



Flicker Flashes

The monthly guide to Birmingham Audubon

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Birmingham Audubon is Alabama's leading non-profit organization promoting conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world.

THE LATEST

New field marks

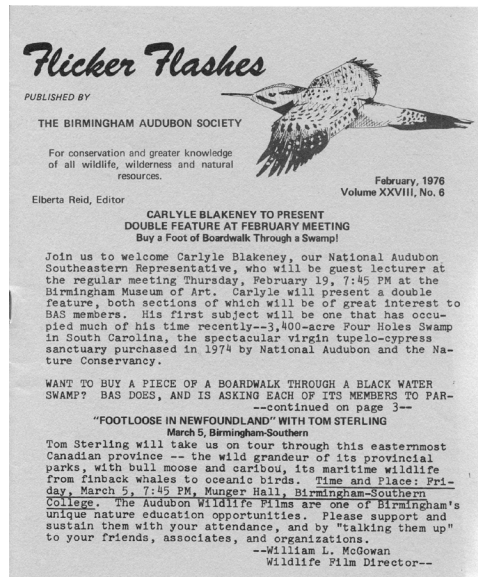
Flicker Flashes gets a new look for its seventieth year

by Ansel Payne, PhD, Birmingham Audubon Outreach Director

We've had a lot of milestones here at Birmingham Audubon lately: the fifth anniversary of our professionalized staff, the fortieth anniversary of our Mountain Workshop, the seventy-first of our organization as a whole, and now... seven decades of *Flicker Flashes*.

To celebrate, we're launching a whole new design—updated, but with all the information you've come to expect from the newsletter. You'll still find updates on the month's field trips, volunteer activities, and natural history events, not to mention the latest news from our staff, committees, and boards—now in a compact, four-page format.

That said, fitting all this information in took some work—especially given that we're about to begin one of our busiest years ever. From new fundraisers, like our August Birds & Brews event at Cahaba Brewing Company, to new programs like the Citizen Science Corps, Birmingham Audubon continues to expand its offerings, both here in the Magic City and beyond. This year, for instance, we're proud to offer eighteen exciting field trips,



A 1976 incarnation of *Flicker Flashes*, edited by current board member Elberta Reid. Source: Birmingham Audubon archives

three beginner bird walks, three Swift Night Out events, eight Gosse Nature Walks, and four seasonal bird counts, not to mention monthly membership programs, spring bird banding on the Gulf Coast, our annual Mountain Workshop, adult birding classes, and much more.

We know birds are important to you—why else would you be reading *Flicker Flashes*?—and we hope you're as excited as we are about all that 2017–2018 has in store. We also hope you'll take this opportunity to renew your membership, become a member for the first time, or give the gift of membership to a friend. The annual cost is still only \$20 per person.

While you're at it, why not consider making an additional donation? Funds from our generous donors support our habitat restoration efforts, educational programs, environmental monitoring, research grants, and more. Or consider becoming a Birmingham Audubon volunteer—we're always on the lookout for dedicated community members interested in leading bird walks, talking to students, building habitat, or helping us to keep the office running smoothly.

No matter what you do, we hope you spend some time this year enjoying Alabama's amazing birds!

MEMBERSHIP & GIVING

Are birds, wildlife, and the natural world important to you? If so, we invite you to join a community that enjoys, values, and protects all three. Visit birminghamaudubon.org/membership to find out more about what Birmingham Audubon can do for you—members enjoy access to our on-site natural history library, discounts at area retailers, a subscription to *Flicker Flashes*, and more.

Questions? Contact the Membership & Volunteer Manager: chrissykes@birminghamaudubon.org or (205) 719-3678, ext. 1.

Help our Junior Board build Chimney Swift nest towers in the Magic City. Visit birminghamaudubon.org/swifts to give.

CALENDAR

04 September **Russ Bailey Memorial Bird Walk** at Ruffner Mountain.
Monday *Details on next page.*

Birmingham Audubon offices are **closed** for Labor Day.

05 September Conservation Committee meets at 7 p.m. at the
Tuesday Birmingham office (3270 4th Ave S).

Contact: andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org

08 September **Gosse Nature Walk #7** at Ruffner Mountain, noon to 2
Friday p.m. Get your Friday lunchtime nature fix at this great
urban preserve. Meetup is at the main Ruffner parking
lot, at the far end of 81st Street South.

Details: birminghamaudubon.org/event/2017-09-08/
RSVP: anselpayne@birminghamaudubon.org

09 September **Swift Night Out #2.** Join us as we continue our search
Saturday for migratory "swiftnados" in the evening skies
downtown. Dinner is at the Pizitz Dining hall at 5:30
p.m.; the swifts put on their show just before sundown.
A great event for the whole family—and an awesome
idea for a first date.

Details: birminghamaudubon.org/event/2017-09-09/
RSVP: anselpayne@birminghamaudubon.org

20 September Membership Committee meets at 8:30 a.m. at the
Wednesday Birmingham office (3270 4th Ave S).

Contact: chrissykes@birminghamaudubon.org

21 September Board of Directors meets at 5:45 p.m. at Birmingham
Thursday Botanical Gardens.

Monthly Nature Program with special guest Dr. Geoff Hill, Professor and Curator of Birds at Auburn University. Reception starts at 6:30 p.m., talk runs from 7–8:30 p.m., in the East Room at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Details: birminghamaudubon.org/event/2017-09-21/
Contact: andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org

23 September **Birding field trip to Blount Springs.**
Saturday *Details on next page.*

27 September Junior Board meets at 8:30 p.m. at the Birmingham
Wednesday office (3270 4th Ave S).

Contact: chrissykes@birminghamaudubon.org

30 September **53rd Annual Birmingham Audubon Fall Bird Count.**
Saturday Come count with us at the biggest citizen-science
event of the season. All participants must RSVP for
protocols and instructions at least a day or two prior
to the event.

Details: birminghamaudubon.org/event/2017-09-30/
RSVP: anselpayne@birminghamaudubon.org



The Russ Bailey Memorial Walk is a great way to learn about birding at one of Birmingham's premier nature preserves. Photo: Birmingham Audubon



Auburn's Dr. Geoff Hill joins us for our September Nature Program. Photo: Hill Lab

**Find this year's full calendar
on our website:**

birminghamaudubon.org/events

FIELD TRIPS

Bird days of summer

Summer may be winding down, but there's still more warm-weather birding to come

Russ Bailey Memorial Walk at Ruffner Mountain

Half-day trip, Monday, 04 September (Labor Day), 8 a.m. to noon

Join us for our annual event celebrating the life and legacy of Birmingham birder Russ Bailey. Over the years, Russ dedicated countless Labor Days to impromptu field trips in pursuit of southbound migrants, a tradition that continues with this great half-day field trip to Ruffner. Meet up is at 8 a.m. in the main Ruffner Mountain parking lot, located at the far end of 81st Street South. As always, remember to bring plenty of water and snacks, insect repellent, rain gear, sunblock, and seasonally appropriate attire. Since part of the trip involves a moderate walk up the mountain side, good walking shoes are a must. (Questions about accessibility? Email us for more information about how we can meet your needs.)

Full details: birminghamaudubon.org/event/2017-09-04/

RSVP: Ansel Payne, anselpayne@birminghamaudubon.org; 205-719-3678, ext. 2.

Blount Springs **New!**

Full-day trip, Saturday, 23 September, meetup at 7 a.m.

Come along with Birmingham Audubon as we debut a new field trip to the lush woodlands of southwestern Blount County. Begin with a morning of casual birding on the idyllic streets of Blount Springs, a private, 450-acre community about halfway between Birmingham and Cullman; then, after lunch, visit Rickwood Caverns State Park for a birding walk looking for migrating vireos, warblers, and tanagers. Meetup is at 7 a.m. at the Fultondale Chik-Fil-A, located off I-65 (Exit 267) on Walker Chapel Road. Admission to Rickwood Caverns State Park is \$3/person. As always, remember to bring plenty of water and snacks, insect repellent, rain gear, sunblock, and seasonally appropriate attire. (Questions about accessibility? Email us for more information about how we can meet your needs.)

Full details: birminghamaudubon.org/event/2017-09-23/

Contact: Greg Harber (205-807-8055; day of field trip only)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You can help!

Birmingham Audubon needs members like you to help us help birds

Science We're currently looking for birder-volunteers interested in helping us monitor heron and other wading-bird populations along Birmingham's Village Creek—a great opportunity to help us understand the ecology of this important urban waterway! We're also interested in putting together a team of volunteer Chimney Swift roost monitors for the fall 2018 migratory season. Training in bird identification and data-collection protocols will be provided.

For more details, contact the Outreach Director: anselpayne@birminghamaudubon.org, 205-719-3678

Education Foster the next generation of Magic City birders—become an education volunteer, and help lead bird walks with elementary-aged children from throughout our region.

Contact the Outreach Director: anselpayne@birminghamaudubon.org, 205-719-3678

Outside Program & Science Director Andy Coleman is currently recruiting dedicated volunteers interested in learning about and implementing habitat restoration plans at any of several Birmingham Audubon Urban Bird Habitat Initiative sites. A great way to get to know native plants and local ecology!

Contact Andy: andycoleman@birminghamaudubon.org, 205-719-3678

Birmingham Audubon

A staffed chapter of the National Audubon Society

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Flicker Flashes

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MISSION

To promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world.

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