Next Meeting-November 9, 2004
“Watching Sparrows” Video

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

When: Tuesday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.
Where: LSU in Shreveport, Museum of Life Sciences

For the November program, we will view Michael Male and Judy Fieth’s critically acclaimed DVD "Watching Sparrows" that the club has recently purchased. It seems timely for us to brush up on our sparrow identification for the winter. Jim Ingold will provide additional comments where deemed helpful, inform us as to where we might find some of these sparrows locally, and answer any other questions we may have.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Beginning birders are welcome on all field trips. Membership in the BSG is encouraged but not required for participation in field trips.

WALTER B. JACOBS MEMORIAL NATURE PARK
Saturday, November 13, 2004, 8:00 a.m.
Trip Leader – Rhonda Clay, 929-2806, rclay@caddo.org

SPARROWS, HAWKS, AND SPARROWHAWKS
Sunday, November 28, 2004, 8:00 a.m.
Trip Leader – TBA

CADDIO LAKE WINTER BIRD COUNT
Saturday, December 4, 2004
Compiler – Dorothy Metzler of NETFO
Louisiana Coordinator – Jim Ingold, 797-5236 (W), 742-5067 (H), jingold@pilot.lsus.edu

CLAIBORNE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Thursday, December 16, 2004
Compilers – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255, and Mary Ellen (ME) Lewis, 927-9280, nmcpa@aol.com or melewis180@aol.com

SHREVEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Saturday, December 18, 2004
Compiler – Charlie Lyon, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), lyon5516@bellsouth.net

NATCHITOCHES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
December 19 or 26, 2004
Compiler – Charlie Lyon, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), lyon5516@bellsouth.net

BOSSIER – CADDIO – BIENVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT(BCBC)
Monday, January 3, 2005
Compiler – Paul Dickson, 797-7900 (W), 798-1000 (H), Paul@morrisdickson.com

More details on page 2

BIRD STUDY GROUP PHONE NUMBERS AND MORE
Meetings…………………………………………..Second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:30 p.m.
Information & Bird Alert by Phone…………………………………………………………………………………………(318) 797-5338
Internet Website……………………………………………………………………http://www.birdstudygroup.org
Bird Alert by email…………….Contact Rosemary (see page 8) to be placed on the list to send & receive emails
BSG Email………………………………………………………………………………lsusmus@prysm.net
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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS
by Nancy Menasco

Membership in the BSG is encouraged but not required for participation in field trips. Beginning birders are welcome on all field trips. IMPORTANT NOTICE: Field trips will LEAVE the designated meeting place at the time posted for each field trip. Plan to arrive early for field trip orientation and any carpooling/caravanning arrangements.

WALTER B. JACOBS MEMORIAL NATURE PARK
Saturday, November 13, 2004, 8:00 a.m.
Trip Leader – Rhonda Clay, 929-2806, rclay@caddo.org
Meet at the park interpretive building. You’ve probably birded using an owl tape, but have you ever birded with a real owl? Rhonda Clay, who is one of the park naturalists, will be stationed on the park’s Adai Trail with Winky, the Barred Owl familiar to many of us from Rhonda’s owl programs. Rhonda says Winky is mobbed by many different birds when she takes him out on the trails. We will bird some of the other areas of the park and take turns visiting the owl stakeout. In addition to the resident birds, wintering sparrows should be here and Pine Siskin and Purple Finch sometimes visit the feeders near the interpretative building at this time of year. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at a feeder by the pavilion in mid-October of this year. Restrooms are located in the interpretative building.
What to bring: snacks, drinks, two-way radios, and rain gear (just in case).

SPARROWS, HAWKS, AND SPARROWHAWKS
Sunday, November 28, 2004, 8:00 a.m.
Trip Leader – TBA
Meet at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences. Bring a turkey sandwich and let’s go find some birds. Destination will be determined based on our best chances to see as many sparrow and hawk species as possible. If the weather’s good, we’ll do a little walking; otherwise, we’ll bird mainly from the car.
What to bring: lunch, snacks, drinks, two-way radios, scope if you have one, rain gear (just in case).

WINTER/CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:
Contact the compiler listed below for each count or sign up at a BSG meeting. Participants will be assigned an area or teamed with other birders. Beginning birders are encouraged to participate. Bird counts are fun and a great way to see and learn to identify lots of birds with the assistance of seasoned birders.

CADDO LAKE WINTER BIRD COUNT
Saturday, December 4, 2004
Compiler – Dorothy Metzler of NETFO
Louisiana Coordinator – Jim Ingold, 797-5236 (W), 742-5067 (H), jingold@pilot.lsus.edu
The BSG will once again count birds in the Louisiana portion of the circle. Participants will meet at Dawn’s Caddo Crossing for supper and to call the list. Dorothy Metzler asked me to extend a special invitation to the Louisiana group to come join the Texas group for supper. If you are unable to attend, you may meet Jim at Horace Downs Park near the Caddo Lake Dam around 4:00 p.m. to turn in your list.

CLAIBORNE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Thursday, December 16, 2004
Compilers – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255, nmcpa@aol.com, and Mary Ellen (ME) Lewis, 927-9280, melewis180@aol.com
Due the success of last year’s unofficial count and the wishes of participants, application has been made to make this an official Christmas Bird Count. Participants will meet at the home of ME and Fred Lewis on Lake Claiborne for supper and to call the list. Contact Nancy or ME for information re lodging for Wednesday night. Most of the free lodging is already reserved, but there may be something left. Lake Claiborne State Park (1-877-226-7652) also has very nice cabins available at $65 per night.
SHREVEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
Saturday, December 18, 2004  
Compiler – Charlie Lyon, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), lyon5516@bellsouth.net  
Participants will meet at the home of Charlie and Kimberly Lyon at 8617 W. Wilderness Way for supper and to call the list.

NATCHITOCHES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
December 19 or 26, 2004  
Compiler – Charlie Lyon, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), lyon5516@bellsouth.net  
Participants will meet at a local restaurant in Natchitoches for supper and to call the list.

BOSSIER-CADDO-BIENVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (BCBCBC)  
Monday, January 3, 2005  
Compiler – Paul Dickson, 797-7900 (W), 798-1000 (H), Paul@morrisdickson.com  
Participants will meet at Paul Dickson’s home at 10455 Ellerbé Road (across from Holy Angels) for supper and to call the list.

WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS

Beginner Bird Walks  
Saturday, November 6 and 20, 2004, 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
The Wild Bird Center conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting. Meet at the store in the University Place Shopping Center (also known as the Target Shopping Center) at the corner of Youree Drive and East 70th. The usual destination is C. Bickham Dickson Park. Loaner binoculars are available.

Beginner Bird Feeding Class  
Saturday, November 20, 2004, 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the Wild Bird Center  
Learn the basics in our free backyard bird feeding class. Victoria Williams will show you how to attract birds to your backyard. Learn how to choose a feeder, select the proper seed, and landscape for wildlife.

Children’s Workshop  
Sunday, November 21, 2004, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Wild Bird Center  
Ever made a feeder from a pine cone? Have some fun with pine cones, peanut butter, and some string. Hang the completed feeder in your backyard and see what birds come to visit. Materials and instructions will be provided. Mom or Dad, call the WBC to sign up your little birder for this workshop. Cost: $2.00 per child for materials.

For more information on any Wild Bird Center event, call Dennis or Janice Forshee at the Wild Bird Center, 318-797-BIRD (2473).

Will the Real Birders Please Stand Up!  
The 2004 Big Sit!  
by Nancy Menasco

The Big Sit of 2004 certainly served to separate those who have truly earned the right to bear the title “Birder” from those wimps who only think they have (you know who you are!). Undeterred by unrelenting rain, thirteen real birders showed up at C. Bickham Dickson Park on Sunday, October 10, and proved their mettle. Jerry Bertrand and I managed to arrive at our usual time of 6:30 a.m., but when our alarm clock went off at 5:30 a.m., it was pouring rain and we were sorely tempted to lie abed for a couple more hours. Rosemary Seidler had emailed me on Saturday night to find out our ETA for Sunday morning and I had told her 6:30 a.m. Knowing full well that if Rosemary got to the park before us, we would never hear the end of it, we were thus motivated to get up and get a move on. Suffice it to say, we needn’t have worried; we beat Rosemary to the park by a good three hours.

Optimistically thinking the rain might end at some time during the day, but also hedging our bet, Jerry and I started two circles, one out in the field in our usual location, the other on the covered porch of the old office next to the barn. Jerry volunteered to man the circle in the field while I took the porch. We would stay in touch by two-way radio and I would keep two separate lists until such time as we determined which circle would be the official one. Unlike prior years, no owls greeted either of us. The first species of the day would be Cattle Egret when a small flock flew over the porch circle at 6:50 a.m. Jerry saw a Great Blue Heron, which I missed. At 7:00 a.m. a Green Heron, a species seen during only one previous Big Sit (2002), flew by the porch, followed a few minutes later by two Wood Ducks; however, the normal dawn chorus was reduced
to a single Northern Cardinal and a Carolina Wren. Before long Marti Carroll joined me on the porch and Jeff Trahan joined Jerry in the field. The four of us were rewarded for our early rising by the best bird of the day, a near-adult Bald Eagle, who flew low over the treetops at 8:00 a.m. headed for a day of fishing on the Red River. White-headed, the eagle had only a trace of brown left in its white tail.

Most of the birds seen or heard in the next couple of hours were common to both circles, but Jeff and Jerry added House Wren, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Chickadee to the field list, while taking occasional porch breaks to get out of the rain for awhile. Marti heard a Killdeer to add to the porch circle. When Rosemary finally made her appearance around 10:00 a.m., she redeemed herself by rustling up a House Wren and a chickadee for the porch circle along with a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a House Sparrow. House Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher are both new species for the C. Bickham Dickson Big Sit. About 11:00 a.m. the decision was made to abandon the field circle as the rain was showing no signs of letting up and Jerry and Jeff were getting really tired of standing out in the field in the rain. The porch circle would get neither Great Blue Heron nor Tufted Titmouse by day’s end but did duplicate all other birds observed from the field circle.

The young birding set came out in force for the Sit. T.J. Schneider, who had journeyed all the way from Jackson, Mississippi, was stylishly dressed in brand-new glow-in-the-dark pajamas. Three-and-a-half year-old T.J., who was accompanied by his grandmother, Jean Trahan, and aunt, Kathryn Trahan, has attended all four of the Big Sits (2001-2004) that have been held at C. Bickham Dickson Park. Unfortunately, his irresponsible relations had forgotten to bring his binoculars, so he was somewhat handicapped in trying to identify far-off, rain-obscured specks. Let’s hope said relations will be more mindful of their responsibilities in regard to T.J.’s birding equipment next year.

By the time Alex Menasco, my 22-month-old grandson, and his mother Suzanne arrived in mid-afternoon, there were bigger birds to be seen. Alex was able to observe a couple of his favorite birds, an American Crow in the field in front of us and a White Ibis that flew over us. He was undaunted by the weather and eschewed the relative dryness of the porch to study the giant earthworms that had crawled out of the saturated ground onto the sidewalk. Budding scientist that he is, Alex carried out several experiments with the worms, including seeing how far one can stretch an earthworm, and attempted to do a taste test, egged on by Rosemary calling, “Eat another one!” I managed to forestall that part of the experiment before any damage had been done to the worm or Alex.

As might be expected, our species count did not compare favorably with past years. When Mac Hardy arrived about 2:30 p.m., the total species for the day stood at 37 and we had not seen any new species since shortly before noon. But Mac brought us good luck; at 2:40 p.m. an immature Cooper’s Hawk took advantage of a break in the rain to perch in a dead tree across the field and an hour later two Turkey Vultures were seen over the trees next to the river. Unbeknownst to us at the time, the Turkey Vultures would be our last new species of the day, bringing our total to 39 species.

Jim Ingold finally appeared in the late afternoon and asked why we weren’t sitting in the field. We replied that we had more sense than that. In response to the question as to why we were there at all, I said we didn’t have that much sense. Unlike Mac, Jim didn’t bring any new birds with him but suddenly, after one here and a couple there during the day, American Robins started coming out of the woodwork, until there were over 100 in the field in front of us. The most common birds up until then had been Chimney Swifts and swallows, which were out chasing insects whenever the rain would slacken. Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow were represented. At least two Belted Kingfishers rattled by off and on all day.

Arriving on the scene with neither raincoat nor jacket nor hat didn’t stop Mark Wilson from wandering around in the rain looking for birds, at which point he became conscious of what the rest of us had known for hours – it was cold out there and it was even colder if you were wet! Ostensibly to save him from succumbing to hypothermia, Jerry invited Mark to join him for a Dairy Queen run. They were hailed as heroes upon their return with a box of traditional Southern fortification foods, chicken strips and white gravy, as the pizza (compliments of Rosemary) and several dozen oatmeal cookies that had kept us going during the day were beginning to wear off.

Just before sunset, Mac and Marti, the last of the diehard Sitters save Jerry and me, faded away. Marti had been the only Sitter to keep me company on the porch for the entire day and the only person who thought to bring a scope, enabling us to avoid a shutout on Snowy Egret. The bird had been found by Rosemary when she went to check out birds over by the lake. The Big Sit rule is that you have to be able to see or hear a bird from the circle but someone can leave the circle to identify it. We reversed the procedure; Rosemary identified it first, then we had to find it behind the trees over a hundred yards away. Thanks to Marti and her scope, we were able to do so.
Jerry and I stayed until dark, hoping the rain would end and we’d hear an owl. It didn’t and we didn’t. Despite the low species count of 39 birds, down from 53 in 2001, 68 in 2003, and 70 in 2003, the honor of the Bird Study Group was upheld and we will be back to Sit again!

Postscript: Counted on all three previous C. Bickham Dickson Big Sits but missed entirely in 2004 were 13 species: **American White Pelican, Blue-winged Teal, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rock Pigeon, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, and Indigo Bunting.** Species seen from the field circle but not the official porch circle were **Great Blue Heron and Tufted Titmouse.** Species new to the Big Sit for 2004 were **House Wren** and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.** The total species count for all four sits from 2001 through 2004 stands at 89 species.

The BSG The Big Sit! List
*by Nancy Menasco*

All birds were observed at C. Bickham Dickson Park (Red River Education and Research Park). Thirty-nine species were seen at this year’s Big Sit. New birds for 2004 were **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and **House Wren.** The total species for 2001-2004 is 89.

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Ditches and Tea Rooms

Birding Around Caddo Lake
by Nancy Menasco

Unperturbed by the dire predictions of rain, BSG members Jerry Bertrand, Ann McLaurin, Mark Wilson, ME Lewis, and I met Dorothy Metzler, Wanda Bosmans, and Peggy Harding of NETFO (Northeast Texas Field Ornithologists) at the gate of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge at Karnack, Texas, the morning of Saturday, October 23. Dorothy was to be our guide to the refuge, which is not yet open to the general public due to ongoing hazardous waste cleanup. Created in October of 2000 from the former Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant, the refuge encompasses 8,500 acres. As there was obviously no way we were going to see the entire place, we were concentrating on a few hot spots.

Our first stop was at one of the few large open areas on the refuge. Here we saw an American Kestrel and heard Brown Thrasher in the small patches of woods. As we traversed roads lined on either side with forest, a Broad-winged Hawk flew across the road in front of us, a Hermit Thrush was heard, and two White-breasted Nuthatches were seen. Our next stop was the former site of Starr Ranch, which has the most easily-accessible view of Caddo Lake on the refuge. An old stone house still stands on the site. Dorothy told us that to provide barge access for the shipment of cattle and cotton, in the 1800’s a ditch was dug from the ranch to the main channel of the lake using slave labor. This ditch is known as Starr Ditch. At Starr Ranch, a Marsh Wren hid in the reeds along the lake’s edge while a very cooperative House Wren sang from an exposed perch in a bush. A Red-shouldered Hawk screamed in the distance, several Eastern Phoebes chased each other around, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch was heard by Dorothy. Near Harrison Bayou we found two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. A large grassy area called the Burning Ground – significance of the name unknown – yielded a Lark Sparrow, an uncommon bird for the refuge.

The morning passed quickly and before we knew it, it was time for lunch. The Lily, Barney, and Jason Poole and Jack and Sharon Falkenstine met us at Dawn’s Caddo Crossing for catfish, jalapeño hushpuppies, homemade onion rings, and other delicacies. Jim Ingold, Colleen Cookson, and Tom Walker, who were banding at Tom’s nearby farm, lunched with us as well. No rain had materialized and by the end of lunch, we were looking at blue skies.

Our trip culminated in a fascinating tour of Caddo Lake on the steam-powered paddle-wheeler, the Graceful Ghost. Rosana Shelby and Norma Cobb joined us for the boat ride. Captain’s duties were shared by Lexie McMillen, who deftly guided the steamboat on the leg out from Uncertain, Texas, and husband Jim, who took the helm for the trip back. During our tour, the captains recounted some of the history of Caddo Lake and its flora and fauna. The lake’s thousands of baldcypress trees are its most outstanding feature and the one that defines it. We learned that a baldcypress tree can live almost a thousand years but it is a slow grower. Once a tree attains its maximum height, it grows only about a foot in diameter every hundred years. Several theories exist as to the purpose of the cypress’s knees. One is that they provide aeration to the root system. Another theory is the knees provide stability. The high starch content of the knees supports the theory that they are some sort of food source to the tree. A baldcypress that is located on dry land does not produce knees; and
the more standing water there is at the tree’s base, the more knees the tree will produce; the higher the water line, the taller the knees will be. Veiled with Spanish moss and surrounded by their myriad knees, even the youngest of the Caddo Lake cypresses convey a quality of age and mystery.

Caddo Lake has been described as a lake the way God makes them, and it is, but a number of deep ditches, such as the aforementioned Starr Ditch, has been dug through it for one reason or another. We passed through a section of Government Ditch, which was dug to straighten out a section of the Big Cypress Bayou and is the only ditch dug by, yes, the government. We followed Alligator Bayou but bypassed Devil’s Elbow. A flock of 14 White Ibis, including both adults and immatures, blended so well with the cypress trees in which they were perched that we almost missed them. Some of the other birds seen during our tour were Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, and Belted Kingfisher and we learned that most of the crows on Caddo Lake are Fish Crows.

The lake is named for the Caddo Indians, who once inhabited this region. The Caddo word for friend, “tejas,” gave Texas its name as the Caddo used the word so often that the white men thought the Indians were referring to their name for the region. The Caddo were farmers, hunters, and artisans, who had a thriving trade with other tribes of the region. They lived peacefully with their neighbors, in contrast to both the early Spanish and French explorers, who fought each other over the strategically-placed lands of the Caddo, and the settlers from the United States who succeeded them.

Captain Jim McMillen pointed out Potter’s Point, a beautifully wooded bluff overlooking the north side of the lake on the Texas-Louisiana state line that was once the home of Robert Potter, Secretary of the Navy of the Republic of Texas, and his wife Harriet. Potter, who rose to political power in Texas despite a rather unsavory past, was one of the central figures in the deadly feud between the rival political parties, the Moderators and the Regulators. Potter, a Moderator, was shot and killed as he attempted to swim across the lake to elude a mob of Regulators that had surrounded his house. Harriet Moore Page Potter Ames was a remarkable woman who had 18 children by three husbands, of whom Robert Potter was the second. Harriet’s autobiography, The History of Harriet Ames, inspired a novel about her relationship with Robert Potter called Love Is A Wild Assault.

Out in the lake, among the cypress trees and partly supported by them, is an old ramshackle building accessible only from the water. A sign identifies it in its former life as “Dick and Charlie’s Tea Room.” Another sign advertises “Tolerant Waitresses Wanted.” During prohibition this so-called “tea” room was a lively drinking establishment and dance hall.

Back on shore, on Dorothy’s recommendation, our last stop of the day was the Caddo Pie Company on FM 134 across from the Caddo Lake NWR. The Pie Company’s signature pie is the “Swamp” pie, a confection of pecans, coconut, chocolate chips, and other goodies, but they also serve old-fashioned buttermilk pie, apple, and a “Peachy Keen” pie, among others. It was the perfect end to a wonderful day of birding with great company and good food amidst the extraordinarily beautiful setting that is Caddo Lake.

Read more about it:


Caddo Was...A Short History of Caddo Lake, by Fred Dahmer, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1995.


Love is a Wild Assault, by Elithe Hamilton Kirkland, available from the Caddo Lake Steamboat Company at Uncertain, Texas.


MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
October 5, 2004
Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS

Board members participating in the meeting were, Mac Hardy, Jerry Bertrand, Jeff Trahan, Linda Adrion, Nancy Menasco, Amanda Crnkovic, Lily Poole, Ron Martin, Nan Franks, and Rosemary Seidler. Also present was Marsha Melder.

New Business – Jay Huner has contacted the BSG and asked that the BSG become a member of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF). Dues are $15 per year. After some discussion, it was decided that many members were not really aware of the nature of LWF and wanted time to look at their website before making a decision. This topic will be taken up at the next board meeting. Lily Poole proposed that the BSG purchase a canopy for outdoor event use such as at the Big Sit,
backyard socials, etc. After some discussion, Lily said that she would get more information on the canopies. Mac Hardy said that he thinks that the booth at the Bodcau Hunting and Fishing Day has not been productive. We put a lot of effort in to manning the booth, but get very little reward. Mac thinks that we should instead seek to put booths at festivals and suggests that the club have a festival committee to take care of this. He said that the purpose of the booth would be to expose the community to birding and to recruit new members for the club.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jean Trahan distributed a proposed budget. The budget was amended and approved by the board. The adopted budget for 2004-2005 is shown in the table below.

**INCOME**
- Membership Dues: $1,500.00
- Monthly Auction: 200.00
- Christmas Auction: 800.00
- Miscellaneous: 600.00
- Rockefeller: 200.00

**TOTAL INCOME**: $3,300.00

**EXPENSES**
- Bank Charges: 45.00
- Donations: 500.00
- Honoraria: 300.00
- Library: $100.00
- Miscellaneous: 150.00
- Postage: 425.00
- Printing: 1,000.00
- Refreshments: 200.00
- Reimbursement, Supplies: 100.00
- Rockefeller: 200.00
- Stipend: 150.00
- Subscriptions/memberships: 130.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES**: $3,300.00

Jean Trahan distributed the regular monthly treasurer’s report. For the month ending September 30, the club had $2,482.20 in the bank. In addition, we had $369.09 and $431.39 in prepaid expenses at the post office and LSUS printing, respectively. The fund balance is $3,282.68.

**Hot Spots** – Judith O’Neale, treasurer of the Louisiana Ornithological Society (LOS), asked if the Hot Spots booklet could be sold at the LOS meeting at the end of October. The board agreed that it could be done and Mac Hardy agreed to sell them at the meeting.

**Bird Records** – Mac Hardy said that the database workshop will take place October 17.

**Raffle** – Ron Martin suggested that we limit the number of items to be raffled to a small number. The board agreed that this should be done and suggested that the number be limited to three to five items.

**Membership** – Lily Poole reported 98 paid accounts.

**Web Site** – Barney Poole reported via Lily Poole that the privacy policy regarding email addresses will be posted on the website. This policy will be placed on the Privacy Policies and Practices page. Barney is looking into having the database entry on the website; however, he needs more information before proceeding.

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### BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OFFICERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>President – Lily Poole (1)……………………………687-2994 (H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-president – Jerry Bertrand (2)………………868-3255 (H/W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary – Jeff Trahan (2)……………………..868-7360 (H), 869-5217 (W)</td>
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<td>Treasurer – Jean Trahan (2)………………………868-7360 (H)</td>
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<td><strong>MEMBERS AT LARGE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Adrion (1)…………………………………..868-5729 (H)</td>
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<td>Michele Andrews (1)………………………………752-9469 (H)</td>
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<td>Amanda Crnkovic (2)…………………………..861-5294 (H), 797-5338 (W)</td>
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<td>Dennis Forshee (2)…………………………797-2473 (W)</td>
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<td>Nan Franks (3)……………………………………869-1525 (H)</td>
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<td>Mac Hardy (1)…………………………………….687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)</td>
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<td>Hubert Hervey (2)……………………………………925-9249 (H)</td>
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<td>Ron Martin (3)……………………………………869-3943 (H), 865-5221 (W)</td>
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<td>Ann McLaurin (3)…………………………………797-9378 (H), 797-5371 (W)</td>
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<td>Nancy Menasco (3)………………………………..868-3255 (H/W)</td>
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<td>Rosemary Seidler (3)…………………………..424-2972 (H), 869-5231 (W)</td>
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Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.

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<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Birders – Dennis Forshee……………………797-2473 (W)</td>
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<td>Bird Alert Service – Rosemary Seidler…………………424-2972 (H)</td>
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<td>Bird Records – Mac Hardy……………………………..687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)</td>
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<td>Bird Hot Spot – Larry Raymond 929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)</td>
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<td>Field Trip Coordinator – Nancy Menasco…………..868-3255 (H/W)</td>
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<td>Fund Raising – Jerry Bertrand…………………………868-3255 (H/W)</td>
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<td>Hospitality – Amanda Crnkovic……………………..861-5294 (H), 797-5338 (W)</td>
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<td>Important Birding Areas – Hubert Hervey…………….925-9249 (H)</td>
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<td>Library – Linda Adrion……………………………..868-5729 (H)</td>
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<td>Membership Secretary – Lily Poole………………..687-2994 (H)</td>
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<td>Publicity – Michele Andrews…………………………752-9469 (H)</td>
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<td>Website – Barney Poole……………………………..687-2994 (H)</td>
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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
October 12, 2004, 7:00 p.m.  
Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS

Program – Brett Hunter presented a program on the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. Brett is manager of the refuge.

Field Trips – Nancy Menasco reported that it rained all day for the Big Sit, but the group still tallied a list of forty species. Nancy reminded the group that the Caddo Lake NWR tour will begin at 7:15 a.m. at the museum on October 23. Also, the LOS fall meeting will take place at the end of October and a field trip to Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park will be on November 13.

Miscellaneous – Mac Hardy said that he would like to organize a festival committee to promote birding and the club. He asked for volunteers to help. Mac reminded everyone that he has organized a workshop for learning how to use the records database. This workshop will meet at the museum on Sunday, October 17, at 2:00 p.m.

BIRD REPORT – compiled October 26, 2004

Use the bird report to see what other birders have been seeing and where to go find the bird you want to see. Observers are abbreviated by the first and last initials.

Birds are listed in the following format: date, initials of the observer, number of birds observed, initials of another observer, number of birds they observed, etc. For the number of birds observed, a 1 is used for both 1 bird and for numbers not reported by the observer. For example: 01/12/99 BB 2 means that on January 12, 1999, BB saw two birds.

Dates and localities of observations are summarized under the observer’s initials. Sightings are arranged by species. Following each species is a line of data in the following format: date, initials of the observer, number of birds observed, initials of another observer, number of birds they observed, etc. For the number of birds observed, a 1 is used for both 1 bird and for numbers not reported by the observer. For example: 01/12/99 BB 2 means that on January 12, 1999, BB saw two birds.

OBSERVATIONS

Greater White-fronted Goose – 10/24/2004 NM&JB 60
Blue-winged Teal – 10/24/2004 NM&JB 100, 10/01/2004 NM&JB 10
Northern Pintail – 10/01/2004 NM&JB 16, 10/24/2004 NM&JB 6
Green-winged Teal – 10/24/2004 NM&JB 20
Northern Shoveler – 10/01/2004 NM&JB 8, 10/24/2004 NM&JB 20
Gadwall – 10/24/2004 NM&JB 20
American Wigeon – 10/24/2004 NM&JB 2
Pied-billed Grebe – 10/01/2004 NM&JB 10, 10/06/2004 NM 2, 10/24/2004 NM&JB 1, 10/24/2004 RS&AM 1
Anhinga – 10/10/2004 NM&JB&BGS 1
Snowy Egret – 09/20/2004 RS 1, 10/01/2004 NM 1, 10/10/2004 NM&JB&BGS 1, 10/17/2004 NM&JB 2, 10/24/2004 NM&JB 1
Little Blue Heron – 09/20/2004 RS 1, 10/01/2004 RS 1, 10/06/2004 NM&JB 1, 10/10/2004 NM&JB&BGS 1
Tricolored Heron – 10/01/2004 NM&JB 3, 10/24/2004 NM&JB 1
Green Heron – 09/20/2004 RS 1, 10/10/2004 NM&JB&BGS 1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 09/20/2004 RS 1
Black Vulture – 10/21/2004 NM 2
Mississippi Kite – 10/06/2004 NM 1
Bald Eagle – 10/01/2004 NM&JB 1, 10/10/2004 NM&JB&BGS 1, 10/17/2004 NM&JB 1, 10/24/2004 NM&JB 1

Bird Talk – Jane Mollett saw many Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at the intersection of 70th street and Kings Highway this afternoon. Nancy Menasco reported a recent sighting of a Mississippi Kite at Bickham Dickson Park. It was remarked that this is a very late date for this species and she should probably send in a 3 x 5 card for this sighting.

TELL THE BSG

♦ Auction items are needed for the BSG Christmas Auction. This is our annual fundraiser and we need your contributions to make this year a success. If you have anything you would like to contribute, bring it to the museum (797-5338). If you have any ideas concerning this year’s auction please let us know.

♦ Thanks to all who brought refreshments to share at the last meeting!

Send announcements or any other tidbits of information to Amanda (797-5338 or acrnkov@softdisk.com)
Gray Catbird -- 10/02/2004 JT 1, 10/06/2004 NM 1
Brown Thrasher -- 09/20/2004 RS 1, 10/01/2004 RS 1, 10/02/2004 JT 8, 10/03/2004 RS 2, 10/20/2004 LRR 2, 10/24/2004 RS&AM 1
European Starling -- 09/20/2004 RS 1, 10/01/2004 RS 3, 10/03/2004 RS 9, 10/10/2004 NM,JB&BSG 30, 10/23/2004 JT 75

Printed 439 records. 114 species.

**OBERVERS**

JB -- Jerry Bertrand: 10/10/2004 C. Bickham Dickson Park, 10/21/2004 Adam Point on Lake Bistineau
JB&JT -- Jerry Bertrand & Jeff Trahan: 10/10/2004 C. Bickham Dickson Park
JT -- Jeff Trahan: 10/02/2004 Eddie D. Jones Park, 10/23/2004 Bickham Dickson Park
NM -- Nancy Menasco: 10/06/2004 C. Bickham Dickson Park, 10/15/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, 10/16/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, 10/17/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, 10/18/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, 10/20/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, 10/21/2004 Adam Point on Lake Bistineau, 10/21/2004 Atkins-Clark Road, 10/21/2004 Bienville PR 432 (Clairborne, Canal, Pelican Streets), 10/21/2004 Gric's Boat Launch at Lake Bistineau Dam & LA 154, 10/24/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport
NM&JB -- Nancy Menasco & Jerry Bertrand: 09/30/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, 10/24/2004 Lock & Dam #5 Road, 10/24/2004 Red River by boat-Bishop Point to MM 202, 10/01/2004 Bishop Point Road, 10/01/2004 Bishop Point Road & Lock & Dam #5 Road, 10/01/2004 LA 1 south of Robson Road, 10/01/2004 Red River by boat-Bishop Point to MM 202, 10/12/2004 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, 10/17/2004 Red River by boat-LA 2 bridge to Arkansas line, 10/17/2004 Thunder Road, 10/17/2004 US 79 near Gilliam, 10/24/2004 Bishop Point Road

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