

Oklahoma Clubtail
(Anisoptera: Gomphidae: *Phanogomphus oklahomensis*)

Welcome to Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141)!

.501 Thursdays
1:20 - 4:10 pm in ENV 243

Your TA: Mak Cler
with support from:
- Dr. Jaime Baxter-Slye
- Laboratory Supervisor Jenny Gnau
- .503 TA Calvin Nering

iNat handle:
@makynziecler
@baxter-slye
@calvinnering

Mak's office hours:
Mon. & Wed. 9:30-11am
or by appointment
ENV 261

For Dr. Baxter-Slye: Click here to make appointment

Get involved! https://linktr.ee/baxterslye

Welcome to Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141)!

.503 Fridays at 1:25 - 4:15 pm in ENV 243

Your TA: Calvin Nering
with support from
Dr. Jaime Baxter-Slye
& Laboratory Supervisor Jenny Gnau
& .501 TA Mak Cler

iNat handle:
@calvinnering
@baxter-slye
@makynziecler

Calvin's office hours:
Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 2pm
ENV 273

For Dr. Baxter-Slye: Click here to make appointment

Get involved! https://linktr.ee/baxterslye



Coyote
(Carnivora: Canidae: *Canis latrans*)

Ecological Action Studio
Denton, TX

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®
UNT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE Department of Biological Sciences
UNT ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

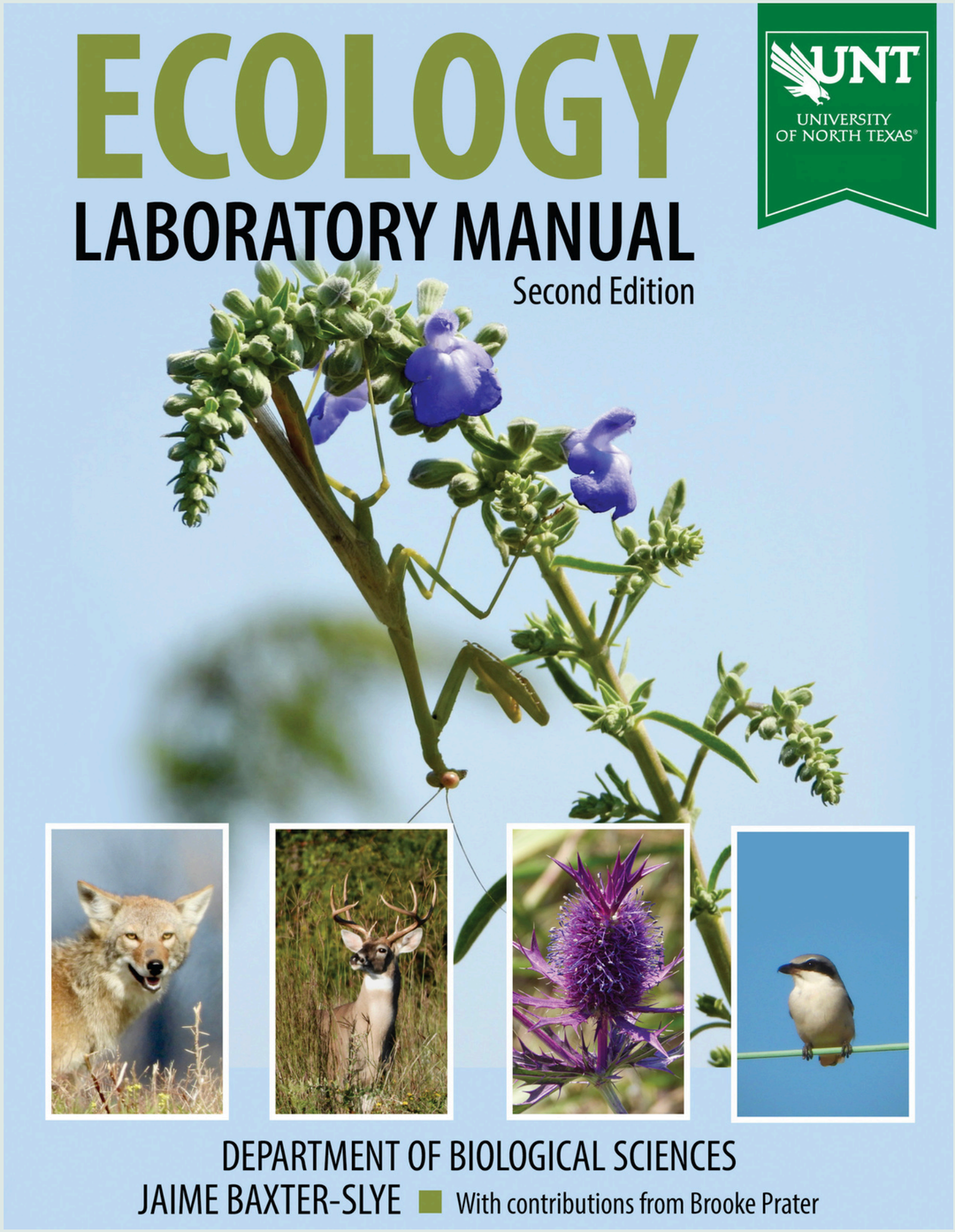
BIOL 2141
Ecology Laboratory Syllabus

You must have a 2nd edition Ecology Laboratory Manual.

"Field and Laboratory Methods for Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141)"2026. Dr. Jaime L. Baxter-Slye, 2nd edition
ISBN: 979-8-3851-6424-0

$63.93 at the UNT Bookstore

Open your manual to page 2 now and follow along.



BIOL 2141
Ecology Laboratory Syllabus

Who should take this class?

- **required for University of North Texas (UNT) Ecology for Environmental Bachelor of Science (BS) majors**

- **We do not know how this course fits into other major degree plans and, in the past, have found that people who are not seeking careers in ecology-related fields do not need this course.**

    - **If you are not an Ecology for Environmental major, please check with an advisor to understand**
        - **if you need this course and that it fits in your degree plan and**
        - **you truly desire to be in this course.**

- **Must have passed the following: BIOL1710, 1720, and 1760.**

- **Ecology lecture (BIOL 2140) may be taken concurrently or in another semester, although we encourage students to take the lecture and the lab at the same time.**

    - **However, do not have the expectation that lecture and lab will be discussing the same topics or overlap in the curriculum.**

    - **This is a field training laboratory, and oftentimes, we discuss multiple concepts from the lecture curriculum at various times during the semester as needed to help describe a habitat or interactions among organisms.**



Male American Kestrel
(Aves: Falconidae: *Falco sparverius*)

BIOL 2141
Ecology Laboratory Syllabus

Who should take this class?

- **This laboratory is an active-applied learning environment, while lecture is a structured arrangement of ecological concepts. This course requires a great deal of:**
    - **Writing and data collection**
    - **Accuracy and precision**
    - **Time outside of lab to complete assignments**
        - **(Special Note: While this is a 1-hour credit course, you will need more time for assignment development. This will be true for all upper-level BIOL3000/4000 labs that are designated as 1-hour credit courses or are part of a four credit with lab course.)**
    - **Attendance to all labs**
    - **Group work**
    - **Patience, a good attitude, and integrity**



Male American Kestrel
(Aves: Falconidae: *Falco sparverius*)

BIOL 2141
Ecology Laboratory Syllabus

What materials do I need for this lab?

- **Pigma pen or pencil (a writing instrument that will not bleed if water or ethanol gets on the paper), small ruler**
- **Sunblock & Insect repellent (we will provide “Repel”) & Antihistamines and EpiPen if needed. (Note, if you are allergic to bees or fire ants, please bring your EpiPen; alert the TA that you are allergic and what happens to you should you be stung.)**
- **Boots or sturdy protective closed-toed footwear that can withstand mud, water, and thorns**
- **Long pants that can withstand thorns and kneeling on the ground; Hat for sun or cold; Outer layers for cold**
- **Field backpack for carrying field gear, the lab manual, and supplies while on a trip**
- **Water bottle—bring a large water bottle (>2L) on each field trip; make sure it is filled**
- **Field trip snacks**
- **Charged phone with camera or an actual camera**
- **Access to the iNaturalist and Discord applications**
- **Microsoft 365 with Microsoft Word, Excel, Google Earth, UNT ARCGIS, Canvas, and/or PowerPoint**
- **UNT email and Canvas & UNT provided OneDrive (can be accessed via EagleConnect in the top left corner; see TA demonstration)**
- **An eagerness, willingness, and desire to learn field methods, report writing, and group participation are needed for essentially any ecology-related career.**

BIOL 2141
Ecology Laboratory Syllabus

What are the objectives of this laboratory? Page 4-5

i. Develop observational and documentation skills (note-taking skills and database generation)

ii. Learn how to conduct assessments of various habitat types in north central Texas.

iii. Learn what environmental and ecological questions are unique to each ecosystem, such as ecological services, anthropogenic impacts, conservation, and restoration.

iv. Learn basic “Good Laboratory Practices (GLP).”

v. Learn how to create a taxonomic database and generate taxonomic tables.

vi. Learn how to research information for introductions and discussions.

vii. Be able to calculate basic taxonomic metrics.

viii. Discover how to report taxonomic data and taxonomic hierarchy.

ix. Prepare a high-quality, professional scientific report and presentation. Present the work in a “conference-style” atmosphere. Provide the deliverables to stakeholders.

x. Use the skills, report, and presentation along with extracurricular opportunities to generate a curriculum vita.



Male American Kestrel
(Aves: Falconidae: *Falco sparverius*)

The Basics

- This course is in-person for the duration of the semester.
- We will provide materials in CANVAS in modules for each week, with links to OneDrive documents.
- Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT IT Help Desk
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Live Chat: https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330
Hours and Availability: Visit https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk for up-to-date hours and availability

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

BIOL 2141
Ecology Laboratory Syllabus

What will we be doing in Ecology Lab?

5 field assessments

We all go and collect the data.

Your group writes and presents one field trip.

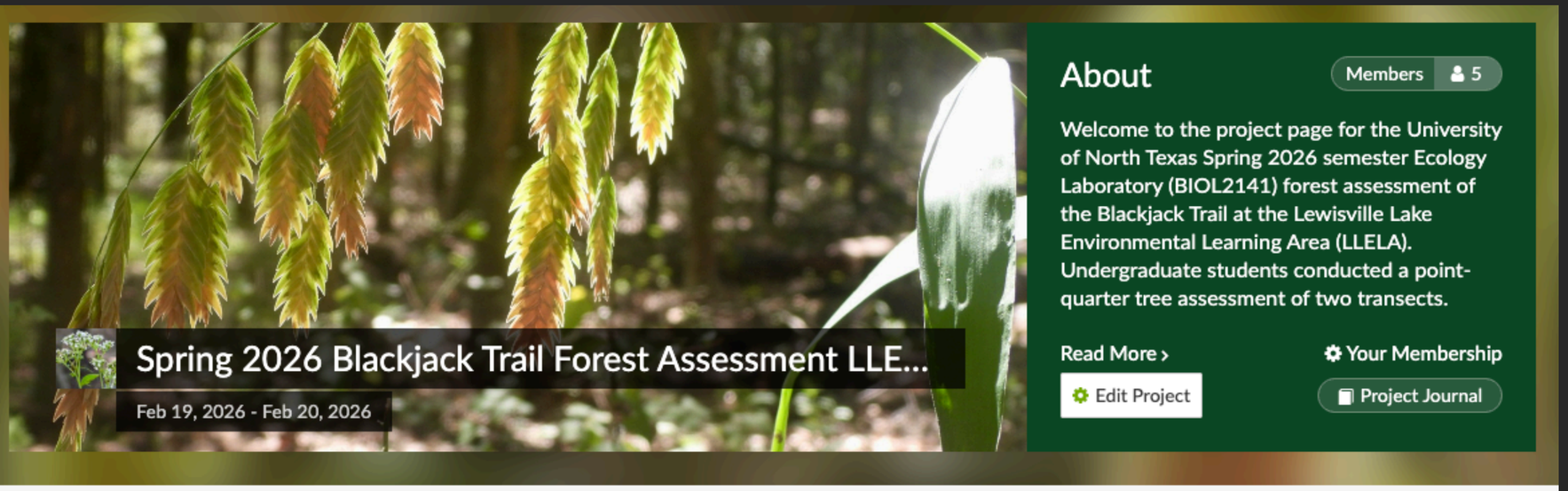
Chapter 2	Basic Good Laboratory Practices and Online Tools	11
Chapter 3	The Taxa Scavenger Hunt and Report Writing	25
Chapter 4	Point-Quarter Tree Assessment of the Blackjack Trail at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area to Assess Canopy Structure Within Long-Term Transects	73
Chapter 5	Modified Christmas Bird Count of the Diamond Eagles Community Learning Area and Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie to Assess Avian Use of an Urban Prairie Reconstruction	91
Chapter 6	Percent Coverage Plant Assessment of a North Texas Prairie Restoration to Assess Plant Community Structure	111
Chapter 7	Water, Habitat, and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Assessment of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (Denton Co) to Learn Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Stream Assessment Methods	141
Chapter 8	Bioblitz for Terrestrial Invertebrates in the Diamond Eagles Community Learning Area and Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie to Monitor Reconstruction Efforts	183



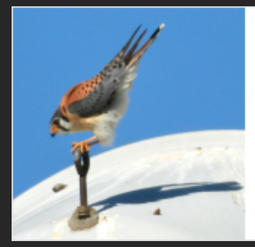
Spring 2026 Blackjack Trail Forest Assessment LLELA UNT Ecology Laboratory

Welcome to the project page for the University of North Texas Spring 2026 semester Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141) forest assessment of the Blackjack Trail at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA). Undergraduate...

iNaturalist



Overview | 157 OBSERVATIONS | 53 SPECIES | 36 IDENTIFIERS | 21 OBSERVERS | Stats



Spring 2026 Avian Assessment Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141) University of North Texas

Welcome to the project page for the University of North Texas Spring 2026 Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141) avian...

iNaturalist



Overview | 204 OBSERVATIONS | 88 SPECIES | 51 IDENTIFIERS | 18 OBSERVERS | Stats



Spring 2026 Barn Owl Ridge Prairie Plant Assessment LLELA UNT Ecology Laboratory

This is the project page for the University of North Texas Spring 2026 Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141) prairie plant…

iNaturalist



About

Members 5

This is the project page for the University of North Texas Spring 2026 Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141) prairie plant assessment of the Barn Owl Ridge area at Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA). Undergraduate students conducted a percent coverage plant assessment of the area.

Read More ›

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

Overview | 113 OBSERVATIONS | 44 SPECIES | 25 IDENTIFIERS | 15 OBSERVERS | Stats



Spring 2026 Aquatic Assessment University of North Texas Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141)

Welcome to the project page for the University of North Texas Spring 2026 semester Ecology Laboratory…

iNaturalist



About

Members 4

Welcome to the project page for the University of North Texas Spring 2026 semester Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141) aquatic assessment of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River dam outfall at Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA). Undergraduate students conducted a rapid bioassessment of benthic

Read More ›

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

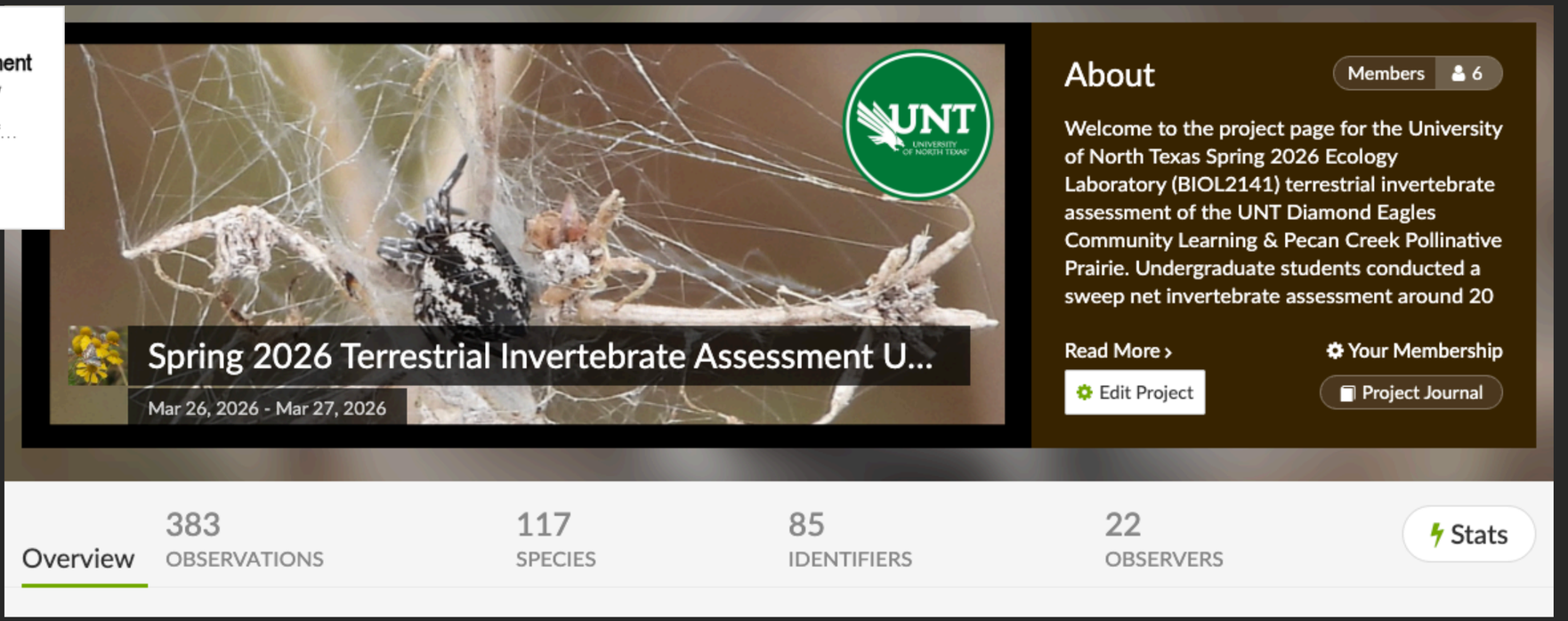
Overview | 50 OBSERVATIONS | 18 SPECIES | 23 IDENTIFIERS | 11 OBSERVERS | Stats



Spring 2025 Terrestrial Invertebrate Assessment University of North Texas Ecology Laboratory

Welcome to the project page for the University of...

inaturalist.org



About

Members 6

Welcome to the project page for the University of North Texas Spring 2026 Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141) terrestrial invertebrate assessment of the UNT Diamond Eagles Community Learning & Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie. Undergraduate students conducted a sweep net invertebrate assessment around 20

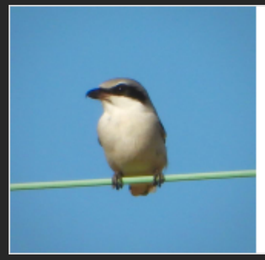
Read More ›

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

Overview	383 OBSERVATIONS	117 SPECIES	85 IDENTIFIERS	22 OBSERVERS	Stats



Spring 2026 Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141) University of North Texas

University of North Texas Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2140) Spring 2026

iNaturalist



About

Members 28

University of North Texas Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2140) Spring 2026

Read More ›

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

Overview	3,431 OBSERVATIONS	865 SPECIES	545 IDENTIFIERS	30 OBSERVERS	Stats

Item	Times per semester	Points for each time	Total for the semester
Introduce yourself discussion; Discord sign up; iNat sign up; syllabus agreement; housekeeping	Once	20	20
Lab workday & field trip participation	13, weekly	20	260
Pre-lab or field trip reading and quiz	7	10	70
Group field data upload	5	10	50
Individual field journal	5	25	125
Peer-reviewed Journal Article Discussion	Once	20	20
Taxonomic Scavenger Hunt Report	Once	100	100
Group Project: Planning Document	Once	10	10
Group Project: Individually written Introduction, Materials, & Methods	Once	100	100
Group Project: Group written Results	Once	100	100
Group Project: Group written Final Report	Once	100	100
Group Project: Group generated Final Presentation *note: plus 10 for Storymap	Once	100	100
Group Project: Peer Review *note: possibility of lowered group component grades	Once	20	20
	Total Points		1,075
Final grade = your earned points / 1,075 *100 = score out of a 100 will be rounded up	A >90 B = 80 - 89	C = 70 - 79	D = 60 - 69 F < 60

Classes Begin	Aug 17
Last Day to Add a Class or Swap Section A swap is switching sections of the same course in the same session.	Aug 21
Last Day to Drop a Class Section Without a W (Census) Courses dropped before this date will not appear on official transcript. (Dropping courses may impact financial aid and degree completion. See advisors.)	Aug 28
Drop with a Grade of W Begins Courses appear on the transcript with a grade of W and tuition and fees remain. (Dropping courses may impact financial aid and degree completion. See advisors.)	Aug 29
Last day to change to pass/no pass grade option (undergrads)	Sept 25
Midpoint of the Semester	Oct 9
Last day for a student to drop a course or all courses with a grade of W	Nov 6
First day to request a grade of Incomplete	Nov 7
Pre-Finals Days	Dec 2-3
Last Regular Class Meeting	Dec 3
Reading Day - No Classes	Dec 4
Final Exams	Dec 7-11

Fall Academic Calendar & Key Dates

To print a copy for your records, please view the Fall 2026 Academic Calendar (PDF).

registrar.unt.edu / Mar 10

Fall 2026 Holidays

Labor Day (no classes, university closed)	September 7, 2025
Thanksgiving Break (no classes)	November 23-29, 2025
University Commencement	

Friday labs, refer to policy

Policy Chapter:	**Chapter 6 Faculty Affairs**
Policy Number and Title:	**06.031 Pre-Finals Days, Reading Day, and Final Examinations**

I. Policy Statement

To allow students adequate time to prepare for final examinations, UNT sets aside days preceding final examinations during which no new material may be disseminated, and extracurricular and organizational activities are suspended. Final examinations must be administered at the designated time of each long semester, wintermester, and summer term unless authorized by this policy.

II. Application of Policy

All Faculty and Students

III. Policy Definitions

A. Pre-Finals Days

"Pre-finals days," in this policy, means the two calendar days preceding the reading day of each fall and spring semester. The dates will be established as part of the final examination schedule.

B. Reading Day

"Reading day," in this policy, means the Friday of the week immediately preceding final exams each fall and spring semester. The date will be established as part of the final examination schedule.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

A. Reading Day and Pre-Finals Days

1. Requirements

On reading day no classes will be held. During pre-finals days and on reading day, no new curricular content may be disseminated, student organizations may not meet or host events, and departments may not require attendance at extracurricular activities.

2. Exceptions

a. Compressed or irregularly scheduled classes, and classes that meet only once per week are exempted from the requirements in IV.A.1.

Week of	What we will be doing?	What is due?
8/17	• Pre-test, Ch. 1 - Intro, syllabus, safety • Ch. 2 – Scientific report and presentation guidelines (introduce chapter, look at previous reports, download iNat, create iNat handle, and make your first observation)	• Buy the manual • Obtain supplies • Pre-test • Get ready for the Ecology Lab Great-Horned Owl Challenge!!!
8/24	• More on Ch. 2 – **Ecology Lab Great-Horned Owl Challenge** & take another in-depth look of writing expectations • Ch. 3 – Introduction to taxonomy, taxa scavenger hunt • Intro to peer-reviewed journal articles (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Ch. 2 quiz due 10 mins before lab time (10 pts)** • **Introduce yourself on Discord, create an iNat profile and download app on phone, complete Syllabus Agreement, complete housekeeping spreadsheet by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (20 PTS).** • Download TSH template from One Drive and start the title page/headers.
8/31	• Ch. 3 – Introduction to taxonomy, taxa scavenger hunt. • Go outside and make observations (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Ch. 3 quiz due 10 mins before lab time (10 pts)** • **Complete journal article discussion FRIDAY 11:59 pm (20 PTS).** Answer one of your peers questions and ask two questions. • Start the introduction and materials and methods for the TSH.
9/7	• Brief intro to field trip protocols • Go outside and make observations (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• Keep making iNat observations - Goal: have 20 by this time. • Finish the introduction and be working on materials and methods for the TSH.
9/14	• Brief intro to field trip protocols • Go outside and make observations (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• Make sure everything above is complete; nothing new due • Goal: have title page, introduction, maps, and materials and methods complete; have all observations almost done for the TSH.

Week of	What we will be doing?	What is due?
9/21	• **Ch. 4 – Ecosystem services and the tree assessment and surveys:** Field Trip to Blackjack Trail at LLELA (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Ch. 4 quiz due 10 mins before lab time (10 pts)** • **Keep writing the TSH report** • Goal: all observations complete, title, intro, materials & methods complete, begin results and discussion.
9/28	• **Ch. 5 – Avian taxa in prairie habitats with a "modified Christmas bird count" assessment and trophic relationships:** Field trip to the UNT Pollinative Prairie. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Ch. 5 quiz due 10 mins before lab time (10 pts)** • **Taxa Scavenger Hunt due on CANVAS by FRIDAY 11:59 PM (1OO PTS)** • **GroupTree field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).**
10/5	• **Ch. 6 – Prairie restoration and percent coverage plant assessment**: Field Trip to Barn Owl Ridge at LLELA (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Ch. 6 quiz due 10 mins before lab time (10 pts)** • **Group Avian field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).** • **Tree and Avian field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS EACH).**
10/12	• **Ch. 7 – Aquatic assessment with benthic macroinvertebrate community structure**: Field trip to dam outfall at LLELA rescheduled (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Ch. 7 quiz due 10 mins before lab time (10 pts)** • **Group Prairie Plant field trip data upload due FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).** • **Prairie Plant field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS).**
10/19	• **Ch. 8 - Terrestrial invertebrate sweep net assessment:** Field Trip to the Pollinative Prairie. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Ch. 8 quiz due 10 mins before lab time (10 pts)** • **Group Aquatic field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).** • **Aquatic field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS).**

Week of	What we will be doing?	What is due?
10/26	• Inclement weather day - we may go on a field trip if one above was cancelled. • Group lab meeting in ENV 243: discuss individual introduction, materials and methods portion of the report. Groups will work on group planning document. Bring laptop. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Group Terrestrial Invertebrate field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).** • **Terrestrial field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS).** • **Group planning document due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (10 PTS).**
11/2	• Group lab meeting in ENV 243; discuss results section. Bring laptop. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Individual Introductions Materials and Methods due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (100 PTS).**
11/9	• Group lab meeting in ENV 243: discuss feedback from individual intros, groups work on consolidating all members intros into final report. Work on results and slideshow. Bring laptop. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• **Group results due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (100 PTS).** • Title page, TOC, results, and references only.
11/16	• Group lab meeting in ENV 243: discuss results feedback, groups work on generating final report. Work on slideshow. Bring laptop. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)	• Nothing due. Work on your final report and presentation with your group.
11/30	• **19th Semi-annual Ecology Laboratory Symposium** • Post test	• **Final presentation due by 8am prior to symposium (100 PTS).** • **Final report is due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (100 PTS).** • **Peer-review evaluations(20 PTS) DUE BY FRIDAY 11:59 PM.**

Attendance Policy

- **We use ‘active participation’ in lieu of attendance.**
- **Participation = actively conducting surveys, making documentations, acting in a professional manner, and remaining safe and calm.**
- **In Ecology Lab, there are 260 points possible for participation.**
- If a University excused absence occurs, students should immediately make arrangements with their TA to make up the lab before the end of the week or make other arrangements if that is not possible.
- We ask that if you miss lab, you contact your group and your TA ASAP so that we can work together to get caught back up.
- Your group depends on you. Please don’t skip lab.



Male White-tailed Deer
(Artiodactyla: Cervidae: *Odocoileus virginianus*)

Our late policy for any assignment, missed field trip or in lab workday

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					All assignments due Fridays by midnight	Late -1
Late -1	Late -1	Late -1	Late -1	Late -1	Late -1	Late -1
Late -1	After 8 am on the 2nd Monday post deadline, no assignments taken for any points unless Dean's note or University excused reasons.					

For missed field trips or in-lab workday, schedule a meeting with your TA within 7 days of missed field trip to have a 'virtual make up'. The TA will walk you thru what we did on the field trip and the data you missed.

If a meeting occurs within 7 days, 20 pts will be given. If a meeting does not occur within 7 days, you will receive a zero for participation points.

D. Excused Absences

1. An absence may be excused for the following reasons:
   a. religious holy day, including travel for that purpose;
   b. active military service, including travel for that purpose;
   c. participation in an official university function;
   d. illness or other extenuating circumstances;
   e. pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and
   f. when the University is officially closed.
2. A student is responsible for requesting an excused absence in writing, providing satisfactory evidence to the faculty member to substantiate excused absence and delivering the request personally to the faculty member assigned to the course for which the student will be absent.
3. When an absence is excused, the faculty member will provide a reasonable time after the absence for the student to complete an assignment or examination missed.
4. Faculty members are required to find a fair resolution if a student missed an examination or assignment on days when the university is officially closed.
5. A student will not be penalized for an excused absence and will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable period after the absence.
6. A student needing assistance verifying absences due to illness or extenuating circumstances for all courses should contact the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students office will verify the student's documentation and advocate on the student's behalf, as appropriate, to instructors for excused absences.

UNT Policy click here

Our Ethics

*As members of the **UNT Community**, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact.*

UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

In addition, sometimes in Ecology Laboratory we may not agree on certain issues. However, we must refrain from using insulting, degrading, disrespectful, or offensive terms and language when discussing topics or ideas either in-person, in written assignments, or in group work settings. This includes time outside of lab while working with your group. Failure to do so may result in a point deduction due to lack of effective participation.



Loggerhead Shrike
(Aves: Passeriformes: Laniidae: *Lanius ludovicianus*)

UNT ‘Rules of Engagement’

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Avoid making assumptions, ask for clarification.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- See these Engagement Guidelines



Stagmomantis sp.
(Insecta: Mantidae)

Scholastic Dishonesty

BIOL 2141 labs have a **zero-tolerance policy** for scholastic dishonesty including:
Students who are found to have committed scholastic dishonesty in any form, including but not limited to:

- copying from another student's report writing,
- copying field journal entries,
- uploading pictures on iNat that you did not take, or
- allowing another student to copy from your report writing or field journal entries, or any other form of plagiarism
- groups plagiarizing previous semester projects or literature from sources (not citing)

will be given a reduction in points, a zero for the assignment, and/or be reported to the Dean of Students.

The term 'plagiarism' includes, but is not limited to:

- the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment;
- the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Examples: copying word for word or even a phrase from a publication, including web pages, without placing quotes around the phrase and citing the source.

If we suspect you of cheating, an email will be sent to you to begin an investigation into the event which will lead to penalties.



Red-shouldered Hawk
(Aves: Accipitridae: *Buteo lineatus*)

Scholastic Dishonesty

Use of AI and Integrity in Ecology Laboratory page 10

- **You will not be able to use of artificial intelligence (AI) as a crutch and not a tool; AI will not generate a quality report.**
  - If you use AI for ideas and such, that is fine. But it is your brain that must write a cohesive, accurate, and polished report.
  - It will be obvious if you simply copy and paste AI output into your report. If this occurs, a major % will be deducted as depicted on the grading rubric.
  - If you use AI alone with no personal learning, you won't be able to discuss the work. It will be obvious that you have not put the work in to understand concepts.

In addition:

- No harming wildlife, except for designated collections.
- Points will be deducted for:
  - non-participation during group work or on field trips
  - destroying or damaging field or lab gear
  - fail to be prompt during field trip meeting times and rallying points
  - have unsafe field behavior, including improper dress or eating plants or animals from the wild
  - Unsafe laboratory behavior, including improper dress
  - Disrespectful behavior that is meant to harm another or cause disruption.

How can discuss my grades with my TA?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (1974), does not permit faculty or staff to report grades by phone or email. In addition, per University policy, grades cannot be posted publicly. Do not request any information from your TA about grades unless it is virtually or in-person.

You can:

- go to office hours
- make an appointment in-person or virtual
- request to speak to your TA before or after class



Giant Prairie Robber Fly
(Insecta: Diptera: Asilidae: *Microstylum morosum*)

ODA Information

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities.

Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.

You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.



Golden-eye Lichen
(Fungi: Teloschistaceae:
Teloschistes chrysophthalmus)

UNT Policy

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy
Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)
The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

UNT Policy

Acceptable Student Behavior
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect
Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Additional UNT Services

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services
Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)

Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)

UNT Psychiatric Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)

Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

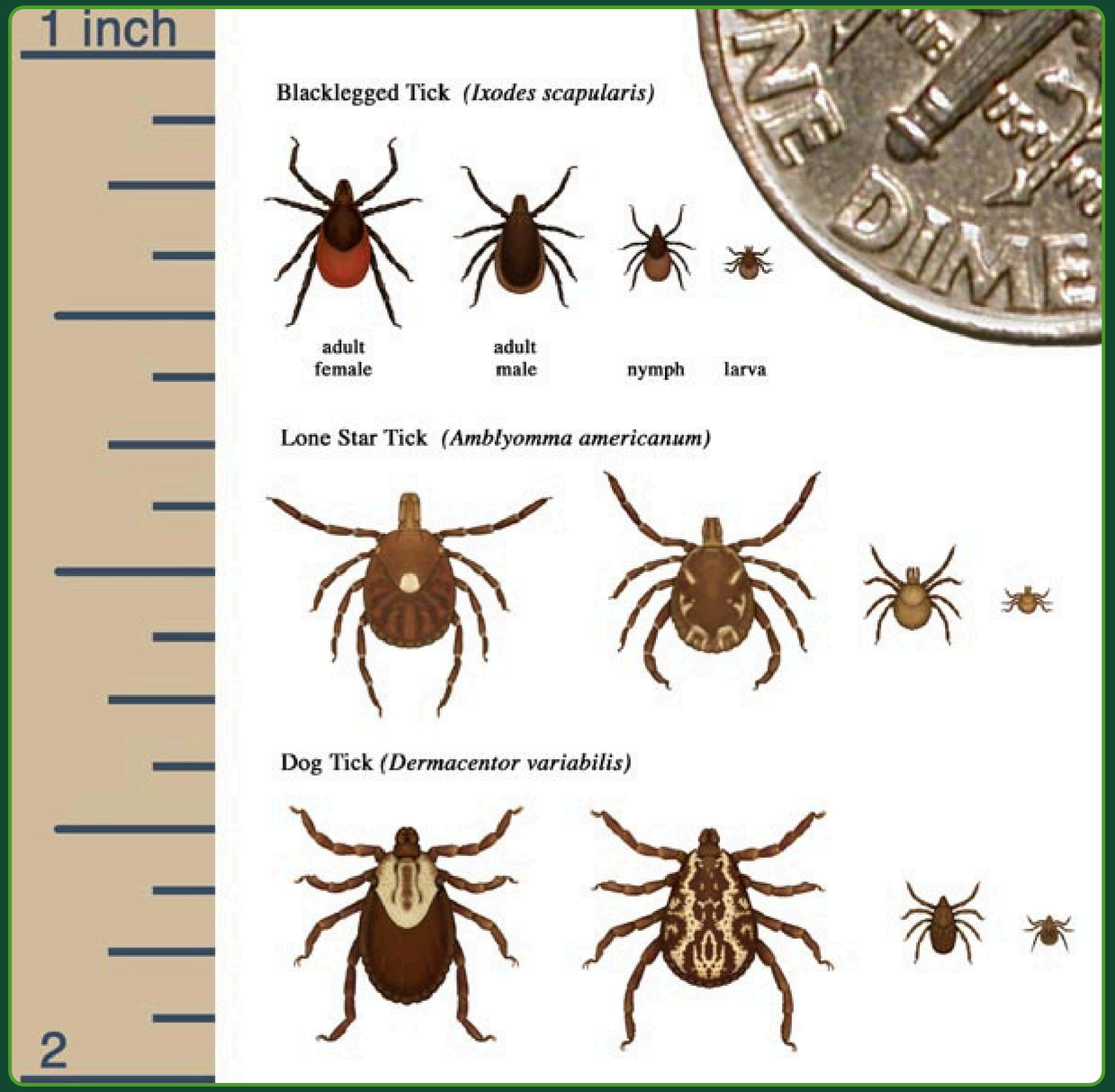


Lab & Field Hazards

- Field work
- Glassware—can break and cause injury
- Microbes
- NO carcinogens, radiation, or heavy metals.

Outdoor hazards: Ticks

- Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis and Relapsing Fever can be transmitted by the bite of an infected tick. If caught early, these diseases can almost always be cured. If left untreated, they can be serious or even fatal.
- Use repellent that contains 20 % or more DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 on exposed skin for protection that lasts several hours
- Conduct a full body tick check and bathe and shower as soon as possible after coming indoors.
- Examine your gear. Tumble dry clothes in dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks



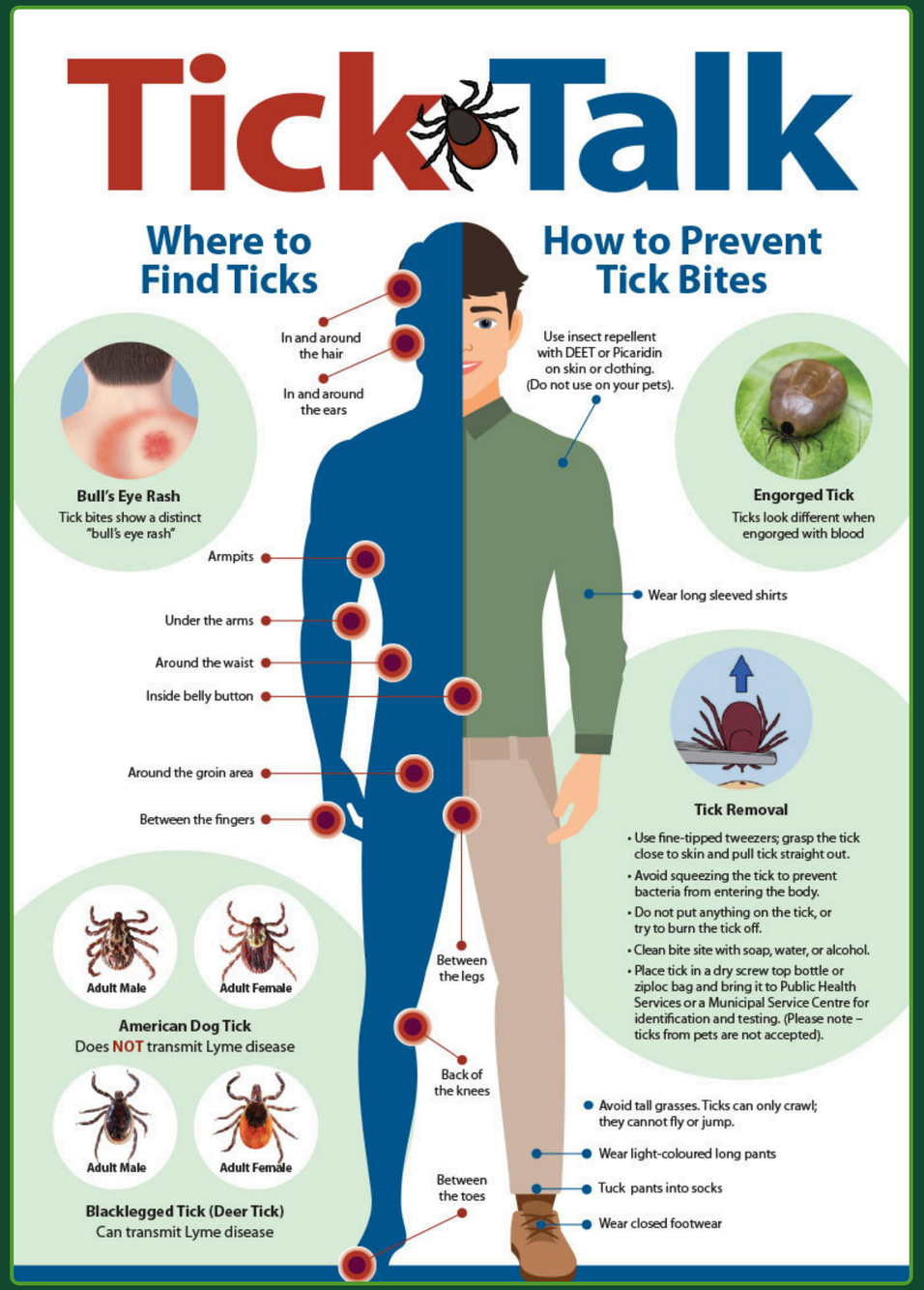
Outdoor hazards: Ticks

Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.

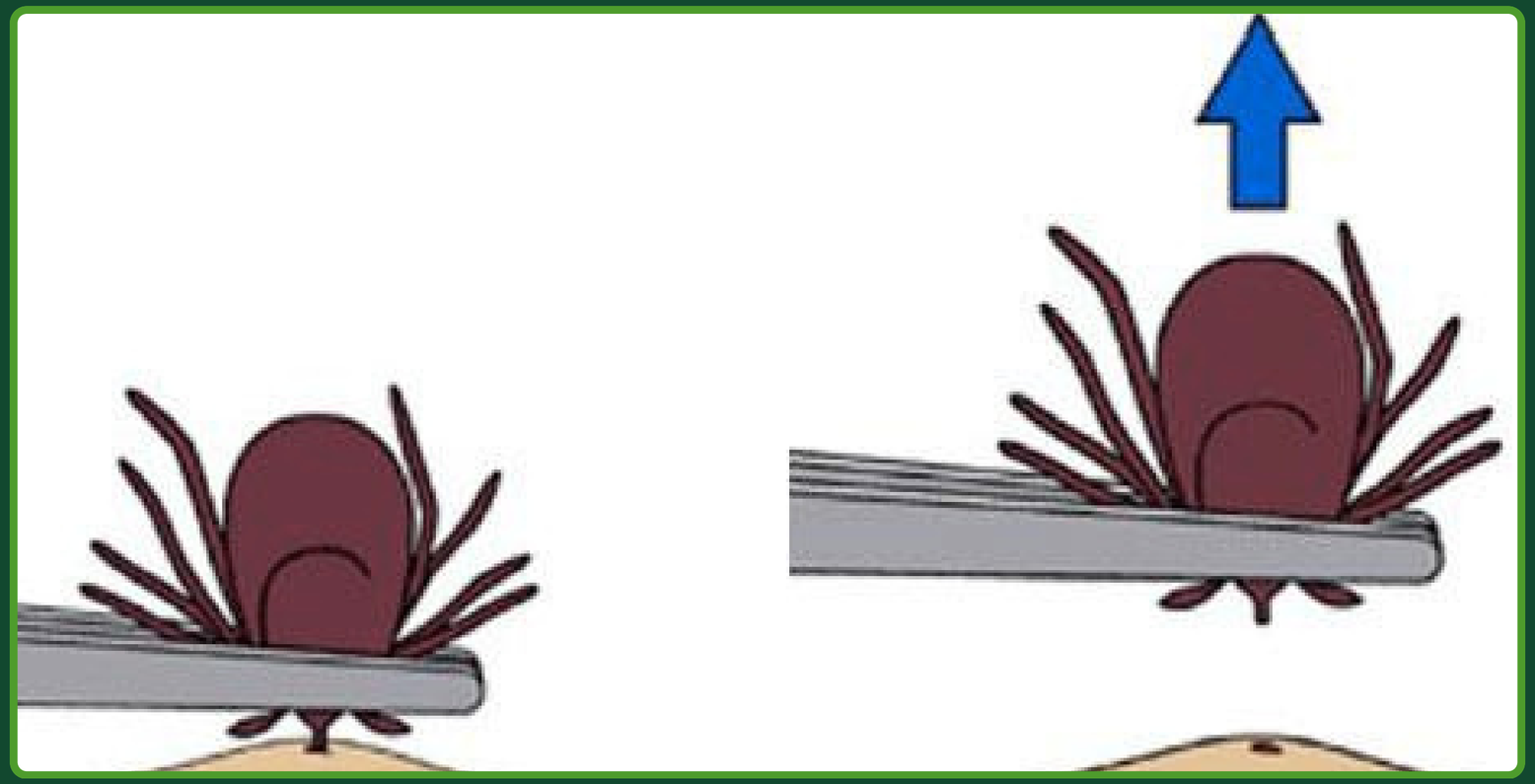
After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.

Dispose of a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

Avoid folklore remedies such as "painting" the tick with nail polish or petroleum jelly, or using heat to make the tick detach from the skin. Your goal is to remove the tick as quickly as possible–not waiting for it to detach.



Outdoor hazards: Ticks



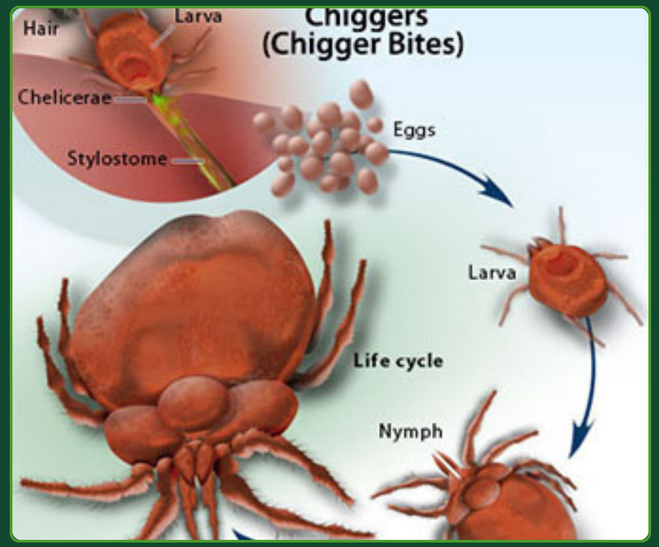
If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor.

Be sure to tell the doctor about your recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.

Chiggers are the worst

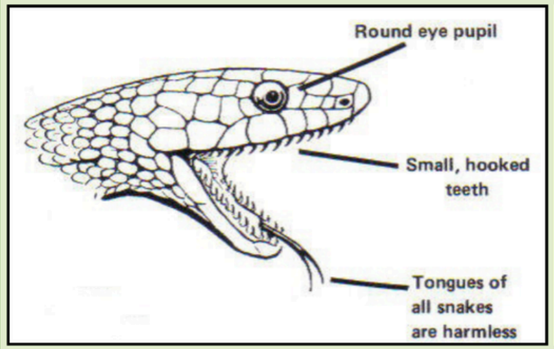
- Use insect repellent containing DEET on skin and clothing
- Wear long pants with sneaker or hiking boots, tuck pant legs into socks, keep your shirt tucked in
- Choose tightly woven fabrics for walking in chigger prone areas
- Take a shower ASAP
- Wash clothing ASAP

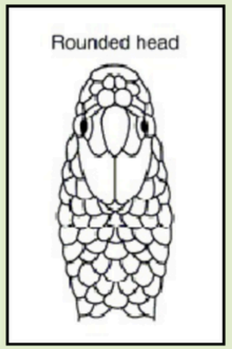




Snakes are great!

NONVENOMOUS

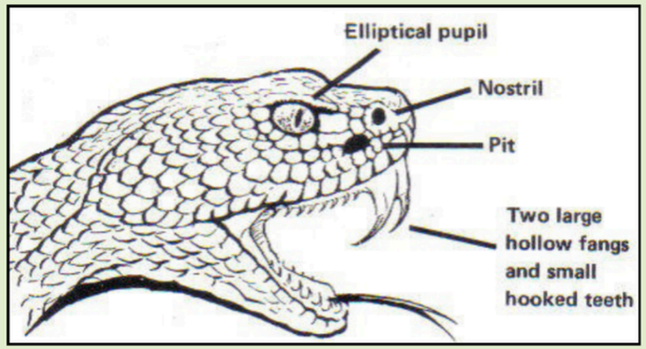








VENOMOUS









by Nicolette Peters

"Don't be afraid of snakes, be aware! They are signs of a healthy environment." – Texas Parks and Wildlife

What kind of snake is this? North Texas

Snakes are great!

Snakes play an important role in the Texas ecosystem and are controls for unwanted pests. SNAKES DON'T HUNT HUMANS! Bites happen when snakes are surprised, cornered, or handled.

Be careful where you put your hands and feet. Never step over a log without first seeing what is on the other side. If you must move a log, use a long stick or garden tool first, to ensure snakes are neither under, on or around these favored habitats.

Wear protective clothing if working in areas where you suspect snakes nearby. Heavy footwear, snake proof trousers and/or leggings will help reduce your risk.

Freeze still when snakes are known to be nearby until you know where they are. Allow the snake to retreat. If you must move, back slowly and carefully away from the snake.



Coachwhip
(Reptilia: Colubridae: *Masticophis flagellum*)

Snakes are great!

First Aid for snake bites can prevent disability, disfigurement, or death if it is applied effectively. Assume envenomation has occurred even before symptoms appear.

Identify the species of venomous snake, but do not endanger yourself and become a victim, too.

- Keep yourself and the victim as calm.
- Know and treat for any symptoms of shock.
- Wash the bite area with a disinfectant soap.
- Remove restrictive clothing or jewelry.
- Prevent movement of the bitten extremity.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible.
- Under no circumstances should you cut between the punctures, or suck the venom out.



Western Ratsnake
(Reptilia: Colubridae: *Pantherophis obsoletus*)

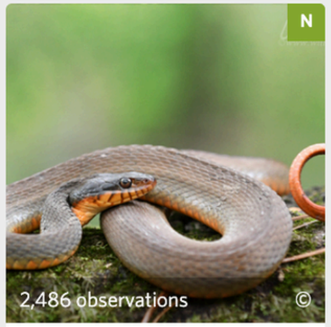
Snakes in DFW

Observations

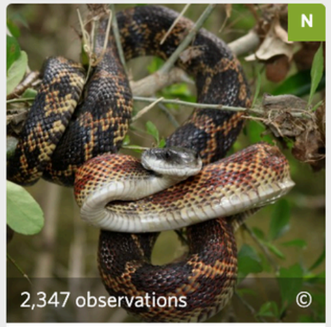
Serpentes | Location | Go | Filters 1

DFW Metroplex

18,508 OBSERVATIONS | 39 SPECIES | 1,841 IDENTIFIERS | 4,621 OBSERVERS



Nerodia erythrogaster
(Plain-bellied Watersnake)



Pantherophis obsoletus
(Western Ratsnake)



Haldea striatula
(Rough Earthsnake)



Opheodrys aestivus
(Rough Greensnake)



Nerodia rhombifer
(Diamondback Watersnake)



Agkistrodon laticinctus
(Broad-banded Copperhead)



Thamnophis proximus
(Western Ribbon Snake)



Storeria dekayi
(DeKay's Brownsnake)



Agkistrodon piscivorus
(Northern Cottonmouth)



Agkistrodon contortrix
(Eastern Copperhead)

Snakes in DFW



Coluber constrictor
(North American Racer)



Nerodia fasciata
(Banded Watersnake)



Crotalus atrox
(Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake)



Thamnophis sirtalis
(Common Garter Snake)



Tropidoclonion lineatum
(Lined Snake)



Pantherophis emoryi
(Great Plains Ratsnake)



Lampropeltis holbrooki
(Speckled Kingsnake)



Masticophis flagellum
(Coachwhip)



Pituophis catenifer
(Gopher Snake)



Rena dulcis
(Texas Blind Snake)

Snakes in DFW



Sistrurus tergeminus
(Western Massasauga)



Diadophis punctatus
(Ring-necked Snake)



Lampropeltis calligaster
(Prairie Kingsnake)



Regina grahamii
(Graham's Crayfish Snake)



Heterodon platirhinos
(Eastern Hognose Snake)



Tantilla gracilis
(Flat-headed Snake)



Micrurus tener
(Texas Coralsnake)



Crotalus horridus
(Timber Rattlesnake)

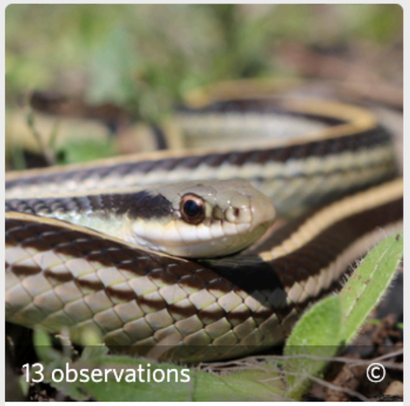


Nerodia sipedon
(Common Watersnake)

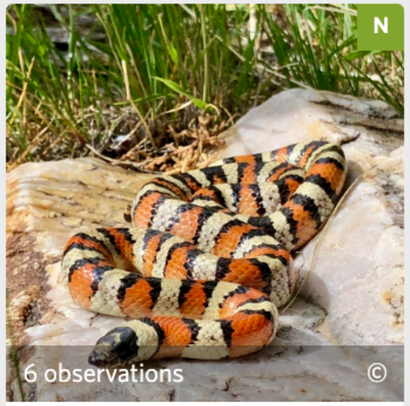


Sistrurus miliarius
(Pygmy Rattlesnake)

Snakes in DFW



Salvadora lineata
(Texas Patch-nosed Snake)



Lampropeltis gentilis
(Western Milksnake)



Nerodia harteri
(Brazos River Watersnake)



Indotyphlops braminus
(Brahminy Blindsnake)



Sonora episcopa
(Great Plains Ground Snake)



Arizona elegans
(Glossy Snake)



Farancia abacura
(Mudsnake)



Thamnophis marcianus
(Checkered Garter Snake)



Storeria occipitomaculata
(Red-bellied Snake)

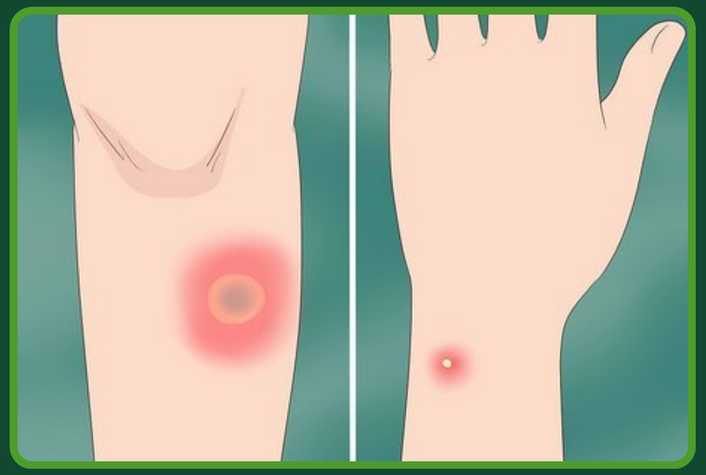
Spiders are wonderful, but be careful of some



Brown Recluse (*Loxosceles reclusa*)



Black Widow (*Latrodectus sp.*)



For any spider bite:

wash
disinfect
seek medical attention if it gets worse

Routes of exposure to poison ivy

Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac release an oil, urushiol, when the leaf or other plant parts are bruised, damaged, or burned.

You may be exposed to urushiol through:

- Direct contact with the plant
- Indirect contact, such as touching tools, people, or clothing that have urushiol on them
- Inhalation of particles containing urushiol from burning plants (YES, you CAN get poison ivy in your throat!).

- Look for clusters of 3 leaves “Leaves of three, let them be!”
  - Typically the center leaf has a small stem, the other two grow directly on the vine
  - Poison ivy berries are white or cream-colored and remain on the plant through winter and spring
  - Poison ivy variations





Observations



Toxicodendron

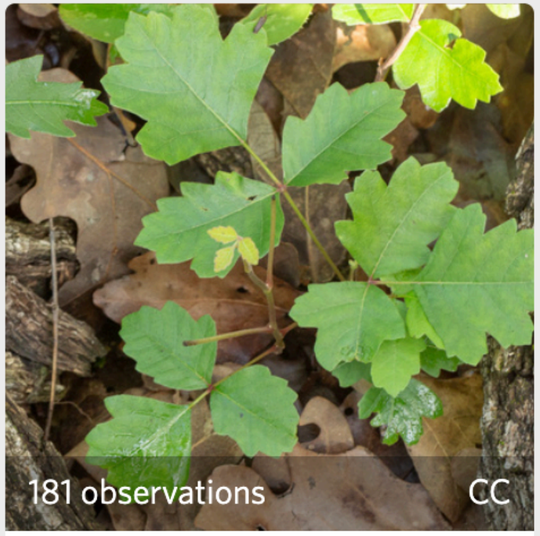
DFW Metroplex

7,014
OBSERVATIONS

3
SPECIES



Toxicodendron radicans
(Eastern Poison Ivy)



Toxicodendron pubescens
(Atlantic Poison Oak)



Toxicodendron rydbergii
(Western Poison Ivy)

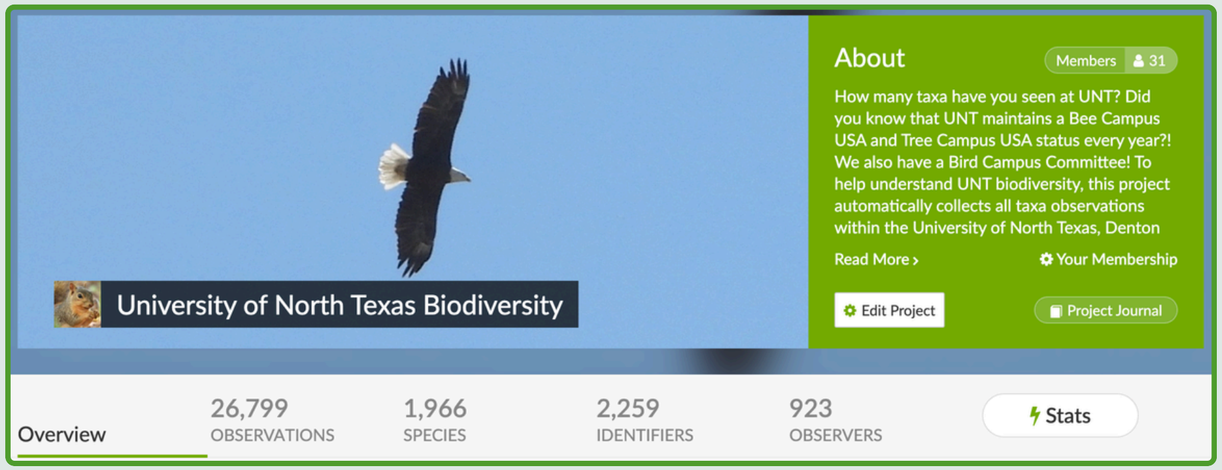
Wader safety

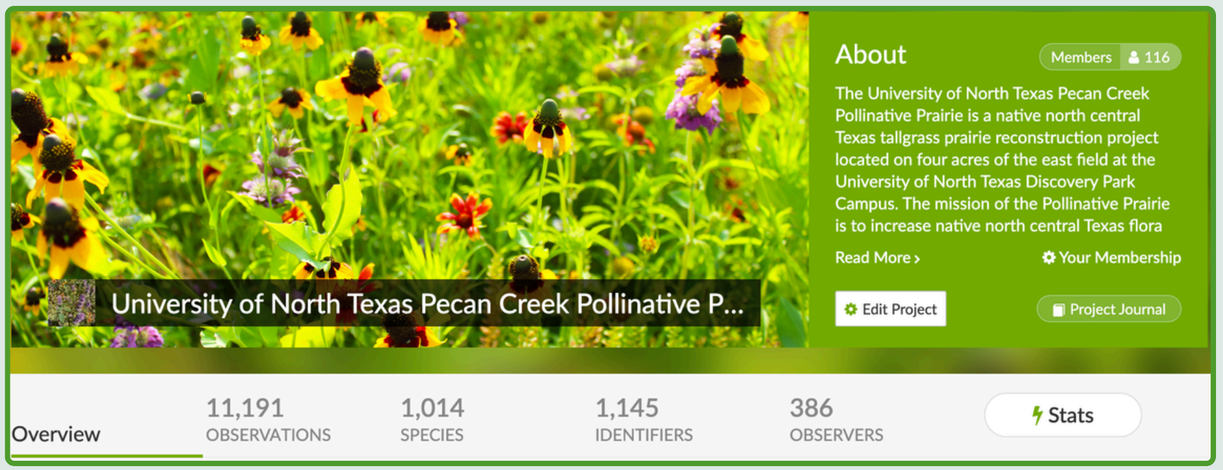


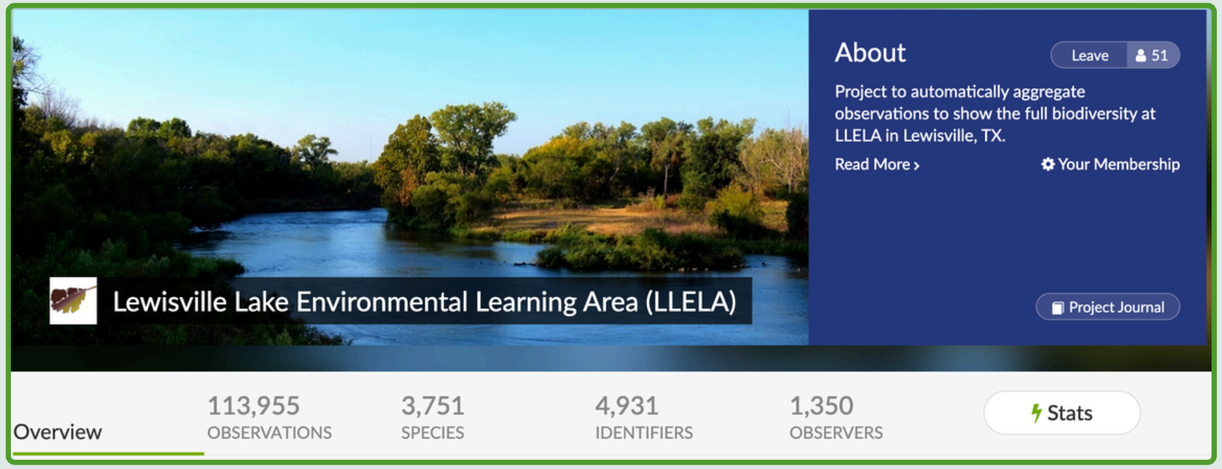
Students catching some peace at the Elm Fork of the Trinity River Fall 2023

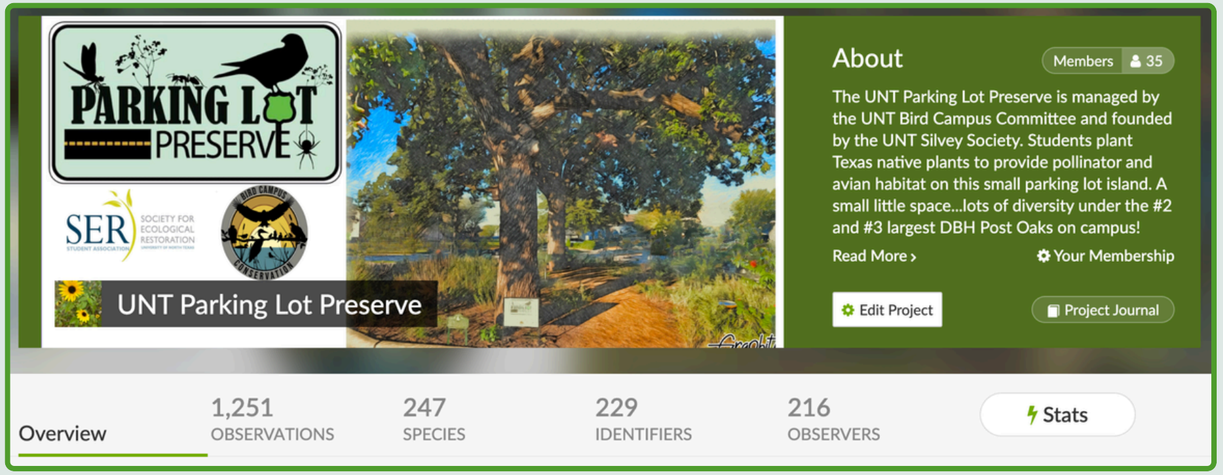
- Be aware of where you are stepping in the water. It may seem uniformly shallow, but could contain deeper sections.
- Walk carefully in the river. Rocks may be slippery from algal growth, its easy to lose your balance.
- Never enter the water alone, always have a partner.
- If you fall into a deep spot and water begins filling up your waders, don’t panic. Remove the waders and return to shallow waters.











[UNT All Biodiversity]

[UNT Trees]

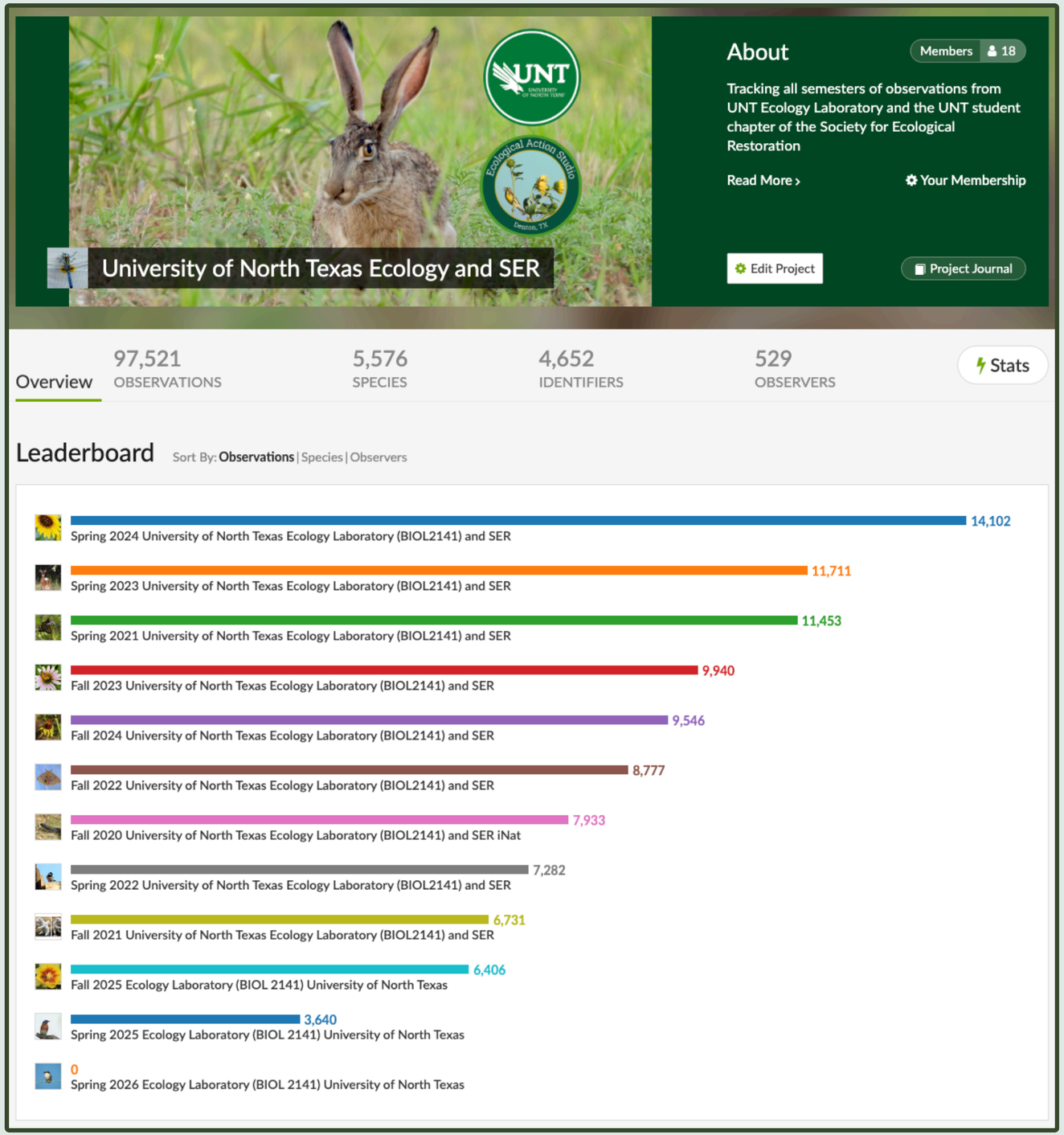
[UNT Pollinative Prairie]

[UNT Birds]

[UNT Parking Lot Preserve]

[LLELA Biodiversity]

[Click here to view all semesters]





[Click here for the Fall 2026 Ecology Lab iNaturalist project]

Create an iNat account. Consider having some part of your name in the handle so we can recognize you.Be sure to post your iNat handle on the Housekeeping spreadsheet.If you click on the 'members' or 'join': will make the project pop up in your projects page.Dr. Slye will manually add you to the list of observers the project captures, which is different than joining. Anyone can join, but only the added observers that Dr. Slye adds will be included.Start familiarizing yourself with iNat. Next week, we will be using iNat for the Taxa Scavenger Hunt.



We use iNaturalist to document flora and fauna.

1. Download phone app (available on desktop, too).
2. Create a professional handle.
3. Make sure your time, date, and location settings are accurate on your phone.
4. Take an overview picture of an organism, and add more pics to show all the parts.
5. Click 'what do you see'.
6. If you see a 'we are pretty sure', select that taxa.
7. If you don't see a 'we are pretty sure', type in one of the following:
    a. plant
    b. fungi
    c. lichen
    d. insect
    e. spider
    f. bird
    g. mammal
    h. snake
    i. ray-finned fish
    j. turtle
    k. amphibia
    l. earthworm
8. upload
9. check back for corrections

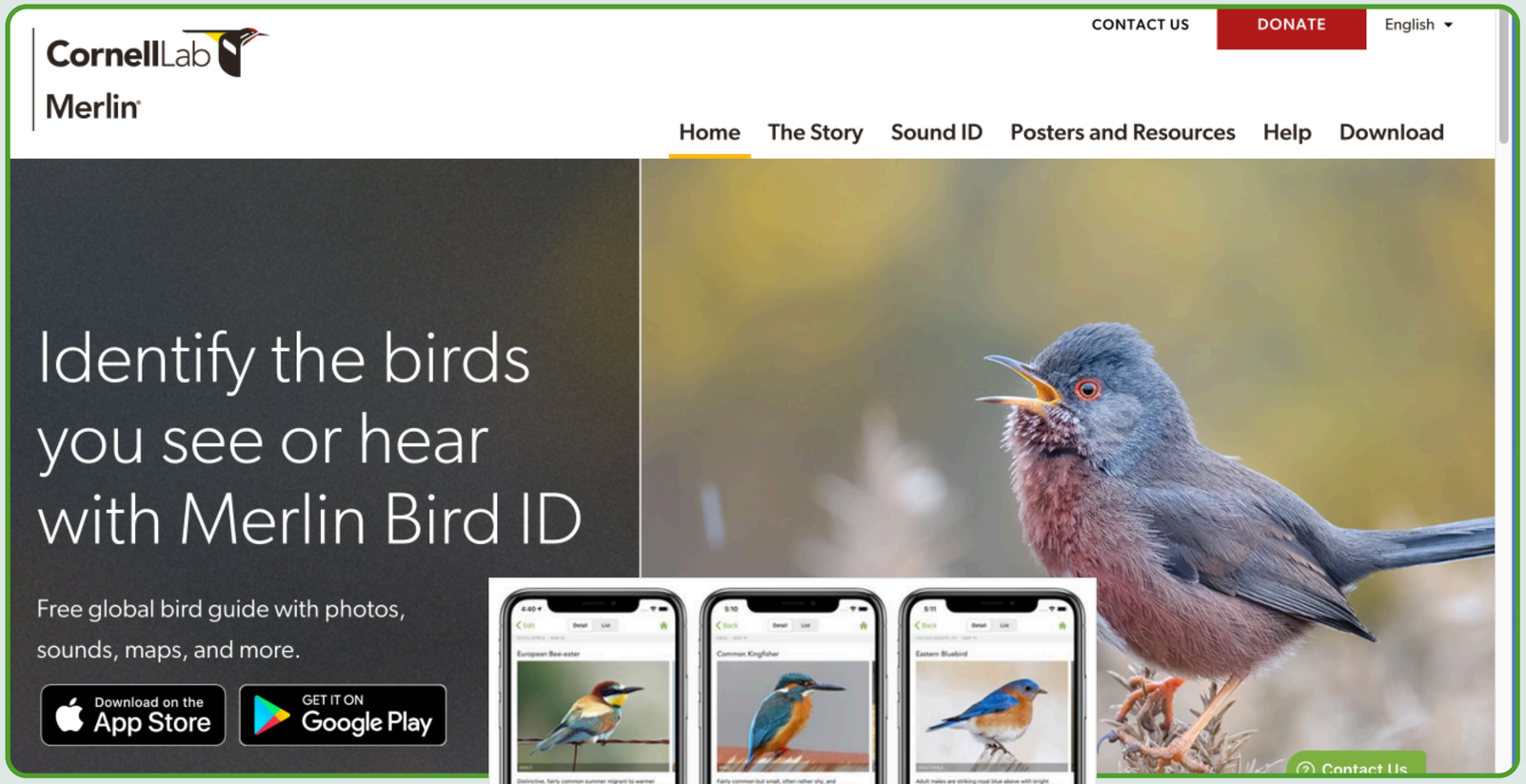
TheCornellLab of Ornithology

eBird

https://ebird.org/home



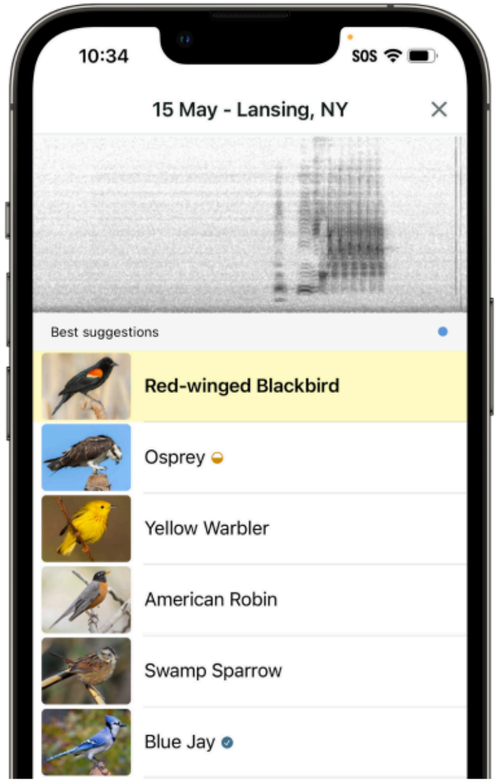
Be a boss ornithologist...learn to recognize birds in the field by their call.



Identify Bird Songs and Calls with Sound ID

Sound ID listens to the birds around you and shows real-time suggestions for who's singing. Compare your recording to the songs and calls in Merlin to confirm what you heard. More About Sound ID Supported regions Sound ID in the Merlin Bird I...

Merlin Bird ID /



Join our Fall 2026 Ecology Lab Discord! Click here

