



INFORMATION CONTACT
Melissa Rausch, COO
American Birding Association
4945 North 30th Street, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
719-579-9703 x237
mrausch@aba.org

For Immediate Release:

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION LEADS THE RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 15, 2010 – The mission statement of the American Birding Association (ABA), a national charity with 14,000 members, is to inspire all people to enjoy and protect wild birds. The Association represents birders, equipping them with the skills to identify birds.

ABA is uniquely qualified to respond to the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, and is standing at the fore of its stated mission.

Local members are “looking for birds showing signs of oil marks, distress, and whose migratory patterns have been disrupted,” said ABA President and CEO Robert G. Robinson.

ABA’s response team in Louisiana has received over \$21,000 in donations as of press time, and has distributed over \$7,000 to local bird conservation organizations monitoring affected wildlife. To date, these organizations include the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Program, Baton Rouge Audubon Society, and the LSU Bird Resource Center. Beyond the threat of oil contamination to individual species, the Gulf Coast is home to many global Important Bird Areas (IBA). The effects of the oil spill on these nesting sites and to food sources in the Gulf will be felt for years to come.

For additional information, contact: Melissa Rausch, American Birding Association, at 719-578-9703 x237 or mrausch@aba.org.

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