



This is the fourth year we have watched the Downy family bring the new kids to the suet feeder.

When we put out the suet in the morning we can usually hear a Downy in the tree above. Each has their own feeding pattern and it is easy to tell them apart. First we watch as the parents feed and take little chunks away for the hatchlings. After they fledge, the parents bring them to the suet and we enjoy watching them feed the little ones. Before long we realize the little ones are coming by themselves. And the cycle continues.

Not only do they have their particular feeding habits, they only want one kind of suet! Van obliges and our little extra fridge always has suet in the freezer. Did you know if you buy in bulk at Home Depot you get a discount? Leave it to Van to find that out!

**Editor
notes:**

From National Geographic: Our smallest woodpecker, the downy is also among our most widespread and familiar species; it is a confiding bird that often visits feeders. In all respects it suggests a small version of the hairy woodpecker, both differing from our other species by the broad white stripe down the back. Poly-typic. Length 6". Has hybridized with the **Nuttall's**.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/d/downy-woodpecker/>

Nuttall



Illustration from National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*

Nuttall's (Common) Poorwill

Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nuttallii

Subspecies of **Poorwill**

First Noted by Expedition: October 17, 1804, just below the mouth of the Cannonball River, North Dakota.

Description: Smallest nightjar in North America. Mottled gray-brown with no white mark on wings; whitish collar separates black throat from mottled underparts. Dark outer tail feathers are tipped with white, more conspicuously in male; tail is rounded. Length: 7-8.5 in (20 cm).

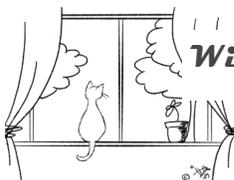
Voice: A mellow *poor-will*.

Habitat: Desert, chaparral, sagebrush, and other arid uplands.

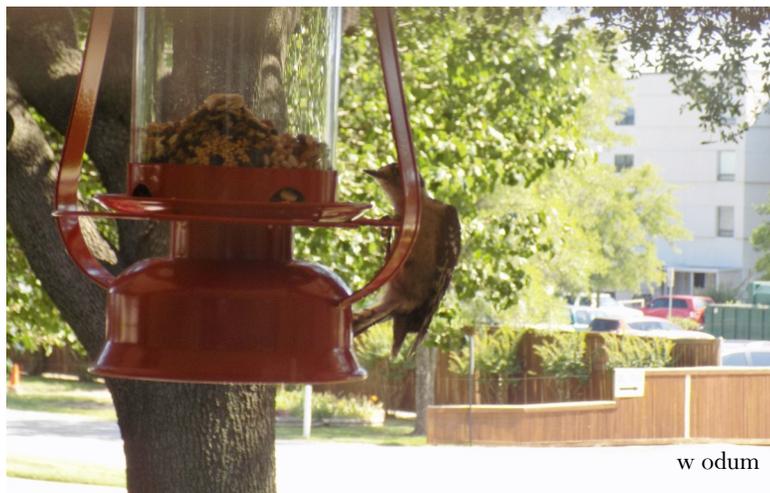
Range: Breeds from southeastern British Columbia, Alberta, and Montana south throughout western United States. Winters in southwestern states and Mexico.

Note: The common poorwill can hibernate, surviving in a torpid condition, without food and with its body temperature lowered almost to that of its surroundings. This adaptation is unique among birds. Species information from: enature.com

www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/record_species_155_4_1.html



Window Photography (again)



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"Places Shirley Lusk Took Me"

by Fritz Poppe

Shirley took me to see incredible and rare roadside wildflowers up Muenster way. The shooting star trip up that way, on another occasion, let me see again the Shooting Stars I remembered seeing rarely in northeast Iowa as a youth. One other rare flower I remember from back then we called Grandpa's Whiskers. I recently looked it up on a Missouri website and found it under the name "Prairie Smoke". I've not found those in Texas.



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Who Am I?

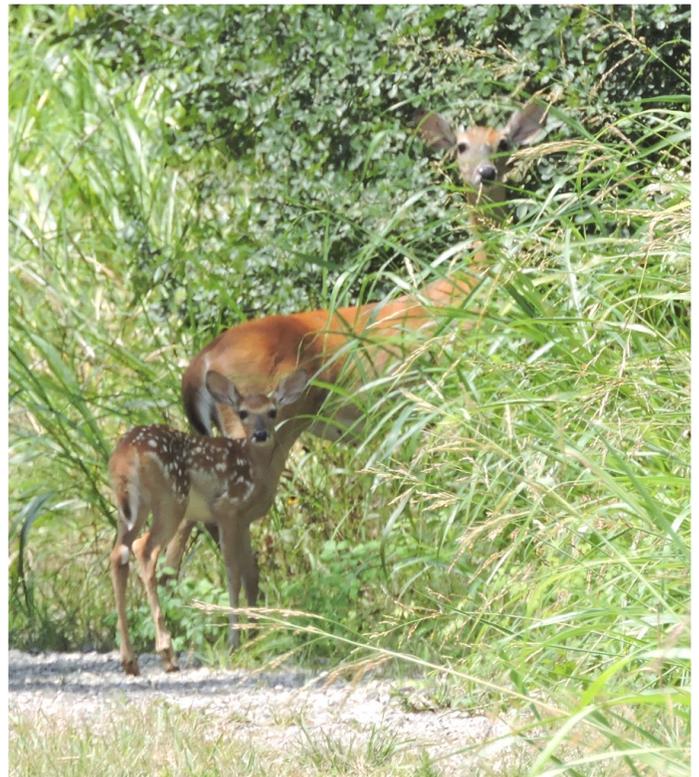
xiting our May monthly meeting there was an Owlet moth hanging out for the day. Owlet moths are in the Family Noctuidae. Despite the bad behavior of their larvae, cutworms and armyworms, in the agricultural world members of the Noctuidae perform an important role in plant pollination.



From Joanne Fellows

Great Ending to a Long Hike

On one of the last cool days of June, I took the camera out for a hike. I managed to get my camera skills back and snap a few photos of insects and birds. Mostly it was a long meandering hike through Clear Creek. It is strange to return to a familiar area and hike trails that have been widened or moved just a bit. All seems new and exciting. At the end of this adventure a mother and her new fawn stopped to pose and say hi from afar. It was a perfect end to the last cool day of June.



*From Joanne Fellows—
Welcome back, Joanne!*