

The City Nature Challenge is a global, city-scale urban biodiversity BioBlitz framed as a friendly competition between participating areas.



**Black Skimmer**, Scott Buckel, iNaturalist, CC-BY-NC



**Three-toed Box Turtle**, Riki Miller, iNaturalist, CC-BY-NC

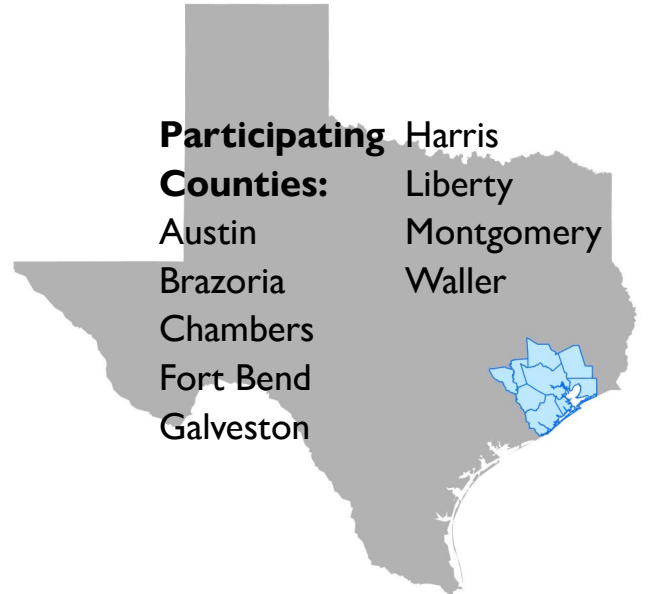
**Data collection**  
**Apr 28-May 1**

**Identifications**  
**May 2-7**

## By the numbers:

- 9 counties
- 41,986 observations
- More than 3,680 species recorded
- More than 1,240 observers
- 1,509 identifiers
- Over 94% of observations were verifiable

**Participating Counties:** Harris  
Liberty  
Austin  
Montgomery  
Brazoria  
Waller  
Chambers  
Fort Bend  
Galveston

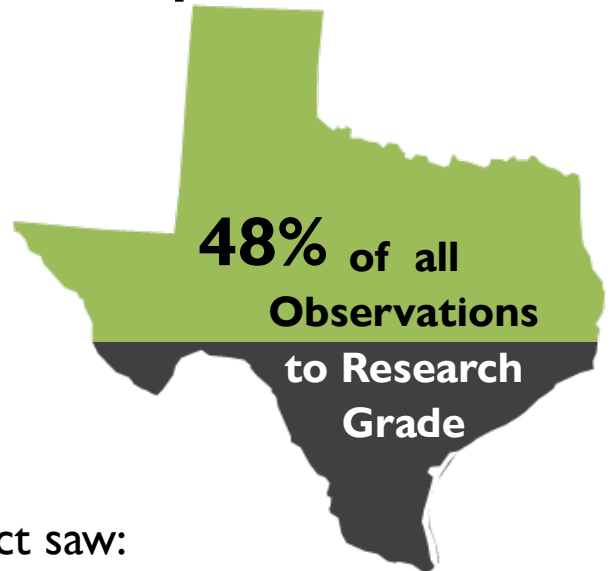


## Houston-Galveston Highlights

Globally, 482 cities from 46 countries participated in the 2023 City Nature Challenge. Houston-Galveston ranked **#5 for Observations**, **#5 for Species**, and **#6 for Observers** globally, placing it in the top 1% of projects globally.

## Cumulative Impact

**48% of the observations** recorded during the City Nature Challenge in the Houston-Galveston area were **Research Grade** - observations of wild organisms with photo or sound vouchers of a quality to merit a species-level identification by the majority of identifiers.



During the 4 days of the event, the project saw:

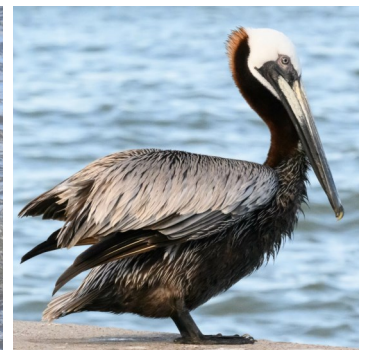
- 59 Species of Greatest Conservation Need at Research Grade (see list)
- 152 new species records in iNaturalist
- 4% increase in iNaturalist observations for the project counties
- Project page: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2023-houston-galveston>



**Tricolored Heron**, Allan Garvin, iNaturalist, CC-BY



**Bull Shark**, Cris Tobola, iNaturalist, CC-BY-NC



**Brown Pelican**, Scott Buckel, iNaturalist, CC-BY-NC



**City Nature  
Challenge**  
Texas 2023

# Houston-Galveston



## Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Recorded to Research Grade

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Alligator Gar, <i>Atractosteus spatula</i>                    | Northern Red Snapper, <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>        |
| American Bumble Bee, <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>              | Orchard Oriole, <i>Icterus spurius</i>                   |
| American Golden-Plover, <i>Pluvialis dominica</i>             | Painted Bunting, <i>Passerina ciris</i>                  |
| American Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>           | Pileated Woodpecker, <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>           |
| American White Pelican, <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>      | Piping Plover, <i>Charadrius melodus</i>                 |
| Bald Eagle, <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>                   | Prothonotary Warbler, <i>Protonotaria citrea</i>         |
| Black Skimmer, <i>Rynchops niger</i>                          | Reddish Egret, <i>Egretta rufescens</i>                  |
| Brown Pelican, <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>                  | Red-headed Woodpecker, <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> |
| Bull Shark, <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>                        | Red-shouldered Hawk, <i>Buteo lineatus</i>               |
| Common Blacktip Shark, <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>           | Saltmarsh Snake, <i>Nerodia clarkii</i>                  |
| Common Bottlenose Dolphin, <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>          | Sandbar Shark, <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>              |
| Common Box Turtle, <i>Terrapene carolina</i>                  | Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>    |
| Common Yellowthroat, <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>                | Snowy Egret, <i>Egretta thula</i>                        |
| Dickcissel, <i>Spiza americana</i>                            | Snowy Plover, <i>Charadrius nivosus</i>                  |
| Eastern Meadowlark, <i>Sturnella magna</i>                    | Southern Flounder, <i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i>       |
| Forster's Tern, <i>Sterna forsteri</i>                        | Spinner Shark, <i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>            |
| Franklin's Gull, <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>                  | Stilt Sandpiper, <i>Calidris himantopus</i>              |
| Green Heron, <i>Butorides virescens</i>                       | Summer Tanager, <i>Piranga rubra</i>                     |
| Green Sea Turtle, <i>Chelonia mydas</i>                       | Swainson's Hawk, <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>                  |
| Houston Burrowing Crayfish, <i>Fallicambarus houstonensis</i> | Swainson's Warbler, <i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>       |
| Indianola beaksedge, <i>Rhynchospora indianolensis</i>        | Swallow-tailed Kite, <i>Elanoides forficatus</i>         |
| Lark Sparrow, <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>                     | Swamp Rabbit, <i>Sylvilagus aquaticus</i>                |
| Least Bittern, <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>                       | Texas pinkroot, <i>Spigelia texana</i>                   |
| Least Tern, <i>Sternula antillarum</i>                        | Texas Prairie Dawn, <i>Hymenoxys texana</i>              |
| Little Blue Heron, <i>Egretta caerulea</i>                    | Tricolored Heron, <i>Egretta tricolor</i>                |
| Loggerhead Shrike, <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>                 | White-faced Ibis, <i>Plegadis chihi</i>                  |
| Mississippi Kite, <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>             | Wilson's Plover, <i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>              |
| Mottled Duck, <i>Anas fulvigula</i>                           | Wood Thrush, <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>                 |
| Northern Bobwhite, <i>Colinus virginianus</i>                 | Worm-eating Warbler, <i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>       |
| Northern Harrier, <i>Circus hudsonius</i>                     |  |