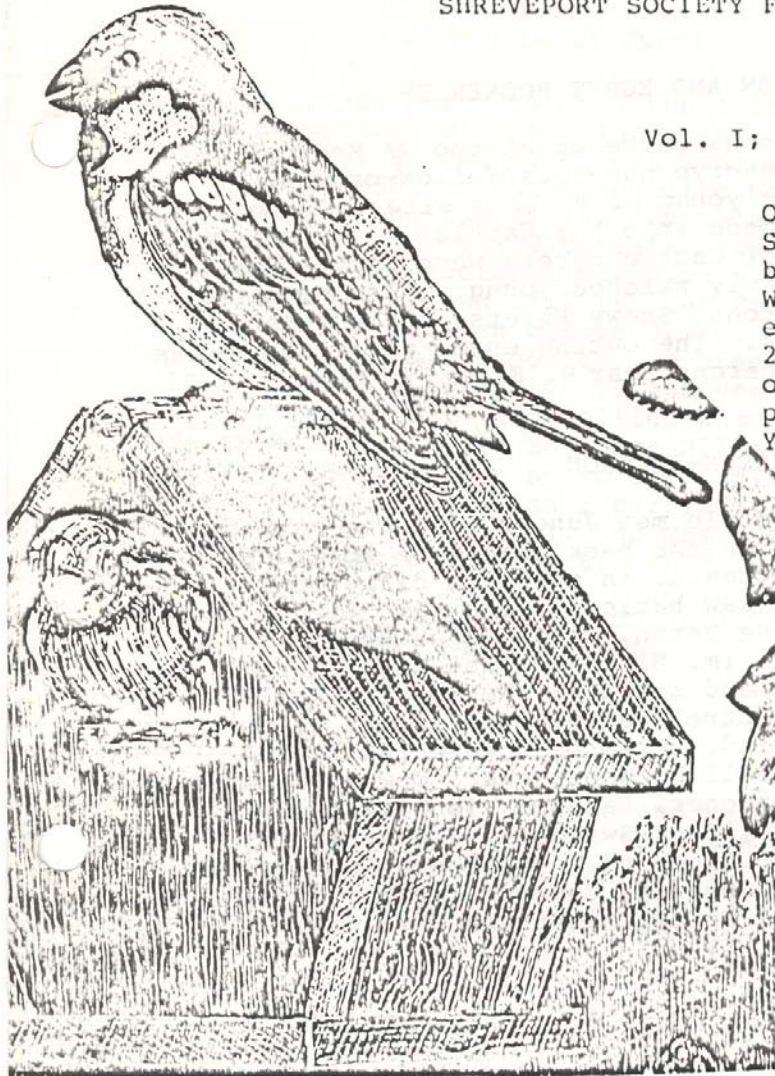


SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDIES

BIRD GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Vol. I; No. 98; June, 1987



Operating a Bird Alert Service for interesting bird sightings Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings after 5:00pm, 226-7174; and taking orders, preferably pre-paid, for Droll Yankee feeders.

MEETING: Tuesday
July 14
7:00pm
to
9:00pm

The program for this months meeting will be presented by Paul Dicson, with the topic being shorebirds. This will be in conjunction with our field trip on shorebirds planned for the month of July.

FIELD TRIP: Saturday
July 25
9:00am
until
11-12.

A field trip focused on spotting shorebirds. Paul Dickson will lead the group and will announce which mudflats we will visit at the July meeting. The location should also be on the hotline the week before the trip. We will be meeting at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences at 9:00am and caravanning to the site.

RECENT OUTINGS:

HERON AND EGRET ROOKERIES

May 25, ten persons gathered at the VA Medical Center grounds to observe numerous Yellow-crowned Night Herons feeding young of various sizes. A boat excursion was then made into the Cattle Egret rookery. Thousands of pairs of Cattle Egrets were incubating eggs and some had newly hatched young. Also nesting were Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, Anhingas and Green-backed Herons. The outing ended after observing nesting Great Blue Herons near R. Flemming Park.

BICKHAM-DICKSON

About a dozen people met June 20, at the park by the large pavillion on the back side. We split up into two groups and headed in opposite directions. Even so both groups saw basically the same birds. They were: Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, im. Black-crowned Night Heron, Green-backed Heron, and Kildeer. We spotted Mac's released American Kestrel being badgered off of every perch he tried to find. Also seen were the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downey Woodpecker Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Chimney Swift, Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike with young, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Oriole, Northern Cardinal.

BIRD FEEDERS

The Droll Yankee feeders (Happy-8 Hummingbird feeders, Oriole feeders, and the B-7 sunflower seed feeders) have arrived at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences in record time. We've set prices that are pleasantly below retail rates. In addition future discounts can be had if the orders are pre-paid. These are super good feeders at super good prices.

MONTHLY BIRD NOTES
(15 May to 25 June)

As the migrants left town and the summer residents busied themselves with raising young, the number of bird sightings dwindled, but even slow months have their moments. Three juvenile Wood Storks 6/20 (PD) and one adult, two juvenile White Ibises 6/3 were seen at Paul Dickson's. Two White-rumped sandpipers, five Pectoral Sandpipers and two Lesser Yellowlegs were seen 5/17 (SK) at Bickham-Dickson Park in slough between circle drive. A Lesser Yellowlegs was also spotted, in breeding plumage 6/25 (PD) that apparently did not venture north with his brethren. Red-bellied Woodpecker young were noted 6/5 (NP) in Southern Hills. The first Acadian Flycatcher was heard 5/19 (SK) at the VA Medical Center. Noel has a partially albino house sparrow at her feeder 6/7, and Mrs. Stuart Burris spotted a Painted Bunting 6/2 in Frierson, LA.

Reporting: Mrs. Stuart Burris, Paul Dickson, Steve Klotz, Noel Perkins.

SOME KIND OF DEVOTION

Recently Vera Lee Grubbs and Kate Michaels were on an outing in Waskom when they saw a large bird soar off the side of the road only to come plummeting down in the ditch. As they ran up the road to help they could tell it was a Red-shouldered Hawk with a three-foot snake winding itself around the bird.

Neither one could stand back and watch the bird die so they picked up old pine branches on the side of the road and tried to pry the snake off the hawk. The snake, however, proved to be too strong for the branches, and as they could see the bird going limp they decided to change their method. Vera Lee grabbed the tail and Kate grabbed the head of the snake and unwrapped the hawk's tail and neck. As he felt the hold of the snake brake the bird took a deep breath and flew straight up no doubt wondering what he ever did to receive that kind of devotion.