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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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REFERENCE

ANNUAL **Birding AND Nature**  
**FESTIVALS**  
OF TEXAS

Spring 2001 - 2002

Government Publications  
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The format of this new Annual Birding and Nature Festivals of Texas is testimony to the growing popularity of these events within the state – the 16 festivals in last years trifold has increased to 26 festivals this year. As wildlife watching grows as a hobby, so the popularity of these events focussing on nature tourism grows.

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, Sandhill Cranes or Whooping Cranes, you can find a festival to meet your interests in the Lone Star State. For both visitor and local folk alike, 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 enjoying origami at a craft table, nature festivals offer relaxation and recreation.

Last year the festivals offered some real treats, with some groups even seeing things not related to the festival. 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. And the Cranefest in Muleshoe had viewers stopping to observe some of our declining prairie dog populations.

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

## TEXAS TROPICS NATURE FESTIVAL

April 5-8, 2001

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  
1-877-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 6-8

Eagle Lake

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 area.

**Contact:** Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce  
408 East Main Street, Eagle Lake, TX 77434  
979-234-2780

## NATURE QUEST 2001

April 18-22, 2001

Concan

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country, the Texas River Regions offer great birding and outdoor opportunities. Excellent programs, guided fieldtrips 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  
1-800-210-0380

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

## 8th ANNUAL BLUEBIRD FESTIVAL

April 21, 2001

Wills Point

Home of more bluebirds than any other place in Texas, 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)

## TOTALLY TEXAS

April 21, 2001

Deer Park

The Totally Texas Festival will be hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department for the city of Deer Park April 20-22, 2001. This will be the 7th season for the Festival and we have many activities lined up for people to enjoy.

**Contact:** Charlie Sandberg 281-478-2050

## SPRING TURKEY STRUT

April 21-22, 2001

Clarendon

Home of a large population of Rio Grande Turkeys, Donley County's Turkey Festival features birding field trips, Turkey cook-off, music, golf, street dance and educational exhibits. Taylor Lakes Wildlife Refuge, Greenbelt Reservoir, and numerous private ranches provide viewing access to more than 300 species of birds. Local guides are available for close encounters, photo opportunities of strutting turkeys and other wildlife.

**Contact:** Clarendon Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 730, Clarendon, TX 79226  
800-579-4023

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

**Email:** [clarendon@arn.net](mailto:clarendon@arn.net)

## THE GREAT TEXAS BIRDING CLASSIC

April 20-29, 2001

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  
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744  
888-TX-BIRDS (892-4737)

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

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

## COLORADO VALLEY OUTDOOR WILDLIFE EXPO

April 28, 2001

LaGrange

Wide variety of outdoor programs including birding, habitat creation, bats, reptiles and more at the Fayette County Fairgrounds.

**Contact:** LaGrange Area Chamber of Commerce  
1-800 LAGRANG

## 8th ANNUAL MIGRATION CELEBRATION

May 3-6, 2001

Lake Jackson

This event will have a trade show 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:** Southern Brazoria County Visitor and Convention Bureau, 159 Brazosport Blvd., Clute, TX 77531  
800-938-4853

## 1st ANNUAL TEXAS SONGBIRD FESTIVAL

May 4-6, 2001

Lago Vista

Located 35 miles north west 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  
1-888-328- Lago

**E-mail:** rannis@quik.com





## **TEXAS AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL**

July 18-22, 2001

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:** Jim White, Brownsville Convention and Visitor's Bureau

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

## **DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL**

August 17-19, 2001

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 9 species of hummingbird seen in this area at this time. General birding and bird banding will also be featured.

**Contact:** Prude Ranch  
915-426-3202

## HUMMER/BIRD CELEBRATION

September 15-17, 2001

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 15, 2001

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  
976-562-5566

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



## A CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT

Sept 27-30, 2001

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  
361-241-2920  
**Web site:** [www.electrotex.com/AOC](http://www.electrotex.com/AOC)  
**E-mail:** [jsimon@electrotex.com](mailto:jsimon@electrotex.com)

## TEXAS WILDLIFE EXPO

October 6-7, 2001

Austin

Presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife, 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 19-21, 2001

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)

## FALCONFEST

October 27, 2001

Fairfield Lake SP, near Palestine

Live birds of prey demonstrations, tours of raptor habitat, and much more highlight this fall festival celebrating the return of winter raptors to one of central Texas' state parks. Bald Eagles and Osprey are frequent visitors along this lake nestled in beautiful hardwood forests and rolling hills.

**Contact:** Fairfield Lake State Park  
903-389-4514

## CRANEFEST

November 2-4, 2001

Muleshoe

Located in the Texas Panhandle not far from the New Mexico line, Muleshoe is the home of Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, and a winter stop for thousands of migrating Sandhill Cranes. Visitors will enjoy guided tours of the roosting lakes visited by the cranes as well as programs, arts and crafts and some great Texas hospitality.

**Contact:** Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture  
218 Main St., Muleshoe, TX  
806-272-4248

## WILD IN WILLACY 2001 – A NATURE ODYSSEY

November 8-11, 2001

Raymondville & Port Mansfield

A four day festival celebrating the natural bio-diversity of Willacy County, TX, 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 2 Day free Childrens program featuring participation by USFWS, Gladys Porter Zoo and others. Other events feature butterflies, native Texas plants and history of the area.

**Contact:** Monica Burdette  
956-689-3171

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

## **8th ANNUAL RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL**

November 14-18, 2001

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)

## **EAGLE AWARENESS WEEK**

December 1-9, 2001

Lake Buchanan

A celebration of the diverse natural and cultural history of the Texas Hill Country, this combined effort by Canyon of the Eagles, Vanishing Texas River Cruises and John Karger / Last Chance Forever offers birds of prey demonstrations, natural and cultural history demonstrations, cruises to see Bald Eagles in their winter habitat and lots of outdoor attractions.

**Contact:** Michelle Devaney  
1-800-4RIVER4

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

## EAGLE FEST

January 18-19, 2002

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 prowling and music throughout the festival.

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

## BIRDHOUSE DAY

February 2, 2002

Fairfield Lake SP near Palestine

Tenth year of this program involving kids in providing habitat for cavity nesting birds. Opportunities for children to build and erect their own birdhouses. Trail tours and birdhouse monitoring activities on long established trails.

**Contact:** Fairfield Lake State Park  
903-389-4514

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

February 22-24, 2002

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  
1-800-45COAST

## **BASTROP COUNTY NATURE FESTIVAL**

March 14-17, 2002

Bastrop

Come enjoy the natural beauty of Texas Lost Pines. Bird and butterfly field trips, speakers, workshops and more highlight this new festival in the heart of the endangered Houston Toad habitat.

**Contact:** Bastrop Chamber of Commerce  
927 Main Street, Bastrop, TX 78602  
512-321-2419



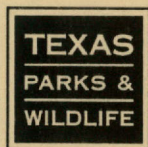


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