

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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2025 Celebration Mascot

Black-chinned Hummingbird
Image from

[Hummingbirds of Texas](#)

Courtesy of Texas Parks & Wildlife

DMHC 2025

Cecilia Riley, Coordinator

Joan Blakenship, Silent Auction Coordinator

Donna L. Dittmann, Pre-event Participant Liaison

Michael Gray, Feeder Station Lead

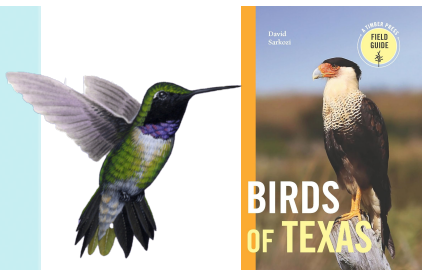
Linda Hedges, Speaker Coordinator

Madge Lindsay, Sponsor Development

Dell Little, Website & Registration

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

Far West Texas Bird News, Vol. 2:



Join us at 3:15 PM on Friday for the first of the DMHC 2025 Program Series -

Birds of Texas

and enjoy an informative talk by David Sarkozi followed by book signing and door prizes.

DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION 2025

Biennial event kicks off on 14 August at The High Frontier

Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation and DMHC sponsors 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 a pre-festival workshop and field trip, morning 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 the Welcome Social with the band Border Blasters, a Birder Social at The Rendezvous in Fort Davis, and our finale banquet at The High Frontier. And, of course, our hummingbirds!

BIRDING FOR CONSERVATION

by Cecilia Riley and Maggi Gunnels

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration is more than just a fun experience. It has helped fuel the costs of invaluable research and education right here in Far West Texas. Each Hummingbird Celebration is planned and conducted by the all-volunteer board of Trans-Pecos Bird Conservation (TBC), a small but effective non-profit founded in 2019 for the purpose of benefitting community tourism and rural economies and helping our native birds thrive. The Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration is TBC's door to achieving our purpose. After paying the Celebration bills,

THANK YOU! DMHC SPONSORS & PARTNERS:

FORT DAVIS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VISITOR CENTER



Anne Adams
Ellen Weinacht





Birding for Conservation continues from page 1

any proceeds are directed to avian conservation and education projects. Below are the projects most recently funded with 2023 Hummingbird Celebration proceeds.

High Elevation Owls of the Davis Mountains: Owls have special significance in societies throughout history, symbolizing wisdom, intuition, transformation, and cultural beliefs. But due to their secretive, nocturnal habits, little is known about them – in Texas at least. To better understand the life history and distribution of high elevation owls in their sky-island habitat of the Davis Mountains, lead researcher Romey Swanson teamed up with local non-profits and research universities. TBC was able to award a \$10,000 grant for this exciting project.

A pilot study was conducted in 2023 with Borderlands Research Institute and Texas Tech University researchers, volunteers, and students who conducted the diurnal and nocturnal field data collection and analysis activities including the deployment of autonomous recording units (ARUs). Then in June 2024, after analysis of the ARU recordings, the team reported the presence of Elf, Flammulated, Great Horned, Long-eared, Northern Saw-whet, and Western Screech owls on their territories in the sky island forests and canyons. Fast forward to March 2025 when analysis of that year's ARU deployment documented the continued presence of these owls, with one exception, no Northern Saw-whet Owls were documented. There was however, an in-person sighting of Mexican Spotted Owl! Most recently, Spring 2025 breeding bird surveys were conducted May 11-17. The field research team was able to provide observations of owl nests and activities, as well as monitoring the ARU recordings. Comprehensive data analysis for the 2025 field season should be completed by the end of the Summer 2025.

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDING IN HOT WEATHER

By Madge Lindsay

It's summer---And it's hot! Now, more than ever it is important to keep a close eye on your hummingbird feeders. Not only do you want to see a rare species using your feeders, you also want to make sure the summer sun has not spoiled the hummingbird nectar, because that can greatly harm the birds.

"Hummingbirds can get sick and even die from drinking hummingbird water that has gone bad." (U.S. Fish & Wildlife service) If you are successful attracting hummingbirds, then clean feeders and fresh solution are important. Your routine should include monitoring feeders daily, especially when summer temperatures are high. ***If the solution (or nectar) has thickened or is a milky color, then please remove immediately and refresh your feeders.*** The Nectar Change and Feeder Cleaning Guide below provides a baseline. Be aware that your solution may start to deteriorate *before it becomes cloudy* and you may be tempted not to refill it if hummingbirds are not draining your feeders in a day or two. If possible, your garden should also have a bird watering station, preferably a water dripper and hopefully native pollinating flowers and trees, which are like magnets to birds.

Nectar Change & Feeder Cleaning Guide



Temperature	Number of Days
71-75 °F	6 or less
76-80 °F	5
81-84 °F	4
85-88 °F	3
89-92 °F	2
93 °F plus	1



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!).

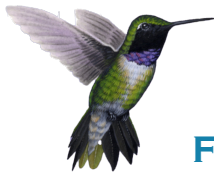
EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

911 (EMERGENCY and to report a fire)

Fort Davis Sheriff Department 432-426-3145

Jeff Davis County Ambulance 432-426-3791

Big Bend Medical Center (Alpine) 432-837-3447.



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.



Artist Vendors at The Commons:



Cheryl Marsland Art. Cheryl creates three dimensional creations that include fiber, also paintings. She will highlight her hand-crafted jewelry: <https://www.facebook.com/CherylMarslandArt/photos>.



Kathy Adams Clark (Saturday afternoon speaker and Photography Workshop leader) will be selling and signing books. She can also tell you about details of her photo tours: https://www.kathyadamsclark.com/Photo_tours.html#



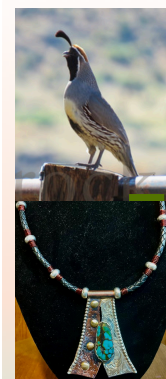
Maren Phillips. Maren is a Texas Artist specializing in nature-oriented watercolors, plein air oil paintings and portraits in either oil or watercolor. www.marenphillipsartlines.com She is doing the Art Demo at Pavilion 2 on Friday at 2 PM.



Chris and Ellen Ruggia. Chris and Ellen have a design and marketing studio in Alpine and will be selling a variety of wildlife and botanical art: <https://chrisruggia.com>. Chris is an artist/cartoonish who draws his inspiration from animals of the Big Bend Region and Ellen's botanical art focuses on plants native to the Trans-Pecos region of Texas



Snowy Egret Enterprises/Donna L Dittmann. Donna specializes in bird-themed art focusing on area specialties - paintings, prints, even souvenir mugs. She loves to work with digital media where she can let her imagination run wild (on her computer) and incorporate her photos in her creations. Website: <https://www.snowyegretenterprises.com>



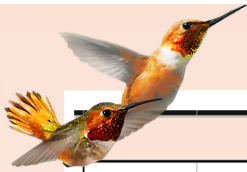
Artisans or galleries visited on DMHC field trips:

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. Creates 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. Gallery owner and artist, Roxa Robison is our DMHC field trip host. Local artists also include, Ginger Lemons, Joni Powers, and potter John Davis. Open daily by appointment. Visit their website: <https://www.oldspanishtrailgallery.com/about>



Welcome Reception - Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar - 5:30-7:00 PM - Music by The Border Blasters

5:30-7:30 AM	Pick-up Go-breakfast at The High Frontier Pavilion 1; ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM The High Frontier			
DEPARTS	MORNING FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE			RETURNS
PRE-DAWN	Friday, August 15	Saturday, August 16	Sunday, August 17	
6:00 AM	1. Christmas Mountains Oasis	1. Christmas Mountains Oasis	1. Christmas Mountains Oasis	1:00 PM
6:10 AM	2. Alamito Creek Preserve	2. Alamito Creek Preserve	not offered	1:00 PM
6:15 AM	3. Miller Ranch	3. Miller Ranch	3. Miller Ranch	1:00 PM
6:20 AM	not offered	4. Marathon & vicinity	4. Marathon & vicinity	1:00 PM
6:30 AM	not offered	not offered	5. Balmorhea Lake & Sandia Wetlands	1:00 PM
6:40 AM	6. TNC Preserve - Wolf Den	6. TNC Preserve - Wolf Den	6. TNC Preserve - Wolf Den	1:00 PM
6:50 AM	7. DMR - Upper Hummer Homes	7. DMR - Upper Hummer Homes	7. DMR - Upper Hummer Homes	Noon
7:00 AM	8. DMR - Lower Hummer Homes	8. DMR - Lower Hummer Homes	8. DMR - Lower Hummer Homes	Noon
7:10 AM	9. Catto Gage Ranch	9. Catto Gage Ranch	9. Catto Gage Ranch	Noon
7:15 AM	10. Hummingbird Banding at TNC Preserve	10. Hummingbird Banding at TNC Preserve	10. Hummingbird Banding at TNC Preserve	Noon
7:20 AM	11. Hummingbird Banding at McDonald	11. Hummingbird Banding at McDonald	11. Hummingbird Banding at McDonald	Noon
SUNRISE	Friday, August 15	Saturday, August 16	Saturday, August 17	7:21 AM
7:30 AM	12. Alpine Hotspots	12. Alpine Hotspots	12. Alpine Hotspots	Noon
7:30 AM	Go-breakfast pick-up closes! Those on later trips need to pick breakfast before 7:30 AM			7:30 AM
7:40 AM	not offered	not offered	13. Hummingbirds & Gallery at Crow's Nest	Noon
8:00 AM	14. Hummer Homes - Arabella	14. Hummer Homes - Arabella	14. Hummer Homes - Arabella	Noon
8:00 AM	15. Marfa Garden, Marfa	15. Marfa Garden, Marfa	15. Marfa Garden, Marfa	Noon
8:10 AM	17. Hummer Homes - Limpia Canyon	17. Hummer Homes - Limpia Canyon	17. Hummer Homes - Limpia Canyon	Noon
8:20 AM	18. Hummer Homes - Olds Creek	18. Hummer Homes - Olds Creek	18. Hummer Homes - Olds Creek	Noon
8:20 AM	not offered	19. The High Frontier, CDRI & Musquiz Creek	19. The High Frontier, CDRI & Musquiz Creek	Noon
8:30 AM	20. Hummingbird Photography Workshop	20. Hummingbird Photography Workshop	20. Hummingbird Photography Workshop	Noon
	AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES	Vendor booths & Silent Auction, Socials & Presentations		
PM	Friday, August 15	Saturday, August 16	Sunday, August 17	
1:00 PM	Vendor Booths & Silent Auction continues	Vendor booths close at 4:00 PM		5:30 PM
1:00 PM		Last Chance Silent Auction and bidding closes		1:30 PM
1:45 PM		Silent Auction Payout and Pick-up		3:00 PM
2:00 PM	Hummingbird Art Demo			3:00 PM
3:00 PM		Tropical Hummingbirds		4:00 PM
3:15 PM	Birds of Texas & book signing			4:30 PM
4:00 PM		An eBird Reviewer's perspectives and tips for eBird users		4:45 PM
4:30 PM	Avian Impacts of Light Pollution			5:30 PM
5:30 PM	Birders Social at The Rendezvous			6:45 PM
6:00 PM		DMHC Banquet & Cash Bar		7:30 PM
7:30 AM		The Sordid Behavior of Ruby-throated & Black-chinned Hummingbirds		8:45 PM
SUNSET	Friday, August 15	Saturday, August 16	Saturday, August 17	8:37 PM
All activities are at The High Frontier except the Birders Social will be at The Rendezvous in downtown Fort Davis				
Wednesday, August 13 Pre-festival offerings: Hummingbird ID Workshop 8 AM-1 PM; and Montane Birds of the Davis Mountains Preserve 4-10 PM				

