

Flicker Flashes

Published by
The Birmingham Audubon Society

For conservation and greater knowledge
of birds, their habitat, and natural world

Connecting Local Efforts to International Flyway for Conservation of Threatened Species

Walker Golder, a biologist known and respected for his work to conserve breeding waterbirds as National Audubon's Atlantic Flyway Coastal Leader, will serve as the Diane and Tram Sessions Speaker at the 69th Birmingham Audubon Annual Banquet on Dec. 3, 2015. He will share his work through his presentation, "Sharing our Seas and Shores in the Atlantic Flyway: A Model for Flyway Scale Bird Conservation." Participants will learn why it is critical to consider bird conservation at the broader flyway scale and throughout the entire annual cycle of breeding, migration and wintering.

Golder, who serves as deputy director of Audubon North Carolina, co-lead the Audubon team that discovered new wintering grounds for piping plovers in the Bahamas. This is an endangered and threatened species that nests on coastal beaches and barrier islands in the United States. That discovery led to an international conservation partnership that resulted in the Aug. 2015 decision by the Bahamian government to establish the 114-acre Joulter Cays National Park. The park is critical wintering habitat for 13 shorebird species. Knowledge of where the wintering areas are for endangered species is essential to Audubon's full life cycle conservation program.

A native North Carolinian, Golder has devoted his 27-year career with Audubon to the protection of all birds, and particularly shorebirds in his home state and across the Atlantic Flyway. He established Audubon's North Carolina coastal sanctuary system that protects 35 percent of North Carolina's breeding water and shorebirds, launched North Carolina's Important Bird Areas program, and served leadership roles in the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative, American



Walker Golder - Deputy Director of Audubon North Carolina

Oystercatcher Conservation Initiative, South Carolina Shorebird Project, and development of the Southeast Waterbird Conservation Plan.

Golder, also an accomplished photographer, received Audubon's Charles H. Callison Professional Award in 2013, a peer nomination for staff who have made significant contributions to conservation through coalition building, creative thinking and perseverance. He is a leader in the Audubon Sharing Our Seas and Shores conservation strategy that focuses on stewardship of coastal birds challenged by sea level rise and development. Birmingham Audubon, in partnership with Mobile Bay Audubon, manages the Audubon Coastal Bird Survey and promotes stewardship along Alabama's coast as part of the conservation strategy.

Birmingham Audubon annually invites conservation leaders to share their work and message as the Diane and Tram Sessions Speaker, a lecture honoring the late members of the organization devoted to the conservation and appreciation of birds.

See more information on page 10 about
The 69th Annual Banquet
Thursday, December 3, 2015

Birmingham Botanical Gardens Beginner Bird Walk

Veterans Day - Wednesday, November 11, 2015 - 9 A.M.

Do you want to learn more about birds, how to locate and identify them? Then join Birmingham Audubon for our Beginner Bird Walk at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. Our Beginner Bird Walks are designed to be shorter than our field trips with more emphasis on teaching for new birder watchers!

Birmingham Audubon members will be on hand to help you find, identify and learn more about birds. Binoculars and field guides will be available for use during the event if you need them,

but you are welcome to bring your own. Members and non-members of all ages are welcome including children ages 5 and up.

Reservations are required as the number of participants is limited. For reservations please contact Teaching Naturalist, Helena Uber-Wamble at huberwamble@birminghamaudubon.org Include in your email, the names and number in your party, and the ages of any children. Children must be accompanied by parent or designated adult. For questions contact Helena at 205-714-8228.

Deadline for reservations: Monday, November 9.

Ruby-crowned
kinglet -
Photo by
Jean Folsom



Avondale Park and Zion Prairie

Half-Day Field Trip - November 7, 2015 - 7 A.M.

Avondale Park is one of the locations hosting a Birmingham Audubon Urban Bird Habitat Initiative, which is the planting of native flowers in the revived formal rose gardens to attract wildlife to the area. The 40-acre park is also rich in local history as it was the site of Birmingham's first zoo and its famous elephant, Miss Fancy. Our visit will start out by the rose garden and follow a hill to the pavilion known as the Villa. Open fields, brushy grasses and tree-lined paths will provide varied birding habitat along the way. We hope to see some late fall migrants and common woodland species such as nuthatches, woodpeckers and hawks.

After birding this area, we will caravan to a site near Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport known as Zion Prairie. This former neighborhood was condemned and razed in an airport expansion project. This has left behind a lovely prairie-type habitat which has attracted many bird species that prefer open grasslands. Please meet by the rose garden at Avondale Park near 40th Street South at 7 a.m.

Trip Leaders:

Maureen Shaffer 205-822-8728 (home) 205-222-2662 (cell)
or Susan Barrow 205-942-8667

November Field Trip

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, November 21, 2015 - 7 A.M.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, near Decatur, is the winter home to thousands of sandhill cranes, numerous waterfowl species and a small population of whooping cranes, and it is for these reasons that it is the destination for our November all-day field trip. Plan to join us on Saturday Nov. 21 to view the aforementioned birds as well as various gull and hawk species, and whatever decides to surprise us! Wheeler (GPS: N 34.5480, W 86.9505) serves as the gateway to the North Alabama Birding Trail; you can read more about it here:

<http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/wheeler-national-wildlife-refuge-visitor-center/>

Meeting Place and Travel Plans:

Our meeting place is the parking lot behind the Wells Fargo Bank at the Fieldstown Road Shopping Center in Gardendale. This is just off I-65 North at exit #271 (665 Fieldstown Road, Gardendale, AL, 35071). Turn right onto Fieldstown Road, another right onto Odum Road, and an immediate left into the shopping center. We will leave at 7 a.m. (please arrive early for pre-trip instructions) and caravan up I-65 towards Decatur and the Priceville exit (# 334). This is a drive of approximately 60 miles. Once we take this exit, we will reconvene at the Hardee's Restaurant. This should be approximately 8:30 a.m.

After a rest break at this location, we will announce further details. Dwight Cooley, refuge manager, will

lead us through various sections of the refuge, such as White Springs Dike, Arrowhead Landing at Limestone Bay, Beaverdam Peninsula with its viewing platform, and the Buckeye Unit of the Refuge. One major bonus is that we will be able to travel to areas of the refuge that are behind gates that are normally locked and inaccessible to cars.

This will be an all-day trip, so please bring a picnic lunch, drinks and snacks. Remember that the weather this time of year can be both unpredictable and can change rapidly, so dressing in layers is advised. Have a full tank of gas. Binoculars, cameras, and spotting scopes are welcome on this trip. Birmingham Audubon will have binoculars to borrow for the trip for those who need a pair. For those who wish, supper may be shared at a local restaurant at day's end.

Trip leader:

Greg Harber, 205-251-2133, home/evenings, or 205-807-8055, day of field trip only.



Sandhill Cranes - Thinkstock by Getty

November Membership Program

Birds and Bears of the Arctic

Presented by Maggie Amsler and Dr. Ken Marion
Birmingham Botanical Gardens - First Floor Conference Room
Thursday, November 19, 2015 - 7 P.M.

November's membership program will feature a visual visit (no parka needed) to one of the ends of the earth - the Arctic.

Maggie Amsler and Ken Marion, biologists at UAB, will give you a highlight of the stark, yet beautiful Arctic landscape in summer. Their presentation highlights some of the prominent wildlife experienced in their two separate trips to the Svalbard Islands of Norway and the coastal regions of Iceland. Views of polar bears will be shown, and their changing fortunes in a warming environment will be discussed. The presentation also includes pictures of the spectacular

breeding sites of thousands of several species of seabirds, including murre, puffins and several types of gulls along the cliffs of the

region. The tour of this high latitude, incredible region continues with other animals that are able to adapt to the often hostile environment of the Arctic region. Walrus, reindeer, arctic fox and several types of whales make appearances in the slide show. Come join us for a trip to the far north!!

Please come early for refreshments and conversation. Fellowship and snack time begins at 6:30 p.m.



Polar Bear

Audubon Teaches Nature

Reptiles: A Sampler

Alabama 4-H Science School and David Frings, Guest Speakers
Sunday, November 22, 2015 - 2 P.M. - Oak Mountain Interpretive Center



Carolina Anole - Photo by Ty Keith

Reptiles are among the most ancient animals on the planet having existed for over 300 million years. Modern reptiles inhabit every continent except Antarctica. They number in excess of 10,000 species, and of these 93 species are indigenous to Alabama including one crocodilian, 12 lizard, 49 snake and 31 turtle species. Four additional lizard species have been introduced.

Our program will include a sampling of live native and non-native species, affording close-up views of their unique adaptations. Kids of all ages will love this program and be sure to bring a camera!

Programs are held at the Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park, and the adjacent Oak Mountain Interpretive Center. Admission to the park is \$4.00 per person (Children 11 and under are \$1.00 per child), but the program itself is free. Come early to enjoy refreshments at the Alabama Wildlife Center and see the birds at feeders, then we will proceed together to the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center for the actual program.



Eastern Box Turtle - Photo by Ty Keith

Programs are held at the Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park, and the adjacent Oak Mountain Interpretive Center. Admission to the park is \$4.00 per person, but the program itself is free.



SoSo for the Record

Sightings September 8 through September 28, 2015

According to Greg Harber, the migrating chimney swifts have abandoned their previous roosting site near 4th Avenue North. Last year, the highest number counted there was 5,000. Their new roosting site is at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center and can be observed closely from the Boutwell Auditorium parking deck. He has tallied as many as 3,000 swifts there this season.

Other Sightings:

- 9/8 **Shorebirds: Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpiper; and a Lark Sparrow;** Lauderdale County (DS).
- 9/11 **Least Flycatcher;** Avondale Park (SD).
- 9/16 **Wilson's Warbler;** Avondale Park (SD).
- 9/20 **Black-throated Gray Warbler;** Dauphin Island, rarely seen in Alabama (Reported by HH,AH).
- 9/25 **Sora;** Moss Rock Preserve (Wild Flower Group, KW).
- 9/28 **Hudsonian Godwit;** Another rarity. Fort Morgan, AL (Photo JN).

Contributors:

Scot Duncan
 Andrew Haffenden
 Greg Harber
 Howard Horne
 Janet Neitzel
 Damien Simbeck
 Ken Wills

Please, send sightings for January Flicker Flashes at least five days before the December 1, deadline to Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209, annmiller520@aol.com



Black-throated Gray Warbler - Thinkstock by Getty Images



Hudsonian Godwit - Thinkstock by Getty Images

All Birmingham Audubon field trips are free and open to the public.

Applications for Walter F. Coxe Research Grants are Now Being Accepted

The purpose of the Birmingham Audubon's Walter F. Coxe research fund is to provide small grants in support of scientific research projects clearly applicable to wildlife, plant, or conservation issues affecting Alabama. Although any relevant field of research may be considered, priority is given to projects involving natural history or field biology involving plants or animals and those performed in Alabama or by individuals or institutions affiliated with Alabama.

Preference is given to graduate students (outstanding undergraduates may also apply) or others not having access to normal mainstream funding. Applicants are welcome to discuss the general suitability of a potential project before submission. Individual grants will not exceed \$2,500, and are intended as seed money to initiate larger projects or to facilitate applications to major funding agencies. The deadline is Dec. 15 of each year.

To learn more details about proposal requirements, please download the application document at: www.birminghamaudubon.org



Plant a Bird-Friendly Meadow!

By Michelle Reynolds - President, Birmingham Audubon

Michelle Reynolds is a native plant enthusiast on a mission to teach people how to put nature back into the urban landscape. She lectures, writes, and consults on gardens in and around Birmingham, Alabama.

Hummingbirds slurping, bees buzzing, hover flies hovering, butterflies drinking, caterpillars munching, and finches and warblers picking are all wonders I encounter in my garden on a daily basis in the spring, summer, and fall. It is fun observing and celebrating biodiversity in my own yard, and I enjoy tending to the garden teeming with wildlife. I would much rather spend my time pulling weeds out of a wildflower and native grass meadow than mowing turf grass any day!

A meadow does not have to be large. A border around the yard, a small plot in a sunny spot, or even a planter will hold the ingredients for a wildlife-feeding plot. Ultimately by providing plenty of seeds, nectar, and insects, you'll be inviting your winged friends over for a fine dining experience. To provide the whole habitat, just add water, places to hide, and nesting boxes.

To create a meadow, it is best to start with a small area, or you will quickly become overwhelmed with filling the space (plus it will be easier to sneak it in to the neighborhood if you grow the space a little at a time). Begin with removing the top layer of grass with a flat-headed shovel or sod remover. Use the grass pieces to patch turf in other areas of the yard where you may have brown or thin spots. Remove any stubborn weed and grass roots by hand. Add in an organic layer to replace the topsoil you remove with the grass. I like to use a mixture of topsoil and composted manure from the local garden supply store with composted leaves from my own compost pile. Plant native grasses and wildflowers in a natural arrangement, sprinkle wildflower seeds over the area, and top off with a thin layer of raked leaves from your yard. Water to establish, and weed to maintain. Add more diversity in flowers and grasses in the spring and fall of each year as you learn new species. Observe and learn, and the meadow will give you a sense of calm and pride. Bird-friendly is eco-friendly, and by putting nature back into the urban landscape, you'll contribute to an overall healthy environment.



Michelle planting a border of native wildflowers and grasses, brings biological diversity to the yard and provides beautiful curb appeal as well. Photo by Bob Farley



A combination of purple coneflowers and pink mulhy grass is beautiful. If the long-lasting blooms are allowed to go to seed, the seeds will be gobbled up by birds during the late summer and fall. Photo by Bob Farley

For inspiration, visit the Birmingham Audubon Urban Bird Habitat Initiative projects. Limestone Park's prairie restoration area and the native plant beds in Avondale Park Rose and Habitat Garden serve as wildlife gardens as well as demonstration plots. Some of the plants you will see at these locations (listed below) were purchased locally from Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. In addition to the aforementioned projects, you may also visit the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Railroad Park, and the Southern Environmental Center's EcoScapes for great ideas.

Wildflowers:

- asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp.)
- partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
- red bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
- wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- standing cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*)
- tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp.)
- sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.)
- cup plant and rosinweed (*Silphium* spp.)
- coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*,
Ratibida pinnata, *Rudbeckia* spp.)
- mountainmints (*Pycnanthemum* spp.)
- butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- hummingbird mints (*Agastache* spp.)
- evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
- blanket flowers (*Gaillardia* spp.)

Shrub-like plants:

- wild blue indigo (*Baptisia incarnata*)
- St. John's wort and St. Andrew's cross
(*Hypericum* spp.)
- threadleaf blue star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*)
- New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

Grasses:

- Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- pink mulhy grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
- purple lovegrass (*Eragrotis spectabilis*)

Alabama Audubon Chapter Leaders Meet in Fairhope

Leaders from Birmingham, Mobile Bay and Tennessee Valley Audubon met on the campus of Faulkner State Community College September 29, 2015 to share programs and activities, learn about flyway conservation goals and discuss policy goals. The leaders' conference was funded through a National Audubon Society collaborative grant sought in partnership by Birmingham and Mobile Bay Audubon.

Chapter updates were provided by each of the four chapters including Shoals Audubon Society through a report provided prior to the meeting. Lynn Tennefoss, National Audubon Society VP for Chapter Services, shared an overview of a range of services available to chapters from ArcGIS mapping training to the new Audubon Works. Melanie Driscoll, Director of Bird Conservation for the Gulf Coast and Mississippi Flyway answered questions about conservation strategies and programs throughout the region.

The leaders agreed to continue an annual meeting among other shared goals. A report of the meeting is in development and will be shared with chapter members.



(Left) Hans Paul, Birmingham Audubon, and Lynn Tennefoss and Melanie Driscoll, National Audubon, take in birds of Knoll Park in Fairhope. Photo by Suzanne Langley.



(Above) Chapter leaders and National Audubon staff break for a photo during the day-long meeting in Fairhope. Photo by Julie McLean, Tennessee Valley Audubon. (Below) Lynn Tennefoss shares information on Audubon Works, an information-sharing platform for Audubon chapters. Photo by Suzanne Langley.

New Signs Promote Dauphin Island's Status as Global Important Bird Area!

Audubon chapter leaders and staff celebrated Dauphin Island's status as a Global Important Bird Area with the installation of signs provided by National Audubon and installed by Dauphin Island Park & Beach board. Birmingham Audubon worked with Melanie Driscoll, Audubon director of bird conservation for the Gulf Coast and Mississippi Flyway, to have Dauphin Island and Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge recognized as globally significant bird habitat based on the critical habitat provided for threatened and endangered species.

Participating in the celebration were: Ralph Havard, president of the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary (DIBS); Andrew Haffenden, DIBS board member and birder who contributed data for the designation; Melanie Driscoll; Jeff Collier, mayor of Dauphin Island; Lynn Tennefoss, National Audubon vice president for chapter services; Suzanne Langley, executive director of Birmingham Audubon; Dr. John Borom, president of Mobile Bay Audubon; and Roger Clay, wildlife biologist, AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



Photo by - Julie McLean, Tennessee Valley Audubon

Birds of Railroad Park Celebrated in Downtown Wildlife Oasis

Visitors to Birmingham's Railroad Park now have another reason to stop and learn with the installation of "The Birds of Railroad Park" sign located in the section of the park known as The Gardens. The sign, sponsored by Birmingham Audubon and National Audubon Society, illustrates birds frequently found in the park. Birding is among the many recreational uses of Railroad Park thanks to the diverse ecological systems represented and habitat found in the landscape.

The Birds of Railroad Park sign, designed by Macknally Land Design, provides a list of birds commonly found in the park, where visitors may find certain birds in the park based on habitat, and which season to look for birds. A QR (Quick Response) Code links visitors to the Birmingham Audubon website and more detailed information about the species found in this downtown wildlife oasis. Birmingham Audubon frequently leads birding events at Railroad Park in addition to incorporating the location in the Christmas Bird Count.

Members of the Birmingham Audubon and Railroad Park Foundation boards gathered with friends and community leaders Oct. 3 for a celebration and birding. Chapter president Michelle Reynolds said, "You may think of birding as a recre-

"Taking a quick review of the checklist, I counted 36 species I know I have seen at the park. The three that most illustrate the "urban oasis" aspect of the park are two Eastern Meadowlarks in the wiregrass, the Yellow Warbler, and twice now I have seen a Killdeer with a chick on the lawn. How that momma successfully fledged a chick in that busy park is beyond me!

For a good illustration of ecosystem function within the park, last night I recalled that I had seen green herons and yellow-crowned night-herons eat the crawfish in the wetland, which harvests and eats the yellow flag iris seeds that float on the surface of the water being filtered by the cattails, which serve as nesting areas for the red-winged blackbirds. Where this circle begins is anyone's guess!

The park is a key area for the Christmas count."

Greg Harber

ation that takes place only in large nature preserves and away from the city, but there are many urban birders who enjoy and use Railroad Park."

Dr. Ken Marion, chair of our Conservation Committee, told the group, "The birding is good at Railroad Park because the habitat is healthy. The design of the park provides food, water and shelter for birds year round." The park is considered a model site for the Birmingham Audubon Urban Bird Habitat Initiative that focuses on healthy habitat shared by birds and people. Other projects associated with this initiative are located in Jefferson and Shelby counties and are funded in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.



Sign at Railroad Park - Photo By Greg Harber



Eastern Meadowlark - Photo By Thinkstock



Yellow Warbler - Photo By Thinkstock



Killdeer Chic and mother - Photo By Thinkstock

51st Annual Birmingham Audubon Fall Count

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Count Day was overcast, with periods of sunshine in the late afternoon. Winds were light and variable. The weeks leading up to the count were generally dry, and little standing water or mudflat habitat was available for shorebirds. Temperatures ranged from 66 to 77 degrees. Twenty-one observers in eight parties spent 64.25 hours in the field (33.5 on foot, 30.75 in car) with 0 hours devoted to owling. 487.25 miles were covered by car and 16.55 miles on foot. This resulted in the tallying of 105 species on count day with an additional 2 count week species. There were also two feeder watch reports. Special

thanks to Elberta Reid, our compilation host, and to all who spent time afield. Greg Harber, Compiler.

Observers by party, leaders in boldface: **Sallie Brice**, Allen Brice, **Scot Duncan**, **Greg Harber**, Jessica Germany, **Sharon Hudgins**, David George, **John Imhof**, Jeremy Bearden, **Matt Hunter**, Meegan Dale, Pat Dortch, Jessie Griswold, John Morgan, Sarah O'Neill, Jim Shepherd, **Maureen Shaffer**, Jean Folsom, Anne Miller, **Pelham Rowan**, Lisa Bailey. **Feeder Watchers:** Dana and Stan Hamilton, Dan Voketz.

Canada Goose	342	Red-headed Woodpecker	20	Northern Mockingbird	128
Wood Duck	39	Red-bellied Woodpecker	66	European Starling	1197
Gadwall	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Golden-winged Warbler	1
American Wigeon	3	Downy Woodpecker	45	Blue-winged Warbler	3
Mallard	28	Northern Flicker	8	Black-and-white Warbler	3
Blue-winged Teal	12	Pileated Woodpecker	12	Tennessee Warbler	7
Wild Turkey	4	American Kestrel	5	Common Yellowthroat	10
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Eastern Wood-Pewee	32	Hooded Warbler	2
Double-crested Cormorant	119	Acadian Flycatcher	1	American Redstart	31
Great Blue Heron	56	Empidonax Species	2	Northern Parula	7
Great Egret	67	Eastern Phoebe	74	Magnolia Warbler	10
Green Heron	4	Loggerhead Shrike	4	Yellow Warbler	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	White-eyed Vireo	34	Chestnut-sided Warbler	6
Black Vulture	15	Yellow-throated Vireo	3	Palm Warbler	4
Turkey Vulture	33	Philadelphia Vireo	5	Pine Warbler	54
Osprey	3	Red-eyed Vireo	15	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Mississippi Kite	1	Blue Jay	251	Prairie Warbler	1
Cooper's Hawk	3	American Crow	263	Black-throated Green Warbler	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	33	Fish Crow	14	Eastern Towhee	46
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Tree Swallow	1	Chipping Sparrow	64
Red-tailed Hawk	16	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	10	Field Sparrow	4
Virginia Rail	CW	Barn Swallow	2	Savannah Sparrow	2
Killdeer	85	Carolina Chickadee	91	Song Sparrow	3
Spotted Sandpiper	2	Tufted Titmouse	104	Summer Tanager	17
Solitary Sandpiper	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	26	Scarlet Tanager	6
Stilt Sandpiper	1	Brown-headed Nuthatch	40	Northern Cardinal	145
Rock Pigeon	63	House Wren	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	Carolina Wren	99	Blue Grosbeak	2
Mourning Dove	255	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Indigo Bunting	25
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Eastern Bluebird	149	Red-winged Blackbird	83
Great Horned Owl	CW	Gray-cheeked Thrush	7	Common Grackle	27
Barred Owl	2	Swainson's Thrush	18	Brown-headed Cowbird	71
Common Nighthawk	3	Wood Thrush	9	House Finch	34
Chimney Swift	3214	American Robin	39	American Goldfinch	47
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	44	Gray Catbird	53	House Sparrow	30
Belted Kingfisher	12	Brown Thrasher	57		

80th Annual Birmingham Audubon Christmas Bird Count Monday, December 28, 2015

The Birmingham Audubon Christmas Bird Count was begun in 1946, making this one of the longest running Christmas Bird Counts in the country. This year's count will be our 80th (80th!) and all members and friends are invited to participate on Monday, Dec. 28, 2015. Thanks to the continued support of our dedicated members and friends this wonderful Christmas tradition continues to this day. Consider making the Christmas Bird Count a part of your holiday tradition and join the fun on count day.

Get your holidays off to a merry start by joining in this historic count. David George will handle compiling duties and Maureen Shaffer will host our compilation at her home located at 2216 Mountain Lake Terrace, Hoover AL 35226. Call Maureen if you need directions: 205-822-8728. The compilation will begin at 5:00 p.m. and light refreshments will be provided.

Accompanying this article you will find a copy of the map detailing the count circle and the various territories within the circle. I invite all of our members to consider participating in the count by choosing an area (you do not have to live within the territory or the count circle) and contacting the corresponding party leader to make arrangements to join the group. If you are not able or do not wish to participate, but have some unusual winter birds visiting your feeders that we should record for the count, please contact us in advance. We especially would love to hear from you if you have some owls in your neighborhood or wintering hummingbirds!

For those who may be interested, the Count Circle app by Stevens Creek Software, is available for download from the iTunes Store. The app clearly displays the boundaries for each Christmas Bird Count circle, and allows the user to determine in real time their location within the circle. Count Circle includes the complete National Audubon database of CBCs, with a total of 2646 different count circles in 89 different states and territories including Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Antarctica. The cost of the app is \$2.99.

Birmingham Audubon Christmas Bird Count Circle



Area	Leader	Phone	Area	Leader	Phone
1	John Imhof	995-0688	5/6	Pelham Rowan	970-0844
2	Greg Harber	251-2133	8/9	Rick Kittinger	503-3767
3	Matt Hunter	592-4125	10	Maureen Shaffer	822-8728
4/7	TBD	TBA	11	TBD	TBA
			12	David George	477-5074

Birmingham Audubon

Cordially invites you to attend its
69th Annual Banquet

Sponsored by



Thursday, December 3, 2015
Five-thirty in the Evening

Reception with Cash Bar - 5:30 P.M.

Dinner - 6:30 P.M.

Protective Life Corporation
Grand Bay Dining Room

Sharing Our Seas and Shores in the Atlantic Flyway: A Model for Flyway Scale Bird Conservation

Presented by: Walker Golder
National Audubon Society Atlantic Flyway Coastal Leader

Reservations required - We welcome non-members to attend!

TO REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE: visit www.birminghamaudubon.org

You may also register by completing and returning the form below.

Dinner is \$42.00 per person. Reservations can only be guaranteed through November 24.

Please indicate your choice of menu below:

Entree A - Filet Mignon topped with Tcholupitoulas sauce, served on garlic mashed potatoes

Entree B - Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please make reservations for the following person(s): Name, Phone, Email (for directions)*	Entree Choice	
	A (Meat)	B (Vegetarian)

*Please, include your mailing address if you do not have an email address

Make check payable for: Birmingham Audubon Society

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Send check and form to:
Birmingham Audubon
3720 Fourth Avenue South, 2nd Floor
Birmingham, AL 35222
Phone: 205-719-3678, ext. 1



Walker Golder -
More information about
speaker on page 1

Join and Support Birmingham Audubon

Are birds, wildlife and our natural habitat of interest to you?

If so, we invite you to be a part of a community that enjoys, values and protects birds and our natural world.

Founded in 1946, the Birmingham Audubon Society is Alabama's leading non-profit organization engaging people in the enjoyment and conservation of birds, their habitats and the natural world. With your support, we involve people through recreational birding, by extending their horizons with education programs, and by engaging them in conservation actions such as planting trees, counting birds, and working with local, state, and national policy makers.

There are many ways you can support Birmingham Audubon

Please join us and make a difference for birds and your quality of life, right here in Alabama!

Membership

Take the first step and become a Member of Birmingham Audubon. Get connected with our *Flicker Flashes* newsletter. See birds by participating in one of our free field trips, and learn something at one of our free monthly programs.

Make a Donation

We rely on your support and are proud to work on your behalf to restore wildlife habitat, conserve areas that are important to birds, and inspire appreciation and understanding of our natural world. Your generous donation, above and beyond the basic membership dues, is an important source of funding which allows Birmingham Audubon to facilitate our vital mission of connecting people with birds and the places they live.

Your memberships and donations support:

- Free monthly programs on natural science topics
- Free field trips led by expert birders to great birding / cultural locations
- Opportunity to attend Annual Banquet and Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop
- Introduction to great locations to see and observe birds
- Exposure to knowledgeable birders
- Travel opportunities to regional, national and international birding locations
- Graduate student research grants
- Local and statewide conservation initiatives
- Adult and student education initiatives
- Local, state and national conservation initiatives
- Alabama Birding Trails support

Birmingham Audubon Society Membership Application

Join Renew **Annual Membership: \$ 20.00**

Donation to support the programs & projects of Birmingham Audubon: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please make check payable to:

Birmingham Audubon Society

Please charge my credit card

Visa MasterCard

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Birmingham Audubon Society is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Please keep my donation anonymous

Yes No

I want to receive communications electronically

Yes No

I want to be contacted to learn about volunteer activities

Yes No

If you are interested in joining National Audubon Society, visit: www.audubon.org

Birmingham Audubon's policy is to not share or sell our mailing list. Your privacy is of the utmost importance to us.

Birmingham Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Office Address and Mailing Address:
Birmingham Audubon Society
3720 Fourth Avenue S, Second Floor
Birmingham, AL 35222
Phone: 205-719-3678

Suzanne Langley, Executive Director

Andrew T. Coleman, Ph.D., Program Director

Helena Uber-Wamble, Teaching Naturalist

Email: basoffice@birminghamaudubon.org
Web Site: www.birminghamaudubon.org

Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.

PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER
NO BLEACH USED

Flicker Flashes

Published by
The Birmingham Audubon Society

For conservation and greater knowledge
of birds, their habitat, and natural world

Flicker Flashes is published eight times a year by
the Birmingham Audubon Society
Editor: Ty Keith 205-602-8037
Graphic Design: Michelle Blackwood

Consider gifting a membership to Birmingham Audubon

www.birminghamaudubon.org
or 205-719-3678

November 2015

- 7 Half-Day, Avondale Park & Zion Prairie
- 11 Beginner Bird Walk - Birmingham Botanical Gardens
- 19 Membership Program, Birds and Bears of the Arctic
- 21 Full-Day, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
- 22 Audubon Teaches Nature, Oak Mountain St. Park

December 2015

- 3 69th Banquet, Walker Golder, "Connecting Local Efforts to International Flyway for Conservation of Threatened Species" - Protective Life Building (See page 1)
- 28 80th Christmas Bird Count (See page 8)



Copies of *Flicker Flashes* can be viewed and downloaded from the Birmingham Audubon web site: www.birminghamaudubon.org