



GULF CROSSINGS

AUDUBON TEXAS CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

By Alexis Baldera
Coastal Program Manager–Audubon Texas

Colonial waterbirds are a vital part of Texas’s natural heritage and a key component of the state’s economy and cultural identity. These birds, named because they nest in large groups or colonies, include familiar species such as pelicans, egrets, spoonbills, terns, skimmers, and herons. Colonial waterbirds are important indicators of ecosystem health and play a vital role in maintaining the balance of aquatic ecosystems. They also have cultural and economic value, attracting tourism and recreational activities. Protecting these birds and their habitats, we can help ensure a healthy and vibrant ecosystem for generations to come. During the 1920’s, around the same time as the creation of the National Park system, colonial waterbird islands were leased to the Audubon Society for protection. For 100 years **Audubon Texas’s Coastal Program** has been monitoring and managing these islands. The portfolio started with three leases: one in the Lower Laguna Madre to protect Green Island, one near Corpus Christi to protect the Second Chain Islands, and one in Galveston Bay to protect the Vingt-et-Un Island. Today, Audubon has 23 leases across the coast including around 170 islands. Many of the islands, birds are nesting on today, were created during the dredging of the intracoastal waterway. They are managed by Audubon Coastal Wardens at Green Island and in Galveston and Matagorda Bays. The remaining islands from San Antonio Bay down through the Lower Laguna Madre are managed by Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program.

Today, Audubon-leased islands provide nesting habitat to around 20 species of colonial waterbirds. One of the largest nesting sites, Chester Island, is in Matagorda Bay and is home to around 20,000 pairs of nesting birds each year. The islands also provide important habitat for non-colonial birds like American Oystercatchers. Audubon has been very grateful to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, and the work of Dr. Susan Heath, to identify the islands used as nesting sites by American Oystercatchers.

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*Black Skimmers nesting on Struvelucy Island in Galveston Bay.
Photo by Alan Wilde*



*Brown Pelican collecting nest material on Chester Island in Matagorda Bay.
Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Banded American Oystercatcher on Chester Island in Matagorda Bay.
Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Masthead photo:
Spring migration is here!
Blackburnian Warbler at Quintana Neotropical Sanctuary.
Photo by Mike Williams*

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

MARTIN HAGNE

Spring migration is upon us! That age-old avian phenomena still occurs year after year, and we all marvel at the bird's tenacity to fly for 20 hours across the gulf in one flight! What a struggle that must be...and so often not successful if storms meet them on their path. I know we all rejoice in seeing those colored jewels as they land along the coast and inland, yet, it always makes me wonder how many didn't make it this time. How many became tiger shark sustenance...but such is nature...everything is tied together, and life isn't easy for a wild bird.

In anticipation of those migrants, we have started a big project at our Quintana sanctuaries, and the first phase on the north lots was just completed this week. See the article on page 3! A long-term plan is being formulated for other updates, repairs, and additions as well. A lot of native trees and plants have been, and more will be, planted to eventually create cover and a tree canopy.

As always has been the case, we get a lot of our avian conservation work done thanks to working with wonderful partners. It just makes sense for all of our organizations to work together. In that spirit, I hope you enjoy the lead article from another partner, Audubon Texas. And do enjoy the migration, just remember their plight! *For the Birds!*

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

TARONI A VOLUNTEER FORCE!

Tom Taroni... 20 years of dedication to the GCBO... so far! Tom has been an essential part of building the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory... literally! He has been a valuable board member, head of the maintenance committee, and an avid supporter of our conservation work in so many ways. And while we wish we could, his accomplishments are far too many to list here! Tom recently retired from the GCBO board, and we were happy to honor him by throwing a top-secret, surprise party and dedicating a trail to him at our Quintana Sanctuary. Thanks to those friends who came out to help us surprise and celebrate him! We are still celebrating Tom's wonderful work for GCBO, but we are also very happy that he is still volunteering here at GCBO, and not disappearing.

Thank you from all of us Taroni!



Tom Taroni accepting his honorary trail designation.

Photo by Martin Hagne

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QUINTANA NEOTROPICAL BIRD SANCTUARY HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

BY BRIAN KOLTHAMMER – GCBO BOARD QUINTANA CHAIR

As many of you know, GCBO manages the Quintana bird sanctuaries on the barrier island. The sanctuaries encompass several parcels of land and habitat close to the Gulf. The main purpose is to provide a stopover site for birds crossing the Gulf of Mexico during migration. The primary section of the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary attracts hundreds of birders and photographers annually throughout April to discover the arriving migrants.

GCBO staff and volunteers have opened additional sanctuary land this winter, adding about 18% to the existing sanctuary area. Most of this property has been in GCBO possession for some time. A smaller portion of the newly opened property is owned by the Cradle of Texas Conservancy who are providing access to GCBO for habitat development.

This winter's expansion efforts have resulted in the planting of many additional native trees and shrubs. A drip irrigation system was also installed to help nurture the new plants through their first few years. While the new vegetation will take some time to mature, it is already providing an arrival area for this year's birds. The White-eyed Vireos moved right in after we left!



Importantly, new trails have been laid out in the sanctuary with posts and signs installed along the way. With three entrances, the new expansion is easily accessible from the existing trails in the complex. As the habitat matures, GCBO hopes that this expansion will absorb some of the human pressure from the older trails making the birds and birding more comfortable for all.

AUDUBON TEXAS

(continued from page 1)

Looking ahead, sea level rise models predict that many of the coastal islands that birds depend on will be severely reduced in area or lost completely. Coastal data shows that the equivalent of the last 100 years of sea level rise will happen in the next 30 years. As these coastal habitats change the work we do at Audubon will change. We are looking at the science and working to identify innovative solutions to conserve and restore bird habitat. In addition, we look forward to expanding our stewardship inland. Many coastal birds will likely seek nesting habitat on beaches or in coastal areas. That is why projects like the **Texas Breeding Shorebird and Seabird Stewardship Project** are so important. This project will be funded by settlement dollars from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and will continue the work started by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, American Bird Conservancy, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and Houston Audubon. Audubon Texas will be joining this project to expand stewardship onto new beaches.

The last 100 years of coastal bird conservation at Audubon have depended on the great work of passionate and dedicated Coastal Wardens and other team members. Throughout the year Audubon will be celebrating their unique history and the people who have made a difference for birds in Texas. Join them in the celebration here!

WHAT'S MAKING BLACK SKIMMER CHICKS SICK? RESULTS OF A DIE-OFF INVESTIGATION

BY ELENA DURAN

Black Skimmer populations on the Texas Gulf Coast are declining rapidly. The GCBO began banding skimmer chicks with the goals of determining why chick mortality seems so high, and where fledged chicks travel. Providing answers to these questions could be helpful in painting the broader picture of Black Skimmer population decline. As soon as the GCBO began banding chicks in 2018, the team noticed a strange issue with primary feather growth in some chicks: feathers would begin to grow in normally, but would then twist, fall out, and begin regrowing. Eventually the chick would die. This was observed again in 2020, notably only occurring during drought years. Through Texas A&M University, the GCBO recruited me to investigate this newly discovered issue with feather growth in Black Skimmer chicks.

In the summer of 2021, I began to join the GCBO on their banding trips in the West Galveston and East Matagorda Bays to collect biological samples from the chicks. Samples were used to assess CBCs (complete blood counts) which provide information about anemia, immune reactions, and presence of blood-borne parasites, and were also used to assess plasma chemistries, which provide information regarding functioning status of specific body systems. We did not observe the feather issue in 2021, so results from these tests were used to establish health baselines to on which to compare future unhealthy chicks.

In 2022, a drought occurred, and things changed. We began to see record numbers of chick deaths in East Matagorda, and interesting bloodwork results began to come back which showed anemia and immune responses in many chicks. Most interesting, though, was the detection of spiral-shaped bacteria, spirochetes, in some chicks' blood. We discovered birds who presented with the same feather issue documented in 2018 and 2020, with tissue damage in the feather rachis. These birds were examined and determined to have symptoms consistent with a disease called relapsing spirochetosis, which is caused by a bacterium in the *Borrelia* family (the same family as Lyme's disease). I discovered that the chicks had heavy loads of ectoparasites, like soft ticks, which are responsible for transmission of *Borrelia* bacteria in seabirds. In addition to this evidence, we were able to detect the presence of a species of *Borrelia* bacterium in the sick birds using PCR, confirming spirochetosis as the disease which caused the chicks' symptoms. Spirochetosis causes vasculitis, blood vessel inflammation, which leads to disruption of the blood supply to the chicks' growing feathers, causing the feather damage issue that the GCBO discovered.

We have determined a possible contributing cause to the decline in Black Skimmers: colony-wide disease outbreak amongst chicks. However, my results have also led to new questions to be addressed with continued study. For example, do these nest-dwelling ticks thrive during drought years because less over-wash of colonies occurs? It is my hope to provide as much evidence as possible to contribute to the understanding of causes of Black Skimmer decline, and to ultimately help determine what conservation practices may most help these special birds thrive.



A Black Skimmer chick with malformed primaries in West Galveston Bay.

Photo by Alan Wilde



Elena Duran taking biological samples from a Black Skimmer chick.

Photo by Alan Wilde



A Black Skimmer chick with a tick infestation.

Photo by Alan Wilde

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

El Cielo and NE Mexico Birding Trip
June 24 - July 1, 2023 - **SOLD OUT!**

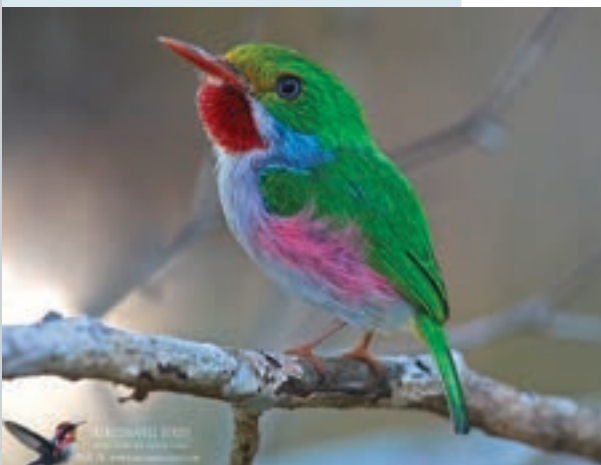
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Boreal Winter Birding — Duluth, Minnesota
February 8-13, 2024

Birding Baja Mexico
March 2024 - Dates and info TBA



UNIQUE LIFE OF DOW BLACK SKIMMERS

BY TAYLOR BENNETT

One of the target species the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory monitors each breeding season is the Black Skimmer. Black Skimmers are large water birds that are found along beaches, bays, and inlets along the Texas Coast. They are easily identified by their large black and white bodies, long wings, and their asymmetrical black and orange bill which they use to skim across the water to catch fish. Black Skimmers are colonial nesters, so during the breeding season they nest in large groups as a safety mechanism against predators. Their conservation status is currently listed as least concern; however, in the past 40 years their population has decreased by 70%. It is believed that this is due to human disturbance, habitat loss, competition, and disease. Because of this, the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory monitors colonies along the upper coast in Galveston and East Matagorda Bay. We also have the chance to monitor the most unique colony at Dow Chemical Plant A located in Freeport, TX.

You may be wondering, why do they nest there year after year? It turns out Dow is the ideal location and habitat for nesting Black Skimmers. The Dow Black Skimmer colony started in 1961 when an employee noticed that they were nesting in one of the parking lots, which they continue to use year after year. The parking lot is made out of finely crushed oyster shell and limestone which is the perfect nesting material for Black Skimmer. Unlike the bay colonies, they are rarely disturbed by humans, so there is very little chance for the colony to abandon. The plant itself is located near marsh, bay, harbor, beach, and bar ditches which provide food for the Black Skimmers. Instead of ignoring the colony, Dow employees embraced it and decided to help maintain and protect it. To keep predators from entering the colony, they installed a fence with a solar run electric wire. They installed two shallow flumes which provide fresh water for the chicks and help keep the adults and chicks cool during the hot summer months. During the non-breeding season, Dow employees apply herbicide to the lot to keep vegetation from overgrowing.

The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's partnership with Dow began in 2014 to monitor the colony and its productivity. Like clockwork, they arrive and start nesting in May and are usually done by September. We, along with a Dow employee, survey the colony weekly until they all leave and migrate to their wintering grounds. Using a spotting scope, we monitor the colony from a safe distance and record the number of adults, nests, and chicks. Over the years, the colony has grown to be the largest and the most successful along the Texas Coast. This particular colony continues to thrive year after year and we are incredibly grateful to Dow and its dedicated employees to allow us to monitor and help protect it. We are also thankful to our Dow employee and retiree volunteers for escorting us year after year.



Black Skimmer parents feeding their chicks.

Photo by Willem DeGroot, GCBO/Dow volunteer

Black Skimmer adults cooling off near one of the water troughs.

Photo by GCBO staff



Monument Inn beach before a SPLASH cleanup. Photo by Kelly Martin



Barbara Yoder, Kathi Reeves, and Ron Reeves volunteering at NestFest.

Photo by Celeste Silling

A family that volunteered at NestFest.

Photo by Theresa Morris

Right: A group of NestFest volunteers posing with their mountain of trash.

Photo by Kristen Vale

NESTFEST: CLEANING UP THE BEACH FOR NESTING WILDLIFE

BY CELESTE SILLING

Early this year, the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory teamed up with SPLASH, American Bird Conservancy, the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research, Galveston Bay Area chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, and Surfside TX to plan a giant beach cleanup. The cleanup, now named NestFest, was a cleanup of twelve different sites in Galveston, Bolivar Peninsula and Follett's Island near Surfside. These sites were chosen by the conservation organizations specifically because they have been identified as nesting locations for sea turtles and shorebirds.

Trash is a huge problem for shorebirds, sea turtles, and other wildlife here in Texas. Trash accumulates on the Texas coast 10 times faster than it does on the coasts of other Gulf states. And more trash means more trouble for these animals. Sea turtles face a variety of threats from marine debris, but perhaps the most problematic items are the plastic bags. Sea turtles can easily confuse plastic bags for delicious jellyfish and consume them. This leads to internal issues for the turtle and can even cause death.

For birds, the more daunting threat is that of fishing line. Birds such as pelicans, oystercatchers, and terns frequently become tangled in the line and can't get out. This can cause limited mobility and injury, often leading to starvation. A piece of fishing line might not look like much, but these tiny trash items can lead to much bigger problems for wildlife!

With this in mind, we started planning with our partners to remove the trash from important nesting sites before the birds and turtles start nesting this spring. The nesting season is a critical time for all of these species, so providing safe habitat is important. We also wanted to reach out to people at these cleanups, educate them about the animals that nest on the beach, and hopefully create some nature stewards in the process.

On March 14th, we set out to clean a whopping twelve beaches in one day. But we didn't do it alone! Over 300 volunteers drove out to the beach and cleaned up trash with us, ultimately removing 2,358 lbs. of trash from the shoreline. That's a massive number of volunteers and a truly remarkable impact that they had! We owe a big thanks to the Master Naturalists and all the other volunteers who helped. It's exciting to see that we were able to clean up so much habitat in such a short time, and reach so many people!

Hopefully with this newly improved habitat, the sea turtles and shorebirds will have a spring full of healthy, happy nests on the upper Texas coast. And with such an encouraging outcome, we are now planning to host NestFest as an annual event. You can keep an eye out for future dates on our website or at www.splashtx.org. So mark your calendars for March 2024, and come out to join us!



LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES BEGIN TO REVEAL THEIR MYSTERIES

BY SUSAN HEATH

GCBO and the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex have now completed all the field work for our joint Loggerhead Shrike research project. This included three field seasons (November 2020 – February 2021, November 2021 – February 2022, November 2022 – February 2023) plus a pilot season in 2019-2020. We deployed 36 Motus transmitters on shrikes in and around Brazoria NWR and San Bernard NWR. A dedicated crew of 24 master naturalists tracked them every weekday morning and afternoon during each field season and amassed an impressive 2,395 volunteer hours. They were joined by a local student in the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences program at Oregon State University, Allen Timmer, who monitored the shrikes on Saturday mornings. It was great to have all this help and we couldn't have done it without them!

Along the Texas coast in winter, we have both resident and migrant shrikes but we can't tell the difference between them just by looking at them. Differentiating them requires taking feather and blood samples and having stable isotope and genetic analyzes performed. Once we determine who is who, the purpose of this project is to determine if there are any differences in territory quality for resident shrikes and migrant shrikes.

We are still waiting for the results of the resident versus migrant biological sample analysis for all the birds except those from the pilot season. The pandemic really messed up things for laboratory analyses but we hope to have this information soon. In the meantime, we are analyzing the territories for all birds. Jennifer Wilson, Texas Mid-Coast NWR biologist, spent many hours figuring out how to map out the territories and the photos here represent some of her hard work. Amanda Hackney, Black Cat GIS and Biological Services, is in the process of determining habitat features including elevation, vegetation types, water, human structures, roadways, thorny vegetation and barbed wire fencing in each territory. Once we have the data from the resident versus migrant analyses we will be able to uncover some very interesting things about our shrikes!

Of the nine birds we banded in the pilot year, the genetic analysis revealed that two were local residents, three were short-distance migrants or dispersers from a region roughly encompassing northern Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas and three were long-distance migrants from the prairie pothole region of the northern U.S. and Canada. Wow! Who knew our shrikes were so well traveled. I can't wait to find out about the rest of them! Next time you see a shrike in winter, you can wonder where it came from and how far it has traveled to spend the winter with us along the Texas coast.



In winter 2022-2023 shrike 34072D55 loved to sit on the Motus tower at Sargent!

Photo by Sue Heath



Sargent Heron Road birds – Point maps for two shrikes with adjacent territories in Sargent. One shown in yellow and the other shown in orange.

The territory of a shrike at Quintana County Beach Park in winter 2021-2022.

The territory of a shrike along the Blue Water Highway on Follet's Island in winter 2021-2022.

Photos by Sue Heath

FAREWELLS

Brad Lirette

Brad rolled off the GCBO board after serving as the Board Chair for the Outreach/Marketing Committee. He influenced several marketing and outreach pieces now in place. He was also instrumental in bringing our SPLASH program to his place of employment, Marathon Oil. He was a staunch advocate for our Quintana sanctuaries. Thank you for your time serving GCBO!

Tom Taroni

After serving 20 years on the GCBO Board and committees, Tom has retired from the board... but not GCBO! He is still involved and volunteering in a number of capacities. Tom has been a major and instrumental force at GCBO for a long time, and his are too many to list. From overseeing major maintenance and rebuilding projects, to helping secure additional lands at Quintana, Tom has been involved in so much over the years! And we are so very glad he's still here to help!

Alexandra Pearcy – Avian Biology Intern

Research Intern Alex worked with Taylor and Sue assisting with all of our avian research field work, data entry, some outreach work, and so much more! She also helped us in the office, and all-around duties here at GCBO. Thank you all for your hard and dedicated work while here at GCBO! We wish you a bright future helping birds!

GCBO MIGRATIONS—STAFF & BOARD UPDATES

WELCOME

**Darrious "Alex" Betts – Board Member**

We welcome Alex Betts to our Board of Directors. Alex is enthusiastic about hiking, camping and birding. Alex is an experienced Environmental Professional with a strong focus on water chemistry and water technology. Alex currently works for ExxonMobil as Upstream Water Team Lead with a focus on unconventional water management. He is developing and piloting novel water technologies and developing best practices. Previously Alex worked at Phillips 66 at the Sweeny Refinery in various positions. Alex has served on the board of directors for CHWMEG as the Global Interest Chair and has served in a variety of volunteer positions throughout the greater Houston area. Alex received his Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Texas Austin.

Joni Flores – Development Director

We introduced Joni in the last issue here, and she has since been promoted to our new Development Director! Joni will also continue to be our grant writer as she takes on the role of running our development department. We are very happy to have Joni take this on, and look forward to exciting developments, pun intended!

**Taylor Snyder – Avian Biology Intern**

Taylor recently graduated from the University of Houston with a B.S. in Biology and minor in Energy and Sustainability. She participated in an urban wildlife camera trapping survey known as the Hidden Life of Houston, to uncover mysteries about the wildlife that are in our cities. Through this project, and previous volunteer work at the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center and Houston Audubon, she became interested in pursuing a career in conservation with a strong interest in birds. Taylor enjoys hiking, reading nature books, and promoting animal welfare in her local community. She is very excited to learn from, and contribute to, the many ongoing GCBO avian research projects.

**Adam Trujillo – Education Intern**

Adam came back for another term as our Education Intern! We are super glad to welcome him back, and he is already working full steam with Celeste and all things education and outreach. He also gets to help out with some office duties, grounds work, and since he is interested in all avian things...field research!

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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, 2022 to January 31, 2023, volunteers contributed an amazing 4601 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!

Vicky Adams • Bryan Adams
Monica Berry & Bill Ahlstrom • Azael Alvarado
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Barbara Yoder • Linda Zeller • Shanyin Zink

GCBO's RV VOLUNTEERS, AMAZING FOLKS

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 the GCBO in our RV spot, helping us with the grounds, maintenance, events, and so much more. If you're interested, contact Martin.

Harold and Sheryl Travis, and Lily, were once again here from September through December 2022. They are "veteran" RV volunteers here at the GCBO now, and really... they are family! Thank you!

Tom and Karyn Schmitz are here now, from January through mid-April 2023. They are also returning volunteers, and we so very much appreciate their return and wonderful help! Family as well!



Harold & Sheryl, with Lily



Tom & Karyn Schmitz

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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 8th is the start of GCBO's Spring Fling at Quintana Sanctuaries, Quintana, TX. From April 8th to May 7th 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 also post the daily bird list and help identify birds! More info at: www.gcbo.org

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 12-16, 2023. Email Celeste at csilling@gcbo.org to sign up now and reserve your spot!

Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza

Taking place September 16th and 23th, 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 7th, we will be celebrating the Smith Point Hawk Watch with food, fun and a whole lot of raptors!

Smith Point Hawk Watch Celebration

Come out and celebrate the Smith Point Hawk Watch with us! On October 7, we will be hosting our Smith Point Hawk Watch Celebration at the hawk watch. There will be food, drinks, a raptor presentation, and some live raptors on display. And, as always plenty of raptors soaring through the sky! Our staff and volunteers will be manning the tower, monitoring the birds and pointing them out to guests. Visitors will be able to look through scopes and binoculars and see the migration up close. Come celebrate 27 years of research and conservation with us this fall!

Bird Banding

On the third Saturday of every month, from 8 AM to 12 PM, Robert and Kay Lookingbill and their group of volunteers band birds at GCBO headquarters. 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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sheath@gcbo.org
tpatton@gcbo.org
tbennett@gcbo.org
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grants@gcbo.org



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