

Mobile Bay Audubon Society

2015 January - June Newsletter

BirdFest 2014 Wrap-up Report

by D. Fran Morley, BirdFest "Nestkeeper"

2014 was another good year for the Alabama Coastal BirdFest. The 11th annual event welcomed nearly 400 registrants from twenty-one states and England for thirty-five total trips and events.

This year the Bird & Conservation Expo shared the Faulkner State College campus grounds in Fairhope with the Grand Festival of Art and the Festival of Books, a combination which brought record crowds to the Expo. Kids built more than 600 birdhouses with local Boy Scout Troop 47, before the scouts ran out of birdhouse kits by 1 pm!

The opening night reception, sponsored by Mobile Bay Audubon and Birmingham Audubon, drew over 130 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the light meal, a chance to chat with other birders, and the presentation of "Nature Through Our Lenses," featuring the work of local photographers and this year's featured poster photographer, Spence Harrison. The spectacular sunset that night was a huge hit!

Want to be more involved with BirdFest next year? Contact me (franmorley@mac.com) for more information.

The 12th annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest will be October 1-3, 2015. Visit AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com or [Facebook.com/groups/AlabamaCoastalBirdFest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlabamaCoastalBirdFest) to learn more.

Eastern Shore Birding Field Trips Winter / Spring 2014/2015

Dec 3	Gulf Shores WT Plant and nearby
Dec 17	Blakely Mud Lakes
January 7	Magnolia Landfill for Gulls, etc
January 21	Fort Pickens, Florida area
February 4	TBA, based on up-to-date birding info
February 18	TBA, based on up-to-date birding info
March 4	TBA, based on up-to-date birding info
March 18	TBA, based on up-to-date birding info
April 15	Dauphin Island
April 29	Dauphin Island
May	Trips depending on spring migration

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

In Memoriam - Bob Sargent by Celeste Hinds

Much has been said and written about the passing of Bob Sargent. For anyone who might be new to the area or new to birding here are a few words.

Bob and his crew banded birds at Fort Morgan every spring and every fall for about two decades. They were responsible for getting many of us hooked on birds. Visiting the banding station was a highlight of our field trips. In Bob's hands, we saw species that we would have been unlikely to see any other way. Bob showed us how to gently ruffle the feathers and understand how light was reflected, allowing colors to change. He demonstrated how each bird stored fat for energy to make their gulf crossing. He allowed us to hold a tiny hummingbird and feel its heartbeat. Then he would spot a child or new birder and allow them to hold the bird for a moment before releasing it.

Unless something changes, this was the last year for the banding station to educate us and get us "hooked on birds". So far none have agreed to take on Bob's dedication to his cause. Our sympathy goes to Martha and Bob's team.



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

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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 - January - June 2015

**All meetings are held at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center at 7:00 pm and are open to the public.
Bring a friend!**

January 13

General Meeting. "Gaillard Island" presented by Roger Clay. Come and hear about the island's history and its importance to Gulf Coast birds.

February 10

General Meeting. "Birds and Pesticides" presented by Elaine Snyder.

March 10

General Meeting. "Alabama Orchids" presented by Bill Summerour.

April 14

General Meeting. "Tales from Down Under" presented by Gaye Lindsey.

May 12

General Meeting. "Nature Photography" presented by Kathy Hicks.

June

Annual Picnic. Date and location to be announced.

MBAS CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 9, 2014

Join us for our annual Christmas Party 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. Beverages provided. Open to public. Bring a Friend.