

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!**

**CONTACT:**

**Caitlin Lenahan**, Festival Coordinator, 206-919-8061, [info@cordovachamber.com](mailto:info@cordovachamber.com)

**Cathy Renfeldt**, Cordova Chamber of Commerce, 907-424-7260, [executivedirector@cordovachamber.com](mailto:executivedirector@cordovachamber.com)

**Melissa Gabrielson**, Chugach National Forest, 907-424-4743, [melissalgabrielson@fs.fed.us](mailto:melissalgabrielson@fs.fed.us)

Website: [www.coppershorebird.com](http://www.coppershorebird.com)

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival:**  
*A Journey from Central & South America to the Coast of Alaska*

**Cordova, Alaska (February 20, 2018):** Nestled between the pristine Copper River Delta, the rich waters of Prince William Sound, and the Gulf of Alaska; the remote community of Cordova welcomes millions of shorebirds, raptors, sea birds, waterfowl, and songbirds as they make their grand migration each spring. The *Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival* brings together birders, nature-lovers, scientists, and adventurers of all ages for this iconic event. This year's Festival will occur on May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, and offers a unique and breath-taking perspective on one of nature's greatest spectacles.

Come experience the wonder of mass migration, as this year's festival speakers guide guests on a journey from Central & South America to the western reaches of coastal Alaska. Yenifer Díaz of Panama Audubon and Diana Eusse from Asociacion Calidris (Cali, Colombia) make the migration north to discuss the importance of wetlands along the Pacific Flyway as birds migrate north and south across continents, without concept of borders. From Alaska, hummingbird researcher Kate McLaughlin will discuss her work and discoveries from these small iconic migrants. Kristine Sowl joins the festival from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in western Alaska, where many shorebirds are headed after their integral stopover on the rich mudflats of the Copper River Delta. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Stephen Kress, Vice-President for Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society and Director of the Audubon Seabird Restoration Program as well as Hog Island Audubon Camp. Dr. Kress is the founder of Project Puffin, and manages nesting sites for over 43,000 colonial seabirds on the coast of Maine. He will share stories of seabird conservation and highlight lessons learned from puffins applicable to bird conservation worldwide.

Activities and fun abound throughout the festival weekend with guided viewing excursions, expert speakers, classes, workshops, and social events. Festival partners will also be offering events, such as the free kids' activities with the Prince William Sound Science Center. [\*Copper River Delta Birds by Hand\*](#), an exciting new addition to the festival by The Net Loft Traditional Handcrafts, invites makers of all kinds to craft their own bird and send it on a "migration" to Cordova to be displayed on exhibit during the festival. A Cocktail Hour Cruise with Major Marine Tours and a guided field trip to Alaganik Slough are also included in registration, though space is limited. Early Bird registration is open now until April 26 at [coppershorebird.com](http://coppershorebird.com) and includes most events of the weekend for only \$100/adult. Regular adult registration (after April 26) costs \$125, and student registration is \$15. For Cordova residents, there is also a local rate available through the Cordova Chamber of Commerce (907-424-7260).

For those visiting Cordova from other parts of Alaska and beyond, Alaska Airlines is offering a discount on flights using code ECMZ451. [Major Marine Tours](#) is also offering a round trip cruise through Prince William Sound from Whittier to Cordova, complete with on-board naturalist guides -- a beautiful start to an amazing weekend.

The Copper River Delta is the largest contiguous wetland on North America's Pacific Coast; and an integral part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, an international coalition and strategy to conserve shorebirds. The Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival is brought to you by the Cordova Chamber of Commerce, Chugach National Forest-Cordova Ranger District, Prince William Sound Science Center, and The Net Loft traditional handcrafts with support from the Eyak Corporation, BP Alaska, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Alaska Airlines, local volunteers, and numerous local businesses. For a complete festival schedule and information on events, visit [coppershorebird.com](http://coppershorebird.com) or contact the Cordova Chamber & Visitors Center at 907-424-7260, [www.cordovachamber.com](http://www.cordovachamber.com).

###