



2020-2021 Officers

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September Meeting 9/9—Cancelled

The current infection status from the Covid variant has led us to cancel this first meeting of the year to safeguard the health of our members.

October Meeting 10/7—Birding on a Cruise

This meeting is tentative based on Covid status.

Larry Basden will talk about combining cruising and birding during a trip around South America and Antarctica which included birding from the ship and some guided birding trips while visiting ports. He may even show us some scenery pictures from this trip.

Field Trips September/October

Monthly Lagoon Surveys

September 18 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at lagoon gate for 7am start) duration about 4 hours.

October 16 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at lagoon gate for 7:30am start) duration about 4 hours.

Other activities are still in the planning stage for September and October. Keep looking at 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](#).

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

It seems that we have been out of touch with everything for such a long time. When I began to think about publishing this newsletter it seemed that things were finally beginning to look “normal”. Boy was I wrong. Along came Delta. It began to feel like déjà vu plus. This time, despite vaccines that were now present as a first line of defense, infection rates soared higher than before and, even scarier, vaccinated people are being infected and shown to be capable of carrying and spreading the virus. Yes, the probability of hospitalization and death for those individuals vaccinated is much lower than for those not vaccinated, but it is definitely not zero.

Recognizing our organization's demographics and with an abundance of caution, we decided to cancel our first meeting of the year (but you already knew that as the first Thursday of September has already passed). We have tentatively scheduled a meeting for October. But that means that we will reevaluate as meeting time comes near and again make the call based on what the conditions are at that time. Our interest is in keeping everyone safe from becoming a potential victim of Covid. Whenever we begin our meetings again, we may have some guidelines that we have never before had. But, we have no intention of being “vaccination/mask police”. That is a personal decision.

Fortunately, everything is not bad news. A member who moved away a few years ago (Larry Morgan) is now back in the Hattiesburg area. We are also happy to announce that Larry (we're back once again to a three Larrys organization) has agreed to serve as our field trip coordinator. Larry has had a lot of good birding experience while away from the area. Keep an eye on the listserv for notices about field trips. We will use the next newsletter, the website, and our Facebook page for announcing field trips as soon as we have created a schedule.

Larry Basden

3-Year Summary of Monthly Lagoon Surveys

September, 2018 was the beginning of our monthly lagoon surveys. We knew that the Hattiesburg sewage lagoons were “birdy” but we didn't have a database to determine just how “birdy”. The lagoons have always been an important component of our annual Christmas Bird Count. We were aware that there were some migrant species that used the lagoon area as a breeding ground (Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, etc.). But our knowledge of the year-round bird population was limited.

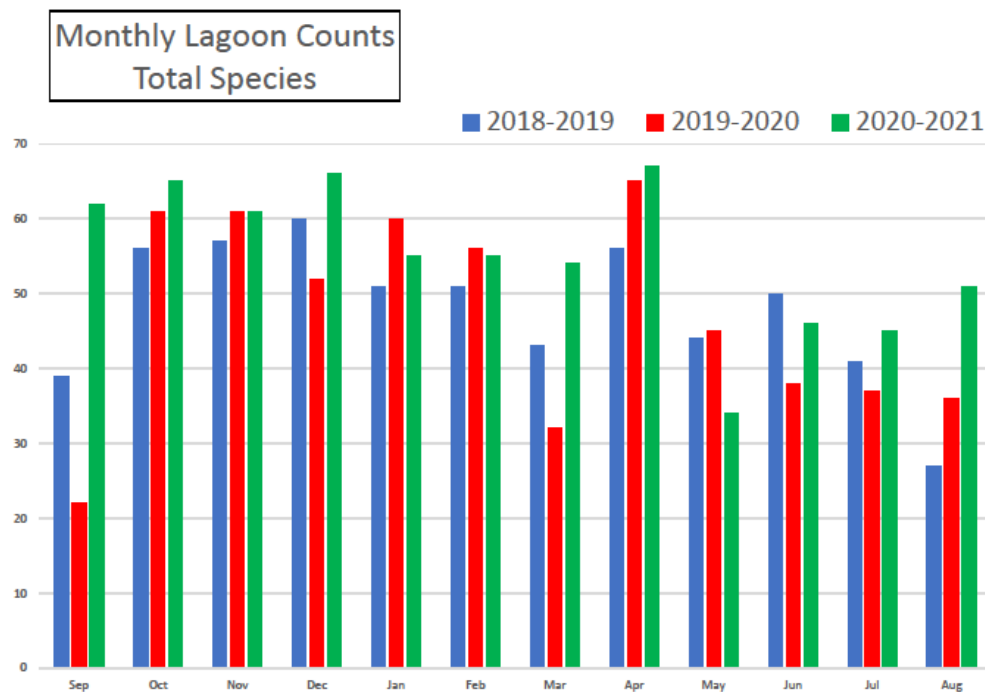
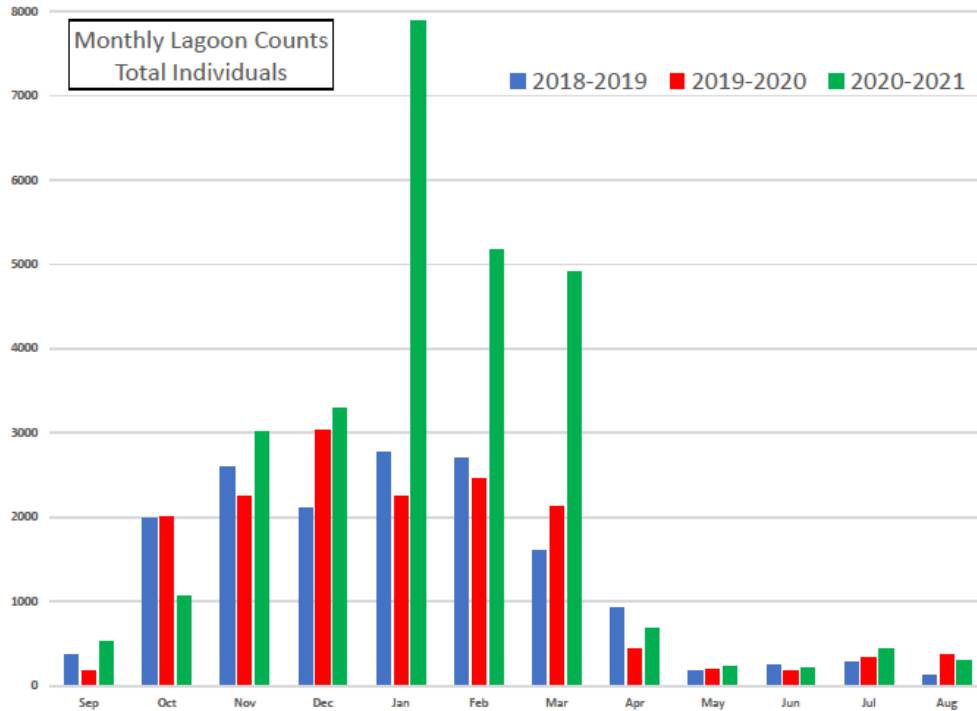
In August 2021 we finished our third year of monthly surveys of the lagoons. It is time for us to review what we have found.

- During our 3 years of monthly surveys, we have reported 157 individual species of birds. This included:
 - 21 species of Waterfowl (Ducks, Mergansers, etc.)
 - 18 species of Warblers
 - 10 species of Seabirds (Gulls, Terns, etc.)
 - 7 species of Swifts and Swallows
 - 6 species of Sparrows
 - 6 species of Woodpeckers
 - 5 species of Flycatchers
 - 5 species of Vireos
 - 4 species of Wrens

- We have noted 37 species of birds that are found more than 9 months or more of each year.
- Here are a few of the more unusual birds that we have encountered during the 3 years (Merlin, White-winged Dove, Common Goldeneye, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron)

Below are two charts summarizing the total number of species found each month and the total numbers of individual birds found each month. Winter is clearly our busy time regarding individuals (all those migrating waterfowl) but the number of species found is not that different from month-to-month.

Come join us some time.



We're on the Web!

www.pinewoodsaudubon.com

The Pine Warbler

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Address Service Requested

Important Information

- ◆ A tentative meeting is scheduled for October 7.
- ◆ Field trips are being planned. The only scheduled one at this time is the September Lagoon Survey on Saturday, September 18.