

Kenedy Ranch



The Kenedy Ranch is a privately-owned ranch in south Texas, which has been managed for wildlife and grazing for its entire history. The ranch was founded in the 1860's by riverboat captain Mifflin Kenedy, and is adjacent to the famous King Ranch (founded by Kenedy's partner, Capt. Richard King). The expansive Kenedy Ranch hosts a rich diversity of habitats typical of south Texas, and is the northern limit for many subtropical species of birds. A museum in the nearby town of Sarita displays a wonderful history of the ranch and the area.

LOCATION: Along the Laguna Madre, near the town of Sarita, Kenedy County, Texas

SIZE: 95,175 ha (235,000 acres)

HABITAT: The ranch has over 120,000 acres of native coastal prairie with grasses such as big bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass. Other ecosystems found on the Kenedy include 3,000 acres of migrating sand dunes, 40,000 acres of oak woodlands, mesquite woodlands, and miles of coastline stretching from Baffin Bay to the Laguna Madre. Numerous artesian wells flow into natural depressions which form important water sources for wildlife.

BIRDS: Over 300 species of birds have been recorded on the ranch, including several south Texas specialties which reach their northern limit here, including Ferruginous Pygmy-owl, Tropical Parula, Botteri's Sparrow, and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet. Other south Texas birds such as Green Jay, Green Kingfisher, and Buff-bellied Hummingbird are common breeding birds. The live oak mottes are used extensively by migrant songbirds.

CONSERVATION: The Kenedy Foundation Ranch implements a closely monitored range management program. Regular vegetation transects are conducted, and the effects of grazing are actively monitored. Kenedy County's only Breeding Bird Survey route is conducted yearly by GCBO staff on the ranch. This is the only route in the unique coastal sand sheet habitat in Texas.



Site Partner:

The John C. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation

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