49th AAS spring meeting held at Harrison

By JoAnne Rife
For Arkansas Birds

The spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society was hosted by the local Disorganized Bird Club (DOBC).

The 49th spring meeting on April 30, May 1-2 was in Harrison. All sessions were held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall with evening meals served there also. Field trips were led by members of the DOBC; 19 members of the club participated.

Business sessions were presided over by the AAS president, Allan Mueller of Conway. Arrangements for housing, facilities and program were made by DeLynn Hearn of North Little Rock, vice-president. Field trips were coordinated by Sally Jo Gibson, a member of DOBC.

On Friday night, Jim Liles and Suzie Rogers of the Buffalo National River office gave the program on the Buffalo National River. Liles read from a field journal he has kept for many years about his experiences birding along the Buffalo. Rogers presented a visual history of the river including the viable Boxley Valley, the old homesteads along the river, and of relics of the old mining operations that once existed.

On Saturday night, Joe Neal and Dr. Doug James gave a program on the data that has been collected by Arkansas Audubon Society members, along with other professionals in the field, that

Max and Helen Parker, from left, accepted an oak bowl crafted by John Andre, a certificate and a book of letters as winners of the first “Parker Service Award.” The presentation was made by Allan Mueller, right, AAS president at the 2004 AAS spring meeting.

Parker named first recipients of award created to honor them for their service

At the April 30 spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society in Harrison, the Arkansas Audubon Society Board announced the establishment of the AAS Service Award to be given to individuals or groups who have demonstrated over an extended period of time outstanding contributions to the Arkansas Audubon Society, its adjuncts, development, and goals.

The first recipients of this award are deservedly Max and Helen Parker of Little Rock. Furthermore, the award will henceforth be known as the Arkansas Audubon Society Parker Service Award.

Max and Helen Parker have had positive impacts in a variety of germinal areas of AAS. One of these is their input in the creation
Calling All Artists

Competition announced for design to commemorate 50th AAS anniversary

Arkansas Audubon Society invites all its artists to submit a 50th anniversary design. The deadline is Sept. 15, 2004. The basic rules are simple:

1. Entrants must be members of AAS.
2. The design must contain a bird appropriate for Arkansas, for its anniversary celebration and for the spring 2005 meeting site, Petit Jean State Park.
3. The design must include the words: Arkansas Audubon Society and the dates, 1955-2005.
4. The design should be on paper no smaller than 8 1/2 x 11.
5. The design needs to be adaptable for four anniversary items: a patch, a name tag, the cover of the anniversary program booklet, and a new membership directory.

On the back of each entry write your name, address, and phone number. Do not put your name on the front.

A panel comprised of at least one AAS member and impartial non-member artists will judge the submitted artwork. The winning design will be announced at the Arkansas Audubon fall 2004 meeting.

For additional details about the competition contact Helen Parker at 14300 Chenal Parkway #7473, Little Rock, Ark. 72211 (501) 225-6589 or max.parker@earthlink.net.

AAS 50th anniversary celebration set for April 28-May 1 at Petit Jean State Park

The committee for the Arkansas Audubon Society's 50th anniversary celebration is continuing planning activities for the 2005 spring meeting.

The meeting will be headquartered at Mather Lodge at Petit Jean State Park, and is set for April 28-30 and May 1, 2005. Rooms and cabins have been reserved for AAS members, and reservations may be made now. It is suggested that it would be a good idea to do so in the very near future.

When making reservations, mention the AAS's group number—26347. The reservation number is 1-800-264-2462.

New Members

Amber Mascuillli, Russellville
Robert and Kim Halter, Conway
John Simpson, Hot Springs
Carl P. Hitt, Fayetteville
Matt and Jill Beisel, Little Rock
Jennifer Detter, Eureka

New Life Members

Rickie Sterne, Life #126, Elkins
Sally Jo Gibson, Life #127, Harrison
Randolph L. Mowry, Life #128, New York, N.Y.

The Arkansas Audubon Society's 2004 fall meeting will be at Ferncliff Camp, west of Little Rock, Oct. 29-31. Lodging and meals will be available on site. Details and call-to-meeting will be included in the September issue of Arkansas Birds.

Remember the newsletter deadlines

The deadline for submitting news and/or photos for publication in Arkansas Birds is the 15th of the month preceding issues of the newsletter.

The newsletter is published on the 15th of March, June, September and December. That means deadlines are Feb. 15, May 15, Aug. 15 and Nov. 15.

Please submit items on time.

Arkansas Audubon Society

Newsletter


The newsletter is provided to those who pay membership dues to AAS.

Send submissions for the newsletter to: Dolores Harrington, #8 Western Hills Dr., Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923.

Graphics on banner and mast drawn by Pat Moore.

Visit the Arkansas Audubon Society's website at www.arbirds.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS on calendar year basis
Regular Member ........................................10.00
Regular Family ........................................12.50
Sustaining Member ....................................15.00
Sustaining Family .....................................20.00
Contributing Member ..................................25.00
Contributing Family .................................30.00
Student Member .....................................5.00

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS
Life ......................................................$200.00
Patron ..................................................500.00
Draw check to Arkansas Audubon Society and send to:
Terry Butler, Treasurer
P.O. Box 313, Pangburn, Ark. 72121
AAS is a 501 (c) (3) organization.
The Arkansas Audubon Society was organized in 1955.
Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds

The Winter Season — December 2003-February 2004

Contributors are mentioned by name the first time in the following report and by initials thereafter. Thank you for submitting reports.

CATTLE EGRET: three were discovered on the very late date of 12-1 by Bill Alexander and Robert Pearson at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: The very large concentration of at least 1,000 birds was reported on 12-24 by Joe Cambre at Oakwood National Wildlife Refuge in Desha County.

ROSS’S GOOSE: Jeff Wilson identified 15 5 west of Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge on 12-25. The birds were with several flocks of Snow Goose.

MUTE SWAN: Six birds, two adults and four immatures, arrived in Mountain Home during the last week of December and were still present at my last report in early March. The birds are probably wild as they are wary and stayed away from people even when food was given to a small flock of domestic ducks and geese. This is the largest number of this species ever to appear in Arkansas. Observers were Sharon Boatwright and Bill and Peggy McCracken.

TUNDRA SWAN: Kenny LaDonna Nichols located one adult at Magness Lake in Cleburne County on 12-13.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK: At Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge on 12-27, six birds were bailed by Dick Preston.

GREATER SCAUP: On 12-2 4, 15 were studied by Joe Cambre at Mills Dam on the Arkansas River in Arkansas County.

LONG-TAILED DUCK: At least one female was seen on lake Dardanelle by KandLN from 1-11 through 2-28. However, on 2-5 a total of three were present — one female, one adult male, and one immature male. One first winter male was found by KN on 2-2 at a fish farm near Des Arc in Prairie County.

COMMON MERGANSER: Four females were counted by Mike Modinow and David Chapman at Lake Sequoyah in Fayetteville on 12-14. According to MM and David Parker, five females were present at the same location on 1-28 and remained at least until 2-7. The five birds were photographed by Joe Neal.

OSPREY: A single bird was found at Mountain Home on 12-15 by Martha Milburn, Mary Wright and Nola Barnett.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Leif Anderson recorded one at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge on 12-16. Woodrow Bynum saw one juvenile on 12-27 and 28 near Collins in Drew County.

VIRGINIA RAIL: An adult was identified by MM at the Razorback Golf Course in Fayetteville on 1-8. This is the first winter record for Northwest Arkansas.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: Three were located at a fish farm in Prairie County by KN on 2-2.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: Jeff Wilson discovered one near the White River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas County on 1-3. This little shorebird is very rare fall migrant in Arkansas.

FRANKLIN’S GULL: A late fall migrant in second winter plumage was present at Hickory Plains in Prairie County on 1-17 (KandLN).

LITTLE GULL: One in first winter plumage was identified by Sandy Berger and Karen McGee on 1-3 at Lee Creek Park in Van Buren. The bird was sitting on and flying over the Arkansas River.

CALIFORNIA GULL: KandLN found one in second winter plumage at the Lake Dardanelle lock and Dam on 1-10. It was later seen and studied by numerous other birders. The bird was present through at least 2-29, documented, photographed and taped video. It will be a first record for Arkansas if accepted by the Bird Records Committee.

BLACK-HEADED KITTIWAKE: One in first winter plumage was observed and photographed at Dardanelle Lock and Dam on 1-31 by KandLN.

RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD: One adult male was present at Fairfield Bay in Van Buren County from late December to around 2-24 (Janet Swanson, Gene and Janie Hatfield).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: This is the bird that appeared in early November 2003 in Pulaski County near Ferndale at the home of Jim Major. It was an adult male and remained at this location approximately four and a half months, departing on 3-21.

An adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird came on 3-20, and the following morning the two birds were seen to have an unfriendly encounter. Apparently, soon afterward the Calliope decided it was time to go. The little bird, which is the smallest bird species in North America, was seen by many birders during its stay. Numerous photographs were obtained.

See Birds on Page 4
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: On Stateline Ave. at McDonald's in Texarkana, Charles Mills saw one fly from Texas to Arkansas on 12-21.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: Terry Singleterry of DeValls Bluff reported a pair of bluebirds, one male and one female, in his yard with an egg in their nest on 2-28.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Richard Preston documented one seen at Wapanooca NWR, on 2-22. The record is pending acceptance by the Arkansas Bird Records Committee, and if accepted would be the first winter record for the species in 20 years.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: One was documented by MM that he found on 12-17 and 1-3 at the University of Arkansas Farm in Fayetteville. This is the second winter record for Arkansas.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: One was reported at Fayetteville by MM on 12-24. The species is rare during winter in Northwest Arkansas. It was probably an adult because the head looked more green than gray, and the breast streaking was relatively distinct.

SUMMER TANAGER: Two were observed on Mount Sequoyah in Fayetteville. Carl Wagner fide MM observed a female or immature male at his sunflower seed feeder in December before Christmas. In January, he discovered an adult male at his sunflower seed feeder and photographed it on 2-12. On 1-9, Joe Neal found an adult male at a creek crossing on Mount Sequoyah. The events parallel the events of 2002-03 when both Neal and Wagner observed a female or immature male on Sequoyah during that winter.

SPOTTED TOWHEE: At Camp Robinson in Pulaski County, an adult male was mist-netted, banded and photographed by Maren Gimpel, Amy McAndrews and Annie Schultz, who were working for the Institute for Bird Populations.

Baltimore Oriole: A first fall male appeared in the yard of Sheree Rogers north of Harrison and remained 12-5 through 9. Martha Milburn, JoAnne Rife, Sally Jo Gibson and Hank Rogers also saw the bird. It fed on autumn olive bush berries and chopped grapes.

Red Crossbill: Don Harrington of Arkadelphia saw a male at his sunflower seed feeder on 12-20.

Common Redpoll: One female was seen by George Hoover at Corning in Clay County. The bird stayed from 1-20 through 29.

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

Parker award, From Page 1

and development of the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust which gives environmental research and educational grants to graduate students at Arkansas universities.

Second, they have helped start and sustain the Halberg Ecology Camp for 11- and 12-year-olds which is in its 25th year of operation.

Third, they have served as leaders for years on the AAS Board of Directors, committees involved in state bird record keeping, fiscal activities and membership. They make a special effort to welcome new members as well as maintaining contact with the membership.

Beyond the AAS, the Parkers have been leaders in the Christmas bird counts, assessing census pilot plans for the soon to be completed Arkansas Breeding Bird Atlas, and participating with others in bird studies. They are integral and both intellectually and physically active participants in virtually all facets of the Arkansas Audubon Society and its interests.

The Arkansas Audubon Society is honored to have Max and Helen Parker accept the Parker Award.

Folks at the meeting

The three members in the photo at the right were among those who attended the spring meeting at Harrison. They took a break to pose for a photograph.

Roger McConnell photo

Parkers express appreciation for award

We want to extend our thanks to the AAS Board and Awards Committee for selecting us, from the many deserving people, for the first Service Award. We are indeed humbled by this gesture, and will always cherish the beautiful oak bowl (which was created by John Andre) and the book of messages from so many friends.

Helen and Max Parker
From the Trust

Trust awards $2,650 in grants at spring meeting

Thanks to the generosity of the Arkansas Audubon Society membership, especially, Doug James and Fred and Helen Hander, there was a substantial amount of funds available for research awards this spring.

The AAS Trust awarded $2,650 in grants to five students during the spring meeting at Harrison. Projects ranged from Common Ravens in Grand Teton National Park, Wyo., to scrub habitat birds in Connecticut to raptors in Florida to Red-shouldered Hawks and Bald Eagles here in Arkansas.

Bryan Bedrosian, an MS student at Arkansas State University (ASU), was awarded $400 to finish his study on post-fledging mortality of Common Ravens in Jackson Hole, Wyo. His grant will be used to refurbish radio transmitters he used last year on the same project.

Christy Melhart, an MS student at the University of Arkansas (UA), received a grant of $550 to purchase cameras and travel expenses for her project on Prairie and Blue-winged warblers, Indigo Buntings and Field Sparrows at the Bent of the River Audubon Center in Connecticut.

Sara Ress, an MS student at UA, is using stable isotope analysis of feathers from migrating Merlins and Northern Harriers collected in Florida to determine their summer locations. We granted Sara $600 to pay for the isotope analysis.

Ben Rogers, an MS student at UA, is also using stable isotope analysis of Bald Eagles feathers collected from a roost in Benton County to determine the location of their summer grounds. Ben will be given $500 for the isotope analysis and travel expenses.

Kathleen Townsend, an MS student at ASU, is attempting to find out if food availability affects siblicide of Red-shouldered Hawks in the Mississippi alluvial valley of Arkansas. We awarded $600 to Kathleen for the purchase of cameras and supplies.

Roger Gunter
AAS Trust chairman

Donors more than match James’ challenge for fifth year

You did it again! For the fifth consecutive year Arkansas Audubon Society Trust donors rose to the challenge and gave more than $1,000 ($1,140 to date) to the AAS Trust, once again exceeding Doug James’ challenge. Doug’s five year challenge has added $11,615.82 to the Trust’s Endowment-Memorial fund, including $4,000 in matching money from Doug for 2000-2003.

At the AAS spring meeting in Harrison another challenge by Fred and Helen Hander was announced. The Handers have agreed to donate $3,000 to the trust if donors give $6,000 or more in matching money by the 2005 fall meeting.

Several years ago, the Handers issued their first challenge for the trust to raise $8,000 in matching donations to “capture” $4,000 from the Handers. In just 12 short months, trust donors generously gave that amount, increasing the Endowment-Memorial Fund by $12,000. Incredible!

Let’s not let this golden opportunity offered by the Handers get away. If you send a donation to the trust, please make a note that your donation is to go toward the Hander challenge.

The trust is now able to make grants totaling about $5,500 each year. Compare that to just over $2,000 in annual grant funds available five short years ago. That increased funding allowed the AAS Trust to approve an incredible 17 grants during the past year. Check out Trust Chair Roger Gunter’s article (above) about recent grant recipients and the research projects they are working on.

All donations to the AAS Trust, large and small, are appreciated. Donations to the trust are 100 percent tax deductible. The trust is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

Checks should be made payable “AAS Trust” and mailed to treasurer Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, Ark. 72223-9201. Anyone wishing to make an anonymous donation to the trust may do so by requesting privacy.

Barry Haas
AAS Trust treasurer

AAS Trust donations
Feb. 26-May 14

Endowment-Memorial Fund

Art and Martha Johnson (James match)
Fred and Helen Hander (James match)

Thurman Jordan (James match)
Maury and Barbara Baker (James match)
Dottie Patterson (James match)
Camp continues to receive generous support

The Halberg Ecology Camp continues to receive very generous donations. Once again this year the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) donated $5,000 to cover tuition for 20 students to attend camp. This continued generosity by AGFC provides enough supplemental funding so we can hold a second session for the fourth consecutive year.

That generosity gives 62 more youth the opportunity to benefit from the ecology camp experience. Our special thanks go to Scott Henderson, AGFC director, and to Neil Curry, AGFC education and outreach director, for their continued support.

While we don’t receive direct funding from the U.S. Forest Service, they do help keep our expenses down by providing field trip services for our senior campers each session. Seniors spend one day on a field trip learning about endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Our thanks also go to the Forest Service for their help.

As usual, we have a number of groups and individuals who provide scholarship and general funding. A new donor this year is the Buffalo River Chapter of the Ozark Society who gave $100 toward the tuition of a returning “senior” camper. Garland County Audubon Society voted to send $250. The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas donated $750.

Groups that funded scholarships include Audubon Society of North Central Arkansas ($700-two scholarships), Three Rivers Audubon Society (two), Mena Nature Club (two), Northeast Arkansas Audubon Society (two) and Little Red River Audubon Society (two). Topping the list is Hot Springs Village Audubon Society which is funding six scholarship recipients this year. Impressive!

Our annual Fall Appeal receipts stand at $4,950 plus another $1,362 from parents of former campers.

You can easily see where camp income comes from a variety of sources.

One expense that took a big jump this year was our rental cost for Camp Clearfork which increased by $1,700, an increase of 40 percent. We are fortunate to have sufficient funds to be able to weather such an increase in cost.

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 (C)3 nonprofit organization. Donors may request to remain anonymous, if that is their wish.

Barry Haas
Camp treasurer

Ecology Camp donations
Feb. 26-May 14
Annual Fall Appeal
Fred and Helen Hander
JoAnne Rife
Nona and J.C. Herbert
George and Peggy Ackerman
U.S. Rep. Mike Ross

General Funds-Individuals
Alexandra McCoy
Katherine McCracken
Ned and Martha Wilson
Lydia Sityar

General Funds-Corporations
BID Matching Gift Program (match of Loice Lacy donation)

Scholarships and Financial Aid
Buffalo River Chapter-Ozark Society
Sharon Boattright
Three Rivers Audubon Society
Mena Nature Club
Ark. Game and Fish Commission
Northeast Ark. Audubon Society
Little Red River Audubon Society

So much to do, so little time: There’s always work to do at state meeting. Pat Moore, right, co-chairman of the 50th anniversary celebration committee has lots to do before next spring.

50th anniversary celebration 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, MO. Box 944, Buxton, N.C. 27290, or Helen Parker. Thanks to those of you who have already responded.
Sprin meeting, From Page 1

will be included in the next edition of their book, *Arkansas Birds, Their Abundance and Distribution*. The first edition was published in 1986. James is an ornithologist at the University of Arkansas.

At the time of the first publication, 366 species had been officially recorded in Arkansas. Neal’s presentation focused on the many additions that have been recorded since which will be included in a new edition.

Max and Helen Parker of Little Rock, founding members of AAS, have been curators of field data for many years. A highlight of the meeting was the creation of an award named for them which will be known as “The Parker.” The first recipients were the Parkers.

Sherry Langford Stansbery, a Harrison wildlife artist, provided an exhibit of prints from her original painting. More than $200 was raised in sales to go to the Halberg Ecology Camp sponsored by AAS each summer. Dick Henry of Harrison exhibited his outstanding photographs of birds.

Reports were made on the pending publication of the *Arkansas Breeding Bird Atlas*, co-sponsored by the AAS and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. All data from Boone County was collected by volunteers, members of DOBC.

Saturday field trips yielded sightings of 132 species of birds, a goodly number considering the weather was mostly rainy for the entire time of the meeting. Trips and leaders were: To Boxley Valley and to Alan’s Gregory’s home to see his structures maintained to attract nesting birds, led by Tim Barr and Stephanie Cribbs; Leatherwood Lake west of Eureka Springs, lead by Pat Valentik; the Erbie Road and to their solar home there, led by Jack and Pam Stewart; Harrison Lake and Baker Prairie, led by Vernon Human and Virginia Harrington.

The fall meeting will be at Ferndale 4-H Camp west of Little Rock in Pulaski County. The 50th anniversary celebration of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be April 28-30 and May 1, 2005, at Mather Lodge on Petit Jean Mountain.

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AAS Board extends 2005 spring meeting to 4 days

Among the items of business at the AAS Executive Board meeting April 30 in Harrison was the vote to include Thursday, April 28, in the 50th anniversary spring meeting at Petit Jean State Park in 2005. The long weekend will include two full days of field trips, April 29-30, and the meeting will conclude on May 1.

Allan Mueller, AAS president reported that the work on the *Arkansas Breeding Bird Atlas* is moving forward; this is the last field season for completing the atlas.

Art Johnson announced that the Halberg Ecology Camp sessions were only 80 percent filled, but he was optimistic that the camps will be full again this year.

Laura and David Timby, educators at Marshall schools, were awarded the Ruth Thomas Scholarship. They will attend a camp in Maine in August. An ad hoc committee will discuss some concerns that were raised concerning the awarding of the Ruth Thomas and Iola Rea scholarships.

In new business, the pros and cons of a merger with Audubon Arkansas were discussed and tabled for lack of support.

David Luneau and Lyndal York were mentioned as possible candidates to replace Web master Rob Doster, who has moved out of state.

It was decided that the AAS would apply for a one-year membership in the Bird Conservation Alliance, a new organization that deals with conservation issues concerning birds.

— From the minutes of the executive board meeting

B.J. Cutrell, secretary
Names and addresses of legislators, AAS officers and chairmen

Senators and Congressmen
Sen. Blanche Lincoln, 355 DSOB,
   Washington, D.C. 20510; 202/224-4843
Sen. Mark Pryor, 217 HSOB,
   Washington, D.C. 20510; 202/224-2353
Rep. Mike Ross, 314 CHOB,
   Washington, D.C. 20515; 202/225-3772
Rep. Marion Berry 1113 LHOB
   Washington, D.C. 20515; 202/225-4076
Rep. Vic Snyder, 1330LHOB
   Washington, D.C. 20515; 202/225-2506
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