

# Flicker Flashes

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The Birmingham Audubon Society

For conservation and greater knowledge of  
all wildlife, wilderness and natural resources

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Shirley Farrell, President*

Summer birding trips are few and far between. I just came in from a joint excursion of the Birmingham Audubon Society and the River Region Bird Club (a chapter of the AOS) to the Prattville area to see kites. The sun stayed tucked behind the clouds to make the morning bearable as we stood in a hay field on a late July day. What a spectacular sight to see over 30 Swallow-tailed Kites perform aerial maneuvers over the fields as they caught and ate June Bugs on the wing. These birds were gorging themselves to prepare for their long migration. Remind me why we don't have more birding trips during the summer?

I can't wait for the new year of BAS to begin. We have great speakers coming to the meetings and lots of birding trips planned. Continuing the new "tradition," we will have two birding trips a month. Our twice-a-month birding trips were well attended last year. The first field trip of the month, generally the first Saturday of the month, is a local half-day birding trip in or around Birmingham. You would be surprised to see how many different avian neighbors we have in the city limits. The second field trip is around the third weekend of the month and takes us one to two hours away from Birmingham to see the different, unusual, and some-

times rare bird species around the state.

Birmingham Audubon Society needs your help!! Each year we have three bird counts. Here's your chance to be a citizen scientist and help provide information for scientists to use about the bird species and numbers in our area. Counts are a great way to learn birds by sight and song but I will warn you, we move quickly to get through the territory before the day ends. Mostly, this birding is by car with little to moderate walking. It is much easier than one of our birding trips. Mark your calendars to join us on Saturday, September 30, 2006, for the Fall Bird Count; Saturday, December 23, 2006, for the Christmas Bird Count; and Saturday, April 28, 2007, for the Spring Bird Count. After a day of counting birds, we gather at a home to share snacks and compile our species totals. For more information check out the calendar in this issue or call Greg Harber at 251-2133.

This summer several teachers have told me that their principals will not let them feed birds at school anymore due to the "threat" of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus or Bird Flu epidemic. My fear is that the average citizen will turn their back on nature and the birds due to this threat. While there are no wild birds in North America that are cur-

rently carrying the strain, I worry that people may kill migratory birds out of fear. I have listed two websites that carry updated information about Avian Flu. You can go to the Center for Disease Control - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/facts.htm> or to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology - <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/bird-flu> for updates. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology "To date, the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus has not been found in birds or people in North America. Even in areas where the virus has been found, there have been no documented reports of humans contracting the virus from wild birds, except for an unconfirmed report that patients in Azerbaijan may have become ill after defeathering swans.

In most cases, humans have become infected after close contact with diseased poultry, products, or contaminated surfaces, i.e., close contact with large amounts of virus shed by infected birds. This is very different from how bird watchers and biologists interact with birds."

Please help get the message out to others. It is safe to continue feeding and watching birds without contracting the disease.

I look forward to see all of you at a field trip or meeting this year!

# SoSo For the Record

## Sightings May 8 through July 30, 2006

By this time last year hurricanes had already stirred up some exciting (displaced) birds. This year a drought is the top news. However, intense atlasing has stimulated summertime birding. A full report will, no doubt, be given later, but one interesting discovery was the extended range of **Tree Swallows**. They were found nesting at Logan Martin Lake 4 June (PF) and at two locations near Ashville 18 June (GH,PR,JG). Tree Swallows were also observed feeding young at Indian Lake Estates 27 June (HHK birding class).

The Sargents report record numbers of hummers at their forty feeders.

The 29 July BAS field trip led by Tommy Pratt and Greg Harber to the Prattville/ Autaugaville area produced **Mississippi (24)** and **Swallow-tailed (34) Kites**. A nice surprise was a 1st year **Painted Bunting**. Obviously, a breeding sign for that locality.

Other birds sighted were:

5/8 **Mississippi Kite; Eurasian Collared-Dove (4)** "at my feeder, first year"; **Rose-breasted Grosbeak (6)**; Montevallo (MB).

5/27 **Brown Pelican (6)!!**; Lake Logan Martin (JI).

6/3 **Eurasian Collared-Dove**; Riverchase Parkway (PF).

6/4 **Cedar Waxwing (5); Warblers- Yellow, Blue-winged, and Swainson's**; Pell City (PF).

6/27 **House Wren**; Roebuck (CH,HHK).

7/4 **White Ibis, imm (2)**; Marion Fish Hatchery; **Mississippi Kites (5)**; Lakeland Farms (HHK,RJK,TB).

7/11 **White Ibis (25+); Wood Storks (10)**; Fosters, (HHK birding class).

7/19 **Sandpipers- Spotted, Least (20), and Pectoral;** Lake Purdy (HW,AC,JG).

7/30 **Magnolia and Canada Warblers (early?)** Clay (BS,MS).

### Contributors:

Tom Blankenship, Mac Braid, Alice Christenson, Paul Franklin, Jessica Germany, Greg Harber, Mary Hines, Catherine Hodges, John Imhof, Helen Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Tommy Pratt, Elouise Rafferty, Pelham Rowan, Bob and Martha Sargent, Harriett Wright.

Please submit sightings for October FF at least five days before September 1st deadline to Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, Al. 35209.

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### Fall classes at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

To register by phone, call the BBG Education Department at 414-3950.

Individual or Family Class

#### Name That Bird: Basic Bird I.D.

Four Tuesdays (plus numerous weekend field trips)

Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 ~ 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Instructor: Greg Harber, Director, Audubon Mountain Workshop

President of Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries

\$64 Members/\$128 Non-Members

Limited to 25

Are you interested in the birds around you? Interested enough to learn more about them, such as how to identify the dozens and dozens of species present in the South? Join Greg Harber, past president of Birmingham Audubon Society, as we cover topics such as choosing and using the best binoculars for birding and selecting the best field guide (bird book). Then we'll use lectures and field trips to help you learn to recognize birds by their field marks and GIS. (You have to sign up to find out what these terms mean.) In this season of changing beauty, what could be better than a little "serious fun?" Learn some ornithology, meet new people, see new places, and learn lots about the birds around you.

Individual or Family Class

#### The Marvelous Monarchs

Saturday, September 9, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Larry Quick, Executive Director, Aldridge Gardens

\$12 Members/\$24 Non-Members

Children free with paid adult

The migration of Monarch butterflies is one of nature's most astounding feats. Each year hundreds of millions of these delicate yet determined insects travel from as far away as Canada to spend the winter outside Mexico City in fir trees high on a volcanic mountain range. For months they gather en masse waiting for spring to begin their journeys home. Larry Quick recently experienced this intriguing natural phenomenon in person and will share his photos and Monarch experiences. Each participating family will receive a butterfly egg or caterpillar along with its appropriate host plant.

**SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**  
*David Frings, Director*  
**Oak Mountain State Park Interpretive Center**  
**Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Birmingham Zoo Auditorium**

Alabama native David M. Frings is the director of the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center (OMIC). The mission of the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center is to promote appreciation for Oak Mountain State Park as a natural habitat and to provide a hands-on interactive educational experience that enables children and adults to learn about Alabama's biodiversity, students and teachers to research its wonders, and all visitors to understand the importance of environmental stewardship.

David was born in Jefferson County and was a 1973 graduate of Shades Valley High School. He has had a love for nature and the environment since childhood, spending many hours exploring the mountains, rivers, and caves of Alabama. Frings graduated from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and a minor in biology. Frings joined Alabama Power Company after graduation and worked for more than 29 years in various geologic positions until his retirement from Southern Company in March, 2006. During his Southern Company career, he became a licensed geologist in Alabama. David decided to enter politics in 2000

and was elected mayor of the City of Alabaster. He is now serving his second term in office. David and his wife, Jennifer, have been married since 1982 and have three daughters, Haley, Holley and Heidi.

As Director of OMIC, Frings hopes to develop a facility that will allow the visitor to experience and understand the specialized natural environments that we have in central Alabama. "By understanding nature, we develop an appreciation of the environment that will ultimately lead to preservation of our plants, animals, and habitats." Frings adds, "OMIC will be a unique field station for learning in that we will have a concentrated emphasis on environmental training for high school and college. In addition, OMIC will have indoor and outdoor exhibits that will inform visitors and elementary age school groups on our environment."

Attend and enjoy this program Please come early at 6:45 to socialize and enjoy some refreshments. As always, guests are welcome.

~Hans Paul,  
VP Programs

A sneak preview at the programs for the remainder of the year:

Oct. 19	Nelson Brooke Black Warrior Riverkeeper	Feb. 15	Paul Johnson Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center
Nov. 16	Willard Bowers Alabama Power Company	Mar. 15	Dan Drennen An Update on the Watercress Darter
Dec. 5	Jerome Jackson Christmas Banquet	April 19	Members Favorite Slides
Jan. 18	John Porter Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries		

**Homewood Forest Preserve Hikes**

Friends of Shades Creek and the Homewood Environmental Commission invite Birmingham Audubon Society members and guests to participate in the Sunday afternoon nature walks on The Homewood Forest Preserve. The walks are held on the first and third Sunday afternoons of October, November and December and February, March and April at 2 p.m. Meet in the eastern parking lot of Homewood High School. Topics are varied and include bird walks, salamander walks, insect walks and more. For more information call Hans Paul, 807-7357.

## SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS

### **Russell Bailey, Jr. Memorial Labor Day Field Trip Monday, September 4, 2006--Lake Purdy**

The end of summer is soon upon us, and that means it is time once again for our annual Labor Day field trip to Lake Purdy. Russell Bailey led this trip for many years and we shall sorely miss him as we continue this fine tradition in his memory. Please plan to join us at 8:00 a.m. at the Coxe Creek bridge on AL 119, approximately 2.25 miles east of the US 280 intersection. After birding the Lake Purdy vicinity the group will continue looking for migrating shorebirds at nearby birding destinations, to be selected.

Trip Leader: Frank Farrell, 815-3554.

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### **Saturday, September 9, 2006 Oak Mountain State Park**

The Birmingham Audubon Society's 1/2-day field trip in September will be to Oak Mountain State Park in Shelby County. The Birmingham Audubon Society, in support of the new Interpretive Center operated by Samford University, has agreed to help develop a new bird list for the park. Therefore, our goal on this trip will be to visit a variety of habitats within the park, looking for migrating warblers, tanagers and thrushes. You will note on the BAS calendar that we plan to visit the park at least once in each season to give us a better understanding of the year-round distribution of birds within the park.

We will meet 7:00 a.m. at the park visitor center, located on the right outside the park entrance on John Findlay Drive. To reach the park exit I-65 at Cahaba Valley Road/ AL 119 (exit #246) and travel west one block, to the first traffic light. Turn left here and follow this road back under the interstate to the 4-way stop sign. Turn left and drive to the visitor center parking area on the right.

Bring drinks, insect repellent, sunscreen, a pair of sturdy walking shoes, and your binoculars. If you'd like to bring your lunch, we will eat lunch in the front room at The Wildlife Center and watch the birds coming to the feeders.

Trip Leader: Greg Harber, 251-2133

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### **Saturday, September 23, 2006 Monte Sano State Park and Hays Nature Preserve**

Monte Sano State Park and Hays Nature Preserve are located in north Alabama near Huntsville. Plans are to arrive about 8:30 am at Monte Sano to start the day. Monte Sano is wooded and should be good for typical woodland birds such as woodpeckers, thrushes, tanagers, warblers and our little friends: the nuthatches, chickadees and wrens. Bring a lawn chair so that at lunch we can picnic at an overlook that provides a dramatic view of the valley and look for migrating raptors. In the afternoon we will drive to Hays Nature Preserve south of Huntsville on US 431. This preserve was donated by the Hays family and is situated on the banks of the Flint River. There are several trails through some excellent warbler habitat.

Departure Plans: LEAVE at 7:00 a.m. from parking lot of North Gate Village Shopping Center. Directions: Take I-65 north to Exit 271, Fieldstown Road. Turn right, go one block and the shopping center will be on the right with Goody's and Dollar Tree. A Hardees and other places for breakfast are just past the shopping center.

To meet us at Monte Sano State Park about 8:30 am: I-65 North to I-565 into Huntsville. Turn south off I-565, Exit 17, onto Memorial Parkway/US 231 and take second exit to Governors Drive (US 431 follows Memorial Parkway to the North and Governors Drive to the East). Drive east, turn left off Governors at the Monte Sano State Park sign onto Monte Sano Blvd. Continue to another Monte Sano State Park sign and turn right onto Nolan Avenue, which goes into the park. Drive past the Picnic area to the Park Office and Store. Upon entering the park our first stop will be the Office and Store restrooms.

Bring drinks, lunch, a full tank of gas, insect repellent, sunscreen, walking shoes, lawn chair and rain gear.

Trip Leader: Frank Farrell, 815-3554.

# 42nd Annual BAS Fall Bird Count

## Saturday, September 30, 2006

Saturday, September 30th will be the date for our 42nd Annual Fall Bird Count. We will cover as much of Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair and southern Blount counties as possible, with as many count parties as we can field. The lingering effects of this summer's drought are sure to bring many migrating songbirds to your watering holes. Therefore, if you are not able to assist us in the field, please count the birds at your feeders and water features and report them to us.

If you have participated in a count previously or know the name of the party leader for the area where you would like to help, contact them to be sure that you are included! If you are interested in joining a count party but don't know any leaders, please call me at 251-2133, and I will put you in touch with a party leader. Be sure to pack a lunch, your binoculars and field guides. I encourage you to join us but do remember that spending an entire day in the field can be tiring.

At the end of the day we will gather to compile our results, swap stories and share our adventures of the day. Real rarities will need a good story for sure! Maureen Shaffer will host the compilation at her home at 2313 Chestnut Road, located just off Shades Crest Road about half-way between US 31 and US 280. Be sure to grab a bite to eat before we get started around 7:00 PM. If you need detailed directions call Maureen at 822-8728. See accompanying map.

### Information on other Counts

#### **71st Birmingham Christmas Bird Count**

Date: Saturday, December 23, 2006

Host: Ty Keith

Compiler: TBA

#### **42nd Spring Bird Count**

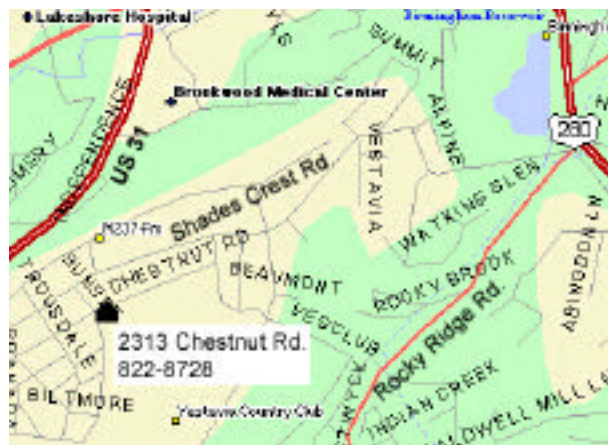
Date: Saturday, April 28, 2007

Host: Elberta Reid

Compiler: TBA

Make plans now to attend any or all of these counts. All BAS members and friends, whether beginning or experienced birders, are encouraged to join us!

~Greg Harber, for the Bird Counts Committee



## THE EXPERIENCE OF HOG ISLAND

*Debbie Dumais*

Close your eyes. Imagine that you are embarking on a boat trip to a 330-acre island. As you step onto the boat, you intuitively know that this journey will change your life. You settle down on a seat and the boat begins crossing Muscongus Bay. You feel the cool ocean breeze brushing your face, the warm sun melting away your worries, the crisp ocean aroma tickling your nose, and gulls overhead laughing a welcome to a magical place. That place is Hog Island, Maine, home of the Maine Audubon Camp - a Workshop for Educators.

Now, open your eyes and you are there with me - a teacher selected to attend on a BAS scholarship. The experiences on the island will open more doors of environmental opportunities than you ever thought possible. Every morning you are awakened by an Eastern Phoebe that seems to be calling "see-me" instead of "fee-be". You join other educators from around the nation

as together you meet distinct warblers for the first time. The Yellow-rumped Warbler, the Black-throated Green Warbler, and the Northern Parula entertain you with their songs in the trees and their dances in the sky. You check them on your bird list of the island so you will remember these new acquaintances.

The bell rings prior to each meal and you consume Chef Gianni's specially prepared entrees that he prepares with pride as part of his environmental conscience. Daily, you eagerly attend classes taught by uniquely qualified instructors in their fields of expertise. They share their passions about the environment with such strong dedication that you embrace their sincere crusade to make a difference.

You think about your students, family members, and others and you persistently write each tidbit of information in a journal to share later. For example, you purposely note the following: the

restoration efforts for one bird species known as the Puffin Project, literature connections and personal sketches with nature shared by activist Lynne Cherry, a stroll with the historical footsteps of Roger Tory Peterson at Medowak Village, the innate survival of organisms exposed to the elements at low tide, monarchs dependent upon milkweed for survival, the sensory discoveries during rain on a 3-mile hike through intermittent chest high ferns on the moss-covered floor of the spruce forest, and one family's concern for an island that was purposely preserved for future generations.

You understand why Hog Island magically transformed you. It needs you as much as you need it. It needs you to support a conservation mission in your environment wherever you are. Thanks to the efforts of the Birmingham Audubon Society I will make a difference and will carry Hog Island with me always.

# Birmingham Audubon Society

## Calendar of Events

### 2006-2007

#### September 2006

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, October issue
- 4 Russell Bailey, Jr. Memorial Bird Walk, Lake Purdy
- 9 BAS 1/2 day field trip, Oak Mountain State Park
- 12 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting, Birmingham Zoo Auditorium (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m. David Frings, Oak Mountain S.P Interpretive Center
- 23 BAS Field Trip, Monte Sano SP and Hays Nature Preserve, Huntsville, AL
- 30 42nd Annual BAS Fall Bird Count

#### October 2006

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, November/December issue
- 7 Family Bird Walk - Birmingham Zoo, 7:30 a.m.
- 10 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 13-15 Alabama Ornithological Society meeting, Dauphin Island, AL
- 19 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m. Nelson Brooke, Black Warrior Riverkeeper
- 19-22 Alabama Coastal Birdfest, Fairhope, AL
- 28 BAS Field Trip, Fort Toulouse-Jackson NHP, Wetumpka, AL

#### November 2006

- 4 BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, Moss Rock Preserve
- 7 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m. Willard Bowers, Alabama Power Co.
- 18 BAS Field Trip, Wheeler NWR, Decatur, AL

#### December 2006

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, January 2007 issue
- 2 BAS Sanctuary Workday (1/2 day)

- 5 Christmas Banquet - Vestavia Country Club, Dr. Jerome Jackson, speaker
- 16 Christmas Bird Count -Wheeler NWR
- 23 Christmas Bird Count - Birmingham (71st)
- 26 Christmas Bird Count - Guntersville
- 30 Christmas Bird Count - Gulf Shores



#### January 2007

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, February issue
- 6 BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, Oak Mountain State Park
- 9 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m. Dr. John F. Porter, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries
- 20 BAS Field Trip, Lake Guntersville SP
- 26-28 Alabama Ornithological Society meeting, location TBA

#### February 2007

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, March issue
- 3 BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, Lake Purdy
- 6 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m. Dr. Paul Johnson, Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center
- 17 BAS Field Trip, Pigeon Mountain WMA, Georgia

#### March 2007

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, April issue
- 3 BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, East Lake Park, Ruffner Mountain and Roebuck Springs
- 6 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m. Dan Drennen, USFWS, An Update on the Watercress Darter
- 17 BAS Field Trip, Perry Lakes Park & Lakeland Farms, Perry County, AL

#### April 2007

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, May/June issue
- 7 BAS Sanctuary Workday (1/2 day)
- 10 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Family Bird Walk - Birmingham Zoo 7:30 a.m.
- 20-22 AOS Spring meeting - Dauphin Island, AL
- 26 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m. "Members Favorite Slides"
- 28 42nd Annual BAS Spring Bird Count

#### May 2007

- 4-6 North Alabama Birding Festival, Decatur, AL
- 10-13 30th Annual Audubon Mountain Workshop - Mentone, AL
- 19 BAS Field Trip and Campout, Coleman Lake, Talladega N.F.

#### June 2007

- 9-10 Bankhead National Forest point count and campout
- 16 BAS Field Trip, Aliceville Swamp

#### July 2007

- 28 BAS Field Trip, Prattville & Autaugaville

#### August 2007

- 4 BAS Field Trip, Gainesville & Aliceville

# BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON IN EDUCATION 2006-2007



The Birmingham Audubon Society is pleased to announce that we are offering to local teachers again this fall, mini-grants of up to \$250, as well as "Audubon Adventures," a free environmental education program for grades 3-6. The financial support for these programs comes from the Diana Stobert Sessions and Paul Trammell Sessions, Jr. Foundation that was established by the late Tram Sessions to assist BAS in fulfilling its education and conservation mission.

## Mini-grant Program

### Application deadline: September 30, 2006

BAS offers these mini-grants to help fund field trips, classroom speakers, and projects such as school gardens, bird feeding stations, outdoor classrooms, ponds, nature trails, or other types of natural habitats. On our website at [www.birminghamaudubon.org](http://www.birminghamaudubon.org) (click on Grants and Scholarships), you will find the application as well as contact information and descriptions of the outstanding education programs at the following places that we recommend for field trips and speakers: the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the Birmingham Zoo, the Cahaba River Society, Camp McDowell Environmental Center, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College, and the Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park.

For teachers who would like to use the mini-grant money to create gardens and wildlife habitats at their schools, but do not

## "Audubon Adventures"

### Notification deadline: September 15, 2006

This environmental education program for grades 3-6 is provided FREE to classrooms in the Birmingham area. Developed for the National Audubon Society by professional environmental educators, "Audubon Adventures" consists primarily of a student newspaper that presents well written articles, attractive pictures, and interesting activities about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It is easily implemented and can be integrated into the Alabama Reading Initiative program.

"Audubon Adventures" comes to the teacher in the fall, packaged as a Classroom Kit that contains a teacher guide and 32 copies of 4 issues of this award winning newspaper. That is to say that every child receives a copy of each newspaper! The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and home schoolers. Since the inception of the "Audubon Adventures" program in 1984, over 7 million school children

know how or where to begin, Birmingham Audubon recommends for guidance the Alabama Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat Certification Program. The AWF provides guidebooks and consultants who come to the schools to assist teachers and their classrooms in designing and organizing outdoor projects. Birmingham Audubon Society president, Shirley Farrell, participated in this program and is happy to discuss it with anyone interested. The butterfly garden and pond which she and her students designed and constructed at Clay Elementary, funded in part by BAS mini-grant funds, is a model of participatory environmental education.

Teachers can also use mini-grant money to participate in the Classroom Feeder Watch Program sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Information about this is also found on the BAS website.

nationwide and thousands in the Birmingham area have enjoyed this program.

See [www.audubon.org/edu/aa](http://www.audubon.org/edu/aa) for more information and FAQ's.

If you teach 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th grade and would like for your classroom to receive "Audubon Adventures", email Stan and Dana Hamilton at [Stan\\_Dana\\_H@bellsouth.net](mailto:Stan_Dana_H@bellsouth.net) requesting that you be enrolled in the program. Include your name, email address, school's name, school address, and the grade that you teach. The deadline to notify the Hamiltons is September 15.

~Ann Sweeney  
Chairman, Education Committee

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## How To Submit Articles For Publication

If you would like to submit an article to Flicker Flashes, or the BAS Web page, please follow one of the methods detailed below. Please adhere to the submission deadlines listed in the BAS Calendar of Events found elsewhere in this issue. We welcome all contributions: trip reports, reflections on an interesting encounter with the natural world and other items of general interest.

The preferred method would be to send the articles as an attachment to an e-mail message. Send them to Greg Harber at this address: [gharber@mindspring.com](mailto:gharber@mindspring.com). You may also "snail mail" your typewritten article, or an article stored on a Mac compatible disk, to:

Greg Harber, Assistant Editor  
*Flicker Flashes*  
2906 Highland Avenue S. Apt. #5  
Birmingham, AL 35205-1911

We also welcome information to be included in updates to the BAS web page. Items to be considered need to be submitted electronically, if possible. Please attach your text or word processing file to an e-mail message addressed to Ernie Stokely at: [estokely@eng.uab.edu](mailto:estokely@eng.uab.edu). Attached files can be in the following formats: text, Microsoft Word, or WordPerfect. Files that originate on the Macintosh or the PC can usually be handled, but if you attach Macintosh files to your e-mail, be sure to turn compression "off" and to select AppleDouble mode for the attachment. Material received in hard copy will also be considered for inclusion on the Web page if time and schedules permit.

# BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON SOCIETY

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

2006-2007

### OFFICERS

#### *President*

Shirley Farrell .....815-3554

#### *President-elect*

Louise Ayer Tommie .....428-9652

#### *Vice-President, Conservation*

Frank Farrell .....815-3554

#### *Vice-President, Programs*

Hans Paul .....871-0666

#### *Treasurer*

Mary Flint Waldrip .....969-1636

#### *Assistant Treasurer, Membership*

Pelham Rowan .....970-0844

#### *Recording Secretary*

Anita Faucett .....836-3727

#### *Corresponding Secretary*

Lida Hill .....871-7790

#### *Flicker Flashes Editor*

Bianca J. Allen .....854-5223

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors includes all Officers, the two immediate Past Presidents, Directors-At-Large and Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs whose names are designated by an (\*). Board meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Birmingham Zoo Auditorium before each membership meeting.

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Directors-at-Large, not less than two nor more than five, are elected by the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Alice Christenson

Jean Folsom

Ethel Owen

Ernie Stokely

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS

John Swan .....933-6469

Ann Sweeney .....879-7127

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Honorary Directors include all Past Presidents and other members who, by reason of services rendered over a long period of time to the Society, have been elected as Honorary Directors advise and consult with the Board on all matters presented before it, and have all rights and privileges of Directors except the right to vote, and except that they shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum.

George A. Blinn

Robert E. Burks

Alice Christenson

Howard M. Einspahr

Paul Franklin

Gregory J. Harber

Dan C. Holliman

David Larsen

Amy Mason.

James V. Peavy, Jr.

John Randolph

Elberta G. Reid

Michael Russell

John Swan

Ann Sweeney

Ann C. Tate

Robert G. Tate

Percy Thigpen

Harriett H. Wright

### COMMITTEES

#### BIRD COUNTS & SURVEYS

Paul H. Franklin, *Compiler* .988-8418

David George, *Compiler* ...477-5074

Gregory J. Harber, *Compiler* 251-2133

Sharon Hudgins, *Compiler* .477-5390

#### BIRDATHON

Lee and Cathy Nick, \* *Chair* .870-5737

#### CAMPOUTS

John and Sheri Robinson, \* *Chair*  
.....877-3855

#### CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Lou Bailey, \* *Co-Chair* .....879-9988

Lee Brewer, \* *Co-Chair* .....823-3695

Gussie Arnett

Mary Brewer

Denson Burnum

Jinksie Burnum

Gregory J. Harber

Kay Kinnear

Peg McGowan

Ethel Owen

### CONSERVATION

Frank Farrell, *Co-Chair* ....815-3554

Ann C. Tate, \* *Co-Chair* (Air Quality)

967-0304

Alice Christenson .....595-0306

Shirley Farrell .....815-3554

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Please consider volunteering your time and talents on any of these committees. Ours is an all-volunteer chapter and we rely on our members to accomplish our chapter's goals. You may call the individual committee chairman or Ann Sweeney (879-7127) for further information.



# Forty-first Annual BAS Spring Bird Count

## Saturday, April 29, 2006

One hundred thirty-eight species were recorded on the 41st BAS Spring Bird Count in Jefferson, St. Clair and Shelby Counties. In addition, 3 count-week birds were noted, including a pair of American Woodcocks! Twenty-four observers in 9 parties spent 89.75 hours (1.5 hours owling) in the field, 23.5 miles on foot. Temperatures ranged from an early morning low of 60 to an afternoon high of 73. Sky conditions were changeable, with a cloudy start to the morning, becoming partly cloudy and finally overcast. There was a light rain in the afternoon. Winds were from the southeast at 10-20 mph, gusting even higher. Special thanks go to our compilation host, Maureen Shaffer. Compiler: Greg Harber.

Canada Goose . . . . .	141	Ruby-throated Hummingbird . . . . .	10	Tennessee Warbler . . . . .	11
Wood Duck . . . . .	40	Belted Kingfisher . . . . .	12	Northern Parula . . . . .	12
Gadwall . . . . .	5	Red-headed Woodpecker . . . . .	21	Yellow Warbler . . . . .	3
Mallard . . . . .	74	Red-bellied Woodpecker . . . . .	64	Chestnut-sided Warbler . . . . .	4
Blue-winged Teal . . . . .	8	Downy Woodpecker . . . . .	34	Magnolia Warbler . . . . .	4
Northern Shoveler . . . . .	2	Hairy Woodpecker . . . . .	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler . . . . .	26
Wild Turkey . . . . .	9	Northern Flicker . . . . .	6	Black-throated Green Warbler . . . . .	3
Northern Bobwhite . . . . .	2	Pileated Woodpecker . . . . .	11	Blackburnian Warbler . . . . .	1
Pied-billed Grebe . . . . .	16	Eastern Wood-Pewee . . . . .	6	Yellow-throated Warbler . . . . .	7
Double-crested Cormorant . . . . .	49	Acadian Flycatcher . . . . .	8	Pine Warbler . . . . .	45
Great Blue Heron . . . . .	44	Empidonax Species . . . . .	1	Prairie Warbler . . . . .	24
Great Egret . . . . .	47	Eastern Phoebe . . . . .	80	Palm Warbler . . . . .	43
Cattle Egret . . . . .	30	Great Crested Flycatcher . . . . .	71	Blackpoll Warbler . . . . .	4
Green Heron . . . . .	21	Eastern Kingbird . . . . .	95	Black-and-white Warbler . . . . .	6
Black-crowned Night Heron . . . . .	1	Loggerhead Shrike . . . . .	6	American Redstart . . . . .	2
Yellow-crowned Night Heron . . . . .	12	White-eyed Vireo . . . . .	53	Prothonotary Warbler . . . . .	3
Black Vulture . . . . .	15	Yellow-throated Vireo . . . . .	22	Worm-eating Warbler . . . . .	4
Turkey Vulture . . . . .	55	Blue-headed Vireo . . . . .	CW	Swainson's Warbler . . . . .	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk . . . . .	2	Red-eyed Vireo . . . . .	52	Ovenbird . . . . .	1
Cooper's Hawk . . . . .	9	Blue Jay . . . . .	67	Louisiana Waterthrush . . . . .	8
Red-shouldered Hawk . . . . .	15	American Crow . . . . .	311	Kentucky Warbler . . . . .	18
Broad-winged Hawk . . . . .	5	Fish Crow . . . . .	3	Common Yellowthroat . . . . .	27
Red-tailed Hawk . . . . .	17	Purple Martin . . . . .	69	Hooded Warbler . . . . .	27
American Kestrel . . . . .	1	Tree Swallow . . . . .	5	Yellow-breasted Chat . . . . .	46
Sora . . . . .	4	Northern Rough-winged Swallow . . . . .	163	Summer Tanager . . . . .	31
Common Moorhen . . . . .	1	Cliff Swallow . . . . .	42	Scarlet Tanager . . . . .	15
American Coot . . . . .	14	Barn Swallow . . . . .	253	Eastern Towhee . . . . .	132
Killdeer . . . . .	55	Carolina Chickadee . . . . .	116	Chipping Sparrow . . . . .	56
Greater Yellowlegs . . . . .	3	Tufted Titmouse . . . . .	129	Field Sparrow . . . . .	9
Lesser Yellowlegs . . . . .	2	White-breasted Nuthatch . . . . .	24	Savannah Sparrow . . . . .	12
Solitary Sandpiper . . . . .	2	Brown-headed Nuthatch . . . . .	52	Swamp Sparrow . . . . .	2
Spotted Sandpiper . . . . .	10	Carolina Wren . . . . .	114	White-throated Sparrow . . . . .	17
Least Sandpiper . . . . .	15	Marsh Wren . . . . .	3	Northern Cardinal . . . . .	285
Peep Sandpiper . . . . .	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet . . . . .	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak . . . . .	58
Pectoral Sandpiper . . . . .	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher . . . . .	69	Blue Grosbeak . . . . .	27
American Woodcock . . . . .	CW	Eastern Bluebird . . . . .	196	Indigo Bunting . . . . .	115
Caspian Tern . . . . .	1	Veery . . . . .	1	Dickcissel . . . . .	1
Rock Pigeon . . . . .	73	Swainson's Thrush . . . . .	1	Bobolink . . . . .	35
Eurasian Collared-Dove . . . . .	7	Wood Thrush . . . . .	29	Red-winged Blackbird . . . . .	288
Mourning Dove . . . . .	365	American Robin . . . . .	203	Eastern Meadowlark . . . . .	36
Yellow-billed Cuckoo . . . . .	10	Gray Catbird . . . . .	27	Common Grackle . . . . .	221
Great Horned Owl . . . . .	1	Northern Mockingbird . . . . .	217	Brown-headed Cowbird . . . . .	83
Barred Owl . . . . .	6	Brown Thrasher . . . . .	76	Orchard Oriole . . . . .	26
Common Nighthawk . . . . .	CW	European Starling . . . . .	320	Baltimore Oriole . . . . .	5
Chuck-will's-widow . . . . .	9	American Pipit . . . . .	3	House Finch . . . . .	68
Whip-poor-will . . . . .	2	Cedar Waxwing . . . . .	605	American Goldfinch . . . . .	75
Chimney Swift . . . . .	98	Blue-winged Warbler . . . . .	2	House Sparrow . . . . .	77

Observers (party leaders in boldface): **Sheila Bancroft, Mary Lou Miller, Martha Dagg, Jeff Pribble, Elouise Rafferty, Alan Yester, Ann Miller, Alice Christenson, Cheryl Horncastle, Sallie Brice, Helen Kittinger, Rick Kittinger, Ty Keith, Lee Brewer, Pelham Rowan, Greg Harber, Jessica Germany, Edith Hunt, Mary Waldrip, Frank Farrell, Shirley Farrell, Harriett Wright, Sharon Hudgins, David George.**

## Fall classes at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

To register by phone, call the BBG Education Department at 414-3950.

Individual or Family Class, Children ages 6+

### Going to the Birds: Bird Watching for the Entire Family

Class: Thursday, September 21, 6-8 p.m.

Field Trip: Saturday, September 23, 8-10 a.m.

Field Trip Location: BBG

Rain Date for Field Trip: Sunday, September 24, 2-4 p.m.

Instructor: Greg Harber, Birmingham

Audubon Society

\$12 Members/\$24 Non-Members

One child 6+ free with one adult attending

\$3 for each additional child

Limited to 20 adults

Does your family participate in one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities in America? Bird watching brings the entire family together while adding a new dimension to every trip to the local park, the beach, or a favorite vacation destination. Discover which birds are in your garden, how to select binoculars and field guides, and when and where to look for our feathered friends. Get tips on how to attract birds to your garden with feeders, water features and birdhouses.

The Saturday field trip is at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, one of the premier birding sites in central Alabama during spring and fall migration. Bring binoculars if you have them. BBG will have a few to loan.

Individual or Family Class

### Decorating for the Birds!

Saturday, October 21 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Instructor: Beverly Vogt, Owner, Wild Birds

Unlimited

Materials fee of \$3 included. Total \$15

Members/\$30 Non-Members

Children free with paid adult attending

Limited to 20 adults

While you are enjoying the many tasty treats that abound this coming holiday season, don't forget to share some goodies with the birds. Decorating for our feathered friends and other wildlife is an activity the whole family can enjoy. Class members will make a fresh cranberry and popcorn garland, a pine cone feeder, and see Beverly Vogt demonstrate how easy it is to make suet muffins and stuffing, grapefruit and bagel feeders, and wild bird seed cookies.

Individual or Family Class

### BBG Night-Time Connections (Night Hike)

Friday, November 3 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Rain Date: Saturday, November 4

Instructor: David Hollaway, Senior Naturalist, McDowell EC

Classroom introduction, then out into The Gardens.

Children free with paid adult attending

\$10 Members/\$20 Non-Members

Registration deadline: November 1

Come walk wild in the dark at the BBG for a fun, new experience exploring Alabama's beautiful biodiversity. David Hollaway, aka "Big Dave" from Camp McDowell, will help you hear natural sounds of the night, touch nature's textures, and experience the amazing smells of night with lots of giggles and hand-holding. This is a chance for families and children to be night-time naturalists! Awesome!



clip along dotted line

## ~ Membership Application ~

### Birmingham Audubon Society/ National Audubon Society

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#### Membership Levels:

**Introductory membership ~ \$20.00**

Includes quarterly subscription to Audubon magazine and 8 issues of *Flicker Flashes*, the chapter newsletter.

Senior (62 & older) and student (full-time) memberships available for \$15.00.

*(Preferred method of payment for all new members is through the chapter, using this form).*

**Regular membership/Renewals ~ \$20.00**

The National Audubon Society handles membership renewals through their Membership Data Center. Contact them at 1-800-274-4201 or write them at P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529. Submit renewals directly to NAS.

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

**Please make check payable to:**

**Mail this form and check to:**

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Birmingham Audubon Society  
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# September

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due
- 4 Russell Bailey, Jr. Memorial Bird Walk,  
Lake Purdy
- 9 BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, Oak Mtn.  
State Park
- 12 Conservation Committee meeting  
7:00 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting, Birmingham Zoo  
Auditorium (BZA) 5:45 p.m.  
General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m.  
David Frings
- 23 BAS Field Trip, Monte Sano SP and  
Hays Nature Preserve, Huntsville
- 30 42nd Annual BAS Fall Bird Count

# October

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due
- 7 Family Bird Walk - Birmingham Zoo,  
8:00 a.m.
- 10 Conservation Committee meeting  
7:00 p.m.
- 13-15 Alabama Ornithological Society meeting,  
Dauphin Island
- 19 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m.  
General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m.  
Nelson Brooke
- 19-22 Alabama Coastal Birdfest, Fairhope
- 28 BAS Field Trip, Fort Toulouse-Jackson  
NHP, Wetumpka, AL

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