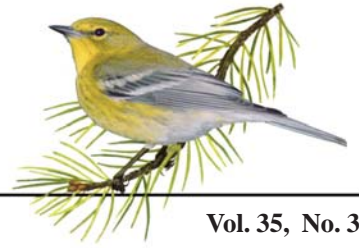


The Pine Warbler



March, 2015

Vol. 35, No. 3

Notes:

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge by Paul Gregg



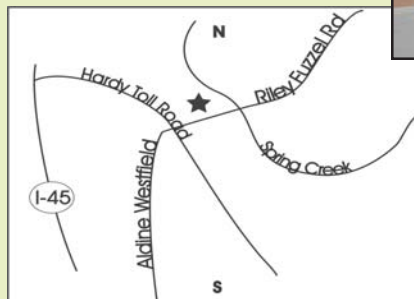
March 17th Program Butterflies with Farrar Stockton



Farrar Stockton will present our March 17 program about the life cycle of several local butterflies and local moth species plus the Monarch winter migration to Mexico.

Farrar has been a member of PWWS since 1983 and has volunteered to serve on the PWWS Board, the Outdoor Nature Club, and BEST (Butterfly Enthusiasts of South East Texas) for many years. He retired from Chase in 2002 after 27 years of service and now works part time at the Museum of Natural Science helping with the permanent butterfly and beetle collection. Farrar's main interests are family and friends, nature, and watching Houston's sporting events. (The charming lady in the Monarch photo is our good friend and PWWS member Adele Bennett.)

March 17
Social 6:30pm
Program 7:00pm



Big Stone Lodge
Dennis Johnston Park
709 Riley Fuzzel Road

**Don't Miss the Photography Exhibit at the
Houston Museum of Natural Science and Bird-watching at the Zoo!**

Ringed
Neck Duck(s)



Black Bellied Whistling Duck

Domestic Swan Goose



Rock
Pigeon



Domestic Swan Goose



Nutria



Paul Gregg reminds us not to miss the “Wildlife Photographer of the Year” exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science featuring 100 awe-inspiring images, from fascinating animal behavior to breathtaking wild landscapes, “*Wildlife Photographer of the Year*” harnesses the power of photography to promote the discovery, understanding and responsible enjoyment of the natural world.” This exhibition will be on display from January 30 to May 31, 2015.

So, what about the attached photos “outside” the zoo? After Paul and Carol went to the museum, they decided to take advantage of such a beautiful day (can we say, “Indian Summer”) and go to the zoo. Paul writes: “While walking toward the zoo entrance, we couldn’t help but watch how busy the wildlife was around the Hermann Park Lake. Parents and grandparents were escorting youngsters around the edges of the lake giving the tots bread crumbs and other feed to throw to the pigeons and ducks. We sat on pigeon-poop-free concrete steps and watched the action as hundreds of pigeons would flock near almost anyone who was thought to be a food source. People were floating around the lake in foot-peddle boats; joggers were running on pathways; outdoor tables were filled with people eating hamburgers and fries. A highlight for me was when I looked out on the lake and saw a nutria swimming in our direction. Another one followed it and they had a little tussle right in front of us. One’s nose had a red spot on it, maybe a nip from letting the other nutria get too close. In one photo you can almost see how long their teeth are.

The domestic swan geese would challenge people who got too near them, and one young man survived a bite on his shoe

from a charging goose. We think the black-bellied whistling ducks are pretty and the park has a good population of them. I don’t usually photograph pigeons, but some got so close and the sunlight was causing their plumage to really put their iridescence on display. One photo of ring-necked ducks shows them in the water in a “V” formation. It seemed one was calling their meeting to order, but can you identify the feathered individual who crashed their meeting?”

**Friends of Texas Wildlife’s
New Bald Eagle Flight Cage
Submitted by Claire Moore**

Friends of Texas Wildlife (FTWL) is a group of trained and permitted volunteers who provide care for injured, displaced and orphaned wildlife in Montgomery and counties east, north & west of Harris County. FTWL supports the rehabilitation of native Texas wildlife and promotes co-existence of wildlife and people through education.



Young Greater Roadrunner



Young Red-Tailed Hawk

PRUNING - Pruning of evergreen and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed this month. But, prune spring flowering shrubs (forsythia, quince, azaleas, spirea, etc) only after they finish blooming, if needed. Hydrangeas also bloom on prior year's growth, so prune after they bloom.

FERTILIZING - After camellias and azaleas finish blooming, fertilize them with 2 to 3 pounds of azalea-camellia fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area.

Begin fertilizing roses every 4 to 6 weeks from now until September. You also need to begin a spray program for controlling blackspot on roses. Uncontrolled blackspot will defoliate most hybrid tea, grandiflora and floribunda roses, causing them to decline in vigor.

Fertilize vegetables about a month after growth starts with nitrogen fertilizer.

Fruit and pecan trees should be fertilized this month with nitrogen applied in the area beneath the ends of the branches, never against the trunk. Shrubs and annual flowerbeds can be fertilized with a complete, balanced fertilizer. Slow-release formulations, though slightly more expensive, feed your plants over a longer period of time. Often the same type of fertilizer recommended for use on the lawn can be used in the landscape.

Watch out for aphids that rapidly build up on tender new growth. They can be controlled with a sharp stream of water, insecticidal soap or other insecticides (be sure to read the product label to determine whether the infested plants are included on the label).

Happy Gardening and Enjoy Yourself in Your Gardens!

Firespike

The Firespike is a plant which solves the problem of most landscapers who have a shady area in which very few plants will grow, much less bloom.



Firespike will not only grow in the shade but plants will provide a magnificent display of practically glow-in-the-dark red bloom spikes which attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Firespike (*Odontonema strictum*) is a shade loving, tender perennial with deep green, glossy leaves. It will be grown for its beautiful foliage in the spring and summer. This beautiful foliage provides a startling contrast to its fire-red late season blooms. Its brilliant spikes of deep red flowers in late summer and fall are cherished by hummingbirds and butterflies. It is one of the most versatile plants and definitely the best blooming plants for shade conditions.

WANTED: NEW VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICITY!

After an unknown number of years, Carole Allen is stepping aside from the Vice-President role. It's a fun job so give it some thought! Carole will continue writing HEART HAPPENINGS but a new officer with new ideas and new energy is needed!



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.

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jdfagm@swbell.net



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>

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