



Seabirds gather as Walker Island West emerges from the water. © Moffatt & Nichol

Right in front of our eyes

The work of conservation is often a long game. From the beginning of an idea to project completion can take one, five or maybe even 20 years. On these long journeys, it is absolutely vital that we take a moment along the way to appreciate exactly what is happening.

The photo here is just one of those moments. This is the creation of an entirely new island, called Walker West. You can see the gulls and terns looking for meals on the brand-new shoreline. This new island will help protect expanding seagrass beds and provide additional bird habitat for the migratory, wading and shore birds that frequent the Perdido Islands.

In September, we officially cut the ribbon on Walker West, and the entire Perdido Islands project, which restored 26 acres of barrier island habitat using approximately 216,000 cubic yards of sand.

“We know that our revenue is generated from our natural resources, our ecosystems, and environment. What fool would destroy that?”

- Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon

This work is vitally important for both people and nature. In a typical year, more than 6 million people will visit the Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, and Fort Morgan area. They will spend \$6.7 billion dollars and support more than 55,000 jobs. These dollars and jobs are critical for Baldwin County, as well as all of Alabama, which depends on this revenue throughout the state.

Birds love the islands, too. On the last night of September 2024, in just one night, more than 10 million birds flew through Baldwin County skies during the fall migration. On a single night, that number might be as high as 30 million birds.

This is why the Perdido Islands project is so important, and it is why your support is crucial. Our team simply cannot do this work without

the support of donors across Alabama and the south. Thank you for your continued support of The Nature Conservancy in Alabama.



Clockwise, left to right: Prescribed burn © Keith Tassin/TNC; Yellow-crowned night heron © Hunter Nichols/TNC; Alabama Conservation Center © Ben Wegleitner/TNC

NATURE ALABAMA



Pitcher plant at Betty and Crawford Rainwater
Perdido River Preserve © TNC

A Year in Conservation

It was a landmark year of conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Alabama, with numerous successes, including:

- Completing our 25th year of prescribed fire in the state with more than 7,800 TNC-led acres burned, four fire crews, and 22 students in our annual fire academy.
- In September, The Nature Conservancy and the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation announced a partnership to dedicate and support the E.O. Wilson Land Between the Rivers Preserve in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.
- With the help of numerous generous supporters, we were able to retire the debt on the Alabama Conservation Center in Birmingham, ensuring our staff and partners will have a permanent place to gather to support conservation efforts in Alabama and across the South.
- Worked with partners to secure \$1 million for the state to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The funding will be used as a non-federal match to get another \$3 million of federal funding to spend on SWAP priorities.

You made the difference

In the past year more than 500 donors chose to support conservation in Alabama. Thank you.

The conservation community in Alabama is a strong one, and one we are grateful to be a part of. From the foothills of the Appalachians, through our network of freshwater streams and rivers, to our thriving coast, our team is working, with your support, to protect the human and natural communities that make Alabama the heart of biodiversity in North America.

We have so much more work ahead of us and are grateful to have you on this journey with us. To make a gift, please reach out to us directly at support.nature.org/Alabama, give.Alabama@TNC.org, or call us directly at 205-251-1155.



On a given night during fall and spring migration, as many as **10 million birds a night** will fly over south Alabama and the Perdido Islands.

Tourists will spend **\$6.7 billion**—supporting more than 55,000 jobs—visiting the Perdido Islands and the surrounding area in a year.



30 acres of subtidal, marsh, dune and upland habitat on Walker and Robinson islands were restored.

More than **4,000 seagrass sods** were transplanted as part of the Perdido Islands restoration project.



198,000 native plants will be installed across the Perdido Islands to stabilize habitats.