

# Flicker Flashes

Published by  
The Birmingham Audubon Society

For conservation and greater knowledge  
of birds, their habitat, and natural world

## 70th Birmingham Audubon Annual Banquet Birding & Bicycling the Continent: Kroodsma Announced as December 1st Speaker

Donald Kroodsma and his son cycled country roads, crossing ten states in ten weeks and cataloging 381 recordings of birdsong along the way. Kroodsma, a life-long scientist and author of "Listening to a Continent Sing: Birding by Bicycle from the Atlantic to Pacific Coasts," will serve as the Diane and Tram Sessions Speaker during the 70th Birmingham Audubon Annual Banquet sponsored by Protective Life Corporation and scheduled for December 1, 2016.

Travel accounts include links to bird-songs as Kroodsma describes in his book the species encountered as well as a broad natural history description of destinations. The ornithologist is a lifelong scientist who has often been recognized for his work by organizations including the American Ornithologists' Union, the American Birding Association and the Wilson Ornithological Society. He is the author of four books focused on birdsong.

Birmingham Audubon hosts a nationally-recognized speaker each year during the annual banquet for members,



*Hoosier Pass, Colorado*



*Idaho, Lochsa River*

friends and guests. Protective Life Corporation sponsors the December event which will also include this year the National Audubon Society Photo Awards traveling exhibit. For more information on the annual banquet, contact Carolyn Henshaw at 719-3678 ext. 1 or [chenshaw@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:chenshaw@birminghamaudubon.org)

Recent Sessions speakers have included: Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*; Jim McClintock, author of *Lost Antarctica: Adventures in a Disappearing Land*; Gary Langham, National Audubon Society chief scientist; and Walker Golder, director of Audubon's Atlantic Flyway Coast Initiative.

Birmingham Audubon is one of Alabama's longest serving conservation organizations focused on birds, habitat and a greater knowledge of the natural world since

1946. Members have completed bird surveys for more than 80 years providing significant data on species and habitat. A staffed chapter, Birmingham Audubon offers programs and resources throughout the year for members and the public, all found at: [www.birminghamaudubon.org](http://www.birminghamaudubon.org)

### Raptors, Waterfowl and Winter Finches - Learning to Identify Birds by their Field Marks

#### Special Offer: Birdwatching Class for Members - Instructor: Greg Harber

Birmingham Audubon is pleased to announce a special birdwatching class, offered free for members and \$20 for non-members. The class will focus on raptors, waterfowl and winter passerines, whose numbers build as the southbound migration tapers off. The class will meet on four consecutive Monday nights in November: 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Identifying birds can be a challenge, especially when confronted with an unfamiliar species, but there are steps that can be taken to make the process a little easier. Field marks are those traits, behaviors or marks that can be used to help identify a bird. We will discuss the various bird families (raptors, waterfowl, and winter passerines) and will take time to explore field marks that will help you to identify these birds when observing them.

We will meet at the Birmingham Audubon office, located at 3720 Fourth Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222. The office is located on the second floor and there is ample, lighted parking in the rear of the building, accessed via the driveway from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Look for the doorway leading into the reception area, and from there ascend one flight of stairs to the office.

There is no class size limit, but please enroll in advance by contacting Carolyn Henshaw, Volunteer Coordinator, by calling 205-719-3678, or emailing her at: [chenshaw@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:chenshaw@birminghamaudubon.org) or you may register online: <https://birmingham.zsystems.com/eventReg.jsp?event=59&>

For further information please contact the instructor, Greg Harber, at [gharber@mindspring.com](mailto:gharber@mindspring.com).

## November Half-day Field Trip Red Mountain Park

Saturday, November 5, 2016 - 7 A.M. - 12 Noon

Red Mountain Park offers miles and miles of hiking and biking trails, featuring scenic vistas of the surrounding valley and downtown Birmingham. Amidst its forested slopes lie the historic ruins of Birmingham's past, where mines offered up the ore that built Birmingham's foundation as an iron and steelmaking town.

Although the mines and old buildings are now long dormant, the forested slopes of the mountain and the valley floor below offer a variety of habitats enticing to resident and migrant birds alike. Most Neotropical migrants will have moved out by early November, replaced by winter songbirds that will take their place for the next 5-6 months. Hermit thrushes, kinglets and a variety of sparrows and finches will be the focus of this half-day trip. Expect a lot of walking as we seek to visit several sites within the park to maximize our birding opportunities.

**Plans:** Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the main entrance of Red Mountain Park, located at 2011 Frankfurt Drive, Birmingham, AL 35211 – off Lakeshore Parkway. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring plenty of water and snacks.

**Trip leaders:**  
Susan Barrow, 205-253-8667,  
and Matt Hunter, 205-915-8186



Hoist House - Red Mountain Park

## November All-day Field Trip Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, November 19, 2016 - 7 A.M.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, near Decatur, is the winter home to thousands of sandhill cranes, numerous waterfowl species and a small population of whooping cranes and, for these reasons, it is the destination for this ever-popular November all-day field trip. Plan to join us on Saturday, November 19, to view these birds, plus various gull and hawk species, and whatever decides to surprise us! Wheeler NWR (GPS: N 34.5480, W 86.9505) serves as the gateway to the North Alabama Birding Trail; you can read more about it here: <http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/wheeler-national-wildlife-refuge-visitor-center/>

### Meeting Place and Travel Plans:

Our meeting place is the parking lot behind the Wells Fargo Bank at the Fieldstown Road Shopping Center in Gardendale, just off I-65N at exit #271 (665 Fieldstown Road, Gardendale, AL, 35071). Turn right on to Fieldstown Road, another right onto Odum Road, and an immediate left into the shopping center. We will leave at 7:00 a.m. (please arrive early for pre-trip instructions) and caravan up I-65N toward Decatur to the Priceville exit (# 334), a drive of approximately 60 miles, and reconvene at the Hardee's at 8:15 a.m.

After a rest break, we will announce further details. Dwight Cooley, newly retired as refuge manager, will be lead us through various sections of the refuge, such as White Springs dike, Arrowhead Landing at Limestone Bay, Beaverdam Peninsula with its viewing platform, and the Buckeye Unit of the Refuge. One major bonus is that we will be able to travel to areas of the refuge that are behind gates that are normally locked and inaccessible to cars.

This will be an all-day trip, so bring a picnic lunch, drinks and snacks. Remember, weather this time of year can be changeable, so dressing in layers is advised. Have a full tank of gas. Bring your binoculars and spotting scopes. For those who wish, supper may be shared at a local restaurant at day's end.

**Trip leader:** Greg Harber, 205-251-2133, home/evenings, or 205-807-8055, day of field trip only.



Sandhill crane - By Greg Harber

*All Birmingham Audubon field trips are free and open to the public.*

*Additional trip information may be found at our website, [birminghamaudubon.org](http://birminghamaudubon.org) and on our Facebook page.*

# November Nature Program

## Search for the Eastern Hellbender in Alabama

Presentation by Jim Godwin,  
Auburn Museum of Natural History and Alabama Natural Heritage Program  
November 17 at 7 P.M.  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

For the November Nature Program, we will be hosting Mr. Jim Godwin, who has conducted research on a variety of species in Alabama, from crayfish that live in caves in northern Alabama to Eastern indigo snakes in the Conecuh National forest to the Alabama red-bellied turtles in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Mr. Godwin will discuss his efforts to document the elusive Eastern Hellbender in Alabama through the use of both traditional surveys and innovative molecular technology. Eastern Hellbenders are North America's largest salamanders and grow to almost two feet in length. Their need for clear stream habitats have put their future survival in question.

The public is welcome to attend. Please come early for refreshments and conversation. Fellowship and snack time begins at 6:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Jim Godwin

## Lamb is Inaugural Birmingham Audubon Scholar

Birmingham Audubon has supported graduate conservation research for decades through the Walter F. Coxe Research Grant program. That commitment continues through the establishment of the Birmingham Audubon Scholar program, which will provide a higher level of financial support to a graduate student through a partnership with University of Alabama at Birmingham. Alaina Lamb is the inaugural Birmingham Audubon Scholar, and her faculty advisor will be UAB Department of Biology Chair, Dr. Steven Austad. Alaina Lamb grew up in Birmingham and received her Bachelor of Science in zoology from Auburn University. She has worked as a field technician on a variety of bird banding and conservation projects in Michigan, Arizona, Hawaii, and Costa Rica. She has volunteered with Birmingham Audubon on bird walks and the Village Creek surveys. Alaina looks forward to sharing research updates with Birmingham Audubon as she makes progress.



Photo provided by Alaina Lamb

*The purpose of the Birmingham Audubon's Walter F. Coxe research fund is to provide small grants in support of scientific research projects clearly applicable to wildlife, plant, or*

*conservation issues affecting Alabama. Although any relevant field of research may be considered, priority is given to projects involving natural history or field biology involving plants or animals and those performed in Alabama or by individuals or institutions affiliated with Alabama. Preference is given to graduate students (outstanding undergraduates may also apply) or others not having access to normal mainstream funding. Applicants are welcome to discuss the general suitability of a potential project before submission. Individual grants will not exceed \$2,500, and are intended as seed money to initiate larger projects or to facilitate applications to major funding agencies. The deadline is Dec. 15 of each year. To learn more details*

*about proposal requirements, please download the guidelines from [www.birminghamaudubon.org](http://www.birminghamaudubon.org) or contact BAS Program Director, Dr. Andy Coleman at:*

*[andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org)*

# State Park Memories Make Me Smile



State Parks have always mattered to me. I can't recall a time in my memory when a trip to a state park didn't stir a sense of joy and a sense of wonder in my heart and in my soul. That's one of the reasons I'm so excited to support Amendment 2, on the ballot this November. There are plenty of things to disagree about on the ballot, but

supporting state parks isn't one of them. Everyone can enjoy these treasures and everyone should understand the importance of maintaining them for the future.

There's really no other way to say it. When I think of the views from Cheaha State Park or the rush of the water over Desoto Falls, I think of my mother. And I smile. I smile a lot.

We were raised to have an appreciation of the outdoors. From our family home in the country to the Great Smokey Mountains, we spent more time outside than in. A good bit of that time was spent in Alabama's wonderful state parks. Days on end were spent exploring deep hardwoods and thickets of blackberry brambles, wading into shallow creeks or just lolling beside a fallen log and reading.

Mama, who was 46 years old when I was born, would typically join me in many adventures. As a 46 year old myself now, I look back on those days and marvel at how she had the energy to keep up with a wild-haired young boy at her age. But she did and she thrived on it, and so did I.

Living as we did in the country, you might imagine that an ideal vacation for the Watts family would be somewhere with lights and restaurants and action, if for no other reason than a change of scenery. Not my Mama. She loved the scenery of Alabama's natural places, so we'd pack up the car - my dad, my mother, me and as many of my 5 sisters as could fit - and we'd head north. North to Mama meant anywhere north of Montgomery, of course, so we didn't have to travel far. But we did travel often.

Her favorite place was Desoto State Park. And it fast became mine. We'd visit there every year, usually renting a chalet or a cabin. The cabins were, and still are, rustic. Chalets were rustic too, but they had sleeping areas you could only get to via ladder. Slipping up that ladder and having a space all to myself was a special treat for a young boy who had five older sisters.

As magical as that sleeping area was, the real magic was found on the trails. Even the trails leading between cabins held a surprising ability to captivate my young imagination. Plants that seemed mundane on our farm suddenly became fascinating. Birds that, sad to say, might have fallen prey to the BB gun if spotted along a fence row at home soared overhead, no longer targets but marvels of feathers and flight. And the waterfalls. The water rushing over rocks

represented something I never really experienced on our farm. To see it, to hear it and, of course, to feel it on my feet and rushing through my hands was a sensation I remember to this day. Mama would often join me, putting her feet in the rushing cool water, now, I realize, to soothe her tired feet from trudging along the trails with a young and energetic boy.

But it was the wildness that we came for. There were plenty of people in the world, but not enough wild places, Mama said. She believed we needed to understand the wild places in Alabama to appreciate our home state. And she was right. Her appreciation of our state parks kindled a love for all of Alabama's wild things - from the birds to the trees. Camping under the stars, floating along in a tippy canoe, walking a worn trail - these are the memories Mama wanted to be sure I had, not some rush of streetlights and fast moving cars. She understood where you could get close to God.

I grew up interested in hiking and backpacking. I hunted, too, as a teenager, and I've hiked all across America. But nowhere could ever be as special as those times I spent walking the trails in Desoto State Park, running around the bend to see what was ahead until I was too tired to walk back. And there was Mama, always able, bad back and all, to carry me home.

We could all learn a little something from my mother. Those visits to our state parks kept her strong and made her love Alabama more and more. And she always - always - believed that our state parks deserved the love and affections, and protection, of everyone, because they are, after all, for everyone to enjoy.

I'll be doing my part on November 8<sup>th</sup> to show my love for Alabama's state parks. **I'll be voting YES on Amendment 2.** And I'll be thinking about my Mama. And I'll be smiling.

*To learn more about Alabama State Parks and the benefits of Amendment #2, please visit: [www.alapark.com](http://www.alapark.com)*

*By Joe Watts,  
President,  
Birmingham  
Audubon Society  
The following originally appeared as a guest editorial for [al.com](http://al.com)*



## Audubon Teaches Nature

# Exploring Wild Alabama

Larry Davenport and Ken Wills, Guest Speakers  
Sunday, November 20, 2016 - 2 P.M.  
Oak Mountain Interpretive Center

November's ATN program is sure to be a hit for the adventurous among us, as Larry Davenport and Ken Wills take us on a journey through Alabama! From the rocky outcrops of the Appalachian plateau to the sugar white sand beaches of the Gulf coast, Alabama's landscapes offer abundant wildlife and spectacular vistas for the visitor to enjoy. Whether you are traveling by car, boat or bike, Davenport and Wills offer precise directions to multiple sites across Alabama, highlighting the plant and animal species of local interest to be found there.

Be sure to come early for refreshments and the chance to visit with one of the Alabama Wildlife Center's birds of prey ambassadors (see the info for the January program to the right). Weather permitting there will be a bird walk after the program.

*Programs are held at the Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park, and the adjacent Oak Mountain Interpretive Center. Admission to the park is \$5.00 per adult, but the program itself is free.*



### Information about the next seminar:

Birds of Prey, Masters of the Skies  
Alabama Wildlife Center Raptor Team, Guest Speakers  
Sunday, January 22, 2017, 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Alabama Wildlife Center

## Volunteer Opportunities

Dear Members and Prospective Members,

There are a number of ways for you to get involved with Birmingham Audubon (BAS). Volunteers are crucial in allowing Birmingham Audubon to engage the public regarding the importance of bird and habitat conservation. Volunteers do not necessarily have to be knowledgeable about birds and nature. A desire to learn, enthusiasm, curiosity, ability to communicate well with others, patience, flexibility, a couple of hours of free time weekly/monthly/occasionally are some of the necessary traits for a successful volunteer. But if you do have a special skill or training, we would be thrilled to find a fit for you as well. Volunteers might work in the BAS office, in schools, or in the field.

Some of our current volunteer opportunities include being habitat volunteers at some of our Urban Bird Habitat Initiative sites (e.g., Avondale Rose & Habitat Garden, Limestone Park, and Birmingham Museum of Art Habitat Garden), and education volunteers that lead bird walks and in-school programs. If you enjoy spending time on the Gulf Coast, we have opportunities for volunteers to participate in our Alabama Coastal Bird Survey program.

Call/email me so I can help you match your interests with Birmingham Audubon Society needs!

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Henshaw, Member/Volunteer Coordinator

## Share Your Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop Memories

As we prepare to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop, please share your photographs from your Mountain Workshop experiences. We hope to receive photographs from each of the decades that Mountain Workshop has been in existence. This will help us showcase this wonderful event in marketing and social media efforts. We will also feature memories in the upcoming issues of Flicker Flashes leading up to next May. Photographs will be digitized and returned to the owner, if requested. Otherwise, they will be archived. Please contact Birmingham Audubon Program Director, Andy Coleman, at: [andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org) with your photographs or questions.



# BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON

## Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Annual Report

**365** days are never enough for all that is envisioned by the leaders of our 70-year-old organization who contribute to the legacy of:

- transformational actions through inspiring leadership;
- enthusiastic promotion of the state’s more than 400 species of birds;
- dedicated stewardship of urban and critical habitat, state parks, public lands;
- partnerships that have yielded new conservation organizations, ongoing initiatives, policies, and programs that are decades old;
- tireless promotion of a greater knowledge of birds, habitats, and the natural world.

*Thank you for your interest in this snapshot of a Birmingham Audubon year. To help support our work or become a member, visit: [birminghamaudubon.org](http://birminghamaudubon.org)*

### Connecting conservation and recreation

Birmingham Audubon’s Urban Bird Habitat Initiative encourages local stewardship of urban habitat and birding



excursions in neighborhoods surrounding five sites. Members worked with individual and corporate volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours during the first of a three-year grant funded by the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.

Hours/Park	Avondale	East Lake	Limestone	Museum
Member	20	35	160	3
Non-member	92	20	120	3



## Partnering for coastal species recovery

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Birmingham Audubon were awarded \$1.4 million this year by the National Fish and Wildlife Fund to monitor and steward coastal bird species of conservation concern. Mobile Bay Audubon and municipal and federal relationships are key to the project, which will create local jobs and support the program. Penalty fees assessed for the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico fund this project.



## The call

“The call” has many meanings in our history and in our mission to connect conservation and recreation.

The commitment to our organization is decades-long for many of our board and committee members. Service activities for the 21 directors and members of 18 committees included a range of activities from promoting the economic impact of birding in Alabama to publishing the first Birding Guide for Forever Wild locations and promoting state and local parks for the habitat and recreational value.

The Birmingham Audubon Junior Board was formed during the year with members framing their roles in the organization.



## BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON

Suzanne Langley, Executive Director  
Andy Coleman, Ph.D., Program Director  
Ansel Payne, Ph.D., Teaching Naturalist  
Carolyn Henshaw, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator

## A quick glance at a very full year



### Surveys, citizen science

- 10 seasonal counts in Alabama
- New urban bird surveys implemented
- First bioblitz for Limestone Park, Alabaster, AL
- Swift Nights Out, popular counts and watch parties for Chimney Swift



### The birding year

- 27 field trips throughout the state.
- Birmingham area urban bird walks
- Birds & Brews near Avondale, East Lake and Limestone Parks



### Outreach, special programs

- 39th Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop and Junior Naturalists program
- 7 nature programs for members and guests
- 25th Audubon Teaches Nature
- 69th annual Banquet with notable speaker



### Investing in Alabama's future

- 8 graduate students and faculty awarded research grants
- 8 elementary, secondary teachers awarded mini-grants
- 5 teachers, naturalists awarded grants to Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop

## Board of Directors

**Officers:** Joe Watts, President; Melanie Siebold, Secretary; Lori Oswald, Treasurer; Ken Marion, VP/Conservation; Mary Busbee, VP/Education; Maggie Amsler, VP/Programs.

**Directors-at-Large:** Kathy Stiles Freeland, Elberta Reid, Ann Sweeney, Lois Woodward.

**Members:** Hans Paul, Ellen McLaughlin, Greg Harber, Liz Rozzelle, Ty Keith, and Michael Russell.

Photos by: Pat Dortch, Matt Hunter, Andrew Haffenden, John Morgan

See the full Birmingham Audubon 2015-2016 Annual Report at [www.birminghamaudubon.org](http://www.birminghamaudubon.org)

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram as @bhamaudubon and on Facebook as Birmingham Audubon Society and Birmingham Audubon Urban Bird Habit Initiative

3720 Fourth Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222 • 205-719-3678 • [birminghamaudubon.org](http://birminghamaudubon.org)

# Listening to a Continent Sing:

## Birdsong by Bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific

*Donald Kroodsma*



### Birmingham Audubon cordially invites you to attend the 70th Annual Banquet

Featuring Author Donald Kroodsma

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Protective Life Corporation, Grand Bay Dining room

5:30 PM: Book signing & reception, cash bar

6:30 PM: Dinner & Presentation

Sponsored by



**Reservations required. Open to non-members.**

**To register and pay online: visit [birminghamaudubon.org](http://birminghamaudubon.org). You may also register by completing and returning the form below. Reservations can only be guaranteed through November 23, 2016.**

#### Registration for 70th Birmingham Audubon Annual Banquet • December 1, 2016 • Protective Life Corporation

Dinner is \$42 per person. Please indicate your choice of menu below. Entrée A - Filet Mignon topped with Tcholupitoulas sauce, served on garlic mashed potatoes. Entrée B - Pasta Primavera (vegetarian).

Please make reservations for the following person(s): Name, Phone, Email address*	Entree Choice	
	A (Meat)	B (Vegetarian)

\_\_\_ I will not be able to attend, but would like to make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Birmingham Audubon Society, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

**Make check payable for: Birmingham Audubon Society,**

**Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Send check and form to:** Birmingham Audubon, 3720 Fourth Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222

For assistance, call 205-719-3678, ext. 1

*\*Include mailing address if you do not provide an email address to receive directions.*



# 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Birmingham Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

Friday, December 23, 2016

The Birmingham Audubon Society CBC was begun in 1946, thus, this year's BAS Christmas Bird Count will be our 81<sup>st</sup> - one of the longest running CBCs in the country! All BAS members and friends are invited to participate on Friday, December 23, 2016. Thanks to the continued support of our dedicated members and friends this wonderful Christmas tradition continues to this day. Consider making the Christmas Bird Count a part of your holiday tradition and join the fun on count day.

Accompanying this article you will find a copy of the map detailing the count circle and the various territories within the circle. I invite all of our members to consider participating in the count by choosing an area (you do not have to live within the territory or the count circle) and contacting the corresponding party leader to make arrangements to join the group. If you are not able or do not wish to participate, but

have some unusual winter birds visiting your feeders that we should record for the count, please contact us in advance. We especially would love to hear from you if you have some owls in your neighborhood or wintering hummingbirds!

For those who may be interested, the Count Circle app by Stevens Creek Software, is available for download from the iTunes Store. The app clearly displays the boundaries for each Christmas Bird Count circle, and allows the user to determine in real time their location within the circle. Count Circle includes the complete National Audubon database of CBCs, with a total of 2687 different count circles in 90 different states and territories including Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Antarctica.

Get your holidays off to a merry start by joining in this historic count. David George will handle compiling duties and Elberta Reid will host our compilation at her home, located at 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway. Call Elberta if you need directions: 879-1935. The compilation will begin at 5:00 p.m. and light refreshments will be provided.

*Greg Harber -  
for the Bird Counts Committee*



AREA	LEADER
1	John Imhof 995-0688
2	Greg Harber 807-8055
3/4	Matt Hunter 592-4125
5/6/7	Pelham Rowan 970-0844
8/9	Rick Kittinger 503-3767
10/11	Anne Miller 902-1389
12	David George 477-5074

# Award-Winning Nature Photograph Exhibit to be Hosted by Birmingham Audubon

Roadshow of 2016's Best Avian Photography Coming to Birmingham in December

Visit Birmingham Audubon from December 12-22 to view winning bird photographs from this year's Audubon Photography Awards featured in Audubon magazine. The free exhibit will be open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Birmingham Audubon office located in the Avondale community at 3720 Fourth Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35206. For more information, call 205-719-3678 ext. 1.

Selected from more than 7,000 entries - submitted from all 50 states, DC, and Canada - the winning photographs were published in Audubon magazine earlier this year. A panel of five judges had the daunting task of sifting through the stunning images and grading them based on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit. Photographs were submitted by 1700 participants in the categories of: amateur, professional, fine art, and youth.

## Contest judges included:

*Kenn Kaufmann: Bird-guide author, Audubon field editor*

*Melissa Groo: Professional photographer and 2015 Grand Prize winner*

*Steve Freligh: Co-publisher of Nature's Best Photography*

*Kevin Fisher: Audubon creative director*

*Sabine Meyer: Audubon photography director*



**Grand Prize Winner, Bonnie Block**

*Bald Eagle and Great Blue Herons. Photo: Bonnie Block/Audubon Photography Awards*

Visit [audubon.org](http://audubon.org) to learn more about the 2016 Audubon Photography awards.

On a somber note, half of the species in the winning and honored photos are birds identified as threatened or endangered by climate change in Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report, which shows that 314 bird species in North America face an uncertain future due to shifting climatic suitability.

Feeling inspired to pick up your camera? Visit [audubon.org](http://audubon.org) for tips and how-to's from pros on how to get started (or up your game) with nature photography and capture truly stunning bird shots. Also learn more about photography as a fun and rewarding way to appreciate birds and other wildlife without pushing the limits of what's considered safe for their feathered subjects.

Birmingham Audubon is a 70-year-old, staffed chapter of National Audubon Society offering a broad range of programs and resources on conservation, birds and habitat, and the natural world. Learn more at [birminghamaudubon.org](http://birminghamaudubon.org)

*Below are some of the winning photos:*



**Professional Winner, Dick Dickinson**

*Osprey. Photo: Dick Dickinson  
Audubon Photography Awards*

## Telling the Stories of Birmingham Audubon Donors

In early November Birmingham Audubon members and donors will receive a request for your support through the Annual Fund. This year you will read the stories of several donors and the stories of why they give each year.

**The 2016 Birmingham Audubon Annual Fund** is an important source of funding for programs and resources provided to our members and the community we serve. Birmingham Audubon is a 501(c)3 or charitable organization. Your

gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

We are fortunate that each year when asked, you respond generously. What is your story for why you support Birmingham Audubon?

If you would like to discuss your annual gift or other giving opportunities, contact Suzanne Langley, Executive Director, at : [suzannelangley@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:suzannelangley@birminghamaudubon.org) or 205-719-3678, Ext. 4.

# Join and Support Birmingham Audubon

**Are birds, wildlife and our natural habitat of interest to you?**

**If so, we invite you to be a part of a community that enjoys, values and protects birds and our natural world.**

Founded in 1946, the Birmingham Audubon Society is Alabama's leading non-profit organization engaging people in the enjoyment and conservation of birds, their habitats and the natural world. With your support, we involve people through recreational birding, by extending their horizons with education programs, and by engaging them in conservation actions such as planting trees, counting birds, and working with local, state, and national policy makers.

## **There are many ways you can support Birmingham Audubon**

Please join us and make a difference for birds and your quality of life, right here in Alabama!

### **Membership**

Take the first step and become a Member of Birmingham Audubon. Get connected with our *Flicker Flashes* newsletter. See birds by participating in one of our free field trips, and learn something at one of our free monthly programs.

### **Make a Donation**

We rely on your support and are proud to work on your behalf to restore wildlife habitat, conserve areas that are important to birds, and inspire appreciation and understanding of our natural world. Your generous donation, above and beyond the basic membership dues, is an important source of funding which allows Birmingham Audubon to facilitate our vital mission of connecting people with birds and the places they live.

### **Your memberships and donations support:**

- **Free monthly programs on nature and science topics**
- **Free field trips led by expert birders to great birding cultural locations**
- **Annual banquet with nationally recognized speaker**
- **Discounted registration for Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop**
- **Members-only birding classes**
- **Graduate student research grants**
- **Adult and student education opportunities and initiatives**
- **Alabama Birding Trails**
- **Local, state and national conservation initiatives**
- **Members-only Lending Library**

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## **Birmingham Audubon Society Membership Application**

Join  Renew **Annual Membership: \$ 20.00**

**Donation to support the programs & projects of Birmingham Audubon: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make check payable to:

**Birmingham Audubon Society**

Please charge my credit card

**Visa**  **MasterCard**

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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# Flicker Flashes

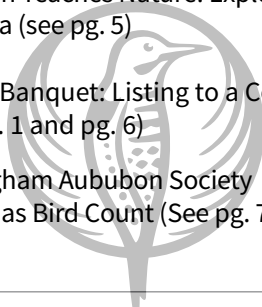
Published by The Birmingham Audubon Society For conservation and greater knowledge of birds, their habitat, and natural world

*Flicker Flashes* produced by members of Birmingham Audubon Society, is published September, October, November/December, January, February, March, April, May/June.  
Copy is due the first of the month preceding the issue.  
Editor: Ty Keith 205-602-8037  
Graphic Design: Michelle Blackwood

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## November/December 2016

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- N 17 November Nature Program  
Search for the Eastern Hellbender in Alabama (see pg. 3)
- N 19 Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (see pg. 2)
- N 20 Audubon Teaches Nature: Exploring Wild Alabama (see pg. 5)
- D 1 Annual Banquet: Listing to a Continent Sing (See pg. 1 and pg. 6)
- D 23 Birmingham Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (See pg. 7)



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