

# The Pine Warbler



## SUMMERTIME POT LUCK

Please join us on Wednesday, August 22th, at 7 p.m for our annual summer pot luck gathering. If you have pictures you would like to show the group, bring up to 15 images jpeg format (Resolutions: 1024 longest side ppi on a flash drive). We will meet at the regular location Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road.

We will provide coffee, tea and utensils. Members can bring any Pot Luck item to share. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

## Note from Carlos Hernandez

"I contacted John and Gloria Jones." They are in good health enjoying their new home in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and they are blessed to have their daughter and family nearby. John mentioned that the Goldfinches really look like Goldfinches over there. He is still playing with his camera and computer.

For the September Piney Woods Wildlife Society Program, I will give a presentation entitled:

**"Birds of the Serengeti, Tanzania."**

Of course there will be a few lions, rhino, cheetah, giraffes and even a butterfly for Farrar, Steve Abbey, Hugh & Diane. No dragonflies.

## August Purple Martin Roost Watch

By Claire Moore

Each year, the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) hosts several gatherings to watch "Purple Martin Migration Madness". 2018 is no exception.

This is a sight not to be missed! Tens of thousands of Purple Martins spiral down into just a few oak trees at sunset and roost together for the night. There is safety in numbers and Purple Martins love to be close to their friends so there are more eyes and ears checking for predators.



*Baby Purple Martins seen at Claire Moore's Purple Martin hatch party, April 28th - photo credit Tim Bujnoch*

HAS will host gatherings on two dates in August (August 7th & August 25th), but the exact time and location for these gatherings are TBD because Purple Martins sometimes move their roosts. Just check the Houston Audubon web site (<https://houstonaudubon.org/programs/all-age-groups/purple-martins.html>) nearer to the date for exact time and location to watch the "Purple Martin Migration Madness"! (FYI, for the past several years, the Houston PM roost has either been in Stafford or near Willowbrook Mall -- only time will tell where they end up roosting this year.) You can also keep your eye on The PWSWS Facebook site for more information at (<https://www.facebook.com/Piney-Woods-Wildlife-Society-125891867423250/>)

Peak numbers for Purple Martin roosts occur in late July and August when Purple Martins form large flocks and roost together in great numbers in preparation to migration. When the birds arrive to roost in the evening, it can be an amazing spectacle with the sky literally black with martins! If you know of a large roost, please contact HAS at [birds@houstonaudubon.org](mailto:birds@houstonaudubon.org). Join HAS in helping to protect Purple Martins!



*This is one of the hanging gourds when it's open for a next check. It's full of half grown baby purple martins (PMs). photo credit - Claire Moore*

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## **HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles)**

**by Carole Allen**



*A female Kemp's ridley sea turtle nesting on the beaches of Padre Island 2018 - NPS photo*

Here is the most recent report I have received. Doesn't look like we will reach 250 for ridleys but it has been a good year including more loggerheads and greens.

Carole

## **Texas Nest Update**

Today, 1 loggerhead nest was recorded in Texas, at Padre Island National Seashore.

### **KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE**

So far this year, 249 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

0 Bolivar Peninsula

2 Galveston Island

1 Brazoria County, N. of Surfside

9 Surfside Beach (area record)

1 Quintana Beach

1 Bryan Beach

1 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach

0 Sargent Beach

7 Matagorda Peninsula

0 Matagorda Island

12 San Jose Island

14 Mustang Island

136 North Padre Island, including 123 at Padre Island National Seashore

58 South Padre Island

7 Boca Chica Beach

#### LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

So far this year, 5 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

1 Galveston Island

1 Matagorda Peninsula

3 Padre Island National Seashore

#### GREEN TURTLE

So far this year, 5 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

1 North Padre Island north of Padre Island National Seashore

3 Padre Island National Seashore

1 South Padre Island

Updates regarding nesting are also posted at the Padre Island National Seashore website: [www.nps.gov/pais](http://www.nps.gov/pais)

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## Cockrell Butterfly Center

Meet Charro! Although he is orange in color, he is known as a Green Iguana. Charro was born on May 4, 1999, a long-term resident of the Cockrell Butterfly Center.

As adolescents both male and female Green Iguanas are green. As males

mature, their green coloring shifts to shades of orange to attract potential mates. Green iguanas are native to Mexico, Central America, and South America. Unlike most lizards, iguanas are vegetarians, and can happily coexist with the butterflies!

Charro enjoys people watching, bobbing his head (his way of saying “hello!”) taking weekly baths, and going for leisurely walks. Stop by to say hello!

Websites of interest: <https://www.hmns.org/>, [www.greenigsociety.org](http://www.greenigsociety.org) , & [www.hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center](http://www.hmns.org/cockrell-butterfly-center)



*Green Iguana Cockrell Butterfly Center*



*Green Iguana - notice the Rice Paper - Idea leuconoe butterfly on his back - photo credit Diane Wedgeworth*



*Lighting on museum floor*



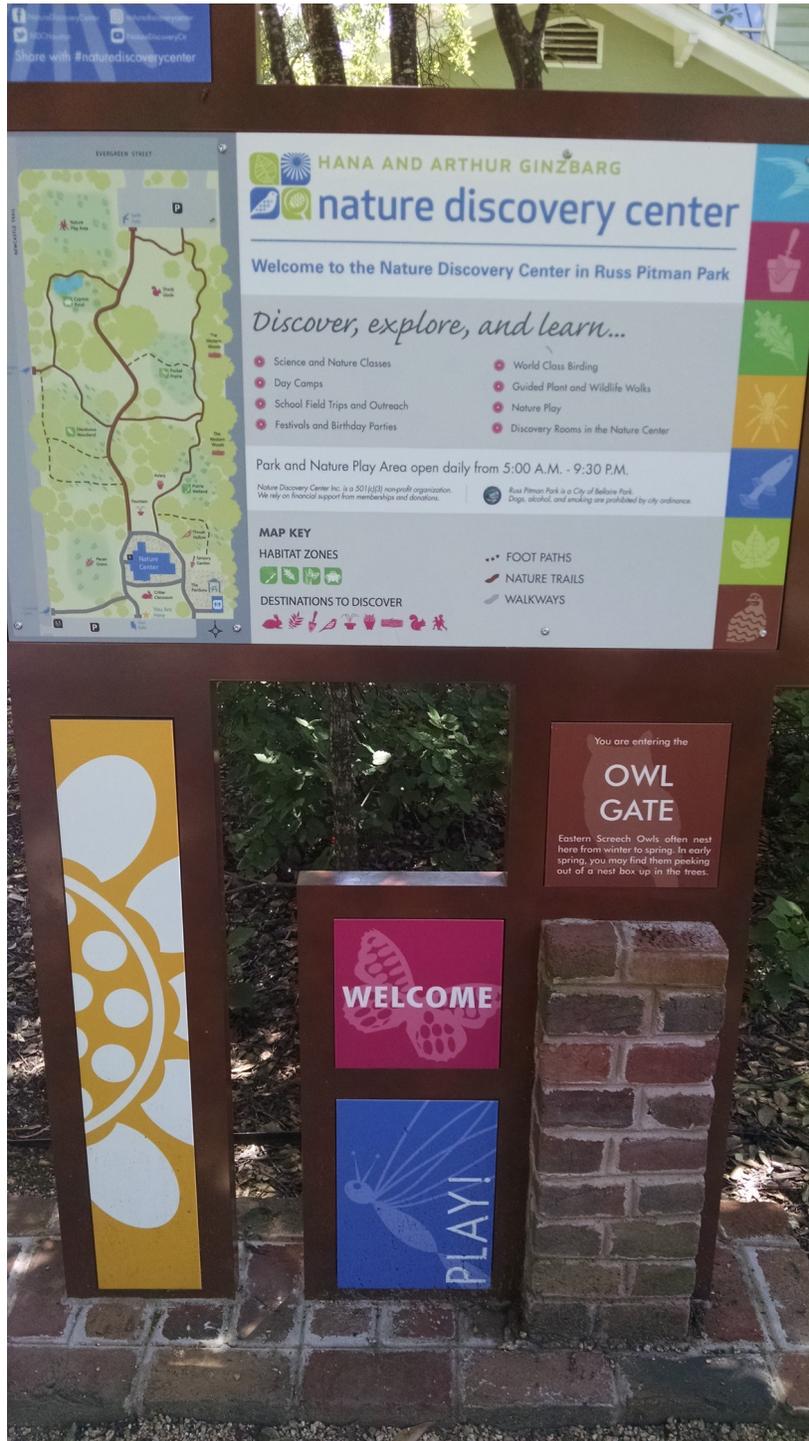
*Lighting on museum floor*



*Heliconian butterflies sleeping - Cockrell Butterfly Center*

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## **Nature Discovery Center - Russ Pittman Park**



Nature Discovery Center - Russ Pittman Park, we discovered while doing the Houston Butterfly Count. BEST/NABA



*Have animals to visit, we saw quail, turtles and bunnies. More inside to see.*



*A great place to visit! Beautiful plants and trails to walk or to relax. Betsy and Fred Robinson*

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## The Latest from Paul Gregg



*© Paul Gregg*

*Tricolored Heron*

Carol and I went to Melbourne, Florida to visit my daughters and grandchildren

there the 1st of June. We intended to visit my son and his family in Jacksonville also, but due to a family emergency, we had to return home early. Each time I'm privileged to visit Melbourne, I always try to go to the Rich Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera, Florida. The place is similar to Anahuac NWR in Chambers County, TX. One can drive on the top of the berms surrounding the watershed and observe wildlife. Of course, alligators can be heard and seen, but the largest reason for driving around is observing the many different species of birds found there. On our recent visit, the usual abundance of birds was very much lessened and we noticed vegetation had grown high and it was hard to view very many species. I asked a local resident who was walking around the berms about it and he said due to the abundance of rain the last few months, the reeds and grasses have really grown.

Of note in the attached photos, a new bird to add to my life list is the Northern Rough-winged Swallow. A group of them were perched in a tree and if I've mis-labeled them, I'm sure someone will correct me. The Tri-colored Heron posed for such a long time, I tired of taking photos of it. Anhingas were plentiful and the one posed with its back to the camera showing its awesome feather pattern that makes me appreciate this bird as one of the most beautiful in its plumage. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were also plentiful Folks in the Houston area see them all around here. A Great Blue Heron was causing a ruckus with its calling out and I think I captured a humorous moment in its pose. The Loggerhead Shrike flew near and struck some awesome poses. The Brown Thrasher was singing in a pine tree and it made me recall the one I heard in Texas Pass a couple months ago and as it sang, I thought it was a mockingbird until I saw it was a thrasher. We saw a few other species, but I didn't get to capture their images as I had hoped.

Should you be in the central Florida area, near Melbourne, I would highly recommend paying a visit to the place. For the wetlands web site, go here: <http://www.brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources/EnvironmentalResources/VieraWetlands>

**Paul**



*Northern Rough-winged Swallow*



*Northern Rough-winged Swallow*



*Loggerhead Shrike*



*© Paul Gregg*  
*Loggerhead Shrike*



*© Paul Gregg*  
*Great Blue Heron*



*© Paul Gregg*  
*Brown Thrasher*



*Black-bellied Whistling Duck*



*Anhinga*



*Anhinga*

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## "Nature Photography in the Summer"



*Red-bellied Woodpecker*

I seem to not be quite the photographer who can stand the summer heat for very long when I go outside. If I'm surf fishing down between San Luis Pass and Surfside, TX., I can wade out into the water and cool down a little in the 85 degree water. But there are ways to get a few photos that I am sure many have found. Here's a couple ideas:

Number 1 activity is to watch out the back windows or the window panes in the back door for something photographic to show up. We have one of our hummingbird feeders not far out the back door and one hot day recently, one of our grey squirrels had climbed up the crook and held on with its back feet, grabbing the feeder and tilting it toward itself to tip the nectar out and drink. Then,

the other morning I was getting ready to put seeds and suet out for the birds (and squirrels) and I looked on top of the shed in the yard behind ours and there was a juvenile yellow-crowned night heron just looking around almost like it was either lost, or looking for something for breakfast. Naturally, I had to grab the camera for a couple photos. In the last few weeks, I've arranged a hunk of mulberry tree trunk with drilled holes and have been putting a blend of peanut butter and other stuff into the holes and the red-bellied woodpeckers (and other birds) have been enjoying the mixture. So when you are home and pass by your windows be on the lookout for a photo moment.

Number 2 activity is to go out at night and look for subjects. Last night, our dog, Gus thought there was some invader on the back fence and I grabbed my flashlight and went out back to see what was causing him to get all excited. I was definitely glad I took my flashlight with me, as I almost walked into the beautifully designed web with this Spotted Orbweaver right in the middle of it. I ran back into the house, grabbed my camera, and had Carol come out and hold the flashlight for me so I could focus on the spider. I shot a few without flash, then added my pop-up flash to capture the better photos. The spider is also called Hentz's Orb Weaver and the scientific name is *Neoscoma Crucifera*. My book says they are nocturnal and during the day will hide in a curled up leaf. This morning, the web was gone; but I expect the spider to be building another one tonight. Maybe I'll go out again and try to get better photos of it.

Enjoy!

Paul Gregg



*Red-bellied Woodpecker*



*Grey Squirrel on hummingbird feeder*



*Spotted Orbweaver*



*Spotted Orbweaver*



## Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park

709 Riley Fuzzel Road

PWWS meetings are held at the Big Stone Lodge at the new Dennis Johnston County

Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road.

The directions to get there are much the same as to the Nature Center. Aldine-Westfield turns into Riley Fuzzel Road just northeast of Spring so there are several ways to get there.

1. Take the Rayford/Sawdust exit and go East (right) on Rayford Rd. It dead ends at Riley Fuzzel, then turn South (right) and drive to the Dennis Johnston Park past Spring Creek and on the right; or,
2. take Spring-Cypress east to Aldine Westfield through Old Town Spring, turn left and then on to Riley Fuzzel for a short distance and turn left; or,
3. Take Aldine Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it turns into Riley Fuzzel. Turn right and watch for the Dennis Johnston Park on the left.

<b>Piney Woods Wildlife Membership Form</b>		
Last Name(s):	First Name of Member(s):	
Street Address:	City:	State and Zip:
Home Phone No:	Work Phone No:	Email Address(s):
Pine Warbler will be delivered by E-mail Only		
Annual Membership Fee \$15.00* Additional Contribution \$ _____ Total \$ _____		Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to:  <b>Piney Woods Wildlife Society</b> <b>P.O. Box 189</b> <b>Spring, TX 77383-0189</b>
*Per Household – Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter New _____ Renewal _____ Rejoining _____		

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Please join us!

PWWS web site is [www.pineywoodswildlifesociety.org](http://www.pineywoodswildlifesociety.org)

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For membership information write to us at P.O. Box 189, Spring, Texas 77383-0189. Annual Dues :\$15.00 per household.

Please submit any articles you'd like considered for the PWWS Newsletter. The Pine Warbler, to our President, Kathy Coward, [justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net) or Diane Wedgeworth, Editor, [milanodi@yahoo.com](mailto:milanodi@yahoo.com)

Please send all new address changes and any corrections to [cdmoore3@gmail.com](mailto:cdmoore3@gmail.com) (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.

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