

PURPLE MARTIN MIGRATION

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Everyone looks forward to the arrival of the Purple Martins each year. Most of us think their arrival means spring is just around the corner. But, at this time of the year, no one really thinks about them anymore. Most people don't know that they're very busy getting ready to migrate south.

Preparations for migration begin in July and August when the birds form large flocks and roost (a place where birds or bats regularly settle or congregate to rest at night). There can be thousands of birds in a roost. They call this gathering "staging." Some of the better-known roosts in the Houston area are Gordon Park in Stafford and around Willowbrook Mall. They spend their days eating flying insects to build up body fat for their long flight ahead.

So where do they go? In the spring of 2009, geolocators were attached to 20 birds from two Texas colonies. It was discovered that the birds wintered deep in the Amazon rainforest and traveled an amazing 250 to 300 miles per day! They can fly between 17 and 27 miles per hour unless a predator is chasing them when their speed can reach 40 miles per hour. They spend several months in South America in large roosts where they undergo their annual molt. Although their annual molt begins before migration, they don't molt their flight or tail feathers until they reach South America. Molting is very beneficial because it replaces damaged feathers and helps get rid of parasites.

Purple martins will spend several months in South America before heading back to North America. The scouts typically show up in our area in mid-January through early February.

The term "scout" is used to describe the first martin(s) observed. They will go to the same nesting site from the previous year. The scouts can be either an older male or female but are usually males. Arrival of the remainder of the birds depends on their age and sex. Older male birds arrive after the scouts followed by the older females followed by the younger ones. The younger ones, or subadults, may not appear until 4 to 12 weeks after the first ones arrive. They fledged the previous year so their first priority is to find a nesting site.

According to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas martins nest almost exclusively in bird housing provided by humans. Once they have occupied a martin house, they will continue to use it year after year as long as you clean it out in the fall and keep the starlings and sparrows from moving in.

TWRC Wildlife Center has been serving the Greater Houston for 40 years. We admit nearly 5,000 injured, orphaned or displaced animals every year. Learn more about us at:

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Officer.....	911
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Sheriff Non-emergency.....	281-463-2648

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Roadside Assistance.....	800-525-5555
Fire/Ambulance.....	713-466-4073
Harris County Precinct 4	281-376-3472
Texas No Call List Registration	866-TXN-OCAL
Vacation Watch	281-401-6200

SCHOOLS

Bus Information.....	281-897-4380
Ault Elementary School.....	281-373-2800
Keith Elementary School.....	281-213-1744
Swenke Elementary School.....	281-213-1200
Rosehill Christian School	281-351-8114
Cy-Fair Administration	281-897-4000
Cy-Ranch High School	281-373-2300
Cy-Woods High School.....	281-213-1800
Salyards Middle School.....	281-373-2400
Spillane Middle School.....	281-213-1645

UTILITY NUMBERS

Eagle Water Management, Inc.....	281-373-8989
Centerpoint (Gas)	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy (Electricity).....	713-207-7777

OTHER NUMBERS

AT&T Repair Center	800-246-8464
Street Light Outages (Need to provide the 6 digit pole number).....	713-207-2222
Harris County Animal Control	832-999-3191
Best Trash (They provide free trashcan for recyclables)	281-313-2378
Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Post Office.....	281-858-9021

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Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to cypresspark@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.

CYPRESS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Please join

The Cypress Ranch High School Choirs for our FALL CONCERT

Monday, October 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cypress Ranch High School Auditorium

Save the Date!!

The Cypress Ranch High School Choirs Present "Candles & Carols"

The Cypress Ranch Choirs will perform their Winter Concert, "Candles & Carols", Monday, December 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cypress Ranch High School Auditorium. Join us for hot chocolate, cookies and holiday cheer!

For more information, please check the Cypress Ranch Choir website <http://www.ranchchoir.com/> or follow us on Instagram @cyranchoir.



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ST. PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH BIENNIAL RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE

The women of St. Peter's Anglican church will be hosting their biennial rummage sale and bake sale on Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2, 2019. Hours are 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day, and will be held in the church rectory at 19915 Cypress Church Rd., Cypress, Texas 77433. This is the perfect time to put holiday baked goods in the freezer, so come on out and help the ladies fund their projects.

BRIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL THEATER

Bridgeland High School's theatre department presents **The Elephant Man**, two weekends in October. Showtime is **7:00 PM October 11, 12, 18 and 19**. Tickets will be available at bridgelandhstheatre.org.



THE CYPRESS-TOMBALL DEMOCRATS



The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next monthly meeting Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at Rudy's Grill and Cantina, 11760 Grant Road, Houston. There is a meet and greet at 6:30 p.m., and the general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, North Harris/Montgomery Co. chapter will present the program.

Come hear about the fastest growing chapter for this organization in the entire state (700+ members!) that is comprised of all volunteers: Moms, Dads, gun owners, non-gun-owners, teachers, vets, who all support common gun sense laws.

Have children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews? Jane Kelso Winter will provide brief history of Moms and deliver a presentation on "Be SMART" - (a program now endorsed by Conroe ISD) on how to safely secure guns in homes - and why you need to ask about guns in the homes of others (as toddlers most often the victims of unsecured guns in homes!)

Also, learn from our own Jennifer Lorenz, (and Legislative Lead for Moms N. Harris/Mont. chapter) how you can become active in helping push for universal background checks and extreme risk laws that are pending in the Senate right now.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

For more information, contact Undrai Fizer at cytomdems@yahoo.com, or visit the club's Facebook page.



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THE GINGERBREAD VILLAGE HOLIDAY MARKET will be held on **October 26, 2019** from **9 A. M. to 4 P. M.** The Ladies Auxiliary from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is hosting this unique craft show with over 100 vendors. Admission is free. It is located at 6646 Addicks Satsuma Road, Houston. Come join us!



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USA FIT CYPRESS TURKEY TROT

Make plans to join us for this year's **USA FIT Cypress Turkey Trot** to burn those calories before your Thanksgiving Feast. We have a 5K and 1010K Option for runner and walkers.

Invite your family and friends! Children Welcome! The more the merrier and it's free. Non-members are welcome, they just need to sign our waiver.

Water, Gatorade and treats available at the finish line

Date: 11/28/19, Thanksgiving Morning

Time: 6:30 am

Place: Josey Lake Park, 1200 Bridgeland Creek Parkway, Cypress, TX.

We look forward to seeing you Thanksgiving Morning!



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COCKROACHES

The common cockroaches found outside include the American and Smokybrown cockroaches. American cockroaches are about 1 ½ - 2 inches long, reddish-brown with yellow markings above the head. The adults have well-developed wings, but seldom fly; they do often glide. American cockroaches are usually found outside near decayed trees and plants, in crawl spaces and sewers. Smokybrown cockroaches are often mistaken with American cockroaches. Smokybrowns are about 1 inch long and dark brown to black. Adults have fully developed wings and are capable of flight. This species often inhabits leaf litter, compost piles and ground cover.



American cockroach.

If you find cockroaches in your compost pile, in leaf litter or other outdoor locations, it isn't really necessary to kill them. You may want to make sure that your house is excluded to avoid having the outdoor cockroaches move indoors

when the temperatures cool down. The following tips may help:

- Prune back any vegetation touching or overhanging the home
- If you have a brick or stone façade, stuff weep holes with copper mesh
- Make sure screens are in good repair
- Replace weather stripping where doorways do not have a good seal
- Repair any water leaks
- Clean debris from gutters
- Place stainless steel screening over vent access in the attic
- Use sealant around pipe penetrations or other cracks or crevices into the home

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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