



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

IBBA 2008 Annual Meeting Announcement

The 2008 Inland Bird Banding Association's annual meeting will be held at the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve near Foley, Alabama, from Friday, 3 Oct, through Sunday, 5 Oct 2008, to coincide with near-peak migration. Saturday morning there will be a field trip to Fort Morgan State Historical Park to visit the Hummer/Bird Study Group's migration banding station operated by IBBA members Bob and Martha Sargent. In addition to a Saturday afternoon paper session, there will be an in-house workshop focusing on mending nets and band removal procedures, among other things. Additionally, a representative from the Bird Banding Lab will be conducting a workshop on BANDIT. A detailed meeting agenda will be forthcoming.

Weeks Bay is an estuarine system located along the eastern shore of Mobile Bay in Baldwin County, Alabama. In 1986, it was officially designated as the nation's 16th National Estuarine Research Reserve. The reserve contains 6,525 acres of undeveloped coastal habitats characterized by tidal salt marshes, aquatic grass beds, maritime and palustrine upland forests, and a pitcher plant bog. The reserve serves as a natural representative of the greater Mobile Bay ecosystem possessing a high diversity of flora and fauna. Its buffering emergent marshes protects water quality by acting as a "natural" filter for pollutants and provides shoreline stability, which in turn helps maintain a highly productive "nursery" of economically important shellfish and finfish. Fort Morgan State Historical Park is situated on the

western terminus of Fort Morgan peninsula. The 20-mile (about 32km) linear peninsula juts out into lower Mobile Bay and acts like a funnel for migrants creating a classic "migrant trap" in spring and fall. In addition to being an important stopover/staging area for migrants, it also serves as a corridor for migrating raptors along the northern Gulf coast. Depending on the weather conditions, Fort Morgan offers some of the best birding and banding opportunities anywhere in North America.

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