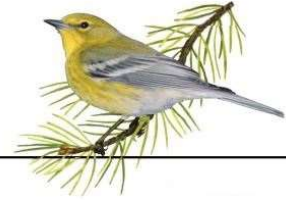


The Pine Warbler



August 2017



Potluck, Photo Share & Plant Exchange

Join us on Saturday, August 19th, at 7 p.m. for our annual summer pot luck gathering. We'll also have photo share time (limit 15) and a plant exchange. We will meet at the regular location at the Olde Oaks MUD Building on TC Jester just

south of Cypresswood Drive (16030 T C Jester Blvd, Houston, TX 77068).

Bring a pot luck dish to share and catch up with everyone's summer news. If you have pictures you'd like to show the group, bring up to 15 in jpeg format (Resolution: 1024 longest side) on a flash drive. If you have plants to exchange, pot them up and bring them to the meeting.

Martin Migration Madness

Join the Houston Audubon Society at their Purple Martin Roost Watch Party on Saturday, August 26th, at 7:30 p.m. Watch as hundreds of thousands of purple martins come into their night roost.



Meet up with HAS at 17535 Tomball Pkwy, Houston, TX. 77064. This location is in front of Fitness Unlimited on North Gessner at 249 -- just across Highway 249 from Willowbrook Mall. Check their [web site](#)

<http://houstonaudubon.org/programs/all-age-groups/purple-martins.html> just in case there are any updates.

New Piney Woods Web Site

Check out the new Piney Woods web site now up and running. We have moved to a new platform with similar content. Our web site address is still

www.pineywoodswildlifesociety.org. Also, you'll notice that this newsletter is looking different as well. Our sincere thanks goes out to our newsletter designer, Allison, who did such a great job for ten years with our newsletter!

If you have suggestions or questions, feel free to reply to this newsletter and send it in.

BALLOONS ARE DANGEROUS!

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Really?

I can remember in grade school how we all attached notes to balloons before letting them go in hopes that the balloon would be found by someone far, far away. It was exciting to think that maybe someone from New York or California would find it and contact me. It never happened. I've been to weddings and graduations where helium balloons were let go as part of the celebration. What I didn't know is the enormous amount of damage these balloons can do to our environment. I know now. If you think about it, helium balloons are nothing more than floating litter. Would you throw a deflated balloon with string on the ground? Most people would not. It makes for ugly trash especially on our beaches.

According to an article in February of this year on the Huffington Post website, balloons are among the top 3 most harmful pollutants threatening marine wildlife but they also harm domestic animals such as cattle, dogs and sheep.

Seabirds are most at risk. Deflated balloons are mistaken for jellyfish or squid and are eaten by the birds. Not able to digest the balloon, it will clog the bird's stomach and the bird will eventually die of starvation. Choking is also a threat.

The ribbons or strings that are attached to the balloon are a hazard to birds because they can become entangled in them when the balloon lands in a tree. They may also use the materials to build a nest causing a risk factor for the hatchlings.

In its natural state, latex is biodegradable but when processed for balloons and treated with chemicals, plasticizers and dyes, it can no longer be classified as natural. It can take a balloon from 6 months to 4 years to decompose. Think of the damage it can cause in that time. Shiny mylar balloons can take even longer.

How can you help? Explain the dangers of releasing helium balloons to your children. Don't plan balloon releases at any of your celebrations and if you

know of someone who is planning this, please discourage them from doing so.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a non-profit organization located in Houston. We provide emergency care for Texas wildlife and offer educational and training programs for adults and children focused on wildlife and the environment. Your donations are greatly appreciated. www.twrcwildlifecenter.org



Seabird with Balloon around Neck

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PWWS web site is at <http://www.pineywoodsnaaturesociety.org>
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The Pine Warbler is published monthly, September through May, by The Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Inc.

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

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

Please send all new address changes and any corrections to cdmoore3@gmail.com (Claire Moore) and add PWWS to the subject line. Thank you.

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