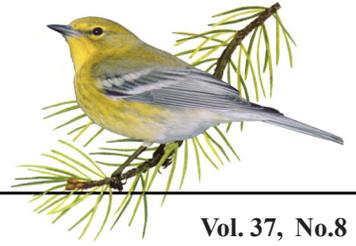


# The Pine Warbler



December 2016

Vol. 37, No.8

## Heart Happenings



### Help Endangered Animals Ridley Turtle

December is the time to say “thanks” to everyone who makes Piney Woods such a great organization. Kathy and the entire board plan activities and programs and make sure everything gets done. (Maryanne and Lou always bring snacks and make sure the kitchen gets cleaned up! Al, Deborah and others grab brooms and make the room neat after each meeting.) And we also appreciate everyone who brings cookies, cake and wonderful treats!

A super big thanks to Roy who quickly became a PWWS member, a board member and a great newsletter editor! He’s a willing and knowledgeable volunteer who took over without missing a word! We are going to miss you, Roy, and your charming wife. Please feel free to send articles and photos from your new address!

In closing, I’m sure you are reading the appeals being sent on the Internet by almost all of the conservation organizations. Sierra

*cont. on page 2*

## December Program & Potluck

Our program this month will be a Christmas Potluck gathering featuring a showing of the DVD First Flight - A Mother Hummingbird’s Story, based on the book by Noriko and Dan Carroll. Bring a dish (salad, main, or dessert) to share with your fellow PWWS members as well as your plates, cups, and utensils. PWWS will provide tea, water, and ice.

The book and DVD are available at ‘Just For The Birds’ nature shop (209 Main St., Spring, 281-288-9019) and at Amazon.com, described thusly:



More than 320 species of hummingbirds inhabit North, Central, and South America. Seventeen species nest in the United States alone, and seven of those inhabit the Las Vegas area. But only one Black-chinned Hummingbird chose to nest on the back porch of Las Vegas residents Noriko and Don Carroll. When Noriko and Don Carroll moved from New York City to suburban Las Vegas, they found a tiny nest on a clothesline on their back porch. As the Carrolls settled into their new home, so did a female hummingbird they named Honey. For weeks, the Carrolls watched in fascination as they witnessed an event few humans are privy to—the birth and growth of two hummingbirds. “First Flight” is the beautifully photographed story of Honey and her two chicks, Ray and Zen. In over 50 stunning, full-color close-ups, it captures the grace, the beauty, and the simultaneous strength and fragility of one of nature’s tiniest birds. Professional photographer Don Carroll’s images of his tiny housemates are woven throughout with Noriko’s charming narrative describing the mother bird and her developing brood. Not just for bird enthusiasts, “First Flight” is a magical mix of hummingbird field guide, personal story, and new life taking flight. Readers will be captivated by the

*cont. on page 2*



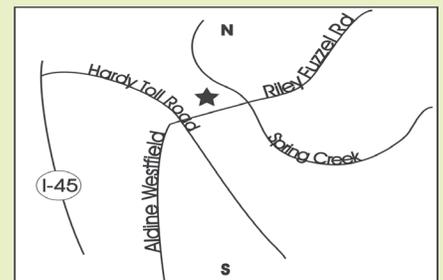
### Big Stone Lodge - Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road

PWWS meetings are held at the Big Stone Lodge at the new Dennis Johnston County Park at 709 Riley Fuzzel Road.

**December 14th  
Social 6:30pm**

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.



*HEART from page 1*

Club, Earth Justice, NRDC, Audubon Society. Environmental Defense Fund and others are all asking their members to be aware of possible future changes in government policies that may threaten air, water, wildlife and all of our natural resources. But it takes more than just reading and listening; we must speak up for the voiceless.

*December Program from page 1*

inherent drama as it unfolds in miniature, and they'll cheer as babies Ray and Zen make their own first flights out into a bright new world.

Please join us on Wednesday December 14 at the Big Stone Lodge in Dennis Johnston Park, 709 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, TX, for a wonderful evening! Social time starts at 6:30 PM and the meeting starts at 7 PM.



**Up-coming Programs**

Our January Presentation will be by Carlos Hernandez and will be the account of their adventures in Europe by rail. Carlos told us:

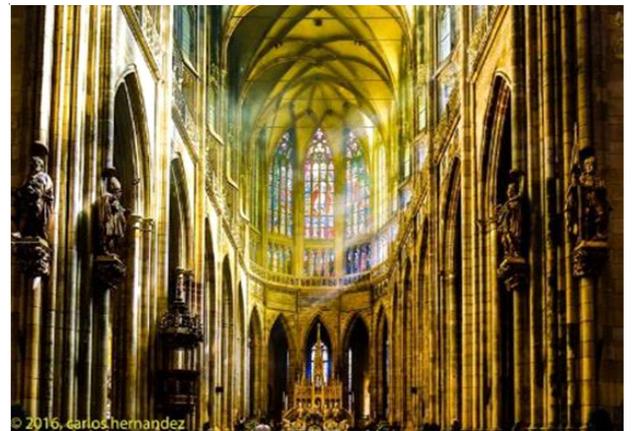
Last October my wife and I took advantage of the EURAIL PASS program that allow us to travel across Europe with first class tickets at reduced prices. We visited 6 countries and 8 cities in four weeks by ourselves. The hotels were booked through [booking.com](http://booking.com) saving us tons of money. It took us six months of planning to design the itinerary. Many hours watching boring videos by Rick Steves on you tube.

I came back with over 7000 pictures. No, I will not show them all. Traveling by ourselves increase the productivity. We saw and photographed more than traveling with a group. The goal was to visit as many reformed and catholic churches through



Europe. Historical places and art museums. Shoot many night pictures. And tasted the house wine of small cafes.

I will briefly give an account of the photography techniques for those interested on travel photography (see some examples below).



Our February, 2017, program will be BIRDING COLORADO presented by Brad and Noma Macurda. They described their program: From the highest mountains to the endless plains, the state of Colorado hosts an amazing diversity of birds. These range from the lark bunting of the plains to the ptarmigan of the peaks. Here, the birds of the east give way to the birds of the west and 499 species of birds have been recorded in Colorado. Travel with us to see these avian treasures and the habitats in which they live.



## Needed Species for Christmas Bird Count By Claire Moore

One interesting feature of a Christmas Bird Count is what bird species are considered “rare”. The determination of “rare” is made individually by count. If a particular species has not been seen at least twice in the last ten counts, then it is considered rare.

For our Spring Creek CBC, there are several surprising species that are rare for us this year and require a brief write-up with details. Some examples include:

Greater White-Fronted Goose, Ross’s Goose,  
Ruddy Duck, either Night-heron, Merlin, Winter Wren,  
Marsh Wren, and Eastern Towhee

Our Spring Creek CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, this year. The six areas included in this count are centered roughly at I45 and Rayford / Sawdust and extend 7.5 miles in all directions. This 15-mile diameter circle makes up the Spring Creek CBC.

Six teams will spread out over the count circle attempting to count all the birds we can find. The teams and the areas they will cover are listed in the table below. Please email Claire Moore at [cdmoore3i@gmail.com](mailto:cdmoore3i@gmail.com) if you are able to join one of these teams.

• <b>CBC Team</b>	<b>Areas Covered</b>
• The Woodlands – lead by David Henderson	Montgomery County Preserve, Eagle nest site, Lake Woodlands North, Lake Woodlands South, Bear Branch Lake (Lakeside Park), George Mitchell Nature Preserve – South
• ExxonMobil Houston Campus (Springwoods)	Meet at 7 a.m. on the ExxonMobil Houston Campus at 22777 Springwoods Village Parkway, Spring TX 77389. [Pre-authorization to enter ExxonMobil campus is required.]
• Al Barr’s team	Will cover the area on the east side of I45/North Freeway up to San Jacinto River including Mercer Arboretum, Pundt Park, and Spring Creek Greenway parks.
• Claire Moore & Damien Carrey’s team	Covers the southwest portion of the count circle beginning at Hooks airport parking lot. In addition to Hooks airport, this team will also bird Doerre Road, David Klein’s property on Spring-Cypress Rd, Windrose subdivision including Eagle Lake, WCID 132 Water Conservation Demonstration Garden/Park, etc.
• Jones State Forest – lead by Debbie Layer	Will cover many areas of Jones State Forest located at FM 1488 west of I45/North Freeway.
• East of San Jacinto – lead by Kathleen & Alex Ybanez	Northeast section of the CBC circle -- east of San Jacinto River.



## December MNW Horticulture Newsletter By Kathy Dodge

**Planting** - Deadhead and feed cool season color and vegetables. Continue to plant cool weather color: pansies, snapdragons, and cyclamen.

**Water** - Maintain watering on newly planted seeds and transplants and deep-water trees and shrubs. A well-hydrated plant holds up to frosts and freezes better than a drought stressed plant.

**Lawns** - Mow fallen leaves with a mulching mower. When lawn can’t take more leaves, add to flower beds. When beds are full of mulched leaves, add to the compost bin.

**Poinsettias** - Water well until soil is saturated and allow to dry between waterings. Apply water to soil and not the foliage or blooms. Keep away from drafts.

**Birds** - Don’t forget to keep seed feeders full and fresh water in bird baths. Put out suet cakes — the extra protein helps keep our feathered friends warm in the winter months.

**Freezes** - Have frost cloth on hand to cover tender plants in case of freezing weather. Wrap plants completely down to ground level. The less drafts that move under the frost cloth, the better.



Yellow-crowned night heron (Everglades, Florida, photo by Roy Woodward)

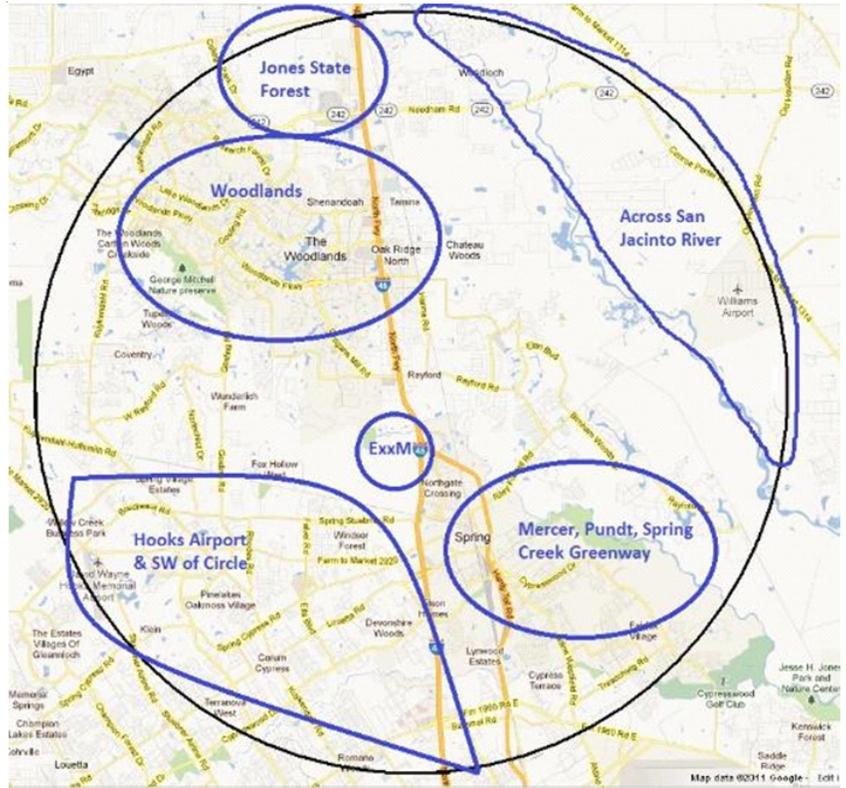
## WE NEED HELP

ROY WOODWARD, OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR, IS MOVING TO SOUTH DAKOTA IN JANUARY AND HAS HAD TO RESIGN. CAROLE FRASCELLA, AFTER MANY YEARS AS OUR SECRETARY, HAS ALSO HAD TO RESIGN. THE REST OF YOUR OFFICERS HAVE KINDLY SAID THEY WOULD STAY ON, EVEN THOUGH MANY HAVE SERVED FOR MANY YEARS.

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL GROUP BUT IF WE DO NOT HAVE VOLUNTEERS TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONTINUE AS THE GREAT GROUP WE KNOW AND LOVE. PLEASE TALK TO ME ABOUT THESE POSITIONS. THEY DO NOT TAKE MUCH OF YOUR TIME AND IT IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

PLEASE CONTACT KATHY COWARD,  
[justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net),

FOR INFORMATION. THANK YOU.



Approximate areas covered by the six teams counting the Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count.



### Board of Directors

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 1st Vice President.....Open  
 2nd Vice President.....Claire Moore  
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### Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline.....1 866 TURTLE5 (887-8535)

The Pine Warbler is published monthly, September through May, by The Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Inc. and Copperhead Publishing.

For membership information write to us at P.O. Box 189, Spring Texas 77383-0189. Annual Dues: \$15.00 per household.



Publisher: Copperhead Publishing  
[Publish1@copperheadfarms.net](mailto:Publish1@copperheadfarms.net) or [jdfagm@swbell.net](mailto:jdfagm@swbell.net)  
 P.O. Box 131776, The Woodlands, TX 77393

Please submit any articles you'd like considered for the PWWS Newsletter, The Pine Warbler, to Kathy Coward, [justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:justforthebirds@sbcglobal.net).

**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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# 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):
<i>Please deliver my Pine Warbler via</i> <i>E-mail</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Post</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Both</i> <input type="checkbox"/>			
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 newsletter</i>			
New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoining <input type="checkbox"/>			