



# GSL GRUNT

Promoting Conservation in The Gulf

## Bird Flu on the Gulf:

Spring migration is here and birds are returning to the Gulf Coast. Could they be carriers of the 'bird flu' that has caused supermarket egg prices to sky-rocket? It's not impossible. In the state of Florida alone, wild birds with the flu (more specifically, highly pathogenic avian influenza strain H5N1) have included 7 species of waterfowl, 17 species of waterbirds, 8 species of raptors, and crows and grackles. What can you do? If you see a sick bird, use the GulfSeeLife app (*Report an Incident:Injured Animals:Choose Your State*) to get the contact information for someone who can help rescue it. You should not handle or transport sick or dead birds without professional advice. If you can snap a photo safely, please post observations of ill or dead birds or other animals to GulfSeeLife to add to our monitoring data base. Pets should not be permitted to contact sick or dead birds...dogs and cats have become infected with H5N1 this way! While the bird flu has not been a major health concern along our Gulf Coast so far, massive die-offs of wild animals have occurred elsewhere: tens of thousands of sea lions in South America, thousands of skuas, gannets and terns in the United Kingdom, and even foxes, bears, harbor seals and bottlenose dolphins have gotten ill from bird flu. So far the danger to humans has been small, but let's use GulfSeeLife to help keep an eye out for signs of problems along our Gulf coast. Stay safe!

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**Injured Animals**



ALABAMA



FLORIDA



LOUISIANA



MISSISSIPPI



TEXAS

## New Species Additions:

### PLANTS:

-BLACK ELDERBERRY

### INSECTS:

-EASTERN LUBBER  
GRASSHOPPER

### INVERTEBRATES:

-ATLANTIC PYGMY OCTOPUS  
-SHORTFIN SQUID  
-SEA URCHIN  
-BRITTLE STAR



**LAUGHING GULL**





## Most Popular Observation!

An Atlantic Pygmy Octopus was observed by Hannah Mullinax along the Florida coastline. This novel observation contributed valuable data to our understanding of local wildlife. The Atlantic Pygmy Octopus (*Octopus joubini*) is a small but fascinating species known for its intelligence and adaptability. It inhabits shallow coastal waters, hiding in shells, coral, and under rocks during the day. Despite its tiny size, this octopus has remarkable problem-solving abilities and uses color changes for camouflage and communication. Thanks, Hannah, for your valuable contribution to GulfSeeLife!



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## Celebrating Earth Day!

Take action! Clean up litter. Plant native plants in your garden. Explore your community and upload your observations of wildlife to GulfSeeLife. Be the change!

## Coming Soon!

GulfSeeLife will have new features just in time for summer. You'll get notified of new observations near you and of species that interest you, as well when someone comments on your post

JOIN US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA:  
@GULFSEELIFE



HANNAH MULLINAX

