

Dear ABA Member,

As the Deepwater Horizon disaster continues to unfold, it is abundantly clear that the negative effects on the very birds that the ABA has pledged to protect and conserve will be catastrophic and of epic proportion. The ABA is equally troubled and concerned about all other wildlife and natural habitat that will be negatively impacted for years to come, as a result of this manmade disaster.

I am heading a response team on the ground today in Louisiana. We will be assessing habitat areas of gravest concern and meeting with local organization and community leaders to see how the ABA can best be of help. With well over 1000 members in the Gulf region, the ABA is uniquely positioned to aid in recovery efforts. Our members have the skills needed to help locate and identify impacted birds as well as nests. They understand the patterns of migration, territory and nesting behavior, and are keenly aware of abnormalities. The ABA has spent years honing the skills of our members through its publications and events. Today, your skills and help are needed more than ever before!

With your financial support, we can have a big impact. The ABA is collecting tax-deductible donations for its Gulf Coast fund, from which 95 cents of every dollar you donate will go directly to the cleanup efforts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The donation form can be found on our website at [www.aba.org/donate/gulf.php](http://www.aba.org/donate/gulf.php). Thank you for all of your help, and we hope to see you out in the field.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Robinson  
President & CEO  
American Birding Association

*Note: Any organizations interested in partnering with the ABA for this effort, please contact Rene Perea at 719-244-4541. Any individual interested in volunteering time and all media, please contact Melissa Rausch at 978-995-1177.*