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For Immediate Release:

## **ABA MAINTAINS UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE GULF COAST**

Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 16, 2010 – The American Birding Association (ABA) continues its campaign of leadership, activism, and fundraising in the U.S. Gulf Coast region. Drew Wheelan, the ABA’s Gulf Coast Conservation Coordinator, stationed at Grand Isle, La. since May 17, 2010, has risen to national prominence for his truthful, often disturbing, reporting on the British Petroleum (BP) oil spill, now in its 87th day.

Wheelan’s multimedia blog, [birding.typepad.com/gulf](http://birding.typepad.com/gulf), is widely regarded as one of the most credible sources of information regarding the effects of the oil spill on the Gulf Coast’s birdlife. Coverage includes impeccably documented ecological abuses by BP cleanup workers, persuasive objections to BP’s use of the deadly dispersant Corexit, and heartbreaking images of dead and dying wildlife. Wheelan’s blog also chronicles the heroism of the region’s birders, biologists, and activists.

Major media outlets have come to depend on Wheelan’s blog for its in-depth, often breaking, news reporting. Wheelan has recently been featured on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360°](#), [CBS Evening News](#), [ABC News](#), and [Rachel Maddow’s blog](#). “Drew’s blog gives us solid science, thorough coverage, and integrity,” says Ned Brinkley, seabird expert and Editor of the ABA’s quarterly journal *North American Birds*.

Meanwhile, the ABA continues to provide unrestricted grants to organizations involved in on-the-ground bird rescue and conservation in Louisiana and elsewhere. To-date donations have been disbursed to the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Program, the LSU Bird Resource Center, and Baton Rouge Audubon Society. The next disbursement will be to Conservian’s Coastal Bird Conservation program to help conduct monitoring efforts in Florida.

Please support these worthy organizations, which are doing bird rescue and conservation right now, by contributing to the [ABA’s Gulf Coast Conservation Initiative](#). Except for a very modest 5% overhead rate for managing the Initiative, all proceeds go directly to the Gulf Coast region. “The amazing 95% rate of direct funding to the Gulf is a testament to the ABA’s deep commitment to bird conservation,” notes Ted Floyd, Editor of the ABA’s *Birding* magazine. “Our only concern is to get financial and logistical help to beleaguered Gulf Coast communities as fast as possible,” adds David Hartley, the ABA’s Director of Communications.

To follow ABA’s Gulf Coast coverage and make a donation, visit [www.aba.org/gulf](http://www.aba.org/gulf).

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