

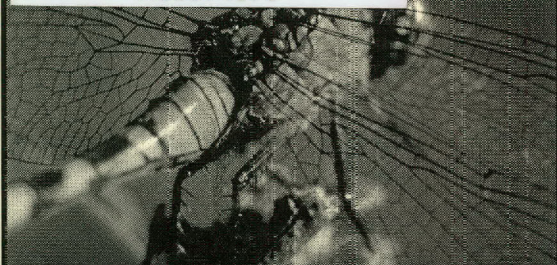
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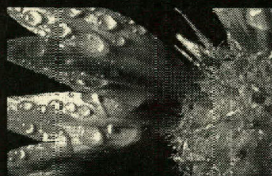
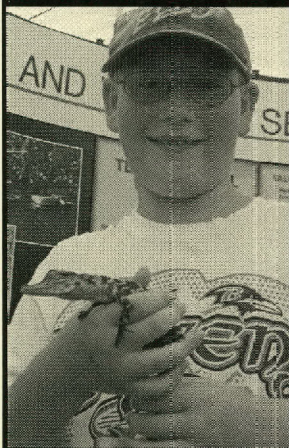


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ANNUAL

Birding & Nature FESTIVALS OF TEXAS



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Once again it is our pleasure to present a listing of the nature festivals that occur this year in Texas. Thirty-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 a great opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors.

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.

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



NATURE CELEBRATION

February 26, 2005

Lake Jackson

Nature Celebration will feature everything from snakes to 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

JONES PARK NATURE FEST

March 5, 2005

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
Jerry Walls
(281) 446-8588



TEXAS TROPICS NATURE FESTIVAL

March 31 - April 3, 2005

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

E-mail: ttnf@mcallencvb.com

GALVESTON ISLAND FEATHERFEST

March 31 – April 3, 2005

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 8-9, 2005

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

12th ANNUAL MIGRATION CELEBRATION

April 8-10, 2005

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



9th ANNUAL GREAT TEXAS BIRDING CLASSIC

April 16-24, 2005

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: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Carol Jones
(866) GTBCLAS

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

E-mail: cjones@gcbo.org

RED RIVER VALLEY BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

April 21-24, 2005

Hagerman NWR, Pottsboro

Field trips, seminars, workshops, demonstrations, children's activities and more highlight this first-time birding festival in North Texas. Come celebrate with us as we enjoy and discover the birds of north-central Texas. This hotspot offers Painted Buntings, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Yellow-billed Cuckoos while presenting the possibility of Warbling Vireo, Swainson's Hawk and over half a dozen different woodpeckers.

BIRDING IN THE BIG THICKET

April 22-24, 2005

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

12th ANNUAL BLUEBIRD FESTIVAL

April 23, 2005

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.bluebirdfestival.info/



NATURE QUEST 2005

April 26 – May 1, 2005

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

E-mail: info@thcrr.com

5th ANNUAL TEXAS SONGBIRD FESTIVAL

April 29 – May 1, 2005

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

E-mail: info@lagovista.org

SECOND ANNUAL BIRDFEST

April 29 – May 1, 2005

Chappell Hill

This new Central Texas festival features renowned speakers and birding field trips in the beautiful heart of Texas.

Contact: Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(888) BRENHAM

SPRING NATUREFEST

April 30, 2005

Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest
Nacogdoches

Celebrating the return of our migratory feathered friends, guided tours focus on birds, plants and trees. The day offers something for everyone.

Contact: (936) 569-7981

Web site: www.srs.fs.fed.us/wildlife/trail.htm
www.texasforestry.org

6th ANNUAL DRAGONFLY DAYS

May 12-15, 2005

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



BIG BEND NATURE FESTIVAL

August 12-14, 2005

Big Bend National Park

This nature festival will highlight the natural history of the Big Bend region with birding, reptile, mammal and other events. Through a series of field trips and lectures by noted naturalists, guests will come to appreciate this unique and rugged region.

Contact: (432) 447-2236

DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL

August 18-21, 2005

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

Contact: Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
(432) 364-2499

E-mail: manager@cdri.org

XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA

September 10, 2005

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 15-18, 2005

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

E-mail: visitor@rockport.org
www.Rockport-Fulton.org

A CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT

September 22-25, 2005

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



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE EXPO

October 1-2, 2005

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

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

REFUGE WEEK

October 1-9, 2005

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.

GRAPEVINE BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

October 15, 2005

Grapevine

Educational programs, activities and entertainment for all ages.

Contact: Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau
(817) 410-3185

TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

October 20-23, 2005

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 BOOTFEST

October 28-30, 2005

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

Web site: www.wildinwillacy.com

E-mail: chamber@granderiver.net



OUTDOOR NATURE FESTIVAL

TBA – October 2005

McKinney

An outdoor festival featuring live animals, vendor booths, outdoor music and programs sponsored by the Heard Natural Science Museum.

Contact: Heard Natural Science Museum
(972) 562-5566

Web site: www.heardmuseum.org

BALMORHEA BIRDFEST

November 3-6, 2005

Balmorhea

Explore large 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. Learn from speakers who are experts on local avifauna. Tasty hot breakfasts and elegant lunches are served daily at the venues while gourmet dinners are provided for all three days of the event. Additional tour to Nature Conservancy-owned Davis Mountains Preserve requires Wednesday check-in.

Contact: (231) 271-3738

E-mail: bobolink3@prodigy.net

12th ANNUAL RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL

November 9-13, 2005

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

SOUTH TEXAS WILDLIFE AND BIRDING FESTIVAL

November 18-20, 2005

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



EAGLE FEST

February 11-12, 2006

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 or (800) 561-1182

Web site: www.eaglefest.org

BROWNSVILLE INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL

February 16-19, 2006

Brownsville

Laguna Madre, thornscrub and butterfly trips highlight this international event. Daily seminars, a marketplace and evening activities round out the program.

Contact: Marcie Lasseigne, Brownsville Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Web site: www.brownsville.org

E-mail: mlasseigne@brownsville.org



CELEBRATION OF WHOOPING CRANES & OTHER BIRDS

February 24-26, 2006

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

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