



Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

Spring 2022 | Volume 67 | No. 1

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

You've heard of Plants for Birds, but what about Birds for Plants?

New research reminds us of nature's complexity... More than half of the world's plant species rely on birds and other animals to disperse their seeds. What happens when the number of these animal dispersers declines?



American Robin on *Llex verticillata*

Photograph by Xianwei Zeng, winner of Audubon Photography Award

Plants have evolved ways to trick animals (including us) into spreading them to new locations. One strategy is to use sticky or barbed seeds so they can cling to fur or clothing. Another method is for the plant to offer tempting fruit, the seeds of which are ready to germinate after passing through the animal's

Newly Certified Yards:

Pulaski County

Ana Privratsky

Karen Kersten

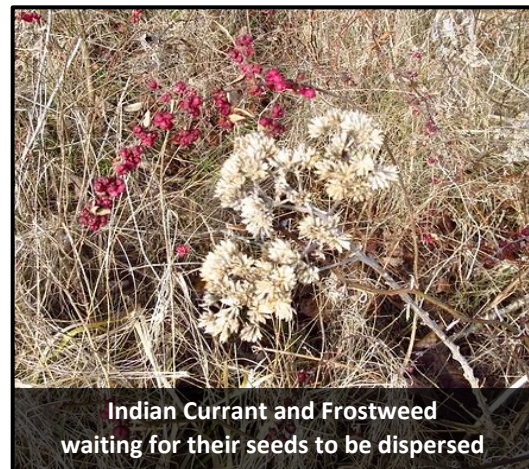
Saline County

Doug Redmann

digestive system then pooped out with a packet of fertilizer. Some seeds will be lucky and land in the perfect spot.

With climate change, plants will need to move in order to find suitable habitat. Scientist from Rice and other cooperating Universities have released the results of a world-wide meta study detailing a decline in animal species that animal-dispersed plants rely on. The result is a loss of 60% of plants ability to move to new locations. As climate change accelerates, the report says, many plants will go extinct.

Audubon Bird-Friendly Yard Certification program participants are creating bridges to new habitats.



Indian Currant and Frostweed waiting for their seeds to be dispersed

Photograph by Pam Stewart

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

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. Please send newsletter submissions to emilyrdonahue@gmail.com

Membership renewals are due January 1st of each calendar year.

REGULAR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	Jan – Sept*	Oct – Dec**
Regular member	\$15.00	\$15.00
Regular Family	\$20.00	\$20.00
Contributing Member	\$30.00	--
Contributing Family	\$35.00	--
Sustaining Member	\$20.00	--
Sustaining Family	\$25.00	--
Student member	\$5.00	--

* Memberships paid in this quarter will cover membership through the end (Dec) of that year

** Memberships paid during this period (Oct – Dec) will include full membership for the following calendar year

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

Payment of Dues:

Members have two options for payment:

- 1) Online credit card or PayPal payment through account created on the AAS website: <https://arbirds.org>
- 2) Check made to Arkansas Audubon Society and sent to:

Wayne Lynch, Treasurer, P.O. Box 2426, Hot Springs, AR 71914



Black-and-white Warbler | Photo by Steve Warmack

Yellow-throated Warbler | Photo by Em Donahue

Black-and-white and Yellow-throated Warblers are some of the first Neotropical migrants to return to their breeding grounds in Arkansas every spring.

New AAS Members

Homer Singleton; Ashdown
 Richard Gray; Bryant
 Lindsay Lamon; Lowell
 Austin; Fayetteville
 Marilyn Rumph; Benton
 Kelly Jobe; Roland
 Stacey Elliot; Brentwood, TN
 Glen Wyatt; Cabot
 John Walko; Lowell
 Dorothy Mangold; Fayetteville
 Betty Evans; Rogers
 Keith McFaul; Texarkana
 Steven Warmack; Little Rock
 James McHaney; Little Rock
 Sandra Graham; Jacksonville
 Joe & Amy Hall; Cabot
 Marion Ball; Malvern
 Galen Perkins; Jonesboro
 Taylor & Jenny Long; Fayetteville
 William & Loralee Holiman; Maumelle
 Emerson Lejong; Conway
 Stevey McCall; Little Rock

New Life Members

Heather Cook; Rogers
 Sarah Morris; Little Rock
 Michele Clark; Searcy
 Steve Hutchins; Little Rock
 Lisa Hlass; Little Rock
 John Matejka; Little Rock

New Patron Members

Karen Seale; Little Rock

Donations to the General Fund

Barry Haas
 Dan Scheiman

Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Winter Season

1 December 2020 – 28 February 2021

By KENNY NICHOLS

Member, Bird Records Committee

Five **Trumpeter Swans** near Walnut Ridge 2 Feb were a first for *Lawrence* (Kent Freeman).

Tundra Swans are annual or nearly so in *Cleburne*; one was at SEECO Lake off Hiram Road 15 Dec (Michael Linz, Patty McLean); quite rare elsewhere, six were at Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 16 Dec (Ron Duvall).

Rare in winter, four **Blue-winged Teal** were counted on the Lake Dardanelle CBC, near Lamar, *Johnson* 1 Jan (Leif Anderson).

Very rare in any season a **Cinnamon Teal** photographed 12 Jan at Pine Bluff (MLi, PM) was a first for *Jefferson*.

Rare and almost annual, **Surf Scoters** were well-represented with four reports: singles at Lake Sequoyah, *Washington* 4 Dec (Todd Ballinger), Smith Pecan Farm, *Phillips* 9 Jan (Orin Robinson), and Dardanelle Lock & Dam, *Yell/Pope* 18 Feb (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols); two were at Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 5 Dec (K&LN).

A **White-winged Scoter** at Beaverfork Lake, *Faulkner* 22 Feb was the only report of this rare winter visitor (MLi, PM).

Possibly the rarest of the three scoter species that occur in the state, two **Black Scoters** were discovered at Lake Columbia, *Columbia* 15 Dec (Jeremy Chamberlain); one was at Lake Millwood, *Hempstead* 13 Dec (JCh, Heather Laferte).

Long-tailed Ducks staged a mini-invasion with six separate reports: one photographed at the East Swan Pond, *Cleburne* 13 Jan (MLi, PM); one at the Alma WTP, *Crawford* 15 Jan (MLi, PM), three at Beaverfork Lake 22 Feb (MLi, PM), one on Lake Dardanelle 26 Dec (K&LN), one at Treadway's Minnow Farms, *Prairie* 24 Jan (K&LN) and an amazing nine on the Lake Dardanelle CBC 1 Jan (K&LN, Karen Holliday).

Common Mergansers also made an above average showing this season with six reports: one was at Cabin

Creek Rec Area, *Johnson* 1 Jan (LA); one was at the East Swan Pond 13 Jan (MLi, PM); one was at Lake Sequoyah 9 Feb (TBA); six at Helena Harbor 21 Feb (Matt Sutton) were a surprising first for *Phillips*; two were at Delaware Rec Area, *Yell* 19 Feb and 16 were north of Lake Dardanelle State Park, *Pope* 18 Feb (both K&LN).

Very uncommon in winter, a male **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Lake Maumelle, *Pulaski* 4 Dec (Dustin Lynch, Brie Olsen).

Out-of-range **Inca Doves** were spotted at Carden Bottoms, *Yell* 30 Dec & 26 Jan (MLi, PM) and Scott, *Pulaski* 7 Feb (Araks Ohanyan).

Rare but increasing, lone **White-winged Doves** were at the England Grain Bins, *Lonoke* 24 Jan (K&LN) and a backyard feeder at Leachville, *Mississippi* 13 Feb (Jansen Hawkins).

Extralimital hummingbirds this season included a **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, present at a feeder in Austin, *Lonoke* 29 Jan – 5 Feb (David & Gabriele Bitner, MLi, PM); an **Anna's Hummingbird** at a residence in Vilonia, *Faulkner* 30 Jan (Tracie Lemar, MLi, PM); and a **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** photographed at a backyard feeder in Wynne, *Cross* 3 Dec that represents just the fifth occurrence for the state (Retha & Bob Hayes).

Rufous Hummingbirds are rare but regular during the winter season and this year there were no less than five reports: an immature at Alexander, *Saline* 14 Dec (Rhonda & Danny Townsend); an adult male at Hampton, *Calhoun* 18 Dec (Charles & Michelle Brandon); one at Little Rock 14 Jan (MLi, PM); one photographed in north *Pulaski* 11 Feb (Kaye Osburn); and one near Lake Ouachita, *Garland* 14 Feb (Reed & Jane Kilgore).

There were numerous **Virginia Rail** reports with the most impressive being four counted at Alcoa Bottoms, *Clark* 8 Feb (MLi, PM).

The season's only **Sora** report was a bird in rural *Lonoke* 27 Dec & 17 Jan (MLi, PM).

Single **Sandhill Cranes** were at Arkadelphia, *Hot Springs* 19 Dec (LA) and Lonoke, *Lonoke* 27 Dec (K&LN).

Very rare in winter, two **American Avocets** were seen on the Lonoke CBC 27 Dec (K&LN).

Rare shorebirds this season included an exceptional 100 **Dunlin**, counted in a flooded field east of Egypt,

Lawrence 6 Dec (Alex Worm, Emily Donahue), and **Spotted Sandpipers** photographed at Lake Dardanelle State Park, *Pope* 15 Dec (K&LN) and Two Rivers Park, *Pulaski* 13 Feb (Johnny Walker).

A **Pacific Loon** on Lake Hamilton, *Garland* 20 Dec was the only report of this rare winter visitor (LA).

Very rare in winter, **Anhingas** were spotted at Arkansas Post National Memorial, *Arkansas* 18 Dec & 28 Jan (Gabrielle Hargrove, Rosemary & Jessica Joganic) and the St. Francis National Forest, *Lee* 18 Dec (LA).

An **American Bittern** photographed at DeWitt, *Arkansas* 18 Feb (Mickey Smith) was the only report of this very rare winter visitor.

Lingering **Cattle Egrets** were at Bald Knob N.W.R., *White* 4 Jan (Glenn & Michelle Wyatt) and Hazen, *Prairie* 24 Jan (K&LN).

A "**Red-shafted**" **Northern Flicker** observed at Horseshoe Bend 1 Jan was a first for *Izard* (David Martin).

Rare falcons this season included **Peregrine Falcons** at the AGFC Nursery Pond near Knoxville, *Johnson* 1 Jan (LA), one chasing ducks on Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 17 Feb (K&LN); and a **Prairie Falcon** photographed south of Blackwell, *Conway* 13 Jan (GW).

Very rare in winter, a **Myiarchus sp.** flycatcher was found at Rattlesnake Ridge Natural Area, *Pulaski* 1 Jan (Doug Zollner).

Just the second ever for the state, a **Tropical Kingbird** at Lake Saracen, Pine Bluff, *Jefferson* 7 Dec was undoubtedly the same bird that wintered in the area the previous winter (Delos McCauley).

Very rare over-wintering **White-eyed Vireos** were at Lake Saracen 10 Dec & 29 Jan (MLi, PM, Nancy & Joe Gieringer) while two separate individuals were found on the White River N.W.R., *Arkansas* 18 Dec (Alix Matthews, Lindsey Martin-Krikorian).

Annual or nearly so, a **Rock Wren** at the Alma WTP 13 Jan was a first for *Crawford* (Sandy Berger).

Rare and seriously declining, a **Bewick's Wren** photographed at Little Rock 18 Feb was the first for *Pulaski* in over three years (Misty Ladd).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are rare but annual in winter; one was in rural *Cleveland* 2 Jan (MLi, PM) and one was at Lake Felsenthal, *Union* 26 Dec (LA).

About the 12th for the state, a **Townsend's Solitaire** was photographed at Devil's Backbone Natural Area,

Izard 16 Jan (Heather & Tony Cook).

A **Gray Catbird** on the Pine Bluff CBC, *Jefferson* 28 Dec was the season's only report (LA).



Female Evening Grosbeak | Photo by Michael Linz

The **Evening Grosbeak** invasion that began in late November continued throughout the winter season with five reports: one in Little Rock, *Pulaski* 8 Dec (Gary Morris); one at Kingston, *Madison* 15 Dec (Beth Weaver); six at a feeder in Lonsdale, *Saline* 15 Dec (Matt & Melanie Guthrie); seven at a feeder in Pangburn, *Cleburne* 31 Jan (Forest & Barbara Hembree); and six at Hot Springs, *Saline* 15 Feb (Sherry Clifton).

Very rare in winter and the first for *Stone*, a **Common Redpoll** was photographed east of Mountain View 1 Jan (Megan Foil).

Three **Red Crossbills** on the Ozark NF, *Pope* 15 Dec were the only report of the season (LA).

Rare but annual, a **Spotted Towhee** was at Fayetteville, *Washington* 16 Feb (Sara & Bob Caulk).

Very rare in winter, a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Springdale, *Washington* 17 Feb (Richard & Donna Apfel).

Baltimore Orioles are considered to be very rare winter visitors. There were too many to list here but the number of sightings (15!) during the winter of 2020-2021 was exceptional by any standard. To put this into perspective, prior to the winter of 2020-2021, there were a grand total of 18 winter season sightings.

Just the third winter record, a **Yellow Warbler** was photographed at Rogers, *Benton* 16 Jan (Jeremy Cohen, Erin Sauer).

A female **Wilson's Warbler** at Knoop Park, Little Rock 8 Jan represents just the fifth winter occurrence (Ragan Sutterfield, Dan Scheiman).

Though considered very rare in winter, **Summer Tanagers** were well represented with five sightings: one at Fayetteville, *Washington* 1 Dec (J.D. Wilson); one at Jonesboro, *Craighead* 3 Dec (Than Boves); one at Little Rock 10 Jan (Michelle Hansen, Caroline Hunt); one photographed in Fayetteville 10 Feb (Tayla & John Boerner); and another photographed in Fayetteville 12 Feb (Michael Lehmann).

An extremely rare xanthochromic "yellow" **Northern Cardinal** was photographed visiting a feeder at Caldwell, *St Francis* 30 Dec (Phyllis Russell, Niki Jones, Cooper Jones, Carter Jones, Dawn Gray).

Very rare in winter, **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were at Monticello, *Drew* 28 Dec (Ryan Askren) and Lake Erling, *Lafayette* 18 Feb (Phillip Abernathy).

Very rare in mid-winter, a **Dickcissel** was found on the Pine Bluff CBC, *Jefferson* 28 Dec (K&LN).

BirdAR Birdathon

By DAN SCHEIMAN

Birdathon Coordinator

Registration is open for Audubon Delta's BirdAR Birdathon. Birdathons all over the country engage thousands of birders in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for bird conservation. The BirdAR Birdathon is a competitive search for birds plus a fun way to raise money for Audubon Delta's bird conservation and environmental education work in Arkansas.

Like last year, two team categories are available to provide everyone the opportunity to participate in a way that is safe and comfortable. Group Birdathon teams consist of two to five participants who will bird together anywhere in the state (\$250 fundraising minimum). Backyard Birdathon teams are an individual or household who bird from the comfort of their home (\$100 minimum). All teams have a full 24 hours on the date of your choosing between Monday May 9 and Sunday May 22. BirdCast (<https://birdcast.info>) can help you pick a great day for migration. On Thursday June 2, all teams are invited to join in for an evening virtual Bird Bash

where teams will share experiences and we'll announce prizes for Most Species (Group), Most Species (Backyard), and Most Money Raised. In addition, team members will receive a t-shirt, sticker, and car door magnet letting onlookers know you are a volunteer birder (also handy for CBCs, etc.)

Last year's Birdathon was a success, despite the coronavirus, thanks to 10 teams that together tallied 212 species and raised over \$10,500!



Registration forms are available at:

<http://ar.audubon.org/bird-ar>

The deadline is April 15. The sooner you register your team the sooner Audubon Arkansas will create your team's profile page to make fundraising easier, e.g. friends and family anywhere in the world can donate online.

I'm looking forward to competing with you for a good cause.

Member News: Young Publishers and Southwest Rarities

By **DOTTIE BOYLES**

News of Members Editor

Dr. Ragupathy Kannan reports that the two high school student projects (from Belize and Bermuda) he talked about in the July Audubon Society of Central Arkansas meeting are now published in the Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science. The former was

about bird usage of black fungal strands as nest material, and the latter was a remote ornithology project describing nesting behavior of Bermuda Petrels observed via live webcam. Both those students (Haris Rana and Tara Chander) are making good progress now in college.

Links to the articles can be found at:

Black fungal fibers as nest material:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p98ybem>

Bermuda petrel study via webcam:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ax9dt>

Keith and Rayma Jean Hawkins, accompanied by birding dog Ceci, were in South Texas, holed up in a VRBO (Vacation Rental By Owner) at Laguna Vista, for the month of December. We tried to recall what number this run was but memory escapes. It had to be at least our 10th since we try to go at least every other winter. A fun time was had by all. The beans, BBQ and shrimp were awesome as always. We also enjoyed trying to keep track of Michael and Patty as they made numerous runs in our direction. We chased birds a bit too but not as aggressively. After a number of years, we finally logged a Hook-billed Kite. It performed an up-close flyby over the Hawk Watch Tower at Santa Anna. As usual I was about to give up the quest after approximately 6 hours of time (this year) dedicated to seeing this bird when it graced me with the fly-over. I was not quick enough with my camera to catch the grand event, but I do have it locked into the memory bank. My luck had finally changed, and I went from muttering "never again on a rare or difficult bird" to turning around the next morning and returning to Santa Anna in hopes of seeing the Bat Falcon. Again, I was fortunate. In fact, it was so easy (The little falcon was perched on a power pole at the entrance) that I almost felt guilty. It is certainly a pretty and unusual looking little falcon.

My luck did not totally change as I devoted 3 trips and roughly another 6 hours attempting to see the Social Flycatcher that was appearing on the University of Texas Rio Grande Campus. It was not a total loss because I did enjoy seeing a lot of the usual suspects like the Green Kingfisher and others. But the most fun was visiting with other birders and there were plenty to choose from. It never ceases to amaze me

how a rare bird will bring in people from far and wide.

I can highly recommend South Texas as a winter adventure. There are plenty of birds you will only see there, the weather can be very pleasant, and the food is not only delicious it is relatively inexpensive.

Amy and Joe Hall escaped to Costa Rica in mid-January to enjoy a ten-day slow-paced vacation among the birds and local wildlife. The program was arranged by Road Scholar, with the group consisting of seven tourists converging from cities across the U.S., two excellent Costa Rican guides, and a dedicated driver who spoke no English but had a keen eye and was clearly enthusiastic about sharing his love of birding.

While visiting three regions of the country, Amy and Joe logged approximately 100 bird species, the highlight of which was a Great Potoo, located as the result of information provided by a Ranger at Arenal Volcano National Park. But for that tip, this bird might have gone unnoticed, as it had cleverly disguised itself as the top of a tall tree stump!

Carol Meyerdirk reported two hummingbirds visiting her West Little Rock feeder this fall and winter. The first was an adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (RTHU) which arrived late October. The second came in November, but was not seen enough times to identify. It had a stippled chin.

She said the adult male RTHU was quite a bully, buzzing off the other hummingbird any time it tried to feed. Carol guessed it got tired and was reported MIA as of Dec 29, 2021. The male RTHU disappeared the third week of January 2022, but reappeared during the ice/sleet storm in February. Carol suspected it had been feeding elsewhere.

Carol thanks Michael Linz and Patty McLean for stopping by to help identify and take photos of these remarkable creatures.

A number of AAS members recently traveled to South Texas and New Mexico to see some of the rarities that have shown up, including the Bat Falcon, Social Flycatcher, and Blue Mockingbird.

Michael Linz and **Patty McLean** have written an article about their adventure to these locations for the February 2022 issue of *The Snipe*, the newsletter for the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas (ASCA), which can be found by visiting ASCA's website at: <https://wp.ascabird.org/category/snipe-newsletter/>

Dan and **Samantha Scheiman** took their thrice-rescheduled trip to Newfoundland (rhymes with understand), Sept. 29-Oct. 10. It was not as birdy a season as their original timeframe of May 2020, but the vacation was as much about relaxation, food, and culture as it was about birds. They spent half the time on Fogo Island and the other half in St. John's. From their ocean-view room at the famed Fogo Island Inn they could watch gannets go by. Snow Buntings and Mink foraged outside the dining room windows. While enjoying rugged scenery and berry picking, they picked up Samantha's first lifer, three Razorbills. In the St. John's area, eBird's Needs Alert and regional reviewer helped them find more lifers for her: a Great Cormorant off Cape St. Francis, cooperative Black-headed Gulls on a beach, and tame Tufted Ducks on a park pond. High onshore winds blew in Dan's only lifer, Leach's Storm-Petrels, which they enjoyed from the comfort of their hotel room overlooking St. John's Harbor. A Minke Whale was another lifer for them both. Other trip highlights include seeing the world's oldest multicellular fossils (560+ myo) at Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve, eating moose, and getting "screeched in" at the same pub where Anthony Bourdain did this ceremony to become an honorary Newfoundlander.

While visiting Samantha's family in Wisconsin for Christmas, Dan added Varied Thrush to his state list. He saw the bird for less than thirty seconds after waiting four hours over two days. They thought they saw the Slaty-backed Gull at a landfill outside of Madison, but it turned out to be a Lesser Black-backed Gull. So, they cut their losses and went after a female Tufted Duck in Milwaukee. After much scoping Dan picked it out of the scaup flock, let other birders look, and there was much rejoicing!

In Memoriam

Ron Goddard (1952 - 2022)



At 16 I was not particularly interested in school. I always wanted to get home so I could go fishing or something. When I started taking Ron Goddard's classes I got to go fishing during class. If not fishing with a pole it was fishing with a sein. Sometimes we dug up burrowing crayfish around campus. However, the days Mr. Goddard took us birding had the most impact on my life.

We called Mr. Goddard Captain because he was the captain of the bus. Usually, a couple of times per week, the class would load up on a bus and drive around the county looking for birds. We were required to keep a checklist and he would give us a grade for keeping it. Occasionally he would invite us to go with him on a Saturday trip to Holla Bend NWR. I would never have spent a Saturday at a school function if it had not been for the Captain.

Mr. Goddard coached, taught science classes and drove a school bus at Waldron high school for 33 years. He was an artist and that was reflected in the many wood carvings of birds he produced. His passion was birds and birding. He literally traveled all over the world in pursuit of his passion. After he retired from teaching, Ron spent every day birding. He had submitted over 6000 checklists to eBird and documented 251 species for Scott County Arkansas alone. He was a member of the Arkansas Audubon Society and during the big Ivory-Billed Woodpecker incident of 2004, Ron was one of those drafted to search for the elusive creature.



Today, I am the biology teacher at Waldron High School, the same school where Mr. Goddard taught me. Once per week I take my students birding like Mr. Goddard did for me. I felt it prudent to share the impact he made on my life. He was my mentor for birding. He was my go-to guy when I wasn't sure if I was looking at an immature Glossy or White-Faced Ibis. On our weekly trips, it was not uncommon to run into him at one of the local hotspots. It was always good to have someone local I could text and say, "Hey was that what I thought it was?"

If not for Ron Goddard, my students would not be birding with me today. I was fortunate to know him as a student, then as a colleague, a protege and a friend. I will miss his advice, opinions, and knowledge. He never really stopped teaching me.

Written By: Patrick Millard

Ron Goddard's obituary:

heritagememorialfh.com/obituary/Ronald-Goddard

Helen Parker (1928-2022)



Many in the birding community met Helen and Max Parker during their active years as members of the

Arkansas Audubon Society. Helen was preceded in death by her husband Max in 2008. After joining in the 1970s, Helen and Max gave so much to the Arkansas birding community over many years. Examples are Max serving as curator of the AAS Bird Records Committee for many years, and Helen serving as AAS treasurer from 1993 through 2002. They were always involved even when they weren't serving in any official capacity.

Written by: Barry Haas

I would have first met Helen Parker, along with Max, at the 1971 AAS Fall Meeting in Pine Bluff. Our paths became intertwined after that, and, over the years, we had many adventures.

In September of 1974, I found a Long-tailed Jaeger, the first of my first Arkansas records. That year, the Fall Meeting was at Camp Ferndale. I drove up only for the Sunday session. Helen and Max were among the first to greet me and both told me that, if I found more good birds, to let them know. And thus began a long relationship that went far beyond simple friendship. Almost instantaneously, Helen and Max both treated me more like a family member than family friend.

We found and or jointly documented many rare birds for Arkansas. We collaborated on many editions of the AAS Field List. It was Max in fact who gave me the go ahead and try my hand at typesetting the 1980 edition, a practice that Kenny Nichols continues to this day. I spent many hours with Helen and Max working on many editions of the field list. We were a finely tuned team. One such work session stands out in my memory. I drove up to Malvern early on January 13, 1990. When I first arrived, we were sitting in their living room just chit-chatting before beginning work. Their phone rang and Helen got up to answer it. Moments later, she leaned back into the living room and extended the phone to Max. While Max was talking, Helen whispered that Jeff Wilson and others had just found the first and still the only Brant record for Arkansas. Soon, Max took the phone away from his ear and asked me how soon I could be ready to go look for it. My answer, "Does the word goodbye mean anything to you?" I thought I would have to pick Helen up off the floor.

Beyond that Helen and Max were my mentors in so many ways. And you really couldn't just say Helen or Max. It was always Helen and Max.

I am saddened that the special bond we had has now ended. On the other hand, I suppose that it has only changed. I can continue to extend to others in the Arkansas birding community the knowledge, guidance, and respect that Helen and Max extended to me. In that way, their immense legacy to the Arkansas birding community will be carried on. I expect many others who knew Helen and Max as well as I will do the same.

Written by: Charles Mills

Helen Parker's obituary:

[legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/helen-parker-obituary?id=33013738](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/helen-parker-obituary?id=33013738)

Jeff Trahan (1941 - 2022)



Sadly, yet another birding friend has passed. Jeff Trahan lived in Shreveport, LA, and birded and butterflyed SW AR. He and his wife Jean became life members of Arkansas Audubon Society after attending our meeting in Texarkana in 2018. In the words of Rosemary Seidler...

Many of you knew Jeff from his frequent attendance at Louisiana Ornithological Society meetings or from meeting him in the field. He was always willing to help new birders and eager to introduce birders to the wonders of butterflies.

Jeff didn't start birding till he was 50 years old. I was there the day he saw Blackburnian, Magnolia and Prothonotary Warblers. That was it. The next

day, the Trahans ordered binoculars and bird books. Once he started, he was all in. He read about habitat, behavior, and seasonality. He didn't want to just see the bird, he wanted to understand the bird. He learned not only from books about birds but from birders like Charlie Lyon and Terry Davis.

When bird activity quieted down in the summer, we butterflyed. Jeff and Jean were already knowledgeable about native plants, so, naturally, Jeff learned about host plants. He abandoned vegetable gardening and replanted his back yard for butterflies. He learned about flight times and studied nuances in flight patterns for different species. Many of his photos appear in Glassberg's book: *A Swift Guide to Butterflies of North America*. Jeff became one of the "go to guys" for butterfly ID in the state.

When it got too dark to look for birds and butterflies, we looked for moths. Vicki LeFevers and I already had black lights and were taking moth photos to ID. Jeff set up a sheet and black light in his yard and the three of us went to a local park at night with our set-ups. Jeff created a website with photos of over 600 moths.

Even though I was looking at birds, butterflies and moths before Jeff got started, he was far more knowledgeable than I and, as is often the case, the student became the teacher. He will be greatly missed.

Written By: Rosemary Seidler

Jeff Trahan's obituary:

shreveporttimes.com/obituaries/spt079222

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 in both 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. After 40 consecutive years of holding the AAS youth ecology

camp, it was sad to have no choice but to cancel these hands-on nature learning opportunities for young boys and girls. Our hope is this summer we can resume camp activities assuming the Covid virus is no longer a major risk to hold camp safely. A final decision has not yet been made as of this writing.

Some ecology camp supporters 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

(September 24, 2021 – February 13, 2022)

Donations by Individuals

Fred Berry

Holly Childs

Memorials & Honoraria

Bill Beall in memory of Thurman Jordan

Robin Buff in memory of Art Johnson & Carolyn York

Dawn Graves in honor of Terry & Judy Butler

Susan Hardin & Barry Haas in memory of Barbara

"B.J." Cutrell

Eric & Milanne Sundell in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Julia Derooy in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Alison, Robert & Amanda Henderson in memory of

Barbara Cutrell

John & Barbara Reaves in memory of Barbara Cutrell

David & Terri Luneau in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Sara Melton in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Kimberly & Jim Robison in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Adam & Andrea Schaffer in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Sally Aldrich in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Patricia & Terry Brotherton in memory of Barbara

Cutrell

Edward & Cynthia Howington in memory of

Mack & Hervey Howington

James & Jeanne Cash in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Judy Griffin in memory of Barbara Cutrell

William & Leslie Neal in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Franklin International in memory of Barbara Cutrell

Your Trust at Work: AAS Trust Report

By DAN SCHEIMAN

AAS Trust Chair

I am delighted to announce that thanks to donations and recent strong return on investments, we have met and surpassed our **goal of building the Endowment-Memorial Fund to \$200k by the 50th anniversary of the Trust** (fall 2022)! That doesn't mean we're good to go. Investment income, which we use to give grants, is only around \$6,000 per year, which is about a third of what we receive in requests. The larger the fund, the more money we can give to worthy research, education, and conservation projects. Contributions can be sent to: Barry Haas, Treasurer, P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, AR 72223.

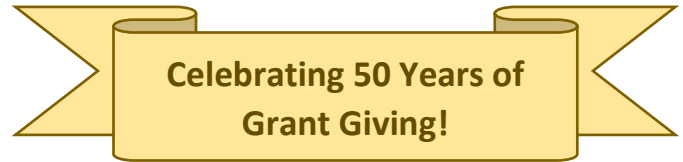
The Trust needs a new Treasurer to replace Barry. He and I recently enacted changes to the Trust accounts that make it easier than ever to track and report on. It is a rewarding experience to serve on a body that gives awards to worthy student projects. Contact me if interested.

The Trust met virtually on November 10, 2021. For the fall 2021 session the Trustees granted seven awards totaling \$4,631.

- Emily Donahue (Ph.D., ASU) ingested \$1,170 to investigate how insecticides affect Loggerhead Shrike gut microbiomes.
- Mackenzie Hanna (M.S., ASU) collected \$400 to test how Lesser Sirens respond to the scent of insecticides.
- Rebecca Lett (M.S., ASU) rolled up \$450 to study dung beetle diversity change over time.
- Victoria Lydy (M.S., ASU) received \$500 to test the toxicity of neonicotinoids.
- Monica Reusche (M.S., ASU) collared \$700 to track dispersal of Ozark Pocket Gophers.
- Ty Sharrow (M.S., ASU) captured \$1,111 to examine how well Barn Owls and American Kestrels serve as pest control agents.

- Molly Wozniak (M.S., UCA) dip-netted \$300 to examine how water quality affects macroinvertebrates in Gulf Coastal Plain streams.

My thanks to Dr. Than Boves, Lynn Christie, Dr. Ragupathy Kannan, Cherrie-Lee Phillip, and Samantha Scheiman for reviewing the proposals, and to Barry for keeping the account in order.



This fall marks the 50th anniversary of the Trust, which has given over \$191k to research, conservation, and education projects in that time. We Trustees are planning a celebration in conjunction with the Society's fall meeting, details TBD, plus content for the newsletter. If you have thoughts about the Trust you'd like to share, as a trustee, grantee, or just a member, please contact me through the "Contact the Trust Chair" link found on our website page: <https://arbirds.org/Trust>. Here grantees can also upload publications that acknowledge the Trust's support. I'm especially looking for pre-2000 documents related to the Trust such as meeting minutes and correspondences, which may fill gaps in the historical record. I'll scan these for digital archiving.

AAS Trust Donations

(July 12, 2021- February 13, 2022)

Endowment-Memorial Fund

Dan & Samantha Scheiman

Wayne & Marty Lynch

Danita Fant

Than Boves

Willa Harkey

Hot Springs Village Audubon Society

Research-Educational Fund

Dan & Samantha Scheiman

Max Parker Fund

Helen Parker in memory of Max & Jack Parker

President's Column:

Reflections on 12 Years of Service to the Society and my Pandemic Presidency

By SAMANTHA SCHEIMAN

AAS President

In all their dazzling diversity and beauty, birds have filled my life with joy ever since I started birding at the age of 17 while growing up in southeastern Wisconsin. On a cold May morning in 2005, my Dad took me on a warbler walk at a local nature center, where I spied a male American Redstart — a tropical jewel in technicolor orange and black! — shimmering in the sunlight. I was instantly smitten with this winged wonder and eager to see more. In the years that followed, birding brought me love (I met my husband Dan Scheiman on an Audubon Society of Central Arkansas field trip), a fulfilling career in conservation, and a deep connection to community through the Arkansas Audubon Society.

I joined the AAS board in 2010, when Jack Stewart recruited me to serve as co-chair of the publicity committee with Sally Jo Gibson. Four years later I was asked to step into the position of *Arkansas Birds* editor, and four years after that, vice president. I have so enjoyed serving at the pleasure of the Society, morphing, like a color-changing chameleon, into different roles that have challenged me, put my talents to good use, and helped me forge friendships with some of the nicest people I know. As an introvert who prefers to work hard in the background, I never imagined that I would be president of the Society, much less while in my early 30s, and certainly not amid a pandemic! However, I was honored to be given the opportunity in October 2020 and embraced it with all my might, working closely with our stellar board (they are truly rock stars!) to deliver meaningful outcomes. These include the following:

- **The creation of our new, professionally designed website that still has the same URL (www.arbirds.org) but exhibits a fresh look and**
- enhanced features.** For our members, this website allows for convenient membership application, renewal, and payment, as well as membership privileges, and for board members, it is easy for committees to manage their assigned online content.
- **The cost of printing our newsletter has been cut in half thanks to our treasurer Wayne Lynch's efforts to switch production to a new printer based in Hot Springs.**
- **Our fall 2020, spring 2021, and fall 2021 meetings were held virtually via Zoom, allowing the Society to provide enriching presentations in a safe manner.** Many of the presentations are still available on our website at <https://arbirds.org/AAS/Meetings.aspx>.
- **Basic information concerning the Society's Mailchimp and Gmail accounts was consolidated, and a virtual training was held for board members to review the functions of these accounts.** As a result, those who need to use these accounts can now fully access and use them properly.
- **Email correspondence with our membership increased, as it was critical for virtual communication to be effective and of a high quality during the pandemic.** Surveys were distributed as needed to gain important feedback on the content of virtual meetings and when the membership was generally ready to return to in-person meetings.

In other good news, the Society is planning to hold our spring convention May 6–8, 2022 at DeGray Lake Resort State Park—our first in-person meeting since fall 2019! If you are comfortable attending, I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join our flock.

It's been a privilege to devote my young adult years to the Society over the past 12 years. If I've done anything at all, I hope I've helped the Society become a brighter, more effective force for good when it comes to protecting and appreciating Arkansas's birdlife, and perhaps inspired some of you to join our esteemed board of directors when asked to serve.

Good birding,
Samantha

ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY – Spring 2022 Call to Meeting

The 2022 Spring Convention of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be held May 6-8 at the DeGray Lake Resort State Park near Arkadelphia. The resort is located 11 miles north of Arkadelphia on the northern shore of DeGray Lake just off of Arkansas Highway 7 at 2027 State Park Entrance Road; Bismarck, AR.

All meals and meetings will be held in the DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge, the site of our 2015 Fall Conference. The resort rests on an island just off the north shore of crystal-clear DeGray Lake. Birding opportunities start right outside the door and continue on extensive hiking and biking trails. The resort also functions as a launching point for trips around to other locations throughout the Ouachitas and Coastal Plain.

Room rates are **\$93** per night. To make a reservation, call the resort at (501) 865-5851 and indicate you are part of the Audubon conference or reference this number: **493892**. Reserve your room by **April 6** to ensure your special AAS room rate. Other hotel options can be found 15 minutes away in Arkadelphia. Camping is also available within the state park starting at \$20. Several nearby Corps of Engineers recreation areas offer camping as well.

Register online at arbirds.org by **April 15** to qualify for the **Early Bird Discount** of \$20 per person. For questions, contact Megan Foll at auntm13@gmail.com or 870-213-8115.

AGENDA

All programs and meals will be held at the DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge.

FRIDAY, May 6, 2022

Field Trips	12:45 pm	Leaving from the lodge lobby
Registration	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Eagle Room
Dinner	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Eagle/DeGray Room
Evening Program	7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Eagle/DeGray Room

Guest Speaker – Kevin Krajcir

“Using Feather Molt and Other Characteristics to Age and Sex Birds while Birding”

Drawing for Door Prizes and Details of Saturday’s Field Trips

SATURDAY, May 7, 2022

Grab-and-go Breakfast	6:30-7:30 am	Eagle/DeGray Room <i>*please note park restaurant does not open until 7 am</i>
Field Trips	7:00/7:30 am	Leaving from the lodge lobby
Dinner	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Eagle/DeGray Room
Evening Program	7:15 pm – 8:30 pm	Eagle/DeGray Room

Guest Speaker – To be determined

Business Meeting	8:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Eagle/DeGray Room
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Weekend checklist, door prizes, reports from Saturday’s field trips, and discussion of Sunday field trips

SUNDAY, May 8, 2022

Breakfast “on your own”	7:00 am	Shoreline Restaurant
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Field trips based on interest. Times, locations, and leaders will be discussed at the Business Meeting.

FIELD TRIPS - Please indicate on your registration form which of the following field trips you would like to attend. Sign-up sheets for Saturday's trips will also be available at registration. Changes are OK at any point.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON – Trips will leave from the hotel lobby at 12:45 PM.

F1 – Green Heron Trail – Starting from the visitor center, this $\frac{3}{4}$ mile loop winds through an old overgrown field, past ancient oaks and around shallow coves. A variety of habitat means a variety of birds, from waterfowl to warblers. This trip involves walking on level trails.

F2 – Lower Lake – Drive time: 15 minutes. The 400-acre Lower Lake is located a few miles downstream from the main lake along the Caddo River. A trip along Sunset Trail yields quality views of this small reservoir and potential for a variety of forest birds. This trip will likely also visit the southern and eastern shorelines of the main DeGray Lake including areas near the dam and Arkansas Highway 7. This trip involves some walking on paved, level trails.

F3 – Upper Lake – Starting from the park, this trip will explore the northern shoreline of the main 13,000 acre DeGray Lake including the Caddo Bend and Caddo Drive areas. Many species of grebes and loons have been found here enjoying the deeper waters of the old river channel along this shoreline, while Brown-headed Nuthatches and Pine Warblers should be common in the trees. This trip involves mostly driving.

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS – Trips will leave from the hotel lobby at 7:00-7:30 AM.

S1 – DeGray Lake Trails – leaves at 7:30 – Walk one, two, or three of DeGray Lake's trails. The Green Heron, Chickadee, and Island trails are easy, level walks; with the Chickadee being the shortest at $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and the Island being the longest at 1 mile. These trails cover a variety of habitats including fields, pines, hardwood forest, and lakeshore. Short drives between each trail.

S2 – Lower Lake – leaves at 7:30 – Drive time: 15 minutes. The 400-acre Lower Lake is located a few miles downstream from the main DeGray Lake along the Caddo River. A trip along Sunset Trail yields quality views of this small reservoir and explores habitat for a variety of forest birds. This trip will likely also visit the southern and eastern shorelines of the main DeGray Lake including areas near the dam and Arkansas Highway 7. This trip involves some walking on paved, level trails.

S3 – Upper Lake – leaves at 7:30 – Starting from the park, this trip will explore the northern shoreline of the main 13,000 acre DeGray Lake including the Caddo Bend and Caddo Drive areas. Many species of grebes and loons have been found here enjoying the deeper waters of the old river channel along this shoreline, while Brown-headed Nuthatches and Pine Warblers should be common in the trees. This trip involves mostly driving.

S4 – Andrew H. Hulsey State Fish Hatchery – leaves at 7:00 – Drive time: 25 minutes. This hatchery contains 95 acres of ponds near the southern shoreline of Lake Hamilton. Depending on their water levels, these ponds can be home to a variety of ducks, shorebirds, or both. The hatchery also has an impressive smattering of rarities on its resume including the state's first Mountain Bluebird. This trip should involve moderate walking on level ground.

S5 – Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds/Arkadelphia Bottoms – leaves at 7:00 – Drive time: 20 minutes. Likely sightings at Arkadelphia's oxidation ponds include ducks, gulls, and other diving and wading birds. We will then explore a variety of lowland habitats on the outskirts of Arkadelphia, searching for sparrows, shorebirds, birds of prey and more. This trip involves mostly driving and some walking on level terrain.

S6 – Terre Noire and Prairie Ridge Preserve – leaves at 7:00 – Drive time: 25 minutes. These areas are among the best remaining blackland prairie complexes in the state. Many wildflowers can be seen in the spring and so can grassland birds. Bachman's Sparrow has even been recorded here. There are no established trails, so this will be mostly driving and walking along the roadside and within the prairies.

S7 – Lake Catherine State Park Trails – leaves at 7:00 – Drive time: 40 minutes. Falls Branch Trail is a moderately difficult trail, two miles long, that begins and ends near the amphitheater of Lake Catherine State Park. The trail winds through the pine/hardwood forest of the park and eventually leads to a seasonal scenic waterfall on Falls Creek. Slunger Creek Nature Trail is an easy, paved, $\frac{5}{8}$ mile trail. Benches on the trail offer a place to relax and enjoy the sounds of the water flowing over rocks. Many wildflowers bloom in the spring making this area a photographer's dream. Warblers and other forest birds are expected. Participants can choose which trail to walk.

SUNDAY – Trips will be based on interest and reports from Saturday's field trips. The grounds around the lodge or the state park trails, especially the Green Heron Trail, also provide lovely birding opportunities before your return home.