2008 Arkansas Audubon Society Fall Convention
DeGray Lake Resort State Park

Jerry Davis was the speaker for the Friday evening session of the Arkansas Audubon Society's 108th biannual convention. The convention was held Oct. 24-26 at DeGray Lake Resort State Park near Arkadelphia, and Jack Stewart, AAS president, presided.

Davis, the forest wildlife program manager for the Ouachita National Forest, entitled his presentation “Conservation/management for birds at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area in Southeastern Oklahoma.

During the session, Jason Luscier, AAS Vice President, announced the Saturday field trips. They included: Ross Foundation property that is managed for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Hulsey Fish Hatchery, Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds for wintering ducks and other water birds, DeGray Lake shoreline and Millwood Lake.

Global warming workshop

A special feature of the convention was a workshop Saturday afternoon on global warming. Area students and teachers had been invited to attend the workshop, and several persons made presentations.

Jack and Pam Stewart reviewed a film, which portrayed skepticism about human-caused global warming theories. The Stewarts presented arguments concerning connections between the film's creators and industry. Ken Smith, director of Audubon Arkansas, provided a summary of the Governor’s Commission on Global Warming Panel recommendations to reduce greenhouse emissions in Arkansas.

Mary Smith, director of education for Audubon Arkansas, introduced two students from Mountain Pine High School's EAST lab. The students' program concerned their efforts to collect evidence to nominate Lake Ouachita as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Smith directed an interactive session with attendees focusing on what each person can do about global warming.

Butcher Saturday session speaker

After dinner Saturday evening, Ken Smith introduced members of the Little Rock Audubon Arkansas staff, and invited AAS members to attend the Nov. 14 groundbreaking for the new Audubon Arkansas office in Little Rock. He introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Greg Butcher, director of bird conservation for the National Audubon Society.

Butcher's presentation, “Responses of birds to global warming,” was based on an analysis of 40 years of Christmas Bird Count data. He said the fact that common birds are in peril is cause for concern, and that the data confirms birds are moving north and inland. He presented ways in which each person can help mitigate the loss of habitat and diminishing bird populations.

Following the program, Stewart announced that the 2009 spring convention will be at Petit Jean, and the 2009 fall convention will be the last weekend in September with the location to be announced at a later date. He asked members

Convention continued on page 9
From the President
A trio of thanks

You have doubtless heard of the three tenors, Carreras, Domingo, and Pavarotti? This is a song of thank you in three verses sung in C major. Unfortunately, you will have to supply the melody – and the tenors.

The first thank you goes to Audubon Arkansas for funding the transportation costs for our keynote speaker, Dr. Greg Butcher to fly in from Washington D.C. for the Lake DeGray convention. In addition, Audubon Arkansas Education Director, Mary Smith, helped us put together a Saturday workshop, “Global Warming – Finding Solutions for Where You Live.” Thirty AAS members took part in this first-ever, post-field-trip offering. We look forward to other cooperative ventures.

The second thank you goes to all of you who took the time to complete the Arkansas Audubon Society Survey. The results have been compiled and shared with board members and committee chairs. You can expect us to ask for your help as we attempt to implement your wishes and follow through on your suggestions. In the near future, for example, we hope to experiment with the convention dates so that our gatherings are more likely to coincide with migration peaks.

For many years this publication has been ably edited by Dolores Harrington. Dolores has decided to retire and we wish her years of birding adventures in retirement. We also hope to see more of her at state conventions. There was a collective sigh of relief when skilled graphic designer and ardent birder, Kelly Chitwood, agreed to take over as editor of Arkansas Birds. A special thank you to Dolores and Kelly.

Jack Stewart
AAS President

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dolores Harrington for her invaluable support with this issue of Arkansas Birds. - Kelly Chitwood

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Obituary

J.O. Gibson

Funeral services for James O. "J.O." Gibson Jr., 76, of Harrison, AR, were held on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, at Harrison First United Methodist Church with internment in Square Rock Cemetery, Waldron, Scott County, AR.

He was born in Waldron, and had lived in Harrison since 1959. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and Oklahoma A & M, J.O. retired as a livestock specialist with Emeritus status from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in 1992.

In 1973 J.O. was awarded the County Extension Agents Distinguished Service Award and in 1996 received the UA, Dept. of Science, Graduate of Distinction award in recognition of outstanding contributions and achievements as a graduate of the Department of Animal Science. His picture hangs in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Sally Jo (Foster) Gibson, four children: Janet Salmon and husband, Frank, Victorville, CA; James O. Gibson III and wife, Dorothy, Cabot AR; Carolyn Hubbell and husband Don, Batesville, AR; Sally Hennard and husband Don, DeQueen, AR, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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The Arkansas Audubon Society Newsletter is a quarterly publication of Arkansas Audubon Society Inc., a nonprofit organization, P.O. Box 313, Pangburn, AR 72121.

Issue dates are: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15.

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

Send submissions for the newsletter to: Kelly Chitwood, 1023 Austin, Camden, AR 71701. Digital submissions can be sent to: kchitwood@cablelynx.com.

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

Visit the Arkansas Audubon Society website: arbirds.org
Distribution and Abundance of Arkansas Birds
The Summer Season — May - August 2008

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

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK—Nine were seen 7-19 at Camp Nine Farm, Desha County (Dick Baxter, Sarah Baxter). This is a rare summer resident found almost exclusively in southeast Arkansas.

GADWALL—Two females were found by Kenny Nichols at Bald Knob on 6-13, and one male was observed from 6-6 past the end of July by David Chapman, Mike Mlodinow, Jacque Brown, and David Oakley at Lake Fayetteville. In the last 22 years (those covered by the AAS online database) there have been 9 previous reports in summer, all from either southern or northwestern Arkansas.

AMERICAN WIGEON—an adult male was discovered at Bald Knob 6-13 (KN). This is only the fourth summer record since 1986.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL—Bruce Shackleford photographed two females with eighteen young at Woolsey Wet Prairie, Fayetteville 6-24. This is the eighth breeding record for Arkansas, and the first with more than one set of young.

NORTHERN SHOVELER—Dan Scheiman and Dennis Braddy found one at Bald Knob on 7-26. There are seven previous summer records in the AAS database.

NORTHERN PINTAIL—At Bald Knob ten were seen 6-13 (KN), and two were there 7-26 (DSc, DBr). This is only the fourth record in summer in the last 22 years.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL—Another duck from Bald Knob: two were seen 6-15 (KN), and one on 7-26 (DSc, DBr). This is the sixth summer record for the online database.

CANVASBACK—The rarest of the ducks found this summer, a male made an appearance at Treadway’s Minnow Farms, Prairie County 6-14 (KN, LaDonna Nichols). This is only the third summer record (and the second since 1986) for Arkansas.

RING-NECKED DUCK—Three were at Bald Knob 6-13 (KN), and two were there 7-26 (DSc, DBr). In addition two males were found 7-12 at Arkansas Post National Memorial, Arkansas County (Rob Doster, Glenn J. Manning). There are nine previous summer records in the AAS database.

RUDDY DUCK—Seven were counted at Treadway’s Minnow Farms 6-14 (KN), while a single bird, the twenty-second summer record since 1986, was at Bald Knob 7-26 (DSc, DBr).

EARED GREBE—The second summer record was discovered on 6-2 (DBa) and seen again 6-14 (KN) at Treadway’s, Prairie County.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT—An adult that was seen on Lake Pine Bluff (RD) both on 5-19 and 7-12 appears to be summering there. It is rarely found in summer (there are eleven previous records in the AAS database), and has bred at Lake Millwood, but primarily breeds far to the northwest of Arkansas.

LEAST BITTERN—Large numbers were found at Camp Nine Farm, Desha County: 27 on 6-27 (DBa) and 25 on 7-19 (DBa, SB). Smaller numbers were found at Bois d’Arc Wildlife Management Area 6-28 (KN, LN), and at Arkansas Post, Arkansas County 7-12 (RD). These nest very locally, and usually in small numbers.

TRICOLORED HERON—This rare summer resident was found at Bald Knob, where it occurs nearly every year: one adult, 7-26 (DSc, DBr); and in the Little River Bottoms, Hempstead County: two adults, 7-13 (DSc).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON—Somewhat rare in the Ozarks one adult was seen near Gentry, Benton County, 6-9 by Joyce Shedell, and two birds were found near Cotter, Baxter County, 7-20 by Gail H. and Scott King.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL—Somewhat rare, but seen annually, and increasing, four were seen at Camp Nine Farm, Desha County, 7-19 (DBa, SB).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK—Leif Anderson found these birds at six locations: three in Pope, and one in each of Fulton, Searcy, and Ashley Counties. In addi-

See Birds on page 4
tion, nests were discovered at the three in Pope County and at the Searcy County sites. This is a rare summer resident found mainly in northern Arkansas. There are only 10 previous nesting records, and about 30 previous reports during the summer. Also, the Ashley County record was only the third summer record for southern Arkansas.

**KING RAIL**—One found at Bald Knob, 6-6 (KN). This rare species found mainly from April through early October, has never been reported from this location before. It is somewhat north and west of its usual range for summer.

**COMMON Moorhen**—The adult seen 7-19 (KN, LN) at Treadway's was north of its usual range, and may be the first Prairie County record.

**American Avocet**—One to two were seen from 6-3 to 6-13 at Bald Knob (KN, Bill Alexander, Robert Pearrow). Though it's at least somewhat rare at any time, this is only the fourth record for June. All of these were in early June, so they were likely spring migrants.

**Willet**—Five were found at Treadway's, 7-13 (KN). It's very uncommon during the southward migration, which takes place mainly in July and August.

**Upland Sandpiper**—The single in Jefferson County, 7-16 (DBa, Heath Garner, Jimmy Gore); the two at Woolsey Wet Prairie, Fayetteville, 7-22 (MM); and the two at the University Farm, Fayetteville, 7-27 (MM) were all unusually early. Most fall records are from August.

**Least Sandpiper**—The sixth June record was a single found at the Craig Fish Hatchery 6-6 (MM, JB).

**Baird's Sandpiper**—The two at the Craig Fish Hatchery, 6-6 (JB, MM) was the fifth record for June.

**Dunlin**—The singles reported at Treadway's, 6-2 (DBa), and at Craig, 6-1 (JB, MM, DO) were only the third and fourth reports during June.

**Laughing Gull**—One was seen near Kelso, Desha County, 6-9 (DBa), while another was found at Treadway's, 6-14 (KN, LN). This species has occurred with some regularity at Lake Dardenelle and Lake Millwood from September through February. But, there are only two previous June records, and five previous records for the summer season.

**Caspian Tern**—Rare in late June, Andrew Scaboo found one bird, 6-22, and 4 on 6-23 at Bobb Kidd Lake, Washington County.

**White-winged Dove**—On 7-28 Charles McCutchen discovered one at Springdale, Washington County. First reported in 1994, there have been about 37 records from 20 counties, scattered throughout the state in all seasons. The species is rare, but is increasing.

**Black-billed Cuckoo**—Martha Koebel may jotted one down near Pine Ridge, Montgomery County 6-6. Even more remarkable, one was observed near Ben Hur, Searcy County, 7-18 (LA). This is a rare migrant, and a very rare summer resident. Most June records are from early June, when the species is still migrating. So the last record represents one of a very few probable breeding records, while the first bird was probably a transient.

**Bewick's Wren**—A singing male was found 6-8 near the Norwood Church, Benton County (MM, JB). It could not be relocated on later days, so it probably did not breed at this location. This is an increasingly rare species, especially during summer.

**Yellow Warbler**—A singing male was found near Bassett, Mississippi County, 6-28 (LA), suggesting breeding. This warbler almost never breeds outside of the Ozarks.

**Lark Sparrow**—One was found near Kelso, Desha County, a place where it's not known to breed, on 7-19 (DBa, SB). This bird was likely a fall migrant, as the species migrates very early. There are few reports of fall migrants, especially in southeastern Arkansas.

Mike Mlodinow
Bird records reporter
News of Members

By Loice K. Lacy for Arkansas Birds

Sixty-six of us enjoyed the fall Arkansas Audubon Society meeting at Lake DeGray State Park, outnumbered by the 115 bird species seen that weekend by almost two to one. Each of us needs to work toward increasing our membership numbers by contacting our friends, neighbors, fellow workers, Joe the Plumber, whoever.

At the meeting we had the pleasure of being at table for the Friday evening meal with Lou Johnson and her sister, AAS life member Terry Presly, both from Jonesboro. Lou remarked that recently seeing a Nashville Warbler in her backyard had fanned the flame of her once-avid interest in birding which had waned with the disbanding of their local birding club. The chance to visit with old friends and to make new ones is always one of the highlights of the spring and fall AAS meetings.

On Saturday at the meeting we chose to go to the Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds with our able leader, Helen Parker. She led a small group consisting of Jeri McMahon, Pat Moore, Carolyn Minson, Dr. Fred Hander, and Sterling and me. Small in numbers, great in expertise.

Speaking of expertise, any I might have claimed in the field of botany failed me when I was asked to identify a showy yellow composite growing in profusion in and around the water at the ponds. I kept saying it looked like it might be of the Bidens genus, however I was only familiar with the common Tickseed Sunflower, Bidens aristosa. We did not have a wildflower field guide along. Big mistake. However, after Carolyn consulted a book Saturday night, she called me in my room to say it was Bidens laevis, a species known from only a few counties in Arkansas. I have a flip saying, “Just about the time I think I know everything, I learn something new.” But what a dull existence it would be if we didn’t awaken each morning to a world of new discoveries and additional knowledge!

Many of you knew Cecil Kendrick, my late husband, and his knack for frank, unusual and often amusing, comments. Once when we were with a group out wildflower looking, I had been able to identify some of the plants for the others when someone turned to Cecil and asked, “How does she know the names of so many plants?” His reply, “She doesn’t. She just makes them up, thinking we won’t know any better.” Well, I wouldn’t dare risk that with anyone from the Arkansas Audubon Society. Too much knowledge there on all things wild and beautiful.

As I mentioned before, Jeri McMahon was with us on the Saturday birding trip in spite of a still-painful ankle that had suffered breaks in three places in June. A real trooper, that Jeri.

Jeri’s accident happened while she was in Utah at the ABA Convention. The second night there, I believe it was, while out owlimg with friends, in the excitement of seeing and photographing a Flammulated Owl, she fell down a steep incline. Was she concerned primarily about her own condition? No. It was, “Where’s my camera? Someone find my camera.” Well, naturally that was the important thing. Bones heal, but that camera contained the only photo of the Flammulated Owl that was obtained by the group of five birders.

After having surgery at a Salt Lake City hospital, Jeri spent four days there before returning home to Oklahoma. Once home, she was in a wheelchair for two months, the ironic thing being that her husband was in one at the same time. He has had a leg amputated and had developed an infection which prevented the wearing of his prosthesis. Jeri said that with only two good legs between them, it was sometimes comical as the two wheeled about their home trying hard not to run into one another. With the help of good friends and neighbors, they survived with Jim now fine, again walking and driving. And Jeri? Cured of cabin fever, she’s back out with the birds, consoled for all her suffering with that sighting and photo of the Flammulated Owl.

We consider our tenth annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies to have been a success in spite of the ravages of the storms kicked up by Ike. This was the first time in the ten years that bad weather has cut back attendance. Reports of tornadoes skipping around in the area caused a mass exodus in mid-afternoon, yet six musicians and a faithful group of listeners braved the elements to return to the fairgrounds for an evening of music. With the storm raging, everyone was reluctant to get back out in the rain so the musicians just kept playing until 11:00 p.m. I’ve heard it from several of the musicians and from some of the audience that they enjoyed this year’s performance more than any other.

I wonder how it compares with one in the early years of the festival when some of the musicians played on the fairgrounds until 2:30 a.m.? At that time, as we were having the festival on Sunday also, we hired a night watchman to guard the wares of the vendors who had their booths outside under the livestock pavilion. When I left to go home that night at a rather late hour, the watchman, who was enjoying the music, announced to the players, “I have to stay up all night and so do you. The gates are locked.” A great number of hours later he must have relented because that fence would have...
From the Camp
Halberg Ecology Camp Fall Appeal continues

The Halberg Ecology Camp Annual Fall Appeal is in full swing as this is written in mid-November. Donations are arriving almost daily, with nearly $3,000 received to date. Of the total just over $2,400 has come from AAS members and general supporters plus another $525 from parents and grandparents of former camp students. The February 2009 newsletter will include more complete information on Fall Appeal donation totals.

We welcome your support for the Ecology Camp, and every donation, no matter how large or small, is appreciated. To make a donation to the Ecology Camp, please mail a check made payable ‘AAS Halberg Ecology Camp’ to 804 Konrad Ct., Little Rock, AR 72223-9201.

All donations are 100% 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 always honor that request.

Barry H. Haas, Treasurer
Halberg Ecology Camp

Ecology Camp Donations — August 16 - November 16, 2008

Fall Appeal
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$25 $50 $100

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804 Konrad Court
Little Rock, AR 72223-9201

All donations are 100 percent tax deductible as the camp is a part of the Arkansas Audubon Society and a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.
Thanks to YOUR generosity, we awarded $3,600 in grants to seven students during the fall meeting at Lake DeGray.

**Scott Chiavacci**, a MS student at Arkansas State University (ASU), received a grant of $700 for his project — Reproductive success, causes of nestling failure, and habitat use of Swallow-tailed Kite & Mississippi Kite in the White River NWR.

**Andrea Green**, a Ph.D. student at the University of Arkansas (UA), received a grant of $300 for her project — Evaluation of Sagebrush mowing techniques as a habitat enhancement strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse.

**Jeff Kimmons**, a Ph.D. student at the UA, received a grant of $450 for his project — Selective parental care of Arctic & Common Tern siblings during energy limitations: A stable isotope approach.

**Leesia Marshall-Rosenberger**, a Ph.D. student at the UA, received a grant of $300 for her project — The Louisiana Waterthrush, Seiurus motacilla, of the Upper Buffalo National River and its relationship to a changing riparian habitat.

**Maureen McClung**, a Ph.D. student at the UA, received a grant of $550 for her project — The response of avian communities to woodland restoration in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas.

**Bryan Reiley**, a MS student at ASU, received a grant of $700 - of which $300 was from the Max Parker fund for in-state bird research, for his project — Habitat use by the Swainson’s Warbler in a mosaic landscape.

**Sarah Thompson**, a MS student at ASU, received a grant of $600 for her project — The distribution, abundance, and habitat affinities of Bewick’s Wren (Thryomanes bewickii) in Arkansas.

We awarded $3,600 from grant requests of $20,000. As you can see there is always a need to grow the trust for future grants. Your contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated!

We are actively looking for businesses willing to grow the trust through a charitable contribution. If you know a business or corporation that would like to donate enough to buy a bond, then we would be thrilled to display their name on the award.

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**Nation’s economic difficulties have negative impact on AAS trust donations**

The Arkansas Audubon Society Trust Endowment-Memorial Fund continues to grow, but ever so slightly. After a number of years of robust increases in both the endowment and its earnings, the current national economic difficulties appear to be negatively impacting donations to the Trust.

The Trust’s main investments are highly rated investment grade bonds, considered the safest bonds to own. Several months ago one such bond issuer, Lehman Brothers, went bankrupt and at this time we do not know if or when the Trust will receive some or all of the bond’s $6,000 maturity value. This is a very challenging investment climate, by far the most difficult in my 12 years serving as Trust treasurer.

The Trust’s Endowment-Memorial Fund has inched up to $116,505.81 as of November 15. Trust investments continue to generate roughly $7,600 annually that Trustees can grant for research or other projects.

Donations to the Trust are 100% 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 Ct., Little Rock, AR 72223-9201. Anyone wishing to make an anonymous donation to the Trust may do so by requesting anonymity.

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**AAS Trust Donations**

(August 16 - November 15, 2008) Endowment-Memorial Fund

Dick & Elizabeth Taylor

In memory of Max Parker
Allan & Kathleen Mueller

In memory of J.O. Gibson
Allan & Kathleen Mueller
Helen Parker

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The Arkansas Audubon Society Spring Convention will be April 24-26, 2009 at Petit Jean State Park.
Birding Lake Maumelle

A. “Southern Rest Area”, 7.8 miles west on Highway 10.
C. “Western Rest Area”, 11.9 miles west on Highway 10.
D. “North Shore Landing” 11.9 miles north on Highway 300 and Roland Cut-Off.
E. Lake Maumelle Spillway, 4.5 miles north on Highway 300 in town of Natural Steps.

The Southern Rest Area offers easy access to the lake shore where you can hike along the shore either east or west. It is good for ducks, loons, grebes, gulls, etc. The SRA is on the west side of a bridge, on the east side is a cut-out where you can park and walk on an old abandoned road.

The Frank Lyon Jr. Fish Hatchery lies on the south side of the highway. It is a small sheltered lake that shows some activity although I would expect more. If I was waterfowl, I'd love it. On the opposite side of the highway is an abandoned road going into the lake and that gives a view of an abandoned marina. There is a better looking entrance to that marina about a half mile east but the Central Arkansas Water people do not want people parking there.

The Western Rest Area is just before the final Highway 10 bridge over the lake. From the rest area you have a clear view north through east, a spotting scope is recommended. You can walk along both sides of the bridge as well. Bridges usually imply there is water on both sides and this is no exception. On the western side of the bridge is a bay that usually looks pretty busy. The bad thing about that is the birds are usually on the far side. Fortunately, the Ouachita Trail runs along the lake shore here at least for a while and you can follow that to get closer to the reclusive birds. Like the SRA, you'll see loons, grebes, diving ducks, gulls, cormorants, and the occasional eagle. It is more consistently good than the SRA.

North Shore Landing is an abandoned commercial landing near the north-most point of the lake. Now all that remains is a slowly decaying paved loop that is good for walking and waterfowl. To get there, take Highway 300 to Roland and then go straight for 2 blocks after 300 turns to the right at the start of “downtown” Roland and then turn left. This takes you to Roland Cut-Off Road. Take this for about 3.5 miles until it meets Highway 300 and then turn left back onto 300. Go 0.5 miles and 300 will turn sharply to the right and there will be a large dug up area in front of you to stop vehicular access. That is it, park where you can. The first part is the only marginally strenuous part of the area. Once you get past that, it is a paved trail that soon provides a good view of the lake. North Shore Landing is probably not as busy as some of the other points in this article but you do get varied habitats and frankly it is a nice pleasant walk. The Ouachita Trail cuts through this area.

The Lake Maumelle Spillway is easily accessible from Highway 300 in Natural Steps. Turn left onto Spillway Road just as 300 does a 90 degree turn to the right and follow it about two blocks until the road turns sharply to the right and starts to go uphill. There is a Central Arkansas Water sign on the left telling you all the stuff you can't do. The Ouachita Trail runs through here, in fact everything I cover here is along the OT. As you enter, look left to a wooded area. This is great for woodpeckers. Once done here, turn around and head the other way. It will open up giving plenty of habitat for sparrows, wrens, creepers, etc. The trail continues to the dam and then around into a pine forest and back to the lake again.

James Dixon
jamesdixon.us

James Dixon, who has lived in central Arkansas most of his life, is an amateur naturalist who writes computer software for a living. He is a member of AAS, ASCA, NAS, NWF, Sierra Club and Central Arkansas Astronomical Society.

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It's not too late to participate in the 109th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count!
Contact Leif Anderson for more information: leanderson@fs.fed.us
ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Please enter my membership in the Arkansas Audubon Society as a:

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Please enroll me as a:

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Patron and Life Memberships are placed in the general fund.

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Membership is on an annual basis, due in January of each year, and includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter. For memberships make payment to ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY, and send to Terry Butler, Treasurer, P.O. Box 313, Pangburn, Arkansas 72121-0313.

Arkansas Audubon Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. If you do not need this slip, please use it to submit names for prospective members.

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For gifts to the Trust, make payment to ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY TRUST; detach lower section and mail to Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Ct., Little Rock, AR 72223.
to volunteer to fill vacant positions. Leif Anderson, AAS Trust chairman announced the fall 2008 Trust awards. Luscier tallied the weekend bird list, and announced that 115 species were counted.

After routine business - approval of minutes, treasurer’s report and others - Maury Baker, membership chairman, announced that AAS membership includes 332 households with 87 family memberships for a total of 419 members. There are 111 life members.

It was announced that Dolores Harrington had resigned as editor of Arkansas Birds.

Allan Mueller, conservation chairman, announced that AAS has signed on to three action issues pursued by the Bird Conservation Alliance. They include: The reauthorization and increased funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, The Land Management Plan for Western Oregon on land owned by the Bureau of Land Management to encourage less cutting and management of the water at Klamath Wildlife area in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

Stewart reported that he had attended the coal power plant meeting in Oklahoma and an Alliance of Energy meeting in Little Rock. He announced that a nominating committee was needed to select officers for the next two years.

The Traveling Migratory Bird Exhibit created by Steve Duzan and housed in the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center will be moved to the new Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock. Joe Neal, AAS curator, said the original David Plant painting of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, which hangs in the Ouachita Poteau/Cold Springs District office in Waldron, belongs to AAS.

Following various reports and a discussion of a recent survey concerning AAS, the meeting was adjourned.

Dolores Harrington for Arkansas Birds

Information for this story was gleaned from the minutes of the convention by Barbara Baker, AAS secretary.

been hard to scale.

One of the most remarkable things about this year’s festival is that I won the drawing for the beautiful butterfly quilt. Or rather Sterling did, but he says I can sleep under it with him. Rigged. Is that what you’re thinking?

AAS life member Dr. Ragupathy Kannan, professor of biology at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, has the required minimum of ten students in his ornithology class this semester thanks to Thurman Jordan, a past president of AAS. With only nine registered for the class in early August, after an appeal from Dr. Kannan, Thurman enrolled to audit the class, making the magic number of ten. Dr. Kannan has this to say about Thurman, “He comes regularly to class on time, attends all lectures and field trips, takes meticulous notes, and even bravely takes the tests when he really does not need to! All while being 85 years young! He is an inspiration to the students and is a joy to have along.”

Dr. Kannan is also high in his praise for another former AAS president, Sandy Berger, who accompanies the class on a birding field trip each Wednesday. He speaks of her “expertise and pleasant company” on the field trips.

Our trip to Egypt September 21 to October 6 produced many highlights but not very many bird species. Actually, I believe we saw more temples than birds! We were on a ship cruising the Nile for three days and then on another boat on Lake Nasser for three days, took a bus tour up to Alexandria, visited many museums and temples, watched rug weavers at work, took a hot air balloon ride — and rode a camel! Quite an experience, but for comfort I’ve advised my son in Texas to keep the horse.

If you’re like most everyone else, caught up in a life of multitasking, I have discovered a way to free up a little more time, my inspiration being the title of a book. If you’re doing the family laundry, you too can profit by recognizing, “Life is Too Short to Fold Your Underwear.”

And yes, we’re packing for a trip. We’re going to Shreveport tonight to see the award-winning play, Doubt, starring my grandson who is a professional actor. Then tomorrow we continue on to Salado, Texas, for a two-day reunion of Sterling’s Aggie class of 1946. Time to zipper that suitcase.

New contact information
loicelacy@att.net
Stuttgart Airport IBA: Grand Prairie birding at its best

Prior to settlement, the Grand Prairie ecosystem covered 900,000 acres in eastern Arkansas, 320,000 acres of which were tallgrass prairie. As land was cleared for rice production, much of the original native habitat was lost. Today, only one-tenth of one percent of this tallgrass prairie remains, surviving as small, isolated fragments. Fortunately, opportunities for restoration exist across the region. One area with active restoration is Stuttgart Municipal Airport Important Bird Area.

Site Description:

Stuttgart Airport is located seven miles north of Stuttgart along US Highway 63. It was built as an Air Force training facility during WWII. The old hangers have been torn down and are now grasslands of varying quality, including remnant native prairie with shrubs. The airport has a north-south and an east-west runway and several taxiways bordered by short grass. A reservoir provides water for row-crops and birds. In 2006, Audubon Arkansas recognized the airport as an Important Bird Area, a location important for bird conservation, because it consistently harbors a significant population of Smith’s Longspurs and other declining prairie birds.

Ornithological Summary:

The airport's remnant tallgrass prairie and shrubland patches consistently harbor species sought-after by birders such as Short-eared Owl, Barn Owl, Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Sedge Wren, Bell’s Vireo, Le Conte’s Sparrow, and Painted Bunting. Rarities include Rough-legged Hawk, Sprague’s Pipit, and Henslow’s Sparrow. The airport is especially known to birders across the state and country as a reliable and accessible location for seeing Smith’s Longspurs; as much as 15% of the state’s population regularly winters in the short Aristida (three-awn grass) patches that border the runways. Aristida grows on poor, disturbed soil left behind by runway construction on many of Arkansas’ airfields.

Conservation Issues:

The City of Stuttgart is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Heritage Commission, Forestry Commission, and Game and Fish Commission to restore 300 acres of native prairie through prescribed fire, targeted herbicide application, invasive plant eradication, and the reseeding of local genotype prairie plants. Plans also include restoration of 131 acres to Aristida. Bird surveys are being conducted in conjunction with restoration activities. Once restoration is complete, the City of Stuttgart will own the single largest block of tallgrass prairie in the region. If regional restoration proceeds as envisioned, Stuttgart might one day be known as the ‘Rice, Duck, and Prairie Bird Capital of the World.’

When you visit be sure to first stop at the airport office so employees know you are birding. There you can grab a map and bird-finding guide. Before you leave, please sign the birder’s register to let others know where you’re from and what birds you saw.

Dan Scheiman, Ph.D.
Bird Conservation Director, Audubon Arkansas
### Names and addresses of legislators, AAS officers and chairmen

#### Senators and Congressmen
- **Sen. Mark Pryor**, 255 DSOB, Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-2353
- **Rep. Marion Berry** 2305 RHOB, Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-4076

#### Committee Chairmen
- **Conservation**: Allan Mueller, akcmueller@gmail.com
- **Education**: vacant
- **Finance & Webmaster**: Lyndal York, 42 Pine Manor Dr., Little Rock 72207, (501) 663-2192, lrbluejay@sbcglobal.net
- **Membership**: Maury Baker, 29 Pandilla Way, Hot Springs Village 71909, (501) 922-6077, mbbaker@suddenlink.net
- **News of Members**: Loise K. Lacy, 203 Troy, Magnolia 71753, (870) 234-4910, loiselacy@att.net
- **Publicity**: Sally Jo Gibson, 512 Yorkshire Cove, Harrison 72601, sjogibson@alltel.net

#### AAS Trust
- **Chairman**: Leif Anderson, P.O. Box 195, Hector 72843, (479) 284-3402, leanderson@fs.fed.us
- **Treasurer**: Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock 72223, (501) 821-4097, bhaas@sbcglobal.net

#### AAS Halberg Ecology Camp
- **Executive Director**: Liz Fulton, 2705 N. Fillmore, Little Rock 72207, efulton114@sbcglobal.net
- **Co-Chairman**: Eric Sundell, 708 Rose St. #6, Little Rock 72205, esundell42@gmail.com
- **Treasurer**: Barry Haas, 804 Konrad Court, Little Rock 72223, (501) 821-4097, bhaas@sbcglobal.net

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**Renewal Enclosed**

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