

Dr. Mark Woodrey is a senior research associate biologist at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center and serves as the Research Coordinator at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Trained as an ornithologist, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi. As a trustee of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Avian Bird Work Group, Woodrey provides technical guidance for the development of natural resource damage assessments from the bird's perspective. He also serves as a technical member of the Marsh Bird Sub-Working Group to develop sampling protocols to evaluate the long-term ecological effects of the oil spill on ecology of secretive marsh birds. Currently, Dr. Woodrey is studying ecology of tidal marsh birds. His collaborative research efforts focus on human impacts on coastal habitats, the effects of global climate change on coastal plants and animals, ecosystem effects of mercury, and the role of terrestrial vertebrates in tidal marshes. Ultimately, Dr. Woodrey's goal is to better understand coastal ecosystems to allow natural resource managers to make more informed conservation decisions.