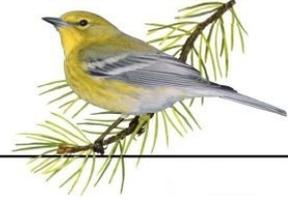


The Pine Warbler



PWWS - September 18, 2019 Program

The Colors of Vietnam

By Carlos Hernandez



© ania & carlos hernández, 2019

For more than three weeks we roamed the country of Vietnam from the North to the South. Back in 1966 to 1970, I was an airman who thought this country would never welcome me to come back for a visit. But they did! We came to photograph the colorful and simple life from the North to the busy life in the South. Modernism and the digital era is taking over. We found a most colorful country with pleasant, intelligent and hard working people enjoying the first PEACE and freedom they never experienced before. They had no ill feelings against Americans. We saw American culture being devoured.

As photographers, we had plenty of good material to get acquainted with making

use of the new mirror-less camera technology. Photography was made easier by the new Canon R. This program will include plenty of colorful images as well as some explanations of how we got those pictures. And of course there will be fun & interesting stories from Carlos!

Hope you can make it on Wednesday night, September 18th, for this talk by Carlos -- long time VP of Programs for PWWS. Come by 6:30 p.m. for snacks and visiting or at 7 p.m. for the program. It will take place at the Big Stone Lodge located in Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road just east of Old Town Spring.



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HAS Purple Martin Roost Watch Party

by Claire Moore

Join the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) for the Purple Martin Roost Watch Party, Sunday, September 22, 2019 - 7:30 PM - 12634 Fountain Lake Cir, Stafford, TX 77477-3704. But make sure and check the HAS web site (link below) a few days before September 22nd, because sometimes the purple martins decide to change roost locations.

<https://houstonaudubon.org/programs/all-age-groups/purple-martins.html>

Come to watch a huge flock of purple martins come in to their night time roost. When the birds arrive to roost in the evening, it is an amazing spectacle with the sky literally black with martins!

In recent years, the purple martins have picked roost sites in Stafford at the Fountain Lake shopping center or on the northwest side of Houston near Willowbrook Mall. HAS folks will locate the roost and publish the meeting time and location on the web site above several days before the gatherings on Sep 22.

Also, you can call the HAS at 713-932-1639 during business hours if you have any questions.

Please plan to join the purple martin roost watch gathering! Although you can watch any night on your own, it is fun to join other bird watching to see the spectacle.

Diane and Hugh Wedgeworth went to the first roost of the purple martins. This was an amazing experience we had never seen anything like that before. So don't miss this opportunity to watch the 1,000's of purple martins going to roost.

Check out these photos & videos from HAS from the first Purple Martin Roost Watch party from August. Wow!!! Click this link: [Google Photos from HAS](#)

Purple Martin Fall Migration 2019 - Photos by Paul Gregg

From: Paul Gregg paul.gregg@comcast.net

Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 9:13 PM

Subject: Purple Martin Migration - 2019

Howdy! It has been a hot summer in the Houston area. I've been pretty much a stay-at-home guy, hoping for some birds to show up in the back yard so I could photograph them through the glass in our door so I wouldn't have to get out into the hot weather. Hopefully we will see cooler weather soon.

Have you heard of the mass migration of the purple martins that are roosting in front of an Old Navy store in Stafford, TX.? We heard of them and went there August 26, to photograph and video their nightly congregating in that area to roost for the night. We were definitely not disappointed! We found the trees where they roost long before they started coming in. When you go to the area, look for a line of trees, but instead of looking at the trees, look beneath them at the concrete. You will know you have found the right trees by the amount of bird poop on the ground! DO NOT park under the trees! Park in the middle of the parking lot and you will more likely not get anything on your or your car. Arrive maybe 45 minutes to an hour before sunset.

As it gets later and you are standing around, look up. You will see them beginning to come into the area. There will be just a few, flying high. Then there will be more and more until a few hundred are flying around, circling ever slowly downward.

And before you know it, purple martins by the thousands will be flying, circling the trees and then they'll start finding branches to light on. The cacophony and chaos will continue for quite a while and you will be standing in awe of the event.

Here's a link to my video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP5O70W5yKQ>

Attached are a few photos I took. Note the one titled, Purple Martins with "Starling". See if you can find the starling among the martins. I'm guessing a starling laid an egg in a purple martin's nest and has been raised thinking it is a purple martin.

The address is: 12634 Fountain Lake Circle, Stafford, TX 77477.

Here's a link to the Houston Audubon Society's page with more information: <https://houstonaudubon.org/programs/all-age-groups/purple-martins.html>

Can someone answer a couple questions about the migration for me: 1. Are tonight's birds a different group from the previous night, the previous night's birds going on farther south? Or do the current ones stay a while, fatten up, and move on? 2. How long will they stay? 3. Maybe only one percent of the ones we saw were adult males, from what I could tell. I'm guessing the rest were immature males and females, or were they mostly females? Would a morning "take off" be as dramatic as the evening roost?

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.



Purple Martin with Starling - Photo by Paul Gregg



Purple Martin with Starling - Photo by Paul Gregg



Purple Martin Migration - Photo by Paul Gregg



Purple Martin - Photo by Paul Gregg



Purple Martin - Photo by Paul Gregg



Purple Martin Migration - Photo by Paul Gregg



Purple Martin Migration - Photo by Paul Gregg



Purple Martin Migration - Photo by Paul Gregg

Photos by Hugh Wedgeworth



Purple Martins are coming - 9-1-2019 - Photo by Hugh Wedgeworth



Purple Martin roosting - Photo by Hugh Wedgeworth



Eurasian Collard-Dove - Photo by Hugh Wedgeworth



Purple Martins on wires - Photo by Hugh Wedgeworth



Purple Martins on wires - Photo by Hugh Wedgeworth



Purple Martin roosting in the trees - Photo by Hugh Wedgeworth



Purple Martins roosting in the trees - Photo by Hugh Wedgeworth

Some Purple Martin videos from Hugh:

1 - <https://youtu.be/8KH6rdUglQE>

2 - <https://youtu.be/gr5aibUapsw>

3 - <https://youtu.be/nR4lK6lch7k>

4 - https://youtu.be/i-5_cHgKGRE

5 - <https://youtu.be/X6hTNgM5158>

HEART Happenings

by Carole Allen

Seminar Title:

Foraging Areas, Migratory Corridors and Inter-nesting Habitat of Adult Female Kemp's Ridley Turtles in the Gulf of Mexico.



Dr. Donna J. Shaver is Chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at Padre Island National Seashore, which is a unit of the U.S. National Park Service system. She is the Texas Coordinator of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network and a member of the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Team.

Where: Texas A&M University at Galveston Campus, Aggie Special Event

Center (ASEC) 205

When: September 19, 2019, 3:30 p.m.

Reception to Follow

SAN ANTONIO - Infant Kemp's ridley sea turtles crawled to their new lives at a sea turtle release.



Donna Shaver, chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at the Padre Island National Seashore, releases Kemp's ridley sea turtles Photo: Courtesy/Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore



Sea turtles make their way to the ocean after being released by the Padre Island National Seashore's Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery. Photo: Courtesy/Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore



Photo: Courtesy/Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore



Photo: Courtesy/Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore



Photo: Courtesy/Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore



Photo: Courtesy/Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore

Should you be at any beach and see a sea turtle, do not bother her but call 855-TURTLE5 to get protection and information.

Updates regarding nestings and release of hatchings are also posted at the Padre Island National Seashore website: www.nps.gov/pais

Galveston Office of Sea Turtle Restoration Network - Fundraiser September 29, 2019

The Galveston office of Sea Turtle Restoration Network is sponsoring a showcase fundraiser on September 29 at the Bryan Museum in Galveston. The museum conservatory is located at 1315 21st and the event is from 6 to 9 pm. More information can be found at <https://seaturtles.org/the-art-of-saving-sea-turtles/> or by calling 409-795/8426.

THE PLASTIC PLIGHT

****by Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center**



I'm deviating from my usual articles about local wildlife and addressing an issue that should be important to all of us. It's the plastic pollution of our oceans. Why should we be concerned? Plastic is killing our wildlife. Fish, seabirds, seals, sea turtles and marine mammals ingest plastics causing suffocation, drowning or starvation or they become entangled in it.

Plastic was invented in 1907 and was considered a major breakthrough. Although not widely used in the beginning, now it's everywhere we look. After all, it's durable and lightweight, but it's deadly to marine animals. Are you old enough to

remember when milk was delivered in glass bottles? Remember when sodas were only available in glass bottles? Remember paper straws? Today when you order a drink in a restaurant, you get a plastic straw. Do you remember the introduction of plastic bags in grocery stores? Groceries were once put in paper bags, then we were asked if we wanted paper or plastic and now it's plastic only. Grocery stores have row after row of products in plastic containers replacing what were once glass.

It is estimated that 92,000 tons of plastic end up in our oceans every week. To help you understand how much that is, it's 184,000,000 pounds! But where does all that trash come from? One would think that it's coming from ships throwing their trash overboard. That accounts for only 20% of the problem. The other 80% comes from land-based activities. Ninety percent of all plastic trash that ends up in the oceans gets there by ten rivers that carry it there (none are in the United States). All of these rivers run through densely populated areas that don't have adequate waste collection or recycling programs. Additionally, there's very little public awareness that plastic is even a problem in these areas. Trash being blown away from landfills is also a problem. Plastic is lightweight so it doesn't take much for the wind to blow it around.

The trash collects around storm drains and ends up in our oceans. And then there's the general public that still thinks it's okay to throw trash out of cars or wherever they feel like disposing of it.

There are several garbage patches floating in our oceans. Rotating ocean currents called "gyres" creates them and currently there are five of them in the ocean. One of them is called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and is located in the North Pacific Gyre between Hawaii and California. It is the world's largest collection of floating trash. The debris is spread across the surface of the water and goes all the way to the ocean floor. The latest estimate puts the size of this patch at twice the size of Texas! Eight percent of the debris is made up of plastic bags, bottles and other consumer products.

So what can be done about the problem? Obviously, there are many situations that we have no control over but we can do our part. We can be responsible stewards of our environment and we can teach others to be as well. Here's how you can help:

- Participate in Adopt-a-Beach programs through the General Land Office in Austin. For more information, go to www.glo.texas.gov/adopt-a-beach/.
- Use reusable bags when you grocery shop.
- Go straw-free. They are now even selling re-usable straws that you can carry with you. Some even fold up.
- Balloons are a big no-no. If you know someone planning an event with a balloon

release, educate them on the dangers to our wildlife.

- Tell your dry cleaner that you don't need a plastic bag.
- Recycle.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) organization in Houston. Since 1979, TWRC Wildlife Center has been committed to providing quality emergency care and rehabilitation for injured, ill and orphaned wildlife brought to us by the public. Through education, and engaging the public in wildlife-care programs, TWRC is making a difference for urban wildlife threatened by loss of habitat.

If you have any wildlife questions, give us a call at 713-468-8972 or check our website at [.www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)

Cheryl Conley President TWRC Wildlife Center
10801 Hammerly Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, TX 77043



Proud Black-bellied Whistling Duck parents - Photo by Wayne Easley

CREATOR'S CANVAS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS

NOISY, SOCIABLE AND SPECTACULAR!

by Wayne Easley

This past week, I discovered two nesting pair of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. The coral-red bill and the pink feet are unique among Costa Rican ducks. Adult Black-bellieds have a mix of chestnut and gray in the body and always show a white wing stripe. The birds are partially nocturnal and feed on both plants and some meat (omnivores). The plant diet is mostly seeds such as corn, rice and wheat but they will take some spiders and they do eat snails. Their range extends from the Southern parts of the United States (mostly Texas and Louisiana but they are extending populations to adjoining states) down into Central and South America. In Costa Rica they are widespread and numerous. They inhabit fresh water marshes as well as lakes and ponds. In non-breeding periods, they tend to form huge flocks, sometimes as many as a thousand birds.

Both birds look alike and appear to mate for life. From 12-16 eggs are laid in tree cavities, bird boxes, and at times in marsh vegetation. One of the nesting pairs, I found had 13 little ones. The little fellows are in constant motion and look like little prisoners with their yellow and black stripes. Apparently, the little guys find their own food from the get-go. Mom and dad watch over them but the little ducklings fend for themselves. Since there are plenty of dangers in the marsh, the duckling numbers dwindle from day to day. One day, it was 13 little balls of feathers and the next day it was down to 8. Who knows what the numbers will be tomorrow!

In a lake, pond or marsh, no matter where the parents take the little ones there is always a hungry predator. When I first found the nesting pair, I counted 7 Red-eared Turtles. I have seen snapping turtles in the area as well and there is always a hungry caiman or sneaky iguana to content with. Other problems for Black-bellied Whistling Ducks is the ever present danger of pollution as well as the draining of marshes for farmland. Despite their multiple problems, these handsome ducks are still quite common. Let's hope, it says that way.

by Wayne Easley easley57@yahoo.com

Written on July 30 from Casa Rancho in Costa Rica

Published by PWWS with permission from the author



Whistling Ducks - Photo by Wayne Easley



A feeding frenzy - Black-bellied Whistling Duck - Photo by Wayne Easley



Banded Texas Bird - Black-bellied Whistling Duck - Photo by Wayne Easley



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in flight - Photo by Wayne Easley



Red-eared Turtle - Photo by Wayne Easley



Caiman, lurking just under the water - Photo by Wayne Easley



Black-necked Stilt - Photo by H.M. Arnold

Beautiful Birds Photos from Hank

by H.M. Arnold

Monarch Status

Aug 17 at 7:32 AM

From: H.M. Arnold HMArnold@msn.com

We've been seeing Monarchs here in Rockport over the past week, but no eggs or caterpillars that I've found so far, which leads me to believe that the first wave is all males.

One of the two Monarchs we saw was much darker than usual, almost like a surfer tan, so that's something I'm going to have to start to pay more attention to.

This will be my 3rd year.

The first, I just watched it all happen, thanks to Ray. The second year I tried to help, but probably did as much harm as good, other than dispersing milkweed.

My plan is to do better this year, and as with most things, knowledge about a subject or operation tends to make us better at it.

Most of what I've learned about Monarchs other than from Ray come from a very young science teacher in Michigan, named Rich Lund. He has a YouTube channel named "Mr Lund Science Guy", and I watch all of them.

Oddly enough, I don't use very many of his techniques, but I do believe what he

says, and have tremendous admiration for his level of research and effort.

His system has been that he finds eggs on leaves in the wild and around his house, then cuts off a little square of the leaf that holds the egg.

He then goes through a regimen to prevent the survival of any OE spores using bleach. He washes the squares with the eggs in a very specific solution of bleach for a very specific amount of time, then rinses them and collects any eggs that have separated from their leaves. He then puts the squares and eggs on milkweed leaves he has collected and also bleached, and puts these into plastic containers that he keeps indoors.

As the caterpillars hatch and grow, he keeps feeding them bleached and rinsed leaves and cleaning their enclosures until they are ready to “J Hang” and form a chrysalis. Once the chrysalises have formed he hangs them from a string on his screened in porch until they eclose.

Once they eclose, he catches them and tests them for any possible OE spores. Since his bleach regimen is very carefully planned and executed, he very rarely finds any, but if he does, he puts that Monarch in an envelope and puts it in the freezer to euthanize it.

The reason I’m describing all this is because since the beginning of the year, two things have happened that have caused him great personal upheaval, as well as changes to his system.

The first is that he learned that the Monarch butterflies could possibly be listed as an endangered species. This is clearly intended to help the Monarchs. It will prevent anyone collecting or selling Monarchs in any way, such as jewelry, but it also has an unintended side effect...

Nobody would be allowed to have any Monarchs in any form in their possession.

That means eggs, caterpillars, and butterflies.

Besides the results that would have on research on Monarchs, it would also mean we would be breaking the law if we do anything to help.

This one bothers him a lot, but not me. I intend to make such a stink in jail that they have to let me out.

Y’all take my wife birding and come play with my dog while I’m locked up.

The next thing he learned is that a published and peer-reviewed study by some

university has shown that Monarchs reared in controlled conditions, like he does, come out healthy and strong, but don't seem to understand the whole migration thing. They tend to stay near where they were raised and don't in any way, shape, or form assist the Monarch population by migrating.

Here's the video...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcH7I9CtZRQ>

The bottom line is that nobody yet knows if this is because of sunlight, temperature, humidity, a combination – whatever.

He is sticking with the entire bleach/plastic enclosure setup, then putting the final stage caterpillars outside in a protective screen enclosure to J-Hang, form a chrysalis, and eclose.

For all the wrong reasons, that makes my regimen of providing as much milkweed as I can, allowing the eggs to hatch in the wild, then do everything I can to assist the caterpillars and chrysalises in eclosing straight – look pretty good.

He has another video where he describes that when a chrysalis forms with a flat side because its leaning against something like a wall, the butterfly that forms tends to have deformed wings and can't fly.

Here is his video...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFWBW7nUgEI>

So I'm also changing my plan that currently includes collecting formed chrysalises to make sure they have a clear area to hang while their wings form – to also include collecting any J-Hang caterpillars they are touching a wall or otherstructure. This is going to be tricky because I will have to find them after they form the silk base but before they form the chrysalis.

A new goal.

Anyway, long dissertation to submit two new concepts that have come up over the past few months. Hopefully get everybody thinking of what we can do to help the Monarchs.

As always, suggestions appreciated, and keep looking for places we can plant milkweed.

Some links from Hank:

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190830-Skimmer-Lake/>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190814-Indian-Point/>

Ray's legacy of tricking me into planting milkweed endures.

Hank

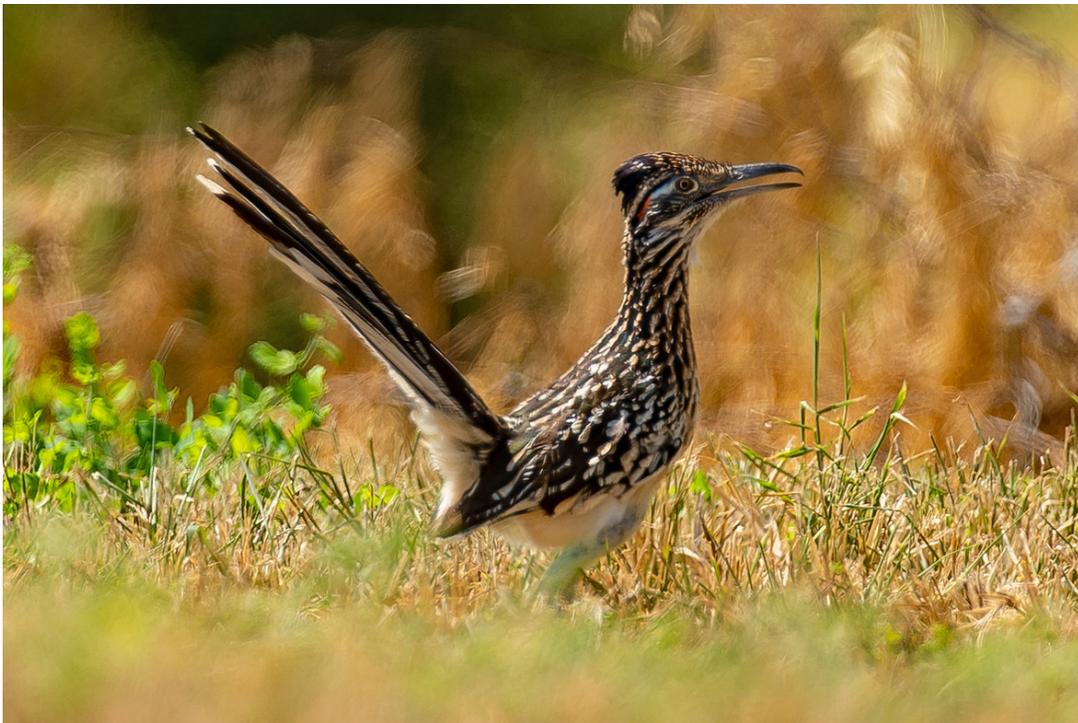
H.M. Arnold HMArnold@msn.com



Black Skimmer - Photo by Hank Arnold



Black Skimmer by Hank Arnold



Greater Roadrunner - Photo by Hank Arnold

Photos by Bill Miller



ALERT: There's a dino on our garbage can!! Photo by Bill Miller



There are a ridiculous number of Osprey around here. We must have seen >100 pairs today. A post-DDT success story. — with Sue Peretti Miller and Banks Miller in Piney Point, Maryland.



Help id this little guy, possibly a woodchuck. Spotted 10 feet up in a tree. — with Sue Peretti Miller and Banks Miller in Mount Airy, Maryland.



Variegated Fritillary - Photo by Bill Miller

Photos by Randy Scott



Randy in Texas

Sea Turtles



Randy in Texas

Sea Turtles



Randy in Texas

Franklin's Gull - Photo by Randy Scott



Randy in Texas

Brown Pelican



Randy in Texas

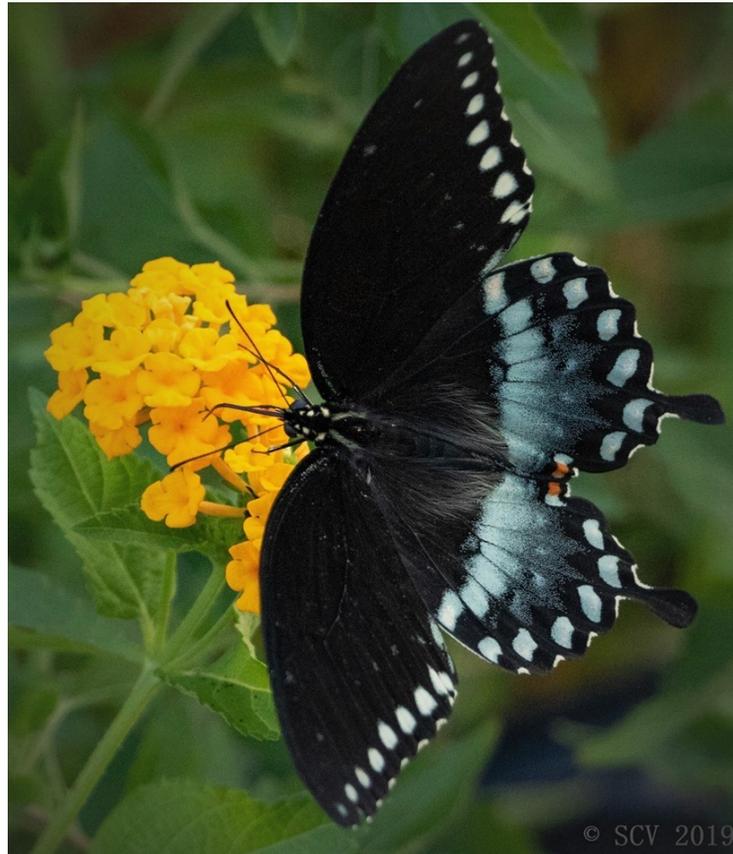
Great Blue Heron - Photo by Randy Scott



Randy in Texas

At Mustang Island - Photo by Randy Scott

Photos by Sandy Crystal Vaughn



*My current favorite wildflower *Herbertia* with a nectaring hoverfly (aka flowerfly)! Hoverflies are beneficials to have in the garden. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas.- Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



Sandy Crystal August 5 - Cloudless Sulphur ovipositing on Candlestick Cassia this morning! Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn

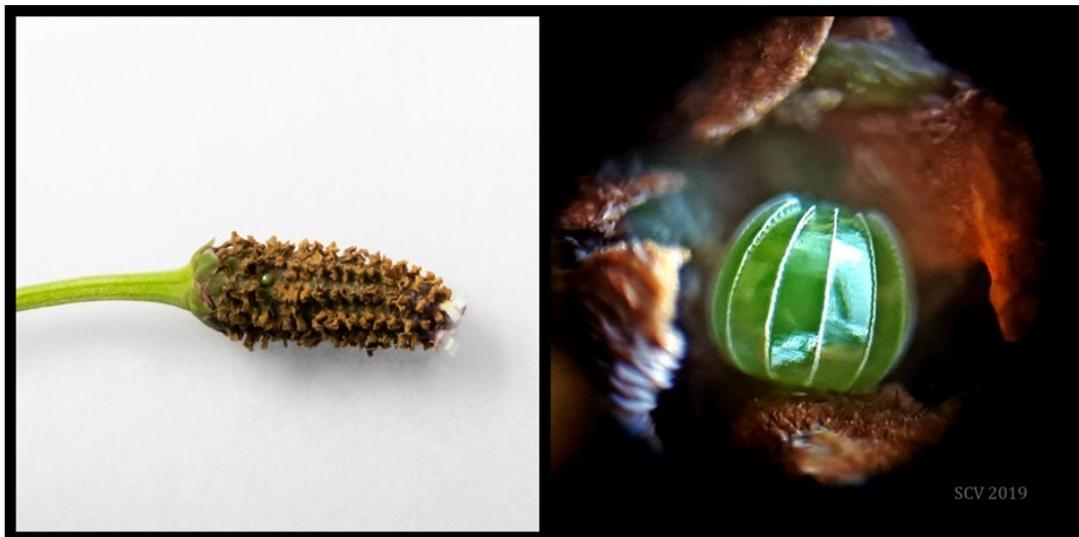


The impressively beautiful chrysalis of the Variegated Fritillary! Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by

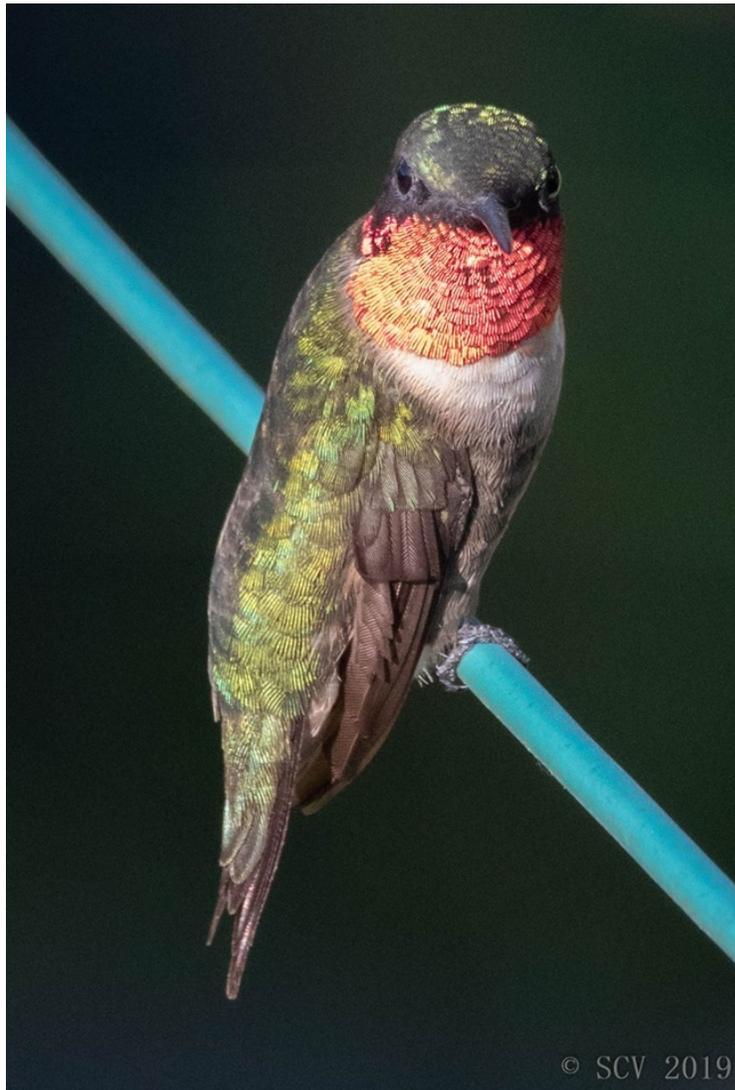
Sandy Crystal Vaughn



The imVariegated Fritillary - Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn



I was not prepared for the spectacular beauty of the Common Buckeye egg under the microscope. It looks like a fine jewelry bead! Mamma Buckeye was ovipositing on the Frogfruit blooms in the backyard. Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn



Sandy Crystal August 30 - "Guard" is still here at his perch on the cable line! He zooms through the backyard chasing off other Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. He turned his head at just the right moment as the sun was bright and showcased his gorget and back feathers! Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas by Sandy Crystal Vaughn



Getting back into the water! Black-bellied Whistling Ducks with juveniles and friends. Exploration Green. Sunday 08-18-2019. Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn



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

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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 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.

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