

# Mobile Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society Since 1971

Volume XXV No.4

## Alabama Wildlife Federation Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards

The Alabama Wildlife Federation's Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards are the most prestigious conservation awards in the state. For over 30 years, the awards have been presented to individual and organizations that make great contributions to the conservation of our wildlife and related natural resources, the natural elements upon which all life depends.

The purpose of the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards program is to promote leadership by Example and in turn increase conservation of the natural resources of the

State of Alabama—its wildlife, forests, soils, water, and air. The

program is designed to bring about a greater knowledge and awareness of conservation practices and projects, and to give proper recognition to those persons and organizations that make outstand-

ing contributions to the natural resource welfare of the community and the state.

The category of Conservation-ist of the Year is awarded to an individual who has excelled in an overall conservation effort, in environmental achievements, or other significant contribution to the conservation of natural resources. This year the award was presented to our very own, John Borom. Dr. Borom, we are very pleased to see your work recognized and we are very proud to have you as the president of our chapter of the National Audubon Society.



*Willard Bowers with Alabama Power Company, Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley, Dr. John L. Borom and Ted DeVos, AWF President*

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# Bird-a-thon 2006

WOW! 84 species! What fun Elizabeth and her team of Edith McClinton, Lois Cassity, Ann McLaurin and their driver Ginny McClinton, had counting species to raise funds to place Audubon Adventures into classrooms—15 in Baldwin County and 15 in Mobile County. \$1,153.00 was raised by the team to put these environmental awareness kits in the schools. “Teach them today to protect tomorrow.”

Thank you to each one who contributed to this worthy endeavor:

Maude Skiba  
Ottillie Halstead  
AKZO Nobel, Inc.  
Terry Hartley  
Lois Cassity

Amelia May  
Col. Bill Brierly  
Dr. Elizabeth French  
Sallie Waldron  
Erin Wheeler  
Eleanor Livadais  
Tom Lawrence  
Edwina Mullins  
David McDonald  
Leroy Pierce  
Edith McClinton  
John Winn  
Charlie Bailey  
Doug Dugat  
Sirman Lee  
Margaret Rice  
Dr. John Porter  
Judy Lovell  
Ira Swingle.

*Elizabeth Williams*  
*Bird-a-thon Coordinator*



## Volunteers Needed!

The Alabama Coastal BirdFest needs you! By helping with BirdFest, you are helping preserve and protect birding habitat on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Volunteers needed in a number of areas. If you can act as a guide - or you know someone who can - contact Roger Clay at 626-5474 or

[roger.clay@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:roger.clay@dcnr.alabama.gov). Other volunteers needed to act as tour hosts/hostesses; help with the Silent Auction (Mobile and Eastern Shore); assist during morning registration; and help at the Bird & Conservation Expo. Want to help? Contact Fran Morley at 928-0987 or [franmorley@mac.com](mailto:franmorley@mac.com).

## CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

*Dr. John L. Borom*

Dr. John Borom is the Director of the Faulkner State Fairhope Campus and has been instrumental in promoting land and wildlife conservation in Alabama. His work in conservation has served as a model for college students, educators, conservationists and leaders of the community.

Dr. Borom believes we must ensure the protection of our natural resources to help enjoy the quality of life found throughout Alabama. He works to ensure that future generations can enjoy our natural resources, and he reiterates this idea in his numerous publications and thru his life work.

In 1979, the Alabama Environmental Council (formerly the Alabama Conservancy) recognized Dr. Borom for his work leading to the establishment of the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. Nearly 10 years later in 1988, Woodmen of the World recognized him for his work leading to the establishment of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Both the Refuge and Reserve provide valuable habitat for millions of migrating birds and Alabama's coastal wildlife. In 2001, he was presented the Environmental Responsibility Award in the individual citizen category by the Baldwin County Commission.

One of Dr. Borom's most recent accomplishments is the establishment of the Alabama Coastal Birdfest, a four-day festival in Baldwin County that attracts visitors from over 13 states to learn about Alabama's diverse wildlife and migrating bird populations and observe them firsthand. In addition, he also serves as a member of the Baldwin County Historical Commission; Board Member, Vice President, and founding member of the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation; President of Mobile Bay Audubon Society; and Board Member for Forever Wild.

# Louisiana Wetlands and the Whooping Crane

As Louisiana's wetlands continue to disappear, the animals that live-or once lived-in this thriving ecosystem struggle for survival. The loss of their habitat means smaller nesting grounds, reduced food supply and inadequate shelter. Some of the animals will find new homes, but some will disappear with the wetlands. A few already have. Louisiana Wetland Animals The whooping crane is just one example of how Louisiana wetlands loss can affect a species. In 1937, as their habitat receded, Louisiana's last known whoopers were moved to Aransas National Wildlife Preserve in Texas for their protection. Today, these birds number only 135 in captivity and 336 in the wild. They are considered the rarest species of crane and North America's most

endangered native bird. To help the whoopers, Audubon Nature Institute is building a whooping crane breeding facility at **Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species**. Funded by the Department of the Interior U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the new crane facility will accommodate 10 breeding pairs of whooping cranes. Audubon now houses eight whooping cranes, and two of them-a non-breeding pair-can be seen at Audubon Zoo!

Last year, Audubon's whooping crane program made headlines when an egg laid at the Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center hatched at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. The egg had been flown from Louisiana to Maryland as part of Operation Migration, a cooperative program

for rebuilding the whooping crane population. The new whooping crane breeding facility will allow Audubon to play an even more significant role in saving this native bird with an ultimate goal of re-establishing a flock in Louisiana.



# Calendar

## Audubon Society

### September

- 12 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:30 p.m. “The Nature Conservancy’s Coastal Programs” presented by Nichole Vickey, Faulkner State Community College Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. Bring a friend.

### October

- 10 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:30 p.m. “Discovering Alabama Video – Weeks Bay Reserve,” 30 minutes and a report on Bird-a-thon 2006 . Government Street Baptist Church in Mobile. Bring a friend.
- 22-22 Alabama Coastal BirdFest  
[www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com](http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com)

### November

- 11 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:30 p.m. “Western Wyoming” presented by John Borom. Faulkner State Community College Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. Bring a friend.

## Coastal Birding Association

### September

- 2 Fort Morgan for Olive-sided Flycatchers, Bell’s Vireos and empids. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at picnic area by ferry landing. Picnic lunch.

### October

- 7 Dauphin and Pelican Islands for migrants and shorebirds. Meet at Shell Mounds at 8:00 a.m. Depart for Pelican Island at 9:00 a.m.
- 13-15 Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) Fall Meeting, Dauphin Island. Check *The Yellowhammer* or AOS website <[www.bham.net/aos/](http://www.bham.net/aos/)> for details.

### November

- 18 Bon Secour Unit of Woerner Turf sod farm for Swainson’s Hawks, Sprague’s Pipits and longspurs (providing there is habitat). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking lot on south side of Hardee’s on Hwy. 59 in Foley. Coffee at Hardee’s for early birds

## 2007 Calendars—\$5.00

Our 2007 Feathered Friends calendars have arrived and are more beautiful than ever. Yes, I know that I say that every year, but the Maslowskies have out-done themselves this year with prints of the Common Yellow-throat, Green Jay, Baltimore Oriole, Piliated

Woodpecker, (no, not it’s cousin, the “is it” or “isn’t it” the Ivory-bill), Towhee, the Yellow-headed Blackbird (my favorite) and others. The calendars are for 16 months beginning September 2006. We all receive calendars but they don’t

compare with these, so get one for yourself and several to give away. At \$5.00 they are a bargain. We sold out early last year, so if you want 5 or more, call Elizabeth (64307257). She will hold them for you. They will be for sale at the Bird fest, at each meeting and field trips.

# Photography by Dave Cagnolatti featured at 2006 Alabama Coastal BirdFest

By D. Fran Morley



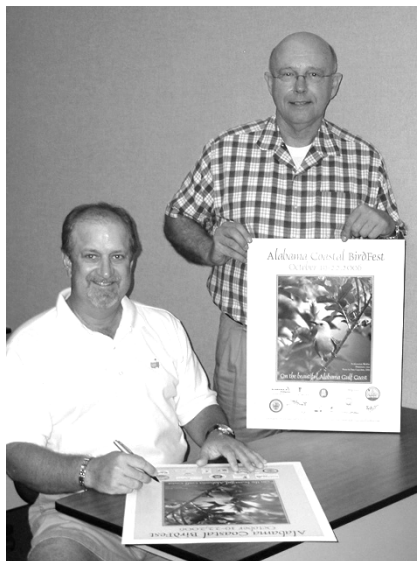
It's impossible to miss the striking photo on the brochure, poster, and t-shirt for this year's Alabama Coastal BirdFest. The beautiful Prothonotary Warbler was captured by avid photographer and bird watcher, Dave Cagnolatti.

Although Dave resides in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, his work for ConocoPhillips as Manager of Government Affairs for the Southeastern United States takes him all over the region, including one of his favorite spots for birding, Dauphin Island. His work has been featured in promotional brochures, calendars and on web sites for Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others. Many of the wildlife photos featured on the Weeks Bay Foundation web site ([www.weeksbay.org](http://www.weeksbay.org)) are by Dave.

Dave is a member of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society and the Louisiana Ornithological Society and was the first lifetime member of the Louisiana Bluebird

Society. He teaches a recreational course in backyard bluebird watching at Louisiana State University and has built and donated over 300 bluebird-nesting boxes to various organizations and parks. He will be a featured speaker at this year's Bird & Conservation Expo on Saturday, Oct. 21, with a presentation on Eastern bluebirds and other cavity-nesting backyard birds.

Dave captures his bird and wildlife images with a Nikon D100 digital camera using a Nikon 500mm manual focus lens.



2005 Poster

## BirdFest Posters Ready

Our 2006 posters are ready and they look great! Now we need to get them out so that everyone can see them. If you are in the area, please stop by John Borom's office at Faulkner State in Fairhope to pick up a few posters to distribute in your area. (440 Fairhope Avenue). Consider taking them to banks, retail outlets, coffee shops, schools (high schools and colleges), your place of work, etc. - anyplace where others will have a chance to see it.

I will take posters around downtown Fairhope, but we definitely need posters distributed all around the area - Mobile, Daphne, Spanish Fort, Foley, Pensacola, Destin, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Pascagoula, etc. If your work or travels take you anywhere around the area, please consider taking a couple of posters with you - never know where you might find a good location to put up a poster.

Once again this year, we will be selling signed (\$15) and unsigned (\$10) posters on the web site and during the festival, so if your friends would like a poster as art (and who wouldn't?) please encourage them to buy one.

FYI, registrations are coming in! More than 60 individuals have registered for nearly 120 tours/dinners. Tours will start filling up fast from here on out, so if YOU want to register for a tour, get your checks in the mail! (or register online)

Thanks for your help. This is going to be a great BirdFest

# Mobile Bay Audubon Wants You!

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats.

As a member, you'll become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A 1-year subscription (6 bi-monthly issues) of our chapter newsletter.
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription (4 issues, one per quarter) of Audubon, its award-winning magazine.
- Admission to Audubon Centers across the country.
- A 10% discount on products at select Audubon Nature Stores and more!

Yes! I want to join Mobile Bay Audubon and National Audubon Society!

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate      \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 - Individual Life Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate      \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,500 - Dual Life Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 - 2 year Special Rate

\_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Please bill me

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to: National Audubon Society,  
Membership Data Center, P O Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529

Chapter Code: A01 7XCH

"We are still in that low state of civilization when we do not understand that it is also vandalism wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird."

Theodore Roosevelt, Views from the Rough Rider

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