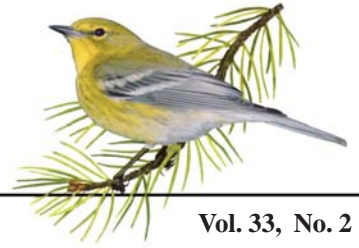


The Pine Warbler



February 2013

Vol. 33, No. 2

Program Notes:

Off to see the Whooping Cranes!

Carole and Al Barr have planned the field trip to see this year's crop of whooping cranes on February 16, the weekend before the big whooping crane celebration in Rockport.

The trip is on the 85 passenger Wharf Cat, leaving from Rockport. It features an upper deck observation area, main deck observation area, and indoor restaurant style booths with huge windows in case the weather is bad.

They have hot coffee and snacks for sale and restrooms, too. Admission is \$45 for adults, \$43 for seniors, and \$20 for children. They provide an expert birder and spotter on the upper deck. There might be a place left if you haven't contacted Al, but you need to call him today! 281 443-6629

January Program

The Australia/New Zealand program presented by Jane and Steven Stones included many photos of birds we just don't have here as well as wallabies, quolls, Tasmanian Devils and kangaroos. Jane's story of a crisis on the Quantas airplane over the Pacific with a passenger trying to take drugs "down under" was chilling. Spencer, age 7, made sure they didn't forget anything. Attendance was great and snacks included a delicious and colorful dessert first created in the 20es by a chef in Australia who prepared it to honor the famous ballerina Anna Pavlova who had toured there. Dick Lee found a picture online and prepared it before the meeting. (It didn't last long!) Thanks, Dick!

Board Members Problems

Jim and Elsa Lacey came back from a trip to find that a water heater had flooded their entire home in

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PWWS January Program

February 19

Presented by John and Gloria Jones
Hummingbirds of Ecuador



John and Gloria traveled to Ecuador last year and brought back fantastic hummingbird photographs.

They share the following information:

"Hummingbirds exist only in the Western Hemisphere and most of the 325 species are found in the tropics. They are especially numerous in the Andes and the relatively small country of Ecuador alone is host to some 131 species."

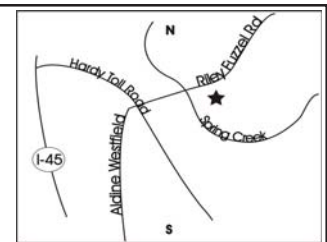
The Jones' trip to Ecuador was a workshop designed specifically to photograph some of these beautiful hummingbirds which include woodstars, some of the tiniest birds in the world < sylphs, small hummingbirds with especially long tails < swordbills, large hummingbirds with exceptionally long bills < and racket-tails, a small hummingbird with a tail of two long featherless shafts ending in rackets.

This photographic program will include some interesting facts about hummingbirds and some of the techniques used to photograph them.

If you enjoy wonderful photography and hummingbirds, don't miss the February program!

Date: February 19
Time: Social 6:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Spring Creek Greenway
Nature Center
1300 Riley Fuzzel Road



Directions 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 Center. 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 right; or, 3. Take Aldine Westfield north from Mercer Arboretum until it turns into Riley Fuzzel. Turn right, go under the freeway and over the bridge. Watch for a sign on the right (lighted at night) and a concrete driveway. The building is not visible from the road but club members can count on security as the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department is also housed there.



Program Notes from page 1

the Woodlands including ceilings. They are staying in a hotel until massive repairs can be made.

Jim and Judy Springer were at the Lone Star College on January 22 when a shooting took place and three people went to the hospital. "We were in the CMED building at the time of the shooting," Jim said. "We were locked down and then asked to evacuate the building with our hands in the air."

Meeting Time!

Please speak up if you like or don't like the earlier meeting time. It seemed to work well in January, but don't be afraid to give us your thoughts. Also, do we need to continue to perk a pot of coffee or not?

Not many people are drinking it and we usually throw a lot away. Again, let us know.

Heart Happenings

February is usually a slow month in the sea turtle world except for ongoing battles to protect every species from illegal fishing activities and being killed by ships, speed boats and litter. The Sea Life Center of Texas A&M University at Galveston is continuing to treat and feed a small Kemp's ridley that was found with the shoe string of a Size 11 shoe (including the shoe) wrapped around a flipper. After the shoe was removed, "Sport" started to grow and will be released this summer.



East Texas Nature "Who will save us?"

By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist

"Art gallery? Who needs it? Look at the swirling silver-lined clouds in the magnificent blue sky or at the silently blazing stars at midnight. How could indoor art be any more masterfully created than God's museum of nature?" - Grey Livingston

I began my love affair with the natural world when in my 30's a seed was planted and I began to notice a connection between the flora and fauna. My husband was stationed in an Air Force base in northern California where I had become a confirmed bird watcher.

When we moved back to Texas I started gardening and it was not until I noticed how certain plants drew hummingbirds to its nectar that gave me pause to wonder. And when certain shrubs were weighed down with ripened berries the birds would swoop down to devour the fruit with great gusto. Between my outdoor experiences and the information I was learning about the natural world one day a clearer understanding of my place in the job I was meant to do fell into focus. It was as if a calculator that had been adding and subtracting was now shooting out an answer that filled me with a passion. I became a different person. I was hooked on plants, animals and dirt.

One day I stumbled on Rachel Carson's Silent Spring which changed how I viewed horticulture chemicals. Young and impressionable I got the message. I cannot say truthfully I thought much about the relationship between weeds and the soil until I read this book. Please consider a more benign alternative before pulling out the harsh chemicals. Let your fingers zap the offending weed. And when the unwanted critters visit bring out a slug-pub or sticky yellow cards to catch the dastardly coward that creeps or flies in when you are not around. The poem below by Marie Tully called "Spiders" will put you in the right mood.

"You should always keep a spider
At least one in every room
Give them a little corner
With an offering of food.

They'll spin away at night
An they'll hunt for you by day
Keeping your house clean of pest's
In their very special way.

So do not go hard with insect spray
When bluebottle's and flies come your way
Remember the little spider's
Who hide themselves away."

Each day out of doors becomes a celebration of discovery. God's creation has become my most cherished companion giving me comfort and joy through the years when at various times family and friends would fail to live up to my aspirations.

A garden is not a blank canvas on which we get to do whatever we get in our heads to do. We owe this creation protection from vandals.



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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>