



2018-2019 Officers

President

Larry Basden

Vice-President

Joshua Hodge

Secretary

Teresa O'Neal

Treasurer

Kelly O'Neal

Committees

Newsletter

Larry Basden

Field Trips

Education

Conservation

Joshua Hodge

Hospitality

Jim & Dee Bishop

Membership

Kelly O'Neal

Historian

Linda Basden

September/October Meetings

September 6—Costa Rica—Jim & Dee Bishop

Jim & Dee will present a report on their November 2017 Costa Rica International Birding Conference trip.

In addition to birding Costa Rica topics, they will discuss the Mesoamerican biological corridor and bird based tourism and the important impacts of both on the economy of Costa Rica and their large effects on migratory birds in North America.



October 4—Smalltooth Sawfish—Dr. Nicole Phillips

Sawfish are a family of large rays characterized by a long, toothed snout or 'rostrum'. This saw is used in feeding and defense, but it is also the achilles heel of sawfish as it makes them especially prone to entanglement in fishing nets. Sawfishes have undergone large global declines in range and abundance and are considered the most threatened family of the sharks and rays. The U.S. is an important stronghold for one of the five species of sawfish, the smalltooth sawfish. In the U.S., the smalltooth sawfish was once found from Texas to New York, but experienced a 95% decline in the last century with core populations thought to be confined to southwest Florida. Over the past decade, however, juvenile smalltooth sawfish have been sporadically reported each year in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Nicole Phillips from the University of Southern Mississippi is using cutting edge DNA technology to better understand the occurrence of this threatened species in Mississippi waters.



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.

September/October Field Trips & Events

September 8 (Sat.)—**MCAS Field Trip**—Triple Barrel (Pascagoula River Marsh) see MCAS website for details.

September 15 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at lagoon gate at 8am).

September 21-23 (Fri.-Sun.)—MOS Meeting at Corinth, MS. For details, see the MOS webpage for details.

September 29 (Sat.)—Fall birds at McSwain's (meet at parking lot behind Crescent City Grill at 8am)

October 6 (Sat.)—Lake Thoreau (meet at Lake Thoreau parking lot at 8:30am)

October 14 (Sun.)—Big Sit (dawn until dusk at lagoon gate—come out whenever you can during the day)

October 19-21 (Fri.-Sun.)—Migrating birds at Dauphin Island, AL and the West End count for shorebirds. For this event, make your own lodging reservations if you plan to be there for the weekend. If you cannot spend the entire weekend with us, Dauphin Island can make a great day trip during fall migration season.

October 27 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at lagoon gate at 8am)

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

Officer Election

While the left column on page 1 shows officers for 2018/2019, this is the interim slate of officers who have volunteered to get our meeting season started. We will hold a very short business meeting to elect and install permanent officers at our September meeting. You may note that there are several openings for committee chairs. Please consider volunteering to fill one of the openings or, if you wish, throw your hat in the ring to fill one of the posts now being filled by the interim team.

Pascagoula River Audubon Center Events

Swamps, Savannahs, Dunes & Ditches

- Thursday, September 13th, 5-7pm—FREE
- Reception for exhibit running September 13—November 24
- Fine art oil paintings and water colors of MS flora and fauna by Mary Anderson Pickard and Christopher Inglis Stebly.

Estuaries Day

- Saturday, September 15th, 10am-2pm—FREE
- Join us to start celebrating National Estuaries Week! Explore the Center and learn through hands-on activities from scientists to discover the magic of estuaries including seeing live animals, learning about plants, soils, and several more activities!

Birds & Brews: Autumn Equinox

- Thursday, September 27th, 4-7pm—\$12/Member, \$15/Non-member
- Join us for a relaxing evening during the autumn equinox! We'll have craft beer, wine, and snacks to enjoy.

Gardening for Gulf Coast Butterflies

- September 27th, 10am-12noon—\$12/Member, \$15/Non-member
- This 2-hour, hands-on workshop will focus on the host/nectar plants of some of our beautiful Gulf Coast butterflies, tour some of the PRAC gardens and greenhouse, and plant some of these important butterfly plants to take home. Pre-registration required, please call 228-475-0825.

Fall Migration at Dauphin Island—October 19-21

It's here again. Time for a favorite PWAS Field Trip. A weekend at Dauphin Island, AL to see what we might catch during fall migration. I'm always reminded of a favorite quote from Forrest Gump. "Mama always said: Life (or a trip to DI in the fall) was like a box of chocolates. You never know what (species) you're gonna get." There are just too many variables to be able to predict what the weekend will bring. There is one prediction that is always true—it will be a weekend of birding with friends (some you've never met before) and the possibility to see birds that only pass through during migration.

Since everyone makes their own arrangements if they are going to spend the weekend at DI, here are some suggestions:

Gulf Breeze Motel (older, not fancy, but clean) - (251)-861-7344

Dauphin Island Harbor House B&B - (251)-861-2119

Dauphin Island Campground (not fancy, 137 sites, next to Audubon Sanctuary) - (251)-861-2742

Pelican Nest RV Park (small, 12 sites, close to Gulf Breeze) - (251)-861-2338

Even if you can't stay the weekend, DI is not a difficult drive for a day trip. Come join us for whatever time you can spare. You'll have a good time.



What's Happening at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center?

2018 Hummingbird Migration and Nature Celebration!

September 7th - 9th, 9 am - 5 pm.

Join us for the 19th annual Hummingbird Migration and Nature Celebration, one of the Southeast's biggest nature festivals. Highlights include renowned guest speakers, guided nature walks, live animal shows, kids activity zone, wagon rides, nature-themed arts & crafts vendors, native plant sale and up-close views of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds being banded and released!

Ticket Prices : Ages 5-12 = \$5, Ages 13-64 = \$15, Ages 65+ = \$10, Ages 4 and under = Free

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



Anyone else tired of hot and humid? We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our winter residents. Please tell me that winter is coming soon (even if you know it's not yet true).

We received a report of a pair of Great Horned Owls that have been arriving every evening in the front yard of Poplarville residence to "frolic and hang out".

eBird reports are showing Ruby-throated Hummingbirds virtually every day. Basis these reports it looks as though Lillie Gibb is seeing the largest numbers. Consider this a plea to enter your sightings into eBird if you haven't been regularly doing this. The database is a great reference source that can be valuable for anyone (say a USM student) already doing a study (or even contemplating a study).

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.