



## Bird study group to greet returning migratory birds

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FORT MORGAN -- Spring breakers are not the only visitors flocking to the coast -- so are the birds.

The HummeBird Study Group will be on hand at Fort Morgan State Historic Site April 6-20 to greet the migrating neo-tropical migratory birds as they return from wintering in Central and South America.

The HBSG, a volunteer group led by Bob Sargent, will set up their banding station at Fort Morgan where they will capture, retrieve, weigh, measure, band and release many of these winged travelers. The population levels, general health of the birds and effects of the weather on bird migration are also studied.

With many species of birds heading north, visitors can expect to see an abundance of beautiful birds.

"Come visit with us at Fort Morgan this spring," Sargent said. "There's beauty that will take your breath away. There are colors that only the Maker of Birds could have created. A visit to see these astonishingly beautiful creatures will alter forever how you think of birds."

Sargent and his crew of banders will begin checking nets at dawn and will close the nets mid-afternoon, depending on the activity of the birds. They invite guests to bring a folding chair and a camera to spend time with the volunteers and get answers to all the questions you care to ask.

As the banding session comes to a close, the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail Celebration gets under way. With the dedication of the trail on Friday, April 19, followed by a variety of activities planned for the entire weekend, April promises to be a month for the birds.

Visit [www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com](http://www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com) for the schedule of events for the celebration, or pick up a copy of it and the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail guide book at the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau Welcome Centers in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

For more information, contact the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau at 968-7511, 1-800-745-SAND or visit the Web site at <http://www.gulfshores.com>.

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