



2018-2019 Officers

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September/October Meetings

September 5—Sandhill Plant Communities—Heather Sullivan

South Mississippi is home to a patchwork of small remnant dunes called sandhills. These hot, dry communities are home to some plant and animal species that have creative ways of surviving in these harsh conditions. State Botanist Heather Sullivan will talk about many of the species that can be found there but nowhere else and how you can help preserve these disappearing habitats.

October 3—Member Show-and Tell

By popular demand, we will have another installment of member show-and-tell this year. Five or six members will give brief stories about something they have seen or done recently, followed by a slideshow of member-submitted photographs, artwork, or journal entries. Email Joshua Hodge, joshua.hodge@yahoo.com, to be added to the list of presentators (5-6 minutes each) or to submit photographs or artwork for the slideshow.

September/October Field Trips & Events

September 7 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoons Survey (meet at lagoon gate at 7:30am) duration about 4 hours.

September 21 (Sat.)—Fall birds at McSwain's (meet at parking lot behind Crescent City Grill at 8am) duration about 4 hours.

October 12 (Sat.)—Big Sit (dawn until dusk at lagoon gate—come out whenever you can during the day)

October 18-20(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 26 (Sat.)—Monthly Lagoon Survey (meet at lagoon gate at 8am) duration about 4 hours.

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](#).



The President's Corner

It's hard to believe that another meeting year is about to start. Where has the summer gone? Writing this already has me thinking about the arrival of our winter birds (and cooler weather).

We recently lost a stalwart of our chapter, a writer of regular birding columns for newspapers, and the kindest, most generous birder I have ever met or known—Ron Blackwell. My birding experience is limited but, any knowledge I do have can be credited to Ron. I shamelessly leaned on his expertise to start learning bird identification. I would send him picture after picture (and not very good ones at that) and ask him to ID the bird for me. He never failed to respond to my request for help. Quite frankly, if someone were to do the same to me, I don't think I would be able to exhibit the patience that he did. I'm sure that many of you have stories and memories of Ron. Lin has planned a memorial for Ron to be held at the Neal House (next door to the Keg & Barrel) on Saturday, September 28 from 3 to 6 pm and has invited all of us to join her in remembering Ron and raising a glass or two to toast his impact on our chapter and birding in the Hattiesburg area.

Just before wrapping up this issue, I was saddened to hear that Diane Lafferty's husband Mike is having serious health issues. Let's all keep Mike in our thoughts and prayers.

Local Chapter Sponsorship

With the start of a new chapter meeting season, it is appropriate to remind everyone that the primary source of support for our local chapter comes from our members. The suggested annual level of local chapter support is \$20 per family or \$10 per individual. What does this support fund? It funds the honorariums we give to our monthly speakers (and a portion of the travel expenses for speakers who come from well outside the Hattiesburg area). It funds the printing and postage for the newsletters we mail. It funds supplies we purchase for our annual Birdfest at the zoo. It will also fund any other chapter events we might occasionally hold that require supplies.

We hope that you will support our chapter with your sponsorship. See Kelly or Teresa (or any of the officers) to pledge your sponsorship. Thank you.

MOS Fall Meeting—October 5

J. R. Rigby recently announced this on the Missbird list. As you can see from the message below, plans are not yet complete. It might be a good time for a chapter field trip to a site we have had on our list for a field trip for over a year.

We're conducting an experiment for this Fall meeting, so bear with us (me, really). We've had a string of meetings with prominent speakers and relatively high registration fees. So, this fall we're going to dial it back and focus on the birding and camaraderie. We want everyone who's interested in birding to come, so we're dropping the big speaker, the registration fees, etc. for this one meeting. Don't worry, much of that will be back for the big Spring meeting.

For now, grab all your bird-curious but thrifty friends and invite them to St. Catherine Creek NWR on Oct. 5. I'm still working on a block of rooms so we can meet at a central hotel. We'll bird the refuge Saturday and convene at a restaurant (dutch) for dinner and discussion.

This is the low-key, bring anyone interested, and just hang out and enjoy birds and the outdoors together MOS meeting. Details soon about Friday and Saturday venues for socializing.

When I see additional details, I will post them on the Pine Woods list.

Fall Migration at Dauphin Island—October 18-20

Since everyone makes their own arrangements if you plan to spend the weekend at DI, here are some lodging 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

It is also possible to find accommodations through Airbnb either close to or on DI.

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.



Upcoming Statewide Audubon Chapter Event

A point of emphasis for National Audubon this year is increasing interactions with local chapters. Mississippi Audubon is planning to hold statewide events open to all local chapter members. While I am not certain about the frequency of these events (likely dependent on participation), I have been informed to keep the weekend of November 2/3 open for an event which is being planned for the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center. Details have not yet been worked out (SPAC is very busy with their 20th Hummingbird Festival which takes place September 6-8). I will send details via the listserv, our web page, and our Facebook page whenever I get them. Our November meeting will take place after this event but I will also announce the details at our October meeting (if I have them by then).

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



A few sightings across the state (probably associated with fall migration) include American Golden Plover (Yazoo County), duck species—Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal—(Yazoo County), and Dickcissel (Noxubee County). This bodes well for finding some fall migrants in our area soon. Keep watching!

If you are unable to make our chapter fall migration trip to Dauphin Island, be sure to do a little birdwatching on Saturday, October 19. This is the date for the eBird October Big Day. Spend a little of your Saturday (as little as 10 minutes) looking for birds and submit the list of your sightings to eBird. If you don't already have an eBird account, it's easy (and free) to set one up to begin reporting YOUR sightings.

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.