



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume 5, Number 5
January 5, 1991

Bird Alert Service: Phone 798-4106, Mon. through Fri. after 5:00 PM
Bird Feed and Feeders: On sale at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

PUBLICITY -- Bobbe Wommack
GIFT SHOP -- Vacant
MEMBERSHIP -- Shirley Huss
NEWSLETTER -- Mac Hardy
OUTINGS -- Bill Hall
PROGRAMS -- Charlie Lyon
PHONE TREE -- Dick Rolandt

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

Tuesday, 8 January 1991, 7:00 PM in the Science building, Room 229 on the LSUS campus. Dr. Michael Monsour will present a program on "Racing and Breeding Pigeons."

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, 5 February 1990, at the home of Shirley Huss, 806 Delaware St., Shreveport (phone 865-5959). There are several items of business; all board members should try to attend.

SPECIAL INSIDE:

- FIELD TRIPS
- MUSEUM UPDATE
- QUILT TICKETS
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES
- GIFT SHOP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This holiday season has been real good to me and I hope you too. The Christmas bird counts in Caddo and Bossier were spread out from Christmas and New Years allowing me to participate in both counts. I have met some new people and strengthened friendships of others. I have also lost some weight which makes it easier to walk longer distances while birding.

Hubert Hervey introduced me to a new way of birding -- using a bionic ear. Actually, he wears a hearing device that greatly amplifies sounds that I could not begin to hear. When he hears a bird sound, he locates the source and finds birds that others may not have realized were nearby. However, you have to know your bird sounds well.

On the first Sunday of the year Margo Tuller called to report about 30 House Finches on her covered patio. When I got there, there were about 15-20 as well as a lot of American Goldfinches within 20-30 feet of her breakfast table for perfect viewing.

Later when I got home I viewed seven Purple Finches and many American Goldfinches at my feeder (2 years since visiting my back yard for the purple finches) -- neighbor cat problem.

While spending Christmas in Baton Rouge with our son I saw many birds at their feeder. The grandchildren are interested and watch them each morning.

I hope I get the opportunity to bird with many more of you this year. Anytime you go birding and don't mind an old foggy tagging along I would be glad to join you.

Have a good year and may we all see a new high in listing birds along with fastening friendships and improving our birding skills.

* * * Will Smolenski

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

The Shreveport CBC ended with a total of 98 species seen on December 15 and the Bossier (BCBCBC) found 105 species on December 29.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES

Ken DeSmet, an ornithologist from the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, will be in our area sometime during February to study wintering Loggerhead Shrikes. He is looking for banded birds and is interested in censusing the local population and perhaps doing some additional banding. All birders should scrutinize any Loggerhead Shrike carefully for color leg bands (red or red above white). Note which leg contains the bands and, if two bands are present, which color is on top and which is below. We will have more details on this project at the next meeting.

MUSEUM MOVE

The Museum of Life Sciences is finally moving. Most of the furniture has been moved; the remainder to move includes small items and the preserved collections. We are trying to clean and reorganize during the move in order to avoid the complete chaos that has threatened the Museum for the past year.

GIFT SHOP

The Bird Study Group/Museum Gift Shop will be in the Museum office. Mr. and Mrs. Huss worked on moving the Gift Shop one afternoon. About half has been moved and all of it needs to be reorganized for attractive display and promotion. An inventory would be appropriate in order to restock and/or add new items for sale.

QUILT TICKETS

A beautiful 28"x27" hand-quilted wall-hanging that shows a Bald Eagle in flight will be given away during a drawing at the February meeting. Tickets are available for a donation of \$1.00 from many of the BSG members. If you want tickets contact the Museum office or Betty Mason.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the SSNS Bird Study Group was held Tuesday, 11 December 1990, in Room 231 of the Science Building on the LSUS campus. The meeting began with a cover-dish dinner. President Will Smolenski invited everyone to grab a plate and begin eating at 6:56 P.M.

Will called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M. He noted that Betty Mason reported a balance of \$1,226.60 at the board meeting held 3 December 1990. Betty added that \$110.69 is on deposit at the post office.

Field trips during December will be confined to the Christmas bird counts. Horace Jeter and Charles Lyon will be

compiling the Shreveport count to be held December 15. Those interested in participating in this count were asked to contact Charlie after the meeting.

Paul Dickson gave a brief report on the Bossier count to be held December 29. He asked those interested in participating to let him know as soon as possible. Paul had to leave early due to the birth of his third son, Russell, on December 10. His wife, Beverly, and the baby were reported to be in excellent condition.

Shirley Huss reported that the Bird Study Group has 136 active members. Will reminded members to pay their dues on time.

Ed Bitowski announced that birdhouses were on sale at the meeting to raise funds for the group. Will added that he brought pieces of plexiglass suitable for use as squirrel guards to sell. Ed also reported that a quilted Bald Eagle made by Pat Lonacker would be given away in a drawing at the February meeting. Tickets are available for a cost of \$1.00 each. The quilt was on display at the meeting and everyone agreed that the winner will receive a beautiful piece of handiwork.

Will reported that the sign-up sheets for weekday birders and the phone tree were misplaced at the last regular meeting. He asked anyone that wants their name added to the lists, or to correct errors, to contact him.

Will noted that Jim McCain and Larry Raymond are working on a list of birding hotspots that will hopefully include maps,

birds to be seen, and people who know the area.

A 1991 Audubon calendar was given away as a door prize. Will then complimented everyone on the good food. The leftover ham was given to Pat Lonacker for the dinner after the Shreveport CBC.

Mac Hardy presented the program at 7:53 P.M. on "Computerized Bird Records." He discussed several types of software available on the market specifically for keeping bird lists. These included Birdbase 2, Aves, and Plover. Mac demonstrated the use of Birdbase 2 and Plover. He also discussed and demonstrated the use of the data base manager PC-File+ to keep various types of bird records. The program was very informative and generated numerous questions from the audience.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

FIELD TRIPS

Shirley Huss will lead an outing to the Yearwood road area. Depart from Bill Hall's house, 313 Wildoak Dr. (call 797-1727 for directions), at 8:30 AM. This should be a good opportunity to see winter sparrows. Good birding. **JAN. 12**

On January 26 we will go to the Red River Experiment Station to see Longspurs, Horned Larks, and sparrows (and probably a surprise or two). Depart from the LSUS parking lot at 8:00 AM.

BIRD NOTES -- DECEMBER

Compiled
January 2, 1990

Report bird records for the Newsletter to Connie Connors (865-6422) by the 25th of each month. Only records not printed since the last Newsletter are published.

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 PD 3; BW 1,5) means that on the fifteenth PD saw 3 birds, BW saw 1 at one locality and 5 at another. For the number of birds observed, a one is used both for one specimen or for numbers not reported by the observer. Two (or more) numbers following an observer are numbers of birds seen at two (or more) different localities. The month is abbreviated only if it is the month preceding the one being reported.

REPORTERS			
Abbrev	Name	Date	Place
BH	Bill Hall	12/16/90 residence; 12/18/90 residence	
BW	Bill Wood	12/24/90 Cross Lake; 12/27/90 Yearwood Road	
CC	Connie Connors	11/27/90 Clyde Fant Parkway; 12/23/90 Residence	
CL	Charlie Lyon	12/22-23/90 residence; Jan 1 Yearwood Road & Caspiana Plantation;	
		Jan. 1-2 residence	
GB	Gordon Blackman	12/18/90 residence; 12/24/90 residence	

REPORTERS (Cont.)

Abbrev	Name	Date	Place
GF	Gloria Frantom	12/20/90	residence; 12/27/90 residence
HH	Helen Hood	12/24/90	residence
HJ	Horace Jeter	12/26/90	residence
JM	Jim McCain	12/24/90	Hwy 71, I-220; 12/27/90 residence
JU	Judy Urban	12/25/90	residence
LC&RS	Lori Cunningham & Rosemary Seidler	12/ 1/90	Bickham Dickson Park
MT	Margo Tuller	12/30/90	residence
NC	Norma Cobb	12/ 7/90; 12/ 8/90;	12/13/90; 12/21/90; 12/23/90 residence
NM	Nicky McCombs	12/19/90; 12/25/90;	12/26/90 residence
R&BW	Robert & Bobbe Womack	12/ 4/90; 12/ 7/90;	12/ 8/90; 12/12/90 residence
SH	Shirley Huss	12/25/90	residence

PERMANENT RESIDENTS NO LONGER REPORTED: Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Wood Duck, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Pine Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Sparrow.

Common Name	Data
Double-crested Cormorant	1 LC&RS 6
Mallard	1 LC&RS 24
Gadwall	Jan. 1 CL 5
Bufflehead	24 BW 22
Northern Harrier	Jan. 1 CL 1
Red-tailed Hawk	1 LC&RS 1; 24 JM 1; 27 BW 6; Jan. 1 CL 12
American Kestrel	Nov. 27 CC 1; 1 LC&RS 1; 27 BW 9; Jan. 1 CL 15
American Coot	1 LC&RS 3
American Woodcock	25 JU 1
Ring-billed Gull	1 LC&RS 3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 LC&RS 1; Jan. 1 CL 2
Eastern Phoebe	1 LC&RS 2; 27 BW 1; Jan. 1 CL 2
House Wren	Jan. 1 CL 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1 LC&RS 2; 24 HH 1; Jan. 1 CL 3
Water Pipit	Jan. 1 CL 50
Cedar Waxwing	19 NM 63; 20 GF 2; 24 GB 3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1 LC&RS 100; 27 JM 2; Jan. 1 CL 25
Rufous-sided Towhee	13 NCo 1
Chipping Sparrow	16 BH 50; 24 HH 3
Vesper Sparrow	Jan. 1 CL 10
Savannah Sparrow	27 BW 20; Jan. 1 CL 50
Fox Sparrow	Jan. 1 CL 1
Song Sparrow	Jan. 1 CL 10
Lincoln's Sparrow	27 BW 3
Swamp Sparrow	27 BW 10; Jan. 1 CL 1
White-throated Sparrow	1 LC&RS 5; 20 GF 4; 23 NCo 6; 24 HH 4; 25 SH 2; 27 JM 20, 8W 20; Jan. 1 CL 150
White-crowned Sparrow	27 BW 50; Jan. 1 CL 100
Harris' Sparrow	Jan. 1 CL 1
Dark-eyed Junco	1 LC&RS 10; 23 NCo 3; 24 GB 4; Jan. 1 CL 10
Brewer's Blackbird	Jan. 1 CL 700
Purple Finch	1 LC&RS 4; 4 B&BW 3; 7 NCo 13; 8 NCo 15; 16 BH 2; 24 HH 1; 27 GF 4, JM 3, 8W 3
House Finch	1 LC&RS 1; 7 B&BW 1; 8 B&BW 1; 12 B&BW 2; 16 BH 3; 18 BH 1; 19 NM 3; 22 CL 32; 23 NCo 30; 24 GB 6, CC 1; 26 HJ 1, NM 4; 30 MT 30; Jan. 1-2 CL 10
Pine Siskin	25 SH 1; 27 JM 1
American Goldfinch	7 NCo 3; 16 BH 30; 18 GB 10; 24 HH 1; 25 SH 1, NM 8; 27 GF 50, JM 2 5, BW 12; Jan. 1 CL 5; Jan. 1-2 CL 25