



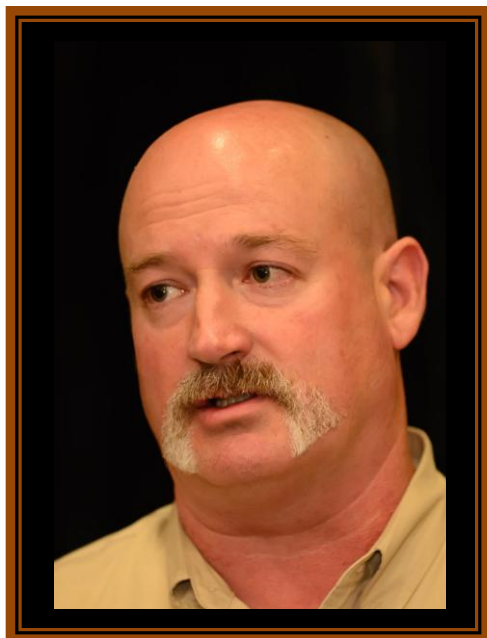
# *The Chirp*

FALL 2014

Volume XXIX, Issue 2

## *Recent Club Activities*

### **MEETING AT THE CORONADO COMMUNITY CENTER**



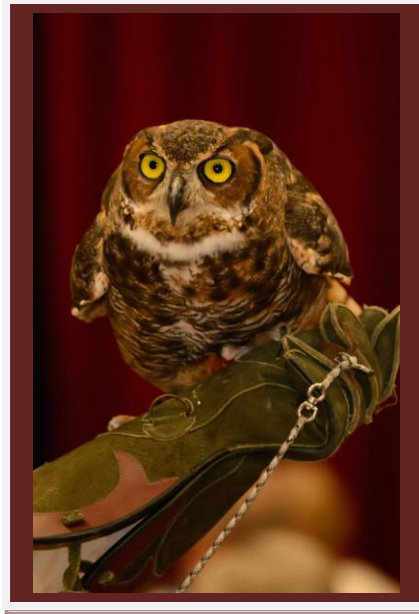
On September 17, 2014 Rusty Scarborough began his presentation on "Owls" with an overview of the Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park in Shreveport, Louisiana. Rusty is currently their Senior Naturalist and Manager. He continues to care for and train birds of prey which include eagles, owls, hawks and falcons. To find out more about the Nature Park check out their website at [www.caddoparks.com](http://www.caddoparks.com)

Those in attendance learned about owls' mostly solitary lives, upright stance, large broad head, binocular vision, and binaural hearing. Owls are fascinating creatures for a variety of reasons. They are noiseless hunters, able to catch their prey unaware because their flight feathers muffle sound, since the feathers along the edge of the wing are serrated and somewhat downy. Their night vision is 100 times more sensitive than a man's. They have the largest eardrums of any bird and the feathers on their face form a disc around each eye which can be adjusted to focus sounds onto their ear cavities. Their sensitive hearing can pinpoint sounds as faint as those of mice feeding on barn floors or

under the snow. Due to a large number of vertebrae, their necks are more flexible than humans allowing them to rotate their head and neck 270 degrees aiding their vision since their eyes are fixed.

Owls and most raptors are protected under the Migratory Bird Act. The general public cannot hunt them or keep them as pets. Twenty species of owls breed in North America. Nine have been seen in Arkansas, although snowy, burrowing, long-eared and saw-whet owls are only rarely seen in the state. Four species; barn, screech, great horned and barred owls are permanent residents that nest in Arkansas. The short-eared owl is an uncommon, though often seen, winter resident. If however you are in the right place at the right time, perhaps Mother Nature will grace you with a view of a burrowing owl, saw-whet, long-eared owl or even a very rare snowy owl from the frigid north.

For additional information about owls and other birds check out the Cornell Lab of Ornithology web site [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org).



An *Eastern Screech Owl*, *Barred Owl*, *Great Horned Owl* and traveling *Harris's Hawk* entertained us.

## Hummingbird Feeder Count

Our first year participating in this citizen science project was September 9, 2014. Individuals counted feeding hummers at their homes during 15 minute increments. It is fall migration time so large numbers of hummingbirds have been and continue to pass through the local area. The one day count was a great success with 3,379 feeding hummingbirds being reported by Village participants.

To expand your knowledge about hummingbirds consider checking out [www.hummingbirds.net](http://www.hummingbirds.net). The site offers lots of information and even maps on migration of these tiny visitors.



A great big "Thanks" to all who participated!

## Hummingbird Banding Field Trip

Eighteen HSV Audubon members and guests journeyed to the Potlatch Education Center in Casscoe where we had the opportunity to visit with Arkansas' only certified hummingbird bander, Tana Beasley. Many Audubon members will recall that Tana provided a hummingbird presentation at our June 13, 2014 monthly meeting. This trip offered a great opportunity to see Tana and her coworkers, Treva and Marlin, in action.

Following an informative program and movie about hummingbirds, the serious work began. Marlin, over the course of about 30 minutes, trapped more than a half dozen Rubythroats and carefully placed them individually in small mesh bags. Tana and Treva teamed up to put a tiny numbered metal tag on the right leg of each bird. As we watched, Tana measured the wing and tail feathers of each bird, ingeniously checked for the amount of body fat, determined the sex, approximate age and weighed each bird. Treva

dutifully recorded all of the information. The number and associated data are entered into a national database so the tiny birds' information is available to track their travels in case they are trapped again at a later date.

Then for most of us in attendance, the real fun began. Those who wanted could have a hummer placed in the palm of their hand for release. Some birds flew off immediately; others lingered a moment or two. Holding a hummer and feeling its heart beat is an experience one will never forget.



*A flash of harmless lightning,  
 A mist of rainbow dyes,  
 The burnished sunbeams brightening  
 From flower to flower he flies.  
 —John Banister Tabb*

## 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	Field Trips	Vic Prislipsy
Co-Chair	Teri LaBove	Membership	Angela Taylor
Bird Houses/Feeders	Adolph Juarez	Historian	Barbara Baker
Bird Seed Sales	Diane Condon	Memorials & Gifts	Maury Baker
Bluebird Monitoring	Kathy Jurek	School Outreach	Brian Baldwin
<i>Chirp</i> Publication	Angela Taylor	E-Communications	Carolyn Minson
Articles and review by HSV Audubon members		Webmasters	Kay Creighton
Christmas Bird Count	Chris Cash		Peggy Myles
Publicity	Vic Prislipsy	Instruction	Vic Prislipsy

# Upcoming Events



Oct. 17

## FIELD TRIPS

Vic Prislipsky will lead us to the Boyd Point wastewater treatment plant in Pine Bluff. There we will meet expert birder Delos McCauley. There is almost always some special shore or wading bird hanging out. We will leave the Eastgate parking area at 7:30. Very little walking. Bring your preferred snack/drink. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. We should be back in the Village before 4.

Sign up at the October Program Meeting or by emailing [fieldtrips@hsvbirds.org](mailto:fieldtrips@hsvbirds.org).



Oct. 10

## PROGRAMS

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

### “Champion Trees of Arkansas”

Matthew Voscamp, Garland County Forester will present his program on Champion Trees of Arkansas. Matthew has been pivotal in the Champion Tree project for the State of Arkansas Forestry Commission. This Project recognizes the largest of each species based on the “Bigness Index”. The trees are nominated by various people and evaluated in-person by the Arkansas Forestry Service for the updating of their Champion Tree list every five years. Matthew will explain more details about the requirements for being recognized as the largest species, activities required to confirm the champions and his involvement in the recent original documentary by AETN entitled “Champion Trees” featuring local artist Linda Williams Palmer and of course the Arkansas Champion Trees. These large - and many very old trees served as roosting and nesting sites for the wonderful birds in Arkansas. Many of the trees were around before the Civil War and when the now extinct Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon and even the Ivory Billed Woodpeckers were in large numbers in Arkansas. Birds continue to visit the Champion Trees as do many Arkansas visitors – check out the Arkansas Champion Tree project web site <http://forestry.arkansas.gov/Pages/ChampionTrees.aspx> to find a champion near you.

Nov. 14

### Tim Ernst, “Outdoors”

Tim a favorite HSV Audubon Society presenter, hiker, photographer, writer and outdoor adventurer will provide his latest photos and narrate his topics of outdoor interest. He will bring books, guides, photos, and calendars for your delight and purchase, typically at a slight discount from prices found elsewhere

Dec. 12

### “Local Birds”

#### HSV Audubon Society Members led by Vick Prislipsky and Carolyn Minson

Experienced birders will present a program on local birds in and around Hot Springs Village. They will help attendees identify birds through the use of photographs and guide

them through species identification using shape (beak, body, tail), flying patterns, sound and typical habitat.

## HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The 2015 membership renewal drive is currently underway! Please complete the information below and submit the form along with your check at a future meeting (*in the Coronado Community 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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## FALL BIRD SEED SALE REMINDER

Bird seed orders must be received by October 12 with pick up October 18 between 8 AM and 4 PM. Order forms will be available at the October 10 meeting or they can be accessed via our website <http://www.hsvbirds.org/>.



## 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/>.

*Autumn burned brightly, a running flame through the mountains, a torch flung to the trees.  
~Faith Baldwin, American Family*



## Fall Meeting

The 2014 Fall Convention of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) will be November 14-16 at the Lake Point Conference Center. For information about the hotel, including maps and driving directions, go to [www.atu.edu/lakepoint](http://www.atu.edu/lakepoint). The conference center is located at 61 Lake Point Lane, Russellville, AR. Room rates are \$65 per night + 9.5 % tax for a total of \$71.18. A continental breakfast is included with reservations. To make a reservation, call the conference center at (479) 356-6240 and indicate you are part of the Audubon conference.

An agenda, field trip information and a registration form can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).



## ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FALL 2014 MEETING & PLANT AUCTION

**October 10-12, 2014 – Fall Meeting in Texarkana, AR**

The fall meeting of the Arkansas Native Plant Society (ANPS) will be held in Texarkana, Arkansas with field trips to surrounding parks and natural areas. Please plan to join us as we tour some of the unique habitats of the West Gulf Coastal Plain, including chalk woodlands, blackland prairies, and sandhills. Visit <http://anps.org/upcoming-events/> for additional information



## ARKANSAS STATE PARKS

### Watchable Wildlife in the Arkansas Outdoors

Looking for Arkansas wildlife? The diversity of Arkansas's six natural divisions provides habitat for abundant wildlife. Plus, Arkansas is on the famed Mississippi Flyway and migrating butterflies, songbirds, ducks and geese fly through Arkansas by the millions each fall and spring. In addition, Arkansas is on the edge of the eastern forest and the western plains and many migrants and strays from both areas find their way here.

Twenty-five state parks have been selected for inclusion in the Watchable Wildlife program. Implemented on a state level, this national program identifies locations where outstanding habitat or migration qualities attract Arkansas wildlife and offer you the best chance of seeing wildlife, large and small, in the Arkansas outdoors.

Many state parks have Arkansas wildlife, [birding](#) and butterfly checklists to assist you in finding the best locations and knowing what to look for when you get there. Look at the "[park Brochures](#)" box on the right

side of each state park webpage to see if they have a brochure in downloadable PDF format. If not, the park may have a paper copy, Arkansas wildlife guides and maps at the [visitor center](#). Soon you'll find watchable [wildlife hotspots](#) noted on the state highway map and identified by the Watchable Wildlife binocular logo on highway signs.

### **Arkansas Birds - Bald Eagle Migration & More**

Arkansas has some of the finest bird watching you will find. Many of the parks have bird watching checklists, and most park interpreters are avid birders who delight in helping you spot some of the many Arkansas birds. There are so many excellent locations for a bird watching that it's hard to name just a few, but of particular note are:

[Lake Chicot State Park](#) offers a unique look at Arkansas's largest natural lake and the cypress swamp-like habitat of egrets, herons, bald eagles, ibis and the endangered wood stork. Lake Chicot, in southeast Arkansas, is one of the state's birding [hotspots](#) and the nationally acclaimed Levee Tour (auto) and the swamp tours are excellent ways to add excitement to your bird watching vacation and Arkansas birds (and alligator, mink, deer and armadillo) to your life list. September is the best time for your bird watching vacation, when the area is full of eagles and waterfowl following the famed Mississippi Flyway.

[Millwood State Park](#) is in southwest Arkansas just a few miles north of Texas. This large shallow lake attracts a variety of birds. The park's bird checklist contains more birds than any other location in Arkansas and the area is noted for rare and unusual migrants. Migration seasons are excellent bird watching times and winter offers chances to spot waterfowl and bald eagles.

[Village Creek State Park](#) - Each spring and fall, the unusual plant community of the Crowley's Ridge Natural Division in eastern Arkansas fills with the sounds of migrating warblers. In winter the waterfowl are abundant, and the migration of bald eagles in Arkansas is underway.

[Bull Shoals-White River State Park](#) - On one of the largest lakes in the Ozarks, and on the famed trout waters of the White River, Bull Shoals State Park is a fine place to check out the bird life of the Ozarks. The park's bird checklist includes habitat zones and can direct you to some beautiful and productive birding areas. In winter you'll see plenty of bald eagles, and be sure to watch for diving ducks just below Bull Shoals Dam.

[Lake Ouachita State Park](#) is well known for cruises on Arkansas's largest lake including Eagle Watch and Bird Island. A cruise in the heart of the Ouachita Mountains is also a relaxing way to see the exposed results of the severe folding and faulting which created these beautiful mountains.

Lake cruises are also available on: [DeGray Lake](#), [Moro Bay](#), [Lake Dardanelle](#), [Millwood](#), [Lake Catherine](#), [Pinnacle Mountain](#), [Lake Charles](#), [Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area](#) and [Bull Shoals-White River](#).

### **NAME THAT BIRD**

What is the largest songbird in North America?

- Cedar Waxwing
- Common Raven
- Northern Oriole
- Indigo Bunting

With a 4-foot wingspan the common raven is the world's largest perching bird – and North America's largest songbird. The garrulous bird commands a broad quirky vocabulary of cr-r-ruks, prruks and toks.