

THE YELLOWHAMMER

VOLUME 38, NO. 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING 2018

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

FOUNDED 1952



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ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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WHY DO YOU BIRDWATCH?"

A non-birding friend of mine asked me that question a few weeks ago. Birdwatching, or birding, is such a "flexible" hobby that we all might have a different answer to that question. There can be so many aspects to this activity that anyone can find something in it for them. Some people might just enjoy watching the feeders in the yard through the window at home. For some, it is a recreational activity that allows them to be outside and close to nature. This can sometimes mean an eco-trip to Cuba, Costa Rica, or some other exotic location. For still others, it is scientific study and research. People engaged in any of these birdwatching aspects might keep a list of their sightings. There are listers that keep multiple lists for backyard, county, or state for instance. Perhaps some might sketch or add detailed field notes. Other people seem to be content without having a list. Within the last several years, eBird has made it easy to keep an electronic list as well as to see the lists of others. Not only is it an easy way to keep your lists, it provides valuable scientific data about the status of birds in a particular area. More and more birdwatchers are including photography in their activities. Or, is it more and more photographers are including birdwatching in their hobby? In either case, social media sites are flooded with great photographs of birds. A number of organizations, including AOS, are sponsoring photography contests.

The usual follow-on question is "how many birds have you seen?" The honest answer is that I am not sure exactly. I do have a life list, and I also keep a year list, but I have not been faithful about keeping the life list updated (I don't have an excuse now since Pam gave me a copy of *The Sibley Birder's Life List & Field Diary*). If I look at my year lists, it appears that I see essentially the same birds every year. I don't have a numerical goal established for a life list—yet. For now, I am content to see the same birds every year. What I do enjoy is sharing them with others, especially new birders. Now, if you have followed this ramble up to this point, you might be wondering what the answer is to the first question. It simply is that I am a birdwatcher because it makes me happy. Why are *you* a birdwatcher?



To quote David Allen Sibley, "The fundamental appeal of birding, I believe, is that it offers us a connection to the natural world. Birding is the activity that motivates us to go outside and provides a touchstone to make the connection. The reward is simply being out there to experience nature."

The winter meeting, held in Crawfordville, Florida, was well attended. The possibility of a government shutdown loomed large, and could have meant that AOS would have to find an alternate location for field trips rather than St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. I would like to thank Lucy and Bob Duncan for their efforts to identify backup locations. Fortunately, the shut-

down ended, and we were able to enjoy St. Marks. Although this location was a little outside our normal area, the diversity of birds there made for great field trips. The highlights for me were the White-faced Ibis, American Bittern, and Purple Gallinule. Another highlight of the meeting was our speaker, Denver Holt. His owl talk on Saturday night was outstanding. If you are interested in owls, you might want to check out his owl workshop for a hands-on opportunity to work with it. I would like to thank all those who helped out with this meeting. If I try to mention names, I am sure to miss someone but you know who you are. I look forward to seeing all of you on Dauphin Island for the spring meeting in April. Bring a friend.

Our speaker for the spring meeting will be Dr. Mark Woodrey, whose presentation on the Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network will dovetail very nicely with Dr. Frank Moore's fall presentation. The network was formed to define a vision and process for developing a systematic, long-term bird monitoring and management program that would also aid in the recovery of impacted Gulf of Mexico avian species.

In an effort to standardize dues payment and make it easier for you to remember, the board voted to make the dues due in January of each year. This means that if you have not paid for 2018, you are overdue. The exception is, that if you paid in October 2017 or later, your dues are paid through 2018 and your next renewal is January 2019. There is a place on the website (aosbirds.org) to pay using PayPal, or, if you wish, you may print a form linked from the web page and mail it in. Either way, thank you for being a member and supporting AOS.

AOS WINTER MEETING, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA, JANUARY 26-28, 2018

Actions of the AOS Winter Board Meeting

By JEAN FOLSOM, *Secretary*



THE AOS BOARD WINTER MEETING WAS HELD ON January 27, 2018, at the Magnuson Hotel Wildwood Inn, 3896 Coastal Highway, Crawfordville, Florida 32327.

The Board approved the following actions:

1. Fall 2017 meeting minutes were approved as amended to read: "Bob Reed has permission to use the funds of \$100 to print a color cover photo of the photo contest winner." (Jean Folsom)
2. Treasurer's report approved as submitted. (Joan Dixon)
3. Approval to spend up to \$200 to print current address labels to be used with approximately 1500 membership brochures that have an obsolete mailing address. (Anne Miller)
4. To pay Joe Watts an additional \$100 for the extra time he has spent restoring the Alabama Birdlife database for the new website. (Anne Miller)
5. Board agreed to fund the Dan C. Holliman research committee's recommendation of granting a \$990 award to Liliana N. Calderon. Her request of \$990 includes equipment and travel funds to study migration stopover habitat use by neotropical land birds at six sites along the northern Gulf coast—of these six, three are in Alabama (two are Forever Wild properties). (Greg Harber)
6. Membership list—The board agreed to continue the arrangement of the last two years, in that the treasurer will not be responsible for keeping the membership list current. Susan Barrow has agreed to assist the treasurer with that task.

Other issues:

AOS/eBird Project—Ken Hare gave updates on the progress of the project. The goal is to reach an eBird minimum of 150 species and 150 complete checklists in all 67 Alabama counties.

- 2017 species progress: Seven of the 16 counties that began

the year with fewer than 150 species listed on eBird, now have 150 species. Now there are only nine counties with fewer than 150 species listed on eBird—Bibb, Blount, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Fayette, Greene, Lamar, and Pickens.

- 2017 checklist progress: Eight of the 10 counties that began the year with fewer than 150 complete checklists now have 150 checklists on eBird. There are now only two counties with fewer than 150 complete checklists—Fayette and Lamar.

2018 AOS Membership Dues

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR AOS DUES FOR 2018, you are now late. Please renew, so that we don't lose you. Dues are for calendar years, and should be sent to the AOS treasurer, Joan Dixon, 1059 Palmetto Street, Mobile, AL 36604

You can also renew your membership and register online at www.aosbirds.org.

I have started sending out reminder emails and letters and will also try calling some of you. Help me out by renewing and by reminding your friends to renew—or, if they are not yet members, to join.

—Larry Gardella, Membership Chairman

Upcoming Meetings

SPRING MEETING—April 20-22, 2018

Dauphin Island, Alabama

FALL MEETING—October 12-14, 2018

Dauphin Island, Alabama

WINTER MEETING—January 25-27, 2019

Location to be arranged

AOS WINTER MEETING, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA, JANUARY 26-28, 2018

AOS Winter Meeting Report

By KEN HARE

THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY WINTER meeting at the Magnuson Hotel Wildwood Inn in Crawfordville, Florida, with trips to Wakulla Springs and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge featured beautiful scenery, an entertaining speaker, great food, great friends and lots and lots of great birds. And for those lighthouse lovers in the group, the St. Marks Light, which dates to 1830, is one of the more photogenic in the Southeast.

The winter meeting, January 26-28, 2018, centered around St. Marks NWR and Wakulla Springs State Park, but as usual with AOS meetings, many attendees scattered around the area in search of birds during the three-day meeting.

The meeting got off to a great start even before it began. Lucy Duncan provided attendees with directions to bypass Tallahassee, and her route was not only much more scenic, but pointed out nice birding stops (and restrooms) along the way. She also sent directions to good birding spots in the region, and suggested several outstanding restaurants in the area. The information was crucial for first-time visitors to the refuge and state park area.

While many attendees arrived Thursday in time for some early birding on their own, the official meeting got started with a field trip Friday morning led by AOS president Harry Dean to Bald Point State Park, a small park that offered great views of Ochlockonee Bay. The wind on Bald Point was biting, but that did not stop birders from scoping out Bald Eagles, Black-bellied Plovers, Sanderlings, Dunlin, Ruddy Turnstones, Black Skimmers, and a lone American Oystercatcher. Then the group headed for Mashers Sands Road, where birds included a variety of herons and egrets, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Eastern Towhees and a Pileated Woodpecker.

The lunch stop was at the historic lodge at Wakulla Springs State Park, where the food was several notches above the usual state park

fare. Most members then scheduled a ride on one of the park's several boats that go three miles down one side of the Wakulla River and back up the other.

Wakulla Springs is one of the world's largest natural springs, generating a flow of 200-300 million gallons of water a day that form the Wakulla River. The river flows nine miles to join the St. Marks River. The water in the spring basin maintains an almost constant temperature of about 68 degrees, making it attractive to wildlife year round.

The boat ride offered birders close-up views of manatees, alligators, Scaup, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Anhingas, Catbirds, Common Gallinules, many Tree Swallows, a close look at a sleepy Barred Owl, and many other birds.

The program and social hour Friday evening featured slides of member photos. Dinner was on your own, allowing attendees to sample some of the great restaurants in the area.

On Saturday morning, Lucy and Bob Duncan led a bird walk to a productive site in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Other birders focused on the many lakes and the shorefront of the refuge, finding an American Bittern, Black and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Bald Eagles, Common and Purple Gallinules, and a wide variety of ducks.

Saturday evening featured speaker Denver Holt, an owl researcher who has spent the past 23 summers studying Snowy Owls near Barrow, Alaska. Holt, who is founder and president of the Owl Research Institute in Montana, was both an informative and entertaining speaker, whose slides had the audience oohing and his owl calls had them laughing.

Steady rain Sunday morning offered a chance for some members to sleep in, but others did some birding from their vehicles. At noon, a handful of members met for the compilation, and once all the submitted lists were combined, the official list showed that from Friday morning until Sunday noon, AOS members had identified 136 different species of birds.



2018 AOS Winter Meeting Compilation List Crawfordville, Florida, January 26–28

NOTEWORTHY BIRDS of the weekend included Eared Grebe, Glossy Ibis, and White-faced Ibis. Count total was 136 species.

Snow Goose
Wood Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
American Black Duck
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Black Scoter
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Clapper Rail
King Rail
Virginia Rail
Purple Gallinule
Common Gallinule
American Coot
American Oystercatcher
Black-bellied Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Killdeer
Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling
Dunlin
Least Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher

Wilson's Snipe
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet
Greater Yellowlegs
Bonaparte's Gull
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Caspian Tern
Forster's Tern
Royal Tern
Black Skimmer
Common Loon
Double-crested Cormorant
Anhinga
American White Pelican
Brown Pelican
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Reddish Egret
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
White-faced Ibis
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Barred Owl
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker

American Kestrel
Peregrine Falcon
Eastern Phoebe
White-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Tree Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Marsh Wren
Carolina Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
House Sparrow
House Finch
American Goldfinch
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Nelson's Sparrow
Seaside Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle
Black-and-white Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Cardinal

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 **bold-faced**, 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.

New Members

Larry Dees • Peggy Baker • Bill Lotz
Vince Meleski • Harry Curlin
Vicki & David Dodd
Carl Way & Tina Miller-Way
Philothei Phoenix

Deadlines for Yellowhammer Submissions

Summer 2018

May 10, 2018

Fall 2018

August 10, 2018

AOS Project Helps Close eBird Reporting Gaps

By KEN HARE



WHEN EBIRD PROJECT LEADER MARSHALL ILIFF challenged AOS members to help close the gaping holes in eBird reports from more than a dozen Alabama counties, the task appeared daunting.

With its huge database of bird sightings, eBird plays a vital role in ornithological research. But as Iliff told AOS members at the society's winter meeting in January 2017, there are many locations in Alabama where such data are hard to find. When Iliff issued his challenge, there were 16 Alabama counties with fewer than 150 species identified all time on eBird.

One county, Fayette, had just 111 species identified on eBird and fewer than 25 eBird checklists all time. Adjacent Lamar County had just 96 species and just 33 all-time checklists.

But at the urging of then-AOS president Anne Miller, a committee was formed at the spring meeting in April to accept Iliff's challenge. I was honored to be chosen as co-chairman along with veteran birder Greg Harber. Greg and I set out to build a team of good birders to tackle the project. We ended up with a team of not just good birders, but some of the best birders in the state.

We targeted those 16 Alabama counties with fewer than 150 species, with special emphasis on the 10 counties that also had fewer than 150 complete checklists on eBird. In just 10 months of focusing on the 16 Alabama counties with fewer than 150 species all time, we managed to reach 150 or more species in seven of those counties. In doing that, we pulled the average number of species in those 16 counties up from 128 per county to 150 per county.

That means we entered 2018 with just nine counties to focus on for the current year: Bibb, Blount, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Fayette, Greene, Lamar, and Pickens. However, in January we topped the 150 species goal in Greene, leaving just eight counties to target for the remainder of 2018. The

species count in each of those eight counties now range from a low of 134 in Lamar to 149 in Chilton and Pickens.

In the 10 counties with fewer than 150 complete checklists all time, we made even greater progress. We topped 150 checklists in eight of the 10 counties, leaving just two counties—Fayette and Lamar—under the goal. We raised the average number of complete checklists in these 10 counties from 80 per county to a whopping 203.

Even though we did not reach the 150 checklist goal in Fayette and Lamar, we still made significant progress there: The number of complete checklists in Lamar went from 33 all time in February 2017 to 89 by year's end; in Fayette the number went from 25 to 87. (On January 20, 2018, Greg Harber led a second field trip to Fayette County and added nine new species to the county list, bringing that county to 143 species.)

In addition to Greg and me, members of the AOS/eBird Project Team are: Sue Moske, John Trent, Neil Gilbert, Ken Ward, Judy and Don Self, Geoff Hill, Larry Gardella, Jim Holmes, Jud Johnston, Carrie Threadgill, Anne Miller, Jordan Broadhead, Frank Farrell, and Marshall Iliff.

Different team members helped in different ways. Some, like Judy and Don Self, concentrated on birding one county. Judy and Don made repeated trips to Choctaw County, and were the primary factor in pushing the number of species there from 122 to 164. Others, such as Geoff Hill and Jim Holmes, birded in many of the target counties. Greg focused on leading field trips to Fayette County.

Two members of the team—Jud Johnston and Carrie Threadgill—successfully added old lists from several of these counties, not only increasing the number of species but adding valuable historical perspective to the data from the counties.

"I am so excited that AOS has taken this on and has made so much progress this year" said Marshall Iliff. He pointed out that "every single checklist from these blank spots on the map" helps to fill in blank spots when eBird builds its science-based modeling of species locations and migration patterns.

"These models depend on having representative data from most parts of the country, and the blank spots in Alabama that are getting filled in have way more value than yet another checklist from a well-covered region," he said.

But as we close in on our targets in the remaining counties, we could still use additional help. If you would like to join the team, email me at kmhare46@knology.net.

AOS SPRING MEETING, DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA, APRIL 20-22, 2018

AOS Spring Meeting Schedule



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL ACTIVITIES BEGIN OR occur at the Dauphin Island United Methodist Church (DIUMC), 302 Key Street, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018

- 6:45 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: DIUMC
- 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: DIUMC parking lot
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 opposite for details.
- 11:30 a.m.** Potluck Lunch at the home of Jennie Stowers
- 3:00 p.m.** Board Meeting at DIUMC

- 5:00 p.m.** Registration at DIUMC
- 5:30 p.m. BANQUET AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Where: DIUMC
- 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 opposite for details and requirements.
- 12:00 p.m.** Compilation at the Goat Trees.
(Includes all bird sightings in Mobile and Baldwin Counties from noon, Friday, April 20, 2018, to noon, Sunday, April 22.)
- 1:00 p.m.** Adjourn

Spring Meeting Field Trips

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018

- Field Trip:** Baldwin County Birds and Blooms
Leader: Andrew Haffenden
Meeting Time: 6:30-6:45 a.m., depart 6:45 a.m.
Meeting Place: DIUMC Meeting Hall, 302 Key Street, 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 pitcher 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 about 8:15 a.m. and those staying in Tillman's Corner can meet us at Walmart at 7:15 a.m. **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

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

Trip Leader: TBA
Meeting Time: 7:00 a.m.
Meeting Place: DIUMC Parking Lot

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.

Field Trip 2: Birds of Pelican Island

Trip Leader: Andrew Haffenden
Meeting Time: 7:15 a.m.
Meeting Place: DIUMC Church Parking Lot

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 will 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 be back in time for the potluck lunch.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

Field Trip: 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: www.aosbirds.org/alabama-birding/blakeley-island/ to register in advance. Registration is valid for the rest of the current year.

AOS SPRING MEETING, DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA, APRIL 20-22, 2018

Meet the Speaker: Dr. Mark S. Woodrey

DR. MARK S. WOODREY is an assistant research professor and avian ecologist at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. He also serves as the research coordinator at the NOAA/Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in Moss Point, Mississippi. He has studied a variety of bird groups including intercontinental land bird migrants, winter forest birds, colonial beach-nesting birds, grassland birds, and breeding birds of bottomland hardwood forests. He coordinates the Grand Bay NERR's System-wide Monitoring Program; a national, standardized water quality and meteorological monitoring effort, and is involved in collaborative research projects focused on the ecology of estuarine fishes, effects of prescribed fire and sea level rise on coastal plant and animal communities, levels of mercury contamination in estuaries, and the nesting ecology of Diamondback Terrapins. The main goal of his research is to better understand the ecological relationships between the coastal flora and fauna to facilitate the informed and effective management and conservation of coastal ecosystems along the northern Gulf of Mexico. He received his B.S. (Zoology) and M.S. (Zoology) from Ohio State University, and his Ph.D. (Biology) from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Development of a Gulf-wide Avian Monitoring Network

DR. MARK S. WOODREY'S program will examine how birds are a conspicuous and remarkable natural resource of the Gulf of Mexico. Hundreds of species and millions of individual birds are supported throughout their annual life cycle by barrier islands, beaches, marshes, nearshore and offshore waters, and coastal forests. Although many avian monitoring projects have been implemented, almost all are short-term (e.g. graduate student projects of 2-5 years), of limited geographic scope (i.e., most are local-scale efforts), or a combination of both. Thus, scientists and conservationists lack a comprehensive and coordinated approach to monitoring avian resources across the northern Gulf of Mexico, a critical need that was highlighted during and after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network (GoMAMN) was formed to define a vision and process for developing the role of bird monitoring in achieving integrated, efficient, and effective Gulf of Mexico management and recovery of impacted avian species.

Spring Meeting Accommodations

ACCOMMODATIONS ON THE ISLAND ARE LIMITED, so be sure to make reservations early for the AOS Spring Meeting on Dauphin Island.

Websites:

www.gulfinfo.com
www.dauphinisland.chamber.com

Motels:

Gulf Breeze Motel: 251-861-7344 or
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

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Your Membership Dues Support the Work of the Alabama Ornithological Society

Please check membership category: New Member Renewing Member

Please check membership category: Student \$10 Individual \$25 Family \$40* Sustaining \$50
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Communicating with our members online saves the earth's resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and also saves much-needed funds for AOS. Your digital subscription to *The Yellowhammer* and *Alabama Birdlife* will automatically be sent to the email address listed below. To receive print copies of AOS publications instead, please check here. Mail your completed form and check to:

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City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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AOS SPRING MEETING 2018 REGISTRATION FORM

Complete and return to:

Joan Dixon, 1059 Palmetto Street, Mobile, AL 36604

Telephone: (205) 879-1935 • Email: joanwsdixon@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to AOS. Checks must be received by April 10, 2018

Name(s) _____

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Registration @ \$25 per person	\$
Do you plan to go on the Friday Field Trip? (see p. 9)	(No Charge)
Banquet Buffet @ \$25 per person	\$
AOS 2018 Dues	\$
DIBS Land Purchase Fund Contribution	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

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