2020 South Llano River Birding Festival
Program Descriptions

Saturday (All events held at TTU Junction Llano River Field Station)

Golden-cheeked Warbler Walks: maximum 10 participants/walk, with 1 guide, four separate walks
Distance and time: 3-mile walk for 2.5 hours.
Restrooms: 1 composting toilet available at Primitive Camping.
Terrain: Dirt and rock trail with mostly level ground, some uneven and rocky.
Difficulty: Moderate. There are two benches on this trail, one about halfway down, and one near Primitive Camping.
Location and more information: A shuttle will take participants to the starting location. Participants will walk to Primitive Camping, farther if time permits, before turning around to head back. The well-maintained composting toilet at Primitive Camping will be the only restroom on this walk. The rock and dirt trail (with some blacktop road) is mostly level, but is rocky and uneven in some areas. Hiking boots or good walking shoes are recommended.
Target birds: Golden-cheeked Warbler is our main target for this walk, as well as Black-capped Vireo. Other target or likely species: Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Western Kingbird; White-eyed, Bell’s, and Hutton’s Vireo; Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay; Bewick’s Wren; migrating and breeding warblers such as Black-and-white, Nashville, McGillivray’s, and Wilson’s; displaying Yellow-breasted Chat; possible Rufous-crowned Sparrow; Black-throated Sparrow; Summer and possibly Western Tanager; possible Blue Grosbeak; Painted Bunting and possibly Lazuli and Indigo; possible Bronzed Cowbird; Scott’s Oriole.

Birding the Riparian: maximum 12 participants/walk, with 1 guide, two separate walks
Distance and time: round trip loop is 1.25 miles for 2 hours.
Restrooms: None.
Terrain: Dirt trail with mostly level ground, some uneven and with a very small hill.
Difficulty: Easy. There is one bench on this trail about ¼ of the way through.
Location and more information: Each walk will leave from the 1st Day Use parking lot. (A shuttle will take participants to this location.) The walk will go past Buck Lake, an oxbow lake in the river bottom, and back along the South Llano River. In addition to birding the pecan river bottom, you’ll learn about some of the challenges the park and this area face in conserving the riparian area. There are no restrooms on this walk. The dirt trail is fairly level. Good walking shoes are recommended.
Target birds: Possibility of Belted, Ringed, and Green Kingfishers; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Eastern Wood-Pewee; Acadian Flycatcher; Great Crested Flycatcher; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed Vireo; Bewick’s Wren; migrating and breeding warblers such as Black-and-white, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-throated, and Wilson’s; Summer Tanager; possible Blue Grosbeak; Indigo and Painted Bunting; Orchard and Baltimore Oriole.

Birding Around Town: maximum 10 participants/field trip, 4 hours with 1 guide, three separate field trips. (Field trip van will depart from the TTU Llano Rive Field Station pavilion)
Description: Field trip will focus on a variety of bird habitats and an opportunity to develop a more comprehensive list of Junction/Kimble County birds. This field trip would be especially suited for those participating in the Texas Century Club.
Locations:
Junction Wastewater Facility: Since the county has no lakes, this trip will visit the only significant impounded water in the area. Lingering waterfowl and shorebirds will be the targets. The facility is the best place in the county to see Yellow-headed Blackbirds, which can be common in late April.
Easter Pageant Hill: This xeric hillside affords opportunities for such species as Ash-throated Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow and Verdin. Black-capped Vireo are fairly common on the hill. The eastern most range of the Varied Bunting may be Kimble County and Easter Pageant Hill is the place to try for them. Zone-tailed Hawk is also a high priority bird and they have been viewed often soaring over the hill.
Ralph Ingram Tennis Center and associated scrub/grassland habitat surrounding the courts: Bullock’s Oriole nest here. Cassin’s Sparrow is very reliable as are other sparrow species i.e. Clay-colored Sparrow. Sometimes Pyrrhuloxia can be found.
Agarita Street Woods: If there is warbler or passerine movement this little area is one of the best in the area.
Mist-Netting and Bird Banding: 14 participants with 2 instructors/approximately 3 hours

**Location:** Guided walk to brushy area approximately ¼ mile from welcome area

**Target Birds:** It is unknown! You may catch cardinals; vermilion fly catchers; various upland wildlife birds

**Description:** Learn wildlife techniques for capturing and banding birds from TTU professor Dr. Clint Boal and his wife. Learn how to set a mist net; learn how to capture and band birds, learn why this is important

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Birding Golf Cart Tour: maximum 7 participants/tour, with 1 guide, 2 tours at 1.75 hours each

**Location:** Guided Birding Tour of river/riparian zones and uplands of the TTU Junction Llano River Field Station.

**Target Birds:** Renowned for riparian forest birds, river birds and all 3 species of the kingfisher.

**Description and More Information:** Golf Cart Tours are provided on the Texas Tech Campus by Texas Tech staff. All carts can fit up to 8 people and have multiple seats. These carts will be solely used for “Stop and Go” Viewing of Birds along the Riparian zone of the South Llano River on a paved trail. They do not exceed 5 miles per hour. These will not be operated on the grounds of South Llano River State park.

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Tweets, Trills, and Whistles: Uncovering the science of bird vocalizations: 16 participants with instruction by ASU and TTU professor, Dr. Ben Skipper

**Description:** Join Dr. Ben Skipper for a class on Bird Songs and Vocalizations. Field work will follow as you explore the field station’s outdoor classroom and “bird by ear”.

**Difficulty:** Easy Outdoor Classroom Session at Texas Tech.

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**Sunday (All events held at South Llano River State Park)**

**Big Sit!:** Sunday morning beginning at 7:00am until 11:30am at the South Llano River State Park (Participants will drive/carpool)

**Description:** Join us in the main Day Use area for our Annual Big Sit! as part of the Great Texas Birding Classic. The Birding Classic is a month-long, statewide birding competition put on annually by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to raise money for bird conservation and education. Often described as a “tailgate party for birders”, the Big Sit! is a low-key, fun way to see how many species we can tally (by sight or sound) from within a 17-foot diameter circle. Come for a half hour, a few hours, or the whole morning! Bring a lawn chair if you have one; we’ll also have a picnic table and spare chairs. We’ll have a few snacks on hand, and feel free to bring any to share as well!

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**Roving Guides:** Sunday: 7:00am – 11:30am at the South Llano River State Park

**Description:** If you didn’t get a chance to participate in the Golden-Cheeked Warbler Hikes or Birding the Riparian on Saturday, we’ll have another opportunity for you to see more birds at South Llano River State Park! Our professional guides will be roving the trails to help you find what you’re looking for. Volunteers will be at all of the park’s four bird blinds to answer questions as well.