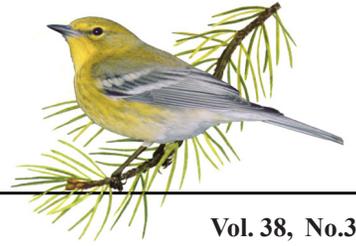


The Pine Warbler



March 2017

Vol. 38, No.3

March Program The Peruvian Amazon, *By John & Gloria Jones*



Bolivian Squirrel Monkey



Cocoi Heron



Hoatzin



Polkadot Tree frog

Gloria and I first explored the upper Peruvian Amazon River in February of 2001. We enjoyed the trip so much we returned December 2016.

This photo presentation will primarily cover the birds and other wildlife seen on this trip. It will also introduce the people who live in the small villages and farms along the Amazon River and its tributaries and show a glimpse into their way of life.

Ceiba Tops Lodge is located in a rainforest on the banks of the Amazon River just 25 miles downstream from Iquitos. It was our base for four days of exploring the streams and tributaries in that area.

The Ucayali-Maranon confluence is the point at which most consider the beginning of the Amazon River. Our next week of exploration from the Amazon Star riverboat was upstream from this location on the Ucayali River and its tributaries. The Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, located some 115 miles southwest of Iquitos, is the largest protected area in Peru and is rich in biodiversity. The Ucayali River borders the reserve on the southeast and this is the area where we spent much of our time.

Please join us on Wednesday March 15, 2017, at the Big Stone Lodge in Dennis Johnston Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, TX, for a wonderful evening!



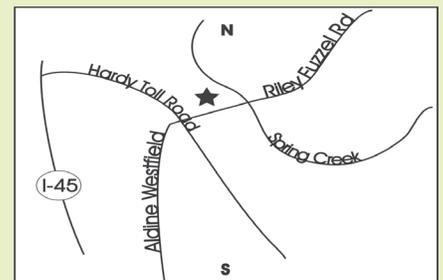
Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road

PWWS meetings are held at the Big Stone Lodge at the new Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road.

**March 15, 2017
Social 6:30pm**

The directions to get there are much the same as to the Nature Center. Aldine-Westfield turns into Riley Fuzzel Road just northeast of Spring so there are several ways to get there.

1. Take the Rayford/Sawdust exit and go East (right) on Rayford Rd. It dead ends at Riley Fuzzel, then turn South (right) and drive to the Dennis Johnston Park past Spring Creek and on the right. or, 2. take Spring-Cypress east to Aldine Westfield through Old Town Spring, turn left and then on to Riley Fuzzel for a short distance and turn left; or, 3. Take Aldine Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it turns into Riley Fuzzel. Turn right and watch for the Dennis Johnston Park on the left.



HEART Happenings
by Carole Allen,
HEART Committee Chair



Sea turtle patrol training has started in Galveston which means nesting time will soon be arriving.

Regular patrols begin in April and last until mid July. Hats off to everyone who volunteers to walk the beaches or sometimes ride to look for turtle tracks and nesters. All we can do is cross our fingers and wait.

The bronze sea turtle project for the sea wall in Galveston is progressing. Grant proposals are being reviewed and we hope for good results. The "informal" committee working on the project has made a decision about the location of the sculpture. The Menard Park and McGuire-Dent Recreation Center is near 28th Street and the sea wall. It is being renovated and will be a great place for the sculpture and signs similar to the ones we placed at the Galveston Island State Park and near Pleasure Pier. Plans include a sea turtle painting inside a band shell in the park also. (Although I would have liked to see it on a jetty, this location will be much easier for visitors to enjoy.)

We haven't reached the point of actually ordering the sculpture but perhaps in a few weeks, that can be done.

Starting with the April issue of the newsletter, I will begin updates on nestings on the Texas Coast.

March Horticulture Tips
By Kathy Dodge

Mow your lawn to help eliminate weeds. Keep weeds cut back to prevent flowering and re-seeding. Fill bare patches with St. Augustine sod. Apply lawn food after three mowings.

At this time the grass will be actively growing and it is a good time to apply Micro Life or other lawn fertilizer.

Prune or plant roses. Now is the time to begin applying rose food on a monthly basis.

Plant fruit trees, shade trees, and ornamental trees. Be sure to apply mulch around the root zone to keep moist and avoid weeds. Make sure trees are watered regularly during first few years of growth, while tree is getting established. Use Root Stimulator every few weeks for the first three months after planting.

Plant shrubs such as roses and azaleas. Use Root Stimulator every two weeks for the first few months after planting.

Fertilize Hibiscus, Bougainvillea, Plumeria. This will help plants to put out new lush growth and plenty of blooms.

Prune trees and shrubs while dormant. Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as azaleas, spireas, and redbuds after they've bloomed. Fertilize once after they bloom and then again in June.

Apply dormant oil to smother insects before they become a problem. Apply to hollies, magnolias, and camellias for scale. Release Lady Bugs to control insects like aphids and whitefly.

In mid-March, move houseplants outside into shade and repot, if necessary. Fertilize your plants.

Plant color annuals such as marigolds, fuchsias, petunias, osteospermum, perilla, bachelor buttons, coleus, forget-me-nots, dusty millers, annual phlox, geraniums, impatiens, begonias and more!

Plant Sun Perennials Shasta daisy, pentas, rudbeckia, gaillardia, verbena, coreopsis, lantana, perennial salvias, bee balm, porterweed, mist flower, jatropha, and skullcap are some of the many plants.

Plant colorful Shade Perennials like firespike, shrimp plant, Persian shield, leopard plant, cat whiskers, ruellias, turk's cap, sweet potato vine, creeping jenny, and many more!

Spread a fresh layer of mulch around trees, shrubs, and beds to protect roots, retain moisture, and prevent weeds.

Clean bird baths and feeders. Keep feeders full!!! Bird baths full! Birds are hungry and thirsty.

Tip: Never paint the inside of birdhouses, leave as natural wood. You can paint the outside of house, white is the coolest for the birds. Rub soap on the inside top of bird houses, where wasps try to build a nest.

Put out hummingbird feeders. We are expecting our first sighting any day now! To keep birds at your feeder, maintain a fresh nectar supply, and empty and wash the feeder each time you refill. Hummingbirds remember where they find a reliable food source - so if your yard is one of them, they'll often return year after year.

Hummingbird Recipe – 1 cup sugar and 4 cups hot water. No need to boil water. Change feeders weekly. Once weather has reached 80 degrees change and clean feeders with soapy water every 3 to 5 days.



Spring is a busy time of the gardening year. Try to enjoy your time in the gardens and not try to make it too much work. It's always fun watching your old and new flowers and shrubs grow and bloom.



Birding

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



There are many different levels of bird watching from the casual observer to professionals whose goal is to see as many of the 8,850 species as possible. In North American there are approximately 800 species. Some people use nothing more than the naked eye to observe and others spend thousands of dollars on binoculars,

telescopes, cameras, video and audio equipment, tripods and field guides. "Birding", as it's sometimes called, is also a competitive event and there are both national and international organizations.

Some of the best bird watching, perhaps in the world, is in the Houston area. Approximately 570 types of birds either call this area home and are permanent residents or are migratory and just pass through on their way to some other destination.



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a great resource for anyone interested in birds. If you ever have a problem identifying a bird, **their free Merlin**

Bird ID app is a must-have. According to Cornell, "If you can snap a bird photo with your phone - or even take a photo of another photo - chances are Merlin can help you ID it."

Birds face the same threat as almost all other wild animals and that is habitat loss. Trees, brush and grasslands are being destroyed to make way for roads and buildings. The best way to help our feathered friends is to replace some of what has been lost. Plant trees and shrubs using native plants, minimize pesticide use, set up nest boxes, provide water and keep your cats indoors.

Leave some dying and/or dead trees on your property. Many species depend on cavities in these trees for nest sites. Next to habitat loss, the next highest cause of bird deaths is collisions with windows. Covering windows with screening or applying decals or tape to windows can help significantly. Make sure to check the web for instructions on how to apply these

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FRIENDLY REMINDER DUES ARE DUE

Don't forget dues are due in January. So now is the time to send off those very reasonable dues. The form is included in the Newsletter for your convenience.

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*		Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to:	
Additional Contribution \$ _____		Piney Woods Wildlife Society	
Total \$ _____		P.O. Box 189	
*Per Household - Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter via email		Spring, TX 77383-0189	
New <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	Rejoining <input type="checkbox"/>	

Birding from page 3
safeguards.

TWRC Wildlife Center is gearing up for another busy spring. If you'd like to help us feed and care for orphaned baby birds, details will be available soon on our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org or you can call 713-468-TWRC for more details.

Message from Claire Moore

Fellow PWWS member, Matt Abernathy, requested that we send out a reminder to the PWWS membership about the upcoming NatureFest at Jesse Jones Park.

NatureFest will take place at Jesse Jones Park on Saturday, March 4th, from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. located off of FM 1960 between I45 and Highway 59 at 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338.

They will have a bird walk with Gary Clark at 9 a.m., and he is also speaking at 11 a.m. and doing a book signing at noon. They will have a limited number of copies of the new "Book of Texas Birds" and also Backroads of Texas by Gary Clark and Kathy Adams Clark, or you can bring your own copy to be signed.

There will be guest speakers on firewise landscaping, birding, and monarchs as well as free pontoon boat tours, and more. Additionally, they will also be raffling off a painting by one of our volunteers.

Attached are a couple of flyers with more information or you can call the park during operating hours at 281-446-8588.

Raffle

Tickets: \$2 each, 3 for \$5



Egret on Cypress Pond

Hand-painted 25" x 21" framed oil painting

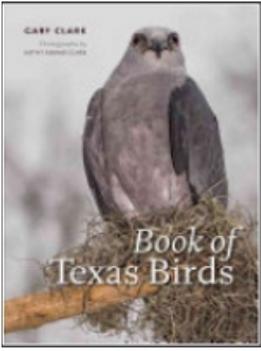
Painted by Jesse Jones Park Volunteer Jim Ramay

Need not be present to win. Drawing at 3:30 p.m., March 4, 2017

Subject to change.

All JJPV proceeds benefit Jones Park

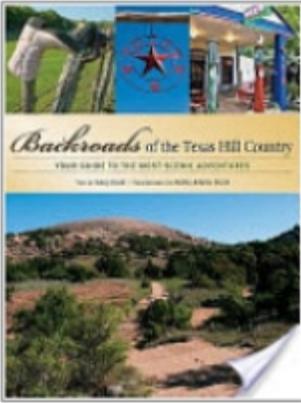




Book of Texas Birds, Gary Clark

Drawing on the knowledge and insight gained from a lifetime of watching, studying, and enjoying birds, this book is full of information about more than four hundred species of birds in Texas. Most all of which author Gary Clark has seen firsthand. Organized in the standard taxonomic order familiar to most birders, the book is written in a conversational tone that yields a wide-ranging discussion of each bird's life history

as well as an intimate look at some of its special characteristics and habits. Information regarding each species' diet, voice, and nest is included.



Backroads of the Texas Hill Country: Your Guide to the Most Scenic Adventures, Gary Clark

Texas has hill country? Who knew? Well, the Lonely Planet guide to Texas, which calls the Hill Country "rightfully one of the state's biggest tourist draws ...an area of gently rolling hills and valleys freckled with cacti and cattle ranches, lined with rivers and dotted with

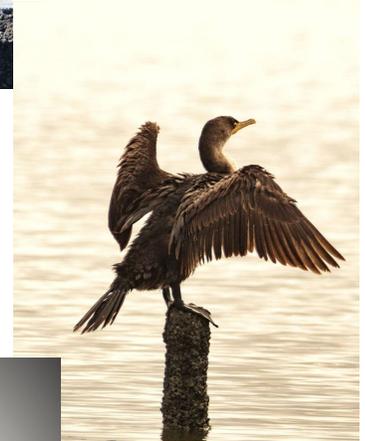
peaceful. Picturesque little towns: and any self-respecting Texan might know as much. Forty miles west of Austin and fifty north of San Antonio, the Hill Country is within an easy drive of two of the state's biggest cities putting back-country quiet and beauty within reach of countless urban dwellers seeking respite.

This book brings the remarkable Hill Country of Texas home to the back roads traveler. Whether it's wildflowers you're drawn to, or dude ranches, natural areas, historic sites, or quaint Texas towns redolent of history, this is your passport to an experience like no other. Back roads of the Texas Hill Country introduces travelers and armchair tourists alike to the emerging wine country of the Lone star state, the meticulously preserved culture of East European immigrants, the cowboy capital of tile world" (Bandera), and the childhood home of LBJ at Johnson City. Follow this irresistible guide into the Hill Country, and find yourself deep in the heart of Texas.



Rock Dove
Bayshore Park, San Leon

Double Crested
Cormorant, Seabrook



Female Red Wing
Blackbird, Clear Lake
City

Upcoming Nature Events

Date	Event & Organization /location
Sat. March 04	Nature Fest 9AM – 3:30 PM Jesse H. Jones Park, 20634 Kenswick Dr. Humble
Thursday March 09 7:30 PM	Walk in the Woods Nature Lecture Series, The Woodlands Township, Contact: 281/210-3800 Wild Dining – Foraging the Forest – Mark Voderbruggen, author & expert in wild edibles McCullough Jr. High School, The Woodlands
Thursday April 06, 7:30 p.m.	Coexisting with Wildlife – Hennie Volscheck, game warden with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. http://tpwd.texas.gov/ McCullough Jr. High School, The Woodlands
Sat. and Sun. March 17 and 18	March Mart 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. http://www.hcp4.net/Community/Parks/Mercer/MarchMart Mercer Arboretum and Nature Center, 22306 Aldine Westfield, Humble
March 18	Master Gardener Plant Sale 9-12 Texas A&M Agri Life Extension, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe
Sat. April 01	Texas Wildlife and Woodland Expo Montgomery College, The Woodlands
Sat. April 01	HMNS butterfly Plant Sale Houston Museum of Natural Sciences

