

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
Wednesday, January 10, 2018  
Texas AgriLife Extension Building  
21017 County Road 171  
Angleton, Texas 77515-8903**

<b>8:30 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Fun and Fellowship</b> <b>Snack Team</b> TBA <b>Nature Notes:</b> "Parasitic Plants" by Larry Ruhr
<b>9:00 AM – 9:50 AM</b>	<b>General Meeting and Nature Notes</b> <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour volunteer time</i>
<b>10:15 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Speaker: Martin Hagne, Executive Director, GCBO.</b> <b>Topic: Pelagic Birds</b>



**Pelagic Birds**

Pelagic Birds (also known as seabirds or marine birds) are birds that are adapted to life within the marine environment. While these greatly in lifestyle, behavior and physiology, they often exhibit striking convergent evolution, as the same environmental problems and feeding niches have resulted in

similar adaptations. The first seabirds evolved in the Cretaceous period, and modern seabird families emerged in the Paleogene.

In general, seabirds live longer, breed later and have fewer young than other birds do, but they invest a great deal of time in their young. Most species nest in colonies, which can vary in size from a few dozen birds to millions. Many species are famous for undertaking long annual migrations, crossing the equator or circumnavigating the Earth in some cases. They feed both at the ocean's surface and below it, and even feed on each other. Seabirds can be highly pelagic, coastal, or in some cases spend a part of the year away from the sea entirely.

Seabirds and humans have a long history together: they have provided food to hunters, guided fishermen to fishing stocks and led sailors to land. Many species are currently threatened by human activities, and conservation efforts are under way.

—Source: Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seabird>

Martin Hagne is the Executive Director of Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, based in Lake Jackson Texas.

Martin was born and raised on the Swedish west coast, where his grandfather instilled a love for nature at an early age. He moved to the United States, and settled in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in 1979 and turned his focus towards wildlife viewing and conservation concerns. Martin served as the Executive Director of the Valley Nature Center in Weslaco, Texas, a non-profit environmental education facility, for 13 years. He then moved to Bandera, Texas where he was the General Manager of the Flying L Resort and Conference Center. He has also worked as a Field Biologist doing baseline studies for many years, including avian, reptile and amphibian, mammal, threatened and endangered species, and habitat studies.

Martin's has served on several national, state, regional and local environmental appointments, committees, and boards. He also leads birding field trips both in the U.S. and foreign locations. Birding, nature viewing, native plants, conservation issues and environmental education are great passions for Martin.

