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Contact: info@alaudubon.org, 205-719-3678

Alabama Audubon's Second Annual Black Belt Birding Festival Is Coming to Greensboro

Come celebrate the birds of this historic Alabama region on July 29 and 30, 2022

GREENSBORO, AL, May 26, 2022—Alabama Audubon has announced plans to host the second annual Black Belt Birding Festival in Greensboro, Alabama. Highlighting the birds, history, and culture of Alabama's Black Belt region, the Black Belt Birding Festival is a popular offering from the storied conservation nonprofit's Black Belt Birding Initiative, a program aimed at bringing the economic benefits of ecotourism to this stretch of rural Alabama.

The first Black Belt Birding Festival, hosted on August 7, 2021, gathered over 170 registrants in historic Greensboro, Alabama, and surrounding areas. Sarah Cole, Owner and Head Chef of Abadir's, enjoyed seeing the once-bustling downtown area full of activity, "It was great to see the town booming with so many interesting people who really seemed to appreciate our sweet little community."

In addition to taking in the town's diverse bird population and culture, attendees came out in droves to support local businesses of all kinds in downtown Greensboro and surrounding cities. An already economically struggling region, many local business owners throughout the Black Belt were forced to make difficult adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We have family businesses that survived 2020 and want to continue surviving," said Mo Kitchen, Cofounder of The Stable. "Having this special event helped our community in so many ways."

This year's festival will feature many of the popular offerings from last year, including a continued ecotourism partnership with Connecting with Birds and Nature Tours, LLC, field trips to experience the diverse birds and environs of the Black Belt, and opportunities to learn about the rich culture and history of this region. New additions for this year include a free kickoff event at Lions Park featuring a vendor expo with local businesses, artists, and food trucks, on Friday, July 29; Alabama Audubon will also be introducing an "a la carte" pricing system to the festivities on Saturday, July 30, allowing attendees to choose their own birding adventure for the weekend. Details and tickets can be found at alaudubon.org/blackbeltfestival.

Founded in 1946 as the Birmingham Audubon Society, Alabama Audubon has since grown to become the state's leading nonprofit promoting conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world. Alabama Audubon's Black Belt Birding Initiative works to bring the economic and environmental benefits of bird-based ecotourism to one of the country's most economically challenged rural areas.

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A certified chapter of the National Audubon Society and an independent 501(c)(3) organization, **Alabama Audubon's** mission is to promote conservation and a greater knowledge of birds, their habitats, and the natural world. Find out more at alaudubon.org or follow us on social media @alaudubon (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).