



Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

Fall 2024 | Volume 69 | No. 3

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

Bird-Friendly Arkansas

By PAM and JACK STEWART

AAS Bird-Friendly Arkansas Committee

As the colder weather moves in, shelter and food resources become more scarce for wild birds. These resources can become even more scarce in highly anthropogenic environments, where forests, shrubs, and grasslands have been cleared for housing developments. Take action to help the birds in your area by making your yard a refueling station for passing migrants or a suitable habitat for winter residents. Become bird-friendly yard certified!



A bird-friendly oasis in a housing development ecological desert | Photo By AJ Regester

You can find more details about actions you can take and the Bird Friendly Arkansas certification process at: <https://arbirds.org/BFA/>

Submit photos of your own bird-friendly yard oasis to bfaudubon@gmail.com

Newly Certified Yards, Businesses, and Organizations:

Benton County

Lisa Cabeldue

Kelsey Bain

Columbia County

Dillon Nix

Faulkner County

AJ Regester

Addi Jarrell

Garland County

Katherine and Scott Burright

Izard County

Misty and Steven Arterburn

Logan County

Megan Morrison

Pulaski County

Mary Miller

David and Jean Parham

Casey Shepard

Jana McAuliffe

Audrey and Tyler Cobb

Stephanie Adair

Saline County

Dillon Newcomb

Scott County

Shannon Slater

Washington County

Sarah Geurtz

White County

Tony Bowman

Patty McLean

Business Certification

Nevada County Depot and Museum

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



Swallow-tailed Kite | September's AAS Bird of the Month

Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Winter Season

1 December 2023 – 28 February 2024

By LYNDAL YORK

AAS Curator

There appears to be a surge of Tundra Swans into Arkansas this winter based on reports from six different counties. Eight **Tundra Swans** were seen in the Atkin's Bottoms, Pope Co 3 Jan (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols). Two adults and four cygnets were reported in Clark Co 6 Jan (Renn & Terry Tumblison). Two adults were observed at Lake Sequoyah, Washington Co 26 Jan (Todd Ballinger). Nine birds were photographed in fields North of I40 and East of Blackwell exit, Conway Co 7 Feb (Michael Linz & Patty McLean). An adult was on Clay Rd., White Co 7 Feb (Tamalyn Block Wortham) and another adult was seen near County Rd. 5, Lafayette Co 9 Feb (Keith McFaul).



*Tundra Swan | Pope Co.
Photo by Eric Monaghan*

A group of seven **Trumpeter Swans** were observed near Clay Rd., White Co 7 Feb and 16 Feb (TW). Most of the swans seen in Arkansas are Trumpeter Swans although Tundra Swans appear to be increasing in Arkansas.

An adult **Black Scoter** was observed almost daily at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 12 Dec and continuing until 9 Feb (K&LN).

Rare wintering **Common Mergansers** were reported at two different locations: two females at Lake Beaverfork, Faulkner Co 16 Jan (ML&PM) and one adult female at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access) 17 Jan (K&LN).

A very rare **Red-necked Grebe** was found at Beaverfork Lake, Faulkner Co 17 Jan (ML&PM).

Surprisingly, a **Western Grebe** was found at Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke Co 17 Dec (K&LN).

An uncommon winter resident **Short-eared Owl** was photographed at Bald Knob NWR, White Co 26 Feb (TW).

Limpkins continued into early Dec. at four different locations: Shadow Lake, Greenwood, Sebastian Co 3 Dec (David & Laufrain Taylor); Lake Dardanelle at Shoal Creek, Logan Co 5 Dec (Keven Phillips); Lake Catherine, the lagoon at Spencer's Bay, Garland Co 7 Dec, present for 5 days, (Larry Hedrick and Richard Rosemier); Willow Beach area, Pulaski Co 9 Dec (Jamie Turpin, Nick Turpin). Only one Limpkin was observed at each location.

Twelve **Sandhill Cranes** were located South of Arkadelphia in the fields near the Veolia plant, Clark Co 3 Dec (Bart Theriot).

There were several rare gulls wintering in Arkansas. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found roosting on an island below the Dardanelle Rock Natural Area/Riverview Recreation Area, Yell Co 3 Dec (K&LN). A **Glaucous Gull** in first winter plumage was noted at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 9 Dec (K&LN). A late migrating adult **Franklin's Gull** was observed at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 16 Dec (K&LN). A **Lesser Blacked-backed Gull** in first-year plumage was seen at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 18 Jan (K&LN). A

Glaucous Gull in adult plumage was photographed at Dardanelle Rock Natural Area/Riverview Recreation Area, Yell Co 7 Feb (ML&PM). An **Iceland Gull** in first cycle plumage was seen almost daily at Dardanelle Rock Natural Area/Riverview Recreation Area, Yell Co 14 Feb – 8 Mar (K&LN).

A large group of 42 lingering **Black-crowned Night-Herons** was noted just off Bob Long Rd., Lonoke Co 17 Dec (K&LN). This species has been found at this location over the past several CBC counts.

A Harlan's **Red-tailed Hawk** was notable because, based on its distinctive dark pattern, it may be the same bird that was in the area last winter at Atkins Bottoms, Pope Co 19 Jan (K&LN).

A **Ferruginous Hawk** was photographed on Goldman Sunshine Rd, Stuttgart, Arkansas Co 24 Feb (TW). A rare winter visitor in Arkansas.



*Ferruginous Hawk | Arkansas Co.
Photo by Meredith Lusk*

A mature and a sub-adult **Golden Eagle** were observed in the Atkins Bottoms 17 Feb (K&LN). A single Golden Eagle had occasionally been observed in the area through the winter. An unusual observation was a **Bald Eagle** catching and eating a Ring-billed Gull at the Dardanelle Rock Natural Area/Riverview Recreation Area, Yell Co 26 Jan (K&LN).

A **Merlin** was sighted at Bald Knob NWR, White

Co 26 Feb (TW).

A **Rock Wren** was giving its bubbling call as it was photographed at Point Remove Creek at Highway 113 Bridge, Conway Co 29 Dec (ML&PM).

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was located at Mount Magazine SP, Hang Glider Launch Site, Logan Co 12 Dec (Kevin Krajcir, Heather Cook, Betty Evans). Townsend's Solitaire is a very rare bird in Arkansas. When it appears, it is found on Mount Magazine during the winter.

Four **Red Crossbills** were reported at a yard near Lake Norwood, Benton Co 11 Feb (Deb Hayden).

Uncommon was an Oregon sub-species of the **Dark-eyed Junco** at the Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 17 Jan (K&LN).

Two thousand **Brewer's Blackbirds** were tallied at Cherokee St./Willow Bend Drive, Conway Co 2 Dec (K&LN). Normally, only a dozen or so Brewer's Blackbirds are found at a given location in Arkansas.

An apparent overwintering **Palm Warbler** was photographed on the rough ground at the U of A Experimental Farm, Fayetteville, Washington Co 9 Jan (TB). Another warbler was found overwintering: a **Prairie Warbler** was located in the Atkins Bottoms, Conway Co 11 Jan (K&LN). This may be the same individual that has been found at this location for several winters.

Member News: Birders with Missions

By DOTTIE BOYLES

AAS News of Members Editor

Since completing his Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas in May, **Mitchell Pruitt** has been working tirelessly to found the Ozark Bird Conservancy (OBC), a new 501(c)(3) bird research

organization that will serve the Ozark Highlands and beyond. OBC's mission is to conserve birds and their habitats using science and education that promotes habitat resiliency, engages the public in the research process, and informs meaningful public and private conservation decisions.

OBC's work will initially include Northern Saw-whet Owls, of course, continuing a study in northwest Arkansas that is entering its 10th year in 2024! In addition to work with saw-whets, OBC has initial plans to fund research efforts for raptors in the region, including broader winter monitoring for migratory owls and urban raptor research. With these research efforts, OBC plans to design education and outreach programs that allow the public a stake in the scientific process from start to finish—with hopes of bridging the gap between science and the public through transparent research and promotion of citizen science initiatives. OBC recognizes science is a group effort with many stakeholders, and seeks collaboration from other regional organizations and agencies.

Mitchell is working with an excellent founding board, that includes Dr. Jennifer Mortensen (University of Arkansas) and Butch Tetzlaff (Master Bander and owner of The Bluebird Shed). To learn more, visit OBC's website: <https://ozarkbirdconservancy.org/>

Michael Linz and **Patty McLean** made a late spring birding trip to the Midwestern states of Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Their purpose was to enjoy the beauty of these lands and pick up 100 avian species in each of these states. Highlights were the expansive beauty of The Badlands and the Black Hills, the enchantment of the vast prairies that still exist, and the surprising "mountains" of Iowa. They succeeded on all levels, picking up a minimum of 100 birds for each state. In addition, Michael got a lifer--the

New AAS Members

Darlisa Ware	Little Rock
Laura & William Robinson	Paron
Terry Gullett	New Edinburg
Tonya Musial	Conway
Brooklyn & Catharine Thayer	Hot Springs Village
Patricia McKeown	Fayetteville
Jay & Krista Murdock	Clinton
Justin & Kim Sparks - Morrella	Benton

Gray Partridge. They highly recommend traveling through these states.

In June, **Karen** and **Ray Holliday**, and 10 other people, made up of family and friends, took an eight-day private riverboat cruise down the Amazon River in Brazil. The cruise, organized and sponsored by Road Scholar, was not only educational, but lots of fun. Each day there was a different presentation about the area and biodiversity along the River.

When asked about his favorite highlights from the trip, Ray Holliday stated "swimming with pink dolphins, seeing so many different bird species, and going fishing for piranha. Then eating piranha soup that evening."

Karen recently returned from a three-week trip to Papua New Guinea. On Thursday, November 14, she will be presenting a program for the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas entitled, "Papua New Guinea Birds and Wildlife." The program will be held via of Zoom. Details will be posted on ARbird-L and ASCA's webpage, wp.ascabird.org, closer to the meeting date.

On July 6th, **Doris** and **Dottie Boyles** drove to Orlando, FL to help take care of a very ill nephew of Doris'. While the trip was not about birding, they still managed to add three species to their Florida state list. When they arrived in Orlando, they stopped for gas and were greeted by 12

Muscovy Ducks, three adults and nine juveniles, who didn't seem to know they were supposed to be afraid of cars. Downy Woodpecker and Limpkin were also new. A highlight included seeing four White Ibis one morning, flying in single formation, land in the backyard behind the nephew's house. As it turns out White Ibis are common "yard birds" there. A few days later, a Swallow-tailed Kite flew over the same backyard. An odd sight was seeing a Great Egret, standing on the sidewalk between a very busy street and a chain link fence.



A-State avian research group in the Wild Basin Area of Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

The **Boves** and **Sweet Labs** at A-State traveled to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado for the 2024 annual meeting of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) held October 1–5. Eight A-State students, as well as NYITCOM at A-State professor Dr. Todd Green, presented talks and posters on their respective research. Many of these projects have received funding from the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust over the years and spanned topics from Cerulean Warbler breeding ecology in the Ozarks to Northern Cardinal lice genetics to Loggerhead Kingbird speciation in the Caribbean.

When the A-State attendees were not busy learning about all of the impressive avian research being conducted across the US and

beyond, they used their free time to explore the beautiful scenery and wildlife of the Rockies. The golden aspens were striking against the deep green carpets of pines blanketing the mountains at that time of the year. The group saw plenty of charismatic and powerful mammals, such as the mule deer, elk, and moose. Perhaps the most mighty (and adorable) of them all were the many pika that surrounded the group on their hikes, perching atop their rocks and announcing their presence with fierce (and squeaky) calls.



*White-tailed Ptarmigan | Medicine Bow Curve, RMNP, CO
Photo By Em Donahue*

Of course, the group also joined the throngs of eager ornithologists flooding Estes Park and surrounding natural areas chasing their target western birds. The group found American Dippers and Townsend Solitaires at the YMCA Campus among the plentiful and inquisitive Pygmy Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, Black-billed Magpies, and Stellar's Jays.

An excursion into the Indian Peak Wilderness offered Canada Jays begging for tourists' trail mix and gorgeous views of a Golden Eagle soaring through the snow-capped, rocky slopes while some of the group dipped their feet in a freezing mountain lake. Towards the end of the trip, the group headed up to over 12,000 ft in the tundra of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) to get looks at Brown-capped Rosy-Finches and White-tailed Ptarmigan molting into their white winter plumage in the frigid windchill. Even experienced

birders struggled to find the extremely well camouflaged ptarmigan among the rocks in the sparse tundra landscape!

All of the avian researchers at A-State are so grateful for the support from the AAS Trust that allows them to conduct their research and love the opportunity to share their findings with the greater scientific community at conferences like AOS.

Donations to the General Fund

Estate of Rae A Grasso
Athens Family Charitable Fund

In Honor of Dan and Samantha Scheiman

Kelly and Alyssa Journey
David Parham

Arkansas Audubon Society's Bird of The Month

By MICHAEL FERRARA

AAS Publicity Chair

Arkansas Audubon Society is excited to announce that in August we started a monthly series on our social media accounts highlighting birds found throughout Arkansas. These posts are planned to go live the first week of each month recognizing a bird that can be found in Arkansas during that month. The goal is to bring attention to the beauty, uniqueness, and diversity of the birds that are found across the state. These posts are structured to include a picture of the bird, a general description, where and when these birds can be found in the state, and finally a few fun facts! Each social media account will contain slightly different information due to some of the limitations of each platform.

We began the series by highlighting the Arkansas state bird the northern mockingbird.

These birds can be found across the state and are commonly seen in people's yards foraging in human-disturbed habitats. One fun fact about these birds is that they suffered population declines in the 1800's. It was common for people to catch these birds and keep them as pets due to their large singing repertoire. We followed the Northern Mockingbird up with the relatively rare Swallow-tailed Kite. While uncommon in Arkansas, these birds often get blown in during hurricanes or disperse north in search of food during migration. This year has seen a larger number of Swallow-tailed Kites in Arkansas making them a good bird to highlight for this series.



*Northern Mockingbird | August's AAS
Bird of the Month*

These two species represent the broad spectrum of birds that we plan to highlight in this series. We will continue to highlight a new bird each month, so please check back monthly to see who we will highlight next! If you haven't had the opportunity to check out our social media accounts, now is your chance! We are on X (@ArAudubon), Facebook (Arkansas Audubon Society), and Instagram (aradubonsociety). Whether you're a seasoned birdwatcher or just starting out, there's always something new to learn and enjoy! These accounts will keep you updated on news and events throughout the year.

AAS Trust Donations

Mary Ryan

In Memory of Carolyn Minson

Ann Gordon

In Memory of Maury Baker

Ann Gordon

Kannan's Belize Trip

Sandra Berge

President's Column

By LYNN FOSTER

AAS President

Greetings! I'm writing in mid-September. I hope you enjoyed the early fall weather we're experiencing right now, and I hope it lasts at least until when you receive this Newsletter!

Since the last issue, I've presented to folks as part of the [Mount Holly Garden Series](#), to residents at the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at Good Shepherd, and to the Green Bear Coalition at the University of Central Conway. I believe outreach to the public is an important part of our mission, and I find that people are eager to hear about what they can do to help birds. Exhibiting is important too, and I'm pleased to announce that Sarah Morris will be exhibiting on behalf of AAS at the [Third Annual Arkansas Dark Sky Festival](#) on the last weekend in September. Thank you, Sarah! If you haven't attended this festival I encourage you to go. The Milky Way at night, in a dark sky, is an unforgettable sight.

Planning for our fall convention is underway. Cheryl Johnson, our VP, Kevin Krajcir, the Field Trip Coordinator, and David Cimprich, Stephen Gabrey, and Michael Bishop of the Inland Bird Banding Association are working hard to create an educational and enjoyable experience. If you're planning to attend, register now! Thanks to Kevin, Maureen McClung, and IBBA and AAS

volunteers, we'll be offering banding demos for our registrants to observe along with a great assortment of field trips, including one led by Bill Holimon to the [Warren Prairie Natural Area](#) to observe endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, a species he has helped to recover.

Also, if you haven't looked at our Facebook page lately, check it out! Michael Ferrara has initiated a bird of the month. August's bird was the Northern Mockingbird. Stay tuned to [our page](#) to learn about each month's bird. Thanks, Michael!

AAS could not do these things if it weren't for you, our volunteers! If you're interested in volunteering to help on a committee or serve on the board, please email me at lfoster5211@gmail.com!

Halberg Ecology Camps: Inside Look of the 43rd Year of Camps

By RENN TUMLISON and TAMZEN BRYANT

Ecology Camp Staff

From June 9-21, 2024, we conducted the 62nd and 63rd sessions of the Halberg Ecology Camp. Camp Director for both sessions was Robin Buff aided by Assistant Director Matt Wilson. Tamzen Bryant, who serves as Executive Director, was also Publicity Director and posted images of the camp online as it was in session so parents could see activities and catch a glimpse of their own campers' involvements.

Like last year, the temperature was reasonably comfortable the first week, and very cool at night. The second week was very warm, and we had only a couple of rains during the two weeks. Classes still went off well with no insurmountable problems, and the camp progressed smoothly providing some good experiences for the campers as well as staff.

Being the 43rd year of the camp, we have accumulated a lot of alumni who now are adults and bring their kids to camp to have the experiences they enjoyed years ago. We never know for sure how many campers are children of previous campers, but we seem to hear of some every year. It is a meaningful complement that the experiences had by 11- and 12-year-olds are strong and memorable enough that they grow up and want their kids to have similar experiences. The first person in line to enter for registration for one of the two sessions this year was a father bringing his son, and he told us he had been a camper himself years ago. We appreciate knowing that the lifetime memories we have enabled in alumni campers result in planning for their own children to get the same experience!



Campers holding some of the skins they studied during mammalogy.

Junior (first year) campers went to six classes twice through the week. Sim Barrow and Adam Schaffer taught Aquatic Biology the first week, and Tamzen Bryant and Virginia Buff taught it the second week. Jackie Scott and Robin Campbell taught Botany during week 1, then Matt Wilson and Erica Benoit taught it for week 2. Adaire Kremenz and Amelia McAllister taught Entomology the first week, then Molly Chosich and Aster Droste assisted Amelia for the second week. Renn Tumilson taught Mammalogy, and Kory Roberts taught Herpetology both weeks. Geology was taught by Paul Lowrey and Aaron Hinterthuer the first week, then Arlo Juarez

replaced Paul for the second week. Ornithology was supposed to be led by Kelly and Donna Mulhollan week 1, but unfortunately Donna had to leave due to unexpected personal matters and Rowan Beattie stepped up to fill her vacancy. Chris Kellner replaced Kelly for week 2. Lindsey Droste was camp nurse the first week, and Ginger Carr the second week.

Stacey Buff was the kitchen director and kitchen staff included John Goff (both weeks), Aster Droste (both weeks), Virginia Buff (1st week), Molly Chosich (first week), Mali Ilhuicamina (2nd week), and Alice Schilling (2nd week). Will Henley served as custodian and cabin counselor both weeks. Recreation director was Ella Caraway for both weeks, and lifeguards were Robin Campbell (1st week) and Amelia McAllister (both weeks). Obviously, it takes a lot of coordination and effort to locate and schedule personnel to run the camp.

Senior Camp was led by Janet McAllister and Jim Gann week 1, and Jim was replaced by Larami Burge for week 2. Those campers did research-style ecological activities in the field and saw interesting organisms. On Wednesday of week 1 and Tuesday of week 2 (due to recognition of the Juneteenth holiday on Wednesday, June 19th), they took a field trip guided by U.S. Fire Service personnel, and got to see endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (adults and nestlings).

Campers originated from 15 counties in Arkansas (down from 20 last year), and one each from Oklahoma, Kansas, South Carolina, and Missouri. This included 29 towns in Arkansas (down from 32 last year), and one each from Oklahoma, Kansas, South Carolina, and Missouri. Little Rock, Hot Springs, and Yellville were the dominant sources of Arkansas campers (having five or more campers). As is usual, more towns along or north of I-40 were represented compared to towns in the southern half of the state. The camp committee is working toward getting better outreach to attract campers from a wider range in the state, though the southern

portion of the state is more rural and less populated.

After a day of classes and recreation time, evening learning games and programs kept the campers engaged. Robin Buff presented information about bird-friendly yards during both sessions. Jim Gann made a presentation about alligators and showed a live specimen during week 1, and Herpetology instructor Kory Roberts made that presentation during week 2. Kelly Mulhollan (half of the folk group “Still on the Hill”) gave a very well-received concert of bird-based songs during the first session. During the second session, Karen Hicks gave a presentation about ultraviolet light and fluorescence. Kids made paintings with fluorescent colors and got to view insects attracted to a white sheet by ultraviolet light. 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.

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. Photos from camp activities were added daily to the camp Facebook page so parents can see what is happening during the week and maybe catch a glimpse of their child being involved in various activities. Those images remain viewable on the Audubon Camp Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AASEcologyCamp>) so campers and parents can share the memories. The web page has 1,100 followers!

Some comments by parents or former campers that were added to images posted this year include (with camper’s name redacted):

“So awesome!! What a great program!!”

“I absolutely loved going all 3 years.”

“One of the best summers of my childhood – spending a week at Mount Eagle for this camp!”

“AAS thank you so much for keeping this

camp going. I wanted to say how much I love this camp and how much I’ve learned.”

“Thank you for making this amazing camp. I learned many things like the ecosystems of caves & I hope future generations will get to experience the same as I did.”

“Thank you for providing this camp. It opened my eyes for a better planet.”

“Thank you for putting this camp together this has been an amazing experience and it was so fun.”



Campers attacking the pond at camp with nets to catch dragonflies and other insects during entomology.

Camp has always provided a strong learning environment with fun classes and great recreational opportunities. Financial costs for some of the campers were reduced or outright covered by camp donors through scholarships. Some of the campers would not have been able to attend without that support. We greatly appreciated the consideration and support of our donors!

We lost two years of camps due to the COVID outbreak. When we started up again, we had only junior campers, and some of those were selected to come back last year as senior campers. Those are the ones that get the special ecological activities in a concentrated class. Because we had two weeks of senior campers last year, we also got to restart the Art and Martha Johnson Advanced Camp this year. Some campers that made it to the senior camp last year were selected for eight days of activities held from June 30 – July 7 north of Clinton in Stone

County, at Mount Eagle Retreat Center above the Middle Fork of the Little Red River. Activities included tree transects, a guided tour of Blanchard Springs Caverns, hiking, water testing, snorkeling at the Buffalo River, nature explorations and nature awareness games. Some intended activities had to be modified due to heat advisories and water levels being too low to float down the Buffalo River.

Director for the Advanced Camp was Stacey Buff, and other staff included Jonathan Harris, Adam Schaffer, Jen Lowrey, and Mali Ilhuicamina.

The camp committee is looking for ways to increase awareness, interest, and diversity of activities in the camp. If you have suggestions for corporate sponsorships or possible guest speakers, or just want to find out more about the camp, please contact the executive director, Tamzen Bryant. Information about the camp, and contact information for the executive director, can be found at the camp web site, aasecocamps.org/Contact.aspx. Also, visit the Arkansas Audubon Society website at <https://arbirds.org/EcologyCamp/> for more information.

Halberg Ecology Camps: Annual Fall Appeal

By BARRY HAAS
Ecology Camp Treasurer

The Halberg Ecology Camp and Johnson Advanced Camp make an Annual Fall Appeal in an effort to keep camp tuition affordable for more Arkansas families. Please consider either making a donation online at <https://arbirds.org/AAS/Donate.aspx>, or mailing your donation with the form on the next page.

Ecology Camp Donations

(January 23 – October 16, 2024)

Donations by Organizations

Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas
Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association

Fall Appeal (Parents/Grandparents)

Chrisanda Button
Fred Berry

Scholarships & Tuition Assistance

Anonymous
Garland County Audubon Society
Hot Springs Village Audubon Society
Buffalo River Chapter- Ozark Society

Memorials & Honoraria

Julie Connolly,
In memory of Art and Martha Johnson
Ron Kew,
In memory of Lance Felix
Matthew Verrochi,
In celebration of Linda Morse's birthday
Rich & Mary Poling,
In memory of Kitty Mantooth
Missy Gocio,
In memory of Dr. William McGowan
David & Terri Luneau,
In memory of B.J. & Gene Cutrell
Ann Gordon,
In memory of Maury Baker

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Note: You may still receive a paper copy because there is a minimum number to be printed.

ANNUAL ECOLOGY CAMP FALL APPEAL FORM

Please print the following information:

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

Yes, I want to help the Arkansas Audubon Society youth ecology camps. Please enclose a check made payable "Arkansas Audubon Society":

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____

\$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other \$ _____

Please return this form with your check made payable to either "AAS Halberg Ecology Camp" or "Arkansas Audubon Society":

Barry Haas, Treasurer
AAS Halberg Ecology Camp
P. O. Box 242088
Little Rock, AR 72223

All donations are fully tax deductible. The Arkansas Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

PLEASE CLIP THE SECTION ABOVE AND INCLUDE WITH YOUR CHECK.

Tuition is \$450 to keep our youth ecology camps affordable to most Arkansas families. The difference between tuition and the actual cost of camp is funded by this Annual Fall Appeal, donations from Audubon chapters and other nature organizations like the Arkansas Native Plant Society and Ozark Society, honorariums and memorials. We also have three scholarship endowments that fund scholarships and tuition assistance each summer.

The seven Halberg Ecology Camp disciplines- ornithology, aquatic biology, herpetology, mammalogy, geology, entomology and botany- are taught to first-year campers. Two instructors work with a class of about 8 youth. Instructors range from Ph.D. professionals to college instructors to high school teachers to graduate students and in some cases self-taught naturalists. We are fortunate to have a number of long-time staff members. The Camp Committee works throughout the year to make sure adequate funding is in place, and staff have all the essentials needed. It's a combined effort that culminates each June and July as these youth are immersed in all the wonders and complexities of nature.