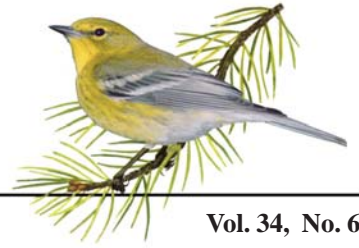


The Pine Warbler



September, 2014

Vol. 34, No. 6

Notes:

Welcome Home to the Beathards!

Mike Beathard's company decided to bring him and Margarita home cutting their assignment to Turkey short. They are now back in Kingwood and their furniture has arrived, too. Margarita commented that she is having a difficult time re-adjusting to being back in the US since their lives in Turkey were much more simple.

On the return trip, they toured Greece and Margarita wrote: "Our experience in Athens was like walking into the pages of a history book; ancient monuments rise in the heart of the city such as the Parthenon and Acropolis; the landmarks and works of art of one the world's oldest cities could be found throughout: by the metro station, on the boulevards, in parks and plazas."

The last photos came after our May newsletter, but they are all so beautiful, we are including a few in our September issue. Hopefully, we'll see more in a future program! Welcome back, Beathards!



Next page

First Fall Meeting is September 16th! Social 6:30pm, Program 7:00pm

Our program will be given by Al Barr, our favorite naturalist and environmental education teacher who has opened the door to the enjoyment of nature for thousands of students. Although retired from a classroom at Spring High School, Al can be found giving speeches and leading field trips at the Jesse Jones County Park on FM 1960 West. He has also served as PWWs president and board member.

On September 16, we will learn about the natural history of Odonata, damselflies and dragonflies. We'll discover how to tell them apart and learn their different habitats. Al is known for his great photography and as he points out the characteristics of these fascinating tiny creatures, we will also learn his camera techniques. Don't miss this excellent program!

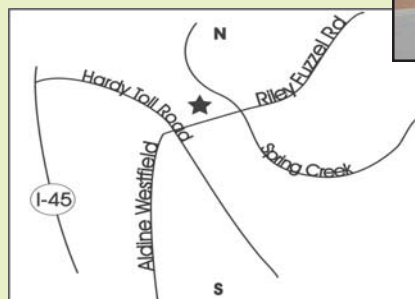


Halloween Pennant



American Rubyspot

Big Stone Lodge Dennis Johnston Park 709 Riley Fuzzel Road





with nesting numbers gradually increasing from the late 1980's through 2009. In contrast to the continued recovery predicted by population models, the upward trend in nesting abruptly changed in 2010, and has been replaced by downward trends in several recent years. As examples, nesting numbers for 2013 and 2014 nesting seasons were approximately 25% and 45% (respectively) lower than nesting numbers in 2009. Potential factors that could be responsible for the loss of the upward recovery trend, and recent decline in nesting will be addressed in upcoming meetings of the Binational Kemp's Ridley Working Group, the Binational Kemp's Ridley Recovery Team, and at the Second International Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Symposium to be held in November 2014."

My editorial was published on August 9 which explains much about the trouble for the ridleys:

Are you ready to tell the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, the official sea turtle of Texas, goodbye? That's not a far-fetched notion. Their future is uncertain if the federal government continues to push them toward extinction. A little history lesson offers context for those not familiar with the ridleys' struggle. In the early 1980s, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, often called the "Heart-break Turtle," was very close to extinction with only a few hundred females nesting on the northeast Gulf Coast of Mexico and in Texas. Unwilling to allow this small sea turtle to join the passenger pigeon, the Carolina parakeet and many other species in extinction, the U.S. government began making efforts to save it.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1981 allocated money to the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, funding the zoo's support to the Mexican nesting beaches of the Kemp's ridleys. After that, 2,000 eggs were brought each year to the Padre Island National Seashore as a gift from the Mexican people. The eggs were incubated there and then hatchlings were moved to the Galveston sea turtle facility of the National Marine Fisheries Service facility, where they were raised for about 10 months. Hatchlings were then released into the Gulf. Public support quickly forced the Marine Fisheries Service to promulgate regulations that forced the shrimp industry to use turtle excluder devices to prevent sea turtles from drowning in shrimp trawls. The trawls were widely believed to have contributed to the turtles' decline.

The Bi-National Recovery Plan for the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, originally agreed upon by the Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and Mexico's environment ministry in 1984, asked for a number of successful conservation practices to be continued until there is an average population of 40,000 nesters per season over a six-year period. The recovery plan includes a list of "Actions Needed," many of which had helped the Kemp's ridleys' population increase exponentially through 2009. They include common-sense recommendations that need to be continued, such as requiring shrimp fishermen to use turtle-excluder devices. Unfortunately, within the past few years, U.S. government agencies have withdrawn support for many of the policies that had set this endangered sea turtle on the path to recovery.

Heart Happenings

News about the Kemp's ridleys is not good and really hard to believe. This information came from the Gladys Porter Zoo whose director, Pat Burchfield, has coordinated work with the Mexican government at the ridley nesting sites on the Mexican Gulf Coast.



"Abrupt Setback for the Recovery of the Critically Endangered Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle"

The Kemp's ridley was the most endangered sea turtle in the world and was on the brink of extinction during the mid 1980's. It inhabits near shore waters throughout the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Coast of the U.S., and its primary nesting ground is a 40 km stretch of beach in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. Intense and long-term conservation efforts by a binational coalition of Mexican and U.S. federal, state, and non-governmental organizations initiated a recovery of this species,



2013/14 Board of Directors

President.....Kathy Coward
1st Vice President.....Carole Allen
2nd Vice President.....Claire Moore
3rd Vice President.....Carlos Hernandez
Secretary.....Carole Frascella
Treasurer.....Jim Lacey
Director.....Terry Wilson
DirectorJim Springer
DirectorFarrar Stockton
Past President.....Al Barr

Numbers of Interest

Heart Hotline..... 281 444-6204



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 or
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>