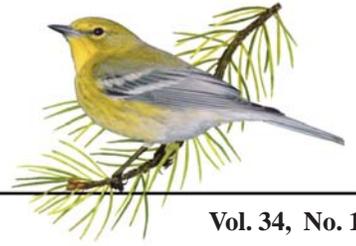


# The Pine Warbler



January, 2014

Vol. 34, No. 1



PWWS



Christmas Party!

## 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.



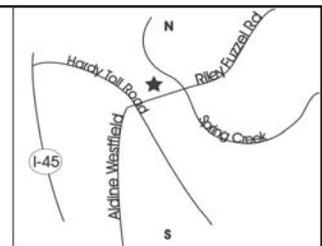
## PWWS January 21st Program

### Costa Rica with Carlos Hernandez

Carlos will bring us new photos and adventures from a recent trip to his homeland, Costa Rica. Everyone who has heard Carlos looks forward to his great photography and wonderful humor! Don't miss January 21 at the Big Stone Lodge.

Date: January 21  
Time: Social 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Big Stone Lodge  
709 Riley Fuzzel Road



## Heart Happenings

*(This Blog) was written by Carole Allen and posted online at the invitation of the Endangered Species Coalition.*

In 1906, Richard Kemp spotted a sea turtle on a Florida beach and later had the honor of adding his name to its identification. Years passed with little attention paid to the Kemp's ridley until June, 1947, when Andres Herrera made an amateur movie that documented, for the first time, an arribada (arrival) of Kemp's ridleys—some 42,000 females nesting in a single day at Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Villagers excavated most of those nests, however, and harvested some 80 to 90 percent of the eggs that were laid. Decades later, though, the ridleys faced almost certain extinction; between 1978 and 1991, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) estimated that only 200 Kemp's ridleys were nesting annually.

My personal involvement with the ridleys began in 1982, when, as a volunteer, I took elementary school students to Galveston to see hatchlings being raised in a desperate attempt to save the species. The students organized HEART (Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles) and began to work for the ridleys. Always my most powerful volunteers, students have written letters to legislators calling for turtle excluder device (TED) regulations and enforcement of laws protecting ridleys, and have pooled their nickels and dimes to buy food for hatchlings. Thousands of children have visited the Galveston facility, creating a higher level of public awareness about the killing of sea turtles—particularly by the shrimping industry.

As the Mexican government protected the ridleys' nesting beaches and  
*next page*

officers in the Gulf of Mexico enforced TED regulations, populations of Kemp's ridleys began to grow. Things were looking good for the ridleys—so much so that the joint United States-Mexico recovery plan predicted a 19 percent population increase from 2010 to 2020 that would lead to a down-listing under the Endangered Species Act. But that was too good to be true.

Hundreds, maybe thousands, of ridleys were killed in the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Nest numbers dropped in Tamaulipas and Texas in 2010, and again in 2013. The NMFS has backed away from requiring TEDs on skimmer trawls, and Louisiana refuses to enforce TED regulations in their state waters, placing thousands of turtles in jeopardy. Sadly, each March and April, as shrimping activity increases along the Texas coast, dead adult female ridleys—the most valuable of all—wash ashore. Why not declare a closure to shrimping for the nesting season?

Research confirms that ridleys are migrating and foraging along the Texas and Louisiana coasts. With the need for additional “safe zones” for nesting for the ridleys, the opposition of US Fish and Wildlife to allow the hatching of eggs and releasing of hatchlings where the nests are found on the Upper Texas Coast is unfortunate. Critical habitat is declared for other sea turtle species; why not Kemp's ridleys?

Although the Kemp's ridley population revived from near-extinction 25 years ago, it seems to be losing ground. Will we allow this to happen, or will we step up to enforce existing laws and put in place new ones where they are needed? If we don't demand action, nothing will be done.

## Anahuac Wildlife Refuge - 12/22/13

*Photography by Steven Stones*



Dirty Eagle



Vermillion Flycatcher



Hawk



Belted Kingfisher



Brown Pelican

## Adventures of the Beathards



*From Margarita Padilla and Mike Beathard in Turkey!*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.... We experienced our first snowfall a couple of weeks ago – about 3 to 4 inches – and because the weather has been so frigid (single digits, which this Houston girl is not used to), it is still on the ground and iced over which makes it very slippery to walk on.

And after several of weeks of apartment hunting, not only did we find one that was suitable and within walking distance to the Bechtel office, but we have moved in! Things moved rather quickly last week. On the same day, we received notice that our furniture had arrived in Ankara and ready for delivery and also that our new landlord had accepted our terms and was ready to sign the lease. So, our furniture was delivered, unpacked and assemble on Thursday 12/12, we moved out of our hotel Friday morning and spent our first night in what is to become our new home for the next two years.



**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*		Mail this form and check made payable to PWWS to:  Piney Woods Wildlife Society P.O. Box 189 Spring, TX 77383-0189	
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"/>



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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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P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

**The deadline for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cdmoore3@gmail.com) (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.**

**Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>**

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