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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

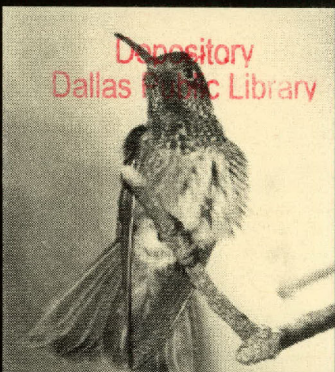
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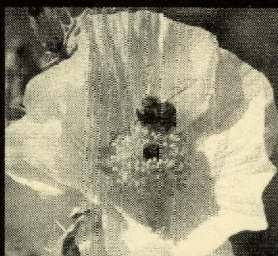
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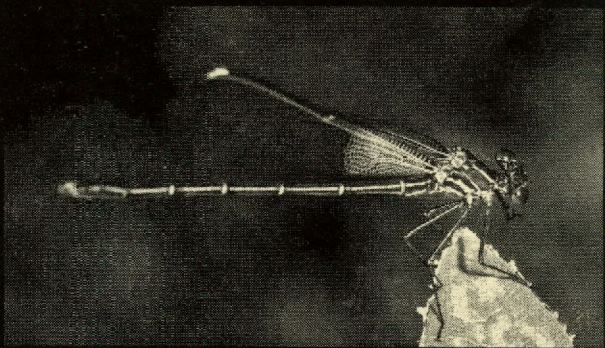
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ANNUAL
Birding & Nature
FESTIVALS
OF TEXAS



2009





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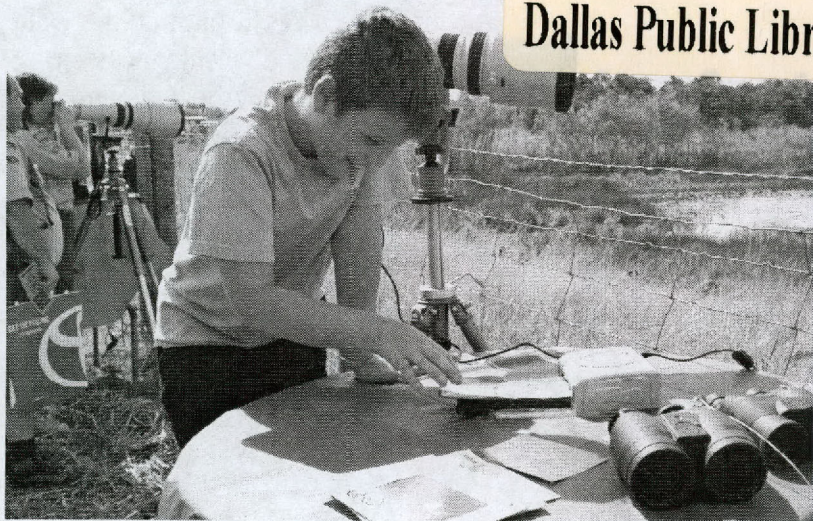
It is our pleasure to present a listing of the nature festivals that occur this year in Texas. Twenty-one festivals are listed.

Texas has something to offer for everyone interested in wildlife watching. Many of the festivals are hosted by local communities to salute the unique wildlife features of their region. Whether your interest lies in hummingbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, eagles or Whooping Cranes, you can find a festival to meet your interests in the Lone Star State. Both educational and entertaining, these festivals offer opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

There are fun opportunities for the whole family. Whether you are sitting in on a workshop, viewing birds on a field trip or visiting a vendor's booth, nature festivals offer relaxation and recreation.

Come to Texas and enjoy some of the great wildlife diversity of the Lone Star State!

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LAREDO BIRDING AND BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

February 5-7, 2009

Laredo

This festival is an opportunity to experience the Last Great Frontier. Join us for field trips and programs focused on the birds and butterflies of the Rio Grande Plain. Over 250 species of birds and 300 butterflies including 28 specialty species from Texas are featured. Private ranches not normally open to birders will be available.

Contact: Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau
(800) 361-3360

Web site: www.visitlaredo.com

EAGLE FEST

February 14-15, 2009

Emory

Recently proclaimed as the Eagle Capital of Texas, Rains County and the city of Emory host this event. Barge tours will be conducted on Lake Fork to search for Bald Eagles. Opportunities will also be provided to view other local birds and wildlife including rarities like the Smith's Longspur. Other activities include fine arts and crafts shows, birds of prey demonstrations and music throughout the festival.

Contact: Eagle Fest
P.O. Box 695, Emory, TX 75440
(903) 473-3913 or (800) 561-1182

Web site: www.eaglefest.org

E-mail: info@eaglefest.org



CELEBRATION OF WHOOPING CRANES & OTHER BIRDS

February 26 – March 1, 2009

Port Aransas

Celebrate birds – island style. Seminars, workshops, speakers. Boat tours include trips in bay and harbor, trips to view endangered Whooping Cranes, and nature boat excursions to watch special marine life. Guided tours of birding centers, wetland habitats, art exhibits, trade show and great food make this festival memorable.

Contact: Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce
421 Cotter, Port Aransas, TX 78373
(800) 45COAST

ANNUAL NATURE DAY CELEBRATION

February 28, 2009

Lake Jackson

This fun family event will offer a variety of educational programs and activities that introduce the wonders of nature and teach families how to be wise stewards of our natural resources.

Contact: Sea Center Texas
Connie Stolte
(979) 292-0100

JONES PARK NATURE FEST

March 7, 2009

Houston

Seminars by noted speakers, a book signing, field trips and live wildlife make this urban festival one to remember.

Contact: Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center
(281) 446-8588

GALVESTON ISLAND FEATHERFEST

April 2-5, 2009

Galveston

Timed to coincide with the annual spring migration, FeatherFest could see as many as 300 species as they travel through the area. Art, history and nature will all be combined in this visit to one of the premier birding locations in the United States.

Contact: Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council
Morton Voller
(409) 392-0841

Web site: www.galvestonfeatherfest.com

E-mail: vollernature@juno.com



ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN FESTIVAL

April 11, 2009

Attwater Prairie Chicken
National Wildlife Refuge

Located near the Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, Eagle Lake honors this unique and indigenous bird now on the verge of extinction. The highlight of this event is viewing the critically endangered Attwater's Prairie Chicken on their booming grounds. Wildlife viewing tours are available throughout the area.

Contact: Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR
P.O. Box 519, Eagle Lake, TX 77434
(979) 234-3021

15th ANNUAL MIGRATION CELEBRATION

April 17-19, 2009

Lake Jackson

This event will have info booths and exciting speakers, but the key to this festival is the birding field trips. Haven to over 350 species of birds, the area's diverse habitats include coastal prairie, hardwood forests and southern bayous along the Central Flyway. Field trips include tours to Brazoria, Big Boggy and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges, Peach Point Wildlife Management Area, five county parks and 20 miles of Gulf Coast beaches. Potential birds include migratory tanagers, warblers, buntings, hawks, waterfowl and shorebirds all returning from their winter in Latin America.

Contact: Friends of Brazoria Refuges
(979) 285-2501

Web site: <http://migrationcelebration.blogspot.com>

NATURE QUEST 2009

April 21-26, 2009

Concan

During Nature Quest you'll enjoy learning from world-class experts about native plants, wildflowers, butterflies, insects, birds and mammals through field trips, workshops, seminars and evening programs.

Contact: Texas Hill Country River Region
(800) 210-0380

Web site: www.thcrr.com

E-mail: info@thcrr.com

BALCONES SONGBIRD FESTIVAL – A CELEBRATION OF NATURE

April 24-27, 2009

Lago Vista

Located 35 miles northwest of Austin, Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge offers excellent habitat for two Texas endemic endangered birds — the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. The festival includes opportunities to view both of these species on birding walks as well as butterflies, wildflowers, reptile exhibits and family events.

Contact: Friends of Balcones Canyonlands
P.O. Box 4678, Lago Vista TX 78645
(512) 339-9432, ext. 0

Web site: www.friendsofbalcones.org

E-mail: friends@friendsofbalcones.org



16th ANNUAL BLUEBIRD FESTIVAL

April 25, 2009

Wills Point

Wills Point celebrates its birds with special educational and entertaining programs. Driving tours afford festival attendees access to hundreds of bluebirds and nesting boxes lining the roads into town. Arts and crafts, games and food and educational booths are set up throughout the brick-lined streets of downtown.

Contact: Wills Point Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 217, Wills Point, TX 75169
(903) 873-3111 (800) WPBLUBI

Web site: www.willspointbluebird.com

E-mail: mrbluebird@willspointbluebird.com

13th ANNUAL GREAT TEXAS BIRDING CLASSIC

April 26 – May 3, 2009

Texas Coast

This friendly but serious birding for conservation tournament is held each year to coincide with the spectacular spring migration. To date, \$651,000 has been contributed to direct habitat conservation through this event.

Contact: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory – Carol Jones
(979) 480-0999

Web site: www.birdingclassic.org

E-mail: cjones@gcbo.org

10th ANNUAL DRAGONFLY DAYS

May 21-24, 2009

Weslaco

Focusing on the diversity of these flying wonders found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, this event offers field trips, seminars and lots of opportunities to see birds, butterflies, and of course, dragonflies, in one of North America's most diverse regions.

Contact: Valley Nature Center, Weslaco, TX
(956) 969-2475

XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA

Saturdays in September, 9 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Lake Jackson

Hundreds of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make the migratory journey along the Texas coast and across the Gulf. Witness this with other hummingbird enthusiasts while enjoying related activities. Contact the observatory for more information.

Contact: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Lake Jackson, TX
(979) 480-0999

Web site: www.gcbo.org



HUMMER/BIRD CELEBRATION

September 17-20, 2009

Rockport

Over 14 speakers and programs, outdoor exhibits, a banding site, nature related vendor booths, Hummer Home visits, birding boat excursions, guided field trips and so much more highlight this annual festival along the Central Texas coast.

Contact: Rockport/Fulton Chamber of Commerce
404 Broadway, Rockport, TX 78382
(800) 242-0071

Web site: www.rockporthummingbird.com

E-mail: visitor@rockport.org

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE EXPO

October 3-4, 2009

Austin

Presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Expo gives visitors an opportunity to try and learn about a wide range of outdoor sports and pastimes including angling, rock climbing, mountain biking, camping, shooting and much more. The birding area offers information about birding in Texas. Whether you're an old hand or a new backyard birder, you'll love Expo's birding area.

Contact: Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744
(800) 792-1112

Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/

WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

October 5-11, 2009

Your favorite national wildlife refuge

Visit your favorite national wildlife refuge this week to learn more about your local natural heritage and what is being done to protect the wildlife around us.

14th ANNUAL TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

October 22-24, 2009

Mission

Join us in Mission, Texas as we celebrate the Valley's 280+ species of butterflies. Learn from internationally renowned speakers, explore the area's natural habitats on expert guided field trips. Other activities include the Butterfly Bonanza South Texas BBQ Dinner and the Nature and Butterfly Expo.

Contact: Greater Mission Chamber of Commerce
(800) 580-2700

Web site: www.texasbutterfly.com



WILD IN WILLACY

October 22-24, 2009

Raymondville & Port Mansfield

A four-day festival celebrating the natural bio-diversity of Willacy County, Texas, one of the four counties which make up the Rio Grande Valley. Birding field trips include airboat rides into the otherwise inaccessible sloughs of the Laguna Madre Bay, boating safari across the Laguna Madre to the northern tip of South Padre Island and access to private ranches. Special two-day free children's program featuring participation by USFWS, Gladys Porter Zoo and others. Other events feature butterflies, native Texas plants and history of the area.

Contact: Raymondville Chamber of Commerce
(888) 603-6994

Web site: www.wildinwillacy.com

E-mail: chamber@granderiver.net

16th ANNUAL RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL

November 9-15, 2009

Harlingen

Celebrate the wonder that is South Texas. This festival will focus on field trips, a trade show and special presentations by internationally renowned birders and authors of wildlife biology. Field trips offer glimpses of parrots, Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Altamira Oriole and Green Jay among many other birds found in this region.

Contact: Harlingen Chamber of Commerce
311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550
(800) 531-7346 (956) 423-5440

Web site: www.rgvbirdfest.com



SOUTH TEXAS WILDLIFE AND BIRDING FESTIVAL

November 19-22, 2009

Kingsville

The festival will include workshops and seminars, birding tours, vendors and exhibitors.

Contact: Kingsville Convention and Visitors Bureau
1501 N. Highway 77, Kingsville, TX 78363
(800) 333-5032

Web site: www.kingsvilletexas.com

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If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the Human Resources Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas, 78744, (512) 389-4808 (telephone), al.bingham@tpwd.state.tx.us (email). Alternatively, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.



4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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