



Photo courtesy of Olivia Graves ©

Horned Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Status:	Winter resident
Abundance:	Common
When found:	November–April
Habitat:	Bays and the mouths of large bayou
Best locations:	Bangs Lake, Bayou Heron, Middle Bay

Notes: Rafts of Horned Grebes may instantly vanish as they dive simultaneously to round up prey. Though adept underwater, grebes are not masters of flight and are frequently taken by wintering Peregrine Falcons.

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PELECANIFORMS

American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

Status:	Winter resident
Abundance:	Common
When found:	Common October–March; a few individuals often stay through the summer
Habitat:	Bays, bayous, shell islands & bars
Best locations:	Grand Battures Washover

Notes: At low tide, American White Pelicans form a line and herd fish against the shoreline, where they scoop them up with their pouch-like bills.



“I teach Coastal Ornithology each summer to undergraduate students here at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. A highlight of this field class is the abundance and diversity of coastal birds seen at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Reserve.” Dr. John J. Dindo, Dauphin Island Sea Lab



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Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis

- Status: Permanent resident, nests elsewhere
Abundance: Common
When found: Year round
Habitat: Bays, bayous, shell islands & bars
Best locations: Grand Battures

Notes: These birds are commonly observed plunge-diving for fish along bayous and open water bays.

Magnificent Frigatebird

Fregata magnificens

- Status: Transient
Abundance: Uncommon
When found: April–October
Habitat: Mississippi Sound, bays
Best locations: Grand Battures,
Point aux Chenes Bay, Middle Bay



Photo courtesy of Jake Walker ©

Notes: Frigatebirds abound during the passage of tropical storms and hurricanes. Sometimes, strong southerly winds will bring them in off the Gulf.