

# Mobile Bay Audubon Society



A Chapter of the National Audubon Society Since 1971

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## *Fifth Annual Birdfest is a Big Success*

*Fran Morley*

Like the annual migration of birds, the 5th annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest has come and gone for another year. If you took part, you know that we enjoyed four days of wonderful weather, great birding, and good fun. Once again, registrants came from all over the United States to enjoy guided birding tours by land and on boats, evening dinner events, and the day long Bird & Conservation Expo.

"We were afraid that the price of gas and other travel woes might keep registration down this year, but it didn't seem to affect it," said BirdFest coordinator Fran Morley. "We had participants from all over our immediate

area, as well as from Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, New York, California, Virginia, Indiana, Michigan, Texas, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada. One fellow from Canada was back for his second BirdFest, so we must be doing something right."

This year for the first time, BirdFest partnered with the Fairhope Public Library on a number of events as a lead in to BirdFest, including a month-long showing of photos by Terry Hartley, special bird and nature films, and an art contest for 3rd grade students in Fairhope schools. "The Friends of the Library and the library staff were invaluable, and the contest was so much fun," Morley said. "We

had a hard time picking three winners from among all the entries." The winning artists received a book about birds of America, a ribbon and certificate, and bird feeders for themselves and their classrooms.

"It's great to get young people involved with BirdFest," said John Borom. "Perhaps one day, these kids will be leading birding tours for BirdFest."

Sponsors and supporters of the 2008 John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest include Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Lands Division; 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Alabama Power, The Forum; Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Faulkner State Community College, Degussa/Evonik, Conoco-Phillips, Baldwin County Commission, Mobile County Commission, Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust, Holiday Inn Express-Fairhope, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary, Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, The Talking Phone Book, City of Fairhope, Fairhope Public Library, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, and Gulf Shores Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mark your calendar now for the sixth annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest, Oct. 15-18, 2009.



*Dr/ Bob's snakes at the free*

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## *Audubon Adventures*

*Elizabeth Williams*

The funds raised by the Birdathon team have placed Audubon Adventure kits in 28 classrooms. Some schools ask for 2 kits. This program brings wildlife, the environment and students together in an exciting and enjoyable way with the student journals included and the suggested activities.

In Mobile County: Faith Academy, Hollinger's Island Elementary School,

St. Elmo Elementary, Robbins Elementary, Old Shell Magnet, Castlin Elementary, George Hall Elementary, McDavid-Jones Elementary, St. Lukes Episcopal School, Collins-Rhodes Elementary, Meadowlake Elementary and Cottage Hill Baptist School.

In Baldwin County: Gulf Shores Elementary, Gulf Shores Middle School, Orange Beach Elementary, Spanish Fort

Elementary, Summerdale Elementary, Summerdale Mille School, Elberta Elementary, Daphne Elementary, Daphne East Elementary, Daphne Intermediate, Magnolia Elementary, Robertsdale Elementary, Foley Elementary, Rosinton Elementary, Fairhope Intermediate, Marietta Johnson Organic School and Central Christian School.

# Birds Photographed Around the Gulf Coast



Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Brown Pelican shot on Dauphin Island by Photographer David Cagnolatti



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photographed at Fort Morgan by John Borom



Taken by Terry Hartley at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Island during the Birdfest



American Redstart Photographed by Terry Hartley on Dauphin Island



Peregrine Falcon on Sand Island taken by Lisa Comer on the Shortbirds Trip



Swamp Sparrow photographed at the Forever Wild property in Grand Bay

## Calendar

### December

9	Annual Christmas Party	7:00 pm
	"Birds of Senegal and Gambia," presented by <b>John and Beverly Winn</b> . Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. Bring a plate of your special holiday goodies (finger food only) to share around the Wassail Bowl. Bring a friend.	

### January

13	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	"Fisheries Management and the Role of Apex Predators in the Northern Gulf of Mexico," presented by <b>Dr. John Dindo</b> , Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. Bring a friend.	
29	Nature Film	7:30 p.m.
	"Alien Wildlife Along the Gulf Coast," presented by <b>Tom Sterling</b> . Environmental Studies Center, 6101 Girby Road, Mobile, AL.	

### February

10	Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	General Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	"Trip to Kenya, 2008", presented by <b>Gaye Lindsey</b> . Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. Bring a friend.	

# 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 (3 issues, one per quarter, excluding summer) 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

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,500 - Dual Life Membership

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

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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

*"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature, but of ourselves," Rachel Carson, 1907-1964.*

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