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For Immediate Release:

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION TO LEAD STRATEGY SESSIONS

Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 19, 2010 – The American Birding Association (ABA) continues to closely monitor the Deepwater Horizon Gulf leak since it was first reported 27 days ago. According to ABA President and CEO, Robert G. Robinson, "this catastrophe is of such a magnitude that unified efforts of private, public, and non-profit sectors are required to clean up and return this once pristine environment back to its original state."

In the early days of conservation, wildlife management, water, soil conservation, sustainable foresters, hunters, fisheries, and loggers all worked together to manage America's vast natural resources. The Association is leading strategy sessions with key environmental leaders in Washington D.C. in an effort to band environmental groups together to help the wildlife in the Gulf Coast area. It is our intent to get back to this former strategy of open communication & collaboration for the greater good of the areas affected by this tragedy as well as wildlife everywhere.

In addition to the D.C. initiative, to date the ABA has distributed 50% of its collected donations to help local organizations get a start on what is going to be a marathon of environmental cleanup and monitoring.

Several National Wildlife Refuges are in the immediate damage zone of the spill, including Breton NWR, Bayou Sauvage NWR, and Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR. The refuges have remained relatively undisturbed for many years. They are home to Sandhill Cranes, Brown Pelicans, more than 30 species of seabirds and shorebirds, and over 340 total species of birds that rely on the wetland areas, especially during spring and autumn migration. The entire Gulf Coast NWR Complex is at risk.

Robinson expressed equal concern about all wildlife affected, including the American Alligator, Redfish, Largemouth Bass, and the Gopher Tortoise.

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