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Galveston Becomes the First City in Texas to Achieve Bird City High-Flyer Status

[Galveston, Texas] — Audubon Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife are thrilled to announce that Galveston has been recognized as the first city in Texas to achieve the prestigious Bird City High-Flyer status. This designation celebrates Galveston's extraordinary commitment to bird conservation, community engagement, and sustainable practices that protect avian habitats and promote coexistence between people and wildlife.

The Bird City High-Flyer status is part of a statewide program designed to encourage and recognize communities for their dedication to creating environments where birds prosper and people thrive. Galveston earned this recognition, exceeding the 27 action requirement by demonstrating excellence in 37 actions within habitat restoration, public education initiatives, and policies aimed at reducing threats to bird populations.

“Galveston is setting the gold standard for bird-friendly communities in Texas,” said Chloe Crumley, Engagement Manager, Audubon Texas. “From its vibrant coastal habitats to its community-driven conservation efforts, Galveston exemplifies what it means to be a Bird City High-Flyer. This recognition highlights the power of collaboration between local government, community members, and conservation organizations.”

Galveston’s Commitment to Birds

Galveston’s unique location along the Central Flyway makes it a critical stopover for millions of migratory birds each year. The city has implemented numerous initiatives that contributed to its High-Flyer designation, including:

- **Habitat Conservation:** Restoration of coastal marshes and dunes, vital ecosystems for shorebirds and waterfowl.
- **Bird-Friendly Policies:** Adoption of lighting ordinances to reduce light pollution during migration seasons, benefiting nocturnal migratory birds.
- **Community Education:** Hosting birding festivals, workshops, and public awareness campaigns to engage residents and visitors in bird conservation.

A Milestone for Bird-Friendly Communities

Audubon Texas launched the Bird City Texas program in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to inspire cities to take action for bird conservation. Since 2019, 15 cities have achieved the designation as Bird City. Galveston’s High-Flyer status represents the elevated level of achievement within the program and serves as a model for other cities across the state.

“Our Galveston Bird City Texas team is so proud of the work our community is doing to make Galveston more bird-friendly. From one end of the island to the other, organizations, individuals and businesses are contributing to this ongoing effort. We look forward to continuing this collaborative work and are grateful for the Bird City Texas program as it provides the framework to make good things happen for birds!” -Katelin Stroman at Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council and Sarah Belles at American Bird Conservancy, Galveston Bird City Texas Managers

Looking Ahead

Galveston’s designation as a Bird City High-Flyer is just the beginning. Audubon Texas invites other cities to follow Galveston’s lead by joining the Bird City Texas program and working toward a future where birds and people can flourish together.

For more information about the Bird City Texas program or Galveston’s High-Flyer status, please visit birdcity.org/texas