



BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER



Volume 4, Number 1
September 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 1989-90

President -- BILL WOOD
Vice-President -- WILL SMOLENSKI
Secretary -- LARRY RAYMOND
Treasurer -- BETTE MASON
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JOHN FRANTOM
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JAMES MCCAIN, Jr.
ROBERT WOMMACK

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
BIRD FEED -- Marilyn Kircus
GIFT SHOP -- Teresa Thrash
MEMBERSHIP -- SHIRLEY HUSS
NEWSLETTER -- MAC HARDY
OUTINGS -- STEVE KLOTZ
PROGRAMS -- WILL SMOLENSKI

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, 12 September 1989, 7:00 PM at the Museum. The speaker will be John McBride, who will present a program entitled *Hawk Watching in Louisiana*. This will be an important preparation for all of those birders who wish to participate in the First Annual Hawk Migration Watch, scheduled for 23 and 24 of September (See article inside).

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, 12 October 1989, 7:00 PM. This will be the first meeting for the new year. The place will be announced in the next Newsletter.

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.

VOTE ON DUES INCREASE AT NEXT MEETING *****

During the September meeting a motion will be presented from the Board of Directors to the membership to increase the annual dues from \$5.00 per year to \$10.00 per year. Please be present at this important meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING . . .

July 11, 1989. Meeting called to order by Steve Klotz. Treasurer reported that the balance stands at \$1,433.90.

Bill Wood handed out new Phone Tree

lists. These will enable the quick spread of sightings of new or unusual birds to those who desired to be on the list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The group will participate in a nation-wide Hawk Watch on September 23 and 24. Wallace Lake Dam will be the site; 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. is the time for the watch.

Be aware that mid-August is a good time to watch for shorebird migration.

There will be no August meeting.

The fifteen nominees to the Board presented were accepted by acclamation. The new Board will meet after this meeting [July 11] to confirm officers for the coming year.

Pat Lonacker presented slides of birds

found in wet areas: Ovenbird, Wilson's Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Woodcock, Great Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Green-backed Heron, Snowy Egret, and Little Blue Heron.

Barbara MacRoberts presented the program on "Floristics of Louisiana Bogs." She explained the current status of Louisiana bogs, and work being done in conjunction with the U. S. Forest Service on conservation of Kisatchie National Forest.

The meeting was adjourned.

REMINDER

If your membership expires this month be sure to pay your dues at the next meeting or earlier. The BIRD STUDY GROUP depends upon your support for much of the good work that the organization accomplishes. Check your membership and bring a friend to the next meeting.
GOOD BIRDING!

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD MEETING . . .**

Newly elected president Bill Wood called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m., 10 August 1989, at the home of Will Smolenski. Board members attending the meeting were Bill Wood, Will Smolenski, Larry Raymond, Robert Wommack, James McCain, Jr., Bill Hall, Shirley Huss, Bette Mason, Gloria Frantom, and John Frantom. Also present were Pat Lonacker and Teresa Thrash. The meeting began with introductions of members present.

Several items of new business were discussed. Bill Wood suggested that the Board consider raising the cost of general membership dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per year. At our present membership of 143 members, it costs \$2.75 of our dues each year to cover the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter. Bette Mason made a motion to recommend to the general membership that annual dues be increased to \$10.00 beginning in October, 1989. Bill Hall seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The general membership will vote on this motion at the September 12 meeting. The sustaining membership will remain at \$25.00 per person. Will

Smolenski reported that he had contacted Hearth and Home concerning placing an ad in the Newsletter. They appeared receptive if the cost were no more than \$5.00 to \$10.00 per issue. Bill Wood asked Will to meet with Mac Hardy to discuss any changes in format of the Newsletter that might be necessary to allow advertisements, and then to report back to the Board with a recommendation.

Bill Wood suggested that we look into the possibility of using recycled paper for our Newsletter. He will look into the costs of the paper and the possibility of buying paper in conjunction with the Sierra Club, and then report back to the Board. Bill emphasized the potential promotional benefits recycled paper could mean for our group.

A discussion of the need to establish standing committees for the Gift Shop, bird feed, Newsletter, membership, outings, and programs followed. The Board agreed to announce that these committees exist and that all volunteers who wish to serve on them are welcome. Committee chairmen need to contact birdgroup members and solicit help as well. Bette Mason suggested that the committees be listed as a regular feature of the Newsletter.

Pat Lonacker indicated the need for either a hospitality person or committee to greet new people that come to our meetings. After some discussion, the Board agreed to ask Velda Nielson to assume responsibility for this role. Bill Hall asked that we start using name tags again. The Board also agreed that Board members need to arrive early for meetings to help greet visitors and members [and to help with refreshments, Treasurers table, name tags, room arrangement, projector, etc. before the meeting -- LMH].

The need for someone to help Bette take money at the door for memberships, bird seed, etc. was discussed. Shirley Huss volunteered to help Bette with this task.

The need for more publicity was discussed. Will has been taking care of publicity for us, and he agreed to continue doing so in addition to his other duties. Will reported that the papers usually print the information that he feeds them.

The Board discussed the program format and agreed to continue with the same format that has been used. Several program ideas were suggested to Will. The possibility of developing an exchange with other groups in the state for programs and outings was discussed too.

The purchase of binoculars for use on outings by members or other individuals who do not own binoculars was discussed. The Board decided that the need was not sufficient at this time to invest in several pairs of binoculars. However, the subject was tabled until the next Board meeting when additional information may be introduced.

Bill Wood announced that a tour of the Kisatchie National Forest will be held on August 26 to observe the progress of the land management plan for the forest. The tour will begin at 9 a.m. at the Alexandria Forestry Center. For more information, contact Jim Caldwell at 473-7168.

After some discussion, the Board decided to make the building of a flight cage for raptor rehabilitation at the Walter B. Jacob's Memorial Nature Park the major project for this year. Will made the motion, Shirley seconded, and the Board voted unanimous approval. Bill Wood and others will pursue the acquisition of suitable plans.

Bill Hall suggested that we attach membership forms to everything we sell --bird feed, bird houses, books, etc.

Bette Mason reminded us that all checks require two signatures. She and Mac Hardy are the two persons presently authorized to sign the checks. The Board voted to stay with these two signatures.

Will then showed us the bird houses for wrens and chickadees that he made from old fencing material. These houses are for sale at the Museum for \$3.00 each. Although several Board members urged Will to put a higher price on the houses, he plans to stay with the lower price for now.

Two items of old business were discussed. Will asked for a report on the status of plans for Clyde Fant Parkway development. Larry reported that he contacted the city and was informed that a committee was being formed to study future plans for development along the parkway. The city requested two names from our group to place on the committee. Mac Hardy and Steve Klotz's names were submitted. Hopefully, they will be contacted soon for an informational meeting.

Bill Wood reported that he is still working on a favorite birding spots pamphlet.

No other business being brought before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Larry R. Raymond, Secretary.

WREN NEST BOX

Nest boxes for wrens or chickadees are now available in the Gift Shop. These attractive boxes were made by Will Smolenski and are being sold for \$3.00 each. A real bargain!

FIELD TRIP

Our first field trip this fall will be on September 9. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Jack-in-the-Box located at the intersection of Bert Kouns and Youree Drive. The group will be back before noon. Steve Klotz will be the leader.

HAWK MIGRATION WATCH

The First Annual Hawk Migration Watch will take place on September 23 and 24 at Wallace Lake Dam. We will start at 8:00 a.m. and go until around 1:00 p.m. Some things you will need to bring are: sunscreen, insect repellent, lawn chair, something to drink, and of course your binoculars. Remember there are quite a few fire ant mounds on the level so take caution where you stand. Unfortunately, no rest room facilities are available, but there is a store a few miles away. This will be a new adventure for all of us so do not miss it.

BACKYARD & BEYOND

Bill Wood conducted a 2-hour presentation on bird identification, including slides and tips for attracting birds to your back yard, on August 22 and 31 for the Added Dimension Learning Center.

BIRD NOTES -- JULY & AUGUST

Compiled
August 28, 1989

Report bird records for the Newsletter to Vera Lee Grubbs (635-4852) or to Connie Conners (865-6422) 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: AE -- Ann Elston, July 28 (Highway 71), August 23 (Taylortown, Evangeline); CF -- Carol Foster, August 23 (residence); VLG -- Vera Lee Grubbs, August 20 (Bickham-Dickson Park), August 24, 26 (residence); BH -- Bill Hall, July 29 (Bickham-Dickson Park), July 30, August 18, & August 26 (residence), August 26 (Bickham-Dickson Park); BH, LR, & MH -- Bill Hall, Larry Raymond, and Mac Hardy, July 30 (Bickham-Dickson Park); HH -- Helen Hood, August 17 (residence); SH -- Shirley Huss, August 15 & 16 (residence); JMcC -- James McCain, August 17 (Trinity Heights), August 23 (residence); JM -- John McBride, August 12 (12 Mile Bayo), August 13 (near Gamma rd. & Whiskey rd.); August 17 (jct. N. Market & I-220); LR -- Larry Raymond, July 22 (Jacobs Nature Park), August 1 (Wallace Lake Dam); GW -- George Wilson, August 24 (residence);

COMMON NAME	DATA
Anhinga	Aug. 26 (BH 1)
Great Blue Heron	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 23 (CF 1);
Great Egret	July 23 (BH 2); July 30 (BH, LR, MH 4)
Snowy Egret	July 23 (BH 3); July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 26 (BH 2)
Little Blue Heron	July 23 (BH 2); July 30 (BH, LR, MH 4); Aug. 20 (VLG 2); Aug. 26 (BH 1)
Tricolored Heron	Aug. 17 (JM 1)
Cattle Egret	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 23 (CF 3); Aug. 26 (BH 1)
Green-backed Heron	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 26 (BH 1)
White Ibis	Aug. 1 (LR 4); Aug. 13 (JM 2)
Roseate Spoonbill	Aug. 6 (JM 3)
Wood Stork	Aug. 17 (JM 1)
Snow Goose	July 28 (AE 400)
Blue-winged Teal	Aug. 23 (AE 4)
Mississippi Kite	Aug. 15 (SH 1); Aug. 24 (VLG 3); Aug. 26 (VLG 1); Aug. 17 (JMcC 2); Aug. 23 (AE 3)
Red-shouldered Hawk	Aug. 23 (JMcC 1)
Broad-winged Hawk	Aug. 23 (JMcC 1)
Killdeer	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 16); Aug. 26 (BH 1)
Upland Sandpiper	Aug. 13 (JM 1)
Mourning Dove	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 7)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	July 22 (LR 1); July 30 (BH, LR, MH 2)
Barred Owl	Aug. 23 (CF 1)
Common Nighthawk	Aug. 16 (SH 1)
Chimney Swift	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1)
Belted Kingfisher	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 26 (BH 1)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 3)
Downy Woodpecker	July 22 (LR 1); July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1)
Pileated Woodpecker	July 22 (LR 1); Aug. 23 (CF 1)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 23 (CF 1)
Eastern Kingbird	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 7)
Purple Martin	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 5)
Blue Jay	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 2)
American Crow	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 9)
Fish Crow	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 30)
Carolina Chickadee	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 23 (CF 2)
Tufted Titmouse	Aug. 23 (CF 2)
White-breasted Nuthatch	Aug. 23 (CF 2)
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Aug. 23 (CF 2)
Carolina Wren	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 23 (CF 2)
Bewick's Wren	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	July 22 (LR 1); Aug. 16 (BH 2); Aug. 26 (BH 1)
Eastern Bluebird	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 8); Aug. 23 (CF 5)
American Robin	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 3)
Northern Mockingbird	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 8)
Loggerhead Shrike	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 2)
European Starling	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 5)
White-eyed Vireo	July 22 (LR 1)
Red-eyed Vireo	July 22 (LR 1)

low-throated Warbler	Aug. 23 (CF 2)
Blue Warbler	Aug. 17 (HH 1); Aug. 23 (CF 1)
Kentucky Warbler	July 30 (BH 1)
Summer Tanager	July 22 (LR 1); Aug. 17 (HH 2); Aug. 23 (CF 1)
Scarlet Tanager	Aug. 24 (GW 2)
Northern Cardinal	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1); Aug. 23 (CF 2)
Blue Grosbeak	July 22 (LR 2)
Indigo Bunting	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1)
Painted Bunting	July 22 (LR 1)
Common Grackle	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 10)
Brown-headed Cowbird	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 35)
Northern Oriole	July 30 (BH, LR, MH 1)
House Sparrow	July 30 (BH, LR, MH many)

Total: 61 species.