

THANK YOU!

The Birding Classic staff would like to extend a warm thank you to all participants, host communities and sponsors for making the 8th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic such a great success! Thank you for your support in our effort to conserve coastal habitat and wildlife along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail.

- We had the financial support of 10 Texas coastal communities.
- We had 54 additional sponsors, including corporations, small businesses, artists, foundations and individuals.
- 294 people participated in the competition.
- A total of 56 teams from 13 states and DC competed in all categories.
- We had 19 youth teams participate, 11 Big Sit! teams and 3 teams in our newest category, the Outta-Sight Song Birder Tournament for blind and visually impaired birders.
- The combined species total seen or heard by all teams during the Birding Classic this year was 359! 255 species were counted on the lower coast, 290 on the central coast and 266 species on the upper coast.
- Over the past eight years, winning teams have donated \$402,000 to avian habitat conservation along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail!



Super Sparrows Photo by Tom Shearer



MISSION STATEMENT

*To increase
appreciation,
understanding and
conservation of birds
along the Great
Texas Coastal
Birding Trail
through education,
recreation, nature
tourism and
conservation
fundraising.*

Thanks to the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/Tourist Bureau for hosting our Awards Brunch on Sunday, April 25! Local flooding that morning prompted a last minute change of venue, and the Port Aransas staff handled all of the arrangements with ease. We appreciate everyone who braved the weather and came out for this event.

The top three Weeklong Tournament teams were eligible to win individual prizes, and the top sponsored teams competing the entire week earned the right to designate which conservation projects received \$20,000, \$12,000 and \$9,000.

GTBC CONSERVATION CASH GRAND PRIZE WINNERS 2004

For the first time ever, there was a tie for first place! The winning teams shared the 1st place prize of Elite 15-45x60 scopes (donated by Bushnell Performance Optics) and Swarovski 8x30 SLC binoculars (donated by Swarovski Optik) and selected the winning conservation project together (listed on page 6).

\$20,000 in conservation money

Number of species: 327



The ConocoPhillips Cranes

ConocoPhillips

Tom Collins
Sherry Collins
Tony Frank
Richard H. Peake



Swift WildBirders

Swift Instruments and WildBird Magazine

Michael Retter
Matt Hafner
Pete Hosner
Michael Andersen



WINNER: WEEKLONG MIGRATION CHALLENGE

SECOND PLACE

Environmental Partners

Reliant Energy

Bill Baker
Breck Sacra
Tom Roberts

Number of species: 313

\$12,000 in conservation money

Individual prizes for 2nd place were IQZoom 145M Super cameras (donated by Pentax) and the selection of the \$12,000 conservation project.



THIRD PLACE

The Butcherbirds

Birder's World Magazine and Bushnell Performance Optics

David Womer
David Dendler
Don Freiday

Number of species: 285

\$9,000 in conservation money

Individual prizes for 3rd place were My Region – Our Birds CDROM guides (donated by Thayer Birding Software) and Birdsongs of the Rio Grande Valley CDs (donated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology) and the selection of the \$9,000 conservation project.



Photo by David Womer





4. Schlumberger Spotters

Schlumberger Technology Corporation

Mark Garbutt, Fred Land, David Heinicke

Number of species: 272

CONSERVATION CASH GRAND PRIZE MONEY FOR THE BIRDING CLASSIC 2004

The real winners of the Great Texas Birding Classic are the birds and the habitat that supports them. Through increased awareness of birding and nature tourism, we hope to bring to light the importance of habitat conservation. This awareness, along with the money donated directly to habitat conservation projects each year, will preserve and protect important coastal habitat for many years to come.

The top three places in the Weeklong Tournament win the privilege of awarding \$41,000 to the habitat conservation projects of their choice. The following projects were recipients of the Weeklong Conservation Cash Grand Prizes.

\$20,000 – Donated by the ConocoPhillips Cranes and the Swift WildBirders

Packery Channel Sanctuary Acquisition – Submitted by the Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi.

This Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi, Inc., project will acquire remaining undeveloped lots in a housing subdivision on Padre Island, creating an island of green for neotropical migrants.

\$12,000 – Donated by the Environmental Partners

Dickinson Bay Bird Island Restoration – Submitted by Galveston Bay Foundation.

This restoration project is intended to replace one of the islands that has eroded from Dickinson Bay over the past six decades, restoring the colonial waterbird habitat associated with it.

\$9,000 – Donated by the Butcherbirds

Quintana Island Habitat Enhancement – Submitted by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory.

This project will revegetate previous land acquisitions with mature native trees and understory vegetation as well as create one or more freshwater ponds.

ADULTS – Upper Coast Only

1. The Loonatics

Independent

Cin-Ty Lee, Tim Perkins, John O'Brien, Nicholas Block

Number of species: 214

Prizes: Pentax IQ Zoom 145M Super cameras (donated by Pentax)

2. Wicked Wagtails

Independent

Orion Weldon, Stephan Lorenz, Susan Knock

Number of species: 172

Prizes: Polar neck ties (donated by Polar Products) and My Region – Our Birds CDROMs (donated by Thayer Birding Software)

3. Realtree Roadrunners

Realtree Outdoor Products, Inc.

Cecilia Riley, Joan Holt, Kay Hale, Cynthia Walker

Number of species: 164

Prizes: Bird Songs of the Rio Grande Valley CD (donated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology) and Newt pen knives (donated by Buck Knives)

4. AEP & TAS Long-Horned Larks

American Electric Power and Travis Audubon Society

John Matthews, Mike Mayfield, Ruth Timme, Jeff Troy, Bob Barth

Drivers: Elizabeth Jarrell and Clark Jones

University: University of Texas at Austin

Number of species: 162

WINNER: COLLEGE CHALLENGE

5. Eastman Hawk Eyes

Eastman Chemical Company, Texas Operations

Bob Metzler, Harve Truskett, David Weaver, Eddie Ray

Number of species: 158

6. Whooping SeaAggies

Reliant Energy

Shannon Woodward, Laura Ware, James Fosson, Stephanie Ramsey, Jo Goodman

University: Texas A&M University at Galveston

Number of species: 156

7. TAMUGulls

American Electric Power

Erin Fitzpatrick, David Lindsey, Victoria Jones, Greggo Seward

University: Texas A&M University at Galveston

Number of species: 144



Wicked Wagtails



The Loonatics

Realtree Roadrunners



AEP & TAS Long-Horned Larks

Photo by Ruth Timme

8. Searching For Aves

American Electric Power

Brent Burt, Josh Pierce, Robert Allen

University: Stephen F. Austin State University

Number of species: 136

9. Necked Jaybirds

Independent

Linda D. Pechacek, Theodore G. Cleveland,

Dwayne Rogers, Terry Baldwin

Number of species: 130



Swarovski Optik/World Birding Center
Roadside Hawks

ADULTS – Central Coast Only

1. Team Audubon

ConocoPhillips

Steve Gast, Jeff Mundy, Greg Butcher

Number of species: 183

Prizes: Pentax IQ Zoom 145M Super cameras
(donated by Pentax)



Team Audubon

ADULTS – Lower Coast Only

1. Swarovski Optik/World Birding Center Roadside Hawks

Swarovski Optik N.A. Ltd. and World Birding Center

Clay Taylor, Father Tom Pincelli, John Arvin,
Sean Smith

Number of species: 180

Prizes: Pentax IQ Zoom 145M Super cameras
(donated by Pentax)

2. Zeiss Guys

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics

Mike Manson, Scott Brandes, Mel Piñeda,
Richard Gibbons

Number of species: 169

Prizes: Polar neck ties (donated by Polar Products)
and My Region – Our Birds CDROMs (donated
by Thayer Birding Software)



Zeiss Guys

2. Fly-by-Knights

Independent

Mike Manson, Scott Brandes, Mel Piñeda

Number of species: 172

Prizes: Polar neck ties (donated by Polar Products)
and My Region – Our Birds CDROMs



Fly-by-Knights

3. Lovely Zorillos

Independent

Gene Blacklock, Linda Fuiman, Jim Bowman,
David Newstead

Number of species: 162

Prizes: Polar neck ties (donated by Polar Products)
and Newt pen knives (donated by Buck Knives)

4. Aplomado Falcons

Independent

Ray Allen, Jay Pruett, Vicki Allen

Number of species: 149

5. Necked Jaybirds

Independent

Linda D. Pechacek, Theodore G. Cleveland,
Dwayne Rogers, Terry Baldwin

Number of species: 144

6. Cenzontles

Independent

Teresa Carillo, Leah Pummil, Lois Huff,
Terri Nicolau

Number of species: 105

SENIORS – Central Coast Only

1. Perigrinators

Independent

Gardner Campbell, Ray Flake, Philip Huxford,
Warren Pruess

Number of species: 121

Prizes: Galveston VIP Passes (donated by the
Galveston Island CVB), Great Texas Wildlife
Trail books

SECTIONAL CONSERVATION CASH GRAND PRIZES

Sectional Conservation Cash Grand Prizes of \$3,000 each were awarded by the winning team of each section of the coast to the habitat conservation project of their choice.

This guarantees that at least one project will be funded in each section of the coast every year!

The following projects were recipients of the Sectional Conservation Cash Grand Prizes.

\$3,000 Upper Coast – Donated by the Loonatics

Texas Point NWR Woodlot Restoration – Submitted by Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge.

This restoration project will create a coastal woodlot to provide stopover, rest and refueling habitat for migratory songbirds through the planting of quick-growing and long-term native tree seedlings.

\$3,000 Lower Coast – Donated by the Swarovski/WBC Roadside Hawks

Photogenic Water Features – Submitted by the World Birding Center – Estero Llano Grande State Park.

This project will provide funds for the building of three solar powered ponds.

\$3,000 Central Coast – Donated by Team Audubon

Blucher Audubon Center Migrant Songbird Habitat Restoration – Submitted by Audubon Texas (in partnership with Coastal Bend Audubon Society).

This project will provide funds for the purchase of pond supplies, native plants and interpretive signs and plant labels.

THE BIG SIT!

The Big Sit! Tournament* was added to the Great Texas Birding Classic last year, and it was a huge success again this year! As part of the Big Sit! Tournament, the \$1000 Lone Star Bird Award was created. The Lone Star Bird Award is chosen by randomly drawing the name of a bird that can be seen along the entire Texas coast. Any Big Sit! team that sees this bird then goes into a drawing to determine the winner of the Lone Star Bird Award (This year's Lone Star Bird was the Magnificent Frigatebird). This team then picks which habitat project will receive \$1,000. Individual prizes are also given in this tournament category.

1. Port Aransas Spoonbills

*Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/
Tourist Bureau*

Scott Holt, Leonabelle Turnbull,
Georgia Neblett, Becky Corder,
Ann Vaughan, Sharon Cameron,
Kelvin Knauf, Bobby Sherwood
Location: Port Aransas Birding Center
Number of species: 100
Prizes: Beach cooler sets



Port Aransas Spoonbills



The Brazosport
Birders

2. The Brazosport Birders

Brazosport Convention and Visitors Council

Charlie Brower, Olivia Brower,
Tom Collins, Tom Taroni,
Jennifer Wilson, Ron Weeks,
Gary Brooks, Denis James,
Jim Renfro, Ken West
Location: Quintana Neotropical Park
Number of species: 78
Prizes: Compass/flashlight sets



* The New Haven Bird Club founded and Birdwatcher's Digest hosts the original Big Sit! that takes place every October. For more information about this international event, please check out their Web site – www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bigsit/bigsit.html

TIE 3. Corpus Count

Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau

Richard Gibbons, Kimberly Vetter, Ned Wright,
Jane Pinkston, Ann Neese, Phyllis Yochem,
Jo Creglow, Rik Brittain

Location: Packery Channel – Corpus Christi

TIE 3. Swarovski Sitting Hawks (WINNER: Lone Star Bird Award)

Swarovski Optik N.A., Ltd.

Clay Taylor, Joel Simon, Vicki Simon,
Scarlet Colley, George Colley, Roy Halpin

Location: South Padre Island

Number of species: 75

Prizes: Polar neck wraps (donated by Polar
Products)

4. Bexar Butter-butts

Independent

Sheridan Coffey, Mariann Golden,
Georgina Schwartz, Eric Brierley, Karen Moulder

Location: Packery Channel – Corpus Christi

Number of species: 69

5. Stewart Peepers

Stewart Title Company – Port Aransas

Nancy Teller, Warren Pulich, Julie Finley,
Carolyn Grosse, Diane Albright, Duffy Albright,
Marc Teller

Location: Paradise Pond – Port Aransas

Number of species: 57

6. World Birding Center Couch's Potatoes

World Birding Center

John Arvin, David Dauphin, Jan Dauphin

Location: Bentsen Rio Grande State Park

Number of species: 56

7. Aransas First Birders

Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce

Dinah Dyer, Herb Wisch, Hilde Kaigler, Bron Rorex,
John Beree, Susan Beree, Frances Hicks, Martha Hicks

Location: Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary – Rockport

Number of species: 50

8. Weslaco Buff-bellies

Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce

Martin Hagne, Connie Hagne, Chris Watenpool, Andrea
Garcia, Belinda Johnson, Connie Silva, James Nunez

Location: Valley Nature Center - Weslaco

Number of species: 48

TIE 9. The Altamiras

Independent

Selena King, Ken King, Chris Watenpool,
Patricia Bacot, Scott Nicol

Location: Frontera Audubon Society – Weslaco

TIE 9. Rockport Skimmers

Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce

Rachel Brooks, Barbara Gurtner, Darlene Hamilton,
Jackie Shockley, Linda Cavazos, Diana Harrington,
Joe Harrington

Number of species: 46

The following project received the Lone Star Bird Award:

**\$1,000 – Donated by Swarovski
Sitting Hawks**

**South Padre Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary
(submitted by the Valley Land Fund)**

Money is to be used for habitat restoration.



The youth tournaments continue to attract new birders every year! A special thank you goes out to all of the mentors, teachers, parents, scout leaders and sponsors for taking the time to help guide these young people into the field and educate them about birds and conservation along the Texas coast.

GLIDERS TEAMS (14-18 YEAR-OLDS)

GLIDERS – Upper Coast Only

1. The Four Mysterious Empids

Dow Chemical Company and Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Emma Buckingham, Sean Fitzgerald,

Garrett Gauthier, Keri Bryan

Chaperones: Sumita Prasad and Bill Eley

Number of species: 177

Prizes: 8x40 Plover binoculars

(donated by Swift Instruments)

GLIDERS – Lower Coast Only

1. Nikon Gnatcatchers (WINNER: Sectional Migration Challenge)

Nikon

Connor Stephenson,

Amelia Klein,

Eric Cannizzaro, Amelia
Williams, Chip Darmstadt

Chaperones: Ben Williams

Number of species: 157

Prizes: 8x40 Plover binoculars

(donated by Swift Instruments)



Nikon Gnatcatchers



Nikon Noddies

2. Nikon Noddies

Nikon

Will McCumber,

Jeff Dacey,

Taj Schottland,

Ira Gardner-Morse,

Sam Barrocas

Chaperones: Stan McCumber and

Cindy Gardner-Morse

Number of species: 154

Prizes: *Stokes Guides-Field Guide to Warblers* (donated
by Naturally Curious) and Audubon backpacks

GLIDERS – Central Coast Only

1. John Jay Chihuahua Ravens

Independent

Lori Perez, 2 additional students

Chaperones: Mike Scully and Mathilde Scully

Number of species: 115

Prizes: 8x40 Plover binoculars (donated by Swift
Instruments)

2. John Jay Blue Jays

Independent

Jonarida Buyayo, 2 additional students

Chaperones: Mike Scully and Mathilde Scully

Number of species: 113

Prizes: *Stokes Guides-Field Guide to Warblers*

(donated by Naturally Curious) and Audubon
backpacks

3. Keen-eyed Hawks

Independent

Katrina Troppy,

Dan Gonzales, Lea Vega,

Josh Trevino

Chaperones: Pat Clements

Number of species: 76

Prizes: Pájaro bags

(donated by Pájaro)



Keen-eyed Hawks

*To see more photos of the Nikon teams and to read about
their experiences in Texas, check out their trip Web site at
www.vinsweb.org/montpelier/texasTNC/texas_trip.html*

ROUGHWINGS TEAMS

(8-13 YEAR-OLDS)

ROUGHWINGS – Upper Coast Only

1. Houston Audubon Accipiters

Houston Audubon Society

James Justice Haynes, John Bryan, Brianna Bartholomew, Sierra Kneifel, Mike Bettencourt
Chaperones: Stennie Meadours, Wayne Bartholomew, Jim Tom Haynes, Charity Kneifel and Joy Hester
Number of species: 107
Prizes: Eagle Optics 8x42 Triumph binoculars and Eagle Optics T-shirts (donated by Eagle Optics)

2. Steiner Peregrines

Steiner Binoculars

Dock Smith, Alexandra Karr, Melody Lynn
Chaperones: Laura Karr, Terrie Smith, Greg Smith and Cody Smith
Number of species: 99
Prizes: Compass and Map Navigators (donated by Brunton Company)



Steiner Peregrines

3. The Golden Eagles

Reliant Energy

Wesley Davis, Brian Barker, Preston Davis, Tristan Davis
Chaperones: Brenda Davis, Ginger Himelright and Mary Ann Powell
Number of species: 68
Prizes: Polar neck ties (donated by Polar Products) and Peterson baseball caps (donated by Houghton Mifflin Company)

ROUGHWINGS – Lower Coast Only

1. Groove-billed Anis

Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau

Andrew Benton, Michael Fischer, Ellen Gonzalez
Chaperones: Steve Labuda
Number of species: 139
Prizes: Eagle Optics 8x42 Triumph binoculars and Eagle Optics T-shirts (donated by Eagle Optics)

2. Eagle Eyes

Reliant Energy

Mary Frances Noell, Jesús Franco, Jr., Rebecca Dimas
Chaperones: Martin Hagne and Robert Noell
Number of species: 132
Prizes: Compass and Map Navigators (donated by Brunton Company)



Eagle Eyes Photo by Martha Noell

ROUGHWINGS – Central Coast Only

1. Fairchild YWHP Warblers

San Antonio Audubon Society and Bexar Audubon Society

MarQuentin Davis, Shelvan (B. J.) Crockett, Terrell Chase, Aries Barfield, Jordan Pickaree
Chaperones: Thomas Cleaver, Jr. and Carlotta Hargrove
Number of species: 139
Prizes: Eagle Optics 8x42 Triumph binoculars and Eagle Optics T-shirts (donated by Eagle Optics)

2. Travis Audubon Towhees

Travis Audubon Society

Sam Fason, Vitalik Nelson, Valyo Nelson, Jesse Huth

Chaperones: Amy Sugeno, Jaci Kroupa, Mary Hornish and Drake Fason

Number of species: 100

Prizes: Compass and Map Navigators (donated by Brunton Company)



Fairchild YWHP Warblers

3. Kickin' Kingfishers

Independent

Hazel Morris, Ian Williams, Philip Mundahl,

Rebecca Ortiz, Avery Pfeiffer

Chaperones: David Newstead, Mary Ellen Vega and John Keller

Number of species: 79

Prizes: Polar neck ties (donated by Polar Products) and Peterson baseball caps (donated by Houghton Mifflin Company)



Travis Audubon Towhees
Photo by David Arctur

4. Super Sparrows

Independent

Meridith Sico, Mary Ellen Flood, Lauren Kuffel,

Hannah Grunwald

Chaperones: Mary Ellen Vega, Barbara Sico and Ronald Kuffel

Number of species: 72

5. Rockin' Mockingbirds

Independent

Joya Williams, Sam Schauer, Steele Schauer, Ethan Swanson

Chaperones: Kendal Keyes, Tracy Litle, Claudia Williams, Linda Schauer and Chuck Williams

Number of species: 64



Super Sparrows
Photo by Tom Shearer

6. H.E.Birders

H.E.B. Grocery Company

Megan Hardegree, Andrew Hardegree, Belia Becerra,

Anabel Roeder

Chaperones: Beau Hardegree, John Cortez and Norma Barrera

Number of species: 63

7. Wandering Warblers

Independent

Ian Shuttlesworth, Aracelia Barrera, David Neathery, Tinessia Morris

Chaperones: Clare Lee, Cindy Neathery and Kay Jenkins

Number of species: 62

8. Kooky Cardinals

Independent

Rita Acebo, Alex Mueller, Karissa Rangel, Hannah Grisemer

Chaperones: Robyn Cobb, Kelly Mueller and Ralene Corley

Number of species: 56

Kooky Cardinals Photo by Tom Shearer





OUTTA-SIGHT SONG BIRDER TOURNAMENT

New this year, the Great Texas Birding Classic created the Outta-Sight Song Birder Tournament for blind and visually impaired birders. Teams of 3-5 people participated (a maximum of one blindfolded sighted person was allowed per team) and bird species counted were identified by sound only. Thank you to the Valley teams who helped get this fledgling tournament off of the ground this year. We hope to expand this tournament to all sections of the coast in 2005.

1. España Tweety Birds

España Restaurant

Raul Reyes, Esmeralda Pesina, Valerie Mercurio,
Jesus Garza, Blind Folded – Mel Piñeda

Volunteer: Mrs. Mercurio

Driver: Tom Mercurio

Number of species: 40

Prizes: CD Audio Books: *The Big Year* (donated by Random House Audio), Diversity of Animal Sounds CDs (donated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology) and Peterson baseball caps (donated by Houghton Mifflin Company)

España Tweety Birds



2. DAAMARS International Kingfishers

DAMAARS International

Gladie Cruz, Jessica Garza, Leo Ramirez,
Blind Folded – Roy Rodriguez

Volunteers: Mrs. Garza, Maria Luisa Garcia
and Imelda Garcia

Driver: Evelyn Cruz

Number of species: 38

Prizes: Bird Songs of the Rio Grande Valley CDs (donated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology), Peterson baseball caps (donated by Houghton Mifflin Company) and Audubon backpacks

3. Wild Bird Center Inca Doves

Wild Bird Center – Harlingen

San Juanita Torres, Maria Tejerina, Nora Rodriguez,
Emily Cruz, Blind Folded – Jesús Franco

Volunteer: Mirta Barrios

Driver: Eric Ellman

Number of species: 27

Prizes: Polar neck wraps (donated by Polar Products) and Peterson baseball caps (donated by Houghton Mifflin Company)



Houghton Mifflin Company donated a complimentary copy of their Peterson Field Guides East and Central, Birding By Ear CD set to each participant in the Outta-Sight Song Birder Tournament. Thanks so much for this donation!

BEAUMONT COMMUNITY BIRDING DAY

The Beaumont Community Birding Day on Saturday, April 17, our kick-off for this year's Great Texas Birding Classic, was a great success. Thank you to all the participants who made this event so much fun and especially to the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau for hosting the evening's activities.

Local birders, local business people and community leaders all made it out to the Garden Center at Tyrrell Park for a fun evening of birding, wonderful conversation and great food.

During the Beaumont Community Birding Day, teams of three to five people got together to see how many birds could be seen in nearby birding hotspots in an hour and a half. After the mini-birding tournament, teams gathered for dinner as awards were presented for the top three teams and the two mystery bird winners.

Final Results:

1. Blue-winged Yankees –

John Whittle, Bob Anderson, Joan Anderson: 46 species

2. Eagles –

Bruce Bishop, David Ott, Bonnie Vessel: 26 species

3. Tweet Tweet –

Patricia McLain, Bob Collier, Christine Sanders: 23 species

4. Classic Saturday Evening Birders –

Sharon Thomas, Merle King, Gail Slocum, Claire Cooper: 22 species



Tweet Tweet

Mystery Bird Awards:

Most Pied-billed Grebes –

Blue-winged Yankees with 4 individual birds

Most Cardinals –

Blue-winged Yankees and Tweet Tweet each with 4 individual birds



Classic Saturday Evening Birders



We hope you will choose to be a part of next year's event!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We could not do this event every year without the continued support of our corporate and community sponsors, prize donors and all of the competitors who come down to the Texas coast each year to compete on behalf of coastal habitat conservation. We hope you are able to continue making room in your schedule for this event in the years to come. So, get out your pens and calendars – here are the dates for upcoming years' Great Texas Birding Classic.

2005 – Ninth Annual Great Texas Birding Classic

Saturday, April 16 – Sunday, April 24

Sectional Tournament Order: Lower, Central, Upper

2006 – Tenth Annual Great Texas Birding Classic

Saturday, April 22 – Sunday, April 30

Sectional Tournament Order: Central, Upper, Lower

For information on the Great Texas Birding Classic 2005, contact the Classic staff.

Call: Toll free: 1-888-TX-BIRDS, ext. 2

In Austin: 512-389-4500

Contact us by email: gtbc@tpwd.state.tx.us

Check us out on the Web at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc

Write to us at: The Great Texas Birding Classic

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

4200 Smith School Road

Austin, TX 78744



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Eagle Eyes Photo by Martha Noell
Sponsored by Reliant Energy

ROSEATE SPOONBILL

\$7,000 to
under \$12,500

Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/
Tourist Bureau
Swarovski Optik

BLACK SKIMMER

\$4,000 to
under \$7,000

American Electric Power/Central Power and Light
Bushnell Performance Optics
ConocoPhillips
Reliant Energy
Swift Instruments, Inc.

BELTED KINGFISHER

\$1,000 to
under \$4,000

Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau
Brazosport Convention and Visitors Council
Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau
Carl Zeiss Sports Optics
Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau
The Dow Chemical Company
Eagle Optics
McAllen Chamber of Commerce
Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce
South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Steiner Binoculars

UNDER \$1,000 AND IN-KIND DONATIONS

Caeser Kleberg Foundation for Wildlife Conservation
Houghton Mifflin Company
McBride Foundation/Austin Woods and Waters
Pentax
Smart Shield
Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine
Texas State Parks
Thayer Birding Software

Alamo Inn – Alamo/McAllen area
Kay Barnebey – artist
F.P. “Tony” Bennett – artist
Brown Pelican Inn – South Padre Island
Brunton Company
Buck Knives, Inc.
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Driftwood Wildlife Association
Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Juanita Gibson – artist
Inn at El Canelo/El Canelo Ranch
Mathews Gallery and Studios, Christi Mathews – artist
Naturally Curious, Inc.
John P. O’Neill – artist
Pájaro
Polar Products
Random House Audio
Rootin’ Ridge Toymakers – Austin
Gerald Sneed – artist
Watchable Wildlife, Inc.
Whataburger, Inc.
Wild Lines, Maren Phillips – artist

TEAM SPONSORSHIP

* part of sponsorship package

American Electric Power *
Bexar Audubon Society
Brazosport Convention and Visitors Council *
Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau *
Bushnell Performance Optics * and
Birder’s World Magazine
Carl Zeiss Sports Optics *
ConocoPhillips *
DAMAARS International
Eastman Chemical Company, Texas Operations
España Restaurant
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
H.E.Butt Grocery Company
Houston Audubon Society

Nikon
Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/Tourist Bureau *
Reliant Energy *
Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce *
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
Steiner Binoculars *
Stewart Title Company – Port Aransas
Swarovski Optik *
Travis Audubon Society
Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce
Wild Bird Center – Harlingen
WildBird Magazine and Swift Instruments, Inc. *
World Birding Center

Thank you to all of the staff and friends who helped make this year's Great Texas Birding Classic a great success!
We could not have done it without the behind the scenes help up to and during the week of the Classic.

BIRDING CLASSIC STAFF:

Shelly Scroggs – Tournament Coordinator
Pat Morton – Education and Outreach Program Leader
Cliff Shackelford – Texas Partners in Flight Coordinator
John Herron – Wildlife Diversity Program Director

OFFICIAL ARTIST FOR 2004:

John P. O'Neill

JUDGES:

Cliff Shackelford, TPWD, Texas Partners in Flight
Dr. Keith Arnold, Texas A&M University
Noreen Damude, Freelance writer and consultant
Meridith Byrd, TPWD
Pat Morton, TPWD



GTBC 2004 judges and staff

ADDITIONAL BEHIND THE SCENES HELP:

Bryan Plante and Julie Shackelford

Thanks to all of our Community Partners for Great Sanctioned Events:

Freddie Nixon, Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau

Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau

Tyrrell Park Garden Center

Holiday Inn Midtown

Helen Casper

Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza

Beaumont Hilton

Doug Nelson Cafe

Ann Vaughan, Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/Tourist Bureau

Debra Williams

Joan Holt

Sandcastle Condominiums staff

Jody Foshee

Georgia Neblett

Black Tie Affairs staff

Amy Winters and Marisa Oliva, Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and World Birding Center

Special thanks to the following for opening their gates to Classic competitors:

Coastal NWRs

Coastal WMAs

El Canelo Ranch

Texas State Parks

Private homes of our birding friends throughout the Texas coast



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