



Shreveport Society for Nature Study

BIRD STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Number 8

April 1, 2005

Next Meeting-April 12, 2005

Sonoran and Chihuahuan Desert Herpetology and Birding
by Amanda Crnkovic

MARCH PROGRAM

When: Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Where: LSU in Shreveport, Museum of Life Sciences

In August of 2004, Amanda Crnkovic, a biologist at LSU in Shreveport, traveled with 7 others (including BSG members Mac Hardy and Eileen Banach) to Arizona and New Mexico for a two-week biological field excursion. During this trip they birded at every opportunity and encountered (on purpose) many different species of reptiles and amphibians including several species of rattlesnake. Birding highlights of the trip included **Phainopepla**, **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **Verdin**, and searching for **Elegant Trogons**.

Amanda will describe the animals and plants that were seen on the trip as well as the wonders of the desert habitat they explored.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

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

RICHARD FLEMING PARK & CROSS LAKE AREA

Saturday, April 9, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

Trip Leader – TBD

TOLEDO BEND BIRDING

Saturday, April 16, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

Trip Leader – Hubert Hervey, 925-9249
hawkeyehub@aol.com

LOS SPRING MEETING, CAMERON, LA

Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24, 2005

FLOWER HILL, KEATCHIE, LA

Saturday, April 30, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

Trip Leader – Margaret Fontaine, 861-0483

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT (NAMC)

Saturday, May 14, 2005

Compiler – Hubert Hervey, 925-9249
hawkeyehub@aol.com

LOUISIANA BIRDERS ANONYMOUS (LABA) ANNUAL FIELD TRIP & PICNIC

SHERBURNE WMA/ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sunday, May 22, 2005

Trip Coordinator – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255
nmcpa@aol.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.....To be placed on the list to send & receive emails, email birdalert@birdstudygroup.org
BSG Email..... lhardy@pilot.lsus.edu

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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

by Nancy Menasco

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

What to bring on field trips: snacks, drinks, two-way radios, and scope, if you have one. Unless otherwise noted, field trips will take place rain or shine, so bring rain gear if the weather's threatening.

RICHARD FLEMING PARK & CROSS LAKE AREA

Saturday, April 9, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

Trip Leader – TBD

Meet at the Whataburger Restaurant just north of I-220, 2900 N. Market. Early migrants should be arriving and some wintering species will not have departed, so there should be a good mix of birds for this field trip. Expect primarily roadside birding with some light walking.

TOLEDO BEND BIRDING

Saturday, April 16, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

Trip Leader – Hubert Hervey, 925-9249
hawkeyehub@aol.com

Meet at the Hervey farm in Stonewall for a day of exploring DeSoto and northern Sabine Parishes. We'll start our birding at the farm, and then caravan to the Toledo Bend area where we'll visit several parks along the Toledo Bend Reservoir, including Oak Ridge Park and North Toledo Bend State Park. The emphasis will be on locating woodland migrants, especially warblers. The trip should end by mid-afternoon. There are restrooms and picnic facilities at the parks. Expect some easy walking.

What to bring: Lunch, snacks, drinks, approximately \$6 per person for park admission fees.

How to get to Hubert's: Not quite 3/4 of a mile west of I-49 on Bert Kouns Loop (LA 526), go south on Linwood Road. Go a couple of miles into DeSoto Parish, pass a Quick Stop (not the name of it but the type of grocery store it is) on the left and turn right onto Ranchette Road. Go one mile, turn left at the T. This is Missile Base Road. Go almost a mile and turn left over the cattle guard that enters the farm. The sign says Hervey Dairy Road. The Hervey house is the first house on the left at the top of the hill.

LOS SPRING MEETING, CAMERON, LA

Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24, 2005

Information and registration forms for the annual spring meeting are available at the Louisiana Ornithological Society at <http://losbird.org/meeting.htm>. For a change of pace, Friday and Saturday evening activities will be held at the Creole Fire Station, which is located ¼ mile east of the one and only traffic light in Creole. The BSG has reserved the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. Lodging is \$10 a night per person in dormitory-style rooms. Sign up for Rockefeller at the BSG April meeting or call the LSUS Museum at 797-5338.

Membership in LOS is not required to participate in any of the LOS meetings, but you are encouraged to join to support the activities of our state society. Annual dues are \$20 for a regular membership and \$25 for a family membership. Three meetings are held each year with programs on Friday and Saturday nights, organized field trips on Saturday and, for the winter meeting, also on Sunday, and a banquet on Saturday night. The spring meeting is the last weekend in April; the fall meeting is the last weekend in October; and the winter meeting is held in different locations around the state, usually the last weekend in January.

FLOWER HILL, KEATCHIE, LA*Saturday, April 30, 2005, 8:00 a.m.*

Trip Leader – Margaret Fontaine, 861-0483

Come spend a leisurely morning birding at Margaret's beautiful country home. Bring a lunch; drinks and chips will be provided.

Directions: Go south on I-49 to the Stonewall exit and go west on the Stonewall-Frierson Road (Hwy 3276). Turn south (left) on US 171 (Mansfield Road) and turn west (right) on LA 5 at Kickapoo Corner. Go about three miles on LA 5 and turn left on Smyrna Road (there is a green street sign). Go south on Smyrna Road about three miles and turn right on Phillips Lane. Go straight on Phillips Lane through a gate and a pasture and you will see the house. It will take you about 35 minutes from the intersection of I-49 and Bert Kouns Loop.

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT (NAMC)*Saturday, May 14, 2005*

Compiler – Hubert Hervey, 925-9249

hawkeyehub@aol.com

You bird where you want to for as long as you can. Contact Hubert for forms and instructions. Be sure to keep separate records for each parish and location you bird. Participants will meet around 8:00 p.m. for the evening meal and to call the list.

LOUISIANA BIRDERS ANONYMOUS (LABA) ANNUAL FIELD TRIP & PICNIC SHERBURNE WMA/ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE*Sunday, May 22, 2005*

Trip Coordinator – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255

nmcpa@aol.com

A contingent of BSG members has journeyed south to participate in this annual event for the past two years. Details of this year's trip will be in the May newsletter.

WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS**Beginner Bird Walks***Saturday, April 2 and 16, 2005, 8:00-10:00 a.m.*

The Wild Bird Center usually conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting, but with New Year's Day falling on a Saturday this year, the schedule has been altered for January. 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 Street. The usual destination is C. Bickham Dickson

Park but the location may vary depending on local sightings. Loaner binoculars are available.

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

Wild Bird Center*The ultimate bird feeding specialty shop™*

7034 Youree Drive
Shreveport, LA 71105
University Place Shopping Center

Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

318-797-BIRD (2473)**Louisiana's Great Backyard****The Great Backyard Bird Count of 2005***by Nancy Menasco*

The theme for the 2005 Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, was America's Great Backyard. Participants were encouraged to count birds not only in their own backyards but in parks, nature centers, wildlife refuges, or wherever they happened to be. During the four-day count period from Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21, Bird Study Group members found themselves birding many diverse habitats in Louisiana's Great Backyard. Members attending the Louisiana Ornithological Society (LOS) winter meeting in Lafayette reported birds from LOS field trips and personal wanderings before and after the meeting from such places as Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish, Palmetto Island State Park (due to open to the public in the fall of 2006) in Vermilion Parish, and a roadside rest stop and recreational area along I-49 in Dubuison, St. Landry Parish. During a tour of the marshes at White Lake Preserve south of Gueydan in Vermilion Parish multitudes of wintering **Black-crowned Night-Herons** rose up in front of our mudboats. Other **Black-crowned Night-Herons** perched in low trees or stood in open pockets of water. An astounding 300+ were counted.

Back at home, BSG members were racking up the birds, including four wintering hummingbirds, a **Calliope Hummingbird** at the Keithville home of Bill Wood; two **Rufous Hummingbirds**, one in Stonewall at Donald and Linda Crnkovic's and one in Blanchard at Gloria and Sylvia Frantom's; and a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in Bobbe Womack's Shreveport

backyard. Caddo and DeSoto Parishes reported the *only* sightings of **Bewick's Wren** in the state of Louisiana – Ginny Hooper and Sharon and Heather Spaulding had one each in their Cross Lake backyards and Hubert Hervey had three on his farm near Stonewall. Other northwestern Louisiana observations of note include a Shreveport report from John McBride and Rachel Demascal of **Gray Catbird** and **Common Yellowthroat** (uncommon winter residents), Hubert Hervey's Stonewall sightings of two **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** at Bill Wood's feeders. This was this was an irruptive year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin**. **White-breasted Nuthatches** were seen in Blanchard (Larry Raymond), Keithville (Bill Wood), and Shreveport (20 birds on 16 reports). Why is the **White-breasted Nuthatch** a species of note? Did you know that the only place to see these nuthatches in Louisiana is in the northern part of the state, especially the northwestern and northeastern corners? The BSG area sightings were the only **White-breasted Nuthatches** reported in Louisiana for the GBBC.

Although Shreveport did not make the Top Ten Cities in the U.S. this year in number of species reported, we were first in Louisiana with 100 species. Stonewall was eighth in Louisiana with 63 species, Homer was tenth with 55 species, Caspiana was 11th with 52, and Keithville was 15th with 47 species. As illustrated by Velda Nielson, it's not all about the numbers. Velda related a tête-à-tête she and a friend had during the GBBC with a **Red-tailed Hawk** sitting on a fencepost on Yearwood Road. Velda writes, "As we slowly approached, the hawk never flew. He was no more than seven feet out our window! He was gorgeous! His breast feathers were all fluffed out accentuating his chest streaking. The feathers stood three-quarters of an inch away from his body. His breast feathers were a light yellowish-ivory color. With my binoculars I could see the details of every feather and every scale on his feet. Those talons looked quite powerful. He had a drip of moisture hanging on the tip of his beak. He just watched us watch him for about two minutes. Then he flew away. This was an awesome experience. And this proves the more you are out there in God's world of nature, the more truly amazing things you will witness!"

At least 35 BSG members and friends, citizen-scientists as Cornell Lab calls us, contributed their observations to the 2005 Great Backyard Bird Count, continuing an admirable record of participation by birders in our area.

The Loonatics

by Nancy Menasco

Our little caravan left Shreveport the afternoon of Friday, March 4, 2005 Bound for the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station (OMBS), nestled in the Ouachita National Forest near Mena, Arkansas. Amanda Crnkovic and Eileen Banach rode with Janis Harrison, our buddy and BSG member from Monroe, followed by Norma Cobb and her daughter, Tami Hazelwood. Jerry Bertrand and I brought up the rear.

Mac and Marilyn Hardy, John McBride, and Ann McLaurin had made the trip up to the station on Thursday and Ann and John had spent the day Friday hiking, so immediately upon our arrival at the station Friday night, the hungry hordes descended upon a lasagna dinner, hosted by the station's resident manager, David Simons. David is also a fine musician and composer and after dinner, he serenaded us in his cabin (christened Dogwood) on the guitar and harmonica with some of his own songs as well as a medley of old favorites. During the sing-along, we discovered that Tami at one time sang professionally with a band and yes, she can really sing! After the unexpected but delightful entertainment, we retired to our respective sleeping quarters in Nuthatch, Phoebe, and Bufo. Each building was named for something found around the building. Bufo is a toad for those not in the know. Surprisingly, no one slept in Rattlesnake.

The next morning we departed the station at 7:00 a.m. for the three-hour drive to Tenkiller Lake in Oklahoma. Formed by the damming of the Illinois River in the late 1940's, Tenkiller Lake encompasses almost 13,000 acres in the Cookson Hills of eastern Oklahoma. It is the deepest and clearest body of water in Oklahoma, and much of the shoreline is wooded. I must say that the hills looked like mountains to us Louisiana flatlanders. Tenkiller hosts four different species of loons in the winter, **Common Loon**, and the much rarer **Pacific Loon**, **Red-throated Loon**, and **Yellow-billed Loon**. We were hoping to be lucky enough to see one or more of these rare loons.

Loons looking for loons (that's how Ann McLaurin described us), we made our first stop of the day about 10:00 a.m. at Strayhorn Landing, not far from the Tenkiller Dam on the southwest end of the lake. The Strayhorn area is a favorite loon hangout as it is located on a very large sheltered bay behind a large island, appropriately named Strayhorn Island. It was a blue-sky day and the lake and surrounding hills were breathtakingly beautiful in the sun. Although a number of **Common Loons**, some in or nearing breeding plumage, were indeed hanging out here along with

Horned Grebes and **Buffleheads**, we were unable to locate any of the rarer loons among them.

Lunchtime found us at Tenkiller State Park, where we met Leann Bunn, the park naturalist, and Jim Harmon, a retired National Wildlife Refuge Manager, who is President of the Indian Nations Audubon Society. Leann conducts loon watches from Fisherman's Point at the State Park throughout the winter. Jim was assisting her that day as he often does and Leann had arranged for him to be our guide for the afternoon. After lunch in the park, Jim suggested we spend the early afternoon visiting Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, about ten miles south of the lake. We had been told that possibly the best time to see the loons up close was early in the day before they dispersed out into the lake or just before dark, when they raft up beyond the coves at the south end of the lake, so we had time to spare before taking up our loon-watching posts again.

At Sequoyah, Jim led us along a paved trail to a vantage point where we could see a female **Bald Eagle** on the nest. As we watched her, Jim told us the story of Oklahoma's **Bald Eagles**. In 1985 there were no active nests left in Oklahoma. Then, between 1985 and 1990, 90 eaglets were released into the wild in eastern Oklahoma, hatched at the George M. Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville from eggs taken from Florida eagle nests and raised without human imprinting. It was hoped that these eaglets would form a breeding population. A true success story, since 1985, over 200 eaglets have fledged from Oklahoma nests. The **Bald Eagle** we were watching was one of the 90 original eaglets. She's had more than one mate over the years at Sequoyah; her latest is a young male, who was not fully mature when they first mated and produced young. She's also built several different nests at Sequoyah and a pair of **Great Horned Owls** was nesting in one she had abandoned. The nest is easily seen from one of the refuge roads and one of the owls peered over the top as we watched it from a distance through scopes. It was a very strange sight to see an owl in an eagle's nest sit blinking in the mid-day sun. Another highlight of the Sequoyah NWR trip was a pair of **Redheads**, swimming with several other ducks in a pond right next to the auto tour road.

Returning to Tenkiller, we spent the rest of the afternoon at the Chicken Creek cove, watching more **Common Loons**. We found one possible **Pacific Loon** candidate but could not get close enough to make an identification before it drifted around a bend in the lake. A **Bald Eagle** fishing in the cove caught its dinner and retired to a secluded tree to eat it. Dinner for the rest of us was at the Cookson Smokehouse Restaurant (yummy apple dumplings).

Back at the OMBS that night, most of us decided to go home on Sunday by way of Beavers Bend State Park on Broken Bow Lake in southeastern Oklahoma. A **Black Phoebe** had been reported to be frequenting the spillway area there. We awakened Sunday morning to the sound of birdsong and another beautiful day. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** stripped bark from a cedar tree for its nest and a chipmunk scampered near the cabins.

Leaving the station, we crossed into Oklahoma again and followed US 259 south through scenic mountain ranges to Beavers Bend in McCurtain County. On the road to the park, we found the spillway with no problem as we had to cross it to get to the park. Beavers Bend is one of Oklahoma's State Resort Parks and it is quite a facility. We visited the Forest Heritage Center where we picked up maps and other park information. The park's Nature Center and restaurant are situated above the Mountain Fork River. The deck of the restaurant overlooks the river and to our astonishment, two pairs of **Common Goldeneye** and several **Hooded Mergansers** swam and dove below us, oblivious to the diners above them. At the spillway, the **Black Phoebe** was located without too much difficulty; phoebes seem to be one of the more cooperative rarities. We watched it sally forth from the spillway after insects while we ate a picnic lunch. Several early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** swooped around us.

Squeezing in one more birding stop in the late afternoon, we found **Snow Geese**, **Canada Geese**, and **Greater White-fronted Geese**, and **Northern Harriers** and **Red-tailed Hawks** aplenty at Red Slough south of Idabel. A **Common Yellowthroat** was seen and **Sedge Wren** was heard. We had hoped for a rail or **Short-eared Owl** sighting but came up empty. After a stop for dinner at the Dixie Diner (yeast rolls to die for) off I-30 at Nash, Texas, near Texarkana, we finally made our way home to Shreveport, already planning another winter trip to Tenkiller for another try at those rare loons.

Bewick's Wren in Northwestern Louisiana The Winter of 2004-2005

by Nancy Menasco

Often, we may not realize the national significance of birds appearing in our own backyards. Let's examine a case in point for one particular species, **Bewick's Wren**. In the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (Third Edition), the nominate eastern race, *Thryomanes bewickii bewickii*, is noted as "sharply declining east of the Rockies, especially east of the

Mississippi.” *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* indicates **Bewick’s Wren** to be common in the appropriate habitats in Texas (*T. b. criptus*) but on the decline and uncommon elsewhere (*T. b. bewickii* and western subspecies). In regard to the BSG area, Paul Dickson writes, “**Bewick’s Wren** as a winter resident has been reported to have declined here from numbers observed in the 1950’s though this is anecdotal. Certainly the decline of the eastern subspecies and concurrent rise in **House Wren** in those same breeding areas has been well documented. That we would see a decline in winter residents of that subspecies is to be expected. That said, I don’t see a decline in the past 20 years in northwest Louisiana. All forms are rare in other parts of the state but here in our region, they are uncommon. In fact this year’s numbers seem very high locally. We do get mostly the rufous-toned eastern subspecies. We also get intergrades and least of all the brown/gray Great Plains race.”

Interestingly, a possible factor in the decline in the population of **Bewick’s Wren** is the increase in numbers of **House Wren**. Support for this hypothesis can be seen by examining the range maps for the two species in the aforementioned field guides. **Bewick’s Wren** is still common in Texas, one of the few areas where the breeding ranges do not overlap.

From 1999 through 2004, there were only two reports of **Bewick’s Wren** in the eight-parish Bird Study Group area during the Great Backyard Bird Count, one in 2002 at Powhatan, in Natchitoches Parish, and a sighting by Hubert Hervey at his farm near Stonewall in DeSoto Parish (through some glitch in the program in 2004, this was inadvertently not included on the GBBC website). The only other Louisiana sightings during those years for the GBBC were in Pollock, in Grant Parish, and Lafayette. Increased participation by BSG members in the GBBC over the years, however, has resulted in the sightings of five different **Bewick’s Wrens** in 2005 in the BSG area during the GBBC, Ginny Hooper’s and Sharon and Heather Spaulding’s Cross Lake backyards birds and three birds on Hubert’s farm!

A visit to the Maproom on the GBBC website at www.birdsource.org/gbbc indicates that we are on the eastern edge of the winter range for **Bewick’s Wren** as the most easterly sightings of **Bewick’s Wren** for the GBBC appear in northwestern Louisiana and throughout the state of Arkansas. Additional data on **Bewick’s Wrens** in Louisiana is available at the Christmas Bird Count website at www.birdsource.org/cbc. A graph of the number of **Bewick’s Wren** per party hour (one way to standardize CBC data over time) for Louisiana CBC’s reveals wild fluctuations during the period from 1945 (the 46th count year) through around 1971 (the 72nd count

year) ranging from 0.0073 birds per party hour to 0.3043. Since then, the graph has remained fairly flat with less than 0.006 birds per party hour.

How does this compare to **House Wren** sightings during the GBBC and the CBC periods? By contrast, only two **House Wrens** were reported this year for the GBBC in the BSG area, one in Shreveport and one in Stonewall. In Louisiana as a whole, however, for the years 1999 through 2005, **House Wrens** generally outnumbered **Bewick’s Wrens** on a two-to-one to three-to-one ratio. A graph of CBC data for Louisiana for the period from 1945 through 2003 (the 46th through 104th count years) reveals the same sort of fluctuations as the earlier years for **Bewick’s Wren** but the ratio of birds to party hour is much higher, from an uncharacteristic low of 0.0154 in the 64th count year to a high of 0.5523 in the 96th year. In general, the number of **House Wren’s** per party hour is on the rise as opposed to the flat line representing **Bewick’s Wren**.

As Paul noted, this has apparently been a good year for **Bewick’s Wren** in northwestern Louisiana. There were five reported on the Shreveport Christmas Bird Count (CBC), two on the Bossier-Caddo-Bienville CBC, and one each on the Claiborne and Natchitoches counts. Several of us saw two birds at the Sentell Road sod farm pond in northern Caddo Parish on an outing with Charlie Lyon in early December of 2004 and I personally have seen three so far in 2005, two on Hart’s Island Road in Caddo Parish, and one on Yearwood Road in Red River Parish. It’s possible the two reported from the Cross Lake area for the GBBC are two of the birds counted on the Shreveport CBC as both homes are within the CBC circle, but it’s just as likely these are two different individuals. Terry Davis has heard **Bewick’s Wren** singing as if on territory recently and is wondering if perhaps we may see one or more pairs nesting in our area this year. With all this activity and the reported decline in the eastern subspecies, it’s important that we document the location and the subspecies of our observations of **Bewick’s Wren**. A documented nesting of **Bewick’s Wren** may be a first for Louisiana. If you suspect a nesting presence of **Bewick’s Wren**, consider posting it to the Bird Alert, especially if you will not be able to monitor the nest yourself, and notify Amanda Crnkovic at acrnkovi@pilot.lsus.edu or 797-5338, who will turn in a nest record to the LSU Baton Rouge database (if you do not wish to turn it in yourself). You can get a nest card that has the details requested for documentation from Amanda.

Birders are also encouraged to complete detail sheets (also known as long forms) on **Bewick’s Wren** sightings in Louisiana not because of doubts as to the wrens’ presence or the sightings but to provide data on the

relative abundance of the subspecies or color forms. Complete instructions and an online submission form can be found online at the Louisiana Bird Records Committee website, <http://losbird.org/lbrc/lbrc.htm>. The "Instructions for Reporting Louisiana Bird Observations" not only describe the procedures for reporting sightings but list bird species in addition to **Bewick's Wren** for which reports of Louisiana sightings are requested. As always, please turn in your records to Mac Hardy at lhardy@pilot.lsus.edu for the BSG database as well. As those of you who are involved in conservation and restoration know, without data documenting presence, absence, or decline of various bird species, nothing will be done to preserve or restore the habitats of these bird species for future generations. As demonstrated in the past, the BSG membership as a whole is a fine example of birders at their best. This is another opportunity for birders to contribute to citizen science and to give something back to the birds from which we derive so much pleasure.

Rats and Wrens by *Hubert Hervey*

I had a rat problem, because rats like bird seed too. I put out two sticky type rat traps and decreased the rodent population by two. I put out two more and after several days caught a Carolina Wren in one. The mate was singing constantly trying to locate its heartthrob. I spent nearly an hour cleaning the sticky stuff off the bird. It was caught by both feet, its tail, and one wing. After several false starts I tried a product called "Skin So Soft" Body Oil. It worked great, and made the entire job doable. The sticky glue no longer gummed up on my fingers. It rinsed off me and the wren in hot water. The wren was a banded bird (banded here at Stonewall on December 19, 2002, as a hatching year bird), and I believe it will recover, with the loss of a couple of primary flight feathers, and quite a few downy breast feathers. The pair had a joyous reunion, after I released the wiser captured bird. I recommend caution in using this type of trap. Choose your location carefully because wrens can go where rats can go.

***The First Book of Birds* by Olive Thorne Miller** (Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, Cambridge, MA, 1899)

A Book Review: Part Two by *Hubert Hervey*

My sister discovered this book, *The First Book of Birds* (published in 1899), while going through some of

the items in the estate of her mother-in-law. It is a "book intended to interest young people in the ways and habits of birds, and to stimulate them to further study." I found it quite interesting, and wished I could share some of the author's thoughts with members of the Bird Study Group. The prosaic style of writing and the simplistic acceptance of the ways of our friends in the bird world might seem quaint to the advanced scientific thought processes of our day, and yet I feel that over a century ago they had something we have lost in our world. There are eight full-page color pictures of birds, and nine full-page black-and-white pictures in the 144 total pages from which I have extracted the following tidbits. I can't explain it well, but if you will read with a slower pace than usual, so that you may absorb more of the intent of the writer, maybe you can tell me what I am feeling. The best way I know to convey the author's meaning is to quote a bit from each chapter. I hope you get a feeling for the early era of ornithology, as the story of birds, studied in the late 1800's, unfolds.

Reviewer's note: The following excerpt has been taken exactly from the original source, with only an occasional change in word arrangement to facilitate the meaning in the original. Any errors are copied as originally written with no editorial effort, in order to retain the essence intended by the author. Section titles are printed in bold; chapters are printed in italics.

"THE BIRD GROWN UP. *The Bird's language.* Of course birds do not use our words. When it is said that the quail says 'Bob White,' it is meant that his call sounds like those words. To some the notes sound like 'more wet.' One may call it almost anything, like 'all right' or 'too hot.'

What he eats. Some of the things birds are fond of are little animals, like mice and ground squirrels, that eat our crops. Others are insects which spoil our fruit and eat up our vegetables, cankerworms and cutworms, and a hundred more. Many birds eat the seeds of certain weeds that farmers have to fight all the time. The bluebird sits on the fence keeping sharp watch, and every few minutes flies down and picks up a grasshopper or a cricket, or some such grass-eating insect.

More about his food. Perhaps you have heard that hawks and owls carry off chickens. Many people who keep chickens shoot every hawk and owl they see. But if they knew more about them they would not do so. Only two of the common hawks and one owl disturb chickens [a footnote in the book identifies these three birds as **Cooper's Hawk**, **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**, and **Great Horned Owl**]. Some birds gather their food in the fall, and hide it away where they can find it in winter. Blue jays collect acorns and beech-nuts, and

store them in a hole in a tree, or some other safe place, to eat when food is scarce. A woodpecker who lives in the West picks holes in the bark of a tree, and puts an acorn into each one. The oddest store I know of was made by a woodpecker. He found a long crack in a post and stuffed it full of live grasshoppers. He wedged them into the crack so tightly that they could not get out, and I do not know that they wanted to. When grasshoppers were scarce in the fields, he came day after day to his queer storehouse, till he had eaten every one.

Where he sleeps. Grouse, who live on the ground, dive into a snow-bank, and snuggle down quietly, while the snow falls and covers them all over, and keeps the cold wind off. Air comes through the snow, so they do not smother. Bob-white and his family sleep in a close circle on the ground, all with their heads turned outward, so they can see or hear an enemy, whichever way he comes. Some birds, like the crows, sleep in great flocks. They agree upon a piece of woods, and all the crows for miles around come there every night. Sometimes thousands sleep in one bedroom, called a crow roost. Robins do the same, after the young are big enough to fly as far. Audubon once found a hollow tree which was the sleeping room of chimney swifts. He had a piece cut out at the foot of the tree and then replaced. At night, after the swifts were abed, he took a dark lantern and went in. He turned the light upon them little by little, so as not to startle them. Then he turned the light upon them little by little, so as not to startle them. Then he saw the whole inside of the tree full of birds. They were hanging by their claws, side by side, as thick as they could hang. He thought there as many as twelve thousand in that one bedroom.

His travels. The fall travel begins soon after the first of July. The bobolink is one of the first to leave us, though he does not start at once on his long journey. By that time his little folk are full grown, and can take care of themselves, and he is getting on his winter suit, or moulting. Then some morning all the bobolinks in the country are turned out of their homes in the meadows, by men and horses and mowing machines, for at that time the long grass is ready to cut. Then he begins to think about the wild rice which is getting just right to eat. Besides he likes to take his long journey to South America in an easy way, stopping here and there as he goes. So some morning we miss his cheerful call, and if we go to the meadow we shall not be able to see a single bobolink. Many birds take their journey by night. Think of it! Tiny creatures, that all summer go to bed at night, start off some night, when it seems as if they ought to be asleep, and fly all night in the dark. Their winter home may be thousands of miles away.

His winter home. Nearly every bird has two homes, one for winter and one for summer. Though so many birds leave us in the fall, they do not all go. A few come to us who have nested farther north, and some who have been with us all summer stay over winter too. These last are called "permanent residents," that is, they stay all the year round. Many of our summer birds stay in the Southern States all winter. Those who can, eat seeds and winter berries- for instance, robins and bluebirds, catbirds and sparrows - need not go very far south.

His family and friends. There are the birds who get their food from the sea, such as penguins. These birds live in big cities, of many thousands nests. They go to an island where no people live, and build on the ground, or on rocks, or anywhere. Sometimes they are so near together one can hardly walk without stepping on them. How each mother can tell her own, it is hard to see. If a mother is killed, so that her little ones are left orphans, one of the neighbors will adopt them all, and feed and bring them up with her own.

His kindness to others. A gentleman in Massachusetts told me that when he was a boy he saw a small flock of chewinks (reviewers note: Eastern Towhee) who came about a house where food was put out for birds. They came every day, and he soon saw that one was bigger than the rest, and that he never tried to pick up anything for himself, but all the others fed him. One day he was cruel enough to throw a stone at the bird who was so well taken care of, and when he took up his victim, he found that the upper and lower parts of his bill were crossed so that he could not pick up anything from the ground, where chewinks find their food. He had been born thus deformed, and if he had not been fed every day by his friends he must have starved to death. Yet so well had he been cared for that he was better grown than any of the others.

His affections. So much does the mother love her nestlings that she is often willing to die for them. Orioles and chickadees will let themselves be caught in the hand of one who has taken their young, rather than desert them. Robins have been found frozen to death on their nest. They could easily have saved themselves, but they would not leave their young one to perish. I could easily fill a book with stories to prove that birds are loving to their mates and young, and all of them true. Often a bird who is tamed loves his human friends. A man had a crow who was very fond of him. He had reared the bird from the nest and never shut him up, but let him fly about wherever he chose. One day he was out in a sudden rain, and his feathers got wet, so that he could not fly well. Then a boy caught him, and carried him seven miles away. He clipped one wing, so that the crow could not fly, and kept him shut in the house all

winter. In the spring, the first time he could get out, the bird started for his old home. He could not fly, but he walked the seven miles, through mud and wet, and came home so tired that he was almost dead. When his master saw him coming he went to meet him, took him up and petted him, and talked to him. The poor fellow was so happy it seemed as if he could not live. But he was taken care of, and got well, and lived many years. But never after that would he leave the place, though when his new feathers came in he could fly as well as ever.

His intelligence. A bird shows his intelligence in many ways. One is by the way he acts when he cannot do as he is used to doing. A robin I know of wished to build a nest, but could not find mud to put into it, for it was a very dry time, and there were no streams near. Now a robin's nest must have mud, and the bird seemed puzzled for a while. Then she went to a bathing-dish that people of the house kept filled with water for the birds, jumped into it, and got her legs very wet. Then she flew to the road, and tramped around in the dust and dirt. In a short time her legs had a good coating of mud, which she carefully picked off with her bill, and took to the nest she was building. This she did a great many times, until she had as much mud as she needed."

This is part two of a four part series of selections from this book. Other sections highlighted will be "How He is Made" and "His Relations with Us." Look for them in the next two issues of the BSG newsletter.

John McBride's Birding Challenges for the BSG

In order to increase records in the BSG database, John McBride is personally sponsoring two contests for the BSG.

The Great April Fools' Birding Extravaganza. Contestants will receive one point for each species tallied and submitted to the BSG database everyday in every parish of our area. One point per species per parish per day! So, if Joe Bob sees ten **Mourning Doves** and a **Tufted Titmouse** at his workplace in Caddo Parish and two **Mourning Doves** and a **Gray Catbird** at his home in DeSoto Parish, he would earn four points for the day. Turn in those everyday sightings – the person who sees twenty common species every day and turns them in will beat the person who only reports his Saturday tally of 100 species!

This contest will benefit the database by documenting the daily presence of common, expected species. Everyone's sightings are important. The data from this contest will help elucidate when our database area bird species are occurring. This contest will run from April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006. Winner will receive a plaque and bragging rights for the year.

The May Madness Breeder's Cup. Participate in an exciting contest which meshes well with our nest record card challenge! Beginning May 1 and running through August 31, earn points in each section (square mile) for each breeding bird you find. Singing males, paired birds, and courtship displays get you one point in each section. Birds carrying nest material, food, or fecal sacs OR observed mating attempt OR flightless fledgling gets you two points in each section. The smoking gun, a nest with eggs or nestlings or an incubating adult gets you three points in each section. Even if you have already found a Carolina Wren nest in the parish, a nest in a different section counts again! Maps showing section lines are available from LA DOTD for \$1.08 per parish. John McBride will take orders at the April and May meetings. Looking across the road and knowing it is a different section is fine, but estimating the distance of a pair of hawks soaring and guessing the section is NOT.

Participants can attend a short seminar on determining what section they're in at the April meeting. This contest will be run every year for five years in order to map the breeding distributions of our birds spatially.

BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons	
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
OFFICERS	
President – Lily Poole (1).....	687-2994 (H)
Vice-president – Jerry Bertrand (2).....	868-3255 (H/W)
Secretary – Jeff Trahan (2).....	868-7360 (H), 869-5217 (W)
Treasurer – Jean Trahan (2)	868-7360 (H)
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Amanda Crnkovic (2).....	861-5294 (H), 797-5338 (W)
Dennis Forshee (2).....	797-2473 (W)
Nan Franks (3).....	869-1525 (H)
Mac Hardy (1).....	687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)
Hubert Hervey (2).....	925-9249 (H)
Ron Martin (3).....	869-3943 (H), 865-5221 (W)
Ann McLaurin (3).....	797-9378 (H), 797-5371 (W)
Nancy Menasco (3).....	868-3255 (H/W)
Rosemary Seidler (3).....	424-2972 (H), 869-5231 (W)
<i>Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.</i>	
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	
Beginning Birders – Dennis Forshee.....	797-2473 (W)
Bird Alert Service – Rosemary Seidler.....	424-2972 (H)
.....	869-5231 (W)
Bird Hot Spot – Larry Raymond	929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
Bird Records – Mac Hardy.....	687-6738 (H) 797-5338 (W)
Field Trip Coordinator – Nancy Menasco.....	868-3255 (H/W)
Fund Raising – Jerry Bertrand.....	868-3255 (H/W)
Hospitality – Amanda Crnkovic	861-5294 (H) 797-5338 (W)
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.....	797-5338 (W)
Folding/Mailing Committee – Nan Franks.....	869-1525 (H)
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Publicity – Michele Andrews.....	752-9469 (H)
..... & Marti Carroll.....	746-2235 (H)
Website – Barney Poole.....	687-2994 (H)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**March 1, 2005****Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS**

Board members participating in the meeting were Jerry Bertrand, Jeff Trahan, Linda Adrion, Nancy Menasco, Lily Poole, Rosemary Seidler, Hubert Hervey, Amanda Crnkovic, Ron Martin, and Ann McLaurin.

Treasurer's Report – The treasurer was not present, however she did send a copy of the report that was available to be read by all. For the month ending February 28, the club had \$3,321.10 in the bank. In addition, we had \$211.40 and \$283.30 in prepaid expenses at the post office and LSUS printing, respectively. The fund balance is \$3,815.80.

Privacy Policy – Lily Poole sent the revised privacy policy for the club's web site via email to the board. This version of the policy was approved by the board. The revised policy can be seen on the BSG website at www.birdstudygroup.org/privacy.html

Regional Science Fair – Linda and Sarah Hancock will be judges at the science fair.

Awards – Lily Poole reminded the board that the club owes prize money to Hubert Hervey who won the President's award and also to Mac Hardy who won the Will Smolenski Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, we will list their names on a plaque to be displayed in the museum.

Least Terns – Hubert Hervey mentioned that the Corps of Engineers will have public meetings this summer concerning building more dams north of Shreveport on the Red River. Hubert wants to mention at that meeting that there is a **Least Tern** program. He also wants to know why nothing has been spent on **Least Terns** on pools 3, 4, and 5. The **Least Tern** committee will meet to discuss this matter.

American Humanics Program – Lily Poole reported for Mac Hardy. The LSUS American Humanics program will host its semi-annual Volunteer Fair on Thursday, March 31, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the lobby of the University Center on the LSUS Campus. The fair is free and open to the public. It is designed to promote volunteerism and educate individuals about nonprofit organizations and their missions. Mac Hardy thinks we should be involved with this program. A motion was made that the club not be involved. The motion passed.

Parish List Competition – Nancy Menasco sent a list of suggested awards for the parish list competition. The following are proposed awards for each competition: a) Parish List Competition – an impressive certificate and the honor and glory of having the winner's name published in the BSG newsletter. b) Life

List Competition--The winner's name published in the BSG newsletter plus a choice of one of the following: Sibley's Guide to Birds, Peterson Field Guides "Birding by Ear" or "More Birding by Ear" CD, or Thayer Birding Software/Cornell Lab of Ornithology "Birds of Louisiana" CD. All these items cost approximately the same amount, about \$30, at the Wild Bird Center. c) Golden Bird Competition--The winner's name published in the BSG newsletter and a contribution to be made in the winner's name to the Louisiana birding or conservation association of the winner's choice. Examples of possible recipients include the LOS, The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana, or the Cameron Parish sanctuaries fund of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society. A motion was made to accept this proposal. It was seconded and passed by the board.

Newsletter – Amanda Crnkovic pointed out that the ad for the Wild Bird Store has expired, but she would like to keep it in the newsletter without charge until the current volume of the newsletter is complete. She also suggested that in the future, she would like to have advertising purchased for a complete volume of the newsletter rather than by the issue. The board agreed to this proposal.

BioBlitz – Amanda Crnkovic said that BioBlitz would take place April 2, in Bickham Dickson Park.

Membership – Lily Poole said that we have 99 paid accounts.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**March 8, 2005, 7:00 p.m.****Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS**

Program – Suzanne Odom presented a program on Bodcau Wildlife Management Area. She discussed its multiple uses and management.

Parish List Competitions – Amanda Crnkovic announced the winners of the 2004 parish list competitions:

a) BSG Parish List Competition

Parish	Place	Winner	# Species
Caddo	1 st	Rosemary Seidler	207
	2 nd	Nancy Menasco	194
Bossier	Tie 1st	Rosemary Seidler	122
		Hubert Hervey	122
Claiborne	1 st	M.E. Lewis	135
	2 nd	Rosemary Seidler	118
Red River	1 st	Rosemary Seidler	128
	2 nd	Nancy Menasco	90
	2 nd	Hubert Hervey	90
Natchitoches	1 st	Rosemary Seidler	137
	2 nd	Hubert Hervey	131
DeSoto	1 st	Hubert Hervey	168
	2 nd	Rosemary Seidler	115

Bienville	1 st	Rosemary Seidler	103
	2 nd	Nancy Menasco	64
Webster	1 st	Rosemary Seidler	105
	2 nd	Nancy Menasco	49

b) Statewide Parish List Competition

The largest number of species found in a parish statewide was 303 species in Cameron Parish. The second highest was 290 in Orleans Parish. A total of 357 species were found in the 64 Louisiana parishes. BSG winners in the statewide competition are as follows:

Competition	Place	Winner	Number
Total Num. Species	1 st	Rosemary Seidler	4,779
	3 rd	Jean Trahan	2,054
	5 th	Hubert Hervey	1,628
	6 th	Nancy Menasco	1,384
Most Parishes visited	Tie 1 st	Jean Trahan	64
		Rosemary Seidler	64
	3 rd	Hubert Hervey	36
	5 th	Nancy Menasco	27
Most Parishes won	1 st	Rosemary Seidler	21
Best Cum. State List	5 th	Hubert Hervey	243

BioBlitz – Jim Ingold announced that BioBlitz will take place April 2, in Bickham Dickson Park.

Least Terns – Hubert Hervey reported that the Corps of Engineers has included the **Least Terns** in their proposals for new dams north of Shreveport on the Red River. These proposals will be released this summer.

TELL THE BSG

- ◆ Check out these **Louisiana birding festivals**:
 - Audubon Country BirdFest, St. Francisville, April 1-3;
 - Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Grand Isle, April 15-17;
 - Southwest Louisiana Migration Sensation, Lake Arthur, April 14-16;
 - The Great Louisiana BirdFest, Mandeville, April 14-17.
 - Neotropical Songbird Tour, Atchafalaya/Sherburne, May 14.
- ◆ BSG member, **Helen Hood**, passed away March 14, 2005 at the age of 87. She was a good friend of the Bird Study Group, donating items for the annual Christmas Auction. She loved birds, and tried to keep bird feeders and nest boxes, even while she was

in a nursing home. Many of her bird records are in our database. She was always jovial, friendly, and a lover of nature.

- ◆ The BSG sponsored a special award given at the **2005 Region I Science & Engineering Fair** for the overall best project involving birds. The winning award went to Garrett Fultz, for the project titled "Migration of Waterfowl." BSG members Sarah Hancock and Linda Adrion were the judges who selected the winner.
- ◆ The **Red Slough Website** has been relocated to a new address and has been updated with numerous new photos and information. The new photos are located in the later pages of each photo gallery. The new address is: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ouachita/natural-resources/redslough/index.shtml>

Send announcements to Amanda by phone at 797-5338 or by email at newsletter@birdstudygroup.org

TREASURER’S REPORT

Shreveport Society for Nature Study, BSG

Statement of Financial Position

Month ending: February 28, 2005

Cash	\$3,321.10
Prepaid Expense:	
Postage	211.40
Printing	283.30
Total Assets	<u>\$3,815.80</u>
Fund Balance	<u>\$3,815.80</u>

Income Statement for the month February 2005

INCOME:	
Memberships	\$75.00
Gifts	0
Monthly Auction	15.00
Other Sales	0
Memorials	0
Hot Spots	19.00
Krogers	0
Rockefeller (LADWF)	0
Total Income	<u>\$109.00</u>
EXPENSES:	
Bank Charges	\$0
Honoraria	0
Rockefeller (LADWF)	0
Miscellaneous	25.00
Postage	32.14
Printing	0
Refreshments	0
Reimbursement, Supplies	0
Stipend	0
Subscriptions/memberships	0
Total Expenses	<u>57.14</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$51.86)</u>

BIRD REPORT – *compiled March 28, 2005*

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. 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. Then by looking on the observer list, located after the sightings, you can determine that BB is Bob Birder and on 1/12/99 he was birding C. Bickham Dickson Park.

Report bird records for the newsletter to Mac Hardy by the 15th of each month. All bird records reported here are observations of the observers and are therefore the responsibility of the observer.

OBSERVATIONS

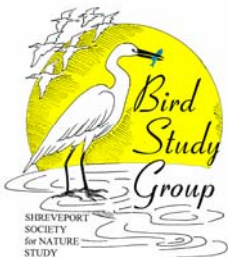
Greater White-fronted Goose -- 03/04/2005 HH 18
Wood Duck -- 02/26/2005 JT 2, 03/04/2005 HH 5, 03/06/2005 JT 10, 03/09/2005 H&PH 4, 03/11/2005 LRR 2, 03/13/2005 JT 6, 03/14/2005 HH 2, 03/16/2005 HH 2, 03/19/2005 BSG 6, 03/24/2005 JI 5
Gadwall -- 02/19/2005 SH 1, 02/19/2005 JT 2, 02/26/2005 JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 4, 03/06/2005 JT 11, 03/09/2005 H&PH 200, 03/14/2005 HH 8, 03/19/2005 BSG 150, 03/19/2005 BSG 2, 03/21/2005 J&JT 7
Mallard -- 02/26/2005 JT 10, 03/05/2005 J&JT 2, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/06/2005 JT 5, 03/13/2005 JT 2, 03/19/2005 BSG 6, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/24/2005 JI 3, 03/26/2005 JT 1
Blue-winged Teal -- 02/26/2005 JT 2, 03/14/2005 HH 10, 03/15/2005 JI 6, 03/19/2005 BSG 2, 03/24/2005 JI 5
Northern Shoveler -- 03/19/2005 BSG 200
Northern Pintail -- 03/19/2005 BSG 2
Green-winged Teal -- 03/19/2005 BSG 20
Ring-necked Duck -- 03/05/2005 J&JT 6, 03/19/2005 BSG 2
Greater Scaup -- 03/09/2005 H&PH 3
Lesser Scaup -- 03/09/2005 H&PH 20
Ruddy Duck -- 03/19/2005 BSG 20
Pied-billed Grebe -- 02/21/2005 BW 2, 02/26/2005 JT 4, 03/05/2005 J&JT 5, 03/06/2005 JT 2, 03/09/2005 H&PH 6, 03/14/2005 HH 6, 03/15/2005 JI 7, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/21/2005 J&JT 1
American White Pelican -- 03/09/2005 H&PH 200, 03/13/2005 JT 12, 03/19/2005 BSG 2, 03/19/2005 NM&LA 200, 03/22/1905 S&RM 7, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 40
Double-crested Cormorant -- 02/19/2005 SH 3, 02/21/2005 BW 3, 02/26/2005 JT 35, 03/03/2005 LSUSOC&HH 1, 03/04/2005 HH 4, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 8, 03/06/2005 JT 20, 03/09/2005 H&PH 55, 03/13/2005 JT 65, 03/14/2005 HH 25, 03/16/2005 HH 12, 03/19/2005 NM&LA 20, 03/19/2005 BSG 3, 03/19/2005 BSG 8, 03/19/2005 BSG 4, 03/24/2005 JT 7, 03/24/2005 JI 1, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 10
Great Blue Heron -- 02/19/2005 SH 1, 02/26/2005 JT 4, 03/04/2005 HH 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/06/2005 JT 3, 03/09/2005 H&PH 4, 03/13/2005 JT 1, 03/14/2005 HH 2, 03/16/2005 HH 6, 03/19/2005 BSG 2, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/25/2005 J&JT 3, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 1
Great Egret -- 02/19/2005 SH 20, 02/21/2005 BW 4, 02/26/2005 JT 7, 03/04/2005 HH 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/09/2005 H&PH 12, 03/13/2005 JT 2, 03/14/2005 HH 3, 03/15/2005 JI 5, 03/16/2005 HH 55, 03/19/2005 BSG 2, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 8, 03/24/2005 J&JT 3, 03/24/2005 JT 1, 03/24/2005 JI 5, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 10
Snowy Egret -- 03/13/2005 JT 1, 03/15/2005 JI 1, 03/16/2005 HH 6, 03/24/2005 JI 1, 03/26/2005 CL 1
Cattle Egret -- 03/26/2005 CL 3
White Ibis -- 02/19/2005 SH 20, 03/05/2005 J&JT 40
Black Vulture -- 02/21/2005 BW 2, 03/03/2005 LSUSOC&HH 4, 03/04/2005 HH 4, 03/05/2005 J&JT 3, 03/09/2005 H&PH 2, 03/10/2005 LRR 1, 03/12/2005 JT 1, 03/14/2005 HH 4, 03/16/2005 HH 4, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 5
Turkey Vulture -- 02/19/2005 SH 4, 02/21/2005 BW 2, 02/26/2005 JT 4, 03/03/2005 LSUSOC&HH 6, 03/04/2005 HH 4, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/09/2005 H&PH 6, 03/10/2005 LRR 1, 03/11/2005 LRR 2, 03/12/2005 JT 1, 03/13/2005 JT 2, 03/14/2005 HH 4, 03/16/2005 HH 7, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 3, 03/22/2005 JT 1, 03/22/2005 JT 2, 03/23/2005 JT 1, 03/24/2005 J&JT 14, 03/24/2005 JT 1, 03/25/2005 J&JT 3, 03/25/2005 LRR 1, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 8
Osprey -- 02/26/2005 JT 1
Bald Eagle -- 03/12/2005 JM 1, 03/13/2005 JT 2
Northern Harrier -- 02/19/2005 SH 1, 02/26/2005 JT 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/22/1905 S&RM 1, 03/22/2005 JT 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk -- 03/04/2005 HH 1, 03/22/2005 JT 1
Red-shouldered Hawk -- 03/04/2005 HH 2, 03/12/2005 JT 1, 03/22/2005 JT 2, 03/23/2005 JT 2, 03/24/2005 JT 2, 03/25/2005 LRR 1
Red-tailed Hawk -- 02/19/2005 SH 5, 02/21/2005 BW 2, 02/26/2005 JT 1, 03/04/2005 HH 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/09/2005 H&PH 8, 03/11/2005 LRR 1, 03/14/2005 HH 3, 03/16/2005 HH 2, 03/19/2005 NM&LA 2, 03/19/2005 BSG 7, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/22/2005 JT 1, 03/25/2005 J&JT 2, 03/26/2005 CL 1, 03/26/2005 JT 1, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 3
American Kestrel -- 02/19/2005 SH 3, 03/04/2005 HH 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/09/2005 H&PH 4, 03/14/2005 HH 2, 03/16/2005 HH 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/21/2005 J&JT 2, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 2
Merlin -- 03/26/2005 CL 1
American Coot -- 03/06/2005 JT 3, 03/13/2005 JT 4, 03/14/2005 HH 8, 03/19/2005 BSG 35, 03/19/2005 BSG 20, 03/24/2005 JI 2, 03/26/2005 JT 1
American Golden-Plover -- 03/09/2005 H&PH 60, 03/21/2005 J&JT 450, 03/22/1905 S&RM 400, 03/27/2005 J&JT 75, 03/27/2005 CL 600
Killdeer -- 02/19/2005 SH 17, 02/21/2005 BW 5, 02/26/2005 JT 2, 03/04/2005 HH 2, 03/09/2005 H&PH 44, 03/13/2005 JT 2, 03/14/2005 HH 4, 03/16/2005 HH 2, 03/19/2005 BSG 10, 03/21/2005 J&JT 1, 03/22/1905 S&RM 4, 03/24/2005 J&JT 2, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 3, 03/27/2005 CL 8
Greater Yellowlegs -- 02/19/2005 SH 22, 03/19/2005 BSG 30, 03/26/2005 CL 1, 03/27/2005 CL 1
Lesser Yellowlegs -- 03/19/2005 BSG 2, 03/21/2005 J&JT 1
Solitary Sandpiper -- 03/27/2005 CL 4
Upland Sandpiper -- 03/27/2005 CL 2

Eastern Meadowlark -- 02/19/2005 SH 2, 03/04/2005 HH 6, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/09/2005 H&PH 3, 03/14/2005 HH 4, 03/19/2005 BSG 6, 03/19/2005 BSG 20, 03/22/2005 JT 15, 03/25/2005 J&JT 25, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 6
Rusty Blackbird -- 03/09/2005 H&PH 3
Brewer's Blackbird -- 03/09/2005 H&PH 5, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 50, 03/27/2005 CL 2
Common Grackle -- 02/18/2005 SH 5, 02/19/2005 SH 4, 02/19/2005 SH 1, 02/20/2005 SH 4, 02/26/2005 JT 15, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/05/2005 J&JT 1, 03/06/2005 JT 18, 03/09/2005 H&PH 10, 03/13/2005 JT 25, 03/14/2005 HH 30, 03/15/2005 JI 20, 03/16/2005 HH 12, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/24/2005 JI 20, 03/26/2005 NM&JB 10, 03/26/2005 JT 22
Brown-headed Cowbird -- 03/04/2005 HH 40, 03/06/2005 JT 22, 03/09/2005 H&PH 100, 03/13/2005 JT 15, 03/16/2005 HH 12, 03/19/2005 NM&LA 10, 03/26/2005 JT 1
Purple Finch -- 03/02/2005 LRR 2, 03/10/2005 LRR 1
House Finch -- 02/18/2005 SH 2, 02/21/2005 BW 6, 02/21/2005 BW 2
Pine Siskin -- 03/02/2005 LRR 1, 03/22/2005 LRR 1
American Goldfinch -- 02/18/2005 SH 5, 02/19/2005 SH 3, 02/20/2005 SH 1, 02/21/2005 BW 8, 03/02/2005 LRR 50, 03/03/2005 LSUSOC&HH 1, 03/04/2005 HH 4, 03/10/2005 LRR 2, 03/14/2005 LRR 4, 03/22/2005 LRR 7, 03/24/2005 J&JT 1
House Sparrow -- 02/18/2005 SH 7, 02/19/2005 SH 3, 02/20/2005 SH 5, 02/21/2005 BW 6, 02/26/2005 JT 1, 03/13/2005 JT 3, 03/16/2005 HH 8, 03/19/2005 BSG 1, 03/29/2005 LMH 2

Printed 1,059 of the 161,115 records. 132 species.

OBSERVERS

BillW -- **Bill Wood**: 03/13/2005 Keithville: 3514 Fountainbleau, 03/23/2005 Keithville: 3514 Fountainbleau, 03/27/2005 Keithville: 3514 Fountainbleau, 03/28/2005 Keithville: 3514 Fountainbleau
BSG -- **Lilly Poole, Nancy Menasco, Jeff Trahan, Ron Martin, Susan Martin, Linda Adrion, and Brett Hunter**: 03/19/2005 Lock & Dam #5, Caddo Parish, 03/19/2005 Red River Wildlife Refuge, Bayou Pierre, 03/19/2005 Red River Wildlife Refuge, Headquarters
BW -- **Bobbe Wommack**: 02/21/2005 Red River Education & Research Park (=C. Bickham-Dickson Park), 02/21/2005 Shreveport: 1172 Gooseberry, 02/21/2005 Shreveport: Bert Kouns Blvd.
CL -- **Charlie Lyon**: 03/26/2005 Ellerbe Road and LA 1, S to Yearwood Road, 03/26/2005 Jct. Ellerbe and Robson Roads, 03/26/2005 Lock and Dam #5, Red River, 03/26/2005 Wallace Lake dam, 03/27/2005 Ellerbe Road and LA 1, S to Yearwood Road
H&PH -- **Hubert and Pat Hervey**: 03/09/2005 LA Hwy. 1 from Shreveport to Lock & Dam #5
HH -- **Hubert Hervey**: 03/04/2005 Hervey farm in Stonewall, 03/14/2005 Shreveport: Clyde Fant to RR Ed. & Res. Park, 03/16/2005 Bossier City: Red River from downtown to Century Tel Center, 03/17/2005 Shreveport: I-49 at Bert Kouns Blvd
J&JT -- **Jeff & Jean Trahan**: 03/05/2005 LA 154, Bienville Parish, 03/05/2005 LA 154, Bossier Parish, 03/05/2005 LA 4, Bienville Parish, 03/05/2005 Mill Creek Lake, Bienville Parish, 03/05/2005 US 71 South from Bossier City, Bossier Parish, 03/05/2005 US 71, Natchitoches Parish, 03/20/2005 505 Americana Dr., Shreveport, 03/21/2005 LA 1 South of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, 03/21/2005 Robinson Road, 03/24/2005 Lake Bisteneau State Park, 03/25/2005 LA 173, Caddo Parish, 03/25/2005 Soda Lake, 03/27/2005 Robinson Road, Caddo Parish
JJ -- **Jim Ingold**: 03/15/2005 C. Bickham Dickson Park, 03/24/2005 C. Bickham Dickson Park
JM -- **Jeffrey Menasco**: 03/12/2005 Lake Bisteneau by boat near Camp Joy
JT -- **Jeff Trahan**: 02/19/2005 Bickham Dickson Park, 03/06/2005 Bickham Dickson Park, 03/12/2005 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, 03/13/2005 Bickham Dickson Park, 03/22/2005 Bodcau WMA, Bossier Parish, 03/22/2005 John Haygood Nature Trail, Bodcau WMA, 03/23/2005 Eddie D. Jones Park, 03/24/2005 Caney Lake, 03/24/2005 Kisatchie National Forest, Webster Parish, 03/26/2005 Bickham Dickson Park
KT -- **Kathryn Trahan**: 03/18/2005 Valley View Drive, Shreveport
LMH -- **Laurence M. Hardy**: 03/29/2005 LSUS campus, near Museum of Life Sciences
LRR -- **Larry R. Raymond**: 03/02/2005 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, 03/10/2005 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, 03/11/2005 Eddie D. Jones Park, 03/11/2005 Fannin Street immed. SW of McNeill Street, downtown Shreveport, 03/14/2005 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, 03/22/2005 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, 03/24/2005 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park, 03/25/2005 Eddie D. Jones Park
LSUSOC&HH -- **LSUS Ornithology Class & Hubert Hervey**: 03/03/2005 Hervey Dairy Farm
NM&JB -- **Nancy Menasco & Jerry Bertrand**: 03/26/2005 LA 1 from LA 175 to Lock & Dam #5, 03/26/2005 Lock & Dam #5, 03/26/2005 Robinson Road off LA 1
NM&LA -- **Nancy Menasco & Linda Adrion**: 03/19/2005 Bishop Point & Bishop Point Road
S&RM -- **Susan and Ron Martin**: 03/22/1905 Robinson Road between LA Hwy 1 and Red River
SH -- **Shirley Huss**: 02/18/2005 Shreveport: Shirley Huss residence, 02/19/2005 Shreveport: Shirley Huss residence, 02/19/2005 Yearwood Rd. and Caspiana, 02/20/2005 Shreveport: Shirley Huss residence
VN -- **Velda Neilson**: 03/20/2002 Mansfield



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