



### NestFest 2026: Join the Movement to Protect Texas' Nesting Birds and Sea Turtles

**Upper Texas Coast** — On March 10, 2026, communities across the coast will come together for NestFest 2026, a large-scale coastal cleanup dedicated to protecting nesting habitats for shorebirds and sea turtles. In partnership with SPLASH (Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines), American Bird Conservancy, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research, and Texas Master Naturalists, NestFest unites volunteers, nature lovers, and conservation groups for a day of action that makes a lasting difference for Texas wildlife.

Every spring, Texas beaches welcome nesting birds like Wilson's Plovers and Least Terns, as well as Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, the most endangered sea turtle in the world. Unfortunately, our coastlines collect trash up to ten times faster than other Gulf states—threatening these fragile nesting areas. By joining NestFest, you'll help remove marine debris before nesting season begins and ensure these species have a safe place to raise their young.

#### Event Details



**Date:** March 10, 2026



**Time:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



**Locations:** Cleanup sites across Galveston Island, Follet's Island, and Bolivar Peninsula



**Who Can Participate:** Everyone! Families, students, community groups, and first time volunteers



**What to Bring:** Comfortable clothing, sunscreen, a hat, reusable water bottle, and your enthusiasm! Cleanup supplies like gloves and bags will be provided.

#### Why It Matters

Texas is home to five of the world's seven sea turtle species and countless migratory and nesting shorebirds. Litter-free beaches not only support their survival but also improve coastal health and beauty for everyone who loves these spaces. By volunteering at NestFest, you're helping protect wildlife, support cleaner oceans, and strengthen your community's connection to the coast. Plus, participants can look forward to meeting fellow conservationists, learning from experts, and making a real, visible impact—one beach at a time.

#### Join Us!

Sign up today at [SPLASH TX's NestFest page](#) and be part of this growing coastal movement. Together, we can ensure Texas beaches remain safe havens for wildlife and their young.

### **About SPLASH**

SPLASH (Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines) is a community-driven initiative focused on reducing marine debris and protecting wildlife habitats along the Texas Gulf Coast. Through education, conservation efforts, and public engagement, SPLASH aims to create cleaner, healthier ecosystems for people and birds, and other wildlife.

### **About GCSTR**

The Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research is the permitted lead organization on the upper Texas coast for sea turtle rescue, recovery, rehabilitation, and nesting conservation. We answer the 1-866-TURTLE-5 hotline, and our team promptly responds to all sea turtle incidents in this area. The GCSTR's programs, while focused on immediate conservation needs, also facilitates research that addresses the data gaps required to restore sea turtle populations in the Upper Texas Coast, Texas Coast, and Gulf of Mexico.

### **About GCBO**

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is an independent non-profit organization headquartered on the upper Texas coast. We accumulate, assess, and distribute bird population and conservation information that will provide a scientific basis for the protection of birds and their habitats around the Gulf of Mexico and far beyond. We fulfill our mission of protecting the birds and their habitats by using sound scientific research, land protection and enhancement, community engagement and education.

### **About Galveston Bay Area -Texas Master Naturalists**

The mission of the Galveston Bay Area Chapter – Texas Master Naturalist is to:

- Preserve and restore our area's natural resources
- Educate others about our local ecosystems

To help achieve this mission, our trained volunteers work with community programs designed to:

- Increase the appreciation of our natural environment
- Promote the maintenance and sustainable use of public open spaces
- Protect and preserve native flora and fauna and their habitats

### **About American Bird Conservancy**

American Bird Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. With an emphasis on achieving results and working in partnership, we take on the greatest problems facing birds today, innovating and building on rapid advancements in science to halt extinctions, protect habitats, eliminate threats, and build capacity for bird conservation.