




PINE WOODS
Audubon Society

The Pine Warbler

November/December 2016

Volume 2016/2017

2016-2017 Officers

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November/December Meetings

November 3—The Winter Hummingbirds Are Coming—James Bell

With over 15 years experience, Federal and State licensed hummingbird bander James Bell will present a short program on winter hummingbirds in Mississippi. He will discuss many United States western hummingbirds that sometimes find their way to Mississippi during migration and stay to spend the winter here. James will cover some easy ways to maintain a hummingbird feeder in colder weather. He will also answer questions on how little we truly know about hummingbirds and their wonderful way of life. We will learn what a special experience it can be to have a winter guest like a Rufous, Calliope, or maybe a Black-Chinned Hummingbird.

December 1—Typical Winter Birds in the Hattiesburg Area—Larry Basden

Larry will review the typical winter birds in the area and preview the upcoming Christmas Bird Count (the 117th count for the National Audubon Society). He will also discuss the history of the count (both the National count and the Hattiesburg count). See the article in this newsletter for information on the Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count and the field trip schedule for other counts in the area.

Help!!



As you already know, this year's Officer corps for our Chapter is short-handed. This is making operation of the Chapter haphazard at best. Most of the Board (Officers and Committee Chairs) are already doing double duty. Please consider volunteering your time (not a large commitment) to help your Chapter. Contact any of the Board Members listed in the box to the left.

November/December Field Trips & Events—Diane Lafferty

November 19—Ducks at the Hattiesburg Sewage Lagoons (and Eagle Study). Meet at the sewage lagoon gates at 8am.

December 20—Hancock County Christmas Bird Count (Waveland)

December 22—Camp Shelby Christmas Bird Count

December 31—Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count

January 2—Jackson County Christmas Bird Count (Ocean Springs)

Meridian Christmas Bird Count

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](#).



Local Chapter Support—Reminder

The beginning of the meeting year also marks the time for renewing local Chapter dues. As you know, we have a number of Chapter members who are also members of the National Audubon Society. Part of the national dues return to the Chapter to offset our expenses. However, it is not a requirement to be a National Audubon Society member to participate in Chapter activities. It is easy to become a local Chapter member if you do not wish to join the national organization. We suggest a donation of \$20 per family to support our local Chapter activities. Feel free to support the local Chapter even if you are also a national member. It is important to note that we do not “check-up” on anyone wishing to join us for meetings or any of our activities to see if you are a member or not. You are welcome at all times. We feel that adults only need a gentle reminder of our honor system support system at the beginning of our yearly activities. If you wish to add your support for the year, just see any Officer (listed on Page 1) at a meeting or send Lin Harper your contribution at the Chapter return address shown on Page 4.

If you wish to join the national organization as a new member, please contact one of the Officers. If our Chapter is shown as the recruiter for your membership, the Chapter receives a reimbursement from the national organization. This also is a source of funds for supporting our activities.

I consider myself to have been the bridge between the shotgun and the binoculars in bird watching. Before I came along, the primary way to observe birds was to shoot and stuff them.

—Roger Tory Peterson

Pinewoods Audubon Mail List

Do you want to keep current with messages about activities and sightings? You can do this by joining the Pinewoods Audubon e-mail list. This is separate from the way you receive your Pine Warbler. Interested? Contact Diane Lafferty and she can add you to this list. Don't miss out on reports of “rare” birds in the area. Join today!

City Cardinals, Country Cardinals

This article excerpt is from the September/October 16 issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest*:

We know that bird songs sound somewhat different in urbanized areas than they do in rural areas. Songs are longer, sung faster, and composed of higher-frequency notes among the city slickers. It is assumed that this is because these different sounds carry better over the rumble of traffic, construction, and other noises in cities and suburbs.

But Desiree L. Narango and Amanda D. Rodewald wrote of other factors in the mix in a recent paper in *Behavioral Ecology*. The researchers recorded the sounds of 66 male northern cardinals in 9 forest patches—some heavily urbanized, some rural, some in between—in the Columbus, Ohio area.

Northern cardinals, especially considering their northern expansion in the last century, have done well in human-altered habitat, breeding successfully in both the city and the country. Cardinals can even be found at four times higher densities in urban areas compared with rural areas, particularly where there is thick, shrubby understory vegetation.

“The longer and faster songs of males from sites with high densities may be a behavioral consequence of increased territorial interactions between neighbors,” the researchers claim. The temporal attributes of song (e.g., syllable rate, length) are “best explained by conspecific densities, which are substantially greater in urban than rural landscapes.”

In other words, the higher population density in urban and suburban areas means that male cardinals on territory have to cope with background noise and rivals, defending their territories against possible intruders, causing them to sing longer songs and sing more rapidly.

Most previous studies of urban bird song have emphasized the physical environment in urbanized areas.

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.

Amy Slagle—Hattiesburg
Glenda Miller—Hattiesburg
William Newman—Hattiesburg
Barbara Hamilton—Hattiesburg
Rita Clark—Moselle
Joann Bishop—Moselle
Melanie Case—Sumrall
Sabine Heinhorst—Sumrall
Robin Pounds—Foxworth

Carroll Cook—Collins
Andrew Schiwetz—Petal
Mike Morgan—Seminary
Judy Mason—Seminary
Lori Callegan—Beaumont
Sue Laughrey—Laurel
Susan Reeder—Laurel
William Mcfarland—Laurel



Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count

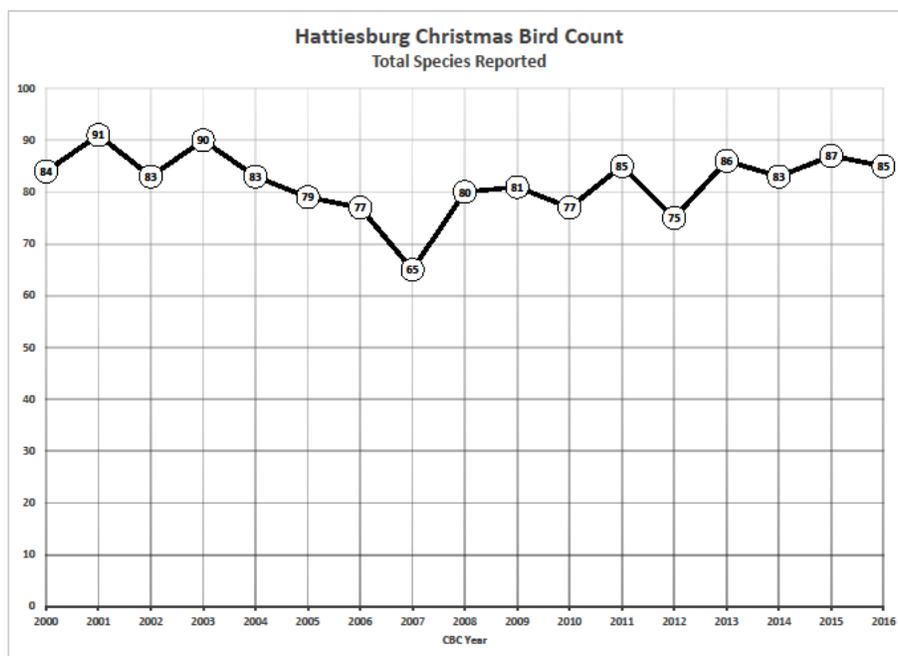
Mark the date on your calendar—Saturday, December 31, 2016.

The 117th Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) takes place between December 14 and January 5. Our traditional time for the Hattiesburg count is the Saturday after Christmas.

While we would love to have you join us as we cover our 15-mile count circle on the 31st, if that isn’t possible you can still contribute to our effort by doing a feeder count in your own backyard.

The Hattiesburg CBC is a small but important part of our Chapter’s contribution to citizen science for the Audubon Society. This count will mark the Chapter’s 43rd year of participation. If you are willing to help with our effort this year, contact Larry Basden (home-601-544-1784 or cel-601-329-8698) whether you want to help in the field or as a feeder counter. All help in this effort is appreciated.

The graph below shows the total species counts for Hattiesburg CBCs since 2000. We are targeting for a species total of 90 for this year’s count. Let’s see if we can make that happen with your help.



We're on the Web!

www.pinewoodsaudubon.com

The Pine Warbler

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

Address Service Requested

Bird Sightings & Field Trips



This is an exciting time of the year. After a slow birding season (the long, hot summer) migrants are passing through and our winter residents arrive to give us a whole new set of birds to observe. Be sure to notify the others in the chapter when you see any of these new birds—post it on our mailserv (joining is explained earlier in this issue), use the contact form on our website (below), or send an email to the newsletter (below).

The Big Sit (held on Sunday, October 9) was our first event of this season. It yielded 31 species (and 1 generic taxa) for the day. Highlights of the day were Yellow-billed Cuckoo (reported in eBird only 3 times for the Hattiesburg lagoons), White-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, and an Empidonax sp. which did not vocalize but was tentatively identified as a Least Flycatcher (NEVER reported in Hattiesburg).

By the time you receive this issue, the Fall migration field trip at Dauphin Island will be over. Looking forward to hear a report on this field trip at our November meeting. How many species will have been seen this year?

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.

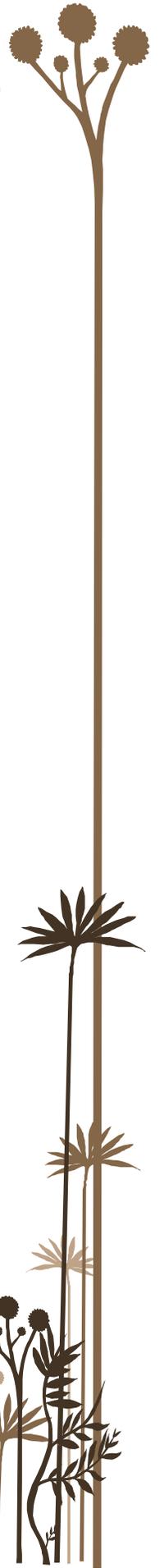
November

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3 PWAS Meeting 7pm Zoo Educ. Bldg.	4	5
6	7	8 Keg & Barrel 5:30pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Hattiesburg Sewage Lagoons 8am
20	21	22	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Notes:

- MCAS November Field Trips (see the MCAS website for more details)
- Nov. 5 – Clower-Thornton Nature Trail (Harrison County)
- Nov. 12 – Seaman Road Lagoons (Jackson County)
- Nov. 26 – Graveline Beach (Jackson County)



December

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 PWAS Meeting 7pm Zoo Educ. Bldg.	2	3
4	5	6 Keg & Barrel 5:30pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count (All Day)
1 Happy New Year	2	3	4	5 PWAS Meeting 7pm Zoo Educ. Bldg.	6	7

Notes:

Other Christmas Bird Counts:

- Hancock County (Waveland) – Tuesday, December 20
- Camp Shelby – Thursday, December 22
- Jackson County – Monday, January 2
- Meridian – Monday, January 2

