

Shreveport Society for Nature Study BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Number 1
August 17, 2012

Next Meeting –September 11th "Flying Dinosaurs"

by Dr. Cran Lucas

SEPTEMBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

Topic: The evolutionary history of birds can now be traced back to a diverse collection of feathered theropod (meat eating) dinosaurs. Technically speaking birds are theropod dinosaurs. So in a sense the dinosaurs did not really go extinct 65 million years ago, but are flying all around us. The presentation will discuss the evolution of the feather as well as the origin of birds.

Refreshments start at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Come at 6 to chat with other birders!

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, including directions to the LSUS Science Lecture Auditorium, call us at 318-797-5338.

Upcoming Field Trips

Shorebird Field Trip: Red River NWR Yates Tract (Bayou Pierre Unit)

When: Saturday, August 25, 2012

Trip Leader: Terry Davis

Contact for Information: Larry Raymond (347-5569)

Details: Meet at 4 p.m. in the parking lot of the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences to caravan to the Yates Tract, or meet the group at the farmhouse at 4:40 p.m. Bring water, food, and insect repellent. Restrooms will be available.

Directions: The Bayou Pierre Unit is located off of LA 1 in Red River Parish just north of Grand Bayou. From the intersection of Youree Drive/LA 1 and Bert Kouns Loop, go south on LA 1 for 27.7 miles. Turn left (east) on Grand Bayou Loop/Parish Road 401 and proceed 0.7 mile. You will see the Red River NWR sign and the white farmhouse on your left. Turn in at the gate to the house. Driving time from LSUS is about 35 minutes.



Least Sandpiper at the RRNWR Yates tract in July 2011. Photo by Jeff Trahan.

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Hubert Hervey Dairy Farm Hawk Watch

When: Saturday, September 22, 2012

Trip Leader: Hubert Hervey

Contact for Information: Larry Raymond (347-5569)

Details: The annual Hervey Farm Hawk watch will be held on September 22, 2012 from 10 AM to 3 PM. However, birders are welcome to come earlier. This is a great date for hawk migration in our area, and we certainly expect hawks to be flying over Hubert's farm. We will provide burgers for grilling, and all the fixings. We ask the BSG members to bring pot luck side dishes, as they always do. Please let us know to expect you, so we know how many to prepare for. You can hope to meet members you have not seen recently, and make new friends as well. Contact number is 925-9249 for Hubert. Directions: Exit I-49 south of Shreveport at the Southern Loop Exit, go right to Linwood, left on Linwood 3 miles to Ranchette on the right, 1 mile to Missile Base, and left 0.8 mile to Hervey Dairy Road. Rain out date is the next Sunday, September 23, 2012.

Bois d'Arc Wildlife Management Area

When: October 6 or 13, 2012

Trip Leader: Hubert Hervey

Contact for Information: Larry Raymond (347-5569)

Details: Birding Trip to Bois d'Arc Wildlife Management Area: in southern Hempstead County Arkansas. This is about an hour and a half north of Bossier City, off of Hwy 29, south of Hope, Arkansas. Plan to meet at 7 AM at the Chevron Station at the corner of I-220 and Benton Rd (LA 3). We have never had a trip to this area, but it has good and varied birding habitat, and I expect interesting birds to be located by our experts. Directions: in Arkansas turn left off the Hope Hwy 29 at Evening Shade, go to Spring Hill on Co Rd 355, which ends at the lake and the Wildlife Management Area. This trip will be planned as taking the better part of a day, so plan to bring a picnic lunch. Tables and restroom facilities are

available. An alternative to bringing a picnic lunch would be to return to Lewisville and eat at Burgess's Smoked Meats Cafe, famous for its turkey and ham sandwiches. This would take time away from birding however. The return trip could connect to Co Rd 134 at Garland, and travel 17 miles through Red River agricultural land and a wetland management area, one of my favorite drives. The return from there would be on US Hwy 71. Since I have only been there in May, I won't predict what birds to expect at this time of the year, but I am looking forward to the trip. If anyone needs to carpool, I suggest Cash Point as a safe place to leave extra vehicles. Those people could then return by way of Hwy 2 Bridge to Plain Dealing. This trip is suggested as an easier alternative to Red Slough Oklahoma.

Check out next month's newsletter for more upcoming events:

NABA	September 23, 2012
The Big Sit	October 14, 2012
LOS, Cameron	October 26-28, 2012
Caney Lake Sparrow Drag	November 3, 2012
Owl Prowl	November 17, 2012
Caddo Lake Count	December 1, 2012
Claiborne Christmas Count	December 20, 2012

WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS BEGINNER BIRD WALKS

The Wild Bird Center conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting. Meet at Wild Bird Center in the University Place Shopping Center (Target Shopping Center) at the corner of Youree Drive and East 70th Street. Destinations vary according to local sightings and may include local parks, country roads or a private backyard. Loaner binoculars are available. Be sure to bring a field guide.

For more information on any Wild Bird Center event, please call Dennis or Janice Forshee at the Wild Bird Center, 318-797-BIRD (2473).

Coates Bluff Nature Trail

By Hubert Hervey

Seven of us assembled to walk, bird, and enjoy the experience of traveling Coates Bluff Nature Trail, the pathway established by Caddo Indians, and early settlers of Shreveport, last Sunday, May 5th, 2012. The trail begins across the street from the rear parking lot of Montessori School, 2605 C. E. Galloway Blvd. I was not familiar with the location so planned to be early in case I had difficulty locating the school. C. E. Galloway Blvd. angles to the right (northeast) off Youree Dr. just north of E. Kings Highway. The lovely white school building quickly came into view in a swale on the right. While waiting for others to arrive, I observed a **Mississippi Kite** with nest building material fly into thick cover in a large cottonwood south of the rear parking lot. Then our trip leader Jim Ingold located a **Northern Flicker** guarding a large hole near the top of a dead water oak to the north of the school. Seeing these two nesting birds, not often encountered at their nest in northern Louisiana, was a good way to start a birding trip.

The rest of the group arrived; a father with two active young boys, and a father with his daughter. Upon watching the constant motion of the kids, I started to have misgivings about the likelihood of finding many birds, especially since the wind was already strong enough to make locating birds a challenge. The trail is maintained by Montessori School and Greater Shreveport supporters. It is quite historic, but has existed in its present, well maintained condition, for four years. Entering the trail we closely followed Bayou Pierre, at this point wide and serene. Bayou Pierre formed the steamboat route for reaching Shreveport by circumventing the barrier of logs, trees and silt known as the Great Raft that was finally cleared by Captain Henry Miller Shreve and his famous snag-boat. The youngsters were very inquisitive, and I began to enjoy experiencing tadpoles and turtles with them. I showed them diggings in the earth, explained that armadillos were digging in their search for worms, grubs and insects, and then located an armadillo's hole half hidden by leaves dragged in behind the hiding armadillo. It is a true pleasure to be able to share knowledge of nature gained over a lifetime with inquisitive young minds.



The Montessori School for Shreveport, 2605 C. E. Galloway Blvd, where young minds are molded.

I remembered with pleasure those who had taken time to instruct me, and point out the wonders of nature, which have helped guide me through an appreciation of the wild areas I have had the joy to explore.

The best birds located were **Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Carolina Chickadee, and American Robin**. A fun loving **Blue Jay** enjoyed mimicking my human whistles, even including the ending notes of the whistled theme of “The Andy Griffith Show” as performed by Jon Soul. The 26 bird species located was not a list of great value, but it is impossible to measure the value of helping guide young minds to an appreciation of conserving our natural wonders.

One project of reclamation that shows how thinking outside of the box can work to benefit all of us was the use of old discarded auto tires removed from the bayou in an annual clean-up day. An amphitheater-like arrangement of half-buried tires arranged in a semi-circle around a speakers’ stand was constructed for kids to sit upon as an instructor guides these precious young minds. The teaching opportunity about keeping our environment clean, and learning to use discarded items in a useful way is enormous. Please see the picture of this included with this article. The trail ends on top of Coates Bluff at the Good Hope Cemetery – good name. The Good Hope Cemetery at 2000 C. E. Galloway Blvd, on top of the Bluff, the site of an annual clean-up, and symbol of hope for many, a way to involve neighbors in environmental issues. A bicycle trail joins the trail

and they continue together below the bluff. The symbolism of starting life with young inquisitive minds (Montessori School), being guided by caring teachers along the way (tire amphitheater), and climbing the hill of life's experiences, to end in a cemetery named Good Hope occurred to me somewhere along the way.

Bayou Pierre in its entirety has been nominated by the BSG, Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society, and the Friends of RRNWR for inclusion in the natural and scenic streams program run by the LDW&F. Jon Soul has canoed the length of Bayou Pierre from Shreveport to near Natchitoches, a six day journey of exploration and discovery. If you have an opportunity to see his program about this trip you will be rewarded with a new outlook on the importance of preserving and reclaiming this valuable water resource. Early in June, Jon plans to continue his journey from Natchitoches down the Red River, retracing the waterway used by the early explorers to open up the wilds of Louisiana for settlers. I saw Bayou Kisatchie, a natural and scenic waterway, Saturday, May 19th, 2012, at the newly constructed bridge over the "Waterfalls of the Kisatchie," and I was once again reminded of the importance of keeping these areas natural by preserving a woodland barrier near the water, penalizing outlaw logging, and stopping illegal dumping on our scenic waterways. Encourage our Fish and Wildlife personnel in this worthwhile effort.



Reclaimed tires along Coates Bluff Nature Trail that demonstrates new use for trashed items and teaching area for respecting nature.



The historic Good Hope Cemetery.



This is very near the Headwaters of Bayou Pierre (Rocky Water) behind Montessori School, where the interest in naming Bayou Pierre as a Scenic and Natural Waterway (pending) started.

**Summer Least Tern Surveys
By Hubert Hervey**

June Least Tern Survey

We had a four day survey period to have a more relaxed schedule, and go into some areas we have not frequented previously. We made side trips up Loggy Bayou to the Coushatta Indian Village where preservation measures that were taken have proved successful. The bank stabilization pilings and nets are working well at keeping the Loggy Bayou from desecrating the burial and village site. Working North to South we next went up Bayou Pierre beyond the boat launch to a Railroad crossing. This is a wide beautiful Bayou entering Pool 3 above Grand Ecore, and it deserves our renewed efforts to see that it is placed on the Scenic & Natural Rivers Protection of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries

Department. This has already been applied for; we just need to let them know we are serious about this need. Next we went up New Cane River in Pool 2, managing to show the interns their first **Prothonotary Warblers**, an important bird for students to know, since they are considered an indication of a healthy environment. We also located the new Natchitoches Boat Ramp that is on the west side of the Red River, even with beautiful St. Maurice boat launch. The Natchitoches Boat Ramp is on a wide and sweeping oxbow lake with upscale housing developing along it.

My overall impression of **Least Terns** this year is that they are down in number, and reproduction success, almost nonexistent south of the I-220 bridge (23 birds), and we might as well concentrate our efforts north of Shreveport and into Arkansas unless the USACE will authorize management of the existing and former nesting sites.

Louisiana Least Tern Survey June 7,11, 12, and 13, 2012					
River Mile	Site Name	# Terns	# Nests	# Eggs	Total Birds
270	Wardview	16	4	12	16
267.5	N. Float Rev.	20	7	21	20
266.5	S. Float Rev.	6	0	0	6
264.5	Hosston Rev.	16	2	5	16
256.5	Cavett Rev.	2	0	0	2
244	Cat Island	26	6	17	26
242.6	Dukedale Rev.	6	0	0	6
238	Cattle Island	25	9	26	25
233	near I-220 Bridge	2	0	0	2
224	on Buoy	2	0	0	2
205	on Buoy	2	0	0	2
190.5	Westdale Rev.	6	0	0	6
147.4	Natchitoches Rev.	17	4	11	17
		146	32	92	146
2 State Totals, 5 days survey in June					
		Ark	LA	Total	
	Terns	264	146	410	
	Nests	56	32	88	
	Eggs	156	92	248	2.8 eggs average per nest.

July Least Tern Surveys

I would have like to make additional trips to Arkansas but with the gauge reading at Fulton minus 2.5, I just don't have a boat that will cover the areas where the river channel is reduced to 2 to 4 inches. It took my brother Don and I close to an hour to drag the boat over the confluence of the

Little River and the Red River, just upstream from Fulton. The only other launch is Garland or Doddridge, since the rapids near Texarkana are not safe to run when the river is that low. The breeding comparison made at the end of each chart tells the story; Louisiana 0.2 young per pair, Arkansas 0.43 young per pair. Neither number is very impressive.

LOUISIANA TERNS	2012 Date	Adult Least Terns	Nests	Eggs	Young	Notes	For comparison only June (south survey)
Cat Isl. MM 244	July 2	4	0	0	0	coyotes destroyed	26LT/6N
Dukedale R. MM 242.4	July 2	13	1	3	0	from Cat I	6LT/0N
Cash Pt. Lower M 239	July 2	5	0	0	0	from Cat I	0
Cattle Isl. MM 237.4	July 2	16	0	0	3	~ 10 days old	25LT/9N
Dukedale R. MM 242.4	July 16	11	0	0	0	fully attached	ditto
Cash Pt. Upper M 241.6	July 16	20	3	6	0	separated island	0
Cash Pt. Lower M 239	July 16	10	2	4	2	from Cat I	ditto
Marie Hamel M 226	July 16	3	0	0	0	On buoys	2
Pool 5 MM 202	July 16	1	0	0	0	On buoys	2
Pool 4 MM 180	July 17	3	0	0	0	On buoys	6LT MM 190
Natchitoches R. M 147.4	July 18	22	2	4	5	over 2 wks age	17/4N
MM 140 to M 82.5	July 20	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL IN LA	5 days	98	8	17	10	low repro (0.2/pair)	N/A
ARKANSAS TERNS	2012 Date	Adult Least Terns	Nests	Eggs	Young	Notes	
						Fulton level Minus 2.0	
Little River 1 to e mi. up	July 20	6	0	0	0	fishing or resting	
Kuykendal R. MM342	July 20	16	0	0	4	~ 2 weeks	
Bushy Rev. MM 339	July 20	6	0	0	0	h	
Boyd Rev. MM 326	July 20	20	0	0	2	2-3 wks	
Mays Rev. MM 322.5	July 20	4	0	0	0		
Kenney/Cypress M 321	July 20	18	0	0	9	fledged and 10 days	
Total in ARK	1 day	70	0	0	15	better repro (0.43/pair)	
Other: 2 BAEA, OSPR, 12 WWDO, FOTE, NECO							

**What to Look For - Fall Season
(August through November)
By John Dillon and Amanda Lewis**

At a recent board meeting of the BSG, we thought that many members could profit from seasonal articles that summarize the soon-to-be arriving bird species and to some extent, describe the expected changes in bird movements or numbers based on various seasonal events. Jeff Trahan's seasonal occurrence chart available on the BSG website and bird reports on eBird are the primary sources for this article series, and the authors encourage all readers to refer to both for more specific dates for species that may not be mentioned here. It is our hope that the information presented will aid new and intermediate birders to feel more confident in knowing what species and families to look for and when to look for them.

Spring gets much deserved birder hype. But that's not necessarily based on sheer numbers of birds that migrate through our area. It's mostly due to the excitement about seeing and hearing species that we haven't seen during the winter months as well as the flowers, trees, and a climate more suitable for being outdoors. But ask veteran birders, and most of them in our area will tell you that fall is a better all-around season for accidental or vagrant species and offers more chances to observe migrating species. For so many birds, the Gulf Coast is the last major preparatory stop before migration in the fall, whereas strong north winds in the spring allow the majority of birds to sail right on through. Also consider that many species linger during fall, whereas in spring they're hard wired to get to their breeding grounds; this means you've got a longer window of time to see these species. So, first understand that, even though fall doesn't carry the same exciting connotations of spring, it's often a better time to bird.

Shorebirds are the first large group that arrives in fall. You just have to remember that, for shorebirds, "fall" begins in **July and peaks in August and September**. Fall is also better than average time for rare shorebirds to show up. So far this year, rare shorebirds have been so plentiful, they've almost been trendy. For the entire ABA area, July 2012 produced a higher than usual number of rare shorebirds, including Gray-tailed

Tattler (Alaska), Black-tailed Godwit (Delaware, Texas), Great Knot, (Alaska), Spotted Redshank (Oregon), Curlew Sandpiper (California, New York), Little Stint (California), Red-necked Stint (Alaska, Kansas), Ruff (Delaware, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina), and Pin-tailed Snipe (Alaska). As far as our BSG area, you could reasonably find up to 2 dozen expected (i.e., not rare!) species of shorebirds if conditions are right. Check eBird and the BSG occurrence chart for species that are of interest to you.

Flycatchers are another fairly early group of migrants during fall. For most species, start looking for them in the proper habitat from about the **2nd week of August through the end of September**, though some species or individuals may show up before and stay later. Fall is probably the best time to study *Empidonax* flycatchers in our BSG area because they can be here for much longer than during spring months. You may also get lucky and spot large groups of migrating **Eastern Kingbirds** flying south by the hundreds during fall. And it's always challenging to see how late into **November** you can find a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**.

Another species that may be found in higher than usual numbers as they leave our area in early fall is **Orchard Oriole, peaking in August**, although they begin migrating in July. If you see a young or female-type Orchard Oriole in August or even late July, pay very close attention to the area, and you may discover a dozen or two dozen more. And for a change of pace, go to an area lake in August to look for migrating **Black Terns**.

Also in **late July and through August**, start looking for large numbers of **Purple Martins** getting ready to migrate. At area lakes with lots of snags, you may easily see several thousand and, sometimes, 100,000 to 200,000 Purple Martins at once. Good luck counting! Other species like **Cattle Egret, Broad-winged Hawk, and Chimney Swift** may also be seen in large numbers (up to hundreds) at this time as the migrate or prepare to migrate.

In mid to late **August**, you can expect to start having the Northern **warbler species** show up, **peaking in September but continuing well into October** and just a few species still moving through in early November. Many new and intermediate birders can be confused by the plumage of fall

warblers, but remember that only 6 warbler species have a basic plumage that is drastically different from their springtime alternate plumage. **Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll**, but Bay-breasted is a very uncommon fall migrant for us, and Blackpoll would be almost unheard of here in fall. So, don't be thrown with that wives' tale that warblers in the fall are confusing; just keep in mind that most first winter warbler species and some adults look like slightly less colorful versions of what you see in spring.

By **late September and early October**, expect to begin seeing or hearing most of our wintering species, **the ducks, Northern Harrier, Ring-billed Gull, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, the kinglets, the wrens, and Hermit Thrush.**

By **mid or late October and early November**, the second wave of our winter species shows up, including migrating geese, **Common Loon, Horned and Eared Grebe, American Woodcock, Bonaparte's Gull, Horned Lark, Cedar Waxwing**, all the sparrows, and, for Southern birders, we know once the **goldfinch** get here, it's basically winter, and fall is over.

Link to Jeff Trahan's seasonal occurrence chart: [click here](#)

eBird: <http://ebird.org>

**YardMap: The New Citizen-Science Project
from Cornell Lab of Ornithology
By Amanda Lewis**

YardMap is the new citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It can be found on the web at: www.yardmap.org. This is a free, social, interactive, citizen science mapping project about habitat creation and low-impact land use.

Yardmap will relate how backyard practices impact bird habitat. This is a Cornell Lab of Ornithology project that will help gain knowledge about how backyards and other spaces are used (schools, parks, etc.). The software uses a Google maps satellite image of your space and then you add information about the area. The finished product

gives you a map of your yard with data gathered into the site of future analysis. You can add details describing the habitat (lawn, building, wetlands, etc.). You can then add objects (rocks, birdbaths, feeders, and plants) and information about the plants such as species name and how it is used by birds (nectar, seeds, fruit, etc) can be added. There is a forum to post images of plants if you need help identifying them. The site has an informative video to get you started. I have included a screen capture I made of my yard map. You can make an easy map of your yard in less than an hour. You can browse other sites in an area, so here is your chance to sneak a peek into the yards of other birders. This site is in Beta testing so it is still in its early stages. Things to know before you start: 1) the yard maps are public to registered users (private settings will be available when the full site is finished) and 2) the software will not run on Internet Explorer (use Google Chrome or other YardMap suggested browsers).



YardMap of my yard created on www.yardmap.org. Identify habitat and bird-friendly resources in your space and contribute to the overall scientific knowledge on the availability of these to birds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE Regarding BSG Membership Dues

All memberships are for a calendar year beginning January 1, 2012. Memberships received during September through December of 2011 are good for the entire calendar year of 2012.

Benefits of Membership in the Bird Study Group

1. You are a part of one of the most active birding groups in Louisiana.
2. Memberships support conservation efforts that affect birds in Louisiana.
3. Memberships support student research and study of bird biology.
4. Memberships provide for a small honorarium for out-of-town speakers.
5. Memberships support the widely acclaimed web site of the BSG (www.birdstudygroup.org).
6. Memberships support the refreshments for the BSG meetings.
7. Members participate in the Christmas Bird Counts, the North American Migration Count, the North American Hawk Watch, the Backyard Bird Count, and the Big Sit.
8. Memberships support the bird library at the Museum of Life Sciences
9. Members can easily participate in the online Bird Alert email List Server (to sign up email: birdalert@birdstudygroup.org).
10. The BSG Newsletters are online and access is not restricted.

You get all of the above benefits for the modest annual membership cost of: \$15 for one membership, \$20 for a family membership, and \$35 for a sustaining membership.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO ENTER BIRD RECORDS

We would like to have a volunteer to enter current and backlogged records into the BSG Bird database beginning as soon as possible. We have many valuable records to be entered. The process is very easy and a volunteer will receive complete instruction at the museum. We would like a volunteer for a few hours a day or week on a regular schedule so that we can get as many records entered. At this time it contains 59 years of observations, from 1952 to the present, a total of 268,989 records.

Any Suggestions for the BSG?

Your Board of Directors is trying very hard to improve the Bird Study Group and make it more attractive to new birders. Give us your suggestions about how to grow the BSG.

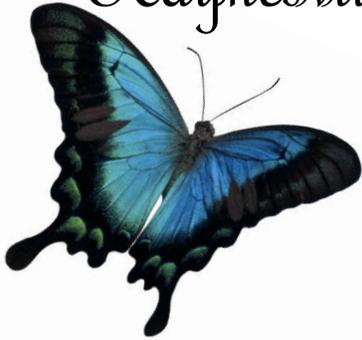


14th Annual

Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies

September 15, 2012

“Butterfly Capital of Louisiana”



Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds
Haynesville, LA

Admission:
3 for Adults
\$1 for children 6-18



<http://www.claiborneone.org/haynesville/butterfly.html>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

- 9:00-9:30 Parade—Grand Marshal, Loice Kendrick- Lacy,
Festival Director and Master Gardener certified in both
Louisiana and Arkansas
9:45 Announcement of Parade Winners
10:00-10:45 Program title to be announced- Felder Rushing
10:30-12:00 Creative Fun for Children
11:00-11:40 Silver Belles—Line Dancing on Stage
11:15-12:00 Butterflies from Scratch— Charles Allen
1:00-1:45 Program to be announced— Felder Rushing
2:15-2:45 Strumdingers Ukulele Band
3:00-3:45 The Monarch Butterfly— Joe Baucum
4:15-4:45 Live Demonstration With Caterpillars and their host
plants—Loice Kendrick-Lacy
4:45-5:00 God Planted Those Dandelions (a skit) —Loice
Kendrick-Lacy
5:00 Drawing for Butterfly Quilt
5:00-6:30 Supper Break
6:30-Until Country, Bluegrass, and Gospel Music

FOR THE CHILDREN

Bumper to Bumper Kiddie Rides —
James & Sherry Roach
Horseshoe Pitching

COMPETITIONS

Princess Butterfly & Master Caterpillar Costumes—Sylvia
Slack
Chalk Art—Suzy Allen
Karaoke Karaoke under the Pavilion

Other Festival Highlights:

Memorial Butterfly Conservatory
Sale of Butterfly Plants, Books, and T-Shirts
Craft & Food Vendors
Take-home Butterfly Towers (complete with caterpillars and
food)
Art, Photography, and Container Gardening Contests and
Exhibits
Horseshoe Pitching Tournament
Tours of L & NW Locomotive

Directions to Festival Site

Haynesville is located on U.S. Highway 79 in the Piney
Woods near the Arkansas border. It is approximately 1 1/2
hours from Shreveport and Ruston, 30 minutes from
Magnolia, El Dorado, Minden and Springhill.

For Butterfly Festival Information Contact:

Loice Kendrick-Lacy at (318) 624-1929 or
(870) 234-4910

Mailing Address: 203 Troy St.
Magnolia, AR 71753

E- MailAddress:loicelacy@att.net

Festival Sponsors:

Claiborne Chamber of Commerce
Haynesville Garden Club
LSU AG Center



BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President – Larry Raymond (3)..... 929-3117 (H), 929-2806 (W)
Vice-president – Mac Hardy (2).....687-6738 (H), 797-5338(W)
Secretary – Silviera Hunt (3).....220-0098 (H), 676-7156(W)
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Cran Lucas (2)..... 797-1524 (H), 797-5086(W)
Dennis Forshee (2).....797-2473(W)
Hubert Hervey (1).....925-9249(H)
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Nancy Menasco (1).....868-3255 (H/W)
Roy Henderson(2).....861-7449(H)
Terry Davis (1).....934-2133(H/W)

Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.

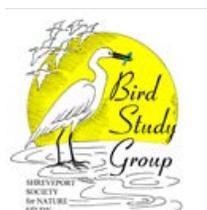
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Beginning Birders – Dennis Forshee.....797-2473 (W)
Bird Alert Service – Rosemary Seidler..... 424-2972 (H)
Bird Hot Spot – Larry Raymond.....929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
Bird Records – Mac Hardy.....687-6738 (H) 797-5338 (W)
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Membership Secretary – Mac Hardy.....687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)
Newsletter Editor – Amanda Lewis 861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)
Programs – Larry Raymond.....929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
Publicity – Rachel Demascal.....929-2806 (W)
Website – Jerry Bertrand.....868-3255 (H/W)

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Direct inquires to the Editor, Amanda Lewis, at (318) 797-5215.



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The Bird Study Group of Shreveport invites you to become a member.
Renewals, please update information below.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

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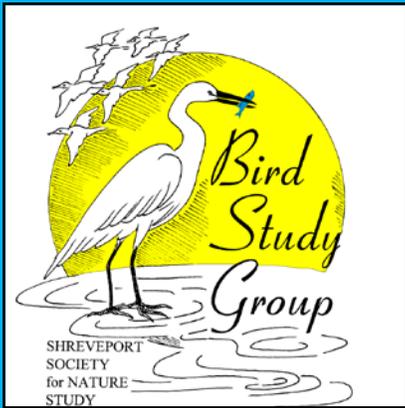


BIRD STUDY GROUP PHONE NUMBERS AND MORE

Bird Study Group meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:00 p.m. To be placed on the list to send & receive emails, email birdalert@birdstudygroup.org.

Contact the BSG by email: lhardy@lsus.edu or phone (318) 797-5338.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>



Shreveport Society for Nature Study BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Number 2
October 4, 2012

Next Meeting –October 9, 2012 "Birding Programs and Volunteer Opportunities at the Red River NWR"

by Terri Jacobson

OCTOBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

Topic: Terri Jacobson, the Refuge Range and Visitor Services Specialist at the Red River NWR, will discuss opportunities for birding, volunteering and conducting refuge citizen science projects. Terri will show examples about what others have done in the past and mention some of the birds that can be seen on the refuge.

Refreshments start at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Come at 6 to chat with other birders!

The program is free and open to the public. For more information or directions to the LSUS Science Lecture Auditorium, call us at 318-797-5338.

Upcoming Field Trips

Bois D'Arc WMA Birding Trip

Saturday, October 6, 2012

By Hubert Hervey - trip leader.

This Wildlife Management Area is in southwestern Hempstead County Arkansas, between Hope and Lewisville, at Spring Hill, Arkansas. I expect a good day of birding for all those attending. I have been to this well managed area in the spring and summer, and both trips helped me understand why it is on the list of Arkansas Birding Hot Spots as kept by eBird. I am excited about leading a fall trip, before the main hunting seasons start, so that ducks will not be so nervous. The lake is named Bois D'Arc Lake on Bois D'Arc Creek, a part of the wildlife management area. The habitat is both upland pine/oak forest, and riparian cypress/hardwood forest, some of which is used as a green tree reservoir flooded for puddle ducks with duck hunting delayed until the last week-end of duck hunting in December or January. In order to maximize our birding time we are scheduled to meet at I-220 @ LA 3 (Benton Road) at 7 AM. In order to arrange carpooling if necessary, we can park the surplus vehicles at Cash Point Landing. This is 2 or 3 miles north of I-220: turn left off LA 3 at the Blue and White Water Tower, drive to the Y, go right over the Red River Levee, park near the light pole in front of the store. Driving time to Bois d'Arc is about 1 1/2 hrs from cash Point. If needed I could schedule a stop at Plain Dealing, otherwise, first stop would be at the town of Spring Hill, Arkansas, on Arkansas 355.

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Spring Hill Cafe will be our rest stop, and a location to get supplies, food and drink. The Spring Hill Cafe can also be our lunch stop, or we can tail-gate it out in the woods. I am prepared for either plan, suit yourself.

On the return trip, we pass through Lewisville, Arkansas, home of Famous Burgess Smoked Meats, where we can stop and let you get your supply of smoked meats, ham and turkey restocked. Then I would like to lead you to one of my favorite drives, Arkansas 134, between Garland City and Fouke, Arkansas. This rural drive is through agricultural Red River land, lightly traveled so we can stop as birding needs appear without traffic worries. A wetland management area is located west of this road, and we can set our scopes up here to see what waterfowl are present. I plan to get back to Shreveport by mid-afternoon. Seating space with me is on a first contact, first seat choice basis. Bill Hall has the shot gun seat already spoken for. Hope to see you bright and early Saturday.

Corney Lake, Claiborne Parish

Saturday, November 3

Trip leader: John Dillon

kisforkryptonite@gmail.com

318-243-2284

Originally, the BSG had planned a trip to Caney Lakes Recreation Area in Minden for a “sparrow drag,” but high water conditions there have precluded our access (and the sparrows’) to what is usually fine habitat.

The substitute field trip will be to Corney Lake (again, not Caney Lake) in Claiborne Parish just north of Summerfield on HWY 9. Expect to see Bald Eagle and Osprey, a plethora of Pileated’s, and all the typical woodland songbirds. We should get Blue-headed Vireo, quite possibly all three nuthatches (Corney being one of the best places in North Louisiana for White-breasted), at least three wren species, both kinglets, Hermit Thrush (and a good shot at hearing their beautiful song echo through the woods at this time of year), Orange-crowned Warbler, butter butts, towhees, and maybe a half dozen other sparrow species. We’ll bird a bit from the road in the woods around the lake, scope at

the boat launch, bird the picnic area, and walk the dam. If you’ve never been to Corney, the west end is filled with Bald Cypress draped in Spanish Moss. It can hold LOTS of waterfowl, but they’re not often seen without a boat. It’s truly a beautiful location, and the fall leaves just be at or near their peak during the trip.

And if birds and foliage aren’t quite enough to get you to get you to drive to Claiborne Parish, the barbecued pork ribs at Moon’s Grocery should be. If you’ve never been to Moon’s, there’s a good chance you’ve never really had ribs. Pig out in the ambiance of a rural North Louisiana liquor store and defunct gas station with bottles of Ripple (yes, Ripple) on the shelves along with Old Crow and, for your thrifty and more subtle winos, Dr. Tichenor’s. A word of warning: I guarantee the ribs will be excellent; don’t blame me if you get something else and don’t like it.

We’ll meet in the parking lot of Summerfield High School on HWY 9 at 8:30am. We’ll bird till about 11:00 or 11:30, then drive south about ten minutes to Moon’s. To get to Summerfield, take I-20 past Minden to Exit 61, HWY 154. Take 154 north into Athens, turn right on HWY 518 for about a half-mile, and turn left onto HWY 9 north. Follow the signs for HWY 9 North until you get to Summerfield, about 26-28 miles after turning onto HWY 9. The school will be on your left.

The Big Sit

Sunday, October 14, 2012

Before dawn (6:30 a.m.) 'til after dark

Hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest magazine, the Big Sit is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. 2012 will mark the 18th Annual Big Sit. Sitters count birds observed or heard from within a 17-foot diameter circle. Sitters may come and go at will. Beginning birders are very welcome.

The Big Sit circle will be located behind the Red River national Wildlife Refuge Head Quarter’s Visitor Center (At the center the circle will be near the boardwalk and overlooking Lake Caroline).

Visit the Friends of Red River NWR website at www.friendsofredriver.org

8th Annual Red River NWR Celebration

Saturday, October 20, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Save the date! This year's Celebration will also mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. We invite you to join us as we celebrate Red River's anniversary as well as the other 556 national wildlife refuges that make up America's 150-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System!

The Celebration will feature live hawks and a Bald Eagle, baby alligators and other live herps, bird and nature walks, hayride refuge tours, fishing games, nature projects for children, face painting, the popular interactive "Be A Bear" obstacle course that follows a year in the life of a bear, "Bugs and Butterflies" exhibit, an interactive archaeology exhibit of native tools, native plants sales, and many other fun nature-oriented activities. New this year will be casting and fly tying with members of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers. As usual, we'll be serving a free catfish lunch.

The Art in Nature exhibit will feature local student entries in our third "Louisiana's Natural Treasures" art contest. Area students Pre-K through grade 12 are invited to submit their artwork featuring Louisiana wildlife and/or plants. Prizes will be awarded in multiple categories.

The Celebration schedule will be posted on the Friends of Red River NWR website at www.friendsofredriver.org as soon as it is finalized.

LOS Fall Meeting, Cameron Parish

October 26-28, 2012

Please preregister by October 15, 2012.

http://losbird.org/2012_fall_meeting.pdf

Check out next month's newsletter for more upcoming events:

Owl Prowl	November 17, 2012
Caddo Lake Count	December 1, 2012
Claiborne Christmas Count	December 20, 2012

WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS BEGINNER BIRD WALKS

The Wild Bird Center conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting. Meet at Wild Bird Center in the University Place Shopping Center (Target Shopping Center) at the corner of Youree Drive and East 70th Street. Destinations vary according to local sightings and may include local parks, country roads or a private backyard. Loaner binoculars are available. Be sure to bring a field guide.

For more information on any Wild Bird Center event, please call Dennis or Janice Forshee at the Wild Bird Center, 318-797-BIRD (2473).



Wood Stork, Photo by Jack Land, 6 miles South of Lake Claiborne, Lincoln Parish, LA 7/20/2012

**Comments from the August 25, 2012
Red River NWR “Pledge2Fledge” Event
By Terry Davis & Carolyn Phillips**

Our morning started at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters around 7:20 a.m. It was cool and cloudy to begin but quickly warmed to ~80 degrees. Led by Terry Davis, our group (Larry Raymond, Rosemary Seidler, Carolyn Phillips, Martha Lennard and Alan & Ruth Schlichtemier) met at the observation pier and deck at the Refuge Headquarters for a walk on the eastern leg of the Lake Bluff trail.

With the early wind and cloudy conditions, water bird and land bird numbers and diversity seemed low from beginning, including local species. While diversity was rather low, we did luck up on a couple of outstanding fall migrants, among other suspected species. A quick spot of an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** by Carolyn Phillips started the ball rolling. He was fly catching from a tall snag next to the pier and was observed by many over a 10-minute period. (Nancy Menasco reported there were **TWO Olive-Sided Flycatchers** on the same snag the following day!) A first-year hatch female **Blackburnian Warbler** was another excellent find by Larry Raymond. She was foraging along with other migrants (**Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Summer Tanager**) in a large pecan in a narrow riparian strip edging the oxbow on the Lake Bluff Trail just south of where the woods meet an open field.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** seen near the observation pier and deck was also a good find. **Alder Flycatchers** were still present but seem to be thinning out noticeably compared to the last survey. Counted 95 **American Robins**, a good number since summer dispersals; a very *noisy* group of **Eastern Kingbirds** and a loudly responding **Eastern Screech-Owl**. Our list also included **Wood Duck, Pied-bill Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, White Ibis, Mississippi**

Kite, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Common Grackle, and House Finch. All in all, we counted 50 species.

A few brave souls continued along the “Chocolate Trail” between the two unit lakes; Terry Davis, Larry Raymond, Rosemary Seidler and Martha Lennard. By this time, it was 85 degrees, cloudy with a light and variable wind and Carolyn had hollered “uncle”. Since it had become fairly warm by the time we began this portion of the survey, land bird and passerine activity had decreased notably. The westernmost lake held quite a few waders, though. We counted 39 species; **Wood Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, White Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Gallinule, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Northern Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, and Common Grackle.**

This field trip was simply a great walk in the woods!

August 25, 2012 Shorebird Field Trip to Red River NWR - Yates tract, Bayou Pierre Unit by Terry Davis & Carolyn Phillips

We met in the parking lot of LSU-S Museum of Life Sciences at 4 p.m. to caravan to the Bayou Pierre Unit. It's approximately 27 or so miles south on Hwy 1 from Shreveport. We got on site at 4:50 p.m. There were 12 participants: Terry Davis (leader), Jeff Trahan, Larry Raymond, Rosemary Seidler, Hubert Hervey, Mac Hardy, Carolyn Phillips, Pat Lonnecker, Shirley Huss, Martha Lennard, Nora McClure and Mark Priddy. The shorebird numbers were good but diversity was low. Our group was almost equally divided between seasoned birders and relatively newer birders. The birds were not overly skittish and we ended up getting good counts. A real plus for the newer birders was multiple scopes and great looks at the shorebirds. The birds for the most part ignored us and some were in groups close enough together for direct comparison in size, shape, feeding patterns and flight patterns. Our list included **Blue-winged Teal, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, White Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher** (one seen distantly). There were also 10 peep species (probably **Least Sandpipers**) seen at a distance. Many thanks to the seasoned birders for the almost one-on-one instruction!

Hawk Watch Report

By Hubert Hervey

The Annual Bird Study Group Hawk Watch at Hubert Hervey's Farm was well attended by birders, but not so well by the hawks. I had a few hawks all week, as blue skies prevailed, following a Monday cold front. Most hawks traveled south on the first north winds Tuesday. This is a report for the following Saturday, September 22, 2012, attended by 15 well fed hawk counters.



BSG Hawk Watch: Carolyn Phillips shows how its done!
Photo by Larry Raymond

Are Turkey and Black Vultures raptors? I hope so, otherwise this count is indeed low. We had an interesting aggressive interaction between a single Broad-winged Hawk and an American Kestrel, at a low enough altitude that I could imagine? seeing the feathers fly. This was after many had left, but before the start of "The Big Year", that several of us enjoyed seeing. Bird-watching and counting, especially on a competitive basis is handled realistically and with true entertainment value by this movie.

- Turkey Vultures- 25**
- Black Vultures - 28**
- Red Shouldered Hawk - 2**
- Red Tailed Hawk - 1**
- Broad-winged Hawk - 6**
- American Kestrel – 2**



BSG Hawk Watch: Shirley Huss, Hubert Hervey, Pat Lonnecker, and others enjoy the Hawk watch.
Photo by Larry Raymond

Gulf Storms Affect Rare Birds Reported in Our Area

By Hubert Hervey

The following reports are what I have been able to accumulate from historic and recent reports of Hurricane and Tropical Storm blown birds that have been reliably reported for our immediate reporting area. If your name is missing from this report and you have important additions please feel free to add to it in future issues, no slight is intended.

Louisiana:

Caddo Parish:

5 **Sooty Tern** - Devin Bosler, Sept. 3, 2008, Cross Lake

1 **Royal Tern** - Hubert Hervey, Sept. 25, 2005, Red River near Cash Point

1 **Magnificent Frigatebird** -- Sept. 25, 2005, BSG Reports, unknown reporters and date

Red River Parish:

2 **Black Skimmer** - Hubert Hervey, Devin Bosler, Sept. 3, 2008 -- Red River Lock & Dam(RR L&D) 4

4 **Royal Tern** - Hubert Hervey, Sept. 3, 2008, RR L & D 4

1 **Sooty Tern** - Hubert Hervey, Devin Bosler, Sept. 14, 1998 -- RR L & D 4

14 **Red-Necked Grebe** - Hubert Hervey, Sept. 26, 2005 RR L & D 4 (Paul Dickson Sept. 27, 2005)

1 **Magnificent Frigatebird** -- Hubert Hervey, Sept. 26, 2005, RR L & D 4

6 **Roseate Spoonbill** (possible storm blown) Devin Bosler, Sept. 3, 2008, RR L & D 4

5 **Laughing Gull** -- Hubert Hervey, Sept. 26, 2005,

RR L & D 4

Natchitoches Parish:

1 **Sooty Tern** -- Jay Huner, Sept. 26, 2005 -- Sibley Lake or Cane River, Map indefinite

Rapides Parish:

3 **Magnificent Frigatebird** -- Jay Huner, Sept. 13, 2008, Cotile Lake Rec. Area

X **Brown Pelican** -- Jay Huner, Oct 24, 2006, Cotile, maybe late for storm blown

1 **Sooty Tern** -- Jay Huner, Sept. 13, 2008, Cotile Lake Rec Area

4 **Royal Tern** -- Jay Huner, Sept. 14, 2008, Cotile Lake Rec Area

Claiborne Parish:

2 **Laughing Gull** -- John Dillon, Sept. 3, 2008, Lake Claiborne East

1 **Neotropical Cormorant** -- John Dillon, August 3, 2009, Lake Claiborne West (Dispersal maybe)

2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** -- John Dillon, Aug, 30, 2012, Lake Claiborne, many swallows too

TEXAS:

1 **Greater Shearwater** -- Joe Stuckey, Charles Mills, Mike Dillon (Photo), Sept. 2, 2012, Wright Patman

ARKANSAS:

200 + 4 Sp **Swallows** held up by winds at Lake Millwood, Hubert Hervey, Mac Hardy, Aug 30, 2012

200 + 4 + **Warbler** Sp. held up by winds at Bois D'Arc WMA, Hubert Hervey, Mac Hardy, Aug 30, 2012

Louisiana Bird Atlas Program, Personal Observations

By Jay V. Huner,
428 Hickory Hill Drive, Boyce, LA 71409

About the Program

The Louisiana Bird Atlas Program began in 2007 with a good bit of fanfare within the state's birding community. The target dates were Winter (mid-winter) and Summer (late spring-early summer). The January-February period emphasized wintering and native birds. The June-July period emphasized nesting neo-tropical migrants and native birds during the breeding period.

The state's many quadrangle units were the defined units where birders were encouraged to survey/atlas for totals of 20 hours in the Winter and 10 hours in the Summer. The amount of effort was based on a statistical evaluation that showed that the bulk of the birds found in any quadrangle would be found within the referenced amount of time with diminishing returns thereafter. There was no time of day for the Winter period. However, with the exception of water dominated quads, observers were to limit activity to dawn to 11:00 AM – Central Daylight Savings Time. The Summer period restriction involved the need to hear birds singing with singing normally decreasing markedly by mid-morning.

The state was divided into three general areas – North, South, and Coastal. These areas tended to correspond to distinct habitats previously associated with plant and animal assemblages widely recognized by biologists.

The Bird Atlas Program ended in July 2012 when funding could no longer be secured. Dr. J. Van Remsen of the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Sciences developed the Program. The

Program was coordinated by Dr. Richard Gibbons of the Louisiana Bird Resource Office (formerly Center). Currently, Mr. Matt Brady has been recruited to analyze the data generated by the Program.

About the Birder

I reside in Central Louisiana in a home on Cotile Lake in northwestern Rapides Parish. I have ready access to many varied habitats including hilly red dirt pine forest, bottomland hardwood forest, large reservoirs, the Red River Valley, and agricultural habitats including working wetlands – rice/crawfish/catfish, hay fields, row crops – soybeans, sorghum, cotton, and corn, and pecan orchards. Within the area, there is significant relief in the Kisatchie Hills in Natchitoches Parish. Major highways provide me with good access to most of the state.

I am retired and in fair health and can, within reason, travel where I care to travel. However, time restrictions, especially in the summer, have limited most of my atlas survey effort to a radius of 50 miles.

A very dedicated cadre of birders surveyed quads and generated thousands of hours of observations. I have prepared this report to highlight my personal involvement, not to try to take undue credit for my modest contributions to the project. If I tried to list names, I'd surely leave someone out and those who only made one survey of one quad contributed to a very significant data base. No less than 60 individuals made as many or more surveys than I made. Almost all surveys were made at the personal expense of those who made them, a tribute to the state's birding community.

Personal Observations

1. Despite every effort being made by Drs. Remsen and Gibbons, many birders, including me, put a lot of effort into favored quad units with significant

diversity in habitat and, therefore, bird species. This was the direct result of within and between region competitions to see who could generate the best bird list. That's just the nature of the beast. Everyone saw, quickly, that the law of diminishing returns which was used to delimit effort in each quad was applicable.

2. Atlasers saw dramatic changes in climate during the period from 2005-2012 with drought, rain, cold and heat. In fact, the drought of 2011 surely led to the arrival of a wave of western vagrants including an unexpected show of western towhees – **Green-tailed** and **Spotted Towhees** – in winter of 2012. It will be interesting to see how the analyses factor in such variations in climate as atlasers tended to avoid those quads with the target number of survey hours once they were achieved.
3. I managed to participate in surveys that generated target Winter and Summer survey hours of 20 and 10 hours for 17 quads with 15 located immediately around my home. The other two quads were distant – Church Point and Sorrento quads. I participate in regular bi-weekly social functions in the Church Point quad and made it a point to go early enough to generate quad survey hours. I am a member of an outdoorsman's club in the Sorrento area so atlasers was not an issue.
4. As best I can tell, my total list for the atlas project was 249. My best quads – winter and summer data - had the most habitat diversity – Rapides - 151, Colfax – 145, and Gardner – 142. The

Alexandria quad generated 115 species despite being primarily urban-suburban in nature. There were enough patches of “natural” habitat to locate a diverse avian fauna. My “worst” quads were hilly piney woods quads generating cumulative numbers of 80-95 species.

5. I recorded 249 different bird species in the quads I surveyed. I went to some quads on only one or two occasion in search of year birds, especially winter hummingbirds. I also birded the Wascom quad and was treated to **Red-throated Loon**, a state life bird, and **Little Gull**, a state and North American life bird.
6. I thoroughly enjoyed the atlas project. When I birded an area with a low diversity of species, my efforts became a game of sorts. I looked for micro-habitats and each new quad bird was a triumph.
7. I went to places where I would never intentionally bird and learned much about the geography and geology of this region. I especially enjoyed going to the area immediately south of Provencal in Natchitoches Parish during the summer of 2012. I went to visit the areas described by my friend and author Thomas Sylvest in his book “Collard Greens: Growing Up on a Sandhill Subsistence Farm during the Great Depression”. The experience helped me to better understand Tom's contributions to our understanding of a region that remains a place of poor, red dirt soil and pine trees. Every bird I found there was a challenge as the habitat was so homogenous.

Louisiana Summer and Winter Bird Atlas Summary for Jay Huner

Jay Huner, July 2012

BIRD LIST (249 species)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Northern Harrier	Common Ground-Dove
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Greater White-fronted Goose	Cooper's Hawk	Greater Roadrunner
Snow Goose	Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Screech-Owl
Ross's Goose	Broad-winged Hawk	Great Horned Owl
Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Barred Owl
Wood Duck	American Kestrel	Common Nighthawk
Gadwall	Merlin	Chuck-will's-widow
American Wigeon	Peregrine Falcon	Chimney Swift
Mallard	Clapper Rail	Broad-billed Hummingbird
Mottled Duck	King Rail	Buff-bellied Hummingbird
Blue-winged Teal	Sora	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Northern Shoveler	Purple Gallinule	Black-chinned Hummingbird
Northern Pintail	Common Gallinule	Calliope Hummingbird
Green-winged Teal	American Coot	Rufous Hummingbird
Canvasback	Black-bellied Plover	Allen's Hummingbird
Redhead	Semipalmated Plover	Belted Kingfisher
Ring-necked Duck	Piping Plover	Red-headed Woodpecker
Greater Scaup	Killdeer	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Lesser Scaup	Black-necked Stilt	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Long-tailed Duck	American Avocet	Downy Woodpecker
Bufflehead	Spotted Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker
Hooded Merganser	Solitary Sandpiper	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Ruddy Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Flicker
Northern Bobwhite	Willet	Pileated Woodpecker
Wild Turkey	Lesser Yellowlegs	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Red-throated Loon	Whimbrel	Acadian Flycatcher
Common Loon	Ruddy Turnstone	Willow Flycatcher
Pied-billed Grebe	Sanderling	Eastern Phoebe
Horned Grebe	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Wood Stork	Western Sandpiper	Brown-crested Flycatcher
Neotropic Cormorant	Least Sandpiper	Western Kingbird
Double-crested Cormorant	White-rumped Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird
Anhinga	Pectoral Sandpiper	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
American White Pelican	Dunlin	Loggerhead Shrike
Brown Pelican	Stilt Sandpiper	White-eyed Vireo
American Bittern	Long-billed Dowitcher	Bell's Vireo
Least Bittern	Wilson's Snipe	Yellow-throated Vireo
Great Blue Heron	American Woodcock	Blue-headed Vireo
Great Egret	Bonaparte's Gull	Warbling Vireo
Snowy Egret	Little Gull	Red-eyed Vireo
Little Blue Heron	Laughing Gull	Blue Jay
Tricolored Heron	Ring-billed Gull	American Crow
Reddish Egret	Herring Gull	Fish Crow
Cattle Egret	Least Tern	Horned Lark
Green Heron	Gull-billed Tern	Tree Swallow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Caspian Tern	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Black Tern	Cliff Swallow
White Ibis	Common Tern	Barn Swallow
Glossy Ibis	Forster's Tern	Carolina Chickadee
White-faced Ibis	Royal Tern	Tufted Titmouse
Roseate Spoonbill	Sandwich Tern	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Black Vulture	Black Skimmer	White-breasted Nuthatch
Turkey Vulture	Rock Pigeon	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Osprey	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Brown Creeper
Swallow-tailed Kite	White-winged Dove	Carolina Wren
Mississippi Kite	Mourning Dove	House Wren
Bald Eagle	Inca Dove	Winter Wren

Sedge Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Hermit Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 American Pipit
 Sprague's Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Smith's Longspur
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart

Prothonotary Warbler
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Swainson's Warbler
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Hooded Warbler
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Eastern Towhee
 Bachman's Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Henslow's Sparrow
 Le Conte's Sparrow
 Seaside Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Summer Tanager

Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Painted Bunting
 Dickcissel
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Rusty Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Boat-tailed Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Bronzed Cowbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Baltimore Oriole
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

List of 62 Quads Birded by Jay Huner:

Legend: S – Summer Atlas; W – Winter Atlas; Highlighted – Full Hours for both Summer and Winter Atlas Periods—number of species sighted

Afeman – S-W - 95

Alexandria - S-W - 116

Aloha – S - 66

Arcadia – W - 26

Ball – S-W - 89

Bellwood – S - 35

Big Bend – S - 29

Bossier City – S-W - 48

Boyce – S-W - 120

Broussard – W - 51

Butte Larose – W - 24

Cameron – S-W - 60

Campti – S - 51

Catahoula – W - 23

Chef Menteur – W - 38

Church Point – S-W - 116

Cloutierville – S - 64

Colfax – S-W - 145

Covington – W - 30

Dixie – W - 37

Dry Prong – S - 45

Flora – S - 44

Gardner – S-W - 142

Gorum – S - 57

Green Gables – S - 25

Harmon – W - 43

Jericho – S-W - 120

Kaplan North – W - 25

Lacamp – S-W - 82

Lafayette – W - 54

Latanier – S-W - 120

Lecompte – S - 30

Lena – S-W - 106

Libuse – S - 40

Mamou – S - 33

Melder – S-W - 90

Natchitoches North – S-W - 88

Natchitoches South – S - 45

New Iberia South – S - 13

North Highlands – W - 29

Oakdale – S - 36

Opelousas – S - 26

Patterson – S-W - 70

Peveto Beach – S - 40

Pitkin – S-W - 86

Pleasant Hill – W - 27

Pollock – S - 49

Rapides – S-W - 151

Reeves – S - 65

Rock Hill – S-W - 86

St. Landry – W - 35

Shreveport West – W - 33

Sieper – S-W - 95

Simpson North – S-W - 82

Simpson South – S-W - 85

Slagle – S - 52

Sorrento – S-W - 127

Steep Gully – S - 38

Sugartown – S - 63

Temple – S-W - 86

Thibodaux – W - 31

Womack – W - 25

"The Windhover"
By Gerard Manley Hopkins



A Poem about a kestrel.

To Christ our Lord

I CAUGHT this morning morning's minion, king-
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing, ⁵
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird,—the achieve of; the mastery of the thing!

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion ¹⁰
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!

No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down sillion
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE Regarding BSG Membership Dues

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Direct inquires to the Editor, Amanda Lewis, at (318) 797-5215.



Join/Renew the BSG!

The Bird Study Group of Shreveport invites you to become a member.
Renewals, please update information below.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (Home) _____ Work _____

Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

Leave me out of the BSG member directory

Membership Levels: Regular (\$15.⁰⁰) Sustaining (\$35.⁰⁰) Family, *One Newsletter/ One Address* (\$20.⁰⁰)

Names of Family Members:

Donations: Library Refuges Refreshments General

Make check payable & mail to: SSNS- Bird Study Group
Museum of Life Sciences, One University Place,
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399



BIRD STUDY GROUP PHONE NUMBERS AND MORE

Bird Study Group meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:00 p.m. To be placed on the list to send & receive emails, email birdalert@birdstudygroup.org.

Contact the BSG by email: lhardy@lsus.edu or phone (318) 797-5338.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>



Shreveport Society for Nature Study BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Number 3
November 8, 2012

Next Meeting –November 13, 2012 "Whip-poor-wills in the Forest"

by Jo-Ann Jennier
Ouachita Mountains Biological Station

NOVEMBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

Topic: Whip-poor-wills inhabit forested areas, but are most often observed in edge habitat. During a long term study of Whip-poor-will vocalizations, I recorded observations on behavior. I recorded time of arrival and departure from the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station, nesting behavior, and interaction with Chuck-wills-widows. These seldom seen birds are truly fascinating in their behavior during the low-light hours of dusk and dawn.

Refreshments start at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Come at 6 to chat with other birders!

The program is free and open to the public. For more information or directions to the LSUS Science Lecture Auditorium, call us at 318-797-5338.

Upcoming Field Trips

Owl Prowl



Saturday, November 17, 2012, 5:30 p.m.
Trip leader: Larry Raymond

We will meet at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences at 5:30 p.m. and carpool from there to the Yearwood Road area and possibly the Yates Tract of the Red River NWR.

Check out next month's newsletter for more upcoming events:

Caddo Lake Count	December 1, 2012
BSG Christmas Party	December 11, 2012
Shreveport Christmas Count	December 15, 2012
Claiborne Christmas Count	December 20, 2012
Natchitoches Christmas Count	December 22, 2012

BSG Christmas Party

December 11, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
LSUS, Science Building, Room 201

This year the BSG will be celebrating the Holiday season with our annual potluck dinner (we will provide the turkey and ham, you bring a side dish). Instead of an auction we will be having a "Pirate Santa" gift swap. Bring a wrapped bird related gift (\$20 limit) to participate. It should be loads of fun!

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Put Down Your Binoculars	3
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Pintail Tract Trail Now Open	6
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WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS BEGINNER BIRD WALKS

The Wild Bird Center conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting. Meet at Wild Bird Center in the University Place Shopping Center (Target Shopping Center) at the corner of Youree Drive and East 70th Street. Destinations vary according to local sightings and may include local parks, country roads or a private backyard. Loaner binoculars are available. Be sure to bring a field guide.

For more information on any Wild Bird Center event, please call Dennis or Janice Forshee at the Wild Bird Center, 318-797-BIRD (2473).

Report from the Bois d'Arc WMA Field Trip By Trip Leader Hubert Hervey

Twelve of us had a good trip to the Bois d'Arc WMA near Spring Hill, Arkansas on October 6th. The weather was changing, as a cold front blew in, with a 15 degree change in temp and cloudy, windy conditions; perfect for migrant bird moving. The trip went about as described in the October BSG Newsletter, now available online, but we did not have time to include the Miller County drive on AR 134. We'll try to include that next time. Ebird flagged the large number of **Cattle Egrets, Great Egrets, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Black Vultures, and Turkey Vultures**. I explained these numbers as being a result of weather and food availability. We were able to hear a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, that was attracted to iPod calls, The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was fairly vocal, but liked to remain hidden. We had one flock of **American Pintails**, and 4 species of **swallows** (mostly tree) that were busily feeding on the mosquito horde gathered at the end of one of the peninsulas jutting into the lake. I suppose next trip I will have to

include a weather alert so that all participants will be adequately attired, and not prefer to sit in the warm confines of their vehicles, I was comfortable, but I had on 4 layers of clothes. I think everyone was impressed with the area and habitat. We had one flock of **White Pelicans** drift slowly south down Red River, and a flock of 25 migrating **Ring-billed Gulls** soared back and forth over the lake, before heading south.



Bill Hall holding Bois d'Arc fruit (Osage orange or horse apple). Photo by Larry Raymond.



BSG Group birding the Bois d'Arc WMA near Spring Hill, Arkansas on October 6, 2012. Photo by Larry Raymond.

Put Down Your Binoculars.

By John Dillon



Birders are usually reputed to be among the nicest people in the world. But I have an alternate theory: birders are usually nice because, when other people run into us while birding, we're already happily engaged in doing something we love. So, of course we're nice.

Personally, I think most birders who read this would also agree that birders are notoriously fussy. Go to one LOS field trip, and, if you listen to the whispers, you can easily tally the following comments:

- “I can't hear anything over that woman's wispy nylon jacket.”
- “I don't care about grackles; I came here to get a life bird!”
- “Why is he stopping here again?”
- “Why did that idiot wear a white t-shirt? Has he ever been birding before?”
- “This guy doesn't know what he's talking about.”
- “I didn't come all this way to hear those women talk so loud on this field trip.”

But you won't hear me saying anything like that. Nope. That's because I'm so fussy I rarely go birding with more than about 2 people at a time.

So, with that, I must fuss now. Like all good birders, I have lots things to fuss about. Combine the promise of migration with the crashing disappointment of 20 mph winds, and you'll hear me say words that would make a sailor blush. But in terms of birders' habits, I never tire of fussing about how not to use binoculars.

Binoculars are supplementary to birding, not complementary. I had the good luck of birding one-on-one with Ted Floyd (editor of *Birding* magazine and author of the *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America*) in Colorado a few years ago, and I couldn't help picking his brain about this topic, as well as a few others. I mentioned that I get frustrated when birders won't put down their binoculars when they should just use their eyes, specifically when trying to find a bird at close or relatively close range. Ted showed similar frustrations and agreed it was a major hindrance in becoming a better birder. Then he told me he actually leads field trips on which binoculars are not

allowed just to show birders how much they shouldn't use them. It felt so good to justify all that fussing.

Now, I'm not saying leave your binoculars home. But I repeat my thesis: binoculars are supplementary, not complementary. The basic mistake many birders make is that they instinctively opt to look through binoculars at times when using their eyes would be better. So, when are your eyes better than your binoculars? Simple. Either when you're unsure enough of an ID that watching the bird will teach you how to ID it next time or when the bird is close enough to observe without binoculars. For the latter, chances are that if the birder pointing out the bird to you isn't using his binoculars, you shouldn't have to use yours. The former, though, requires a bit more explanation.

For example, how many times have you looked up a soaring black silhouette and said, “**Turkey Vulture**,” with confidence and without binoculars? Probably every intermediate birder I know does it all the time. That's because you've watched **Turkey Vultures** often enough that you only need binoculars to identify them due to excessive distance, heat shimmer, or for some other reason that makes you cautious when you'd otherwise be certain. Don't you think the same concept applies to many other species?

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is, I think, a great example of this. They have a distinctive overall coloration, an easily noticeable long, thin tail with bright white on the edges, and quick, jerky movements while foraging, often hovering for a couple seconds to catch glances of the bugs they're hunting. Yet birders are all the time IDing them through binoculars. Why? I assume it's because they're tiny birds, and the status quo thought is “tiny bird = use binoculars.” But I'd also like to assume that any birder who can ID a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** with binoculars can ID one without binoculars because of the distinctive features I just mentioned. I seldom use binoculars to ID this species. I just see a long, thin, twitchy tail with white edges on a tiny arboreal bird and say “gnatcatcher.” But in that instant, I apply the same techniques I use in IDing a **Turkey Vulture** without binoculars. I've watched enough gnatcatchers.

Now, obviously our eyes see with less definition the farther away an object is, and this includes distant birds. And it makes perfect sense that, although I can ID a **Mississippi Kite** at 300 feet, I probably can't even find a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at 300 feet, must less ID one at that distance. So, of course you should use your binoculars then. That's when they supplement the skills you already have that are independent of binoculars. Many times, I take a look through binoculars at a bird that's so distant I can only see just enough of a bird to ID it to species. On those occasions, it's not as if the binoculars allowed me to have a better overall look; they allowed me to be certain about a few specific characteristics that were enough for me to ID the bird. In those instances, I'm using the same skills of identification that I'd use if the bird were 10 feet away; I'm just using them through binoculars as a supplement for my already existing skills. Birders who never put down the binoculars, even at close range, seem to delay learning those skills, I think.

If you think about it, this problem comes down to whether or not you want to be a better birder. If you've birded for years, but you still look in a field guide to identify your wrens, you haven't been watching the birds closely enough. And the best way to do that, provided you are actually close enough to the bird, is to put down the binoculars. Watch how the bird moves, how it forages, how it holds its tail or its head, if it stands erect or if it skulks, if it bobs its tail or has any other peculiar movements. Now zoom your eyes and brain out and see how high above the ground it is. Is it on a snag? On the ground? By water? On a lawn? Does it sally? Does it use the same perch? Does it

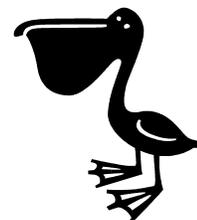
stay at the same height, or does it also fly to the top of the trees? This is what's involved in watching birds. (And notice these are all questions that don't ask about plumage characteristics.) With binoculars, you seldom are able to learn so much unless the bird is so far away that a large part of its immediate habitat is included in your field of view.

And I know what some of you are saying. You're saying, "Well, my vision isn't as good as yours," or, "I just can't see them like you see them." Ehh... Maybe. But I think most birders may be selling themselves short. Can't you ID a **Turkey Vulture** as well as I can? Then why not a **Yellow-throated Vireo**? Or a **Solitary Sandpiper**? It may not be your eyes that are the problem; it may be that you've trained yourself to depend on your binoculars and that you've never really tested your eyes. I hate to use the cliché, but get out of your comfort zone and build up your ID skills by watching the birds.

Now, if that logic makes sense to you, start with your feeder birds. If you can ID **House Finches** without binoculars, you're doing fairly well. Then, go birding where there's plenty of lower habitat, so you don't have to look 90 feet up a water oak. Find the **White-eyed Vireos** and all the other species you know should be there, and watch them. Use the binoculars to check yourself, but don't rely on them unless there's no possible way you can ID a bird without them. Do this a few times, and you'll realize how much you were missing by looking through those binoculars. You'll also realize you can improve your birding without them.

"The Pelican" by Dixon Lanier Merritt (1910)

A wonderful bird is the pelican,
His bill will hold more than his belican,
He can take in his beak
Enough food for a week
But I'm damned if I see how the helican.



One Busy Hummingbird Feeder in Stonewall

The following images were taken at the home of Donald and Linda Crnkovic in Stonewall, LA.



Three **Ruby-throated hummingbirds** share a feeder with a Green Anole lizard. Stonewall, LA. September 14, 2012. Photos by Donald Crnkovic.



Rufous Hummingbird adult male (right) and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** adult male (left). Stonewall, LA. September 10, 2012. Photo by Donald Crnkovic.



Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird immature male or adult female. Stonewall, LA. September 10, 2012. Photo by Donald Crnkovic.

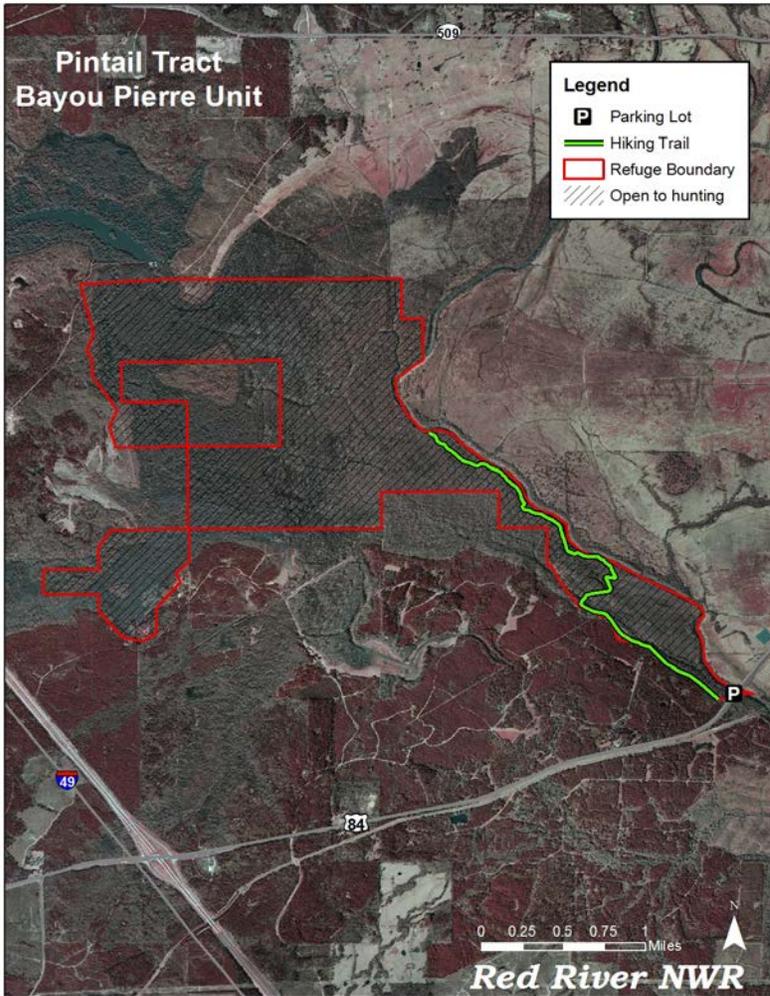
Red River NWR Pintail Tract Trail Now Open
By Hubert Hervey

You can now park your vehicle, and walk the trail at Pintail Tract, part of Bayou Pierre Unit of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. An all-weather parking lot is located on the north side of US Highway 84 at Bayou Pierre. This location is half way between LA Hwy 1 south of the Yates Tract and I-49. The first mile of the trail is bounded by Mundy Bayou to the east, and privately owned mature pine to the west. At this time more mature woodland habitat is available here than elsewhere on the 4 units of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, so it is important that we record the bird and animal life encountered here. After the first mile, the trail crosses Mundy Bayou into riparian woodlands of a couple of thousand acres, bounded by Bayou Pierre on the east and approaching Lake Smithport Dam on the north. The west and south boundaries are marked by “Blue Goose Refuge signs”. The crossing at Mundy Bayou will probably remain a low-water hard surface, with a foot bridge (not yet built) that will be under water during periods of high water in Red River which flood the lowlands of Bayou Pierre and Mundy Bayou.

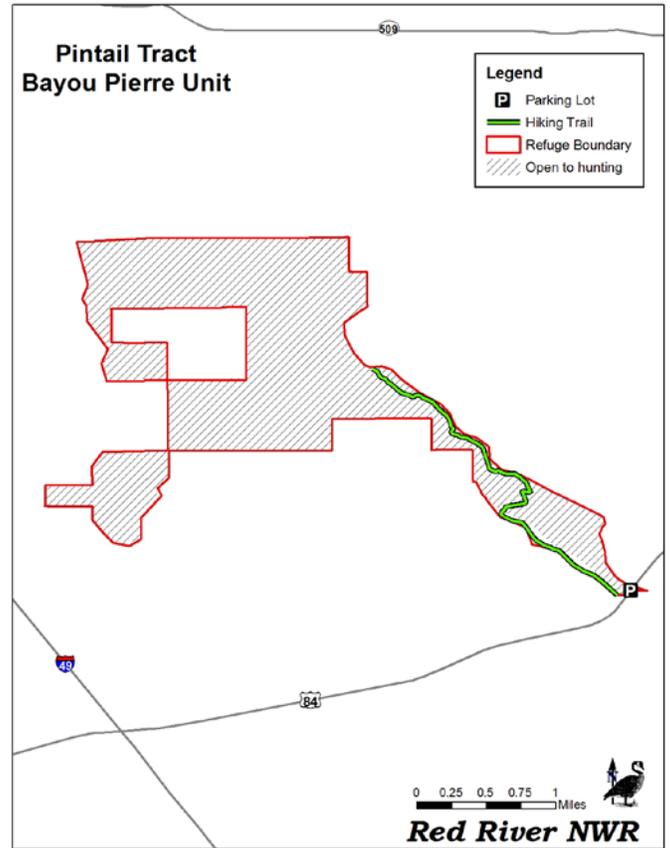
Last year a heron/egret rookery was located on the west side of the large area below Smithport Dam. This was the only rookery known on RRNWR lands last year. The location is still over a mile northeast from the end of the green trail. Over two miles of trail have been established, with some improvements in creek crossings accomplished last week and more to come. It is likely some extensions and side trails will need to be built also, to facilitate travel to the most interesting areas. This area is for the trail capable hiker, with advice to take a map and compass with you, as well as the usual liquid and insect repellent.

To Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society members I would suggest an easy 6 to 7 mile downstream paddle on Bayou Pierre, starting on LA 509, and ending at US 84. This should be a short half-day trip. I have looked at the access and egress points, and any kayak or canoe that is portable should be able to launch without difficulty. Contact me at 925-9249 if you make this trip, so I can update my information.

Consider printing out the two maps below if you intend to examine this woodland area further. Remember that hunting may be allowed on some U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges, and check the current regulation booklet available at Refuge Headquarters in Bossier City. A fragmented in-holding of private land is shown on the western side of the map.



Map A: Topographic map of Pintail tract of Red River National Wildlife Refuge in De Soto Parish. Parking is off US 84 roughly 3 miles east of I-49, and 3 miles west of LA Hwy 1. The lot is on US 84.



Map B is an outline map of the boundaries of the Pintail Tract of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. The green trail is open to some vehicles, but is still dirt and should be traveled carefully.

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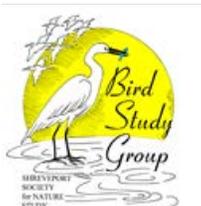
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Renewals, please update information below.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (Home) _____ Work _____

Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

Leave me out of the BSG member directory

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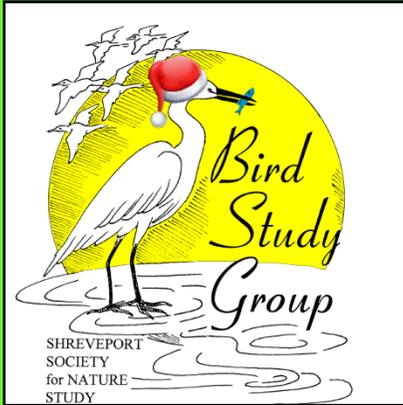


BIRD STUDY GROUP PHONE NUMBERS AND MORE

Bird Study Group meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:00 p.m. To be placed on the list to send & receive emails, email birdalert@birdstudygroup.org.

Contact the BSG by email: lhardy@lsus.edu or phone (318) 797-5338.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>



Shreveport Society for Nature Study BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Number 3
November 1, 2012

Next Meeting –December 11, 2012 BSG Christmas Party

DECEMBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

Join us for food and fun at the annual BSG Christmas party. Bring your favorite side dish or desert to share. The BSG will provide the meat dishes, rolls, and drinks. This year we will not be having an auction instead bring a bird related gift to exchange (up to \$20) in our pirate Santa game. Draw a number and pick a gift. Love your new gift--don't get too attached just yet, someone can trade your gift for theirs. A gift can be pirated up to 3 times. The party will be held in the LSUS Science Building, second floor, room 201. Come at 6 to visit. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:30, with the Pirate Santa gift exchange starting after dinner.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information or directions to the party, call us at 318-797-5338.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Shreveport CBC	December 15, 2012
Claiborne CBC	December 20, 2012
Natchitoches CBC	December 22, 2012
BCBCBC	January 5, 2012

For information about participating in one of these counts call the BSG at 797-5338.

BSG Christmas Party Tuesday, December 11th

Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Pirate Santa Gift Exchange

LSUS Science Building room 201

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Owl Prowl Report

By Trip Leader Larry Raymond



Nine members of the Bird Study Group met in the parking lot of the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences to carpool to the Red River NWR Yates Tract. The group included Larry Raymond (trip leader), Rosemary Seidler, Martha Lenard, Terry Davis and his nephew Sean Tynan, Neilson and Ann Jacobs, Mark Wilson, and Mark Priddy. Nancy Menasco asked us to stop at the Farmhouse on the Yates Tract so she and Jerry Bertrand could join the group. As we approached the Yates Tract, I called Nancy to ask her to meet us at the equipment barn hoping to get **Barn Owl**. Nancy indicated that she was hearing **Great Horned Owl** and suggested we park at the farmhouse and get the Great Horned before going to the barn. Soon after we arrived, the calls of the **Great Horned Owl** could be heard. As we played a Screech-Owl tape to try to bring the owl closer, it flew from a tree across the road toward the equipment barn.

The group then walked along Parish Road 401 toward the barn. The plan was to be outside the barn at dusk to watch the **Barn Owl** emerge for the night. While waiting, Hubert Hervey joined the group. Hubert indicated that he, too, had heard a **Great Horned Owl** on the way to the Yates Tract. At this point, Terry and Sean were selected to walk toward the barn in an effort to flush the **Barn Owl**, if one was present. Before they could enter the barn, a **Barn Owl** flushed from the back and flew across the road in full view of the group. It disappeared into the woods and was not seen or heard from again.

In an effort to bring the **Barn Owl** back into view, we played a Screech-owl tape. Almost immediately, Nancy indicated she was hearing an **Eastern Screech-Owl** respond. The group gathered around Nancy's location and soon everyone could hear one or two **Screech-Owls** responding to the tape. Terry used my large spotlight to find the owl in dense brush across the road from the equipment barn. The cooperative owl stayed put and everyone in the group was eventually able to get good looks at it. In fact, two **Screech-Owls** were in the dense cover – I saw one on the ground and another perched about 2 to 3-feet high on a branch. Smaller birds could also be heard calling from the dense thicket. Several **Brown**

Thrasher, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and others made their presence known. A small group of **Northern Shoveler**, identified by Hubert, flew over while we worked to get the **Screech-Owls**.

Terry then played **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and **Barred Owl** calls in an attempt to score a new species. The only other owl heard was **Great Horned Owl**.

The group then headed back to the vehicles to drive to some of the fields in the refuge to look for **Short-eared Owl**. Terry and Sean led the way, followed by Larry with Hubert riding shotgun and five people riding in the back of the truck. Jerry and Nancy stayed in back in a third vehicle. Despite working the fields hard, no **Short-eared Owl** were seen or heard. However, Terry did get a **Great Horned Owl** in his lights on the ground in front of his truck. The owl was eating something that we were unable to identify, but appeared to be mammalian as opposed to avian.

We could hear lots of ducks in the refuge, including **Gadwall, widgeon**, and probably others. Terry indicated he heard **Wilson's Snipe**, and both Hubert and Terry heard an **American Woodcock**. A group of coyotes serenaded us as we headed back to the farmhouse.

The night was absolutely beautiful and the sky was dotted with uncountable numbers of stars. In fact, I heard Rosemary proclaim that she saw a shooting star. But, I can't remember if that was before or after she observed how good I was at finding the potholes in the ground with my truck. It had turned a little chilly, and as the group unloaded from the back of my truck I asked if everyone was doing okay. Ann Jacobs assured me that she had stopped feeling anything in her extremities about 30 minutes earlier, so, no worries.

We then returned to our respective vehicles and headed along Parish Road 401 in an attempt to add a **Barred Owl**. We made several stops along the road, but the only owls heard were **Eastern Screech-Owl** or **Great Horned Owl**. Most of the group decided to call it quits and head home around 8 p.m. However, Hubert offered to take whoever wanted to follow him to the Pintail Tract to try for **Barred Owl**. Terry and Sean, Mark Priddy, Nancy Menasco, and Jerry Bertrand elected to go with Hubert. At Pintail, the group added a **Barred Owl**,

another **Eastern Screech-Owl**, and heard more coyotes.

The final conservative tally was five **Eastern Screech-Owl**, three **Great Horned Owl**, one **Barn Owl**, and one **Barred Owl** thanks to Hubert's persistence.

Thanks to all who participated. I hope you enjoyed the field trip and I trust everyone who road in the back of my truck has thawed out by now.

Report on BSG Field Trip to Corney Lake, Claiborne Parish

By Trip Leader John Dillon

On November 3, seven of us birded Corney Lake, which lies in the Caney District of Kisatchie National Forest in Claiborne Parish, about 7 or 8 miles north of Summerfield.

We had excellent weather, although temperatures crept up a little higher than expected for a November morning. And even though we tried desperately for number 50, we ended up with 49 species for the morning.

We started birding at the south boat launch and managed 3 **Bald Eagles** before we'd even moved to the next location. One subadult was perched far across the lake, and, as we were walking around by the restrooms, 2 adults came zooming around the 100 foot tall Loblolly Pines of the picnic area and gave a dramatic show of their size from less than 100 yards away. We also pished quite a bit at the edge of the woods near the boat launch and between 15 and 20 species responded, including this winter's most irruptive species so far, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. In fact we had all 3 Louisiana species of nuthatch while standing in one spot; you just gotta love that. For many birders there, it was the first opportunity of the season to hear **White-throated Sparrows** singing, and we all got a great deal of pleasure from them.

Walking across the road from the boat launch, we had 2 **American Goldfinch**, a FOS bird for many there. Still more **White-throated Sparrows** chipped and serenaded us, and the **Brown Thrashers** fussed quite a bit. I barely heard an **Eastern Screech-Owl** faintly whinnying back at me, but I wasn't sure if anyone else caught it.

From there, we drove a few hundred yards down to the dam. If you've never been to Corney Lake, the dam is easily accessible from the south side of



Corney Lake, Claiborne Parish. Photo by John Dillon

the lake, and it's a fantastic place to find birds. Our little walk there was no exception, producing 8 species of duck, including **Canvasback** and **Redhead**, species that aren't so easy to get in the upland parishes. And although they certainly aren't as pretty as **Canvasback** and **Redhead**, we had a large group of **Double-crested Cormorants** on the water, numbering around 625. We also got **Bald Eagle** number 4 while on the dam, another subadult. Most unexpected, though, were 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** that flew high over us headed toward the big woods behind the dam and giving their very loud "TU TU TU" calls.

After the dam, we went to an area behind the lake I call the "honey hole," though the moniker really only applies during migration and the breeding season. Nevertheless, Rosemary Seidler had requested **Red-headed Woodpecker** earlier in the morning, and I had failed miserably in finding them in all their usual spots. Finally, after much pishing and screech-owling, 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** showed up and gave us fantastic looks at their striking plumage in the sun. By that time, we were pretty hungry, so we loaded up and drove down Highway 9 to Moon's Grocery, a defunct gas station turned liquor store and rib joint.

Moon's has as much character as it does liquor, and there's quite a bit of overlap between the two. While you eat greasy pork ribs and meaty baked beans washed down with sweet tea, you can't help admiring the tableau of Old Crow, Moon Pies, various flavors of Nehi, and an assortment of jarred, pickled pig parts. We left before any of us got into any serious trouble. But a few of the more intrepid

BSG members requested a spring migration trip to Corney. So if you get equal thrills from birding and risky adventures, join us in April or May, and we'll see what happens.



BSGers Birding Corney Lake, Claiborne Parish. *Photo by John Dillon*

Trip list:

Corney Lake; 7 observers; 3 hrs, 5 mins; 2.5 miles; 49 species.

- Wood Duck 3
- Gadwall 12
- Northern Shoveler 8
- Northern Pintail 6
- Canvasback 5
- Redhead 3
- Lesser Scaup 27
- Ruddy Duck 16
- Pied-billed Grebe 7
- Double-crested Cormorant 625
- Great Blue Heron 4
- Great Egret 2
- Turkey Vulture 9
- Bald Eagle 4
- Red-tailed Hawk 2
- American Coot 150
- Greater Yellowlegs 3
- Eastern Screech-Owl 1
- Belted Kingfisher 1
- Red-headed Woodpecker 2
- Red-bellied Woodpecker 4
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2
- Northern Flicker 3

- Eastern Phoebe 5
- Blue Jay 6
- American Crow 6
- Carolina Chickadee 4
- Tufted Titmouse 7
- Red-breasted Nuthatch 1
- White-breasted Nuthatch 2
- Brown-headed Nuthatch 1
- Brown Creeper 3
- Carolina Wren 3
- House Wren 1
- Winter Wren 1
- Golden-crowned Kinglet 8
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10
- Eastern Kingbird 1
- Hermit Thrush 2
- Brown Thrasher 6
- Yellow-rumped Warbler 9
- Pine Warbler 18
- Eastern Towhee 4
- Song Sparrow 16
- Swamp Sparrow 1
- White-throated Sparrow 42
- Dark-eyed Junco 8
- Northern Cardinal 10
- American Goldfinch 2

**A Trip to Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge
By Emily Holcomb**

When I asked my son what he'd like to take on our birding trip, he immediately replied, "Fishies!" and brought me two stuffed fish.

To say that my family's birding style is quirky may be something of an understatement. Not only do we require a location with large numbers of birds, but we must have stroller-accessible pathways, playgrounds at regular intervals, and restaurants that will entertain small children (preferably the kind with choo-choo trains running along the walls). Such locations might be rare, but we were fortunate enough to find everything we needed in the small city of Russellville, Arkansas.

Russellville is approximately six hours from the Shreveport-Bossier area. Since we took our trip during the Veteran's Day weekend, our drive was rich with the colors of fall. Many parks surrounded the city, but our most productive spot was the nearby Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge.

As we neared the park on a cold but sunny morning, hearing the songs of **Eastern Meadowlarks** rising sweetly from cultivated fields, I sensed that the day would be a special one. Not far into the park, we observed an interesting bit of bird behavior: two **Northern Flickers** engaged in an obvious conversation. They faced each other silently on a low-hanging branch, puffing out their chests and making jerky, exaggerated movements towards one another. We found ourselves laughing out loud.

Bow hunting was in season on the refuge, but we found a trail in an area where hunting was not permitted. As soon as I stepped out of my vehicle, I was surrounded by an ecstatic chorus of birds. I noticed **American Robins, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, and Northern Flickers** in a frenzy of activity. **Song and White-throated Sparrows** hopped in the undergrowth, and a single **Fox Sparrow** gave me a long, considering look before flitting away. Further down the trail, the woods echoed with the taps of **Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers**. I did observe one Red-headed with a juvenile's brown head.

An observation deck, ADA-accessible, stood along the main road. While our two boys happily chased one another up and down the ramps, my husband and I observed movements along a stretch of river before us. A scope was mounted on the deck for visitors to use. **Gadwall** and **Mallards** dabbled in the water; further away were the silhouettes and attendant honks of what must have been hundreds of **Canada Geese**. About ten **White Pelicans** passed us.

I grew bolder and attempted to wade through some winter-dry grass that was, in patches, taller than I was. I had to hold my camera above my head, waving it about precariously, to make any kind of progress. **White-crowned Sparrows** flitted from the grass to a fallen tree and back again. My husband signaled me, and when I looked upward, I saw a **Bald Eagle** circling above us. Later, some friendly hunters told us that Eagles would become even more common on the refuge as the weather turned colder.

My heart soared when I found a **Hermit Thrush** at the edge of some dense growth; this particular species was one that first started me on my conversion to the birding world. And then I found the most interesting bird of the day: a **Northern**

Harrier sweeping low and methodically over the fields, examining each part of the landscape with grave intensity.

Our day was, admittedly, not notable for unusual species. It was, instead, made special by the great number of birds and the ease with which we could observe them. Even as we were leaving, **Eastern Bluebirds** bubbled to one another in the trees, and a **Pileated Woodpecker** swept past us: we were adding new species to our list until the moment we departed. Holla Bend in the fall--indeed, the entire Russellville area--is an excellent site for beginners, filled with so many opportunities to find birds that even a near-sighted and squinty birder like myself, toting along two talky children and all the gear they require, will certainly be satisfied.



Immature White-crowned Sparrow. Photo by Emily Holcomb

The Debate on Playback - Part 1 of 2
By John Dillon

Go back just a few years ago, and there wasn't much of a debate about the use of playback at all. The percentage of birders who you could see lugging a boom box, extra D-cell batteries, and a collection of cassettes or the Stokes CD's was fairly small. But with the invention of the iPod and iPhone, that percentage has dramatically shot up. And as the percentage of birders who use playback increases, so does, it seems, the percentage of misconceptions about playback itself. This article and its counterpart to be published in next month's newsletter are intended to separate those

misconceptions from the truth about playback and its effects.

Before I go any further, I confess now that I am pro-playback/pro-owl call/pro-pishing. And my support for it all mainly derives from the numbers and variety of birds that those techniques yield. I bird several hundred hours a year, and all three techniques get results. But I don't think the core of the debate is over whether these tactics get results. The core of the debate is over whether or not it's harmful to the birds, and that will be covered in this article. The additional concerns about playback, such as its use in highly birded areas or during migration, will be covered in the second, final article.

Now, let's first be clear about what I mean when I say I'm pro-playback. Clarity at this point is absolutely necessary so that everyone who reads this has the same, normative understanding about what I mean by the word "playback." When some birders hear the word "playback," they may picture someone who takes a boom box and an owl tape, presses the play button, sets the boom box down by the edge of the woods, and lets it blast loudly for 15 or 20 minutes. That is *not* what I mean by "playback." Nor do I mean playing the same warbler or sparrow track on Stokes 60 times in a row. Some birders do use playback that way, but those examples of playback are, I think, extreme and represent the far end of the spectrum. More important, playback does not have to be so extreme to be effective. Personally, I use playback as a way to detect and flush out species that I expect to find but either haven't found so far during a survey or haven't found reasonably expected numbers of them during a survey. Furthermore, I find through my birding that *skilled use* of playback involves using it in a way that should be as similar to actual bird behavior as possible.

Perhaps a realistic example or two of my personal use of playback will help clarify exactly what I mean. Let's say I'm birding some pretty good hardwood forest in April, and I haven't yet seen or heard a Black-throated Green Warbler, but I expect to find one or two because I almost always do that time of year in that location. I'll play that species' song track from Stokes on my iPod about 3 or 4 times and about as loud as an actual Black-throated Green Warbler would sing it. Then, I wait for a couple minutes or play the songs of 4 or 5

other species. If I haven't heard *zee zee zee zee zee zee ZEEE* or *zeeee zee zee ZEE* within 5 or 10 minutes of playing the song, I'll play it another 3 or 4 times and wait again. If I still haven't heard or seen one, I move on to another spot. This is about as unobtrusive as playback gets, and it's fairly standard procedure for skilled birders who use playback.

Another example. It's May, and I see an *Empidonax* flycatcher sallying from some low bushes. I pull up the Alder Flycatcher Stokes track on my iPod and play the song (not the full track) 2 or 3 times and wait for a response. If the bird doesn't answer, I play it another 2 or 3 times. Or then I try a few other species of likely *empids*. If the bird does respond (and this also goes for that Black-throated Green Warbler), I have *no more need to use playback for that bird*. It's done its job, I add the bird to my list, and move on. And the bird moves on with its own business, too.

Realistically, that's a skilled use of responsible playback. And it's not so much that I'm being responsible as it is that I'm just not being obnoxious. I want bird songs *blasted* into the quiet woods about as much as I want a motorcycle engine blasted into the quiet woods. And honestly, if I'm playing a bird's song 20 or 30 times in a row with no response, I must not be a very good birder and must have no idea of the proper habitat for that species. Otherwise, I should have gotten a response in just 2 or 3 plays. So, I hope these examples at least set a norm in the minds of my readers about what I mean when I say "playback."

Comparatively, using playback is a lot like bass fishing. Anyone who bass fishes knows that a spinnerbait is an ideal lure when you want to cover a lot of ground efficiently. The bait's relatively high speed of retrieve through the water and its constant vibration *clearly* announce to the bass that it's nearby. So, if a fisherman casts a spinnerbait through the same area 4 or 5 times with no strike, he knows to move on because he knows there's basically no chance of getting a fish to strike. If you cast a spinnerbait through the same area 20 times, you don't know the first thing about bass fishing. Furthermore, as soon as I've caught a fish, the spinnerbait has done its job, just as your iPod has done its job when that Alder Flycatcher answers you or when that Black-throated Green Warbler comes flying up to the edge of the trees. Playback,

like a spinnerbait, is an efficient way to cover lots of ground, so if you continue to play and play and play 20 or 30 times, you're almost certainly wasting your time. In both situations, whether playback or spinnerbait, it's *skilled use* that determines if you find your bird. Or fish.

Now the central question. Is it harmful to birds? Does it stress them out? We've all heard the logic that birds are stressed during migration and that you should avoid playback then. Some say the same about the breeding period. I've heard other birders say playback is categorically bad and is just simply "bad for the birds." First, I'll have to say that the use of playback as described above certainly doesn't seem to merit the "categorically evil" label that some birders assign to playback. Honestly, most good birders' use of playback is hardly any different than what the birds are doing themselves! So, how is it even possible that one more Hooded Warbler singing in the forest (through playback) breaks down the intricacies of the entire ecosystem when there are already 6 of them singing around you?

The reality is that birds deal with stress pretty well. It's kind of part of being a bird. Biologists catch them in nets, stuff them into little bags, weigh them, pluck a few tail feathers, blow on their bellies checking for fat content, and finally let them go after what I'm sure the bird considers to be a pretty overwhelming intrusion on its routine. But I never seem to hear birders say things like, "Biologists are stressful to birds," or "Biologists are never a good idea for birds." Rather, the opposite is true; birders will gladly stand around for hours hoping to see a Painted Bunting or Hooded Warbler in hand, probably never considering the stress of the birds they're so happy to observe.

Of course, I'm no biologist. So, I figured I'd contact one about this topic. You all know of Dr. Van Remsen at the LSU Museum of Life Sciences. He's kind of a big deal in ornithology. So, what did he have to say about it? He said, "You can quote me as saying that I don't think that JUDICIOUS [emphasis, Dr. Remsen] tape playback or owl tapes would make the top 1 million causes of death of birds, and that the concern is classic Rearrange-Deck-Chairs-on-Titanic Syndrome. Birds' lives are full of stress on a daily basis -- the % of those stressors that are caused by tape playback is immeasurably minute." The key there obviously is

"judicious," which is, I think, a pretty apt description of the examples of playback I gave above in the warbler and *empid* scenarios. "Judicious" playback, then, is a *skilled use* of playback; it's not throwing all the darts at the dartboard hoping for a bull's eye.

Dr. Remsen also noted, "The payoff in terms of increased detection rates during surveys is huge." And if you've ever played Eastern Towhee or White-crowned Sparrow songs in the proper habitat, you know exactly what he means here. Without playback, you may observe 3 birds; with it, you may observe 5 to 10 times that number, often more. And responsible birders *should* be concerned with those higher numbers for the purposes of conservation and record keeping. So, I argue that if playback increases detection rates, it also *aids* in conservation rather than the idea that it causes catastrophic damage.

So, what about the use of playback to hold a bird's attention while you snap photos? Or using playback during migration or breeding? Or using playback at a highly birded location? Or if you shouldn't use it for certain species? And we haven't even touched the surface of using screech-owl calls. I'll address those issues next month. But for now, if you go birding in the meantime and have an iPod, remember to be judicious in your use of it. Not because of the fear of stressing the bird, but because you should become *skilled* at its use, not completely dependent on it.

Caddo Lake Warm-Up CBC Turns Up A NW Louisiana Gem
By Carolyn Phillips

Okay, so this was supposed to be a "warm-up" Christmas Bird Count led by Jim Ingold (Saturday, December 1, 2012). Shirley Huss knew the area and had assembled her team of Lily Poole, Martha Lennard, and myself. A beautiful day, lots of chatter, bits of carol singing, lots of snacks, and driven by a mad woman. We get to a fence that we know not to pass and are looking through the bars like orphans, trying to count what was on a portion of Caddo Lake. Of course, the Mooringsport Chief of Police (or maybe it was the Mayor) drove up and gave us that "look." We smiled and quickly explained what we were doing. He actually opened

that gate and told us we could walk to the water's edge! We all piled out of the car and made our way down the hill. And, sure as sin, at the bottom someone asked if the car had been locked. Of course the car wasn't locked... are you kidding?... in too much a hurry to get down that hill to the water. I trudged back up the hill and decided at the top that no way I was going back down and then UP again. I decided to get what was nearby and let the other ladies get the water birds.

A quick scan of the sky didn't show the first Bald Eagle. However, there was this bright yellow breast in the top of a leafless tree... my first thought - Great Crested Flycatcher (dear Lord, will I EVER learn). By this time, the other three ladies have made it back up the hill and had gotten looks at the

bird. Out come the books: National Geographic, Sibley's, two iPods, Crossley's, maybe a Peterson's. After approximately an hour, we decide we might have a Cassin's Flycatcher but know for sure that we need some help with an ID.

Turns out it was a **Tropical Kingbird**... a first ever for NW Louisiana! Many thanks to Jim Ingold, Rosemary Seidler, Jean & Jeff Trahan, Vicki LeFevers, Terry Davis, and Ronnie Maum for photos and recorded bird calls.

Lessons learned this trip: (1) a blind squirrel really does pick up a nut sometime (2) it's nice to have knowledgeable people at your fingertips (3) don't always look for horses, there just might be a zebra in there some place!

**A NW LA
FIRST!**



Tropical Kingbird, Mooringsport, Caddo Parish, LA. 12/1/12. Photo by Jeff Trahan.

Location: The habitat is a small point jutting northeast of downtown Mooringsport into Caddo Lake. The area is developed with houses lining Ferry Street on the North side and the single residence on Croom. It is open South of there toward Miller and somewhat beyond. There are relatively few large trees except right along Croom. Most of the area is open and grassy with much of the lake visible from the road.

UPDATE: As of 3:00 p.m. on 12/3/2012 the bird was still at the same location (Pat and Hubert Hurvey).



Tropical Kingbird, Mooringsport, Caddo Parish, LA. 12/1/12. *Photo by Jeff Trahan.*



Tropical Kingbird, Mooringsport, Caddo Parish, LA. 12/1/12. *Photo by Jeff Trahan.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE Regarding BSG Membership Dues

All memberships are for a calendar year beginning January 1. Memberships for 2013 are due now.

Benefits of Membership in the Bird Study Group

1. You are a part of one of the most active birding groups in Louisiana.
2. Memberships support conservation efforts that affect birds in Louisiana.
3. Memberships support student research and study of bird biology.
4. Memberships provide for a small honorarium for out-of-town speakers.
5. Memberships support the widely acclaimed web site of the BSG (www.birdstudygroup.org).
6. Memberships support the refreshments for the BSG meetings.
7. Members participate in the Christmas Bird Counts, the North American Migration Count, the North American Hawk Watch, the Backyard Bird Count, and the Big Sit.
8. Memberships support the bird library at the Museum of Life Sciences
9. Members can easily participate in the online Bird Alert email List Server (to sign up email: birdalert@birdstudygroup.org).
10. The BSG Newsletters are online and access is not restricted.

You get all of the above benefits for the modest annual membership cost of: \$15 for one membership, \$20 for a family membership, and \$35 for a sustaining membership.

Any Suggestions for the BSG?

Your Board of Directors is trying very hard to improve the Bird Study Group and make it more attractive to new birders. Give us your suggestions about how to grow the BSG.

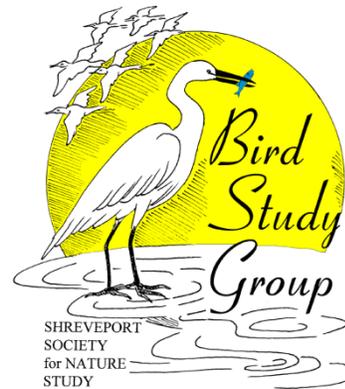
OTHER GREAT NW LA BIRDS

Dusky-capped Flycatcher, 11/23/12

Ash-throated Flycatcher, 11/21/12

Pacific Loon, 11/21/12

All: Cross Lake/ Shreveport/ Caddo. Not viewable from shore. Observers: Charlie Lyon, Terry Davis, and Hubert Hervey.



**BSG Membership
Dues
are due
January 1st**

BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons
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Roy Henderson(2).....861-7449(H)
Terry Davis (1).....934-2133(H/W)

Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.

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Direct inquires to the Editor, Amanda Lewis, at (318) 797-5215.



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The Bird Study Group of Shreveport invites you to become a member.
Renewals, please update information below.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

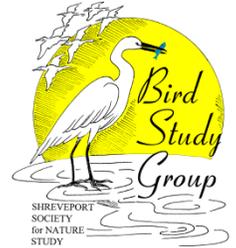
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Names of Family Members:

Donations: Library Refuges Refreshments General

Make check payable & mail to: SSNS- Bird Study Group
Museum of Life Sciences, One University Place,
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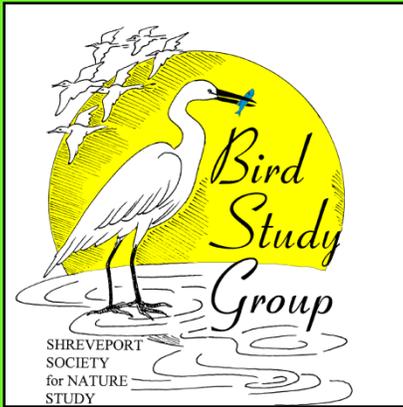


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Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>



Shreveport Society for Nature Study BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Number 5
January 3, 2013



Next Meeting – January 8, 2013

Bombs to Birds

*Showing of the documentary film, Bombs to Birds about the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge
by Richard Pruitt*

JANUARY MEETING

When: Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

Our speaker for the January 8, 2013, meeting of the BSG will be Richard Pruitt. His presentation will be “Bombs to Birds”, a documentary about the transition of an Army munitions plant into the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Help spread the word and bring your friends. See the link <http://photographyblog.dallasnews.com/2012/10/bombs-to-birds-caddo-lake-national-wildlife-refuge-documentary.html/> for more information.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information or directions to the party, call us at 318-797-5338.

LOS Winter meeting, Shreveport January 25- 27, 2013

Friday, January 25, 2013:

Meeting & Evening Program (Jacob Kraemer)

Saturday, January 26, 2013:

All-day or half-day field trips

Banquet & Evening Program (Dr. Mia Revels)

Sunday, January 27, 2013:

Morning Field trips

For details and registration info:

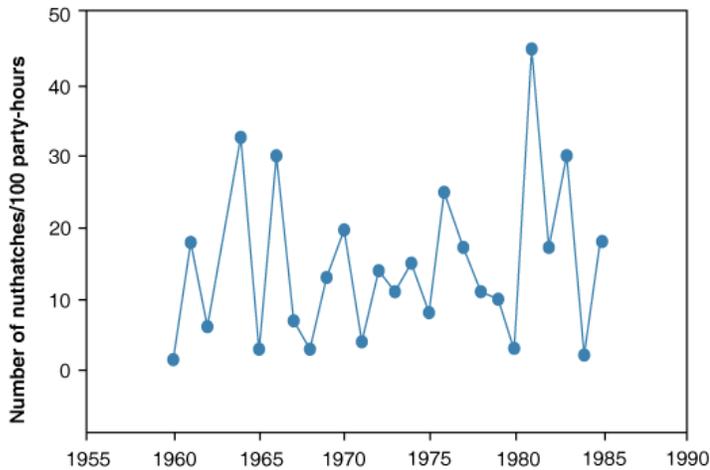
http://losbird.org/2013_winter_meeting.pdf

The Year of the Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
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The Year of the Red-breasted Nuthatch By Hubert Hervey

This is our opportunity to learn about an active, appealing species; and irruptive bird often counted in our area only on years when the cone seed crop fail in Canada.

This chart is taken using CBC data for the years shown and illustrates the sporadic appearance of the species in CBC areas.



The young are fed a protein rich diet of insects, not available after the onset of cold winter conditions, so Red-breasted Nuthatches are totally reliant on the coniferous tree seeds.

Since the cone seed crop in Ontario province has failed this year it is likely we are truly in an irruptive year for this species, and likely other northern forest seed cone eating species such as crossbills.

The graph below was adapted from eBird and shows the frequency of sightings in the United States in 2012. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** are showing up on birders' checklists up to ten percent of the time!

Frequency of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** sightings in the United States, January-December 2012.



<http://ebird.org/ebird/GuideMe?cmd=quickPick&speciesCode=&bMonth=01&bYear=1900&eMonth=12&eYear=2013&getLocations=northAmerica&reportType=species&speciesCodes=rebnut&continue.x=43&continue.y=9>

Their joyful actions cause me to want to leap for joy along with them.



Photo from <http://10000birds.com/why-are-red-breasted-nuthatches-irrupting.htm>

Shown here feeding on northern forest cone-bearing tree seeds, which have totally failed in most of Ontario province.



Photo from <http://10000birds.com/why-are-red-breasted-nuthatches-irrupting.htm>

Red-breasted Nuthatch Behavior

Red-breasted Nuthatches move quickly over trunks and branches probing for food in crevices and under flakes of bark. They creep up, down, and sideways without regard for which way is up, and they don't lean against their tail the way woodpeckers do. The Red-breasted nuthatch seems to be saying, "You don't have to turn my world

upside down, it already is. Sometimes I wonder if I can fly upside down too." Their flight is short and bouncy.

They nest in holes like all nuthatches, male and female and often a helper all attend the chicks in the nest.

Watch your feeders to observe the quick darting flight, the indecision about which direction in which to depart, the lack of cooperation with others, and the adaptation to our seed sources. My birds like black-oil sunflower, hard seeds, and peanut butter mix inserted in holes.

The following images/ information are from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds website. <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/Page>.

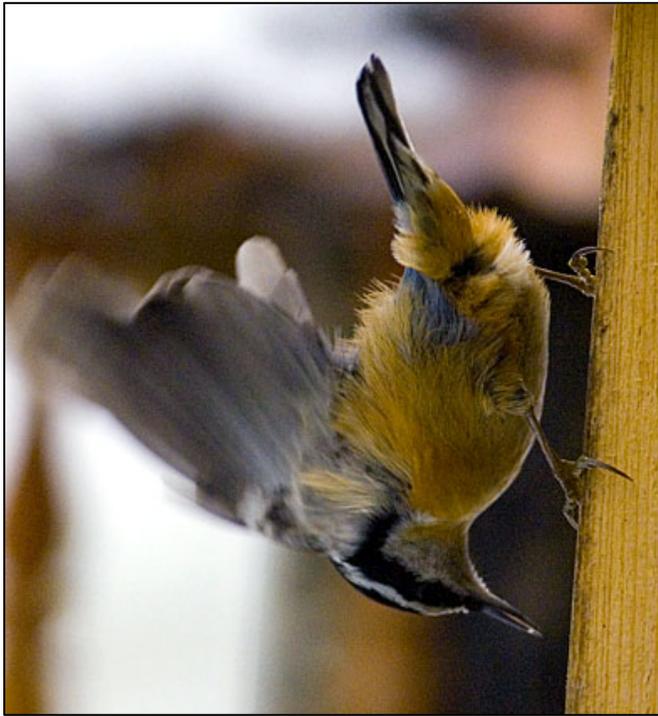


© Larry Meade, VA, Chincoteague, February 2008

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult

- Black and white striped head
- Bluish gray back and wings
- Reddish underparts (brighter in males, paler in females)
- Short, stubby tail

BSG Membership
Dues
were due
January 1st



© [cdbtx](#), WA, Monroe, March 2008



© [Matt MacGillivray](#), Brighton, Ontario, April 2008

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult

- Bright orange-red underparts (paler in females)
- Black cap and eyestripe (grayer in females)
- Long, sharp, slightly upturned black bill

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult male

- Bright orange-red underparts
- Short black tail with white bars
- Often forages upside-down on trees



© [Debbie McKenzie](#), September 2008



© [Ronaldok](#), Calgary, Alberta, Canada, May 2008

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult

- Small and stubby shape
- Black and white striped head

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult

- Dark grayish cap and eyestripe (black in males)
- Pale reddish underparts (darker in males)
- Bluish gray back and wings
- White face and throat



© [Laura Erickson](#)

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Juvenile

- Like adult but with yellow on bill



© Scott Evans

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult

- Bluish gray back and wings
- Black and white striped head
- Reddish underparts (brighter in males, paler in females)



© Mick Zerr

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult male

- Often seen on feeders and tree trunks; may feed upside-down or right-side up



© Lyn Winans

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult male

- Bright orange-red underparts
- Black cap and eyestripe
- Bluish gray back and wings
- Sharp, slightly upturned bill



© Dave Eddy

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Adult male and female

- Male with black cap, female with gray cap
- Male with brighter red under-parts, brighter blue back

The Debate on Playback - Part 2 of 2

By John Dillon

In last month's newsletter, I took a favorable stand on the use of playback as it pertains to a birder's skilled use of locating and/or identifying bird species. In summary, I said that a skilled use of playback involves a judicious approach so that the playback is similar to what the birds themselves are actually doing and that continuous, blaring playback is not only obnoxious but unnecessary in attracting birds. I also quoted Dr. Van Remsen as saying that any stress resulting from playback is unlikely to "make the top 1 million causes of death of birds," and that, compared to other reasons for stress in birds, any stress from playback is "immeasurably minute." This month, I want to extend the conversation to include other aspects of playback, good and bad, for birds and birders. And out of respect for the birds, I'll start with them first.

Most of the year, I use a screech-owl call (myself, not a tape) to call in birds. And I believe birders use screech-owl calls for the same general reason they use birdsong playback: to find birds. But there are obviously 2 differences concerning birds' responses. First, if I play an Eastern Towhee song, it's reasonable to assume that any towhee that responds doesn't do so because it considers the rival

towhee (i.e., my iPod) a physical threat for the same reasons it may consider a screech-owl to be physical threat. I say this is reasonable to assume because, if you play an Eastern Towhee song, you'll probably only get towhees to respond. Whereas if you whistle a screech-owl call, you may have 15 species or more respond. Obviously, birds see the latter as a potential threat of predation, and not as one involving mates or food sources or what have you; if birds generally considered a towhee song as a predatory threat, you'd get 15 species responding to your towhee song, too.

The second difference is that birds tend to respond more slowly to a screech-owl call than to their own songs, at least in my experience. Play Hooded Warbler once or twice, and you'll likely get an almost instantaneous response. Whistle screech-owl once or twice, and you may get absolutely nothing. There are obviously exceptions to this, but I often have to whistle screech-owl and pish for 4 or 5 minutes before I start seeing and hearing several birds, sometimes longer.

Now, I suppose these 2 aspects of using a screech-owl call, that it may be seen by birds as a potential predatory threat and that it may take several minutes to get results, may be off-putting to some overly cautious birders. Some may say the call overly stresses the birds or that they're not responding because they're afraid. But referring to Dr. Remsen's answer to my questions, he also states, "In my experience, once birds can't find the source of the sound, they basically ignore it and go back to business . . . they don't go belly up and die." I think this statement is certainly worth considering. First, if you've ever used a screech-owl call or seen a birder use one, what Dr. Remsen describes is absolutely true. Once the call stops, and *often* while the call is being used, the birds disappear. Pete Dunne talks about this in his book *The Art of Pishing*, saying, "...birds soon realize that the loudly touted disruption to their peace and security boils down to you, and, frankly, you aren't worth bothering further with." At that point, Dunne talks of having to "reboot" the birds' responses because they've all disappeared.

Fairly recently (August 25), I was giving a screech-owl call, and there were a few species buzzing around. Then, a screech-owl flushed from its roost and perched in front of me. The birds went crazy. I instantly found a few more species as they

came in closer to the owl. It flew to a more concealed spot, and the birds calmed a bit. Then, a second screech-owl flushed and perched, and literally only 1 bird bothered to mob it and gave up in about 2 minutes. It got so quiet, I got bored and walked away. Verdict? I have to go with the birds here: it just wasn't worth dropping dead for. Using a screech-owl call isn't the avian equivalent of seeing a terrorist outside your window armed with an RPG. Perhaps it more akin to a papercut - you yell, maybe curse, tell the nearest person, "Papercut!" as if to warn anyone else in the vicinity to be wary of rogue paper, and in 2 minutes, you've completely forgotten about it.

Now, don't think that I'm saying every birder can use a screech-owl call *carte blanche*. Skilled use of the call is still required, just as with birdsong playback. First, just to get results, you need to know what you're doing when you crank up an owl call. Personally, I like the method of mixing my owl call with my pishing and my iPod. Second, even though a screech-owl is something birds deal with naturally, and even though playback isn't a contributor to bird deaths, most birders know there are times and places you shouldn't use an owl call. For starters, I'd feel like a jerk doing that to birds close to nesting locations during nesting season. It's not so much that it stresses the birds as much as it is that the birds are busy raising young. They've already got serious business to tend to. Why is my agenda more important than theirs? So, I say if you're reliant on a screech-owl call during nesting, learn the birds' songs and calls; that's when they sing the most anyway, and you're sure to have good results just listening.

Another birder *faux pas* is using screech-owl calls and playback around other birders. Whip out an iPod at Peveto Woods about mid-April and play Cape May Warbler and see what happens. It's quite possible the only thing you'll see is stars. I also spoke with Steve Cardiff at LSU for these articles. Cardiff doesn't use playback himself, but he does pish, squeak, and whistle screech-owl. Concerning popular birding location, Cardiff says, "Certainly, if we are talking about a relatively small but heavily visited area, then playback should be banned. I believe that in such situations it must have a 'numbing' effect on the birds and could make certain birds less detectable for others." Given Cardiff's feelings, there are really two issues at

stake concerning the use of playback in heavily birded areas. First, it's misleading to other birders, and, second, it may be used so often that it could alter some birds' natural behavior. The good news here, though, is that I rarely see anyone using playback at these types of places. And the reality is that the birders who are around to witness it will put a stop to it pretty quickly.

Another poor choice for playback is when birders use it for their own entertainment rather than to identify a species or for the purposes of a survey. Cardiff addressed this point, as well, expressing his irritation, "when an observer sees and identifies a bird and then uses playback on it anyway." As I mentioned last month, once you've identified the bird, your job is done. In my opinion, the only instance this is advisable is when you have reason to believe that there are greater numbers of the identified species and that playback will give you a more accurate number to report. There have been plenty of times I've seen or heard 2 or 3 sparrows of a given species, then played the call and had 20 or 30 pop up, often more. But skilled use still applies here because simple pishing may get the same response. Furthermore, if you're in a situation in which you expect 20 or 30 or more birds pop up, they're likely species that respond quite readily, so there's no need at all to play and play and play. Rule of thumb here? If you're using playback just for your own entertainment, you're probably doing something wrong. So, yeah, that 400mm lens is really nice and cost \$3000, but do the birds a favor and set up a drip hose and a pop-up blind if you want to be that close for that long.

In the same vein, there are some species that respond so vehemently to playback that birders should take extra caution in overuse and against overstimulation. Louisiana Waterthrush and Painted Bunting are 2 good examples. Granted, I happen to live in an area where any idiot can find a Louisiana Waterthrush. But in the last few years, I've gotten to where I almost never play for them. This is a species that darts around like an angry, feathered bullet when it hears a rival bird, and I've seen them continue to "chase away" their rival for several minutes after I've stopped the playback. A few years ago, I irresponsibly put the Painted Bunting song on repeat, reached through the sunroof, and set the iPod on the roof of my vehicle. I got distracted by something and forgot about the

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE Regarding BSG Membership Dues

All memberships are for a calendar year beginning January 1. Memberships for 2013 are due now.

Benefits of Membership in the Bird Study Group

1. You are a part of one of the most active birding groups in Louisiana.
2. Memberships support conservation efforts that affect birds in Louisiana.
3. Memberships support student research and study of bird biology.
4. Memberships provide for a small honorarium for out-of-town speakers.
5. Memberships support the widely acclaimed web site of the BSG (www.birdstudygroup.org).
6. Memberships support the refreshments for the BSG meetings.
7. Members participate in the Christmas Bird Counts, the North American Migration Count, the North American Hawk Watch, the Backyard Bird Count, and the Big Sit.
8. Memberships support the bird library at the Museum of Life Sciences
9. Members can easily participate in the online Bird Alert email List Server (to sign up email: birdalert@birdstudygroup.org).
10. The BSG Newsletters are online and access is not restricted.

You get all of the above benefits for the modest annual membership cost of: \$15 for one membership, \$20 for a family membership, and \$35 for a sustaining membership.

Any Suggestions for the BSG?

Your Board of Directors is trying very hard to improve the Bird Study Group and make it more attractive to new birders. Give us your suggestions about how to grow the BSG.

iPod for about a minute. Next thing I knew, a male Painted Bunting had become so responsive to the iPod that it was sitting on the edge of my open sunroof and almost flew into the vehicle with me. I felt terrible, and that's when I started realizing that, for some species, playback may not be the best option. About the only time I use playback for either species anymore is when I'm startled that I haven't heard one singing in a place where I almost constantly hear them or if I'm doing a survey in an unfamiliar area. But as soon as I get a response, I shut it off immediately.

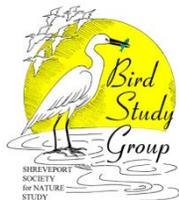
All the issues discussed here still favor a skilled use of playback as opposed to no playback. But it is important to remember that no playback should be preferred to irresponsible use of playback. I hope the articles sufficiently addressed the topic, and I would like to thank both Dr. Remsen and Steve Cardiff for their input. More than anything else, I hope any readers who are strongly opposed to playback or who constantly rely on non-stop playback can reflect on their views and realize that an individual's skills involved in responsible birding is often only as good as his willingness to learn the difference between fact and fiction.

2013 Laredo Birding Festival

2013 Laredo Birding Festival, scheduled for February 6-9. We have a terrific line-up of events and trips that feature the best of our birding hotspots and scenic South Texas ranches. Don't miss the opportunity to spot our prized bird, the White-Collared Seedeater, and hundreds of other avian beauties that nest throughout our unique river ecosystem.

www.laredobirdingfestival.com.

Should you have any questions, please call us at (956) 718-1063 or email us at laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org.



BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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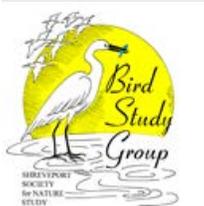
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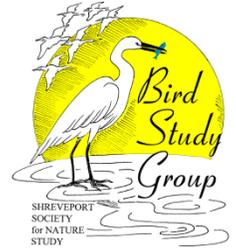
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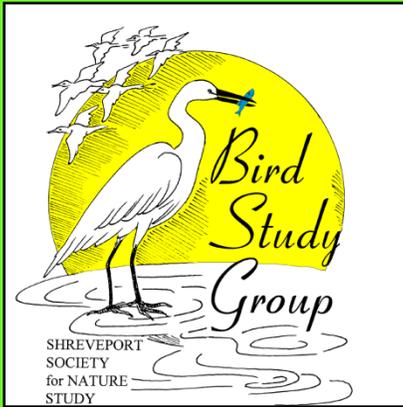


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Shreveport Society for Nature Study BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Number 6
February 6, 2013

Next Meeting – February 12, 2013

The Mating System of Galapagos Nazca Boobies

by
Dr. Terri Maness

FEBRUARY MEETING

When: Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

Our speaker for the February BSG meeting is Dr. Terri Maness, an Ornithologist from LA Tech. Dr. Maness will be talking about her work with Nazca Boobies. Nazca Boobies are long-lived, socially and genetically monogamous seabirds that raise, at most, one offspring per year. Males and females share the responsibilities of raising their offspring, including incubation, brooding, and feeding the nestling until it reaches independence. The population of boobies in the Galapagos Islands has a consistently male-biased adult sex ratio, which means that one-third of the males at the site fail to find a mate per breeding season. This talk will discuss the characterization of an undescribed mating system and breeding strategy employed by female Nazca boobies.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information or directions to the party, call us at 318-797-5338.



Dr. Terri Maness and a Galapagos Nazca Boobie

Upcoming Field Trips

Sandhill Cranes – Saturday, February 16 –
Leave the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences at 7:30 a.m. Participants should be back by 2:00 -3:00 p.m.

Banding at Hubert's – Saturday, March 9 –
Meet at Hubert's (see directions on Page 3) around 8:00 a.m. Banding will last until about 1:00 p.m.

2013 LOS Winter Meeting A Huge Success	2
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2013 LOS Winter Meeting

A Huge Success!

By Larry Raymond

I want to thank all of the BSG members who worked together to make the 2013 LOS Winter Meeting such a great success. We had more participants than the last several winter meetings (100 +/-), and I have received rave reviews from several of the attendees. Compliments were conferred on the BSG for everything from the venue (Red River NWR Visitor Center) to the programs and hospitality, and, especially the field trips and field trip leaders. Once again, our group showed that we know how to host a great meeting!

Let me start by thanking Refuge Manager, Pat Stinson, for letting us host the meeting at the new Red River NWR Visitor Center. Refuge educator Terri Jacobson helped host the meeting and welcomed LOS members to the refuge. I also want to thank the Red River NWR volunteers who worked the Visitor Center and gift shop during the meeting. Jerry Bertrand and Ronnie Maun opened up early for us and helped greet visitors and answer questions. I know others were involved, and I thank them as well.

At the risk of leaving someone out, I want to pass out kudos to those BSG members that helped make this meeting such a success. Nancy Menasco, Mac Hardy, Jim Ingold, Hubert Hervey, and other members of the board served as the organizing committee and helped to work out many of the details of the meeting. A big thank you goes out to Nancy for her organizational skills and for writing up the logistics of the meeting for the LOS Newsletter. Nancy also arranged for the food that was catered at the Saturday night banquet and helped oversee the arranging of the room and serving tables for both Friday and Saturday nights. Nancy also made sure we got an accurate count of chairs in the meeting room – anyone remember the number – er, number of times we counted, not the number of chairs?

Thanks to Mac and Jim for helping bring tables from LSU and for helping with Thursday night's set-up and stuffing of the give-a-way bags. Kevin Flowers, Convention Sales Manager with the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau, provided the bags and some brochures to use. Phil

Bradley, Jerry Bertrand, and Martha Lennard also helped with Thursday's preparations, along with Nancy, Mac, and Jim, and Martha did a fabulous job arranging the serving tables both Friday and Saturday nights. Martha also purchased the candy and goodies for the bags. Thanks to Anne Raymond, Marilyn Hardy, Martha Lennard, Carolyn Phillips, Silviera Hunt, Shirley Huss, and Pat Lonnecker for providing food for Friday night's meeting, and to Marilyn Hardy for preparing the vegetable lasagna for Saturday night (it was a big hit and none was left over). The catered fish and fixings seemed to go over well, as did the cupcakes provided for dessert. Thanks again to Nancy for making these arrangements. Mac Hardy helped acquire ice for both nights' refreshments and meal. Anne Raymond, Jim Ingold, Phil Bradley, the BSG, and the Red River NWR provided door prizes for both Friday and Saturday nights. Based on the feedback I received, we gave away some pretty good stuff. And, let me not forget to thank Ann Jacobs for providing a beautiful flower arrangement on the serving tables.

The biggest hit of the meetings were the field trips, and I want to thank all of the field trip leaders who stepped forward and helped many LOS members get life birds. Terry Davis led a trip on Friday before the meeting started, two field trips on Saturday, including the trip to the airport, and then took people out again on Sunday. Terry was able to find three species of longspur – Lapland Longspur, Smith's Longspur, and Chestnut-collared Longspur, as well as Sprague's Pipit and other good birds. Way to go Terry, and thanks to Jim Andrews for helping arrange for Terry to get the group onto the airport grounds, and David James with airport security who escorted the group at the airport. Hubert Hervey organized the four trips on Cross Lake and led participants from the Red River NWR to the yacht club for each field trip. Dr. Charles Lyon took LOS members out on Cross Lake in his boat all four times, and, as usual, Charlie did not disappoint participants. He was able to find, on one or more trips, Bewick's Wren, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Laughing Gull, Western Grebe, and Red-breasted Merganser, as well as lots of other expected birds. Thanks to Hubert and Charlie for making this special for many of the participants.

Upcoming Field Trip Details

Sandhill Cranes – Saturday, February 16 –

Leave the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences at 7:30 a.m. Participants should be back by 2:00 -3:00 p.m. Contact Jim Ingold for more information, 797-5236.

Banding at Hubert's – Saturday, March 9 –

Meet at Hubert Hervey's house around 8:00 a.m. Banding will last until about 1:00 p.m. Contact Jim Ingold for more information, 797-5236.

Directions to Hubert's: Exit I-49 south of Shreveport at the Southern Loop Exit, go right to Linwood, left on Linwood 3 miles to Ranchette on the right, 1 mile to Missile Base, and left 0.8 mile to Hervey Dairy Road.

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Dr. Jim Ingold led a large caravan on his all-day north Caddo field trip and treated the group to the Tropical Kingbird in Mooringsport, as well as the good birds that can be found along Sentell Road. Thanks, too, to Dr. Jeff Trahan who led a group to Bickham-Dickson Park, and to John Dillon for offering a south Caddo field trip. LOS members had plenty of great trips to choose from and Saturday's checklist numbered 126 birds, with well over 130 birds seen over the three days of the winter meeting. I sincerely appreciate all of the field trip leaders that stepped up and offered their expertise to LOS.

Jacob Kraemer kicked off the meeting with a wonderful program on Paul Dickson's Pinola Aviary and discussed many of the state-of-the-art features incorporated in Paul's private one-of-a-kind collection. Everyone enjoyed Jacob's program and asked lots of questions. I want to extend a special thanks to Paul for opening up his private collection Sunday morning and providing coffee and doughnuts for all of the participants. Lots of LOS members accepted Paul's invitation to visit the aviary, and Paul and Jacob provided one-on-one commentary and answered lots of questions.

I also want to thank Dr. Mia Revels for providing Saturday night's program on American Woodcock. Again, based on the number of questions, everyone enjoyed Dr. Revels' presentation. Thanks, too, to Dr. Jim Ingold for making the arrangements to get Dr. Revels to the meeting.

Thanks also need to be extended to LOS for facilitating the meeting. President Ed Wallace, and especially, Judith O'Neale and Joelle Findley worked closely with the BSG to host the meeting and ensured that registration and other logistics were handled smoothly. Ken Harris assisted Joelle with registration.

Finally, I want to thank all of the BSG members who participated in the meetings and/or field trips and demonstrated that our group in northwestern Louisiana is alive and well. It was a great meeting and I know everyone who attended enjoyed the event. Several LOS members have already asked when we would be willing to host the winter meeting again!

Any takers?

9. Members can easily participate in the online Bird Alert email List Server (to sign up email: birdalert@birdstudygroup.org).
10. The BSG Newsletters are online and access is not restricted.

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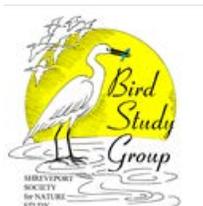
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Direct inquires to the Editor, Amanda Lewis, at (318) 797-5215.



Join/Renew the BSG!

The Bird Study Group of Shreveport invites you to become a member.
Renewals, please update information below.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (Home) _____ Work _____

Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

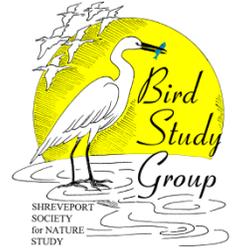
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Donations: Library Refuges Refreshments General

Make check payable & mail to: SSNS- Bird Study Group
Museum of Life Sciences, One University Place,
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399

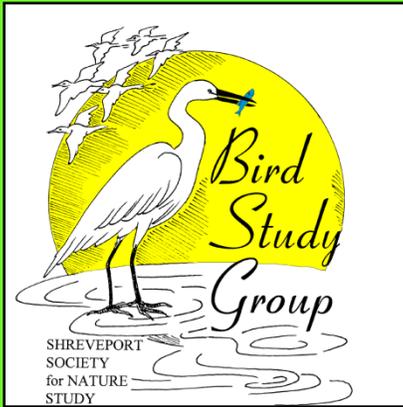


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Contact the BSG by email: lhardy@lsus.edu or phone (318) 797-5338.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>



Shreveport Society for Nature Study **BIRD STUDY GROUP** **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 27, Number 7
March 8, 2013

Next Meeting – March 12, 2013

What I Didn't Know About Butterflies

By
Dr. Jeff Trahan

MARCH MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

The program will be on “What I Didn't Know About Butterflies” by Dr. Jeff Trahan, a retired Centenary Professor of Physics. Jeff has been pursuing and photographing butterflies since 1999. At that time, he knew almost nothing about butterflies. His program will touch on several topics about butterflies that would have been very nice to know from the beginning. He will cover some basic information about flight times, habitats, identification, what they eat, and how to attract them.

Jeff has published several articles about butterflies in Southern Lepidopterists' News. Also, he created a website about the butterflies of Caddo Parish, which is a complete list of the butterflies of the Parish with photos

<http://www.jtrahan.com/butterflies/index.htm>

Jeff has organized and facilitated an annual butterfly count in Caddo Parish for a number of years and is a great source of information on the butterflies of our area.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments start at 6:00 PM; program begins at 6:30 PM. Come at 6 to chat with other birders! For more information or directions to the Science Lecture Auditorium you can call 347-3134 or email: Irraymond@aol.com. More information is available on the website: <http://www.birdstudygroup.org/>.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail: Bickham Dickson Park, Shreveport, LA, July 7, 2002, on Button Bush. Photo by Jeff Trahan.

Upcoming Field Trips

Banding at Hubert's – Saturday, March 9 –

Meet at Hubert Hervey's house around 8:00 a.m.

Banding will last until about 1:00 p.m.

Contact Jim Ingold for more information, 797-5236.

Directions to Hubert's: Exit I-49 south of Shreveport at the Southern Loop Exit, go right to Linwood, left on Linwood 3 miles to Ranchette on the right, 1 mile to Missile Base, and left 0.8 mile to Hervey Dairy Road.



An unusually pigmented **Common Grackle** spotted by Carolyn Phillips on March 7, 2013 in Belcher, LA.

SANDHILL CRANE TRIP WAS A SUCCESS

By Jim Ingold

The Bird Study Group hosted a trip to Cheneyville area for Sandhill Cranes on Saturday 16 February 2013. The participants were Dr. Jim Ingold (leader), Mac and Marilyn Hardy, Donna Burney, Mark Wilson, Helen McGee, Karen Chenoweth, Martha Lennard, Larry and Anne Raymond, and their granddaughter Caroline Hannigan.

We left the museum around 7:40 A.M. and stopped at our usual stopping places including Lea's in LeCompte and then it was off to see cranes and other birds. It was a pretty day but quite windy! We started on Bayou Road but nice looks at adult male Northern Harriers, turned onto Echo-Cheneyville Rd. no cranes. However while still on Bayou Road we could see a very large flock of geese in the distance and I was hoping we could get closer on Echo-Cheneyville Rd. We stopped and scoped them out and estimated many thousands of Snow Geese, both white and blue morphs. We headed further up the road and stopped at a large barn where people were working around a large tractor and was hoping to get permission to travel a field road to get closer. But he said it was too muddy

and we didn't want us to travel on it. But luck was with us and something scared the geese and they flew towards us and eventually over us!! It was quite a racket and dangerous because they were hitting us with droppings!! We had to up our estimate of numbers to something over 20,000+ Snow Geese. With them were smaller numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese and flock of 11 American White Pelicans flew by at the same time. After that amazing sight we continued on our way to the flooded rice fields for lots of ducks, Greater Yellowlegs (they may have been Lesser Yellowlegs but I've never been able to tell them apart unless they are standing side by side). While parked at the rice silos we had two different juvenile Bald Eagles. They provided the second awesome sight for the day. One bird was carrying a prey item in its talons (we couldn't tell what exactly, but either a coot or small duck). The second eagle came in to steal it a behavior known as kleptoparasitism!! Unfortunately for both, the bird carrying the item dropped it into the shrubs and small trees along the road and the food item was lost to both!

We finished our drive up the end of the road and still NO cranes and as the leader I was getting nervous! We turned around and back tracked and still no cranes. When we got back to near the start of Bayou Road, I decided for us to drive up a road though the fields on the old rice farm, which is now planted in sugarcane. Finally off to the left was a small flock of cranes flying ahead. It turns out I missed seeing them sitting in the field but the cars behind me did see them. We chased them father into the back and finally they alighted with a bunch more cranes. We got out to observe them but it was very windy and very cold but finally everyone got to see the birds! Then it was off to Lea's for lunch and PIE and then the trip home.

This is list of birds seen:

Greater White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Pied-billed Grebe

Double-crested Cormorant
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
White Ibis
White-faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
Black-necked Stilt
Greater Yellowlegs

Eurasian Collard-Dove
Mourning Dove
Loggerhead Shrike
Eastern Bluebird
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Sparrow



Some of the 20,000 + **Snow Geese** seen at Cheneyville. February 16, 2013. *Photo by Larry Raymond*



Snow Geese at Cheneyville. February 16, 2013. *Photo by Larry Raymond*



Snow Geese at Cheneyville. February 16, 2013. *Photo by Larry Raymond*

LOS Winter Meeting Pictures





Dr. Mia Revels presenting the LOS Saturday evening program on American Woodcocks.

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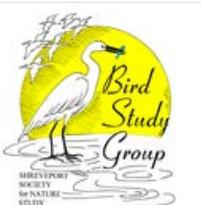
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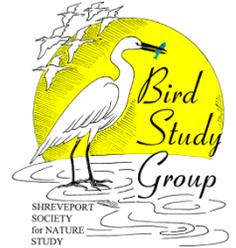
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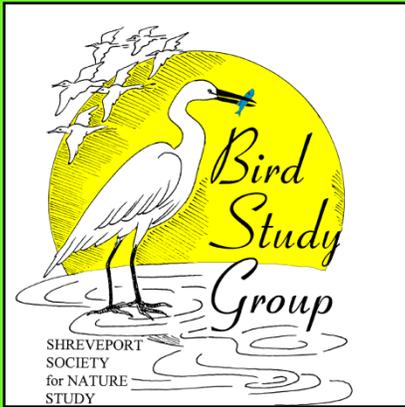


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Shreveport Society for Nature Study BIRD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Number 8
April 3, 2013

Next Meeting –April 9, 2013

Birds and Spiders---Predator and Prey

by

Dr. Laurence M. Hardy

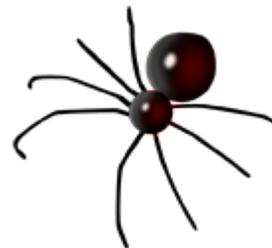
APRIL MEETING

When: Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

The program will be on “**Birds and Spiders -- Predators and Prey**” by **Dr. Laurence M. Hardy**, retired LSUS Professor of Biology and Director Emeritus of the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences. Dr. Hardy has been studying birds and spiders for decades and is an expert on the fauna of northwestern Louisiana. He has published scientific papers on spiders in *The Journal of Arachnology* and in 2010 published a monograph on “Additions to the Spider Fauna of Northwestern Louisiana” in the journal *Southeastern Naturalist*.

Hardy states that birds, insects, and spiders are some of the more conspicuous groups of animals that people see during their daily routine. And, all of these are appreciated by humans, but for very different reasons – the beauty of birds, the nuisance of biting insects, and the fear of spiders, to name a few. This Bird Study Group program will focus on the interrelationships of spiders and birds and the result of one trying to eat the other. Predator-prey relationships are among the most essential, slightly behind sex, of all connections in the animal kingdom. What are the effects of spiders eating birds or of birds eating spiders in the overall scheme of life on this planet? Why would a beautiful Summer Tanager eat a spider when a nice harmless beetle is on the same leaf? Spider webs and food webs are related. What can we do to help unravel



the intricacies of such interesting and puzzling questions?

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments start at 6:00 PM; program begins at 6:30 PM. Come at 6 P.M. to chat with other birders! For more information or directions to the Science Lecture Auditorium you can call 347-3134 or email: lrraymond@aol.com. More information is available on the website: <http://www.birdstudygroup.org/>.

Upcoming Field Trips

LOS SPRING MEETING

Friday and Saturday, April 26 - 27, 2013
Cameron, LA

Meeting information and registration:
http://losbird.org/2013_spring_meeting.pdf

THE BIRD STUDY GROUP BANDS BIRDS AT HUBERT HERVEY'S DAIRY FARM

By Jim Ingold

On Saturday 9 March 2013 the following Bird Study Group members met at Hubert Hervey's Dairy farm to band birds: Terry Davis, Matthew Grusler, Mac Hardy, Hubert Hervey, Shirley Huss, Amanda and Mena Lewis, Pat Lonnecker, Carolyn Phillips, Mark Wilson, Bill Wood, and Larry Raymond.

We managed to catch 25 birds of 15 species as shown in the following table. Very windy conditions kept our count down. Bill Wood and Larry Raymond took many photos, some of which are here in this newsletter.

BANDING SUMMARY	NEW	RETRAP	TOTAL
Carolina Chickadee	0	1	1
Tufted Titmouse	2	1	3
Hermit Thrush	2	0	2
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	1
Chipping Sparrow	1	1	2
Song Sparrow	0	1	1
White-throated Sparrow	4	0	4
Northern Cardinal	7	0	7
Red-winged Blackbird	1	0	1
Pine Siskin	3	0	3
Totals	21	4	25

Four individuals of four species caught were already banded. (The original banding date follows the species name in parentheses). Three of the four birds were originally banded two days before (7 March 2013) when my ornithology class was banding in the same location: Carolina Chickadee (03-07-2013), Tufted Titmouse (03-07-2013), and Chipping Sparrow (03-07-2013); the fourth bird, a Song Sparrow, was originally banded at Hubert's on 3 March 2011 as an After Hatching Year bird with the sex undeterminable and it was also captured on 7 March 2013 by my ornithology students.



Dr. Jim Ingold collects data by measuring a Northern Cardinal. Photo by: Larry Raymond



BSG's youngest member, Mena Lewis (age 2 1/2), prepares to release a banded Northern Cardinal. Photo by: Larry Raymond



*© Bill Wood
Photography*

Dr. Jim Ingold places a band on a Northern Cardinal. Photo by: Bill Wood



© Bill Wood
Photography

White-throated Sparrow. Photo by: Bill Wood



© Bill Wood
Photography

Song Sparrow. Photo by: Bill Wood



Mac Hardy removes a bird from the mist net as Carolyn Phillips looks on. Photo by: Bill Wood

To see additional photos from the bird banding visit Bill Wood's photography website: <http://billwoodphotography.smugmug.com/>

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:
GREEN HERON NESTS**
By Jim Ingold

I have a new graduate student that will be studying various aspects of nesting in the **Green Heron** (*Butorides virescens*). We are hoping that if you or someone you know comes across a **Green Heron** nest, either by itself or in a colony of just **Green Herons**, or in a colony of mixed species, that you will contact us as soon as possible. Also locations of any **Green Heron** nests from previous years will be helpful to us as well.

Email us at: james.ingold@lsus.edu or FOLKERTSM19@lsus.edu, or by phone JLI (797-5236).

NESTING SEASON AT LAKE MARTIN
By Emily Holcomb

A good fishing spot near the bank of Lake Martin is a part of my family's folklore. Years ago, my grandfather thought nothing of digging a hole into the lakebed to extract sand for his nearby property. He was livid when an environmental official stopped him because, as the official sarcastically explained, his endeavors had disturbed the local gnats.

Perhaps the official afforded such a nonchalant tone because, at the time, Lake Martin had not yet been declared by the Audubon Society as one of the top ten birding sites in the country. My father, who spent the summers of his childhood waterskiing in the shadows of the lake's fluid cypress trunks, cannot recall seeing the hundreds of nesting birds that now seem to overflow from every available branch. Their yearly pilgrimage to this setting is, mysteriously, a recent habit.

From the aptly-named Rookery Road, one has only to roll down a window to behold a visual feast of wading birds. Nesting season begins as early as February and continues through the sultry summer months. A boardwalk, where a **Prothonotary Warbler** once posed for my camera to sing, also extends into the lake. While the peak season is underway, birders carrying telephoto lenses of every size crowd the road.

The **Great Egrets** build their platforms high in a stand of cypress trees not far from the bank. Early in the season, some are still gathering twigs for nesting material. When they raise themselves on their long legs, their plumes spill to their feet like wedding gowns. Much lower, **Little Blue Herons** crowd the dense vegetation that grows just above the surface of the lake. One can sometimes catch a glimpse of their blue-green eggs. Most spectacular of all, though furthest from the bank, nest the **Roseate Spoonbills** in their breeding colors of pink, red, and orange.

Present in smaller numbers, though still quite easy to find, are **Black-crowned Night Herons**, **Great Blue Herons**, and **Green Herons**. The normally dainty **Snowy Egrets** seem transformed into something tousled and wild when they raise their crests with gaping bills. In the summer months, an **Anhinga** may dry its silvery wings on a log, a **Neotropic Cormorant** may play with a bit of moss, and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** may glare at the human trespassers below it before flapping huffily away. The visitor must be wary, however: alligators and snakes are as common as many of the birds.

During my recent trip in March, I was delighted to find, besides the usual wealth of herons and egrets, an adult **White Ibis** feeding beside four juveniles. **Yellow-rumped warblers** were present in such large numbers that their chirping bounced from tree to tree over the water. **Red-winged blackbirds** crowded a feeder, **Swamp sparrows** flitted in the low vegetation, and a barred owl stared at us from a quintessentially Cajun live oak, complete with beards of Spanish moss. I was able to observe an interesting bit of bird behavior when a spotted sandpiper waded on a partially submerged log, bobbing its tail even on such a precarious perch as it snapped into the water.

When I released my two boys to scamper along the boardwalk, I realized that Lake Martin has been a treasure to my family for four generations now. Shadowy oaks and varnished green palmettos are deeply entwined in our memories and stories. I may be a displaced Cajun, but the fierce squalls of the egrets that shatter the air over Lake Martin will continue to call me back for years to come.



Photo by: Emily Holcomb

**BIRD QUIZ:
NAME THAT BIRD**



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Photography

Answer is on page 6

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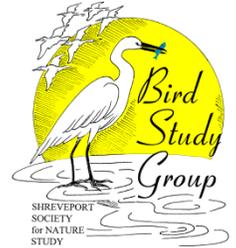
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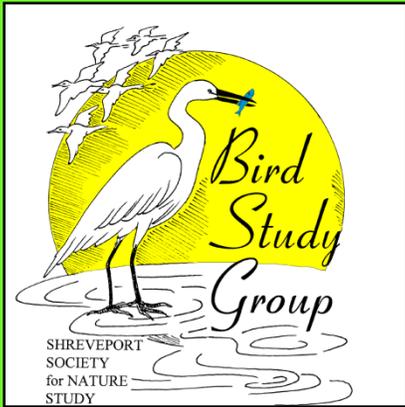
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Bird Study Group meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:00 p.m. To be placed on the list to send & receive emails, email birdalert@birdstudygroup.org.

Contact the BSG by email: lhardy@lsus.edu or phone (318) 797-5338.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>

Bird Quiz answer = Hermit Thrush



Shreveport Society for Nature Study **BIRD STUDY GROUP** **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 28, Number 1
September 9, 2013

Next Meeting –September 10, 2013

Birding in Peru: Lima, Pacific Coast, Cuzco, the Andes, and Machu Picchu

by

Larry Raymond and Mac Hardy

SEPTEMBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

In May 2013, Dr. Laurence Hardy and Larry Raymond joined Dr. Gary Graham for a seventeen day birding trip to Peru. Dr. Graham, an expert on bats, has been to Peru several times and did some of his research in the country. His efforts were instrumental in the discovery of several new species of birds for Peru. Gary served as leader of the excursion and made all of the arrangements for visiting as many hotspots as possible while in the country. Dr. Hardy and Larry stayed a couple of extra days to visit Machu Picchu and add a few more species to their list. Besides being exposed to more than 400 species of birds, the trio saw or heard more than 20 mammals, including jaguar, and added more than a dozen amphibians and reptiles to their life lists. In this first of two programs, Larry will relive their journey to Lima, the Pacific Coast, Cuzco, the Andes, and Machu Picchu. In October, Dr. Mac Hardy will discuss the river and jungle experiences on the trip

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments start at 6:00 PM; program begins at 6:30 PM. Come at 6 to chat with other birders! For more information or directions to the Science Lecture Auditorium you can call 347-3134 or email: lraymond@aol.com. More information is available on the website: <http://www.birdstudygroup.org/>.



Upcoming Field Trip

Hawk Watch at Hubert Hervey's Dairy Farm
September 21, 2013

Hubert Hervey Dairy Farm Hawk Watch

When: September 21, 2013

Trip Leader: Hubert Hervey

Contact for Information: Larry Raymond (347-3134, lrraymond@aol.com)

Details: The annual Hervey Farm Hawk Watch will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2013, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Birders are welcome to come earlier and explore the areas around Hubert's house. This time of year is great for watching hawk migration, although we need the weather and conditions to cooperate to see a lot of hawks. But, whether we see lots of raptors or not, this is always a fun event and a great time to catch up with everyone. The BSG will provide burgers for grilling with all of the fixings and ice tea to drink. We ask that BSG members bring pot luck side dishes as you always do. Also, bring a comfortable chair and come prepared to watch the skies in Hubert's front yard. Hubert's contact number is 925-9249.

Directions: Exit I-49 South of Shreveport at the Southern Loop Exit, go right to Linwood, then left on Linwood for 3 miles to Ranchette on the right. Turn right on Ranchette and go 1 mile to Missile Base Road, then left 0.8 mile to Hervey Dairy Road.

Please RSVP to Larry by telephone or email so that we will know the number of burgers and fixings needed.

August Shorebird Field Trip to Red River NWR Yates Tract

By Larry R. Raymond

Nine Bird Study Group members met at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences parking lot for 7 a.m. on Saturday, August 17, 2013. From there we car-pooled to the Yates Tract. Participants included Terry Davis (leader), Mac Hardy, Shirley Huss, Terri Jacobsen, Lily and Jason Poole, Mark Priddy, Larry Raymond, and Mark Wilson.



BSG members scout for shorebirds at the RRNWR Yates Tract. August 17, 2013. Photo by Lily Poole.

We drove directly to the barn ponds and began birding at 0740 hrs. Although there was not a lot of activity, we enjoyed several nice birds, and Terry's bionic ears alerted us to some great flybys. Everyone had great looks at the seven Black-bellied Whistling Duck at the pond. This duck has been a regular at the Yates Tract for quite a few Saturdays now and Terry pointed out the interesting and memorable call of this species. Other birds at the pond included Pied-billed Grebe, flyby Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, a nice group of juvenile and adult White Ibis, and Killdeer. Two Spotted Sandpiper were also observed at the barn ponds. Terry was able to produce several Alder Flycatcher in the shrubs and woods around the pond and alerted us to a nice group of Upland Sandpiper that flew over.

From here we drove the levee to the moist soil units, stopping occasionally to look and listen for birds. Some of the birds added included several calling and singing Eastern Towhee, more White Ibis, Turkey and Black Vulture, White-eyed Vireo and several species of hawk, including Red-shouldered Hawk (4), Broad-winged Hawk (4), and Red-tailed Hawk (7). At one stop, Jason Poole noticed that the Eastern Screech-Owl calling was

not coming from the tape and everyone added this species to the list.

At the moist soil units, we added more Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. Large numbers of Cattle Egret and White Ibis were seen in the moist units, as well as a few Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and one Green Heron. Altogether, 53 species were tallied by the group and two others were added independently by Ronnie Maun. Ronnie observed a female Northern Shoveler and flyby Wood Stork.

Thanks to Terry for leading the trip and to all the participants. It was a nice morning.



Red-shouldered Hawk at the RRNWR Yates Tract. August 17, 2013. Photo by Larry Raymond.

In Memoriam

Longtime Shreveport Bird Study Group member, Gloria Frantom died on July 1, 2013. Gloria was a member of our group since 1989. She was a retired Science Teacher and loved birds and butterflies. She and daughter Sylvia maintained a family membership for many years. Sylvia Frantom often attended meetings and participated in outings with Gloria. We will all miss Gloria's contributions to the group and we extend our sympathies to the entire Frantom family.



BSG members bird the RRNWR Yates Tract. August 17, 2013. Photo by Larry Raymond.



**2013 Least Tern Surveys on Red River in Arkansas and Louisiana
by Hubert Hervey with cooperation of USACE and USF&WS**

Location					
Date 15 July 2013	adult LT	Juv. LT	Nests	Eggs	
MM 238 Cattle Island	14	0	0	0	
MM 243 Gold Point	12	0	5	8	
MM 244 Cat Island	8	0	0	0	
MM 242 Cash Point	14	0	2	3	
MM 223 Marie Hamel Buoy	2				
Date 16 July 2013					
MM 164 E. Powhatan Buoy	2				
Date 17 July 2013					
MM 142.7 St. Maurice Rev.	2				
Louisiana Totals	54	0	7	11	

Arkansas Surveys	adults	chicks	nests	eggs	
Date 23 July 2013					
MM 365 Riffles/Rapids	3	0	0	0	
MM 355.8 Tobe Rev.	12	0	0	0	
MM 351.8 Horseshoe Rev.	4	1	0	0	
MM 346-7 Little River Fulton	4	0	0	0	
MM 339 Bushy Rev	4	0	0	0	
MM 338.5 Buzzard Bluff	10	2	0	0	
MM 335 Finn Rev.	9	0	0	0	
MM 331.4 Hervey Rev.	17	0	2	2	
MM 327.8 Red Lake Rev	6	7	0	0	
MM 326 Boyd Rev.	10	8	0	0	
MM 324.5 Kenney & Cypress	18	6	0	0	
<i>Arkansas 23 July 2013 Daily Total</i>	97	24	2	2	
Date 22 July 2013					
MM 315 Spirit Lake Rev.	26	4	0	0	
MM 303.6 Keller Rev.	4	3	0	0	
MM 302.8 E Keller Rev	2	1	0	0	
MM 295 Goose Lake Rev	21	0	0	0	
MM 291.6 Dixon Bend Rev.	8	0	0	0	
MM 289.5 Valley Gin Rev.	28	4	1	1	
MM 286 Slay Bend Rev.	8	0	1	2	
MM 283.5 Black Lake Rev.	28	0	4	8	
MM 282.5 Spring Bank Rev.	8	1	3	4	
MM 280 Canale Rev.	20	3	1	2	
MM 278 Palmer Island	20	0	0	0	
<i>Arkansas 22 July 2013 Daily Total</i>	173	16	9	17	
2 day AR survey totals	270	40	11	19	

5 day July survey LA & AR Totals	324	40	27	30	
Location & Date	adults	fledged JV	chicks	nests	eggs
Louisiana 25 July 2013					
MM 250 Bee Lake Rev	26	0	6	10	20
MM 243.8 Cat Island North	23	0	2	2	4
MM 242.7 Gold Point Rev.	8	0	0	4	8
MM 240 Cash Point	3	0	0	0	0
MM 238 Cattle Isl. (Dredging	12	0	0	3	6
<i>LA 25 July 2013 Daily Total</i>	72	0	8	19	38
Louisiana 12 Aug 2013					
MM 267 Float Rev	7	2	0	0	0
MM 273.5 Missionary Rev.	7	3	0	0	0
MM 275 Half Moon Rev.	2	0	0	0	0
Arkansas 12 Aug 13					
MM 276.5 Palmer Lake SE	16	10	0	0	0
MM 278 Palmer Lake N	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Ark & LA 12 Aug 2013 Daily Total</i>	34	15	0	0	0
Louisiana 13 Aug 2013					
MM 243 Gold Point	16	2	0	0	0
MM 2 43.5 Cat Isl.	69	16	2	0	0
MM 238 Cattle Isl. Dredging	2	0	0	0	0
MM 234.3 TwelveMile Bayou	1	2	0	0	0
MM 229.8 Douglas Isl Rev	16	6	0	0	0
<i>LA 13 Aug 2013 Daily Total</i>	106	26	2	0	0
Louisiana 14 Aug 2013					
MM 203 Pool 5 Bishops Pt	3	0	0	0	0
Louisiana 15 Aug 2013					
Pools 4 & 3	0	0	0	0	0
Arkansas 20 Aug 2013					
MM 324.6 Mays Lake	4	2	0	0	0
enroute, MM 334 Hervey	2	2	0	0	0
MM 315 Spirit Lake Rev	37	7	1	0	0
MM 301 Swan Lake Rev	1	2	0	0	0
MM 294 Oak Rev.	0	14	0	0	0
MM 291 Dickson Bend Rev.	3	26	0	0	0
MM 284 Black Lake Rev.	3	7	0	0	0
<i>Ark 20 Aug 13 Daily Total</i>	50	60	1	0	0

This survey was made with assistance from the USACE and USF&WS. It shows a surprising degree of success with nesting efforts from Least Terns in Arkansas. Especially since the river gauge at Fulton indicated a 4 ft rise August 2 to 4, enough to flood nearly all nests at elevations below 2 ft on islands with eggs still unhatched. That presented a very narrow window for success, from June 16th to August 1st to nest, lay, hatch, and get chicks to safe elevations before they had flight capability.

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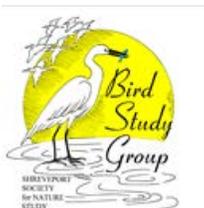
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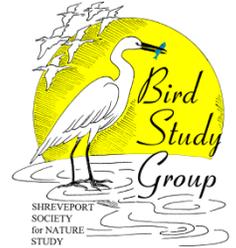
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