



GULF CROSSINGS

GULF COAST WILDLIFE RESCUE

THE REWARDS OF REHABBING

By Dana Simon

These days most of the viewing public have been introduced to what wildlife rescue is thanks to the internet and reality TV. This was not the case nearly 30 years ago when I founded Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue. GCWR is a non-profit organization of permitted rehabilitators and volunteers serving the upper Texas coastal area and dedicated to caring for all manner of injured and orphaned wildlife, with the purpose of releasing them back into the wild. While I no longer usually have to explain what I do, a question I still often get is why? What drives a person to become a wildlife rehabilitator? Why take on a profession that not only doesn't pay anything but involves a lot of expense, long, mostly thankless hours, and just plain hard work. Often a wildlife rehabilitator's responsibilities make it very difficult, if not impossible, to spend time away from home for vacations. Why would anyone volunteer for this kind of undertaking and commitment?

I think the foremost reason that I, and most of my fellow rehabbers, would give in answer to this question, is our love of wildlife. Wildlife rehabilitation gives the rescuer the chance to have hands-on contact with wildlife. Working with these animals in rehab, day in and day out, provides us the opportunity to really get to know these species in a way that is not possible for most. When I thumb through a bird identification book, I no longer just see pictures of birds—I feel as though I am looking through a family photo album. I know these birds. I know the smell of a pelican and the power of an osprey's legs. I have felt the softness of the down of a baby vulture and the pain of a Red-shouldered Hawk's talons. I know how hard a Laughing Gull bites and have looked deeply into the eyes of an owl. I have had the privilege of handling, raising, and caring for hundreds of different species and have gotten to know them intimately. I know how they react, behave, and even think.

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Young Yellow-crowned Night-Herons getting a second chance.



Brown Pelicans recovering in rehab.



Barred Owls of different ages coming along nicely.

*Masthead photo:
Ron Weeks scanning for ducks one early morning while leading GCBO's Duck ID class.*

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

MARTIN HAGNE

As I write this, I barely just returned from a partnership meeting with Texas Parks and Wildlife in Austin, TX. It was our annual "state of the birds on the Gulf Coast" type meeting with several of our partners that work on the Gulf Coast in Texas. We were fortunate to meet with Carter Smith, the Director of TPWD, and several of his key staff. It was a wonderful chance to share all of our successes, partnerships, avian research and conservation projects, and even failures and needs. And even though the meeting started out with the overall dire state that birds are in, I still came away with hope and a very astounding gratitude to the folks doing such wonderful, hard work for birds and their habitats! I am thankful that GCBO can play a big part in this work, and am very aware and thankful for all of your support making it all possible!

As we start our 26th year working for the birds, it's encouraging to know we seem to be on the right path, have strong partners, and support. I hope you enjoy learning more about our projects within these pages, and please join us at upcoming events. Thank you for your continued belief in our work and mission.



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GCBO is a registered charity through Kroger's Community Rewards Program. This means that you can register your Kroger Plus Card online and select GCBO as the organization of your choice. Every time you use your Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will donate a portion back to GCBO! This is an easy way to support GCBO while you shop – your donations help us continue to protect birds and birding habitat around the Gulf Coast and beyond. To register your Plus Card go to:

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Newsletter Editors: Martin Hagne, Denise Stephens
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Miles and Tina look on while Sue and Jennifer band the shrike.

Photo by Celeste Silling



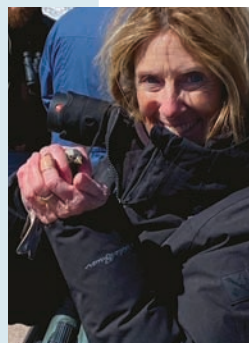
The group ready for some rosies!



Black Rosy-Finch in hand by biologist.



Studying age, sex, and molt in a Black Rosy-Finch.



We got to release several of the rosies!



Mike is ready for more rosies!



Male Black Rosy-Finch at Sandia Crest.

GCBO's ANNUAL ONLINE EXPERIENCE AUCTION

GCBO's annual online Experience Auction is a wonderful way to support our bird conservation work, and get to enjoy some fabulous and fun nature experiences! Stay tuned for the next one in November! Here are the stories of two recent experiences!

Loggerhead Shrike Banding Experience - Susan Heath

On November 22, 2021 Jennifer Wilson and I took Tina Petersen, John Duboise, and their 10-year old son Miles out for some shrike banding. We started out at Brazoria NWR but those birds were most uncooperative so we moved on to the Bluewater Highway. Just as soon as we turned left onto the highway, I spotted a shrike sitting on a powerline along the road. There are so many of them down there! This one was in a perfect spot and I was able to set the trap on a large grassy area where the shrike was hunting. The shrike was in the trap before I could even get back to the truck to hide! It turned out to be an adult male and we got to work taking measurements, taking blood, and putting on the transmitter. Miles got a great view of the entire process and was eager to hold his first shrike when we were done. I don't usually let anyone hold a shrike because they can bite so hard but Miles was keen to give it a try and he handled it like a pro! The bird flew off to preen and we've been tracking it ever since. We didn't manage to catch any more birds that day but I think we had some happy customers on our hands. Thank you, Tina and John, for supporting GCBO!

Chasing Rosy Finches in Albuquerque – Martin Hagne

We had a great time in Albuquerque, NM with our auction winners Mike Williams and Candy McNamee in February 2022! We stayed in a wonderful home in the foothills, surrounded by nature. Denise Stephens and I arrived a day early to scout and be ready to bird. On day one we birded the Sandia Rangers Station, Oak Flats and the Turquoise Trail finding Williamson's Sapsuckers, Juniper Titmouse, Townsends Solitaire, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, lots of Western and Mountain Bluebirds and much more. Day two was Rosy Finch day. We drove up to Sandia Crest at 10,300ft to join the Rio Grande Bird Research organization to watch their banding project, now in its 18th year. A great group of biologists and friends. This year has been a tough year for rosies due to the warmer weather and less snow, but we did get great views of Black Rosy-Finches flying, perched in the trees, and in the hand! And we got the honor to release several birds. We also saw Gray-Crowned Rosy-Finches in flight, including the Hepburn sub-species. The flock held a few Brown-Capped Rosy-Finches as well but we could not locate them. We ended the day with delicious New Mexican cuisine at the famous El Pinto! Thanks, RGBR for allowing us to participate! And thank you Mike and Candy for supporting GCBO by winning this Experience Trip! And thank you Mike and Denise for some of the photos.

WATERFOWL OF THE UPPER TEXAS COAST CLASS WITH RON WEEKS

BY CELESTE SILLING

Our first Bird ID Class was a huge success, and we would like to thank everyone who attended! We started the week with two zoom classes that covered identification of the waterfowl species in our area. Then, we headed out into the wild for a field trip.

We had an awesome day filled with waterfowl like the Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, and Gadwalls. Some of the most exciting species included Greater Scaup, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye and Fulvous Whistling Ducks. We had several attendees mark multiple species off their life-lists. What a great day!

Thanks so much to Ron Weeks for organizing and teaching the class. And for those who didn't get a chance to attend this time, don't worry. Stay tuned for future birding classes with GCBO.

THE REWARDS OF REHABBING

(continued from page 1)

I have had the privilege of watching a juvenile Mississippi Kite perform multiple acrobatic loops in the air when reunited with his parents after having been in rehab for several weeks. I have rehabbed a kestrel that I know had hatched, thousands of miles away, in Canada, thanks to a small metal band with numbers placed on his leg by a bird bander. He had been injured down here in Texas but was successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild to continue his long journey. I have been lucky enough to be able to play a small part in the incredible, complicated and mysterious lives of these birds.

Yet another benefit of doing wildlife rescue is the privilege of working side by side with other fellow humans who care deeply for our environment and all the species we share it with. Some of these wonderful folks belong to Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. With their help, we have banded many of the birds that we rehabilitate. GCBO research volunteers periodically come across injured or sick birds during research outings and bring them to GCWR for rehabilitation. Through their caring concern many terns, gulls, sandpipers, cormorants, oystercatchers, skimmers, and pelicans have been rescued and eventually returned to the wild. GCBO has also hosted several of our wildlife rehabilitation training workshops in their beautiful nature center. We greatly value and look forward to our continuing partnership with GCBO.



Since its beginnings in 1994, over 50,000 animals have been rescued by Gulf Coast Wildlife Rescue. We are an all-volunteer organization and have no paid employees. Our wildlife rescue volunteers love the work they do and gladly contribute long hours, just for the privilege of helping all the incredible and diverse species of birds and mammals found here on the Texas Coast. To learn more about GCWR and what to do in the event you encounter wildlife that needs help, go to gcwr.org. There you will find a gallery of

interesting photos of animals we have rehabbed and more information on how you, too, can contribute to the rewarding work of wildlife rehabilitation.

GCBO's RV VOLUNTEERS ARE WONDERFUL!

BY MARTIN HAGNE

We are very grateful for the special group of folks that travel the country to volunteer along the way. There have been some great volunteers staying here at GCBO in our RV spot, helping us with the grounds, maintenance, events, and so much more.

Harold and Sheryl Travis spent October – December 2021 and Bill and Michelle Rose spent January – March 2022 with us. They were all a huge help and we are so thankful to them!

Tom and Karyn Schmitz are coming back for a month's stint from April – May 2022!

They have all become great friends, and we thank them all so very much!!



Harold & Sheryl, with Lily

Bill & Michelle

Tom & Karyn



GCBO BIRDING TRIPS

BY MARTIN HAGNE

We offer fabulous and fun experiences while birding with the GCBO! We have several exciting trips lined up each year, and we try to switch them up, and go to places not too many other tour companies go to. We also try to visit the sites of our partners where we have helped conserve land so you can see the work, and birds there. We focus on getting as many species we can on every trip, and we always hire local guides to help us do so. Come join us! A portion of the trip fees goes straight to avian conservation work by GCBO! For more information check our website, or contact Martin at mhagne@gcbo.org

Oregon Birding
 June 18-25, 2022 – **SOLD OUT!**

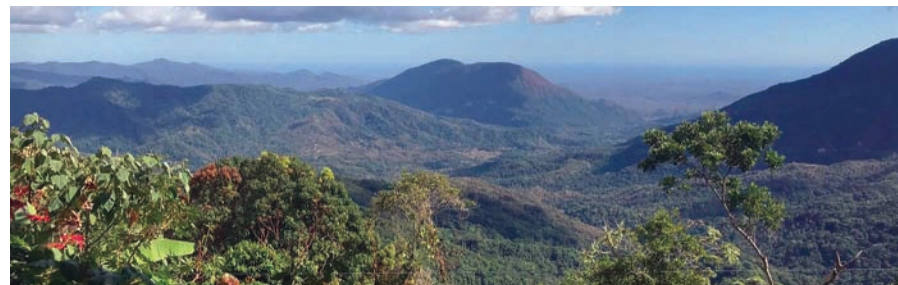
Oaxaca, Mexico Birding Exploration
 November 25-December 4, 2022 – **SOLD OUT!**

Boreal Winter Birding — Duluth, Minnesota
 January 31- February 6, 2023 – **A Few Spaces Left!**

Argentina Birding Exploration
 March/April 2023 - **INFO TBA**

El Cielo and NE Mexico Birding Trip
 June 24 - July 1, 2023 - **Fees TBA**

Cuba Birding Exploration
 October 12-24, 2023 – **A Few Spaces Left!**



IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING WINTERING SHOREBIRDS

BY TAYLOR BENNETT

Our non-breeding shorebird study involves monitoring for endangered, threatened, and species of concern that utilize Upper Coast resources from August to March. The five target species we monitor are Piping Plover, Red Knot, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover (returning), Black Skimmer, and American Oystercatcher. The sites we monitor are Matagorda Beach, Bryan Beach, Quintana Beach, Surfside Beach, and Follet's Island. American Bird Conservancy monitors sites to our east and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program monitors sites to our west and south.

We are monitoring these species to track their populations over time and to observe how the birds are utilizing the habitat. Wintering habitat, and that used during migration, are just as important as where they breed. These birds mainly utilize the coastal beach habitat for shelter and food. We observe them feeding close to the water and resting near the shore in the natural debris that washes up. It is crucial they conserve energy because that determines their survival ability during the winter and on their journey back to the breeding grounds. The majority of the shorebirds we observe are banded, flagged, or both and these markings are unique to each bird. From the flag color or band combo, we can determine the history of each bird by reporting it to the bander. The history of each bird provides another part of the puzzle for understanding the species as a whole. Piping Plover is the most common banded species we observe and therefore, have the most information on.

From four years of data, we have determined that the majority of the Piping Plovers that utilize Texas beaches are from the threatened Great Plains Region (North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, and Nebraska). On rare occasions, we spot a Piping Plover from other regions as well. Last year, we had our first sighting of an endangered Great Lakes Piping Plover which was from Michigan. This season we observed a Piping Plover from Canada which was one we had also sighted back in 2018. We believe that the plovers from outside the Great Plains Region were using the beach as a stopover point before continuing their journey south. We can also determine the age of each bird based on the year they were banded. For instance, the oldest Piping Plover we have reported so far was banded as a chick in 2007 and was at least 13 years of age when we observed it. That's quite old for such a small bird.

Most of the banded birds we observe have been recorded multiple times in the same area over the past few years which shows how much they rely on that certain habitat year after year, and therefore, how important it is to their survival. From this information, we can better understand the life history of each species as well as know which habitats we need to continue to monitor and protect year after year. For the birds!



White flagged Piping Plover from Canada also observed feeding along Matagorda Peninsula at Matagorda, TX.

Photo by Taylor Bennett on September 7th, 2021.

First sighting of an endangered Great Lakes Piping Plover indicated by the orange flag observed feeding along Matagorda Peninsula at Matagorda, TX.

Photo by Taylor Bennett on September 3rd, 2020.

FLIGHT FOREVER LEGACY CIRCLE

LEAVE A LEGACY...FOR THE BIRDS!

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory formed the “Flight Forever Legacy Circle” to ensure the long-term conservation of our migratory birds and their habitats. Perpetuate your love of birds and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory beyond your lifetime. By making a planned gift – through your will or estate plan, a bequest, a trust, a retirement plan, or an insurance policy – you can create a personal legacy that will have a strong and lasting impact for birds and conservation into the future.

If you have already included Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in your estate plans, we hope you will let us know so that we may honor you in our Legacy Circle membership. Your willingness to be listed as a member encourages others. However, if you wish to remain anonymous please let us know of your plans on a confidential basis.

Legacy Circle members receive exclusive invitations to special events and trips. If you are considering a Legacy gift, please email or call Martin at GCBO to discuss your plans. 979-480-0999 • mhagne@gcbo.org



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SPRING FLING

BY CELESTE SILLING

Spring Fling at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary is paradise for birds and birders alike. This year, the event will take place every day from April 9 through May 8. With water features, wooded areas, shrubs, and coastal prairie for cover and food, the sanctuary is the perfect spot for migratory and resident birds to rest and refuel. On a typical day, birders will see about 50 species, but a good day could bring over 100!

Visitors to the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary vary from birders with years of experience to nature lovers that are completely new to birding. The sight of colorful orioles, tanagers, and painted buntings get everyone excited. Some visitors seek out specific species of warblers, vireos, water thrushes, flycatchers and other passerines that migrate through. Some of these birds are only in Texas on their way to summer habitats farther north, making them rare finds.

The sanctuary has an observation tower that allows visitors to see migrants flying by or even birds on the beach. Throughout the grounds, there are several mowed paths through different habitat types. Benches are placed intermittently, allowing birders to rest or patiently await their next exciting bird.

Our host station will be open every day during the event from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There, our awesome volunteers will be selling snacks, water, and merchandise. We will also be keeping a daily list of birds and also a sign-in list to keep track of our visitors. This event is a great way to get outside and see some beautiful birds, so grab your binoculars and come join us!

SPLASH – STOPPING PLASTICS AND LITTER ALONG SHORELINES

BY CELESTE SILLING

SPLASH is working to create a cleaner environment for people, birds, and other wildlife on the coast by focusing on the issue of trash on our shores and in our waters. SPLASH was launched less than two years ago in 2020 through a partnership between American Bird Conservancy, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, and Black Cat GIS. In these past few years, we've already accomplished a great deal that we're proud of!

As of January 2022, we've reached over 1,000 school children with our classroom presentations or field trips. We've reached thousands more at our outreach booths, with our online programming, and other education efforts.

Along with education, we also do monthly beach cleanups to improve habitat and collect important data. As of January 2022, SPLASH has hosted 33 beach and bayou cleanups in the Houston Galveston region, resulting in over 12.8k lbs of trash being removed. This is all thanks to our amazing volunteers, who have already racked up over 1.7K hours volunteering with SPLASH!

As we clean, we also perform transects and analyze the types of trash that are most prevalent on each beach. The top trash items we've counted so far are styrofoam fragments, plastic fragments, plastic bags, plastic caps and bottles, and fishing line. Plastics like these can entangle animals or be consumed by them. So, if you're hoping to help wildlife and reduce your plastic use, come join us at a cleanup! To learn more, visit us at www.splashtx.org or follow us on social media.

SMITH POINT HAWK WATCH 2021

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

BY SUSAN HEATH AND BOB BAEZ

The 2021 hawk watch season did not disappoint! We were graced with numerous, modest cold fronts with little moisture which brought a steady stream of birds. On August 29, we counted 2,471 Mississippi Kites which was the daily high count for the season. During the period of August 15, when we started, through August 30 we counted 100 Swallow-tailed Kites! Some years we don't get that many in a whole season. The last Swallow-tailed Kite passed through on October 2 and we tallied a total of 146 for the season.

When the Broad-wings started to heat up, we had several huge days including 12,234 on September 22 and 17,746 on September 25 and a few big days of 4,001 on October 4 and 7,031 on October 5. These were all north wind days following cold fronts which is typical for when raptors move. Sharp-shinned Hawks put in a good showing as well with several really big days. On September 22, the same day as the big Broad-wing push, we had 182 Sharp-shins. Then on October 4, we had 318! The accipiter's like to move early and late in the day and on October 15, just before a cold front moved through, 179 passed the tower after 3:00pm with a total of 222 for the day. The following day, after the cold front passed, another 329 flew by. We didn't have too many big days for Cooper's Hawks, but on October 5 there were 201 of them.

October 17 was a great day as we had an immature Common Black Hawk pass by. This is the second Common Black Hawk at Smith Point. The other one was an adult that came in to roost late in the day on October 21, 2016. Many visitors watched it lift off out of an oak motte about 10:00 the next day!

October 28, 29, and 30 were three dream days for a hawk watcher. A cold front passed on the 27th which caused a strong west wind on the 28th and the birds flew right into it. On that day there were 133 American Kestrels and 40 Merlin's which is a single day record. Then on October 29, there were 93 more Kestrels, 15 more Merlin's, 254 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 79 Cooper's Hawks and 86 Northern Harriers. On October 30, the wind shifted to the north and there were 2,059 Turkey Vultures, 110 Northern Harriers (a new single day record), 180 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 159 Cooper's Hawks, 131 Red-tailed Hawks (the second highest single day total) and 191 Swainson's Hawks. Wow!

November didn't disappoint either. On November 4, we had a Ferruginous Hawk, only the 19th ever recorded there. November 5 was another big day with 67 Black Vultures, a single day record of 3,143 Turkey Vultures, a single day record for Bald Eagles with 15, 43 Red-tailed Hawks, and 37 Swainson's Hawks. On November 7 and 8 a Harris's Hawk graced us and then November 13 and 19 were big Bald Eagle days with 13 and 9, respectively.



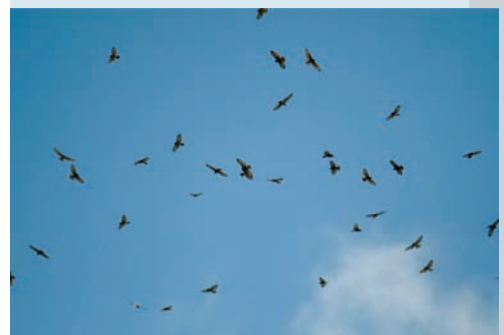
All in all, it was another great hawk watch season with 78,841 raptors counted, well above the average of 50,000 and 22 species, also above the average of 20. This was our 25th year and we are looking forward to 25 more! Come on out to Smith Point after a cold front and enjoy the birds.

A Swainson's Hawk perches in a tree at the point.



Hawk Counter Bob Baez scans the skies.

Photo by Susan Heath



A kettle of Broad-winged Hawks soars overhead.

Mississippi Kites resting in a tree at Smith Point.

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers stack up at the point before crossing the bay.

Photos by Joseph Kennedy

GCBO MIGRATIONS—STAFF & BOARD UPDATES

WELCOME

**Cin-Ty A. Lee – GCBO
Science Advisory Board**

Cin-ty is a geologist/petrologist/geochemist with a BA degree UC Berkeley in Geology in 1996, a PhD at Harvard University in Geochemistry in 2001, and Post-doctorate at Caltech in 2001-2002. Cin-Ty is a professor of earth and environmental science at Rice University with research focused on the origin and evolution of volcanoes, critical minerals, and Earth-life interactions. In addition, he teaches field ornithology at Rice. He investigates how our planet has evolved with time, from the deepest parts of the Earth's mantle to the continental crust and to the atmosphere. He is also doing bird research, using bio-acoustic monitoring with a particular emphasis on tracking the migration of birds at night. He has continuous monitoring stations, and through a team of analysts, is developing a record of migration, which will be useful for understanding the effects of land use and climate change on the natural environment. He has written numerous articles on the field identification of challenging bird species, and is working on a three-part field guide series on the identification of North American flycatchers. When I'm not doing geology, I am spending time with my wife and son, and usually out looking for birds, bugs or plants in Houston and beyond, sitting in my studio painting and drawing, or writing/consulting about birds and the environment. His father grew up in Taiwan, and both immigrated to the United States.



WELCOME

Sharon J. Barns – GCBO Board of Directors

During Sharon's more than 25 years as a scientist, she has worked as a Clinical Lab Supervisor, Environmental & Analytical Chemist, and Associate HR Director for The Dow Chemical Company, and as an Assistant Lab Director for the Brazosport Memorial Hospital, and Senior HR Business Partner for Freeport LNG. She has received numerous accolades as an inventor, named the winner of Dow's Martin Luther King Community Service Award, and "MLK Drum Major for Peace" by the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee of Brazoria County. Barnes is currently employed by the San Jose Clinic as the VP/Chief Human Resources and Inclusion Officer for the Fort Bend and Midtown. As a public servant for 21 years, she spent four years as a city councilmember and subsequently mayor pro-tem in Lake Jackson, TX. Gov George W. Bush appointed her to the District Review Committee #1 for the Texas Medical Board, and continues on the Texas Medical Board's Finance Committee, and Disciplinary Process & Review Committee.



Sharon is a graduate of Baylor University, and the University of Phoenix receiving Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and a Master's of Business Administration in Human Resource Management, and then earned a Doctorate in Business Administration. She was featured as a "Science Maker" for inclusion in the archives of the History Makers. Barnes serves as the national Secretary for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE). Most recently, Sharon was named to the Board of Directors for the Brazosport Health Foundation, an entity of CHI St. Luke's at Brazosport Regional Health Center. Barnes resides with husband, Ronald, in Rosharon, Texas. She is the proud mother of twins, Ronnie Barnes and Amber Crawford, mother-in-law of Billy Crawford, and grandsons, Rock, Jett, Dash, and granddaughter, Zion Renee...her 4 Sidekicks.

**Tim Brush – GCBO Science Advisory Board**

Tim recently retired as a Professor of Biology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley campus, in Edinburg, Texas. He was born and raised in central New Jersey, where his parents encouraged him to read and to enjoy nature. He became interested in birds at age 14, when he noticed Turkey Vultures flying over the Delaware Water Gap in Pennsylvania, and a foraging Eastern Phoebe in a natural area near his home in Piscataway, New Jersey. He majored in Biology and further developed his interest in birds at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, from which he graduated in 1977. In 1981, he received an MS in Zoology from Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, where he studied cavity-nesting birds in desert riparian woodlands along the lower Colorado River. In 1985, he received PhD in Zoology, for his study of habitat use and foraging behavior of birds in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. In 1991, after teaching for 5 years at a small college in Iowa, he and his family moved to Edinburg, Texas, to begin what turned out to be a thirty-year career. He has studied and taught about the changing birdlife and habitats of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, trying to understand what is happening and why. He has traveled to and studied birds in Mexico, New Zealand, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. His wife and three children are all strongly interested in nature. Tim looks forward to continued research and travel.

(continued on page 11)

OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS, CONTRIBUTORS, AS WELL AS NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

We would like to give special recognition to the following individuals who donated to our programs or gave towards memberships between August 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

Thank you for your vital support.

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GCBO VOLUNTEERS: Your Help and Support are Invaluable!

Our volunteers continue to amaze and impress us with their dedication to GCBO and our shared mission. Whatever our needs, there always seem to be someone willing and able to step up and make it happen. From August 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022, volunteers contributed an amazing 5253 hours to the conservation of birds and habitat and to increasing public awareness of the value and need for conservation.

Thank you for all you do for birds on behalf of GCBO!

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GCBO MIGRATIONS *(continued from page 9)*

WELCOME



Adam Trujillo – GCBO Education Intern

Adam is from Southern California and received his B.S. in Zoology in 2019 from Humboldt State University. He enjoys birding, and is interested in learning more about the intelligence of crows and ravens, and, eventually, teaching ornithology at the university level. As our Education Intern, he will be helping Celeste with all things education and outreach, and also gets to help out with some office duties and field research!

Kenlynn Volz – GCBO Avian Biology Intern

Kenlynn, our Research Intern, is originally from San Antonio, but spent time growing up visiting family here in Lake Jackson. She is in her last term at Oregon State University for a degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Science with a specialization in Marine Conservation and Genetics. Over the past seven years, Kenlynn has interned with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where she gained a passion for avian research. Currently, Kenlynn is working on an undergraduate research project studying the foraging ecology of Adélie penguins. She is interested in the employment of environmental DNA in seabird research and conservation, and plans on a graduate degree in the future.



Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Inc.

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Visit our web site at <http://www.gcbo.org>



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Upcoming GCBO Events

Save the date for these upcoming GCBO events and check our website and social media for details and changes. www.gcbo.org

Spring Fling at Quintana

Saturday, April 9th is the start of GCBO's Spring Fling at Quintana Sanctuaries, Quintana, TX. From April 9th to May 8th you can birdwatch as thousands of migratory songbirds arrive at stopover habitat along the coast. GCBO volunteers and staff will man the host station on site from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily and provide local birding information, bird checklists, sell snacks and drink as well as t-shirts, bird field guides, and much more! They will post the daily bird list and help identify birds! More info at: www.gcbo.org

Virtual Bird Bash

Virtual Bird Bash is an online event that connects people all over the world to GCBO and the birds we protect. This educational and fun event will take place on April 16th on GCBO's website and Facebook page. Virtual visitors can attend presentations, watch as we band birds, learn about conservation and research work, and more! The event is free for all to attend. You can view the event schedule and details on our website. To attend this event, go to GCBO's Facebook page on April 16th from 8:00-4:00!

Summer Kid's Bird Camp

Bird Camp is a nature day camp where children explore outdoors and learn about the birds that call the Gulf Coast home. Each day, kids learn about the science behind birds and their ecosystems through interactive and fun-filled activities. Camp is geared for kids ages 8-11 and will run from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm for the week of June 13-17, 2022. Email Celeste at csilling@gcbo.org to sign up now to reserve your spot!

Our Mission

Protect birds and their habitats
around the Gulf of Mexico and beyond.

Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza

Taking place September 17th and 24th, from 8:00 am-noon, XHX is our yearly event celebrating the peak of Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration. It features symbolic hummingbird adoptions and live hummingbird banding where you can see these amazing birds up close and in the hand! Informative and entertaining talks will be held both days, plus a raffle, fun activities, a hummingbird & butterfly plant sale, our nature gift shop, and snacks and drinks.

Smith Point Hawk Watch

The Hawk Watch at Smith Point will go from August 15th to November 30th at the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area in Smith Point. 20+ species of raptors will be coming through the area and this is your chance to learn about them. This is a free event and volunteers are on site daily from 8 am to 4 pm to count birds and answer questions. On October 1st, we will be celebrating the Smith Point Hawk Watch with food, fun and a whole lot of raptors!

Bird Banding

On the third Saturday of every month, Robert and Kay Lookingbill and their group of volunteers band birds at GCBO. Bird banding allows us to monitor local and migratory populations. This event is open to the public, so we invite you to join us! Come see the birds up close and personal and learn all about the banding process from Robert and Kay. It's a great way to spend a Saturday!

You Can Reach Us By Email:

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csilling@gcbo.org
nekstrom@gcbo.org



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