

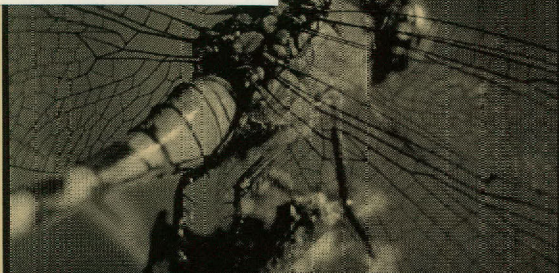
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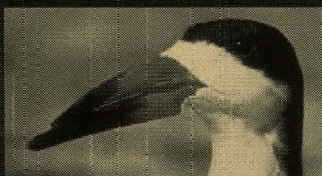
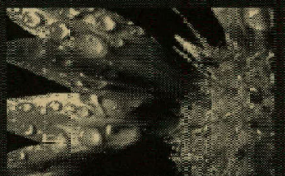
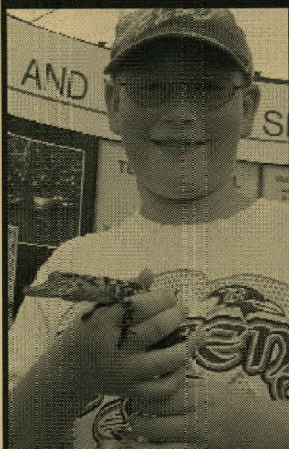
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ANNUAL  
**Birding & Nature**  
**FESTIVALS**  
OF TEXAS



2003  
2004





Once again it is our pleasure to present a listing of the nature festivals that occur this year in Texas. Twenty-six festivals are listed this year.

Texas has something to offer for everyone interested in wildlife watching. Many of the following 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. These festivals offer educational and entertaining ways to learn more about the great outdoors in Texas.

These activities 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.

Some real treats are found at these festivals, with some groups even seeing things not related to the event. Mission's Butterfly Festival included an opportunity to see Northern Jacana and a bobcat. Not to be out done, Harlingen's Rio Grande Valley Nature Festival had naturalists scrambling to see butterflies in nearby gardens. Rarities like the Green-breasted Mango, Golden-crowned Warbler or Costa's Hummingbird add to the excitement.

So come to Texas and enjoy some of the great wildlife diversity our state has to offer!

Government Publications  
Texas State Documents

NOV 04 2003

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## **BROWNSVILLE INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL**

July 23-27, 2003

Brownsville

Pelagic trips, Laguna Madre, thornscrub and butterfly trips, as well as a field trip into Mexico highlight this international event. The only Rio Grande festival to feature summer birding, the field trips offer Leache's Storm Petrel, Masked Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egrets, White-tailed Kites, Aplomado Falcon and Botteri's Sparrow. Daily seminars, a marketplace and evening activities round out the program.

**Contact:** David Lee, Brownsville Convention and Visitor's Bureau

**Web site:** [www.brownsville.org](http://www.brownsville.org)

**E-mail:** [dlee@brownsville.org](mailto:dlee@brownsville.org)

## **DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL**

August 15-18, 2003

Fort Davis

Plans for this year's festival include seminars, workshops, field trips of local birding sights and great hospitality as you look for as many as nine species of hummingbird seen in this area at this time. General birding and bird banding will also be featured.

**Contact:** Prude Ranch  
Box 1431, Fort Davis, TX 79734  
915-426-3202



## **XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA**

September 6, 2003

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

## **HUMMER/BIRD CELEBRATION**

September 11-14, 2003

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  
800-826-6441

**E-mail:** chamber@dbstech.com

## **BIRDS OF PREY FESTIVAL**

September 13-14, 2003

McKinney

Birds of prey programs by Heard Raptor Center of Texas, Texas Hawking Association and On the Wing Again. Flighted raptor programs by Last Chance Forever. Guided nature walks on the grounds of the Heard Nature Center. The Eagles Nest nature center will be available for children.

**Contact:** Heard Natural Science Museum  
972-562-5566

**Web site:** [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org)

## **A CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT**

September 25-28, 2003

Corpus Christi

At the peak of raptor migration at Hazel Bazemore Park in Corpus Christi, this event promises thousands of migrating birds of prey – a spectacle unmatched anywhere in the United States. The weekend includes live raptor programs, mini-talks on raptor identification and migration. Surveys of raptor roosting spots add opportunities to enhance your knowledge.

**Contact:** Joel Simon  
361-241-2617

**Web site:** [www.electrotex.com/AOC](http://www.electrotex.com/AOC)

**E-mail:** [jsimon@electrotex.com](mailto:jsimon@electrotex.com)



## TEXAS WILDLIFE EXPO

October 4-5, 2003

Austin

Presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Expo gives visitors an opportunity to try out 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 tours, workshops, the Junior Audubon Birdathon for youngsters and 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 Wildlife Expo  
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744  
800-792-1112

**Web site:** [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expo/)

## TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

October 16-19, 2003

Mission

Join us in Mission, Texas as we celebrate the Valley's 280+ species of butterflies. Learn from internationally renowned speakers, explore the areas 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](http://www.texasbutterfly.com)

## GRAPEVINE BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

October 18, 2003

Grapevine

Educational programs, activities and entertainment for all ages.

**Contact:** Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau  
817-410-3185

## BALMORHEA BIRDFEST

October 31 - November 2, 2003

Balmorhea

This festival offers birders the opportunity to explore private ranches and nearby Davis Mountains in search of Montezuma Quail, Mountain Chickadee and Crissal Thrasher as well as other desert, montane, water and wetland species of the Trans-Pecos region. Speakers will be well-known Texas birders who are experts on birds of the area. Evenings will find participants enjoying chuck wagon-style suppers. Sunday morning will provide a cowboy breakfast send-off.

**Contact:** Ellen Weinacht  
P.O. Box 21, Balmorhea, TX 79718  
915-375-2325

**E-mail:** [birdingbalmorhea@hotmail.com](mailto:birdingbalmorhea@hotmail.com)





## **10th ANNUAL RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL**

November 5-9, 2003

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.harlingen.com](http://www.harlingen.com)

## **SOUTH TEXAS WILDLIFE AND BIRDING FESTIVAL**

November 21-23, 2003

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](http://www.kingsvilletexas.com)

## **WILD IN WILLACY 2003 – A NATURE ODYSSEY**

TBA - Fall 2003

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 inaccessibly 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:** Elma Chavez  
956-689-3171

**E-mail:** chamber@vsta.com

## **EAGLE FEST**

February 14-15, 2004

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. Other activities include fine arts and crafts shows, birds of prey demonstrations, a night owl prowl and music throughout the festival.

**Contact:** Eagle Fest  
P.O. Box 695, Emory, TX 75440  
903-473-3913

**Web site:** [www.eaglefest.org](http://www.eaglefest.org)



## **NATURE CELEBRATION**

February 21, 2004

Lake Jackson

Nature Celebration will feature everything from snakes through fish to birds and gardening for wildlife with something for everyone, including special events for the kids.

**Contact:** Sea Center Texas  
Connie Stolte  
979-292-0100

## **CELEBRATION OF WHOOPING CRANES & OTHER BIRDS**

February 27-29, 2004

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

## TEXAS TROPICS NATURE FESTIVAL

March 25-28, 2004

McAllen

Chachalaca, Green and Ringed Kingfishers, Great Kiskadee, Long-billed Thrasher, Altamira Oriole, Green Jay and Olive Sparrow are just a few of the highlights from planned field trips to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park. Guided tours, seminars on cultural and natural history and migrating butterflies to boot! Great trade show.

**Contact:** Texas Tropics Nature Festival  
P.O. Box 790, McAllen, TX 78505  
877-MCALLEN

**Web site:** [www.mcallencvb.com](http://www.mcallencvb.com)

**E-mail:** [ttnf@mcallencvb.com](mailto:ttnf@mcallencvb.com)

## ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN FESTIVAL

April 10-11, 2004

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. Wildlife viewing tours are available throughout the area. Local artists display arts and crafts while information booths focus on natural history of the Coastal Prairie. Tours to the lake can be booked in February.

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



## 11th ANNUAL MIGRATION CELEBRATION

April 16-18, 2004

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:** Brazosport Convention and Visitors Council  
888-477-2505

## THE GREAT TEXAS BIRDING CLASSIC

April 17-25, 2004

Texas Coast

This week-long birding tournament has a \$50,000 first place Conservation Cash Grand Prize to benefit bird habitat protection; 400 species possible including Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and Green Kingfisher. Who will be birding's "top gun?"

**Contact:** Birding Classic, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744  
888-TX-BIRDS (892-4737) ext. 2

**Web site:** [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc/)

**E-mail:** [shelly.scroggs@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:shelly.scroggs@tpwd.state.tx.us)

## **NATURE QUEST 2004**

April 20-25, 2004

Concan

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country, the Texas River Regions offer great birding and outdoor opportunities. Excellent programs, guided field trips and great fun highlight this weekend. Some of the possibilities include Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo, Black Phoebe, Scott's Oriole. The area is also rich in butterfly life.

**Contact:** Texas Hill Country River Region  
800-210-0380

**Web site:** [www.thcrr.com](http://www.thcrr.com)

## **11th ANNUAL BLUEBIRD FESTIVAL**

April 24-25, 2004

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.flash.net/~junction/festival.htm](http://www.flash.net/~junction/festival.htm)



## **BIRDING IN THE BIG THICKET**

April 23-25, 2004

Kountze

A birding celebration with workshops on beginning birding, photographing birds, birding on the net and more. Tours offered to surrounding areas, Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, High Island, The Big Thicket. Children's workshop with hands on projects, workshops on field guides and binoculars.

**Contact:** Kountze Chamber of Commerce  
866-456-8689

**Web site:** [www.kountzecoc.org](http://www.kountzecoc.org)

## **GALVESTON FEATHERFEST**

TBA - April 2004

Galveston

A birding festival combining birding field trips and nature seminars with the art and history that makes Galveston Island one of the leading Texas destinations. Festival participants will enjoy excursions to a variety of the top birding spots in the country during spring migration, a time of year that the island abounds with 300+ species of birds.

**Contact:** Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council  
Renee Adame  
409-945-6302

**E-mail:** [radame@houston.rr.com](mailto:radame@houston.rr.com)

## 4th ANNUAL TEXAS SONGBIRD FESTIVAL

April 30 - May 2, 2004

Lago Vista

Located 35 miles northwest of Austin, the "Gateway to the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuges" 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 programs, a trade show and other events.

**Contact:** Lago Vista Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 4946, Lago Vista, TX 78645  
888-328-LAGO

**Web site:** [www.lagovista.org](http://www.lagovista.org)

**E-mail:** [info@lagovista.org](mailto:info@lagovista.org)

## 5th ANNUAL DRAGONFLY DAYS

May 14-16, 2004

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





# N O T E S



# NOTES

#### NOTICE

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