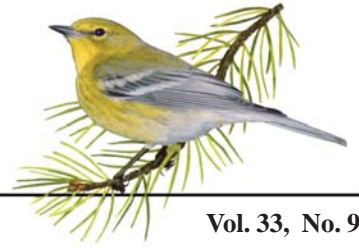


The Pine Warbler



December, 2013

Vol. 33, No. 9

Big Stone Lodge

PWWS meetings are held at the Big Stone Lodge at the new Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road. It is located very close to the Nature Center where we have been meeting, but on the Harris County side of Spring Creek.

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.

Meeting time is the same with a social time at 6:30 p.m. And the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Thanks to former president Al Barr, we were able to make this marvelous move for our meetings. Al is now the Outreach Coordinator at the Jesse Jones Park taking the place of Margarita Padilla who has moved to Turkey with her husband, another former president, Mike Beathard. When at Jesse Jones, you can visit with another friend of PWWS, Teri McArthur who was formerly at the Nature Center.

We thank Dennis Johnston, the Park Administrator for Precinct 4, Harris County, for extending hospitality to PWWS. Without Dennis, we wouldn't be protecting hundreds of acres of land along Spring Creek. And now, we might not have this wonderful place to meet.



PWWS December 17th Program

Time to Meet and Eat!



On December 17, our meeting will be a wonderful social time to hear about the Bird Count, elect new officers and enjoy lots of good food. Since the Bird Count is the Saturday before the regular meeting again this year, we should have lots of

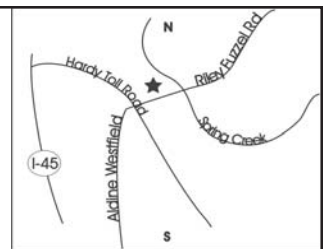
great stories about everyone's adventures. If you have any photos you would like to share (8 photos maximum), please let Al, our video expert, know and bring them on a thumb drive using Power Point if possible.

Everyone is invited to bring whatever dishes they choose from cookies, cakes, chips and dips, fruit, cheese, casseroles, Texas caviar, cold cuts, deviled eggs, veggies, pumpkin pies or whatever you would like to share. Drinks, cups, paper plates, utensils and napkins will be furnished. We'll start gathering at 6:30 p.m. as always followed by a brief meeting and lots of good food!

Don't miss our first feast at the Big Stone Lodge on December 17!

Date: December 17
Time: Social 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Big Stone Lodge
709 Riley Fuzzel Road



Spring Creek Bird Count December 14, 2013

Join the PWWS birders on Saturday, December 14, 2012, for the annual Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count. The count, sponsored by the Piney Woods Wildlife Society, covers a 15-mile diameter circle that is roughly centered in The Woodlands at I-45 and Rayford-Sawdust road. Our count circle is divided into four count areas meeting places. Names of all the leaders will be e-mailed to members before the 14th.

The Woodlands count area, will meet at Starbucks at 7:00 a.m. (about three traffic lights west of I-45 on Sawdust Road at 25111 Grogan's Mill Road- on the left at the intersection of Sawdust and Grogan's Mill Road).

Al Barr leads the Mercer Arboretum count area. The owling group will meet at 4:30 a.m. at the Kroger parking lot beside the McDonald's at I-

next page

45 and FM 2920. For the non-owling portion, meet in the Mercer Arboretum parking lot (west side) at 8:00 a.m.

Claire Moore will lead the Hooks Airport Section. Meet her at 7:00 a.m. at the Hooks airport parking lot at Stuebner Airline and FM 2920.

Meet the Jones State Forest group at 7:00 AM at the Jones Forest headquarters, which is about 1 mile west of I-45 on Highway 1488. Since the office parking lot is closed on the weekends, birders are to meet inside the employee entrance to the headquarters, which is about 100 yards west of the office entrance on Highway 1488.

From the Audubon website: "From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season."

The Christmas Bird Count is free this year. After a full day of counting birds, we will again have our countdown dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the El Palenque Mexican Restaurant at 1485 Spring Cypress Road - (281) 353 - 4055. The restaurant is located in the Kroger's Parking lot near Splash Town. You are welcome to attend the dinner whether or not you went birding. If you plan to attend, send Al Barr an e-mail by December 13 so he can make reservations for us. His e-mail is Albarr@comcast.net.

Program Notes:

More Fun at the Big Stone Lodge!

We are all invited to attend the "Christmas in the Pines" Open House at the Big Stone Lodge from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. On Friday, December 6. The Viva Voce Victorian Carolers will sing and there will be a big fire in the fireplace. We can have pictures taken with Santa and enjoy a warm cup of apple cider, too. To make reservations, call 281-350-1029.

The Stork Came Too Early To Count!

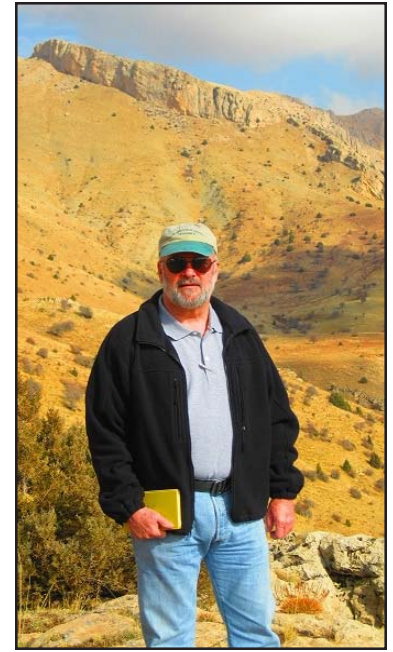
Carole and Al Barr became grandparents for the third time on November 27 with the arrival of Connor Henry Perez weighing 7 lb. 12 oz. Daughter Shelley and her husband J.R. are parents of Grant, Connor's big brother.

The Turkey Travelers

Mike Beathard and Margarita are now living in Turkey where Mike was transferred. Their e-mail addresses work just fine, so send them messages to mbeathard@earthlink.net and 2mrita@earthlink.net.

Margarita writes that they have found an apartment near Mike's office and should be moved in by December 5. One of the company wives prepared a Thanksgiving Day dinner at the

Marriot which everyone enjoyed. Margarita describes one of their outings as follows: "Mike and I had nice excursion to a petrified forest site in Soguksu National Park near the town of Kizilcahamam, about an hour north of Ankara. We hired a car and driver for a day (the same company that Bechtel uses to take the staff in the field); the way people drive around here is insane, so we decided that it was best to let somebody else take care of that so we could enjoy the trip more and we did so in a Volkswagen Pickup Truck called Amarok.



Mike near Gerogian Border



Anžkibir Monument - Road of Lions

Once we left the city, the highway cut through a large valley which eventually led to into the mountains; the scenery was reminiscing of our drives through the mountains in Colorado and

New Mexico, but not as high in elevation (4000 ft). We discovered that Kizilcahamam is a small town known for the natural hot springs in the area and much like Hot Springs, Arkansas, a very popular tourist attraction with spas, bath houses and many hotels. During tourist season, many come seeking the "healing properties" of the thermal springs."

We all wish the Beathards happy holidays and hope to hear lots more from them as they travel around Turkey!



Roman Baths of Ankara

Don't Forget - It's time to pay your dues!

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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jdfagm@swbell.net
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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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