Anyone who is a butterfly enthusiast knows we have many beautiful species right here in southeast Texas. But did you also know there are some equally if not more beautiful species of moths. The day-flying scarlet-bodied wasp moth falls into this category. This small moth, with a wing span of about 31 mm, is native to Florida but ranges as far east as Texas and is usually found in coastal counties. Its vibrant coloring makes it easy to identify if you’re lucky enough to find one. Wanda Smith found one in early October nectaring on its host plant hempweed vine (*Milkania scandens*) at her home in Colmesneil—a record for Tyler County.

Scarlet-bodied wasp moths exhibit distinctive mating behavior in order to avoid being eaten by predators during courtship. This discovery was made by a research team from Wake Forest University while conducting studies in Florida. The male moth extracts toxins from dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) then sprays the female with a poisonous substance just before mating. Not only are both partners protected from predators, but the female also passes the toxin to her eggs thereby protecting her young.

If you have hempweed vine on your property, be sure to keep a watchful eye on the plant for a scarlet-bodied wasp moth. When you first see one, you might mistake it for a wasp and be fearful of being stung. But don’t worry, it will not sting. It’s a moth, after all, so you can leisurely observe this interesting natural phenomenon.
ONC Contacts
ONC General Information
Calvin Blakley
281-358-5407
Botany/Entomology Group
Russell Jeffords
713-504-9215
Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
Aaron Stoley
713-781-1372
Ornithology Group (OG)
Pam Smolen
832-212-1368
Adam Wood (Field Trips)
713-515-1692

Meting Places
All meetings are at Bayland Community Center (see map) unless otherwise noted.

ONC Field Trips

NOVEMBER 21
Birding at Huntsville State Park ($4 entrance fee). We will meet at 8:00 am at the entrance parking lot.

Huntsville State Park is a 2083 acre park that lies in the pineywoods of the Sam Houston National Forest. A dominate feature of the park is the 210-acre Lake Raven, where we will be on the look out for Wood Duck, Canvasback, American Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Eared Grebe.

Directions: Take I-45 North out of Houston to Park Road 40 (Exit 109) in Huntsville. Take a left (southwest) on Park Road 40 and go six miles to the park entrance parking lot.

DECEMBER 19
Houston Christmas Bird Count
In lieu of a field trip in December, please plan to help with the ONC/OG sponsored CBC. To sign up, contact David Sarkozi.

OG Field Trips

NOVEMBER 21
Birding at Huntsville State Park ($4 entrance fee). We will meet at 8:00 am at the entrance parking lot.

Huntsville State Park is a 2083 acre park that lies in the pineywoods of the Sam Houston National Forest. A dominate feature of the park is the 210-acre Lake Raven, where we will be on the look out for Wood Duck, Canvasback, American Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Eared Grebe.

Directions: Take I-45 North out of Houston to Park Road 40 (Exit 109) in Huntsville. Take a left (southwest) on Park Road 40 and go six miles to the park entrance parking lot.

DECEMBER 19
Houston Christmas Bird Count
In lieu of a field trip in December, please plan to help with the ONC/OG sponsored CBC. To sign up, contact David Sarkozi.

No ONC Meeting in November
Due to Bayland Community Center being closed on our regular meeting day, there will not be an ONC meeting in November. In lieu of ONC meeting, please plan to attend the Botany/Entomology and the Ornithology meetings.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

NOVEMBER 21-22, Visitors Day
Fall is a beautiful season at the sanctuary. There are usually plenty of mushrooms, a few fall bloomers, and winter birds have arrived. We’ll be on the lookout for Henslow’s and LeConte’s sparrows—both have spent winters on Big and Cullinan meadows in past years. If skies are clear, we’ll have a telescope set up on Martin Flat for star-gazing.

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)
Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
2001 FM 945, Cleveland, TX
In memory of John L. Tveten
John Tveten passed away on October 12 after a brief bout with cancer. John served as president of ONC in 1969-70 and has been a friend, mentor, and teacher to many ONC members during his long association with the club.

John was a walking encyclopedia of all things natural and happily shared that knowledge through publications and lectures. His weekly column Nature Trails ran in the Houston Chronicle for 25 years. John and his wife Gloria devoted their time to photography and writing and jointly published, among others, nature books on birds, flowers, and butterflies of Houston and southeast Texas.

We will miss John’s enthusiasm and his spirit of generosity, but most of all we will miss his friendship.

ONC Appreciates Your Donations
Donations to ONC are always appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Memorials and Honor Gifts are used to support Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary or to fund special projects as designated by the donor. Thanks, everyone, for your generosity.

In memoriam
for Ellen Red
Imogene Cummings
Paul & Bette Lester
Billie Strickland

for Bob Martin
Calvin & Connie Blakley
Imogene Cummings

for John Tveten
Calvin & Connie Blakley

ONC is honored that Mildred Elkins has agreed to donate her shell exhibit to the club. The exhibit was designed and assembled by Mildred’s sister, Helen Ebersbacher, an avid sheller who also crafted jewelry and other artifacts from her shell collection. The exhibit, encased in a beautiful wooden box, is a work of art as well an educational tool. It has been displayed over the years at numerous nature festivals, Earth Day celebrations, and ONC functions as the centerpiece of ONC’s booth and always attracts a crowd.

Notes from Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS)
September at the thicket was trash pickup weekend. We had a good turnout and beautiful weather. Thanks to the following for helping to pick up trash along our adopted section of FM945: Calvin Blakley, Leland Day, Kellene Jarrett, Charles & Wanda Smith, and Aaron & Karen Stoley. Calvin set up his telescope Saturday night on Martin Flat and members got some good looks at Jupiter and three of its moons. Viewers got a special treat as the moon Io traversed in front of Jupiter and the shadow was visible on the planet. The photo at right was taken with a special video cam attached to the scope. The video is then processed with software that creates a graphic image.
Fall at LTNS

Mark your calendar — Visitors Weekend
November 21–22

...something for everyone...
autumn leaves, mushrooms, winter birds,
indian pipes, star gazing, and more