



Shreveport Society for Nature Study

BIRD STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Volume 24, Number 2

October 5, 2009

Next Meeting – October 13, 2009

Backyard Birding Basics

by Dennis Forshee

OCTOBER PROGRAM

When: Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium*

Speaker: Dennis Forshee

BSG member, Dennis Forshee, will present a program on backyard birding basics. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments start at 6:00 p.m.; program begins at 6:30 p.m. ***Note: meeting location** (for campus map see page 8)

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

THE BIG SIT!

Red River NWR Headquarters Unit

Sunday, October 11, 2009, dawn 'til after dark

RED RIVER NWR 5th ANNUAL REFUGE CELEBRATION & CATFISH FRY

Red River NWR Headquarters Unit

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 8:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Louisiana Ornithological Society Fall Meeting, Cameron Parish, LA

Friday, October 30 – Sunday, November 1, 2009

Friends of Red River National Wildlife Refuge General Membership Meeting

LSUS Science Lecture Auditorium

Monday, November 2, 2009, 6:30 p.m.–Social and Refreshments; 6:45 p.m.–Business Meeting and Program

Program: Bald Eagles in Louisiana

Speaker: Tom Hess, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries.

YELLOW RAIL WALK AT RED RIVER NWR BAYOU PIERRE UNIT

Red River National Wildlife Refuge, Bayou Pierre Unit, Red River Parish

Saturday, November 7, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Contact – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255, nmcpa@aol.com, www.friendsofredriver.org



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>

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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

By John Dillon

All field trips will **DEPART** from the listed meeting place at the time posted. Be early at the meeting place for orientation information and carpooling. BSG Membership is not a requirement for participation in any field trip, but it is encouraged.

What to bring: binoculars, field guide, scope (if possible), snacks/drinks for yourself and pen/paper if you'd like to keep your own records of sightings.

OCTOBER

THE BIG SIT! AT THE RED RIVER NWR

Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters Unit,
555 Sunflower Road, Bossier City, LA 71112

Sunday, October 11, 2009, Before Dawn 'til after Dark

Contact – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255,
nmcpa@aol.com

This will be ninth straight year that BSG sitters will sit the Big Sit. The Big Sit will be held at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, where it will be the opening event to kickoff National Wildlife Refuge Week. Sitters count birds observed or heard from within a 17-foot diameter circle. The Big Sit officially begins at midnight and ends 24 hours later; BSG sitters have always been in the field by 6:30 a.m., manning the circle continuously until at least 7:30 p.m. Any Sitters wishing to man the circle before 6:30 a.m. will need to contact Nancy Menasco so we can make arrangements to let you in the gate. Sitters may come and go at will. Signs along the refuge road will lead you to the circle. Parking will be available near the circle.

Founded by the New Haven, Connecticut, Bird Club and now hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest magazine, the Big Sit is an annual, international, noncompetitive

birding event. It is sponsored nationally by Swarovski Optik, Alpen Optics, and Wild Bird Centers. 2009 will mark the 15th Annual Big Sit. From its beginnings as a strictly North American affair, the Big Sit has grown to include teams all over the world. Swarovski Optik donates \$500 to the team who gets the "Golden Bird." A bird species is selected by random drawing from all bird species sighted. All teams listing that species are entered in the random drawing for the Golden Bird. The winning circle then chooses a non-profit environmental-based organization to be the recipient of the \$500.

Directions to the refuge: From the intersection of US 71 (Barksdale Boulevard) and Jimmie Davis Highway (LA 511) in Bossier City, go south about one-half mile on US 71 and turn right (west) on Sunflower Road. Proceed to the end of the road to the refuge entrance. The refuge manager is Pat Stinson. The refuge phone number is 742-1219.

What to bring: binoculars, scope, field guides, chair, hat, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, drinks, breakfast, lunch, supper, snacks.

For more background on The Big Sit, go to <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bigsit.html>.

RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 5th ANNUAL REFUGE CELEBRATION & CATFISH FRY

Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters Unit,
555 Sunflower Road, Bossier City, LA 71112

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 8:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Contact – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255, nmcpa@aol.com,
www.friendsofredriver.org

Sponsored by the Friends of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, festival highlights include nature walks and refuge tours, hayrides, falconry demonstrations, live owls, baby alligators with photo opportunities for children, nature-related activities for adults and children, and a photography contest. The BSG will sponsor an exhibit and bird-related activity at the event.

October is Archaeology month in Louisiana and new to the Refuge Celebration will be an exhibit on local prehistoric Native Americans use of the landscape, including a hands-on demonstration of Native American tools.

Also new this year will be an exhibit focusing on the benefits of using native plants; a selection of plants will be available for you to purchase. Other highlights include new nature projects for the children and an interactive Black Bear obstacle course following a year in the life of a bear.

The Art in Nature exhibit will include face painting and local student art. There will be an opportunity for

you to sign up to indicate your interest in the refuge presenting a youth digital photography program in the near future.

Free shade-grown coffee, tea, juice, and breakfast bars will be available in the morning and a free catfish lunch with all the trimmings will be served at noon. There is no admission charge and the public is invited. More information and a schedule of activities is or will be available at the Friends website at www.friendsofredriver.org.

Directions to the refuge: From the intersection of US 71 (Barksdale Boulevard) and Jimmie Davis Highway (LA 511) in Bossier City, go south about one-half mile on US 71 and turn right (west) on Sunflower Road. Proceed to the end of the road to the refuge entrance. The refuge manager is Pat Stinson. The refuge phone number is 742-1219.

NOVEMBER

Louisiana Ornithological Society Fall Meeting, Cameron Parish, LA

Friday, October 30 – Sunday, November 1, 2009

LOS returns to Cameron Parish this fall after a year away due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike. Information and registration forms for the fall meeting will be available at the Louisiana Ornithological Society website at www.losbird.org/meeting.htm. You do not have to be a member of LOS to attend the meeting but you are encouraged to join our state birding organization. The BSG usually reserves lodging at the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. Sign up for Rockefeller at the BSG September or October meeting. If you are interested in staying at the Cameron Motel, the phone number is 337-775-5442.

Friends of Red River National Wildlife Refuge General Membership Meeting

LSUS Science Lecture Auditorium

Monday, November 2, 2009, 6:30 p.m.–Social and Refreshments; 6:45 p.m.–Business Meeting and Program

Program: Bald Eagles in Louisiana presented by Tom Hess, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. Tom has worked for LDWF for 17 years. He leads the Department's Bald Eagle Program which includes annual nest surveys, Coastal Use Permit reviews, data analysis and dissemination, and public outreach. He also heads up the Department's Brown Pelican Program, and spends considerable time surveying ducks and geese on LDWF properties during the fall and winter. The public is invited. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome.

YELLOW RAIL WALK AT RED RIVER NWR BAYOU PIERRE UNIT

Red River National Wildlife Refuge, Bayou Pierre Unit, Red River Parish

Saturday, November 7, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Contact – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255, nmcpa@aol.com, www.friendsofredriver.org

The Yellow Rail is a bird of marshes and wetlands; because of its secretive nature, it is much sought after by birders. A rope drag is often used to cause the rails to fly up where they can be seen. Conditions in the moist soil impoundments at Bayou Pierre may prevent us actually dragging a rope but we will do our best to give participants a look at these elusive birds. Other species of birds that might be found in the moist soil impoundments and adjacent refuge area in November include Northern Harrier, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, LeConte's Sparrow, and wading birds and waterfowl.

Directions to the Bayou Pierre Unit: The Bayou Pierre unit of the refuge is open to the public. From the blinking caution light at the intersection of LA 1 and LA 509 in Red River Parish, go south on LA 1 for 1.6 miles. Turn left (east) on Grand Bayou Loop/PR 401 and proceed one mile. There will be a white house on your left. Go past the house driveway and turn in at the gate nearest the barn to enter the refuge.

Rio Grande Valley Birding Trip

Members who signed up for the Rio Grande Valley trip will be receiving an email from John Dillon in a few days with the proposed dates, accommodations, and itinerary. If you did not sign up, please contact John at jdillon@websterpsb.org as soon as possible.

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.

Join Dennis at the Red River NWR Celebration on October 18.

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

Birding 2.0

by John Dillon

Thanks for those who attended my *Birding 2.0* presentation at the regular BSG meeting in September. Shortly before that meeting, I proposed to the board the creation of a new position for the BSG, a “Technology Czar.” Well, guess who got stuck with that? So, rather than complain about more work to do, I’ll just warn you now that my being in charge of field trips AND technology just doubles the chances of screwing something up. And the chances were good already.

Anyway, this will be the first installment of new addition to your usually stunning BSG newsletter. The idea of this corner of the newsletter is to present, explain, and de-mystify a different technological birding advancement each month. In so doing, I will also attempt to write each article so poorly that one of you will feel compelled to take over the job.

So, for my first installment of *Birding 2.0*, I’d like to feature the eBird Google Gadget. What is the eBird Google Gadget you ask? Well, if you download it (which takes all of about 2 seconds by the way), you will see on your home page a list of all the rare birds reported on eBird for the state of Louisiana as they are reported. If the bird is entered into eBird, it shows up on your computer screen.

Here’s what you do:

1. Go to www.google.com and click “iGoogle” at the top right of the web page. At the next page, close the “make your own home page” box by clicking the “x” in the top right corner of the box. This is the iGoogle page. Set it as your home page now. (There are various other gadgets to personalize your iGoogle home page with; “Date/Time” and “Weather” are standard. To delete any gadget boxes you don’t want, click the down arrow at the top right of the box and select “Delete this gadget.”)

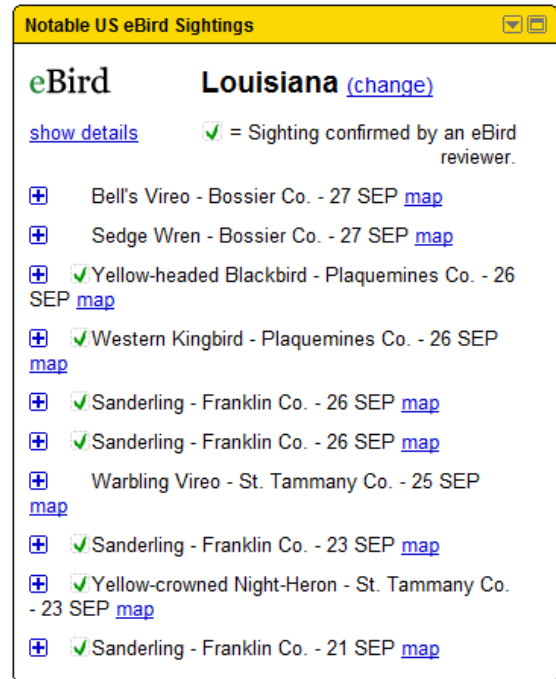
2. Go to www.ebird.com and scroll until you see “eBird Resources” on your right. Select “eBird Notable Birds Gadget.”

3. You’ll then be taken to a 2007 eBird update article about the gadget. Read the page for a full explanation of what it does (or don’t and just trust me), and click on “Get the eBird Rare Bird Gadget.”

4. When you come to the new page, click the “Add to iGoogle” bar, and the gadget will install on your iGoogle home page automatically.

5. Once the gadget is installed, select Louisiana from the list of states. You can also select any other state if you wish.

Here’s what the gadget looks like:



The green checks indicate that the report has been reviewed and confirmed by our region’s eBird reviewer (for us, that’d be Van Remsen, and nearly every bird gets a check within about 48 hours). If you’re interested in the exact location of the bird, click “map,” and it will take you to the eBird map of the location as it was listed by the eBird user who entered the data.

If you know of any birding technology that you would like to see featured in this new part of our newsletter, please email me at jdillon@websterpsb.org.

Minutes of the June Board Meeting

June 2, 2009

Museum of Life Sciences at LSU

Board members participating in the meeting were Amanda Lewis, Mac Hardy, Jeff Trahan, Jim Ingold, Hubert Hervey, John Dillon, Jean Trahan, Rosemary Seidler, Silviera Hunt, Nancy Menasco, Jerry Bertrand, and Bill Hall. Also present was Clyde Massey.

Bird Records—Mac Hardy reported a very high turnout for submission of records with many good birds.

Field Trips—John Dillon said that Barksdale AFB will allow the club to do the summer bird atlas on the base. Anyone interested in birding the base should contact John. John mentioned a possible trip to the valley in November. He will discuss this with the membership at

the next meeting. Nancy Menasco mentioned a possible **Yellow Rail** walk at the Bayou Pierre unit of the Red River NWR in September.

Refreshments—Jim Ingold said that we will need refreshments at the next meeting. He will send out a notice on Bird Alert.

Newsletter—Jim Ingold said that the upcoming newsletter would be his last as editor. Amanda Lewis has agreed to take over the job of editor for the next volume of the newsletter.

Programs--Mac Hardy reported that Cliff Shackelford, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist, will speak on June 9 at the regular meeting. Suggestions were made for future programs and field trips.

Board Nominations—Nominations Committee chairman Mac Hardy proposed the following slate of members for the board: Silviera Hunt, Amanda Lewis, Jim Ingold, Clyde Massey, and Larry Raymond. The slate was approved by the board. Board members must be elected by the membership at the next regular meeting.

Club Officers—Possible officers for the next year were discussed. Mac Hardy agreed to be President; Larry Raymond vice president; Silviera hunt, secretary. No one has agreed to be treasurer at this time. Officers will be elected by the new board.

Treasurer's Report—Jean Trahan reported that for the month ending May 31, 2009, the club had \$3,796.38 in the bank. In addition, we had \$217.41 and \$505.24 in prepaid expenses at the post office and LSUS printing, respectively. The fund balance is \$4,519.03.

Minutes of the June Regular Meeting

June 9, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS

Program – Chris Shackelford from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Nacogdoches, Texas presented the program: “Do hummingbirds really migrate on the backs of geese?”, and “Some of the most frequently asked questions on birds in Texas.”

Field Trips—Jim Ingold said that the Shreveport Butterfly Count will take place July 12.

Hospitality—Amanda Lewis said that she will pass around a signup sheet at the September meeting.

Newsletter—Jim Ingold said that he will no longer be newsletter editor. Amanda Lewis has agreed to take over the position.

Board Elections—Mac Hardy presented the nominations for board members as proposed by the board. They were Silviera Hunt, Amanda Lewis, Jim Ingold, Clyde Massey, and Larry Raymond. There were no nominations from the floor. The proposed slate of board members was approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report

Shreveport Society for Nature Study, BSG

For the year ending June 2009

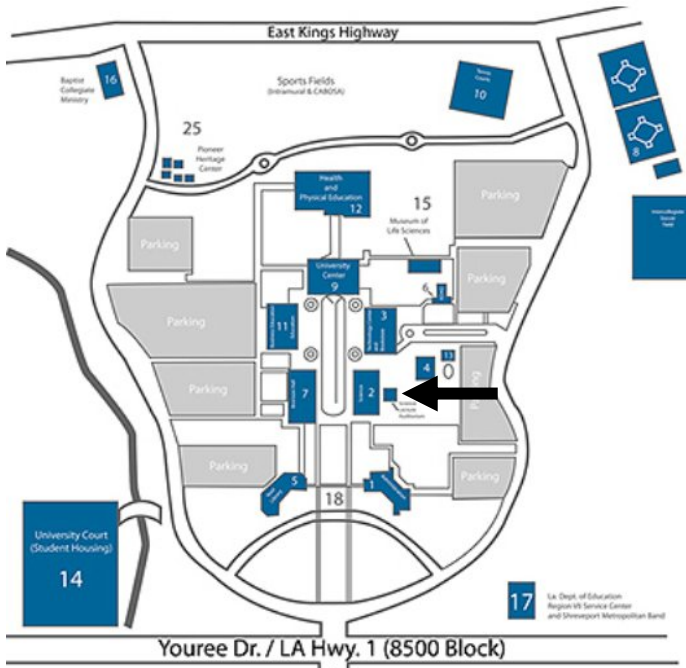
May 31, 2009

Statement of Financial Position

Cash	\$3,796.38
Prepaid Expense:	
Postage	217.41
Printing	505.24
Total Assets	\$4,519.03
Fund Balance	\$4,519.03

Income Statement

	Totals
Income	
Auction	\$550.00
Gifts/Memorials	18.00
Hot Spots	13.00
Memberships	990.00
Miscellaneous	80.00
Rockefeller	120.00
Total Income	\$1,771.00
Expenses	
Domain Name	
Donations	1,000.00
Honoraria	
LA Dept Wildlife & Fisheries	50.00
Miscellaneous	196.12
Postage	364.22
Printing	888.60
Refreshments	287.42
Reimbursement, Supplies	
Stipend	612.43
Total Expenses	\$3,398.79
Net Income	(\$1,627.79)



Campus map of LSUS, arrow points to the BSG meeting location in the Science Lecture Auditorium.

BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President – Mac Hardy (2).....687-6738 (H), 797-5338(W)
 Vice-president – Larry Raymond(3)..... 929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
 Secretary – Silvierra Hunt (1).....220-0098 (H), 676-7156(W)
 Treasurer – Dennis Forshee (2).....797-2473 (W)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jerry Bertrand (2).....868-3255 (H/W)
 Rachel Demascal(2).....929-2806 (W)
 Bill Wood (2).....458-2930 (H)
 John Dillon (1).....243-2284 (H)
 Bill Hall (1).....797-1727 (H)
 Jim Ingold (3).....742-5067 (H), 797-5236 (W)
 Amanda Lewis (3).....861-5294 (H), 797-5215 (W)
 Nancy Menasco (1).....868-3255 (H/W)
 Rosemary Seidler (1).....424-2972 (H), 869-5231 (W)
 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)
 Field Trip Coordinator – John Dillon.....318-243-2284
 Fund Raising – Jerry Bertrand.....868-3255 (H/W)
 Hospitality – Amanda Lewis861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)
 Library – Silvierra Hunt.....220-0098 (H), 676-5457 (W)
 Membership Secretary – Mac Hardy.....687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)
 Newsletter Editor – Amanda Lewis861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)
 Folding/Mailing Committee – Open
 Programs – Larry Raymond.....929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
 Publicity – Rachel Demascal.....929-2806 (W)
 Website – Jerry Bertrand.....868-3255 (H/W)

BIRD REPORT – compiled October 1, 2009

Use the bird report to see what other birders have been seeing and where to go find the bird you want to see. Observers are abbreviated by the first and last initials. Dates and localities of observations are summarized under the observer’s initials. Sightings are arranged by species. Following each species is a line of data in the following format: date, initials of the observer, number of birds observed, initials of another observer, number of birds they observed, etc. For the number of birds observed, a 1 is used for both 1 bird and for numbers not reported by the observer. For example: 01/12/99 BB 2 means that on January 12, 1999, BB saw two birds. Then by looking on the observer list, located after the sightings, you can determine that BB is Bob Birder and on 1/12/99 he was birding C. Bickham Dickson Park.

Report bird records for the newsletter to Mac Hardy by the 25th of each month. All bird records reported here are observations of the observers and are therefore the responsibility of the observer.

- Wild Turkey – RL 9/22/2009 7
- Great Blue Heron -- HH 9/18/2009 1
- Great Egret -- HH 9/18/2009 1
- Snowy Egret -- HH 9/18/2009 2
- Little Blue Heron -- HH 9/18/2009 2
- Cattle Egret -- HH 9/18/2009 40
- Black Vulture -- HH 9/18/2009 9
- Turkey Vulture -- HH 9/18/2009 4
- Red-shouldered Hawk -- RL 9/4/2009 2; LRR 9/15/2009 1
- Eurasian Collared-Dove -- RL 7/28/2009 2
- Mourning Dove -- RL 7/28/2009 1; HH 9/18/2009 4; LRR 9/15/2009 5; RL 9/4/2009 5
- Inca Dove -- RL 7/28/2009 3
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo -- HH 9/18/2009 1; RL 9/4/2009 2
- Eastern Screech-Owl -- RL 9/4/2009 1
- Great Horned Owl -- RL 9/4/2009 2
- Barred Owl -- RL 9/4/2009 2
- Chimney Swift -- HH 9/18/2009 8
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird -- RL 9/4/2009 4; RL 7/28/2009 2; HH 9/18/2009 6; LRR 8/26/2009 1; LRR 9/15/2009 2
- Red-bellied Woodpecker -- RL 9/4/2009 2; LRR 9/15/2009 2
- Downy Woodpecker -- LRR 9/15/2009 1
- Pileated Woodpecker -- RL 9/4/2009 2
- White-eyed Vireo -- LRR 9/15/2009 1

Blue Jay -- RL 9/4/2009 6; LRR 9/15/2009 3
American Crow -- LRR 9/15/2009 2; RL 9/4/2009 4; HH 9/18/2009 20
Fish Crow -- HH 9/18/2009 6
Northern Rough-winged Swallow --- HH 9/18/2009 12
Carolina Chickadee -- RL 9/4/2009 2; LRR 9/15/2009 6; HH 9/18/2009 3
Tufted Titmouse -- LRR 9/15/2009 4; RL 9/4/2009 2
White-breasted Nuthatch -- LRR 9/15/2009 1; RL 9/4/2009 2
Carolina Wren -- RL 9/4/2009 1; LRR 9/15/2009 3; HH 9/18/2009 2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher -- LRR 9/15/2009 2
Eastern Bluebird -- HH 9/18/2009 4; RL 9/4/2009 5
Pine Warbler -- RL 9/4/2009 3; LRR 9/15/2009 2
Hooded Warbler -- LRR 9/18/2009 1; LRR 8/26/2009 1
Summer Tanager -- RL 9/4/2009 3
Eastern Towhee -- HH 9/18/2009 1; H&PH 9/10/2009 1
Northern Cardinal -- RL 9/4/2009 6; LRR 9/15/2009 6
Indigo Bunting -- RL 9/4/2009 1
Great-tailed Grackle -- RL 9/9/2009 18
House Finch -- RL 7/28/2009 6; LRR 9/15/2009 4
House Sparrow -- RL 7/28/2009 4

41 species

OBSERVERS

H&PH -- Hubert and Pat Hervey: 9/10/2009 Hervey farm in Stonewall

HH -- Hubert Hervey: 9/18/2009 Hervey farm in Stonewall

LRR -- Larry R. Raymond: 9/15/2009 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park; 8/26/2009 Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park

RL -- Robert Lance: 7/28/2009 Bossier City: 5117 Cypress Ln.; 9/4/2009 South end Crouch Rd.; 9/9/2009 Benton, Brookshires parking lot on LA hwy. 3; 9/22/2009 4.5 mi. N Midway on LA Hwy 157.

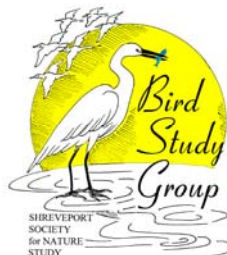
Bird Records Note

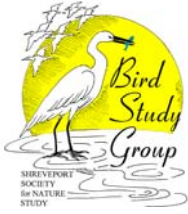
The BSG Bird Records database has been converted to an Access database. This bird report was constructed from the Access database about 18 hours after the published deadline for sending records for this newsletter. My objective analysis convinces me that the paucity of records received had no connection to the database conversion! So, the next newsletter will probably be loaded with records. My objective analysis implies that the paucity occurred because everyone was out birding and did not have time to turn in records. I am sure that is the cause. Of course, all records received after the deadline will be in the next newsletter Bird Report (2303). Those of you who send in records by e-mail as dbf database files continue as before. Those who use Excel can send them as an Excel spreadsheet without any exporting or conversion. – *Mac Hardy*

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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 _____

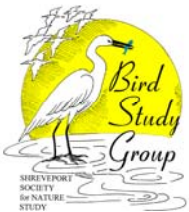
Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

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



Shreveport Society for Nature Study
BIRD STUDY GROUP
One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399

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