

Flicker Flashes

Published by
The Birmingham Audubon Society

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

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

The Birmingham Valley Springs and Their Rare Fish

Presented by Daniel Drennen

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species and Fish Biologist

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

Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

Dan Drennen's presentation will describe the springs of the Birmingham Valley and give us a glimpse into the unique fish species that cling to existence in these habitats. Dan will show us slides of the rare and endangered Watercress Darter, Vermillion Darter, Brush Darter and other species. The darters have often been referred to as the warblers of the fish world because of their beautiful coloring. Dan will discuss the efforts underway to insure their continued protection.

Dan is a native of Birmingham where he grew up on Shades Mountain and started his field biology activities in Shades Creek. He attended and graduated

from Birmingham Southern College, studying under Dr. Dan Holliman. Dan has long been a supporter of the Birmingham Audubon Society, having taught a variety of courses through the years at the Audubon Mountain Workshop. Dan is employed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and works in Jackson, MS.

Attend and enjoy this program

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

Hans Paul, VP Programs

BAS Half-Day Field Trip Saturday, March 3, 2007 Roebuck Springs and East Lake Park

Our half-day field trip this month takes us first to Roebuck Springs (Don Hawkins Park) where we will get close-up views of Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. We should also see several woodpecker species, as well as brown-headed nuthatches, sparrows, yellow-rumped warblers, and other winter passerines. We will then drive to East Lake Park to look for ducks and night herons. On last year's trip Ty Keith located a pair of Yellow-crowned Nigh-Herons building a nest on the

island. This is a state record for the earliest known breeding for this species.

Travel Plans: Meet at the McDonald's on Roebuck Parkway at 7:30 a.m. To get there take I-59 N to the Roebuck Parkway exit (134), turn left and cross the Parkway. Turn right into the CVS lot. After the field trip, those who wish to stay can join us for lunch at the Golden Rule in Irondale. For more information contact Frank Farrell at 815-3554 or Frank_Far@msn.com.

Audubon Teaches Nature

The Return of the Spring Migrants

Greg Harber
Sunday, March 11, 2007 at 2:00 P.M

Everyone is invited to join us on March 11 for our Audubon Teaches Nature seminar series. Greg Harber will be our featured speaker and his topic is a favorite among many of our BAS members: Spring Migration! Even as you read this, myriad warblers, tanagers and vireos are coursing through the canopies of the forests of South and Central America, guided ever northward as instinct dictates their return to summer breeding territories in North America.

Spring is an exciting time of the year. The short days of winter finally lengthen into the warmer days of springtime, leaves begin to emerge on trees that have been bare all through the winter, waterfowl begin to return north and neotropical migrants soon replace them in the fresh spring landscape. Soon bird song fills the air, adding another exciting dimen-

sion to the outdoor experience. You will learn which species to expect to see first, and which are the stragglers bringing up the rear, which species are just passing through our area and which will stay to breed here.

Come early for fellowship and refreshments in the Observation Room at the Center! Door prizes will be awarded but you must register to be eligible. Park admission is \$3.00 but the program is free.

Next Month's ATN seminar:

April 8 The Geological History of the Central Alabama Region ~ Two-hundred Fifty Million Years in 45 Minutes!

Jim Lacefield, author of *Lost World in Alabama Rocks*

March Field Trip

Saturday, March 17, 2007

Perry Lakes Park & Lakeland Farms

Join the Birmingham Audubon Society for its March 17th field trip to Perry Lakes Park and Lakeland Farms in Perry County, Alabama. It will be the society's first visit to the park since the completion of the birding tower by the students of Auburn University's Rural Studio Project.

We will begin the morning birding from the tower and other points in and around Perry Lakes Park. The oxbow lakes of the park provide an excellent breeding ground for a number of migrant birds, including Prothonotary Warbler and Northern Parula. Hopefully these species and others will be singing away for us during our visit.

Later, we will bird the Lakeland Farms area. Historically, this area has provided some very interesting birding. Sightings have included Bald Eagles, Osprey, Blue-winged Teal and a variety of sparrow species. In the Lakeland Farms area, we will be

escorted onto private land. Please be respectful towards the livestock, the land and the property owners.

Travel Plans: We will depart from the McDonalds on U.S. 31 in Hoover, across from the Galleria, at 7:00 a.m. Because this is a popular trip and because we will be driving on private land, we will need to consolidate into as few vehicles as possible for the trip down to Perry County. The caravan will proceed to the Centerville/Brent area for an early morning break at the Wendy's on Alabama Highway 5 near its intersection with U.S. Highway 82. From there, we will go to Perry Lakes Park via the Marion Fish Hatchery. We will stop for a picnic style lunch at some point during the day, so plan and pack accordingly. Don't forget the bug spray and water. We will be spending significant time in a swampy area.

Trip Leader: Ty Keith (205-602-8037)

The Birmingham Audubon Society would like to acknowledge the following memorial gift:

For: Mrs. Aubrey A. Stabler, Sr.

From: Elberta G. Reid

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Teacher Workshops

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To Register: Visit
www.winnteacher.org

Questions: Contact
Heather Montgomery
256-426-5871 or
heather@winnteacher.org

Flying WILD: Learn about birds in your area, migration patterns and standards-based classroom projects. This curriculum is sure to get urban students excited about service learning. You will receive *Flying WILD: An Educators Guide to Celebrating Birds*, available only to trained facilitators. Plus you will get a PPT CD of 40 of the most common birds in AL, a bird jeopardy game, posters and more! Additionally you will go on a guided birding outing during migratory season.

April 28, 2007 9AM-3PM (Continental Breakfast at 8:30)

Project WILD and Aquatic WILD: Become trained to use both of these nationally recognized wildlife conservation education programs for K-12 students. You will receive 2 complete curriculum guides, connections to further resources and practice implementing the activities. Lessons correspond to state and national science standards and can be adapted to incorporate other disciplines such as language arts. These fun exercises work in or out of the classroom at formal or non-formal educational settings.

March 24, 2007 9AM-3PM (Continental Breakfast at 8:30)

Reading, Writing and the Environment: Hands-on activities that incorporate literacy into your science curriculum! From journaling to vocabulary games, you will practice strategies that improve your students reading and writing skills while challenging their scientific thinking. You will receive a recommended reading list plus a new book to take home and share with your students!

March 28, 2007 9AM-3PM (Continental Breakfast at 8:30)

From Taxonomy to Tadpoles– Reptiles & Amphibians: Through classroom and field studies, we will explore both content knowledge and teaching techniques to help your students learn about the classification, lifecycles, characteristics and conservation of reptiles and amphibians. Discover fun facts (Alabama's state amphibian is the Red Hills Salamander), websites for student research, and the finer point on how to raise tadpoles.

March 31, 2007 9AM-3 PM (Continental Breakfast at 8:30)

FREE!



FREE!

WORKSHOP FACULTY

Flying WILD: Shirley Farrell. Ms. Farrell is the Supervisor of Gifted Education with Jefferson County Board of Education. She has taught gifted students for 12 yrs and has created outdoor classrooms, ponds, theme gardens, wildlife gardens, bird features, track boxes, etc. Shirley is the President of the Birmingham Audubon Society and the Education Chairperson for Alabama Ornithological Society.

Project WILD and Aquatic WILD: Jason Dockery. Mr. Dockery is the North Alabama Regional Coordinator for Projects WET and WILD. He has held that position since 2002 and has conducted numerous training workshops. Jason's degree is in Forestry and he is the father of a beautiful 2-year-old girl and a son due in April.

Reading, Writing and the Environment: Heather Montgomery. Ms. Montgomery holds a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Education. She has taught both in the classroom and out-of-doors. Heather is passionate about teaching children about the natural world. She has directed an environmental center for 6 years and trained hundreds of teachers in the art of introducing children to nature. She is also the author of science articles for children.

From Taxonomy to Tadpoles: Dr. Megan Gibbons. Dr. Gibbons is a professor at Birmingham-Southern College where she studies the evolution of amphibian behavior in local populations of frogs and salamanders. Dr. Gibbons also supervises university students who monitor the amphibian populations in order to track the over all health of an ecosystem.



No Child Left Inside

An introduction to leading nature activities

Winnataska Consortium for Teacher Education in Environmental Studies

May 26, 2007

Looking to inspire children? Want to help them appreciate the natural world? This one-day workshop will help you introduce children to the wonders of nature. Designed for leaders at summer camps, scouting programs, youth groups, etc. this training will help you eradicate the "Nature Deficit Disorder"¹ Learn tips and tricks for taking children outdoors, activities that are adaptable to many ages and nature games that are sure to please. Leave more confident in your ability to lead, knowing how to capitalize on the "teachable moment" and with a greater understanding of the importance of nature activities.

Location: Camp Winnataska, 20 minutes east of Birmingham

Date: Saturday, May 26, 2007

Time: 9AM-5PM (Continental Breakfast at 8:30)

Cost: \$25.00

To Register: Visit www.winnteacher.org.

Questions? Contact Heather Montgomery, 256-426-5871 or winnteacher@yahoo.com

Why Not Join Us?

The following people attended the Birmingham Audubon Society's field trip to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge on November 18, 2006:

B.J. Allen, Mac Braid, Lee Brewer, Tom Brindley, Craig Brown, Iris Callaway, Alice Christenson, Terry Clement, Ross Cohen, Martha Dagg, Frank and Shirley Farrell, Dan Frederick, Jessica Germany, Alison Glascock, Stan and Dana Hamilton, Greg Harber (Trip Leader), Walt and Jane Henderson, Donald and Billie Sue Hulsey, Chuck and Sue Hutchison, Ty Keith, Helen Kittinger, Ellen McLaughlin, Terry Mims, Lee and Cathy Nick, Tom Peterson, Elberta Reid, Dick and Linda Reynolds, Phil and Carolyn Sankey, Mary Frances Stayton, John Swan, Bob and Ann Tate, and Harriet Wright.

Plus, the following people attended the Guntersville field trip on January 20, 2007:

Kathy Abney, Lisa Buck, Edna Burrow, Janice Bonnett, Iris Callaway, Alicia Farmer, Frank Farrell, Dan Frederick, Kap Garmon, Mike and Jayne Harrison, Chuck and Sue Hutchison, Ty and Kenny Keith, Helen Kittinger, Cathy Nick, Ethel Owens, Bill and Etta Redmond, Roy and Carol Reidenbach, Dick and Linda Reynolds (our Hosts), Penny Richards, Marion Roberts, Mary Roberts, John Robinson, Shelia Russell, Andrew Sims, John Swan (Trip Leader), Julia West, Lynn Williams, Kay Wills, Doris Woods, and Trudy Woods.

The Birmingham Audubon Society thanks you for making these and all our field trips an enjoyable experience for all. We hope all our members will consider coming on one of our March field trips!

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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).

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.

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

Birmingham Audubon Society *AOO7XCH8

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.
- 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

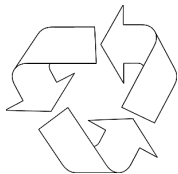
April 2007

- 1 *Flicker Flashes* articles due, May/June issue
- 7 BAS Sanctuary Workday (1/2 day)
- 10 Conservation Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Family Bird Walk - Birmingham Zoo
7:30a.m.
- 20-22 AOS Spring meeting - Dauphin Island, AL
- 26 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m.
General Meeting, (BZA) 7:00 p.m.
"Members Favorite Slides"

Birmingham, Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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Co-Editors: Bianca J. Allen (205) 854-5233
Greg Harber (205) 251-2133