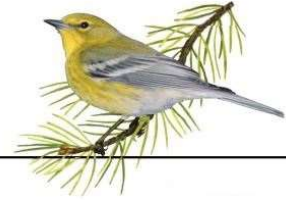


The Pine Warbler



September 2017



Farrar to Speak on Tanzania

Farrar Stockton will give the September PWWS program about his trip to Tanzania during the migration season in March 2014. Farrar will show images of mammals, birds, butterflies, landscapes in 5 different Parks in Tanzania. Join us for this program on Wednesday night,

September 20th, at 7 p.m. -- come early at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and social time.

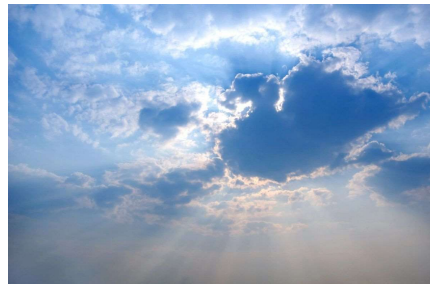
Farrar has been a member of PWWS since 1983 and has volunteered to serve on the PWWS Board, the Outdoor Nature Club, and BEST (Butterfly Enthusiasts of South East Texas) for many years. He retired from Chase in 2002 after 27 years of service and now works part time at the Museum of Natural Science helping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

Harvey Aftermath

Message from Kathy Coward

Hurricane and Tropical Storm Harvey has really given us a blow (no pun intended). Our beloved Rockport took a terrible hit -- their mayor saying 70% of the town

was destroyed by the hurricane. Here in Houston, so many have lost their home and everything in it. As of this time I know of two of our Piney Woods family that had to evacuate their homes. Our own Carole Frascella is staying with Carole Allen and I saw Pat Lee and her husband being evacuated by boat from their home (on television news coverage). There may be more of you, so let us know by replying to this email in case we are able to help.



I know all of us really thank all the first responders, the Cajun Navy, and so many from all over that have come to help us. Thank all of you that are helping your neighbors and volunteering.

At this time I also do not know how our wonderful Big Stone Lodge at Dennis Johnston Park has fared. We will let you know before our meeting (via email, web site & Facebook).

Take care and we send a warm hug to all our Piney Woods family.



 **COMMISSIONER STEVE RADACK**
INVITES YOU TO THE

10TH ANNUAL KLEB WOODS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 2017
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HUMMINGBIRD BANDING:
Sumita Prasad will be capturing and banding hummingbirds throughout the day. She will be assisted by Jim Renfro; both are licensed hummingbird banders. In addition to seeing these feathered jewels up close, you will learn about their unique structure and amazing biology.

NATURE WALKS

KIDS ACTIVITIES

RAPTORS:
Houston Audubon Society Education Director **Mary Anne Weber** will display several live raptors to be photographed in a natural setting. She will field questions and show her raptors throughout the day.

NATURE TALK:
Staff naturalist **Kendra Kocab** will present *A Closer Look at Nature*. This class is part of an ongoing series designed to give school-aged children a closer look at our natural world. Today's 20 minute presentation: *Hummingbird Biology* at **11 a.m.** and **2 p.m.**

HISTORY TALK:
Staff historian **Jim Wilson** will introduce visitors to *A Closer at History*. This series is designed for school-aged children. Each class investigates a historical topic. Today's 20 minute presentation: *Birds in Fiction* at **10 a.m.** and **1 p.m.**

Featuring as many as 100 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds!

WHAT: Everything you want to know about hummingbirds — including identifying, attracting and gardening for hummingbirds. There will be games and activities for the whole family. There will be nature walks throughout the day. The Kleb House will be open for tours and the blacksmiths will be demonstrating in the barn.

WHERE: Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Rd. at Mueschke Rd., Tomball 77377
<http://www.pct3.com/parks/kleb-park/>

WHEN: Saturday, September 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Admission is free. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own refreshments. Drinks and snacks will not be sold.

For additional information, call Kleb Woods Nature Center at (281) 357-5324.

Yes, Kleb confirmed on 8/30 that they will hold the festival. Confirm by calling.

HEART Happenings

2017 nesting record has been great. Dr. Donna Shaver of the National Park Service sent this report on August 17:



Turtle sandcastle from Galveston for Heart Happening

KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE

This year, 353 Kemp's ridley nests were confirmed on the Texas coast. This far surpasses the previous record of 209 Kemp's ridley nests found in Texas during one year. The nests recorded in Texas during 2017 include (north to south in state):

- 3 Bolivar Peninsula
- 5 Galveston Island
- 0 Brazoria County, N. of Surfside
- 3 Surfside Beach
- 1 Quintana Beach
- 0 Bryan Beach
- 0 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
- 0 Sargent Beach
- 7 Matagorda Peninsula (area record)
- 0 Matagorda Island
- 3 San Jose Island
- 11 Mustang Island (area record)
- 8 North Padre Island north of Padre Island National Seashore
- 219 Padre Island National Seashore (area record)
- 70 South Padre Island (area record)
- 23 Boca Chica Beach (area record)

LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

So far this year, 10 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

- 1 Surfside Beach
- 1 San Jose Island
- 1 North Padre Island, north of Padre Island National Seashore
- 6 Padre Island National Seashore
- 1 South Padre Island

GREEN SEA TURTLE

So far this year, 22 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast. This surpasses the previous record of 15 green turtle nests found during one year.

The nests recorded in Texas during 2017 include (north to south in state):

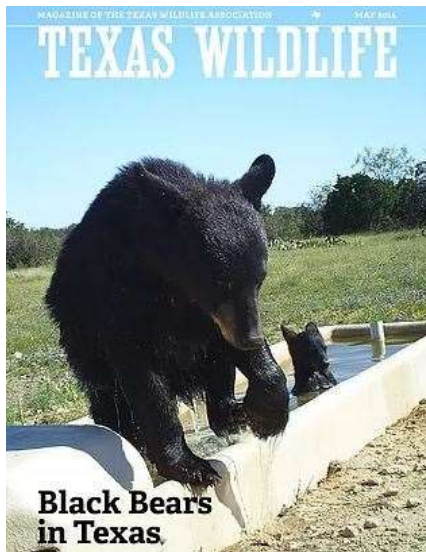
- 17 Padre Island National Seashore (area record)
- 5 South Padre Island (area record)

In a shocking policy change, NOAA has decided not to bring more loggerhead hatchlings to the Galveston Lab for TED testing. This is not the time to pull the plug on TED testing, there will be a continuous need to re-evaluate to determine if we have the best TED under the current circumstances as sea turtle populations (hopefully) continue to increase. Pulling the plug on TED testing before promulgating any rules for the near shore skimmer trawl fishery is nothing short of an abandonment of the issue, and a complete failure of NOAA's duty to exercise its authority to conserve the turtles from this threat.

There are year-old turtles in Galveston to use for testing this year, but we hope to reverse this decision before long so more testing can take place next year. Stay tuned for development. Also, check Turtle Island Restoration Project – Gulf of Mexico office for opportunities to send e-mails or make calls for the turtles.

Al Barr's "First Saturday" Bird Walks at Jesse Jones Park

Our own past president, Al Barr, will once again be leading bird walks on the first Saturday of each month from September through April. These bird walks will take begin at the Nature Center at Jesse Jones Park at 7:45 a.m. Please join Al as he gathers bird sightings to log into eBird and enjoys a morning walk in nature. For September, because of the recent floods, make sure and call Jesse Jones Park at 281-446-8588 to confirm.



Lecture: Black Bears of East Texas - Return of a Texas Native

Come hear from Dr. Chris Comer Professor of Wildlife Management Stephen F. Austin University as we get the latest information on Black Bears returning to East Texas. This free lecture is one of The Woodlands "Walk in the Woods Nature Lectures" and will be held on Thursday night, September 14th, at 7:30 p.m. and is sponsored by The Woodlands Township. It will take place at

McCullough Junior High School in one of their auditoriums. The address is 3800 S. Panther Creek Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

Vultures

NATURE'S CLEAN-UP CREW

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC
Wildlife Center



You always know when an animal has met an untimely and unfortunate death when you see

Black Vultures or Turkey Vultures. So how can you tell the difference? The Black Vulture has a featherless black-grey head while the Turkey Vulture has a featherless red head. In flight, the Black Vulture is distinguishable by white-tipped wings whereas the majority of the underside of the Turkey Vulture is pale in color.

Both species of vultures feed primarily on carrion. Most of what vultures eat would make any other animal very sick but they are strong animals with an incredible digestive system and a very strong immune system. Their stomachs are extremely acidic. They can usually survive eating carcasses infected with botulism, anthrax, cholera and salmonella. Some believe that vultures spread disease because they eat dead meat. Actually, the opposite is true. They rid our environment of what could potentially cause the spread of diseases.

Turkey Vultures use their eyesight and keen sense of smell to find their food. By flying low, they are able to see dead animals and detect the gases produced when an animal begins to decay. They prefer to feed on animals that are recently dead. Black Vultures can't smell but will often follow Turkey Vultures to find food.

The breeding season of the turkey vulture starts in March, peaks in April to May, and continues into June. Interestingly, vultures don't make nests. In most cases, females lay two eggs but have been known to lay one and rarely three. The eggs are whitish/cream colored and heavily marked with dark brown or lavender spots around the larger end. Eggs are generally laid on a bare surface in a protected location. TWRC receives many calls from the public reporting that a vulture took up residence in their atrium or on their front porch.

Both parents incubate, and the young hatch after 30 to 40 days. Chicks are altricial, or helpless at birth. Both adults feed the chicks by regurgitating food for them, and care for them for 10 to 11 weeks. When adults are threatened while nesting, they may flee, or they may regurgitate on the intruder or feign death. If the chicks are threatened in the nest, they defend themselves by hissing and regurgitating. Family groups will remain together until fall.

Although not endangered, vultures have been impacted by the use of lead bullets and buckshot used by hunters. If the shot animal is not removed or covered, vultures will consume the contaminated meat and become ill or die.

Because of their eating habits and appearance, vultures would probably never win a "My Favorite Bird" contest or "Most Beautiful Bird" award but they play an important role in keeping our environment cleaner and definitely smelling better. Have you thanked a vulture today?

If you'd like to learn more about TWRC Wildlife Center, what we do and how you can help, visit our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org. Opportunities are available at our wildlife center and include baby bird and opossum feeders. We also provide training for in-home rehabilitators. TWRC Wildlife Center, 10801 Hammerly Boulevard, Houston, TX 77043. 713-468-TWRC.



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.

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 Old 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.

Piney Woods Wildlife Membership Form		
Last Name(s):		First Name of Member(s):
Street Address:	City:	State and Zip:
Home Phone No:	Work Phone No:	Email Address(s):
Pine Warbler will be delivered by E-mail Only		
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</i> newsletter New _____ Renewal _____ Rejoining _____		

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Please join us!

PWWS web site is at <http://www.pineywoodsnaturesociety.org>
 PWWS Facebook site is at <https://www.facebook.com/Piney-Woods-Wildlife-Society-125891867423>



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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