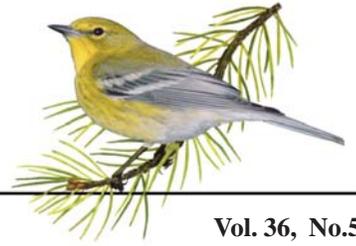


The Pine Warbler



May 2016

Vol. 36, No.5

May Presentation

Our next meeting will be the last before our summer vacation. After a full schedule of wonderful speakers, we are going to try something different! Member participation! Carlos Hernandez and Al Barr have planned a program of images of colorful migrating birds photographed by PWWS members.

Please send your images by Monday May 11 to Carlos (see below). We will show them on the giant HD TV at the lodge. Be ready to tell us where and how you got the images and also your impressions. There are many members that don't know a lot about one of the most important natural phenomena happening during the month of April in our coastal area. We have many birding spots where we can see colorful migrating birds from South and Central America.

Here are the rules:

Please send Carlos at carlania@icloud.com up to 12 images taken during the Spring Migration or other nature images. Email requirements: Image Format: jpeg. Resolution: 72 pixels per inch. Resize to Fit: 1024 pixels longest side.

If you want your jpeg images to be in a certain order, add a sequence number to your image in the required order you want them to be displayed. For example: you can use your initials followed by a number; CFH1.jpeg, CFH2.jpeg, CFH#.jpeg

This will be a great show! Check out these photos by Carlos!



Roseate Spoonbill

© carlos hernandez



White Ibis



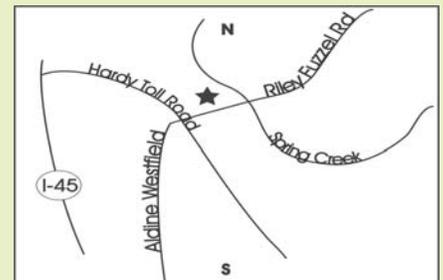
Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road

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

**May 18th
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 Olde 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.



Notes:

Note to the membership about April Meeting Cancellation - The April PWWS meeting featuring Dr. Gary Clark was canceled because Dennis Johnston Park is closed because of high water. The Big Stone Lodge was not flooded, but the water on the road approaching the lodge was so high that it could not be reached. Also, the lodge lost power.

We will attempt to reschedule Gary Clark to speak later in the year at a future meeting after the summer break.

Heart Happenings



The first Kemp's ridley nest was found two weeks ago at the Padre Island National Seashore. Sadly, several dead adult ridleys have been found on the Upper Texas Coast. These are probably the result of growing shrimping activity. Although law enforcement states they are boarding boats and finding compliance with the Turtle Excluder Device regulations, we continue to lose the precious endangered Kemp's ridleys.

Cross your fingers that the next few weeks find many Kemp's ridleys safely making it to the Texas Gulf Coast beaches leaving behind nests. If you want to be kept up to date on the nest numbers, just send me an e-mail to Carole@seaturtles.org.

A report from the Rolling Stones family (Steven, Jane, Abigail, Spencer and Grambo Allen) on April 18 includes a visit to the Migration Celebration at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. (The next day came the Big Rain and we probably could not have navigated 288 to get there.) The most colorful of the 20+ bird species we saw was a pair of Baltimore Orioles hanging around a mulberry tree.

Have a great summer everyone!

Carole A.

Robotic Birders? By Roy Woodward

Most of us have probably speculated, "On which date will I be replaced in my work/home by a robot?" It makes one wonder if robots will replace us even in our leisure activities.

For many years I conducted wildlife and plant surveys in parks and other wildlands. Arguably, non-direct means of detecting and even counting animals has been done time-immemorial by looking for tracks, scat (poop), or other 'sign', but at least these methods require a person to get out of the office to look for the sign. By the time I started my career in the 1970s some automatic survey methods were already being used. It was common to count waterfowl and herding animals from aerial photos without ever leaving the office. Cameras with trip-wires/pressure pads, and later motion and infrared detectors, have be-

come common place for studying nocturnal and other wildlife. It's great to set out a few cameras, punch holes in some cans of tuna or cat food for bait, and go home to bed while the camera stays up all night and does all of the work. I have even used digital cameras to survey night-migrating salamanders by setting the camera to take a photo at a funnel-point (one we usually created by erecting small fences). The cameras have such large memory chips they can be set to turn on each night and take a photo every 2 seconds, which captures any salamanders or other slow critters as they pass through the scene. We'd check the cameras once a week, change the chip and battery, and head back to the office to see what the camera had found. With wifi technology the images can even be sent directly to an office computer – some biologists never go into the field anymore (minions do the grunt work).

There is some hope for field-types (hopefully most PWWS members). I recently reviewed a Master's thesis for a young woman that compared the use of portable radar units for detecting waterfowl against observations made by ground-based birders. The study was done in areas of polluted ponds with the intention of using radar to detect incoming waterfowl and then hazing them away from the ponds before they could land (a good idea). Unexpectedly, the researcher found that the radar (using the latest technology of two different types of systems) missed many birds and did poorly counting how many birds were present. She discovered that birds often block and cloud each other's radar signatures and some ducks dive so quickly it confuses the radar when they simply disappear into the pond. The birders consistently saw the birds, identified them to species, and correctly counted the numbers.

Radar has its place, as in detecting migrating flocks, but it will be awhile, and maybe never, before it can tell what species of warblers are in those flocks. Robots and drones and the like can be useful tools, even for field biology. But, let's pray we always have people who are willing to get sweaty, rained on, windblown, and bug bit in order to truly verify what's happening in nature, and also enjoy the sounds, smells, and beauty.

ExxonMobil Making Room for Wildlife By Claire Moore

ExxonMobil's new Houston campus (just south of The Woodlands) is making room for wildlife and birds. They have many acres of woodlands, prairies, and lakes with lots of paths for ExxonMobil employees' use on their closed campus.

Dan King, part of their Global Marketing Organization and also tasked with making enhancements to the campus for wildlife, contacted Claire Moore early this year to request some help surveying bird life on the campus. ExxonMobil is interested in helping with future Piney Woods Wildlife Society sponsored Spring Creek Christmas Bird Counts since the campus is in the heart of the count circle.

Additionally, ExxonMobil organized walks for their employees originally scheduled for Earth Day (April 22) with leaders organized by Claire. Because of flooding of the paths and needed



repairs, the organized walks for ExxonMobil employees will be rescheduled probably in mid-May.

How exciting to have a local corporate partner looking out for local wildlife!

Photos of natural habitat on the new ExxonMobil Houston campus just south of The Woodlands (photos by Claire Moore).

May Horticulture Newsletter By Kathy Dodge

April showers bring May flowers and lots of gardening activities. Visits to your local nurseries and public gardens will stimulate lots of new ideas and possibilities. Here are a few items that can help you with your gardening activities.

Annual and Perennial Flowers:

There are too many to list here, but your choices are many, and nurseries are stocked with them. Annuals give you lots of color bang for your buck.

Plant angelonia, ageratum, sunflowers, zinnia, portulaca, mari-

gold, cosmos, periwinkles, gomphrena. Plant vinca (periwinkle), which prefers hot, sunny sites, later in May once the weather turns warmer. For shady spots, grow these favorite plants: impatiens, coleus, caladiums and begonias. Flowering tobacco (Nicotiana) is a great fragrant annual for partial shade.

Perennials for the sun include Shasta daisy, dusty miller, garden mums, coreopsis, mallow, salvia (many kinds), daylily, rock rose, trailing lantana, and summer phlox. Shade loving perennials include hosta, columbine, phlox, ferns, violets, ajuga, firespike, and gingers. Cannas, dahlias, caladiums and other summer bulbs can also be planted in May.

Some plants can be grown as either annuals or perennials. Lantana loves the summer heat and sun, blooming from late spring through first frost. Most years it will come back from the roots. Lantana comes in bush and trailing forms, and in many colors. Bougainvillea Won't Bloom? Let it completely dry out to the point you worry about it surviving. Then water liberally. The plant thinks it's dying and produces seed (flowers) to insure species survival. Works on other plants too — sometimes.

Lawns

If you have not yet fertilized St. Augustine grass, it is certainly not too late. The best way to determine what type and how much fertilizer is needed is to have a soil test done; otherwise use a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 fertilizer ratio. Microlife is a great organic fertilizer.

Summer is around the corner along with its heat and humid days! So long cool weather!
Happy Gardening!!!

Hummingbird Plants & Migration



The Hummingbirds are coming! They will be looking for 'food' in your gardens. Be prepared this season with suet, nectar, and hummingbird houses. Don't forget your hummingbird plants, too. Below are a few favorites for our winged friends!

For Sun

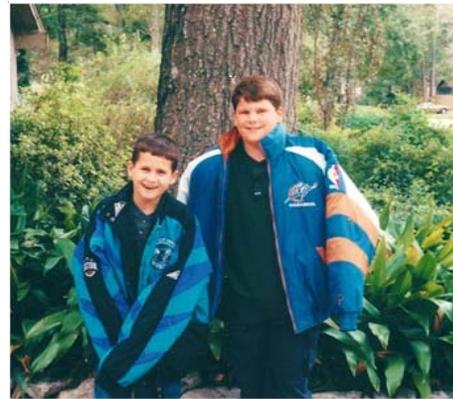
| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Agastache | Jatropha |
| Almond Verbena | Lantana |
| Bottlebrush | Pentas |
| Cigar Plant | Pentapetes |
| Coral Bean | Pomegranate |
| Duranta | Pride of Barbados |
| Echinacea/Cone Flower | Red Rocket Russelia |
| Esperanza | Salvia Coccinea |
| Fairy Duster | Salvia Greggii |

next page

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Firecracker Fern | Texas Star Hibiscus |
| Heliconia | Tangerine Crossvine |
| Hibiscus | Thryallis |
| Hummingbird Bush (Hamelia) | |

For Part Sun/Shade

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Abutilon | Firespike |
| Cardinal Flower | Pink Plume Flower |
| Cat Whiskers | Porterweed |
| Cedar Sage | Red Shrimp Plant |
| Firecracker | Turk's Cap |
| Jacobinia | |



Paul & Willy Beathard in Kingwood in 2000

A great story about a conservation family with ties to PWWS:

The Beathard Boys, where are they now? (By Margarita Beathard) It's hard to believe that Paul and Willy were the youngest members of the club at one time; I remember fondly the many field trips they tagged along with us and the PWWS crowd. They are young adults now, but continue with their love of nature enjoying hikes and camping.

Paul is now twenty-five years old and has a degree in Geophysics from the University of Houston. He works and resides in Denver and is engaged to be married in October. William is twenty-three and graduated from Texas Tech University in Lubbock with a degree in Biology last December and plans to attend Pharmacy School this fall.

It has been very rewarding to see how our children have blossomed into fine young men; we are very proud of them.



Willy at Palo Dura Canyon 2016



Paul in the French Alps 2016



Board of Directors

President.....KathyCoward
 1st Vice President.....Roy Woodward
 2nd Vice President.....Claire Moore
 3rd Vice President.....Carlos Hernandez
 Secretary.....Carole Frascella
 Treasurer.....Jim Lacey
 Director.....Terry Wilson
 DirectorJudy Springer
 DirectorFarrar Stockton
 Past President.....Al Barr

Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline.....1 866 TURTLE5 (887-8535)

The Pine Warbler is published monthly, September through May, by The Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Inc. and Copperhead Publishing.

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



Publisher: Copperhead Publishing
Publish1@copperheadfarms.net or jdfagm@swbell.net.
 P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

Please submit any articles you'd like considered for the PWWS Newsletter, The Pine Warbler, to Roy Woodward (rawoodwa@bechtel.com).

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>