



SUMMARY OF FIELD TRIPS, BANDING, TOURS & PHOTO WORKSHOPS

*Please read below for descriptions of trips, tours and workshops. Listings are graded on difficulty.
Please note vehicle requirements and amenities when making your choices.*

Field Workshop Hummingbird Photography - *Carpool Thursday

Thurs. 3 p.m. afternoon from Chamber to McDonald Observatory Hummingbird Feeder

(3 hrs.)(*EASY) Stations set up for Photography. **Carpool on Sunday Morning from

Sun. 8 a.m. Chamber to Tule Canyon a local private ranch set up for Photography; transfer (**Moderate** to high-clearance, 4 x 4 vehicles and then drive three miles on rough roads to the due to roads) site. (Bring portable chair or stool.)

Thurs. ONLY

(2 hrs.) Field Trip - Hummingbirds On a Mountain Top. (This is a one-of-a-

3:00-5 p.m. kind trip to the Top of Mt. Locke). CARPOOL FROM CHAMBER to a local

(EASY) residence with hundred-mile views. Join Blaine Hall one of Texas best

interpretive geologists on a beautiful patio with one of Texas' finest views of its sky islands; and local birding expert who want to make sure you enjoy both geology and hummingbirds. (Bring portable chair or stool.)

Thurs. Fri. (2 hrs.)

4-6 p.m. Hummingbird Feeding Frenzy (** THIS IS A SHORT, UPHILL& Sat. Morn Sat. 7:45 a.m. WALK for hikers and---We can accommodate ADA access). JOIN CARPOOL FROM the CHAMBER to a local residence & Garden. Watch hummingbirds at feeders from the porch where leaders help with bird ID; five (5) HB species usual in migration, bring binoculars. (Need to bring a few chairs or stools.)

Thurs. 2-4 p.m. (1.5 hrs.)

Fri. 1-4 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.

To Noon, *Sun. 9-Noon

(Easy)

Hummingbird Garden Tour (See Map) Your choice 1-Mile Walk or Drive to Gardens. Several gardens are open for hummingbird viewing. Use your map. Bring hat, binoculars and water; take the trip on your own schedule. **On tour:** 1) Francell's Garden, a beautiful garden at a private residence; 2) the Veranda Bed & Breakfast has gardens off the front porch attracting birds, it is on the way to Francell's Garden; 3) Hotel Limpia feeding stations are at the back of the hotel in the garden. 4) (*Opens 9 a.m. on Sunday) Drive 4 miles to the Chihuahuan Desert Visitor Center gardens. This is a beautiful desert garden setting, with trails and nature store. It has one of the finest photography blinds in the Trans-Pecos. Bring \$3 (reduced fee for the Hummingbird Celebration). 5) See the new garden located at back of the Chamber office near Kelly Pavilion, this is the pride of Melissa Henderson who launched the Chamber garden earlier this year.

Please Note: In addition to the morning tours/trips listed, checkout the great afternoon talks, starting Thursday, on *Hummingbird I.D. Program*, presented by our resident hummingbird researcher and expert Kelly Bryan, and *Hummingbirds of the Tropics* by neo-tropical traveler Michael Gray and the spectacular birds further south, you will want to catch both of these talks. The Celebration's popular workshop on *Feeding Hummingbirds* (also by Kelly Bryan) is not to be missed, on both Friday and Saturday, the afternoon workshop segment is very important if you have and enjoy hummingbirds around your home.

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TNC Davis Mts. Preserve

Fri. & Sat. (3.15 hrs.)

7:30– 11 a.m. [HUMMINGBIRD BANDING at TNC Davis Mountains Preserve - Groups & \(EASY\) Individuals depart the Chamber at 7:45 a.m.](#) Carpooling is encouraged. (Restroom available.) Join Kelly Bryan for the morning; be with perhaps the most knowledgeable hummingbird biologist in North America. See the tiny birds up-close and learn fascinating information about hummingbirds in migration. (Seen in past years: **Magnificent, Lucifer, Rufous, Broad-tailed, Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, Calliope, Anna's, Allen's.** Anything could turn up!) **BANDING EXPERT:** Kelly Bryan has banded 20,000 hummingbirds and confirmed eighteen (18) hummingbird species that are migrants and seasonal residents in the Davis Mountains. (Bring portable chair or stool.)

McDonald Observatory

Fri. & Sat. (3.15 hours)

7:45 – 11 a.m. [HUMMINGBIRD BANDING at Univ. of Texas McDonald Observatory – Groups \(EASY\) & Individuals will depart Chamber at 7:45 a.m.](#) Carpooling is encouraged. Join master bander, Charles Floyd for a wonderful morning of hummingbirds at the McDonald Observatory near Mt. Locke, one of the Celebration's highest elevations. Charles Floyd, is President of WTAR Inc. He has banded over 20,000 Black-chinned hummingbirds and recaptured the oldest known living banded Black-chinned hummingbird on record at 11 years of age. This banding research will help you see birds up close while you learn of the natural wonder of hummingbirds in migration. (Seen in past years: **Magnificent, Lucifer, Broad-tailed, Rufous, Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, Calliope.** Anything could turn up!) (Bring portable chair or stool.).

Fri. & Sat.

7:30-11 a.m. [Field Trip to Tule Canyon - Carpool from the Chamber to local \(MODERATE private ranch; transfer to high-clearance, 4 x 4 vehicles and be driven due to three miles from highway on ranch roads to Tule Canyon where hummingbird bumpy feeders have been set-up for viewing. This trip is new to the Celebration, roads\) the goal of the trip is to find more Davis Mountains high-elevation hummingbird species such as magnificent \(*Rivoli's*\) and other hummingbirds. A short bird walk for canyon species may be possible, weather permitting.](#) (Bring portable chair or stool.)

Fri. & Sun.

7 a.m. (4 hrs.) [A Sky Island Adventure – Carpool from the Chamber to Davis Mts. \(MODERATE/Preserve. Join TNC scientist for cool morning hike\(s\) close to the top. DIFFICULT\)](#) Those who want to get their morning exercise will have it on this hike in one of Texas finest sky island Preserves. Bring water, snacks hat, hiking gear. Make sure you wear hiking shoes (or boots) and that you will like a several-mile walk.

Fri. & Sat. (6 hrs.)

6 a.m.-1 p.m. [Lucifer Madness Field Trip. \(Driver's, please get the map.\) This trip will \(Very diffi- carpool from the Chamber for a 1-hour and 45-minute drive to Christmas cult roads\) Mountain Oasis.](#) This trip is not for the "Faint of Heart." We will drive 75+ miles of Hwy. 118 So. through Alpine to a turn-off, then a 30-minute drive mostly on very rough desert roads. ****Must have high-clearance vehicles.** If rain is predicted, then come prepared, the roads are muddy. This is your chance to get great views of the fantastic Lucifer Hummingbird in its wild breeding environment in the Christmas Mountains. Bring hat, water, snacks & binoculars.

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Fri. & Sat. (6 hrs.)

6:30 a.m.-1 p.m. [Miller Ranch Field Trip – Carpool from the Chamber for a 1-hr.10-minute](#)

(Moderate) [drive to the historic C.E. Miller Ranch \(52 mi\).](#) (Driver's, please get the map). We are on paved roads from the Chamber to Valentine, TX, then unpaved roads to the ranch Hdqs. (If raining, road is muddy and may be slippery; high clearance is not required). After a short restroom break and birding at Hdqs, we transfer to high clearance ranch vehicles for a drive up into canyon for a moderate hike and birding. You will arrive early morning to see Gambel's and Scaled Quail feeding at Hdqs. Then the adventure really begins as we traverse rugged canyon terrain of the Sierra Vieja Mountains in search of Phainopepla, Peregrine Falcon, Rock Wren, Verdin and many more species. A short history and tour of Camp Holland built by the U.S. Army in 1918 in response to Mexican bandit raids is part of the tour. Bring hat, water, snacks.

Fri. & Sat. [Field Trip - Post Park and Birds Galore! – Carpool to one of the regions best \(Easy\)](#)

7 a.m. (5 hrs.)

[county parks](#) and add birds to your southwestern lists. Sign up for what is sure to be a great birding morning in search of desert and riparian birds near Marathon, TX. We will bird the scenic desert road into Post Park stopping along the way for oriole's (3 species), thrashers, wrens, sparrows, and buntings. Once we arrive at the park we'll bird in the shade of giant trees and along the banks of historic Pena Colorado Springs for dozens of species of birds. This is a great migrant trap so just about anything is possible! Restrooms available, bring water and snacks plus cash if you want to have lunch in Marathon. Easy birding walks in Post Park, or Sit and watch from a shady picnic table. Time permitting we'll visit a nearby prairie dog town to look for burrowing owls..

Sat. & Sun. (5 hrs.)

7 a.m. – Noon
(Easy)

[Sandia Springs Wetlands & Geology – Trip carpools from Chamber for a 1-hr. and](#)

[15 min. drive to Balmorhea, TX and the Sandia Wetlands.](#) Drive about 45 miles (one-way) through some of the most beautiful and impressive geology in TX Davis Mountains. Arrive early morning for migrating shorebirds, at a private re-constructed desert wetland (or ciénega) open to the public and made possible by landowners Don and Ellen Weinacht. Helping with the restoration project are The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Tierra Grande Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists with grants from Ed Rachal Foundation and Duck's Unlimited; also SRSU Borderlands Institute. A historic and very large desert wetland would have occupied the area surrounding the San Solomon Springs site where Balmorhea State Park & Balmorhea Lake were built. The Sandia Wetlands help replicate habitat that is no longer available for shorebirds and wetland species.

Saturday
4-6 p.m.

[Birding Davis Mountains State Park with Lee Hoy – Meet at Chamber \(2 hrs.\)for easy carpool 6 miles to Davis Mountains State Park, a great place to see birds. \(Bring \\$3 cash and deliver to trip leader.\)](#) Checkout the neat photo blinds and feeding stations at the Park to see hummingbirds and many other birds. Enjoy the easy walk between two blinds. Davis Mountains State Park is a great place to walk and hike with well-preserved trails and roads, don't miss the overlook. Note: Use the park as a great place to walk and exercise should you be looking for more outdoor time. The reduced fee of \$3 per visit (normally \$5) is good to get you in the park during the Celebration event.