



MEDIA ADVISORY

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“Birdiest City” stages inaugural four-day birding festival based at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center
Six talks, 15 field trips, Raptor Project, vendor tent . . . April 20-23;
Online registration open at www.stxbot.org!

CORPUS CHRISTI--Named the “birdiest city in the United States” ten consecutive years, Corpus Christi finally has its own birding festival! “The Birdiest Festival in America” will be held April 20-23, headquartered at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a key *Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail* site, 8545 S. Staples St. Other event sponsors are binocular, spotting scope and birding accessory supplier **Swarovski Optik**, **Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau**, **Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program**, **City of Corpus Christi**.

The four-day event begins at 1:30 pm, Thursday, April 20. A **\$35 per person basic registration fee includes** covers six seminars/special talks, vendor tent, arts/crafts booths, “Raptor Project” shows, Botanical Gardens admission, plus an opening reception Mexican fajita dinner, Thursday, April 20. **Optional, separately-priced features include** 15 different field trips Thursday-Saturday, April 21-23, and barbecue dinner, Saturday evening, April 22. Food trucks will be on-site for other meals. On-line registration, detailed information, and festival registration form are on the Botanical Gardens website, www.stxbot.org. Basic \$35 registration is required to be eligible for field trips and talks. Daily Botanical Gardens general admission will allow public access to “Raptor Project” shows, vendor tent, arts/crafts booths.

The new “bird on the block” centers around spring migration, when Corpus Christi repeatedly won the *Birdiest City* competition with its **unique location in key migration pathways**. Festival Coordinator Joel Simon, sponsor Swarovski Optiks, and Botanical Gardens Executive Director Michael Womack expect to host many birders from across the Country exploring Corpus Christi’s special migration opportunities. *For more information, visit www.stxbot.org.*



PHOTOS
 courtesy of:
*Raptor Project,
 Wildlife in Focus*



Talks/Speakers, Raptor Project

- “Corpus Christi Hawk Watch-20 years and Beyond”, *Dane Ferrell*
- “Positive Vibes-A Texas Big Year!”, *David Sarkozi*
- “40 Years Observing Birds on Barrier Island Beaches!”, *Tony Amos*
- “Birding Tour of State Parks in South Texas”, *Ben Horstmann*
- “Bird Song through the Ages”, *Dr. Robert Benson*
- “Solving Shorebird ID Pitfalls”, *Mel Cooksey*
- “THE RAPTOR PROJECT”, *Jonathan Wood*

Separate Options: 13 Field Trips, 2 ‘Big Sits’

- KING RANCH, NORIAS DIVISION, Apr. 21 or 22- \$120
- FENNESSEY RANCH, Apr. 21, 22, 23-\$60
- PORT ARANSAS AREA, Apr. 21, 22, 23-\$45 *
- CORPUS CHRISTI AREA, Apr. 21, 22, 23-\$45 *
- LAKE CHOKE CANYON STATE PARK, Apr. 21, 22, 23-\$45
- HAZEL BAZEMORE COUNTY PARK, Apr. 21, 22, 23-\$45 **
- SHOREBIRD TRIP, Apr. 21, 22, 23-\$45
- “BIG DAY”, Apr. 21 or 22-\$65
- BIRDING CLASSIC ‘BIG SITS’
 - Packery Channel, Audubon Outdoor Club, Apr. 21-\$20
 - Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve, Apr. 22-\$20
- “SKIMMER” BOAT TOUR, Apr. 23-\$40
- BOTANICAL GARDENS NATURE WALK, Apr. 21, 22, 23-\$8
 - *Shorter, lower-priced excursions available for these trips
 - ** Full-day, higher-priced excursion available for this trip