



NORTH ALABAMA BIRDWATCHERS SOCIETY

SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF TRIPS, 2010-2011



VOLUME 34

Kenneth Ward, President

OUR 34th SEASON

Rufina Ward, Editor

Hello folks! For those of you new to us, the North Alabama Birdwatchers Society (NABS) is truly a birding group for everyone, from beginners to experts. We have been around since 1976 and are the only birding group in northern Alabama to offer a set of regularly scheduled trips each year. We visit a variety of areas across northern Alabama, most of which are included on the North Alabama Birding Trail (NABT; <http://www.northalabamabirdingtrail.com/>). This year we have listed 34 trips, 7 of which are not NABS trips, strictly speaking, but 28 of which we lead, starting in late August and ending in mid-May.

By birding with NABS, you'll have the opportunity to go out with experienced people who are familiar with the places we visit and who love to share their knowledge. NABS also provides greater access to certain natural areas where birding by car is restricted to groups.

Although the focus is on birds, NABS outings also offer opportunities to become more generally familiar with many of the beautiful and diverse natural areas characteristic of northern Alabama. The places we'll visit provide excellent opportunities to observe, study and appreciate a variety of flora and fauna, including wildflowers, trees, insects, herpetofauna (snakes and frogs, ☺) and mammals. Some NABS regulars have considerable knowledge of these other groups and would be glad to answer questions and provide information during trips.

Our regular meeting time is Saturday, 7:00 am for most trips, although we have a few Sunday outings and a couple of late-morning meeting times planned this season. Half-day trips are the norm, although some will include extended birding into the afternoon for those interested. Please note that, although it's usually easy to leave early, there are a few trips behind locked gates that involve a minimum 2-3 hour time commitment (see Wheeler NWR trip descriptions). Bring your binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, refreshments, bug repellent and rain gear. We very seldom cancel trips; if the weather is bad (heavy rain) or dangerous (icy roads, severe storms) enough to warrant cancellation I will send out an email notice.

Send your comments, questions and suggestions to Rufina or Ken Ward, 1689 Longleaf Drive, Huntsville, AL 35806 (256-837-5646; bustmilo@knology.net). We ask for a contribution of \$2 per year, which we prefer in cash when you attend a trip. NABS does not have a bank account and our major expense involves getting newsletters to those without email. Our expenses are minimal and have been going down since we switched over to email distribution. Still, your contributions are much appreciated.

If we don't already have your email address, please consider sending it to us to add to the NABS mailing list. We can then email you this schedule, as well as trip reminders, lists of what birds we see and a few other items of interest. In addition, a copy of the schedule will appear on both the NABS (www.northalbirding.com) and Tennessee Valley Audubon Society (www.tvas.org) websites.

Below are descriptions of the trips scheduled for this season, with directions, trip leaders and contact numbers. We have also included some "Events of Interest" for nature lovers. Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you this season!

2010-2011 NABS SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION OF TRIPS

1. Leighton Area Shorebird Trip, Wheeler Dam (NABT) – 28 August, 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

We will explore the Leighton area and swing by Wheeler Dam on this trip. We'll be looking primarily for shorebird migrants, whose movement through our area should be peaking; our success will depend largely on water levels. We should pick up some neotropical songbird migrants as well. We'll meet at the west parking lot (next to the street) of the Holiday Inn in Decatur, near the river bridge. **John Ehinger, Leader (256-536-2716)**

2. Monte Sano State Park/Hays Preserve (NABT) – 11 September 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

Fall migration continues to heat up for neotropical migrants as we approach mid- to late-September; this trip takes us to 2 of the better spots in our area to see migrating songbirds. We'll meet in Monte Sano SP at the camp store across the road from park headquarters; park in the gravel if there is room. We'll then head to the Hays Preserve, which is not far from Hampton Cove off Hwy 431 (see trip # 25 for more explicit directions to Hays); this is largely bottomland habitat along the Flint River. To get to the park take Monte Sano Blvd (off Governors Drive) to Nolen and follow the signs. You might want to bring some mosquito repellent for this trip, especially for Hays. **Bill McAllister, Leader (256-461-0626)**

3. Monte Sano State Park (NABT) – 18 September, 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

This trip targets neotropical songbird migrants, either breeding residents heading south or transients passing through from the north, mostly on their way to Central and South America. More birds actually pass through our area during the fall than in spring, but the migration period is longer and a defined peak is hard to pinpoint. Still, late September is considered a good time for fall migration birding around here. We'll meet at the camp store, across from park headquarters (see trip #2) - **Ken Ward, Leader (256-837-5646)**

4. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (NABT) Fall Migration Count – 25 September, 2010 (SATURDAY) 5:30 am

The format for this count is similar to that used for Audubon Christmas Counts (see trip #12) – identify and count all birds seen or heard from dawn to late afternoon/dusk; different groups bird different parts of the refuge and nearby areas. This count is relatively new and always scheduled during the peak fall migration period. Birders of all skill levels are welcome; we need all the eyes and ears we can get! We'll regroup at the Wheeler Interpretive Nature Center around 6 pm for compilation. Since there is no longer a single gathering spot for folks to meet and join a group, new participants should contact the Refuge Manager Dwight Cooley. – **Dwight Cooley, Leader (256-353-7243)**

5. Monte Sano State Park (NABT), Huntsville – 2 October 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

We will be looking again for fall migrants, especially warblers; Monte Sano SP is one of the better birding spots in the state during migration. To get to the park, take Monte Sano Blvd to Nolen and follow the signs; we'll meet at the camp store parking lot, across the street from park headquarters (park in the graveled area if there is room). - **Milton Harris, Leader (256-533-0529)**

6. Guntersville State Park (NABT) – 9 October 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

We'll bird primarily around the park campgrounds and nearby Seale Trail. This area can be excellent for fall migrants; the habitat is varied and food is plentiful. We'll meet at the entrance to the park (the state park superintendent's office) on Hwy 227, on the right just past the Short Creek bridge/causeway. – **Matt Morrow, Leader (256-572-3920)**

7. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, The Big Sit (NABT) - 10 October 2010 (SUNDAY) 4:00 am until dusk

THE BIG SIT! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. The National Wildlife Refuge System has adopted it as an activity for National Wildlife Refuge Week. The idea is simple – we'll count from a 17-foot diameter circle, set up chairs, scopes and binoculars, and identify as many birds as we can. This is our fourth year and we will count from a point near the west end of White Springs Dike. Access to the site will be through the second Refuge gate east of Day Park, not the one directly across from the Park. Because you can only access the gate from Alabama 20 east, anyone coming from the east or north should travel to the Decatur Boat Harbor and turn back north on U.S. 31/Alabama 20, taking Alabama 20 to the gate. The gate will be closed, but unlocked. After carefully exiting from Alabama 20, just open the gate, drive through, close the gate behind you and follow the dike road to the site. Although we'll start at 4 am, participants can show up and leave at any time.

– **Dwight Cooley, Leader (256-353-7243)**

EVENT OF INTEREST: Alabama Ornithological Society Fall Meeting, Dauphin Island – 8-10 October 2010 (Linda Reynolds, 256-582-2970)

EVENT OF INTEREST: Coastal Birdfest, Fairhope – 15-18 October, 2010 (Linda Reynolds, 256-582-2970)

8. Wheeler NWR (White Springs Dike), Swan Creek WMA (NABT)– 13 November 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

The White Springs Dike area on Wheeler NWR is among the best places in Alabama to get great looks at a variety of waterfowl, which should just be arriving to overwinter. Birding with a group like NABS provides an opportunity to drive behind locked gates (provided we have at least eight people!), thus gaining access to the best areas to see lots of ducks and

geese. We'll be birding by car to cover the necessary area, but there will be plenty of stops and opportunities to walk around and enjoy the refuge. We will also be looking for Sandhill Cranes, White Pelicans, late shorebird migrants (especially at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area) and returning winter resident songbirds. We'll be behind locked gates for 2-3 hours and should be done around lunchtime, when we'll likely head to Applelane Farms to eat, for those interested. Take the Mooresville exit off I-565, go south on Mooresville Road and meet at the parking area near where it intersects with old Highway 20. – **Harry Dean, Leader (256-461-0626)**

9. Goldsmith-Schiffman Sanctuary - 20 November 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

Although NABS has birded Goldsmith a couple of times in conjunction with Hays Preserve trips, this will be our first trip exclusively to this site, which will be more accessible to the public beginning this fall. This area is mostly bottomland and wetland habitat, with both forested and grassland areas, and a portion runs along the Flint River, where a Great Blue Heron rookery has been found. It is a very interesting area with an intriguing history. We'll be looking for some interesting birds that frequent wet grassland areas, as well as a variety of waterfowl and other waterbirds, permanent and winter resident songbirds, raptors (eagles have been seen in the area), etc. It should be noted that this trip will require more walking than usual to get to all of the spots we'll be birding (1.5-2 miles round trip). To get to the meeting place, take Governors Drive (Hwy 431) over Monte Sano towards Guntersville and turn right on Sutton Rd, then left on Taylor Road; follow the road to where it ends and intersects with Terry Drake, where there is a small parking lot - **John Ehinger, Leader (256-536-2716)**

10. Wheeler NWR – Wildlife Observation Bldg, Garth Slough (NABT) - 4 December 2010 (SATURDAY) 8:00 am

This trip is designed to emphasize education on birds and birding and we want to invite anyone out there who wants to learn more, especially young folks. We'll meet at the Wheeler Interpretive Nature Center off Hwy 67. From I-65 take exit 334 and head toward Decatur; after crossing the water, the road to the Nature Center will be on the left. We'll first head to the wildlife observation building, which overlooks a pond near the Nature Center and is designed to allow close observation of waterfowl. From there we'll go to Garth Slough on the Refuge and bird along the Tennessee River and slough, looking for passing waterfowl, gulls and eagles, songbirds, raptors and possibly some shorebirds, depending on water levels. Wintering sparrows should be around in numbers and we should see a good variety, including Song, Swamp, White-throated, White-crowned, Fox and, possibly, Lincoln's. NOTE THE 8 AM MEETING TIME. - **Dwight Cooley, Leader (256-353-7243)**

11. Wheeler NWR – White Spgs Dike, Beaverdam Peninsula (NABT) - 11 December 2010 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

Our second trip to the White Springs Dike area should be productive. Waterfowl variety and numbers will likely be impressive and all of the winter resident songbird species will be around. We'll head first to the goose tower observation platform, then bird Beaverdam Peninsula, which is the best place on the refuge to get good looks at thousands of overwintering geese. We'll get Canada, Snow and White-fronted geese, perhaps Ross's and possibly Cackling geese. Afterwards we'll bird White Springs along our regular route, where we'll be behind locked gates for 2-3 hours. We should be done by lunch; Applelane Farms, anyone? Meet in Mooresville, intersection of Mooresville Road and Old Hwy 20. – **Ken Ward, Leader (256-837-5646)**

12. Wheeler NWR Audubon Christmas Bird Count (NABT) -18 December 2010 (SATURDAY) 5:00 am

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the oldest and largest citizen science event in the world. For over a hundred years, people have gathered during the winter holiday season to identify and count birds. In the process, they have created a vast pool of bird data that is a valuable source of information on the status and distribution of early winter bird populations. Parties of birders are assigned to different parts of a 15 mile-radius count circle to identify and count all birds seen or heard from dawn to dusk. There are currently 12 count circles in Alabama and over 2000 nationwide. Wheeler is one of the more productive inland count areas around, usually yielding 115-120 species, and always including some unusual birds. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and needed; we go in all types of weather. To join a party, meet at the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Interpretive Nature Center south off Hwy 67, east of Decatur. We'll regroup there at sundown for the tally (compilation), which is a lot of fun. Bring binoculars, a spotting scope if you have one and lunch, plus \$5.00 participation fee. – **Dwight Cooley, Leader (256-353-7243)**

13. Cullman Audubon Christmas Count – 19 December 2010 (SUNDAY) 6:30 am

Another Christmas Count that sometimes gets overlooked in northern Alabama is held in the Cullman area, usually the day after the Wheeler Count. Counters meet at Culpepper Real Estate (206 9th Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055) to assign areas to be covered; anyone interested in doing some owling can contact Jimmy Wells for an earlier start. This count is always short-handed, so we hope some of you will consider helping out; anyone new to the count will be assigned to a

party with people familiar to the area. Compilation is usually held at Berkeley Bob's Coffee House at 5 pm. Those who want to help for just part of the day can also be accommodated. As with all Christmas Counts, there is a \$5.00 participation fee. – **Jimmy Wells Leader (256-739-0933; jas.f.wells@gmail.com)**

14. Guntersville Audubon Christmas Bird Count (NABT) - 26 December 2010 (SUNDAY) 5-6:00 am

This Count, to another well known birding area in northern Alabama, yields a wide variety of songbird, raptor and waterfowl species. The format is the same as the Wheeler Count, i.e. all day, \$5.00 cost. The compilation will be held at Dick and Linda Reynolds' house in Guntersville; everyone is welcome. Unlike the Wheeler Christmas Count, there is no single gathering spot for folks to meet and join a group. For this reason, please contact Linda if you are interested in joining one of the eight parties of counters; meeting times for different parties may vary. – **Linda Reynolds, Leader (256-582-2970)**

15. Wheeler NWR – White Springs Dike (NABT) – 8 January 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

Join us for our final trip to the White Springs Dike area, as we look for overwintering waterfowl, hawks, Sandhill Cranes, etc. Expect to be behind locked refuge gates for 2-3 hours. We'll finish up looking for White-crowned Sparrows at a couple of spots, then lunch at Apple Lane Farms. Meet in Mooresville, intersection of Mooresville Road and Old Hwy 20. – **Dick Bruer, Leader (256-772-0411)**

16. Guntersville, Guntersville Dam North/Hawk Farm (NABT) - 15 January 2011 (SATURDAY) 11:00 am

This trip has been expanded to include the city of Guntersville. This time we'll meet in Guntersville, at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot on the south end of the Hwy 431 bridge. We'll bird first along the lakefront, then head back toward Huntsville on Hwy 431 to the north side of Guntersville Dam. After birding near the dam we'll visit the nearby hawk farm. The hawk farm is privately owned and ordinarily closed to the public, but permission is granted to bird there during on this trip. **We'll all need to be together when we visit the farm and are not allowed to bird past the corral.** The dam area and farm are both excellent for raptors. There should be nesting Bald Eagles around, both types of vultures, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Kestrels and Harriers; our chances of seeing an Osprey or Short-eared Owl are excellent. If we are lucky, we may pick up one or two unusual species that have been seen irregularly over the years, e.g., Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Rough-legged Hawk, or Golden Eagle. NOTE THAT THE MEETING TIME FOR THIS TRIP IS LATE MORNING; we may lunch in Guntersville before heading to the dam. – **Dick and Linda Reynolds, Leaders (256-582-2970)**

17. Town Creek Embayment, Wheeler Dam, Wheeler SP (NABT) – 22 January 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

This trip primarily targets waterfowl and other waterbirds, but also includes some productive songbird areas, especially in the state park. We'll meet at the west parking lot (next to the street) of the Holiday Inn in Decatur, near the river bridge. – **Linda and Dick Reynolds Leaders (256-582-2970)**

EVENT OF INTEREST: Winter Meeting, Alabama Ornithological Society, Guntersville State Park, 28-30 January 2011 (Linda Reynolds, 256-582-2970)

18. Guntersville City Waterfront/Guntersville Dam South (NABT) – 29 January 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

This trip starts on Sunset Parkway along the west side of Guntersville (see trip #16). We should see a great variety of ducks, many loons and grebes, possibly some odd terns and gulls, eagles, etc. Meet in Guntersville at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot on the south end of the Hwy 431 bridge. From there, we'll go west on the Lake Loop Road to the Kiwanis Club parking lot. The tour will then go south and across the Hwy 69 Causeway to the south end of Guntersville Dam. – **Bill McAllister, Leader (256-534-8354)**

19. Mallard Fox Creek WMA/Wilson Dam/Key Cave NWR (NABT) – 5 February 2011 (SATURDAY) 11:00 am

We'll start with the Mallard-Fox Creek Wildlife Management Area and work our way west, including Wilson Dam and Key Cave NWR, where we'll look for Short-eared Owls at dusk (we got them in 2010). Mid- to late-February is a transition period for waterfowl and other birds and weather will play a key role in what we see. We'll meet at the west parking lot (next to the street) of the Holiday Inn in Decatur, near the river bridge. NOTE THAT THE MEETING TIME FOR THIS TRIP IS LATE MORNING; WE'LL STOP ALONG THE WAY FOR A BARBEQUE LUNCH. – **Dwight Cooley, Leader (256-353-7243)**

20. Guntersville Waterfront Trip (NABT) – 12 February 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

We'll head to Guntersville again to look for waterfowl, raptors and songbirds. This area is an exciting place to be for birders in February; it's not unusual to have a couple of odd species around and there should be a variety of diving ducks, some in large numbers. Meet in Guntersville at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot on the south end of the Hwy 431 bridge. – **Dick and Linda Reynolds, Leaders (256-582-2970)**

21. Talladega National Forest, Talladega Division – 19 February 2011 (SATURDAY) 8:00 am

This is a different sort of trip for us which targets 3 bird species that are hard to find in our area. We should encounter and hope to get good looks at Red Crossbill, which is found year-round in this area but hardly anywhere else in AL; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, an endangered species which requires open pine habitat for breeding; and Bachman's Sparrow, a secretive and uncommon species more often found in the southern half of the state. Additionally, this is the only place we visit where you might see all 3 nuthatch *and* 8 woodpecker species found in Alabama. To get to the meeting place, take Hwy 431 through Anniston to Oxford, then take I-20 east. We'll meet at the Hardee's located near the Heflin exit off I-20. Please note that the Hardee's meeting place is a 2-2 ½ hour drive from Huntsville. This trip should be over by late morning; we'll eat barbeque afterwards, for those so inclined. – **Dick and Linda Reynolds, Leaders (256-582-2970)**

22. Monte Sano State Park (NABT) – 26 March 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

On this trip we hope to catch some early spring migrants, especially Louisiana Waterthrush. We will meet at the camp store parking lot, across the street from park headquarters. – **John Ehinger, Leader (256-536-2716)**

23. Madison County Lake (NABT) – 9 April 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

Madison County Lake is a spring-fed public fishing lake managed by the state. It is a good area for waterfowl, wading birds, swallows and Ospreys, plus there should be several species of songbird migrants in the area. Meet at the Madison County High School parking lot just west of Gurley on Hwy 72. – **John Ehinger, Leader (256-536-2716)**

24. Monte Sano State Park/Hays Preserve (NABT) – 10 April 2011 (SUNDAY) 7:00 am

We'll be looking for some early spring migrants on beautiful Monte Sano; there should be some significant activity. We'll then visit the Hays Preserve, where there should be some good birds by this time. We'll meet at the Camp Store, across from park headquarters. – **Dick Bruer, Leader (256-772-0411)**

25. Hays Nature Preserve, Earth Day Birding Hike (NABT) – 16 April 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:30 am

This is not a NABS trip but it will be led by a NABS member and we hope there will be a good mix of experienced birders and folks interested in learning more about this fascinating hobby. This trip covers a variety of habitats, in particular bottomland/wetland hardwood forest; there should be a good variety of migrants around. To get to Hays from Huntsville take Hwy 431 (Governor's Drive) south to its intersection with Sutton Road. From there, the entrance gate to the Hays Preserve is about a mile farther south, on the east (left) side of the highway; follow the entrance road to the parking lot on the right. – **John Ehinger, Leader (256-536-2716)**

26. Goldsmith-Schiffman Sanctuary – 17 April 2011 (SUNDAY) 7:00 am

Join us for our second trip to Goldsmith, where we'll be looking for migrants as the migration season heats up. To get there, take Governors Drive south over the mountain (Hwy 431) and turn right on Sutton Road, then left on Taylor Rd and follow it to where it ends and intersects with Terry Drake. – **John Ehinger, leader (256-536-2716)**

***EVENT OF INTEREST:* Earth Day Festivities, Hays Preserve – 16 April 2011, including a birding hike at 7:30 am (Susan Weber, 256-427-5116)**

***EVENT OF INTEREST:* Alabama Ornithological Society Spring Meeting, Dauphin Island – 15-17 April 2011 (Linda Reynolds, 256-582-2970)**

27. Monte Sano State Park/Land Trust Parking Lot (NABT) – 23 April 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

Join us for some great birding on Monte Sano as we approach migration peak, including the Land Trust parking lot off Bankhead Parkway. Monte Sano can very productive this time of year, with a nice variety of warblers, along with good looks at tanagers, orioles, grosbeaks and vireos. We'll meet in the park at the camp store parking lot, across from park headquarters. – **Bill McAllister, Leader (256-461-0626)**

28. Guntersville State Park (NABT) – 24 April 2011 (SUNDAY) 7:00 am

Join us for a migration trip in the park and nearby areas, in particular along and near the Seale Trail, which is close to the campgrounds. We will be nearing migration peak, so should have a productive day; the habitat is varied and food is plentiful. We'll meet at the entrance to the park (the state park superintendent's office) on Hwy 227, on the right just past the Short Creek Bridge/causeway. – **Ken Ward, Leader (256-837-5646)**

29. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Spring Migration Count (NABT) – 30 April 2011 (SATURDAY) 5:30 am

The format for this count is similar to Christmas Counts – identify and count all birds seen or heard from dawn to late afternoon/dusk; different groups bird different parts of the refuge and nearby areas. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and needed. We'll regroup at the Interpretive Center around 6 pm for compilation. If you are interested in joining a party, contact Refuge Manager Dwight Cooley. – **Dwight Cooley, Leader (256-353-7243)**

30. Monte Sano State Park (NABT) – 1 May, 2011 (SUNDAY) 7:00 am

Join us at migration peak as we bird one of the best spots in the state for spring migration. The Park can be filled with birds this time of year, including 15-20 species of beautiful, breeding plumage warblers, all thrush species we can see in this area, orioles, grosbeaks, both species of tanagers, 4-5 species of vireos, etc. There is always the possibility of seeing something unusual such as a Black-billed Cuckoo or Olive-sided Flycatcher, both of which have been seen in the park in recent years. The birds are often relatively easy to see too; several hotspots near our meeting area are nearby and easy to find, including the overlooks, camp store, Japanese garden, planetarium, cyclists and hikers parking lots, etc., not to mention numerous easily accessible trails. You are also encouraged to bird here at other times on your own, in order to see the most birds; generally late April thru the first week of May is best. Be watching for a nice day shortly after a front has moved through, which often holds up and concentrates the birds. – **Harry Dean, Leader (256-461-0626)**

31. Alabama A&M University Research Farm (NABT)/Wade Mountain – 7 May 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

The Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station (WTARS) is a 900-acre farm with lots of open grassland and pasture areas, plus small patches of forest. It is one of the best places in the state to observe open country birds and always makes for a great trip. There are breeding Scissor-tailed Flycatchers here, Grasshopper Sparrows, Dickcissels, Lark Sparrows, Loggerhead Shrikes, Blue Grosbeaks and, usually, Bobolinks. From Huntsville, take Hwy 431 north past Meridianville, turn right on Walker Lane, then right again onto the farm; park at the first building on the right. After birding at the farm, we will head back to Huntsville and make a short stop at the Wade Mountain Nature Preserve to look for Prairie Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats and woodland warblers. From WTARS, take 231/431 south back toward Huntsville, turn right on Hollow Road (across from Bennett's Nursery), right again at Spragins Hollow road (sign) and follow to the preserve parking lot. – **Ken Ward, Leader (256-837-5646)**

32. Monte Sano State Park Late Migration Trip (NABT) – 8 May 2011 (SUNDAY) 7:00 am

This is our latest trip to Monte Sano and will likely be a little past migration peak, but there should still be some nice birds passing through, not to mention a variety of tanager, oriole, vireo and warbler species that return here to breed. We'll meet at the camp store parking lot, across the street from park headquarters– **Milton Harris, Leader (256-533-0529)**

33. Leighton Area, Town Creek (NABT) - 14 May 2011 (SATURDAY) 7:00 am

This was a new trip last year and it was quite productive; we had Black-necked Stilt, Least Tern, Baird's Sandpiper and lots of Dickcissels, among others. We will explore the Leighton area and Town Creek, targeting shorebird migrants, whose movement through our area should be strong at this time of year. Our success will depend largely on water levels and weather. Meet at the west parking lot (next to the street) of the Holiday Inn in Decatur, near the river bridge. **Milton Harris, Leader (256-533-0529)**

34. Indian Creek Greenway – 15 May 2011 (SUNDAY) 7:00 am

The Greenway is a pleasant place to bird, with opportunities to get good looks at migrants. The major reason this trip was planned a few years back was to look for Mourning Warblers. This species is a secretive late spring migrant through this area that is rarely seen. We have had good trips here the past 2-3 years with Mourning, Wilson and Canada Warblers, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, many Magnolia Warblers and a variety of other species. Meet at the Greenway parking lot at the head of the trail on Old Madison Pike, just east of its intersection with Slaughter Rd. – **Ken Ward, Leader (256-837-5646)**