

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2017 Alabama Coastal BirdFest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

#100 - HUMMINGBIRDS WORKSHOP

2–4pm • 5 Rivers • Fee: \$15

*See workshop descriptions on reverse

#101 - BASICS OF BIRDING WORKSHOP

4–6pm • 5 Rivers • Fee: \$15

*See workshop descriptions on reverse

#102 - SMALL BOAT ECO-TOUR OF MOBILE-TENSAW DELTA - NEW!

3–5pm • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers
Fee: \$80

A small group of birders will enjoy a personalized boat journey into the untouched Mobile-Tensaw Delta wilderness. You will travel with local nature expert and guide Jimbo Meador on his custom-built boat that can maneuver the shallow waters of the bay and tributaries with a high-speed but quiet motor allowing you to get up close to observe the abundant wildlife in an environmentally friendly, undisturbed atmosphere. Trip is limited to six participants.

#103 - ORIENTATION, PRESENTATION & WELCOME RECEPTION

6–8pm • Delta Hall at 5 Rivers • Fee: \$22

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, meet your fellow birders, pick up local brochures and your name badge, place a bid on the silent auction, and enjoy "Nature Through Our Lenses," focusing on works from our 2017 poster photographer "Brody" Joe Thomassen along with previous featured photographers, BirdFest founder John Borom, and members of Mobile's CameraSouth and Eastern Shore Camera Club.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

#200 - BON SECOUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

#200A - Meet bus at Bon Secour headquarters, approx. 7:30am • Fee: \$27 – bring your own lunch

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge on Fort Morgan Peninsula is a prime birding location. Our guides and naturalists from BSNWR will take you down trails through woods, coastal marsh, and sandy beaches to seek birds in a variety of habitats. **Note: Extensive walking/sand & distance**

#201 - BAYOU LA BATRE, FOREVER WILD GRAND BAY SAVANNA, GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, POINT AUX PINS

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

The Nature Conservancy calls this area one of the "last great places on Earth." Fishing, shrimping, and oyster harvesting are big businesses here, and birding concentrates on waterbirds, shorebirds, and marsh species, with passerines and raptors abundant in the fall. **Note: Moderate walking**

#202 - MOBILE BAY, DISL RESEARCH VESSEL ALABAMA DISCOVERY CRUISE

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$54 – includes lunch

#202A - Meet bus at DISL parking lot, approx. 7:30am Fee: \$38 – bring your own lunch

Join marine biologists from Dauphin Island Sea Lab for a cruise aboard the *Alabama Discovery*. You'll learn the Bay's history, ecology, and value, perhaps see bottlenose dolphins and Sand Island Lighthouse up close, and view specimens caught in a trawl net. Includes a stop at the George F. Crozier Estuarium. **Note: Cruise**

#203 - BLAKELEY ISLAND MUD PONDS & BATTLESHIP PARK

6:30am–noon • Carpool from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$22

Mobile River's Blakeley Island is known for large dredge disposal ponds that are the premier shore-birding spots in the state. With Battleship Park on the Causeway, these sites are great for spotting Osprey, shorebirds, and waterfowl—and the occasional Roseate Spoonbill. **Note: Moderate walking**

#204 - DAUPHIN ISLAND/TRANS GULF FLYWAY

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

#204A – Meet the bus at Cadillac Square Park on Dauphin Island, approx. 7:30am Fee: \$27 – bring your own lunch

WildBird magazine called Dauphin Island, a narrow barrier island only 14 miles long, one of the "top four locations in North America for viewing neotropical migration." This heavy-walking trip will visit prime birding spots, including the Dauphin Island Audubon Bird Sanctuaries, the airport marsh, Shell Mound Park, the goat trees, and the causeway. **Note: Extensive walking/sand**

#205 - WEEKS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE / WEEKS BAY EXPLORER CRUISE

7–9am • Departs from Weeks Bay Marina

Fee: \$27

With biologists and our guides, you'll cruise Weeks Bay, Fish River, and Magnolia River onboard the *Weeks Bay Explorer* and learn about this beautiful estuary. Afterwards, you may enjoy boardwalks through a bottomland hardwood swamp and/or a native pitcher plant bog or see exhibits in the Interpretive Center. **Note: Cruise**

#206 - SMALL BOAT ECO-TOUR OF MOBILE-TENSAW DELTA - NEW!

7–9am • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers
Fee: \$80

See trip #102 for description

#207 - BOTTLE CREEK INDIAN MOUNDS

8am–Noon • Departs from Live Oak Landing in Stockton • Fee: \$67

Mound Island is accessible only by boat, and this interpretive tour includes a comfortable boat ride, followed by a reasonable hike through the Delta and climb of the highest hand-built mound at 45 feet. During this tour, your Delta Safaris guides will introduce you to the fauna and flora of the middle Delta's cypress swamps and take you on a walk back in time to a day in the life of the Native Americans who left this amazing legacy. **Note: Moderate walking**

#208 - COASTAL ECO-TOUR

9–11am • Departs from Happy Harbor at Oyster Bay in Gulf Shores • Fee: \$29

Your Wild Native captain will take you on a cruise onboard a cozy, 22-passenger pontoon boat down the less-traveled waterways of Gulf Shores. We'll explore Bon Secour River and Bay watching for and learning about a variety of wildlife and cruise past commercial fisheries where you'll learn about the highs and lows of modern day fishing methods and about the history, ecology, and characters of coastal Alabama. **Note: Cruise**

#209 - CHOCOLATTA BAY/BIG BATEAU AND LITTLE BATEAU KAYAK PADDLE - NEW!

10am–1pm • Departs from boat ramp next to Blue Gill on the Causeway • Fee: \$67

Paddling in the brackish waters with guides from 17 Turtles Outfitters, you will see waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and a variety of wildlife. This trip is a great opportunity for birders and photographers to get up close with nature. Single kayak, double kayak, and two-person canoes available. **Note: Moderate paddle***

#210 - ALLIGATOR ALLEY ADVENTURE

10am–1pm • Meet at entrance to Alligator Alley in Summerdale • Fee: \$20 – includes lunch

Enjoy a guided birding walk on paved paths and elevated boardwalks where you will also see 400+ alligators, from youth to mature adults. Then have a seat in the covered viewing area and watch what happens when the feeding crew rings the dinner bell! **Note: Easy walking**

#211 - WEEKS BAY SUNSET CRUISE

5–7pm • Departs from Weeks Bay Marina

Fee: \$27

End your day with a leisurely cruise onboard the *Weeks Bay Explorer*, cruising Weeks Bay, Magnolia River, and Fish River, and watching as bird and sea life (possibly bottlenose dolphins) end their day. We'll position the boat perfectly giving you time to snap some great sunset photos before heading back to dock. **Note: Cruise**

#212 - OWL PROWL KAYAK TOUR - NEW!

5–8pm • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers
Fee: \$62

Follow your guides from Delta Safaris through the calm, protected waters of the lower Delta en route to an elevated camping platform. We will arrive at the platform shortly before sundown and then set out on foot with headlamps in search of local owls that are often found among the tree lines. Owls and bats also are often seen on the paddle back to 5 Rivers. **Note: Moderate paddling and walking***

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

#300 - MOBILE BAY, DISL RESEARCH VESSEL ALABAMA DISCOVERY CRUISE

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$54 – includes lunch

#300A - Meet bus at DISL parking lot, approx. 7:30am Fee: \$38 – bring your own lunch

See trip #202 for description

#301 - DAUPHIN ISLAND/TRANS GULF FLYWAY

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

#301A – Meet the bus at Cadillac Square Park on Dauphin Island, approx. 7:30am Fee: \$27 – bring your own lunch

See trip #204 for description

#302 - SPLINTER HILL BOG

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

The Nature Conservancy's Splinter Hill Bog Preserve and adjacent state-owned Forever Wild Preserve are home to diverse habitats and some of the largest white-topped pitcher plant bogs in the world. More than twelve species of carnivorous plants and many wildflowers that attract several butterfly species can be seen. **Note: Easy walking/ distance**

#303 - SMALL BOAT ECO-TOUR OF MOBILE-TENSAW DELTA - NEW!

7–9am • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers

Fee: \$80

See trip #102 for description

#304 - WEEKS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE / WEEKS BAY EXPLORER CRUISE

7–9am • Departs from Weeks Bay Marina • Fee: \$27

See trip #205 for description

#305 - GULF STATE PARK & PERDIDO PASS

7am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

#305A - Meet bus at Gulf State Park Nature Center approx. 8am • Fee: \$27 – bring your own lunch

This trip will visit Gulf State Park Nature Center to see exhibits and hear the latest on birds in the park from the naturalist on duty, then go birding along Shelby Lake and at Marsh Bridge before heading to Gulf State Park Pier and Perdido Pass/Alabama Point East. **Note: Easy walking**

#306 - MIDDLE BAY LIGHTHOUSE BOAT TOUR

7–11am • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers
Fee: \$62

With your captain from Delta Safaris, you will explore the eastern half of Mobile Bay on your way to historic Middle Bay Lighthouse. Mobile Bay and the surrounding areas have exciting histories from Native Americans and European settlers, to Civil War battles, to today's news. Comfortable seating, full cover, and a restroom on board make this a very comfortable outing. Learn the history and tales associated with this unique Mobile Bay landmark. Bring your camera for this great photo op. **Note: Cruise**

#307 - BON SECOUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE KAYAK TOUR

8am–noon • Departs from Happy Harbor on Oyster Bay in Gulf Shores • Fee: \$72

Enjoy peaceful paddling in the secluded inlets of the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (BSNWR) just minutes from Gulf Shores. Join us in exploring this extraordinary haven for migratory birds, nesting Loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, and the endangered Alabama beach mouse. These waterways are prime dolphin habitat so keep your eyes peeled for dorsal fins! The refuge also is one of the largest undeveloped parcels of land on the Alabama coast. **Note: Easy paddle***

#308 - BAY MINETTE CREEK/BAY MINETTE BAY KAYAK PADDLE - NEW!

10am–1pm • Departs from Buzbee's Fish Camp in Spanish Fort • Fee: \$67

Your guides from 17 Turtles Outfitters will lead you on a paddle up the clear waters of Bay Minette Creek through hardwood swamps to the headwaters to enjoy abundant birds and other wildlife and diverse plants and wildflowers. **Note: Moderate paddle***

#309 - DELTA DISCOVERY TOUR

1–5pm • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers

Fee: \$57

With your captain from Delta Safaris, experience the majestic Mobile-Tensaw River Delta and visit numerous habitats and points of interest. This tour heads north up the Blakeley, Apalachee, and Tensaw Rivers toward the Middle Delta visiting marshlands and cypress and tupelo swamps. This extensive Delta tour will give you a true view of the "American Amazon." **Note: Cruise**

#310 - BIRD & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

2–5pm • 5 Rivers • Fee: \$20

See workshop descriptions on reverse

#311 - BIRDFEST SOCIAL WITH SPEAKER AND SILENT AUCTION

6–9pm • Delta Hall at 5 Rivers • Fee: \$35

Enjoy Southern hospitality and a delicious meal with barbecue, seafood, and tasty sides. The BirdFest silent auction wraps up tonight, so be ready to place your final bid! Keynote speaker Greg Harber will talk about the great diversity and beauty of birds in Alabama and on the Gulf Coast, his concerns for the future of our coast and the birds that are found here, and the actions that we as individuals and collectively can undertake to ensure that birds remain a vital, visible, and vibrant component of our lives.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

#400 - DAUPHIN ISLAND SHOREBIRDS

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

#400A - Meet bus on Dauphin Island at Cadillac Square Park, approx. 7:30am • Fee: \$27 – bring your own lunch

Dauphin Island is one of the "10 most globally important sites" for migration. We will visit the maritime forest, marshes, and dunes of Audubon Bird Sanctuary and Pelican "Island," a narrow strip of land that migrated from Sand Island Lighthouse and is now attached to Dauphin Island. **Note: Moderate to extensive walking/sand & distance**

#401 - FORT MORGAN PENINSULA/TRANS GULF FLYWAY

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

#401A - Meet bus outside the gate to Fort Morgan, approx. 7:30am • Fee: \$27 – bring your own lunch

The American Bird Conservancy calls Fort Morgan one of the top "globally important bird areas" in the U.S. You'll visit the open areas and shoreline of Fort Morgan State Historic Site, all part of a vital Trans Gulf Migration Flyway. **Note: Moderate/extensive walking**

#402 - BAYOU LA BATRE, FOREVER WILD GRAND BAY SAVANNA, GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, POINT AUX PINS

6:30am–2pm • Ride bus from 5 Rivers

Fee: \$47 – includes lunch

See trip #201 for description

#403 - WEEKS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE / WEEKS BAY EXPLORER CRUISE

7–9am. Departs from Weeks Bay Marina • Fee: \$27

See trip #205 for description

#404 - DELTA DISCOVERY TOUR

7–11am • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers

Fee: \$57

See trip #309 for description

#405 - SMALL BOAT ECO-TOUR OF MOBILE-TENSAW DELTA - NEW!

8–10am • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers
Fee: \$80

See trip #102 for description

#406 - ALLIGATOR ALLEY ADVENTURE

10am–1pm • Meet at entrance to Alligator Alley in Summerdale • Fee: \$20 – includes lunch

See trip #210 for description

#407 - WOLF BAY DOLPHIN CRUISE

10am–noon • Departs from Homeport Marina at Lulu's in Gulf Shores • Fee: \$32

Search the waters for the Gulf Coast's favorite finned friends. Find them, photograph them, and most importantly learn about them. Experienced guides from Wild Native Tours will share their knowledge and stories of the local bottlenose dolphins as you cruise the waters of the Intracoastal Waterway and Wolf Bay. **Note: Cruise**

#408 - DOLPHINS AT SUNSET KAYAK TOUR - NEW!

4–7pm • Departs from Happy Harbor at Oyster Bay in Gulf Shores • Fee: \$72

With guides from Wild Native, you will watch for and learn about bottlenose dolphins in their natural environment from the intimate vantage point of a kayak. Like all wild animals, dolphins are elusive, but there is nothing like the thrill of seeing these creatures up close when they choose to show off. You will come away with new understanding of dolphins' ecology, feeding behaviors, and communal nature while enjoying one of the prettiest classrooms on earth. **Note: Easy paddle***

#409 - FAIRHOPE FLY CREEK EXPLORATION PADDLE

4–6pm • Departs from 17 Turtles Outfitters • Fee: \$33

Enjoy an easy paddle (canoe, kayak, or standup paddle board) that starts in urban setting, slips past moored sailboats, yachts, and shrimp boats, and up the quiet waters of Fly Creek. Guides from 17 Turtles Outfitters will tell you about this small but important watershed as you view creekside backyards and fishing docks. **Note: Easy paddle***

#410 - DELTA SUNSET CRUISE

5–7pm • Departs from Bartram Landing at 5 Rivers

Fee: \$37 – includes snacks, ice & soft drinks

Your captain from Delta Safaris will talk about the amazing wildlife and ecology of the "American Amazon" on this comfortable boat tour. Float through the open marsh watching for a variety of wildlife and learning about the unique animals of the swamp. Commentary includes points on the history, geology, ecology, and characters of the Delta. Bring beverages of your choice. **Note: Cruise**

#411 - WEEKS BAY SUNSET CRUISE

5–7pm • Departs from Weeks Bay Marina • Fee: \$27

See trip #211 for description

* Paddles include all necessary gear and safety equipment.

REGISTRATION INFO:

REGISTRATION OPENS AUG. 14 & CLOSES SEPT. 22 AT 4PM (CST)

To register, visit www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com. All fees include state and local sales tax. Registrations are filled in the order received. You will receive immediate email confirmation of registration. If you need assistance, call 251-625-0814.

For bus trips, be at 5 Rivers Delta Hall at least 15 minutes before scheduled departure time. Check-in inside and enjoy coffee and donuts before boarding bus.

For paddles and other boat trips, be at the departure point at least 15-20 minutes before the scheduled time.

Meeting times are approximate for meet-the-bus trips. Please allow 15 minutes before/after.

Maps for any trip that does not leave from 5 Rivers are available on our website. Hard copies at 5 Rivers after Monday, September 25.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:

Alabama Coastal BirdFest reserves the right to cancel any event for any reason. In the unlikely event that BirdFest cancels a trip, we will notify registered participants as soon as possible and issue a full refund for the canceled trip/event.

REGISTRANTS WHO NEED TO CANCEL MAY DO SO. REFUNDS WILL BE GRANTED PER THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

- THROUGH SEPT. 8, 2017 – FULL REFUND
- SEPT. 9–18, 2017 – 50% REFUND
- AFTER SEPT. 18, 2017 – NO REFUND

THANKS TO THE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE 2017 ALABAMA COASTAL BIRDFEST

5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Mobile Bay Audubon Society, Birmingham Audubon, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Coastal Alabama Community College, Weeks Bay Foundation, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism, Alabama Tourism Department, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, Phillips 66, Evonik Industries, Hilton

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR AREA VISIT:

Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce www.centralbaldwin.com
 South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce www.southbaldwinchamber.com
 Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce www.visiteasternshorealabama.com
 North Baldwin Chamber of Commerce www.northbaldwinchamber.com
 Alabama Gulf Coast CVB www.gulfshores.com
 Visit Mobile www.mobile.org



JOHN L. BOROM 14th ANNUAL ALABAMA COASTAL BIRDFEST BIRD AND CONSERVATION EXPO

Saturday, October 7th (9am-4pm)

FREE ADMISSION!



Funding for BirdFest provided in part by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, Coastal Section, in part by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Award # NA16NOS4190166

- Exhibits, Vendors, and Artists
- Birdhouse & Bird Feeder Building Fun
- Hands-on Kids' Activities
- Alabama Snakes Show
- Live Raptor Show
- Sea Creature Touch Tanks
- Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Displays

2017 HOST HOTEL

The Hampton Inn, Mobile East Bay-Daphne
www.natureonthebay.com
 Phone: 251-626-2220
 Call or visit website for special BirdFest rates and more info

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



"Brody" Joe Thomassen FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

Brody, as he is known by his fellow photographers, is a phenomenal nature photographer living on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Although he refers to himself as a hobbyist, his photographs reflect the same passion and skill as those of the most celebrated professionals in the field. Brody is somewhat of a celebrity among

his peers, thanks in part to his 1,500-follower fan base on the photo sharing website Flickr, where he has posted more than 30,000 nature-photo images.

Recently retired, Brody now has more time to spend on his passion that goes back to his childhood in north Baldwin County. His parents were avid nature enthusiasts, and he spent many happy days at Live Oak Landing, Gulf Shores, and Blakeley State Park, where he later served as a ranger for a time.

Greg Harber KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Greg Harber, born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, is a graduate of Auburn University and is now employed at UAB in the Microbiology Department. Greg is a past president of Birmingham Audubon and currently serves on the organization's board of directors. He is also a past president of Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries and continues to serve as vice president of conservation, which has allowed him to fulfill two aims: to preserve and protect the habitat on which birds and humans depend, and to help ensure that future generations can experience the thrill of bird watching for themselves.

Greg's presentation will highlight Alabama's abundant and diverse habitat and rich bird life. He'll address concerns for the future of our coast, which is at a crucial crossroads as we balance growth with conservation to preserve for future generations what we take for granted today.

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BIRDFEST
 Alabama State Lands
 5 Rivers Delta Center
 30945 Five Rivers Boulevard
 Spanish Fort, AL 36527

On the beautiful Alabama Gulf Coast

Q&A

BIRDFEST 2017

Q: How do I register for trips, dinners, or a workshop?

A: All registration is online at www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com. Registration opens August 14 and closes at 4pm (CST) Friday, September 22. If you need assistance, call 5 Rivers staff at 251-625-0814.

Q: If I take a trip that starts someplace other than 5 Rivers or a meet-the-bus trip, how do I know where to go?

A: Maps and directions are on our website. Hard copies available at 5 Rivers after Sept. 25.

Q: Do you provide lunch on the trips?

A: Where indicated, we provide sack lunches with meat or cheese sandwiches, snacks, and water. You must bring your own lunch for meet-the-bus trips.

Q: Is BirdFest only for experienced birders?

A: By attending, you are on your way to becoming a more experienced birder! Books such as the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* or *A Birder's Guide to Alabama* (University of Alabama Press) will enhance your experience.

Q: May I bring a child on a trip?

A: Children 12 and older are welcomed and must be registered at the regular fee and accompanied by an adult. All ages will enjoy Saturday's free Bird & Conservation Expo.

Q: What birds will I see?

A: See trip descriptions online for a list of birds you might spot.

WORKSHOPS

At 5 Rivers

#100 - HUMMINGBIRDS WORKSHOP Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2-4pm, Fee: \$15

Fred Bassett, certified master bird bander, will present a summary of hummingbirds' habitat, food, and migration, and talk about how to attract hummers to your yard. He will share tales from his 20+ years studying and banding hummingbirds in more than 1,000 locations, from South Florida to Alaska. Fred founded Hummingbird Research, Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes the conservation of hummingbirds through research and education. They continue the vision of Bob and Martha Sargent and the Hummer/Bird Study Group.

#101 - BASICS OF BIRDING WORKSHOP Wednesday, Oct. 4, 4-6pm, Fee: \$15

New to birding and want to enhance your experiences during BirdFest and beyond? This workshop, taught by an experienced educator from Birmingham Audubon, will offer tips on what to look for and when, how to use binoculars, what you need to know about birding etiquette, and more.

#310 - BIRD & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP Friday, Oct. 6, 2-5pm, Fee: \$20

Jeff Johnston, BirdFest's outstanding feature photographer in 2012 and an experienced instructor, leads this workshop that includes classroom instruction and a short field trip to practice your new skills.

ALABAMA COASTAL 14TH ANNUAL JOHN L. BOROM BIRDFEST



OCTOBER 4-7, 2017



**A BIRDING AND
NATURE FESTIVAL**

Photos By: "Brody" Joe Thomassen

www.AlabamaCoastalBirdfest.com

WELCOME

Join us Oct. 4-7 for Alabama Coastal BirdFest, a birding and nature festival, featuring many of your favorite trips and some new opportunities to see birds, alligators, wildflowers, dolphins, and other wildlife and learn about their habitats. We also offer workshops at 5 Rivers Delta Center on hummingbirds, nature photography, and basics of birding.

Registration is open from August 14 through Sept. 22 at www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com. On our website, you'll find more information about our trips and events, including what birds you might spot.

BirdFest highlights great bird- and nature-watching spots all around Baldwin and Mobile counties, including Fort Morgan, Dauphin Island, Weeks Bay, Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Bayou La Batre, Forever Wild Grand Bay Savanna, Gulf Shores, Bon Secour River, Fly Creek, Alligator Alley (a "gator rescue" facility), and more. BirdFest is a great adventure no matter your level of birding experience. Trips are filled in the order registrations are received. Registration closes at 4pm (CST) on September 22. If you need assistance, call 251-625-0814.

The **Bird & Conservation Expo** is our free, family friendly event that takes place at the Halstead Amphitheater on the grounds of Coastal Alabama Community College (formerly Faulkner) in downtown Fairhope, with exhibits, a raptor show, snake show, kids' activities, and more.

Join us October 4-7, to learn about our birds and wildlife, add birds to your life list, and meet birders from around the U.S. as we welcome the fall migration!