



September 17-20, 2009

By Ernie Edmundson and Bron Rorex
2009 Event Co-Chairmen

WHAT IS THE HUMMER/BIRD

CELEBRATION? The Hummer/Bird Celebration is held each September in the coastal Texas towns of Rockport and Fulton to celebrate the spectacular fall migration of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and to expand ones knowledge of hummers and all birds. The star of the show is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Other probable sightings are Rufous, Black-chinned, Buff-bellied and Allen's. The Celebration offers something for everyone, from the backyard birder to the more experienced birder. Come join us for the 21st Annual Hummer/Bird Celebration.

WHAT IS THERE TO DO AT THE CELEBRATION?

SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS

There is a topic to meet every interest covering hummingbirds, birds, butterflies, moths, and developing your yard to attract them. Talks are scheduled Thursday afternoon through Sunday afternoon and most topics are repeated. Our speaker programs will be at two locations concurrently.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS DAILY

Thursday Listen to our hummingbird bander, Bob Sargent, discuss "All About Hummingbird Migration".

Friday Experience the thrill of sitting in the auditorium and feeling wind whistle through your hair as a rehabilitated hawk from Last Chance Forever flies overhead.

Saturday Sheri Williamson, author of Peterson's Hummingbirds of North America will talk about "Texas Hummingbirds and The Art & Science of Attracting & Feeding Them".

ART CENTER WORKSHOPS in the Visual Arts classroom.

Bird Photography workshop on Friday at 2 pm. taught by Diane Loyd. Bring your camera, instruction book, and one of your bird photos to be critiqued, if desired. Diane will discuss shutter speed, wing speed, and many other tips for bird photography. Digiscope Class led by Joel Simon, Swarovski Optik, on Saturday morning at 10 am. Digiscope Class led by Tom Dunkerton, Nikon Sport Optics, on Saturday afternoon at 2 pm.

BUS BIRDING TRIPS

Morning trips led by expert birders return before lunch

Friday

Hazel Bazemore County Park - varied habitat in park bordering the Nueces River offers birding at the Hawk

Watch site best known for yielding some of the highest raptor counts in the U.S.

Saturday

Fennessey Ranch – enjoy a hayride birding trip on a privately owned ranch including portions of the Mission River and a small lake. See hummingbirds, other birds and wildlife in a natural ranch setting.

Sunday

Tule Lake & Indian Point – beach birding of both soft and hard substrate shoreline. Prepare by attending the Dauphin's Saturday afternoon talk "Shorebirds of North America".

BOAT BIRDING TRIPS

Depart from Fulton Harbor on 2-hour trips in protected bay waters. The 4-hour Sunday Nikon ProBirders Brunch Trip offers more intensive bay birding. The boat has both inside and outside exposures on two decks, and restrooms.

HUMMER/BIRD MALLS Over 80 exhibitors! Expanded to two rooms

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this year to offer more nature-related products.

HUMMER HOME BUS TRIPS

Two hour visits to homes not on the self-guided tour. See your own hummingbird banding team. Trips are guided by experienced birders.

SELF-GUIDED HUMMER HOMES

Maps will be in the program brochure and available at ticket booths. Some homes may be visited prior to the event; check with the Chamber of Commerce for list and directions.

HUMMINGBIRD BANDING

Join the Sargents as they demonstrate hummingbird banding. Experience the thrill of releasing a hummer following banding. Maps are in the program brochure at ticket booths.

SUNDAY HUMMINGBIRD VISITS

Join Sheri Williamson after her talk for visits to select Hummer Homes for hummingbird identification tips.

OUTDOOR EXHIBITS

Join the Master Gardeners at the Butterfly Tent. See butterflies visiting their favorite nectar plants. See Raptors from San Antonio's Last Chance Forever during their Saturday morning outing in front of the auditorium.

BUTTERFLY WALKS

Join the Wauers and the Dauphins for butterfly walks on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday immediately following their talks.

Visit our website for the most up-to-date information regarding the Hummer/Bird Celebration.

www.rockporthummingbird.com

Visit the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce website for lodging and dining suggestions.

www.rockport-fulton.org