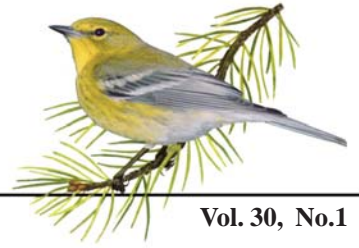


The Pine Warbler



January 2010

Vol. 30, No.1

Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count

The Spring Creek Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 19 and was a big success. The owling group of 8 adults and 3 children started their counting at 5:00 am at Pundt Park and saw one Screech Owl and one Great-horned Owl. (They were disappointed in not seeing a Barred Owl.)

A total of 32 observers in the field during the day were divided into three major groups. The Woodlands group and Jones Forest group combined their efforts and had 11 observers. The Mercer group had 11 observers, and the Hooks Airport group had 4 observers.

This year a total of 85 species were observed. Several species seen in the past were not observed on this count. They were Lesser Scaup, White-winged Dove, Inca Dove, Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Finch. Two new species were seen and are awaiting verification. They were the Tree Swallow and Western Kingbird. Unusual birds this year included a flock of 37 American White Pelicans flying over and a high count of 3 Bald Eagles in the Woodlands as well as 3 American Woodcocks.

The number of species seen in the count circle this year compares with previous years. The highest number of species seen in the last 11 years was 94 seen in 2000 and the lowest number of species seen of 79 in 2003 and 2004.

After a hard day of counting, the countdown dinner was held at Spring Creek Barbeque attended by 15 hungry people. Piney Woods Wildlife Society wishes to thank all of those who participated in this year's count.



Pineywoods Wildlife January Field Trip

Pineywoods Wildlife Society (PWWS) members will enjoy a field trip to Katy Prairie on Saturday, January 30, 2010. With over 300 species on their bird checklist and over 100 species of other wildlife this trip is sure to please. The Katy Prairie Conser-

vancy (KPC), founded in 1992, is currently protecting almost 18,000 acres of prairie and has a long term goal of protecting 50,000 acres. Winter birds that members of PWWS can hope to see include numerous sparrows, waterfowl, various raptors and possibly Bald Eagles.

Directions: Those interested in participating are to meet at the
cont. on page 3



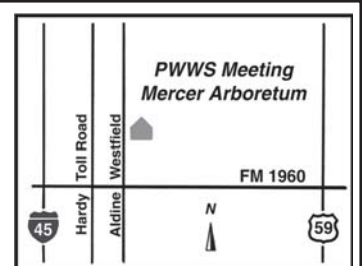
An Update on Costa Rica

**January
Presentation**
*Presented by Carlos
Hernandez*

The Piney Woods Wildlife Society January 19 meeting will feature longtime program director Carlos Hernandez. Since retiring from Southwestern Bell, Carlos has traveled to his home country of Costa Rica more often. He has become quite concerned about development and loss of habitat of the many beautiful birds he has photographed so often. Carlos will tell PWWS what is happening in Costa Rica and what can be done about it. Members and visitors don't want to miss this outstanding program by one of the area's finest photographers.

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

**Mercer
Arboretum**
22307 Aldine-Westfield



Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky! -Jane Taylor





Heart Happenings

2010, here we come! We already have a special day to show support for a new ocean policy being developed by the president's National Ocean Policy Task Force. January 13, 2010, is Wear Blue For Oceans Day.

Currently, our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources are managed by more than 20 federal agencies and administered through a web of more than 140 different and often conflicting laws and regulations. This complex legal system often results in inadequate management of public and private activities, such as pollution control, fishing and shipping. A strong national policy would help to untangle the regulatory jumble by guiding and coordinating the work of all government agencies and their activities affecting ocean resource management.

On June 12, 2009, President Obama created a 23-member Ocean Policy Task Force to develop a first ever National Policy for our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. From August through November 2009 the Task Force hosted six public hearings around the nation (Alaska, the West Coast, the East Coast, the Pacific Islands, the Gulf Coast, and the Great Lakes) to gather public input on the need for a unifying National Policy for oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. Public support at all of these hearings was overwhelmingly positive and supportive. For more information, go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov> website.

The Task Force's final report to the President should be submitted near the end of January 2010, and they need to hear from all of us who have something to say about the oceans, coastline, the Gulf and the Great Lakes. Take action and Wear Blue for Oceans Day on January 13th! More information is available at <http://www.wearblueforoceans.com>

SEA TURTLE SATURDAY

You haven't seen any news releases about Sea Turtle Saturday which has been held annually for the last two years at the Houston Zoo. Well, we're taking a break. We had hoped to have the new documentary to replace "The Heartbreak Turtle" ready but as we went along, we found more information to harness and more interviews to be done. Of course, acquiring and using more information will cost more money. So, we will not have an official Sea Turtle Saturday at the Houston Zoo this spring, but we may have a smaller one at Galveston presented by the

Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council. A number of large donations have been made for the documentary and I'm optimistic about getting it done. The name of anyone making a significant donation will be shown at the end of the film as a sponsor. We are also looking for an interesting name for the new film. Just send any suggestions along to Carole@seaturtles.org.

East Texas Nature

To Be or Not To Be

*By Diane Cabiness,
Texas Master Naturalist*

*"We live thick and are in each other's way,
and stumble over one another." -Thoreau*

My husband and I built a house on some acreage with the intent of privacy and nature as our companions. No doubt nature is vital to our spirituality and saneness but to exclude humans from this equation was a big mistake. What's the point of knowledge if you keep it to yourself? It did not take me long to learn that it is in sharing what we learn that makes us so very human.

Henry David Thoreau, like the Poverello of Assisi, professed a great love for nature and animals. Henry David Thoreau embodies the American spirit of liberty and independence. But Thoreau's affection for God's creation was marred by his animosity toward human beings. "It is pleasant to meet the dry yellow-colored fruit of the poison dogwood," he wrote. "It has so much character relatively to man." St. Francis loved all nature because it reminded him of his fraternity with all creation. Thoreau's love of nature separated him from his fellow creatures. Those who belong to Piney Woods Wildlife Society and/or members of the Texas Master Naturalist program have learned that our affection for animals and plants should not in any way compromise our great love for our fellow human beings. That is why we volunteer in various ways in the above organizations for various projects or positions within these groups. If you are not involved in a great community organization consider PWWWS or the TMN program in 2010. I promise you, your life will never be same. Volunteering and sharing will lead you on the path to where you are needed and are meant to be—a whole integrated human being.

"The world is here in all its splendor. We need only to 'clean our doors' a bit and allow a free flow from the world to enter us. And in turn, with undisturbed perception, we can enter a world as potentially rich as the whole of human heritage, where the



Playa Grande Refuge leatherback sea turtle nest area, photo by Carlos Hernandez

familiar becomes the unfamiliar, the ordinary the miraculous” (Acclimatizing: A Personal and Reflective Approach to a Natural Relationship by Steve Van Matre). Sign up today- we need you.

“Words are windows through which things disclose themselves.”
- Archbishop Allen Vigneron

Please share your nature experiences with me at dianecabinessplants@consolidated.net

Field trip from page 1

Katy Prairie Conservancy Field Office located at 31950 Hebert Rd. Waller, TX 77484-5300. From Mercer Arboretum turn left on Aldine Westfield to FM 1960. Take a right on FM 1960 to I45. Turn onto I45 south and continue down to Beltway 8 West. Turn onto Beltway 8 west and continue to HWY 290 west. Follow HWY 290 west for approximately 20 miles to Badkte Rd. exit. Turn left onto Badkte Rd. continue right on to Badka Rd. and follow for approx. 4.5 miles. Turn left onto Mathis Rd. and follow for approximately 4 miles, where Mathis turns into Berry Ln. and follow for approx. 1 mile to Pendick Rd. Take a left on Pendick Rd. and continue on to Hebert Rd. Take a right on Hebert Rd. and the KPC field office is on the immediate left. Birders are to meet at the KPC Field Office at 8:30 a.m.



PWWS needs a new education chairperson, someone with energy, enthusiasm, and resourcefulness. The challenge is how to “hook” more people into protecting our environment. Contact Al Barr, president.

Longtime PWWS member Floyd Stigler passed away on December 28th. He and his wife joined PWWS in 1982. Mr. Stigler was also a volunteer worker at Mercer Arboretum. He will most certainly be missed.

**2010 PWWS Dues are Due
January 1**
Please renew your membership today

Membership dues for 2010 are due on January 1 so please take a few moments to fill out the enclosed renewal form, write your check, and return them to:

Piney Woods Wildlife Society
P.O. Box 189
Spring, TX 77383-0189

Also, donations to the Piney Woods Wildlife Society are always welcomed and appreciated.

Members who joined in the last quarter of 2009 are paid up through 2010.

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:	
Additional Contribution \$ _____		Piney Woods Wildlife Society	
Total \$ _____		P.O. Box 189	
*Per Household - Includes <i>The Pine Warbler</i> newsletter		Spring, TX 77383-0189	
New <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	Rejoining <input type="checkbox"/>	



Piney Woods Wildlife Society
 P.O. Box 189
 Spring, Texas 77383-0189

Piney Woods Wildlife Society Field Trips

Katy Prairie
Saturday, January 30, 2010



2008 Board of Directors

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Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline.....281444-6204



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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.

Publisher: Allison Marks
Publish1@copperheadfarms.net or
jdfagm@swbell.net
 P.O. Box 131776 Spring, 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 resonded to with in 3 days. If you do not recieve a response please call 832 717-3276. All articles are subject to approval by the PWWS Board.

Please send new address changes and corrections to Mike Drummond at drummond@thedrummonds.com and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.

Visit: <http://pineywoodswildlifesociety.org>