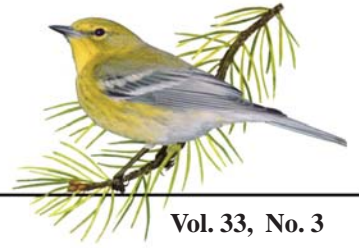


The Pine Warbler



March 2013

Vol. 33, No. 3

Program Notes:



Whooping Crane Trip

Thanks to Carol and Al Barr for arranging a great trip on February 16 to the Aransas National Wildlife Sanctuary to see at least 36 cranes! About 15 PWWS members made the trip and Al managed to recruit four more tourists to join the group money could be saved on tickets. Thanks to the Bars! Bill Fortney is sharing a flying crane photo from the trip and Steven Stones took a close up for us to enjoy.



February Meeting and Jones Park Nature Fest

John and Gloria Jones presented wonderful photos of tiny hummingbirds taken on their trip to Ecuador at the February meeting. A fine crowd attended including several visitors and asked lots of questions about how John could take such outstanding photos of these tiny visitors. President Kathy Coward thanked everyone for attending and especially the board members who take care of various tasks for the club.

cont. on page 2

PWWS March Program

March 19

Travel Texas and Beyond

Presented by Paul Gregg



On March 19, let's Travel Texas and other places of Note with Paul Gregg.

Paul Gregg retired from the US Air Force in 2007 after 29 years of service and is still traveling! He and his wife, Carol, reside in Humble

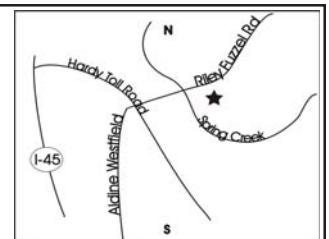
where he is an avid, advanced amateur photographer. Paul has been presenting free photography classes to the Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) at the New Caney location for Lone Star College for three years. The classes are basic birding photography, travel, and a presentation of an Iceland photography trip he took in 2011. This year he will begin a continuing education class in basic digital photography at the Kingwood division of Lone Star College, and is planning a beginning class in Light room for LSC.

Paul's presentation for the March meeting will be about great locations to visit around Texas and other places, some well known and some not so well known. Let's travel with Paul Gregg on March 19!

(For your convenience, the Gregg's travel notes with links follow this issue.)

Date: March 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

A board meeting was held on February 12 and members voted to support David Henderson's students so they can participate in the annual Envirothon competition. David teaches at Klein-Collins High School and inspires many students to increase their interest in nature.

The board also voted to donate \$500 for bird seed for the Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center as was done last year. (PWWS dues payment make these donations possible.) PWWS will have a table at the annual Jones Park Nature Fest and anyone wanting to help out will be welcome. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers for any amount of time will be welcome.

Another worthwhile piece of legislature can use everyone's help.

The Texas Bottle Bill would put a 5 cent deposit on the aluminum, glass and plastic containers that choke Texas roadways and end up in waterways, highways and landfills. Senate Bill 645 introduced by Senator Rodney Ellis and House Bill 1473 introduced by Representative Eddie Rodriguez would set up a system of deposits so that consumers could return bottles to receive the deposit back. It would be a great fund raiser for schools and would result in many people picking up bottles and returning them for money instead of allowing them to litter our state. Let's get behind the Texas Bottle Bill! Follow it on Facebook and let your legislator know you favor cleaning up Texas with the Texas Bottle Bill!

Heart Happenings

Texas has a state bird, flower, song, small and large mammals, fish, shell, tree, insect, plant, fruit, stone, shrub and many other symbols, but no official sea turtle! The Fourth Grade Green Team at Oppe Elementary in Galveston hopes to solve this problem.



Representative Craig Eiland of Galveston has introduced HCR 31 and is hoping to find a senator to help guide a resolution asking that the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle be proclaimed the official sea turtle of the state of Texas. The entire PWWS audience signed a petition supporting HCR 31 at the February meeting. The full resolution can be found at www.capitol.state.tx.us which can be printed out. Progress can also be tracked at that website.

The resolution was sent to the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee. The Gulf Office of Sea Turtle Restoration Project is assisting the Green Team and the students have researched the Kemp's ridley thoroughly. The last paragraph sums up the document:

Once the most imperiled of all sea turtles, the Kemp's ridley is today becoming a more common resident of the Gulf Coast waters; its comeback is a testament to its resilience and to the admirable work of those Texans who have aided its recovery, and this noble animal is indeed a fitting symbol of the Lone Star State.

East Texas Nature Around the World with Dandelion By Diane Cabiness, Texas Master Naturalist

*Tis May; and yet the March flower Dandelion
Is still in bloom among the emerald grass,
Shining like guineas with the sun's warm eye on—
We almost think they are gold as we pass,
Or fallen stars in a green sea of grass.
They shine in fields, or waste grounds near the town.
They closed like painter's brush when even was.
At length they turn to nothing else but down,
While the rude winds blow off each shadowy crown.
- John Clare*

Taking a short walk in a park this afternoon I had the pleasure of spotting dandelions that had sprouted up and many were in flower. Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale* has been found throughout the world. Asia and Europe both take claim to its origin.

Over 40% of prescription drugs sold in the US contain at least one ingredient derived from nature. Dandelion has a long history of medicinal use. The first written mention of this is in Arabian medical texts of the 10th and 11th centuries. The shiny green leaves contain 7,000 units of Vitamin A per ounce and is an excellent source of Vitamins B, C, and G. The French use the fresh young leaves for salads. To remove the bitter taste they soak the leaves in salt water for 30 minutes and use as a spicy addition to mixed vegetables, at the same time getting natural protein, iron, calcium, phosphorus, and inulin. Fresh root tea traditionally used for liver, gall bladder, kidney, and bladder ailments. Dandelion is known for its diuretic properties. If adding dandelion to the diet, moderation is the key. Whether you use prescription drugs or natural compounds you need to be careful and always let your doctor know.

Dandelion is very similar to sow thistle. Both are edible. Sow thistle usually has many yellow flowers sprouting out on each stalk. Dandelion only has one yellow flower per stalk.

On the sow thistle, leaves are seen going all the way up the stalk, as well as at the base of the plant. Dandelion leaves are only at the base making a handsome rosette, nearly or variously tooth-edged in a slightly backward direction.

Taraxacum officinale is an important food source for some birds and is known to attract pollinating insects to those sunshiny yellow flowers.

The most common dandelion superstitions involved the flowers after they have gone to seed. As a child I believed if I could blow all the seeds off the dandelion in one blow, I would be granted a wish making it the best known superstition around. Another old superstition said if you blew on the seed head you would learn how many years you had left to live or how many children you would have. Some of the folklore said blossoms were woven into wedding bouquets to bring good luck to the newlyweds, and dreams about dandelions were said to repre-

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and **SPRING FLING! 2013**

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FREE!**

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**Saturday
March 23
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Location:
Lone Star College-Montgomery
3200 College Park Dr • Conroe, TX 77384

Learn eco-friendly tips that can help bring balance to your backyard—and your life.

Trees, Plants, Water & Wildlife

<http://expo.tamu.edu>



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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>

5	Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR	http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Attwater_Prairie_Chicken/ The refuge headquarters and visitor center is located 6.5 miles northeast of Eagle Lake, TX off of FM 3013, or south from Sealy on Highway 36 to FM 3013 and traveling west for 10 miles. The headquarters is located 2 miles west of the main entrance on FM 3013. Go to their web site for a map.
6	Balmorhea State Park P O Box 15, Toyahvale TX 79786 432.375.2370	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/balmorhea/ Near Balmorhea. There's a small lake there, family swimming, fishing, etc. They have a great spring fed swimming pool and also a place where divers go to learn to dive. <u>Bird watching</u> in abundance is there and we got a couple good shots of roadrunners!
7	Baytown Nature Center 6213 Bayway Drive Baytown, TX	www.baytownnaturecenter.org Years ago a subdivision began sinking and the town bought it out and changed it into a nature center. You can fish there as well as follow "trails" and watch for birds. Check photos on their web page and see what some photographers were able to capture.
8	Big Bend Ntl. Pk. P.O. Box 129, Big Bend National Park, TX 79834 Headquarters & Visitor Information: 432.477.2251	http://www.nps.gov/bibe/index.htm Carol and I met on a canoe trip down the Rio Grande there. Miles and miles of hiking and primitive camping as well as commercial tourist places. One brochure I read said you are more likely to see a black bear at Big Bend than Yosemite. The canoe trip we met on was out of Houston (Whitewater Experience). Take lots of digital memory cards with you! Big Bend is home to the Colima Warbler where you will have to hike a couple miles to get to its nesting area. Great photography location!
9	Big Bend Ranch SP PO Box 2319, Presidio TX 79845 432.358.4444	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/big_bend_ranch/ Adjacent to Big Bend Ntl. Pk. Newly acquired from a donor family, the state is developing it and it has some of the best scenery, archaeology, etc. there is in Texas. (They have special classes in orienteering and desert survival.) (Note: We haven't been there yet, but it is on our bucket list!)
10	Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center 6102 FM 420, Kountze, TX 77625 409.951.6700	http://www.nps.gov/bith/index.htm Parallels 69 n. of Beaumont. Have been by there and stopped in at the ranger station. Lots of hiking on fairly flat terrain - don't go in summer (mosquitoes). Hike trails to where carnivorous plants are found. Canoeing is available.
11	Brazos Bend SP 21901 FM 762, Needville TX 77461 979.553.5102	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/brazos_bend/ HWY 288 s. of Houston to Rosharon exit, w about 12 mi. follow directions. Good family picnicing, hiking, bird watching, alligator counting, etc. Trails are wide and well traveled w/kids on bicycles and old folks w/canes. Probably 20 mi. of trails. You won't believe all the different waterfowl you see. For astronomy there's an observatory for a night visit.

19	Dell City, TX Hudspeth County, <u>West Texas</u> FM 1437 off US 180	http://www.texasescapes.com/TOWNS/DellCityTexas/DellCityTexas.htm 92 miles E of <u>El Paso</u> via US 180 90 miles NW of <u>Van Horn</u> via Hwy 54 65 miles N of <u>Sierra Blanca</u> via FM 1111 105 miles to Carlsbad Caverns Population: 413 (2000) 569 (1990) A small town west of the Guadalupe NP escarpment. They have tapped into the water table and the desert truly "blooms" under their watering and raising crops. We drove out there for a picture of the west side of the Guadalupe. Use your wide angle lens to capture the Guadalupe as the sunset turns it orange.
20	Devil's River State Natural Area HC 01, Box 513, Del Rio TX 78840 830.395.2133	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/devils_river/ Rugged, remote area, north of Del Rio. Primitive camping. Great place for photography.
21	Dinosaur Valley State Park P O Box 396, Glen Rose TX 76043 254.897.4588	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/dinosaur_valley/ Camping and Hiking. Near Glen Rose, sw of Ft. Worth, near Waco. 7 to 10 mi. of hiking trails. Really fascinating - you can put your hand in the tracks of dinosaurs. (Also, near the entrance is the Creation Evidence Museum http://www.creationevidence.org/ a must see.)
22	Double Lake Recreation Area 888.361.6908	http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas/recreation/sam_houston/doublelake.shtml Take Coldspring exit (FM 2025), off n59 in Cleveland. They have some good trails and the Lone Star Trail passes through there. We have done a couple miles and would like to do more. It is a really pretty area. There's a paved trail around the lake and bicycle trails also. Paddlewheel boats and canoes can be rented to get out on the lake. Overnight camping. Concession stand with hamburgers and french fries. Dogwood trees blossom in the spring. Great for photography.
23	Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene, TX	See: http://www.aero-web.org/museums/museums.htm And: http://www.aero-web.org/museums/tx/dlap.htm Dyess Linear Air Park is a static display of aircraft on their main road on the base. Awesome, well-kept and worth almost a mile walk from plane to plane.
24	Fanthorp Inn St. Historical Site P O Box 296, Anderson TX 77830 936.873.2633	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/fanthorp_inn/ In Anderson, TX (409-873-2633). Between Huntsville and Navasota. If going from Houston, n. 45 to Conroe, w. 105 toward Navasota, right at the Plantersville intersection and north a few miles to Anderson. They have a stagecoach and offer rides the 2nd Sat. of each month. The Inn was a stagecoach stopover and is historically interesting.

30	<p>Ft. Bliss & Biggs Airfield - El Paso</p> <p>Building 1735, Marshall Road ATZC-GC-M, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-3802 915.568.3390</p>	<p>https://www.bliss.army.mil/museum/fort_bliss_museum.htm</p> <p>Ft. Bliss, an active Army base, has a small museum of the fort's history and also on base they have a missile museum of the Army's contribution to missile defense. Bigg's airfield held an airshow with the Air Force Thunderbirds.</p>
31	<p>Ft. Concho National Historic Landmark</p> <p>630 S. Oakes, San Angelo, TX 76903 325.657.4444</p>	<p>http://www.texasescapes.com/TRIPS/Fort-Concho-Texas.htm</p> <p>Ft. Concho is one of the best maintained forts of all the Texas Forts. The city of San Angelo maintains it and employs folks who dress for the period. The guy who took us on a two hour tour seemed to have been yanked out of the 1880's and brought into the 1990's just to tell us how it was back then! They have a great "old days" weekend there the first full weekend in December each year and folks from all over come in to take a step back in time. If one were to begin a fort tour of Texas, I would say "begin here!"</p>
32	<p>Ft. Parker SP & Lake Ft. Parker</p> <p>194 Park Road 28, Mexia, TX 76667 254.562.5751</p>	<p>http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/fort_parker/</p> <p>Between Mexia and Groesbeck. Some good history at the fort and then some good picnicking and hiking around the lake.</p>
33	<p>Galveston Island State Park</p> <p>14901 FM 3005, Galveston, TX 77554 409.737.1222</p>	<p>http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/galveston/</p> <p>About 9 mi. southwest of the city of Galveston, has beach bungalows and picnic/swimming, but the best part is back inland from the beach where wildlife habitat is. We saw and I took some pretty good pictures of nesting Mississippi Kites (in the raptor family). They are White/Black in color and are simply beautiful. Also waterfowl of all sorts are in abundance. I took a few pictures of Roseate Spoonbills which look like a really big pink crane or a flamingo on steroids! Take insect repellent or you will suffer!</p>
34	<p>Galveston Railroad Museum</p> <p>2602 Santa Fe Place, Galveston, TX 77550 409.765.5700</p>	<p>http://www.galvestonrrmuseum.com/</p> <p>Heavily damaged by Hurricane Ike. I think they have recovered, but call before you go. They had a great multi-media presentation of the 1900 hurricane.</p>
35	<p>Garner State Park</p> <p>234 RR 1050, Concan, TX 78838 830.232.6132</p>	<p>http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/garner/</p> <p>They had added hundreds of camping sites the last time we visited there. Great COLD water in the Frio River where you can swim. Some hiking trails, and the best is up to the top of the hill overlooking the park and river. Great scenery. Motorcycle clubs like to visit here.</p>

36	Goliad State Park & Historical Site 108 Park Rd 6, Goliad, TX 77963-3206 361.645.3405	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/goliad_and_mission_espirito_santo/ In Goliad, south of Houston on the way to Corpus Christi. More TX history. The Presidio is an old fort there and the SP holds a lot of history. Mexicans led some "Texians" to believe they would be treated fairly, then shot them all down in a massacre.
37	Guadalupe Mountains National Park 400 Pine Canyon Road Salt Flat, TX 79847 Headquarters Visitor Center 915.828.3251 Dog Canyon Ranger Station 575.981.2418	http://www.nps.gov/gumo/index.htm 65mi. north of Van Horn. I guess this place is probably our favorite. The highest point in TX, Guadalupe Peak is 8749 ft. high and right behind El Capitan which you see on so many scenic views of Texas. Primitive camping, RV camping, strenuous hiking and GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY Great views, lots of mule deer, hawks, falcons, golden eagles On McKittrick Ridge, we were so high up, a golden eagle flew UNDER us. One Nov. we spent about 36 hours up in the high country before we saw another human being! Dog Canyon is on the north side of the park, reached by heading toward Carlsbad, NM and following the map to the area. Best for solitude, mule deer, and listening to elk bugle at night! I could write a small booklet on our trips out there, as we went camping and hiking there 10 years in a row, and still didn't cover all the 90 or so miles of hiking trails! For those who don't want to do heavy duty hiking, there are a couple hikes that are not strenuous. One is to Smith Springs, and the other is Devil's Hall Trail. Both are picturesque and easy to hike.
38	Guadalupe River SP 3350 Park Rd. 31 Spring Branch, TX 78070 (830) 438-2656	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/guadalupe-river Nice river views for photography. Swimming for the family.
39	Heritage Village and Pickett House Restaurant Highway 190 West Woodville, TX 75979 409.283.2272 or 800.323.0389	http://www.heritage-village.org/pickett-house.htm Pickett House Restaurant and Heritage Village. Family style cooking in an old school house. They bring the bowls of food to your table and you eat all you want – refills if necessary. After eating, walk through Heritage Village for a look at "how it used to be" – barber shop, blacksmith, doctor office, etc.
40	High Island, TX	Probably my 2 nd favorite birding area. Go to this web site: http://www.birdinghighisland.com/about.htm And you will see great information on birding there. My favorite is Smith Oaks and the Rookery. Go in early spring and I'm told the best week is usually the 3 rd week of April. Migratory birds, nesting great egrets, roseate spoonbills, tri-colored herons, and others. (Go to Winnie, TX, and drive south toward the beaches, about 17 miles.)

41	Houston Museum of Natural Science One Hermann Circle Drive Houston, TX 77030-1799 713.639.4629	www.hmns.org The museum has a butterfly exhibit that is wonderful for taking pictures of butterflies. You won't be able to use your tripod, but may take your monopod. The museum also has many other things to offer after you have taken pictures. Their new dinosaur exhibit is fascinating. Also visit their rock (gems and minerals) section. Great place to take the children.
42	Huntsville St. Park P O Box 508 Huntsville TX 77342-0508 936/295-5644	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/huntsville/ A great park for family camping.
43	Independence, TX Just north of Brenham, TX See their web site for location	http://www.independencetx.com/ Founded in 1835, Independence is a town rich in history. For starters, Independence is the homesite of Baylor University—and Sam Houston and his family lived here in the 1850s. https://www.antiqueroseemporium.com/ Just down the street is the Antique Rose Emporium. Flower photography in abundance!
44	Inks Lake State Park 3630 Park Road 4 West Burnet TX 78611 512.793.2223	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/inks/ Near Pedernales – We didn't go in, but there were deer all over the place.
45	Jesse Jones Park Humble 20634 Kenswick Drive Humble, Texas 77338 281.446.8588	http://www.hcp4.net/jones/ They have a small environment exhibit and a few miles of hiking trails. Unbelievable OLD trees. Cypress "knees" and trees are great for photography. Catch a picture of a red-eared turtle on a log.
46	Johnson's Rock Shop and Museum 936.563.4438 Livingston, TX	Johnson's Rock Shop and Museum: Address: 238 N Lincoln Wiggins St, Livingston, TX Directions: Rock shop is in Indian Springs, 10 miles east of Livingston, Texas. [Business address is in downtown Livingston for some reason.] Admission: Free. Hours: Daily except early Feb. Tour groups by appt. (Call to verify) Johnson's Rock Shop – When you find this place you will think you died and went to rock heaven. Some of the most beautiful petrified trees and other rocks I have ever seen. For an interesting story about the rock shop and pictures go to: http://mcrocks.com/ft07/DeniseFebruary2007.html

47	Kerrville Schreiner Park 2385 Bandera Hwy Kerrville, TX 78028 (830) 257-7300	http://www.kerrville.org/facilities.aspx?pagenum=6&RID=9&Page=detail This park used to be a state park, but was given to the city of Kerrville a few years ago. Deer were everywhere and wild turkeys roaming the campgrounds.
48	Kleb Woods Nature Preserve 20301 Draper Road, Tomball, TX 77377 281.357.5324	http://www.pct3.hctx.net/parks/klebwoodsnaturepres.aspx?calendar You can sign up for their informative e-mail letter that lets you know what birds were seen that week and other activities at the preserve. They have a weekly birding group that goes around the park. Their bird counts are impressive.
49	Laffite's Cove Galveston, TX	http://www.laffitescovenaturesociety.org/ Also for more Galveston locations go to: http://www.galveston.com/birding/ Laffite's Cove is a 20-acre oak moat preserve and is an excellent place to find migrating songbirds in spring and fall. At least 137 species were recorded in the preserve during the spring migration of 1997. Go west on Stewart Road, past 11 Mile Road, and turn right into the Laffite's Cove subdivision and follow signs to parking area. Great for spring migration! Paved trails. Water drips. Watch where you step – an occasional cottonmouth!
50	Lake Houston Wilderness Park 25840 FM 1485 New Caney, TX 77357 281.354.6881 832.395.7000	http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/ourparks/lakehoustonpark.html Houston took over this park from TX Parks and Wildlife. They have a couple bird blinds for photography and some 10mi. of hiking, biking. Birding, and other animals. Deer.
51	Lake Somerville SP 14222 Park Road 57 Somerville, TX 77879-9713 979/535-7763	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lake_somerville/ Southeast of Austin. They have 10 miles (round trip) on the north side of the lake and 17 mi. on the south side. We hiked the north side and saw hawks and other wildlife. I found a piece of petrified rock. Primitive camping sites are located there.
52	Lone Star Trail	http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas/recreation/sam_houston/lonestarhiking.shtml I understand this one begins near Austin and travels eastward through Sam Houston Forest, and ends at the Louisiana border. I think it is something like 125 miles. (Have only hiked a couple miles of it, near Double Lake.)
53	Lost Maples State Natural Area 37221 FM 187 Vanderpool TX 78885 830.966.3413	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lost_maples/ West of Bandera, north of Medina. Two main trails, c. 7mi. or 8mi. of hiking, moderately hard. Some primitive camping available. Great place for fall photography of maple trees changing colors. Also a good place to try out your new hiking boots in preparation for a longer, harder hike. Great place to find the Golden-cheeked Warbler at the right time of the year.
54	Marathon, TX	Stay at the Gage Hotel: http://www.gagehotel.com/ For info on Marathon: http://www.marathontexas.com/
55	Marfa, TX	Info: http://www.marfacc.com/ See the Marfa Lights. Visit the bookstore. Great picturesque courthouse.

56	<p>Martin S. Dies State Park</p> <p>634 Private Road 5025 Jasper, TX 75951 409.384.5231</p>	<p>http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/martin_dies_jr/</p> <p>E. of Livingston, near Jasper. Good camping, fishing, and some trails to hike. Armadillos in abundance.</p>
57	<p>McDonald Observatory Fort Davis, TX 79734 877.984.7827</p>	<p>http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/</p> <p>Near Ft. Davis. Great astronomy education and their “star party” at the Visitor’s Center is really an eye opener. Daytime tours are very informative, but the best experience is the nighttime star party.</p>
58	<p>Mercer Arboretum – Spring</p> <p>22306 Aldine Westfield Road Humble, Texas 77338 281.443.8731</p>	<p>http://www.hcp4.net/mercer/</p> <p>They have a few miles of hiking available. In spring, they sell all kinds of plants to help pay for upkeep of the park. Really beautiful plants and good, easy hiking. Peaceful. Great place for wedding photography, but even better for butterfly shots on flowers.</p>
59	<p>Monahans Sandhills St. Park</p> <p>Box 1738, Monahans, TX 79756 432.943.2092</p>	<p>http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/monahans_sandhills/</p> <p>Great place for landscape photography. You might get photos of the Harris’ hawk that teams up with others to hunt prey.</p>
60	<p>Monastery of St. Claire</p> <p>9300 Highway 105 Brenham, Texas 77833 979-836-9562</p>	<p>www.monasteryminiaturehorses.com</p> <p>“St. Claire Monastery” – has miniature horses. The kids will love it and the adults will be fascinated.</p> <p>Note: I think they are selling off the horses, so may not be available now.</p>
61	<p>Monument Hill & Kreishe Brewery</p> <p>414 State Loop 92 La Grange, TX 78945 979.968.5658</p>	<p>http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/monument_hill_and_kreishe_brewery/</p> <p>LaGrange. The Kriesche Brewery is in this park. Back in the 1800’s a German family brewed beer there. Fascinating place. Monument there in honor of the “Black Bean” massacre. Very pretty park. Nature trail.</p>
62	<p>Moody Gardens Galveston, TX</p>	<p>http://www.moodygardens.com/</p> <p>Pyramids with aquarium and rain forest to walk through. Christmas lights during the holidays.</p>
63	<p>Museum of the Big Bend Alpine, TX</p> <p>432.837.8143</p>	<p>Museum information: http://www.sulross.edu/museum/</p> <p>The museum is on the campus of Sul Ross State University in Alpine. Great pre-Big Bend stop to learn more about the area.</p>

71	Sabine Woods On TX 87, South of Port Arthur	http://texasbirds.org/ Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) maintains a number of locations for birding. Go to their home page and click on Sabine Woods, and it will lead you to a map for the location. This is possibly my favorite of birding locations on the upper TX coast. Go here for a .pdf file with info: www.visitportarthurtx.com/birding_book.pdf
72	San Antonio, TX	http://www.visitsanantonio.com/index.aspx I was stationed in San Antonio a LONG time ago. It is simply one of the greatest picturesque cities in America, not to mention one of the most romantic. The Hemisphere Tower Restaurant allows a 360 degree look down upon the city. The Zoo is awesome. The Japanese Sunken Gardens offer flower photography. The Riverwalk is wonderful. For history, go to the Institute of Texas Culture. The Witte Museum and a Circus Museum are in town. For great history, visit the different Missions of San Antonio. While there, you might want to visit that little known place called "The Alamo"!
73	San Jacinto Monument One Monument Circle La Porte, TX 77571 281.479.2421	http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org/ A must visit for the TX history buff. I didn't know Sam Houston and his ragtag "militia" guerrillas attacked Santa Anna's army, killed hundreds and only lost about 8 men. The monument has gone through recent upgrades and you may know it is the only monument of such that is taller than the Washington Monument in Wash., D. C. The Battleship Texas is near the monument and makes a good tour stop also.
74	Seminole Canyon SP PO Box 820 Comstock TX 78837 432.292.4464	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/seminole_canyon/ Between Del Rio, Judge Roy Bean's town of Langtry. Has a few mi. of trails. Indian petroglyphs and caves. A chartered boat is available to see more Indian prehistoric stuff on the Rio Grande. Plan on a couple extra hours and go to Langtry and visit Judge Bean's (Law West of the Pecos) http://www.traveltex.com/things-to-do/activities-and-attractions/judge-roy-bean-visitor-center
75	Shangri La Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Orange, TX	Web Site: http://www.shangrilagardens.org/ Location map: http://www.shangrilagardens.org/Visit/Directions-Parking-Maps/Directions-and-Parking.aspx
76	Sheldon Lake St. Park 15315 Beaumont Highway (Business 90) @ Park Road 138 Houston, TX 77049 281-456-2800	http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/sheldon_lake/ Fish "tanks" there have been allowed to go back to nature and attract many different water birds, as well as a good number of migrating birds in season. Trails are well kept and wide. Picnic tables and clean restrooms.
77	Smith Point Raptor Migration Project Smith Point, TX	http://www.hawkwatch.org/conservation-science/migration-research-sites/105-smith-point-raptor-migration-project Administered by Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area. "Kettles" of hawks come by this area in certain times of the year. There is a wildlife viewing platform.

78	<p>Stark Museum</p> <p>712 Green Avenue Orange, TX 77630-5721 409.886.2787</p>	<p>http://www.starkmuseum.org/</p> <p>Orange, TX. Great museum, has a lot of Russell's and Remington's paintings and statues.</p>
79	<p>State Parks of Texas</p>	<p>To access each State Park, go here: http://areas.wildernet.com/</p> <p>Then click on Texas and then find the park you want. (This is a great site to go to for any state and historic sites, National Wildlife Refuges, etc.)</p>
80	<p>Stephen F. Austin SP</p> <p>P O Box 125 San Felipe, TX 77473 979.885.3613</p>	<p>http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/stephen_f_austin_and_san_felipe/</p> <p>Interstate 10 west of Houston, north of San Felipe. Good one day picnic, hiking, camping, etc. away from Houston.</p>
81	<p>Stubblefield Lake</p>	<p>http://www.traveltex.com/things-to-do/activities-and-attractions/stubblefield-lake-recreation-area</p> <p>Northern reaches of Lake Conroe. Good picnic area and also camping. Crappie fishing in the right season is great.</p>
82	<p>Texas State Railroad, Rusk/Palestine</p> <p>Park Road 76, US HWY 84 West Rusk, TX 75785 888.987.2461</p>	<p>http://www.texasstaterr.com/</p> <p>Or from 45, Park Road 70, US HWY 84 East Palestine, TX 75802</p> <p>Great weekend (one day) for a family. Ride a train from Rusk to Palestine, stop for lunch while they turn the train around, and return to Rusk. Ask them about their "shoot-em-up" trip, when actors in western attire board the train and have a gunfight during lunch!</p>
83	<p>Trinity River NWR South of Dayton, TX</p>	<p>http://www.friendsoftrinityriverrefuge.com/</p> <p>The web site has information about where to go in Liberty County.</p>
84	<p>TX State Aquarium</p> <p>2710 N. Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78402 800.477.4853</p>	<p>http://www.texasstateaquarium.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1</p> <p>You can really get a fishy education here! Huge aquariums w/sharks, jewfish, groupers, etc. in them. Great ed. For children also. Corpus Christi is full of historical stuff and has a great museum across the bridge from the aquarium.</p>
85	<p>Texas State Parks</p>	<p>To find ANY of the wonderful Texas State Parks, go here: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/nearby/all-parks</p>
86	<p>Tyler Azalea Trail Tyler, TX</p>	<p>http://www.tylerazaleatrail.com/trailinfo.htm</p> <p>Spring flowers in bloom within the city residential areas will give you jaw dropping views of some of the most beautiful flowers you have ever seen. Tyler Convention & Visitors Bureau, 315 N. Broadway Avenue Tyler, Texas 75701 (800) 235-5712</p>

87	<p>Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site</p> <p>P. O. Box 305 Washington, TX 77880 936.878.2214</p>	<p>http://www.birthplaceoftexas.com/</p> <p>West of Navasota. Picnic area for families. Star of the Republic Museum of TX history that is great. Good place to visit when the Bluebonnets are in.</p> <p>On Texas Independence Day (and that weekend), there are demonstrations of farming and living during the late 1800s.</p>										
88	<p>Whooping Crane Boat Tours (Rockport and Port Aransas)</p>	<p>http://www.texaswhoopers.com/index.htm</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rockport Office</td> <td>Port Aransas Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>320 Navigation Circle</td> <td>(800) 605-5448</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rockport, TX. 78382</td> <td>(361) 749-5448</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(800) 782-2473</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(361) 729-4855</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Take a boat tour on the "Wharf Cat" to where the whooping cranes are. Tour guides are naturalists and narrate during the 4 hour trip. You will learn about other birds in the area as well as the whooping cranes. Excellent birding trip.</p>	Rockport Office	Port Aransas Office	320 Navigation Circle	(800) 605-5448	Rockport, TX. 78382	(361) 749-5448	(800) 782-2473		(361) 729-4855	
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89	<p>Wild Azalea Canyon Trails</p> <p>Newton County Newton, TX 75966</p>	<p>http://www.texasrails.org/traildetail.cfm?id=764</p> <p>http://newtontxnetwork.com/tour/parks/wildazalea/wildazalea.htm</p> <p>East of Jasper. Short trail, good scenery. Near the LA border. We saw a mountain lion near there and got it documented with TX Pks. & Wildlife. Good time of year is spring when the dogwoods are blooming.</p>										
90	<p>Zooworthy!</p>	<p>San Antonio, Houston, Lufkin, Tyler, Ft. Worth, and Victoria all have interesting zoos where you can practice your photography.</p>										

<h2>Places Other Than Texas!</h2>		
91	Alamogordo, NM	<p>1. Holloman AFB- hosts the Stealth F-117A fighters.</p> <p>2. White Sands National Monument http://www.nps.gov/whsa/index.htm Fascinating place! You will be asking, "Where's the ocean?" Great place for landscape photography.</p> <p>3. New Mexico Museum of Space History http://www.nmspacemuseum.org/index.php - built on a hill overlooking White Sands Missile Range and the city of Alamogordo. Missiles and stuff on display outside and a history of space exploration and travel in the museum. You pay a small fee, ride an elevator to the top of a 5 story museum and descend by walking around and down to the bottom floor and really get a wonderful education of space flights.</p>
92	Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico	<p>http://www.nps.gov/band/index.htm http://wikitravel.org/en/Bandelier_National_Monument</p> <p>For directions, go to above links. Great place to see and photograph Indian ruins, wildlife, and scenic landscapes. Years ago when my parents and I were there, we corralled a young porcupine, turned it over and scratched its belly!</p>
93	Carlsbad Caverns National Park 3225 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220 575.785.2232	<p>http://www.nps.gov/cave/index.htm</p> <p>"White's City", NM. Just into NM from TX (way out west). Visit the cave and in the evening as the sun goes down you can watch 600,000 + Mexican Free-tailed bats leave the cave. We got there late in the afternoon and were able to only go through the "Big Room" tour and not the whole walking tour which takes hours. If you take a camera, have an extra strong flash!</p>
94	FLORIDA	<p>I could present a whole paper on Florida. To be developed more in the future. But for now, look up the Florida Everglades, Ding Darling WMR, and Florida birding locations. A trip to NASA is very much worth your time there.</p>
95	Iceland	<p>http://www.iceland.is/ http://www.icelandreview.com/</p> <p>Carol and I went to Iceland on a photography group trip in July of 2011. We came back with 99 Gigabytes of media! The trip was with NANPA (North America Nature Photographer's Association) and it was well worth the money spent! Go to the above links to see Iceland's gateway for travel, news, and visiting there. We definitely want to return there.</p>
96	Lincoln, NM (98)	<p>http://www.southernnewmexico.com/Articles/Southeast/Lincoln/index.html</p> <p>The above link is to general information about places in Lincoln Co., New Mexico you can visit.</p> <p>Lincoln, is a small "time forgotten" town east of Ruidoso NM where they have a lot of "Billy the Kid" historical exhibits. The town is where the famous "Lincoln Co. War" was going on between landowners. Great historical stuff.</p>

97	Living Desert Zoo & Gardens SP (NM) 1504 Miehl Dr. Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221 505.887.5516	http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/prd/LivingDesert.htm Just 1 mi. n. of the city of Carlsbad, NM. Wonderful, up close viewing of native TX and NM wildlife. Their prairie dog city is worth the trip. They have the healthiest mountain lion I have ever seen. Hawks, owls, eagles, javalina, elk, buffalo, snakes, a badger, and plants. Beautiful. The prairie dog city should be visited in April when the little ones are coming out of their dens; but you will fall in love with them and can watch them for hours.
98	Military Museums (Mostly aviation)	http://www.aero-web.org/museums/museums.htm Mostly aviation type museums, I discovered this web site when looking for the Dyess AFB (Abilene, TX) static display of aircraft. Did you know Texas has 36 aviation museums? I've been to a number of museums at Air Force bases across this country and most are accessible to civilians. Check the home page and phone the museum before you go.
99	Multnomah Falls and the Columbia River Gorge, Oregon	http://www.oregon.com/attractions/multnomah_falls http://www.crgva.org/ There are a number of falls in Oregon. Multnomah falls is 611 feet high and very picturesque. You can follow a trail to the top of the falls. The Clumbia River Gorge drive has many places for photography. Check the Oregon.com home page for other locations in that State. The coast drive from Portland is awesome.
100	National Solar Observatory 3010 Coronal Loop Sunspot, NM 88349 575.434.7000	http://www.nso.edu/ National Solar Observatory on the top of the mountain there. You can get some great pictures of the White Sands Missile Range and also have a great scenic drive just to get there. The observatory tracks the sun and you can watch live action television shots of the sun.
101	Providence Canyon SP Georgia 229.838.6870 800.864.7275	http://www.gastateparks.org/providencecanyon Known as "Georgia's Little Grand Canyon" and you will agree when you visit. Address: 8930 Canyon Rd., Lumpkin, GA 31815
102	Roswell, NM	http://www.roswellnm.org/ We just spent the night there. Didn't see any aliens, though almost every store has some caricature of an alien in their store logo. I think I saw somewhere that there are 6 museums in town. We plan to return and spend more time there.
103	Sitting Bull Falls, NM 49 miles southwest of Carlsbad via US 285, NM 137 & FR 276	http://www.publiclands.org/explore/site.php?id=193 If you go to the above web site, you'll see what this beautiful place has to offer in the way of photography, camping, hiking, etc. We took a side trip to the falls when we were headed toward Dog Canyon in Guadalupe Mountains Ntl. Park.

