

# THE YELLOWHAMMER

VOLUME 33, NO. 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING 2013

...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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 NORTHWEST FLORIDA.....Vacant

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#### MEETINGS

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 Tom and Joan Siegwald, Charlotte Fanz, Pat Reed,  
 Priscilla Tubbs, Mike Wilson

**I** WANT TO SINCERELY APOLOGIZE for not being able to attend the winter meeting at Joe Wheeler State Park; however, I was not only sick but possibly contagious. I felt it would be prudent to take my doctor's advice to stay home and get better. I thank everyone for their kind messages and phone calls, and I can assure you that I am much better now. I also want to thank our Vice President, Ken Ward, for stepping in with short notice and conducting what I hear was a great meeting.

As you know, for years now we have enjoyed our spring and fall meetings on Dauphin Island, but in order to maintain a good working relationship with the Dauphin Island Sea Labs (DISL), some changes in our lodging arrangements must be made. We will no longer be able to serve coffee and refreshments in the dorm each morning. We are working on alternative arrangements and hope to be able to provide some refreshments elsewhere on the campus, but nothing has been finalized at this time. Because we are now sharing the dorms with students and their chaperones, it is imperative that we ensure that the outside doors are kept closed at all times. Anyone entering must key in the current passcode. Also we can no longer ensure that the available accommodations will be on the first floor. We hope to have a survey ready at the spring meeting for those of you who utilize these accommodations to complete so we will have a better idea of your needs and desires. This will be discussed with the membership at the spring meeting.

DISL has requested that AOS provide a single point of contact for reservations, arrangements, etc. Our very capable meetings coordinator, Don Self, has managed this assignment for quite some time but, due to family obligations, will no longer be able to fulfill this very important position. He has graciously agreed to continue handling this until we find a replacement. Most of the negotiations with DISL can be handled via email and phone so the coordinator is not required to be on-site. It is desirable, however, that this person attend the meetings in order to handle last minute details that always seem to arise. On another matter, Don and his wife Judy have been providing the AOS store but since they will not be at future meetings



we really need someone to take over this responsibility also. If you think you would be interested in handling either of these responsibilities—meetings coordinator or AOS store manager—please contact me or any of our board members. You can make a big difference in the atmosphere of our meetings with minimum effort, and your help will be most appreciated.

Now that the Birmingham Audubon Society (BAS) has instituted a Holliman Scholarship Fund, I have received some questions about the difference between that fund and the AOS Dan C. Holliman Research Fund. I thought I would take this opportunity to hopefully explain the different purposes of these two funds.

The purpose of the AOS Dan C. Holliman Research Fund is to provide small grants in support of scientific research projects of an ornithological nature that are clearly applicable to Alabama birds. Preference is given to graduate students. These grants are intended to be used as seed-money to help initiate larger projects, or to facilitate applications to major funding agencies. This fund is managed by a committee consisting of people knowledgeable in this area, and approximately two grants are awarded each year. Dr. Holliman was president of AOS in 1965 and served as its historian and archivist until his death. We request that members make donations and honorary and memorial gifts to this fund to continue Dr. Holliman's efforts to encourage young ecologists and their education. Any donations can be addressed to the AOS Treasurer. Note that the donation is intended for this fund. These donations are tax-deductible.

The BAS Holliman Scholarship Fund was recently established by a generous gift to honor Dr. Holliman as the first director of the Audubon Mountain Workshop, a position he held for 20 years. Since Dr. Holliman was a member of the Birmingham-Southern faculty, this fund will award a scholarship to the Audubon Mountain Workshop to a current Birmingham-Southern College student.

I hope to see you at the spring meeting and remember to bring your own reusable water bottle and feel free to send any suggestions you might have on how we can make our meetings more environmentally friendly to me at [brdnrd1022@bellsouth.net](mailto:brdnrd1022@bellsouth.net).



DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA, OCTOBER 13, 2012

# Minutes of the AOS Board Meeting

By DANA HAMILTON, *Secretary*



THE AOS EXECUTIVE BOARD MET SATURDAY, January 26, 2013 at the Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge's Cypress Room at Rogersville, Alabama. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Ken Ward, AOS Vice-president. (Bianca Allen was unable to attend due to illness.)

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October 13, 2013, meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Frances Stayton reported that the current AOS checking account balance is \$12,612.17. No expenses from the winter meeting have been paid. The withdrawals since the previous report at the AOS fall meeting total \$7,638.94, and the deposits for the same period total \$8,885.00.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Conservation Report:** Greg Harber stated that the primary conservation issue that requires discussion by the AOS board is the recent controlled burn in the Ft. Morgan Middle Ground area. The board discussed the potential impact the fire will have on the birds during the spring migration. Several board members stated that when used properly, controlled burns can be a very useful tool in habitat maintenance. If the purpose was for restoration of native habitat, it may actually be beneficial in the long term. Conversely, if the purpose of the controlled burn was to prepare the area for mowing, that is undesirable. After a long discussion, the consensus of the board is that we should reserve judgment until more information is known.

Greg Harber also provided information regarding a proposed conservation project on Dauphin Island. AOS has been invited to participate as a partner in the new project.

**Membership Report:** Larry Gardella reported that he is working on a message to post to Al-birds to invite the Al-bird subscribers to join AOS and to provide information regarding the Alabama Youth Birder newsletter.

**Education Report:** Shirley Farrell reported that Millie Mocker is no longer in the Yellowhammer because a separate Alabama Youth Birder newsletter has been established for children. The newsletter is issued electronically quarterly, so AOS is not incurring any expense with postage. Shirley sends the newsletter to several teachers who use it in their classrooms. Some teachers are joining AOS because of this publication. Shirley showed the board members in attendance the January 2013 Alabama Youth Birder newsletter on her iPad. The newsletter has the Millie Mocker blog, puzzles, and games, and a series on bird identification soon will be implemented soon. The board members were very impressed by the quality and format of the electronic AYB newsletter.

Shirley reported that the AOS Education Committee sponsored the 2012 Green Ribbon School award in three Alabama schools last year. No expenses were incurred, and it provided a large amount of favorable advertisement for AOS. This is a new federal award that includes three pillars: reducing environmental impacts and costs; improving health and wellness; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. AOS gave three Alabama schools a one-year subscription to the Alabama Youth Birder. Additionally, Don Self built and donated a bird house to each of the Alabama Green Ribbon schools. Shirley reported that two of the three Alabama Green Ribbon schools sponsored by AOS went on to win the national Green Ribbon school award. Shirley proposed that AOS participate in the Green Ribbon school program again in 2013. She stated that there are three schools and one district that have a chance to win the national award this year. Shirley advised that the project does not cost money since it is all electronic.

**Meetings Report:** Don Self reported that the first of the year is the time that AOS must contact Dauphin Island Sea Labs to reserve the facilities for the upcoming AOS meetings. AOS already has reservations for the 2013 and 2014 spring and fall meetings. Don led a discussion regarding the reservations for the 2015 spring and fall meetings. The consensus of

the board is that Don will reserve the Shelby Center and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Challenger Hall as in the past for the 2015 meetings.

Don reported that Dauphin Island Discovery Day (DIDD) coincides with the April 2013 AOS meeting. In April 2012, Don and Judy Self manned two booths on behalf of AOS at Dauphin Island Discovery Day. One booth provided information about AOS and the second booth was a children's booth which had lots of activities for children such as the cut-outs and other bird identification materials. Don asked for volunteers to man the booth. The hours are from 10:00 to 2:00 on the Saturday of the AOS spring meeting. DIDD provides the tables, chairs, and canopies. AOS will provide the materials for the booth. Shirley Farrell stated that AOS has the rolling case that has all of the materials needed, including tablecloths and brochures, and she will put an activity in there so that when a child completes the activity, they will get a Bird Buddy bracelet.

**ABRC Report:** Steve McConnell submitted the following report via email:

1. Record review status. The review of the September 2012 record set was completed by the committee. There were no potential first state records in this 17 record set; therefore no new species were added to the AOS state list. Two new second state records were accepted (Painted Redstart—2011 and Purple Sandpiper—2012) along with two new third state records (Curlew Sandpiper—2011 and Inca Dove—2009). Other records continue through evaluation.
2. Membership. As of last fall, two member terms expired: Greg Jackson and Bob Duncan. The secretary's voting term also expired. The election to fill the three vacancies is underway by email. Eight nominees are being considered. The election should be complete in another 1-2 weeks.
3. The last record review set was distributed out to the membership via a free internet file sharing site (DropBox). This seemed to help the voting time stay within the three month review window and saved about \$25 of postage and CD cost.
4. Three open old business items from the October 2011 meeting:
  - a. How will exotic species be treated by the ABRC?
  - b. What rarely-found subspecies, if any, should be added to the Review List?
  - c. Clarify the Alabama pelagic boundaries currently described in the ABRC Bylaws—add lat/long coordinates.

**DIBS Report:** Greg Harber reported that since the last meeting, DIBS has acquired one additional piece of property, which is the tupelo gum swamp, south of Cadillac Square. DIBS is still working with Weeks Bay on the conservation easements.

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### OLD BUSINESS

**AOS Articles of Incorporation:** Ken Ward reported on behalf of Bianca (BJ) Allen that she has been in contact with the Alabama Secretary of State to obtain the complete instructions for filing the AOS Articles of Incorporation document. Bianca will file the documents soon.

**New Bird Checklist:** Ken Ward reported that the new checklist is available on the AOS website. Steve McConnell, Greg Jackson, and John Porter led that effort. AOS needs a sponsor to be able to print copies of it for distribution.

**Vacancies on Board and Committee:** There is a vacancy for the Northwest Florida Director for the position vacated by Don Ware.

**Possible Changes to Website:** We need links to AOS meeting information on the front page of the website. Larry Gardella noted that we are linking to other organizations and they are linking to us. This is a positive step that we need to continue. Shirley Farrell also reported that she is working with Kathy Hicks to update the Youth Birder page to the AOS website.

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### NEW BUSINESS

**Dan Holliman Research Fund:** Greg Harber reported that the Dan Holliman Research Fund was started three years ago under Linda Reynolds's term as President. The idea behind it is to provide up to \$2,000 for research on birds of conservation interest or any bird-related projects. The research does not have to take place in Alabama, but it must have relevance to Alabama birds. This year, the Research Fund Committee received four applications. Greg provided a spreadsheet that lists the name of the applicant, the title of the project, a project description, the requested amount of funding, the comments regarding the project by each committee member, and the funding recommendation ranking by each committee member.

Greg provided an overview of the proposed projects. Some of the projects are field related; others are more lab-

AOS WINTER MEETING, JANUARY 25-27, 2013

# Winter Meeting Report

By LARRY GARDELLA

EDITOR'S NOTE—Both of the members that normally help with trip reports were absent from the recent meeting. I have included Larry's notes in place of the normal report. I apologize for the lack of a true meeting report, but I appreciate what Larry had to say.



AMIEN SIMBECK ARRANGED A BOAT TRIP ON Wheeler Lake for the AOS Winter meeting. We traveled from the marina at Joe Wheeler State Park to Wilson Dam, went through the lock and over to Town Point, came back to the dam and checked out the island immediately below it, which was filled with Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Black Vultures and a few Black-crowned Night-Herons.

We went back through the lock and over to the Courtland Mill and then out to where huge numbers of birds were feeding at (and on) a shad die-off. The best birds were three

Red-necked Grebes in a group not far from the mill and another that appeared later directly in front of the boat and the six Long-tailed Ducks we saw in flight while we were near Town Creek. Plenty of photos of the grebes, but none of the Long-tailed Ducks. At least they cooperated by showing off their distinctive patterns of white belly, dark chest, white on face and no white on the dark wings. There were also more than 500 American White Pelicans, at least six Bald Eagles, an Osprey, at least 80 Horned Grebes, dozens of Forster's Terns and a lone Laughing Gull (photographed, too). We had great comparisons of Greater and Lesser Scaup and saw many of each. All told, we had 40 species, including several that we heard as we went near the shore. Steve, the captain, was good at getting near the birds, and we all had a great time. Damien has now run four of these trips and is talking about having them quarterly, with different targets in the different seasons.

**Minutes of the AOS Board Meeting** (continued from page 5) only projects. Greg stated that in the years that they have been doing this, the committee has awarded two \$1,000 grants each year. Greg pointed out that one of the Dan Holliman Research Fund applicants is requesting funding which includes overhead costs which are prohibited by the Fund guidelines. Greg also stated that one of the Dan Holliman Research Fund applicants has also applied for funding through the Birmingham Audubon Society (BAS) Walter Coxe Research Fund for the same project. Greg proposed that AOS should defer a decision regarding the funding until BAS makes its decision and then AOS should make our funding decision taking the BAS Walter Coxe Research funding into consideration. Stan Hamilton moved to follow Greg's recommendation. Shirley Farrell seconded the motion. The AOS board approved the motion. Ken Ward recused himself from this discussion as one of the students is in his program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

## Important Dates

**THIRD FRIDAY**—April 19-21, 2013

Spring Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

**SECOND FRIDAY**—October 11-13, 2013

Fall Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

**FOURTH FRIDAY**—January 24-26, 2014

Winter Meeting, TBA

## Deadlines for Yellowhammer Submissions

Summer 2013

June 10, 2013

Fall 2013

August 10, 2012

Winter 2013

November 10, 2013

## 2013 AOS Winter Meeting Compilation List Joe Wheeler State Park, January 25–27

**N**OTEWORTHY BIRDS OF THE spring meeting weekend included Red-necked Grebe and Whooping Crane.

Great White-fronted Goose  
Snow Goose  
Ross's Goose  
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
American Widgeon  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Canvasback  
Redhead  
Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
Long-tailed Duck  
Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye  
Ruddy Duck  
Northern Bobwhite  
Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
**Red-necked Grebe**  
American White Pelican  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Cooper's hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Virginia Rail  
American Coot  
*Whooping Crane*  
Sandhill Crane  
Killdeer  
Greater Yellowlegs

Least Sandpiper  
Dunlin  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
Wilson's Snipe  
Laughing Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Forster's Tern  
Rock Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Barn Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Phoebe  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Horned Lark  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
Winter Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
European Starling  
American Pipit  
Cedar Waxwing  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Brewer's Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Purple Finch  
House Finch  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
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.

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### New Members

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Rocky Baker • Bonnie Beasley • Anne Paine

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### Memorials

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A donation was made to the Holliman Scholarship  
Fund in memory of Mr. Elmer Ward,  
Father of Ken Ward from Linda & Dick Reynolds.

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A donation was made to AOS in memory Mr. Elmer  
Ward, Father of Ken Ward from Robert & Nita Head.

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### Dues News

**I**T'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR AOS membership, please do. We want to keep you as a member, and you want to continue to enjoy all the benefits you get from being part of AOS. Remember, dues are for the calendar year.

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

# Consider Submitting Manuscripts to Alabama Birdlife

By ERIC SOEHREN



THE ROLE OF STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL JOURNALS serves an important niche in providing its membership a place to publish its data.

Additionally, state journals often bridge local information gaps with professional audiences and researchers. *Alabama Birdlife* is the journal of our Society and has been in circulation for 60 years now. It is the primary outlet for disseminating information about the lives and records of birds occurring in Alabama. Recently, there has been a shortage of articles for publication in *Alabama Birdlife*. Article submission should not be a problem given the number of active members in our Society today; much higher than decades before. Therefore I'm writing to encourage you to consider preparing a manuscript about your interesting bird observations, monitoring efforts, or research for the journal. We all spend a lot of time birding and occasionally experience unusual things that may warrant a write-up. With interest and some effort, you could contribute toward our knowledge about Alabama's birds.

Here are some primary examples of topics that are published in the journal:

1. *Significant State Records*: Manuscripts describing noteworthy bird occurrences in Alabama such as new state records (i.e., Clark's Nutcracker, Limpkin, etc.).
2. *Monitoring Program Results*: Articles summarizing monitoring efforts such as results of seasonal banding data, shorebird counts, hawk watches, Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Survey data, or single-species monitoring (i.e., Eastern Bluebird Trails, Swallow-tailed Kite roost surveys).
3. *Natural History Notes*: Significant anecdotal observations of unusual or noteworthy aspects of a species' natural history. Articles may include descriptions of breeding, foraging, behavior, or range expansions or contractions. Detailed observations of difficult-to-study species (secretive, peripheral, pelagic) with a paucity of statewide records are also wel-

comed (i.e., Whip-poor-will, Red Crossbill, Yellow Rail, etc.).

4. *Research Findings*: Results of quantified studies in ornithology. Although the majority of our members are not scientific researchers, there are a number that are regularly engaged in ornithological research, both academically and professionally. University professors, students, state and federal biologists, and private individuals often have research data that can be published. Moreover, Alabama Birdlife can benefit university students that have limited experience in publishing, especially reporting findings that may not be considered for publication in professional journals of national/international coverage.

5. Memorials of Society members that have passed.

Dr. Tom Haggerty has held the editor's position for the past 15 years and has done an exceptional job in producing a high quality journal we should all be proud of. Please help him by providing material for publication. I personally take great pride in our journal given the wealth of information that has been published over the past six decades and hope you do the same. If you have a topic you want to publish, please refer to a recent issue for formatting instructions, or contact Dr. Haggerty with questions.

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## Coastal Birding Association

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COASTAL BIRDING ASSOCIATION (CBA) HAS RECENTLY undergone several changes that have reduced expenses. First, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries (DIBS) has graciously agreed to pay the water bill for the drips at the Bee Tree and the Goat Tree; second, CBA no longer publishes and mails a newsletter. Because of this reduction in expenses, CBA annual dues are being temporarily suspended.

The funds we currently have will be used for benches at various birding sites on Dauphin Island and for repairs to the drips. In the future, we may need to ask for donations to replenish our funds.

Information about our field trips is sent out by e-mail now; if you would like to be on the CBA field trip e-mail list, contact Joan Siegwald at siegwald@shc.edu. We are also working on reactivating the CBA website ([www.coastalbirdingassoc.org](http://www.coastalbirdingassoc.org)) and putting field trip information online there again; if this changes, we will let you know. Thank you for all your support.

—Sarah Whitfield



AOS SPRING MEETING, APRIL 19–21, 2013

## Meet the Speaker: Charles Duncan

CHARLES DUNCAN is director of the Shorebird Recovery Project at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and also serves as director of the Executive Office of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, a coalition of 87 sites in 13 nations committed to the conservation of shorebird species and their habitats across the Americas.

Charles's professional training was in organic chemistry, and his first faculty job was at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. During the years 1976 to 1982, he was an active participant in AOS and Birmingham Audubon Society, visiting Dauphin Island whenever he could. He is proud that his first-ever ornithological publication was in *Alabama Birdlife*, co-authored with Paul G. Johnson and entitled "First Breeding Record of White-faced Ibis for Alabama and a New Area of *Plegadis* Sympatry." Charles left

Alabama to move to Maine and had a long career in academia at the University of Maine at Machias (UMM).

Along the way, his passion for birdwatching in the Americas grew in more rigorous directions. In fact, he describes his conservation work as "a hobby that got wildly out of control." He founded and ran the Institute for Field Ornithology at UMM for many years, and served as president of the Association of Field Ornithologists from 1998–2000. In 1999, he made a career shift and joined The Nature Conservancy's Migratory Bird Program as conservation ornithologist. In 2002, the American Birding Association honored him with their "Chandler Robbins Award for Education and Conservation," and in 2003 he began at Manomet.

Charles lives in Portland, Maine, with his wife, Laura Blutstein, a physician specializing in family medicine.

## Golden Age of Discovery or Our Darkest Hour? Shorebirds in Our Time

By CHARLES C. DUNCAN



HAT WEIGHS THE SAME AS A STICK OF BUTTER and can fly the distance from the Earth to the Moon and halfway back in a lifetime? What can leap tall buildings at a single bound and fly through a hurricane? And what group of birds has seen the biggest across-the-board population declines of any in our hemisphere in the past thirty years? Shorebirds can blow your mind or break your heart.

When I accepted ("leapt at" would be more accurate) my current position leading the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network ten years ago, I couldn't have answered any of those questions. In fact, no one could have. I'm glad that in my interview I wasn't asked to guess about questions like "how long do Red Knots fly without stopping?" Or, do you think they fly up the coast of South America or straight across the Amazon on their northbound migration? Or maybe whether the food source for small shorebirds is

marine worms, small bivalves, or "biofilm?" (A biofilm is an aggregate of microorganisms in which cells adhere to each other on a surface.) I'm also glad they didn't ask me which country is Paraguay and which is Uruguay, but that's another story. New techniques are revealing facts about shorebirds at a pace that can be dizzying. The widespread use of something as simple as individually identifiable colored leg flags that any birder or wildlife photographer can report has had a huge impact. The advance of microchip technology has enabled us to learn about some of the most jaw-dropping migration feats on the planet. Satellite transmitters can be surgically implanted or put with a backpack harness on larger shorebirds like Whimbrels. Over just the past four years, tiny light-sensitive geolocators have been placed on ever-smaller shorebirds, now including even Semipalmated Sandpipers. From the data, you can tell the longitude and latitude of every place that bird has been, how long it stayed there and

even how much of the day its feet were in the water. That is, if you can recapture that same individual and recover the chip.

Just how do Buff-breasted Sandpipers get from the South American pampas to the Arctic breeding grounds and back again? I have no idea, but if you invite me back in two years, I think I'll be able to tell you. Better yet, invite my friend, Joaquín Aldabe, from Aves Uruguay; he's leading the work.

At the same time, low-level flights over wintering grounds in South America by Canadian scientist Guy Morrison, repeating those he made in the 1980s, show populations of many species of shorebirds are only 20 percent of what they were then. This includes even "common" species like Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and yellowlegs. What's going on, and, more importantly, what are we going to do about it? Waterfowl were in terrible shape in the 1920s, as were raptors in the 1980s. Ducks are now doing fine and the Bald Eagle is no longer endangered. It can be done!

The Shorebird Recovery Project, which I have the privilege and challenge to direct, is our strategy to making this the decade in which the gloom is lifted and the downward trends are reversed. And we're getting there with a blend of good science, site-based conservation, and clear success measures. But the real magic happens by working with the right stakeholders. The mayor of one of the southernmost cities in the world announced that he will donate valuable municipal land and build a shorebird nature center. Not to be outdone, the City Council named a shorebird as the city's "Natural Ambassador" and authorized a statute to be built in its honor.

Rice farmers in Louisiana, Texas and California are active shorebird conservationists and advocates, maintaining "shorebird-friendly" water levels at the right seasons in their fields. The owners of the largest salt production company in Ecuador hosts a shorebird festival, partnering with an important bird conservation nonprofit. The national government of Chile opens the Chiloé Heritage Trail for Wetlands, Birds and Culture at a site critically important to Hudsonian Godwits, with support from each of the seven towns involved. And that's why, in the face of the enormous challenges, I am optimistic that this will be remembered as the golden age of shorebird science and not the time when we let these magnificent little birds slip away.

P.S. I lied about leaping tall buildings at a single bound. They have to use their wings. But they *can* fly through hurricanes!

JULY 1, 2012 – DECEMBER 31, 2012

## 2012 AOS Financial Report

Submitted by MARY FRANCES STAYTON, Treasurer

BEGINNING BALANCE JULY 1, 2012	\$15,157.58
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### INCOME

AOS Dues	1040.00
CBA Dues	125.00
DIBS Contributions	633.00
Holliman Research Fund Donations	200.00
Fall Meeting	
Registration	1,750.00
Dauphin Island Sea Lab	600.00
Banquet	1,468.00
AOS Fall Meeting Sales	254.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,070.00
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### EXPENSES

CBA Disbursement	125.00
DIBS Disbursement	633.00
Printing <i>Yellowhammer</i>	693.47
Workshops, Inc	148.99
Website	75.00
<i>Alabama Birdlife</i>	1,335.80
Herald Printing	209.17
USPS	4.29
Miscellaneous Expenses	162.69
Nongame Wildlife Conference Travel Expenses	335.17
Alabama Young Birder	459.66
Conservation Alabama	1,000.00
Fall Meeting	
Banquet	1,668.85
Speaker Fee & Expenses	678.70
Misc Items for Fall Meeting	258.30
Dauphin Island Sea Lab	840.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	8,628.09
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ENDING BALANCE: DECEMBER 31, 2012	\$12,599.49
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## AOS SPRING MEETING 2013

### *Dauphin Island, Alabama, April 19-21, 2013*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15**

- 3:00 p.m. Registration at Galathea Hall  
 6:00 p.m. Social Hour and Pot Luck at Galathea Hall  
 7:00 p.m. Members Slide Show

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16**

- 7:00 a.m. Field trips—Meet at Sea Lab  
 11:30 a.m. Lunch at the Stowers' house, 1618 Cadillac Ave.  
 1:30 p.m. Board meeting—Galathea Hall  
 6:00 p.m. Open bar social at Shelby Center  
 6:45 p.m. Banquet at Sea Lab  
 7:45 p.m. Program—Charles Duncan

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17**

- 12:00 p.m. Compilation—Goat Tree

**ACCOMMODATIONS AND INFORMATION****Motels**

Gulf Breeze and Harbor Lights Motel: (800) 286-0296

**Rentals—**

Boardwalk Realty, Inc: (877) 861-3992  
 Dauphin Island Real Estate: (888) 707-6444  
 Tyson Real Estate: (251) 861-8312  
 Pickett Real Estate: (800) 861-3646  
 Island Realty Corp.: (877) 219-7392  
 ACP Real Estate, Inc.: (866) 861-3311

**Websites**

[www.gulfinfo.com](http://www.gulfinfo.com) and [www.dauphinisland.cc](http://www.dauphinisland.cc)

**FRIDAY NIGHT POT LUCK IS BACK!!!**

Don't forget to bring your favorite appetizer, snack, dessert, etc. for the social hour.

**NOTE:** Until further notice, spring and fall banquets are limited to the first 120 people.

## AOS SPRING 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 April 9, 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

**SEA LAB**

Friday Night

How Many \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night

How Many \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration @ \$25 per person	\$
Banquet @ \$21 per person	\$
Sea Lab @ \$20 per person per night	\$
AOS 2013 Dues	\$
DIBS Land Purchase Fund Contribution	\$
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1325  
DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL 36528

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Annual Membership:  
Student: \$10 • Individual: \$25 • Family: \$40  
Sustaining: \$50 • Life (individual): \$350  
Life (family): \$550



**AOS ONLINE**  
<http://www.aosbirds.org>  
**AOS RARE BIRD ALERT**  
**TELEPHONE HOTLINE:**  
**256-773-8560**

**ALABAMA WILDLIFE CENTER**  
<http://www.awrc.org>

**BIRMINGHAM AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
<http://www.birminghamaudubon.org>

**DAUPHIN ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARIES**  
<http://www.coastalbirding.org>

**FRANCIS M. WESTON AUDUBON SOCIETY (PENSACOLA)**  
<http://www.fmwaudubon.org>

**THE HUMMER/BIRD STUDY GROUP**  
<http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org>

**MOBILE BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
<http://www.mobilebayaudubon.org>

**SOUTH ALABAMA BIRDING ASSOCIATION**  
<http://www.bamabirds.com>

**SOUTHEASTERN RAPTOR REHAB CENTER**  
<http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/raptor>

**TENNESSEE VALLEY AUDUBON**  
<http://www.tvas.org>