

## Acknowledgements

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) would like to recognize the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their support and technical guidance. The Reserve would also like to thank the many local amateur and professional photographers from our community of birders, who submitted pictures of birds for this guide. Although we could not include everyone's submissions, we appreciate everyone's interest in this project.

We would especially like to thank the following photographers for their donated submissions that are included in this guide:

**Larry Basden:** Larry is a self-taught photographer who began with film cameras and darkroom work. Always interested in wildlife and nature, he recently became an active birder and is using photography as a way to document the birds he observes.

**Jennifer Buchanan:** Jennifer enjoys taking digital photos of her family, Mississippi's coastal resources, and the many natural areas around the country that she has been fortunate enough to visit. Jennifer especially likes to use her pictures to teach about coastal conservation and to promote environmental stewardship within her community.

**Tom Carlisle:** Tom is a biologist, environmental scientist, conservation photographer, National Wildlife Refuge System volunteer and chairperson of the North American Nature Photography Association Environment Committee.

**Gretchen Grammer:** Gretchen is a self-taught wildlife and nature photographer; she especially enjoys photographing insects, plants, and landscapes. Gretchen strives to capture unique details of her subjects in simple, well-designed images.

**Olivia Graves:** Olivia is a nature photographer and delights in glimpsing and recording "moments in time" in the outdoors. She is retired from teaching and spends time traveling and photographing birds, butterflies, other wildlife, plants and scenery.

**Michael Gray:** Michael has been birding and doing wildlife photography for over 25 years. He specializes in bird photography but photographs everything from landscapes to insects. He volunteers at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) as a photographer and is the Sanctuary Superintendent. His bird photographs have been published in several magazines and books.

**Dave Hawkins:** Dave, a professional commercial photographer located in Nashville, Tennessee, has been taking photos of birds since 2006. His wife, an avid bird-watcher and native of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, has greatly

influenced his interest in birds. He can attribute some of his rising success as a bird photographer to the mentoring he received from many longtime birders, field specialists, and other bird photographers. Currently, Dave is expanding his bird portfolio with tropical species from Central America.

**Alan Hinkel:** Alan is a young, amateur photographer who became passionate about photographing birds after he first took a picture of a Bald Eagle. Alan has taken two photography classes at the local community college to increase his technical skills and looks forward to photographing as many southern bird species as possible.

**George Housley, Jr.:** George is a longtime nature lover, who studied a very narrow field of biology, human rheumatology, and used that work to support his current loves of gardening, nature study and photography.

**Danny Johnson:** Danny is from Vicksburg, Mississippi, and is a photographer in his spare time; he enjoys all areas of nature and wildlife photography. Danny believes in capturing images without traveling extensively, concentrating on the beauty around him to keep his portfolio growing.

**Pamela Johnson:** Pamela is an enthusiastic wildlife and nature photographer; she especially enjoys photographing birds, butterflies and various types of flowers and plants. Pamela strives to capture her subjects in their natural surroundings, detailing her subjects in simple photographic images.

**Donna McDonald-Bailey:** Donna became totally engaged in bird watching 15 years ago, when she discovered six male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at her feeder. She has since increased her number of feeders and documented more than one hundred species at her former home. Donna fondly remembers exchanging information on creating butterfly habitat with her good friend and regional birding expert, Judy Toups, who in return, shared her vast knowledge of the birding world with her.

**Sharon Milligan:** Sharon is a birder who recently took up nature photography. Her main focus is birds, but she also finds plants and insects to be very interesting subjects too. An occasional gator, turtle or just about any other creature may find itself in her viewfinder as well.

**Joseph L. Ravita:** Joe has been birding since 1996, and was tutored by the iconic Judith A. Toups. As a “bushwhacker”, he started photographing birds shortly thereafter.

**Jeff Rester:** Jeff is based out of Ocean Springs, Mississippi where his camera is a constant companion. Jeff does not consider himself an artist, rather a documenter of the beauty that surrounds us every day. He enjoys sharing his vision of the outdoors with others in hopes that they will appreciate the

environment as much as he does and treat the environment with the respect it deserves.

**Eric Soehren:** Since 1997, Eric has worked for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division in the Natural Heritage Section. Eric has a passion to capture interesting and seldom observed facets of natural history through photography.

**Bill Stripling:** Bill began taking bird photographs over 50 years ago in his yard in Nacogdoches, Texas. His photography skills increased over the years along with the advances in technology. Today Bill is a retired government attorney living in Vicksburg, Mississippi, who devotes much of his time to wildlife photography and Audubon activities.

**Paula Waggy:** Paula is a naturalist who tries to capture the wonder of the natural world with her camera. Her favorite subjects are plants, insects, and amphibians. She endeavors to reveal the subjects' habitats in her photos.

**Jake Walker:** Jake is an avid bird-watcher who started working as a research technician at the Grand Bay NERR in January 2006. In the field, Jake is usually so engrossed in studying the birds around him that he only occasionally remembers to put down his binoculars and pick up his camera.

**Joan White-Spunner Dixon:** Joan began her career as a portrait and landscape painter. Two years ago Joan began birding, and this new interest inspired her to paint birds as well. In order to make her paintings more accurate, Joan photographs many of her subjects in the field.

**Michael Woodruff:** Michael held a fascination for birds and birding from a young age, and finally at the age of 13, after months of studying and preparing on his own, he purchased his first digital SLR camera setup to photograph birds. Over the years he has developed his skills and built up his portfolio, adding a whole new element to his already all-encompassing hobby of birding.

Additionally we would like to thank Laura Tolar, the graphic artist for this project. Laura was introduced to the world of birds as she put this book together, and she now uses the guide to learn more about the birds she finds in her own backyard, a maritime forest.