



Shreveport Society for Nature Study
BIRD STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Volume 26, Number 3
November 2, 2011

Next Meeting – November 8, 2011

"Identifying Birds of Prey"

Presented by Rusty Scarborough

NOVEMBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, November 8, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

Topic: "Identifying Birds of Prey" Presented by Rusty Scarborough

Raised in the mixed pine/hardwood bottomland of rural northwest Louisiana, Rusty Scarborough started his love of nature early. Then in his late teens, Rusty was introduced to the exciting world of falconry. Now over 25 years later, Rusty has achieved the level of master falconer and is introducing others to the sport. Over the last 20 years Rusty has presented bird of prey and falconry programs throughout Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana. He has trained and hunted a number of birds including Red-tailed hawks, Harris's hawks, Kestrels, Red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk, Ferruginous/Harris' hybrid and golden eagles. Rusty flies a cast that includes a passage female Harris's hawk and captive bred Harris's hawk. Rusty currently serves as Vice-President and Out-of-State Director of the Arkansas Hawking Association.

Rusty has a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Conservation with a minor in Microbiology from Louisiana Tech University. After ten years as Education Program Coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Rusty has taken on new challenges back home in Louisiana. Rusty is now the Park Naturalist for Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation's Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park in Shreveport, Louisiana. In addition to managing the park Rusty continues his close work caring for and training the bird of prey collection at the park which includes eagles, owls, hawks and falcons. Rusty holds certifications with the National Association for Interpretation as Certified Interpretive Guide and Certified Interpretive Trainer.

Refreshments start at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Come at 6 to chat with other birders!

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, including directions to the LSUS Science Lecture Auditorium, call us at 318-797-5338.

3RD ANNUAL YELLOW RAIL WALK AT RED RIVER NWR BAYOU PIERRE UNIT

Red River National Wildlife Refuge, Bayou Pierre Unit, Red River Parish

Saturday, November 5, 2011, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Contact – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255, nmcpa@aol.com, www.friendsofdriver.org

The Yellow Rail is a bird of marshes and wetlands; because of its secretive nature, it is much sought after by birders. A rope drag is often used to cause the rails to fly up where they can be seen. Last year's rail walk yielded 63 species, including Yellow Rail, Virginia Rail, Short-eared Owl, American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, and over 60 LeConte's Sparrows.

We will be meeting at the farmhouse for a short orientation before the walk. We'll have the coffeepot on. Bring your rubber boots or waders for walking the moist soil impoundments. A change of pants, socks, and shoes is advised. Those who don't want to walk the fields can bird from the levees and roads of the refuge.

You're invited to join us for lunch at the farmhouse after the bird walk. Tentative menu is hearty salads. We will provide iced tea and water.

Directions to Red River National Wildlife Refuge Bayou Pierre Unit:

The Bayou Pierre Unit is located off of LA 1 in Red River Parish just north of Grand Bayou. From the intersection of Youree Drive/LA 1 and Bert Kouns Loop, go south on LA 1 for 27.7 miles. Turn left (east) on Grand Bayou Loop/Parish Road 401 and proceed 0.7 mile. You will see the Red River NWR sign and the white farmhouse on your left. Turn in at the gate to the house.

Additional information: The turn on to Grand Bayou Loop/Parish Road 401 is 1.6 miles south on LA 1 from the blinking caution light at the intersection of LA 1 and LA 509 in Red River Parish. Driving time from the intersection of Youree Drive/LA 1 and Bert Kouns Loop is about 35 minutes.

WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS BEGINNER BIRD WALKS

The Wild Bird Center conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting. Meet at Wild Bird Center in the University Place Shopping Center (Target Shopping Center) at the corner of Youree Drive and East 70th Street. Destinations vary according to local sightings and may include local parks, country roads or a private backyard. Loaner binoculars are available. Be sure to bring a field guide.

For more information on any Wild Bird Center event, please call Dennis or Janice Forshee at the Wild Bird Center, 318-797-BIRD (2473).



VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO ENTER BIRD RECORDS

We would like to have a volunteer to enter current and backlogged records into the BSG Bird database beginning as soon as possible. We have many valuable records to be entered. The process is very easy and a volunteer will receive complete instruction at the museum. We would like a volunteer for a few hours a day or week on a regular schedule so that we can get as many records entered. At this time it contains 59 years of observations, from 1952 to the present, a total of 268,989 records.

Any Suggestions for the BSG?

Your Board of Directors is trying very hard to improve the Bird Study Group and make it more attractive to new birders. Give us your suggestions about how to grow the BSG.

BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President – Larry Raymond(1) 929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
Vice-president – Mac Hardy (3).....687-6738 (H), 797-5338(W)
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Terry Davis (2).....934-2133(H/W)

Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Beginning Birders – Dennis Forshee.....797-2473 (W)
Bird Alert Service – Rosemary Seidler.....424-2972 (H)
Bird Hot Spot – Larry Raymond.....929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
Bird Records – Mac Hardy.....687-6738 (H) 797-5338 (W)
 Field Trip Coordinator –open
Fund Raising – Jerry Bertrand.....868-3255 (H/W)
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Newsletter Editor – Amanda Lewis861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)
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Direct inquires to the Editor, Amanda Lewis, at (318) 797-5215.



Join/Renew the BSG!

The Bird Study Group of Shreveport invites you to become a member.
Renewals, please update information below.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (Home) _____ Work _____

↑ Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

↑ Leave me out of the BSG member directory

Membership Levels: Regular (\$15.⁰⁰) Sustaining (\$35.⁰⁰) Family, *One Newsletter/ One Address* (\$20.⁰⁰)

Names of Family Members:

Donations: Library Refuges Refreshments General

Make check payable & mail to: SSNS- Bird Study Group
Museum of Life Sciences, One University Place,
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399



BIRD STUDY GROUP PHONE NUMBERS AND MORE

Bird Study Group meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:00 p.m. To be placed on the list to send & receive emails, email birdalert@birdstudygroup.org.

Contact the BSG by email: lhardy@lsus.edu or phone (318) 797-5338.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>