



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

1305 N. Shoreline, Suite 205, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 • 361-885-6202 • 361-883-7801 (fax)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Monika K. De La Garza (361) 885-6246
Cell: (361) 946-6077

High School Students Wanted For Birding Tournament

Corpus Christi, February 20, 2002 --- The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) is sponsoring a new and exciting event for students ages 14-18. The Texas Parks and Wildlife **Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC)** is an annual event that promotes education and nature-tourism through a birding tournament held right here in our region. The CBBEP will sponsor and help develop 5 teams to participate in this challenging event to be held in the Coastal Bend throughout the day on Saturday, **April 27th, 2002**. The CBBEP has extended the deadline to **March 15th** for area high schools to join us in this fun and exciting adventure.

The CBBEP is seeking motivated students with a demonstrated interest in natural history to represent their school. These teams will compete with other regional teams for GTBC prizes. Adult sponsors/chaperones are also being recruited to assist in the field trips, workshops, and competition. Local biologists and outreach specialists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, the U.S. Geological Survey, CBBEP, and local birding organizations will assist the adult chaperones on field trips and the day of competition.

Birding is an excellent way to learn about the biological and geological characteristics of our region. To facilitate the learning process, Richard Gibbons, Project Manager for the CBBEP and three-year veteran of the GTBC, will conduct three workshops and three Saturday field trips to prepare the teams for the competition. This will be an intensive survey of the bird species, plant communities, and geological characteristics of the Coastal Bend. In addition, the rules and strategy of the event will be discussed.

The CBBEP is offering local students a unique opportunity to learn about the fascinating natural history of the region. This out-of-classroom experience will bring to life the wonders of biology and birding in the Coastal Bend.

The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program is a local non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries of the Texas Coastal Bend. The CBBEP supports and develops management solutions with a focus on public health issues, altered freshwater inflow into bays and estuaries, condition of living resources, loss of wetlands and estuarine habitats, degradation of water quality, altered estuarine circulation, and bay debris.

###