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<https://txmn.org/rollingplains/>

Find us on Facebook too!

Rolling Plains Chapter

Field Notes

News, Notes and Events

June 2026

From The President

May has been a busy month, and June is shaping up to be that way as well. I hope you will find something you enjoy to get involved with.

It seems a little early to start thinking about, but it's never too early to start planning. 2027 will be our chapter's 25th anniversary. I know that to Laura Gillis and I (the two remaining charter members) it doesn't seem it could be that long, but the calendar is brutally honest. It would seem some kind of special event is in order. If you have ideas, speak up.

This month's meeting AT is about bats. See you next week. – Penny

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 • 7:00 PM

MSUTexas: Bolin Science Hall, Room 221

Program: Michael Lopez: Bats

A Zoom meeting link will be emailed before the meeting.

Request a link at rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com

Annual Mark Howell Memorial Fishing Rodeo

Saturday, June 06, 2026 • Lake Arrowhead State Park

Lake Arrowhead State Park and the RPTMN invite you to join us for the Annual Mark Howell Memorial Fishing Rodeo, Kid Fish and Adult Rough Fish contest and our "Boots On The Plains June Adventure."

Information for the contests are below.

Kid Fish - 10AM to 12PM

- Tackle/bait furnished while supplies last
- Adults can assist kids, but they may not reel in the fish
- Prizes will be awarded in age groups (3-6, 7-12, and 13-16)

Adult Rough Fish - 9AM to 3PM

- \$2.00 registration fee (register at admin building)
- Must register prior to fishing
- 17 years of age and up
- Prizes will be awarded at 3PM
- Fish must be caught within park boundaries

No fishing license is required when you fish from the shore in any Texas State Park. Fishing supplies such as poles and tackle will be available while supplies last.

Boots on the Plains!

June Monthly Adventure

Join us for a "fishy" adventure at Lake Arrowhead State Park!

**Saturday, June 6, 2026
from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (CT)**
Meet at the Equestrian parking area by Dragonfly Trail.

After the Kid Fishing Rodeo, join us for fun and prizes as you learn about native freshwater fish, try your hand at knot tying, or just enjoy a fun stroll along the lake.

In The Field



TMN President, Penny Miller had a good crowd at her recent program about Native Bees at Smith's Gardentown.



The Wichita Wingmen (above): Penny Miller, Judy Snyder, Sue King, Warren King and Larry Snyder

The Chapter had two teams participating in the 2026 Great Texas Birding Classic.



*The Lost Caws (right). Lynn Seman, Sandy Underwood, Laura Gillis and L Clepper
Not pictured is Leslie Cusick-Fernandes*

City Nature Challenge Results

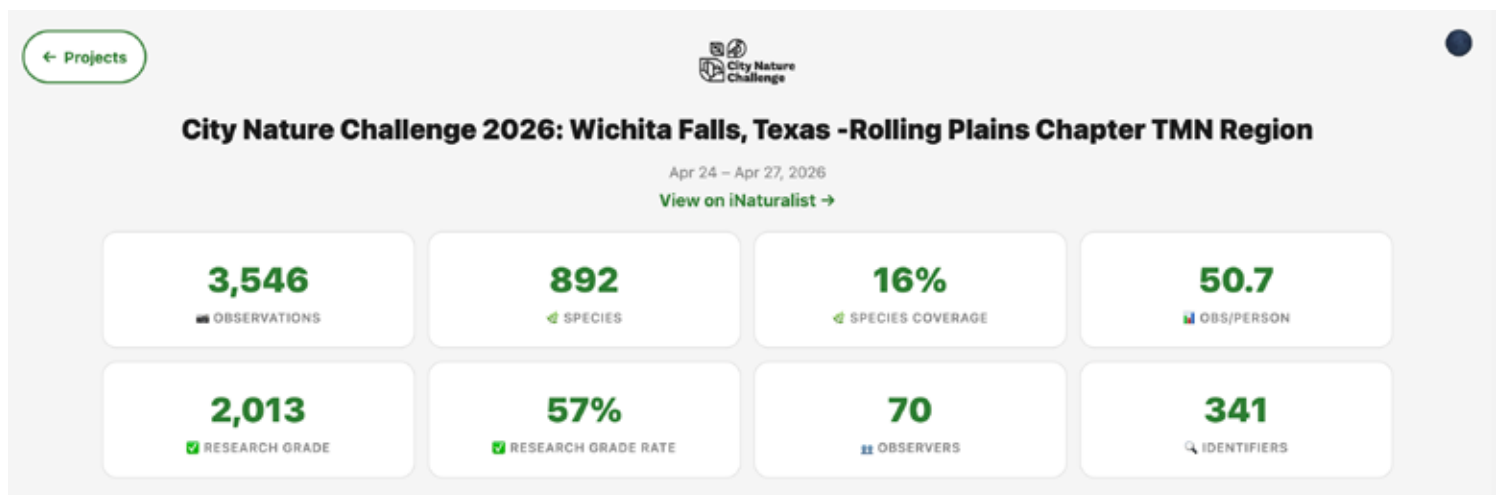
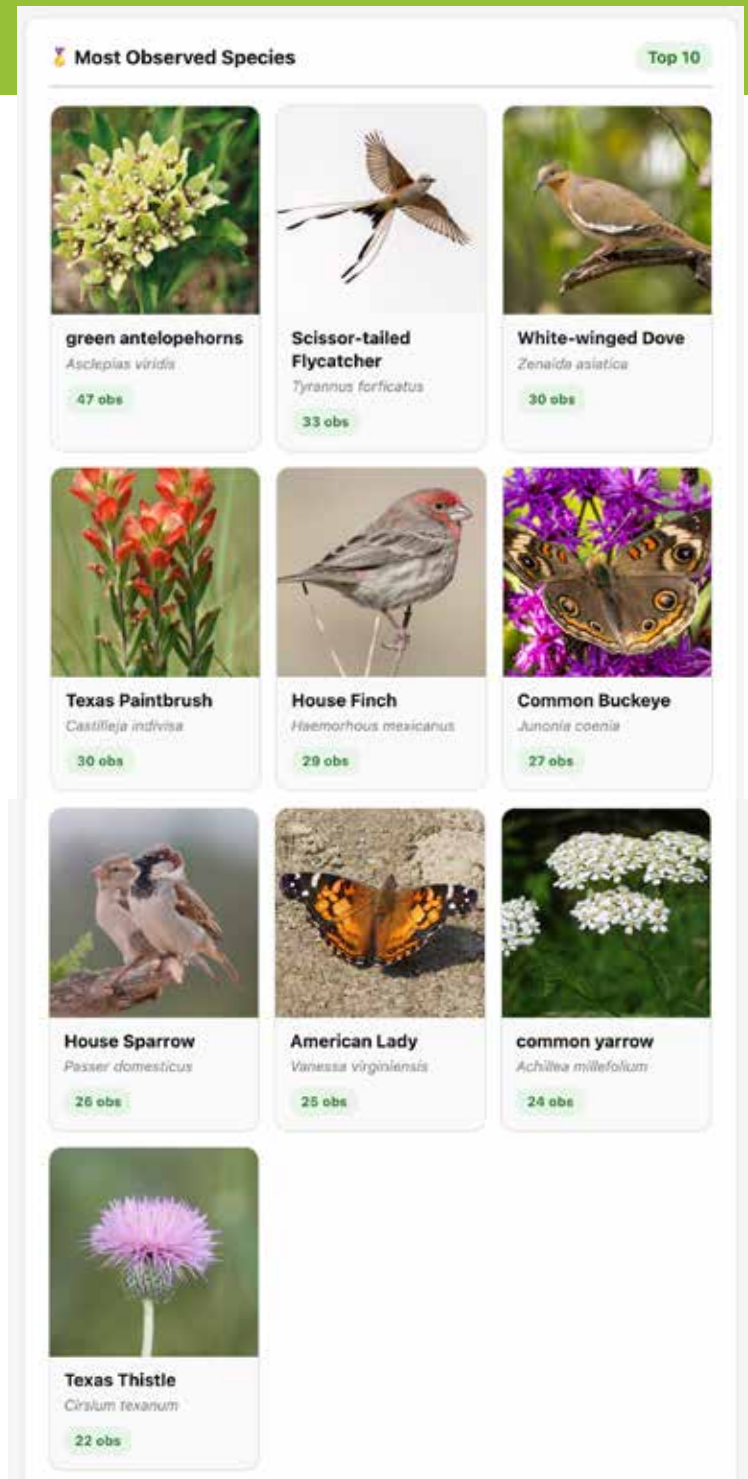
That's a wrap on City Nature Challenge 2026!
Your efforts to document local biodiversity have yielded incredibly impressive results!

City Nature Challenge 2026 Global Results!

Total # of species documented: 76,422+
Total # of observers: 106,354
Total # of identifiers: 27,641+
Total # of observations: 3,001,825
Rare, Endangered, or Threatened species: 5688+
Most Observed Plant: Common Dandelion,
Taraxacum officinale
Most Observed Animal: Mallard, *Ana platyrhynchos*
Number of participating countries: 61
Number of participating cities: 754
Percentage of research grade observations: 40%

This marks five years in a row that we've recorded more than fifty thousand species in just four days, and two years in a row with more than a hundred thousand observers! This year, participants collectively documented more than 5,688 rare, endangered, or threatened species, over 2,000 more than last year, highlighting the growing impact of community science in supporting biodiversity research and conservation efforts. Additionally, this year we saw more cities participating than ever before, and we look forward to welcoming new cities next year. For more information on joining the City Nature Challenge and our plans for 2027, visit our website.

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City Nature Challenge Results *(continued from page 3)*

Top Identifiers	Top 10
 dhalter	643 IDs
 aguilita	567 IDs
 sandyleau	402 IDs
 rise man	260 IDs
 squaylei2000	79 IDs
 srconner	46 IDs
 roomthily	37 IDs
 jbryant_68	33 IDs
 liltex775	26 IDs
 zerulean	21 IDs

First Observations	5 species	Updated May 28, 4:50 AM
Research Grade (5)		
 Winecup Pyrota <i>Pyrota discoidea</i> 439 global · 1 local	 Brook Silverside <i>Labidesthes sicculus</i> 1214 global · 1 local	 Smooth Arizona cypress <i>Hesperocyparis glabra</i> 1837 global · 1 local
 Sumitrosis inaequalis 2216 global · 1 local	 Six-spotted Orbweaver <i>Aranella displicata</i> 13240 global · 1 local	

*Thank you to everyone who participated in the
2026 City Nature Challenge!*

On The Bookshelf *(Available on Amazon.com)*

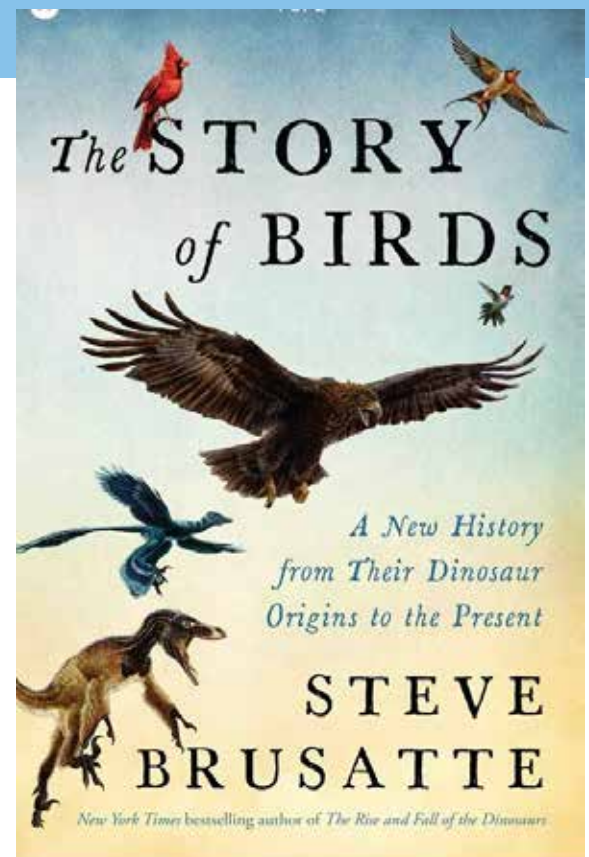
The Story of Birds: A New History From Their Dinosaur Origins to the Present

by Steve Brusatte

From the renowned paleontologist and bestselling author of *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs*, a sweeping evolutionary history of birds, from their dinosaur origins to the 10,000+ extraordinary species alive today.

Hailed as “one of the stars of modern paleontology” (National Geographic), Steve Brusatte now tells the extraordinary story of the dinosaurs' living legacy: birds. He begins by exploring how dinosaurs gradually developed the trademark features of birds one-by-one—feathers, wings, beaks, big brains, keen senses, and warm-blooded metabolisms. He investigates why birds were the only dinosaurs to survive the cataclysmic asteroid impact 66 million years ago and chronicles how these survivors rapidly proliferated to produce the diversity of avian species we know today.

A fascinating scientific history that unearths the origins of birds, *The Story of Birds* establishes the living legacy of this remarkable species.



Sixth Annual Range-Wide Horned Lizard BioBlitz

Join the Horned Lizard Conservation Society for our sixth annual range-wide horned lizard BioBlitz! The BioBlitz provides state wildlife agencies vital information on horned lizard habitat, range, and distribution, which will help wildlife managers protect our horned lizard populations into the future. This year, the observation period will be from June 20 through June 28. Document all horned lizards you see on the iNaturalist platform (see [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)) during this period and provide as much information about habitat as you can. In addition to contributing to science, we hope you will have fun! The state/region with the most recorded horned lizard observations wins bragging rights, and each recorded observation will earn you a chance to win some HLCS swag.

As a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of horned lizards, we want to ensure observations are made safely and ethically. By participating in this event, you will agree to the HLCS rules below:

1. Take only photos of horned lizards (do not handle, move, pose, or cause any harm to the horned lizards)
2. Wear appropriate outdoor activity protection for your area (including appropriate footwear, snake boots or guards where needed, insect repellent and sunscreen, etc.)



3. Always be aware of your surroundings to make this BioBlitz a fun and safe activity for the lizards, as well as the people involved.
4. Do not trespass on private land without express permission from the landowners. Stay on designated trails and tread lightly to prevent damage to habitat.
5. As a reminder, please leave wildlife wild. HLCS condemns taking horned lizards from their habitat. Horned lizards are intricately tied to their ecosystems and do not survive well in captivity. Be aware that many horned lizard species are state-protected by law, and individuals who violate these laws will face prosecution.

If you have an iNaturalist account, join our project at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2026-horned-lizard-bioblitz>

For more information, contact Lynn Seman.



June Events

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Events and opportunities are subject to change at any time.

Watch your email for the latest changes and updates.

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| 6/1 | TBD | Graham Public Library The Chapter will have a table set up at the Graham Public Library with a fossil activity for the kids and fossil samples to show. Carpool information available. Please contact Lynn for more information. rlynnseman@gmail.com |
| 6/2 | 7:00 pm | June Chapter Meeting: Program: Mike Lopez on Bats. MSU, in Bolin Science Hall, room 221. Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link. |
| 6/3&4 | TBD | Region 9 Teachers Conference: Help man the Chapter booth at the Region 9 Teachers Conference. Contact Lynn for a time slot. rlynnseman@gmail.com |
| 6/6 | 8:00 am | Pollinator Garden Maintenance at The Forum: The local Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) has invited us to participate in a pollinator garden project at the Forum. |
| 6/6 | 9:00 am | Mark Howell Fishing Rodeo: Lake Arrowhead State Park Assist park rangers and Inland Fisheries personnel. Volunteers will register participants and wrangle bait to those fishing. Activities will be at the Admin Building by the fishing pier. Kid Fish 10 am - 12 pm, Adult Rough Fish 9 am - 3 pm. You do not need to stay all day. |
| 6/6 | 2:00 pm | Monthly Adventure: Lake Arrowhead State Park. Park fees apply Meet at the Equestrian parking area by Dragonfly Trail at 2:00pm. |
| 6/7 | TBD | Cool Season Grasses at Thomsen Foundation: The Ft Worth Chapter NPAT will be hosting a follow-up field trip to Thomsen Foundation to explore grasses. More information to follow. |
| 6/9 | 12:00 PM | TMNTuesday: This month's topic is: <i>Groundwater in Texas: Aquifers, Policy, and Management</i> . Speaker: Adam Foster, Executive Director, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts. This is the only webinar that you can count watching the recording. |
| 6/12 | 9:00 am | Texas Stream Team Water Testing: Meet at the boat ramp at Lake Wichita off of Kemp Blvd (near across from the State Hospital). Then move to Lucy Park, just inside the park near River Bend Nature Center. Contact Carl Brown for more information. |
| 6/13 | 8:00 am | Bird Outing: Lake Arrowhead State Park. This outing happens on the 2nd Saturday of each month. You must pay Park entry fees. |
| 6/16 | 6:30 pm | How the Texas Litter Database Supports Conservation Action This webinar will introduce how litter data collected across Texas - on shorelines, in parks, and along waterways - can be used to identify trends, inform resource management, and support protection of outdoor recreation areas. Approved Webinar. |

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June Events

Continued

Events: Continued from page 6

- 6/18 12:00 pm **Welcome Back Birds: Support Birds All Summer Long** (part 3 of 3)
Approved webinar. Chat with Cornell Lab experts about some of their favorite summertime birding, like enjoying the dawn chorus, and 5 cool birds to make sure you look and listen for all summer. We'll also share some tips you can use to increase the diversity of birds visiting your yard and how to keep them safe.
- 6/19 9:00 am **Water Testing at Lake Gordon, Iowa Park:** Join Penny Miller at Lake Gordon for water testing. Meet at the parking lot just off of the access road near Taco Bell. Held on 3rd Friday of each month.
- 6/20 9:00 am **Trash Cleanup Along Circle Trail:** New project. Adopt-a-Trail trash clean up along the Circle Trail between Hamilton Blvd and Jacksboro Hwy. Meet at Hamilton Park by the restrooms. Trash bags and grabbers will be provided.
- 6/22 thru 6/28 **Texas Pollinator Week:** An annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership. For more information www.Pollinator.org
- 6/29 5:30 pm **Board of Director's Meeting:** Meet at Wilson Office Supply, 8th and Lamar. All members are welcome to attend.
- 7/1 5:00 pm **Newsletter deadline.**
Please send any photos or stories to Laura! gillis.laura5319@gmail.com
- 7/7 7:00 pm **July Chapter Meeting:** Program: TBA
MSU, in Bolin Science Hall, room 221. Contact rollingplainschaptertmn@gmail.com for a Zoom link.



Photos by Sandy Underwood

