

Flicker Flashes

Published by
The Birmingham Audubon Society

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

President's Message The Bird Call

By Michelle Reynolds, President

It has been an outstanding couple of years during my time as president-elect, and as I begin my term as president of Birmingham Audubon, I am looking forward to the next two years to be equally rewarding. If you haven't seen the annual report put together by Executive Director Suzanne Langley, I encourage you to find it on our website (birminghamaudubon.org) and take a look. You will be as proud as I am to be a part of such a fantastic team.

We accomplished a great deal in 2014-2015, and through the hiring of staff, the development of new projects and programs, and in moving into new offices in Avondale, it is evident that Birmingham Audubon is going through a few changes. And as the organization grows, change is inevitable, but our focus and our mission remain the same - to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitat, and the natural world.

Whether friend, volunteer, community partner, board, or staff, we all as members of Birmingham Audubon have common interests and goals, the drive and energy, and the intention and aim to push the mission forward. We will work together as a team and strive for a seamless transition from an all-volunteer board to a professionally staffed organization that utilizes staff, board, and volunteers to further its goals.

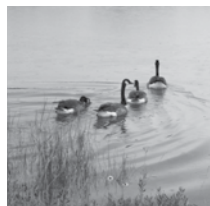
We will look to our past, listen to the voices and glean from the wisdom of those who came before and entrusted us with a rich legacy. We will hold ourselves accountable to uphold the responsibility to reach out to others, form partnerships, and grow the interest and goals of the organization in the present. By gaining fresh perspectives and renewed energy, we will work as a team to build a strong and sustainable future.

Through a three-pronged approach - explore, learn, and conserve - we will contribute to the success of the organization and seamlessly meld the past, present, and future of Birmingham Audubon:

EXPLORE - We have many activities for all ages and levels of knowledge - Audubon Adventures, field trips, workshops, workdays, Chimney Swift Night Out events, and Birds and Brews. We offer a variety of activities and opportunities for participants to explore the surroundings, socialize with others, and learn about birds, their habits and habitats. Invite your friends and come along with us to explore the natural world and the life of birds.

LEARN - Gain knowledge through outstanding programming, workshops, workdays, and events. We eagerly plan and organize member meetings, Audubon Teaches Nature, Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop, workdays in the Urban Bird Habitat Initiative Projects, and in-school education programs. Listen, learn, and then teach others what you've learned. Pass on your knowledge and enthusiasm to others through good old-fashioned interactions and conversations or through a variety of social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter - [#birdingham](#) [#explorelearnconserve](#)).

CONSERVE - Be diligent. Speak out, make phone calls, and write letters when you receive Swift Alerts from Birmingham Audubon. Do all that you can do to conserve habitat for the birds we love, but also get involved in local projects where you can make a difference in the smallest of actions. The Urban Bird Habitat Initiative is one such program. With projects in East Lake and Avondale Parks, both Birmingham City Parks, and at Limestone Park in Alabaster you can attend workdays, pull some weeds, water plants, sow seeds, and learn about native plants and the wildlife that love them. Stay tuned for upcoming workdays and events.



Limestone Park -
Photos by Michelle Blackwood

Birmingham Audubon needs your knowledge, wisdom, and passion to continue the legacy and the tradition of service that has always been Birmingham Audubon.

Russell Baily Memorial Labor Day - Half-Day Field Trip Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Lake Purdy

Monday, September 7, 2015 - 7 A.M.

Birmingham Audubon will hold its annual Russell Bailey Memorial field trip on Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2015. Our day will begin at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens at 7 a.m. with a meet-up in the gardens' parking lot. The gardens is a well-known birding location in our metro area, an important fall migration stop for many species and home to many resident woodland birds. We plan to spend up to 2 hours at the Gardens, and then drive to Lake Purdy for the remainder of the morning.

Lake Purdy for many years was the site of an unofficial Labor Day field trip led by long time Audubon member Russell Bailey. The reservoir with its tributaries, mudflats and adjoining woods is another one of Birmingham's prime birding locations. This diverse collection of habitats may host shorebirds, raptors, waders, and possibly early migrant songbirds. In addition to birding from the bridge, a stroll through the cemetery behind the near-by church may also be productive. We also will drive to the lake's boat launch to search for ducks or other water birds.

We will rendezvous at the Cox's Creek Bridge on AL 119, located approximately 2.25 miles east of the U.S. 280 intersection, following our departure from the botanical gardens. Parking is available across the road in front of the sign for Bold Springs Presbyterian Church. As this is a half-day trip and temps may still be quite warm, please have water, juices and snacks on hand. Cameras and spotting scopes are welcome. Birmingham Audubon will have binoculars available to borrow for the event.

Both of our destinations on this trip are designated as sites on the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail.



TRIP LEADERS:

Matt Hunter, (205) 915-8186 (cell) and
Maureen Shaffer (205) 822-8728 (h) or 205-222-2662 (cell)

GPS for Birmingham Botanical Gardens: 33.490802-86.776114

Botanical Gardens Address: 2616 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, 35223

WEBSITE: <http://alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/birmingham-botanical-gardens/>

GPS for Bold Springs Presbyterian Church, 33.45080, -86.65530

CHURCH ADDRESS: 7544 Cahaba Valley Rd, Birmingham, AL 35238

WEBSITE: www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/lake-purdy/

Alabama Audubon Coastal Bird Survey

Mobile and Baldwin Counties - Now until October 30, 2015



Alabama's Audubon Coastal Bird Survey (ACBS) fall surveys are currently underway! Volunteers will be surveying Alabama coastal bird populations in Mobile and Baldwin counties until Oct. 30. This data is critical in monitoring the abundance of these coastal populations,

several of which are threatened. This program was created in the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and ACBS programs have been implemented in all 5 Gulf of Mexico states. In addition to fall surveys - winter surveys (Jan. 10 - Feb.

20, 2016) and spring surveys (March 20 - May 30, 2016) also will be performed, as well as a coastal nesting bird stewardship program during the summer nesting months. If you are interested in participating, please email Andy Coleman, Birmingham Audubon program director, at andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org



September Membership Program

Bird Trivia Night!!!

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Thursday, September 17, 2015 - 6:30 P.M.

The September monthly program will be our first ever (best to our knowledge) bird trivia night. Attendees will be divided up into teams and compete for prizes. A variety of categories will be presented to test Birmingham Audubon members' avian aptitude. Feel free to get your team of four together before you come to this event and come up with a unique (and bird-related) team name.

Fellowship and snack time begins at 6:30 p.m. Please come early for refreshments and conversation.



Five Field Trips!

Beginner Bird Walks Expanded

Join Birmingham Audubon this year for five great beginner bird walks.

1. October 12 at Avondale Park in Birmingham

Our first trip begins in Birmingham at Avondale Park and possible species to be seen include a resident red-tailed hawk pair, red-headed woodpeckers and herons at the lake. We will end our walk by the Avondale Rose & Habitat Garden, which is one of Birmingham Audubon's Urban Bird Habitat Initiative (UBHI) Projects, to learn about this project that provides food sources and habitats to hopefully diversify birds that use the garden. This walk will start at 8 a.m.

2. November 11 at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Our second bird walk is scheduled for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. Sadly the hummingbirds will be gone by this time, but other migrants will begin making their appearance including white-throated sparrows, northern mockingbirds, American robins and brown thrashers along with nuthatches hopefully will be some of the species seen during the day. This walk will begin at 9 a.m.

3. January 18, 2016 at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, near Decatur will be our destination for our third trip. This popular location is a great place for one to learn their waterfowl such as gadwall, northern pintail, ruddy ducks and many other species of ducks. Thousands of sandhill cranes will also have migrated to this watery oasis for the winter, and if we are lucky whooping cranes will also be on hand. We will meet at 8 a.m. to caravan to the Decatur area.



Snipe - Thinkstock by Getty Images

4. March 20, 2016 at Limestone Park

March should bring us many surprises as we head to Limestone Park in Shelby County. We will seek out meadowlarks, sparrows, elusive snipes and hopefully any remaining migratory waterfowl. Here we will also learn about another Birmingham Audubon UBHI Project which is creating a half-acre of prairie habitat in the park. This is the habitat-type preferred by many grassland species. The walk will begin at 2 p.m. on March 20, 2016.

5. June 11, 2016 at East Lake Park in Birmingham.

East Lake Park in Birmingham will be the location for the June 11, 2016 Beginner Bird Walk. Participants could find black-crowned and yellow-crowned night herons as well as other herons. A couple of species of woodpeckers, mockingbirds, rock doves, geese and ducks may also be on our lists for the day. We will meet at 9 a.m. for a relaxing stroll through the park.

Space is limited and reservations are required. Please contact Helena Uber-Wamble, teaching naturalist, at 205-719-3678 or huberwamble@birminghamaudubon.org. Reservations

are accepted through the Thursday preceding each hike. Include in your message the number of adults and children in your group and how many will need to borrow binoculars. Please include your phone number and email address. Once registered, you will receive an email confirmation including directions and meeting spot. Be sure to check birminghamaudubon.org for updates to Beginner Bird Walks!



SoSo for the Record

Sightings May 2 through July 27, 2015

Limestone Park is becoming a very popular birding location. Birmingham Audubon members Dick Mills and Ken Wills have contributed much time and effort into making numerous improvements there. Now thanks to Andy Coleman, Birmingham Audubon's program director, the City of Alabaster will handle the watering of seedlings on the park's prairie/meadow in the future. Many thanks to all involved in the restoration and improvement efforts at the park.

Other Sightings:

- 5/2 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak;** (male and female); Hoover (MP).
- 5/2 **Black-throated Blue Warbler;** Oak Mountain State Park, Birmingham Audubon field trip (MH).
- 5/10 **Pine Siskin;** This is considered a late date in our area for this species. Vestavia (HW).
- 5/12 **Bobolink (7);** Fultondale (DH).
- 5/13 **Mourning Warbler;** (singing), Ruffner Mountain (SH).
- 5/13 **Mississippi Kite (3);** Cahaba Wildlife Management Area (MB).
- 5/20 **Tricolored Heron;** Killen, which unusually far inland (DS,RS).
- 5/24 **Purple Gallinule;** Limestone Park (KWW).
- 5/28 **American White Pelican;** Two reports of twenty birds at Limestone Park (DG) and
- 7/2 Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge Area (DH, BSH)
- 7/27 **White Ibis;** (immature) Lawson Road Swamp (DH).

Contributors:

Mark Burkett
 Randy Coleman
 Dee Gertler
 Stan Hamilton
 Donald and Billie Sue Hulsey
 Matt Hunter
 Dick Mills
 Mary Perkins
 Damien and Regina Simbeck
 Ken Wills
 Harriett Wright

Please, send sightings for October Flicker Flashes at least five days before the September 1, deadline to Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, Al. 35209
 annmiller520@aol.com



American White Pelican - Thinkstock by Getty Images

Birmingham Audubon Fall Bird Count

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Our 51st Annual Birmingham Audubon Fall Bird Count will take place on September 26, and all Birmingham Audubon members and friends are welcome to join the fun. We'll need your help to get good numbers for the fall count. You do not have to be an expert birder to participate in the count – this truly is a case where the more eyes we have looking for birds the better and more thorough our results will be.

Jefferson, Shelby and St. Clair counties are our coverage area, and we hope to place as many parties in the field as we can. If you are unable to assist us in the field, but want to contribute to the survey effort we can still use your help! Simply count all the birds at your feeders and water features. Keep track of the time spent counting and report your data to us after the count. Remember only to count the most number of each species, you see at any one time – we don't want to double count the birds.

If you have participated in a count previously or know the name of the party leader for the area where you would like to help, contact him/her and ask to be included in the group. If you are interested in joining a count party but don't know any leaders, please call me at 205-251-2133. I will put you in touch with a party leader. Be sure to pack a lunch, water, your binoculars and field guides.

At the end of the day, we will gather to compile our results, swap stories and share our adventures of the day. Real bird rarities will need a good story and appropriate documentation. I will compile the results

Greg Harber,
 Bird Counts Committee

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

Full Day Field Trip

Ebenezer Swamp & Limestone Park

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Two sites on the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail have been chosen as the locales for Birmingham Audubon's full day field trip on September 19, 2015. This is the first full-day field trip of the 2015-2016 season. Our first stop will be the Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve, a Tupelo gum swamp located near Montevallo on Spring Creek. It provides the birder with a variety of habitats and diverse plant and bird life. Approaching the swamp one passes through open fields, then hardwood and pine thickets. Next, one walks into the swamp via an elevated boardwalk which is maintained by the University of Montevallo. Rich with warblers, woodpeckers, long-legged waders and woodland songbirds, the swamp will be a fascinating place for our morning stroll.

Limestone Park is one of Birmingham Audubon's Urban Bird Initiative sites where a prairie restoration project, led by Birmingham Audubon members Ken Wills and Dick Mills, has been underway for several years. The park, a City of Alabaster park, has a mix of habitats including old fields, wetlands, oak-hickory woods and ponds. Grassland sparrows, water birds, waders and raptors all call the park home along with an occasional surprise bird. Excellent views of the wetlands and adjacent swamp can be had from the observation deck, a joint project of the City of Alabaster and Birmingham Audubon.

Please bring water and snacks. Binoculars, cameras and spotting scopes are welcome on this trip. If you do not have binoculars, Birmingham Audubon will have some for you to borrow. As of this writing, meal plans are incomplete. Please check our website and our Facebook page for further information and updates.

MEETING PLACE:

McDonald's at Colonial Shopping Center
(I-65S Exit 238 Alabaster, Columbiana)
ADDRESS: 205 S. Colonial Drive Alabaster, AL 35007
Phone: 205-621-2805

Please park across from the McDonald's in the parking area for Target. Consider carpooling as both the Ebenezer Preserve and Limestone Park have limited parking.



Dick Mills at Limestone Park - Photo by Michelle Blackwood

ADDRESS:

Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve Station
6463 Montevallo, AL 35113 Phone: 205-665-6463
Limestone Park City of Alabaster
2400 Hwy. 31 south Alabaster, AL 35007 Phone: 205-664-6800
GPS: Ebenezer Swamp Eco. Preserve 33.1747 955 -86.801 351
Limestone Park 33.1857 985 -86.763 5835

WEBSITES:

Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve
www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/ebenezer-swamp
www.montevallo.edu/campus-life/ebenezer-swamp
Limestone Park
www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/limestone-park
www.cityofalabaster.com

LEADERS:

Anne G. Miller 205-902-1389 (cell)
Maureen Shaffer 205-822-8728 (home) 205-222-2662 (cell)

Dear Members,

We are migrating to a new membership information tool that will improve our ability to help answer many membership-oriented questions more quickly and thoroughly. As in any transition, there is a possibility that some information may not transfer as expected. Please be patient with us and let me know if there is anything that needs to be changed in regards to your contact information or Flicker Flashes delivery.

Thank you,
Josey Crider, Membership & Volunteer Coordinator
jcrider@birminghamaudubon.org 205-719-3678



Birmingham Audubon Society

Calendar of Events

September 2015 - August 2016

Month	Event	Location	Time	Contact
September				
7	Russell Bailey Memorial Labor Half-Day Field Trip	B. Botanical Gardens & Lake Purdy	7 AM	Miller & Shaffer
11-13	Swifts Night Out		Evening	Greg Harber
17	Membership Program - Avian Trivia Night	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	7 PM	Suzanne Langley
19	Ebenezer Swamp & Limestone Park Full Day Trip	Alabaster/Columbiana		Miller & Shaffer
19	Flutter & Flight Fest	Ruffner Mountain	8 to 2PM	Helena Uber-Wamble
26	Birmingham Audubon Fall Count	Various Locations		Greg Harber
27	Birds & Brews	Beer at Trim Tab/parking deck		Hans Paul
27	Magic City Miracle Workday	Avondale Park	1 PM	Andy Coleman
October				
1	Alabama Coastal Birdfest	5 Rivers Delta Center		
1 through 4	Alabama Coastal Birdfest	5 Rivers Delta Center		
3	Half-Day Avondale Park, Zion Prairie Field Trip			Miller & Shaffer
9-11	AOS Fall Meeting	Dauphin Island		
12	Beginner Bird Walk	Avondale Park	9 AM	Helena Uber-Wamble
15	Membership Program, Walter Coxe Award Research	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	7 PM	Suzanne Langley
17	Full-Day Field Trip, Sipsey Swamp (FW) (WABT)		7 AM	Hunter, Harber, Wills
18	Audubon Teaches Nature	Oak Mountain State Park	2 PM	Greg Harber
26	Birds and Brews	Avondale Brewery	2-4 PM	Hans Paul
27	Dedication of Sessions Plaque (12, 19, 26)	Audubon Sessions Sanctuary	2:30 PM	Ellen McLaughlin
November				
7	Half-Day Ruffner Mountain Field Trip (AHBT)	Ruffner Mountain		Dr. S. Duncan
11	Beginner Bird Walk	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	9-11 AM	Helena Uber-Wamble
19	Membership Program, Birds & Bears of the Arctic	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	7 PM	Suzanne Langley
21	Full Day Wheeler NWR Field Trip (NABT)			Harber, cooley
22	Audubon Teaches Nature	Oak Mountain State Park	2 PM	Greg Harber
December				
3	Winter Banquet	TBA		Cissy Bennett
19	Wheeler NWR Christmas Bird Count	Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge		Greg Harber
26	Guntersville Christmas Bird Count			Greg Harber
28	Annual Birmingham Audubon Christmas Bird Count			Greg Harber
January				
1	Gulf Shores Christmas Bird Count (1-3)			Greg Harber
2	Half Day East Lake Park/Roebuck Springs Field Trip			Hunter, Keith
10	Winter Audubon Coastal Bird Survey	Until February 20		
16	Full-Day Guntersville and Environs Field Trip (NABT)			TBD, Linda Reynolds
18	Hands On Birmingham Day of Service	Locations still being determined		
18	Beginner Bird Walk	Wheeler NWR	8 AM-3 PM	Helena Uber-Wamble
21	Membership Program, AL Coastal Bird Stewardship Program	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	7 PM	Suzanne Langley
22-24	Winter AOS Lakepoint State Park	Eufaula		
25	Birds and Warm Beverages		2-4 PM	Hans Paul
24	Audubon Teaches Nature	Oak Mountain State Park	2 PM	Greg Harber
30	Salamander Festival	Homewood Sr. Center	2-5:30 PM	Helena Uber-Wamble

February				
6	Half-Day Logan Martin Dam Field Trip (AHBT)			Miller & Shaffer
12-15	Great Back Yard Bird Count Event	TBA		Helena Uber-Wamble
13	Zoo/Ruffner Mountain Field Trip			
14	Great American Back Yard Bird Count Event	Birmingham Zoo	8-2 PM	Helena Uber-Wamble
18	Membership Program, Stop-over Biology of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	7 AM	Suzanne Langley
20	Full-Day Shoal Creek Field Trip	Talladega NF		Greg Harber
21	Audubon Teaches Nature	Oak Mountain State Park	2 PM	Greg Harber
March				
5	Half-Day Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Field Trip			
17	Membership Program	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	7 PM	Suzanne Langley
19	Full-Day Perry Lakes Park, Barton Beach, Donovan Lakes, Dobine Creek Swamp Field Trip (Golden Club)			Harber, Hunter?
20	Spring Audubon Coastal Bird Survey	Until May 30		
20	Beginner Bird Walk	Limestone Park	2-4 PM	Helena Uber-Wamble
21	Audubon Teaches Nature	Oak Mountain State Park	2 PM	Greg Harber
29	Birds & BBQ	Limestone Park, Jim & Nicks	2-4 PM	Hans Paul
31	BAMW Educator Scholarship Application Due			Andy Coleman
TBD	Audubon Sessions Sanctuary clean-up			Ellen McLaughlin
April				
2	Half-Day Tannehill SHP Field Trip (AHBT)			Miller & Shaffer
15-17	Spring AOS Meeting			
17	Spring Bird Walk, Ruffner Mountain and Avondale Pk	Ruffner Mountain		
23	Bull's Gap Field Trip (AHBT)			Harber and ?
24	Audubon Teaches Nature	Oak Mountain State Park	2-4 PM	Greg Harber
25	Birmingham Audubon Spring Bird Count			Greg Harber
25	Celebrate Urban Birds, Birmingham Audubon Hosts	TBD		Suzanne Langley
26	John James Audubon's birthday 1785			
28	Membership Program, Volunteer Recognition	Birmingham Botanical Gardens		Suzanne Langley
30	Spring Count			
May				
5-8	Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop			
7	Half-Day West Blocton coke Ovens, Cahaba NWR Field Trip (WABT) may have option for canoeing at Bulldog Bend			Harber, Hunter
20	Owl Prowl, Nightjar Dearch (Full Moon)	TBD		Greg Harber
22	Audubon Teaches Nature	Oak Mountain State Park	2-4 PM	Greg Harber
June				
4	Family Fishing Rodeo	East Lake Park	8-2 PM	Andy Coleman
11	Beginner Bird Walk	East Lake Park	9-11 AM	Helena Uber-Wamble
July				
August				

For the most current information, please visit www.birminghamaudubon.org or our Facebook page. Emails may be sent to basoffice@birminghamaudubon.org

Birmingham Audubon Field Trip Cancellation Policy

If there is a possibility of hazardous road conditions due to inclement weather, please contact the trip lead at the phone number provided. You may also check our website, www.birminghamaudubon.org or our Facebook page.

Local Chapter Support Important Conservation Research

By Andrew Coleman

Last month, I attended the National Audubon Conference in Leesburg, Virginia. This provided me an opportunity to learn what other local chapters as well as National Audubon offices are doing regarding public education and outreach and conservation. One such local chapter, Forsyth Audubon, located in North Carolina, has partnered with National Audubon and Smithsonian scientists in addition to Belize Audubon Society to study the migratory behavior of wood thrushes.

Members wanted to learn where the wood thrushes, that breed in Forsyth County, NC fly to during the winter months, and if the wintering range of their thrushes included locations in Belize. So in 2014, they raised money to provide GPS locator tags for the scientists to attach to local wood thrushes, and they participated in the surveying and netting of the birds. In addition, a group of Forsyth members traveled down to Belize to help local residents survey potential habitats for wood thrushes and to teach those residents how to input their sur-

vey data into eBird. In 2015, they were able to find one of the tagged birds and discovered, once they downloaded the data from tag, that the wood thrush did indeed winter in Belize.

I was very impressed by the commitment shown by this local chapter to a conservation project that integrated local, national, and international partners. I look forward to exploring various ideas about how Birmingham Audubon can follow this model to achieve similar accomplishments. To learn more about this wood thrush project, go to <http://www.forsythaudubon.org/Conservation/WoodThrush.aspx>



Wood thrush - Thinkstock by Getty Images

Birmingham Audubon Announces Chimney Swift Tower Design Contest Winners

In partnership with the McWane Science Center and the Birmingham Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Birmingham Audubon recently announced the winners of the Chimney Swift Tower Design Contest. Executive Director Suzanne Langley and McWane Science Center President and CEO Amy Templeton presented the winners with their money prizes. Chris Kay, a fifth-year architecture student from Auburn University, who is also an intern at Appleseed Workshop, won first-place honors. Micajah Tucker, a sophomore at Virginia Polytechnic Institute*, who worked with Architecture Works this summer, received first runner up honors. Kay and Appleseed Workshop will construct the tower and install it on the parking deck roof at McWane Science Center.

Chimney swifts are a charismatic urban species whose populations are suffering from habitat loss. On their fall migration to South America, large numbers of swifts often roost together in the man-made chimney structures that give them their namesake. Towers can provide suitable nesting and roosting habitat because many of the chimneys that were once available have been taken down or altered to prevent usage by the birds. This chimney swift project is a part of the Urban Bird Habitat Initiative which received funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.

Pictured below: (Left) Chris Kay and (Right) Micajah Tucker display their contest entries. (Center) Rhea Williams, Executive Director of the Birmingham Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is pictured.



*Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



2015 - 2016 Birmingham Audubon Society Board of Directors

* Executive Committee

Title	Name	Preferred Phone	Preferred E-mail
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Treasurer*	Lori Oswald	205-381-0560	lorioswald3@gmail.com
Vice President, Conservation*	Ken Marion	205-934-8309	kmarion@uab.edu
Vice President, Education*	Jean Folsom	205-807-2231	jkfolsom@gmail.com
Vice President, Programs*	Maggie Amsler		mamsler@uab.edu
Director-at-Large	Kathy Stiles Freeland	205-746-5855	kathy.stiles.freeland@gmail.com
Director-at-Large	Ann Sweeney	205-879-7127	asweene@bellsouth.net
Past President, 2013-2015*	Ken Marion	205-934-8309	kmarion@uab.edu

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Annual Banquet	Cissy Bennett	205-969-0249	cissybennett@bellsouth.net
Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop	Hans Paul	205-807-7357	cooterpl4@gmail.com
Audubon-Sessions Sanctuary	Ellen McLaughlin	205-595-0806	ewmclaugh@samford.edu
Audubon Teaches Nature	Greg Harber	205-251-2133	gharber@mindspring.com
Bird Counts & Surveys	Greg Harber	205-251-2133	gharber@mindspring.com
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Teaching Naturalist	Helena Uber-Wamble	205-719-3678 x2	huberwamble@birminghamaudubon.org
Membership, Volunteer Coordinator	Josey Crider	205-719-3678 x1	jcriders@birminghamaudubon.org

2015 Birmingham Audubon Spring Count Results

Saturday, April 25, 2015

The results of the 2015 Birmingham Audubon Spring Count are listed below. My thanks to the 24 observers in 12 parties who spent 91.65 party hours in the field (42.15/49.5 car/foot), with 1.5 hours/2.5 miles spent owling. 523.7 miles were covered by car and 28.7 miles were spent on foot. Temperatures on count day ranged 61 to 78 degrees with stormy

conditions present in the early morning and late afternoon which created "fallout conditions." A very respectable 159 species were recorded on count day (to my knowledge the most species we have ever recorded on a spring count is 161 species), with three count week species being recorded. Many thanks to our compilation host, Maureen Shaffer.

Canada Goose	203	Eastern Screech-Owl	4	Worm-eating Warbler	1
Wood Duck	20	Barred Owl	7	Louisiana Waterthrush	10
Mallard	41	Common Nighthawk	CW	Blue-winged Warbler	1
Blue-winged Teal	51	Chuck-will's-widow	5	Black-and-white Warbler	11
Northern Shoveler	5	Whip-poor-will	1	Prothonotary Warbler	3
Redhead	1	Chimney Swift	74	Swainson's Warbler	2
Greater Scaup	6	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	16	Tennessee Warbler	17
White-winged Scoter	1	Belted Kingfisher	10	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Wild Turkey	17	Red-headed Woodpecker	27	Nashville Warbler	2 (CW)
Pied-billed Grebe	47	Red-bellied Woodpecker	67	Kentucky Warbler	18
American White Pelican	2	Downy Woodpecker	31	Common Yellowthroat	21
Double-crested Cormorant	105	Hairy Woodpecker	3	Hooded Warbler	59
Anhinga	2	Northern Flicker	5	American Redstart	1 (CW)
American Bittern	1	Pileated Woodpecker	9	Cape May Warbler	1
Great Blue Heron	85	Peregrine Falcon	1	Northern Parula	11
Great Egret	60	Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	Magnolia Warbler	3
Snowy Egret	1	Acadian Flycatcher	6	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Little Blue Heron	1	Eastern Phoebe	89	Blackburnian Warbler	2
Cattle Egret	2	Great Crested Flycatcher	49	Yellow Warbler	7
Green Heron	24	Eastern Kingbird	40	Chestnut-sided Warbler	12
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	Loggerhead Shrike	6	Blackpoll Warbler	8
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	4	White-eyed Vireo	91	Palm Warbler	122
Black Vulture	54	Yellow-throated Vireo	23	Pine Warbler	51
Turkey Vulture	56	Blue-headed Vireo	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	73
Osprey	6	Red-eyed Vireo	146	Yellow-throated Warbler	4
Bald Eagle	3	Blue Jay	124	Prairie Warbler	18
Northern Harrier	1	American Crow	261	Black-throated Green Warbler	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Fish Crow	31	Yellow-breasted Chat	22
Cooper's Hawk	3	Purple Martin	56	Eastern Towhee	156
Red-shouldered Hawk	15	Tree Swallow	30	Chipping Sparrow	82
Broad-winged Hawk	9	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	118	Field Sparrow	6
Red-tailed Hawk	18	Bank Swallow	60	Savannah Sparrow	38
Buteo species	2	Cliff Swallow	189	Song Sparrow	2
Sora	7	Barn Swallow	189	Swamp Sparrow	1
American Coot	266	Carolina Chickadee	99	White-throated Sparrow	62
Semipalmated Plover	1	Tufted Titmouse	116	White-crowned Sparrow	7
Killdeer	33	White-breasted Nuthatch	17	Summer Tanager	53
Spotted Sandpiper	27	Brown-headed Nuthatch	38	Scarlet Tanager	54
Chimney Swift	127	House Wren	4	Northern Cardinal	355
Greater Yellowlegs	12	Carolina Wren	132	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	75
Lesser Yellowlegs	48	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	81	Blue Grosbeak	41
Solitary Sandpiper	17	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	15	Indigo Bunting	91
Willet	14	Eastern Bluebird	141	Bobolink	168
Western Sandpiper	2	Veery	2	Red-winged Blackbird	240
Least Sandpiper	14	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Eastern Meadowlark	57
Long-billed Dowitcher	6	Swainson's Thrush	7	Common Grackle	131
Wilson's Snipe	5	Hermit Thrush	3	Brown-headed Cowbird	65
Wilson's Phalarope	1	Wood Thrush	50	Orchard Oriole	46
Ring-billed Gull	1	American Robin	118	Baltimore Oriole	4
Herring Gull	2	Gray Catbird	42	House Finch	68
Forster's Tern	9	Brown Thrasher	104	Pine Siskin	84
Rock Pigeon	67	Northern Mockingbird	227	American Goldfinch	39
Eurasian Collared-Dove	7	European Starling	158	House Sparrow	67
Mourning Dove	248	Cedar Waxwing	340		
Common Ground-Dove	1	Ovenbird	1		

Many thanks to the following participants (party leaders in boldface): **Mark Burkett, Scot Duncan, Greg Harber**, Jessica Germany, **Cheryl Horncastle**, Sallie Brice, **Sharon Hudgins**, David George, **Matt Hunter**, Pat Dortch, Jessie Griswold, Sam Griswold, Ty Keith, **John Imhof**, Jeremy Bearden, **Greg Jackson, Rick Kittinger**, Ron Kittinger, **Pelham Rowan**, Lisa Bailey, **Maureen Shaffer**, Susan Barrow, Anne G. Miller, and **Ken Wills**. Compiler: Greg Harber.

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- Introduction to great locations to see and observe birds
- Exposure to knowledgeable birders
- Travel opportunities to regional, national and international birding locations
- Graduate student research grants
- Local and statewide conservation initiatives
- Adult and student education initiatives
- Local, state and national conservation initiatives
- Alabama Birding Trails support

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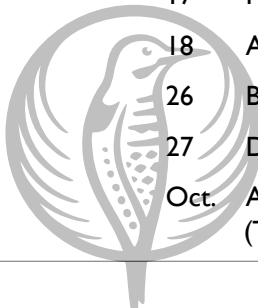
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September 2015

- 7 Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Lake Purdy Trip (Half-day field trip)
- 11-13 Swifts Night Out
- 17 Membership Program, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
- 19 Ebenezer Swamp & Limestone Park (Full-day field trip)
- Now Alabama Audubon Coastal Bird Survey (Now through October 30)
- 19 Flutter & Flight Fest, Ruffner Mountain
- 26 Birmingham Audubon Fall Count
- 27 Birds & Brews
- 27 Magic City Miracle Workday

October 2015

- 1 Alabama Coastal Birdfest
- 3 Half-Day Avondale Park, Zion Prairie Field Trip
- 9-11 AOS Fall Meeting
- 12 Beginner Bird Walk - Avondale Park
- 15 Membership Program, Walter Coxe Award Research
- 17 Full Day Field Trip, Sipsey Swamp
- 18 Audubon Teaches Nature, Oak Mountain St. Park
- 26 Birds & Brews
- 27 Dedication of Sessions Plaque
- Oct. Alabama Audubon Coastal Bird Survey (Through October 30)



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