



SAPELO ISLAND
National Estuarine Research Reserve

Shorebirds Conservation Teachers on the Estuary Workshop February 14-16, 2025

In October, 2017, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Hemispheric Council voted unanimously to approve the designation of the Georgia Barrier Islands as a **Landscape of Hemispheric Importance!**

Shorebirds... yet another chapter in the story of our everchanging planet. As temperatures rise, shorelines change, and habitats are lost in one location and gained in another, these winged globetrotters respond remarkably and adapt as they have throughout time. Unfortunately, their response to these changes is often interrupted by human interactions. Join biologists and birding experts from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Sapelo NERR for the Shorebirds Conservation Teacher Workshop to explore who these birds are, the integral role the estuarine habitat plays in their migratory pathway between feeding and breeding grounds, as well as the many conservation and management efforts in place to ensure their continued survival. With Georgia's estuarine habitat comprising nearly 400,000 acres of salt marsh, five major river systems, and a vast tidal range, we will- weather permitting- boat to one of our outer islands for winter shorebird observations and invertebrate sampling. We will venture out to pristine stretches of Sapelo's beach and marsh to observe feeding behaviors, and probe the sediments as the birds do to identify their food sources. You're sure to depart on Sunday with an appreciation for the estuarine habitat and for these birds, in addition to a tote bag of classroom resources to educate your students in becoming good stewards of the earth! The Georgia Shorebirds Conservation Workshop is open to actively teaching formal and non-formal educators of all grade levels. Participants should be in good physical condition and able to walk approx. 1m.

TOPICS INCLUDE: birding adaptations, migration, bird biology, shorebird conservation, the importance of estuaries to humans and wildlife, and the intricate connections it has with the ocean and climate systems

ACCOMODATIONS on Sapelo Island: dorm style facilities, central heat; transportation on Sapelo via open flatbed trucks with bench seating.

TIME: 5pm, Friday February 14, to Sunday February 16, 4:30pm

COST: \$265 includes meals, materials, island accommodations, & ferry fee

For questions please contact: Georgia Graves at georgiabeachwalk@hotmail.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS January 2, 2025



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REGISTRATION FORM
February 14-16, 2025

Shorebirds Conservation Teachers on the Estuary Workshop

Name:

Male: ____ Female: ____

E-mail Address:

School or Education Facility Name:

County: _____ State: _____

Grade Level(s):

Subject(s) Taught:

Home Mailing Address:

City and Zip Code:

Phone#:

Emergency Contact and Phone#:

Birding Experience: Beginner: _____ Intermediate: _____ Advanced: _____

**Make check for \$265 payable to: Friends of Sapelo and
mail along with your registration form to:**

Friends of Sapelo

P.O. Box 20453

St. Simons Island, GA 31522

ATTN: Shorebirds Teacher Workshop

Fee is due at the time of registration; payment confirms your reservation.

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Shorebirds Conservation Teachers on the Estuary Teacher Workshop Agenda Highlights

Friday, February 14

4:30: arrive at Meridian Dock for ferry ride to Sapelo Island

5:30: Ferry departs for Sapelo

6:30: Dinner and independent activity with Ken Leach—"Construct A Bird"

7:45: Introduction to shorebirds: Conservation, and Management strategies along the Georgia Coast with Tim Keyes, GADNR Wildlife Biologist

Saturday, February 15

Breakfast

8:00: Tim Keyes: The Freedom of Flight: Migration and Navigation lecture

Depart for boat excursion through the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Regional Habitat at the Altamaha Delta for an exploration of protected shorebird wintering and stopover sites

Lunch

Shorebird Sister Schools Program Curriculum Activities: "Shorebird Profiles", "What Can I Eat With This Beak?", and "A Shorebird Creation"

Afternoon low tide birding at Nannygoat sandy beach habitat to observe migratory shorebirds; we will also look at available food resources and how birds feed etc.

Free Time relax or build your bird

7pm Dinner

Tim Keyes: The Constraints of Flight: Anatomy and Physiology - Birds Inside and Out

Sunday, February 16

Breakfast

9:30 Shorebird Feeding Behaviors & Food Resources in the Estuarine Habitat, the "All You Can Eat Buffet" presentation with Georgia

The three key habitats that shorebirds rely on for feeding will be addressed: the sandy beach, mud flat, and rocky shore habitats, along with invertebrates specific to each habitat and limiting factors for their survival.

Lunch & pack up gear

1:30 load luggage and depart for SINERR lab for mud flat and "rocky shore" habitat sampling and invertebrate identification

3:15 Depart for Ferry

4:00 Ferry Departs for mainland, farewells and safe trips home!