

The Pine Warbler



Piney Woods Wildlife Society Newsletter - MAY 2021



May 19, 2021 - PWWS Program by Paul Gregg



Long-horn - Photo by Paul Gregg

Paul Gregg will be our speaker for the May virtual Zoom meeting of the Piney Woods Wildlife Society scheduled for Wednesday, May 19th, at 7 p.m. He will be taking us on a journey, showing us that it isn't completely about birds.

Paul will spend a short period of time on backyard birding and bird photography. Then he will move on to discuss short trips to local parks and sanctuaries, etc. Next, Paul will discuss one day "out and back" trips as well as trips to some locations farther out, calling for a few days away from home.

Claire Moore is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PWWS May Presentation by Paul Gregg

Time: May 19, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Click on link to Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84360227446?
pwd=alA3cE90M3VwckNxREgzYVU3aHJmdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84360227446?pwd=alA3cE90M3VwckNxREgzYVU3aHJmdz09)

Meeting ID: 843 6022 7446

Passcode: 845618

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84360227446#,,,,845618# US (Chicago)

+13462487799,,84360227446#,,,,845618# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 843 6022 7446

Passcode: 845618

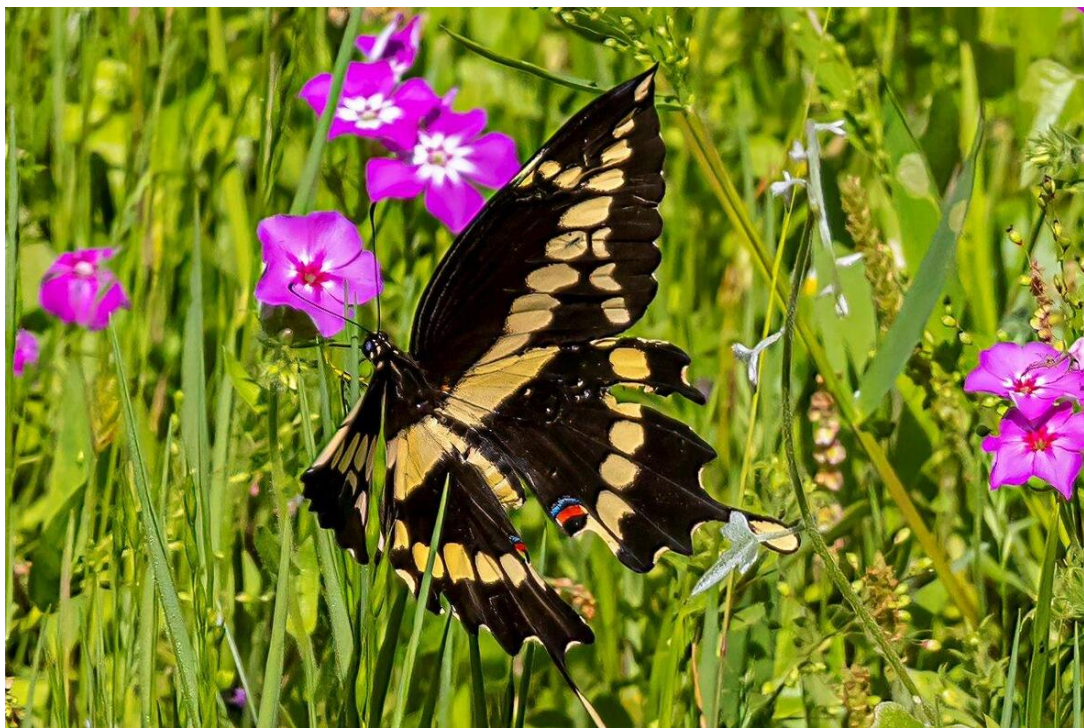
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcq86VTFxs>



Texas Bluebonnets, Washington on the Brazos - Photo by Paul Gregg



Horses - Photo by Paul Gregg



Giant Swallowtail - Washington on the Brazos - Photo by Paul Gregg



Washington on the Brazos - Photo by Paul Gregg

Just one little advanced look at what's coming in the next few days! (I might be processing until August!)

Warblers, left to right: Black and White (foreground), Northern Parula, Cerulean (female), Tennessee, Magnolia (foreground), Chestnut-sided.

What a day it was!

(Original: ISO 6400, F-11, 1/500 sec., processed in Lightroom CC and Topaz)

Enjoy,

Paul



Warblers - Photo by Paul Gregg



FOR YOUR
SACRIFICE

Note from PWS President

April and May, our prime birding and great nature months are here. Hope you can get out and enjoy. Our May meeting will still be virtual but when we start up in September we have great hopes for in-person meetings. Our Lodge at the Dennis Johnston Park is getting ready for us. Stay safe and warmest virtual hugs.

Kathy, Your President



Our World Travelers Claire & Darwin are in Kenya & Tanzania

Photos taken in Africa by Darwin Moore



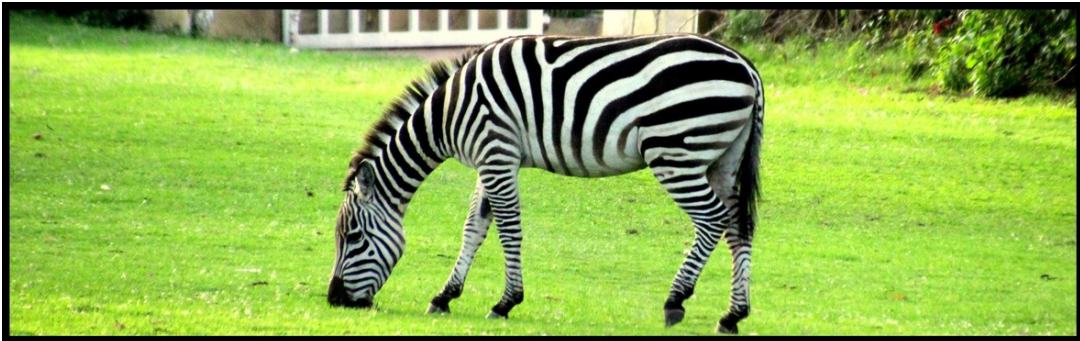
We never been north of the equator before. No, that's not right. We've never crossed the equator before. No, that's not right --- planes and Galapagos cruise and who knows what else. We've never CELEBRATED crossing the equator...until now. - Photo by Darwin Moore



And, as light was fading, we ran across these two boys. We suspect they are brothers who have an alliance to command a larger territory. Both had tracking collars...you can just see a hint on one. I wonder who does their hair? Fabulous! - Photo by Darwin Moore



We can now add zebra, baboons and antelope to the list of animals that have crossed directly in front of our safari vehicle - Photo by Darwin Moore



In the afternoons, water buck and zebra come into the yard to browse. And, as soon as the sun sets, hippos come ashore to graze! Several hippos! You are required to have a guard escort you after dark, and they are very careful with the hippos. They use lights, noise and sticks to herd them back towards the water. There is one pregnant female that is very aggressive (hippo, not guard). - Photo by Darwin Moore



Baby laying down. Their horns are only cartilage when born, so mom can actually give birth without damage. They harden into bone in their early years. Another fun fact: females have furry knobs at the top, whereas males just have bigger knobs with bald tops. - Photo by Darwin Moore



Grevy's zebras have closer stripes, mule ears, a white belly, brown on the nose and a bigger, beautiful manes. - Photo by Darwin Moore



Hadada Ibis - Photo by Darwin Moore



Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse - Photo by Darwin Moore



Female and Male Red-Cheeked Cordon Bleu - Photo by Darwin Moore



White-Throated Bee-Eaters - Photo by Darwin Moore



Black-Bellied Bustard - Photo by Claire Moore



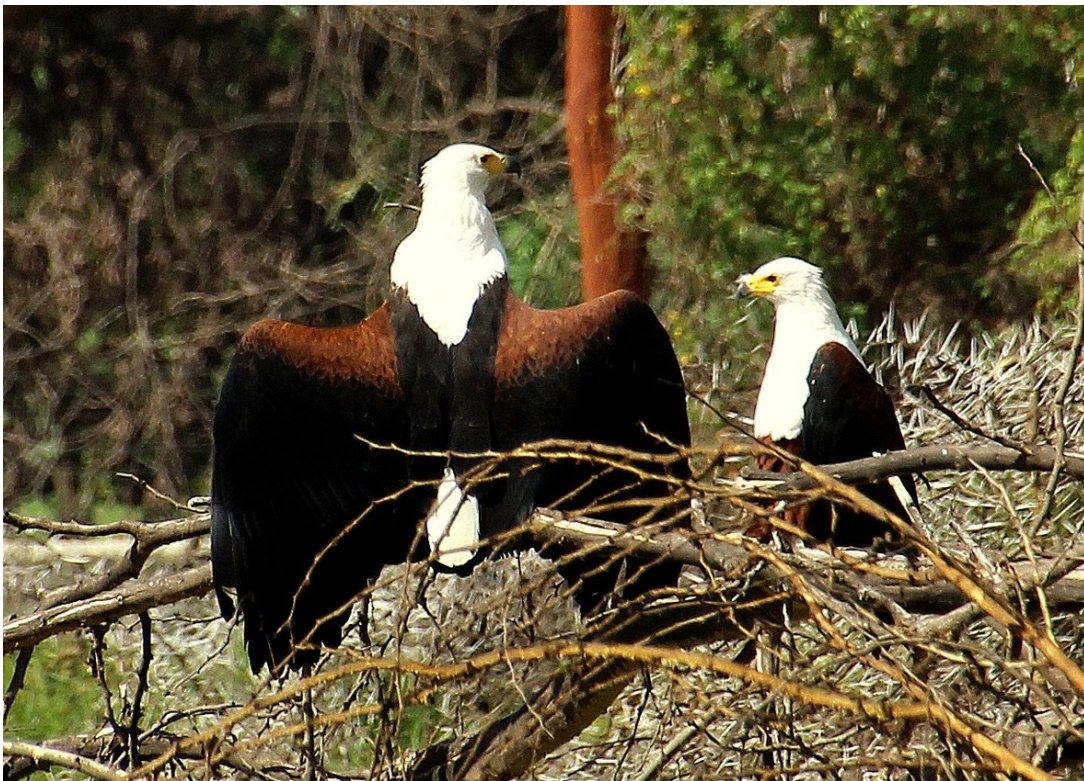
High stepping Blacksmith Lapwing - Photo by Darwin Moore



The morning was absolutely perfect. Sunny, mild temps, great light for pictures, with an abundance of bird life...like this pair of Pied Kingfish.



Another Yellow-Billed Stork, but he was so close and glowing in the late sun.- Photo by Darwin Moore



Fish Eagles were everywhere. Like, every 1/4 mile around Lake Naivasha (Kenya); clearly there was plenty of food for all. - Photo by Darwin Moore



The End. - Photo by Darwin Moore

Heart Happening

by Carole Allen



Kemp's Ridley Turtle - NPS Photo

Texas Nest Update

Good news!

On Apr 28, 2021, at 8:33 PM, Shaver, Donna J Donna_Shaver@nps.gov wrote:
2 Kemp's Ridley nests were located on the Texas coast, including 2 on North Padre Island (including 2 at Padre Island National Seashore).

KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE

So far this year, 2 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

2 North Padre Island, including 2 at Padre Island National Seashore

Updates regarding nesting are also posted at the Padre Island National Seashore website:

<https://www.nps.gov/pais/learn/nature/current-nesting-season.htm>

Donna J. Shaver, Ph.D.

GIVE TURTLES A BRAKE!

By Cheryl Conley

I brake for turtles. Do you?



Photo by Cheryl Conley

With the warmer weather, turtles are going to be on the move soon. They are most likely looking for a mate or the females are looking for a nesting site. It could be that they're just looking for a good meal. Whatever the reason, cars and turtles don't mix.

If you're like me and want to help turtles crossing roads, here are a few helpful hints:

- Safety first. Always be aware of other vehicles. Pull off the road and turn on your hazard flashers.
- If there's no traffic, it's best to let the turtle cross on its own.
- Don't put the turtle in your car and relocate it. Eastern box turtles, for example, only travel within about a 2-mile radius throughout their lives. They have a homing instinct and move about within their home territory. Removing them from their home will cause undo stress and shorten their lives.
- Always move the turtle in the same direction it was going, as far off the road as you can place it.
- Be gentle. Grasp the turtle's shell edge at about the mid-point of the body. If it's a snapping turtle, grasp the shell at the back of the body to protect yourself from a bite. In either case, you can then lift the turtle and place it on the side of

the road. You can also place the turtle on a floor mat or piece of clothing and slide it.

- Once the turtle is safely placed on the side of the road out of danger, sanitize your hands. We've all gotten pretty good at that!

What should you do if you find an injured turtle? Believe it or not, turtles with damaged shells can recover but it's important to get help as quickly as possible. Call a local wildlife center first to make sure they will accept the animal and follow their instructions. Don't try to feed the turtle or give it water. Place it in a box and put it in a quiet area until you can get help.

Houston area wildlife centers:

Friends of Texas Wildlife

TWRC Wildlife Center

Wildlife Center of Texas

You can also check the Texas Parks & Wildlife website for individual rehabilitators.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/rehab/list/>

CREATOR'S CANVAS-HUMMINGBIRDS IN MY BACK YARD-PART 6/THE THE SPECTACULAR SNOWCAPS!

Photos By Wayne Easley



Male Snow-Caps Hummingbird 10-18-11 - Photo by Wayne Easley

The tiny Snowcap (hummingbird) is high on the list of all those who come to see birds in Costa Rica. As the fifth smallest hummer in the entire world, it is a pint-sized jewel. The bird is about the size of your thumb. The male bird is unmistakable; its body is somewhere between a deep purple and wine color with a blaze of white on the crown. This is a unique combination of colors that is topped off with a short black bill and white in the tail. The dainty little female looks nothing like the male. This petite little lady has a mix of bronzy-green on the top with grayish-white underparts and a short bill. Immature birds tend to resemble the females.

Buzzing around like little helicopters, the males loosely congregate in areas that are called leks to display for the females. Once the male has mated, he is off to defend his favorite patch of Verbena flowers (Porterweed). The nest that is built by the female is a tiny cup that is made from plant fibers, cobwebs and bits of lichen. The faithful mother cares for her brood (usually two) for four weeks or so after which she leaves the youngsters to fend for themselves.

If you are planning a birding trip to Costa Rica, your trip should include a night or two at Rancho Naturalista. Located on the Caribbean side of the country, the lodge owners are neighbors of mine. Please enjoy the spectacular Snowcaps.

Wayne Easley/written on Dec. 20, 2020 in Costa RICA

PICTURES: YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE MY PICTURES FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. I am delighted when they are used for stories in

the home, the school or in church. Please share the wonders of nature with our kids.



Male Snow-Caps Hummingbird - Costa Rica. 10-19-11 - Photo by Wayne Easley



Male Snow-Caps Hummingbird Aug26-19 - Photo by Wayne Easley



Male Snow-Caps Hummingbird, Costa Rica. - Photo by Wayne Easley



Female Snow-Caps Hummingbird, Costa Rica - Photo by Wayne Easley



Female Snow-Caps Hummingbird - Photo by Wayne Easley



Female Snow-Caps Hummingbird, Costa Rica - Photo by Wayne Easley



Female Snow-Caps Hummingbird - Photo by Wayne Easley



Female Snow-Caps Hummingbird, Costa Rica - Photo by Wayne Easley



Immature Snow-Caps Hummingbird, Costa Rica - Photo by Wayne Easley

STORY/THE NIGHT OF THE NOCTURNAL CURRASOW!

By Wayne Easley

It began as a sort of a whisper. Someone was calling Steven's name through the open screen in his room. But why? It was two o'clock in the morning and Steven was enjoying a deep sleep. It startled him but the urgent whisper persisted, "Steven, Steven, "The currasow is calling!" It was the group's birding guide Marcelo. My son Steven was leading a birding group of eight people to Amazonian Ecuador. The lodge is called the Shiripuno Eco-lodge and is so remote that it takes between four to six hours from Coca (nearest airport) by van and by boat to get there. Quickly Steven grabbed his clothes and a pair of boots that were in the room. Flashlight in hand, he met Marcelo outside. Marcelo explained quietly, (trying not to wake the others) "The bird calling is the Nocturnal Currasow, a rare bird here and very difficult to see in this forest." The Nocturnal Currasow is a rufous-brown bird with an orange bill and yellow skin around the eyes. It tends to call during the night which means that few birders have seen it. During the day, the bird comes down to the ground but spends most of its time on the dense forest floor. Marcelo was right, Steve was wide awake now and was locked in to seeing the currasow. " Marcelo motioned with his flashlight, "Follow me, we must go quickly as it may stop calling; we should be able to find it." With that, the two of them entered the darkness of the forest.

The first part of the trail was not so bad. After walking for about forty-five minutes, they began to hear the currasow.

The sound was a deep-muffled resonating grunt. Marcelo explained that the call would last only a few minutes and then the bird would be silent during the next ten to fifteen minutes. If the bird stopped calling, their chances of seeing it would not be good.. Walking again, with Steven immediately behind him; Marcelo stopped. Steven bumped into him and asked, "What is it?" Using his flashlight, Marcelo pointed to a dazzling tropical treefrog. The creature displayed a rainbow of colors was sitting motionless on a small limb and Steven wanted to get pictures. Frantically trying to get his camera ready, abruptly Marcelo declared, "We must go, it is the currasow we want to see. The frog will come later" And with that, Marcelo touched the frog with the tip of his boot and it leaped into the bushes. Marcelo was right, "Their focus was on the currasow. Spending too much time with the treefrog might cost them the chance to see their target bird.

Getting closer to the calling bird, the two of them encountered a muddy swamp in the trail. Steven was slowed as his boots sank into the soft mud. The boots were provided by the lodge but they were old and had a few holes in them. Marcelo stopped, turning to Steven in the darkness, he said, "Your boots are not very good: I think I should carry you through the mud. There has been a lot of rain and the mud is deep. Please climb on my back and I will carry you." It

was surreal. Actually Steven is a bit taller and heavier than Marcelo but Marcelo is strong and he was able to carry Steven through the mud. A bit later, the two came to another obstacle. They had to cross a muddy creek with banks on each side. Steven, shining his flashlight below questioned, "We have to cross this to get to the bird? There was silence until Marcelo responded, "I was here earlier when I heard the bird first call and I made a bridge for us." Marcelo cautioned Steven to put his hand on his back, to watch his step and to be cautious. The two crossed the bridge without mishap.

Relieved to be on the other side suddenly the bird called and they were very close. It seemed to be directly overhead. Marcelo told Steven, "Get the camera ready, we will look for the bird now." Steven replied, "I am as ready as I can be. let's go for it." Both flashlights began to probe the tree and there it was. "A beautiful Nocturnal Currasow." but the bird was looking away from them and at that instant, it stopped calling. Marcelo told Steven to be patient, "The bird will call again soon." Patiently, they waited, and again they heard the bird begin to vocalize. And this time, the bird was looking down at them.. Quickly Steven snapped several pictures and they turned off the lights. They did not want the bird to mistake the light of the flashlight for dawn which could cause the bird to leave. Looking at the pictures of such a wonderful night creature, Marcelo turned to Steven and said, "You wait here, I will go for the others. They will want to see this bird. You wait here but let me take your flashlight because it is better than mine." And with that, Steven was left alone in the biggest, wildest jungle on planet earth. Suddenly the night sounds seemed louder and closer and visions of bushmasters, Fer-de-lances and other creatures that can do harm in the jungle. were flashing through his mind. The sound of a Great Potoo seem way too close. It was then that Steven remembered that he did have his cellphone which meant he had a bit of light and there was music too. Despite the circumstances, he did have contact with the outside world.

It was getting on toward dawn when Steven heard voices. Marcelo was returning with two of the clients (the rest had opted to stay in bed). Two of the ladies came with Marcelo who, in their return, had discovered a better trail back that missed the muddy swamp and the hastily constructed bridge over the creek. Flashlights were quickly trained on the currasow and the ladies were able to get their pictures. Within a matter of minutes, the incredible currasow hopped down to a lower branch and then disappeared onto the forest floor. The two ladies said later, that for them, it was the highlight of the trip. And those who stayed in bed realized, "We missed one of the best birds!." Undoubtedly, Steven and probably the two ladies will never forget the night of the Nocturnal Currasow at the Shiripuno Lodge in Ecuador. It is etched in their memories forever.



Harrier Northern in lone tree reserve - Photo by Wayne Easley

CREATOR'S CANVAS/THE NORTHERN HARRIERS!

Photos By Wayne Easley

"Watch where it lands in the marsh," my son Steven yelled to me. We were watching a male Northern Harrier, medium sized long-winged hawk with a conspicuous white rump, carrying food into a North Dakota marsh of cat-tails. We had found the nest earlier but wanted to make sure we were oriented correctly. Once called Marsh Hawks, Northern Harriers are birds of prey that live in grasslands and wetlands. Male and female harriers do not resemble each other; the adult male is mostly gray with black tips on outer primaries with that prominent white band across the rump. The larger female bird is mostly brown with streaking and buff on the lower parts. The female also has the white rump! The male harriers are polygynous which means they mate with several females, although generally they choose only a couple of females.

Harriers have a beautiful lemon-yellow eye. It is as if, they could stare a hole right through you! Harriers are migratory and once they arrive back to their favorite marshes, the males entertain the females with lively sky dances, often soaring to incredible heights to impress the lady friend. Or as we mentioned

earlier, they may be trying to impress several lady friends. Building of the nest is shared by both birds; the male chooses the site and builds a platform on the ground and the female lines the nest of sticks with soft grass. In the nest, carefully hidden in the marsh, the female deposits from five to seven eggs.

The nest we were studying had seven eggs at the beginning of incubation. Unfortunately, only a single bird survived to become an adult. Nests are often raided by the ever present predators; raccoons, skunks, badgers, foxes and coyotes among other hungry marsh dwellers make life difficult for the parent birds. My guess is that one adult out of a clutch of seven is probably pretty normal for these birds. The few young birds that do survive are reported to practice their hunting skills while still close to the nest. Honing in on a rock or a dried cattail, they pounce on it just as the male harrier does when he is out hunting for food.

During the nesting period, the female bird spends most of her time at the nest while the male is out searching for food. One author noted that when the male brings food to the female, she gives him a kind of thank you whistle. It is always nice to be rewarded for your hard work! While hunting, harriers stay pretty low to the ground, often following the contour of the marsh itself. They drift over marshes and fields and use those wonderful lemon-yellow eyes to spot a likely meal below. They take mostly small mammals such as cotton rats, voles, ground squirrels and the like but can also dive down on sparrows, larks and pipits and shorebirds on occasion. At times, they have been observed to take something as large as a duck or a rabbit. When that happens, it is said, they drown the prey in the water before hauling it off to the nest.

Harriers are greatly helped by their keen sense of hearing. They are the most owl-like of all the hawks and are aided by facial disks that funnel sounds into their ears. Circling, listening, watching everything below, they don't miss much. Farmers and ranchers tend to appreciate harriers because of their diet; the fewer rats and mice there are, the better the crops will be at harvest time. It is sad that the prolific use of pesticides and the draining of many of our marshes has caused a decline in the numbers of harriers. Harriers were hit hard in the last century, especially in the late 50s and 60s, when organochlorine pesticides such as DDT were commonly used. DDT caused a pesticide buildup and harrier eggs were affected. In many parts of the world, harriers are killed due to long-standing superstitions. Some places in Europe believe that if a harrier lands on your rooftop, it means that three people will die in that house. That would not be good for a family of three. Some of these folk tales have been handed down for generations and there is a need to re-educate the people, especially the younger folk.

Let's hope that the magnificent harriers will be with us for a long time to come. They add grace and beauty to our marshes and wetlands and do us no harm whatsoever. Slowing rocking from side to side, wingtips extended upwards, the marshes would not be the same without them.

Wayne Easley/Casa Rancho/ in Costa Rica/re-written on March 31, 2021 in North Dakota.



Harrier, Northern female with nesting material near Goose Lake, Spring 2010 - Photo by Wayne Easley



Harrier, Northern near lone tree reserve - Photo by Wayne Easley



Harrier, Northern Hawk in North Dakota Spring 2014 - Photo by Wayne Easley



Photo by Wanda Smith



Zebra Swallowtail, Eurytides marcellus - by Wanda Smith

Photos by Sandy Crystal



SCV 2021

Male Barn Swallow (he landed right in front of me and rested for a few minutes)! Never been this close to one. Texas City Dike on Earth Day 04222021- Photo by Sandy Crystal



SCV 2021

Male Barn Swallow -Texas City Dike on Earth Day 04222021 - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Great Egret with Chicks! Resoft County Park. Alvin, Texas 04152021 - Photo by Sandy Crystal



SCV 2021

Black-bellied Plover in transitional plumage - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Franklin's Gull - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Sanderling - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Ruddy Turnstone - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Juvenile Herring Gull - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Black-crowned Night-Heron - Photo by Sandy Crystal

SCV 2021



A pair of Least Terns - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Little Blue Heron and Barn Swallow! Deloris Fenwick Nature Center. Pearland, Texas 04152021 - Photo by Sandy Crystal



This parking lot Killdeer was a super cute model today at Sylvan Beach! La Porte, Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal



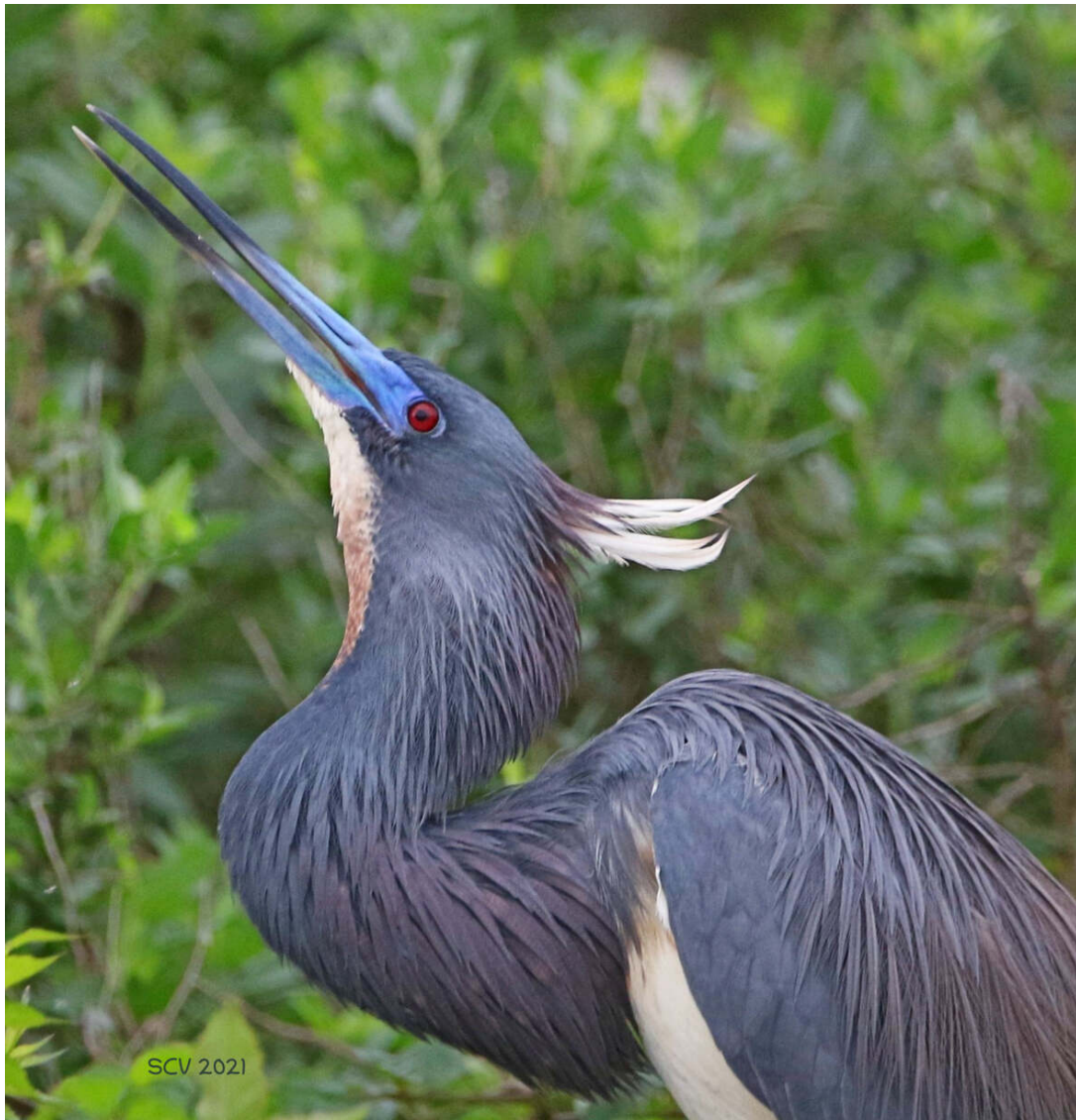
Great Blue Heron on Nest. Resoft County Park. Alvin, Texas 04152021 - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Magnificent Swainson's Hawk today at Sylvan Beach! La Porte, Texas - Photo by Sandy Crystal



One hot mess! Immature male Ruby-throated Hummingbird giving me a raspberry this morning. Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas 04202021 - Photo by Sandy Crystal



Tricolored Heron in Breeding Plumage! Deloris Fenwick Nature Center. Pearland, Texas 04152021 - Photo by Sandy Crystal



SCV 2021

*Male Indigo Bunting yesterday afternoon at the feeder! Backyard Clear Lake City (Houston) Texas 04252021
- Photo by Sandy Crystal*

Over 1700 Mississippi Kites were counted yesterday at Hawk Watch! And 10 Swallow-tailed Kites showed up, too! Incredible experience. Little Cedar Bayou Park La Porte, Texas 04252021



Photo by Sandy Crystal



Photo by Sandy Crystal



SCV 2021

*Red-shouldered Hawk with the crescent "windows"! Little Cedar Bayou Park, La Porte, Texas. 04112021.
Photo by Sandy Crystal*



Photos by Bill Miller



Unidentified wildflower in Eagle Pass, Photo by Sue Peretti Miller



Texas Bluebonnets - Photo by Bill Miller



Texas Bluebonnets - Photo by Bill Miller



Lyndon Johnson's first job out of college was teaching school in Cotulla. The black and white group photo shown in the mural is a copy of a class photo with him and his students. - Photo by Bill Miller



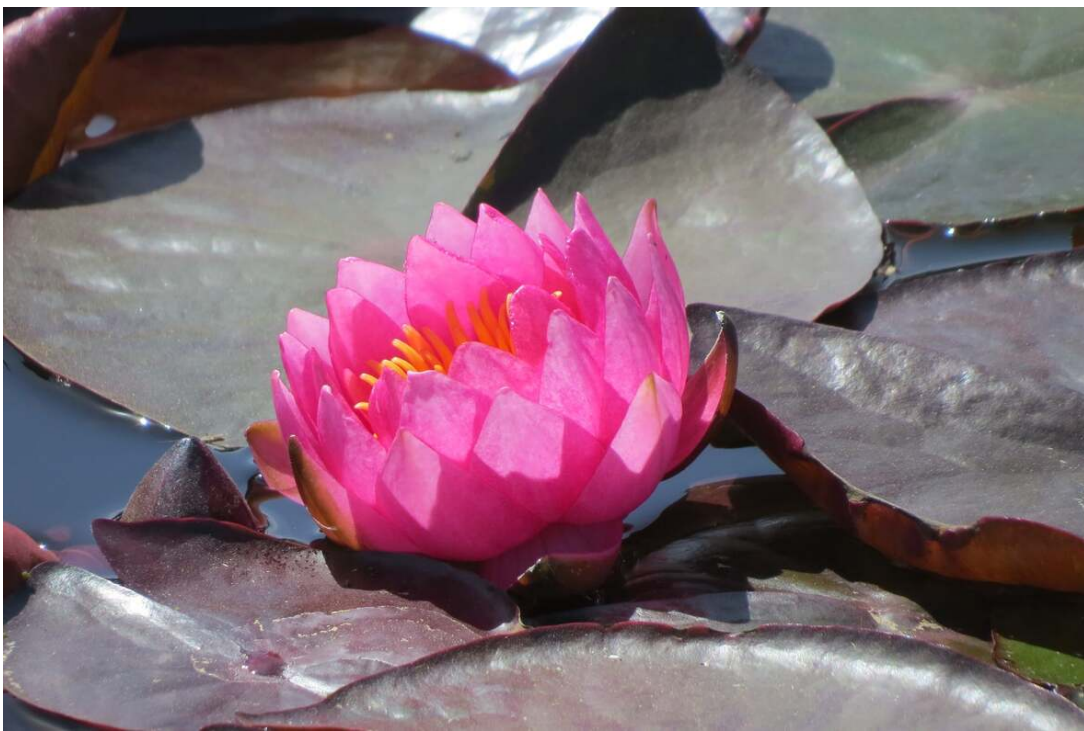
Part of the state longhorn herd - Photo by Bill Miller



Photo by Bill Miller



Every prickly pear in south Texas was blooming. - Photo by Bill Miller



In the International Waterlily Collection, San Angelo. - Photo by Bill Miller



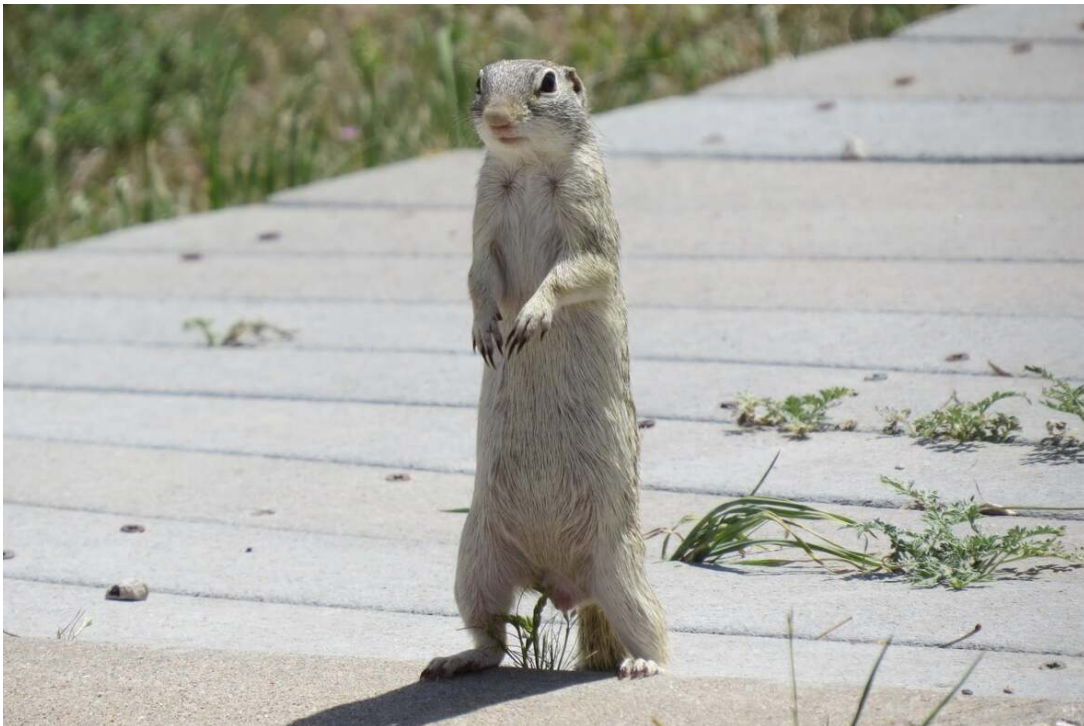
Dainty Sulphur - Wildflower garden in the waterlily collection - Photo by Bill Miller



Wood Thrush New yard bird, and to my surprise, one I've never photographed. 04202021 - Photo by Bill Miller



American Avocets in runoff from the big spring in Big Spring. A family favorite, the first bird Sue and I id'd on our own when we started birding. - Photo by Bill Miller



Ground squirrel, San Angelo State Park. - Photo by Bill Miller



gator - Photo by Bill Miller



Decorations on the courthouse in Cotulla - Photo by Bill Miller



Photos by Randy Scott



Yellow-rumped Warbler in Conroe. It has a blue tint in flight. - Photo by Randy Scott



Six wren eggs waiting to get hatched on our patio plant. 4-5-2021 - Photo by Randy Scott



Today is Baltimore Oriole Day at my house in Conroe. Several birds have been feeding on oranges here since early this morning. S pair came in just now and ate some of the oranges. #conroetx #baltimoreorioles - Photo by Randy Scott



Baltimore-Oriole - Photo by Randy Scott



Papa getting worms from our special multi-function feeder/ waterer. We used this initially to not attract Siskins but give the Bluebird family easy access to water in a drought stricken state of weather. (Drained all water features in our yard for a week).- Photo by Randy Scott



Randy in Texas

Here the parent collects as many worms as she can and will drop one at a time to spread the wealth to each baby. - Photo by Randy Scott



Randy in Texas

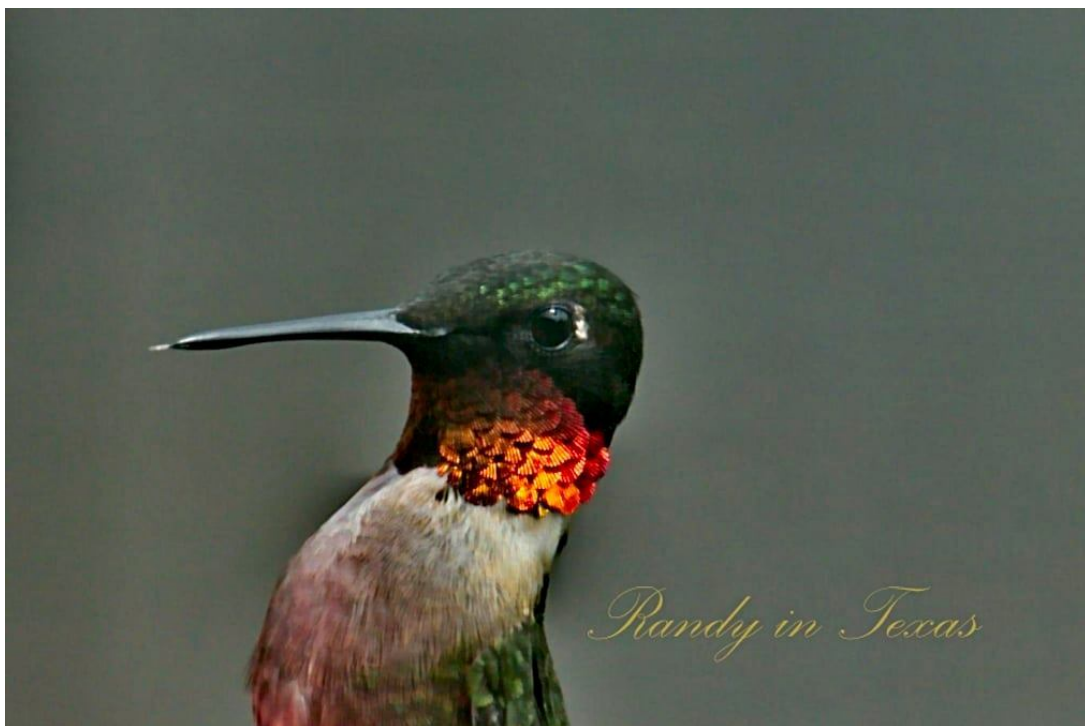
One week old babies. There are five of them. - Photo by Randy Scott



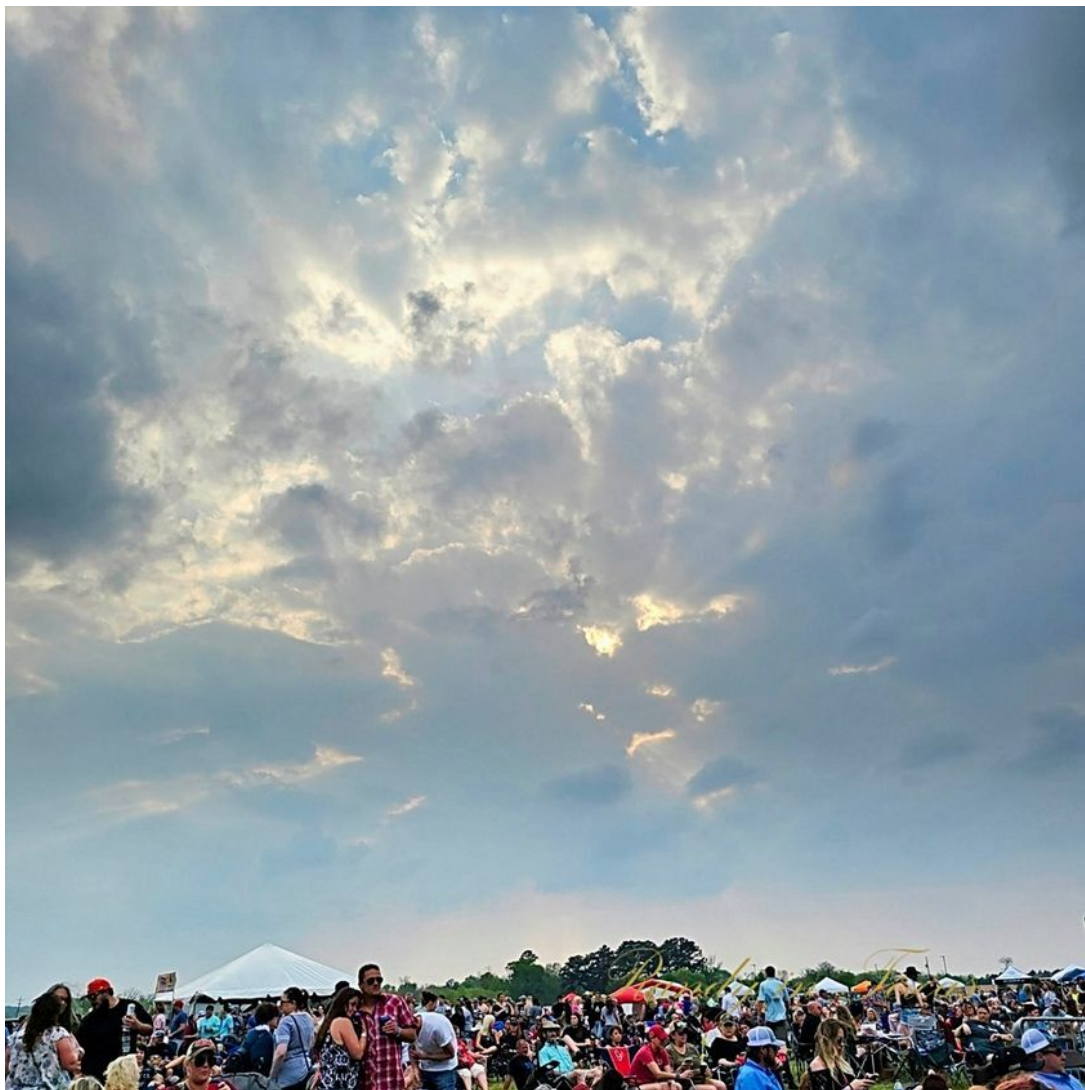
Two week old baby with a bro or sis next to it. - Photo by Randy Scott



Papa feeding babies. Some are positioned under the hole. That baby gets the worm first. - Photo by Randy Scott



Ruby-throated Hummingbird male is guarding his territory (feeder specifically). The sun catches the reflection of iridescence, and the dark area turns black in the shade in this photograph .#conroetx - Photo by Randy Scott



Remembering the festival, the feeling of freedom, and the magnificent sky God offered to us showing a rising light in this world of restraint and shackles. Let there be light - Photo by Randy Scott



Birding Adventures & Photos by Hank Arnold

Great Blue

H.M. Arnold hmarnold@msn.com



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

The sun is just now beginning to cast a glow across the water..



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

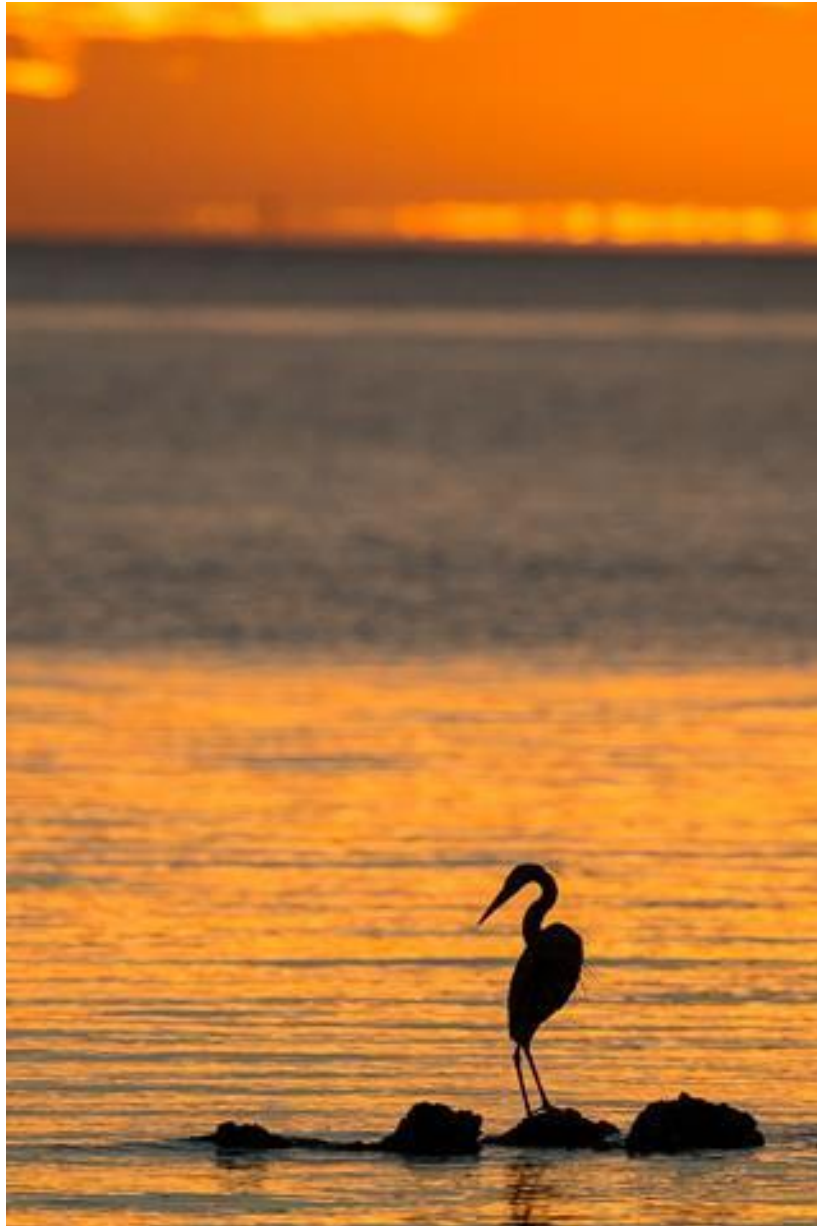
It's low tide, and I'm after my breakfast.

There are mullet swirling the still water just over there. Not much chance of me being able to see well enough to get one of them out in open water until after the sun comes up.

Watching their movements, knowing I can get them, isn't helping my mood any.

I would frown if I could, but the truth is I already am.

What's this?



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

Something big, and moving very slowly,

Side to side motion of the tail...



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

Whatever it is, its moving between these rocks. I can't see anything more than a rough outline in the dim light, but that's enough...



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

Quick stab



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

Nice sized dog fish.

Didn't stab him through the brain, so he's still wriggling

Can't put him down to stab again or he'll get away



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

If I clamp down with my bill I think I have a good enough hold, but I have to get

him out of the water to be able to finish him off enough to swallow him.



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

It's going to be a great day.

I had the opportunity to spend some time with the Great Blues here in Rockport yesterday.

According to Susan, who got the info from Debra, the name of the facility is not going to be "Whispering Oaks", but "Bent Oaks".

Either is a good name.

I was there a little after 8AM, and there was a light fog, that sometimes blew in from water a little thicker. In the hour and a half I was there, the sun never was able to break through.

After being there several weeks ago and watching all the activity, I was expecting to see many nests and some little ones.

Instead I saw very few visible nests and no little ones.

I don't understand that, and can't come up with any possible explanation that rounds off to be something good.

It's possible that Bent Oaks is like a hopping bar where couples meet and then move off to the suburb islands to nest and raise the young.

Its also possible that because the nests are in the tops of the trees, I can't see

into them, and there really are chicks all over the place. I'm skeptical about that, though, as in my experience, from Day 1, Great Blue chicks are sticking their head up and practicing giving the world dirty looks.

I'll keep watching.

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/POD/20210401-Bent-Oaks/>
20210401 - Bent Oaks - Hank Arnold (smugmug.com)

Today's Picture of the Day might need some explanation...

This bird had just dropped down from the tree tops for some stick shopping, and just as he flapped his wings to drop lightly to the ground, his forward flap caused his chest feathers to swirl with the motion.

Interesting effect.

And for those of you that commented on my accusation that Great Blue Herons NEVER look happy, here is one that just swallowed a nice fish and is smiling for the camera...



Great Blue - Photo by Hank Arnold

Nuff said

Little Bay North Island

By Hank Arnold

Learning how to use it...

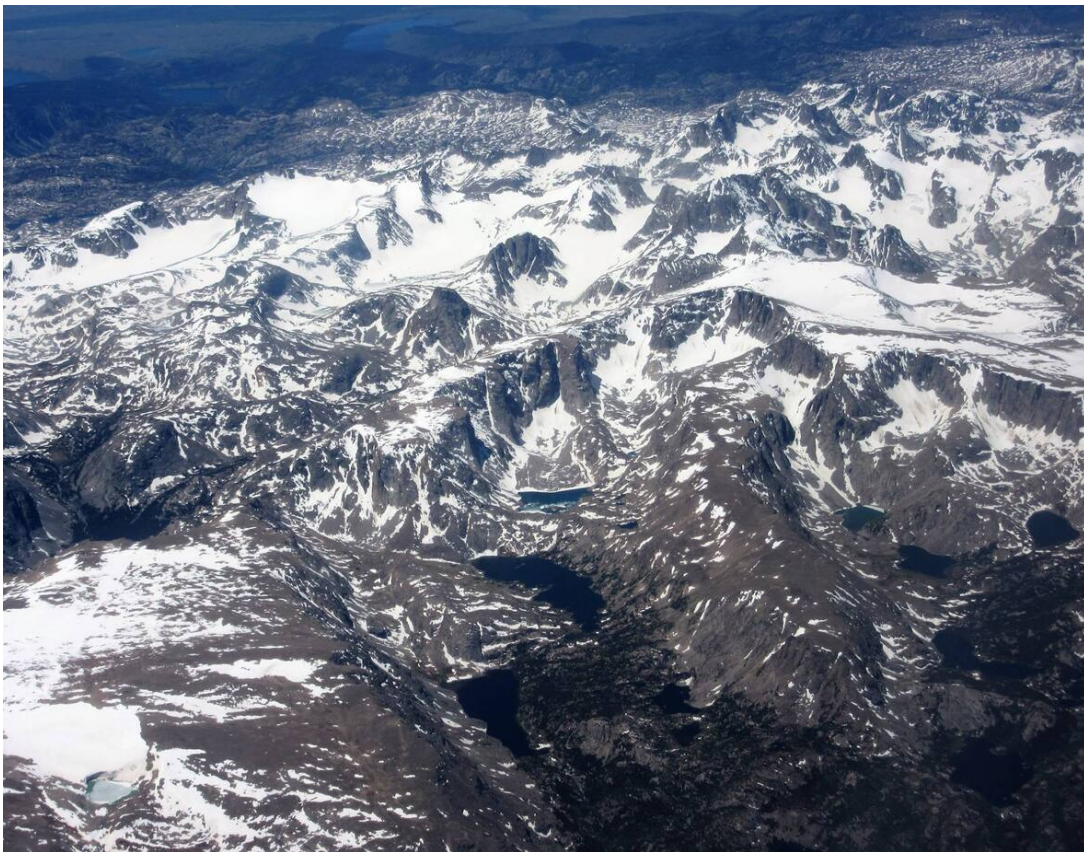
20210414 - LBNI M300RTK-P1 - Hank Arnold (smugmug.com)

<https://hmarnold.smugmug.com/20210414-LBNI-M300RTK-P1/>

Jim shares his trip to Wyoming & Montana

Photos by Jim Snyder

Trip to the Tetons, Yellowstone and the Beartooths in June and July 2016.



Wind River Mountains, WY 6-26-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Atop Rendezvous Mountain, Teton County, WY 6-26-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Rendezvous Mountain at 10,450', Teton County, WY 6-26-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Mormon Fritillary, Rendezvous Mountain at 10,450', Teton County, WY 6-26-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Elk Antler Arches, Town Square, Jackson, WY 6-27-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Arctic Blue, Phillips Canyon, Teton County, WY 6-27-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Hayden's Ringlet, Phillips Canyon, Teton County, WY 6-27-16. This is a Greater Yellowstone ecosystem specialty. - Photo by Jim Snyder



Sara Orangetip (male), Phillips Canyon, Teton County, WY 6-27-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Grand Tetons and Snake River, Grand Teton N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Lake Jackson, Grand Teton N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Mount Moran, Grand Teton N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



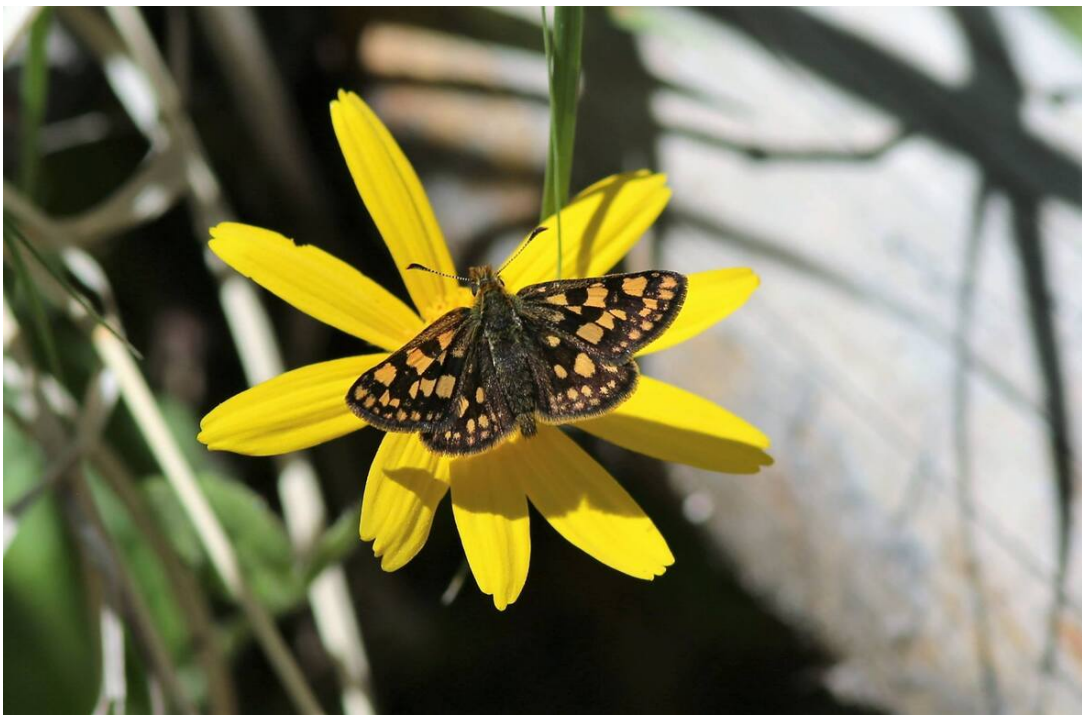
Abyss Pool, West Thumb, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Black Pool, West Thumb, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



West Thumb, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Arctic Skipper, West Thumb, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Edith's Copper, West Thumb, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Young male bison engaged in 'head to head' combat, Beartooth Hwy, WY 6-30-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Pilot and Index Peaks, Beartooth Hwy, WY 6-30-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Absaroka Range from Clay Butte, Park County, WY 6-30-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Clay Butte and Beartooth Lake, Beartooth Hwy, WY 6-30-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Arctic Blue, Clay Butte, Park County, WY 6-30-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Peck's Skipper, West Thumb, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-28-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Black Bear, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-29-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Pronghorn, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-29-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Soda Butte, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-29-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Twin Lakes, Beartooth Hwy, WY 7-1-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Common Alpine, Clay Butte, Park County, WY 6-30-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Edith's Checkerspot (male), Clay Butte, Park County, WY 6-30-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Melissa Blue, Tower Meadow, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-29-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Zerene Fritillary, Tower Meadow, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-29-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Pelidne Sulphur (white form female), Tower Meadow, Yellowstone N.P., WY 6-29-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Lustrous Copper (ventral side), Mount Washburn, Yellowstone N.P., WY 7-2-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Rocky Mountain Goats, Beartooth Hwy, WY 7-1-16. It took some work to get this shot. - Photo by Jim Snyder



Field Crescent, Moose Creek, Jedediah Smith Wilderness, WY 7-3-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Gillett's Checkerspot (dorsal side), Moose Creek, Jedediah Smith Wilderness, WY 7-3-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Gillett's Checkerspot (ventral side), Moose Creek, Jedediah Smith Wilderness, WY 7-3-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Chryxus Arctic (mating pair), Mount Washburn, Yellowstone N.P., WY 7-2-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Clodius Parnassian, Mount Washburn, Yellowstone N.P., WY 7-2-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Weidemeyer's Admiral, Moose Creek, Jedediah Smith Wilderness, WY 7-3-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



Ospreys, WY Hwy 22, Wilson, WY 7-3-16 - Photo by Jim Snyder



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 _____		

2021 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

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 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.



©2021 Piney Woods Wildlife Society | 709 Riley Fuzzel Rd, Spring TX 77353

[Web Version](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#) ®

