



## 2015-2016 Officers

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## January/February Meetings—Joshua Hodge

### January 7—Bird Identification Using Photographs (Larry Basden & Joshua Hodge)

There are several strategies that birders use in their quest to identify birds in the field. Larry & Joshua will focus on one strategy that has seemed to gain support—identifying birds from photographs. This can be done immediately while in the field or after returning from the field. Several examples will be shown to illustrate this technique. As a bonus, Joshua will share a brief book report on a nature book that he recently read.

### February 4—To Be Finalized Later

Final details for the February program remain to be finalized. Check the website for information.

## January/February Field Trips & Events—Diane Lafferty

Jan. 16—Ducks at the Lagoons. Meet at gate to sewage lagoons at 8am. This is planned for a 3 hour walk around the lagoons.

Jan. 23—Sparrow Field Trip to Pearl River CC Ag. Station near Picayune. Meet across from Starbucks at 8am.

Jan. 30 or Feb. 6—Dry Creek Water Park, Magee, MS. Meeting place and time to be announced.

Feb. 12—Bird Count at William Carey. Meet at parking lot by baseball field on County Road. Time to be announced.

Feb. 13—Window Watch hosted by Larry & Linda Smith as part of Great Backyard Bird Count. Lagoon Count will follow.

Feb. 15—President's Day Gull Run along Gulf Coast. Details to be announced later.

Feb. 27—Field Trip to Sandhill Crane NWR. Details to be announced later.

Mar. 3—Wildlife Day at Crosby Arboretum.

Mar. 7—Hattiesburg Hot Spots.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (September through May) in the Education Building at the Hattiesburg Zoo. Refreshments at 6:30 pm. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are open to the public.

Pine Woods Audubon Society is a chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

These, as well as other events, are included in the calendar pages included with the e-mail version of the newsletter. This can also be seen (and downloaded) at the PWAS [website](#).

## A Limited Number of Chapter T-Shirts Remain

If anyone is still in the market for a Chapter t-shirt, Lin still has a limited number available for sale. The cost for a t-shirt is \$10. See Lin at a meeting for sizes, colors, etc. still available in stock. We plan to retain a limited stock.

If you missed earlier previews of what the t-shirts look like, here are the 2 varieties offered:



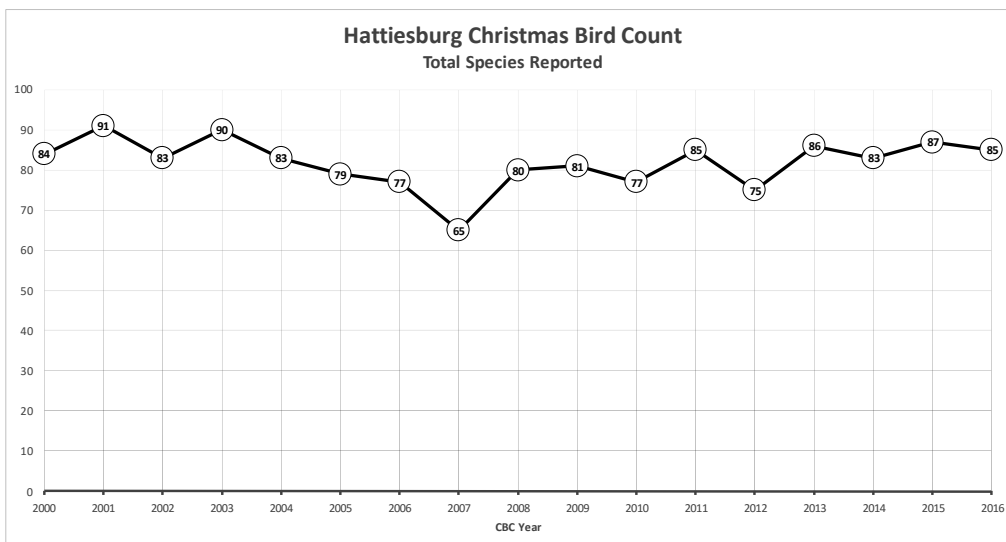
*To a man, ornithologists are tall, slender, and bearded so that they can stand motionless for hours, imitating kindly trees, as they watch for birds.*

- Gore Vidal -

## Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count

The Hattiesburg CBC is almost in the books now (the data has yet to be entered into the CBC database). The weather was much better on the changed date for the count—no rain! We had 82 species on the day of the count and added 3 more species during count week. It was a rather typical count but we did have a few “hits”. The presence of a Calliope Hummingbird in Mike & Dianes yard, an American White Pelican flyover, and 3 Owl species (Great Horned, Barred, and Eastern Screech) were pleasant surprises for our count. We did have a few “misses” that were not expected—Fish Crow (none of the observed Crows made the unique Fish Crow call, perhaps they just didn’t feel like talking), Eastern Meadowlark (although not a given for recent counts, we had high hopes that we might see them this year), and no Wrens.

Thanks to the 14 participants for helping on this year’s count.



## Welcome, New Members!—Kelly O’Neal

Here are the new members who have joined Audubon at the national level since the last issue of *The Pine Warbler*. If you know any of these people, please take a few minutes to welcome them, to tell them about PWAS, and to invite them to join us at a meeting, field trip, or other activity.

Benjamin Bell—Hattiesburg  
Philip L. Pearson—Hattiesburg  
Roy Whatley—Hattiesburg  
M. Roberts—Hattiesburg

Margaret G. Bond—Laurel  
Bernadette Cox—Petal  
Brenda A. Collier—Petal



## The Great Backyard Bird Count and Pine Woods Window Watch

The Great Backyard Bird Count for 2016 will take place February 12-15. Another citizen science project with birds. Each day during the count period you can do a feeder count right in your own backyard. There is no requirement regarding submission of daily counts or the amount of time for counting (just a suggestion to make it at least 15 minutes of counting). If you wish to count other locations besides your backyard, that is also OK. Just enter the data separately for each day and location.

PWAS has a tradition of getting together for a group count at the home of one of our members. This is a good opportunity to interact with those who might not be able to attend many of our meetings and socialize while enjoying a potluck brunch. I can assure you that the quantity and variety of food available on our Window Watch morning is wonderful. For 2016, Larry & Linda Smith have graciously volunteered their home and backyard feeders for this event.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 13 and join us at the Smiths.

## Miscellaneous

Question and answer from July/August 2014 *Bird Watcher's Digest*

**Q**—How can birds hear without ears?

**A**—They can't. The ears of birds and mammals are complex structures that include all the unseen internal parts plus the visible external opening. Mammals have an additional fleshy structure around the opening called the pinna, a structure absent on birds.

The feathery tufts called ears on the eared grebe and the long-eared owl are not ears at all and play no role in hearing. Those tufts serve in visual communication only.

Birds have all the necessary internal parts of an ear, so they can hear just fine. Otherwise, singing would be pointless. Their ear openings are below and slightly behind their eyes and are completely covered by feathers.

Seeing golden-crowned kinglets reported on the Hattiesburg CBC and hearing about them while participating in the Lauderdale County CBC and, yet, missing them completely on both activities, led me to a past issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest* and a profile article about them.

The following excerpt is from an article by Ed Kanze about golden-crowned kinglets in the January/February 2013 *Bird Watcher's Digest* and just struck a chord with me. Perhaps it reflects a universal feeling about our bird watching activities.

“I’ve long been convinced that I watch birds at least in part to maintain cheer and fend off gloom and keep anxiety at bay. The world, I know, has no more interest in preserving my well-being than it has in protecting theirs. It’s plain to see that tiny, delicately built golden-crowned kinglets have plenty to fear and lament: long, lethal winter nights, hungry owls and hawks and weasels, and food supplies that may fail them at any turn. Yet the little heroes carry on blithely and bravely. If they can do it, maybe you and I can do it too.”

We're on the Web!

[www.pinewoodsaudubon.com](http://www.pinewoodsaudubon.com)

## The Pine Warbler

Pine Woods Audubon Society  
544 West 4th Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Address Service Requested

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## Bird Sightings & Field Trips



Mike & Diane Lafferty have had an immature Calliope Hummingbird visiting their backyard recently. At this time they are not sure if the bird will stay there during the winter or move on to another location

While we routinely see Bald Eagles at the sewage lagoons, there were reports at our last meeting of sightings at Lake Serene and along Lux Road (in Covington County).

A couple of unusual MS sightings have been much discussed on Missbird and Facebook. A Brown Booby seems to be taking an extended vacation at Grenada Lake. The fishing has been quite acceptable for this bird that normally stays at sea. In addition, Surf Scoters have recently been seen on the Gulf Coast (not a rare location but not usually seen right along the seawalls). During a CBC in LeFlore County a Say's Phoebe (a Western bird) was seen and photographed.

There have been reports that Greater White-fronted Geese and Snow Geese have begun to return to north MS (for example, Tunica County). On most years the numbers seen in that part of the state can be very large. It is quite a sight to see a field filled with these birds decide that it is time to move on to another feeding place and all take flight at the same time.

If you see any "out of the ordinary" sightings, send an email to [newsletter@basdenfamily.com](mailto:newsletter@basdenfamily.com) or use the contact form on our website [www.pinewoodsaudubon.com](http://www.pinewoodsaudubon.com) to let us know so we can include them in this section of the newsletter.

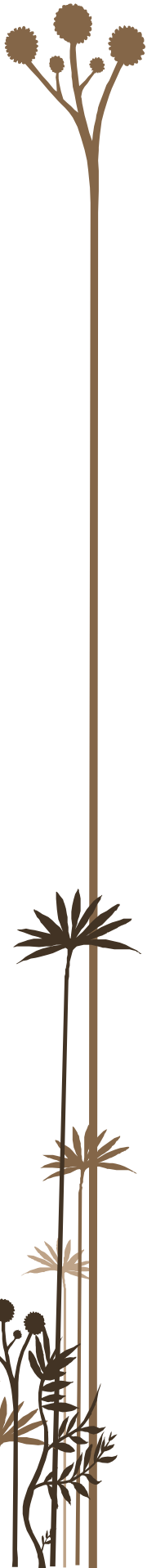
# January

# 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7 PWAS Meeting 7pm Zoo Educ. Bldg.	8	9
10	11	12 Keg & Barrel 5:30pm	13	14	15	16 Ducks at Sewage Lagoons 8am at gate
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Sparrow Field Trip
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Dry Creek Water Park Magee, MS Time to be determined
31	1	2	3	4	5	6 Alt. Date for Dry Creek Water Park

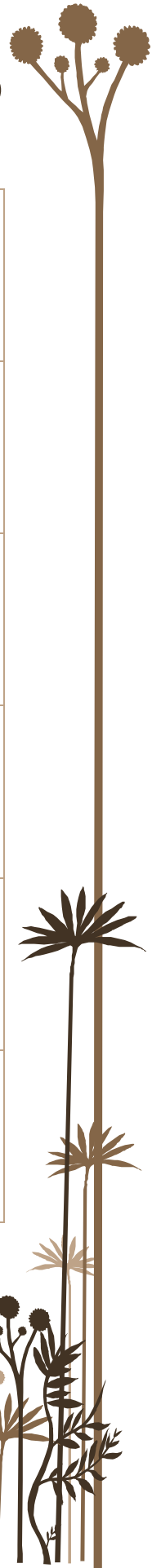
## Notes:

Unless otherwise noted, field trip participants should meet across from Starbucks at the time noted.



# February

# 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6 Alt. Date for Dry Creek Water Park
7	8	9	10	11	12 William Carey Bird Count Meet at Carey	13 Window Watch at Larry & Linda Smith's
14	15 President's Day Gull Run Time to be determined	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Sandhill Crane NWR Time to be determined
28	29	1	2	3 PWAS Mtg. Wildlife Day at Crosby Arboretum	4	5 Hattiesburg Hot Spots Time to be determined
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

## Notes:

Unless otherwise noted, field trip participants should meet across from Starbucks at the time noted.

