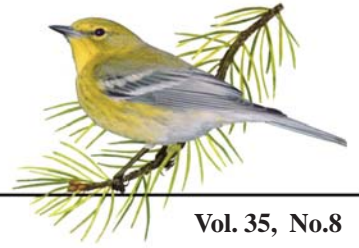


The Pine Warbler



November 2015

Vol. 35, No.8

Time to plan for the Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count

Save the date for the upcoming Spring Creek CBC which will happen on Saturday, December 19th, 2015. People in the field are needed as well as feeder watchers who live inside the CBC circle.

Piney Woods sponsors this CBC and we are just one of hundreds of CBCs done each year between December 14th and January 5th and reported to the National Audubon Society. The goal is to capture a snapshot of bird populations during the early winter, comparing this data with snapshots from scores of previous years helps scientists understand fluctuations in bird populations that show which species are thriving and which are struggling.

Our Spring Creek CBC is on the north side of Houston and sponsored each year by volunteers from the Piney Woods Wildlife Society. This count is centered roughly at I45 and the Rayford / Sawdust exit and extends 7.5 miles in all directions.

This 15 mile diameter circle makes up the Spring Creek CBC. (You can see this and many more CBCs in Texas by visiting www.HoustonAudubon.org/cbc <<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/cbc>> .)

next page

November 18th Wednesday Program

Galapagos – Unique Flora & Fauna by Claire Moore

In April 2015, I went on a trip with Cornell Lab of Ornithology to the southern Galapagos Islands (other tour companies call this route the “western Galapagos Islands”). The base of operations for this tour was a 110 foot, 16 passenger boat named the Beluga. There are relatively few facilities for housing tourists, so it is a common strategy for trips to be based on boats moving around from island to island seeing the sights. I’ll be giving a presentation about this trip during the November PWWS meeting on Wednesday, November 18th.

In addition to a wonderful and very knowledgeable
next page

*Zodiac landings
in the Galapagos*



Marine Iguanas



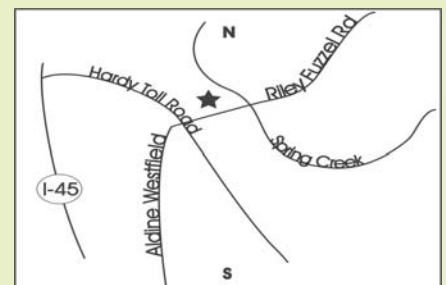
Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road

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

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.

**November 18th
Social 6:30pm
Program 7:00pm**





able local leader, these trips sponsored by Cornell are enhanced because the second tour leader is a Cornell professor of evolutionary biology who also spent time on one of the Galapagos Islands as a young college intern studying Darwin's finches.

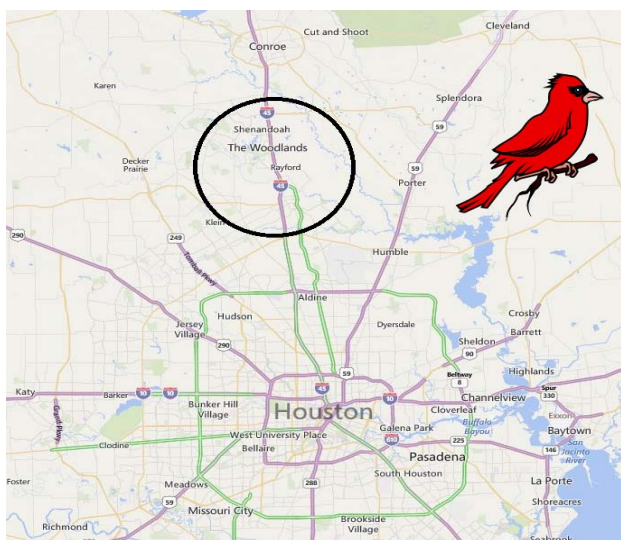
While unique Galapagos birds are an obvious highlight of any trip to the Galapagos, there is no shortage of fascinating wild-life and unusual plant life as well. Another wonderful feature of touring the islands is the fact that the birds, reptiles and mammals of the Galapagos have very little fear of visitors allowing up close and personal observations of the wild life. I was able to get great photos of many birds, reptiles and mammals of the islands even though I do not have a large, expensive camera.

I hope you can join me at the November meeting to hear about this fun and interesting trip.

CBC from page 1

There are two components to counting birds for a CBC. The first consists of teams of bird watchers that go outside and count all the birds that they find in the count circle. The second consists of people who live within the circle watching their backyard feeders and counting those birds. All this information is turned into the CBC compiler and reported to the National Audubon Society.

If you live inside the Spring Creek CBC count circle, have bird



feeders in your yard, and will be home part of the day on Saturday, December 19th, please consider volunteering as a feeder watcher. Or, if you can join one of the teams going into the field to count birds that day, then we'd love to have you join us. In either case, please contact the Spring Creek CBC compiler, Claire Moore, and volunteer to help with the Spring Creek CBC. Claire will send you further information on how to count and report your sightings.

Claire can be reached via email at cdmoore3i@gmail.com. Details will follow about the annual get-together after the day counting birds! You can always check our website for breaking news: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org/>

Heart Happenings



Last winter, several hundred sea turtles were the victims of cold stunning when a blue norther blew in. Most of them were green sea turtles and there were quite a few on the Upper Texas Coast. Cold stunning is the state that sea turtles enter when they are suddenly exposed to very cold water (< 10 °C). They become lethargic and begin to float on the surface of the water. In this state, they are susceptible to predators, accidental boat strikes, and even death if water temperatures continue to drop. The A special training about how to save cold stunned turtles is being offered by National Marine Fisheries Service In preparation for the upcoming cold weather. The NOAA Galveston sea turtle facility in cooperation with staff from the National Park Service and Texas A&M University at Galveston will present the cold stunned sea turtle training class. This event is free and open to the public, volunteers and local partners. The training session will include general background information on sea turtles affected by the cold weather and how people can assist with a cold stun event.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2015, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at Texas A&M University at Galveston on Pelican Island in building 3029, room 142. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Research Fishery Biologist Lyndsey Howell at 409-771-2872.

Officers of PWWs wish the entire membership a very Happy Thanksgiving! Thanks again to all those who bring refreshments for meetings, help put away chairs and clean up the kitchen.

