

**ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE
Dauphin Island, Alabama
April 20-22, 2018**

**Unless otherwise noted, all activities begin or occur at the Isle Dauphine Supper Club,
100B Orleans Drive, Dauphin Island**

*To register online for the Spring Meeting, go to:
<http://www.aosbirds.org/aos-meeting-registration/>*

FRIDAY, April 20, 2018

7:30 a.m. Field Trip

Baldwin County Birds and Blooms

See field trip descriptions below for details.

5:00 p.m. Registration, Social Hour *(non-alcoholic beverages only)*

Where: Isle Dauphine Supper Club, 100B Orleans Drive, Dauphin Island

6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper

Please bring a dish to share! Bring your favorite appetizer for the social hour, a main course dish for supper, a dessert, or all of the above!

6:45 p.m. Announcements

7:00 p.m. Members Photography Slide Show

8:00 p.m. Discussion of Weekend Field Trips

8:30 p.m. Adjourn

SATURDAY, April 21, 2018

7:00 a.m. Field Trips

Where: Isle Dauphine Supper Club, 100B Orleans Drive, Dauphin Island

Field Trip 1: Exploring Dauphin Island with Dr. Mark Woodrey

Field Trip 2: Birds of Pelican Bay Peninsula with Andrew Haffenden

See field trip descriptions below for details.

11:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch at the home of Jennie Stowers

3:00 p.m. Board Meeting

5:00 p.m. Registration

5:30 p.m. BANQUET AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Where: Isle Dauphine Supper Club, 100B Orleans Drive, Dauphin Island

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

(Please note that only non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Donations benefit the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary)

6:30 p.m. Banquet

7:15 p.m. Announcements

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Mark Woodrey: The Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

SUNDAY, April 22, 2018

7:30 a.m. Field Trip to Blakeley Island Mud Lakes

Meeting Place: Green Park (next to Ship & Shore)

See field trip descriptions below for details and requirements.

12:00 p.m. Compilation

(Includes all bird sightings in Mobile and Baldwin Counties from noon, Friday, April 20, 2018, to noon Sunday.)

At the Goat Trees.

1:00 p.m. Adjourn

FIELD TRIPS

Friday, April 20, 2018

Baldwin County Birds and Blooms

Leader: Andrew Haffenden

Meeting Time: 6:30-6:45 a.m., depart 6:45 a.m.

Meeting Place: Isle Dauphine Supper Club, 100B Orleans Drive, Dauphin Island

Andrew Haffenden will share his birding skills as we visit a number of sites in Baldwin County. We'll start at Splinter Hill Bog, among acres of blooming pitcher plants and many sundews. This bog is one of the largest White-topped Pitcher Plant bogs in America, with four other plant species also present. Our main birding goal, Bachman's Sparrow, should be singing from exposed perches. Other birds include woodpeckers, Brown-headed Nuthatch, possibly Grasshopper Sparrow and others typical of Longleaf Pine habitat. Next, we return to the coast and Meaher State Park to observe birds from the boardwalk in the shallows of Mobile Bay. The park can hold a variety of birds including shorebirds, herons and egrets, gallinules, Boat-tailed Grackle, occasionally Anhinga, Roseate Spoonbill and Groove-billed Ani. Alligators are also regular here. Continuing along the Mobile Causeway, our next stop (around 11:30-11:45) is Felix's Fish Camp Grill on the Causeway, where we can bird from the deck overlooking Mobile Bay while eating some of the best seafood in Alabama. After lunch we return to Dauphin Island, arriving by 3 P.M. in time for the incoming migrants.

*Note: Those coming south on Friday can meet us at Splinter Hill Bog at 8:30-8:45 A.M. and those staying in Tillman's Corner can meet us at Walmart. **Please email Andrew with your contact information at andrew@natasp.com if you plan to attend so any last minute changes can be sent to you.***

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Exploring Dauphin Island with Dr. Mark Woodrey

Trip Leader: TBA

Meeting Time: 7:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: Isle Dauphine Supper Club, 100B Orleans Drive, Dauphin Island

We'll bird the varied habitats of Dauphin Island with our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Mark Woodrey, starting at the airport for rails and sparrows, then to the Shell Mounds for warblers, vireos, tanagers and any other Neotropical migrants we can find. In addition to the Shell Mounds we'll check out the Audubon Sanctuary and other island hotspots, aided by the cellphone network of sightings by other birders on the island. We'll finish in time for the potluck lunch at Jennie Stowers' house, overlooking Bayou Heron and Graveline Bay.

Birds of Pelican Island

Trip Leader: Andrew Haffenden

Meeting Time: 7:15 a.m.

Meeting Place: Isle Dauphine Supper Club, 100B Orleans Drive, Dauphin Island

Join DI resident Andrew Haffenden to get to know the birds of Alabama's richest beach habitat, Pelican Island (formerly an island, now a peninsula), near the eastern end of Dauphin Island. With an eBird count currently standing at 185 species, Pelican Island is exceptional for a strip of beach and dune 100-150 yards wide and just over 2 miles long. We'll take the opportunity to turn the walk into an easy mini-workshop, quickly learning to separate the small plovers from the small sandpipers and from each other, separating often confusing species such as Caspian and Royal Tern, and learning many ID points rarely seen in the guide books. It's an easy walk on flat sand, and our distance traveled depends on how close the birds are to the pier. Participants can return to their cars at any time. There'll be several spotting scopes for general use, which can quickly ramp up your shorebird ID skills. As with the general Dauphin Island outing, we'll back in time for the potluck lunch.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Field Trip to Blakeley Island Mud Lakes

Trip Leader: TBA

Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: Green Park (next to Ship & Shore)

The Blakeley Island Mud Lakes are a complex of disposal ponds that attract large numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl. We'll carpool to the site and walk the dirt road up the dike to view rows of ponds of varying depths. Expect to see American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Stilt Sandpipers, and a variety of other shorebirds, as well as Gull-billed Terns, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, and raptors such as Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and Mississippi Kites. We'll return to Dauphin Island in time for compilation at noon.

Note: A permit form must be lodged with the State Docks Authority prior to your arrival.

Click here: <http://www.aosbirds.org/alabama-birding/blakeley-island/> to register in advance. Registration is valid for the rest of the current year.

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Accommodations on the island are limited, so be sure to make reservations early for AOS Meetings on Dauphin Island.

Websites:

www.gulfinfo.com

www.dauphinisland.chamber.com

Motels:

Gulf Breeze Motel: 251-861-7344 or 1-800-286-0296

Bed and Breakfast:

Dauphin Island Harbor House: 251-861-2119

Rentals:

Boardwalk Realty, Inc.: 877-861-3992

Dauphin Island Real Estate: 888-707-6444

Tyson Real Estate: 800-865-8312

ACP Real Estate, Inc.: 866-861-3311

Camping:

Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board: 251-861-2742
(fully equipped for both camper and tent camping)

Air BnB has lots of rentals! www.airbnb.com