

# 2016 Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

24th Annual



May 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
2016

Maps & Events

pages 10 & 11

The Festival is sponsored by the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



This is a supplement of the HOMER NEWS.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MAJOR SPONSORS



## Checklist

### Spring Shorebird Sightings

Many other species of birds can be seen during the Festival as well, including a number that are hard to find elsewhere.

Early May brings the first warblers and swallows to Homer, along with Sandhill Cranes, Arctic and Aleutian Terns, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and Tufted and Horned Puffins. Red-faced Cormorants, Common Murres and Black-legged Kittiwakes can be found assembling near their nesting sites on Gull Island, and Common Eider, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled and Kittlitz's Murrelets are visible on Kachemak Bay. Look for Eurasian Wigeons in Mud Bay or on Beluga Lake, and American Three-toed and Hairy Woodpeckers in the spruce wood areas. And, though not a shorebird, the always-sought-after Bald Eagle can be spotted frequently on shore and in the sky. You may find many of the 236 species of birds that are recorded for Homer and Kachemak Bay during the Shorebird Festival weekend.

See complete species information and lists on the web at: [kachemakbaybirders.org](http://kachemakbaybirders.org)

U = uncommon  
R = rare

#### Plovers

- \_\_\_ Black-bellied Plover
- \_\_\_ American Golden-Plover-U
- \_\_\_ Pacific Golden-Plover-U
- \_\_\_ Semipalmated Plover
- \_\_\_ Killdeer-R

#### Oystercatchers

- \_\_\_ Black Oystercatcher-U

#### Sandpipers and Phalaropes

- \_\_\_ Greater Yellowlegs
- \_\_\_ Lesser Yellowlegs
- \_\_\_ Wandering Tattler
- \_\_\_ Whimbrel
- \_\_\_ Bristle-thighed Curlew-R
- \_\_\_ Hudsonian Godwit-U
- \_\_\_ Bar-tailed Godwit-U
- \_\_\_ Marbled Godwit-U
- \_\_\_ Ruddy Turnstone-U
- \_\_\_ Black Turnstone

- \_\_\_ Surfbird
- \_\_\_ Red Knot-U
- \_\_\_ Sanderling-U
- \_\_\_ Solitary Sandpiper-R
- \_\_\_ Spotted Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper-R
- \_\_\_ Stilt Sandpiper-R
- \_\_\_ Western Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Least Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Baird's Sandpiper-R

- \_\_\_ Pectoral Sandpiper
- \_\_\_ Rock Sandpiper-U
- \_\_\_ Dunlin
- \_\_\_ Short-billed Dowitcher
- \_\_\_ Long-billed Dowitcher-U
- \_\_\_ Wilson's Snipe
- \_\_\_ Red-necked Phalarope
- \_\_\_ Red Phalarope-R
- \_\_\_ Red-necked Stint-R
- \_\_\_ Temminck's Stint-R
- \_\_\_ Ruff-R

Homer area **Birding Information** is available on the web at: [kachemakbaybirders.org](http://kachemakbaybirders.org)

For up-to-date **Festival Information** please visit: [kachemakshorebird.org](http://kachemakshorebird.org)





### The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival Planning

**Committee** The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival takes more than nine months to plan, organize and coordinate. Meet the team of dedicated and passionate volunteers and staff who make up the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee and who work so hard to bring this Festival to you!



BETH PELUSO



BETH TROWBRIDGE



BETTY SIEGEL



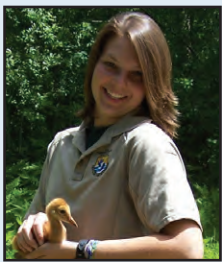
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MICHELLE MICHAUD



ROBBI MIXON



RYJIL CHRISTIANSON



# Greetings Birders!

Welcome to the 24th Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, Alaska's largest wildlife viewing festival. This year we're rolling and gliding. Try Birding by Fat Bike or Paddleboard. Tech lovers might want to try Smartphone Birding and Digiscoping. Don't worry, we'll still offer your favorite activities including Birding Hot Spots, the Junior Birder Program and Live Bird Presentations. Have your life lists handy — this weekend holds the possibility to spot over 130 migratory bird species, along with Homer's plentiful resident seabirds, waterfowl, and woodland birds.

Keynote Speakers Kevin Karlson, Dale Rosselet and Sharon Stiteler will join us for the weekend, delivering a variety of workshops and lectures. Ram Papish, our Festival Artist, will also offer workshops and share his interpretation of the Black Oystercatcher, this year's featured bird. Prints, t-shirts and more will be available at Registration.

We'll have a flock of post-birding entertainment and dining options as well, including the Bird Calling Contest and Keynote Addresses. Homer also offers some of the tastiest Alaskan cuisine — keep an eye out for Birder's Special discounts.

There have been some exciting changes at Festival Headquarters this year. We are pleased to introduce our new Festival partner, the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, who will continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to bring you the Festival. Be sure to check out the Friends Information Booth at Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, attend the Birders Breakfast and consider joining their efforts.

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival could not happen without the dedication of countless volunteers and sponsors. Thank you to everyone who helps and everyone who attends this amazing event.

Happy Birding!

Robbi Mixon  
Festival Coordinator



## Thank You

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival Committee would like to thank each and every one of our presenters and guides for their energy and enthusiasm, and for sharing their vast wealth of knowledge during this year's Festival.



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# SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

## Descriptions

### EVENT KEY

-  FIELD EVENTS
-  ENTERTAINMENT
-  BOAT TOURS
-  WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS
-  FAMILY FRIENDLY
-  HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

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## Thursday, May 12

High Tide 7:15am 16.5 feet | 8:32pm 15.7 feet

### Cranes and Croissants

7-10am | Seaside Farm  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13)  
View the large flocks of migrating Sandhill Cranes that feed and rest on the Seaside Farm hayfields each spring. Birder **Mossy Kilcher** shares her knowledge of cranes, as well as other local birds' songs, calls and habits, during a bird identification walk. Coffee and continental breakfast included. *This event is not handicapped, physically-challenged or stroller accessible.* Road conditions are dependent on weather. **Limit 30. \$20pp, \$15 kids 12 & under.**

### Cold Duck Time

8:30–11am | Harbor top of Ramp 2, Mako's Water Taxi  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14)

As the shorebirds arrive in Kachemak Bay, sea ducks prepare to head north to their happy nesting grounds. Tour Kachemak Bay's southern shore in search of the Mergini tribe. Goldeneye, Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks are just a few of the fine feathered friends that inhabit our bays and coves. Dress warmly. Enclosed boat with open back access; no facilities. **Limit 6. \$60pp.**

### Kachemak Bay Birding, Wildlife & Natural History Tour

8:30am–3:30pm | Harbor Ramp 6, slip EE-19, M/V Lady Hawke  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13)  
Kachemak Bay at its best. This full-day birding and wildlife tour, led by Seaman's Ecotour Adventures, takes you to the waters off the Homer Spit, Yukon Island, Sadie Cove and Eldridge Passage area, Gull Island and into the community of Halibut Cove. Watch for marine mammals, seabirds, mountain goats and learn about the fascinating geology and natural history of Kachemak Bay. Enclosed boat with open back access; boat has heat, water, and head. Bring a lunch/snacks. **Limit 5. \$150pp, \$130 kids 12 & under.**

### Kayak with Birds & Wildlife

9am–1pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14, 5/15; two trips daily)  
Check in 15 minutes prior to departure time at the True North office behind Mako's Water Taxi. Enjoy a scenic water taxi ride to Yukon Island, disembark and paddle around the Island, watching for sea ducks, shorebirds, eagles and sea otters. Wear warm, layered clothes and raingear. Bring water and lunch. Light snacks and hot drinks provided. All experience levels welcome. Enclosed boat with open back access; no facilities. **Limit 20. \$95pp, \$85 kids 12 & under.**

### Sea Ducks and Soup

9am–2pm | Harbor Ramp 3, Slip G-11, M/V Skookum  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14)  
Join longtime Alaskan photographer **Jim Lavrakas** onboard his sturdy boat, Skookum, and find the sea ducks that overwinter in Little Tutka and Jakolof Bays. Jim had a 30-year career at the former Anchorage Daily News, and taught photography at the college level. He will coach you for great photos. Find Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Murres, and Harlequin, among others. Then stop for lunch of soup (not duck!), bread, and brownie at his cozy family cottage (prepared by his wife Ruth, "Queen of Soups") before returning to Homer Harbor. **Limit 5. \$125pp.**

Field events, workshops and presentations are free of charge and sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Friends of Alaska Wildlife National Refuges, unless stated otherwise. **Even though they are "free," some require you to pre-register. All participants must pay the Festival Registration Fee.**

A current bird sightings list will be posted at the Islands & Ocean Visitor Center and the Kachemak Bay Birders website (kachemakbaybirders.org).

Dress in layers; bring mud boots and your binoculars or spotting scope. Please leave your furry friends at home.

All boat tours leave on time. Please be at the slip, ramp or meeting location no later than 15 minutes prior to departure time. Refunds will not be issued if you are late for your boat.

**Presentations and walks are included with paid registration fee unless otherwise noted. Please register for these events if it is requested — those with tickets will be admitted first.**

## Wednesday, May 11

High Tide 6:20am 18.4 feet | 7:30pm 16.7 feet

### Bird Comparative Anatomy Dissection Lab

4-5:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Lab Classroom  
Explore the anatomy of birds during this 1.5-hour laboratory based workshop. Participate in an instructor led bird dissection that examines the basic anatomy of birds and compares that anatomy to our own. This will be a fun, free workshop for ages 8 and up. *This event fulfills one of the Jr. Birder requirements.* **Limit 32. Free, but please register.**

### Mud Bay Trail Family Bird Walk

6-7pm | Parking Lot at Base of Spit (intersection of Spit Road and Kachemak Way)  
Park and meet in the paved parking lot at the base of the Homer Spit for a 1-hour stroll along the Mud Bay Trail to view coastal birds. The group is likely to observe a variety of shorebirds, ducks and perhaps Sandhill Cranes. The trail can be muddy, so participants should wear rubber boots or hiking boots. Bring binoculars. **Limit 20. Free, but please register.**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Kevin Karlson & Dale Rosselet



Photo provided

Kevin Karlson is an accomplished birder, professional tour leader and wildlife photographer who has published several books and many bird and nature related articles for magazines and journals over the last 20 years. Kevin is a co-author of *The Shorebird Guide*, and the author/photographer of two photography books, *The Birds of Cape May* and *Visions: Earth's Elements in Bird and Nature Photography*. His most recent book with wife and co-author Dale Rosselet, *Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds* was released in May 2015.

Dale Rosselet is Vice President for Education for New Jersey Audubon and oversees the statewide public and school-based education programs, where she authored and co-authored four natural history curriculum guides as well as the book *Wild Journeys: Migration in New Jersey*. She has had extensive experience teaching children and adults in both classroom and informal education settings for over 30 years. Dale is past president for the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education and chairs the governor-appointed New Jersey Commission for Environmental Education. She has received the 2012 Women in Wildlife Award as well as the Pat Kane Lifetime Achievement Award in Environmental Education.

### Shorebirds by Impression Workshop

Thursday May 12, 4–5:45pm  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

### Indoor Photography Workshop

Friday May 13, 9–11:30am  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

### Welcome Reception for Keynote Speakers and Artist

Friday May 13, 4–6pm  
Pratt Museum

### Keynote Address: Birds on the Wind

Saturday May 14, 7:45–9pm  
Mariner Theater, Homer High School

### Keynote Talk: Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds

Sunday May 15, 11am–noon  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sharon Stiteler



Photo provided

Since 1997 Sharon has successfully made it her goal to get paid to go birding. She travels the world as a field trip leader, birding consultant, humorous keynote speaker, bird field technician, bird bander and writer. She wrote the books *Disapproving Rabbits*, *City Birds/Country Birds* and *1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know*, she's #32 in the Geek A Week Trading Card set and works part-time as a National Park Ranger for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. She appears regularly on TV and radio including "Outdoor News Radio," "All Things Considered" and has been on "NBC Nightly News" answering bird questions. When she's not digiscoping or performing improv, she is a blue ribbon beekeeper. More information about Sharon and her blog can be found at BirdChick.com.

## Digiscoping Workshop

Friday May 13, noon–2:30pm  
Islands & Oceans Visitor Center

## Welcome Reception for Keynote Speakers and Artist

Friday May 13, 4–6pm  
Pratt Museum

## Birds and Beers Social

Friday May 13, 6:30–8:30pm  
Land's End Resort

## Smartphone Birding Workshop

Saturday May 14, 9–11:30am  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

## Keynote Address: 1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know

Saturday May 14, 6–7:15pm  
Mariner Theater

## Keynote Talk: Adventures in Bird Banding

Sunday May 15, 9:30–10:30am  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

## Thursday continued

### Seabird Sidetrip

9am–noon | Harbor bottom of Ramp 3,  
to the right, *M/V Torega*

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14, 5/15)

Join local bird expert **Karl Stoltzfus** of Bay Excursions as he shares his favorite birding places during a 3-hour cruise of Kachemak Bay. Look for Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelets, eiders, loons, shorebirds, and many other species, with excellent close-up viewing opportunities for all passengers. Enclosed boat with open back access; no facilities. **Limit 12. \$70pp.**

### Pre-K Puffins Story with Ram Papish, Festival Artist

10–11am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center,  
Seminar Room

Join festival artist **Ram Papish** for a reading of his book *The Little Fox*, followed by a craft and snack. This educational program is designed for children ages 2 through 5. The hour will include story time, crafts and early learning centered activities.

### Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) with Birds & Wildlife

10am–3 pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak  
Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14, 5/15)

Take a scenic boat ride by Gull Island and on to the protected waters of Petersen and China Poot Bay. After a shoreside instructional session we will take to the sea to explore the coast, intertidal life, birds, and wildlife from the elevated perspective of a paddleboard. Wetsuits, booties, snacks, hot drinks, and drybags provided. Bring lunch, water, and and bathing suit if you have one, for under wetsuit. Arrive 30 minutes prior to departure time.

**Limit 6. \$125pp.**

### The Cooking School at Tutka Bay Lodge

10:30am–3pm | Tutka Bay Lodge - Depart from Mako's  
Water Taxi (check in at 10:15am)

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14, 5/15)

Join award-winning chef and cookbook author **Kirsten Dixon** for a cooking class featuring the locally inspired cuisine of Tutka Bay Lodge. Travel across Kachemak Bay to learn lodge culinary secrets in a hands-on cooking class, feasting on your creations afterwards. While at the lodge, enjoy opportunities to birdwatch from the deck, to forage for local ingredients, to cook on the famous Widgeon II crabbing boat, and to explore our hiking trail or meander the shoreline before returning to Homer. The class includes round-trip water taxi from Homer to the lodge, hands-on instruction, recipes, and luncheon with wine. Please contact lodge with any allergies or restrictions prior to trip.

**Limit 12. \$175pp.**

### Edible & Medicinal Plants of Kachemak Bay Shoreline

10:30am–noon | Bishop's Beach Picnic Shelter  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14, 5/15)

**Nancy Lee-Evans** (Anam Cara Program – spiritual development and energy medicine) leads a walk along Bishop's Beach identifying the wild edible and medicinal plants of Kachemak Bay including their nutrition, preparation and uses. Kids are welcome and encouraged with a participating adult. **Limit 25. \$15pp.**

### Pacific Flyway Ambassador Talk

noon–12:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center,  
Auditorium

This spring a pair of adventurers from Environment for the Americas' Latino Internship Program will embark on an epic journey, traveling the Pacific flyway from southern California to Alaska. Their mission: to share engaging stories of the intersections between the lives of people and birds, particularly the role and impacts of larger cities on migrating bird populations. Learn how their journey has gone so far, where they will be traveling in Alaska and what they have learned about birds as we commemorate the 100th year of the Migratory Bird Treaty!

### Kayak with Birds & Wildlife

1–5pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak  
Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14, 5/15;  
two trips daily)

See Thursday, 9am listing for description

### Songbirds & Their Nests

1–1:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center,  
Auditorium

Local birder **Mossy Kilcher** presents her original movie about Homer's local songbirds, their nests, habits, and habitats and teaches how to identify the birds by their songs.

### eBird Workshop for Beginners

2–2:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center,  
Auditorium

Are you a bird watcher that has thought about using eBird but need a little help or motivation? Or maybe you're already using eBird and would like to learn more about how it works, what it's used for, or how you can take your eBirding to the next level? Join **Kara Zwick** to discover how eBird will advance your interest in bird watching and citizen science. This workshop will walk through how to manage your account, create checklists, select and create locations, record and document species, and submit your observations.

### Seabirds of Alaska

3–3:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center,  
Auditorium

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge provides breeding habitat for 40 million nesting seabirds. Join **Marianne Aplin** to learn about these amazing birds of the sea and get a peek at the new *Seabirds of Alaska* book illustrated by Festival Artist **Ram Papish**.

### Family Bird Walk

3:30–4:30pm | Beluga Lake Platform

Join CACS naturalists for bird viewing at the Beluga Lake Viewing Platform. Learn to use binoculars to identify waterfowl and forest birds. Family-friendly viewing helps kids learn to identify common birds by their sight and song and be nature detectives. Meet at the turn around at the end of the road to the airport. *This fulfills a Jr. Birder requirement.*

### Shorebirds by Impression, Workshop with Keynotes Kevin Karlson and Dale Rosset

4–5:45pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center,  
Seminar Room

This indoor workshop presents an alternate approach to shorebird identification that relies on an initial evaluation of physical features to form an accurate foundation for your ID conclusion before analyzing feather details or plumage patterns. By concentrating on the size, body shape and structural features of each bird, a reliable assessment of each species is formed, unaffected by the many plumage conditions possible during the year for most shorebirds. Conscious evaluation of distinctive body motion and behavior for each species further enhances your ability to really "know" shorebirds. A similar approach was given in Kevin's popular book *The Shorebird Guide*. Digitized comparison photos of similar, hard-to-identify species are included in this program to allow participants to see for themselves how a combination of subtle structural differences and analysis of plumage details results in a more complete ID picture. **Limit 40. \$20pp.**

### Viewing Station - Beluga Lake/Airport Viewing Station

4:30–6pm | Beluga Lake/Airport Viewing Station

Shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds — you never know what you'll see at the Beluga Lake Viewing Platform at the end of FAA Road by the airport. The Kachemak Bay Birders host this viewing station with scopes.

# HOMER NEWS

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**SHOREBIRD ILLUSTRATION:** Ram Papish



## Shorebird Festival Kick Off Reception: Birding in Central America

5–6:30pm | Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Headquarters, 708 Smokey Bay Way

This year's speaker will be our own **Seth Spencer**, Education Program/Wynn Coordinator for CASC. He will share slides and insights into his birding experiences in Belize and Guatemala. Come enjoy some good food along with great slides of cool birds! **Limit 60. Free, but please register.**

## Birders, Brews, and Burgers

6–9pm | Beluga Lake Lodge, 204 Ocean Drive Loop

Come enjoy dinner and a beverage at Homer's Beluga Lake Lodge, located between downtown and the Spit. With views of Beluga Lake from both inside and deck seating, you're sure to spot several avian creatures. Dinner and drink specials will include burger basket or chicken strip basket and choice of beverage **\$14pp, pay on site.**

## Film Screening: *The Messenger*

6:30–8pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/15, 1:30–3pm)

"For thousands of years, songbirds were regarded by mankind as messengers from the gods. Today, these creatures woven inextricably into the fabric of our environment are vanishing at an alarming rate. Under threat from climate change, pesticides and more, populations of hundreds of species have dipped dramatically. As scientists, activists and bird enthusiasts investigate this phenomenon, amazing secrets of the bird world come to light for the first time in this acclaimed and visually thrilling documentary. Find out what's killing our birds, why it matters to humans, and what can be done about it." Best Conservation Program Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival. **Limit 120, \$5pp.**

## Viewing Station - Mud Bay & Lighthouse Village

8:15–9:30pm | Mud Bay and Lighthouse Village

Meet at the base of the Spit, where guides in green vests will help you locate and identify shorebirds feeding in the mudflats. Spotting scopes, binoculars and guidebooks available for use. Please park only in designated areas.

# Friday, May 13

High Tide 8:21am 14.7 feet

## Barren Islands Birding

7am–5pm | Harbor Ramp 2, Slip E-2, M/V *Jackpot*

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/14)

Visit the Barren Islands Bird Rookery on the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. A great opportunity to view pelagic seabirds, whales and more during this 100+ mile round trip with a naturalist on board. Dress warmly with rain gear and bring binoculars, bird books and cameras. Lunch included. Enclosed boat with open back access; has facilities. Sponsored by Rainbow Tours. **Limit 20. \$149pp.**

## Cranes and Croissants

7–10am | Seaside Farm

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12)

See Thursday, 7am listing for event description

## Overlook Park Hike

7am–3pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in parking lot

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/15)

A guided, strenuous 10-mile hike along the north shore of Kachemak Bay to visit Overlook Park, an undisturbed pocket of native coastal habitat and a remote unit of the Alaska State Park system. View shorebirds, sea ducks, marine mammals, ravens and eagles, as well as early songbird migrants and waterfowl around the ponds in the Park. This all-day hike is strenuous due to the length, steepness and uneven terrain, creek crossings and unimproved trail. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, raingear and sturdy, waterproof boots. Proceeds benefit the management of Overlook Park. Presented by Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, led by **Laurie Daniel. Limit 12. \$15pp (must be at least 12 years old).**

## Birding Hot Spots No. 1

7:30–10:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in parking lot

Hop on the bus with Wilderness Birding Adventures' **Aaron Lang**, and Eagle Optics' **Ben Lizadas**, to find the hottest spots in Homer's wetlands and forests. There are opportunities to get off the bus and do short walks, so bring binoculars. Rubber boots are recommended. A limited number of scopes will be available. **Limit 19. \$30pp.**

## Int./Adv. Shorebird Walk

7:30–9:30am | Mud Bay Spit

Expert birder and member of the Kachemak Bay Birders, **George Matz** leads this walk out on to the small sandy spit that stretches into Mud Bay. Rubber boots recommended. Park and meet at the parking lot on Kachemak Drive. **Limit 20. \$7pp.**

## Beginning Birding by Ear

8–9:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Alaska Audubon's **Beth Peluso** starts you out in the classroom teaching beginning birders basic tips and tricks for identifying and remembering bird songs. The classroom session is followed by time outside to practice the skills you've learned. Dress for the weather. **Limit 20. \$5pp.**

## Park and Refuge Bird & Bear Viewing — Chinitna Bay & Chisik Island

8am–4pm | Anchor River State Recreation Area, Lake Tractor Launch

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/14)

Full day of bird and bear viewing in the remote wilderness of Lake Clark National Park on Cook Inlet's west side. Weather and sea conditions determine our adventure. We'll either visit Chinitna Bay to see big coastal brown bears up close, along with a variety of seabirds, or we'll visit Chisik Island Bird Rookery, where we can spot puffins, kittiwakes, eiders, sea ducks, shearwaters, and more. We may also get out of the boat and walk on the beach and explore tidal flats. This is a full day trip of 7–8 hours. Please bring meals and snacks, water, and rain gear. Trip led by Chinitna Bay Bear Tours. **Limit 6. \$295pp.**

## Viewing Station - Mud Bay & Lighthouse Village

8–9:30am | Mud Bay and Lighthouse Village

See Thursday, 8:15pm listing for event description

## Kachemak Bay Birding, Wildlife & Natural History Tour

8:30am–3:30pm | Harbor Ramp 6, slip EE-19, M/V *Lady Hawke*

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12)

See Thursday, 8:30am listing for event description

## Cold Duck Time

8:30–11am | Harbor top of Ramp 2, Mako's Water Taxi

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14)

See Thursday, 8:30am listing for event description

## Indoor Photography Workshop with Keynote Kevin Karlson

9am–11:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Seminar Room

Digital photography improvements allow us to capture flight images like never before. Even with these advantages, it is important to learn how to capture and compose a dynamic wildlife image with the most efficient field techniques and camera settings for a variety of situations. Join wildlife photographer **Kevin Karlson** as he shares basic and advanced techniques for photographing wildlife in action, and gives reasons for selecting one option over others. Topics covered include: basics of composition and image balance; lighting and proper exposure; advantages of using manual exposure for quick lighting compensation and artistic mood; balancing white and dark subjects; subject acquisition and tracking for moving subjects, including autofocus options; and importance of continued practice. This workshop is somewhat technical in nature, with beginners required to know their camera's settings and basic operation. Bring a few jpg files of your work for critique during the last hour. **Limit 40. \$20pp.**

## Kayak with Birds & Wildlife

9am–1pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14, 5/15;

two trips daily)

See Thursday, 9am listing for event description

# FEATURED ARTIST

## Ram Papish



Photo Provided

Ram Papish is a professional bird enthusiast who combines his education in fine art with his experiences working as a field biologist to create artistic and accurate wildlife images.

For 20+ field seasons, Ram studied birds and other wildlife in many exciting locations around the globe. In 2012 he retired from the "bio bum" lifestyle to concentrate on his first love: wildlife art. He has also authored and illustrated two children's books: *The Little Fox* and *The Little Seal*, published by University of Alaska Press. His illustrations appear in many books and publications, including the *California Condors in the Pacific Northwest* and *A Handbook of Oregon Birds*.

## Art Showing

Daily at Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

## Pre-K Puffins Story

Thursday May 12, 10–11am  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

## Welcome Reception for Keynote Speakers and Artist

Friday May 13, 4–6pm  
Pratt Museum

## Bird Drawing 101

Saturday May 14, noon–2pm  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

## Fantastic Feeding Shorebird, Kids Art Workshop

Saturday May 14, 3–4:30pm  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

## Festival Prints and Book Signing

Sunday May 15, 9–11am  
During Birders Coffee at  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Islands & Ocean Visitor Center Hours (Festival Headquarters) 95 Sterling Highway

Wednesday noon–5pm (Registration Hours)  
Thursday 8am–8pm (Registration 8am–6pm)  
Friday & Saturday 8am–6pm (Registration)  
Sunday 8am–4pm (Registration 8am–2pm)

Buildings and bathrooms will be open for tours and programs scheduled outside building hours.

## Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center Hours 201 Sterling Highway

Monday–Friday 9am–5pm  
Saturday & Sunday 9am–2pm



# WHAT'S NEW

We're always looking to keep the festival fresh! Check out some of this year's new offerings.

- **New Headquarters: Islands & Ocean Visitor Center**
- **Birders Breakfast, Hosted by Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges**
- **The Messenger - Film Screening**
- **Sea Ducks and Soup Boat Trip**
- **Fat Bike Bird Tour**
- **Stand Up Paddleboarding with Birds & Wildlife**
- **Smartphone and Digiscoping Workshops**
- **Birding by Impression and Photography Workshops**
- **Birders and Beers Social**
- **Art Workshops with Ram Papish**
- **Bird House, Bird Feed Listings**
- **Pre-K Puffins Story Hour**

*Friday continued*

## Sea Ducks and Soup

9am-2pm | Harbor Ramp 3, Slip G-11,  
M/V Skookum

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14)

See Thursday, 9am listing for event description

## Seabird Sidetrip

9am-noon | Harbor bottom of Ramp 3,  
to the right, M/V Torega

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14, 5/15)

See Thursday, 9am listing for event description

## Beginning Songbird Walk

10-11:30am | Calvin and Coyle Trail,  
meet in parking lot

Dawn Harris helps you search by sight and sound for common local and migratory songbirds on this easy Kachemak Heritage Land Trust trail. Binoculars and rubber boots recommended. **Limit 15. \$5pp.**

## Birds Need Land Too

10-10:30am | Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Office,  
315 Klondike Ave.

Join Conservation Director **Mandy Bernard** of the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT) to learn about current conservation efforts on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula that directly affect critical bird habitat as well as fish and other wildlife. This casual discussion will be held in what was once Poopdeck Platt's original log cabin located on KHLT's 3.47-acre property in the heart of Homer. **Limit 15. Free, but please register.**

## Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) with Birds & Wildlife

10am-3 pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak  
Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14, 5/15)

See Thursday, 10am listing for event description

## The Cooking School at Tutka Bay Lodge

10:30am-3pm | Tutka Bay Lodge - Depart from  
Mako's Water Taxi

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14, 5/15)

See Thursday, 10:30am listing for event description

## Edible & Medicinal Plants of Kachemak Bay Shoreline

10:30am-noon | Bishop's Beach Picnic Shelter  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14, 5/15)

See Thursday, 10:30am listing for event description

## Kayaking and Birding with an Otter's Eye View

noon-3pm | Water Trail on Spit,  
by Pier One Theatre

Enjoy kayaking right off the Spit to see birds from an otter's perspective. You will paddle with experienced guides on an easy trip in Mud Bay. We recommend wearing waterproof clothes and boots — all kayak gear (paddles, life jackets, etc.) will be provided. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay Water Trail. **Limit 18. \$85pp.**

## Smartphone Digiscoping Workshop with Keynote Sharon Stiteler

noon-2:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center,  
Seminar Room

Learn how to take incredible photos and videos with your smartphones. This is great for people who are intimidated by using SLRs for digiscoping. **Sharon Stiteler** will use digiscoping shots to illustrate techniques and tips for capturing digital images of birds. First hour will be classroom instruction, followed by a field trip to put the techniques into practice. **Limit 20. \$15pp.**

# Homer Ocean Charters

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next to the Down East Saloon!  
(3125 East End • 235-7764)





Harlequin ducks take off in Kachemak Bay.

© Jim Lavrakas / Far North Photography

### KHLT Guided Van Tour

12:30–2:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in parking lot

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, a Homer based non-profit organization, preserves critical fish and wildlife habitat on the beautiful Kenai Peninsula for future generations. Join us for an informative van tour where we visit a variety of unique lands being protected by the Trust. We will visit our Calvin and Coyle Nature Trail, our Gene and Mim Effler Trail (a short trail and viewing platform overlooks a headwater fen— these sensitive wetlands are part of the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District — Homer’s drinking source,) and view treasured landscapes in the Diamond Creek watershed. This tour offers fantastic educational and photo opportunities as well as gaining knowledge of the importance of land trusts nationwide. **Limit 15. Free, but please register.**

### Beaches, Birds, Brew & Oysters Too!

1–5pm | Meet at the CACS Yurt on the Spit, Harbor Ramp 2, behind Mako’s

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/14, 5/15)

Hop on the van, departing from the CACS Yurt on the Spit. A CACS Naturalist will lead intertidal exploration on the Homer Spit then head up to Skyline Drive on the bluff above Homer to spot birds of the Boreal Forest. Finally, you’ll land at Homer Brewing Company for a sampler of Fresh Traditional Country Ales and Kachemak Bay Oysters. **Limit 10. \$85pp.**

### Creatures of the Dock Tours!

1–3pm | Meet at the CACS Yurt on the Spit, Harbor Ramp 2, behind Mako’s

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/14, 5/15)

Take a tour of the amazing intertidal life right under your feet at Homer Harbor docks. Based out of the CACS Yurt on the Spit, a trained naturalist will guide you through an amazing exploration of invertebrate life in our Harbor! Creatures of the Dock Tours leave from the yurt on Homer Spit, ten minutes from downtown Homer. **Limit 30. \$7pp. (Toddlers 2 and under are free.)**

### Kayak with Birds & Wildlife

1–5pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/14, 5/15; two trips daily)

See Thursday, 9am listing for event description

### Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial: 100 Years of Conservation

1–1:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Can you imagine a time when thousands of birds covered the sky as far as the eye could see? What happened to these massive flocks of feathered friends and how did their disappearance influence bird conservation around the globe? Join **Tamara Zeller** and **Dr. Rick Lancot** with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a look back at the history of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and how it saved many of the birds that call Alaska home. Follow the plight of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, learn how the MBTA helped and didn’t help this arctic-breeding shorebird, and what current research has taught us about this magnificent migrant.

### Birding Optics 101

2–2:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Seminar Room

An avid birder and sales representative for Eagle Optics, **Ben Lizardas** talks about considerations when looking for the binoculars or spotting scope that will best suit your needs and your budget. Ben presents a clear understanding of today’s optics options.

### Birding Madagascar

2–2:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Madagascar’s exciting flora and fauna, 80% of which is endemic, has long been enticing birders and naturalists. The diversity of species, habitat, and terrain drew **Betty Siegel** to visit this island nation last October. See unusual birds, enchanting lemurs, fascinating chameleons, and more as she shares photos, stories, and information about Madagascar birds and wildlife.

### Impacts of Plastics on Seabirds

3–3:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Seminar Room

**Veronica Padula** will share her research on the impacts of plastics on Bering Sea seabirds reproduction and survival, population dynamics, and, more broadly, ecosystem health. Sign up for Veronica’s dissection lab after this session to learn more.

### Murre Die-off

3:30–4pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Supervisory Refuge Biologist **Heather Renner** will discuss the past year’s unusually large seabird die-off, putting it in context against long-term monitoring of seabird breeding colonies and beach surveys. In this science talk she’ll discuss possible factors including extreme temperature anomalies, “the Blob” of warm water, harmful algal blooms, and prey availability.

### Gull Island Tour

4–5pm | Harbor Ramp 1, corner of A&C Float, M/V Danny J

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/14, 4–5pm; 5/15, noon–1pm)

Enjoy a one-hour boat ride aboard this classic wooden boat to Gull Island to view kittiwakes, murre, puffins and other seabirds. Open boat with some cabin seating inside; no facilities. Trip sponsored by Kachemak Bay Ferry. **Limit 29. \$10pp, \$5 kids 12 & under.**

### Kids Birding Workshop

4–6pm | Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Headquarters, 708 Smokey Bay Way

Hands-on explorations to learn about birds! Ages 2–8: Think, Act, and Feel Like a Bird! Investigate feathers and how birds fly, explore bird beaks and the food they eat, dress like a shorebird, go on a scavenger hunt and complete a bird craft. Plus — Whoooo’s up for Owl Fun? Dissect an owl pellet and learn about owls and eagles! Kids rotate through stations and learn about our amazing flying, feathered friends! **Limit 60. Free, but please register.**

# BIRD TLC

## Live Bird Demonstrations

Saturday May 14, Two Shows!

11:30am–12:30pm and 1:30–2:30pm

Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

\$5pp

Informal Presentation during the Birders Coffee.

Sunday May 15,

9–11am

Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Donations accepted.



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The Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival is three fun days celebrating Sandhill Cranes as they begin their migration south.

Festival activities include 2016 guest speaker Paul Tebbel, guided nature walks, educational presentations, kids’ crafts and activities, birding hot spots tours, workshops, birding viewing opportunities, Tex Mex Dinner and Silent Auction, and more! [www.creamersfield.org](http://www.creamersfield.org)



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# MANY THANKS

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival cosponsors, the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would like to recognize



and thank our many generous supporters. Many people continue to offer their support of the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival as it gets closer and throughout the event, so please visit us online for an updated listing!

## Crane Club Financial Supporters

### BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW \$5000+:

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### BAR-TAILED GODWIT \$2500-\$4999:

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## Friday continued

### Bird Dissection

4-6pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Lab Classroom

Join biologist **Veronica Padula** for this bird dissection workshop following her talk "Impacts of Plastics on Seabirds". You'll dissect a bird, examine the bird's digestive tracts for signs of plastic pollutants, and help collect tissue samples that will contribute to Veronica's ongoing research. This is a free workshop for ages 15-115. Jr Birders and other kids age 8 and up may register for the dissection workshop on Wednesday afternoon. **Limit 32. Free, but please register.**

### Birding Ethiopia

4-4:50pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Ethiopia, the "Roof of Africa" is a country the size of Alaska. Over 840 species, both resident and migrants, have been observed in this African country, including nearly 40 endemic and near endemics. Join **Michelle Michaud** as she shares photos and stories of her visit to this beautiful country in search of its bird life and the endemic Ethiopian Wolf.

### Welcome Reception for Keynote Speakers and Festival Artist

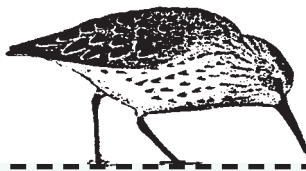
4-6pm | Pratt Museum

Meet and greet this year's Keynote Speakers, **Kevin Karlson, Dale Rosselet, and Sharon Stiteler**, along with our Featured Artist, **Ram Papish**. Enjoy refreshments sponsored by Bear Creek Winery, Grace Ridge Brewing, and the Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.

### Birds and Beers Social, Hosted by Keynote Sharon Stiteler

6:30-8:30pm | Land's End Resort

Birds and Beers is an informal gathering of birders of all abilities, hosted by Keynote **Sharon Stiteler**. If you're interested in birds, you're invited. You can meet other bird minded people, maybe find a carpool buddy, ask about where to find target birds, share cool research projects you might be working on, ask a bird feeding question, share life lists, share some digiscoping tips, promote your bird related website, book, tour company: the sky's the limit. It's low key and it's FUN! Sponsored by Land's End Resort.



*Join the Shorebird Festival's "Crane Club" & help us really take flight this year and years going forward!*

Donate at one of these levels and become a recognized supporter of the 24th Annual Shorebird Festival:

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Please e-mail, mail, fax or drop off your completed form with payment to the Festival. You may also pledge during online registration.

### Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

95 Sterling Highway, Homer, Alaska 99603  
907-226-4631 (ph) 907-235-7783 (fax)

info@kachemakshorebird.org • www.kachemakshorebird.org

# Saturday, May 14

High Tide 9:39am 13.6 feet | 10:50pm 14.9 feet

### Birding Hot Spots No. 2

6:30-9:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in parking lot

Hop on the bus with Kachemak Bay Birders **Dale Chorman** and **Rich Kleinleder** to find the hottest spots in Homer's wetlands and forests. There are opportunities to get off the bus and do short walks, so bring binoculars. Rubber boots are recommended. A limited number of scopes will be available. **Limit 19. \$30pp.**

### Barren Islands Birding

7am-5pm | Harbor Ramp 2, Slip E-2, M/V Jackpot

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13)

See Friday, 7am listing for event description

### Intermediate/Advanced Forest Songbird Walk

7-8:30am | Baycrest Trailhead off Rogers Loop

Join expert birder **George Matz** and Alaska Audubon's **Beth Peluso** for this intermediate to advanced level guided walk through the upland habitats of the Baycrest ski trails, looking for songbirds and other forest dwellers. Hiking boots recommended. **Limit 20. \$7pp.**

### Beginning Forest Bird Walk

7:30-9am | Calvin and Coyle Trail

Discover the basics of birding: binocular use, bird songs and behavior, keeping a list, and sharpening observation skills. From the treetops to the lake searching for birds, this walk will travel through wetlands and boreal forest to the edge of Beluga Lake Critical Habitat area. Led by **Poppy Benson, Michelle Michaud, and Carla Stanley**. Easy trail, wear rubber boots, and dress appropriately for the weather. **Limit 25. \$5pp.**

### Park and Refuge Bird & Bear Viewing — Chinitna Bay & Chisik Island

8am-4pm | Anchor River State Recreation Area, Lake Tractor Launch

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13)

See Friday, 8am listing for event description

*Continued on page 13*

I would like to become a member at the \_\_\_\_\_ level.

- My check is enclosed *or*
- Please charge my credit card:

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*If you prefer, call the Festival and your credit card can be processed over the phone: 907-226-4631*

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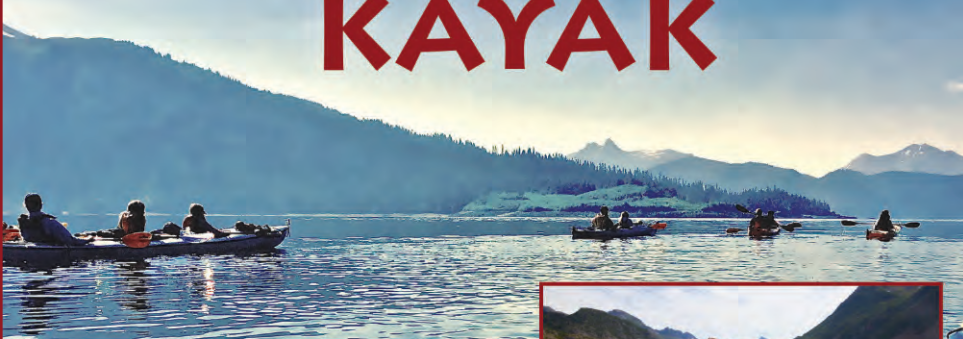
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**May 6 – July 31, 2016**



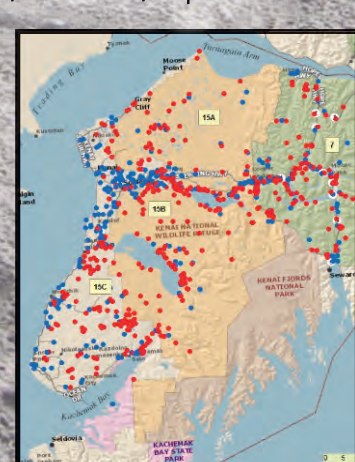
Explore bears of the Lower Kenai and Cook Inlet region through recent research and new works of art.

“Bear Messaging: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly”  
Presentation by Tom Smith, Ph.D., June 29, 6 p.m.

**Pratt Museum**  
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[www.prattmuseum.org](http://www.prattmuseum.org)



Saturday continued from page 8

## Upper Kachemak Bay Wildlife Tour

8am-12:30pm | Harbor Ramp 2, Slip E-1, *M/V Rainbow Connection*

Join us aboard the 65' *MV Rainbow Connection* for a trip to the rich shorebird feeding area near the Fox, Sheep and Bradley Rivers. Explore the head of Kachemak Bay, with a visit to Bear Cove, Aurora Lagoon, Glacier Spit, and a stop at the Gull Island bird rookery. Continental breakfast included. Enclosed boat with open back access; has facilities. Sponsored by Rainbow Tours. **Limit 80. \$60pp, \$35 kids 11 & under, kids under 2 years free.**

## Cold Duck Time

8:30-11am | Harbor top of Ramp 2, Mako's Water Taxi

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13)

See Thursday, 8:30am listing for event description

## Kayak with Birds & Wildlife

9am-1pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/15;

two trips daily)

See Thursday, 9am listing for event description

## Sea Ducks and Soup

9am-2pm | Harbor Ramp 3, Slip G-11, *M/V Skookum*

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13)

See Thursday, 9am listing for event description

## Seabird Sidetrip

9am-noon | Harbor bottom of Ramp 3, to the right, *M/V Torega*

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/15)

See Thursday, 9am listing for event description

## Shorebird Identification

9-10:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

How do you tell a plover from a sandpiper? Learn shorebird identification tips and tricks from Audubon Alaska's Executive Director **Nils Warnock**, who has studied Alaska's shorebirds from Cordova to the North Slope.

## Smartphone Birding Workshop with Keynote Sharon Stiteler

9-11:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Seminar Room

Smartphones have changed birding. You can access multiple field guides, get real time bird reports and take incredible photos and videos of your favorite birds. This program gives you the latest information on how to maximize your phone for birding. Presentation will be followed by time outside to use your new skills. **Limit 20. \$15pp.**

## Viewing Station - Mud Bay & Lighthouse Village

9-10am | Mud Bay and Lighthouse Village

See Thursday, 8:15pm listing for event description

## Bird Anatomy for Artists

10-11:30am | Pratt Museum

Oriented to all ages and lead by **John Martin**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this talk focuses on bones and feather structure as observed by the bird watcher, naturalist, or artist. A lab-based workshop using mounted and museum specimens. Interactive discussions involve simple math, geometry, a lot of biology, and some big words! Comparisons with mammals will be used for relating anatomical similarities with birds. **Limit 25. \$15pp.**

## Birding Discovery Lab for Absolute Beginners — Adults

10-11am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Lab Classroom

Would you love to become a birder but need help getting started? Join us to learn about Kachemak Bay's amazing array of birds, as well as their habits, sounds, and favorite locales. Wander between hands-on learning stations hosted by local birding experts to find bird ID tips, where to look for certain birds, and what you'll need to see them. This is a fun, free program for everyone. Ages 15-115.

## Birding Hot Spots No. 3

10am-1pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in parking lot

Hop on the bus with Wilderness Birding Adventures' **Aaron Lang** and **George Matz**, Kachemak Bay Birders, to find the hottest spots in Homer's wetlands and forests. There are opportunities to get off the bus and do short walks, so bring binoculars. Rubber boots are recommended. A limited number of scopes will be available. **Limit 19. \$30pp.**

## Walk with Awareness Through Movement

10am-noon | Calvin and Coyle Trailhead

Explore how you walk using the *Feldenkrais Method*® as we meander the 1.5 mile round-trip trail through meadows, bogs and spruce forests. Midway on the trail we'll reach a platform that overlooks the shorebirds feeding in the Beluga wetlands. This is where you'll learn how to walk and move more efficiently using the *Feldenkrais Method*®. Put the power back into your stride as you reconnect with how your feet, ankles, knees, hips, spine and even your eyes can be involved with each step. Proceeds benefit the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, who maintains the trail. **Limit 20. \$30pp.**

## Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) with Birds & Wildlife

10am-3 pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/15)

See Thursday, 10am listing for event description

## The Cooking School at Tutka Bay Lodge

10:30am-3pm | Tutka Bay Lodge - Depart from Mako's Water Taxi (check in at 10:15am)

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/15)

See Thursday, 10:30am listing for event description

## Edible & Medicinal Plants of Kachemak Bay Shoreline

10:30am-noon | Bishop's Beach Picnic Shelter

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/15)

See Thursday, 10:30am listing for event description

## Beginning Bird Walk for Adults

11am-noon | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in the lobby

Adult beginning birders are invited to this 1-hour walk along the Beluga Slough Trail. Walk at your own pace while trying your hand at birding. Along the way, stations will focus on various birding techniques, local bird identification, and bird science topics. Ages 15-115.

## Junior Birder Discovery Lab

11am-12:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Lab Classroom

Families and children of all ages are invited to this 1.5-hour discovery lab to learn about Kachemak Bay's amazing array of birds, as well as their habitats, sounds, and behaviors. Wander between hands-on learning stations, learn bird science, work on a bird craft, practice using birding equipment, and much more. This is a fun, free program for children looking to fulfill Jr. Birder requirements or to just learn all about birds.

## Live Bird Presentation

11:30am-12:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Don't miss this unique opportunity to get the entire family up close and personal with live birds! Presenters from Anchorage's Bird Treatment & Learning Center introduce 2-3 different wild birds and discuss their individual histories and natural behaviors. **Limit 40. \$5pp.**

## Ram Papish, Artist Workshop: Bird Drawing 101

noon-2pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Seminar Room

Learn bird sketching basics from the comfort of an indoor setting. A short program taught by 2016 Festival Artist **Ram Papish** will be followed by hands-on drawing activities. Please bring your drawing pads and pencils if you have them! **Limit 20. \$20pp.**

# A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND



Since 1998, World Wildlife Fund has worked to protect America's most remarkable Arctic species and places. WWF staff collaborates with Native communities, commercial and sport fishing groups, conservation organizations, and a variety of others to tackle the challenging conservation issues facing the Bering, Beaufort, and Chukchi Seas from offices in Anchorage, Homer, and Juneau. With WWF colleagues in other Arctic nations we reach around the globe to coordinate Arctic-wide conservation strategies for a warming and more crowded world.

Today we're committed to eliminating seabird by-catch, minimizing threats posed by increasing trans-arctic shipping, corralling potentially devastating offshore oil development, protecting Bristol Bay from large-scale mining, and to reducing the human/polar bear conflict along Alaska's northern coast.

Since 2008 WWF's US Arctic Program has been a proud sponsor of the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. We salute the Festival's organizers, volunteers, and US Fish and Wildlife Service staff who continue to help us all understand, appreciate, and work to protect our returning shorebirds and the irreplaceable places required to complete their epic life stories.



Check out the WWF website at: <http://worldwildlife.org/>

## SPECIAL FILM



*The Messenger* is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it means to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. Humans once believed that birds could carry messages, their presence was meaningful. They have helped predict the change of seasons, the coming of storms and the rise of toxins in the food chain. Once again they have something to tell us, and the message is not a comfortable one.

### Two Screenings:

- Thursday, May 12, 6:30-8pm
  - Sunday, May 15, 1:30-3pm
- Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium



# REFUGE FRIENDS



**Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges** is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of the natural resources of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, fostering understanding and appreciation of these refuges, and engaging in activities that assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fulfill its mission.

This year the **Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges** entered into a new partnership with the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** to bring you the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. Join the Friends during Sunday's **Birders Breakfast** to learn more about exciting ways to contribute and get involved!

Learn more at [www.alaskarefugefriends.org](http://www.alaskarefugefriends.org)



© U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

*Saturday continued*

## Family Birding Stop & Go

12:30-1:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in lobby

Families with children of all ages are invited to this 1-hour walk along the Beluga Slough Trail. During the walk, participants will be able to walk at their own pace while trying their hand at birding. Along the way, there will be stations set up that will focus on various birding techniques and local bird identification. This will be a fun, free program for everyone. *This event fulfills one of the Jr. Birder requirements.*

## Beaches, Birds, Brew & Oysters Too!

1-5pm | Meet at the CACS Yurt on the Spit, Harbor Ramp 2, Behind Mako's

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/15)

See Friday, 1pm listing for event description

## Birding by Fat Bike

1-5pm | Cycle Logical on the Homer Spit (by the Steel Grid)

Birding by Fat Bike is a great way to escape the crowds and enjoy Homer's beaches. Join **Kim McNett**, 2015 Festival Artist, and "Cycle Logical" as we hit the beach at Mud Bay and head east towards Fritz Creek on the hunt for Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, Least Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Northwestern Crows, and so many more. The tide will be receding, revealing ample beach for fairly easy riding, however, there will be some bumpy sections, so bring a well-padded backpack for your sensitive spotting equipment. Come prepared for the weather with ample layers and rain gear. Bring water and snacks as well. **Limit 20. \$75 with bike, \$25 bring your own bike.**

## Creatures of the Dock Tours!

1-3pm | Meet at the CACS Yurt on the Spit, Harbor Ramp 2

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/15)

See Friday 1pm listing for description

## Eiders & Otters

1-5pm | Harbor Ramp 2, Slip E-1, M/V Rainbow Connection

Common, Steller's and King Eiders winter off the high

bluffs of Homer. The elusive King Eider is our target, along with several other seabird species and lots of otters. Come help us find the King! Enclosed boat with open back access; has facilities, led by Rainbow Tours. **Limit 80. \$50pp, \$25 kids 11 & under.**

## Kayak with Birds & Wildlife

1-5pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/15;

two trips daily)

See Friday, 9am listing for description

## Live Bird Presentation

1:30-2:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

See Saturday, 11:30am listing for description

## South Side Family Slough Slog

2-3pm | Meet by Beluga Lake Lodge

Park and meet in the gravel parking lot behind (to the west of) the Beluga Lake Lodge off Ocean Drive to join us for a 1-hour birding exploration of a rarely visited portion of Beluga Slough and prime bird habitat. The group is likely to observe a variety of ducks, geese, shorebirds, and Sandhill Cranes. The terrain will surely be wet and muddy, so participants should wear rubber boots. Bring binoculars. **Limit 15. \$5pp.**

## Ram Papish, Kids Art Workshop: Fantastic Feeding Shorebird

3-4:30pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Seminar Room

Color and construct shorebirds that will actually move! Watch your creation probe and search for food like a real shorebird. Workshop led by 2016 Festival Artist **Ram Papish**. This activity is suitable for ages 6 and up. **Limit 20. \$15pp.**

## Gull Island Tour

4-5pm | Harbor Ramp 1, corner of A&C Float, M/V Danny J

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13 4-5pm; 5/15, noon-1pm)

See Friday, 4pm listing for description



"He imagines a necessary joy in things that must fly to eat."  
- Wendell Berry



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BLACK WATER BEND ESPRESSO

WELCOME BIRDERS!



## Shorebirds Sing

4-5pm | Homer Brewing Company  
Tune up your vocal chords and tweet your favorite bird all or make up your own for the 9th Annual "What the Heck Kind of Bird was That?" bird calling competition. Professional guest judges will determine winners in both serious and not-so-serious bird calling categories. Prizes for top competitors. Registration starts at 3:30pm; competition begins at 4:00pm, awards and prizes given out at 5:00pm. Contact the Homer Brewing Co. at 235-3626 with questions. **Ages 21+ unless accompanied by guardian.**

## Family Viewing Station

4:30-6pm | Lighthouse Village  
Join CACS **Beth Trowbridge** and USFWS **Kendra Bush-St. Louis** at Lighthouse Village for some of the best birding in Homer any time of day! Open to all ages and experience levels. Scopes and Identification books provided. Some binoculars available for loan.

## Keynote Address Sharon Stiteler: 1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know

6-7:15pm | Mariner Theater, Homer High School  
Enjoy humorous and engaging stories about the crazy things birders will do to see their target birds. From going on a Horned Guan death march in Guatemala to getting birds in nudist colonies, birders need to be ready for anything. Based on Sharon "Birdchick" Stiteler's book *1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know: Tips and Trivia for the Backyard and Beyond*. **\$10pp.**

## Keynote Address Kevin Karlson & Dale Rosselet: Birds on the Wind

7:45-9pm | Mariner Theater, Homer High School  
This multi-media celebration of birds and their fascinating lives, presents an amazing story of the unbelievable feats that birds perform during their migrations to and from breeding areas, and also during movements to wintering areas for attitudinal and irruptive migrants. Mixed with scientific facts and stories about these super human efforts, the stories are presented in a way that appeals to birders and non-birders alike, with superb photos illustrating the beauty and behavior of our migratory birds. Good news is mixed with bad news as Kevin and Dale relate how man has disturbed these movements with forest fragmentation and ill-advised urban building designs, but they also tell how some neotropical songbird migrants have adapted to changing conditions and continue to persevere. **\$10pp.**

# Sunday, May 15

High Tide 11:02am 13.3 feet | 11:47pm 15.3 feet

## Overlook Park Hike

7am-3pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in parking lot  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13)  
See Friday 7am for description

## Birders Breakfast, Hosted by Refuge Friends

8:45-9:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Seminar Room  
The Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges invite you to join them to learn more about their work supporting Alaska's 16 National Wildlife Refuges and find out how you can get involved. Join them, festival speakers, and fellow birders for hot beverages, fresh pastries, and a short presentation. Additional support from Two Sisters Bakery and Captain's Coffee. **Free, but please register.**

## Birders Coffee, Hosted by Refuge Friends

9-11am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Lobby  
Enjoy a cup of hot coffee while you check out the displays and talks. Coffee provided by the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and Captain's Coffee. Meet the feathered guests from Anchorage's Bird Treatment & Learning Center and check out the display of optics. Hosted by the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges with support from Captain's Coffee.

## Junior Birder Habitat Walk

9-10am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, meet in lobby  
Families with children of all ages are invited to this 1-hour bird habitat walk along the Beluga Slough Trail. During the walk, children will discover the various habitats that are home to many different local birds. They will also be able to try their hand at observing and identifying birds along the trail. This will be a fun, free program for everyone. *This event fulfills one of the Jr. Birder requirements.* **Limit 15. Free, but please register.**

## Kayak with Birds & Wildlife

9am-1pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/14; two trips daily)  
See Friday, 9am listing for description

## Seabird Sidetrip

9am-noon | Harbor bottom of Ramp 3, to the right, M/V Torega  
(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/14)  
See Thursday, 9am listing for description

## Keynote Talk Sharon Stiteler: Adventures in Bird Banding

9:30-10:30am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium  
Ever wonder what it's like to hold a pelican and then have it vomit on you? Sharon has participated in banding birds as big as Bald Eagles to as tiny as Ruby-crowned Kinglets and has had some humorous encounters. Learn about how birds are banded, exciting information obtained from banding records, and the excitement of visiting a heron rookery with gorgeous photos. **Limit 120. \$5pp.**

# COULD THIS BE YOUR LUCKY DAY?

PLAY, WIN, and Support the Festival!

First place prize: **Eagle Optics Vortex Viper 20-60x80 Angled HD spotting with Vortex Pro GT Tripod Kit**



2nd and 3rd place prizes: **BromeBird Care Bird Feeders**

**Scope Package Value: Over \$1000!**

Tickets are \$10 each, only 250 will be sold. They are available via:

- Festival registration form (online and paper)
- Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
- Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
- During our Saturday Keynote Events

Drawing will be May 14, during the Keynote addresses. *Winner need not be present.*

Special thanks to our official Festival optics sponsor Eagle Optics for their generous donation, year after year.

*All proceeds benefit the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.*

## 6x6 Bird Art Auction

Do you enjoy Avian Art and the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival? Alaskan artists have painted 6"x6" canvases depicting Alaskan birds as part of a fundraising effort for the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. Artwork will be auctioned **online only**. The art can be viewed online and at Islands & Ocean Visitor Center before and during the festival. The minimum bid for each painting is \$25.

Festival Artist Ram Papish's signed **original artwork**, illustrating this year's featured bird the Black Oystercatcher, will be auctioned as well.

We'll also be auctioning off other wonderful other items, including:

- A night's stay at one of Porter's Alaskan Adventure cabins across the Bay! (Transportation not included.)
- Ornate Cutting Board from Sustainable Wares

All proceeds will benefit the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, ensuring world-class programming year to year. Bidding will close at noon May 15.

Visit our auction at:  **biddingowl.com/kachemakshorebird**

*Bidding opens April 1.*



*Artwork by Conrad Field*



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**OPEN FOR SHOREBIRD WEEKEND**



# Welcome Shorebirds! Welcome Shorebirders!

Pier One welcomes the May 27 start of our **44<sup>th</sup>** Summer Season on the Homer Spit  
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**We Carry Gifts & Art by Alaskan Artists & Craftspeople**

Welcome Birders to the Art Shop Gallery where coffee & tea are always on!



## The Art Shop Gallery

OPEN Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-4 • 202 W. Pioneer Ave Suite A • 235-7076 • artshopgallery.com



Sunday continued

**Intermediate/Advanced**

**Shorebirding by Ear** 

9:30–11am | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Lab Classroom

Expert birder and Kachemak Bay Birders members **Dale Chorman** and **Dave Erickson** lead this walk out on to the small sandy spit that stretches into Mud Bay. Rubber boots recommended. **Limit 20. \$7pp.**

**Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) with Birds & Wildlife** 

10am–3 pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/14)

See Thursday, 10am listing for event description

**The Cooking School at Tutka Bay Lodge** 

10:30am–3pm | Tutka Bay Lodge - Depart from Mako's Water Taxi (check in at 10:15am)

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13/ 5/14)

See Thursday, 10:30am listing for description

**Edible & Medicinal Plants of Kachemak Bay Shoreline** 

10:30am–noon | Bishop's Beach Picnic Shelter

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/14)

See Thursday, 10:30am listing for description

**Viewing Stations - Mud Bay & Lighthouse Village** 

10:30–11:30am | Mud Bay and Lighthouse Village

See Thursday, 8:15pm listing for description

**Friendship Walk**  

10:30am–4pm | Harbor, Top of Ramp 2, Mako's Water Taxi

Join the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park for a 30-minute cruise across the Bay and brake for birds along the way. Guided by experienced ornithologists, tour two lagoons, trace the Glacier Spit shoreline, and detour into the forest to experience a variety of unique habitats while helping to support an important organization. Bring a lunch. Enclosed boat with open back access; no facilities. Proceeds benefit Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park. **Limit 15. \$60pp.**

**Keynote Talk: Kevin Karlson & Dale Rosselet: Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds**  

11am–noon | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

**Kevin** and **Dale** share their new slant to field identification, highlighted in their book. The topic of this presentation shares a more holistic approach to birding that includes right and left brain strengths to enhance your birding skills as well as a greater awareness of bird's behavior and natural history rather than just a check on your personal list. A description of the approach for Birding by Impression is followed by unique digitized or real life photos that encourages the audience to spot differences between similar species in direct side-by-side comparison. This exciting identification approach concentrates on basic impressions of size, body shape, structural features and motion to form an accurate first impression of birds, with analysis of plumage details and bare parts to follow. This different approach to bird ID is especially geared towards beginning and intermediate birders, but even expert birders will benefit from the new ideas shared here. **Limit 120. \$5pp.**

**Gull Island Tour**  

noon–1pm | Harbor Ramp 1, corner of A&C Float, M/V Danny J

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 4–5pm; 5/14, noon–1pm)

See Friday, 4pm listing for description

**Junior Birder Badge Award Ceremony** 

12:30–1pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

Junior Birder Badge Awards. Keynote speakers **Kevin Karlson** and **Dale Rosselet** join U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff in presenting patches and awards to kids ages 5–10 who have completed all of their badge requirements during the Festival weekend. Come show your support to these future birders.

**Beaches, Birds, Brew & Oysters Too!** 

1–5pm | Meet at the CACS Yurt on the Spit, Harbor Ramp 2, Behind Mako's

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14)

See Friday, 1pm listing for event description

**Creatures of the Dock Tours!**  

1–3pm | Meet at the CACS Yurt on the Spit, Harbor Ramp 2, Behind Mako's

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/13, 5/14)

See Friday, 1pm listing for event description

**Kayak with Birds & Wildlife**   

1–5pm | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12, 5/13, 5/14; two daily trips)

See Thursday, 9am listing for description

**Film Screening: The Messenger** 

1:30–3pm | Islands & Ocean Visitor Center, Auditorium

(ALSO AVAILABLE 5/12)

See Thursday, 6:30pm listing event description

**Anchor Point Bird Walk**  

2–4pm | Anchor Point State Park, Day use lot

Meet at the Anchor Point State Park for your final opportunity for a guided birding walk during Shorebird Festival weekend! Join U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's **Carla Stanley** and Kachemak Bay Birder **Michelle Michaud**, to explore the dynamic beach area at Anchor Point. Please park in the State Park Day Use lot. Dress for weather and wear rubber boots. **Free, but please register.**



**\$10**  
including tax

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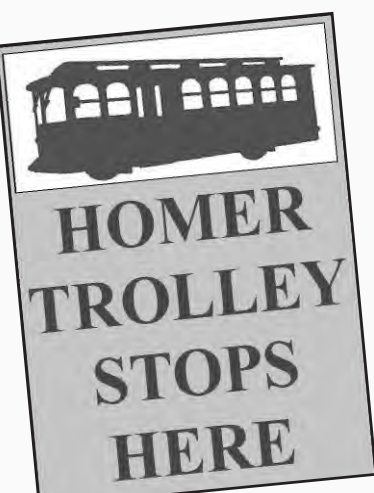
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**MAKO'S WATER TAXI**  
**FREIGHT DOCK ROAD**  
(Big circle hook)

**MUD BAY VIEWING STATION**  
(1/4 Mile down spit trail  
Near base of spit)

**AIRPORT VIEWING STATION**  
**WILD BERRY EMPORIUM**  
**PRATT MUSEUM**



# SPEAKERS, PRESENTERS & GUIDES *Bios*

**Aaron Lang** has been addicted to birding since age 11 and his passion has taken him around the world in search of birds. He is a tour leader and owner of Wilderness Birding Adventures, an Alaskan-based bird tour company. He lives in Homer with his wife Robin and daughter Phoebe.

**Ben Lizdas** is the sales manager for Eagle Optics and an avid birdwatcher as well. His interest in birds and optics dates back to his college years when he was conducting bird surveys on the prairies and oak savannahs of Wisconsin.

**Beth Peluso** is Audubon Alaska's Communications Manager, using her background in writing, illustration, and publishing to promote Audubon Alaska's research and conservation activities. She has worked or volunteered as a field tech on various bird research projects around the country, including owl surveys in Juneau and a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service study of Kittlitz's Murrelets in Icy Bay.

**Beth Trowbridge** is the Executive Director for the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies and has been leading natural history and science education programs for youth and adults in Homer for over 12 years.

**Betty Siegel** is an avid birder and world traveler. She is the Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, a long-time volunteer at Islands & Ocean Visitor Center for Alaska Maritime NWR, a member of the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee, a COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) volunteer, and Kachemak Bay Shorebird montitor.

**Carla Stanley** plays a key role in the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

**Dale Chorman** is a lifelong birder who lives in Homer and has worked as a naturalist in Alaska for over 35 years.

**Dave Erickson** is a professional biologist with over 40 years of experience birding in Homer. He compiles data for the annual Christmas Bird count in Homer, and has volunteered with the Shorebird Festival since its beginning at the viewing stations, leading bird walks, and giving presentations.

**Dawn Harris** has guided and managed the public use program for six National Wildlife Refuges along the coast of Oregon for 14 years. Her work involves K-12 marine education, volunteer coordination, natural resource interpretation, community outreach, social media and anything else that involves refuge visitors.

**George Matz** is an avid birder and conservationist, and an Alaska resident since 1976. Before moving to Homer in 2004, he was active with the Anchorage Audubon Society. Today he serves on the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council, Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee, and Kachemak Bay Birders. He teaches a birding course at Kenai Peninsula College and organizes the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Monitoring Project each spring.

**Heather Renner** is the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

**Jason Sodergren** is an electrical engineer, birder and bird bander living in Homer. He is a part of the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee.

**John Martin** works for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Region as Regional Refuge Ecologist overseeing the science programs for 16 refuges. John's approach to bird art is sketching from the inside (skeletal structure) to the outside.

**Kara Zwickey** is the Visitor Center Manager for Islands & Ocean Visitor Center at Alaska Maritime NWR and has been leading environmental education programs for youth and adults with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for 9 years. She is part of the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee.

**Kendra Bush-St. Louis** is the Environmental Education Specialist for Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, teaching students in grades pre-K through 12th. She is a member of the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee.

**Laurie Daniel** is a Wildlife Restoration Biologist and a Board member of the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society. Through KBCS, Laurie was very involved in the local effort to establish Overlook Park and has led the springtime hikes during Shorebird Festival for too many years to count.

**Mandy Bernard** is the Conservation Director at Kachemak Heritage Land Trust. She has a Bachelor of Science, and a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on the connection between local comprehensive plans, land use planning, and conservation easements.

**Marc Webber** is the Deputy Refuge Manager at Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

**Margaret Williams** is the Managing Director of World Wildlife Fund's Kamchatka-Bering Sea ecoregion program, leading a team of experts in climate change, wildlife biology, fisheries, oil and shipping, and communications to implement an international conservation strategy for the Bering Sea and Arctic. She has an impressive history of conservation work in Russia and Central Asia.

**Marianne Aplin** is the Visitors Services Supervisor for Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

**Michelle Michaud** is a Homer resident, who loves birds and world travel. She recently spent three and a half months traveling in Southern Africa and Ethiopia. While in Homer, she participates in a number of citizen science projects, including the Kachemak Bay Birder's Shorebird Monitoring project and COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team).

**Mossy Kilcher** has lived in Homer her entire life, and is an artist, photographer, and an avid lifelong birder. Her main passion is filming and photographing birds, especially songbirds, documenting their habits, and collecting their songs. She is an active member of several bird organizations, and contributes material to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

**Nancy Lee-Evans** is an author, teacher, counselor, bodyworker, and the founding director of the Anam Cara Program. This is Nancy's 4th year offering botanical and Celtic knowledge workshops during the Festival.

**Nils Warnock** is Audubon Alaska's State Director, leading all of Audubon's programs and initiatives related to Alaska. He has studied shorebirds and waterfowl across Alaska and has published extensively, especially on the ecology of shorebirds. His publications include more than 50 scientific articles in peer-reviewed books and journals, as well as articles in popular magazines such as *Natural History* and *Birding*.

**Poppy Benson** is a founding mother of the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival and is recently retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**Rich Kleinleder** is a wildlife biologist specializing in environmental impact analysis. He has donated his expertise as a local guide for the Festival since its creation.

**Dr. Rick Lanctot** is the Shorebird Coordinator for the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management.

**Seth Spencer** is the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies' Education Program Coordinator. Seth arrived in Homer in the spring of 2015, by way of Kentucky, North Carolina, and Minnesota. He enjoys traveling and birding with his wife Kara.

**Steve Delehanty** is the Manager of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

**Tamara Zeller** has worked as an Outreach Biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management.

**Veronica Padula** is working on her PhD in Marine Biology through the University of Alaska Fairbanks/Anchorage. Her research investigates the impacts of plastic marine debris on seabirds from the Bering Sea, specifically looking at whether or not seabirds are exposed to the harmful chemicals associated with plastics.



## Thank You

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival Committee would like to thank each and every one of our presenters for their energy and enthusiasm, and for sharing their vast wealth of knowledge during this year's Festival.

# Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival's JUNIOR BIRDER PROGRAM

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge & the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

FOR KIDS AGES 5-10

The Junior Birder program has inspired hundreds of youth and their families to get outside and learn the basics of birding. New Junior Birders can earn a badge and returning Junior Birders can win great prizes. Look for the many family-friendly birding events throughout the weekend, noted with the Family-Friendly symbol.

Some of this year's Jr. Birder activities include, but are not limited to:

- **Jr. Birder Discovery Lab**
- **Family Bird Walks**
- **Bird Anatomy Dissection Lab**
- **"Fantastic Feeding Shorebird" Art Workshop for Kids with Festival Artist, Ram Papish**
- **Kid's Birding Workshop at the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies**
- **Family Birding Stop & Go Walk at the Islands & Ocean Visitor Center**



Rhys Borland, Junior Birder

Photo provided by Jackie Norvell

## Junior Birder Badge Award Ceremony

Sunday, May 15, 12:30-1pm  
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

To participate in the awards ceremony, all participants are to bring their completed notebooks to Islands & Ocean Visitor Center at least 1 hour prior to the ceremony.

**Pick up a Juinor Bird Badge Requirement flyer at registration**

Learn more at [kachemakshorebird.org](http://kachemakshorebird.org)

**Happy Birding!**



# MORE TO DO

## in Homer

### 3rd Annual Shorebird Showdown Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 14th, 10am-5pm

Jack Gist Park (at the end of Adams Drive, two miles out East End Road)

Join us down at Jack Gist Park for 36 holes of disc golf, sponsored by Moose Pretzel Disc Golf! We will have player packs for all participants. Come test your disc golf skills and do some bird watching at a beautiful Homer park! We'll have a lunch break in between each round of 18 holes. To preregister, please call Pat Miller, 612-210-8021 or visit [discgolfscene.com/tournaments/](http://discgolfscene.com/tournaments/). You may also register the day of the tournament. **\$30pp. \$20/ages 17 and under.**

### 20th Annual Migration Run

Sunday, May 15th, 9am

Homer Spit, 9am Race Start, Registration, 8am beginning near the Fishing Hole

5K Flat, point to point course along the Homer Spit — USATF Certified 5K. Register online at [kachemakbayrunningclub.org](http://kachemakbayrunningclub.org). Proceeds benefit Local Youth Running Sports Program. Registration fees: **\$20/age 18+, \$10/ages 14-17, \$5/ages 5-13. KBRC members receive a \$5 discount.**

### Arts, Crafts, and Farmers Market

Open Saturday-Sunday, 11am-4pm

Alaska Wild Berry Emporium, 528 E. Pioneer Ave.

A unique indoor market in the heart of downtown Homer, offering a variety of handmade arts and crafts, wildcrafted products, fresh local produce, and more. Wildcraft workshops throughout the weekend. Vending opportunities are available. Contact Scott at 907-399-6289 for more information.

### Beer Tasting & Oysters

Open daily, noon-7pm

Homer Brewing Company, 1411 Lake Shore Drive

Sip, slurp, chirp and fly. Tap room open daily at noon for flights and pints. Fresh shucked Jakolof Bay Oysters on the half shell pair well with any of our draughts, including birder favorite Red Knot Scottish Ale.

### Bike Rentals and Adventures

Open daily, call for hours, 907-226-2925

Cycle Logical, 3585 East End Road #8 and Spit Rd

Unleash the versatility of the Fat Bike and ride where you've never ridden before. Built for the softer terrains of sand and snow, you'll find these bikes comfortable no matter where your ride. Looking for something a bit more casual? We've got cruisers as well! These are the perfect bike for exploring our scenic bike paths and for visiting all the shops and art galleries on the Homer Spit and Downtown.

### James Buncak Retrospective, Art Exhibit

Monday-Saturday, 1-5pm

Homer Council on the Arts Gallery, 335. W. Pioneer Ave.

This exhibit will include a smattering of drawings and paintings from each decade of Buncak's work, from very early in his artistic career in the early 1970s to present day. This exhibit will unequivocally demonstrate the transformational process that time and experience contribute to an artist's development. He moved to Homer in 1984, where he began to paint the landscapes and people of our area. James has taught life drawing, and has exhibited his work in Cordova and Kenai, Alaska, and at the Bill Parks Gallery in Chicago.

### Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 14th, 7:30am-noon

Homer United Methodist Church next to the Homer High School at the beginning of East End Road

Don't go birding on an empty stomach! Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks and the Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen's Advisory Board invite you to a hearty, all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, with sausage, juice, coffee, and tea included. Cheerfully served by Alaska State Park Rangers and volunteers. All proceeds help support the volunteer trail crews. **\$10pp, \$5 kids under 11.**

### Wine Tasting & Tours at Bear Creek Winery

Open Daily, 10am-6pm

3 miles out East End Road, 60203 Bear Creek Drive

It's time again for our special SHOREBIRD wine! Fly into Alaska's favorite tasting room to experience this custom blend and other unique wines made from local fruits and berries. Curious how wine is made? Come tour our Production Facility, May 13-14, at 11am, located just up the hill from the Tasting Room. Call 907-235-8484 for more information.

**M**AKO'S (907) 235-9055

**W**ATER TAXI

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Kachemak Bay!

**STATE PARK TRAILS  
Access & Information**

**KAYAK RENTALS**

**WILDLIFE TOURS**



Sponsoring this year's  
**Shorebird Festival's  
Cold Duck Time**

Open Year 'Round  
[makoswatertaxi.com](http://makoswatertaxi.com)



**JOIN US  
for a PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST**

Sat, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> 7:30am - Noon

**HOMER UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**



sponsors Trails Day,  
Friendship Beach  
Walk, Kayaking &  
Birding with an  
Otter's Eye View  
and supports the  
**Volunteer Trail Crew.**



# BIRD HOUSE, BIRD FEED

## Beluga Lake Lodge

204 Ocean Drive Loop, 907-235-5995  
Lakefront accommodations and dining, perfect for bird viewing while you relax on the deck or inside. We offer a variety of lodging accommodations to fit every need and budget! Our friendly and professional staff are happy to offer birders a nest away from home.

## Grace Ridge Brewing Watering Hole

Ocean Drive at B Street, 907-399-5299  
Homer's newest Brewery, featuring Shorebird Festival Specialty Beer: Oystercatcher Stout! Festival Hours: Thursday-Saturday, 12-8pm, Sunday, 2-8pm. Visit online at [graceridgebrewing.com](http://graceridgebrewing.com)

## Homer Bed and Breakfast Association

[homerbedbreakfast.com](http://homerbedbreakfast.com)  
Birds of a Feather Flock Together in Superb Lodging! HBBA welcomes you to Shorebird Festival. Search our website for the perfect place to stay. Most of our B&Bs are located in prime bird habitat. Make your own little nest in one of our fine establishments. Like the returning birds find your favorite roost or try a new perch. Check with our individual members for **Shorebirder Specials**, bird spotting opportunities and breakfast options. Contact members directly or use the booking engines on the websites.

## Homer Sportsman's Retreat

907-226-2080  
[homersportsmansretreat.com](http://homersportsmansretreat.com)  
Sportsman's Retreat offers breathtaking views of mountains, glaciers and coves from all rooms. See Sandhill Cranes, wildflowers and moose from your reasonably priced accommodations. Only twelve miles from the Homer Harbor! A full breakfast is included.

## La Baleine Cafe

4460 Homer Spit Road, 907-299-6672  
Owned and operated by chefs Kirsten Dixon and Mandy Dixon, La Baleine Cafe is committed to offering the freshest organic and local ingredients possible and are dedicated to consciously sourced materials. They value Alaska regional and local, artisan, handmade and homegrown products. Festival participants will receive **10% off** their purchases during the Festival dates. Boxed breakfast and lunch are available for purchase, as well as homemade baked goods for a treat between events! Pre-order meals are welcome, or stop in on your way to a tour. Open at 5AM, located on the Spit!

## Land's End Resort

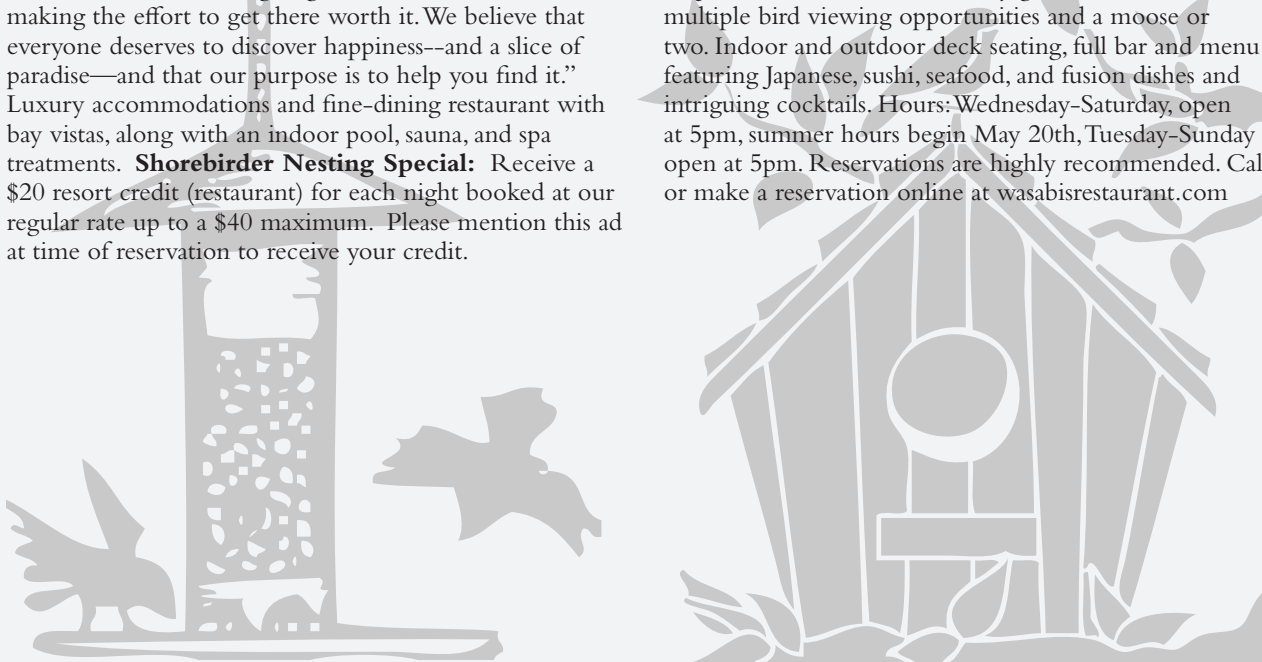
4786 Homer Spit Road, 907-235-0400  
"Land's End believes in going the extra mile, and in making the effort to get there worth it. We believe that everyone deserves to discover happiness--and a slice of paradise--and that our purpose is to help you find it." Luxury accommodations and fine-dining restaurant with bay vistas, along with an indoor pool, sauna, and spa treatments. **Shorebirder Nesting Special:** Receive a \$20 resort credit (restaurant) for each night booked at our regular rate up to a \$40 maximum. Please mention this ad at time of reservation to receive your credit.

## NorthWynn Guest House

VRBO.com Listing #805776  
The Carl E. Wynn Nature Center is a renowned Homer "Birding Hot Spot." Just step out any door or open any window of this luxurious cedar log home, donated to the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies by Carl's daughter, and you'll hear and see the home of those birds. The many trails of the Wynn Nature Center will lead to even more discoveries. The home will accommodate up to 9 guests — each receives a complimentary "Creatures of the Dock Tour" during the festival, and is invited to the Shorebird Festival Kick-Off Reception at CACS Headquarters on May 12th at 5pm.

## Wasabi's Restaurant

59217 East End Road, 907-226-3663  
Majestic views of Kachemak Bay, glaciers and mountains, multiple bird viewing opportunities and a moose or two. Indoor and outdoor deck seating, full bar and menu featuring Japanese, sushi, seafood, and fusion dishes and intriguing cocktails. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, open at 5pm, summer hours begin May 20th, Tuesday-Sunday open at 5pm. Reservations are highly recommended. Call or make a reservation online at [wasabisrestaurant.com](http://wasabisrestaurant.com)



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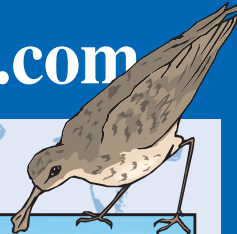
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## SHOREBIRD HAVEN



### Welcome Shorebirders!

Ocean Front Sanctuary! Beautifully Designed Home Amazing Kitchen, Serene Master Suite, Double Garage & Paved Driveway! Enchanting 5.25 Acre Woodland Estate on Bluff Overlooking Ocean & Volcanoes! Bonus Acre W/ Gated BEACH Access \$695,000 #9442

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Sweet Bird! Brand New 2 Bedroom 2 Bath Nest For You! \$7,000 AHFC Rebate 5 Star + NG! \$229,000 #9506



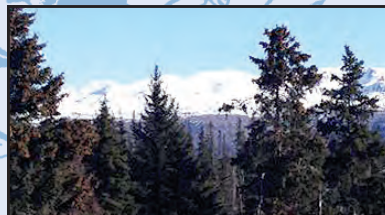
Snow Birds! Make this your Homer Haven! Quiet Creek! Elevator, Garage & Relaxed Condo Living! #9133



My Songbird- Emmylou Harris Harmony Duplex! Spacious Quiet Melodious Space! Build Equity! \$329,000 #9459



Birdhouse in Your Soul! Extraordinary Halibut Cove Property! Your Own Peaceful Waterfront Paradise! #8136



Little Bird! 4 Acres Above Fox River. Sale benefits Kachemak Heritage Land Trust! Gorgeous! \$7,000 #2549



Eagles Nest! Soar Above the Rest! SPIT View! On Top of the World!! Spit, Glaciers, Cranes! \$79,000 #3436



Love Birds! Turn-Key Getaway on Island in Skilak Lake by Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. \$89,500 #9470



Birdland! Sand Hill Cranes Flock Here! Stunning Views of Kachemak Bay! East End Road Bench! \$72,000 #2544



Surfin' Bird Everyone Knows that the Bird is the Word! 21 Acres Dazzling Ocean Views! \$325,000 #7139



Beautiful Day's White Bird Must Be This Huge Home 3 Fireplaces 2 Kitchens Natural Gas! \$414,000 #9495



Songbird! Birds, Beauty & Grace, Live & Enjoy Oasis of Nature 17ACRES!! Dazzling Views! \$454,900 #9510



Bird Dream of the Olympus Exquisite Fly-in Home Keys Point Lake Clark National Park Alaska! \$495,000 #9494

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# Sunday's EVENTS at Islands and Ocean


## BIRDERS BREAKFAST

in Seminar Room  
**8:45-9:30 am**



- \* MEET the Friends
- \* SHORT presentation
- \* Breakfast Buffet **FREE**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



## BIRDERS COFFEE

in the Lobby  
**9-11 AM**

- \* Hot coffee
- \* Meet Bird Treatment & Learning Center
- \* Visit the displays
- \* Listen to talks


**Sponsored by Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges**  
with Support from Captains Coffee & Two Sisters Bakery



**Keynote speakers, Jr. Bird Badge Awards, "The Messenger", Scope Auction and 6x6 Art!**

# Land's End

*Where Your Birding Adventure Begins!*



*Located on the shores of paradise, our team of Alaskans are dedicated to going the extra mile for your experience.*

**800-478-0400**  
[www.lands-end-resort.com](http://www.lands-end-resort.com)  
[reservations@endofthespit.com](mailto:reservations@endofthespit.com)  
 4786 Homer Spit Rd. • Homer, AK 99603



## Beluga Lake Lodge

## Welcome Birders

*We invite you to enjoy our newly renovated deck. Enjoy some of our wonderful food while viewing the estuary.*



**907-235-5995**  
**888-795-6343**  
[belugalakelodging.com](http://belugalakelodging.com)  
 204 Ocean Drive Loop  
 Homer, AK 99603

*Centrally located one mile from:*

- Airport*
- Homer Spit*
- Museums*





- Bird Watching*
- Shopping*
- Dining*
- Float Plane*
- Access*

## Hotel Accommodations Open Year Round

- Smoke Free
- Family Suites/Kitchenettes
- Standard Rooms w/private Bath w/Queen or Two Twin Beds

- Cable TV
- Free High Speed Wireless Internet
- Guest Laundry
- Spacious Parking