

July, August, September 2006

Mobile Bay Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society Since 1971

Volume XXV No. 3

Alabama Coastal Birdfest 2006 October 19-22, 2006

The third annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest is still a few months away, but already registrations are coming in from all over the country.

“The first week after the brochures were mailed, we got a dozen or more registrations in, and one of the very first was from someone in Washington state,” said John Borom, president of the Mobile Bay Audubon Society. “Over the first two years, we had registrants from 16 different states, and it looks like this year will be the same. It’s wonderful that we have this opportunity to introduce people to the wonders of birding on the Alabama Gulf Coast.”

This year’s BirdFest is October 19-22; it features 18 guided tours to prime viewing spots on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail, including three new trips that will take guests out on the *A.E. Verrill*, Dauphin Island Sea Lab’s 65-foot research vessel. “These trips are going to fill up fast. I encourage everyone to make plans and send in regis-

tration forms as soon as possible,” said Borom.

BirdFest’s opening night reception at the Gulf Coast Exploreum in Mobile features a panel discussion on Hurricanes & Habitat. Dr. John Dindo, assistant director and a senior marine scientist at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Roger Clay, nongame wildlife biologist, ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, and Eric Soehren, terrestrial zoologist, ADCNR Natural Heritage Section State Lands Division, will present a program on how birds and other wildlife deal with hurricane destruction and how local habitats are recovering from the storms.

Friday night, at the BBQ & Seafood Social at the Nix Center in Fairhope, Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux, Centennial Professor of Biological Sciences at South Carolina’s Clemson University, will present a program on using Doppler radar to identify and track migratory birds. Dr. Gauthreaux says interested bird

watchers will receive immediate benefits from the program.

“There are several good Internet sites with real-time Doppler radar information. There is a significant relationship between what you see on the radar at night and what you see in the woods the next morning,” he said.

Advance registration is required for the tours and evening events. To register or for more information, visit www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com or call 929-0922. More information is also available by writing birdfest2006@aol.com.



Board of Directors 2006

John Borom, Ph.D., President P O Box 432 Fairhope, AL 36532	990-0423 (B) 928-5219(H)
Elizabeth Williams, Vice President Birdathon and School Film Prog. 3616 Pepper Ridge Drive Mobile, AL 36693	643-7257
Eleanor Livaudais, Secretary P O Box 492 Point Clear, AL 36564	928-1901(B) 928-8967(H)
Ottilie Halstead, Treasurer and Membership 33 Paddock Drive Fairhope, AL 36532	928-9537
Delane Small, Editor 1 Fiesta Drive Spanish Fort, AL 36527	460-2400(B) 626-9700(H)
John Dindo, Ph.D. 2651 Hillcrest Road Mobile, AL 36695	861-7558(B) 666-8226(H)
Edwina Mullins, Publicity 4606 N Sunset Drive Mobile, AL 36608	344-1175
Cindy McDonald P O Box 81371 Mobile, AL 36689	510-1279
John Porter, Ph.D., Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary P O Box 848 Dauphin Island, AL 36528	861-2120
Elizabeth French, Ph.D. Field Trips 36 Ridgeview Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611	452-1121
Roger Clay, Field Trips P O Box 247 Daphne, AL 36526	626-5474(B) 928-9047(H)
Garland Sims, Special Projects 101 Laurel Street Fairhope, AL 36532	928-6772
Celeste Hinds 11321 Marshall Lane Fairhope, AL 36532	928-6526
Bob Ridgeway 3974 Hillcrest Lane West Mobile, AL 36693	928-6526
Anita Bryant, Jr., Audubon Sponsor and Audubon Adventures 2200 Tulipwood Drive Mobile, AL 36605	443-8253
EX OFFICIO MEMBERS	
Minnie Knokes 50 Spring Run Fairhope, AL 36532	928-0296
Melvin Long P O Box 86 Foley, AL 36536	945-8392
Nancy Hora 416 LaBorde Mobile, AL 36609	342-6824
Edith McClinton 170 N Lafayette Street Mobile, AL 36604	432-4898

Rare Green Baron Caterpillar in Mobile!

Roy Pope, Jr.



Mr. Roy Pope, Jr. had a really exciting fourth this year. He spotted a *Euthalia adonia pinwilli* or Green Baron butterfly in Mobile! In his own words: "I live in the Heritage Woods subdivision in west Mobile. The caterpillar was found gliding across my minivan at around noon

today (July 4, 2006). I did an image search for it on Google and discovered that this caterpillar is the Green Baron—a rare butterfly found in Malaysia. According to all that I have read, the Green Baron is seldom ever seen by humans. I count myself as being very lucky in finding this."



**Tell your friends
about birdfest!**

Notes from BirdFest meeting June 22, 2006. . .

Thousands of brochures have been mailed to past participants and other interested birders around the country. Brochures are also in the process of being distributed around the state as well as in the Mobile and Baldwin counties. If you would like brochures to take to your favorite coffee shop, birding or outdoors store, church, school, or anyplace else that will let us display them, please let Fran Morley know or stop by John Borom's office at Faulkner State Community College in Fairhope to pick up some!

T-shirts are ready and will go on sale in advance of BirdFest! Watch the web site for more info! This year's shirts will be in pretty, earthy colors of chestnut (to sell) and pine (for the guides). The art is Dave Cagnolatti's beautiful shot of a Prothonotary Warbler—same bird as on the posters and brochures.

Posters should be ready for distribution and sale by the end of July—watch the website! There is a big need for guides this year. Please, if you have any interest in doing this or know someone you can convince to help out--contact Fran Morley(929-0922) or Roger Clay (626-5153). If you have an out of town friend who is a great birder, invite him or her here for the week to help.

The first registrations are coming in! The very first was for 6 trips to Blakeley and the Tensaw River cruise. The new and improved online registration is in its final stages of implementation and should be running soon.

Fran Morley, Nest Keeper

Lightning Bug Season

by John Borom

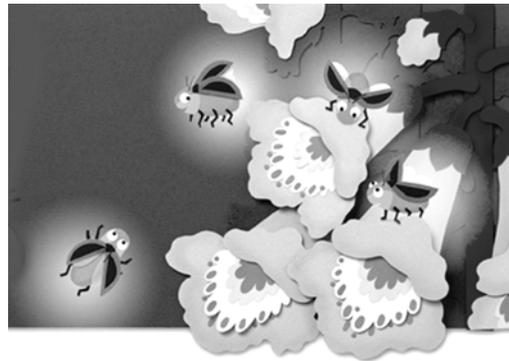
Last night the sky was clear after a recent rain. Cricket frogs, treefrogs, and chorus frogs were calling, bright stars appeared low, and lightning bug flashed in the trees and close to the ground. Lightning bug season is here! It occurs every year when they appear about May or June. Just seeing lightning bugs takes me back to those warm summer nights of my youth. I thought about growing up where lightning bugs were plentiful and running

barefoot through the cool grass, chasing and catching them and wondering about their glowing with brilliant flashing yellow-green light. Lightning bugs were as much a part of summer as fresh tomatoes, cold watermelon, fishing and swimming in the bay, and visiting grandparents. I remembered the thrill of a jar full of these captive sparkling insects. I can still feel the joy and hear the laughter echoing through my memories. Chasing and capturing the fairylike creatures of the night was a wonderful pastime for children and a time of magic.

Perhaps memories cause adults to return to look for

lightning bug information, and try to understand what was then not understandable, but remained a source of wonder. Biology explains what a child could only think about. They are not classified as flies or bugs, but are actually soft-bodied brownish beetles with a mixture of luciferin and luciferase that results in a chemical reaction that produces a

flash controlled by abdominal muscles. Flashing lightning bugs are trying to attract mates. Our adult



mind tries to understand this science and knows there is no such thing as magic but our hearts can still wish that it were so.

I could not resist the temptation of catching just one low flying lightning bug, watch it flash in my hand, and release it to go about its business. It is difficult to imagine warm summer nights with no lightning bugs. Take a moment to smile, to listen to the songs of the night, and to enjoy watching lightning bugs with grandchildren. It is good to think about the other creatures that share our world with us. It is lightning bug season, and like childhood and like magic, it will soon be gone.

Mobile Bay Audubon Wants You!

Join Us Today!

Every membership supports Audubon's vital efforts to protect birds, wildlife and natural habitats. As a member, you'll become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a host of benefits including:

- A 1-year subscription (6 bi-monthly issues) of our chapter newsletter.
- Automatic membership in National Audubon Society, and a 1-year subscription (4 issues, one per quarter) of Audubon, its award-winning magazine.
- Admission to Audubon Centers across the country.
- A 10% discount on products at select Audubon Nature Stores and more!

.....
 Yes! I want to join Mobile Bay Audubon and National Audubon Society!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 - Individual Life Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 - Dual Life Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 - 2 year Special Rate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My check is enclosed | <input type="checkbox"/> Please bill me |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/ST/Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to: National Audubon Society,
 Membership Data Center, P O Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529

Chapter Code: A01 7XCH

Non-Profit Org.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 Fairhope, AL
 Permit No. 24

National Audubon Society
 Mobile Bay Audubon Society
 P O Box 483
 Fairhope, AL 36532
 www.mobilebayaudubon.org

