

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



Bailey's Ballmoss, @beschwar, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)



Pyrrhuloxia, @cdsanders, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)

**Data collection
Apr 25-28**

**Identifications
April 29-May 4**

By the numbers:

- 4 counties
- More than 8,930 observations
- 1,883 species recorded
- 230 observers
- More than 607 identifiers
- Over 92% of observations were verifiable

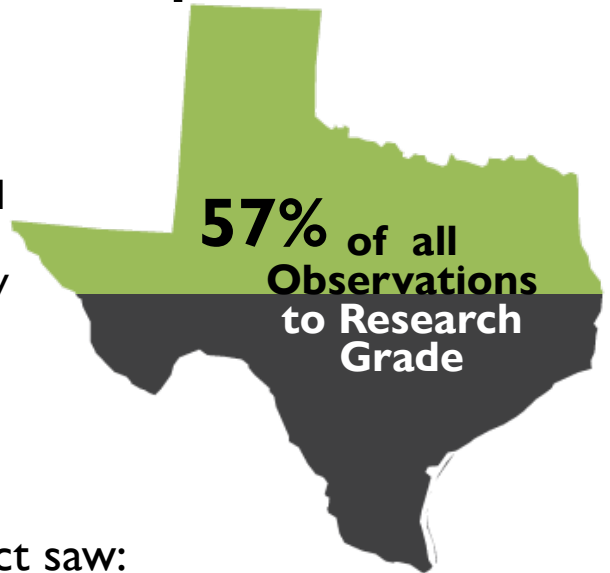


Lower Rio Grande Valley Highlights

Globally, 669 cities from 62 countries participated in the 2025 City Nature Challenge. Lower Rio Grande Valley ranked **#95 for Observations**, **#90 for Species**, and **#90 for Observers** globally, placing it in the top 13% of projects.

Cumulative Impact

57% of the observations recorded during the City Nature Challenge in the LRGV 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:

- 42 Species of Greatest Conservation Need at Research Grade (see list)
- 56 new species records in iNaturalist
- 1% increase in iNaturalist observations for the project counties
- Project page: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2025-lower-rio-grande-valley>



Texas Tortoise, @cgsanders, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)



Elf Owl, @aquilus_aquila, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)



Keelless Earless Lizard, @bcfl14, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)



Lower Rio Grande Valley



Species of Greatest Conservation Need Recorded to Research Grade

Alligator Gar, *Atractosteus spatula*
American Bumble Bee, *Bombus pensylvanicus*
Bailey's ballmoss, *Tillandsia baileyi*
Black Skimmer, *Rynchops niger*
Black-striped Snake, *Coniophanes imperialis*
Botteri's Sparrow, *Peucaea botterii*
Chuck-will's-widow, *Antrostomus carolinensis*
coastal stonecrop, *Lenophyllum texanum*
Common Bottlenose Dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*
Common Snook, *Centropomus undecimalis*
Elf Owl, *Micrathene whitneyi*
Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan*
Gray Hawk, *Buteo plagiatus*
Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*
Keelless Earless Lizard, *Holbrookia propinqua*
Least Tern, *Sternula antillarum*
Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*
Mottled Duck, *Anas fulvigula*
Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*
Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus*
Prostrate milkweed, *Asclepias prostrata*
Pyrrhuloxia, *Cardinalis sinuatus*
Red-crowned Amazon, *Amazona viridigenalis*
Reddish Egret, *Egretta rufescens*
Runyon's Water Willow, *Justicia runyonii*
Sand Brazoria, *Brazoria arenaria*
Sanderling, *Calidris alba*
Texas Horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma cornutum*
Texas Tortoise, *Gopherus berlandieri*
Vasey's Adelia, *Adelia vaseyi*
White-streaked Lichen Moth, *Cisthene conjuncta*
Willet, *Tringa semipalmata*
Wilson's Warbler, *Cardellina pusilla*
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*