



# Chapter News

**CONTENTS**

- Page 1**  
Next General Meeting
- Page 2**  
MC Kickoff Dinner
- Page 3**  
MC Photo Contest
- Page 4**  
"Northern" vs. "Southern"
- Page 6**  
Ticks and Mosquitoes
- Page 7**  
Officers and Directors

**Texas Master Naturalist Program  
Cradle of Texas Chapter  
General Meeting and Advanced Training  
Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
Texas AgriLife Extension Building  
21017 County Road 171  
Angleton, Texas 77515-8903**



<http://facebook.com/TMN.COT>

*Chapter News* is published by Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter.

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<http://tmn-cot.org>

The Texas Master Naturalist program is coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Texas Master Naturalist programs serve all people without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	<b>Fun and Fellowship</b> Refreshment Team: Jean Britt, Linda Sluis, Joycelynn Grigson, Garry Ellis, Janet Jackson-Ellis, Candace Novak, Karen Leder
<b>9:00 – 9:50</b>	<b>General Meeting</b> <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour Volunteer Time.</i>
<b>10:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Program:</b> Soil Microbes for Soil Health - Lawns to Prairies <b>Speaker:</b> Betsy Ross of Sustainable Growth Texas This training is approved for Advanced Training. The number of approved hours will be announced at the meeting and will be available after the meeting at <a href="http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html">http://tmn-cot.org/Advanced/index.html</a>



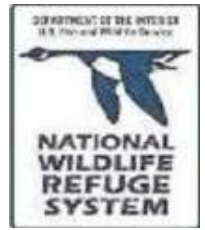
Betsy Ross, of *Sustainable Growth Texas* and Betsy Ross Grass-fed Beef, will show how these companies work with natural growing systems and add the life/microbes back to our soils via compost tea/extracts. Betsy will highlight several of their projects in the Gulf Coast area that flourish with microbes and native plants. Mindful of the mineral, carbon and water cycles, natural growing systems and balance are more important than ever. Betsy says 'every piece of land has its own challenges' and it is the seeking and figuring out how to move them toward an ecological improvement as well as the owners goals that is the fun part.



<http://sustainablegrowthtexas.com/>



## 22ND ANNUAL MIGRATION CELEBRATION KICKOFF DINNER APRIL 8, 2016



Keynote speaker: Kelly Drinnen, Education Specialist  
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.  
***Cruising Through: Migrations In and Around Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary***

Tickets go on sale February 10. Adult tickets \$30.00.  
Order by phone at **844-84-BIRDS**.

Migration Celebration is held annually in April, sponsored by the Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Migration Celebration activities are centered on the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge but formally starts with a fundraising dinner and featured speaker at Freeport RiverPlace in the Freeport Municipal Park.

This year's fundraising dinner features keynote speaker Kelly Drinnen, Education Specialist at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Galveston, Texas, speaking on ***Cruising Through: Migrations In and Around Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary***.



As Education & Outreach Specialist, Kelly is responsible for developing activities, lessons, and displays; collaborating with zoos and aquariums; updating and maintaining the sanctuary website and social media pages; participating in community events; conducting workshops and presentations, and many other activities that help others learn about the sanctuary and ocean conservation.

Kelly holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from James Madison University. In addition to working with the sanctuary for 11 years, she spent 13 years as an informal science educator at Moody Gardens and Sea World of Florida, and two years as a 4th grade teacher.



Deep coral habitat around the banks. Photo: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Flower Garden Banks is one of 14 federally-designated underwater areas protected by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. It is the only sanctuary site located in the Gulf of Mexico. Situated 70 to 115 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana, the Flower Garden Banks sanctuary includes underwater communities that rise from the depths of the Gulf of Mexico atop underwater mountains called salt domes.

The coral reefs of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary serve as a focal point for tropical and sub-tropical marine life about 100 miles off the Texas coast. While many species are permanent residents of the reefs, there are still quite a few that consider the sanctuary merely a stopping point on their way to other places. Explore with us the fly-ways and by-ways above and below the waters of this haven in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.



### Volunteers Needed!

Migration Celebration is our Chapter's largest single Volunteer Opportunity. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks – van drivers, cooks, photo contest assistants, reptile handlers, Information Booth hosts, parking lot assistants, photographers, bake sale bakers, food sales assistants, face painters ...???

To volunteer contact

Ed Barrios, Volunteer Coordinator:

Home: 979-297-1815

Cell: 979-415-4998

Email: [barrios@refugefriends.org](mailto:barrios@refugefriends.org)

## 22ND ANNUAL MIGRATION CELEBRATION PHOTO CONTEST

SCHEDULE	
March 18	<b>Contest deadline.</b> All entries must be submitted by this date.
TBA	<b>An evening with the judges.</b> Photographers will meet with judges for feedback about their photos..
April 8	<b>Kickoff Dinner at RiverPlace, Freeport.</b> All entered photos will be exhibited.
April 16-17	<b>Migration Celebration at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge</b> All entered photos will be exhibited.
April 18 – May 22	<b>Photo Exhibit at Art League Studio, Center for the Arts and Sciences.</b> A selection of photos will be exhibited.

Further information . . . . . <http://migrationcelebration.org/PhotoContest/index.html>  
 Rules and guidelines . . . . . [http://migrationcelebration.org/PhotoContest/2016\\_ContestRules.pdf](http://migrationcelebration.org/PhotoContest/2016_ContestRules.pdf)  
 Entry Form . . . . . [http://migrationcelebration.org/PhotoContest/2016\\_EntryForm.pdf](http://migrationcelebration.org/PhotoContest/2016_EntryForm.pdf)

### Migration Celebration Nature Photography Contest



Photo by P. Romth

For rules, forms, and more information, visit:

[www.migrationcelebration.org](http://www.migrationcelebration.org)

#### Annual Contest Deadlines

2016: March 18

2017: March 17

Sponsored by:



Friends of Brazoria  
Wildlife Refuges



Texas Mid-Coast Complex  
National Wildlife Refuge

### Rules and Categories

#### Categories

- Wildlife Vertebrates Texas Mid-Coast
  - Wildlife Invertebrates Texas Mid-Coast
  - Wildlife Birds Texas Mid-Coast
  - Plant Life and Fungi Texas Mid-Coast
  - Landscape/Scenery/Nature as Art Texas Mid-Coast
  - Wildlife Vertebrates Refuge
  - Wildlife Invertebrates Refuge
  - Wildlife Birds Refuge
  - Habitat and Ecosystems Refuge
- NOTE: for final category list, see [www.migrationcelebration.org](http://www.migrationcelebration.org)

Texas Mid-Coast category photos must be taken in Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Matagorda, or Wharton Counties.

Refuge photos must be taken on the San Bernard IWR, Brazoria IWR, Big Boggy IWR or one of the units associated with these refuges.

- Each person may enter up to 9 total entries and no more than 3 entries per category.
- Prints may be 8"x10", 8.5"x11", or 8"x12" and must be permanently mounted on matte board material or a thin foam board no larger than the print. See rules exception for panoramas in Landscape category.
- A completed and signed entry form must accompany entries with an entry fee of \$2.50 per photo.
- Digital jpeg files must be submitted by contest deadline on CD, DVD, or sent by e-mail.
- Winners will be announced at the annual kickoff dinner and all photos will be displayed at the Migration Celebration. Photos are judged by professional nature photographers.
- Visit [www.migrationcelebration.org](http://www.migrationcelebration.org) for complete rules, forms, and updates.

2016 Dinner: April 8; MC Event: April 16-17  
 2017 Dinner: April 7; MC Event: April 22-23



Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges  
PO Box 505  
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

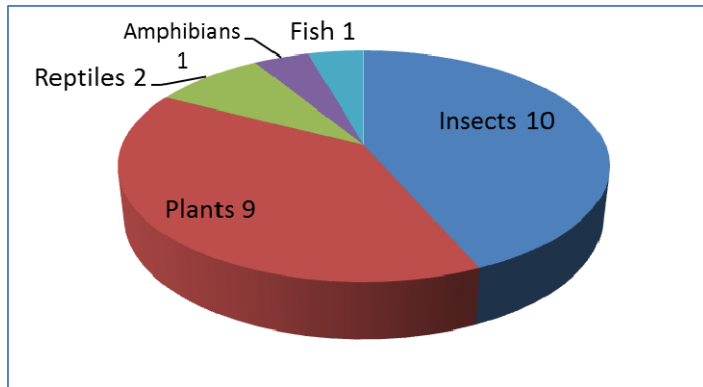


# “NORTHERN” VS. “SOUTHERN” SPECIES

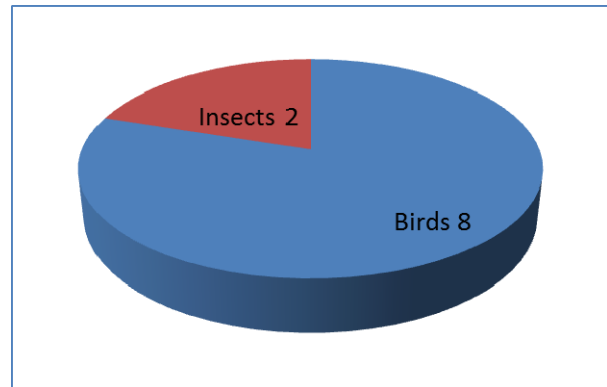
by Peggy Romfh

After observing Northern Pintails and Northern Harriers and Northern Shovelers at Brazoria NWR this winter, I decided to do a search in the Photo Gallery database to see how many species that we have posted that have “Northern” or “Southern” in their names. Here are the results!

SOUTHERN – 23 species



NORTHERN – 10 species

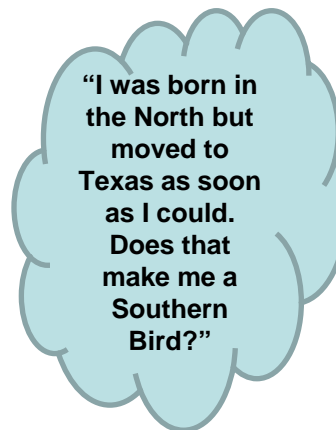


"Southern"		"Southern"	
1	Great S. White Butterfly	13	S. Emerald Moth
2	Giant Cutgrass (S. Wild Rice)	14	S. Cloudy Wing Skipper
3	S. Dogface Butterfly	15	S. Broken Dash Skipper
4	S. Dewberry	16	S. Flannel Moth
5	S. Flounder	17	S. Hackberry (Sugarberry)
6	S. Skipperling	18	S. Thorn (Green Hawthorn)
7	S. Leopard Frog	19	S. Plantain (Virginia Plantain)
8	S. Carpenter Bee	20	S. Red Oak (Shumard Oak)
9	S. Cattail	21	S. Watersnake (Broad-banded)
10	S. Blueflag (Virginia Iris)	22	S. Blue (Ceraunus Blue) Butterfly
11	S. Copperhead	23	S. Blackhaw (Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum)
12	S. Armyworm		

"Northern"	
1	N. Bobwhite
2	N. Parula
3	N. Cardinal
4	N. Mockingbird
5	N. Waterthrush
6	N. Pintail
7	N. Shoveler
8	N. Harrier
9	N. Cloudy-wing Skipper
10	N. Mole Cricket

### Some Interesting Facts:

- There were no birds in the Southern name list, but 8 of the 10 Northern-named species were birds! Although many of these species are winter migrants to Texas, some, like the Northern Mockingbird and Northern Cardinal, are year-round residents.
- There were no *Lepidoptera* on the Northern name list, but 9 of the 10 Southern-named insect species were *Lepidoptera* – moths, butterflies, and skippers.
- There were no plants on the Northern name list, but most of the 9 plant species found on the Southern list do not grow in the colder northern climes.



# “NORTHERN” VS. “SOUTHERN” SPECIES *continued*

**Northern Parula**



Photo by Jerry Eppner, Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary

**Northern Cardinal**

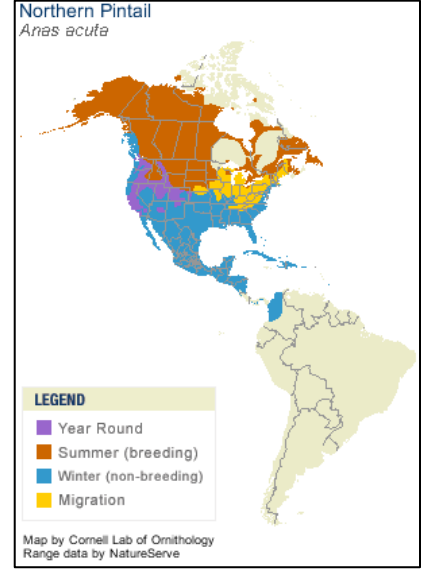
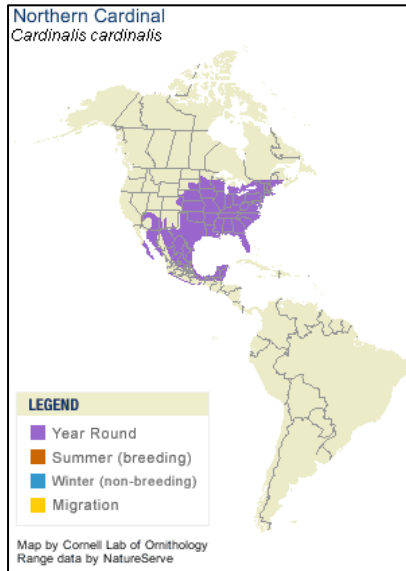
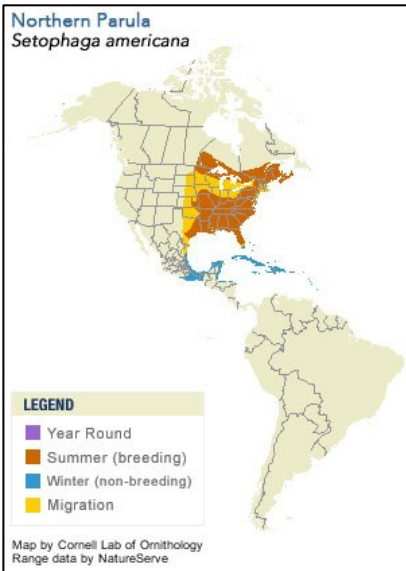


Photo by Pete Romfh, Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary

**Northern Pintail**



Photo by Denis Mudderman, Brazoria NWR



**Southern Red Oak (Shumard Oak)**

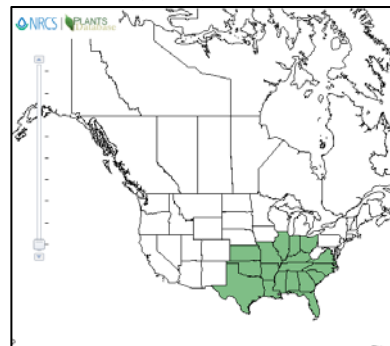
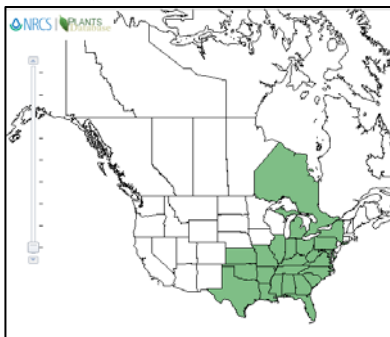


Photo by Leo Novak, Hudson Woods, San Bernard NWR

**Southern Blackhaw (Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum)**



Photo by Chris Kneupper, Betty Brown Unit, San Bernard NWR



## Locations of “Northern” and “Southern” Species

The bird maps show the patterns of migration or permanent residency that exist for “Northern” named species. Note that the Northern Cardinal is a year-round resident to South Texas while the Northern Pintail summers from the Northern USA to Canada and winters from the Southern USA to South America. The Northern Parula winters in Central America and Caribbean.

Both plant species represented are primarily Southern species, although the Southern Red Oak (Shumard Oak) is found in the Northeast and into Canada.

Map Sources: Birds – Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Plants - USDA

## PREVENT TICK AND MOSQUITO BITES!!!

By Peggy Romfh

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mosquitoes spread many types of viruses and parasites that can cause diseases like chikungunya, dengue, Zika, and malaria. West Nile virus is widespread in Texas, and dengue fever has been documented in many counties. Some cases of viral diseases are contracted by travelers to other countries but these viruses may spread to mosquito populations in the USA. Each year, Texans contract Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Ehrlichiosis, and Relapsing Fever from the bites of ticks.

Prevention of tick and mosquito bites is the best strategy to avoid contracting tick and mosquito-borne pathogens. As you volunteer this year, please be aware of these prevention tips!

### Tips to Prevent Tick Bites

Using the right insect repellent and other preventive actions can discourage ticks, mosquitoes, and other biting insects from landing on you. Here are tips for other preventive actions you can take against ticks.

#### Avoid Tick Habitats

- Reduce time spent in potentially tick-infested habitats such as tall grass and shrubs.
- Reduce leaf litter and mow tall grass or brush that may serve as tick habitat.
- Walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with adjacent vegetation.

#### Avoid Tick Bites

- Keep ticks away from exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and high boots.
- Tuck shirts into pants and pants into socks to cover gaps in your clothing where ticks can get in.
- Wear light-colored clothing to be able to see ticks more easily.
- Check the entire body for ticks; promptly remove attached ticks without squeezing them!

Source:

<http://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/tips-prevent-tick-bites>

Other Sources:

[https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/tick\\_borne\\_disease/](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/tick_borne_disease/)

[http://www.ticktexas.org/diseases/index\\_diseases.htm](http://www.ticktexas.org/diseases/index_diseases.htm)



Gulf Coast Tick, Nash Prairie. Photo by Pete Romfh

### Tips to Prevent Mosquito Bites

Using the right insect repellent and other preventive actions can discourage mosquitoes, ticks and other biting insects from landing on you. Here are tips for other preventive actions you can take against mosquitoes.

#### Remove Mosquito Habitats

- Eliminate standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys, or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, and potted plant trays at least once a week to destroy potential mosquito habitats.
- Drain or fill temporary pools of water with dirt.
- Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.

#### Use Structural Barriers

- Cover all gaps in walls, doors, and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering.
- Make sure window and door screens are in good working order.
- Completely cover baby carriers and beds with netting.

#### Avoid Getting Bitten

- Keep mosquitoes away from exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks.
- Tuck shirts into pants and pants into socks to cover gaps in your clothing where mosquitoes can get to your skin.
- Stay indoors at sunrise, sunset, and early in the evening when mosquitoes are most active.

Source:

<http://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/tips-prevent-mosquito-bites>



Eastern Salt Marsh Mosquito, Brazoria NWR

Photo by Peggy Romfh



### CRADLE OF TEXAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Publications Coordinator	Neal McLain, Brazoria
Class of 2015 representative	Patty Brinkmeyer, Brazoria

Chapter Advisers	Connie Stolte (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) John O'Connell (AgriLife Extension Service)
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E-mail Listserv	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail">http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail</a>



### MASTER NATURALIST EMAIL LISTS

#### ***TMN-COT Chapter list***

- Instructions [http://tmn-cot.org/Email\\_Lists/index.html](http://tmn-cot.org/Email_Lists/index.html)
- Send messages to [TMN-COT@googlegroups.com](mailto:TMN-COT@googlegroups.com)
- Message Archive <http://tinyurl.com/TMN-COT-Mail>
- All messages are sent immediately.

#### ***State Master Naturalist list***

- Instructions <http://txmn.org/staying-connected/sign-up-for-tmn-listserv/>
- Subscribe [listserv@listserv.tamu.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.tamu.edu)
- All messages are held for moderation by the TMN State Coordinator

*Chapter News* is published monthly on the first day of the month by the Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter. Submissions are welcome. Submission deadline is 5:00 PM the next-to-last day of the month. Submissions should be sent by email to *Chapter News* Editor at [tmn.cot@gmail.com](mailto:tmn.cot@gmail.com). Submissions may be edited for clarity and spacing.