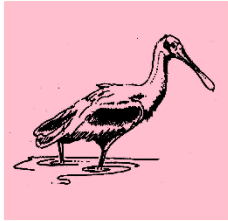


## Monthly Meeting September 8, 2014

**Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX**



6:30 pm [Learning Corner](#): Wintering Hummingbirds in the Houston Area by Stephan Lorenz

7:00 pm [Ornithology Group](#) (OG) Business Meeting

7:30 pm [Program](#): Outdoor Nature Club Discussion and Voting

[Field Trip](#): Smith Point Hawk Watch Tower, September 28, 8 am

[Hummingbird Festivals | Pill-le-ate-ted or Pi-le-ate-ted?](#)

## Wintering Hummingbirds in the Houston Area

By Stephan Lorenz

Stephan will discuss the diverse number of species of hummingbirds that winter in the Houston area. He will include things you can do to keep these birds in your yard over the winter.

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## Outdoor Nature Club

By Ornithology Group Membership

This month's meeting will be a discussion of the future of the Outdoor Nature Club (ONC) and its Little Thicket Sanctuary. We will also vote on the ONC Secretary-Treasurer and Sanctuary Manager.

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## Smith Point Hawk Watch Tower, Meet at 8:00 am

Led by Marcy Brown

To reach Smith Point from Houston, take I-10 east to the Texas Hwy 61 exit. Turn south (right) on Hwy 61. In a few miles it changes number to FM 562 and continues south to Smith Point. At the intersection of FM 1985, which branches left at a Y intersection, continue right to Smith Point. Once in Smith Point continue on 562 past a small store/gas station (now closed) on the right. Hawkins Camp Road, another half mile farther on, leads to The Spoonbill RV Park and Lodge. The hawk tower is just past the intersection of 562 and Hawkins Camp Road where a sign directs you to the left and into the large parking area. For more information, see <http://www.gcbo.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/167/MenuGroup/Home.htm>

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## Hummingbird Festivals

Kleb Woods Nature Center: 20303 Draper Rd. at Mueschke Road, Tomball:  
September 13, 2014 9am-3pm.



## COMMISSIONER STEVE RADACK INVITES YOU TO

### THE ANNUAL KLEB WOODS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2014

9 a.m.—3 p.m.

#### WHO:

Hummingbird expert **Sumita Prasad** will be capturing and banding hummingbirds throughout the day. In addition to seeing these feathered jewels close up, you may ask Sumita questions about their unique structure and amazing biology.

Featuring as many as  
100 Ruby-throated  
Hummingbirds!

#### WHO ELSE:

At 10 a.m., **Gary Clark**, naturalist, author and newspaper columnist, will present a program entitled *Amazing Tropical Hummingbirds*. Gary will be available to autograph books before or after the program.

#### ALSO:

At 11:15 a.m., **Sumita Prasad** will present: *Hummingbirds of the Houston Area*. Did you know Ruby-throated Hummingbirds may not be the only visitors to your feeders? Learn about the other hummingbird species you could find in your yard.

#### AND:

Houston Audubon Society Education Director **Mary Anne Weber** will display live owls. She will field questions and show her owls from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At 2 p.m., she will present *Feathers - The Essence of Being a Bird*. This program will give everyone a chance to see several live raptors.

#### WHAT:

Everything you want to know about hummingbirds — including identifying, attracting and gardening for hummingbirds. There will be games and activities for the whole family. There will be nature walks throughout the day. The Kleb house will be open for tours and the blacksmiths will be demonstrating in the barn.

#### WHERE:

Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Rd. at Mueschke Rd., Tomball

<http://www.pct3.hctx.net/parks/klebwoodsnaturepres.aspx>

#### WHEN:

Sept. 13, 9am - 3pm

**Admission is free. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own refreshments. Drinks and snacks will not be sold.**

**For additional information, call Kleb Woods Nature Center at (281) 357-5324.**

Rockport-Fulton: September 18-21, 2014

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## Pill-le-ate-ted or Pi-le-ate-ted?

By Bret Hart (First Published July 1, 2014; reprinted with permission)



*This three-part photo of a male Pileated Woodpecker shows how he puts his prodigious beak to work digging a nest hole for his family. (Click each section for larger versions)*

It all began when a friend asked if I knew what “pileated” as in Pileated Woodpecker meant. I had to admit that I didn’t have a clue. So I did what any red-blooded, card-carrying, information challenged, birder would do - I pulled my Smart Phone traveling encyclopedia from my pocket and looked it up.

“Pileated: having a crest covering the pileum.” Well that certainly moved the ball forward! What in heaven’s name is the “pileum?” Back to my pocket encyclopedia to look up “pileum” and, lo and behold, it now makes sense: “the top of the head of a bird from the bill to the nape.”



That led to the second question: Which is the correct pronunciation of “pileated?” “*Pill-le-ate-ted*” or “*pi-le-ate-ted*?” That one I was sure I knew: it always starts with the “pill” sound, and I even remember bird call recordings and tapes in which the announcer always pronounced it with the “pill” first syllable, although I remember one once where the announcer said either pronunciation was correct.



Except those announcers and I were, and are, dead wrong. When you check the definition of “pileated,” immediately after the word there is a little loudspeaker symbol, which when clicked causes a sexy female voice to give the correct pronunciation as “pi-le-ate-ted.”

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pileated>. And I always thought that the occasional birder that I heard use the “pi” first syllable pronunciation was just misinformed or a newbie! But I also suspect that after many decades of mispronouncing the word, it will take some time for the correct pronunciation to sound right.

The male Pileated Woodpecker (*top*) is the cavity excavator for the family. He begins by pounding into the tree to create wood chips, then, grabbing a mouthful from the hole, he closes his eyes and gives the chips a heave into the air. After he enlarges the hole sufficiently, he works from the inside, frequently coming to the entrance to discharge another mouthful. Meanwhile, the female (*above, left and right*), with her black mustache instead of the male’s red, shows up periodically to check the home building progress and cheer the male along. She is an adept hunter though, sometimes locating particularly juicy morsels such as this large white grub.



Back to “pi-(3.1416)-le-ate-ted,” though, I have wondered why the bird namers haven’t called our North American Cardinal, “Pileated Cardinal.” Pileated certainly seems to me to have more panache than the very mundane “Northern Cardinal,” which, I presume, was unnecessarily chosen to distinguish the species from the beautiful South American Brazilian Cardinal. A close examination of the crest on both birds, Northern Cardinal and Pileated Woodpecker, shows the Cardinal’s crest clearly qualifies as “pileated.” The close examination is also interesting to note the difference between the neck and bills of a woodpecker who needs a chisel and a flexible neck to excavate its home, compared to a seed eater that needs a heavy cruncher and strong neck muscles to operate it, in order to crack open the seeds that form its diet.

And if you are going to have a crest covering the pileum it might as well be red, and be given a name like “PILEATED!.” Otherwise it is just a crest (Great Crested Flycatcher) or merely a tuft (Tufted Titmouse.) Would Donald Trump’s hair style qualify as pileated? Just asking.

For images of the Brazilian Cardinal, (introduced into Hawaii as the Red-crested Cardinal and therefore regarded as an American species,) see this Google search link for the Brazilian Cardinal.

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## About the Ornithology Group

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