The Shugarts contributed much to AAS

By Dolores Harrington
Arkansas Birds

Younger members of the Arkansas Audubon Society may not have known Shug and Luvois Shugart, but members who have been around for a while will never forget them. The Shugarts were very active in the society, and some of their contributions are legendary.

Shug (Herman Henry) Shugart was born Jan. 17, 1910, in Arkadelphia, and Luvois (Kathryn Luvois) was born Sept. 10, 1916, at Fordyce. The two met at Henderson State College. They were introduced by a friend of hers, who was his niece.

According to their daughter, Sharon Shugart, when Luvois came down the dormitory stairs to meet Shug for their date, she looked down at him and said, "Are you the one?"

She was a tiny, black-haired, dark-eyed beauty, and she was wearing her favorite red suit. He grinned, and said, "Yeah-boy!" Not long before they met, she had won second place in the Miss Fordyce beauty pageant, and not long after she won first place in Shug's heart.

The couple eloped on Nov. 14, 1936, and honeymooned at Camden. Sharon Shugart said, "This was the Great Depression, of course; no one could afford lavish weddings and honeymoons."

Shug had earned his BA degree in math at Henderson, and he taught high school math at Pine Ridge, Norman, Stuttgart and Norphlet. In 1941, he went to work as a chemist for Lion Oil Co. in El Dorado, and retired from the company in 1975. The Shugarts lived in El Dorado until his death in 1998, and were active in the community.

During the 1950s, the Shugarts were members of a choral society, and were active for many years in the First Baptist Church of El Dorado choir, Sunday school and Training Union. Luvois taught Sunday school for several years, and she and Shug were members of the Prime Timers, a senior social club sponsored by the church. "Both were outgoing and fun," Sharon said. "People were dropping by our house all the time, it seemed."

In addition to her roles as homemaker and mother, Luvois was a den mother for cub scouts, a member of a garden club and a Brownie and Girl Scout leader during the 1950s and '60s. Shug was a member of the Toastmasters' Club, and was often asked to speak at local functions.

Sharon said her parents loved the outdoors. "Family camping was a part of life for the Shugart family. The whole family enjoyed fly fishing on the Caddo River and pole fishing on Lake Calion and Gray's Lake in Fordyce."

Shug and Luvois's outdoor pastime was bird-watching. "Beginning in the early 1960s, they regularly took part in the annual Christmas count and the summer roadside census, both of which were national bird censuses," Sharon said.

"Many of my Christmas memories include watching my parents donning heavy coats and boots, packing thermoses of hot coffee and gather-

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From the President

It’s been an exciting time for outgoing AAS president

I have delayed writing this column, not for my usual excuses, but because I have mixed feelings about it. This is my last column as your president. In some ways that is a relief (I don’t have to come up with any more column ideas!), in some ways it is a disappointment (did I do what needed to be done the way it needed to be done — was it enough?), and in some ways it is filled with pressure (what if I leave something out — no more chances!)

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the Arkansas Audubon Society for the last two years. Some highlights have been the announcement of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker at the election meeting, expansion of the camp to add an additional week, addition of adult workshops through the camp committee, and the trust reaching more than $100,000. None of this happened because of me. You have a number of dedicated, talented people that you elected to serve with me, and I benefited by being along for the ride.

I am a firm believer that participation is the key to harmony. The more people involved, the more we all benefit as a group and individually. I originally became involved in the workings of the business end of AAS because I felt an obligation to give back to the organization that has given so much to me.

Today, I remain active because I feel a part of, and not apart from this group, because I jumped in. Whether it is from obligation, feelings of responsibility, or love of the group, please feel free to get involved. I’m glad I did. My experiences with AAS have helped me grow in the kindest, gentlest manner. Thanks for the opportunity. See you in Fayetteville!

DeLynn Hearn
AAS president

Obituaries

Martha B. Gillham
DARDANELLE — Martha B. Gillham, 86, of Dardanelle died Dec. 5, 2006. She was born April 17, 1920, at Hot Springs to Lucien and Helen Ransom. She was the 1938 valedictorian of her Hot Springs High School Class. Martha was an avid bird watcher and authored a column on bird watching for the Arkansas Wildlife Federation Magazine for more than 15 years. A member of the Dardanelle First United Methodist Church, she also held the position of chairman or vice chairman of the Yell County Democratic Committee from 1950-2001.

Survivors include: Her husband of 66 years, Ralph Gillham; two sons, Lucien Gillham and wife Jan of Sherwood and Richard Gillham and wife Mary of Huntsville; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Mary Graves of Delaware and Elizabeth Horn of Pasadena, Texas.

The funeral service was Dec. 9 at Cornwell Chapel with Rev. Roger Glover officiating. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery in Hot Springs.

Martha’s son Richard sent the following:

“My mom, Mrs. Ralph Gillham, Life Member #40, recently passed away. From a very small child, I always remember my mom feeding birds just outside our kitchen window. Then she would come in the house and record the birds that came to the feeder that day. She took me to many annual meetings and bird counts. I cannot think of a better way to remember her than by continuing your newsletter in my family.”

Arkansas Audubon Society Newsletter


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 71923.

Graphics on banner and mast drawn by Pat Moore.

50th anniversary logo by Sharen Carter.


ANNUAL DUES on calendar year basis
Regular Member .......................... 15.00
Regular Family .......................... 20.00
Sustaining Member .................. 20.00
Sustaining Family .................. 25.00
Contributing Member ................. 30.00
Contributing Family ................ 35.00
Student Member .......................... 5.00

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS
Life ........................................... $250.00
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 Fall Season – August-November 2006

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

Mottled Duck: In early September, approximately 35 were seen by Dick and Sarah Baxter at a reservoir northwest of Arkansas City in Desha County. This species is now considered a year-round resident and breeding in Arkansas.

Tufted Duck: A molting adult male was identified by Kenny and LaDonna Nichols at Lake Dardanelle. This bird was present from 11-18 through 12-3, and was photographed. It was only the third record for Arkansas.

Surf Scoter: K&LN located a female or immature at Lake Dardanelle on 11-11.

White-winged Scoter: At Bob Kidd Lake in Washington County, Joe Neal and Mike Mlodinow discovered a juvenile on 11-5. This represents only the fourth record for NW Arkansas.

Black Scoter: A female or juvenile male was present during early November at Lake Dardanelle (K&LN). Also, on 11-10 JN&MM reported an adult male at the Craig State Fish Hatchery. It was a first record for NW Arkansas.

Red-throated Loon: During the first half of November, a juvenile was repeatedly seen by K&LN at Lake Dardanelle. Also, Charles Mills observed a juvenile at Millwood Lake in late November.

Western Grebe: K&LN tallied one during the first half of November at Lake Dardanelle.

Least Bittern: DB found five on 8-6 near Arkansas City. One was an adult, one a juvenile, and the others were heard calling only. Also, Michael Budd saw two and heard four more at Bois d'Arc Wildlife Management Area in Hempstead County on 9-2.

Great Egret: Delos and Hazel McCauley estimated a fantastic number of 900 at a heronry roost near the southern edge of Pine Bluff on 9-2. (Jefferson County)

Black-crowned Night-Heron: On the late date of 11-26, DB observed two juveniles near Kelso in Desha County.

Swallow-tailed Kite: Tracy Meredith discovered one over the Sage Meadows area near Jonesboro on about 8-20. Two days later, Norman and Cheryl Lavers identified two in the same area, and D&SB saw one. These magnificent birds were also seen by Jim Bednarz.

Broad-winged Hawk: A kettle of 30 individuals was studied by Don Simons on 9-19 as they circled in migration over Mount Magazine State Park.

Prairie Falcon: One was recorded by JN & Mm at Craig Fish Hatchery on 11-11. It was the fifth record for NW Arkansas. Documentation was submitted.

Virginia Rail: One adult was photographed by Debbie Verser on 9-26 as it walked around in the Verser Equipment Repair Shop in Heber Springs.

Semi-palmated Plover: MM, Paige and Mary Beth Mulholland identified one juvenile at Craig Fish Hatchery on 11-10. This record is the latest ever fall date for Arkansas. There is also one December record on file.

Killdeer: Allan Mueller found a nest containing one egg on a doctor's parking lot in Conway. On 10-17, the nest location was not more than 2 inches from pavement and was frequently disturbed. The large number of 300 was estimated by MM, JN and Jason Luskier at Craig Fish Hatchery on 11-11. This number is one of the largest ever reported in NW Arkansas.

Black-necked Stilt: Four were located at a fish farm near Arkansas City on the very late date of 11-23. (DB).

Upland Sandpiper: Approximately 18 birds were noted by JN & MM as they flew overhead at the Chesney Prairie Natural Area in Benton County on 8-26. On the same date, at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, three more were seen together by Dan Scheiman.

Ruddy Turnstone: At a fish farm in Prairie County on 8-4, K&LN recorded one adult in alternate plumage.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A very good count of 30 was made by K&LN on 9-2 at a sod farm south of Dardanelle.

Ruff: K&LN identified and photographed an adult female at a fish farm in Prairie County on 8-12.

American Woodcock: One was found by MM on 11-26 at the UofAR farm in Fayetteville. This species is seen only rarely during the fall season in NW Arkansas.

Caspian Tern: DM reported the good number of 30 at Lake Pine Bluff on 9-12.

Least Tern: At a fish farm near Arkansas City in Desha County on 8-16, DB and Marcus Asher estimated the very large number of 350 birds. Immatures outnumbered adults.

See Birds on Page 4
Common Nighthawk: JoAnne Rife estimated 50 flying and hawking insects on 8-29 at Capps in Boone County.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: One adult female lingered late at Weiner in Poinsett County. On 11-23 it was trapped and banded by Max and Helen Parker. Three retires were plucked; these are archived at UALR by Dr. William Balsosser. After being plucked, the tail feathers grow back in three weeks and cause no harm to the bird.

Rufous Hummingbird: During the month of November four were banded in Arkansas by M&HP. One was located in Wynne in Cross County, one in Saline County, and two in Little Rock. During late October, an adult male was present on the Faulkner Lake Road in Pulaski County. This bird was not banded.

Hairy Woodpecker: One was located by DuS at Mount Magazine State Park on 8-27.

Say’s Phoebe: Mike Dillon and CM identified one on the Okay Levee at Millwood Lake on 9-17. It was preceded at this location by the first Millwood record of the species, which was seen nearly 17 years earlier, to the day (9-16-89). The 2006 bird was photographed.

Western Flycatcher: Mike Satterfield banded one on Maumelle Blvd. in North Little Rock on 9-4-5.

Bell’s Vireo: Seven were reported at the Stuttgart Airport on 8-31 by DaS and William Shepherd. All were singing. Birders visiting the airport are urged to sign in at the office.

Blue-headed Vireo: D&SB found one singing near Arkansas City on 11-25.

Tennessee Warbler: DB counted an early migrant at Forest Park in Jonesboro on 8-31. Then MM had a late one in Fayetteville on 10-18.

Magnolia Warbler: One was seen at Lake Atalanta in Benton County by MM on 10-11. This is an all-time late date for NW Arkansas.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Two in basic plumage were discovered by K&LN on the very early date of 9-6 near Dardanelle.

Northern Waterthrush: One was present at Lake Atalanta on 8-19 (JN&MM).

Wilson’s Warbler: The unusually large number of 16 were seen by MM at Lake Fayetteville on 9-12.

Canada Warbler: DB had one at Forest Park, Craighead County on 8-31.

Spotted Towhee: One at Lake Fayetteville on 10-12 (MM) was significant. Presumably the same bird was located again on 10-27 (same plumage, same place).

Clay-colored Sparrow: One was reported on 10-22 at Two Rivers Park in Pulaski County by DaS.

Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Three records were received. One was an adult by K&LN (photographed) near Dardanelle on 10-14, another at Two Rivers Park on 10-22 by DaS; and the third by MM&JN on 10-28 at Craig Fish Hatchery.

Bobolink: Five were found at the UofAR Farm at Fayetteville on 9-3 by MM. This species is very uncommon to rare in fall in Arkansas.

Western Meadowlark: DB saw and heard two singing NE of Kelso in Desha County on 11-26. This species is only rarely found at this location.

Max Parker, AAS curator

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.

2006 Arkansas Christmas Bird Count results

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CBC</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Arkadelphia</td>
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<td>Max Parker</td>
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<td>Bayou DeView</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Dec. 22</td>
<td>Steve Osborne</td>
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<td>Big Lake</td>
<td>83</td>
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<td>Mark Robinson</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>Martha Johnson</td>
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<td>Dec. 20</td>
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<td>Dec. 17</td>
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<td>Fort Smith</td>
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<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Bill Beall</td>
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<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>Leif Anderson</td>
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<td>John Andre</td>
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<td>Dec. 17</td>
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<td>79</td>
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<td>White River</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>Keith Sutton</td>
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News of Members

New Members

Kelly Chitwood, Camden
Rick Burson, Camden
Jeffrey Cantrell, Neosho, Mo.
Linda Chambers, Maumelle
Richard and Margaret Lincourt, Little Rock
Paul Milotis, Waskom, Texas
Erin Leone, New Blaine
Van and Charlotte Davis, Hot Springs
Don McMillan, Fort Smith
Leesia C Marshall-Rosenberger, Harrison
Jim Spurkosky, Mena

New Life Members

Paige Mulholland, Fayetteville
Mary Bess Mulholland, Fayetteville
Terry Pressly, Jonesboro
Richard Gillham, Huntsville

Birding in our yard has been rewarding the past few weeks with our interest piqued in anticipation of what new species will come to our magic mix feeders. Among our favorites that are frequent visitors there are several species of woodpeckers, Carolina Wrens, Orange-crowned and Pine warblers, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Strangely, the orange halves that were so popular with some of these same species in the summer and fall are now being left untouched.

Pam and Jack Stewart are spending a lengthy time in Peru this winter, enjoying the birds and scenery for which it is noted. In an e-mail on Feb. 6, he reported they had been to Lago Salinas at an altitude of 14,000 feet that day where they saw the Andean Flamingo. The next day they planned to try for the Andean Flamingo which is the only one of the world’s five flamingo species they had not seen. Hope they get to see it.

Loyal AAS member Martha Milburn has moved to a smaller house in a Harrison condo compound located only about a mile from the home she had occupied for a long time. She is still sorting through the contents of the larger house which is filled with the accumulation of many years. JoAnne Rife pens, “Maybe, just maybe, she will finally find all those world bird lists from Ecuador and other South and Central America trips, Australia, Africa, Hawaii, Alaska, wherever, and get them all in one place. Her friends are still wondering if she could possibly be ahead of Jack Stewart.”

What about it, Jack? Inquiring minds want to know.

Susan Hardin e-mailed on Feb. 6 that the delightful little adult female Rufous Hummingbird, which they had been hosting since Nov. 12, was still a welcome visitor to their feeders. Susan attests to the patience and perseverance of Helen and Max Parker in that they made the fifth trip before they were able to trap and band the bird. The Parkers, who were given a key to the back door, would come quietly down the sloping back yard in the darkness of early morning to let themselves in. Susan says she knows that at some point the bird will head back to the Northwest for nesting, but she hopes it will return to 804 Conrad Court this fall. I have a question for Susan: How did the little hummingbird get the name of Ann Richards? Named for an ex-governor of Texas?

The Third Edition of the “Birds of Faulkner County, Arkansas” has just been published. The book is authored by Martha Johnson, David Johnson, Allan Mueller and Herschel Raney, all of whom we know as fellow AAS members. Since the Second Edition was published in 2000, 820 new reports have been received which added 22 species, bringing the present total to 282 documented for Faulkner County. Also, one additional nesting record (for Yellow-throated Vireo) makes a total of 111 species known to have nested in the county.

The booklet has much useful information in addition to the usual checklist data displayed on charts for each species. The introduction lists many of the species added since the last edition with information as to where each was found. Good birding spots around the county, as well as what to look for at each, are described in the appendix. An excellent map by David Johnson guides one to the areas.

In the past few years, birdwatchers have been attracted to a Home Depot store in Mapleton, Minn. The birds of interest there are Barn Swallows which have learned to open motion detector doors at the building in order to gain admittance to nest inside, safe from weather and predators.

The birds, first sighted nesting inside in the summer of 2001, have been returning each year. The swallows fly in tight circles in front of the motion detectors above the double doors until they open; repeating the strategy inside when ready to exit the building. The term “bird brain” seems demeaning for creatures exhibiting such cunning behavior.

Wildlife photographer Tom Ulrich, who will be giving one of his outstanding presentations at the AAS spring meeting in Fayetteville, arrived at our house today, Feb. 9. He is here in Magnolia to give programs at SAU Monday and Tuesday nights, this being about the 15th year he has been booked by the college. I can assure you that he’ll have to be extremely sleep-deprived to nod off during one of his programs.

Once again, I must report that we’re not packing for a trip. Not just yet. In fact, we’ve been home-bound for several weeks while I have been rehearsing for a play to be presented by the Magnolia Arts Council Feb. 15-18. The three-act play, entitled "The Butler Did It,” is a delightful spoof on the classic murder-mystery. I don’t have to get far out of character to play my role of Miss Maple, a somewhat senile, eccentric, cantankerous, filthy rich yet old dame. Clearly a case of typecasting, huh?

Our next trip will be for an elderhostel in Lafayette, La., March 12-18 with a focus on Cajun culture, music and food. I’ve been practicing the Cajun two-step in anticipation.

The 50th anniversary edition of the Arkansas Audubon Society Field List is available from:
Max Parker, 14300 Chenal Parkway #7473,
Little Rock, Ark. 72221.
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.
From the Camp

Take the challenges to help AAS Trust continue to grow

The Arkansas Audubon Society Trust has received $400 in donations toward Hot Springs Village Audubon Society’s challenge to raise $2,000 in matching donations by the 2007 Fall Meeting. This is an opportunity to double your donation.

A second challenge by Fred and Helen Hander is for every AAS member to donate $10 a month, or $120 a year. We have named those donors “Hander’s Helpers.”

The Endowment-Memorial Fund as of mid-February has $104,639.34. Much of that small increase over the past three months is from new Life Memberships in AAS and very little from donations to increase the Trust’s Endowment-Memorial Fund. Income from Endowment-Memorial Fund investments is moved into the Research & Education Fund and is used primarily to fund grants. An additional $1,011.76 is in the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Fund and can only be used for projects related to endangered RCWs.

Annual Trust income now tops $7,000 for the first time ever. That helps fund more and provides for larger grants than ever before. For example, last fall the trustees approved eight grants for a total of $4,000. Let’s keep growing the Endowment-Memorial Fund so even more projects can be funded in the future.

The AAS website has more information on recent grants. 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 to “AAS Trust” and mail to 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, Ar. 72223-9201. Anyone wishing to make an anonymous donation to the Trust may do so by requesting anonymity.

Barry H. Haas
Treasurer, AAS Trust

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<td>Doug James</td>
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<td>Tammy Tidwell</td>
<td>In memory of Luvois Shugart</td>
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<td>In honor of Catherine Hepinstall</td>
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<td>Joe and Terri Parker</td>
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<tr>
<td>In honor of Max and Helen Parker</td>
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Eagles died at DeGray this winter; cause still unknown

By Dolores Harrington

Three Bald Eagles died at DeGray Lake this winter, according to Johnny Cantrell, wildlife biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at DeGray.

“We picked up three (eagles),” Cantrell said. “The first one was in real good shape and we sent it to Madison (Wisc.) The other two were too decomposed, and we sent them to the repository.”

The birds’ deaths raised concern about another outbreak of avian vacular myelinopathy (AVM) at the lake where 29 Bald Eagles died during the winter of 1994-95. Die-offs continued for several years after that, and eagles also died at Lake Ouachita during that period.

After years of investigation by task forces made of state, government and private agencies, the cause of those deaths was finally attributed to a previously unknown toxin which causes AVM.

AVM is characterized by lesions, found by necropsy, in the brains of the affected birds. The condition has also been found in coots and ducks. Affected eagles, found before they died, exhibited symptoms such as disorientation, staggering and the lack of ability to fly.

The toxin comes from a blue-green alga that grows on hydrilla, a water plant that grows abundantly at DeGray. Coots that winter at the lake feed on the plants, and coots are the food of choice for the wintering eagles. Eating affected coots apparently leads to infection of the eagles.

The last known eagle deaths attributed to AVM at DeGray were during the winter of 1997-98. There have been eagle deaths at the lake since then — one was found in June 2000 and another in 2004. Those carcasses were too decomposed to determine the cause of death.

This winter, the first dead eagle was found in early December. “We found it on Dec. 10, and I shipped it (to the lab) on Dec. 11,” Cantrell said. “We have had a preliminary report back.”

The lab suggested that the eagle had died from electrocution, but Cantrell discounts that analysis. “There wasn’t a power line within miles of where it was found.” He is still waiting for a full report, and said the lab has assured them it will be sent soon.

The two decomposed carcasses were

See Dead eagles, Page 9
Arkansas Audubon Society
2007 HALBERG ECOLOGY CAMPS
where young people
learn about natural science

What is it?
This one-week Arkansas Audubon Society camp offers young people an opportunity to study the natural environment. The camp is planned for 11- and 12-year-olds. They will study such subjects as mammals, snakes, birds, insects, geology, botany and aquatic biology in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas. The professional staff of 16 includes a graduate nurse and a lifeguard. The students sleep in dormitories and an adult is stationed in each cabin.

Why is this camp important?
It provides children with a special outdoor experience and helps them appreciate and understand the natural environment.

Who may attend?
Any person 11 or 12 years old who is seriously interested in learning about the outdoors. Forty-eight students will be enrolled plus fourteen students who have been invited back from the year before.

When and where will it be held?
Session one of the 2007 Halberg Ecology Camp will begin Sunday, June 17 and end Friday, June 22; session two will begin Sunday, June 24 and end Friday, June 29. Both sessions will be held at Camp Clearfork, in the Ouachita National Forest, on U. S. Highway 270 two miles west of Crystal Springs. It is the responsibility of the parents to bring the child to the camp and pick them up after camp is over.

What does it cost?
Each student pays $275 to attend the camp for the week. This money goes toward the cost of room, board, and insurance. The Arkansas Audubon Society provides the remainder of the $400-plus needed for each student. Some partial and full scholarships are available from local organizations and tuition assistance is available in case of need. Anyone in need of tuition assistance must fill out an application. Each camper receives a field guide and a T-shirt.

What about recreation?
Camp Clearfork has some unique recreational opportunities. Everyone may participate in team sports, swimming, and fishing.

Download an application blank from www.arbirds.org/ or fill out and return this slip to/email AAS Halberg Ecology Camp, 2705 N. Fillmore, Little Rock, AR 72207, 501-663-9380, efulton@sbcglobal.net.

Name (please print) ___________________________ Phone ___________________________ 
Address ___________________________________________________________ City __________
County ___________________________ State ______ Zip ________
Date of Birth ________ How did you hear about Audubon Camp? ___________________________
ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY CALL TO MEETING

The 2007 spring meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be held on **APRIL 27-29**, at **Mount Sequoyah in Fayetteville**. Registration, meals, and programs will be on The Mountain.

Reservations will be handled by the Society. To reserve one of the rooms complete the form below with a check for full payment. The number of rooms in each category is limited.

See form below for rates

**Directions:** Turn off College Ave onto Maple St. (a left turn if going south on College). At top of Maple turn right on Assembly Rd. Go straight to the entrance. Caution: speed bumps on Maple.

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

Mail by April 12, 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

Sign up for field trips below. You can change your mind at the meeting if space is available.

Name(s)__________________________

Address________________________________________

City________________ State____ Zip Code____________

Phone # __________________ e-mail________________________

Please place a large "X" on the line if this is your first AAS meeting or if you have not attended for some time.

Meeting registration # _____ @ $15/person

Early bird April 12 or before $10/ person

Friday night meal # _____ @ $10 per person

Saturday night meal #_____ @ $10 per person

Donation to help pay meeting costs

Room at selected rate _____ x # nights _____

Total (Field Trip fees are included in your registration) __________________

First Choice_______ number of participants ______.

Second Choice_______ number of participants______.

Note: some trips may be repeated Sunday if there is sufficient interest.

Make checks payable to Arkansas Audubon Society.
ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY
Spring Convention
April 27-29, 2007
Mount Sequoyah, Fayetteville

AGENDA

Friday, April 27

Board Meeting (Wesley Lounge) 12:30-3:00 pm
Registration (Wesley Lounge) 4:00-5:45 pm
Supper (cafeteria) 6:00-7:00 pm
Evening program (Clapp Auditorium) 7:30-9:00 pm

SHOREBIRDS IN NORTHWESTERN ARKANSAS: People, Places, Future Prospects
Speaker: Joe Neal

Field trip Q & A

Saturday, October 28

Field trips Details at registration
AAS trust meeting (Wesley Lounge) 2:00-4:00 pm
Research Seminar (Clapp Auditorium) 3:00-4:30 pm
Trust/Camp Reception (Wesley) 5:00-5:45 pm
Supper (cafeteria) 6:00-7:00 pm
AAS business meeting (Clapp) Following evening meal
Evening program 7:30-9:00 pm

BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA
Speaker: Tom Ulrich

Weekend checklist
Field Trips for Sunday
Organized Field Trip Options

ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING
FAYETTEVILLE APRIL 28-30, 2007

Note: **APT** denotes an ACCESSIBLE FIELD TRIP for those with walking impairments. Each has paved roads or paved trails and level terrain that provide good opportunities for seeing a surprising variety of birds.

Saturday field trips

A)- **CRAIG STATE FISH HATCHERY** **APT** at Centerton (about 40 minutes from the conference center) and Lake Atalanta (Rogers). The fish hatchery can be an outstanding spot to see shorebirds and other open country birds. It has a series of ponds, some of which may be drawn down, exposing mud flats. Atalanta is a park area with lake and forest edge. Walk as much or as little as you like. Depart: 7:30 a.m. Limit: 20 participants

B)- **CHESNEY PRAIRIE NATURAL AREA** at Siloam Springs (about 40 minutes from the conference center) is Tallgrass Prairie habitat midst the former Lindsley Prairie. Grassland and open country birds predominate. A drive on the county roads is interesting, but it's all walking on a mowed trail within the 60 preserved acres. The birding and wildflowering can be very good here. Depart: 7 a.m. Limit: 20 participants

C)- **UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS EXPERIMENTAL FARM** in Fayetteville, just north of the UofA campus (about 10 minutes from conference center) provides diverse open cropland habitats and an open farm pond that can be productive during spring migration. The area is cross-hatched by farm roads, so some driving will occur, as well as walking. (This area is normally closed to the public) Depart: 7:45 a.m. Limit: 20 participants

D)- **DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK** (about 40 minutes from the conference center) provides unique access to the hardwood forests in the rugged Boston Mountains. There are several improved trails in the park that require walking. Paved roads provide access to campgrounds and picnic areas; these can provide access for those who don't walk trails. This area has the full range of resident forest land birds and can be outstanding during spring migration. Lee Creek with its riparian forest bisects the park and is a magnet for birds. Depart: 7 a.m. Limit: 20 participants

E)- **LAKE FAYETTEVILLE APT** (about 10 minutes from conference center) includes lake, forest, and urban edge habitats that provide a wide variety of birds directly across from Northwest Arkansas Mall. An easily walked trail loops around the lake, and about one third of the distance has been recently paved to provide outstanding access for those with walking disabilities. A short loop provides good access to a viewing platform near the lake's center at the Lake Fayetteville Environmental Study Center. The paved trail includes the dam. There are good views of the deep end of the lake from the dam and boat dock area, both fully accessible. An attractive bridge over the spillway provides excellent views of forest and stream bottom habitat. Depart: 7:30 a.m. Limit: 20 participants

F)- **MT. SEQUOYAH METHODIST ASSEMBLY APT** grounds and Skyline Drive, both right at the conference center: urban and upland mature forest birds. Easy walking on paved walkways and roads. Departures: 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Sunday field trips

**UPPER BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER AND CAVE MOUNTAIN (ALL DAY TRIP ON SUNDAY)** is about one hour and 15 minutes from Fayetteville. On this trip we will explore parts of Lost Valley, the Boxley millpond, and the upland forests along Cave Mountain Road. The birds in this area are highly diverse. Cave Mountain is an excellent place for Cerulean Warbler. The trip combines driving and walking, but none of the walking is extensive. Depart: 8 a.m. Limit: 20 participants

MT. SEQUOYAH METHODIST ASSEMBLY **APT** grounds and Skyline Drive, both right at the conference center: urban and upland mature forest birds. Easy walking on paved walkways and roads. Departures: 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. Sign-up Saturday evening

Saturday field trips may be repeated on Sunday depending upon interest.

“ON YOUR OWN” FIELD TRIPS: Maps or written information will be available at registration to areas you may wish to explore on your own.
Room Reservations

Accommodations at Mount Sequoyah include a variety of rooms with private or shared bathrooms in Wesley hall and cottages with private bathrooms and double and/or queen beds. If you would like some different configuration, such as two couples or three friends sharing a room, make a note on the form below and we will try to accommodate your wishes. To keep this bewildering array of combinations simple, the following choices are available:

<table>
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<th>Friday</th>
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<td>Private bath double or single</td>
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<td>Shared bath double or single</td>
<td>$55/ night</td>
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Don’t forget to transfer the total room rate to the registration form.

Important note: If someone in your group cannot negotiate stairs, please indicate this below. There are a limited # of ground floor rooms in Wesley Hall. We encourage anyone with mobility problems to register as early as possible.

I/we require a ground floor room _______

Use the space below to describe any special requests or needs. Don’t be shy; we need to know what you want. ________________________________
From the Trust

2006 fall appeal donations exceed those of 2005 appeal

The 2006 Fall Appeal has brought in $5,520 to the Halberg Ecology Camp with $2,995 coming from parents and grandparents of former campers and another $2,525 from other donors. That compares to $5,165 in response to the 2005 Fall Appeal letter, a significant drop from previous years. Our best response ever was in the fall of 2003 when Fall Appeal donors gave $6,312.

Overall camp finances are strong as we head into our two camp sessions in June plus a brand new advanced senior camp that will take place in July. We are also planning to hold three adult workshops (tree identification, geology and ferns) that are scheduled for Oct. 6-7 at Fernchiff Camp just west of Little Rock.

Our two Ecology Camp sessions take place at Camp Clearfork, a U.S. Forest Service camp just west of Crystal Springs on Highway 270. The new advanced senior camp will be held July 8-14 at Mount Eagle near Botkinburg near Highway 65.

Tuition will remain at $275 for this year’s camp sessions even though it costs us over $400 per camp student. The balance is raised through our Annual Fall Appeal, scholarship and tuition assistance money from assorted Audubon and other nature groups plus Arkansas Game and Fish Commission scholarships.

We welcome donations from anyone and especially new donors who understand the value of educating youth about nature. To make a donation to the Halberg Ecology Camp mail a check made payable “AAS Halberg Ecology Camp” to 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, Ark. 72223-9201.

All donations are 100 percent tax deductible as the camp is part of the Arkansas Audubon Society and a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. If for any reason you want your donation to remain anonymous, we will honor that request.

Barry H. Haas
Halberg Ecology Camp treasurer

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**AAS Trust Donations – Nov. 20, 2006-Feb. 19, 2007**

**Annual Fall Appeal**
- Sandra Key
- Leif Anderson
- Rickie Sterne
- Dr. Shirley Ann Gilmore
- Ed and Sil Pembleton
- Terry and Ruth Singleterry
- Ann and Rob Nichols
- Jeri and Jim McMahon

**Donations by Organizations**
- Ouachita Caddo Bird Club
- Ozark Chapter-Ark. Native Plant Society

**Donations by Individuals**
- Peggy Allyn Brayman

**Annual Fall Appeal-Parents/Grandparents**
- Deborah and Craig Wernette
- Susan and Kevin Shirley
- Kathy and Jay McDaniel
- Victoria McClendon
- Chris and Thea Spatz

**Memorials and Honoraria**
- Maury and Barbara Baker
  In memory of Gene Cutrell
- DeLynn Hearn
  In memory of Gene Cutrell
- Claire Shaw
  Christmas gift for Bob and Pam Marshall
- Art and Martha Johnson
  In memory of Gene Cutrell
- Audrey and Dick Velnetske
  In memory of Gene Cutrell
- Robert and Pamela Marshall
  In memory of Edith and Henry Halberg
- Phyllis Bartlow
  In memory of Gene Cuthrell
- Sandra Key
  In memory of Gene Cuthrell
- Ernestine Martin
  In memory of Donald H. Martin
- Memphis Works Management Club
  In memory of Gene Cuthrell

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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

Fred Berry
Shugarts Continued from Page 1

ing up books, binoculars and census recording paperwork for the annual count. "Both were skilled, but Luvois was the best. At one time, she had the highest number of Arkansas birds on her list than anyone else in the state.

"She could call up the birds by making this special little 'shushing' sound that no one else could produce quite so well, and she could identify birds by their songs and calls just as well as she could by their appearance. She was a licensed collector for the University of Arkansas biology department and active in bird banding as well."

The Shugarts were charter members of the Arkansas Audubon Society, and both served terms as president. Shug was president of the AAS when he joined with other environmentalists to stop the hydroelectric dam planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Buffalo River. He took on the timber industry in an effort to save the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker in South Arkansas.

Shug convinced Georgia Pacific and others to set aside tracts of land that would attract the woodpeckers. For that successful campaign, he was awarded the first national Conservation Award from American Motors Corp. He also served as a member of then Gov. Dale Bumpers's Energy Commission in the 1970s. For many years, he wrote the "News of Members" column for the AAS newsletter, and was noted for his humor.

The Shugarts were also honored by the AAS for their efforts on behalf of the endangered woodpecker. The Shug and Luvois Red-cockaded Woodpecker Award is presented to persons who have continued to work to save the species.

Shug and Luvois had two children, Dr. Hank Shugart of Charlotteville, Va., who is the Corcoran Professor and director of the Global Environmental Change Program at the University of Virginia, and Sharon Shugart of Pearcy, who is curator of the Fordeye Bathhouse museum and visitor's center in Hot Springs National Park. They had two grandchildren.

Shug died March 11, 1998, and Luvois died Nov. 7, 2006. "In later years they slowed down," Sharon said, "but they never gave up their bird-watching."

When we said good-bye to Shug

For the June 1998 issue of the AAS newsletter, a member wrote the following tribute:

"When we said 'good-bye' to Shug, we were reminded of so many things. Most especially, we remembered his love and appreciation of all God's creatures. He especially loved birds and people.

"He and Luvois were responsible for getting us involved in our first Christmas Bird Counts, at Lonoke and El Dorado. A little later, we joined them in a trip to Dauphin Island, our first trip out of state solely for birding.

"We remembered his efforts on behalf of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. He traversed the state, talking to any group that invited him. This was before studies had shown what the needs of the species truly were, but he knew the little birds were in trouble.

"We remembered Shug calling to say there was a winter hummingbird at his home, and the time we all drove to Baton Rouge with a specimen of a Rufous Hummingbird. Later we saw the shelter he had rigged for one winter hummingbird — an umbrella and light hung over the feeder.

"We remembered hearing our first Bachman's Sparrow singing; Shug and Luvois took us somewhere down near Kingsland to find that bird.

"But most of all, we remembered something shared with many Auduboners: Shug's unique way of calling the bird list at our spring and fall meetings.

"Shug served Arkansas Audubon Society as president, vice president and as a Trust member. We all miss him."

The photo above is of Shug and Luvois Shugart sometime in the 1930s.

After Luvois died, the same sentiments were expressed. The Shugarts may be gone, but they will not be forgotten and neither will their contributions to AAS.

Most of the information and all the photos for this feature were provided by Sharon Shugart.

Report rare, unusual or extra-seasonal bird sightings to the Arkansas Audubon Society curator:

Max Parker,
14300 Chenal Pkwy.,
Little Rock, Ark. 72221
Their favorite pastime ...

In the photo at left, Luvois Shugart is on the far left, and Shug Shugart is fourth from the left. Carl Amason is next to Luvois, and Jean Niemeyer is in front of Shug. The photo is provided by Sharon Shugart, who said it was probably made some time in the 1970s. She couldn't remember the names of the others in the photo, but said their faces were familiar. The group was obviously doing their favorite thing — watching birds.

Dead eagles 
Continued from Page 6

found sometime later than Dec. 10, but it is speculated that the three birds all died around the same time. That's another reason Cantrell doubts the electrocution finding.

In November, the Corps pulled blue-green algae samples and sent them to South Carolina to be tested, and "the disease center ranked it highest for toxicity than any other location in the country," he said. That was based on the amount of the algae sample — not that it was more toxic.

Cantrell does not necessarily think the eagles died of AVM, but the fact that there were three dead birds is cause for concern. "They could have ingested lead," he said. If the birds fed on ducks that had been shot with lead ammunition, it would be a case for investigation by law enforcement. The use of lead in shells is illegal.

No dead coots have been found at the lake this winter, Cantrell said. The lake was low in November and the weather mild, recent heavy rains and colder temperatures have changed conditions. "The vegetation is farther underwater than where the coots feed," he said, "and the colder weather may have stopped the algae from blooming."

The annual survey of eagles at DeGray earlier this month found far fewer birds than longer "than I can remember," he said. "We did two counts. The first day was clear and sunny. We had three boats out and saw seven eagles. There was rain and fog the next day, and we saw seven.

We had more in November and December. "The milder weather we had earlier may have kept the eagles farther north," Cantrell said, and that may have been a blessing. He said with the recent colder weather, more eagles may be seen at the lake during the remainder of the winter.

The carcasses of all bald eagles — including those sent for necropsy — eventually end up at the national bald eagle repository. The collection is kept to provide feathers and other eagle parts for use by authorized American Indian tribes.

This story was first published in the Arkadelphia Sittings Herald.

Date inclusion explanation:

Future issues of Arkansas Birds will include a date next to your address label. The date is when your next dues payment should be made.

Remember, annual dues must be paid to continue receiving the quarterly issues of the newsletter. The dues schedule is on page 2.

Send dues to the treasurer: Terry Butler, P.O. Box 313, Pangburn, Ark. 72121.
Names and addresses of legislators, AAS officers and chairmen

Senators and Congressmen

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Treasurer: Barry Haas, (address above)

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Address Service Requested
Arkansas Audubon Society