



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 24, 2020  
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**HEB Helping Here Awards Grant  
to the  
SPI Birding Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary**

**South Padre Island, Texas:** South Padre Island Birding Nature Center and Alligator Sanctuary announced a new grant award of \$7,500 from HEB. The grant will partially fund the environmental education programs that occur throughout the year.

Currently the Center is closed to the public due to the Cameron County order to socially distance and Shelter at Home. But bird walk videos of coastal and migratory birds are being shared daily on social media, [www.facebook.com/SPIbirding/](http://www.facebook.com/SPIbirding/) or [www.instagram.com/spibirding/](http://www.instagram.com/spibirding/)

The South Padre Island Birding Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary serves more than 65,000 visitors and approximately 1,500 school students on field trips each academic year and summer.

The mission of the South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center is to educate the public about birds of South Padre Island and its environs: the flora, fauna and the natural environment of South Padre Island, the Laguna Madre Coastal area, with an emphasis on conservation and environmental awareness. The South Padre Island Birding Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary is a non-profit organization created by South Padre Island's Economic Development Corporation.

Texas Naturalist, Javier Gonzales shared the Center's philosophy, "As human beings, we tend to care for what we experience in the natural world. Only through positive experiences in nature do we protect nature or make necessary behavior changes."

Over 200 different species of coastal and migratory birds can be seen at the Center. It is the greatest variety of birds concentrated in one place in the United States.

“We are extremely grateful to HEB for this grant award. It will fund our summer and academic school year field trips when we re-open,” shares Cristin Howard, Executive Director. “Staff is busily preparing new curriculum for our environmental education programs,” said Howard.

HEB is dedicated environmental education and sustainability projects that protect the treasure of biodiversity along the border.