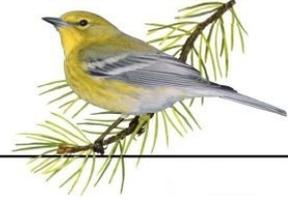


The
Pine Warbler



Piney Woods Wildlife Society - April Program

"Kemp's Ridleys - Then and Now"

by Carole Allen, Al Barr & Carlos Hernandez



Ridley's Sea Turtle

Don't miss the April program presented by PWWS' very own three sea turtle pioneers. Al Barr, Carlos Hernandez and Carole Allen will show historic photos at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico, of nesters when there were only a few hundred Kemp's ridleys left. Their photos gave Carole the pictures she needed to talk to children and begin HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) in schools. Their stories of staying in tents on the beach with none of the comforts of home will be interesting and fun too. Be prepared to laugh! See you for sea turtles!

Please join us on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. (Social time with snacks provided is at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Big Stone Lodge at Dennis Johnston Park located at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road in Spring, Texas.



Ridley Sea Turtle Eggs

The Real "Leafbird"

by Claire Moore



Golden-fronted Leafbird in India. Photo by Mike O'Brien

Here is another one of those stories that only birders will understand... We all have them!

This is a picture of a real "leafbird". It's the green bird, somewhat out of focus in the center of this picture. Various Leafbird species occur in Asia... Prior to birding in Cambodia a few years ago when I saw the Golden-fronted Leafbird, I used to often say, "Never mind. It was just a LEAF bird..." Now, I can't say that anymore without thinking back to this beauty that I saw in Cambodia.

My friend Mike O'Brien just sent this picture to me -- he saw this golden-fronted leafbird in India. I had related my story to him when we were talking about "leaf birds" while birding together in Grand Cayman in February during our Carefree Birding cruise...

HEART Happenings

by Carole Allen



Kemp Ridley Sea Turtle

Wonderful news for protection of the ridleys!

Subject: [South Padre conservation purchase to protect sea turtle habitat](#)

Check this out:

<https://www.statesman.com/news/20190308/south-padre-conservation-purchase-to-protect-sea-turtle-habitat>



Sea Turtle

RAPTORS

by Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Have you ever heard of a hawk vest, raptor shield or coyote vest? I had no idea they even existed until I started researching this article. Although they may go by different names, they are all very similar and serve the same purpose. They claim to protect small animals from birds of prey, coyotes and even aggressive dogs. Now you may think this is silly and even a little ridiculous but if you're someone who has suffered the loss of a pet snatched by a raptor or coyote, it makes perfect sense. As recently as January 18th in Pennsylvania, an 8-pound bichon frise was playing in the backyard when an eagle swooped down, grabbed it with its talons and flew off with it. Not to worry. For some unknown reason, the eagle dropped it 4 miles away and the dog recovered.

A bird of prey is a meat-eater but not all birds of prey are raptors. Eagles, owls, ospreys, kites, hawks, buzzards, harriers, vultures, and falcons are all raptors. Three traits help distinguish a raptor from other birds of prey and these three traits make raptors excellent hunters. A raptor has a curved beak with sharp edges, sharp claws or talons and excellent eyesight.

Of all the animals in the animal kingdom, raptors have the best eyesight. Their

eyesight is 6 to 8 times better than ours. As far as which raptor has the best eyesight it is most definitely the eagle. It is believed that an eagle can spot an ant crawling on the ground from atop a 10-story building, or a rabbit up to a mile away. Breaking that down even a little further, this means an eagle flying at an altitude of 1000 feet over open country could spot prey over an area of almost 3 square miles from a fixed position.

The talons, or claws, of raptors are curved downward and are razor sharp. If you were to see a raptor's foot up close you would also notice rough bumps on the pads of the feet which aid in hanging onto their prey like slippery fish. The raptor swoops down and with a vise-like grip either kills the prey or inflicts serious wounds.

The beaks of raptors are all the same. They are curved with very sharp edges. They use their beaks to tear off fur, pull out feathers and tear meat into bite-sized pieces that they swallow whole. Raptors also have what we would call a "tooth" on the inside of the upper part of their beak. It's shaped like a triangle and is called a tomia. This is used to cut the spinal cord of its prey.

If you come across an injured raptor, there are very important steps to take to insure your safety and the safety of the bird. First, call TWRC Wildlife Center. If the bird doesn't fly away when approached, this doesn't always mean it's injured. It could be protecting food or babies. If it is determined that the bird actually needs rescuing, we will direct you on how to safely capture and restrain the hawk. If you do not feel comfortable handling the hawk, we can recommend other options for transport. If it is injured, you'll need heavy gloves, safety glasses and a thick towel or blanket. Throw the towel or blanket over the bird and take hold of the bird by keeping its wings close to its body and your hands out of reach of the talons. Darkness helps calm birds and the towel provides that. Place the bird in a sturdy box or pet carrier that is only slightly larger than the bird. If it's too large, the bird will be able to flop around and could inflict even more injuries. Be sure to remove the towel or blanket from the container. Now place that towel or blanket over the carrier. Bring the bird to us as quickly as possible for care. Please do not attempt to feed the bird or provide water. As with most wild animals, it is illegal to have raptors in your possession. They are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

If you have any wildlife questions, give us a call at 713-468-8972 or check our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org

Spring is our busiest season and babies have started coming in. We need compassionate people to help feed and care for baby squirrels, baby opossums and baby birds. The age requirement is 14 and up. This is an experience you'll

never forget! The link is [Volunteer](#)
Cheryl Conley President TWRC Wildlife Center
10801 Hammerly Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, TX 77043

Hope Farms Gardens Annual Sale



Hope Farms Gardens Opening Weekend: Saturday & Sunday, April 27-28, 2019.

We will be open every Saturday & Sunday starting April 27 through May 25, 2019.
Hours 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Groups on weekdays by appointment only. Listing of the plants will be posted as we get closer to opening day.

Cash or Checks only, please.

Y'all come!!! We are looking forward to your visit this year. Feel free to forward this invitation on to a local Gardening Friend!

HOPE FARMS GARDENS - 936-264-1499
18750 F.M. 1484 - Conroe, Texas 77303
<http://www.hopefarmsgardens.com/>

FeatherFest 2019

Hosted by the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council (GINTC)

FeatherFest 2019 will be held this month from Thursday, April 11th through Sunday, April 14th. You must be registered ahead of time to attend. Please visit the website <http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com/> for all the information. You may find the FAQs section under the Festival Details tab especially helpful.

Galveston is one of the top locations for birding in the nation. This festival is held during spring migration – the best time to visit world-renowned birding hot spots like Bolivar Flats and High Island.

All attendees must be registered. Only registered guests can attend field trips and workshops. Field trips by bus will leave from FeatherFest Headquarters. Registrants with field trips that require driving directions will receive them by email approximately one week prior to the Festival. Workshops will be held in meeting rooms located at FeatherFest Headquarters.

To complete a group registration (2 people or more) you will need to enter one of the attendees. Then, add other attendees by clicking on the "Add Another Person" link on the upcoming Schedule or Checkout pages. All information for each attendee will need to be entered before your group's registration is complete. We also suggest you review your group's schedule during the checkout process before submitting payment. Please Note: ONLY the Group Leader can make changes to a Group Registration.

NEED HELP? Please feel free to contact us by email at FeatherFest@gintc.org or voice mail (832) 459-5533. One of our Registration Volunteers will return your email/call within 24 hours.

Beautiful Bird Photos from Hank

by H.M. Arnold



<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190328-Reddish-Egrets>

March 21, 2019

There I was, minding my own business (again) in front of our house (again), and I was visited by an apparition of beauty...

I first noticed the serene, gentle swooping motion, about 75 yards away, just above the trees to the south. At first I saw that it was a bird slightly larger than a gull, with a tail that was visibly forked, even at that distance.

I saw some black, and I saw some white, so I thought "Oh, female/juvenile Frigate!!".

It was then I noticed that the white wasn't just the head – it was the entire underside.

I had no clue what kind of bird that was, just that it was beautiful.

I would like the record to show that my first thought was to run inside and yell for Nancy.

That took about 15 seconds.

When I got back outside, he was flying just a few yards south of our place, just above the rooftops.

A graceful, gentle, back and forth gliding motion.

My next thought was... "New Life Apparition List Entry : Angel"

Then I realized that it couldn't be an angel, because it didn't have a halo or bare feet.

I was mesmerized...

Graceful back and forth

Entranced...

My NEXT though was "Man, if I had the world's best camera, I could take some truly beautiful pictures".

Then I thought "WOW!" I DO have the worlds best camera, and its only about 30 feet away, just inside that door!!!"

Haven't moved that fast since High School Football.

Probably didn't move that fast back then or I would have had a career in the NFL.

Came out about another 15 seconds later with my wife, my dog, and my camera, just to see the apparition fade over the trees to the north.

"EVERYBODY IN!!!" says I, flinging opening the doors to the car.

Like clockwork, the woman, the dog, the camera, and I DOVE through the doors. Everyone was sitting there looking at me.

Looking at me like "Why aren't we going anywhere??"

Like "Do you have the keys?"

Another 30 seconds and we take off like Steve McQueen chasing bad guys through the streets of San Francisco.

Sadly, unlike Mr. McQueen, we never glimpsed our quarry again.

No photographic evidence of what I now know to be a Swallow Tailed Kite.

Headed all the way north to the Big Tree, always searching the sky for my angel.

Not to be.

Even the dog was scanning the horizon for flying bare feet.

Sulked back home and waited another hour with my camera in my hand, hoping for a second chance.

Not to be.

So now I'm asking all my friends for any pointers on how I can get near a Swallow Tailed Kite.

While chasing the apparition, we saw what is OBVIOUSLY a Glossy Ibis (I have no idea, I'm just not man enough to raise any question on that subject with my wife that it might be a White-faced)

We also were asked by some people with Oklahoma plates where the Whooping Cranes were in Lamar. Since we hadn't seen them, we led them around until we found them at the Simms yard.

Anyway, the sun did come out today, so I was able to take some better pictures of our yellow-throated young man...

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190321-Rockport>

Better pictures aren't helping at all.

I tried different reflection angles hoping to see a ruby color. My thinking was that the pictures before with a yellow gorget were just funky fog reflections.

Well, THAT didn't help...

Reflected sunlight shows as GREEN.

And now with better pictures you can see that the gorget feathers that aren't iridescent yet are kind of a kinky two-toned beige/brown action.

Yellow/Green gorget, and the fact that he looks like he's been roughed up. His missing wing feathers are being replaced (one picture), but the whole hodge-podge of colors coming and going are very confusing.

At this point my money is on a juvenile male Rufous Hummingbird.

Either that or the mythical Greater Norwegian Emerald that Ray promised me.

Anyway...

The mulberry tree is budding, the Monarchs are laying eggs in our resurgent milkweed, and every night I sit forlornly in front of the house waiting for another chance at the Swallow Tailed Kite.

Y'all help me out, here

Hank

On Friday, March 29, 2019, 1:49:48 AM UTC, H.M. Arnold HMArnold@msn.com wrote:

Acting on a tip from Dell Little, we had a magical day.

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190328-North>

It was a family of 3 birds, with the adults bringing food to the juvenile who waited in a centrally located tree. Of the 3 times we could identify what the adult was bringing in, all 3 times it was a frog.

The adults would have to transfer the frog from their talons to their beak in flight so they could land on a branch near the juvenile and transfer the frog.

Over the course of a 4 hour period, we also witnessed what I think was STKI porn.

They are absolutely glorious birds with the most majestic flying motion I have ever seen.

We also found a bald eagle at the spillway of a local dam. Although he wasn't active during the time we were there, he was positioned to be able to watch the surface of the water for a half mile in both directions, so I think it will be a great place for me to set up for some Bald Eagle fishing pictures.

Thanks to all that gave us suggestions.

Hank



Swallow Tailed Kite by Hank Arnold

Bald Eagles Humble location

by Paul Gregg

On March 10th, Carol and I took a few moments to stop by the location of a pair of Bald Eagles in Humble. Though we saw only one eaglet, we understand there were two there not long ago. Maybe one was down in the nest and didn't come up. Anyway, this eaglet is evidently ready to be a "percher" and will be hopping from limb to limb as it exercises its wings, getting ready for flight. The parents had another nest in the last 3 years and decided to build this one last fall. It doesn't appear to be as large as the previous one, but I think they will add to it annually until they build another one.

While we were watching the eaglet, the parents did a flyover and called out a number of times. Then they left the area to probably look for food for the youngster.

Crows were creating a cacophony of calls behind us. Carol watched them and found they were harassing a great horned owl. I didn't get any photos of the owl, but saw it briefly. The owl flew a few times from tree to tree as the crows were going after it. We didn't conclude just why the interaction was going on, but possibly the owl was near a crow's nest.

Enjoy,

Paul



Bald Eagle



Bald Eagle



Bald Eagle



Bald Eagle

Super Full Worm Moon - 3.20.19

by Paul Gregg



© Paul Gregg

Worm Moon 3-20-2019 by Paul Gregg

Carol and I went to the Piney Woods Wildlife Society's meeting tonight and as we were walking back to the car, she reminded me of the full moon on March 20th." The moon was a bit above the horizon. I grabbed my camera out of the car and took a photo. She exclaimed that she could see there was an airplane between us and the moon. I took about 7 or 8 more photos and sure enough, there was the plane! I've wanted to take a photo of a plane between us and the moon for years and tonight was finally the night. What a wonderful gift we were given. Tonight's full moon is the 3rd "super" moon this year and the last for this year. See the link below for more information about the Super Full Worm Moon! When we got home, I pulled up an app about the moon on my phone and found the actual full moon was going to be in 8 minutes, so I went out back and took some more photos, but without any airplanes between me and the moon. The brighter photo is when the moon was supposedly 100% full.

This is the closest coincidence of a full moon with the March equinox since March 2000 – 19 years ago. The full moon and March equinox won't happen less than one day apart again for another 11 years, until March 2030.

[For more full moon information, go here.](#)

Paul Gregg, SMSGT, USAF (Ret.)

"I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." Thomas Jefferson



© Paul Gregg



© Paul Gregg



Super Full Worm Moon - 3-20-2019

American Goldfinch

by Paul Gregg



American Goldfinch

On Friday March 15th, Carol called out "yellow bird in the feeder!" I jumped up and couldn't believe what I was seeing at first. It was a male American Goldfinch, a bird I would consider a late arrival to our back yard. Of course I grabbed my camera and started taking photos through the glass at the back door. It stayed in the feeder for a long time and I quietly stepped outside and took up a better location for photographing it. At first, a house sparrow was in the feeder with it and something scared all the other birds away from our feeders, leaving only the goldfinch. It kept eating seeds (looks like it favored the striped sunflower seeds) and would take a few minutes to rest, then would start eating again. Finally, it perched on the side of the feeder and flew down to the bird bath to get a drink. It even sat at the bird bath for a couple minutes, then flew up into a tree. It perched on the rope I use for my "bark butter" feeder and fluffed itself up.

There were no other goldfinches to be seen or heard. I can only guess that it was possibly hindered from flying with others in a flock and found our feeders to stop, eat, drink, then continue on its northward journey. For a couple hours we surely enjoyed the show!

I have other back yard birds to share that have showed up over the winter and will try to send another e-mail or two in the next few days. BUT, the spring migration is beginning and I'm getting e-mails and Facebook notices of warblers and others showing up at birding locations. My "trigger" finger is getting itchy to push the shutter button on the camera while in "the woods" somewhere there are migrant arrivals!

Enjoy,

Paul



© Paul Gregg

American Goldfinch



© Paul Gregg

American Goldfinch



© Paul Gregg

American Goldfinch



American Goldfinch



American Goldfinch



American Goldfinch

Sabine Woods - March 18, 2019



Prothonotary Warbler

I sometimes say that my middle name is “procrastination” and here’s an example. I have a backlog of photos to send out and I owe my recipients an apology for not keeping up on recent photo excursions. That being written, I hope you will forgive my being late and just look and enjoy at some upcoming e-mails from me. The spring migration is picking up to a feverish pitch and I’ve seen some great photos from the Golden Triangle Audubon Society’s Facebook page. I’ll possibly fall into being a procrastinator again in the next couple weeks, because I want to get out look for birds! Patience is supposed to be a great virtue, and I hope you will exercise yours as I try to catch up a little.

On Mar. 18, I hoped for some early arrivals at Sabine Woods and it was a slow day for me. However, some of my favorite warblers were there, and the Prothonotary warblers posed very nicely for me. The hooded warbler was elusive and hard to track as he was frenetically bouncing around the underbrush. The ruby-crowned kinglet (another frenetically active little bird) stretched out in a pose I’ve never seen before. When I initially looked in the computer, I didn’t immediately ID it.

I didn’t stay long at Sabine Woods and the balance of photos were butterflies and flowers. I was able to go for a drive up McFadden NWR and took maybe 75 photos of a very cooperative osprey. Maybe I’ll do another e-mail and highlight the osprey.

Enjoy,

Paul Gregg, SMSGT, USAF (Ret.)

(H) 281.441.9083; (Cell) 281.536.2304

Gen. 1:20: And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.



Ruby Crowned Kinglet



Prothonotary Warbler



Prothonotary Warblers

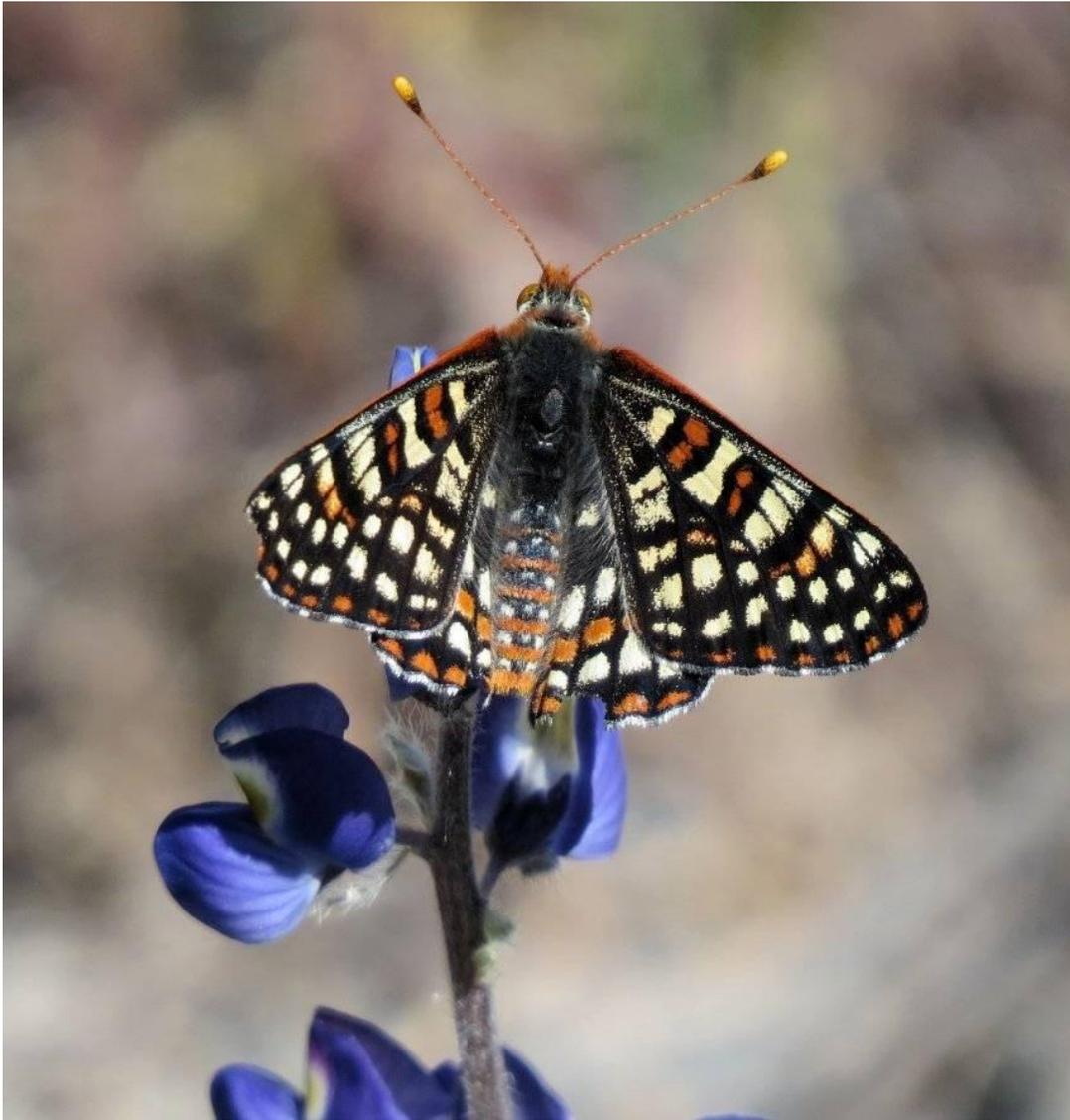


Prothonotary Warbler



Hooded Warbler

Photos by Bill Miller



March 31, 2019 Variable Checkerspot - Spent most of the day in the Tonto National "Forest" at a glorious wildflower and butterfly site. — at Sears Kay Ruins.. Photo by Bill Miller



March 29, 2019 A Gambel's Quail — at Superstition Mountains. Photo by Bill Miller



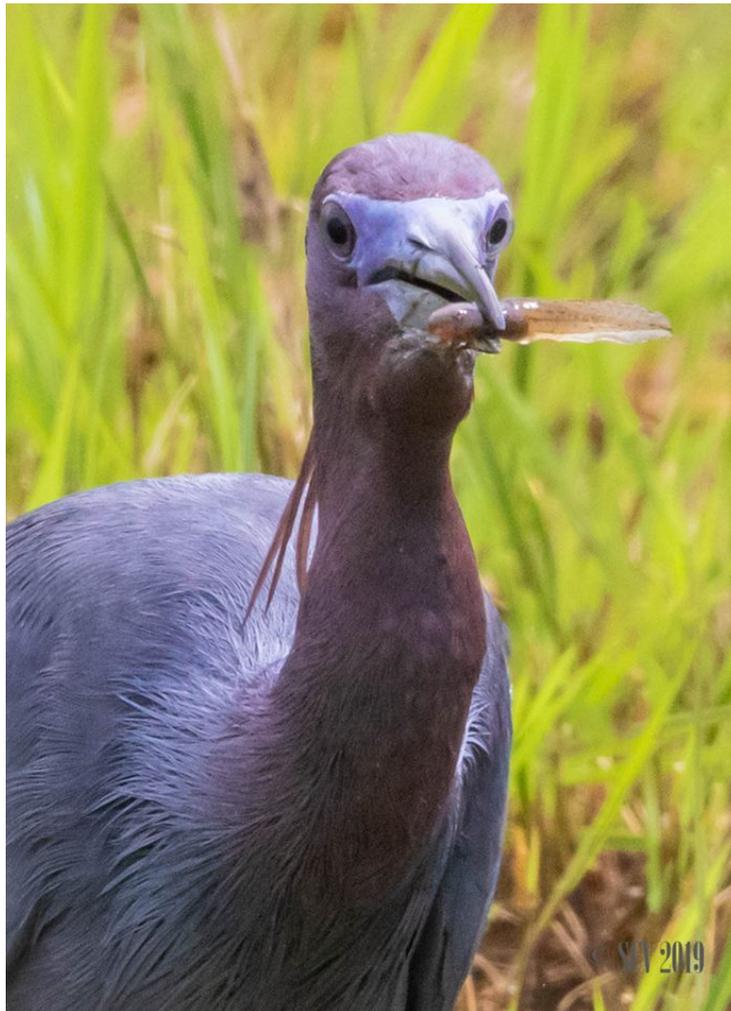
March 25, 2019 A beautiful little Black-throated Sparrow. Always ready for a formal occasion. — at Saguaro National Park - Photo by Bill Miller

Photo by Carlos Hernandez



© 2019 ania & carlos hernandez
Hooded Warbler

Photos by Sandy Crystal Vaughn

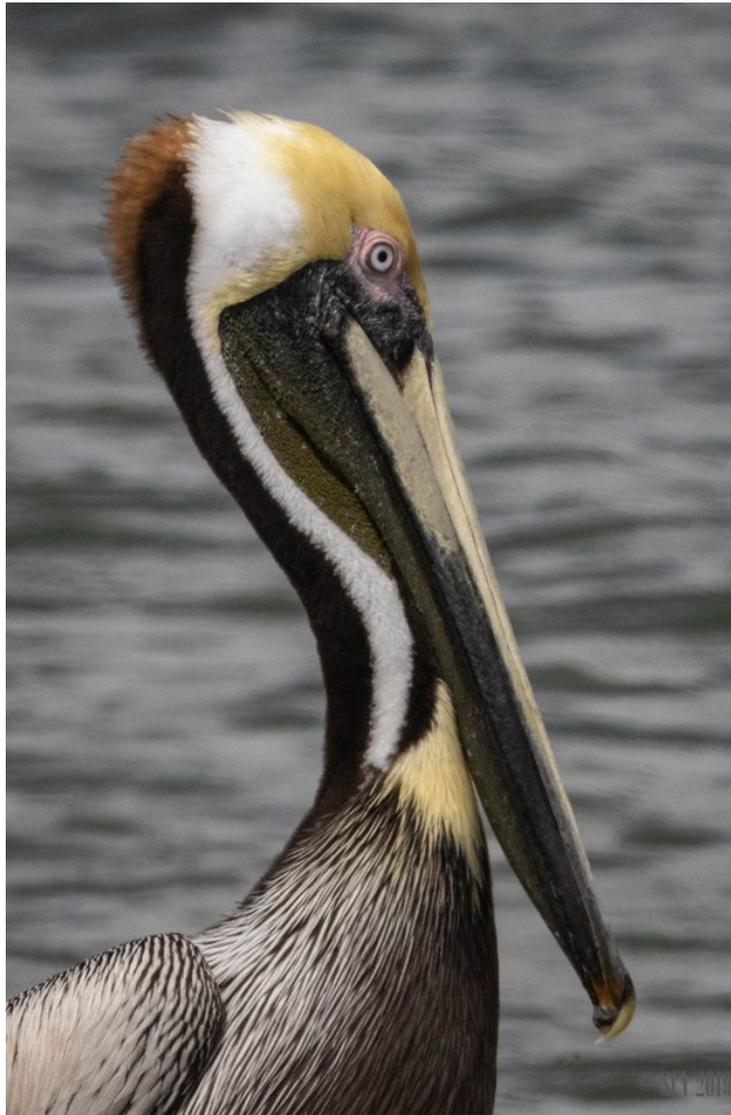


SCV 2019

Sandy Crystal March 25 at 9:59 AM - This totally gorgeous Little Blue Heron was nabbing tadpoles yesterday in a marshy area on the campus of the University of Houston Clear Lake!



Great Blue Heron. Texas City Dike. Thursday, March 28th.



*Brown Pelican. Way more than brown--a study in line, color, and texture!
Texas City Dike. Thursday, March 28th.*



Older Herring Gulls



*Two different ages of Herring Gulls. Note eye color change.
Texas City Dike. Thursday, March 28th*



Ruddy Turnstone. Texas City Dike. Thursday, March 28, 2019



*Loon! A Common Loon!! A first for this gal to see!!! Texas City Dike.
Thursday, March 28th.*



*The Bee Vine (aka Tangerine Crossvine). It is a bee magnet! The bees
either nectar rob from the base of the blooms from the outside, or crawl
down inside and do the "buzz pollination" vibration thing that makes them
look like they are shivering. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas*



The Bee Vine (aka Tangerine Crossvine). I bought this vine several years ago at Buchanan's Native Plants. It blooms once a year in March and produces hundreds of blooms. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston)



March 25 at 9:54 AM · Stopped by the demonstration garden at the Environmental Institute of Houston yesterday on the grounds of the University of Houston Clear Lake. The bluebonnets and honey bees were going strong!

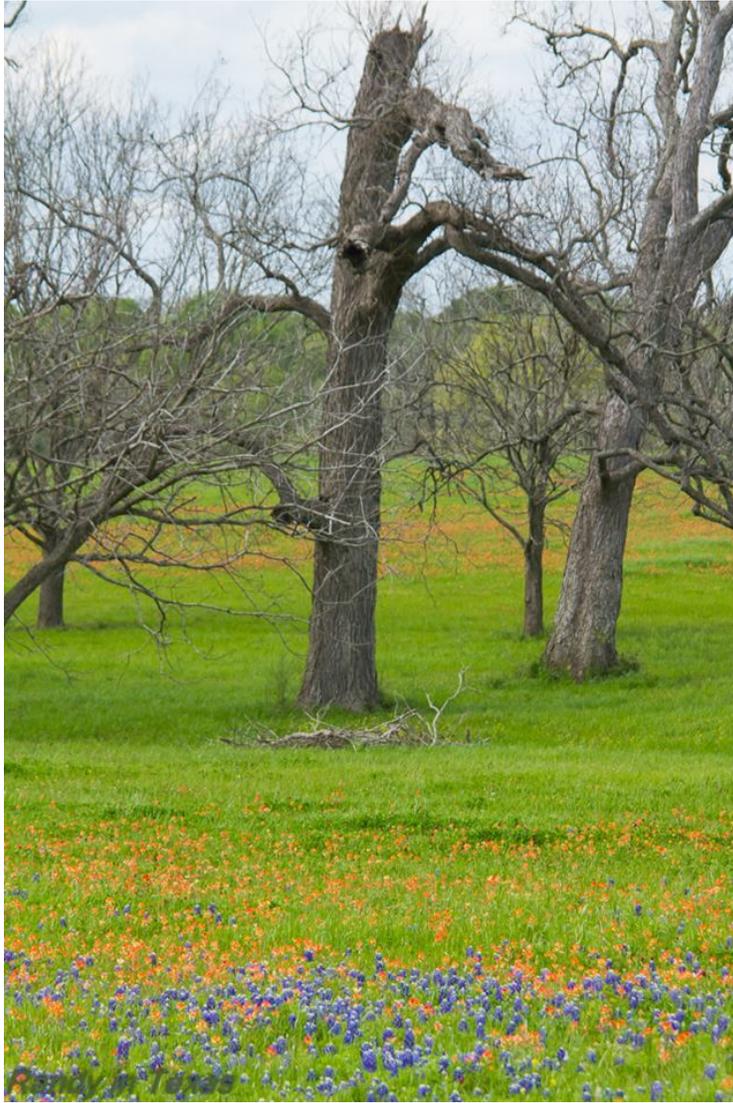
Photos by Randy Scott



March 24, 2019 - Its Bluebonnet Season in Texas



March 24, 2019 - Normal Indian Paintbrush but with yellow versions and of course Bluebonnets.



March 24, 2019 - Wildflowers near Navasota

Purple Martins

Photos taken August 18, 2018



Randy in Texas
Purple Martins



Randy in Texas
Purple Martins



Randy in Texas
Purple Martins



Purple Martins



Randy in Texas

Purple Martins



Randy in Texas

Purple Martins



Purple Martins



Purple Martins



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 on Rayford Rd. At Grand Parkway (99), turn right on the Grand Parkway frontage road. Go 2 miles (staying on the frontage road) watching for the Johnston Park sign on your right just before you get to the Hardy Toll Road overpass; or,
2. Take Louetta Road east from I45 to where it deadends into Aldine-Westfield. Turn left on Aldine-Westfield until it deadends into Riley Fuzzel Road. Turn right onto Riley Fuzzel Road and go only 0.5 miles to the park entrance on your left just after passing under Hardy Toll Road; or,
3. Take Aldine-Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it deadends into Riley Fuzzel Road. Turn right onto Riley Fuzzel Road and go only 0.5 miles to the park entrance on your left just after passing under Hardy Toll Road.

Piney Woods Wildlife Membership Form		
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*	Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to:	
Additional Contribution \$ _____	Piney Woods Wildlife Society	
Total \$ _____	P.O. Box 189	
*Per Household – Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter	Spring, TX 77383-0189	
New _____ Renewal _____ Rejoining _____		

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Please join us!

PWWS web site is www.pineywoodswildlifesociety.org

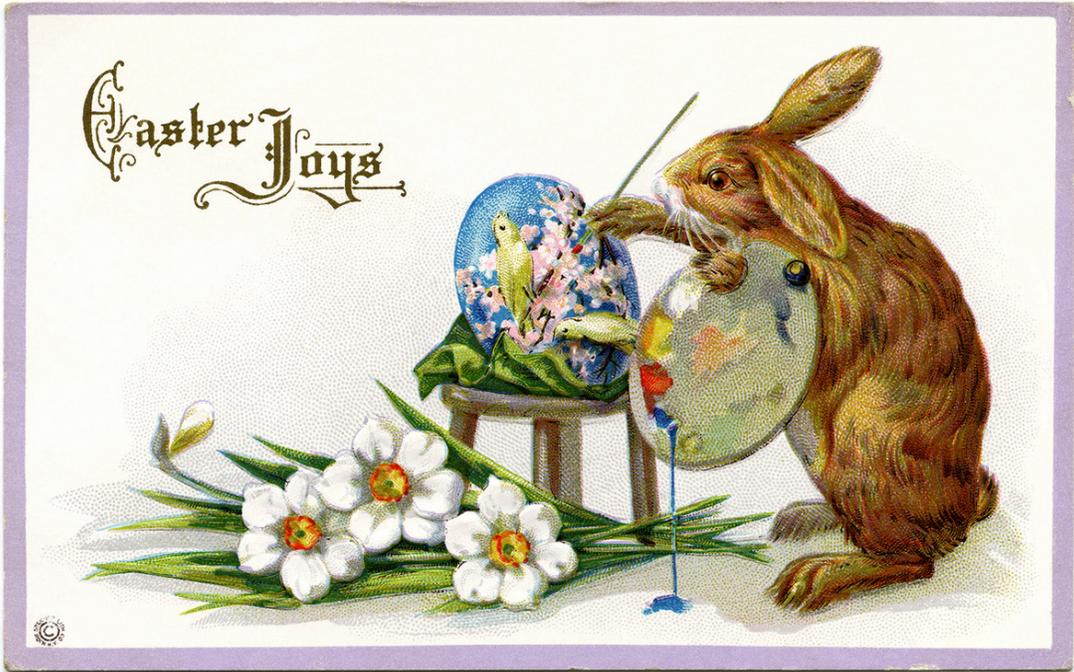
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The Pine Warbler is published monthly, September through May, by the Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Inc.

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 or Diane Wedgeworth, Editor, milanodi@yahoo.com

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



    
Easter
Blessings






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