

2023 NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Louisiana's First Occurrence of Red-legged Honeycreeper

On 13 October 2022, Melvin Weber spotted an unusual bird at Grand Isle and called Steve Cardiff at LSUMNS. He described the bird to Steve who had noticed (via eBird) that Kathy Rhodes was birding on the island. He got them together so Kathy could help photograph what sounded like Louisiana's first Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*). Two individuals (LBRC 2022-027) were photographically confirmed and the honeycreepers were subsequently enjoyed by many observers who raced to Grand Isle to see them. Melvin had initially seen the bright red-legged individual, which was an adult male in non-breeding or 'eclipse plumage.' Images by Kathy Rhodes (below left), Dave Patton (middle), and Paul Wood (upper right) show this individual. A second bird had duller red legs and greenish wings: see photo by Phillip A. Wallace (right). Although there were reports of three individuals, analysis of all submitted eBird photos could only confirm two individuals, which were well-documented from 13-21 October 2022. The Grand Isle individuals were part of a larger pattern of records to the SE US coast with individuals documented from Indian River Co., Florida on the Atlantic Coast to Sabine Woods, Texas on the Gulf Coast. Ten records in all! These waifs were likely displaced during migration by Tropical Storm Karl (see also <https://www.aba.org/2022-red-legged-honeycreeper-irruption/>).



Synopsis of the 2023 LBRC Annual Meeting 11 March 2023 Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science by: Donna L. Dittmann, Secretary & Steven W. Cardiff, Chair

The 2023 Annual Meeting was called to order by Chair Steven W. Cardiff on Saturday 11 March 2023 at 10 AM. A quorum of eight Members were in attendance: Donna L. Dittmann, Paul E. Conover, John K. Dillon, Robert C. Dobbs, Erik I. Johnson, Larry R. Raymond, and Casey E. Wright. Daniel F. Lane was unable to attend. This was back to an in-person meeting (no Zoom).

First on the agenda was to resolve nine Discussion Round/Fourth Circulation records. Results are published in the 26th Report (begins on p. 4).

Then the Committee tackled Discussion Topics I and II (below and next page), which had been tabled during the Zoom Meetings the previous two years so we could discuss these in person while looking at specimens at LSUMNS:

Topic I. Bill length in Tropical versus Couch's kingbirds.

Members reviewed LSUMNS specimens to evaluate this character as a potential field mark for silent individuals. After review, most Members were still not inclined to accept silent individuals based on bill length. See also p. 15.

Synopsis of 2023 Annual Meeting - cont.

Topic II. Cordilleran Flycatcher (LSUMZ 162199; LBRC 1995-079).

Members also took the opportunity to view this specimen: prior to reevaluation of its accepted identification as a Cordilleran Flycatcher (LSUMZ 162199, 8th Report of the LBRC). Steve Cardiff has proposed to re-identify this individual as a Pacific-slope Flycatcher based on plumage and mensural data. There is one other accepted specimen record of Cordilleran Flycatcher (LBRC 1994-063/8th Report of the LBRC) and one additional record of this species based on audio recordings (LBRC 2010-098). This species-complex is also part of a larger LSUMNS genetics project. So, a vote on this individual is pending analysis of its genetic identification, along with all other Louisiana Western Flycatcher specimens.

Note: since this meeting the AOS Checklist Committee re-lumped these taxa back to Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*).

Topic III. How best to deal with records of some introduced populations.

Whooping Crane. First up was status of re-introduced Louisiana Whooping Cranes. During the discussion, Members noted similarities to the re-introduction of Brown Pelican and Peregrine Falcon - both species were extirpated and successfully reintroduced. The LBRC decided to remove the Louisiana population from the Review List and continue monitoring the outcome of the introduction program. Once established as per LBRC parameters, then the population can be accepted as re-established, just as are Brown Pelican and Peregrine Falcon.

Synopsis of 2023 Annual Meeting - continues bottom of p. 3

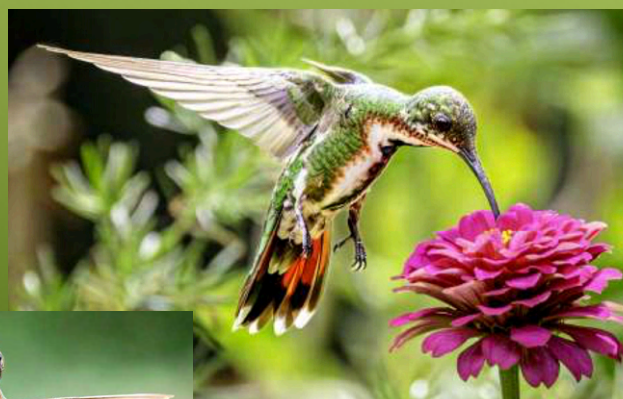


This beautiful adult Slaty-backed Gull (2022-021) represents a species long-anticipated to occur in Louisiana. Found on 21 December 2022 by Paul E. Conover and B. Mac Myers III, this individual was unfortunately only a two-day wonder. The gull was in a mixed-species flock of gulls on private property in Acadia Parish about 10 miles from Crowley. Photo above on 22 December 2022 by Rob Dobbs shows diagnostic wing tip pattern referred to as the "string of pearls." Photos below by Paul (see also p. 15) on the day of discovery show other characteristic features of this species: dark mantle, pink legs, dark mask around the eye, and broad white-edged secondaries.



Louisiana's Second Occurrence of Green-breasted Mango

Identified using the eBird Merlin App and present for only two days, this immature Green-breasted Mango (2023-028) visited Ginger Wiley's Acme yard and feeders on 14-15 July 2023. Her photos clearly identify this second state occurrence. The first occurrence in Caddo Parish on 20 August 2009 also did not hang around for folks to chase.



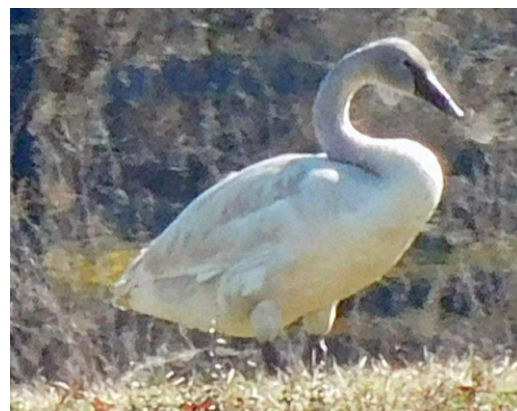
Louisiana's Second Occurrence of Prairie Falcon

This Prairie Falcon (2022-042) was an excellent find by Michael A. Seymour and Charles Battaglia (photos shown) in Calcasieu Parish during the Cameron Prairie-Sweet Lake CBC on 18 December 2022. Like the first occurrence found December 2011 during the White Lake CBC in Vermilion Parish, the bird was not seen after the initial observation.



Canada Goose. All Members agreed that the recent eBird exotic species categories were a reasonable approach to deal with feral Canada Geese in Louisiana (see p. 27). The LBRC accepts the Cameron Parish breeding birds derived from the introduced Rockefeller Refuge population as an established Introduced Species (=eBird, naturalized). The greater Baton Rouge area population is also considered established and derived from numerous individuals emanating from the Ben Hur area. Although this population may have influence from local releases, it too appears to be naturalized. And, birds present in the Shreveport area originated from birds released at Hamel's Park beginning in the 1960s (although have not spread out of the general area). Thus, the option of introduced Canada Goose is added to the State List. It is inserted and indented below (wild) Canada Goose and designated Introduced. Other areas such as Lake Arthur and Monroe may have established populations but birds do not appear to be expanding from these areas. Wild Canada Goose remains on the Review List.

Trumpeter Swan. While reviewing the recent record in Winn Parish (2022-023, p. 13), the LBRC considered two options – reject on Origin or accept such individuals as representing a vanguard from an expanding reintroduced population to the north. The latter approach takes into consideration the similar expansion of reintroduced populations of Brown Pelican and Peregrine Falcon. Due to the species' popularity in captivity, possible captive origin will always need to be considered. Photo at right (2024-023) was taken on 4 February 2023 in Winn Parish by Kathy Rhodes.



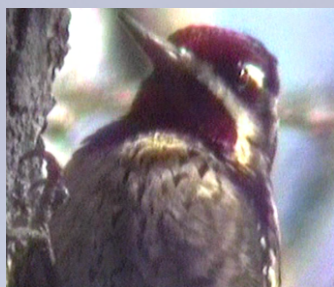
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Synopsis of 2023 Annual Meeting - cont.

IV. Return to seven LBRC Voting Members or allow out-of-state Members?

Members briefly discussed whether it would be prudent to return to seven Voting Members. However, there were concerns that a Meeting might not achieve a quorum necessary to vote on First Circulation or Discussion records if one Member was absent, which was the reason the Committee was enlarged to nine. Although the Annual Meeting is a fixed date each year to avoid potential date conflicts to have all Members present at the Meeting, date conflicts continue to occur almost annually. Whereas there is nothing in the Bylaws requiring Louisiana residency for Members, the Committee has traditionally replaced any Member who moved out of state. Following a brief discussion, all agreed to maintain the current Committee size. Members also agreed Louisiana residency is necessary and may need to be specified by the Bylaws.

Louisiana's Second Occurrence of Red-naped Sapsucker



The identification of this adult male Red-naped Sapsucker(1993-009) was supported by video and careful descriptions by Paul E. Conover and Dave Patton. The bird was present 3-13 January 1993 at Indian Bayou near Dearborne Road in Lafayette Parish. The delay to resolve this record was in part due to the difficulty of distributing the video during review. Paul provided stills from the video in addition to the video, a couple shown left and at right.



Louisiana's third and fourth occurrences of Hammond's Flycatcher

Both are specimen records. The third occurrence was an immature of unknown sex (2022-048) found in Cameron Parish on 1 October 2022 by Paul E. Conover (DLD 12038) and B. Mac Myers III, and the fourth was an immature female (2022-050) found in Vermilion Parish on 28 November 2022 by Phillip A. Wallace (Paul E. Conover, DLD 12114). Photos below by Donna L. Dittmann, who also prepared the specimens. The previous two occurrences are also documented by specimens, the first from Rapides Parish on 17 January 1957, and the second from Cameron Parish on 27 October 1984.



Twenty-sixth Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee

Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary, & Steven W. Cardiff, LBRC Chair

Format follows that of LBRC reports previously published in the Journal of Louisiana Ornithology

The Louisiana Bird Records Committee (henceforth LBRC or Committee) was established in 1979 as an autonomous Committee of the Louisiana Ornithological Society (henceforth LOS) to evaluate and archive records of unusual species that occur in Louisiana. The LBRC strives to determine record acceptability to aid in understanding the patterns of occurrence of rarities in the state. Each record (in the form of observers' written reports, copies of field notes, photographs, videotapes, audio recordings, or specimens) is reviewed by each of nine elected LBRC Voting Members (in accordance with LBRC Bylaws, *LOS News* No. 87; Bylaws recently amended 6 September 2022, and viewable: <http://losbird.org/lbrc/bylaws.pdf>). Current LBRC

Members in alphabetical order: Steven W. Cardiff, Paul E. Conover, John K. Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert C. Dobbs, Erik I. Johnson, Daniel F. Lane, Larry R. Raymond, and Casey E. Wright.

All records submitted to the LBRC are archived at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (henceforth LSU-MNS) and/or on the LOS-LBRC webpages. Records included in this report were resolved in e-Rounds e-179, e-180, e-181, and e-182, and during the Discussion Round at the LBRC 2023 Annual Meeting. LBRC Members who evaluated records contained in this report: Steven W. Cardiff, Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann, John K. Dillon, Robert C. Dobbs, Erik I. Johnson, Daniel F. Lane, Larry R. Raymond, and Casey E. Wright.

The *Twenty-sixth Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee* includes 105 records of which the identification of 86 is accepted (including three as feral origin). The identification of 19 records was not accepted. The overall acceptance rate for identification is 81%, similar to that of the *Twenty-fifth Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee* (80%). This report completes review of records on the *View Pending Reports* section at the LOS LBRC website through August 2023. The LBRC strives to stay up-to-date and complete review of as many records as possible from the year preceding its Annual Meeting. We encourage observers to submit additional documentation for any records posted there or resolved in this report so that the LBRC files are as complete as possible. After resolution/publication, records on the *View Pending Reports* page are migrated to the *Photo and Record Gallery* page: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/reviewlist.html>. The *Photo and Record Gallery* page is up-to-date through the *Twenty-fifth Report of the LBRC* (2022); records in this report will be added. Note that *Pending Reports* pages may be re-populated if older/additional submissions are received. The LBRC continues to work through its backlog of never-reviewed older paper records contained in the LBRC files, many held back because the LBRC was awaiting additional reports or photographs which were never received. We are also reviewing American Birds File (ABF) 3 X 5 report cards (in the Central Southern Region card file) of Review List species for which long forms were never received. Some of these older records are resolved in this report.

This report includes Louisiana's first occurrences of Red-legged Honeycreeper and Slaty-backed Gull. Following publication of the *64th Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds* (2023; <https://academic.oup.com/auk/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ornithology/ukad023/7220602?login=true>), one species is lost from the Louisiana list: Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) is merged with Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*) and reverts to Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*). The subspecies name for Cordilleran is changed to *E. d. hellmayri*. Western Flycatcher was split by the AOU in 1989, and both taxa have been documented in Louisiana. There are seven accepted occurrences of Pacific-slope, three of Cordilleran, and eight of Pacific-slope/Cordilleran=Western Flycatcher. The two subspecies will be retained on the Review List: breeding distribution of nominate *difficilis* is along the Pacific-slope from southeastern Alaska south to the Sierra San Pedro Mártir of Baja California, Mexico. Intergrades with *E. d. hellmayri* occur at least from northeastern California (e.g., Siskiyou County) north to southeastern Alberta and east to central Montana (e.g., Hill County) and perhaps as far as the Black Hills of South Dakota. Birds throughout the Great Basin, interior Pacific Northwest, and northern Rocky Mountains may pertain to intergrades with *E. d. hellmayri* which breeds inland from west Texas (e.g., Brewster County) and northwestern Mexico (e.g., northern Sonora) north to northeastern California, southern Idaho, south-central Montana (e.g., Lewis and Clark County), and east to South Dakota. To the south, *E. d. hellmayri* intergrades with *E. d. bateli* in northern Mexico (e.g., in Chihuahua and Coahuila). The LBRC will continue to review records to subspecies if adequate documentation is provided. If interested in the rationale for this merger see: <https://americanornithology.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-D.pdf>. The other change affecting Louisiana birds in the *64th Supplement* is Northern Goshawk is split into New World and Old World groups: Old World populations retain the scientific name *Accipiter gentilis* and common name becomes Eurasian Goshawk whereas our North American populations become American Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*). A pdf of the revised State List can be found here: <http://losbird.org/lbrc/checklist.pdf>. The Louisiana State List total is 490 species.

Other notable records in this report include second occurrences of Green-breasted Mango, Prairie Falcon, and American Tree Sparrow, third and fourth occurrences of Brown Noddy and Hammond's Flycatcher, and third occurrence of Great Blue "Great White" Heron. Although not resulting in an addition to the State List, the LBRC has accepted Canada Goose as introduced based on the Cameron/Vermilion Parish breeding population. Although Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and other Louisiana populations may be augmented from local releases; at least those in the greater Baton Rouge area appear to be naturalized and expanding. Canada Goose (I) is indented and inserted below (wild) Canada Goose on the State List.. Wild-occurring Canada Goose remains on the Review List. See also *LBRC Newsletter 2023*, p. 26-28 for further discussion and eBird approach for these different population types.

The Committee maintains and annually reassesses a *Review List* of species that have been confirmed at least once in the state. As per guidelines in the LBRC Bylaws, species qualify for the Review List if they average four or fewer *accepted* occurrences annually averaged over the preceding ten-year period. A species may remain on the *Review List* when the number of reports exceeds the threshold for “de-listing” when the LBRC has judged the difficulty of identification warrants keeping that species on the list or because the number of actual *accepted* records *on file* is substantially fewer than the total number of reports generated by the birding community. The Review List is updated with the addition of two new species and lump of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran flycatchers to Western Flycatcher. Due to its change to Introduced species status, Monk Parakeet is removed from the Review List. The LBRC also removed Louisiana-released Whooping Cranes and will monitor the ongoing re-introduction program to hopefully sometime in the future accept that species as re-established. Eight subspecies or regional forms are on the Review List based on accepted records: Iceland “Thayer’s” Gull (*Larus glaucoideus thayeri*), Great Blue “Great White” Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*); Dark-eyed “Gray-headed” (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*), Pink-sided (*J. hyemalis mearnsi*), and “Oregon-group” (*J. hyemalis montanus*/Oregon group) juncos; Yellow-rumped “Audubon’s” Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*); and Yellow “Mangrove” Warbler (*Setophaga petechia erithachorides*-group). With the acceptance of LBRC 2020-052 of a potential hybrid junco as simply a “Non-Slate-colored/Cassiar,” the LBRC will review records of any NON-Slate-colored (*Junco h. hyemalis* or *J. h. carolinensis*) or NON-Cassiar (*J. h. cismontanus*) juncos. The Review List will retain subspecies of Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax d. difficilis* and *E. d. hellmayri*). The current *Review List* can be found on p. 16 or online: <http://losbird.org/lbrc/checklist.pdf>. Breeding documentation for exotic species is requested to monitor colonization or expansion of range in Louisiana for species such as Scaly-breasted Munia or other potential introduced or colonizing species.

Records in this report are organized in taxonomic order as per the 7th edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union [AOU] 1998), including changes through the 64th *Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds* (2023): <https://academic.oup.com/auk/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ornithology/ukad023/7220602?login=true>. Within each species account, records are arranged chronologically. Where possible, individuals for each record are identified by age and plumage. Accepted records include name of submitting observer(s). As per LBRC policy, submitting observers are not listed for records that are not accepted (including those by origin). The following abbreviation follows the observer's name if documentation is submitted in the following form(s): photographic (ph), specimen (LSUMZ), or autopsy data (preparator initials and prep number). If more than one observer submitted a report and the original discoverer(s) is known and included then the finder's name is **boldfaced**. If the discoverer is named in another report or otherwise known but he/she did not submit a report, then they are mentioned at the end of the record entry. The LBRC also reviews records submitted for the American Birds/Central Southern Region report card file in the event no other documentation has been received; these are noted as (ABF card-only). If the card's scribe is known, then that name is italicized. eBird submissions do not constitute an LBRC submission unless referenced in an observer's LBRC long form. If an eBird list includes *an identifiable photograph* that extends a record's date range but is not submitted as part of a report to the LBRC, then the eBird list reference is acknowledged but not the eBirder's identity. If photographic documentation *is discovered* on a Facebook or other webpage and supports a date extension, then a reference is included. Note that the LBRC does not routinely monitor these pages searching for supporting record documentation. Please also note that a link to a shared eBird list does not automatically grant the LBRC use of other observer's photos contained in that report. When submitting a report where additional material can be found on online pages or forums, then please provide a link so that it is included officially in the record's file. The LBRC will also review records on eBird with photo documentation in the absence of a submitted record (eBird ph only).

LBRC records are archived at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS) and on the LBRC webpage server(s). All specimens reported herein are housed at LSUMNS unless otherwise specified. For archival purposes, the LBRC will accept additional reports/documentation or corrections for any record that has been resolved. If this documentation contains information that could alter the original outcome of a record, then the record will be re-circulated with that ‘new’ information. Abbreviations used: AB (=journal *American Birds*); approx. (=approximately); Blvd. (=Boulevard); CBC (=Christmas Bird Count); Dr. (=Drive); FN (=journal *Field Notes*); Hwy. (=Highway); Ln. (=Lane); mi. (=mile/miles); NAB (=journal *North American Birds*); NWR (=National Wildlife Refuge); Rd. (=Road); SP (=State Park); St. (=Street); WMA (=Wildlife Management Area). Compass directions are abbreviated and capitalized with no period (e.g., W = west of). Parish names are italicized. Latitude and longitude are given as decimal degrees. Translations of some locality names to standardized versions: “Sureway Woods” =TNC Landry-LeBlanc Tract, Grand Isle, *Jefferson*; “Johnson Bayou” or “Johnson’s Bayou” =Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron* (used here and in previous LBRC reports); “Peveto Beach Woods” or “Peveto Woods Sanctuary” =Baton Rouge Audubon Society Peveto Woods Sanctuary at Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron*. Latitude and longitude are reported in

decimal degrees using format N° W°. Literature citations used in the report include *North American Birds* and precursor, *American Birds (AB)* and are referenced "JOURNAL volume number (issue number);page number."

The LBRC sincerely thanks all individuals who submitted rare bird reports or contributed expert advice for records included in this report: John C. Arvin, Kaila Authement, Katie Barnes, Charles Battaglia, James W. Beck, Richard S. Bello, David Booth, Christopher G. Brantley, Meghan Candiotta, Steven W. Cardiff, Michael R. Carloss, Paul E. Conover, D. B. Crider, Terry Davis, John K. Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert C. Dobbs, Nancy Ellington, Patrick Ellsworth, Karen Fay, Pamela Ford, Mitchell Foret, Andrew From, John Garrett, Mike Glaspell, Stanley Halpin, Robert B. Hamilton, Claire and Tom Hanson, Grant Hillman, Cheryl Huner, Jay V. Huner, Patsy and Tom Inglet, Erik I. Johnson, Jon R. King, Joseph P. Kleiman, Christine Kooi, Alicia LaFont, Daniel F. Lane, James Leak, Charles A. Lyon, William H. Matthews, Michael J. Musumeche, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers III, Vernon Naquin Sr., Nancy L. Newfield, R. J. Newman, Norton Nelkin, Don Norman, Glenn Ousset, Stephen L. Pagans, Dave Patton, George Payne, Matthew Pontiff, Robert D. Purrington, Bobby C. Reed, Kathy Rhodes, Judy Robichaux, Jack Rogers, Robert P. Russell, Will Russell, John P. Sevenair, Cheryl Sims, Don R. Simons, James Smithers, Joshua Soileau, Ronald J. Stein, Paul Sunby, Marianna Tanner, Jeff Trahan, Mike VanEtten, Craig Watson, Phillip A. Wallace, Melvin Weber, Jim Whelan, Ginger Wiley, Jon Wise, Casey E. Wright, Peter H. Yaukey, and Joseph Youtz.

The following 86 records were accepted:

The following records were accepted on identification and wild origin:

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

- One breeding plumaged female (2020-100) on 13 December 2020, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; John Garrett (ph, p. 20).
- One female (2022-044) on 31 December 2022, *Franklin*: Winnsboro; Davis Park; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 20).

Western/Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus* sp.)

- One (2003-043) on 21 December 2003, *Cameron*: offshore at Rutherford Beach; B. Mac Myers III.

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)

- One (2022-034) on 28 November 2022, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Andrew From (ph, p. 20).

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothonax prevostii*)

- One immature (2023-028) on 14-15 July 2023, *Concordia*: Acme; Ginger Wiley (ph, p. 3 and 20). This represents the second state occurrence.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

- One immature female (1995-013) on 16 December 1995; *Cameron*: Cameron, residence of Marianna Tanner; Nancy L. Newfield (banded 79941, card only).
- One adult male (1995-137) on 18 December 1995, *Cameron*: Cameron, residence of Marianna Tanner; Matthew Pontiff (ph) and banded by Nancy L. Newfield on 16 December 1995 (T79940, card only).
- One immature male (2022-038) on 20 November 2022-14 January 2023, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, 130 Ashland Court; Cheryl Huner, Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 20), and Mike VanEtten.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)

- One adult male (1997-068) banded on 17 October 1997, recaptured 3 January 1998; *St. Tammany*: Covington, 23 Cardinal Rd., Owens residence; Nancy L. Newfield (band no. T81469, banding data). *NAB52*:1:74 says, "first arrived 8 Oct." Annotations on CBC details by Steven W. Cardiff.
 - One second year male (2003-054) on 2-3 November 2003 and 3 January 2004, *St. Tammany*: Covington, Owens residence; Nancy L. Newfield (recaptured on 3 Nov and 3 Jan, originally banded N19615 on 16 November 2002).
 - One immature male (2003-053) on 22 January 2004, *St. John the Baptist*: Reserve, residence of Ronald J. Stein; Nancy L. Newfield (banding data). Reportedly found by Ronald J. Stein on the Reserve-Bonnet Carre CBC on 14 December 2003.
- Allen's Hummingbird was removed from the Review List on 16 March 2013.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)

One immature female (2001-067) on 1 December 2001, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, 909 Rittner, residence of Satya Maliakal and Christopher C. Witt; Nancy L. Newfield (banded Y03327, banding data). Broad-tailed Hummingbird was removed from the Review List on 7 September 2002.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*)

One immature female (2023-010) on 14 February-10 April 2023, *Orleans*: New Orleans Nature Center; Glenn Ousset (ph. p. 20). A female-plumaged bird but determined to be an immature male during examination when banded by Nancy L. Newfield (see: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S129997380>).

Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*)

One (1973-015) on 15 December 1973, *Cameron*: Cameron; *James C. Leak* and Don Norman (card only) and D. Bruce Crider (submitted a historical long form). This represents the second state record and is published in Lowery (1974) and CBC issue *AB27:2*, and *AB28:3:351*, "*A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was seen on the Sabine, La. CBC on Dec. 15 (JL & DN).*" Buff-bellied Hummingbird was removed from the Review List 29 Apr 1988.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

At least one and possibly as many as three (2022-046) on 11 May 2022, *St. Charles*: Salvador Wildlife Management Area; N29.81682°, W90.32812°; N29.81552°, W90.32499°; N29.81543°, W90.32571°; Joseph Youtz (audio).

Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*)

Up to four individuals (2019-091) between 27 May and 17 October 2019, *Terrebonne*: Houma, Lake Houma at South Hollywood Rd.; Mitch Foret (ph only, p. 21). Photos document breeding at this location: an adult with one juvenile on 4 July, and one to two adults with two large juveniles on 9 July.

One (2022-037) on 10 November 2022, *Rapides*. Boyce, 428 Hickory Hill Dr.; Jay V. Huner (ph, p. 21). This was a courtesy review; report received after the species was removed from the Review List on 13 March 2021.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

Pair with juvenile (2022-049) on 30 October 2022, *Vermilion*: Hwy. 711 south of Gueydan; **Kathy Rhodes** (ph). *From LWF: The family you saw are male, L3-13 (9.5 years old), female, L8-14 (8.5 years old) and LW9-22, their 7 month old chick, who has not yet been caught and banded and still has a bit of juvenile brown feathers on his/her head and neck. This pair has nested together since 2019 but this was their first time successfully raising a chick! Over the next few months, we will be attempting to catch the chick and band it so we can keep track of and monitor it once it separates from its parents.* NOTE: This record is accepted as part of the feral/re-introduced population. The LBRC will monitor introduction program and ultimately accept the species as re-established once it is demonstrated to be successful like the status of Brown Pelican and Peregrine Falcon. These two species were similarly extirpated from Louisiana and successfully reintroduced to the state (Brown Pelican) or programs elsewhere (Peregrine Falcon). The LBRC is removing Louisiana-introduced Whooping Cranes from the Review List. The ABA accepts Whooping Crane as “re-established and countable” following the first successful Louisiana breeding.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

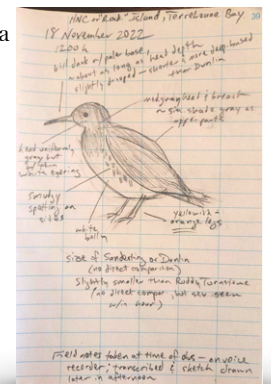
One in basic plumage (2022-033) on 18 November 2022, *Terrebonne*: island adjacent to Houma Navigation Canal in Terrebonne Bay (currently referred to as HNC Island by Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, N29.1943°; S90.6165°; Robert C. Dobbs (field notes with sketch, right)).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

One immature (1998-061) on 8 August 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: LOS Pelagic trip out of Venice; Dave Patton (ph, p. 21). Pomarine Jaeger was removed from the Review List on 7 September 1996.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

One in first summer plumage (1997-057) on 24 May 1997, *Gulf of Mexico*: 47 mi. SSE mouth Southwest Pass of Mississippi River, N28.23333°, W89.50°; Robert D. Purrington (ph), John P. Sevenair (ph), and George Payne (ph only, p. 21). This record was originally submitted and rejected as a Parasitic and resubmitted as a Long-tailed, then went to a Discussion round where it was accepted by all but one Member. This represents the third state occurrence.



California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

One first winter (1997-075) on 7 December 1997, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Seabrook Bridge; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, 21).
One (2023-003) on 7 January 2023, *Jefferson Davis*: I-10 Frontage Road about 1/4 mi. W of Landfill Rd.; Paul E.

Conover (ph, 21).

One (2023-012) on 18 April 2023, *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles, Lake Charles I-10 Swimming Beach; James Smithers (ph, 21).

One (2023-014) on 30 April 2023, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph, 21).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

One third year (1984-058) on 28 October, and 11, 17 November 1984, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; *Robert D. Purrington* (ABF card only), David P. Muth, Michael J. Musumeche (ABF cards without details), and Don R. Simons (ph only); *Steven W. Cardiff* (ABF card only), Donna L. Dittmann, J. V. Remsen; *David P. Muth* (card only) and Norton Nelkin; *American Birds* 39 (1): 65. This represents only the fourth Louisiana occurrence.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

One adult in winter plumage (2022-051) on 21-22 December 2022, *Acadia*: vicinity of Egan; **Paul E. Conover** (ph, p. 2, 15 and 21) and Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 21). This represents the first Louisiana occurrence.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

One first winter (1997-024) on 8 February 1997, *Cameron*: beach 2 mi. west of Hackberry; Douglas W. Faulkner.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

One (2023-013) on 23 and 26 April 2023, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach, east end; Paul E. Conover (ph) and Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 21).

Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*)

One (2022-026) on 26 August 2022, *Vermilion*: Vermilion Bay near Cypremort Point; Vernon Naquin Sr. (ph, p. 21).

One juvenile (2022-039) on 30 August 2022, *Iberia*: Delcambre, Delcambre Canal near Hwy. 14; Grant Hillman (ph, p. 21; report submitted by Robert C. Dobbs).

Only four days and about 17 miles apart, odds are these two records involve the same individual bird. These are just the third and fourth accepted Louisiana occurrences.

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*)

One immature (1983-043) on 14 April 1983, *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles, on Lake Charles; collected by Bobby C. Reed and prepared by Michael R. Carlross (USL 652, mount; now at LSUMNS No. 155402; photo of mount by Steven W. Cardiff (p. 22), data transcribed from what was written on mount perch which now appears to be lost).

One immature (1998-050) on 23 April 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: oil platform Vermilion 265, N28.5125°, W92.45111°; David P. Muth (ABF card, ph only).

Great Blue (Great White) Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)

One (2023-022) on 5 May 2023, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Patsy and Tom Inglet (ph, p. 22).

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

One (2022-029) on 18 October 2022, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 22).

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

Two, a sub-adult and an adult (2022-025) on 2 October 2022 and one on 18 October 2022, *Calcasieu*: Lionel Derouen Rd., just east of Fruge Rd.; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 22) and Paul E. Conover (ph); and one adult on 30 October 2022 James W. Beck (ph, p. 22).

One juvenile (2022-053) on 29 October 2022, *Jefferson Davis*: 2981 Illinois Plant Rd.; Craig Watson (ph, p. 22) and Pamela Ford (ph).

One adult (2022-041) on 18 December 2022, *Calcasieu*: Fruge Rd., S of Hwy. 14, N30.095157°, W93.042180°; Michael A. Seymour (ph) and Charles Battaglia (ph, p. 22) may involve the same adult (LBRC 2022-025).

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*) - cont.

One adult (2023-016) on 7 February 2023, *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles, 8899-8539 Corbina Rd.; Ken Harris (ph, p. 22).

One juvenile/subadult (2023-029) on 23 July 2023, *Calcasieu*: 3/10 mi. N of Tom Stegall Rd., Hwy. 397, near cattle pen/turnaround, N30.1002575°, W93.1454074°; Joshua Soilieu.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)

One immature (2022-035) on 7 December 2022, *St. Charles*: Bonnet Carre Spillway; Christopher G. Brantley (ph, p. 22).

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

One more well-marked immature (2022-031) on 21 and 25-26 November 2022, *Cameron*: Willow Island area from dogleg on Trosclair Rd. W to Earl Rd. on the N side, and to the Gulf beach on the S side; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 22).

One relatively pale immature (2022-032) on 23 November 2022, *Cameron*: Willow Island area from dogleg on Trosclair Rd. W to Earl Rd. on the N side, and to the Gulf beach on the S side; **Phillip A. Wallace** (ph, p. 22) and Paul E. Conover (ph).

One adult (2022-036) on 23 and 26-27 November 2022, *Cameron*: Willow Island area from dogleg on Trosclair Rd. W to Earl Rd. on the N side, and to the Gulf beach on the S side; **Phillip A. Wallace** (ph, p. 22) and Paul E. Conover (ph), and B. Mac Myers III (ph).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

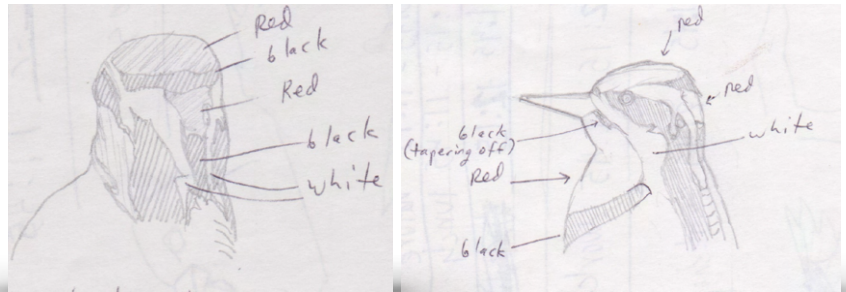
One (2022-052) on 9 November 2022, *Terrebonne*: Schriever, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture sugarcane farm on Bull Run Rd.; Patrick Ellsworth (ph).

One (2023-005) on 4 January-at least 4 February 2023, *Calcasieu*: Tom Stegall Rd., and presumably the same individual at Corbina Rd., 0.2 mi. N of Friesen Rd., SSE of Lake Charles, N30.084870°, W93.162298°; **James Smithers** (ph, p. 23), Kathy Rhodes (ph), Erik I. Johnson (ph), and John Dillon (ph).

One (2023-002) on 8 January 2023, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach, Parish Rd. 360, N29.7615327°, W93.1254551°; Jack Rogers (ph, p. 23).

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

One adult male (1993-009) on 3-13 January 1993, *Lafayette*: Indian Bayou near Dearborne Rd., N30.141667°, W92.20000°; Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 4 and 23, sketch right) and Dave Patton. This represents the second state occurrence. <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/1993-009.htm>



Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)

One (2022-042) on 18 December 2022, *Calcasieu*: Gragg Rd., N30.062822°, W93.028663°; Michael A. Seymour (ph, p. 23) and Charles Battaglia (ph, p. 3). This represents the second state occurrence.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

One (2004-035) on 24 January 2004, *Orleans*: New Orleans, woods across from Maxent Canal at Recovery 1; Phillip A. Wallace.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

One (2023-008) on 4-6 February 2023, *Acadia*: Crowley, 7199 S. Hwy. 13; Claire and Tom Hanson (ph, p. 23, audio).

One (2023-015) on 13-14 February 2023, *Plaquemines*: Port Sulphur, just S of parish government building parking area, N29.477612°, W89.691534°; Cathy DiSalvo (ph, audio) and William H. Matthews (ph, p. 23, audio)

One (1998-057) on 24 May 1998, *Cameron*: Broussard Beach, SW of Cameron Recreation Center; Joseph P. Kleiman (ph, p. 23) and Karen Fay.

One (2021-095) on 1 May 2021, *Cameron*: Willow Island, 7 mi. E Cameron; James Beck and William H. Matthews (ph only, p. 23).

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)

One (2022-040) on 18 December 2022, *Cameron*: O Blanc Rd. X Pig Farm Rd.; Jack Rogers (ph, p. 23) and Daniel F. Lane (ph, audio).

One (2023-015) on 26 January-19 February 2023, *St. Mary*: River Rd. south of Berwick, N29.665424°, W91.241778°; Kathy Rhodes (ph, audio) and Erik I. Johnson (ph, audio). Presumably a returning individual from the previous winter.

One (2023-023) on 13 May 2023, *Calcasieu*: Ellis Moss Rd., N30.092466°, W93.407711°; Katie B. Barnes (audio).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

One (2023-021) on 28 April-2 May 2023, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, corner of Humble Rd. and Admiral Craik Dr.; Daniel F. Lane (ph, p. 23) and Kathy Rhodes (ph).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*)

One on (2020-101) on 14 April 2020, *Calcasieu*: Fruge X Nunez roads; David Booth (ph, p. 24). <https://ebird.org/checklist/S67191616> This represents the 10th state occurrence.

One (2021-097) on 1 October 2021, *Calcasieu*: Lake Charles, 420 10th St.; James Smithers (ph, p. 24).

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*)

One immature male (2022-047) on 30 September 2022, *Cameron*: Willow Island, 7 mi. W Cameron; **Paul E. Conover** (ph, LSUMZ) and D. L. Dittmann (DLD 12039, ph, p. 24).

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

One immature sex unknown (2022-048) on 1 October 2022, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou; **Paul E. Conover** (ph, LSUMZ) and D. L. Dittmann (DLD 12038, ph, p. 4 and 24). This represents the third Louisiana occurrence.

One immature female (2022-050) on 28 November and 5 December 2022, *Vermilion*: approximately 5 mi. S of Perry, S end Prairie Rd.; **Phillip A. Wallace** (ph, p. 24), Paul E. Conover (ph, LSUMZ) and D. L. Dittmann (DLD 12114, ph p. 4). This represents the fourth Louisiana occurrence.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)

Two (2022-024) on 7-16 June 2022, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Michael J. Musumeche (ph only, p. 24) and David Booth (audio). Apparently a breeding pair, first reported 7 June <https://ebird.org/checklist/S112402344> and nest building observed on 12 June <https://ebird.org/checklist/S112809377>; outcome of nesting attempt unknown.

One (2023-020) on 28 April 2023, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, mulberry grove at Northeast Dakota St.; Daniel F. Lane (sketch, right).

One singing (2023-024) on 17-18 May 2023, *Orleans*: New Orleans, New Orleans City Park, Couturie Forest; James W. Beck (audio).



Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

One female (2022-045) on 31 December 2022, *Orleans*: New Orleans, Bayou Sauvage, Recovery Rd.; Jon Wise (ph, p. 24).

One immature (2023-007) on 5-7 January 2023, *Iberville*: Manchac Rd., 0.5 mi. E of Pecan Dr.; Donna L. Dittmann (ph, p. 24) and **Steven W. Cardiff**.

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*)

One (2023-009) on 6 February 2023, *Terrebonne*: Houma; Kaila Authement (ph, p. 24). This is just the sixth accepted Louisiana occurrence.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*)

One (1998-163) on 22 April 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: Garden Bank 189A oil platform, N27.778611° W93.309444°; Jon R. King (ph only, p. 24). Published *FN* 52:3, p. 344; ph in pictorial highlights: p. 407. This is just the second accepted Louisiana occurrence.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

One male (2023-032) on 30-31 August 2023, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach; Kathy Rhodes (ph, p. 24).

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*)

One female (2021-094) on 18-19 January 2021, *Terrebonne*: Houma, 139 Citrus Court; Judy Robichaux (ph, p. 25). This represents the seventh accepted Louisiana occurrence.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

One adult male (1992-094) on 30 December 1992, *Tensas*: Tensas NWR; Robert B. Hamilton.

One immature male (1997-061) on 21 December 1997, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou, near Smith Island Woods; Paul Sunby.

One female (2004-070) on 24 December 2004, *Orleans*: New Orleans, residence of Leslee Reed; Phillip A. Wallace (ph, p. 25).

One immature male (2023-001) on 15 January 2023, *Tangipahoa*: Tickfaw; Meghan Candiott (ph, p. 25).

Bullock's Oriole was added to the Review List 7 September 1996 and removed 13 March 2021.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)

One (2021-093) on 21 November 2021, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Paul E. Conover. This record may pertain to the same individual found earlier in the fall (LBRC 2021-070 on 18-19 October, and 29 October 2021, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Daniel F. Lane (ph, p. 25, audio: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96432288>; other eBird: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96408043>); and perhaps present into Spring 2022 (LBRC 2022-012 on 3 April 2022, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; David Booth. Observed by many; many photographs on eBird. Reportedly found on 2 April by James Smithers/Katie Barnes, James Smithers: <https://ebird.org/species/macwar/US-LA-023>; <https://ebird.org/species/macwar/US-LA-023>, Jon Wise: <https://ebird.org/species/macwar/US-LA-023>). Note: LBRC 2021-089 in its Second Circulation potentially pertains to this same individual.

One adult male (2022-028) on 16-22 October and 24 December 2022, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; **James Smithers** (ph, p. 25) and Paul E. Conover (ph). Almost certainly the same bird also documented 24 December 2022 (see: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S124552241>).

One adult male (2023-018) on 18 March and presumably the same individual 17 and 21 April 2023, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Jack Rogers (audio), James W. Beck, and Erik I. Johnson (audio). See records above, which likely all pertain to the same individual.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

One female (2022-030) on 30 October 2022, *Cameron*: Oak Grove; **Jack Rogers** and Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 25).

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

One immature male (2006-014) on 10 January 2006, *St. John the Baptist*: Reserve, 211 N.W. 4th St.; Ronald J. Stein.

One immature (2023-036) on 1-9 February 2023, *Tangipahoa*: Ponchatoula; Cheryl Sims (ph, p. 25). This is a courtesy review; the species was removed from the Review List on 13 March 2021.

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)

Two, an adult male in non-breeding plumage and immature male (2022-027) on 13-21 October 2022, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, TNC Lafitte Woods and Landry-Leblanc tract; **Melvin Weber**, Kathy Rhodes (ph, p. 1 and 25), Robert D. Purrington, Dave Patton (ph only, p. 1), Robert C. Dobbs (ph, p. 25), Erik I. Johnson (ph, p. 25), Christine Kooi, Paul E. Conover (ph, p. 25), Phillip A. Wallace (ph only, p. 1 and 25), Paul Wood (ph, p. 1 and 25), and Jay V. Huner (ph). The presence of a third individual (also in female-plumage) reported by several observers 14-21 Oct could not be definitively confirmed by photos. This represents the first Louisiana occurrence and coincided with a more widespread dispersal event that brought other individuals to south Florida and extreme southeast Texas.

The following three records are Accepted as Feral Origin:

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

One (2022-043) on 31 December 2022-4 February 2023, *Franklin*: Winnsboro; Davis Park; Paul E. Conover (ph), Daniel F. Lane (ph., p. 26) and Kathy Rhodes (ph, p. 3).

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)

Apparent male and female (2023-011) on 17 April 2023, *Jefferson*: Marrero, 5077 Highland Dr.; James W. Beck.

One juvenile (2023-031) on 24 August 2023, *St. Tammany*: Pearl River, 35368 Pine St. Extension; Nancy Ellington (ph).

The identification of the following nineteen records was not accepted:

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

One adult female (1994-112) on 24 December 1994-4 February 1995, *Vernon*: near DeRidder (ph). This record went to Discussion Round where Members discussed the quality of the photographs and the limited details provided on the long form. Members additionally discussed the prospect of a hybrid spurred by recent Anna's hybrids and that characters were not visible in the photos to eliminate that possibility. Of eleven reviewed/accepted records of 'Anna's' as of the meeting, one was a hybrid. Three Members remained steadfast that because a hybrid could not be eliminated by photos or description, then this record could not be accepted.

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates leucorhous*)

One (2002-018) on 27 April 2002, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; (ph). This bird was videotaped flying off the rock breakwaters at Holly Beach. The record was submitted as a Leach's, however most Members believed that Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was more consistent with characters reported and seen in the video, or that Band-rumped could not be eliminated from consideration; Wilson's Storm-Petrel was eliminated by the long "forearm."

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

One in juvenal plumage (1999-113) on 13-14 November 1999, *Caddo*: Shreveport, Cross Lake (ph). Most Members agreed that characters visible in the photos were not wholly consistent with identification as a Parasitic Jaeger but did not reach a consensus on an alternative identification.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

One immature (1978-037) on 7 and 14 February 1978, *Cameron*: Cameron at Hwy. 27/82 ferry landing. The only documentation for this record is written details on a ABF card-only. The observation was published in *AB32(3):363* as, "one of the few ever for Louisiana." This record had not been previously reviewed by the LBRC. The reporters were aware that the LBRC was in the process of creation. Three Members voted to accept this report based on details provided, believing they were diagnostic, whereas the other Members did not believe that the brief field guide description was satisfactory considering this was a potential third state occurrence. The first occurrence is LBRC 1973-007, a specimen (LSUMZ 73127) from Cameron Parish in 1973. The second occurrence, also from *Cameron*, is a single person sight record from 1974 with supporting details also on a AFB 3X5 card and currently also in LBRC review.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

One adult (1984-061) on 28 October 1984, *Cameron*: East Jetty Beach (ABR card only). Although this bird was seen by numerous observers during a LOS Fall Weekend, only one card submitted included a very brief description for this potential fourth state occurrence! And, the details did not include mantle color. This record went to Discussion Round where all Members agreed the identification was probably correct but that there was not adequate supporting documentation to combine the report of this adult with the subadult also seen by many LOS members and photographed at Rutherford Beach the same weekend (see LBRC 1984-058).

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

One first or second winter immature (1997-072) on 26 March 1997, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle State Park, beach ½ mi. E of the fishing pier. A majority of Members believed that the description did not eliminate a bleached/leucistic Herring Gull.

One worn immature (2002-039) on 6 May 2002, *Cameron*: Hwy. 82 between Holly Beach and Johnsons Bayou (ph). A majority of Members believed that a combination of size, proportions, and coloration were more suggestive of an Iceland Gull or a leucistic Herring Gull.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

One adult in basic plumage (2000-013) on 5 February 2000, *Lafourche*: Fourchon Beach (ph). Although submitted by experienced observers and including a relatively convincing description, most Members still believed that the photo was troublesome: mantle was not blackish (adjusting contrast and exposure of photos does not darken the gull's mantle), and the photos did not reveal the wing tip pattern or the color of legs/feet. Some Members believed that a hybrid Great Black-backed X Herring gull was more likely.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

One immature (1978-024) on 23 December 1978, *St. John the Baptist*: Bonne Carré Spillway. This record went to Discussion Round. After consideration of the written details and this would represent an especially unusual occurrence in southeastern Louisiana, only one member supported acceptance.

One adult (1989-108) on 3 January 1989, *Madison*: Tensas NWR, field at headquarters. Review was based on details provided on a ABF card-only. Although all observers listed on the card were generally considered to be careful, and the sighting was from a more 'traditional' area of the state for the species, all but three Members ultimately voted to not accept.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

One (1995-113) on 11 April 1995, *Jefferson*: Grand Terre Island, near Fort Livingston (ABF card-only). At a Discussion Round, Members' main concerns were the lack of photos (given that this would have been a second state occurrence), and that the possibility of a hybrid was not considered. The description also specifically mentioned the Caribbean subspecies, which has not been documented in the state. Ultimately, three Members opted not to accept.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*)

One (1998-049) on 10-12 May 1998, *Gulf of Mexico*: Vermilion 265 oil platform, N28.5152500°, W92.45111° (ph). Although the description was relatively convincing for this species, all Members believed that the photo clearly showed an Ash-throated Flycatcher.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

Two in worn adult plumage (2006-067) on 6 September 2006, *Caddo*: Shreveport, Stoner Boat Launch on Red River. This record went to Discussion Round. Dissenting Members were concerned about the lack of hard evidence given the relatively few well-documented fall occurrences for the species, and that the description of vocalizations (a *whit* was not actually described) was not satisfactory given the difficulty of *Empidonax* identification in general and, especially, interpretation of the variety of *Empidonax* calls during fall migration.

Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)

One (2005-020) on 2 January 2005, *Plaquemines*: across Hwy. 23 at Fort Jackson (ph). All but one Member believed that the photos showed a Least Flycatcher.

Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)

One (2022-023) on 17 March 2022, *Ouachita*: West Monroe, 128 Honeysuckle Dr. (ph). Based on a single photograph, most Members agreed that the coloration, although suggestive did not clearly support identification as a Pink-sided Junco. This individual did not show the typical extensive and clean gray hood. This record would have benefitted by a series of photos showing the bird at more angles to fully assess plumage characters.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

One female (1998-041) on 23 February 1998, *Jefferson*: Metairie (ph). Photographs did not support identification of this species.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

One first year male (2023-006) on 7 February 2023, *Acadia*: approximately 2 mi. S Crowley (ph). All Members agreed that the single image superficially looked like a Kirtland's Warbler. However, photograph also showed anomalous characters that exclude a Kirtland's Warbler including yellow colored soles, lack of streaking on the back/coloration, and small bill. These characters better supported identification as a Pine Warbler.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)

Two, female and immature male (1995-169) on 2 January 1995, *Lafayette*: Lafayette, Lafayette Airport. During review, Members were torn on accepting two grosbeaks, and notably the female, so the record went to Discussion to resolve the fate of the female. However, during the Discussion Round, most members were in agreement that the description was not adequate to accept the identification of the female. Additionally, three Members would no longer accept the identification of the male so this record as a whole was not accepted.

One female (2021-018) on 9 February 2021, *Lafourche*: Lockport, 135 E. Lafourche St. (ph). This record went to Discussion where Members were able to view LSUMNS specimens. While some Members considered characters shown by the photograph to be within the range of variation for a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, others Members viewed anomalous characters to exclude a pure Rose-breasted Grosbeak and that perhaps this individual was a hybrid Rose-breasted X Black-headed Grosbeak. A vote was taken and only three Members voted to accept as a Black-headed Grosbeak.

Corrigenda.

The LBRC number of the record below is duplicated in the 10th Report and is changed from 1992-38 to the following.

Yellow Rail. One (1992-010) on 8 March 1992, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, approximately 3.5 mi. S of LSU Campus on Hwy. 30.

Correction to the 25th Report. Date of Cory's Shearwater, LBRC 2019-072 says 11 July 2019 in the Newsletter but report at <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/cosh19holmes.pdf> is 17 Aug 2019, which is the correct date.

Duplicated. Previously reviewed Red-naped Sapsucker (One male (2005-031) on 14 December 2005, *Acadia*: ca 5 mi. S Crowley near intersection of Arpent and Premier roads) appears in the 18th Report. The entry in the 25th Report is deleted; number and report as it appears in 18th Report is correct.

Many thanks to Paul E. Conover, John K. Dillon, Larry R. Raymond, James M. Bishop, and Kevin Colley for reviewing a draft of this report.



A collage of some of the images taken by Paul E. Conover in Acadia Parish on 21 December 2021 was submitted with his long form. Reminiscent of a photo booth photo strip, these photos show the spread wings of the adult **Slaty-backed Gull** (2022-051) to help document this first state occurrence.

LBRC Review List 2023

December 2023:
152 Species

KEY:

Bold	Hybridization known; identification should address potential hybrids.
<i>Italicized Bold</i>	<i>Hybrid(s) involving this parental species are documented for Louisiana.</i>
E?	Species is probably extinct but not declared extinct by USFWS: LBRC has not reviewed State status.
Q	Status on State List is in question and needs resolution.
I	Introduced (feral) species
e	Extirpated in Louisiana.
R	Re-introduction program in progress.
FO or OH	Feral Origin ^(FO) or Origin Hypothetical ^(OH)

Brant	Slaty-backed Gull	Plumbeous Vireo
Canada Goose (wild only)	Glaucous Gull	Yellow-green Vireo
Trumpeter Swan (Q/ ^{FO})	Great Black-backed Gull	Black-whiskered Vireo
Tundra Swan	Kelp Gull	Clark's Nutcracker
Baikal Teal ^{OH}	Brown Noddy	Chihuahuan Raven
Eurasian Wigeon	Arctic Tern	Brown-chested Martin
American Black Duck	Red-billed Tropicbird	Rock Wren
King Eider	Red-throated Loon	Northern Wheatear
White-winged Scoter	Pacific Loon	Mountain Bluebird
Long-tailed Duck	Yellow-nosed Albatross	Townsend's Solitaire
Common Merganser	Leach's Storm-Petrel	Varied Thrush
Masked Duck	Cory's Shearwater	Curve-billed Thrasher
Greater Prairie-Chicken (e)	Sooty Shearwater	Sage Thrasher
American Flamingo	Great Shearwater	Scaly-breasted Munia ^(FO)
Least Grebe	Manx Shearwater	White Wagtail
Red-necked Grebe	Audubon's Shearwater	Evening Grosbeak
Western Grebe	Jabiru	Cassin's Finch
Band-tailed Pigeon	Red-footed Booby	Red Crossbill
Smooth-billed Ani	Golden Eagle	Lesser Goldfinch
Mangrove Cuckoo	American Goshawk	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Lesser Nighthawk	Harris's Hawk	Smith's Longspur
Antillean Nighthawk	White-tailed Hawk	Thick-billed Longspur
Vaux's Swift	Zone-tailed Hawk	Cassin's Sparrow
Mexican Violetear	Rough-legged Hawk	Lark Bunting
Green-breasted Mango	Ferruginous Hawk	Brewer's Sparrow
Rivoli's Hummingbird	Flammulated Owl	American Tree Sparrow
Blue-throated Mountain-gem	Snowy Owl	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Lucifer Hummingbird	Burrowing Owl	Baird's Sparrow
Anna's Hummingbird	Long-eared Owl	Green-tailed Towhee
Broad-billed Hummingbird	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Spotted Towhee
Black Rail	Ringed Kingfisher	Hooded Oriole
Lesser Sand-Plover	Williamson's Sapsucker	Scott's Oriole
Mountain Plover	Red-naped Sapsucker	Shiny Cowbird
Eskimo Curlew (E?)	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Lucy's Warbler
Black-tailed Godwit	Ivory-billed Woodpecker (E?)	Virginia's Warbler
Ruff	Prairie Falcon	Connecticut Warbler
Curlew Sandpiper	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	MacGillivray's Warbler
Purple Sandpiper	Brown-crested Flycatcher	Tropical Parula
Red-necked Phalarope	Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Red Phalarope	Crowned Slaty Flycatcher	Townsend's Warbler
Long-tailed Jaeger	Tropical Kingbird	Hermit Warbler
Razorbill	Couch's Kingbird	Golden-crowned Warbler
Ancient Murrelet	Cassin's Kingbird	Red-faced Warbler
Black-legged Kittiwake	Gray Kingbird	Painted Redstart
Sabine's Gull	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Hepatic Tanager
Black-headed Gull	Western Wood-Pewee	Pyrrhuloxia
Little Gull	Hammond's Flycatcher	Blue Bunting
Mew Gull	Gray Flycatcher	Lazuli Bunting
Western Gull	Western Flycatcher	Varied Bunting
California Gull	Black-capped Vireo	Red-legged Honeycreeper
Iceland Gull	Cassin's Vireo	

LBRC Review List (cont.)

Hybrids. Observers should be aware that several species on the Review List are documented to hybridize with other species (**boldfaced** previous page). If a species is *italicized*, then a hybrid has been documented in Louisiana. For these hybrid-designated species, it is important to consider and eliminate a possible hybrid when documenting their occurrence.

Subspecies. Recognizable subspecies or forms which meet Review List criteria are:

- Iceland “Thayer’s” Gull (*Larus glaucooides thayeri*)
- Great Blue “Great White” Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*)
- Western “Pacific-slope” Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis difficilis*)
- Western “Cordilleran” Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis hellmayri*)
- Dark-eyed “Oregon” Junco (*Junco hyemalis montanus*/Oregon-group)
- Dark-eyed “Pink-sided” Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*)
- Dark-eyed “Gray-headed” Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)
- Yellow “Mangrove” Warbler (*Setophaga petechia erithachorides*-group)
- Yellow-rumped “Audubon's” Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

The above subspecies have been documented to occur in Louisiana and, if elevated to species status at some future date, would be added to the State and Review lists. Documentation is requested for Northern “Red-shafted” Flicker (*Colaptes auratus cafer*), which has been reported in the past but not accepted. See also: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/LBRCNL2017.pdf>.

Species complexes and hybrids: Records can be accepted to ‘complex’ when not diagnosable to species and when both taxa are on the Review List, e.g., Tropical/Couch’s Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*). Also on the Review List is any non-Slate-colored Junco (subspecies *hyemalis/carolinensis*) or “Cassiar,” (subspecies *cismontanus*) junco so that the LBRC can monitor these extralimital individuals that cannot be easily identified to a subspecies/group. Records can be accepted as a hybrid rather than rejected as a ‘species’ where there is phenotypic suggestion/genetic confirmation of hybridization for two taxa, e.g. “Chandeleur Gull” for Kelp X Herring gull (*Larus dominicanus* X *argentatus*) and hybrid Tropical X Northern Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi* X *americana*).

Introduced Species or Re-introductions. The LBRC requests documentation for records of any species not currently accepted on the State List. Scaly-breasted Munia is accepted based on feral origin and the LBRC will monitor its establishment for acceptance as an Introduced Species. The LBRC requests submission of species of captive/introduced origin not currently on the State List or Review List (e.g., Black Francolin and Ring-necked Pheasant). There is a different policy for two species with feral populations: Monk Parakeet is accepted as an Introduced Species and has been removed from the Review List. *Canada Goose is on the Review List based on records of wild, non-feral individuals.* Feral populations of Canada Goose in coastal Cameron Parish and the Greater Baton Rouge area are considered Introduced; the LBRC does not solicit reports of feral Canada Geese. Whooping Crane is being re-introduced in Louisiana; these individuals are not on the Review List.

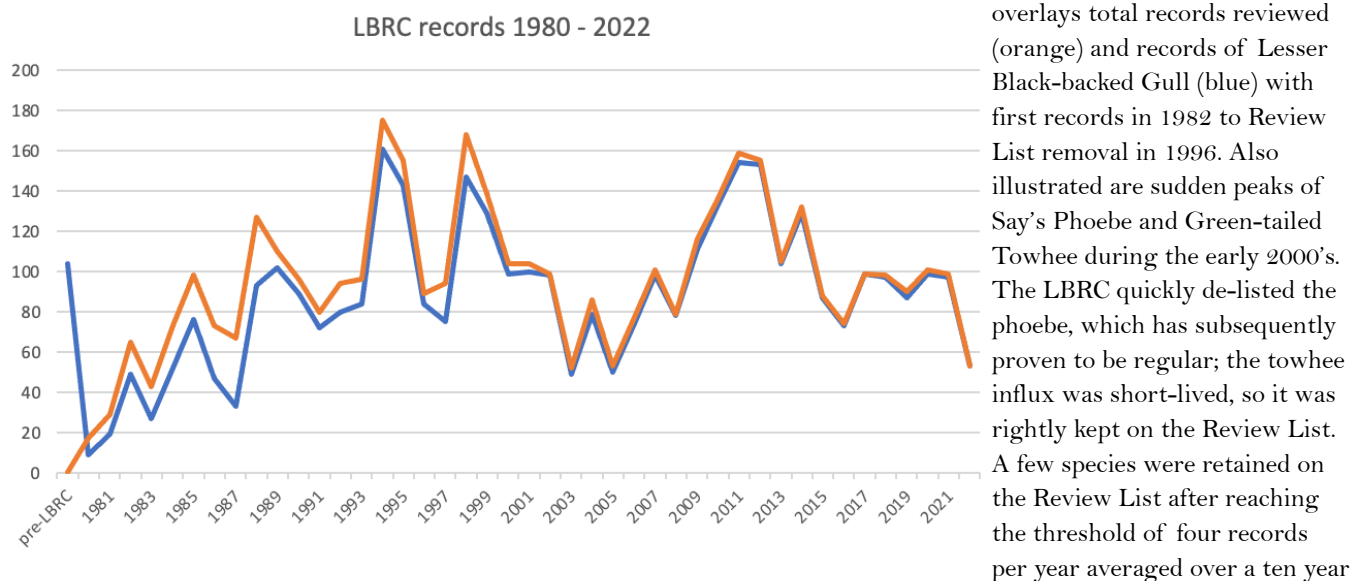
Dates of past removals/additions. To improve the State’s historical record of Review List Species status, the Committee welcomes documentation of occurrences of species from periods when the species was on, or prior to its removal, from the Review List: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (removed 31 Mar 1990), Ross’s Goose (removed 31 Mar 1990), Cinnamon Teal (added 7 Sep 1996; removed 14 Mar 2015), American Black Duck (added 17 Apr 2010), White-winged Scoter (added 11 Mar 1989), Long-tailed Duck (added 17 Apr 2010), Common Merganser (added 11 Mar 1989), Eurasian Collared-Dove (Introduced Species, removed 7 Sep 1996), Inca Dove (removed 25 Apr 1986), Lesser Nighthawk (added 11 Mar 1989), Calliope Hummingbird (removed 7 Sep 2002), Allen’s Hummingbird (removed 16 Mar 2013), Broad-tailed Hummingbird (removed 7 Sep 2002), Buff-bellied Hummingbird (removed 29 Apr 1988), Yellow Rail (removed 23 Apr 1994), Limpkin (removed 13 March 2021), Pomarine Jaeger (removed 7 Sep 1996), Parasitic Jaeger (removed 16 Mar 2013), Lesser Black-backed Gull (removed 7 Sep 1996), Bridled Tern (removed 7 Sep 1996), Wilson’s Storm-Petrel (removed 25 Apr 1986, reinstated 23 Apr 1994, removed again 25 Sep 1999), Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (removed 7 Sep 2002), Masked Booby (removed 25 Sep 1999), Brown Booby (removed 10 Mar 2018), Northern Gannet (removed 25 Apr 1986), White-tailed Kite (removed 11 Mar 1989), Golden Eagle (added 25 Apr 1986), Swainson’s Hawk (removed 29 Apr 1988), Monk Parakeet (Introduced Species, established in the Greater New Orleans area, removed 20 July 2022), Burrowing Owl (added 7 Sep 2002), Crested Caracara (added 18 May 1991; removed 8 Sep 2007), Ash-throated Flycatcher (removed 7 Sep 1996), Great Kiskadee (removed 10 Mar 2018), Alder Flycatcher (removed 23 Apr 1994), Willow Flycatcher (removed 14 Mar 2015), Say’s Phoebe (removed 14 Mar 2015), Bell’s

Vireo (added 18 May 1991; removed 15 Mar 2015), Cave Swallow (removed 12 Mar 2011), Evening Grosbeak (added 7 Sep 1996), House Finch (Introduced Species, removed 18 May 1991), Spotted Towhee (added 7 Sep 1996), Bullock's Oriole (added 7 Sep 1996; removed 13 March 2021), Western Tanager (added 11 Mar 1989; removed 16 Mar 2013), and Black-headed Grosbeak (added 11 Mar 1989; removed 13 March 2021).

Status of the LBRC's Review Process

The chart (below) tracks records in the LBRC roster: total number of records (orange) is compared to those with completed reviews (blue). Between 1980 and 2022, the LBRC completed review of 3,772 records of 4,148 entered in the roster. In addition to records submitted to the LBRC, records gleaned from the literature or *American Birds* File (ABF) 3 X 5 report cards (in the Central Southern Region card file) are also on the roster in anticipation of review. Although many of the latter remain unreviewed, the LBRC would like to compile a file of occurrences of LBRC Review List species that is as complete as possible. Note on the left side of the chart there are a substantial number of reviewed records that occurred before the inception of the LBRC. Interestingly, the number of records of Review List species recorded/submitted each year is variable.

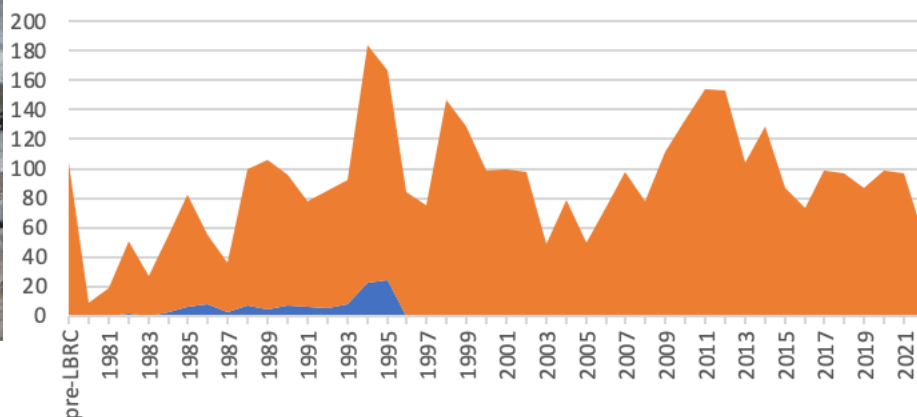
Total number of records per year can dramatically increase if there is a sudden surge of occurrences of just 1-2 species. A substantial positive change in status may result in a species' removal from the Review List. The chart (below)



period because of identification issues, e.g. gulls and flycatchers, even though records were increasing annually. Even those species are removed when clearly of regular occurrence. Photo below of a Lesser Black-backed Gull (gull on left) with a Herring Gull by Donna L. Dittmann, Rutherford Beach, 21 December 2016.



LBBGs as portion of records reviewed



Other LBRC Review Updates

Preliminary results of DNA analysis for some LBRC records.

Thanks to Oscar Johnson (LSUMNS graduate and UTEP postdoc) and the LSUMNS DNA lab for long-awaited results of genetic analysis of some problematic taxa. The LBRC received preliminary data for an ongoing LSUMNS project investigating the genetic identifications of LSUMNS flycatcher specimens, including *Contopus*, *Empidonax*, and *Tyrannus*.

Tropical and Couch's kingbirds. One portion of this project investigates Louisiana's Tropical and Couch's kingbird specimens. Preliminary results from mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis not only corroborate initial species identifications but shed light on four specimens previously identified only as Tropical/Couch's species complex (see chart below). All records below were reviewed and accepted as the LBRC identification shown, except for LBRC 2009-097, which was left unreviewed until anticipated results of the genetic analysis were completed. Full details of this genetic analysis will be published elsewhere. Photos (below) of some previously accepted "Tropical/Couch's" Kingbirds re-identified as Tropical Kingbird by mtDNA analysis.

LSUMZ	B-	LBRC	LBRC ID	molecular ID			
131099	3923	1986-50	Kingbird, Couch's	<i>couchii</i>	Cameron	W. side Calcasieu Pass, 2 1/2 mi. SW Cameron	Male
165560	17060	1999-055	Kingbird, Couch's	<i>couchii</i>	Cameron	Gamer Ridge, 3 mi. W Johnsons Bayou School	Female
172713	13097	2001-086	Kingbird, Couch's	<i>couchii</i>	Evangeline	4 mi. W Ville Platte, 1/2 mi. N Hwy. 10	Male
177865	47281	2004-60	Kingbird, Couch's	<i>couchii</i>	Cameron	Gamer Ridge, 3 mi. W Johnsons Bayou School	Female
177866	47282	2004-60	Kingbird, Couch's	<i>couchii</i>	Cameron	Gamer Ridge, 3 mi. W Johnsons Bayou School	Female
113418	5655	1984-021	Kingbird, Tropical	<i>melancholicus</i>	Lafourche	along LA Hwy. 1, 3.7 mi. N north end of Caminada Bridge	Female
185152	71291	2010-068	Kingbird, Tropical	<i>melancholicus</i>	Jefferson Davis	3 mi. W Lake Arthur, A&D Abshire Road	Male
165558	28821	1998-134	Kingbird, Tropical/Couch's	<i>melancholicus</i>	Calcasieu	Frugé Road just N Cameron Parish Line	Female
184285	62425	2008-010	Kingbird, Tropical/Couch's	<i>melancholicus</i>	Cameron	approximately 2 mi. W old mouth Mementau River	Female
184923	64542	2009-097	Kingbird, Tropical/Couch's	<i>melancholicus</i>	Cameron	Holly Beach, near intersection Hwys. 27 X 82	Female
187303	85056	2012-099	Kingbird, Tropical/Couch's	<i>melancholicus</i>	Cameron	approximately 8 mi. E Cameron	Female



LBRC 2012-099

LBRC 2008-010

LBRC 1998-134

Western Wood-Pewee. Genetic review of Louisiana pewees (*Contopus* species) is also part of this investigation. Of six specimens reviewed by the LBRC and previously accepted as Western Wood-Pewee, the identification of all six was supported by mtDNA analysis. The results for several other Louisiana pewees are still outstanding. A number of LSUMNS Western Wood-Pewee (or possible Western Wood-Pewee) specimens have not been reviewed by the LBRC. These records will be added to the LBRC roster for future review once genetic results are available.

Western Flycatchers. Even though Pacific-slope and Cordilleran flycatchers have been lumped, the origin of Louisiana individuals are still of interest. There are only a couple of results for Louisiana specimens of this complex completed thus far, so we will wait to present all of the results together. So far, the genetic identifications of a couple of Louisiana birds are not concordant with original identifications! Stay tuned. As with the pewees, genetic results may influence evaluation of sight records (e.g., such as this silent bird at Grand Isle, right) to subspecies/geographic origin in the future.



Western Flycatcher LBRC 2015-067 photo by Donna L. Dittmann at Jefferson: Grand Isle on 22 September 2015

Unless stated otherwise, persons/ dates listed in the Showcase pertain only to the specific photos used. The LBRC regrets that, due to space limitations, only a small percentage of submitted photographs can be showcased in the Annual Newsletter and LBRC Report. Photos appearing in the Showcase are chosen by the Newsletter Editor for a variety of reasons including (and these are well-represented herein): 1) to provide an image of the individual bird(s) accepted, and highlighting images by the finder, found or last observed dates, etc.; 2) illustrate the importance of photographic documentation; 3) show the range of quality of images submitted to the LBRC (this page for example); 4) stress the importance of *all photographs* to the documentation process — whether barely recognizable or tack sharp; a grainy or poorly exposed photo can often be as useful as one that is beautifully composed and professional-appearing; and finally, 5) as a means to encourage observers to carry a camera because, with practice, most observers can produce fine images of birds. Remember, even if others are photographing the same bird, their photos may not come out, be lost, or you can capture some aspect of the bird not captured by others — always have your camera handy or you might miss getting a “record” shot. The LBRC is very appreciative of the time and effort observers have expended to submit photo and written documentation to the Committee.

Please keep up the good work!

Showcase I: Ducks through hummingbirds



Two Long-tailed Ducks photographed in this report included one breeding plumaged female (above, 2020-100) by John Garrett flying with a Lesser Scaup on 13 December 2020 at Holly Beach. The second was an interior record, also a female (2022-044) by Paul Conover (right) in *Franklin* on 31 December 2022.



One photographic record of Lesser Nighthawk involved this fall bird (2022-034) by Andrew From on 28 November 2022 at Rutherford Beach. The highlight of hummingbird records was this second state occurrence of **Green-breasted Mango** (2023-028; below) photographed by Ginger Wiley on 14 July 2023 in her Acme garden. Most

of the hummingbird records in this report involve older records without photographs.

This recent record of Anna's (2022-038) was photographed by Cheryl Huner (below) on 24 November 2022 in Lafayette.



The immature male Broad-billed Hummingbird (2023-010, right) was photographed



by Glenn Ousset on 14 February 2023 at the Orleans Nature Center.

Showcase 2: Limpkin through Brown Noddy

One photo by Mitch Foret (right) from a series he submitted to document up to four Limpkins (2019-091) between 27 May and 17 October 2019 at Lake Houma (right from 10 June). Quite a nice backyard bird, another individual (2022-037) was photographed (left) by Jay V. Huner on 10 November 2022 at his home in Boyce!



2022-037

One of three Whooping Cranes (pair with juvenile; 2022-049) was photographed (left) by Kathy Rhodes on 30 October 2022, south of Gueydan. An immature Pomarine Jaeger (1998-061) was photographed (two images right) by Dave Patton on 8 August 1998 during an LOS Pelagic trip out of Venice. On a LOS pelagic the previous year this **Long-tailed Jaeger** (1997-057), photographed by George Payne (right) harassing a Laughing becomes the third accepted state occurrence. It was originally submitted and not accepted as a Parasitic Jaeger.



2022-049



2019-091



1998-061

Gull,



1997-075

There were four records of California Gull with photos: a first winter (1997-075) photographed by Phillip A. Wallace (left) on 7 December 1997 in New Orleans; and recent records (2023-003) photographed by Paul E. Conover (left) in *Jefferson Davis* on 7 January 2023; another (2023-012) photographed (right) by James Smithers on 18 April 2023 at Lake Charles; and one (2023-014, right) photographed by Paul E. Conover on 30 April 2023 at Holly Beach.



2023-003



2023-012



2023-014

Of course the highlight of gull records in this report was Louisiana's first **Slaty-backed Gull**, an adult (2022-051) photographed below

surrounded by Ring-billed and with a Lesser Black-backed on left by Robert C. Dobbs on 22 December 2022 in *Acadia*: See photos are on p. 2.



2022-051

This Great Black-backed Gull (2023-013, right) was photographed by Paul E. Conover on 23 April 2023 at Rutherford Beach.



1997-057



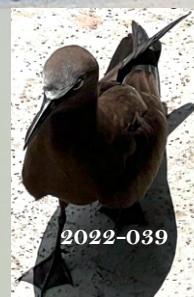
2023-013



2022-026

Louisiana's third and/or fourth occurrence(s) of **Brown Noddy**

One Brown Noddy or two? Vernon Naquin Sr. photographed (2022-026, left) near Cypremort Point on 26 August 2022; and then Grant Hillman photographed (2022-039, right) at Delcambre Canal near Hwy. 14 on 30 August 2022. Birds in photos looked very similar in overall appearance but photos were inconclusive to prove definitively one bird or two.



2022-039

Showcase 3: Masked Booby through hawks



1983-043

This taxidermy mount of Masked Booby (1983-043) is a bird collected 14 April 1983 at Lake Charles. Prep was by Michael R. Carlross and photo of mount (left) by Steven W. Cardiff. A fabulous find, this **Great White Heron** (2023-022) is only the third accepted occurrence of this subspecies for Louisiana, photographed by Patsy and Tom Inglet on 5 May 2023 along Rutherford Beach.

A series of distant and grainy photos (including one at right) of Golden Eagle (2022-029) by Paul E. Conover accompanied his report of one 18 October 2022 at Peveto Woods Sanctuary.

Two White-tailed Hawks (images left), a sub-adult and an adult (2022-025) were

photographed by Phillip A. Wallace on 2 October 2022 along Lionel

Derouen Road, and presumably the same adult

there on 30 October photographed (right) by James W. Beck. A juvenile (2022-053)

photographed (left) by Craig Watson on 29 October 2022 was along Illinois Plant Road;

Charles Battaglia photographed this adult (2022-041; far left) near Bell

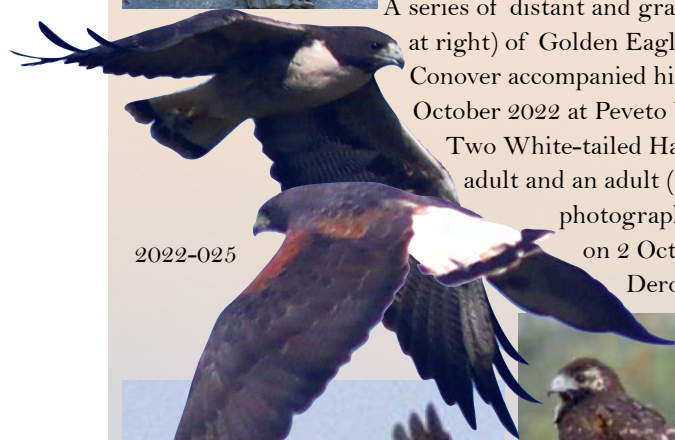
City on 18 December 2022. And, finally, one adult (2023-016) was photographed by Ken Harris (right) on 7 February 2023 near Lake Charles.



2022-029



2023-022



2022-025



2022-053



2022-025

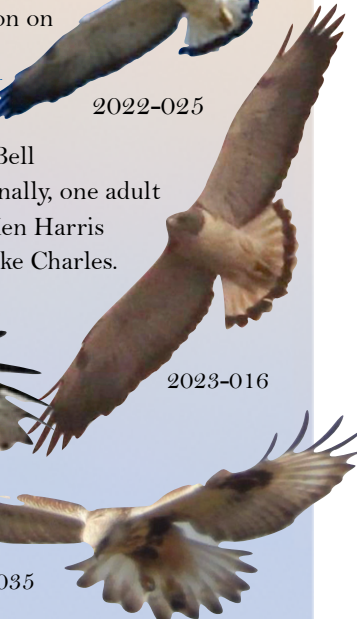


2022-041



2022-035

2022-035



2023-016

A real surprise was this immature **Rough-legged Hawk** (2022-035) photographed by Christopher G. Brantley (above, right) on 7 December 2022 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway.



2022-032

The Willow Island area of Cameron Parish was the place to be to see Ferruginous Hawks, with up to three individuals present November 2022. One more well-marked immature (2022-031) photographed by Paul E. Conover (two images left) on 21 November 2022; a relatively pale individual (2022-032) on 23 November photographed by Phillip A. Wallace (below); and one adult (2022-036) also photographed by Phillip A. Wallace (right, and below with a Red-tailed Hawk).



2022-036

Showcase 4: Burrowing Owl through kingbirds



This adult male **Red-naped Sapsucker** (1993-009) represents the second accepted occurrence (see also p. 4). The video still (left)



taken by Paul E. Conover shows the pattern of the red throat bleeding into the black malar.

Also a Louisiana second, this **Prairie Falcon** (2022-042) was photographed by Michael A. Seymour (right) on 18 December 2023 on Gragg Road in Calcasieu Parish (see also p. 3 for higher resolution photos).

Audio recordings supported the identification of two Tropical

Kingbirds: one (2023-008) photograph (left) by Tom Hanson at his Crowley residence; and one (2023-015, right) photograph by Cathy DiSalvo on 13 February 2023 in Plaquemines Parish. Two records were not confirmed by voice so remain Tropical/Couch's Kingbird: one (1998-057) distantly photographed (left) by Joseph P. Kleiman on 24 May 1998 on Broussards Beach; and one (2021-095) photographed by William H. Matthews (right) on 1 May 2023 at Willow Island. Two of three voice-recorded Couch's Kingbirds photographed are (2023-015) by Kathy Rhodes (below right) near Berwick on 26 January 2023;

and one (2022-040) by Jack Rogers (below left) in Cameron Parish on 18 December 2022. A Gray Kingbird (2023-021) was photographed by Daniel F. Lane at Grand Isle on 28 April 2023.



Two records of Burrowing Owl had photos where you could make out the owl, one (2023-005, far left) by James Smithers at Lake Charles on 4 January 2023; and one (2023-002) photographed by Jack Rogers (left) on 8 January 2023 in Cameron Parish.



Showcase 5: Fork-tailed Flycatcher through Lark Bunting



Two records of Fork-tailed Flycatcher included (2020-101) photographed by David Booth (left) in Calcasieu Parish on 14 April 2020; and one (2021-097) by James Smithers (right) on 1 October 2021 at Lake Charles.



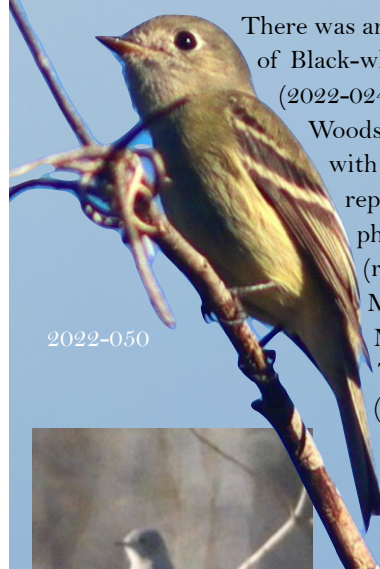
One record of Western Wood-Pewee is a specimen (2022-047; DLD 12039, lower specimen in photo by Donna L. Dittmann below) by Paul E. Conover on 30 September 2022 from Cameron Parish.

The third and fourth state occurrences of **Hammond's Flycatcher** include the specimen below (2022-048) in Cameron Parish on 1 October 2022 (upper specimen, right) and one (2022-050) photographed

by Phillip A. Wallace (left) in Vermilion Parish on 28 November 2022.

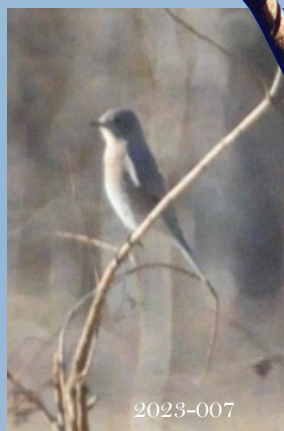
There was an apparent pair of Black-whiskered Vireos (2022-024) at Peveto

Woods Sanctuary with nest-building reported and one photograph (right) by Michael J.



Musumeche on 8 June 2022.

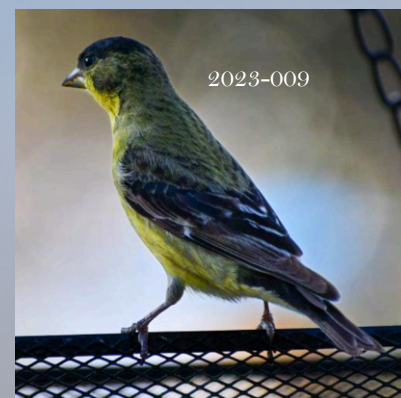
Two Mountain Bluebird records included a female (2022-045) photographed by Jon Wise (below) on 31 December 2022) at Bayou Sauvage NWR; and one (2023-007) distantly photographed (far left) by Donna L. Dittmann on the border of Iberville and East Baton Rouge parishes during the Baton Rouge CBC on 5 January 2023.



2022-045



Louisiana's sixth occurrence of **Lesser Goldfinch** (2023-009) was photographed (right) by Kaila Authement at her Houma feeder on 6 February 2023.



This amazing record of **American Tree Sparrow** (1998-163, below right) is from an offshore oil platform, where photographed by Jon R. King on 22 April 1998 becoming Louisiana's second state occurrence.



A big surprise was this breeding plumaged male Lark Bunting (2023-032, right) photographed by Kathy Rhodes on Rutherford Beach on 30 August 2023.



Showcase 6: Orioles through Red-legged Honeycreeper



Louisiana's seventh **Hooded Oriole** (2021-094) was photographed by Judy Robichaux at her Houma yard on 18 December 2021. An older record of Bullock's Oriole is a video clip of a female (2004-070) by Phillip A. Wallace at Leslee Reed's residence in New Orleans on 24 December 2004. A more recent record is this immature male (2023-001, left)

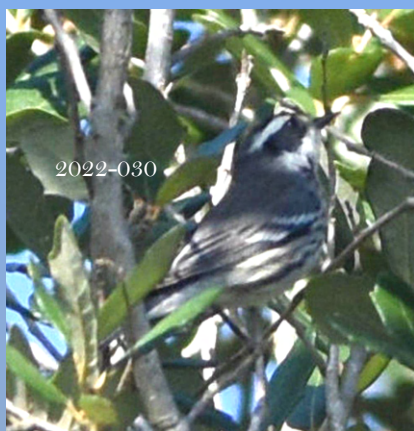


Tickfaw on 15 January 2023.

A stealthy MacGillivray's Warbler (2021-070) photographed by Daniel F. Lane on 18 October 2021 (right) at Peveto Woods Sanctuary during Fall 2021 was presumably the same individual present later that fall and lingering to late spring. The adult male (2022-028) photo by James Smithers (right) on 16 October 2022 is likely the same individual returning for its second fall and winter, and present through Spring



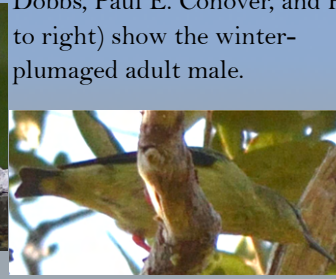
2023. This bird proved difficult to view and photograph, and there significant gaps between sightings and descriptions were largely insufficient to confirm the same individual. For that reason, it was assigned different LBRC numbers. Multi-year returnees will receive a new LBRC number for subsequent occurrences.



A female Black-throated Gray Warbler (2022-030) was photographed by Robert C. Dobbs on 30 October 2022 at Oak Grove. This immature Black-headed Grosbeak (2023-036) was photographed by Cheryl Sims on 1 February 2023 at Pontchatoula.



One of the most outstanding records for Louisiana was two **Red-legged Honeycreepers** present at Grand Isle between 13-21 October 2022. A collage of photographs submitted to the LBRC (below) include: Kathy Rhodes image (left) shows two birds; Robert C.



Dobbs, Paul E. Conover, and Paul Wood (below left to right) show the winter-plumaged adult male.



Fewer photographs were submitted of the paler-legged green-winged immature bird (below left to right) by James W. Beck, Kathy Rhodes, Erik I.

Johnson, and Phillip A. Wallace.

Showcase 7: Feral origin

This immature Trumpeter Swan (2023-043) was considered to represent a colonizing individual from the expanding re-introduced mid-Western population rather than an escaped captive. Photos and report of this individual by Daniel F. Lane showed that there were no leg bands and both hind toes were intact. Dan also reported that the bird was not pinioned, thus better supporting a non-captive origin. Photographed here on 3 January 2023 at Davis Park at Winnsboro.



Making Sense of the Canada Goose in Louisiana

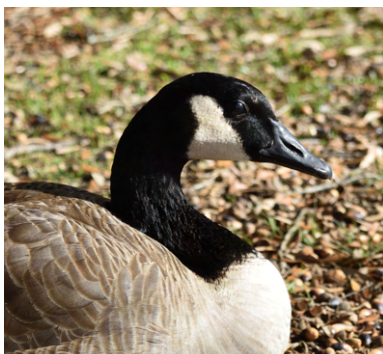
by Paul E. Conover

Making sense of the status of the Canada Goose in Louisiana over the past century has been anything but simple. Changes in migration patterns, multiple introductions of breeding populations, and taxonomic changes have rendered the species' status in the state a complex mosaic.

Historically, Canada Goose did not breed in Louisiana. The species bred to our north and migrated south to the state for the winter. The species wintered in such abundance that Arthur (1931) considered the species intermediate in abundance between Snow and Greater White-fronted geese. However by 1955, Lowery found the species merely "common" and decreasing in numbers, a reduction that he attributed to the species taking greater advantage of wildlife refuges north of the state. By 1974, the downward trend had become so pronounced that Lowery noted that the species was "now uncommon." The perceptions of these authorities were corroborated by survey data that showed the Louisiana winter flock dropping from a Mississippi flyway state high of 88,250 individuals in the 1930s to only about 5,200 in the mid-1950s.

To counter the decreasing presence of a species beloved by waterfowl hunters, a new wrinkle entered the saga of the Canada Goose in Louisiana. Between 1960 and 1968 about 2500 "Giant" Canada Geese (subspecies *maxima*) were introduced at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. These individuals included hunter-injured birds, wild-caught pinioned adults, hand-reared immatures, and chicks incubated from eggs taken from wild nests in Canada, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri. These birds were essentially farmed on the refuge in huge enclosures. This experiment eventually produced a population of free-flying, wild-nesting birds that expanded its nesting area beyond the boundaries of the refuge in Cameron and Vermilion parishes. However, this naturalized population has not become the boon to hunters that state biologists once envisioned.

The introduction of Canada Goose flocks was not limited to hunting-centered efforts by the state. The species has developed an enduring following among aviculturists and pond owners and free-flying domestic populations have been introduced to various parts of Louisiana, typically in close association with human habitations (e.g., photo below and p. 28 of Canada Goose taken at University Lake in Baton Rouge). In some cases artificial food sources and a lack of predators have allowed these small-scale local introductions to grow into large urban populations. In other areas rural flocks travel widely beyond their home properties but tend to remain centered on their introduction site.



Keeping track of naturally occurring, naturalized, and feral populations of Canada Goose has proven difficult. Canada Goose was added to the LBRC Review List in 2009 in an attempt to build an understanding of the status of wild migrants versus introduced populations, an approach that calls for observers to report potentially wild Canada Geese encountered away from known introduction centers. Between 2009 and 2023, only ten reports of potentially wild Canada Geese have been submitted. Of these, seven records were considered to pertain to members of introduced flocks—established or feral—while three records were judged to be of legitimately wild migratory Canada Geese. The small number of reports and the low percentage of accepted reports demonstrate the true modern rarity of the historically abundant wild Canada Goose.

Meanwhile, over the past decade-plus, eBird reviewers for Louisiana lobbied eBird for a set of designations designed to allow Louisiana eBirders to differentiate between sightings of wild migrant and introduced Canada Goose. In essence, those designations would have followed the categories used for species like Muscovy Duck where users are able to indicate whether a reported bird is wild, domestic, naturalized, or feral depending on the status of the species designated by a state's bird records committee. For such an important migratory game species as Canada Goose, it seemed logical and valid to differentiate between the continental migrant population and sedentary populations in the South that have obscured the actual limits of the migratory wintering range. eBird declined the request but, fortunately, recent innovations by eBird have allowed for what appears to be an even better, more-nuanced approach to the Canada Goose quandary. The "exotics" review mode recently released by eBird now provides a set of designations that allow reviewers to separate exotic individuals into the following three categories (in addition to the standard review mode typically used for wild individuals) marked by the following symbols:

Exotic species



Exotic species flags differentiate locally introduced species from native species.

- * **Naturalized:** Exotic population is self-sustaining, breeding in the wild, persisting for many years, and not maintained through ongoing releases (including vagrants from Naturalized populations). These count in official eBird totals and, where applicable, have been accepted by regional bird records committee(s).
- * **Provisional:** Either: 1) member of exotic population that is breeding in the wild, self-propagating, and has persisted for multiple years, but not yet Naturalized; 2) rarity of uncertain provenance, with natural vagrancy or captive provenance both considered plausible. When applicable, eBird generally defers to bird records committees for records formally considered to be of "uncertain provenance". Provisional species count in official eBird totals.
- * **Escapee:** Exotic species known or suspected to be escaped or released, including those that have bred but don't yet fulfill the criteria for Provisional. Escapee exotics do not count in official eBird totals.

In Louisiana, these settings will be applied in the following ways:

1. The Naturalized option will be applied to populations that are self-sustaining, wild-breeding, and are no longer subsidized by additional releases. The Cameron/Vermilion Parish population referenced above is an example of such a population. **Populations marked as Naturalized will now be considered acceptable by the LBRC as "Introduced" Canada Geese.**
2. Because Canada Goose is such a ready breeder and is often introduced to areas where predation is minimal, sizeable populations are often able to expand into existence seemingly out of nowhere. The continued viability of such booming flocks depends on a number of factors including area available for expansion and dependence on humans. **The Provisional option will be applied to populations that are expanding but haven't yet crossed the Naturalized threshold. A similar situation exists with Whooping Crane, where reintroduced populations have shown promising signs of establishment but the long-term success of the population is still uncertain. As such, while Provisional records of Canada Goose (and Whooping Crane) count in eBird totals, the LBRC does not consider sightings of these populations acceptable as natural records.**
3. Canada Goose is a popular bird in parks, farms, and other small settings with little room for population growth. In many cases such birds are also dependent on human assistance. **In essence, these birds are on par with the Muscovy Ducks that share similar habitats and will likewise be marked as Escapee. Populations marked as Escapee will not be considered as acceptable "Introduced" Canada Geese but rather as domestic fowl.**
4. Although rare, wild Canada Goose migrants and winterers are still possible and the information surrounding the sightings should be submitted to the LBRC. **Sightings believed to pertain to wild individuals can be reviewed by eBird reviewers through the standard Review Mode portal following LBRC review of the record.**

Will these designations be perfect? Probably not. It's absolutely possible that small pockets of Canada Geese have become naturalized in areas of the state where eBird reviewers are unaware of their true status. In such cases the process can be fine-tuned through practice and feedback from birders. Likewise, it's possible that there are domestic Canada Geese within an area where the introduced species has otherwise become naturalized. Again, hopefully experience and birder input will improve the process.

Will this approach sort out the tangled threads of Louisiana's Canada Goose history? Not completely, even at its best. Remember that there's another complication to be considered: Changes in taxonomy have altered the reality of what we mean by the name Canada Goose.

As far back as the days of Arthur and Lowery the differences between large big-billed and small stub-billed birds were recognized within the Canada Goose species as it was then constituted. Even then, Lowery expressed support for dividing Canada Goose into two species, the larger Canada Goose and smaller Cackling Goose, and decades later, in 2004, the split of Canada Goose into these two species finally took place.

Canada and Cackling geese are very similar in appearance, but most if not all of the Cackling Geese found in Louisiana are legitimately wild migrants and winter residents. Most modern birders are aware of the identification criteria for separating Canada Goose from Cackling Goose and can correctly identify the two species. However, for historical data from before the split of the species there is no real way to know which form of "Canada Goose" was involved unless the reporters clarified the identification in their field notes at the time. This area of confusion is obviously a major complication for winter data from some parts of the state. However, moving forward, the confusing status of the Canada Goose in Louisiana should become easier to untangle for observers and LBRC/eBird reviewers alike using this approach made possible with the new tools and designations now available.

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Article photos by the Paul E. Conover taken at University Lakes, Baton Rouge.



Secretarial Musings & Farewell

Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary

The holidays are upon us as this newsletter draft goes to reviewers to scrutinize for errors, typos and what not. The plan, like last year is to publish the newsletter online by the end of the year. Still on track! For my musings, I decided to give a brief history of the 43 years of the LBRC because I have been on the Committee for 81% percent of it's existence! Hard to believe - or, why did I keep doing this?

Although it seems like I've been on the LBRC forever, I wasn't an inaugural Member. Members who adopted the LBRC Bylaws on 19 October 1979 were Harland Guillory, Mac Myers, Dan Purrington, Van Remsen, Horace Jeter, and officers Jim Stewart (Chair) and Bruce Crider, (Secretary). I was elected a Voting Member Spring 1987, and resigned as such Spring 1988 to become the Committee's fourth Secretary following Harland Guillory (1979-82); Bruce Crider (1982), and Tom Schulenberg (1983-1988). Jim Stewart was the first Member to leave the LBRC when he moved out of state in 1983, Tom Schulenberg was the second departure in 1988, Dan Purrington left Spring 1992 when he went on sabbatical, and Paul Conover, who joined the LBRC Spring 1994, temporarily moved away Fall 1997. The LBRC maintains a tradition of State residency, so now it's my turn to say farewell: my tenure as Secretary ends at the Annual Meeting March 2024. I retire from LSUMNS in January and shortly thereafter will head for the Trans-Pecos of West Texas. Whereas a couple Members resigned for health reasons, and a few wanted to move on to pursue other endeavors, the LBRC generally re-elected its Members. I've had the pleasure of working with almost all of them (in addition to those mentioned above): David Muth, Bob Newman, Steve Cardiff, Al Smalley, Paul McKenzie, Charlie Lyon, Joe Kleiman, Ron Stein, Phillip Wallace, Peter Yaukey, Paul Dickson, Bill Fontenot, Jim Ingold, Curt Sorrells, Dave Patton, Nancy Newfield, Erik Johnson, John Dillon, Rob Dobbs, Dan Lane, Larry Raymond, and Casey Wright...actually, I've worked with ALL the LBRC Members except Harland Guillory, who retired before I started.

There's been a lot of change through the years. The Internet has been most influential. Email drastically sped-up the record review process, which previously involved "snail-mailing" batches of hard-copy rare bird reports from Member-to-Member, which could take up to six months or more. There were no pdfs or jpps: records had to all be copied because we learned the hard way that a round can be lost in the mail along with associated media (slides and prints). Media had to be sent off for professional duplication! Now, record review is almost entirely done "online." Thanks to Paul Conover, the LBRC has its own website where you can submit records, view Pending Records, and see the outcome of records in the Gallery. Previously, if you wanted to see contents of a record, then you had to visit the LBRC file at LSUMNS. The files are still there but everything you need to know about the LBRC can be found at losbird.org.

The LBRC Bylaws have been revised 14 times, most recently in 2022. Most notable to LBRC operations was the increase in the number of Members. Starting Fall 2001, we added one, then two "*Alternate Members*." *AMs* reviewed all records but did not vote *unless standing in for an absent Member at an Annual Meeting*. By Spring 2009, the LBRC abandoned that idea and increased Voting Membership to nine. This change improved the odds that a quorum of seven-Members would be available at Annual Meetings to resolve First Circulation or Discussion records. Initially, Member terms were two years, but that was extended to three years in Spring 1982, and then four years in Spring 2011. Meetings were initially held in the spring *and* fall at the LOS Meetings in Cameron, with the Annual Meeting (for election of Members) shifting from Spring to Fall and ultimately, after various Meeting conflicts and difficulty in rescheduling (at least before there was Zoom!), a fixed date was set in early spring with the Annual Meeting held at LSUMNS. To help alleviate our record backlog (see also p. 18), we allowed review of first circulation records at the Annual Meeting, which facilitated resolution of unambiguous records supported by hard evidence.

Among my contributions, the *LBRC Newsletter* allows the LBRC to provide an annual report of its activity and publish the Annual Report of the LBRC with expanded content. The Annual Report was initially published in the *LOS News* but then shifted to the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* which, unfortunately was never published on an annual basis. The newsletter was a means to fulfill the requirements set forth in the Bylaws to publish an annual report.

Where are we now - almost caught up with the old outstanding records and moving forward into the New Year!

Wishing everyone the best in 2024!

Donna L. Dittmann, Secretary

The Louisiana Bird Records Committee

LBRC Newsletter design & editor: Donna L. Dittmann



Current LBRC Members:

SPECIAL THANKS
TO THE
FOLLOWING FOR
REVIEWING &
PROVIDING
COMMENTS ON
DRAFTS OF THIS
NEWSLETTER:

PAUL E.
CONOVER,
JAMES M.
BISHOP, JOHN K.
DILLON, LARRY
R. RAYMOND,
AND KEVIN
COLLEY.

SOME MISTAKES
ALWAYS SEEM TO
DEFY DETECTION.
IF YOU SPOT ANY
ERRORS OR
OMISSIONS IN
THIS ISSUE, THEN
PLEASE SEND
CORRECTIONS TO
THE SECRETARY.

THANK YOU!

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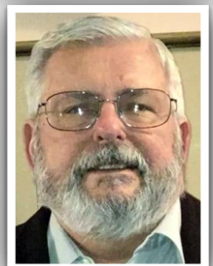
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