



# *Shreveport Society for Nature Study*

# **BIRD STUDY GROUP**

# **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 25, Number 7

March 2, 2011

*Next Meeting – March 8, 2011*

## **Bringing Back the Whooping Crane**

*Presented by Paul Dickson*

### **MARCH MEETING**

**When:** Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m.  
**Where:** LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium  
**Topic:** Bringing Back the Whooping Crane  
**Presented by:** Paul Dickson

Paul Dickson, area conservation leader, will give a talk on the Whooping Crane in Louisiana. This spectacular and now rare bird was once found throughout the prairie regions of Louisiana but was extirpated by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Dickson is involved in a project to return the Whooping Crane to the southwest Louisiana coastal marshes. This ambitious program is a cooperative effort of national conservation groups, Louisiana citizens and both State and Federal wildlife agencies. He will explain how the Whooping Crane will be restored to the available remaining habitat in Louisiana and describe how to see this magnificent wild bird in the near future.

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 AND EVENTS**

#### **CHENEYVILLE - SANDHILL CRANES**

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2011, 7:30 am

#### **Harbingers of Spring Trail Walk**

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park  
Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to Noon

#### **Observing Nature: Nature Journaling Workshop**

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park  
Saturday, March 26, 2011, 9:00 am to Noon

#### **PINOLA PRESERVE**

Date: TBA, late March/early April

#### **WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS**

##### **BEGINNER BIRD WALKS**

First and Third Saturdays

### **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](mailto:birdalert@birdstudygroup.org).

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

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

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS**

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.

**CHENEYVILLE - SANDHILL CRANES**

*Date: Saturday, March 5, 2011, 7:30 am*

Trip Leader – Jim Ingold – 797-5236(W), 742-5067(H), [jamesingold@lsus.edu](mailto:jamesingold@lsus.edu)

Meet at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences. Tour the back roads of the Cheneyville-LeCompte area by car to see **Sandhill Cranes**, waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds wintering in the rice fields. Bring a lunch to eat in the car.

**PINOLA PRESERVE**

*Date: TBA, but late March/early April*

Contact: John Dillon [kisforkryptonite@gmail.com](mailto:kisforkryptonite@gmail.com)

BSG members were treated to a wonderful presentation last September about Paul Dickson's new Pinola Preserve, a top-notch, private aviculture facility at his house in Shreveport. Several of us visited the preserve in October while it was in its final stages of construction. In short, we were stunned! You can read my follow-up article about the trip in October's e-newsletter and view a few photos from the trip.

If you were unable to make it to the October trip, you really need to make an attempt to come see this private facility. Most zoos would be entirely jealous to have such an amazing facility. Paul is allowing the BSG members to attend because he knows of our serious interest in and appreciation of all bird species. But this facility is private, and there will be FEW future visits. Lastly, consider that this time of year is when the birds will be displaying their breeding plumage and singing more than any other time of year. It truly will be a treat! Be sure to bring binoculars and camera.

Directions: the address is 10451 Ellerbe Road in Shreveport. From the intersection of Ellerbe Road and Bert Kouns, drive South on Ellerbe Road. You will pass Flournoy-Lucas and Norris Ferry Road. The entrance is across the street from Holy Angels School.

**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 70<sup>th</sup> 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).

**Walter B Jacobs Park Events of Interest****Harbingers of Spring Trail Walk**

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park

Saturday, March 19th

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Enjoy the warmer weather, witness the first signs of spring, get a last glimpse of at winter migrants like sapsuckers, goldfinches, and purple finches, and view early migrating summer residents such as parulas, waterthrushes, and black-and-white warblers.

There is no cost to attend this program. A rainy day provides unique opportunities for exploring nature, so this program will be offered rain or shine. Please dress for the weather. For more information, contact Rachel Demascal at 929-2806.

**Observing Nature: Nature Journaling Workshop**

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park

Saturday, March 26, 2011

9:00 AM to Noon

Illustrator Rosanna Ohlsson-Salmon is offering a nature journaling workshop at Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park for adults and children ages 8 and up. Admission is free. Registration required. Manual and supplies are provided. To reserve your space, call 318.929.2806, or email [rsalmon@caddo.org](mailto:rsalmon@caddo.org).

Nature Journaling helps you develop aesthetic and scientific observations, become curious about the world around you, improve drawing skills, practice writing and descriptive skills, develop a greater appreciation of

nature and place, enjoy self confidence and shared family experiences, and express yourself.

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park is dedicated to helping the citizens of Northwest Louisiana connect with nature by conserving a pine-oak-hickory forest for interpretation and recreation. We provide nature education programs, stress awareness of the local environment, and emphasize the need for positive environmental action. Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park is funded by taxpayers, provided by the Caddo Parish Commission, and maintained by the Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department. The park is free and open to the public. For more information about the park and its programs, visit us online at [www.caddoparks.com](http://www.caddoparks.com) or find us on Facebook.

### **Announcements from the BSG**

#### **New Field Checklist**

A new Field Checklist (February 11, 2011 edition) is available. This is based on the "51<sup>st</sup> Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*."

There is one name change for our area: Eastern Whip-poor-will.

There are several changes in sequence: Magnificent Frigatebird, cormorants, Anhinga, pelicans, herons, ibis, and spoonbill, in that sequence, are between Wood Stork and Black Vulture. Also, the longspurs now follow the Cedar Waxwing and precede Blue-winged Warbler. See the new checklist for the exact sequence.

#### **GHOST BIRD IS COMING**

"Ghost Bird" is a film that tells the timely story of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker's miraculous rediscovery in 2005. The BSG has bought the fundraiser screening kit for the film. We can show it as often as we like and in any venue. We are working on venues now. Watch for the announcement of the first screening and help support the Bird Study Group and this benefit to protect endangered species and the planet's biodiversity.

#### **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 as possible before May 31. At this time it contains 59 years of observations, from 1952 to the present, a total of 268,989 records.

#### **THE END OF AN ERA: BSG DATABASE**

After more than 30 years and nearly 300,000 bird records, some dating from 1952, the Bird Study Group is ending its database program. The last day to record birds into the existing database is May 31, 2011. After that date, birders are encouraged to enter their records into e-Bird online or their choice of other personal bird lists.

The BSG Database will be made available – in a searchable format – on our website. The historical database will continue to serve as a very important resource for research concerning the birds of our area.

#### **FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR NEEDED**

John Dillon, our field trip coordinator, has resigned after three years of dedicated service. We greatly appreciate the effort and enthusiasm that John gave to the BSG. We would like to fill this vacancy as quickly as we can so the members of the BSG can continue to benefit from the engaging and educational field trips, especially in our local area. Anyone who would like to help the BSG by accepting this important position please contact Mac Hardy or any other member of the Board (the complete list is in each Newsletter). Being an expert birder is NOT a requirement. The primary responsibilities include: 1) scheduling a local half-day or day field trip to some local area (such as listed in our Hot Spots) as least once a month; 2) arranging for a leader for the field trip; and 3) get publicity information to Rachel Demascal (Publicity), Jerry Bertrand (webmaster), or announce the field trip at the regular meeting.

#### **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.

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 –open	
Fund Raising – Jerry Bertrand.....	868-3255 (H/W)
Hospitality – Amanda Lewis .....	861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)
Library – Silviera Hunt.....	220-0098 (H), 676-5457 (W)
Membership Secretary – Mac Hardy.....	687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)
Newsletter Editor – Amanda Lewis .....	861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)
Folding/Mailing Committee – George Dean.....	
Programs – Larry Raymond.....	929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
Publicity – Rachel Demascal.....	929-2806 (W)
Website – Jerry Bertrand.....	868-3255 (H/W)

BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons	
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
<b>OFFICERS</b>	
President – Mac Hardy (1).....	687-6738 (H), 797-5338(W)
Vice-president – Larry Raymond(2).....	929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)
Secretary – Silviera Hunt (2).....	220-0098 (H), 676-7156(W)
Treasurer – Dennis Forshee (1).....	797-2473 (W)
<b>MEMBERS AT LARGE</b>	
Jerry Bertrand (1).....	868-3255 (H/W)
Rachel Demascal(1).....	929-2806 (W)
Bill Wood (1).....	458-2930 (H)
John Dillon (3).....	243-2284 (H)
Bill Hall (3).....	797-1727 (H)
Jim Ingold (2).....	742-5067 (H), 797-5236 (W)
Amanda Lewis (2).....	861-5294 (H), 797-5215 (W)
Nancy Menasco (3).....	868-3255 (H/W)
Hubert Hervey (3).....	925-9249(H)
Terry Davis (3).....	934-2133(H/W)
Clyde Massey (2).....	868-9537(H), 424-4167(W)
<i>Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.</i>	

## BIRD REPORT – compiled March 1, 2011

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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. All bird records reported here are observations of the observers and are therefore the responsibility of the observer.

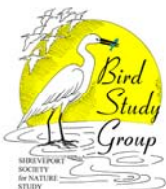
## OBSERVATIONS

- Greater White-fronted Goose -- 2/21/2011 RL 56; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
- Ross's Goose -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 2
- Wood Duck -- 2/1/2011 RL 2; 2/21/2011 RL 2; 1/30/2011 RS 4
- Gadwall -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
- American Wigeon -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 10
- Northern Shoveler -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
- Wild Turkey -- 2/1/2011 RL 15
- Pied-billed Grebe -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 5
- Great Blue Heron -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
- Black Vulture -- 2/1/2011 RL 4; 2/21/2011 RL 2; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
- Turkey Vulture -- 2/21/2011 RL 2; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/25/2011 RS 1; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
- Northern Harrier -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
- Sharp-shinned Hawk -- 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 1
- Cooper's Hawk -- 2/25/2011 RS 1
- Red-shouldered Hawk -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 4; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 2
- Red-tailed Hawk -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 13; 1/30/2011 RS 1; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/25/2011 RS 1
- American Kestrel -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 4
- Killdeer -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 14
- Wilson's Snipe -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 3; 1/30/2011 RS 2
- Rock Pigeon -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 2
- Mourning Dove -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 18; 1/30/2011 RS 70; 2/25/2011 RS 6; 2/21/2011 RL 6; 2/1/2011 RL 8
- Barred Owl -- 1/30/2011 RS 1; 2/1/2011 RL 2; 2/21/2011 RL 2
- Red-bellied Woodpecker -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 8; 2/1/2011 RL 2; 2/21/2011 RL 2; 2/25/2011 RS 2

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** -- 1/30/2011 RS 2; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 SH 1; 2/22/2011 SH 1; 2/25/2011 RS 1  
**Downy Woodpecker** -- 1/30/2011 RS 2; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 1; 2/25/2011 RS 1  
**Hairy Woodpecker** -- 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 1  
**Northern Flicker** -- 1/30/2011 RS 2; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 2  
**Pileated Woodpecker** -- 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 1  
**Eastern Phoebe** -- 1/30/2011 RS 2  
**Loggerhead Shrike** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1  
**Blue Jay** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 8; 1/30/2011 RS 39; 2/1/2011 RL 4; 2/21/2011 RL 3  
**American Crow** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 169; 1/30/2011 RS 28; 2/1/2011 RL 4; 2/21/2011 RL 5  
**Fish Crow** -- 2/1/2011 RL 2; 2/21/2011 RL 2  
**Purple Martin** -- 2/28/2011 SH 1  
**Carolina Chickadee** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 12; 2/1/2011 RL 3; 2/21/2011 RL 2; 2/25/2011 RS 1  
**Tufted Titmouse** -- 1/30/2011 RS 2; 2/1/2011 RL 2; 2/21/2011 RL 2  
**White-breasted Nuthatch** -- 2/1/2011 RL 2; 2/21/2011 RL 2; 2/25/2011 RS 1  
**Brown-headed Nuthatch** -- 1/30/2011 RS 8; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 1  
**Brown Creeper** -- 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/21/2011 RL 1  
**Carolina Wren** -- 1/30/2011 RS 6; 2/1/2011 RL 2; 2/21/2011 RL 2; 2/25/2011 RS 1  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 2; 2/25/2011 RS 1  
**Eastern Bluebird** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 7; 1/30/2011 RS 7; 2/21/2011 RL 1  
**Hermit Thrush** -- 1/30/2011 RS 3; 2/1/2011 RL 1  
**American Robin** -- 1/30/2011 RS 45; 2/25/2011 RS 5; 2/25/2011 SH 15  
**Northern Mockingbird** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 4; 1/30/2011 RS 6; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/25/2011 RS 2  
**Brown Thrasher** -- 1/30/2011 RS 1  
**European Starling** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 104; 2/25/2011 RS 3  
**American Pipit** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 20  
**Cedar Waxwing** -- 1/30/2011 RS 13; 2/25/2011 RS 7  
**Orange-crowned Warbler** -- 2/22/2011 SH 1; 2/23/2011 SH 1; 2/24/2011 SH 1  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 16; 1/30/2011 RS 19; 2/25/2011 RS 2  
**Pine Warbler** -- 1/30/2011 RS 24; 2/1/2011 RL 3; 2/21/2011 RL 2  
**Eastern Towhee** -- 1/30/2011 RS 7  
**Chipping Sparrow** -- 1/30/2011 RS 7; 2/1/2011 RL 6; 2/21/2011 RL 2  
**Field Sparrow** -- 1/30/2011 RS 3; 2/21/2011 RL 2  
**Savannah Sparrow** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 30  
**Fox Sparrow** -- 2/1/2011 RL 1  
**Song Sparrow** -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 5; 1/30/2011 RS 5; 2/25/2011 RS 1  
**White-throated Sparrow** -- 1/30/2011 RS 43; 2/1/2011 RL 10; 2/21/2011 RL 12; 2/25/2011 RS 8  
**Dark-eyed Junco** -- 1/30/2011 RS 23; 2/1/2011 RL 11; 2/21/2011 RL 14; 2/25/2011 RS 4  
**Northern Cardinal** -- 1/30/2011 RS 37; 2/1/2011 RL 12; 2/21/2011 RL 11; 2/25/2011 RS 3  
**Red-winged Blackbird** -- 1/30/2011 RS 12; 2/1/2011 RL 1; 2/25/2011 RS 3; 2/28/2011 SH 5  
**Rusty Blackbird** -- 1/30/2011 RS 58  
**Brewer's Blackbird** -- 2/1/2011 RL 3  
**Common Grackle** -- 1/30/2011 RS 6; 2/1/2011 RL 300; 2/21/2011 RL 400; 2/25/2011 RS 48  
**Brown-headed Cowbird** -- 2/21/2011 RL 1  
**Purple Finch** -- 2/1/2011 RL 6; 2/21/2011 RL 4  
**House Finch** -- 2/25/2011 RS 7  
**American Goldfinch** -- 1/30/2011 RS 2; 2/1/2011 RL 23; 2/25/2011 RS 9; 2/21/2011 RL 18  
**House Sparrow** -- 2/25/2011 RS 6

## OBSERVERS

**LA,PL,CP&SH -- Linda Adrion, P. Lonnecker, C. Phillips & S. Huss:** 1/14/2011 US 71 north, LA 3049, Sentell Rd, George's Rd, LA 173, LA 2  
**RL -- Robert Lance:** 2/1/2011 South end of Crouch Road; 2/21/2011 South end of Crouch Road  
**RS -- Rosemary Seidler:** 1/30/2011 Roy Quad; 2/25/2011 Shreveport: Prospect St. near Line Ave.  
**SH -- Shirley Huss:** 2/21/2011 Shreveport: 806 Delaware St.; 2/22/2011 Shreveport: 806 Delaware St.; 2/23/2011 Shreveport: 806 Delaware St.; 2/24/2011 Shreveport: 806 Delaware St.; 2/25/2011 Shreveport: 806 Delaware St.; 2/28/2011 Shreveport: 806 Delaware St.



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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 \_\_\_\_\_

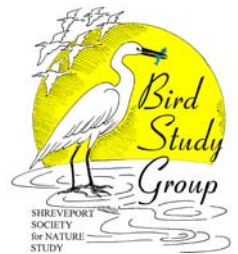
Yes, please add me to the email Bird Alert

Leave me out of the BSG member directory

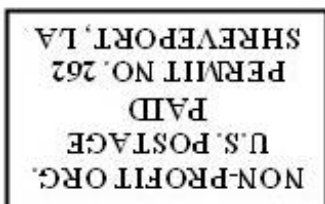
Membership Levels:  Regular (\$15.<sup>00</sup>)  Sustaining (\$35.<sup>00</sup>)  Family, *One Newsletter/ One Address* (\$20.<sup>00</sup>)  
Names of Family Members:

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



*Place Label Here*



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