



THE CHIRP

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FALL OF 2015

I am coming to the end of my term as president of Hot Springs Village Audubon Society. I would like to thank all the generous people of our organization that have helped so much with not only their donations but with all the voluntary giving of time and effort. Without their help we never would have been able to send so many kids to the Halberg Ecology Camp, attract the high level of monthly speakers to give their wonderful programs, and support our Arkansas State Audubon to protect our beautiful birds, plants, and wildlife.

Just to mention a few outstanding members we have Vic Prislipsky who leads the Field Trips and stepped in to teach the beginning birding class. When Les Daniels, another devoted worker, retired from running the blue bird monitor program Kathy Jurek took it over and never missed a beat she also volunteered to take over the publication of our newsletter, The Chirp. When Harry Ferris said that his age was catching up with him and we would need to get someone else to build birdhouses and feeders, a new member, Adolph Juarez, said he would like to build the birdhouses and he built and maintained our bird houses and then took on a project with our local U. S. Forest Service and built and sold many more birdhouses to pump more money into our treasury.

During the last two years that I have been president we had a wonderful 40 year anniversary party for HSV Audubon and in October we honored Diane Condon with the President's Award for all her years of service and for selling almost 46 tons of bird seed. The one thing that has impressed me more than anything else about our club and its members is just when I think all the really good people are leaving, another talented person steps up and accepts the responsibility of a new position and we move ahead as good or better than before. To mention all the good people that have come and gone would make this message way too long but just let it be said that there is no shortage of good devoted members in our club that are not afraid to step up when needed.

With great regret we are faced with the loss of the backbone of our Audubon Society. Carolyn Minson is moving out of the village to Oregon. She is the reason that many people joined HSV Audubon Society including myself. She will leave a huge void in the leadership of our club. Carolyn has held or advised almost every position in the administration of HSV Audubon and was also very active on an Arkansas State level. There is no doubt she will be sorely missed but the amazing thing is as she is leaving she saw a need for a new webmaster and without a moment's hesitation she volunteered for the position because she saw that this was a job she could do wherever she lived and she would always be in touch with HSV Audubon. (see related article)

As far as I can see Hot Springs Village Audubon Society is one of the best organizations in the village and I hope it always keeps moving forward.

Richard H. Kroetz, Pres.

PROGRAMS

November 13th

Fabulous Arkansas Wilderness, Tim Ernst

An HSVAS program year would not be complete without a program by Tim Ernst, landscape photographer. Once again Tim will share his incredible Arkansas photos in an entertaining program. Come early as Tim's programs ALWAYS pack the house.

December 11th

Jonathan Wirges

Jonathan is an Interpreter at DeGray Lake Resort Park. His program will cover outdoor activities, birds, and boat trips at DeGray Lake.

FIELD TRIPS

Audubon members, our first field trip of the season will be Tuesday, November 24th. Our destination is Magness Lake near Heber Springs. Every November a large flock of Trumpeter Swans migrate to Magness (and a few other nearby lakes) to spend the winter. Occasionally, a Tundra Swan joins the group.

This is an easy trip with no hiking required. We will meet at the parking area just outside of the East Gate at 8:00 am. The drive is about 2 hours. We'll stop for lunch before heading back. We should be back in the Village before 4pm. Bring water/snacks and your camera. The parking areas can get a little muddy if there has been rain.

Vic Prislipsky will be the guide for this trip. Maury Baker will have a sign-up list at the November meeting. Or you can contact Vic via our website. Hope to see you on the 24th.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2015

It's getting to be that time of year of again - Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year's CBC will take place on **Monday, December 14** from 7:30am until dark. As always, we need lots of volunteers to complete our six teams of observers.



We have five **field** teams going throughout the Village. The field watchers will be notified of their team assignment prior to the actual CBC day - once we know how many field watchers we will have participating. We also have one **feeder** team comprised of folks who watch their bird feeders from their homes.

There will be sign-up sheets at the October, November, and December HSV Audubon Society meetings. If you won't be at any of the meetings to sign up, you can contact Chris Cash at 922-1933 or c52cash@sbcglobal.net.

We will have the CBC dinner on **Tuesday, December 15th** starting at 5pm at Whittman's American Grill - 111 Ponderosa Lane near the Coronado Center. All the previous day's bird lists will be compiled at that time. The dinner is always great fun. Chef Rich will prepare a limited menu, and you can choose

from around 5-6 entrees that night. Cost will remain approximately \$14 plus whatever alcoholic beverage you might order. Hopefully, this will give everyone a little more flexibility with choosing an entree. At this point, you will be paying the night of the dinner. Chris will let everyone know if that changes, and she needs a check prior to that time.

Remember - you **DO NOT NEED TO BE AN EXPERT BIRDER** to participate! You also do not need to stay the whole day if your health or other activities interfere with a full day of bird watching. We need all levels and as many birdwatchers as possible. If spotting birds is difficult, you might be named the Recorder for your team. So please join us, and participate in the 115th CBC.



FALL BIRD SEED SALE

Hot Springs Village has some of the luckiest birds in America, due to the generous Villagers that supply them with food. Much of that food is purchased by our Audubon members and their friends each Spring and Fall during our Bird Seed Sale. Over the last 11 1/2 years, with the statistics available, Villagers bought over 4,700 20# bags of seed, equaling 47 tons!

Birds aren't the only ones that benefit from the seed sale, our local children also do. During the last 11 1/2 years Audubon has sent at least 69 campers to Halberg Ecology Camp using the profit from this sale. The Fall sale, just completed, fell right in line with all the others. We sold 194 bags for a profit of \$1,069.24 plus generous donations of \$320 for a grand total profit of \$1,389.24.

A win-win for both birds and kids! Thank you, Diane Condon.



CAROLYN MINSON

Carolyn and Walt Minson have decided to move to Ashland Oregon where they will be closer to their son and family.

Carolyn often said that when she first moved to the village she looked around for something to do. Lucky for us she picked Hot Springs Village Audubon. After joining in 1999, Carolyn began making contributions to the club right away. Here are just a few of her accomplishments.

- She became very proficient at birding, helping with the beginning bird classes, arranging and leading field trips.
- Has held several HSV Audubon offices, including president for a total of six years. Also served as vice president and president of the Arkansas Audubon Society, where her rapport with them and the National Audubon Society continues to benefit our club.
- Helped in the revision of our clubs constitution and bylaws to reflect the new chapter status. Also oversaw the development of job descriptions for all positions.
- Her computer skills helped create the HSV Audubon Society's website, started the e-mail communication system that provides instant contact and dissemination of information to our members.
- Has been a bluebird monitor/backup monitor for almost as long as she's been a member.

As you can see Carolyn has been a driving force in keeping the Hot Springs Village Audubon Society one of the foremost clubs in the village.

In addition, Carolyn's also been very active on the village trails committee where through her efforts walking the trails is informative and pleasurable, whether watching the birds, noting the wildflowers or identifying the native trees.

We could go on and on. So how do we say goodbye to someone who has been such an integral part of our organization for so many years. We can't and we won't. We will continue to benefit from Carolyn's expertise because she has consented to be our webmaster, from afar, as long as she can.

Thank you, Carolyn, and good luck to you and Walt in your new birding community!

