President’s Message

July 1, 2012 marks the culmination of a transformative process which started with our 2009 strategic planning session and the beginning of a new chapter in BAS’s accomplishment rich 66 year history.

As part of that transformation, BAS is pleased to announce the hiring of our first Executive Director, Suzanne Langley. Her previous experience makes her a good choice to further BAS’s mission.

Suzanne is a former National Audubon Society staffer serving as associate and state development director in Arkansas and Mississippi, respectively. In addition to her duties as a development director, she also assisted local chapters by facilitating chapter relations and events.

Suzanne has extensive experience with communications and marketing, conservation outreach and issue management. Her guidance will be pivotal to BAS as we move forward in a more focused and professional manner.

During this year, I encourage you to renew your enthusiasm for and interest in the birds we all love by participating in a BAS activity. Join us for a field trip, monthly program, bird count or educational activity. Make a commitment to enjoy a birding activity, learn something new about birds, teach someone something about birds and help protect the birds and their habitats so that future generations can enjoy these amazing creatures. Most importantly, on November 6th, vote YES on Alabama Constitutional Amendment 1 to renew Forever Wild, Alabama’s program to buy public access land for clean water, beaches, parks and rivers. With no new taxes, this amendment helps protect the birds we enjoy.

Thank you for being a member of BAS and supporting our efforts.

Hans Paul

Executive Director’s Message

You know the feeling of admiring something wonderful and that even better feeling of becoming part of what you admired? That has been my experience coming on board as the first executive director (ED) for Birmingham Audubon Society.

BAS has long been admired for its leadership in bird conservation and creating learning opportunities for generations of Alabama birders. I visited this year’s Audubon Mountain Workshop shortly after accepting the ED position and felt fortunate to be part of an organization with a tradition of passing along the love of birds and the habitat they depend on as I watched families, lifelong friends and welcoming faculty eagerly moving from one event to the next.

I am grateful to be a part of BAS as the organization eagerly moves into the next stage of professional staffing and programming. It is amazing what this persistent group of volunteers has accomplished during decades of service to Birmingham and the state.

You will be asked soon by the Communications Committee to answer questions about BAS programs, Flicker Flashes, online communications and policies in a survey you will receive around October 1st. Your input is important to good planning as we move into this next stage. Please take the time to complete the printed survey or use the convenience of the online version.

Please say hello at the September BAS meeting where I look forward to meeting many of you. This issue of Flicker Flashes details our next fiscal year and is a great planning tool for members. Thanks to the team who make this very useful publication possible.

We have great programs and projects ahead, and I’m happy for the opportunity to work and learn with you. It was quite appropriate, don’t you think, that one of my first evenings in Birmingham found my backyard filled with Northern Flickers?

Here’s to a great year,

Suzanne Langley
suzannelangley@birminghamaudubon.org
205-714-8227
September Monthly Meeting
*The Walden Pond Moment*
Presented by Suzanne Langley, BAS Executive Director
Thursday, September 20, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

The opening program for the 2012-2013 season of the Birmingham Audubon Society will feature Suzanne Langley, our new Executive Director. Don’t miss this opportunity to greet and welcome Suzanne who assumed her duties on July 1, 2012. Suzanne will relate her “personal experience in discovering the connectivity of habitat, wildlife and our life, and how we work to protect opportunities of others through work as a conservation organization and special efforts such as Forever Wild”.

Suzanne has impressive credentials. A graduate of Auburn University in Journalism and English, she has had extensive experience in communications, marketing and development. During her career she has served as consultant to various companies, schools, universities and non-profit organizations including Director of the Communications Department at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Vice-President of Marketing for a regional healthcare company and Director of Development for Audubon Mississippi, state office of the National Audubon Society.

Her focus for the past five years has included nonprofit management, conservation outreach, organizational sustainability and sustainable practices for consumers. She is skilled in organizational management, evaluation and assessment, launching first time projects, designing and managing annual fund campaigns, donor relations programs, grant writing and serving as a member of executive teams.

Come and meet Suzanne and your fellow Audubon members.

Fellowship and snack time begins at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted By
Ellen McLaughlin
VP Programs, BAS 2012-2013

Alabama Costal BirdFest
October 4 - 6, 2012

Registration is ongoing for the 9th Alabama Coastal BirdFest, October 4-6, 2012. Since 2004, this event has drawn birders from around the U.S. and Canada, with expertly guided tours to prime birding spots on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail, evening speaker events, and the free day long Bird & Conservation Expo. Trips and evening events require advance registration. For trip and event schedule and to register, visit www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com.

Calling all Parents, Grandparents, and BAS Members

Want to support BAS and our Education mission while doing something special for your child or grandchild? Why not sponsor your child's classroom by purchasing a subscription to *Audubon Adventures*, our nationally acclaimed environmental education classroom program for students in grades 3 through 5? Each child in the class will receive his/her own copy of a newspaper, 4 times a year, as well as other learning materials that help our students form positive attitudes about nature.

This year's topic is *Sharing Our Earth*, a three-part exploration of the following themes:

1. **Sharing Our Shores**
2. **Caring For Our Planet - Be a Friend to Birds**
3. **Forests for People and Wildlife**

The cost for sponsoring the entire class is just **$45.95** (including shipping)

An individual kit, suitable for one child, is just **$25.00** (including shipping)

(Continued on page 3)
September Field Trips

Russell Bailey Memorial Labor Day Field Trip to Lake Purdy
September 3, 2012 - 7:30 a.m.

The end of summer is nearly upon us, and that means it is time once again for our annual Labor Day field trip to Lake Purdy. Russell Bailey led this trip for many years, and we remember Russ fondly as we continue this fine tradition. Please plan to join us at 7:30 a.m. at the Coxe Creek bridge on AL-119, approximately 2.25 miles east of the US-280 intersection. After birding the Lake Purdy environs, the group will continue looking for migrating shorebirds at other near-by birding destinations. Hopefully, some unusual long-legged waders such as Wood Storks or Roseate Spoonbills will have made their way this far north during the post-breeding dispersal!

Trip Leader: Maureen Shaffer 205-822-8728 (H) 205-222-2662 (M)

Ruffner Mountain
September 15, 2012 - 7:00 a.m.

One of the special places in Alabama is Birmingham’s own Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve, a 1,011 acre paradise set on the Red Mountain ridge just minutes from downtown. BAS will partake of its many wonders when we visit there as our September field trip on Saturday the 15th.

Ruffner is many things: a wildlife sanctuary, a refuge of peace and beauty, the site of one of only six LEED Gold new constructions in the state (the Treehouse Visitor’s Center and the Back Porch complex), a reminder of Birmingham’s mining heritage, host to a wetland complex and a protector of Alabama Forever Wild lands. Two sites on the property have been placed on the Appalachian Highlands Birding Trail (AHBT), and our visit will coincide with the official launch of Ruffner as a trail site. The habitat of the preserve is comprised of a mixed oak-hickory forest with basswoods, paw-paw and hackberry. All of which attract both migrant and resident birds. The Quarry Trail, one of many well-marked paths on site, leads to a bluff that affords possible views of migrating hawks in the fall.

Travel plans: Meet at 7:00 a.m. on September 15th at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. At that point, more detailed instructions will be given. We will then caravan to Ruffner and reconvene in the parking lot at the Treehouse Visitor’s Center. Please consolidate rides. This is planned as a full day trip with many activities and hikes on the property. Please check the websites for Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, BAS and the Alabama Birding Trails for additional information and up-dates.

Trip leader: Maureen Shaffer 205-822-8728 (h) 205-222-2662 (m)

BAS Field Trip Cancellation Policy
If there is a possibility of dangerous road conditions due to inclement weather please contact the trip leader at the phone number provided.

(Continued from page 2, Calling all Parents ...)

To learn more about the Audubon Adventures program, visit the National Audubon Society website at www.audubon.org/educate/aa. Also, visit our website www.birminghamaudubon.org and click on testimonials under the Grants and Scholarships tab to see praises and thank-you from Audubon Adventures teachers that we have sponsored in the past.

To sponsor a classroom or child with the Audubon Adventures program, contact Jean Folsom at jkfolsom@gmail.com or call 823-4019.

Deadline to order is September 30, 2012

Thanks for your sponsorship of Birmingham Audubon’s education mission!

No children or grandchildren? Why not sponsor a classroom in the area that is not currently receiving Audubon Adventures? Individual kits are available for home-schooled children.
On 21 June David Frings, the mayor of Alabaster, reported to Greg Harber that he had spotted a **Roseate Spoonbill** at Limestone Park. A finding of this bird is special anywhere in Alabama, especially Shelby County. The last date the spoonbill was reported was 19 July.

Later eight **Wood Storks** were recorded at the same location. The question is if an exceptionally warm spring caused an earlier post-breeding dispersal of the storks.

**House Wrens** are known to be rather naughty. The Sargents had this proven to them when they found one had destroyed the eggs of an **Eastern Bluebird** 26 May on their property. **House Wrens** are uncommon breeders in Alabama, but Bob heard one singing that same day near the bluebird nest. He is 99% sure it was the culprit.

On 21 May Greg Harber witnessed a flock of approximately 250 **Rough-winged Swallows** after dark at the Summit Shopping Center. He was so intrigued that he went back the next night.

His conclusion was that it was probably adults roosting with juvenile swallows in order to teach them to hunt food during the day. Very interesting!

**Other sightings were:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Irondale (RR, SR).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>Eastern Bluebird; Moody (PL). Solitary Sandpiper; Fultondale (DH).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Double-crested Cormorant (60); Choccolacco Creek (RC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>Osprey; Fultondale (DH). Brewster's Warbler (A hybrid Golden-winged/Blue-winged); Moss Rock (KW).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>Lesser Yellowlegs; Fultondale (DH).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/30</td>
<td>Yellow-rumped and Palm Warbler; Irondale (BW).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Warblers- Golden-winged, Nashville, Blackburnian (m&amp;f), and Blackpoll (10!); and several other migrants. Also a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest. Nice morning at Ruffner Mountain (GJ).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19</td>
<td>Anhinga (5); Limestone Park (GH).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/21</td>
<td>Spotted Sandpiper; Choccolacco Creek (RC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>Mississippi Kite (3-7) Graysville (Reported to BA by a local home owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Last, but not least, 80 banded in one day including a 2006 return! Clay (BS, MS).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contributors:**

- Bianca Allen
- Donald Hulsey
- Ken Wills
- Ross Cohen
- Peggy Lowery
- David Frings
- Rick and Susan Remy
- Greg Harber
- Bob and Martha Sargent
- Greg Jackson
- Beverly Waaland

Please submit sightings for October **FF** at least five days before the September 1st deadline to:

Ann Miller, 520 Yorkshire Drive, Birmingham, Al. 35209
annmiller520@aol.com
Saturday, September 29th is the date for our 48th annual BAS Fall Bird Count, and all BAS members and friends are welcome to join the fun. Twenty-four people participated in the spring count. We’ll need your help 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 our results will be. And more rarities too!

Jefferson, Shelby and St. Clair counties are our coverage area; we hope to place as many parties in the field as we can. If you are you 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 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 251-2133, and I will put you in touch with a party leader. Or you may consult the spring count report in this issue and check with a party leader 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 know 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. Sharon Hudgins will compile the results and Hans Paul and Lori Oswald will host the compilation at their home at 303 LeJeune Way in Homewood, with co-hosting duties shared by Suzanne Langley. I ask all party leaders to ensure that someone from their party is present to read their party’s list and provide details when necessary.

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 251-2133, and I will put you in touch with a party leader. Or you may consult the spring count report in this issue and check with a party leader 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 know that spending a day in the field can be demanding.

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Information on other Counts

77th Birmingham Christmas Bird Count
Date: Saturday, December 22, 2012
Host: TBD
Compiler: David George

48th Spring Bird Count
Date: Saturday, April 27, 2013
Host: TBD
Compiler: Greg Harber

Make plans now to attend any or all of these counts. Remember, all BAS members and friends, whether beginning or experienced birders, are encouraged to join us!

Greg Harber,
~ for the Bird Counts Committee

Submitting Articles for Publication

If you would like to submit an article to Flicker Flashes, or the BAS Web page, please follow one of the methods detailed below. Please adhere to the submission deadlines listed in the BAS Calendar of Events found elsewhere in this issue. We welcome all contributions: trip reports, bird sightings, reflections on an interesting encounter with the natural world and other items of general interest.

This is your newsletter and we want to hear from you!

The preferred method would be to send the articles as an attachment to an e-mail message. Send them to Ty Keith at this address: tyrun42k@bellsouth.net

You may also "snail mail" your typewritten article, or an article stored on a PC compatible disk, to:

Birmingham Audubon Society
200 19th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203-3117

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OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Hans Paul</td>
<td>807-7357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-elect</td>
<td>Ken Marion</td>
<td>969-3969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-president, Conservation</td>
<td>Kathy Stiles Freeland</td>
<td>746-5855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-president, Education</td>
<td>Jean Folsom</td>
<td>807-2231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ellen McLaughlin</td>
<td>595-0806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
<td>Elberta G. Reid</td>
<td>879-1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Susan Patton</td>
<td>428-3779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
<td>Anita Faucett</td>
<td>836-3727</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Suzanne Langley, Suzanelangley@birminghamaudubon.org

EDUCATION DIRECTOR
Helena Uber-Wamble, educationdirector@birminghamaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Board of Directors includes all Officers, the two immediate Past Presidents, Directors-At-Large, Flicker Flashes Editor and Asst. Editor, Chair or Co-Chairs of the following committees: Campouts, Conservation, Education, Field Trips, Membership, Speaker and Program Bureau, and those whose names are designated by an (*). Board meetings are held at 5:45 p.m. at the Birmingham Zoo Auditorium before each membership meeting.

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Ann Sweeney

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Maureen Shaffer .................. 222-2662
Louise Ayer Tommie ................. 428-9652

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Honorary Directors include all Past Presidents and other members who, by reason of services rendered over a long period of time to the Society, have been elected as Honorary Directors to advise and consult with the Board on all matters presented before it, and have all rights and privileges of Directors except the right to vote, and except that they shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum.

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Howard M. Einspahr
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Paul Franklin
Gregory J. Harber
David Larsen
Ann L. Miller
James V. Peavy, Jr.
John Randolph
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Ann Sweeney
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Louise Ayer Tommie
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Gregory J. Harber .................. 251-2133
Pelham Rowan ......................... 427-4365
Michael Russell ...................... 716-829-2790
Donald Sweeney ....................... 879-7127

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Gregory J. Harber, Compiler ........ 251-2133
Sharon Hudgins, Compiler ............ 477-5390
Ty Keith .............................. 602-8037

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Gregory J. Harber .................... 251-2133
Maureen Shaffer ...................... 222-2662
Members of the Tuesday Bird Group
Maureen Shaffer, Chair .............. 222-2662

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Katherine Bouma (Media Contact) .... 871-9009
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Elberta G. Reid (Forever Wild) .... 879-1935
Maureen Shaffer (Conservation Corner Articles) .................. 222-2662
Robert G. Tate ....................... 967-0304
Ken Will (Forest Management Issues) .... 515-9412

To locate your state legislators, go to www.legislature.state.al.us

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Mac Braid ............................ 205-665-4191
Scott Duncan ......................... 226-4777
Ken Marion ........................... 969-3969
Ellen McLaughlin ..................... 595-0806
Elberta G. Reid ....................... 879-1935

Continued on next page
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Ann Sweeney ................................. 879-7127

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Audubon Teaches Nature
Gregory J. Harber ............................ 251-2133

Education Volunteer Coordinator
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Flying WILD
Helena Uber-Wamble ......................... 714-8228

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Robert G. Tate ............................... 967-0304

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Shirley Farrell, Kid's Corner .......................... 334-872-6895
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Gregory J. Harber, Audubon Teaches Nature, Bird Counts, Count Committee
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Donna Shook, Graphic Design ................ 568-7887
Helena Uber-Wamble, Education Notebook ..................................... 714-8228

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Susan Patton ................................. 428-3779
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Pelham Rowan, Birding Leader ............. 427-4365
Dee King ..................................... 871-8840
Ann Sweeney ................................. 879-7127
Becky Smith ................................. 871-8932

WATERCRESS DARTER NWR, ARK
Dick Mills,* Chair ......................... 967-2454
David George .................. 477-5074
Sharon Hudgins .................. 477-5390
Ann and Robert G. Tate ................. 967-0304
Louise Ayer Tommie ....................... 428-9652

BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICE
200 19th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203-3117
Office (205) 714-8227
Email: basoffice@birminghamaudubon.org

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Birmingham Audubon Society is to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds and the habitats on which they depend.
The male Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*, is a bright red bird, and the female is dull yellow. It is the only bird in North America that is all red! Another cool fact is that this bird LOVES to eat bees and wasps, but will eat other insects and fruit! This tanager will catch a bee in mid-air, land on a tree and then hit the bee against a tree branch to kill it. Before it eats the bee, the bird will rub it against the tree branch to remove the stinger. Another name for the Summer Tanager is the Beebird.

Our Summer Tanager family laid their eggs on May 27th. These brown speckled eggs hatched 12-14 days later with the first egg hatching on June 10th. The baby birds then stayed in the nest for about 10 days. Around June 20th, they stretched their wings in an attempt to learn to fly. During this time, they stayed around the nest as the parents still feed and took care of them. Around June 25th, the baby birds were fending for themselves. This left time for the bird parents to have another family, or brood during this season.

When the day length shortened and temperatures changed, summer became fall. Our tanagers became restless as the need to migrate was triggered. When people take a trip, mom and dad will pack suitcases, plan the travel route, and take their children on a trip. For most bird species however, fledgling birds do not travel with their moms and dads during migration. After being alive for only a few months, our young tanagers began their long migration south without direct help from their parents. They were not even a year old yet!

One of our first-year Summer Tanagers was a male bird. He was only about 116 days old, when he left for the lands between southern Mexico to northern South America. He was yellow when he began the journey, however by next spring he will have splotchy yellow and red feathers. He and his siblings had been eating a lot of insects just before they flew south. They were putting on weight (fat) because they needed the extra energy for the long flight to the winter grounds.

How did our baby birds know where to migrate? Some scientists think some birds are programmed in their genes to know where to go in migration. The birds not only used the sun, the stars, the moon, and landmarks such as mountains and lakes to help them navigate, but they also used the magnetic field of the earth to help them find their way. They are able to do this by using a substance called magnetite located in their heads, just above their beaks. Our little Summer Tanagers had a lot of tools to use to help them get to South America, but no one taught them how to use these tools. As our little birds traveled south they joined other Summer Tanagers on their journey. Small flocks were seen traveling through Central America.

When the day length becomes longer and temperatures change in their wintering grounds, our birds will start the migration process all over again by heading north!

---

**Which Way Do I Go?**

*By Shirley Farrell*

The male Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*, is a bright red bird, and the female is dull yellow. It is the only bird in North America that is all red! Another cool fact is that this bird LOVES to eat bees and wasps, but will eat other insects and fruit! This tanager will catch a bee in mid-air, land on a tree and then hit the bee against a tree branch to kill it. Before it eats the bee, the bird will rub it against the tree branch to remove the stinger. Another name for the Summer Tanager is the Beebird.

One of our first-year Summer Tanagers was a male bird. He was only about 116 days old, when he left for the lands between southern Mexico to northern South America. He was yellow when he began the journey, however by next spring he will have splotchy yellow and red feathers. He and his siblings had been eating a lot of insects just before they flew south. They were putting on weight (fat) because they needed the extra energy for the long flight to the winter grounds.

How did our baby birds know where to migrate? Some scientists think some birds are programmed in their genes to know where to go in migration. The birds not only used the sun, the stars, the moon, and landmarks such as mountains and lakes to help them navigate, but they also used the magnetic field of the earth to help them find their way. They are able to do this by using a substance called magnetite located in their heads, just above their beaks. Our little Summer Tanagers had a lot of tools to use to help them get to South America, but no one taught them how to use these tools. As our little birds traveled south they joined other Summer Tanagers on their journey. Small flocks were seen traveling through Central America.

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We are looking for artists and writers: Send us your pictures, journal pages, stories and poems about birds, nature, wildlife, etc. If selected, your original work will be published in the *Flicker Flashes.*

Do you have any suggestions as to what you would like to read about in Kid's Corner? Send your ideas to:

Birmingham Audubon Society  
c/o Mcwane Science Center  
Attn: Kids Corner  
200 19th Street North  
Birmingham, AL 35203-3117
Audubon Nature Camp at Whele

The Education Committee kicked off the summer by hosting the first Audubon Nature Camp at Whele. Seven educators from the Birmingham Metro area joined us at the Elhew Field Station and Whele Nature Center for three days to learn about many of the native plants and animals of the longleaf pine ecosystem. This workshop gave the teachers an opportunity to study this fascinating habitat under several experts.

Jimmy and Sierra Stiles brought in many native reptiles and amphibians. They spoke about the animals’ many adaptations and specialized habitat needs. The teachers also received an up-close, hands-on experience with several of the animals. The Stiles shared different computer or smart-phone applications for “herps”, and demonstrated how they could be used both in the classroom and out in the field to help identify many species. That first evening ended with a very enthusiastic frog catching experience at the ponds. The teachers listened to the many different frog and toad vocalizations, and then they tried to catch the animals. I might add that they were very successful at it, too!

The second day started with our educators learning all about MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program) stations and what it requires to band birds. Eric Soehren and John Trent from the Elhew field station set up a mist net and talked about the importance of checking the net regularly for birds. Our first bird was netted within ten minutes, and John retrieved it. It was a beautiful male Yellow-breasted Chat. The chat’s beak and legs were measured, the fat on its belly was checked and its feathers were examined to determine how old this bird was based on the molting cycle. After some great close-up photo opportunities, the chat was released by Traci Ingeright. The look on her face when the bird took flight was priceless! (See the photos on our webpage).

Later in the day, Dr. Alvin Diamond from Troy University took the groups out for a plant field study. Trees, grasses, wild flowers, and shrubs were all discussed in this field presentation. Adaptations of the longleaf pine and other plants were studied in detail, and the importance of prescribed burns was stressed.

Next the group went to examine active Gopher Tortoise burrows with a hope of glimpsing one of the tortoises. The emphasis on reptiles and amphibians continued later that evening with a visit to Alligator Pond, which was full of blooming water lilies and, of course, alligators! This was the site for frog hunting –part deux. Hiking along the pond at night had its surprises, such as the beavers that were not happy with the intrusion on their nightly swim.

The final day was given to planning. The seven teachers were asked to evaluate their time spent at Whele, and how it would help them in the classroom. They were also asked what Audubon could do to further enrich their students’ learning experiences. The partnerships formed with these teachers are just the beginning of many rewarding experiences. These teachers have given BAS a three year commitment to plan and develop future workshops and additional educational materials.

Connections like these are vital, not only to the scientists doing the breeding and population studies, but to the students who can now become part of the process. Engaging and encouraging the youth to participate in conservation efforts is part of the BAS mission, and just from this one workshop we are making great strides thanks to the enthusiasm of the educators who attended. We want to make young people aware that they too can become a research scientist one day. Even now, gifted students in the Hoover School System are designing specialized bird banding bags for the research that is taking place at Whele.

This workshop would not have been made possible without the help of our ten dedicated volunteers from BAS who jumped in to make every aspect of this workshop flow smoothly. It was even a bigger success thanks to the partnership formed with Eric Soehren at the Elhew Field Station.

I thank all those who helped and participated. This was a project that I am glad to have been a part of, and I can’t wait for the next one.

Just a friendly reminder that it is illegal to pick up any feathers, nests or eggs from our wild song birds. Only those who have applied and carry a Federal Permit are able to collect these items for educational purposes. We operate under strict guidelines to protect our feathered friends. Any items dropped off at our office will be destroyed. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Helena Uber-Wamble at 714-8228.
The results of the 2012 BAS Spring Count are listed below. This past winter was the warmest on record and as a result spring arrived earlier than usual. Generally the spring migration period was a lackluster one, and this trend carried over through count day. My thanks to the 24 observers in 14 parties who spent 92.5 party hours in the field (40.25/51.75 car/foot), with 2 hours/8 miles spent owl-ing. 690.7 miles were covered by car and 32.25 miles on foot. Temperatures on count day ranged from 65-82 degrees, with clear to partly cloudy skies and light and variable winds. A respectable 137 species were recorded on count day, with four count week species being recorded.

Snow Goose 3CW  Ruby-throated Hummingbird 9  Chestnut-sided Warbler 1CW
Canada Goose 275  Belted Kingfisher 9  Magnolia Warbler 6
Wood Duck 7  Red-headed Woodpecker 24  Yellow-rumped Warbler 38
American Black Duck 2  Red-bellied Woodpecker 72  Black-throated Green Warbler 3
Mallard 58  Downy Woodpecker 33  Yellow-throated Warbler 2
Blue-winged Teal 13  Hairy Woodpecker 1  Pine Warbler 38
Wild Turkey 4  Northern Flicker 6  Prairie Warbler 15
Common Loon 1  Pileated Woodpecker 14  Palm Warbler 19
Double-crested Cormorant 10  Eastern Wood-Pewee 4  Blackpoll Warbler 1
Ainnga 1  Acadian Flycatcher 5  Black-and-white Warbler 12
American Bittern 1  Eastern Phoebe 80  American Redstart 3
Great Blue Heron 130  Great Crested Flycatcher 63  Prothonotary Warbler 1
Great Egret 109  Eastern Kingbird 60  Worm-eating Warbler 3
Snowy Egret 2  Loggerhead Shrike 3  Swainson's Warbler 1CW
Cattle Egret 5  White-eyed Vireo 75  Northern Waterthrush 1
Green Heron 18  Yellow-throated Vireo 12  Louisiana Waterthrush 9
Black-crowned Night Heron 3  Philadelphia Vireo 1  Kentucky Warbler 15
Yellow-crowned Night Heron 11  Red-eyed Vireo 78  Common Yellowthroat 26
Black Vulture 34  Blue Jay 102  Hooded Warbler 33
Turkey Vulture 37  American Crow 226  Yellow-breasted Chat 29
Osprey 5  Fish Crow 6  Eastern Towhee 161
Mississippi Kite 18  Purple Martin 216  Chipping Sparrow 41
Bald Eagle 3  Tree Swallow 12  Field Sparrow 14
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  Northern Rough-winged Swallow 159  Savannah Sparrow 10
Cooper's Hawk 6  Cliff Swallow 218  Song Sparrow 5
Red-shouldered Hawk 22  Barn Swallow 165  Swamp Sparrow 1
Broad-winged Hawk 13  Carolina Chickadee 83  White-throated Sparrow 4
Red-tailed Hawk 16  Tufted Titmouse 134  Summer Tanager 35
American Kestrel 1  White-breasted Nuthatch 13  Scarlet Tanager 17
Sora 1  Brown-headed Nuthatch 39  Northern Cardinal 338
American Coot 12  Carolina Wren 100  Rose-breasted Grosbeak 27
Killdeer 34  House Wren 1  Blue Grosbeak 32
Spotted Sandpiper 2  Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 46  Indigo Bunting 100
Greater Yellowlegs 3  Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1  Dickcissel 2
Lesser Yellowlegs 7  Eastern Bluebird 137  Bobolink 7
Solitary Sandpiper 3  Veery 2  Red-winged Blackbird 236
Least Sandpiper 15  Swainson's Thrush 2  Eastern Meadowlark 75
Wilson's Snipe 2  Wood Thrush 33  Common Grackle 112
Royal Tern 6  American Robin 134  Brown-headed Cowbird 81
Rock Pigeon 35  Gray Catbird 33  Orchard Oriole 34
Eurasian Collared-Dove 1  Northern Mockingbird 262  Baltimore Oriole 6
Mourning Dove 222  Brown Thrasher 85  House Finch 69
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1  European Starling 175  Pine Siskin 16
Great Horned Owl 1  Cedar Waxwing 279  American Goldfinch 70
Barred Owl 8  Tennessee Warbler 3  House Sparrow 74
Chuck-will's-widow 4  Orange-crowned Warbler 1CW
Whip-poor-will 2  Northern Parula 4
Chimney Swift 160  Yellow Warbler 3

Total 6,374

~ Membership Application ~

Birmingham Audubon Society/National Audubon Society*

- Birmingham Audubon Society
  New Members and Renewals $20.00
  Seniors (62 or better) $15.00
  Full-time Students $15.00

- National Audubon Society
  New Members* $20.00
  Seniors (62 or better) $15.00
  Full-time Students $15.00

* NAS will contact you directly for membership renewal

Make check payable to: Birmingham Audubon Society
Send application and check to:

Birmingham Audubon Society
c/o McWane Science Center
200 19th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203-3117

Make check payable to: National Audubon Society
Send application and check to:

National Audubon Society
c/o McWane Science Center
200 19th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203-3117

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
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Phone: (      ) ______________________  Email: ______________________________

☐ I want to opt-out of receiving a printed copy of Flicker Flashes
My check for $___________ is enclosed.

Phone: (205) 714-8227
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Birmingham Audubon Society is tax exempt under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code

* There are two ways to become a member of Birmingham Audubon Society:

1. **Join Birmingham Audubon Society** without National Audubon Society affiliation. This chapter only membership provides you access to all chapter activities and benefits. **All dues stay in Birmingham to support local activities. You will not receive the National Audubon magazine.**

   — OR —

2. **Join National Audubon Society.** Birmingham Audubon Society serves as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Joining National Audubon Society also provides you a membership to Birmingham Audubon Society and access to all chapter activities and benefits. **You will receive the National Audubon magazine. Your dues support the work of National Audubon Society and a small percentage of your first year dues are returned to the Birmingham Audubon Society for local efforts.**

(Continued from page 5, Submitting Articles for Publication)

We also welcome information to be included in updates to the BAS web page. Items to be considered need to be submitted electronically, if possible. Please attach your text or word processing file to an e-mail message addressed to Jean Folsom at: jkfolsom@gmail.com.

Attached files can be in the following formats: text or Microsoft Word. Files that originate on the Macintosh or the PC can usually be handled, but if you attach Macintosh files to your e-mail, be sure to turn compression "off" and to select AppleDouble mode for the attachment. Material received in hard copy will also be considered for inclusion on the web page if time and schedules permit.

The Birmingham Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges the following gifts and memorial donations:

Gifts to BAS were made in remembrance of Madge Roberts Schraber by Elberta Reid and Virginia B. Burnum.
A gift was received from Mrs. Allen D. Rushton
September 2012

1  Flicker Flashes articles due, October issue
3  BAS 1/2 day Field Trip, Russ Bailey Memorial trip to Lake Purdy
15  BAS Field Trip, Ruffner Mountain
20  Board Meeting, Birmingham Zoo Auditorium (BZA), 5:45 p.m.
    General Meeting, BZA, 7:00 p.m.
    Suzanne Langley, “The Walden Pond Moment”
29  47th Annual BAS Fall Bird Count
29  Flutter and Flight Fest at Ruffner Mountain

October 2012

1  Flicker Flashes articles due, November/December issue
4-6  Alabama Costal Bird Fest
12-14  Alabama Ornithological Society meeting, Dauphin Island, AL
17  Board Meeting, Location TBA, 5:45 p.m.
    General Meeting, TBA, 7:00 p.m.
    Herb Lewis, “Gardening for Birds”
20  BAS Field Trip, Fort Toulouse, Confederate Memorial Park and Jackson Island
25  “Ferns of Alabama” book signing at Botanical Gardens
27  Watercress Darter NWR workday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
TBD  Audubon Teaches Nature, The Wildlife Center, 2:00 p.m.

Copies of *Flicker Flashes* can be viewed and downloaded from the BAS web site: www.birminghamaudubon.org