Arkansas Birds

Arkansas Audubon Society Newsletter
Organized in 1955
September 15, 2007

Webmaster manages society's website

By Dolores Harrington
Arkansas Birds

A visit to arbids.org is — first of all — a visual feast for anyone interested in birds. The site’s home page features brightly colored photographs by Arkansas birders and photographers. They are photos of some of the birds that can be seen in our state.

The web site continues with information about every facet of the Arkansas Audubon Society. It includes a membership form that can be downloaded, bird sightings, the AAS mission and by-laws, information about the AAS Trust and the Halberg Ecology Camp and excerpts from Arkansas Birds, the society’s quarterly newsletter. There are also links to other sites that are concerned with birds and birding and more photographs to admire.

The web site doesn’t just happen; it has to be designed and periodically updated. Lyndal York, a longtime AAS member, has the responsibility for managing it. York is a retired professor emeritus from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He said, “I spent 34 years there in the College of Medicine, Department of Biochemistry.

“Previously I had been an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee Medical School and research biochemist at the Stanford Research Institute in Palo Alto, Calif.”

A native of Texas, York said, he spent most of his “formative years in Fort Smith. My immediate family were the only ones to leave the Lone Star State for greener — literally — pastures. My folks got fed up with the cycles of drought and sand in the Lubbock area.”

He first became interested in birding. York said, when he was a student of Ruth Armstrong, who was a junior high science teacher in Fort Smith. “She was completely dedicated to her young charges who were interested in learning something. She took the eager beavers on birding trips during the summer and school year. There are several of us who have maintained a lifelong interest in birding and science because of her.”

York said he was in college at Harding when the AAS was organized, and too busy to participate. He has been a member “off and on” since 1968 “when we returned to Arkansas after a 10-year absence for graduate school at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Md., and employment at Stanford and Tennessee.” He and his wife, Carolyn, were less active while their children were in their teens, but returned to active status in the early ’80s, he said.

Because of his work, York has plenty of computer experience. “As a scientist, I had long been using big main frame computers,” he said, “so when the PC came along I easily moved to this hardware and software.” He said he got into the webmaster business by default.

“When the person who put the first website together for the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas moved out of state in the late ’90s, I was coaxed into replacing him because of my computer background.” When Rob Doster, who had managed the AAS website, moved away, “I was asked to take his place.”

See Webmaster on Page 13
From the President

We birders have fun, and contribute to science

This year I read Catch of the Day by Brian Halwell. The book is a survey of the state of the world’s fisheries. Now hold on, keep your talons on the branch, this is going to be about birds—eventually. As expected, the book details the decline in the world’s seafood supply. It also describes some encouraging signs that people are wising up to the problem. If efforts to stop the decline are to succeed, all of us fish eaters will need to become better informed about what to buy and what to avoid.

In a section of Halwell’s book titled “The Shifting Baseline,” he points out that each generation of fishers and marine scientists takes as normal the number of fish in the sea in their individual lifetimes. This short-term thinking ignores historic fish populations that may once have been many times greater.

So, as I closed the book my mind turned to birds. Aren’t birders and ornithologists prone to the same shifting baseline? What we take to be a good fall migration with the trees full of neotropical migrants may in fact be a pale reflection of what once was. Or conversely, our memories of “the good old days” could be faulty.

I remember a day, Oct. 3, 1961, to be exact, when Frank McLaughlin, New Jersey Audubon director, and I stood a few feet from a scrappy, leafless shrub at Cape May Point. In the space of four minutes we identified five species of thrush as each would, in turn, alight on a bare twig for a few seconds then rush on to join the stream of birds that passed us on all sides.

Frank and I recorded 160 species that day, but it was the sheer numbers of individuals that was so impressive. I still have the old checklists and notes from 49+ years ago so I don’t need to trust my memory. And this is why I believe the birding community has an advantage when it comes to avoiding the shifting baseline error. We have a wealth of records to refer to in addition to our personal notes and checklists. There is the historical data in all those years of Christmas counts, International Migratory Bird Days, and breeding bird surveys. In Arkansas we are especially fortunate to have the files of the Arkansas Audubon Society courtesy of our Bird Records Committee.

Did you know that ornithologists and students access our See President, page 13

Three camps for adults set at Camp Ferncliff this fall

Not only does the Arkansas Audubon Society have the premier Ecology Camp for 11- and 12-year-old students, it can boast of a super series of adult ecology workshops each fall at Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock.

The first year’s camp offered Tree Identification with Dr. Eric Sundell, and Aquatic Insects with George and Phoebe Harp. Camp 2006 continued with Sundell and Tree Identification, and added Geology with Dr. Jim Edson. In addition to geology, Edson presented evening programs on butterflys.

Three workshops are planned for this fall, Tree Identification with Sundell, Geology with Edson, and Ferns with Dr. Don Crank. The workshops are set for Oct. 6 and 7. Meals and lodging will be available, and the cost is $110 for commuters and $138/$150 (depending on choice of lodging) for those who stay at the camp.

To register for the workshops, e-mail Linda Chambers at lindachamb3rs@yahoo.com. Send fees to: Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, Ark. 72223-9201.

There is space for 12 students in each workshop, so don’t let them fill up without you.

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.


ANNUAL DUES on calendar year basis

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
Regular Member & \$15.00 \\
\hline
Regular Family & \$20.00 \\
\hline
Sustaining Member & \$20.00 \\
\hline
Sustaining Family & \$25.00 \\
\hline
Contributing Member & \$30.00 \\
\hline
Contributing Family & \$35.00 \\
\hline
Student Member & \$5.00 \\
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SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
Life & \$250.00 \\
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Patron & \$500.00 \\
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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 2007

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 by Dick Baxter near Arkansas City (Desha County) on 5-25 and 26. Then on 5-29 at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, Kenny Nichols discovered the large concentration of 11 adults.

**Mottled Duck:** DBr reported a large group near Arkansas City on 5-28. Of the 35 birds, 20 were adults and the remainder were young, in two broods of eight and seven.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Seven males and five females were observed on 5-26 near Arkansas City by DBr. These ducks were probably late migrants; however the species has nested in this locality in previous years.

**Greater Scaup:** On 5-12 a female was identified by Mike Mlodinow and David Chapman at the Craig Fish Hatchery. This sighting represents the second latest spring record ever for Arkansas.

**White-winged Scoter:** At Cook’s Landing on the Arkansas River just below Murray Lock and Dam, a first-year winter male was reported by Kelly Jobe and Delos McCauley on 3-17. The duck remained near the landing through 3-20. (Pulaski County)

**Northern Bobwhite:** A covey of 10 birds was flushed by Karen Holliday at the Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge on 3-24. Over the past 25 years this very attractive species has suffered a serious decline in numbers, here in Arkansas.

**Red-necked Grebe:** This rare-in-Arkansas bird was found at the Treadway Fish Farm in Lonoke County on 3-5 by Dennis Bradly, Kenny Nichols, and DM. A report at the same location on 4-14 by Nick Anich, D and Sarah Baxter was probably the same bird.

**Least Bittern:** DBr saw one male and heard another calling near Arkansas City on 5-29.

**Tri-colored Heron:** One adult was seen by Leif Anderson along the Mississippi River levee in Phillips County on 5-13.

**White-faced Ibis:** Rob Doster, DM and DBr identified six adults on 4-6 in Lonoke County north of Carlisle.

**White-tailed Kite:** At Mount Magazine State Park, Don Simons documented one on 3-7. This interesting hawk is a very rare spring visitor in Arkansas.

**Mississippi Kite:** This summer resident doesn’t ordinarily arrive in the state until the latter part of April. However, one was seen and documented by Karen Rowe on 2-16 in Arkansas County just south of Bayou Meto WMA. A second early bird was observed on 3-28 by D and Patricia Bradly in Pulaski County.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** One in alternate plumage was present at the Craig Fish Hatchery on 5-24 and 5-25. (MM)

**Western Sandpiper:** One very early adult was identified at a fish farm in Prairie County on 4-1 by K and LaDonna Nichols.

**Baird’s Sandpiper:** NA, DandSBa saw a large number at a minnow farm in Lonoke County on 4-14.

**Ruff:** At a minnow farm in Lonoke County, DBr located an immature male on 3-22.

**Laughing Gull:** On 5-2, one in alternate plumage was tallied at a fish farm in Prairie County by KandLN.

**Franklin’s Gull:** Five were counted by MM at Craig Fish Hatchery in Benton County on 5-24. This migrating gull is only rarely seen in Arkansas during spring.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird:** A western species, one adult male was out of range on 4-7 at Fairfield Bay in Van Buren County when it was seen by Mary Alice Beer and Barbara Wise. Documentation is on file.

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** This is a very rare visitor in Arkansas, especially during late spring. However, one female was discovered by DandSBa near Arkansas City on 5-30.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** One singing male was seen by Norman Lavers on 3-23 at Hatchie Coon WMA in Craighead County.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The large number of eight were reported by MM and DC at Lake Atalanta in Benton County on 5-12.

**Cave Swallow:** The second ever record for this species in Arkansas was discovered by Charles Mills at the Millwood Lake Spillway on 3-24. It was seen later by Donald and Dolores Harrington and numerous other birders. The bird remained in

See **Birds** on Page 4
the vicinity until 4-15.

Tufted Titmouse: A very early nesting by a female on Red's Camp Road in Prairie County near Devall's Bluff. Five eggs were in the nest box on 3-25 as reported by Terry Singleterry.

Townsend's Solitaire: One was reported by DS at Mount Magazine State Park on 4-2. Probably the same bird was seen there the next day by DBr.

Tennessee Warbler: MM found three unusually late migrants. Two were at Lake Fayetteville on 5-16, and one was on Mount Sequoyah two days later.

Nashville Warbler: An unusually early migrant was found by MM on Mount Sequoyah on 3-28. It was a bright individual, probably a male.

Cerulean Warbler: DBa reported a male at Craighead Forest Park in Craighead County on 4-29. This beautiful warbler is only rarely seen in NE Arkansas.

Worm-eating Warbler: A singing male was an uncommon bird in Craighead Forest Park, seen and heard by DBa on 4-18.

Mourning Warbler: One singing male was reported at Craighead Forest Park by DBa on 5-3, and then on 5-21 a singing male and a female were tallied by the same observer.

Spotted Towhee: MM identified a male at Mount Sequoyah on 3-28. The bird apparently gives calls of both the Eastern and Spotted species, even though the plumage was that of the Spotted. It is possible that the call notes were from two birds, although they appeared to come from only the Spotted.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: Three individuals, a pair and a single, were reported by DS at Mount Magazine State Park on 4-2.

Lark Sparrow: Near Kelso in Desha County DBa located three birds on 4-26. This is an uncommon species in SE Arkansas.

Le Conte's Sparrow: On 3-15 Eran Kilpatrick photographed one of this species at the northern end of Monticello Lake in Drew County.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: On 5-6, Robin and Sonja Sisson identified one at a fish hatchery in Albert County.

Harris's Sparrow: An adult male was seen by Jason Luscer in the Wedington Unit of the Ozark National Forest in Washington County on 5-13. This is the latest spring date ever recorded for this species in Arkansas.

Western Meadowlark: Eleven were present for Jeff Wilson at Bob White Rd in Crittenden County on 3-19.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Three males were studied by Paige Mulholland and MM at Craig Fish Hatchery on 4-25 as they fed on spilled fish food.

Great-tailed Grackle: One of the highest counts ever for this interesting species was made on 3-10 by JN and MM at Craig Fish Hatchery. Three hundred birds were counted in one flock.

Red Crossbill: Roger Gunter located and documented two birds, a male and a female, 12 miles west of Dover in Pope County, on 5-13.

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

Birders observe strange behavior of Mallard family

Mike Mlodinow and I were birding at the state fish hatchery at Centerton in Benton County on Saturday morning, May 26. We saw three Mallard, and, nearer, a female with some recent hatchlings.

This was a big mudflat, with just scattered shallow pools. The hen and ducklings were foraging out in the open with no nearby escape cover. As we drove up, the drakes began walking off away from us, attracting our attention. The hen squatted and flattened with head, beak, and body more or less flattened; the ducklings immediately followed suit.

It was so smooth and choreographed, like they had been rehearsing a ballet or something. The result was all a matter of irregular lines and blended muted color, a modest-sized duck lump relatively indistinguishable within the muddy, grassy landscape of the drained pond.

The lines on the hen and the ducklings could have been the back of an old snapper or a partially submerged log, or just some irregularity in the mud. It was the fine art of nature at work. I had to keep relocating them even when I knew they were there.

Submitted by Joe Neal

Joe Neal photo
News of Members

By Loice K. Lacy
Arkansas Birds

As I write, looking out the window at a Northern Cardinal with bill open, panting, and wings drooping, I can identify with him. Mine sagged too when I had to spend some time out in the heat this morning watering a few gasping plants.

Later we had a sprinkler going in the front yard that had created standing water in some low places. Passing by a window in the den, I was amazed at the number of birds of varied species that had gathered to bathe and "play" in the water. Their activities looked so refreshing that I would have loved to have been permitted to join in.

We are creating still another place to sit and watch the birds — this time in the front yard. A squirrel-proof (you believe that?) feeder pole will offer birdy treats on its four arms while we sit in comfort in a cushioned glider on the porch. With a total of four outside sitting areas, do you think there's going to be much accomplished around here except birdwatching? Just keeping our priorities straight.

Dan Scheiman asks if getting number 300 on his Arkansas state bird list is newsworthy. Yes, yes it is, Dan. Congratulations! The species was a Marbled Godwit sighted at Treadway's Fish Farm on Aug. 12.

In further news from Dan he reported on a field trip of the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas made on Aug. 18 to Ball Knob NWR. At the shorebird impoundment, the 18 Auduboners were joined by nearly that many more birders to view the masses of waders and shorebirds gathered there. Highlights among the species included Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, a possible American Golden-plover, Roseate Spoonbill and Lark Sparrow.

Later in the day after a strong thunderstorm had disrupted birding, some of the group reconvened at Treadway's Fish Farm. Among the species found there were Black Tern, Forster's Tern, Piping Plover, Wilson's Phalarope, and at least one Western Sandpiper. By the time Dan left the group, Jeff Wilson and Kenny Nichols had tallied 23 shorebirds for the day and were shooting for 25. Anyone want to take my bet they made it?

Cheryl Lavers sent information about a trip to Costa Rica. I'll quote her here: "Herschel Raney, Bo Verser, Norman Lavers and I visited the La Selva research station of the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica in early April. The wealth of wildlife was amazing. Our combined bird lists hit 210 species — and that from observers who were as obsessed with the insects and mammals as the birds much of the time.

"There were bullet, leaf-cutter and army ants, clear-wing and owl butterflies, tiny poison arrow and huge smoky jungle frogs, howler monkeys waking us each day at 4 a.m. with spider and Capuchin monkeys in the jungle. Among my favorite activities were watching the Pale-billed Woodpeckers (relatives of the Ivory-billed) landing on stumps right next to the path and giving their 'double-knock;' and seeing first one and then two Sunbitters come out of the jungle to hunt amongst the boulders and fallen branches on the riverbank. There were many such moments. Even several species of robber flies! What a terrific place!"

I found Cheryl's account of the Costa Rica trip of special interest because Sterling and I are going there with a group of master gardeners from Arkansas leaving Oct. 30. This will be my first trip there but Sterling has been twice before, going once to La Selva.

A paper recently printed in Entomological News was co-authored by AAS's own Herschel Raney and Norman Lavers with Dr. Jeffrey Barnes, curator of the University of Arkansas Arthropod Museum. The paper is titled "Robber Flies (Diptera: Asilidae) of Arkansas, USA. Notes and a Checklist." Through their work over the past several years the authors have added 66 species to the Arkansas state list of 108 recorded.

For her part in the research Cheryl says "I paid in blood lost to ticks and mosquitoes, and frequent near heat prostration accompanying them!" Congratulations to the authors — and to Cheryl for her obvious dedicated support.

On Aug. 17 while waiting for bats to start flying, Don Simmons observed two Cedar Waxwings making fast sorties out from their perches atop tall trees to catch dragonflies. He watched the action for about 20 minutes, having never before seen waxwings acting like flycatchers. This was his first summer record of the species for Magazine, Mountain with his latest spring sighting being May 25.

Checking for the flycatching waxwings late the next day after his first sighting, they were a no-show but Don says he did see an Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Kelly Chitwood writes that she is entertained by the extremely tame Greater Roadrunner which hangs out on the grounds at the Crescent Hotel. Once while she was squatting on the ground — a miracle in itself, she says — to get a photo, the bird was no more than six to eight feet away. Best viewing is late in the afternoon in the gardens on the southwest side of the hotel.

Helen Parker sends the following message: "We have been most appreciative of the many messages from AAS members and the many gifts honoring the memory of our son."

We see a Mississippi Kite or two flying

See Members on Page 6.
From the Camp

Three camp sessions for the first time; all successful

The June 2007 Ecology Camp sessions have come and gone. Once again we held two sessions for new and senior campers. Senior campers are invited to return for a second year of study. And for the first time ever we held an Advanced Camp for third year campers at Mount Eagle near Botkinburg. Those Advanced Campers had already attended Camp Clearfork near Crystal Springs as both new and senior campers.

We continue to enjoy the support of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission which funded 25 scholarships at $200 each, a total of $5,000. Their continued support allows us to hold a second session each June which gives 62 11- and 12-year-old boys and girls the chance to broaden their understanding of nature.

Roughly 40 percent of the cost of camp comes from camper tuition. The other 60 percent comes from a variety of sources — scholarships and financial assistance donations from Audubon chapters and other nature groups like the Mena Nature Club, Arkansas Native Plant Society and Ozark Society chapters, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, our annual fall appeal plus memorials and honorariums. It takes all of those funding sources combined to come close to balancing our annual budget.

In recent years the Ecology Camp has also been the recipient of special bequests including donations of cash and stocks plus being a beneficiary in a will. Those exceptional donations have strengthened our financial base and allowed us to consider camp expansion like this year's Advanced Camp for third year students.

I wish every donor, large or small, could spend a week at camp to see what their contribution is yielding — a great group of young boys and girls whose sense of the world around them is enriched by their camp experience.

If you would like 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 wish your donation to remain anonymous, we will honor that request.

Barry Haas
Camp treasurer


Jean Pierzchala

Donations by Organizations
Hot Springs Village Audubon Society
Garland County Audubon Society
Ark. Native Plant Society
Ark. Game and Fish Commission

Donations by Individuals
Brian and Mary Beth Trubitt
Perk and Leannah Floyd

Memorials and Honoraria
Art and Martha Johnson
In memory of Jack Hepinstall

Barry Haas and Susan Hardin
In memory of Jack Hepinstall

Edwina and Jack Morrison
In memory of Jack Parker
Bill Shepherd
In memory of Jack Parker
Francie Bolter
In honor Mary Virginia Ferguson

Claire Shaw
In memory of Edith and Henry Halberg
Dolores and Don Harrington
In memory of Jack Parker
In honor of Helen and Max Parker

Members from Page 5

over our area of town frequently but were treated to the sighting of six a couple of mornings ago as we took our walk. They were flying around and perching atop large trees a block or so from our house. Seeing that many, I recalled the previous evening having had the trees in our backyard buzz with cicadas, which are relished by kites.

Our next extensive trip will be a cruise in the Western Caribbean leaving from Galveston Sept. 30. But for the time being I'm staying close to home, deeply involved in preparing for our ninth annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies on Sept. 15.

Gotta go pack my toothbrush for an overnight in Haynesville.
ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY CALL TO CONFERENCE

The 2007 fall conference of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be held 26-28 October in Little Rock, Arkansas. Friday registration will be at the Crowne Plaza Little Rock from 4:00-6:00 pm.

For accommodations, please contact Crowne Plaza Little Rock at 1-866-276-6648. Be sure to mention Arkansas Audubon Society to get the special reduced room rate of $119.00 + tax.

Conveniently located at 201 S. Shackleford Road, near the intersection of Interstates 630 and 430 in west Little Rock, meals and programs will be at the Crowne Plaza Little Rock.

Complete the form below (or a copy) and mail to: Jason Luscier, AAS Vice President
Dept. of Biological Sciences SCEN 632
1 University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701-1201

Mail by 5 October to qualify for the Early Bird discount and subtract $5 per person from the registration fee. For questions contact Jason at 479-871-9199 or jluscie@uark.edu.

2007 Fall Conference of AAS
REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s):________________________________________

Address:________________________________________

City:_________________________________ State:____________ Zip:____________

Telephone:________________________ E-mail:________________________

Please place an “X” in the following box if this is your first AAS meeting or if you have not attended in a while (e.g., more than 5 years or so): ☐

Meeting Registration # ________ @ $20/person $__________
* Early Bird: 5 October or before = $15/person
* Children under 16 with adult = free

Friday evening meal # ________ @ $22/person $__________

Saturday evening meal # ________ @ $22/person $__________

Donations to help pay meeting costs $__________

TOTAL $__________

Make checks payable to Arkansas Audubon Society. See note to students on page 13 of Arkansas Birds
ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY
2007 Fall conference
26-28 October
Crowne Plaza Little Rock

AGENDA:

FRIDAY, 26 OCTOBER:
Board Meeting 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Registration 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Dinner 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm
Evening Program 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Speaker: Rob Doster, current member and past president of AAS, Bureau of
Reclamation in Albuquerque, NM, “Life and Times of the Willow Flycatcher – An
Update From the Southwest”

Door prizes and descriptions of Saturday’s field trips.

SATURDAY, 27 OCTOBER:
Field Trips

A - Two Rivers Park: Depart at 7:00 a.m. from Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn parking lot. Is located
along the Arkansas River and offers several different types of habitat including: woods, wetlands,
and grasslands. Easy walking.

B - Bell Slough: Depart at 6:45 a.m. from Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn parking lot. Woodlands
and marsh. Easy walking.

C - Lonoke: Depart at 7:15 a.m. from Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn parking lot. Explore the fish
ponds for shorebirds and ducks. Mostly by car with little walking.

D - Murray Lock & Dam/ Cooks Landing: Depart at 7:15 a.m. from Crowne Plaza Holiday Inn
parking lot. Ducks, gulls and other water birds are possible here with very little walking.

E - David D. Terry Lock & Dam/ Willow Beach: Depart at 7:00 a.m. from Crowne Plaza
Holiday Inn parking lot. Little walking.

Committee Meetings As needed – chairs will designate time and place
AAS Trust Meeting 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Trust/Camp Reception 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Dinner 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm
Evening Program 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Speaker: Paul Hamel, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research, Stoneville, MS,
“The Forgotten Cerulean Warblers of the Mid-South”

Weekend checklist, door prizes, and discussion of field trips for Sunday, 28 October
From the Trust

More help needed to meet the Hander challenge

The Arkansas Audubon Society Trust currently has one challenge it is working hard to meet. The Hot Springs Village Audubon Society has offered to donate $1,000 to the Trust if we can raise $2,000 or more in matching donations by this fall’s Arkansas Audubon Society meeting in Little Rock. As of Aug. 19 we have raised only $1,200 of the $2,000 or more needed to meet that challenge with only two months remaining to raise an additional $800 or more. Will you help?

So, let’s say you decide to donate to the Trust. What happens to that money? The Trust invests its endowment funds in bonds that pay dividends, the income from which is then used to fund or partially fund grant applications. You can look at back issues of Arkansas Birds to see the wide range of work being done by grant recipients. Grant recipients, primarily graduate students in recent years, work increases our knowledge of birds and other wildlife along with their habitat and other needs so we can help their populations be productive and hopefully thrive in an increasingly hostile world.

A second challenge made by Fred and Helen Hander of Fort Smith was for AAS members to donate $10 per month, or $120 a year, to the Trust. Fred and Helen hope to increase the Trust’s Endowment-Memorial Fund so that more income will be generated and more grants can be funded. The Trust Endowment-Memorial Fund currently has $106,445 which yields income of about $7,100 annually.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker Fund has an additional $1,012 available for work related to endangered RCWs. Know of a good RCW project?

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 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock, Ark. 72223-9201. Anyone wishing to make an anonymous donation to the Trust may do so by requesting anonymity.

Barry Haas
Trust treasurer

AAS Trust Donations – May 17-Aug. 19, 2007

Endowment-Memorial Fund

Hardin Family
In memory of Dovie Reed
Barry Haas and Susan Hardin
In memory of Jack Parker
Maury and Barbara Baker
In memory of Frances Sowards

Hot Springs Village AS Challenge

B.J. Cutrell
In memory of Jack Parker
In memory of Jack Hepinstall
Richard Preston
Hot Springs Village AS Challenge

John C. Calhoun, Jr.
Hot Springs Village AS Challenge

Anonymous
Hot Springs Village AS Challenge
Frank and Mary Reuter
In memory of Jack Parker

Leif Anderson
In memory of Jack Parker
In memory of Rosa Lee Gardner
In memory of Jack Hepinstall
In memory of Frances Sowards

Gator aid

Jim Gann, in the photo at left, shows off a young alligator to the campers at the Halberg Ecology Camp. Gann was a co-director for this year’s camp.

Renn Tumilson photo

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 larger orders, contact Parker.
Halberg Camp aims to affect the future for better

By Renn Tumlison
For Arkansas Birds

An Iroquois proverb states "In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations." What we do today affects people, and the planet, for quite some time. At camp, we hope to affect the future for the better. One way to evaluate that effort is to know the feelings the campers had about their experiences at the Audubon Ecology Camp.

One "thank you" note from a scholarship recipient read, "Thank you, for everything. I have learned so much. I can't even begin. I love this camp. I don't even want to leave. I am so excited that there is a third year camp for 14, and 13 year olds. I hope I am one of them. Being a camper here has opened up my life to show me there is more than one thing to live by. I always talk about the best thing that has ever happened to me. Can you guess what it is — this camp. The teachers here are fantastic. No, so much better than that. Thank you for the scholarship, memories, and friends."

In some of the notes written by scholarship recipients, about every class was mentioned as being that camper's favorite. Good food and friends were mentioned many times. This sample of comments does not include the names of the campers so none might be embarrassed (the spelling also is as they wrote it).

— Ur camp is really fun. I just want to tell U that U are an amazing people ... Thanks a lot for everything.
— My favorite thing about camp is all the different classes.
— I loved so many things to do here ... I just loved it.
— I loved camp, and I really hope to come back next year. Everything was perfect ... I felt so nervous when I first got here, but now, I don't want to leave.
— Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go to the Audubon Ecology Camp. I really enjoyed doing all of the activities, especially seeing live mammals and reptiles. I really loved this time — a happy camper.
— Thank you for the experience of the Wildlife and the scholarship. The friends and counselors are wonderful, so thank you for the experience.
— I have had a lot of fun. I've also learned a lot of things. Being here is one of the best things that ever happened to me but leaving is one of the worst. It makes me feel so bad that I have to leave my NEW friends. I just wanted to say thanks and good things can happen very commonly.
— Thank you for choosing me for this exciting wondrous experience. I've learned and experienced very unusual stuff like mining for fool's gold, picking up reptiles (snakes, lizards, and turtles) and feel real animals fur. I've also learned about recycling cans and conserving water.
— I've learned and I want to learn more.
— This was the best week I've ever had.

The 2007 Ecology Camp consisted of two sessions, the first held June 17-22 and the second held June 24-29, which marked our 25th year of the camp. This was the eighth year that two camps were held in one year, supported partly by the generosity of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The camps were held at Camp Clearfork in the Ouachita Mountains near Crystal Springs in Garland County. This place provides a variety of outdoor learning areas, including a stream, a pond, and several nature trails.

There was a good bit of rain during the two weeks this year, but the camp protocol and events continued much the same as had been described in previous issues of Arkansas Birds. Classes were prepared for the possibility of wet weather by use of tents purchased a few years ago. 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, and we also had an entomology watch station in the evening. This consisted of a blacklight and mercury vapor lamp set up against a white sheet, which really attracted insects.

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. Don Simons from Arkansas State Parks made presentations to both camps using skins and skulls of mammals. Wildlife rehabiliter Lynne Slater came to both sessions and showed the campers a Red-tailed Hawk. Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax" was shown to both sessions, and evening

See Campers, Page 9
Campers from Page 8

games simultaneously provided fun and lessons about nature. Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna, who taught ornithology during both sessions, provided a mini concert of environmentally based songs both weeks, which was very well received by the campers and staff.

The advanced campers enjoyed a field trip on the Ouachita National Forest near Needmore, but it was mostly rained out the first week. Personnel of the national forest conducted the field trip, and their time and effort is greatly appreciated by the camp.

Our camp food was great! Food Director Ava Arsaga and her help (Virginia Buff, Taylor Henschell, Rebecca Rosser, and Bob Schwenkler) 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. They also "went the extra mile" to obtain organically grown products.

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 Schafer and Mendi Kildow; Aquatic Biology, Stacey Buff and Rose Netherland; Botany, Joann Bodkin and Aaron Hinterthuer; Entomology, Bill Rosser and Brian Baldwin; Geology, Paul Lowrey and Paul Sandefur; Ornithology, Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna; Mammalogy/Herpetology, Renn Tumilson and Kory Roberts; Camp Nurse, Jetta Roberg; and Activity Director, Julia Roberg.

The staff for the second session was arranged by shifting some duties of some previous staffers, and the inclusion of a few new people. The changes in faculty were: Advanced Ecology, Janet McAllister assisted Adam; Aquatic Biology, Mendi Kildow assisted Rose; Geology, Jenn Smedlund worked with Paul; Camp Nurse, Deborah Eaton; Activities director, Stacey Buff. A new position, called the camp cleanliness coordinator, was added this year to help keep the restrooms and camp clean and organized. Jenn Smedlund did the job the first week, and Tamzen Tumilson worked the second week. Many of this list of staffers have served for many camps (one as long as 28 years).

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 and other camp staff. The images were set to music. The week in review is simultaneously a funny and a sad time, and the parents got a glimpse of the camp through that same program shown on Friday morning.

One song used during the camp review presentation is "Pass it on down" by Alabama. That song, the efforts of the camp, the vision of the Audubon Society Camp committee and the various groups that support the camp, all seem to be consistent with the philosophy of seven generations — what we do today affects many tomorrows.

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.
# Results of the 2007 International Migratory Bird Count in Arkansas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th># counts &amp; High Count</th>
<th>2007 totals</th>
<th># Pts (in 27 14 pts)</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th># counts &amp; High Count</th>
<th>2007 totals</th>
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<td>Salton, Pine</td>
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The tables: In one table are the results by county for broad species groups. "High Count" refers to the county with the highest totals for that group. "2007 Totals" is the total for the group across the state. Individual County statistics are listed at the end of the table.

In the second table are individual species results. "# counts & High counts" is the number of counties that had the species and the county with the high count. "2007 totals" is the total for the species, across the state. "# yrs in (in 07 14 pos)" refers to how many years the species has been found during migration count.

Observations: Pope County led with 142 species. Faulkner County had the most individuals — 4470.

Species normally seen, but missed this time included several shorebird species, especially Semipalmated Plover, Western Sandpiper and Dowitchers. No gulls or Bewick’s Wren were found. Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush departed well before the count. Yellow-headed Blackbird was missed and the territorial Cerulean Warblers couldn’t be found on count day. (Before or after, no problem!)

Birds located only in one county included Snow and Ross’s Goose and Virginia Rail in Benton County; N. Harrier in Faulkner County Spotted Towhee in Lonoke County; Tricolored Heron in Phillips County; Peregrine Falcon and Red Crossbill in Pope County; Nelson Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Washington County.

Birds new to the migration count included Mute Swan in Garland County, Sandhill Crane and GRAY KINGBIRD in Pope County. Despite extra searches for several days, the kingbird could not be relocated. If accepted by the AAS records committee the kingbird would be a first state record.

Comparing date over time: Total individuals were converted to individuals per party hour. This allows a count with one party to be compared to one with 10 parties and also across years. You set new highs for Rock Pigeon, Western Kingbird, Bell’s Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren and Dark-eyed Juno. We set new lows for Wood Duck, Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Cattle Egret, Swainson’s Hawk, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Rough-winged Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray-checked and Swainson’s Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned and Blackburnian Warbler, Common and Great-tailed Grackle, the waterbird and hawk groups.

General observations: Eastern Kingbirds were lowest since 1999. Cedar Waxwings lowest since ’93 and may have done a short reverse migration (with possible nesting south of normal range.) Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seem to occur in greater numbers at higher elevations (Magazine Mountain and the Ozark Plateau.)

If you still have data please send it in, and I’ll add it to the database. If you would like a more detailed look at the

See IMBC, Page 12
### INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD COUNT MAY 12-13, 2007

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### IMBC from Page 11

2007 count or the 14 year summary. I'd be glad to send it to you by e-mail or USPS mail. E-mail me at Leanderson@fs.fed.us or call 479-284-3150 ext. 3151. If electronic please tell me which spreadsheet and word processing formats work best for you.

Thanks to all who got out and counted. Hope it was fun and that we'll see you next year.

Cheers,
Leif Anderson

### President from Page 2

records in their research work and that books have been written based, in part at least, on the data contained in Audubon files? Your AAS membership and, of course, the observations you send in support and add to this data treasure. Was contributing to science ever so much fun? And while our sense of what it “normal” will always be subject to personal experience and emotion, we at least have some reference points for referral.

Jack Stewart
AAS president

The AAS fall meeting will be Oct. 26-28 at the Crowne Plaza in Little Rock. The call-to-meeting is included in this issue of Arkansas Birds.
Webmaster from Page 1

York also manages the website for his church, Pulaski Heights United Methodist.

Managing the AAS website is “fairly straightforward,” York said. He relies on the AAS officers and updates from the newsletter for most of the material for the site. Because the society has only two meetings each year, there’s not so much updating of the site as there is for the ASCA website. “It is enjoyable responding to questions from site visitors about birds and the Audubon Society,” he said.

He works on the website on “my home machine and update the site via the Internet.” He doesn’t consider himself artistically talented, York said, so he’s happy to manage the site technically. He does welcome input from AAS members regarding changes or additions that they would like to see on the website.

Besides his work on the three websites, York still does a little birding. He has given up the Christmas Bird Count, and no longer participates in the breeding bird surveys because he has a loss of high frequency hearing. “Couldn’t hear the twitter of gnatchatchers unless they were sitting on my hat.”

He said he may go out to see rarities in the state after someone reports them. He has seen most of the birds that occur in the state.

York and his wife Carolyn, who live at Little Rock, have a son, John, who lives in Las Vegas, and a daughter, Michelle in Austin, Texas. They have two grown grandsons and a young granddaughter. “Our oldest grandson remotely flies a spy plane in Iraq,” he said.

To communicate with him about the website, e-mail York at lrbluejay@sbcglobal.net. And be sure to check arbirds.org even if you have to borrow a computer or visit the nearest library to use one.

Students invited to make presentations at state meeting

STUDENTS!!!!

Students are invited to present their research in the form of a short research presentation (12-15 min) or a poster presentation. All students are encouraged to update the AAS on current research. Please contact Jason Luscie at 479-871-9199 or jluscie@uark.edu if you’re interested in presenting or if you have any questions.

Student-Professional Mixer – There are several knowledgeable bird-related professionals in our state AND there are several students studying bird-related topics. Why not get together!! A social mixer will provide an excellent opportunity for students to network with professionals from around the state.

Student reduced registration fee is only $15.
Arkansas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 313
Pangburn, AR 72121-0313

Address Service Requested

Call-to-meeting enclosed

003-001---------------------3-DIGIT 722
Mel White
Paid thru 12-31-07
7227 Richwood Rd
Little Rock AR 72207-1740

Names and addresses of legislators, AAS officers and chairman

**Senators and Congressmen**

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Treasurer: Barry Haas, (501) 821-4097, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock 72223, E. bhaas@sbcglobal.net

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