Gull** was at Bald Knob N.W.R. 20 Oct (ML, PM).

Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** photographed west of England 27 Oct were a first for *Lonoke* (K&LN).

Rare loons for the season included a **Red-throated Loon** on Lake Dardanelle 1 Nov (K&LN) and a **Pacific Loon** on Lake Maumelle, *Pulaski* 8 Nov (Ragan Sutterfield).

Thirteen **White-faced Ibis** were counted near Grand Lake, *Chicot* 10 Oct (K&LN); one was observed near Centerton, *Benton* 1 Oct (VGK).

One of the highest counts ever recorded in the state, 47 **Roseate Spoonbills** were tallied near Grand Lake 10 Oct (K&LN).

Rare but annual, a **Swallow-tailed Kite** south of Berryville 26 Aug was a first for *Carroll* (Tina Cone, Judy Griffith, Don Matt, VGK); another was photographed near Jacksonville, *Pulaski* 6 Sep (Cindy Franklin, Bill Burnham).

Lone **Northern "Red-shafted" Flickers** were near Alma, *Crawford* 21 Nov and Woolsey Wet Prairie, *Washington* 7 Oct (both VGK).

The only **Peregrine Falcon** report was an individual near Grand Lake 10 Oct (K&LN).

Rare and nearly annual, a **Prairie Falcon** seen 5 Nov near Cherokee Park, *Conway* (Ron Duvall) was most likely the same bird seen at Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* the same day (K&LN).



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Desha Co.*

Undoubtedly, the bird of the season was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** found in rural *Desha* about 10 miles north of Arkansas City 16 Nov (DB). Just the second

ever for the state, it was enjoyed by dozens of birders before being last seen 27 Dec.

Incredibly, there were four **Say's Phoebe** reports for the season: one near Beaverfork Lake 14 Sep was a first for *Faulkner* (ML, PM); one photographed 13 Oct at Crosses was a first for *Madison* (Brenda Nazarali); one near Alicia 14 Nov was a first for *Lawrence* (Terence & Jamie Teel); and one was photographed at Gum Springs, *Clark* 17 Nov (Evelyn Good).

Rare in migration, a **Sprague's Pipit** found 17 Oct at Bell Slough W.M.A. was just the second for *Faulkner* (ML, PM, Cody Massery, Allan Mueller).

An **Evening Grosbeak** photographed 20 Nov at Mena, *Polk* was the first for the state in nearly 20 years and the first of multiple winter reports (Ruth & David Wiebe).

A flyover **Red Crossbill** was heard 2 Nov at Ninestone Land Trust, *Carroll* (VGK).

A **Pine Siskin** at Fannie, *Montgomery* 31 Aug was early by two months (William Burton III).

Rare but annual, a female **Spotted Towhee** was at Fayetteville, *Washington* 17 Nov (VGK).

Rare transient **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at Beaver Lake, *Benton* 3 Oct (VGK), Little Rock, *Pulaski* 13–24 Oct (Dan & Samantha Scheiman) while two at Lake Saracen 26 Oct were a first for *Jefferson* (ML, PM).

Rarely detected in migration, **Nelson's Sparrows** were at Bell Slough W.M.A. 17 Oct (ML, PM, Steve Warmack, AM, Randy Robinson, CM, Anna Jetter) and near Alma, *Crawford* 3 Nov (VGK).

Early by over two months, a **Dark-eyed Junco** was photographed at Springdale, *Washington* 9 Aug (Mignonne Scarbrough).

Exceptionally late **Baltimore Orioles** were at Russellville, *Pope* 25 Nov (Kristen Taylor) and the next day at Sherwood, *Pulaski* (Christopher Gilbert).

Late warblers included a **Tennessee Warbler** 22 Nov at Little Rock and a **Nashville Warbler** at the same location 10 Nov (both DS); another Nashville was at Fayetteville 8 Nov (VGK).

Very rare in fall, a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was near Beaverfork Lake 1 Sep (ML, PM).

An exceptionally late **Scarlet Tanager** was observed at a feeder in Little Rock 29 Nov (Karen Delavan).

Latest ever by a full month and the first ever for November, a **Blue Grosbeak** was at Lake June, *Lafayette* 26 Nov (Devin & Jennifer Moon). Incredibly,

another was seen the next day near Dardanelle, *Yell* (Araks Ohanyan).

A **Painted Bunting** at Craig State Fish Hatchery, *Benton* 18 Oct was late by nearly 3 weeks (Adam Schaffer).

Late **Dickcissels** were at Bald Knob N.W.R. 5 Nov (Glenn & Michelle Wyatt) and Fayetteville 7 Nov (VGK).

## Member News: From the Boreal Forest to the Desert Southwest

By **DOTTIE BOYLES**

News of Members Editor

During the first week of August, **Dan** and **Samantha Scheiman** visited the boreal forest and Lake Superior shoreline of the Northwoods region of Wisconsin. Their main target was their life Spruce Grouse, a long shot they missed despite multiple early morning tries in good habitat. Still, Dan added five species to his state list: Canada Jay, Cape May Warbler (lifer for Sam), Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's Sandpiper, and Least Bittern. A couple were seen while birding with former A-State grad student Nick Anich. They added 6 life butterflies between them including Compton Tortoiseshell, Acadian Hairstreak, and Atlantis Fritillary. They also enjoyed hiking and kayaking with Samantha's parents, glamping (luxury camping), and staying at a retreat center designed by her favorite architect, David Salmela.

**Susan Harden** shared news that on September 6th, **Nell Ambrose** celebrated her 90th birthday! Susan took her a cake and other goodies and had a nice visit. Here's wishing Nell a very Happy Birthday and many more.

On a recent trip to New York City (September), **Karen Holliday** was able to squeeze in a couple of hours of birding in Central Park at the Hallett Nature Sanctuary. It is a four-acre woodland located in the southeast corner of the park on a rocky hill overlooking The Pond. It is named in honor of George Hervey Hallett, Jr., an activist, nature enthusiast, and birder. Central Park is a stopover along the Atlantic

Flyway each year for more than 210 bird species. Of the 19 species Karen spotted, the best included a Black-crowned Night-Heron, a male Wood Duck, Common Yellowthroats, and Gray Catbirds; plus, a lot of House Sparrows and Rock Pigeons. Warblers included: Yellow, Palm, Nashville, and American Redstart. A Red-tailed Hawk patrolled the area, loudly proclaiming his territory. Karen added a few additional species to her New York state list during her Staten Island Ferry trip and a visit to the Bronx Zoo. The wooded grounds of the zoo are home to many local species.



Gambel's Quail | Photo by Michael Linz

This past July/August, **Patty McLean** and **Michael Linz** drove to Southeast Arizona for an eight-day adventure in one of their favorite birding areas. They started in the Green Valley area, spending time in Tubac, Arivaca, and Madera Canyon, picking up their first of many area specialties including a Five-striped Sparrow, which was a life bird for Michael. Leaving there, they spent a day in Patagonia, enjoying the Violet-crowned Hummingbird at Patton's Sanctuary and a Thick-billed Kingbird and Rose-breasted Becard at the famous Patagonia Rest Stop. Afterwards, they birded the Ramsey Canyon area south of Sierra Vista, spending time at hummingbird hotspots where they saw both Lucifer's and Berylline Hummingbirds, the latter being a lifer for Michael. Their last several days were spent enjoying the Chiricahua Mountains on the eastern edge of Arizona and birding with several folks they met along the way, one couple being from Tennessee. Collectively they added twelve species to their Arizona state lists and several to their lists for New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma.

The **A-State Bird Observatory** had a very productive netting season. From late August to mid-October, the

banding crew netted 123 birds representing 39 species. A total of 99 birds were fitted with federal bands. The most common captures, as usual, included Gray Catbirds, American Redstarts, White-eyed Vireos, and Magnolia Warblers. Below is a chart of the top 20 species captured. Other highlights included a Bay-breasted Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-headed Vireo, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Over 43 students, faculty, and community members visited the station throughout the season to gain some hands-on experience.



Yellow-throated Vireo | Photo by Em Donahue

Species	Total
Gray Catbird	15
American Redstart	12
White-eyed Vireo	12
Magnolia Warbler	11
Northern Cardinal	8
Ovenbird	8
Brown Thrasher	7
Black-throated Green Warbler	4
Northern Parula	3
Yellow-throated Vireo	3
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2
Carolina Wren	2
Warbling Vireo	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	2
Carolina Chickadee	2
Downy Woodpecker	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Northern Flicker	2
Common Grackle	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2

## Ruth Thomas Scholarship Recipient Expresses Thanks

By **AMBER COBB**

Before COVID-19, my days were spent in classrooms or professional development workshops. As one of the area's science education specialists, I provided training for teachers, organized student events, and visited classrooms throughout the school year... or so I did before the pandemic. However, in 2020, everything changed. Schools no longer welcomed outside visitors, and large indoor events were no longer permitted. With no invitations, I found myself spending the majority of my time in the office and realized that if I was going to make an impact, I needed to rethink how I did my job.

The question was, how? I quickly learned that outdoor activities were the answer. So, I scoured the internet for learning opportunities, looking for inspiration. As luck would have it, I stumbled upon the National Audubon Society website. Long story short, thanks to the scholarship I received from the Arkansas Audubon Society, I soon was planning my trip to the Wyoming BioBlitz in hopes of bringing back fresh ideas and perspectives.

So, what exactly is a BioBlitz? A BioBlitz is a great combination of fun and science that taps into every participant's inner child by combining discovery and curiosity. During a BioBlitz, folks of all ages and backgrounds join forces to identify as many species as possible in a specific area. No level of expertise is required!

The Wyoming BioBlitz, located at the Brinton Museum near Sheridan, brought together experts with area nature lovers to survey the land around the museum. I was placed in a small group and rotated through stations lead by scientists. Stations included birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians, macroinvertebrates, mammals, and plants.

Not only did the BioBlitz provide scientific data useful to scientists and conservationists, but it was also an excellent professional development

opportunity for me! It certainly provided the inspiration I was looking for and sparked the preliminary development of the GFESC E-STEM program. This potential program will integrate environmental education with science, technology, engineering, and math.

A major component of this program will be to host our very own BioBlitz. My colleague and I plan to partner with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Magazine State Park, local conservation districts, Arkansas Forest Service, the Audubon Society, and area colleges to provide students with a unique opportunity that inspires them to learn more about the wildlife in western Arkansas.

I am incredibly grateful to the Audubon society for inspiring me to pursue this endeavor and hope to continue learning for many years!

## Halberg Ecology Camps: A Second Summer Without the Camps

By **BARRY HAAS**

Ecology Camp Treasurer

The Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp and Johnson Advanced Camp were canceled again this summer due to the Covid virus. After 40 consecutive years of holding the AAS youth ecology camps, it was sad to have no choice but to cancel these hands-on nature learning opportunities for young boys and girls. Our hope is that next year we can resume camp activities if the Covid virus is under control well enough to hold camp safely. We have some ecology camp supporters who continue to make donations knowing their money will be put to good use once camp resumes. If you would like to make a donation, checks should be made payable to "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).

## Ecology Camp Donations

(July 12 – September 24, 2021)

### **Donations by Organizations**

Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society

### **Donations by Individuals**

Sandra Key

Helen Parker

Claire Shaw

### **Memorials & Honoraria**

Bill Beall in memory of Thurman Jordan

## AAS Trust Donations

(July 12 - September 24, 2021)

### **Max Parker Fund**

Helen Parker in memory of Max & Jack Parker

- Members can create an online account to see your membership status, update your personal information, access a membership directory (still to come), and enjoy other privileges.
- Online donations to the Society, Halberg Ecology Camp, and Trust.
- Online meeting registration and payment (still to come).
- Upload your photos of birds, conventions, bird-friendly yards, etc., for use by the Society, including in a new bird slideshow and new photo-illustrated list of Arkansas birds.
- An improved rare bird report form that includes upload of photos and audio, which will then be displayed with the record.
- A new birding hotspots page to help you navigate to and through places to bird (still to come).
- New content management tools that make it easier for our officers to create and edit content for you.

Our site is still under construction, so please be patient if you encounter issues.

## President's Column

By **SAMANTHA SCHEIMAN**

AAS President

In case you missed it, the Arkansas Audubon Society has exciting news: we have a brand-new website! The URL is still [www.arbirds.org](http://www.arbirds.org), but it has a new look, new content, and new features. It was built for us by Ann Johnson of AJEndeavors (<https://ajendeavors.com>), a birder herself who specializes in sites for ornithological organizations.

Here are some highlights of the new site:

- Online membership application, renewal, and payment. Note that all members, except Life and Patron, must renew their membership in January 2022; we'll remind you. PayPal autorenewals will cease, though you will be able to renew for up to three years at a time.

Thanks to our ad hoc website committee—Dan Scheiman, Megan Foll, Caitlin De Bellis, and Kevin Krajcir—for working with Ann to shape the site. Thanks to our Treasurer Wayne Lynch for setting up our new PayPal and web hosting accounts. A special thanks to Lyndal York, who has been our Webmaster for two decades.

Good birding,

Samantha

### Printed Newsletter Opt-out:

To opt out of receiving our printed version of the newsletter, please email your name and mailing address to Marty Lynch at [wmlynch@cablelynx.com](mailto:wmlynch@cablelynx.com)

## Arkansas Audubon Society – Fall 2021 Call to Meeting

The Fall 2021 Meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be held virtually via Zoom on Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13, 2021. The two weeks leading up to the meeting will feature small group field trips and Counties of Arkansas Week (CAW) on November 1–7. Participation in the meeting or other events is free of charge and open to members and non-members alike, but registration is required.

Please register here to receive the Saturday Zoom meeting link:

<https://audubon.zoom.us/join/jwod-iuqDsiGdSID1r6WTt2h8ejxrSsTWQ0>

For CAW, register here

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qiERl\\_ErD8TiW\\_12RDwfXXVD7NPC-5Gp5knzrYm8\\_SY/edit?usp=drivesdk](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qiERl_ErD8TiW_12RDwfXXVD7NPC-5Gp5knzrYm8_SY/edit?usp=drivesdk) or by email at [auntm13@gmail.com](mailto:auntm13@gmail.com).

And for field trip registration or question, contact Megan Foll at [auntm13@gmail.com](mailto:auntm13@gmail.com).

Note: if you are viewing the Call to Meeting within the printed newsletter, please access the convention information available online at [arbirds.org](http://arbirds.org) to register and access the CAW and Big Day Competition forms

### AGENDA

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

##### **Socialize!: 7–7:10 p.m.**

Say hello to old faces and new.

##### **Field Trip and CAW Reports: 7:10–7:50 p.m.**

This time is available for our field trip leaders and participants to give short reports on their trips in the previous two weeks.

##### **Breakout Sessions: 8–9 p.m.**

If there's a section of the state you've always wanted to bird, but you don't know where to go and what to expect, join these sessions. Meet with birders from around the state to ask questions and hear them discuss their favorite places to bird in their section of Arkansas.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021

##### **Birding on Your Own/Arkansas Big Day Competition: dawn to 2 p.m.**

This birding competition will foster fun and a little friendly competition! Prizes will be awarded for the following categories: Most Species Seen, Most Individuals Seen, and Best Bird. To participate, bird during the above-referenced time period and complete the following form by 6 p.m.:

<https://forms.gle/7GPW9xvvcWLEwnw5>



### **Afternoon Symposium/Student Presentations: 4–5:30 p.m.**

“Plastics and Birds” by Dr. Terry Root, Stanford University Emeritus, lead author on early IPCC Reports, Nobel Peace Prize winner with Al Gore

“Wyoming Bioblitz” by Amber Cobb, M.Ed. Elementary Science/STEM Instructional Specialist, Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative, recipient of an AAS Ruth Thomas grant

Book Reviews, *The Nature of Oaks* (non-fiction) and *Ministry For the Future* (fiction)  
Pam Stewart

### **Evening Program - The Natural State with Wild Man Wilson - 7–8 p.m.**

If you are new to The Natural State or have been rediscovering it because of COVID restrictions, come explore Arkansas with Steve Wilson. We’ll talk about his history with this beautiful state, his love of the outdoors, and his work with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Project WILD. Through his stories, maybe you’ll find a new part of Arkansas to explore or an old haunt to return to.

### **Special Guest Speaker: Steve “Wild Man” Wilson**



Steve WILD MAN Wilson was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1950. He holds a bachelor’s degree in speech, business and education from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma and an MBA from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Upon graduation Steve immediately returned to The Natural State where he pursued a career with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. During his 37 years with AGFC he not only won numerous awards but also earned his nickname the “WILD MAN”. Soon after retirement he was inducted into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation’s Outdoor Hall of Fame. He produces and hosts a statewide radio program “CALL OF THE WILD” and enjoys spending time outdoors with his family, especially his grandson, Luke.

### **Business Meeting: 8:10–8:20 p.m.**

Birding Competition results, AAS Trust Report, etc.

## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips for the Fall 2021 Convention will take place from October 30 to November 11. For COVID safety, trips will be limited to ten people. Please also share vehicles only with social pods and wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

To register for field trip(s), please contact Megan Foll at [auntm13@gmail.com](mailto:auntm13@gmail.com)

### **Bell Slough WMA** - Allan Mueller

October 30, 7:30 - Look for woodland and wetland birds in Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area. Bring water and snacks, and meet at the parking lot for the Kenny Vernon Nature Trail. Directions: From Interstate 40 Exit 135 at Mayflower, turn south on Interstate Drive, immediately east of the exit. Continue on Interstate Drive past Gibson Bridge Road and over Palarm Creek, to Bell Slough WMA (1.5 miles total). Turn left into the parking area.

### **Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery** - Rod Wittenberg

October 30, 8:00 - Scan the fish ponds and wooded or grassy banks of the state's first fish hatchery. Bring water and snacks, and meet at the hatchery parking lot. Address: 977 W Fish Hatchery Rd, Centerton, AR 72719

### **Holla Bend NWR** (plus Lake Dardanelle, if time permits) - Karen Holliday

October 30, 8:30 - Drive through Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge. Then, if time permits, scan Lake Dardanelle for early waterfowl. Bring snacks and water, and meet at the Holla Bend headquarters. Directions: From Dardanelle, take State Highway 7 South to State Highway 155 South and go about 4 miles to the refuge entrance. Once you enter the refuge, the office/visitor area is 1/2 mile down the road on the right.

### **Burns Park and Arkansas River Trail** - Michael Linz and Patty McLean

October 31, 8:00 - Bird the riverside and trails of Burns Park and the Arkansas River Trail in North Little Rock. Bring snacks and water, and meet in front of the Burns Park restrooms on Tournament Drive. Directions: From I-40/US-65, take exit 150 to Championship Drive, then turn right on Tournament Drive. The restrooms will be on your left.

### **Big Lake NWR** - Kevin Krajcir

November 1, 8:00 - Bird the swampy woods and lake of Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Bring snacks, water, and lunch; and meet at the refuge visitor center. Address: 2274 Highway 18, Manila, AR 72442

**Jefferson county** (Lake Saracen, Regional Park, and Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center) - Devin Moon and Delos McCauley

November 5, 9:00 - Drive and walk easy trails around Lake Saracen, Regional Park, and Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center. Bring water and snacks, and meet in the Lake Saracen parking lot. Address: 200 Lake Saracen Drive, Pine Bluff, AR 71601

**Bald Knob NWR** - Megan Foll

November 6, 8:00 - Bird the ponds, mudflats, and woods of Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge. Bring snacks and water, and meet at the refuge visitor center. Directions: From Hwy 367 S in Bald Knob, turn south beside the Jr. Food Mart onto Coal Chute Rd. Continue about 2.5 miles, and you will see the visitor center on your left.

**East Sylamore, Ozark NF** - Megan Foll

November 7, 7:30 - Bird woodlands, glades, and riverside in the eastern section of the Sylamore District of the Ozark National Forest. This is located in Stone County and can be part of the Counties of Arkansas Week. Bring water and snacks, and meet in the parking lot of Angler's White River Resort. Address: 23080 AR-5, Allison, AR 72050

**Lake Fort Smith SP** - Mystina Swaim

November 7, 8:00 - Follow a park interpreter through the lake and wooded hills of Lake Fort Smith State Park. If you are interested in a pontoon ride on the lake as part of this trip, please indicate so in an email to Megan Foll at [auntm13@gmail.com](mailto:auntm13@gmail.com). Bring water and snacks, and meet at the park visitor center. Address: 15458 Shepherd Springs Road, Mountainburg, AR 72946.