

What's Happening

I have been bird watching from my windows, and the Titmice and Chickadees are in full force. The Goldfinches did not arrive until about 10 days ago, rather late for the back yard. They are usually here around Christmas, and they must be hungry; I can't keep my feeders filled. I have also watched the birds drink and bathe in my little water feature, b-r-r-r, but it reminds me how important water is even in the winter. I have seen only one Ruby-Crowned Kinglet this year and so far no White-Throated Sparrows -- I usually have 6-8 around at any one time.

Several CBA members met for dinner and discussed the upcoming field trips. Chazz has some family obligations so the decision was made for various volunteers to lead the field trips. Howard Horne will lead the first trip to the Gulf Shores area. Chazz will take us to Bayou la Batre to look for sparrows and watch the blackbirds come in to roost. Note that this is an afternoon trip. Joan and Tom Siegwald will take over for a trip around the Mobile Delta and the Causeway. In the spring, we will be going to Dauphin Island for migrants. If anyone has questions please call the trip leaders for information, especially if there is a question about the weather conditions.

Also as a reminder, be sure and submit your yearly permission form to the State Docks. It can be downloaded from the AOS website and faxed/mailed to the State Docks authority.

-Sarah Whitfield

CBA

Coastal Birding Association



Field Trips

Late Winter and Spring 2011

Jan. 22: Gulf Shores Area: Fishing Pier, Lake Shelby, Gulf Shores Sewage Lagoons, and Perdido Pass. Meet at **8:00 AM** at Hardee's on Highway 59 in Foley. From there we will travel to Gulf Shores State Park to bird the Lake Shelby/Nature Center facility. Afterwards we will head east to Perdido Pass to look for loons and other seabirds. We will also visit the new Gulf Shores State Park Pier (Note: there is a \$2 entrance fee to walk onto the pier for birding). **Trip Leader: Howard Horne**, e-mail hhorne@earthlink.net, phone 251-605-9043

Jan. 28-30: AOS Winter Meeting: Guntersville, AL. See <http://www.aosbirds.org/documents/Winter2011Registration.pdf> or your Winter AOS newsletter for more information.

Feb. 5: Forever Wild Grand Bay Savannah: Sparrow stomp, Blackbird roosting, American Woodcocks. Meet at **2:00 PM** at the Hardee's on Hwy 188 in Bayou la Batre. From Hardee's we will carpool to Alabama's Forever Wild Grand Bay Savannah Tract for Henslow's, Le Conte's, Grasshopper Sparrows and wren species. Be prepared for wet conditions; **WATERPROOF BOOTS** and warm clothes are advised. Sunset is at 5:30 so we will begin our blackbird watch around 4:00. **This is an afternoon field trip.** **Trip Leader: Chazz Hesselein**, e-mail chazz@hesselein.com, phone 251-581-0073

Feb. 26: Mobile Delta, Causeway Birding: Five Rivers area, Meaher State Park, Battleship Park, Blakeley Mud Lakes. Meet at **8:00 AM** at the Five Rivers museum/meeting complex. Sparrows, nuthatches, rails, waterfowl, shorebirds and more; the Mobile delta bird pallet is varied and surprises may be in store! We will start birding at Five Rivers and work our way west! **Trip Leaders: Joan and Tom Siegwald**, e-mail siegwald@shc.edu, phone 251-605-2989

State Docks Visitation Rules

If you plan a field trip after January 1, 2011, to the Mobile causeway dikes that are managed by the Alabama State Port Authority, you **must** fill out the permit for visitation and return it by mail or fax to the Mobile office. This permit **must** be renewed for each calendar year.

Birders are able to visit the dikes at any time but they must first notify the State Docks, weekdays at (251) 441-7085 or weekend (251) 441-7777, of the details of the visit. Remember: do not leave the dike pathway for any reason and do not attempt to visit any site that is under active management. You cannot drive your car onto dikes and you must leave your car parked in a safe location off the main road without blocking any entrances. You are **required** to place a copy of the Mudlakes Visitors Pass on the windshield of your car while you are visiting the dikes.

Forms can be obtained from the AOS web site:
www.aosbirds.org.

CBA Membership

Coastal Birding Association is a chapter of the Alabama Ornithological Society and all CBA members must also be AOS members. To join or continue membership in CBA, send dues to the AOS treasurer yearly:

Mary Frances Stayton	2011 AOS dues *
952 Mockingbird Lane	+ 2011 CBA dues (\$5.00)
Leeds, AL 35094	_____ Total

*AOS dues: Student: \$10; Individual: \$25; Family: \$40; Sustaining: \$50
Life (individual): \$350 Life (family): \$550

Address correspondence concerning membership to: Mary Frances Stayton -- E-mail: lovingcats@windstream.net

CBA members continue to maintain and fund two water features on Dauphin Island during spring and fall migration. Your dues are dedicated to production of this newsletter, support of the water drips, and small projects on Dauphin Island and in the southwest section of Alabama. Thanks so much for your assistance and support.

Coastal Birding Association
Betsy Eagar, Editor
4254 Taurus Drive
Mobile, AL 36693



CBA OFFICERS

President: **Sarah Whitfield**
sarahwhitfield2010@comcast.net
Field Trips: **Volunteer Needed**
Treasurer: **Sandra Kendall**
sfkendall@bellsouth.net

www.coastalbirdingassoc.org

FIELD TRIPS cont.

March 19: Dauphin Island for Early Migrants:
Shell Mounds, the airport, Pelican Peninsula, the East End.
Meet at **8:00 AM** at the Shell Mounds southern parking entrance. After birding the Shell Mounds we will go to wherever conditions, scouting and the desires of the group lead us! **Trip Leaders: John Stowers (Sto), e-mail Jwstowers@aol.com, phone 334-399-4498 and Sarah Whitfield, e-mail sarahwhitfield2010@comcast.net, phone 251-344-8158**

April 9: Dauphin Island, Peak Spring Migration:
Shell Mounds, the airport, Pelican Peninsula, the East End.
Meet at **8:00 AM** at the Shell Mounds southern parking entrance. After birding the Shell Mounds we will go to wherever conditions, scouting and the desires of the group lead us! **Trip Leaders: John Stowers (Sto), e-mail Jwstowers@aol.com, phone 334-399-4498 and Sarah Whitfield, e-mail sarahwhitfield2010@comcast.net, phone 251-344-8158**

April 15-18: AOS Spring Meeting: Dauphin Island, AL. See your Spring AOS newsletter or <http://www.aosbirds.org/meetings.php> for more information.

Attention CBA Members:

We are encouraging all CBA members to sign up for the Coastalbirds Yahoo group listserv so that we can facilitate timely CBA communication. Some folks are reluctant to sign up for another mailing list that fills their mailbox; however, since its inception in July 2008 there have only been 247 Coastalbirds postings -- that's about one posting every four days. The benefits of the Yahoo group are: 1) CBA members can sign up when they want. 2) Group members can select whether they get e-mails in their e-mail box or read them online or even select the type of e-mails they get. 3) Members can join or leave the group or change their group settings whenever they wish. To join this listserv, contact Chazz Hesselein, e-mail chazz@hesselein.com or phone 251-666-3118