



# BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 4  
November 22, 1994

Bird Alert Service: Phone 318,797-5338, Mon-Fri. after 5:00 PM  
Meeting Place and Headquarters: LSUS Museum of Life Sciences

## *NEXT MEETING*

December 6, 1994

7:00 PM

# Bird Study Group CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 6, 1994 - 7:00 PM**

**Museum of Life Sciences**

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Featuring good food  
fellowship and our annual auction  
with our very own, the famous  
Bird Auctioneer,

**PAUL DICKSON**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

BIRD REPORT -- **Bobbe Wommack** 686-0369, **Will Smolenski** 865-2938  
 BIRD HOT SPOTS -- **Larry Raymond** 929-2806, **Will Smolenski** 865-2938  
 FIELD TRIPS -- **Bill Hall** 797-1727  
 FUND RAISING -- **Will Smolenski** 865-2938  
 HISTORIAN and LIBRARIAN -- **Jim Ingold** 797-5236, **Betty Mason**,  
 HOSPITALITY and SPECIAL EVENTS -- **Betty Mason** 687-0225, **Margaret Fontaine**  
 861-0483, **Norma Cobb** 686-3959, and **June Haynie** 868-5441  
 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 -- **Jeff Trahan** 868-7360 (h), 869-5217 (w); **Will Smolenski** 865-2938  
 PROGRAMS -- **Jim Ingold** 797-5236  
 PUBLICITY -- **Nancy Meier** 688-0085  
 SHORT PROGRAMS -- **Pat Lonacker** 865-4701

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### REMEMBER

Renew your BSG membership early

Your Expiration Date is on your MAILING LABEL --Check it every month and keep your membership current.

## The Christmas Party

The annual BSG Christmas Party is our next meeting on December 6, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to come and have a great time. Our auction will feature the return appearance of Paul Dickson as our auctioneer. The Bird Study Group will supply the meat and drinks, members will bring

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1993-94

President - **HUBERT HERVEY**, 3  
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other foods. For more information on what to bring call Betty Mason (687-0225), Margaret Fontaine (861-0483), Norma Cobb (686-3959), or June Haynie (868-5441). For other information call the museum (797-5338).

The main auction will be limited to about 20 items of major interest. The remainder will be auctioned in a giant and fun silent auction. The silent auction items will be scattered throughout the museum; search for the best treasures. Each silent auction item will have a bid sheet telling the

approximate retail value and the minimum bid accepted.

## BOOK REVIEW

Since receiving a copy of "Birds of Texas - A Field Guide", by John H. Rappole and Gene W. Blacklock, I have enjoyed planning my return to the "Lone Star State". Of course I hope to use the information in it to help me locate such dream birds as; **Orange-breasted Bunting, Paint-billed Crake, Blue Ground-Dove, Greenish Elaenia, Green-breasted Mango, Clay-colored and Rufous-backed Robin, Gray Silky Flycatcher, or Double-striped Thick-knee.** If you have seen all of these birds in the ABA area you are certainly a master birder.

The introduction is short and useful. Texas has 576 officially accepted species. This book includes all of these birds plus enough "Hypothetical" species to bring the total to 622 species. Hypothetical is humorously defined as "the result of an undigested bit of beef" or some more potent hallucinogen, or they may have actually been there." A few of these hypothetical birds I expect will be added to the official list in due time.

Each species has a write-up that includes a description, voice, habits similar species, habitat, Texas occurrence, and range. Beside each account is a Texas county map with density shaded in. This can be very useful if you know the names of the counties. The one-page Texas map in the introductory section has the county names on it. Legible if you have a magnifying glass handy. Advise you use a state road map instead.

Photographs of all 622 species are included at the end of the written account. Only one photo per species is included. Sometimes male, sometime female and occasionally an immature is shown. A tremendous effort was needed to locate so many good photos from over 80 photographers. They are shown eight to the page and are about as useful as pictures can be. Key identification features may or may not be present. The problem caused by not showing both male and female in many species is obvious. So you will need to take along another field guide to have complete information handy.

I recommend "Birds of Texas" to any serious birder intending to bird in Texas. You will find it readable and useful. It is published by Texas A&M Press, College Station, Texas (ISBN 089096-545-5).

A closing quote from the preface shows the authors intent. "The guide includes all the information on plumage, voice and behavior needed to identify the bird, while giving specific data on where and when the bird is likely to be found and in what kinds of habitats." The state guide can also serve to satisfy a more refined use. The seasoned birder comes to recognize the singular beauties of a choice habitat, a habitat containing its own special set of inhabitants. Texas has many such habitats - obvious ones like the desert canyons of Big Bend and subtropical riparian areas of Santa Ana, and less obvious ones like Lost Maples State Park, the Audubon sabal palm grove, and Kleberg County stubble fields. With a key to time and place, you can find them. That is what this guide is all about."

And it seems to me they accomplished their intent well.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you see from the favorite birding places article, I have recently returned from "out west". The joyful occasion was the marriage of your writer to Patricia Longoria Tuminello. We were wed in the Wedding Capital of the World, Las Vegas, Nevada. We honeymooned in Zion National Park and on the drive back. We are still honeymooning, some folks would say. We thank you for your congratulations and well wishes. We appreciate you one and all.

The Christmas Party and Auction on December 6th are our main efforts this month. You will be glad you came and took part. We always have a good time at this meeting.

Try to take part in one or more CBC's. They could use your help. You could use the fun. The dates of all we are sure of are included in this newsletter.

D'Arbonne CBC - December 17, 1994 - contact Matt Courtman, P.O. Box 1591, Monroe, LA, 71210.

Caddo Lake Trial Run - December 3, 1994 - contact Dorothy Metzler.

## Other CBC's

Dec. 18. -- Natchitoches.

First Sat. -- Sabine.

Dec. 20 -- Baton Rouge.

Dec. 26. -- Shreveport Christmas Bird Count. Contact: Horace Jeter 861-4302.

Dec. 31. -- Reserve.

Jan. 2. -- B.C.B.C. Bird Count. Contact: Paul Dickson 797-1000.

Thanks to Rosemary Seidler for providing many of the above dates. Check the LOS Newsletter for more information.

## Outing Report

**NORTH LAKESHORE - BOOK FISH HATCHERY (November 12)**

From a 7:30 am rendezvous, twelve BSG birders carpooled to the North Lakeshore Drive area of Cross Lake, and made our first stop at the Lakeshore bridge. On the lake side of bridge a large raft of **American Coots** hugged the shoreline, while a sprinkling of little stiff-tails, **Ruddy Ducks**, rode the deeper water and buzzed bee-like back and forth over it's surface. In the slough on the landward side of the bridge our scopes pulled in a gorgeous pair of **Ring-necked Ducks**. The light was perfect, the ducks content to stay almost in one spot and everyone was able to indulge themselves with long, studied, views of these beautiful birds. Six typically nervous **Wood Ducks** exploded out of the water as soon as they were aware of us, but left behind some **Northern Shovelers**, **Mallards**, **Gadwalls**, and a small flotilla of **Pied-billed Grebes**, for our pleasure.

We next stopped at the grassy field at the end of Mallard Bay subdivision. Splitting into two groups to cover the area more thoroughly, we picked up better winter birds than we might have

expected. We logged one **Winter wren**, four **Sedge Wrens**, two **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **Savannah**, **LeConte's**, **Song**, **Lincoln**, **Swamp** and **White-throated Sparrows**. We were also treated to a noisy overflight by a **Pileated Woodpecker** and sighted trees full of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Cedar Waxwings** and **American Goldfinches**. The day was completed by walking two beautiful areas of Jan and Frank Books' Fish Hatchery.

While in the woods behind the hatchery our noise offended a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** who screamed at us from just out of sight for 10 minutes or more before we were able to glimpse one of them sailing away over the treetops. We were also given a pleasurable long, visit by a beautiful male **Hairy Woodpecker**. This fellows' posturing and posing made certain that everyone present will, in the future, be confident in distinguishing between the Hairy and his diminutive cousin, the **Downy Woodpecker**.

When we finally "called the list" near noon, with a total species count of 56, we had all been treated to another of those small wonders that we too easily take for granted. It was a beautiful day, spent with friends, in touch with the earth. One can hardly ask for more.

\*\*\* By Bill Hall

## CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AUCTION

(December 6, 1994)

Our next meeting is our Christmas Party and Auction. Bring anything of value that you no longer care for or can surrender to the club for sale at our auction. The old store is the place where you can bring things in early. We will have both a silent auction where items will be spread out and you can place your bid on a sheet of paper by the item. Anyone else can come by and overbid so you need to check the item periodically during the evening to insure that your bid goes over the last bid to capture the item. Paul Dickson will auction off about 20 items so the auction will not last as long as last year's.

Be sure to bring a covered dish. You can check with Margaret Fontaine 861-0483, Norma Cobb 686-3959, Betty Mason 687-0225 or June Haynie 868-5441.

DON'T MISS THIS BIG EVENT!!!

## BIRD QUIZ #27

### BIRDS IN THE MOVIES

Match the following year and cast to a movie with a bird in the title.

1. (1963) Vincent Price, Boris Karloff, and Peter Lorre
2. (1975) Robert Redford and Faye Dunaway
3. (1962) Gregory Peck, Mary Badham, and Brock Peters
4. (1955) Jose Ferrer and June Allyson
5. (1975) Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher, Will Sampson, Danny DeVito
6. (1976) Elizabeth Taylor, Cicely Tyson and Jane Fonda
7. (1963) Thomas Tryon, Carol Lynley, and John Huston
8. (1965) Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton
9. (1969) Liza Minnelli and Wendell Burton
10. (1941) Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Sydney Greenstreet and Walter Huston

### ANSWERS TO BIRD QUIZ #26

1. 1958
2. 1966
3. 1961
4. Florida
5. 1970

6. 3 years old
7. Pesticides
8. Loss of islands for nesting
9. Myth of self sacrifice because of the red tip on the bill. It was thought that the mother pelican drew her own blood to feed to her young.
10. 8 species

### FAVORITE PLACES TO BIRD

This particular place is really one that I have in my minds' eye. No real place could possibly measure up to this image of a mountain valley. Or could it? Come with me and see.

Your mountain valley is a few miles wide and very green. The pine trees and the grass make it so. You see a very large hawk sailing down low. As the air begins to warm, the Ferruginous Hawk slowly circles. It is searching for a rodent, many kinds are found here. You see the white underparts - shiny white, and a pale orange terminal band to the tail shows up as it hovers awkwardly. It plunges toward a vole the keen eyes have spotted. You see rusty thighs extend and then draw back as the vole vanishes in the lush grass. The hawk rises higher while effortlessly soaring among the white puffy clouds.

You are surrounded by juniper trees and a small rather stunted specie of oak. Suddenly a noisy band of birds appears. You don't need binoculars for the **Mountain Bluebirds** as they are all blue. And the **Western Bluebird** sings endlessly from a nearby Cedar. He seems proud of his "red, white and blue" colors, like a little American flag perhaps. But then you see a rather plain bird with buffy wing patches. As it flits about, the white in its outer tail feathers reminds you of a Mockingbird. The **Townsend's Solitaire** then dives into a juniper and vanishes. The momentary quiet gives you time to enjoy the sighing of the wind in the trees. You reflect on the fact that wind and mountains go together.

The distant hazy blue mountains reach to nearly 13,000 feet. Snow lingers on the north

side, above timberline. As if the wind and this thought combine to make you cold, you shiver, and head to the valley. There the Ponderosa Pines stand tall and stately in a meadow. As you squeak, you arouse the flicker. You have already seen both **Gilded Flicker** and **Red-shafted Flicker** today so you don't even bother to put the binoculars on this one. But then you hear the squabbling of the **Pygmy Nuthatches**. Your tooting imitation of the Pygmy Owl was so good that six nuthatches really respond. Finally two of them spiral higher and higher and then tumble end over end as they copulate almost to ground level, leaving you amused at some of nature's ways.

You wish you could stay here longer. But other scenes await. The **Dipper** beside the rushing mountain stream. The **Golden Eagle** sitting on the butte overlooking the Prairie Dog Town. The rodents' numbers have doubled since the man who held the grazing rights to this federal land, died and his cattle were sold. There have even been **Black-footed Ferrets** seen here lately. They have apparently been hanging on in the nearby Navajo Reservation. Once thought extinct perhaps there is now hope for the ferrets' recovery.

The thunderclouds grow over the mountains. The clap of thunder follows lightning's flash. Thunder echoes and re-echoes across the mountain side. **Scrub Jays** scurry for cover, and the last to seek shelter before the rains descend are the **Common Ravens** that soar almost like hawks. And you are forced to move on, to return in your minds' eye whenever you wish.

Writers Note: The real location is a combination of locations in Northwest Arizona's San Francisco Mountains and New Mexico's Sacramento Mountains. One, south of the Grand Canyon, the other across the mountains from the white sands. May the winds blow you that way someday!

\*\*\* Hubert C. Hervey

## BIRDERS AND THE LAW

(Or "Whoops! Did I Do That?")

When I was a youth, my early fascination with birds and the natural world around me found me

collecting all sorts of neat stuff. Things like owl pellets, feathers and even an injured kestrel that I planned to become a falconer with once I rehabed it. I also had a pretty good collection of abandoned bird nests, at least until the mites, bird lice and other various creepy crawlies that live in nests started wandering out of their home into mine. Then my mom told me in no uncertain terms to get the nests out of the house!

Now here I am years later, a refuge law enforcement officer for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service thinking about how many federal and state laws I inadvertently broke throughout the years. What prompted me to reminisce about my youthful exuberance is a few incidences that have occurred in recent years while birding afield and at bird club meetings. Events that come to mind include feathers from a flicker being brought in for identification. And a couple of nests brought in for all to see. Unfortunately, both of these activities are technical violations of a law known as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

In 1916, the United States negotiated a treaty with Great Britain (acting for Canada) to provide protection for birds which migrated between the two countries. Later, treaties with Mexico (1936), Japan (1972) and the Soviet Union (1978) were entered into. The MBTA is this law [Title 16 of the United States Code (U.S.C.), Sections 703-712] which implements the U.S. responsibilities agreed to in the treaties. It is a strict-liability law wherein there is no responsibility on the government's part to prove the individual intended to violate the law. In fact, the government does not even have to prove the individual knows what he has in his possession (such as the feather of the northern flicker). The individual merely has to know he or she possesses something (a feather, or a nest etc.) and is therefore not incompetent to stand trial.

What exactly does the MTBA say? "Unless and except as permitted by regulations...it shall be unlawful at anytime, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell ...barter ...purchase ...ship, export, import ...or cause to be transported, carry ... or receive ...any migratory bird, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird, or any product, whether or not manufactured, which consists, or is composed in whole or part, of any such bird or any part,

nest or egg thereof..."

How's that for a mouthful! In addition, the word "take" is defined as "to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect..." (Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 10.12).

The law doesn't say anything about feathers having to be attached to a live bird or the nest being an active nest, etc. It just says "any migratory bird, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird..." "Any part" means **any part** including feathers which were molted naturally! "Nest" means **any nest**, whether active or abandoned. That's why when I worked at Fort Carson in Colorado we had to get a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorizing us to wash down the eaves of the buildings to clean off the old cliff swallow nests.

This is the same law that prevents taxidermists from selling a mount of a red-tailed hawk, barred owl, robin, canvasback or other migratory bird (Note: pen-reared migratory waterfowl can be legally sold, provided the birds are properly marked and the seller possesses a valid permit).

So what species are protected? The MBTA protects 868 species which is approximately 83 percent of the 1040+ bird species which naturally occur in the U.S. and its possessions. In addition, the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531) protects 75 species including 43 species protected by the MBTA. All of the 175 species not protected by either law belong to groups not covered by any of the migratory bird treaties such as gallinaceous birds (grouse, quail, turkeys, etc.), introduced birds (rock dove, house finch, starling, etc.) and species not in the list of migratory birds published in 50 CFR 10.13.

The actions previously noted (possessing a flicker's feather or abandoned nests) are not the only way birders may violate the MBTA, whether intentionally or inadvertently. Who among us has not tapped on a nest tree or peaked into a bird box to see what nesting bird claims the site as its home? Provided the bird which emerges is not an endangered species, there probably is no legal problem here since the MBTA does not specifically prohibit harassment to view birds (Note: the Endangered Species Act does). But if a

bird accidentally breaks an egg when fleeing or abandons the eggs or nestlings there could be a violation. You would have a "take" situation under the MBTA if the eggs or nestlings died.

In general, the maximum penalty for violating the MBTA is a \$5,000 fine and six-month imprisonment for each violation. However, if the government can prove that the individual is guilty of a "take" with the intent to sell, or to sell or offer for sale any migratory bird, the person is guilty of a felony. It can get pretty expensive, pretty quickly.

So what's the bottom line? Are some mean, old federal game wardens going to bust down your door to execute a search warrant because you have a flicker feather? Probably not. Will you have to appear in federal court because you were issued a citation for possessing a few abandoned bird nests? Probably not. (Notice: I emphasized the word "probably" - it could happen).

What if you stopped and picked up an injured pelican and were transporting it to a rehabilitation center? You'd better be on your way to a rehab center! Don't even think of keeping it without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

What about the bald eagle feather that you've had stuck in your favorite lucky birding hat for years - the feather you found along the road. I can almost guarantee you that if that feather doesn't look at least 54 years old, you're violating at least three federal laws: the MBTA, the Endangered Species Act, the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 and possibly the Lacey Act for interstate transportation of illegally possessed wildlife. The bottom line is: Be real careful what you pick up out there!

\*\*\* Steve Emmons

[Note: The above article was reprinted with the permission of the author and is reprinted from the Pelican Papers (Gulf Coast Bird Club Newsletter) - Jim Ingold].

## FIELD TRIPS

Nov. 26. -- Mission Plantation via the River Road (All day) Should be great winter trip, "target birds" will be Longspurs, **Horned Larks**, **American Pipits** (Sprague's?), hawks, **Northern**

**Harriers, Merlins & American Kestrels**, and maybe **Western Meadowlark**. Where/When: N. Market St. What-a-Burger, 7:30 AM Leader: Hubert Hervey 925-9249.

Dec. 10. -- Cross Lake Barge Trip for open water and lakeside birding. Possible Mergansers, Loons, **Buffleheads**, **Bald Eagles**, Pelicans. Always one of the favorite trips of the year. Reservations necessary: by no later than Dec. 3rd With Chuck or Sally Moffet 631-0736 Cost will be approx. \$12 per person Bring Life Preserver and folding chair (If you've got 'em). Where/When: Barron's Landing, S. Lakeshore Dr., 8:00 AM. Leaders: Chuck and Sally Moffet 631-0736.

Dec. 26. -- Caddo Christmas Bird Count. Contact: Horace Jeter 861-4302.

Jan. 2. -- B.C.B.C. Bird Count. Contact: Paul Dickson 797-1000.

Jan. 14. -- Yearwood Road for open field, fenceline, woodland and woodmargin winter birds. This will start in late afternoon with the aim of birding past dark to get in some "owling." Five species of owl are possible. Where/When: LSUS Museum of Life Sciences, 3:00 PM. Leader: Hubert Hervey 925-2949.

## BSG T-Shirts

The new Bird Study Group T-shirts will be available at the December Christmas Party. Call Will Smolenski for more information. Price is \$10.00 each.

## A River Bottom Diary

### Part 3

Early fall is an exciting time for bird watchers. Summer birds leave and winter birds arrive and many others pass through, or show up where they are not expected. It is much easier to recognize the arrival of migrant birds than their departure. To recognize a species' departure you must separate their true absence from your failure to see them. This is made more difficult by the quiet and secretive moods some species assume

before departure. I can state with certainty that on September 30th the Blue Grosbeaks and the Indigo Buntings had not cleared out. Several flitted in front of the truck as I eased down a weedy, little used road leading to the woods in the back of the farm. Approaching a large puddle in the road, which was flooded by my irrigation efforts in the adjacent pasture. I heard the scolding call of the Common Yellow Throat. September has been a record month for low rainfall, less than one tenth of an inch at the farm. The irrigation well has been drawn from heavily and the rare muddy soils it has created brought Soras earlier in the month and on the 28th wisps of Snipe on the plowed ground. This puddle, surrounded by rank Johnson grass and ragweed, looked like a bird spot so I stopped for a look. Soon the Yellow Throat was about the water's edge bathing and splashing. Occasionally, it would pause and look about either for danger or perhaps out of modesty, birds do look vulnerable when they bathe. After a brief look, bathing would resume with vigor. The bird would tip its head and lower neck into the water with relaxed wings, allowing water to sift around its feathers and then with a shake quicker than the eye, send out an explosion of sparkling droplets. The mist formed a silver sphere that encircled an olive-yellow center and then in an instant vanished, leaving behind only a bird again. As this event repeated itself over and over the tiny, drab Yellow Throat revealed explosive energy hidden within its meek form. While enjoying this show I was caught by a song which stood out as foreign, a rapid and jumbled warbler trill of little volume. Searching the background weeds revealed a slim warbler perched on a fence strand. It was somber gray below with a narrow distinct eye stripe, streaked sides and a yellow vent and was bobbing its tail. Brushing away mental cobwebs, I recognized a bird I have not seen for quite some time, a Palm Warbler. Later I would discover that this was the first early fall record for this species known in our area only as a rare winter visitor.

The Palm Warbler soon joined the Yellow Throat for a bath. The two sat side by side briefly before a squabble broke out. Facing one another in game cock style, they sized each other up and after a brief flurried battle the pugnacious Yellow Throat was left to bathe alone. The "bird of the month" returned to its fence wire. After some time the Yellow Throat departed allowing



the more timid Palm Warbler to return to the puddle. He foraged about the road, at muddy spots occasionally flitting a few feet at which time the distinctive white tips on the outer tail feathers flashed. At the rasping call of a shrike he would dart for the tangle of Johnson grass, then quickly return and resume his search for a morning meal.

Fall migration is a day to day affair. To observe it intermittently is like reading every twentieth page of a book. My purpose for this journal is to bring out the whole day to day view so when I found myself away from the farm for days at a time in October the frustration was immense. Indeed I missed my most treasured benchmark of fall, the arrival of the White Throated sparrows. The arrival of the White Throats signals that the season has changed and winter residents are in place.

On October 9th the guard has not yet changed. The buntings are still about the ragweed. After a weeks absence and a frontal passage missed, I returned to the farm on October 14th to find both *Zonotrichia* species present. The guard was changing; indeed, for the first sparrow I saw was a White Crowned and it was perched on a fence strand next to an Indigo Bunting. The late evening of that day was punctuated with the distinctive fall song of the White Throat, an incomplete version of the full song "pure sweet canada canada canada." The fall version shortens this to something like "pure sweet sweet sweet," often followed by chip notes. Had they arrived earlier, or on the 14th? The pages are lost.

Following this interruption, unexpected others kept my binoculars still. The farm only knows the many passages and happenings of October and early November. Geese are early this year it seems. On October 25th a flock of Canada Geese briefly rested on the marsh before heading south again. They were of the small "Richardson's" race. October 29th saw a front which sent down White Fronted Geese and one group of ten Snows mixed with a flock of White Fronts. Interesting was the fact that all ten Snows were adult plumaged blue phase birds. Could their dark plumage cause them to mix with White Fronts? I have seen mixed flocks of White Fronts and Snow geese many times, but this group's singular set of "eagle heads" and the early date for Snow geese suggests a correlation.

My brief views of late October and early November showed a steady arrival of the winter residents. No more buntings or Blue Grosbeaks have showed up since October 14th so I must conclude that the last garrison left as the winter guard arrived. Neat and orderly it is! I never quite caught the departure of the Cattle Egrets or the Little Blues, they are not around on November 8th though a single male Scissortail Flycatcher is. The next day he is gone

All of the ducks are in, as are the Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The interruption of my visits to the farm are over by mid-November. I can now settle down to daily observations again. Time to look for Harris' Sparrows. A brief trip to Kansas allowed me to bone up on the song. It is best described as like the lead-in to a White Throat's song. It is short, containing two notes, sometimes only one: "pure sweet" or simply a single sweet whistle. The call note is again somewhat like the White Throated Sparrow but more forceful, a metallic "wink!"

The first freeze is late in coming. The summer grasses are still around though the ragweed went ahead and died. The "brush type" sparrows prefer giant ragweed in fall though they seem to abandon it in mid winter. A pair of Shovelers is on the marsh and the male is in full breeding plumage. It is quite early in my experience, for a full green head and white breast on a Shoveler. They are really dapper in this tuxedo like dress. A freeze is expected soon. The Goldfinches are massing and leaving me to wonder if Pine Siskins will come this year. Then there are the Fox Sparrows. It's been so mild that I have not seen a one. The cold can come anytime. I hope it does, I like a Fox Sparrow invasion.

\*\*\* Paul Dickson

## Personal Book Lists

As part of the Bird Study Group Library we will be publishing a list of books in the personal libraries of members who would be willing to lend their books to other members for planning birding trips and vacations. This month's list was supplied by Jim Ingold.

Where to Find Birds: A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas  
A Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast (Revised

- Edition)  
 A guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi  
 (2nd Edition)  
 A Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona  
 Enjoying Birds in Hawaii  
 Birding Oregon  
 Birders Guide to Northern California  
 A Birder's Guide to Wyoming  
 The Bird Watcher's America  
 Roger Tory Peterson's Dozen Birding Hot Spots  
 A Guide to Bird Watching in Europe  
 A year with New England's Birds: A Guide to  
 Twenty-nine Field Trips  
 Birdwatcher's Guide to Wildlife Sanctuaries  
 The Traveling Birder: 20 Five-Star Birding  
 Vacations (1991-92 Edition)  
 Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts  
 A Birder's Guide to Eastern Colorado  
 Utah Wildlife Viewing Guide
- Field Guides:**  
 Percé and Bonaventure Island's Seabirds  
 Birds of Nepal  
 A Field Guide to The Birds of Hawaii and the  
 Tropical Pacific  
 Collin's Handguide to the Birds of the Indian Sub-  
 Continent  
 The Larousse Guide to Birds of Britain and
- Europe  
 Hawaii's Birds  
 The Collins Guide to the Birds of New  
 Providence and the Bahama Islands  
 Seabirds and Identification Guide  
 British Warblers  
 Oceans of Birds  
 Waterbirds of California; Shorebirds: A Complete  
 Guide to Their Behavior and Migration  
 A Field Guide to the Birds of East and Central  
 Africa
- Miscellaneous:**  
 An Introduction to New England Birds  
 Birding for Beginners  
 Birdscaping Your Garden  
 Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges  
 How to Watch Birds; A Guide to Bird Watching  
 Guide to Owl Watching in North America  
 A Manual for Bird Watching in the Americas  
 A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding  
 The Habitat Guide to Birding  
 The Birds of Texas  
 Brown County (Wisconsin) Birds  
 A Finding List of the Birds of the Morton  
 Arboretum (Chicago)  
 Birds of Canada's Mountain Parks  
 Exploring our National Wildlife Refuges

## MINUTES of the LAST BOARD MEETING

The SSNS Bird Study Group Board held its meeting on November 1, 1994 at the home of Mrs. Norma Cobb. The meeting was opened at 7:03pm. Betty Mason's Treasury Report was called in. The combined total account was \$1,857.48 as of October 11, 1994. On deposit at the Post Office was \$151.91. There will be a more up-to-date report at the regular meeting. It was duly moved and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last board meeting.

The Committee Reports are as follows:

**Bird Hotspots** - Larry reported that Evelyn Craven called advising that she wishes to do a Tourist Bird Book - Birding Locality Guide. He sent her a copy of the Club's Hotspots. She asked if they could use it in their guide. A meeting will be held on November 29th at 10:00am at Kisatchie National Forest Headquarters on the Main Road in Pineville. Someone from our group needs to be there. Each hotspot should be looked at to make a determination on whether or not it can be used. We may not be able to copywrite or publish if they do. It was suggested that they give us a minimum of 250 copies for our members.

**Fund Raising** - Will said Paul will be auctioneer for the Christmas Party again. The party will be moved up a week to December 6th because so many members will be out of town the second week. Will said the Pioneers have donated a telephone valued at \$60.00 for the auction and possibly an intercom.

**Hospitality** - A list will be sent around at the regular meeting to sign up to bring food for the party. **Membership** - Shirley reported 86 paid members and many need reminding to pay their dues. Mac is doing an

excellent job with the newsletter. Larry said it is known throughout the state. **Beginning Birders** - Larry said they try to do something different every month for young people and they are open to suggestions. **Phone Tree** - Ask at regular meeting if anyone else wants to be on the list. **Programs** - The scheduled program for February by Dr. Thomas Sherry from Tulane on American Redstarts required and received a YES vote by the committee to pay for airfare and accommodations. We now belong to the North American Bluebird Association. Suggestions including requesting bluebird houses from International Paper Company, making kits, plans, and, possibly placing an article in newspaper about "Cavity Nesters". A lot of effort went into the Bluebird Trail at Bickham Dickson which needs to be refurbished.

Dorothy Metzler, Caddo Lake newsletter editor, requested volunteers for a trial run Christmas Count for Caddo Lake on December 3rd. Members were urged to help with the project. **Publicity** - Nancy suggested putting notices in various places such as hardware stores. Also, she will fax front page of newsletter to different places.

**Remember to bring things for the auction to the next meeting.** Yes, there will be a moneyjar for auction. **Old Business** - 25 people ordered shirts with the LOGO. No problem is anticipated in selling the shirts for \$10.00. The shirts will be ready for Christmas. Will proposed, and discussion followed, to pay \$5.00 to have shirts made. Duly moved and seconded was Will's proposal as outlined above.

**New Business** - Hubert brought up contest based on species seen by BSG, beginning January 1st and ending December 31, 1995. Participating in Field Trips more often will help the contestant. A committee will be

selected to formulate a list of prizes. Some suggestions were cash, and a plaque. Shirley, Jim and Jeff volunteered to serve on that committee.

Shirley feels that there should be a family discount in annual dues and Hubert asked for volunteers to discuss fees. Mac, Shirley and Hubert are the committee members.

Mac has a new version of the check list and passed around sample color cards. Everyone agreed that it made no difference as long as it is not green.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

## MINUTES of the LAST MEETING

The regular meeting of the SSNS Bird Study Group was held on November 8, 1994, in the Museum of Life Sciences on the LSUS campus. The meeting came to order at 7:05pm.

Dr. Jim Ingold introduced Dr. David Wiedenfeld, who began by updating the group on The Breeding Bird Atlas. There are 877 Quads in Louisiana and atlasers surveyed one-half. David now needs volunteers for areas around Shreveport on Cardinals and had sign-up sheets. He reported that there were no disappointments in the survey. Happily, **Barn Owls** showed up, and a new breeding record for **Snowy Plover** at Holly Beach. Our President, Hubert C. Hervey won a prize for the most species in one quad. Birding in Patagonia was an informative program about birds in that remote location.

**Bird Talk.** A member spoke briefly on the LOS meeting, reporting a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, and a total species count of 190. The same slate of officers was re-elected.

Betty Mason gave the Treasury Report. Balance \$1,335.97, Membership - \$30.00, on deposit \$451.01, bringing the combined account total to \$1,816.98 with an account at the Post Office of \$132.48.

A motion was moved and seconded to dispense with reading of the Minutes of the October meeting.

Will reminded people to bring things for the **CHRISTMAS PARTY AUCTION**. Paul will auction off about 20 items and the rest will be in the Silent Auction. The Hospitality Committee passed around a sign-up sheet for food to be brought to the Christmas party. The Club will provide meat and drinks.

T-Shirts to be made for Fund Raising. Will had several bids, the best being \$5.60 for 48 shirts. If we sell 25 shirts at \$10.00 each, we will have our investment back.

Field Trip - Mission Plantation on Arkansas border, led by Hubert Hervey, November 26th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Shirley reported a membership of 95 paid members. A membership repricing will be discussed by a committee consisting of Mac, Shirley and Hubert.

Future Programs are January - Red River - Locks and Dams; February - **American Redstarts**; March - **Eastern Bluebirds**.

Volunteers for the Contest Committee are Shirley, Jim and Jeff who will have details by the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

## BIRD NOTES -- NOVEMBER

Compiled November 21, 1994

Report bird records for the Newsletter to Bobbe Wommack (686-0369) or to Will Smolenski (865-2938) by the 15th 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 means that on the fifteenth PD saw 3 birds. For the number of birds observed, a one is used both for one specimen or for numbers not reported by the observer. All bird records reported here are the responsibility of the observer. The Bird Study Group is reporting observations on the word of the observers.

### REPORTERS

Abbrev	Name	Dates and Places
B&BW	Bob & Bobbe Wommack	09/12/94 Yearwood Rd.; 10/31/94 Jewella Rd. & W. 70th
BH	Bill Hall	10/29/94 Frierson Rd.
BSG	Bird Study Group	10/29/94 Walter Jacobs Memorial Nature Park; 11/12/94 Caddo Lake & Eviron
BW	Bobbe Wommack	09/08/94 Residence; 09/13/94 Stonewall, La.
GF	Gloria Franton	09/13/94 Blanchard; North Park Estates; 10/27/94 Toledo Bend Converse
H&PH	Hubert & Pat Hervey	09/10/94 Residence
HH	Helen Hood	09/01/94 Residence; 09/13/94 Residence; 10/15/94 Residence; 10/15/94 Residence; 10/18/94 Residence; 10/27/94 Residence; 10/30/94 C. Bickham Dickson
JJ&HT	Jeff, Jean & Kathryn Trahan	09/13/94 C. Bickham Dickson Park; 10/23/94 C. Bickham Dickson Park
LR	Larry Raymond	10/21/94 Walter Jacobs Memorial Nature Park
NC	Norma Cobb	09/01/94 Residence; 09/11/94 Residence
SH	Shirley Huss	09/12/94 Line Ave.; 09/13/94 Residence
T,S	Trahans & Rosemary Seidler	11/06/94 Soda Lake Trip 1; 11/06/94 North Lakeshore Trip 2
WS	Will Smolenski	09/15/94 C. Bickham Dickson Park

## RECORDS

Common Name	Data
Pied-billed Grebe	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 3; 11/06/94 T,S2 6; 11/12/94 BSG 5
American White Pelican	10/27/94 GF 100
Double-crested Cormorant	09/13/94 J,J&HT 30; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 3; 10/29/94 BSG 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 5; 11/06/94 T,S2 3; 11/12/94 BSG 15
Great Blue Heron	09/13/94 J,J&HT 5; 09/15/94 WS 3; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 4; 11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/06/94 T,S2 2; 11/12/94 BSG 3
Great Egret	09/13/94 J,J&HT 3; 09/15/94 WS 4; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 4; 10/30/94 HH 4; 11/06/94 T,S2 6; 11/12/94 BSG 2
Little Blue Heron	09/15/94 WS 1
Black-crowned Night-Heron	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1
Snow Goose	10/21/94 LR 25
Canada Goose	09/15/94 WS 6
Wood Duck	09/10/94 H&PH 4; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 10; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 15; 10/29/94 BSG 16; 11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/06/94 T,S2 2; 11/12/94 BSG 6
Green-winged Teal	11/06/94 T,S1 5
Mallard	09/15/94 WS 7; 11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 10
Blue-winged Teal	11/06/94 T,S1 3
Northern Shoveler	11/12/94 BSG 3
Gadwall	11/12/94 BSG 2
Ring-necked Duck	11/12/94 BSG 2
Ruddy Duck	11/06/94 T,S2 20; 11/12/94 BSG 25
Black Vulture	11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/12/94 BSG 5
Turkey Vulture	09/13/94 J,J&HT 4; 09/15/94 WS 3; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 2; 10/29/94 BSG 4; 10/29/94 BH 15; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 2; 11/12/94 BSG 7
Osprey	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1
Northern Harrier	09/12/94 B&BW 1; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1
Cooper's Hawk	11/06/94 T,S2 1
Red-shouldered Hawk	10/23/94 J,J&HT 2; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 4
Red-tailed Hawk	09/12/94 SH 2; 09/13/94 SH 1; 09/13/94 BW 1; 10/29/94 BH 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1
American Coot	11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 50; 11/12/94 BSG 325
Killdeer	09/10/94 H&PH 7; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 5; 09/15/94 WS 6; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 13; 10/29/94 BH 1; 10/30/94 HH 6; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 1
Ring-billed Gull	09/13/94 J,J&HT 4; 11/06/94 T,S2 3
Forster's Tern	11/06/94 T,S2 2
Rock Dove	09/15/94 WS 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 4; 11/06/94 T,S2 6; 11/12/94 BSG 4
Mourning Dove	09/01/94 NC 5; 09/15/94 WS 4; 10/15/94 HH 3; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 2; 11/06/94 T,S1 6; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 4
Eastern Screech-Owl	10/29/94 BSG 1
Great Horned Owl	10/23/94 J,J&HT 2
Barred Owl	10/27/94 HH 2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	10/18/94 HH 1
Belted Kingfisher	09/15/94 WS 2; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 5; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1
Red-headed Woodpecker	11/12/94 BSG 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	09/01/94 NC 2; 09/12/94 B&BW 2; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 5; 09/13/94 BW 1; 09/13/94 GF 2; 09/15/94 WS 1; 10/18/94 HH 2; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 10; 10/29/94 BSG 5; 10/29/94 BH 2; 11/06/94 T,S1 4; 11/06/94 T,S2 6; 11/12/94 BSG 5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 5; 10/29/94 BSG 8; 10/29/94 BH 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/06/94 T,S2 2; 11/12/94 BSG 6
Downy Woodpecker	09/01/94 NC 2; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 2; 09/13/94 GF 2; 09/15/94 WS 1; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 5; 10/29/94 BSG 2; 10/29/94 BH 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1
Hairy Woodpecker	10/29/94 BH 2; 11/12/94 BSG 1
Northern Flicker	09/01/94 NC 1; 09/12/94 B&BW 1; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 6; 09/13/94 GF 2; 10/18/94 HH 2; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 3; 10/29/94 BSG 6; 10/29/94 BH 5; 11/06/94 T,S1 8; 11/06/94 T,S2 3; 11/12/94 BSG 5
Pileated Woodpecker	10/29/94 BSG 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 1
Eastern Phoebe	09/13/94 BW 2; 09/15/94 WS 2; 10/29/94 BSG 1; 10/29/94 BH 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 5; 11/06/94 T,S2 2; 11/12/94 BSG 7
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	10/23/94 J,J&HT 1; 10/31/94 B&BW 1
Blue Jay	09/01/94 NC 5; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 5; 09/13/94 BW 4; 09/15/94 WS 2; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 15; 10/27/94 HH 3; 10/29/94 BSG 10; 10/29/94 BH 8; 11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/06/94 T,S2 4; 11/12/94 BSG 7
American Crow	09/13/94 J,J&HT 15; 09/15/94 WS 3; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 6; 10/29/94 BSG 4; 10/29/94 BH 30; 11/06/94 T,S1 6; 11/06/94 T,S2 5; 11/12/94 BSG 6
Fish Crow	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1; 10/29/94 BH 28; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 2
Carolina Chickadee	09/01/94 HH 2; 09/01/94 NC 6; 09/08/94 BW 3; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 8; 09/13/94 GF 2; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 3; 10/29/94 BSG 10; 10/29/94 BH 6; 11/06/94 T,S1 10; 11/06/94 T,S2 10; 11/12/94 BSG 7
Tufted Titmouse	09/01/94 NC 5; 09/08/94 BW 3; 09/13/94 GF 2; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 6; 10/27/94 HH 2; 10/29/94 BSG 4; 10/29/94 BH 3; 11/06/94 T,S1 4; 11/06/94 T,S2 5
White-breasted Nuthatch	09/01/94 HH 1; 09/08/94 BW 2; 09/13/94 GF 2; 10/29/94 BSG 2; 11/06/94 T,S2 4
Brown-headed Nuthatch	09/01/94 HH 1; 09/01/94 NC 5; 09/08/94 BW 1
Brown Creeper	10/29/94 BSG 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1
Carolina Wren	09/01/94 HH 1; 09/01/94 NC 1; 09/08/94 BW 1; 10/29/94 BSG 6; 10/29/94 BH 4; 11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/06/94 T,S2 3; 11/12/94 BSG 6
House Wren	11/06/94 T,S2 1
Winter Wren	11/12/94 BSG 1

Common Name	Data
Sedge Wren	11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/12/94 BSG 4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10/29/94 BSG 7; 11/12/94 BSG 2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	09/01/94 NC 1; 09/15/94 WS 1; 10/27/94 HH 1; 10/29/94 BSG 14; 10/29/94 BH 2; 11/06/94 T,S1 3; 11/06/94 T,S2 5; 11/12/94 BSG 7
Eastern Bluebird	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1; 09/13/94 BW 15; 09/15/94 WS 4; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 4; 10/29/94 BH 14; 11/06/94 T,S2 6; 11/12/94 BSG 11
Swainson's Thrush	09/13/94 BW 2
Hermit Thrush	10/29/94 BSG 5; 11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/12/94 BSG 3
American Robin	09/13/94 J,J&HT 40; 09/13/94 GF 40; 09/15/94 WS 15; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 12; 10/29/94 BSG 16; 10/29/94 BH 2; 10/30/94 HH 50; 11/06/94 T,S1 3; 11/12/94 BSG 25
Northern Mockingbird	09/01/94 HH 1; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 5; 09/13/94 BW 2; 09/15/94 WS 3; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 1; 10/29/94 BH 3; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 6; 11/12/94 BSG 6
Brown Thrasher	09/13/94 J,J&HT 1; 09/15/94 WS 1; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 1; 10/29/94 BSG 5; 10/29/94 BH 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 3; 11/12/94 BSG 1
Cedar Waxwing	09/13/94 BW 10; 09/13/94 GF 4; 11/12/94 BSG 20
Loggerhead Shrike	09/13/94 BW 1; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 2
European Starling	09/13/94 J,J&HT 200; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 2; 10/29/94 BH 35; 11/06/94 T,S1 8; 11/12/94 BSG 2
Solitary Vireo	11/06/94 T,S2 1
Orange-crowned Warbler	10/29/94 BH 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	09/13/94 J,J&HT 25; 09/13/94 BW 6; 09/15/94 WS 32; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 1; 10/29/94 BSG 2; 10/29/94 BH 15; 11/06/94 T,S1 10; 11/06/94 T,S2 4; 11/12/94 BSG 52
Pine Warbler	09/13/94 GF 5; 10/29/94 BSG 7; 11/06/94 T,S2 1; 11/12/94 BSG 2
Northern Cardinal	09/01/94 NC 8; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 3; 09/13/94 BW 2; 09/15/94 WS 3; 10/15/94 HH 6; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 2; 10/29/94 BSG 2; 10/29/94 BH 6; 11/06/94 T,S1 3; 11/06/94 T,S2 5; 11/12/94 BSG 3
Field Sparrow	10/29/94 BH 2
Savannah Sparrow	09/12/94 B&BW 4; 11/06/94 T,S1 5; 11/12/94 BSG 1
LeConte's Sparrow	11/12/94 BSG 2
Song Sparrow	10/29/94 BH 4; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/12/94 BSG 8
Lincoln's Sparrow	11/06/94 T,S1 2; 11/12/94 BSG 1
Swamp Sparrow	10/29/94 BH 2; 11/06/94 T,S1 4; 11/12/94 BSG 2
White-throated Sparrow	09/01/94 HH 1; 09/01/94 NC 5; 09/12/94 B&BW 4; 09/13/94 J,J&HT 15; 09/13/94 BW 2; 10/15/94 HH 1; 10/29/94 BSG 7; 10/29/94 BH 6; 11/06/94 T,S1 15; 11/06/94 T,S2 6; 11/12/94 BSG 2
Dark-eyed Junco	11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/12/94 BSG 8
Red-winged Blackbird	09/15/94 WS 35
Eastern Meadowlark	09/12/94 B&BW 20; 11/12/94 BSG 4
Common Grackle	09/13/94 J,J&HT 25; 10/23/94 J,J&HT 30; 11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 30; 11/12/94 BSG 2
Brown-headed Cowbird	11/12/94 BSG 1
House Finch	11/06/94 T,S1 3
American Goldfinch	09/11/94 NC 2; 09/13/94 HH 1; 11/06/94 T,S1 6; 11/12/94 BSG 29
House Sparrow	11/06/94 T,S1 1; 11/06/94 T,S2 5; 11/12/94 BSG 3
Printed 353 records of 88 species	