

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Discover the Magic of Migration at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival**

**CORDOVA AK, MARCH 13, 2019** - Join over 12 million shorebirds and migrate to Cordova, Alaska May 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> 2019. The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival celebrates the magic of migration with presenters and artists from the Pacific and Atlantic flyways and perspectives from three countries. Activities and fun abound throughout the festival weekend with guided viewing excursions, expert speakers, classes, workshops, and social events.

Pete Dunne, naturalist and birding storyteller, former Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory in New Jersey, and founder of the World Series of Birding will share tales of birding gone awry as keynote presenter. Cordova also welcomes Cesar Guerrero from Terra Peninsular in Baja California, Mexico who will share how our human connections to migratory birds transcends DNA. Denali National Park avian ecologist Emily Williams joins the festival to discuss the Park's long term study of Canada Jays (formerly known as Gray Jays), examining their resilience against climate change. Visiting artist Zack McLaughlin of Paper & Wood in London, England presents his incredibly detailed bird sculptures and welcomes attendees to join him for workshops. Along with this course, The Net Loft will also once again offer a selection of fiber arts workshops so attendees can bring home their own art from the festival.

This bird-centric weekend has something for everyone! Expert guides will be on hand for daily field trips to Alaganik Slough as well as high tide birding at Hartney Bay, and transportation to both areas is included with festival registration. Alaska Audubon will offer a chance to improve bird identification skills through a Shorebird Identification class and a Birders' Trivia Night. Photographers can hone skills in the Photographing Bird Life Workshop, a two-part class with biologist and photographer Milo Burcham. Rounding out the festival will be a variety of kid-friendly activities from the Prince William Sound Science Center.

Early Bird registration is open now until April 26 at [coppershorebird.com](http://coppershorebird.com) for only \$100/adult. Regular adult registration (after April 26) costs \$125, and student registration is \$25. For Cordova residents, there is also a local rate available through the Cordova Chamber of Commerce (907-424-7260). Alaska Airlines is offering a discount on flights using code ECMC368. Lazy Otter Charters of Whittier 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. Call (800) 587-6887 to reserve.

The Copper River Delta is the largest contiguous in-tact wetland on North America's Pacific Coast; and designated *of hemispheric importance* by 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, Camp Denali, Alaska Audubon, 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 at 907-424-7260, [www.cordovachamber.com](http://www.cordovachamber.com).

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