



Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

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

Arkansas Audubon Society Trust 50th Anniversary Special Edition

A Note from the Trust Chair

By DAN SCHEIMAN

AAS Trust Chair

It is my honor to lead the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust in its 50th anniversary year. The Trust was founded in 1972 by Society members as a grant making entity. It is separate from the Society and yet intimately linked. In this special issue of *Arkansas Birds*, we celebrate 50 years of success and support, both of which are tied to all AAS members who contribute either their time, by serving as trustees, to review proposals or their money to grow the funds used for grants. In this special issue you'll hear from members who have served on the Trust and what it has meant to them.

Success is also measured in outcomes – the projects and people supported, and the improvements to our knowledge of and ability to conserve the natural world. In this issue I quantify those metrics, but better still, you'll hear from grantees themselves about the conservation outcomes of their work and what Trust support meant to them.

I joined the Trust in fall 2008 and became chair in 2011. This spring I will finish my third (and final) five-year term. I've learned so much by serving on the Trust. I'm a Ph.D. ornithologist, but I'm not in academia so I don't keep up with the latest advances in bird science. Through reading, evaluating, and discussing proposals, I've gotten glimpses at new

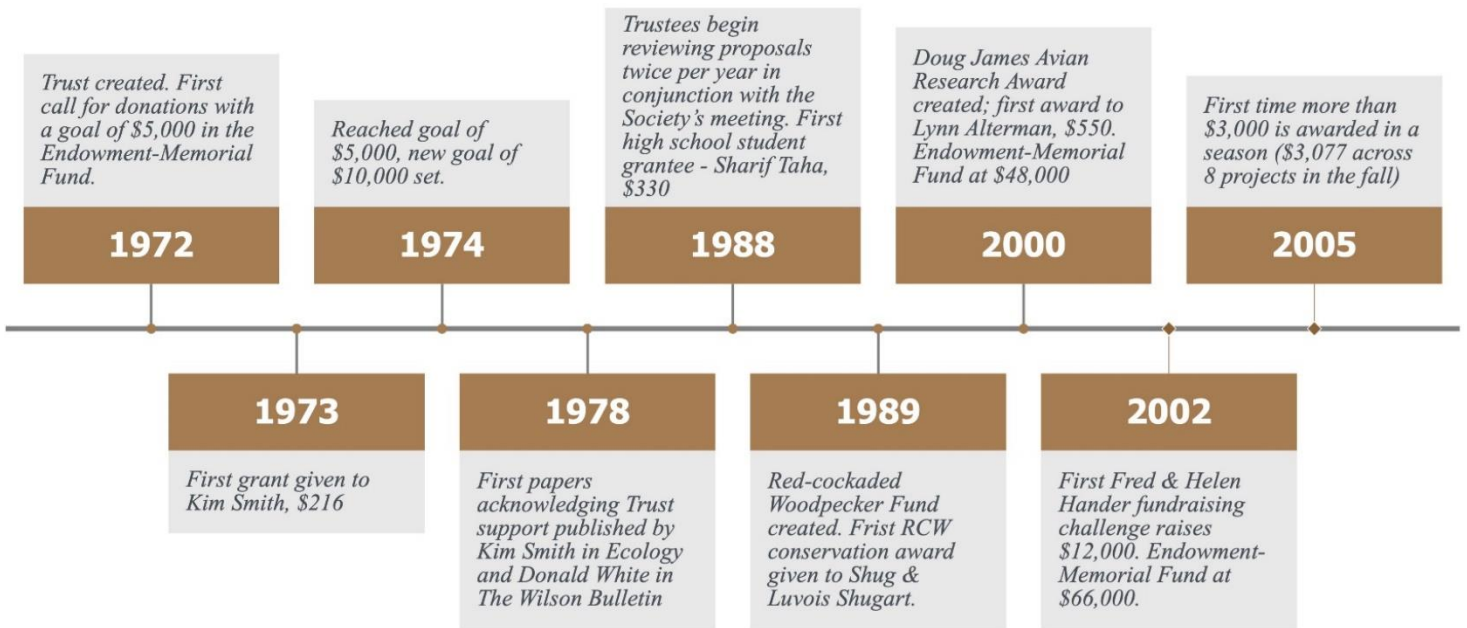
tracking technologies, the latest tests of old theories, advanced statistics, and of course the life histories of dozens of bird species. But wait there's more! I've learned a little about snake immunology, turtle endocrinology, slime mold dispersal, feather mite cladistics, river contaminants, ecoacoustics, and host of other taxa and techniques. What a long, stimulating trip it's been.

To all of you Society members, the Trust fulfills its mission and grows only with your contributions of time or money. You don't have to be an academic to be a trustee, and certainly not to donate. I'm calling on your support. In honor of the 50th anniversary, make a donation today in multiples of \$50 (or \$5.0) at <https://arbirds.org/Trust/Support.aspx>.

To the Trust Chairs celebrating the 75th and 100th anniversaries, if you're reading this, I hope you feel the same sense of awe and appreciation for all the great research, conservation, and education proposals before you. I hope you have double or triple the funds available to support more and larger projects. Let the members know what you've learned.

A Brief History of the Trust

The Arkansas Audubon Society Trust has now been supporting research, conservation, and education projects in Arkansas and beyond for 50 years! The papers forming the Trust as an independent 501(c)3 were filed on October 28, 1972. The original trustees were Henry Halberg, Frances James, Herman Shugart, Hubert Smith Jr., Jane Stern, and AAS president Freeman Thomas. AAS members modeled it on Massachusetts Audubon's multimillion dollar grant

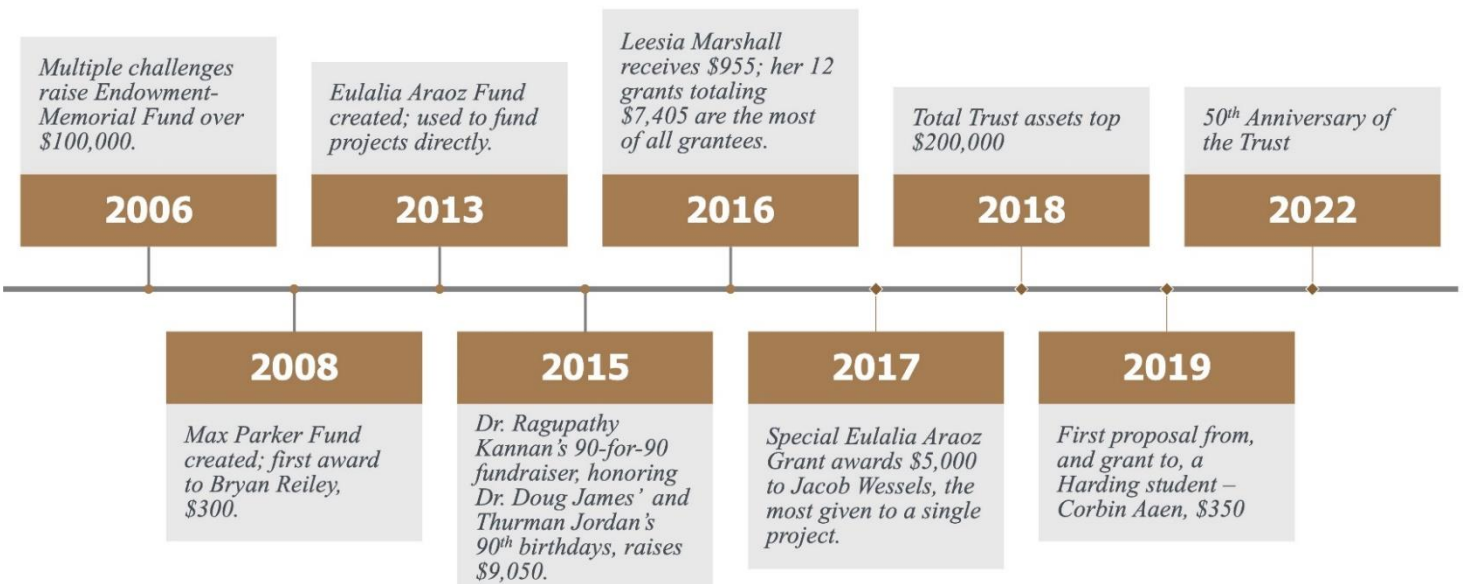


making arm, though the Trust started with only \$1,600 in the Endowment-Memorial Fund (EMF).

The initial fundraising goal of \$5,000 was reached in 1974. It took 7 years to double the EMF to \$10,000, then 11 years to double it again to \$20,000, then 8 years to double that, 4 years to double that, and 13 more years to double once again (that's \$160k in 2017). The EMF is now around \$204,000, with total assets among all funds over \$248,000. Funds for grants are derived from income on invested funds. Investment income from the EMF is transferred to the Research-Education Fund (REF), where it is awarded to worthy applicants reviewed by the trustees each spring and fall. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker Fund was created in 1989 to support awards recognizing

people who have helped protect that endangered species. The Max Parker Fund was created in 2008 to support outstanding avian projects in Arkansas.

The Trust's growth was helped by a number of people making challenge donations. The first was Dr. Doug James, who offered \$1,000/year for 5 years if other donors would meet or exceed that amount in new donations. This resulted in \$12,500. Fred and Helen Hander made four challenges of various kinds over the years, raising over \$25,000. Dr. Ragupathy Kannan raised funds for Doug James' 85th and 90th birthdays. His "90-for-90" challenge ended with \$11,080. In addition, he has used his guided overseas birding trips as fundraisers, raising over \$15,000. In 2013, Dr. Carlos Araoz gave \$15,000 in memory of his



wife Eulalia. He agreed to let that money go directly to grants, allowing the Trust's investment income to accumulate for five years.

The Trust has given over 400 grants totaling over \$209,000 over 50 years. You can browse them all at our website arbirds.org/Trust/Awards.aspx. About 84% of funds have gone to bird projects, and 88% to student research. Among the students, 60% of grants and funds have gone to M.S. projects. Students at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville have been awarded the most grants (46%) but Arkansas State University students have received the most money (47%). More details and charts can be found in the online version of this newsletter.

The first award, in 1973, went to Kim Smith for his M.S. research on the birds of Leatherwood Creek near Ponca. Kim and Donald White were the first to publish research supported by the Trust, and of course acknowledge said support in their 1978 articles. In 1977, Art Johnson was the first established scientist to get a grant; he examined internal parasites of Common Grackles. John Briggs received the first award to study something other than birds – small mammals – in 1983. From 1983-1985, Thomas Haggerty was the first to be awarded multiple grants for his work on Bachman's Sparrows. The first grantee to conduct research outside of Arkansas, indeed outside the country, was Cecilia Riley, who, in 1985, went to Costa Rica to study Emerald Toucanet foraging behavior. In 1988, Sharif Taha became the first high school student to get a grant; he studied mixed species flocking in winter birds. Chris Kellner and Noma Wilkinson were the first (but not only) future husband and wife to receive grants, in 1987 and 1985 respectively. Leesia Marshall holds the record for most grants, receiving a total of 12 and totaling \$7,405, more than anyone else, over her progression from M.S. to Ph.D. to professor. Jacob Wessels, however, has the distinction of being awarded the largest single grant. In 2017 the trustees released a one-time \$5,000 Eulalia Araoz Memorial Grant RFP for a single outstanding avian research or conservation project in Arkansas. Jacob studied Cerulean Warbler breeding biology, habitat selection, and female movements in the Ozarks. In 2019, Corbin Aaen became the first Harding student to apply for

and receive a grant for his examination of birds' physiological fluctuations relative to singing ability.

There is so much more history to be made as the Trust continues to grow with your support.

P.S. This article builds off of a summary written by Kim Smith for Arkansas Birds in 1988.

Note: Please view the digital version of the newsletter for figures showing the growth and distribution of grant funds over the years.

Bird-Friendly Yard Report

By PAM and JACK STEWART

AAS Members

In each newsletter, we list newly certified Bird-Friendly Yards (BFY). The list indicates a growing understanding of the importance of birds and native plants to our environment and the harm that windows, unshaded lighting, and uncontrolled cats can have on bird populations. There are now 159 BFYs in Arkansas and several out of state!

As a result of inquiries from businesses and faith-based organizations, we have been working on a certification form for these unique situations. For example, a company (or place of worship?) without property may be able to add bird protection to windows and lighting. In addition, it might sponsor educational programs or donate to other organizations to help maintain Bird Friendly gardens. Some of these ideas are still being discussed by the committee.

Save The Date

When: October 21st and 22, 2022

What: Arkansas 'First Dark-Sky Festival on the Buffalo National River at Tyler Bend Campground

Why: Birds and other wildlife are negatively impacted by light pollution. As a result, Audubon has partnered with the International Dark Sky Association and Arkansas Natural Sky.

Details at

<https://darkskyarkansas.org/dark-sky-festival/>

An interesting bit of ecological info

The Eastern Red Cedar is a native tree in Arkansas, though, in some habitats, it is considered to be an invasive nuisance. One small but beautiful butterfly, the Juniper Hairstreak, depends on cedars as its host plant. This is the only plant in our area whose tender needles are palatable to the butterfly's caterpillar. This butterfly is an early spring pollinator, thus giving cedars in Arkansas a reason for being.

What is beef from Audubon Bird Friendly Ranches?

"Pasture-raised" indicates meat from cattle raised outdoors where they can graze, not caged in CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) or fattened with corn and grains. As a result, nature produces contented livestock and healthier beef for human consumption. In addition, pasture-raised cows can be rotated around the grazing area to allow grasses to grow to various heights, providing ground-nesting birds with safe places to raise young. National Audubon works with ranchers on lands now totaling 1.9 million acres.

Newly Certified Yards

Benton

Max Nelson
Matt & Kelsey Mayans
Eric Fuselier

Faulkner

Betty Baxter
Ellen Hostetter &
Rob Matson
Maxine Payne &
Christopher Kell
Sunnie Ruppel

Fulton

Melissa Dover

Garland

Susan König

Madison

Assemblage (Heidi Batteau)

Pulaski

Susan & Larry
Benzick
Gwendolynn Combs
Matthew Friant
Billy and Susan Jeter
Katherine Knierem
David Parham
Ariana Rempel
Linda Sharp &
Robert Joblin

Washington

Frank Swift
Gail Pianolto
Kim Russell

Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Spring Season 1 March –
31 May 2022

By LYNDAL YORK

AAS Curator



Sora | Lake Monticello,
Drew Co. | Photo by Ryan Askren

Very rare transient **Cinnamon Teals** were at Lake Fayetteville – Mulhollan Blind, *Washington* 11 Apr (John Newman, Michael Slay, Todd Ballinger) and Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 11 May (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols, Tammy Block).

Notable lingering waterfowl included: a **Mottled Duck** at Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 22 May (Miranda Stane); a **Lesser Scaup** at Lake Monticello, *Drew* 3 May (Ryan Askren); **Common Merganser** at Lake Fayetteville – Mulhollan Blind, *Washington* 10 Apr (John Newman); and **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Greers Ferry Lake – Eden Isle, *Cleburne* 5 May (Cayce Guy) and Lake Balboa – Balboa Dam Trail, *Garland* 17 May (Vic Prislipsky); a **White-winged Scoter** at Lake Dardanelle – Inner Delaware Bay, *Logan* 17 Mar (K&LN); a **Black Scoter** at Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 26 Mar (K&LN).

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:
Arkansas Audubon Society, P. O. Box 241421, Little Rock, AR 72223



Images of bird-friendly yards from Susan and Billy Jeter (left) and Maxine Payne and Christopher Kell (right).

Rare, migrant **Black-billed Cuckoos** were found in four different counties: at Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery, *Benton* 1 May (Gramm Bertram); at Camp Robinson SUA, *Faulkner* 11 May (Karen Holliday); at Mallard Lake – BLWMA, *Mississippi* 6 May (Robert Martinka) and at Magellan Beaver Dam Trail, *Garland* 4 May (Vic Prislipsky).



Limpkin | St. Francis River, Lake City Access, Craighead Co. | Photo by Rachel Rucker

The 2nd and 3rd state records for a very rare **Limpkin** were at St. Francis River, Lake City Access, *Craighead* 2 May (Rachel Rucker) and at Bell Slough Marsh, *Faulkner* 14 May (Sarah Morris, Donna Haynes, K&LN, Terry Butler). Other rare shorebirds for the season included: a **Whimbrel** off Highway 55, *Yell* 5 Apr (K&LN); an early **Dunlin** on Orrick Rd, *Crawford* 3 Mar (Vivek Govind Kumar, Joe Neal); **Willetts** reported at Dardanelle, *Yell* 5 Apr (K&LN), Lake Dardanelle – Hayes Cr, 17 Apr (K&LN), and at Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 5 May (K&LN) for a total of 17 birds. **Hudsonian Godwits** at Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 3,6,14,16 May (K&LN) for a total of 13 birds; and near Highway 55, *Yell* 20 Apr (K&LN) 5 birds.

Two **Common Terns** were observed at Lake Dardanelle, *Yell* 5 May (KN).

Neotropic Cormorants were found in 4 different counties: Horseshoe Lake, *Crittenden* 26 Mar (Rob Harbin); Lake Conway – Caney Creek, *Faulkner* 1 May (Steve Warmack); Overflow NWR, *Ashley* 15 May (RA); Alice-Sidney Fish Farm, *Chico* 29 May (RA). A total of 16 birds were observed in the four counties.

A single **Glossy Ibis** was in the company of 10 **White-faced Ibis** at Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 15 May (K&LN) while 2 **Glossy Ibis** were found at Overflow

NWR, *Ashley* 15 May (RA); additional **White-faced Ibis** were observed south of Dardanelle, *Yell* 5 Apr (K&LN), Bald Knob NWR, 21 Apr (Michelle Linz, Patty McLean), Blackwell Bottoms, *Conway* 21 Apr (K&LN), Lake Dardanelle – Hayes Cr, 5 May (K&LN). A total of 46 individual were observed.

Twenty-two **Roseate Spoonbills** were spotted at Overflow NWR, *Ashley* 7 and 15 May (RA).

Two **Least Bitterns** were found at Lake Monticello, *Drew* 30 Apr (RA).

Surprisingly, a rare **Pacific Loon** was on Lake Dardanelle at the Delaware Rec Area, 16 Mar (ML, PM).

A single **Prairie Falcon** was in the Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 21 Feb (K&LN).

A rare but annual **Swallow-tailed Kite** was spotted soaring N of AR 24 and Careyville Rd, *Bradley* 9 May (Kyle Dash, Glenn Good).

A single **Willow Flycatcher** was at Lake Bentonville, *Benton* 3 May (Adam Schaffer).

A very rare female **Say's Phoebe** was found off Lawrence Rd, *Greene* 15 Mar (Timothy Jones).

A visiting but becoming annual **Vermilion Flycatcher** was found at Lake Saracen in Pine Bluff, *Jefferson* 10 Mar (John Redman).

A **Red Crossbill** was at Ouachita NF – Pine – Bluestem Buffalo Rd, *Scott* 13 Mar (Michael Reichert).

Single **Clay-colored Sparrows** were noted at Blackwell Bottoms, *Conway* 24 Apr (K&LN); SW Adams Rd, Bentonville, *Benton* 1 May (GB); Oak Grove Cemetery, Conway, *Faulkner* 6 May (Gail Miller); Lake Monticello, *Drew* 19 & 21 Apr (RA) while 3 were found near Highway 55, *Yell* 20 Apr (K&LN).

Very rare for NW AR was a **Henslow's Sparrow** at Lake Fayetteville, *Washington* 21 Apr (TB); two **Harris's Sparrows** at Reed's Bridge Battlefield Heritage Park, *Pulaski* 5 May (Kayla Lacy) were a late surprise.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds continue to expand east during migration. Singles were reported at the following locations: Locust Bayou, *Calhoun* 8 Apr (Sandy Higgs); Atkins Bottoms, *Pope* 14 Apr (K&LN); Highway 55, *Yell* 17 Apr (K&LN) Cherokee St/Willow Bend Dr, *Conway* 21 Apr (K&LN); 3 on 3 May, 9 on 5 May, 5 on 6 May at Cherokee St/Willow Bend Dr *Conway* (K&LN).

Great-tailed Grackles continue to expand into the center of the state. Three were found at Dee Dee Ln,

Lonoke, *Lonoke* 4 Mar (Devin Moon) and 18 May (Doug Mitchell); In *Pulaski* at McDonald's, Jacksonville, 24 Apr (Christine Becker); Little Rock Port Authority, 30 May (Lance Runion, Stephanie Sexton); Kroger, Maumelle, 10 May (Karen Holliday); in *Conway* at Love's Truck Stop on I-40 3 May (K&LN) and at McDonald's, Morrilton, 23 May (K&LN); and at the Exxon, Morrilton at I-40, *Faulkner* 8 May (Meredith Swartwout, Dustin Lynch).

Less than annual, only one **Cape May Warbler** was reported for the season at Craighead Forest Park, *Craighead* 30 Apr (Kevin Krajcir, Alix Matthews, Ty Sharrow, Drew Sweet, Paige Brewer, Alan Ryff).

A very early or over wintering **Palm Warbler** was at Lollie Bottoms, *Faulkner* 19 Mar (ML, PM).

A very rare **Western Tanager** appeared at a feeder on W. Wheeler Rd in Fayetteville, *Washington* 30 Apr (Robin & Robert Buff).

A rare **Lazuli Bunting** was discovered on Blacktop Rd in Weddington, *Washington* 1 May (Betty Evans).

Member News:

Summer Trips and Summer Moves

By DOTTIE BOYLES

AAS News of Members Editor

At the end of May, **Dan** and **Samantha Scheiman** went to northern Wisconsin for life/state birds and butterflies. Serendipitously, they met up with their southern butterfly friends Bob Harden and Craig Marks for a day of northern bog butterflying, and together saw lifers like Jutta Arctic and Frigga Fritillary. In between racking up species in two of the state's major hotspots, Crex Meadows and Horicon NWR, Dan and Samantha followed a local's leads to see a singing Connecticut Warbler and hear a Yellow Rail tapping from a marsh at night. A stakeout Bullock's Oriole was another nice addition to the 15 new state birds for Dan's list. Sadly, they had to return to WI in July for her grandfather's funeral (he was 94). While visiting family, Dan chased a couple more state birds – Eurasian Collared-Dove and Cattle Egret.

At the end of July, Dan visited his family on Long Island. He got distant looks at a long-lingering Bar-tailed Godwit at Cupsogue Beach, then drove an hour

New AAS Members

Jane Dunn	Little Rock
Gail Pianalto	Tontitown
Melissa Arnold	Hackett
Lorri Kee	Mt. Home
Ariana Rimmel	Little Rock
Jennifer Lenow	Little Rock
Debra Grim	Berryville
Sharon Masters	Gentry
Tracie Lemarr	Vilonia
Linda Sharp	Little Rock
Karen Banks	Lonoke
Phillip Vogt	Hot Springs Village
Kim Russell	Fayetteville
Stephanie Sexton	Little Rock
Heidi Batteau	Witter
Pati Mitchell	Fayetteville
Frances Ferris	Russellville
Courtnee Arnold	Centerton
Augustine Hess	Mayflower
Haley Brown	Greenwood
Gwendolynn Combs	Little Rock
Maxine Payne	Greenbriar
Mary McCully	Springdale
Lauren Berry	Little Rock
Eric Proshuto	Bull Shoals
Kirbi Cates	Alexander
Matthew Janson	St. Charles
Boyce Wofford	Alma
Alexandra Kunzman	Bentonville
William Rosser	Fayetteville
Pam Faulkner	Russelville
Elan Sutton	Paris
Garreth Russell	Texarkana, TX
Robert Boyd	Texarkana, TX
Judith Levings	Ames, IA

Donations to the General Fund

Amy Smith
 Paula Findley, in memory of Dave Nanak
 Janie Tooke, in memory of David Alan Nanak
 Insurance Advantage, in memory of
 David Alan Nanak

to also add an American Avocet to his state list. At another coastal marsh he was enjoying seeing Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows when his state Whimbrel walked into view. An even more moving experience was finally standing on the last remnant of the formerly 40,000-acre Hempstead Plains. He grew up knowing that his house stood where the now extinct Heath Hen once roamed, he had just never experienced that habitat for himself.



Arizona Sister | Photo by Samantha Scheiman

Lastly, the Scheimans reported taking a High Lonesome Bird Tour to Southeast Arizona in August for hummingbirds and other regional specialties. The tour did not disappoint, with 12 hummingbird species including their life Lucifer, White-eared, Violet-crowned, and Rivoli's; plus, lifers like Elegant Trogon, Varied Bunting, and Five-striped Sparrow. Their tour tallied 144 species. He added 19 life birds, she had 38, plus a number of life butterflies.

In May, **Leif Anderson** made a fourth trip to Minnesota, Michigan, and North and South Dakota. Highlights of the trip was finishing the ABA Total Ticking game in all four states; attending the Tawas Point Bird Festival; eating all kinds of different regional foods; and especially seeing a life Kirkland's Warbler.

Patty McLean and **Michael Linz** hosted two separate visits of birders from Georgia and Missouri in August. Their adventures took them to Bald Knob NWR and other prime hotspots, where they each tallied over 100 species for their Arkansas lists and as many as six life birds for one visitor. Getting 100 birds in a newly birded state appears to be growing in popularity.



Mexican Violetear | Photo by Michael Linz

Patty and Michael also spent the month of May birding through the states of Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Arizona. Highlights of the trip included a lone California Condor, roosting on top of a bare cliff at the Grand Canyon, Nutting's Flycatcher, Pine Flycatcher, and numerous hummingbirds, in Arizona; Yellow-footed Gull at a very low Lake Mead, in Nevada; a breeding pair of Cassia Crossbills in Cassia County, Idaho; Mountain Bluebird and Clark's Nutcracker, in Montana. In Utah, they joined the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival and were treated to an amazing diversity of birds, including Golden Eagles, Burrowing Owls, Long-billed Curlews, Chukars, and thousands of shorebirds, phalaropes, and avocets. They also met up with former Arkansans Craig and Dale Provost for a day of birding.

In February, **Karen Holliday**, **Allan** and **Kathleen Mueller**, and five friends and family members joined a Road Scholar trip to Antarctica and Chile, South America. First stop was Chile's capitol city Santiago, then on to Punta Arenas in Patagonia. From there, the group made the two-hour flight to King George Island where they boarded Antarctica21's Magellan Explorer for a week of cruising along the Antarctic peninsula and its many islands. The weather was spectacular, sunny, and little wind. The enormous and very noisy Chinstrap, Adelie, and Gentoo Penguin colonies were enthralling. Orcas, humpback whales, and several seal species were often spotted. South Polar Skuas were everywhere. The trip ended in Patagonia, at the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park, where a

pair of Magellanic Woodpeckers was the highlight. Antarctica was the 7th and final continent for both Karen and Allan.

In July, Karen joined an 18-day WINGS birding tour of the western side of Australia. The trip started in Perth where the group explored along the coast and the remote southwestern corner of the country. Next stop was Alice Springs in the heart of the Outback desert and the ancient MacDonnell Ranges. Third stop was to the Top End and the lush, tropical area of Darwin and the Victoria River. Final stop was the remote outpost of Kununurra in the far northeastern corner of Western Australia. Highlight of that area was the sunrise boat trip on Lake Argyle, Australia's largest man-made lake, to observe thousands of waterbirds and the scarce Yellow Chat. The group tallied an impressive total of 300 bird species, plus saw kangaroos, wallabies, crocodiles, whales, and huge roosts of Black Flying Foxes (bats).

At the end of the WINGS tour, Karen, Shane Woolbright, and Art Evans continued on their own, flying to Cairns to spend four days birding the Tablelands area. Art had never been to Australia, so the goal was to find Cassowaries, Duck-billed Platypus, and as many eastern bird species as possible. Unfortunately, they missed the Cassowary, but did see a platypus and a nice mix of birds.

Matt Janson recently moved to Southeast Arkansas and was asked to share a little about himself. Matt writes, "Hi everyone, I am new to AAS and wanted to tell you a little bit more about myself and my background! I grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina which is where my love of birds and the birding community began. I started attending Mecklenburg Audubon Society meetings when I was 14 years old and later joined the Board of that organization. In collaboration with the Carolina Bird Club, I founded the Carolina Young Birders Club in 2013. I soon decided I would attempt to make birds and nature part of my career and in 2021 I graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Environment and Sustainability. I later worked for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission on the Outer Banks, conducting surveys for the North Carolina Bird Atlas.

I recently moved to Saint Charles (in Arkansas County) for an internship with Dale Bumpers White River NWR. I am in the visitor services division, so I'll

be spending a significant portion of my time in the visitor's center located off Arkansas Highway 1 in St. Charles. I'm also hoping to increase our interpretive programs and offer free public bird walks at the refuge as well as kayak birding tours at Potlatch Cook's Lake Nature Center in Casscoe. Stay tuned for more information about these opportunities and email me at mdj64@cornell.edu if you're interested in going birding in the Arkansas Delta!" Welcome to Arkansas Matt!



Photo of Matt Janson

Gabrielle Fuchs shared, "I have taken a wildlife biologist position in the pineywoods of East Texas. I'll be back in Arkansas periodically and hope to see everyone from time to time. If anyone comes this way feel free to contact me. I am about an hour from the coast - close to a number of big birding hotspots like High Island, Sabine Woods, and the Louisiana refuge complex. Birding has become a huge part of my life and so many of Arkansas's birders have become good friends. I was also awarded a grant from the AAS Trust during my master's work which helped me get this job. I just wanted to say a quick see you again and thank all the wonderful birders who have become such a wonderful part of my life."

Northern Red Bishop Delights Bald Knob Viewers

By GLENN WYATT

On 17 August 2022, Dawna Stirrup reported seeing a Northern Red Bishop at the Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge. My wife, Michelle, and I were fortunate enough to see it the next day. As we sat watching this beautiful bird, I feel I have learned some

things about birds, and from looking up information on the species. This bird could have come from a small breeding group of birds living freely in the Houston area. But it probably did not. This is a fairly popular exotic bird that people keep in captivity, so our bishop is probably an escapee.

As I watched the bishop, it didn't act like a bird that knew nothing but a cage all his life. He was flying around and feeding like he had been out in the wild his whole life. It impressed me how much he knew, especially considering he had probably never landed on a wild plant and never flew more than a few feet before. I was amazed just thinking that he found the refuge, where lots of rice grows, a food these birds are fond of. He was actually across the street from a bean field, but alongside a ditch full of wild grasses and just down the road from rice fields. The inborn instincts of this bird are a wonder to me. It saddened me to think he probably will not survive the winter here, but maybe a season of freedom is better than years in a cage.



Northern Red Bishop | Photo by Glenn Wyatt

Michelle and I watched this wonderful bird for 4 or 5 minutes, took a few photos (as seen above) and left, not wishing to disturb the bird anymore. Thank you little bird, it was great seeing you.

Unfortunately, this bird hasn't been seen since 20 August 2022.

Your Trust at Work: 50th Year Celebration!

By DAN SCHEIMAN

AAS Trust Chair

The Trust met virtually on September 27. It was the end of an era as Barry Haas gave his final treasurer's report after 25 years of service, then passed the checkbook on to Christine Cash. THANK YOU, Barry. Donation checks should now be mailed to her at 10 Caribe Way, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909. For the fall 2022 session the Trustees granted three awards totaling \$2,667.

- Alejandra Gage (M.S., U. North Texas) sired \$900 to study paternity in a population of Painted Buntings and classify their breeding strategy.
- Madeleine Kaleta (M.S., U. North Texas) snatched \$600 to look at American Kestrel survivorship and migration.
- Alexander Worm (Ph.D., ASU) caught \$1,167 to see whether the Loggerhead Kingbird complex across the Caribbean actually consists of multiple species (some of which would be of conservation concern if they are).

My thanks to Dr. Than Boves, Lynn Christie, Megan Foll, Dr. Ragupathy Kannan, and Cherrie-Lee Phillip, and for reviewing the proposals.

Memories from Serving as the AAS Trust Chair

By LEIF ANDERSON

Former AAS Trust Chair

I served as Trust Chair from 2006 to 2011. The Trust plays such an important role in ornithological research. Below are three examples of why I think the Trust is important:

- I've been a member of several state organizations. Most didn't have a grant program and if they did, none of them funded as much research as the Trust.

- All grad students need funding, but for some the Trust might be their sole source of funding. That felt pretty good to give them money to do their research.
- I was always amazed by the innovative, cutting edge, high caliber research that got done because of the Trust's funding.

Serving on the trust was a fun responsibility and very fulfilling. I'd gladly do another term. I encourage my fellow AAS members to volunteer their time for this worthy service as well.

A Note from the Outgoing Trust Treasurer

By BARRY HAAS

Current AAS Trust Treasurer

I have had the privilege to serve as the volunteer treasurer of the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust since the fall of 1997. During those 25 years, half the 50-year life of the Trust, I have been witness to why the Trust exists - to help fund research on a wide range of avian and other natural science subjects, as well as to occasionally advance our knowledge of nature in other ways.

The Trust's Endowment-Memorial Fund has grown over those 25 years from less than \$27,000 to more than \$200,000. In addition to that growth, the Trust now has the Max Parker Fund created in 2008 following the death of Max, which totals more than \$26,000 to help fund avian projects in Arkansas.

At times we have had major donors offer a challenge to give a significant sum of money if we raise the same amount or more as a match. Trust supporters have never failed to meet that challenge. Such efforts reveal the generosity of Trust supporters and their appreciation for the important role the Trust plays in helping advance avian science here in Arkansas.

Many of the young grant recipients are graduate students. Some of those students have made

presentations at Arkansas Audubon Society spring and fall meetings to explain their research projects. They share what they have learned that should be of value in protecting the birds we all enjoy and hope will be around far into the future.

I appreciate the opportunity to have helped manage Trust finances all those years so the Trustees hopefully had a clear understanding of both overall finances and their ability to fund grant requests. It being far past time for a new Trust treasurer that transition is currently in process. Before I step down, I challenge you to donate in honor of the Trust's 50th anniversary at <https://arbirds.org/Trust/Support.aspx>.

AAS Trust Donations

(February 14, 2022 – September 10, 2022)

Endowment-Memorial Fund

Adam & Andrea Schaffer in memory of Helen Parker

Ann Gordon in memory of Helen Parker

Jay Withgott - former 1991 & 1992 Trust grant recipient

Carolyn Minson in honor of Dan Scheiman, Ragupathy

Kannan and Barry Haas

Sara Caulk for Kannan's Extinct 2022 Costa Rica Trip

Research-Educational Fund

Jay Withgott in memory of Doug James

Jay Withgott in memory of Kim Smith

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Fund

Jay Withgott in honor of Joe Neal

Max Parker Fund

Dan & Samantha Scheiman in memory of Helen Parker

Carolyn Minson in memory of Helen Parker

Susan Hardin & Barry Haas in memory of Helen Parker

Dottie Patterson in memory of Helen Parker

DeLynn Hearn in memory of Helen Parker

Leslie Parker in memory of Helen Parker

Leslie Parker in memory of Max and Jack Parker

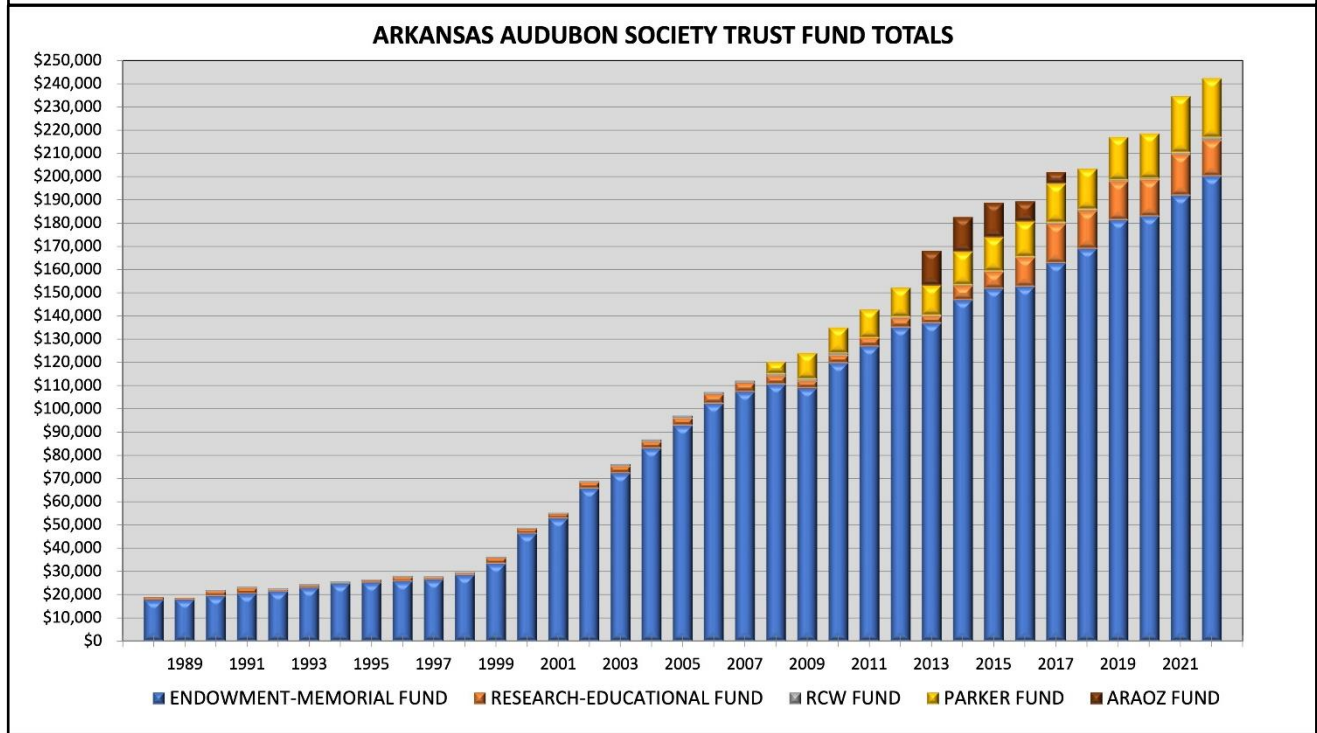
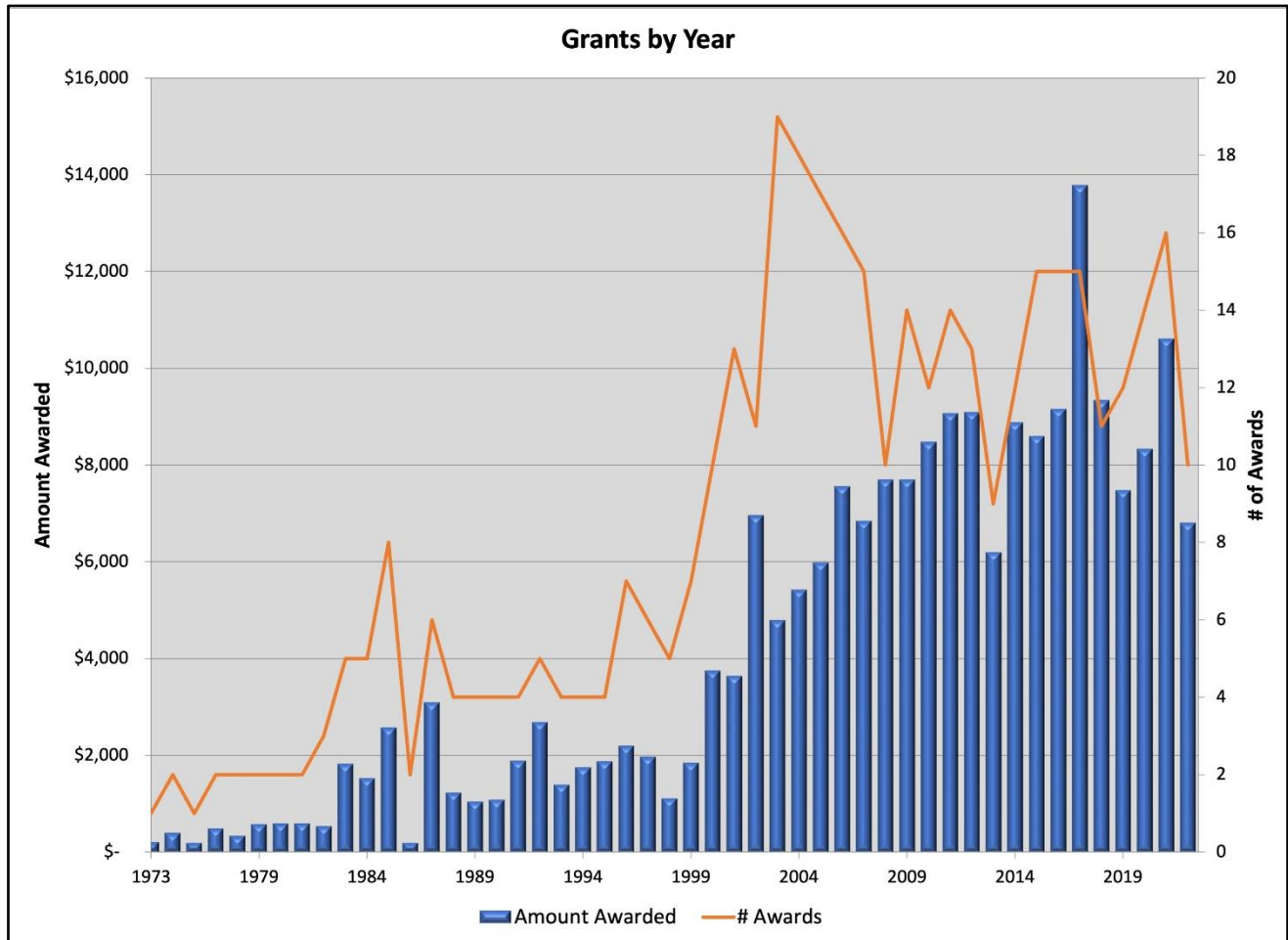
Minnie Jean & Danny White in memory of

Max and Helen Parker

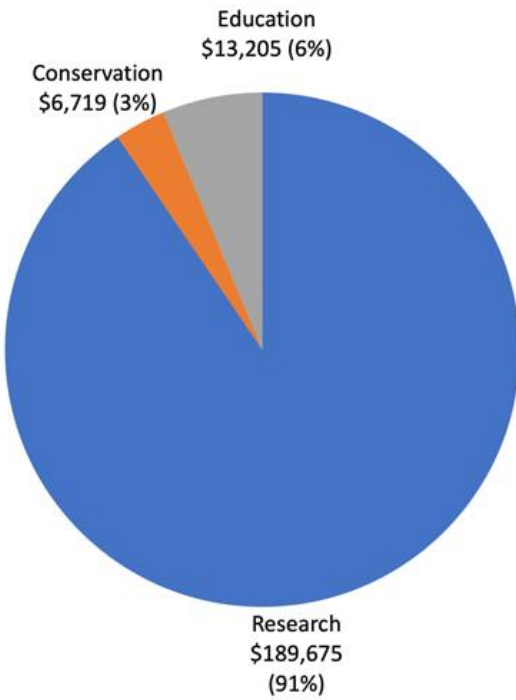
Minnie Jean & Danny White in memory of

Wayne and Patricia Delavan

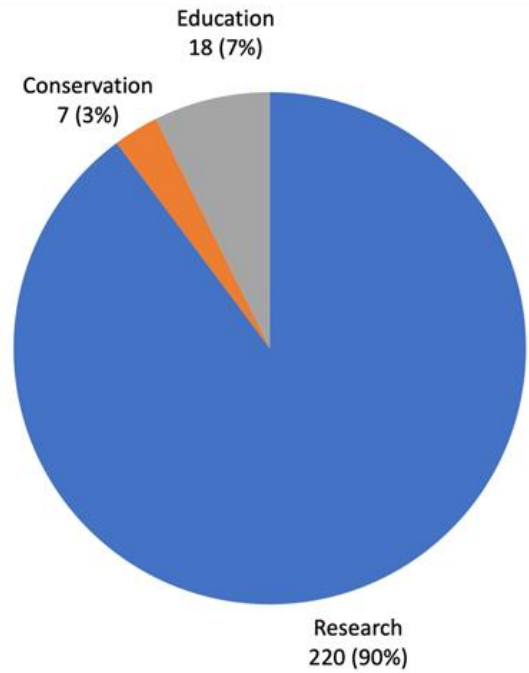
Distribution and Growth of Arkansas Audubon Society Trust Funds



Grants By Project Type

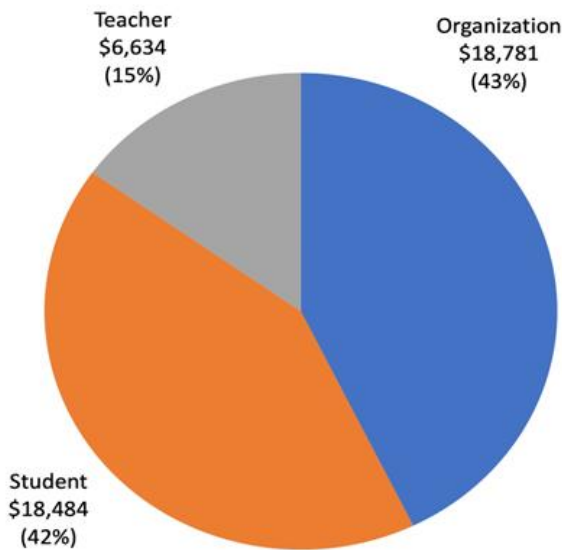


Total Amount (\$)

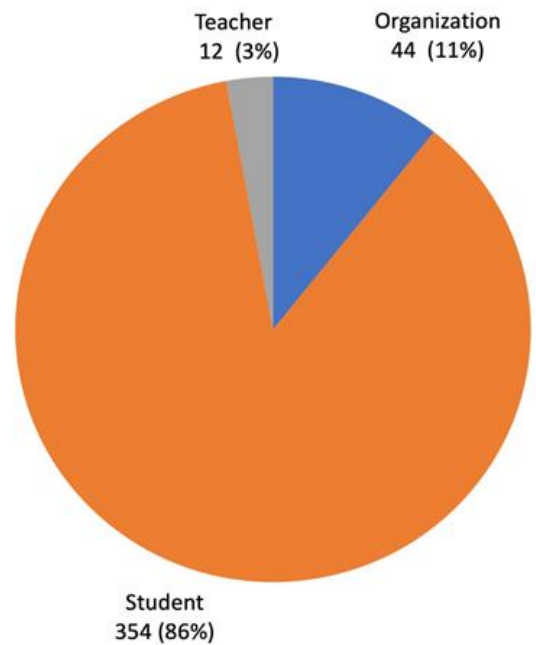


Total Number

Grants By Grantee Type

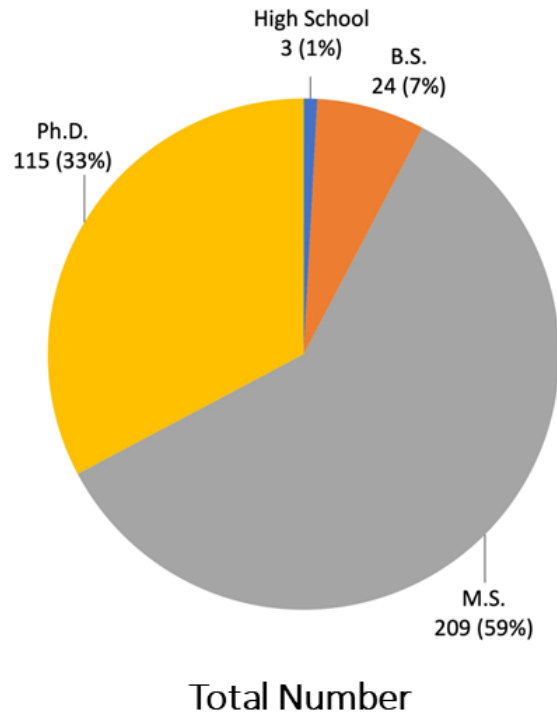
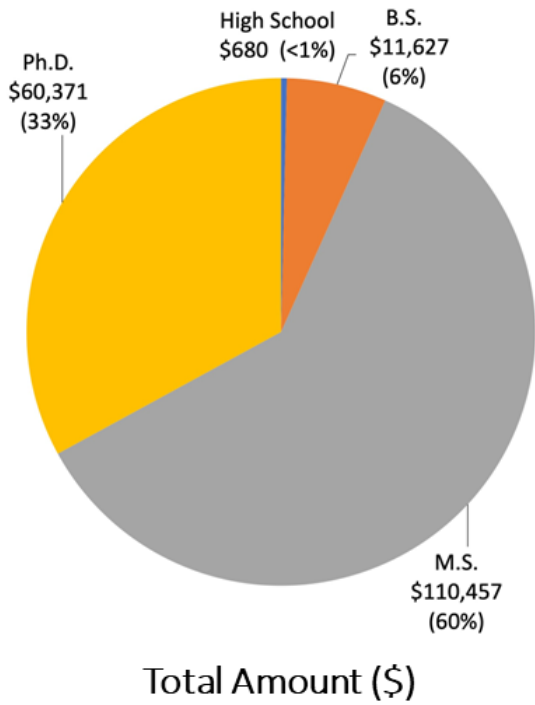


Total Amount (\$)

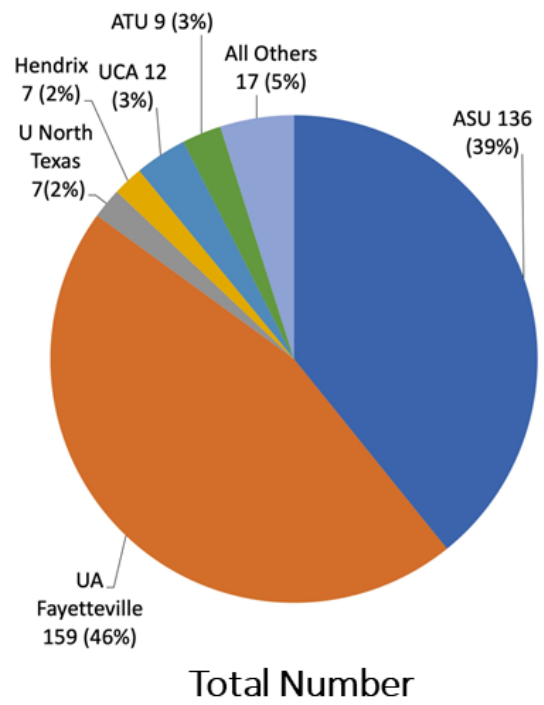
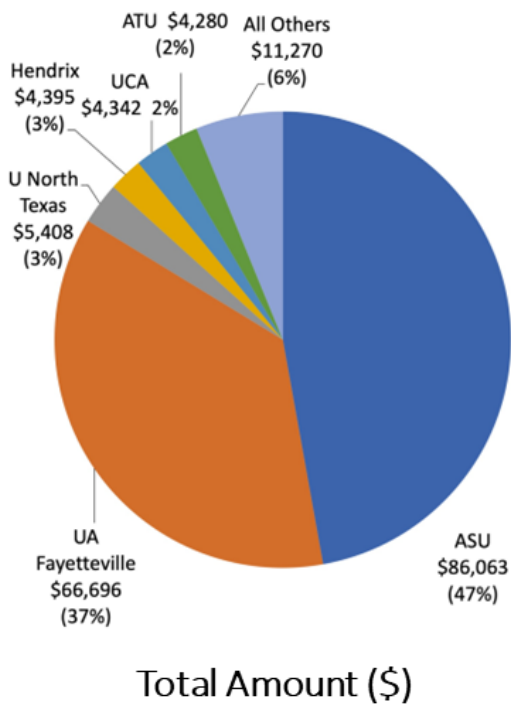


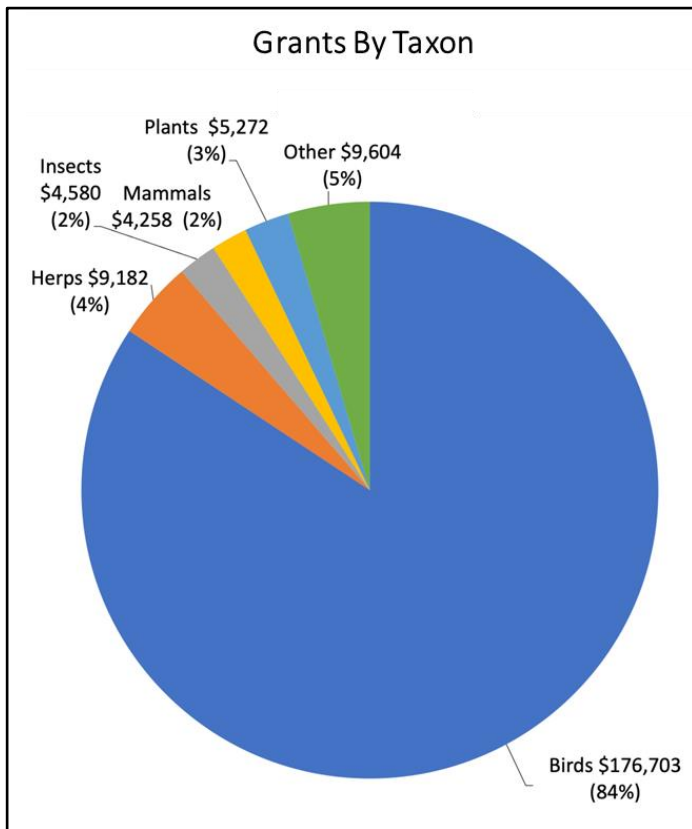
Total Number

Student Grants By Degree



Student Grants By University





Halberg Ecology Camps: The 41st Year of Ecology Camps Finally Arrived!

By Renn Tumilson and Tamzen Tumilson Bryant
Ecology Camp Staff

From June 19-24, we accomplished the 59th session of the Halberg Ecology Camp. We lost the ability to have camp for a couple of years due to COVID and restarted this year as the 41st year to hold the camp. Only one session was held so we could get back up to speed, and because we were a little late in getting site arrangements made. For most of the history of the camp, we have met at Camp Clearfork between Mt. Ida and Hot Springs. That facility had not been in use for a couple of years, also due to COVID, and there were some infrastructure problems the Forest Service had to fix. Not sure where we might hold camp, we had to delay advertising for campers. The camp administration had a back-up plan for an alternative site, which we ended up using. Even with the uncertainties, the resiliency of people involved in the camp made it work well.

We conducted camp this year at the Ozark Natural Science Center (ONSC) near Huntsville in northwest Arkansas. We thank ONSC for their flexibility that allowed us to schedule with them at almost “the last minute”. Weather was very warm, but the lodges, dining area, and education center were air conditioned. Camp progressed smoothly providing some good experiences for the campers as well as staff.

In the past, we occasionally have had campers whose parents had once been campers themselves. We know of at least two campers this year who were children of former campers. It is nice to know that the lifetime experience we have provided in the past has become an event that former campers want their kids to experience!

Campers went to six classes twice through the week. Adam Schaffer and Ella Caraway taught Aquatic Biology, Jackie Scott and Robin Buff taught Botany, Adaire Kremetz and Belinda Jonak taught Entomology, Renn Tumilson taught Mammalogy, and Kory Roberts taught Herpetology. Geology was taught by Liz Hill and Aaron Hinterthuer. and Ornithology by Kelly and Donna Mulhollan. Director (“Camp Boss”) was Robin Buff, aided by Assistant Director Matt Wilson. Publicity Coordinator was Tamzen Bryant. Camp nursing duties were handled by Michea Gartin. We did not have a food director or cooks this year, as delicious meals were prepared by staff at ONSC.



Mammalogy class students holding a variety of pelts | Photo by Tamzen Bryant

Campers originated from 12 counties, almost all from the northern half of Arkansas, including 19 towns (down from last camp, but that was three years ago, and we could not advertise as soon even this

year – we expect the numbers to go back up in the future). Fayetteville and Little Rock were the dominant sources of Arkansas campers, accounting for 14 of the 35 campers. We also had one camper from Fort Bend County, TX.



Ornithology class students getting a close-up of birds | Photo by Tamzen Bryant

Evening learning programs kept the campers engaged. Robin Buff presented information about bird-friendly yards. Olivia Kline, a Ph.D. student at UA, gave a presentation about pollinators, especially bees. Some native bees were released on site after her presentation. Herpetology instructor Kory Roberts presented about alligators and showed a live specimen. Glenn and Joyce Roberts, parents of camp herpetologist Kory Roberts, gave an evening program about astronomy. Fortunately, the partly cloudy afternoon skies cleared enough to make the stars visible that night, and we got to see dots of white light in the heavens and simultaneously dots of flashing yellow light in the trees (fireflies, or lightning beetles). Ornithology instructors Donna and Kelly Mulhollan (otherwise known as the folk group “Still on the Hill”) gave a very-well-received concert of bird-based songs on Thursday. We had a good downpour that afternoon – the only day it rained during camp, but the concert was in an open-air venue protected by a roof. Other activities included get-acquainted games the first evening of camp, a showing of the classic (original) “The Lorax” video by Dr. Seuss, and afternoon learning games related to nature. A camp review slide show set to music was shown Thursday evening. That show will be available for campers and parents to view on the Audubon web site. Many slides of campers and activities are available on the camp facebook page ([Arkansas Audubon Society Ecology Camps - Home | Facebook](#)).

We consistently provide fun classes, great recreational opportunities, and a strong learning environment incorporated with all endeavors. Financial costs for some of the campers were offset by camp donors through scholarships that help some of the campers attend, and they write “thank you” notes to their benefactors. Their comments reflect how this camp affected their lives. Campers often mention their favorite classes, and all classes get mentioned as the favorite of someone. These are some of their comments:

“Thank you for getting me a scholarship and allowing me to get to come to this amazing camp. I have learned a lot at this camp like the parula call and got to see a lot of birds...”

“Thank you for making it possible for me to be here. I’ve made very wonderful friends...I hope I can come back next year.”

“Thanks to your help I had an invaluable experience at camp Audubon. Over this week I have done and learned much and your payment helped me do this and I have much gratitude for you and your help.”

“I have had a wonderful time here and have made many friends. I liked all the instructors and the subjects they teach...As I have said, I’ve had an awesome time here and would surely want to come back next year...”



Entomology class student catching insects | Photo by Tamzen Bryant

At the end of camp, one camper wrote a note to be read to staff after campers had left. There was no time when everyone was available for that to happen, but the note was read to a few who were around at the same time, then the note was typed to send to everyone to be sure all knew about it. The camper began by listing names of all staff, then said: “I love you all and will definitely MISS ya’ll SO MUCH!!!!”

Thank you so much for your kindness, generosity, and your AWESOME WONDERFULNESS. I have NEVER ever felt like I have tonight. This is the happiest I have ever been in my whole LIFE...”.

The last event on Thursday evening was a review of camp based on images taken by Publicity Director Tamzen Bryant and other camp staff, organized with music to help set a mood. The slide show, set to different music, should be available through a link on the Arkansas Audubon Society web page:

<https://arbirds.org/EcologyCamp/>.

Again this year, the publicity director posted images to Facebook (search *Arkansas Audubon Society Ecology Camps* or the link [Arkansas Audubon Society Ecology Camps - Home | Facebook](#)) so parents would be able to see images of the camp activities, and sometimes their campers, while camp was in session. The web page has 771 likes and 795 followers!

Camp is Back in Session

By Barry Haas

Ecology Camp Treasurer

“The Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp was able to hold its first session in June 2022 after two years of cancelations due to Covid. With our usual location Camp Clearfork being unavailable this year we moved this year’s one camp session to the Ozark Natural Science Center in northwest Arkansas. A big thanks to ONSC for ensuring we could restart camp this summer after two years of not being able to do so.

One unique occurrence this spring was a scholarship benefit concert held by Kelly and Donna Mulhollan who make up the musical group “Still on the Hill”. Kelly and Donna teach ornithology at camp and raised enough money to fund two scholarships. Camp Director Robin Buff helped during the fundraiser concert. Two thumbs up for Kelly, Donna and Robin!

This year’s camp session was for first-year campers only since we had no second- or third-year camper options from last year. Camp Director Robin Buff along with our many instructors and camp nurse adapted to the new location, and camp went off without a hitch. Kudos to all those who make this hands-in youth ecology camp a success each June.

Our hope is to be back at Camp Clearfork west of Hot Springs in June 2023, and to hold one or two

camp sessions for both first-and second-year campers. Then in 2024 we should be able to add third-year campers as well. No camp due to Covid for two years has been a real challenge, but the many instructors and others along with support from long-time camp supporters and Arkansas Audubon Society has seen us through.

Even during the past two Covid years a number of ecology camp supporters have continued to make donations knowing their money would be put to good use once camp resumed. We welcome all donations that help educate Arkansas youth about the wonders and joys of the natural world. You can do so online at the Arkansas Audubon Society website ‘arbirds.org’ or send a check made payable "AAS Halberg Ecology Camp" or "Arkansas Audubon Society" to P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, AR 72223. All donations are tax deductible, and are acknowledged by letter or e-mail (e-mail when possible to save on postage expense).

Ecology Camp Donations

(February 14, 2022 – September 10, 2022)

Donations by Organizations

Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

Donations by Individuals

Dick & Elizabeth Taylor
Susan McNutt

Scholarships & Tuition Assistance

Garland Co. Audubon Society
Audubon Society of North Central Arkansas
Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association
Mary Sanders & Alfred Angulo, Jr. for "Still on the Hill" scholarship benefit concert
Kriste & James Rees, Jr. for "Still on the Hill" scholarship benefit concert
Lowell Collins for "Still on the Hill" scholarship benefit concert
Sally Grace for "Still on the Hill" scholarship benefit concert
Kelly & Donna Mulhollan for "Still on the Hill" scholarship benefit concert
Hot Springs Village Audubon Society

Memorials & Honoraria

Maury & Barbara Baker in memory of Josie Farrell
Susan Hardin & Barry Haas in memory of Josie Farrell
David & Terri Luneau in memory of Gene and Barbara (B.J.) Cutrell

Fall Meeting Special Silent Auction

The Arkansas Audubon Society will be holding its fall 2022 convention on October 14-15, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn West hotel in Little Rock. This year's silent auction will include a selection of special artwork. Mrs. Peggy Smith has kindly donated her late husband Dr. Kimberly Smith's collection of framed wildlife art to the Trust. There will be a special auction of these items at the AAS meeting. Starting bids will likely be around \$75 to \$100. Please see examples of the artwork that will be available below.

If you have items you would like to donate for the silent auction or door prizes, please bring them to the meeting! You can drop them off with Vice President Lynn Foster, preferably on Friday afternoon.



How the Trust Shaped my Career

By RAGUPHATHY KANNAN

AAS Trust Trustee

It was April 1991, a period of high anxiety for me, a Ph.D. student at the University of Arkansas. Planning for my ambitious 2-year project on the rare and endangered Great Hornbill of India had been going on for more than a year. Yet, I felt unready, not the least because I had no external funding. Despite making a meagre stipend of \$400 a month for the previous two years, I had penny-pinch about \$700 away in my savings, but that did not even pay my airfare to India. And then I had to pay for my field expenses. All this, plus the pressure of taking my comprehensive exams that month, meant for some insomnia and elevation in stress hormones.

All that changed one fine day in late April. I was walking back from campus to my apartment. I passed my mentor Doug James's house on Duncan Avenue. He was mowing the lawn with his characteristic bandana tied tightly around his head. He killed the engine when he saw me and said "Hey, the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust has approved your funding request!" Nothing that day could have made me happier.

That \$895 check from the Trust was a game changer. It paid for my one-way trip to India. That meant that I could use my small savings to get started with field work. My entire first year's expenses, living in a hut at the edge of a rainforest, and eating in another shack that served as a restaurant to tourists, was about \$750. And that included lodging, all meals, and even a field assistant! I was able to stretch my shoe-string budget so much that our findings prompted a larger grant from the New York Zoological Society, and that in turn led to other sources of funding. All this could not have happened without the AAST giving me starter funds.

In 1996, the AAST gave us another \$450 to explore installing nest boxes for the hornbill. With the help of an Indian graduate student, we installed four nest boxes near my study site. The boxes were never adopted by the hornbills, but the publicity and interest generated by our research spurred other studies on hornbills here and elsewhere. Nearly three

decades later, students who worked with me in the field are leaders in their own right, and they conduct and guide similar research projects in India.

Six major peer-reviewed publications and several short notes and magazine articles resulted from our work. Doug and I gave slideshows and regaled audiences world-wide with our stories from the jungles. I received my doctorate in 1994 and joined UAFS (then Westark Community College) as an Instructor. Now I get to return the favor to the Trust. For more than a decade I have served in the Trust and have helped in several campaigns to shore up its endowment. I have led 11 overseas birding tours and raised \$15,685 for the Trust from these tours. Working with my colleagues in the Trust and under the leadership of my friend Dan Scheiman, we exceeded our target of \$200,000 for the Trust endowment. We now have set another goal of touching quarter million for the Trust in the next five years.

So, that's just one story of how the Trust changes lives and makes careers. And above all, it helps research and conservation of wildlife, especially the birds that we all so love.

Return on Investment

By DAN SCHEIMAN

AAS Trust Chair

When you invest in the Trust, the Trust invests in student research projects. What do you get in return for your investment? I asked former grantees what they do now and what were the conservation outcomes of their projects.

When you support the Trust you help build the resume of people who go on to careers in conservation and education, such as federal and state biologists, environmental consultants, natural resource technicians, professors, and primary school teachers. Our grantees hold diverse, esteemed positions including: Deputy Director of Operations for USFWS, Director of Konza Prairie Biological Station, Director of Missouri Bird Conservancy, Founder and Director of Red Star International Education, Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinator for the University of Hawaii, Medical Laboratory Scientist at St. John's Medical Center, Microbiologist at Arkansas

Department of Health, President of Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation, Quantitative Ecologist for the IL Natural History Survey, Science Center Director at USGS, Senior Data Manager for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK), Senior Scientist for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, and Superintendent at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Wow!

Your investment has also supported an array of conservation outcomes. Here are a few examples. Dr. Maureen McClung relayed that funding Lauren Berry's MAPS banding station at Stone Prairie WMA is helping AR Game & Fish "understand how their intensive prairie restoration is impacting bird communities." The MAPS station is in its third year, and so far, 16 of her students have been exposed to bird banding through this effort.

Similarly, Philip Vogrinc's and Chelsea Kross's studies of reptiles and amphibians of Woolsey Wet Prairie demonstrated that "former prairie habitats degraded by human activity may support species of conservation concern, along with more common and widespread species. Thus, lightly degraded prairie habitats (e.g., hayfields and lightly grazed cattle pastures) may be important for maintaining relict populations, promoting connectivity among fragmented higher-quality habitat patches, and should be targets for future restoration."

Jeremy Brown, Scott Chiavacci, and Amy Wynia studied Swainson's Warblers, Swallow-tailed & Mississippi Kites, and songbirds, respectively, at White River National Wildlife Refuge. They made habitat management recommendations to USFWS regarding timber harvest, flood regime, cattle grazing, and predator control. Brown wrote, "In addition to timber harvesting, we suggest that a rotation of small, prescribed, minimum-intensity fires every 10–15 years may be beneficial to Swainson's Warbler habitat."

Doug Raybuck tracked Cerulean Warblers throughout their migration, making an important discovery that birds breeding in different regions of the US have different migratory routes and wintering grounds. "Based on the observed connectivity pattern, conservation of Appalachian breeding populations during the stationary nonbreeding period should focus on forest conservation and restoration in premontane/lower montane forests of Colombia and Venezuela, whereas Ozark breeding population

conservation should focus on forest conservation and restoration efforts in Ecuador and Peru." We have to understand the full life cycle of our migratory birds if we are to conserve them.

What Trust Support Means to Them

The Trust has given over 400 grants in 50 years. I asked past grantees what Trust support meant to them. I received far more replies than can be published here. These are a few examples.

"The Arkansas Audubon Society Trust was my first grant in support of research, so holds a special place in my heart. Doug James, my graduate advisor at UAF, and great mentor and friend, suggested that I apply for the first grant to help support expenses during my master's work on polymorphism in Red-tailed Hawks. That work resulted in several public and professional presentations, two articles published in *Auk* and *Wilson Bulletin*, and contributed to my *Birds of North America* species account (1993 and update in 2009) and a book in the *Wild Bird Guide* series on Red-tails. The Trust grant support was crucial in supporting the work but especially in giving me confidence to pursue my career. That first grant of less than \$2000 was the first of more than \$5 million in grants I was awarded during my career.

- Dr. Chuck Preston, Senior Scientist/Curator Emeritus, Buffalo Bill Center of the West

"As a graduate student, AAS Trust grants helped me to complete my research. The grants I received also gave me confidence in myself and my ability to write grants. Years later, an AAS Trust grant allowed ONSC to purchase 20 pairs of binoculars which have been used now for several years. The binoculars give children and adults alike a chance to see birds up close. All are thrilled. A close look at a Northern Parula or Black-and-white Warbler is an experience most people never have. So many people do not know what magic is out there, and what they are missing. The binoculars awaken many to these possibilities and help build a connection with nature. Saving our earth requires these connections."

- Joanie Patterson, Teacher/Naturalist, Ozark Natural Science Center

“The AAS Trust contributed funding to both of my projects during my masters. Through their support, I was able to complete my research goals. I also gained experience in grant writing and confidence as a beginner scientist. Funding is difficult to obtain, especially as a master’s student because our projects often get compared to more elaborate doctoral projects when applying for certain grants. It was a great feeling to be supported by the AAS Trust and see my work recognized for its merit. I also appreciated being able to share my findings with the AAS membership at meetings, which again was a great skill to practice. Many thanks to the AAS Trust for being a critical part of my professional development!”

- Kevin Krajcir, Ph.D. Student, Louisiana State University

“The funding I received from the AAS Trust provided a real boost to my graduate research. The funds were substantial enough to make a tangible difference in the equipment and resources I could purchase, and the psychological lift was at least as important. I remember feeling proud and thrilled that folks at Arkansas Audubon took an interest in my project and were willing to help support my work. Grant funding also gives a student an added sense of obligation to carry things through to successful completion. Completing a research project is never easy, and the AAS Trust funding helped in each of these key ways. The successes I enjoyed with my research experience in Arkansas helped me advance in academia and eventually settle into a satisfying career in science writing and textbook authoring.”

- Jay Withgott, Textbook Author

“The AAST fund has provided vital support in conducting research on bird hybridization for my master's project. In a very competitive world for

limited funding, the AAST is a shining example of how local efforts can support and encourage student research on a diverse range of questions.”

- Alexander Worm, Ph.D. Student, Arkansas State University

“It allowed me to complete my master’s degree and present my findings to a diverse audience. This award relieved some of the financial stress of grad school and allowed me to focus more on my research. I believe this dramatically improved the quality of the work.”

- Joseph Youtz, Environmental Consultant, GRSC

“I received several grants over the years, but the one that made the most impression on me was the one to help create and print a detailed, annotated checklist for Arkansas birds. It would have been hard to consider doing something like this without knowledge we could print it and get it distributed.”

- Joe Neal, Retired Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service

“The research grants we received from the Trust were instrumental in launching our careers in science, and all of the first three grants resulted in publications in prestigious scientific journals.”

- Dr. Kim Smith, Professor, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; originally published in *Arkansas Birds*, 1986, v31 i4, in reference to his career and the careers of Donald White and Jeff Short

Please consider investing in the Trust, and future conservationists, today at arbirds.org/Trust/Support.aspx.

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