

## WHY WE ARE HERE

The same habitats that shorebirds seek out for nesting are highly sought after recreational locations for the millions of beach visitors Alabama sees every year. Because of this, nests, eggs, and chicks are vulnerable to a variety of threats.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

At least 13 BIRD SPECIES nest on Alabama's beaches each year. Together we can enjoy all our beautiful coast has to offer while helping ensure the future for our coastal wildlife.

## ALABAMA COASTAL BIRD STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Providing critical protection and monitoring for our state's sensitive beach-nesting bird populations since 2017. Administered by Alabama Audubon staff at both its Birmingham headquarters and coastal field office, the program utilizes local volunteers to monitor and enhance the breeding success of several species of concern on the beaches of Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

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**ALABAMA  
AUDUBON**

**ALABAMA COASTAL BIRD  
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**



**PROTECT OUR COASTAL  
NESTING BIRDS**

## THREATS TO NEST SUCCESS

**HUMANS** Any disturbance can dissuade birds from nesting in otherwise suitable habitats and cause abandonment if they are repeatedly threatened. Nests can easily be destroyed due to their highly camouflaged nature. If adult birds are flushed from nesting areas for extended amounts of time, the eggs and chicks can overheat and die.

**PREDATORS** Nest predators include racoons, foxes, coyotes, and ghost crabs. If humans get too close to nests the adult birds will fly away, leaving eggs and chicks exposed to predators. Leaving trash on the beach will attract predators closer to nesting sites.

**WEATHER** Storm events and flood waters can cause shorebird nests to wash away. It takes up to 4 weeks after hatching for many shorebird chicks to be flight capable so they are also susceptible to being washed away during storm events during this time.

**COASTAL DEVELOPMENT** New developments along the coast can cause the fragmentation and elimination of critical nesting habitat for many species of shorebirds, and also push predators into closer proximity of suitable nesting areas.

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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**DO NOT ENTER POSTED AREAS** Give resting and foraging birds at least 100 feet of space. Walking around groups of birds helps them feel safe to continue eating and resting.

**KEEP PETS ON LEASH** Playful dogs want everyone involved in the fun, but can wreak havoc on shorebird colonies in a matter of seconds by accidentally crushing eggs and chicks. Birds perceive dogs as predators no matter how friendly yours may be.

**LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS** Litter on the beach can cause harm to all kinds of coastal wildlife. Plastic can be mistaken for food and wildlife can become entangled in all sorts of trash items. Leftover food on the beach can also attract unwanted predators.

**DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE** The feeding of wildlife—not just the birds—can have unintended consequences. Beach-feeding can also lead to birds becoming dependent on humans as a food source instead of practicing their natural foraging behaviors.

**PROPERLY DISPOSE OF FISHING LINE** Birds can easily become entangled in loose or discarded fishing lines, which can trap, injure, or even kill them. Be sure to dispose of your fishing line in a proper trash receptacle.

