

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

**BIRD STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 4, Number 4
December 1989



Bird Alert Service: Phone 226-7174, Mon., Wed., & Fri. after 5:00 PM
Bird Feed and Feeders: On sale at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences

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1989-90**

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PROGRAMS -- Will Smolenski

**NEXT REGULAR
MEETING:**

Tuesday, 12 December 1989, 7:00 PM at the Museum. The speaker will be Charlie Lyon, who will present a program on identification of Sparrows. This will be an important preparation for all of those birders who wish to participate in the Christmas Bird Counts this year. (See article inside).

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, 14 December 1989, 7:00 PM. This meeting will be at the Museum. All Board Members should try to be present.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. The expiration date for your membership in the Bird Study Group is now printed on your mailing label. Be sure to renew your membership before the expiration date so you will not miss a newsletter.

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**SHREVEPORT
CHRISTMAS BIRD
COUNT IS DEC. 23**

The Shreveport Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is scheduled for Saturday, 23 December 1989. Contact Horace Jeter or Steve Klotz for more information.

**BOSSIER CBC SET
FOR DECEMBER 30**

The Bossier-Caddo-Bienville CBC will be on Saturday, 30 December 1989. Contact Paul Dickson for more information.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our next meeting will be on 12 December 1989 at the Museum. We will meet at 6:00 PM for a covered dish dinner followed by our regular meeting. All participants are to bring a covered dish (your choice); the Bird Study Group will supply a ham, plates, forks, etc. Mark your calendar now to attend the BSG covered dish dinner on December 12.

REMINDER

If your membership expires this month be sure to pay your dues at the next meeting or earlier. The BIRD STUDY GROUP depends upon your support for much of the good work that the organization accomplishes. Check your membership and bring a friend to the next meeting.

GOOD BIRDING!

MORE CBCs!

Brent Ortego is the compiler for two Christmas Bird Counts in Texas: the Creole CBC in the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge and the Pine Prairie CBC in Chicot State Park. Brent has invited birders from the Bird Study Group to participate in those two counts if we can. Creole CBC is on Monday, December 18, and the Pine Prairie CBC is on Saturday, December 23. December 23 is the same date as the Shreveport CBC; however, if some of you are going to be in that area during the holidays and cannot participate in the Shreveport CBC then perhaps you can help the birders in Pine Prairie. For more information, call Brent Ortego (Jasper, TX) 409, 698-2088. This news was provided by Steve Klotz.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING...

The regular meeting of the Bird Study Group was called to order by President Bill Wood at 7:05 P.M. on November 14, 1989, in the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences. Visitors to the meeting were acknowledged.

Betty Mason gave the treasurer's report. Last month's balance was \$1,700.39. Since then we had income of \$283.50 and expenses of \$746.63, bringing our new balance to \$1,237.26.

Bill announced that Woody, the Red-bellied Woodpecker, died since the last meeting. The Monk Parakeet has been moved into Woody's cage.

Bill also reported that \$2.5 million in Red River mitigation funds have been set aside to acquire land in the Loggy Bayou wetlands area. Paul Dickson pointed out that this area is in the middle of the Bossier bird count area.

Will Smolenski reported that the posts, pea gravel, and base are now in place for the flight cage at Walter Jacobs Nature Park. The base of the cage has also been squared and leveled. Volunteers are still needed to complete the cage.

Bette expressed appreciation for the new PA system installed since the last meeting. Now, those in the back of the room can hear. Will was primarily responsible for getting the system in place.

Bette also reported that it is time to renew our \$100.00 donation to the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve. After Bette gave a brief history of the preserve, Bill Hall made a motion to send \$150.00 on a recurring annual basis to the Caroline Dormon Preserve. Pat Lonacker seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Bette then suggested that we have a cover dish dinner at the December meeting. She made a motion that we begin the meeting at 6:00 P.M. on 12 December, and that the bird group buy a ham to serve. Will seconded the motion which was then approved by the members. The bird group will provide the meat, plates, forks, etc. out of the treasury.

Recent interesting bird sightings were discussed. Charlie Lyon and Horace Jeter believe they saw a Red-throated Loon on November 5, 1989. Unfortunately, they were unable to find the bird again despite several

attempts. Bill Wood reported that he was unable to make Saturday's, November 11, bird walk, and he was unsure about the success of the outing. Ann Elston reported sightings of Bufflehead on the lake in Hodges Gardens.

Paul announced that the Shreveport CBC will be on Saturday, December 23, and the Bossier CBC will be on Saturday, December 30. Paul also reported that the Soda Lake WMA is being developed as a refuge for waterfowl, and there are plans to build an observation tower. A 6,000 acre refuge is being developed off of the Yearwood Road, as well. However, it probably will not be available until next year.

Pat Lonacker presented a short program on sparrows with help from Bill Hall who provided tapes of sparrow songs. Sparrows discussed included Swamp Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, House Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. Pat acknowledged Jim McCain who provided some of the slides of sparrows shown.

Paul Dickson then presented a very informative and, as usual for Paul, outstanding program on ducks. As an introduction to his program, Paul invited everyone to sample roast Mallard and Chinese 1,000 year eggs that he provided. He discussed the history, cultural aspects, importance, migrations, feeding habits, tribes, and behavior of ducks. He also introduced us to a group he called the brown ducks, and provided tips on their identification.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 9:13 P.M.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER PINS

The Piney Woods Wildlife Society (Houston, TX) is developing a 600 acre tract of woodland into a wildlife refuge. The land is near U.S. Hwy 59 and the North Harris County College. This is prime habitat for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. As a fund-raising project to support the development of the wildlife refuge the Piney Woods Wildlife Society has designed and is selling a lapel pin of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The pins sell for \$8.00 each and the money goes toward the preservation of wildlife habitat. These pins are available from the Bird Study Group -- ask any officer.

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN GROWING!

Recently, the Federal Government purchased an additional 840 acres of bottomland hardwood forest in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System to provide better public access. This property is located north of I-10 and east of the Atchafalaya River.

BIRD NOTES -- NOVEMBER

Compiled
November 29, 1989

Report bird records for the Newsletter to Vera Lee Grubbs (635-4852) or to Connie Connors (865-6422) by the 25th of each month. Only records not printed since the last Newsletter are published.

The Bird Notes report is being offered in a different form. Following each species is a line of data in the following format: date (initials of observer, number of birds observed; initials of another observer, number of birds observed; etc.). For example: 15 (PD,3; BW,,5) means that on the fifteenth PD saw 3 birds, BW saw 1 at one locality and 5 at another. See the next paragraph for specific observers and places. For the number of birds observed, a one is used both for one specimen or for numbers not reported by the observer.

Dates and reporters are as follows: J&BA -- Joe and Betty Ashley, Nov. 10 (Flag Lake, BAPS), Nov. 14 (Caplis Rd., Rabbit Rd. near Hwy. 71, Hwy. 527), Nov. 20 (Wallace Lake Dam), Nov. 23 (Caplis Rd., Sligo Rd., Hwy. 527, Hwy. 154); G3 -- Gordon Blackman, Nov. 19, 22 (residence); HC -- Norma Cobb (residence), Nov. 21 (residence); PHD -- Paul M. Dickson, Nov. 16 (Loggy Bayou Plantation); PHD&HJ -- Paul M. Dickson and Horace Jeter, Nov. 6 (Cross Lake); W&AE -- Williard and Ann Elston, Nov. 7, 10, 14, 17, 22 (residence), 11 (Hodges Gardens); BH -- Bill Hall, Nov. 15, 22 (residence); HH -- Herbert Hervey, Nov. 20 (residence); HeH -- Helen Hood, Nov. 20 (residence); SH -- Shirley Huss, Nov. 19 (Cross Lake), Nov. 21 (residence); CL -- Charlie Lyon, Nov. 6, 12 (Cross Lake), Nov. 15 (Pierremont area); CL&BH -- Charlie Lyon and Bill Hall, Nov. 26 (Cross Lake); CL,BW,BH -- Charlie Lyon, Bill Wood, and Bill Hall, Nov. 5 (Cross Lake); Jim McCain, Nov. 11-12 (Jeans Bayou, Caddo Lake).

COMMON NAME	DATA
Common Loon	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 1)
Red-throated Loon	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Nov. 11-12 (JM 3); 19 (SH 2)
Horned Grebe	Nov. 26 (CL,BH 8)
Double-crested Cormorant	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 150); 10 (J&BA 57); 11-12 (JM 40); 19 (SH 100) 26 (CL,BH 1500)
Great Blue Heron	Nov. 10 (J&BA 3); 11-12 (JM 5); 19 (SH 3)
Great Egret	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 3); 11-12 (JM 110); 15 (CL 2); 26 (CL 12)
Little Blue Heron	Nov. 23 (J&BA 1)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Nov. 7, 10, 14, 17 (W&AE)
Snow Goose	Nov. 7, 10, 14, 17 (W&AE); 20 (HH 70); 21 (SH 24)
Wood Duck	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 2); 14 (J&BA 1); 23 (J&BA 1); 26 (CL 33)
Green-winged Teal	Nov. 20 (HH 4)
Hallard	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 2); 11-12 (JM 200); 14 (J&BA 2); 23 (J&BA 3)
Blue-winged Teal	Nov. 16 (PHD 1)
Northern Shoveler	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 10); 14 (J&BA 3); 26 (CL 2)
American Wigeon	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 2); 26 (CL 2)
Canvasback	Nov. 26 (CL,BH 1)
Ring-necked Duck	Nov. 26 (CL 1)
Lesser Scaup	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 25); 26 (CL,BH 4)
Bufflehead	Nov. 11 (W&AE 8); 26 (CL,BH 4)
Hooded Merganser	Nov. 26 (CL 90)
Red-breasted Merganser	Nov. 6 (PHD & HJ 1)
Ruddy Duck	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 100); 12 (CL 10); 26 (CL,BH 240)
Black Vulture	Nov. 14 (J&BA 1); 20 (HH 15)
Turkey Vulture	Nov. 11-12 (JM 8); 14 (J&BA 2); 20 (HH 20); 26 (CL 2)
Bald Eagle	Nov. 26 (CL,BH 1)
Northern Harrier	Nov. 23 (J&BA 1); 26 (CL 2)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Nov. 12 (CL 1)
Cooper's Hawk	Nov. 20 (HH 1)
Red-tailed Hawk	Nov. 11-12 (JM 1); 20 (HH 1; J&BA 2); 23 (J&BA 2, 1,4); 26 (CL 5)
American Kestrel	Nov. 14 (J&BA 3,3); 20 (HH 1); 5 (CL,BW,BH 3); 23 (J&BA 1,1,4); 26 (CL 4)
American Coot	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 10); 26 (CL,BH 2)
Killdeer	Nov. 14 (J&BA 5); 20 (J&BA 2,18)
Spotted Sandpiper	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 1)
Common Snipe	Nov. 20 (HH 2)
Franklin's Gull	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 6)
Sonaparte's Gull	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 20); 12 (CL 6); 25 (CL 50); 26 (CL,BH 4)
Ring-billed Gull	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 20); 12 (CL 20); 26 (CL,BH 50)
Herring Gull	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 1)
Forster's Tern	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 4); 26 (CL,BH 2)
Rock Dove	Nov. 11-12 (JM 12); 14 (J&BA 120)
Eastern Screech-Owl	Nov. 12 (CL 2)
Belted Kingfisher	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 2); 11-12 (JM 2); 23 (J&BA 1); 26 (CL 2)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nov. 11-12 (JM 3)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 2); 10 (J&BA 1); 11-12 (JM 2); (W&AE 3); 26 (CL 1)
Northern Flicker	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 2); 10 (J&BA 1); 11-12 (JM 1); 14 (J&BA 2)
Pileated Woodpecker	Nov. 11-12 (JM 2)
Eastern Phoebe	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 3); 11-12 (JM 1); 20 (HH 2); 26 (CL,BH 1)
Barn Swallow	Nov. 5 (CL,BW,BH 1); 6 (CL 2)
Blue Jay	Nov. 11-12 (JM 3)
American Crow	Nov. 11-12 (JM 10); 26 (CL 60)
Fish Crow	Nov. 11-12 (JM 3); 26 (CL 25)
Carolina Chickadee	Nov. 10 (J&BA 2); 11-12 (JM 1); (HC 3)

Tufted Titmouse	Nov. 10 (J&BA 3); 11-12 (JM 10)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Nov. 11-12 (JM 2); 26 (CL 1)
White-breasted Nuthatch	Nov. 26 (CL 2)
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 1)
Brown Creeper	Nov. 11-12 (JM 1); 26 (CL, BH 2)
Carolina Wren	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 2); 11-12 (JM 2); 21 (NC 2); (HeH)
Winter Wren	Nov. 11-12 (JM 1)
Sedge Wren	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 2)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 4)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 10); 11-12 (JM 10)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Nov. 11-12 (JM 1)
Eastern Bluebird	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 10); 11-12 (JM 1); 23 (J&BA 2); 26 (CL 6)
Hermit Thrush	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 3); 26 (CL, BH 1)
Northern Mockingbird	Nov. 11-12 (JM 1)
Brown Thrasher	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 1); 11-12 (JM 1)
Water Pipit	Nov. 20 (HH 12)
Cedar Waxwing	Nov. 20 (HH 50)
Loggerhead Shrike	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 4); 14 (J&BA 3); 20 (J&BA 1); 26 (CL 5)
European Starling	Nov. 26 (CL 1000)
Solitary Vireo	Nov. 25 (CL 1)
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov. 11-12 (JM 1); 26 (CL, BH 1)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 15); 10 (J&BA 2); 11-12 (JM 12); 26 (CL, BH 30)
Pine Warbler	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 2)
Summer Tanager	Nov. 15 (CL 1)
Northern Cardinal	Nov. 11-12 (JM 3); 22 (GB 5)
Rufous-sided Towhee	Nov. 12 (CL 1)
Chipping Sparrow	Nov. 5 (CL 3); 20 (HH 50)
Field Sparrow	Nov. 5 (CL 5); 26 (CL, BH 8)
Savannah Sparrow	Nov. 26 (CL 4)
LeConte's Sparrow	Nov. 5 (CL, BW, BH 1)
Song Sparrow	Nov. 5 (CL 4); 20 (HH 6); 26 (CL 3)
Swamp Sparrow	Nov. 5 (CL 5); 11-12 (JM 1)
White-throated Sparrow	Nov. 5 (CL 2); 11-12 (JM 2); 14 (W&AE 3); 19 (GB 2); 20 (HH 6, HeH 2); 26 (CL 15)
White-crowned Sparrow	Nov. 14 (J&BA 10); 26 (CL 30)
Dark-eyed Junco	Nov. 5 (CL 10); 15 (BH 3); 17 (W&AE 6); 26 (CL, BH 10)
Red-winged Blackbird	Nov. 11-12 (JM 12)
Eastern Meadowlark	Nov. 20 (J&BA 17)
Common Grackle	Nov. 11-12 (JM 50); 26 (CL 1200)
American Goldfinch	Nov. 20 (HH 100); 21 (BH 2); 22 (W&AE 1); 26 (CL, BH 40)

Printed 92 of the 314 records.

SHREVEPORT SOCIETY FOR NATURE STUDY, INC.

BIRD STUDY GROUP

Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip

Phone (Home) _____, (work) _____

Membership Category: Regular _____(\$10.00) Sustaining _____(\$25.00)

Make Check Payable to: **SSNS BIRD STUDY GROUP**
 Museum of Life Sciences
 8015 St. Vincent Ave.
 Shreveport, LA 71106-5445