Halbergs leave large bequest for camp

Henry and Edith Halberg were a real boon for Arkansas birds and birders when they moved to the state in 1960. During their lifetimes, they served the Arkansas Audubon Society in a number of capacities, and taught others more about birds.

Henry died in 1998, and Edith died this past October. Their impact on AAS will continue. They left their names on the organization's ecology camp, and left the camp a $20,000 gift.

Art Johnson, who served with Edith on the Ecology Camp Committee for many years, said, "That is the largest gift the Camp has ever received. To place it in perspective, that sum would almost pay for one week of camp for 62 campers. The Camp Committee has not made a definitive decision as to how to maximize this gift's benefit to the Camp. Currently it is drawing interest that will generate operational money for the Camp in time. Edith and Henry did things quietly but they did significant things. They are still working for us."

The Halbergs had no children, but they had a great deal of influence on many children. They were proud of their nieces and nephew, and they worked to teach other children about birds. They established a Bird Study Group, and met with a half-dozen or so teenage boys, some of whom later received master's and doctoral degrees in ornithology.

When AAS founded the AAS Ecology Camp in 1980, Edith was the first treasurer. She maintained an operations committee, solicited funds, did secretarial chores, kept camp records, formulated the agenda and called the meetings. She was given credit for her work to keep the camp going during its first 10 years.

In recognition of the Halbergs role in founding the camp, its name was changed to the Edith and Henry Halberg Ecology Camp in 1992. In addition to their work with the camp, Edith and Henry served in many other capacities in AAS and in what is now the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas.

Helen Parker shared some of her memories of the Halbergs and their impact on the lives of other birders. "These good people also mentored adults," she said. "During the '70s and early '80s, Max and I were their frequent companions for Saturday and

Slough denizen

This King Rail was photographed last summer at Red Slough in Oklahoma. The species breeds at the slough, and may be a permanent resident.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside:</th>
<th>Birding guide</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obituaries</td>
<td>Records</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News</td>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Obituaries

Charles Gardner

TEXARKANA, Texas — Charles Lewis Gardner Jr., 92, of Texarkana died Jan. 15, 2003 at home. He was born Feb. 12, 1910 in Texarkana, and was retired from State First National Bank. He was a World War II Army veteran and a member of Fairview United Methodist.

Gardner was the second president of the Arkansas Audubon Society and served three years in that office. He helped organize and was the first president of the Texarkana Audubon Society. He was responsible for the State First National Bank sponsoring the Audubon wildlife films for 32 years and 156 films.

Gardner was a Scoutmaster of Troop 19, served as chairman of the board of his church, Sunday school superintendent, treasurer and president of Methodist Men. He started Troop 19 in 1941 and was a member of the Caddo Area Council Executive Board.

A nature trail in Camp Springs Campground at Lake Wright Patman was the project of a Scout pursuing his Eagle designation, and it was named the “Charles Gardner Nature Trail.” He was awarded the C.E. Palmer Award in 1982.

Gardner’s survivors include: His wife, Rosa Lee Gardner of Texarkana; two sons, Charles Gale Gradner of Queen City, Texas, and Lewis Dale Garner of Eynon, Pa.; and six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Earl Hanebrink

JONESBORO — Dr. Earl Lee Hanebrink, 78, of Jonesboro died Jan. 23, 2003 at St. Bernard’s Medical Center. He was born in Cape Girardeau, Mo., and taught in the biology department of Arkansas State University for 35 years.

Hanebrink served with the Army Military Police in the Philippines during World War II. He was the author of four books and numerous scientific publications. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, the Arkansas Audubon Society and the Northeast Arkansas Audubon Society.

He was the widower of Vernelia McCrady Hanebrink.

Hanebrink’s survivors include: Two daughters, Kay Lynn Noell of Jonesboro and Lisa Ann Keasler of Cordova, Tenn.; a sister, Mary Buffa of St. Louis; and three grandchildren.

William Earl Rife

HARRISON — Lt. (Ret.) William Earl Rife of Harrison died Feb. 1, 2003 at his home. He was born Aug. 16, 1924 in Bentonville, son of the late Vern Columbus and Lena Mae Keeler Rife.

Rife served for 35 years in law enforcement, and joined the Arkansas State Police in 1957. He was a member of the American Legion, Arkansas State Police Retirees Association, First Christian Church of Harrison, the Ozark Camper Dancers and the Rotary Club of Harrison.

Rife’s survivors include: His wife, Joanne Sears Rife of Harrison; a daughter, Shara Rife Cash of Springfield, Mo.; two granddaughters; and two brothers, Dale K. Rife of Carthage, Mo., and Robert E. Rife of Minneapolis, Minn.

Edna E. Shepherd

LITTLE ROCK — Edna Earl Shepherd, 97, of Little Rock died Jan. 11, 2003. She was the mother of William Shepherd, a longtime member of the Arkansas Audubon Society.

Funeral service was Jan. 15 in Mahlevea United Methodist Church.

Peggy Brazelton


She was the wife of Bill Brazelton, a member of the Arkansas Audubon Society, and a former member of AAS.
Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Fall Season — August-November 2002

Contributors are identified by initials in the following report. The full names are listed at the end of this report. Thank you for submitting our bird records.

**ANHINGA:** One male was seen from the Mississippi River levee south of Lake Chicot on 9-25 by HandMP.

**AMERICAN BITTERN:** On 9-20, one was found on the University of Arkansas golf course by AW, MM, JN, AC, NS and IC. The bird was feeding on crayfish along Clabber Creek. This species is uncommon to rare in Northwest Arkansas during the fall season.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** A good count of approximately 50 birds was reported near Lonoke on 9-23 by IY. Most of the birds were juvenile.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL:** From one to 21 individuals were seen at nine different locations from Chicot County to Yell County during August, September and November: (MaM, KandLN, JM, LY and Hand MP). Most of the birds were immature.

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK:** Five were present at the Overflow National Wildlife Refuge on 8-13. (JM)

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK:** Two pairs were identified by HR on 10-27 at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge.

**MOTTLED DUCK:** Two adults were located near Arkansas City by KandLN on 8-10.

**GREATER SCAUP:** Two males were observed by RD, JN, MM and RB at Lake Fayetteville on 11-2. They were in the company of a small raft of Lesser Scaup.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK:** Two females were present at Fayetteville on 11-16. (RD, JN, MM, DJ, RB, SR, SL and NS)

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** A juvenile was reported at Lake Atalanta near Rogers by JN and MM on 8-17. This is only the fourth fall record for Northwest Arkansas.

**BALD EAGLE:** HandMP found one adult at Grand Lake in Chicot County on 10-3 and another the next day at Lake Chicot.

**COOPER'S HAWK:** Two were identified at Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge on 10-20 by RP, VH and IZ.

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** Five were discovered circling just over the tree tops on the northern slope of Mount Magazine by DS on 11-1.

**MERLIN:** A male bird was reported by CM at Millwood Lake on 9-20.

**YELLOW RAIL:** Five were seen by KandLN on 10-26 in a rice field at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge.

**VIRGINIA RAIL:** Two were seen in a rice field at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge by MP on 10-27. SB reported one juvenile at Fort Smith on 11-1.

**COMMON MoorHEN:** CM discovered a family of 12 near Texarkana on 813. The group was composed of three adults, three juveniles and six young chicks.

**SANDHILL CRANE:** At least two were heard calling by BH near Natural Steps in Pulaski County on 11-11.

**AMERICAN AVOCET:** A large group of 34 was found by CM on 8-31 at Millwood Lake.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER:** Fifteen were counted by HandMP on 9-14 at the Arkadelphia oxidation ponds.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** CM located one near Texarkana on 8-24.

**COMMON SNIPER:** KandLN saw one at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge on the early date of 8-2.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** A male identified a first-winter bird at Dardanelle Lake on 11-15. This is only the fifth record for Arkansas.

**SABINE'S GULL:** A juvenile was discovered at Millwood Lake on 9-24 by CM.

**CASPIAN TERN:** The large number of 106 was the peak count at Millwood Lake on 9-20 by CM.

**ROYAL TERN:** Three adults in basic plumage were identified by CM on 8-13 at a location east of Texarkana. This represents only the fourth record for Arkansas and the first since 1966.

**FORSTER'S TERN:** The huge number of 250 was estimated by DC in Chicot County on 10-4. This concentration was hurricane-related, and the largest number ever reported in Arkansas.

**SOOTY TERN:** One was identified by SD in Chicot County on 10-4. This record, hurricane-related, was the third record for Arkansas and the first since 1961.

**INCA DOVE:** An adult male was present at a feeder in Fayetteville on 8-24 and 25. (RD, LM) A second bird was seen at a feeder on 10-27 by BL at Oak Grove in Clark County.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** One was still in Fayetteville by MM on the late date for Northwest Arkansas of 10-26.

**GREATER ROADRUNNER:** One was seen at Egypt in Craighead County on 11-28 by TD. The species is rare in Eastern Arkansas.

**RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD:** An adult male was trapped and banded by HandMP at Ben Hur in Newton County on 9-8.

**YELLOW-BELLED FLYCATCHER:** Although a rare migrant in Arkansas, three were reported this season. One was in Fayetteville on 8-24 and 25 (MM, RD, JN). One was in Newton County on 9-28 (JS) and one in Arkadelphia on 10-13 (DH).

**LEAST FLYCATCHER:** Two were seen and heard calling on U.S. Forest Service land in Pope County on 10-12 and 14 by LA. Identification was by call note which observer says sounds more emphatic to him than that given by the Alder Flycatcher.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** One was found on the late date of 11-11 by NandCL at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge.

**RED-EYED VIREO:** RP, VH and LZ located one on the late date of 10-20 at Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge.

**BANK SWALLOW:** One was present over the Mississippi River levee near Grand Lake in Chicot County on 9-25 by HandMP.
BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH: Two were foraging in an open forest of large pine trees in the Ozark National Forest of northern Pope County. (LA)

ROCK WREN: One was present on Okay Levee at Millwood Lake from 11-16 through the end of November. (MD, CM) This western species is seldom found in Arkansas.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: HandMP located one in Lake Village near Lake Chicot on 10-4.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: The large number of 12 was counted by RP, VH and IZ at Wapanocca on 10-20.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: One was heard singing in the Ozark National Forest of Pope County by LA on 8-22. The habitat was an open overstory of large pine trees with a dense, 12-foot tall understory. The observer was not sure if this was indicative of nesting, but I think it was probable.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One adult female was reported by CM at Millwood Lake on 10-19. The little warbler migrates mostly in the eastern flyway, and, as a result, is very rare in Arkansas.

CERULEAN WARBLER: An adult male was seen in Fayetteville on 8-1 by MM, and a female was found at the same location by the observer on 8-21. Both birds were believed to be fall migrants that are rarely found n Arkansas.

CANADA WARBLER: One was reported by AM at Camp Robinson Wildlife Area in Faulkner County on 8-26.

SPOTTED TOWHEE: An adult male was at Lake Fayetteville on 10-12 (RD). The western species is rare in Arkansas.

RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW: CT and GH located one on Mount Magazine on 8-9.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: This little sparrow, which occurs in Arkansas during migration, and then almost exclusively along the western border, is very rare in the fall.

However, during the recent fall season it was much more numerous. I received six records involving seven individuals.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: JC usually finds at least one every fall season on his property at Hampton, and this season was no different. One appeared on 10-25.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: LA received several brief glimpses of one at the Craig Fish Hatchery at Centerton on 10-10 as it flew from smartweed to smartweed. I believe this species has an affinity for smartweed.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE: CM witnessed an adult female feeding three fledglings near Texarkana on 8-3.

HOUSE FINCH: On 9-18 a female in leucistic plumage appeared at our feeder in Malvern. I saw it only that one day. (MP)


To those submitting bird records, I would like to request that whenever possible or applicable, please submit the following information: The sex of the bird, the age (juvenile, immature, sub-adult, adult), seasonal plumage (winter, breeding, transitional) and color.

Max Parker, curator

News of interest for conservationists

Recent articles in the New York Times have brought attention to water problems in eastern Arkansas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has two proposed projects, including the Grand Prairie Irrigation Project. This $1 billion project would affect the White River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Cache River NWR. Water from the rivers would be used to relieve pressure on two aquifers currently being depleted for rice farming. The project requires the majority of farmers to vote for it in a referendum and only 40 percent of farmers have currently expressed support. The Bush administration has recommended no funding for this project. A sustainable alternative that does not involve pumping water from the White River at one-half the cost is proposed. Congress funded the water conservation portions of the project last year.

The Corps’ $40 million White River Navigation project calls for widening and deepening a 256-mile navigation channel to allow year-round barge traffic through the White River NWR and Cache River NWR. The Corps estimates $8 million benefit per year to the Newport area, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission have expressed fears of damage to the hunting, wildlife watching, and recreation industries. The plan would destroy black bear, Bald Eagle, mussel and migratory bird habitat. Funding for this plan is currently not supported by the Bush administration.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) issues will resume within the next five months. According to the US Geological Survey, drilling in ANWR would provide a six-month oil supply for the U.S. which would be available in approximately 10 years. Wildlife management is mandated for U.S. wildlife refuges.

New rules for national forest policy have been proposed. The new regulations would limit environmental reviews, exclude public comment, exclude judicial oversight, and eliminate mandatory wildlife monitoring procedures. The USDA is accepting public comment of the proposed rules until March 6.

See Conservation on Page 12
Arkansas Audubon Society
2003 Spring Meeting
May 2-4
Entergy Building, West Helena

AGENDA

Friday, May 2
Board Meeting 12:00 Noon - 3:00 PM
Registration 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Supper 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Evening Program 7:45 PM - 9:00 PM

SPEAKER: To be announced.

PROGRAM: To be announced.

Explanation of Saturday field trips and members slide show.

Saturday, May 3
Field Trips As announced Friday night.
Committee Meetings As necessary - chairs will designate time and place
AAS Trust Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
AAS Trust Reception 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM
Supper 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Evening Program 7:15 PM - 8:30 PM

SPEAKER: Dr. Paul Hamel, Research Biologist, U.S. Forest Service, Stoneville, MS.

PROGRAM: Cerulean Warblers, Status and Future.

Acknowledgments, bird checklist, explanation of Sunday field trips.

Sunday, May 4
Field Trips As announced Saturday night.
ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY CALL TO MEETING

The 2002 spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be held on May 2-4 at West Helena. Meals and programs will be at the Entergy building. Lodging available in West Helena at Best Western (870-572-2592), Delta Inn (870-572-7915), Harbor Inn (870-572-2597), Holiday Star (870-572-3717), and Sands Motel (870-572-6774). Additional lodging is available in Helena.

Directions: The Entergy building is at 291 Richmond Hill (Business Highway 49). It is across from Wendy's and has an AP&L sign outside.

Name(s) _____________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip Code ______

Telephone Number ______________________________________

Meeting Registration # _____________ @ $15.00 each $ _____________
   (Children under 16 with adult are free)

Friday evening meal # _______________ @ $10.00 each $ _____________

Saturday evening meal # _______________ @ $10.00 each $ _____________

TOTAL $ _____________

Complete the form, include a check made out to Arkansas Audubon Society, and mail to:

Allan J. Mueller, AAS Vice-President
20 Moseley Lane
Conway, AR 72032

For questions contact Allan at 501-327-8952 or akmueller@tcworks.net.
News of Members

By Loise K. Lacy
Arkansas Birds

Again I open this column with sad news relating to the passing of three persons dear to our membership. Our sympathy goes out to Bill Shepherd on the loss of his 97-year-old mother and to the families of Charles Gardner and Earl Rife.

Helen Parker e-mailed that she and Max attended the funeral for Bill's mother only to return home to a message from Rob Doster that Charles had died. Sterling and I attended the service for Charles and have since visited again with Rosa Lee. Her upbeat attitude made our recent visit a pleasure; it is reassuring that she seems to be coping well.

Sally Jo Gibson sent us the sad news about Earl. She said she had JoAnne's permission to share the following message with the birding community so I will include it here:

“My sweetheart of 56+ years passed away last night, Feb. 1, 2003 about 9 p.m. It seemed the angels came to take his spirit several days ago and left only his poor little body here. He was in our family room and Shara and I were right beside him. We wrapped him in one of his mother's and grandmother's handmade quilts. We have been proud of our family and friends; they have overwhelmed us with their love and support these past two months.”

Sally Jo had this to say, "I've heard Earl say many times that he rarely added a new bird to his life list, but that he did occasionally add a new birder to his list! He loved people."

Martha Milburn had a small brain hemorrhage while on the Mt. Home Christmas bird count Dec. 17. It affected one of her legs but isn't classified as a major stroke; her doctors say that the body usually heals itself after this type of event. She was in a rehab center in Springfield, Mo., but possibly has returned home by now. I'm sure Sally Jo Gibson would have the latest details if you would like to contact Martha.

J.O. Gibson had a heart defibrillator installed at the Arkansas Heart Hospital on Dec. 5 returning home the following day. The pain killers he was given caused intestinal problems which sent him to their local hospital on the 9th where he remained for 13 days. The Gibsons were unable to help with the Christmas count but others — Helen and Max Parker, Leif Anderson, and Roger McConnell, I believe — stepped in to cover for them.

Feeder watching has been great this winter at our house with the "Magic Mix" living up to its name. In addition to lard, flour, cornmeal and peanut butter, I've been adding all sorts of things that had been on the pantry shelf too long: oatmeal, cream of wheat, grits, corn flakes, even some coconut which had turned yellowish. The birds seem to appreciate that we opt for fresher forms of all the above. Some of our favorites that we see regularly at the feeders are all three of our winter warblers — pine, orange-crowned and yellow-rumped — as well as ruby-crowned kinglets. Other than great groups of gregarious greedy grackles our most abundant species are white-throats and cardinals — even more of them than goldfinches. And, strangely, we've had only one lonely junco appearing daily all winter. No purple finches, no pine siskins; but we do have house finches.

The monk parakeets are still in Magnolia. Recently we've seen them carrying more nesting material to their already bulky nests at the college feed mill.

Anyone out there who'd love to have a European goldfinch at your feeder? Maybe make an offer to swap, say, three dozen American goldfinches for one European? Bo Verser shared a photo on the Internet of the one which has been appearing at a niger feeder at his workplace in Heber Springs. Simply dazzling.

On Feb. 25 JoAnne Rife wrote: "Snow about 5 inches and a tree sparrow on the patio eating bird seed! When we moved to this house over 35 years ago, we were at the edge of town with a 640 estate behind us. Then I had tree sparrows, quail and foxes. As the estate became an industrial park, a west-side-of-town bypass road, electrical substation, a school, businesses and the Nature Conservancy's Baker Prairie, the number of species dwindled or at least changed — we did gain house finch! Now the 10 acres directly behind me that had been a thicket has been bulldozed. So you can see that a tree sparrow on the patio is pretty exciting!"

JoAnne reports that she recently received a note from Jane Henry of Jonesboro who attended AAS meetings a number of years ago (some of the older members will know her). Jane, a retired teacher of physical science, lives in her own apartment in a retirement village. After wintering in Florida for many years, she remained in Jonesboro this winter and saw snow for the first time in 25 years.

When we visited Rosa Lee Gardner recently she related an unusual story about a hawk. She said that last year while she and a friend, Jan Thomas, were on their morning walk they paused for Jan to photograph a red-shouldered hawk's nest in a tall tree. One of the hawks flew down as if to attack the intruders but instead spotted Jan's fuzzy black tam. Probably thinking, "Aha! Nesting material!" he snatched it off her head and carried it to the nest. Apparently it didn't complement the nest's decor as he held it for awhile — long enough for Jan to snap a picture — then dropped it to the ground. The following day the hawk attacked Rosa Lee — not painfully — while Jan stood by with a firm grip on her hat.

See NEWS on Page 6
Adult Condor 8, a female California condor captured in 1986 then released back to the wild in April 2000, was found dead of gunshot Feb. 13, 2003. She had produced 12 offspring in captivity. The death of AC-8 was doubly tragic because she had been reintroduced to help teach released captive-raised young the survival tactics necessary for life in the wild.

Jim McMahan of Fort Gibson, Okla., husband of AAS member Jeri McMahan, had foot surgery recently. Jeri had to cancel a planned birding trip to Panama as she is the caregiver while Jim recovers. We hope he’s soon “back on his feet” — both of them.

Project Feederwatch Newsletter says reports of blue jays eating house paint are on the rise again. Read a story about this from two years ago as well as more recent updates on: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/News/Paint-eatingBluejays.htm

The Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society has an impressive goal: “A prairie chicken in every plot.”

I know how you are expecting me to end this column. Well, truth is we’re still staying pretty close to home as we are taking a master gardener course which ends March 3. (I’m a Certified Louisiana Master Gardener but I wanted to take the class in Arkansas with Sterling.)

In April we’re off to a three-day Louisiana Native Plant meeting, then to Big Bend National Park for a few days, and then back to the hill country of Texas for a week’s elderhostel entitled “Bluebirds and Bluebonnets.” May 17 through June 3 we’ll be on an Alaskan cruise/rail trip; then to New York City for a few days to see a play starring one of my grandsons-in-law, returning in time to report to the Ecology Camp on June 14 for teaching duties. Breathe here. I’ll not burden you with all of the short trips, weekend trips and such we have scheduled between the major ones.

See you in Forest City in May.

50th anniversary coming up in 2005

Don’t forget the celebration in 2005 — 50 years of Arkansas Audubon Society. Share your best memories by sending a note to Pat Jamison Moore, P.O. Box 944, Buxton, N.C. 27290, or Helen Parker. Thanks to those of you who have already responded.

The Arkansas Audubon Society spring meeting will be May 2-4 in West Helena. The call-to-meeting is enclosed in this issue of Arkansas Birds.

Arkansas CBCs report

The following report includes totals for 2002 CBCs as gleaned from the Internet. If there are errors in the report, please notify the newsletter editor. Corrections will be reported in the June issue of Arkansas Birds.

N/A in the species column indicates numbers that were unavailable when the report was compiled — not that the count was not done. If the compilers of those counts wish, their counts can be reported in the June issue.

2002 Arkansas Christmas Bird Count results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CBC</th>
<th>Total species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Compiler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkadelphia</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Max Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Lake</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Brian Braudis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo River</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Sue Walter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conway</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Martha Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooked Creek Val.</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>Sally Jo Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Doug James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Smith</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Bill Beall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holla Bend</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>Leif Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Springs Village</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Lou Leonetti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Bayou</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>John Andre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonesboro</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Jim Bednarz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Village</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>John Morrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Rock</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Lyndal York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonoke</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Lyndal York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Sterling Lacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mena</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Richard Lawry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Home</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>Sharon Boatright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Bluff</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Rob Doster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texarkana</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Charles Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Creek</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Vicki Trimble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wappanocca NWR</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Dec. 28</td>
<td>Dick Preston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Dec. 28</td>
<td>Keith Sutton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There is no bad time to donate to ecology camp

The past three months have been quite productive and busy regarding overall Ecology Camp finances. Our annual Fall Appeal has been in full swing with numerous donations from the core group of folks who unfailingly have kept the camp on a solid financial footing in recent years. Sometimes we receive a donation far into the spring (in April or even May) that is related to the Fall Appeal made the previous October or November. Those late responses often include a note apologizing for the lateness of the donation. There is never a bad time of the year to make a donation to the camp for any reason — honoring someone or in their memory or for whatever other reason. We appreciate all donations, large and small, because it takes all of us with our combined resources to ensure the camp keeps doing what it does best—educating our youth about the natural world. The youth are, after all, our future.

Donations from parents of campers are particularly rewarding. The past few years we have added the names of the parents of camp students who attended the most recent camp sessions to our Fall Appeal mail-out. Sometimes donations sent in by camper parents will have a note that says something like “we want to help give another child the opportunity to attend the Halberg Ecology Camp.” The Ecology Camp will also benefit greatly from a $20,000 bequest received in January from the estate of Edith Halberg. It was in May 1995 during the 40th anniversary spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society at Petit Jean State Park that the camp was named after Edith and Henry Halberg.

So as we move toward another June with two camp sessions scheduled once again, you can rest assured the governing camp committee is doing everything possible to make sure camp finances are strong. The more financial supporters the camp has, the easier the load on each of us.

Donations may be made by sending a check made payable “AAS Halberg Ecology Camp” to treasurer Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, Ark. 72223-9201. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible as the camp is a 501 (C3) nonprofit as defined by the IRS. Donors may remain anonymous, if that is their expressed wish.

Barry Haas
Camp treasurer

Ecology Camp donations

Nov. 16-Feb. 19

Fall Appeal
Mary Beth Lowery (Camper Parent)
Fred and Helen Hander
Jean and Bernice Thatcher
Barbara and Robert Shults
Josie Farrell
Kathy and Richard McCormick (Camper Parents)
DeLynn Hearn
Carl Amason
Gary Weidner and Shea Crain (Camper Parents)
Neil and Micki Deininger
John and Marilyn Riley (Camper Parents)
Doug James
Phyllis Bartlow
Dr. Shirley Ann Gilmore
Michael and Frances Roher (Camper Parents)
Fred Berry (Camper Parent)
Sharon and Woody Powell (Camper Parents)
Rickie Sterne
Tricia and James Petersen (Camper Parents)
Alice Rand

General Funds-Individuals
Ralph and Jane Thomas

Memorials and Honorariums
Max and Helen Parker
In memory of Edith Halberg
Art and Martha Johnson
In memory of Edith Halberg

Ouachita-Caddo Bird Club
In memory of Edith Halberg
Thomas and Sheryl Robbins
In honor of Penelope Robbins
Ross and Alice Jamison
In memory of Edith and Henry Halberg
Pat and Neal Moore
In memory of Edith and Henry Halberg
Krissy Johnson and Family
In honor of Art and Martha Johnson
Allan and Kathleen Mueller
In memory of Florence Karil, Lambert Karil and Richard Mueller
Ross and Alice Jamison
In memory of Ross and Atha Jamison
Luanne and David Brotherton
In memory of Edith Halberg
Claire D. Shaw
In memory of Edith Halberg
Alexandra McCoy
In memory of Edith and Henry Halberg
Art and Martha Johnson
In honor of Pat and Dottie (Cookus) Patterson on the occasion of their marriage
Northeast Arkansas Audubon Society
In memory of Dr. Earl Hanebrink
Elaine Halberg Hall
In memory of Edith and Henry Halberg
Birding Arkansas

Bell Slough WMA has much to offer birders

By Mel White
For Arkansas Birds

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's wildlife management areas are probably some of the most accessible, yet under-birded natural destinations in the state. Set aside primarily for hunting and fishing, these areas are nonetheless accessible to everyone, though sections of some are closed at certain times of the year for resource protection. Of course, it's probably better not to enter WMAs to watch birds during the deer and duck seasons, but that still leaves the great majority of the year to explore them (using common sense and precaution during other hunting seasons).

Located halfway between Little Rock and Conway, 2,040-acre Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area has become a popular spot not only for central Arkansas birders, but for walkers and nature-lovers of all sorts. This is for the most part due to its 2.25-mile nature trail, just a few minutes from Interstate 40.

To reach the trailhead, take the Ark. Highway 89 exit (exit 135) at Mayflower. Drive west to Highway 365, then south about two miles to Grassy Lake Road (marked with a Bell Slough WMA, sign). Follow this gravel road east, under 1-40 and over Palarm Creek, to a parking area on the north side of the road. Here you'll find portable restrooms and brochures with a map of the trail. (At certain times of year this entire area is under water, when Palarm Creek overflows its banks.)

The path crosses a swampy area on wooden bridges, and soon reaches an observation area looking out over a wetland. Wading birds or waterfowl are occasionally visible here, although vegetation often keeps birds hidden. Following the path, you'll come to an old gravel road (not part of the "official" trail). To the north is a large field that's flooded for wetland habitat at various times of year. Following the gravel road left will take you to spots where you can pick your way across a ditch to a levee that loops around the field. It's quite a long way to walk the whole thing, but when conditions are right you may spot waders, shorebirds, or even rails. Wearing good boots is usually wise, and of course you should keep an eye out for cottonmouths in warm weather. Bear in mind that this wetland area is closed from 30 days before duck season to 30 days after the season ends; the rest of the year entry is allowed.

The nature trail splits just past the road. Take the left path, which passes through scrubby woods and shrubs before reaching a second fork. Again take the left path, which leads through bottomland forest, in a few hundred yards reaching an observation point overlooking the wetlands. Waders and ducks are often seen here (a scope is helpful). Continuing along the path, you'll reach a spur trail leading to an elevated blind looking out on another portion of the marshy field. Your luck here will depend on the season and the water level.

The trail climbs a small hill through a typical dry oak-hickory woodland, not as productive for birds as the bottomland woods you've been passing through earlier. Still, there's a nice viewpoint looking to the west and the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains in the distance. Eventually you'll come to another fork; take the right-hand trail, which leads back to the second fork mentioned above.

Bell Slough's varied habitats of old field, marshy wetland, shrubby thickets, and bottomland forest makes it a great spot in spring migration. Its breeding birds are those you'd expect from this combination of environments, including Green Heron; Wood Duck; Red-shouldered and Broad-winged hawks; Wild Turkey; Barred Owl; Red-headed and Pileated woodpeckers; Acadian and Scissor-tailed flycatchers; Wood Thrush; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed vireos; Northern Parula; Yellow-throated, Black-and-white, Prothonotary, and Kentucky warblers; and Dickcissel, to mention only a few.

You can also explore the north side of Bell Slough. Return to Highway 89 and cross 1-40. In 0.4 mile from the freeway, turn right (south) on Dam Road. Drive 1.1 miles to the parking area at the spillway for Lake Conway. (This area is described on page 24 of A Birder's Guide to Arkansas.) Check the lake to your north for waterbirds. Tree Swallows once nested here, but the dead snags they used have now mostly fallen.

Cross the spillway to enter the WMA. Following an informal trail, you'll soon reach an old road and a powerline cut. Following the old road to the right will take you through woods, across open fields, and alongside some nice swampy spots into a bottomland forest. A rough path follows the powerline cut, which can be productive for scrub birds. There are no formal trails here; pay attention to your route so you can find your way back to the spillway.

Bell Slough WMA has also been a popular spot for central Arkansas butterfly-watchers, thanks again to its varied habitats. Among the species seen here have been Checkered White; White-M Hairstreak; Northern Metalmark; Diana Fritillary; Gorgone Checkerspot; Northern Pearly-eye; Hayhurst's Scallopwing; and Swatty, Leaat, Cobweb, Eysusus, Dukes', and Dusty skippers.

For information about Bell Slough, call 877-470-3650. You can download a map of the WMA (which does not show the nature trail) at www.agfc.com/wma_lakes/maps/bell_slo ugh.pdf.

Mel White is a member of the Arkansas Audubon Society, a writer and the author of A Birder's Guide to Arkansas. The guide is available from the American Birding Association.

See maps of Bell Slough on the facing page. Maps are courtesy of Kenny Nichols.
Arkansas Audubon Society

Bird Records Committee Report

The following report includes verifying documentation accepted during the period Aug. 13, 1998 through Jan. 15, 2003. Bird records committee members are: Douglas James, Chris Kellner, Mike Modinow, Kenny Nichols and Max Parker.

Sightings of rare and difficult to identify birds and birds seen out of season should be submitted to the AAS curator, who may request that the record be documented. All documents received are placed in the permanent files. Those accepted are given a number. Documents received and not deemed necessary for documentation may be accepted for the file, but not assigned a number.

Refer to the following table and accepted and numbered documents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doc. No.</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date(s) of Record</th>
<th>County (Location)</th>
<th>Observer(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>905</td>
<td>Anna's Hummingbird</td>
<td>10-16 to 26-98</td>
<td>Sevier County (De Queen)</td>
<td>David Arbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>906</td>
<td>Tennessee Warbler</td>
<td>12-26-98</td>
<td>Jefferson County (Pine Bluff)</td>
<td>Guy Luneau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>907</td>
<td>Ovenbird</td>
<td>12-27-98 to 3-7-99</td>
<td>Prairie County (DeValls Bluff)</td>
<td>Terry Singleterry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>908</td>
<td>White-winged Dove</td>
<td>11-19-98</td>
<td>Columbia County (Magnolia)</td>
<td>Sterling Lacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>909</td>
<td>Willow Flycatcher</td>
<td>5-5-99</td>
<td>Lafayette County (Lewisville)</td>
<td>Paul Dickson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>910</td>
<td>Grasshopper Sparrow</td>
<td>5-5-99</td>
<td>Lafayette County (Lewisville)</td>
<td>Paul Dickson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>911</td>
<td>Indigo Bunting</td>
<td>12-13-97 to 3-25-98</td>
<td>Prairie (DeValls Bluff)</td>
<td>Terry Singleterry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>912</td>
<td>Black-throated Green Warbler</td>
<td>7-7-99</td>
<td>Montgomery County (Mt. Magazine)</td>
<td>Robert Doster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>913</td>
<td>Sprague's Pipit</td>
<td>11-27-99</td>
<td>Prairie County (Stuttgart Airport)</td>
<td>Guy Luneau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>914</td>
<td>Calliope Hummingbird</td>
<td>10-19 to 21-99</td>
<td>Sevier County (De Queen)</td>
<td>David Arbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>915</td>
<td>Ferruginous Hawk</td>
<td>10-24-99</td>
<td>Pope County (Holla Bend NWR)</td>
<td>Jennifer Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>916</td>
<td>Black-throated Blue Warbler</td>
<td>12-19-99</td>
<td>Washington County (Fayetteville)</td>
<td>Joe Neal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>917</td>
<td>Cape May Warbler</td>
<td>12-19-99</td>
<td>Washington (Fayetteville)</td>
<td>Mike Modinow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>918</td>
<td>White-throated Swift</td>
<td>12-11 and 12-99</td>
<td>PopeNell County (Dardanelle Dam)</td>
<td>Kenny Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>919</td>
<td>Black-throated Green Warbler</td>
<td>6-12-99</td>
<td>Izard County (Fulton BBS, route)</td>
<td>Leif Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>920</td>
<td>Sprague's Pipit</td>
<td>12-23-99</td>
<td>Jefferson County (Pine Bluff)</td>
<td>Guy Luneau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>921</td>
<td>Sprague's Pipit</td>
<td>12-19-99</td>
<td>Prairie County (Stuttgart Airport)</td>
<td>Robert Doster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>922</td>
<td>Swallow-tailed Kite</td>
<td>8-29-99</td>
<td>Miller County (Bee Lake)</td>
<td>David Arbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>923</td>
<td>Black-throated Green Warbler</td>
<td>7-22-00</td>
<td>Pulaski County (SE of Mena)</td>
<td>Bill Hailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>924</td>
<td>Winter Wren</td>
<td>8-29-00</td>
<td>Crittenden County (Bobwhite Road)</td>
<td>Richard Preston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>925</td>
<td>Black Rail</td>
<td>10-13-00</td>
<td>Crittenden County (Bobwhite Road)</td>
<td>Kevin Calhoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>926</td>
<td>Black Rail</td>
<td>10-15 and 16-00</td>
<td>Crittenden County (Bobwhite Road)</td>
<td>Richard Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>925B</td>
<td>Little Blue Heron</td>
<td>12-23-00</td>
<td>Crittenden County (Bobwhite Road)</td>
<td>Chris Jonelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>925B</td>
<td>Bachman's Sparrow</td>
<td>2-14-99</td>
<td>Chiicot County (Lake Village CBC)</td>
<td>Mack Howington, Sandra Key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>927</td>
<td>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</td>
<td>2-20-99</td>
<td>Scott County (near Waldron)</td>
<td>Darcy Ulas, Max Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>928</td>
<td>Snowy Plover</td>
<td>5-5 to 7-01</td>
<td>Poinsett County (Claypool Reservoir)</td>
<td>Marcus Beard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>929</td>
<td>Snow Bunting</td>
<td>12-25-00</td>
<td>Boston County (Craig Hatchery)</td>
<td>Jeff Wilson, et al.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>930</td>
<td>Black, Virginia, Yellow Rails</td>
<td>Sept., Oct. 2000</td>
<td>Crittenden County (near Jonesboro)</td>
<td>Kenny Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>931</td>
<td>Thayer's Gull</td>
<td>1-1, 14, 20-01</td>
<td>Crittenden County (near Clarkdale)</td>
<td>Kenny Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>932</td>
<td>Lesser Black-backed Gull</td>
<td>12-23, 28-00; 1-1-01</td>
<td>Pope County (Lake Dardanelle)</td>
<td>Kenny Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>933</td>
<td>Rough-legged Hawk</td>
<td>2-3-01</td>
<td>Pope County (Lake Dardanelle)</td>
<td>Robert Doster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>934</td>
<td>Mourning Warbler</td>
<td>6-10-01</td>
<td>Prairie County (Hickory Plains)</td>
<td>Laurel Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>935</td>
<td>Kentucky Warbler</td>
<td>12-15-01</td>
<td>Grant County (Prattsville)</td>
<td>Kenny Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>936</td>
<td>Barrow's Goldeneye</td>
<td>2-23-02</td>
<td>Faulkner County (Conway CBC)</td>
<td>Jo Ann Drew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>937</td>
<td>Brown Pelican</td>
<td>5-13-02</td>
<td>Pope County (Dardanelle Lake)</td>
<td>Mike Modinow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>938</td>
<td>Nashville Warbler</td>
<td>12-6-01 and 2-16-02</td>
<td>Pulaski County (Willow Beach)</td>
<td>Herschel Raney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>939</td>
<td>Tuffed Duck</td>
<td>11-30-01</td>
<td>Washington County (Mt. Sequoyah)</td>
<td>Kenny Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>940</td>
<td>Lesser Black-backed Gull</td>
<td>11-17-01 and 12-1-01</td>
<td>PopeNell County (Lake Dardanelle)</td>
<td>Norman Lavers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>941</td>
<td>Swainson's Hawk</td>
<td>2-2-01</td>
<td>Pope County (Lake Dardanelle)</td>
<td>Keith Sutton, Bill Hailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>942</td>
<td>Common Nighthawk</td>
<td>12-29-01</td>
<td>Craighead County (Craighead Forest Park)</td>
<td>Mike Dillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>943</td>
<td>Ferruginous Hawk</td>
<td>1-12-02</td>
<td>Arkansas County (White River NWR)</td>
<td>Marie Ann Pavlak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>944</td>
<td>Lark Bunting</td>
<td>5-15-02</td>
<td>Miller County (near Garland)</td>
<td>Stephen Dinsmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>945</td>
<td>Sooty Tern</td>
<td>10-4-02</td>
<td>Pope County (Holla Bend NWR)</td>
<td>Mike Modinow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>946</td>
<td>Grasshopper Sparrow</td>
<td>2-3-02</td>
<td>Chiicot County (near river bridge)</td>
<td>Charles Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>947</td>
<td>Royal Tern</td>
<td>8-13-02</td>
<td>Washington County (UA farm)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trust has grown, but James’ challenge needs funds

Since the last AAS Trust financial report in the December issue of Arkansas Birds, the Trust’s Endowment-Memorial Fund has continued to grow, although at a somewhat slower pace. Unlike the Ecology Camp with its annual Fall Appeal, the Trust has relied mainly on folks who choose to donate to the Trust and also to several well-publicized challenges like those by Doug James and Fred and Helen Hander.

The challenge by the Handers was made last spring. This is the fourth year of a five-year challenge made by Doug James to donate a matching $1,000 to the Trust each year if that amount or more in new money is donated to the Trust. We have successfully matched Doug’s generous offer every year. In 2000 we received $2,710 in matching donations. Then in 2001 it dropped sharply to $1,190 and then rose somewhat to $1,419 last year. As this is written we have received only $25 toward the James challenge for 2003! Will we fail to meet the challenge this year? Land’s hope we are only off to a slow start.

The Endowment-Memorial Fund has gone from just under $30,000 less than four short years ago to just shy of $70,000 today. That means the Endowment’s investment earnings have also increased substantially. Last fall the Trust was able to approve nine grants for a total of $2,000. Hooray! The trustees now have over $5,000 a year in grant funds to give out. That is a large increase of grant money in only four short years, but we would like to be able to do so much more.

This morning I read several postings to ARBIRD about one of the last California condors taken into captivity in the 1980s being found dead and having been shot. That is the mentality we are up against as we work to educate the public about the wonder and value of all species in this complex world of ours. And most of the Trust grants go to research projects that help all of us better understand the complexities of not only birds but all sorts of wildlife.

Donations to the AAS Trust are 100 percent tax deductible. Checks should be made payable “AAS Trust” and mailed to treasurer Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, AR 72223-9201. Anyone wishing to make an anonymous donation to the Trust may do so by requesting privacy. AU donations will be acknowledged in writing.

Barry Haas
Trust treasurer

AAS Trust donations
Nov. 16-Feb. 19

Endowment-Memorial Fund
Jane and Alexander McGregor (James match)
Doug James (James matching money for 2002)
Dolores and Don Harrington (James match)
Anonymous

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Fund
Bill Shepherd

In Memory of
Doug James
In memory of Edith Halberg
Danette Watkins
In memory of Dan Portis
Dolores and Don Harrington
In memory of Edna Earl Shepherd
Brant Buck
In memory of Edna Earl Shepherd

Max and Helen Parker
In memory of Edna Earl Shepherd

Max and Helen Parker
In memory of Charles Gardner
Doug James
In memory of Edna Earl Shepherd
Thomas and Jane Teague
In memory of Betty Miller
Fred and Helen Hander
In memory of Earl Rife
B.J. and Gene Cutrell
In memory of Earl Rife
Dolores and Don Harrington
In memory of Earl Rife

The AAS website includes interesting information about the Society. Check it out at www.arbirds.org

Subscribe to discussion line
To subscribe to Arkansas bird discussion line, message to:
LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UARK.EDU

Leave the subject line blank. For the message, type: subscribe ARBIRD-L (first name last name)
Type your name as you will use it for the discussion list.
Send the message. The enrollment is all electronic; don’t include anything else as it just confuses the computer! And, of course, there is no charge.

Gifts to the general fund
DeLois Crawford
Cindy Franklin
Art and Martha Johnson
Plans set for two sessions of Halberg Ecology Camp

The 23rd sessions of Arkansas Audubon Ecology Camp will be held this summer at Camp Clearfork near Hot Springs. First session will be from June 15-20 and second session from June 22-27. Applications are now available for 11-12-year-olds who are interested in taking part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The week-long program offers campers a hands-on opportunity to study the natural environment under the direction of 16 experienced Arkansas educators including high school teachers, college professors and state park ecologists. Field studies include ornithology, mammalogy, entomology, herpetology, aquatic biology, botany and geology. Evening programs feature slide shows, videos and talks by naturalists from around the state.

Campers sleep in cabins, with adult supervisors assigned to each unit. Nutritious, kid-friendly meals are prepared in a modern kitchen, and a canteen is available for snacks. For the campers' safety, a nurse is on duty 24 hours a day during the week, and a certified athletic director supervises daily recreation including volleyball, swimming, canoeing and hiking.

From the applications, 50 first-year students are selected for each camp. Twelve outstanding campers from the previous year are chosen to return for a second year of advanced study. Audubon Camp provides children with a special outdoor experience and helps them appreciate and understand the natural environment.

The fee for each camper, first year or advanced, is $225. While it costs in excess of $350 per student to run the camp, the Arkansas Audubon Society subsidizes the rest of the expense. In addition, some partial and full scholarships are offered and some financial assistance is available in case of need. Many local Audubon chapters around the state hold competitions, such as essay contests, for campers to represent their chapter at camp. Each camper receives a field guide (birds for first-years, reptiles and amphibians for advanced) and a T-shirt.

The Audubon chapter members across the state have proven to be the camp's best recruiting tool. Please continue to help us make children aware of this unique and rewarding opportunity.

Check out the Audubon Society website at http://www.arbirds.org/ and download a brochure and application or contact me at efulton@aristotle.net, 501-663-9380, 2705 N. Fillmore, Little Rock Ark. 72207. You are encouraged to copy as many applications as necessary for interested students. Application deadline is April 21.

Liz Fulton
Executive director

Proposed appropriations for the Interior Department would cut state wildlife agency grants from $100 million to $45 million. The state wildlife grant program was part of a compromise in 2001 in exchange for not passing the broader Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), which guaranteed annual conservation funding of $2 billion.

Red oak borer infestation is presenting a forest management dilemma, with selective thinning of infested trees and prescribed burning a suggested solution. Woodpeckers are the most important recognized natural control agents and can reduce larval numbers by up to 40 percent.

Nominations for Arkansas' Important Bird Areas are being accepted. The nomination form is available online at Audubon Arkansas' web site (the NAS state office). Audubon Arkansas is also participating in the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program, which is designed to restore farmland back to wetlands. Audubon Arkansas is also participating in Fourche Creek and West Fork of the White River restorations.

AAS members are also working on protection from development for a remnant of lowland tallgrass prairie called Wilson Springs along 1-540 just east of Razorback golf course in Northwest Arkansas. In the central Arkansas area, members are monitoring a proposed marina development on the Little Maumelle which would require dredging adjacent to Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

Issues to watch in the future include changes in state water quality standards, a proposed restructuring of Pollution Control and Ecology, and the Watershed Initiative of the Department of Environmental Quality.

DeLynn Hearn
AAS conservation chairman
weekend birding. We four criss-crossed Arkansas, traveling more roads than we can remember, finding birds in little-known parts of Arkansas.

"The Halbergs would get phone calls from people across the state, reporting one or another rare bird. One Saturday when they arrived at our door for a day trip, Henry announced that we were going to check out a reported Pine Grosbeak. The bird, a window hit, was in a box covered with a towel. I was elected to put my hand in; we all knew that a Pine Grosbeak could really bite.

"The lady had looked in an encyclopedia and found what she thought looked like her stunned bird. We were all a bit disappointed to release a male Purple Finch. But today, we would nearly drive across the state to see a Purple Finch!"

Helen recalled a Fourth of July when the Parkers and Halbergs drove more than 500 miles and never left the state. On a visit to Cameron Parish, La., the couples stayed "in one of the worst places ever. Edith wrote 'wash me' on the mirror with a lipstick."

They made trips to Galveston, the upper Texas Coast, Brownsville and the Valley as far as Falcon Dam. "Henry practiced the Spanish language he was studying at UALR, the day we saw the Brown Jays at Santa Margarita Ranch, where we were allowed to look for pajaros for a U.S. dollar."

Johnson said, "The deaths of Edith and Henry Halberg were sad events to all who knew them and knew of their dedication to persons, institutions and causes.

"Henry was a southern gentleman with a Massachusetts accent. He spoke softly and pleasantly. Edith sometimes spoke otherwise. Both spent very little time being concerned with themselves, preferring to project their actions to benefit others. Their honesty, integrity and sincerity were apparent upon meeting them.

"They did many big things but they also did many important little things that are no longer done. They were cheerleaders for the Arkansas Audubon Society, getting new members and greeting first timers at meetings. We are appreciative that the Halbergs passed our way. They left a rich behavioral legacy that assures their remembrance."

As an example of the Halbergs' continuing influence, Johnson told the following story:

"Approximately two years ago, one of Henry's former colleagues at the U. S. Geological Survey sent us a message that they would like to use their expertise if they could benefit the camp in some way. Henry had been retired probably 20 years and his professional friends were wanting to help an operation to which Henry was devoted.

"Edith's contribution to the first 10 years of the camp have been mentioned previously but it is doubtful that we have been able to articulate adequately what that meant. She dealt with everything in the planning of the camp including organization, fund raising, letters of appreciation, discipline problems of both campers and staff, maintaining a changing committee.

"Perhaps a picture of Edith in her later years with poor eyesight and difficulty in controlling her hands spending hours writing to thank donors is one of the pictures we can retain of her dedication. That dedication gave rise to a remarkable camp."

"The spirit of Edith has apparently been transferred to the camp committee and the staff since many of Edith's attributes are imbued in the actions of those individuals — dedication, high quality of effort, doing big things but also doing little things well, sincere interest in the campers, striving to enhance the total operation and again dedication."

These birds are residents of Arkansas, even the Harris' Hawk. They do live at the Little Rock zoo. They recently visited a school where the children learned more about birds.

Steve Fellers photos
Names and addresses of legislators, AAS officers and chairman

**Senators and Congressmen**

**Committee Chairmen**
**Conservation:** DeLynn Hearn, (501) 771-4686, 317 W. K St., N. Little Rock 72116, E, delynnh@iwon.com
**Education:** Karen McGee, (479) 452-9186, 300 Wilburn Heights, Central City 72941, E, kmcggee@ssids.fssc.ar.us
**Finance:** Vacant
**Membership:** Sandy Berger, (501) 785-1921, 2117 S. M, Fort Smith 72901, E, fsbirdlady@yahoo.com
**Publicity:** Frank Reuter, 121 CR 432, Berryville 72616, E, reuter@bcsystems.com

**AAS Trust**
**Chairman:** Roger Gunter, (479) 331-3630, 975 Crooked Branch Road, Dover 72837, E, rgunter@fs.fed.us
**Treasurer:** Barry Haas, (501) 821-4097, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock 72223, E, babirder@aristotle.net

**Special Editors**
**Trust News:** Kimberly Smith, (501) 575-3251 Dept. of Biological Sciences, UA, Fayetteville 72701
**News of Members:** Leise Kendrick-Lacy, (870) 234-4910, 203 Troy, Magnolia 71753, E, llkacy@magnolia-net.com

**AAS Halberg Ecology Camp**
**Executive director:** Liz Fulton, 2705 N. Fillmore, Little Rock 72207, E, sfulton@aristotle.net
**Chairman:** Art Johnson, (501) 329-5214, 53 Meadowbrook Drive, Conway 72032, E, amjohnson@alltel.net
**Treasurer:** Barry Haas, (address above)

---

**Call-to-Meeting**

Address Service Requested
Malvern, AR 72104-5812
2426 S. Main St.
Arkansas Audubon Society