

# BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Number 11\*  
July 1989



Bird Alert Service: Phone 226-7174, Mon., Wed., & Fri. after 5:00 PM  
Bird Feed and Feeders: On sale at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
1988-89

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SHIRLEY HUSS  
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LARRY RAYMOND  
BOB WOMMACK

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, 11 July 1989, 7:00 PM at the Museum. The speakers will be Mike and/or Barbara MacRoberts who will present a slide show and talk on the *Floristics of Louisiana Pitcher Plant Bogs*.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, 10 August 1989, 7:00 PM at Will Smolenski's home, 526 Dunmoreland Drive. All members of the Board of Directors should be present. This will be the first meeting for the new Board of Directors for the coming year.

**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL.** The expiration date for your membership in the Bird Study Group is now printed on your mailing label. Be sure to renew your membership before the expiration date so you will not miss a newsletter.



## MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING . . .

June 13, 1989. President Steve Klotz called the meeting to order. Betty Mason reported \$1,277.28 in our Treasury.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Beginning Bird Walk this Saturday, June 17, at Soda Lake Wildlife Refuge.

The next Board meeting will be on June 22, at Shirley Huss' home. Volunteers are needed for membership on the Board. A slate of officers for the coming year will be constructed.

Mac Hardy brought in books recently donated to the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences' Library. The VCR tapes of birds and bird songs may be checked out for one week, or

less, please.

Will Smolenski reported that the guide books to the Texas coast will be available by the next meeting. Oriole feeders were requested.

Marilyn Kircus and Larry Raymond will offer a two-day seminar on "Project Design," a program to introduce many activities to teach children the importance of wildlife and habitat, at Walter Jacobs Nature Park, June 29-30. Call Marilyn at 865-1315 to make a reservation.

Bill Wood announced that we have been asked to participate in September in the National Hawk Migration Count. It will be a north Louisiana effort for us. He also mentioned building a booklet of good areas for

birding in NW Louisiana. Bill would appreciate details from everyone who enjoys a special birding site. Proceeds from the sale of the booklet to go to the Bird Study Group. He also stated that this was the final call on the "Phone Tree" for calls about unusual birds.

Pat Lonacker reinstated our *Learning Corner*. With slides and observations, she gave us great identification points of the following field birds of our summers: Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Eastern Meadowlark, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Killdeer.

Larry Raymond introduced the program: A detailed and beautiful film on photographing birds by Leonard Lee Rue. It was inspiring to see how Rue managed to get wonderfully close photos of birds.

The meeting was adjourned.

### MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING . . .

June 22, 1989. President Steve Klotz called the meeting to order at Shirley Huss' home. Two main agenda points were to prepare a slate of 15 Board members to be nominated for approval at the regular July meeting and to discuss summer conservation projects.

After volunteers and recommended names had been checked [called for their consent], Steve presented the following list of people willing to serve on the board: Will Smolenski, Marilyn Kircus, James McCain, Bill Hall, Charlie Lyon, John and Gloria Frantom, Bob and Bobbe Wommack, Betty Mason, Ann Elston, Shirley Huss, Bill Wood, Mac Hardy, and Larry Raymond.

Other volunteers, who choose not to be on the Board are: Theresa Thrash, bird feed and gift shop, Velda Nielson and Katie Pyle to help sack bird feed; Connie Connors and Vera Lee Grubbs to telephone members for monthly bird reports for the Newsletter; Steve Klotz to plan outings.

Short discussion of outings was held. Six species of herons were seen on the Soda Lake outing. Small boat transportation to the heron rookery on Cross Lake is at the time an un-solvable problem.

Conservation discussions led to the following topics: Three Service-berry trees (2 from museum and 1 from Betty Mason) need to be planted in a community area; four Purple Martin houses have been assembled and erected by Will at the Barnwell Center and at

Bickham Dickson Park (which finished our commitment with the grant from the Sierra Club).

Shirley asked that the Bird Study Group revive communication with the city to preserve the woods along Red River in the Stoner to Jimmie Davis bridge area. Larry will check on the best way for the club to approach the city to have this area designated as a bird sanctuary, with the BSG providing appropriate signs. Marilyn will be asked to present a petition to the city, if necessary, and Ann will help her prepare it.

Steve commented that another bird box building project would be a good summer activity; Screech Owl boxes and Wren houses were suggested. Mac said that some of these houses should be left in "kit form," for many people enjoy assembling them. To be sold in the gift shop. Steve will purchase materials, volunteers will meet at Will's during the summer for cutting and assembly, and the items will be ready for the shop in the early fall.

Will mentioned that the Telephone Pioneers might be able to assist in building a large holding cage at the Walter Jacobs Nature Park.

Will stated that he had ordered several ABA Trip Lists and moved that small "stickon" birds from the gift shop be given to the Museum's Nature Day Camp for awards [passes].

Discussion was held about ways to get the Newsletter printed commercially so that printing costs could be held to a minimum. Mac will work on new format to present more news on less paper. Dues may have to be raised.

The Board will meet for a short time after the July meeting to elect officers for the coming year. The new president will set an August Board meeting time.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, August 10, 7:00 pm at Will's home.

Meeting adjourned.

### NEW BOOKS

Two new items are now available in the Museum gift shop. *A Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast* by James A. Lane and John L. Tveten is 119 page atlas with maps and descriptions of birding hotspots. Price \$10.00.

The American Birding Association *Trip List for North American Birds* is a handy, pocket-sized check list (23 pp., paper cover) with six columns for each species. \$1.00 ea.

# BIRD NOTES -- JUNE

Compiled  
June 28, 1989

Report bird records for the Newsletter to Vera Lee Grubbs (635-4852) or to Shirley Huss (865-5959) by the 25th of each month. Only records not printed since the last Newsletter are published.

The Bird Notes report is being offered in a different form. Following each species is a line of data in the following format: date (initials of observer, number of birds observed; initials of another observer, number of birds observed; etc.). For example: 15(PD,3; BW,1,5) means that on the fifteenth PD saw 3 birds, BW saw 1 at one locality and 5 at another. See the next paragraph for specific observers and places. For the number of birds observed, a one is used both for one specimen or for numbers not reported by the observer.

Dates and reporters are as follows: HB -- Harriet Belchic, June 12 (residence); BD -- Bob Duval; PD -- Paul Dickson, June 3, Loggy Bayou; AE -- Ann Elston; CF -- Carol Foster (residence); GF -- Gloria Frantom, June 11 (Toledo Bend); BSG -- Bird Study Group, June 17 (Soda Lake Wildlife Management Area); VLG -- Vera Lee Grubbs (residence), June 11 (Lakeshore Dr.); BH -- Bill Hall, June 3, (Keatchie); SH -- Shirley Huss (residence); LR -- Larry Raymond (Walter Jacobs Nature Park). Total 56 species.

COMMON NAME	DATA
Great Blue Heron	June 11 (VLG, 1)
Great Egret	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Snowy Egret	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Little Blue Heron	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Cattle Egret	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Green-backed Heron	(BH, 1), (AE, 1), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	June 17 (BSG, 1)
White Ibis	3 (PD, 2+)
Mallard	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Black Vulture	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Mississippi Kite	12 (HB, 1 nesting), (VLG, 3)
Cooper's Hawk	25 (PD, 1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	(LR, 1), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Killdeer	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Rock Dove	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Turning Dove	(GF, nesting), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Barred Owl	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	(BH, nesting), (AE, nesting), (SH, nesting), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Downy Woodpecker	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Hairy Woodpecker	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Northern Flicker	(AE, nesting), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Pileated Woodpecker	(AE, nesting), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	June 11 (VLG, 1)
Acadian Flycatcher	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Great Crested Flycatcher	11 (GF, nesting)
Eastern Kingbird	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Purple Martin	(GF, nesting), (SH, nesting)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Barn Swallow	(CF, nesting), June 11 (VLG, 2)
Fish Crow	June 11 (VLG, 1)
Carolina Chickadee	(BH, 2 nesting), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Tufted Titmouse	(BH, 2 nesting), June 17 (BSG, 1)
White-breasted Nuthatch	(BH, nesting)
Carolina Wren	(BH, nesting), (CF, nesting), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Eastern Bluebird	(BH, 3 nesting), (CF, nesting)
Northern Mockingbird	(BD, nest)
Brown Thrasher	(GF, nesting)
White-eyed Vireo	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Yellow-throated Vireo	June 17 (BSG, 1), June 11 (VLG, 1)
Red-eyed Vireo	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Northern Parula	(LR, 1)
Black-and-white Warbler	(LR, 1)
Prothonotary Warbler	(CF, 1), June 17 (BSG, 1), June 11 (VLG, 1)
Common Yellowthroat	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Hooded Warbler	(LR, 1), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Yellow-breasted Chat	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Summer Tanager	(AE, 1), June 17 (BSG, 1)
Northern Cardinal	(BD, nest), (BH, nest), (SH, nest), June 17 (BSG, 1), June 11 (VLG, 1)
Indigo Bunting	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Painted Bunting	3 (BH, 1), (LR, 1)
Red-winged Blackbird	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Common Grackle	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Brown-headed Cowbird	June 17 (BSG, 1)
Northern Oriole	June 17 (BSG, 1)

### **NEW FORMAT**

In an attempt to reduce the cost of publication of your Newsletter we have changed the format. By changing margins, we have increased the amount of print per page while keeping the type size the same. Many of you commented to not reduce the size of the type. We will probably try to keep the size to four printed pages (such as this one). At our present dues structure of \$5.00 per year (11 issues) we just about break even.

### **NEXT NEWSLETTER**

The next issue of the Bird Study Group Newsletter will be in September, 1989. We do not send a Newsletter during August and we do not have a regular meeting. Keep on birding

and phone your reports to Vera Lee Grubbs or Connie Conners for the September Newsletter. Call the Rare Bird Alert phone (226-7174) for rarities.

### **JOIN THE BSG!**

If you are currently a member, thanks for your support. If not, please join today; the price is right and your support is needed.

If you would like to get involved with any of the programs of the BSG just contact any officer or board member. If you are already a member, ask your birding friends to join the Bird Study Group. There are probably several birders in this area who would enjoy the BSG. Help us find them.