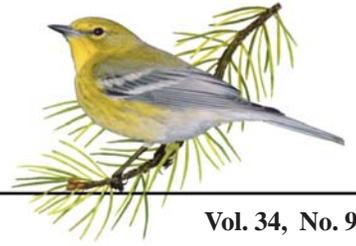


The Pine Warbler



December, 2014

Vol. 34, No. 9

Notes:

Thanks to Gary Clark and Kathy for a great November program on hummingbirds. Gary is going to include PWWS in his Chronicle column on bird counts and might even join us this year!

A PWWS board meeting is planned for December 9 at Kathy Coward's home. She will be sending out a notice soon.

Heart Happenings

Carole Allen and Joanie Steinhaus, of the Turtle Island Restoration Network Galveston Office, attended the 2nd International Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Symposium held November 18 and 19 in Brownsville, Texas. Carole's presentation was entitled "Past, Present and Future of the Kemp's Ridley." She also participated in a panel of sea turtle pioneers to discuss the past and current issues. "I heard at least 20 presentations in two days by many excellent scientists and we still don't know just why the nesting numbers of the Kemp's ridleys continue to decline." Carole said. "Research continues but there is no doubt that the oil spill of 2010 has definitely affected the Kemp's ridleys."



Carole and Joanie are shown with Shelldon who lives at the Gladys Porter Zoo and makes appearances in both Texas and Mexico.



Need a colorful and super Christmas gift while helping the sea turtles at the same time? There is a small number of these precious sea turtles avail-

Cont. on page 2



PWWS Annual Winter Social December 16, 6:30

On December 16, our meeting at the Stone Lodge will be our annual wonderful social time to plan the bird count, elect new officers and

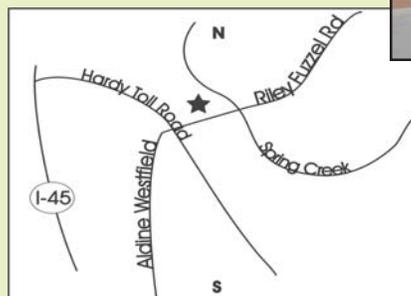
enjoy lots of good food.

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

If you have some new photos you are especially proud of, think about putting them on a Flash Drive using Power Point for the December program. Please choose no more than 10 photos so our technical expert, Al Barr, can show them. Be prepared to narrate. Send Al an e-mail if you plan to bring photos. (Albbar@comcast.net)

Don't miss this great feast at the Big Stone Lodge on December 16! It will be beautifully decorated for Christmas!

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



**Big Stone Lodge
Dennis Johnston Park
709 Riley Fuzzel Road**

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able which will be given to whomever makes a donation of at least \$50 to HEART. If you want to reserve a turtle, make your check payable to HEART and bring it to the December 16 feast to pick it up! Send Carole a message to reserve your turtle. (Carole@seaturtles.org)

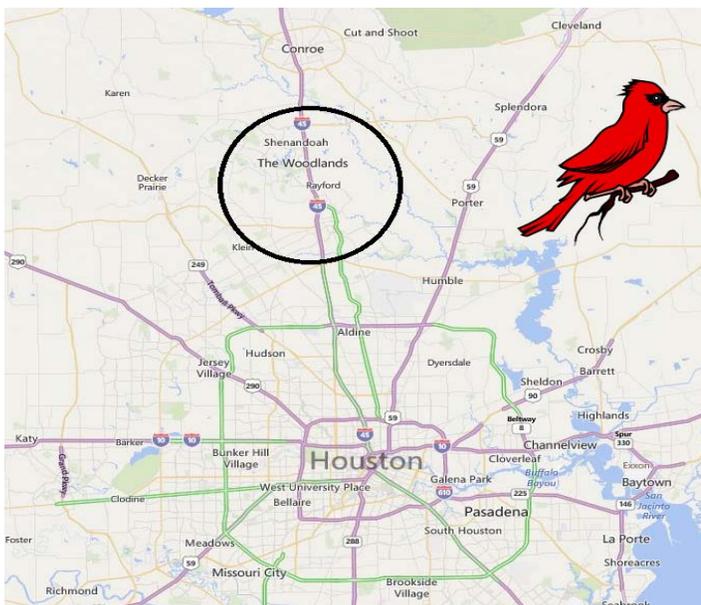


Merry Christmas wishes and a great New Year to friends and members of PWWS!

It's Bird Count Time Again! by Claire Moore

Audubon Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) happen each year between December 14 and January 5. The Spring Creek CBC for this year sponsored by PWWS is scheduled for Saturday, December 20th. As always, it will cover a 15 mile diameter circle centered at I45 and Rayford / Sawdust Road. Several teams of bird watchers will go out that day to count all the birds that they can find.

We are also seeking "feeder watchers" who live in the count circle and are available on the 20th to watch their bird feeders and send in information on the birds that they see at their feeders. Any amount of time watching your feeders would be helpful to the CBC.



WANTED: NEW VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICITY!

After an unknown number of years, Carole Allen is stepping aside from the Vice-President role. It's a fun job so give it some thought! Carole will continue writing HEART HAPPENINGS but a new officer with new ideas and new energy is needed!

Madagascar with Claire Moore



Claire with Brown Ruffed Lemur - at Lemur Island where captive Lemurs can be visited

I just got back from a two-week birding trip to Madagascar. I managed to tally up 122 new lifer bird species during the trip with an additional 32 bird species which I had already seen somewhere else. Additionally, I saw several species of lemur, 6 species of chameleon, 3 species of gecko, two species of tenrec, two species of painted frog as well as several lizards and snakes. Not a bad trip!

The tour covered two major areas of Madagascar. First was the central and eastern portion of the country which was more of a rain forest environment. The second was the southwestern portion which is hotter and dryer. This SW section contained the "Spiny Forest" with the famous Baobab trees.

I did a little checking before the trip using Avisys (bird lister computer software) and found that the bird checklist for Madagascar has 267 species on it and I had seen only 74 of them previously - mostly during trips to southern Africa or while in a few countries in Europe. Of those to 267 bird species possible in Madagascar, 98 of them are ENDEMIC and only found on Madagascar! That is what is so interesting about visiting there - the unique flora and fauna of the country!

In addition to the wildlife, seeing the life in the big cities was also very interesting and enlightening. A large portion of the population lives on the equivalent of \$2 per day. Driving through the capital city was quite eye-opening. I've included a few pictures to give you some feeling for the wildlife as well as the city life.



Zebu cattle pulling cart

spere various herbs, bitter tasting plants and grey leaved plants in your landscape. An active Fido that roams your yard can be a good deterrent but will it will not work if your furry companion is sitting at your feet in your house.

The above plants are drought resistant and tough which is a plus if you are concerned about wasting our water resources. If a deer is very hungry he will probably eat the plants he has avoided before so he can survive.

The photo I have included is of several deer that roam on my property and get pretty close to the rear of the house. So far they have not ventured to my main garden outside my front door. I used to have an antique rose that the deer discovered several years ago at the rear of the house. It did not survive being nibbled on year after year. I found spraying the plant with deterrent type chemicals or urine time consuming, ...besides what do you when it rains and the rain stops while you are sleeping? The deer will come out when the weather clears up and head to your prize plants.

When gardening in deer country it is challenging but it is rewarding.

The trouble with gardening is that it does not remain an avocation. It becomes an obsession"

- Phyllis McGinley

Please share your nature experiences with me at dianecabinessplants@consolidated.net.

References:

1. Protecting Your Landscape:
A Handy List of Deer-Resistant Plants by Texas Department of Agriculture
2. Austinnativelandscaping.com



2013/14 Board of Directors

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- 1st Vice President.....Carole Allen
- 2nd Vice President.....Claire Moore
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Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline..... 281 444-6204



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jdfagm@swbell.net.
P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

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>