



Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

Winter 2024 | Volume 69 | No. 4

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

AAS Holds Conference in Little Rock

By KEVIN KRAJCIR
AAS Field Trip Coordinator

On October 25–27, 2024, the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) met jointly with the Inland Bird Banding Association (IBBA) in Little Rock. AAS and IBBA last met jointly in October 1996 in Fayetteville. This recent meeting hosted 116 registrants from across the central United States. The conference offered two evening speakers, including Rebecca Peak of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who spoke on movement ecology of wintering Golden Eagles in the Ozark Highlands and Bill Holimon of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission who spoke on ecology and conservation of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Saturday afternoon presentations shared insights on bird banding, avian biology, conservation, and education.

The conference also offered 12 field trips across central Arkansas. Many out-of-state birders were eager to see southeastern species like Brown-headed Nuthatches and Fish Crows. Five of these field trips offered stops at two bird banding demonstrations, one at the Little Rock Audubon Center (LRAC) led by Kevin Krajcir, and a second at Hendrix Creek Preserve led by Dr. Maureen McClung. On Saturday, the team at

LRAC captured 17 birds of four species. Those numbers increased to 54 birds of 18 species on Sunday's demonstration at Hendrix.

In total, field trip participants observed 116 species. Highlights included a flock of Franklin's Gulls over Lake Maumelle and multiple wren and sparrow species at Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area. A very late Ovenbird was captured and banded at Hendrix Creek Preserve. Plus, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Henslow's Sparrows were seen at Warren Prairie Natural Area. Overall, the conference was well attended while providing unique opportunities for Arkansas birders to mingle with bird banders, and vice versa. Be on the lookout for details regarding the AAS's spring meeting in 2025.



Bird banding operation at Hendrix Creek Preserve led by Dr. Maureen McClung

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



*Red Crossbill | White Co.
Photo By Michael Linz*

Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Spring Season
1 March – 31 May 2024

By LYNDAL YORK

AAS Curator

Two Tundra Swans were reported at Lake Sequoyah, last seen here in 2009, Washington Co 26 Jan (Todd Ballinger). A single Tundra Swan was found near Clay Rd, White Co 7 Feb (Tamalyn Wortham). Tundra Swans are very uncommon in Arkansas.

A lingering Red-necked Grebe was photographed at Craighead Forest Park, Craighead Co 3 Mar (TW).

The only report of a White-winged Dove was on Loop Rd in Sherwood, Pulaski Co 3 May (Guy Luneau).

A rare Black-billed Cuckoo was found on Kessler Mtn, Fayetteville, Washington Co 15 May (Barry Bennett). It was a surprise that only one Limpkin was reported this spring in Arkansas and that was at Overflow NWR, Ashley Co 4 May (Suzanne Hunter).

A great surprise was a thousand migrating Sandhill Cranes in Miller Co 6 Mar (Keith McFaul).

There were numerous reports of shorebirds this spring. An unusual sighting was an Upland Sandpiper in Eastern Arkansas at the Fish or Price Ranch, Marion Co 2 May (Sarah Price). A Whimbrel was photographed on Sharp Chapel Rd, Crawford Co 13 May (Boyce Woffard). Eleven Hudsonian Godwits were observed in the Paris Bottoms, Logan Co 13 May (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols) while two birds were still at this location on 14 May. A Ruddy Turnstone was photographed at Robinson Point Park, Lake Norfolk, Baxter Co 30 May (Heather Cook). A very large number, 204, of White-rumped Sandpipers

were observed at Saul's Fish Farm, West Unit, Prairie Co 21 May (K&LN). A single rare spring migrating Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found off Hwy 155, Yell Co 28 Apr (K&LN). A video was taken of a late migrating Spotted Sandpiper at Pompe Park, Conway, Faulkner Co 17 Apr (Amy Waid).

A very rare winter vagrant Iceland Gull was seen at Dardanelle Rock Natural Area, Riverview Recreation Area, Yell Co 2 Mar (K&LN). A Lesser Black-backed Gull, a rare winter visitor, was observed feeding with Ring-billed Gulls in a farm field off Hwy 155, Yell Co 8 Mar (K&LN).

A Common Tern with a solid gray mantle and lacking the very pale primaries seen on Forster's Tern was observed on Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 17 May (K&LN).

Rarely seen in NW Arkansas was a Least Bittern at the Charlie Craig State Fish Hatchery, Benton Co 6 May (Adam Schaffer).



Least Bittern | Benton Co.

Photo by Adam Schaffer

The third county record of a Swallow-tailed Kite, documented with a photo, was seen at Union Star Rd, Winslow, Washington Co 3 May (Hunter, Mike Griffey).

Two Golden Eagles, one adult and one sub-adult, were observed in the Atkins Bottoms, Pope

Co 17 Feb (K&LN). A single bird had been observed occasionally throughout the winter.

Northern Harriers were found in two different counties during the spring. There was a bird at Umpire, Arkansas Co 17 Mar (Allie Ridley) and a bird at Miller County CR-14, Miller Co 25 Apr (KM, Charles Mills).

A very early arriving Mississippi Kite was photographed at Mulhollan Blind, Lake Fayetteville, Washington Co 13 Mar (Leslie Ford, Taylor Long, Jeremy Cohen, Vivek Kumar). This date is about six weeks earlier than normal for NW Arkansas. A very high count of 143 Mississippi Kites was recorded near Hwy 155, Yell Co 9 May (K&LN). Four Mississippi Kites, including a juvenile, was observed along a bike trail in Fayetteville, Washington Co 27 May (Richard Redmind).

Quite rare this far east in the state was a Swainson's Hawk near Hwy 86 north of Saul's Fish Farm West Unit, Prairie Co 3 Apr (K&LN). A light morph adult Swainson's Hawk was found in the Paris Bottoms, Logan Co 19 Apr (K&LN). A light morph juvenile Swainson's Hawk was found in the Paris Bottoms, Logan Co 21 Apr (K&LN). Another light morph juvenile Swainson's Hawk was in the Paris Bottoms, Pope Co 22 Apr (K&LN). Infrequently reported in Arkansas was a Ferruginous Hawk found on Goldman Sunshine Rd, Stuttgart, Arkansas Co 5 Mar (Michael Linz, Patty McLean).

A Western Kingbird reappeared at a known nesting site at the Kensett electric substation, White Co 26 Apr (K&LN). A Western Kingbird was photographed at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 6 May (K&LN). Another Western Kingbird was spotted near Military Road just north of town, Logan Co 8 May (K&LN).

Four migrating Least Flycatchers were photographed at Millwood Lake, Beard's Bluff Recreation Area, Hempstead Co 9 May (KM). It is unusual to find a migrating group.

Surprisingly, a Bewick's Wren was discovered at Moberly Pond, Benton Co 13 Mar (AS).

A migrating Veery was found at the Coler Preserve (restricted access), Benton Co 5 May (AS). Veery are seldom seen in Arkansas.

Several Red Crossbills were observed during the spring season. A single bird was seen at a feeder in Bella Vista, Benton Co 3 Mar (Douglas Keck). A male and a female Red Crossbill, second county record, were seen on S. Taylor Rd, White Co 10 Mar (ML,PM). Seven Red Crossbills were seen on S. Taylor Rd, White Co 11 Mar (ML,PM, Glenn and Michelle Wyatt). Five Red Crossbills were found on S. Taylor, White Co 13 Mar (TW).

A partially leucistic Pine Siskin was seen traveling with a group of American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins in the Camden area, Ouachita Co 2 Apr (Linda Vaughan).



*Pine Siskin (partially leucistic) | Ouachita Co.
Photo by Linda Vaughan*

Lesser Goldfinch is seldom observed in Arkansas but one was photographed in Fayetteville, Washington Co 18 May (Susan Campbell).

Leucistic American Goldfinch was observed in the Camden area, Ouachita Co 2 Apr (LV).

A Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon), very uncommon winter visitor, was noted at Lake Dardanelle, Nichols Property (restricted access), Yell Co 17 Jan (K&LN).

During the eclipse it was observed that two White-throated Sparrows quit singing and went

to roost in a Cedar at the Holla Bend NWR, Pope Co 8 Apr (Leif Anderson). Perhaps because of an eye problem, a White-throated Sparrow was found at a feeder in Conway, Faulkner Co 27 May, very late date, (Roger Massey) and was subsequently caught by a Cooper's Hawk.

Surprisingly, there were numerous reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in a number of different locations during the spring season: four adult males and one female were photographed at County Road 1650, Johnson Co 13 Apr (K&LN); two birds were found at Poole Minnow Farm, Prairie Co 19 Apr (K&LN); seven females and 5 males were in a group near State Route 134, Miller Co (KM, CM); fourteen males and eight females were at Cherokee St & Willow Bend Drive, Conway Co 22 Apr (K&LN); a single bird was found with Brown-headed Cowbirds eating spilled grain in the Carden Bottoms, Yell Co 27 Apr (K&LN); a single bird was found at Cherokee St & Willow Bend Drive, Conway Co 29 Apr while another individual was found in the Atkins Bottoms, Pope Co 29 Apr (K&LN); a female was noted near the intersection of Catfish Rd and Goalie Rd, Burns Park Soccer Complex, North Little Rock, Pulaski Co 5 May (GL); five individuals were at Cherokee St & Willow Bend Drive, Conway Co 7 May and were still at that location on 12 May (K&LN). Forty-five Brewer's Blackbirds, uncommon winter visitors, were discovered at Bald Knob NWR, White Co 2 Mar (TW). A high number of 300 Brewer's Blackbirds were on County Road 1650, Johnson Co 2 Apr (K&LN).

Great-tailed Grackles continue to expand in the state with new locations being reported. Three individuals were at Panda Express on Oak Street, Conway, Faulkner Co 14 Apr while a single individual was at the Cabot McDonalds, Main St, Cabot, Lonoke Co 15 Apr (K&LN). A single individual was found at the Love's Travel Stop, Conway Co 15 May (K&LN).

A very early Black-and-White Warbler was seen for two days at a seed feeder at the USFS office area in Hector, Pope Co 3 Mar (LA). It was two

weeks before a Black-and-White Warbler was seen again in the area.

A very rare Western Tanager was photographed at a residence off Hwy 29, south of Hope, Hempstead Co 7 Apr (Beverly Townsend).

New AAS Members

Adam & Erika Boswell	Cabot
Denise Hilton	Searcy
Dhruv Iyengar	Oxford, OH
Alice Schilling	Fayetteville
Avery Windsor	Conway
Cade Duncan	West Fork
Danny Short	Little Rock
Elliott James	Little Rock
Jack Britt	Conway
Judah Raimondi	Summit
Katherine Lim	Fayetteville
Luke Britton	Little Rock
Miracle Robertson	Malvern
Violet Milwagon	Eureka Springs
Whitaker Ward	Fayetteville
Chris Dillard	Fayetteville
Laurie Fisher	Lamar
Nancy Young	Hensley

New Life Members

Michael Parker	Little Rock
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Member News: Arkansas Birders' Varied Pursuits

By DOTTIE BOYLES

AAS News of Members Editor

Fall Birding in Portugal

In September, Michael Linz and Patty McLean traveled to Portugal for a three-week birding tour. Starting in Lisbon, their itinerary took them

south along the Spanish border, to the southwest corner of the Iberian Peninsula. Their adventures included a historical tour of Lisbon, a near-shore pelagic tour on the east Atlantic Ocean, and bird banding with a group from the United Kingdom. They enjoyed birds, delicious food, and beautiful countryside along the way.

They also joined a Hawk Watch station. Some of the more interesting raptors included Egyptian Vulture, Eurasian Griffon, Short-toed Snake-eagle, Spanish Eagle, and Booted Eagle. In this same area, they triggered the Portugal Rare Bird Alert with a Red-backed Shrike Michael photographed as it sat in an open field.

Polar Bear Adventure

On October 23, Karen Holliday, and Allan and Kathleen Mueller arrived in Winnipeg, Canada for the start of their Arctic adventure to Churchill, Canada to see polar bears. Natural Habitat Adventures hosted the tour.

The first morning they explored the city of Winnipeg. The driving tour highlighted many areas of this historic city before heading out to FortWhyte Alive nature preserve, which includes a bison refuge. At the visitor center, they walked the trails and checked the feeders. They saw and heard Black-capped Chickadees, Canada Jays, Purple Finches, and one Black-billed Magpie. The reservoir contained Ring-billed Gulls, Mallards, a Cackling Goose, and hundreds of Canada Geese.

The polar bear adventure began the following morning as they boarded a flight to Churchill. Upon arrival, the first adventure was dog sledding. The owner and his dogs have won several Iditarod races. Each sled had two passengers and a musher. The dogs raced the sleds on a trail through the woods at top speed. Everyone had fun, especially the dogs, who love to run. Ravens and Canada Jays were skulking around the property trying to steal food out of the dog's bowls.

The next day, they drove to Churchill Wildlife Management Area (CWMA) and boarded a

specialized vehicle called a Polar Rover, for an evening out on the tundra to look for polar bears. It included a catered dinner and watching the sun set over Hudson Bay. The next three days were spent exploring the CWMA looking for bears. With snow and ice already on the ground, it was a bit challenging to spot the white bears on the white tundra. The group still managed to find 10–14 bears each day. Several of which had one or two incredibly cute cubs with them.

They saw lots of Snow Buntings, many in their white and black winter plumage. Their nickname is "tundra butterflies" for their fluttering flight when flushed. Willow Ptarmigans were abundant. Many were pure white, others a mixture of brown summer plumage and white. Their goofy barking and clucking calls made us laugh. A dark morph Gyrfalcon made a rare appearance, swooping in low and flushing a large group of ptarmigans.

On their last evening in Churchill, they drove out of town to an open area and watched the northern lights illuminating the black sky. A spectacular end to their Churchill adventure!

Holliday to appear on Antiques Roadshow

In May, Karen Holliday, along with her brother Steve Jones and his wife Susan, ventured to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, in Bentonville, for a taping of Antiques Roadshow/PBS. Watch as Arkansas opens the series' 29th season with three episodes, Jan. 6, Jan. 13, and Jan. 20, 2025, on your local Public Television Station (PBS). Look for Karen to be featured during one of the appraisals with an item once belonging to her great-grandfather.

Benton County Big Year

Adam Schaffer shared, "In an effort to challenge myself to go birding more often, while continuing to bicycle on a regular basis, I challenged myself to a carbon-neutral big year for 2024. I set my conditions to see how many bird species I could find in Benton County using

only my bike or own two feet. I set a goal of 200 species. As of November, I currently stand at 196 species, after finding two American White Pelicans at Siloam Springs City Lake. That was my third trip there looking for pelicans and at 65 miles roundtrip, it was a relief to finally find them. I hope to add four more species in December. I'm planning a long ride to Beaver Lake in the coming weeks and hopefully add some deep-water birds to reach my goal.

This has already been quite an adventure. I've never seen 200 birds in a single year, even by car. Most of the 2,200 plus miles I've ridden this year have been in search of birds. I have also done some birding, that decidedly, was not carbon neutral. I had already seen pelicans flying shortly after the totality of the solar eclipse in April, but we used a car to get there.

I was lucky enough to go on two long vacations with the family. On both of those, I managed to talk the family into a birding day. My 11-year-old son, and recent Arkansas Audubon Society Ecology Camp graduate, went with me both times. We spent one day of our Hawaii trip birding the big island at Hakalau Forest NWR. 'I'iwi, Hawai'i 'Akepa, and 'Akiapola'au are now his three favorite birds. We also added Nene, I'o, and several other Hawaiian endemics.

We also used one day of a road trip to California to bird Medera Canyon in Southeast Arizona. Elegant Trogons, Zone-tailed Hawks, and Magnificent (now Rivoli's) Hummingbirds were some of the regional specialties we found there.

All told, it's been the biggest year birding for me by far. Now, my sole focus is finding a way to materialize four more new bird species here in Benton County."

Editor's note: The above article was submitted in November. Since then, Adam Schaffer has indeed reached his goal of 200 species for Benton County. On Wednesday, December 4, while sitting on his porch swing, Adam, along with his 8-year-old daughter, spotted bird number 200, a

Brown Creeper. Congratulations Adam. That is quite an accomplishment.

To date, Adam has logged 2,350 miles on his bicycle. He still has a bit of time left to add more species to his list, and more miles on his bike.

Member's Artwork for Sale

"Birds for Good" debuted in November 2024, as an online, nature-inspired store that offers high quality merchandise to benefit not just the person buying it, but also the person who made it, all while providing a recurring funding source for environmentally focused non-profits."

The store was created by Laura McCaskill and John Cardoza.

One item in the store is Pam Stewart's watercolor "Butterfly and Host Plants" card. Purchasing this card will benefit the "Audubon Better for Birds and People Fund" which will focus on "nature deficit" communities.

To find Pam's card on the website go to:

tinyurl.com/2yrkgcxw



Example of of Pam Stewart's fundraising card

Birding is #1

By ALLAN J. MUELLER

When I first started birding as a teenager, one of the things I liked was that it was not a mainstream activity. I only knew the birders in my small group, and other birders seemed special

and remote with a taste of privilege. Somehow I knew about the Nuttall Ornithological Club (<https://nuttallclub.org/>), which was somewhere in Massachusetts and seemed to be populated by rich, well-educated old men with too much time on their hands¹ — that may or may not have been correct, but that was my impression. And being raised in rural Missouri, Massachusetts may as well have been on the other side of the moon². A little closer to home, I was familiar with the Webster Groves (a suburb of St. Louis) Nature Study Society (<https://www.wgnss.org/>). Again, that seemed to be an organization of special people doing something a little off-center – bird watching (there was no “birding” at that time, just bird watching). Television comedians looking for easy laughs talked about little old ladies in tennis shoes and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (it is a funny name), which again positioned bird watching as a somewhat trivial activity on the edge of acceptability.

2022 NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES			
	# People (millions)	% of U.S. Population	\$ spent (billions)
Fishing	39.9	15	99.4
Hunting	14.4	6	45.2
Wildlife Watching	148.3	57	250.2
At Home	146.5	56	
> One Mile Trip	73.3	28	
Birders	96.3	37	
At Home	91.1	35	
> One Mile Trip	42.6	16	

Well, I am still birding, but that “edge of OK feeling” is long gone. Every five years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts a national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated activities. In 2022, the report (click [here](#) for the full report) found that 57 percent all Americans 16 and older watched wildlife, with birding the top wildlife-associated activity (wildlife watching is defined as closely observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife; visiting public parks around the home to view wildlife; or maintaining

plantings and natural areas around the home for the benefit of wildlife).

The 2022 report shows that birding, a subset of wildlife-associated activities, is now mainstream, with more participants than fishing and hunting combined. 42.6 million Americans took at least one trip of more than one mile from home for the primary purpose of looking for birds. Over 40 million folks chasing birds! — not a trivial activity anymore! Among Arkansans, 64 percent were wildlife watchers (28 percent fished and 19 percent hunted), and about 1.2 million people came to Arkansas to see wildlife, with wildlife watchers spending \$7.1 billion in our state. Nationally each wildlife watcher spent an average of \$2,188 to enjoy America’s wild treasures.

So, stand tall and make noise. We are a force.

Footnotes:

1. “rich, well-educated old men with too much time on their hands”, I think that is me now.
2. I eventually did discover that Massachusetts is a place on this earth and even got a college degree there.

Fallen Travelers: Window Strikes in Little Rock

By LYNN FOSTER

AAS President

On the morning of November 1, I had the privilege of accompanying birder and AAS member Ryan Dickerson as he walked through downtown Little Rock around two buildings. We were looking for dead birds, and, sadly, we found them. The buildings in question were the Simmons Tower and Regions Center, 40 and 30 stories tall respectively. Ryan works at Entergy in the Simmons Tower, although there have been long periods of time when he works at home. On those days when he commutes to work at Simmons (on a bicycle) he looks for dead birds and posts them on [dBird](#).

I met him at 7:30 am. He had already spotted a dead Song Sparrow at Simmons Tower. Song

sparrows are “leapfrog migrants” — the birds that summer the farthest points north and migrate to the farthest points south.



We saw no more birds at Simmons, so we crossed the street to the Regions Center. There we saw a Brown Creeper. I’m always happy to see my first Brown Creeper of the year. This year, though, it was a dead Brown Creeper, killed by a window. According to Birdcast.org, Brown Creepers were less likely than the other species to be passing through on the previous night. Nonetheless, there it was.

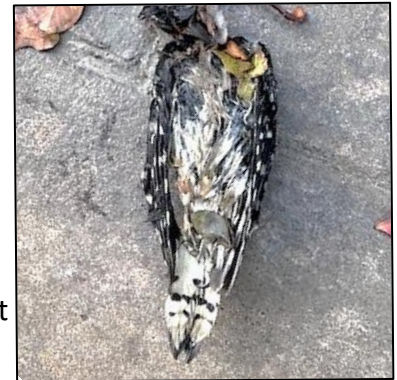


Our next bird was a Golden-crowned Kinglet, a life bird for me. Kinglets in Arkansas are winter residents only. This little bird was on its way from a northern boreal forest to a warmer habitat.

These first three birds had all died recently, during the night or at sunrise.



After the Kinglet, we saw a Downy Woodpecker carcass that had been dead for a while, as you can see from the photo. Also unlike the others, Downies are resident here year-round. This bird, perhaps, lived in or near downtown, but glass kills non-migrant as well as migrant birds. And glass kills healthy birds of all ages, not just the young, the old, and the sick.



After we parted, Ryan found a White-throated Sparrow. Like the other migrants, this species breeds in Canada and overwinters here. [Audubon estimates](http://Audubon.org) there are 160 million White-throated Sparrows in the world. That’s one for every two Americans or so.



A maintenance worker, sweeping the sidewalk around one of the tall buildings, said he sees many dead birds and disposes of them. This is typical of large buildings and institutions like hospitals (UAMS, I’m looking at you) and universities. Their maintenance staffs are tasked with disposing of dead birds, so people who work and visit there seldom see them.

[Recent research](#) reveals that as many as 3 million birds a day die from window collisions, or between 100 million and a billion a year — in fact, some research places the total at 5.6 billion a year. And the number of windows is only increasing. The birds most vulnerable to collisions during the spring and fall are songbirds that migrate at night and call to each other as they fly, according to [research](#). Scientists now theorize

that the collective decision-making that is probably facilitated by nocturnal flight calls exacerbates their vulnerability to window strikes. White-throated Sparrows and Brown Creepers are in the top five species that die in window collisions while migrating.

According to [Heidi Trudell](#), a bird collisions researcher now with Guardian Glass, the vast majority of strikes by nocturnal migrating birds do not actually occur during the night, but instead at or after dawn and well into the morning hours. One can envision a migrating bird in strange surroundings, seeking food or cover and mistaking a reflected tree for the real thing.

What can you do?



First, report dead birds on [dBird](#). [Birdmapper.org](#) is another option, or [iNaturalist](#), in that order of preference. Second, if you ever hear a bird hit your window at home or discover a dead bird at the foot of a window, treat your windows. [Zen curtains](#) 3" apart and window [film with dots or other patterns](#) 2" apart are some of the best treatments. Putting anything *inside* the windows does not work. Decals of hawks do not

work. [Arkansas Sun Solutions](#) has announced that it will provide a 10% discount on bird-friendly window film purchases and installation to Arkansas Audubon Society members. As I'm writing this article, Sun Solutions is installing the Sequence film on my windows, some of which are two stories above the ground. The white patterns are much more pronounced outside the house than they are to me inside looking out.

Environmental Policy Summit Report

By PAM STEWART

AAS Bird-friendly Arkansas Committee

As Arkansas' drought ended with flooding rains, we turned our thoughts to the future by attending the Ninth Annual Arkansas Environmental Policy Summit, organized by Audubon Delta and other organizations. Jack and I attended as unofficial representatives of AAS.

First on the agenda was the announcement of the \$100 million ERA Climate Pollution Reduction grant awarded to Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission to preserve our Natural State.

It was good to hear reports of the involvement of the many individuals who worked on the grant request, calculating the needs and costs of improving pollution control, energy transfer, biodiverse habitat corridors connections, and Conservation Corps member training. The areas participating in the grant are NWA PC, Fort Smith, and Metro Plan of Central AR.

This positive news was followed by "break-out" sessions with panelists and Q&A sessions on Solar for All, Wind Energy, Sustainable Agriculture Programs, and Electric Transmission Policy – critical for renewable energy advancement in Arkansas. Many Audubon members are unaware of the contribution Audubon makes to these programs and that the Society has staff with

expertise focussed on the impacts, both good and bad, that impact birds.

The symposium was held on the classically beautiful campus of Hendrix College, with its many pocket gardens. Native muhly grass graces areas where other plants might not thrive.

Donations to the General Fund

William Rosser

Chelsea White, *In Honor of Nia Indelicato*

Your Trust at Work: AAS Trust Report

By THAN BOVES

AAS Trust Interim Chair

The Trust met virtually on 23 October 2024. For the Fall 2024 session, the Trustees granted seven awards totaling \$4,719.20.

- Ella Bollinger (M.S., ATU) was awarded \$949.20 to study the influence of biting insects on nestling bluebirds
- Ethan Saffle (M.S., ASU) was awarded \$900 to research conspecific attraction of Cerulean Warblers
- Nora Hines (Ph.D., ASU) was awarded \$600 to improve our understanding of host-parasite interactions using cardinals and lice
- Brian Okwiri (Ph.D, ASU) was awarded \$800 to produce a reference genome for the Rocky Shiner
- Lark Sybrant (M.S., ATU) was awarded \$430 to continue her study of Ozark Big-eared Bats and their diet
- Zach Campell (Ph.D, ASU) was awarded \$620 to explore historical hybridization between Coyotes and Red Wolves
- Mitchell Pruitt (Bird Conservancy of the Ozarks) was provided \$420 to continue his

work on movements of cryptic owls during their non-breeding seasons

I thank Lynn Christie, Lynn Foster, Dr. Maureen McClung, and Cherrie-Lee Phillip for reviewing the proposals, and Chris Cash, AAST Treasurer, for keeping the trust finances in order. Note: I am serving as Interim Chair of the Trust as Ragupathy Kannan is on sabbatical in Malaysia.

AAS Trust Donations

Endowment-Memorial Fund

Keith and Rayma Jean Hawkins

Research-Educational Fund

David Edsall, *In Honor of John Stewart*

President's Column

By LYNN FOSTER

AAS President

I'm writing this on the day after Thanksgiving. I hope the holiday was a happy one for all of you. Since the last issue, we held our fall convention jointly with the Inland Bird Banding Association. Thanks to VP Cheryl Johnson for her hard work in bringing off a meeting with way more than our usual number of attendees! We've received many compliments about the convention. Thanks also to Kevin Krajcir, Field Trip Coordinator, for not only planning the many field trips but also managing to offer bird banding demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday. Releasing a Northern Cardinal was a new and welcome experience for me! It takes more than two people volunteering to have a successful convention, so thanks also to the many volunteers who helped with banding, registration, and the silent auction.

Please **mark your calendars for the next convention** April 25-27 at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, where we last met in fall 2023.

Northwest Arkansas offers lots of dedicated birders, great field trip options, and the beautiful Mt. Sequoyah. Last time, we were rather cramped in Parker Hall, but this time we've reserved the spacious and newer [Millar Lodge](#).

Education is one of our core values, and since our last newsletter, I've presented to the downtown Little Rock Kiwanis Club and the Central Arkansas Sierra Club.

AAS is very pleased to offer attractive tee shirts. You can find both long- and short-sleeved tees for sale on Bonfire with the AAS logo. Tees come in four different colors. Each purchase results in a donation to AAS. These will make great holiday gifts for the birders in your life! Shirts can be found at

[https://www.bonfire.com/arkansas-audubon-society-tees/!](https://www.bonfire.com/arkansas-audubon-society-tees/)



Finally, I'm pleased to announce that [Arkansas Sun Solutions](#) offers installation of bird-friendly window film at a 10% discount to AAS members! They just finished installing Feather Friendly "Sequence" window film on my house this week, and I'm pleased and relieved that my upstairs windows finally have protection. Arkansas Sun Solutions will install anywhere in the state, not just Central Arkansas. If you have any questions about my installation feel free to contact me.

REMINDER:

IT'S TIME TO PAY DUES FOR 2025.

Are you a procrastinator? Today's the day! Please pay your 2025 dues. Or, pay for a life membership (\$250) so you never have to remember a dues payment again! You may also pay several years of dues in advance.

Thank you!

Not an AAS member? [It's easy to join.](#)

That's all for now. I'm hoping for a successful Christmas Bird Count, with more observers than last year. And as always, if you're interested in volunteering with AAS, drop me a line at lfoster5211@gmail.com. We are a volunteer organization after all and can't exist without you!

Halberg Ecology Camps: Camp Trifecta Restored

By BARRY HAAS
Ecology Camp Treasurer

"This was the first year since 2019 that we were able to hold all three youth ecology camps – two sessions of the Halberg Ecology Camp for first- and second-year campers plus one session of the Johnson Advanced Camp for third-year campers. After such an extended period, it had been a challenge to finally put back in place our hierarchy for nature loving youth. Girls and boys just completing the fifth or sixth grades are eligible to attend the Halberg camp as first-year campers. We then invite back some of those first-

year campers for a second year of nature study with a different curriculum. And finally, some youth who have attended the Halberg camp two years get invited back to attend the Advanced Camp at a different location and with yet again an entirely different curriculum.

Those of us who have had the privilege to be a part of planning this hands-on nature study educational experience have seen countless youngsters go through the program. We have had a number of former campers go on to careers in the field of natural sciences. But our hope is not that every youth will end up in a career that is nature related – biologist, park ranger or interpreter, and the like. That’s not realistic. Our real hope is that each of these youth will think about nature differently after their experience and that they will be guides to helping protect the natural world and ensure future generations have an opportunity to enjoy the wonders of nature.

Having served as volunteer treasurer since 1997, I’ve seen families cobble together the tuition so their son or daughter, granddaughter or grandson, or at times a neighbor’s child could attend camp. We have an annual fall appeal to help keep the cost of tuition as affordable as possible to as many families as possible. We have also been very fortunate over the years – the first camp session was held in 1980 – to have a number of donors including conservation organizations and individuals who have no other goal than helping fund the camp to better educate future generations.

Donations can be made online at the Arkansas Audubon Society website [‘arbirds.org/AAS/Donate.aspx’](http://arbirds.org/AAS/Donate.aspx), or by mailing a check made payable to "AAS Halberg Ecology Camp" or "Arkansas Audubon Society" to P.O. Box 242088, Little Rock, AR 72223.

To complete a donation online you must complete your method of payment with either PayPal or credit card AFTER it appears you have completed the process. If you didn’t have to choose a payment method and complete that information, your donation will not go through.

All donations are tax deductible, and are acknowledged by letter or e-mail (e-mail when possible to save on postage). If you have any questions regarding donations to the youth ecology camps, please let me know at: bhaas@sbcglobal.net

Ecology Camp Donations

(October 17 – November 26, 2024)

Annual Fall Appeal

Ed & Sil Pembleton

Keith & Rayma Hawkins

Donations by Individuals

Ruth Anderson

Scholarships & Tuition Assistance

Grindstone Ridge Statewide Fund

To Opt-out of the Printed Newsletter:

Log in to your account at arbirds.org, click “My Web Account” from the drop-down menu, check the box next to “Save the cost and send me the AAS newsletter by email,” and click update.

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