

FLANWR Newsletter March 2024

1 message

Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge <admin@flanwr.org>

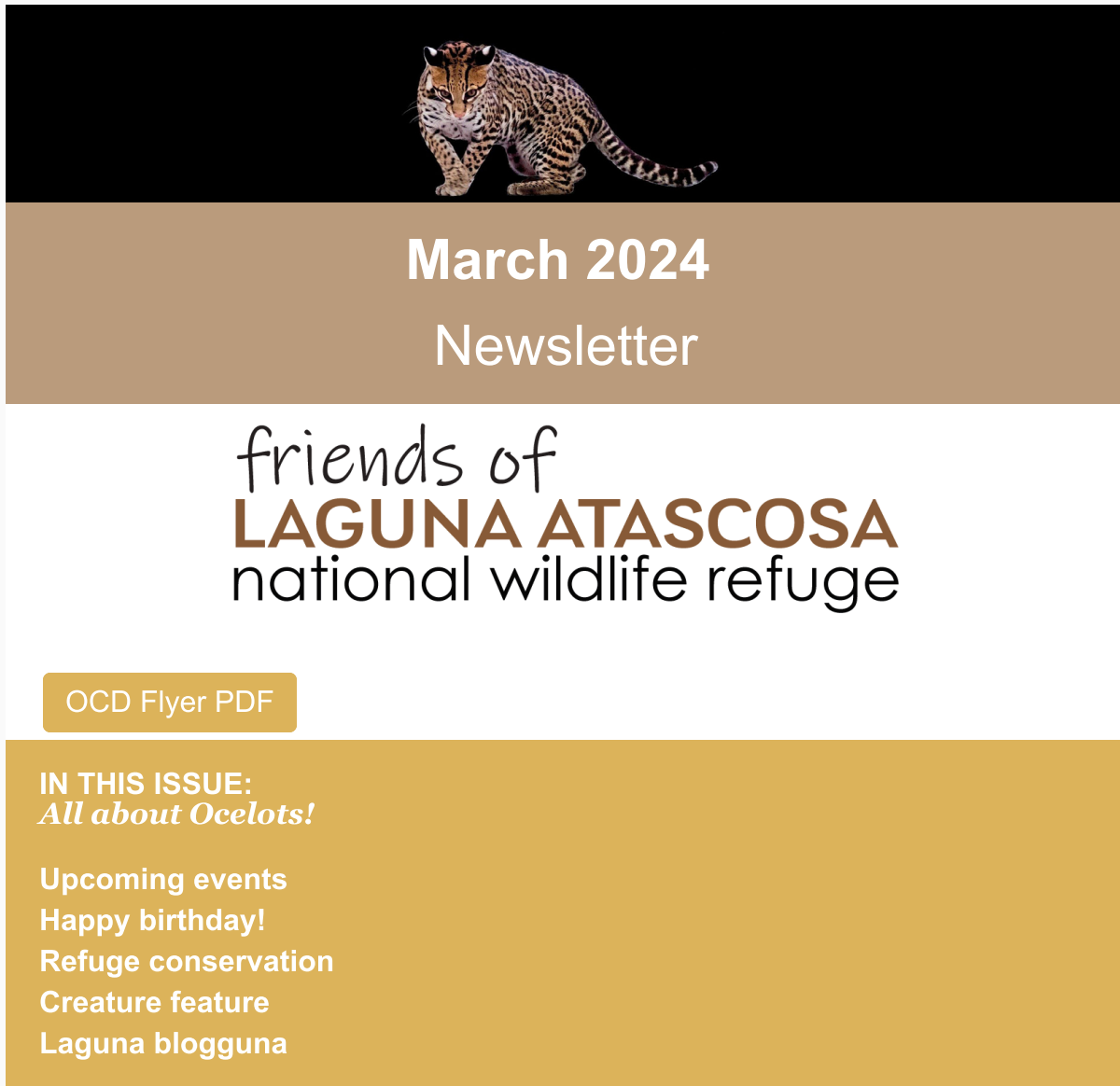
Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 8:03 PM

Reply-To: Cathy Harrington <charrington@flanwr.org>

To: Cathy Harrington <charrington@flanwr.org>

Dear Cathy,

Below is our latest newsletter, Please feel free to share it!



OCELOT
CONSERVATION
DAY

GAMES | ACTIVITIES | EXHIBITS

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

AT GLADYS PORTER ZOO

friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

GLADYS PORTER ZOO

VISIT
Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE
With Graceland, the Zoo and Aquarium

500 RINGGOLD ST. BROWNSVILLE, TX (956) 546-7187 | GPZ.ORG

X d y t i g f

[March Events PDF](#)

Save a copy for your Fridge!

March Events

Mar 2 Ocelot Conservation Hike: Granjeno and GNA Trail
8am-10am

Mar 5 Friends Science Series: All About Ocelots
1pm-3pm

Mar 8 VOLUNTEER: Naturally Native Garden Team
8am-10am

Mar 8 Wild Friends Storytime:
11am-12am The Long and Short Tail of Colo and Ruff, VC

Mar 9 Friends Members Special Tour:
9am-11am Habitat Restoration at Delaney Farms

Mar 14 Ocelot Conservation Lecture : Dr. Shari Wilcox
6pm-8pm

Mar 16 Ocelot Conservation 5K & 1 Mile Run at Gladys Porter Zoo
7:30am

Mar 17 Ocelot Conservation Day at Gladys Porter Zoo
9am-3pm

Mar 20 Wild Friends Storytime:
6pm-7pm The Long and Short Tail of Colo and Ruff, LVPL

Mar 30 Bike Laguna Atascosa with Mark Salvatore
8am

Bird & Nature Walks every Friday & Saturday Morning in March,
9am-11am ** no RSVP necessary

REGISTER: <https://flanwr.org>

See the website for time, place and details. Most of our events do require registration and have a waitlist. Please cancel if you cannot attend. Thank You!

Events are separated into General, Volunteer or Membership functions. See the home page for a full list and the appropriate link to register. Membership exclusive events require login to view.



Excerpt from FWS.org

What a great time to celebrate your wildlife heritage. The National Wildlife Refuge System marks its birthday on March 14.

National wildlife refuges, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, protect thousands of species and provide access to world-class recreation, from fishing and hunting to wildlife watching and nature photography.

President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on March 14, 1903 at Pelican Island, Florida, to protect brown pelicans there from slaughter by market hunters.

Today's Refuge System includes more than 560 national wildlife refuges, 38 wetland management districts and 5 marine national monuments. It conserves more than 95 million acres of land and 760 million acres of submerged lands and waters as wildlife habitat in all 50 states and 5 U.S. territories. There's at least one national wildlife refuge in every state and one within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas.

Refuge-based recreation, such as fishing, hunting, birding and nature photography, benefits hundreds of communities by supporting more than 41,000 jobs and generating more than \$3.2 billion in visitor spending each year. The Refuge System further enriches lives by connecting people to green space, cleaning our air and water, and buffering against storms.

No matter where you live, you can enjoy nature at a [national wildlife refuge near you](#).

Characteristics of ocelot populations in Tamaulipas, Mexico, using capture–recapture techniques



[Link to Published Document](#)

Another published paper with involved local heros!

Mitch A. Sternberg, US Fish and Wildlife Service, South Texas Refuge Complex Texas, USA

Greta M. Schmidt, Department of Biology, San Diego State University, California, USA

Rogelio Carrera-Treviño and Omar A. Ocañas-García, Laboratorio de Fauna Silvestre, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, General Escobedo, México

Francisco Illescas-Martínez, Sociedad Civil para Conservación y Desarrollo de Espacios Naturales, Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas, México

Thomas deMaar, Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, USA

Luis Jaime Peña, Brownsville, Texas, USA

The study aimed to estimate ocelot abundance and density using capture–recapture data from remote cameras at two locations in Tamaulipas, Mexico. The inland site was sampled in 2013 with 32 camera stations, and estimated densities (mean \pm SE ocelots per 100 km²) using non-spatial and spatial modeling approaches were 17.57 ± 1.10 and 28.19 ± 6.81 , respectively. The coastal site was sampled in 2017 with 16 camera stations, and estimated densities using non-spatial and spatial modeling approaches were 59.03 ± 2.32 and 43.24 ± 7.24 , respectively. These are the first published ocelot densities for these locations, and these sites represent the closest known populations to those in Texas, USA. The study concluded that the ocelot populations surveyed appear to be robust, with estimated abundances similar to or greater than other areas surveyed within the state of Tamaulipas.

how does this impact the Texas ocelots?

The study does not provide any direct information on the impact of these findings on Texas ocelots. Nonetheless, the study provides valuable information on the characteristics of ocelot populations in northeastern Mexico, which can be used to inform conservation strategies in this binational region.

What are some conservation strategies for ocelots?

There are several conservation strategies for ocelots that have been proposed by researchers and conservationists. Here are some of them:

- 1. Habitat protection and restoration:** Ocelots require dense thornscrub environments to thrive, and the protection and restoration of thornshrub habitat has been identified as the most effective recovery strategy. Private landowners are critical to the conservation and recovery of this wild, nocturnal, and secretive cat.
- 2. Population linkage:** Ocelot populations can be connected through habitat corridors, which can help increase genetic diversity and reduce the risk of inbreeding.
- 3. Reduced road mortality:** Ocelots are vulnerable to road mortality, and reducing the number of ocelot deaths on roads can help protect the species.
- 4. Supplementation of ocelots:** The supplementation of ocelots with captive-bred individuals has been proposed as a strategy to increase population size and genetic diversity.
- 5. Research and monitoring:** Research and monitoring of ocelot populations can help identify threats and inform conservation strategies.
- 6. Public awareness and education:** Public awareness and education campaigns can help raise awareness about the importance of ocelot conservation and encourage public support for conservation efforts.

Creature Feature

Science Up with the Singing Zoologist
Enjoy this awesome video on [Ocelot Spots](#)



Laguna Blogguna

Railroad Robbery on the Bahia Grande

David & Marianne Book

view the [BLOG](#)



Some of you may know that there used to be a railroad that carried both freight and passengers between Port Isabel and Brownsville. Completed in 1873, this 22.5 mile stretch of narrow gauge track traversed the wetlands requiring fifteen bridges, including a 15,550 foot trestle across Bahia Grande. Much of the line passed across the current refuge unit by that name off State Route 48. Some of the old mesquite pilings and ties are still evident there today.

As Port Isabel was the only viable port of entry with access to Brownsville at that time, cargo and merchandise of all kinds were moved between the Port and Brownsville, and then on to valley ranches by steamboat. Large shipments of silver and gold were often shipped by ranchers and businesses to New Orleans. Such was the case on January 11, 1891, when two valley businessmen delivered \$10,500 in Mexican Eagle dollars and a package of gold valued at \$9,110 to the railroad depot bound for Port Isabel. A niece of a long time conductor, Ana Cora Petz, wrote an account of what transpired in an essay published in 1927. Her vivid description makes for good reading.

It was a beautiful, sunshiny day but a slight wind was blowing from the east. All went well until the "Green Bug" reached Loma Trosada, a point about twelve miles from Point Isabel. Here by the carefully laid plan of a famous bandit gang, the rails had been loosened and then carefully laid back in place. Wires were attached to the rails so that, at a given signal, these might be drawn apart. The engineer saw all this too late to stop the train, and the engine ran off the track, catching fire as it fell. The passengers got down to see what had happened and as they did so, eight masked bandits sprang out of the tall sacahuiste (prairie grass). The four men in front, who had Winchesters, advanced toward the terrified passengers, pointed their guns at them, and said "Hands Up!" The other four men, also armed, stood in the rear. They asked them for their handkerchiefs so that they might blindfold them. Mr. Robert Kingsbury, who was at that time conductor of the Rio Grande train, realized that the robbers were after the \$60,000 in Mexican silver that the train carried. He made a quick movement toward his hip pocket but before he could reach his weapon, one of the men jammed a pistol into his chest. They blindfolded all the passengers except Mrs. Frank Thielen, Jr., the only lady passenger. One by one they robbed the passengers and led them up on a small hill. Reverend Hall, the Presbyterian minister, who was on his way to Cuba on a church mission, threw up his hands and said, "O, por Dios! No me quiten mi reloj porque es de mi esposa." Then he threw his money (\$500 in "greenbacks") into the grass. He afterwards found every dollar of it. By the time all the passengers had been relieved of their valuables and the train money stolen,

the fireman, who had been badly burned when the engine caught fire, strayed away from the rest. One of the robbers went after him and tapping him on the shoulder said to him, "Ven para aqui, amigo." ("Come over here, friend.") The fireman recognized the robber's voice and groaned, "Hay que ingrato, mi compadre Mosqueda." ("Oh, what an ungrateful comrade.") Mrs. Frank Thielen, Jr., had not been blindfolded and consequently she saw all that the robbers did. She saw one of the men climb up the telegraph pole and cut the wire. Since the wind was blowing rather strongly by this time, the mask fell off the robber and she recognized him as a man she had seen that very morning in the store of Mrs. Dreyfus, a Brownsville merchant. While doing some shopping there, she noticed this man standing at the door and looking in a suspicious manner toward the Rio Grande Railroad office.

The robbers now put all the passengers into a box car and locked them up. The passengers stayed there about two hours. After that time, hearing no sound and tiring of their cramped position, they took off their handkerchiefs and peeked out of the cracks. They saw a lonely man way out on the hills. Although they knew not whether he was a friend or foe, they called to him. The man turned out to be Pomposo, a youth from Point Isabel. He took one of the rails and knocked in the door. The passengers came out, and Mr. Martin Kingsbury, who knew telegraphy, telegraphed to Point Isabel for a rescue train. But while he was thus engaged, one of the crew, who was still very much excited, began crawling on all-fours through the tall prairie grass. The poor man crawled on until five miles from the scene of the wreck he met the hand car that was coming to the rescue. The hand car took the passengers to Point Isabel. The robbers had made off not only with the passengers' valuables, but had relieved the train of \$60,000 in Mexican silver, which was destined for New Orleans.

Of the eight men who were the desperadoes in this robbery, five of them were eventually captured and spent a long time in jail. The two leaders were sentenced to life in a federal prison in Detroit. Although about a third of the loot was recovered, three of the eight escaped with their share into Mexico and never received the justice they deserved. The story about how these men were rounded up by the law is an interesting back story which will be related next month.

OPERATIONAL HOURS

See you at the Refuge!

Visitor's Center

Monday - Saturday
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Nature Store

Monday - Saturday
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Refuge Access

Sunday - Saturday
Sunrise to Sunset

SUPPORT US

Save Texas Ocelots
License Plates



Get Yours Today!

The Nature Store



GO SHOPPING!

Adopt an Ocelot



[Adopt Here!](#)



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