

Mobile Bay Audubon Society



A Chapter of the National Audubon Society Since 1971

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Changes in Store for 2007 Alabama Coastal BirdFest

This year's Alabama Coastal BirdFest, Oct. 18-21, will feature some favorite trips and events from years' past as well as several exciting new trips, said Fran Morley, BirdFest coordinator.

"The biggest change for this year is that all of our trips will be staged from the new Five Rivers Delta Resource Center on the causeway. It's a beautiful facility and it's located half way between Mobile and the Eastern Shore, so we think it will be convenient for people coming from any direction," Morley said. "Also, at the suggestion of many birders, some of our trips will be leaving a little earlier in the morning and that should make for improved birding."

Five Rivers is also the site of BirdFest's Thursday night reception. "Not only will guests get to see the wonderful birding photos of Dave Cagnolatti, our presenter that night, but they'll also get to enjoy the beautiful views of the Delta from the boardwalks and porches at Five Rivers," Morley said.

New trips for 2007 include a Backyard Wildscaping tour of homes and parks on the Eastern Shore; a trip that will cover birding spots at Five Rivers, Meaher State

Park, and Daphne Bayfront parks; and several new boat trips departing from Five Rivers. Favorite trips to Bayou La Batre, Fort Morgan, Dauphin Island, and other locations will be repeated this year.

As before, the Friday night BBQ and seafood dinner with silent auction and speaker, takes place at the James P. Nix Center in Fairhope. The speaker is Dr. Geoff Hill, ornithologist and professor at Auburn University. Dr. Hill, an author and recognized expert on bird coloration, has been heading up the team searching for the Ivory-bill Woodpecker in the swamps of northwest Florida.

"We know that Dr. Hill and his

team have heard the birds' distinctive calls and seen evidence of nests and feeding, and we hope they will have some conclusive proof by October, but in any event, he will have fascinating stories to tell about the search," said Jim Griggs, director of Alabama State Lands, one of the event sponsors. "Who would have guessed that this elusive bird might be living so close to us here on the Gulf Coast?"

Registration is open for the 2007 Alabama Coastal BirdFest and brochures are available at various public locations. For more information or to register, visit www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com or call 251-621-1902.



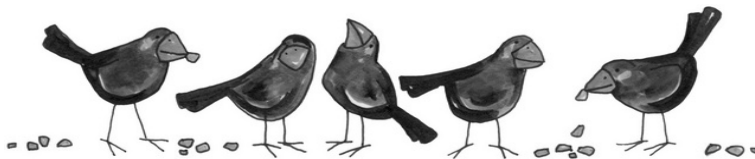
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Birdathon

Wow! 82 species! What fun Elizabeth and her team of Edith McClinton, Lois Cassity, Ann McLaurin, the Lovell family and Ginny McClinton, our faithful driver, had counting species to raise funds to place Audubon Adventures into classrooms—15 in Baldwin County and 15 in Mobile County. \$1,672.00 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:

Maud Skiba AKZO Nobel, Inc. Terry Hartley Lois Cassity Amelia May Col. Bill Brierly Dr. Elizabeth French Edith McClinton John Winn Sallie Waldron Charlie Bailey Vince Kilborn Patricia Portier Carroll Beard Dupont de Nemours	Erin Wheeler Doug Dugat Tom Sterling Sirman Lee Tom Lawrence Margaret Rice Edwina Mullins Dr. John Porter Nancy Hora Judy Lovell Barbara Perry Celeste Hinds Ottile Halstead Dr. Ralph Pseiffer
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New Board Member

Chester McConnell spent his professional career of 35 years conducting research, protecting wildlife species and managing their habitats. Since retiring, he has focused his time on wetland and stream protection. McConnell holds a master’s degree in wildlife management and botany. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1960 to 1963. From 1965 to 1974 he was a wildlife biologist for Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. From 1974 to 1999 McConnell was the Southeastern Field Representative for the private nonprofit Wildlife Management Institute. He worked with government agencies, industry, private landowners, and coordinated with numerous private conservation groups to protect wildlife habitat for all wildlife species. He was also on the Institute’s team that evaluated various state and federal wildlife agencies in an effort to enhance their research, management, public relations and law enforcement programs. He and his wife Dorothy also managed their 134 acre property solely for wildlife and fish. Recently they placed their property in a Conservation Easement program with Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation so that the property will remain in its natural state in perpetuity.



Thanks to the funds raised by the Bird-a-thon team, we will place Audubon Adventure kits in 30 classrooms next year. These natural science resource materials help to build environmental and creature awareness among the students. Our two Audubon Adventures coordinators are Cheryl Searcy for Baldwin County and Anita Bryan for Mobile County. We thank them for the good job that they are doing.

The schools participating are:

Mobile County

Fairh Academy (2)
Holliger's Island Elementary (3)
Castlen Elementary
George Hall Elementary
McDavid Jones Elementary
St. Lukes Episcopal School
St. Elmo Elementary (2)
Robbins Elementary
Old Shell Magnet School
Whistler Elementary
Meadowlake Elementary

Baldwin County

Summerdale Elementary
Gulf Shores Elementary (2)
Fairhope Intermediate (2)
Orange Beach Elementary (2)
Marietta Johnson Organic School
Central Christian School
Gulf Shores Middle School
Summerdale Middle
Magnolia Elementary
Robertsdale Elementary
Elberta Elementary
Rosinton Elementary

Calendar

September

- 11 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Guest Lecture Series. "Bird Nests in Alabama" presented by **John Trent**, Bird Specialist, Alabama Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Lands Division. Alabama's Delta Resource Center, Five Rivers, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.

October

- 9 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Guest Lecture Series. "Shallow Water Shark Research in Coastal Alabama" presented by **Dr. John Dindo**, Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Alabama's Delta Resource Center, Five Rivers, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.
- 18-21 Alabama Coastal BirdFest. For information go to www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com.

November

- 13 Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Guest Lecture Series. "The Cerulean Warbler in Alabama" presented by **Eric Soehren**, Terrestrial Zoologist, Alabama Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Lands Division. Alabama's Delta Resource Center, Five Rivers, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.

Mobile Bay Audubon Wants You!

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

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- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription (4 issues, one per quarter) of Audubon, its award-winning magazine.
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Make check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to: National Audubon Society,
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"When the bird and the book disagree, always believe the bird." Birdwatchers Proverb

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