Ecology Camp

What the campers think about the AAS camp is what really matters – and they loved it

By Renn Tumlison
For Arkansas Birds

In my report from inside the Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp last year, I included a few comments taken from cards written by campers to thank benefactors who had provided them scholarships to attend the camp. We staff members may think the camp is well done, but what the kids say can really tell the story best. Every class was mentioned by some camper as being his/her favorite. Food and friends were mentioned many times. Here is a sample of those comments (names of the campers are not used so none might be embarrassed).

— I have learned a lot and done very well in all my classes. I have very well enjoyed my stay here. I appreciate your concern for my education.
— I came back this year as an advanced camper. ... I have been testing water quality, snorkeling, learning about how to test humidity, looking for benthic macroinvertebrates [macroinvertebrates] and keeping a field journal. Not only have I been learning but also making new friends and sharing good times.
— I really appreciate you making one of my highlights for the summer.
— This camp is the best I have ever been to. Everything was awesome. The counselors were so helpful and nice ... The classes were also challenging enough to make me think ... Every day here is a day I will cherish forever ... Every camper I talked to agrees with me when I say this has been one of the best weeks of my life.
— I would cry if I didn't make it to ecology camp.
— I had bunches of fun. We canoed, swam, dug up fool's gold and everything in between ... We saw lizards and [they] let us hold snakes. The food was good and the games were fun. THANKS FOR SENDING ME.
— I love this camp, it is so much fun and at the same time I'm learning to take care of nature ... I got to touch snakes and bugs, before I was afraid of them ... This has been the best experience of my life.
— Thanks more than a lot, but life-long thanks for sending me ... to Audubon Camp.
— Thank you so very much for the absolutely, wonderfully, most exquisite, 5 (five) days of my entire life! I truly think I'm so privileged to get to come to such a wonderful camp ... The food was great!!
— I really loved Audubon Camp. When I first came I was scared to death of snakes, spiders and most insects, now I am not scared of them even half as much. I love snakes now.

Volleyball was just one of many recreational activities enjoyed by the campers at the AAS Henry and Edith Halberg Ecology Camp.
From the President

Have you ever walked into a new situation and wondered if you'd like it? Or not like it? Do you remember the first Arkansas Audubon Society meetings you went to? Were you welcomed? Or did it seem like everyone already knew each other, and they weren't interested in having a new member of the gang?

Our fall meeting in Brinkley has the potential to bring in a number of new or newer members. Because of this, I'm appointing some folks to a new position. If you have attended two of the last three state meetings, I'm appointing you to be an official greeter. Your job is to say hello to each person as they arrive, welcome the newcomers, and make them feel at home.

As I've traveled this summer, I've been asked about Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. It hasn't mattered whether I was in Alaska, Panama or California, as soon as other people found out I was from Arkansas, they wanted to know about that particular bird. One of the first things casual birders want to know has been, "How do you know it's there?" Now might be a good time for all of us to review how to make bird reports.

I'm aware of three ways that birds can be reported in Arkansas: 1) the Rare Bird Alert (RBA), 2) the e-mail chat list (ARBirds), and 3) the Arkansas Bird Records Committee (BRC). Only one of these, the BRC, is the official records. The RBA is a telephone line, (501) 753-5853, which can be called to get a recorded update of where rarities are currently seen in the state. You can report a rarity or request information there, too. If the report would probably be of interest to the curator of our bird records, he is called, but that doesn't make it an official report to the records committee.

Reports to the e-mail list are often included in the recorded information, but not if a specific location is not included in the e-mail message. Most states have an RBA (some have more than one), and Audubon Society of Central Arkansas sponsors this service for Arkansas. It's great if you are traveling or don't have Internet access.

See President, page 11

Obituaries

Carl R. Amason

CALION — Carl Raymond Amason, 81, died July 30, 2005, at his home. He was born July 22, 1924, in Calion, the son of the late James Thomas and Versa Clara Murph Amason. He was a veteran of World War II, a life member and longtime benefactor of the Arkansas Audubon Society, the Arkansas Native Plant Society and the Arkansas Daffodil Society and had served as president of all three organizations. He was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College, worked as a chemist, and was a member of Calion Baptist Church.

Amason was involved in the development of the South Arkansas Arboretum in El Dorado and served for decades on its board of directors. He contributed articles to journals on a variety of subjects, including birds, native plants, hollies, magnolias, daffodils and history.

He was involved in conservation efforts, and led a group that successfully lobbied to have hawks and owls removed from the predators list in Arkansas, making it illegal to hunt them.

Jason Anders of the Arkansas Native Plant Society posted a tribute to Amason on the Internet. It read, in part: "Carl read voraciously about many disciplines, so much so that he never found the time or interest to buy a television. As a result, he became a respected authority in many horticultural, conservationist, and ornithological circles."

See Obituaries, page 11

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 71923. Graphics on banner and mast drawn by Pat Moore. 50th anniversary logo by Sharen Carter.


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 Spring Season – March-May 2005

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

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: One was found on a reservoir near Arkansas City on 4-1 by Dick Baxter, Sarah DeViney and Kenny and LaDonna Nichols.

WOOD DUCK: Sixteen were fledged in the western part of Little Rock on 4-3 (Barry Haas and Susan Hardin).

MOTTLED DUCK: Nine pairs were reported on a reservoir near Arkansas City on 4-2 by DB, SD, KandLN.

ANHINGA: KN identified one soaring over a cypress slough at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge on 4-19

AMERICAN BITTERN: The large number of 10 was found at the Wallace Trust in Desha County by KandLN on 4-23.

LEAST BITTERN: Also, at the Wallace Trust and on the same day eight calling birds were heard (KandLN).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Joe Neal, Mike Modinow and Adam Green discovered the very large number of 14 at the Craig Fish Hatchery on 5-8. At least some of the birds were photographed.

OSPREY: An active nest was reported by Jay Schneider at Cane Creek State Park on 3-31.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: In the month of May, two nestlings were reported at White River National Wildlife Refuge. On 6-1 two dead nestlings were found on the ground beneath the nest by KandLN.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: At the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville on the Old Main lawn, Kim Smith observed a pair in a tree, copulating and calling, on 3-30.

COOPER'S HAWK: On 3-13 JN discovered a pair copulating and calling at Lake Fayetteville. On 4-4 he located a nest approximately 60 feet high in a post oak tree with one bird sitting on the nest. At a later date, he was unable to see the nest because of leaf-out.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: Near Dardanelle on 4-1 KandLN saw and photographed one as it soared overhead in migration.

GOLDEN EAGLE: At the Raft Creek Bottoms near Georgetown (White County) KandLN recorded one immature bird on 3-26.

MERLIN: One very late migrant was identified by KandLN at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge on 5-13.

KING RAIL: One was tallied near Arkansas City on 5-1 by KandLN, DB, Jeff Wilson, Paul Lehman and Mike Todd.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: This shorebird, a migrant in Arkansas, was numerous during this spring's migration. Most were counted in White and Prairie counties, by KandLN.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: The huge number of 3,500 was compiled by JW and MT on 4-11 in the rice fields of Crittenden County.

BLACK-BACKED STILT: One was seen and photographed by JN at Craig Fish Hatchery on 5-25. Hatchery personnel said they had seen two during the previous year. These records were the first for this species in the Northwest Arkansas Ozarks.

AMERICAN AVOCET: A very early bird in non-breeding plumage was counted by DB and SD at a reservoir near Arkansas City on 3-6.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: A huge concentration of 2,500 birds was estimated by KandLN at a fish farm in Prairie County, on 3-26.

WILLET: Many of these large sandpipers were seen this spring. The counties involved were Benton, Crittenden, Scott and White. The observers were JN, KandLN, JW, PL and MT.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Terry Butler identified five at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge on 4-13.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: A good count of 512 was made by MM and David Chapman at Craig Hatchery on 5-15.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: This species was much more numerous than usual this spring. Sixty-five were seen in the rice fields of Crittenden County on 4-9 by JW, and 64 were

See Birds on Page 4
Birds, From Page 3

counted in Prairie County on 4-19 by KandLN.

STILT SANDPIPER: MM and DC counted 266 at Craig Hatchery on 5-14.

RUSS: One male was present at a minnow farm near Hickory Plains in Prairie County on 3-20 (KandLN).

COMMON TERN: Four visited a minnow farm in Prairie County on 5-19 (KandLN). Photographs were obtained.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: One was found in Ouachita County on 3-6 and two were identified in Polk County on 5-4 by Kathie Rusek and Margo Kimp.

WHITE-WINGED DOWG: One was seen and photographed at Jonesboro on 4-21 by Dean and Robert Rossa.

INCA DOVE: Nick Anich and Thomas Benson identified one in Desha County on 4-26.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: This little bird appeared on 10-2-04 at the home of Laura Wright in Washington County near Brentwood. It was trapped and banded on 12-7-04 by Max and Helen Parker. It is believed to be the same individual that was present at this same location last year from Sept. '03 until mid-Feb. '04, when trapping was unsuccessful. This bird (an adult female) remained until 4-8-05.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: Janine Perlman reported an active nest near Alexander in Pulaski County on 4-16. She commented as to how noisy the nestlings were, even when the adults were not present. It seemed a strong advertisement to predators. From experience I have had with this species in past years, this is typical behavior for this species.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Heavy nesting of this species in the Fort Smith area continued again this spring. Bill and Toka Beall found a total of 33 birds at 20 different locations. There were 10 nests with incubation in progress, and additional nests being built. Nest locations were mostly around electrical substations.

CAVE SWALLOW: One juvenile was found by Charles Mills on 5-29 and 5-30, and subsequently found by KandLN on 6-2, all at Millwood Lake. If this sighting is accepted by the Arkansas Bird Records Committee, it will be the first record for this species in Arkansas.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One adult female was located by DB, Waylon Edwards, and Blake Grisham at Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge on 4-27. This is a very rare warbler in Arkansas; its usual migration range is well east of our state.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One with a yellow throat was discovered by Lou Johnson at Jonesboro on 4-15. A yellow-throated individual is a member of the Audubon race of the species, considered a western race.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Two came to a suet feeder at White Oak Lake in Ouachita County on 3-28. (Hilda Jones)

SUMMER TANAGER: Terry Singletary reported a male on the early date of 4-2 near DeValls Bluff.

PAINTED BUNTING: Jason Lusciak and Jeff Kimmons saw a male and a female at Wilson Springs near Fayetteville on 5-5.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: KandLN witnessed a huge flock of passerines that occurred along the shoreline of Lake Dardanelle on 4-28 at daybreak after a thunderstorm. The flock consisted of 500 birds including 125 of the grosbeaks. Included in the flock were many Blue Grosbeaks and good numbers of warblers.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: About 250 were involved in the flight described above on 4-28. KandLN described this whole occurrence as a truly amazing sight.

SCOTT’S ORIOLE: Mary and Keller Deal first saw this bird on 2-15. They live on Highway 27 about midway between Story and Mount Ida in Montgomery County. At first they couldn’t identify it, but after consulting and studying a field guide and sources on the World Wide Web, Mary knew what it was. Then she didn’t know where to report it. Somehow she learned of the Arkansas Audubon Society website, arbirds.org, and the sighting came through to me. This beautiful adult male was seen by MandHP, KandLN, Donald and Dolores Harrington, Dan Scheiman, Glenn and Evelyn Good and many others, including a birder from Missouri. It was photographed by Charles Mills on 3-28-05, and last seen 4-18, by Mary Deal.

PURPLE FINCH: On 3-26 George Hoover had a male and a female at his sunflower seed feeder in Cornings. This species usually appears in small numbers annually in his yard during early spring.

RED CROSSBILL: On 4-23 an adult female was seen at a sunflower seed feeder in the yard of Morris Boyd near Lonasdale. A few days later a male appeared. The pair fed daily, and around mid-May two pairs of adults came to the feeder. On 5-23, three juveniles appeared and were fed by the adults. Around 6-1, seven adults were seen at the feeder. Some of the birds were seen by Lyndal York and others, and there are photographs. The last crossbill was seen 6-8.

COMMON REDPOLL: One was identified by Peg and Bob Torczyanski at Hot Springs Village on 3-7.

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

The 50th anniversary edition of the Arkansas Audubon Society Field List is available from: Max Parker, 14300 Chenal Parkway #7473, Little Rock, Ark, 72211.

For one field list, send 50 cents and a long self-addressed, stamped envelope. Ten copies of the list are $4.50, 25 copies are $10 and 50 copies are $15.

For the cost of postage for the larger orders, contact Parker.
By Loise K. Lacy
Arkansas Birds

Due at least in part to the drought, both birding and butterflying have been hampered this summer. But numbers of butterflies have increased just in the last two weeks which is good news with our Haynesville Butterfly Festival only a month away as I write this.

Cheryl Lavers says she has a "safety valve" to help her over the shortage of butterflies. She writes, "I have been avidly studying robber flies. They are basically desert insects, so they are in their prime in a hot drought, and this is the best year I have ever seen for robber flies. It's the principle of the balanced stock portfolio: when one stock is down, the other is up."

As saddened as we were at the passing of Carl Amason, we were blessed to be able to attend the memorial service in El Dorado. It was a beautiful tribute to a wonderful man, made so very personal by numerous friends who took turns speaking of their association with him. (Sterling was among the speakers.)

As Carl always led plant walks at our butterfly festival, there was a vacancy in my schedule this year — and will be from now on. Nobody can fill his shoes. His method of operation was to simply walk out of the building, look down at his feet and begin talking to his enthralled followers about the plants he had spotted there.

I had an e-mail from Helen Parker on Aug. 5 with the news that Dr. A.J. Foretiere, formerly of Harrisburg, had passed away earlier in the week. Our condolences go out to his family.

Both Don and Lori Simons have been chosen recently for awards recognizing their work as interpreters by the National Association for Interpretation. Lori has been selected as the 2005 Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer. She will receive the award at the association's annual meeting in Mobile, Ala. Don was presented the award for 2004 Master Front-line Interpreter at the association's workshop in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Roger McConnell had to have hip surgery after falling while working at the Old Jail Museum in Greenwood in late July. He spent some time in St. Edward's Hospital in Ft. Smith, but hopefully is home by now. Roger is a faithful AAS member, spending much time and money photographing at the AAS meetings. He gave an excellent power-point presentation featuring past and present members at the spring meeting in Petit Jean.

Bill Shepherd spent most of May in France and Poland (we were in Poland in late May), identifying 27 new bird species on the trip. Bill writes, "I guess Golden Oriole was my favorite lifer because it represented a whole new family for me — the Oriolidae. Also, the males are colorful and have a lovely song."

Sandy Berger had a marvelous time playing birding host to two British birders in May after being asked by the Arkansas Tourism Department if she would do so. The two Britons, Peter Dedicoat and June Taylor lead worldwide bird trips for Avian Adventures out of the UK. Having heard about the Ivory-billed, they came to check out Arkansas. Among places they birded were three pioneer sites east of Ft. Smith (unfortunately, no Henslow's nor Grasshopper sparrows there), Fort Chaffee, Cartwright Mountain Road, and Moffett Bottoms, Okla. As life birds June picked up Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Hudsonian Godwit and White-rumped Sandpiper.

Sandy spent a week on a mission trip to Guyana, South America, in early June. She said she didn't have much time to bird in Guyana; the birding came on her day off. Darren Henry, a guide she contacted through Birdingpal.com, took her birding all day on the island of Tobago. By the end of the day, he was calling her "mon," the equivalent of pal to us. Sandy got to see her must-see—before-I-die Red-billed Tropicbird. Among the other birds she reported were Red-footed and Brown boobies, Sooty and Bridled terns, Brown Noddies and Magnificent Frigatebirds. She also got great looks at the White-tailed Sabrewing hummingbird, probably the rarest bird on the island. On learning she was from Arkansas, four birders she met from Florida asked if she had seen the Ivory-billed. She said, "No, but I have met the guy who shot the video."

As we do each July, we spent a week in Panama City Beach, Fla., with the Kendrick clan. Well, it was supposed to have been a week but we were two days late going as we had to wait for Dennis to make up his mind where he was going to make landfall — and then to see if we still had a house left intact. We did.

One day in Florida, two of my great-grandsons came to me with a plea to come look at a big bird that seemed to be stranded on the beach. It was a Brown Pelican sitting in the sand, snapping at anyone who got too near. A broken wing did not seem to be the problem as I watched it raise both wings from time to time. And, although it seemed to limp when it moved short distances, it didn't appear to have a broken leg.

We called Game & Fish to see if there was a wildlife rehabilitator near us. There was one just a few miles away who said she would accept the bird if we'd bring it in. (She had already handled 27 pelicans damaged by the hurricane.) My nephew threw a beach towel over the pelican and carried him in his arms as Sterling drove us to the rehabilitator. We called back from time to time to check on "Dennis" who progressed from eating fish from his benefactor's hand to eating it placed on the ground.

Two days after rescuing Dennis, we had to do the same for "Encore," a

See Members on Page 6
Johnson honored with endowed scholarship in his name

Dr. Art Johnson was recently honored on the occasion of his 80th birthday by his former students.

Johnson is a biology professor emeritus of Hendrix College in Conway, and his students established an endowed scholarship in his name. The Arthur A. and Martha Johnson Scholarship, which already exceeds $210,000, was announced on Feb. 26 at a party in the Arkansas Arts Center.

Johnson, who taught at Hendrix from 1955-1990, “brought the wonders of biology to life for students who would later become leading doctors, teachers and scientists.”

Hendrix President J. Timothy Cloyd said, “Dr. Johnson was devoted to the minutest biological inquiry and to the most profound scientific theory. With his beloved nematodes, he taught students lessons about biology that would translate into lifelong lessons in problem solving and personal fulfillment.”

About 150 former students, all five Johnson children (all Hendrix graduates), and Martha attended the party. Martha Johnson is also a former Hendrix instructor. She taught German and worked in Bailey Library before her retirement in 1993.

During his tenure at Hendrix, Johnson was an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow and was named the Harold and Lucy Cabe Distinguished professor of Biology. He maintains an office at the school so that he can continue his research.

To add to the Johnson endowed scholarship, call (877) 208-8777 to contribute by credit card or make a pledge.

Johnson, a longtime member of the Arkansas Audubon Society, serves the society as co-chairman of the Halberg Ecology Camp Committee and in a variety of other positions.

First experience at AAS camp included fun, friendships, learning

A grandmother was so impressed by her granddaughter’s impressions of the Halberg Ecology Camp that she sent them to the editor. Following is what one camper called “My Audubon Experience.”

It was pretty hard to get me to go to the camp. I was really scared of what might happen; snakebites, ticks, and bullies, but soon I was packing up to go. New clothes, shoes, bug spray, anything I might possibly need.

Mom dropped me off there around three, and the magnificent lake, beautiful trees, and different people astounded me. There were loads of kids there, and I was starting to get excited. After checking in, I walked to my cabin, unloaded, and put on my new bathing suit. I grabbed a towel and slowly walked to the lake. The water was cold, and I soon learned to love swimming in it.

I made many friends, and we shared secrets and addresses and promised to contact each other. We had six classes, entomology, aquatic biology, botany, geology, herpetology, and mammalogy. (Gee, I hope I spelled those right!) The teachers were nice and I learned a lot from them. They aren’t just teachers, they’re friends. We saw animals, like alligators, turtles, snakes, bears, and many others.

There is so much you can learn by going to this camp, and I hope there will be other children to learn about wildlife as its beauty fades away. I have learned to take care of wildlife for others to enjoy as I have. We are only borrowing this land from our children, so take care of it.

July 9, 2005
Kaitlyn Wyre

Northern Gannet found stranded on the beach. This time, after finding the troubled bird, my two grandsons (ages 6 and 8) came to me carrying a large pasteboard box and a beach towel, all set to make another rescue.

We again called the rehabilitator who told us to try taking the bird out past the breakers and putting it on the water. My adult grandson did so, not once but twice. Each time it eventually washed back on shore. So to the rehabilitator we went again. She immediately put the gannet in a child’s plastic wading pool to hydrate it before beginning to feed it. Before we left Florida both birds had recovered and returned to the wild. And two happy little boys returned to Louisiana.

One of the boys and my 6-year-old great-granddaughter are both, in my opinion, excellent candidates for ecology camp. They are children of past students of the AAS Ecology Camp — proof positive that the influence of the camp carries over to future generations.

Sorry to ruin my reputation, but I’m not packing for a trip as I prepare this column, although I will be by the time you read it. As soon as the butterfly festival is over, our travels begin again. We are going to Arizona on an elderhostal birding trip, leaving Sept. 16. Then Oct. 1-9 we’ll be on a Passage of Lewis & Clark cruise on the Columbia, Snake and Willamette rivers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The call-to-meeting is included in this issue of Arkansas Birds. Make reservations, and plan to be in Brinkley in October.
From the Camp

Funding, gifts make camp scholarships available for youth

We had two successful Halberg Ecology Camp sessions at Camp Clearfork in June. The weather was generally cooperative with few rain interruptions and reasonably mild temperatures.

There was an interesting development during the first session of camp in June. Senior campers went on a field trip to the Mena area to work with professionals like Joe Neal and Warren Montague to learn about Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

After working with senior campers that first Wednesday, Joe sent me an e-mail commenting on how the camp's binoculars were quite poor for an Audubon camp. And he was right! It took someone like Joe to suggest that campers should be using binoculars of high enough quality to allow them to see what many of us in Arkansas Audubon Society take for granted when we go birding.

So the questions were could the camp committee very quickly reach a consensus on which binoculars would best suit camp needs and did we have the funds available to make such a large purchase. Joe Neal suggested a particular model of binoculars that Eagle Optics had on their web site. When I called to inquire, I was told that model was new and not yet available.

Eagle Optics also volunteered that they had a “matching” program for groups like ours for qualifying binocs: buy one, get one free. So we were able to order 16 pairs of identical, high-quality binocs with Eagle Optics donating eight of those pairs. These new Audubon 8x42 Equinox HP model binocs focus as close as 6 feet and should be excellent for other nature observation like butterflies as well as birds.

From the time we received Joe's e-mail late Wednesday of the first session, the camp committee managed to make a decision, have the binoculars ship on Friday, arrive on Saturday and get delivered to camp on Sunday for the second session that started that day.

Wow! Joe sure lit a fire under the camp committee. And because of continued generous financial support for the camp, we did have the money available to make such a large, unplanned purchase.

The Ecology Camp is a success due to a number of factors — excellent staff both teaching and feeding these bright young ecology students, numerous individuals willing to give of their time throughout the year to make sure the staff has everything they need during camp sessions, and numerous financial supporters who make it possible for many 11- and 12-year-old boys and girls from average Arkansas families to attend camp each year.

We are indebted to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for their funding of 25 annual scholarships. Equally important are the six scholarships funded by the Hot Springs Village Audubon Society. And once again the Arkansas Native Plant Society donated $500 toward camp needs. Numerous other Audubon chapters and groups plus related groups like the Mena Nature Club round out the strong financial support we rely on each year.

We also receive a number of memorial and honorarium donations each year that support camp activities.

Donations to the Halberg Ecology Camp 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 tax-exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Some donors ask to remain anonymous, and we honor that request.

Barry Haas
Halberg Ecology Camp treasurer

Ecology Camp Donations
May 18-Aug. 18, 2005

Scholarships and Tuition Assistance
Arkansas Native Plant Society
Hot Springs Village Audubon Society

Memorials and Honoraria
Margaret Hedges
In memory of Harold Hedges
Claire Shaw
Claire Shaw
In memory of Edith and Henry Halberg
Janine Perlman and Jim Fuscoe
In honor of Barry Haas
Maury and Barbara Baker

Checkered Setwing

The Checkered Setwing (dragonfly) had been seen in only one other county in Arkansas until the one in the photo at left was photographed at Okay Levee at Millwood Lake recently. The species had been expected elsewhere.

Charles Mills photo
From the Trust

AAS Trust awarded $2,650 in grants during spring meeting

The past three months have been quite slow regarding Arkansas Audubon Society Trust finances. The Trust’s Endowment-Memorial Fund has now inched above the $92,000 mark with an additional $1,089 in the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Fund.

We have two unmet challenges going on. The first was made by Fred and Helen Hander for each AAS member to donate $10 per month for one year, a total of $120, to get the Endowment-Memorial Fund above $100,000 for the first time in Trust history. To date only two AAS members have donated a total of $240 toward the Hander challenge.

The second challenge was made by the Hot Springs Village Audubon Society that they would donate $1,000 if $2,000 in matching donations are made by next spring. So far $250 has been donated to the Trust toward that $2,000 match.

Can’t we do better than that? Look back in your issues of *Arkansas Birds* at the variety of research work being done by recipients of Trust grants. The Trust is helping fund essential research to help insure future generations get to enjoy birds like we have been able to do.

Donations to the Trust are 100 percent tax deductible. The Trust is a 501 (c)3 tax-exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. To make a donation, please make your check payable “AAS Trust” and mail to treasurer Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, Ark. 72223-2901. Anyone wishing to make an anonymous donation to the Trust may do so by requesting anonymity.

Barry Haas
AAS Trust treasurer

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AAS Trust Donations May 19-Aug. 18

**Endowment-Memorial Fund**
Tamara Tidwell
In honor of Catherine Hepinstall
Fred and Helen Hander (Hander challenge)
Janine Perlman and Jim Fuscoe
In honor of Susan Hardin
Elaine Hander
To honor Fred Hander for Father’s Day
Nina and Jim Orsini
In memory of Rockin’ Dopsie
Helen and Max Parker
In memory of Carl Amason, A.J.
Forestiere and Dr. Wayne Delavan

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Longtime AAS member honored for service to wildlife on the Outer Banks

Pat Moore, who has been a member of the Arkansas Audubon Society since 1956, was recently honored for her volunteer service at the Peak Island National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina.

Moore was presented with a plaque as the 2004 Regional Director’s Honor Award for Volunteer Service. Every Friday morning, Moore and her husband, Neal, lead bird walks along the North Pond Trail at the refuge.

Since 1997, Moore has worked with the Wings Over Water Festival, a celebration of wildlife and wild lands in Eastern North Carolina. She also helped develop the Peak Island bird checklist, which catalogues the more than 400 bird species seen on the Outer Banks, and she provided the art work for the cover of the brochure.

Moore is president of the Camp Hatteras Bird Club and conducts bird walks in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore during the summer months.

In a recent letter, Moore said there has been a huge controversy on Hatteras Island between the National Park Service and beach driving organizations. The NPS closed parts of the shore to driving and walking in order to protect Piping Plovers and other flat sand nesting species.

She said she and Neal have put in long hours monitoring various chicks, and for the first time in five years Piping Plovers have fledged young. Oystercatchers, skimmers and various terns have also had success, she said.

This year’s Wings Over Water is set for Nov. 1-6.
<table>
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<th><strong>Friday, October 28</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Registration (Amerihost)</td>
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<td>Supper</td>
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<td>Evening program</td>
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Speaker: Dr Jim Bednarz and students  
Program: Research Updates

Explanation of and sign-up for Saturday field trips followed by members slide show

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Saturday, October 29</strong></th>
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<td>Field Trips</td>
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<td>AAS Trust Meeting (Amerihost)</td>
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<td>Workshop</td>
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<td>Supper</td>
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<td>Business Meeting</td>
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<td>Evening Program</td>
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Speaker: Marty Hansen  
Program: Birds in Flight

Bird checklist and explanation of Sunday field trips

Note: All events at Brinkley Convention Center, Mallard Room unless otherwise noted.

Optional survey  
If Arkansas Audubon Society were to make workshops a regular part of the convention agenda, what topics might interest you?

- [ ] ID of specific bird groups (shorebirds, warblers etc)
- [ ] How to learn bird songs
- [ ] Keeping bird records
- [ ] Sketching birds
- [ ] How to use a GPS
- [ ] Birding basics (books, binoculars, finding birds)

- [ ] Other ____________________________
ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY CALL TO MEETING

The 2005 fall convention of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be held on October 28-30, in Brinkley, Arkansas. Friday registration will be at the Amerihost Inn from 4:00-5:45.

For accommodations contact Amerihost Inn at 870 734-4300. Be sure to mention Arkansas Audubon Society to get the room rate of $49.50 + tax, breakfast included.

Directions: From the west, Little Rock etc., take the Brinkley exit off I40. Turn left after the exit ramp to cross over the interstate. The Inn will be on the left after the overpass From the east take the Brinkley exit and turn left on to route 49. The Inn will be on the right, just before the I40 overpass.

Meals and programs will be at the Brinkley Convention Center. Directions will be included in your registration packet.

Complete the form below, or a copy, and mail to:
Jack Stewart, AAS Vice President
P.O. Box 632
Jasper, AR 72641

Mail by October 10, to qualify for the Early Bird discount and subtract $5/ person from the registration fee. For questions contact Jack at 870-715-0260 or jackstewart_us@yahoo.com

____________________________________
Name(s) ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City __________________________ State ______ Zip ________

Telephone ____________________ Email __________________

Please place an "X" in the box if this is your first AAS meeting or if you have not attended for some time. □

Meeting Registration # _____ @ $20/person $__________
Early bird October 10 or before $15/person
Children under 16 with adult free
Friday evening meal # _____ @$14/person $__________
Saturday evening meal # _____ @$14/person $__________

Donation to help pay meeting costs $__________

Total $__________

Make checks payable to Arkansas Audubon Society.
— When I first came I didn't really know that everything in nature has a purpose and that we can't waist [waste] everything ... I really just thank the whole camp staff and don't worry because I am going away knowing a lot ore than I knew when I first came here.

— The only downside was that the week flew by way too fast.

The 2005 Ecology Camp consisted of two sessions, the first held June 12-17 and the second held June 19-24, which began our second quarter of a century - the 26th year - of the camp. This was the sixth year that two camps were held in one year.

The camps were held at Camp Clearfork in the Ouachita Mountains near Crystal Springs in Garland County. That place is outstanding for its variety of outdoor learning areas, including a stream, a pond and several nature trails. This year was particularly outstanding because a bear walked along the edge of the camp one morning during the first session. Several staff and campers got to see the bear. It apparently caused no great alarm to anyone, and it wandered off and did not disturb the camp.

There was little rain during the two weeks this year, so the camp protocol and events continued much the same as has been described in previous issues of *Arkansas Birds*. Classes were prepared in case of wet weather by use of tents which were purchased by the Audubon Society last year. The tents, enclosing picnic tables, made convenient areas for the various classes to meet, regardless of weather. Besides classes, campers went on early morning bird walks and evening herp walks.

Evening programs fascinated the campers. Both camps heard about alligators from co-director Jim Gann, who showed a live specimen to the campers and allowed pictures to be taken.

In the first session, Don Simons from Arkansas State Parks made a “living history” presentation dressed as a riverboat man from the time of Audubon. Steve Dunlap from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission came out of the woods during the second session and made a similar presentation. He was dressed as Jean Baptiste Benard de la Harpe, an early explorer of Arkansas. Both living historians described life in the early days, and demonstrated how to make a fire.

Wildlife rehabilitator Lynne Slater came to both sessions and showed the campers a live kestrel, red-tailed hawk, barred owl, and barn owl. Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax” was shown to both sessions, and evening games simultaneously provided fun and lessons about nature. Kelly Mulholland and Donna Sjéerna, who taught ornithology during the second session, provided a mini concert of environmentally based songs during the second week.

In addition to the other special activities, the advanced campers enjoyed a field trip on the National Forest conducted by personnel of the U.S. Forest Service. Their help is greatly appreciated by the camp. The campers saw habitat management strategies for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and the “candle trees” where they live.

Consistent with the past, our camp food was great! Food director Ava Arsaga and her help (Devin Gonzales, Gavin Smith, Rebecca Rossor and Ariel Neal) planned and prepared the meals, and ensured that the utensils were clean and safe. Each meal had several options available, with plenty of fruits and vegetables, and selections for both meat lovers and vegetarians.

The teaching staff came from varied sources — some of us teach in public schools or colleges, work for state or federal agencies, or are college students (and even professional musicians). The staff for the first session was: Co-directors, Robin Buff and Jim Gann; advanced ecology, Adam Schaifer and Lissa Bishop; aquatic biology, Kevin Bennoch and Jeff Dudley; botany, Joann Bodkins and Aaron Hintelhuer; entomology, Bill Rosser and Brian Baldwin; geology, Taos Jones and Paul Lowrey; ornithology, Joan Luneau and Zach Farris; mammalogy/herpetology, Renn Tumison and Kory Roberts; camp nurse, Jette Roberg; and activity director, Stacey Buff.

The staff for the second session was arranged by shifting some duties of some previous staffs, and the inclusion of a few new people. The changes in faculty were: advanced ecology, David Rouby assisted Adam; aquatic biology, Taos worked with Jeff; botany, Bill worked with Joann; entomology, Aaron worked with Lissa; geology, Mindy Kildow worked with Paul; ornithology, Kelly Mulholland worked with Donna Stjerna; camp nurse, Linda Sim. Many of these staffers have served for many camps (one for 26 years!), and a few former campers were on staff this year.

The last event on Thursday evening of each session was a review of camp based on images taken and arranged during the week by Jim Gann, Kory Roberts and Debbie Rigby, and shown along with music. Seeing the week reviewed can be a
First editor was also the curator — and an artist, too!

By Douglas A. James
For Arkansas Birds

Being surrounded by artists all my life — my mother, my sister, my uncle, my wife, my daughter — I’ve always felt rather intimidated concerning my occasional crude and futil attempts to express myself artistically.

Because of this inferiority complex you can bet that when I actually do produce something I want to get the credit. So this brings up the matter of the 50th anniversary meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society as described in the June 2005 Arkansas Birds newsletter.

Darn it, of those 15 cartoons I showed on slide show night, 12 were drawn by me and three by Fran James, rather than all drawn by Fran as stated in the newsletter. See what I mean by my craving recognition when I actually do create something.

Those drawings came from the first issues of Arkansas Birds, from 1956 through 1960 when first I was editor and then Fran began her editorship. Fran and I both filled those issues with our creations. I concentrated on the light-hearted comics, and that is what I mainly showed at the slide show. It included the original masthead of the newsletter, which was my design. I add some of my cartooning efforts with this article.

All this going back an determining who did what in the early days of the newsletter stimulated me into becoming a sleuth concerning who were the editors of the newsletters and when. Because when I started the newsletter in July 1956 I had the combined job of editor and curator for the society, I also investigated the position of curator and who have held that responsibility, which has long been separated from the editorship.

I hereby make my efforts known to the society. I think it provides an important documentation of our history for these two offices up to now. I think you will be amazed by the diversity of members involved. I was I determined the tenures from reading the back newsletters, so the months stated could be off a little from the actual minutes of the society meetings through time.


President, From Page 2

The e-mail chat list is wonderful for up to the minute bird information and related topics from around the state. However, people who post sometimes forget to tell exactly where the bird can be seen or how to contact someone who can give that information. There is also the problem of not having internet access away from home. Again, postings here are not for the official records. You can get subscription information from the AAS website.

Filing a report with the Bird Records Committee is the only way that bird sightings are officially recorded. Again, each state has a BRC. Why is it important to report birds, or at least the rare ones, to the BRC? After acceptance of a bird record by the BRC, these records are compiled on an electronic database. This database is accessible through the AAS website, and is used for research, for information on distribution and abundance on our state checklist (also downloadable at the AAS website), and even to make those range maps in your field guides.

Reporting to the BRC is important because it helps maintain the accuracy of these long term records. After all, how did we know that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker was rare — maybe extinct? It was because these types of records were being kept across the country. Not every record is accepted by the BRC. Some records I’ve submitted were accepted, some weren’t. But I still report, because I look at it as payback for the enjoyment I get from my birding adventures. The forms for reporting are available from the curator or on the AAS website.

Members of AAS have been representing you well at numerous conservation meetings this summer, and often many participants at those meetings have been affiliated with AAS. AAS continues to be active with the Trust providing grants for scientific research, Halberg Ecology Camp providing two one week sessions for 11- and 12-year-olds in June, Bird Records Committee, adult weekend workshops, website and the American Bird Conservancy.

REMINDER: Don’t forget to pay your AAS dues. AAS is an independent organization, so we don’t get a dues share from any other birding or conservation organization you might be a member of.

See you in Brinkley!

DeLynn Hearn
AAS president

Obituaries, From page 2

Although not an educator by profession, he was nonetheless one of the most effective teachers in Arkansas and the South in the fields of botany, birding, history, geography and music. He shared his appreciation and knowledge of nature with literally thousand of Arkansans through field trips, garden tours, garden club programs and classrooms.

“His life was an expression of his Christian faith, and he cherished the world God created for us enough to both educate others to appreciate it, as well as fight those who would destroy it thoughtlessly. He was a Arkansan we all would do well to emulate, and our lives are at once richer for his legacy and poorer by his passing.”

Amason was the recipient of many honors, and the Amason Conservation Award was established by the Arkansas Native Plant Society in his honor. He and his gardens in Calion were featured on HGTV’s “A Gardener’s Diary.”

Amason is survived by two brothers and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was Aug. 2 in El Dorado.

Memorials may be made to the South Arkansas Arboretum Society.

Angelo J. Forestiere
PINE BLUFF — Dr. Angelo Joseph “A.L.” Forestiere, 84, of Pine Bluff died Aug. 3, 2005. He was born June 9, 1921, in New Orleans, La., the son of the late Angelo Joseph Forestiere Sr. and the late Alice Boze Forestiere.

He was a graduate of Louisiana State University and the Louisiana State University School of Medicine. He was a U.S. Army veteran and was in family practice in Harrisburg for 41 years until his retirement in 1990. He was the widower of Mirian Catherine “Mim” Forestiere.

Forestiere was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Arkansas Medical Society, Arkansas Academy of Family Practice and Ducks Unlimited. He was a long-time member and benefactor of the Arkansas Audubon Society.

He is survived by three children, a brother and eight grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was Aug. 8 in New Orleans.

Memorials requested to Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion Post 14, Harrisburg; or Ducks Unlimited.

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.

The graphic above is another drawing by Douglas James for an early issue of the AAS Newsletter.
Names and addresses of legislators, AAS officers and chairmen

**Senators and Congressmen**

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**Special Editors**
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**AAS Halberg Ecology Camp**
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- **Treasurer**: Barry Haas, (address above)