



We are a group of trained volunteers who share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education

Herpetology Program and Seabourne Walk

by Lynn Trenta, CPCTMN Courier Editor

Chris Valdez and Monty Criswell gave an informative talk about herpetology to 34 of our chapter members at the CPCTMN Program April 7th. Snakes, frogs, toads, turtles and lizards were discussed.

After the talk, many members of the chapter followed Chris and Monty over to Seabourne Creek Nature Park for a herpetology walk. Flashlights came out and the search began for the amphibians, snakes, and lizards that inhabit the park. Below are photos taken by chapter member Jamie Fairchild.

The following are what was sighted: Green tree frog, Gulf Coast toad, Eastern narrow mouth toad, cricket frog, Southern leopard frog, bullfrog, Gulf Coast ribbon snake x 3, Texas brown snake, diamondback water snake, rough earth snake, Little brown skink, and green anole.

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Chapter events and nature-related articles, photos, and items of interest to the chapter need to be sent to [Lynn](#) by the 15th of the month. Suggestions for the newsletter are also welcome. Thanks.

Lynn Trenta, Courier Editor



Ribbon snake

Eastern narrow mouth toad

Cricket frog

Leopard frog

Herpetology Program and Seabourne Walk (continued)

*Monty and Chris stated at the program that not all lizards had legs. The week following their talk, Chris found a slender glass lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuates*) seen below, a legless lizard that looks like a snake. The lizard was photographed at Katy Prairie Conservancy—Warren Ranch location.*



Record Your Reptile & Amphibian Sightings for Conservation

By [Lisa Feldkamp](#)

To badly misquote Kermit the Frog, it's not easy being an amphibian--Or a reptile. But your observations can help!

For many of us with natural history inclinations, spotting reptiles brings up memories of childhood: watching a bright flash of a lizard on the side of a building, catching a glimpse of a toad as it hops through your yard, or jumping a bit at the surprise of a snake.

There is an app called HerpMapper. When you see a reptile or amphibian (anywhere in the world!) take a picture or record a sound file and share it directly through [HerpMapper's mobile app](#) or, if you're not using a smart phone, upload it when you get home and [share it online](#).

For more info go to: <http://blog.nature.org/science/2016/03/22/record-your-reptile-amphibian-sightings-for-conservation/>

Chapter Members Reach 500 Hour Milestone!

Two of our most active members have reached their 500-hour milestone! Both of these very deserving members play vital roles in our chapter.

Michelle Sullivan (Class of 2014), is our Volunteer Service Projects Director and organizer of our Weekend Walks at Seabourne Creek Nature Park. She is involved in many outreach projects including City of Rosenberg Fishtastics, the Holy Rosary School’s Texas Cultural Heritage Day, Earth Day, butterfly outreach events, and other educational outreach.. She also has been instrumental in managing the Volunteer Management System, which records and tabulates our hours.



Susan Walther (Class of 2011) puts out the Chapter Bulletin and serves on our Communications Committee. The Bulletin lets members know about upcoming activities and events and is a lifeline for our chapter as it lets everyone know where they can go to get their AT and VSP Hours.



Thanks for all of your hard work, ladies!

Light Pollution Solution

Recently, Diane Russell’s husband installed a light that is located on their garage. It is dark sky compliant and it illustrates the lighting that can help reduce the light pollution that is so prevalent in our country and our city.

Here is the photo Diane sent me of their new light and also a photo from the web that shows how the light shines down and not up into the night sky.

This is a simple and inexpensive procedure that we can all do.



Red Admiral Butterflies – The Rest of the Story

By Diane Eismont

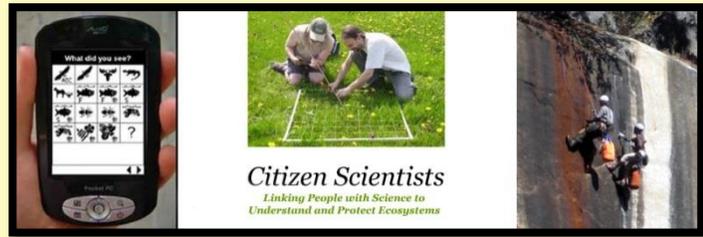
Wondering why Red Admirals came to this particular tree, I looked at it closely & saw numerous lines of horizontal holes in the bark. Standing there, wondering further what drilled them, to my amazement, a woodpecker type bird flew to the tree & started drilling.

It turned out to be - you guessed it - a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker! Red Admirals are one of the butterflies that drink tree sap, as do titmice, nuthatches, hummingbirds & bees.



Research Articles Involving Citizen Scientists: An Analysis

By Ria Follet and Vladimir Strezov



Lan Shen of the Gulf Coast Master Naturalists sent this interesting report about citizen scientists. This report reviewed articles that incorporated information collected by citizen scientists or reporting on studies that involved volunteer work by citizen scientists.

In total, 1127 unique articles were reviewed, from these 239 were excluded for not being directly related to citizen science. Follet and Strezov reported that the first citizen science article was published in 1997. In the years following, few articles were published until 2007 during which 6 papers were presented at the Ecological Society of America Meeting. After this, the number of peer-reviewed citizen science articles increased substantially.

The most widely published topic where citizen science contributed to the project was biology, with 72% of articles falling into this category. Biology-related citizen science articles also experienced a rapid growth in the number of publications, at a faster rate than all other scientific fields. The most common objectives among the biology-related articles were to assess the diversity and distribution of species, in particular birds.

The findings of Follet and Strezov's study are supported by the results of a recent meta-analysis published in PLOS ONE, which identified biology, conservation and ecology as the primary fields utilizing citizen science. The study also reported the highest scientific output is generated in the fields of ornithology, astronomy, meteorology and microbiology.

A caveat of publishing research generated in part from citizen scientists is that many of these volunteers received no formal training, bringing the quality and reliability of the data into question. However, these issues can be addressed. Researchers can design standardized monitoring protocols to identify unreliable data, or prevent the collection of poor quality data, by using tools such as data entry forms with automated error checking capabilities. In their study, Follet and Strezov found that an increasing number of publications were centered on addressing the methodologies and validation techniques researchers can use to detect errors in data and reduce the occurrence of these errors and eliminate bias.

Overall, the study's data show the number of citizen science publications are increasing. But,) reviewing the contributions of citizen science projects, only 12% of bio-diversity related citizen science projects contributed data that resulted in peer-reviewed scientific articles. So as it seems, there is still room to increase the acceptance of citizen science.

Research Articles Involving Citizen Scientists: An Analysis (continued)

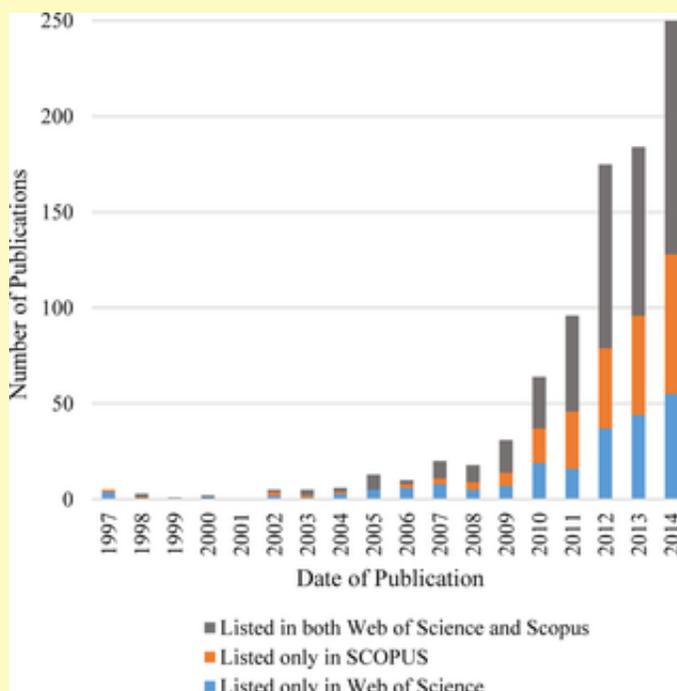
What does the future hold for citizen science?

The growing role of citizen scientists in research is now being recognized around the globe. In 2015 professional citizen science organizations were created in Europe, Australia and the United States, and the first Citizen Science Association Conference was held, with another one is planned for February 2017. In the US, the Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act of 2015 was introduced to encourage the use of citizen science within the federal government. As technology develops and more people have access to the resources available over the internet, opportunities are increased to engage wider audiences in a diverse range of projects. Based on current trends, this should mean that more of the journal articles published in 2016 will celebrate the contribution of the citizen scientists around the world.

Citizen science is becoming ever more popular and is rapidly enabling non-experts to contribute to the growing field of scientific knowledge. One of the major benefits of citizen science is that it allows researchers to utilize resources to analyze large volumes of data quickly, often with lower financial cost. Furthermore, data can be collected from a wider demographic of participants over a much larger spatial scale that researchers would not necessarily have the time or resources to monitor otherwise.

full text: <http://phys.org/news/2016-02-trends-citizen-science.html#jCp>

Ria Follett. Vladimir Strezovl. 2015. An Analysis of Citizen Science Based Research: Usage and Publication Patterns, PLOS ONE. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0143687](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0143687)



Seabourne Creek Park Bird Hike-193rd Species Spotted

Wayne and Vicki Poorman, CPCTMN Bird Hike Coordinators, with Mark Scheuerman and Bob Schwartz

Wednesday, April 6th, with 17 visitors and 15 Master Naturalist chapter members, the bird hike was one of the larger hikes we've had.

Attached is a list of the birds recorded. We saw 55 species of birds, plus 2 additional taxa.

Among the more special sightings was a rare Green-winged/Blue Winged Teal hybrid, an unusually marked Great Egret, a Sora in the wetlands, and 2 Swallow-tailed Kites – a new species for our Park.

Our species count for the Park on eBird is now up to 193.

You can see the list on eBird at this link:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S28778852>

Our next, and last, bird hike until the Fall Migration, will be on Wednesday, May 4, same time and place as the one in April.

Until next time! Photos on this page were taken by Wayne Poorman.

For more photos go to: [Wayne's Birds of Seabourne Creek Nature Park](#)



Green-winged/Blue-winged Teal Hybrid



Sora



Swallow-tailed Kite





4-6-16 Bird Hike- Photos by Roger Hathorn

Boucher's Birding Blog: Apps for the Smart Bird—Which One Should You Use? *By Timothy Boucher*

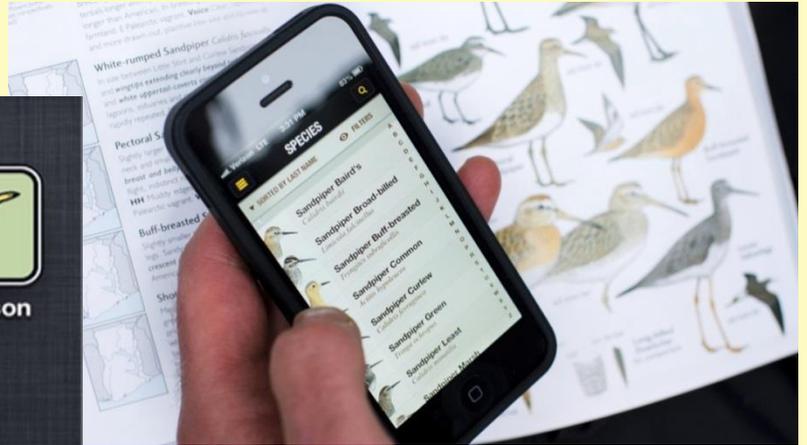
Need an app that helps you identify birds in the field? Don't bother searching for "birds" in any app store. Unless that thrush happens to be angry, those dozens of Angry Bird apps that pop up won't be of any use to you.

So here is my expert take on 10 iPhone birding apps — [Audubon Birds](#), [iBird Pro](#), [National Geographic Birds](#), [Peterson Birds](#), and [Sibley eGuide to Birds](#) and two newer additions, [BirdsEye \(North America\)](#), [Merlin](#), [Birding in North America](#), the newish [eBird](#) app and the old Kindle app (all are also available on Android phones and the larger, tablet format).

A novice birder spots a bird in the backyard and would like to identify it. First, following [Boucher's Rules of Beginner Birding](#), narrow it down — big, small, hawk, warbler, woodpecker, whatever — you need to know a little to get started.

But wait! Audubon Birds is already helping you do that. You can browse by shape (duck-like, hawk-like, perching, etc.). That's pretty nice for the novice.

Boucher's Birding Blog: Apps for the Smart Bird—Which One Should You Use? (Continued)



Merlin treats you like a true novice — and leads you through a series of questions: location (allow GPS use), date (useful for season), size (with a series of useful images), choice of several colors, and what and where the bird was. It then creates a list of possible choices.

Hidden in National Geographic Birds is a way to something similar — filtering the search by color, size, habitat, etc. — that should help narrow your choices down. iBird has the same filter-type list, although a little more hidden under its search function, and Sibley eGuide to Birds also has a similar function under its Smart Search — though not as clever as Audubon's!

Peterson Birds has already fallen behind the pack — it only has a family list that I have to scroll through, with icons. Hmmm...that Grey Catbird that the other apps quickly pointed to is not so easy to find with Peterson.

The new kid on the block — Birding in North America — doesn't help much. In fact, I am not that impressed with it. It gives a hidden drop-down list (a bit like families) and that's about it.

BirdsEye is not really set up for the novice — allowing you to either search for or scroll through birds that have been recently seen in your location (based on eBird), but you really have to know what you are looking at to find it. Likewise, the eBird app is for sending in eBird checklists, not for figuring out what bird you are looking at.

Go to <http://blog.nature.org/science/2013/05/27/boucher-bird-blog-apps-smart-birder/> for more info.

Seabourne Nature Park Happenings

Seabourne Creek Nature Park has been buzzing with new activity. Bill Johnson has been working with an Eagle Scout on a new bird blind...they finally have the go ahead from the city to complete construction of this wonderful addition to the bird sanctuary. Thanks, Bill! Photo of Bill and the beginning construction was taken by Karl Baumgartner.

Another project was the addition of new signs at the beautiful butterfly garden, on the path to the great floating dock at the wetlands, and a sign close to the wonderful birding sanctuary and new bird blind. These signs give visitors information about the different ecosystems and habitats that our group manages. The photo of the Bird Sign with Natalya Crawford was taken by Roger Hathorn and the Butterfly Garden and the Wetland signs photos were taken by Lynn Trenta.



rhathorn2016



Seabourne Happenings (continued)

Another happening out at the park is being undertaken by Sal Cardenas. Seen here in the photo taken by Karl Baumgartner, Sal is getting the prairie ready for the new plants that members have grown and bumped up. He also has adopted a plot in the SCNP Prairie Demo Garden! Thanks, Sal!



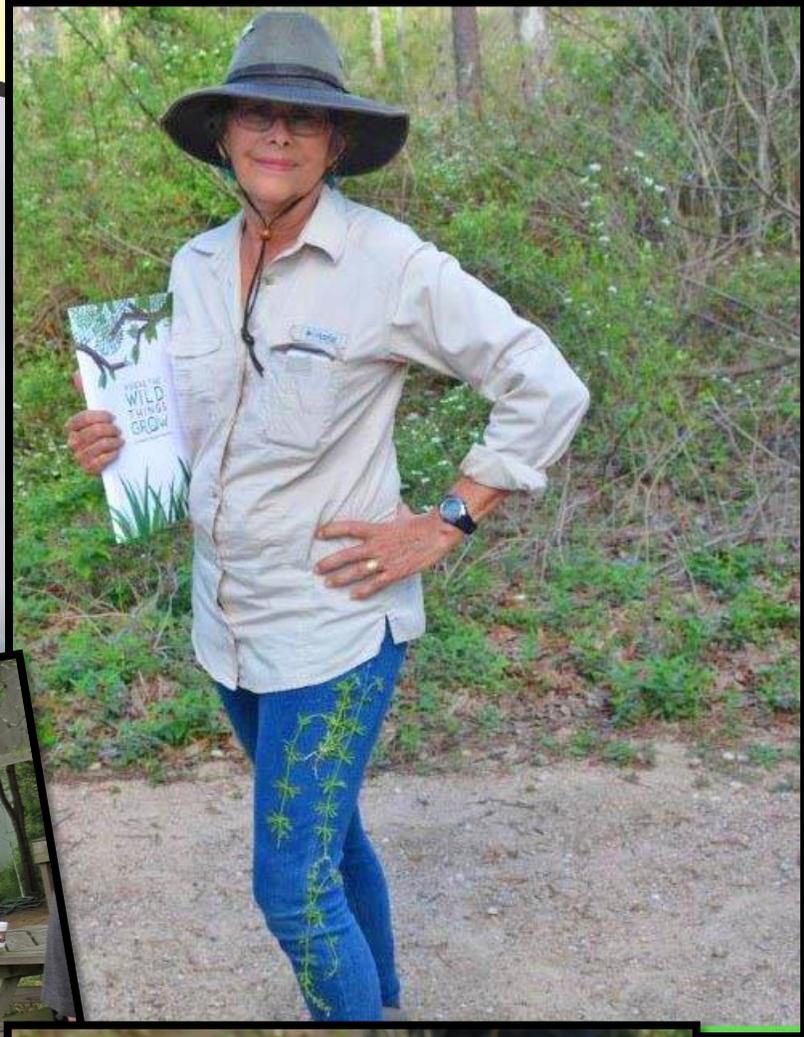
The edible garden, with Coordinator Amber Leung, is moving forward as well. I am hoping to have an article in the next Courier about this wonderful garden. It is in the early stages and we will be following its progress.

The new greenhouse has been installed. See Lynn Trenta's photo below. Sharon Smith, chapter secretary, is heading up the committee that will be making decisions having to do with greenhouse use.



Photos Just for Fun!

In the photo below, Jim Butcher has been into the showy evening primrose pollen! Diane has a new look for her jeans complete with Galium aparine, otherwise known as stickwilly. Frogs eggs were found on a plant study group walk with Susie Doe. And it is anyone's guess as to what the bunch at the demo garden work area is up to.





CPTMN 2016 Board Members

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- President [Diane Russell](#)
- Vice President [Sharon Smith](#)
- Secretary [Amber Leung](#)
- Treasurer [Doug Simons](#)

2016 Committee Directors

- Past-President [Jim Butcher](#)
- Programs [Sharon Smith](#)
- Communication [Lynn Trenta](#)
- Volunteer Service Projects [Michelle Sullivan](#)
- Membership [Jade Hems](#)
- New Class [Wayne Helbert](#)
- Advanced Training- [Jimmy Brannon](#)
- New Class Representative [C.J. McDaniel](#)
- State Representative [Carol Schwartz](#)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://txmn.org/coastal/>

Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Proposals for Presentation

The Texas Master Naturalist 17th Annual Meeting is NOW accepting proposals for presentations! This year's Annual Meeting will be held October 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2016 at the La Torretta Lakeside Resort & Spa on the shores of Lake Conroe near Montgomery, Texas. The Texas Master Naturalist Program welcomes your proposals as contributions to our agenda! Individuals wishing to present are invited to submit their proposal on the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting Call for Proposals website: <http://www.regonline.com/TXMN2016CallforProposals> .

Special topics we are hoping to have presentation focus given to for 2016 include – Developing and utilizing social media resources; Non-game species and the roles they play in conservation across the state; engaging diverse audiences in the Master Naturalist programs – as members and as an audience; leadership skills for managing groups of volunteers when conflicts arise; the shared roles of hunters & recreational natural resource users in the larger game of Texas conservation plans

*The deadline for submissions is **Friday June 3rd, 2016.***

Check out our Facebook Page at
[TXMN Coastal Prairie Chapter Facebook](#)

COASTAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE
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