

ALABAMA AUDUBON



BIRDING

CELEBRATING THE
BIRDS & BEAUTY
OF THE BLACK BELT

AUGUST 4 & 5, 2023 / GREENSBORO, AL



ALABAMA AUDUBON

BLACK BELTBIRDINGFESTIVAL2023

Forever Wild Field Trail Area (State Cattle Ranch)

\$30 / 6am–8:30am

One of the birdiest sites in the Black Belt, this site offers a mix of wetlands, grassland, and forest. Species we may see include Wood Stork, Anhinga, Blue-winged Teal, White Ibis, several heron and egret species, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Common Gallinules, American Kestrel (southeastern race), Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, and Dickcissel. This is the best location for an unexpected species including early migrant shorebirds, ducks, and terns.

Old Cahawba: Prairie Tract and Archaeological Site

\$30 / 6am–8:15am

Search for grassland, scrub, and river forest birds at one of the most beautiful of the Black Belt prairies, which happens to be the site of Alabama's first state capitol. Birds we hope to see include the Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Bobwhite (quail), Yellow-throated and Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Parula, and American Redstart. We will also pause to admire some of the region's iconic prairie plants.

Payne Lake Recreation Area

\$30 / 6am–8:30am

Payne Lake is an oasis for birds and birders in one of Alabama's finest national forests. The diverse mix of habitats offers a chance to see many warblers including Kentucky, Black-and-white, Prairie, Hooded, Swainson's, and Northern Parula. Also abundant here are the Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Orchard Oriole. With luck, we might see a Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Perry Lakes Park

\$30 / 6am–8:30am

One of the most popular birding sites in the Black Belt, Perry Lakes Park is a mix of bottomland forest, oxbow lakes, and swamp. A highlight is the restored fire tower where birders can see eye-to-eye with birds in the canopy. Species we may see include Bald Eagle, Wood Duck, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Little Blue Heron, Northern Parula, Barred Owl, Red-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager.

Downtown Birding for Beginners

Free Event / 7am–8:30am

Get to know Downtown Greensboro's birds with an easy stroll along the city's historic streets on a quiet Saturday morning. This outing is open to all, but it is particularly designed for those who are new to birding, or bird curious, and want to meet others with similar interests.

Birdability Accessible Driving Tour

\$30 / 7am–9am

A driving tour of bird habitats of the Black Belt, including catfish ponds, fields, and forest edges. The event is designed for birding from the car with occasional stops and minimal walking. Birds we may see include American White Pelicans, Wood Storks, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Bald Eagles, Black and Turkey Vultures, Dickcissels, herons and egrets, Eastern Kingbirds, Indigo Buntings, Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, and Red-tailed Hawks.

The Joe Farm

\$40 / 9am–11:30am

Spend a few hours as a guest of the Joe family on their multi-generational Black Angus cattle farm. As we watch, the Joes will harvest hay which can attract many Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites that dive after insects stirred up by the tractor—some at eye-level. As we wait for the kites, enjoy birding the nearby hedgerows and bottomland forest, and chat with the Joes and fellow nature lovers.

Birds of Prey with Alabama Wildlife Center

\$20 / 1:30pm–2:20pm

Meet the staff of the Alabama Wildlife Center and their bird ambassadors—live owls, hawks, kites, and falcons. AWC is Alabama's oldest and largest wildlife rehabilitation facility and cares for almost two thousand wild bird patients each year. The magnificent birds you will meet face-to-face have injuries preventing them from re-entering the wild, so they are used in education to heighten appreciation of Alabama's native wildlife.

Keynote Address

\$15 / 2:30pm–3:30pm

The 2023 Keynote Address will be presented by James Lamb, The Black Belt Museum's Curator of Paleontology from the University of West Alabama in Livingston. Expect interesting correlations presented between avian dinosaurs and modern birds.

Black Warrior River at Moundville

\$30 / 4:15pm–5:15pm

Explore the history and beauty of the Black Warrior River where it flows through the Black Belt at Moundville Archaeological Park. We'll learn about the ecological importance of the river and the important work being done to protect it.

Prairie Restoration at "Contentment"

\$30 / 4:15pm–5:15pm

Enjoy the late afternoon as a guest of Elise Smith at Contentment, the eighty-acre property that she is transforming from agriculture back to native prairie with guidance from regional experts in prairie ecology and botany. We will also view the 19th century cabin used by famous ornithologist William C. Avery, who was Elise's great-great uncle.

Barton's Beach and Endangered Species Tour

\$30 / 4:15pm–6:15pm

Did you know that Alabama is a global hotspot for freshwater animals? First, we will tour a world-class facility where biologists are raising endangered mollusks for release into the wild to restore their populations and river ecosystems. Afterwards we will enjoy a short hike to a large sand bar (and local swimming hole!) on the Cahaba River, one of the most biologically diverse rivers in North America. Meet experts from the Cahaba River Society and learn about river creatures and river conservation. And be sure to dip your toes in the river to cool off!

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers & Longleaf Pine Fire Ecology

\$30 / 4:30pm–7:30pm

The endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker is found only in a few pockets of the region's remaining Longleaf Pine forests. We will gather near the nesting trees of the woodpeckers and await their return to roost for the night. While we wait, we'll learn from experts about the biology of the species and about the role that fire plays in maintaining these unique and threatened ecosystems. If the birds return to the roost early, this excursion will not last the full three hours.