

# *Mobile Bay Audubon Society*

January - May 2017 Newsletter

## **MBAS Christmas Party December 13, 2016 6:00 pm**

Mobile Bay Audubon Society Christmas Party “ Nature Photography “ presented by **Spence Harrison** Bring a plate of your special holiday goodies (finger food only) to share around the Wassail Bowl.

Open to the Public! Bring a Friend!

## **Audubon Eastern Shore Birders**

The AESB is a loose knit group of people who enjoy birding around the local area. Anyone is welcome. To get regular notices of birding trips, send an email to Lynne Fitzgerald, at [aesbrfl@gmail.com](mailto:aesbrfl@gmail.com)

## **Whooping Crane Stopover Habitat Project**

MBAS Vice-President Chester McConnell is also President of Friends of the Wild Whoopers (FOTWW). FOTWW focuses on developing, protecting and managing habitat for the only wild Whooping Crane population on earth. That population nests in Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada, migrates 2,500 miles through the middle of the US and winters on Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast.

During these migrations the Whoopers stopover in ponds and streams about 10 to 15 times, and remain for a day or two to rest and feed. Regrettably, many “stopover habitats” are being destroyed or degraded on private property due to a variety of intensified developments. FOTWW has been working with U.S. military bases and Indian Reservations to develop and protect stopover habitats, which are as essential to the Whooping Cranes as are their Canadian nesting sites and Aransas Refuge wintering habitats on the Texas coast.

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## **MBAS Calendar - January - May 2017**

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center at **7:00 pm** and are open to the public. Bring a friend!

### **January 10**

General Meeting. "Panama" presented by **Patsy Russo**. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

### **February 14**

General Meeting. "Iceland" presented by Rick Wallace and Yael Girard. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

**March 13 TBA**

**April 11 TBA**

**May 9 TBA**

National Audubon Society  
Mobile Bay Audubon Society  
P O Box 483  
Fairhope, AL 36533

## **Mobile Bay Audubon Wants You! Join Today!**

MBAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. When you join NAS, you will become a member of the nearest local chapter.

To join, go to the NAS webpage [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click on Member Center or send your membership information to National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 422247, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6716. A one year membership costs \$20.

For more information about MBAS, please see our website at [www.mobilebayaudubon.org](http://www.mobilebayaudubon.org).

### **Whooping Crane Stopover Habitat Project,** *continued from front page*

The bases and reservations within the Whoopers' flyway corridor have over 4 million acres of land, and some have been developed and managed as stopover areas. FOTWW has been successful in applying its management knowledge on this land, which has resulted in a win-win for wild Whooping Cranes, the U.S. military, Indian Reservations and FOTWW.

Chester McConnell and reservation biologists identified over 1,700 potential stopover ponds/wetlands on Indian reservations in North Dakota and South Dakota and 150 on military bases within the Whooping Crane migration corridor. The biologists estimated that 75 percent of the ponds could provide good stopover habitat. During the surveys FOTWW biologist Chester McConnell instructs reservation biologists on habitat management practices necessary to make ponds/wetlands acceptable to Whooping Cranes.



Juvenile and adult Whooping Cranes resting and feeding during migration

**CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!!**  
**December 13, 2016 6:00 pm Five Rivers Delta Resource Center**  
**See p. 1 for details**