



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

# Deer Island Discovery



**American Oystercatcher**  
(*Haematopus palliatus*)



**Scarlet Tanager**  
(*Piranga olivacea*)

The GCRL Marine Education Center's Deer Island Discovery program is available as a field trip for schools and community groups and clubs.

**Book your trip TODAY!**

[marine.education@usm.edu](mailto:marine.education@usm.edu)

**228.818.8833**

## Learn about the exciting history of Deer Island

Participants take a walking tour of the island and gain insight into the history of the coastal preserve, island restoration and coastal ornithology. Learn to identify shore birds, marsh birds and migrating species traveling the Mississippi Flyway.

### Trip consists of four hours of instruction

- Round-trip boat transportation to and from Deer Island
- Tour through marsh habitat
- Observation of resident marsh organisms
- Discussion of the importance of coastal preserves and activities to restore Deer Island
- Measurements of water quality
- Hiking on island focusing on ornithology
- Introduction to birding equipment
- Observation and identification of coastal bird species
- Cataloging bird sightings in The Cornell Lab of Ornithology via e-Bird
- Citizen-science role in scientific discovery

**Grades 5-12**  
and adult groups  
.....  
Prices start at  
**\$45 per participant**  
.....  
**Minimum group size:**  
**20 participants**



Deer Island is one of twenty coastal preserves in Mississippi. The island was purchased in 2002 for \$17 million dollars with both state and federal funds from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The integrity of the island is protected and included in the Coastal Preserves Program under the Wetlands Protection Act. Projects are underway to restore Deer Island since erosion and hurricanes have taken their toll. The island has a rich cultural history and features several Native American archaeological sites that date as early as 8,000 B.C.

*Pre-and post-trip lesson plans, as well as information regarding alignment with state and national science standards are available upon request. For questions regarding trip itineraries and lesson plans please contact us. To book a trip, call 228-818-8833 or e-mail us at [marine.education@usm.edu](mailto:marine.education@usm.edu)*

## GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

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