



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

**BIRD STUDY GROUP  
NEWSLETTER**



Volume 6, Number 1  
September 3, 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**  
1991-92

President - WILL SMOLENSKI, 1  
Vice-President - HUBERT HERVEY, 3  
Secretary - NORMA COBB, 3  
Treasurer - BETTY MASON, 3  
Members at Large:  
    ED BITOWSKI, 1  
    CONNIE CONNORS, 1  
    BILL HALL, 2  
    MAC HARDY, 2  
    JIM INGOLD, 3  
    CHARLIE LYON, 1  
    JAMES MCCAIN, Jr., 2  
    VELDA NEILSON, 2  
    DICK ROLANDT, 1  
    ROSEMARY SEIDLER, 2  
    CAROLINE UPCHURCH, 3

**NEXT MONTHLY  
MEETING:**

Tuesday, 10 September 1991, 7:00 PM in the Science building, Room 229 on the LSUS campus. Mr. Hubert Hervey will present the program entitled "Southeastern Arizona Specialities: Birds and Songs."

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

Tuesday, November 5, 7:00 PM, at Mac Hardy's house, 1823 S. Brookwood Drive, Shreveport (phone 687-6738).

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

BIRD REPORT -- Connie Connors 865-6422  
BIRD HOT SPOTS -- Larry Raymond 929-2807, Will Smolenski 865-2938  
FIELD TRIPS -- Bill Hall 797-1727, Charles Lyon 865-2674  
FUND RAISING -- Ed Bitowski 688-4848  
GIFT SHOP -- Caroline Upchurch 227-7845 w, 861-3914 h  
HISTORIAN -- Jim McCain 929-2691 w, 929-7285 h  
HOSPITALITY -- Velda Neilson 1-872-4821, Betty Mason 687-0225  
LIBRARIAN -- Jim Ingold 797-5236 w, 742-5067 h  
MEMBERSHIP -- Shirley Huss 865-5959  
NEWSLETTER -- Mac Hardy 797-5338 w, 687-6738 h  
BEGINNING BIRDERS -- Larry Raymond 929-2807, Jim Ingold 797-5236  
PHONE TREE -- Dick Rolandt 797-0255  
PROGRAMS -- Hubert Hervey 925-9249  
PUBLICITY -- Vacant  
SHORT PROGRAMS -- Pat Lonnecker 865-4701  
SPECIAL EVENTS -- Rosemary Seidler 869-5231 w, 424-2972 h

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the start of another year for the Bird Study Group and I hope you are all enthused to take part in an active year. Be sure to bring good tales (not tails) of some good birds you saw this summer.

The birds seem to sense our activity start up again or maybe it is just the weather change. There seems to be more activity at my feeders. Also this morning I saw the Spring Lake Mississippi Kite soaring overhead and he lit in the top of the high tree next door as if to say, "Take a good look at me." and so I did.

We have a lot of things to do this year and I hope many of you will help. A society is only as good as its members and the effort they are willing to provide. A little bit of work by all can get a lot done and not place all the burden on just a few. What a pleasure it is to hear someone ask, "Is there anything I can do to help?"

See you at our September meeting. We have a lot of good programs and field trips planned.

-- Will Smolenski

## Minutes of the Last Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the SSNS Bird Study Group was held Tuesday, 11 June 1991, in Room 229 of the Science Building on the LSUS campus. President Will Smolenski called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Visitors and guests were welcomed. Linda Smith and Betsy Risinger were our visitors.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as recorded in the last newsletter.

Betty Mason gave her financial report starting with a balance of \$1,627.27. Income from the month was \$120.00, expenses \$38.70, leaving a balance of \$1,708.57. The mailing balance at the post office was \$195.33.

Will gave the names of the new officers elected at the June board meeting. Will was elected to remain as president with a rousing applause. Hubert Hervey will serve as vice president, Norma Cobb as secretary, with

Caroline Upchurch putting the minutes on a disk for Mac Hardy to put in the newsletter. Betty Mason will serve again as treasurer.

Will reported that Larry Raymond and he attended the Red River Wetlands Coalition meeting. Plans are to purchase 12,000 acres of wetlands around Bayou Bodcau. Unused money from the Red River Waterways amounts to probably enough money to purchase this tract of land. He encouraged us to write letters to Congressman Jim McCrery and Senator J. Bennett Johnston asking them to use this money for purchase of the wetlands. Will had given T-shirts at the board meeting to some that promised to write letters. Caroline Upchurch wore and modeled her shirt for us and brought copies of her letters.

Will reported that beginner birding was discussed at the board meeting and more at the board meeting and more outings of this type will be planned for the new year. Books are ideal as a place to start birding.

The group took turns giving reports of birds seen recently. The Inca Dove of Oil City, Orioles along Red River, a Lark Sparrow, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, House Finches, and a family of Brown Thrashers were mentioned. Velda Neilson gave an exciting report of a Painted Bunting and hearing cooing sound that led her to a Greater Roadrunner.

Bill Wood reported on the yearly competition of bird species sightings between Charlie Lyon and himself. Bill had 246 sightings and Charlie 241. Charlie was not present to verify this.

We were reminded of the outing for June 22 to Wallace Lake led by Hubert Hervey.

Will refreshed our memories of the Bird Study Group not meeting in July and August but resuming in September.

We were invited to the Museum after the program for refreshments and fellowship.

Bill Wood presented our program on "Status Update of the Attwater Prairie Chicken." The Attwater Wildlife Refuge consists of 8,000 acres in Texas. This Prairie Chicken has decreased from millions to 66 at Bill's last check. He observed from a

blind and took beautiful pictures. He also told us where old Port-o-lets go when they pass on; they make blinds out of them.

We were asked after the program to turn in names for the mailing list, also to put our names on the committee list we would like to serve on. John McBride will purchase books. More people are needed to help at the Museum to answer the phone, work in the gift shop, etc.

The meeting closed and we move to the Museum. An International Paper Company bird house was given away. Refreshments and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Tuesday, 4 June 1991, at the home of Will Smolenski. Board members present were Norma Cobb, Mac Hardy, Hubert Hervey, Shirley Huss, Jim Ingold, Charlie Lyon, Betty Mason, Jim McCain, Jr., Velda Neilson, Larry Raymond, Dick Rolandt, Rosemary Seidler, Will Smolenski, and Caroline Upchurch. John McBride also attended the meeting. President Will Smolenski called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Will asked for any additions or corrections to the board minutes as recorded in the May newsletter. There were none and a motion was made and passed to approve the minutes as recorded.

Betty Mason gave the treasurer's report. She reported a May balance of \$1,627.27, income of \$50.00, and expenses of \$38.70, leaving a balance of \$1,638.57. The post office balance is the same as reported at the May regular meeting.

The election of officers for the 1991-92 year was held. Will Smolenski was nominated to serve another year as President, Hubert Hervey was nominated as Vice-President, Norma Cobb was nominated as Secretary, and Betty Mason was nominated to serve another year as Treasurer. All of the nominees were unanimously elected. Caroline Upchurch agreed to help Norma as secretary, especially with transcribing the minutes onto a word

processor.

Will reported that he and Larry attended a meeting of the Red River Wetlands Coalition called by Skipper Dickson. As a result of this meeting, Will has written Congressman Jim McCreery and Senator J. Bennett Johnston encouraging them to lobby for funds for the acquisition of 12,000 acres of wetlands near Bayou Bodcau. Will asked board members to write letters as individuals making the same request. Red River Wetlands Coalition t-shirts were given out as incentives to write. Will also reported that he will attend a 1:30 P.M. meeting at The Times on 5 June concerning this issue.

Mac Hardy asked about committee chairmen for the 1991-92 year. Will noted that as President he will appoint the various chairmen. Betty recommended that an historian or archives committee be appointed to keep the Bird Study Group scrapbook up-to-date once she completes it.

Charlie Lyon reported that Bill Wood will present the June program on "Status Update of the Attwater's Prairie Chicken."

Velda Neilson requested that the board try to provide more activities for beginner birders. She has had several people comment to her regarding the need for more beginner-oriented activities. The board discussed at length possible activities including programs on the use of binoculars, field guides, birding vocabulary and related topics. A suggestion to offer birding workshops was discussed and it was decided to try to have a birding workshop for beginners sometime in late fall. Charlie Lyon, John McBride, Jim Ingold, Mac Hardy, and Larry Raymond were suggested as possible copresenters of such a hands-on workshop.

Velda noted that members want more time to visit and discuss birds seen at the meetings. Mac suggested that we should have a refreshment time again, perhaps in the Museum. After some discussion, it was decided to provide a short period of time at the meetings for members to report birds seen, and to have refreshments in the Museum after the next meeting.

The next scheduled field trip is Saturday, June 22, to Wallace Lake. Hubert

Hervey will serve as the leader of this outing. The June 1 field trip to see the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers did not materialize since no one showed up to lead the trip. In the future, the group leader's phone number will be included in the newsletter so that members interested in participating in an outing can check with the leader.

Shirley Huss reported that membership is staying around 135 paid members. A number of membership reminders have been sent out to those members who need to renew their memberships. John McBride suggested that we mail our newsletter to other bird groups around the country, and request their newsletter in return.

Will asked the hospitality committee to try to have cokes and cookies at the next regular meeting. Betty agreed to purchase the cookies and Will volunteered to bring the drinks.

Larry reported that he was unable to find a good Caddo/Bossier map at Globe Map Company for the Birding Hotspots booklet. He will keep looking for a better map.

Dick Rolandt reported that the phone tree has not been used recently because no unusual birds have been reported.

John McBride discussed the card file for bird sightings and its importance. He listed some of the specific information that should be reported, including dates of first arrival and last observation, sightings of nestlings, and other important life history information. He also emphasized the importance of photographing rare birds, nestlings, unusual behavior, etc.

Will stated that Bobbe Wommack reported to him that Pet Pro and Kamper's Korner want to be kept on our mailing list, and that both want extra copies of the newsletter for their stores. Pet Pro would like to advertise in the newsletter. The board agreed to consider advertisements at the next meeting after determining rates, guidelines for advertisements, and other details.

Mac asked how many extra copies of the newsletter would be needed. It was decided to print ten (10) extra copies each for Pet Pro and Kamper's Korner.

Will stated that the board needs to make a decision regarding the purchase of a book in the name of Vera Lee Grubbs. A motion was made and passed to purchase a book in the memory of Vera Lee.

John McBride volunteered to buy books for the Bird Study Group library. Mac pointed out that we already have a list of books to buy that have not been purchased. John also suggested that we consider buying life memberships in a variety of bird organizations to receive their journals.

Will announced that Bill Hall will remain in charge of outings.

No other business was brought up and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

## NEXT FIELD TRIP

The next Bird Study Group outing will be on September 14 (Saturday). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the McDonalds at the intersection of Bert Kouns and Linwood Ave. Bring a snack or lunch for a trip to the State Fish Hatchery in Natchitoches. We will also visit the ponds along I-49 on the way to and from the hatchery. We plan to be back around noon.

## REFRESHMENTS!

Refreshments will be available in the Museum at 6:30 p.m. (30 minutes before the meeting) on the regular meeting nights beginning with our next meeting on September 10 and also following the meeting. Stop by the Museum to visit friends and just have fun.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Renew your membership in the BSG when it is time. Many of our members will have their membership anniversary this month. Please check and keep your membership current.

## CAVE CREEK CANYON

At the next meeting we will hear a report concerning Cave Creek Canyon in Arizona. Many of you have birded in this wonderful

spot. A serious threat to the continued existence of the canyon is looming. We need a quick response to protect one of the most treasured areas in North America. Details will be given at the next meeting.

## BIRDING GUIDE

A new publication, *Birding Guide to Southwest Louisiana*, is now available. This 20 page guide is available free from:

Southwest Louisiana Convention  
and Visitors Bureau  
1211 N. Lakeshore Drive  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

or call toll-free (800)456-7952.

## BIRD REPORTS

Beginning this year the Bird Reports will be saved each month as a computer data base. The appearance of the Report in the Newsletter will not change. The difference will be that the data will be maintained on computer disks for analysis or study in the future.

## BIRD NOTES -- AUGUST

Compiled  
September 3, 1991

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	Dates and Places
AB	Alice Babers	8/23/91 residence
BillW	Bill Wood	8/ 5/91 residence, 8/24/91 Bickham-Dickson Park, 8/10/91 Bickham-Dickson Park, 8/11/91 Hamels Memorial Park
BW	Bobbe Womack	8/25/91 residence
CL	Charlie Lyon	8/25/91 Lovely Point Plantation
GB	Gordon Blackman	8/20/91 residence, 8/23/91 residence
JM	Jim McCain	8/19/91 residence, 8/21/91 residence
NC	Norma Cobb	8/23/91 residence
NH	Nicky McCombs	8/23/91 residence, 8/25/91 residence
SH	Shirley Huss	8/15/91 residence, 8/20/91 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
Snowy Egret	Aug 24 BillW 4; 25 CL 3
Little Blue Heron	Aug 24 BillW 2; 25 CL 8
Cattle Egret	Aug 24 BillW 8; 25 CL 50
Green-backed Heron	Aug 25 CL 1
Mississippi Kite	Aug 15 SH 2; 20 SH 2
Cooper's Hawk	Aug 11 BillW 1
American Kestrel	Aug 24 BillW 1
Spotted Sandpiper	Aug 24 BillW 2; 25 CL 1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Aug 19 JMcC 1; 24 BillW 4; 25 CL 1
Chimney Swift	Aug 24 BillW 2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Aug 23 AB 2, GB 2, NC 3; 24 BillW 3; 25 CL 15, BW 4
Red-headed Woodpecker	Aug 23 NC 2
Eastern Wood-Peevee	Aug 24 BillW 1
Willow Flycatcher	Aug 25 CL 1
Eastern Kingbird	Aug 25 CL 3

Common Name	Data
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Aug 11 BillW 32; 24 BillW 4; 25 CL 2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Aug 24 BillW 7; 25 CL 40
Barn Swallow	Aug 25 CL 4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Aug 24 BillW 1; 25 CL 1
Blue-winged Warbler	Aug 24 BillW 1
Black-and-white Warbler	Aug 24 BillW 1
Prothonotary Warbler	Aug 24 BillW 1
Northern Waterthrush	Aug 25 CL 2
Yellow-breasted Chat	Aug 24 BillW 1
Summer Tanager	Aug 24 BillW 1; 25 CL 1
Blue Grosbeak	Aug 11 BillW 1
Indigo Bunting	Aug 10 BillW 1
Painted Bunting	Aug 25 CL 3
Dickcissel	Aug 11 BillW 3
Northern Oriole	Aug 23 HMcC 2; 24 BillW 4; 25 HMcC 4, CL 1
House Finch	Aug 5 BillW 4
American Goldfinch	Aug 20 GB 1

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

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