



OUR PURPOSE

Texas Nature Trackers, associated with the Texas Master Naturalist Program, is a citizen science monitoring effort designed to involve volunteers of all ages and interest levels in gathering scientific data on species of concern in Texas through experiential learning. The goal of the program is to enable long-term conservation of these species and appreciation among Texas citizens.



GET INVOLVED



Texas plant and animal diversity is in decline and Texans want to help. Now, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, along with other partners, offers Texans the opportunity to do just that.

The Texas Nature Trackers (TNT) projects described here involve general skills of observation and note taking—you don't have to be a scientist to participate.

Through TNT projects, Texans learn how to gather data about various species found on public lands or on their own property. This data is sent to biologists who use the information to give us a better understanding about the trends and management needs of various species in the state.

The aim of Texas Nature Trackers is to ensure that native Texas species will be here for future generations to know and enjoy.

To find out more about Texas Nature Trackers and the Texas Master Naturalist program, call the phone numbers or contact the e-mail addresses associated with each project or visit:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker/ and
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/master_naturalist/



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PWD BR W7000-481A (1/13)

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



TEXAS NATURE TRACKERS

You can make a difference!



TEXAS NATURE TRACKERS PROJECTS

Check out the Texas Nature Tracker website (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tracker) for updates on these and any new projects.



Texas Horned Lizard Watch

Texas Horned Lizard Watch provides instructions for surveying horned lizard species. Each year, more volunteers are needed from all over the state to increase our knowledge about Texas horned lizards and why they have declined.

(800) 792-1112 ext. 8062 hornedlizards@tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Hummingbird Round-up



The Texas Hummingbird Round-up provides instructions for monitoring hummingbirds, along with suggestions for improving hummingbird habitat on your property in Texas.

(800) 792-1112 ext. 4644



Texas Black-tailed Prairie Dog Watch

Texas Black-tailed Prairie Dog Watch is looking for volunteers to help widen our understanding of prairie dogs and what is contributing to their decline. Prairie dogs are an icon of the grasslands, and throughout their range, there has been a drastic decline in the population. They currently occupy less than 1 percent of their historic range. (800) 792-1112 ext. 8062 tracker@tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Whooper Watch

For many people, a glimpse of a Whooping Crane is the thrill of a lifetime. While the traditional wintering grounds on and near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge are well-known, biologists have much less information about locations used by Whooping Cranes in migration. Texas Whooper Watch seeks the help of citizen scientists in identifying Whooping Crane migration stopover sites and non-traditional wintering areas, in assessing whether any hazards exist to whoopers at these sites, and in learning more about behavior and habitat use at these sites.

(800) 792-1112 ext. 8999 whoopingcranes@tpwd.state.tx.us



Texas Mussel Watch



Texas Mussel Watch is looking for volunteers who like to get their feet wet. The drastic decline in many Texas freshwater mussel populations has biologists scrambling for information about our freshwater mussel species before they become extinct. (800) 792-1112 ext. 8062 tracker@tpwd.state.tx.us

Tarpon Observation Network



©ROB SADLER

Tarpon numbers in Texas have declined over the years due to a variety of factors. Now everyone from anglers to nature lovers can help collect information about tarpon in an effort to learn about their use of Texas waters. Information gathered will assist in the preservation of this elusive gamefish for future generations. Tarpon anglers and others interested can enter their catch or observations via the Internet, as well as upload photos. Join the TON at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tarpon or e-mail tarpon@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Texas Amphibian Watch

Texas Amphibian Watch is a partner with the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program. Texans involved in this project will learn the various calls of frogs and toads native to their area. Information about frog and toad distribution will help scientists better determine the nature of the decline in amphibian populations in Texas. (800) 792-1112 ext. 8062 amphibians@tpwd.state.tx.us



Texas Bumblebee Watch

©MICHAEL WARRINER



While most everyone has heard at least something in the news about declining bees, most press coverage has been directed toward the plight of the non-native European honeybee. Very little attention is directed towards native bees, like bumblebees. There is a real need to evaluate bumblebees in the U.S. to assess how their populations are faring and if conservation actions are needed. We can begin to do this in Texas by simply recording where species are today and if they still occur in the same places they did years ago. If you are interested in participating, visit www.texasbumblebees.com or e-mail michael.warriner@tpwd.state.tx.us.

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Texas Box Turtle Survey

When was the last time you saw a box turtle? Although many Texans can recall frequent encounters with box turtles in backyards, on ranches, and along roadways as kids, many Texans report that they are now hard to find. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department would like to know if you see a box turtle in the state. (800) 792-1112 ext. 8111 boxturtles@tpwd.state.tx.us