

What's Happening

OIL and HEAT, they seem to be the topics of the summer beginning with the spill in April. I am concerned about the effects of both on the birds. The news reports say that all but 25% of the oil has been skimmed, dispersed or whatever...but where is the 25%? And what will it do in the future? No one seems to know or even has a projection.

Sandra Kendall and I attended a Nature Conservancy meeting in May and heard a young man describe his endeavor to rebuild the oyster reefs in this area; now he is trying to save them. When established, the reefs not only will provide oysters but will also help rebuild the marsh and wetlands behind the reefs. I am always amazed about how interconnected our world is. The oil spill and the Conservancy's response was also a topic at the meeting, and in May there were so many more unanswered questions and issues. Since then we have seen bird rescue and cleaning and release and the turtle egg rescue, transport, hatching and release. However, the last I heard 2,000 birds have died, plus mammals, and sea turtles.

On a much brighter note, our field trip leader, Chazz Hesselein, has planned terrific birding excursions for us; one is to Louisiana to look for Yellow Rails during the rice harvest. This is something I have only read about. So please check the information for this trip - you are responsible for your own arrangements. Our August trips will begin EARLY to avoid the major heat of the day (BRING WATER), so again check your trip list for changes to our usual times. I am looking forward to a good birding year.

-Sarah Whitfield
President, CBA

CBA

Coastal Birding Association



Field Trips

Fall 2010

August 14th Dauphin Island: Pelican Peninsula and Shell Mound Park Meet at **6:45 AM** at the Public Beach Parking area we will spend about an hour birding on the peninsula, stop for a refreshment at the Bakery (or wherever attendees want to go) and then meet again at the Shell Mound Park to look for *CERULEAN WARBLER* and other early fall migrants. If members have the energy we can carpool to the West End for shorebirds. We should finish up around 11 AM. ***Please bring water for our walk on the beach and bug repellent for the Shell Mounds.***

August 28th Blakeley Island Mud Lakes and Battleship Park: Causeway birding and shorebirds Meet at **7 AM** at the Alabama Game and Fish Commission Office Parking lot adjacent to the Five Rivers facility. You must have filled out your annual hold harmless form in order to get on the State Dock's property. Please visit: <http://www.aosbirds.org/blakeley.php> for the form and instructions. ***No one will be allowed to attend the field trip who has not filled out and submitted their hold harmless form. Please bring bug repellent and carry water on this trip. There are no facilities at the Mud Lakes.*** We can go out to brunch at Spot of Tea or lunch at Ed's Seafood Shed, depending on the time, after the field trip.

October 2nd Fort Morgan: Fall Migrants and Western Vagrants Meet at **8:00 AM** at the Fort's stable grounds near the entrance. Birders are asked to pay the \$5 entrance fee to the park. Birders coming from Mobile can meet at **6:50 AM** at the [D'Olive Bay Overlook](#) behind the Shell Station on Hwy 98 in Daphne and carpool from there. ***Please bring bug repellent.*** We will picnic on the grounds of the fort after the field trip.

State Docks Visitation Rules

If you plan a field trip after January 1, 2010, 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 weekends (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](#).

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	2010 AOS dues *
952 Mockingbird Lane	+ 2010 CBA dues (\$5.00)
Leeds, AL 35094	_____ Total

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

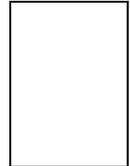
Address correspondence concerning membership to: Mary Frances Stayton
-- E-mail: lovingcats@windstream.net

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
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CBA OFFICERS

President: **Sarah Whitfield**
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FIELD TRIPS cont.

October 8-10th Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) Meeting/Dauphin Island Check your Fall AOS newsletter for more information.

October 14-17th Alabama Coastal Bird Festival Check out <http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com/> for information on trips and speakers. Contact [Roger Clay](#) (251-626-5474) for volunteer opportunities.

November 4-6th Jennings, LA: The second annual "Yellow Rails and Rice Festival". As the name suggests, Yellow Rails are the target species at the [Yellow Rails and Rice Festival](#). This festival provides an excellent opportunity to see this elusive species during rice harvest, maybe even from the cab of a rice harvester! We will leave Mobile at **3:00 PM** on Friday,

November 5th for Saturday's program. Park your cars at 6024 Cooper Dr. and we will car pool to Louisiana from there. You will have to make your own accommodation and festival reservations. [The Hampton Inn & Suites in Jennings](#) offers special rates to festival attendees (1-337-824-2699).

November 20th Baldwin County Birding: Magnolia Springs Landfill and Fairhope Falls subdivision Meet at **8:00 AM** at the Magnolia Springs Landfill parking lot. This site has been the premier gull viewing area in south Alabama. From there we will visit the so far undeveloped Fairhope Falls subdivision, just west of Silver Hill on the south side of Hwy 104. This area was excellent for sparrows last year has several ponds where waterfowl can be seen and a trail through a wooded area. Birders coming from Mobile can meet at **7:10 AM** at the [D'Olive Bay Overlook](#) behind the Shell Station on Hwy 98 in Daphne and carpool from there.