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February/March Meetings

February 7—Predators in the Pines—Aaron Calidris

Over 20 species of carnivorous plants call Mississippi home. Some are common and well known like our abundant *Sarracenia alata* (Pale Pitcher Plant) and others are rare and often overlooked like our aquatic *Utricularia*, or bladderworts. Carnivory in plants has arisen multiple times in the evolutionary history of plants and we'll talk about why the Southeastern U.S. has so many carnivorous plant species as well as their distribution, ecology and conservation concerns



March 7—TBD

Although we have been working diligently on this meeting program, we cannot yet announce it. As soon as we have confirmation, we will send out an email to the pinewoodsaudubon list, edit pinewoodsaudubon.com, and create the event for our Facebook page (Pine Woods Audubon).

February/March Field Trips & Events

February 9 (Sat.)—Sparrow trip—Pearl River County (meet behind Ed's Burgers at 8am)

February 15-18 (Fri.—Mon.)—Great Backyard Bird Count (see article on Page 4)

February 16 (Sat.)—Window Watch hosted by Lillie Gibb (see article on Page 4).
Followed by February Monthly Lagoon Survey at 12noon.

February 18 (Mon.)—President's Day Gull Run (details to be discussed at Feb. mtg.)

February 23 (Sat.)—Lux Road Birds (meet at Buck's on N. Hwy 49 at 8am)

March 9 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at 8am, gate to be used TBD)

March ?? (Thu.)—Nature Festival at Crosby Arboretum, Picayune (tentative)

March 23 (Sat.)—Big Branch Marsh NWR (meet behind Ed's Burgers at 7:30am)

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, can also be seen (and downloaded) at the PWAS [website](#).

President's Corner

Well the first busiest time of the new year has gone—the Christmas Bird Count time of year. A big thank you to all who participated in Christmas Bird Counts (Hattiesburg's, of course, but others as well). For our count we had 15 participants (in the field and watching feeders) on a particularly poor weather day. In spite of the general weather conditions, we again totaled over 90 species for the count. Not quite so high as wished for but good nonetheless.

The next busy time of the year is on its way—migration. Watching the species who wintered with us leave (a sad time) and welcoming the species who will spend their summers in their breeding grounds (some of them just passing through to reach their breeding grounds far north of us). We especially welcome those species who will provide variety to our birding ventures by stopping in our area to breed and raise their young here (a happy time).

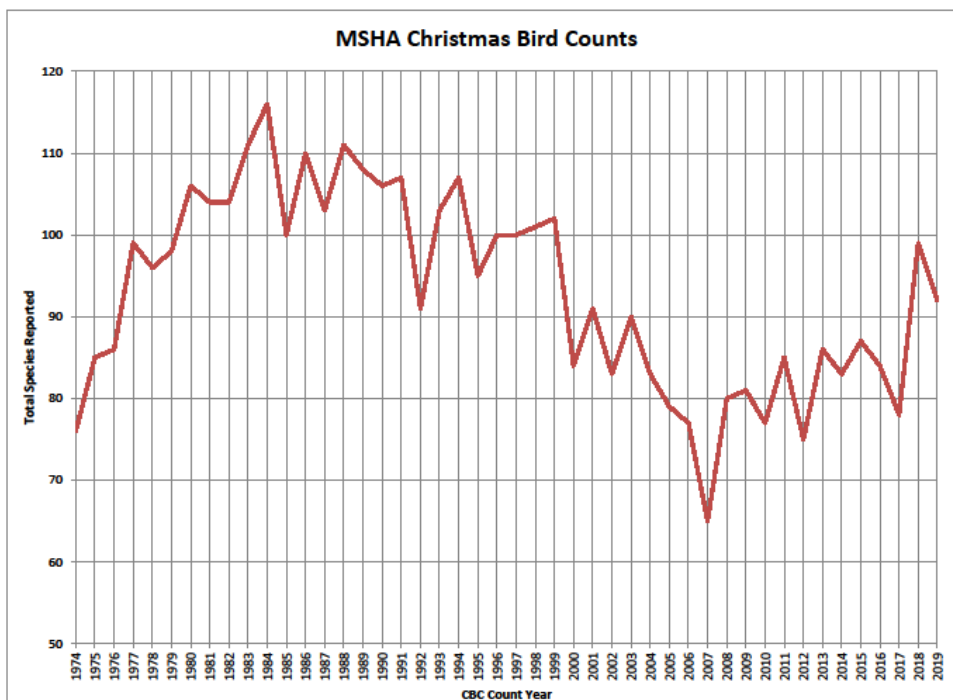
A big thank you to Lillie Gibb for volunteering to host our annual Window Watch during the Great Backyard Bird Count. It promises to be a relaxing “brunch with birds”. Not to worry, both parties will be brunching off different menus.

It's not too early to begin thinking about (and reserving space) for our annual spring migration at Dauphin Island, AL. More information will be coming in the next issue but that publication date is fairly close to the event date, so thinking about it now is NOT too early.

Larry Basden

Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count Wrap-up

The 45th annual Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 29, 2018. The day was not the most pleasant for birding but the effort put forth by the participants resulted in a better than expected total for species reported. The target of hitting the 100 or more species for the count was not met, but 92 species for this year's count is the second year in a row for 90 or more species. Notable species for this year's count were 3 species of owls, American Woodcock, and Snow Goose. Notable misses for this year's count were Wild Turkey (not even seen during count week) and Brown-headed Cowbird. It's not too early to begin scouting for sites we don't want to miss for our next CBC on Saturday, December 28, 2019.



Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

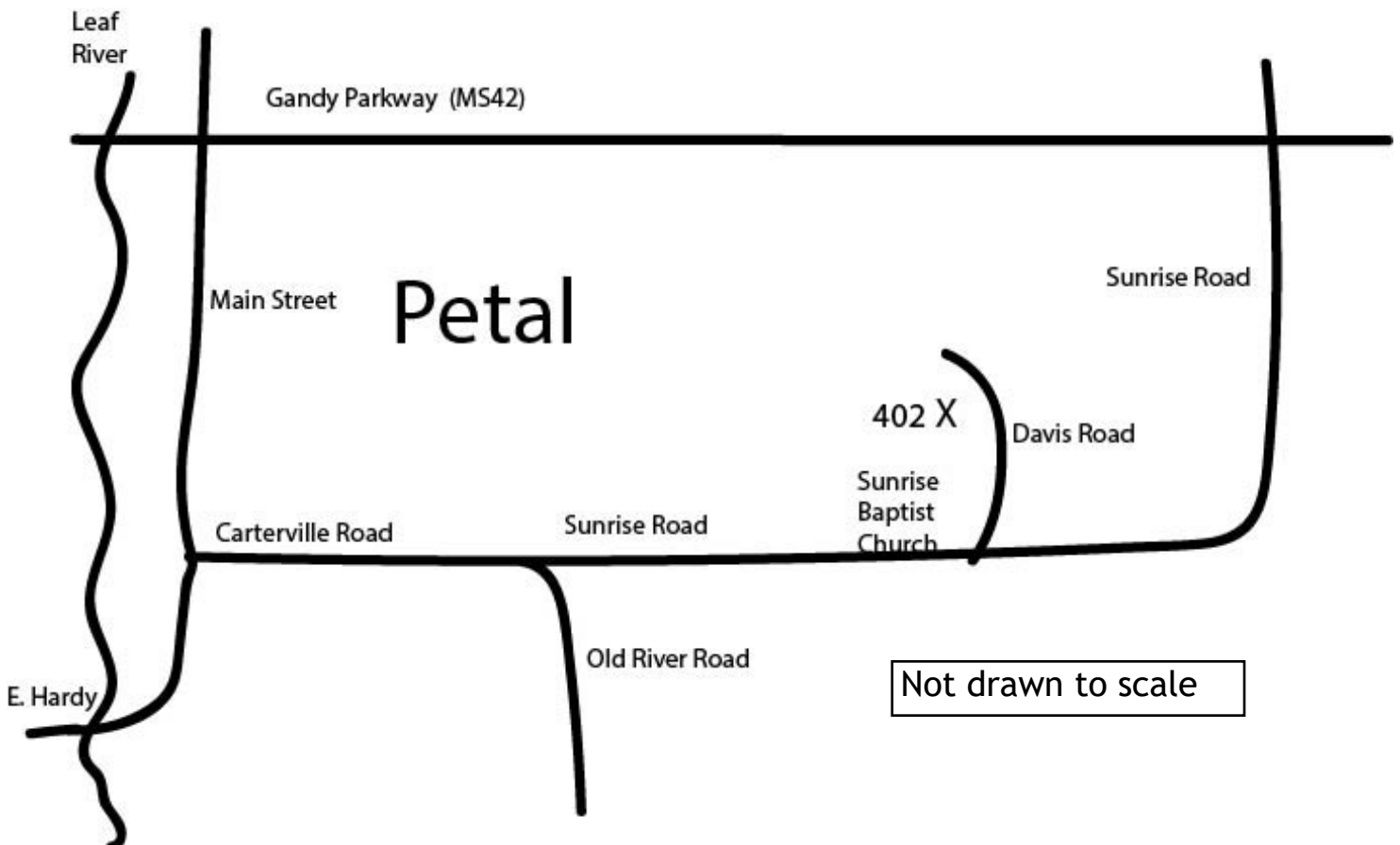
Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 190,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 21st annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18, 2019. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest educational and promotional resources.

Window Watch

Window watch is the PWAS name for a get-together on the Saturday during the Great Backyard Bird Count. This year the date is Saturday, February 16. The time is 8:30-11:30am. The place is the Gibb house at 402 Davis Road in Petal. Our gracious hostess is Lillie Gibb. Despite the fact that we all enjoy watching birds at backyard feeders, the highlight of this annual event is the potluck brunch put together by the fantastic cooks of our Chapter. Bring along dish to share with you fellow birders—a breakfast casserole, something sweet (like donuts), fresh fruit, sweet or fruit breads, or anything that you think might be appropriate for a brunch. As at least a partial guard against everyone bringing the same thing (although it could be all fresh fruit as far as I'm concerned), give Lillie a call at 601-606-2171 to tell her what you plan to bring and she can tell you whether any others (and how many) have indicated they will be bringing the same thing.

Below is a map showing where the Gibb house is in Petal. If you have any problems finding it on Window Watch Day, give Lil-



We're on the Web!

www.pinewoodsaudubon.com

The Pine Warbler

Pine Woods Audubon Society
134 Sweet Bay Trail
Petal, MS 39465

Address Service Requested

Bird Sightings & Field Trips



There have been several good sightings from the Christmas Bird Count onward— Snow Goose on CBC (reported only 3 times before in the 45 years of our count), American Woodcock on CBC (reported 18 times before in our count but not since 1999), Ross's Goose at Duncan Lake, and male Pintail at Lux Road.

On the Christmas Bird Count, the Bald Eagle seen at the lagoons was carrying a stick resulting in speculation that there may be a new nest being built there. On the January monthly lagoon count, a new eagle nest was observed with an adult sitting in it. The new nest is not nearly so open as the old one was and will likely be VERY hard to observe when trees have leafed out.

If you see any “out of the ordinary” sightings, send an email to newsletter@basdenfamily.com or use the contact form on our website www.pinewoodsaudubon.com to let us know so we can include them in this section of the newsletter.