



2018-2019 Officers

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November/December Meetings

November 1—Strawberry Plains Audubon Center—TBD

Note: *This is different from the program announced at the October meeting. The presenter announced at that meeting is unable to join us in November.*

Someone from the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center near Holly Springs (not named at publication time) will be presenting a program describing the Center and its activities. We are fortunate to have 2 Audubon Centers in Mississippi. We have visited the Pascagoula River Audubon Center as a field trip activity but have not visited Strawberry Plains. Perhaps we can create an overnight field trip to visit the Center and some other birding sites in Northern Mississippi.

December 6—Birds of the Bible—Larry Smith

A man who has never been to the lands of the Bible will review two pertinent books: *Bird Walk Through the Bible* by Virginia Holmgren and *Consider The Birds* by Debbie Blue. These two authors offer fascinating views of the birds in the lands of the Bible during biblical times and beyond from totally different backgrounds.

November/December Field Trips & Events

November 3 (Sat.)—LeFleur's State Park (Jackson). Meet at Midtown Market at 6am to car pool to Jackson.

November 17 (Sat.)—Lux Road (meet at Buck's Bargain Barn on US 49 North at 8am).

November 24 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at new lagoon gate near Duncan Lake at 8am).

December 1 (Sat.)—Ducks at Hattiesburg Sewage Lagoons (meet at new lagoon gate near Duncan Lake at 8am)

December 15 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at new lagoon gate near Duncan Lake at 8am)

December ?? (??)—South Hancock County Christmas Bird Count (details not yet available)

December 19 (Wed.)—Camp Shelby Christmas Bird Count—Contact Tony Crowe at Admiral_crowe@yahoo.com if you would like to participate.

December 29 (Sat.)—Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count (see article in this newsletter)

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

I would like to publicly thank Joshua Hodge, Kelly O'Neal and Teresa O'Neal for agreeing to serve as Chapter Officers for the current 2-year term. We are learning how to grow into our roles and encourage feedback from all of you. While we encourage all types of feedback, we especially would like to hear your ideas/thoughts on future meeting topics and field trip suggestions. We are committed to having Chapter activities that meet the interests of our members. Let us know at meetings, field trips, via the listserve, or by messaging or emailing one or all of us.

The season for Christmas Bird Counts is rapidly approaching. Our Hattiesburg count is scheduled for Saturday, December 29. This will be the 45th consecutive year for this major citizen-science activity sponsored by PWAS. We hope you will consider joining us for the count. The larger the group of volunteers, the more coverage of our circle we get. With increased coverage we are more likely to find those "surprises" that make this event more interesting. See the article in this newsletter for more information.

Larry Basden

Q & A from Sept/Oct Issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest*

Q Everybody gets all excited about the spring migration of songbirds, but I don't hear so much about fall migration. Aren't there just as many birds at this time of year? Why isn't it such a big deal?

A Actually there are many more migrating birds in the fall. The breeding season has just ended, so populations are at their yearly high point. Inevitably, some birds of every species will perish during migration and at the overwintering locales. So, why are fewer birders excited by fall migration? I think there are several reasons:

The migration is spread out over a longer period. Most neotropical migrant songbirds are moving north through the United States between mid-April and the end of May. The first southbound birds are on the move in late July, and birds continue moving south right into early December

Birds behave less conspicuously. In spring, many migrant songbirds are displaying by perching in open places and singing or engaging in aerial courtship displays. During fall migration, without the motivation of an upcoming breeding season, the same birds are behaving furtively, foraging quietly, staying hidden when possible, and singing little, if at all.

Many birds are less colorful. Some birds molt into less-colorful nonbreeding or "basic" plumage. Many birds seen during fall migration are young birds, and in many species, the young are less colorful and less brightly patterned.

I greatly enjoy the challenges of birding during fall migration. It's a season to learn birdcalls and chip notes. It's a great time to hone your search skills. I gain great satisfaction from finding a bird that might be hard to find or identifying one that's hard to identify. But, I do love spring migration, too. I guess I have to admit that I love birding at every season, and I embrace the challenges and opportunities that each season presents.

Editor's Note: Perhaps it is age-related memory loss, but it seems to me that this year's fall migration (as seen locally) has been more successful than in previous years. Success being measured by the number of different species reported this year versus prior years. I submit this opinion without have actual hard data to support it, but it is surely my sense that this is true. Let us know what you think at our next meeting. And here's hoping that this will carry over to our Christmas Bird Count for this year.

Hattiesburg Christmas Bird Count

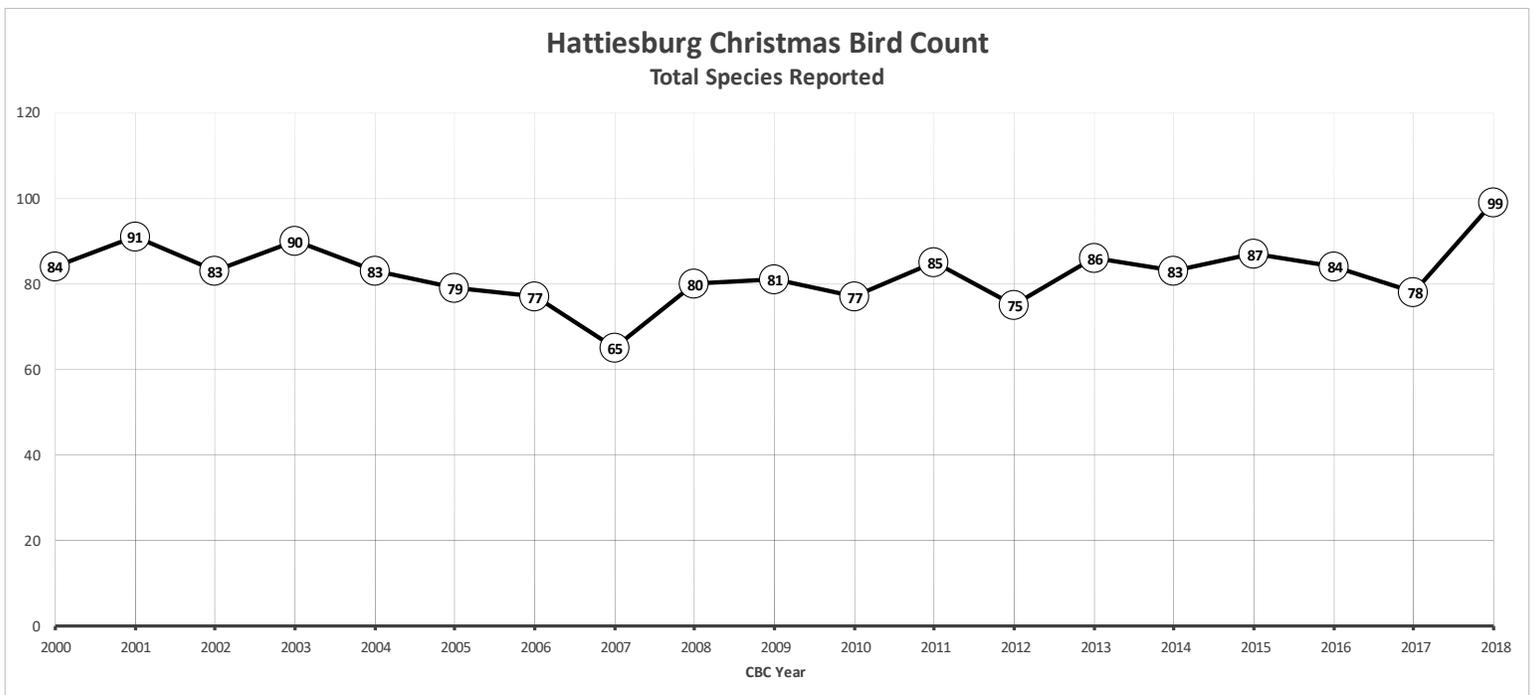
Mark the date on your calendar—Saturday, December 29, 2018.

The 119th 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 29th, 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 45th consecutive 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. Pre-Katrina we show 80's and 90's for the number of species found on the count. Last year we got to the upper 90's. More eyes searching make higher species counts more probable. The actual count number of birds in each species can include only the count day itself, December 29 for this count. However, we can report species (but not count numbers) for the 3 days prior to and the 3 days after our count date. So, if we all keep eyes (and ears) open during this period, we may be able to reach this year's target of 100+ species. Let's see if we can make that happen with your help.



White-eyed Vireo in unusual pose—in the open



Palm Warbler at Lux Road

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



The 2018 Big Sit turned out better than expected with 52 species seen/heard during the day.

Even though the turnout for Dauphin Island fall migration was small, 75 species were recorded for the weekend. This included 14 fall warbler species. Great job to all who went.

Haven't summarized all of the eBird reports made locally for fall migration, but we have seen a great deal of success finding migrating warblers and vireos. Now to extend this to the Christmas Bird Count—looking for 100+ species this year. The last time I have been able to find 100+ species reported on our CBC was 1999!

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.