

Rules for 2026 Great Texas Birding Classic Art Contest

No purchase necessary to enter or win.

1. Promotion Description

The 'Great Texas Birding Classic Art Contest' ("Promotion") begins on 1/5/2026 at 10:00 AM [Central Time (US & Canada)] and ends on 5/1/2026 at 5:00 PM [(Central Time (US & Canada) (the "Promotion Period")]. By participating in the Promotion, each entrant unconditionally accepts and agrees to comply with and abide by these Official Rules and the decisions of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), which shall be final and binding in all respects. TPWD is responsible for the collection, submission or processing of Entries and the overall administration of the art contest. Entrants should look solely to TPWD with any questions, comments or problems related to the Promotion.

2. Eligibility

Open to those who are 18 years or older residing in Texas. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. TPWD and its officers and employees, and members of their immediate families and/or persons living in the same household as such persons, are ineligible to enter the Promotion or win a prize.

3. Winner Selection

The winners of the Promotion will be selected from among all eligible Entries received throughout the Promotion Period. TPWD will evaluate the Entries under the following criteria: originality, artistic composition, technical quality, and whether the artwork showcases the species in a way that will work well for the event t-shirt and other promotional graphics (can be a natural or creative setting).

TPWD will select at least one winner in each of the following categories by June 13, 2026:

- **Single Species:** Single species from approved list (single bird)
- **Single Species Flock:** Single species from approved list (flock of 2 or more birds)
- **Multi-Species Flock:** Grouping of two or more species from approved list
- **Grand Prize:** Winner from one of the above three category winners

All winners, including the Grand Prize winner, will be announced at the 2026 Great Texas Birding Classic Awards Ceremony in San Antonio, Texas. TPWD's decisions are final. Odds of winning will vary depending on the number of eligible Entries received. The winners will be notified by phone or email no later than June 15, 2026.

Any winner notification not responded to within 48 hours may result in prize forfeiture, and an alternate winner may be selected under the criteria described herein. The potential prize winners may be required to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility and release of liability, and a Publicity Release (collectively "the Prize Claim Documents"). No substitution or transfer of a prize is permitted except by TPWD.

4. Prizes

Prizes for the three main categories (Single Species, Single Species Flock, and Multi-Species Flock) include recognition at the 2026 Birding Classic Awards Ceremony and a set of Great Texas Wildlife Trail maps, a Great Texas Birding Classic hat, and recognition on the Great Texas Birding Classic Facebook page.

A Grand Prize Winner will be determined from the three category winners. The Grand Prize is the selection and use of the winner's artwork as the featured artwork for the 2027 Great Texas Birding Classic. The artist will be recognized on Facebook, Instagram, and in a Birding Classic email to over 34,000 subscribers as the 2027 featured artist, and if the artist has a website for their artwork, the Great Texas Birding Classic will link to that website on Facebook and in the announcement email. The Grand Prize Winner's artwork will be the featured design for the 2027 official event t-shirt, social media graphics, email headers, and additional promotional materials for the event. The Grand Prize Winner will receive 24 official event t-shirts featuring their design.

Only one prize per person and per household will be awarded. Prizes cannot be transferred, redeemed for cash or substituted by winner. TPWD reserves the right in its sole and absolute discretion to award a substitute prize of equal or greater value if a prize described in these Official Rules is unavailable or cannot be awarded, in whole or in part, for any reason. The value of the prize represents TPWD's good faith determination. That determination is final and binding and cannot be appealed. If the actual value of the prize turns out to be less than the estimated value, the difference will not be awarded in cash. TPWD makes no representation or warranty concerning the appearance, safety or performance of any prize awarded. Restrictions, conditions, and limitations may apply. TPWD will not replace any lost, misdelivered, or stolen prize items.

Prize will be awarded and/or delivered by TPWD. TPWD is not responsible for lost or damaged items during delivery. All federal, state and/or local taxes, fees, and surcharges are the sole responsibility of the prize winner. Failure to comply with the Official Rules will result in forfeiture of the prize.

5. Entry Guidelines

Artwork must be flat (no 3D submissions), an original design, and created on paper, canvas, or digitally. No artificial intelligence (AI) tools may be used in creating the artwork. You may photograph or scan the artwork for submission, although a scan is preferred. If photographing the artwork, please keep it straight and fill the camera frame as much as possible. Artwork must be submitted in high resolution .JPG format and emailed directly to gtbc@tpwd.texas.gov with the subject line “2026 GTBC Artwork Contest.”

TPWD retains the right to use any submitted artwork (“Entries”) from the contest to promote the Great Texas Birding Classic, including but not limited to, on merchandise, the website, on social media, in publications, and through email communication.

Entry email must include the following information to complete entry:

- Full Name:
- Phone:
- Email:
- Address:
- Confirmation that the submission is artist’s original artwork:
- Medium used (optional):
- Hi-res .JPG of artwork

All artwork must feature one or more of the approved native species listed below.

- Blue Grosbeak
- Burrowing Owl
- Cerulean Warbler
- Chuck-will’s-widow
- Chimney Swift
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Lucifer Hummingbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Painted Bunting
- Plain Chachalaca
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Entries will be included in one of the following three prize categories:

- **Single Species:** Single species from approved bird list (single bird)
- **Single Species Flock:** Single species from approved bird list (flock of 2 or more of the same bird species)
- **Multi-Species Flock:** Grouping of two or more different species from approved bird list

Ensure your submission fits the needs of how the artwork will be used. The main use for the artwork will be for a t-shirt design, but we will also use winning artwork for other formats (social media graphics, email banners, possible stickers, and more). You must take the final way the artwork will be used into account as you compose your subject(s). Selected artwork may be cropped or edited by TPWD for size constraints in some formats needed for final promotional products.

Do not add words, numbers, or other text to the final artwork submitted. Only submit your final bird artwork and any background you created. Since artwork is utilized for a variety of formats, we need the clean final image of the artwork only. TPWD will add words, tournament name, year, etc. to selected artwork.

Artwork can be done in any style: single color, full color, realistic and traditional, modern and abstract, or contemporary and thematic. Historically the Great Texas Birding Classic has showcased a wide variety of art styles, single birds or flocks, multiple different species of bird, or a single species. We welcome a wide variety of artistic interpretations of these wonderful natural subjects.

No AI generated artwork allowed. All entries must be the entrant's original artwork. Tracings, computer-generated artwork, and assistance by others are not allowed. Any attempt by an entrant to submit work that is not their own original artwork will void that entrant's Entries and that entrant may be disqualified. Final eligibility for the award of any prize is subject to eligibility verification as set forth below. All Entries must be posted by the end of the Promotion Period in order to participate. TPWD's database clock will be the official time keeper for this Promotion.

6. Privacy

All entrants acknowledge that if they are chosen as a winner, certain of their personally identifying information may be disclosed to third parties at least as required by law, including, without limitation, on a winner's list. All personal information submitted as part of the Promotion may be publicly disclosed by TPWD in any manner related to the Promotion or TPWD.

7. Limitation of Liability

TPWD is not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by website users or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Promotion or by any technical or human error, which may occur in the processing of submissions in the Promotion. TPWD assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay of operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, Entries. TPWD is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer online systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of email or players on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website or combination thereof, including injury or damage to entrant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participating in the Promotion. If, for any reason, the Promotion is not capable of running as planned, including infection by computer virus bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of TPWD which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Promotion, then TPWD reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Promotion. In such event, TPWD may, in its sole discretion, conduct the contest from among all eligible Entries received prior to or after such cancellation, suspension, or modification.

In the event of a dispute concerning who participated in the Promotion, the Entry will be declared to have been made by the authorized account holder, which is defined as the natural person who is associated with the account as determined by the online service provider through which the entry was submitted. A potential winner may be requested to provide TPWD with proof that the potential winner is the authorized account holder. If a dispute cannot be resolved to TPWD's satisfaction, the entry will be deemed ineligible.

8. RELEASE OF LIABILITY

ENTRANT SHALL RELEASE and hold harmless THE STATE OF TEXAS, TPWD, AND/OR THEIR OFFICERS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES, AND FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER/X, FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEYS FEES, AND EXPENSES arising out of, resulting from, OR RELATING TO ENTRANT'S PARTICIPATION OR ATTEMPTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROMOTION.

9. TPWD

The Promotion is sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

10. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X Disclaimer

By entering, Entrants understand that they are providing their information to the TPWD and not to Facebook, Twitter/X or Instagram. This promotion is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with Facebook, Meta, Twitter/X or Instagram.

11. FINAL TIPS FOR ARTISTS

Pay attention to the bird's/birds' features. Draw or paint them accurately. If the judges can't tell what bird species is in your artwork, the artwork won't work well on a T-shirt. Body proportions, beak shape and field marks are important. That said, traditional, modern, and contemporary styles are all welcome. Artists simply need to make sure that the key identification features are recognizable, regardless of artistic style.

To show up well on a T-shirt, the bird needs to be the main focus of your artwork. Simple backgrounds (especially appropriate habitats) are a plus, but your bird must stand out well. Put some thought into composition, context and contrasting colors. Deep contrasting colors scan best for a T-shirt.

Keep in mind that the winning artwork will be used on a T-shirt for people of all ages and genders.

Artwork with any writing or symbols of any kind will be rejected. TPWD layout designers will add event information, logos, and words as necessary. They should not be included in your original artwork submission.