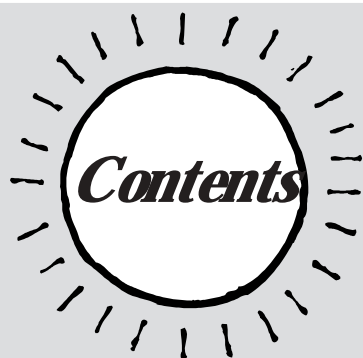


# Mobile Bay Audubon Society

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SINCE 1971



VOLUME XXIII NO. 1



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## Alabama Coastal BirdFest

By John Borom

An exciting event will take place in Alabama on October 14-17, 2004. We are in the process of planning the first annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest which includes the following groups: Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Faulkner State Community College, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mobile Convention and Visitors Corporation, Baldwin County Commission, Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant, Alabama Power Foundation, City of Fairhope, The Nature Conservancy, the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation and the Mobile Bay Audubon Society.

Our location makes this an excellent time of the year for birding, and the weather is typically beautiful. Birding trips will feature the 240 mile long Alabama Coastal Birding Trail, a series of loops that describes the birding spots most frequented by Alabama birders. All proceeds will

*Continued on page 2*

*Taken from the front page of the Mobile Register on December 22, 2003*

## Birding Boom Brings Tourists Wildlife officials say more money is spent in the state on watching birds than on hunting

By Garry Mitchell  
Associated Press Writer

Alabama has more riches than most realize in its skies and back yards—birds.

In an eye-opening analysis, federal wildlife officials found that more money is spent on watching birds and other wildlife in Alabama than is spent on hunting.

Counting purchases on everything from vehicles for exploring to birdseed and binoculars for closer looks, \$626 million was spent in 2001 on watching birds and other wildlife in Alabama—compared with about \$601 million on hunting and \$719 million on fishing, according to an economic analysis by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Using US Census data, the

*Continued on page 3*

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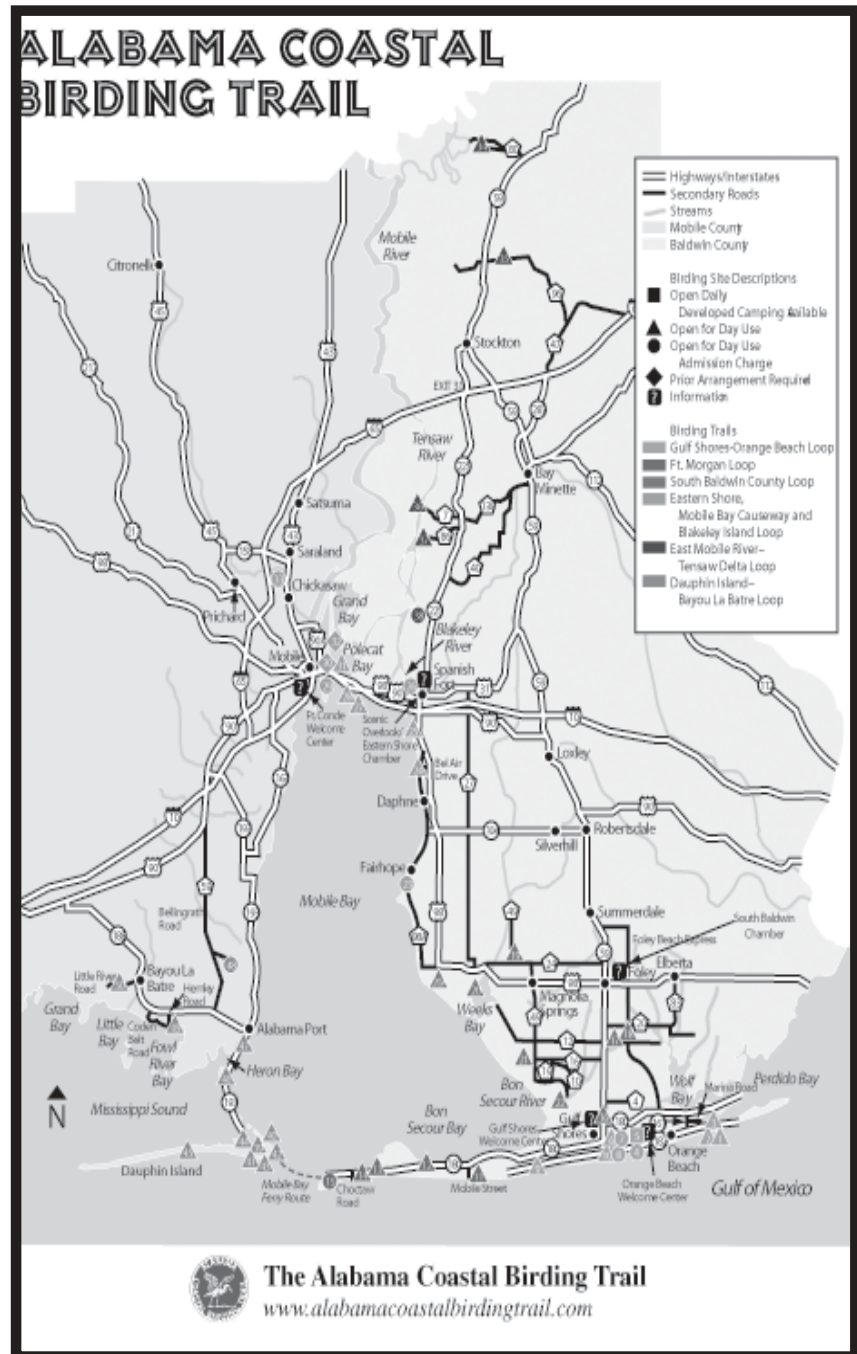
Edith McClinton  
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be used to purchase and improve habitat for birds on the Alabama Gulf Coast.

In addition to field trips, BirdFest will include special free activities that are designed to promote birding, environmental stewardship and ethics. It will also include evening speakers, a silent auction, exhibits and a few

workshops. Individuals who register for birding events will be given discounts if they are members of the Mobile Bay Audubon Society.

The entire schedule of events for the Alabama Coastal BirdFest will be placed on the Mobile Bay Audubon Society website in the near future.



officials estimate that about 703,000 people took part in bird-watching in Alabama in 2001. The vast majority were backyard bird-watchers—only 70,000 were out-of-state visitors—but about 40 percent of all watchers take trips to find birds. Trips to zoos weren't counted.

"We get large numbers of birders throughout the year from Birmingham and Nashville areas," said Dwight Cooley, manager of the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge near Decatur.

"There are a lot of birders who are looking for new places to go. They think nothing of driving six, seven, 10 hours to an area for good birding. Once they find an area, something special brings them back, like large numbers of waterfowl," Cooley said.

Fish & Wildlife officials admit it's tricky to estimate how much a bird-watcher will spend per trip.

But money spent for binoculars in a store or a sandwich in a restaurant on a trip has a ripple effect on the economy, the F&W analysis of birding says. Prices for binoculars and telescopes can exceed \$500.

They also buy field guides, bird food, bird houses, camping gear and even boats and off-road vehicles.

According to the analysis, a typical nature tourist is about 52 years old, about as likely to be a man as a woman, and have an individual median income of nearly \$62,000 a year. They are well-educated people who generally have completed at least four years of college.

They tend to take short trips—two nights and three days—



within a six-hour drive one-way from their home, averaging over 10 such trips each year.

Nationwide, with some 70 million bird-watchers, total spending for wildlife watching grew 41 percent from 1991 to 2001, the federal analysis says, with Alabama benefiting from the increase.

This spring, for example, 16.8 percent of vacationers visited the Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge as compared with 6.4 percent in 2001. In addition, activities involving wildlife observation grew from 10.3 percent to 17.2 percent for the same period, according to Gulf Shores visitors bureau estimates.

Officials at the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, pointing to the economic success of a coastal birding trail, are completing the North Alabama Birding Trail, which will go through 12 counties. The project, with about 50 sites, began Sept. 10 and could be

finished by spring 2005.

James C. White of Decatur, former president of the Tennessee Valley chapter of the Audubon Society, said his bird-watching activities have taken him around the world. He expects the north Alabama trail will "dramatically improve" bird-watching in the area.

"I'm sure it will attract a lot of birding enthusiasts," White said in a recent telephone interview. "I could name a couple of hundred birders in this local area."

The Conservation Department contracted with Fermata Inc., an Austin, Texas-based firm, to handle the new trail. The sites will be organized in loops that require no more than a long weekend to view. Kiosks will be built at each site, with information on the birds.

Fermata project manager Mary Jeanne Packer of Rutland, Vt., said equipment purchases for bird-watching, including SUV's

and even motor homes, may not necessarily be bought in Alabama but restaurants and motels profit from the activity.

“One of our goals is to develop more services directly tied to the place and market those as part of the overall nature tourism experience,” Pack said. Those services include guides and sales of unique merchandise such as handcrafted furniture and pottery made from local clay.

Mark Sasser, the Conservation Department’s coordinator of the \$280,000 project funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and local agencies, said the economic impact on the Tennessee Valley could be \$30 million the first year. There are 3 million people living in cities that include Nashville, Knoxville and Atlanta, within a six-hour drive of north Alabama.

He said similar trail projects have been successful in Texas, Arizona, and Lake Erie.

“No Alabama tax dollars are being spent on this project,”

Sasser said.

On the coast, Jereme Phillips, a wildlife biologist at Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge in coastal Baldwin County, said “hard-core” birders tend to know the best places to watch the migratory flights—and that means Alabama’s coast.

“This is one of the most important stopover sites in the United States for tropical migratory birds,” said Phillips.

This flight path extends into Mobile and out to Dauphin Island as the birds come and go across the Gulf of Mexico as seasons change.

The Bon Secour refuge on Fort Morgan Peninsula is on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail and in one of the giant circles for Audubon’s annual Christmas bird count. Birds are counted—and some banded for identification—in the circles each 15 miles in diameter or about 177 square miles. The count by volunteers from Alabama to Venezuela continues through Jan. 5.

# Newsletter Deadline

Any member is welcomed and encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. I would be happy to include anything you think would be of interest to the membership.

Please send your articles for the March/April issue to Delane Small by February 26.

Address:

1 Fiesta Drive

Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Email: dhs9700@bellsouth.net



Resolution 2003-29 was passed on April 7 designating the City of Daphne a bird sanctuary and a sign was placed in the Daphne Bayfront Park. Thank you Mayor Harry Brown and the Daphne City Council for this positive effort and thank you David Yeager and the Mobile Bay National Estuary program for funding the sign. Pictured fromleft to right are Harry Brown, David Yeager and John Borom.



# Help Scientists Track Birds in Your Community

The Great Backyard Bird Count will be February 13-16, 2004. It is hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Now that winter has gripped much of the continent, where are the birds? Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. Scientists want to take a “snapshot” of our North American bird populations, and you can help us do just that. In 2003 citizen scientists like you submitted almost 50,000 checklists totaling more than four million birds of 512 species.

Everyone’s contribution is important. It doesn’t matter

whether you identify, count, and report the five species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day’s outing to a wildlife refuge. Your bird list can help answer questions about the health of our bird populations.

Here is what you can do. Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on any or all of the four count days. Watch your bird feeders or take a short walk in your neighborhood or park. For each species of bird that you see, record the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time during your count. Don’t add a bird

every time you see one at your feeder; you could be counting the same individual.

Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate. We recommend watching for a little longer, so you can get a good sense of what birds are in your area. Enter your count online at the Great Backyard Bird Count site (<http://www.birdsource.org>) and use your State Checklist to submit your highest counts for that day. View your results after you have entered your count for the day. Visit the Maproom and see results from across the continent.

## A “Snapshot” of Last Year’s Great Backyard Bird Count Findings

Last winter, as part of the Great Backyard Bird count (GBBC), bird enthusiasts across North America submitted almost 50,000 checklists totaling more than four million birds of 5123 species during the February count. The event, one of the largest citizen-science projects in the world, documented regional declines of the American Crow that may be the result of West Nile virus in those regions. These crows were reported in alarmingly fewer numbers in Illinois and Ohio, where West Nile virus has had a strong presence, backing findings from the Christmas Bird Count and Project Feeder Watch. This decrease may or may not be related to West Nile, but the situation is certainly something we need to pay attention to. Crows are particularly vulnerable to the virus.

Other species showed increases last year during the GBBC. Participants in the eastern United States counted more Dark-eyed Juncos than they had since GBBC 2000, perhaps because of the massive snowstorm that hit the eastern seaboard during the weekend of the count, driving birds to feeders in high numbers. That same snowstorm apparently held early migrants like Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark and American Woodcock farther south, compared to previous years.

In the West, Mountain Bluebirds were reported farther south than the year before, and all of the rosy-finches (Black, Gray-crowned, Brown-capped) were documented farther north. In previous years, GBBC maps of Eurasian Collared Doves introduced in the Bahamas before reaching

Florida in the 1980’s, showed the species spreading quickly northwestward. Last year’s maps show no change, suggesting a slowdown in the rate at which the bird’s range is spreading. How will this winter compare to the last six? What will it reflect about our bird populations? The participation of novice and expert bird watchers alike will help us answer these questions. We need every birder to participate with us. “The Great Backyard Bird Count has become an important means of gathering data to help birds, but it can’t happen unless people take part. Whether you’re a novice or an expert, we need you to help us help birds.”

*Chapter Networker, Volume VIII, No. 4, Winter 2003*

# Methylmercury

Don't dismiss warnings concerning methylmercury contamination in fish! This is especially important if you're a woman between 14 and 44 years of age, have small children or are pregnant, because methylmercury exposure can potentially affect mental abilities on a lifelong basis.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. EPA are recommending that women from 14 to 44 years of age not eat more than 12 ounces of any fish or more than 6 ounces of freshwater fish per week. For children age 12 and under, the limit is only 2 ounces. They also recommend that no king mackerel, swordfish, shark or tilefish be eaten at all.

Methylmercury is a potent neurotoxin (poison) that can cause birth defects, learning disabilities, blindness, paralysis, loss of muscular control and death. Children of women who consume fish and seafood containing methylmercury during pregnancy may be at special risk of brain and nerve damage. Such damage could result in neurological disorders such as attention deficit disorder, language delay, and learning difficulties.

Up to 10% of American women between 16 and 49 years old have mercury levels above EPA guidelines, according to a March 2001 report by the U.S. Department of Human Health and Services (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). There are nearly six million such women. Such women give birth annually to 370,000 babies that are at potential risk of developmental

problems because of prenatal mercury exposure.

Coal-burning power plants are a major source of mercury emissions to the atmosphere. Prior to establishing new, more stringent regulations for mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants, the U.S. Congress required EPA to conduct an independent study of mercury toxicology.

In July, 2000, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences published a report entitled "Toxicological Effects of Methylmercury". This report concluded that EPA's reference dose for methylmercury was scientifically justified for protection of public health. This reference dose is the basis for the recommended weekly fish consumption rates.

State health departments currently list more than 2,500 fish consumption advisories due to mercury contamination. Large-mouth bass, bowfin, and chain pickerel contain high levels of mercury in many states. However, few people who eat fish from methylmercury-contaminated waters are aware of such warnings, and many people ignore the warnings.

What's more, few advisories warn about the cumulative effects of eating contaminated fish. For instance, if someone ingests the reference dose by eating a meal of large-mouth bass or a tuna sandwich, should that person avoid eating any more fish of that type that might contain mercury?

There is a general misconception that commercially har-

vested fish and seafood cannot be sold in this country if they contain more than the FDA action limit of 1.0 part per million (ppm) of mercury. In recent years, the FDA has not tested for methylmercury in domestic or imported marine fish or other seafood. As a result, some states, such as California, now require grocery and seafood stores to post federal mercury warnings for fresh, frozen and canned seafood.

Methylmercury can cause sublethal effects in animals, including impaired growth and development, adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, reduced reproductive success, liver and kidney damage, and behavioral abnormalities. As a neurotoxin, methylmercury can cause decreased motor skills, tremors, the inability to walk, convulsions and death. High methylmercury levels may have contributed to the deaths of some Florida panthers, since panthers typically consume large amounts of fish. Effects on plants include growth inhibition, decreased chlorophyll, and leaf and root damage.

Mercury is a natural element which occurs in certain minerals. Bacteria can convert elemental mercury to gaseous methylmercury, which can be absorbed by other organisms. Methylmercury is then passed on to small fish, larger fish and the many animals that feed on those fish, including man. As it passes up the food chain, methylmercury is biomagnified at each successive level, resulting in concentrations in top predators that can be several million times the initial

concentrations in water or sediments. For wildlife and humans, the primary source of methylmercury exposure is consumption of fish.

The amount of mercury in the atmosphere is estimated to have increased as much as ten-fold since the beginning of the industrial revolution. This increase has occurred worldwide and is due largely to burning of fossil fuels. Of the estimated 158 tons of mercury emitted annually into the atmosphere by human activities in the U.S., approximately 87% comes from point combustion sources, primarily coal burning power plants. Electrical power plants built in the 1940s to 1970s are the largest industrial source of mercury emitted into the atmosphere. The Clean Air Act, passed by Congress in 1970 and amended in 1977 and 1990, exempts such older plants from new air pollution standards.

An expert panel on mercury and atmospheric processes concluded that if all mercury releases were stopped today, it could take 50 years for methylmercury levels in fish to return to pre-industrial levels. Skinning, filleting and trimming the fat from fish does not significantly reduce the mercury concentration, nor is mercury removed in the cooking process. In fact, mercury concentrations are higher in fish after cooking, because cooking removes moisture.

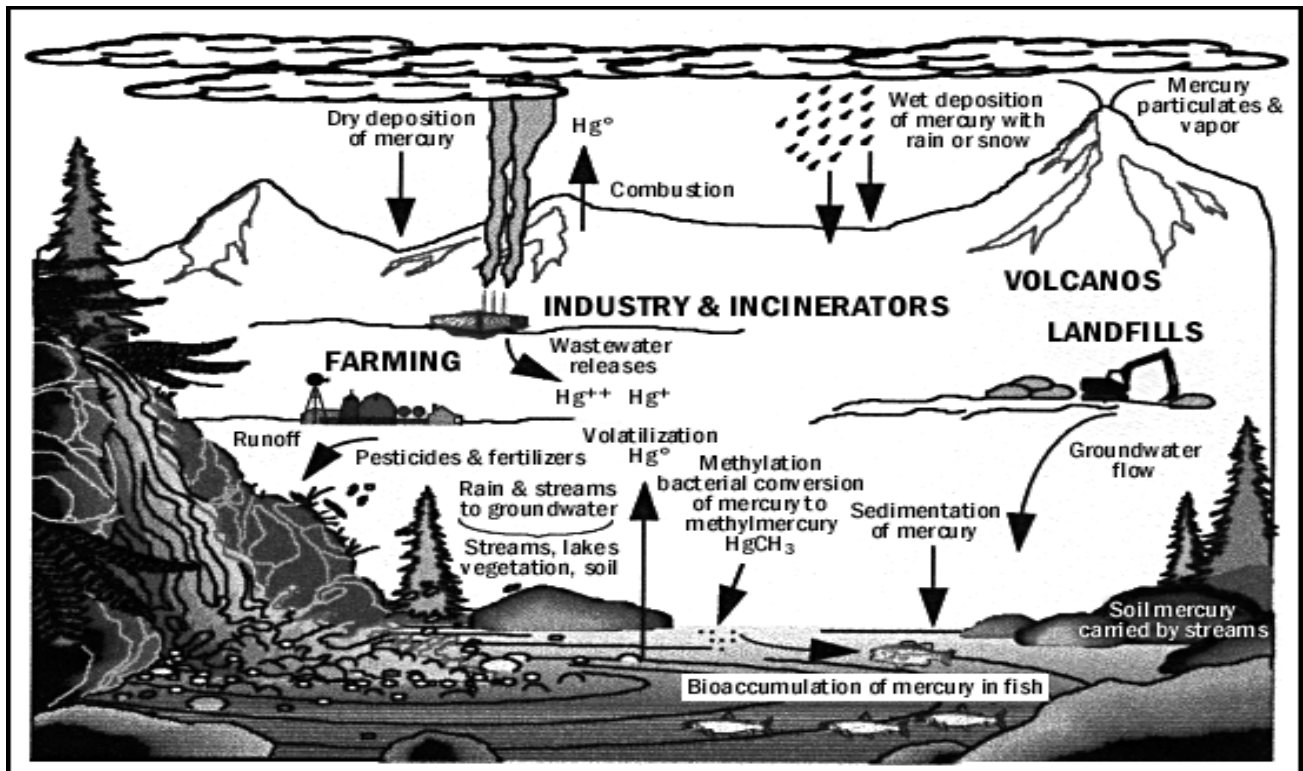
For women of child-bearing age and young children, the most important thing to be aware of is not to consume more than the recommended amounts of the fish listed on the fish consumption advisories.

Currently, there is no effective national education campaign that focuses on realistically evaluating the dangers of consuming freshwater and marine fish and seafood. Since coal-fired electrical power plants are the largest known source of

manmade mercury emissions, reduction of mercury-containing emissions would be necessary for reducing atmospheric mercury.

State legislatures in 13 states, primarily in the Northeast, and the U.S. Congress are currently considering bills that would eliminate or reduce mercury in products such as thermometers, electrical switches, and dental amalgams. The health and environmental threats posed by methylmercury will only be reduced through public education, use of new technologies and stricter regulations regarding air pollution.

Alabama fish consumption advisories can be obtained from the Alabama Department of Public Health Division of Epidemiology Risk Assessment and Toxicology Branch, P. O. Box 303017, Montgomery, AL 36130. Their website is [www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org).



# New Members

Welcome to the Mobile Bay Audubon Society, the local chapter of the National Audubon Society. We thank you for your support. A few facts about our chapter: Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday from September thru May at 7:30 PM alternately in Fairhope and Mobile (See calendar for details of programs and locations.) Programs of interest are planned for each meeting and field trips are scheduled regularly. We are a non-profit organization—all donations are tax deductible. A list of officers is listed in the newsletter; feel free to call any of them for information. Join us as often as you can—we want to get to know you.

*Ottilie Halstead, Membership Chairman*



***Bay Minette***

Elizabeth Wills

***Daphne***

Joe-Sarah Guin

***Fairhope***

Connie Kreves

Joe English

Betty G Jones

Elizabeth Tate

T Yeager

***Gulf Shores***

John Teipel

***Lillian***

Mr.-Mrs. Laurene Michie

***Mobile***

Julie Bassett

Judy P Childers

Barbara Ensminger

Linda Harwell

H F Mahan

Judith Pierce

William Rowell

Charlotte Stephens

***Orange Beach***

Judith L Smith

***Robertsdale***

Eloise Pope

***Semmes***

Edward J Nicholas

***Theodore***

Cindy L Mills

Alan Stabler

Renee Vickery

***Transfer into Chapter***

Walter Rosene Jr.

Mary-Warren chivers

Charles W Hayes

Linda A Maurer

Charles Desroches



The Christmas party/ meeting held at the Government Street Baptist Church was once again a great success thanks to the very entertaining presentation of Beverly and John Winn. They shared some of their photos taken on a recent birding trip to Japan.

Coupled with the great finger foods provided by the members, the meeting was one of the best yet!





# Birds Are Where You Find Them

By Celeste Hinds

Several years ago we flew to southeast Arizona in search of the Red-faced Warbler *Cardellina rubrifrons*. There we joined a group and boarded a bus to about 20 miles southwest of Patagonia. After that we took another bus (this one a real old jalop) with no air conditioning. The drive was several hours over boulders and cacti and I wondered if the silly bird was worth it.

Finally the bus stopped and we hiked for a mile or two across the desert to a stand of pines where we suffered cacti and breathed the dust until I thought my lungs were full of debris.

Another mile or two of tip-toeing brought us to a dry creek bed where we sat still and didn't speak for half an hour – waiting for the Red-faced to appear. No

luck. We ate a soggy sandwich and picked cactus spines from our ankles and dreamed about air conditioning. To make a long story short – I finally got a glimpse of the elusive warbler. If someone hadn't told me what it was I would never have known for I didn't see any red on the face. Nevertheless after all the turmoil I noted it as a lifer.

Last month we were in San Miguel Allende, Mexico and guess what was the first bird I saw in Parque Juarez – you guessed it. There it sat, plain as day, only a few feet from me. As I watched several Red-faced Warblers among the scrubby pines I remembered that awful day in Arizona!

Birds are where you find them.

were visible. The week prior when we visited Maehar Park and Pinto Pass the ever-present Gadwalls were absent. A few American Coots and an assortment of herons and egrets were there, but not in the numbers ordinarily seen in December.

At first I thought there had not been enough cold weather up north to drive them down. But the resident Cardinals and Blue Jays were also scarce. Woodpeckers were not interested in my suet or peanut butter offerings.

This fall I've only seen a few Yellow Rumps whereas I would normally expect a dozen around the wooded areas at our pond.

Have the birds gone to Florida or South Texas? Has disease taken a toll? What's up?



## The Birds Are Tardy

By Celeste Hinds

Today is December 15 and only two Goldfinches are enjoying breakfast at my feeder. A couple of White-throated Sparrows finally arrived yesterday and are scratching on the ground. Usually by mid December the feeders are alive with little seed eaters and there is often a blanket of White-throateds on the ground.

On December 10 our birding class went to Gulf areas where we usually see Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, but none

The following are from *Bird Watcher's Digest*, taken from their section of frequently asked questions concerning window strikes:

1. How can I keep birds from flying into my windows?

A: Silhouettes of flying hawks or falcons do work, but they perform best when applied on the outside of the glass. Hanging ornaments such as wind chimes, wind socks, and potted plants also help. Misting the outside of the window with a very weak detergent of soda solution will eliminate the reflection but will also impair visibility for you. Awnings, eave extensions, and window screens will eliminate all reflection and stop the collision problem. Plastic cling wrap applied to the inside or outside of the window can also be effective. One of the most effective solutions we have found is Feather Guard.

2. Every spring and summer we have a family of bluebirds nesting in our yard, and every year these bluebirds exhibit the same peculiar behavior: They fly from window to window, butting their heads against the glass while looking into the house. Can you explain this behavior?

A: Your birds are fighting their reflections in the windows, thinking that the reflection is a rival bird. One of the solutions we use is to place screens over the outside of the window. Plastic wrap stuck to the outside will also work—anything that will break up the reflection will do. We have also offered our bluebirds places to perch, such as snags and posts, far from our windows. Bluebirds love a perch in the middle of a lawn or field. This has worked to distract the birds from our windows. For answers to the most commonly asked bird

questions, get a copy of *The Backyard Bird Watcher's Answer Guide*.

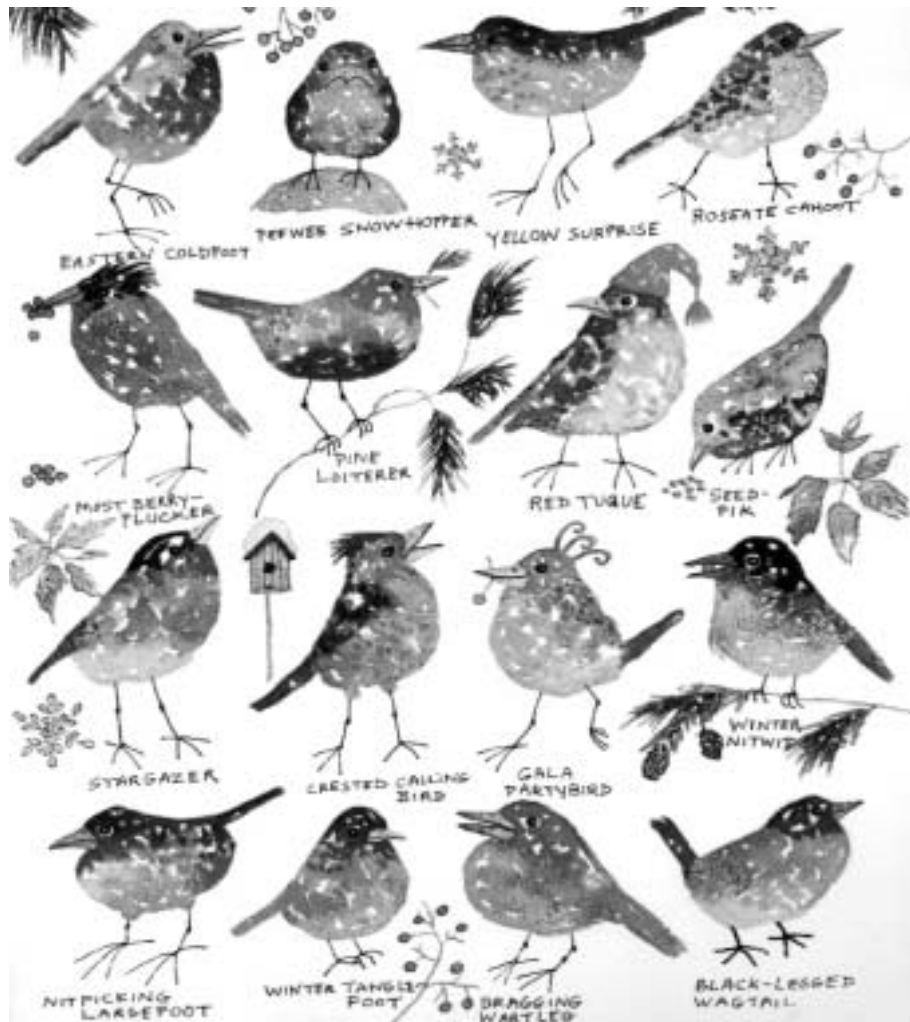
3. We have a female cardinal that has declared war on our house. She starts whacking herself into our windows at 6 a.m. and will not quit until the sun goes down. How long can I expect this behavior to last?

A: The behavior will last through the breeding season. In some individuals it may go on year-round, for years! It's a territorial reason to seeing an intruder on her "turf." Covering the windows with screens will help, but when we had the same problem a few years ago, the bird just moved to another window. A sharp-shinned

hawk put our bird out of its misery. You may try screening, or plastic wrap on the outside surfaces of the window. Remove any perches from which the bird can see itself in the windows. And continue to harass the bird to try to shock it out of its pattern of territoriality. (Spraying the bird with the garden hose may work, and rubber snakes hung by the windows sometimes do the trick.) If all else fails, call your local wildlife officials and ask them to come out and remove the bird for you. It's drastic, but it will end the problem for good.

[http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/faq/strikes\\_answers.html](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/faq/strikes_answers.html)

## Season's Tweetings





# Calendar

## *JANUARY*

- 13 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
General Meeting. “**The Challenges of Bird Migration**” presented by **Eric Soehren**, terrestrial zoologist, Natural Heritage Section, State Lands Division, ADCNR. 7:30 p.m. Faulkner State Community College Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. Bring a friend.
- 24 Field trip to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. Meet under the live oaks at the Pine Beach trail head which is located on the south side of the Fort Morgan Road (Hwy 180) at the 11-mile marker. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Bring a friend.
- 27 Free Natural History Film. “**In Search of the Albino**” presented by wildlife photographer/narrator **Tom Sterling**. 7:30 p.m. Faulkner State Community College Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. Bring a friend.

## *FEBRUARY*

- 10 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
General Meeting “**Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Southeast Jackson County Mississippi**” presented by **Dave Ruple**, Reserve Manger, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. 7:30 p.m. Government Street Baptist Church in Mobile. Bring a friend.
- 21 Field trip to the 18,400-acre Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. If you are coming from Baldwin County, meet at the ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries office parking lot on the causeway at 8:00 a.m. If you are coming from Mobile County, meet at the Chevron Station at Exit 4 off I-10 at 8:30 a.m. Bring a friend.

## *MARCH*

- 9 Board Meeting 6:30pm  
General Meeting 7:30pm. “**The Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas—fun, science and Conservation**” presented by **Rick West**. Faulkner State Community College Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. 7:30 p.m. To learn more about the breeding bird atlas project log on to [www.bham.net/aos/bba](http://www.bham.net/aos/bba).

## *APRIL*

- 3-17 Hummer Bird Study Group spring banding at Fort Morgan. A flood of neotropical migrants in their finest breeding plumage! For more information, call **Bob Sargent** at 204-681-2888.
- 13 Board Meeting 6:30pm  
General Meeting 7:30pm. “**Watersheds and Water Quality**” presented by **Jody Scanlan**, environmental extension assistant. Auburn Marine Extension and Research Center. Government Street Baptist Church in Mobile. 7:30 p.m.
- 15-18 The Great Louisiana BirdFest, an event of the Northlake Nature Center, Mandeville, Louisiana. For more information log on to [www.northlakenature.org/BirdFest2004](http://www.northlakenature.org/BirdFest2004).
- 16-18 Alabama Ornithological Society spring meeting at Dauphin Island, 6:00 a.m. Friday until noon Sunday. For more information, call **John Porter** at 251-861-2120.

## *MAY*

- 11 General Meeting 7:30pm  
Regular Meeting 7:30pm. “**All You Ever Wanted to Know About Hummingbirds but Didn’t Know Who to Ask,**” presented by Fred Bassett, a Master Bird bander withthe Hummer Bird Study Group. Faulkner State Community College Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Field trip to Gaillard Island in Mobile Bay to observe nesting Brown Pelicans as well as gulls and terns. Meet at Beachcomber Dry Dock and Marine Supply at Dog River in Mobile County. Going south take the first left at Dog River Bridge. There will be a \$15 per person fee. Limit 20 people. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For reservations call **John Borom** at 251-990-0423.

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

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats.

As a member, you'll become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- ◆ A 1-year subscription (6 bi-monthly issues) of our chapter newsletter.
- ◆ Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription (4 issues, one per quarter) of Audubon, its award-winning magazine;
- ◆ Admission to Audubon Centers across the country
- ◆ A 10% discount on products at select Audubon Nature Stores, and more!

### Yes! I want to join Mobile Bay Audubon and National Audubon Society!

\$20 – 1 year Introductory Rate

\$15 – 1 year Student/Senior Rate

\$30 – 2 year Special Rate

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“Any society which does not insist upon respect for all life must necessarily decay,” Albert Einstein

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