



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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Coastal Bend area  
birding photos courtesy  
of *Wildlife in Focus*

## Inaugural four-day April “Birdiest Festival in America”, based at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center in Corpus Christi, timed for key spring migration flyways!

CORPUS CHRISTI—Named “birdiest city” for a decade, Corpus Christi holds its inaugural “*Birdiest Festival in America*,” April 20-23, headquartered at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples St., a *Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail site*. With Corpus Christi in key spring migration flyways, festival coordinators and partners **Swarovski Optik**, **Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau**, **Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program** and **City of Corpus Christi** are seeing registrations from across the Country.

Former Corpus Christi Mayor and nature enthusiast Joe Adame thinks this festival is big news indeed. “When Kathy and I travel, we often meet birders with high dollar cameras and binoculars spending money--an international classy ecotourism market for Corpus Christi,” Adame emphasized.

“Birding and Corpus Christi go hand in hand,” said Paulette Kluge, CEO of the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau. “This festival has the potential to draw more visitors to our area because Corpus Christi is a natural spot to see hundreds of birds species. We are very excited to help introduce this event to our city.”

“The newest birding festival in Texas centers around spring migration, the reason Corpus Christi repeatedly won the *Birdiest City* competition with its unique location in key migration flyways,” explained Botanical Gardens Executive Director Michael Womack.

Festival Coordinator Joel Simon and binocular and birding equipment maker and sponsor Swarovski Optik, aren’t surprised registrations have been received from out-of-state birders excited about exploring Corpus Christi’s special migration opportunities, unique variety of field trip locations and speakers.

Botanical Gardens Marketing Director MaryJane Crull says there’s a niche for every birder, from beginning to life-long, at this festival. “Birding is a worldwide sport. Local birders will enjoy meeting visitors and learning about other hot spots—for a very reasonable investment in this local event. Even field trips in your back yard take on new life when led by expert birders,” Crull added.

The **\$35 per person four-day basic registration fee** covers six guest-speaker birding talks, vendor tent, arts/crafts booths, “Raptor Project” shows, Botanical Gardens daily admission, opening reception Mexican fajita dinner, Thursday, April 20; and is required for access to **optional, separately-priced features including** 13 different field trips, two “big sits,” and barbecue dinner, Saturday, April 22. Food trucks will be on-site for other meals. Field trips ranging from \$20 to \$120 per person include King Ranch, Fennessey Ranch, Lake Choke Canyon State Park, Port Aransas, and a skimmer boat tour. A single-day \$20 option covering admission, birding talks and a nature walk also is available for birders able to attend only part of the festival.

Visit Botanical Gardens website, [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org), for on-line registration, detailed festival schedule, and registration form, or call 361-852-2100. ##