



AZFO Student Scholarship Recipient Essay 2016

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This October I received a scholarship to go to the AZFO (Arizona Field Ornithologists) annual meeting. I was very excited, since I love birding. I met a lot of people, learned many things about birds, and really enjoyed the trip. The presentations, the dinner speaker and the field expedition were all fantastic.

There were several people doing many different presentations. All of them were excellent. I really liked the one that compared different types of hummingbird's colors and courtship displays, and I loved the presentation about California Condors. I learned a lot about these birds, including how they are often killed by lead poisoning. Every presentation was interesting in its own way.

After the daytime presentations, we went back to the hotel for a break, and then returned for the dinner and dinner speaker. His presentation was about pumping water back into the Colorado River because there was not enough. This was very fascinating, since they used man-made things to make the river a better location for wildlife. The project was beneficial, because many areas of the river were too dry for birds and animals to live.

The next morning, we went on the field expeditions we had signed up for the previous day. I went on the trip to Yuma East Wetlands with one of the other scholarship recipients. We saw mourning doves, lesser goldfinches, killdeer, sandpipers and sparrows. There was also an egret, a kingfisher, and a ton of yellow-rumped warblers. Many of these birds I would not have seen at home.

Going to AZFO was a great opportunity for me. I met some other young birders, learned many things from the presentations, and saw many birds. I hope to go back next year.