



# Peak bird migration has arrived in Alabama: An 'egg-sighting' season



BY ELLA WALTON · LAST UPDATED OCTOBER 31, 2025

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The Northern Flicker is one of Alabama's many birds. (Zachary Vaughan / Alabama Audubon)

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Autumn has fallen upon us, bringing with it 'beak' bird migration season. It seems we've waited 'owl' season to observe the movement of billions of birds through American airspace.

Keep reading to learn more about fall migration, tips for birders + more!

## A bird's-eye view of migration

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Nature lovers + birders of all ages are welcome at the Black Belt Birding Festival. (The Bama Buzz)

On the average fall night during peak migration season, [BirdCast](#) records about 400 million birds in flight above the United States, all flying at the same time.

To see how many birds are currently in flight above Alabama, you can check out this website showing [Alabama's live bird migration traffic](#).

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As birds in the U.S. make trips to either southern states or to the Carribean, Central America + South America, the best time to bird is between 8:00-10:00 a.m. - sunrise to mid-morning.

However, not all birds migrate at the same time. Waterfowl typically migrate earlier, while land-birds migrate later.



Check out these locations for optimal bird-watching:

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- Pine Beach Trail
  - Location: 1609 Mobile St, Gulf Shores, AL 36542
- Marbout's Bend
  - Buck Island Rd, Elkmont, AL 35620
- The University of Alabama Arboretum
  - 4801 Arboretum Way, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
- Demopolis River Walk
  - 130 Yacht Basin Dr, Demopolis, AL 36732
- Kreher Preserve & Nature Center
  - 2222 N College St, Auburn, AL 36830
- Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve
  - 1214 81st St S, Birmingham, AL 35206
- Historic Blakeley State Park
  - 34745 AL-225, Spanish Fort, AL 36527

## Shining light on a largely unrecognized threat to migration

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The Alabama Birding Trail consists of eight trails that highlight the best of Alabama’s bird habitats. (The Bama Buzz)

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As birds largely migrate under the cover of darkness, a threat to our friends in flight is the light pollution we produce. An estimated 365 – 988 million birds die by colliding with buildings annually.

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Here are some guideline



- Turn off non-essential lights from 11PM until 6AM during critical migration periods.
- Turn off or dim interior home lighting, or draw blinds to prevent light escaping.
- Be sure your outside lights are aimed downwards + well-shielded
- Install motion sensors on outside lights to minimize use
- Use warm light sources
- Turn off lights before you leave home or your office

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People can also purchase [subtle, inexpensive decals](#) to attach to their windows that will reduce the risk of bird collisions.

## A little birdie told us: Talking birding with an expert

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An advertisement banner for Skills for Success and ACCS Association Center. The banner is split into two main sections. The left section shows a man in a green shirt looking through a telescope on a tripod, with a woman in a red hard hat and safety vest in the background. The right section has a dark blue background with white text. It says "Skills for Success" with a logo of three vertical bars of increasing height. Below that, it says "Learn Fast. Work Smart." in a large font, followed by "Rapid training for in-demand jobs in Alabama." and a red "GET STARTED" button. The ACCS Association Center logo is in the bottom left corner of the banner.





There are now 280 official birding trails across the state. (Alabama Audubon)

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Barry Fleming, an Alabama birder, is a board member for the Alabama Audubon Society + leads groups on bird-watching trips.

In 1988, Fleming served as the first exhibition director at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University. Following his work with the museum, Fleming taught painting, drawing + ceramics classes at Auburn until 2022.

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Growing up, Fleming was exploring in Tennessee.



woods, fishing + branch when



something caught his eye: a gray bird with a white belly, big red eye + a black crown on its head, with long, white plumes.

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“The biggest act of resistance one can have is to educate yourself. So I thought, ‘I bet you they got a bird book down at the library.’”

~ Barry Fleming, a life member of the Alabama Ornithological Society

Once he checked out a bird book at Henderson Public Library, Fleming identified the bird as a Black-crowned Night Heron. It was from there that his fascination with birding grew – steadily improving his identification of birds in the field.

While studying bird books are an important aspect of birding, it’s important to supplement it with practical application.

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“People look in field guides, and they think you’re supposed to look at the head and memorize the patterns – and that’s a big part of it. But field experience can’t be beat, because you see them in the field, in 3D, and in relation to other things size-wise, and you start putting that stored memory in there ... It’s going to come up, and you’re going to say the name of the bird before you can even think about it.”

~ Barry Fleming, a life member of the Alabama Ornithological Society

The part that requires much practice, asserted Fleming, is the use of binoculars.

“It takes a while for it to become natural, like driving a car, where you don’t really think about where your hands are, but bird watching is the same thing with the tools.”

~ Barry Fleming, a life member of the Alabama Ornithological Society

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When birding, Fleming believes it’s important to notice the status + distribution of birds.

“How common are they and in what habitat? What are their needs? What do they call their home range or their ranges? ... They’ll often have field guides that show their summer range, their breeding range, their winter range.”

~ Barry Fleming, a life member of the Alabama Ornithological Society

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Fleming and other birders can use to track all the b



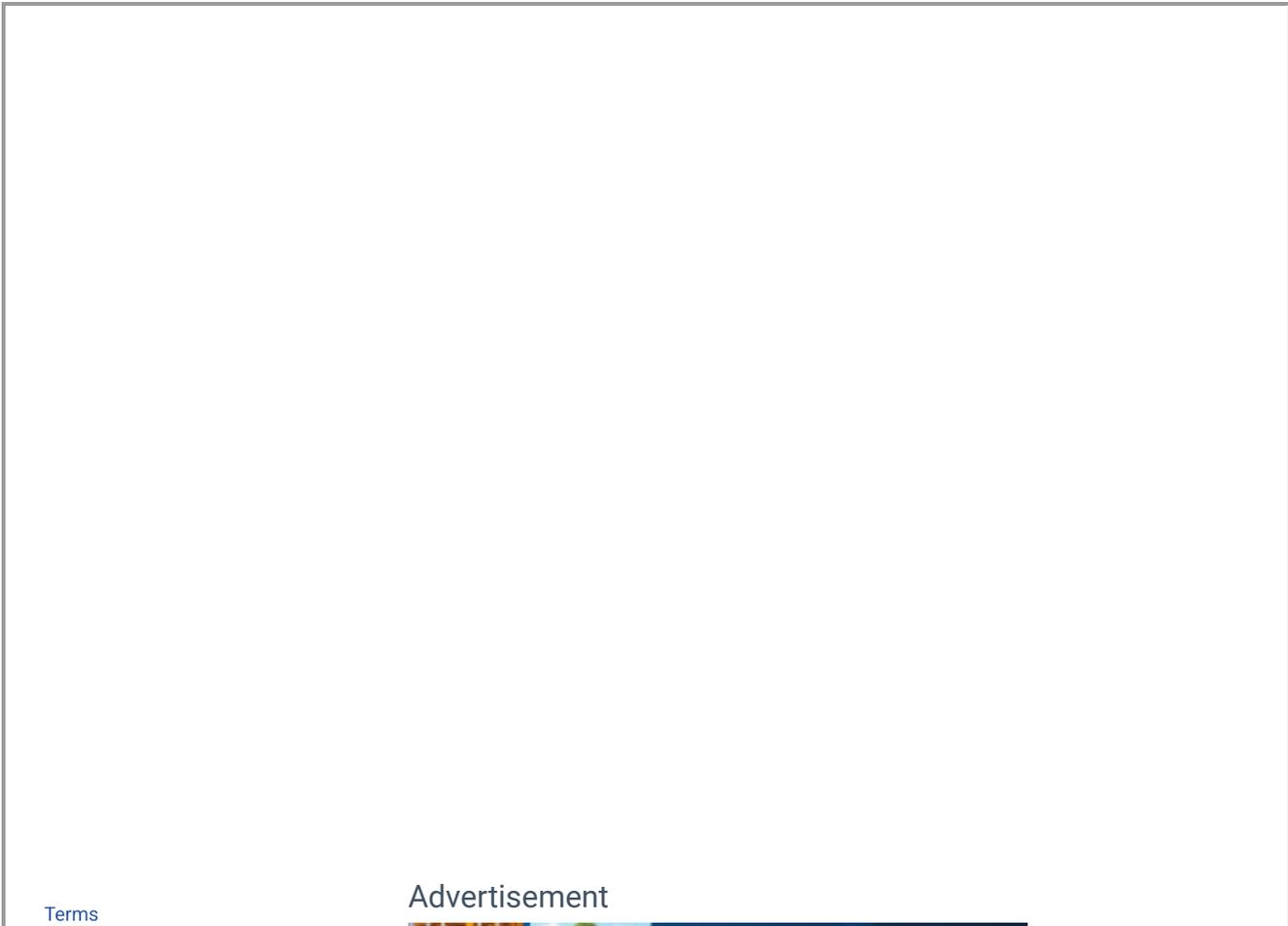
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Fleming also suggested watching an episode of the *Extraordinary Birder With Christian Cooper*, in which Cooper travels to Alabama to bird-watch – even making a trip to Auburn University’s Raptor Center to meet Independence, Auburn’s honorary War Eagle.



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# The Bama Buzz



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The advertisement features a dark blue background. On the left, there is a photograph of a man in a green shirt looking through a telescope mounted on a tripod. To the right of the photo, the text reads: "Learn Fast. Work Smart." in large white font, followed by "Rapid training for in-demand jobs in Alabama." in a smaller white font. At the bottom right, there is a red button with the text "GET STARTED" in white. In the top right corner of the ad, there is a logo for "Skills for Success" consisting of three vertical bars of increasing height. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "ACCS ASSOCIATION CENTER" with a red geometric design.

