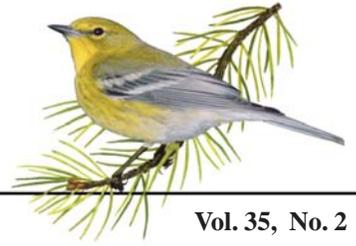


The Pine Warbler



February, 2015

Vol. 35, No. 2

Notes:

Thanks to Gloria and John Jones for a great program in January. Those of us who had to miss the meeting wish we could have been there!

President Kathy Coward announces the first board meeting of 2015 to be held on February 10 at her home in Olde Oaks. She will send out a reminder notice. By the way, it's time to pay your PWWs dues for another year! It doesn't cost much to be an official member but it allows us to support worthwhile causes and publish brochures and educational material.

Heart Happenings

This winter has been a bad year for cold stunning of green sea turtles along the Texas coast. As of January 16, 659 sea turtles have been found and, sadly, 160 of them were dead. All were green sea turtles except for two loggerheads, one hawksbill and one Kemp's ridley. Sixty-eight were in the Galveston area. Dr. Donna Shaver of the Padre Island National Seashore thanks staff and volunteers for helping find, document, rehabilitate and release cold stunned turtles on the Texas coast. We're ready for some warmer weather.



If you have questions about the effects of the BP oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico and its wildlife, plan to attend the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative's Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science annual conference <<http://www.cvent.com/events/2015-oil-spill-and-ecosystem-science-conference/event-summary>> in Houston, Texas. On Monday, February 16, there will be a special session "Monitoring Status and Trends of Long-lived Marine Vertebrates as a Measurable Indicator of Restoration and Long-term Health of the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem". This special session will take place in the Galleria IV room of the Westin Galleria – Houston hotel from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm. No

Cont. on page 2

February 17th Program Birds, Lemurs and Unique Plants of Madagascar with Claire Moore



Scaly Ground Roller

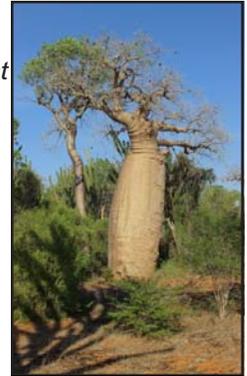


Leaf-tailed Gecko

Short-horned Chameleon



Baobab Tree
in the Spiny Forest



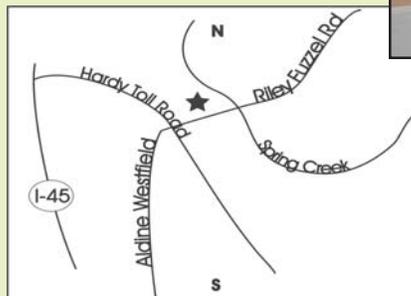
"Birds, Lemurs and Unique Plants of Madagascar" presented by Claire Moore, our Second Vice President, who recently visited there on a birding tour.

Madagascar is home to many endemic fauna and flora found no place else on the planet and Claire's presentation is guaranteed to be interesting. Claire has been birding since mid-1990s. A UT Austin graduate with a Computer Science degree, she retired from Shell Oil in mid-2013 after working there since 1984. Certified as a Texas Master Naturalist last year, Claire has helped with several Christmas Bird Counts and also with the Friends of Texas Wildlife for Wildlife Rehabilitation. She loves traveling, exploring and bird watching!

February 17th
Social 6:30pm
Program 7:00pm



Big Stone Lodge
Dennis Johnston Park
709 Riley Fuzzel Road



from page 1

registration is required to attend this one day session and it's free. If you would like more information, please contact Pam Plotkin plotkin@tamu.edu

Joanie Steinhaus of the Galveston Turtle Island Restoration Network is preparing for this year's patrols of the Upper Texas Coast which will begin April 1. If you are interested in attending training classes in Galveston, contact her at Joanie@tirn.net. Patrolling requires training and a commitment of several hours and days during the nesting season of the Kemp's ridley sea turtles.

How to use Merlin Bird ID on your Smart Phone!

by *Claire Moore*

Cornell Lab of Ornithology has created a free "app" for smart phones called Merlin (available for both iPhone and Android). The purpose of this app is to help beginning & intermediate birders figure out what bird they are seeing by showing them the most likely birds in their own area that match what they are seeing. Birders just need to answer a five simple questions.

Think of Merlin as a pocket birding coach. Merlin can identify 400 North American species, and packs in more than 2,000 images and 1,000 audio files. All this rich content means you will need a WiFi connection to install it, but once installed at home, it can be used in the field without a WiFi connection.

First, download the app to your smart phone using the App Store (for iPhone) or the Play Store (for Android phones) by searching for "Merlin Cornell". Then select and install the app named "Merlin Bird ID" by Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Second, when you see a bird and you aren't sure what species it is, launch Merlin and answer the five easy questions to get a list of likely birds to browse through. The first two questions ask you where and when you saw the bird. Next you select the size of the bird, the main colors (up to 3) of the bird, and lastly you select what the bird was doing. The choices for what the bird was doing are: Eating at a feeder, swimming or wading, on the ground, in trees or bushes, on a fence or wire, or soaring / flying. Once you submit your choices, you are presented with a list of several possible matches that you can scroll through to see which looks like your bird. Give it a try and let other birders know about the app. It can be very useful!

To read more about Cornell's Merlin app and see a short video about it, go to the following web site: merlin.allaboutbirds.org<<http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>>

It's Coming

by *Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center*

Ok, our winter break is quickly coming to an end and spring babies will soon be arriving. The first little ones we expect to see at our wildlife center are squirrels. Our area is home to three species: gray, fox and flying. Most of us are familiar with gray and fox squirrels. These are the crazy little ones we see running around in our yards and climbing trees. Flying squirrels are nocturnal and most of us have never seen one or we mistake it for a bird or a bat.

The number one reason that squirrels are admitted to our center is due to cat/dog injuries. The newborn squirrels can fall out of their nests and are found by cats and dogs. Some squirrels come in with severe injuries and we can't save them. For others we are able to treat the wounds and care for the baby until it's well enough and old enough to be released. Just a reminder that it is against the law to let your cats and dogs run loose outside of your property.



If you find a baby squirrel, check it for injuries. If there are none, there is a good chance you can reunite the baby with its mom. Use a hot water bottle covered with a towel or warm a towel in your microwave. Place the bottle or towel in a box or container and place the baby on top of it. Place the container on something that is up and off the ground and in the shade—a picnic table, trash can, etc. You can even attach the container to a tree or hang it from a tree. The container must be near the area where you found the baby. The mom will be looking for it. After placing the container with the baby in it in a secure place, leave the area and make sure your dogs and cats are indoors. Wait and watch. In most cases, the mom will come for the baby and carry it off to one of several nests she has made. Success! Pat yourself on the back. Mom and baby have been reunited.

If you find the baby has injuries, keeping the baby warm until you can get it to TWRC Wildlife Center is imperative. Even if it's warm outside, these babies need heat. Again, use a hot water bottle or warm a towel in the microwave and keep it warm until you can get it to us for care. WARM, not hot. Don't burn the baby.

In any case, do not attempt to feed the baby! Good intentions could cause more harm than good. There is a certain way to feed these young ones to avoid aspiration. Only a permitted wildlife rehabilitator knows how and what to feed it.

If you're interested in caring for squirrels in your home, we can teach you. If you'd rather not commit to in-home care, you can volunteer for the Baby Squirrel Program at our center in Houston. In either case, we teach you everything you need to know and you have the support of our staff and volunteers at all times. Check our website for more information or call 713-468-TWRC.

TWRC Wildlife Center – www.twrcwildlifecenter.org
10801 Hammerly Boulevard, Houston, TX 77043

WANTED: NEW VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICITY!

After an unknown number of years, Carole Allen is stepping aside from the Vice-President role. It's a fun job so give it some thought! Carole will continue writing HEART HAPPENINGS but a new officer with new ideas and new energy is needed!

Piney Woods Wildlife Society Membership Form

Last Name(s):		First Name of Members(s):	
Street Address:		City:	State and Zip:
Home Phone No:	Work Phone No:		Email Address(s):
Annual Membership Fee \$15.00* Additional Contribution \$ _____ Total \$ _____ *Per Household - Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter via email New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoining <input type="checkbox"/>		Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to: Piney Woods Wildlife Society P.O. Box 189 Spring, TX 77383-0189	



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For membership information write to us at P.O. Box 189, Spring Texas 77383-0189. Annual Dues: \$15.00 per household.

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Publish1@copperheadfarms.net or
jdfagm@swbell.net



P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the previous month, earlier if possible. Always add "PWWS" in the subject line. All emails will be responded to within 3 days. If you do not receive a response please call 832 717-3276. All articles are subject to approval by the PWWS Board.

Please send all new address changes and any corrections to cdmoore3@gmail.com (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>

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