

31ST ANNUAL KACHEMAK BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL

EVENT SPONSORS:



FRIENDS OF ALASKA
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



WWF

WITH MAJOR SUPPORT FROM:

HOMER NEWS



BROME

Land's End



MAY 3-7
2023

FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
95 Sterling Highway, Homer, AK 99603

Phone: (907) 226-4631

info@kachemakshorebird.org

Festival Registration opens March 22

Register online at
kachemakshorebird.org

Need help registering?

Email or call us T/Th, 11am-4:30pm



GREETINGS BIRDERS!

The Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge welcome the migratory shorebirds and YOU back to Alaska's largest wildlife viewing event, the 31st annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, held May 3-7, 2023.

This year's program promises to offer an amazing array of events to celebrate the spring migration of Alaska's shorebirds.

Kachemak Bay, located in Homer, Alaska, provides miles of shoreline and intertidal habitat for migrating birds. Kachemak Bay's unique ecology, easy accessibility to beaches, and the scenic landscapes of Homer make this a prime location to experience this annual migration. Kachemak Bay is a site of International Significance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. During the 2022 Festival, 134 species were identified.

This year's Festival Artist, Mattie Squire, created our beautiful artwork which features the mysterious Kittletz's Murrelet. We welcome our Keynote Speaker Diego Calderón-Franco and featured Author Julia Zarankin. We hope you'll also enjoy presentations from the 2023 Schantz Scholar, Oscar Wilhelmy, along with tours and talks by knowledgeable Alaska birders and researchers. The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies and the Pratt Museum and Park are key program partners and will offer education and fun activities throughout the festival.

The Festival is continuing to expand its events to reach a wider demographic through programs such as the All Abilities Birding Outing and the Teen Birder activities. We invite people of all ages and abilities to join us for guided birding excursions, wildlife viewing, and kayaking tours at locations around Kachemak Bay.

It takes an entire community to successfully sponsor more than 30 years of conservation education. The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival could not happen without the dedication of Homer's businesses, countless volunteers, sponsors, and enthusiastic attendees.

Thank You ALL and Happy Birding!

WHAT'S NEW...

B.A.R.K. Ranger

Alaska Maritime NWR has a B.A.R.K. Ranger program for owners and their dogs. What does it mean to be a good pet owner on public land? Take a walk with your dog on the Beluga Slough trail and learn about being a responsible pet owner. Dogs should be well socialized and on a leash to earn their B.A.R.K. Ranger Badge!

Game Night!

Join us to play the board game **Wingspan** Wednesday evening! For ages 14 and up. Seek to discover and attract the best bird to your preserve. Lay eggs, gain food tokens, and learn about birds across North America. (Haven't played yet? Beginners welcome!)



RED KNOT REAL ESTATE

(907) 299-9944



SCAN ME

*Your peeps
in real estate!*



Gordon, Denise, Susannah

1529 Homer Spit Road



JOIN US
FOR THE
2023

Friendship Walk

Guided hike along **Glacier Spit**
from **Rusty's Lagoon** to **Grewingk River**

The tour takes you by boat
around **Gull Island** on the way to **Glacier Spit**

SUN MAY 7 10:30 AM - 3PM

SEE GUIDE FOR DETAILS



SPONSORED BY:
**FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY
STATE PARK**





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 Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival Planning Committee and who work so hard to bring this Festival to you!



Michael Armstrong
Homer News



Kendra Bush
USFWS



Carson Chambers
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust



Melanie Dufour
Festival Organizer, Friends of AKNWR



Michael Gavillot
TRAILS, Independent Living Center



Lora Haller
USFWS



Jim Herbert
Kachemak Bay Birders



Jan Knudtson
Homer Chamber of Commerce



Adrienne McGill
Visitor Services Manager, AMNWR



Kenneth O'Brien
Pratt Museum & Park



Tara Schmidt
Friends of AKNWR



Marilyn Sigman
Environmental Education/Author



Jason Sodergren
Friends of AKNWR



Matt Steffy
City of Homer



Karl Stoltzfus
Bay Excursions



Beth Trowbridge
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

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Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the stewardship of all 16 of Alaska's unique national wildlife refuges through education, support and advocacy.

Friends continues partnering with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to bring you the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

Join the Friends during **Sunday's Birders Coffee** to discover exciting ways to get involved firsthand, through education, service and advocacy.

Learn more at alaskarefugefriends.org

FESTIVAL EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

EVENT KEY:



Field Events

Workshops
& Presentations

Junior Birder



Teen Birder



Entertainment

Included
with Registration

Boat Tour

AMNWR

(Alaska Maritime National
Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center)

pp

(per person)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Diego Calderón-Franco is a biologist from Colombia who has been birding and leading tours for nearly 20 years. After finishing his undergrad studies on neotropical manakins and the systematics of Galliformes and Anseriformes, he focused on natural history, understanding Colombian geography through its birds, and learning more about behavior, distribution, and breeding of Colombia's rich avifauna. More than 10 years ago Diego founded COLOMBIA Birding, the first local bird watching company in his country offering birding trips in Colombia and beyond.

Film: The Birders, with Keynote Speaker Diego Calderón-Franco

4-6 p.m. | AMNWR Visitor Center, Auditorium. 95 Sterling Hwy.

Limit 50. Registration is required. Free.

Presentation by Keynote Speaker, Diego Calderón-Franco

7 p.m. | Homer High School Auditorium 600 E. Fairview Ave

Limit 200. Registration is required. \$10pp.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

High Tide: 2:13 p.m. 16.5' (1:42 a.m. 17.4')

Low Tide: 8 a.m. -0.1'

Lake Clark National Park Bear and Bird Viewing

7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Anchor River State Rec. Area, Lake Tractor Launch

(AVAILABLE: Wed/Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun)

Travel by boat to Lake Clark National Park on Cook Inlet's remote west coast to view coastal brown bears and sea birds. Join bear guide Captain Mel Erickson, along with bird expert Deb Hess who will be onboard the "Gamefisher" to point out and identify dozens of different species of birds of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. You'll also see giant brown bears digging clams, walking the beach, or grazing on the sedge grasses in the salt marsh. This event is weather dependent. **Limit 6. \$350 pp.**

Sip and Paint

1-3 p.m. | The Kannery, 451 Sterling Highway, Homer

Start your Festival with a *Sip and Paint* at the Kannery! Come enjoy a scenic shoreline view while letting your creativity flow, and enjoying the company of fellow birders! Coffee, teas and ALL supplies included.

No Limit (21 and over/or with parent), \$40/pp w/o cocktail, \$50/pp includes cocktail of your choice.

Shorebird Photography on the Anchor Point Beach

1-5 p.m. | Anchor River State Park Recreation Area, main parking lot, Dodge Dakota truck

(AVAILABLE: Wed/Fri/Sat/)

Join award-winning wildlife photographer and Homer resident Joey Hausler in photographing the migrating shorebirds! We will be scanning the shoreline in a Dodge Dakota truck looking for peeps, plovers, turnstones, godwits, whimbrels, or any other shorebirds we might come across. The outing is timed with the outgoing tide so we best capture the birds as they are feeding. To ensure ethical wildlife photography practices, as we drive and photograph the birds, their safety will be prioritized. DSLR or mirrorless camera with a minimum 400 mm lens is recommended.

Limit 4. \$100 pp.

B.A.R.K. Ranger

3-4 p.m. | AMNWR

Alaska Maritime NWR has a B.A.R.K. Ranger program for owners and their dogs. What does it mean to be a good pet owner on public land? Take a walk with your dog on the Beluga Slough trail and learn about being a responsible pet owner. Dogs should be well socialized and on a leash to earn their free B.A.R.K. Ranger Badge!. **Limit 12. \$5 pp (includes dog). Registration is required.**

Mud Bay Family Walk

3:30-5 p.m. | Meet at the parking lot, 2181 Kachemak Bay Dr.

Join local naturalist Ingrid Harrauld for a guided walk along the beach to Mud Bay, exploring the mysteries of the tidal areas and exploring the local estuary up close and personal. Spotting scopes will be used to identify local shorebirds and waterfowl. Mud boots recommended! **No Limit. Registration is required. Free.**

Game Night - Wingspan!

4:30-6 p.m. | AMNWR

Join us to play the board game Wingspan for ages 14 and up. Seek to discover and attract the best bird to your preserve. Lay eggs, gain food tokens, and learn about birds across North America. Five players per game and a max of three games will be playing. New players allowed! **Limit 14. Registration is required. Free.**

Junior Birder Scavenger Hunt and Adventure!

4:30-6 p.m. | AMNWR Visitor Center. 95 Sterling Highway

Come and join us on a birding scavenger hunt adventure to learn all about birds, their habitats, migrations, and more. The adventure will be open to participants of all ages but will be designed as a Junior Birder event. It will be a drop-in event between 4:30 to 6 p.m. and will take about 30 to 45 minutes to complete. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder requirements.* **No Limit. Registration is required. Free.**

COLLABORATION CREDITS:



➤ **Melanie Dufour**, Editorial Content
➤ **Mattie Squire**, Cover Illustration

HOMER NEWS TEAM:

➤ **David Rigas**, Publisher ➤ **Michael Armstrong**, Editor Emeritus
➤ **Erin Thompson**, Editor ➤ **Callie Steinberg**, Multimedia Sales Consultant

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**

High Tide: 2:52 p.m. 17.4' (2:11 a.m. 18.5')

Low Tide: 8:33 a.m. -1.4'

Beginner Bird Walk **7:30-9:30 a.m. | Calvin and Coyle Trail The trailhead is at the end of Mariner Drive**

Join Lora Haller for an introduction into the world of songbirds. Meet at Calvin and Coyle trailhead parking lot for a stroll through forest habitat as we listen for Homer's musical forest dwellers, building birding confidence, and practicing your skills. Bring binos and dress for the weather. **Limit 15. \$5 pp.**

Lake Clark National Park Bear and Bird Viewing **7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Anchor River State Recreation Area, Lake Tractor Launch**

(AVAILABLE: Wed/Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Wednesday 7:30 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6. \$350 pp.**

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour **8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird**

(AVAILABLE Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun - 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.)

Join us on a venture to spot the many shorebirds of Kachemak Bay. We'll take a cruise to Gull Island, home to over 10,000 nesting birds, with an opportunity to get up close and personal to a variety of nesting species. From there, our journey continues with the flowing tide to seek out some of the unique birds and other wildlife that can be found along the coastline, including kingfishers, black oystercatchers, nesting eagles, and sea otter rafts. Bring warm layers, binoculars, and snacks. **Limit 12. \$75 pp.**

Fins and Feathers Boat Tour **8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office**

(AVAILABLE Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun)

Head to Gull Island, home to over 10,000 nesting birds and 12 different species of birds (horned and tufted puffins, black-legged kittiwakes, glaucous-winged gulls, common murres, pigeon guillemots, and pelagic cormorants. From there, cruise to different areas where unique birds have been spotted including harlequin ducks; goldeneyes; surf, black and white-winged scoters; yellow-billed, common and red-throated loons; red-necked phalaropes; red-necked grebes; kingfishers, and jaegers. Bring your life list, a snack, warm clothes, and a camera. Hot drinks provided. **Limit 12. \$75 pp, \$50 for kids 12 and under.**

The Wise and Wonderful Journey **8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, 7:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Point Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot.**

(AVAILABLE Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun)

Visit Gull Island for up-close viewing opportunities of horned and tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, cormorants, kittiwake and murres. The cruise continues along the coast; nesting eagles, loons, kingfishers, sea ducks and many other species are common sightings. The journey passes ocean upwellings and tide streaks that bring nutrients and food to the surface, locations ideal for foraging birds such as Aleutian terns, red necked phalaropes, murrelets, sea ducks and other wildlife. The rich biodiversity of Kachemak Bay supports many marine mammals, and seals, otters and porpoises are common sightings. Encounters of Steller sea lions, humpback and orca whales are not unusual. For details check the ad on page 28. **Limit 6. \$85pp, ages 5 and up**

Birding Hot Spots - Anchor River **8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | AMNWR visitor center, meet in parking lot**

Hop on the bus with guide Aaron Lang to discover the hottest birding spots along the Anchor River. Seabirds, songbirds, shorebirds, water birds, raptors and more! Join our experienced guides for a 2.5 mile walk along the beach and Anchor River to its mouth. There's the potential to see rarities like bristle-thighed curlew, glaucous gulls or horned lark. More common are whimbrels, yellowlegs, scoters, loons, guillemots, mergansers, "peeps," harlequin ducks, and murrelets. Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots to walk in the sand. Dress in layers and take water. A limited number of scopes will be available. **Limit 22. \$40pp.**

Cookies, Coffee, and Songbird Walkabout **9-11 a.m. | Seaside Farm**

(AVAILABLE Thur/Sun)

Join lifelong, knowledgeable birder Mossy Kilcher on her Seaside Farm Songbird Sanctuary located on the Homer Bench for a morning Songbird Walkabout. She'll lead you on a trail winding through the fields and the trees where sandhill cranes may draw your eye and to the shoreline of Kachemak Bay where shorebirds make their stopovers. Bring your binoculars! Mossy will point out various birdsongs, characteristics, and nests of various birds along the trails. You WON'T miss a bird or a nest with Mossy as your guide. Coffee and cookies will be (safely) available for every guest. Note: due to winter breakup, folks might have to park at the beginning of the driveway and hike down to the farm (therefore may not be accessible due to very muddy ruts and bumps). **Limit 30. \$30pp, \$10 kids 12 and under.**

**VIEWING STATIONS****Self-Guided Shorebird Viewing***Mud Bay and Lighthouse Village***Wednesday Afternoon, 1-2:30 p.m.****Thursday Afternoon, 1:30-3 p.m.****Friday Afternoon, 2-3:30 p.m.****Saturday Afternoon, 3:15-4:30 p.m.****Morning at the Marsh***Beluga Lake Airport Viewing Platform***Friday Morning, 6-7:30 a.m.****Saturday Morning, 6-8 a.m.****Sunday Morning, 6:30-8 a.m.****Family Viewing Station****(Jr. Birder Event)** *Lighthouse Village***Friday Evening, 6:30-7:30 p.m.****Family Viewing Station**
(Jr. Birder Event)*Beluga Lake Airport Viewing Platform***Saturday Evening, 6:30-7:30 p.m.****Self-Guided Activities***Ongoing throughout festival*

- Flat Stanley Bird- (Murrelet), take pictures with it during their various shorebird festival activities.
- Self-guided bird walks on local trails with laminated birds (*Calvin and Coyle, Pratt Museum Trails, Eveline, Mud Bay and the Beluga Slough Trail*)
- Viewing Station Bingo

Flat Stanley & Bingo cards will be available for pick-up at the JB center or at registration headquarters or online for printing.

Current bird sightings list will be posted at Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR) Visitor Center, 95 Sterling Highway and at ***kachemakbaybirders.org***.

Check out the Shorebird Checklist on page 26. Special thanks to the Kachemak Bay Birders!

FESTIVAL ARTIST



MATTIE SQUIRE

Mattie Squire is an author and artist with a Masters in Biology from Texas A&M and art training from VCU Communication Arts and Nature. Her favorite story-telling methods are illustrations and comics that combine fun, narrative, and sometimes scientific information.

Mattie would love to contribute her talents to making your scientific figure approachable to professional and public audiences and kids books that talk about everything from natural history to mythology stories. She is looking to write and illustrate her own graphic novels in the near future.



Festival Artist Show

May 1-6, 2023

59 North Creations, 1554 Homer Spit Road



Festival Artist Workshop *Field Sketching Birds: Tools, Tips, and Pointers for Creating Finished Drawings*

Thursday, May 4, 1-3:30 p.m.

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center



First Friday Art Opening

Friday, May 5, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

59 North Creations, 1554 Homer Spit Road

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Diving with Alcids

9 a.m.-12 p.m. | Jackson Maritime, Ramp 2

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

Kachemak Bay provides incredible opportunities to view diving alcids at the surface. Now recent technological innovations have provided us an opportunity to observe what these amazing birds look like foraging below the water line. Come aboard the heated Orca landing craft with Captain Curt and his ROV to marvel at these agile animals. The Remote Operated Underwater Vehicle will give us a unique, up-close view of these sea birds in their aquatic world. **Limit 6. \$125 adults, \$75 for kids 6-12.**

Flow with the Birds: 1/2 Day Kayak Tour

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, between Coal Pt. Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su a.m. and p.m.)

A 15-min water taxi cruise to visit Gull Island with up-close viewing opportunities for puffins, guillemots, cormorants, kittiwakes and murre. Then cruise to a nearby beach for shoreside instruction. Let the tide carry you through the calm waters and the abundant biodiversity of China Poot Bay as you glimpse stunning scenery and wildlife from a kayak. Listen for black oystercatchers, shorebirds, watch for bald eagles pursuing their next meal, keep a look out for harlequin ducks foraging along the shore. Explore the Bay's unique rose-colored rock formations that illustrate ancient tectonic forces. Morning and afternoon tours. **Limit 12. \$95pp. Children must be over 5 years old.**

Pre-K Puffins Shorebird

Festival Special Session

10-11:30am | AMNWR Visitor Center, 95 Sterling Hwy

Join Ranger Kendra with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge for this outdoor interactive Pre-K Puffins Early Learning Program all about seabirds! The program is designed for children ages 2-5 and will include story time, interactive games and a craft. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder requirements. No Limit. Free.*

Kayak With Birds and Wildlife

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adv. Office

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

Enjoy a scenic water taxi ride to Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge's 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 are welcome. Enclosed boat with open back access. No facilities. **Limit 15. \$95pp, \$85 for kids 12 under.**

Gull Island Tour with Hike to Grewingk Glacier Lake

10 a.m.-4 p.m. | 9:30 a.m. Check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, between Coal Pt. Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot.

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

This fully guided tour cruises to Gull Island for up-close viewing opportunities of horned and tufted puffins, guillemots, cormorants, kittiwake and murre. We continue cruising along the coast viewing sea ducks, otters, seals, and wildlife to Glacier Spit and Rusty's Lagoon. The hike begins with your guide leading you along Glacier Spit, Kachemak Bay on one side, Rusty's Lagoon on the other, with viewing opportunities for a diversity of birds and wildlife, shorebirds, raptors, kingfishers, loons, otters, seals, porpoise. The trail, over the level glacier moraine, opens to Grewingk Glacier Lake, dotted with icebergs, the glacier is a backdrop surrounded by mountain peaks. Return through an old growth coastal forest, with views of Halibut Cove to meet your water taxi pick-up. **Limit 15. Ages 5 and up. \$95pp.**

Gulls and Glaciers

11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adv. Office

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

With your naturalist guide, cruise to Gull Island via water taxi to check out over 10,000 nesting birds including black-legged kittiwakes, common murre and puffins. From there we'll head to Glacier Spit Trailhead to hike up to Glacier Lake learning about the fascinating glaciology of Kachemak Bay. There will be a geological mystery to solve as well as snacks and hot drinks. Bring lunch, water, and layers. Must be able to hike 4 miles with 250 ft elevation gain. **Limit 12. \$125 pp, \$115 for kids 12 and under.**

B.A.R.K. Ranger

1-2 p.m. | AMNWR


See Wednesday, 3 p.m. description. **Limit 12. \$5pp**

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour

1-3 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su-8 a.m., 1 p.m.)

Join us on a venture to spot the many shorebirds of Kachemak Bay. We'll take a cruise to Gull Island, home to over 10,000 nesting birds, with an opportunity to get up close and personal to a variety of nesting species. From there, our journey continues with the flowing tide to seek out some of the unique birds and other wildlife that can be found along the coastline, including kingfishers, black oystercatchers, nesting bald eagles, and sea otter rafts. **Limit 12. \$75pp.**

Flow with the Birds: 1/2 Day Kayak Tour 
1-5 p.m. | Check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office,
between Coal Pt. Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. description. **Limit 12. \$50pp**

**Lady of the Sea Adventures
Charter and Overnight!** 

1 p.m. - 10 a.m. NEXT DAY | Homer Harbor Ramp 3
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su-8 a.m., 1 p.m.)

Come aboard our luxury charter for a small boat cruise of
Kachemak Bay. This cruise includes our naturalist guide, fine
dining cuisine, and overnight accommodations. We will plan
a unique adventure based on the group's interests, including
hiking, kayaking, and wildlife tours. **Limit 6. \$750pp.**

**Field Sketching Birds, Tools, Tips,
and Pointers for Creating Finished
Drawings with Festival Artist**  

2-3:30 p.m. | Alaska Maritime National Wildlife
Refuge Visitor Center, 95 Sterling Hwy.

Participants will learn how to start their own field sketching
practice, especially as it pertains to birds and how to capture
field notes while out birding. Information will be provided
about tools and techniques (both for sketching and how to
stay patient while capturing difficult subjects). How to use
field notes/sketches as inspiration for finished drawings will
also be discussed. Participants are encouraged to bring their
preferred sketching mediums/tools to follow along with
demonstrations. **Limit 24. Registration is required. Free.**

Kayaking into the Ancient Past 

2-6 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North
Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

Water taxi to Yukon Island keeping an eye out for birds and
wildlife. We will kayak past ancient Sugpiaq villages and
learn more about the ways of the Sugpiaq and Dena'ina
people and Frederika de Laguna, the spunky archeologist
who explored our bay in the late 1920s. **Limit 12. \$95pp,
\$85 for kids 12 and under.**

Mud Bay Family Walk  

3-4:30 p.m. | Meet at the parking
lot, 2181 Kachemak Bay Dr.

Join local naturalist Ingrid Harrauld for a guided walk along
the beach to Mud Bay, exploring the mysteries of the tidal
areas and exploring the local estuary up close and personal.
Spotting scopes will be used to identify local shorebirds
and waterfowl. Mud boots recommended! **No Limit.**
Registration is required. Free.

Film - The Birders, with Keynote Speaker

Diego Calderón-Franco  

4-6 p.m. | AMNWR Visitor Center,
Auditorium. 95 Sterling Hwy.

A Melodic Journey through Northern Colombia. A film on
Colombian bird diversity and birdwatching. The film will
take you through the Colombian landscape, highlighting
several of its top locations, culture, birds and music. **Limit 50.**
Registration is required. Free.

**Junior Birder and Teen Birder
Movie Night**    

4:30-6:30 p.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room, 95 Sterling Hwy.

Join us for this fun family friendly bird related movie night
at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. Bring your comfy
cushions, blankets and bean bag chairs to sprawl out on
while enjoying the film, munching popcorn and drinking
tasty refreshments. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder
requirements.* **Limit 35. Free.**

**Festival Kick-Off Reception at the Center for
Alaskan Coastal Studies Headquarters**  

5-7 p.m., 708 Smokey Bay Way

Join CACS and Nina Faust for a program on sandhill cranes
and their connection to the Homer community through art.
Presentation includes the showing of "For the Love of Cranes"
and kicks off the Shorebird Festival Crane Art Scavenger Hunt.
Chowder, salad and bread available as long as it lasts. **Limit
35. Free.**



FRIDAY, MAY 5

High Tide: 3:31 p.m. 17.9' (2:41 a.m. 19.4')

Low Tide: 9:07 a.m. -2.7'

Overlook Park Hike 

5 a.m.-2 p.m. | Meet at AMNWR Parking
Lot for shuttle to trailhead

This guided 10-mile hike journeys along the north shoreline
of Kachemak Bay to Overlook Park, an undisturbed, remote
pocket of native coastal habitat within the Alaska State
Park system. View shorebirds, sea ducks, marine mammals,
ravens and eagles along the way, plus songbirds and
waterfowl around the ponds in the Park. This all-day hike
traverses some sloping, 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. **MUST be at least 12 years old.**
Limit 12. \$15 Suggested Donation at the trail to KBCS.



6X6 BIRD ART AND ADVENTURE AUCTION

Local artists and the 2023 festival artist
Mattie Squire have created unique,
handmade pieces inspired by Alaska's
avian wonders. The art and other items
will be auctioned online in support of
the Festival.

Submissions can be viewed online at
[https://kachemakshorebird.org/
birders-art-alert/](https://kachemakshorebird.org/birders-art-alert/)

and in person at the 59 North Creations,
1554 Homer Spit Road May 1 through
May 6, 6pm.

Items up for auction:

- Original 6x6 art pieces
- Mattie Squire's original
festival artwork
- Travel, Fun and Bird
Friendly Items!

Proceeds benefit the Kachemak Bay
Shorebird Festival and ensure top-notch
programs, speakers, and the ongoing
legacy of the Festival.

**Bidding opens April 18, and will close
at 8 a.m. AKDT on May 7.**

Items may be picked up at Festival
Headquarters or arranged for mailing.

Find the 2023 Auction Link here:

[https://kachemakshorebird.org/
birders-art-alert/](https://kachemakshorebird.org/birders-art-alert/)



From the icy, bountiful waters of the Arctic Ocean to the misty, salmon-rich rainforests of the Tongass National Forest, Audubon Alaska works to conserve our spectacular birds, wildlife, and habitats. We employ science and state-of-the-art mapping technology to drive our conservation priorities, with an emphasis on protecting public lands and waters for generations to come. Audubon Alaska is a proud sponsor of the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. Learn more at **AudubonAlaska.org** and follow us on Facebook, Twitter (**[@audubonalaska1](https://twitter.com/audubonalaska1)**), and Instagram (**[@audubonalaska](https://www.instagram.com/audubonalaska)**).

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Morning at the Marsh

6-7:30 a.m. | Airport Overlook

Beluga Lake has a wide variety of wildlife including moose, raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds and more. Our guides will help find and identify what is there. Some scopes and identification books will be provided, if you have your own, please bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Guide for this event is Michelle Michaud. **No Limit. Free.**

Beginner Bird Walk

7:30-9:30 a.m. | Calvin and Coyle Trail. The trailhead is at the end of Mariner Drive.

Join Lora Haller for an introduction into the world of songbirds. Meet at Calvin and Coyle trailhead parking lot for a stroll through forest habitat as we listen for Homer's musical forest dwellers, building birding confidence and practicing your skills. Bring binos and dress for the weather. **Limit 15. \$5pp.**

Lake Clark National Park Bear and Bird Viewing

7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Anchor River State Rec. Area, Lake Tractor Launch

(AVAILABLE: Wed/Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. description. **Limit 6. \$350pp.**

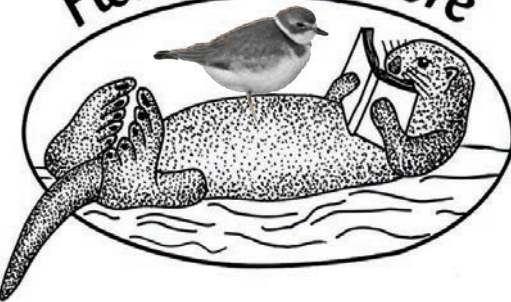
The Wise and Wonderful Journey

8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, 7:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Point Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot.

(AVAILABLE Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun)

Visit Gull Island for up-close viewing opportunities of horned and tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, cormorants, kittiwake and murre. The cruise continues along the coast, nesting eagles, loons, kingfishers, sea ducks and many other species are common sightings. The journey passes, ocean upwelling's and tide streaks that bring nutrients and food to the surface, locations ideal for foraging birds such as Aleutian terns, red-necked phalaropes, murrelets, sea ducks and other wildlife. The rich biodiversity of Kachemak Bay supports many marine mammals, seals, otters and porpoises are common sightings. Encounters of Steller sea lions, humpback and orca whales are not unusual. For details check the ad on page 26. **Limit 6. \$85pp, ages 5 and up.**

Homer Bookstore



332 E. Pioneer Ave., Suite 1
Homer, AK 99603

907-235-7496

homerbookstore@ak.net
www.homerbookstore.com

Monday—Saturday 11 - 6
Closed Sundays

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival May 3rd—7th

Homer Bookstore

The birding inside is horrible but the book collection is fantastic.
Look for a display of great bird books.



FRIDAY, MAY 5

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour

8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird
(AVAILABLE Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun - 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.)

Join us on a venture to spot the many shorebirds of Kachemak Bay. We'll take a cruise to Gull Island, home to over 10,000 nesting birds, with an opportunity to get up close and personal to a variety of nesting species. From there, our journey continues with the flowing tide to seek out some of the unique birds and other wildlife that can be found along the coastline, including kingfishers, black oystercatchers, nesting eagles, and sea otter rafts. Bring warm layers, binoculars, and snacks. **Limit 12. \$75pp.**

Fins and Feathers Boat Tour

8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun)

Head to Gull Island, home to over 10,000 nesting birds and 12 different species of birds (horned and tufted puffins, black-legged kittiwakes, glaucous-winged gulls, common murre, pigeon guillemots, and pelagic cormorants. From there, cruise to different areas where unique birds have been spotted, including harlequin ducks, goldeneyes, surf, black and white-winged scoters, yellow-billed, common and red-throated loons, red-necked phalaropes, red-necked grebes, kingfishers and jaegers. Bring your life list, a snack, warm clothes and a camera. Hot drinks provided. **Limit 12. \$75pp, \$50 for kids 12 and under.**

Coldwater, Hot Birds

8-11 a.m. | Bottom of Ramp #3, Black and Gray Landing Craft
(AVAILABLE F/Sa)

Coldwater Alaska and Wilderness Birding Adventures will show you some of their favorite spots on the Bay during this 3-hour tour guided by Aaron Lang. Kachemak Bay is one of the richest marine environments in Alaska and this short tour will provide a sampling of the diversity of birds and wildlife on our doorstep. Almost anything is possible on this trip and we will keep our route option open to take advantage of the serendipity of migration. **Limit 8. \$110/adults \$90/12 and under.**

Diving with Alcids

9 a.m.-12 p.m. | Jackson Maritime, Ramp 2
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6. \$125 adults, \$75 for kids 6-12.**

Flow with the Birds: 1/2 Day Kayak Tour

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Check-in at St. Augustine Kayak and Tours, between Coal Pt. Seafoods and Ramp 3 Parking lot.
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su a.m. and p.m.)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$95 pp. Ages 5 and up.**

Pre-K Family Birding Walk

10-11:30 a.m. | Meet at Louie's Lagoon on the Homer Spit
Join a Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies Naturalist on a walk focused on exploration and observation. Little ones and their families will look for bird signs and clues of feeding, walking and resting. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder Requirements.* **Limit 15. Registration is required. Free (parents not included in limit).**

Birdability on Beluga Slough

10-11:30 a.m. | AMNWR Visitor Center
Meet in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot for a casual birding walk for folks with any ability. Look for some forest and wetland birds. The Beluga Slough Trail is an accessible half-mile hard packed gravel and graded boardwalk trail with a hill. Folks who choose not to do the hill can do the beginning top part then drive to the bottom part. Wheelchair accessible. **Limit 15. Registration is required. Free.**

Kayak with Birds and Wildlife

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$95pp, \$85 for kids under 12.**

Gull Island Tour, with Hike to Grewingk Glacier Lake

10 a.m.-4 p.m. | 9:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Point Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot.
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$95pp. Ages 5 and up.**

Birding in Costa Rica

11 a.m.-12 p.m. | AMNWR Visitor Center Auditorium
Is Costa Rica on your birding bucket list? Join George Matz as he shares his birding trip to Costa Rica in 2021. What birds can you find and what are some places to visit? **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

SCHANTZ SCHOLAR

Sponsored by the Schantz Brothers Foundation, <http://schantzbird.org>

Encouraging the Passionate Study of Birds and Birdlife



Schantz Scholar Presentation, Oscar Wilhelmy *Birds: Bringing Us Back*

2-3 p.m. | Friday, May 5
AMNWR Visitor Center Auditorium

Oscar will share how he learned birding connects each of us to nature, to ourselves, and our shared love for birds connects us to each other and a healthy life. **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Oscar Wilhelmy discovered his love for birds when a yellow-throated warbler caught his eye at age 14. He found a home in the Ohio Young Birders Club — a bright light in a lonely childhood. He spent his late teens driving across the country in search of rare birds, and completed his goal of 700 species in the lower 48 at age 18. He moved to the mountains to find himself in 2020, and founded the University of Montana Birding Club. Ultimately, this journey taught him that birding is not about competition, but community and a shared passion — a passion that tethered him back to life in times of darkness. Oscar is a ski lift operator and is pursuing degrees in psychology and counseling at the University of Montana in Missoula.



WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

WWF Salutes the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

For more than two decades, the World Wildlife Fund has worked to protect America's most remarkable Arctic places and the species that live there. With WWF colleagues in other nations, we work across the Arctic to conserve ecosystem functioning for wildlife and people.

Today, we are committed to minimizing threats posed by increasing trans-arctic shipping, supporting community-led area-based conservation, protecting the Bristol Bay watershed from large-scale mining, and reducing human/polar bear conflict along Alaska's northern coast.

The WWF U.S. Arctic Program has been a proud sponsor of the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival since 2008. We salute the Festival's organizers, volunteers, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff who continue to help us all understand, celebrate, and protect our returning shorebirds as they pass through Kachemak Bay en route to their Arctic breeding grounds.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Gulls and Glaciers

11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2,
True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 12. \$125 pp, \$115 for kids ages 8-12.

A Hemispheric Perspective on Local Bird Migration

12-1 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Each spring Alaska's migratory birds arrive from places near and far. Join Melanie Smith from Audubon Alaska to learn about the heroic journeys of our migratory birds, how local birds connect us across the hemisphere, and some of the challenges birds face along the way. Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.

Shorebirds of Mud Bay Trail

12-2 p.m. | Meet at parking lot 2181 Kachemak Dr.

Join local expert bird Martin Renner as he leads this walk on a rock, mud, and sandy spit stretching into Mud Bay. Rubber boots recommended. Park and meet at the parking lot, 2181 Kachemak Bay Dr. Limit 20. \$10pp.

The Language of Crows and Ravens

1-2 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Crows and ravens are intelligent, social, and vocal birds, but do they possess something akin to spoken language? Join Doug Wacker from the University of Washington as we discuss past and current research on Corvid vocal communication, listen to some of their varied calls, and explore tools and techniques used to record and analyze those calls. Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour

1-3 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su-8 a.m., 1 p.m.)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. description. Limit 12. \$75pp.

Shorebird Photography on the Anchor Point Beach

1-5 p.m. | Anchor River State Park Rec Area,
main parking lot, Dodge Dakota truck
(AVAILABLE: Wed/Fri/Sat/)

See Wednesday, 1 p.m. description. Limit 4. \$100pp.

Flow with the Birds: 1/2 Day Kayak Tour

1-5 p.m. | Check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office,
between Coal Pt. Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. description. Limit 12. \$95pp.

Lady of the Sea Adventures Charter and Overnight!

1 p.m.-10 a.m. NEXT DAY | Homer Harbor Ramp 3

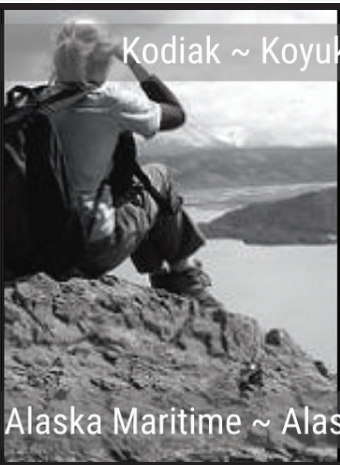
See Thursday, 10 a.m. description. Limit 6. \$750pp.

How are Kittlitz's Murrelets Coping with Melting Glaciers and Warming Oceans?

2-3 p.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room

Kittlitz's Murrelets have an affinity for glaciers and solitary nest sites at high elevations on rocky slopes making them one of the most unique alcids. It also makes them one of the most challenging seabird species to monitor populations trends and reproductive success. Join Robb Kaler and Liz Labunskir from the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service to learn the life history of Kittlitz's Murrelets, results of past and present field work including Kachemak Bay and Prince William Sound boat-based work, and nesting biology information from the Aleutians. Limit 35. Registration is required. Free.

Kodiak ~ Koyukuk ~ Nowitna ~ Selawik ~ Tetlin ~ Togiak ~ Yukon Delta ~ Yukon Flats



Alaska Maritime ~ Alaska Peninsula ~ Arctic ~ Becharof ~ Innoko ~ Izembek ~ Kanuti ~ Kenai

FRIDAY, MAY 5

2023 Schantz Scholar Presentation - Birds: Bringing Us Back

2-3 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Oscar Wilhelmy will share how he learned birding connects each of us to nature, to ourselves, and our shared love for birds connects us to each other and a healthy life. **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Shorebirding by Ear

2-4 p.m. | AMNWR Outside back patio but might move to Mud Bay; bird-dependent

Join local expert birder Dave Erickson for an introduction to shorebirds and their sounds outside on the visitor center patio before heading out on foot to nearby Beluga Slough and Bishop's Beach to listen. Put new skills into action with guided practice in this field based workshop. **Limit 20. \$7pp.**

Kayaking into the Ancient Past

2-6 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North
Kayak Adventures Office

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 1 p.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$95pp. \$85 for kids 12 and under.**

Owls and Local Owl

Banding Talk

3-4 p.m. | AMNWR Outside Back Patio

Join local owl expert, Jason Sodergren, as he talks about the various owl species found on the Kenai Peninsula and the citizen science banding work that he does with them. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder requirements.* **Limit 20 ages 12 to 18. Registration is required. Free.**

Informal Talk and Chat with Julia Zanrankin

3-4 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

On Becoming an Unintentional Birder. Did it happen to you too? **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Festival Kick-Off at the Pratt

4-6 p.m. | Pratt Museum and Park
3779 Bartlett Street

Kick-off your Shorebird Festival weekend at the award-winning Pratt Museum and Park. Come on in to explore the cultures, science and art of the Kachemak Bay region. Tour museum exhibits, including academic and citizen science posters relating to our local seabirds, curated by Marilyn Sigman. Take a walk on our forest trails, enjoy our botanical and Homestead cabin and garden in a 10-acre park setting with picnic tables and lawn chairs. There will be refreshments on the porch. Don't miss the museum's Gull Island bird cam, the only live bird cam from the Kachemak Bay seabird rookery for gulls and puffins. The Pratt offers family-friendly programs, workshops and events. For more information, visit us on the web @prattmuseum.org. **No Limit. Free.**

Owl Box Building (+ box fee box)

4:30-6 p.m. | AMNWR Lab

Participants will have an opportunity to build a birdhouse for one of our local owl species. Learn about the nesting needs for our local birds and build a bird box to take home. **Limit 20 boxes, child and parent(s) may attend. Registration is required. \$15/box**

Swallow Box Building (+ box fee)

4:30-6 p.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room

Participants will have an opportunity to build a birdhouse for one of our local birds, swallows. Learn about the nesting needs for these birds and build a bird box to take home. **Limit 20 boxes, child and parent(s) may attend. Registration is required. \$15/box**

First Friday Art Opening

4:30-6:30 p.m. | 59 North Creations,
1554 Homer Spit Road

Join Gallery owner/artist Tracy Hansen in welcoming Festival Artist Mattie Squire! Enjoy Tracy's work and get the first look at the items in the Art and Adventure Auction that includes Mattie's original work, 6X6 canvases from community members and amazing donations from Festival Supporters around the country. **No Limit. Free.**

CRANE CLUB

Many thanks to our Crane Club financial supporters!

The Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service would like to recognize and thank our many generous supporters who make the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival possible.

Visit kachemakshorebird.org/crane-club for a complete list of the sponsors and to find out how you can be involved!

Bristle-thighed Curlew (\$5000+) World Wildlife Fund

Bar-Tailed Godwit (\$2500-\$4999) Homer News

Pacific Golden Plover (\$1000-\$2499) Audubon Alaska Homer Stay & Play Land's End Resort Wilderness Birding Adventures Zeiss

Trumpeter Swan (\$250-\$499) Bay Excursions Flat Fish Lodge

Homer Bed & Breakfast Association Homestead Art/Lorri Davis Fine Art

Black Oyster Catcher (\$100-\$249) Beluga Lake Lodge Brome Bird Care Homer Brewing Company Red Knot Real Estate Within the Wild



Become a member! Donate online at:
kachemakshorebird.org/crane-club



BIRD HOUSE, BIRD FEED



Beluga Lake Lodge

204 Ocean Drive Loop

907-235-5995

belugalakelodging.com

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. Ask about our discounts—no charge for the view!



Grace Ridge Brewery

870 Smoky Bay Way

907-299-6672

graceridgebrewing.com

Daily 12-8 p.m.

We are a small brewery making good beer for your drinking enjoyment. One of our Special Beers is an Oystercatcher Stout! (indoor and outdoor seating).



Food Truck Rally for the Birders

Kevin Bell Ice Arena parking lot,
3150 Homer Spit Road

Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Some of Homer's best food trucks will be congregated at the Kevin Bell Ice Arena providing specials from migrating birds' winter homes as well as their normal menus.



SATURDAY, MAY 6

High Tide: 4:11 p.m. 18.1' (3:13 a.m. 20')

Low Tide: 9:43 a.m. -3.4'

Morning at the Marsh

6-8 a.m. | Airport Viewing Platform

Beluga Lake has a wide variety of wildlife, including moose, raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and more. Our guides will help find and identify what is there. Some scopes and identification books will be provided. If you have your own, please bring and bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Guide for this event is Cindy Mom. **No Limit. Free.**

Beginning Bird Walk

7:30-9:30 a.m. | Calvin and Coyle Trail
(trailhead is at the end of Mariner Drive)

See Friday, 7:30 a.m. description. Guided by Adrienne McGill.
Limit 20. \$5pp, ages 10 and up.

Lake Clark National Park Bear and Bird Viewing

7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Anchor River State
Recreation Area, Lake Tractor Launch
(AVAILABLE: Wed/Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. description. **Limit 6. \$350pp.**

Fins and Feathers Boat Tour

8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North
Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. description. **Limit 12. \$75pp, \$50 for kids 12 and under.**

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour

8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su-8 a.m., 1 p.m.)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. description. **Limit 12. \$75pp.**

The Wise and Wonderful Journey

8-10 a.m. | 7:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak
Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Point
Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot.
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. description. **Limit 6. \$85pp. ages 5+.**

How are Kittlitz's Murrelets Coping with Melting Glaciers and Warming Oceans?

9-10 a.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

See Friday, 2 p.m. description. Guided by Robb Kaler and Liz Labunskir. **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Connecting: Land, Sea, and Birds, Louie's Lagoon Birding Outing

9-11 a.m. | Louie's Lagoon (located on
the east side of the Homer Spit)

Join Kachemak Heritage Land Trust's Board Member Donna Aderhold to explore the connection between birds, land, and sea at Louie's Lagoon. **Limit 8. Registration is required. Free.**

Coldwater, Hot Birds

9 a.m.-12 p.m. | Jackson Maritime, Ramp 2
(AVAILABLE F/Sa)

See Friday, 8 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6. \$125 adults, \$75 kids 6-12.**

Diving with Alcids

9 a.m.-12 p.m. | Jackson Maritime, Ramp 2
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6. \$125 adults, \$75 for kids 6-12.**

Flow with the Birds: 1/2 Day Kayak Tour

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Check-in at Kachemak
Bay Adventures Office, between Coal Pt.
Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$95pp. Children must be over 5 years old.**

Seldovia: Beyond the End of the Road

10-11 a.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Seldovia isn't an island, but "you can't get there from here" — except by boat or plane. Located just 15 miles from Homer, Seldovia's rainforest, cliff, and rocky intertidal habitats contrast with Homer's bluffs and mudflats. You'll find different birds over there, too. Cindy Mom of Seldovia Nature Tours will explain travel options, and introduce you to the trails, flora and fauna, and highlights of the Other Side. **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**



Descriptions continued on page 17



Across the BAY, a WORLD Away . . .

Discover SELDOVIA alaska

2023 Schedule

May 18 through September 12

* \$35 Seniors (65+) | \$30 Children (3-12)



seldoviabayferry.com | **907.435.3299**



visit seldoviabayferry.com
for more information

Running Thursdays - Tuesdays, closed Wednesdays.
7 days a week in July!

Season begins Thursday, May 18th and ends Tuesday, September 12th.

Depart Seldovia	Depart Homer Ramp 7	Depart Seldovia	Depart Homer Ramp 7
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	4:30 PM	6:30 PM

All trips are 45 minutes each way.

Please arrive 30 minutes before departure, more if transporting freight.



Purchase tickets at The Homer Ticket office,
Seldovia Visitor Center or online at seldoviabayferry.com*

*additional fees apply

ONE-WAY CHARGES

Kayaks - \$20 each
Bikes - \$10 each
Freight - 1st box/item free
additional items \$7 each

Animals \$10 each - Pets
must be kept leashed or
kennelled on the back deck
at all times. Small animals
may be in the cabin, but
must be kennelled or on lap.

Gear up for the 31st Annual Shorebird Festival!

May 3rd-7th

**optics
15% off**

**XtraTuf
Flash Sale!**

Nikon



Plus quality raingear, UV clothing, camp
chairs and sunglasses! Everything you need
to comfortably enjoy the Festival!

XTRATUF

Kachemak Gear Shed
A DIVISION OF LFS INC



SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL




































































SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3				
HIGH TIDE: 2:13 P.M. 16.5' (1:42 A.M. 17.4') LOW TIDE: 8 A.M. -0.1'				
TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.		Lake Clark National Park Bear & Bird Viewing	Anchor River State Rec Area, Lake Tractor Launch, Boat: the Gamefisher	\$350
1-2:30 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Lighthouse Village	Lighthouse Village	IR
1-2:30 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Mud Bay	Mud Bay	IR
1-5 p.m.		Shorebird Photography on the Anchor Point Beach	Anchor River State Park Rec Area, main parking lot	\$100
3-4 p.m.		B.A.R.K. Ranger	AMNWR Back Patio	\$5
3:30-5 p.m.		Mud Bay Family Walk	Mud Bay Family Walk	IR
4:30-6 p.m.		Game Night! - Wingspan	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR
4:30-6:30 p.m.		Jr. Birder Bird Scavenger Hunt Adventure	AMNWR Visitor Center	Free

THURSDAY, MAY 4				
HIGH TIDE: 2:52 P.M. 17.4' (2:11 A.M. 18.5') LOW TIDE: 8:33 A.M. -1.4'				
TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
7:30-9:30 a.m.		Beginner Bird Walk	Calvin & Coyle Trail	\$5
7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.		Lake Clark National Park Bear & Bird Viewing	Anchor River State Rec Area, Lake Tractor Launch, Boat: the Gamefisher	\$350
8-10 a.m.		The Wise & Wonderful Journey	7:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$85/pp, (children 5+)
8-10 a.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Bottom of Ramp 3, turn right.	\$75
8-10 a.m.		Fins & Feathers Boat Tour	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$75/adults, \$50/kids 12 & under
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.		Hot Spots - Anchor River	AMNWR Parking lot at 8 a.m.	\$40.00
9-11 a.m.		Cookies & Coffee & Songbird Walkabout	Seaside Farm	\$30/Adult \$10/12 & under
9 a.m.-1 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	8:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+
9 a.m.-1 p.m.		Diving with Alcids	Jackson Maritime, Ramp 2	\$125/adult \$75 kids 6+
10-11:30 a.m.		Pre-K Puffins: All About Seabirds!	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR
10 a.m.-2 p.m.		Kayak WITH Birds & Wildlife	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure.	\$95/adult \$85/kids 12 & Under
10 a.m.-4 p.m.		Gull Island Tour, with Hike to Grewingk Glacier Lake	9:30 am check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95pp (includes kids age 5+)
1-5 p.m.		Gulls & Glaciers	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$125/adult \$115 /12 & under
1-2 p.m.		B.A.R.K. Ranger	AMNWR Patio	\$5
1-3 p.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Bottom of Ramp 3, turn right.	\$75
1-5 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	12:30pm check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+
1 p.m.-10 a.m. NEXT DAY		Lady of the Sea Adventures Charter	Homer Harbor, TBD	\$750

TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
1:30-3 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Lighthouse Village	Lighthouse Village	IR
1:30-3 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Mud Bay	Mud Bay	IR
2-3:30 p.m.		Field Sketching Birds: Tools, Tips, & Pointers for Creating Finished Drawings	AMNWR Lab	IR
2-6 p.m.		Kayaking into the Ancient Past	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure)	\$95/adult, \$85/kids 12 & Under
3-4:30 p.m.		Mud Bay Family Walk	Mud Bay Trail	Free
4-6 p.m.		Film: The Birders	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
4:30-6:30 p.m.		Jr. Birder & Teen Birder Movie Night	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR
5-7 p.m.		CACS Festival Kick-Off Reception	708 Smokey Bay Way	Free

FRIDAY, MAY 5				
HIGH TIDE: 3:31 P.M. 17.9' (2:41 A.M. 19.4') LOW TIDE: 9:07 A.M. -2.7'				
TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
5 a.m.-2 p.m.		Overlook Park Hike	AMNWR - Meet in parking lot for shuttle to trailhead	\$15 suggested donation
6-7:30 a.m.		Morning at the Marsh	Airport Overlook	IR
7:30-9:30 a.m.		Beginner Bird Walk	Calvin & Coyle Trail	\$5
7:30a.m.-2:30 p.m.		Lake Clark National Park Bear & Bird Viewing	Anchor River State Rec Area, Lake Tractor Launch, Boat: the Gamefisher	\$350
8-10 a.m.		The Wise & Wonderful Journey	7:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$85/pp, (children 5+)
8-10 a.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Bottom of Ramp 3, turn right.	\$75
8-10 a.m.		Fins & Feathers Boat Tour	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$75/adults, \$50/kids 12 & under
8-11 a.m.		Coldwater, Hot Birds	Bottom of Ramp #3 (wait under the covered area), Black & Grey Landing Craft named the Castle Cape will pull in here to pick the group up.	\$110/adults \$90/12 & under
9 a.m.-1 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	8:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+
9-11 a.m.		Diving with Alcids	Jackson Maritime, Ramp 2	\$125/adult \$75 kids 6+
10-11:30 a.m.		Birdability Beluga Slough	AMNWR Parking Lot	IR
10-11:30 a.m.		Pre-K Family Birding Walk	Louie's Lagoon	IR
10 a.m.-4 p.m.		Gull Island Tour, with Hike to Grewingk Glacier Lake	9:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot	\$95pp (includes kids age 5+
10 a.m.-2 p.m.		Kayak WITH Birds & Wildlife	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure)	\$95/adult \$85/kids 12 & under
11 a.m.-12 p.m.		Birding in Costa Rica	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
11 a.m.-5 p.m.		Gulls & Glaciers	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$125/adult \$115 /12 & under
12-1 p.m.		A Hemispheric Perspective on Local Bird Migration	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
1-2 p.m.		The Language of Ravens & Crows	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
1-3 p.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Bottom of Ramp 3, turn right.	\$75
1-5 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	12:30 p.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+

May 2023		KACHEMAK BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL PROGRAM				HOMER NEWS Special Edition				15
EVENT KEY:		 Field Events	 Workshops & Presentations	 Junior Birder	 Teen Birder	 Entertainment	 Included with Registration	 Boat Tour		
FRIDAY, CONTINUED...										
TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST		TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
1-5 p.m.		Shorebird Photography on the Anchor Point Beach	Anchor River State Park Rec Area, main parking lot	\$100		10-11 a.m.		Seldovia: Beyond the End of the Road	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
1 p.m.-10 a.m. NEXT DAY		Lady of the Sea Adventures Charter	Homer Harbor, TBD	\$750		10-11 a.m.		Adult Beginning Birder Discovery Lab	AMNWR Visitor Cener	IR
2-3 p.m.		How are Kittlitz's Murrelets Coping with Melting Glaciers & Warming Oceans	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR		10 a.m.-12 p.m.		Forest Bird Walk	Calvin & Coyle Trail	\$5
2-3 p.m.		Birds: Bringing Us Back	AMNWR Auditorium	IR		10 a.m.-2 p.m.		Kayak with Birds & Wildlife	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure.	\$95/adult \$85/kids 12 & under
2-3:30 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Lighthouse Village	Lighthouse Village	Free		10 a.m.-2 p.m.		Stencil a T-Shirt!	Outdoor Learning Space at the Carl E. Wynn Learning Center, Mile 1.5 E. Skyline Drive.	\$20
2-3:30 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Mud Bay	Mud Bay	Free		10 a.m.-4 p.m.	 	Gull Island Tour, with Hike to Grewingk Glacier Lake	9:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95pp (includes kids age 5+
2-4 p.m.		Shorebirding by Ear	AMNWR Back Patio	\$7		11 a.m.-12 p.m.		Beluga Slough Bird Walk for Beginners	AMNWR Back Patio	IR
2-6 p.m.		Kayaking into the Ancient Past	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure.	\$95/adult, \$85/kids 12 & under		11 a.m.-12 p.m.		Insights after 14 Years of Kachemak Bay Shorebird Monitoring	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
3-4 p.m.	 	Owl Banding (Jr. Birder & Teen Birder)	AMNWR Back Patio	IR		11 a.m.-5 p.m.	 	Gulls & Glaciers	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$125/adult \$115 ages 8-12
3-4 p.m.	 	Author Informal Talk & Chat	AMNWR Auditorium	IR		11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.		Jr. Birder Discovery Lab	AMNWR Visitor Center	IR
4-6 p.m.	 	Shorebird Festival Kick-Off at the Pratt	Pratt Museum	IR		12-1 p.m.		Keeping the Hearts & Wings Beating across the Pacific Flyway	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
4:30-6 p.m.		Junior Birder - Owl Box Building	AMNWR Lab	IR, \$15 fee/box		1-2p.m.		Hummingbird Banding on the Kenai Peninsula	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
4:30-6 p.m.		Teen Birder - Swallow Box Building	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR, \$15/box		1-2:30 p.m.		Creatures of the Dock Tours	Meet @ CACS Yurt on the Spit, Homer Harbor, near top of Ramp #2 nearest GPS address 4350 Homer Spit Road	\$10/adult \$5/12 & under, under 2 years free
4:30-6:30 p.m.	 	First Friday Art Opening	59 North Creations	Free		1-3 p.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Bottom of Ramp 3, turn right.	\$75
6:30-7:30 p.m.		Family Viewing Station	Lighthouse Village	Free		1-5 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	12:30pm check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+
 SATURDAY, MAY 6										
HIGH TIDE: 4:11 P.M. 18.1' (3:13 A.M. 20') LOW TIDE: 9:43 A.M. -3.4'										
TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST		TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
6:30-8 a.m.		Morning at the Marsh	Airport overlook	IR		1-5 p.m.		Shorebird Photography on the Anchor Point Beach	Anchor River State Park Rec Area, main parking lot	\$100
7:30-9:30 a.m.		Beginning Bird Walk	Calvin & Coyle Trail	\$5 pp/ages 10+		1 p.m.-10 a.m. NEXT DAY		Lady of the Sea Adventures Charter	Homer Harbor, TBD	\$750
7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.		Lake Clark National Park Bear & Bird Viewing	Anchor River State Rec Area, Lake Tractor Launch, Boat: the Gamefisher	\$350		2-3:30 p.m.		Canine Officers of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	AMNWR Auditorium & Beluga Slough Trail	IR
8-10 a.m.		The Wise & Wonderful Journey	7:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$85/pp, (children 5+)		2-3:30 p.m.		Meet Girdie the Crow with Bird TLC	AMNWR	IR
8-10 a.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Seabird Ventures, Ramp 3	\$75		2-6 p.m.		Kayaking into the Ancient Past	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure)	\$95/adult, \$85/kids 12 & Under
8-10 a.m.		Fins & Feathers Boat Tour	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$75/adults, \$50/kids 12 & under		3:15-4 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Lighthouse Village	Lighthouse Village	IR
8-11 a.m.		Coldwater, Hot Birds	Bottom of Ramp#3 (wait under the covered area), black & grey Landing Craft named the Castle Cape will pull in here to pick the group up.	\$110/adults \$90/12 & under		3:15-4 p.m.		Self Guided Shorebird Viewing Mud Bay	Mud Bay	IR
9-10 a.m.		How are Kittlitz's Murrelets Coping with Melting Glaciers & Warming Oceans?	AMNWR Auditorium	IR		3:30-5 p.m.		Bird Calling Contest	Homer Brewing Co.	Free, must register
9-11 a.m.		Connecting: Land, Sea & Birds, Louie's Lagoon Birding Outing	Louie's Lagoon/Located on the east side of the Homer Spit,	IR		4-5 p.m.		Why Band Birds: Adventures of a Bird Bander	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR
9 a.m.-1 p.m.		Diving with Alcids	Jackson Maritime, Ramp 3	\$125/adult \$75 kids 6+		4:30-6 p.m.		Canine Officers of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Jr. Birder Event	AMNWR Auditorium & Beluga Slough Trail	IR
9 a.m.-1 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	8:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+		5:15 p.m.		Author Julia Zarankin	Homer High School	\$10
10-11 a.m.		Teen Birder Photography/Field Sketching Walk	Pratt Trail	IR		5-6 p.m.		Meet Girdie the Crow with Bird TLC	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR
						5-8 p.m.		Bird Pottery/Painting Art Workshop for Teens	HCOA	\$35
						6:30-7:30 p.m.		Family Viewing at Airport Viewing Platform	Airport overlook	IR
						7 p.m.		Keynote Diego Calderón-Franco	Homer High School	\$10

SUNDAY, MAY 7				
HIGH TIDE: 3:48 A.M. 20.2' (7:48 A.M. 13.35') LOW TIDE: 10:22 A.M. -3.6'				
TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
6:30-8 a.m.		Morning at the Marsh	Airport Viewing Platform	IR
7 a.m.-3 p.m.		Overlook Park Hike	AMNWR - Meet in parking lot for shuttle to trailhead	\$15 suggested donation
7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.		Lake Clark National Park Bear & Bird Viewing	Anchor River State Rec Area, Lake Tractor Launch, Boat: the Gamefisher	\$350
8-10 a.m.		The Wise & Wonderful Journey	7:30am check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$85/pp, (children 5+)
8-10 a.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Meet at Harbor Ramp 3	\$75
8-10 a.m.		Fins & Feathers Boat Tour	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$75/adults, \$50/kids 12 & under
9-10:30 a.m.		Meet Girdie the Crow with Bird TLC	AMNWR	IR
9-10:30 a.m.		Jr. Birder Bird Figurine Painting	AMNWR Lab	Free; must register
9-11 a.m.		Birder's Coffee	AMNWR Seminar Room	IR
9-11 a.m.		Cookies & Coffee & Songbird Walkabout	Seaside Farm	\$30/Adult \$10/12 & under
9 a.m.-1 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	8:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+
9 a.m.-1 p.m.		Diving with Alcids	Jackson Maritime, Ramp 3	\$125/adult \$75 kids 6+
10 a.m.-12 p.m.		Anchor River Bird Walk	Anchor River State Recreation Area	\$30

TIME	KEY	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	COST
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Teen Birder Fat Bike Ride to swallows	TBD	\$40 for bike
10 a.m.-2 p.m.		Kayak with Birds & Wildlife	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure)	\$95/adult \$85/kids 12 & under
10 a.m.-4 p.m.		Gull Island Tour with Hike to Grewingk Glacier Lake	9:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95pp (includes kids age 5+
10:30-11:30 a.m.		Keynote Speaker Film	AMNWR Auditorium	IR
11 a.m.-4 p.m.		Friendship Walk	Meet at Harbor, Top of Ramp 2, Boat House Pavilion	\$70
11 a.m.-5 p.m.		Gulls & Glaciers	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 15 minutes before departure)	\$125/adult \$115/12 & under.
12:30-1 p.m.		Jr. Birder Award Ceremony	AMNWR Auditorium	Free; must register
1-2:30 p.m.		Creatures of the Dock Tours	Meet @ CACS Yurt on the Spit, Homer Harbor, near top of Ramp #2 nearest GPS address 4350 Homer Spit Road	\$10/adult \$5/12 & under, free under 2 years
1-3 p.m.		Beaks & Bills Boat Tour	Meet at Harbor Ramp 3	\$75
1-5 p.m.		Flow with the Birds	12:30pm check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, between Coal Pt. Seafoods & the Ramp 3 Parking lot.	\$95 pp, children must be 5+
1 p.m.-10 a.m. NEXT DAY		Lady of the Sea Adventures Charter	Homer Harbor, TBD	\$750
2-3 p.m.		B.A.R.K. Ranger	AMNWR Back Patio	\$5
2-6 p.m.		Kayaking into the Ancient Past	Check in at True North Office (Homer Harbor, above Ramp #2, 30 minutes before departure)	\$95/adult, \$85/kids 12 & under

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SATURDAY, MAY 6



...Continued from page 12

Teen Birder Photography and Field Sketching Walk



10-11 a.m. | Pratt Museum & Park Trail,
3779 Bartlett Street

Participants will learn tips for taking pictures of birds while also trying their hand at taking photos of birds using a variety of photography tools from smart phones (and attachments) to high-end cameras. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder requirements.* **Limit 15, for ages 12 to 18.** Registration is required. Free.

Adult Beginning Birder Discovery Lab



10-11 a.m. | AMNWR

ALL festival participants have the opportunity to explore this interactive in-person Beginning Birder Lab at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Throughout the lab, participants can explore each station to learn about basic birding skills, birding tools, bird identification, and local bird habitats and adaptations. Ages 15 and up. **No Limit.** Free.

Forest Bird Walk



10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Calvin and Coyle Trail
(Trailhead is at the end of Mariner Drive)

Join Kristine Sowl for an introduction into the world of songbirds. Meet at Calvin and Coyle Trail parking lot for a stroll through forest habitat as we listen for Homer's musical forest dwellers, building birding confidence and practicing your skills. Bring binos and dress for the weather. **Limit 20. \$5pp.**

Stencil a T-Shirt!



10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Outdoor Learning Space at the Carl E. Wynn Learning Center, Mile 1.5 E. Skyline Drive.

Stencil a shorebird T-shirt. Choose from five bird designs created by artist Lorri Davis. Simple instructions on stenciling techniques will be given. Children must be accompanied by an adult and younger children will need help from their adults. This event includes acrylic paint. Smocks will be available but, as we know, paint is not always confined to a smock, so old clothes are recommended. All supplies provided, including T-shirt. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder requirements.* **Sign up for a TIME SLOT when registering. Limit 7 students/class per 30 minutes; each class is 30 minutes. \$20ea. Kids ages 4-15.**

Kayak with Birds and Wildlife



10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2,
True North Kayak Adventures Office

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. description. **Limit 15. \$95pp, \$85 for kids under 12.**

Gull Island Tour and Hike to

Grewingk Glacier Lake



10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures,
between Coal Point Seafoods and Ramp 3 Parking lot

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. description. **Limit 12. \$95pp. Ages 5+.**

Insights after 14 Years of Kachemak Bay Shorebird Monitoring



11 a.m.-12 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Join George Matz, a local bird expert who has organized the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Monitoring Citizen Science Project, to learn what information has been found about the migration of shorebirds through the area. The long-term objective for this citizen science project is to attain a better understanding of the status of shorebird populations in Kachemak Bay as well as the intertidal areas of the Anchor and Kasilof Rivers, particularly during spring migration. Also, volunteer participation provides local birders with more opportunity to observe and enjoy shorebirds. Secondary objectives are: 1) to contribute information that might be useful to others assessing shorebird populations across the entire Pacific Flyway, and 2) to use the monitoring data to help protect shorebird populations and habitat on the western side of the Kenai Peninsula. **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Beluga Slough Bird Walk for Beginners



11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Beginning birders are invited to the 1-hour walk along the Beluga Slough Trail with Alaska Maritime NWR staff. Participants will discover the basics of birding including binocular use, bird songs, ID, behavior, keeping a list, and sharpening observation skills. **Limit 12. Registration required. Free**

Gulls and Glaciers



11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2,
True North Kayak Adventures Office

(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. description. **Limit 12. \$125 pp, \$115 kids 8-12.**

PHOTOGRAPHY TRACK



Shorebird Photography on the Anchor Point Beach

Wednesday, May 3, Friday, May 5
and Saturday, May 6 | 1-5 p.m.

Meet at Anchor River State Park
Rec Area, main parking lot

Instructor: Joey Hausler.

Registration required



Teen Birder Photography/Field Sketching Walk (Teen Birder Event)

Saturday, May 6 | 10-11 am

Meet at Pratt Museum and then
we'll head to their trails.

Instructor: Joey Hausler.

Registration required

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Adrian Lesak, a lifelong birder, is the Western U.S. Territory Account Manager for Birding and Nature Observation with Zeiss Optics. He will be sharing his knowledge of these high-performance optics and options to purchase.



SPRING SIGHTINGS

KACHEMAK BAY BIRDERS



Kachemak Bay is home not only to the spring shorebird migration, but also many other hard-to-find bird species as well. Early May brings the first warblers and swallows to Homer, along with sandhill cranes, Arctic and Aleutian terns, fork-tailed storm-petrels and puffins, both tufted and horned. Cormorants, common murres and black-legged kittiwakes can be found 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 and Beluga Lake. Find American three-toed and hairy woodpeckers in the spruce wood areas. The southside of Kachemak Bay's northern temperate coastal rainforest attracts different species from the drier north shore and boreal forest. Though not a shorebird, the bald eagle can be spotted frequently on shore and in the sky. Many of the 236 species of birds recorded for Kachemak Bay may be visible during Shorebird Festival weekend.

For a complete species list during the festival, just stop by the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center or visit kachemakbaybirders.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Junior Birder Discovery Lab

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room

All Junior Birders have the opportunity to explore this interactive in-person discovery lab at the AMNWR Visitor Center. Throughout the lab, participants can explore each station to learn about basic birding skills, birding tools, bird identification, local bird habitats and adaptations, play bird based games, accompany a birding expert for a short trail walk, and complete a bird craft. *This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder event requirements and guided walks. **No Limit. Registration is required. Free.**

Keeping the Hearts and Wings Beating Across the Pacific Flyway

12-1 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture is one of 25 Migratory Bird Joint Ventures in North America. Joint Ventures are cooperative, regional partnerships working to conserve habitat for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people. Join Dr. Laura Farwell from We will discuss the importance of Alaska coastal habitats to migratory birds across the Pacific Flyway, and how Pacific Birds works with partners throughout the region to ensure migratory birds and their habitats are safeguarded for future generations. **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Hummingbird Banding on the Kenai Peninsula

1-2 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Join U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist Todd Eskelin as he discusses hummingbird banding on the Kenai Peninsula. Which hummingbirds show up here, what do we know so far and are they in Alaska year round? **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Creatures of the Dock Tour

1-2:30 p.m. | CACS Yurt on Homer Spit near top of Ramp 2 nearest GPS address 4350 Homer Spit Road

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 at the entrance to Ramp 2, Homer Harbor, conveniently located 10 minutes from downtown Homer! **Limit 20. \$10pp. \$5 for kids 12 and under. Free for kids under 2.**

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour

1-4 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su-8 a.m., 1 p.m.)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$75pp.**

Shorebird Photography on the Anchor Point Beach

1-5 p.m. | Anchor River State Park Recreation Area, main parking lot, Dodge Dakota truck
(AVAILABLE: Wed/Fri/Sat/)

See Wednesday, 1 p.m. listing for event description. **Limit 4. \$100pp.**

Flow with the Birds: 1/2 Day Kayak Tour

1-5 p.m. | Check-in at St. Augustine Kayak and Tours, Ramp 3 Parking lot
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$95pp. Ages 5 and up.**

Lady of the Sea Adventures Charter and Overnight!

1 p.m.-10 a.m. NEXT DAY | Homer Harbor Ramp 3

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6. \$750pp.**

Canine Officers of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2-3:30 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium and outside

Join USFWS law enforcement officers (human and K-9) for a talk and demonstration for ages 16 and up (Junior and Teen event at 4:30 p.m.). What do wildlife officers use K-9s for and why? **Limit 60, ages 16 and up. Registration is required. Free.**

Meet Girdie the Crow with Bird TLC

2-3:30 p.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room

Come learn about crows and other corvids while also getting to meet Birdie, the very cute crow that lives with Bird TLC. This event is designated as a Junior Birder and Teen Birder event. *This event fulfills one of the Jr. Birder event requirements. **Limit 35. Registration is Required. Free.**

Kayaking into the Ancient Past

2-6 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 2 p.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$95pp. \$85 for kids 12 and under.**

Annual Bird Calling Contest 🎵

3:30-5 p.m. | Homer Brewing Co. 1411
Lake Shore Dr., Outdoors

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 3:30 p.m. and competition begins at 4 p.m.; awards and prizes given out at 5 p.m. Contact the Homer Brewing Co. at 907-235-3626 with questions. (Ages 21+ unless accompanied by a guardian) **No limit. Free.**

Why Band Birds:

Adventures of a Bird Bander ✓ 🦋

4-5 p.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room

Join USFWS biologist Kristine Sowl about her career as a bird bander on four national wildlife refuges. What can you learn about banding birds and the adventures along the way? **Limit 35. Registration is required. Free.**

Canine Officers of the U.S.

Fish & Wildlife Service ✓ 🦋

4:30-6 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium and outside

Join USFWS law enforcement officers (human and K-9) for a talk and demonstration just for Junior and Teen Birders. What do wildlife officers use K-9s for and why? Bring weather appropriate clothing. **Limit 60. Registration is required. Free.**

Meet Girdie the Crow with Bird TLC ✓

5-6 p.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room

Don't miss this Festival favorite. Drop in for a few minutes to have a unique opportunity to get the entire family up close and personal with a live bird. Presenters from Anchorage's Bird Treatment and Learning Center will introduce Girdie the American crow and discuss her history and natural behavior. **No Limit. Free.**

Bird Pottery /Painting

Art Workshop for Teens 🦋 🎵

5-8 p.m. | Homer Council on the Arts, 355 West Pioneer Ave.

Join local artists and other teens in creating your own ocarina. These bird-shaped clay flutes have a beautiful sound and have been used for thousands of years in ancient cultures to charm birds and people. Ages 12- 18. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder requirements.* **Limit 12. Registration is Required. \$35pp.**

Presentation by Featured Author

Julia Zarankin ✓ 🦋

5:15 p.m. | Homer High School Auditorium 600 E. Fairview Ave

"An Ode to Common Birds: On Cherishing What We've Got? **Limit 200. Registration is required. \$10pp.**

Family Viewing

at Airport Viewing Platform ✓ 🦋 🦋

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Airport Overlook

Beluga Lake has a wide variety of wildlife including moose, raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds and more. Be ready to find and identify what is there. Bring your binos and dress for the weather. **No limit. Free.**

Presentation by Keynote Speaker,

Diego Calderón-Franco ✓ 🦋

7 p.m. | Homer High School Auditorium 600 E. Fairview Ave

Film: Birding with FARC, followed by question and answer.

Diego Calderón-Franco was researching birds in a remote area of Colombia when he was kidnapped by FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, or The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). Now, years later, he's decided to return to meet former FARC members and hopefully find some meaning in what happened. **Limit 200. Registration is required. \$10pp.**



SUNDAY, MAY 7

High Tide: 3:48 a.m. 20.2' (7:48 a.m. 13.35')

Low Tide: 10:22 a.m. -3.6'

Morning at the Marsh ✓ 🦋

6:30-8 a.m. | Airport Viewing Platform

Beluga Lake has a wide variety of wildlife including moose, raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds and more. Our guides will help find and identify what is there. Some scopes and identification books will be provided, if you have your own, please bring your binos and dress for the weather. Guide for this event is Kristine Sowl. **No Limit. Free.**

Overlook Park Hike 🦋

7 a.m.-3 p.m. | AMNWR, meet in parking lot
(AVAILABLE F/Su)

See Friday, 7 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12. \$15pp (must be at least 12 years old).**

Lake Clark National Park Bear and Bird Viewing 🦋

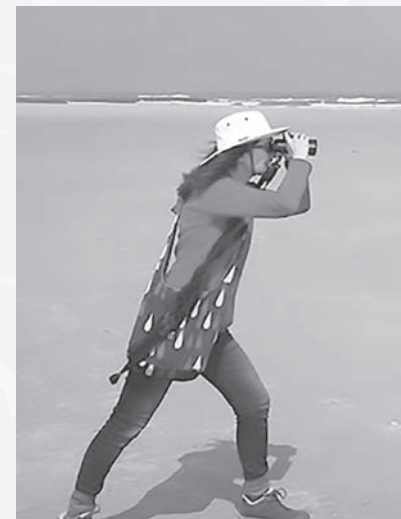
7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Anchor River State
Recreation Area, Lake Tractor Launch

(AVAILABLE: Wed/Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6. \$350pp.**

FEATURED AUTHOR

JULIA ZARANKIN



Julia Zarankin is a writer, birder, (occasional) birdsplainer, lecturer, and culture-tour-leader based in Toronto. She has many published books and has received many awards for her work. Her first book, *Field Notes from an Unintentional Birder*, is a Canadian bestseller.



Presentation by Featured Author Julia Zarankin ✓ 🦋

5:15 p.m. | Homer High School
Auditorium 600 E. Fairview Ave

"An Ode to Common Birds: On Cherishing What We've Got? **Limit 200. Registration is required. \$10pp.**



SHOUT OUT TO KARL STOLTZFUS

If you've attended a previous festival, it is likely that you've been onboard one of the Bay Excursions trips led by Karl Stoltzfus.

Karl has now retired from owning that business, but what he's shared with so many visitors and the local community of birders will stay with us and no doubt be passed on. Karl has been a life-long, Homer-grown birder who "set the tone" for the involvement of boat and tour operators in the Festival as well as serving on the planning committee.

Karl has also been an instrumental part of making the Gull Island Live Seabird Cam at Pratt Museum and Park a functioning treasure for our visitors for many years, taking the camera and technicians out in the spring and setting it up, and then collecting it for safe winter storage in the fall, as well as making special trips out for maintenance and repairs when needed. The Live Camera is a popular part of the permanent exhibit at the museum, and enables visitors to observe the real-time activities of nesting seabirds and their predators out on Kachemak Bay.

Thanks, Karl, for the trips out on the Bay: finding the birds, watching what they do, and learning about their lives and where they go when they're not here. Thank you also for speaking up for the birds and other wildlife, through the years, when their welfare or habitat is threatened.

Thanks, Karl, for having a smile for us birders and for answering all of our questions, dumb or not. Thanks for having the wonderful sign inside your boat's cabin: "They're ALL good birds." They are! And thanks for helping us to pass along our love of birding to the next generation.

We're all grateful to Karl for his generosity and dedication to sharing the wonders and daily lives of our avian community members.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Fins and Feathers Boat Tour

8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 12. \$75pp, \$50 for kids 12 and under.

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour

8-10 a.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su-8 a.m., 1 p.m.)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 12. \$75pp.

The Wise and Wonderful Journey

8-10 a.m. | 7:30 a.m. Check-in at Alan's Water Taxi,
Between Coal Point Seafood and Ramp 3 Parking lot
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 6. \$85pp.
Ages 5 and up.

Birders Coffee

9-10 a.m. | AMNWR Seminar Room

Join us for coffee and treats and learn about all the opportunities to get involved with the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges throughout our state. Gift with Membership will be available. **No Limit. Registration is required. Free.**

Meet Girdie the Crow from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center

9-10:30 a.m. | AMNWR

Don't miss this Festival favorite. Drop in for a few minutes to have a unique opportunity to get the entire family up close and personal with a live bird. The Educator from Anchorage's Bird Treatment and Learning Center will introduce Girdie the American crow and discuss her history and natural behavior. **No Limit. Registration is required. Free.**

Junior Birder Bird Figurine Painting

9-10:30 a.m. | AMNWR Lab

Join Ranger Kendra with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge during this fun and crafty workshop to learn about various local bird species. Try your hand at painting a bird figurine of your own. **This event fulfills one of the Junior Birder requirements.* **Limit 20. Registration is required. Free.**

Cookies and Coffee and Songbird Walkabout

9-11 a.m. | Seaside Farm
(AVAILABLE Th/Sun)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 30. \$30pp.
\$10 for kids under 12.

Diving with Alcids

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Jackson Maritime, Ramp 2
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 6. \$125pp. \$75 for kids 6-12.

Flow with the Birds: 1/2

Day Kayak Tour

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Check-in at St. Augustine
Kayak and Tours, between Coal Point
Seafoods and Ramp 3 Parking lot.
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 12. \$95pp. Ages 5 and up.

Anchor River Bird Walk

10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Meet in Anchor River
State Rec. Area Parking Lot

Discover the hottest birding spots along the Anchor River. Seabirds, songbirds, shorebirds, water birds, raptors and more! Join our experienced guides for a 3-mile walk along the cobble beach and Anchor River to its mouth. There's the potential to see rarities like bristle-thighed curlew, glaucous gulls or horned lark. More common are whimbrels, yellowlegs, scoters, loons, guillemots, mergansers, "peeps," harlequin ducks, and murrelets. Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots to walk in the sand. Dress in layers and take water and binoculars. **Limit 10. \$30pp.**

Teen Birder Fat Bike Ride to Swallows

10 a.m.-1 p.m. | All who register will be notified of the start location.

Adventure in birding! Join a naturalist on a fat bike ride from the boat yard to Fritz Creek at low tide. Explore the cliffs for swallow nests on the way! Free if you have your own bike, \$40 if you would like a Fat Bike provided. **Limit 10. (Scholarships are available)**

Kayak With Birds and Wildlife

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2,
True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. Limit 12. \$95pp, \$85 kids under 12.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Gulls and Glaciers

10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6.** \$125 pp. \$115 for kids under 12.

Gull Island Tour, with Hike to Grewingk Glacier Lake

10 a.m.-4 p.m. | 9:30 a.m. check-in at Kachemak Bay Adventures Office, Between Coal Pt. Seafoods and the Ramp 3 Parking lot.
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12.** \$95pp. Ages 5 and up.

Film: The Birders, with Keynote Diego Calderón-Franco

10:30-11:30 a.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Screening of film The Birders, followed by a question and answer session. **Limit 60.** Registration is required. Free.

Friendship Walk

11 a.m.-4 p.m. | Homer Harbor, Top of Ramp 2, Boat House Pavilion

Join the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park for a cruise across the Bay, breaking 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 lunch. Mako's Water Taxi, enclosed boat with open back access. No facilities. Proceeds benefit Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park. **Limit 15.** \$70pp.

Junior Birder Awards Ceremony

12:30-1 p.m. | AMNWR Auditorium

Join fellow Jr. Birders for the Jr. Birder Award Ceremony. Participants will get the opportunity to showcase the birding art, activities and photos they created throughout the festival. They will also be awarded for achieving their Jr. Birder level requirements. **No Limit.** Registration is required. Free.

Creatures of the Dock Tours

1-2:30 p.m. | CACS Yurt on the Spit
(AVAILABLE Sa/Su)

See Saturday, 1 p.m. listing for event description. **Limit 30.** \$10pp. \$5 for kids under 12. Kids under 2 free.

Beaks and Bills Boat Tour

1-3 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 3, M/V Seabird
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su-8 a.m., 1 p.m.)

See Thursday, 8 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12.** \$75pp.

Flow with the Birds: 1/2 Day Kayak Tour

1-5 p.m. | Check-in at St. Augustine Kayak and Tours, between Coal Point Seafoods and Ramp 3 Parking lot.
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12.** \$95pp, ages 5+

Lady of the Sea Adventures Charter & Overnight!

1 p.m. - 10 a.m. NEXT DAY | Homer Harbor Ramp 3

See Thursday, 10 a.m. listing for event description. **Limit 6.** \$750pp.

B.A.R.K. Ranger

2-3 p.m. | AMNWR

See Wednesday, 3 p.m. listing for event description. **Limit 12.** \$5pp

Kayaking into the Ancient Past

2-6 p.m. | Harbor Ramp 2, True North Kayak Adventures Office
(AVAILABLE Th/F/Sa/Su)

See Thursday, 9 a.m. listing for description. **Limit 12.** \$95pp. \$85 for kids 12 and under.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN



In 1993 a group of Homer residents got together, dreaming up an event to educate the public about the importance of shorebirds and their habitat. These early volunteers set our Festival in motion 30 years ago and we are grateful for the community support we receive for the Festival today.

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival would not be possible without the continued commitment and support of our wonderful volunteers. Over 80 dedicated folks come together to offer their time and expertise ensuring the success, longevity and spunk of this community Festival.




A big **THANK YOU** to each and every volunteer who has donated their time to manage our Viewing Stations, lead bird walks, count attendees, carry scopes, edit this program, create art pieces, offer their wisdom and everything in between.



BIRDS & TIDES



Photo by Sam Wilson

 Wednesday, May 3	 Thursday, May 4	 Friday, May 5	 Saturday, May 6	 Sunday, May 7
High Tide: 2:13 p.m. 16.5' (1:42 a.m. 17.4')	High Tide: 2:52 p.m. 17.4' (2:11 a.m. 18.5')	High Tide: 3:31 p.m. 17.9' (2:41 a.m. 19.4')	High Tide: 4:11 p.m. 18.1' (3:13 a.m. 20')	High Tide: 3:48 a.m. 20.2' (7:48 a.m. 13.35')
Low Tide: 8 a.m. -0.1'	Low Tide: 8:33 a.m. -1.4'	Low Tide: 9:07 a.m. -2.7'	Low Tide: 9:43 a.m. -3.4'	Low Tide: 10:22 a.m. -3.6'

Advice from a Bird: Be aware of the tides.

Tides in Alaska can be extreme at times. The best time to spot shorebirds is just after high tide. High tide signals roosting time for most shorebirds. With their feeding grounds flooded, the birds settle into tidal marsh areas, beaches, and along rocky shorelines. The high water deposits a new batch of pickings for the shorebirds twice a day. As the tide retreats, the saturated sand in the shallows becomes loose. The loose sand is easy for the birds to probe for fresh prey with their sensitive beaks. As the tide starts to move back out, so too will the birds, well rested and once again looking to feed. Now, instead of the birds being pushed towards you with the incoming tide, you are following them as they fan out along the beach.

Shorebirds typically have relatively longer legs to allow their bodies to remain dry as they wade. Their toes are also longer to provide a larger footprint. This helps to prevent them from sinking into the soft mud and sand where they hunt. Many have longer beaks allowing them to penetrate deeper into the floor in search of a tasty morsel.

The silt and mud of the shallow waters is where the birds wade and sift the bed for food. Mollusks, worms, invertebrates, and other crustaceans make up the shorebird's staple diet.

Pick your spot, get low, and move only when necessary. And be careful not to get so caught up in these wonderful birds that you forget where the water is. Be mindful as the water flows in and out; the last thing you want to do is get your camera wet.

Keep in mind, that as fun and rewarding as it is to capture a great photo or check off one of your top 5, the health and safety of the birds is paramount. Protect the birds and their homes, and they'll be around to visit for years to come.

MORE TO DO IN HOMER

Self-Guided Crane Art Walk Wednesday-Sunday, on your schedule.

Homer artists love cranes! Pick up a map and checklist of a walking/driving route to tour art that features cranes in paintings, prints, murals, and sculptures in and around Homer at the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges booth or at the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, the manager the 700-acre **Inspiration Ridge Preserve** for cranes. When you turn in your completed checklist to the Center (708 Smokey Bay Way), you'll receive a sticker and be entered into a drawing for a crane print by Homer artist Brittany Siekanic. Learn more about IRP here: akcoastalstudies.org/guided-tours/inspiration-ridge-preserve.html

Bear Creek Winery Tasting and Tours Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

We invite you to do a tasting and walk our beautiful gardens while enjoying the spectacular views of Kachemak Bay. Our new Glacier Bear Wines are Alaska's leading unblended fruit wine, receiving national and international acclaim for its unwavering loyalty to creating wines from Alaska grown fruit. These wines showcase the unique character of our rich and wild terrain with ingredients sourced entirely in Alaska soils. Don't forget to pick up a bottle of special label wine printed in honor of the Shorebird Festival.

Sip and Paint!

The Kannery: 451 Sterling Highway, Wednesday 1-3 p.m.

Start your Festival with a *Sip and Paint* at the Kannery! Come enjoy a scenic shoreline view while letting your creativity flow and enjoying the company of fellow birders! ALL supplies included. \$40/pp w/o cocktail, \$50/pp includes cocktail of your choice. No attendance limit. Registration required.

Festival Kick-Off

at the Pratt Museum and Park, 3779 Bartlett St. Friday 4-6 p.m.

Kick-off your Shorebird Festival weekend at the award-winning Pratt Museum and Park. Come on in to explore the cultures, science and art of the Kachemak Bay region. Tour museum exhibits, including academic and citizen science posters relating to our local seabirds, curated by Marilyn Sigman. Take a walk on our forest trails, enjoy our botanical and Homestead cabin and garden in a 10-acre park setting with picnic tables and lawn chairs. There will be refreshments on the porch. Don't miss the museum's Gull Island bird cam, the only live bird cam from the Kachemak Bay seabird rookery for gulls and puffins. The Pratt offers family-friendly programs, workshops and events. For more information, visit them on the web at prattmuseum.org. **No limit.**

Salmon Sisters Invitation

Flagship store: 1554 Spit Road; Fish Shop: 4501 Ice Dock Road

We'd love to have you visit us in Homer! Shop wild fish, provisions, gear: and local goods. Thank you for your support! **No limit.**

MAP KEY

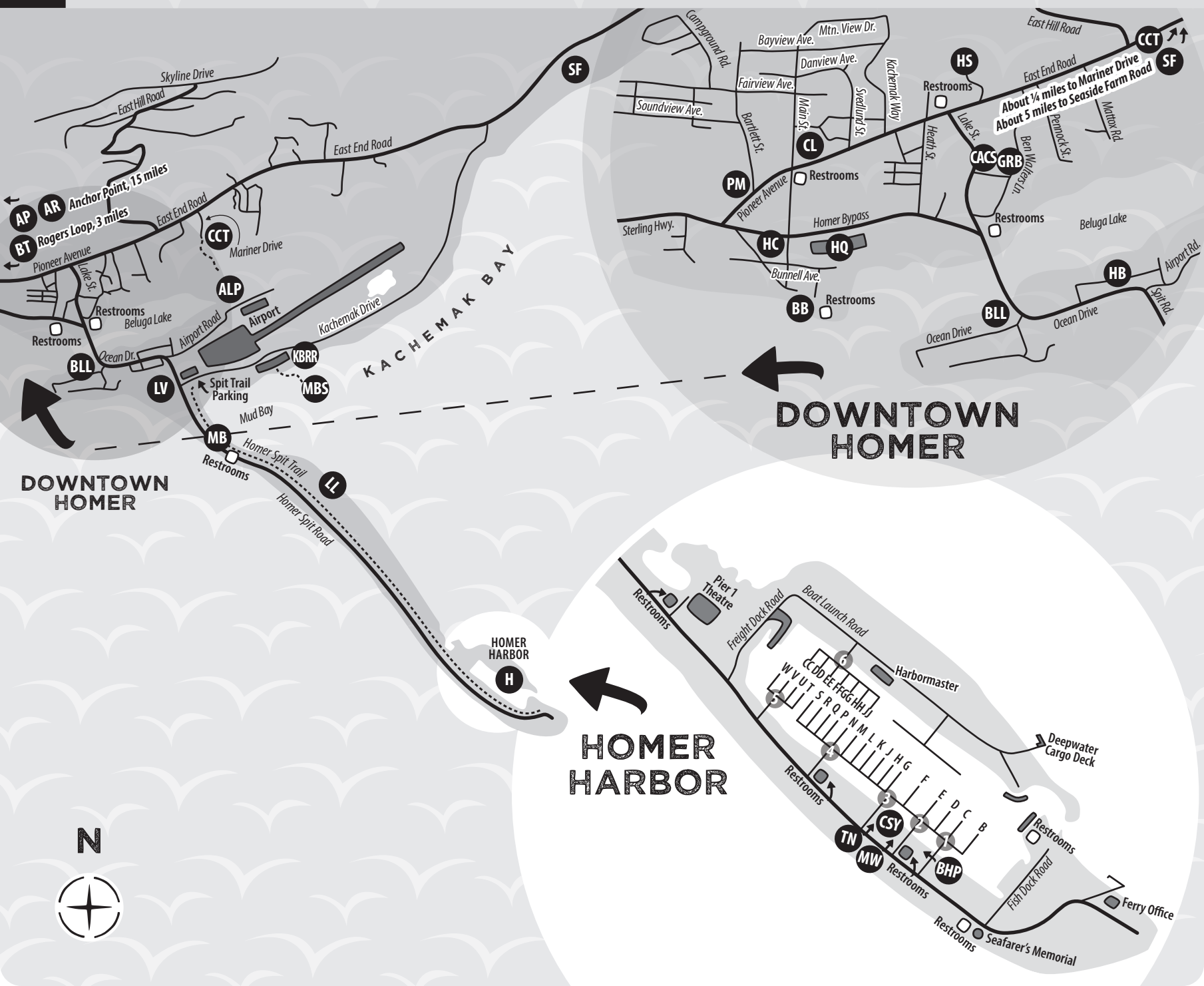
ALP Airport Lake Platform
AP Anchor Point Beach Parking
AR Anchor River State Rec. Area
BB Bishop's Beach
BHP Boat House Pavilion
BLL Beluga Lake Lodge

BT Baycrest Trail
CCT Calvin and Coyle Trail
CACS Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACS)
CL Cycle Logical
CSY CACS Yurt
GRB Grace Ridge Brewery

H Harbor (see detailed map)
HB Homer Brewing Co.
HC Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center
HQ Festival Headquarters: Alaska Maritime NWR Visitor Center
HS Homer High School/Mariner Theater

KBRR Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
LL Louie's Lagoon
LV Lighthouse Village (Shorebird Viewing Station)
MB Mud Bay (Shorebird Viewing Station)
MBS Mud Bay Spit

MW Mako's Water Taxi
PM Pratt Museum
SF Seaside Farms
TN True North Kayak



ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS, PRESENTERS AND GUIDES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER **Diego Calderón-Franco** is a biologist from Colombia who has been birding and leading tours for nearly 20 years. After finishing his undergrad studies on neotropical manakins and the systematics of Galliformes and Anseriformes, he focused on natural history, understanding Colombian geography through its birds, and learning more about behavior, distribution, and breeding of Colombia's rich avifauna. More than 10 years ago Diego founded COLOMBIA Birding, the first local bird watching company in his country offering birding trips in Colombia and beyond.

FEATURED AUTHOR **Julia Zarankin** is a writer, birder, (occasional) birdsplainer, lecturer, and culture-tour-leader based in Toronto. She has many published books and has received many awards for her work. Her first book, *Field Notes from an Unintentional Birder*, is a Canadian bestseller.

FESTIVAL ARTIST **Mattie Squire** is an author and artist with a Masters in Biology from Texas A&M and art training from VCU Communication Arts and Nature. Her favorite story-telling methods are illustrations and comics that combine fun, narrative, and sometimes scientific information. She would love to contribute her talents to making your scientific figure approachable to professional and public audiences and kids books that talk about everything from natural history to mythology stories. She is looking to write and illustrate her own graphic novels in the near future.

SCHANTZ SCHOLAR **Oscar Wilhelmy** discovered his love for birds when a yellow-throated warbler caught his eye at age 14. He found a home in the Ohio Young Birders Club—a bright light in a lonely childhood. He spent his late teens driving across the country in search of rare birds, and completed his goal of 700 species in the Lower 48 at age 18. He moved to the mountains to find himself in 2020, and founded the University of Montana Birding Club. Ultimately, this journey taught him that birding is not about competition, but community and a shared passion—a passion that tethered him back to life in times of darkness. Oscar is a ski lift operator and is pursuing degrees in psychology and counseling at the University of Montana in Missoula.

AARON LANG is co-owner of Wilderness Birding Adventures and Tour Leader. He has been birding since he was 11 years old and serves on the Alaska Bird Checklist Committee since 2009, the American Birding Association Checklist Committee 2015-2022, and the board of Audubon Alaska since 2019.

ADRIENNE MCGILL joined the Alaska Maritime NWR team in January 2023 as the Visitor Services Manager. Most of her career she has been leading diverse outdoor learning programs for all ages and is excited to assist with the Shorebird Festival.

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 13 years.

BETSY ROGERS is a Park Ranger for Alaska Maritime NWR. Her work with birds includes songbird and owl banding and wild bird rehabilitation. She has been connecting people to the natural world for 20 years.

CINDY MOM is the owner of Seldovia Nature Tours, where she guides natural history and birding tours. She has also worked as a seasonal seabird and shorebird biological technician and contributes to a variety of citizen science projects.

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.

DOUG WACKER is an Associate Professor of Animal Behavior at the University of Washington Bothell. He is currently on sabbatical studying raven vocal communication in collaboration with Dr. Falk Huettmann at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

GEORGE MATZ is an avid birder and serves on the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council, Homer Fish and 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.

INGRID HARRALD is currently the Education Coordinator for Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. She has worked as a seabird biologist in California and Alaska as well as an educator and YCC crew leader for the Alaska Maritime NWR.

JASON SODERGREN is an electrical engineer, birder and bird bander living in Homer. He is part of the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee.

JIM HERBERT is a 45+ year resident of the Kenai Peninsula. He is a retired mariner and fisherman who is active in the Homer community. As an active birder he especially enjoys visiting remote Alaska locations.

JOEY HAUSLER is a wildlife photographer, birder, and school counselor in Homer, Alaska. His photos have been published in the Living Bird magazine and his favorite local bird is the willow ptarmigan.

KENDRA BUSH is the Environmental Education Specialist for Alaska Maritime NWR, teaching students in grades pre-K through 12th. She is a member of the Shorebird Festival Planning Committee.

KRISTINE SOWL has been a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Alaska since 1992. She enjoys working with birds and sharing her knowledge with others.

DR. LAURA FARWELL is the Coastal Habitats Conservation Coordinator for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture and has over 15 years of experience in avian research and conservation.

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.

LIZ LABUNSKI is a Wildlife Biologist with the USFWS Migratory Bird Office in Anchorage, AK, and focuses on nearshore and at-sea distribution and abundance of marine birds.

LORA HALLER has worked as a park ranger since 2004, and leads families, adults, and students in outdoor programs. She is the Visitor Center Manager for the Alaska Maritime NWR Visitor Center.

MARTIN RENNER is a local and international bird expert who has resided in Homer for 20 years. Martin works as a marine data scientist for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at Kasitsna Bay Laboratory in Kachemak Bay. When he is not working, Martin is guiding on the southern oceans or calling through the local woods.

MELANIE DUFOUR is the Program Manager for Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and this is her 3rd year as Coordinator of the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

MELANIE SMITH is a Program Director at the National Audubon Society, where she led the development of the Bird Migration Explorer. She's a conservationist, scientist, cartographer, and lifelong birder.

MICHELLE MICHAUD is a local birder and member of the Kachemak Bay Birders. She is involved in the local shorebird monitoring project focusing on Anchor Point. She loves to bird locally, nationally, and internationally.

ROBB KALER is a Wildlife Biologist with the USFWS Migratory Bird Office in Anchorage, AK, and focuses on nearshore marine bird surveys and colonial nesting seabirds.

STEVE DELEHANTY is the Manager of the Alaska Maritime NWR.

TODD ESKELIN'S professional interest in birds began at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He then worked as the bander-in-charge at the fledgling Alaska Bird Observatory. After several temporary stints with the USFWS training banders and setting up and operating MAPS stations on the Alaska Peninsula, he eventually settled at the Kenai NWR in 2001 where he continues to work as a Wildlife Biologist.




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.

JUNIOR BIRDER PROGRAM

Junior Birder Program for ages 5-15

The Junior Birder program gets youth and families outside to learn birding basics. Attend family-friendly festival events and complete a personal birding journal. Both new and returning Junior Birders can register online or in person. Previous year journals and first year activity packets can be picked up at Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Activity packets, event schedules and requirement checklists can also be downloaded or printed from the Junior Birder website below. Look for this icon  for Junior Birder events!

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

- Junior Birder Discovery Lab
- Self-Guided Family Bird Search Walks on Local Trails
- Pre-K Puffins for ages 2-5
- Bird Scavenger Hunt Adventure

Go to our website for information about Junior Birder requirements: kachemakbayshorebird.org/JuniorBirder or contact Ranger Kendra at 907-226-4606.




Junior Birder Award Ceremony

12:30-1 p.m. Sunday, May 7 | AMNWR Auditorium

There will be opportunities to share pictures and drawings of Junior Birders adventures!

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve and UAA.

Teen Birder Events for ages 12-18

The festival is offering events specifically designed for teen birders ages 12-18. These events help to bring young enthusiastic birders together to celebrate birds through hikes, art, photography, and more. Look for this icon  next to an event to identify teen birder activities.



Swallow Box Building for Teens

4:30-6 p.m. Friday, May 5

AMNWR Seminar Room



Bird Pottery/Painting Art Workshop

5-8 p.m. Saturday, May 6

Homer Council on the Arts



Bird Photography Walk for Teens

10-11 a.m. Saturday, May 6

AMNWR, Pratt Museum



Fat Tire Bike Ride for Teens

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, May 7

Location TBD

SHOREBIRD CHECKLIST



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**

HOW TO REGISTER

IMPORTANT NOTES

- All participants are **required to register** for the Festival. **Many events and activities are included in the registration fee at no extra cost, but registration is required to participate due to capacity and allows us to contact you if there is additional information or changes made.**
- **Weather can change quickly.** Dress in layers; bring mud boots, binoculars, or a scope.
- Please leave your furry friends at home except for the B.A.R.K. Ranger event. The city of Homer has adopted a leash ordinance. Keep your pets and wildlife safe!
- All boat tours leave on time. Please be at the meeting location **30 minutes prior to departure time**. Refunds will not be issued if you are late for your boat.
- **Join Friends** of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges if you're not already a member. Friends is the lead coordinator of the festival and supports ALL 16 National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. As a member YOU will be making a difference and have volunteer opportunities across Alaska. Learn more at alaskarefugefriends.org.
- **Festival Headquarters** is in the **Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR) Visitor Center** (Islands & Ocean Visitor Center), **95 Sterling Highway**. This is where you can find the Festival Coordinator's office, many of the workshops and presentations, lots of volunteers, and answers to your questions in person or call 907-226-4631.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration will open **Monday, March 22 at 11 a.m. Alaska Standard Time (AKDT)**. Ways to register:

1. Online at: kachemakshorebird.org (quickest way to register)
2. By phone on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AKDT) by calling (907) 226-4631.*

** If we don't pick up, please leave a message. If you call outside these hours, your call will be returned during the next office hours.*

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

Festival Registration permits entry into events listed with the "included with registration" icon. Registration allows participants to reserve purchase/reserve tickets for events with limited space and/or an additional fee.

Print and bring a copy of your registration or have it on your cell phone to make it easy to attend an included program/activity.

The one-time Festival Registration fee is \$20. Participants may add up to five *immediate* family members to their Festival Registration for an additional \$5 per person.

Contact the Festival Coordinator for further information at kachemakshorebird@gmail.com.

REFUND/EXCHANGE POLICY

In an effort to be fair to both our participants and event sponsors, our updated Refund and Exchange Policy is:

- No refunds will be given for Registration or Processing Fees at any time.
- Refunds and exchanges on event ticket sales made before April 7 at 4:30 p.m. will receive a full refund less a 10% refund fee.
- Refunds and exchanges on event tickets sales made between April 8 and April 22 at 4:30 p.m. receive a 50% refund.
- No refunds after April 19—two weeks prior to the Festival.
- If an event is canceled by the Festival due to high-seas or other unforeseeable circumstances, participants will receive a full refund of event ticket costs.
- No-cost even exchanges may be issued where space permits until Tuesday, May 2, 12 p.m. AKDT.
- No-cost even exchanges may be issued where space permits until Tuesday, May 3, noon AKDT



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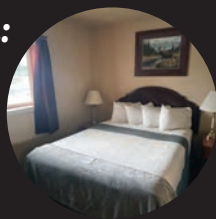
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