Audubon Teaches Nature An Introduction to the Butterflies of Alabama

Presented by Vitaly Charny Sunday, October 7, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. The Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park

The Birmingham Audubon Society, in partnership with The Alabama Wildlife Center, the Friends of Oak Mountain State Park and the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center, is pleased to announce the upcoming season of Audubon Teaches Nature. This year's series promises to be better than ever, with a variety of topics designed to appeal to a wide range of interests.

Samford University operates the Interpretive Center, under the directorship of David Frings, and several Samford faculty members have generously offered to present seminars this year. Although new to the ATN series, they are familiar to the Birmingham Audubon Society, having served on the faculty of the Audubon Mountain Workshop for many years.

Our guest speaker for the October seminar is Vitaly Charny. Vitaly was born and raised in Minsk. Belarus (former USSR.) He has studied butterflies for more than 25 years, publishing several articles in Russia and the United States. He has photographed more than 100 species in Alabama and his database includes nearly 20,000 records. Vitaly's major interests in butterflies are: distribution, flight dates and changes in populations. He has led several nature hikes to observe butterflies in the Birmingham area, including the Homewood Forest Preserve.

A wide variety of colorful butterflies can be found in Alabama, and fall is the perfect season to watch for these winged beauties as they flutter from flower to flower. Glorious Monarch butterflies are winging their way south, and Cloudless Sulphurs dart about the bright landscape. Snout butterflies have a distinctive profile: they are easy to spot. Come learn more about these and other butterflies found in our region. There will be a butterfly walk after the program.

As usual, the Alabama Wildlife Center will

serve as our host for the series, serving cookies and punch in the Observation Room before each seminar. Door prizes will be awarded at each seminar but you must register and be present in order to win.

The remainder of the schedule:

November 4 Beyond the Backyard, Birding for

Beginners, Greg Harber

January 6 Raptors Up Close, an Intimate Look at

Alabama's Hawks, Anne G. Miller

February 3 Amazing Migrations, a Look at the

Migratory Routes of select Alabama

Birds, Dr. Jim Brown and

Greg Harber

March 2 Alabama Wildflowers, Beauty abounds

at Oak Mountain State Park,

Drs. Larry Davenport and Mike Howell

April 6 The Underwater World of Oak

Mountain State Park, Dr. Bob Stiles

and David Frings

Come early for fellowship and refreshments in the Observation Room at The Center!



SoSo for the Record

Sightings - August 11 through September 1, 2007

Shorebirds are few and far between, so far, in this area. **Buff-breasted** and **Upland Sandpipers** have been seen on the coastal sod farms recently, but not at the sod farms close to Birmingham. A few warblers have been reported, mostly from the Botanical Gardens (GH,KA).

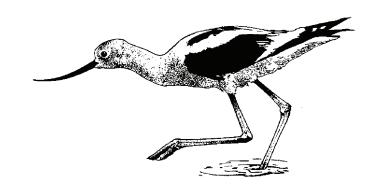
Common Nighthawks are on the move, and on 27 and 31 August put on quite a display in Homewood. It was difficult to determine numbers, but there must have been 50+ both nights. (A&AM).

Other sightings were:

- 8/11 Rufous Hummingbird (first for this season); Chelsea (private feeder) (BS).
- 8/18 American Avocet (8); Lake Purdy (KW reported by GH).
- 8/25 Yellow-breasted Chat; ("first for my yard") South Lake (HK,RK ,photographed).
- 8/29 Great Egret (2); Many Killdeer; Pectoral Sandpiper (5), Shelby Co, Least Sandpiper (5); Lake Purdy (AC,HW).
- 9/1 Willet; Lake Purdy (FF,MS).

Contributors:

Ken Archambault Alice Christenson Frank Farrell Greg Harber Helen Kittinger Ron Kittinger Ann and Al Miller Bob Sargent Maureen Shaffer Ken Wills Harriett Wright



Please submit sightings for November/December *FF* at least 5 days before the October 1 deadline to Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, Al. 35209.

Russell Bailey Labor Day Field Trip Report

The Birmingham Audubon Society's annual Labor Day bird walk met at 8:00 a.m. at the Cox Creek Bridge on Lake Purdy. There were 25 members and non-members who participated. Birds seen from the bridge area included red-shouldered and broad-winged hawks, green and great blue herons, semipalmated, pectoral, spotted, and least sandpipers, semipalmated plover, yellow-breasted chat, and the ubiquitous killdeer. A brief walk through the church cemetery produced robins, bluebirds, titmice, chickadees, downy woodpecker, and 2 pine warblers.

October Monthly Meeting

"A Tale of Two Perus"

Presented by Dr. Larry Davenport Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

Dr. Larry Davenport will present for us a "tour" of the plants, animals and peoples of both the Amazon rainforest and the highlands (Machu Picchu) of Peru. Dr. Davenport has a wonderful sense of nature as well as an outstanding sense of humor. Larry has been a long-time member of Audubon Mountain Workshop and is well known to our BAS members. You will not want to miss this presentation; it is loaded with colorful images of Peru, its people and its wildlife. Come spend the evening in Peru.

Dr. Larry Davenport holds a Ph.D. degree in biology from the University of Alabama. He is a Professor of Biology at Samford University, teaching botany, plant taxonomy and ecology in the undergraduate program and "Wetlands" in the Environmental Management graduate program. He is considered to be an expert on Alabama's plant life, aquatic plants, wetlands, and rare, threatened and endangered species, including the Cahaba Lily.

As an added bonus, prior to Larry's program there will be a short Powerpoint presentation about the Maine Audubon Society's Educator's Workshop, by Birmingham Audubon Society's two scholarship recipients this year. Local teachers, Bette Kersting Bell and Billie Allbritton, spent a week this summer at the renowned Hog Island camp with outstanding naturalist-educators from throughout the country. They will share with us some of their new knowledge and what they learned about integrating environmental education into their curriculum.

Attend and enjoy both of these programs.

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

Hans Paul, VP Programs

Artists Incorporated Gallery Show to Benefit BAS Friday, November 30, 2007 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gallery



Artists Incorporated Gallery is very pleased to hold a benefit reception in support of the Birmingham Audubon Society on Friday, November 30, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Gallery.

Artists Incorporated will donate 10% of all sales during the event to the Birmingham Audubon Society. Most of the artists will be donating an additional 10% of their sales, so the Society will receive nearly 20% of all purchases made during this event.

The Gallery and its artists will provide music, wine and delicious – **REALLY** delicious – hors d'oeu-

vres! The holidays will be fast approaching, and there will be wonderful, one-of-a-kind gift ideas to excite everyone. This event is free, so please come and bring your friends. We'll have a **GREAT** time, polish-off our gift lists, and generate some funds and new friends for Birmingham Audubon Society!!

The Gallery is located at 3365 Morgan Drive, Vestavia Hills, AL, directly across from Rocky Ridge Western Supermarket. For more information please call 979-8990.

Announcing...

The Birmingham Audubon Society is extremely delighted and honored to have one of America's foremost authors and ornithologist, Scott Weidensaul, as the speaker at its annual Christmas Banquet. Scott is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Living on the Wind*, about bird migration, *Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul*, and his newest book, *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*. His talk, based on his new book *Of a Feather*, and illustrated with some of his excellent photography, will be a whirlwind history of how ornithology and birding grew from eccentric hobbies into something so completely mainstream that they are now (almost) cool.

Tom Imhof Family Bird Walk Saturday, October 6, 2007, 7:30 a.m. The Birmingham Zoo

The October half-day field trip, held in memory of long-time BAS member and author of *Alabama Birds*, Tom Imhof, will be a stroll along the perimeter road adjacent to the parking area of The Birmingham Zoo. And, since we will be at the zoo, this is an ideal occasion to bring your children and grandchildren! This outing is an excellent choice for beginners and those who like short trips since we will limit our walking to the woods surrounding the zoo. The fall parade of migrants will likely have a few treats in store for us so plan now to

attend with your young'uns. We will not be entering the Zoo proper as part of the field trip.

Meet: 7:30 A.M. at the Birmingham Zoo Auditorium. Patty Pendleton, Zoo staff, will provide coffee, juice and donuts.

Trip Leaders: Harriett Wright, 967-0955 and Elberta Reid, 879-1935.

October Field Trip Saturday, October 20, 2007 Chief Ladiga Trail, Piedmont, AL

The Chief Ladiga (pronounced "La-dee-ga") Trail will be the locale of the October field trip on Saturday, the 20th.

The Trail is Alabama's first extended rails-to-trails project, wandering 33 miles through Calhoun and Cleburne Counties and connecting Anniston, Weaver, Jacksonville and Piedmont. It is a partnership project between several municipalities of those counties, along with Jacksonville State University, East Alabama Regional and Planning Commission and the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.



The Trail is named for the Creek chief who signed the Cussetta Treaty in 1832 by virtue of which he was allowed to select for himself land in the area on which he set up a trading post. That area eventually became known as Jacksonville. The Trail meanders through a variety of habitats-forests, open fields and creeksides. A level and paved path, it is an ideal place for quiet walks, bicycling, birding and butterfly watching. It is our hope to observe southbound migrants, both songbirds and raptors.

Our plans: Meet at the K-Mart parking lot near Trussville, which is off Exit 141 on I-59N (Chalkville Rd or Center Point; north of the interchange). We will leave at 7AM and caravan north on I-59N toward Gadsden and Piedmont. Please consolidate rides as much as possible. We will proceed on I-59N to the junction of I-759 and thence on I-759 to the junction of U.S. Hwy

278. Follow U.S. 278 to Piedmont and The Eubanks Welcome Center and Trail Office on Dailey Street. At

that point, we will have a brief rest break. For those who wish to join us in Piedmont, our approximate arrival will be 8:30. From thence, we will proceed on Cty Rd. 70 (Vigo Rd) to the juncture of the Chief Ladiga Trail and Terrapin Creek. A walk on the trail paralleling the creek will be our first stop, then a move further east to Borden Springs for a slightly different environment, next a return to the Welcome Cemter for a picnic and rest break. The after-

noon will be devoted to a third section of the trail called Southern Springs. This area is next to the Piedmont Sports Complex (with restrooms). The Trail here crosses over a swamp and small stream. For our cycling enthusiasts, please bring your bikes. A shuttle set-up will be easy to arrange. Mileage is approximately 75 miles to Piedmont.

As this will be an all day trip, please bring a picnic lunch, plenty of water, drinks and snacks; plus, a full tank of gas, insect repellent and sunscreen also and, most importantly, don't forget your binoculars! For further info, please call Trip Leaders Maureen Shaffer at 822-8728, Greg Harber at 251-2133, Frank Farrell at 815-3554 or Ty Keith at 326-0433 (H) or 602-8037 (C).

Make your plans now to join us on the 20th.

BAS Fall Campout October 26-28, 2007 **Tuskegee National Forest**

The BAS Fall campout will be held on Oct. 26, 27 & 28, with our destination for the weekend being the Tuskegee National Forest, south of Auburn.

Schedule for the weekend:

Friday, 26 - No scheduled activities.

Saturday 27 - Morning and afternoon: Outings to Tsinia wildlife viewing area; two observation towers; Bartram Trail; habitat for Red Cockaded Woodpecker. Evening: BBQ cookout. Sunday 28 - No scheduled activities.

Camping will be in the nearby Chewacla State Park, located at 124 Shell Toomer Pkwy, Auburn, AL 36830, 334-887-5621. For information about the park and its



camping facilities please visit http://www.alapark.com/ parks/park.cfm?parkid=14

Please be advised, this is an Auburn Football Weekend. The following announcement has been posted on the park website. "We have taken all the reservations for all the Auburn home football games. We have 36 sites and take 15 reservations. That leaves the rest of the 21 sites to be first come first serve."

For more information, contact John Robinson. 205-877-3855.

Homewood Forest Preserve Walks Sponsored by the Friends of Shades Creek First Sundays of the Month, 2:00 p.m.

Fall Walks are scheduled at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month, with a rain date on the third Sunday. If the leader can't make the rain date, then we will just have a general hike through the preserve, but ONLY if the first Sunday was rained out.

Please meet at the Homewood High School parking

lot on South Lakeshore, down from the Homewood



October 7 (Rain date October 21) Leader, TBA.

November 4 (Rain date November 18) "Fall Color" led by Henry Hughes

December 2 (Rain date December 16) Leader, TBA.

For more information please call Henry Hughes at 802-7632.

Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell

Have you ever felt the desire to stitch a guilt? How about to contra dance, make a beautiful painting, or throw a pot? Well here is your chance. Camp McDowell, located near Jasper, AL, is proud to announce the newest branch of our facility: the Alabama Folk School at McDowell. The school will provides the opportunity for people to come and stay for a week in order to study a topic of their interest. Arriving on Sunday and departing on Friday, you will have approximately 6 hours a day to dedicate to learning a new trait or just enjoying an old hobby. We will be offering a variety of classes ranging from bookbinding, journaling and basketry to chair making, cooking, and storytelling just to name a few. Each night, following dinner, there will also be a social hour where you might learn to do a Nauvoo, AL 35578

simple activity, go for a hayride or listen to various blue grass artists. We hope that you will come and join in our fun and if you have any questions or comments feel free to let us know! For a full list of classes and a schedule visit us online.

For more information contact: Megan Huston Director folkschool@campmcdowell.com www.campmcdowell.com/Folkschool 205-387-1806 105 Delong Rd



Alabama Coastal Bird Fest 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Spanish Fort October 18-21, 2007

The 4th annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest returns October 18-21. Since 2004, the four-day festival has drawn visitors from 16 different states and Canada as well as people from the Gulf Coast who have taken part in one or more of the festival's guided birding tours and evening events.

"We know from past experience that some of our tours are very popular, so we will be repeating some trips again this year, such as to the Hummer/Bird Study Group banding station at Fort Morgan, and to Dauphin Island, among others," said Jim Griggs, Director of Alabama State Lands, one of the event sponsors.

"We are busy finalizing the full schedule, but I guarantee that there will be lots of great trips and good opportunities to see interesting local and migratory birds," added John Borom, president of Mobile Bay Audubon Society, another sponsor. "We will have several new trips, including new boat trips, which are always a big attraction."

This year, all of the trips for the Alabama Coastal BirdFest will be staged from the new Alabama State Lands facility, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, located on the causeway, half way between Mobile and the Eastern Shore. "Our Thursday night reception will be held there as well," said BirdFest coordinator Fran Morley. "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 5 Rivers."

As before, the Friday night event, with BBQ and seafood dinner and Silent Auction, will take place at the James P. Nix Center in Fairhope. The speaker on Friday is Dr. Geoff Hill, ornithologist and professor at Auburn University. Dr. Hill has been heading up the team searching for the Ivory-billed 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," Morley said. "Who would have guessed that this elusive bird could be living so close to us here on the Gulf Coast?"

Visit <u>www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com</u> for a complete list of field trip destinations, schedules, costs and registration and lodging information.

Excerpted from THE BIRDING COMMUNITY E-BULLETIN September 2007 issue

This Birding Community E-bulletin is being distributed through the generous support of Steiner Binoculars as a service to active and concerned birders, those dedicated to the joys of birding and the protection of birds and their habitats.

RED KNOT: NOT GOOD

A "Red Knot Assessment Report" released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in late July contains troubling news about the health of the Red Knot (subspecies *Calidris canutus rufa*).

Population numbers at this subspecies' South American wintering grounds fell from 51,300 in 2000 to about 30,000 in 2004, to only 17,200 in 2006. The report predicts possible extinction for the rufa subspecies with ten years if declines continue at current rates.

A significant contributing factor to the population crash has been the low availability of horseshoe crab eggs in Delaware Bay, (a key Red Knot stopover site during spring migration), due to continued over-harvesting of adult crabs by conch and eel fishing industries. There was also mass Red Knot mortality this April at stopover sites in Uruguay, a possible outcome of harmful algal blooms. The extreme decline noted in recent years highlights the need for further research into threats to the rufa population.

Based on recent information, USFWS biologists determined that the Red Knot warranted Endangered Species Act protection, but placing the bird on the endangered species list was precluded by higher priority listing actions for other species at greater risk. The rufa race of the Red Knot is listed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Speaker on Spiritual/Religious Naturalism Coming to Birmingham

On October 26 and 27, South Points Association for Exploring Religion (SPAFER) will sponsor two speakers on the topic, "Exploring the Wonder of the Creation." All events will take place at the Southside Baptist Church, 1016 19th Street South, in Birmingham. The lecture series begins at 7:00 pm on Friday, October 26, with a presentation called "The Cosmic Walk" led by Dr. Eleanor DelBene. Dr. DelBene, D. Min., has been in private practice in spiritual direction in Alabama since 1980. Dr. DelBene's work ministers to helping professionals, including pastoral counselors, educators, business persons, full-time homemakers, artists, medical professionals, clergy, and therapists. Eleanor will share The Cosmic Walk, a meditative reflection representing the proportionate story of the 14 billion year unfolding universe. Eleanor has shared The Cosmic Walk in various settings throughout the Southeast, in California, and in Ireland.

On October 27 at 9 am and 11 am Dr. Ursula Goodenough, the primary guest speaker, will speak on **Spiritual Naturalism: Exploring the Wonder of Science and Evolution**. Dr. Ursula Goodenough is currently professor of biology at Washington University in St. Louis. She earned her M.A. in zoology from Columbia University and in 1969 she completed her Ph.D. at Harvard University. Dr. Goodenough was the assistant and associate professor of biology at Harvard from

1971-1978 before moving to Washington University. She wrote three editions of a widely adopted textbook, *Genetics*, and has served in numerous capacities in international biomedical arenas. Goodenough joined the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS) in 1989 arid served continuously on its council and as its president for four years. She has presented papers and seminars on science and religion to numerous audiences, co-chaired three IRAS conferences on Star Island, and serves on the editorial board of Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science. Her best-selling book, *The Sacred Depths of Nature*, has resulted in her taking this concern to dozens of college campuses in this country, participating in television productions including PBS, as well as NPR radio broadcasting.

SPAFER is an all-volunteer group based in Birmingham whose members have a common interest in exploring various aspects of religion. The lecture series is free; however, SPAFER requests that everyone bring a bag of canned goods that will be donated to worthy ministries to the poor in the city of Birmingham. For planning purposes it is requested that if you plan to attend, send email specifying the number of attendees to spafer@spafer.org, or call 205-252-9573 and leave a message. To find out more details go to www.spafer.org and click on the bottom button in the left-hand bar.

Clip along dotted line

~ Membership Application ~ Birmingham Audubon Society/ National Audubon Society

Name:Address:			Zip:	- -
☐ Introductory membership ~ \$20.00 Includes quarterly subscription to <i>Audubon</i> magazine and 8 issues of <i>Flicker Flashes</i> , the chapter newsletter.		 (Preferred method of payment for all new members is through the chapter, using this form). □ Regular membership/Renewals ~ \$20.00 		
Senior (62 & older) and student (full-time) memberships available for \$15.00.		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,		
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Please make check payable to:	National Audubon Society			
Mail this form and check to:	Birmingham Audubon Society P.O. Box 314			

Birmingham, AL 35201

October 2007

- 1 Flicker Flashes articles due, November/December issue
- 6 Family Bird Walk Birmingham Zoo, 7:30 a.m.
- 12-14 Alabama Ornithological Society meeting, Dauphin Island, AL
- 18 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m.
- 18-21 Alabama Coastal Birdfest, Fairhope, AL
- 20 BAS Field Trip, Chief Ladiga Trail
- 26-28 BAS Fall Campout, Tuskegee National Forest, Bartram Trail

November 2007

- BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center
- 15 Board Meeting, (BZA) 5:45 p.m. General Meeting, BZA 7:00 p.m.
- 17 BAS Field Trip, Wheeler NWR, Decatur, AL

Birmingham, Audubon Society A Chapter of the National Audubon Society P.O. Box 314 Birmingham, AL 35201 Business Office: 200 19th St. No. Birmingham, AL 35201 (205) 714-8227

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