Texas Nature Trackers Program

Twin Goals:
- Grow the naturalist community
- Inform conservation decisions

Naturalist Community

1. Achievement
2. Knowledge
3. Impact

Research & Conservation

1. Expertise
2. Data Products
3. Legitimacy
Photo Vouchered Observations

What did you see?

Gulf Coast Toad

Location

3600–3824 Dogwood Trl, Navasota,...
Lat: 30.238615  Lon: -95.9666...  Acc. 5 m

Date / Time

Sep 24, 2013, 7:57:11 PM

More

Need ID help? YES

Geoprivacy  open
Nature Trackers Mobile App

Projects
- Mammals of Texas
- Herps of Texas
- Texas Botanical Treasures
- Texas Box Turtle Survey
- Texas Whooper Watch
- Texas Freshwater Mussels
- Fishes of Texas
- Hummingbirds of Texas
- Texas Milkweeds and More
What did you see?

Texas Rat Snake

Pantherophis obsoletus

Was it captive / cultivated?

When did you see it?

2009-04-29

(GMT-06:00) Central Time (US)

Description

One individual seen while biking through Roy Guerrero Park.

Where were you?

Roy Guerrero park, Austin, Texas

Lat: 30.243744
Lon: -97.699013

(m): 100

Src: manual

Map Data - Terms of Use - Report a map error

Google 2013

Change geoprivacy: open
iNaturalist: Validation
iNaturalist: Sound Vouched

Editing Observation 311736

What did you see? Blanchard's Cricket

Where were you? Fri Ro River

When did you see it? Fri Jun 21 2013 21:53:52 GMT-6

Select one or more sounds
- American Crow
- Shoreline Frogs
- Frog Chorus
- Gastrophme
- Sh
- Frogs at Slough at roy guerrero
- Frogs at Lost Creek
- Frogs at Retention dam
- Hopper at Wilhouse
- Lost And Nameless at Cactus Cafe
- Ambient Chat at Cactus Cafe
- Sounds from Sunday afternoon
- Sounds from Sunday afternoon
- Environmental: Bike Party at Pine Street Station
Hello Jonah et al.,

The DNA results are just off the sequencer and it is definitely a striped skunk, Mephitis mephitis. Using the full 1140 bp of the cytochrome b gene I was able to run a quick and dirty NJ tree that showed the Jeff Davis individual to be within a clade of Mephitis mephitis that was sister to a clade of 12 Mephitis maccourea collected in Mexico (Oaxaca, Morelos, Zacatecas, Durango). Using 760 bp of cyt-b from M. mephitis collected in AZ, NM, TX, LA, and VT also showed the exact same pattern. The Jeff Davis individual was 99% similar (K2P) to a M. mephitis from Coahuila and 8.2% different from M. maccourea from Oaxaca.

This was definitely a tricky individual to identify and just goes to show that even expert consensus on what constitutes a hooded skunk versus a striped skunk (morphologically that is) is still very ambiguous. Given the paucity of recent records of M. maccourea from West Texas I was hopeful this would turn out to be a M. maccourea. This also highlights the importance of taking tissue samples and/or vouchers of skunks of questionable identity to help further clarify what exactly a M. maccourea is supposed to look like (well in our eyes anyways).

This was a fun mystery to participate in and I hope the questionable skunk identifications keep coming!

Take care,

Adam

Posted by adfergus 2 months ago

Adam,

Thank you so much for having it tested! This was an incredibly fun natural mystery and I personally find it equally as exciting regardless which species it is just because it was such an unusual individual.

So the question I still have is: short of DNA testing, how do I identify a M. maccourea when M. mephitis can look so similar??

Posted by you 2 months ago

Your ID: Striped Skunk (Mephitis mephitis) Remove

Posted by you 2 months ago

kucycad's ID: Striped Skunk (Mephitis mephitis)

Posted by kucycads 2 months ago

cullen's ID: Striped Skunk (Mephitis mephitis)

Posted by cullen 2 months ago

Hello Jonath,

That is definitely a striped skunk, Mephitis mephitis. Although it is an odd variant I have caught M. mephitis looking just like this before. As for my ID, the tail is too short in relation to the body, there is no gray appearance in the pelage (ie mixed black and white hairs on the dorsum), there is no well defined ‘hood’ on the nape, and according to Jerry Dragoon the ears are too small for this to be a M. maccourea. Of course you are in the range of M. maccourea but this individual does not match up to any of the three distinct hooded skunk patterns. The closest morphotype it resembles would be the one in the photos provided in the current IDs but as you can see, that form should have a grizzled/gray dorsum due to the intermixing of black and white hairs. I have caught all three morphs of hooded skunks and looked at quite a few museum skins and I have never seen any that resemble the one in your photo (which does not necessarily mean they don't exist). Of course the DNA will tell if I am wrong on this but my
Birder for 40+ years and retired law enforcement officer. After about 35 years of serious birding, I became mainly a freelance stock wildlife photographer and naturalist, who is interested in dragonflies and damselflies, herps, leps, as well as birds, and pretty much any critters that allow themselves to be photographed. I have been studying and photographing dragonflies and damselflies since about 2000 and I am an active member of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas: http://www.odonatacentral.org/index.php/PageAction.get/name/DSAHomePage
and serve on the executive council of that organization. I am also a member of the Odonata Survey of Texas. A number of my odonate images will be found in Paulson's odonate guides as well as “Dragonflies of Texas” by John Abbott which was published in early 2015. I worked with the curation of odonate specimens for several years as a volunteer at the University of Texas Insect Collection under the direction of Dr. John Abbott. I live in Dripping Springs, Texas, which is about 15 miles west of Austin.

In the birding world, I co-authored (with Chuck Sexton aka gcowbirdler) the Texas column for the publication "North American Birds" for 18 years as well as serving on the ABA Checklist Committee for two terms and as the Secretary of the Texas Bird Records Committee for almost 20 years. Between 1985-2005 I led birding tours part time for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. As a bird tour leader and on my own I have been very fortunate to do quite a bit of birdwatching all over North America, Mexico and Central America as well as much of South America and Antarctica. I enjoy natural history subjects and sharing them with others. The longer I have observed nature the more I realize how little I know.

My email is glasley at earthlink dot net if someone wants to get in touch.

My main photo website is at:
http://www.greglasley.com/
Places: Species Guides and Checklists
Texas Natural Diversity Database

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reptiles and Amphibians</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invertebrates</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1308</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crawfish Frog

- Blue = Herps of Texas (51 obs)
- Brown = TXNDD (61 EOs)

Observed by Scott Wahlberg
Brown Anole
I don’t know where they get it, but.... YUM!

Source: Britannica Image Quest
The hills are alive...
SERVICE

PROJECT BASED

PLACE BASED

SCHOOLWIDE ENRICHMENT MODEL
Sigogglin, Standards, and Caddy-Day at Bushwood

Source: Britannica Image Quest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT AREAS</th>
<th>Matter</th>
<th>Force, Motion, Energy</th>
<th>Earth and Space</th>
<th>Organisms and Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**AND/OR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT AREAS</th>
<th>Physical Science</th>
<th>Life Science</th>
<th>Earth and Space</th>
<th>Engineer, Technology, Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Physical Science**
- **Life Science**
- **Earth and Space**
- **Engineer, Technology, Application**

The diagram illustrates the content areas within different disciplines, including Matter, Force, Motion, Energy, Earth and Space, and Organisms and Environment. It also highlights the integration of Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space, and the application of Engineer, Technology, and Application.
Design and Solve

Compare / Hypothesize

Draw or Name
LEGACY

Something handed down from one generation to the next.

-- A tradition.

-- A heritage.

Source: Trevor Hance
Formative Assessments as benchmarks towards earning opportunity

Gentlemen, please look at the picture below. What information should be included from this data to support an identification and observation recorded through iNaturalist of the animal shown center-screen, lower part of the photo. You may use the data included with the photo such as date and time, as well as your knowledge of this place and characteristics of the species typically found in our preserve. Please use the “comment” function on the right side of the page to submit your answers. Thanks, Mr. Hance

2014-09-24 3:20:35 AM  M 2/3

You may simply respond to this comment if it makes it simpler.

I think that this creature is a raccoon because you can see the tail is striped and the back portion of the animal is a little bit larger than the front portion, as seen in this site:
http://www.nhptv.org/natureworks/raccoon.htm
Raccoons are also nocturnal, and they mainly have babies (kits) in the springtime.
I found this information on
http://cfns.ca/wild/raccoons
Show less

Reply...
Golden-cheeked Warbler (Setophaga chrysoparia) observed by Imenaturalist on March 12, 2012

Identification Summary

Comments & Identifications

Your ID: Golden-cheeked Warbler (Setophaga chrysoparia) Remove
Posted by you about 1 year ago

maractwin's ID: Golden-cheeked Warbler (Setophaga chrysoparia)
Posted by maractwin about 1 year ago

aztekium's ID: Golden-cheeked Warbler (Setophaga chrysoparia)
Posted by aztekium about 1 year ago

ciftonladd's ID: Golden-cheeked Warbler (Setophaga chrysoparia)
Posted by ciftonladd about 1 year ago

If you can post a date of this observation it will become research grade
Posted by greglasley 11 months ago

Source: iNaturalist
Reclaiming Broken Places: Introduction to Civic Ecology

Explore why and how people come together to care for nature and cultivate community in places marked by disaster, war, poverty and environmental degradation.
Mr. Hance’s Rules

STAY SAFE

Keep Curious

Make Progress