

Spring 2007

Mobile Bay Audubon Society



A Chapter of the National Audubon Society Since 1971

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Wildlife Heritage License Will Demonstrate Good Stewardship

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) is supporting legislation in the upcoming state legislative session that will increase hunting and fishing license fees. As part of that legislation, a new license – the Alabama Wildlife Heritage License – is also being proposed. By voluntarily purchasing a Wildlife Heritage License, conservation-minded Alabamians can become stewards of wildlife by supporting wildlife habitat improvement and species conservation. License sales will support on-the-ground wildlife biology, research and habitat enhancement.

The proposed cost of \$10 annually per person for the Wildlife Heritage License will permit licensed Alabama residents to do the following:

Freshwater fish statewide with a hook and a line from the bank;

Fish in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) operated public fishing lakes (daily permit required);

Hunt small game, except waterfowl, on WFF Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) with no hunter safety course required;

Target practice on WFF

managed public shooting ranges; and

Be counted in the license certification for both Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration federal funds to help generate more money for state wildlife habitats. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Parks, State Lands, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR visit www.outdooralabama.com.

School Wildlife Film Week

During the week of January 22-26, Tom Sterling, wildlife naturalist and photographer, showed his film, "The Marsh, A Quiet Mystery," in 10 schools. The film emphasized the importance and need to save and protect this prime wildlife nursery area. During the Question and answer period after each showing, many questions were raised by the

students concerning the protection of this important habitat. Planting seeds of good conservation practices in the minds of students today will help them make better decisions tomorrow.

The film was shown at Dodge Elementary School, Mobile Christian Middle School, Clark Magnet School, Summerdale Elementary School, Vigor High School, St. Luke's Episcopal School, Hollinger's Island Elementary School, St. Ignatius Catholic School and Hall Middle School. We thank Lloyd Scott, director of the Environmental Studies Center, for his help in setting up the public school schedule.

Thank you to those who were dinner hosts for Tom: Anita Bryant, Nadine and Britch Lovell, John Dindo and John Winn; and to Laurie and Charlie Bailey who graciously open their home to Tom for the week.

We appreciate and thank the sponsors who make this worthwhile program possible: Degussa Corp., DuPont Agricultural Products, Ciba Specialty Co. and Mr. and Mrs. John Winn
Elizabeth Williams
Film Coordinator

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Ex Officio Members

Two Chances to Meet One of the World's Greatest Photographers - National Geographic Photographer-in- Residence, David Doubilet

Considered by editors, peers and colleagues to be one of the world's best photographers, David Doubilet, Contributing Photographer-in-Residence for National Geographic Magazine, will be in Mobile, Alabama, this May to appear on behalf of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) Foundation. Mark your calendars now for these incredible events this spring:

· **May 3, 2007 from 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm**

Cocktails with the Critters
Five Rivers, Alabama's Delta Resource Center – Mobile Causeway
Mobile, Alabama

Tickets to Cocktails With the Critters are \$75 each
Mr. Doubilet has donated one of his limited edition works of photographic art, "Stringrays, Grand Cayman," which will be the centerpiece of an auction that features cruises, fishing trips, condo packages, river boat tours and many unique items donated by local businesses and individuals. The evening will also offer crustaceans, libations and entertainment!

· **May 4, 2007 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm**

"Water Planet - A Look Beneath the Surface:
Seas of Africa and a Journey Across the Pacific"
Springhill College, Byrne Memorial Hall
Mobile, Alabama

Tickets to "Water Planet- a Look beneath the Surface" are \$15
Mr. Doubilet will take us along on photographic expeditions for a look beneath the oceans. This is a multi-media presentation that will feature 160 photographs from expeditions across the seas of Africa and the Pacific Ocean. Following the presentation, David will be available to sign copies of his books.

To order tickets or for more information on these events, call (251) 861-8710.

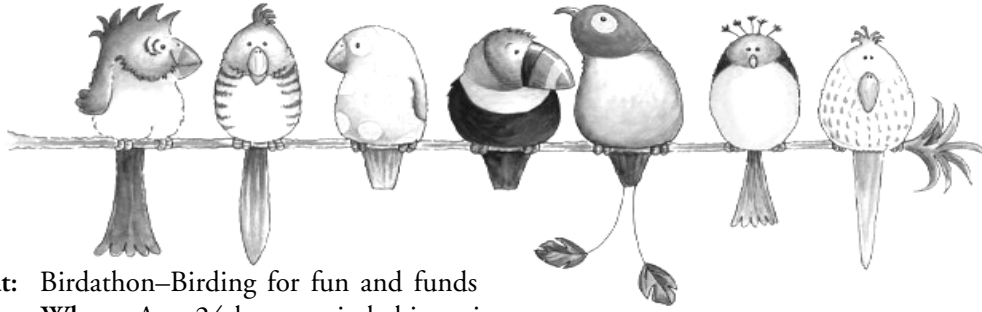
Whooping Crane *Grus americana*



These very tall, long-necked, long-legged, white-bodied and ENDANGERED birds migrated through Baldwin County this winter. The state of Florida has a reintroduction program for these very rare birds. Photo by Dr. Bill Summerour

Birdathon 2007

'tis the season once again, Birdathon season!



What: Birdathon—Birding for fun and funds

When: Any 24-hour period this spring.

Where: Any place you find birds. Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan are prime birding spots.

For many years people have been strolling, walking and running for worthy causes. Our society counts birds! Our Birdathon funds are used to place Audubon Adventures in 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Audubon Adventures is a complete science curriculum kit that the students and teacher can use all year. The goal of Audubon Adventures is “connecting students to nature.”

We are asking each member to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. Think how many students we could reach if each member gave at least \$10.00. A \$40.00 donation will provide a kit for one classroom that the teacher can use all year.

To be a participant in the 2007 Birdathon, here's what you do:

Be a counter: Join a Birdathon group and count species during any 24 hour period. Get sponsors to make pledges for each species you count.

Be a sponsor: Pledge any amount. . . 10 cents, 50 cents, \$1.00 or any amount per species counted. You may choose to give any amount or a one-time gift.

Your contribution is **Tax Deductible**

Thank you for participating
Elizabeth Williams
Birdathon Coordinator
(251) 643-7257

-
- I want to be a part of this fun/fund raising, worthwhile program.
 - I pledge _____ for each species counted
 - Enclosed is my one-time gift of _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Make check payable to Mobile Bay Audubon Society and place in the enclosed envelope or mail to Mobile Bay Audubon Society, P O Box 483, Fairhope, AL 36532.



Calendar



March

- 13 **Board Meeting** 6:30 p.m. **General Meeting** 7:30 p.m. “Australia” presented by Dr. Bill Summerour. Five Rivers, Alabama’s Delta Resource Center. Directions from I-10: take Exit 30, go east on the US 98 Causeway East toward Spanish Fort (away from downtown Mobile). Pass the Blue Gill Restaurant and Ed’s Shed Restaurant. Take a left at the sign for the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries onto Five Rivers Drive.
- 17 **Field trip to the Pascagoula River Audubon Center** to observe nesting Bald Eagles as well as wading birds and neotropical migrants. We will tour the Pascagoula River and the extensive estuarine marsh on a pontoon boat. Meet at Government Street Baptist Church in Mobile at 8:30 a.m.. There will be a \$23 per person fee. Limited to 20 people. The boat tour will last two hours: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. For reservations call **John Borom** at 251-990-0423.

April

- 10 **Board Meeting** 6:30 p.m... **General Meeting** 7:30 p.m. “Historical Ecology of the Weeks Bay Watershed” presented by Eric Brunden, Stewardship Coordinator, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Five Rivers, Alabama’s Delta Resource Center. Bring a friend.
- 13 **Hummer Bird Study Group-Bird Banding at Fort Morgan.** The spring banding season begins and ends on April 13. Dawn to mid-afternoon. The banding site is free and open to the public, although there is a fee to get onto the Fort property. Contact Bob or Martha Sargent at 205-681-2888 or rubythroat@aol.com.
- 13-15 **The Great Louisiana BirdFest** is held each spring when many species are migrating through Louisiana from Mexico and South America. BirdFest includes birding trips, Southern food, hospitality and workshops. Visit www.northlakenaturecenter.org for more information about birding trips and to register, or call 985-626-1238.
- 14-21 **Wild Wings Migration Discovery Festival on the Mississippi Coast.** For more information about birding trips or to register call **Dr. Mark LaSalle** 228-475-0825.
- 14 **International Migratory Bird Day Celebration** 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Dauphin Island, Cadillac Square Park: Interpretive bird walks, children’s activities, sales, conservation displays. Sponsored by the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries Inc. Contact **Dr. John Porter** 251-861-2141.
- 19-22 **Dauphin Island Birdathon for America’s Birdiest City/County Competition.** See <http://www.coastalbirding.org> for details.
- 20-22 **Alabama Ornithological Society Spring Meeting.** Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce Building. See <http://www.bham.net.oas/> for details and registration.
- 21 **Earth Day Celebration** at Five Rivers, Alabama’s Delta Resource Center. Literature, events and activities for all ages. For more information, call Amy King at 251-621-1216.
- 1-30 **Bird-a-thon:** any 24 hours of your choosing.

May

- 4-6 **North Alabama Birding Festival.** Scheduled during the spring migration, it includes workshops, seminars and field trips. For more information call 256-350-2028
- 5 **Kid's Fishing Day.** Safe Harbor Pond. 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. A joint project of the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Free. For more information call **Walter Ernest** at 251-990-5004.
- 8 **Board Meeting** 6:30 p.m. **General Meeting** 7:30 p.m. "Coastal Bird Research" presented by **Dr. Mark Woodrey**, Research Coordinator, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Mississippi. Five Rivers, Alabama's Delta Resource Center. Bring a friend.
- 12 **Annual Picnic at Lovell farm pond in Loxley** 4:00 p.m. The picnic will be a fish fry with slaw and baked beans provided. Bring anything of your choosing to add to it. Bring a friend and a chair. The Lovell pond is on Baldwin County Road 64. Go toward Buris Market from 59 or 98. Go west approximately 1/2 mile. There will be signs displayed to guide the rest of the way. For further information call 251-964-5387.

June

- 29 **Field trip to Gaillard Island** in Mobile Bay to observe nesting Brown Pelicans as well as gulls, terns, and Black Skimmers. Meet at Beachcomber Marine supply at Dog River in Mobile County. Going south, take the first left at Dog River Bridge. There will be a \$15 per person fee. Limited to 20 people. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For reservations, call **John Borom** at 251-990-0423.



Suet

Suet is the fatty tissue of cattle and sheep and is an important source of ready energy for many species of birds, particularly in the colder winter months of the year. Many species of birds get suet from dead animals in nature.

The Marvel Meal recipe provides an easy way to make and provide backyard birds with this source of food and will attract a wider range of birds to your yard.

Marvel Meal Recipe

- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1 cup vegetable shortening
- 1 cup white flour (not self rising)
- 3 cups yellow cornmeal (not self rising)

Mix ingredients together well. Place on trunk of a tree, branch, post or other solid object where birds can find and reach it. Store unused Marvel Meal in a closed container in the refrigerator.

Mobile Bay Audubon Wants You!

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!

_____ \$20 - 1 year Introductory Rate	_____ \$1,000 - Individual Life Membership
_____ \$15 - 1 year Student/Senior Rate	_____ \$1,500 - Dual Life Membership
_____ \$30 - 2 year Special Rate	
_____ My check is enclosed	_____ 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

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

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