

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 8
April 2, 1991



Bird Alert Service: Phone 318,797-5338, Mon., Wed. & Fri. after 5:00 PM
Bird Feeders and Birding Supplies: LSUS Museum of Life Sciences

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1990-91

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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:

9 April 1991, 7:00 PM in the Science building, Room 229 on the LSUS campus. Dr. Cecil Kirsting of New Orleans, Louisiana, will present the program entitled "*Birding in Antarctica.*"

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, 2 April 1991, 7:00 PM 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:

- INCA DOVES
- ELECTIONS
- FIVE RINGS
- EARTH DAY

INCA DOVES

A pair of Inca Doves have been seen in Oil City on 24 March 1991. Mr. Lamar Fruge saw the doves feeding on the ground in his front yard. He saw several mating attempts and has seen both birds on several occasions. Clyde Massey photographed them on the 24th and Larry Raymond and Mac Hardy saw one bird on several occasions on the 25th. This is a good record for the state.

Anyone who sees the birds should fill out a record card so we can thoroughly document their occurrence in this area.

From Shreveport via La. hwy. 1, turn left on Kathy St. (just across the highway from the Pentacostal Church), go about one block to 143 Kathy. The doves feed on the parking area in front of a white house and silver house trailer on the left side of the street. There is a large cedar tree next to the street with a white wind ornament hanging from the tree and a red Snoopy wind ornament

stuck in the ground under the tree. Mr. Fruge (phone 995-7135) welcomes birders.

FIVE RINGS

The Bird Alert Service is operating (Phone 797-5338) and for the last several days has contained the information about the Inca Doves. The Museum phone is on the same line and number of the Art Lab, next door. In order to avoid inconvenience for the folks in the art lab the hotline answering machine is set to answer after four rings. That gives plenty of time for anyone in the building to answer the phone if they are going to do so. The answering machine comes on at the fifth ring. If you are calling with a bird alert message or you want to hear the message -- be patient. Call the number and hold on for at least five rings. It really works. Let's use the bird alert service. Call in your sightings of rare or unusual birds.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day in the Mall at LSUS will be on April 20. The Bird Study Group will have a booth to promote birding. Anyone interested in attending and helping at the booth contact Will Smolenski (865-2938) or Bill Wood (797-5393 or 868-8513).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope the pine and oak pollen does not bother the birds as much as it bothers me. I have changed the water in the bird bath at least once a day plus swept and/or washed down the back turn around twice a day. All this to give the birds a decent drink of water and to keep the grandchildren and dog from tracking that yellow stuff into the house.

The recent rains and warmth have brought out the flowers and leaves in a burst. Small birds are harder to observe now as they flit in the tree tops.

Birds are busy staking out their nesting areas and building their nests. Help provide that extra calcium by adding broken egg

shells in with the bird feed.

I usually decorate eggs for the grand kids and neighbor kids. Some like bunnies, some cartoon characters, even with toupees for Ernie eggs. I have often thought of coloring eggs to match our feathered friends eggs, but who would know what kind he is finding plus most would be very hard to find.

-- W. H. Smolenski

ELECTIONS!!!

Protect yourself! Attend the next few meetings. Elections for the SSNS Bird Study Group will be held in May when we vote for five new board members. Suggest nominees to any board member.

WISCONSIN HUMMER

Jim Ingold provided a newspaper report of a single Anna's Hummingbird visiting a backyard feeder in Wales, Wisconsin. This is the first record of this species for Wisconsin. Making to attempt to migrate, it was still visiting the feeder regularly on December 3. The night before 17 inches of snow fell and the bird's future was in doubt. It was captured and moved to a permanent home in the tropical environment of the Mitchell Park Domes (a botanical garden) in Milwaukee. By March 7, 1991, it was still active and healthy and thoroughly adapted to the Domes.

FIELD TRIPS

Mark your calendars now for these BSG field trips that are scheduled. These are good times to learn more about birding and to sharpen your skills at identifying those species that are seen less frequently.

April 6, 8:30 AM -- Meet at the horse barn in Bickham-Dickson park. We will look for shorebirds along the river and possibly find migrating warblers in the woods.

April 27-28 -- The LOS meeting will be in Cameron. This is always an overwhelming outing during spring migration.

May -- The date will be announced later for our annual Big Day of birding at Loggy Bayou Plantation. Details will come later.

BIRD NOTES -- MARCH

Compiled

March 28, 1991

Report bird records for the Newsletter to Connie Conners (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	Dates and Places
AB	Alice Babers	3/19/91 residence; 3/31/91 residence
BH&HH	Bill Hall and Hubert Hervey	3/22/91 Hubert Hervey farm
BSG	Bird Study Group	3/16/91 Pat Sewell's farm
BW	Bobbe Womack	3/11/91 Stonewall; 3/20/91 residence
GF	Gloria Frantom	3/7/91 Toledo Bend Lake near Converse
Hho	Helen Hood	3/8/91 residence; 3/10/91 Lake O'the Pines; 3/14/91 residence;
		3/22/91 residence; 3/23/91 residence; 3/24/91 residence
JM	Jim McCain	3/21/91 Belcher
LF	Früge	3/24/91 Oil City
LR	Larry Raymond	2/28/91 Jacobs Nature Park; 4/1/91 Jacobs Nature Park
LR&MH	Larry Raymond and Mac Hardy	3/25/91 Oil City
MH	Mac Hardy	3/24/91 Lake Bistineau State Park; 3/25/91, 3/27/91 residence
MH&LR	Mac Hardy and Larry Raymond	3/25/91 Jacobs Nature Park
NC	Norma Cobb	3/23/91 residence; 3/24/91 residence
RS	Rosemary Seidler	3/3/91 Wallace Lake Dam; 3/17/91 North Lakeshore Drive near I20
RS&L	Rosemary Seidler and Laurie	3/2/91 North Lakeshore Drive near I-20
SB	Shug Burris	3/17/91 residence; 3/23/91 residence; 3/24/91 residence
SH	Shirley Huss	3/21/91 residence; 3/23/91 residence; 3/25/91 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
Pied-billed Grebe	2 RS&L 2; 17 RS 1; 24 MH 1
Double-crested Cormorant	2 RS&L 100; 16 BSG 4; 17 RS 1000
Cattle Egret	22 BH&HH 2
Mallard	2 RS&L 12; 16 BSG 2; 17 RS 6
Blue-winged Teal	17 SB 2
Gadwall	2 RS&L 7
Ring-necked Duck	2 RS&L 5
Ruddy Duck	2 RS&L 300
Bald Eagle	2 RS&L 1
Northern Harrier	16 BSG 2
Red-tailed Hawk	3 RS 2; 16 BSG 1; 17 RS 2
American Kestrel	2 RS&L 4; 3 RS 3; 16 BSG 2; 17 RS 1; 22 BH&HH 1
American Coot	2 RS&L 50; 17 RS 30
Ring-billed Gull	2 RS&L 5; 16 BSG 6; 17 RS 1
Inca Dove	24 LF 2; 25 LR&MH 1
Chimney Swift	25 SH 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	23 Hho 1; 24 Hho 1
Red-headed Woodpecker	2 RS&L 7; 17 RS 4; 24 Hho 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2 RS&L 1; 3 RS 2; 17 RS 3; 22 BH&HH 2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	22 BH&HH 1
Eastern Phoebe	2 RS&L 1; 11 BW 1; 16 BSG 1; 22 BH&HH 1
Horned Lark	16 BSG 12
Purple Martin	16 BSG 12; 17 RS 6; 22 BH&HH 20; 24 SB 16; 25 MH 2; 27 MH 3
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	16 BSG 1; 21 JMCC 6
Barn Swallow	16 BSG 1; 21 JMCC 6; 22 BH&HH 2; 23 SH 1; 24 SB 6
Brown Creeper	17 RS 3; 22 BH&HH 1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2 RS&L 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2 RS&L 8; 16 BSG 2; 17 RS 5; 22 BH&HH 10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22 BH&HH 2
Hermit Thrush	2 RS&L 2; 11 BW 1; 17 RS 1; 22 BH&HH 1
Water Pipit	16 BSG 25; 22 BH&HH 5

Common Name	Data
Cedar Waxwing	2 RS&L 300; 3 RS 150; 7 GF 41; 17 RS 2; 19 AB 7; 22 BH&HH 12; 31 AB 1
Yellow-throated Vireo	17 RS 1; 25 MH&LR 3
Orange-crowned Warbler	17 RS 1
Northern Parula	25 MH&LR 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2 RS&L 27; 3 RS 8; 7 GF 4; 16 BSG 25; 17 RS 5; 22 BH&HH 100
Black-and-white Warbler	11 BW 1; 16 BSG 1; 20 BW 1
Louisiana Waterthrush	25 MH&LR 3
Indigo Bunting	10 HHO 1
Rufous-sided Towhee	17 RS 1
Chipping Sparrow	2 RS&L 6; 3 RS 8; 14 HHO 1; 17 RS 2; 22 BH&HH 12
Field Sparrow	3 RS 3; 22 BH&HH 6
Savannah Sparrow	16 BSG 8
Fox Sparrow	3 RS 1; 16 BSG 2
Song Sparrow	3 RS 4; 16 BSG 4; 17 RS 3; 22 BH&HH 2
Swamp Sparrow	3 RS 2; 16 BSG 10
White-throated Sparrow	3 RS 1; 14 HHO 2; 16 BSG 2; 17 RS 38; 22 BH&HH 8; 24 MH 3
White-crowned Sparrow	2 RS&L 20; 16 BSG 13
Dark-eyed Junco	2 RS&L 60; 3 RS 8; 14 HHO 1; 16 BSG 10; 17 RS 40; 22 BH&HH 4; 24 S8 5; 24 MH 3
Northern Oriole	10 HHO 1
Purple Finch	22 HHO 4; 23 S8 1
House Finch	21 SH 4; 24 NC 15; 25 SH 2
Pine Siskin	Feb. 28 LR 1; 8 HHO 3; 22 HHO 2; April 1 LR 1
American Goldfinch	17 RS 6; 22 BH&HH 24; 23 NC 2; 24 NC 8

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the SSNS Bird Study Group was held Tuesday, 12 March 1991, in Room 229 of the Science Building on the LSUS campus. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Will Smolenski. Will asked new members and guests to stand and be recognized.

Will asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as recorded in the newsletter. Shirley Huss noted that the present paid membership is 135 members, not 147 as recorded in the minutes. The minutes were corrected to reflect 135 paid members and then approved.

Betty Mason gave the treasurer's report. The balance in the treasury on 12 February was \$1,333.04. Income this month was \$302.00, expenses totaled \$63.98, leaving a March balance of \$1,571.06. The balance on deposit at the post office is \$50.89. Betty plans to deposit \$200.00 in the post office account within the next thirty days.

Ed Bitowski reported on fundraising activities. Ed noted that he has five new birdfeeders that will be placed in the gift shop. Ed also commented on the chickadee stickers that can be purchased for less than \$1.00. Will reported that he recently inventoried all of the gift shop items for sale and he has several copies of the list available for perusal by the membership. The lists do not include the chickadee and cardinal stickers that are also available.

Ed announced that the drawing for the Bald Eagle quilted wall hanging would be held. Everyone was given one last opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket. The winner of the wall hanging was Gladden Hood who was present to claim the coveted prize. Will recognized Pat Lonacker for her talents in making the wall hanging and for donating it to be used as a fundraising activity.

Will reminded the membership that he is at the Museum most Thursday mornings from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Hopefully, others will volunteer to help and possibly expand the hours of the Museum. Will also reported that the Museum is sharing a phone line with the art department and can be reached at 797-5338. The gift shop will be opened after the meeting. Mac Hardy noted that the Museum is actually open every weekday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except when he is in class and no one is around to man the facility.

Will reported that the month of April is Earth Month and a number of activities have been scheduled to celebrate the occasion. A Glad Bag-a-Thon will be held from March 31 through April 6. This city wide cleanup and beautification project is sponsored by Glad Trash Bags and Shreveport Green. On April 6 there will be a celebration at Fair Grounds Field from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. for all volunteers. Music, drinks, and food will be provided and awards will be presented.

On April 14, Jean-Michel Cousteau will talk at the Strand Theater. A lecture series is also being held on the LSUS campus. An Earth Day Walk will be held on the LSUS campus in conjunction with the celebration of Earth Day. Will asked if we would be

interested in having a booth set up at the mall to advertise our organization. There was some discussion as to whether the mall would be held on Saturday, April 20, or on Sunday, April 21. The board will consider whether or not to have a booth at the next board meeting.

Will reported that the Louisiana Nature Conservancy will have its annual meeting on April 13 in the Kisatchie National Forest. Members can call Will for more information on this meeting.

Election of new board members will take place in May instead of April, and new officers will be elected at the June board meeting. Please submit names to fill the five vacancies to Will, Mac Hardy, or Larry Raymond.

The next field trip is Saturday, March 16. Participants will meet at LSUS near the radio tower at 8:30 A.M. to carpool to Pat Sewall's farm. The LOS meeting will be held April 27 and 28 in Cameron.

Will reported that two purple martin houses have been erected near the radio tower on the LSUS campus. The houses may be used as memorials for deceased members of our group. This suggestion will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Betty read a letter from Bruce Crider of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society concerning several recent memorial gifts in memory of Vera Lee Grubbs. The letter stated that the contributors have been thanked and the gifts have been acknowledged to Mr. Glen Grubbs. Those who sent gifts were Bud and Carol Foster, Edwin and Shirley Huss, and Pat Lonnecker. Bruce also thanked the Bird Study Group for its support of the Henshaw and Holleyma-Sheely Sancturaries in Cameron. If anyone else wishes to make a memorial contribution in the name of Vera Lee Grubbs, Betty can be contacted for the address of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society.

Charlie Lyon introduced Tara McCartney of Monroe who presented the program on the "Birds of Costa Rica". Charlie pointed out that Tara is the new secretary-treasurer of the Louisiana Ornithological Society. According to Charlie, Tara spent several months in Costa Rica and is planning to return.

Tara reported that she spent six months in Costa Rica working as a resident naturalist guiding tourists. As such, she learned a great deal about the flora and fauna of Costa Rica which she shared with the group.

The meeting adjourned after the program.

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

BIRD STUDY GROUP

Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone (Home) _____, (work) _____

Membership Category: Regular ____(\$10.00) Sustaining ____(\$25.00)

Make Check Payable to: **SSNS BIRD STUDY GROUP**
Museum of Life Sciences
One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399