



Arkansas Birds

Newsletter of the Arkansas Audubon Society

Summer 2025 | Volume 70 | No. 2

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

Bird-Friendly Arkansas

By PAM and JACK STEWART

AAS Bird-Friendly Arkansas Committee

The Bird-Friendly Arkansas certification program now encompasses over 216 properties across 35 counties, as well as several out-of-state yards. Our revised application form offers applicants the opportunity to provide a more detailed description of their property.

Newly Certified Properties:

Yards

Cari Hendryx	Benton Co.
Calvin & Melissa Hudson	Columbia Co.
Karron Watts	Faulkner Co.
Maureen & Todd Gagnon	Lonoke Co.
Erika Boswell	Lonoke Co.
Phillip & Andrea Lea	Pope Co.
Larry & Melissa Holt	Washington Co.

The new criteria for certification place a stronger emphasis on the importance of removing hazards such as bird-window collisions and outdoor cats. Research has shown that luring birds to our yards with native plants, water sources, and feeders may create death traps if attention is not paid to these hazards.

The new form is not yet available on the AAS website. Temporarily, the only way to obtain the proper form is by sending an email to bfaudubon@gmail.com. Put "application please" in the subject line.

Arkansas Audubon Society's Facebook Group is Back!

By MICHAEL FERRARA

AAS Publicity Chair

We've reactivated our Arkansas Audubon Society Facebook group. This is a private group that is open to all current members of Arkansas Audubon Society. This group is not intended to replace any of the content we post on our public Facebook page, but the group will help spread information so that members can stay involved in our activities across the state. We will be sharing President posts, board member updates, action items, and information about upcoming events. Outside of our communication to you all, the page will act as a forum for members to talk about birds as a community. We invite members to share stories of birds that they see in Arkansas or on vacation, pose questions about birds and their habitats, and share photos of the birds they see. Our goal is to bring everyone closer together between conventions and other future events. Please join by clicking or typing in the link below in your browser. We look forward to seeing you online and hearing about your bird stories!

**Find our Facebook
Group here:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/138701019475737>

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.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

ANNUAL DUES

Student	\$5.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Life	\$250.00 (one-time payment)

Note: Memberships paid during October – December will include full membership for the following calendar year

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



First confirmed state records of Clark's Grebe (left) and Yellow Grosbeak (right) | Photos by Michael Linz

Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

By CHRIS KELLNER
AAS Curator

The Winter Season

1 December, 2024 – 28 February, 2025

We had an exciting winter season with several unusual sightings. The first state record Yellow Grosbeak thrilled the Arkansas birding community in February and March. It was easily seen at a feeder south of Berryville in Carroll County. Other highlights included the fourth record Short-billed Gull, and several unusually large groups of unusual species: 36 Black-crowned Night Herons, 243 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 150 Western Meadowlarks.

Abbreviations: LDNP – Lake Dardanelle Nichols Property (restricted access); AB – Atkins Bottoms; DRNA – Dardanelle Rock Natural Area/Riverview Recreation Area

Four Tundra Swans were observed in AB in Pope Co 9 Dec (Kenny and Ladonna Nichols).

An American Black Duck was photographed at Big Lake WMA on 25 Jan in Mississippi Co (Jansen Hawkins).

A hybrid American Black Duck X Mallard was observed in AB on 11 Feb in Pope Co (Kenny Nichols).

Three Black Scoters were observed at the Fort Smith Park on 8 Jan in Sebastian Co (Matthew Matlock).

This was a good year for Long-tailed Ducks: one was photographed in a pond less than a mile east of Grubbs Arkansas on 23 Dec in Jackson Co (Rhett Raibley) and four more were seen on LDNP one on 26 Jan, two on 2 Feb and also 2 on 22 Feb one of which could have been a duplicate; all in Yell Co. (Kenny and LaDonna Nichols).

A first-year male Black-chinned Hummingbird, the first since 2021, was photographed in Woodson in Pulaski Co on 2 Dec (Alyson Hoge).

A very large number (36) of Black-crowned Night Herons was observed on Bob Long Rd. on 15 Dec in Lonoke Co (Kenny & Ladonna Nichols).

Three late-season Black-necked Stilts were observed in Carlisle on 21 Dec in Lonoke Co (Cindy Franklin).

An unusually large group of 243 Long-billed Dowitchers was observed off of AR-13 in Carlisle on 21 December in Lonoke Co (Cindy Franklin).

A rare winter Spotted Sandpiper was observed at DRNA on 26 Jan in Yell Co (Kenny and LaDonna Nichols).

The fourth state record Short-billed Gull was observed at Lee Creek Park on 26 Jan in Crawford Co (Matthew Matlock).

An unusual first winter plumage Iceland Gull (*thayeri* ssp) was photographed at DRNA in Yell Co on 1 Feb (Kenny Nichols; photographed by Michael Linz).

An unusual Lesser Black-backed gull in second winter plumage was seen at LDNP in Yell Co on 8 Feb (Kenny Nichols).

A Golden Eagle was photographed at the Liberty Valley Rd/Mingo Creek Rd intersection on 7 and 8 Feb White Co (Glenn Wyatt and Michael Linz). A second one was observed at Hola Bend National Wildlife Refuge on 22 Feb in Pope Co (Kenny Nichols) and a third was observed at Paris Bottoms on 23 Feb in Logan Co (Kenny & LaDonna Nichols).

A Say's Phoebe was photographed along Griffis Rd, Judsonia in White Co 6 Feb (Michael Linz).

A male Vermillion flycatcher was photographed west of Decatur, just south of Hwy 102 in Benton Co on 3 Dec (Heather Cook).

Two very early Barn Swallows were observed on SW Shady Side Avenue in Bentonville in Benton Co 25 Feb (Karen Day).

An unusual winter Gray Catbird was photographed on Silverwood Ct. in North Little Rock in Pulaski Co on 9 Jan (Gwen Wiggins).

Lesser Goldfinches are rarely seen in Arkansas. One was photographed just west of Russellville in Pope Co on 3 Feb. (Linda Fisk).

An unusually large group of 150 Western Meadowlarks was observed at Atkins Bottoms in Pope Co on 22 Feb (Kenny and LaDonna Nichols).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was observed at a bird feeder in the southeastern corner of Madison Co on 19 Feb (Cynthia Helms).

A beautiful male Baltimore Oriole was photographed just after 10 inches of snow fell in Benton in Saline Co on 10 Jan (Seth Glidewell). A second male Baltimore Oriole was photographed on N. Michigan St. in Delight in Pike Co 8 Feb (Gary Mcanelly).

An unusual American Tree Sparrow was photographed in Cabot in Lonoke Co on 13 Jan (Glenn Wyatt).

A Western Tanager was photographed in a backyard in Saline Co on 1 Jan (Natalie Rudolph).

Arkansas' first Yellow Grosbeak was photographed by several birders and observed by many at a feeder in a yard south of Berryville in Carroll Co on 19 Feb (Shianne Hunnicutt, Scotty Lofland; *see page 2*).



American Tree Sparrow | Lonoke Co.

Photo by Glenn Wyatt

Soon birders from across the state and nation went to see this far-from-home and rather shy young grosbeak. Eventually "Jeffrey," as he was named by Shianne's daughter, began showing up less and less until he no longer appeared at the feeders. Several local news stories were written on this rare visitor, with many photographs taken and memories made for all who ventured to see this first state record.

After a large grebe showed up at Lake Maumelle (Pulaski County) this past winter, there was much excitement and debate as to which specific species it was, a Clark's or a Western, two species that were once considered one. It took a bit of gumption to get the documentary photograph necessary, but thanks to the support of numerous birders, Michael Linz caught a boat ride from a fisherman, who now has an interesting true tale to tell. He got Michael as close as he could to this deep-diving and fast-swimming bird, and the identity was confirmed, a Clark's Grebe indeed and a first state record (*see page 2*).

ABA Area Milestone Reached

Lance Runion of Little Rock saw his 500th American Birding Association Area life bird on Friday, 18 April 2025. He, along with 40 other birders, viewed the female Code 4 Amur

Member News: Life Birds and State Records

By DOTTIE BOYLES

AAS News of Members Editor

First State Records

by Patty McLean

When Shianne Hunniutt posted a photo of a Yellow Grosbeak on the Arkansas Birds Facebook page, inquiries began flowing in almost immediately. She was overwhelmed by the amount of interest and number of questions, since she was unfamiliar with the mega rarity of this bird in the U.S., let alone Arkansas. Several keenly interested birders were successfully able to sway her into allowing strangers on their remote property.

Stonechat at the East Unit of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Texas. The diverse group of birders was guided by volunteers from the Friends of Anahuac Refuge to see the long-staying subject bird which had been at the discovery site since first being found on 19 December 2024.

Birding in Guyana, South America

Karen Holliday traveled to Guyana, South America in March. Along with longtime birding friends Shane Woolbright, Art Evans and his 14-year-old nephew Ewan Martin. Ewan was a last minute addition because Art's wife had to drop out of the trip. Ewan is very interested in nature and involved with the Boy Scouts. This was his first birding trip and was thrown into the deep end doing a challenging two-week international trip. He never complained about the long days, very early starts, walking lots of forest trails with mud, bees, mosquitoes, ticks, and lots of humidity.

The trip started in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana, where the group did some local birding at a botanical garden with excellent habitat. It proved to be very birdy and included several Limpkins.

Leaving Georgetown, the group traveled south on the international (and unpaved) road that runs from Georgetown south to the southern border, finishing two weeks later at Lethem. An hour's flight from Lethem took them back to Georgetown, where they spent the night before flying back to the U.S.

They quickly learned to run when they found troops of spider monkeys up in the trees. The monkeys despise humans and would immediately start throwing large branches, dead wood pieces, and anything else they could break off and throw.

When the monkeys weren't throwing trash at them, they saw a wonderful array of bird species for a total of 283, many of which were life birds. The Harpy Eagle was everyone's target bird. They were so excited to see one at the beginning of

the trip and with excellent, very close views. It raised its crown at them in annoyance for being bothered. Their favorite animal was the Giant Anteater, which they found twice.

The Guyanan people were so friendly, helpful, and pleased to show off their country and all its natural treasures. Because it was formally an British commonwealth everyone spoke English, making it easy to talk with them, learn about their culture and their country. It was an excellent trip with great birds and birding friends. A new country for everyone.

TX and AL Road Trip for Rarities

Michael Linz and **Patty McLean** received an invitation from **Kenny Younger**, asking if they'd like to join him and **Josh Mattlock** on a trip to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas to see the Amur Stonechat, a mega rarity for the U.S. Their schedule was clear, so off they went. Patty shared, "The folks managing the many visitors wanting to see the stonechat had very tight protocols, particularly because it was inside a closed area. Kenny had miraculously found an open time slot in which to get us all in."

The walk, a little over a mile, came to a brushy area where the stonechat had been hanging out since it was first spotted during their 2024 Christmas Bird Count. The Amur Stonechat is a small bird, about the size and energy of an Eastern Bluebird. This was a female, making her even more difficult to see. But there she was, hidden by the dry brushy limbs, then down to the ground or across the field, not to be seen again for several minutes. As the bird zipped from limb to limb, we got frequent brief looks, but heard no vocalizations. When our time was up, we left to make room for the next set of registered guests. It was an interesting experience and a life bird for all of us.

Since the day was young, we headed to Galveston Island to look for an immature Yellow-headed Caracara being seen near the fishing pier. No luck that afternoon, so Michael and I booked

a room at the Best Western across the street from the pier. We met Josh in the morning and started our search, but to no avail. However, we saw a report saying the bird had been seen the evening before behind the Best Western. So, we visited some interesting birding areas around the island and met back at the hotel around 5:00 p.m. A birding couple we'd met earlier in the day was there. They had just seen the caracara flying around and land in a palm tree. We slowly crept up to the tree and there it was, inside the palm tree, nibbling on something it seemed to have stashed away. A life bird for Josh and a U.S. bird for us. Unfortunately, Kenny had to return home and missed this little side adventure.

The next day, due to forecasted heavy rains, we nixed our plans to go to the Lower Rio Grande. But still filled with the joy of having such adventures, we decided to head for Dauphin Island off the coast of Alabama. It was a little early for most migrants, but our target, a Gray Gull, was even more alluring. It had been reported on the eastern edge of the island, so we booked a nearby room and off we went. Having lived in and birded Georgia for several years, I'd been missing my bi-annual trips to the coast, so this trip was extra special for me. Sea and salt, gulls and terns, oystercatchers and shorebirds, and a single, most beautiful Gray Gull, right there on the rock jetty just feet away. A life bird for both of us.

Did I mention fresh gulf shrimp? The edible kind. A total treat and a great way to end our non-planned spring vacation."

Panama Birding Supports the Trust

Ragupathy Kannan shared, "Ten Auduboner's from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas, participated in a birding tour in Panama based at the Canopy Tower June 1-8, 2025. The tour raised \$600 for the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust.

Highlights included seeing more than 200

species of birds, including rare encounters like Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo, Great Potoo, and Green Shrike-vireo. Antbirds galore, with several species around army ant swarms. Several herps and a close sighting of a Boa Constrictor. Over 400 species of plants and animals documented in our bioblitz project."

In Memoriam



Pat Moore (right) holding a bowl Ed Laster (left) made commemorating Pat's 100th consecutive AAS meeting in 50 years (Nov. 2015). | Photo by Dottie Boyles

Word came to the AAS email account that life member Pat Moore had passed away. This email was followed by several others, including Pat's obituary, all of which told of her decades-long and familial connections with the Arkansas Audubon Society. This article is a combination of information from her obituary with reminiscences of AAS members and newsletter articles. We hope it will be of interest to you, even if you did not know her.

Patricia Kate Jamison Moore, age 97, died May 5, 2025. Pat was born in Little Rock, AR to Ross and Athea Selph Jamison. She attended Little Rock Central High School, Arkansas State Teachers College (today University of Central Arkansas), and the University of Arkansas. She

was married to Raymond Neal Moore for 69 years before his passing in 2019.

Pat's interest in bird study began at an early age with her parents who were founding members of Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS), organized in 1955. Even though far from Arkansas, she was a life member of AAS and attended 100 consecutive meetings over a 50-year period. In Nov. 2015, Pat, who had hip surgery just weeks before, was determined to not let that stop her from attending her 100th AAS conference. She was honored at that meeting and presented with a wooden bowl, handmade by Ed Laster. A talented calligrapher, as well as artist, Pat drew and designed the current AAS logo. A talented calligrapher, as well as artist, Pat designed the AAS logo, including the mockingbird that adorned the *Arkansas Birds* newsletter for many years.

Pat was an accomplished teacher, gifted artist, and avid birdwatcher. She worked with and supported numerous environmental preservation organizations. Like many birders, she was a dedicated volunteer, leading Christmas Bird Counts in Maryland, and doing both fieldwork and artwork for the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas. She used her gifts for many years volunteering with the National Audubon Society, Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

She married Raymond Neal Moore in 1950. For most of her life, she lived outside of Arkansas, as he worked first for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and then its successor, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Pat and Neal retired to Frisco, North Carolina, on the Outer Banks, where they welcomed family, friends, and countless visiting birders. Over the years, several AAS members had the privilege to stay with Neal and Pat while birding in North Carolina.

Pat planned and led bird walks for many years for the local bird club, Cape Hatteras National

Seashore, and Pea Island NWR. She volunteered at the Pea Island NWR Visitor Center. Her volunteer work also included planning the "Wings Over Water" Wildlife Festival and compiler of National Audubon Society's Cape Hatteras Christmas Bird Count. In her later years, when she was less mobile, she shared her passion for birds by the bay window every Friday at Pea Island NWR Visitor Center. With binoculars, telescopes, field guides, and checklists at hand, she helped both novice and experienced birders from near and far see and identify the birds in view through that window overlooking the big impoundment.

When asked several years ago how she would like to be remembered, she replied: "Her spirit lives on in the lives she inspired and nurtured." A memorial service to honor her memory will be held at a later date. For more information, contact her niece Lib Jamison at aboutPatMoore@yahoo.com.

New AAS Members

Alex Buckner	Greenwood
Lluvia Chavarria	Fort Smith
Stephanie, Lola, Henry, & Kevin Pierson	Fayetteville
Natalie Black	Maumelle
Tiffani Rana	Beebe
Erika Caldwell	Little Rock
Larry Holt	Prairie Grove
Michael Darling	Fayetteville
Dr Alan & Deidre Cheney	Bella Vista
Bart & Alexandra Stafford	Hot Springs NP
Kayla Wisdom & Jason True	Lake Village
Beth & Donald Wilton	Hot Springs Village
Jeff & Joye Short	Malvern
Karron & Larry Watts	Conway

New Life Members

Betty Evans	Rogers
Peggy Smith	Fayetteville

President's Column

By LYNN FOSTER

AAS President

As I write this, it's early evening. A Wood Thrush has been serenading the forest this spring, and tonight is no exception.

My presidency is halfway over, so it's a good time to take stock. The AAS Board has been mindful of its members in the last year! We've recommended revised bylaws and a revised dues structure to the membership, who enacted both at our last meeting. We've started a merch store (see <https://www.bonfire.com/arkansas-audubon-society-tees/> and buy a t-shirt!) and added an events calendar to the website (<https://arbirds.org/AAS/Calendar.aspx>).

This month, we added a feature that will automatically email AAS members whenever a calendar entry is added. (You can turn it off in your profile if you wish.) Board member Michael Ferrara is resurrecting our AAS Facebook Group (not to be confused with the AAS Facebook page) to be a members-only group, offering another avenue of communication to and among our members. See his article elsewhere in this issue for information about how to join. Finally, Arkansas Sun Solutions will give AAS members who install bird-friendly film a discount.

This coming year the Board will turn its attention to spending some of our reserves, largely accumulated during Covid, on deserving projects. In April, the Board approved the payment of silent auction proceeds general funds to purchase badly-needed cots for the Halberg Ecology Camp. In May, the Board approved the funding of a stipend for an Arkansas Natural History Commission summer intern, who will compile bird lists for natural areas from data extracted from iNaturalist, Ebird, field journals,

and other sources, and do other ornithological work as assigned.

Do you have suggestions for how AAS can spend some of its reserves? Send them to me at lfoster5211@gmail.com.

This month the Board will meet to begin consideration of the report of the ad hoc "Insight Committee," charged with recommending ways to improve outreach and to increase membership. Membership will receive a copy of the report by email, and we welcome your input! In the next issue I'll be sharing more about it but for now, let me thank the Committee members: Patty McLean (chair), Taylor Long, Matt Matlock, Mitchell Pruitt, Ariana Remmel, Dawna Stirrup, and Ragan Sutterfield.

Stay tuned, and happy birding!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Do you like to keep up with what other AAS members are doing? Dottie Boyles has written the Member News column for 11 years! She will be stepping down this year. Starting with the Winter issue, we'll need a volunteer to write this column. If you are interested, please contact Editor Em Donahue, emilyrdonahue@gmail.com, or President Lynn Foster, lfoster5211@gmail.com.

Thanks to Dottie, and we hope you'll volunteer!

Spring 2025 Convention Report

By LYNN FOSTER AND CHERYL JOHNSON

On April 25-27, the Arkansas Audubon Society held its spring meeting at the Mt. Sequoyah Center in Fayetteville. Cheryl Johnson planned the convention, assisted by numerous helpers, including Kim Harper (in charge of the silent

auction), Stephanie Barr, Megan Foll, Ann Gordon, William Rosser, and Stephanie Sexton. Karen Holliday kindly provided the adult beverages and helped with the final cleanup.

Taylor Long served as Field Trip Coordinator, offering field trips, including a beginner trip at Mt. Sequoyah itself, research field trips introducing participants to snakes (guided by J.D. Willson), Eastern Screech-Owls (Mitchell Pruitt), and the bird-banding station at Hobbs State Park (Jen Mortensen), and a birds/bugs/botany field trip, led by Joe Neal and Joe Woolbright. In addition to these specialized trips, guides took our members to Woolsey Wet Prairie, Lake Fayetteville, Coler Preserve, Cherry Bend, Sharp Chapel Road, and that favorite of Arkansas birders, Ninestone Land Trust. All told, 166 species were identified by our members during the convention.

Leslie Cooper was the Friday dinner speaker. Besides working for Quail Forever, Leslie is the Arkansas Monarch and Conservation Plan coordinator. She spoke on the biology of bees and monarchs and on how we can garden to support pollinators. Saturday afternoon, Kevin Pierson, Chief Conservation Officer of Bat Conservation International, spoke about bats and the work around the world of BCI.

On Saturday night, after dinner the entertainment began with a rousing performance by Kelly and Donna Mulhollan of Still on the Hill. Long-time AAS member Joe Neal spoke eloquently about the communal nature of birding in this age of loneliness. He also traced the history of some of the people instrumental to the growth of AAS, but particularly Doug James, who was born 100 years ago this year. Doug's widow Liz Adams was on hand, as well as Peg Smith, widow of Dr. Kim Smith. Joe Neal introduced Bill Beall, who attended the dinner, to most of our group. Bill was present at the first meeting of AAS

in 1955! Bill recalled that first meeting was at Petit Jean State Park, and strawberries were on the menu.

To celebrate AAS's 70th anniversary, members enjoyed a chocolate cake for dessert, decorated with tiny birds. In addition to all of the fun, at the Saturday night business meeting AAS members adopted new bylaws which will improve the operation of AAS, and a new dues structure to accompany the new bylaws.

We will next meet in Conway at the Hilton Garden Inn, October 24-26. See you there!

AAS Trust Donations

Endowment-Memorial Fund

Ragupathy Kannan,
2024 Costa Rica Nature Tour
Ragupathy Kannan,
2025 Panama Birding Tour
In Memory of Prof. Doug James
on his 100th birth anniversary

Your Trust at Work: AAS Trust Report

By RAGUPATHY KANNAN

AAS Trust Chair

The Trust met virtually on 14 April 2025. For the Spring 2025 session, the Trustees granted three awards totaling \$2020.00.

- Zach Campell (Ph.D, ASU) was awarded \$500.00 to support his work on attitudes on conservation strategies in Arkansas.
- Colin Dobson won \$1000.00 for his work on Prothonotary Warblers and their wetland habitats in Arkansas.

- Christian Machen was granted \$520.00 to help him study the effects of urbanization on screech owls in Northwest Arkansas.

I thank Dr. Than Boves, Lynn Christie, Lynn Foster, Dr. Maureen McClung, and Cherrie-Lee Phillip for reviewing the proposals, and Megan Foll, AAST Treasurer, for keeping the trust finances in order.

Donations to the General Fund

Cathi Kindt
 Larry and Kathleen Payton
 Nancy Young
 Corey & Genevieve Athens
 Kelly & Alyssa Journey
In Honor of Dan & Samantha Scheiman

AAS Membership Adopts Revised Bylaws

By LYNN FOSTER
 AAS President

At the spring business meeting, AAS members voted to adopt numerous revisions to the bylaws. Some of the most significant include:

- A new dues structure. Our past nine categories of membership have been reduced to four, which are student, individual, family, and life. Members also approved small increases in individual and family memberships.
- A new bylaw includes requirements for notice being given of members' meetings.
- Requirements for board "actions without a meeting" that comply with state law.
- A conversion of several "Committee Chairs" to "Coordinators." The old bylaws listed board members who were "Committee

Chairs" but who actually did not chair committees. Instead, AAS now has a Publicity Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and a Website Coordinator.

- Clarification of the makeup of the Conservation Committee. It will now contain four board members in total (which includes the chair and the president) and one member from the membership. The Committee is now also authorized to act without formal board approval when a tight deadline makes doing so impossible.
- Requirements that all board and committee members be AAS members.

The complete bylaws are posted on the AAS website at

<https://arbirds.org/Documents/Bylaws.pdf?id=398106005>

Halberg Ecology Camps:

Hands-on Summer Learning!

By BARRY HAAS
 Ecology Camp Treasurer

On June 8 campers arrived for the first session of the 2025 Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp. One week later, the process was repeated with a different group of nature-loving youth eager to learn about at least some of the wonders of nature in a hands-on learning environment.

With the exception of the Ecology Camp being suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid, this nature study experience has been offered every year since 1980. I still marvel at the visionary Arkansas Audubon Society members who in the late 1970's conceived of a hands-on opportunity

to study nature up close, determined what age youth would be most receptive to learning in an environment like the one being offered (they settled on 11- and 12-year olds), and designed a rich learning experience for those who attended. Here we are 45 years later still offering this experience to boys and girls who love nature.

If you would like to make a donation of any size to support the youth ecology camps, they can be made online at the AAS website 'arbirds.org/AAS/Donate.aspx', or by mailing a check made payable to "AAS Halberg Ecology Camp" 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. 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. If you have any questions regarding donations, please let me know at: bhaas@sbcglobal.net

Ecology Camp Donations

(February 17, 2025 – May 27, 2025)

Donations by Organizations

Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

Donations by Individuals

Holly Childs
Ann Gordon
Shirley Ann Gilmore

Scholarships & Tuition Assistance

Diamond Lake Chapter of the Arkansas Master Naturalists
Garland Co. Audubon Society
Three Rivers Audubon Society

Memorials & Honoraria

Claire Shaw, *In Memory of Henry and Edith Halberg*
Eric Sundell, *In Memory of Milanne Sundell*
Jane McGregor, *In Memory of Amy Ruth Denson Smith*
Jacqui Lincoln, *In Memory of Jane Nichols Steele*
Sarah Johnson, *In Honor of Jacqui Lincoln*

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.