

# THE 20TH ANNUAL ALABAMA COASTAL BIRDFEST OCTOBER 4TH – 6TH, 2024

Trips visit various locations. Please pay close atention to trip details and icons. Some trips meet at the trip destination, others are bus trips.

5 Rivers Delta Resource Center (DRC) 30945 Five Rivers Boulevard, Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Icon Legend	
Bus Trip	
Food Included	
Heavy walking; likely muddy or sandy terrain	
Kayak Trip	\$
Motorized Vessel Trip	盐
New Birder Friendly	4
Open to sun with little cover	; <del>\</del>
Social Event	ij
Wheelchair Accessible	ڣ
Workshop	
Bike Tour	₩

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration opens Monday, August 5, 9:00am CST and closes Friday, September 23, 11:59pm CST.

All registration is online through Eventbrite. Prices listed do not include state and local taxes.

#### CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

In the unlikely event that a trip/workshop is cancelled, or cancelled due to circumstances that cause safety concerns, such as weather, registered participants will be notified as soon as possible. You may donate your trip fee towards South Alabama Land Trust conservation efforts or request a refund via Eventbrite, calling SALT (251-990-5004) or email salt@ southalabamalandtrust.org.

Should you need to cancel any or all your trips/ workshops, a refund will be issued subject to the following: A full refund will be issued for cancellations on or before Wednesday, September 6. No refunds will be issued after Wednesday, September 6. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

T1	Opening Reception		क्र दं 🚍
	Meet at Weeks Bay Tonsmeire Resource Center	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Price : \$35
	Join this year's guides and fellow BirdFest participants at a casual gathering at beautiful Weeks Bay! The reception will feature juicy barbecue, vegetarian sel and dessert. The outdoor deck and pier are good spots for birding. And the st (around 6:30 PM) is spectacular!		ctions, beer, wine, soft drinks

Continued on next page.





F1	Mobile Bay, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Research Discovery Cruise		
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> to get on the chartered bus	Price : \$70	
	Join marine biologists from Dauphin Island Sea Lab for a cruise aboard the Alabama Discovery research vessel. Learn the Bay's history, ecology, and value, perhaps spotting bottlenose dolphins while seeing the Sand Island Lighthouse up close, and view specimens caught in a trawl net. You'll see a variety of terns and gulls and might spot a Northern Gannet or Magnificent Frigatebird. Includes a stop at the Alabama Aquarium on Dauphin Island. Snacks provided. *Requires notarized form to board vessel, which will be emailed to you upon registration.		
F2	Birding and Banding Tour at Historic Fort Mo Bay	rgan on Mobile	
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> to get on the chartered bus	Price : \$70	
	Great birdwatching and a chance to see bird banding in action! This charter bus trip will take you to historic Fort Morgan, a designated globally important bird area and an eBird hotspot. From shorebirds along edge of Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico to southbound neotropical migrants seeking the security of the wooded Stables area, this site is full of potential for a strong compilation of species. The Fall is the prime opportunity to spot migrating hawks over the open fields and dune habitat. Then, stop by a Banding Coalition of the Americas' bird banding site to see warblers, vireos, grosbeak and more up close and personal. Snacks provided. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.		
F3	Bayfront Park and Village Point Park Preserv	e	3
	Meet at Village Point/Bayfront Park in Daphne, AL	6:45 AM - 9:45 AM	Price : \$25
	These two parks on the northeast tip of Mobile Bay are together a favorite spot for birders and commercial bird tour operators from around the world! They form a single eBird hotspot at which 267 species of birds have been found. Look out from the piers to see the upper bay where shorebirds, gulls, terns, and herons frequent the mudflats. The swamps hold a variety of rails, including Virginia. Along paths through river bottom hardwoods, look for groups of migrant warblers, including Cerulean, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, and Canada warblers. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.		
F4	Orange Beach Pontoon Boat Tour – NEW THIS YEAR!		盐
	Meet at the City of Orange Beach's Office of Coastal Resources	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Price : \$35





maybe a dolphin or two will make an appearance!

Explore the beautiful bay area of Orange Beach aboard the City's pontoon boat. This tour departs from the City's Office of Coastal Resources (4697 Walker Avenue) and visits Robinson, Bird and Walker Islands to observe a variety of coastal birds, including Brown Pelicans, Laughing Gulls, Osprey, and Green Herons. And

F5	Meaher State Park Birding & Photography Tour – NEW THIS YEAR!		ڔ؋
	Meet at <u>Meaher State Park</u>	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Price : \$25
	Located just across from 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Meaher State Park has plenty of birds to see and capture on "film". From the boardwalks overlooking the vast wetlands of Mobile Bay, birders and photographers may see a wide variety of bird species, including Tri-colored and Little Blue herons, Snowy Egrets, Common and Purple gallinules, Clapper Rails, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Belted Kingfishers, and many others. Check overhead for Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and a variety of gulls and terns, possibly including less commonly seen Black Terns and Gull-billed Terns. Check the trees between the parking area and the boardwalk for migrating warblers and resident songbirds (and bunnies).		
F6	Gaillard Island Eco Tour NEW THIS YEAR!		<b>₽</b>
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartam Landing	Price : \$180	
	This tour will please both nature enthusiasts and history buffs! Enjoy the wildlife and vistas on Mobile Bay aboard the comfort of a 24 foot center console bay boat. Captain John Michael Chappelle, experienced local birder, will lead you around the perimeter of Gaillard Island where you can expect to see a variety of birds in the fall, including egrets, herons, ibis, stilts, brown pelicans, terns, Laughing Gulls, and more. Learn about the island's history, then head south to the Middle Mobile Bay Lighthouse, a circa-1885 octagonal lighthouse building that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Cruise to Point Clear on the Bay's Eastern Shore to see the historic Grand Hotel and, of course, the birds!		
F7	Dauphin Island/Trans Gulf Migration Tour		
	Meet at Dauphin Island <u>Audubon Bird</u> <u>Sanctuary</u>	7:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Price: \$30
	Experience the Fall migration on Dauphin Island, An view the Fall migration in North America. Visit prime Bird Sanctuary, Goat Trees Reserve and the Indian Sh fabulous in October for spotting migrant flycatchers, as vagrant (out-of-place) birds and other rarities. Brir	e birding spots, including sell Mound Park, each an vireos, thushes, warblers	g the Dauphin Island Audubon eBird Hotspot. These sites can be tanagers, and grosbeaks, as well
F8	Gaillard Island Eco Tour		<b>#</b> 2 - \\
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartam Landing	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Price : \$180
	See description of Event #F6		





F9	The Plants of the Fish River Nature Preserve – NEW THIS YEAR!		
	Meet at the <u>Nature Preserve</u>	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Price : \$20
	Bring on the botany! Discover the rich botanical diversity of South Alabama Land Trust's Fish River Nature Preserve. Explore a variety of habitats, from longleaf pine woodlands to riverine wetlands. Learn to identify native plants and understand their roles in their ecosystems. Whether you're a seasoned botanist or a beginner, this tour offers an educational and inspiring experience in one of South Alabama's most beautiful natural settings. Bring your camera and notebook to capture and record your observations. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.		ne wetlands. Learn to identify seasoned botanist or a uth Alabama's most beautiful
F10	Birding Basics & Binoculars Workshop		
	Meet at Tensaw Theatre at the <u>5 Rivers Delta</u> Resource Center	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Price : \$15
	This workshop will help birders build a foundation of identification skills and help them feel more confident heading out on their next birding adventure! Topics include: identifying field marks, using behavior and habitat to help aid in identification, general-impression-size-shape ID, and how to choose & use the appropriate gear for your birdwatching needs. Various binoculars and scopes will be available to try, and participants are encouraged to bring their own gear. This workshop will also include a bird walk around 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center.		
F11	Lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta Pontoon Boat To	our	<u>ٿ</u>
	Departs from <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartram Landing	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Price : \$35
	The Mobile-Tensaw Delta is the second largest delta in the U.S. and one of the largest wetland ecosystems in the world. The Delta Explorer pontoon boat is a comfortable way to see the beauty of the Delta and the abundance of its wildlife, such as Bald Eagles, Ospreys, several varieties of herons, gallinules, and, of course, alligators. A variety of terns and gulls abound. You will see first-hand the value of land conservation in the Delta.		
F12	Gardens of Fairhope – NEW THIS YEAR!		ڣ
	Meet at the Av N 1 art 2 les en it wnto vn Fai hope	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Price : \$25
	Explore the beauty – and science! of gardens in the scenic City of Fairhope from the comfort of a shuttle bus. Start at the Pavilion at the Nest, a habitat restoration and enhancement project within the City that features native and adapted plants that attract birds and butterflies. The Pavillion is truly a study of sustainable design! Head to the bluffs overlooking Mobile Bay, a location known for shorebirds and now known for the City's new		





enjoy October's First Friday Art Walk, with exhibits, activities, shopping and dining.

pollinator garden. The tour ends at another garden in Fairhope. Following the tour, wander around town to

F13	Weeks Bay Sunset Cruise		血
	Meet at Weeks Bay Tonsmire Resource Center	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Price : \$35

Soak up nature and take in a spectacular sunset view on board the Weeks Bay Explorer pontoon boat. Led by experts from the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, you will learn about the importance of this estuary in supporting young marine life and healthy bird habitats. The Weeks Bay Reserve is a stop on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. Bald Eagles and osprey are common in this part of the estuary. To date, the Reserve has protected over 9,000 acres of land in the estuary.

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SAT1	Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge		÷- [] @
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> to get on the chartered bus	6:30 AM -1:00 PM	Price : \$65
	This 19,300-acre Refuge is a treasure because it is the only remaining habitat for and because of its beauty. This chartered bus tour departs promptly at 6:30 AM where Sandhill Cranes call home, is one of the most species-diverse plant com local naturalist will lead 1.5 mile walking tour on the Fontainebleau Nature Transaddition to Sandhill Cranes, participants can expect to see shrikes, mocking center will be open. Bag lunch provided. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug		I. The wet pine savanna habitat, munities in North America. A ail, an excellent spot for birding. gbirds, and warblers. The visitor
SAT2	Early Morning Weeks Bay Pontoon Boat Crui YEAR!	se – NEW THIS	
	Meet at Weeks Bay Tonsmeire Resource Center	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Price : \$35
	Grab some coffee and enjoy an early morning cruise aboard the Weeks Bay Explorer pontoon boat. Led by experts from the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, you will learn about the importance of this estuary in supporting young marine life and healthy bird habitats. Bald Eagles and Osprey are common in this part of the estuary. Along the shores look for Snowy, Cattle, and Great egrets, as well as Great and Little Blue herons. Search the shoreside reeds for Seaside Sparrows and Clapper Rails, and the trees for migrating warblers. To date, the Reserve has protected over 9,000 acres of land in the estuary. This tour is a great opportunity to witness habitat preservation first-hand.		
SAT3	Gaillard Island Eco Tour		<b>#1</b> %
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartam Landing	7:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Price : \$180
	See description of Event #F6		
SAT4	Biking Through Nature at Gulf State Park – N	IEW THIS YEAR!	-\\(\dagge\)-
	Meet at the <u>head of the Oak Ridge Trail in Gulf</u> <u>State Park</u>	8:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Price : \$25
	Enjoy the sights of Gulf State Park by bike! The guide State Park, stopping along the way to observe birds, o Participants may see Bald Eagles, ospreys, killdeer, m doves, gulls, Willets, Anhingas, pelicans, and loons, a cotton rats, a variety of snakes, otters, and Gopher To	ther animals and plants u ockingbirds, Boat Tail Gr s well as alligators, marsh	unique to this coastal habitat. rackles, Catbirds, Cormorants, rabbits, armadillos, hispid





water, sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.

SAT5	Weeks Bay Kayak Tour – NEW THIS YEAR!		<b>%</b> ->-
	Meet at Weeks Bay Tonsmeire Resource Center	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Price : \$30
	Experience Weeks Bay up close and personal by kayak! Led by Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve staff, this 2-hour tour will take you along the shoreline of the bay and different parts of the estuary. Launch at the Weeks Bay Reserve Tonsmeire Resource Center's ADA accessible kayak launch. Learn about the important role of the estuary and the Reserve's conservation work. Bald Eagles, osprey and Brown Pelicans are common sightings in this area. Kayaks and personal flotation devices will be provided. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray. Must sign a liability waiver that will be provided after registration.		parts of the estuary. Launch at inch. Learn about the important d Brown Pelicans are common
SAT6	Gulf State Park Walking Bird and Nature Tour, Gulf Shores, AL		-×;-
	Meet at <u>Gulf State Park Pavilion</u>	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Price : \$35
	Get out your binoculars, stretch your legs and explore maritime forests and pine savannas. Guides will show migrating birds and several rare, threatened, or endar & Birding Tour). Learn the importance of conserving resilience. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray	you the park's diverse sp ngered species (see descri this unique area that is c	ecies, including resident and ption of Gulf State Park Biking rucial to biodiversity and coastal
SAT7	Nature Expo		
	5 Rivers Delta Resource Center	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Price : FREE
	Explore the flora and fauna that South Alabama has to and outdoor Nature Expo! Exhibitors at the Expo (local agencies and some commercial vendors) will present wildlife, local conservation efforts, nature, and more! Environmental Studies Center will begin at 10:00AM Explorer pontoon boat to explore the magnificent Mc Resource Center at 9:00AM, 10:30AM, and 12:30PM. is on a first-come, first-served basis.	cal environmental groups fun activities and exhibit Two live raptor shows pr and 12:00PM. Get on bo obile-Tensaw Delta. Boat	, non-profits, government s focused on Alabama's esented by the Mobile County ard Blakeley State Park's Delta tours depart from 5 Rivers Delta
SAT8	Mid-Morning Weeks Bay Pontoon Boat Tour – NEW THIS YEAR!		بى ش
	Meet at Weeks Bay Tonsmeire Resource Center	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Price : \$35
	See description of Event #SAT2. In addition, at this time of day, participants may see Belted Kingfishers, Great Blue Heron, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Red-winged Blackbirds.		





SAT9	Outdoor Classroom: Birds & Our Environment – NEW THIS YEAR!		<u>ئ</u> خ
	5 Rivers Delta Resource Center	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Price : FREE
	This workshop, geared toward BirdFest and Nature Estand how they affect our environment. Participants was a part in protecting birds in our environment. The great around the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center property to native birds with an inside look at food and shelter property.	ill be led in a discussion a oup will then take a walk to experience the magical	about why and how they can play through three different habitats presence of both migratory and
SAT10	Outdoor Classroom: Birds & Our Environment YEAR!	t – NEW THIS	<u></u> خ <b>خ</b>
	5 Rivers Delta Resource Center	11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Price : FREE
	See description of Event #SAT9		
SAT11	Gaillard Island Eco Tour		<b>#1</b> 🔆
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartam Landing	12:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Price : \$180
	See description of Event #F6		
SAT12	Birding with Apps and by Ear Workshop – NI	EW THIS YEAR!	
	Meet at Tensaw Theatre at the <u>5 Rivers Delta</u> Resource Center	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Price: \$15
	This workshop at 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center will identifying birds: eBird and Merlin Bird ID. After ins skills to work. Birding experts will share tips on how species and get tips on building your audio memory.	struction inside, you will	head outdoors to put your new
SAT13	5 Rivers to Meaher State Park Kayak Tour		-\\(\frac{1}{2}\)
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartam Landing	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Price : \$60
	Launch from the kayak launch at 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center's Bartram Landing in Spanish F WildNative Tours. Floating amongst the marsh, watch and learn about a variety of wildlife includ Bald Eagles, Ospreys, herons, cormorants, pelicans, and nutrias. US history is deep and colorful in		



sunscreen and bug spray.



and so is WildNative Tour's commentary, including points on the history, geology, ecology and characters of the Delta. Includes guide, boat, PFD, and paddle. Kayak Launch is ADA accessible. Bring water, a hat,

SAT14	BirdFest 20th Anniversary Celebration Reception & Keynote Address		જા હું 🚍
	5 Rivers Delta Resource Center	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Price: \$65

Let's celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Alabama Coastal BirdFest and Nature Expo at an evening reception at the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center! In addition to heavy hors d'oevres, wine, beer, soft drinks and dessert, the evening with feature remarks by Christopher Blankenship, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, followed by a brief Q&A session. After the reception, hear from this year's keynote speaker, Christopher Joe, avid birder and founder of Connecting with Birds and Nature Tours, LLC, a nature and birding tour enterprise located on the Joe's 200-acre family farm in Newbern, AL.

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# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

SUN1	Fort Pickens, FL Birding Tour – NEW THIS YEAR!		-\\\\-\\\-\\\
	Neet a 574 e 1 16 ces my recenter to get on the chartered bus	6:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Price : \$65
	This bus tour will take you to see the birds and coastal habitats at historic Fort Pickens in Pensacola, FL, part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. At this eBird hotspot, you can expect to see a variety of shorebirds, including gulls, terns, pelicans, Willets, Sanderlings and more. Other October sightings may include Ospreys, Tree Swallows, Red-winged Blackbirds, and migrating warblers. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.		
SUN2	Gaillard Island Eco Tour		<b>₽</b>
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartam Landing	7:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Price : \$180
	See description of Event #F6.		
SUN3	USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park – NEW THIS YEAR!		<u>ب</u> ف
	Meet at <u>USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park</u>	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Price : \$25
	Battleship Park in Mobile, AL is home to more than the WWII era USS Alabama battleship (the "Heroine of the Pacific"). The park's boardwalk and pier provide spectacular views of the expansive marsh and woody swamps that are part of Mobile Bay. Visitors to this eBird Hotspot may see King Rail, Clapper Rail, Loggerhead Shrike, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, White Ibis, and depending on conditions, perhaps Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Long-billed Dowitcher and Short-billed Dowitcher. The raptors won't disappoint, and migrant warblers will delight.		
SUN4	Upper Mobile-Tensaw Delta Pontoon Boat Tour		<u>#</u> _2
	Meet at <u>Live Oak Landing</u> (33 minute drive from 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center)	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Price : \$60
	Explore the secluded regions of the Delta in its most natural setting. Depart from Live Oak Landing in the upper Delta (33 minute drive from 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center). Venture up the Tensaw River around the infamous "Devil's Bend", into Bottle Creek before journeying down the Middle River and returning to the Tensaw. Participants will see a variety of birds and other wildlife, likely including egrets, herons, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, gallinules, grackles, rails, ibis, and, naturally, alligators.		





# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

SUN5	B: 1 1BI		[-1-1-1]
20142	Birds and Blooms		
	TBA	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Price : \$20
	Back by popular demand! Enjoy viewing birds and plants on a rustic, 6-acre property in Daphne, AL. Your hosts and guides are with the Audubon Eastern Shore Birders and Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries. The yard is filled with plants that attract birds and butterflies, bird feeding stations, water features, and wooded areas. Learn how to implement some of these features in your own yard to attract the birds you like. View this beautiful property from a walking path, an outdoor deck, two glassed-in sun porches, and a spacious front porch. Refreshments will be available.		
SUN6	Sketching Birds & Nature Workshop – NEW 1	THIS YEAR!	
	Meet at Blakeley Hall at the <u>5 Rivers Delta</u> Resource Center	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Price : \$20
	This workshop will cover the art of sketching birds and plants in nature, with a focus on technique and efficiency. Lindsey Lawrence of the Eastern Shore Arts Center will show you how to effortlessly capture your bird and nature observations. You'll learn how to highlighting features of your subject, allowing you to revisit and refine your sketches like a true birding/nature artist. Embrace this opportunity to elevate your bird and nature sketching to the next level! Small sketchbook provided. Bring your creativity!		
SUN7	Orange Beach Kayak Tour – NEW THIS YEAR	!	-\\(\dagger\)
	Orange Beach Wind & Water Learning Center	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Price : \$35
	This new tour offers the opportunity to see birds in the bay area of Orange Beach. Departing from the Orange Beach Wind & Water Learning Center on Wolf Bay, paddlers will enjoy the sights of this environment and can expect to see Brown Pelicans, Laughing Gulls, Osprey, and Green Herons, and maybe dolphins. The peacefulness of early fall in Orange Beach adds to the kayaking and birding experience. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.		
SUN8	Gaillard Island Eco Tour		<b>#1</b> %
	Meet at <u>5 Rivers Delta Resource Center</u> Bartam Landing	12:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Price : \$180
	See description of Event #F6		





#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

SUN9	Splinter Hill Bog Nature Photography Tour – NEW THIS YEAR!		
	Meet at Splinter Hill Bog (coordinates to be determined)	2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Price : \$20

The variety of habitats, plant and animal species make the Splinter Hill Bog a favorite for nature photographers and naturalists. The sandy upland longleaf pine forests, seepage bogs, coastal backwater streams and forests offer an opportunity to capture nature at its finest. The hard-to-find Bachman's Sparrow is usually present, as are towhees, Common Yellowthroats, Kentucky Warblers, catbirds, and several types of woodpeckers -- Pileated, Downy, Red-bellied, Northern Flickers, and possibly others. Get ready to capture the diverse plant species, including carnivorous plants. Dress for boggy conditions, and bring your zoom lens for the birds and your close-up lens for the plants. The head of stewardship for the Bog will give a brief presentation. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and bug spray.



