

Shreveport Society For Nature Study

BIRD STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Number 4

December 1, 2003

Next Meeting-December 9, 2003

Annual Christmas Party and Auction

DECEMBER PROGRAM

When: Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Museum of Life Sciences, LSUS

The Shreveport Bird Study Group members, guests, and friends will gather for the annual Christmas Potluck Dinner and Auction on Tuesday, December 9th, at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences. Festivities will start at 6:30 p.m. with a silent auction where everyone can place bids on the many bird-related items and knick-knacks. Next will be a potluck dinner where the club will furnish the meat and beverages and members are asked to bring salads, vegetables, casseroles, breads, or desserts to round out the feast. Following will be the main event. Our famous auctioneer; Hubert Hervey, has graciously agreed to serve us once again to raise funds for the club as well as provide us with a little entertainment. This auction is always great fun to participate in and our mystery boxes will be back this year for added amusement. There will be a very special 301-year-old birdhouse in our auction this year (see page 3 for more details).

Be sure to mark this special occasion on your calendar and come share your favorite holiday potluck dish with us. If you are unsure of what to bring, you can call Amanda Crnkovic at the museum (797-5338) to find out what is needed. Don't forget to bring your checkbook or lots of cash.

FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

CADDO LAKE WINTER BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 6, 2003

Coordinator – Jim Ingold

CLAIBORNE PARISH WINTER BIRD COUNT

Thursday, December 18, 2003

Coordinators – Nancy Menasco and Mary Ellen (ME) Lewis

SHREVEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (Shreveport CBC)

Sunday, December 14, 2003

Compiler – Charlie Lyon

NATCHITOCHE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (Natchitoches CBC)

Saturday, December 27, 2003

Compiler – Charlie Lyon

BOSSIER-CADDO-BIENVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (BCBCBC)

Between January 1 and 4, 2004 (Exact date still to be determined)

Compiler – Paul Dickson

RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPANISH LAKE LOWLANDS UNIT

Saturday, January 17, 2004, 7:30 a.m.

Trip Leader – Mac Hardy

More details on page 2

BIRD STUDY GROUP PHONE NUMBERS AND MORE

Information & Bird Alert by Phone.....(318) 797-5338

Meetings.....Second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:30 p.m.

Internet Website.....<http://www.softdisk.com/comp/birds/>

Bird Alert by email.....Contact Rosemary (see page 9) to be placed on the list to send & receive emails

BSG Email.....lsusmus@prysm.net

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near the Caddo Lake Dam around 4:00 p.m. to turn in your list.

CLAIBORNE PARISH WINTER BIRD COUNT

Thursday, December 18, 2003

Coordinators – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255, nmcpa@aol.com, and Mary Ellen (ME) Lewis, 927-9280, melewis180@aol.com

Are there any birds in Claiborne Parish? Join us for this new count and find out. Participants will meet at the home of ME and Fred Lewis on Lake Claiborne for supper and to call the list. Free accommodations for Wednesday night are available on a first-come, first-served basis at ME and Fred's and at a two-bedroom lakefront cabin nearby. Lake Claiborne State Park (1-877-226-7652) also has cabins available at \$65 per night.

SHREVEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)

Sunday, December 14, 2003

Compiler – Charlie Lyon, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), clyon@softdisk.com

Participants will meet at the home of Charlie and Kimberly Lyon at 8617 W. Wilderness Way for supper and to call the list.

NATCHITOCHEES CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)

Saturday, December 27, 2003

Compiler – Charlie Lyon, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), clyon@softdisk.com

Participants will meet at a local restaurant in Natchitoches for supper and to call the list.

BOSSIER-CADDO-BIENVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (BCBCBC)

Between January 1 and 4, 2004 (Exact date still to be determined)

Compiler – Paul Dickson, 797-7900 (W), 798-1000 (H), Paul@morrisdickson.com

Participants will meet at Paul Dickson's home at 10455 Ellerbe Road (across from Holy Angels) for supper and to call the list.

RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPANISH LAKE LOWLANDS UNIT

Saturday, January 17, 2004, 7:30 a.m.

Trip Leader – Mac Hardy, 797-5338 (W), 687-6738 (H), lsusmus@prysm.net

Meet at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences. This unit of the Red River NWR is in northern Natchitoches Parish near Powhatan. Expect moderate walking.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

by Nancy Menasco

Membership in the BSG is encouraged but not required for participation in field trips. Beginning birders are welcome on all field trips.

WINTER/CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Contact the compiler listed below for each count or sign up at a BSG meeting. Participants will be assigned an area or teamed with other birders. Beginning birders are encouraged to participate. Bird counts are fun and a great way to see and learn to identify lots of birds with the assistance of seasoned birders.

CADDO LAKE WINTER BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 6, 2003

Compiler – Dorothy Metzler of NETFO

Louisiana Coordinator – Jim Ingold, 797-5236 (W), 742-5067 (H), jingold@pilot.lsus.edu

The BSG will once again count birds in the Louisiana portion of the circle. Participants will meet the Texas group for supper to call the list. If you're not going to supper, you may meet Jim at the Horace Downs Park

LOS WINTER MEETING, MONROE, LA

Friday, January 23 - Sunday, January 25, 2004

The Northeast Louisiana Bird Club of Monroe is sponsoring the annual winter meeting. Information and registration forms for the meeting will be available at the Louisiana Ornithological Society website at <http://losbird.org/meetings.htm>.

Membership in LOS is not required to participate in any of the LOS meetings, but you are encouraged to join to support the activities of our state society. Annual dues are \$15 for a regular membership and \$20 for a family membership. Three meetings are held each year with programs on Friday and Saturday nights, organized field trips on Saturday for the spring and fall meetings and on Saturday and Sunday for the winter meeting, and a banquet on Saturday night. The spring meeting is the last weekend in April; the fall meeting is the last weekend in October; and the winter meeting is held in different locations around the state the last weekend in January.

WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS**Beginner Bird Walks**

Saturdays, December 6 and 20, 2003, January 3 and 17, 2004.

The Wild Bird Center conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting. Meet at the store in the University Place Shopping Center (also known as the Target Shopping Center) at the corner of Youree Drive and East 70th Street at 8:00 a.m. Trips end by 10:00 a.m. The usual destination is C. Bickham Dickson Park, which can't be beat for habitat and diversity. Loaner binoculars are available. Check the weather and dress accordingly. For more information, call Dennis or Janice Forshee at the Wild Bird Center, 318-797-BIRD (2473).

Beginner Bird Feeding Class

Saturday, December 13, 2003, 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wild Bird Center

Learn the basics in our backyard bird feeding class. Victoria Williams will show you how to attract birds to your backyard. Learn how to choose a feeder, select the proper seed, and landscape for wildlife.

Wild Bird Center

The ultimate bird feeding specialty shop™



7034 Youree Drive
Shreveport, LA 71105
University Place Shopping Center

Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

318-797-BIRD (2473)

301-Year-Old Birdhouse

by Jerry Bertrand

A special birdhouse will be part of our annual Christmas auction. The certificate accompanying this birdhouse reads as follows: Delahoussaye Birdhouse #52 Provenance—This birdhouse began life as a bald cypress tree in Louisiana's Atchafalaya River Basin over 300 years ago. Although the exact age of the tree cannot be determined, it is known that when it was harvested in the late 1800s, all of the giant bald cypress trees in the area were at least 200 years old. In the early 1900s, the lumber from this tree was used to build a barn on Bayou Grosse Tete, just outside the Basin. In 2002 Mr. Gene Seneca salvaged the barn, which had become unstable, for its lumber. Mr. Seneca donated some of the lumber to Jim Delahoussaye of Butte LaRose, Louisiana, with the advice, "Just make it come alive again." Mr. Delahoussaye believed that there could be no better way to do that and preserve the romance of the old wood than to make things with a forest theme, hence the birdhouses.

This birdhouse is #52, initialed and numbered by Mr. Delahoussaye. It was presented by him to the Shreveport Bird Study Group on May 18, 2003, for the Christmas auction with the wish that its future owner and occupants have many years of enjoyment with its use. In 2003, the birdhouse is over 301 years old, 200 years as a tree, 100 years as a barn, and one year as a birdhouse.

Christmas Bird Count Quiz

by Nancy Menasco

Test your knowledge and research ability. Submit your answers to the following ten questions via email to nmcpa@aol.com, by mail to 503 Haynes Avenue, Shreveport, LA, 71105, or turn them in at the BSG Christmas party on December 9. The entrant with the highest number of correct answers will receive a \$10.00 gift certificate from the Wild Bird Center. In the case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. **Entries must be received by Monday, December 15,**

2003. The name of the winner and the correct answers will be published in the January issue of the newsletter. Hint: The answers to some of the questions may be found at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/index.html>.

Part I:

The first Christmas Bird Count was held on December 25, 1900. There were 25 counts that year. Many of the counts in the early years would continue to be held on Christmas Day. Now there is a count season and very few counts actually take place on Christmas Day. For this year, the occasion of the 104th Christmas Bird Count, a count may take place any day between Sunday, December 14, 2003 and Monday, January 5, 2004.

1. Where was the first Christmas Bird Count held in Louisiana?
2. During which count did that first Louisiana CBC take place (1st-103rd)?
3. Which count holds the record for the oldest, consecutively run count in the state of Louisiana?
4. When was the first count for #3 conducted? The count number (1st-103rd) or year is acceptable.
5. Ivory-billed Woodpecker appears on two different Louisiana CBCs in two different years. Name one of these counts (year not required).

Part II:

There were 90 species reported on the first Christmas Bird Count. The total of official, AOU-accepted species for last year's 103rd CBC was 660 species for the U. S. and Canada. You may not recognize some of the species names from the early counts. What are the current official AOU names of the following birds? Due to AOU lumping and splitting over the years, there may be more than one correct answer to a question, but only one is required.

6. Baldpate
7. Titlark
8. Chewink
9. Red-backed Sandpiper
10. Florida Gallinule

Bird Study Group Media Field Trip

by Larry R. Raymond

Bird Study Group members Jim Ingold, Lily Poole and Larry Raymond served as birding guides for a recent media field trip coordinated by the Shreveport/Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau. Public relations specialist Brandy Evans organized the trip for four out-of-town journalists. The journalists included Bruce Leonard, a freelance travel writer for *Trailer Life*

Magazine; Randy Buker, a freelance outdoor writer for *Hunt Club Digest*; Roy Campbell, a freelance travel writer for *Today's Photographer, Travel and Leisure*, and *Today's Photographer International*; and Gail Todd, a travel columnist with the *Chicago Daily Herald*. Also joining us on the trip were Pat Gill, Internet Systems Manager for the Tourist Bureau) and Alyson Briggs, Williams Creative Group.

We met at the horse barn and arena in C. Bickham Dickson Park at 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 9. The BSG members briefly described the Red River Research and Education Park concept and offered binoculars to the participants who needed them. Overcast skies, occasional light rain, and gusty winds made finding birds difficult. Despite an overall lack of birds, the group enjoyed a hike to see the Red River and used the time to interpret plants native to the park. The invasive Chinese tallow tree also generated some good discussion. Fortunately, scorpionflies were particularly numerous and cooperative during the hike and they helped to fill in for the lack of birds.

Before we even walked past the gate to hike the trail to the river, a flock of about 27 **American White Pelicans** circled in front of us for everyone to observe. The next bird we spotted was an **Eastern Phoebe** that perched long enough for everyone to get a good look at it through the spotting scope. We also spent a little time observing **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. A **Pileated Woodpecker** made its presence known by its call and a **Downy Woodpecker** was observed a little farther up the trail in the woods. **Carolina Chickadee** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** also cooperated at one point along the trail.

Returning to our vehicles after about 1½ hours in the park, we noted large numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** streaming overhead toward the river. My final tally was around 275, but I am sure it was a conservative estimate. After a brief look at an **American Kestrel** through the spotting scope, we watched as more than 90 **American White Pelicans** soared over the park before loading up into our vehicles and driving to Monjuni's on Youree Drive for lunch. A leisurely 1½ hour lunch gave us plenty of opportunity to visit and expand on what Shreveport has to offer.

We reassembled at the Stoner Avenue Launch around 2 p.m. where we were picked up by Sam Flood and the *Spirit of the Red* for a 1½ hour cruise. We slowly cruised up the river to Cross Bayou, made a nice loop through the bayou, and resumed a northward route for a brief time before turning around and returning to the launch. Before reaching Cross Bayou, Sam stopped at the *Spirit of the Red* ramp near Sci-Port and picked up three additional customers.

Although the diversity of birds was again fairly small, we did see good numbers of **Great Blue Heron** (25), **Great Egret** (40) and **Ring-billed Gull** (45). A **Cooper's Hawk** was spotted perched below the Barnwell Center and a **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen in a tree along Cross Bayou. Other birds of interest included 2, possibly 3, **Spotted Sandpiper** and eight **Belted Kingfisher** (six in Cross Bayou alone).

Upon returning to the Stoner Avenue launch, Brandy and the journalists headed to Monroe for their next adventure. The ladies were headed to Lake D'Arbonne State Park for a fishing experience and the guys were scheduled to spend the night in a lodge in preparation for an early morning goose hunt.

Hopefully, we provided the journalists with an idea of what a bird outing is like and maybe, if we are lucky, we will even get some press out of the adventure. A complete list of the birds seen is available in the Bird Report in the back of the newsletter.

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge A Refuge in Transition

by Nancy Menasco

On October 21, 2000, the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant at Karnack in Harrison County, Texas, became the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The plant began operation in 1942 on land purchased from Thomas Jefferson "T. J." Taylor and other families (T. J., the father of Claudia Taylor, better known as Lady Bird Johnson, also donated land for the nearby Caddo Lake State Park.). The plant was in operation until 1997, manufacturing TNT in its early years and rocket motors later on. It has not been officially transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pending designation of areas "appropriate for inclusion into the wildlife refuge." Due to soil and water contamination during plant operation, the site is on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List. Remedial actions are ongoing and the EPA has concluded that the "site currently does not present an immediate threat to the public or the environment," but access is restricted at this time.

Jerry Bertrand and I visited the refuge on November 14, 2003, along with members of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Western Gulf Coastal Plain Landbirds and Quail Teams, which were meeting at Caddo Lake State Park. Our host was onsite manager Paul Bruckwicki of the USFWS. Other participants were Cliff Shackelford of Texas Parks and Wildlife, author or co-author of several Texas birding publications; Jim Neal of USFWS, who has spent over

20 years in the area; Jerry Davis of the U.S. Forest Service, who is Forest Wildlife Program Manager for the Ouachita National Forest; and Ron Mize of the U.S. Forest Service, Wildlife Biologist for the Angelina National Forest. The collective knowledge of this group was impressive and they generously shared it with us. There wasn't a question Jerry or I had that someone couldn't answer.

The refuge borders Caddo Lake, which is the only naturally formed lake in the state of Texas. The consensus is that the lake was created in the late 1700s or early 1800s as waters backed up behind the massive Red River logjam known as the Great Raft. In the early 1830s, Captain Henry Miller Shreve, under contract from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, cleared part of the logjam and, for a time, a boat could journey from Caddo Lake down the Red River to its confluence with the Mississippi and then on to New Orleans. Jefferson, Texas, became the principal river port of Texas as steamboats carrying trade goods and passengers plied the waters of the lake even as the logjam reformed. Navigation on the lake ended in 1873 as the lake was drained when the Corps of Engineers permanently cleared the Great Raft. But sometimes, what the Corps taketh away, the Corps giveth back, if only in part. Oil was discovered in the lake area in the early 1900s and the swamp that Caddo Lake had become by that time did not lend itself to the movement of heavy drilling equipment. So, in 1914, the Corps, at the behest of the oil industry, constructed an earthen weir at Mooringsport, Louisiana, to raise the level of the lake. The weir has served to maintain Caddo Lake at a level six to nine feet lower than it was in its early days, limiting traffic on the lake to small boats.

In 1993, a portion of Caddo Lake was designated a "wetland of international significance" under the treaty known as the Ramsar "Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat." It is one of only fifteen regions in the United States to be so designated.

Caddo Lake NWR is primarily a forested landscape of bottomland hardwoods, Southern baldcypress, and pine. Loblolly and slash pine have replaced much of the native short-leaf pine, which was heavily cut prior to acquisition of the land by the federal government. The first area we visited was an old cemetery where tombstones dated back to the 1800s. Here we found several short-leaf pine trees, which had escaped cutting over the years by virtue of their location. Jerry and Ron, our forest experts, explained how to identify short-leaf versus loblolly pine by the length of the needle and the size of the pine cone. Later on, we walked down a road to where someone had planted long-leaf pines years

before. As we walked along, common buckeyes were everywhere. Native grasses such as little bluestem and brushy bluestem lined the road and **Song, Swamp, and White-crowned Sparrows** popped up in the brush. Only a few of the long-leaf pines remained. We learned that long-leaf and loblolly are more southerly species. Ice storms can be deadly for these trees because of the weight of the ice accumulation on their longer needles. Loblolly is valued for timber over the native short-leaf because it grows straighter and faster. We brought samples of the three species home.

At Starr Ranch, which is on Caddo Lake, the old buildings seem to be held up by the vegetation covering them. Some of the birds we saw here were **Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Phoebe, American Goldfinch, and Field, Song, Swamp, and White-crowned Sparrows.**

One very special place we visited was Harrison Bayou, along which is one of the few undisturbed bottomland hardwoods stands in the region. Jim Neal recounted the history of the place. It seems that, prior to the dismantling of the Great Raft, the area was flooded. As the water level fell, old stream channels formed small oxbows. This along with frequent periods of high water combined to make accessibility difficult, with the result that the area was not logged during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Although sections would be cut over in later years, several tracts have survived. In these tracts of virgin timber are the State Champion water hickory or bitter pecan and the third largest overcup oak. (A State Champion tree is the largest specimen of an individual species in a particular state.) The bayou was dry but will fill and perhaps even overflow its banks with the winter rains. Cliff did an incredible **Barred Owl** imitation to see what birds he could bring in. Responding were **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, of which there were at least five, **Northern Flicker, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Pine Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and American Crow.** Paul took us to an area where ducks normally abound, but drought had reduced the normally football-field-size pond to a shallow depression a couple of feet across where only butterflies perched.

The last site we visited was an old concrete building. Many of the buildings on the refuge are being dismantled because of the hazard they could present as they deteriorate. But the concrete buildings will probably outlast all of us. High up on the interior walls, Rafinesque's big-eared bats clung in the darkness. Near the building, giant concrete pilings that used to support storage tanks towered over us. 50-year-old trees hugged their sides but the pilings showed no sign of giving way.

Our tour ended at noon and we headed east. As we crossed the Texas-Louisiana border, I hoped we would not be arrested for transporting pine needles and pine cones across the state line. We arrived home without incident, looking forward to our next trip to Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Pineywoods of eastern Texas.

Read more about it:

Web of Life, The Ecology and Biodiversity of Caddo Lake, by Drs. James L. Ingold and Laurence M. Hardy, available at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences.

Caddo Was...A Short History of Caddo Lake, by Fred Dahmer, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1995.

**LMVJV Landbird/Quail Meeting at Caddo Lake --
A Summary**

by Lily Poole

It all began when Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture (LMVJV) Science Coordinator Randy Wilson extended an invitation to BSG members to attend the LMVJV West Gulf Coastal Plain (WGCP) Landbird and Quail Teams joint meeting being held at Caddo Lake State Park on November 12 and 13. With my present interest in the Red River's Interior **Least Tern**, Randy's presentation at the October BSG meeting on "Biological Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for Shorebirds in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley" had wet my appetite for more information on how the LMVJV goes about the process of "developing habitat objectives and then translating those to conservation objectives."

Our own Jim Ingold, a member of the Landbird team, had schedule conflicts and would be unable to attend the meeting, so he graciously forwarded all his meeting information to me and Nancy Menasco. Hmmm, let's see – Meeting itinerary, lunch and dinner plans, sleeping accommodations, and an acronym cheat sheet.

I left early Thursday morning for Caddo Lake State Park in Karnack, Texas, with a stop at the I-20 Waskom exit where I was to be joined by Nancy Menasco and Jerry Bertrand. I wish I could say I had an uneventful trip, but while waiting for Nancy and Jerry, I left my van lights on. So, before we could continue on to Caddo Lake, Jerry had to "jump start" my car. Thanks, Jerry.

The itinerary had stated that the purpose of the meeting was to "review and refine WGCP conservation planning methodology with an emphasis on methodology for stepping down Partners in Flight (PIF) Continental population objectives, establishing landscape level conservation objectives for forested wetlands, and parameterization of a quail model for upland systems." What it comes down to is that Partners

in Flight, through the cooperative effort of both public and private organizations, and by using Geographic Information System (GIS) plus historical bird population, habitat, and distribution information coupled with present day statistics, has created a national model for at risk bird species. The physiographic spatial unit chosen by PIF for planning purposes is known as a Bird Conservation Region (BCR). Now the LMVJV teams would have to take the national statistics and data models and “step them down” to our BCR, the West Gulf Coastal Plain. Those agencies represented at the meeting for our BCR were the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Geological Survey.

The amount of available information that LMVJV had brought to the meeting was impressive, plus facilitators had been brought to help with the planning process. BCR population-habitat models had been created from the PIF Continental plan. Now it would be the job of the teams to look at the assumptions used in these models to determine if the assumptions are valid for our BCR. I found the entire scientific process fascinating. It all really came together for me on the second day when the meeting shifted from Forested Wetland Landbirds to Upland Systems - Quail. Quail populations throughout the U.S. have declined 90% in the last 20 years. Population declines can be traced to available habitat degradation due to agriculture, cattle grazing, and removal of native grasses. In the report Texas Quail Conservation Initiative, it was estimated that an additional 1.1 million quail coveys would be needed to restore populations to 1980s levels. To achieve this population growth, 100 million acres of improved habitat would be required.

To me the prospects seemed dim. Then along came the endangered **Red-cockaded Woodpecker** (RCW) people. As luck would have it, our BCR's pine savannah habitat that has been set aside for the RCWs has the desirable grasslands that the quail need to thrive. Not only do the quail benefit from RCW-managed lands, but other bird species that require grassland/shrubland, such as **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Bachman's**, **LeConte's**, **Grasshopper**, and **Henslow's Sparrows**, benefit as well. Of course, there is still the problem with some RCW land tracts being isolated islands. “Lucky” for everyone, quail need large interconnected land tracts. Now maybe some of those landowners who have held out against the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) for the RCWs might come on board for the Quail Recovery plan.

The Joint Venture's Bird Conservation Partnership is described as “a private, state, and federal bird conservation partnership focused on increasing coordinated conservation of all birds in all habitats in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley and the West Gulf Coastal Plain.” It seems that the Partnership is headed in the right direction. One final thought, if we were not being “politically correct,” the meeting could have been called the Non-game Bird and Game Bird committees meeting for the LMVJV-WGCP Initiative.

How Rural Landowners and Land Managers Can Help Native Birds Across Texas

by *Cliff Shackelford*,

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin

clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us

FROM: Texas Partners in Flight's Volume 10 of the FLYWAY Newsletter printed in 2003. Reprinted with permission.

Note: Although this was originally written for Texas landowners, it is equally applicable to Louisiana landowners.

According to over three decades of Breeding Bird Survey data, our native birds are declining at an alarming rate. Additionally, Texas is rapidly losing native wildlife habitat that these birds call home. Since the majority of Texas is in private hands, private landowners hold the key to reversing these declines. We citizens of urban centers should adamantly support private land incentive programs since we cannot expect the private landowner to *foot the bill* for everything being done and needing to be done.

The list below includes a variety of management action tips that landowners and land managers can do to help our native birds (as well as other plants and animals). Please promote these with your neighboring landowners – working together with larger pieces of land will do so much more for wildlife conservation. These items are not listed in any particular order:

- Conserve and restore native plant communities (habitats); plant native vegetation only, especially warm-season grasses. For example, meadowlarks, bobwhite, and other native grassland birds typically do not thrive in pastures dominated with non-native coastal bermuda. Control invasive plant species.
- Apply prescribed fires where appropriate (i.e., grasslands, shrublands, savannahs) every few years depending on rainfall amounts and range conditions.
- Avoid fragmentation of existing habitat. Fragmentation is the breaking up and loss of substantial and contiguous blocks of habitat. Retain large blocks of

native habitat instead of cutting it up with roads, utility lines, real estate subdivisions, etc.

- Practice rotational grazing; limit populations and impacts of browsing animals (i.e., livestock, deer, exotic ungulates) especially in riparian areas, spring heads, glades, bogs, and other sensitive places.
- Limit or stagger mowing and haying efforts to allow wintering grassland birds to depart (which is about early March), and so breeding birds can complete their nesting cycle (usually April - July depending on vegetative conditions and rainfall amounts that year).
- Mow or plow starting in the middle of a pasture or field, then proceed towards the outside so that skulking birds won't keep concentrating in the center area and get run over in the end. Instead, give them a chance to flee.
- Leave thickets (understory) and grassy areas for cover whenever possible. Avoid mowing and plowing the entire property -- leave some natural areas completely unmowed or unplowed.
- Restore natural wetlands. Depending on the region, allow natural areas that once experienced seasonal water fluctuations to retain water like playas, oxbows (resacas), beaver ponds, marshes, coastal potholes, cienegas, etc. Bottomland hardwood forests in the eastern third of Texas need occasional understory flooding to maintain forest health. Providing water in the form of a traditional "stock pond" or "stock tank" is not as beneficial to a diversity of birds as is commonly thought.
- Control feral hogs since their rooting can destroy the regeneration of bird habitat.
- Control feral and free-roaming domestic cats since they hunt and kill native birds.
- Do not remove tree-falls or rotting logs as they provide cover and perch sites; let them rot where they lay.
- Eliminate the spraying of canopy insects since this can be an important source of food for birds. Over half of our native birds are insectivorous -- let them do their job.
- Encourage cavity users to nest by leaving snags (dead trees) standing or by mounting and maintaining manmade nest boxes.
- Avoid clearcutting large blocks of forest or woodland; try selective harvesting to leave some attributes of natural forests with midstory and understory. Leave broad strips of woody vegetation along waterways to avoid erosion and so riparian birds have important habitat, too.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

November 4, 2003, 7:00 p.m.

Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS

Board members present at the meeting were Mac Hardy, Jeff Trahan, Nancy Menasco, Lily Poole, Larry Raymond, Jerry Bertrand, Amanda Crnkovic, Jean Trahan, and Hubert Hervey.

Treasurer's Report – Jean Trahan reported income during October of \$234.05 and expenses of \$420.30. The expenses included a \$100.00 honorarium to the speaker, but the speaker has since returned the check to the club. The club has \$1,871.17 cash in the bank, \$173.76 at the post office for mailing newsletters, and \$118.29 at the LSUS printing office for printing newsletters. The total assets are then \$2,163.22.

Old Business – Hubert Hervey reported that he has been in touch with two people concerning **Least Terns** on the Red River. He talked to Jane Ledwin from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Columbia, Missouri. She said that she was not the **Least Tern** Recovery Leader and that there was no team leader. The person in charge of our area is Linda LaClaire who is headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi. She is only involved with the tern population on the Mississippi River. Hubert says that the next step is to contact Jim McCrery to get him to see that a person is put in charge of **Least Terns** on the Red River.

Lily Poole reported that she called the Bass Pro Shop and arranged for the club to have a booth at the grand opening of the store. Lily also said that since Bill Wood resigned, we will have to have someone to replace him. She will ask for volunteers at the next meeting.

Nancy Menasco reported on the tax-exempt status of the club. She said that the club qualifies as a tax-exempt organization because we satisfy specific criteria and that we don't have to send in any forms.

New Business – Jerry Bertrand said that the club needs items for the auction for the December meeting. Some club members have already reported starting their "auction boxes." After much praise of his auctioneering abilities, Hubert Hervey agreed to be the auctioneer.

Bird Records – Mac Hardy reported an unusually small number of bird records for last month. He asked everyone to send in their records. Mac said that he has been entering Jim Stewart's records.

Field Trips – Nancy Menasco said that she needs volunteer leaders, the first one as soon as January. Mac Hardy volunteered to lead a trip to Spanish Lake (Red River NWR, Eugene Smith Tract) on January 17. Larry Raymond wants to lead a trip to Eddie Jones Park in April to augment the bird list for that park. Nancy said that the Caddo Lake count is December 6, and the Shreveport Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is December 14. Neither the Natchitoches CBC nor the BCBCBC

have firm dates at this time. She also says that ME Lewis wants to establish a CBC in Claiborne Parish and is considering holding it during the week before Christmas.

Publicity –Michele Andrews needs information about speakers earlier so that she can submit the information to the newspaper in a timely manner. She reports that she has not had much luck getting information published.

Programs and Fundraising– Jerry Bertrand is making walking sticks and bird houses for the raffle. Amanda Crnkovic reported that she has been told that the club cannot call the raffle a raffle because the state will say that it is gambling. We must think of another name for the raffle.

Newsletter – Amanda Crnkovic reported that we are now getting 350 copies of the newsletter printed. This is 90 more than we need. A motion was made to get only 300 copies printed which will save \$20.00 a month. This would leave 40 additional copies. The motion passed.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

November 11, 2003, 7:00 p.m.
Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS

Treasurer’s Report – The speaker was a little late so Jean Trahan gave the treasurer’s report for the month ending October 31, 2003. She said the club had \$1,871.17 in the bank. In addition we had \$173.76 and \$118.29 in prepaid expenses at the post office and LSUS printing, respectively. The fund balance is \$2,163.22. Net income for the month of October was \$234.05, and expenses were \$420.30.

Program -The speaker was Charlie Lyon. He spoke on waterfowl identification. He used Thayer’s Birds of North America as a source of pictures and bird sounds for the program.

Programs - Jerry Bertrand said that the December meeting would be the Christmas party and auction. He reminded everyone to bring items to auction. Jerry also said that Linda Adrion has already prepared a box with items in it to auction as a whole and asked for volunteers for others to prepare such a box.

Field Trips - Nancy Menasco reported on field trips. She said that the Caddo Lake Winter Bird Count was December 6. Anyone wishing to participate should see Jim Ingold. The Caddo Lake Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is scheduled for December 14, the Natchitoches CBC on December 27, the Bossier-Caddo-Bienville CBC on either January 3 or January 4. She said that there will be a new count this year. It is the Claiborne Parish Winter Bird Count that could be a CBC in the

future. The date for this count will be in the next newsletter.

Membership - Lily Poole reported that we have 96 paid accounts and 121 members.

Newsletter – Amanda Crnkovic stated that the deadline for newsletter submissions is November 19.

Bird Talk – Linda Adrion reported that she and Ann McLaurin saw 40 species on their outing to Cross Lake and Gilliam. Ann wouldn’t let Linda go home until they had seen 40 species. Nan Franks asked what to do about a woodpecker pecking a hole in a friend’s house. Some suggested covering area with wood or hardware cloth. Hubert Hervey has two **Rufous Hummingbirds** at his house. Hubert said that when they first arrived, the hummingbirds fed on flowers. They later found the feeders, but would only use the feeders if the ratio of the mixture of sugar to water was 1:3. They would not use the feeders if the ration was 1:4 or 1:5. Velda Nielson reported a whopping 128 bird species on her house list. Her last species was an **Eastern Meadowlark**.

BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OFFICERS <i>President – Lily Poole (2) – 687-2994 (H)</i> <i>Vice-president – Jerry Bertrand (3) – 868-3255 (H/W)</i> <i>Secretary – Jeff Trahan (3) – 868-7360 (H), 869-5217 (W)</i> <i>Treasurer – Jean Trahan (3) – 868-7360 (H)</i>
MEMBERS AT LARGE <i>Linda Adrion (2) – 868-5729 (H)</i> <i>Michele Andrews (2) – 752-9469 (H)</i> <i>Roy Bott (1) – 925-2265 (H)</i> <i>Amanda Crnkovic (3) – 861-5294 (H), 797-5338 (W)</i> <i>Mac Hardy (2) – 687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)</i> <i>Hubert Hervey (3) – 925-9249 (H)</i> <i>John McBride (1) – 221-2957 (H), 929-2806 (W)</i> <i>Nancy Menasco (1) – 868-3255 (H/W)</i> <i>Larry Raymond (1) – 929-3117 (H), 929-2806 (W)</i> <i>Dan Weber (1) – 949-1850 (H), 773-3077 or 549-2686 (W)</i> <i>Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.</i>
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
<i>Beginning Birders –John McBride.221-2957 (H) 929-2806(W)</i> <i>Bird Alert Service – Rosemary Seidler..... 424-2972 (H)</i> <i>869-5231 (W)</i> <i>Bird Hot Spot – Larry Raymond 929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)</i> <i>Bird Records – Mac Hardy..... .687-6738 (H) 797-5338 (W)</i> <i>Field Trip Coordinator – Nancy Menasco... . 868-3255 (H/W)</i> <i>Fund Raising – Jerry Bertrand.....868-3255 (H/W)</i> <i>Hospitality – Amanda Crnkovic 861-5294 (H) 797-5338 (W)</i> <i>& Vera Bott..... 925-2265 (H)</i> <i>Important Birding Areas – Hubert Hervey.....925-9249 (H)</i>

Library – Linda Adrion.....868-5729 (H)
 Membership Secretary – Lily Poole.....687-2994 (H)
 Newsletter Editor & Folding/Mailing Committee –
 Amanda Crnkovic.....861-5294 (H), 797-5338 (W)
 Programs – Jerry Bertrand.....868-3255 (H/W)

Publicity – Michele Andrews 752-9469 (H)
 & Marti Carroll..... 746-2235 (H)
 Website – Barney Poole.....687-2994 (H)

TELL THE BSG

- ◆ Auction items for the Christmas Fundraiser can be dropped-off at the Museum of Life Sciences (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- ◆ **Hospitality:** Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share at the Christmas party. The BSG will provide a ham, a turkey, and beverages.
- ◆ Use your BSG Kroger Cares, **Kroger Card**. Each time you use it the BSG earns money.
- ◆ Leaders are needed for field trips! Contact Nancy (868-3255 or nmcpa@aol.com) if you can help.
- ◆ Donations are accepted by the BSG for the purpose of maintaining/improving the library, refreshments, refuges, and the general fund.

Send announcements or any other tidbits of information to Amanda (797-5338 or acrnkov@softdisk.com)

Bird Reports

by Mac Hardy

Your observations of birds can be sent to the BSG database in many different ways. You can email an electronic database (.dif, .fxd [fixed length], .ld [line delimited], .ws [mail merge], .dbf [normal database], .sdf [text editor], .usr [user-defined], .wp [wordperfect], or .txt [Word as text file]). You can also send in checklists or other formats. Our database format can email your database directly to: lsusmus@prysm.net. Please use some electronic form if possible so I do not have to re-enter your data. Contact me for more information. Please give us complete reports that include a specific locality, the date of the observations, numbers of each species, the names of the observers, and any other data, such as time of day, weather, etc.

Happy Holidays!

Christmas Bird Counts 2003-2004 Season

CBC	Date	Compiler	Contact Info	NAS Fee
Shreveport	Sunday, December 14	Charles Lyon	clyon@softdisk.com	Yes
Lacassine NWR-Thornwell	Sunday, December 14	Mac Myers	bmyers990@earthlink.net	Yes
Catahoula NWR	Monday, December 15	Kermit Cummings	KCC71360@aol.com	
D'Arbonne NWR	Saturday, December 20	Joan Brown	bljnbr@colla.com	
Sabine NWR	Saturday, December 20	Marty Guidry	guidrym@cox.net	Optional
Creole	Sunday, December 21	Dave Patton	wpatton@cox-internet.com	
Grand Isle	Tuesday, December 23	Chris Brantley	chrisbrantley@charter.net	Yes
Natchitoches	Saturday, December 27	Charles Lyon	clyon@softdisk.com	Yes
Pine Prairie	Saturday, December 27	Marty Floyd	marty_floyd@la.usda.gov	No
Lafayette	Saturday, December 27	Judith O'Neale	jloneale@aol.com	
New Orleans	Saturday, December 27	Glenn Ousset	gousset@email.msn.com	
Reserve-Bonnet Carre Spillway	Sunday, December 28	Melvin Weber	mweber@rtconline.com	
Thibodaux Area	Sunday, December 28	Beth Maniscalco Lisa Robichaux	reti-bhm@nicholls.edu lisaro@mobiletel.com	Yes
Northshore-Slidell	Monday, December 29	Richard Hale	ralca2hale@cs.com	
Crowley	Monday, December 29	Marty Floyd	marty_floyd@la.usda.gov	No
Cheneyville-Lecompte	Saturday, January 3	Marty Floyd	marty_floyd@la.usda.gov	No
New Iberia	Saturday, January 3	James Beck	myiarchus928@worldnet.att.net	No
St. Tammany Parish	Saturday, January 3	Linda Beall	lbeall@minilogic.com	

Bossier-Caddo-Bienville (T)	January 1-4, 2004 (TBD)	Paul Dickson	paul@morrisdickson.com	Yes
Baton Rouge	Sunday, January 4	Victoria Bayless	vmosele@lsu.edu	Yes
Johnsons Bayou	Sunday, January 4	Ken Sztraky	kens@ih2000.net	Optional
Tensas River NWR		Ava Kahn (?)	ava_kahn@fws.gov	
Venice		Dan Purrington (?)	danny@tulane.edu	

BIRD REPORT – *compiled November 20, 2003*

Use the bird report to see what other birders have been seeing and where to go find the bird you want to see. Observers are abbreviated by the first and last initials. Dates and localities of observations are summarized under the observer's initials. Sightings are arranged by species. Following each species is a line of data in the following format: date, initials of the observer, number of birds observed, initials of another observer, number of birds they observed, etc. For the number of birds observed, a 1 is used for both 1 bird and for numbers not reported by the observer. For example: 01/12/99 BB 2 means that on January 12, 1999, BB saw two birds. Then by looking on the observer list, located after the sightings, you can determine that BB is Bob Birder and on 1/12/99 he was birding C. Bickham Dickson Park.

Report bird records for the newsletter to Mac Hardy by the 15th of each month. All bird records reported here are observations of the observers and are therefore the responsibility of the observer.

SIGHTINGS

Species, Date, Observer, Number Seen

Greater White-fronted Goose -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 5, 11/05/2003 H&PH 20
Snow Goose -- 11/01/2003 LRR 59, 11/02/2003 JT 25, 11/08/2003 JT 130, 11/08/2003 AR&LR 125, 11/08/2003 LRR 93
Wood Duck -- 11/07/2003 JI 5, 11/08/2003 JT 52, 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Green-winged Teal -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 25, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 300
Mallard -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 4, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 12, 11/08/2003 JT 4
Northern Pintail -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 40, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 36, 11/09/2003 BSG 1
Blue-winged Teal -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 10, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 12
Northern Shoveler -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 40, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 48
Gadwall -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 30, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 50, 11/08/2003 JT 4
Northern Bobwhite -- 11/15/2003 HH 2
Pied-billed Grebe -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 2, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/02/2003 JT 3, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 6, 11/08/2003 JT 3, 11/11/2003 JI 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
American White Pelican -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 150, 11/02/2003 JT 50, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 200, 11/08/2003 JT 32, 11/09/2003 BSG 92, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 112
Double-crested Cormorant -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 100, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 1000, 11/02/2003 JT 75, 11/07/2003 JI 1, 11/08/2003 JT 250, 11/09/2003 BSG 275, 11/09/2003 BSG 4, 11/11/2003 JI 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2
Great Blue Heron -- 10/02/2003 JI 2, 10/12/2003 LRR 1, 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 4, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 2, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 10, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 5, 11/09/2003 BSG 2, 11/09/2003 BSG 25, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Great Egret -- 10/02/2003 JI 6, 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 5, 11/02/2003 JT 3, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 60, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/07/2003 JI 7, 11/08/2003 JT 18, 11/09/2003 BSG 2, 11/09/2003 BSG 40, 11/11/2003 JI 5, 11/12/2003 HH 4, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 3, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/15/2003 HH 1
Snowy Egret -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1
Little Blue Heron -- 10/26/2003 HH 1
Cattle Egret -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 15, 10/26/2003 HH 15
Black-crowned Night-Heron -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 3
White Ibis -- 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 4
Roseate Spoonbill -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 11
Black Vulture -- 10/02/2003 JI 1, 10/16/2003 H&PH 12, 10/26/2003 HH 20, 11/01/2003 HH 2, 11/04/2003 H&PH 6, 11/06/2003 HH 4, 11/12/2003 HH 9, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/13/2003 HH 12
Turkey Vulture -- 10/02/2003 JI 2, 10/12/2003 LRR 3, 10/16/2003 H&PH 14, 10/26/2003 HH 30, 11/01/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 2, 11/01/2003 LRR 1, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 2, 11/08/2003 JT 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/13/2003 HH 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 5
Mississippi Kite -- 10/31/2003 JT 1, 11/01/2003 J&JT 1
Northern Harrier -- 11/01/2003 LRR 1, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 1, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk -- 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
Cooper's Hawk -- 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/13/2003 HH 1
Red-shouldered Hawk -- 10/02/2003 JI 1, 11/08/2003 JT 1
Broad-winged Hawk -- 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
Red-tailed Hawk -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 2, 11/04/2003 H&PH 2, 11/08/2003 JT 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/13/2003 HH 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 5
American Kestrel -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
American Coot -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 2000, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 2000, 11/07/2003 JI 12, 11/08/2003 JT 9, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 3

Killdeer -- 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 10/16/2003 H&PH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 8, 11/02/2003 JT 9, 11/04/2003 H&PH 2, 11/07/2003 JI 3, 11/08/2003 JT 5, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 25, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 20, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 30
Black-necked Stilt -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 6, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 8
American Avocet -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 18, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 18
Greater Yellowlegs -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 75, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 10
Lesser Yellowlegs -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 25
Spotted Sandpiper -- 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 2
Least Sandpiper -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 40, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 6
Long-billed Dowitcher -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 30
Wilson's Snipe -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 2, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 14, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 1, 11/08/2003 JT 1
American Woodcock -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 3
Ring-billed Gull -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 10, 11/08/2003 JT 20, 11/09/2003 BSG 45, 11/09/2003 BSG 2, 11/11/2003 JI 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
Caspian Tern -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 10, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 20
Forster's Tern -- 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 20, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
Rock Pigeon -- 10/12/2003 LRR 2, 11/09/2003 BSG 75, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2
Eurasian Collared-Dove -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 2
Mourning Dove -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 4, 10/26/2003 HH 6, 11/01/2003 HH 6, 11/02/2003 JT 3, 11/04/2003 H&PH 4, 11/07/2003 JI 18, 11/08/2003 JT 10, 11/11/2003 JI 18, 11/13/2003 HH 2
Greater Roadrunner -- 10/17/2003 J&JT 1
Great Horned Owl -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/08/2003 JT 1
Common Nighthawk -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1
Rufous Hummingbird -- 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/05/2003 H&PH 2, 11/06/2003 HH 2, 11/12/2003 HH 2, 11/13/2003 HH 2, 11/15/2003 HH 2
Belted Kingfisher -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 2, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 2, 11/07/2003 JI 2, 11/08/2003 JT 2, 11/09/2003 BSG 8, 11/11/2003 JI 1, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 HH 1
Red-headed Woodpecker -- 11/01/2003 HH 2, 11/15/2003 LRR 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker -- 10/02/2003 JI 2, 10/12/2003 LRR 3, 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/16/2003 LRR 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 2, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/02/2003 JT 5, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/06/2003 HH 2, 11/07/2003 JI 2, 11/08/2003 JT 15, 11/08/2003 LRR 2, 11/09/2003 BSG 4, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 3, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker -- 10/16/2003 LRR 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 2, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 1
Downy Woodpecker -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 2, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/06/2003 HH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 2, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/15/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Hairy Woodpecker -- 11/01/2003 LRR 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/08/2003 LRR 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1
Northern Flicker -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 2, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/06/2003 HH 2, 11/07/2003 JI 1, 11/08/2003 JT 6, 11/11/2003 JI 2, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 3
Pileated Woodpecker -- 10/23/2003 LRR 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 LRR 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/08/2003 LRR 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 2
Eastern Phoebe -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/08/2003 JT 1, 11/09/2003 BSG 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 12
Loggerhead Shrike -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/13/2003 HH 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 5
Blue Jay -- 10/02/2003 JI 1, 10/12/2003 LRR 4, 10/16/2003 H&PH 4, 10/26/2003 HH 4, 11/01/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 LRR 3, 11/02/2003 JT 2, 11/04/2003 H&PH 4, 11/08/2003 JT 7, 11/08/2003 AR&LR 1, 11/08/2003 LRR 4, 11/13/2003 HH 4, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 3, 11/15/2003 HH 4, 11/15/2003 LRR 3
American Crow -- 10/12/2003 LRR 5, 10/16/2003 H&PH 60, 10/16/2003 LRR 2, 10/21/2003 LRR 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 2, 10/26/2003 HH 60, 11/01/2003 HH 16, 11/01/2003 LRR 12, 11/02/2003 JT 5, 11/04/2003 H&PH 25, 11/08/2003 JT 5, 11/08/2003 AR&LR 3, 11/08/2003 LRR 9, 11/09/2003 BSG 5, 11/11/2003 JI 15, 11/13/2003 HH 30, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 52, 11/15/2003 HH 20, 11/15/2003 LRR 7
Fish Crow -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 20, 10/26/2003 HH 20, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 2, 11/01/2003 HH 7, 11/02/2003 JT 50, 11/04/2003 H&PH 5, 11/08/2003 JT 5, 11/08/2003 LRR 2, 11/11/2003 JI 9, 11/13/2003 HH 4, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/15/2003 HH 2, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow -- 09/26/2003 LRR 3
Carolina Chickadee -- 10/12/2003 LRR 6, 10/16/2003 H&PH 4, 10/16/2003 LRR 2, 10/21/2003 LRR 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 2, 10/26/2003 HH 5, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/01/2003 HH 4, 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/02/2003 JT 6, 11/04/2003 H&PH 3, 11/08/2003 JT 12, 11/08/2003 LRR 3, 11/08/2003 AR&LR 2, 11/09/2003 BSG 3, 11/13/2003 HH 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 6, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 4, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/15/2003 HH 2, 11/15/2003 LRR 2
Tufted Titmouse -- 10/12/2003 LRR 4, 10/16/2003 H&PH 2, 10/16/2003 LRR 2, 10/23/2003 LRR 3, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 LRR 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 4, 11/08/2003 LRR 1, 11/13/2003 HH 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/15/2003 HH 2, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
White-breasted Nuthatch -- 10/16/2003 LRR 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1
Brown Creeper -- 11/08/2003 JT 1
Carolina Wren -- 10/12/2003 LRR 1, 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/16/2003 LRR 1, 10/21/2003 LRR 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 1, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/02/2003 JT 3, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 3, 11/08/2003 AR&LR 1, 11/08/2003 LRR 3, 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/15/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 2
House Wren -- 10/12/2003 LRR 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet -- 10/12/2003 LRR 1, 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/23/2003 LRR 2, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 8, 11/08/2003 LRR 3, 11/09/2003 BSG 4, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 3
Eastern Bluebird -- 10/12/2003 LRR 6, 10/16/2003 H&PH 2, 10/26/2003 HH 4, 11/01/2003 HH 5, 11/02/2003 JT 11, 11/04/2003 H&PH 4, 11/08/2003 JT 12, 11/09/2003 BSG 3, 11/11/2003 JI 2, 11/12/2003 HH 12, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 8, 11/13/2003 HH 5, 11/15/2003 LRR 3
American Robin -- 11/01/2003 LRR 50, 11/02/2003 JT 2, 11/08/2003 JT 75, 11/08/2003 AR&LR 32, 11/08/2003 LRR 4, 11/09/2003 BSG 15, 11/09/2003 BSG 2, 11/11/2003 JI 25, 11/12/2003 HH 598, 11/13/2003 HH 12, 11/15/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 23
Northern Mockingbird -- 10/02/2003 JI 1, 10/16/2003 H&PH 2, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 4, 11/13/2003 HH 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/15/2003 HH 3
Brown Thrasher -- 10/23/2003 LRR 1, 10/26/2003 HH 1, 11/01/2003 LRR 3, 11/08/2003 LRR 3, 11/13/2003 HH 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 4
European Starling -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 100, 11/02/2003 JT 75, 11/07/2003 JI 170, 11/08/2003 JT 10
Yellow-rumped Warbler -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 5, 11/02/2003 JT 8, 11/08/2003 JT 15, 11/08/2003 LRR 2, 11/15/2003 LRR 6
Pine Warbler -- 10/12/2003 LRR 2, 10/23/2003 LRR 1, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 1

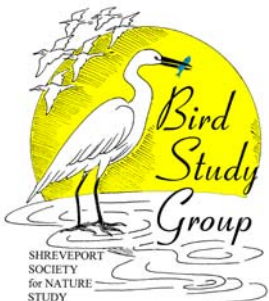
Eastern Towhee -- 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/15/2003 LRR 2
Song Sparrow -- 11/08/2003 LRR 2, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Chipping Sparrow -- 10/12/2003 LRR 2, 11/01/2003 HH 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 2, 11/08/2003 JT 3, 11/08/2003 AR&LR 1, 11/12/2003 HH 2, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/15/2003 HH 2
Field Sparrow -- 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/15/2003 HH 1
Savannah Sparrow -- 11/01/2003 HH 10, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/04/2003 H&PH 4, 11/06/2003 HH 6, 11/13/2003 HH 8
LeConte's Sparrow -- 11/02/2003 JT 3, 11/08/2003 JT 4
Song Sparrow -- 11/06/2003 HH 1, 11/08/2003 JT 1, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 4, 11/15/2003 HH 2
Lincoln's Sparrow -- 11/08/2003 LRR 1
Swamp Sparrow -- 11/08/2003 JT 3, 11/08/2003 LRR 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 2
White-throated Sparrow -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/21/2003 LRR 2, 10/23/2003 LRR 2, 10/26/2003 HH 2, 11/01/2003 HH 5, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 1, 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/04/2003 H&PH 8, 11/06/2003 HH 8, 11/08/2003 JT 15, 11/08/2003 LRR 10, 11/09/2003 BSG 1, 11/12/2003 HH 4, 11/13/2003 HH 4, 11/15/2003 HH 7, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
White-crowned Sparrow -- 11/01/2003 HH 2, 11/04/2003 H&PH 2, 11/12/2003 HH 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 4, 11/13/2003 HH 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 5, 11/15/2003 HH 3
Dark-eyed Junco -- 11/05/2003 H&PH 1, 11/12/2003 HH 1
Northern Cardinal -- 10/12/2003 LRR 2, 10/16/2003 H&PH 12, 10/16/2003 LRR 2, 10/23/2003 LRR 2, 10/26/2003 HH 24, 11/01/2003 HH 20, 11/01/2003 LRR 2, 11/02/2003 JT 4, 11/04/2003 H&PH 22, 11/06/2003 HH 12, 11/08/2003 JT 12, 11/08/2003 LRR 3, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 2, 11/13/2003 HH 15, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 6, 11/15/2003 LRR 1
Indigo Bunting -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 10/26/2003 HH 4
Red-winged Blackbird -- 11/01/2003 NM&JB 200, 11/02/2003 JT 2, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 150, 11/08/2003 JT 27, 11/09/2003 BSG 15, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 19
Eastern Meadowlark -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 1, 11/01/2003 NM&JB 20, 11/01/2003 HH 14, 11/12/2003 HH 12, 11/13/2003 AMcL,MJ&LA 5, 11/13/2003 HH 4
Common Grackle -- 11/02/2003 JT 15, 11/08/2003 JT 6, 11/09/2003 BSG 37, 11/09/2003 BSG 2, 11/11/2003 JI 1, 11/15/2003 LRR 43
Brown-headed Cowbird -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 30, 11/02/2003 NM,JB,J&JT 25
House Sparrow -- 10/16/2003 H&PH 2, 11/02/2003 JT 1, 11/13/2003 HH 1

Printed 588 of the 137,100 records in the BSG database; 101 species.

OBSERVERS

Observer initials – Observer name: date of observation, location of sighting.

AMcL,MJ&LA -- Ann McLaurin, Mary Jacobs, and Linda Adrion: 11/13/2003 Red River area, above and below Lock and Dam #5; 11/13/2003 Red River area, above Lock and Dam #5; 11/13/2003 Red River area, at and below Lock and Dam #5; 11/13/2003 Yearwood Road, 2.3-5.0 mi. from LA 1; 11/13/2003 Yearwood Road, N end from LA 1 (=2.3 mi.).
AR&LR -- Anne & Larry Raymond: 11/08/2003 6675 North Park Circle.
BSG -- Bird Study Group: 11/09/2003 C. Bickham Dickson Park; 11/09/2003 Red River from Stoner Launch to N of Cross Bayou.
H&PH -- Hubert and Pat Hervey: 10/16/2003 Hervey Farm (near Stonewall); 11/04/2003 Hervey Farm in Stonewall; 11/05/2003 Hervey Farm (near Stonewall).
HH -- Hubert Hervey: 10/26/2003 Hervey Farm in Stonewall; 11/01/2003 Hervey Farm in Stonewall; 11/06/2003 Hervey Farm (near Stonewall); 11/12/2003 Stonewall: Hervey Farm; 11/15/2003 Stonewall: Hervey Farm.
HH&JI -- Hubert Hervey & Jim Ingold: 11/13/2003 Stonewall: Hervey Farm.
J&JT -- Jeff and Jean Trahan: 10/17/2003 I-49, near mile marker 191; 11/01/2003 Shreveport: 505 Americana Dr.
JI -- Jim Ingold: 10/02/2003 Stoner Ave. Boat Launch; 11/07/2003 C. Bickham Dickson Park.
JT -- Jean Trahan: 10/31/2003 Shreveport: corner of Bert Kouns & Millicent Way.
JT -- Jeff Trahan: 11/02/2003 Shreveport: Red River Education & Research Park(=Bickham-Dickson); 11/08/2003 Shreveport: Red River Education & Research Park(=Bickham-Dickson).
LRR -- Larry R. Raymond: 09/26/2003 Fullerton south of Aero Drive in Agurs Business District, Shreveport; 10/12/2003 Eddie Jones Park; 10/16/2003 Walter Jacobs Nature Park; 10/21/2003 Walter Jacobs Nature Park; 10/23/2003 Walter Jacobs Nature Park; 11/01/2003 Woods N Hosston Rodessa Rd 1 mile NW of Mira-Myrtis Rd; 11/08/2003 Woods N Hosston Rodessa Rd 1 mile NW of Mira-Myrtis Rd; 11/15/2003 Woods off Hosston-Rodessa Rd, 1 mile NW of Mira-Myrtis Rd.
NM&JB -- Nancy Menasco & Jerry Bertrand: 11/01/2003 Bishop Point Road; 11/01/2003 C. Bickham Dickson Park; 11/01/2003 Red River-Bishop Point to MM 202.
NM,JB,J&JT -- Nancy Menasco, Jerry Bertrand, Jean & Jeff Trahan 11/02/2003 Bishop Point Road; 11/02/2003 Red River-Bishop Point to MM 202.



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