



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

**BIRD STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER**



Volume 6, Number 3
November 1, 1991

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

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1991-92**

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**NEXT MONTHLY
MEETING:**

Tuesday, 12 November 1991, 7:00 PM in the Museum of Life Sciences on the LSUS campus. Mac Hardy will present the program entitled "The Birds of Mexico: The Tropical Influence." Note the new meeting place!!

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 -- Robert Wommack 797-6509
SHORT PROGRAMS -- Pat Lonacker 865-4701
SPECIAL EVENTS -- Rosemary Seidler 869-5231 w, 424-2972 h

***** NEW MEETING PLACE ***
MUSEUM OF LIFE SCIENCES**

NEW MEETING PLACE

Our meeting on November 12 will be in a new place: The Museum of Life Sciences. We have decided to try this for at least one meeting. This way our social time, refreshments and the meeting will all be in the same place. We hope this will make our meetings even more enjoyable than they are now.

LYON IS PRESIDENT!

Our own Charles Lyon is the new president of the LOS. Congratulations Charles.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I feel that we are off to an excellent start this year -- good programs, field trips, and getting settled in our new facilities. Caroline in restocking our gift shop and dressing it up.

Charles Lyon has just been elected president of the L.O.S. Plans are in progress for their winter meeting to be held here in Shreveport in early February 1992. I would like many of you to help make this meeting a huge success and give our other Louisiana birders a real warm welcome.

I had a real new experience in birding in early October. Hubert Hervey and I took part in a Hawk Migration Watch near the east jetty at Cameron. On Sunday, October 6, we saw over 600 hawks (12 different species) before we left at around 2:30 to return to Shreveport. The method in spotting hawks in their migration is to know from what direction they are coming and then search the bare skies for spots that are distant hawks that are riding thermals to gain heights and then glide south and west to pick up another thermal. There is a lot out there in the open skies that is not easily seen by the naked eye. If not picked up early they can easily swoop by and out of sight before an identification can be made.

A lot of plans are in progress and I hope you will join me in more and better birding.

♦♦♦♦ Wilfred Smolenski

OOPS !

I forgot to include the September Minutes in the last Newsletter. I apologize; it was all my fault. Norma Cobb and Caroline Upchurch did their jobs beautifully and got the minutes to me in plenty of time for the Newsletter. I intended to insert them last in the sequence of items after everything else was prepared. When the time came -- I just forgot.

-- Mac Hardy

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

On Tuesday, September 10, 1991 at 6:30 p.m. the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences welcomed the SSNS Bird Study Group and visitors for refreshments. At 7:00 p.m., Will Smolenski, President opened the regular monthly meeting by recognizing visitors and welcoming everyone back from the summer break.

Betty Mason, Treasurer, gave her report stating the beginning balance of funds of \$1,708.57. Expenses were \$149.82, with income of \$323.80, with a resulting balance as of August 30, 1991, of \$1,882.55. The post office deposit balance is \$177.42.

Will Smolenski told the group of the request from the Baton Rouge Audubon Society for help in purchasing 27 acres of land in the Henshaw Sanctuary. In the past, we had sent \$300.00 for help in this area and it was thought by some members that this amount was a standing commitment. Records were to be checked, but a motion was made by Velda Neilson and seconded by Betty Mason and unanimously carried to send \$300.00. There was some discussion on how far from the Shreveport area we should contribute funds but no decision was made regarding distance limits.

A reminder to call Connie Conners with our bird sightings. Larry Raymond asked for suggestions on bird hot spots. Old newsletters and scouting teams were suggested.

In the absence of Bill Hall, Dr. Hardy elaborated on an exciting list of outings for the year. The Natchitoches Fish Hatchery outing has been set for September 14. There

is a Hawk Watch in Cameron on October 4-6. The LOS meets in Cameron on October 25-27. Other outings included Pat Sewell's farm, beginning bird walks, barge trips, Rockerfeller Wildlife Refuge, the Christmas bird count, Cheneyville, North Lakeshore Drive duckponds and more. Plans to have no more than 8 persons per group was decided and requests for leaders was expressed.

Caroline Upchurch told of her efforts to organize and maintain the gift shop. She requested ideas for sale items and has plans to redo the gift shop when new shelving has been delivered. She is in the process of making an inventory and ordering items. Will Smolenski is currently constructing the shelving at his home. [Ed. the shelving is now installed]

Jim Ingold reported purchasing two books for the library in memory of Vera Lee Grubbs. Money had been donated for the purpose.

Shirley Huss reported current membership of 135-140 members. Plans are to make posters and flyers to attract new members.

Dick Rolandt submitted a sign-up sheet for preparation of an updated Bird Alert Phone Tree and asked for current data from members.

Hubert Hervey gave a brief description of upcoming programs for meetings, including a talk by Paul Dickson in October on his trip to Scandinavia.

We discussed sharing a booth at the State Fair with LSUS to advertise the group. The Revel was mentioned but was cost prohibitive.

Will Smolenski asked for a volunteer to do publicity. After some discussion, Mr. Womack came forward.

Pat Lonnecker presented a short slide program on hawks.

The program for the evening was given by Hubert Hervey on his recent summer trip to Arizona which he participated with John Dunn, a consultant for the National Geographic. Hubert added 82 life birds to his abundant list, including 13 species of hummingbirds. The program was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Hubert handed out information regarding Cave

Creek Canyon located in the Coronado National Forest which is destined to be opened to mining. He asked that we write our politicians to have this project abandoned.

The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Norma Cobb, Secretary

CORRECTION

Bobbe Womack's phone number is incorrect in the phone tree that appeared in the last Newsletter. Her correct phone number is 797-6509

OCTOBER MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the SSNS Bird Study Group was held Tuesday, October 8, 1991, in Room 229 of the Science Building on LSUS campus. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with Will Smolenski, President, welcoming members and guests.

Minutes of the last meeting had accidentally been omitted from the Newsletter. Copies were handed out, read and accepted by the group.

Betty Mason gave her financial report starting with last month's balance of \$1,882.55. We had income of \$349.00 and expenses of \$993.63. This left a balance of \$1,237.92 and a Post Office balance of \$177.42. Large expenses for the month were to the Baton Rouge Audubon Society for the purchase of land, stock for the gift shop and building material for bookcases.

Next we were reminded of our October 19 field trip to Pat Sewell's farm on Red River, leaving from the LSUS parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Bill Hall is leader for this outing. Other outings were listed in the October newsletter.

Will gave a report of the trip Hubert Hervey and he made to Cameron to a Hawk Watch. On Sunday, October 6 they saw 600 hawks and 11 species. He also told of the great facilities for lodging at the Rockerfeller Wildlife Refuge.

Dr. Hardy told us of an open house on the

LSUS campus on Saturday, October 12. A sheet was passed for persons available to work at the gift shop and museum.

Velda Neilson, hospitality chairman, promised permanent name tags for members next month. (We won't hold her to this since her writing hand is in a cast.) Shirley Huss reported membership of 130. She brought flyers to place in businesses to advertise our club.

The phone tree chairman worked very fast and sent out new calling lists. Other names can be added.

Bird Talk (sharing of sightings) was very exciting. A Peregrine Falcon, Broad-winged Hawks and, by process of elimination, Sandhill Cranes were sighted. If you would like more information on the Sandhill Cranes, Velda would love to tell you about them.

Pat Lonacker presented her shortslide program on Fall Warblers. They were a real challenge to identify.

Hubert Hervey reported further on the Hawk Watch and listed programs for the year. He introduced our speaker, Paul Dickson. The program "Birding in the Arctic: Lapland and the Yukon" proved to be another of Paul's outstanding programs. This was all firsthand information as Paul had recently visited these places. The photographs were beautiful.

Sheets were passed to sign for those planning to make the trip on December 6-8 to Cameron and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. Dr. Hardy is leader for this trip.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m. We were invited to the museum for refreshments and fellowship.

Norma Cobb, Secretary

FIELD TRIPS

Pat Sewell's farm on Red River at McDade, La. was our field trip site for October. Ten birders met at the LSU parking lot and drove down on Saturday morning, the 19th. We had a beautiful day. The farm is a pretty one with many varied habitats and is located on a high bluff overlooking the river. At the

foot of the bluff is a large sandbar which provided some of the best birding of the day and certainly "the biggie" of the trip.

We started just after crossing the levee onto Pat's land. A wooded shallow slough gave us most of the woodpeckers, a Belted Kingfisher, a Common Yellowthroat, Double-crested Cormorants, American Robins, and numerous other common birds. We then picked up some nice sparrows (Song, Lincoln's, White-throated, White-crowned, and a beautiful, very early, Fox Sparrow), and several Indigo Buntings in an adjacent overgrown grassy area. Then we drove along a cotton field and walked a woodmargin, another slough, and an open lakeside. We saw Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouses, kinglets, wrens, and other expected winter residents, and jumped six Wood Ducks on the little lake. Things really got fun again when we worked our way back down to the river bluff and found shorebirds on the sandbar. There were Pectoral Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers, Common Snipe, and the aforementioned "biggie," a Lesser Golden Plover. Everyone, at first, assumed it to be the more expected Black-bellied Plover. But it remained feeding in front of us for a long time and gradually the field-marks of the Lesser Golden Plover were discussed, visualized, and accepted by all present. Quite a bird!

The day was finished with a total species count of 44. It proved to be another good day of friendship, learning, and the pleasures of being out-of-doors. Each of you that missed it should really "do yourself a favor" and make sure you're at the next outing. On November the 16th, the Moffets have arranged our annual Cross Lake barge trip (Eagles, Loons, Mergansers, Canvasbacks, Buffleheads!). The projected cost is about \$10 per person. Call Sally or Chuck at 631-0836, make your reservation (so they'll know how many barges to get) and **be there**. It's always one of the really fun trips of the year.

Bill Hall, Outings Chmn.

ROCKEFELLER TRIP**

The field trip to the Rockefeller Wildlife Management Refuge in Cameron Parish is

scheduled for the weekend of December 6-8, 1991. We will depart on Friday evening, Dec. 6 and return to Shreveport Sunday afternoon. We will stay at the guest house on the refuge Friday and Saturday nights. The cost for lodging is \$20.00 per person (includes both nights). Meals are not included so we need to plan to take food or use local restaurants. We have 18 participants signed up. We will hear more about this at the next meeting.

LOS TO MEET HERE

The winter meeting of the Louisiana Ornithological Society will be in Shreveport on February 14, 1992. More details will be announced later.

NEXT FIELD TRIP

The next outing will be on November 16 to Cross Lake. This will be a barge trip on the lake. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the entrance of the Shreveport Yacht Club. **Reservations are required by Monday, November 11 to Chuck or Sally Moffet, 631-0736.**

FIRST BIRDERS!

An outing for beginning birders will be held at Walter Jacobs Nature Park at 8:00 a.m. on December 14. The instructor will be Larry Raymond. For more information call 929-2806 (park) or 424-2042.

NEW B.R. HOTLINE

The Baton Rouge Audubon Society has a new HOTLINE. The number is 504,293-BIRD.

BIRD NOTES -- OCTOBER

Compiled
October 30, 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
BHCSM	Bill Hall, Chuck & Salley Moffett	10/ 5/91 Bickham-Dickson Park
BSG	Bird Study Group outing	10/19/91 Pat Sewell's Farm, Bossier Par.
BW	Bobbe Womack	9/29/91 Stonewall; 10/16/91 Stonewall; 10/16/91 residence
HH	Hubert Hervey	10/20/91 Toledo Bend Lake (DeSoto Par., Circle Dr)
HHo	Helen Hood	9/29/91 American Legion; 10/ 7/91 Bert Kouns; 10/19/91 residence; 10/22/91 residence
JM	John McBride	10/23/91 residence
LR&MH	Larry Raymond and Mac Hardy	10/ 8/91 Soda Lake Wildlife Man. Area
MH	Mac Hardy	10/13/91 Soda Lake Wildlife Man. Area
NC	Norma Cobb	10/24/91 residence
PD	Paul Dickson	10/ 5/91 Loggy Bayou Plantation; 10/19/91 Loggy Bayou Plantation
RS&HH	Rosemary Seidler and Hubert Hervey	10/13/91 Stonewall, Clear Lake, Fish Hatchery; 10/15/91 Soda Lake and Lake Erlich (Ark)
SH	Shirley Huss	10/16/91 Arthur Circle School

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, Banded 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	Oct. 13 RS&HH 4; 20 HH 2
Double-crested Cormorant	Sep. 29 HNo 1; 13 RS&HH 2; 15 RS&HH 500; 19 BSG 15
Anhinga	Oct. 13 RS&HH 3
Snowy Egret	Oct. 13 RS&HH 6
Little Blue Heron	Oct. 5 HCSH 1; 8 LR&HH 2; 13 RS&HH 2; 20 HH 1
Tricolored Heron	Oct. 13 RS&HH 2
Cattle Egret	Sep. 29 HNo 1; Oct. 13 RS&HH 25; 15 RS&HH 10
Greater White-fronted Goose	Oct. 5 PD 1; 13 RS&HH 2
Green-winged Teal	Oct. 13 RS&HH 4; 20 HH 100
Hallard	Oct. 13 RS&HH 20; 15 RS&HH 5; 19 BSG 4; 20 HH 10
Blue-winged Teal	Oct. 13 RS&HH 12; 20 HH 100
Gadwall	Oct. 20 HH 1000
American Wigeon	Oct. 13 RS&HH 3; 20 HH 20
Osprey	Oct. 15 RS&HH 1; 20 HH 1
Northern Harrier	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1; 15 RS&HH 4; 19 BSG 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1
Cooper's Hawk	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1; 15 RS&HH 1
Red-tailed Hawk	Oct. 13 RS&HH 6; 15 RS&HH 15
American Kestrel	Sep. 29 BW 1; Oct. 13 RS&HH 11; 15 RS&HH 18; 19 BSG 2
Merlin	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1
Virginia Rail	Oct. 16 SH 1
American Coot	Oct. 13 RS&HH 4; 15 RS&HH 8; 20 HH 30
Lesser Golden-Plover	Oct. 19 BSG 1
American Avocet	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1
Upland Sandpiper	Oct. 20 HH 2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Oct. 13 RS&HH 30
Least Sandpiper	Oct. 13 RS&HH 20; 19 BSG 30; 20 HH 15
Baird's Sandpiper	Oct. 20 HH 2
Pectoral Sandpiper	Oct. 19 BSG 2
Short-billed Dowitcher	Oct. 13 RS&HH 2
Long-billed Dowitcher	Oct. 13 RS&HH 3; 19 BSG 2
Common Snipe	Oct. 13 RS&HH 20; 15 RS&HH 8; 19 BSG 3
Forster's Tern	Oct. 20 HH 15
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Oct. 5 HCSH 2
Whip-poor-will	Oct. 19 PD 1;
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Oct. 16 BW 1
Red-headed Woodpecker	Oct. 15 RS&HH 1; 19 BSG 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Oct. 13 RS&HH 3; 15 RS&HH 12; 19 BSG 5
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Oct. 5 HCSH 1; 13 RS&HH 1; 15 RS&HH 2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Oct. 5 HCSH 1
Eastern Phoebe	Oct. 13 HH 1; 13 RS&HH 2; 19 BSG 3
Eastern Kingbird	Oct. 5 HCSH 1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Oct. 7 HNo 1; 13 RS&HH 7
Tree Swallow	Oct. 13 RS&HH 9; 15 RS&HH 12
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Oct. 5 HCSH 35
Barn Swallow	Oct. 13 RS&HH 3
House Wren	Oct. 13 HH 1; 13 RS&HH 1
Winter Wren	Oct. 15 RS&HH 1; 19 BSG 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oct. 5 HCSH 1; 15 RS&HH 5; 16 BW 2; 19 BSG 6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Oct. 5 HCSH 1
Gray Catbird	Sep. 29 BW 1; Oct. 13 RS&HH 2
Water Pipit	Oct. 20 HH 2
White-eyed Vireo	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1
Warbling Vireo	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1
Tennessee Warbler	Oct. 5 HCSH 2
Yellow Warbler	Oct. 13 RS&HH 2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Oct. 15 RS&HH 2; 16 BW 1
Mourning Warbler	Oct. 13 RS&HH 2
Common Yellowthroat	Oct. 15 RS&HH 1; 19 BSG 1
Wilson's Warbler	Oct. 5 HCSH 1
Summer Tanager	Oct. 5 HCSH 2; 13 RS&HH 1; 19 BSG 1; 19 HNo 2; 23 JucB 1
Blue Grosbeak	Oct. 13 RS&HH 2
Indigo Bunting	Oct. 13 HH 1; 13 RS&HH 5; 15 RS&HH 3; 19 BSG 4
Dickcissel	Oct. 19 HNo 1
Chipping Sparrow	Oct. 13 RS&HH 6; 15 RS&HH 6
Savannah Sparrow	Oct. 13 RS&HH 6; 15 RS&HH 1
Fox Sparrow	Oct. 19 BSG 1
Song Sparrow	Oct. 15 RS&HH 2; 16 BW 1; 19 BSG 4
Lincoln's Sparrow	Oct. 13 RS&HH 2; 15 RS&HH 2; 19 BSG 1
Swamp Sparrow	Oct. 13 HH 1
White-throated Sparrow	Oct. 13 RS&HH 4; 19 BSG 8; 22 HNo 2; MC 1
White-crowned Sparrow	Oct. 19 BSG 3
Northern Oriole	Oct. 13 RS&HH 1