



AZFO Student Scholarship Recipient Essay 2016

Ruby Parker

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I really enjoyed the 2016 annual AZFO meeting in Yuma. It was a lot of fun and I'm glad I went. It was nice to meet up with other kids interested in birds. The presentations were stendous and I thought it was super exciting to go on a mini-field expedition.

It was cool to talk to kids who liked birds, same as me. They all had a lot more experience than me. It was nice to hear about some of the different things they had done. (Where they have gone birding, what kinds of birding camps they have gone to, etc.)

The presentations were very interesting. I learned so much from them. My two favorites were The Evolution of Hummingbird Coloration and Courtship and A Recovery Effort: California Condor Distribution, Breeding, and Challenges in the Southwest Population. I thought the work put into filming the little hummingbirds was amazing. It was eye-opening to see the differences between each of the different courting shows. Regarding the condors, it is surprising how significantly the population of the condors has grown since 1996. I am so glad they are trying to educate hunters on how much lead bullets effect California Condors.

I loved the Mini-Expeditions! I went on the Yuma East Wetlands mini-field expedition. I saw so many interesting new birds! A lot of the birds were water birds that I don't get to see. Even though it is a fairly common bird there, my favorite was the Great Egret. It is just so beautiful and regal.

I am so glad that I got the scholarship to participate in this meeting. I felt that it was a great opportunity to learn about birds, along with lots of other things too! Thank you to AZFO and the Maricopa Audubon Society for the great experience. I hope I can attend a future annual meeting. I'm looking forward to it!