

# MOTUS & THE NERRS



The National Estuarine Research Reserves System (NERRS) is a program created to preserve, protect, and restore the coastal estuaries of the United States. The system is comprised of 30 reserves across 25 different states and territories.

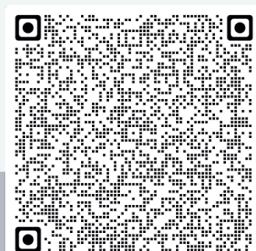
The NERRS use the Motus system to study topics like migration patterns and flight speeds. Due to the significance of estuaries in the breeding and migration of coastal birds, Motus has greatly helped understand bird populations in the reserves. Knowledge gathered through Motus can then inform the NERRS to improve management and conservation practices.

## STAY CONNECTED

OUR MOTUS NETWORK IS ALWAYS GROWING



## SEE OUR DETECTIONS



Aransas NWR



Rockport Bay

## CHECK US OUT HERE

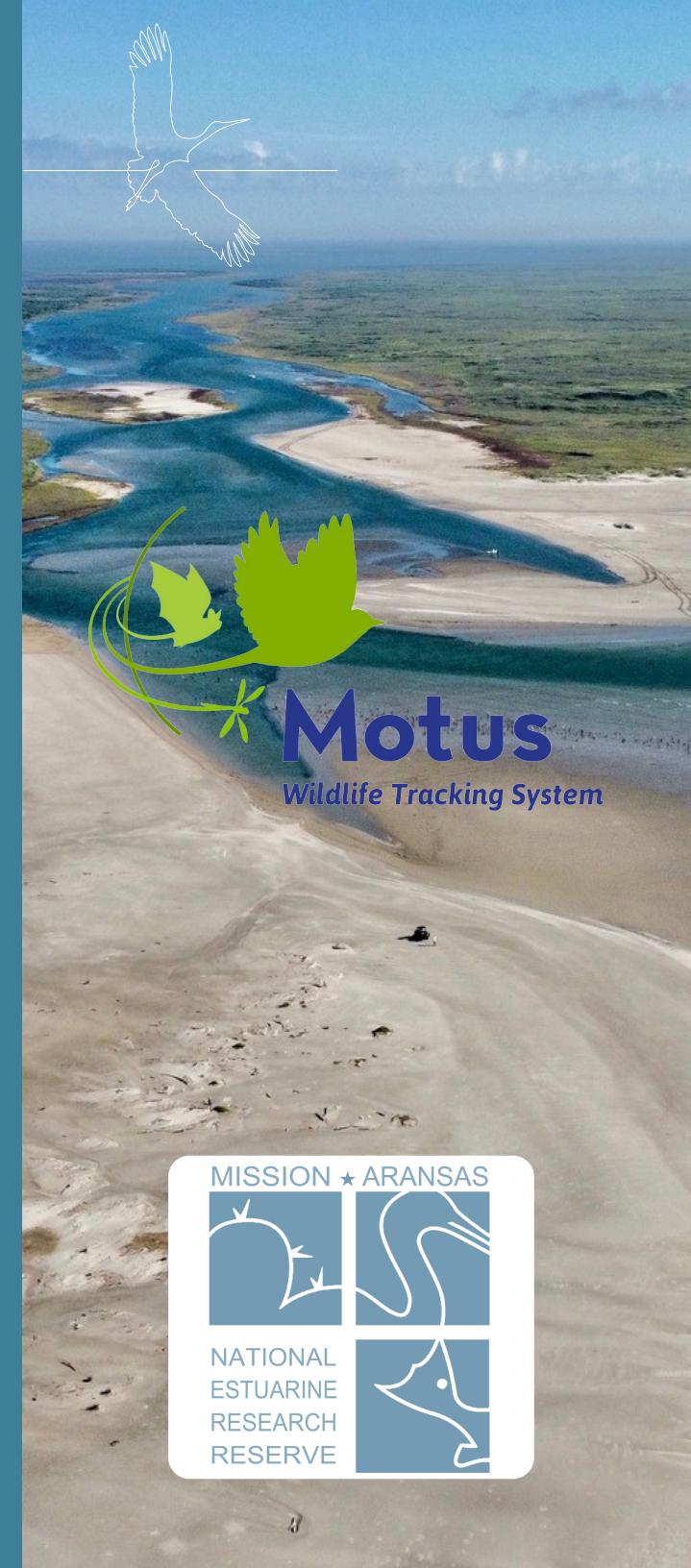


<https://missionaransas.org/>



[Motus.org](http://Motus.org)

MISSION ★ ARANSAS



## WELCOME, VISITOR!

Welcome to our National Estuarine Research Reserve! As you explore, keep an eye out for our Motus towers—part of an exciting global network tracking the movements of birds, bats, and insects. These towers detect tiny radio tags on animals flying by, providing scientists with valuable insights into their migration patterns and conservation needs. You're standing at the forefront of wildlife science, where every tag and tower helps us uncover the mysteries of animal journeys.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?



NERRS Motus



## TOP DETECTED SPECIES AT MISSION ARANSAS

So far, 17 species have been detected passing by the Mission-Aransas reserve towers. More are being detected all the time. These are the species for which we have detected the greatest number of individuals:



The Eastern Whip-poor-will, named for its distinctive, repetitive call heard at dusk, is found in the forests and woodlands of eastern North America. This nocturnal bird is important for insect control, particularly moths and beetles, and is admired by bird enthusiasts for its elusive nature and evocative nighttime song.

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## Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*



The Swainson's Thrush is known for its spiraling, upward song that echoes through the forests of North America during its breeding season. This long-distance migratory bird travels from northern forests to wintering grounds in Central and South America, using forested corridors that link ecosystems across the Americas.

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## Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*



The Black Tern, a small, agile bird with striking black plumage during breeding season, is found in wetlands across North America, migrating to Central and South America for the winter. Known for its graceful flight and insect-catching abilities, it plays an important role in maintaining healthy wetland ecosystems.