

FAR WEST TEXAS BIRD NEWS

THE OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF

TRANS-PECOS BIRD CONSERVATION

BENEFITTING COMMUNITY TOURISM AND RURAL ECONOMIES - HELPING NATIVE BIRDS THRIVE



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2023 Celebration Mascot

Broad-billed Hummingbird

Image from [Hummingbirds of Texas](#)

Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife

DMHC 2023

Cecilia Riley, Coordinator

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Donna L. Dittmann, Pre-event
Participant Liaison

Christopher & Pam Pipes, Field
Trip Departures at The High Frontier

Far West Texas
Bird News, Vol. 1:



Presentation and photograph above by Michael Gray.

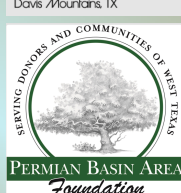
DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION 2023

Biennial event kicks off on 17 August at The High Frontier

Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation and DMHC sponsors (see below) are excited to host another DMHC in Fort Davis. Our event is based at The High Frontier just south of Fort Davis off Hwy. 118. This year we offer field trips to a variety of area habitats, hummingbird banding, a wonderful line-up of volunteer leaders and hosts to assist you on field trips, and property owners who welcome DMHC participants. We have informative and fun speakers (visit the website for more information), an online hummingbird ID presentation, booths and vendors (see p. 3), and fun socials including a Welcome Social with a cowboy band, wine tasting at the Wright Winery, and our finale banquet at The High-Frontier. And, of course, our hummingbirds!

Thank you!

DMHC sponsors:



Pamela Medlin

Craig Childs

Noel Ice

William P. Wright

Anne Adams

Ellen Weinacht





DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION HISTORY

By Maryann Eastman

On a cool misty morning in the Davis Mountains around 20 bird lovers were watching a fantastic display of hummingbirds. One young man standing next to me asked "They come to water?". This proves you do not have to know all about hummingbirds to be fascinated by them. It was that fascination that prompted the initial hummingbird celebration in West Texas. The first event was held in the early 90s at the Prude Ranch with John Robert Prude and Kelly Bryan coordinating it. Eventually, other local groups became involved with hosting the hummingbird lovers that came from all over the United States and abroad. We



DMHC TIPS: Whether birding at the celebration or on your own - don't forget to start the day with a full tank of gas bring ample water and snacks, wear appropriate clothing and, especially, adequate footwear (think cactus or mesquite spines - ouch!).

EMERGENCY NUMBERS: 911 (EMERGENCY; also to report fires) Fort Davis Sheriff Department 432-426-3145; Jeff Davis County Ambulance 432-426-3791; Big Bend Medical Center (Alpine) 432-837-3447.

hosted groups at our house and garden for over 20 years. At one point the birders enjoyed the 100+ feeders in our yard and had the chance to see special hummingbirds such as Lucifer, Rivoli's, Calliope, and Broad-billed to name a few. The festival continued to grow and brought more people to our

little community. That was when the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI) took the reins. To accommodate the ever-growing crowds, they found new bird-lovers in the Davis Mountains Resort (DMR) who would open their yards to visitors. Because most of Jeff Davis County is private land (including DMR) this allowed nature lovers to see areas of the county they wouldn't otherwise be able to visit. The festival soon included talks about wildlife, walks, tours of local hotspots, and a barbecue bash at closing. In 2015, with the help of local businesses, volunteers, and a dedicated 'birding committee,' the event's popularity grew. Committee experts added well-known guest speakers, banding demonstrations, tri-county birding tours, bird photography classes, vendor shows, hummingbird garden tours, and much more. The Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration was now a major community event attracting over 200+ participants in mid-to-late August - just in time for the main hummingbird migration through the Davis Mountains. **Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation** was formed by this Committee in 2019. The local non-profit assumed event organizing to benefit regional bird conservation, education, and birding tourism. With TBC in charge, the 2023 Hummingbird Celebration will be the best ever.



FESTIVAL BOOTHS & VENDORS

Don't forget to set aside some time to visit booths and vendors at **The High Frontier!**

Info booths at The Commons. Stop by and chat with representatives of the area's conservation groups. They can answer your questions about wildlife and habitats. TAMU will also have regional books for sale.



RIO GRANDE
JOINT VENTURE

The Nature
Conservancy
Texas



BORDERLANDS
RESEARCH + INSTITUTE
CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER



Texas A&M University Press

Vendors at The Commons. Optics, native plants, and bird art are highlighted this year.



Two optics vendors can assist you with your questions about binoculars, telescopes, cameras, and other optical equipment: Houston-based **Land Sea & Sky** and **Swarovski Optik**. They can even tempt you to purchase something new!



TWIN SISTERS NATIVES

Specializing in Seed-grown Plants of Trans-Pecos Texas



Visit with **Twin Sisters Natives** to learn about some the amazing plants they propagate, and which thrive in the Trans-Pecos region. They will have a variety of plants for sale. Don't forget to ask about hummingbird pollinated species and varieties, such as gorgeous (left) *Salvia* and *Penstemon*.



**Snowy
Egret
Enterprises/
Donna L
Dittmann**

specializes in bird-themed art focusing on area specialties - Trans-Pecos Hummingbird Poster (left), paintings, prints, digital designs, even souvenir mugs. The owl print is framed in a wood burl.



Artisans or galleries visited on DMHC field trips:

Jill D. Miller. www.rimrockphotography.com 432-238-0525 Landscapes, all aspects of ranch life and native Chihuahuan Desert residents are reflected in her photography. Jill's Far West Texas Calendar features photographs from the Big Bend area.

Randy Glover : <https://randygloverartisan.com> 432-426-3713. Jewelry Hand Made, Contemporary Southwestern Jewelry inspired by Mother Nature.

OLD SPANISH TRAIL GALLERY AND MUSEUM At Crow's Nest Ranch est.1905 / art@ostgallery.com / Original art and sculpture by several well-known artists. Lindy Cook Severns is the artist-in-residence and DMHC field trip host. Local artists also include Roxa Robison, Ginger Lemons, Joni Powers, and potter John Davis. Open daily by appointment.

JUDD FOUNDATION: The Block, which is Donald Judd's concept of a permanent art installation in the Chihuahuan Desert. To book a visit: <https://juddfoundation.org/visit/marfa/>

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration 17-20 August 2023

**Thursday at the High Frontier - The Commons: Noon-5:30 PM Check-in; NOON-6:30 PM Vendor Booths & Silent Auction;
5:30-7:00 PM Welcome Reception Hors d'oeuvres & Local Music by the Border Blasters**

Departs: 5:30-7:30 AM Breakfast for pre-dawn & sunrise field trips; pick-up at the High Frontier Pavilion¹ Returns:

PRE-DAWN	Friday, August 18	Saturday, August 19	Sunday, August 20	
6:00 AM	1. Christmas Mountains Oasis	1. Christmas Mountains Oasis	1. Christmas Mountains Oasis	3:00 PM
6:05 AM	2. Presidio	Not offered	2. Presidio	3:30 PM
6:10 AM	3. Alamito Creek Preserve	3. Alamito Creek Preserve	3. Alamito Creek Preserve	1:00 PM
6:15 AM	4. Miller Ranch	4. Miller Ranch	4. Miller Ranch	1:30 PM
6:20 AM	5. Marathon	5. Marathon	5. Marathon	1:30 PM
6:30 AM	6. Balmorhea	6. Balmorhea	6. Balmorhea	1:30 PM
6:40 AM	7. TNC Preserve-Wolf Den	7. TNC Preserve-Wolf Den	7. TNC Preserve-Wolf Den	1:00 PM
6:50 AM	8. DMR Upper Hummer Homes	8. DMR Upper Hummer Homes	8. DMR Upper Hummer Homes	NOON
6:55 AM	Not offered	9. TNC Preserve-Fisher Tract	9. TNC Preserve-Fisher Tract	12:15 PM
7:10 AM	10. DMR Lower Hummer Homes	10. DMR Lower Hummer Homes	10. DMR Lower Hummer Homes	NOON
7:15 AM	11. Sky Island & McDonald Obs.	11. Sky Island & McDonald Obs.	Not offered	12:10 PM
SUNRISE	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	7:22 AM
7:30 AM	12. Birding Alpine Cemetery	Not offered	Not offered	NOON
7:40 AM	13. Hummer Banding at TNC	13. Hummer Banding at TNC	13. Hummer Banding at TNC	NOON
7:50 AM	14. Hummingbirds & Art Crow's Nest	14. Hummingbirds & Art Crow's Nest	14. Hummingbirds & Art Crow's Nest	11:30 AM
8:00 AM	15. Hummer Houses on Arabella	15. Hummer Houses on Arabella	15. Hummer Houses on Arabella	11:30 AM
8:10 AM	16. Hummingbirds & Art Limpia Cyn.	16. Hummingbirds & Art Limpia Cyn.	Not offered	11:40 AM
8:20 AM	17. Hummer Houses Olds Creek	17. Hummer Houses Olds Creek	17. Hummer Houses Olds Creek	11:50 AM
8:30 AM	Not offered	18. The HF, CDRI & Musquiz Valley	18. The HF, CDRI & Musquiz Valley	NOON
9:00 AM	19. Hummingbirds & Art Marfa	Not offered	Not offered	NOON
AFTERNOON	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
12:30 PM		10. DMR Lower Homes	Not offered	5:00 PM
12:50 PM		Not offered	15. Hummer Houses on Arabella	4:20 PM
1:00 PM	Not offered	Not offered	8. DMR Upper Hummer Homes	6:00 PM
1:00 PM		16. Hummingbirds & Art Limpia Cyn.	Not offered	4:30 PM
1:00-5:00 PM	Vendor Booths & Silent Auction	Vendor Booths		
1:00-1:30 PM	Last chance Silent Auction & bidding closes!			
1:30 PM	10. DMR Lower Homes		Not offered	6:00 PM
1:35 PM	15. Hummer Houses on Arabella	Not offered		5:00 PM
1:40 PM	16. Hummingbirds & Art Limpia Cyn.		Not offered	5:10 PM
1:45-3:00 PM		Auction Payout & Pick-up		
3:00-4:00 PM	Hummingbirds of the Americas	Pupfish to Ponderosas		
4:00-5:00 PM	Nightbirds of the Davis Mtns.	Art & Science of Hummingbirds		
5:30-7:00 PM	Chateau Wright Wine Tasting-Birders Social*			
6:00-7:30 PM		DMHC Banquet		
8:00-9:00 PM	Preserving Darkness	Easy Birding: Parking Lots to Cemeteries		

* All activities are at the High Frontier except for the Chateau Wright Wine Tasting-Birders Social, which will be at their winery on Hwy. 166 where there will also be a Food Truck !