

Mobile Bay Audubon Society

2014 Fall Newsletter

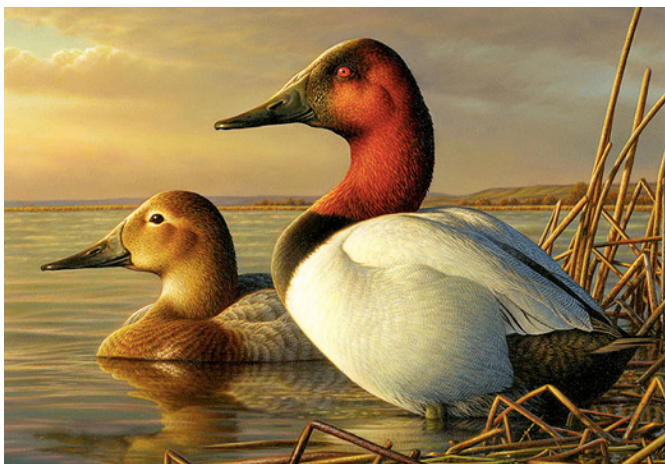
The Wild Duck Chase

by Martin J. Smith
Review by Gaye Lindsey

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest is the only juried art competition run by the U. S. Government, and funds from the sale of the Duck Stamp have generated over \$750 million to help purchase millions of acres of waterfowl habitat as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Over 98% of the funds received are actually used to purchase habitat, one of the most successful government programs ever.

This book provides a look into the competitive world of wildlife art and artists, and the issues between hunters, birders, and other conservationists. It also addresses the future of the program within the current political climate against the need to maintain and expand the good work already being done. It is very well written, with solid and unbiased reporting of the issues of the program.

Although the funds are specifically to preserve waterfowl habitat, that same habitat provides shelter and food to virtually every bird and many other forms of wildlife. Every birder should read this book, and support the program by purchasing a Duck Stamp every year.



2014 Duck Stamp
A Pair of Canvasback Ducks by Adam Grimm

Eastern Shore Birding Field Trips

Fall 2014 Calendar

September	10	Graham Creek Nature Preserve, Foley
September	24	Meaher Park, Causeway
October	8	Fort Morgan, Bird Banding
October	22	Dauphin Island
October	29	Dauphin Island
November	5	Ocean Springs Sewage Treatment Plant
November	19	Bayfront Park, Daphne
December	3	Gulf Shores Water Treatment Plant
December	17	Blakeley Mudflats

Schedule is subject to change due to weather and other unforeseen events. All events are publicized by email only. To get on the distribution list, please email Gaye Lindsey at gplindsey@bellsouth.net

Bluebird Nest Mystery

by Sharon Emmett

In early June, a pair of bluebirds laid four eggs in our bluebird box. Then the parents appeared to abandon the nest shortly afterwards, with only the female visiting the box occasionally until mid-July. At that point, we discovered that there were nine bluebird eggs in the nest, and a new pair of bluebirds were tending the nest. Four of the eggs hatched and fledged on August 11. Now only three eggs remain in the nest. We can only speculate as to what happened to the first pair of bluebirds, and whether any of the eggs that hatched were from the earlier laying.



Nine eggs in box (above)
Four chicks hatched (right)



Photos by Sharon Emmett

11th Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal Birdfest! October 2 - 4, 2014
New trips and old favorites! Two sunset cruises, Bottle Creek Indian Mounds and Northbound Delta Adventure. Many trips sell out early, so sign up today on www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com.

National Audubon Society
Mobile Bay Audubon Society
P O Box 483
Fairhope, AL 36533

Place
Stamp
Here

Mobile Bay Audubon Wants You! Join Today!

MBAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. When you join NAS, you will become a member of the nearest local chapter.

To join, go to the NAS webpage www.audubon.org and click on Member Center or send your membership information to National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, PO Box 422247, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6716. A one year membership costs \$20.

For more information about MBAS, please see our website at www.mobilebayaudubon.org.

MBAS CALENDAR - FALL 2014

September 9

General Meeting, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00pm. "*Birding the Mayan Ruins*" by Gaye Lindsey. Open to public. Bring a friend.

October 2 - 4

Alabama Coastal Birdfest! New trips as well as old favorites. See www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com to sign up.

October 14

General Meeting, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00pm. "*Conservation and Educational Programs at Graham Creek Nature Preserve*" by Leslie Gahagan, Environmental Manager, City of Fairhope. Open to public. Bring a friend.

November 11

General Meeting, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00pm. "*Learning to Love Ourselves: How to break our addiction to landscape pornography and appreciate Alabama's wild places*" by Ben Raines, Executive Director Weeks Bay Foundation. Open to public. Bring a Friend

December 9 - MBAS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 9th from 6:00 to 7:00 at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, followed by a special Christmas program "*A Musical Slideshow of Nature Photography*" by Sherry Stimpson Frost, local photographer.

Please bring your favorite Christmas finger food which can be sweets, cheese, veggies or breads. Beverages are being provided. Open to public. Bring a Friend.