



The RGVBF Giving-back Project

Red-crowned Parrots! While these parrots are protected within the city limits of Harlingen by ordinance, birds see no city limit signs. Harlingen is very fortunate to host several flocks of Red-crowned Parrots year around, and changes in their distribution range are making these flocks even more important. As Mexican flocks dwindle south of the border, the Valley flocks seem to be growing. In order to determine if this is a trend in distribution or a result of changes in historic territories, much information is needed. The challenge has been gathering information. The parrots leave their roosts early in the morning, but where do they go? Seeing parrots in the daytime is unusual, if not impossible. Then, magically at dusk, they appear in numbers, squawking and playfully dangling off phone wires, as if transported to the roost sites with Dorothy and Toto.

To protect our parrots, we need to solve the mystery of where they go in the hinterland to feed. With the donations we generate, we anticipate funding parrot telemetry harnesses for gathering the data necessary to track their movements during the day before they return to their roosts in Harlingen. Many of our volunteers for the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival participate in parrot surveys throughout the year to assist with this undertaking. Your contribution to this project is very much appreciated!

