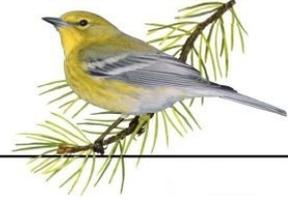


# The Pine Warbler



**PWWS - October 16, 2019**

**Program: The Colors of Vietnam**

**By Carlos Hernandez**



© ania & carlos hernandez, 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, October 16th, 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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## Save the Date for Christmas Bird Count

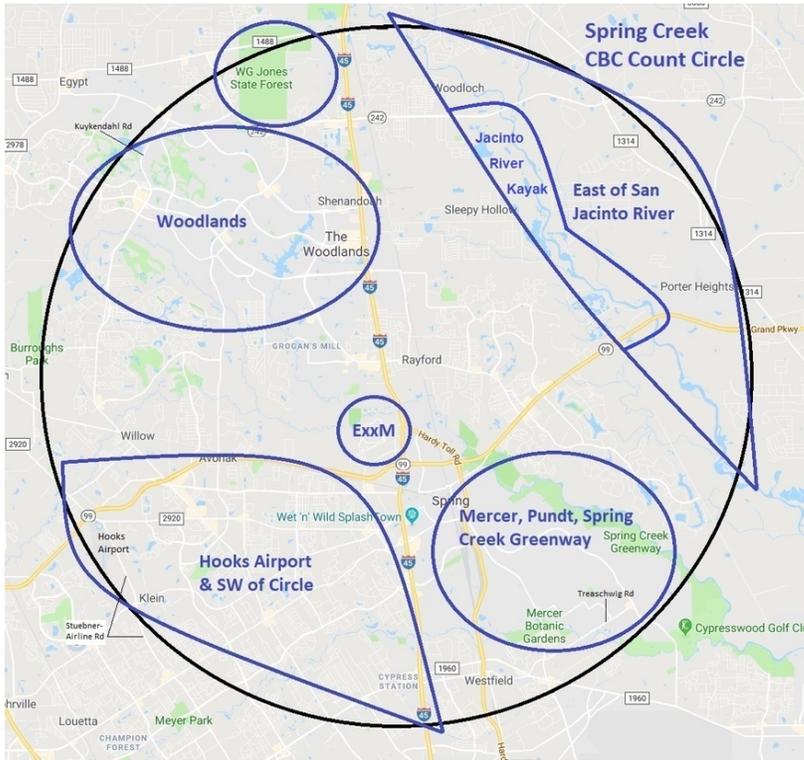
by Claire Moore

December is coming quickly and our Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be on Saturday, December 14, 2019. Please save the date and help us count birds in the field or birds in your yard (if you live in the count circle).

As usual, we will gather for the "Count Dinner" that same day at a restaurant (TBD) in the count circle at 5:30 p.m. Plan to join us whether or not you can count that morning.

Next month's newsletter will have more information about the CBC teams and the restaurant.

Don't forget that there are lots of CBCs happening between Dec 14 and Jan 5 and they would love to have your help. Get more information at this web site and get involved, if you can. <https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/cbc.html>



BeaAnn Kelly  
Greater Roadrunner from 2015 CBC by BeaAnn Kelley

## HEART Happenings

by Carole Allen

Dorian washes away thousands of sea turtle nests

<https://wildlife.org/dorian-washes-away-thousands-of-sea-turtle-nests/>

A national wildlife refuge in Florida lost nearly half its green sea turtle nests to a storm surge brought on by Hurricane Dorian. But while thousands of nests washed away, researchers say, the turtles' future isn't in jeopardy.

### Metal Spear Injures Green Sea Turtle Near Key Largo, Florida

Splinter, a 150 lb teen endangered green sea turtle was found by a boater off of Key Largo earlier this month with a 3 foot metal spear in its neck which was tangled in a trap line attached to a buoy. Authorities were notified, wildlife officers met the boaters, rescued the turtle and brought it to the Turtle Hospital in Marathon.

X-rays show how deep the spear impaled the animal. Emergency surgery was performed by Dr. Douglas Mader, DVM, of Marathon Veterinarian Hospital performed emergency surgery to remove the spear. It appeared that the spear had been in the turtle for some time.

This is a horrific act, and sadly, not the first time this type of tragedy has occurred this summer. All sea turtles are protected by the US Endangered Species Act, and someone killing a turtle can be tried both criminally and civilly, facing up to a year in prison and maximum fines of \$100,000. At this time, Splinter is recovering. and while his condition is still guarded, he is doing well. He is very active, but not eating as he should. Hopefully his appetite will improve and his future includes being released back into the ocean. In the meantime the founder of The Turtle Hospital, has offered a \$5000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for shooting splinter. Local fisherman have added \$20,000 to that reward, for a total of \$25,000 reward monies. Anyone with information is urged to call 305-743-2552. Callers may remain anonymous.

### How to Help All Sea Turtles!

If you have some spare time and want to help sea turtles, go to the website of Sea Turtle Restoration Network <https://seaturtles.org> (<http://%28https://seaturtles.org%29>) and click on Take Action projects. There is a lot each of us can do.



*A Kemp Ridley hatchling crawling through sea shells on its way into the Gulf of Mexico. - NPS photo*

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](http://www.nps.gov/pais)

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## **Purple Martin Migration**

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



*Purple Martin - Photo by Mary Anne Weber - August 2019 in Houston, Texas*

Everyone looks forward to the arrival of the Purple Martins each year. Most of us think their arrival means spring is just around the corner. But, at this time of the year, no one really thinks about them anymore. Most people don't know that they're very busy getting ready to migrate south.

Preparations for migration begin in July and August when the birds form large flocks and roost (a place where birds or bats regularly settle or congregate to rest at night). There can be thousands of birds in a roost. They call this gathering "staging." Some of the better-known roosts in the Houston area are Gordon Park in Stafford and around Willowbrook Mall. They spend their days eating flying insects to build up body fat for their long flight ahead.

So where do they go? In the spring of 2009, geolocators were attached to 20 birds from two Texas colonies. It was discovered that the birds wintered deep in the Amazon rainforest and traveled an amazing 250 to 300 miles per day! They can fly between 17 and 27 miles per hour unless a predator is chasing them when their speed can reach 40 miles per hour. They spend several months in South America in large roosts where they undergo their annual molt. Although their annual molt begins before migration, they don't molt their flight or tail feathers until they reach South America. Molting is very beneficial because it replaces damaged feathers and helps get rid of parasites.

Purple martins will spend several months in South America before heading back to North America. The scouts typically show up in our area in mid-January through early February. The term "scout" is used to describe the first martin(s)

observed. They will go to the same nesting site from the previous year. The scouts can be either an older male or female but are usually males. Arrival of the remainder of the birds depends on their age and sex. Older male birds arrive after the scouts followed by the older females followed by the younger ones. The younger ones, or subadults, may not appear until 4 to 12 weeks after the first ones arrive. They fledged the previous year so their first priority is to find a nesting site.

According to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas martins nest almost exclusively in bird housing provided by humans. Once they have occupied a martin house, they will continue to use it year after year as long as you clean it out in the fall and keep the starlings and sparrows from moving in.

TWRC Wildlife Center has been serving the Greater Houston for 40 years. We admit nearly 5,000 injured, orphaned or displaced animals every year. Learn more about us at [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org).

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*Tri-colored Heron - Photo by H.M. Arnold*

## **Beautiful Birds Photos from Hank**

**by H.M. Arnold**

Some links from Hank:

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/2019-Hummingbirds/i-VSgfsdM/A>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190312-202-SHW/>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190914-Ray/i-Tn9fwB/A>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20181026-Diane/i-mTTSp9j/A>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/TriColored-Herons/i-mJQWwhJ/A>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/Wildlife/Butterflies/>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/Wildlife/Monarch/i-5596h6c/A>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190312-202-SHW/i-hSDztK6/A>

Hank

H.M. Arnold [HMArnold@msn.com](mailto:HMArnold@msn.com)



*Monarch Butterfly - Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Hummingbird - Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Ruby-Throated Hummingbird - Photo by Hank Arnold*

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<https://www.facebook.com/christy.mccloy.7/videos/10218902430484505/> Show Attachment

Birds of Texas

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**Photos by Paul Gregg - Smith Point Hummingbirds**  
**Sept. 15, 2019 - Set 1**



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point - Photo by Paul Gregg*

Howdy from Smith Point Hawk Observation Tower!

Carol and I had gone to Anahuac NWR on Sept. 15, and didn't find a whole lot of birds to photograph. We then drove late in the afternoon to Smith Point in hopes of observing migrating hawks in one of their "kettles". No hawks showed up for us. BUT the folks who care for the tower had 3 hummingbird feeders out and migrating hummers were their by the numbers! One of the feeders was the most popular, near where most of our photos were taken. One feeder wasn't as much of a draw as the other. And, the one in the middle, posted lower than the larger ones was watched over by one little tyrant (see set 2).

The sun was mostly right for photographing these winged jewels, as they have been called. Settings on the camera were mostly between 1/2500, to a few at 1/4000 of a second. F stops were between 5.6 and 7.1. ISO was "auto" and though a few were taken at ISO 3200, they came out with not a whole lot of noise.

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.



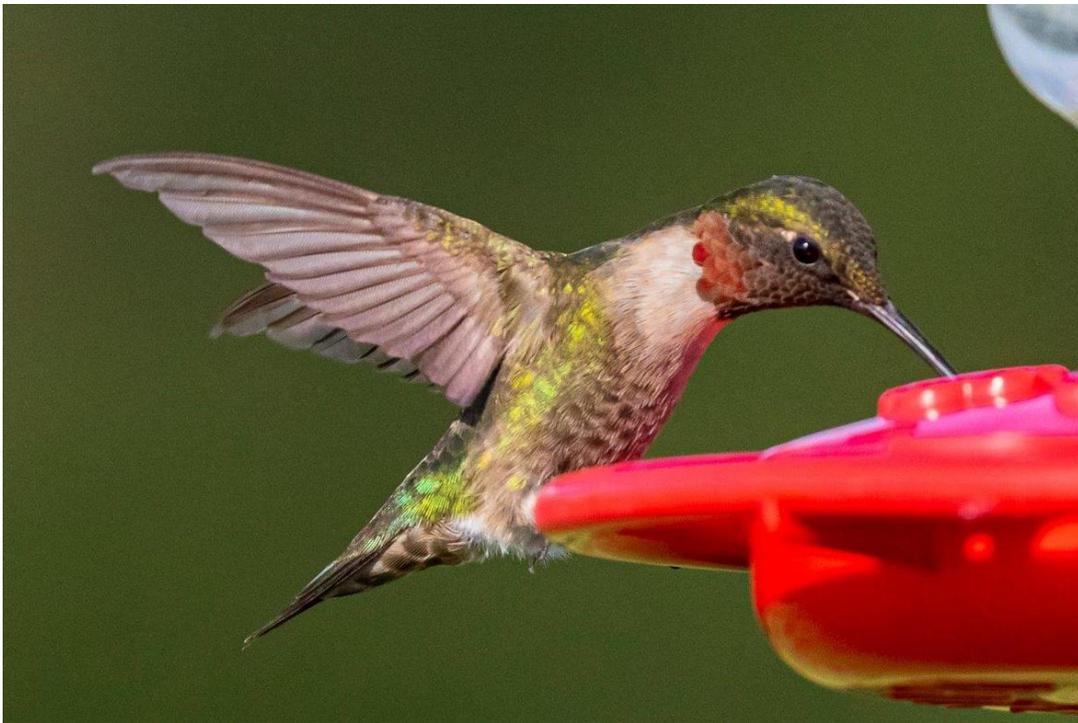
*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*

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**Photos by Paul Gregg - Smith Point Hummingbirds  
Sept. 15, 2019 - Set 2**



*Little tyrant appeared to be maybe an immature male (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*

From: Paul Gregg [paul.gregg@comcast.net](mailto:paul.gregg@comcast.net)

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 3:59 PM

Subject: Smith Point Hummingbirds - Set 2 (Sept. 15, 2019)

The little tyrant, seen in first photo and behind "his" feeder second photo appeared to be maybe an immature male. He sat on the rail near the feeder and ran off any and all hummers who would come near it. The more mature ones would parry and thrust their way to the feeder in front of me in the third photo, but all seemed to be able to work their way to get some nectar. I think we took somewhere over 300 photos. What an afternoon! So. . . .when the hawks don't show up, look for hummingbirds!

Friends over in Liberty County have posted within the last couple days to having upwards between 80 and 100 hummingbirds around their feeders. SO they are still migrating through the area.

A hindrance to going to Smith Point right now is that the bridge on Highway I-10 between Houston and Baytown has been closed down for the unforeseeable future due to some barges breaking free and slamming into the pilings holding up the bridge as a result of the recent heavy rain event. So getting there from the Houston area may be different by going north or south of I-10, BUT the problem will be the return trip as heavy traffic from the Beaumont area that usually passes through I-10 is being diverted through Highway 90 and the return to Houston if you go to Smith Point will be a long, long time spent on the road.

Enjoy,

P. S. Two of the Wild Birds Unlimited stores in the Houston area (one in Kingwood and one in the Katy area) are in need of part-time help. If you know the birds that frequent our feeders fairly well, like to talk to people, and would like to have a part-time job, let me know and I'll send you their information so you can contact the owners.

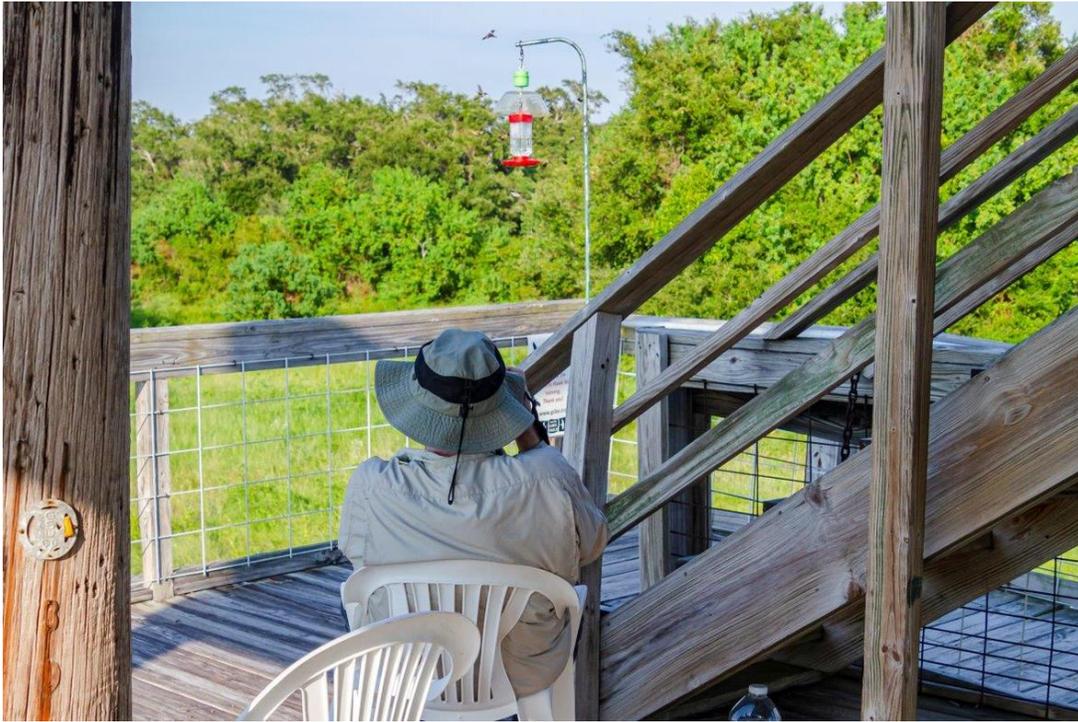
Paul Gregg, SMSGT, USAF (Ret.)

(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.



*Little tyrant's feeder. He sat on the rail near the feeder and ran off any and all hummers who came near it. Photo by Paul Gregg*



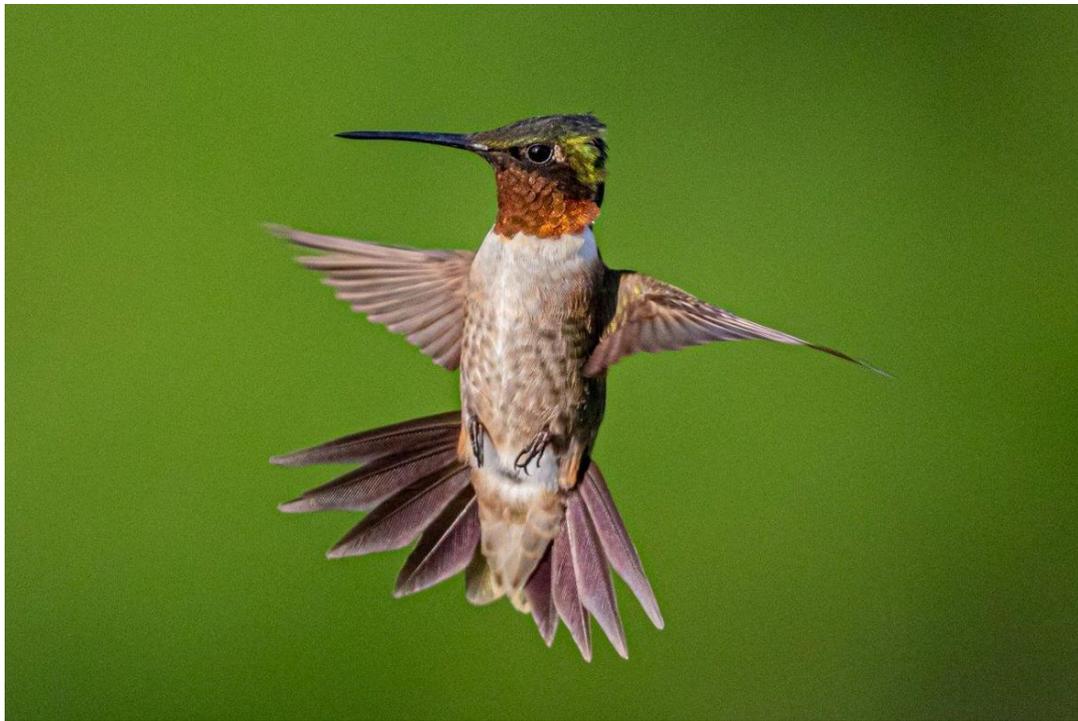
*Paul Gregg at Smith Point*



*Hummers at Smith Point (Sept 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Smith Point (Sept 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Photo Hummer at Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Hummer at Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Hummer at Smith Point (Sept. 15, 2019) - Photo by Paul Gregg*

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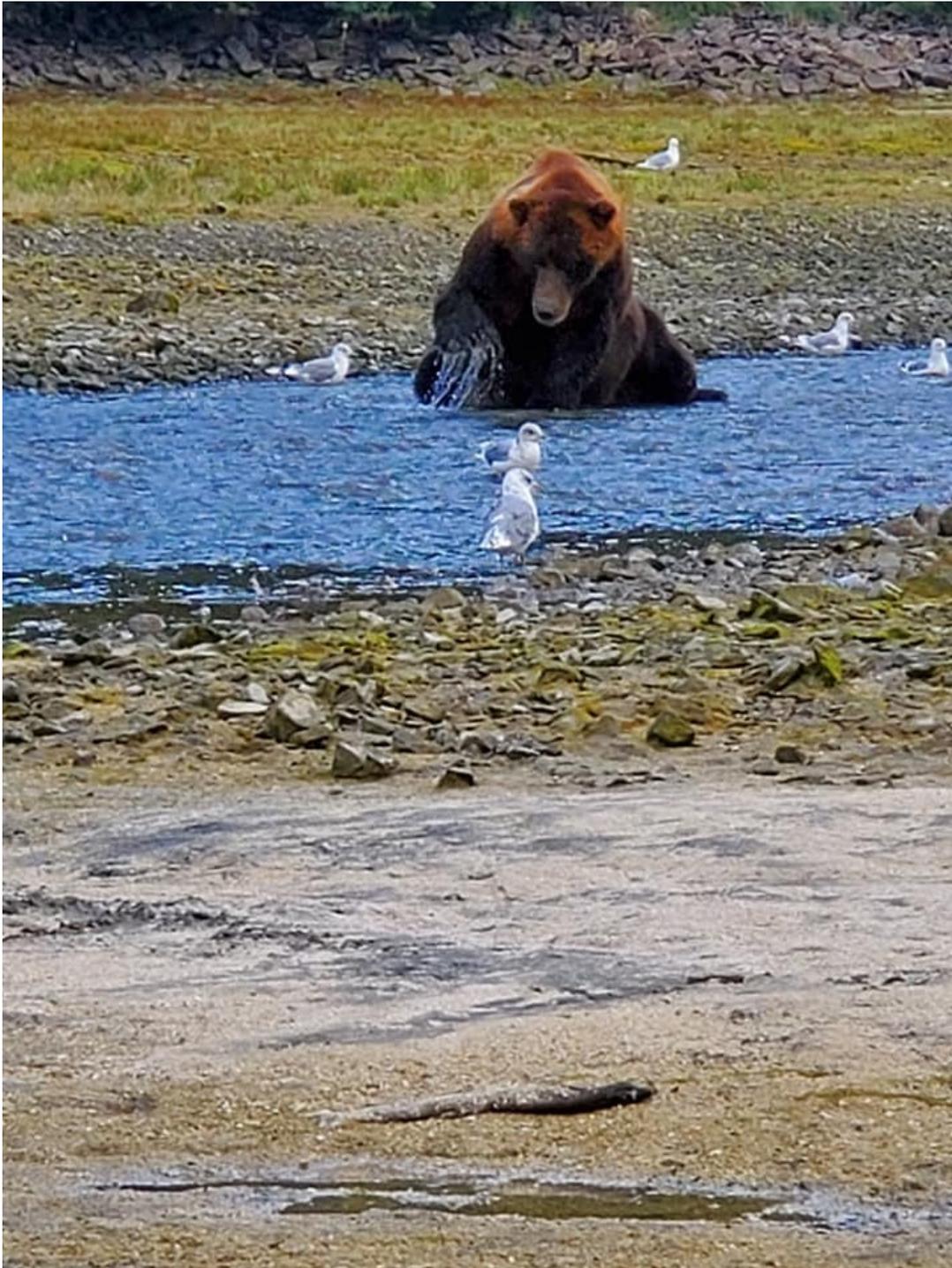
## **Photos by Randy Scott**

Randy Scott

September 5 at 4:10 PM ·

Two of my favorites from the first day photo shooting in Katmai National Park,

Alaska. As you probably already know, the Alaskan Kodiak Brown Bear is a subspecies of the Brown Bear family. It is the largest of the Brown Bears of the world, often standing 8 feet tall and 1400 pounds (up to 9.8 feet and 1500 lbs.) The other largest bear of the world is the Polar Bear. The Kodiak is a subspecies of the Brown Bear family, as is also the Grizzly Bear. They are not to be greatly feared except if you mess with their babies. Our tour photographed the bears during this year's Pink Salmon Run (Hump-backed Salmon) at three separate bays on the Shelikof Strait, fed by fresh water streams. We photographed the cubs and mamas in the mornings and the Boars later in the day because of their culture habits. It was a fantastic experience but expensive. Marc Latrémouille offers this tour. This summer, there were only seven people on our tour, so we had individual private rooms on the boat. The boat became our home for a full week. We flew from Anchorage to Kodiak and then from Kodiak to the bays for 45 minutes in a "pond hopper", one engine plane, to the boat. There, the only transport among the islands is by plane or boat. Arrival was about noon and then we went out to the field and photographed the bears in the rain. That was the only day it rained. They have been in a drought this summer. The first day with the bears I called Day 02, because I had some time in Kodiak before we flew out to the boat the next morning. That little town was interesting also and even has a Safeway and Walmart. Public video comparing Kodiak to Polar Bears: <https://polarbearfacts.net/kodiak-bear-vs-polar-bear/> The video is not totally correct but close enough to share. Kodiak bears do swim. I saw them swim when they crossed the bay waters.



*Male Brown Bear using huge claws to kill a fish. The Kodiak Brown Bear is the largest in the world. Kodiak is like a county in Alaska. Kodiak is the town where our adventure started. Kenai is the national park we visited. All these photos and videos unprocessed from my Galaxy 10S. - Photo by Randy Scott*



*Bear claws just took on a totally different meaning. - Photo by Randy Scott*



*Randy in Texas*

*Running upstream toward us. - Photo by Randy Scott*



*Randy in Texas*

*A Humpie caught in the creek. The fish were heading upstream to lay eggs. - Photo by Randy Scott*



*So close we almost could touch him. Never saw such a calm fearless Bald Eagle. In a completely wild place with no signs of human activity. This bird was well known by our leader from his two past encounters in prior year. - Photo by Randy Scott*

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**Photos by Sandy Crystal Vaughn**



*Cattle Egret strutting like Mick Jagger! El Franco Lee Park. June 12th, Houston, Texas. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas.- Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



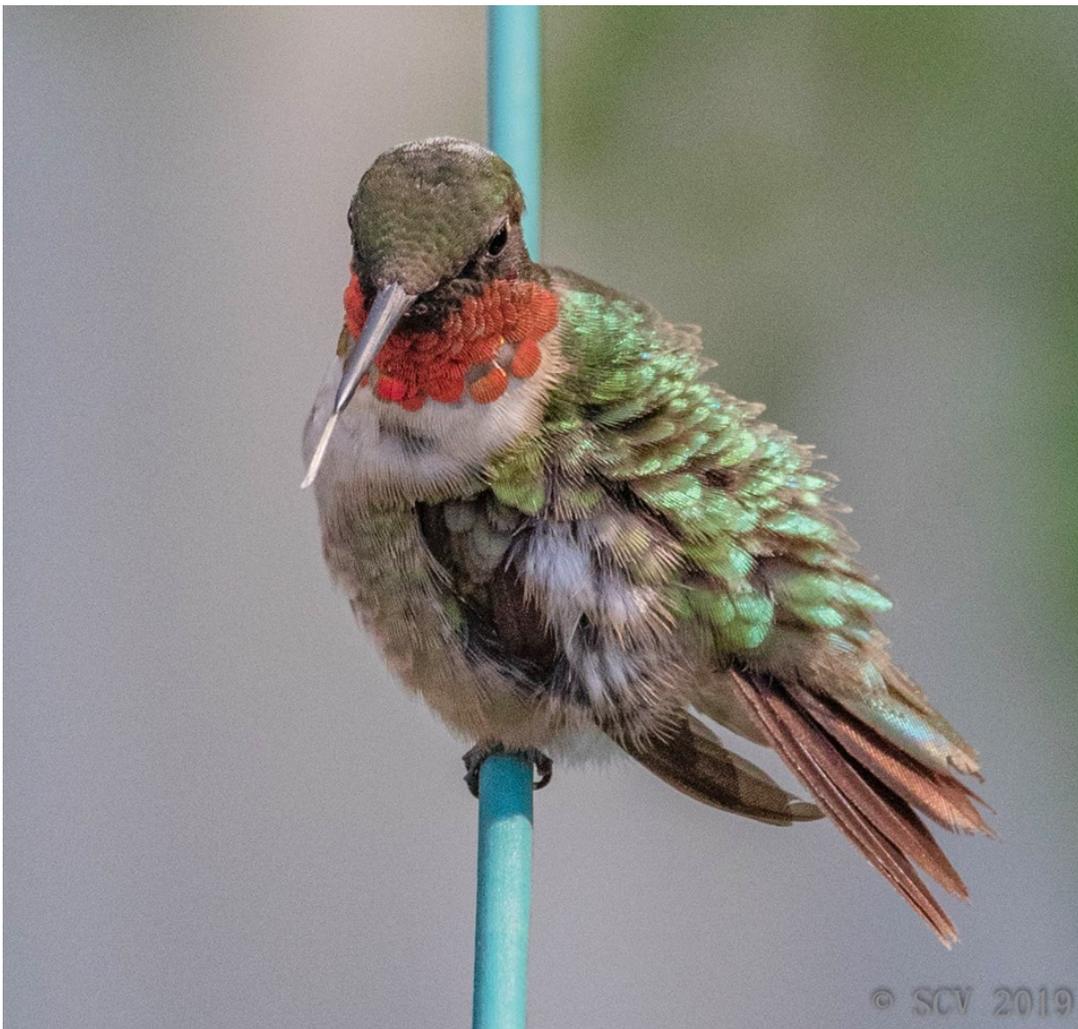
*Yellow-crowned Night Heron. El Franco Lee Park. June 12th Houston, Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



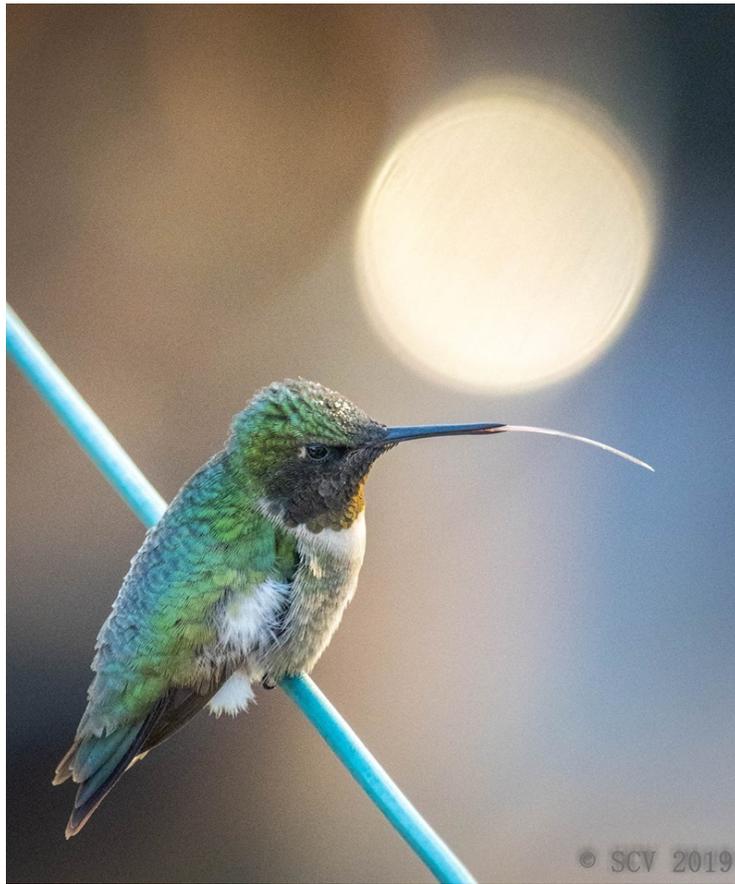
*May 28 · Halloween Pennants pairing! Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*My wingspan is THIS big! Adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*This is how I test temperature. Yup, it is still ridiculously HOT! Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*Early Morning Pollen Head! Adult Male Ruby-throated Hummingbird.  
Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*

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## 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.

<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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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](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.

**Happy Halloween Everyone!**



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