

Upper Texas coast and (a little) Beaumont

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Hannah, Tiffany, Erik

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- H** Hannah 00:09
Hannah and Erik go birding on the upper Texas coast, that's where you go to see warblers, texans like to boast.
- E** Erik 00:18
Yes, they do. Thank you for tuning into Hannah and Erik Go Birding, a podcast by birders for birders.
- H** Hannah 00:23
I'm Hannah. And he's Erik.
- E** Erik 00:25
We created this podcast to share adventures, sometimes misadventures and opinions that we have on different birding topics. We are definitely not experts in anything that we discussed that might be controversial. We want you to remember their own opinions. And they might be different from yours.
- H** Hannah 00:38

Like 75 episodes, you still say controversial,

E Erik 00:41
yeah, I pronounce it the proper way. Every single syllable, every every letter is just as important as the letter next to it.

H Hannah 00:48
Just because some letters are silent means not important. It's a placeholder.

E Erik 00:54
It's a placeholder. Sometimes

H Hannah 00:56
letters need to be placeholders. Sometimes, the silent letters are more important. Are they? Yeah,

E Erik 01:03
like the H at the end of your name? Hmm. So I usually say it's Hannah and Erik Go Birding. Do you Yeah, I usually.

H Hannah 01:12
Okay, well, I appreciate. Appreciate that. Oh, my 'n's'.

E Erik 01:16
You remember? I'm not a jerk to that second n. No, no,

H Hannah 01:19
it's the first N,

E Erik 01:20

that's the first n Yeah. And then Hannah ended up

H Hannah 01:24
Yeah. Okay. Sorry. Moving on. Anyways, news.

E Erik 01:29
This week, we have some cool things coming up. In news related, it's stuff that's recently happened, and also stuff that is currently about to happen. We've got the the global big day from ebird. Yeah, coming up this Saturday, May 8, it's super exciting. Last year, there was a ridiculous number of species seen. And I think it was like 150 countries. Wow,

H Hannah 01:51
that's a lot.

E Erik 01:52
It's a lot. It was 120,000 checklists in one day,

H Hannah 01:55
someday we're gonna go to one of these countries that doesn't have participant and be the one to be the one to participate. Yeah,

E Erik 02:01
that'd be cool.

H Hannah 02:02
That's gonna be the highlight of my life. Well,

E Erik 02:04
they have the emails that they send out every month, on from eBird from Cornell that they send out like the countries that have had more than a 100% increase in number of checklists over the over that previous month from the month, the year before, I guess. And

there's always like 15 or 20 countries that are like doubling their numbers of checklists from the previous year. That's amazing. That's super cool. It's getting it's getting more and more popular, the zebra and things starting to catch on.

H

Hannah 02:30

So also that day is world Migratory Bird day. So that's a great opportunity to you know, they have live virtual events and you know, stuff that you can do on your own. And it's also beach cleanup for us for my friends group that I'm part of. There's a lot going on.

E

Erik 02:47

And if you want to know more about world Migratory Bird day, you can go back about a year ago, we interviewed someone from SA they that has had a whole bunch of information about what Mike world Migratory Bird day is and how you can participate and all that stuff. It's all this all the same information for this year. So rather than rehashing it, you can

H

Hannah 03:05

just some different events and things. Yeah,

E

Erik 03:06

but yeah, it's all pertinent information. Yeah, super cool day.

H

Hannah 03:10

So we're so excited for the second bird nerd giveaway to partner with Tiffany Kersten, who is a friend of ours that we've known for about eight years or so we met her in the Rio Grande Valley. And, you know, I've kind of kept in touch about all the cool things that she's doing but she's doing a women's big year this year. And she has partnered with she birdie personal alarm devices, which I've seen a lot on like Facebook and different social media accounts, about these personal alarm devices that can help you you know if you come under some sort of attack or harassment. So Tiffany is you know, she's out there giving away these devices and she was so great. So wonderful in giving us one for this burner giveaway. So I think that Eric, you had something to say the interview before we talked to her



Erik 04:00

Yeah, unfortunately or fortunately we fortunately we were able to meet up with her in person. Unfortunately the audio is a little bit muffled as we were all wearing masks. So you might have to put up with a little bit of masks microphone ng as we just wanted to be as cautious as possible while we're out visiting with people. But go ahead and listen to Tiffany explained about her big year and about the Schieber e personal alarm device.



Hannah 04:28

Well, thank you so much Tiffany for the giveaway item and for joining us out here in South Texas right before you're about to guide can you tell us about your big gear that you're doing? Yeah,



Tiffany 04:39

so I it kind of happened by accident, but I am now doing a lower 48 big year. focused on elevating women birders by firstly making birding safer for women. So I am throughout my travels, I'm gifting these personal safety alarms. To the women that I meet on the trails. That's awesome.



Hannah 05:03

So how did you get involved with this company?



Tiffany 05:06

I actually just found them. I decided in February that I was going to do a big year and wanted to have a focus and wanted to I'm really passionate about just making a difference in whatever I do. So I didn't want to do a big year like just to do a big year. So I just happen to actually find this company showing up in my social media in marketing. And the company's called birdie. So is that kind of I think this is what kind of flipped the switch with me like, Hey, wait a minute. We could we could make this work really? Well.



Erik 05:32

That's, that's interesting. It is for the moment. Big gear, you start didn't decide until February. I hear you're a whole month in the year before you decide, okay, this

T

Tiffany 05:40

is Right, right. Yeah. So I, I did a trip with a friend in the very beginning of the year in January to Florida. He just happened to be the time that he was available. We left on I think January 1. So I did that trip. And we had really good luck. We got a lot of the remedies and the keys. And then I came back here and I was bird guiding full time. And I guided a big year birder named Charlie, and we had really good luck. So I had all the rarities here and all the regular local birds. And then I decided to take a week off and go to southeast Arizona, because there were five species of birds that I'd never seen before, right life birds. So I figured I'd just spend a week drive over there, go see my five life birds and come back and I was in El Paso at Franklin Mountain State Park and woke up in the morning and drove out to to leave to go to southeast Arizona flush some scaled quail. And it was a scaled quail it kind of did it. I was like, why am I not trying to see as many species of birds as I can this year, I've already seen so many. So from there, I just had like continuing conversations with some friends of mine in California along the way, about kind of how I could do a big year and also make a difference.

H

Hannah 06:50

That's awesome. So have you met a lot of women along the way and given off these other these devices?

T

Tiffany 06:54

I have. Yes. So I started with 100 alarms, I'm hoping to give away 300. So far I've done about 20. And, you know, this is led to some really cool conversations with women about times that they maybe didn't feel safe or instances that they have come upon in the field. So it's been it's been really cool to see people's feedback. Yeah.

H

Hannah 07:19

Well, that's awesome. Thank you so much. And how can people find out more about your big gear and and track you along the way?

T

Tiffany 07:24

Yeah, so I am blogging my blog is Tiffany Kersten at TiffanyKersten.blogspot.com. So I'm blogging about my year there. And you can also find me on Instagram I am TIFF underscore k underscore 13. Okay, well singing my stories. They're awesome. Thank

H Hannah 07:44
you so much for doing this. And good luck on your big year. Thank you. So thank you, Tiffany, for sharing this with us. We're excited about this giveaway. And we would demo it on the podcast. But it would be very loud.

E Erik 07:59
I don't think any of you would appreciate it's a it's an audible and visual alarm, it flashes bright lights, and it screams super loud. Tiffany demoed it on her Instagram, she has a video there. And we'll go ahead and post a video on our social medias in a couple days probably of us demoing it so people can see what what it is and what how you don't want it to go off when your proximity unless you really need it unless you really need it.

H Hannah 08:27
So for this bird nerd giveaway, what we're asking you to do. So if you want to enter this burden, nerd giveaway, this is what you're going to do.

E Erik 08:36
Yes, each each month is going to be a different thing. So no, no haikus this month,

H Hannah 08:40
no Haiku,

E Erik 08:40
no haikus, word. I mean, yeah, you can, you can always write a haiku. I mean, they sometimes they're relaxing to write a little poetry.

H Hannah 08:46
So what we want you to do is go to Tiffany's blog. And we will post that in the show notes. And Tiffany also mentioned what it was in the interview, check out what birds she has seen. And we want you to select at least one bird, the Tiffany has seen the week that you want to see. And a bird Dean safety tip. So it's two parts in one thing. So tell us what bird you want to see that she's seen, and also a birding safety tip that you have. And it doesn't have to be like a unique safety tip. It's just something that you have done to help you stay

safe in the field. Yeah. And this is open to everybody. I know it's called ci birdie, and that they have a lot of information about keeping women safe in the field. But you know, everybody has a right to feel safe when they're out in the field. So we want everybody to feel welcome to enter this competition, or competition, this

E

Erik 09:39

giveaway competition, it's very, it's going to be very competitive. And by the way, we aren't going to be rating or judging the birds people chicken versus where the safety tips. Your name is going to go into a pool and we'll randomly draw names from people who entered in. So it's, there's gonna be no preference or anything for anyone who likes A particular safety safety tip or particular birds, so those that want to say flame color tanager aren't going to get on my good side top anything. Or on my bad side.

H

Hannah 10:10

Okay, so like Erik said, it's gonna you're you'll be randomly drawn from the list of people who send us a bird that Tiffany seen that you want to see, and a birding safety tip to win the she's birdie personal alarm device, you can either email it to us at Hannah and Erik go birding@gmail.com you could use our hashtag, which is bird nerd giveaway on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or you can respond to our posts on those social platforms. So probably Friday or Saturday, this week, I'll post about it or you know, just ongoing. And you post those two things and you're entered into our into this giveaway. It's not a competition. So thank you to Tiffany. And she's birdie for supplying this giveaway item. Like I said, I've seen it all over socials and have read a lot of stories about how it makes folks feel safer, and has helped them in situations. So I know we're really, we're really dedicated to making you know, birding a comfortable and safe place for everyone. And this, if I have one of these, which I'll probably have to buy one will I'm gonna win the competition. You're gonna win. Yeah, I'm gonna win. You're all competing against me.

E

Erik 11:19

We'll make our cat draw names out of a hat that way. It's actually random.

H

Hannah 11:24

Okay, we're gonna have to film that. Um, but I know that that's something that would make me feel safer when I was out there. So

E Erik 11:32
moving on. Last thing. Yeah. Last last thing before we get to the main, the main, the main guts of this story. So

H Hannah 11:38
as Erik normally says, we had some listeners for our last episode couple people. Yeah. And many of them. The top contenders for this last episode was Columbus, Ohio. And Atlanta, Georgia. So many of them were in Columbus, Ohio.

E Erik 11:52
Yes. Two listeners. Columbus, one listener, Atlanta and no one else. Yeah. Okay.

H Hannah 11:58
Thank you all for tuning in and checking it out. It looks like Ohio has is gonna be redistributed to other places. So they're getting those

E Erik 12:08
IP addresses out there. So that's all good. So for this week for our birding, we went birding. Finally went birding. So if you guys have been waiting for for weeks and weeks for us to actually go birding, we did it. We went birding, we went out and we looked at birds thank

H Hannah 12:23
you for yesterday.

E Erik 12:25
So it was spectacular. I we had a great time. We went down to Texas we did for a couple of days, we flew delta which was nice because they were leave in the middle seat empty on the way down so it was two thirds occupancy for the aircraft. So lots and lots of space. Lots of legroom, lots of headroom, lots of space for our carry on. And also we didn't have to sit super close, no middle, no middle seat taken up. So that was that was great. flew down with down to Houston. spent a couple days in Houston and then a couple days down in the Rio Grande Valley. But we'll talk about the Rio Grande Valley in a in another episode deserves

H Hannah 13:00
its own

E Erik 13:01
it's it's the Rio Grande Valley is pretty there's a lot going on down there. So

H Hannah 13:05
we've done this biking birding competition for the great Texas Birding Classic for this is our fourth year doing it. And every year is a little bit different. Of course, we do it on different days and you know, different routes and like it's generally the same route

E Erik 13:17
the same route, but it's we tried, we tried different things to improve or to Oh, that was too long, right? I don't want to try that.

H Hannah 13:25
So the last three years, we competed in the competition, we won and like I said, you know, every year is a little bit different. So this year, you know, we took a little bit longer of a route trying to see if we can get some different shorebirds and goals and things at the very north end of Galveston. So that made it 26 miles.

E Erik 13:46
It was it was a little over 26 miles. It's the longest that we've written we did we did right up to the same place. The first so the first year we ever did it, we Galveston Island State Park, all the way up to East beach or East End beach. And so it's I think the direct route is only like 20 miles but then we have a bunch of offshoots as we hit different things. So I think that year we ended up going 23 miles. This year, we went 26 miles so is the furthest we've ever written for this competition. And it was it was exhausting. But we did take all day instead of trying to rush it all and get get it done early in the day. We took the entire day. We stopped for lunch. We didn't have it. We made a day of it. Yeah.

H Hannah 14:27
So we have to give a shout out first to our friend Kyle who works down in Galveston Island

State Park is very well known birder in the Galveston area. He was super helpful and you know, helping us orient ourselves to the park because every year you know, things move around.

E Erik 14:44

Well, and they this this last year or this year, they they did some burns out there. So he gave us a heads up a couple a couple weeks ahead of time, hey, we're burning, these are the these are the areas that are burning, so maybe, maybe you plan on not spending a whole bunch of time over in those areas because there'll be fresh leaves. It was like, oh, okay, well, that'll it gave us some expectations and then also some under construction and closed areas. So we knew ahead of time, what kind of to plan for.

H Hannah 15:09

So we did a like snippet of a video for Tucson Audubon who they were planning their birdathon. And they asked, you know, what advice we have for people planning, you know, big day. Yeah. And one of the things that we mentioned that Luke at Tucson Audubon was like, that's a great tip that I felt like we did a good job of this year is knowing how long to stay in a location and like, knowing when to quit

E Erik 15:34

a location. Oh, we I feel like this is this has been our best year of quitting locations on time. Like we always stay too long.

H Hannah 15:42

We're fine tuning our route. Yeah,

E Erik 15:44

we always, like divert off the route we're not supposed to. Like they're always some big mistakes that we always make. And this year, I feel like we did really well at trying time management, we went to where we needed to go. We stay there until the birds slow down. And then we moved on to the next one. And we we ended up not missing anything that was being seen that day. As far as I mean, we probably missed all sorts of stuff. I'm sure we missed tons of Earth, but nothing big and glaring stood out is something that we missed. Despite it being a fairly slow day, it was a fairly slow bird day, we got to the feets Cove, which is around our second ish stop. And it's a really good migrant trap in like this

the heart of a small neighborhood, just south of the city of Galveston, or just west of the city of Galveston on the island. It's just a little Nature Conservancy, little plot of land half an acre or so. And it's usually full of warblers this year, there was I think, a grand total of two warblers of the same species. Both hooded on in LaFitte's Cove. We didn't see anything else there was like one tanager which we already had. So we got we had one species and the time that we were there and I like Hannah said I think we did really good job we got in there and got out of there because it was it was so slow nor normally we always milk it and try keep going and going gone. But we

H

Hannah 17:08

will usually like LaFitte's you can do that, you know if you just the longer you stay round, the more you're going to see exactly. We gave it a good shot. And you know, what was mostly there that we ended up seeing were thrushes. There was a lot of there were so I'm not. I'm gonna go ahead and say I'm not super well versed on like timing of migrants, and like how things move like I know, you know, ducks and shorebirds and like they all kind of move like in segments, but I don't have the segments all on a timeline. My head

E

Erik 17:37

is the same with like warblers, there's there's early warblers, there's late warblers, it's it's things and not being not living over there anymore, like we don't pay attention closely to to what's what's an early warbler versus a late warbler. So like a blackburnian. When when's that going to be in line as opposed to the babe Reston? Like it's there's there's timing of all these all these groups even within groups?

H

Hannah 18:00

Yeah, yeah. No. And I was just thinking that like, so I don't know if thrushes I guess, thrushes would normally be like, after warblers,

E

Erik 18:07

I think, are some of the some of the ending ones.

H

Hannah 18:09

It was just kind of funny how we got there. And it's like all the warblers had moved through and then all the rest of thrushes were in town,

E

Erik 18:15

tons and tons of thrushes in town. But despite it being super slow there, we ended up getting quite a few warblers on the ride. It was just we'd be riding along it'd be monetary, like in in the ditch.

H

Hannah 18:26

Oh, I know. That was funny. Like, I don't know how you guys spotted that.

E

Erik 18:29

I saw the yellow. It was close to the ground and putana tears if you've ever seen it with monetary I took some pictures. I hope that they turned out to something I haven't had a chance to look at him yet. But they're yellow is like such an interesting yellow. It's not like a yellow warbler yellow or it's not bright. It's just kind of like a muted almost with an orange tinge to it with yellow it's it looks calling baby yellow,

H

Hannah 18:53

you know, like baby like, like baby clothes or like, like what people put in their nurseries in the 90s. Baby. Like, that's what I feel. I guess it's because my sister's room when she was little Yellow Wallpaper. That's what I think of anyways, but

E

Erik 19:10

anyways, so we're just bird gorgeous bird. Fantastic. And so the whole day we it was just one more play here, one warbler there. And it was just, it was very, very slow. But throughout the whole day, even even though the whole time I was thinking, Oh, it's so slow. It's so slow. It's it ended up being pretty good. Yeah, we had 10 warblers turn the damn warblers on a day when we went to the feets and got one. So that's that's not a bad day for warblers if that's the case and it the whole thing we ended up doing really well is our best year. Not only do we ride the for this, but we also got the most species that we've ever gotten so well.

H

Hannah 19:42

And there's some beautiful previous record. There's some years where we had obvious misses. Like there was the first year we like rode all the way out to East End because we're like, okay, we know we're gonna get a Kingfisher out there, which now I know there's no

kingfishers out there. There is a Kingfisher though however, like just next to the golf course. Yeah. galison but there Yeah, there are definitely some like big misses on our day, but not as many. Not as many on our next day. Yeah.

E

Erik 20:12

Yeah. So we had a great day human powered went great. Did you want to say how many species we got? Are you want to keep that a secret so that people can find out later,

H

Hannah 20:19

I suppose we can go ahead and tell him so like, our first year, I think we had 106 or 109. And then the next year, it was like 120. Last time, it was 110. And this time, we have 125 125.

E

Erik 20:37

It we beat our previous record did

H

Hannah 20:39

not feel like that, you know,

E

Erik 20:40

we got to the end. And it was like, Well, I guess that was a day, I guess. And then I look at the list. I'm like, Oh, geez, no, it was a day. That was a good day. So it was, it was very surprising. Like slowly over the day, the numbers just racked up. So it was it was good. It was nice and steady all day long. The weather was good weather

H

Hannah 20:59

wasn't super hot. And it wasn't like super muggy. So that really helped. Colin are our co participant. Other team member? Yeah, who we participate with every year, he had a bike for me to use, which is great. Because before if you listen to our other episodes about doing this, we rented bikes one year, we borrowed bikes another year, the first year, we had our own bike because we lived in area. So those other two just didn't really work out. And this year bike, which was great. And Eric,

E

Erik 21:36

I didn't even we didn't even talk about what happened with my bike. So I Colin, they bought he bought his wife a bike and Hannah, Hannah used that. So they had those two bikes. And so we were like, Oh, we one more bike. So I went online and I found the bike that I ride here in Cannon Beach. I found that on on Walmart, for it's \$98 a super cheap Walmart bike, it works great. It gets the job done. And it's it's a good bike. I like it. I went to order it sold out. Like after I had already ordered it. They sent me an email and said we're gonna refund you because it's sold out. Cheese. Okay, so then I ordered another bike. Same thing, like two hours later, they sent me another email. Oh, it's sold out, like oh my gosh, so then, or a third bike. And keep in mind, it says online, free assembly in store when you pick up in store. And it it was it was a little bit more expensive. I think it was like \$120 or something like that. But it's like, okay, \$120 It costs almost that much to rent a bike for because it's like either one day or three days at these rental places. And like the three day rental comes out to like almost 100 bucks. Yeah. So it's, and then I have been pulling and hold the bike over the year and all this stuff. So it was like, Okay, this is kind of like an investment that I can we can hold on to for a couple years of tournament and end up being okay. We show up to Walmart, I order it shipped to Walmart. And first of all, they roll it out in a box. completely completely packaged up still. So we're like panicking like hell. So we asked the guys were like, Hey, is there any chance that you get that we can get it assembled? They're like, Oh, yeah, yeah, we can assemble it. The guy comes once a month. The guy comes once a month. And he was here like last week. So I mean, like maybe two weeks, three weeks. I'm like, No, we need it tomorrow. Yeah. This is pre assembly in store. And they were like, no, they felt terrible. Like, yeah, they were really nice. They were very nice about it. But so I went inside, bought some tools to put it together. Put it together, you know, so we bought all the tools

H

Hannah 23:27

that said on the box. Yes, to put it together. It's like you need you know, needlenose pliers and you need Allen wrenches and you need all this stuff. So Erik goes in, buys all

E

Erik 23:36

I buy just when it says on the box to buy

H

Hannah 23:38

like 40 bucks for all these tools.

E

Erik 23:40

And we get it to the hotel. We open up the bike thing and the bikes half assembled. It's mostly assembled. Yeah, it literally I just had to put the handlebars on and put the tires on and the pedals and it's like, okay, I really only needed I needed something to cut this ties. Yeah. And I needed a crescent wrench. I

H

Hannah 23:57

didn't even need something to cut the zip ties because we stayed at a hotel that had a kitchen.

E

Erik 24:01

You could use the scissors. Yeah, or a knife. Yeah, so I didn't even need that at all. I literally only needed a crescent wrench. And so I bought about as much I brought them all home, I can use them here at home, but I bought a bunch of Allen wrenches or about an Allen wrench set. I bought a little pack of tools that has a bunch of stuff. And then about one more thing. There's three there's three things that I bought. And it was just like a bike, tire pump, tire pump, yeah, tire pump, because I expected the tires to be completely deflated. And they were mostly insulated, which was nice. So that was that was a whole fun experiment. And then we found out after I put it together that that apparently it's halfway between a child's bike and an adult bike.

H

Hannah 24:43

look kind of silly.

E

Erik 24:43

I was on a miniature bike all day. He set the pace in the front. Yeah, I was I was just up there like I'm swinging my arms like are on pedals right now. You can't see them but I was just like, fast as I could. And there's like cruising behind and Hannah kept asking me she's like Shinji changing. You're not pedaling constantly. I'm like, I can't. And they're like one to you. Throughout the day, we should switch to as fine. It worked out. We had a great day. 26 miles, and I was on a little miniature bike.

H

Hannah 25:15

So yeah, that was really fun. And it'd been a lot more fun than like, afterwards thinking

about it. Because like, the whole day, I'm just so stressed out, like, we leave Galveston we have like, 70 birds, and it's like, Okay, how are we going to get 50 more? And then it just happens.

E

Erik 25:29

Yeah, Galveston Island State Park is fantastic for birds. They have all sorts of facilities. If we wanted to, if we had the time, we could camp there and spend the night and get up even earlier and canals and things, but we we just don't have the time in our schedule when you go down. And we

H

Hannah 25:45

also don't have the gear.

E

Erik 25:46

Yeah. And that's the barrier to fire with our gear and all that stuff. But it's gave us an Island State Park is a great place to bird like Hannah said, we got we usually get like 70 species between between 60 and 70 species before we leave Galveston state parks. Yeah. And

H

Hannah 26:01

we usually spend about two hours there.

E

Erik 26:03

I want to say two or three hours. Yeah, it's it's fairly it's like mid morning before we leave there because it's there's a bunch of different habitat spots to hit throughout the park. And they have their bathrooms there and water and lots of places to fuel up before we get on the road where there is no more bathrooms there. So

H

Hannah 26:18

don't tell everybody they're gonna steal our route.

E

Erik 26:20

Well, they don't know. They don't know our secret proprietary spots. I mean, we've got

Galveston we got refeeds. And he said, but they said that

H Hannah 26:26
place new though of course.

E Erik 26:30
Which golf course. There's, there's tons of spots on the way it's a great, it's a great bike ride. And the whole thing is just fun.

H Hannah 26:37
Yeah, it always makes me want to, like get more into biking and birding. But our town is like three miles long. So

E Erik 26:44
I mean, it's a walking and burning is really all you need to do.

H Hannah 26:48
So we stayed in Galveston that night, and then the next day, we were doing the sunrise to new competition, which is new for us. We do the human powered every year with Colin and then we try to out a new category, a new competition the next day. So last year, we did a big day in a different count region than we'd ever done. So this year, we did sunrise to noon, for the great Texas Birding Classic, which is a statewide competition. So you're competing with everybody else throughout the state versus some of the competitions that are regionally big sets and big days are regional. So there's a bunch of different ways to compete in this.

E Erik 27:25
Oh, yeah. It's and the, and the whole thing is just to raise funds for conservation grants.

H Hannah 27:30
And because you sometimes win

E Erik 27:32
certificates, and sometimes you get Yeah, you get a piece of paper that says the one so that's that's always fun.

H Hannah 27:37
So one of the fun things about the great Texas Birding Classic, is that there's a category for the best team name. And we always try to compete for that. Even though our friend Javier down in the Rio Grande Valley. He's Javier

E Erik 27:49
de Leon is he is the master bird puns and creating like the team name that is like, I don't know.

H Hannah 27:58
I don't know how he comes up with it. I

E Erik 27:59
don't know either. And I feel like we've beaten him a couple times. But he is so good. It's

H Hannah 28:03
so funny. I can't remember what it was this year, but I saw it. I just texted him out of the blue. I was like, Really? So funny. But anyways, so our team name for the human powered was Tour de Classique.

E Erik 28:17
Yeah, Tour de France. Yeah, Tour de Classique. It's the great Texas Birding classic.

H Hannah 28:23
So I have to read you our Great Texas Birding Classic, our sunrise to noon competition team name.

- E** Erik 28:27
And keep in mind is sunrise to noon is the shortest tournament, they are the shortest category in terms of time, it's a half, it's a big half day. So it's like six hours, six hours, about six hours six, because 630 I think was sunrise. So that's background of what the sunrise to new competition is. So
- H** Hannah 28:45
this is our team new participants in the great Texas breeding classic who view wild avians through optics from the break of dawn until midday and an effort to identify as many different species within that period. So the coordinator was mad at us.
- E** Erik 29:01
I have a feeling there's gonna be a rule next year a character limit or something like that. And so we basically just ruined it forever.
- H** Hannah 29:09
It just makes me laugh so much every time I read.
- E** Erik 29:15
It's the world's longest team named for the world's shortest competition - birding competition.
- H** Hannah 29:19
I feel like we could have added a lot more
- E** Erik 29:20
than we could have. It was already ridiculous. I don't know if we should have gotten like really, really ridiculous.
- H** Hannah 29:26
So anyways, so we got up and Galveston and then we got on the ferry to go to Bolivar peninsula.

E Erik 29:34
Wake up at 5am or no, we got the 6am Ferry.

H Hannah 29:38
Yeah, yeah. So there's a free ferry that goes in between Galveston and Bolivar. And, you know, it takes like 15 minutes to transit

E Erik 29:49
in during certain times of year it's only run once an hour. It's a it's basically a commuter ferry, a lot of people go back and forth daily on this thing.

H Hannah 29:57
Yeah, so we get to Bolivar flats, which we do. Ever been there before?

E Erik 30:01
Driven by it like 1000 times? Yeah, I've never actually gone to it and

H Hannah 30:04
people always talk about it but it's just a stretch of beach. It's like on the north side of the canal or Bay or jetty or whatever. Yeah. Oh, the opening of

E Erik 30:13
the Ship Channel there. The barrier

H Hannah 30:14
island, south side of barrier island.

E Erik 30:18
The word Island



Hannah 30:21

Park and you know, it's like a mile down to where the sanctuary actually starts. And from there oh my gosh, it was just full of birds like pelicans and Dunlin and stilts and avocets. It was magical. Yeah, there



Erik 30:34

were 1000s of Dunlin. I guess the day before there was 1000s of spoon bills. That's what somebody else is telling us. But the the place it's it's really cool. Keep in mind, there's the only facilities are right as you drive on to the beach. There. There's a porta potti. And that's it. I think there's some garbage cans there too. Yeah. But then you drive down about a mile down and then you walk another half mile before you get down to the to the mouth and the whole the whole walk in the whole drive. It was just shorebird shorebird shorebird shorebird shorebird everywhere,



Hannah 31:05

which is just so unusual. You know, like an Oregon we don't get for virtual for sure. shorebird No, it's



Erik 31:10

like there's one. Or there's 15 sanderlings and then you keep driving for another while Yeah, there's



Hannah 31:16

three more so it's fun, you know, stopping these places. And it's also really hard when you're competing because they want to like stop and look at it every single one I know. But then it's like no, no, no where on the timeline.



Erik 31:27

Yeah, it's it's very hard to keep, that's when you run into big groups like that. And for the most part, it was very large groups of the same species because they're traveling together you have 1000s of downloads all traveling together, you have hundreds of avocets all traveling together so it's you're you're you're looking trying to find something that's different and sometimes you do find different things but like you have to be careful about wasting too much time just like focused in on like I got to scan every single Dunlin here

and see if I can find like a black bellied clover or see if I can find something mixed into that group I guess blackbelly be pretty easy to pick out of done but something else dowitchers or something out of the out of the devil and

H Hannah 32:03

so from there we you know scan that whole thing God as much as we could and then we headed off to rollover pass which is another you know pretty well known spot. That place was full of turns and skimmers so

E Erik 32:15

we also got some more servers there we got our I think it was our zero beards or whitetail team hyper camera bear there's a bear Okay, yeah, we had a bird same same paper we had I think there was a Wilson's clover and there was a couple other shorebirds we got like the black turns that's where we got the black turns and they were fairly close back turns it was kind of kind of cool I don't think I've ever seen black turns that close up I don't know they're so pretty

H Hannah 32:39

so yeah least, Caspian, Common, and foresters, Royals sandwich lots of terns.

E Erik 32:45

I think we got all of the expected turn species at that one spot rollover pass

H Hannah 32:49

and then headed like did all that headed off to High Island and

E Erik 32:53

keep in mind at this point we're we're in high spirits we have some we have we're taking off the species we're getting good things we saw we saw a handful of birds on route to the to each spot so is oh and like more morning dove and Eurasian-collared and starlings and how sparrows as we're as we're driving that way, we don't have to search for a morning to get somewhere. We catch them on route.



Hannah 33:15

And from there we head off to High Island, which is one of our favorite burning places to go. There's a couple different spots to go to and you can see different things in each one and they're like, you know, half a mile apart from each other. Yeah, pretty close. And so the first one we went to was Smith Oaks. And we got there like right at opening Yeah. Which is an accomplishment for leaving for starting at 630 like hitting a



Erik 33:38

couple spots before getting to Highland. Yeah. And keep in mind we have to be done by noon. Yeah, this is a Go go go. We have a half day to get all these spots



Hannah 33:46

in Smith oaks has changed a lot in the two, three years that we've been there. And these are Houston Audubon sites. And so you know, they get a lot of their funding from supporters and folks in Houston Audubon. And, you know, it's a it's a large organization. And so the big change that we noticed when we were there is that they built this really, really nice boardwalk.



Erik 34:07

It's giant and tall and fancy, and you can get up accessible and kept accessible. You can get up into the mid canopy before I think, I can't remember was there a ramp to get up onto the levee?



Hannah 34:18

I don't I don't remember there being one. I feel like it was their own thing. Like we walked through like, you know, the the camp or the forest floor and then



Erik 34:26

you're like some steps up to there might have been there might have been a ramp up onto the levee before.



Hannah 34:30

You know, I think there was Yeah, but it was not near

E

Erik 34:33

as not nearly as nice as what they have Now. Now. It's a big, big, long, fancy thing. And that you can get up and look look down at the rookery because that's the that's the big thing at Smith oaks is it has a giant rookery of all the waiting versions. Yeah. Which when we were there, the spoon bills were just barely hatching. So they weren't really like out inactive. But all the other waiters had already hatched and they had babies, baby Green herons and little blues and try color. Oh

H

Hannah 35:02

I got so many videos have great egrets. They're silly little babies that are like mouth open, like waving back and forth and trying to fight their siblings. So that was super cool to see that new boardwalk and then mercury and it was actually pretty busy when we were there. I guess we were there on a Wednesday. So, Wednesday, it was surprising how busy it was for Wednesday.

E

Erik 35:27

But you know, in the middle of migration, everybody's out and about any day is fair game for for migration. And so from from the boardwalk and looking at that we walked down into the lower portion of that, of that area of Smith Oaks. Mosquito city. Yeah, mosquito city. So we we both sprayed out, we all sprayed up with mosquito spray. Cullen was wearing a sweatshirt, because he knows at 85 degrees, so he's got to stay warm somehow. Yeah. I'm wearing a sweatshirt wearing long pants. Like, I don't think they weren't jeans. They were like, like, like travel pants or something. Yeah. But they were they weren't super thin. They're like pretty thick pants sweatshirt on top of his on top of his long sleeve shirt he was already wearing. And he's like walking around. He's like, are you guys getting bothered by mosquitoes? And so he turned around and we could barely we're staying like five feet away from each other. We can barely see each other through the cloud with mosquitoes. It was ridiculous. But it was crazy. Like, it was like I think Hannah tried to get some videos of it. But I mean, this mosquitoes

H

Hannah 36:30

have a cloud of mosquitoes.

E

Erik 36:31

Oh my gosh, it was insane. Like there was so many mosquitoes. And then conversely, there

was so few horrible.

H Hannah 36:40
Like the warblers were all up in the tree canopy.

E Erik 36:42
Like we found we found a pretty good number of warblers, but it was there were few and far between and then we had they were staying in the canopy or behind stuff. So we would have to stand still and stare at them for a good 30 seconds to a minute. Trying not to like like we'd be smacking in our arms and smacking in our face trying to look at the look. So it was it was an experience for sure. And

H Hannah 37:05
like the number one warbler species that we're seeing were common yellowthroats, and they were like, in the top of the trees it's like what are you guys doing? You belong down by the water?

E Erik 37:14
Yeah, I've never seen common yellowthroats that high in my life. That was it was interesting Highlands fantastic. Smith oaks is awesome. Some days mosquitoes are bad some days mosquitoes are horrible. I mean, you got to take your pick. it's it's a it's a battle you got to you got to fight sometimes.

H Hannah 37:30
Yeah. And so then from Smith Oaks, you know, we spent a pretty good amount of time there because we had anticipated that it was going to be a little better. So we had a lot of time to kill before noon. And then we kind of gave it up to go over to Boy Scout woods, which is the other location at High Island.

E Erik 37:48
And we're scout Woods is kind of it's the more typical what people portray Highland as like it's kind of like the entry point. They have like little store. Kind of a store.

H Hannah 38:03
Yeah, I don't know. That's like a store. I

E Erik 38:05
guess you can call it a store. Yeah, it's like open and everything. But it's it's like the main checking point for High Island. So it's kind of the main thing people think of is a really good spot. It's got a nice amphitheater set up. So you can sit on some grandstands and look at the birds. And then it's got a bunch of trails, a couple photo blinds. A couple boardwalks.

H Hannah 38:27
Yeah. So we walked around the whole thing. I think we we only got a handful of different birds to add to the list. Like think there was a one of the red bellied woodpecker up there.

E Erik 38:37
Yeah, we had a we had a couple of warblers, but I think we already had a Magnolia and like bay-breasted, I think Yeah, we're just excited. I can't remember but it was, it was it was, I mean, the birds the birds were good. Like the views we got to the birds were good. The numbers of warblers not that great that day, but I mean, he take your chances, especially when you pick a date to compete weeks ahead of time.

H Hannah 39:00
I know it's hard when you're flying into like really, you can't gauge like yeah, it's gonna be in a month.

E Erik 39:05
Yeah. But I mean, we have a blast. And we

H Hannah 39:08
got I know let's talk about the lifer. So like 11:55 we're like sitting at Smith. Boy Scout woods in the grandstands. like looking at the water feature kind of like talking about the day because at that point we're gonna break away from Colin we hadn't seen him in two years. Yeah. So just kind of chatting you know, before we head off.

E

Erik 39:27

Before before the lifer we ended up with a Northern waterthrush which is what I was really hoping that's what I was really hoping for that for the grandstands. Because it's like every time you go to the grandstands, it's always a water fresh. And so we sat there it was like 1150 when we saw that, maybe 1153 or something. And then it's like, Alright, that's last minute ad good. Awesome. We got to get the waterthrush and so we're sitting there and watching and watching and watching

H

Hannah 39:50

and at like 1145 I'm like, you know dinking around on my phone like posting on Instagram. And Erik is like, what's that in the back and there's like, there's a Bunch of water features at that part of boyscout Woods.

E

Erik 40:03

They're like probably 30 or 40 feet into the woods from where the grill stands around.

H

Hannah 40:08

There's like the main water and then there's one like hidden in the back. Yeah. So we're like sitting opposite that water feature that's in the back. And 1155 Eric's like, what's that? And like, I woke up in time to see something fly. And then he and Colin both get on it. And they're like, like, build Cuckoo. And I was like, because, like, I saw it move, but then I couldn't find it. Yeah. So that was the story of our life or black belt Cuckoo. So Cullen, Erik didn't think it was life or whatever. Yeah, like both guca. I

E

Erik 40:42

swore we saw black-billed somewhere else, but apparently not. I didn't. I was thinking the whole time. Maybe I think maybe we've tasted before or, I don't know. It wasn't even dawning on me that there's a lifer. And where I was sitting, I had a small window that I could see through. And it was right, right on the face of the cookies. Obvious obvious Irene obvious color the bill. All that stuff is like oh my gosh, look at that. It's great. It's awesome. And then colon next to me was he was just far enough left. He could barely see and he's like, I don't know. I don't know. It's like, no, this is this is an obvious black-billed cuckoo like this is an addition for the day we got we got it. He's like, I don't know. And then and then it like moved a little bit. He's like, okay, cool black-billed. And we're Hannah was it she couldn't see it. See at all, where it was once that person and sat for a few seconds. So, so

H Hannah 41:32
yeah,

E Erik 41:32
I'm sorry. Okay.

H Hannah 41:35
So from there, that was 12 o'clock. We didn't do as good as we had hoped to. But you know, we'll still see if that's, we'll see if it was good enough.

E Erik 41:43
Yeah, it was. It wasn't good. I think it was a good day. I had a good time. I got a lifer. And we reverted some places we've never been before.

H Hannah 41:50
Yeah, that's true. I just hadn't. I was just hoping for more warblers. You know, you see those pictures of fall outs and it's, I mean, I know it's like destructive to birds and everything, but I still want to see it at some point.

E Erik 42:02
Yeah, it's not like we have a hand in creating Fallout directly.

H Hannah 42:06
Yeah. So anyways, from there, we drove to Beaumont because our friend Christina who works for visit Beaumont, and we've met her in San Diego at the birding festival last year. She invited us to come out and see this this burden site that they have for visit with visit Boma, that's called cattail Marsh and it's driving into his kind of bizarre like, we just put it into the GPS, you know, and so we're just following that and he like kind of go through neighborhoods. And then all of a sudden you're in this ginormous Park. That's just like grass, trees. There was bathroom and horse stalls. There were a handful of horse stalls when you just turn into it.



Erik 42:48

Yeah, it's like a large city park like I think of just a general Tyrrell Park is like a large city park. That's manicured grass, picnic tables, bathrooms, nice, nice bathrooms. Yeah. And then just like a bunch of places where you can park and have a picnic.



Hannah 43:02

And so we're like driving through here and we're like really this is the hotspot What are we getting into and then we go through like you take like a write off that main road and it opens up into this humongous cattail Marsh area which is just absolutely gorgeous and yes, you know, waste treatment site like we enjoy going to.



Erik 43:23

Yeah, it's very similar, like in In Design and like scope of what it is and what it contains to Sweetwater preserve in Gainesville, Gainesville,



Hannah 43:36

Florida.



Erik 43:37

So it was awesome. We love Sweetwater when every time we went there, that place is awesome. And this place is awesome, too. It's 900 acres of wetlands. They have eight miles of levee roads that you can you can walk on and theoretically



Hannah 43:50

you can bike on you can ride your horses on



Erik 43:53

everything except for motorized vehicles. motorized vehicles are limited to the the Public Works people and the staff for the Nature Center. So they they and they'll take you on tours. Yeah, a couple times a week they take tours out there and so



Hannah 44:09

john is with visit Beaumont and he took us on a trip around cattail Marsh to check it out. Which was super cool. There were sections of it that were closed due to you know, construction and they it is a working wastewater treatment area and so they do periodically have to do things to keep that up. So they were working on that and I know he was disappointed those areas were closed so you can show us is but

E Erik 44:32
having worked in wastewater and like having us having gone to so many wastewater treatment plants like it's it's it happens it's first and foremost these places are wastewater treatment plants.

H Hannah 44:42
And this is why john oliver should have hired us that wastewater treatment plant in wherever New Jersey or some No,

E Erik 44:51
I can't remember. certain state Yeah, and then the one that named after him.

H Hannah 44:56
I know. He should have invited us to go there. We

E Erik 44:59
could have other dogs have always wanted.

H Hannah 45:00
JOHN, we were an expert in this. Yeah.

E Erik 45:03
We love. We love birds at wastewater plants. Yeah,

H Hannah 45:06

we're, we're the foremost experts in birding at wastewater treatment centers. We should write a book on that.

E Erik 45:13
I mean, seriously,

H Hannah 45:14
Jennifer, you know, my friend wrote a book on birding cemeteries, and she's working on breeding cemeteries. Okay, so this is copyrighted. So none of you guys can write a book on wastewater treatment,

E Erik 45:27
because this water treatment is us going to be and it'll, it'll have information like, Okay, well, you can go to this plant, and they'll process 1.2 million gallons per day. And it's processed using using this Oh, it goes through an SBR we'll just talk all about how the different digesters work and all that stuff. And then I mean, if there's time, we'll mention stuff about the right

H Hannah 45:49
now. Okay, so I'm gonna have two markets, it's gonna have a birder market, that's going to ignore half the book. And then it's gonna have wastewater treatment, you know, aficionados, engineering enthusiasts, who's going to who are going to ignore the other half of the book,

E Erik 46:02
I get a magazine still from from Texas for the for the water treatment in the wastewater treatment,

H Hannah 46:07
and you ignore those,

E Erik 46:08

I do that ignore those now.



Hannah 46:10

Okay, so anyways, so we took this trip around the cattail Marsh, we started off in the nature, the education center that they have, which is just beautiful, and it's not really that large. They have picnic tables underneath and then on the second floor, they have a deck



Erik 46:26

after climbing 90 feet of stairs. There was an elevator



Hannah 46:31

Yeah. So that they had a like beautiful deck, you know, where you can just sit out and enjoy all the things coming and going. It was very windy when we were there. So windy. So yeah, that was something. But you know, on this, this drive that he took us on we I think the best bird that we saw were fulvous whistling ducks. There's a lot of fulvous whistling-ducks was there were there were like eight of them.



Erik 46:53

Yeah, and the whole place, it has a boardwalk, right when you get there that goes straight out. There you go. That's super easy to access, you just park it right there. So you don't you don't have you don't have to go on a long walk all the way around. And each of the there's it's a boardwalk. And then it goes on to a platform and then a little further and another platform, so gazebo, gazebo, so you can be you can be in the shade. And get out get out there just far enough to be able to get pictures of like rails and stuff like that, that are like right at the edges of the the outside edge of the cattails and the water.



Hannah 47:24

This facility was constructed in 1993. So it's it's a fairly old facility, but they are doing a lot of renovations and work to add. So they built those boardwalk-



Erik 47:33

you consider wastewater facility 93 fairly old?

H Hannah 47:38
I don't know it's like, almost 30 years ago,

E Erik 47:41
I guess? I guess

H Hannah 47:42
it's kind of you still think it's the 1990s? Don't you?

E Erik 47:44
I feel like it's got to be the 90s still, it's not the 90s anymore. It's not the 90 of cheese,

H Hannah 47:49
you know that thing about like that 70's show like, further away than whatever. Anyways, back on track. So they in 2016, they built that boardwalk in the viewing line. So those are pretty new. And then the Education Center was built in 2018. So it's really cool to see that they're, you know, actively doing more and more to the site.

E Erik 48:10
Yeah, that seems like the it's the Nature Center and everything is run by the city of city of Beaumont. Or, or a department within the city of Beaumont. Yeah. And they really seem interested in pushing wildlife tourism and wildlife viewing as a thing.

H Hannah 48:26
Yeah. And we, you know, we had a lot of questions for John about, you know, visit belmonts purpose and asking us to come out and you know, what their goals are in terms of tourism, and, you know, he said some really interesting things that I didn't even realize like the bomont is you know, there's an it's less than an hour to like Smith oaks and Sabine woods and Anna wack and all these really great birding locations that when we lived in Houston, you know, we drove from Houston and it was a long haul.

E Erik 48:54

Yeah, I mapped them and we didn't realize until until we mapped them after after the fact that to get to High Island from Galveston proper is an hour and 15 minutes if you hit the hit the ferry right on right on schedule, you land there and then go hour and 15 minutes but it's less than an hour to get to High Island from Beaumont. So it's like well, and you don't have to do the ferry so you can go to any time. And I was just I kind of shocked because I honestly had never thought of staying in Beaumont. Yeah. So well. Maybe we'll have to go out there.

H Hannah 49:27

I'm planning so I'm planning this is I have to get a lot of people on board for this but I'm planning a wine and warbler weekend out of Beaumont so stay in Beaumont, you know go to high island in the morning and go to a vineyard in the afternoon sounds like my kind of birding trip.

E Erik 49:45

Yeah go to go to Sabine Woods go to. I mean, there's all there's tons of spots you can go to that are all driving distance out of bone. Let's make that a home base rather than trying to stay down in Houston or paying Galveston hotel prices.

H Hannah 50:00

Well, honestly, Galveston, like, there's, it's it's kind of like Party Central, you know, at times a year. So we don't necessarily always want to stay there. And also like a lot of the restaurants. I don't know, we haven't really found like a restaurant that we really like

E Erik 50:14

there's there's good places on the island, but it's just, I really

H Hannah 50:17

want to try the brewery but they close like five.

E Erik 50:19

I know, they're always cuz we were burning all day long, so I never end up getting a chance to go see it. Yeah. Maybe someday we'll we'll plan an extra day. So we can go to the brewery?

H Hannah 50:29

Yeah, I don't like that. So anyways, you know, it was really cool location, lots of birds. I mean, it was fun drive around and see all the different things and it's just really cool to see, you know, an organization like a dmo, you know, destination management organization, like so committed to bringing nature enthusiasts to their locations. Yeah.

E Erik 50:53

I mean, there's a lot of there's a lot of demos that talk about, like, Oh, we want to do this, we want to do that. But it kind of seems like belmonts actually putting their money where their mouth is when they're when they're talking about it. So it's kind of cool. I mean, places like the Rio Grande Valley do that they put their money where their mouth

H Hannah 51:06

Well, they don't even need to advertise it.

E Erik 51:09

It doesn't really yeah, they don't need to put money into it. It's like okay, there's there's just so much nature. It's just yes comes but but like there's some places that are obviously doing it already. And Beaumont is one of them. That's it's putting putting money into showing off. what's what's there. But there's there's plenty of other places that say they're trying to show it off. And it's kind of just talk about it.

H Hannah 51:28

Totally. So yeah. Next time, we'll have to try using Beaumont as a home base and see how that works out works. Yeah, yeah. And wines and warblers and wines. So yeah, we had a great time. In this first part of the Texas Birding Classic. We always enjoy going and doing this and it was fun to check out some new places. We didn't really get to any like new restaurants or any like hotels witness really want to lead you guys towards except we did get a chance to go to Chuy's, which is we love to our favorite place. It's like a chain in Texas. Well, also, there was a one in Florida.

E Erik 52:06

99% Sure. We've talked about two weeks before I know. We had to talk about your feelings. Okay. I mean, it's really good. So it's, it's Tex Mex. Yeah, but they have, they don't have it going on right now because of COVID and everything, but they have a happy hour. That is like you eat as much chips, salsa and nacho cheese and beans and beans as you want. And then it's happy hour. So it's cheap, cheap beers and stuff. And you and the chips and everything are free. So you just you there's there's people that really take advantage of it and they kind of jerks will go in and they'll have like one beer or they'll have water and just eat to their full chips, salsa beans, because it's sometimes it's meat too. Yeah, you can just make a whole Nacho and you need to free notch on the leaf. But most people don't do that. And I feel like you're being a jerk. If you do that. You're taking the seeds. It's okay. Okay, but anyway, they have this whole thing. It's awesome. And they're nice. They're great.

H Hannah 53:00
Their food is really good.

E Erik 53:01
They have jalapeno ranch

H Hannah 53:04
Oh my gosh. It's good. Somebody shipped me like a whole vat. And be awesome.

E Erik 53:10
Yeah, so we went to Chuy's. So if you if you want to if you want to suggestion when you when you're there go to to

H Hannah 53:15
eat. They don't have one in Galveston. It was like on the way like NASA Boulevard or whatever it is.

E Erik 53:19
Yeah, I've been Gulf city. I don't know. Although it's on highway 45 on your way down to the island. Just Google chewies. And there's three more inside Houston property. I'll teach you more.

H Hannah 53:29
There's more and then Houston. Yeah. Oh

E Erik 53:30
my gosh. Well, we've been to three of them in that area. They're all good Chuy's enthusiasts. And we went to the one in Florida.

H Hannah 53:40
They just need to bring one to Oregon. I will drive to that one. Okay, anyways, so anyways, that was our restaurant shout out. We have more for our next episode in the Rio Grande Valley because we went to different

E Erik 53:50
restaurants there into places that we really like and places that we've never been to that we really like.

H Hannah 53:56
So thank you guys for checking us out. This I guess next thing is Indiana Dunes. So we will be leaving for there next week. And there for you know a number of days checking out different things. So check out our socials to see what we're up to. And then of course, we'll talk about those in future episodes.

E Erik 54:17
Yeah, so thank you guys all for listening to our podcast. We hope you enjoyed it and or learned something. Maybe something new maybe something you've had forgotten. Please please please rate review and subscribe to us on Apple podcast Stitcher. Google music Alexa, microphone buffer. Alexa curtain likes the curtain. Siri haptics me piece of wood. I don't know. Radius radius everywhere.

H Hannah 54:40
Literally things in front of us.

- E** Erik 54:42
I will just think I'm looking at as I look around. Radius anywhere that you listen to us. If you'd like to connect with us on the socials, you can follow us at Hannahgoesbirding and ErikGoesBirding on Instagram. You can follow us on Twitter @wegobirding, you can follow us on Facebook at Hannah and Erik go birding, you can email us at HannahandErikGoBirding@gmail.com and
- H** Hannah 55:00
you can check out our TikTok. Hannah and Erik go birding.
- E** Erik 55:04
Yeah, it's a it's we're learning it's
- H** Hannah 55:07
a work in progress.
- E** Erik 55:07
It's a work in progress. We're figuring out this TikTok thing. I mean, they're some of the videos on they're hilarious not ours. But there's there's some videos on Twitter hilarious. We're
- H** Hannah 55:14
not funny.
- E** Erik 55:16
You can also visit our website www.gobirdingpodcast.com. Tell us what you like. Tell us what you hate it and share it with your friends.