SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.
BIRD STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER
Volume 4, Number 6
February 1990

Bird Alert Service: Phone 727-5338, Mon., Wed., & Fri. after 5:00 PM
Bird Feed and Feeders: On sale at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1989-90
President -- BILL WOOD
Vice-President -- WILL SMOLENSKI
Secretary -- LARRY RAYMOND
Treasurer -- BETTY MASON
Members at Large:
CONNIE CONNORS
ANN ELSTON
GLORIA FRANTON
JOHN FRANTON
BILL HALL
MAC HARDY
SHIRLEY HUSS
MARILYN KIRCUS
CHARLIE LYONS
JAMES MCCAIN, Jr.
ROBERT WOMMACK

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
BIRD FEED -- Marilyn Kircus
GIFT SHOP -- Teresa Thrash
MEMBERSHIP -- Shirley Huss
NEWSLETTER -- Mac Hardy
OUTINGS -- Steve Klotz
PROGRAMS -- Will Smolenski

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
Tuesday, 13 February 1990, at the Science Lecture Auditorium on the LSUS campus. The speaker will be Bill Wood, who will present a program entitled "Feathers and Flight." This will explore the diversity of the structure and uses (by the birds) of feathers and the mystery of bird flight.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:
Thursday, 3 February 1990, 7:00 PM.
This meeting will be at the Museum. All Board Members should try to be present.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. The expiration date for your membership in the Bird Study Group is now printed on your mailing label. Be sure to renew your membership before the expiration date so you will not miss a newsletter.

YOU CAN HELP
The Bird Study Group needs some volunteer help in three areas; perhaps you could provide valuable assistance for one of these needs.

Give us ideas and material for the Newsletter. Everything should be written but it can be in any form. Any news items or ideas would be appreciated.

Send us names of persons who might be prospective members of the Bird Study Group. We will send them the last Newsletter and a membership form. However, any personal contact from you or any other member is probably the best method for attracting new members. Bird-watching is an enjoyable, outdoor learning experience that many persons, once they are exposed to it, cherish for many years.

Many of you, at one time or another, have
come to the Museum to buy bird feed or ask about a newly sighted bird only to find the Museum closed. Also, some members can come to the Museum only on Saturday or Sunday. As some of you know, but many of you may not, the Museum is mostly staffed by volunteers. Sometimes we do not have enough volunteers to be at the Museum during all hours of the day. One solution to this problem is to ask for volunteers from the Bird Study Group to be at the Museum on Saturday mornings. The duties are very simple: sell bird feed and other items from the gift shop, greet visitors, visit about birding, in other words—promote birding. A volunteer can help for any period of time and on any schedule (weekly or only one Saturday a month). With this plan we can all depend on the Museum being open at that given time, Saturday Mornins, and we might find that it provides another time for visiting, discussing birds, etc. Let’s give it a try. Check with Mac Hardy if you can help with this project.

NEWSLETTER NOW ON RECYCLED PAPER!

This issue of the Newsletter is printed on recycled paper. We hope this can be a continuing practice and our way of committing to sound ecological utilization of our environment.

NEXT BIRD OUTING

The next outing for the Bird Study Group will be on 17 February to Cross Lake. This will be an outing on a barge; the cost will be $10 per person. Spend two hours on the lake looking for gulls, ducks, grebes, and eagles. It should be a good opportunity to see many ducks, gulls, and terns not easily seen by other means. Call Bill Wood for more information: 869-8513.

MARCH OUTING

The field outing for March will be on the third Saturday, March 17, at the Red River Experiment Station in Bossier Parish. Mark your calendar now. Call Bill Wood, 869-8513 for more information.

HOUSE FINCHES

House Finches and Purple Finches are being reported feeding simultaneously at the homes of Marilyn Kirous (687-4231) and Bea Launius (747-6515). These may present good opportunities to study these two species side-by-side.

EURASIAN WIGEON

A Eurasian Wigeon has been sighted near Fourchon City, La Fourche Parish, on January 22, 1990. Call Bruce Crider (504-292-2739) to check on its current status and location.

MUSEUM HAS MOVED!

During the first half of January the Museum moved back to the LSUS campus. This move was a result of a sudden decision brought about by a combination of serious factors. Extreme vandalism in the front building was the major concern; that combined with the lack of air conditioning, and a major increase in the number of leaks in the roof caused the decision to be both prudent and timely.

The Bird Study Group deserves our utmost thanks and praise for the tremendous volunteer effort given on extremely short notice.

The Museum is located in the front of the metal building next to the transmission tower for KDAQ. Much unpacking and reorganization still needs to be done; however, this shall be accomplished soon. Our new phone number is 797-5381.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

President Bill Wood called the regular meeting of the Bird Study Group to order at 7:03 P.M. on 9 January 1990 in the Science Lecture Auditorium on the LSUS campus. Bill
thanked Connie Connors and Shirley Huss for calling everyone to tell them about the change in our meeting location.

The LSUS Museum of Life Sciences is being moved to two former art classrooms housed in a “temporary” building across from the physical plant on the LSUS campus. Mac Hardy reported that he hopes future meetings can be held in the Science Lecture Auditorium. He also reported that the museum move should be largely completed this week. The LSUS Museum’s new phone number is 797-8338, and the new address is One University Place, Shreveport, 71115-2398.

Betty Mason gave the treasurer’s report. Our December balance was $964.24. Revenues this month were $898.70, and expenses were $137.38. Our present balance is $1,725.56.

Bill reported that 102 species were recorded on the Shreveport Christmas Bird Count. Some of the unusual birds seen were a species of swan and a white-winged scoter on Cross Lake, and Smith’s longspurs at the regional airport.

Paul Dickson reported that the Bossier-Caddo-Bienville Christmas Bird Count continues to show improvement. This year, 104 species and 30,634 individuals were recorded by observers. Paul than presented the coveted fourth annual BCBC awards. He explained that selections are for the most part subjective and are made by a committee of one - Paul.

The “Golden Birdie Award” is given for the best bird seen on the count. The 1990 Golden Birdie went to Marilyn Kircus, Ron Martin, Vicki Mosesley, and Will Smolenski for sighting and confirmation of a Tundra swan. The swan was confirmed on the basis of calls which were imitated by Marilyn for the benefit of members present.

The “Iron Binoculars Award” is given for dedication beyond what is expected on the count. The 1990 “Iron Binoculars” was given to Brad McPherson for years of dedication to Christmas Bird Counts. Brad has participated in 13 Shreveport counts, and all four BCBCBC’s.

The “No Doz Award” is presented annually to the individual or individuals who count(s) the largest number of birds of a single species. The 1990 “No Doz Award” was presented to Ann Elston, Pat Lonecker and Velda Neilson for counting 5,373 Double-crested cormorants.

This year, Paul added a new award - the “Hit List Champ” to be given to an individual or individuals recording the largest number of species on Paul’s hit list of birds to get on the count. The first “Hit List Award” is a tie between Brad McPherson and Ann Elston, Pat Lonecker, and Velda Neilson for five species each on the hit list.

Betty read a letter from the Baton Rouge Audubon Society requesting more donations to help purchase land for the Holleyman Sanctuary. Marilyn made a motion to donate $300.00 towards the purchase, and Will seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion was approved.

Marilyn brought several blocks of bird food made from lard, peanut butter, and corn meal. These were offered for sale for $3.00 per block, and all profits were donated to the bird group.

Bill emphasized that anyone wishing to bird the Red River Experiment Station in Bossier needs to secure permission before entering the property.

In the future, all outings of the bird group will be held on the third Saturday of the month, with the fourth Saturday serving as a rain date. An outing will be held on January 20th. Everyone interested in participating should meet at the What-a-Burger on North Market at I-220 for 8 A.M.

Bill reported that we hope to have a birding biathlon in April as a fundraiser. He distributed a schedule of field trips and meetings planned through August 1990.

The gift shop will hopefully open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. every Saturday, once the museum move is completed. Although the opening is a few weeks off, a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work in the gift shop was passed around. The success of the gift shop
will depend on members of the bird group volunteering to keep it open during scheduled hours.

Betty read a letter from the LSUS administration thanking the bird group for their donation to the LSUS Museum.

Betty asked about volunteers to underwrite using recycled paper for the newsletter. Larry reported that it would cost about $25.00 to purchase the recycled paper needed for each newsletter. Ann Elston and Betty volunteered to underwrite the newsletter during their birthday months.

Bill Wood and Will Smolenski showed examples of poster signs they developed to identify SSNS birders. The University has requested that anyone in our group stopping to bird the LSUS campus display a sign in their vehicle identifying themselves as SSNS birdwatchers.

A request to list recommended books on birds in the newsletter was made by Ed Bitowski.

Bill reported that he hopes to finish the raptor flight cage Friday. He has seven volunteers lined up to help and would welcome more volunteers from the bird group.

Bill reported that Nancy Newfield’s program on hummingbirds has been switched from April to May. He reminded everyone that the LOS winter meeting will be in Alexandria, January 27th and 28th. This is the same weekend as the DeGray Lake eagle count in Arkansas.

Marilyn noted that Bill Oliver, a well-known environmental singer, will be at Enoch’s Cafe on February 8.

Bill acknowledged Ed Bitowski who has made six birdhouses to be used as door prizes for bird group members at the meetings over the next six months.

Paul reminded everyone that he will have his annual bird banding activity on February 10th at this house on Ellerbe Road.

Teresa Thrash introduced a video on “Attracting Birds to the Backyard” which featured the backyard of Roger Tony Peterson. This excellent video was written, directed, and produced by Michael Godfrey.

Bill recognized guests at the meeting and then adjourned the group at 8:45 P.M.

---

**BIRD NOTES -- JANUARY**

Compiled

February 4, 1990

Report bird records for the Newsletter to Vera Lee Grubbs (655-4852) or to Connie Connors (655-6422) by the 25th of each month. Only records not printed since the last Newsletter are published.

The bird field report is being offered in a different form. Following each species is a line of data in the following format: date (initials of observer, number of birds observed; initials of another observer, number of birds observed; etc.). For example: 15 (RRJ; NW, NA) means that on the fifteenth PD saw 2 birds, NW saw 1 at one locality and 5 at another. See the next paragraph for specific observers and places. The number of birds observed, a one is used both for one specimen or for numbers not reported by the observer.

Dates and reporting are as follows: Baja, CC—Betty and Joe Ashley, Connie Connors, Jan. 9 (NWJ; JSC, near Sligo road; Calipolis Sligo road); NW, 71; NW, 15; Attell-Clark road; NW, 154; Evangeline; NE; Alice Babers, Jan, 9 (residence); NE—Marie Burris, Jan. 22 (residence); AB—Ann Elston, Jan. 10, 15 (residence); PML—Larry and Larry Fleming, Jan. 21 (Lake St. and Youree Dr.); BB—Hubert Harvey, Jan. 15 (residence); WW—Helen Hood, Jan. 10, 22 (residence); NW—Shirley Hays, Jan. 1 (residence); 7/5 side Cross Lake; NH—Horace Jeter, Jan. 9 (Yearwood road); NH, NH, PL, ABW—Hubert Harvey, Horace Jeter, Pat Lomoecker, and Bill Wood, Jan. 6 (Shreveport Municipal Airport); CM—Charlene Lyons, Jan. 7 (Yearwood road; Easchville Hills), Jan. 22, 23 (residence); JW—John Herrod, Jan. 22 (South St. column; BJC—Larry Raymone, Jan. 14 (residence); LH, LR—Larry Raymone, Horace Jeter, and Steve Klab, Jan. 14 (Yearwood road, Red River Experimental Station); RBA—Rosemary Seglar and Lorri Cunningham, Jan. 4 (Bichara-Dickson Park), Jan. 3 (North Lakeshore Drive); SW—Bill Wood, Jan. 31 (residence); BBW—Bob and Bobbie Nowack, Dec. 30, Jan. 10 (residence), Jan. 15, 22 (Stonehall), Jan. 20 (1-49 near Pemahatan).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DATA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Billed Wigeon</td>
<td>Jan. 6</td>
<td>6 (RS, LC, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-billed Coot</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>9 (Baja, LC, 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Blue Heron</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>2 (Baja, LC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Egret</td>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>7 (SH, 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>8 (RS, LC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pintail</td>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>6 (RS, LC, 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Shoveler</td>
<td>Jan. 4</td>
<td>6 (Baja, 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Keeled-throat Wren
American Kestrel
Merlin
American Coot
Common Snipe
American Woodcock
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Dove
Homing Crow
Greater Roadrunner
Belled Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Horned Lark
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
House Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Water Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Cardinal
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Sang Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Lapland Longspur
Slate's Longspur
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Purple Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch

Printed 70 records.
CODE OF ETHICS

The American Birding Association provides the following guidelines of good birding behavior. (Winging It 1(11):15, 1989)

I. Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife.

   In keeping with this principle, we will
   - Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
   - Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.
   - Only sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and not use these methods in heavily birded areas.
   - Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger.
   - Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.

II. Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment.

   In keeping with this principle, we will
   - Stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.
   - Leave all habitat as we found it.

III. Birders must always respect the rights of others.

   In keeping with this principle, we will
   - Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
   - Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern public use of birding areas.
   - Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, we will limit our requests for information, and we will make them at reasonable hours of the day.
   - Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.

IV. Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities.

   As group members, we will
   - Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.
   - Act in consideration of the group’s interest, as well as our own.
   - Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.

   As group leaders, we will
   - Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
   - Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.
   - Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.
   - Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.