

THE LIMP KIN

Newsletter of The Albany Audubon Society
April 2015 Issue



Post Office Box 705, Albany, Georgia 31701
Founded 1972, Chartered 1973
www.albanyaudubonsociety.synthasite.com

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Thursdays of each month, September – April in the Wet Lab of the Flint RiverQuarium Business Office at 117 Pine Ave., Albany, GA 31707.

Mission Statement: The mission of Albany Audubon Society is to promote conservation and restoration of local natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Feature Presentation

By Suzanna McIntosh

With spring in the air, this month's Albany Audubon meeting on Thursday, April 9, will begin with a field trip to the Flint RiverQuarium's new pollinator-native plant garden. Meet us in front of the RiverQuarium at 7:00 p.m. for an update on this special addition. The meeting will continue in the Wet Lab afterward with a special presentation by Emily Jean McAfee, CEO of the Flint RiverQuarium and longtime Audubon member, and Suzanna McIntosh, Master Gardener and Monarch's Across Georgia Volunteer. Learn why *Butterfly Gardening is (So Important) for the Birds*, and pick up some tips on creating a healthy habitat that supports birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Hope to see you there!

Field Trip

By Alan Ashley

It's that time of year again. Spring migration is underway. In just a few weeks we will be making our trek to one of the Southeast's premier birding hotspots. This year, we're throwing in our lot with St. George Island, FL. As neo-tropical migrants go, expect nothing, but be ready for anything. After the passage of a cold front, rain, or winds from the North, the island may become a migrant trap overflowing with warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, and buntings. Even when conditions are not conducive to a "fallout," there are always some migrants on the island as well as an abundance of shorebirds, gulls, terns and waders. Some of these birds of interest include Snowy, Piping and Wilson's

BOARD MEMBERS

President/Editor	Melissa Martin
Council Delegate/Web Administrator	
Vice President	Ron Simpson
Secretary	Kathie Entz
Membership List/Hospitality Chair	Julia Moye
Program Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Bill Bates
Field Trip Chair	Alan Ashley
Conservation Chair	Birdie Gates
Board Members	Melvin Dees and Lucy Power



*Flint RiverQuarium Butterfly Pollinator Garden
Photograph by Suzanna McIntosh*

Field Trip Cont'd

By Alan Ashley

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Reddish Egrets and Gull-billed Terns. On our drive down, we will look for Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites and make stops at several spots in hopes of seeing birds of marshes and mudflats. If you are attending, please contact Field Trip Chair, Alan Ashley, 229-894-2362, for further details. You will need to arrange for overnight stay on your own for April 24-26. There is also a \$6.00 per car charge for entrance into the state park where we will visit each day. All attendees meet at the Big Lots parking lot near the big sign at 6:45 a.m. on Friday, April 24. We will leave at 7:00 a.m. sharp. Please pack breakfast and picnic lunch items for the duration of the trip as we will not stop for meals at restaurants during the day. We will dine as a group at a local restaurant each evening.



Chestnut-sided Warbler
Roy Cohutta

Eastern Towhee
Roy Cohutta

Field Trip “Rap”-Up

By Melvin Dees

Six birders from the Albany Audubon Society met at Lake Loretta Saturday morning March 14 for a field trip to a few of the birding spots in Albany. Lake Loretta turned out to be a great place to start as there were several waterfowl present for our viewing pleasure: Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Buffleheads, Blue-winged Teal, and Gadwalls to go along with the more common Belted Kingfisher, American Coots, Canada Geese and Pied-billed Grebes. The next stop was the Greenway/Riverfront Trail downtown Albany. Birds seen or heard were Northern Parulas, Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-eyed Vireos, Eastern Phoebe, and a live Armadillo to add to the mix. The group then relocated to the Cleve Cox Boat Landing off of Philema Rd. to bird on the northern part of the Riverfront Trail. Highlights at this location included a flock of Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, House Wren, Song, Field and White-throated Sparrows, Eastern Towhee, Downy Woodpecker and Common Yellowthroat. At this point a light rain ensued, with three birders continuing to the final stop at Lily Pond. There were not a lot of shorebirds other than Killdeer and Greater Yellowlegs here, but on the backside of Denson Rd., several Palm Warblers and Savannah Sparrows were spotted. Thanks to Field Trip Chair, Alan Ashley for a great day of bird watching.



Join

If you are a member of the Albany Audubon Society or would like to become a member, it is that time of year again. Even if you paid dues earlier this year and want to continue your membership, now is the time to send in your payment. Local membership begins each September. A benefit of local membership is knowing your contribution will be used to fund local concerns. Reminder: Enrollment in our local chapter does not include membership in the National Audubon Society, subscription to the Audubon magazine nor is it required to be a member of National Audubon. If you are a National member, you are automatically a local Chapter member.

Yes, I want to become a member of the Albany Audubon Chapter!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

We now have several local membership levels. Choose from the following:

- Bobwhite Quail (Individual) \$20/year
 - Summer Tanager (Family) \$30/year
 - Wood Stork (Donor) \$100/year
 - Limpkin (Life) \$200
- For individuals and couples

\$ _____

I am currently a member of the National Audubon Society,
yes/no _____

Please mail this form and your check to Albany Audubon Society, P.O. Box 705, Albany, GA 31701. Thank you!