




PINE WOODS
Audubon Society

The Pine Warbler

January/February 2022

Volume 2022/2023

2022-2023 Officers

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Larry Morgan
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Hospitality
To be determined

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January Meeting—1/5/2023

Sparrow Identification—Collin Stempien

Back by popular demand! Last year Collin enlightened us with his extensive knowledge of gull identification. If you struggle with those little brown jobs in the grass, you should not miss this meeting. Review your field guide before the meeting and be prepared to soak up all the knowledge and tips for identifying birds in this challenging family.

February Meeting—2/2/2023

“OK Google, What’s This Plant?”—Ins and Outs of Plant ID Apps—Janet Wright

These days it seems like all knowledge is at our fingertips through technology—if we just know who to ask. But which virtual assistant knows the name of your mystery plant in the field? (Hint: It’s not Google.) In this session, Dr. Janet Wright, retired ecologist, will compare some popular plant ID apps for your smartphone. Then, she’ll show how one of these apps (iNaturalist) gives birders a bonus—a tool to preview distant birding locations.

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.



President's Corner

Happy New Year to Everyone!!

If the last few weeks for you have been like they have been for our family, I am guessing that serious birding has been sketchy and sporadic at best! Holiday activities and responsibilities, as well as a week of frigid temperatures, have probably slowed usual activities for all of us. Jim and I have been lucky to have a pair of Hooded Mergansers on our pond over the last few days! (A repeat visit from last year.) We are also seeing some visitors to our yard as we hang some new bird feeders that Santa left under the tree!

The Christmas Bird Counts are now in progress (*Editor's Spoiler Note: Hattiesburg CBC is over 100 species for this year*). We always get re-energized when we participate in some of the counts. I hope that you are able to join at least one of the counts this season. Also, don't forget that our first Pine Woods Audubon meeting for 2023 will be Thursday, January 5. We hope to see you there!

HAPPY BIRDING!

Dee Bishop

Field Trips & Activities January and February

Monthly Lagoon Surveys:

Jan. 14 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at lagoon gate for 7:30am start) duration about 4 hours.

Feb. 11 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at lagoon gate for 7:30am start) duration about 4 hours.

Field Trips:

Jan. 21 (Sat.)—Field trip for winter sparrows. We will bird at MAFES McNeill Research Unit (operated by MS State University) near McNeill, MS. Meet behind Ed's Burgers at 7am so that we can meet Reggie (our guide) at the station at 8am.

Feb. 18 (Sat.)—PWAS Window Watch. This is a chapter social (bring a brunch dish to pass) and will be held this year at Diane Lafferty's house. More information on this event at meetings.

Feb. 20 (Mon.)—PWAS Gull Run. Birding the Gulf Coast. More information to come.

Other Activities:

Jan. 10 (Tue.)—Keg & Barrel get-together starting at 5:30pm.

Feb. 7 (Tue.)—Keg & Barrel get-together starting at 5:30pm

Feb 17-20 (Fri.-Mon.)—Great Backyard Bird Count for 2023. This is something we can all participate in by just birding our own backyards during the count. More information elsewhere in this issue.

Keep watching the website, the Facebook page, and the Pine Woods Audubon listserv.

These, as well as other events, can also be seen (and downloaded) at the PWAS [website](#).

Field Trips—Larry Morgan

Here's a summary of field trips since our last meeting. You're always welcome to join our activities

November 8 Field Trip

The weather was the big show at our November field trip to the Lux Road area. I joined the birds as a no-show at the event. A few hardy souls tried to make it happen but gave up and stopped at the Bishop's for coffee and to dry out.

December 31 Field Trip

The Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count was our December field trip. We had a total of 25 participants for the count. Wouldn't you know it—the weather was also a factor for this field trip activity. The morning fog and rain showers slowed down activities but didn't hamper our final count too much. Joshua will announce the totals for count day and count week at our January meeting.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual 4-day count held over a long weekend in February. This year that weekend is February 17-20. Anyone can become part of this 20+ year tradition and help provide scientists with a snapshot of bird populations. Participate can be from anywhere in the world. It's easy, see the how-to-participate steps below:

Step 1—Decide where you will watch birds. This can be done alone or with others. And, as the name suggests it can be just your own backyard.

Step 2—Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days.

Step 3—Identify all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and use the best tool for sharing your sightings:

- If you are a beginning bird admirer and new to bird identification, try using the Merlin Bird ID app to tell us what birds you are seeing or hearing.
- If you have participated in the count before and want to record numbers of birds, try the eBird mobile app or enter your bird list on the eBird website (desktop or laptop).
- If you already contribute to Merlin or eBird, continue what you are doing! All entries over the 4-days count toward GBBC.

Pine Woods Audubon schedules an activity for all of us to participate as a group during the count. This takes the form of a potluck brunch get-together at a member's house for a relaxing, no pressure birding atmosphere. A time to enjoy ourselves and contribute to citizen science at the same time. This year's event (we call it a Window Watch) will be held on Saturday, February 18 at Diane Lafferty's house at 100 Virginia Drive in Hattiesburg. Diane has a very birdy backyard and you can never predict what birds may come to visit during the Window Watch. Directions and time will be available at both the January and February meetings.

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



January

- 5 (Thu.)—PWAS Monthly Meeting, refreshments at 6:30pm, meeting start at 7:00pm
- 10 (Tue.)—Keg & Barrel, 5:30pm at Keg & Barrel
- 14 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey. Meet at lagoon gate for a 7:30am start (duration approx. 4 1/2 hours)
- 21 (Sat.)—Field Trip to find winter sparrows at McNeill Research Station near McNeill, MS. Details in this newsletter and at our January meeting.



February

- 2 (Thu.)—PWAS Monthly Meeting, refreshments at 6:30pm, meeting start at 7:00pm
- 7 (Tue.)—Keg & Barrel, 5:30pm at Keg & Barrel
- 11 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey. Meet at lagoon gate for a 7:30am start (duration approx. 4 1/2 hours)
- 18 (Sat.)—Window Watch at Diane Lafferty's house (part of GBBC). Details inside and at February meeting.
- 20 (Mon.)—Gull Run. Birding along Gulf coast beginning around Silver Slipper Casino ending wherever we get tired and ready to go home. More details at February meeting.