



AZFO Student Scholarship Recipient Essay 2014

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The annual AZFO meeting was full of many fascinating presentations and features. I especially enjoyed lectures that were based on a single species, such as the study on Gray Hawks and the expansion of Neotropical Cormorants. I also found the blood sample results from the study with the Rufous-winged Sparrows very thought provoking and stimulating. Overall the AZFO annual meeting was refreshing and engaged the members too.

Being that I had never been to an AZFO annual meeting, I was not sure what to expect. After experiencing the convention first hand, I can say that the meeting was well planned and stocked full of valuable information. Each speaker had their own unique topic and separate theme. This helped to bring variety to each spokesperson. I especially enjoyed the banquet. The food was excellently prepared and accompanied by an exceptional speaker.

The presentations coincided with the field expeditions following and preceding the meeting. There were many available field trips and each had its own point of interest. Of the two field expeditions that I accompanied, both were led by knowledgeable guides that shared their expertise on birds.

Most of the meeting was very well organized and very interesting. I learned many intriguing facts about a variety of different avian species; however I enjoyed the presentations on single species the most. My favorite aspect of the annual meeting was the visual identification bird quiz. In my opinion, this single display drew the most attention throughout the whole meeting. It was interesting to decipher the birds that were included in the bird quiz. Overall, the AZFO 2014 annual meeting was full of fascinating information that benefited all of the attendants.