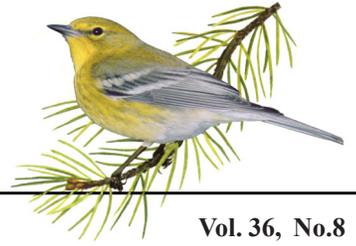


# The Pine Warbler



November 2016

Vol. 36, No.8

## Heart Happenings

HEART (Help Endangered Animals Ridley Turtle) is co-sponsoring a fund-raising effort for the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Sea Turtle Project.



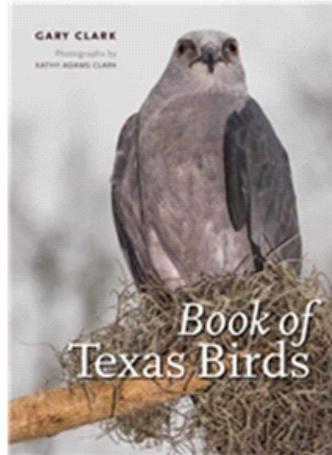
The following is an extract of a letter that is provided to potential partners and donors. This is an opportunity to raise awareness and support sea turtle conservation in our area.

## Description of Organization

The 29<sup>th</sup> Street Sea Turtle Project operates under the auspices of a recently formed community development group working under the umbrella of the Turtle Island Restoration Network. Members include representatives of the business community, city government, the arts community and various environmental organizations. Established in September 2016, the group is expanding rapidly as new members are recruited from different sectors across the Island and in the Greater Houston area. The group is led by Ms. Carole Allen, a well-known sea turtle expert and environmental activist. Ms. Allen serves on various boards and committees and is a long-time member of the board of the Turtle Island Restoration Network.

*cont. on page 2*

## November Presentation Book of Texas Birds Presented by Gary Clark



Gary Clark will speak to us about his and Kathy's Book of Texas Birds. Gary will tell us what it takes to write books together and remain happily married. Gary will be available to sign books. A very fun evening!

Please join us on Wednesday November 16 at the Big Stone Lodge in Dennis Johnston Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, TX, for a wonderful evening! Social time starts at 6:30 PM and the meeting starts at 7 PM.

**Book of Texas Birds is published by Texas A & M University Press and here's what they say about it:**

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 as well as when and where it can be found in Texas. Magnificent photo-

*cont. on page 2*



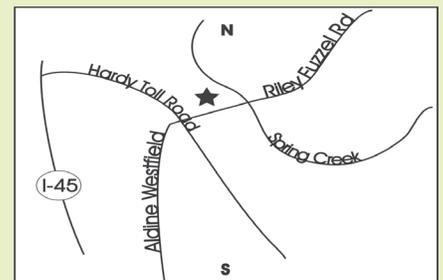
## Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road

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

**November 16  
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.



## Texas Birds from page 1

graphs by Kathy Adams Clark accompany each bird's entry.

For those just beginning to watch birds to those who can fully relate to the experiences and sentiments communicated here by a veteran birder, this book reveals the kind of personal connection to nature that careful attention to the birds around us can inspire.

GARY CLARK is professor, former dean, and former vice president at Lone Star College—North Harris County. He writes the weekly nature column for the *Houston Chronicle* and is the author of six books, including *Enjoying Big Bend National Park: A Friendly Guide to Adventures for Everyone*.

KATHY ADAMS CLARK owns The Woodlands-based photo agency KAC Productions and is past president of the North American Nature Photography Association. Her photographs have appeared in numerous magazines, books, and calendars, including *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, *Texas Highways*, *Birder's World*, *The New York Times*, and *National Geographic*. She is the author of *Photographing Big Bend National Park: A Friendly Guide to Great Images* and provided the photographs for *Enjoying Big Bend National Park: A Friendly Guide to Adventures for Everyone*.

The book is available at the Just For The Birds shop in old town Spring, TX. Just For The Birds is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10AM to 5PM, and Sunday, 12Noon to 5PM. PWWS members receive a 20 percent discount. We suggest you get your copy as soon as possible!

Please join us on Wednesday November 16 at the Big Stone Lodge in Dennis Johnston Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, TX, for a wonderful evening! Social time starts at 6:30 PM and the meeting starts at 7 PM.

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## HEART from page 1

The **Turtle Island Restoration Network** was established in 1987 as an all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to saving endangered sea turtles. In 1989, the organization launched the "Sea Turtle Restoration Project." One of its first efforts was to mount an international campaign to outlaw and halt the commercial killing of sea turtles in Mexico. To date, the project has saved hundreds of thousands of turtles and other marine species through hands-on conservation, policy work, and consumer change campaigns. Its programs now span the globe from the coastal waters of the Galapagos Islands to Galveston. Its many projects include efforts to protect sharks, marine mammals and seabirds from industrial overfishing, destruction of coastal and riverine habitat and climate change. The organization is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

### Description of Project

Before the end of 2017, a bronze statue of a Kemp's Ridley



Turtle will be placed at the end of the rock groin on 29<sup>th</sup> Street symbolizing the commitment of the citizens of Galveston to save the world's most endangered sea turtle. Funded by private donations, the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Turtle — measuring four feet from head to tail will honor the partnership between the people of Galveston the Turtle Island Restoration Network and the National Marine Fisheries Service, among many others.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of these organizations and the people of Galveston, the population of the Kemp's Ridley has rebounded in recent years, though significant challenges remain. Last year, more than 10,000 hatchlings were released into the Gulf, many of which were found by volunteers who scour Galveston beaches for signs of nesting sea turtles. According to Galveston Mayor Jim Yarbrough, the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Turtle will serve as a tribute to all those who have worked to ensure the specie's survival. One of Galveston's greatest accomplishments, and one of its least recognized, he says, has been an ongoing effort to save the Kemp's Ridley. A key objective, the mayor adds, is to raise awareness about the importance of this highly endangered species, but also to mark a place where future generation can say, "this is one of the places where the people of Galveston Island stepped up to save the Kemp's Ridley ...."

The Kemp's Ridley is a relatively small turtle compared with other species and only lives for a dozen years or so. Despite that, it's often referred to as the "canary of the Gulf," the implication being that the health of the Gulf and the health of the Kemp's Ridley are closely linked. Despite efforts to save the Kemp's Ridley, the species is thought to be the world's most endangered sea turtle. While work to save the Kemp's Ridley will continue on our beaches, many of our citizens feel it's time to create a visible tribute to all those who have stepped up to ensure that that the species survives and prospers in the future.

The Kemp's Ridley was designated by the State of Texas as its official state sea turtle in 2013 thanks to the efforts of 4<sup>th</sup> graders at the Oppe Elementary School in Galveston. The children of Galveston have played an important part in the work to save the Kemp's Ridley and are expected to contribute significantly in the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Turtle project.

### How Does This Benefit Galveston?

The 29<sup>th</sup> Street Turtle is to be placed at the end of the 29<sup>th</sup> Street rock groin, anchoring a larger effort to raise awareness and also honor those who have worked to ensure the survival of the Kemp's Ridley. The statue will serve as the centerpiece of an annual turtle festival designed to bring new visitors to the island in mid-September, a time when tourism traditionally drops off in Galveston.

Working with a variety of tourism interests, the project organizers will work with the City of Galveston and commercial interests to establish an annual event that will bring eco-tourists to Galveston. The first such event could take place as early as September 2017 with the official dedication of the 29<sup>th</sup> Street Turtle. Each year thereafter the project organizers will stage a



## New ExxonMobil Section for Christmas Bird Count



Roseate spoonbill, Photo by Roy Woodard

New ExxonMobil Section for Christmas Bird Count  
This year is the debut of a new section for our Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count. ExxonMobil has agreed to partner with Piney Woods Wildlife Society to count the birds found on their new Houston Campus located just south of The Woodlands at Springwoods Village Parkway and I45/North Freeway.

ExxonMobil has incorporated room for nature into their Houston campus including wooded areas, ponds, meadows, walking paths, etc. A newly formed CBC team will visit this location on Spring Creek just west of the North Freeway for the next CBC.

If you are interested in joining the ExxonMobil team

(or any of the other five teams – see the table and map below) for the Spring Creek CBC, please email the compiler, Claire Moore, at [cdmoore3i@gmail.com](mailto:cdmoore3i@gmail.com), to get involved.

The Spring Creek CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, this year. The six areas included in this count are centered roughly at I45 and Rayford / Sawdust and extend 7.5 miles in all directions (see map below). This 15-mile diameter circle makes up the Spring Creek CBC. Six teams will spread out over the count circle attempting to count all the birds we can find. The teams and the areas they will cover are listed in the table below.

<b>• CBC Team</b>	<b>Areas Covered</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Woodlands – lead by David Henderson</li> </ul>	Montgomery County Preserve, Eagle nest site, Lake Woodlands North, Lake Woodlands South, Bear Branch Lake (Lakeside Park), George Mitchell Nature Preserve – South
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ExxonMobil Houston Campus (Springwoods)</li> </ul>	Meet at 7 a.m. on the ExxonMobil Houston Campus at 22777 Springwoods Village Parkway, Spring TX 77389. [Pre-authorization to enter ExxonMobil campus is required.]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Al Barr's team</li> </ul>	Will cover the area on the east side of I45/North Freeway up to San Jacinto River including Mercer Arboretum, Pundt Park, and Spring Creek Greenway parks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claire Moore &amp; Damien Carrey's team</li> </ul>	Covers the southwest portion of the count circle beginning at Hooks airport parking lot. In addition to Hooks airport, this team will also bird Doerre Road, David Klein's property on Spring-Cypress Rd, Windrose subdivision including Eagle Lake, WCID 132 Water Conservation Demonstration Garden/Park, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jones State Forest – lead by Debbie Layer</li> </ul>	Will cover many areas of Jones State Forest located at FM 1488 west of I45/North Freeway.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East of San Jacinto – lead by Kathleen &amp; Alex Ybanez</li> </ul>	Northeast section of the CBC circle -- east of San Jacinto River.

## 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):	
Please deliver my Pine Warbler via      E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>			
Annual Membership Fee \$15.00* Additional Contribution \$ _____ Total \$ _____		Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to:  Piney Woods Wildlife Society P.O. Box 189 Spring, TX 77383-0189	
*Per Household - Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoining <input type="checkbox"/>			

