

Flicker Flashes

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The Birmingham Audubon Society



For conservation and greater knowledge of
all wildlife, wilderness and natural resources

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Development of the new Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center:

Dedicated to the recovery of Alabama's most imperiled species

Presented by Dr. Paul Johnson

Program Director of the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center in Marion, AL

Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

This presentation will outline the new facilities and programs under development for the new Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center (AABC) and will provide an update of ongoing recovery efforts for various freshwater species that inhabit Alabama's rivers and streams. The new center will work directly with rare species in state waters, in many cases developing culture methods for many rare at-risk species.

Dr. Paul Johnson is Program Director of the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center in Marion, Alabama. A specialist with freshwater mollusks (mussels and snails), he has over 16 years experience dealing with threatened and endangered species across the southeast. A native of Kentucky, he obtained his

undergraduate and masters degrees at the University of Louisville. Dr. Johnson received a Doctorate of Zoology from Louisiana State University, and completed post-Doctoral work at the University of Texas at Arlington. He has spent 8 years developing recovery programs for imperiled freshwater mollusks at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, Tennessee before beginning his new position in Alabama in October, 2006.

Please come early at 6:45 to socialize and enjoy some refreshments. Guests are welcome.

Hans Paul, VP Programs

BAS Half-day Field Trip to Lake Purdy Saturday, February 3, 2007

This month's half-day field trip will be at Lake Purdy. We will start at 7:30 a.m. at the Coxe Creek bridge on AL 119, approximately 2.25 miles east of the U.S. 280 intersection. After scanning the creek for waterfowl, waders, and wild turkey, we will make a short drive to a nearby nature trail. This trail is an old road that is no longer in use, so it is an easy trail to walk. We should find a variety of sparrows (Fox is possi-

ble), wood ducks, woodpeckers, a resident red-shouldered hawk, and other winter woodland birds. Lunch will be optional on this half-day trip; those who wish to stay can join us at one of the restaurants on Highway 280. Please contact our trip leader, Frank Farrell, at 815-3554 or Frank_Far@msn.com if you have any questions.

So So for the Record

Sightings December 2 through December 26, 2006

On 2 December Greg and Debi Jackson had an “excellent” day birding at Guntersville. A **Bald Eagle** at the dam started off the day and then a lingering **Barn Swallow** was a surprise on AL 69 causeway. The best was yet to come when they discovered a “beautiful adult **Red-necked Grebe**” while scoping **Horned Grebes** on the east side of Brown’s Creek. Later they ran into Steve McConnell and Dana and Stan Hamilton. Steve had located a **Pacific Loon** on Al 69 and it was seen later by the whole group. While watching the loon David Chaffin and others from Tennessee joined the group and told them about a **Glaucous Gull** they had spotted on the north side of the causeway. That “white ghost” was viewed and enjoyed by all. Indeed it was an “excellent” day.

Other birds seen were:

12/5 **Allen’s Hummingbird!!** (Last seen 12/17) Irondale (RR,SR).

12/13 **Cedar Waxwing**; Mountain Brook (RB).

12/15 **Ross’s Goose**; Perry County (TW).

12/17 **Blue-headed Vireo (2)**; Homewood Forest Preserve (TM,GH).

12/24 **Brown Creeper**; Nice yard bird, Chalkville School Road (BA).

12/25 **American Woodcock; Sparrows- Chipping, Field, Song, White-throated, and Fox; Purple Finch (erratically); Pine Siskin (in woods feeding on Sweet Gum Balls)**; Clay (BS,MS).

The Sargents also report that Fred Bassett (Montgomery), who covers hummer banding in south Alabama, is having a record year. Also, documented were three returning **Rufous Hummingbirds** that were in “banders-speak” nearly seven years old. “I continue to be astounded by how cold hardy these wintering species can be.”

12/26 **Greater White-fronted Goose (67); Ross’s Goose; American White Pelican (75); Sandhill Crane (500)**; Also the **Tundra Swan** that was found earlier (JG). Wheeler Refuge (SMcC).

Contributors:

Bianca Allen (BJ)
Fred Bassett
Rob Brewer
David Chaffin
Jerry Green
Stan and Dana Hamilton
Greg Harber
Greg and Debi Jackson
Steve McConnell
Todd McDowell
Rick and Susan Remy
Bob and Martha Sargent
Thomas Wilson

There will not be a So So column for the March issue. Please submit sightings for April FF at least five days before the March 1st deadline to Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, Al. 35209.

71st Annual Birmingham Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count was held on December 23rd and a total of 29 participants in 9 parties spent a lovely day in the field documenting 86 species of birds, plus a count week Purple Finch. Highlights included 8 Rufous Hummingbirds, documented by the Sargents, and LeConte's and American Tree Sparrows. Total hours: 78.5, including 0.5 at a feeder watch and 2.5 hours owling. Total miles: 377.5. The weather was unseasonably warm and sunny. Temp range for the day was 43 – 60 degrees.

Participants (in 9 parties): **Frank Farrell**, Shirley Farrell, Mac Braid, **Stan Hamilton**, Dana Hamilton, **Pelham Rowan**, **Maureen Shaffer**, **Helen Kittinger**, Rick Kittinger, Jo Kittinger, Tom Blankenship, Miriam Rueger, **Greg Harber**, Alice Christenson, Harriett Wright, **John Imhof**, Lynn Thompson, **Mary Lou Miller**, Lida Hill, Elise Majiz, Gina McWilliams, Alan Yester, Jeff Pribble, Jamie Nobles, Bill Foster, Jean Cecil Foster, Mary Hines, **Sharon Hudgins**, David George, **Bob & Martha Sargent**.

Canada Goose	186
Cackling Goose	1
Wood Duck	30
Mallard	18
Green-winged Teal	12
Ring-necked Duck	246
Common Loon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	14
Great Blue Heron	45
Green Heron	1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron	4
Turkey Vulture	22
Black Vulture	3
Bald Eagle	1
Northern Harrier	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
Cooper's Hawk	12
Red-shouldered Hawk	20
Red-tailed Hawk	32
American Kestrel	9
Merlin	1
American Coot	9
Killdeer	66
Rock Pigeon	858
Mourning Dove	470
Eastern Screech-Owl	1
Barred Owl	2
Rufous Hummingbird	8
Belted Kingfisher	26
Red-headed Woodpecker	17
Red-bellied Woodpecker	65
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21
Downy Woodpecker	47
Hairy Woodpecker	6
Northern Flicker	61
Pileated Woodpecker	10
Eastern Phoebe	40
Loggerhead Shrike	3
Blue-headed Vireo	1
Blue Jay	197
American Crow	1374
Fish Crow	2
Carolina Chickadee	336
Tufted Titmouse	168

White-breasted Nuthatch	45
Brown-headed Nuthatch	94
Brown Creeper	7
Carolina Wren	118
House Wren	1
Winter Wren	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet	81
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	110
Eastern Bluebird	96
Hermit Thrush	21
American Robin	155
Gray Catbird	1
Northern Mockingbird	161
Brown Thrasher	15
European Starling	1421
American Pipit	49
Cedar Waxwing	470
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	148
Pine Warbler	39
Palm Warbler	1
Eastern Towhee	101
American Tree Sparrow	1
Chipping Sparrow	133
Field Sparrow	53
Savannah Sparrow	17
LeConte's Sparrow	1
Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	212
Swamp Sparrow	45
White-throated Sparrow	317
Dark-eyed Junco	236
Northern Cardinal	265
Red-winged Blackbird	1128
Eastern Meadowlark	25
Rusty Blackbird	30
Common Grackle	3638
Brown-headed Cowbird	20
Blackbird species	100150
Purple Finch	CW
House Finch	128
American Goldfinch	209
House Sparrow	95
Total Individuals	114301

Audubon Mountain Workshop

Make your plans now to join your family and friends for 4 days of fun, learning and relaxation at the Audubon Mountain Workshop, to be held May 10-13, 2007. This will be our 30th year; you don't want to miss this special occasion! Once again, Alpine Camp for Boys will host our workshop at their beautiful campus on the banks of the Little River across from DeSoto State Park.

Workshop participants have the opportunity to take classes covering a wide variety of topics: birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects, geology and astronomy, trees and shrubs, wildflowers, forest and stream ecology and mountain crafts. Experts teach all of the classes and most are taught in the field.

In addition to the adult-oriented classes there will be a Young Naturalist's Program for children ages 5-12. During class time our experienced staff closely monitors the children

while their parents/guardians are enjoying their own classes. This arrangement offers a wonderful opportunity for young families and/or grandparents and grandchildren to spend quality time together in the camp's idyllic surroundings. Either way, it is fun for all ages!

Your registration fee covers the cost of tuition, room and all meals. Participants are housed in rustic, one-room cabins and the camp staff will serve us three square meals a day in the dining hall. The Gym will serve as our main classroom and Alpine Lodge as our gathering place, library and canteen.

Look for the Audubon Mountain Workshop brochure inserted in this newsletter and send in your registration today. Then kick back and relax in the rocking chairs on the back porch of Alpine Lodge, and let the soothing sounds of the wind, the water and the woods fill your mind and renew your spirit.

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Clip along dotted line

~ Membership Application ~

Birmingham Audubon Society/ National Audubon Society

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____

Introductory membership ~ \$20.00

Includes quarterly subscription to **Audubon** magazine and 8 issues of *Flicker Flashes*, the chapter newsletter.

Senior (62 & older) and student (full-time) memberships available for \$15.00.

(Preferred method of payment for all new members is through the chapter, using this form).

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please make check payable to: National Audubon Society

Mail this form and check to: Birmingham Audubon Society
P.O. Box 314
Birmingham, AL 35201

Regular membership/Renewals ~ \$20.00

The National Audubon Society handles membership renewals through their Membership Data Center. Contact them at 1-800-274-4201 or write them at:
P.O. Box 52529,
Boulder, CO 80322-2529.
Submit renewals directly to NAS.

Birmingham Audubon Society *AOO7XCH8

February 2007

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, March issue
- 3 BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, Lake Purdy
- 6 Conservation Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 ATN seminar, 2:00 P.M., The Alabama Wildlife Center
- 15 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m.
General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Paul Johnson, Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center
- 17 BAS Field Trip, Pigeon Mountain WMA, Georgia

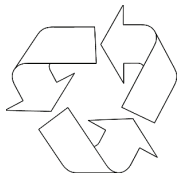
March 2007

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, April issue
- 3 BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, East Lake Park, Ruffner Mountain and Roebuck Springs
- 6 Conservation Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 ATN seminar, 2:00 P.M., The Alabama Wildlife Center
- 15 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m.
General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m.
Dan Drennen, USFWS, An Update on the Watercress Darter
- 17 BAS Field Trip, Perry Lakes Park & Lakeland Farms, Perry County, AL

Birmingham, Audubon Society
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