

Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventures™

Nature Discoveries and Outdoor Fun

Spider Stars



PELICAN PETE

DID YOU KNOW?

Spinybacked orbweavers (*Gasteracantha cancriformis*) build a new home every day. Each female of this small spider species builds a circular web with as many as 30 spiraled loops. She decorates the foundation strands with dashes of silk tufts.

This star builder is most commonly seen from October through January in southern states. She is easy to recognize with her black and white abdomen crowned with six red spikes, making her look like the star she is.

GET OUTDOORS!

Look in your yard and neighborhood for spider webs. What shapes are they? Is a spider on the web? Nearby? How do you know? In your journal, note what you find.

Play Web Weavers. Choose two players to be Spiders who stand next to each other and form a circle with the remaining players. At the signal the spiders race in opposite directions, weaving in and out between players to see who can get back to their place first. Take turns being Spiders.

*Weaving an orb of silken thread
And wearing a crown spiked in red.
Every day a new home I frame—
I am a star of building fame!*

