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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corpus Christi Remains 'Birdiest City in America'

Corpus Christ has Held the Title Each Year Since 2003

(Corpus Christi, TX – June 25, 2008) The results are in- Corpus Christi once again celebrates the title of the 'Birdiest City in America'. The nation-wide contest, coordinated by the San Diego Audubon Society each year determines the best city for birding after hundreds of avid birders from around the country count the number of species seen from April 1 – May 31.

Corpus Christi has held the title consecutively each year since 2003. Birders united again this year and counted a total of 241 species of birds in our city. San Diego, CA came in second with 187 species of birds.

Within the two month span of the contest, participating cities and counties selected a 72-hour window to count birds, making it a fast-pace competition somewhat like a scavenger hunt. Mike Wilson, National Coordinator for the contest says the annual event, in its eighth year, encourages participating cities and counties to round up as many birders as they wish to during their count. The coordinator in each city/county then compiles and compares the logs and write-ups from each team/participant before submitting their results no later than May 31.

Leah Pummil, a local birder and President for the Audubon Outdoor Club said the team chose April 25 – April 28 as the time to count for the contest because historically it is the peak of the migration.

Another team formed locally tallied 253 species of birds in Nueces County, making it the "Birdiest County on the Gulf Coast" for the third consecutive year. Pummil commented, "Of course what we see in the city limits of Corpus Christi is included in the county submission, but we also get to include anything seen on the Island and Port Aransas. We also pick up unique birds in the western part of the county like at Hazel Bazemore Park".

According to Wilson, most cities use their winning title for tourism marketing purposes or to show the importance of environmentally sensitive areas when faced with unwise development plans. Keith Arnold, CEO of the Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau (CCCVB) commented, "Maintaining the title as the 'Birdiest City in America' will ensure the recognition of the Coastal Bend area as a world-class birding destination, significantly supporting our efforts with the Coastal Bend Nature Tourism Initiative".

Nine months ago the CCCVB spear-headed a regional tourism initiative that now includes over 12 counties throughout the Coastal Bend area. The Coastal Bend Nature Tourism Initiative is presently in Phase II and the planning stages for an interactive website, informational kiosks and marketing collateral have begun with the assistance of Fermata, Inc., a Houston-based nature consultant firm.

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The Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau's mission is "to drive overnight visitor\$ to the Corpus Christi Area". For more information about the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau or to plan your next trip to Corpus Christi, visit www.corpuschristicvb.com or call 1-800-678-6232.