



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

Volume 26, Number 2  
October 7, 2011

*Next Meeting – October 11, 2011*

"Increasing Access to Urban Wildlife:  
The Development of One Forest Trail in Shreveport and the Potential for Others"

Presented by ABetterShreveport.org members: Jon Soul and Stephanie Pedro

## **OCTOBER MEETING**

**When:** Tuesday, October 11, 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

**Topic:** Increasing Access to Urban Wildlife: The Development of One Forest Trail in Shreveport and the Potential for Others." Presented by ABetterShreveport.org members: Jon Soul and Stephanie Pedro.

Come here about the development of the Coates Bluff Trail in Shreveport and future possibilities. ABetterShreveport.org is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Shreveport. Some of their projects other than the Coates Bluff greenway include creating a dog park, bike paths, and downtown revitalization. <http://www.abettershreveport.org/>

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.

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# REFUGE WEEK EVENTS AT THE RED RIVER NWR

## THE BIG SIT!

**Where:** Red River National Wildlife Refuge Bayou Pierre Unit  
709A Grand Bayou Loop/Parish Road 401  
In Red River Parish, LA

**Date:** Sunday, October 9, 2011

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

**Who can attend:** The public is invited. Admission is free. **NO PETS PLEASE!**

**Sponsored by:** Friends of the Red River NWR, the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, and Shreveport's Bird Study Group. Contact Nancy Menasco, nmenasco@friendsofredriver.org, 868-3255.

**What to bring:** Binoculars, field guides, scope, chair, hat, drinks, and food.

Hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest* magazine, the Big Sit is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. 2011 will mark the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 will be held at the refuge's Bayou Pierre Unit, which is located about 30 minutes south of Shreveport along the Red River and just off LA 1 in Red River Parish. Made up of three tracts totaling almost 4,000 acres, the Bayou Pierre Unit includes moist soil impoundments, which are flooded annually to provide habitat for migrating shorebirds, wading birds, and wintering waterfowl; bottomland hardwoods along the river; reforestation areas; and a cypress-tupelo swamp. Also located on the unit is a 1930's farmhouse that has been renovated by the Friends of Red River NWR to serve as a visitor contact, education, and research center. Restrooms are available onsite.

**Directions to the Bayou Pierre Unit:** From the intersection of Youree Drive/LA 1 and Bert Kouns Loop in Shreveport, go south on Youree Drive/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 a white house on your left. Turn in the driveway at the gate and park by the house. This is about a 35-minute drive from the Youree Dr./Bert Kouns intersection. Additional information: The turn on to Grand Bayou Loop/Parish Road 401 is 1.6 miles south on LA 1 from the blinking caution light at the intersection of LA 1 and LA 509 in Red River Parish.

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# 7TH ANNUAL RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CELEBRATION

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

**Date:** Saturday, October 15, 2011

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Who can attend:** The public is invited. Admission is free. Donations to support the work of the Friends group for the refuge are very much appreciated. **NO PETS PLEASE!**

**Sponsored by:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of the Red River NWR.  
Contact Nancy Menasco, nmenasco@friendsofredriver.org, 868-3255.

Join us as we celebrate northwestern Louisiana's own Red River National Wildlife Refuge and the other 552 national wildlife refuges that make up America's 150-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System! The 7th Annual Celebration will feature live hawks, herps and baby alligators, nature walks, hayride refuge tours, fishing games, nature projects for children, face painting, native plants exhibits and sales, the popular interactive Be A Bear obstacle course that follows a year in the life of a bear, "Bugs and Butterflies" exhibit, a hands-on archaeology exhibit, and many other fun nature-oriented activities. New this year will be a live Bald Eagle from Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park. As usual, we'll be serving a free catfish lunch.

The Art in Nature exhibit will feature local student entries in our second "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. For more information on the contest and an entry form, please visit our website at [www.friendsofredriver.org](http://www.friendsofredriver.org) or call Zac Burson at 426-4683 (Shreveport-Bossier area).

The Celebration schedule will be posted on the Friends of Red River NWR website at [www.friendsofredriver.org](http://www.friendsofredriver.org) as soon as it is finalized.

**Directions to the Headquarters Unit:** 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 through the gate into the refuge. The Refuge is open to walk-in visitors daily



### **3RD ANNUAL YELLOW RAIL WALK AT RED RIVER NWR BAYOU PIERRE UNIT**

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

*Saturday, November 5, 2011, 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. Last year's rail walk yielded 63 species, including Yellow Rail, Virginia Rail, Short-eared Owl, American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, and over 60 LeConte's Sparrows.

We will be meeting at the farmhouse for a short orientation before the walk. We'll have the coffeepot on. Bring your rubber boots or waders for walking the moist soil impoundments. A change of pants, socks, and shoes is advised. Those who don't want to walk the fields can bird from the levees and roads of the refuge.

You're invited to join us for lunch at the farmhouse after the bird walk. Tentative menu is hearty salads. We will provide iced tea and water.

#### Directions to Red River National Wildlife Refuge Bayou Pierre Unit:

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.

Additional information: The turn on to Grand Bayou Loop/Parish Road 401 is 1.6 miles south on LA 1 from the blinking caution light at the intersection of LA 1 and LA 509 in Red River Parish. Driving time from the intersection of Youree Drive/LA 1 and Bert Kouns Loop is about 35 minutes.

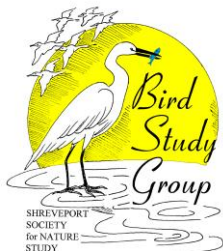
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#### **WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS BEGINNER BIRD WALKS**

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 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).

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#### **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.

**BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons**

**BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

*President – Larry Raymond*(1)..... 929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)  
*Vice-president – Mac Hardy* (3).....687-6738 (H), 797-5338(W)  
*Secretary – Silviera Hunt* (1).....220-0098 (H), 676-7156(W)  
*Treasurer – Jim Ingold*(1).....742-5067 (H), 797-5236 (W)

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

*Amanda Lewis* (1) .....861-5294 (H), 797-5215 (W)  
*Bill Hall* (2).....797-1727 (H)  
*Clyde Massey* (1).....868-9537(H), 424-4167(W)  
*Cran Lucas* (3).....797-1524 (H), 797-5086(W)  
*Dennis Forshee* (3).....797-2473(W)  
*Hubert Hervey* (2).....925-9249(H)  
*Jerry Bertrand* (3).....868-3255 (H/W)  
*John Dillon* (2).....243-2284 (H)  
*Nancy Menasco* (2).....868-3255 (H/W)  
*Roy Henderson*(3).....861-7449(H)  
*Terry Davis* (2).....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 –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)  
*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.



# 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

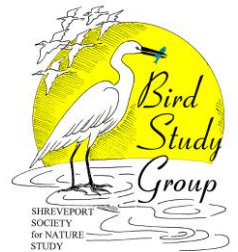
↑ Leave me out of the BSG member directory

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



## 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>