



# *The Chirp*

## SPRING 2014

### Volume XXIX, Issue 1

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

After two years of being the vice president and overseeing monthly programs, I find myself in the position of president of the HSV Audubon Society. Just when I was getting comfortable with getting speakers and setting up programs, I now find myself in a new and somewhat intimidating office. It's not going to be easy following Chris Cash because she has done an impressive job as president. All I can promise is to do the best I can to make HSV Audubon Society a great club and move us forward.

We've had several other changes in our officers this year:

- Sharon Fickes, our new Vice President in charge of programs, moved to Hot Springs Village in January 2008 from Keller, Texas with her husband Ed. Sharon attended a HSV Audubon Society meeting and decided to join the club, though readily admitting she had very few bird identification skills. In order to improve her birding skills, she participates in field trips, watches and records birds in a daily log, serves as a Bluebird Monitor on the Magellan Golf Course back 9, participates in the annual Christmas Bird Count, and schedules birding stops on some family outings away from the Village. Recently her husband and she took a winter trip to South Padre Island, Texas, which included the thrill of spotting whooping cranes. Sharon shifted right into her new position, scheduling new and innovative programs through the end of the year. I am convinced she will do a great job.
- Ted Hommema, who served as the club's Treasurer for four years, stepped down at the end of 2013. All of us who knew and worked with him, thank him for his dedicated efforts and thorough tracking of the club's income and expenditures. We are also grateful for his efforts for a smooth transition by sharing his notes and experience with his replacement Sue Lopez. Ted will not only be missed for doing a great job as Treasurer but for his innovative suggestions and changes to improve the HSV Audubon Society.
- Sue Lopez, our new Treasurer, was born and raised in Oklahoma and is a retired accountant. She moved to Arkansas in 1974, the Village in 2010 and joined HSV Audubon Society in 2012. In 2013 Sue became an alternate bluebird monitor. When we were looking for someone to replace Ted as treasurer, Sue walked up to Chris Cash and said "I am a retired accountant with many years of experience. I would like to volunteer to fill the treasurer vacancy if the members elect me." Sue is another example of the wonderful people that live here in the Village. When there is a need for a qualified person, someone steps forward.
- Judy Rosenthal remains on as Secretary. We are very grateful for her many years of service compiling notes at the club's Board and Monthly Meetings. She has also served as backup for others when the need arose and contributes in more ways than can be listed here.

I am not sure how many of you are aware that this year is the 40th anniversary of HSV Audubon Society. In February of 1974, John Whelan, the general manager of the POA, learned that Bluebirds

had been placed on the endangered species list. He gathered a group of 22 residents who were interested in getting the Village designated a bird sanctuary. On April 24, 1974, this group was welcomed as an "Affiliate of the National Audubon Society." Village residents built and installed many bluebird houses which were placed around the newly developed DeSoto Golf Course and in the yards of Society members. Over the first ten years the number of Bluebird fledglings increased from 206 to 496. Since that time the number of locations, houses and fledglings continue to rise; in the summer of 2012 there were 1,552 Bluebird fledglings and several other species including Brown Headed Nuthatches which are also rare and attract birders from other parts of the country who want to add them to their life lists to the Village.

HSV Audubon Society has a lot to offer. Monthly programs are designed to appeal to a variety of interests with presentations on everything from live birds of prey to wildflowers and insects. We have guided field trips and walking tours in Arkansas State Parks and other locations with concentrations of rare species, a variety of birds and wild flowers. Funds generated from our birdseed sales have been used to send many local children to the Halberg Ecology Camp. We have a wonderful web site, [www.hsvbirds.org](http://www.hsvbirds.org), where one can find recent information on our programs, field trips, events, beautiful photographs and more tabs with links that are just too numerous to list.

Sincerely,

*Richard Kroetz*

President, HSV Audubon Society

## OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

### 2014 Board Members:

Richard Kroetz	President
Sharon Fickes	Vice President & Program Chair
Judy Rosenthal	Secretary
Sue Lopez	Treasurer
Chris Cash	Past President

### Committee Chairs:

AAS Ecology Camp	Josie Farrell	E-Communications	Carolyn Minson
Co-Chair	Teri LaBove	Field Trips	Vic Prislipsky
Bird Houses/Feeders	Adolph Juarez	Historian	Barbara Baker
Bird ID Instruction	Keith Salisbury	Membership	Angela Taylor
Bird Seed Sales	Diane Condon	Memorials & Gifts	Maury Baker
Bluebird Monitoring	Les Daniels	Publicity	Vic Prislipsky
<i>Chirp</i> Publication	Angela Taylor	School Outreach	Beverly Salisbury
Christmas Bird Count	Chris Cash	Webmasters	Kay Creighton Peggy Myles
Articles and review by Beverly Salisbury and other HSV Audubon members			

# What's Coming Up



## FIELD TRIP

Details on additional field trips or local birding trips will be provided later.  
Please check the website and watch for e-mail notices from Carolyn Minson.

**March 17** Holla Bend NWR where we hope to see eagles, Snow geese, swans and, cross your fingers, Sandhill Cranes. We will meet at the Desoto Club parking lot at 7:20. You'll probably want to bring water and snacks.



## PROGRAMS

HSV Audubon Society meetings are held the second Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Coronado Center.

Instead of the usual morning meeting in July, we honor Halberg Ecology Campers and their families; with an evening potluck and there is no meeting in August.

### **March 14 Mr. David Saugey, Bats of Arkansas**

David Saugey was a U.S. Forest Service district biologist stationed out of the Jessieville office in the Ouachita National Forest. Although a bat biologist by training, David also has a keen interest in amphibians and reptiles. For example, he was instrumental in protecting several abandoned mine shafts in the Ouachita Mountains by having their entrances gated and, in doing so, helped conserve these unique habitats for brooding salamanders as well as several bat species that utilize these mines.

David became a member of the Arkansas Academy of Science in 1986 and has supported the Academy in many different positions, including President in 2007. Saugey will present a slide program on the basic biology and beneficial qualities of bats. He will also talk about the effects of white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease decimating bat populations, particularly in the Northeast and recently discovered in an Arkansas Cave.

### **April 11: Theo Whitsell “Wildflowers of Garland and Saline Counties”**

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission botanist Theo Whitsell was named one of 25 visionary Arkansans in 2013. He will provide a program on “Wildflowers and Plants of Garland and Saline Counties” while sharing some of his research and photos. He works hard to identify and protect the natural heritage of Arkansas. 3,000 species of plants known in Arkansas are part of the reference collection at the Commission dating back to the early 1940s.

### **May 9 Mary Mentz, Butterflies**

Mary Mentz, Wildlife Biologist for the Jessieville-Winona-Fourche Area based in Danville will speak on “Butterflies”. Mary will help us understand the importance of butterfly pollinators and how to attract the swallowtails and fritillaries. Mary received a grant to establish the Fourche Pollinator Garden outside the Danville Forest Service Office. Long term plans include developing a Monarch Waystation that will help monitor the Monarch migration through the Arkansas River Valley on their way to Mexico.

### **June 13: Tana Beasley, Hummingbirds**

Tana is the Director and Education Specialist at the Potlatch Conservation Education Center under the Game and Fish Commission located at Cooks Lake in Casscoe, Arkansas. She specializes in Hummingbirds. She is the only licensed hummingbird bander in the State of Arkansas and coordinates winter sightings of any hummingbird and especially the Ruby Throated Hummingbird. Tana provides a depth of knowledge on summer bird banding experiences to the public. Her rich and interesting hummingbird program will entertain us with information on banding those tiny legs. The team at Cook’s Lake has banded 1,400 hummingbirds since 2009. Her experience and great photos will help refine our hummingbird skills.

**July 11: HSV Audubon Society Potluck Social Honoring Halberg Ecology Campers**

Potluck Social will be held Friday evening at the HSV Townhouse Community Center in Valencia Courts. Contact AAS Ecology Camp Committee members Josie Farrell or Teri LaBove for details.

**August: No Meeting**

**Sept. 12: Rusty Scarborough, Raptors**

Rusty is the Senior Park Naturalist/Park Manager at the Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park in Caddo Parish, Shreveport, Louisiana. Besides his administrative duties, Rusty enjoys working with and training the bird of prey collection at the park. This collection includes owls, hawks, eagles and falcons. Rusty plans on bringing a recent addition of the Aplamodo Falcon for his presentation.

**October 3: Program Pending**

**Nov. 7: Tim Ernst, Outdoors**

An Arkansas favorite photographer, hiker, writer and outdoor adventurer will come to provide his latest photos and narrate his topics of outdoor interest. Tim will bring books, guides, photos, and calendars for your delight and purchase, typically at a slight discount.

**Dec. 5: HSV Audubon members led by Vic Prilipsky and Carolyn Minson, Local Birds**

Experienced birders will present a program on local birds in and around Hot Springs Village. They will help us identify the birds not only with close-up photos, but also by guiding us to recognize shapes -- beak, body, tail -- in addition to flying patterns and sounds while recognizing the typical habitats of specific species.

**SPRING BIRD SEED SALE REMINDER**

Bird seed orders must be received by March 16 for pick up March 22. Order forms will be available at the March 14 meeting or they can be accessed on the clubs website.



**ADDITIONAL HSV AUDUBON INFORMATION**

For Officers and Committee Member contact information, additional information about upcoming events or activities, tips on birding and other news about the club, please take a few moments and visit the club's web site <http://www.hsvbirds.org/>

**HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Our club's membership renewal drive is drawing to a close! 2013 yearly members who have not renewed by the end of March will be removed from the club's membership roster. To see if you've renewed your membership, check the 2014 members list at the end of this newsletter. If you do not see your name and still wish to renew, please complete the information on the next page and submit the form along with your check at the March 14 meeting (*in the Coronado Center*) or mail them to the club's Treasurer (*Sue Lopez, 9 Badajoz Way, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909*)

## Hot Springs Village Audubon Society - Membership Form

- New Membership (One Year \$10.00 per person)
- Renewal Membership (One Year \$10.00 per person)
- Life Membership (\$150.00 per person)

(Please Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total paid \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_



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### 2014 SPRING CONVENTION

The 2014 Spring Convention of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be held May 2-4, 2014, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Jonesboro, AR. Registration opens Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Access the <http://www.arbirds.org/> website for detailed agenda, registration, hotel and meals information.

All programs and meals will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn; room rates are \$82 per night plus tax. To make a reservation, call the hotel directly at (870) 931-7727. Tell them you want a room in the "Audubon" block.

#### **Field Trips**

*Friday Afternoon*

Crowley's Ridge Nature Center and St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA/Hatchie Coon Island

*Saturday*

Craighead Forest Park and Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge, Scatter Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA/Hatchie Coon Island and Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

*Sunday*

To be determined

#### **Programs and Presentations**

*Friday Evening*

"30 years in Spillway Mine: An Overview of the Nesting Ecology in the Western Slimy Salamander"

Guest Speaker--Dr. Stanley Trauth, Professor of Zoology, Arkansas State University and author of The Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas.

*Saturday Afternoon*

"Baltimore Checkerspot Oviposition" by Stephen Robertson, MS, UALR

"Pallas's Fish Eagle Migration in Mongolia and India" by Marla Steele, PhD, UA Fayetteville

"The Effects of Chronic Noise from Gas Extraction on Bird Communities and Their Songs in the Fayetteville Shale" by Maiya Block and Meghan McFadden, Hendrix College

*Saturday Evening*

"Black and Blue: The Life and Times of the Black-capped Vireo and the Cerulean Warbler"

Guest Speaker--Dr. Than Boves, Assistant Professor of Ecology, Arkansas State University



## Arkansas Native Plant Society Spring Meeting

May 2nd-4th, Harrison, Arkansas (featuring the Buffalo National River and Baker Prairie)

The meeting and lodging location will be the Quality Inn, 1210 U.S. 62/65, Harrison AR 72601, (870) 741-7676.

ANPS has reserved 30 rooms at a reduced rate. Room and breakfast will be \$76.49 plus tax. Rooms will be held until April 18th.

For additional information visit <http://anps.org/upcoming-events/>



## Arkansas State Parks

Many programs repeat but times may change. You can access additional information on these and other park activities through the main park website <http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/>. You may do a search using the program title or you can use the specific park contact information listed above the programs.

### Mount Magazine State Park

Ph: (479) 963-8502

Website: <http://www.MountMagazineStatePark.com>

### SPARROW SEARCH

March 16, 2014

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Meeting Place: Hang Glider Launch Site

Admission: Free

Mount Magazine State Park is the only known nesting site for rufous-crowned sparrows in Arkansas.

Meet at the hang glider launch near cabin #8 to try to find sparrows and other birds.

## MOUNTAINTOP BUTTERFLIES

March 15, 2014

11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Meeting Place: Visitor Center Classroom

Admission: Free

Spring wildflowers and butterflies go together like peanut butter and jelly. Meet Lori Spencer, author of *The Diana Fritillary*, *Arkansas's State Butterfly* and *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths* in the visitor center classroom for a colorful program about the park's winged wonders. A book signing follows this program. Books are available in the visitor center gift shop.

## WILDFLOWER FANS

March 22, 2014

11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Does winter weather have you longing for springtime wildflowers? Get a taste of the color you crave while learning about the wildflowers that will soon be blooming. Join us in the lodge hearth room to create your very own dual purpose guide featuring wildflowers from Mount Magazine State Park.

Meeting Place: Lodge Hearth Room

Admission: Free

## Pinnacle Mountain State Park

Ph: (501) 868-5806

[pinnaclemountain@arkansas.com](mailto:pinnaclemountain@arkansas.com)

## BACKYARD BIRDS - *Program repeats*

March 8, 2014

3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Meeting Place: Playground

Admission: Free

Spring has arrived at Pinnacle Mountain State Park and soon many migratory birds will be flying back to Arkansas to enjoy the days of summer. There is nothing better than enjoyed a spring day watching birds from your back porch. Meet a park interpreter at the playground today to learn about the four things that are needed to make a beautiful bird garden and some of the best foods and bird houses to use to attract birds. Afterwards, we will make a simple bird feeder from a pine cone and peanut butter.

## HUMMINGBIRD VIEWING

April 5, 2014

8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Meeting Place: Visitor Center

Admission: Free

What are those fast-moving birds the size of big bugs? Join us as we explore the world of hummingbirds and watch them feed at the visitor center feeders. After viewing, we will talk more about amazing hummingbird adaptations, how to attract them to your yard, and what to feed them. Don't miss this amazing treat!

## FEATHERED FLYERS WEEKEND

April 5, 2014 - April 6, 2014

It's all for the birds! Programs all weekend will feature our feathered friends, including hummingbirds, raptors, waterfowl, backyard birds, and more! Contact the park for a detailed program schedule.

## Lake Catherine State Park

Ph: (501) 844-4176

[lakecatherine@arkansas.com](mailto:lakecatherine@arkansas.com)

### BIRD HIKE

March 9, 2014

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: Visitor Center

Admission: Free

Join a park interpreter to take a stroll in the park and view some of the birds that sometimes call Lake Catherine State Park home.

### WAKE UP, LITTLE BIRDIE

March 29, 2014

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Amphitheater

Admission: Free

Each morning all over the world as the sun reaches the horizon, it is met with a chorus of song. Learn about some of the songs that birds sing.

### Lake Dardanelle State Park

Ph: (479) 967-5516

[lakedardanelle@arkansas.com](mailto:lakedardanelle@arkansas.com)

### MORNING BIRD WALK

March 8, 2014

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Meeting Place: Amphitheater

Admission: Free

Join a park interpreter at the amphitheater to take a walk through the area in search of our visiting birds. Even if you've never birded before, you can enjoy these creatures in a whole new way!

### VULTURES: NATURE'S CLEANING CREW

March 19, 2014

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Meeting Place: Grassy Area across from the Visitor Center

Admission: Free

Have you ever seen the large, dark birds that circle and ride the winds over the lake? Join a park interpreter in the grassy area across from the visitor center to learn how these shy birds help to keep our park clean.

### LAKE OUACHITA STATE PARK

Ph: (501) 767-9366

[lakeouachita@arkansas.com](mailto:lakeouachita@arkansas.com)

### MIGRATION CHALLENGE

March 21, 2014

4 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Visitor Center

Admission: Free

Migrating birds experience many hardships during their travels. In this activity, you can pretend to be a migrating bird and learn more about the challenges of migration. Will you survive your journey? Discover the answers with a park interpreter in the visitor center.

*"The world's favorite season is the spring  
All things seem possible in May"  
-Edwin Way Teale*



## **CITIZEN SCIENCE - BIRDS - GETTING INVOLVED**

Citizen Science is a way to connect with the natural world through fun activities that generate vital information for the conservation of birds. This partnership benefits us all: you learn about birds by taking part in science-based activities, and science staffs gain valuable information.

The large volunteer networks allow scientists to accomplish tasks that would be too expensive or time consuming to accomplish through other means. Most importantly, the birds benefit because it helps Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology focus on those birds and habitats that need our help.

There are several Citizen Science programs that are suitable for birders of all degrees of experience. Below are a few current programs in which you might be interested.

### **Christmas Bird Count**

From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a tradition. Families, students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission. For over a century, the desire to make a difference and experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of their homes during the Holiday season.

Each citizen scientist who braves snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action. The CBC database now contains more than a century of data on early-winter bird populations across the Americas.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for the love of birds, the excitement of friendly competition and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference.

### **Great Backyard Bird Count**

This annual Presidents' Day Weekend event is an opportunity to count the birds in your backyard and beyond. Organized by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society with Bird Studies Canada, the Great Backyard Bird Count helps scientists who use the volunteer-submitted counts of bird species to keep tabs on the health of bird populations. The counts contribute to a multi-year database that helps scientists see where the birds are using food and shelter resources as well as the changes in those locations and the numbers of birds.

This year, countries as far-ranging as Australia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Iceland and Argentina have submitted checklists.

### **eBird**

eBird is an online database of bird observations providing scientists, researchers and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and numbers. It has been described as an ambitious example of enlisting amateurs to gather data on biodiversity for use in science.

Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University and the National Audubon Society, it was originally restricted to sightings from the Western Hemisphere. It was widened to include New Zealand in 2008, and then widened to cover the whole world in June 2010.

### **Nest Watch**

NestWatch is a joint project between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. It teaches people about bird breeding biology and engages them in collecting and

submitting nest records. Such records include information about nest site location, habitat, species, and number of eggs, young, and fledglings. "Citizen scientists" submit their nest records to an online database where their observations are compiled with those of other participants in a continent-wide effort to better understand and manage the impacts of environmental change on bird populations.

### Project Feeder Watch

Join more than 16,000 other citizen scientists who periodically count the birds that visit their bird feeders, nature centers, community areas, and other locales from November to April. Counts help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. Participants watch their feeders as much or as little as they want over two consecutive days as often as every week (less often is fine). They count birds that appear in their count site because of something that they provided (plantings, food, or water).

New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions for participating. There is a \$15 annual participation fee for U.S. residents. Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible. Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.



### WHERE ARE ALL THE HUMMINGBIRDS?

The original article by Bob and Martha Sargent was printed in the fall of 2013 edition of *NetLines*, and is reprinted with permission from Bob Sargent.

They live in Alabama and the dates for Arkansas might be a week or two later in the spring and a week or two earlier in the fall. Hummers usually arrive in the Village mid March.

It starts earlier and earlier every summer! The phone rings and the distraught caller blurts out "where are all my hummers?" Much of the time it will be a repeat caller from the previous year. Ah...what short memories we have sometimes (that includes me by the way). The question is legitimate if you live in the eastern United States and the date is earlier than late June. In the eastern United States, write down the **Fourth of July** as a reminder of when to start becoming alarmed about your perceived shortage of hummingbirds. Be patient if you will. **A Cardinal Rule: Don't wait until you see lots of hummers before putting out your feeders. That is a flawed strategy. Expect them to be there on time and you will be rewarded when your feeders are already in place.**

You may also wish to write this down or put it on your calendar. Here's the scenario in late winter and early spring. Ruby-throateds start coming on shore along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico about the last week of February or the first week of March. This inbound movement of northbound Ruby-throateds from the tropics will continue until at least the first week of May! About then, the numbers at your feeders will probably decline. The big rush northward will likely be noticed in your yards in early March, then April and May--later depending on how far north you live. You will see adult males first then about ten days later the females will arrive. *Most of us will see only a few hummers at our feeders during much of May and June.*

Expect new baby hummers out of the nest and at your feeders as early as mid-June in the South. An increase in numbers, which will usually include many adult males, should be appearing about the Fourth of July (easy to remember?). From the holiday until about mid-August or a little longer, the daily stream of southbound hummers will normally swell before leveling off about mid-September. Then...the numbers at your feeders and flowers will noticeably get fewer and fewer each week. At our central

Alabama home, mid-September is usually very busy. Most hummers this time of year will be **fat** little butter balls covered in feathers.

By the first week of October in our yards as in yours, you will see very few hummers. This scenario plays itself out each year with dates and not the weather, as many folks preach, governing the action. Hummingbird “experts” are notoriously uninformed. Mark it on your calendar. Don’t panic; in nearly all cases, hummingbirds will come as they always have in the past.

*The crowd is standing breathless  
As the hummingbird appears.  
His little body comes in view  
While everybody cheers.*

*He has a long thin needle nose  
And microscopic ears.  
A moment sipping nectar, then  
He quickly disappears.*

*The tiny little hummingbird,  
How fast he goes and comes.  
The lucky only catch a glimpse  
Or hear the tune he hums.*

*-Kate Watkins Furman  
Wayne, Pennsylvania*