

Mobile Bay Audubon Society

September - December 2018 Newsletter

The Journey of a Hummingbird Bander

Emma Rhodes, a long-standing member of MBAS, recently received her federal sub-permit for banding hummingbirds in the southeast. She will work on a long-term banding study implemented by Hummingbird Research Inc. She and master bird bander Fred Bassett, hope to discover more about these birds' behavior, longevity, migration routes, winter vagrancy, and more. Emma trained with the Hummer Bird Study Group in 2009 with "Chief Hummer" Bob Sargent. Bird banding can be likened to an apprenticeship, taking dedication, patience, and a passion for bird conservation.

In July 2018, Emma fulfilled her last requirement for obtaining her hummingbird banding permit. She spent a week in the Davis Mountains in Fort Davis, Texas at a research house to be evaluated by well known North American master bander, Kelly Bryan. "I was ecstatic to spend a week at an amazing place with wonderful people and birds. The Davis Mountains were a special place to Bob and Martha, who went there every year to host hummingbird banding events. I was reminded of Bob every time I saw one of his favorite western hummingbirds: the Lucifer Hummingbird. After seeing the Davis Mountains and experiencing its amazing diversity it has to offer, I now know why Bob was drawn to this place."

If you're interested in learning more about how you can help Hummingbird Research, Inc., go to <http://www.hummingbirdresearch.net>. Emma will be assisting Fred Bassett this winter with the winter hummingbird banding project.

MBAS Calendar - September - December 2018

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center at 7:00 pm and are open to the public. Bring a friend!

September 11 "Nature Photography" presented by Sherry Stimpson Frost

October 3 - 6 The 15th annual Alabama Coastal Birdfest

October 9 "Nature Photography" presented by Collin Stempien.

November 13 "Nature Photography" presented by Patsy Russo

December 11 "Discovering Alabama's Whooping Cranes" and Christmas Party, beginning at 6:00 pm. Bring a plate of your special holiday goodies (finger food only) to share around the Wassail Bowl.



Shown on left: a picture of a Lucifer Hummingbird that was banded and soon to be released at the research house in Fort Davis. On the right: Emma is taking measurements on a hummingbird as part of the data collection process.

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

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.

Audubon Eastern Shore Birders

AESB kicks off with a Coffee Social **Wednesday, September 12, 2018** at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship on 1150 Fairhope Avenue (across from the Satellite Courthouse) at 9:30 -10:30 a.m.

So find your binoculars, brush off your hiking boots and brush up on fall migrants. All are welcome to meet other birders, renew old acquaintances and learn about our fall plans. We bird on Wednesday mornings and mainly at the birding hotspots within a 60 mile radius of Fairhope. We have some of the best guides in the area leading our group. There is no charge, just come and enjoy!

Contact R. Lynne Fitzgerald
318-455-8566
aesbrlf1@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!!

December 11, 2018 beginning at 6:00 pm Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. Bring a plate of goodies (finger food only) to share, and join us for some Holiday Cheer and a great program on Alabama Whooping Cranes!