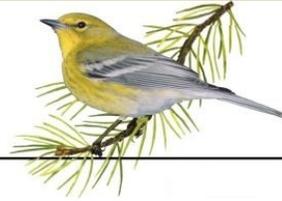


# *The* *Pine Warbler*



**CANCELLED : PWWS MARCH 18th Meeting**

**Chasing the Auroras in Lofoten, Norway**

**with Ann T. Greene and Grace Wu**

**CANCELLED**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MARCH 18TH PROGRAM FOR PWWS HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

From Kathy Coward, President: "In an over abundance of caution and the fact that the majority of our members are in the target group for Covid-19, Piney Woods Wildlife Society is cancelling the March meeting.

The board will look at the situation again for April and see where we stand. Please keep a watch here, on the Internet site and in the newsletter."



## Chasing the Auroras & Other Adventures in Norway

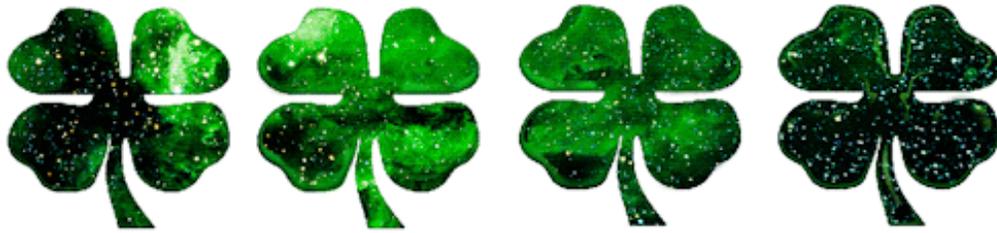
by Ann T. Greene and Grace Wu

Join Piney Woods Wildlife Society for this awe-inspiring program all about the beautiful northern lights, also called auroras on Wednesday, March 18th, at 6:30 p.m. A by-product of solar storms, auroras are visible mainly in polar areas. The light show is called aurora boreales in the Northern Hemisphere. We are lucky to have Ann T. Green and Grace Wu, two very talented travel photographers, coming to present their photos of these violent solar events such as mass coronal ejections. Ann and Grace spent two weeks in the far north capturing the melodic green-hued dancing lights in the darkness incorporating the beautiful landscape of north west Norway. The two photographers then moved to other parts of Norway to partake in adventures like dog sledding, reindeer farming and camping in near freeze temperatures. Come and see a memorable program adorned with award-winning photography.

The March PWWS meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18th, with snack and social time at 6:30 p.m. and the program to start at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Big Stone Lodge located in Dennis Johnston Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd, Spring, just east of Old Town Spring. All are welcome

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HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



LOT'S OF LUCK AN LOVE



**Whooping It Up Rockport/Fulton**

On Monday Feb. 17th we drove thru the fog from Houston to Rockport/Fulton. Approximately a 3 1/2 hours drive. The fog lifted enough for us to see the country side until we arrived at Copano Bay Bridge. The bay was completely fogged in. Since it was time for lunch we ventured into the Rockport business district and found a cafe, a Mom and Pop Deli "The Apple Dumpling" which served all kinds of wonderful huge sandwiches, home made soups and of course their namesake apple dumplings. Being fortified we headed to our favorite shop in Rockport, "4 The Birds." We we're happy to see the 93 year old owner Dovie Howard hard at work. She is not painting many bird T shirts any more but the shop still has a lot of bird apparel, a variety of bird items - books, flags, whirl a gigs, feeders and figurines. Half of the shop - Salt Flats Photography- is now dedicated to the photography of her daughter Diane Loyd. Beautiful photography featuring the birds and the area. She also has a B & B for rent called "The Hummer House."

Rockport/Fulton is a haven for all birds especially hummingbirds in the spring and fall and Whooping Cranes in winter. Year round shorebirds are in abundance. We were glad to see that Rockport Fulton is recovering nicely from the ravages of hurricane Harvey. Many hotels, B and B's and restaurants are open again. Speaking of recovery that evening we watched the sunset and had a great meal at the "Crab N." At City By The Sea between Rockport and Port Aransas, completely rebuilt after the hurricane.

Great food and they even have senior prices. We decided to eat like the "whoopers" and had blue crab cakes with a butter seafood sauce to die for. They also have real key lime pie.

We stayed at the La Quinta which survived the hurricane remarkably well. The next morning we had the free breakfast provided by the Hotel and were off to Fulton for the 9:30 am departure of the "Skimmer", a 45 passenger 2 deck boat taking us out to see the birds. It is a 3 1/2 hours trip and our Captain "J", a birder, was most entertaining and informative. Free beverages and use of binoculars were offered. We saw 38 species of birds and 25 Whooping Cranes. It was great to see a flock of Roseate Spoonbills flying overhead welcoming us at the start of our trip. A few pictures are included taken from our iPhone. We highly recommend visiting Rockport/Fulton and supporting them in their full recovery.

Kathy Coward and Maryanne and Lou DiBiase















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## **Pennsylvania man captures all Walks of life crossing a log bridge.**

The video, taken year-round, shows bears, deer, bobcats, grouse, beavers and many other wildlife crossing the bridge, or swimming underneath in their natural habitats. Credit: Robert Bush.

## **BABY SQUIRREL SEASON**

### **What You Need to Know**

**By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center**



And so it begins. Baby season 2020 and it all begins with baby squirrels. There are a number of reasons why baby squirrels get separated from mom. Homeowners cut down trees that have nests, high winds can blow nests down or can knock babies out of the nest or sometimes they just fall out. Whatever the reason, you can help.

The first thing you want to do is make sure the baby is safe and warm. Put it in a box or other small container with a soft towel or t-shirt. You can microwave a sock filled with (uncooked) rice for one minute and place it in the box with the baby or set ½ of the box on top of a heating pad set to low. **DO NOT TRY TO FEED IT.** If you do not see any blood on the baby and there are no ants crawling on it, you can try to reunite it with mom. A squirrel's real mom is the best mom.

1. Place the box with the baby squirrel in it near where you found the baby. You can also attach string or twine to the box and securely hang it from a low branch. Just remember to keep an eye on it from a distance so it's safe from dogs, cats and other predators.

2. Getting the baby to call for its mom can help. Sometimes gently picking up the baby will cause it to call her. You can also try holding one foot and applying gentle pressure. **DO NOT SQUEEZE HARD.** This is a tiny, fragile baby.

3. If it's raining lightly, cover half the box and put the baby on the dry half. If it's pouring, keep the baby inside until the rain lets up. Remember to **KEEP IT WARM.**

4. Be patient. It can take up to four hours for mom to come and get her little one. If she doesn't, you'll need the help of a rehabilitator. Bring the baby to us. If it's after hours, keep the baby in a quiet, dark room and keep it warm until we open. Do not attempt to feed it.

If you notice injuries, keep the baby safe and warm in a dark room until you can get it to us. Do not handle it.

If you'd like to help care for the baby squirrels that are brought to us, we have opportunities available to care for them at our Center or in your home. We will train you. For more information, email [berry.moffett@twrcwildlifecenter.org](mailto:berry.moffett@twrcwildlifecenter.org) or call 713.468.8972

Check out our website at [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org) for more helpful information.





## Free Charitable Donations for PWWS

There are some retail stores/sites that allow customers to specify a charity to which a portion of their purchase price will be donated. Kroger and Amazon are two such stores/sites. Also, there are some companies that match donations given to charities. For instance, Claire Moore is retired from Shell Oil and they will match any donations to charitable organizations greater than \$25. Each company is different, though, so it's worth checking into...

At the last PWWS board meeting, Jim Lacy reminded everyone that PWWS is registered with Kroger to receive a small donation when customers use their Kroger Cards & have PWWS specified as their designated charity. This doesn't cost the customer anything over and above the cost of groceries. If you have not signed up, just go online to the Kroger Rewards site and designate "Piney Woods Wildlife Society" as your selected charitable organization. Or, if you can't figure out how to log in and navigate the Kroger Rewards online system, then the staff at Kroger's Customer Service desk will gladly help.

Also, Carole Barr has registered PWWS with "Amazon Smile". Amazon donates .05% of all purchases to any designated 501c3 charitable organization. Again, this doesn't add anything to what you pay, it just tells the retailer to donate to the charitable organization that you have designated. To participate, use

smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com when you order --- YES, that's a real thing! The very first time you use smile.amazon.com, you must choose PWWS as your charity in the banner at the top. After that, just use smile.amazon.com every time you shop instead of going to www.amazon.com.

These simple steps will bring much-needed donations to PWWS and (again) cost you nothing more than a little setup effort. The costs associated with website maintenance, newsletter distribution, etc, have definitely climbed in the past few years, so we are hoping these donations will help offset them. Please encourage your friends and family to participate, too.

# amazon smile

amazon smile  
Org Central

## Customers shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organizations selected by our customers.

Register to receive donations generated by your organization's AmazonSmile supporters.

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## HEART HAPPENINGS

By Carole Allen

**60+ Balloons Found at Padre Island National Seashore after Valentine's Weekend**

Training for sea turtle patrolling will soon start in Galveston following by beach patrols in April. Although Valentine's Day is past, please take a look at some of the balloons that were found at the Padre Island Seashore. Many others undoubtedly fell in the Gulf and may have been eaten by sea turtles.

Sea turtles mistakenly eat balloons, confusing them for jellyfish. Birds can easily get tangled up in balloon strings. Balloons are a fun way to celebrate, but they end up being more harmful in the long-run," beach officials said. More than 60 balloons were found at Padre Island National Seashore after the Valentine's weekend.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration notes that balloons "can be carried by currents and winds, having far-reaching impacts. Once balloons enter the ocean, they can become yet another hazard for marine wildlife. Releasing balloons is a very common part of some funerals but some other practices would help keep sea turtles and birds alive.

<https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2020/02/18/60-balloons-found-at-padre-island-national-seashore-after-valentines-weekend/>



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**Bald Eagle Party**













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## **Bald Eagle nest in Tomball**

**By Claire Moore**

Hey all. There is a bald eagle nest in Tomball with two young eagles in it. They are maybe a week or two from fledging (leaving the nest), so if you are interested, you should go sooner rather than later...

I have created a Facebook group (under Piney Woods Wildlife Society where I

volunteer) about this called:

[\(https://www.facebook.com/groups/EnjoyTomballEagles/\)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/EnjoyTomballEagles/)

Please "like" this Facebook group to keep up with all the happenings at the nest.

[FYI, my personal Facebook is under "Claire Runnels Moore".]

Also, I have posted pics and a video to this Facebook group from my trip to visit the nest on Tuesday, March 3rd. Check them out. [I've attached some photos below, too.]

Yes, this was my first time out of the house since my ankle surgery on Feb 26th (on my broken right ankle). My good friend, Cheryl, took me and it wasn't as difficult as I expected, so that was good. I didn't leave the car -- just stayed in the back seat with pillows under my ankle to keep it mostly pain free.

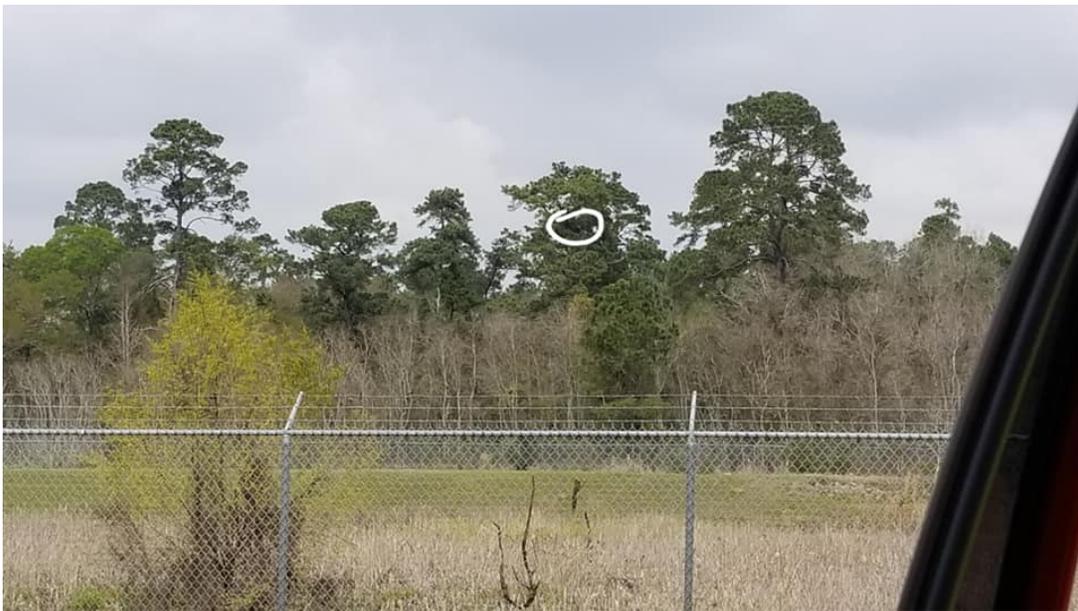
-- Claire



*Claire at Tomball Eagle nest - Photo by Cheryl Hildebrand*



*Bald Eagle Nest in Tomball behind Target located behind the Target near FM2920 & Highway 249 - Photo by Claire Moore*



*Tree with Tomball Eagle nest located behind the Target near FM2920 & Highway 249 - Photo by Claire Moore*



*Scope at Tomball Eagle nest behind Target located behind the Target near FM2920 & Highway 249 - Photo*

## Photos by Paul Gregg

### January Outing 2020



*Henslows Sparrow - Photo by Paul Gregg*

Happy belated new year!

I finally downloaded eBird to my computer and phone. I confess I do not know all the great information the application gives me access to. But, I did sign up for notifications when an unusual bird shows up in the following counties: Jefferson, Harris, Chambers, and Liberty. Since I signed up, I've received a number of postings that indicate to many of us that the spring migration might be starting a little early this year. I also remember a number of months ago that a Jabiru (go here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabiru> ) showed up in the Anahuac NWR area. We got to the location one day late, as usual and the large stork was a no-show. A number of cars were parked up and down the road where the bird had been seen the following day and a car with two birders pulled off the road and parked near us. The guys told us they were California, had heard about the jabiru's rare appearance in Texas and they had bought plane ticket, flown into Houston, rented a car and came to view the bird. Now I think that might come close to being obsessed with adding another bird to their life list!

On January 19, I received an eBird alert that a Henslow's Sparrow had been seen

in George Bush Park over on the west side of Houston. The next morning Carol and I went to the park, met a lady and her son who had just come from sighting the sparrow. Trying to follow their directions, we came across another birder/photographer who had seen the bird and volunteered to take us to its location. We weren't disappointed, as you can see in the two photos I've included. The Henslow's was at the edge of the field and would flush out of the grass, enter the rose bushes, pose for just a second or two and disappear into the bushes. We were told to move away from that area for 15 or 20 minutes, and return to where we saw it last and it would be out in the grass again. That proved true twice more. The Henslow's was a bird to add to my list and we enjoyed observing it.

When we returned to the parking lot, we saw the American Pipit, bobbing its tail as it walked in the grass. We also saw some other birds, but didn't get photos. We decided to drive out on the Katy Prairie and visit Paul Rushing Park, but there weren't many birds on the water of the ponds there. Some Savannah Sparrows gave us good views and photo moments and two photos are included.

I wish we could get out more often; and in the months from March thru May, I sincerely hope to get out much more and maybe not procrastinate so much as far as getting one of my e-mails out.

Enjoy,

Paul Gregg, SMSGT, USAF (Ret.)



*Henslows Sparrow - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Savannah Sparrow - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Savannah Sparrow - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*American Pipit - Photo by Paul Gregg*

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**Photos by Paul Gregg**

**Chappell Hill Reverie**



*White-tailed deer - Photo by Paul Gregg*

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

Mon, Mar 2 at 10:24 AM

What a day!

A definition of "reverie" is: the state of being lost in thought especially about pleasant things. Saturday, leap day (Feb. 29), Carol and I got the chance to visit my niece, who has property out in Chappell Hill, TX. The sun was out, the wind was steady, and the temperature was cool enough to light a fire and enjoy watching the glowing embers and listening to the crackling of the fire. Spending time with Mollie was a welcome gift from God, as we were recovering from being voting clerks during early voting in Harris County. I don't know how many times I was "lost in thought" during the day, but the joy of photography also kicked in and we enjoyed a good variety of subjects.

As we sat by the fire, we noticed a pileated woodpecker on the trunk of a distant tree. The female pileated appeared to be excavating a hole in the tree, possibly working toward having a cavity for a nest. The photo is heavily cropped. While we were rocking in our chairs, we heard the sound of a yellow-rumped warbler. We played the call back to it and it perched on a wire near the chairs and I got a half decent photo.

We toured the property and enjoyed getting photographs of the many deer that enjoy the relative protection of the farms in the area. A doe was in a clearing within the woods, stood and looked at us a few seconds and then took off. When we were at one end of the field, a herd of deer came across a distant area of the field and the photo showing their "flagged" white tails in the air was a warning to others that invaders (us) were present on their property. Carol counted 37 in that herd, and there were undoubtedly more than that.

Mollie has a red-shouldered hawk that visits behind her house on a daily basis. She's named him Mork, and he seems to accept Mollie when she is present. She said he shows up when she is mowing the back yard, maybe looking for mice, or a snake for a meal. He did show up for us and I got a couple photos of him stalking something at the edge of the woods.

Being away from power lines, houses, buildings, airplanes that often distract from photos, we enjoyed the sunset. There was a sun-dog that showed up to the north of the sun prior to the sunset. The "Tomi Tree" is in the middle of the field and provided a great subject for inclusion in the sunset photo.

For my photographer friends, I used my newly acquired programs, Topaz Denoise AI and Sharpen AI on some of the photos and the programs really enhanced a number of them. I believe the programs are best used when one

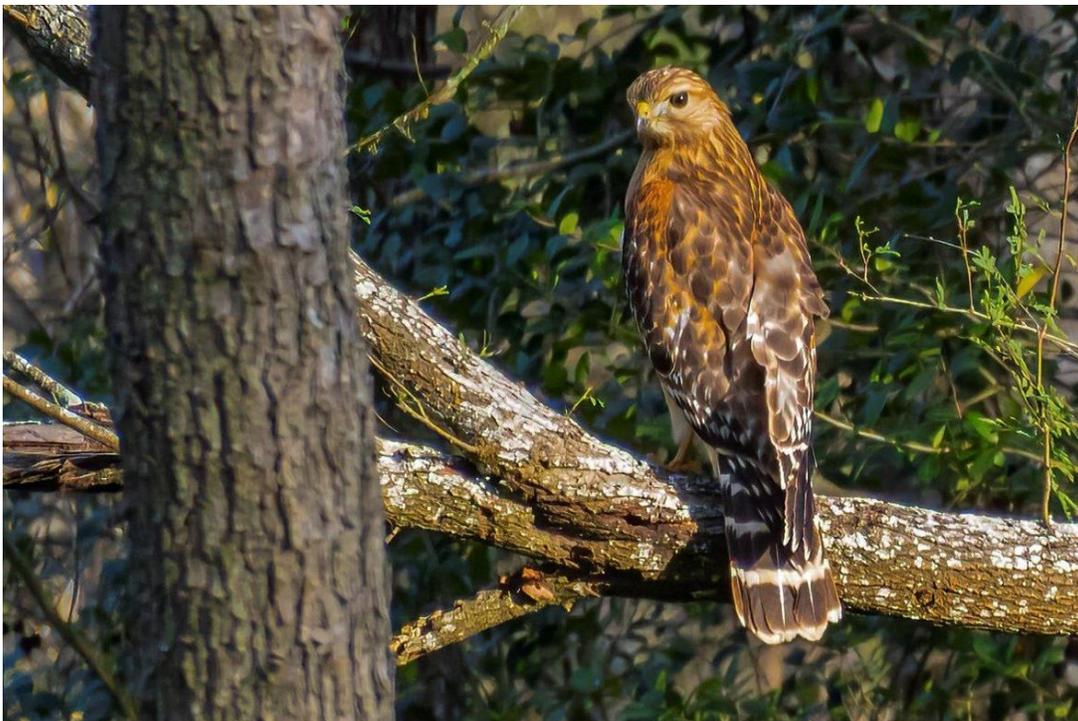
takes pretty high ISO photos, such as the deer running across the field (greatly cropped and ISO at 3200). I realize I have a lot to learn about those Topaz programs, but am impressed so far.

Enjoy!

Paul Gregg, SMSGT, USAF (Ret.)



*White-tailed Deer - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Red-shoulder Hawk - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Yellow-rump - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Pileated Woodpecker - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Fireplace - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Sun Dog - Photo by Paul Gregg*



*Tomi Tree - Photo by Paul Gregg*

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**Photos by Jim Snyder**



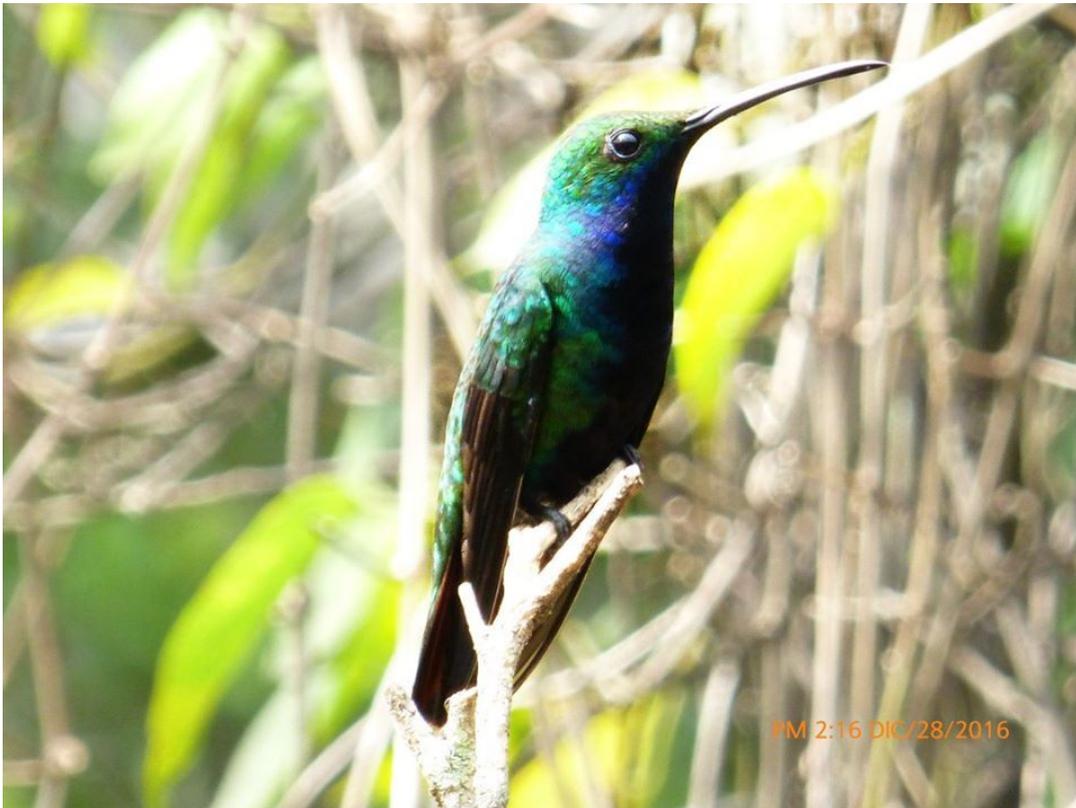
*Photo by Jim Snyder*



Photo by Jim Snyder



Photo by Jim Snyder



Black Throated Mango - Photo by Jim Snyder



*Taken in Columbia - Photo by Jim Snyder*



*Taken in Columbia - Photo by Jim Snyder*



*At Los Colores Ecoparque - Photo by Jim Snyder*



*At Los Colores Ecoparque - Photo by Jim Snyder - 1-30-2020*

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**Photos by Sandy Crystal Vaughn**



© SCV 2019

*Whooping Crane! Part of the new wetlands exhibit at the Houston Zoo. - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*Red-winged Blackbirds - females - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*Red-winged Blackbirds - males - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*White winged Doves - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*Black Bear at the Houston Zoo - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*Eurasian Lynx - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*Eurasian Lynx - Photo by Sandy Crystal Vaughn*



*This is Nova, an Eurasian Lynx at the Texas Zoo in Victoria. One can have a Wildlife Interaction experience for \$50. She was my choice. A once in a lifetime experience!*

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**Photos by Randy Scott**



Isn't this little hawk the cutest thing you ever did see? It is a Coopers Hawk, a species that has transcended from a forest ecology to an urban one. It feeds on birds, insects and small animals. Adults are gorgeous! This little baby, one of four, lives on a street in West Houston. - Photo by Randy Scott



This is a Painted Bunting. It is well-known for its exceptional colors. The problem is that it is not conventional colors. Normally the back is a bright yellow. Bettina Whitley and I observed this rare anomaly on our trip from Big Bend at a bird blind in South Llano River State Park, Texas - Photo by Randy Scott



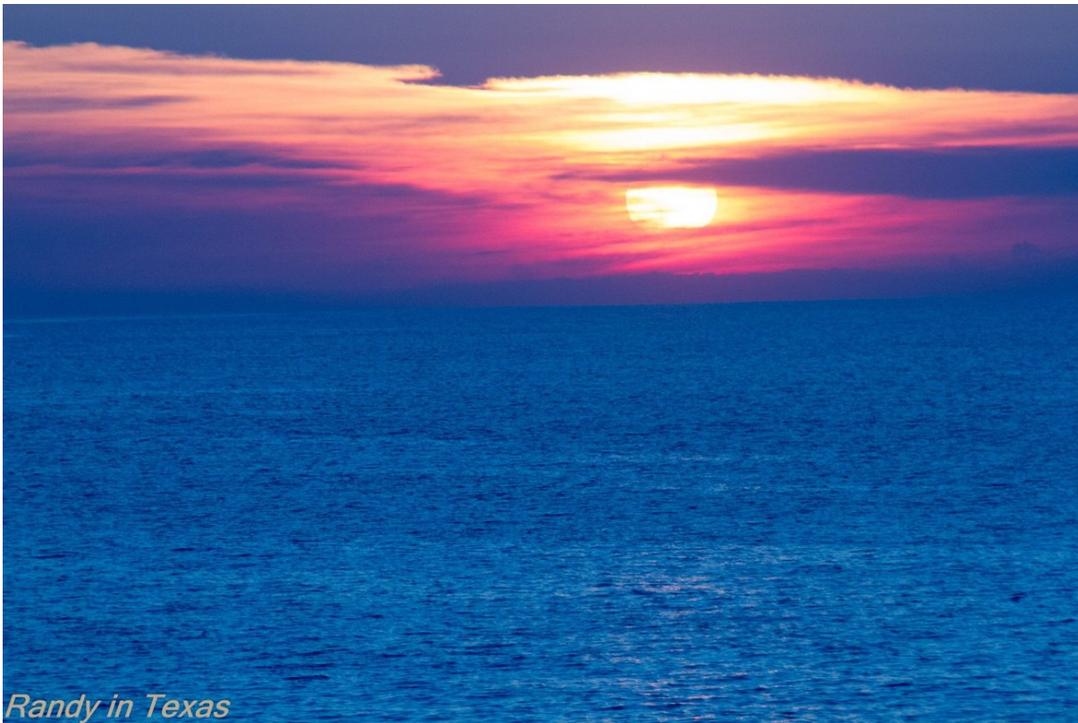
*This is the same species (Painted Bunting) in conventional colors mixed in the bird crowd at the bird blind. - Photo by Randy Scott*



***Randy in Texas** Red winged Blackbird taken on March 18, 2019 near Sabine Bird Sanctuary. In Spring breeding colors. - Photo by Randy Scott*



*Texas Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush - Photo by Randy Scott*



*Randy in Texas*  
*Photo by Randy Scott*



*Photo by Randy Scott*

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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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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/>

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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.

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