

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY

FOR

NATURE STUDY

BIRD GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 1

September, 1987

Operating a Bird Alert  
service: Monday, Wednesday,  
and Friday evenings after  
5:00 PM, 226-7174; and  
a Seed Co-op at the L.S.U.  
Museum of Life Sciences

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
September 8, 1987  
7:00 to 8:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the Shreveport Society for Nature-Bird Group will be held at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent Avenue, Shreveport. This meeting will be for the purpose of electing new officers for

the coming year. A nominating committee has met and will propose their choices at the meeting. The composition of some of the committees will also be addressed.

#### FIELD TRIPS:

September            The date, time and site of a September field trip will be announced at the September 8 meeting and will be on the recording tape thereafter.

#### Seed and Feeder Sale

A new stock of bird seed of all types is now available at the Museum. Yankee bird feeders of all styles are also available through the Museum, either in-stock or by order. Pre-orders for feeders continue to receive a discount.

#### BIRD NOTES (AUGUST)

Bird watching activity was apparently minimal during the month. Immature White Ibis were seen at Bickham-Dickson Park along with immature Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, and Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs on 8-12 (VG and SH). A King Rail was seen by PD at his place on 8-22 and Blue-winged Teal on 8-15 which was also seen on Hideaway Lake by VG and CM. Mississippi Kites caught the attention of several observers, as many as 5 were seen in one group by VG on South Lakeshore and 6 in one group by HJ on 8-11; NP relates

sighting numerous Mississippi Kites over the Southern Hills area the last two weeks of the month. LR successfully released young-of- the-year Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, E. Screech Owl and Common Nighthawk that had been brought to and cared for at the Walter Jacobs Nature Park. The highlight of the month at WJNP however, was the finding of a Western Pygmy Rattlesnake, a first for the park. Juvenile Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen feeding at PDs by LR and LH.

Reporting: Paul Dickson, Vera Grubbs, Laurence Hardy, Shirley Huff, Horace Jeter, Cate Micheals, and Noel Perkins.



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY

FOR

NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 2

October, 1987

Operating a Bird Alert  
service: Monday, Wednesday,  
and Friday evenings after  
5:00 PM, 226-7174; and  
a Seed Co-op at the L.S.U.  
Museum of Life Sciences

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
October 13, 1987  
7:00 to 8:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the Shreveport Society for Nature Study-Bird Group will be held at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent Avenue, Shreveport. The program will be given by Laurence Hardy. Mac will present slides of his summer field trip to Kenya where he improved his life list by better than 100 species in addition to accomplishing his task of studying and collecting reptiles.

FIELD TRIPS:

October

The Louisiana Ornithological Society Fall meeting will be held at Cameron, LA. October 24 and 25.

Therefore, there will be no organized field trip sponsored by the Bird Group during the month of October.

#### OFFICERS

The Board of Directors and Officers of the Shreyeport Society for Nature Study-Bird Group (1987-1988) were elected at the September 8, meeting and are the following: Board of Directors: Paul Dickson, Anne Elston, Bill Hall, Laurence Hardy, Shirley Huss, Susan Keener, Marilyn Kirkus, Steve Klotz, Pat Lonneckner, Betty Mason, Brad McPherson, Jeff Perkins, Noel Perkins, Larry Raymond, and Bobbe Wommack. The officers are: President, Noel Perkins; Vice-Presidents, Laurence Hardy and Brad McPherson; Secretary, Anne Elston; and Treasurer, Betty Mason.

#### Project Feeder Watch

The Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, is seeking volunteers to participate in a new bird survey-Project Feeder Watch. Beginning in November of this year, volunteers will be recording birds that visit their feeders on one or two days each week through March. To participate, volunteers will have to fill out a registration card and pay a \$7.00 registration fee. You must also be able to identify the birds that normally come to your feeders, and you must be able to watch your feeders for several hours on each count day. Sightings will be recorded on simple computer forms and sent to the Laboratory of Ornithology for analysis. For more information, or if you wish to participate, write Erica Dunn, Coordinator, Project Feeder Watch, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University,

Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY, 14850 (607: 255-4999).

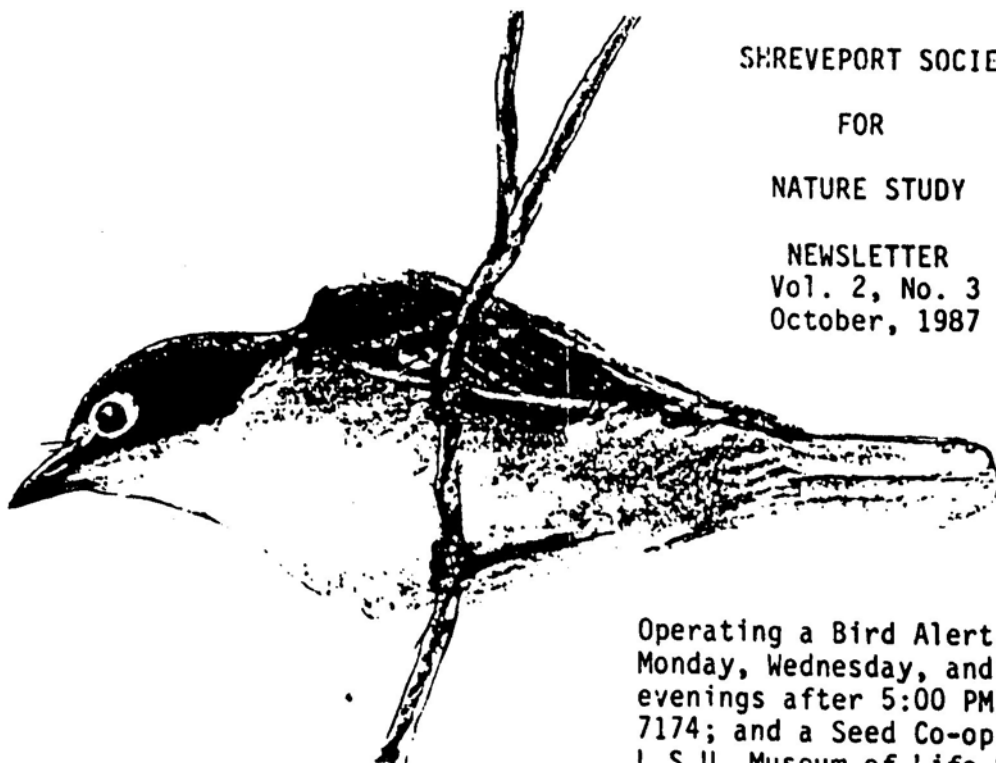
### September Field Trip

Seven members traveled to Millwood Lake Arkansas Saturday, September 26. Noteworthy sightings included: several Osprey catching fish; a Piping Plover, two Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Franklin's Gull, and a Western Grebe.

#### Bird Notes (September, 1987)

Approximately 400 White Pelicans were seen alighting on the Red River 9/22 (JM); 13 Anhingas were soaring over Cross Lake 9/18 (JM) and a pair over Wallace Lake 9/19 (HJ, SK) as well as several Green-backed Herons and juvenile White Ibis; four Canada Geese were seen on the Red River on 9/6 (SK,HJ), undoubtedly released birds; Blue-winged Teal at Cross Lake 9/18 (JM) and at PD's farm as well as Pintail (PD); an Osprey was seen at Caddo Lake 9/20 by (JRM); Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks by PD and JM as well as kettles of migrating Broad-winged Hawks (about 100) over the Broad-moor area the evening of 9/23 (SK); 15 Semipalmated, 2 Western and Least Sandpipers were feeding on a Red River sandbar 9/6 along with Spotted Sandpipers (HJ,SK); 2 Caspian Terns on Cross Lake 9/18 (JM); Tree Swallows along Red River 9/19 (JM) as well as V.A. Hospital 9/25 (SK); Cliff and Bank Swallows were also noted by JM; Warblers were represented by Black-throated Green (LR,WJ,PD), Wilson's, Nashville, Yellow (JM), Northern Waterthrush at Wallace Lake (PD,HJ), Common Yellowthroat (HJ, JM, LR,WJ) and Mourning and Canada Warblers 9/11 and 9/9, respectively (JM); Baltimore Orioles and Gray Catbirds were conspicuous in many areas through the early part of the month; Empidonax spp. were found in riparian habitat 9/6 to 9/19 (HJ SK, JM) as well as a House Wren 9/22 (JM).

Reporting: Paul Dickson, James R. McCain, Horace Jeter,  
Welborn Jack, Jr, Steve Klotz, John McBride,  
Larry Raymond.



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY

FOR

NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 2, No. 3  
October, 1987

Operating a Bird Alert Service:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-  
7174; and a Seed Co-op at the  
L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
November 10, 1987  
7:00 to 8:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the Shreveport Society for Nature Study-Bird Group will be held at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent Avenue, Shreveport. The program will be presented by James McCain. Slides taken by James of local Fall birds will be shown. James presented a similar program last year that generated a lot of interest.

FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday  
November 14, 1987  
8:00 AM

Cross Lake boat trip. Meet at the Fish Hatchery at 8:00 AM for shorebirds. We will leave from the boat dock on a barge promptly at

Therefore, there will be no organized field trip sponsored by the Bird Group during the month of October.

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SHREVEPORT SOCIETY

FOR

NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 4

November, 1987

Operating a Bird Alert Service:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-  
7174; and a Seed Co-Op at the  
L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences

MEETINGS:

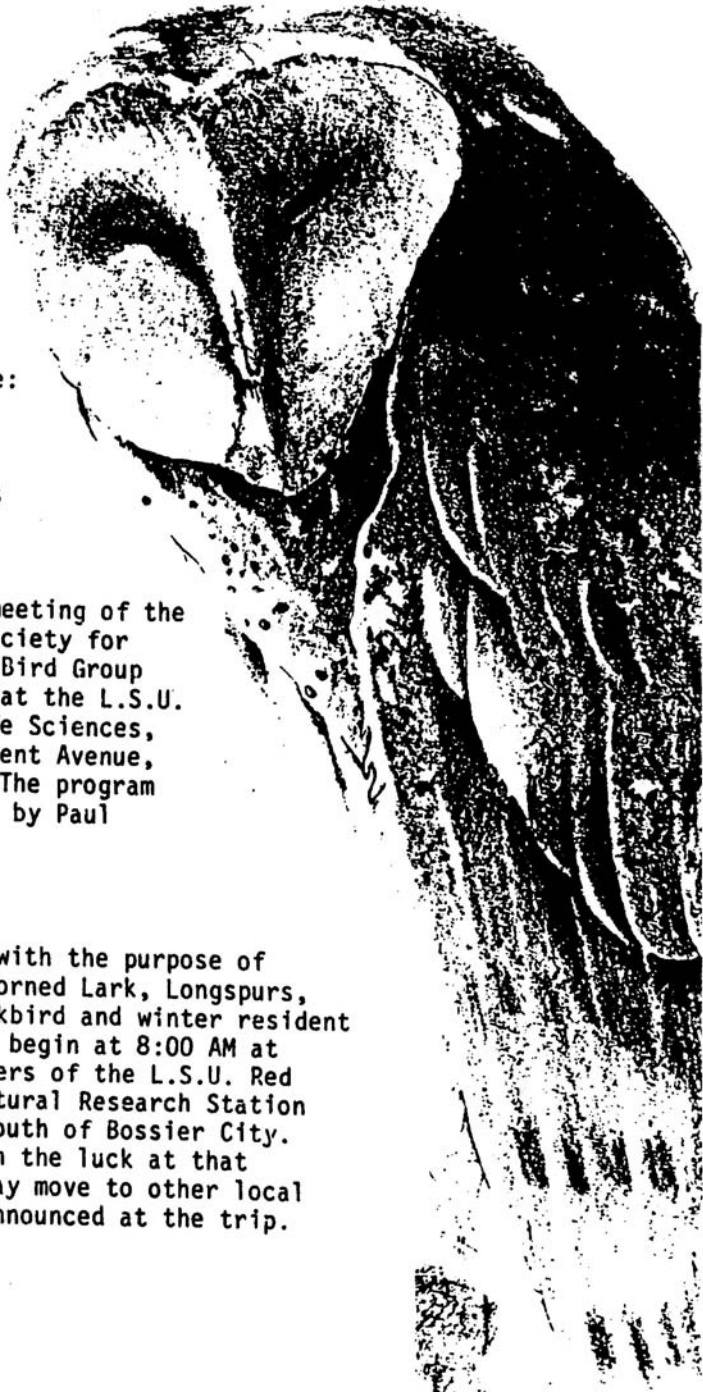
Tuesday  
December 8  
7:00 to 8:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the  
Shreveport Society for  
Nature Study-Bird Group  
will be held at the L.S.U.  
Museum of Life Sciences,  
8015 St. Vincent Avenue,  
Shreveport. The program  
will be given by Paul  
Dickson.

FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday  
December 12  
8:00 AM

A field trip with the purpose of  
looking for Horned Lark, Longspurs,  
Brewer's Blackbird and winter resident  
sparrows will begin at 8:00 AM at  
the Headquarters of the L.S.U. Red  
River Agricultural Research Station  
on Hiway 71 south of Bossier City.  
Depending upon the luck at that  
location we may move to other local  
spots to be announced at the trip.



Saturday  
December 26

Shreveport Christmas Bird Count. Results of the count are published in American Birds. A tally of species and interesting sightings will be made the evening of count at an informal dinner. Any new participants should contact Horace Jeter or Steve Klotz by December 10. This is the oldest consecutive count in Louisiana.

Saturday  
January 2

South Bossier Christmas Bird Count. Results of the count will be published in American Birds. Participants should contact Paul Dickson as soon as possible. This will be the first official count for this area.

#### PAST FIELD TRIPS:

November 14

Ten persons birded Cross Lake from a barge sighting 25 species. Notable sightings included Common Loon, close observation of feeding Forster's Tern and Bonaparte's Gull; Horned Grebes were sighted several times as well as Ruddy, Ring-necked, Canvasback, Gadwall, Mallard and Bufflehead Ducks.

November 21

Eight persons manned mist nets at Wallace Lake where a Tree Swallow was sighted. American Woodcock, a female Purple Finch, Pine Warblers and other woodland birds were banded.

#### BIRD NOTES (November, 1987)

Northern Shovellers were still present 11-22 along the Red River (PD); Accipiters were being seen frequently with a Cooper's 11-1 (SK and JMB) and a Sharp-shinned Hawk being sighted almost daily around VLGs feeder; Bald Eagles, 2 adult and 1 immature were reported at Cross Lake 11-7 (JMK) for the first report this Fall; 3 Lesser Yellowlegs were present at the RR on 11-22 (PD) and 3 Semi-palmated Plovers at the river 11-1 (SK and JMB) along with 40 to 50 Least and 1 Spotted Sandpiper; Woodcock were sighted 11-16; a Vermillion Flycatcher has been present at Loggy Bayou



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Shreveport Society for Nature Studies  
 Bird Study Group  
 Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (at home) \_\_\_\_\_, (at work) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership category -- Regular (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years as a birder? \_\_\_\_\_

Special interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer to work on group activities? \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred job(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the Louisiana Ornithological Society? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other nature organizations? \_\_\_\_\_

*Send to: Susan Keener, Membership Chairman  
 1951 Bayou, Shreveport, LA 71105*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR SSNS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

During the last year, the Shreveport Society for Nature Study has undergone some big changes. After years of operating our well-known films at a deficit, the Board of our group voted to stop hosting the film series. Reasoning other than financial supported this decision, most specifically the wonderful quality of nature shows available on television and competition locally from a travelogue series.

Not wanting to disband completely, however, the Board, when presented with so much enthusiasm from members interested in birding, formed the Bird Study Group of the SSNS. With our typical spirit, the group grew quickly to include people who had never heard of the SSNS as well as several long-standing members.

The Bird Study Group of the SSNS has developed quite a program. Since the fall of 1986, the group has met on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss business and enjoy a variety of programs. The topics of the programs have ranged from the racing of homing pigeons to the habitat and birds of Kenya. Additionally, there has been at least one field trip each month, usually led by a member. Some of the places visited include Millwood Lake in Arkansas, Bickham Dickson park, and Cross Lake.

Not only have we enjoyed studying birds at our meetings and in the wild, but we have proudly supported many local and regional natural causes. The Bird Study Group has contributed to such worthy activities as the Red River Wetlands Coalition, the Caroline Dorman Reserve, the Holleyman Bird Sanctuary on the coast of Louisiana, and the LSU-S Museum of Life Sciences.

The Bird Study Group holds an appeal for the casual backyard birdwatcher, and also provides a forum for those that want to share an active responsibility for our natural surroundings. Whatever your level of interest, we invite you to join the fun.

We welcome any new members or interested parties. We also encourage you to support our fundraising efforts by purchasing quality bird seeds and feeders at some of the best prices in town (see enclosed ads).

Sincerely,

  
Noel Mason Perkins

# BIRD SEED SALES

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Sunflower \$2.50  
for 10 lbs.

Millet mix \$2.00  
for 10 lbs.

Thistle \$4.50  
for 3 lbs.

LSU-S Museum  
8015 St Vincent

since 11-6 (PD): Pine Siskins were seen 11-11 by VLG and BW; LeContes's Sparrow 11-1 (SK and JMB), Fox Sparrow 11-21 (JMB) and Rufous-sided Towhee 11-18 (VLG); Purple Finches have been present at Walter Jacobs Park throughout the month (LR).

Reporting: Paul Dickson, Vera Lee Grubbs, Steve Klotz, John McBride, J. McKee, and Larry Raymond.

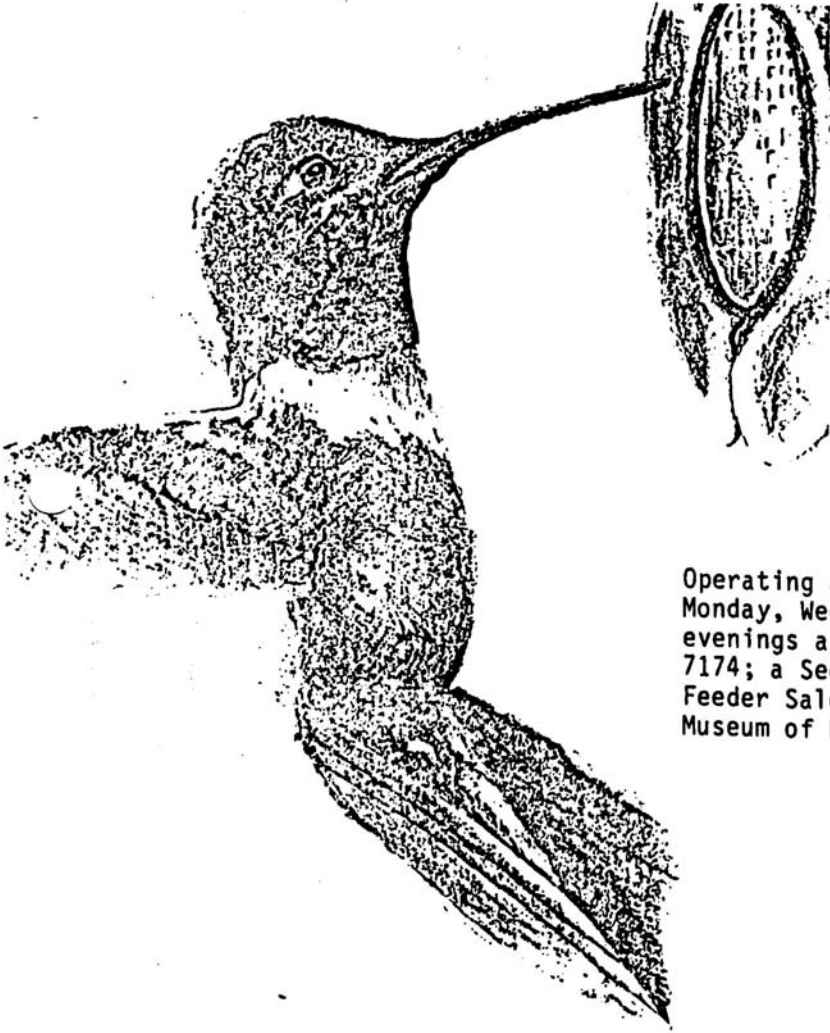
#### The Beginning Birder

Beginning birders often have trouble separating the Boat-tailed (BTG) and Great-tailed Grackles (GTG), despite the fact that many differences are described in the popular literature (National Geographic, 1983; Lowery, 1974). Eye color (bright yellow in GTG, brown in BTG) is tricky: some male BTGs show a yellowish cast, and immature GTGs have dark eyes during their first fall. Calls are recommended as a more simple method of identification. The BTG's most common song is a series of "jeeb" or "shirb" notes, and its call is a soft "chuck". Another call is described as a gurgling sound resembling the pattering of a coot's feet during take-off. The GTG's song is a harsher series of "clock" notes resembling a toy machine gun, but almost any sound may be expected from this unmusical songbird. A commonly described (and very distinctive) call is a clear ascending whistle which sounds like a very loud, protracted American Goldfinch. When singing, male BTGs appear to have larger heads with more rounded crowns; male GTGs have a sleek, flat-headed profile.

Plumages are also helpful. Male GTGs have extensive purplish iridescence on the head, breast, and back; male BTGs have a purplish head contrasting with a steel blue body. Female BTGs are much tawnier below than their olive-grey cousins.

Finally, habitat helps to separate the two species. The BTG is restricted to areas near fresh water, including nearby woodlands in which they often roost and nest. Along the coast, plowed lands, pastures, and feedlots are sometimes used. GTGs, however, may be found virtually anywhere, including dry fields, woodlands, and in cities and towns. (The range of the GTG extends across the arid Southwest and as far north as Kansas.) The town of Cameron offers excellent opportunities to study both species (mainly, GTGs around the houses and hotels, BTGs in the unimproved marshes).  
Until next time, Good Birding! John McBride





SHREVEPORT SOCIETY  
FOR  
NATURE STUDY  
NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 2, No. 5  
January, 1988

Operating a Bird Alert Service:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-  
7174; a Seed Co-op and Bird  
Feeder Sale at the L.S.U.  
Museum of Life Sciences

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
January 12  
7:00 to 8:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the  
Shreveport Society for Nature  
Study-Bird Group will be held  
at the L.S.U. Museum of Life  
Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent  
Avenue, Shreveport. The program  
will be given by Harold Coates  
on the design and construction  
of various birdhouses.

FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday, Sunday  
January 30, 31

The Louisiana Ornithological Society will be conducting a field excursion to the Shreveport-Bossier area to be hosted by the Shreveport Society for Nature Study-Bird Group. Those wishing to attend a part or all of the activities should call the Bird Alert Service or Laurence Hardy at the same number during business hours.

PAST FIELD TRIPS:

December 12

Thirteen persons tramped the sodden grounds of the L.S.U. Red River Agricultural Station on a sunny morning. Twenty-six species were seen. Noteworthy were >500 Water Pipits allowing as close a look as one is likely to get short of capturing them; Brewer's Blackbird; excellent views of Horned Lark and Lapland Longspur; and a Western Meadowlark (H. Jeter).

December 26

The Shreveport Christmas Bird Count was conducted during continuous rain. Even so, there were 27 participants, many of whom enjoyed the pot-luck dinner at Pat Lonnecker's that evening followed by the compilation. Species were most conspicuous by their absence on the count, e.g., LeConte's sparrow, Longspur species, Common Loon, etc. Icterids were well represented with Common Grackle by the thousands, Red-winged, Rust, and Brewer's Blackbird, as well as Brown-headed Cowbird. There was a total of 91 species sighted.

BIRD NOTES  
(December)

There was apparently little activity by Birdwatchers outside of the scheduled Field Trips. Canada Goose was seen by PD near his farm as well as 4 others on a sand bar in the Red River 12-20 by VLG and SH; there was an immature White Ibis at PDs farm on 12-12; 15 Bonaparte's Gulls in addition to the customary Ring-billed Gulls were feeding at Bickham Dickson Park on 12-19 (SK); AE reports the residence of a Roadrunner on her property at Lake Bisteneau throughout the month; an adult male Rufous Hummingbird (PL) has been present in town for all of December and November; the Vermilion Flycatcher is still present at Loggy Bayou (PD). Reporting: Paul Dickson, Anne Elston, Vera Lee Grubbs, Shirley Huss, Steve Klotz, and Pat Lonnecker.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Old balance reported at the December meeting	685.82
Total revenue for the month (dues, seed & feeder sales)	979.35
Total expenses for the month	- 871.45
BALANCE	<u>\$793.72</u>

(Betty Mason, Treas.)

THE BEGINNING BIRDER

Hawk species rank among the most difficult of birds to separate and Accipiters require close scrutiny from the most expert birders. An article by Mueller, Berger, and Allez in American Birds (AB) 33: 236-240, 1979 did little in my opinion to clarify field identification, but provoked two informative Letters to Editor by W.S. Clark and P.J. Dunn, AB 33: 909, 1980 and M.E. Pramstaller and W.S. Clark AB 34: 216-217, 1980. I have attempted to summarize the most useful field marks presented in these 3 eminent articles. Please remember that no single field mark can be used to separate our two common Accipiters.

Size is the one feature which is universally acceptable, but it is often difficult to ascertain in the field and female hawks are much larger than males. The female Sharp-shinned Hawk measures 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 13 inches in length or about the size of a Mourning Dove; the male measures a mere 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 11 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The crow-sized female Cooper's Hawk measures 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; the male, 15 to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. (Notice that there is no overlap between the two species.) This size difference affects the flight style, causing the Sharp-shinned Hawk to appear more bouyant in flight with more rapid wing beats.

The most frequently mentioned mark in field guides is tail shape. While Cooper's always have rounded tails, only male Sharp-shinned Hawks have

Square or notched tails. Female Sharp-shinned Hawks and soaring birds have shallowly rounded tails. Beware of molting birds with shortened or missing tail feathers.

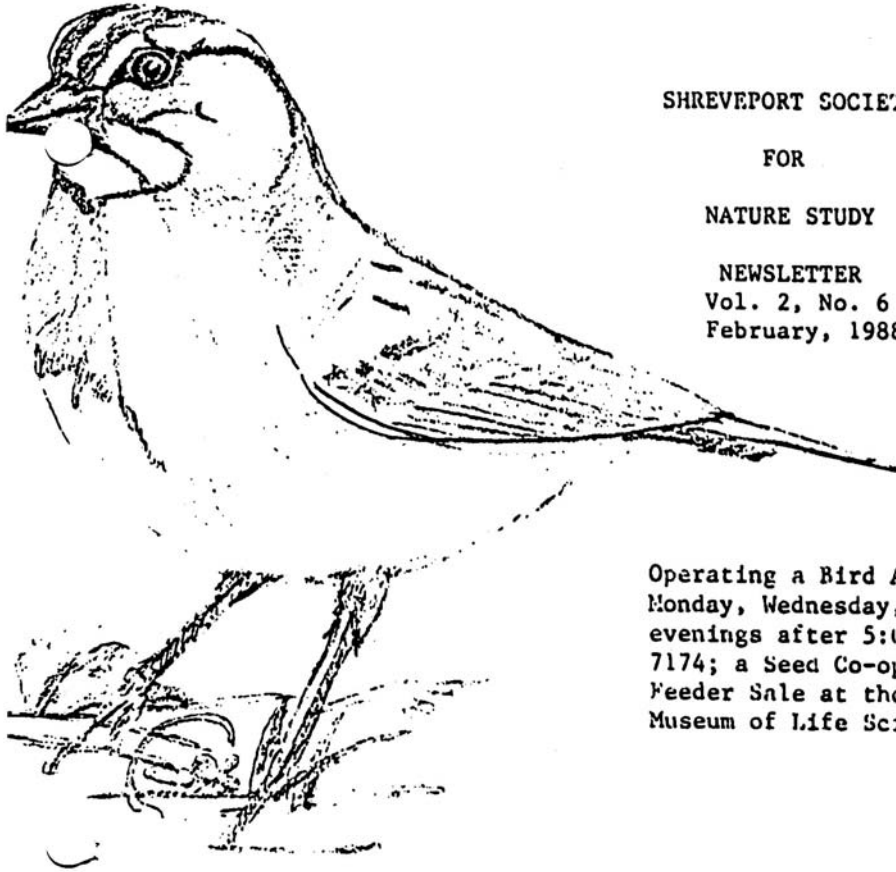
Several other differences can be utilized provided the bird is perched in plain view. Adult Cooper's have a dark cap with a sharp demarcation from the back; in Sharpies there is never a strong delineation. Cooper's also appear to have slightly larger heads. In Cooper's the eye is closer to the beak tip than to the nape; the Sharpies larger eye is placed near the nape. In Sharpies the breast barring is wide at the shaft; the barring is of uniform width in Cooper's and appears finer and more regular. The legs of a Cooper's appear very robust, while the Sharpies appear twig-like. The tail of the Cooper's shows a broad white terminal band. The Sharpies has little or no white in the tail.

Immature Sharpies generally have breasts broadly streaked with reddish-brown tear drops; the breast is often buffy and very little white is visible. Immature Cooper's have uniformly narrow dark brown streaks which often higher on the belly; much white shows below. Most feathers on the back of immature Cooper's have white edges; the immature Sharpie has a few rufous-tipped feathers especially on the rump.

These features greatly aid field identification of Accipiters but the observer should never be too proud to list Accipiter spp. in his notes.

Until next time, Good Birding!

John McBride



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY

FOR

NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 6

February, 1988

Operating a Bird Alert Service:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-  
7174; a Seed Co-op and Bird  
Feeder Sale at the L.S.U.  
Museum of Life Sciences

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
February 9  
7:00 to 8:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the  
Shreveport Society for Nature  
Study-Bird Group will be held  
at the L.S.U. Museum of Life  
Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent  
Avenue, Shreveport. The program  
will be given by Bill Wood on  
the Attwater Prairie Chicken, a  
subspecies of the Greater Prairie  
Chicken. A handsome print of a  
booming male was presented to the  
Museum at the last meeting by Bill.

FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday  
February 27  
7:00 AM

Cypress Nature Center in Bossier Parish.  
Meet at the Museum at 7:00 AM. Mixed  
woodland and shoreline habitat are  
predominant in the park. Check Bird  
Alert Service for further particulars  
the week of the trip.

PAST FIELD TRIPS:

January 30 and 31: The following species were seen during the recent Louisiana Ornithological Society excursion to the Shreveport-Bossier area. Locations for sightings are symbolized by the following: B, Blanchard area; XL, Cross Lake; SC, South Caddo Parish; YR, Yearwood Road area; and LB, Loggy Bayou Wildlife Refuge.

Pied-billed Grebe, B, SC; D-c Cormorant, B, XL, SC, YR; G. Blue Heron, B, XL, SC, YR, LB; Great Egret, B, LB; Snow Goose (white), YR; Mallard, B, XL, SC, YR; Gadwall, B; N. Pintail, YR; N. Shoveller, B; Wood Duck, B, XL, SC, YR, LB; Ring-necked Duck, B, SC; Canvasback, B, XL; Bufflehead, B, XL; Ruddy Duck, B, XL; Hooded Merganser, B; Turkey Vulture, all areas; Black Vulture, B, SC; S-shinned Hawk, B, XL, LB; R-tailed Hawk, B, SC, YR, LB; HARLAN'S, YR; R-shouldered Hawk, B, XL, YR; Bald Eagle, B, XL; N. Harrier, B, SC, YR, LB; MERLIN, YR; A. Kestrel, B, SC, YR, LB; A. Coot, B, XL; Killdeer, B, SC, YR, LB; C. Snipe, B, SC, YR; Herring Gull, XL, SC; Ring-billed Gull, B, XL, SC; Bonaparte's Gull, XL, LB; Rock Dove, all areas; Mourning Dove, all areas; G. Horned Owl, YR; Barred Owl, B, YR; Belted Kingfisher, B, XL, SC; C. Flicker, all areas; Pileated Woodpecker, SC, YR; R-bellied Woodpecker, B, SC, YR, LB; R-headed Woodpecker, B; Y-bellied Sapsucker, B, SC, YR, LB; Hairy Woodpecker, SC, LB; Downy Woodpecker, B, SC, YR, L; E. Phoebe, B, SC, YR, LB; Horned Lark, SC, YR, LB; Blue Jay, all areas; C. Crow, all areas; Fish Crow, SC, LB; C. Chickadee, B, SC, YR, LB; T. Titmouse, B, SC, YR, LB; W-breasted Nuthatch, B; Brown Creeper, B, SC; House Wren, SC, LB; Bewick's Wren, LB; C. Wren, B, SC, YR, LB; N. Mockingbird, B, SC, YR, LB; Brown Thrasher, B, SC, YR, LB; A. Robin, all areas; Hermit Thrush, B, SC, YR, LB; E. Bluebird, B, SC, YR, LB; Golden-crowned Kinglet, B, SC; Ruby-c. Kinglet, B, SC, YR, LB; Water Pipit, SC, YR, LB; Cedar Waxwing, all areas; Loggerhead Shrike, B, SC, YR, LB; E. Starling, B, SC, YR, LB; Orange-crowned Warbler, B; Pine Warbler, B, SC; Myrtle Warbler, B, SC, YR, LB; House Sparrow, all areas; E. Meadowlark, B, SC, YR, LB; R-w Blackbird, all areas; Rusty Blackbird, B, SC, YR; Brewer's Blackbird, YR; C. Grackle, all areas; B-headed Cowbird, B, SC, YR, LB; N. Cardinal, B, YR, LB; Purple Finch, B; Pine Siskin, B; A. Goldfinch, B, SC,

YR, LB; Rufous-s. Towhee, B, SC, LB; Savannah Sparrow, SC, YR, LB; Vesper Sparrow, SC, YR; Slate-c. Junco, B, SC, LB; Chipping Sparrow, YR; Field Sparrow, B, SC, LB; White-c. Sparrow, SC, YR, LB; White-throated Sparrow, B, SC, YR, LB; Fox Sparrow, B, SC, YR, LB; Swamp Sparrow, B, LB; Song Sparrow, B, SC, YR, LB; and Lapland Longspur, YR.

Bird Notes  
(January)

The only notable weather during the month was the recent ice storm which did not change the avifauna to any remarkable extent. Both white and blue phase Snow Geese are still being seen at Yearwood Road (VLG&SH, 1-23); JMcB reported numerous Wood Duck along with 2 Green-winged Teal, 2 Northern Shovellers and an American Coot on 1-14 along the Red River; Hooded Mergansers continue to be seen at the catfish ponds on Hiway 71 (1-17, 1-24; JMcB, SK); Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk remains on its winter territory at the Bonnie Bend Pltn (VLG&SH, 1-23) along with Northern Harriers; LR reports a mature Bald Eagle on Caddo Lake; JMcC reports a Great Horned Owl at his home; 3 Fish Crow were seen 1-27 at George Rd. by JMcB and a group of 26 by SK and HJ 1-10 at the Agricultural Station; Rusty Blackbirds were sighted at the catfish ponds on Hiway 71 on 1-17, 1-24 by SK and JMcB who also reported more than 200 on George Rd., 1-14; Brewer's Blackbirds along with Western Meadowlark were present on the Agricultural Station 1-10 (SK&HJ); a first-year male SUMMER TANAGER remains at a feeder in Broadmoor; there was a general movement to feeders during the ice storm by Fox Sparrows (W, AE, JMcB) as well as a lone sighting of an EVENING GROSBEAK on 1-10 by JMcC; Goldfinches remain in large numbers (HH) and 1 albino was spotted by JMcB; Lapland Longspurs were present at the Agricultural Station (HJ&SK) and Yearwood Rd. (N&JP).

Reporting: Anne Elston, Vera Lee Grubbs, Helen Hardy, Shirley Huss, Horace Jeter, Steve Klotz, Jim McCain, John McBride, Noel and Jeff Perkins, Larry Raymond, and Betty Wommack.





SHREVEPORT SOCIETY

FOR

NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 7

March 1988

Operating a Bird Alert Service:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-  
7174; also selling thistle,  
sunflower and mixed bird seeds  
as well as bird feeders at the  
L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences.

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
March 8  
7:00 to 8:00 PM

The program will be given by  
Beth Leuck, a member of the  
Biology Faculty at Centenary  
College. The topic will be  
"Mating Systems in Birds".

Tuesday  
April 12

The program will be given by  
Ralph Costa from the U.S.  
Forestry Service, Natchitoches,



Louisiana. The topic will be the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

FIELD TRIP:

Saturday  
March 20  
8:00 AM

A boating field trip is planned for Cross Lake for ducks, gulls and terns. The cost per person will be about \$3.50 for two hours to ride on a party barge. The leader is Susan Keener--those wishing to attend, please call her by Wednesday March 17 in order to reserve a spot. The field trip will begin at the city wharf next to the Fish Hatchery (near Ford Park) at 8:00 AM.

PAST FIELD TRIPS:

January 2

About 96 species were seen on the South Bossier Christmas Count. Noteworthy sightings were: Catbird, Snow Geese, Cooper's Hawk, and a flock of over 200 Horned Lark.

February 27

Six persons birded the area near the Cypress Nature Center and Black Cypress Bayou in Bossier Parish. Thirty-five species were seen in all including: about 75 Canadian Geese overhead; Greater Roadrunner; Brown Creeper; and COMMON MERGANSER.

BIRD NOTES  
(February)

About 100 White-fronted Geese were seen overhead 2-27(PD); only Ruddy Duck and Gadwalls were seen on Caddo Lake 2-21 as well as 9 Forster's Terns (HJ & LR); a mature Bald Eagle was seen at Caddo Lake by the same observers 2-21; a Cooper's Hawk was seen in Broadmoor on 2-24 (SK); AE had a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Elm Grove; G. Roadrunners were conspicuous, with sightings by JMCC 2-24 at Pinefield Rd. as well as LR on 2-20 on LA-1; territorial Fish Crows were seen 2-20 by JMCC; an ARCHILOCHUS species (a probable Black-chinned Hummingbird

female, HJ) was present in the Highlands on 2-20; Purple Martins were present in the Broadmoor area 2-17 (SK) and at JMcC's 2-20; a lone RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was seen at Walter Jacobs Park on 2-14 (HJ & SK); JMcC had Rusty Blackbird on 2-14; Fox Sparrows and Pine Siskins are still feeding in the yard of BD and CF is still visited by Purple Finches. Reporting: Paul Dickson, Betty Duvall, Anne Elston, Carole Foster, Horace Jeter, Steve Klotz, John McBride, James McCain, and Larry Raymond.

#### THE BEGINNING BIRDER

Most birders quickly learn to identify the Red-tailed Hawk, yet are continually amazed by the endless variations in plumage exhibited by this species. American Birds (40:197-202) presented a wonderful article by J.W. Lish and W.G. Voelker in their Summer 1986 issue. Using their paper and the various field guides, reliable separation of the "Krider's" Red-tailed Hawk and the rare Ferruginous Hawk becomes possible.

The "Krider's" Redtail typically has immaculate underparts (light speckling across the belly may be present). The head is white, usually with a dark line through the eye; a faint collar or dark cheeks may be visible (some birds have a slightly speckled crown and nape). The wing-linings show the typical Redtail patagial mark (along the leading edge) and "comma" (at the wrist). The flight feathers are faintly barred. The outer primaries are white with black tips; a trapezoidal "window" is formed by the translucent inner primaries. Visible from above or below, this patch extends to the rear margin of the wing. The back is often speckled with dark feathers.

The tail of the "Krider's" appears all-white at a distance; at close range, the feathers show a pale rufous wash toward the tips. This rufous coloration extends farther up the outer edge of each feather than along its shaft, creating an interdigitated, or "angered" effect (fide J.R. Stewart). Light (non-Krider's) Redtails should show solid white (albino) or pink tail feathers. The underside of the tail is whitish.

The adult Ferruginous Hawk is rusty above with a lighter, streaked head (may appear white). Their undertail appears silvery, with a dusky band near the tip. From below, the unbarred flight feathers (including the inner primaries) have dusky tips, forming a complete marginal band. Patagial markings are absent. The legs form a conspicuous dark "V" against the undertail. The wings are proportionately longer than those of the Redtail, and soaring is more frequent. An oval white patch can be seen at the base of the primaries on the upper wing (whether this area is translucent is unclear).

The immature lacks the rusty back and dark legs; its immaculate underparts and tail and longer wings are distinctive. The legs of the Ferruginous are feathered to the toes; all Redtails have bare lower tarsi. Until next time, Good Birding!

JOHN MCBRIDE



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 2, No. 8  
April 1988

Operating a Bird Alert Service: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-7174; also selling thistle, sunflower and mixed bird seeds as well as bird feeders at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences.

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
April 12  
7:00 PM

The program will be given by Ralph Costa, a biologist with the U.S. Forestry Service, Natchitoches, LA. The subject will be the biology of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Tuesday  
May 10

The program will be given by Pat Lonacker on "Birding the Galapagos".

## FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday  
April 16  
8:00 AM

A Bluebird Trail will be installed at Bickham-Dickson Park. Houses and posts will be assembled at the Museum at 8:00 AM to be transported to the park. Leader: Noel Perkins.

Saturday  
April 23  
6:30 AM

Bird banding at Wallace Lake Dam. Meet at the damsite at 6:30 AM. Leader: Laurence Hardy.

April 30  
May 1

Louisiana Ornithological Society  
Spring Meeting, Cameron, LA.

May 14

Spring migration "Big Day" field trip at Paul Dickson's farm.

## BIRD NOTES (April 1988)

Although the weather was good throughout most of the month, observers had few reports. An American Bittern was seen at Loggy Bayou on 3-6(HJ,SK, LR); 9 Solitary Sandpipers were reported near George Rd. by JMcb on 3-27; Hooded Mergansers were reported 3-6 at Loggy Bayou and 3-27 at George Rd as well as 16 Blue and 6 Green-winged Teal, the former in courtship displays (JMcb); HH observed a BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE at his farm 3-18 as well as a Sharp-shinned Hawk at the blackbird roost at the Baird-Burt Kouns intersection on 3-15. This roost, still present in latter March, contains untold numbers of Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and E. Starling best seen at dusk when thousands of individuals can be observed descending into several acres of woodlot. MT reports a Sharpy having taken a Cardinal at her feeder in University Terrace area on 3-17; returning Broadwinged Hawks were spotted on 3-27 (SK) at the intersection of LA 1 and US 71 and in the Southern Hills area on 3-28 (N&JP); Greater Roadrunner was seen along I-20 3-22 near MM 32 (JMcb); the earliest Caddo Parish record for Barn Swallow (according to the records of HJ) was 3-13 near Dixie (JMcb); Chimney Swifts were seen 3-28 by (N&JP, VL&GG); SKe and SH record groups of 35 to 50 Cedar Waxwings still present 3-21 and 3-22; groups of 5-10 Fish Crows were observed in the Broadmoor area 3-20 and 3-27(SK); singing Horned Lark and 35 Western Meadowlark also singing and calling were observed at the L.S.U. Red River Agric. Stat. 3-6(HJ,SK,LR); the same observers found 2 Bewick's Wrens at Loggy Bayou

MINUTES: MARCH 8, 1988

In the absence of the president, Mac Hardy called the meeting to order. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,120.48.

Announcements: Meeting of the Executive Board, March 22th at 7:00 p.m. Suet cakes, window thermometers and remaining seed trays are being sold at great reductions. Will Smolenski bought and built Bluebird houses, with the cost averaging \$1.25 each.

OLD BUSINESS: The meeting of the Priority Budget Committee will be held this month, with a report prepared for the Board Meeting.

Paul Dixon mentioned several other choices for bird houses: gourds, for Chickadees, Martins and Bluebirds; and plastic "Ducks Unlimited" Wood Duck boxes for ducks, Screech Owls or Hooded Mergansers.

NEW BUSINESS: Bill Woods spoke about the possibility of The Bird Group becoming an associate member of the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association, for a fee of \$20.00. More information will be obtained before a decision is made.

Paul talked about more funding for the Non-Game Wildlife Division of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries (article in current Louisiana Conservationist). Sale of stamps, or checkoff box on state income tax return were two means discussed to increase the fund which must be designated as dedicated monies. Of 31 members present, a survey showed that 23 would buy a stamp @ \$5.00, 7 @ \$10.

New member James Cope of Princeton and visitor Linda Harkey were welcomed.

Dr. Beth Leuck of Centenary College was introduced. Her program, "Bird Behavior: Mating Systems of Birds", was an outstanding presentation. Describing the roles of the two sexes, Dr. Leuck said that the males are salesmen, using singing and display. The females are assessors: of singing (how many songs can he sing?); of the color of the male; of property held by the male (space, bowers, leks); of handicaps (peacock feathers).

Types of mating systems used by birds:

1. monogamy by 90% of birds; difficult to determine because many males and females appear the same to observers)
2. polygamy; one male mates with more than one female, 5 to 6%; (leks were used as an illustration).
3. polyandry; one female mating with more than one male; less than 1% (Phalaropes, Spotted Sandpiper, Rhea).

The meeting was adjourned.



Shreveport Society for Nature Studies

Bird Study Group

Membership Application



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (at home) \_\_\_\_\_, (at work) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership category -- Regular (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years as a birder? \_\_\_\_\_

Special interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer to work on group activities? \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred job(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the Louisiana Ornithological Society? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other nature organizations? \_\_\_\_\_


Send to: *Susan Keener, Membership Chairman  
1951 Bayou, Shreveport, LA 71105  
Mormonfortshin rums - Dept. 40 Spdt.*

MINUTES; BOARD MEETING, MARCH 22, 1988



I. Budget Committee Report, presented by Larry Raymond. With a projected income of \$3,000 over the next two years, the committee suggests the following priorities:

1. Building and establishing birdhouses, using the \$1,000 grant from the Sierra Club, with an additional \$100 added by the Bird Study Group (BSG).
2. LSU-S Museum; \$300 or \$400 (hopefully to be matched from another source) for the library or to purchase a specimen case.
3. Preserving and bettering habitat for wildlife on Red River Parkway, Bickham Dickson Park. Use of native plants when possible, with help hopefully, of the Native Plant Society.
- ✓ 4. Jacobs Nature Park; funding for a flight cage for injured birds; hawk cage.
5. Assist other area parks, such as Cypress Lake Nature Center.
  - II. Discussion of bird houses for Bickham Dickson Park. Will Smolenski has built 25 to 30 Bluebird boxes. To be set on wooden posts and erected at the park on Saturday, April 16th at 8:00 a.m.
  - III. Bird banding at Wallace Lake Dam on April 23rd. Leave the Museum at 6:00, meet at the dam at 6:30.
  - IV. Big Day at Dickson's farm, April 23rd. BSG to bring additional food as Paul allows.
  - V. Board Meeting, May 24th.
  - VI. Steve Klotz to get bid for sign to be placed in B. Dickson Park with Bluebird boxes. Marilyn Kircus to procure written permission from SPAR to place birdhouses on trees or erected poles within park, or along the River Parkway.
  - VII. Announcement of Open Meeting in the City Council Room of City Hall, April 6th to receive public opinion on the SPAR 2000 plan.
  - VIII. Re-affirm fiscal year for dues from September 1st through the following 12 months.
  - IX. Review of SSNS and BSG mailing lists, with input about those to be placed on a permanent gratuity list.
  - X. Reaffirmation of the need for a designated leader, with phone number, for all outings.
  - XI. In an effort to shorten the business portion of each monthly meeting, the minutes will be inserted into the newsletter mailing; membership blanks will also be included as necessary. The presiding member will limit discussion at meetings so that the program can begin at 7:30.
  - ✓ XII. Rejection by the board of purchasing plastic duck boxes from "Ducks Unlimited". Ten members of the Board present.





**BIRD FEEDERS**  
for sunflowers,  
thistle, millet &  
hummingbirds

**BIRD SEEDS**  
& other items

**ON SALE**  
**LSU Museum**

8015 ST. VINCENT'S AVE.



on the same date; Black and White Warblers were seen 3-23 in Stonewall (B&RW) and 3-25 at Walter Jacobs Park (LR) as well as Northern Parula (LR); B&BD had Fox Sparrows in their yard into the second week of March.

Reporting: Betty and Bob DuVall, Hubert Hervey, Vera Lee and Glenn Grubbs, Shirley Huss, Horace Jeter, Susan Keener, Steve Klötz, John Mc Bride, Noel and Jeff Perkins, Larry Raymond Margo Tuller, Bobbe and Robert Wommack.

Corrigendum: the last Newsletter (March 1988) contained an error attributed to J.R. Stewart. It should have read: "fingered effect (fide J.R. Stewart)".

### THE BEGINNING BIRDER

The Double-crested Cormorant (DcC) is an abundant winter visitor to bodies of water all over the Ark-La-Tex. Since it is the only cormorant found over most of the East, this species and its congeners often receive inadequate treatment in the field guides. This is most apparent when visiting the coast of s.w. Louisiana and Texas, where the DcC and the Neotropical Cormorant (NC; formerly, Olivaceous) occur side by side. A third species which could further complicate field IDs is the Great Cormorant (GC), appearing with increasing frequency on the Florida coast in winter. The following field marks, taken from field guides (Golden, Peterson, Audubon, and National Geographic) and personal experience, are rarely mentioned, and often prove more useful than the highly touted field marks.

The Double-crested Cormorant is all-black as an adult, except for its orange gular pouch. The border of the pouch drops straight down from the corner of the mouth, creating an obtuse angle. The tail comprises about one-fifth of the total length of the bird (from tip of bill to tip of tail). The immature is usually tan or whitish on the upper breast and throat and dark on the sides and belly; the back is brownish-black. Some individuals are white all the way to the undertail and lighter on the head and neck than on the back (a bird like this was observed on the SSNS boat ride on Cross Lake).

The Neotropical Cormorant is smaller and much slimmer than the DcC. In breeding plumage it sports white filoplumes on the sides of the neck and a thin white border to the dull yellowish-brown gular pouch. Its pouch forms an acute angle pointing to the nape. The tail comprises about one-fourth of the total length of the flying bird. The brownish immature plumage is similar to that of the DcC. The NC is confined to

freshwater areas (including the upper ends of coastal bays), while the DcC is often found on open ocean.

The Great Cormorant is bulkier and slightly larger than the DcC. It has a very small yellow (in all plumages) gular pouch bordered by a broad white chinstrap (tan in winter due to brownish tips of the new feathers). This is often inconspicuous (if the bird is moving or distant), as are the white patches on the flanks during the breeding season. The tail comprises less than one-sixth of the total length. The typical immature plumage is brownish above; white on the belly contrasts with the dusker neck. In New England, GCs are strictly coastal, but in Europe they are known to inhabit large freshwater lakes.

Bill shape is a difficult character to use. Differences are subtle, but with a lot of practice, the heavier, longer (and yellower) bill of the GC might be distinguishable from the shorter, more slender bill of the DcC. The bill of the NC is more slender than that of the DcC and appears slightly longer. Until next time, Good Birding!

[Note: the NC has been reported in spring for the past few years from Lake Tawakoni, near Dallas]

JOHN McBRIDE



SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 2, No. 9  
May 1988

Operating a Bird Alert Service: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-7174; also selling thistle, sunflower and mixed bird seeds as well as bird feeders at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences.

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
May 10  
7:00 PM

The monthly meeting of the Shreveport Society for Nature Study--Bird Group will be held at the L.S.U.

Museum of Life Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent Avenue, Shreveport. The program will be given by Pat Lonacker: "Birding the Galapagos Islands".

Tuesday  
June 14

The program will be given by Marilyn Kircus on the wildlife of the Ouachitas. These will be videotapes.

#### FIELD TRIPS:

May 14

Spring migration "Big Day" field trip at Paul Dickson's farm. Call the Bird Alert Service, 226-7174 for particulars.

#### BIRD NOTES (April 1988)

Numerous observers reported returning migrants throughout the month. (The earliest reported date only is recorded.) AE reports Cattle Egrets, 4-3, Little Blue Heron, 4-1 at Elm Grove; 4 Black-crowned Night Herons at WLD and a Snowy Egret 4-2 at BDP (SK,HJ); 32 White Ibis 4-23 at WLD (LR); Green-backed Heron 4-16 and American Bittern 4-21 at George Rd. (JMcb); Osprey was reported by PD at Loggy Bayou 3-31; a pair of nesting Bald Eagles at Toledo Bend (HH); Swainsons Hawk 4-27 (JMcb); 2 Mississippi Kite 4-17 (AE); Solitary Sandpiper 4-4 at George Rd, Pectoral Sandpiper 4-17 at Old Dixie Rd, (JMcb); Golder Plover and Upland Sandpiper 4-23 at LSUS campus (HJ); Spotted Sandpiper were seen 4-23 at Clyde Fant (SK); Whip-poor-wills were heard by PD first week of April and C. Night-hawk was seen 4-21 (JMcb); Red-Cockaded Woodpecker was seen at Kepler Lake (PD) on 4-9; Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported 4-16 by AE and Great Crested, 4-16, and E. Wood Pewee 4-2, (SK); Rough-winged Swallows were seen 4-7 (SK) with a fledgling 4-20; large groups of Tree Swallows were seen 4-1 (SK) at the VA Hospital; a late Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at WLD 4-2 (HJ,SK); a Veery was reported 4-23 by JMcb and Swainson's Thrush in the Broadmoor area 4-27 (SK); CF reports both Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warbler at her home; Black-throated Green and Hooded Warbler were seen at WLD 4-2 (HJ,SK); Yellow-breasted Chat were present at the home of VLG on 4-19 and the earliest report of Tennessee Warbler was 4-16 by JMcb who also had Orchard Oriole at George Rd. on 4-21; VLG had Northern Oriole in her yard on 4-18.

Reporting: Paul Dickson, Anne Elston, Carole Foster, Vera Lee Grubbs,  
Horace Jeter, Steve Klotz, John McBride, Larry Raymond.  
WLD=Wallace Lake Dam; BDP=Bickham Dickson Park.

### THE BEGINNING BIRDER

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo (YbCu) is a common breeder in the Ark-La-Tex from April to October. The Black-billed Cuckoo (BbCu), an uncommon and elusive transient, often passes through the area unnoticed in April and again in September and October. The field guides describe these birds well, but misidentifications occur because of a common variation of the YbCu's song. The descriptions below come from the Golden, Peterson, and National Geographic guides.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, like the Black-billed, is a slim, long-tailed bird with a fairly long bill (similar to that of the Brown Thrasher). It shows a rufous patch on the primaries, contrasting with the olive-brown upperparts. The belly, breast, and throat are immaculate white. The inner tail feather is the color of the back above and mostly black below. The outer ones are black (above and below) with large round white tips. (Remember: if the tail is folded, you see the innermost from above and the outermost from below.) The white bands formed by the tips are at least as wide as the dark areas between them. A yellow eye-ring stands out against the brown cheek. The lower mandible is yellow, as is the lower edge (basal section) of the black upper mandible. The immature plumage, held "well into the fall" (Nat'l Geog.), features a slate and white tail, but the pattern is the same.

The Black-billed Cuckoo sometimes shows a small light area at the base of the black lower mandible. The eyering is red in the adult, and the primaries lack the rufous coloration. The outer tail feathers are olive-brown above with small white half-moons at their tips. A black line highlights the spots, setting them off from the pale gray bands below. The immature BbCu has a buffy eyering; the undertail is paler (almost white, but same pattern). The wing shows a little rufous but never as much as the YbCu.

The call of the YbCu is a series of hollow "toks"; it begins with a short acceleration and then slows dramatically toward the end. Often the notes are doubled or tripled. An alternate call is a slow series of long high-pitched "coo's", never doubled or tripled. These occur at about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -second intervals or more. (I have been assured of BbCus breeding on the Texas Coast near High Island on the basis of this call!) This call is often tacked on to the end of the typical call, or more rarely, at the beginning. The call of the BbCu is a series of three or four short high pitched "coo's" in a fast series (about 1/8 second in-

tervals;  $\frac{1}{2}$  second to complete the entire series). The two confusing songs are well-illustrated in the sonagrams of the Golden guide. Until next time, good birding!

John McBride

### IMPORTANT CORRECTION

Spring Migration "Big Day" at Paul Dickson's farm is this coming Saturday, MAY 7, not on the 14th.

Car Poolers can meet at the Museum at 5 AM to depart at 5:15 AM. We are to meet Paul at 6 AM. Maps are available at the Museum.

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER

Vcl. 2, No. 10

June 1988

Operating a Bird Alert Service: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-7174; also selling thistle, sunflower and mixed bird seeds as well as bird feeders at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences.

MEETINGS:

Tuesday  
June 14  
7:00 PM

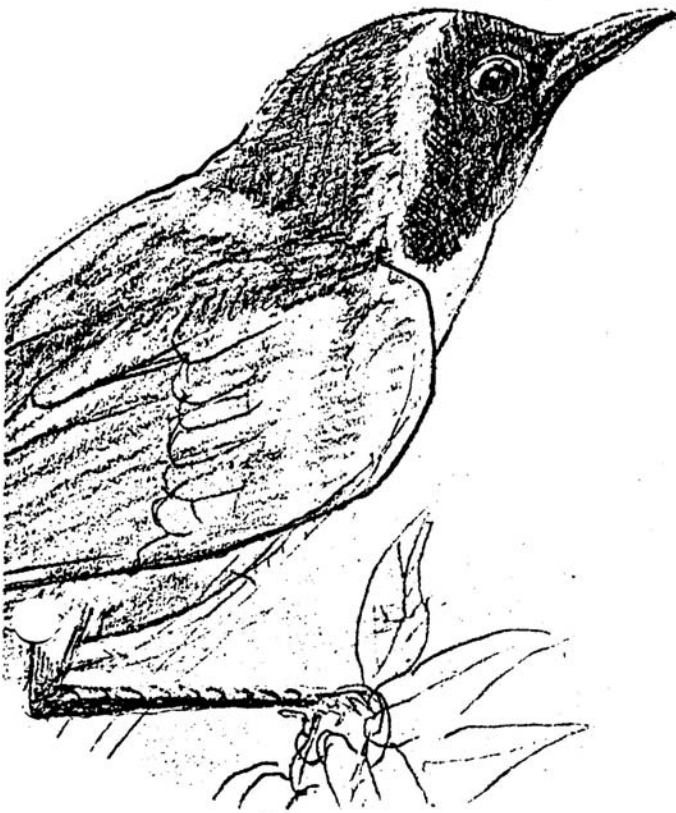
The monthly meeting of the Shreveport Society for Nature Study--Bird Group will be held at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent Avenue, Shreveport. The program will be given by Marilyn Kircus which will include videotapes of the "Wildlife of the Ouachitas".

FIELD TRIP:

Saturday, June 18: Meet at Bickham Dickson Park at 8:00 AM at the horse stables. The recently placed bird boxes will be checked as well as birding the park. Leader: Noel Perkins.

BOARD MEETING:

Tuesday, June 28: Meets at 7:00 PM at the Museum.



PAST FIELD TRIP:

May 7 at the Dickson's farm 90 species were seen. An adult female Hooded Merganser was seen as well as a late Hermit Thrush, and Common Snipe. Seven species of heron were seen, Sora, 4 vireos, and 12 warbler species including Prairie Warbler.

BIRD NOTES  
(May 1988)

Double-crested Cormorant, Blue-winged Teal, Sora, and Purple Gallinule were seen by PD on his farm, 5-22; Mississippi Kites are nesting at JMcC; Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks have been conspicuous throughout the month at the farm of HH; Black Vultures were incubating eggs at the Garland Scout Ranch on 5-15 (SK) and 27 were seen at Ellerbe Rd. on the same date (VLG&PL); JMcC also has fledgling Barred and Screech Owls in his yard; B-bCuckoo was seen by JMcB 5-9 at FB; Olive-sided Flycatcher, 5-24 by JMcB at FB along with a Western Kingbird; a Willow Flycatcher 5-22; HJ had a Least Flycatcher in his yard 5-26; Cliff Swallows were seen on Old Dixie Road 5-15 (JMcB); Grey-cheeked Thrush 5-15 thru 5-21 at HJ's; Swainson's Thrush 4-30 (SK); Blackburnian Warbler 5-3, Ovenbird 5-11, Canada Warbler 5-11 (all FB by JMcB); Magnolia Warbler 5-1 (SK); nesting Prothonotary (CF); Mourning Warbler 5-27 (HJ) as well as Yellow Warbler; Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were particularly common (AE,SK) in the early part of the month; SH and VLG report Bobolinks at Yearwood Rd. on 5-12; JMcB had late Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch at his feeders 5-4; BW had Kentucky and Nashville Warblers 5-3 and 5-4 respectively at Stonewall.

Reporting: Paul Dickson, Anne Elston, Carole Foster, Vera Lee Grubbs, Shirley Huss, Horace Jeter, Steve Klotz, Pat Lonacker, James McCain, John McBride, Larry Raymond, Hubert Hervey.  
FB: Fitzgerald's Batture



## Things to Submit to the Ark-La-Tex Card File

Preprinted 3x5 inch data cards are available at the Museum for documenting bird sightings. We will be particularly interested in:

1. Arrival and Departure Dates. Please fill out a card on the first day you see a migratory species, even if you know someone else has seen it before you have. Also note the last day you see each species. (A field journal is almost essential to prevent errors in memory.)

2. Courtship and Nesting Behavior. Try to describe the behavior or the stage of nesting, as well as the nest position and general habitat.

3. Sightings of Endangered and Threatened Species. These include Wood Stork, Least and American Bitterns, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Piping Plover, Least Tern, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and Bachman's Warbler.

4. Species of Special Concern. This arbitrary category covers those species whose status changing, whose arrival is relatively recent, whose occurrence is irregular, or which are poorly known: Mississippi Kite, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Osprey, Blackbilled Cuckoo, Greater Roadrunner, Whip-poor-will, Pileated, Red-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, Olive-sided Flycatcher, all Empidonax species except Acadian Flycatchers, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Bewick's Wren, Warbling Vireo and Evening Grosbeak.

5. Species considered rare in your area.

6. Exceptional concentrations of common species. If possible, give reason for concentration.

General and specific habitats (and exact location) should be noted as often as possible. Details should be written on any species which is rare, out of season, or easily confused with another species. If doubt exists about whether to submit a record, submit it! The file can never contain too much information. This is intended as a local source of detailed information on all species. The file is kept at the Museum of Life Sciences. Entries from N.W. Louisiana, S.W. Arkansas, N.E. Texas and S.E. Oklahoma are solicited.

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY

NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 2, No. 11  
July, 1988

Operating a Bird Alert Service: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings after 5:00 PM, 226-7174; also selling bird seed and bird feeders at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences.



MEETINGS:

Tuesday July 12 7:00 PM The monthly meeting of the Shreveport Society for Nature Study--Bird Group will be held at the L.S.U. Museum of Life Sciences, 8015 St. Vincent Ave., Shreveport. The program will be given by Paul Dickson on the Wild Turkey

August There will be no meeting for the month.

FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday July 30 A field trip to the Fish Hatchery at Natchitoches and Kisatchie National Forest. Call Steve Klotz by July 27 for details, 424-6067.

MINUTES; MAY 10, 1988

In the absence of our president, who is soon moving to California!, Betty Mason presided. After the minutes were read, Betty reported that the Treasury had a balance of \$2,297.47.

Announcements: Velda Neilson gave a glowing report of the fall-out that occurred during the Spring LOS meeting at Cameron. With 83 lifers from this trip, she was eager to get all birders to Cameron for the next LOS meeting! She reported that John McBride now represents north Louisiana on the LOS Board.

Paul Dickson reported that the total for the Big Day Outing at his Loggy Bayou farm was 91 species. About 30 people somehow managed to consume 120 lbs of crawfish, along with other minor goodies brought by participants.

There will be an Executive Board meeting called for Tuesday, May 24th to form interim plans for officers till the fall election.

• Pat Lonnecker told of an account that the first captive-bred Condor has hatched in California, raising the world total to 28.

Velda reminded us that Gail Strickland would hold a nature photography seminar at Hodges Gardens from 9-2 on Saturday the 14th.

A representative from the Gulf Coast Conservation Association asked for our support of Louisiana gamefish legislation for Redfish and Speckled Trout. Brochures were distributed.

Outing: Bird Boxes, already mounted on poles, will be "planted" at Bickham Dickson Park at 8:00, May 14th. A plea was given for post-hole diggers, and operators thereof.

Paul informed the group that Wood Storks, now on the endangered list, are present as vagrants in this area during the summer. Citing the ox-bow lakes formed by Red River as ideal habitat for the birds, Paul encouraged us to watch early and late for storks as they go to and from feeding grounds. These birds may be banded; please concentrate on the colors of bands, color sequence of bands on the bird's legs, and which leg has the bands. From June to September in the Taylortown area is the ideal time for these birds to be found. Report all sightings to Paul.

Program: Pat Lonnecker gave a fine slide show depicting her tour last October of the Galapagos Islands. Concentrating on the variety of birds present on the islands, she gave a most interesting presentation.

Meeting adjourned.

MINUTES: JUNE 14, 1988

Noel Perkins, our real President, called the meeting to order. The Minutes were read by Betty Mason, who then gave the Treasurer's report. Balance on hand is \$2,214.66.

Announcements: Kate Michaels is selling pins of the Louisiana Commemorative stamp featuring the Brown Pelican for \$3.00.

Will Smolenski has agreed to serve on our Board.

A meeting of the Board will be at 7:00 on June 28th at the Museum.

There will be no regular meeting in August.

Noel is moving this week, and Mac Hardy has kindly agreed to be our leader until the fall elections.

This Saturday the 18th, the group will return to Bickham Dickson Park to check on the many Blue Bird boxes installed last month. Fifteen people placed boxes at 300 foot intervals. That's a lot of post-hole digging and concrete mixing! Numbers will be put on the boxes this weekend.

Theresa Thrsh has put out a number of similar boxes and stated that about 2/3rds of them are occupied.

Dr. Hardy introduced Marilyn Kircus who gave a most informative and well illustrated program on the "Future of the Ouachitas". Governmental long-range plans lead to the development of pine tree farms after much clear cutting. Thirty five groups interested in the preservation of natural habitat have appealed the plans. For more information, or to express an opinion, write: Harold Volkman, Chairman, Sub-Committee on Forests, Agriculture Committee, The House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

BIRD NOTES

(June)

A Purple Gallinule was present at Loggy Bayou throughout the month of June (PD); also present at the same area was a Hooded Merganser (PD); Double-crested Cormorant, Lesser Yellowlegs were present at Toledo Bend Reservoir on June 25 (PD); White Ibis were found at numerous locations throughout the month: Loggy Bayou (PD), a pair at Twelve Mile Bayou June 18, and 11 juveniles at the catfish ponds on Hiway 71, June 22 (JMcb), and 3 juveniles and 24 adults at Wallace Lake on June 25 (LH, LR); Cooper's Hawk was observed May 29 at Haygood Road and George Road on June 18 (JMcb); an adult Bald Eagle was seen at Toledo Bend Reservoir June 25 (PD); a male Great-tailed Grackle was sighted May 21 and thereafter in South Caddo Parish (SK).

Reporting: Paul Dickson, Laurence Hardy, Steve Klotz, John McBride and Larry Raymond.