

# THE YELLOWHAMMER

VOLUME 32, NO. 4 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY WINTER 2012

...to foster a greater knowledge of birds and to promote conservation of all natural resources

FOUNDED 1952



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## ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1325, DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL 36528-1325

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# A Greener AOS and Alabama



ERY LIKELY MANY OF YOU HAVE seen the Native American proverb: *"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."* You demonstrated your belief in this by voting to approve Forever Wild for another 20 years. The 75% approval shows us that people truly care about preserving this world for future generations. Sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard to get this amendment approved, many of whom are AOS members. Forever Wild is one way we are helping to promote the conservation of our limited resources, which is a part of the AOS mission.

Listening to Connie Toops at our fall meeting, I was once again reminded that AOS needs to take a more proactive role in conserving our resources. Others in the audience were obviously thinking the same thing based on the emails and remarks I received following the meeting. I want to thank everyone who offered suggestions and assure the entire membership that we were already working on additional eco-friendly options and will continue to pursue those and many more of the suggestions we received. Her reports on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch were enough to make you us want to strengthen our resolve towards eliminating as much of our garbage as possible. It doesn't take more than one photo of a deceased Albatross chick with plastics in its stomach to provide us with a strong incentive to do all we can to prevent this in the future.

The AOS board will be discussing how to make AOS greener at our winter meeting at Joe Wheeler State Park, January 25-27, 2013. If you have any suggestions that you haven't already communicated to us, please share them with us. Hopefully, we will have made several changes by the time of our spring meeting at the Shelby Center on Dauphin Island in April 2013. It should be noted that the Shelby Center is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building—this is one of the reasons we try to keep the doors



to the meeting room shut since the A/C is based on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> being exhaled by the people inside. Even though there is no recycling facility available on Dauphin Island, we have already identified volunteers who are willing to haul our recyclables off-island to a recycling facility. Some of the ways our members can help are:

Bring your own non-plastic water bottle. There are many nice ones available now that can be purchased in almost any retail store including grocery stores. We are exploring the possibility of having some for sale at the AOS meetings which would give you an easy way to purchase

one, and your money would go to AOS.

Make wise purchases by ensuring that the product packaging is recyclable and use reusable containers whenever possible.

Utilize the recycling bins that will be located in and around our meeting room.

Bag up your recyclables where you are staying and take them back home for proper processing or bring them to the Saturday night meeting or compilation for our volunteers to carry off-island.

Please be aware that we are somewhat restricted by the facility where we are meeting and whoever is providing the food, but we will make every effort to do our part in making this a greener world both for ourselves and for future generations.

Let's all do our part to make AOS a more eco-friendly organization and set a positive example for those to follow.

## Deadlines for Yellowhammer Submissions

Spring 2013	February 10, 2013
Summer 2013	June 10, 2013
Fall 2013	August 10, 2012

# Birding Locations near Joe Wheeler State Park

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Damien and Steve were kind enough to put together this list of possible places to bird if you arrive early for the winter meeting, or if you miss a fieldtrip.*

NABT = North Alabama Birding Trail (<http://www.northalabamabirdingtrail.com/>)

## STATE PARK (NABT #3)

The road into the park from US 72 is bordered by stable habitat that has many possible birding areas. The spots mentioned here are just tastes. About 1.5 miles from US 72 check the area around the Weaver/Neeley Branch crossings for wetland species. As the road nears the lodge, check the day use area on the left and the sewage treatment pond on the right near the golf course. The mouth of First Creek as seen from behind the lodge itself has also produced nice birding in the past.

## ELK RIVER AND SECOND CREEK

When leaving the park, turn right on US 72 and travel east for around 6.0 miles to the Elk River Bridge. There are several back roads and pull-offs from the main highway here that provide various views of the river. One of Alabama's first records for Little Gull was at this spot years ago, and birders traveling later to search for it found a Red Phalarope!

Backtrack west on US 72 through Rogersville to around 3.0 miles past the state park entrance, to the crossing for Second Creek. Park carefully and check both sides of the creek here for birds—the north side seems to have more. The first road on the right, west of the bridge, will parallel the water for some distance, providing a more complete afternoon view of the widened creek. Expect ducks and gulls.



## WHEELER DAM (NABT #2)

From US 72 in Elgin turn south on AL 101 at signs for Wheeler Dam. Just before reaching the dam's north end, turn left and park in the small picnic parking area overlooking the upper locks. Gulls frequently accumulate here and also in groups out on the lake near the dam. The lower north locks are closed to visitors. NOTE: This area is best viewed mid to late afternoon (sun's angle). After checking this spot, continue across the dam and check the fishing access area and boat ramps below the dam reached by turning right just past the park office. Expect ducks, gulls, loons, and possibly eagles in this

area. NOTE: the south dam overlook area is now closed to the public.

## TOWN CREEK MARSH (NABT #4)

From the south end of Wheeler Dam follow AL 101 south toward Town Creek for a few miles to the intersection of County Road 314 (Foster Mill Road) at signs for Doublehead Resort. Turn right and go a few miles to where the water and cattail marsh meets the road on the right just before the T-intersection with County 40 (River Road). Stop and check here. Also turn right at County 40 and stop and check the area around the concrete bridge. Virginia Rail has wintered here and other marsh birds are to be expected. If mudflats are present winter shorebirds may be here.

## THE POINT

From the small concrete bridge continue on County 40 and take the first right turn in a short distance (Point Road). Follow the road along the ridge to a stop sign. Turn right onto Lakewood View. Check area around boat ramp and the old restaurant where views of the river at the mouth of Town



Creek are possible. Expect ducks, gulls, loons, etc. There are usually rafts of scaup in the area that sometime attract rarer species. Be aware most of this area is now posted "No Trespassing."

#### WILSON DAM (NABT #6&7)

To continue route, return to County 40 and go west for around 10 miles to reach Wilson Dam—follow signs. (Note: To reach dam from US 72 just east of Florence, follow signs and AL 133 south). Check visitor overlooks at south end (last right and left turns just before starting over dam if traveling north on AL 133). Locks on north end are closed to visitors—no access on north end. Another spot to check is the fishing access/boat ramp area reached from AL 133 just south of dam (follow signs at right turn). Expect gulls, diving ducks, and herons. Eagles, loons, and grebes are possible.

#### TVA RESERVATION NATURE TRAIL (NABT #8)

From Wilson Dam go south on AL 133 and follow Reservation Road (continue straight) at traffic light in 1.0 miles. Go another 1.6 miles to signed right turn for trail parking area. Main trail begins at back of second parking area (past restrooms). Main paved loop is around 2.5 miles long. Expect winter woodland and edge species. E. Screech-Owl and Barred Owl are resident.

#### IFDC (WETLANDS) TRAIL

Continue west for another 0.4 miles to the next intersection (Complex F) and turn left. In 0.2 miles turn right at intersection toward the IFDC pilot plant (look for greenhouses on the left). Park in the parking lot on the left and walk the gravel road beyond for a mile or so. At the T-Intersection, walk to the left a few hundred yards to abandoned railroad tracks. Expect more winter passerine species.

#### CYPRESS CREEK WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY

Return to Reservation Road and continue to a traffic light at US 43. Turn right and follow US 43 north across the river to Florence. After crossing O'Neal bridge, the first highway exit will be for AL 20 west. Take this exit, loop under US 43, and turn left to access AL 20. Follow AL 20 west a few miles, and the entrance to the waste treatment facility will be on the left, immediately after you cross Cypress Creek bridge. Follow the entrance road into the facility (Note: if gate is open,

the facility is open for public access). After passing the treatment buildings and equipment, stop at the last building and check in at the office to let them know you will be watching ducks on the waste treatment ponds. ALL visitors must check into the office. Expect a variety of ducks, primarily Shovelers, Bufflehead, Scaup, and Ring-necked Ducks. A female Long-tailed Duck has wintered here each of the past two years.

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### *Dues News*

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. If you haven't renewed your AOS membership, please do. We want you to keep you as a member, and you want to continue to enjoy all the benefits you get from being part of AOS.

Speaking of the benefits of membership, do you have any friends (Facebook or otherwise) who might be interested in AOS? Please let them know, or get me their name, and I'd be glad to get in touch. My email is lgardellabirds@charter.net.

—Larry Gardella

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### *New Members*

John Andrew Arnold

Susan Barrow

Diane Dickinson

Suzanne Langley

A donation was made in honor of Linda & Dick Reynolds from Bianca Allen, Diane Dickinson and Charlotte Fanz.

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### *Thanks for the Stories*

IF YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE, STORY, OR AMUSING INCIDENT YOU would like to share, please send it to the Editor. Electronic versions are much easier to copy and paste, but send them by snail mail or paper airplane if you can make one. The addresses are on the back cover.

Please send other articles about your birding adventures, trips, yard sightings, or just short vignettes that were interesting, different, or amusing.

AOS FALL MEETING, OCTOBER 12-14, 2012

## Fall Meeting Report

By GREG HARBER & BOB REED



OME OF US REMEMBER HAVING TO WEAR JACKETS at the October meetings at least until noon. What happened? Now it seems they just get hotter and hotter.

Friday proved to be a bit more birdy than Saturday, thankfully. It seems every October the birds get scarcer, leaving one with the dismal thought of what it will be like in ten years. The Clay-colored Sparrows at Fort Gaines proved reliable, but at the cost of 15 minutes of removing sand spurs from shoes and pants so as not to spread them farther. Friday evening was a treat with several slide presentations, including one from Alaska, and one from Dauphin Island.

As has been the custom, we all enjoyed John and Jennie's incomparable gumbo and hospitality for lunch Saturday. An Osprey standing in the surf made for an interesting sight from their deck.

As has also been the custom, the Saturday evening meal was quite tasty with two flavors of cobbler and bananas foster in the offering for dessert—yummy! The evening program was among the most enjoyable I can recall at an AOS meeting, and based on the comments I heard from others following the program, they agree.

Connie Toops' recollection of her experiences on Midway Atoll following last year's devastating earthquake in Japan was riveting. Her pleasant narrative began with a description of the geologic origins of this tiny Pacific island, followed by a summary of its role in the history of World War II. Connie then shared with the audience the origins of her trip (accompanying a photographer friend) and the birds and other island life she found once she arrived—all captured in her slides. I had no idea albatrosses could be so numerous—and talk about approachable!

One telling bit of information in Connie's talk pertained to the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" and its impact on wildlife. While I have heard of this floating mass of refuse in the north Pacific, and know of the devastating impact that

plastic can have on wildlife, one slide in particular brought it home in one stark image: an empty albatross nest, filled with many small bits of plastic, bottle caps, debris, etc. The plastic was what remained after the young chick had died due to starvation and its body had returned to the elements. Its stomach was so full of plastic that it could not digest the other food items the parents had regurgitated. While I consider myself a conscientious recycler, I vowed that evening that I was going to be more diligent in my efforts. I hope you will too.

Sunday morning dawned a bit cloudy, but that worked to the advantage of the field trippers who opted to visit Pelican Island, since it meant the morning temperatures would be a bit more tolerable. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull and a handful of various shorebirds and egrets were the first birds seen from the pier, along with the bushy tail of a red fox scampering out of sight into the dunes! Further out of the island, the group had close and satisfying views of three plover species: Piping, Semipalmated and Snowy, and four tern species: Caspian, Forster's, Gull-billed and Royal. Fifteen Red Knots were a bonus among the other usual suspects one finds loafing on the beach. A Peregrine Falcon put in a brief appearance, its powerful wing beats slicing the air.

Compilation was held Sunday at noon, under the spreading branches of the Goat Tree. One hundred and forty-one species were tallied over the course of the weekend. Thrushes were almost completely missing from the tally with only bluebirds and Swainson's Thrush making an appearance.

It was good to see many old friends, but rather sad that many others are no longer able to attend. We *must* recruit young people. We must leave behind a generation that knows the joy of birding and the value of saving habitat.

Make plans to attend the winter meeting at Joe Wheeler State Park, where species typical of wintertime in Alabama will be our quest. However, the gulls will be loafing on pilings and not sunning themselves on the beach!

*2012 AOS Fall Meeting Compilation List  
Dauphin Island, Alabama, October 12-14*

**N**OTEWORTHY BIRDS OF THE WEEKEND INCLUDED WHITE IBIS, Glossy Ibis, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The total for the meeting count period was 131.

Mallard  
Mottled Duck  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
American White Pelican  
Brown Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Reddish Egret  
Cattle Egret  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
White Ibis  
Glossy Ibis  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Peregrine Falcon  
Clapper Rail  
Virginia Rail  
American Coot  
Black-bellied Plover  
Snowy Plover  
Wilson's Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Piping Plover  
Killdeer  
American Oystercatcher  
American Avocet

Spotted Sandpiper  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Willet  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Red Knot  
Sanderling  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Dunlin  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson's Snipe  
Laughing Gull  
Franklin's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Gull-billed Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Common Tern  
Forster's Tern  
Royal Tern  
Sandwich Tern  
Black Skimmer  
Rock Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
White-winged Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Common Gound-Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Great Horned Owl  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Eastern Phoebe  
Western Kingbird  
Eastern Kingbird  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Loggerhead Shrike  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Swainson's Thrush  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Tennessee Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Common Yellowthroat  
Wilson's Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Le Conte's Sparrow  
Nelson's Sparrow  
Seaside Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Summer Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
Boat-tailed Grackle  
House Finch  
House Sparrow

All reported sightings will be accepted and published in *The Yellowhammer*. However, the meeting compilation list in *The Yellowhammer* is not an official record. Species that are **boldfaced**, or listed in the Hypothetical section of the AOS Field Card, must be supported by complete written details and submitted to, and accepted by, the Records Committee to become an official AOS record. *Italicized* species usually need written details but these may be brief. Out of season and locally rare birds should also be documented. Refer to the front page of the AOS Field Card for additional details.

DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA, OCTOBER 13, 2012

# Minutes of the AOS Board Meeting

By DANA HAMILTON, *Secretary*



THE AOS BOARD MET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012 on Dauphin Island, Alabama. The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the April 21, 2012 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Frances Stayton reported that the current AOS checking account balance is \$19,185.16. No expenses from the fall meeting have been paid.

**President's Report:** Bianca (BJ) Allen led a discussion regarding guest speakers for the upcoming meetings in 2013. She advised that several AOS members have told her that they were very pleased to have Connie Toups as the guest speaker for the AOS fall meeting. BJ also commended Mike Tafra at the Gulf Breeze Motel who provides a complimentary room to the AOS guest speaker.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Conservation Report:** Greg Harber provided copies of correspondence he has written on behalf of AOS regarding the following conservation issues:

- Request to the U.S. Senate Interior and Environmental Appropriations Subcommittee urging them to support funding of the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program at a level that supports effectiveness of the program. This program is the only federal program with the purpose of preventing endangered species listings by proactively conserving at-risk fish and wildlife.
- Request to Senator Jeff Sessions regarding the RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act of 2011 (S. 1400). Senator Sessions responded that he voted in support of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (S. 1813) which includes the provisions of the RESTORE Act.
- Email to Representative Spencer Bachus III in support of America's National Wildlife Refuges in response to pending H.R. 3009 which would make it impossible for the President to establish any new wildlife refuges. This

would be extremely detrimental to the national wildlife refuge system because the Executive branch (including every President since Theodore Roosevelt) has established 90 percent of all refuges.

- Email to the National Wildlife Refuge Association regarding the protection of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Greg reviewed and commented on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding a proposed road and land exchange in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Greg's correspondence stated that AOS stands with the National Wildlife Refuge Association in opposition to the proposal because the new road and land exchange are unnecessary and will result in irreparable impacts to the refuge and its designated Wilderness Area.
- Email correspondence sent to Representative Spencer Bachus III voicing opposition to H.R. 7, a bill that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the damage and destruction of drilling for oil and gas.

Greg also provided a copy of a press release dated February 22, 2012 from the Conservation Advocate from the Center for Biological Diversity in San Francisco, California, which states that the Environmental Protection Agency denied a formal petition to regulate toxic lead fishing sinkers that frequently kill loons, swans, cranes, ducks, geese, and other wildlife.

Eric Soehren commended Greg Harber for all of his work to ensure that AOS has a voice in these important conservation issues.

**Membership Report:** Larry Gardella discussed the need to reach out to new potential AOS members. AOS has a loyal, stable membership. However, our numbers decrease as we age, and AOS needs to find ways to attract young people in particular. The AOS Youth Birder Newsletter published by Shirley Farrell is a good vehicle to expose young people to birding and to AOS. In addition, AOS should reach out to colleges and universities with ornithology departments and to formal birding groups across the state.



Larry proposed posting a message on ALBIRDS which states that it is sponsored by AOS and invite ALBIRDS subscribers to join AOS. The ALBIRDS message will include a link to the AOS Membership Page and mention the AOS publications, meetings, bird identification workshops, and field trips.

**Education Report:** Shirley Farrell has assembled a rolling cart containing tools for children and all the materials needed to make an AOS educational presentation. Shirley and Don Self have used these several times to make educational presentations.

**ABRC Report:** The ABRC is going through the nomination process to fill three new seats on the ABRC Committee.

**DIBS Report:** DIBS will hold a general membership meeting on October 14, 2012.

**Website Report:** BJ led a discussion regarding the structure of the current AOS website, which requires navigating several pages to access the registration form for AOS meetings. Board members proposed several possible enhancements to the website including posting information about upcoming meetings on the AOS home page and adding a direct link to the registration form. Another suggested enhancement is to establish a blog to enable AOS members to post their photos to the AOS website.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**New AOS Articles of Incorporation:** Larry Gardella reported that the AOS Articles of Incorporation document is ready to be signed and filed.

**New Bird Checklist:** BJ reported that a new AOS Bird Checklist is available on the AOS website. A printed hard copy of the new bird checklist is not available at this time. The new checklist is current through the October 2011 AOU update. Eric advised that the AOU 53rd supplement has subsequently changed some of the items on the new AOS Bird Checklist.

**Vacancies on Board and Committees:** BJ led a discussion regarding the AOS Research Committee established many years ago. It was intended to administer research grants if funds became available in the future but the original committee never became active. AOS currently has an active Dan C. Holliman Research Fund (DHRF) chaired by Greg Harber. The committee reviews applications and determines who should receive research grants. Larry Gardella moved to

list Greg Harber as the Chairman of the DHRF, to retain all current members of Greg's active DHRF, and to add the three members of the previously inactive Research Committee if they wish to continue to serve. Eric Soehren seconded the motion, and the AOS Board approved the motion.

**Update on DISL policies/cost:** BJ discussed several issues regarding the accommodations at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and AOS access to the Shelby Center. AOS has paid deposits for the spring 2013 and fall 2013 meetings. We are on the books to use the DISL facilities through that time.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Nongame Wildlife Conference:** BJ commended Eric Soehren regarding his key role in the Conference July 23-24, 2012.

**Conservation Alabama donation:** AOS made a \$1,000.00 donation toward the grassroots campaign to support Amendment 1 to continue funding for Forever Wild. An announcement was made at the Friday night AOS meeting by Kathy Stiles Freeland urging AOS members to vote yes on Amendment 1.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

#### *Electronic Yellowhammer?*

IT COSTS WELL OVER \$1.50 TO PRINT AND MAIL *The Yellowhammer*. We are delivering, on a totally voluntary basis, *The Yellowhammer* via the Internet.

If you would like to receive your *Yellowhammer*, in color, electronically, as a PDF file, please email the editor at Robert.Reed@psc.alabama.gov.

#### *Important Dates*

**FOURTH FRIDAY**—January 25–27, 2013  
Winter Meeting, Joe Wheeler State Park

**THIRD FRIDAY**—April 19–21, 2013  
Spring Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

**SECOND FRIDAY**—October 11–13, 2013  
Fall Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

AOS WINTER MEETING, JANUARY 25-27, 2013

## Meet the Speaker: Eric Spadgenske

ERIC SPADGENSKE is the Private Lands Biologist and State Coordinator, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Eric has been working in the private lands arena with USFWS since 2003 where he is responsible for coordinating private lands habitat restoration activities throughout Alabama. Prior to coming to the USFWS, Eric was an endangered species biologist with the Department of Defense at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he coordinated land management activities, including prescribed burning and timber harvesting for endangered species habitat enhancement. Focal areas for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Alabama include Gopher Tortoise habitat restoration, conservation and protection,

and Coosa, Cahaba, and Tennessee River Basin Aquatic Resource areas. Primary interests include restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem, particularly for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and habitat restoration for the many rare and endangered aquatic species found throughout Alabama. Program emphasis is on partnership development and strategic habitat conservation. He has an undergraduate degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Minnesota and a Master's of Science Degree in Biology from Georgia Southern University. In 2012, Eric relocated his sub-office from Birmingham to the main Ecological Services Field Office in Daphne, Alabama, where he lives with his wife and two children.

## The Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Alabama

By ERIC SPADGENSKE



THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THIS PRESENTATION WILL be to present an overview of the status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) in Alabama with special mention of an ongoing reintroduction and restoration effort targeting this species in southeastern Alabama. In Alabama, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is found in only six populations scattered from the northern mountains of Cleburne County down to the bogs and piney woods of the lower coastal plain. Loss of habitat has resulted in the extirpation of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker from most of the counties where it was likely a common resident during pre-colonial times.

Only one population in Alabama can be considered a stronghold for the species, and all others are in some stage of very intensive population and habitat management to bring them to a more stable condition. I will report on one of these small but increasing populations on private lands in southeastern Alabama. Many AOS members may remember a presentation by Mark Bailey from a few years ago on this subject. This presentation will provide an update on the

exciting accomplishments that has been made over the past five years.

Using a large coalition of concerned conservationists, we have developed a very effective partnership to rescue a small and declining Red-cockaded Woodpecker population. In cooperation with the private landowner we have established a healthy population of these endangered birds, but our work is far from complete. I will highlight the techniques we have used and the strategy behind our success.

One of our initiatives within our private lands program is restoration of longleaf pines. We do this through planting seedlings and through management of existing stands. We fund a prescribed burning effort with The Nature Conservancy. We also partner with the National Resources Conservation Council on their Working Lands for Wildlife initiative that focuses on the Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in Alabama. Our office does a number of other things for the tortoise including surveys and working with mitigation banks, etc. As a candidate for federal protection, the Gopher Tortoise has become a focus of effort for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## AOS WINTER MEETING 2013

*Joe Wheeler State Park, Alabama, January 25-27, 2013*

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

- 3:00 p.m. Registration—Lodge lobby  
 5:00 p.m. Social Hour—Cypress Room  
 6:00 p.m. Dinner from menu—Dining Room  
 (open 5:00–8:00)  
 7:00 p.m. Members Slide Show—Cypress Room

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

- 7:00 a.m. Field Trips—meet in the lobby  
 3:30 p.m. Board Meeting—Cypress Room  
 5:30 p.m. Social Hour—Cypress Room  
 6:30 p.m. Banquet—Cypress Room  
 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting & Program—Cypress Room

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

- 7:00 a.m. Field trips—Meet in the Lobby  
 12:00 p.m. Compilation—Location TBA

### ACCOMMODATIONS AND INFORMATION

Rooms are reserved at the lodge for a convention rate of \$64/night plus tax. The reservation numbers are 1-800-544-5639 or 256-247-5461. *Please indicate that you are with AOS.*

Joe Wheeler State Park is about 27 miles east of Florence, Alabama, and 22 miles west of Athens on US 72 (*not* US 72 Alt). We have 25 rooms reserved. There are also several motels in the area. If you cannot get into the Lodge, the best bet is probably the Florence quad cities area or Athens.

Note that there *will* be a banquet Saturday night.

There will be *no* Friday Night Pot Luck Supper.

## AOS WINTER MEETING 2013 REGISTRATION FORM

*Complete and return to:*

Mary Frances Stayton, 952 Mockingbird Lane, Leeds, Alabama 35094  
 Telephone: (205) 640-4502 • E-mail: [lovingcats@windstream.net](mailto:lovingcats@windstream.net)

*Please make checks payable to AOS. Checks must be received by January 15, 2013.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Registration @ \$25 per person	\$
Banquet @ \$18 per person	\$
AOS 2013 Dues	\$
DIBS Land Purchase Fund Contribution	\$
Coastal Birding Association 2013 Dues (\$5)	\$
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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**THE YELLOWHAMMER**

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**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

Larry Gardella  
Greg Harber  
Greg Jackson  
Carroll Pinckard

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*Address correspondence concerning membership to:*  
Mary Frances Stayton, Treasurer  
952 Mockingbird Lane,  
Leeds, Alabama, 35094  
e-mail: lovingcats@windstream.net

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Life (family): \$550



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