

The
Pine Warbler



MAY PROGRAM



Mercer Botanic Gardens, Piney Woods Wildlife Society, and The Mercer Society

present

AN EVENING WITH Author Michael Eason

Wednesday, May 9

Piney Woods Wildlife Society Monthly Meeting

Big Stone Lodge at Dennis Johnston Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, TX 77373



6:30 p.m. - Networking and Refreshments, Book Signing

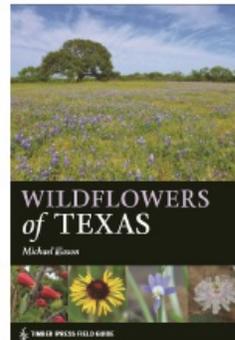
7 p.m. - Piney Woods Wildlife Society Business Meeting

7:10 p.m. - Wildflowers of Texas, Michael Eason

8:10 p.m. - Meet the Author and Book Signing

Join **Michael Eason**, author of the field guide *Wildflowers of Texas*, at the Piney Woods Wildlife Society monthly meeting to learn about his book-writing experience. Included will be plenty of Texas plant and landscape images. Michael will discuss photography, research, and writing, including range extensions, new species, and much more!

Pre-purchase the *Wildflowers of Texas* field guide through AmazonSmile, supporting The Mercer Society online at www.smile.amazon.com. Then, bring your field guide to the presentation for Michael to sign!



R. Jack Cagle
Commissioner



Mercer Botanic Gardens • 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, Humble, TX 77338-1071 • 713-274-4160 • www.hcp4.net/mercerv

Information on Wildflowers of Texas presentation

Bio -

Michael Eason is a free lance botanist who performs plant surveys and inventories on both private and public lands throughout Texas. Additionally, he is on staff at San Antonio Botanical Gardens, where he heads their Rare Plant Research and Conservation Program. Previously he worked for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center as their Conservation Program Manager, a position he held from 2003-2012. During this time he managed such projects as the Millennium Seed Bank, Ferns of the Trans-Pecos, and Vegetation Survey of Big

Bend National Park. With the contract signed, research for Wildflowers of Texas began in June of 2014, although he has been photographing actively for nearly two decades. This first year was spent organizing photographs, developing species lists and photographing plants. Writing began the second year, with additional photography in order to obtain new species and replace rejected images. In summer of 2016, with the bulk of the photography complete, and images approved, Michael took a six-month break from survey work and focused entirely on writing, finishing in early January of 2017.

Wildflowers of Texas, published by Timber Press, is a field guide covering 1170 taxa of both native and naturalized species, and primarily covers herbaceous flowering plants. The book contains common, uncommon and rare plants found within the borders of Texas. During the course of this project, and after tens of thousands of road miles, and hundreds of hiking miles, numerous range extensions were recorded, a few new species for Texas and the rediscovery of a South Texas water lily (*Nymphaea ampla*). While the book contains species found in other field guides, many of the plants within have never been included in other Texas field guides and some of the plants never properly, if ever, photographed.



Lupinus havardii slope road is the - River Road - Big Bend Ranch State Park



Michael Eason on the mountain - Chisos Mountains South Rim



Passiflora tenuiloba (Bird wing passionflower) - Pecos County, 190 Roadside

NPIN

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=pate9

Jan 1, 2007 - *Passiflora tenuiloba* Engelm. Bird Wing Passionflower, Birdwing passionflower, Slender-lobe Passionflower, Spread Lobe Passionflower. Passifloraceae (Passion-Flower Family). Synonym(s):. USDA Symbol: pate9. USDA Native Status: L48 (N). A vine with tendrils in leaf axils and bizarre, greenish flowers.



Amoreuxia wrightii (Wright's yellowshow) Starr County

moreuxia wrightii (Wright's yellowshow) | NPIN
https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=AMWR2 Jun 25, 2008 -
Amoreuxia wrightii A. Gray. Wright's yellowshow, Yellow-Show. Bixaceae
(Lipsticktree Family). Synonym(s):. USDA Symbol: AMWR2. USDA Native
Status: L48 (N). The species name of this plant is for Charles Wright, 1811-1885,
world-wide botanical collector but mainly in Texas (1837-1952), Cuba

HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles)

by Carole Allen

Nesting season for the Kemp's ridleys has just begun so numbers are low. Three ridleys have nested in far South Texas with two at the Padre Island National Seashore. To keep up to date during May and the rest of the summer, just go to the website of the Padre Island National Seashore and click on sea turtles for nesting numbers and also probable hatchling release dates.



A female Kemp's ridley sea turtle nesting on the beaches of Padre Island 2018 - NPS photo

Following update is from Dr, Donna Shaver, Texas Coordinator of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network:

donna_shaver@nps.gov

Date: May 1, 2018 at 8:33:43 AM CDT

To: undisclosed-recipients.;

Subject: Texas Nest Update

Yesterday, 41 Kemp's ridley nest was found on the Texas coast, including 22 at Padre Island National Seashore, 13 on South Padre Island, 2 on Boca Chica Beach, 2 on San Jose Island, 1 on North Padre Island north of Padre Island National Seashore, and 1 on Mustang Island.

KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE

So far this year, 50 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

0 Bolivar Peninsula

0 Galveston Island

0 Brazoria County, N. of Surfside

0 Surfside Beach

0 Quintana Beach

0 Bryan Beach

0 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach

0 Sargent Beach

0 Matagorda Peninsula

0 Matagorda Island

2 San Jose Island

1 Mustang Island

26 North Padre Island, including 25 at Padre Island National Seashore

19 South Padre Island
2 Boca Chica Beach

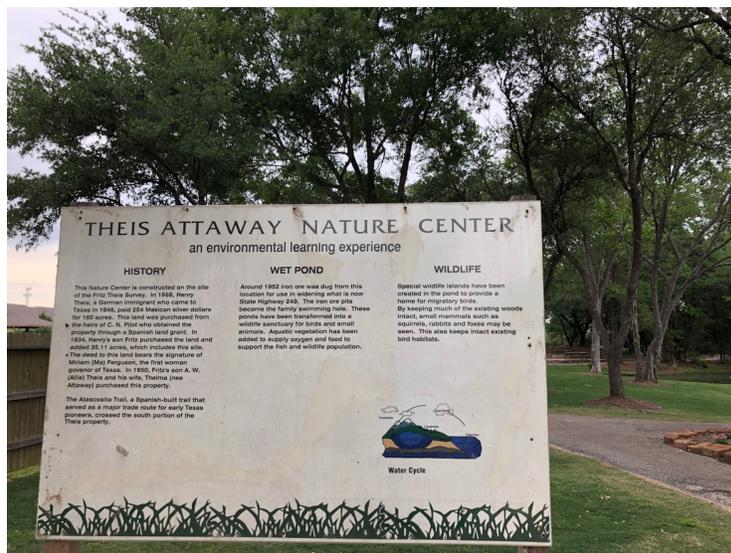
Data presented here are preliminary. Do not cite or quote without permission.
Contact Donna Shaver for further information.

Updates regarding nesting are also posted at the [Padre Island National Seashore](#)

[Ridley Sea Turtle Hatchling Releases](#)

Donna J. Shaver, Ph.D.
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Padre Island National Seashore
Texas Coordinator, Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network
Telephone (361)949-8173, ext. 226; fax: (361)949-9134
E-mail: donna_shaver@nps.gov
<http://www.nps.gov/pais/>
Facebook: Padre Island NS Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

THEIS ATTAWAY NATURE CENTER by Carole Allen



Theis Attaway Nature Center Information Sign - photo credit - Jane Stones

After we heard about this Nature Center at our April meeting, I was able to get the Stones family there one afternoon. It is a beautiful area at 13509 Theis Lane, just behind the big Walmart store on Tomball Parkway. You will want to enjoy the

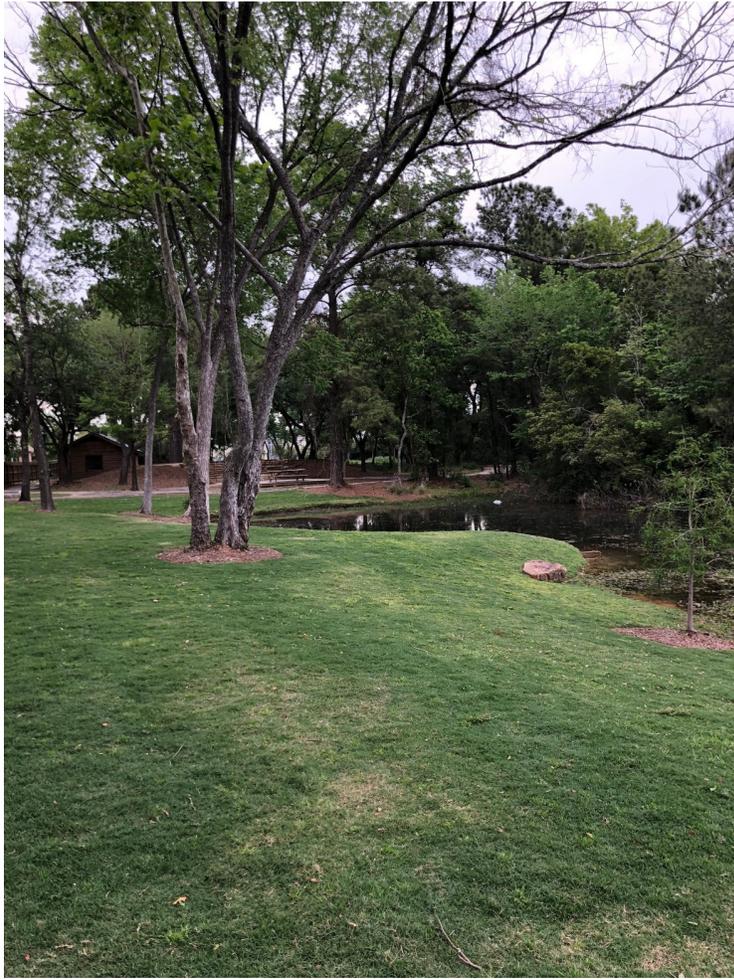
peaceful surroundings.

Thanks to the Theis-Attaway families for saving this area for everyone to enjoy.

[Theis Attaway Nature Preserve](#)



Nature Center Welcome Committee - photo credit Jane Stones



View of the pond - photo credit Jane Stones



Carol Allen and her grandchildren, Spencer and Abigail - photo credit Jane Stones

Photo credit Millie Theis Martin



Photo from Millie Theis Martin related to Theis Attaway Nature Center.

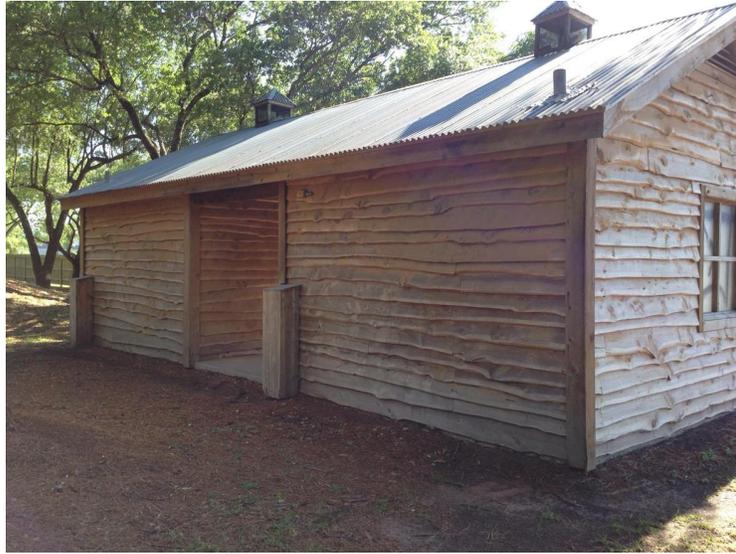


Photo from Millie Theis Martin related to Theis Attaway Nature Center.



Photo from Millie Theis Martin related to Theis Attaway Nature Center.



Photo from Millie Theis Martin related to Theis Attaway Nature Center.



Photo from Millie Theis Martin related to Theis Attaway Nature Center.



Photo from Millie Theis Martin related to Theis Attaway Nature Center.



Polyphemus moth female - photo credit Sandy Crystal-Vaughn

Description:

Gathered as a three inch, bright green caterpillar crawling quickly down the trunk of the oak tree in the backyard in November, this female Polyphemus Moth made her debut from her cocoon, after a little more than four months (on March 26th)!



Peacock - Tomball, Texas - photo credit Ashley Breedlove



Peacock - Tomball, Texas - photo credit Ashley Breedlove

RICH DINNER ROLLS (OR KOLACHES)

Blue Ribbon Breads, 1976, Provo, Utah

Shared from: Pat & Gary Wayne

A rich wholesome flavor that will remind you of Sunday dinner down on the farm.

½ c. warm water

2 pkgs. active dry yeast

1 c. milk, whole or 2%

¼ c. sugar

1 t. salt

¼ c. margarine, butter works too

2 beaten eggs

Approximately 5 ¼ c. un-sifted bread or unbleached flour – NOT All Purpose!

Cooking oil

Cooking spray

Crisco

Measure warm water into a large warm bowl. Sprinkle in yeast; stir until dissolved. Set aside.

Scald milk in microwave about 2+ minutes till there is a film on top; don't boil! Stir in sugar, salt, and margarine till dissolved and melted. Cool to lukewarm.

Add lukewarm milk mix, eggs, and 2 cups flour to the bowl of yeast. Beat with mixer till smooth. Keep stirring in flour till you have a soft manageable dough.

Turn out onto lightly floured board. Knead till smooth and elastic about 8-10 minutes. Place in clean bowl greased with cooking oil. Turn to grease top. Cover with warm damp tea towel sprayed with cooking oil. Let rise in warm place, free from drafts until doubled in bulk. Punch down. Turn out onto lightly floured surface and form into whatever shape you desire. Place in muffin tins or on cookie sheets greased with Crisco.

Cover and let rise in warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk.

Bake at 375° 8-10 minutes, till golden brown. Watch them carefully.

That's the recipe almost exactly as it appears in the cookbook.

Lately I have been doing all the mixing in the bread machine using 3 1/2 c. flour. It is so much faster and cleaner, and I can do other things - like take a siesta! - while the bread machine does all the mixing and first rise. Just add the wets and dries in the order recommended by your bread machine owners' manual. I scald the milk according to the original recipe, and melt the sugar, salt, and butter in it, then cool to lukewarm before dumping it into the bread machine bucket with the eggs and ½ c. water. Don't forget to put the yeast in the yeast dispenser, if your machine has one. SET IT ON DOUGH CYCLE. Two hours later you can form your rolls. If I add 5 ¼ c. flour, it is too much for the size of my bread machine, and I end up with a mess inside the lid. So, I knead in extra flour if needed before shaping, just enough to make the dough easy to handle without being sticky. I have also accidentally left out the ½ c. water, which means I don't need to work in as much extra flour before shaping, and everything worked out just fine.

FORMING:

You can form these rolls into any shape you want.

Round top muffin shaped dinner rolls - One lemon-sized ball in greased muffin tin

Split top Dinner Rolls - Two key lime-sized balls in greased muffin tin

Cloverleaf dinner rolls (A Thanksgiving tradition at our house) Three buck-eye sized balls in greased muffin tin.

Sandwich rolls - One piece of dough the size of a small orange on greased cookie sheet.

Kolaches: I USE HILLSHIRE FARMS LIT'L SMOKIES. I have tried Bryans, Hillshire Farms cheese stuffed, and beef smokies, as well as a variety of other brands of cocktail sausages, and people won't eat them. They gobble up the original Lit'l Smokies.

The sausages need to be warm to room temperature, or it will slow the rising process. It also helps to roll them around on a tea towel to dry them off before covering them with dough.

Break the dough in half, then quarters, then eighths. You just want a manageable sized piece of dough to fit in your left hand. Use your right hand to push the sausage up from the bottom through the piece of dough in your left hand, stretching the dough thin and smooth over the end of the sausage, and squeezing it thin on the sides by closing the circle made by the thumb and index finger of your left hand. Pinch off the excess dough on the bottom. Then to make it even thinner, roll it between the palms of your two hands. If you can see the sausage through the dough, that is too thin. Try to shift some of the dough around till the whole sausage is completely covered. Pinch off the excess dough on both ends, then put ugliest side down on a greased cookie sheet. I can use all of two packages of Lit'l Smokies, and still have enough left-over dough to make 3 to 5 sandwich rolls with this recipe. I don't like a lot of bread on my kolache, but you might like more.

Bread baking has a lot of possible pitfalls, so if you are new to bread baking, or if this recipe doesn't turn out the way you think it should, I can send you my longer more detailed version that will hopefully help you figure out what went wrong.

gmwayne@swbell.net

APPLE DUMP-IT CAKE - shared by Diane Wedgeworth

- 21 oz. Comstock Apple Pie filling in can
- 20 oz. crushed pineapple, in natural juice, (drained)
- 1 package yellow or white cake mix
- 2 sticks (1 cup) butter or margarine (I use butter)
- 1 ½ cup chopped nuts pecans or walnuts
- 2 Granny Smith Apples peeled and sliced, sprinkle cinnamon on top

Prepare 9 x 13 inch pan with Crisco (no flour)
(All ingredients should be spread out evenly)

To Do:

- Dump apple pie filling into pan
- Dump crushed pineapple
- Spread package of dry cake mix over that. Pour melted butter evenly over top.
- Layer apple slices over entire top of cake
- Sprinkle chopped nuts over top. Do not stir!
- Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 1 hour, or toothpick comes out clean.
- Good served warm.

Enjoy!
Diane

When is a Rabbit Not a Rabbit? By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center





Rabbit Nest - photo credit TWRC Wildlife Center

WHEN IS A RABBIT NOT A RABBIT?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Life is pretty tough for rabbits. It seems like everything wants to eat them. Bobcats, coyotes, raptors and even snakes. The Eastern Cottontail, which is the most common in our area, is lucky if it lives two years in the wild. Thank goodness they are prolific reproducers. Cottontails begin breeding as early as two months old and can have up to seven litters in one year, although they usually have three or four.

There are three native wild rabbits in Texas and one hare: the eastern cottontail, swamp rabbit, desert cottontail and the black-tailed jackrabbit. The jackrabbit is actually a hare. However, they all belong to the Lagomorpha order of mammals. Hares are larger animals and have longer ears. A hare's pregnancy lasts 42 days. Newborn hares are called leverets and are fully developed at birth, born with fur and eyes open. Mom doesn't build a nest but can deliver her young in something as simple as a depression in the ground. Babies are able to hop around shortly after birth. Female rabbits give birth after about 30 days. They build a nest three to four inches deep and about eight inches across. They line the nest

and cover it with soft dead grass and some of her own fur. Newborn rabbits are called kits or kittens and are born with eyes closed and no fur.

Compassionate people with good intentions will sometimes “kidnap” baby rabbits thinking they have been abandoned or that something has happened to mama rabbit. Mom only feeds her young at dusk and dawn so chances are, you probably won’t see her. If the babies are warm and appear to be well fed, she’s taking care of them. Just to be sure, here are a few things you can try. Place string or yarn in the shape of an “X” on top of the nest in the late afternoon. You can also encircle the nest with flour. In the morning, check the nest. If the string or flour has been disturbed, Mom has been there taking care of her kits.

With spring comes lawn-mowing. A WORD OF CAUTION: if you see small “dead” sections of grass in your lawn, check it out before mowing. It may be a nest of baby rabbits. If it is a nest, you can simply lift the top layer of dead grass to reveal sleeping babies. Please leave them alone! They will be gone in a couple of weeks. Please be sure to protect nests from your dogs, too. If your dog discovers a nest, you can cover it with a wheelbarrow or fencing making sure there is an entrance point just large enough for Mom to go in and out and strong enough so the dog can’t tear it down. There are other options, too. Just do a little research on the internet.

TWRC Wildlife Center is here to help. If you have questions about wildlife or find an injured or orphaned animal, please call us: 713-468-TWRC. You can also find helpful information on our website at [TWRC Wildlife Center](#). You’ll also find cute photos and good information on our Facebook page. Please “Like” us!



Conroe Butterfly Count Saturday - April 30, 2018 - Left to right is Guy Michael, Don Dubois, Diane and Hugh Wedgeworth



White M Hairstreak - (*Parrhasius m-album*) - photo credit - Hugh Wedgeworth

We found the White M Hairstreak while hiking at the Lake Creek Greenway Trails. This was the butterfly of the day, an uncommon butterfly for our area. We

were conducting a butterfly count for NABA - North American Butterfly Association, BEST - Butterfly Enthusiasts of SE Texas which is the local Houston Chapter.

www.lakecreektexas.org [Lake Creek Greenway Partnership](#)



Houston Audubon Credit

Houston Audubon Bird Surveys

By Claire Moore

Houston Audubon sponsors many monthly bird surveys all around the Houston and surrounding area. These birding field trips are open to all interested birders, no matter what level of experience they have. These surveys usually last 2 or 3 hours and provide an interesting way to become familiar with our local bird populations around Houston. Visit this Houston Audubon web site to find out which you might enjoy joining: <https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/bird-surveys/>

A new bird survey has just started in northwest Harris County. This newest bird survey takes place at the recently opened Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve located near Tomball Parkway (Highway 249) and Louetta Road. All birders are welcomed to this survey which is scheduled each month on the third Thursday of the month. Meet up at 20215 Chasewood Park Drive, Houston, TX 77070 near the restrooms at 8 a.m. and join Mary Anne Weber, Skip Almoney or Geoff Newton to see what birds are at the preserve. Go to this web site to confirm the details: <https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/bird-surveys/kickerillo.html>

Houston Audubon currently has ten monthly "Urban Surveys". Six of them are inside the 610 Loop. Two are east of Houston in Baytown and at Armand Bayou. One is west of town at Archbishop Fiorenza Park. The last, mentioned above, is in Northwest Harris County at Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve.

PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS



Photo by
Chuck Duplant

PLANT NATIVES AT HOME!

Join local experts Glenn Olsen and Lauren Jansen Simpson to learn how to make a difference in your community by planting native plants!

**Katy
Prairie**
Conservancy



SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
WEST UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY
CENTER AUDITORIUM
6104 AUDEN
HOUSTON, TX 77005

COST: FREE

REGISTER AT KATY PRAIRIE.ORG/EVENTS



Opening Day is finally here! Plants everywhere you look, just waiting for a new home. Thousands of potted plants to pick from. Looking forward to your visit.
Hope Farms Gardens Opening Weekend:

Saturday & Sunday, April 28-29, 2018.

Cash or Checks only, please.

We will be open every Saturday & Sunday starting April 28 through May 26, 2018.

Hours 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Groups on weekdays by appointment only.

See our 2018 plant list at:

[Hope Farms Gardens](#)

Y'all come!!! Feel free to forward this invitation on to a local Gardening Friend!

Please come thru the gate for parking. The church across the street from us has services on Saturday and they ask that you not park in the church lot.

HOPE FARMS GARDENS - 936-264-1499

18750 F.M. 1484 - Conroe, Texas 77303

We like you! Like us on Facebook too.



Conserve Texas Quail



Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Quail Conservation license plate is now available for order! For every license plate purchased, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation will receive \$22 for quail conservation efforts in Texas, including

habitat conservation, education, and capacity building. A committee of representatives from quail conservation groups will select projects to receive funding. The license plate is available for purchase through the TxDMV website and conservationplate.org.

Katy Prairie Conservancy | katyprairie.org | 713-523-6135 | info@katyprairie.org

Camp Allen Birds & Blooms May 18-20, 2018

A poster for the Camp Allen Birds & Blooms event. At the top left is an illustration of a blue bird perched on a branch with blue flowers. To the right, the text reads "JOIN CAMP ALLEN FOR Birds & Blooms MAY 18 - 20, 2018". Below this is a circular wreath containing text: "Calling all nature and bird lovers - this conference is for you! Enjoy Camp Allen's 1,100 forested acres, attend expert led sessions, hike scenic trails with experienced guides, and much more!". The wreath is divided into two columns: "Presentations" and "Packages".

JOIN CAMP ALLEN FOR
Birds & Blooms
MAY 18 - 20, 2018

Calling all nature and bird lovers -
this conference is for you! Enjoy Camp Allen's
1,100 forested acres, attend expert led sessions,
hike scenic trails with experienced guides,
and much more!

Presentations

- Audubon Presentations
- Bird Identification
- Live Owl & Hawk Demonstrations
- Landscaping to Attract Songbirds
- Nature Appreciation Hikes
- Nature Journaling
- Sunrise Bird Watching
- Wildlife Photography

Packages

- Single Occupancy: \$300
- Double Occupancy: \$200

All-inclusive, per-person packages
include two nights of hotel lodging,
six buffet meals and programming.
The conference begins at
5:00 pm Friday and ends
at 1:00 pm Sunday.

Note from Mary Anne Webber

Camp Allen is an awesome weekend of birding, food, workshops, etc... (emphasis on the great food and birds). It sells out fast because there is only room for about 50 folks.

Mary Anne Weber
Education Director
Houston Audubon
Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center

3997 River Drive, Houston TX 77017

713.640.2407

www.houstonaudubon.org

TO REGISTER OR LEARN MORE CALL

936. 825. 7175 OR VISIT CAMP.ALLEN.ORG

Costa Rica - Photos credit - Wayne Easley



heron, boat-billed, Catie research area Costa Rica April 14, 2018



heron, boat-billed sleeping during day, Catie, Costa Rica , April 4, 2018



herons, boat-billed pair at Catie, Costa Rica, April 4-18 R



heron, boat-billed, catie research area, Catie, Costa Rica April 4-18 R



herons, boat-billed at Catie, Costa Rica, April 4-18 R

CREATOR'S CANVAS/THE BIZARRE BOAT-BILLED HERONS OF COSTA RICA – Wayne Easley

One of Costa Rica's most unusual birds is the nocturnal Boat-billed Heron. Unlike other members of the heron family, it stands less than a foot tall and especially when feeding, it often bends its body into a crouch, maybe to get closer to its next meal. Boat-bills are best known for that enormous oversized black bill which it uses like a scoop when hunting for something to eat. Standing motionless in the dead of night, Boat-bills rely heavily on their bills which are equipped with all sorts of sensitive nerves that aid them in finding food. Who needs an I-Pod when you have that kind of a beak? Feeding on crabs, fresh water shrimp, insects and various kinds of small fish, the bird's bill fits the bill. It is a shallow water feeder and at times uses its bill to rake muddy river or lake bottoms for food that is over-

looked by most other water birds.

Along with the unique bill, the birds possess huge round eyes that appear to bulge out from their heads. Since they are night creatures, their tremendous night vision lets them see just about everything. Some reports suggest, Boat-bills can see in almost total darkness. A frog comes along, something that other night creatures would probably miss. The Boat-bill sees the frog, scoops it up in that big bill; then, tosses it up into the air before swallowing it whole. Strong digestive juices do the rest. After a hearty meal, the Boat-bill retires to a dense part of a tree where he spends much of the day (when not breeding) sleeping soundly! Boat-bills are so retiring that we still have a lot to learn about these incredible birds.

Another physical feature of Boat-bills is that wild funky looking crest. The crest is jet black and reports suggest that the bird's crest feathers never stop growing. Completely controlled by the bird itself, that crest comes alive when the bird is disturbed. Not long ago, I watched a Cattle Egret get a little too close to a sleeping Boat-bill and that crest shot out like a Jack-in-the-box, spreading in every direction. While, I have not observed it yet, reports tell us that the crest is often used in mating rituals as well. Yesterday, I photographed a pair of Boat-bills that appeared to be deeply devoted to each other. They were all over each other, bobbing their heads, clacking bills, and occasionally wrapping their necks around each other. I almost felt like I was intruding on something very special. But in all of their interactions, not once did I observe the use of the crest. Unlike other herons and egrets, pair bonding is said to take place before the nest site is selected. Nest building and incubation duties are shared by both of the parents and when the baby birds hatch, they use something that no other birds have, two tiny teeth which they use to crack open the egg shell. Just another bizarre feature of what most certainly is one of the most bizarre birds in all of Costa Rica. The Boat-bill is a bird worth seeing!

Wayne Easley/written at Rancho Naturalista in Costa Rica.

PLEASE REMEMBER, NO PICTURES CAN BE USED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE AUTHOR.

Materials used in this report: Boat-billed Herons-In Depth-what, when, how.com, Boat-billed Heron-Facts and Information-wwwencyclopedia.com, Boat-billed Heron-wwwheronconservation.org, Boat-billed Heron-Apperarence-neotropicalbirds.com, personal observations and photographs.

The Latest from Paul Gregg



Scarlet Tanager

Continuing with photos from April 28 and 29. It did turn out to be a pretty good day for me. American Redstarts are so hyperactive, they are hard to get a photo when they are up in the canopy. When they come to the water drips, sometimes they slow down a little, like this pair did. The Bay-breasted and Blackburnian Warblers showed up all over the place and there were lots of photos I had to delete due to unforeseen problems, usually movement or lighting. My best shot of the Orchard Oriole was when it came to the drip. I love the little Ovenbird, especially the head-on shot. Grosbeaks were mostly feeding and resting in the "mother" mulberry tree in the field just east of the woods. Also visiting the mulberry trees was the Scarlet Tanager, one of the most photographed migrants this time of year.

Walking slowly and looking all around, I was approached by an older couple who pointed high up in a tall tree and asked what a particular bird was. I focused and took a couple photos and noticed it was a raptor of some kind. I showed the photo to John Haynes who is a walking dictionary on birds and he said it is a Merlin. He further stated the merlin has been hanging around the woods and taking lots of migrating birds for meals. In the photo you can just make out the top of the head of its prey.

I still have two or three more days of outings I haven't finished processing yet. Please be patient as I complete the process and realize most will be reverse chronological. I might even need to carry a few of my e-mails into the middle of the summer, because I plan to make at least one (Carol would say "Riiiiight!") more visit.



American Alligator - photo credit Paul Gregg



American Alligator - photo credit Paul Gregg



© Paul Gregg

Blackburnian Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Bay-breasted Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak female



American Redstart



Merlin



Orchard Oriole



Ovenbird



Ovenbird



American Redstart female



Prothonotary Warbler



Prothonotary Warbler



Magnolia Warbler



Kentucky Warbler



Kentucky Warbler



Golden-winged Warbler



Golden-winged Warbler



Chestnut-sided Warbler



Chestnut-sided Warbler



Yellow Warbler

Well. . .not exactly in the city. More like in the woods!

On the 28th and 29th, I visited the Sabine Woods Sanctuary. I went there responding to the "BirdCast" site <http://birdcast.info/> that predicted a greater movement of migratory birds for those days. I found out I missed probably a really good fallout a couple days prior where in the late evening warblers were on the ground at the entrance to the sanctuary, so close that some folks did videos with their phones! Oh, well -- I just missed it. But the 28th and 29th weren't totally void of migrants. I think there were over 20 warbler species seen those days. Many of them stay pretty high in the trees, or are so fast moving it is hard to get a decent photo. The attached photos show a few that I was able to capture anyway. Of note was the Golden-winged Warbler that was seen in various locations in the woods. I wish I had better shots of it, but got a few acceptable ones. Also, the Prothonotary Warbler showed up at the pond and showed off to the tune of over 20 photos of it. The Yellow Warbler was only a quick show for me, though I got quick views a few other times that didn't yield to photos. Chestnut-sided, Kentucky, Magnolia warblers were active. I just noticed I forgot to include a Bay-breasted Warbler! Oh, well -- to be continued.



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 Old 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.

Piney Woods Wildlife Membership Form		
Last Name(s):	First Name of Member(s):	
Street Address:	City:	State and Zip:
Home Phone No:	Work Phone No:	Email Address(s):
Pine Warbler will be delivered by E-mail Only		
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 _____ Renewal _____ Rejoining _____		

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Please submit any articles you'd like considered for the PWWS Newsletter. The Pine Warbler, to our President, Kathy Coward, justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net or Diane Wedgeworth, Editor, milanodi@yahoo.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.



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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