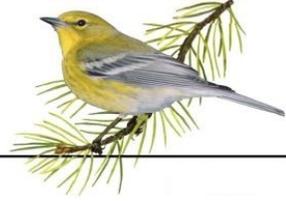


*The*  
*Pine Warbler*



**PWWS - November 20, 2019**

**Easy Caribbean Birding from Cruise Ship**

**by Claire Moore**

---



*Claire Moore birding the Caribbean from a cruise ship in Cartagena Columbia*

Claire Moore will be giving the November PWWS presentation on Wednesday, Nov 20th, all about her February 2019 cruise ship based birding trip through the

western Caribbean. Claire took the training to become a Texas Master Naturalist in 2014 after retiring from Shell Oil in 2013. She loves volunteering with all types of birding activities, as a member of the Houston Bat Team, as an educator for Friends of Texas Wildlife (a wildlife rehabilitation charitable organization) and other activities.

Claire enjoyed this “easy birding” trip visiting six ports on an eleven day cruise. The birding company arranged birding outings at each port. The ports included stops in Columbia, Costa Rica and Panama. You will enjoy seeing highlights from the cruise destinations as well as the beautiful tropical birds seen.

Hope you can join in on Wednesday night, Nov 20th, for this talk by Claire. Come to the Big Stone Lodge at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and social time or by 7 p.m. for the start of the program. The lodge is located in Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road just east of Old Town Spring.



*Rufous-Tailed Hummingbird in Cartagena Columbia, photo by fellow cruiser Jerry Bell*



*Spot-Breasted Woodpecker in Cartagena Columbia, photo by fellow cruiser Jerry Bell*



*Spectacled Owls (juvenile & adult) in Costa Rica, photo by fellow cruiser Jerry Bell*

---

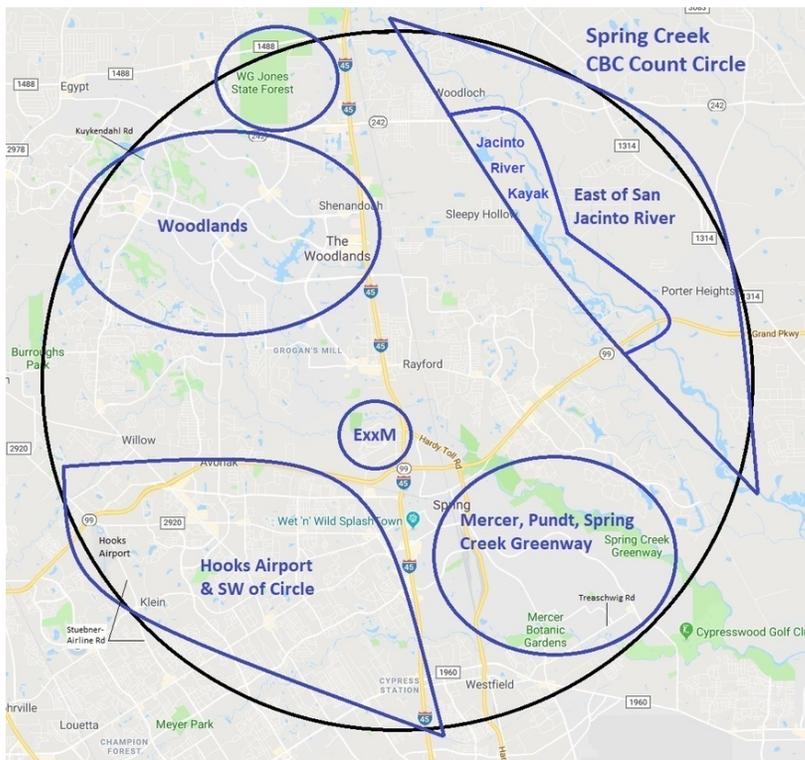
## **Calling All Birders for Christmas Bird Count!**

**by Claire Moore**

The Piney Woods sponsored Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count needs your help! Please consider signing up to go out with one of the teams of birders counting birds on Saturday morning, December 14th. We will be attempting to count all the bird species in our 15 mile diameter count circle roughly centered at I45 at the Rayford / Sawdust. The map shows approximately where the various teams will search for birds.

If you're not able to go into the field and happen to live inside that circle and plan to be home part of the day on Saturday, December 14th, please sign up as a "feeder watcher". Claire will send you a form so you can report your bird observations made on that day from inside the count circle. They will be included in the official CBC results for the 2019 Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count.

Please contact Claire at [cdmoore3i@gmail.com](mailto:cdmoore3i@gmail.com) to sign up or call her at 832-372-5033 to discuss either opportunity. If you have a preference of which team to join in with, let her know.



## HEART Happenings

by Carole Allen

Many sea turtles are looking for warmer water during the winter but if you are on the beach and find one stunned by cold, just call the magic number on signs 1-866-TURTLE-5 (1-866-877-8535) to get help!

**An immediate issue is the need to vote on November 5 for the proposition that will provide funding for Texas State Parks. Al Barr mentioned this at our October Piney Woods meeting. If you have been camping in our parks**

**or visiting them, you will agree that they are in need of repairs, increased staff and a myriad of things. I am borrowing one of many well written articles asking for votes for the state parks and historical sites. (Just Google Texas State Parks and November 5 election to read for yourself.)**

“State parks and historic sites have been underfunded for decades,” says Janice Bezanson, executive director of Texas Conservation Alliance. “The result has been inadequate facilities, insufficient funds to open new parks, and an \$800 million maintenance backlog. Every weekend Texans and out-of-state tourists are turned away from the more popular parks. Proposition 5 will fix this problem.”

The Texas park system should be the welcome mat for the state. With facilities that in some cases are dated back to the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, there are a number of gems within the system that offer visitors a glimpse into the wild Texas.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department operates 95 parks and historical sites within its system. The Texas Historical Commission operates another 30. If approved, TPWD would receive 94 percent of the funding with THC getting 6 percent.

The park system covers more than 630,000 acres and attracts almost 10 million visitors annually.

According to TPWD, the parks system generated more than \$891 million in sales activity and had a \$240 million economic impact in Texas in 2018.

In 2018 Tyler, Caddo Lake and Martin Creek alone had almost 280,000 day visitors, 70 percent of which visited East Texas from outside the region. Those visitors spent an estimated \$5 million on supplies and other purchases with an overall impact of \$9.6 million in the region.

**But the park system could attract more visitors and generate even more revenue if properly funded, something it has never experienced since the creation of the first site, Mother Neff State Park, in 1921. Many of the parks are bursting at the seams with visitors being turned away at peak times.**

Texas currently has a population of 28 million with 84 percent being urban residents. Because of the lack of construction of new facilities, the growing demand for parks is not being met. The department has three new parks totaling almost 45,000 acres on the drawing board awaiting funding, and one scheduled for development in 2020. There is another 17,000 acres waiting transfer to the department for development. With Proposition 5 funding these sites should come

online much faster.”

PWWS members: **Time to get out and vote for our wonderful state parks on November 5!**



*A Kemp Ridley Sea Turtle*

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)

---

## **Three Billion Lost**

**by Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center**



Recently, the journal Science published a study showing that we have lost more than 1 in 4 birds from the United States and Canada since 1970. That's 3 billion! The study was conducted by scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology along with six other institutions. "Birds are excellent indicators of environmental health. Severe declines in common birds, like those shown in this study, tell us something is wrong and underscores the need to become better stewards of the planet," said Dr. Nicole Michel, senior quantitative ecologist with Audubon.

The study doesn't address why we're losing birds in such great numbers but as with many wildlife species, habitat loss has to be at the top of the list. Other reasons are as follows:

- The use of pesticides –it is estimated that the United States uses 20% of all pesticides used globally every year. That's a staggering 1.2 billion pounds. Pesticides are used for agricultural purposes, forest and rangeland management and golf courses. They are also used in and around our homes.
- Climate change –Audubon conducted a study of 588 bird species and discovered that more than half are in trouble. Three hundred fourteen bird species will lose more than half of their climatic range by 2080. To read the full report, go to <https://climate.audubon.org>.
- Cats –According to a study by the Smithsonian Conservatory Biology Institute, over 2.4 billion birds are killed by cats, both pets and feral, in the U.S. every year.
- Collisions - windows, wind turbines, and other structures. According to the

American Bird Conservancy, up to one billion birds die every year in the US when they hit windows and other structures. The Smithsonian estimates that wind turbines account for up to 328,000 bird deaths annually.

So what can we do to be better stewards of the environment? Use organic pesticides. Keep your pet cats indoors. In some cities and communities it is illegal to let your pet cat roam free outside. Use decals or tape on your windows to prevent bird collisions. These are just a few of the many things we can do to help our environment. Let's all learn to live in harmony with the animals we share our world with.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 40-year-old non-profit organization located in Houston. Over 5,000 ill, injured, or orphaned animals are brought to us every year in need of medical care. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and refer to our website for helpful wildlife information—[www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org).

---

## Beautiful Birds Photos from Hank

by H.M. Arnold



*Photo by Hank Arnold*

Oct 27 at 6:48 PM

Yup, she's back

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20191027---Birding-With-Ray>

She comes back to the same spot every year.

And every year she hates my guts.

For those unaware of my relationship with this woman, you must understand that to get a good picture of a hawk, you need to be within about 100 yards. 50 yards gives you GREAT hawk pictures.

Can be straight up or side to side, doesn't matter.

Just need 100 yards.

Most hawks have no problem with some big furry human carrying a camera, and will even come over to investigate, usually lower than 50 yards.

Great pictures.

Spectacular birds.

Ms. Harlan's, though, clearly knows this range requirement. Once she sees me, flies in a circle around me, with a radius of about 150 yards.

The reason I know it's a female is that as she flies this circle around me, she's squawking at the top of her lungs.

Most likely derogatory hawky epithets about my choice of clothes, family lineage, and other nasty comments about my manhood that I won't go into.

We have probably been to that same spot 25 times over the past 10 years, and except for once when she accidentally came to within about 80 yards, she's always kept that circle.

This morning, Nancy and Diane got there before Ray and I, and she was sitting patiently on phone pole in the quiet dawn.

Let them come up close, probably wanted to catch up on gossip from the past year.

I get there...

150 yards

It's a female.

Anyway, we had at least 100 Turkey Vultures rising up in the first calm morning for a few days, finding the thermals, gaining some altitude, then being on their way south.

With them were several different hawks, and a first for me, Anhingas.

I didn't even know Anhingahs could soar, but if the thermals are good enough, they can kettle up there with the big dogs.

There are a bunch of pictures of some swallows that were darting around. Diane thinks at least some of them are Bank Swallows, and as always, I think whatever Diane thinks, as she's a much better birder than I.

Ms. Harlan's did get into a discussion over territorial boundaries with a pair of Norther Harriers. Neither of them was grey, so it must have been a strictly female discussion.

That means it will go on for weeks.

The Scissortail in flight was taken out the driver side window going about 30 miles an hour. It's not that clear but I'm including it because of the colors that flash when viewed from above. The sudden red is probably to distract divingpredators, and it certainly distracted me.

Ray is used to me hanging out the window with my camera while driving. I think at 96, his logic is that if he is going to meet St. Peter, a picture of a swallowtail in flight is a better reason than most.

Beautiful day. Great birds.

But as always, it's the stories and truisms from Mr. Little that will most form my memories of the day.

Hank



Signs Of The Times

Oct 23 at 7:50 PM

WHOOOOPPPPEEEE!

Monarchs laying eggs and well fed caterpillars wandering about our yard

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20191023---Rockport>

The young lady laying eggs looks like she could use a day at the spa – her wings are pretty worn

The rest are pictures from around Rockport during a period where I bored with my day job

Hank



*Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Female Monarch Butterfly laying her eggs - Photo by Hank Arnold*



*Monarch caterpillar - Photo by Hank Arnold*

Some Links from Hank:

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190909-Variou/>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/Non-Birds/>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20181202-Butterflies/>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190807-Portland/>

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20190414-Skimmer-Rookery/>

Hank

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

---

**Photos by Bill Miller**



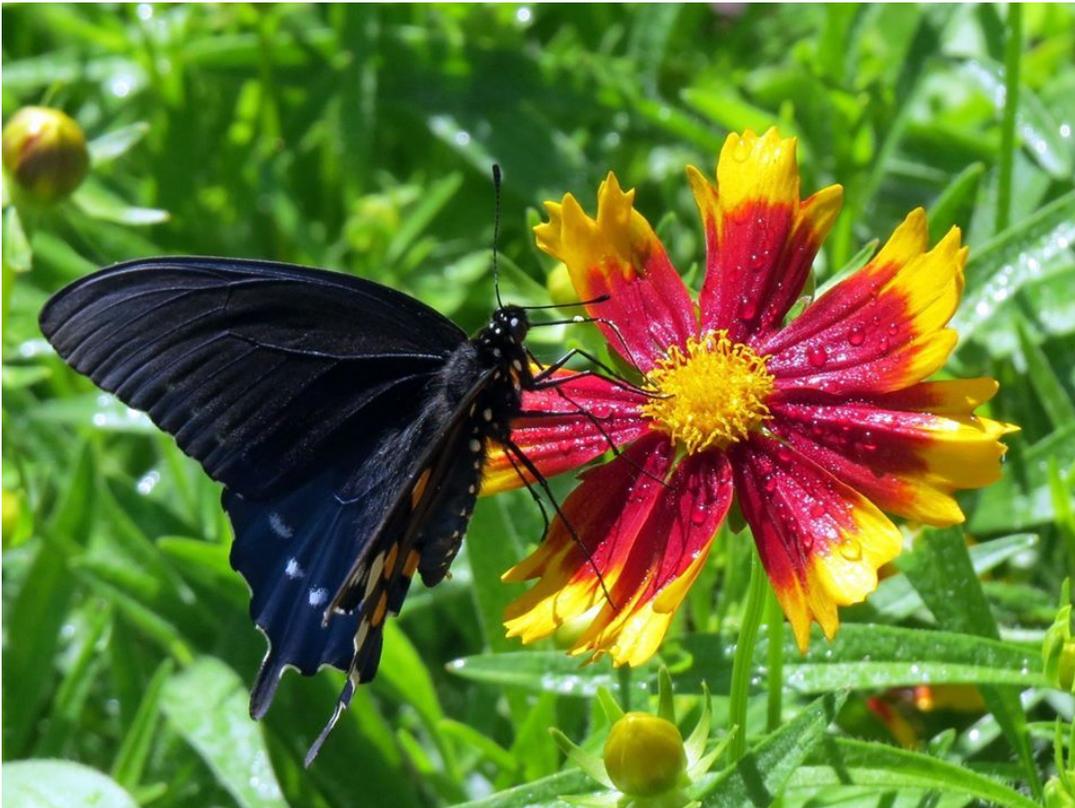
*8 years ago we were on our post-shuttle-layoffs Australia trip. This hotel came with extras! — with Sue Peretti Miller at Musgrave Roadhouse. Photo by Bill Miller*



*Downy Woodpecker in the yard working on the tiny twig he's grasping. — with Sue Peretti Miller at The South 0.40. - 10-6-2019 - Photo by Bill Miller*

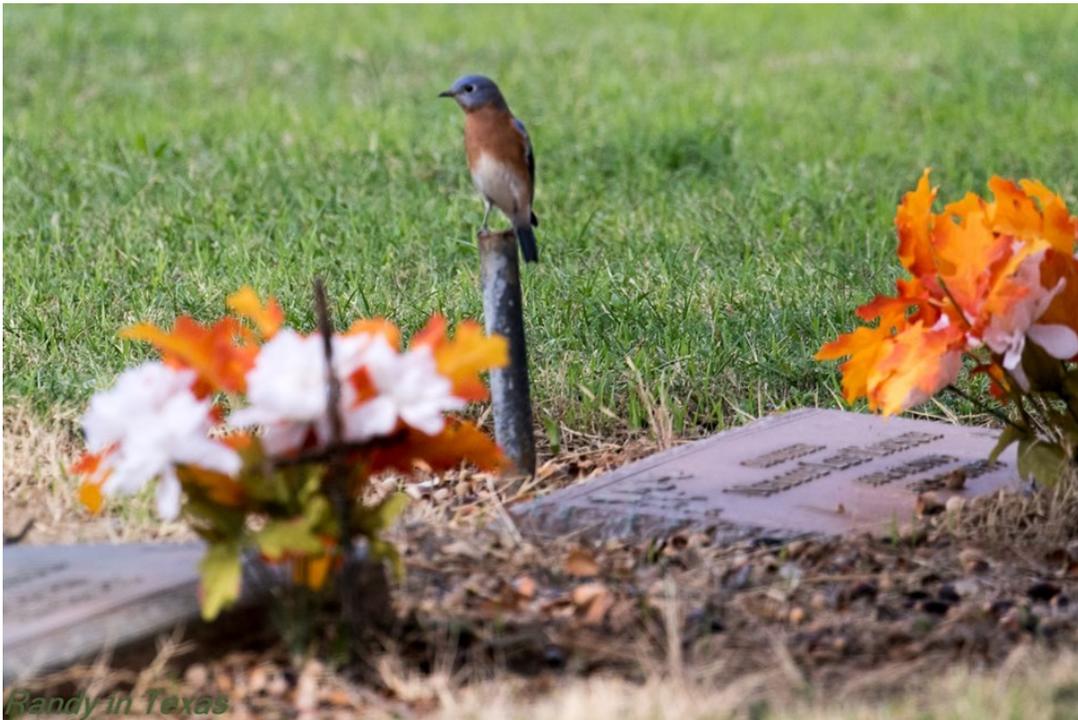


*At The South 0.40. Passionvine - 8-28-2019 - Photo by Bill Miller*



*Looking for butterflies in the parks north of downtown. Probably the last weekend you can go outside without sweating for a while. Pipevine Swallowtail on blanketflower. 5-5-2019 -- Photo by Bill Miller*

**Photos by Randy Scott**



*Randy in Texas*

*Recovering from traveling in the Hill Country of Texas. Bluebird seen at Gooch Cemetery in Mason TX 10-21-2019 - Photo by Randy Scott*



*Not much fear of humans with this wild creature. After dining all afternoon on corn, he needed a siesta - The Woodlands, Texas - Photo by Randy Scott*



*This will be the printed photography from my collection. The plan is to put this one in a large 30x40 frame that I will put together soon. It will go over the bed. Photo by Randy Scott 9-30-2019 - Photo by Randy Scott*

## Photos by Jim Snyder



*Viceroy Yard Butterfly #79 - 10-19-2019 - Emerald Forest, College Station, Texas - Photo by Jim Snyder*



*A Viceroy at the bait dish - 10-19-2019 - At Emerald Forest, College Station, Texas - Photo by Jim Snyder*

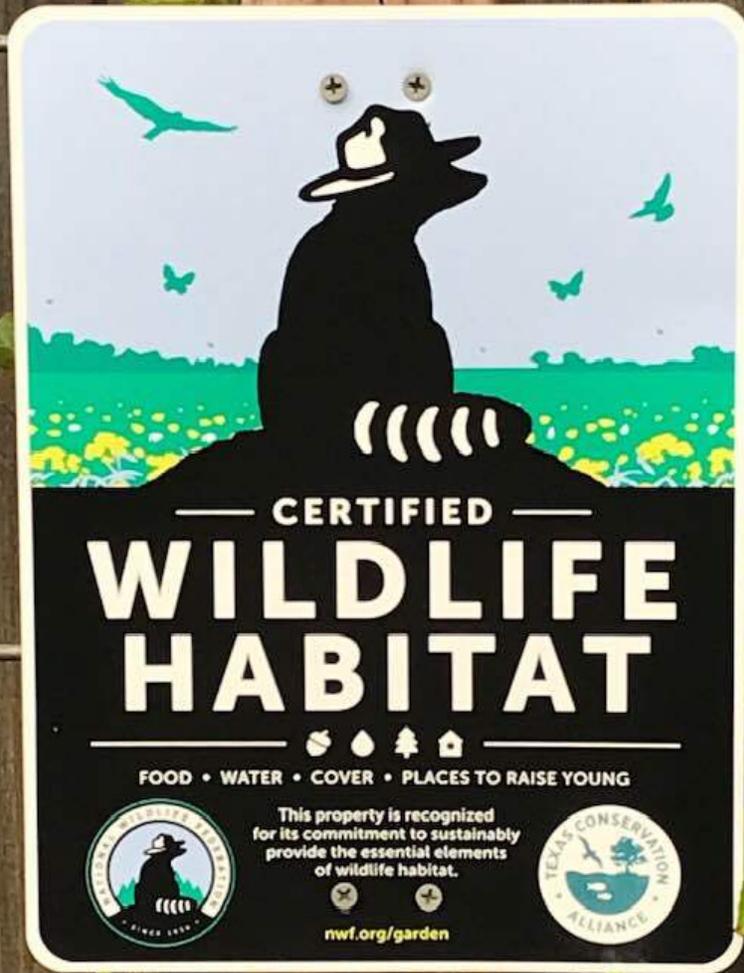
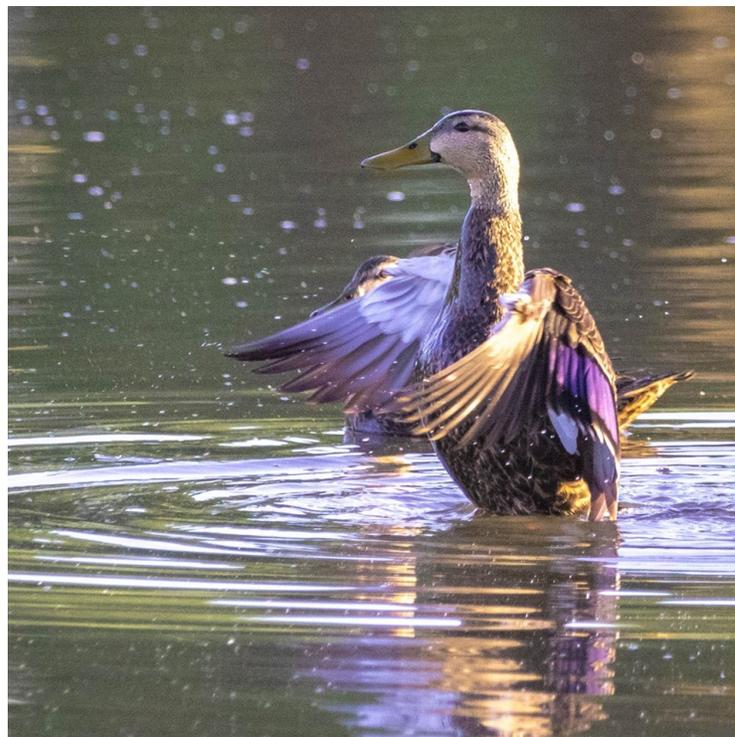


Photo from our yard this evening check fence post directly with the sign at Emerald Forest, College Station - 10-14-2019 - Photo by Jim Snyder



*Canadian geese flying South for the winter on my walk this morning - 10-12-2019, Emerald Forest, College Station - Photo by Jim Snyder*

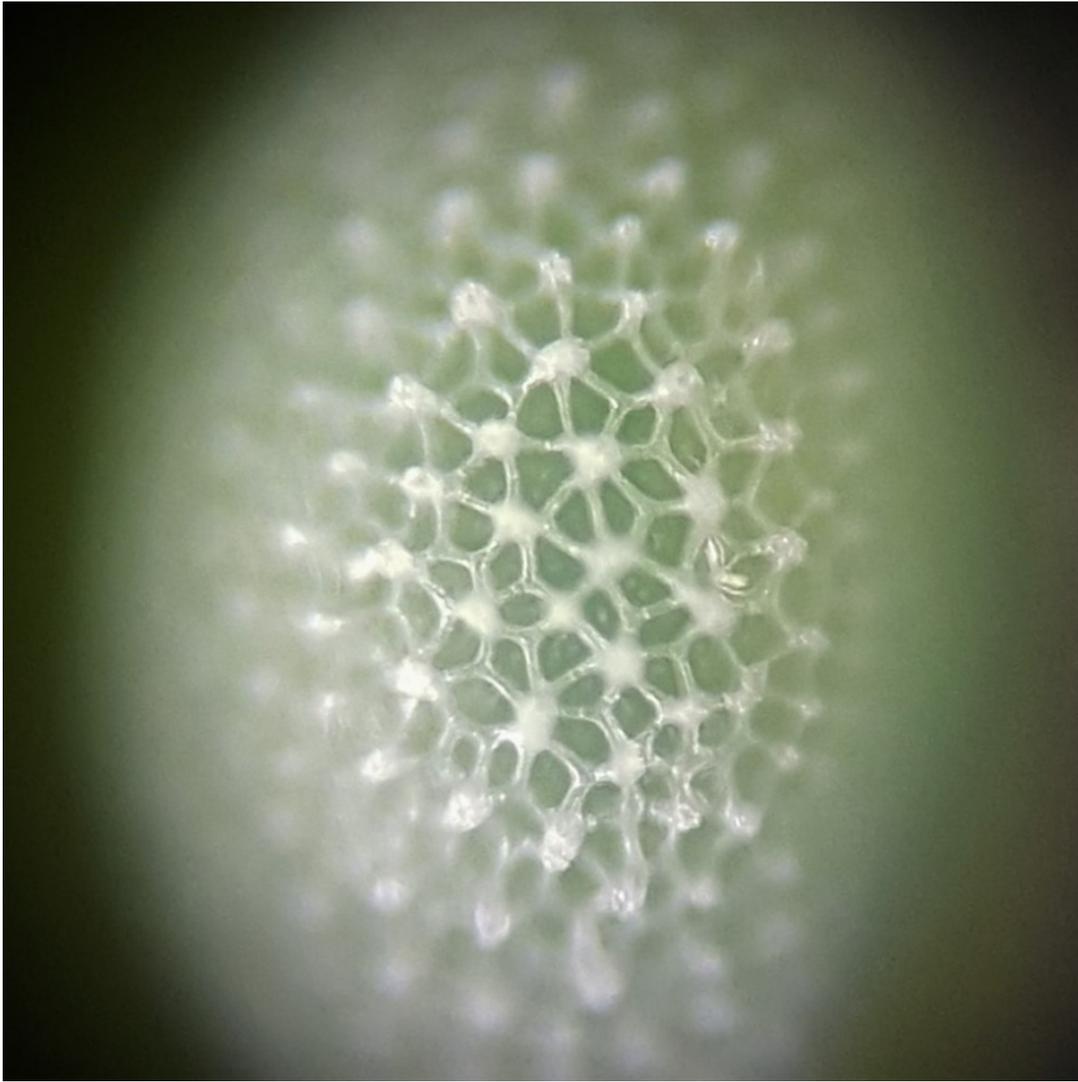
## **Photos by Sandy Crystal Vaughn**



*Mottled Duck. Male Exploration Green. Corner of Reseda and Diana.*



*October 20 · The backyard is still getting one to two ruby-throated hummingbirds daily. This image of an adult male perched on red canna is my favorite of the hummingbird migration this year! Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*Gray Hairstreak Egg magnified 100x! Simply exquisite. (Mom Gray Hairstreak oviposited on Purple Porterweed). Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*

---

**Monarch Tagging at Don & Chris DuBois - Sunday,  
October 27, 2019**



On Mon, Oct 28, 2019 at 3:08 PM Don Dubois [donandchrisdubois@att.net](mailto:donandchrisdubois@att.net) wrote:  
Thank you everyone for helping to tag monarchs yesterday. We tagged one hundred monarchs in a couple of hours and had over two hundred to release at the end of the tagging event to send on their way to Mexico. I will be sending the results to Monarch Watch and we can check on how many are found in Mexico when the results are posted on the Monarch Watch web site next spring. <https://monarchwatch.org/> As has been the case in previous years here, the ones we tagged were predominantly male. This year there were 27 females out of 200 tagged butterflies (about 14% female). This is an even higher percentage males than usual here (about 25% female, 75% male). Either the males' attentions are more easily diverted or they are more strongly attracted to the blue mistflowers. Most locations report a more even gender distribution so I suspect it is the blue mistflower that makes the difference. At any rate, the data are below:

Monarch Watch Tagging



*Monarch Butterflies Mating*



*Queen*



*Cloudless Sulphur*



Don DuBois





*Hugh caught one in net.*



*Hugh Tagging a Monarch*







*200 Monarch Butterflies ready to be released to complete their journey, some traveling to Mexico.*



*Guy Michael Tagging*



*Giant Turkscap*





*Group photo Monarch Tagging*



*Farrar Stockton - Go Astros!*

---



## 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 _____		

## 2019 Board of Directors

President, Kathy Coward  
First VP, Diane Wedgeworth, Editor  
Second VP, Claire Moore, Webmaster  
Third VP, Carlos Hernandez, Programs  
Secretary, Carole Barr  
Treasurer, Jim Lacey  
Director, Farrar Stockton  
Director, Debbie Wilson  
Director, Maryanne DiBiase  
Carole Allen, **HEART** Committee Chair

Please join us!

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

PWWS Facebook site is at <https://www.facebook.com/Piney-Woods-Wildlife-Society-125891867423250/>

---

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 Thanksgiving Everyone!**



bless you  
and your family  
on this holiday!





©2019 Piney Woods Wildlife Society | 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd, Spring TX 77353

[Web Version](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#) ®