



LAREDO BIRDING --- FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 4-7, 2026



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos!



Birders!

We are delighted to have you join us in sunny South Texas for our 2026 Laredo Birding Festival. We look forward to some good birding over the next few days and can't wait to listen to some words of birdly wisdom from our Keynote Speaker Gino Ellison, and special presenters: Lee Hoy and Michael Stewart.

The Laredo Birding Festival is a young, growing festival, and we take pride in our warm hospitality, rich avian wildlife, scenic Rio Grande eco-system, and partnerships with ranchers who give us access to thousands of acres of historic ranchland.

Hundreds of species of birds— including our prized Morelet's Seedeater— live here or visit us during the different migration seasons. At our last festival, we had a surprise visit from the Canyon Towhee, Dunlin, Blue-headed Vireo, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and American Redstart! So, whether you're an advanced birder or about to experience your first birding excursion, we welcome you with open wings, er, arms!

We hope that each of you can add many more birds to your Life List, and we want to hear all about your "ooh" and "aah" moments while out in the field! This year, we have birders flying in from eighteen states.

This birding festival is hosted by Monte Mucho Audubon Society (MMAS) and Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB).

Bienvenidos to each and everyone of you.

Happy Birding!

Julie Kelley
*Monte Mucho
Audubon Society President*

Aileen Ramos
*Laredo Convention and
Visitor Bureau Director*

Sandra Lopez
*Laredo Birding Festival
Coordinator*

The 2026 Laredo Birding Festival is proudly presented by:



2026 LBF Planning Committee

Danny Perales, Raul Delgado, Dario Gutierrez, Elma Ramirez, Irene Sanchez, John and Julie Kelley, Glenda Barrera, Joey Lopez Jr., Elsa Gonzalez, Sylvia Elizondo, Jim Hailey, Bob Friedrichs, Sandra Taylor, Joey Sanchez, Tom Miller, Tom Vaughn

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Signed Code of Conduct

Welcome to the Laredo Birding Festival! We're excited to have you join us for a wonderful experience of birding in our beautiful region of the South Texas border. To ensure that everyone enjoys the festival to the fullest, we kindly ask all participants to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

- 1. Respect for property and local communities**
- 2. Respectful conduct**
- 3. Harassment & safety**
- 4. Ethical birding practices**
- 5. Leave no trace**
- 6. Respect for wildlife**
- 7. Compliance with federal and state guidelines**
- 8. Photography ethics**
- 9. Group birding conduct**
- 10. Reporting & response**
- 11. Vendor & guide responsibilities**
- 12. ABA principles of birding ethics**

Already signed prior to trips. Copies available upon request.

Thank you for your cooperation and happy birding!

Famous Border Birds!



Gray Hawk



Red Billed Pigeon



Eastern Bluebird



Vermilion Flycatcher



Black Throated Sparrow



Red Tailed Hawk



Hooded Oriole



Ringed Kingfisher



Great Horned Owl



Gold Fronted Woodpecker



Turkey Vulture



Audubon Oriole



Crested Caracara



Osprey



Neotropical Cormorant

About the Speakers

LBF Keynote Speaker

Gino Ellison

Saturday, February 7th - 6:30 pm
La Posada in the San Agustin Ballroom (1000 Zaragoza St.)
** \$50 (dinner included)*



Gino Ellison is a lifetime resident of Massachusetts. He is happily married to his wonderful wife Kate (38 years) and they have 3 fun kids and 4 active grandkids. Gino is now retired from the investment business as well as the Professional Bass Fishing Tournament circuit. Gino has been affiliated with Bass Pro Shops for over 25 years and still makes several store appearances each year. Gino is a hunter, fisherman, conservationist and passionate birder who leads dozens of walks each year. Gino is a bander, a Hawk Trapper, a breeding bird surveyor and a daily lister. Gino completed a successful ABA Birding Big Year in 2023 and is scheduled to speak at birding festivals, Birding Associations, and birding clubs in New England and nationwide.

Birder Gino Ellison is only the 12th person to ever report and have confirmed 800+ birds in the ABA area in 1 year! Come and learn about the mishaps, the successes, the lessons learned along the way, the hilarious birding stories, the new life-time friends met along the way and the joy of reporting 802 bird species during 2023 ! But be warned ... Gino is a fun and dynamic speaker ... if you attend, you just might get the urge to plan a Big Year yourself! Please come and meet Big Year Birder Gino Ellison and see tons of beautiful bird photographs while hearing one birder's tale about a 12-month quest of a lifetime.



Greater Yellowlegs
Raul Delgado

Guest Speaker

Lee Hoy

Friday, February 6th - 6:30 pm

La Posada in the Tesoro Room (1000 Zaragoza St.) • Free



At the age of 19, Lee's mother gave him a Canon AE-1 with a broken meter and a 50mm lens. He purchased a copy of John Shaw's *The Nature Photographer's Complete Guide to Professional Field Techniques* and quickly learned the sunny f/16 rule and bought some rolls of Kodachrome 64. Trips to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and the Oklahoma City Zoo provided plenty of practice in calculating exposures and learning to read light. It wasn't until 2018 when Lee decided to pursue a full-time career as a professional photographer. His photographic interests include wildlife, landscape, macro, night sky, and camera trap photography. He is proud to serve as a North American OM System Ambassador. In addition, he also leads photography workshops around the world, teaches an OM System Mentorship Program, and is a contributing author to *The Journal of Wildlife Photography*. His favorite photography destinations thus far include Zimbabwe, Brazil's Pantanal, Galapagos Islands, Faroe Islands, Big Bend National Park, and Yellowstone National Park in winter. When not out photographing, you will find him on his mountaintop cabin in the Davis Mountains of west Texas enjoying all the wildlife in his yard. His favorite part of photography is equipping and teaching others, in the field and online, to capture better nature images.

Join Lee Hoy for an entertaining, educational, and information discussion of the mistakes most wildlife photographers make.

Guest Speaker

Michael Stewart

"BRINGING TINY FORESTS TO MCALLEN, TEXAS"

Thursday, February 5th - 6:30 pm

La Posada in the Tesoro Room (1000 Zaragoza St.) • Free



BIOGRAPHY

Mike's interest in birds began in 2002 when a pair of Blue Jays nested outside his kitchen window, leading to 20 years of birding across the eastern U.S. and Texas. After retiring from the Army in 2019, Mike pursued his passion for ornithology at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where he completed his M.S. in Biology studying Gray Hawks. He lives in Alice, Texas, with his wife, Yvette, and their Green-cheeked Conure, Greenlee. In January 2022, Mike began his Ph.D. studies at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, where his current research focuses on Gray Hawk habitat selection, range establishment, population growth rates, and identifying additional suitable areas.

Field Trips

Trip #	Thursday
1	Oasis in the Desert - 6:15 am La Perla
2	Zapata County "Bird 'Til You Drop" - 6:00 am Various sites
3	Mucho Rio Vistas: Seed eaters & More - 6:30 am Vargas Ranch • Cigarroa Ranch • Rio Bravo • España Park
4	Let's Go Owling 5:00 am Pepe's Birding Paradise/Various River Locations
5	Santa Margarita Ranch 5:15 am Santa Margarita Ranch
6	Bird Feeding Frenzy - 5:30 am Salineño • Falcon State Park
7	Sombrero Sanctuary 7:00 am Killam Ranch • Muller Pond
8	Rio Grande Hotspots 7:00 am Las Palmas Nature Trail • Zacate Creek • Slaughter River Trail • Riverbend (Paso del Indio Nature Trail and Lost Lakes)
9	Birding to the Max! 6:45 am Max • 180 Ranch • Muller Pond
10	Monte Mucho Hotspots North - 6:45 am Manadas Creek Lake • North Central Park • Muller Park • Lake Casa Blanca International State Park
11	Birding in Vaquero Country/Lagoons - 6:45 am El Corazon Ranch • Lake Casa Blanca International State Park • Lagoon at Ranchito Road
12	Birding America's Most Endangered River - 6:45 am Slaughter Nature Trails, Riverfront birding, 2 International Bridges, Dos Laredo Park
13	A Picture is Worth a Thousand Birds! - 6:15 am Rocking R6 Ranch

Trip #	Friday
1	Oasis in the Desert 6:15 am La Perla
2	Webb County "Bird 'Til You Drop" - 6:40 am Various sites
3	Mucho Rio Vistas: Seed eaters & More - 6:30 am Vargas Ranch • Cigarroa Ranch • Rio Bravo • España Park
4	Let's Go Owling 5:00 am Pepe's Birding Paradise/Various River Locations
5	Santa Margarita Ranch 5:15 am Santa Margarita Ranch
6	Bird Feeding Frenzy 5:30 am Salineño • Falcon State Park
7	Sombrero Sanctuary 7:00 am Killam Ranch • Muller Pond
8	Floating Under Flyways I (Kayak) - 6:00 am Santa Margarita Ranch
9	Birding to the Max! 6:40 am Max • 180 Ranch • Muller Pond
10	Tamaulipan Brush Country Birding - 6:00 am Los Lazos • Los Milagros
11	Birding in Vaquero Country/Lagoons - 6:45 am El Corazon Ranch • Lake Casa Blanca International State Park • Lagoon at Ranchito Road
12	Mil Angeles Ranch: Brush Bird Haven - 6:00 am Mil Angeles • Palacios
13	A Picture is Worth a Thousand Birds! - 6:15 am Rocking R6 Ranch

Field Trips (continued)

Trip #	Saturday
1	Oasis in the Desert - 6:15 am La Perla
2	Birding America's Most Endangered River - 6:45 am Slaughter Nature Trails, Riverfront birding, 2 International Bridges, Dos Laredo Park
3	Mucho Rio Vistas: Seedeaters & More - 6:30 am Vargas Ranch • Cigarroa Ranch • Rio Bravo • España Park
4	Alive with Birds: Birding the River Cliffs - 6:45 am Rancho Rio Verde • La Bota
5	Santa Margarita Ranch 5:15 am Santa Margarita Ranch
6	Bird Feeding Frenzy - 5:30 am Salineño • Falcon State Park
7	Sombrerito Sanctuary 7:00 am Killam Ranch • Muller Pond
8	Floating Under Flyways II (Kayak) - 6:00 am Santa Margarita Ranch
9	Rio Grande Hotspots - 7:00 am Las Palmas Nature Trail • Zacate Creek • Slaughter River Trail • Riverbend (Paso del Indio Nature Trail and Lost Lakes)
10	Tamaulipan Brush Country Birding 6:00 am Los Lazos • Los Milagros
11	Birding in Vaquero Country/ Lagoons - 6:45 am El Corazon Ranch • Lake Casa Blanca International State Park • Lagoon at Ranchito Road
12	Mil Angeles Ranch: Brush Bird Haven - 6:00 am Mil Angeles • Palacios
13	Monte Mucho Hotspots North - 6:45 am Manadas Creek Lake • North Central Park • Muller Park • Lake Casa Blanca International State Park

Specialty Trips

THUR, FRI & SAT

SANTA MARGARITA RANCH - \$50

5:15 am - Estimated return time: 2:30 pm

THURSDAY

EARLY FOR THE OWLS - \$20

5:00 am - Estimated return time: 2:30 pm

ZAPATA COUNTY "BIRD 'TIL YOU DROP" - \$20

6:00 am - Estimated return time: 6 pm

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND BIRDS!

(BIRDING PHOTOGRAPHY) \$175

6:15 am - Estimated return time: 2:30 pm

FRIDAY

WEBB COUNTY BIG DAY -

BIRD 'TIL YOU DROP - \$20

6:40 am - Estimated return time: 6 pm

FLOATING UNDER FLYWAYS I: BIG RIVER AND ITS HIDDEN CREEK - \$35

6:30 am - Estimated return time: 2:30 pm

SATURDAY

FLOATING UNDER FLYWAYS II: ISLANDS AND THE STREAM - \$35

6:30 am - Estimated return time: 2:00 pm

Event Itinerary

	EVENT	TIME
WED Feb. 4	Registration	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
	BBL Welcoming Social <i>(BIRDERS ONLY)</i>	6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
	Evening speaker – TBA	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
THUR Feb. 5	BIRDING TRIPS	Depart 5:30 am – 7:00 am Return by 2:30 pm (most trips)
	REGISTRATION	5:30 am (Lobby) – 7:00 am (Lobby) / 2:00 pm (Hibiscus Room) – 5:00 pm (Hibiscus Room)
	“Birds of the Brush” Art Exhibit <i>(OPEN TO PUBLIC)</i>	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
	Michael Stewart – Guest Speaker	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
FRI Feb. 6	BIRDING TRIPS	Depart 5:30 am – 7:00 am / Return by 2:30 pm
	Registration	5:30 am – 7:00 am (Lobby) / 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Lobby)
	Parakeets in the Plaza	TBA (Check sign in Hotel Lobby between 4:30–5:00 pm) – Return by 6:00 pm
	Evening speaker – Lee Hoy (Guest Speaker)	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
SAT Feb. 7	BIRDING TRIPS	Depart 5:30 am – 7:00 am / Return by 2:30 pm
	Registration	5:30 am – 7:00 am (Lobby)
	Finale Banquet – Gino Ellison (Keynote Speaker)	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Event Itinerary

LOCATION	DETAILS
La Posada Hotel Hibiscus Room, 3rd Floor	Pick up the registration packet
Casa Ortiz (915 Zaragoza St.) Walking distance from La Posada Hotel	FREE event! Mingle with other birders and feast on appetizers and drinks
Casa Ortiz (915 Zaragoza St.) Walking distance from La Posada Hotel	FREE event!
Depart from/return to La Posada Hotel (Lobby)	Hot breakfast at hotel
La Posada Hotel	Pick up registration packet
Laredo Center for the Arts, 1st Floor (500 San Agustin Ave.)	FREE event! Enjoy art, meet birders and locals. Appetizers and drinks provided.
La Posada in the Tesoro Room (1000 Zaragoza St.)	FREE event!
Depart from/return to La Posada Hotel (Lobby)	Hot breakfast at hotel
La Posada Hotel	Pick up registration packet
Depart from/return to La Posada Hotel (Lobby). Van shuttles available	FREE event!
La Posada in the Tesoro Room (1000 Zaragoza St.)	FREE event!
Depart from/return to La Posada Hotel (Lobby)	Hot breakfast at hotel
La Posada Hotel (Lobby)	Pick up registration packet
La Posada in the San Agustin Ballroom (1000 Zaragoza St.)	\$50 (Dinner Included)

Monte Mucho Region Bird Checklist

More than 379 Species

The furnished bird list is an attempt to create a register of all species observed or expected in the Monte Mucho region. It is intended to indicate which species are probable or likely to be observed with diligent effort in the appropriate habitat and season.

Compiled by Jim Hailey, February 2006. Updated by Raul Delgado and Daniel Perales, October 2018. Species names and taxonomic order follow the American Ornithologists Union Checklist of North American Birds, 7th edition (1998).

S = summer resident & migrant; W = winter resident & migrant; M = migrant only, spring &/or fall; R = resident, * =breeding; + =also found in small numbers in winter; RD = rare, documented, IE = Invasive/Introduced, exotic escapee, N = Naturalized, formerly Invasive/Introduced (Exotic population is self-sustaining and not maintained by ongoing releases)

Waterfowl^(+1 IE)

1. — Black-bellied Whistling-Duck R*
2. — Fulvous Whistling-Duck M
3. — Snow Goose W
4. — Ross's Goose W
5. — Greater White-fronted Goose W
6. — Canada Goose W
7. — Muscovy Duck R*
8. — Wood Duck W
9. — Blue-winged Teal W
10. — Green-winged Teal W
11. — Cinnamon Teal W
12. — Northern Shoveler W
13. — Gadwall W
14. — American Wigeon W
15. — Mallard W
16. — Mexican Duck R*
17. — Mottled Duck R*
18. — Northern Pintail W
19. — Canvasback W
20. — Redhead W
21. — Ring-necked Duck W
22. — Greater Scaup W, RD
23. — Lesser Scaup W
24. — Surf Scoter W, RD
25. — White-winged Scoter M, RD
26. — Long-tailed Duck W, RD
27. — Bufflehead W
28. — Common Goldeneye W, RD
29. — Hooded Merganser W
30. — Red-breasted Merganser W
31. — Ruddy Duck W

Rails, Gallinules, & Allies

32. — Virginia Rail W
33. — Sora W
34. — Common Gallinule R*
35. — American Coot R
36. — Purple Gallinule S, RD

Cranes

37. — Sandhill Crane W

Shorebirds

38. — Black-necked Stilt R
39. — American Avocet W

40. — Black-bellied Plover M, RD
 41. — American Golden-Plover M
 42. — Killdeer R*
 43. — Semipalmated Plover M
 44. — Snowy Plover M, RD
 45. — Upland Sandpiper M
 46. — Long-billed Curlew M
 47. — Hudsonian Godwit M, RD
 48. — Long-billed Dowitcher W
 49. — Short-billed Dowitcher M
 50. — American Woodcock W, RD
 51. — Wilson's Snipe W
 52. — Wilson's Phalarope M
 53. — Spotted Sandpiper W
 54. — Solitary Sandpiper M
 55. — Lesser Yellowlegs M
 56. — Greater Yellowlegs W
 57. — Willet M, RD
 58. — Ruddy Turnstone M, RD
 59. — Stilt Sandpiper M
 60. — Buff-breasted Sandpiper M
 61. — Sanderling M, RD
 62. — Dunlin M, RD
 63. — Baird's Sandpiper M
 64. — White-rumped Sandpiper M
 65. — Least Sandpiper R
 66. — Pectoral Sandpiper M
 67. — Western Sandpiper W
 68. — Semipalmated Sandpiper M
- ### Gulls, Terns, & Skimmers
69. — Bonaparte's Gull W
 70. — Laughing Gull R
 71. — Franklin's Gull M
 72. — Ring-billed Gull W
 73. — American Herring Gull W
 74. — Lesser Black-backed Gull W, RD
 75. — Slaty-backed Gull W, RD
 76. — Black Skimmer RD
 77. — Least Tern S*
 78. — Gull-billed Tern M, RD
 79. — Caspian Tern M
 80. — Black Tern S
 81. — Forster's Tern W

Monte Mucho Region Bird Checklist

Grebes

- 82. ___ Least Grebe R*
- 83. ___ Pied-billed Grebe R
- 84. ___ Horned Grebe W, RD
- 85. ___ Eared Grebe W
- 86. ___ Western Grebe W, RD

Loons

- 87. ___ Common Loon W

Storks

- 88. ___ Wood Stork S

Cormorants & Anhingas

- 89. ___ Anhinga R
- 90. ___ Double-crested Cormorant W
- 91. ___ Neotropic Cormorant R*

Egrets, Herons, Ibis, & Allies

- 92. ___ Great Egret R*
- 93. ___ Snowy Egret R*
- 94. ___ Reddish Egret RD
- 95. ___ Western Cattle-Egret N, R
- 96. ___ Tricolored Heron W
- 97. ___ Green Heron R
- 98. ___ Little Blue Heron R
- 99. ___ Great Blue Heron R*
- 100. ___ Black-crowned Night Heron R
- 101. ___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron S
- 102. ___ White Ibis M
- 103. ___ White-faced Ibis W
- 104. ___ Roseate Spoonbill W
- 105. ___ Bare-throated Tiger-heron RD
- 106. ___ American Bittern W
- 107. ___ Least Bittern S*

Pelicans

- 108. ___ American White Pelican W
- 109. ___ Brown Pelican M, RD

Chachalacas

- 110. ___ Plain Chachalaca R*

Grouse, Quail, & Allies

- 111. ___ Northern Bobwhite R*
- 112. ___ Scaled Quail R*
- 113. ___ Wild Turkey R*

Pigeons & Doves^(+1 IE)

- 114. ___ Rock Pigeon N*
- 115. ___ Red-billed Pigeon R
- 116. ___ Eurasian Collared-Dove N*
- 117. ___ Inca Dove R*
- 118. ___ Common Ground Dove R*
- 119. ___ White-tipped Dove R*
- 120. ___ White-winged Dove R*
- 121. ___ Mourning Dove R*

Cuckoos

- 122. ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo S*
- 123. ___ Black-billed Cuckoo M, RD
- 124. ___ Groove-billed Ani S*
- 125. ___ Greater Roadrunner R*

Nightjars

- 126. ___ Lesser Nighthawk S
- 127. ___ Common Nighthawk S
- 128. ___ Common Pauraque R*
- 129. ___ Common Poorwill R*
- 130. ___ Chuck-will's-widow M
- 131. ___ Eastern Whip-poor-will M

Swifts

- 132. ___ Chimney Swift S

Martins & Swallows

- 133. ___ Purple Martin S*
- 134. ___ Bank Swallow S*
- 135. ___ Tree Swallow W
- 136. ___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow R
- 137. ___ Barn Swallow S*
- 138. ___ Cliff Swallow S*
- 139. ___ Cave Swallow S*

Hummingbirds

- 140. ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird M
- 141. ___ Black-throated Hummingbird S*
- 142. ___ Anna's Hummingbird W, RD
- 143. ___ Rufous Hummingbird W
- 144. ___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird S, RD
- 145. ___ Buff-bellied Hummingbird R

Hawks, Vultures, & Allies

- 146. ___ Black Vulture R*
- 147. ___ Turkey Vulture R*
- 148. ___ Osprey R
- 149. ___ White-tailed Kite W
- 150. ___ Swallow-tailed Kite M, RD
- 151. ___ Mississippi Kite M
- 152. ___ Snail Kite RD
- 153. ___ Hook-billed Kite W, RD
- 154. ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk W
- 155. ___ Cooper's Hawk W
- 156. ___ Northern Harrier W
- 157. ___ Bald Eagle W, RD
- 158. ___ Golden Eagle W, RD
- 159. ___ Common Black Hawk RD
- 160. ___ Harris's Hawk R*
- 161. ___ White-tailed Hawk R*
- 162. ___ Grey Hawk R*
- 163. ___ Broad-winged Hawk M
- 164. ___ Red-shouldered Hawk W
- 165. ___ Zone-tailed Hawk W
- 166. ___ Swainson's Hawk S
- 167. ___ Red-tailed Hawk R*
- 168. ___ Ferruginous Hawk W, RD

Owls

- 169. ___ American Barn Owl R*
- 170. ___ Eastern Screech-Owl R*
- 171. ___ Great Horned Owl R*
- 172. ___ Elf Owl S, RD
- 173. ___ Burrowing Owl W, RD
- 174. ___ Mottled Owl RD
- 175. ___ Long-eared Owl W, RD
- 176. ___ Short-eared Owl W, RD

Kingfishers

- 177. ___ Ringed Kingfisher R*
- 178. ___ Belted Kingfisher W
- 179. ___ Amazon Kingfisher RD
- 180. ___ Green Kingfisher R*

Woodpeckers

- 181. ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker W
- 182. ___ Red-naped Sapsucker W, RD
- 183. ___ Red-headed Woodpecker W, RD
- 184. ___ Acorn Woodpecker RD
- 185. ___ Golden-fronted Woodpecker R*
- 186. ___ Ladder-backed Woodpecker R*

Monte Mucho Region Bird Checklist

187. __ Northern Flicker W

Falcons & Caracaras

188. __ Crested Caracara R*

189. __ American Kestrel W

190. __ Merlin W

191. __ Peregrine Falcon W

192. __ Prairie Falcon W

Parrots, Parakeets, & Allies^(+5 IE)

193. __ Monk Parakeet N*

194. __ Green Parakeet N*

195. __ Red-crowned Parrot R*

196. __ Red-lored Parrot N*

Becards, Tityras, & Allies

197. __ Rose-throated Becard RD

Tyrant Flycatchers

198. __ Olive-sided Flycatcher M

199. __ Greater Pewee W, RD

200. __ Eastern-wood Pewee M

201. __ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher M

202. __ Acadian Flycatcher M

203. __ Alder Flycatcher M

204. __ Willow Flycatcher M

205. __ Least Flycatcher M

206. __ Black Phoebe R*

207. __ Eastern Phoebe W

208. __ Say's Phoebe W

209. __ Vermilion Flycatcher R*

210. __ Ash-throated Flycatcher R*

211. __ Great-crested Flycatcher M

212. __ Brown-crested Flycatcher S

213. __ Great Kiskadee R*

214. __ Tropical Kingbird R*

215. __ Couch's Kingbird R*

216. __ Western Kingbird S

217. __ Eastern Kingbird M

218. __ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher S

Vireos

219. __ Black-capped Vireo RD

220. __ White-eyed Vireo R*

221. __ Bell's Vireo S*

222. __ Yellow-throated Vireo M

223. __ Blue-headed Vireo W

224. __ Philadelphia Vireo M, RD

225. __ Warbling Vireo M

226. __ Red-eyed Vireo M

Shrikes

227. __ Loggerhead Shrike R*

Corvids

228. __ Green Jay R*

229. __ Brown Jay RD

230. __ Chihuahuan Raven R*

Tits, Chickadees, & Titmice

231. __ Black-crested Titmouse R*

Penduline-Tits & Verdin

232. __ Verdin R*

Larks

233. __ Horned Lark W

Kinglets

234. __ Ruby-crowned Kinglet W

235. __ Golden-crowned Kinglet W, RD

Treecreepers

236. __ Brown Creeper W, RD

Gnatcatchers

237. __ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher W

238. __ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher R*

Wrens

239. __ Rock Wren W

240. __ Canyon Wren RD

241. __ Northern House Wren W

242. __ Winter Wren W, RD

243. __ Sedge Wren W, RD

244. __ Marsh Wren W

245. __ Carolina Wren R*

246. __ Bewick's Wren R*

247. __ Cactus Wren R*

Starlings & Mynas

248. __ European Starling N*

Mockingbirds & Thrashers

249. __ Grey Catbird W

250. __ Blue Mockingbird RD

251. __ Curve-billed Thrasher R*

252. __ Brown Thrasher W, RD

253. __ Long-billed Thrasher R*

254. __ Sage Thrasher W, RD

255. __ Northern Mockingbird R*

Thrushes

256. __ Eastern Bluebird W

257. __ Western Bluebird W, RD

258. __ Mountain Bluebird W, RD

259. __ Townsend's Solitaire W, RD

260. __ Veery M, RD

261. __ Grey-cheeked Thrush M

262. __ Swainson's Thrush M

263. __ Hermit Thrush W

264. __ Wood Thrush M, RD

265. __ Clay-colored Thrush R*

266. __ American Robin W

Waxwings

267. __ Cedar Waxwing W

Wagtails & Pipits

268. __ American Pipit W

269. __ Sprague's Pipit W

Finches, Euphonias, & Allies

270. __ House Finch R*

271. __ Pine Siskin W, RD

272. __ Lesser Goldfinch R*

273. __ American Goldfinch W

Old World Sparrows

274. __ House Sparrow N*

New World Sparrows

275. __ Cassin's Sparrow R*

276. __ Grasshopper Sparrow W

277. __ Olive Sparrow R*

278. __ Chipping Sparrow W

279. __ Clay-colored Sparrow W

280. __ Field Sparrow W

281. __ Brewer's Sparrow W, RD

282. __ Black-throated Sparrow R*

283. __ Lark Sparrow R

284. __ Lark Bunting W

285. __ Fox Sparrow W, RD

286. __ Dark-eyed Junco W, RD

287. __ White-crowned Sparrow W

288. __ White-throated Sparrow W, RD

Monte Mucho Region Bird Checklist

- 289. ___ Vesper Sparrow W
- 290. ___ Le Conte's Sparrow W, RD
- 291. ___ Savannah Sparrow W
- 292. ___ Song Sparrow W, RD
- 293. ___ Lincoln's Sparrow W
- 294. ___ Swamp Sparrow W
- 295. ___ Rufous-crowned Sparrow W, RD
- 296. ___ Canyon Towhee RD
- 297. ___ Green-tailed Towhee W
- 298. ___ Spotted Towhee W
- 299. ___ Eastern Towhee W, RD

Yellow-breasted Chat

- 300. ___ Yellow-breasted Chat R*

Meadowlarks

- 301. ___ Western Meadowlark W
- 302. ___ Eastern Meadowlark R

Orioles

- 303. ___ Black-vented Oriole RD
- 304. ___ Orchard Oriole S*
- 305. ___ Hooded Oriole S*
- 306. ___ Bullock's Oriole S*
- 307. ___ Altamira Oriole R*
- 308. ___ Audubon's Oriole R*
- 309. ___ Baltimore Oriole M

Blackbirds, Cowbirds & allies

- 310. ___ Yellow-headed Blackbird M
- 311. ___ Red-winged Blackbird R*
- 312. ___ Bronzed Cowbird S*
- 313. ___ Brown-headed Cowbird R*
- 314. ___ Brewer's Blackbird W
- 315. ___ Common Grackle W, RD
- 316. ___ Great-tailed Grackle R*

Wood-Warblers

- 317. ___ Ovenbird M
- 318. ___ Worm-eating Warbler M, RD
- 319. ___ Louisiana Waterthrush M, RD
- 320. ___ Northern Waterthrush M
- 321. ___ Golden-winged Warbler RD
- 322. ___ Blue-winged Warbler M, RD
- 323. ___ Black-and-white Warbler W
- 324. ___ Tennessee Warbler M, RD
- 325. ___ Orange-crowned Warbler W
- 326. ___ Nashville Warbler W
- 327. ___ MacGillivray's Warbler M
- 328. ___ Mourning Warbler M
- 329. ___ Kentucky Warbler M, RD
- 330. ___ Common Yellowthroat R*
- 331. ___ Hooded Warbler M, RD
- 332. ___ Magnolia Warbler M
- 333. ___ Bay-breasted Warbler M, RD

- 334. ___ Blackburnian Warbler M
- 335. ___ Yellow Warbler M
- 336. ___ Chestnut-sided Warbler M
- 337. ___ Blackpoll Warbler M, RD
- 338. ___ Black-throated Blue Warbler M, RD
- 339. ___ Black-throated Grey Warbler M
- 340. ___ Black-throated Green Warbler M
- 341. ___ Townsend's Warbler M, RD
- 342. ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler W
- 343. ___ Audubon's Warbler W
- 344. ___ Myrtle Warbler W
- 345. ___ Yellow-throated Warbler M
- 346. ___ Palm Warbler W, RD
- 347. ___ Pine Warbler W, RD
- 348. ___ Canada Warbler M
- 349. ___ Wilson's Warbler W
- 350. ___ Northern Parula M, RD
- 351. ___ Tropical Parula RD
- 352. ___ American Redstart M
- 353. ___ Painted Redstart W, RD
- 354. ___ Golden-crowned Warbler RD

Cardinals, Grosbeaks, & Allies^(+1 IE)

- 355. ___ Summer Tanager S*
- 356. ___ Scarlet Tanager M, RD
- 357. ___ Western Tanager M, RD
- 358. ___ Crimson-collared Grosbeak W, RD
- 359. ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak M
- 360. ___ Black-headed Grosbeak M, RD
- 361. ___ Blue Grosbeak S*
- 362. ___ Blue Bunting M, RD
- 363. ___ Lazuli Bunting M, RD
- 364. ___ Indigo Bunting M
- 365. ___ Varied Bunting S, RD
- 366. ___ Painted Bunting S*
- 367. ___ Northern Cardinal R*
- 368. ___ Pyrrhuloxia R*
- 369. ___ Dickcissel S*

Tanagers & Allies

- 370. ___ Morelet's Seedeater R*

Invasive/Introduced, Exotic Escapee

- ___ Egyptian Goose IE
- ___ African Collared-Dove IE
- ___ Cockatiel IE
- ___ Rosy-faced Lovebird IE
- ___ Lilac-crowned Parrot IE
- ___ Yellow-headed Parrot IE
- ___ White-fronted Parrot IE
- ___ Scaly-breasted Munia IE
- ___ Orange-breasted Bunting IE

Add to List: _____

Join the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird Community!
 Share your checklist with the Laredo Birding Festival.
 Create an account on ebird at ebird.org
 Submit your data and share with the Laredo Birding Festival!

eBird





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Shirts starting at \$20
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All proceeds benefit the
Laredo Birding Festival

(Visit us in the registration room)



Emergency Services

In case of emergency call 911

Doctors Hospital
10700 McPherson Rd
(956) 523-2000

Laredo Medical Center
1700 E Saunders St
(956) 796-5000

Premier Clinic
7215 McPherson Rd
(956) 608-4500



Painted Bunting
Carlos Escamilla

Local Restaurants

Eat local!

Try some of our best locally-owned cafes and restaurants!



Casa Lopez (\$\$)

2002 Hidalgo
(956) 462-7097
Tapas Bar



El Meson de San Agustin (\$)

908 Grant St
(956) 725-9299
Traditional Mexican lunch



ALA Burger (\$)

515 San Agustin Ave.
(956) 269-1908
Burgers & Wings



Los Olvidados (\$)

309 Flores Ave
(956) 220-8189
Café Shop & Gallery



JardinxContreras (\$)

811 Iturbide
(956) 220 - 6511
Beer Garden



Frontera Beer & Wine Garden (\$)

3301 San Bernardo Ave #24a
(956) 645-2512
Food trucks



Zaragoza Grill (\$\$)

1000 Zaragoza St
(956) 753-4444
Modern Latin cuisine



The Tack Room (\$\$)

1000 Zaragoza St
(956) 722-1701
Fine dining steak, seafood & wine



Palenque Grill (\$\$)

4615 San Bernardo Ave
(956) 701-3576
Seafood, steaks & cocktails



Border Foundry (\$\$)

7718 McPherson Rd
(956) 724-5907
Restaurant & Bar. Fine Cuisine.



Bolillos

6950 McPherson Rd
(956) 568-1532
Mexican café for breakfast & lunch



Lolita's Bistro (\$\$)

6950 McPherson Rd C
(956) 568-5334
Artisanal Mexican food



Tacos Ravi (\$)

414 Shiloh Dr
(956) 717-0055
Street-style tacos



Taco Palenque (\$)

7017 San Dario Ave
(956) 267-4404
Fresh Tex-Mex



Tensai Sushi (\$\$)
7718 McPherson Rd
(956) 701-3491
Sushi & grill



Rocha's Bar and Grill (\$\$)
6051 Arena Blvd Ste. 101
(956) 712-9000
Mexican Food and Cocktails



Tabernilla (\$\$)
7124 Bob Bullock Loop #101
(956) 523-0989
Tapas bar



Posh Sushi & Grill (\$\$)
2715 E Del Mar Blvd
(956) 724-7674
Japanese / Asian fare



Arandas (\$)
611 Shiloh Dr
(956) 568-0166
Traditional Mexican food



Rudy's BBQ (\$)
7305 McPherson Rd
(956) 712-9629
Texas style barbecue

Scan for a list of more
PLACES TO EXPLORE
IN LAREDO, TX



Maps

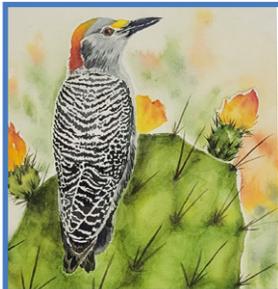
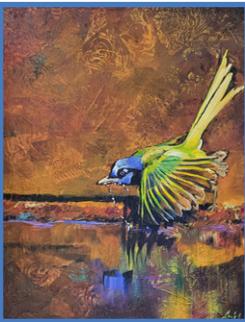
(St. Peter's Plaza & Laredo Center for the Arts)



2026 Birds of the Brush

Each year, the Birds of the Brush Art Contest kicks off the Laredo Birding Festival. With hundreds of submissions from artists of all ages from local schools and within our community, the Birds of the Brush Art Contest has become Laredo's largest art contest and the largest bird art contest in South Texas! This art contest celebrates both the biodiversity of our fine feathered friends along our rich river ecosystem, and the talents of many local artists, both amateur and professional in our community.





The Wild Muscovy Duck



The Wild Muscovy Duck is a highly prized and rare neotropical duck that inhabits tropical forests, wetlands, lowlands, and coastal lagoons, and has been spotted in San Ygnacio (Zapata Co.) and possibly Webb Co.

The Muscovy Duck Project seeks to build and install nest boxes at area ranches to help attract the Muscovy to nest in Webb and Zapata counties and increase population numbers of this rare duck.

The Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center at the Laredo College campus now features a Muscovy Duck exhibit rehabilitating live ducks from the wild.

The Muscovy Duck Project is a collaboration with the Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center, the Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, and the Rio Grande International Study Center.

Note: Environmental center reopens Spring 2026.



Harris Hawk
Butch Ramirez



Green Jay
Carlos Escamilla



Black-throated Sparrow
Butch Ramirez



American Kestrel
Raul Delgado



Our Field Guides

We are excited to welcome
a stellar lineup of professional field guides
in the Texas birding world!

Jim Hailey
Ryan Rodriguez
Glenn Olsen
Bob Friedrichs
Bill Sekula
Susan Foster
Thomas Langschied
Holly Platz
Janice Travis

Judy Kestner
Willie Sekula
Dr. Tom Vaughn
Gino Ellison
Jimma Byrd
Tiffany Kersten
Michael Stewart

Thank you Ranchers

Thank you to our ranchers
for their generosity
and warm hospitality!

180 Ranch
Bluff Creek Ranch
Corazon Ranch
Killam Ranch
La Bota Ranch
Vargas Ranch
La Perla Ranch
Los Lazos Ranch
Max A. Mandel Municipal
Golf Course

Paul Young Ranch
Rancho Rio Verde
Rocking R6 Ranch
Santa Maria Land & Cattle
Company
Veleño Ranch
Cielito Lindo Ranch
Cigarroa Ranch
Mil Angeles Ranch

About Monte Mucho Audubon Society

Monte Mucho Audubon Society (MMAS) was established in February 2001 by Jim Hailey, who spearheaded the effort beginning in November, 2000. The Chapter was originally based out of Realitos, Texas. It later moved to Laredo, Texas after Jim Hailey relocated to Central Texas. MMAS currently covers seven counties to include Webb, Zapata, Starr, La Salle, Duval, Jim Hogg, and Dimmit.

About Convention & Visitors Bureau

As Laredo's destination marketing organization, the Convention & Visitors Bureau develops targeted promotional and marketing programs to impact Laredo hotel/lodging occupancy and increase demand for local tourism services.



Osprey

Carlos Escamilla



Blue-winged & Green-winged Teals

Raul Delgado

Thank you to our sponsors!



Save the date!
2027 Laredo Birding Festival
February 3-6