

# THANK YOU!

The Birding Classic staff would like to extend a warm thank you to all participants, host communities and sponsors for making the 10th 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 45 additional sponsors, including corporations, small businesses, artists, foundations and individuals.
- 254 people participated in the competition.
- A total of 48 teams from 14 states and the District of Columbia competed in all categories.
- We had 18 youth teams participate, 12 Big Sit! teams and three teams in 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 367! To see which birds were seen by the winning adult teams, go to [www.gcbo.org/gtbc2006.html](http://www.gcbo.org/gtbc2006.html).
- Through the past 10 years, winning teams have donated over \$500,000 to avian habitat conservation along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail! This is a significant accomplishment – one that cannot be celebrated enough. With the creation and continuation of this event, the birds have been helped, not only for this generation but for many generations to come.

To help celebrate, a commemorative booklet was put together featuring all the projects funded from 1997–2005. Please go to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's Web page to view the booklet in PDF format. Hard copies are also available and they can be mailed to you by contacting Tournament Coordinator, Carol Jones at GCBO.

[www.gcbo.org/newsletters/Conservation.pdf](http://www.gcbo.org/newsletters/Conservation.pdf) • [cjones@gcbo.org](mailto:cjones@gcbo.org)



Tournament founder Madge Lindsay with the Environmental Partners



## 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 McAllen  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
for hosting our Awards Brunch  
on Sunday, April 30!

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 2006

## Environmental Partners

Reliant Energy

The winning team received the 1st place prize of framed 10th Anniversary special art for the 2006 Classic and books donated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. They selected the winning \$20,000 conservation project (listed on page 5).

Number of species: 340

Bill Baker  
Tom Roberts  
Cecilia Riley



# SECOND PLACE

## Nikon WildBirders

Nikon Sport Optics and  
*WildBird Magazine*

Michael Retter  
Ken Behrens  
Cameron Cox  
Mike Frieberg

Individual prizes for 2nd place were Pajaro bags donated by Pajaro. They selected the \$12,000 conservation project (listed on page 5).

Number of species: 325



## WINNER: WEEKLONG MIGRATION CHALLENGE



# THIRD PLACE

## The ConocoPhillips Cranes

ConocoPhillips

Tony Frank  
Mike Austin  
Steve Gast

Individual prizes for 3rd place were books, *Lives of North American Birds*, donated by Houghton Mifflin. They selected the \$9,000 conservation project (listed on page 5).

Number of species: 306



**4. The Butcherbirds**  
*Bushnell Outdoor Products*  
David Womer  
David Dendler  
Rex Miller  
Number of species: 297



The Butcherbirds

**5. Necked Jaybirds**  
*Independent*  
Ted Cleveland  
Terry Baldwin  
Linda Pechacek  
Number of species: 212

## CONSERVATION CASH GRAND PRIZE MONEY FOR THE BIRDING CLASSIC 2006

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 Environmental Partners/Reliant Energy:**

**Packery Channel Sanctuary Habitat Restoration** – submitted by Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi

This project has been ongoing for over 10 years to save the only stand of live oaks on the entire 113 miles of Padre Island. This new funding will allow for a semi-porous bottom to be installed in the marsh area to aid with water retention, purchase native trees for planting in the sanctuary, extend the existing boardwalk and install educational displays explaining the importance of this critical habitat.

### **\$12,000 – Donated by NikonWildBirders/Nikon and *WildBird* magazine:**

**Bolivar Peninsula Land Acquisition Fund** – submitted by Houston Audubon Society

The land targeted for acquisition by the Bolivar Peninsula Land Fund is priority wildlife habitat on the Bolivar Peninsula, important breeding, wintering and migratory stopover habitat for birds. Land costs have soared in recent years due to developer interest and this fund helps Houston Audubon be in a position to acquire suitable tracts as soon as they become available.

### **\$9,000 – Donated by the ConocoPhillips Cranes/ConocoPhillips:**

**Acquisition of Migrant Stopover Habitat on Quintana Island** – submitted by Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

This project is directed at purchasing additional lots to create a contiguous stretch of land that can be revegetated with native trees and shrubs. Quintana is located in the heart of one of the most important flyways for nearctic-neotropical migrants crossing the Gulf of Mexico.

## ADULTS – Lower Coast Only

### 1. Swarovski Roadside Hawks

*Swarovski Optik N.A., Ltd*

Clay Taylor, John Arvin, Nick Block, Fr. Tom Pincelli

Number of species: 215

Prizes: GTBC 10th Anniversary special art and *Lives of North American Birds* (books donated by Houghton Mifflin). The team also selected the Lower Coast project for a \$3,000 conservation cash grant.



Swarovski Roadside Hawks



Eagle Optics Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes

### 2. Eagle Optics Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes

*Eagle Optics*

Roy Rodriguez, Ben Lizdas, Sean Smith, Danny Hoetra

Number of species: 194

Prizes: *Lives of North American Birds*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

### 3. Darwin's Finches

*Independent*

Ron Gutberlet, Carol Gutberlet, Timothy Hunkapiller, Andree Clark

Number of species: 163

Prizes: *Hummingbirds of North America*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)



Darwin's Finches

## ADULTS – Upper Coast Only

### 1. Grey Feathers

*Independent*

Patricia Bowen, Karen Lassiter, Shirley Smith, Carol Scherer

Number of species: 139

Prizes: GTBC 10th Anniversary special art and *Hummingbirds of North America* (books donated by Houghton Mifflin)  
The team also selected the Upper Coast project for a \$3,000 conservation cash grant.

## ADULTS – Central Coast Only

### 1. Texas A&M Wildlifers

*NBID Associates*

Nick Block, Therese Catanach, Annaliese Kemper, Stephen Ross

Number of species: 190

Prizes: GTBC 10th Anniversary special art and *Lives of North American Birds* (books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

The team also selected the Central Coast project for a \$3,000 conservation cash grant.

### 2. Aplomado Falcons

*Independent*

Ray Allen, Jay Pruett, Vicki Allen, Hayley Dikeman

Number of species: 146

Prizes: *Lives of North American Birds*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

## SENIORS – Lower Coast Only

### 1. Four Rails and One Young Coot

*Independent*

Gary Waggerman, Jane Kittleman, Russel Nelson,  
Chris Watenpool, Nila Wipf

Number of species: 172

Prizes: GTBC 10th Anniversary special art  
and insulated lunch coolers  
(donated by Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)



Four Rails and One Young Coot

## 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.

### Lower Texas Coast

#### **\$3,000 – Donated by the Swarovski Roadside Hawks**

Habitat Restoration at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary – submitted by Audubon Texas

This project focuses on the restoration of 35 acres of fallow field at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary in Brownsville and is part of a larger effort to restore 150 acres of fallow field. Exotic plants will be removed and native species planted.

### Central Texas Coast

#### **\$3,000 – Donated by the Texas A&M Wildlifers**

Native Coastal Prairie Restoration on the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge – submitted by Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR

This project encompasses about nine acres of former rice field that will undergo non-native, undesired vegetation removal, site preparation and subsequent planting of native seed. This grant will cover the purchase of the native grass seed.

### Upper Texas Coast

#### **\$3,000 – Donated by the Grey Feathers**

Coastal Prairie Invasive Species Control – submitted by Friends of Anahuac Refuge, Inc.

This grant will be used to control invasive plants, primarily Chinese tallow, on 350 acres of coastal prairie on Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge.

# COLLEGE CHALLENGE

For the first time, the college teams competed for the privilege of choosing a conservation project to receive a \$1,000 cash grant. If there was a category of teams that had more fun than these college teams, I would love to hear about it. These young adults know how to have fun and support habitat conservation all at the same time.

## 1. Zeiss LSU Tiger-Herons (Upper Coast)

*Carl Zeiss Optics*

Richard Gibbons, Phred Benham, Devin Bosler,  
Justin Bosler, Jacob Saucier

Number of species: 201

Prize: Backpacks, cleaning kits and hats (donated by Swarovski)

Coastal Sanctuary Understory Diversification –  
submitted by Houston Audubon Society was chosen  
by the LSU Tiger-Herons to receive the \$1,000.



Zeiss LSU Tiger-Herons

## 2. UT Tyler Hammerkops (Upper Coast)

*University of Texas at Tyler*

Ron Gutberlet, Stephan Lorenz, Timothy Hunkapiller

Number of species: 181

Prizes: *Lives of North American Birds* (books donated by Houghton Mifflin)



## 3. Texas A&M Galveston Whoopin' Sea Aggies (Upper Coast)

*American Electric Power*

Greggo Seward, David Lindsey,  
Jo Goodman, Tom Riddle,  
Susan Knock

Number of species: 167

Prizes: *Hummingbirds of North America*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

Texas A&M Galveston  
Whoopin' Sea Aggies

## COLLEGE CHALLENGE CASH GRAND PRIZE

### **\$1,000 – Donated by the Zeiss LSU Tiger-Herons**

**Coastal Sanctuary Understory Diversification – submitted by Houston Audubon Society.**

This project will allow for the purchase of native understory plants that will be used to replace invasive exotic plants at Houston Audubon's coastal sanctuaries (Boy Scout Woods, Smith Oaks, Eubanks Woods, S.E. Gast Red Bay Sanctuary and Dos Vacas Muertas).

# GLIDERS TEAMS (14-18 YEAR-OLDS)

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.



Leica / ABA Tropicbirds

## 1. Leica / ABA Tropicbirds (Lower Coast)

*Leica Camera – Sports Optics & American Birding Association*

Jim Wilson, Tom Reed, Jordan Rutter, Oliver James  
Chaperones: Michael O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis

Number of species: 212

Prizes: Backpacks with Nalgene water bottle  
(donated by Academy Sports and Outdoors)  
and Thayer Birding Software (donated by Thayer)

## 2. Nikon Noddies (Lower Coast)

*Nikon & Vermont Institute of Natural Science*

Sam Barrocas, Eric Cannizzaro, Amelia Klein,  
Nik Kotovich, Henry Wilton

Chaperones:

Chip Darmstadt, coach

Charles Barstow, assistant coach

Leslie O'Halloran, chaperone/driver

Number of species: 200

Prizes: *Lives of North American Birds*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)



Nikon Noddies

Travis  
Audubon  
Towhees



## 3. Travis Audubon Towhees (Lower Coast)

*Travis Audubon Society*

Jesse Huth, Katrina Troppy, Sam Fason, Joseph Hale

Chaperones: Drake Fason, Mike Troppy, Alicia Nelson

Number of species: 148

Prizes: *Hummingbirds of North America* (books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

## 4. Houston Audubon Hawks (Upper Coast)

*Independent*

Keri Bryan, Patrick Bryan, Justice Haynes, Luke Downey

Chaperone: Joy Hester

Number of species: 138

## 5. Steiner Golden Eagles (Upper Coast)

*Steiner Germany*

Wesley Davis, Preston Davis, Todd Burnett

Chaperone: Brenda Davis

Number of species: 51



Houston Audubon  
Hawks



# ROUGHWINGS

(8-13 YEAR-OLDS)



Edinburg Kingfishers

## ROUGHWINGS – Lower Coast Only

### 1. Edinburg Kingfishers

*Mayor & Council, City of Edinburg*

Teresa Sova, Christina Franco, Jesus Franco,  
Denise Hernandez, Becky Sova

Chaperone: Marisa Oliva

Number of species: 87

Prizes: Eagle Optics 8x42 Triumph binoculars  
(donated by Eagle Optics)

### 2. Red-crowned Parrots

*Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau*

Adrian Venegas, Aaron Davis, Scott Urbis,  
Seve Ortiz, Nick Salazar

Chaperones: David Benn, Luis and Janette Venegas

Number of species: 70

Prizes: *Hummingbirds of North America*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

## ROUGHWINGS – Upper Coast Only

### 1. Houston Audubon Accipiters

*Houston Audubon Society*

John Bryan, Cooper Raterink,

Joseph Ramirez, Elissa Mapski

Chaperone: Stennie Meadours

Number of species: 109

Prizes: Eagle Optics 8x42 Triumph binoculars  
(donated by Eagle Optics)

### 2. MD Anderson Mighty Blue Jays

*Independent*

Andrew, Stephen, Allison

Chaperone: Rani Henderson

Number of species: 43

Prizes: *Hummingbirds of North America*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

### 3. Snowy Owl Trio

*Gulf Coast Bird Observatory*

Tristan Davis, Reginald Pettus, Brenda Davis

Chaperone: Brenda Davis

Number of species: 29

Prizes: Birds of the World CDs and  
North American Bird Reference CDs  
(donated by individual)



Houston Audubon Accipiters



The Laughing Gulls

## ROUGHWINGS – Central Coast Only

### 1. The Laughing Gulls

*Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce*

Kalani Balcom, Lily Cartwright, Kelsey Abel

Chaperone: Joan Holt

Number of species: 119

Prizes: Pentax 10x25 binoculars  
(donated by Pentax Imaging)

### 2. Ravishing Raptors

*Independent*

Mary Ellen Flood, Hannah Grunwald,  
Meredith, Maren Flood

Chaperone: Mary Ellen Vega

Number of species: 92

Prizes: *Hummingbirds of North America*  
(books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

### 3. Gregarious Green Jays

*Independent*

Patrick Hickhan, Jason Simank, Lauren Leavell

Chaperone: Pat Bacak-Clements

Number of species: 91

Prizes: Birds of the World CDs and North American  
Bird Reference CDs (donated by individual)

### 4. Awesome Eagles

*Independent*

Alegre Elizondo, Jackee Cromwell,  
Raymond Acebo, Brian McCutchen

Chaperone: Robyn Cobb

Number of species: 78

### 5. Royal Ravens

*Independent*

Breanna Barrera, Sarah Starlin, Kyle Guerra

Chaperone: M. Clare Lee

Number of species: 66

### 6. Crazy Cuckoos

*Independent*

Shane Johnson, Andrew Hardegree, Nathan Horn

Chaperone: Julie Findley

Number of species: 61

### 7. Keen-eyed Kingfishers

*Independent*

David Sternmeyer, Val Bailey, Justin Ahlstrom

Chaperone: Beau Hardegree

Number of species: 60

### 8. Gambling Gulls

*Independent*

Evan Buhidar, Nicholas Nye, Sam Lathrop

Chaperone: Russell Hooten

Number of species: 50

# THE BIG SIT!

The Big Sit! Tournament continues to be a popular event. Teams came out in all sections of the coast identifying birds within their 17-foot circle. 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 Royal Tern). This team then picks which habitat project will receive \$1000. Individual prizes are also given in this tournament category.

## 1. Team McRee Ford

*McRee Ford*

Dennis Myers, Cammy Myers, Bill Baker, Lauri Baker, Tom Roberts, Breck Sacra

Location: Cedar Bayou

Number of species: 111

Prizes: Lives of North American Birds (books donated by Houghton Mifflin)

WINNER: LONE STAR BIRD AWARD



Team McRee Ford...



...and their circle



BASF Bitterns

## 2. BASF Bitterns

*BASF*

Cecilia Riley, Mike Gray, John Arvin, Tom Collins, Sherry Collins, Mary Beth Gray, Shane Pirtle, Tom Taroni, Don Verser

Location: San Bernard Wildlife Refuge

Number of species: 108

Prizes: Best-1 Hummer Feeders (donated by Best-1)



Port Aransas Spoonbills

## 3. Port Aransas Spoonbills

*Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce*

Scott Holt, Ann Vaughan, Joan Holt, Becky Corder, Bobby Sherwood, John Sherves, Georgia Neblett, Bob Fisher, Francis Stokes, Tony Amos

Location: Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center Observation Tower

Number of species: 105

Prizes: Spot 'n' Jot field log card sets (donated by Spot 'n' Jot)



Strange Brews

## 4. Strange Brews

*Independent*

David Newstead, Tom Langschied, Sonia Najera, Linda Fuiman, Don Carrell, Sally Bickley, Leatrice Koch, John Keller, Tom Shirley, Carolyn Goodloe

Location: Botanical Gardens, Corpus Christi

Number of species: 100

## 5. Rockport Skimmers

*Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce*

Diana Harrington, Debra Conners, Bron Rorex,  
Herb Wisch, Justin Stiles, Shawntelle Stiles  
Location: Aransas Bird and Nature Club  
Number of species: 84

## 6. Weslaco Red Crowns

*Independent*

Martin Hagne, Connie Hagne, Selena King, Ken King,  
Dan Jones, Honeylet Jones, Sumita Prasad  
Location: Frontera Audubon – Weslaco  
Number of species: 84

## 7. Corpus Count

*Corpus Christit Convention and Visitors Bureau*

Bob Creglow, Jo Creglow, Leah Pummel, Mel  
Cooksey, Willma Harvey, Juan Bahamon,  
Larry Jordon, Neal Amsler, Linda Fuiman  
Location: Packery Channel – Corpus Christi  
Number of species: 81



Corpus Count



Stewart Peepers

## 8. Stewart Peepers

*Stewart Title Company – Port Aransas*

Nancy Teller, Diane Albright, Carolyn Grosse,  
Warren Pulich, Julie Finley, Phyllis Sims  
Location: Paradise Pond – Port Aransas  
Number of species: 61

## 9. Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society Kiskadees

*Independent*

Sue Griffin, Debra Warner, Billy Snider, Stan Sterba  
Location: Arroyo Colorado Park Harlingen  
Number of species: 60

## 10. Edinburg Kingfishers

*Independent*

Marisa Oliva, Sarah Cundiff, Matt Cundiff,  
Tim Brush, John Brush, Crystal Salinas,  
Javier de Leon, Lowry McAllen, Ms. Lowry McAllen  
Location: Edinburg World Birding Center  
Number of species: 57

## 11. LCRA River Raptors

*Lower Colorado River Authority*

Betsy Terrel, Sherry Head, Linda Serrill,  
Richard Serrill, Marcus O'Connor  
Location: Matagorda Bay Nature Park  
Number of species: 48

## 12. Necked Jaybirds

*Independent*

Ted Cleveland, Terry Baldwin, Linda Pechacek  
Location: Little Thicket Park  
Number of species: 30

## LONE STAR BIRD AWARD

**\$1,000 – Donated by Team McRee Ford**

Texas City Prairie Preserve Deep-rooted Sedge Removal –  
submitted by The Nature Conservancy

This project will reduce the impact of the sedge  
where it occurs with a new eradication plan  
and will control any future spread.

\* 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/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx)

# OUTTA-SIGHT SONG BIRDER TOURNAMENT



Conroe's Palomas

For the third year, the Great Texas Birding Classic held the Outta-Sight Song Birder Tournament for blind and visually impaired birders. Teams of three to five 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 continue this fledgling tournament. We hope to expand this tournament to all sections of the coast in 2007.

## 1. Conroe's Palomas

*Independent*

Gladie Cruz, Jesus Gonzales, Nora Rodriguez,

Horacio Rodriguez

Blindfolded: Mel Pineda

Volunteer: Evelyn Cruz

Number of species: 39

Prizes: Bird Song Ear Training Guide CDs (donated by John Feith) and the Diversity of Animal Sounds CDs (donated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

## 2. The Tweety Birds

*Independent*

Raul Reyes, Emily Cruz, Maria Tijerina, Elpidio Cruz

Blindfolded: Sean Smith

Volunteer: Nancy Smith

Number of species: 37

Prizes: Bird Song Ear Training Guide CDs (donated by John Feith)



Conroe's Palomas

## 3. Caracaras: Face to Face with Nature

*Independent*

San Juanita Torres, Jessica Garza, Jessie Garza

Blindfolded: Roy Rodriguez

Volunteers: Rosa Garza, Joe Garza

Number of species: 35

Prizes: Diversity of Animal Sounds CDs (donated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology)



Tweety Birds



Caracaras:  
Face to Face  
with Nature

# CORPUS CHRISTI COMMUNITY BIRDING DAY

The Corpus Christi Community Birding Day on Saturday, April 22, 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 Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau for hosting the evening's activities.

Local birders, local business people and community leaders all came out to the Blucher House Bed and Breakfast for a fun evening of birding, wonderful conversation and great food.

During the Community Birding Day, teams of two people got together to see how many birds they could correctly identify from the Coastal Bend Wildlife photo contest display set up in the gardens. Thanks to Michelle Horine, Executive Director of the Coastal Bend Wildlife photo contest for setting up this beautiful display. After the mini-birding tournament, teams gathered for dinner as awards were presented for the top team.



## Final Results:

Kyle Allein and his teammate Kathy Griffith were the winners. They were awarded 2006 Great Texas Birding Classic posters and Corpus Christi CVB mugs.



# TENTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU

## FOUNDERS

We were fortunate enough to have three of the four founders of the Great Texas Birding Classic present with us at the Awards Brunch. So they will always remember their contribution to this great event, each was presented with a flying heron that can be either a roof mounted weather vane or a garden ornament.

Ted Eubanks  
John Herron  
Madge Lindsay  
Andy Sansom

As we say often, because it is sincerely meant, we could not do this event without the continued support of communities, corporations and individuals. A special tribute and recognition was given to those companies, communities and individuals that have been a part of all ten Great Texas Birding Classics.

Ted Eubanks



John Herron

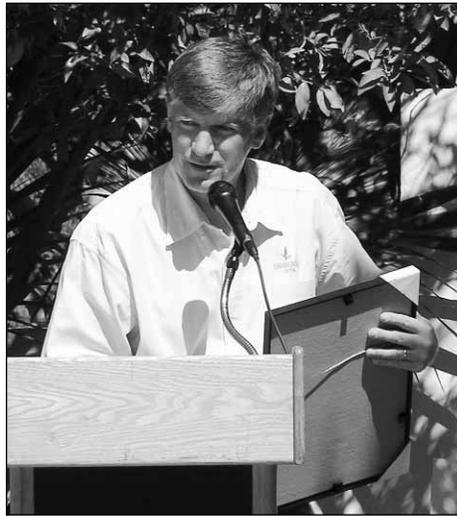


Madge Lindsay

We had a special recognition piece designed with artwork from all ten Birding Classics. A picture of “The Decade Award” is shown on the next page. These organizations and individuals helped make possible the accomplishment of contributing over \$500,000 over the past ten years to avian habitat conservation along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail!



Bill Baker from Reliant Energy



Clay Taylor from Swarovski Optik

## CORPORATIONS

AEP/Central Power & Light  
 Bushnell  
 ConocoPhillips  
 Eagle Optics  
 Pentax Imaging  
 Reliant Energy  
 Swarovski

## COMMUNITIES

Port Aransas  
 McAllen



Ann Vaughan  
 from Port Aransas

## INDIVIDUALS

Bill Baker  
 Cecilia Riley  
 Cliff Shackelford



Cliff Shackelford  
 and Cecilia Riley

The Decade Award with  
 artwork from all ten years  
 of the Classic



*We wish we could do more  
 to recognize them all, but we  
 know these people and  
 organizations are committed  
 to habitat conservation.  
 We hope they will all  
 be with us for our  
 20th Anniversary!*



Thank you to our judges

# 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 participants 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 calendars – here are the dates for next year's Great Texas Birding Classic!

2007 – Eleventh Annual Great Texas Birding Classic  
Saturday, April 21 – Sunday, April 29  
Sectional Tournament Order: Upper, Lower, Central

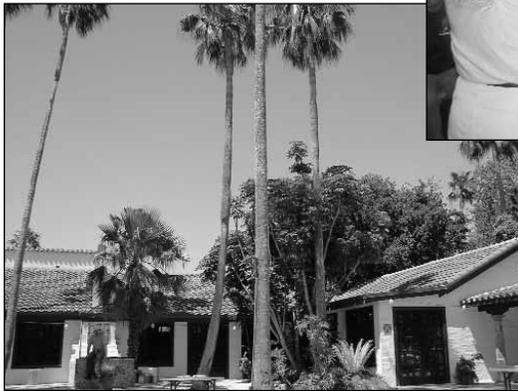
For information on the Great Texas Birding Classic 2007, contact Tournament Coordinator, Carol Jones:  
In Lake Jackson: (979) 480-0999

By mail: The Great Texas Birding Classic, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory,  
103 West Highway 332, Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Email: [cjones@gcbo.org](mailto:cjones@gcbo.org)

Check us out on the Web at: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc) and [www.gcbo.org/gtbc.html](http://www.gcbo.org/gtbc.html)

Team check in



2006 artist John O'Neill, guest DeWitt Harvey, event sponsor Juanita Gibson and judge Noreen Damude

# SPONSORS 2006

## GREAT BLUE HERON

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\$20,000 to under \$50,000

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

## ROSEATE SPOONBILL

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

ConocoPhillips

## BLACK SKIMMER

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

American Electric Power  
McRee Ford and Subaru  
Reliant Energy  
Swarovski Optik N.A., Ltd.

## BELTED KINGFISHER

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

### BASF

Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau  
The Dow Chemical Company  
Eagle Optics  
Lower Colorado River Authority  
McAllen Chamber of Commerce  
The Magnolia Trust  
NatureViewing  
NBID Associates  
Nikon, Inc.  
Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/  
Tourist Bureau  
Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Steiner Binoculars

## UNDER \$1,000 AND IN-KIND DONATIONS

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Houghton Mifflin Company  
McBride Foundation/Austin Woods and Waters  
Pentax Imaging Company  
Thayer Birding Software

Academy Sports and Outdoors	Kay Lookingbill
Alamo Chamber of Commerce	Naturally Curious, Inc.
Audubon Texas	Owlshack.com
“Best-1” Hummingbird Feeder Co.	Pájaro
Bird Watcher’s Digest	Rootin’ Ridge
Birder’s World	SmartShield
Bushnell Outdoor Products	Spot ‘n’ Jot
Carl Zeiss Optics	Texas Birds Annual
Cornell Lab of Ornithology	Travis Audubon Society
Driftwood Wildlife Association	VENT
Fennessey Ranch	WildBird
Juanita Gibson – artist	Wild Lines, Maren Phillips – artist
John Feith	World Birding Center
John O’Neill – artist	

## TEAM SPONSORSHIP

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\* part of sponsorship package

American Electric Power *	Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/Tourist Bureau *
BASF *	Reliant Energy *
Bushnell Outdoor Products	Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce *
Carl Zeiss Optics	Steiner Binoculars
ConocoPhillips *	Stewart Title Company – Port Aransas
Eagle Optics *	Swarovski Optik *
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory	Travis Audubon Society
Houston Audubon Society	WildBird Magazine and Nikon, Inc.
Leica Camera – Sport Optics and American Birding Association	
Mayor & Council, City of Edinburg	
Nikon, Inc.	

# THANK YOU!

The Great Texas Birding Classic is co-hosted by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and the Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. We would like to extend our gratitude to the following people for making this year's event fly!

## GULF COAST BIRD OBSERVATORY:

Cecilia Riley – Executive Director  
Carol Jones – GTBC Tournament Coordinator  
Amy Jensen – Administrative Assistant  
Bill Eley – on-line auction assistance  
Additional GCBO Volunteers:

- Sherry Collins
- Mickey Dufilho
- Michael Gray
- Davie McCaskill
- Georgia Monnerat
- Diane Richmond
- Rainbo Johnson
- Jerry Eppner
- Jan Kater
- Monica Krancervic
- Barbara Burkhart
- Oliver Osborne

## TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT:

Shelly Plante – Nature Tourism Coordinator  
Pat Morton – Conservation Outreach Program Leader  
Cliff Shackelford – Texas Partners in Flight Coordinator  
Matt Wagner – Director, Wildlife Diversity Program  
Mike Berger – Director, Wildlife Division

## OFFICIAL ARTIST FOR 2006:

John P. O'Neill

## JUDGES:

Cliff Shackelford, TPWD, Texas Partners in Flight  
Noreen Damude, Natural History writer and biologist

## ADDITIONAL BEHIND THE SCENES HELP:

Mike Gray and Bryan Plante  
Colleen Hook and Hale Butcher Schaleben at Quinta Mazatlan  
Joanna and Mike Troppy

## Thanks to all of our community partners for helping coordinate our sanctioned events:

Willma Harvey, Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Nohemi Marroquin, McAllen Chamber of Commerce

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

Coastal NWRs      Coastal WMAs      El Canelo Ranch  
Private homes of our birding friends throughout the Texas coast



Birding Classic staff and friends birding

Thanks to all the people at TPWD who helped make this year a success:

Randy Brudnicki  
Tom Harvey  
Chris Hunt

Mark Klym  
Charles Lohrmann  
Robert Macias

Cecilia Nasti  
Tim Peterson  
Frank Robinson

Lydia Saldaña  
Jim Stone



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## GULF COAST BIRD OBSERVATORY

Cecilia Riley	Executive Director
Carol Jones	GTBC Tournament Coordinator
Bill Eley	Web Site Support
Amy Jensen	Administrative Assistant
Bill Baker	Board Member

## TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

### **Wildlife Division:**

Mike Berger	Division Director
Matt Wagner	Wildlife Diversity Program Director
Patricia Morton	Conservation Outreach Program Leader
Shelly Plante	Nature Tourism Coordinator
Clifford Shackelford	Texas Partners in Flight Coordinator
Frank Robinson	Web Developer

### **Communications Division:**

Lydia Saldaña	Division Director
Darcy Bontempo	Marketing and Web Services Branch
Tom Harvey	News and Information Branch
Richard Roberts	Media Productions Branch
Randy Brudnicki	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Magazine</i>
Robert Macias	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Magazine</i>
Jim Stone	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Magazine</i> Advertising Consultant

Written and coordinated by Shelly Plante and Carol Jones

Publication layout by Chris Hunt, Creative Services

Cover artwork by John O'Neill

Artwork by Rob Fleming and Clemente Guzman III, Creative Services

Project coordination and layout direction by Tim Peterson, Creative Services



## 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.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about how your business or community can be involved in this year's event, please contact the Birding Classic Staff:

**1-866-GTBCLAS (482-2527)**  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc/)  
[www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org)

## TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

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## COVER ARTWORK

Cover artwork by John O'Neill

The original signed artwork will be available for sale on the on-line auction leading up to and during the week of the Birding Classic to raise money for habitat conservation on the Texas coast.



Program: PWD BK W7000-348 (3/06)

Winners Report: PWD BK W7000-547 (7/06)

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