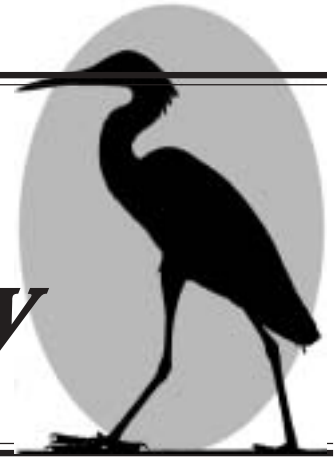


# Mobile Bay Audubon Society

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SINCE 1971



VOLUME XXIII NO. 4



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## Mark your calendars for the first Alabama Coastal Bird Fest coming soon . . . October 14-17, 2004!

The first Alabama Coastal BirdFest is intended to be an annual event. Saving stopover habitat on the northern Gulf Coast for neotropical migrating birds has often been a neglected part of avian conservation. Unfortunately for the birds, because humans love the Gulf Coast too, less stopover habitat is available for birds each year. To help address this issue, all proceeds from the Alabama Coastal BirdFest will be used to purchase and improve habitat for birds on the Alabama Gulf Coast. The Alabama Coastal BirdFest will be held each year in the fall when many species are migrating south to Alabama or through the state to central and South America.

To whet your appetite and show you the quality of the speakers at the BirdFest two are featured below:

**Dr. J. V. Remsen** is the Curator of Birds at the LSU Museum of Natural Science in Baton Rouge. His research involves the ecology, evolution, and biogeography of neotropical birds, particularly those of the Andes and the Amazon basin. Dr. Remsen concentrates on investigating how and why tropical birds differ from their temperate-latitude counterparts, especially

with respect to foraging behavior, habitat selection, and patterns of geographical variation. He is particularly interested in those features important for conservation of tropical birds. He is also working on a book on the status, distribution, and natural history of the birds of Louisiana. This outstanding scientist will be the special guest speaker at the Barbeque and Seafood Social and Silent Auction at the Nix Center in Fairhope on Friday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m. He will talk about the recently reported sighting of the pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area and efforts among experts to confirm their presence.

**Alicia Craig**, Director of Bird Conservation Alliance, has been with the American Bird Conservancy since August 2003. She previously worked as a naturalist in Florida and most recently as the education manager and cause related marketing manager for a national bird feeding retail organization. Alicia serves on the Association of Field Ornithologists and is the AFO AField newsletter editor. Alicia also serves on the board of

*Continued on page 3*

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# Birdathon 2004

## A Success Story

The 2004 Bird-a-Thon raised \$1333.50 to place Audubon Adventures into 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Audubon Adventures is a complete curriculum enhancement program the teachers use to support the teaching of environmental science. Materials include lesson plans, hands-on inquiry activities, research materials and much more. We feel that this is an important program—connecting students with nature.

As always, Elizabeth Williams was our star counter. She raised \$1,188.50 by contacting family, friends, neighbors and industry.

Many thanks to all who contributed to Bird-a-Thon 2004:

Howard Perry  
Fred Housman  
Dr. Ed Bryant  
Lois Cassity  
Col. Bill Brierly  
Dr. Elizabeth French  
Charlie Bailey  
Erin Wheeler  
Tom Sterling  
Tom Lawrence  
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John Winn  
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Terry Harley  
Degussa  
Edith McClinton  
Ed Waldron  
Hugh Richards  
Barbara Miller  
Mary Floyd  
Margaret Rice  
Eleanor Livaudais



Operation Migration and is past president of the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society Chapter in Indiana. She coordinates the Important Bird Area Program in Indiana for the National Audubon Society. Alicia served as a guest host on the PBS BirdWatch television program series for the Connecticut PBS television. Alicia lectures and presents workshops to all age groups on bird identification, conservation issues, habitat creation and Whooping Crane reintroduction. She lives with her daughter in Indianapolis, Indiana. Alicia will be our guest for two fee Kids Do Birds workshops at the Environmental Studies Center in Mobile on Friday, October 15 at 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. She will also present a Creating a Bird FrFriendly Habitat workshop Saturday, October 16 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information about the Birdfest check our website, <http://www.mobilebayaudubon.org/birdfest>.

## 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 September/October issue to Delane Small by August 26th. Address:

1 Fiesta Drive  
Spanish Fort, AL 36527  
Email: [dhs9700@bellsouth.net](mailto:dhs9700@bellsouth.net)

# Environmental Studies Center Open House

*Edith McClinton*

The Environmental Studies Center located at 6101 Girby Road held their Spring Open House on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The day was warm and sunny with a few clouds but no rain. Lloyd Scott, Director, and his staff always organize a program of activities that offer education and entertainment.

As you drive onto the grounds you pass a large flat bed truck loaded with bales of hay ready for the hay ride around the lake. You see the large tents where you will find exhibits, displays, and activities by the various organizations. Dauphin Island Sea Lab had a display of sea critters that you could touch and ask questions about. Home Depot was making bird houses. Their table was staffed by Jr. Audubon members of Mrs. Griffis's chemistry class at Murphy High School. A plant sale was conducted with plants provided by Bryant High School Vocation Center and Mary B. Montgomery High School Agriculture Center. Degussa Corporation had pens, pencils, literature and plastic bird feeders used with recycled soda bottles. Mobile Bay Audubon gave bags of bird seed. There were many other organizations that had posters, pens, pencils, litter bags, and literature to offer.

Other activities took place inside the air conditioned building—aquarium show, reptile lecture and demonstrations,

astronomy show, and face painting.

On the porch was a long table with a display of tee shirts for sale. Nearby was the popcorn machine ready for free popcorn. First Impressions Jewelry display was also on the porch.

On the lawn near the porch was the tent of Pleasant Valley Optimist Club and Coca Cola Bottling Company of Mobile where you could get hot dogs, drinks, chips and cookies. Picnic tables and benches were nearby.

Many injured critters are brought to the center for care and rehabilitation. The wildlife release is always of great interest. This day two red tailed hawks and two barn owls were released.

Of interest to many people is the nature walk. A short walk brings you to the pitcher plant bog to see the various wild flowers blooming. The enclosure where the hawks, owls, and eagles are kept in is near the main lawn and was a favorite spot to visit.

In the afternoon everyone was entertained by Native American dancing. A large group of dancers in costumes with their feathers danced to the beat of their drums and this was enjoyed by a large crowd of visitors.

Lloyd Scott declared this a very successful day with approximately 800 visitors, and he gave praise and credit to the many volunteers for making the day such a pleasant experience.

# A Gosling Saved

*by Ivan A Clark*

I'm not quite a hundred, but I'm leaning that way and it's still fun. My two dogs help me dress and get the car out of the garage and we head for our lovely Fairhope Park.

Have you driven through the park lately and taken note of all the new hatchling? A pair of our resident white geese has a darling yellow gosling. One morning last week, I noticed the parents poking at the gosling with their bills. I pulled off to investigate. The baby appeared lifeless, but having been a nurse in my former life, I had to check. On moving the gosling he tried to move. I got a towel from my car (I'm a forever pet owner you understand) wrapped him in it and placed him in my lap. We then went post haste to my ever vigilant veterinarian up town.

Sugar water and eventually cracked corn were administered. The patient bathtub was emptied and the gosling took over habitation, peeping and eating for the next 24 hours.

The next morning with camera in hand, several of us well wishers returned him to his parents in the park. It was a "make my day" experience, to watch them so obviously greet each other and interact. The next few days were spent chronicling the family saga.



*Reunited*



*Taking a bit of nourishment*



*A stroll with father on Father's Day*

# 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*

Annette Vazquez

## *Chunchula*

Robert & Billie Gill

## *Daphne*

Kay Hartley

## *Dauphin Island*

John & Mamie McCall

Ami Percy

## *Fairhope*

Donald N Dickey

## *Foley*

George Giuka

Peita Jenkins

Kitty Koch

## *Lillian*

Mae Summerville

## *Mobile*

Helen Ulm

Holly Parnell

## *Orange Beach*

R & Glenda Shows

## *Saraland*

Brenda Barker

## *Spanish Fort*

Carlton & Donna McCombs

## A Party for Minnie Nonkes

The Audubon Board will host a party honoring Minnie Nonkes Sunday afternoon, August 22, 2004 from 2:00 - 4:00 at Carroll Place in Fairhope.

Minnie has served on the Audubon board for many years and has been an active participant in the birding community, both as a birder and as an environmental activist.

Carroll Place is located just off 98 on Spring Run Dr. Going south on 98 turn left on Spring Run, across from the Holiday Inn Express and go a short distance to the Carroll Place entrance on your right. The party will be in the activity room.



Annually, our Mobile Bay Audubon members gather for a spring social to celebrate appreciation of our organization. In the past there were formal dinners and speakers, but since deciding to move this occasion outdoors, we have enjoyed the hospitality at the Lovell's pond. This year our designation was Historic Blakeley Park on the river in Baldwin County.

We met in the pavilion area Saturday, May 21, for a picnic lunch, each member providing their own; however, there was considerable sharing of extra accompaniments. There were picnic tables we put together to enjoy a banquet deluxe!

After lunch we drove to the new Wehle Education Center for a film welcoming visitors and relating the history of the Blakeley area from prehistoric to present time with particular emphasis on the flora and fauna. The Weeks Bay Estuarine Research Reserve is

connected with the operation of Blakeley Park. After the film, Fred Nation (from the Reserve) led members on a walk through a forest trail, identifying trees and plants of interest.

Later, small groups went separate ways hiking trails, visiting the display area a short walk from the Center or driving through the historical areas of the battlefield of the War Between the States. The historical areas are marked with signs giving short accounts of their importance. I was sorry to see that the huge oak (where the judge sat on a limb and held court) had finally fallen and been removed.

Our day ended on the waterfront river bank observing the fish near the river's edge, unusual plants, and general beauty of it all. We were joined by a family that fished from the pier. A wonderful place, we can be grateful it's so nearby.

*Nancy Hora*

# ALASKA

*Delane Small*

Recently I was fortunate enough to make a trip to Alaska. Our trip also included brief stops in Vancouver, Canada and Seattle, Washington. The diverse landscape of the area makes it a visually stunning place. The Tongass National Forest, managed by the US Forest Service, occupies 77% of the land in Southeast Alaska. At 16.8 million acres this is the largest national forest in the country and the world's largest temperate rain forest.

We were cruising the Inside Passage on *Radiance of the Seas*, a fantastic ship of the Royal Caribbean Line. The first day of cruising I got up in the morning and went to sit on the balcony where I saw two eagles flying close to the water. It was an awesome sight!

Our first port of call was Juneau which is a small town nestled at the foot of large mountains. There are no roads in or out of Juneau so travel is either by plane or boat. While in Juneau we went on a whale-watching excursion. That was probably my favorite part of the whole trip. We did see a whale feeding and diving which was exhilarating but I think I was more impressed when we passed by a buoy (picture below) that had sea lions lounging on the base and an eagle perched on top. Also while we were in Juneau we visited Mendenhall Glacier, a truly impressive sight. I'm trying not to use the word "awesome" too much but that's what comes to mind when describing most of the trip. Following the glacier trip we went to a

salmon bake, where wild Alaskan salmon was grilled over an open fire. The whole thing was set up outside in a beautiful outdoor setting, complete with stream and waterfall.

Next stop was Skagway. Skagway is the most touristy community in Alaska, with as many as five cruise ships pulling into town at a time. That's in a town with less than 900 residents. The city sprang up overnight during the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush. Tours are given by antique touring vehicles and costumed guides. We took the White Pass Railroad which is a great way to see the spectacular scenery with breathtaking panoramas of mountains, glaciers, gorges, waterfalls, tunnels, trestles and other historic sites.

Our final Alaska port of call was



*SeaLions, Eagle on Bouy*



*Totem Pole*



*Scene from White Pass Railroad*

Ketchikan, salmon capital of the world, situated in the Tongass National Forest. Alaska is the home of the Tlingit and Haida groups, famous for their totems. We took a tour which included a visit to a rain forest after which we visited the Saxman Native Totem Village which houses the world's largest collection of authentic totem poles and a native clan house, similar to our town hall.

Even though we were sad to leave Alaska, we were very impressed with Vancouver and Seattle. Vancouver is a city that seems to remember the importance of nature and has a lot of "green" space. Stanley Park, at nearly 1,000 acres, is the largest urban park in North America. It features hiking trails, totem poles, cricket grounds, aquarium in a semi-wilderness of dense rainforest, marshland and beaches.

Seattle sits among saltwater bays, lakes and forested mountains—to the west, Puget Sound and to the east Lake Washington. On most days, you can see snow-covered peaks across the Sound from downtown, as well as the snow cone of Mount Rainier. My favorite part of Seattle was Pike Place Market, an open air market filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, seasonal flowers, seafood, spices, cheeses, handcrafted works by artisans, eclectic shops, restaurants and street musicians.

The weather was perfect—sunny, shirt-sleeve days. It didn't even rain in Ketchikan which has over 200 days of rain per year. All-in-all an unforgettable trip of a lifetime.



*Radiance of the Seas at Hubbard Glacier*



*Mendenhall Glacier*



*Clan house at Saxman Native Totem Village, Ketchikan*

## 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

My check is enclosed.

\$1,000 – Individual Life Membership

\$1,500 – Dual Life Membership

Please bill me.

Name:

Address:

City/ST/Zip:

Telephone:

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and Mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O.Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529

ChapterCode: A01

7XCH

"I don't think there is anything more important than conservation with the exception of human survival, and the two are so closely interlaced that it's hard to separate one from the other." Charles A. Lundbergh, 1902-1974, in a speech to the Alaska Legislature in 1968.

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