AAS nears the half-century mark

2005 spring meeting will be held where it all began at Petit Jean State Park

By Dolores Harrington
Arkansas Birds

When first asked, Dr. Douglas James, wasn’t really certain how he learned of the first meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society. After all, that was nearly 50 years ago.

“At the time, I was at Pine Bluff (Arsenal) making biological warfare bombs,” James said. He was monitoring animals to see if any were being affected by chemicals. He was — and still is — a professor of ornithology at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

James remembered that Ruth Thomas of Morrilton wrote a newspaper column for the Sunday Arkansas Gazette. “It was about goats at first — things on the farm.” The column began to be more concerned with birds, and, James said, he thought perhaps she and Herb Daniel of Little Rock may have made a joint effort to begin a society concerned with birding.

James later said he had found an announcement sent by Herb Daniel about the meeting. He remembers going to the meeting at Petit Jean State Park and staying at Hardison Hall, “which is no longer a meeting place.” He said during early meetings, the birders did all their birding “on the mountain top and around the base. We had Bachman’s Sparrows on top and Swainson’s Warblers down below.”

On the way to the meeting, “I found a dead songbird in the road. It was a Philadelphia Vireo.” He said, with a laugh, that he’s seldom seen one in Arkansas since that time.

William Shepherd of Little Rock was still in high school when the first AAS meeting convened, but he was already a longtime birder. “I got interested in birds when I was about 6,” he said. “I got involved because of my Aunt Mary Sue.”

Shepherd's uncle, Ed Martin, was a former president of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society, and when Shepherd was a junior in high school his aunt took him to an OOS meeting at Dwight Mission. “On the way home, we stopped at Herb Daniel's, and said, 'we need to do something like this in Arkansas.' I was a senior the year we had the meeting at Petit Jean.

Both James and Shepherd mentioned several others who attended that first meeting — some still living, but many now dead. James found a list of those at the meeting, and it appears that there were around 60 in attendance.

Those at the meeting and others who joined during that first year were designated “charter members.” Herb Daniel was elected the first president of AAS, and Ruth Armstrong of Fort Smith was

See The beginning, on Page 11
Obituaries

Jack Logan


Logan was born Aug. 3, 1909, in Texarkana. He was the owner of Logan Marine, a member of the Wilbur Smith Rotary Club, the Texarkana and National Audubon Society and Boy Scouts of America and a World War II veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Madeleine S. Logan; three daughters and two sons-in-law; Suzanne Logan of Richardson, Texas; Michele Logan and Sean Garnish of Dallas and Lynn Logan and E.K. McPadden of Basye, Va.; one son and daughter-in-law, John T. Logan III and Anne Logan of Centennial, Colo.; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Graveside service was Sept. 16 in State Line Cemetery with the Rev. Douglas Anderson officiating.

Florence S. Mallard

WOODLANDS, Texas — Florence Sickel Mallard, 87, of Woodlands, Texas, died Sept. 26, 2004. She was born at Stuttgart, and married Henry Clay Mallard during the early years of World War II. They moved to Alabama in the 1950s, and she returned to Little Rock after her husband’s death in 1964. She worked as a school secretary at Pulaski Heights Elementary School until her retirement.

In the late 1970s, Florence became a devoted birder after attending an Audubon camp in Maine. Growing out of her passion for birds, she became an avid conservationist. She served as president of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas and a coordinator for the Arkansas Conservation Coalition. Gov. Bill Clinton invited her to the 1980 Task Force on Timberman, she was the founding president of the Partners for Pinnacle, a group established to invigorate the moribund Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

Florence received numerous awards in recognition of her service. They include the 1984 William Dutcher Award, the 1985 AWF-Sears Conservation Achievement Award, and the Arkansas Wildlife Federation named her Conservationist of the Year in 1985, citing her work as state Audubon Conservation chair. She was honored by the Arkansas Times in 1989 as an Arkansas Hero.

Her survivors include Two sons, George Mallard, his wife, Susie and daughter, Stephanie, of Woodlands; and Dr. Henry Clay Mallard, his wife, Catherine, and son, Jeremy of New York City.

Funeral service was Sept. 30 at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Toliville.

J.C. Herbert

SHAW, Miss. — J.C. Herbert died Aug. 17, 2004, at his home in Shaw, Miss.

His wife, Nona, wrote to Max and Helen Parker to tell them of her husband’s death. She said the couple were in the process, half way, of moving from their store/home to their island home on Concordia Island.

“He (J.C.) had been to the island taking things that day,” Nona wrote, “came home, ate supper and went to bed ... When I got up at 6:30, he did not wake up — which he usually did since I became half blind. I snapped the light on. He seemed asleep, but he was too quiet. All my efforts to arouse him — screaming, yelling, CPR — called 911 and fortunately I knew them, and they comforted me.”

The Herbergs had willed their bodies to Ole Miss Medical

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


Issue dates are: March 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15.

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

ANNUAL DUES 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 Summer Season — June-July 2004

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

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: Thirteen were found at the Wallace Trust near Arkansas City on 7-31 by Kenny and LaDonna Nichols. This is the largest concentration reported since this species was discovered nesting at the Oakwood National Wildlife Refuge unit in August 1995.

MOTTLED DUCK: Leif Anderson reported two at Cave Creek State Park. He saw them three times at this location from 6-13 through 7-4.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: Unusual during June in Northwest Arkansas, two males were seen on 6-13 by Mike Modinow at Craig Fish Hatchery in Benton County. KandLN counted 12 birds at the Wallace Trust on 7-31.

RUDDY DUCK: Nine males and one female in alternate plumage were present at the Wallace Trust on 7-31 (KandLN).

ANHINGA: Sandy Berger identified eight at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge on 6-11. Charles Mills reported that at Millwood Lake the species seemed more numerous this year as opposed to recent years.

TRICOLORED HERON: One immature was located at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge by KandLN on 7-26. Nesting in this area has been suspected in recent years.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Jack and Pam Stewart discovered an adult at the Buffalo River just upstream from the Erbie Campground on 6-8. There are no records before in this area so late in the season.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One individual was seen in first-fall plumage at the Arkadelphia oxidation ponds on 7-10 by Glenn and Gail Good and Jim and Kay Minchew. Three juveniles were counted by KandLN near Arkansas City on 7-31.

OSPREY: At Cave Creek State Park on 6-13, LA tallied one flying adult. During the past five years this species has attempted nesting at this location.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Three adults and one juvenile were observed by Ben Meadors over Lookout Drive in North Little Rock on 6-1.

BALD EAGLE: One adult was in attendance at Cave Creek State Park on 6-28 (LA). The species has been known to nest at this location in the recent past.

SWAINSON’S HAWK: One adult was identified by Joe Neal and Mike Modinow east of Maysville in Benton County on 7-11. The sighting was at the same location where three birds were found a year ago. On 7-3, two adults were at Bentonville (MM).

PURPLE GALLINULE: CM had three pairs of adults at the Millwood Lake’s Okay Levee on 6-20. KandLN reported four adults at Moore Bayou near Arkansas Post on 7-31.

COMMON MOORHEN: At Okay Levee on 6-20, CM reported three nests. Chicks were present.

PIPPING PLOVER: Two molting adults were at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge on 7-30 (KandLN). The same observers identified two more at a minnow farm near Hickory Plains the next day.

This adult male Calliope Hummingbird was photographed recently at a feeder at a house near Ferndale. The bird is possibly the same one that spent the winter of 2003-04 at the same location. That bird was a sub-adult male with only a partial gorget.

WILLET: One adult was observed by KandLN at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge on 7-30.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Two were heard singing at Baker Prairie in Boone County by JandPS on 6-10.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: One adult male was discovered near Dover in Pope County by Mel Fry on the late date of 6-8.

BELLS VIREO: Lyndal York and William Shepherd tallied five at the Stuttgart Airport on 6-21. Three days later in different locations at the airport they heard three additional birds singing.

HOUSE WREN: One was observed during June by SB at Fort Smith. No nest or young were found. At Harrison on 6-15, Jo Anne Rife had one very loud singing bird. It was later seen carrying nesting material.

YELLOW WARBLER: One was located out of range in Chicot County near Lake Wallace on 6-12 by LA. The next day at Gourd in Lincoln County, an adult male was found, also out of range, by the same observer.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: MM discovered a singing male east of Swain in Newton County on 6-29. This is a new breeding location for the species.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: On 6-19 at Cherry Bend in Franklin County, MM and Rose Ann Barnhill reported one male. This is possibly a new breeding location for the species near the Madison County line.

LARK SPARROW: On 7-18, MMandJN saw one just west

See Birds on Page 4
of Craig Fish Hatchery in Benton Count, and another was seen at Wilson Springs near Fayetteville on the same date. Six were found on 7-25 at the University of Arkansas farm in Fayetteville. None of the birds nested at any of the above locations. The sightings — along with records from other years — suggests that unlike other sparrows, Lark Sparrows, at least in Northwest Arkansas, migrate in late July and early August for the most part.

**BLUE GROSBEAK**: On 6-21, LXandWS reported one male at the Stuttgart Airport. The species is not often found in this habitat.

**PAINTED BUNTING**: Also, on 6-21 at the Stuttgart Airport LyandWS observed three singing males.

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: LA identified one by song and call near Dermott in Drew County on the very late date of 6-12.

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

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**Fall meeting held Oct. 29-30 at Ferncliff Camp**

Theo Witsell was the Friday evening speaker for the Arkansas Audubon Society's 2004 fall meeting at Ferncliff Camp near Ferndale Oct. 29-30.

Witsell is a botanist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. He presented a program entitled “Exotic Invasive Plants: A Threat to Arkansas Ecosystems.” He followed the program by answering a number of questions from the audience.

Bill Holimon presented the program for Saturday evening at the meeting. He is a zoologist with the Natural Heritage Commission and president of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas.

Holimon's two-part program concerned “Arkansas Rarities” and the “Red-cockaded Woodpecker Project.”

During the business portion of the Saturday session, it was announced that new officers for the AAS Board of Directors will be elected during the spring 2005 meeting. Allan Mueller, AAS president, said there are vacancies in the vice president and recording secretary positions, and there is a need for a volunteer to manage the AAS Web site.

Reports on the 2004 ecology camp and the inaugural Ecology Camp for Adults were given, and AAS Trust awards were announced.

**AAS Board of Directors meeting**

During the AAS Board meeting on Oct. 29, Helen Parker and Pat Moore, co-chairmen of the AAS 50th Anniversary Committee reported that plans for the 2005 spring meeting were coming along nicely. The meeting is set for April 28-May 1, and will be at Petit Jean State Park.

The minutes of the spring meeting were read by B.J. Cutrell, secretary, and a approved by the board.

Reports were made by Terry Butler, treasurer; Herschel Raney, conservation chairman; JoAnne Rife, membership chairman; and Barry Haas, AAS Trust and AAS Camp treasurer.

Reports were also made concerning the Ruth Thomas Scholarship and Iola Rea Scholarships.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the awards should retain the names of the honorees, the Trust is authorized to select recipients of the Ruth Thomas Scholarships and the ecology camp committee will select the Iola Rea Scholarships. The changes to the scholarship awards will require amendment of the AAS By-Laws. *(See page 11)*

The Parker Award Selection Committee, Mueller, Lyndal York, Haas and Max and Helen Parker, will recommend nominee(s) for the award, and decide on an appropriate award/gift. The amount of $150 has been budgeted for the award.
By Loice K. Lacy
Arkansas Birds

The AAS fall meeting at Ferncliff was a good one in every way. Location, food, field trips, speakers, Saturday’s weather, all five-star; a fitting prelude to the 50th anniversary celebration at Petit Jean in the spring of 2005.

The icing on the cake for the weekend was the tiny Calliope Hummingbird seen by many of us at a home just out of Ferndale. As we headed out on Sunday morning, Sterling and I went by for a look. Since nobody else was there at the time, we simply sat in our car and viewed the little hummer at a feeder so close no binoculars were necessary.

This was the year in which Sterling and I increased our life lists by adding both North America’s largest bird and its smallest. The California Condor we saw at the Grand Canyon in Arizona on our May trip out west and then the miniature Calliope at Ferndale. I also picked up another lifer with the Townsend’s Solitaire but Sterling already had that one.

DeLynn experienced a memorable and dramatic climax to the fall meeting by marrying on Sunday evening after leaving Ferncliff. Her groom is Beryl Dunlap, a land surveyor and CAD technician for Garver Engineers in Little Rock. He has two adult children and four grandchildren — DeLynn speaks of herself as an instant grandparent. She says Beryl is a great lover of nature who has already begun his Arkansas life list of birds. We extend our very best wishes to DeLynn and Beryl.

For our field trip on Saturday at the meeting we chose to follow Herschel Raney, knowing he would not only flush out all possible birds, he’d alert us to every butterfly and other insect along the way. The trip was all we had hoped for, made extra special by sharing it with Skye, an enthusiastic 5-year-old who was accompanied by her grandfather.

We are saddened to report the deaths since last newsletter of three who had been long-time members of AAS. Those three are Florence Mallard, Jack Logan and J. C. Herbert. We offer our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased.

Attending the Disorganized Bird Club field trip to southeast Arkansas on Aug. 13-15 were JoAnne Rife, J. O. and Sally Jo Gibson, Vernon Human and Virginia Harrington, Jack and Pam Stewart, Martha Milburn, and Tim Barr. The nine members sighted a total of 78 species in a 24-hour period. Outstanding among them, according to JoAnne, were a male Black-crowned Night-Heron in beautiful breeding plumage, an Anhinga with patterned wings outstretched for drying, brightly adorned Purple Gallinules, and a couple of pairs of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks which were Arkansas life birds for some of the members. In addition, a 14-foot alligator which had taken up residence near the boat dock at the Wallace Trust headquarters demanded its share of attention. If they ever manage to get that club organized, who knows what they might see?

DOBC members JoAnne, J.O., Sally Jo and Martha were among a small group of close friends who enjoyed a special occasion on Aug. 29 when Virginia Harrington invited them for a late afternoon “Signing Party” honoring her husband, Vernon Human. Vernon, who recently retired from a career as a freelance field biologist working principally in California, had a book of almost a hundred of his nature essays published in June 2004. The book is entitled A Naturalist at Play, in California and Beyond. While most of the essays have their setting in California, some feature other states such as Arizona and Washington.

The couple, now living near Gaither Mountain, lead field trips for the Arkansas Native Plant Society and other nature groups. Virginia substitutes in the Harrison elementary schools while Vernon continues his writings of nature essays, these set in the Ozarks.

Philomena and Gordon Cox are living most of the time at Bull Shoals to be near their son and his family. Although they still have a house in Tennessee, they want to receive their mail at 145 Golf Course Terrace, Bull Shoals, Ark. 72619-4806.

B. J. and Gene Cutrell did not get to make their trip west in the fall where she anticipated challenging the nine state capitals she is lacking on her list of those visited. Instead they went to Memphis and added another grandson, making a total of seven grandsons and one granddaughter on that “life list.” A grandson born last October kept them from the 2003 fall meeting at Hot Springs but they were more fortunate this year. Since both mother and baby are doing fine, B. J. states she’s glad he put in an appearance three weeks early, enabling them to make the Ferncliff meeting.

The first week in December the Cutrells are going to New York City with a group from their bank. B. J. says she also collects apples and “the Big Apple will be a great addition to my hugh collection.” (The state capitals I knew about but I’m hazy on this apple collecting.)

The news of the three Whooping Cranes shot in Kansas — probably mistaken for Sandhills — was tragic. But on the brighter side is the estimate that this winter’s wild flock may be over 200 for the first time in modern history.

The sixth annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies was a great success. Especially meaningful for us was having Clint Sowards (one of our speakers) and Frances as house guests. We also had two of my children, a great-granddaughter, and another speaker with his wife, daughter and two grandchildren. We had a wonderful time; they were all delightful guests who were fun to be around.

During the festival our conservatory had a plentiful supply of caterpillars, chrysalises, butterflies, and host and nectar plants. When one of our guides was leading a group through the facility, he says he thought he was doing a pretty good job answering questions and explaining the butterfly/host plant/caterpillar relationship. That is, until one little lady who had wandered away from the group suddenly exclaimed, “Somebody had better get in here and spray! These plants are covered with worms!” Burst his bubble.

At the fall meeting, Carolyn York told me she had taken up yoga in the last year. She spoke enthusiastically of its benefits for her. Since I’m always looking for new ventures for myself, I enjoy hearing what others find appealing.

See Members on Page 6
Teachers looking for student enrichment activities were everywhere at the November Arkansas Conference on Teaching, and members of the Audubon Camp Committee were on hand to provide information. Art Johnson, Phyllis Bartlow, Barry Haas and Liz Fulton manned the Audubon Camp booth, handing out flyers and talking to teachers and administrators about the camp. More than 1,000 teachers were registered for the two-day conference that focused on science, math, social studies and language arts and many of them went home with camp brochures. Barry and Liz, in the photo, made a presentation on Arkansas snakes, “Here, Snakey, Snakey, Snakey,” that was attended by around 30 snake lovers — or haters, in some cases.

We were not the only AAS members to see the California Condors this year as Sandra Key and Katherine McCracken also saw them on a trip to the Grand Canyon. However, Sandra is one up on us in another way: she rode a mule on a day trip down into the canyon. Katherine remained on the rim — didn’t somebody need to be available to notify Sandra’s next of kin in case she didn’t return? But Sandra says, “Beebe (her mule) and I bonded well; we seemed to understand each other.”

Others who saw the condors this year were Pat and Neal Moore who made a trip west while the Parkers house-sat for them. Cheryl Lavers tells me that she and Norm made a much earlier sighting than those I’ve reported for 2004. They viewed them in Southern California more than 30 years ago, prior to the beginning of the captive breeding program.

Thurman Jordan’s summer travels took him even further afield as he visited the Scandinavian countries and Germany. I especially enjoyed his description of his journey as we plan to cover much of the same territory on a trip next May. We will also tour St. Petersburg as Sterling, being fascinated with it on an earlier trip, wants me to see it.

We’ve had to cancel a couple of trips because of Sterling’s back surgery for spinal stenosis on Sept. 30. Now he’s a new man and we’re lining up more trips to make up for what we missed. Our first jaunt will be to Dallas for the Thanksgiving holidays with his daughters who have planned an 80th birthday celebration for him. Actually the big day is not until Dec. 5 but he will be honored at a time when his grandsons will be home from college.

And my big one is March 8, 2005, which we’ll celebrate in Hawaii. I know I want to do something out of the ordinary to mark that milestone, but what? Skydiving would be anticlimactic following Bush. Hey! I’m going to be in Hawaii! Maybe hula lessons?
From the Trust

AAS Trust Committee makes 12 grant awards

We received another large batch of grant requests to be considered at our fall meeting at Ferncliff. We awarded grants to 12 students for research projects ranging from rattlesnakes in Missouri to American Kestrels in Arkansas to Black Catbirds in Belize. Below is a listing of students who received grants along with the subject of their research.

Jane Anfinson will receive $400 for her project to discover the cause of abnormalities found in 7.8 percent of birds using agriculture fields in Northeast Arkansas. Jane, a masters student at Arkansas State University (ASU), will use the money for travel expenses and lab supplies.

Jeremy Brown was awarded $350 for his research on habitat structure and arthropod communities on Swainson’s Warblers sites in the White River National Wildlife Refuge. Jeremy is a masters student at ASU and will use his grant for travel expenses.

Lara Douglas received a grant of $200 for the purchase of live mammal traps. She is studying the response of mammals to different forest management techniques on the Madison County Wildlife Management Area. Lara is a Ph.D. student at the University of Arkansas (UA).

Alicia Friend is documenting courtship behavior of spring migrating American Woodcocks in Northwest Arkansas. She will get $100 for gas. Alicia is an undergraduate honors student at UA.

Andrea Green will receive $150 for travel expenses to Belize, where she is studying the biology of the Black Catbird. Andrea is a doctoral student at UA.

Jill Learned was granted $200 for research on the correlations between plumage characteristics and nesting success of American Kestrels. She will use the award for mileage while checking nest boxes. Jill is a masters student at ASU.

Ken Levenstein will get $250 to pay travel expenses for his study of Galapagos Hawks. Ken is a Ph.D. student at ASU.

Andy Lowry was awarded $225 in support of his work on West Nile virus in NW Arkansas’ wild bird populations. He will be purchasing supplies with the grant. Andy is a masters student at UA.

Christy Melhart was granted $200 to pay travel expenses for her research on birds in scrub habitat in western Connecticut. She is a masters student at UA.

Ben Rogers is getting $150 for gas. He is studying Bald Eagle roosting behavior in Benton County. Ben is a masters student at UA.

Kathleen Townsend will receive $350 for her project on Red-shouldered Hawk ecology in bottomland hardwood forests in Northeast Arkansas. She will use the money for gas. Kathleen is a masters student at ASU.

Rodney Wittemberg is getting $200 for his research on timber rattlesnakes in west-central Missouri. He will purchase supplies for his project. Rodney is a doctoral student at UA.

Roger Gunter
AAS Trust chairman

More needed to match the Handers’ challenge for funds

In recent months we have made great progress in matching the challenge made by Fred and Helen Hander to raise $6,000 by the end of the 2005 Arkansas Audubon Society spring meeting at Petit Jean Mountain. But we are not there yet, lacking another $1,620 minimum to meet the challenge. The spring meeting, celebrating the 50th anniversary of AAS right where it all began in 1955, will take place less in than five months.

A number of recent generous donations have pushed the total of funds raised to meet the Hander challenge to $4,380. That still leaves another $1,620, and hopefully more, to meet or exceed the challenge. Elsewhere in this issue you can read Trust Chairman Roger Gunter’s report of grants approved at the fall meeting. The number and range of research topics is impressive.

The Trust Endowment-Memorial Fund has grown, since its inception in 1972, to more than $84,500, which yields more than $6,000 in income each year. So trustees have more money available for grants than ever before. Endowment-Memorial Fund growth in recent years is due to numerous generous donors, including the five-year challenge by Doug James completed earlier this year. Those challenges and other donations have allowed the endowment to grow much larger in recent years.

Your donation to the AAS Trust keeps giving on into the future, allowing ever more research to earn more about and help protect the diversity in nature we all love so much. It is a good way to give something back in return for the joys of nature we each experience every day.

Donations to the Trust are 100 percent tax deductible. The Trust is a 501 (c)3 non profit organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable "AAS Trust" and mail 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 their name not be published.

Barry Haas
Trust treasurer

See report of donations to the AAS Trust on page 8
AAS Trust donations

Aug. 19-Nov. 14

Endowment-Memorial Fund
Anonymous (Handler challenge)
Brant and Kathleen Buck (Handler challenge)
Dr. James Kyser (in memory of Jack Logan)
Beth Brickell (in memory of Jack Logan)
Art and Martha Johnson (in memory of Florence Mallard)
Anonymous (Handler challenge)
Doug James (James matching funds for 2004)
Leif Anderson (Handler challenge)

Bill Shepherd (in memory of Florence Mallard)
Art and Martha Johnson (Handler challenge)
Dick and Elizabeth Taylor (Handler challenge)
Maury and Barbara Baker (Handler challenge)
Max and Helen Parker (in memory of Florence Mallard and J.C. Herbert)
Louis Leonatti Jr. (in memory of Eleanor Leonatti)
Clint and Frances Sowards (in memory of Florence Mallard)
Allan and Kathleen Mueller (Handler challenge)

105th annual Christmas Bird Count set Dec. 14-Jan. 5

This year, nearly 2,000 individual counts are expected to take place throughout the Americas during the 105th Christmas Bird Count.

The CBC began on Christmas Day 1900 when 27 conservationists, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. The small group of volunteers posed as an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small animals.

Chapman’s proposal to identify, count and record all birds seen that day was the beginning of what is now considered to be the world’s most significant citizen-based conservation effort.

The CBC is a social and competitive event, but it also reveals valuable scientific data. The data, 100 percent volunteer generated, have become a crucial part of the U.S. Government’s natural history monitoring database. For example, articles published in the 103rd issue of American Birds helped ornithologists better understand the magnitude of the effects of West Nile virus on regional bird populations.

In Arkansas, 20-22 CBCs are expected to be conducted during the upcoming count period, which will begin Dec. 14 and end Jan. 5, 2005. The following areas should have counts: Arkadelphia, Big Lake, Buffalo River, Conway, Crooked Creek Valley, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Holla Bend, Hot Springs Village, Illinois Bayou, Jonesboro, Lake Village, Little Rock, Lonoke, Magnolia, Mena, Mountain Home, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, Village Creek, Wappanooca NWR and White River.

Anyone interested in participating in a Christmas Bird Count in Arkansas can contact any member of the AAS Executive Board or Max Parker, AAS curator, for more information. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the back page of each issue of Arkansas Birds. All volunteers are welcome.

Obituaries, From Page 2

Center, and Nona chose not have a church or memorial service, but had visitation at the home of their son, Jim, “where we could laugh at old hunt club tales.”

Nona said, “Anyway, my beloved is gone. He was the most wonderful man, father, grandfather, cook, provider, and we went all over the USA chasing birds. We had a fun, wonderful life, and the Lord blessed us constantly. We had a joyful life, went to church at Shaw U. Meth for 55 years. Would have been married 55 years Sept. 11.

“J.C. thought birding was not his thing at all. I had been birding years before I took him to DeGray Lake. He was like I was, fell in love with all those nice, friendly, smart birders and he realized it was fun and educational.”

Nona Herbert’s mailing address is: c/o Jim Herbert, 400 S. LeFlore, Cleveland, Miss. 38732.

Holimon’s service recognized by governor

Bill Holimon, president of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, has received the Service to Citizen Award from Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Holimon serves as a grants coordinator and zoologist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. He is also involved with the Tourism Task Force, Visions for Clarendon and the Audubon Arkansas’ Important Bird Area Program.

In his capacity as grants coordinator, he has secured more than $2 million for conservation projects in Arkansas.

A new members’ directory will soon be in the works for the Arkansas Audubon Society. To be included in the directory, which — it is hoped — will be available at the spring meeting, dues for 2005 must be paid not later than Feb. 15. Why not send your check to the treasurer now?

The treasurer’s name and dues amounts can be found on page 2 of any issue of Arkansas Birds.
From the Camp

Fall Appeal brings donations for ecology camp

As this is being written in mid-November, Fall Appeal donations are arriving almost daily. This is the one annual appeal made on behalf of the Edith and Henry Halberg Ecology Camp. In recent years we have received Fall Appeal donations totaling about $5,000 from regular donors and well over $1,000 more from parents of recent camp students.

That is typically money we count on each and every year to help make up the difference between tuition and the actual cost of running the camp. Through Nov. 14, we have received $1,095 in total Fall Appeal funds including $295 from camper parents.

Total camp income to date is $4,864, which includes significant income from the inaugural Adult Botany Workshop held in early October. Expenses to date add up to $3,397 (this also includes Adult Botany Workshop expenses) leaving camp net income at $1,467. But historically, as Fall Appeal donations roll in, the camp builds up an early budget surplus.

On the weekend of Oct, 1-3, an experiment took place. For years we have had requests to hold an ecology camp for adults. Since we had never planned or held one before, we carefully crafted our first effort and were lucky to get Eric Sundell a botany professor at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and camp committee member to agree to be the instructor.

Fifteen adults attended the 48-hour workshop at Ferncliff Camp. From lunch on Friday through lunch on Sunday (yes, we did more than eat!), adult students learned how to use a tree key, compiled by Liz Fulton, executive director of the camp and her husband Bill.

That Sunday morning Eric “tested” his students, who had all learned how to use the tree key to identify a number of Arkansas tree species. Everyone left for home eager to learn more on their own in future months and years.

All agreed at the end of the weekend that the experience was better than they could have hoped for and was considered an unqualified success. We will likely be adding future adult workshops on a variety of subjects. If you would be interested in attending one, please let me know either by e-mail (bhaas@sbcglobal.net) or regular mail what subject(s) you are interested in.

We are already building a database of interested persons who have said they would like to learn more about trees, birds, plants, butterflies, wildflowers dragonflies, spiders, aquatic biology, entomology and geology. Maybe the adults can show the ecology camp kids a thing or two, you think?

Donations can be made by sending a check made payable to “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 your wish.

Barry Haas
Ecology camp treasurer

AAS Ecology Camp donations
Aug. 19-Nov. 14

Annual Fall Appeal
Sandra Key
Max and Helen Parker
Art and Martha Johnson
Eric and Milanne Sundell
Barry Haas and Susan Hardin
Allan and Kathleen Mueller
Mack and Hervey Howington
Erna Hasebrock
Kenny and LaDonna Nichols
Perk and Leanah Floyd

Annual Fall Appeal (Parents)
Anita and Clyde Henson

Maria and Dave Smith
Suzanne Wilmoth and Phil Hooper
Tanya and David Musial
Joy and William Larson
Barbara Holt

Donations by Individuals
Jean Pierzhala

Memorials and Honoraria
Danette Watkins
In memory of Mary Helen Holiman

The Arkansas Audubon Society Ecology Camp Committee is taking applications for a co-director — to work with longtime co-director Jim Gann — and instructors for the 2005 camp. Interested applicants should send a short bio and brief statements as to why they would make special camp instructors to Liz Fulton, 2705 N. Fillmore, Little Rock, Ark. 72207 or e-mail to efulton@aristotle.net.
First AAS adult ecology camp held in October

Sixteen adults participated in a botany workshop, the first adult workshop sponsored by the Halberg Ecology Camp, on Oct. 1-3, 2004 at Ferncliff Camp.

Dr. Eric Sundell, the instructor and a botany professor at the University of Arkansas-Monticello, described the Tree Identification Workshop as a beginner’s, or refresher intermediate, program.

The two day workshop got off to a bang with a hearty lunch and a “getting to know you” time for the fellow classmates.

Afterwards, Sundell began the classroom time with basic tree identification instruction and how to use the Arkansas Trees key written and illustrated by Liz and Bill Fulton. Then it was off to find and identify trees. Finding the trees was the easy part; identifying them was a little more of a challenge.

Some participants soon learned that some of the trees they thought they knew were really named something entirely different. More than just the sense of sight sometimes had to be used; taste and feel were important tools in some cases. But by the end of the two days and under Sundell’s tutelage, the group was successful in identifying over 50 kinds of trees and a few woody shrubs.

This inaugural adult workshop was extremely successful and it is hoped that the Halberg Ecology Camp will be able to sponsor similar adult workshops on other nature subjects like those taught at the summer camp for 11- and 12-year-olds.

Special thanks goes to Dr. Eric Sundell for conducting the workshop and to Barry Haas for doing such a great job of organizing it.

B.J. Cutrell
AAS secretary

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff of Arkansas Birds
Proposed changes to the Arkansas Audubon Society By-Laws

In recent years the Arkansas Audubon Society has had some difficulty efficiently allocating money from the Ruth Thomas and Iola Rea Scholarships. At the Board of Directors meeting in October 2004 we decided to make some changes to the operation of the Education Committee in order to address this problem, and these changes call for changes to the by-laws. In brief, we would like to make the Ecology Camp Committee responsible for selecting recipients of the Iola Rea Scholarships and ask the Trust to select recipients of the Ruth Thomas Scholarship. Both the Trust and the Ecology Camp Committee are willing to take on these extra duties. The proposed By-Laws changes are below. They will be voted on at the Friday night business meeting during the 50th anniversary meeting at Petit Jean State Park.

NOTE: Items in italics would be deleted and items in bold would be added.

ARTICLE X. BOARD COMMITTEES
Section 2. Education committee shall be composed of the chair and one or more appointed members. The committee shall promote the objectives of the Society through education, programs, and educational awards. The committee shall also be responsible for the selection of recipients of the Ruth Thomas Scholarship Award(s) and the Iola Rea Scholarship Awards news releases, and other means.

ARTICLE XI. ECOLOGY CAMP COMMITTEE
The Ecology Camp Committee shall be composed of the chair and three or more appointed members. The chair shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Society. This committee shall be responsible for all aspects of the Edith and Henry Halberg AAS Ecology Camp, including fund raising, camper recruitment, staff hiring and camp publicity. This committee will also select recipients of the Iola Rea Scholarship. The chair shall appoint an Ecology Camp treasurer who shall be responsible for all Ecology Camp finances. The chair shall submit an annual report and a financial report to the Board of Directors at the fall meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE XII. AAS TRUST
The AAS Trust shall consist of five trustees appointed and serving at the pleasure of the AAS Board of Directors plus the president of the Society, an ex officio member. No other officer of the Society shall be eligible to serve as a trustee. The Trust Agreement, made October 28, 1972 and amended May 5, 1973 shall govern the operation of the trust. The Trust is also authorized to select recipients of the Ruth Thomas Scholarship. The Trust shall submit an annual report and a financial report to the Board of Directors at the fall meeting of the Society.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this proposal.

Allan Mueller
AAS president
### Senators and Congressmen

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**Vice President:** DeLynn Hearn, (501) 771-4686, 317 W. K St., N. Little Rock 72116, E, delynn@iwon.com
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**Treasurer:** Barry Haas, (501) 821-4097, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock 72223, E, bhaas@sbcglobal.net

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**Treasurer:** Barry Haas, (address above)