

NATURALIST NEWS

PUBLICATION FROM TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

Volume 16 Issue 7

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Larkspur — July birth flower



Eastern tiger swallowtail on Rita Lokie's *Delphinium consolida* (Larkspurs)

The color of the eastern tiger swallowtail can vary. Males are yellow or yellow-orange with black tiger stripes. Their wings are bordered in black with yellow spots and there are black "tiger stripes" running across the top of their wings. Their long black tails have blue patches on them. Female colors can range from the yellow of the male to an almost solid bluish-black. Their wing span is between 3 5/8 and 6 1/2 inches. www.nhptv.org/natureworks/easterntiger.htm



In the News this month . . .

Learning more



on bumblebees—Jessica Beckham July meeting

Gleaning knowledge:

Joanne Fellows, Steve Houser, Jon Reynolds

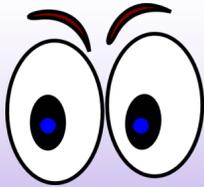


Learning about your

Board: Spotlight Training Committee



Field notes in focus



Check out Jonathan Reynolds' neat photo

Naturalist News contributors

Rita Lokie, Steve Houser, Jon Reynolds, Dorothy Thetford, Jan Deatherage, Judi Elliott, Van Elliott, training committee members



On and off the grid



Who are we?



Last Word

See you next month!



Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*
Chair—vintage

From Dorothy Thetford



Program Speaker for July 16 Regular Meeting — Jessica Beckham

From Jan Deatherage

Program Title: Conservation of North Texas Bumble Bees



Bumblebee on thistle, Elm Fork
photographer name lost



<https://research.unt.edu/researcher/jessica-beckham>

Speaker Bio: Jessica Beckham is currently a Ph.D candidate in environmental science at the University of North Texas. Her research involves an interdisciplinary approach to studying the bumble bees of this great state. She is broadly interested in conserving these native pollinators and finding ways that humans and bumble bees may coexist in an increasingly urbanized world. Her current projects involve evaluating the presence and persistence of bumble bees across northeast Texas and

studying the use of urban green spaces by bumble bees in Denton County.

Program Abstract: Bumble bees are important pollinators in both natural and agricultural systems. Unfortunately, they are declining worldwide; in Texas, five of our eight documented species have experienced range reductions in other parts of the United States. This program will include information on the natural history of bumble bees, identification of common species in north Texas, ongoing research at the University of North Texas, and ways that individuals can help to conserve these vital resources.

Bob Ross, who has faithfully contributed to the Naturalist News over this past year, is taking a “forced sabbatical” while he is working to overcome some serious health issues. However, we will reserve plenty of space for him when he is sufficiently recovered to once again inform and delight the newsletter readers with his thoughtful and informative monthly articles.

See you in The News, Bob!



Lark Sparrow (Fledglings), *Chondestes grammacus*

Article and photos — Joanne Fellows

Lark sparrows have a nest in the neighbor's Holly tree. Today they started fledging. Their distinctive face pattern is more obscure in the juveniles. One still has its baby feathers. The parents have been feeding them all day as they hold firm in their chosen trees.

