

# Flicker Flashes

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The Birmingham Audubon Society

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

## Summer Field Trips--Kites and Wood Storks in Central Alabama

*Saturday, July 29, 2006 (Prattville and Autaugaville)*

*Saturday, August 5, 2006 (Gainesville and Aliceville)*

Late summer birding offers some exciting possibilities. Among these are kites and storks, and lots of them. If you have never witnessed the spectacle of Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites feeding on the wing, you are missing one of the most spectacular aerial shows on earth. Kites are regular late summer visitors to the Tombigbee and Alabama River systems in the upper coastal plain. It is truly a sight to behold, watching these graceful birds of prey as they soar over the fields, catch-

ing insects on the wing. Hopefully, we will also see Wood Storks, especially on the August 5th field trip to Gainesville. Wood Storks have to be one of the homeliest creatures the good lord ever made, but in the air their striking black and white forms are beautiful sights indeed. You won't want to miss these field trips so mark your calendars now and be brave against the summer heat! Here are the details:

**July 29th trip:** We will again head to the Prattville/ Autaugaville area as we did last year. Our departure point will be the same too: the McDonalds on US 31 in Hoover, across from the Galleria. Plan to depart at 7:45 a.m. and caravan down I-65 to exit #179 in Prattville. We will make a pit stop at the McDonalds at this exit. From there we will head to various locations near the Alabama River where kites have been seen in good numbers in recent years. Those who wish to meet us at the Prattville McDonalds should plan to be there by 9:00 a.m. Bring your lunch on this trip.

**August 5th trip:** We will again use the Galleria McDonalds as our departure point, except we will need to leave earlier as we have farther to travel to reach our destination. Plan to leave at 7:00 a.m. We will caravan west on I-59/20 to the rest area just east of exit #32. We will take a rest break there and then travel by way of CR 20 (exit #32) to the Gainesville lock facility on AL39. Those wishing to meet us at the lock facility should be there at 9:00, at the access road on the east side of the river. Once we have birded this locale we'll head north toward Aliceville, making stops in the New West Greene community and other birding sites along the way. Lunch will be indoors at a local restaurant, adding a boost to the local economy! Next we'll head south down the west side of the Tombigbee River, looking for kites, Wood Storks and Grasshopper Sparrows along the way. The general store in Gainesville will be our final stop for the day, where an ice cream treat will surely fortify our sun-baked bones!

These trips will be a day-long affairs so plan accordingly and bring plenty of drinks and snacks in addition to a full tank of gas, insect repellent, rain gear, and remember to dress for the weather.

Trip Leader: Greg Harber, 251-2133 or gharber@mind-spring.com

### May

- 11-14 Audubon Mountain Workshop -  
Mentone, AL
- 20 BAS Field Trip, Tannehill SP

### July

- 29 BAS Field Trip, Prattville & Autaugaville

### August

- 5 BAS Field Trip, Gainesville & Aliceville

# SoSo For the Record

## Sightings February II through April 5, 2006

I have noticed an increase in **Red-shouldered Hawks**, lets say, in the last two or three years. In my neighborhood, Homewood, I have always seen mostly **Red-tailed Hawks**. Now the Red-shouldered are much more visible. I feel sure they have nested the last two years. However, I have not been able to find their nest. I understand there is an active nest in Mountain Brook

- 2/11 **Rusty Blackbird (600+!)** Along with a few **Red-wings** and **Common Grackles**; McCalla (SH).
- 3/2 **Cooper's Hawk; Red-shouldered Hawk** (pair mating); Bluff Park (SB).
- 3/13 **Louisiana Waterthrush**; Cahaba Beach Bridge. **Blue-headed Vireo**; Vestavia (HW).
- 4/2 **Sora !!**; Quite unexpected for a yard bird, a "swampy" area nearby, Mountain Brook (TS, JS).  
**King Rail; Vireos- White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed; Warblers- Blue-winged, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Black-and-white, Worm-eating, Swainson's, Kentucky, Common Yellowthroat, and Hooded**; and lots of other spring arrivals. An interesting Atlasing trip in the Oakmulgee National Forest. "A wonderful day" (SH,DH).

and Harriet Wright has been seeing a pair for several years (Vestavia, formerly Cahaba Heights). Recently, in Bluff Park, Sheila Bancroft, reported a mating pair. Of course, I still see many Red-tails, but it will be interesting to see if the Red-shouldered can "hold their own."

Migration has not peaked as of today, but a few of the early arrivals have been reported.

- 4/4 **Grasshopper Sparrow**; "Cool but tragic" A window strike, UAB (GH).
- 4/5 **Blue-winged Teal (8); Prothonotary Warbler; Indigo Bunting**; Shelby County (AC, HW).  
**Swainson's Warbler**; Southside (RR).  
**Cooper's Hawk** (active nest); Homewood (A&AM, JL, DL).

### Contributors:

Sheila Bancroft, Alice Christenson, Stan and Dana Hamilton, Greg Harber, Sharon Hudgins, John and Dawn Lester, Al and Ann Miller, Rick Remy, Tim and Jan Shultz, Harriett Wright

Please submit sightings for September FF at least five days before the August 5th (note the change) deadline to Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, Al. 35209.

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### Half-Day Field Trip Saturday, May 20, 2006 Tannehill State Park

On May 20th, The Birmingham Audubon Society will be making the short drive to Tannehill State Park for a morning of birding fun. We will rendezvous at the McDonald's On U.S. Hwy 31 in Hoover (right across from the Galleria) at 7:00 A.M. and will then caravan to the state park. Helen Kittinger will be leading us to all the birding hotspots in the park through the morning hours. Several of the summer's avian residents have been already noted in the park this spring, so this trip does hold promise for some interesting sightings. The park has historically been a nesting area for the Louisiana Waterthrush, and we hope that they take up housekeeping there this year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ty Keith @ 205-933-8711 for trip details.

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### Tom Imhof Family Bird Walk Trip Report

Fifteen hearty birders braved the rain clouds on April 8th to visit The Birmingham Zoo for our Tom Imhof Family Bird Walk. Patty Pendleton did not disappoint the 7 o'clock arrivals; doughnuts, coffee, and juice were laid out for a pre-walk breakfast. Thanks Patty! Youngest in the group was George Mange, who delighted us with smiles and bird "oos" of unidentified bird talk.

Elberta Reid and Harriett Wright led the group. New bird arrivals for the Zoo were Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Wood Thrush. Warbler arrivals were a most vocal Hooded, plus Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Tennessee, and Prairie.

## Buying Paper Products

Please check the paper products you buy and try to purchase eco-friendly "recycled" products whenever you can. You just might be helping to save some of the arboreal forest in the Canadian woods where many of our migratory warblers and other birds go to nest. We also know that many of these species using the north woods are declining.

In a recent environmentally focused magazine, Kimberly-Clark was identified as the paper products company responsible for most of the major timber harvesting in that region.

Read your labels on the paper products you buy. "Puffs" brand facial tissue is made from recycled products and is as soft a tissue as you can buy. The following toilet tissues were listed as being environmentally friendly:

Ambience	Fiesta	Sofpac
April Soft	Marcal	365 (Whole Foods)
Cascades	Planet	
Earth First	Seventh Generation	

Marcal is one that is more often found in our groceries. Taking these steps may not appear to have an effect on guiding Kimberly-Clark to being more environmentally friendly but at least we can try. After all, we are the consumer.

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• ing forward to showcasing these exquisite pieces at an  
• event here in our gallery in the month of June. Please  
• visit our website [lorettagoodwingallery.net](http://lorettagoodwingallery.net) for further  
• details.



The Birmingham Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges the following contributions in memory of Robert R. Reid, Jr. to support land conservation efforts on Dauphin Island. Bob was an avid supporter of the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. and dedicated in his work toward bird conservation efforts.

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