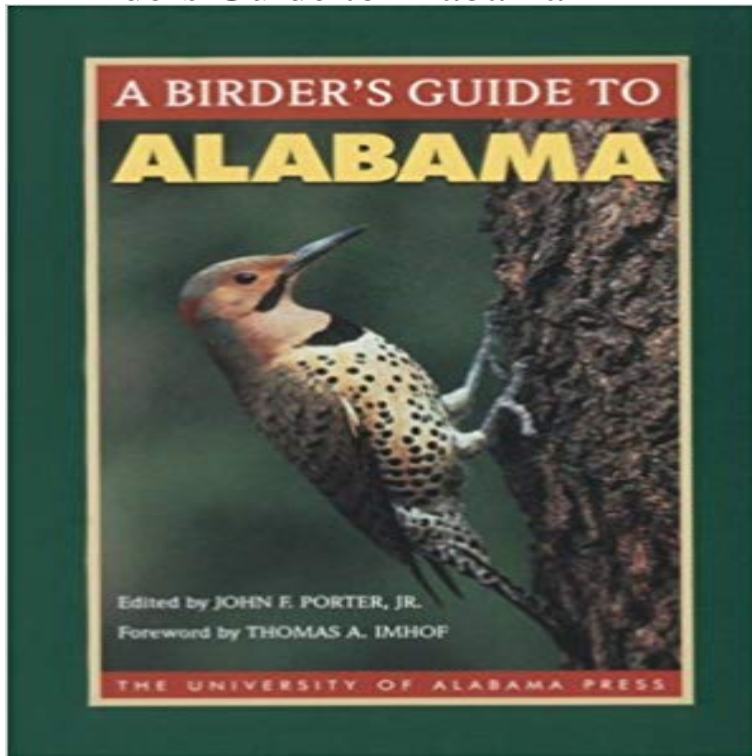


A Birders Guide to Alabama



This first birdfinding guide to Alabama will be an indispensable reference for the many birdwatchers and natural history enthusiasts living in or visiting the state. According to the National Audubon Society, more than 54 million Americans name birdwatching as a favored activity, making it one of the country's most popular hobbies. In locating sites productive for the viewing of a diversity of bird species and numbers, birdwatchers rely on location guides such as this one, written by local experts who know firsthand the terrain, seasonal profile, and makeup of bird species in their areas. Alabama plays host to a great number and variety of birds. The combination of its diverse natural habitats—from the Gulf coastline to Appalachian piedmont to the Tennessee River Valley—and its location in the eastern migratory flyway make it a wonderful place to observe birds in all seasons. Nearly 400 species have been positively identified in state records—almost half the total species recognized by the American Birding Association for the entire continental U.S. With the publication of *A Birders Guide to Alabama*, that amazing diversity has been made more accessible for the casual birder as well as the avid life-lister. A first of its kind for Alabama, this guide covers the best birding spots throughout the state, dividing them into four distinct geographic sections. Each section is covered by expert birders from that region and includes a general description of the area, access, the hot spots for viewing, the species expected to be seen and when, and details on the closest accommodations. The guide includes over 50 maps, as well as line drawings and photographs of different bird species. Spiral-bound for convenience in the field, it also offers helpful bar charts describing the frequency and distribution for all the bird species recognized for Alabama. This book will appeal to both

novices and experienced birders, hikers, outdoorspeople, eco-tourists, and anyone interested in Alabamas rich biodiversity. Whether one hopes to witness the breathtaking fall-out of exhausted spring migrants on Dauphin Island following a coastal storm front or to gaze in awe from behind a blind at the massing of winter waterfowl at Joe Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, the user of A Birders Guide to Alabama will find it a constantly referred-to source of information and a handy, practical field companion.

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