

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Liz Lester, Publisher, Half Acre Press

Phone: 479-236-0992

Email: liz@halfacrepress.com

IN THE PROVINCE OF BIRDS

A MEMOIR FROM WESTERN ARKANSAS



Joseph C. Neal



Joe Neal sitting on a stump in a sandstone grotto at Ninestone Land Trust in Carroll County, Arkansas, in 2011.

Photo by Joan Reynolds.

HALF ACRE PRESS PUBLISHES MEMOIR BY NORTHWEST ARKANSAS WRITER JOE NEAL

Fayetteville, AR, November 22, 2011 – Fayetteville’s Half Acre Press has recently published *In the Province of Birds*, a new memoir from local wildlife biologist, writer, and birder Joe Neal. Nightbird Books in Fayetteville will host a program and book signing with the author on Friday, December 9 at 7 pm.

In the Province of Birds takes the reader along the highways and byways of western Arkansas, with stops at the intersections of family, faith, friendship, art, and science. What fuels the journey? Birds. From a common Northern Cardinal nesting in a backyard tree to a rare Prairie Falcon soaring over a former tallgrass prairie, birds are at the heart of this collection of essays. Even so, Neal’s writings go far beyond an account of days spent with binoculars and field guide. At once biologist, historian, hippy, father, and companion, Neal’s life experiences color each essay. Illustrated with photos of flora, fauna, and friends, *In the Province of Birds* offers a unique perspective on nature, ecology, and humanity.

Joe Neal is the author of *The Birdside Baptist* and co-author of *Arkansas Birds* and *History of Washington County Arkansas*. He has worked as a biologist for three decades, including 17 years in the USDA Forest Service as a wildlife biologist working to restore the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker in the Ouachita Mountains. Now retired from the Forest Service, he is active in both Arkansas Audubon Society and Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society. He writes and records commentaries for “Ozarks at Large,” a feature on KUAJ, is a Visiting Scholar in the University of Arkansas, and writes a local bird column for the *Washington County Observer*.

In the Province of Birds is the latest publication of Half Acre Press, an independent press founded by Liz Lester, publishing uncommon Ozark writers slightly off the beaten path, and found online at halfacrepress.com.

#

- In the Province of Birds: A Memoir from Western Arkansas
- Paperback: 210 pages, 6 x 9 in
- Publisher: Half Acre Press (December 1, 2011)
- ISBN-13: 978-09829455-5-1
- List: \$16.00
- Available through Ingram, Amazon.com, and halfacrepress.com.
- For readings/interviews contact author Joe Neal at 479-521-1858 or joeneal@uark.edu


HALF

ACRE

PRESS