

# Flicker Flashes

Published by  
The Birmingham Audubon Society

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

## September Member Program The Birmingham Zoo's Efforts in the Great Lakes Piping Plover (GLPP) Project

September 18, 2014 - 7 P.M.

Presented by Jamie Nobles and Rachel Gulley of the Birmingham Zoo  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**The piping plover** (*Charadrius melodus*) is a **sparrow-sized endangered shorebird that nests on beaches** along the Great Lakes, Atlantic Coast, and lakes of the Northern Great Plains from May to August. Piping plovers overwinter on the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico and the southern Atlantic coast of the US and Caribbean. Historically, piping plovers nested throughout the Great Lakes with an estimated population of 500-800 pairs. However, in 1983, this population declined to a mere 11-14 pairs, all within the state of Michigan and in 1986 was listed as federally endangered. This decline is largely attributed to habitat destruction due to recreational, residential, and commercial beach development. Although the breeding population has increased through conservation efforts, there is a continued need for improvement. The piping plover is still extremely vulnerable to extinction from predation, demographic and environmental irregularity, and continued beach development.

The US Fish and Wildlife service, The University of Minnesota, select Association of Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) institutions, along with other agencies, academia and volunteers have partnered together in a collective effort to conserve the Great Lakes piping plover population. The conservation services provided through this partnership involve observation, brood site preservation, closing of nest site beaches, erecting nest enclosures, nest site monitoring, banding, education, and salvage rearing and release. During the nesting season, volunteers monitor each pair daily to track their progress throughout the season. AZA institutions, including the Birmingham Zoo, assist each year in the form of salvage rearing. The salvage rearing project



Piping plover  
(*Charadrius melodus*)

is coordinated by the Detroit Zoo and is housed at the University of Michigan Biological Station in Pellston, Michigan. Abandoned eggs or chicks are artificially incubated and hand-raised by professionals from all over the country representing more than 20 zoos and similar institutions. The Birmingham Zoo has been involved in this project for the past 5 years by sending at least one staff member during the summer to provide expert

assistance in rearing piping plover eggs and chicks. Jamie Nobles and Rachel Gulley of the Birmingham Zoo will talk about the Great Lakes Piping Plover Restoration Initiative and their involvement with the project.

Jamie Nobles is currently the Zoological Manager of the Children Zoo and Alabama Wilds. He has been with the Birmingham Zoo for over 8 years. Jamie received his bachelor's degree in Zoology from Auburn University. His experience consists of hand-rearing and working with many different types of animals at the zoo, field work including GLPP project and whooping crane recovery project, as well as zoological and botanical education with an emphasis on native fauna and flora.

Rachel Gulley is a Children Zoo Wild's Keeper, working primarily with the Alabama Wild's raptor and bird collection. She has been with the zoo for a little over 2 years. Rachel received her bachelor's degree in Zoology from Auburn University. Her previous experience includes research on various bat and rodent species of northeast Alabama and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds while at Auburn University.

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



*Yellow-crowned night-heron*

Birmingham Audubon will hold its annual Russell Bailey Memorial Labor Day Field Trip to Lake Purdy on September 1, 2014. This event is held in honor of our dear friend who for years led this particular excursion.

Please join us at 8 a.m. at the Cox Creek Bridge on Alabama 119 approximately 2.25 miles east of its intersection with US 280. We will explore the area around the reservoir which is often an ideal place to spot long-legged waders such as great egrets, great blue herons and yellow-crowned night-herons. Depending upon the water level of the lake, a few migrating shorebirds may also be seen. The area also plays hosts to other

## Russell Bailey Memorial Labor Day Field Trip to Lake Purdy September 1, 2014 – 8 A.M.

interesting species such as wood duck, osprey and even bald eagles, which are known to nest here. While possible, but not probable, we could even encounter some unusual long-legged waders such as wood storks or roseate spoonbills.

Both Lake Purdy and the adjacent Cox Creek area have been named as destinations on the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail

This is a half-day trip so bring snacks and liquids if desired. This is a “rain or shine” trip, however Birmingham Audubon’s weather policy would dictate that the trip be cancelled in the event of lightning in the area. Please check our Facebook page for up-to-date details.

**Trip Leader:**

Susan Barrow (home) 205-942-8667 (cell) 205-253-8667

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## Field Trip Hawk Watch - Oak Mountain State Park September 6, 2014 - 8 A.M.

Come and join Birmingham Audubon as we visit the largest state park in Alabama. Oak Mountain State Park is very diverse in habitat with pine, oak, and other hardwoods making this a very desirable location for our feathered friends. Expect to see or at least hear pine warblers, nuthatches, cardinals, robins, red-bellied and downy woodpeckers. Eastern towhees, mockingbirds, chickadees, titmice, and brown thrashers are also very common.

As we enter the park, we will travel along Findley Drive, named in honor of John for his tireless efforts building and maintaining the bluebird-box trail. We will move down the road toward Terrace Drive and turning right to begin our ascent up the mountain. Keep your eyes peeled for great crested flycatchers and summer tanagers as they both nest here. We will then be stopping along the way to explore the Tree Top Trail. Many more species are likely to be seen on our trip, so come prepared to enjoy the day on one of the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail sites.

Our scenic drive to the top of Double Oak Mountain will provide views comparable to those found in the Great Smokey Mountains. Once atop the mountain, we will be able to sit and watch for migrating hawks that will be taking advantage of the wind currents. Red-tailed, red-shouldered and broad-winged hawks are among the species that we hope to see.

The group will meet at the information center located at the park entrance at 8 a.m.

**DIRECTIONS:**

I-65 south to exit 246 for Alabama 119/Cahaba Valley Rd. Turn right onto AL-119 and take the first left onto Oak Mountain Park Road. Continue for 1.8 miles until the road dead ends at a stop signal. Turn left onto the main road that leads into the park. Please note that there is an admission fee to the state park, which is: \$3 per adult and \$1 for both children 6-11 and for senior citizens.

This is a half day field trip, but please come prepared with snacks and drinks.

**The park address is:**

200 Terrace Drive, Pelham AL 35124

**Trip Leader:**

Susan Barrow (home) 205-842-8667 (cell) 205-253-8667



*Red shouldered hawk*

### Alabama Coastal Birdfest October 2 through 4, 2014

The 11th annual Alabama Coastal Birdfest is October 2 through 4 this year in Fairhope, Alabama. Registration for this event will be closed on September 26. Details for the Birdfest can be found at [www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com](http://www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com).

# September Field Trip Centre-Piedmont Airport, Cherokee Rock Village and Weiss Lake

September 20, 2014 - 7 A.M.

The Centre-Piedmont Cherokee County Regional Airport gives birders a wonderful opportunity to observe grassland species as the airport is set in pastures with fencerows and a few occasional streams. Car birding is the norm here as the entrance road to the facility is infrequently traveled and parallels some of the short-grass fields. A good selection of migrants and permanent residents may be present in September. These could include raptors, blackbird species, swallows and sparrows.

Cherokee Rock Village (also known as Little Rock City or Sandrock) is a 20-acre county park which sits on Shinbone Ridge at the end of Sand Mountain. The sandstone boulders and the trails which make up the heart of the park are popular with rock climbers, hikers and particularly birders. Cherokee Rock Village is believed to have been of ceremonial importance to the Cherokees and Creeks who inhabited the region until 1838. The trails lead to unequalled views of the valley below and nearby Weiss Lake.

Weiss Lake, a 30,200 acre reservoir, was created in 1961 with the damming of the Coosa River. Along with the Coosa, both the Little River and the Chattooga River feed into the lake. Its 447 miles of shoreline with swamps, shallows, deep channels and coves offer habitats for a diverse group of birds such as gulls, swallows, waterfowl, raptors and long-legged waders.

## MEETING PLACE:

Eastwood Mall McDonald's  
**ADDRESS:** 1569 Montclair Rd.,  
Birmingham, AL 35210

**Please park in the back parking lot.**

## TRAVEL PLANS:

We will leave at 7am for the drive up I-59 North to Exit 205 (Collinsville) 70 miles (approximate travel time of 1 hour 15 minutes). At the exit, bear right onto Alabama 68. We will take a rest stop at the BP station (5585 Hwy 68, Collinsville, AL 35961). There is a Jack's nearby (if you need a bit of breakfast) and on the other side of the interstate there is also a MAPCO station. We will regroup at the BP to continue our journey towards the Leesburg and Centre area. The Centre-Piedmont Airport will be the first stop of the day, followed by a trip to Cherokee Rock Village for a midday picnic and hawk watch. We will then finish up with a drive on the causeway between Centre and Cedar Bluff over Weiss Lake. There are several boat launches and pull offs where views of the lake may be had.

Please bring a picnic lunch, water and snacks, your binoculars and camera and a camp chair/folding chair (for the hawk watch). Make sure you have a full tank of gas.

**DESTINATIONS:** Centre-Piedmont Cherokee County Regional Airport (small airport set in farmland); Cherokee Rock Village (also known as Little

Rock City); various sandstone outcroppings on Shinbone Ridge along Lookout Mountain; **Weiss Lake** (Alabama Power impoundment of Coosa River)

All of these locales are designated sites on the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail.

## ADDRESSES:

Cherokee Rock Village  
2000 County Road 70  
Leesburg, AL 35983  
256-927-2757

## GPS:

**Centre-Piedmont Cherokee County Regional Airport**  
N34.09074 W 85.61423  
**Cherokee Rock Village**  
N34.11471 W85.47.20

## WEBSITES:

**Centre-Piedmont Regional Cherokee Regional Airport:** [www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/centre-piedmont-cherokee-county-regional-airport](http://www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/centre-piedmont-cherokee-county-regional-airport)

**Cherokee Rock Village:** [www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/cherokee-rock-village](http://www.alabamabirdingtrails.com/sites/cherokee-rock-village)  
[www.cherokeecountyhistory.com/cherokee-rock-village](http://www.cherokeecountyhistory.com/cherokee-rock-village)

[www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-3105](http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-3105)

## TRIP LEADERS:

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

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## 50th Annual Birmingham Audubon Fall Bird Count

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Our 50th Annual Birmingham Audubon Fall Bird Count will take place on September 27, and all Birmingham Audubon members and friends are welcome to join the fun as we mark this special occasion – 50 years! Twenty-seven people participated in the spring count. We'll need your help if we are to better that number! 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! (Continued on page 4)



# SoSo for the Record

## Sightings March 30 through July 17, 2014

During their June 28 visit to Limestone Park, Ken Wills and Dick Mills were treated to a very nice discovery, a pair of breeding Anhingas. Because these birds had been seen previously, it was suspected that they might nest here. They were busy feeding and taking care of their two very "fuzzy" youngsters. Also, nearby, were nesting great egrets and great blue herons. This was a very special day for these two enthusiastic bird watchers!

### Other sightings:

- 3/30: **Gadwall** (45); Logan Martin Lake (RC).
- 4/5: **Blue-winged Teal** (2); Logan Martin Lake (RC).
- 4/12: **Tricolored Heron**; Rarely seen inland in Alabama. Limestone County (SM).
- 4/18: **Palm Warbler** (2); Alabaster (MB, CB).
- 4/23: **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (2); Trussville (SB).
- 4/24: **Cape May Warbler**; **Summer Tanager**; **Baltimore Oriole**; Mountain Brook (BT).
- 4/25: **Nashville Warbler**; Some really nice birding days! Mountain Brook (BT).
- 4/27: **Wilson's Warbler**; A new yard bird. Irondale (RR).
- 4/29: **Bobolink** (10); Fultondale (DH).
- 4/30 **Mississippi Kite**; Montevallo (MB, CB).
- 5/27 **Least Bittern** ; Limestone Park (PF, SC).
- 5/15 **Red-necked Phalarope**, in alternate plumage; Sprague's sod farm, near Montgomery (LG).
- 5/17 **Bobolink** (male); with blackbirds in a grassy area, Mountain Brook (AC).
- 5/31 **King Rail** (3); Limestone Park (KV, DM)
- 5/31 **White-winged Dove**; "Probably second record for this area," Killen (DS).
- 6/22 **Alder Flycatcher** (calling); Nice surprise for Birmingham Audubon Jackson Co field trip (GH et al).
- 7/17 **Common Gallinule**; Limestone County (SM).

### Contributors:

- Alice Christenson
- Mac and Carolyn Braid
- Sallie Brice
- Ron Cohen
- Shane Coombs
- Paul Franklin
- Larry Gardella
- Greg Harber
- Don Hulsey
- Dick Mills
- Sue Moske
- Rick Remy
- Damien Simbeck
- Brad Tuttle
- Ken Wills



Please send sightings for October Flicker Flashes at least five days before the September 1, 2014 deadline to Ann Miller 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham AL 35209. [annmiller520@aol.com](mailto:annmiller520@aol.com)

(50th Annual Birmingham Fall Bird Count - Continued from page 3)

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 to only 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 them to be sure that you are included! 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. You may also consult the spring count report in this issue and check with one of the party leaders listed there. Be sure to pack a lunch, your binoculars and field guides and plenty of water.

These counts can be quite fun, but do note that spending a day in the field can be demanding.

At the end of the day, we will gather to compile our results, swap stories and share our adventures of the day. Real rarities will need a good story and appropriate documentation. I will compile the results and Elberta Reid will host the compilation at her house at 2616 Mountain Brook Parkway (phone: 205-879-1935). ask all party leaders to ensure that someone from their party is present to read their party's list and provide details when necessary.

Greg Harber,  
Bird Counts Committee

### Other count dates of interest:

**Birmingham Christmas Bird Count** - Date: Saturday, December 27, 2014

**Spring Bird Count** - Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015

Compiler: David George  
Compiler: Sharon Hudgins  
Compilation host: Maureen Shaffer  
Compilation host: TBA



## President's Message

As I write this message, we have just completed our 2014 Strategic Planning Session which will give Birmingham Audubon guidance for our projects and activities for the coming year. At this planning session, it became apparent to me just how productive last year's strategic planning had been. Among the priorities identified in the 2013 planning session were an increased focus on more bird friendly habitat projects in our local parks and communities, and a goal of devoting more of our efforts and monies toward conservation-related projects. If you look at all we initiated and accomplished during the last year, it is obvious that we have done the things we set out to do. We have immersed ourselves in conservation and bird habitat projects in our parks and local communities. Projects are happening at Limestone Park in Alabaster and at two parks in Birmingham, East Lake Park and Railroad Park.

Soon, work will begin on similar projects at locations such as Avondale Park, the Greenway and downtown Birmingham with the chimney swift projects. The roots of these projects were born in the strategic planning sessions of the recent past. Thus, I am confident that good things will also result from our most recent discussions to identify priorities for the coming year.

We have been able to initiate and accomplish so much in such a short period of time due in no small part to the hiring of an executive director two years ago. Suzanne Langley has shouldered most of the burdens and handled the daily details that are necessary to accomplish the goals we had set. An additional step will be taken this year to further carry out the priorities recently established by our Board of Directors. We will be adding a program director to help carry out the many projects and activities in which we

are involved, both now and in the near future. Recruitment will be a key activity among the myriad duties of this position. The program director will be responsible for following up with prospective members, designing activities to diversify our membership, and to increase our number of younger adult members. However, even as we add more staff, we must always keep in mind that the real heart of our organization is still the tireless efforts and generous contributions of our board members and our other faithful volunteers. Even with more staff, we cannot successfully accomplish what we have prioritized and planned without our volunteer contributions. We need those "boots on the ground."

It should be an exciting and great year for Birmingham Audubon. I am proud to serve this organization.

Ken Marion  
President



## Partnerships, Community, Mission

Our new year\* began with an amazing opportunity in July. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, a guest of Mayor William Bell, visited East Lake Park in Birmingham as part of her focus on the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the development of public spaces for recreation and conservation.

It was with great pride that I accepted the invitation to share Birmingham Audubon's work at the park during Secretary Jewell's public remarks there. Our work at East Lake Park represents a good model of partnership so critical to nonprofit conservation organizations like ours. We work with: Birmingham Park & Recreation Department to conserve the heron rookery located on the island, and Alabama Birding Trails to recommend and promote the park as a productive site for birders. East Lake Park is always included in at least one Birmingham Audubon field trip for members and guests each year. Members of our Conservation and Education Committees joined forces

to staff the outreach table and scope at the 17th Annual Family Fishing Rodeo attended by 3100 this past June. Even the simple act of explaining to a nearby resident why dead trees in the park are critical to red headed woodpeckers lays the foundation for a partnership.

Considering the community in which we live and work is another legacy established by Birmingham Audubon founders.



As we begin the year working on active conservation projects in Jefferson and Shelby Counties and partner with Mobile Bay Audubon Society to support coastal restoration and stewardship, we do so in the footsteps of past and current leaders who have helped protect the amazing biodiversity shared by wildlife and Alabamians. We will work with teachers and students to share the connection between birds and habitat and how each of us can take individual actions.

The year is full of activities as you will discover in this issue of Flicker Flashes. Consider sharing your interest and enthusiasm as a volunteer or invite your friends and families to join you as a member of Birmingham Audubon. With a focus on conservation, birds and habitat and the natural world, they are certain to find a program or project that fits their interests.

\*Birmingham Audubon's program and fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30.

(From left to right): Helena Uber-Wamble, Teaching Naturalist; Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior; and Suzanne Langley, Birmingham Audubon Executive Director,



# 2014 - 2015

## Birmingham Audubon Society Board of Directors

### \* Executive Committee; \*\* Standing Committees

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Volunteer	TBA		
Director at Large	Ann Sweeney	205-879-7127	sweene@bellsouth.net
Director at Large	TBA		

(Continued on page 7)

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**Birmingham Audubon Staff Directory for September Issue**

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Helena Uber-Wamble, Teaching Naturalist - [huberwamble@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:huberwamble@birminghamaudubon.org) - 205-714-8228

Program Director, to be announced



**B I R M I N G H A M   A U D U B O N**

# 2014

## Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz Year

### Summary (Alabama)

This winter, birders throughout the United States and Canada were solicited to participate with the Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz, a national monitoring program developed by the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group to spatially document rusty blackbird observations during the spring migration months. This initiative builds upon an earlier initiative (Rusty Blackbird Winter Hotspot Blitz) by identifying important migratory stopover sites throughout the species' range and gathering other key information. The data gathered will help support conservation planning to ultimately guide on-the-ground actions with the objectives of halting and subsequently reversing the long precipitous decline of this troubled species.

For Alabama, the migration survey period was the entire month of March, although later observations were also accepted. The protocols were simple: focus birding trips to habitats favored by rusty blackbirds and report observations and efforts using eBird, whether rusty blackbirds were detected or not.

During the survey period, 51 checklists from Alabama reporting at least one rusty blackbird were submitted to eBird. Checklists were submitted by 24 different observers with dates ranging from March 1 to April 11. Alabama checklists accounted for 2,137 individuals from 19 counties (Table 1). The highest numbers of individuals were from Limestone (1,186), Elmore (353), Montgomery (201), and Colbert (127) counties. Sites with the most individuals included Wheeler NWR (682; 340) and Fort Toulouse (200; 125). Counties with the most checklists submitted included Montgomery (13), Limestone (7), and Elmore (4). Compared to other southeastern states, Alabama submitted more checklists than Florida (12) and Mississippi (23), but fewer than Virginia (608), Tennessee (210), Georgia (193), North Carolina (181), South Carolina (134), Arkansas (93), Kentucky (78), and Louisiana (57). Nationally, 43 states plus the District of Columbia submitted a combined total of 10,894 checklists and of those, Alabama ranked near the bottom in submissions.



Despite being an important state for rusty blackbirds, Alabama's participation with the Spring Migration Blitz was, at best, minimal. This may have been due to the limited number of people in Alabama that regularly use eBird to report bird sightings. Alabama generally ranks near the bottom in eBird participation compared to other states. Another factor may be the rusty blackbirds themselves, which are generally regarded as less charismatic than other bird species, and therefore, not an appealing enough species on which to focus survey efforts. Nonetheless, the rusty blackbird is in trouble and scientists are reaching out for our help. The Spring Migration Blitz is scheduled to be performed two more seasons, and I hope that birders across Alabama will unite and dedicate more time searching for this species. All 67 counties in Alabama have winter habitat favored by rusty blackbirds and all it takes is a little planning and effort for more comprehensive coverage across the state. As a challenge to Alabama birders, I'd like to see the number of submissions doubled next year. Last, I thank those who participated this past season and hope others will consider joining this important effort next year. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Eric Soehren (eric.soehren@dcnr.alabama.gov)

**TABLE 1.**  
Alabama Rusty Blackbird  
Spring Migration Blitz Results  
(March - April 2014)

\*Denotes Rusty Blackbird observations reported only in April.

<b>2014 Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz Alabama Results</b>		
County	Number Checklists (eBird)	Number Individuals Observed
Baldwin*	2	2
Barbour	2	3
Chambers	1	6
Cleburne	1	3
Colbert	3	127
Dale*	1	2
Elmore	4	353
Hale	1	79
Jackson	1	1
Jefferson	2	2
Lauderdale	1	100
Limestone	7	1,186
Macon	2	38
Madison	3	17
Marshall	1	4
Mobile	3	1
Montgomery	13	201
Morgan	2	11
Sumter	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2,137</b>

# 2014 Birmingham Audubon Spring Count Results

## Saturday, April 26, 2014

The results of the 2014 Birmingham Audubon Spring Count are listed below. Many thanks to the 26 observers in 11 parties who spent 96.25 party hours in the field (49.25/47 car/foot), with 3.5 hours/2.35 miles spent owling. 623 miles were covered by car and 22.5 miles on foot. Temperatures on count day ranged from 53-84 degrees with clear conditions and light winds prevailing all day. A very respectable 142 species were recorded on count day, with seven additional count week species being recorded.

Canada Goose	230	Pileated Woodpecker	11	Tennessee Warbler	46
Wood Duck	19	Peregrine Falcon	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Gadwall	3	Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	Nashville Warbler	1
Mallard	43	Acadian Flycatcher	5	Kentucky Warbler	25
Blue-winged Teal	2	Eastern Phoebe	59	Common Yellowthroat	29
Red-breasted Merganser	2	Great Crested Flycatcher	79	Hooded Warbler	52
Wild Turkey	4	Eastern Kingbird	90	American Redstart	2
Common Loon	2	Loggerhead Shrike	1	Cape May Warbler	1
Pied-billed Grebe	4	White-eyed Vireo	117	Cerulean Warbler	CW
Double-crested Cormorant	64	Yellow-throated Vireo	16	Northern Parula	5
Anhinga	1	Blue-headed Vireo	3	Magnolia Warbler	5
Great Blue Heron	79	Philadelphia Vireo	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	2
Great Egret	31	Red-eyed Vireo	126	Blackburnian Warbler	2
Cattle Egret	CW	Blue Jay	142	Yellow Warbler	4
Green Heron	22	American Crow	234	Chestnut-sided Warbler	13
Black-crowned Night Heron	6	Fish Crow	15	Blackpoll Warbler	7
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	5	Purple Martin	79	Palm Warbler	237
Black Vulture	50	Tree Swallow	18	Pine Warbler	43
Turkey Vulture	89	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	101	Yellow-rumped Warbler	117
Osprey	3	Cliff Swallow	166	Yellow-throated Warbler	3
Cooper's Hawk	3	Barn Swallow	149	Prairie Warbler	14
Red-shouldered Hawk	32	Carolina Chickadee	80	Black-throated Green Warbler	8
Broad-winged Hawk	12	Tufted Titmouse	181	Canada Warbler	1
Red-tailed Hawk	12	White-breasted Nuthatch	24	Wilson's Warbler	CW
King Rail	3	Brown-headed Nuthatch	36	Yellow-breasted Chat	16
American Coot	24	House Wren	3	Eastern Towhee	139
Killdeer	24	Carolina Wren	141	Chipping Sparrow	73
Spotted Sandpiper	3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	75	Field Sparrow	21
Greater Yellowlegs	13	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	Savannah Sparrow	12
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	Eastern Bluebird	115	Song Sparrow	7
Solitary Sandpiper	9	Veery	1	Swamp Sparrow	9
Least Sandpiper	17	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	White-throated Sparrow	34
Pectoral Sandpiper	CW	Swainson's Thrush	6	Summer Tanager	61
Wilson's Snipe	1	Hermit Thrush	1	Scarlet Tanager	71
Rock Pigeon	67	Wood Thrush	37	Northern Cardinal	347
Eurasian Collared-Dove	7	American Robin	79	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	81
Mourning Dove	200	Gray Catbird	29	Blue Grosbeak	62
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Brown Thrasher	92	Indigo Bunting	159
Great Horned Owl	2	Northern Mockingbird	177	Bobolink	CW
Barred Owl	11	European Starling	121	Red-winged Blackbird	217
Chuck-will's-widow	8	Cedar Waxwing	50	Eastern Meadowlark	37
Whip-poor-will	6	Ovenbird	6	Common Grackle	161
Chimney Swift	67	Worm-eating Warbler	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	81
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	Louisiana Waterthrush	8	Orchard Oriole	42
Belted Kingfisher	6	Northern Waterthrush	1	Baltimore Oriole	14
Red-headed Woodpecker	29	Golden-winged Warbler	CW	House Finch	33
Red-bellied Woodpecker	69	Blue-winged Warbler	2	Purple Finch	CW
Downy Woodpecker	30	Black-and-white Warbler	11	American Goldfinch	78
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Prothonotary Warbler	3	House Sparrow	55
Northern Flicker	3	Swainson's Warbler	2		

Many thanks to the following participants (party leaders in boldface): **Sallie Brice**, Allen Brice, **Scot Duncan**, **Greg Harber**, Jessica Germany, **Sharon Hudgins**, David George, **Matt Hunter**, Jessie Griswold, Sam Griswold, Ty Keith, **John Imhof**, Dick Mills, Sue Richards, Harriett Wright, **Rick Kittinger**, Ron Kittinger, Jo Kittinger, **Pelham Rowan**, Lisa Bailey, **Maureen Shaffer**, Anne G. Miller, **Greg Jackson**, Jim Sherrill. Feeder watchers: Dana and Stan Hamilton. Compiler: Greg Harber.

# Join Birmingham Audubon Volunteers!

Enjoy spending quality time outdoors? Sharing the joy of birdwatching with students? Rolling up your sleeves to build and protect native habitat? Helping out with organizational projects for a growing membership organization?

Birmingham Audubon is looking for volunteers who share our passion for:

- **Leading field trips and teaching about seasonal year-round birds in Alabama**
- **Restoring or protecting native habitat in the metropolitan area**
- **Supporting projects that promote connections with the natural world**

Our volunteers provide critical support for a robust schedule of programs and events, including: bird walks at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens; installing native habitat at Avondale Park and the Birmingham Museum of Art or restoring prairie at Limestone Park in Alabaster; interpreting our focus on birds and habitat in classrooms, at festivals and conferences; and administrative support at special events such as Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop or our Annual Banquet in December.

Teaching Naturalist Helena Uber-Wamble reported that 30 volunteers helping out this past year contributed a record 396 hours through conservation outreach. "Whatever it is that you have a knack for or a desire to help with," Uber-Wamble said, "we will find a place for you!"

As Birmingham Audubon continues to grow, new areas where help is needed, include: GIS mapping, membership correspondence, data entry, and social media. Training is scheduled for volunteers several times throughout the year and are posted on the Birmingham Audubon website calendar. Volunteers are recognized for their service during the April Membership Meeting.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit [birminghamaudubon.org](http://birminghamaudubon.org) or contact Helena at [huberwamble@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:huberwamble@birminghamaudubon.org) or 205-714-8228; or Executive Director Suzanne Langley at [suzannelangley@birminghamaudubon.org](mailto:suzannelangley@birminghamaudubon.org) or 205-714-8227.

The value of volunteer service in Alabama is reported to be \$20.50 per hour. At Birmingham Audubon, we think the value of our volunteers is priceless! We look forward to your help this year.



## Job Announcement - Program Director

Birmingham Audubon Society, an urban chapter of National Audubon Society, seeks qualified candidates for program director. A growing chapter of more than 1300 members, Birmingham Audubon serves Jefferson, Shelby, Bibb, Blount, Chilton, St. Clair and Walker counties. The administrative office is located in Birmingham with members located in, and projects and activities taking place throughout the state of Alabama. The program director manages all aspects of Birmingham Audubon conservation, education and membership programs from planning to staffing and evaluation and assists the executive director and board to ensure sustainable funding in alignment with the strategic plan. Visit [www.birminghamaudubon.org](http://www.birminghamaudubon.org) for position description and application. It is the policy of Birmingham Audubon that all persons are entitled to equality of opportunity in all areas of employment regardless of race, sex, disability, age, national origin, religion, veteran status, genetic information or other legally protected status.

## Partners in Conservation

Two Birmingham leaders were recognized for their role as a Birmingham Audubon "Conservation Partner" during the 2014 Membership meeting after the May 2014 issue of Flicker Flashes had passed.

Gail Andrews, Director of the Birmingham Museum of Art, was recognized

for her enthusiastic support for installing the prairie wildflower garden on the upper terrace of the rooftop gardens.

Stanley Robinson, Birmingham Park And Recreation Department, was recognized for his support and guidance in habitat development at East Lake Park

and the Avondale Park Rose & Habitat Garden project.

Thanks to Gail and Stanley for being partners who help make a difference in our urban habitat!

# 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 natural science topics
- Free field trips led by expert birders to great birding / cultural locations
- Opportunity to attend Annual Banquet and Birmingham Audubon Mountain Workshop
- 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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## **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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Birmingham Audubon Society is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.**

Please keep my donation anonymous  
 Yes  No

I want to receive communications electronically  
 Yes  No

I want to be contacted to learn about volunteer activities  
 Yes  No

If you are interested in joining National Audubon Society, visit: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

**Birmingham Audubon's policy is to not share or sell our mailing list. Your privacy is of the utmost importance to us.**



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Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.

Executive Director: 205-714-8227  
Education Manager: 205-714-8228

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# Flicker Flashes

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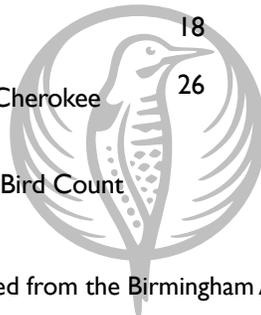
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or 205-714-8227

### September 2014

- |    |   |        |
|----|---|--------|
| 1  | Field Trip - Russell Bailey Memorial - Labor Day<br>Trip to Lake Purdy  | 2 to 4 |
| 6  | Field Trip - Hawk Watch - Oak Mountain State Park   | 4      |
| 13 | Flutter and Flight Festival -<br>Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve   | 10     |
| 18 | <b>September Member Program</b><br>The Birmingham Zoo's Efforts in the<br>Great Lakes Piping Plover Project -<br>7 PM, Birmingham Botanical Gardens | 16     |
| 20 | Field Trip - Centre-Piedmont Airport, Cherokee<br>Rock Village and Weiss Lake   | 18     |
| 27 | 50th Annual Birmingham Audubon Fall Bird Count  | 26     |

### October 2014

- |  |
|--|
| Alabama Coastal Birdfest   |
| Field Trip - Tom Imhof Memorial Trip -<br>Birmingham Botanical Gardens |
| Fall Meeting of the Alabama Ornithological<br>Society, Dauphin Island  |
| Monthly Program - 7 PM, Birmingham<br>Botanical Gardens                |
| Field Trip - Neely Henry Dam   |
| Birds and Brews, 2 PM, Avondale Park                                   |



Copies of *Flicker Flashes* can be viewed and downloaded from the Birmingham Audubon web site: [www.birminghamaudubon.org](http://www.birminghamaudubon.org)