



ALABAMA AUDUBON

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## **The Birmingham Audubon Society is now Alabama Audubon**

*Name change for long-established conservation leader reflects statewide reach*

BIRMINGHAM, AL, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019—Following a recommendation by the nonprofit’s Board of Directors, the membership of the Birmingham Audubon Society voted on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, to change the organization’s name to Alabama Audubon.

“Whether you consider our field trips, our outreach, or our coastal conservation work, Birmingham Audubon has really had a statewide reach for a long time,” said Lori Oswald, Board President. “As Alabama Audubon, we’ll be even better positioned to help conserve birds and educate bird lovers throughout the state.”

Established in 1946 and granted 501(c)(3) status in 1976, the organization has played a major role in the history of Alabama’s conservation movement, assisting with the establishment of the Sipsey Wilderness and the Forever Wild Land Trust, among other victories. Since hiring its first full-time staff member in 2013, the nonprofit has grown to include eight full-time and two seasonal staff positions, split between its headquarters in Birmingham and a coastal office in Mobile. With its mission to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world, Oswald says Alabama Audubon will continue to focus on programs as diverse as urban habitat restoration, chimney swift conservation, coastal bird monitoring, and adult birding classes.

“Alabama Audubon knows that when we protect birds and the places they need, we create healthier communities for people too,” said National Audubon Society Chief Network Officer David J. Ringer. “Alabama Audubon is a strong partner organization to the National Audubon Society and our network of chapters and student clubs nationwide, leading the way in developing innovative programs that benefit the birds, people, and economy of Alabama.”

“In many ways, the new name is a more accurate reflection of who we’ve become,” says Executive Director Ansel Payne. “We’ve done a lot of conservation work on the Gulf Coast. We’ve spearheaded bird-based economic development in the Black Belt. And we’ve hosted field trips to just about every ecoregion and habitat in the state. Changing our name is just our way of making sure that all Alabamians know that they can get involved with birding and conservation, no matter where they live.”

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A certified chapter of the National Audubon Society and an independent 501(c)(3) organization, **Alabama Audubon**’s mission is to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world. Find out more at [alaudubon.org](http://alaudubon.org), or follow us on social media @alaudubon (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).