

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

Volume 26, Number 5  
March 9, 2012

*Next Meeting – March 13<sup>th</sup>*

**"The Mystery of Bird Migration"**

Presented by Dr. Jim Ingold

**MARCH MEETING**

**When:** Tuesday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium

**Topic:** "The Mystery of Bird Migration" Presented by Dr. Jim Ingold, BSG member and LSUS Ornithologist

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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**Field Trips**

**Rio Grande Valley**

*March 31- April 7, 2012*

Contact Mac Hardy 797-5338 if you are interested. Caravan or not. Birders will stay in Harlingen at the home of John Darling. Possible trips include: King Ranch, Harlingen area: Estero Llano Grande State Park, Laguna Atascosa NWR, Santa Ana NWR, Sabal Palms Sanctuary, Hugh Ramsey Nature Park, Harlingen Thicket Nature Park, World Birding Center (South Padre Island Nature center, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, and Harlingen Arroyo Colorado).

**Birding Scavenger Hunt**

*Saturday, April 21, 2012 7:00 a.m. to noon*

Meet at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center parking area at 7 a.m. to receive a mystery list of birds. Compete with 2 person teams. Birds don't have to be found on the refuge, so fill up your gas tank. The team to see the most birds on the list gets their lunch purchased by the rest of the group. This has been a fun event in the past. Come out and join the fun. Call Larry Raymond if you are planning on participating,

**Coates Bluff Birding Hike**

*Saturday, May 5, 2012*

This will be a walking birding hike of the Coates Bluff trail in Shreveport with Larry Raymond. More information will be posted next month.

## Recent Improvements in Area Birding Locations

### *The Red River National Wildlife Refuge*

By Hubert Hervey

Great News! The long awaited RRNWR Visitors Center is now open. The Friends of RRNWR is supporting a bird feeding station located between the exhibit area and Lake Carolyn. High quality monoculars are provided beside the picture windows to help with identification of the waterfowl on the more distant areas of the lake, and binoculars will help you enjoy seeing the birds using the feeders. On a trip there in February I observed a Red-headed Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, American Goldfinch, and House Finch at the feeders while Mourning Dove fed on the ground under them. Gadwall rested on the water, while Double-crested Cormorant chased fish, and a Great Egret waited for a meal to swim into reach. Then a Belted Kingfisher plunged into the water and struggled up to a limb to consume a fish that challenged his abilities. During the Refuge Celebration in October I was quite pleased to show the hay ride participants a Bald Eagle perched on a snag at the south end of the lake, and a young boy with one of the miracle cell phones captured a superb image of our National Symbol. Refuge personnel will keep the headquarters building open during the week, and the Friends group is planning to keep it open with the help of many volunteers on week-ends. This environmentally friendly Headquarters facility is located in Bossier City just south of Jimmy Davis Bridge, at the end of Sunflower Rd, but will enjoy even easier access upon the completion of the Arthur Ray Teague Parkway which is under construction. Walking trails have been developed and maintained through the woodland and along the lake.

The RRNWR presently consists of 4 units, the Headquarters Unit described above, the Bayou Pierre Unit in De Soto and Red River Parishes, the Spanish Lakes Unit in northern Natchitoches Parish, and the Lower Cane Unit in southern Natchitoches Parish. All of the above units offer birding opportunities, and some are already available, others are in the developmental stage. Located south on La. 1, the Yates Tract of the Bayou Pierre Unit is utilized by birders interested in birds using wetland management areas. The Friends group holds an annual rail drag there. The levees for controlling the water level in the former rice fields have been rebuilt and it is now possible to flood the fields enticing thousands of waterfowl to visit. In October I had two Fulvous Whistling Ducks at this location, and last week I saw thousands of ducks. I was especially pleased to see so many Pintail, and a few American Widgeon in the mix with over a thousand Mallards. The Yates Tract and the Pintail Tract are the major portions of the Bayou Pierre Unit, and we are eagerly awaiting improved access to the Pintail Tract, which will provide some of the best mature Cypress Swamp Forest habitat anywhere!

The Spanish Lowlands Area is located on both sides of I-49 south of the Powhatan Exit. A maintenance building has been built on Powhatan Rd, east of I-49, and parking and birding access is available here. Others areas of Spanish Lowlands west of I-49 have had a small egret rookery located on some of the bar pits, and improved public access is planned. I plan to keep you informed of these developments.

The Lower Cane Unit of the RRNWR located east of the Cloutierville Exit off I-49 is the least accessible from a Shreveport area birders point of view, yet excellent birding exists in the rice fields and former rice fields. I have seen numerous Sandhill Crane, and many geese and ducks on this unit. A good way to gain access to this unit would be to join the Friends of Red River National Wildlife Refuge, and watch our email news for information about when trips to Lower Cane or Pintail Tract at Bayou Pierre will take place. We have plans to make all of this available for your enjoyment.

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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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### **NOTICE Regarding BSG Membership Dues**

The payment schedule for the membership dues for the Bird Study Group has changed, effective immediately (1/6/2012).

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](http://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](mailto: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.

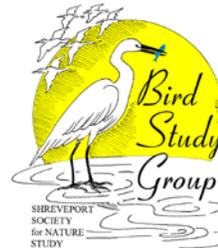
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### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO ENTER BIRD RECORDS**

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.*

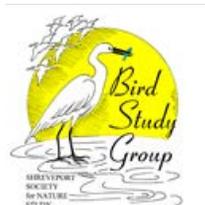
**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

*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>