



SAVE the DATE

APRIL 20-23, 2017

SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS
& NATURE CENTER

THE

BIRDIEST FESTIVAL

IN NORTH AMERICA!



Grab your optics and join the migration to Corpus Christi, where you and more than 300 bird species will be converging for the first annual **Birdiest Festival in North America**. The weekend

will feature birding workshops, a tradeshow, guest speakers, and field trips throughout South Texas for some of the best bird sightings in the country.

Field Trips for Birdiest Festival

Our field trips have been designed with a low ratio of leaders to participants. Water and snacks provided on all trips. Remember to bring your own bug spray and sunscreen.

Corpus Christi won the last 10 years of the Birdiest City Contest. Our highest total was 243 species, and that is just within the city limits! With proper weather conditions the festival total should be around 300 species.

The Norias Division of the King Ranch

This full day tour visits the remote Norias division, the southernmost section of the legendary King Ranch. With some of the rarest nesting birds in the U.S. like the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and Tropical Parula, and habitat for both resident and migrant bird species, the ranch is an incredible place to go birding in April. Some other species we will look for include Harris' Hawk, Groove-billed Ani, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Vermilion Flycatcher, Audubon's Oriole, and Botteri's Sparrow. Lunch, snacks and drinks are provided.

Friday and Saturday ONLY

5:30 am to 4:30 pm \$120

The Fennessey Ranch

The Fennessey Ranch has offered Spring Migration Tours for the past 25 years. Over 400 species have been sighted here. This tour travels through the most primitive areas of the ranch, exploring prairies, riparian forest, wetlands and marshes. Nine miles of the Mission River make this an exciting trip with experience guides on a hay wagon.

5:30 am to 12:30 pm \$60

Port Aransas Area

Driving on the beach while looking for shorebirds and seabirds is a treat for those that do not live near the ocean. Add in a world class neotropic trap and very birdy fresh water pond and marsh, plus sparrows, ducks, and waders makes this area fairly easy to see over 100 species in a single day.

6:00 am to noon \$45

An afternoon trip is also planned to watch the sunset after doing some birding. The late afternoon is when many neotropic migrants come in. The day will end with dinner at a local restaurant (meal not included). Fri./Sat. Only.

3:30 to 9:00 pm \$35

Corpus Christi Area

Two neotropic migrant traps near downtown often have 18 to 20 species of warblers at this time of year. Time permitting, unless there is a fallout, this field trip will also go to two spots along the bay for shorebirds, waders, ducks and so much more.

6:30 am to noon \$45

An afternoon trip is also planned to watch for neotropic migrants coming in. If they are slow the trip will go to some shorebird spots.

1:30 pm to 5:30 pm \$35

Hazel Bazemore County Park

Best known for the hawk watch with the largest and most diverse migration of raptors in the US, this park is also like getting a taste of South Texas. Green Jays, kisskadees, White-tipped Dove, Buff-bellied Hummingbirds are only a few birds that may be seen.

6:00 am to noon \$45

Hazel Bazemore County Park (cont.)

A full day trip is also planned with the emphasis being on raptors. After a morning of general birding learn how to ID raptors at a distance. We will provide the chairs so plan to have a relaxing time at the hawk watch. Fri./Sat. Only.

6:00 am to 4:30 pm \$60

Lake Choke Canyon State Park

The lake is located at the edge of the thorn-brush desert that hosts a different suite of birds. The diversity is great with a hundred species being possible. Audubon Oriole, Cactus Wren, Verdin and Black-throated Sparrow, Black Phoebe and Vermilion Flycatcher are some of the target birds.

5:30 am to 12:30 pm \$45

Shorebird Trip

This field trip is designed for those that find shorebirds interesting but very challenging. It will be a workshop to hone your skills. Target birds are Snowy and Piping Plover, Reddish Egret, and American Oystercatcher. The leaders will scout the day before to provide the best possibility for the most species.

6:30 am to noon \$45

Big Day Vans

This full day trip will be fast paced, challenging and fun. Seeing or hearing as many species of birds as possible in a single day is not easy. Be flexible, as we will go to as many spots as possible, based on scouting. With good weather and even better luck you may join the 200 club. Lunch (not included) will also be flexible, maybe a local Whataburger, as we all will need a mid-day break. Fri./Sat. Only.

6:00 am to 5:00 pm \$65

South Texas Botanical Gardens Nature Walk

Take an exploratory bird and nature walk on the 182 acre center site. You should encounter migrating songbirds in riparian mesquite forest habitat and shorebirds in large wetlands. Includes snacks and drinks.

7:30 am to 11:00 am \$8

Check back at www.stxbot.org in December for online registration.

Festival Registration fee of \$35 required to participate in field trips, attend seminars, and includes opening reception on Thursday evening, April 20.

Vendors on South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center site Friday-Sunday with food trucks available for lunch. More details coming soon.