



Coyote  
(Carnivora: Canidae: *Canis latrans*)

**Welcome to Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141)!**

**.503 Thursdays at 2:00 - 4:50 pm**

**Dr. Jaime Baxter-Slye**

**iNat handle: @baxter-slye**

**Baxter-Slye's office hours:**

**Office hours:**

**Th 12-2pm**

**ENV 332**

**[Click here to make appointment](#)**



**[Get involved! https://linktr.ee/baxterslye](https://linktr.ee/baxterslye)**





Coyote  
(Carnivora: Canidae: *Canis latrans*)

**Welcome to Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141)!**

**.501 Fridays at 10:00 - 12:50 pm**

**Ben Hendrickson**

**iNat handle: @**

**Ben's office hours:  
Office hours:**

**or email [benhendrickson@my.unt.edu](mailto:benhendrickson@my.unt.edu) for an  
appointment**



**[Get involved! https://linktr.ee/baxterslye](https://linktr.ee/baxterslye)**





Coyote  
(Carnivora: Canidae: *Canis latrans*)

**Welcome to Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141)!**

**.502 Fridays 1:30 - 4:20pm**

**Madison Rutherford**

**iNat handle: @madisonruther**

**Madison's office hours:  
Thursdays 12:30 - 2:00 pm  
ENV 334**

**or email [madisonrutherford@my.unt.edu](mailto:madisonrutherford@my.unt.edu)  
for an appointment**



**[Get involved! https://linktr.ee/baxterslye](https://linktr.ee/baxterslye)**



# BIOL 2141

## Ecology Laboratory Syllabus

### What are the objectives of BIOL 2141?

Introduce students to general ecological concepts, methods, instruments, and equipment for applied field-based investigations of the biotic and abiotic components of various ecosystems.

- Experimental design
- Field notebook techniques
- Data collection
- Data processing
- Data analysis
- Map preparation
- Individual report writing
- Group presentation



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



#### **d. What are the objectives of this laboratory?**

- i. Develop observational skills
- ii. Learn about 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 assessment, report, and presentation skills, including but not limited to:
  - 1. Point Quarter Tree Assessment or Tree Database Generation with Forest Ecology and State of the World's Forests
  - 2. Plant Percent Coverage Assessment and Prairie Restoration with State of North American Prairies
  - 3. Terrestrial Invertebrate Sweep Netting Assessment with Trophic Relationships with State of the World's Invertebrate Populations
  - 4. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Modified Aquatic Habitat Assessment with Rapid Bioassessment of Benthic Macroinvertebrates with Water Quality
  - 5. Modified Christmas Bird Count and State of North American Birds
  - 6. Develop observational skills
  - 7. Develop field note taking skills and observation database generation
  - 8. Learn basic "Good Laboratory Practices (GLP)"
  - 9. Learn how to create a taxonomic database and generate taxonomic tables
  - 10. Learn how to research information for introductions and discussions
  - 11. Be able to calculate basic taxonomic metrics
  - 12. Discover how to report taxonomic data and taxonomic hierarchy
  - 13. Be able to generate a high-quality, professional scientific report based on field trip data collection
  - 14. Give a scientific presentation, either a poster or slideshow that is "conference-style"



# The Basics

- BIOL 2141 prerequisites include 1710/1720/1730/1740/1760 - The two freshman semesters of Biology.
- **The Ecology Lecture (BIOL2140) and Ecology Laboratory are entirely separate** and are not meant to correspond with one another, meaning they may not be discussing the same topics. Students may take the lecture and lab concurrently or not.
- This course is in-person for the duration of the semester.
- We will provide materials in CANVAS in modules for each week.
- 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](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Live Chat:** <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport>

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 330

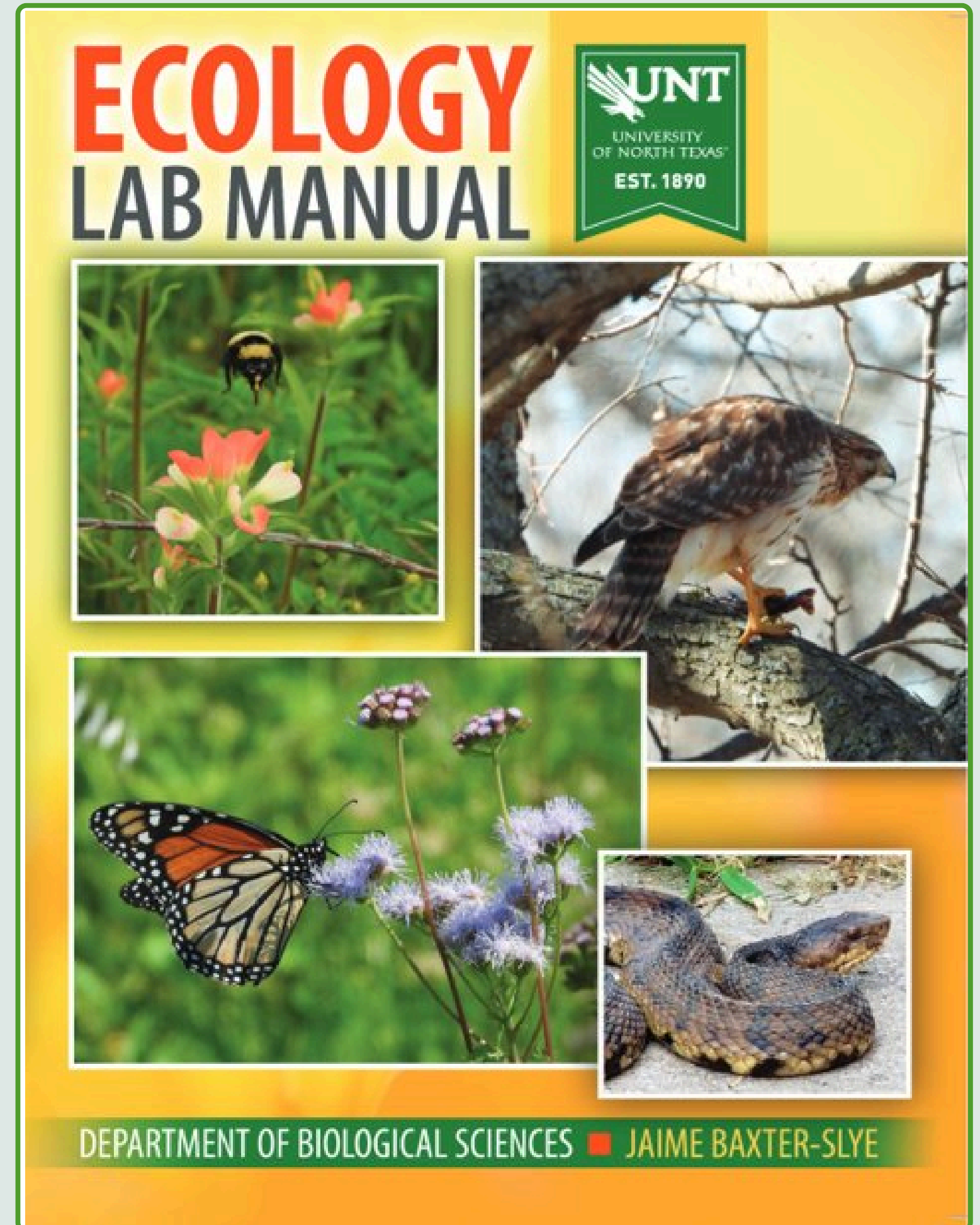
**Hours and Availability:** Visit <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk> for up-to-date hours and availability

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



### c. What materials do I need for this lab?

- A new, unused “Field and Laboratory Methods for Ecology Laboratory (BIOL2141)” 2021. Dr. Jaime L. Baxter-Slye ISBN: 978-1-7924-3038-1
  - Pigma pen or pencil (a writing instrument that will not bleed if water or ethanol gets on the paper)
  - Small ruler
  - Sunblock
  - Boots or sturdy protective closed-toed footwear that can withstand mud and water
  - Long pants that can withstand briar and kneeling on the ground
  - Hat for sun or cold
  - Outer layers for cold
  - Antihistamines may be brought if you are susceptible to poison ivy, allergies, or even if you need an epipen. (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).
  - Field backpack for carrying field gear, the lab manual, and supplies while on a trip
  - Insect repellent (we will provide “OFF”)
  - Water bottle
  - Field trip snacks
- 
- Phone with camera, or an actual camera
  - Access to the iNaturalist and Discord applications, preferably both on a phone and desktop. (We use Discord for fast communication and ease of posting articles, documents, photos, etc. The Discord link is found on CANVAS.)
  - Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Visit <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk> if you need this software.
  - University of North Texas (UNT) Email and CANVAS
  - UNT provided OneDrive (can be accessed via EagleConnect in the top left corner; see TA demonstration). Groups may opt to use GoogleDocs instead of OneDrive if they agree.
  - An eagerness, willingness, and desire to learn field methods, report writing, and group participation that is needed for essentially any ecology-related career.





Found on page 4. e. How will my grade be calculated – please note changes.  
These points will be used and differ from the manual.

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
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			1,005
Final grade = your earned points / 1,005 *100 = score out of a 100 will be rounded up	A >90 B = 80 - 89	C = 70 - 79	D = 60 - 69 F < 60




KEY SEMESTER DATES	Full Semester Jan. 12-May 8
Schedule of Classes Available on myUNT	Sept. 22
Registration Opens For specifics by student group/class: <a href="https://registrar.unt.edu/when-can-i-register">https://registrar.unt.edu/when-can-i-register</a>	Oct. 6
Prerequisite Drop Students not meeting course prerequisites will be dropped from their courses.	Dec. 16
Regular Registration Ends	Jan. 8
Late Registration Period—For Students not Registered for the Term	Jan. 9-16
Last Day to Withdrawal from Entire Term on myUNT Courses do not appear on the transcript. After this date see Dean of Students to withdrawal from the entire term.	Jan. 11
Classes Begin	Jan. 12
Last Day to Add a Class or Swap Sections A swap is switching sections of the same course in the same session.	Jan. 16
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.)	Jan. 24
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.)	Jan. 25
Last day to change to pass/no pass grade option (undergrads)	Feb. 20
Midpoint of the Semester	Mar. 6
Last day for a student to drop a course or all courses with a grade of W.	April 10
First day to request a grade of Incomplete	April 11
Pre-Finals Days	April 29-30
Last Regular Class Meeting	April 30
Reading Day—No Classes	May 1
Final Exams	May 4-8
Last Day of Session	May 8
University Grade Submission Deadline 4 pm	May 11
Grades/Academic Standing posted on the Official Transcript 6pm	May 13

Policy Chapter:	Chapter 6 Faculty Affairs
Policy Number and Title:	06.031 Pre-Finals Days, Reading Day, and Final Examinations
<div><div>I. Policy Statement</div><div>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.</div><div>II. Application of Policy</div><div>All Faculty and Students</div><div>III. Policy Definitions</div><div><div>A. Pre-Finals Days</div><div>“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.</div><div>B. Reading Day</div><div>“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.</div></div><div>IV. Policy Responsibilities</div><div><div>A. Reading Day and Pre-Finals Days</div><div><div>1. Requirements</div><div>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.</div><div>2. Exceptions</div><div><div>a. Compressed or irregularly scheduled classes, and classes that meet only once per week are exempted from the requirements in IV.A.1.</div></div></div></div></div>	

Spring Academic Calendar & Key Dates (Includes winter session)

To print a copy for your records, please view [Spring 2026 Academic Calendar PDF](#)

 [registrar.unt.edu](https://registrar.unt.edu) / Dec 8, 2025

Winter Break (no classes; university closed)	December 24-26, December 29-January 2
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Jan. 19, 2026
Spring Break	March 9-15, 2026
University Commencement	May 7-11, 2026



Week of	What we will be doing?	What is due?
1/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-test, Ch. 1 - Intro, syllabus, safety</li> <li>Ch. 2 – Scientific report and presentation guidelines (introduce chapter, look at previous reports, download iNat, create iNat handle, and make your first observation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buy the manual</li> <li>Obtain supplies</li> <li>Pre-test</li> <li>Get ready for the Ecology Lab Great-Horned Owl Challenge!!!</li> </ul>
1/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More on Ch. 2 – <b>Ecology Lab Great-Horned Owl Challenge</b> &amp; take another in-depth look of writing expectations</li> <li>Ch. 3 – Introduction to taxonomy, taxa scavenger hunt</li> <li>Intro to peer-reviewed journal articles (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>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).</b></li> <li>Join UNT SER if you want to</li> </ul>
1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch. 3 – Introduction to taxonomy, taxa scavenger hunt.</li> <li>Go outside and make observations (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Complete journal article discussion FRIDAY 11:59 pm (20 PTS).</b> Answer one of your peers questions and ask two questions.</li> </ul>
2/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief intro to field trip protocols</li> <li>Go outside and make observations (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing due. Keep making iNat observations (Goal: have 20 by this time)</li> </ul>
2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief intro to field trip protocols</li> <li>Go outside and make observations (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure everything above is complete; nothing new due</li> <li>Keep working on TSH iNat observations; begin writing the report</li> </ul>
2/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch. 4 – <b>Ecosystem services and the tree assessment and surveys:</b> Field Trip to Blackjack Trail at LLELA (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Make sure everything above is complete; nothing new due</b></li> <li><b>Keep writing the TSH report</b></li> <li>Goal: have title page, introduction, maps, and materials and methods complete; have all observations almost done.</li> </ul>



Week of	What we will be doing?	What is due?
2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ch. 7 – <b>Avian taxa in prairie habitats with a "modified Christmas bird count" assessment and trophic relationships:</b> Field trip to the UNT Pollinative Prairie. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Taxa Scavenger Hunt due on CANVAS by FRIDAY 11:59 PM (100 PTS)</b></li><li><b>GroupTree field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).</b></li></ul>
3/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ch. 5 – <b>Prairie restoration and percent coverage plant assessment:</b> Field Trip to Barn Owl Ridge at LLELA (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Group Avian field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).</b></li><li><b>Tree and Avian field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS EACH).</b></li></ul>
3/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ch. 6 – <b>Aquatic assessment with benthic macroinvertebrate community structure:</b> Field trip to dam outfall at LLELA rescheduled (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Group Prairie Plant field trip data upload due FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).</b></li><li><b>Prairie Plant field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS).</b></li></ul>
3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Terrestrial invertebrate sweep net assessment:</b> Field Trip to the Pollinative Prairie. (Note: this lab is not in the manual) (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Group Aquatic field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).</b></li><li><b>Aquatic field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS).</b></li></ul>

*A note from previous Ecology Laboratory students: by the end your field trip, you should try to start your introduction and materials and methods*



Week of	What we will be doing?	What is due?
3/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclement weather day - we may go on a field trip if one above was cancelled.</li> <li>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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Group Terrestrial Invertebrate field trip data upload due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (10 PTS).</b></li> <li><b>Terrestrial field journal due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (25 PTS).</b></li> <li><b>Group planning document due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (10 PTS).</b></li> </ul>
4/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group lab meeting in ENV 243; discuss results section. Bring laptop. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Individual Introductions Materials and Methods due by FRIDAY 11:59pm (100 PTS).</b></li> </ul>
4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Group results due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (100 PTS).</b></li> <li>Title page, TOC, results, and references only.</li> </ul>
4/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group lab meeting in ENV 243: discuss results feedback, groups work on generating final report. Work on slideshow. Bring laptop. (20PTS PARTICIPATION)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing due. Work on your final report and presentation with your group.</li> </ul>
4/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>18th Semi-annual Ecology Laboratory Symposium</b></li> <li>post test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Final presentation due by 8am prior to symposium (100 PTS).</b></li> <li><b>Final report is due by FRIDAY 11:59 pm (100 PTS).</b></li> <li><b>Peer-review evaluations(20 PTS) DUE BY FRIDAY 11:59 PM.</b></li> </ul>



# 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

- An absence may be excused for the following reasons:
  - religious holy day, including travel for that purpose;
  - active military service, including travel for that purpose;
  - participation in an official university function;
  - illness or other extenuating circumstances;
  - pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and
  - when the University is officially closed.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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*)



# 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/) (<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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>)





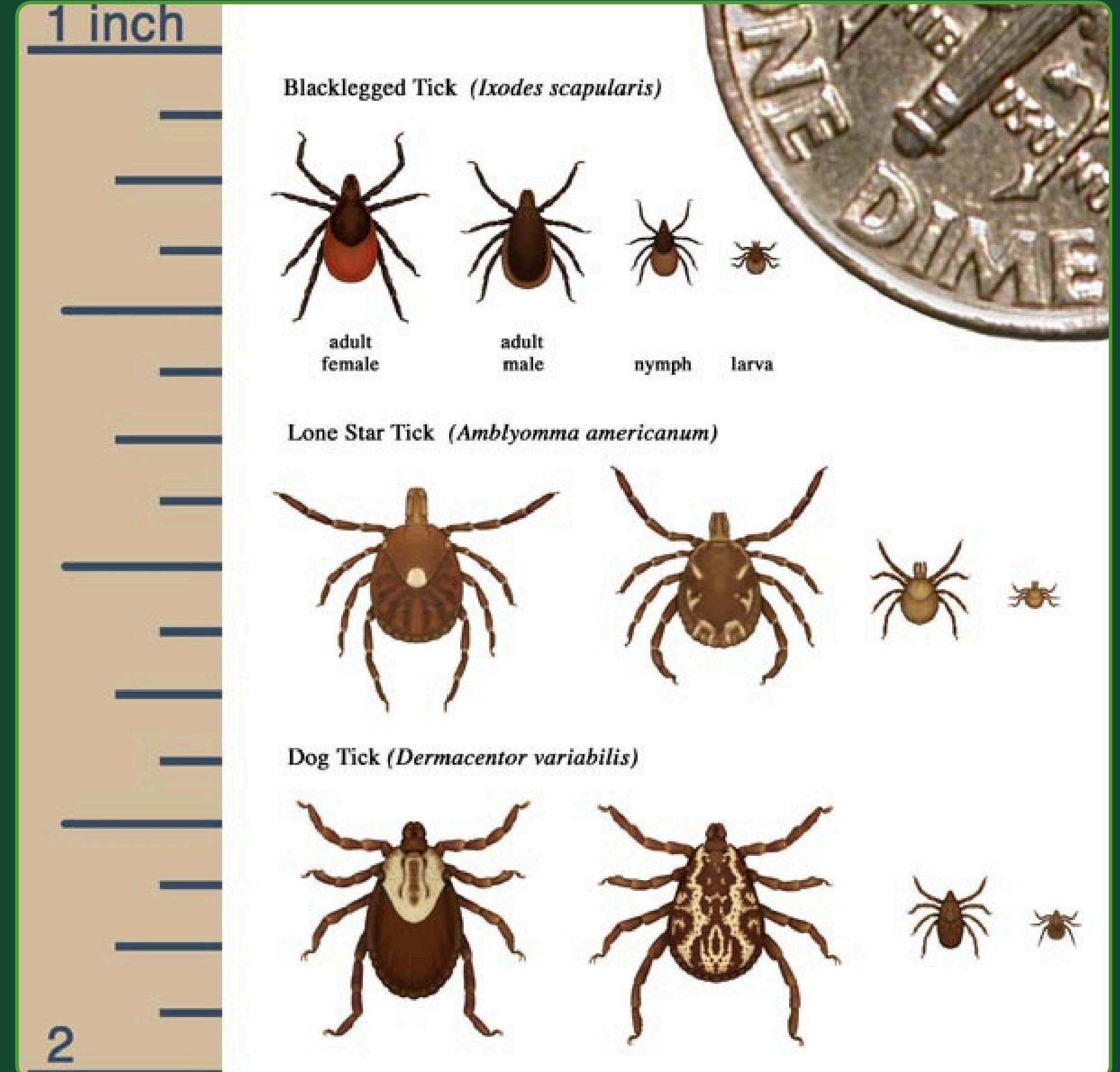
## Lab & Field Hazards

- 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



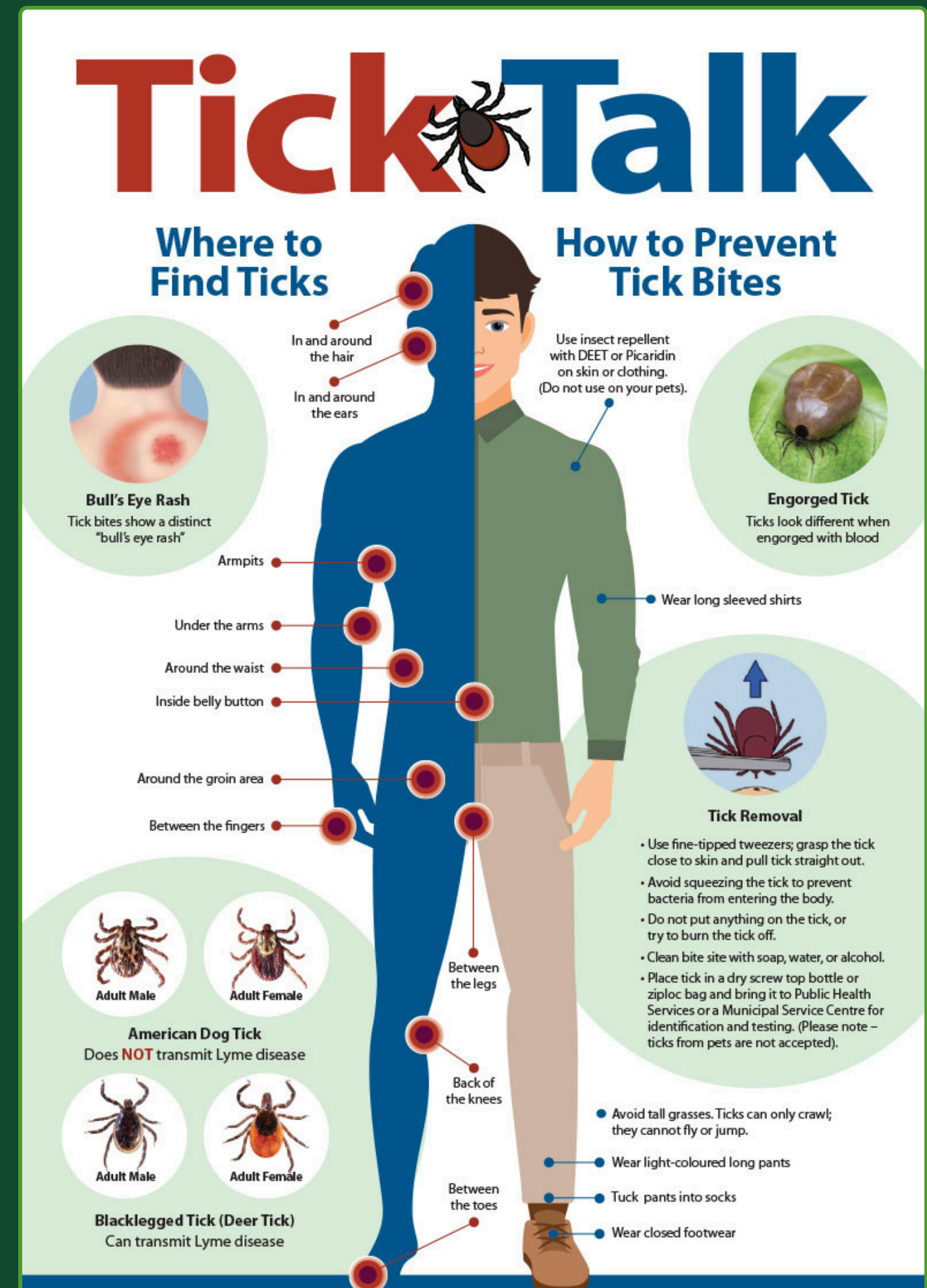
## Outdoor hazards: Ticks

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.

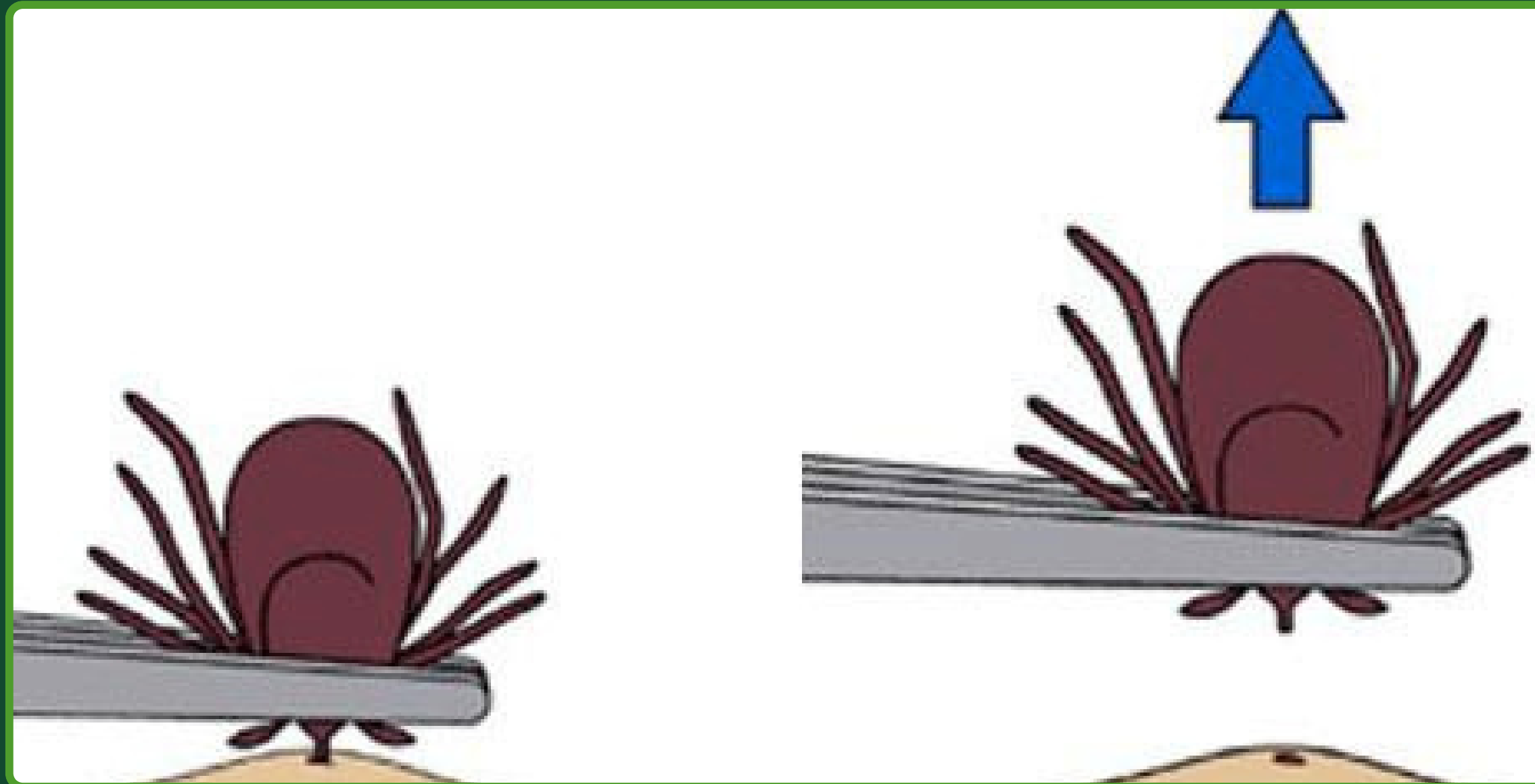
Dispose of a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

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

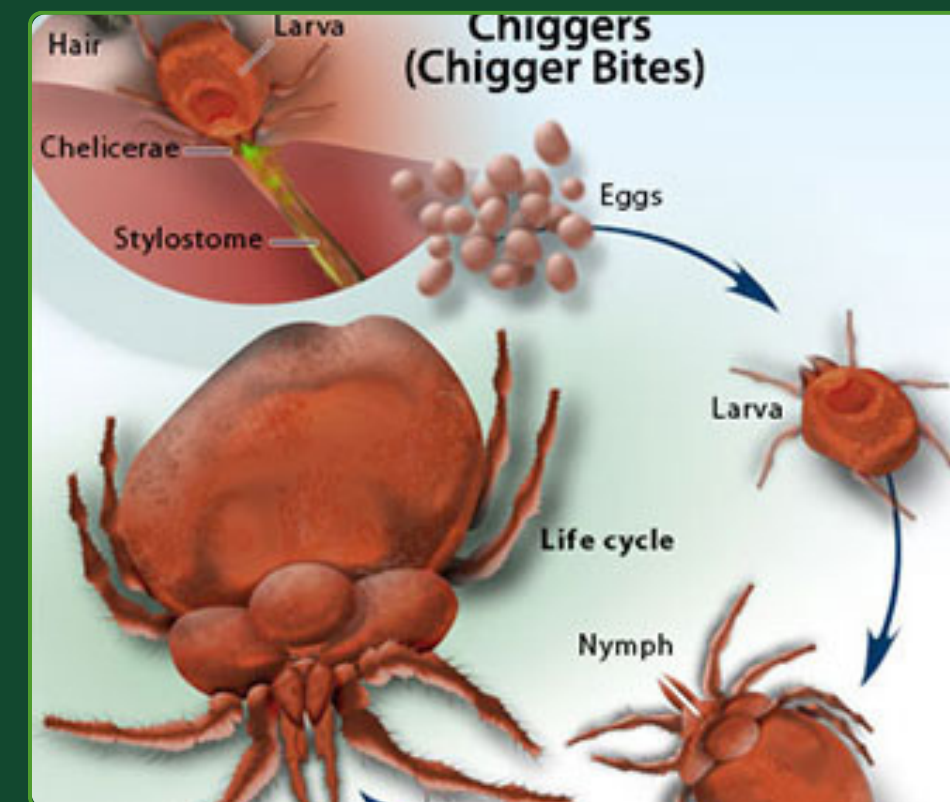


If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor.

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

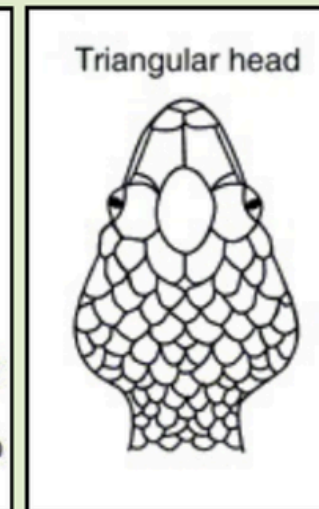
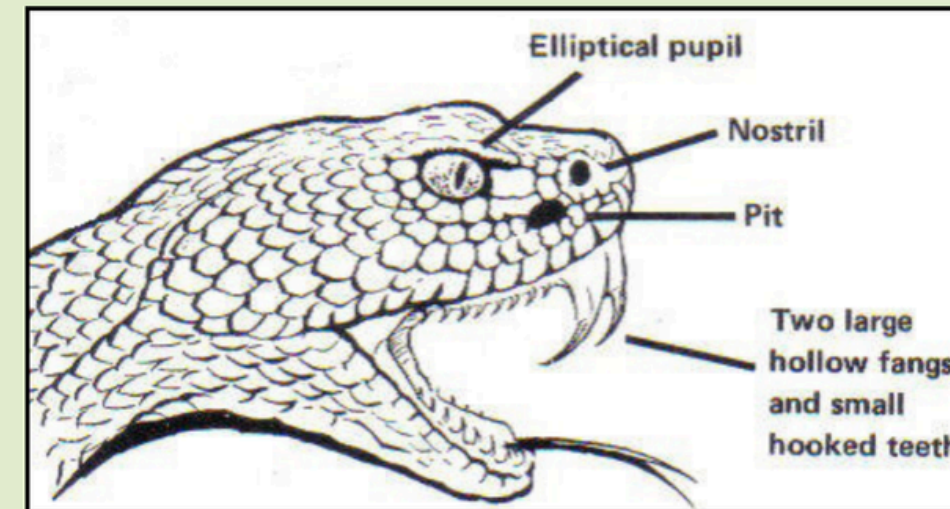
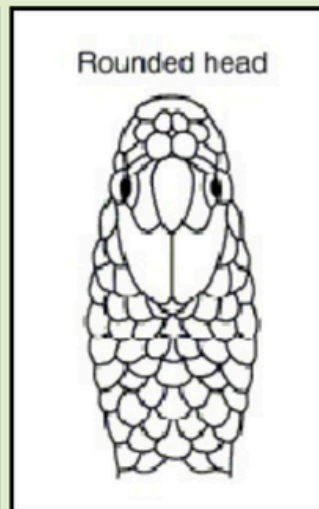
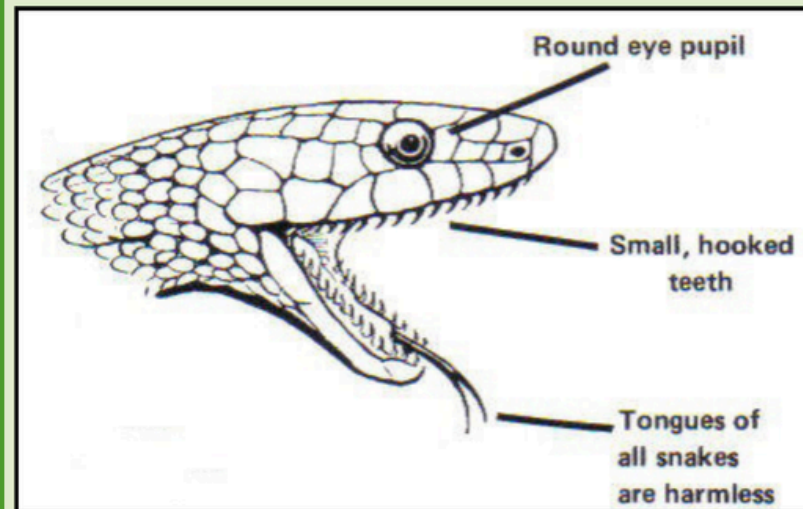




Snakes are great!

## 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 <sup>1</sup>

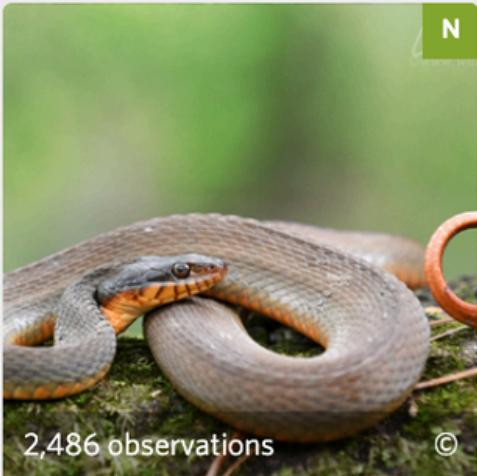
DFW Metroplex

18,508  
OBSERVATIONS

39  
SPECIES

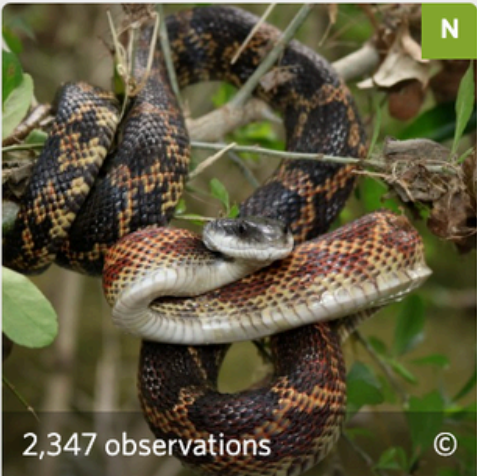
1,841  
IDENTIFIERS

4,621  
OBSERVERS




2,486 observations

*Nerodia erythrogaster*  
(Plain-bellied Watersnake)




2,347 observations

*Pantherophis obsoletus*  
(Western Ratsnake)




2,134 observations

*Haldea striatula*  
(Rough Earthsnake)




1,508 observations

*Opheodrys aestivus*  
(Rough Greensnake)




1,492 observations

*Nerodia rhombifer*  
(Diamondback Watersnake)




1,365 observations

*Agkistrodon laticinctus*  
(Broad-banded Copperhead)




1,242 observations

*Thamnophis proximus*  
(Western Ribbon Snake)




1,140 observations

*Storeria dekayi*  
(DeKay's Brownsnake)



860 observations

*Agkistrodon piscivorus*  
(Northern Cottonmouth)



586 observations

*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)



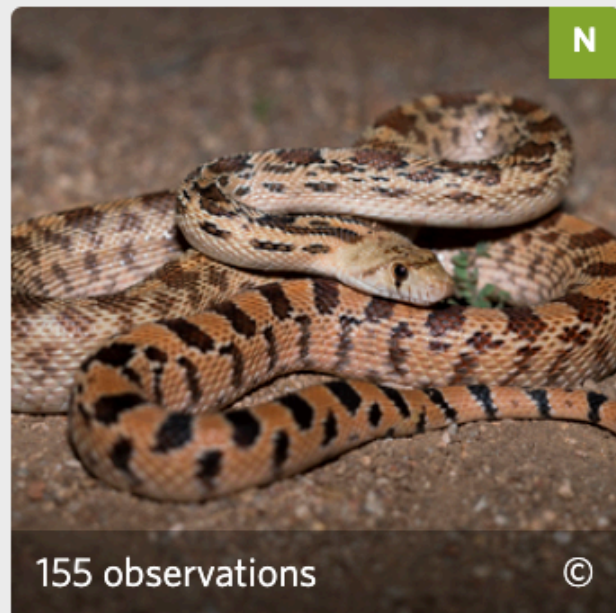
*Pantherophis emoryi*  
(Great Plains Ratsnake)



*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)

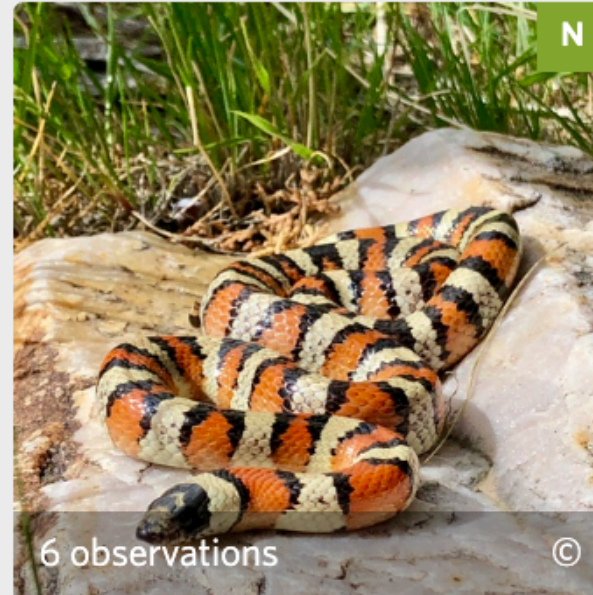




# Snakes in DFW



***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)



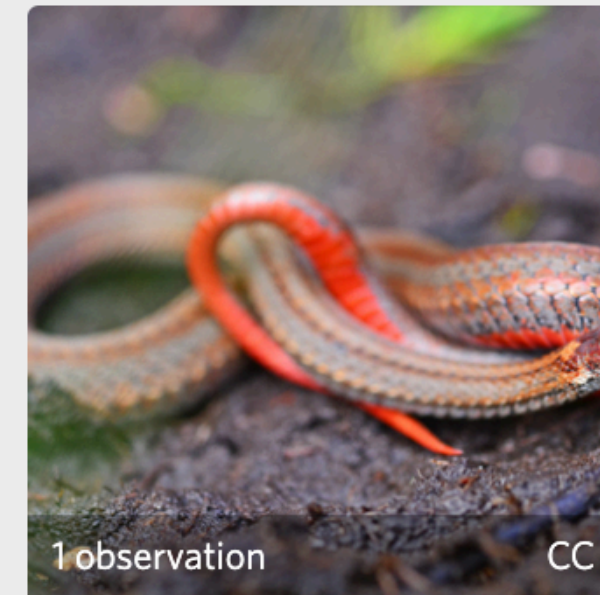
***Arizona elegans***  
(Glossy Snake)



***Farancia abacura***  
(Mudsnake)



***Thamnophis marcianus***  
(Checkered Garter Snake)



***Storeria occipitomaculata***  
(Red-bellied Snake)



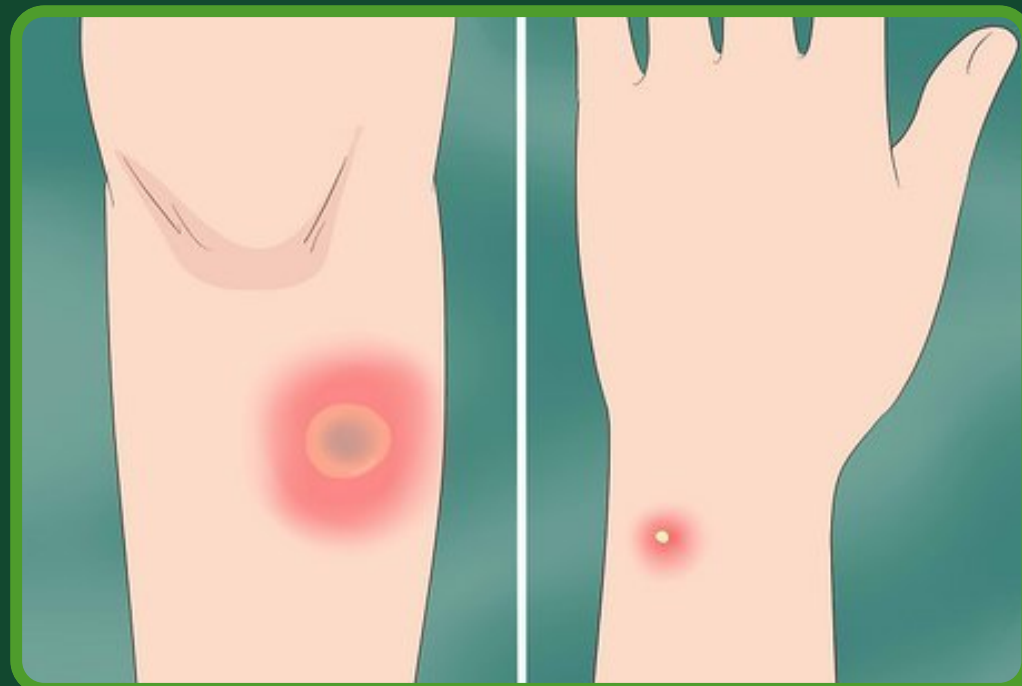
# Spiders are wonderful, but be careful of some



**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



6,540 observations

CC

*Toxicodendron radicans*  
(Eastern Poison Ivy)



181 observations

CC

*Toxicodendron pubescens*  
(Atlantic Poison Oak)



6 observations

CC

*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.







University of North Texas Biodiversity

About

Members 31

How many taxa have you seen at UNT? Did you know that UNT maintains a Bee Campus USA and Tree Campus USA status every year?! We also have a Bird Campus Committee! To help understand UNT biodiversity, this project automatically collects all taxa observations within the University of North Texas, Denton

Read More >

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

Overview


26,799  
OBSERVATIONS

1,966  
SPECIES

2,259  
IDENTIFIERS

923  
OBSERVERS

Stats



University of North Texas Pecan Creek Pollinative P...

About

Members 116

The University of North Texas Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie is a native north central Texas tallgrass prairie reconstruction project located on four acres of the east field at the University of North Texas Discovery Park Campus. The mission of the Pollinative Prairie is to increase native north central Texas flora

Read More >

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

Overview


11,191  
OBSERVATIONS

1,014  
SPECIES

1,145  
IDENTIFIERS

386  
OBSERVERS

Stats



Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)

About

Leave 51

Project to automatically aggregate observations to show the full biodiversity at LLELA in Lewisville, TX.

Read More >

Your Membership

Project Journal

Overview


113,955  
OBSERVATIONS

3,751  
SPECIES

4,931  
IDENTIFIERS

1,350  
OBSERVERS

Stats



UNT Parking Lot Preserve

About

Members 35

The UNT Parking Lot Preserve is managed by the UNT Bird Campus Committee and founded by the UNT Silvey Society. Students plant Texas native plants to provide pollinator and avian habitat on this small parking lot island. A small little space...lots of diversity under the #2 and #3 largest DBH Post Oaks on campus!

Read More >

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

Overview

1,251  
OBSERVATIONS

247  
SPECIES

229  
IDENTIFIERS

216  
OBSERVERS

Stats

[UNT All Biodiversity](#)

[UNT Trees](#)

[UNT Pollinative Prairie](#)

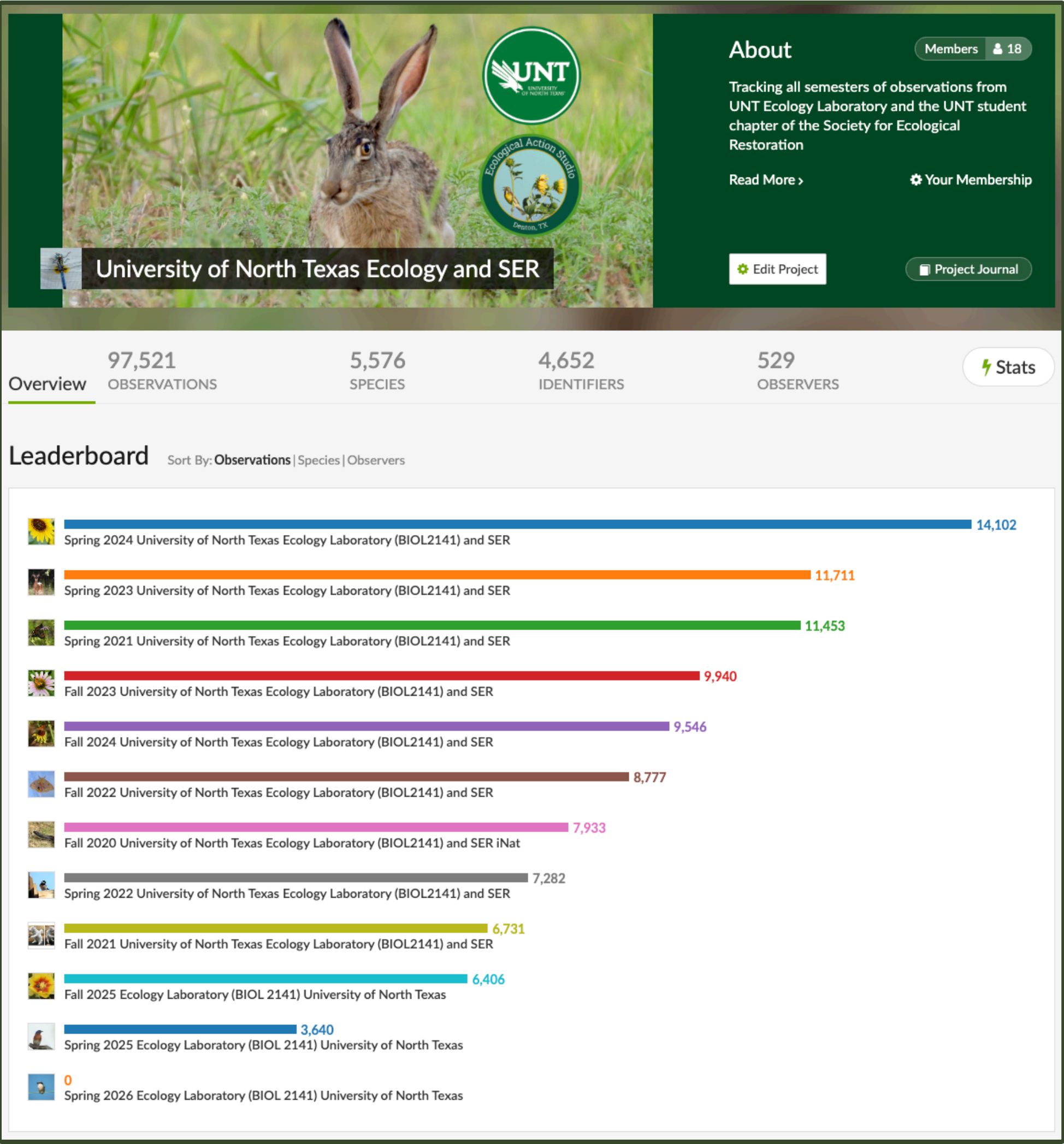
[UNT Birds](#)

[UNT Parking Lot Preserve](#)

[LLELA Biodiversity](#)



[Click here to view all semesters](#)







# Spring 2026 Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 2141) Unive...

Jan 14, 2026 - May 8, 2026

## About

Members 1

University of North Texas Ecology Laboratory  
(BIOL2140) Spring 2026

[Read More >](#)

[⚙️ Your Membership](#)

[⚙️ Edit Project](#)

[📖 Project Journal](#)

## [Click here for the Fall 2025 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 Tap observe**

**2 Add one or more photos as evidence**

**3 Enter what you saw or leave this blank**

**4 When you saw it should be added automatically**

**5 Where you saw it should be added automatically, if not check Privacy in the Settings app**

**6 Save your observation**

**7 Upload to share with the community. This should happen automatically, if not tap the button. You can turn off autoupload from the app settings from the Me tab.**

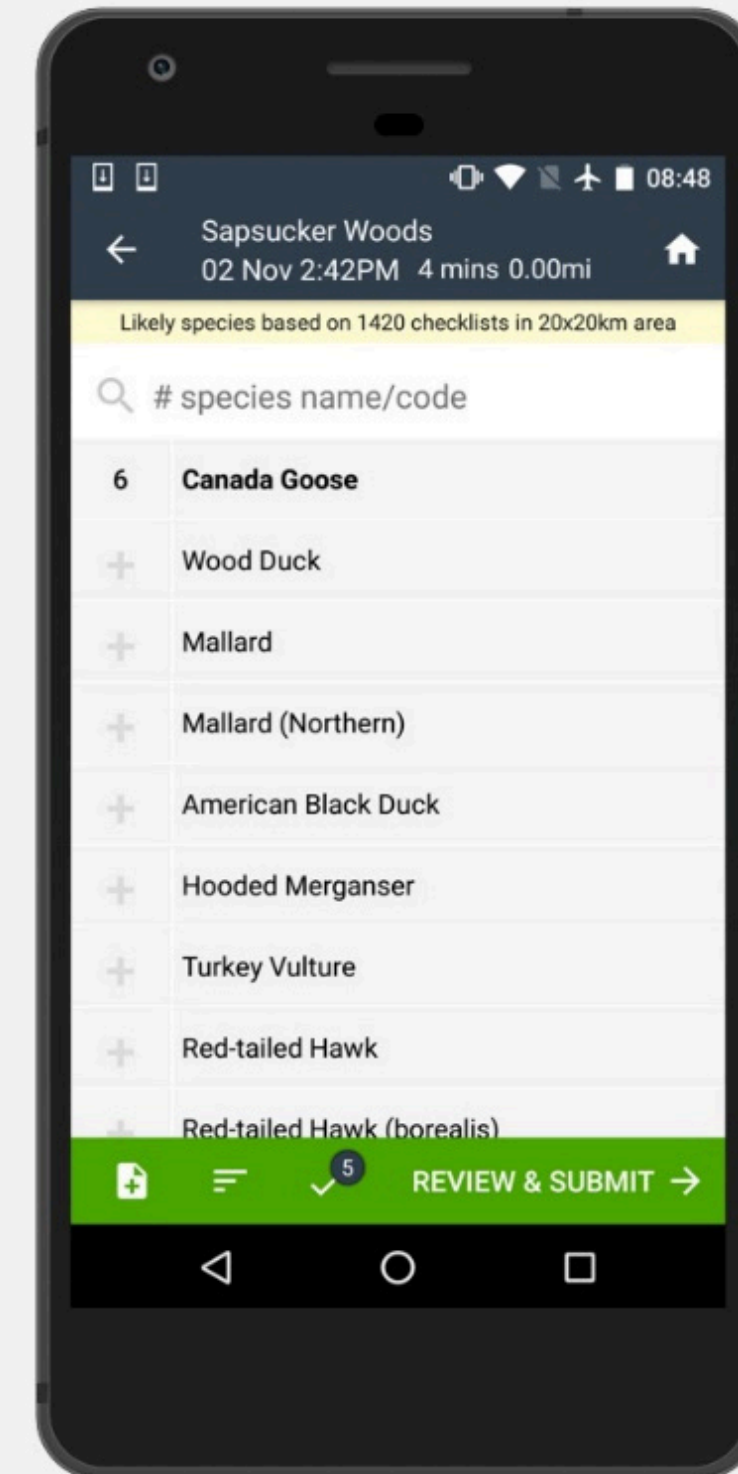
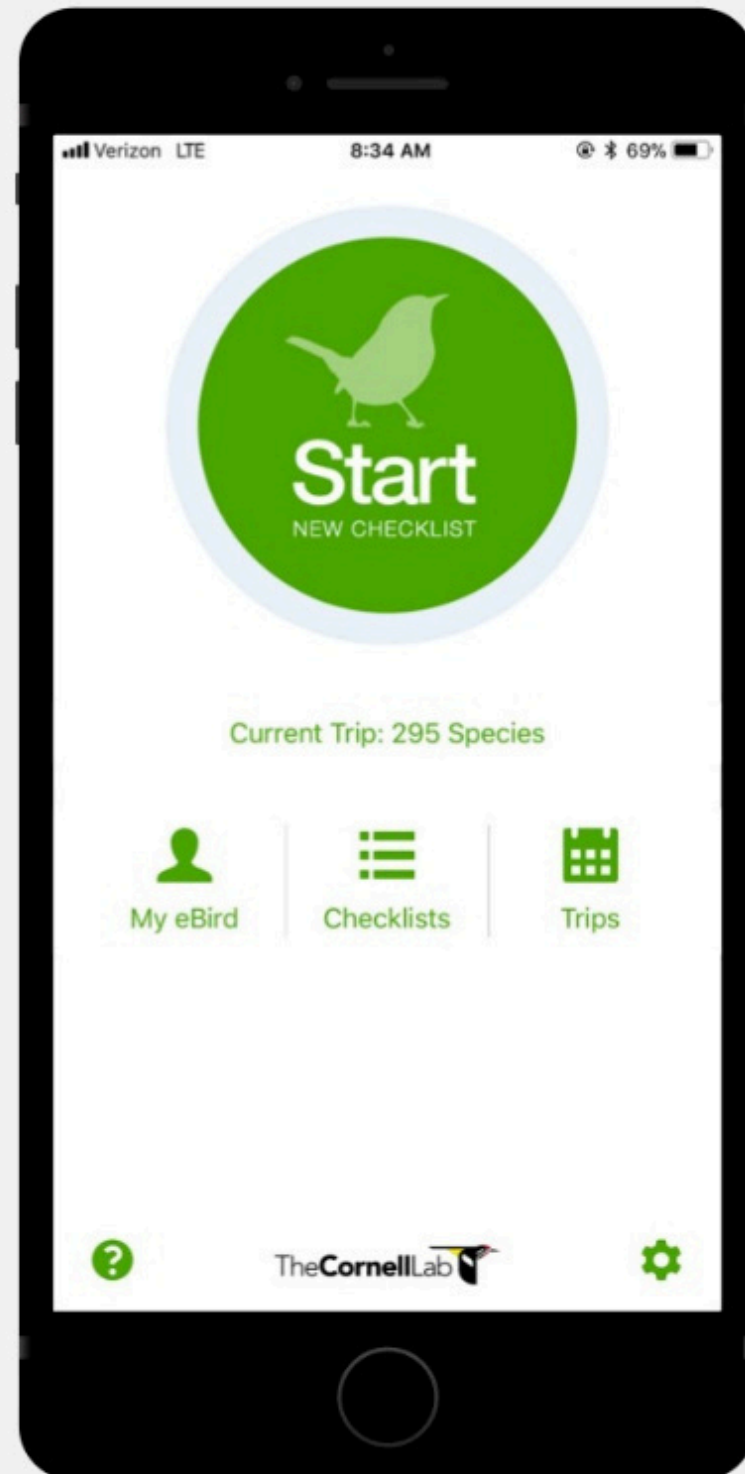
**8 Check back for activity on your observation from the community**

**Callout 1:** Search for your organism or leave it blank and ask the community for help

**Callout 2:** The app should fetch your location automatically and display it on the map. If it doesn't, go to the Settings app and tap Privacy to enable Location Services for iNaturalist


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







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



Cornell Lab

Merlin

CONTACT US

DONATE

English

Home

The Story

Sound ID

Posters and Resources

Help

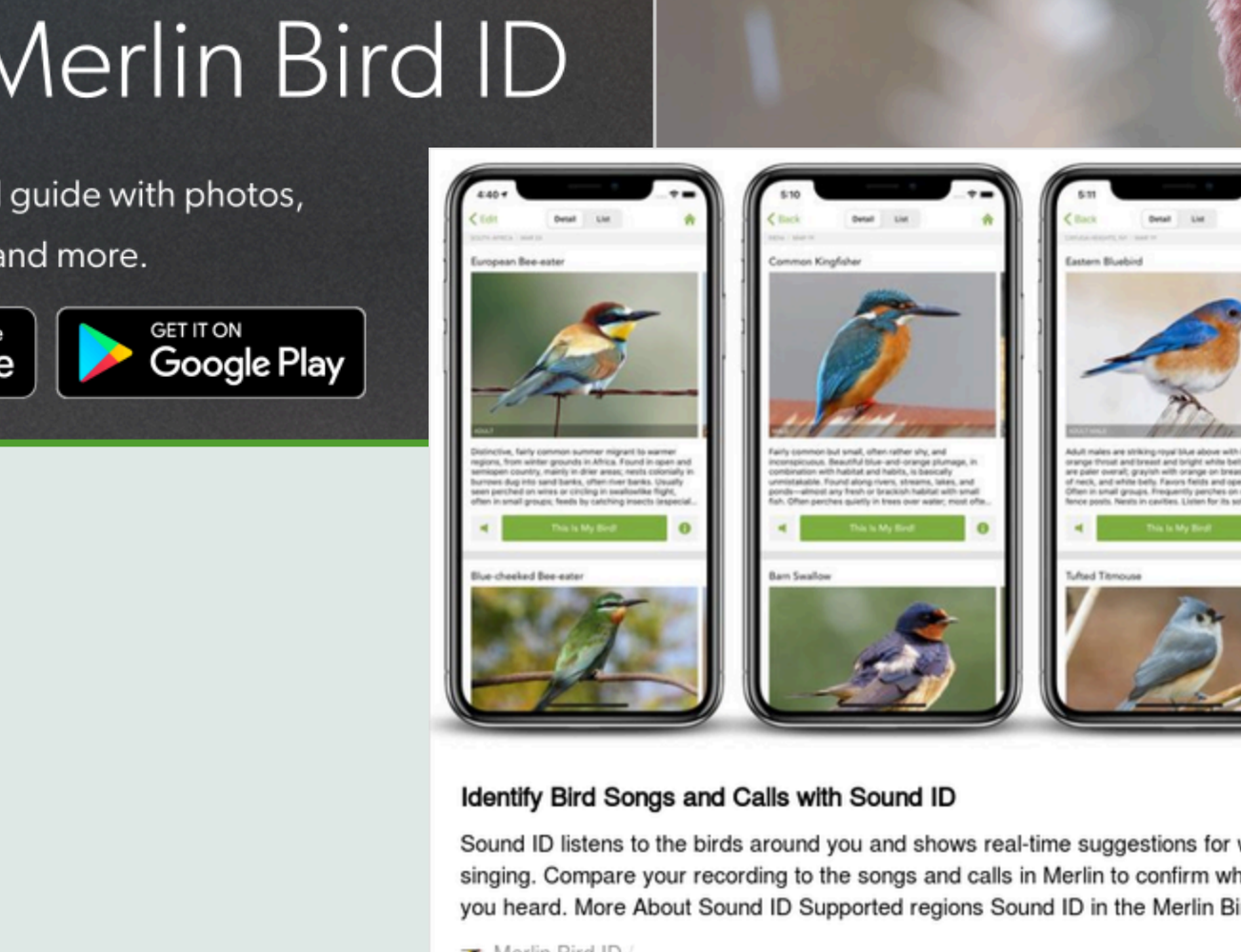
Download

Identify the birds you see or hear with Merlin Bird ID

Free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more.


Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Contact Us


European Bee-eater



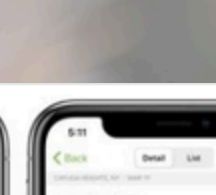
Distinctive, fairly common summer migrant to warmer regions, from winter grounds in Africa. Found in open and semi-open country, mainly in drier areas, nests colonially and burrows deep into sand banks, often near banks. Usually seen perched on wires or circling in swallow-like flight, often in small groups. Feeds by catching insects in flight.

This is My Bird

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater




Common Kingfisher




Early common but small, often rather shy, and inconspicuous. Beautiful blue-and-orange plumage, in combination with habitat and habits, is beautifully unmistakable. Found along rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds—almost any fresh or brackish habitat with small fish. Often perches quietly in trees over water, most often.

This is My Bird

Barn Swallow




Eastern Bluebird



Adult males are striking: royal blue above with bright orange throat and breast and bright white belly. Females are paler overall, grayish with orange on breast and sides of neck, and white belly. Favours fields and open woods. Often in small groups. Frequently perches on wires or fence posts. Noises in garden. Listen for its soft, chirping.

This is My Bird

Tufted Titmouse



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 /

A smartphone screen displaying a bird identification app. The status bar at the top shows the time 10:34, signal strength, SOS, Wi-Fi, and battery levels. The app header shows the date and location: "15 May - Lansing, NY" with a close button. Below a blurred photo of a bird, the text "Best suggestions" is followed by a list of six birds: Red-winged Blackbird (highlighted), Osprey, Yellow Warbler, American Robin, Swamp Sparrow, and Blue Jay. Each bird has a small thumbnail image to its left.




# Join our Spring 2026 Ecology Lab Discord!

## Click here

 Spring 2026 Ecology Laboratory

# introduce-yourself


December 31, 2025

**Baxter-Slye** 9:18 AM  
Hi Everyone! My name is Dr. Jaime Baxter-Slye and I am a Clinical Assistant Professor for Ecology Education for the Department of Biological Sciences here at UNT as a well as: UNT Advanced Environmental Research Institute (AERI) Scholar, Advisor to the UNT Student Chapter of the Society of Ecological Restoration, Bird Campus Committee, Pollinative Prairie Committee, Mean Green Tree Team and help Bee Campus. Whew. I have three missions everyday, 1) save as many Texas native plants and animals and land as possible, 2) grow UNT Ecology majors into successful candidates for amazing jobs or grad school, and 3) grow a happy family. My linktree is <https://linktr.ee/baxterslye> that has a ton of info for you to find opportunities. My email is [slye@unt.edu](mailto:slye@unt.edu). And my door is always open at ENV 332. You can use this link to book a meeting <https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/user/e6af5fdc9d114df0b6223ea5d57196b7@unt.edu?anonymous&ep=plink> Looking forward to a great semester!



Linktree

[baxterslye | Instagram | Linktree](#)

Clinical Professor Ecology Education & Ecological Action Studio

  
**@baxterslye**  
\*/baxterslye

Information ▾ +

# introduce-yourself  

# syllabus-and-schedule

# links-to-inat-field-trip-projects

# taxonomy-and-id-help

# homework-help

# field-trip-pictures

Text Channels ▾ +

# events-you-may-be-interested-in

# general-chat-for-all-sections

# off-topic

# 501-tree

# 501-bird

# 501-prairie-plants

# 501-aquatic

# 501-terrestrial-inverts

# 502-tree

# 502-bird

# 502-prairie-plants

# 502-aquatic

# 502-terrestrial-inverts

# 503-tree

# 503-birds

# 503-prairie-plants

# 503-aquatic

# 503-terrestrial-invertebrates

# 501-only-bens-section

# 502-only-madisons-section

# 503-only-baxterslyes-section