



Above: A male ruby-throated hummingbird performing its mating dance ritual. The hummingbird is one of the many species that migrate across the Gulf and through Alabama's beaches each year. © Frank N. Hornyak / TNC Photo Contest; Below: White Ibises take off in coastal Alabama. © Ami Vitale/TNC

Conservation Impact

Toward the end of August and through the early weeks of October, cars line up on I-65, Route 193 and Route 59, and head south. They head to the beaches and the islands and the parks, and they pull over. When they get there, they pull out their binoculars, their field guides and maybe a notebook.

Then they look and watch and wait for the departure. It is here along coastal Alabama that warblers and chickadees, tufted titmice and whip-poor-whills, swallows, kinglets, thrush and hundreds of other species fuel up before their migration across the Gulf. They rest and feast before their journey—some birds such as hummingbirds might double their body weight in preparation for the journey.

On any evening, but particularly in late

September, 10 million birds will fly through coastal Alabama each night. On some evenings, that number will climb as high as 30 million in one of the most awe-inspiring displays of nature one can see in a lifetime.



For the birds, coastal Alabama is an absolutely vital place to visit. The same can be said for those who come here in their cars, and for the people who live here.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the South has the country's most passionate birders. More than 34 percent of people in the South are interested in birding, compared with 24% in the Midwest. Those people also contribute massively to Alabama's economy, accounting for a \$734 million impact.

Our Work

The Nature Conservancy's imperative is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends so that people and nature thrive. The distinction between people and nature can seem unnecessary (aren't people also nature?), but it is also instructive.

Conservation matters so that the millions of birds that migrate through Alabama each year have a place to rest and fill up before and after their journey. Healthy lands and waters beget a healthy bird population, which in turn supports a thriving birding economy that our people depend on.

For birders, we must protect Alabama for the hundreds of species that live here either full or part time. For some civic leaders, we must protect our land and waters to economically support our communities. Both answers can be true.

Your Support, Your Impact

Every acre we protect and every river mile we restore begins with you. Your support is necessary to helping us protect Alabama's lands and waters. Birding is just one industry that benefits from a healthy natural environment. Each year, outdoor recreation contributes approximately \$7.5 billion to Alabama's economy.

Over the last year, with your support, we have been able to work with partners to dramatically benefit the place we call home. We have had tremendous impact, including:



11.4M
dollars

of state and federal funding
secured for coastal
restoration



4,640
seagrass pods

successfully
transplanted



495
oysters

live oysters salvaged at
Coffee Island project



1.59
acres

restored through Perdido
Island transplanting



50
miles

of river surveyed



14
acres

of riparian buffer planted



3,000
linear feet

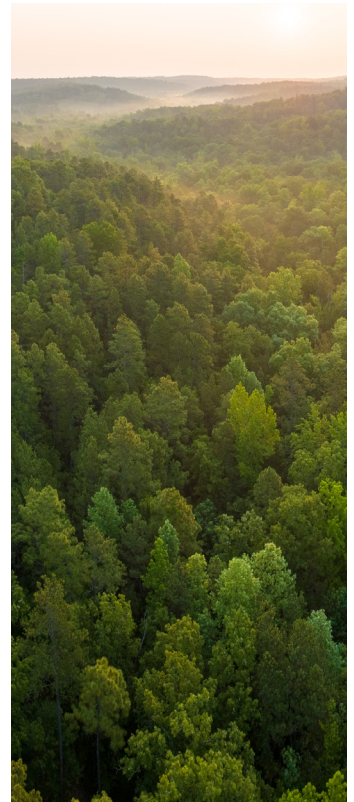
of streambank stabilized



10
miles

of river under improved
management

ALABAMA



Wheeler Mountain © Hunter Nichols/TNC

Ireland Opportunity Fund

We need your help today to replenish Ireland Opportunity Fund. In 2024, we used this fund to acquire more than 2,500 acres at three different locations—Blueberry Hill, Wheeler Mountain, and land in the Talladega Ranger District. These acquisitions are important—and expensive. Together they cost a little more than \$5 million.

The Ireland Opportunity Fund allows for quick turnaround on properties as they become available for conservation. With cash on hand, we are able to make a purchase before a property gets sold for development. We are grateful to the support we have received to date.

Our goal is to build that fund by \$5 million in 2025. If you can help, please reach out to us at Give.Alabama@tnc.org.