

# 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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PROTECT OUR  
COASTAL BIRDS

## OUR WINTER SHOREBIRDS

Many and diverse shorebird species spend the winter season along Alabama's coast.

During this time some birds are replenishing energy stores and body fat needed to make long migrations, while our locals are spending their time trying to survive and preparing for the breeding season.

What happens in the winter can affect a bird's ability to successfully nest in the future. Every time a bird is forced to fly away from someone or something it expends large amounts of energy and loses valuable foraging time.



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

**GIVE BIRDS SPACE** 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 their antics can cause a lot of stress and disturbance to resting and foraging birds. They 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 to the beach.

**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.