

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Number 7
March 2, 1992

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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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

Tuesday, 10 March 1992, 7:00 PM in the
Museum of Life Sciences on the LSUS
campus. Velda Neilson will present the
program on "Birds of the South Texas
Tour-92"

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 PM, at Norma
Cobb's home (1851 Live Oak Dr.; phone
686-3959).

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BIRD REPORT -- Connie Connors 865-6422
BIRD HOT SPOTS -- Larry Raymond 929-2806, 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 929-2806, Jim Ingold 797-5236
PHONE TREE -- Dick Rolandt 797-0255
PROGRAMS -- Hubert Hervey 925-9249
PUBLICITY -- Bobbe Wommack 797-6509
SHORT PROGRAMS -- Pat Lonacker 865-4701
SPECIAL EVENTS -- Rosemary Seidler 869-5231 w, 424-2972 h

NEXT MEETING — MARCH 10 AT THE MUSEUM
THE GIFT SHOP CAN SPECIAL ORDER FOR YOUR BIRDING NEEDS

MINUTES of the LAST MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the S.S.N.S. Bird Study Group was held Tuesday, February 11, 1992 in the Life Sciences Museum on the L.S.U.S. Campus.

Will Smolenski called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. welcoming everyone and recognizing visitors. Our visitors were Pat Luminello, and Robert and Candice Bozeman. We were also glad to have Mac DeMoss back.

A correction was made in the January minutes. The treasury balance should have read \$1184.34 instead of \$1084.34. The minutes were then approved.

Betty gave the new report starting with a balance of \$1184.34 and income of \$30.00. Expenses were \$27.24 leaving a balance of \$1187.10. The post office balance was \$89.51.

Caroline Upchurch was recognized for her outstanding performance in transporting and maintaining the gift shop during the L.O.S. meeting.

We were reminded of the bird banding at Paul Dickson's on February 15, and the invitation to the Caroline Dorman Sanctuary on February 29.

Will reported that the Eagle watch the group had asked us to help with was cancelled due to bad weather.

Jim Ingold was asked to talk on birds to grades 3-6 at the A.C. Steere School.

It is very important to give your bird sightings to Connie Conners. All birds are to be reported.

Mac needs information for the newsletter. Shirley Huss reported our membership at 119.

No sightings have been called in on the phonetree for awhile but please remember to do this if you see something exciting.

Will thanked everyone for their participation in the L.O.S. meeting held

here. Visitors reported that the organization and speakers were outstanding.

Larry Raymond brought to our attention that the Natural Heritage Program of Louisiana may be cut from our state budget. If this happens we will be the only state without a program to help our endangered species. He asked that we write to Governor Edwards and send a copy to Joe Herring, Director of Wildlife and Fisheries.

During Bird Talk a Red Throated Loon, Greater Scaups, Harris Sparrows and Horned Larks were reported.

Jim Ingold will have a new section in the Newsletter. He might have a quiz for us and make us study.

Mac Hardy has entered a lot of bird data in a computer at the museum and told us to feel free to come in and play with the computer and obtain this information.

Velda has our program for the March meeting.

Larry Raymond presented our program "Summer Friends and Changes in Bird Population." He had done a lot of research, had great pictures and prepared a chart with thanks going to Mrs. Raymond for her artistic contributions. The problems he gave to us were alarming with no proven solutions yet.

Prizes were drawn for and won by Caroline Upchurch and Candice Bozeman.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is that time of year that many birds are migrating north and the opportunity is here to see some unusual and rare sightings in the fields and woods.

A couple of weeks ago I observed two small birds feeding on the ground along with a number of robins. They were small sparrow sized, stroaked on the breast, dark brown back, head stroaked, no wing bars and pinkish legs. That is about all I could positively see since they were moving a lot feeding on the ground. It was among trees so shadows

caused trouble seeing well. Having a big dog along did not help in getting close. Finally they flew off. A good birder would probably have been able to identify them but I could not.

I first heard and saw Martin Scouts February 13. There are increasing numbers of Warblers and other and other birds that are stopping on their way through so polish your lenses and enjoy observing some colorful birds. Oh, Yes! Do not forget to try to identify the more drab colored ones too. Even though it may be more exciting to see our more colorful species it may also be more rewarding to identify a bird that looks similar to several others.

*** Will Smolonski

NATCHITOCHEs TRIP

"Hubert, we've got to be crazy, going birding on a day like this," my birding partner for the day correctly suggested. Rosemary Seidler is usually right, so I readily agreed that having a nutty quality is part of what a good birder is made of. At least non-birders might consider us nuts, but birders understand. We had not been out since the LOS meeting 3 weeks prior and we were suffering from the birders equivalent of cabin fever. We needed to see feathers move -- even if they were wet feathers, seen through a foggy pair of binoculars by a soaked nut.

And so we were off for Natchitoches to bird with members of the Natchitoches Audubon Society. We checked the I-49 west-side bar pits and got a few ducks and hawks while observing that the continuing drizzle was coming nearer to what we would have to admit was really rain. A stalled front was allowing gulf moisture in the south door of the Ark-La-Tex and making the predicted 80% chance of rain look like the work of an experienced, expert meteorologist.

At the meeting site we learned that wiser heads had prevailed and cancelled the "bird walk." Rosemary asked Charlie Harrington, formerly of Shreveport, to draw us a map of the best places to go (Che-Che Bay on Saline Lake and other areas seldom heard of in Shreveport birding locale discussions).

Perhaps she shrewdly knew the impossibility of the existence of such a map, because Charlie gallantly volunteered to be our guide. Thus began a good birding day in new country for me. And a new experience for Rosemary also as she enjoyed sharing the back seat with "Lady Dogg." This thick-furred refugee from the dog pound got progressively wetter and muddier as the day got longer. She loved to swim to wash the mud off, but there was always more mud between the lake and the car. Rosemary never came out of her rain gear because for her it was also wet inside the car -- because of "Lady-Dogg." On a dry, clear day "Lady-Dogg" would have been a welcome and delightful companion.

You may need a map to follow the route I will try to describe and I confess to being completely lost at times. Perhaps Charlie was also, but he never gave a clue. As we headed east toward Clarence, Rosemary mentioned that we only had 18 species so far and our chances for getting 40 species in the rain looked grim. I must explain to those who don't know that 40 is my personal and very arbitrary number that constitutes a decent birding effort in northern Louisiana. Any less than that is to be considered akin to losing the Gulf war. Laurie had even warned Rosemary not to plan to return to Shreveport before Tuesday, because Hubert wouldn't allow her to quit until he got 40 species. Now come on Laurie, "Gimme a break!" The real problem is that when I get to 46 I want 50, and the same with 60 and 70 too. When Charlie learned of this "hang-up," he quickly identified the male and female cardinal as two species. "They sure look different to me, Hubert." So I had to deduct 5 species for skullduggery. We had fun and I lost track with no check list to refer to. At least I said I did and when the Belted Kingfisher put us to 40 I was the only one aware of it.

They were still sweating after the Eastern Phoebe and the Great Egret too. We wound up with 52 species. Not near enough to 60 to cause a problem!

Our route was: Natchitoches to Clarence, Hwy 6 to Saline Lake. Watch for 2 or 3 abandoned stores and a construction co. sign beside a gravel road to the north. This leads to a dam construction site with good birding along the dam and some beautiful

nature pine groves along the banks of Che-Che Bay. Here we were looking for signs of Cormorant, Heron and Egret rookeries, but none were to be seen through the misty drizzle. I thought it a likely Red-Cockaded Woodpecker habitat, but saw no indication that this troubled species was aware of the area.

The drive on La 1226, north toward Goldonna is truly between the lakes, Saline and Clear are both visible at times. (Continued in next newsletter.)

BIRD QUIZ

Test your knowledge of birds. With this issue of the Bird Study Group Newsletter we are instituting a monthly bird quiz. The answers will be given at the next meeting, after the newsletter appears, as well as in the next newsletter. If you have a topic or a question you would like to see in the quiz, give them to Jim Ingold. This month's quiz

deals with vernacular bird names. What is the common name for the birds below?

1. Timberdoodle
2. Blackjack
3. Rain Crow
4. Hairyhead
5. Mexican Squealer

RARE BIRD ALERT

At home or on the go, get a line on where the best birds have been seen! Call the Rare

Bird Alert in Texas, Arkansas, or Oklahoma.

Arkansas 501, 753-5853
Oklahoma (Oklahoma City)
405, 373-4531
Texas (Rio Grande Valley)
512, 565-6773
(San Antonio)
512, 733-8306

BIRD NOTES -- FEBRUARY

Compiled
March 2, 1992

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

REPORTERS

Abbrev	Name	Dates and Places
AB	Alice Babers	2/1/92 residence; 2/3/92 residence; 2/7/92 residence; 2/8/92 residence; 2/9/92 residence; 2/10/92 residence; 2/19/92 residence; 2/23/92 residence; 2/24/92 residence
BSGLS	BSG/LOS	2/1/92 Cross Lake; 2/1/92 Shreveport Airport
BW	Bobbe Wonnack	2/11/92 Linwood; 2/14/92 Stonewall; 2/15/92 Bickham-Dickson Park
CL	Charlie Lyon	1/26/92 Ellerbe Road
CL&MH	Charlie Lyon & Hubert Hervey	1/29/92 Yearwood Road
GB	Gordon Blackman	2/22/92 residence
HH	Hubert Hervey	2/11/92 residence; 2/18/92 residence; 2/20/92 residence; 2/22/92 residence
HHo	Helen Hood	2/2/92 Cross Lake (North Lakeshore); 2/3/92 residence; 2/14/92 residence
HHoNC	Helen Hood and Norma Cobb	2/7/92 South Lakeshore on Cross Lake
HHRSC	H. Hervey, R. Seidler, C. Harrington	2/22/92 Saline Lake and Mill Creek Reservoir
JI	Jim Ingold	2/29/92 LSUS campus; 3/1/92 Hubert Hervey farm; 3/2/92 LSUS campus
JMcC	Jim McCain	2/23/92 residence
KP	Kathy Pyle	2/24/92 residence
NC	Norma Cobb	2/23/92 residence; 2/24/92 LA hwy.7, Tex. to Nacogdoches
PD	Paul Dickson	2/21/92 La. 1 at Flournoy-Lucas (Harlan's)
SH	Shirley Huss	2/14/92 residence; 2/16/92 residence; 2/21/92 residence; 2/24/92 residence

RECORDS

Common Name	Date	Data
Red-throated Loon	2/1/92	BSGLOS 1
Pied-billed Grebe	2/22/92	HRSCH 2
American White Pelican	2/1/92	BSGLOS 30
Double-crested Cormorant	1/29/92	CL&H 2; 2/22/92 HRSCH 55
Great Blue Heron	2/1/92	BSGLOS 60; 2/2/92 HNo 3; 2/22/92 HRSCH 9
Great Egret	2/1/92	BSGLOS 6; 2/22/92 HRSCH 24
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	2/2/92	HNo 1
Canada Goose	2/7/92	HNoC 1
Wood Duck	2/22/92	HRSCH 7
Mallard	2/22/92	HRSCH 20
Northern Pintail	2/22/92	HRSCH 30
Northern Shoveler	2/22/92	HRSCH 6
Gadwall	2/1/92	BSGLOS 10; 2/22/92 HRSCH 2
American Nigeon	2/22/92	HRSCH 5
Canvasback	2/1/92	BSGLOS 100; 2/7/92 HNoC 3
Greater Scaup	2/1/92	BSGLOS 1
Lesser Scaup	2/1/92	BSGLOS 15
Bufflehead	2/1/92	BSGLOS 30
Red-breasted Merganser	2/1/92	BSGLOS 2; 2/15/92 BW 5
Ruddy Duck	2/1/92	BSGLOS 200; 2/7/92 HNoC 15
Black Vulture	1/29/92	CL&H 2
Turkey Vulture	1/29/92	CL&H 8; 2/22/92 HRSCH 8
Bald Eagle	2/1/92	BSGLOS 1; 2/7/92 HNoC 1
Northern Harrier	2/1/92	BSGLOS 1; 2/22/92 HRSCH 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/20/92	HH 1
Cooper's Hawk	2/18/92	HH 1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/20/92	HH 2
Red-tailed Hawk	2/21/92	PD 1; 2/20/92 HH 2; 2/22/92 HRSCH 20;
American Kestrel	2/22/92	HRSCH 1
Killdeer	2/2/92	HNo 2; 2/22/92 HRSCH 8
Common Snipe	1/29/92	CL&H 6; 2/22/92 HRSCH 1
Bonaparte's Gull	2/1/92	BSGLOS 25
Ring-billed Gull	2/1/92	BSGLOS 60; 2/22/92 HRSCH 1
Herring Gull	2/1/92	BSGLOS 4; 2/2/92 HNo 50
Forster's Tern	2/1/92	BSGLOS 5
Rock Dove	2/22/92	HRSCH 45
Mourning Dove	2/10/92	AB 3; 2/14/92 HNo 4; 2/22/92 HRSCH 9
Barn Owl	1/29/92	CL&H 1
Barred Owl	2/23/92	JMc 1
Belted Kingfisher	2/22/92	HRSCH 2
Red-headed Woodpecker	1/29/92	CL&H 1; 2/22/92 HRSCH 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2/22/92	HRSCH 2; 2/7/92 AB 1
Northern Flicker	2/22/92	HRSCH 2
Pileated Woodpecker	2/1/92	BSGLOS 2
Eastern Phoebe	2/14/92	BW 1; 2/22/92 HRSCH 3
Horned Lark	1/26/92	CL 100
Purple Martin	3/ 2/92	JI 1; 2/11/92 HH 2; 2/11/92 BW 2; 2/14/92 SH 1; 2/24/92 AB 4; 2/24/92 SH 4; 2/24/92 KP 1
Tree Swallow	3/ 1/92	JI 1
Barn Swallow	2/29/92	JI 1
Blue Jay	2/22/92	HRSCH 5
American Crow	2/22/92	HRSCH 15
Carolina Chickadee	2/22/92	HRSCH 3; 2/3/92 AB 1
Tufted Titmouse	2/22/92	HRSCH 2
Brown Creeper	2/3/92	HNo 1
Carolina Wren	2/22/92	HRSCH 2
Bewick's Wren	1/29/92	CL&H 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1/29/92	CL&H 2
Eastern Bluebird	1/29/92	CL&H 12; 2/22/92 HRSCH 9; 2/24/92 NC 50; 2/3/92 HNo 2
Hermit Thrush	1/29/92	CL&H 1
American Robin	2/19/92	AB 2; 2/22/92 HRSCH 30
Northern Mockingbird	2/22/92	HRSCH 6
American Pipit	1/29/92	CL&H 150; 2/22/92 HH 50; 2/22/92 HRSCH 50
Cedar Waxwing	2/14/92	BW 200; 2/22/92 HRSCH 20; 2/3/92 HNo 11
Loggerhead Shrike	1/29/92	CL&H 2; 2/22/92 HRSCH 4
European Starling	2/22/92	HRSCH 40
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2/22/92	HRSCH 3
Pine Warbler	2/14/92	HNo 1; 2/3/92 HNo 2
Summer Tanager	2/24/92	KP 1
Northern Cardinal	2/1/92	AB 9; 2/21/92 SH 2; 2/23/92 AB 4; 2/3/92 HNo 6; 2/8/92 AB 5
Chipping Sparrow	2/14/92	BW 25; 2/22/92 HRSCH 50
Field Sparrow	2/22/92	HRSCH 4
Vesper Sparrow	1/29/92	CL&H 8

Common Name	Date	Data
Savannah Sparrow	2/22/92	HRSCH 25
LeConte's Sparrow	2/1/92	BSGLOS 8
Fox Sparrow	1/29/92	CL&HH 2
Song Sparrow	1/29/92	CL&HH 20; 2/14/92 BW 3; 2/22/92 HRSCH 6
White-throated Sparrow	2/14/92	HHo 1; 2/22/92 HRSCH 30
White-crowned Sparrow	1/29/92	CL&HH 100
Harris' Sparrow	1/29/92	CL&HH 2
Dark-eyed Junco	2/14/92	HHo 2; 2/22/92 HRSCH 40; 2/23/92 JMcC 6; 2/9/92 AB 16
Smith's Longspur	2/1/92	BSGLOS 3
Red-winged Blackbird	2/14/92	HHo 4; 2/22/92 HRSCH 90
Eastern Meadowlark	2/22/92	HRSCH 50
Brewer's Blackbird	1/29/92	CL&HH 50
Common Grackle	2/22/92	HRSCH 500
Brown-headed Cowbird	2/22/92	HRSCH 80
Purple Finch	2/16/92	SH 2; 2/22/92 HRSCH 25
House Finch	2/16/92	SH 5; 2/21/92 SH 5; 2/22/92 GB 12; 2/23/92 AB 2; 2/23/92 MC 24; 2/24/92 AB 2
American Goldfinch	2/16/92	SH 2; 2/21/92 SH 2; 2/22/92 GB 1; 2/22/92 HRSCH 6; 2/23/92 MC 4; 2/23/92 JMcC 6
House Sparrow	2/22/92	HRSCH 8

Printed 152 records.

Shreveport Society for Nature Study, Inc.

BIRD STUDY GROUP

One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399

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