

The City Nature Challenge is a global, city-scale urban biodiversity BioBlitz framed as a friendly competition between participating areas.



Texas Tortoise, ykausati, iNaturalist, CC-BY-NC



Least Tern, hwise01, iNaturalist, CC-BY-NC

Data collection
Apr 28-May 1

Identifications
May 2-7

By the numbers:

- 4 counties
- More than 11,770 observations
- 2,120 species recorded
- 206 observers
- More than 600 identifiers
- Over 90% of observations were verifiable

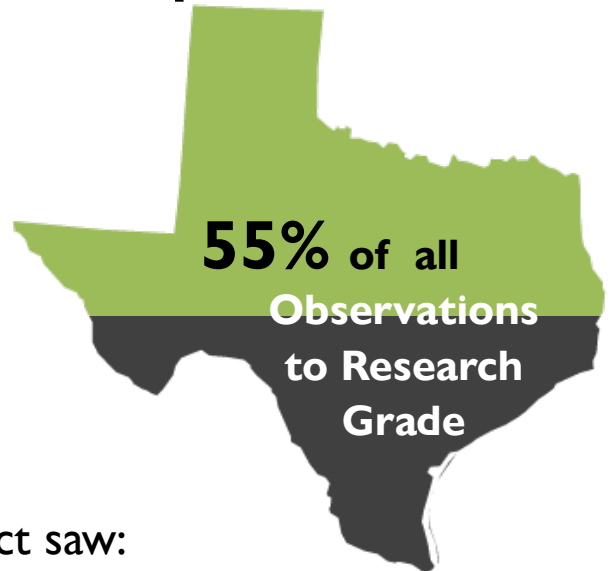


Lower Rio Grande Valley Highlights

Globally, 482 cities from 46 countries participated in the 2023 City Nature Challenge. Lower Rio Grande Valley ranked **#38 for Observations**, **#28 for Species**, and **#98 for Observers** globally, placing it in the top 8% of projects.

Cumulative Impact

55% of the observations recorded during the City Nature Challenge in the LRGV area were **Research Grade** - observations of wild organisms with photo or sound vouchers of a quality to merit a species-level identification by the majority of identifiers.



During the 4 days of the event, the project saw:

- 47 Species of Greatest Conservation Need at Research Grade (see list)
- 87 new species records in iNaturalist
- 3% increase in iNaturalist observations for the project counties
- Project page: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2023-lower-rio-grande-valley>



Bailey's Ballmoss,
cactuscreekbranch, iNaturalist,
CC-BY-NC



Gray Hawk, Mike Stewart,
iNaturalist, CC-BY-NC



Red-crowned Parrot, dmccown,
iNaturalist, CCBY-NC

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Recorded to Research Grade

American Bumble Bee, <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, <i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>
American Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	Snowy Egret, <i>Egretta thula</i>
American White Pelican, <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Stilt Sandpiper, <i>Calidris himantopus</i>
Bailey's ballmoss, <i>Tillandsia baileyi</i>	Summer Tanager, <i>Piranga rubra</i>
Black Skimmer, <i>Rynchops niger</i>	Swainson's Hawk, <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
Botteri's Sparrow, <i>Peucaea botterii</i>	Texas craglily, <i>Echeandia texensis</i>
Brown Pelican, <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Texas Shrimp Plant, <i>Yeatesia platystegia</i>
Coastal Stonecrop, <i>Lenophyllum texanum</i>	Texas Tortoise, <i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>
Common Bottlenose Dolphin, <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Tricolored Heron, <i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Common Yellowthroat, <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Vasey's Wild Lime, <i>Adelia vaseyi</i>
Dickcissel, <i>Spiza americana</i>	Western Sandpiper, <i>Calidris mauri</i>
Eastern Meadowlark, <i>Sturnella magna</i>	White-faced Ibis, <i>Plegadis chihi</i>
Franklin's Gull, <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	Wild Turkey, <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Gray Hawk, <i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	Wood Thrush, <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
Green Heron, <i>Butorides virescens</i>	Worm-eating Warbler, <i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i>
Harris's Hawk, <i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	Zapata Bladderpod, <i>Physaria thamnophila</i>
Lark Sparrow, <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	
Least Bittern, <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	
Least Tern, <i>Sternula antillarum</i>	
Little Blue Heron, <i>Egretta caerulea</i>	
Loggerhead Shrike, <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	
Mississippi Kite, <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	
Mottled Duck, <i>Anas fulvigula</i>	
Northern Bobwhite, <i>Colinus virginianus</i>	
Northern Harrier, <i>Circus hudsonius</i>	
Orchard Oriole, <i>Icterus spurius</i>	
Painted Bunting, <i>Passerina ciris</i>	
Red-crowned Parrot, <i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>	
Reddish Egret, <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	
Rio Grande Ayenia, <i>Ayenia limitaris</i>	
Runyon's Water Willow, <i>Justicia runyonii</i>	