



FROM PASSION TO PROFESSION



THE UNEXPECTED POWER OF VOLUNTEERING WITH THE
TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS



JILL ZIPPERER, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
LAUREN YOUNG, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SAM KIESCHNICK, TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

TMN ANNUAL MEETING

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

OCTOBER 17, 2025



MEET OUR PANEL



DOCTORAL CANDIDATE
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION



URBAN WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

JILL ZIPPERER

NATURE NERD

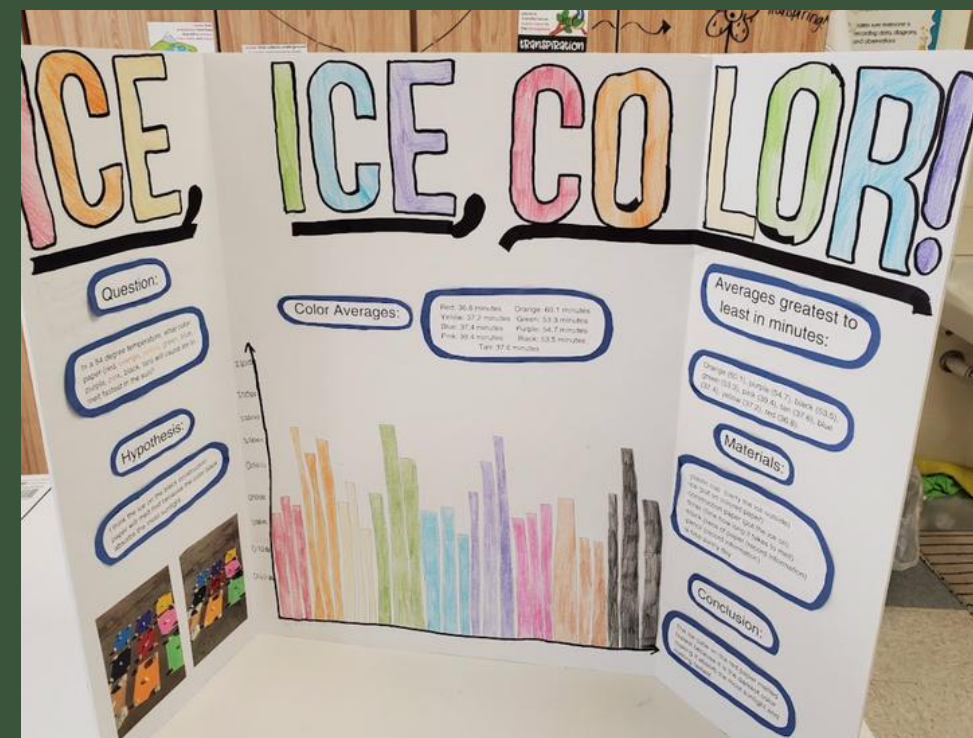


COMMUNITY TIES





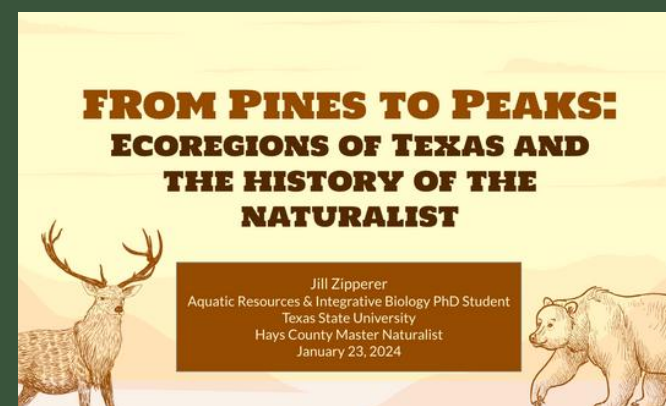
CLASSROOM COMMUNITY



NATURALIST NETWORK



BEAUTIFUL HAYS COUNTY



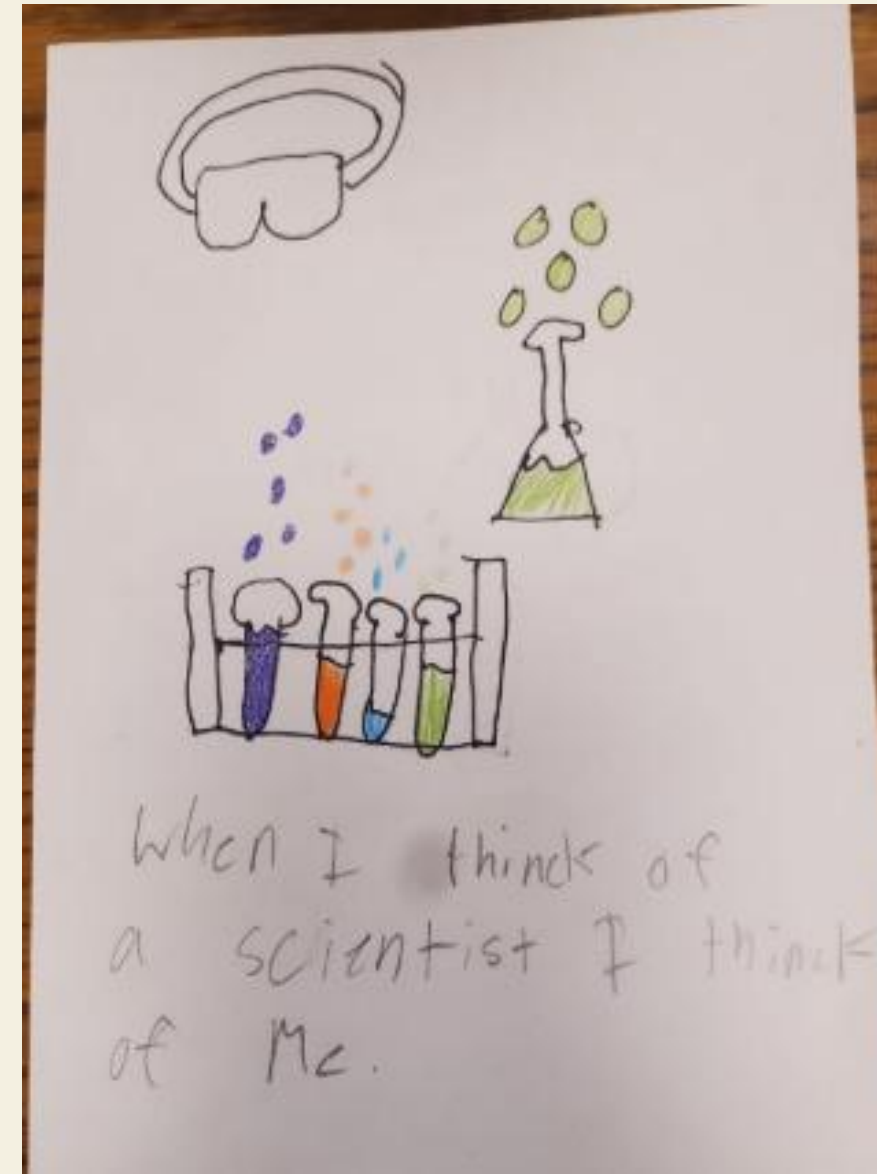
RANGERS IN THE WILD



BOBCATS, HERE AND ABROAD



JILL'S CHALLENGE:
VOLUNTEER FOR A
PROJECT IN YOUR
COMMUNITY THAT IS THE
OPPOSITE OF YOUR USUAL
CHOICE.



LAUREN YOUNG

MAKING WAVES



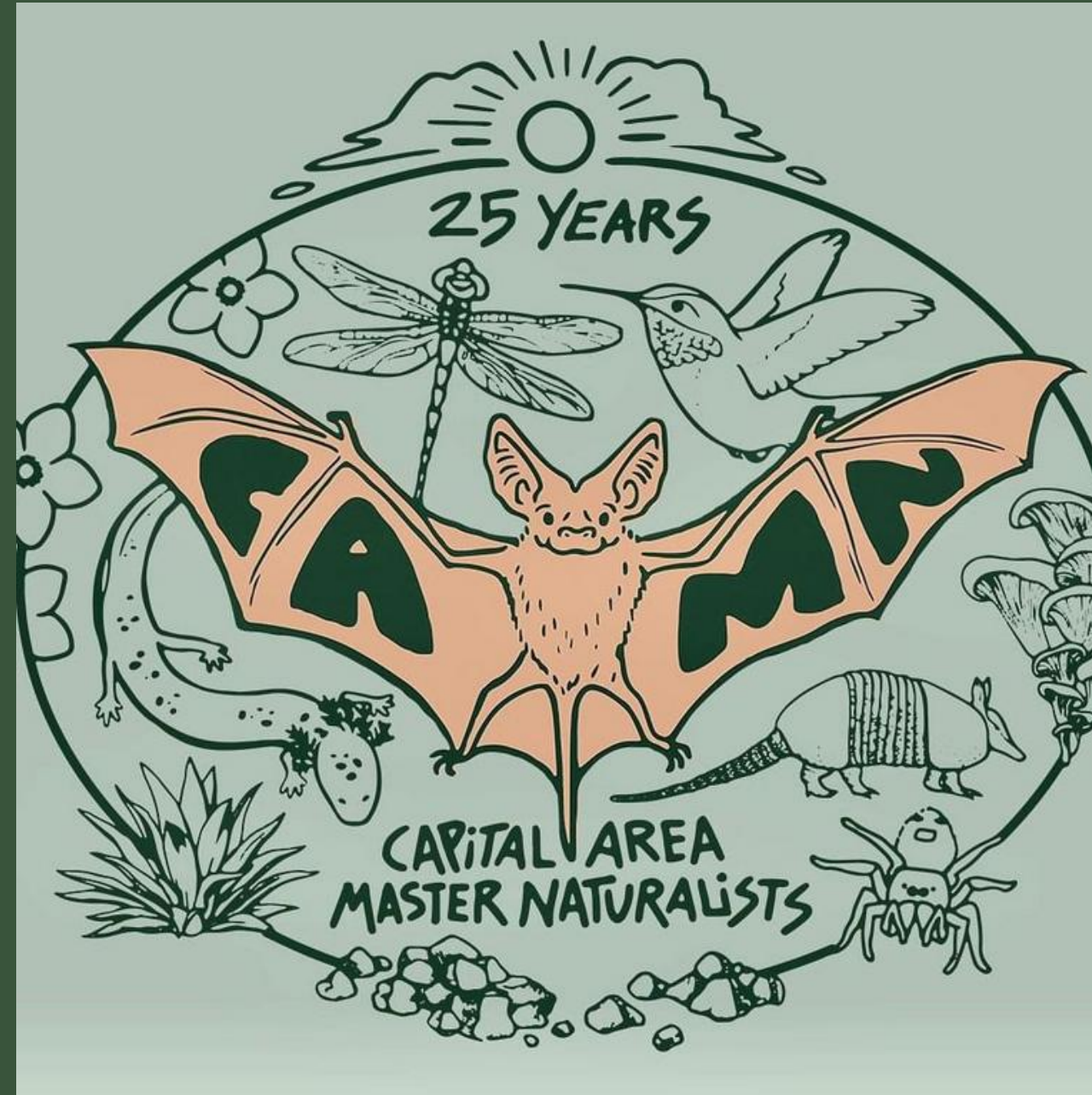
WILDLIFE WARRIOR



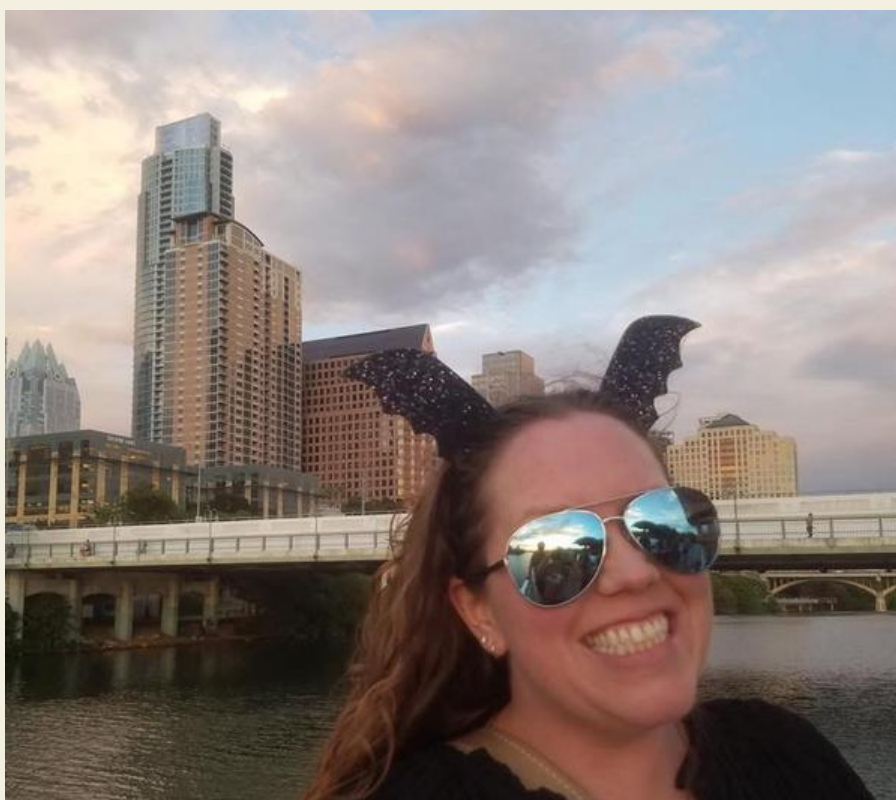


PURPOSE
MEETS
POSSIBILITY

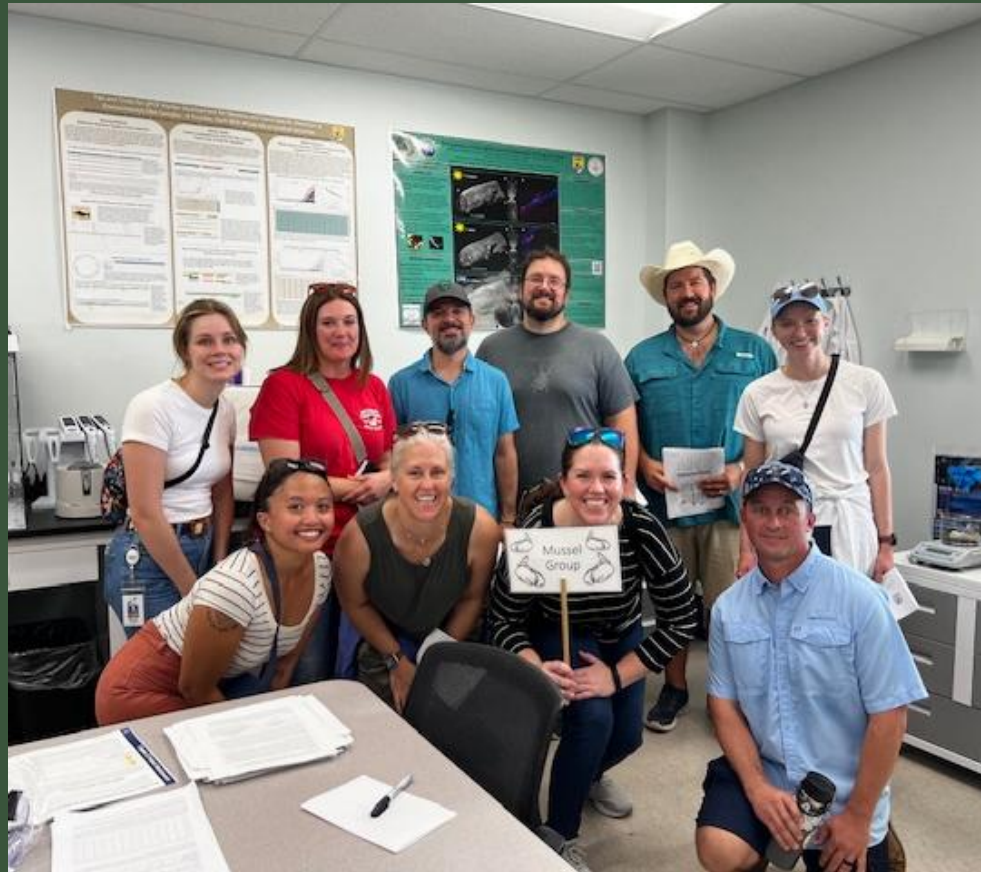




WINGS OF WONDER



CONNECT THE (T_x)DOTs



SCIENCE TAKES FLIGHT

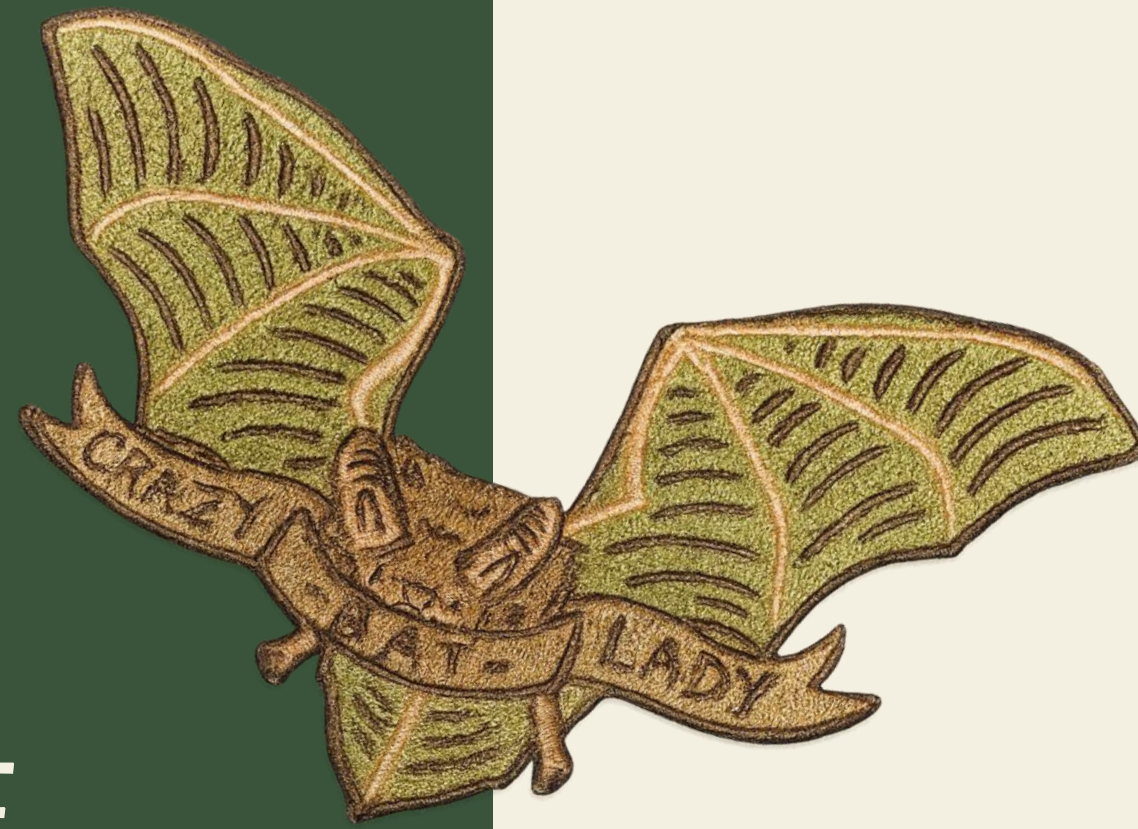


FROM SOIL TO SOUL



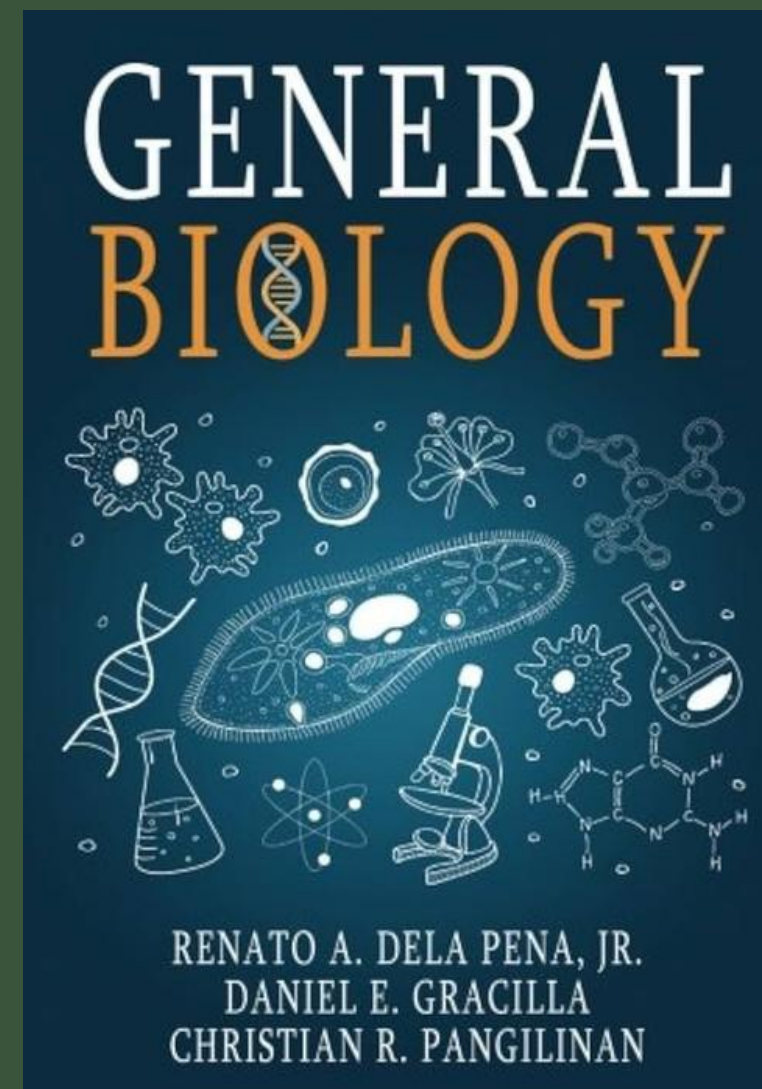
LAUREN'S CHALLENGE:

LET YOUR IMPACT BE
INTENTIONAL, YOUR
BRIDGED CONNECTIONS
MEANINGFUL, AND YOUR
PROGRESS FUELED BY
PASSION-NOT PERFECTION.



SAM KIESCHNICK

INITIAL FINGERPRINTS



BACK TO SCHOOL!



MASTER NATURALIST FINGERPRINTS











FINGERPRINTS FROM PROFESSIONALS





URBAN FINGERPRINTS



	
 Observations	162895
 Species	12733
 Identifications	766699
 Annotations	33
 Journal Posts	181
 Lists	1
 Followers	2945

GLOBAL FINGERPRINTS

[illegible]

 Joined: Jun 21, 2016
 Last Active: Aug 27, 2025
 iNaturalist

I'm a Lead Process Project Engineering Expert, and also a birdtrovert, who has been very successful in birding. I have been a birdwatcher since childhood since 1984 (my childhood era), especially ornithology. I have been watching, sharks, amphibians, and mammals, and tries to see and photograph different species of animals in the nature. I love mountaineering and monitoring nature and dominate different species of animals in the nature. I have contributed to numerous studies in various papers and books. I also love to share my experiences through videos, and photos.

To Contact me:
Email: houman.drd@gmail.com

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/theguns_david/



Ahmed Almansoori

 Joined: Dec 26, 2021
  Last Active: Aug 27, 2025
  iNaturalist

Ahmed Almansoori

Author of the book: Botany in Arabia

Aviculture and Horticulture are my hobbies.

Wildlife photographer. Interested in all animals but especially Birds and Insects.

Instagram: @_Ahmed77



小鎮/Smalltown

 Joined: Sep 28, 2018
 Last Active: Aug 27, 2025
 iNaturalist

Monthly Supporter since December 2019

Familiar with South China, Central China & East China plants.

母草 Linderniaceae、通泉草 Mazaceae、山矾 Symplocaceae、苦苣苔 Gesneriaceae、Chrysomelidae、叶蝉 Cicadellidae 爱好者。

观鸟/节肢动物新手。见习德鲁伊。

头像是与同伴一起从鸟网上救下的一只大沙锥 G

eBird account page:
<https://ebird.org/profile/Mjg5OTQyMQ>

Following 108 People



Марина Горбунова-Ёлкина

📅 Joined: Jan 31, 2019 ⌚ Last Active: Aug 27, 2025 🌐 iNaturalist

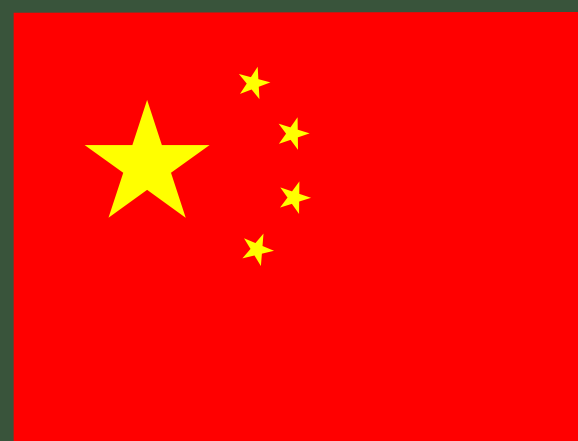
Respect is a two way street, tyranny is one way.

If my photos are neededd for Wiki species pages, please dm me and I'll upload

A naturalist trying to record as much of Russian biodiversity as possible, my goal is to observe every species I come upon in a new place, from the most common to the rarest, limited by my gear as I plan to leave micro objects for my later years.

In my spare time I id quite a bit, though recently mostly for those I interact w
withdraw an id, please tag me as I don't check every notification.

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3087-8749>



SAM'S CHALLENGE:

RECOGNIZE THAT EVERY
INTERACTION CAN BE
MEANINGFUL - WE ARE
PRODUCTS OF THE
CULMINATION OF
FINGERPRINTS

The screenshot displays a biodiversity observation interface. At the top left is a photo of a green plant with small purple flowers. To its right is a map of Kamchatka, Russia, with a green location pin. Below the map is a text prompt: "Be the first to fave this observation!". The main section is titled "Activity" and contains three entries: 1. A user named "olga_chernyagina" suggested an ID for "Red Pigweed" (*Oxybasis rubra*), with "Compare" and "Agree" buttons. 2. A user named "sambiology" commented on the first entry, saying "@olga_chernyagina -- hope you stayed safe during the earthquake!". 3. The same user "olga_chernyagina" commented back, saying "@sambiology Thank you! Everything is fine. I work in an old wooden house. It was brought from Canada in the 1930s. The house creaked and swayed a lot, but it held up. Other houses in the city are also intact." On the right side, there is a "Community Taxon" section with a message: "The Community ID requires at least two identifications." Below this are "Annotations" and "Projects (4)", including "Flora of Russia and the Crimea: RG+backlog", "Flora of Russia and the Crimea: needs ID backlog", "Petrovsk-Kamchatskyi, Russia", and "Камчатка: биологическое разнообразие. Biodiversity of".

The screenshot shows a biodiversity identification interface. At the top is a search bar with the text "Search Species" and a location filter set to "Brazos County, TX, US". There are buttons for "Go", "Filters 1", and a "Reviewed" checkbox. Below the search bar are four species cards, each with a photo and a title: 1. "Fungi Including Lichens" (Kingdom Fungi) with a photo of a yellow lichen on a tree trunk. 2. "Assassin Bugs" (Family Reduviidae) with a photo of a dark assassin bug. 3. "Tribe Pteronemobiini" with a photo of a grasshopper on a green leaf. 4. "Ants" (Family Formicidae) with a photo of an ant on the ground. Each card has a small circular profile picture of the user and a shield icon with the number "1" in the bottom right corner.



CHALLENGE RECAP



JILL

Volunteer for a project in your community that is the opposite of your usual choice.

LAUREN

Let your impact be intentional, your bridged connections meaningful, and your progress fueled by passion—not perfection.

SAM

Recognize that every interaction can be meaningful. We are products of the culmination of fingerprints.

THANK YOU

Jill Zipperer

Hays County

✉ jill@haysmn.org

🌐 linktr.ee/jillzipperer

Lauren Young

North Texas

✉ turtlehugger.lauren@gmail.com

📷 [@turtlehugger](https://www.instagram.com/@turtlehugger)

Sam Kieschnick

Cross Timbers

✉ Sam.Kieschnick@tpwd.texas.gov

🐦 [sambiology](https://twitter.com/sambiology)