

THE YELLOWHAMMER

VOLUME 27, NO. 4 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY WINTER 2007

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

FOUNDED 1952



IN THIS ISSUE

4

ON THE ROAD AGAIN
EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA
by Carroll Pinckard

6

AOS 2007 FALL
MEETING REPORT
by Greg Harber

8

MINUTES FROM THE FALL
AOS BOARD MEETING
by Karen Wilson

8

NEW DUES AND
REGISTRATION FEES
*by Linda Reynolds and
Frank Farrell*

9

AOS 2008 WINTER MEETING
BIRDING LOCATIONS
NEAR JOE WHEELER
STATE PARK
by Steve McConnell

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Linda Reynolds
 VICE PRESIDENT.....Eric Soehren
 TREASURER.....Frank Farrell
 SECRETARY.....Joan Siegwald
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.....Stan Hamilton
 CURATOR.....Dan Holliman

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

TENNESSEE VALLEY.....Floyd Sherrod, Damien Simbeck
 MOUNTAIN REGION.....Jud Johnson, Alison Glascock
 COASTAL PLAINAnnabel Markle, Tommy Pratt
 GULF COASTMike Wilson, John Porter
 NORTHWEST FLORIDADonald Ware, Betsy Tetlow

EDITORS

ALABAMA BIRDLIFE.....Tom Haggerty
 YELLOWHAMMER.....Robert Reed
 ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS.....Greg Jackson
 NORTHWEST FLORIDA BIRD RECORDS.....
Bob Duncan

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION

Greg Harber
 Larry Gardella

MEMBERSHIP

Larry Gardella
 Tommy Pratt, Floyd Sherrod,
 Mike Wilson

SLIDES

Tom Haggerty

BIRD RECORDS

Steve McConnell, *Secretary*
 Damien Simbeck, Howard Horne, Bill Bremser,
 Larry Gardella, Ben Garmon, Eric Soehren

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Allen Tubbs and Lauren Dunning

NOMINATING

Karen Wilson
 Sharon Hudgins

ONLINE SERVICES

Chris Price
 Greg Jackson, Steve McConnell, Rick West

PUBLICATIONS

Annabel Markle
 Bob Reed, Tom Haggerty, Robin McDonald

CENSUSING

Greg Jackson
 Bob Duncan, Sharon Hudgins, Steve McConnell,
 Sue Moske, Shawn Reed, Eric Soehren,
 Bill Summerour, Michael Roedel

ALABAMA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

Rick West

EDUCATION

Shirley and Frank Farrell
 Nancy McGinty, Carol Alford, Stan and Dana Hamilton

FIELD TRIPS

Linda Reynolds
 Howard Horne

RESEARCH

Paul Kittle
 Geoff Hill, Bill Summerour, Greg Jackson

MEETINGS

Bianca J. Allen
 Tom and Joan Siegwald, Mike Wilson, John Porter,
 Laurie Bailey, Shelley Ducharme



AS WE BEGIN THIS NEW YEAR and new term of office for AOS, let me first thank all of those who served so well the past two years. Stan Hamilton always made everything look easy and his accomplishments were many. Frank Farrell, along with Shirley, had the very difficult job of treasurer, and being ever the punishment glutton, has agreed to do it again. (Of course, I had to bribe him!) The meeting committee managed to take an empty room and transform it into a warm, welcoming place. Thanks to Bianca, Charlotte, Mary Frances, Tom, Joan and Sharon. *And John Stowers, what would we do without you and Jennie!!!*

John and Mary Porter kept our thirst abated, Bob Reed and Robin McDonald kept us informed through *The Yellowhammer*, and Tom Haggerty sent us *Alabama Birdlife*. Annabel Markle is our artist-in-residence and we are all wearing her latest creation.

As we begin anew in 2008, there are new things that must be done and new decisions that must be made. I know I can count on each of you to do your part to keep this organization going smoothly.



There are two things that need to be resolved soon. One is the meeting place for Spring and Fall meetings at Dauphin Island. The old hall has been sold. Sea Lab will eventually have an ideal place, but it still has to be built. Any and all ideas are welcome. Another challenge is finding a replacement for Colonel Bob, editor of *The Yellowhammer*. He has taken another job and cannot continue to edit. If you want a truly rewarding job in AOS, talk to Colonel Bob. He says he hates to give it up but really has very little choice.

One of the goals for the next two years is to focus on research going on here in Alabama. I think it is very important that we know what is happening in our state.

Our kickoff speakers are two graduate students at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville.

I look forward to serving this organization and I pledge to do my best. Eric Soehren is our very capable Vice-President and he is also eager to get underway.

We hope to see you at Joe Wheeler State Park January 25-27, 2008.

Good luck with our Christmas Bird Counts and may each of you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Eastern West Virginia



THIS IS A VERY SCENIC, PRODUCTIVE and relaxed one-week birding excursion in the eastern part of the state that advertises itself as being WILD AND WONDERFUL, and ALMOST HEAVEN. The trip is in the Allegheny Mountains and mostly within the boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest. An excellent map of the forest at a scale of one-quarter inch to the mile is available at a reasonable cost from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. My wife and I discovered this area for ourselves about thirty-five years ago, and since then we have taken this trip almost yearly.

West Virginia is not a large state; it is the fortieth in area among the United States. Its northern panhandle is almost as far north as New York City, its southern border is further south than Richmond, Virginia and its western border at the Ohio River is as far west as Port Huron, Michigan. The geographical diversity and altitude variety contribute to a mixture of eastern, western, northern and southern plants and animals. Elevations range from 242 feet at Harper's Ferry to 4,863 feet at Spruce Knob. The Allegheny Mountain backbone separates the drainage to the Atlantic from that flowing to the Gulf of Mexico. West Virginia lies between two of the major North American flyways, the Atlantic and the Mississippi, and the mixture of bird species is remarkable.

Eastern West Virginia is mainly a mountainous forested region with beautiful valleys, rivers and clear-flowing streams, many of which are well-known by trout fishermen. There are good, but hilly and winding roads that provide access to all of the towns and birding areas that we visit. There are no interstate or multilane divided highways within the region being described.

For us, the trip begins in the small town of Monterey, Virginia, located at the intersection of U.S. highways 250 and 220. There is a motel, at least one B&B, a couple of small



eating places, some shops and an open early and late convenience store. Early on day one, after having coffee and a snack at the convenience store, we drive south on U.S. 220 to Vanderpool, Virginia, southwest on Virginia highway 84, and just beyond the Virginia-West Virginia border, and, before reaching Frost, West Virginia, turning left and up a forest road to a place called Paddy's Knob near the state line. When we first came here there was a fire lookout tower here; it has since been dismantled, but it is shown on some old large-scale maps of the area. It is here that we look for our first-of-the-year Mourning Warbler, and we are usually successful. There are many singing resident and migrating birds to stop for on the way up and down. We return to Monterey for breakfast.

After breakfast we drive west on U.S. 250 to the town of Bartow, West Virginia. There are many places to stop along the way to look and listen for birds and we often encounter waves of migrants, particularly warblers, crossing the mountain. It usually takes us most of the day to get to Bartow. There is a very good motel and restaurant in Bartow, The Hermitage. We stay here four nights. The Greenbrier River flows southward adjacent to the motel and sometimes we watch trout fishermen trying their luck or honing their skills as we eat. After dinner we bird the nearby fields and back roads until dark. It is advisable to secure advance reservations at The Hermitage. There are two other motels, one a few miles west on U.S. 250 and the other with an adjacent RV park and campground a few miles south on West Virginia 28.

Early the morning of day two, long before daybreak, we brew some coffee in our room and then drive a few miles high into the forest on a well-maintained forest road to a favorite place near the ridge of a mountain, arriving there before dawn. We sit quietly and enjoy our coffee and await the dawn chorus of thrushes. It is an unforgettable experience,

to sit and listen to and compare the songs of four species of brown-backed thrushes: Veery, Swainson's, Hermit and Wood, plus American Robin. Soon after sunrise the forest becomes alive and filled with the songs of many other passerines. After a couple of hours of birding in this mixed mountain forest we return to the restaurant for a late breakfast. The remainder of the day we travel west on U.S. 250, stopping often for birds. It is usually safe to walk and birdwatch from the wide shoulders of the road, and there are some short tracks into the forest.

This birding area is known as the "High Cheat Region," named for the Cheat River far below. The east and west boundaries of the region are the Greenbriar River on the east and the Tygart River in a valley to the west. Within a mile or two on either side of U.S. 250, twenty-two species of wood warblers have been known to breed. Over the years we have seen most of them many times. This birding takes us to dinner time, after which we are ready to rest and prepare for the next day.

Not quite so early the morning of day three, we return west on U.S. 250 a short distance to the Pocahoantas-Randolph county line, where we turn off to the north on a forest service road and drive a few more miles to the Gaudineer Knob recreation area, another of our favorite locations. Looking west from the lookout, the view is magnificent; as far as the eye can see, wave after wave of forested mountain ridges having no evidence of man's presence. There are few other places like this in the eastern United States. It is here that we are serenaded by Winter Wrens, one of our favorite bird songs. Golden-crowned Kinglets, Magnolia Warblers and Dark-eyed Juncos are here to join in the chorus. We picnic here and then spend the remainder of the day exploring and birding this beautiful area. We try to avoid weekends and holidays here so as to enjoy the solitude.

Day four, we drive northward on WV 28 to Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia at elevation 4,863 feet. Here we usually find species typical of the northland, including Magnolia, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Juncos. Purple Finches are sometimes seen. We then return to Bartow and drive slowly west on highway 250 as far as the intersection of U.S. 250 and U.S. 219 in Huttonsville. Just before the long downgrade to the valley of the Tygart River, we have seen Northern Goshawks, another indicator of the northern aspect of this

region. We devote the entire day to this area, including side trips to the famous Shavers Fork where there may be hundreds of people fishing for trout, and in the opposite direction, along the railroad right of way, before returning to Bartow.

The morning of day five, we drive south on WV 28, passing the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank and the road to the Cass Scenic Railroad with its classic Shay-type steam engine locomotives that travel to the top of Bald Knob, the second highest point in West Virginia. We continue on to Marlinton where we can visit the Pearl Buck museum.

Day six we drive, a short distance to the Cranberry Mountain visitor center and then devote the day to enjoying the 750-acre Cranberry Glades botanical area. There are four bogs where the plant, animal and bird life is similar to that found in the muskegs of the north. Cranberry Glades is the southernmost place in North America where some of these life forms are found. There are more than sixty-five plants growing in the bogs and glades and it is time to get out the plant and flower books to try to identify them. A boardwalk leads through several plant communities. Birds in this area include Canada and Magnolia Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Alder Flycatcher, Purple Finch, and, in the woods, Veery, Hermit and Wood Thrushes. We return to Marlinton for the night.

Day seven, we drive to the Cranberry Mountain visitor center, where we turn north on U.S. 150, the Highland Scenic Highway. This beautiful 22-mile parkway is somewhat like a roller-coaster, varying in elevation from 3,150 feet to 4,200 feet, with higher mountains alongside. This highway is a very special place for birding and we spend the entire day here, with a picnic lunch at one of the campgrounds, either Tea Creek or Day Run. Usually there is light traffic, and we park frequently to enjoy Winter Wrens and other resident and migrant songbirds. The Mourning Warbler can often be found, especially in suitable habitat in the Williams River area. We have the choice of returning to Marlinton by continuing on the parkway to its intersection with U.S. 219 or by driving on forest roads from the Tea Creek area to the Edray trout hatchery. We often choose the second option.

After spending the night in Marlinton, it is time to drive homeward. This is a very satisfying trip and it suitable for a person with limited mobility since long walks are not necessary.

OCTOBER 12-14, 2007, DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA

Fall Meeting Report

By GREGORY J. HARBER



THE PHRASE "SAME TIME NEXT YEAR" OFFERS A very good summary of this fall meeting when compared to last year. Beautiful weather—almost too perfect—resulted in fewer individual birds, but there were a good number of species to be found. The one new wrinkle this time was our meeting place: the Isle Dauphine Country Club, adjacent to the placid waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The meeting opened with our usual Friday night potluck dinner and members' slide show. I opted to share images of some memorable moments I have experienced while enjoying nature, accompanied by the song by Stevie Wonder, "Stay Gold," which itself is based on the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay," by Robert Frost. I think everyone present would agree that the spectacular sunsets on Friday and Saturday nights—so readily enjoyed from the patio at the club—were golden moments in their own right. I invite more of our members to share their own special moments at our next meeting.

Saturday dawned clear and bright. The various field trips offered the chance to visit our regular hotspots and a trip to Sand Island, compliments of John Stowers. The word back from Fort Morgan, where the Hummer/Bird Study Group was banding, was that the mosquitoes were monsters with appetites to match! Needless to say, that trip was cut short. Some of the more unusual birds seen during the weekend were: Roseate Spoonbill, Swainson's Hawk, Lesser and Greater Black-backed and Franklin's Gulls, Black-billed Cuckoo, Rufous Hummingbird, Western Kingbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler and LeConte's Sparrow.

John Stowers and his wife Jennie graciously opened their home at lunchtime to the horde of hungry birders, feeding us the best seafood gumbo on the gulf coast. More than one set of eyes was glued to the Alabama football game on television. Unlike last year when Monarchs dominated the butterfly scene, Gulf Fritillaries, and to a lesser extent, Long-tailed Skippers, were the prevalent species winging their way past all weekend long.

Following our fine seafood and BBQ banquet on Saturday night, speaker Paul Lehman presented a program on notable migrant traps throughout North America, and what qualities and features make them good sites for finding birds. He began our journey in the frozen tendrils of the Aleutian Island chain in Alaska and followed the coastline south along the Pacific Ocean, skipped over to the Gulf Coast and on to Fort Jefferson off the Florida Keys (still haven't figured out why he didn't include Dauphin Island, though). Continuing north, we visited Cape May and Churchill and other sites before turning to migrant traps in the interior U.S. As Paul noted, wherever natural features like water and vegetation are found in an isolated setting, birds will be found also.

Prior to Paul's program we presented awards to two individuals for their outstanding contributions to birds and conservation. Congratulations are due to Bill Summerour for receiving the Tom Imhof Award in recognition of his many, many years of contributions to the Alabama birding community, for his generous spirit in sharing his artistic talents, mentoring students and dedicated work in the field. Congratulations also to Anne G. Miller, founder and Executive Director of The Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park, who was presented with the AOS Conservation Award in recognition of her 30 years of caring for Alabama's native wildlife in peril. Begun in 1977 as an all-volunteer organization, the center now has a staff of 10 and 200 active volunteers. The center annually treats 3000 animals, across a spectrum of 100 species.

Sunday at noon Linda Reynolds officiated at the compilation, her first act as the new president of the AOS. Our final tally for the weekend was 186 species. My thanks to Stan Hamilton, who completed his term as president, and to his dedicated crew of helpers. I know I speak for many when I say we have enjoyed the delightful array of speakers and our meetings these past two years. I hope to see you all the Winter Meeting at Joe Wheeler State Park in January 2008.

*2007 AOS Fall Meeting Compilation List
Dauphin Island, Alabama, October 12-14*

NOTEWORTHY BIRDS OF THE weekend included Great Black-backed Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, and Traill's Flycatcher.

Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Mottled Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Green-winged Teal
Redhead
Northern Bobwhite
Pied-billed Grebe
Northern Gannet
American White Pelican
Brown Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Magnificent Frigatebird
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Reddish Egret
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Clapper Rail
Sora
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden Plover

Snowy Plover
Wilson's Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Killdeer
American Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Spotted Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Willet
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Dunlin
Stilt Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Phalarope
Laughing Gull
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Least Tern
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 Ground-Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Great Horned Owl
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Traill's Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Western Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler

Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Prothonotary Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
LeConte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Seaside Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Boat-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Baltimore Oriole
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.

Minutes from the Fall AOS Board Meeting

By KAREN WILSON

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AOS fall board meeting at Dauphin Island. The treasurer reported a balance of \$16,747 in the AOS checking account before the bills for the fall meeting were paid.

The conservation committee has sent a letter to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service about the Spotted Owl recovery plan in the northwest that has met resistance from some groups, encouraging the USF&WS to draft a new recovery plan. The American Bird Conservancy drafted a petition as well. A letter was also sent on behalf of AOS regarding the filling of wetlands adjacent to the Houston Audubon Society in Houston, Texas.

The membership committee has temporarily postponed the CD of the AOS membership list to update it with the new board members and in hopes of more participation.

The board voted to send the new AOS brochure the publications committee has been working on to the printer.

The board voted to slightly raise membership dues to keep up with inflation and bring them more in line with dues of neighboring states. Student dues will not change.

DIBS is pushing Forever Wild to purchase the four lots it now owns on Cadillac Avenue adjacent to the shell mound. DIBS also announced it will be holding a silent auction at the next spring meeting. The items to be auctioned are four paintings that have been donated to DIBS.

The Breeding Bird Atlas has progressed to the stage of confirming the data.

Important Dates

FOURTH FRIDAY—January 25–27, 2008

Winter Meeting, Joe Wheeler State Park

THIRD FRIDAY—April 18–20, 2008

Spring Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

SECOND FRIDAY—October 10–12, 2008

Fall Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

New Dues and Registration Fees

By LINDA REYNOLDS *and* FRANK FARRELL

AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION AND THOUGHT, THE Board has reluctantly voted to raise AOS membership dues effective January 1, 2008, to keep up with inflation and bring them more in line with dues of neighboring states. Student dues will not change. The new dues are:

Student: \$10
 Individual: \$25
 Family: \$40
 Sustaining: \$50
 Life: \$350
 Family Life: \$550

Also, early bird registration is \$25 for the Winter meeting. If you register late, it goes to \$50. This drastic step is being enacted to make sure we have enough money to have our meetings. Late registration is any envelope postmarked after the deadline. The Treasurer will return any registration at the early bird cost of \$25 if it is posted after the deadline. "There are too many who send it in 10 days late but back date their check," Frank Farrell said.

Let's talk about our revenues and where they are spent. Dues cover our long-range plans and expenditures. For instance, last year, we donated to Dr. Geoff Hill's research project, we produced new T-shirts (which will hopefully be a money-making project), and we will be printing a new brochure. Registration fees fund our meetings which include transportation expense, lodging, food and fees for the speaker as well as rental for the meeting room, which has increased significantly in recent years.

We also have to pay for the caterer and must know well in advance how many people we are going to be feeding. All these registration expenses have to be budgeted ahead of time, hence the late fee.

Now the really bad news. If you register at the door, it will be \$75. Sort of like a carrot and a stick. We hate to do this, but we must; and we know we can count on you.

AOS WINTER MEETING, JANUARY 25-27, 2008

Birding Locations Near Joe Wheeler State Park

By STEVE McCONNELL



EDITOR'S NOTE: *Steve McConnell was 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. Cross the dam (locks at north end are closed to visitors) and turn at first road on right just before state park office (restrooms). Curve right to parking area overlooking dam and water on both sides. When finished here, also check the fishing access area and boat ramps reached by returning to AL 101 and turning right just past park office. Expect ducks, gulls, loons, and possibly eagles in this area.

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 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 near 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. Park and walk to shoreline to check embayment and main Tennessee River channel for ducks, gulls, loons, etc. There is usually a raft of scaup out in the river that sometimes attracts rarer species.

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 the 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. 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. Eastern Screech-Owl and Barred Owl are resident.

TVA POND

From trail parking area, return to Reservation Road and turn right. Travel 0.3 miles to fenced pond on left. Park and walk up to fence to check for ducks and gulls.

FDC (WETLANDS) TRAIL

Continue west for another 0.4 miles to the next traffic signal and turn left. In 0.2 miles turn right at intersection towards the FDC pilot plant (look for greenhouses). Park near gate and walk the gravel road beyond for a mile or so. Expect more winter passerine species.

Membership Directory Deadline Extended

By LARRY GARDELLA



LARRY GARDELLA NEEDS YOUR HELP! He has been trying to do a CD with everyone's information; however, response has been minimal. Please send him your name, address, pertinent phone numbers and e-mail address. He would like it yesterday, but January 25, 2008, (at the winter meeting) will suffice. There are occasions when we need to contact each other, especially if there is something rare in the air.

Please remember that we can only have a directory if you and others get your information to me either at:

tapaculo@knology.net or

Larry Gardella
3549 Audubon Road,
Montgomery, AL 36111

Please include your name, your mailing address (or N/A if you do not want people to contact you by mail), your phone number (or N/A if you do not want people to contact you by phone), your email address (or N/A if you do not want people to contact you by email), and "yes" if you are willing to show birding sites to other members.

Winter Speakers

OUR WINTER SPEAKERS, JILL WICK AND LISA GARNER-Barillas, come to us from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama. They are both doing banding and studies on migrants in the Bankhead National Forest and at the Walls of Jericho. They will highlight their experiences, explain their goals, and share the results of their research. Jill Wick and Lisa Garner-Barillas are outstanding young women and they are looking forward to speaking to us.

Electronic Yellowhammer?

IT COSTS OVER A DOLLAR AND A HALF 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 *The Yellowhammer* in color, as a pdf file, please email the editor at Robert.Reed@psc.alabama.gov.

Deadlines for Yellowhammer Submissions

Spring 2008	February 14, 2008
Summer 2008	June 1, 2008
Fall 2008	August 20, 2008

AOS WINTER MEETING 2008

Joe Wheeler State Park, Alabama, January 25-27, 2008

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 Hall
(open 5:00- 8:00)
- 7:00 p.m. Announcements and 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
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour—Cypress Room
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet—Location TBA
- 7:00 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

The next AOS meeting will at Joe Wheeler State Park Lodge, January 25-27, 2008.

Rooms are reserved at the lodge for a convention rate of \$62/night. 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 72Alt). We have 39 rooms plus one suite 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 2008 REGISTRATION FORM

Complete and return to:

Frank Farrell, 2744 Darlene Circle, Birmingham, Alabama 35235

Telephone: (205) 815-3554 • E-mail: frank_far@msn.com

Please make checks payable to AOS. Checks must be received by January 14, 2008. After January 14, registration fee is \$50.

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 (January 14-24: \$50; On-site registration: \$75)	\$
Banquet @ \$16 per person	\$
AOS 2008 Dues	\$
DIBS Land Purchase Fund Contribution	\$
Coastal Birding Association 2008 Dues (\$5)	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

THE YELLOWHAMMER

VOLUME 27, NO. 4 • WINTER 2007

EDITOR.....Bob Reed
DESIGN.....Robin McDonald
ILLUSTRATIONS.....Annabel Markle

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Greg Harber
Carroll Pinckard
Rick West

The Yellowhammer, the newsletter of the Alabama Ornithological Society, is published four times a year. Editorial Office: 88838 Tallassee Highway, Tallassee, AL 36078. Send articles to be considered for publication to: Robert. Reed@psc.alabama.gov. Subscriptions to *The Yellowhammer* and *Alabama Birdlife* are included in the AOS annual membership dues. Single copies \$2.00. Complimentary copies available for review and promotional purposes.

Address correspondence concerning membership to:
Frank Farrell, Treasurer
2744 Darlene Circle
Birmingham, AL 35235
e-mail: frank_far@msn.com

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



AOS ONLINE
<http://www.bham.net/aos/>
AOS RARE BIRD ALERT
TELEPHONE HOTLINE:
(256) 751-4788

THE NEW AOS ONLINE RETAIL STORE
<http://www.withoutbricks.com/aosstore>

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>

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
88838 TALLASSEE HIGHWAY
TALLASSEE, AL 36078