



Mobile Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society Since 1971

Volume XXIX No. 3

Electronic Delivery of Newsletters

The Mobile Bay Audubon Society is trying to reduce costs, be environmentally responsible, and help eliminate clutter. We are starting by delivering newsletters electronically to those who agree to participate. When you sign up for electronic delivery, you will save the Audubon Society printing and mailing costs which add up to about \$1.00 per newsletter. Considering that we are mailing over 800 newsletters three times yearly, the savings could be considerable. If only 200 of our members switched to electronic delivery, that would be a savings of \$600 per year. Of course, if you prefer to continue to receive the paper version, you don't need to do anything.

So, how do you do sign up and what can you expect? First, go to mobilebayaudubon.org and click on "Newsletter" from the home page. Then from the Newsletter Archives page click on the "sign up" link and fill out the form. All you have to provide is your name and email address. The Audubon Society will NOT distribute your email address to any other organization.

Then, when a newsletter is published, you will receive an email that notifies you that the newsletter is avail-

able on the website. There will be a link to the current newsletter, so all you have to do is click on it.

Your help will be greatly appreciated! Hopefully we can report in the next newsletter that a significant number of members have signed up. Thank you very much.

Alabama Coastal Birdfest 2010 Report

By Fran Morley

The 7th annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest is history, and it was a great success, according to chairman John Borom. "We had visitors from 15 different states and Canada, which is pretty much the same as in years past, and everyone had a good time. One visitor from Canada, Al Zomer, was back for his fourth Birdfest, and I think that says a lot about what we do and how we do it."

Saturday's Bird & Conservation Expo enjoyed its largest crowds in the festival's seven-year history, said BirdFest coordinator Fran Morley. "Everyone involved with the Expo feels like this year's crowds were the best yet. I think word is getting out about what a great day this is for families. The raptors from

Alabama 4-H Center/Coosa River Science Center drew huge crowds for every show, Dr. David Nelson and crew from 5 Rivers had mostly full houses for each of the snake shows, and all the workshops were full with kids of all ages. It was a beautiful day and of course that goes a long way toward making the day a success."

This year's BirdFest featured a slide show of photography by Lisa Comer on Thursday night and a talk by Dr. John Dindo, associate director of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, on Friday night. Presenters at the Bird & Conservation Expo, held on Saturday, Oct. 16, included Tim Gothard from Alabama Wildlife Federation, speaking about the need for Alabama's Forever Wild program; Dr. Mark LaSalle from Pascagoula River Audubon Center, talking about the new Audubon Coastal Bird Survey; and Moz DeDeaux, also from PRAC, with information on Audubon's Citizen Science initiative.

Sponsors and supporters of this year's Alabama Coastal BirdFest include Alabama Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources, State Lands/Wildlife & Freshwater Fishery/Marine Resources; 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center; Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Weeks Bay Foundation; NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Legacy: Partners in Environmental Education; Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust; The Mapp Family Foundation; The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation; The Forum; Faulkner

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Fort; Fairhope Public Library/Friends of the Fairhope Library; Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce; Gulf Shores Convention & Visitors Bureau; Mobile Bay Audubon Society; Wolf Bay Watershed Watch; The Hampton Inn, Daphne; Nature on the Bay; Holiday Inn Express, Fairhope; Meyer Real Estate; Eastern Shore Children's Clinic; SeeCoast Manufacturing; Wolf Bay Watershed Watch; and Mr. Gene's Beans.

Audubon Adventures

By Elizabeth Williams

Note: The MBAS Board would like to thank Elizabeth Williams for her dedication to the Audubon Society and to the Audubon Adventures Program. She has continued to champion the organization and this program even during a difficult time.

"Teach them today to protect tomorrow." Thanks to the funds

raised by the Bird-a-thon team, we will place Audubon Adventure Kits in forty two classrooms in Baldwin and Mobile counties this year. These natural science resource materials help to build environmental and creative awareness among the students.

The schools participating in the program for 2010 – 2011 are:

Baldwin County: Robertsdale Elementary, Marietta Johnson Organic, Elberta Elementary, Central Christian, Daphne East Elementary, Fairhope Intermediate, W. J. Carroll Intermediate, Spanish Fort Elementary, Summerdale Elementary, Gulf Shores Elementary, Orange Beach Elementary, Daphne Elementary, Foley Elementary.

Mobile County: St. Luke's Episcopal, Cottage Hill Christian, Breitling Elementary, Howard

Christmas Party!!!

Join us for our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 14, 2010. We will have a reception from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, followed by the program at 7:00 pm. Noted artist and birder Dr. Bill Summerour will present "Exploring the Gulf Coast." Please bring a tray of Christmas goodies to share. Beverages will be provided.

Bring a friend!



Elementary, St. Elmo Elementary, Dodge Elementary, Whitley Elementary, Forest Hill Elementary, J. E. Turner Elementary, McDavid – Jones Elementary, Hollingers Island Elementary, Robert E. Lee Intermediate, Medowlake Elementary.

Beverly Winn's Fund for the Birds

By John Winn

Note: This article was originally published by the AOS in the Fall 2009 edition of The Yellowhammer. The Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary was able to purchase the two original Goat Trees Preserve lots with a generous donation from John and Beverly Winn. John and Beverly traveled the world observing and enjoying our feathered friends, and they saw to it that a bit of Dauphin Island would be protected forever. Sadly, Beverly passed away in 2009, but their generosity continues, as detailed below.

We all make pilgrimages to Dauphin Island. We spend money on registration, gas, food, lodging, etc. The operative word here is “spend”. What we now spend can result in investments, investments by developers and individuals clearing land and constructing housing units, with little regard for the birds or birders. With each development the number of birds the island can support is reduced and our access is further restricted.

How much longer can we be assured of great birding on the island? How long before we will settle for just good birding? How long before we have to settle for “hardly worth the effort”? When will we have to go to Texas or South Florida, hoping they still have birds?

Conversely we can INVEST in birding habitats, insuring that they will endure. We can invest in our shared passion. If we own the land the birds will always be welcome and they will always welcome us. A few years ago Beverly and I invested \$50,000 in land acquisition, which helped in the acquisition of the Goat Trees. This is a continuation of that effort.

Beverly died from Acute Leukemia in May of 2009. I have established a Donor Advised Charitable Fund; with an investment of \$100,000 titled Beverly Winn's Fund for the Birds through the Community Foundation of South Alabama. Their motto is FOR GOOD FOR EVER. My motto is FOR GOOD BIRDING FOR EVER.

I am seeking matching funds or real estate for my \$100,000. With our help Dauphin Island will continue to be one of the ten best birding sites in the US and one of the best 100 birding sites in the world.

Participation in the fund will provide you with a tax deduction. Donations can be given or sent to me OR DIRECTLY to Beverly's Birds c/o the Community Foundation, PO Box 990,

Mobile, AL 36601-0990.

From John Winn, 4179 Lantern Lane S, Mobile, AL 36693, telephone 251-666-1317, jbwinn43697@aol.com

Birding in Plantation

Country

**April 8 – April 10,
2011**

By Eleanor Livaudais

Plan now to join Audubon members and friends on a Birding Tour of St. Francisville, Louisiana. This area is best known for its many beautiful plantations and boasts some of the best spring migration birding on the Mississippi Flyway. There will be something for everyone on this trip: birding, experiencing a different culture, and learning a little history.

This will be a drive yourself trip. By this we mean carpooling instead of taking a bus. We will leave on Friday for the 3.5 – 4 hr. drive to Baton Rouge. St. Francisville is about one half hour away from Baton Rouge. We will plan to stay at The Magnussen Hotel which offers a Continental Breakfast, fresh baked cookies and wi-fi, plus discounts for seniors. Check-out is 12:00 on Sunday.

We will tour part of the Tunica Hills National Wildlife Refuge where thirteen State rare birds and animals are known to occur. We will walk the trails at the Mary Ann Brown Preserve, part of the Tunica

Hills area, which is owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy. We will also walk the trails at the Port Hudson Cemetery, a Confederate Cemetery which was recommended to us as a good birding spot, and is similar to Blakley Historic Park. A visit to St. Francisville would not be complete without a tour of the famous Oakley Plantation where J.J. Audubon painted 32 of his "Birds of America". Also, The Myrtles Plantation noted as the most Haunted House in America, is also a possibility.

There are several restaurants that serve local cuisine that we will certainly try.

For reservations or questions and suggestions concerning this trip, please contact: Dr. John Borom at Faulkner State, phone 990-0423. We welcome any suggestions you may have.

Winter 2011

Field Trips

January – April

By Celeste Hinds

Field trips are held twice a month, the first and third Wednesdays, beginning January 12, 2011. If you are not already on the email list and wish to receive the detail schedule, send an email request to Hind-site5@bellsouth.net. If you don't have access to email and want the details let me know - phone number below.

Great folks from all walks of life go

on field trips. Participants range from beginners to old hands. One year the trips included two home-makers, one plumber, two lawyers, a secretary, three physicians and a student. Most of our field trips are rewarding for birders of all levels. We have a birding scope for all to use and with advance notice can round up extra binoculars.

Accomplished birders lead the field trips. New birders and seasoned birders are encouraged to join us - means more eyes helping to spot birds. Birding etiquette includes always staying in back of the leader and not wandering off the beaten path. We stress closing car doors as softly as possible so as to not spook the birds. Never go on private property without prior permission. We have a "no talking above a whisper" rule when we're in certain areas. Closed-toe shoes are necessary because of snakes. Each participant is responsible for their own safety

We go rain or shine, however we do have our limits. Last winter it was necessary to cancel a trip or two because of really unkind weather.

For carpools, we gather at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship parking lot at 8:00 AM and return early afternoon. See exception below. If you ride with someone you are expected to pay \$2 - \$4, depending on the length of the trip.

During migration we try to arrive at the banding stations as early as possible. Migrants rest up and feed overnight and may take off early mornings, thus the earlier we arrive, the better our chances to see lots of birds. On April 6 we will visit Dauphin Island and on April 13 we'll go to Fort Morgan where the Sargents banding teams are at work. On these two dates we leave the Fairhope Unitarian parking lot at 7:00.

For the umpteenth time, I will enjoy teaching an ESILL birding class. Dates are February 9, 16, 23 and March 2. Call me for more details or to register.

Celeste Hinds 928-6526



BBQ Dinner Buffet Line



Making Birdhouses at the Expo

Winter 2011 Calendar

January 11

General Meeting. **“Education and Stewardship Activities at Weeks Bay and Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserves,”** presented by **Angela and Will Underwood**, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

February 8

General Meeting. **“Exploring the Amazon,”** presented by **Gaye Lindsey**, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

March 8

General Meeting. **“Restoring Indigo Snakes in Alabama,”** presented by **Roger Clay**, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

April 12

General Meeting. **“The Role of Seagrasses as Important Nursery Habitats,”** presented by **Dr, Ken Heck**, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

 *MERRY CHRISTMAS*



Chicken Leg Dissection at the Expo



Touch Pools at Birding and
Conservation Expo

Mobile Bay Audubon Wants You!

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

- A 1-year subscription (3 issues, one per quarter, excluding summer) 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!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 - Individual Life Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 - Dual Life Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 - 2 year Special Rate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My check is enclosed | <input type="checkbox"/> Please bill me |

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Make check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P O Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Chapter Code: C9ZA010Z

" I never for a day gave up listening to the songs of our birds, or watching their peculiar habits, or delineating them in the best way I could."

John James Audubon

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