



THE CHIRP

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're in the midst of spring migration. It's a great time to be out birding. Field trips to Bona Dia and Brookhill Ranch have afforded participants with good looks at many warblers and other migrants. Golfers are seeing all sorts of birds on the courses. While golfing on Cortez Golf Course a week or so ago, I came upon a male Summer Tanager bathing in a course-side creek. My backyard yielded Chestnut-sided, Pine, and Tennessee Warblers in less than an hour today. So get out and enjoy our wonderful spring migratory birding opportunities in Hot Springs Village while you can!

Josie Farrell and Teri LaBove have been hard at work getting 11-12 year olds from the nearby schools to sign up for Halberg Ecology Camp. They have five new campers signed, , and we also have several returning campers that we will send to the camp. The proceeds from Bird Seed Sales help fund these campers. Our recent auctions of birding-related materials donated by Carolyn Minson also are going to the support of the campers. We raised \$150 through the two auctions. Thank you to all who supported the Bird Seed Sale and/or the auctions. It is only through your generosity that we are able to reach out to young people in the schools, and offer this incredible opportunity to attend Halberg Ecology Camp. Who knows? These campers might be our future HSV Audubon members, and **YOU** gave them their start in a hopefully lifelong love of birds and nature.

The date for the 2016 **Christmas Bird Count** (CBC) has been set. We will be counting on Wednesday, **December 14th**, and having our dinner on Thursday, December 15th, 2016. The CBC is the nation's longest-running citizen's science bird project. The findings fuel Audubon science throughout the year. Help be part of this important project, and join one of our five teams on December 14th. Sign-up sheets will be at all Audubon meetings starting in October. Put the date on your calendar now. No experience is necessary. We love and will accept all bird lovers.

Chris Cash
President

HALBERG ECOLOGY CAMO

The Arkansas Audubon Society Halberg Ecology Camp is held each June at Camp Clearfork, a U.S. Forest Service camp. Requirements to attend include students needing to be either 11- or 12-years old at the start of camp and display an interest in the natural sciences.

Audubon of HSV will be awarding first year Halberg Ecology Camp scholarships to one student from Fountain Lake, two from Jessieville and two from Mountain Pine. We also will be awarding one Advance scholarship to a Mountain Pine student and two Senior scholarships to a Mountain Pine and Fountain Lake student. Co chairs Teri LaBove and Josie Farrell deeply appreciate our members support for these scholarships. Please mark your calendar Friday, July 8th at 6 pm for the Audubon Potluck dinner that honors the Campers and their families. We will have sign up sheets at the June meeting for our members to help set up, clean up and potluck dishes. Since Andrea Mueller is having computer woes, contact Andrea by phone 915-8110, or Teri LaBove at terilabove45@gmail.com or 984-1384 to let us know what dish your will bring and if you can help set up and clean up. Come enjoy the Campers and their families.

Co chairs Teri and Josie thank you for your support.

PROGRAMS

June 10th

Kristen Bartlow, Watchable Wildlife Coordinator & Water Trails Coordinator for the AR Game and Fish Commission will be our June speaker to discuss Birding by Water Trails. AR is home to thousands of miles of rivers, streams and bayous that offer birders unique oppurtunities to see birds they may not see from shore. With Kristens combined interest in birding and water trails and her background as an educator, she will give us many valuable insights into when and where to go.

July 8th

Social - Halberg Ecology Camp Picnic.

August

No meeting. Programs will resume on September 9th.

FIELD TRIPS

We will have a Field Trip on Wednesday June 15th. Our target birds are Painted Buntings that nest in The Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA west of Morrillton.

Meet at the LaPlaza parking area just outside of the East Gate at 7:30am. We will arrange car pooling from there. There is little walking so rubber boots should not be needed. Bring whatever water, snacks, etc. you prefer. We should be done by noon. We can stop for lunch if that is what the group would like to do. We will have an option of driving through the Harris Brake WMA after lunch if there is interest. Contact Vic Prislipsky (209-9314) if you have questions.

We will cancel in case of ugly weather.

BLUEBIRD MONITORING



Our monitoring program is in full swing at this time. Many of our monitors are reporting second and third broods already. We have had some reports of eggs not hatching. This could be to cool wet weather, an abandoned nest, infertile parent(s). Actually there are lots of reasons, so be 200% sure before removing any nests or eggs. Incubation can vary and temperature plays an important role. We've also had reports of missing eggs with no sign of predation. We've recently learned that house sparrows and house wrens will peck at eggs and remove them from the nest – so be on the lookout for those pesky birds. Also the buffalo gnats are here (our golfers will certainly attest to that!). Using pure vanilla will deter them from in and around the nesting boxes. Please contact Kathy Jurek (915-9344) with any comments, issues, or questions.



“BIRD” BRAIN TEASERS

A Peacock's feather feature what?
The state bird of Maine is _____
Another name for a capricious bird.
Sometimes fools are called _____ brains.

Bird
Lark
Black-capped Chickadee
Eye spots