

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
Annual Report 2010

Annual Report, April 15, 2010

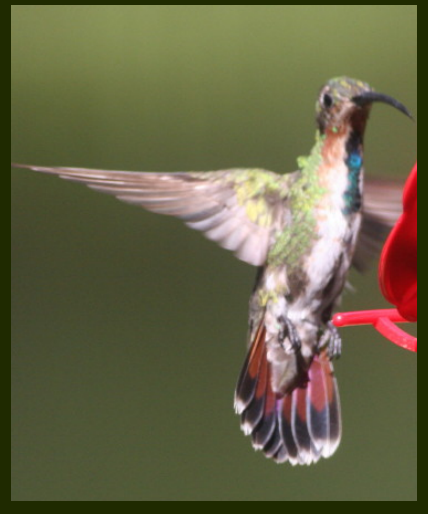


Louisiana's first record of Green-breasted Mango. Photographs by Jeff Trahan

see page 8



Caddo Parish: Greenwood  
20 August 2009



## Annual Meeting: 13 March 2010

### **Synopsis of the 2010 LBRC Annual Meeting**

by: **Donna L. Dittmann, Secretary**  
& **Steven W. Cardiff, Chair**

The LBRC's Annual Meeting was held on 13 March 2010 at the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

The following Voting Members were in attendance: Steven W. Cardiff (Chair), Paul E. Conover, Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary), James L. Ingold, Dave Patton, Curtis C. Sorrells, and Phillip A. Wallace. The following Alternate Members were also

present: Nancy L. Newfield (First Alternate) and B. Mac Myers III (Second Alternate).

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM and adjourned at 5:15 PM.

### **Election of LBRC Members**

Following nominations, elections were held: Phillip A. Wallace and Paul E. Conover were each re-elected to a new 3-year term as Voting Members; Nancy L. Newfield (First Alternate) and B. Mac Myers (Second Alternate) were re-elected as Alternate Members. The officers, who hold 1-year terms, were also

re-nominated and re-elected: Steven W. Cardiff (Chair) and Donna L. Dittmann (Secretary).

### **Record Review**

Voting Members reviewed 72 first circulation records. Records included on the agenda were chosen at the discretion of the Secretary, and mainly involved well-documented, relatively non-controversial occurrences supported by photographic or specimen evidence most easily reviewed in a meeting format and with a high probability of acceptance (as outlined by



### Brown-chested Martin

(*Phaeoprogne tapera fusca*)

Superficially resembling an overgrown Bank Swallow (note size comparison to Tree Swallow on the right), this immature male Brown-chested Martin (2009-96) is characteristic of the southern and migratory subspecies *P. t. fusca* showing heavy spotting below the breast band down the center of the breast. Discovered in northern Cameron Parish on 6 September 2009, this record represents the first occurrence for Louisiana, one of few from North America, and the second specimen for the United States.

photograph by Paul E. Conover

## Annual Meeting 2010 - cont.

the LBRC Bylaws; see <http://losbird.org> for online copy).

For all first circulation records reviewed at a meeting, member votes are without comment and anonymous, and for a record to be accepted it must receive a unanimous vote. If a record vote is not unanimous, then the record will begin a traditional first circulation via email.

Records reviewed at this meeting included many submitted online and appearing on page 9 of the “View Pending Records” page at the LBRC website: <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/viewreport9.html>.

In addition to reviewing recent records supported by photographic documentation at annual meetings, the Committee is also gradually reviewing older specimen records of Review List species that have never been specifically reviewed by the LBRC (or included in its record roster); a number of these were also reviewed and appear in this current batch of accepted records.

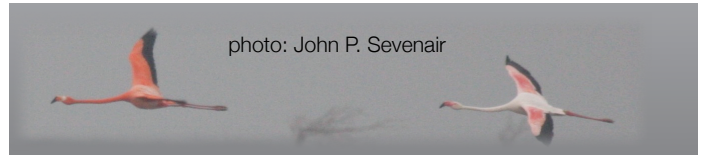
Sixty-eight first circulation records were accepted at the meeting. Three records did not receive a unanimous vote and will circulate in an e-round. One record was pulled from review because the specimen did not key out as

anticipated and thus this record requires additional review and analysis and will circulate at a later date.

Highlights of recent records accepted at the meeting include two species new for Louisiana: Green-breasted Mango and Brown-chested Martin. One additional species was formally “added” to the State List: the first record of Cassin’s Vireo is a specimen that had never been formally reviewed and published, though it appeared on the Review List. Previously ‘accepted’ (grandfathered in by the LBRC) but also never officially reviewed include first state records based on older specimen evidence: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Wilson’s Storm-Petrel, Rough-legged Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon,

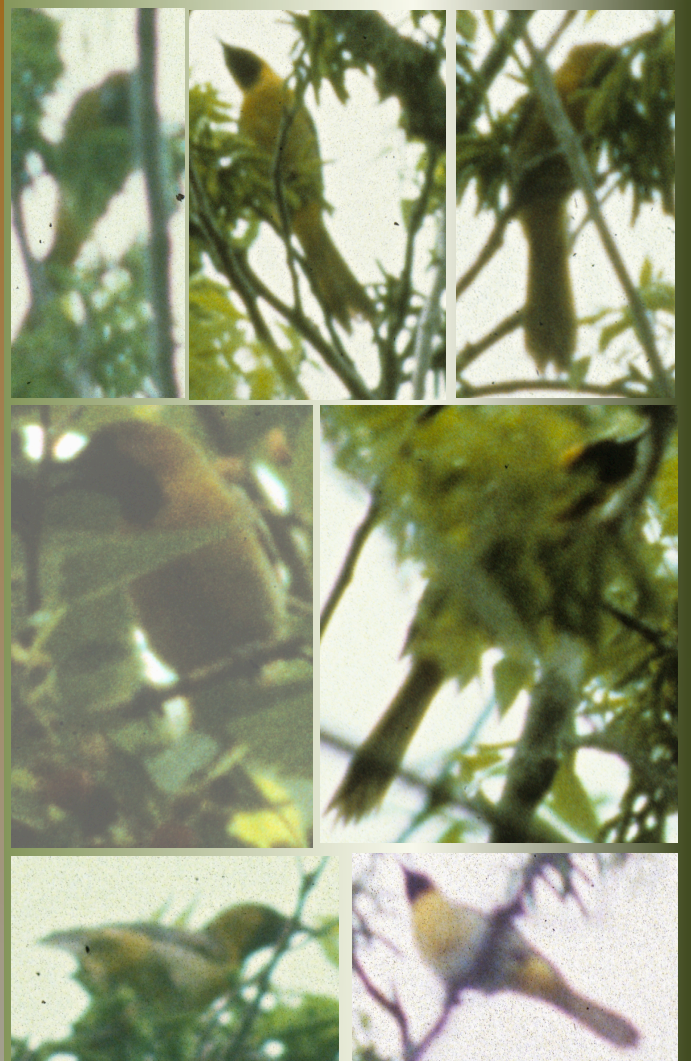
Hammond’s Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow, and Scott’s Oriole. The hawk, pigeon, towhee, and sparrow are taxidermy mounts that are on public display in the George H. Lowery, Jr. Hall of Birds at the LSU Museum of Natural Science (see pgs. 4 and 6).

Other first circulation records of particular note included the second state records of Cassin’s Vireo and American Flamingo. The American Flamingo record (LBRC 2009-35) involves the now famous “HDNT” (on left in photo below); see also p. 4.



### Louisiana’s second record of Hooded Oriole (1989-116) *finally* receives a decision vote!

Misplaced between its first and second circulations, this record finally completed its third circulation many, many years after it was submitted. With no decision following three circulations, this record went to a Discussion Round vote at 13 March 2010 Meeting. Twenty+ years later, and although not unanimous, the record was accepted. Six observers (including past and present LBRC Members) submitted long forms, which helped make this record one of the more thoroughly documented records for that period in LBRC history - and many of those same observers also voted on the record as LBRC Members. B. Mac Myers III was the only observer able to obtain photographs; his best are scanned (and slightly adjusted) and shown at right. Unfortunately, most of the slides were over exposed and none show definitive details of the plumage or bill. During review, some members expressed concerns over confusion with Orchard Oriole noting overall size and shape of the throat patch were more similar to that species. Plus, in one photograph it was thought that there may be a chestnut feather on the breast. Members who accepted the record pointed to a number of characters visible in the photographs that corroborated more detailed written reports, namely the apparent long slender shape, long tail, gray flanks, and general orangish coloration. Most members dismissed the possibility of a hybrid. Outside expert opinions by Paul E. Lehman and Jonathan L. Dunn further supported the identification as a Hooded Oriole.



First spring male Hooded Oriole (1989-116) on 29 April 1989, *Cameron*: Cameron, vicinity of Cameron Parish Courthouse; David P. Muth, Robert D. Purrington, B. Mac Myers III (all photographs shown), Phillip A. Wallace, Curtis C. Sorrells, and Paul Sunby.



For more information about identification confirmation of this hybrid see: Clark, W. S. and C. C. Witt. 2006. First known specimen of a hybrid *Buteo*: Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) X Rough-legged Hawk (*B. lagopus*) from Louisiana. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 118: 42-52.

This Rough-legged Hawk (LSUMZ 4803) mount located in the LSU Museum of Natural Science public exhibits not only represents the first state record of this species, but is the only record documented by hard evidence. A second specimen originally identified as a Rough-legged Hawk (but never reviewed by the LBRC; center specimen above) was later re-identified as a Rough-legged X Swainson's hawk hybrid (see LBRC 10th report: [http://losbird.org/jlo\\_v8.pdf](http://losbird.org/jlo_v8.pdf)) - the possibility of this hybrid combination compounds the difficulty of identification of Rough-legged Hawks in Louisiana. The mount above was identified by the taxidermist as an immature female, but William S. "Bill" Clark suggests (from examining photographs of the mount) that the plumage indicates an adult male instead (we are currently unable to access the specimen for a definitive wing chord measurement).

The meeting's agenda also included several records requiring a fourth and final Discussion Round vote. Of particular note was the second state record of Hooded Oriole (1989-116). This "ancient" record was accepted during its Discussion Vote (see p. 3).

### Additional Business

The meeting ran much longer than anticipated, so other items of business on the agenda will be resolved by a special meeting, email, or tabled until the next Annual Meeting. These items include further discussions regarding introduced status of Monk Parakeet, and proposals to consider removal of Bell's Vireo from, and addition of Long-tailed Duck to, the

Review List. Also slated were deliberations revisiting removal of Cave Swallow from the Review List and addition of American Black Duck, as well as a discussion regarding eastern US status of Trumpeter Swan.

"HDNT" revisits Louisiana spring of 2009. Last seen in the state during Sep-Oct 2007, its reappearance (LBRC 2009-35) -with the same traveling companion Greater Flamingo - was a pleasant surprise for Louisiana observers who missed this pair's previous visit. Banded as a chick at the Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve in 2005, HDNT represents one of few US records for which provenance is known; more information on p 5.



photo: Devin Bosler

# First circulation records accepted at the Annual Meeting 2010

Compiled by Donna L. Dittmann, LBRC Secretary (format follows that of LBRC reports published in the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*)

## **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**

One sex unknown juvenile (1970-07) on 26 November 1970, *Bossier*: approximately 5 mi. N of Bossier City, section 34, township 19N, range 13W; Scott Sealy and Paul M. Dickson (LSUMZ 69137; ph: p. 6). This is the first state record of a presumed “wild individual.”

## **Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)**

Two (basic male and “eclipse” male, 2009-77) on 6 November 2009, *Jefferson Davis*: WSW of Thornwell, Hwy. 99 just S of Hwy. 380; Daniel F. Lane (ph: p. 11).

## **Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)**

One (2010-02) on 22 January 2010, *Cameron*: gulf 1.3 mi. E of Constance Beach, 29.76174° N, 93.55959° W; Melvin Weber (ph: p. 11).

## **Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)**

One <plumage> (2009-60) on 27 September 2009, *Gulf of Mexico*: on rip line at Mississippi Canyon, ca. 34 mi. (28 nm) SW of mouth Southwest Pass, 28° 32' 12.0"N, 89° 47' 09.9"W; John P. Sevenair (ph), Devin Bosler (ph), and Dave Patton (ph: p. 11).

## **Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)**

One sex unknown (1954-07) on 19 July 1954, *Gulf of Mexico*: 29° 03'N, 88° 10' W; Harvey R. Bullis (mount; LSUMZ 20328, ph: p. 6). First state record.

## **American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)**

One adult (2009-35) on 2-11 May 2009, *Cameron*: Grand Chenier, 5.3 mi. E of Hwy. 82 bridge at the Mermentau River; Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Devin Bosler (ph: p. 4), Paul E. Conover, Jay V. Huner, John P. Sevenair (ph: p. 3), and Rosemary Seidler (ph). First reported on 1 May by Butch Conner *vide* Cyndi Sellers. Bird possibly present to 14 May, but no documentation submitted. This record involves the well known American Flamingo “HDNT,” originally banded as a chick during summer 2005 at Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and seen intermittently on the gulf coast (mainly Texas) since October 2005. During this visit, HDNT was still accompanied by an escapee Greater Flamingo (*P. roseus*) “492,” as was the case during their first Louisiana visit in September-October 2007 (Dittmann and Cardiff 2010; *J. La. Ornith* 8:133-134: [http://losbird.org/jlo\\_v8.pdf](http://losbird.org/jlo_v8.pdf)).

## **Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)**

One adult (2009-71) from 2 November 2009-6 February 2010, *Acadia*: vicinity of 1 mi. E of Rayne on Hwy. 90; Dave Patton (ph), Tom Finnie (ph), Rosemary Seidler (ph), Devin Bosler (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (ph only), Paul E. Conover (ph: p. 11); found by Bill Hoffpauir *vide* Dave Patton.

## **Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)**

One immature female (1933-03) on 12 March 1933, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle; Glenn Hopkins (LSUMZ 4803, mount, ph: p. 4). This is the first state record.

## **Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)**

One sex unknown (1973-05) on 13 February 1973, *Concordia*: near Ferriday; Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries (skeleton, LSUMZ 77760, ph: p. 6).

## **Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)**

Two (1952-14) on 23 October 1952, *East Baton Rouge*: 1.5 mi. S LSU campus; George H. Lowery, Jr. (LSUMZ 29,30: two mounts).

One (1952-06) on 27 October 1952, *East Baton Rouge*: 1.5 mi. S LSU campus; George H. Lowery, Jr. (LSUMZ 31: mount).

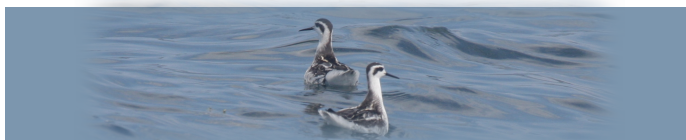
These two records likely constitute the group of three birds in the LSUMNS public exhibits (ph: p. 6).

## **Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**

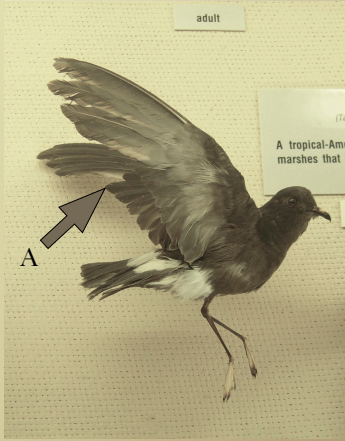
One male in basic plumage (2010-10) on 20-25 February 2010, *Jefferson Davis*: initially in vicinity of intersection of hwy. 14 and 3056, later relocated as far west as Hwy. 14 X Potter Road; **Paul E. Conover** (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (ph) and Steven W. Cardiff, Erik I. Johnson (ph only), Melvin Weber, and Bob Pierson (ph: p. 11).

## **Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)**

Two molting from juvenal to basic plumage (2009-68) on 27 September 2009, *Gulf of Mexico*: on rip line at Mississippi Canyon, ca. 34 mi. (28 nm) SW of mouth Southwest Pass, 28° 32' 12.0"N, 89° 47' 09.9"W; John P. Sevenair (ph: below), Devin Bosler, and Dave Patton (ph: p. 11).



## First State Records on Public Exhibit.



Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
(LBRC 1954-07)



Band-tailed Pigeon  
(LBRC 1954-05)



Brewer's Sparrow (LBRC 1952-05)



Green-tailed Towhee  
(LBRC 1952-04)

## Visit LSUMNS's Public Exhibits

The George H. Lowery, Jr. Hall of Birds at the LSU Museum of Natural Science offers more than a peek at the State's diversity of bird species; it includes specimens of a few of the first occurrences for the State. As the museum's founder, Lowery was also deeply interested in public outreach, so much so that he compromised the research value of these specimens by placing them in the public exhibits for everyone to see. The four mounts above, as well as the Rough-legged Hawk mount illustrated on p. 4, are Louisiana's first state records of these species. There are no additional records of Brewer's Sparrow and no other specimens of Rough-legged Hawk. Although the plumage and painted soft parts of these specimens are now bleached by the harsh fluorescent lights that were first used in these displays, interesting aspects of each specimen can nonetheless still be observed. For example, note the primary molt (arrow A) on the Wilson's Storm-Petrel - typical for birds "summering" the Gulf of Mexico. The Brewer's Sparrow has a new/stunted tail feather on the right side, certainly unusual molt for this species at that time of the year - but ongoing studies at LSUMNS suggest such "defects" are found frequently in late migrants and vagrants.

## Specimen records reviewed at the meeting (all specimens archived at LSUMNS):

### Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

One sex unknown juvenile (1970-07) on 26 November 1970, *Bossier*: approximately 5 mi. N of Bossier City, section 34, township 19N, range 13W (LSUMZ 69137).



### Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

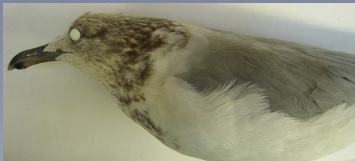
One sex unknown (1973-05) on 13 February 1973, *Concordia*: near Ferriday (skeleton, LSUMZ 77760). The right hand skull is the Golden Eagle - compare to juvenile (center) and adult (left) Bald Eagle skulls - in addition to coloration of the bill (dark on Golden, Yellow on Bald), note the size of prefrontal process (arrow) which, despite varying in size between the differently aged Bald Eagles, is much larger on the Golden Eagle.



### Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

Two (1952-14) on 23 October 1952, *East Baton Rouge*: 1.5 mi. S LSU campus (LSUMZ 29,30: two mounts).

One (1952-06) on 27 October 1952, *East Baton Rouge*: 1.5 mi. S LSU campus (LSUMZ 31: mount).



LBRC 2009-99



LBRC 2009-59

### California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

One immature (juvenile molting to first basic) female (2009-59) on 20 September-3 October 2009, *Cameron*: approximately 1/2-1 mi. E of Holly Beach (LSUMZ/DLD 9835).

One definitive adult completing primary molt (2009-99) on 27 September 2009, *Cameron*: 4 mi. W of old mouth Mermentau River, 29.7728°N, 93.1925°W (LSUMZ/DLD 9718).

photos on this and next page: Donna L. Dittmann



**Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**

One adult female (1962-04) in worn definitive basic plumage molting to alternate plumage (rectrices #1 growing in) on 20 April 1962, *Cameron*: 1 mi. W of West Jetty (LSUMZ 28731). Note uniformly dark underwing lining on partially opened wing (confirming age).



**Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)**

One (2000-98) on 18 April 2000, *Cameron*: Hwy. 82 approximately 2 mi. W Holly Beach (LSUMZ/DLD 9565; feathers only). The feathers are shown (image to left) next to a carcass of a female Lesser Nighthawk. Compare to the carcass and note relative placement on feathers of white patch in primaries and buff spotting on other feathers supporting the identification as this species.

**Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)**

One female (1957-06) on 17 January 1957, *Rapides*: Woodworth (LSUMZ 22057). This is the first state record.



**Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)**

One immature male (1987-04) on 20 September 1987, *Cameron*: Garner Ridge, 3 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou School (LSUMZ 135161). This is the first state record (bottom specimen; an immature male Cassin's Vireo from Arizona is top specimen shown for comparison) and was not previously published in an LBRC report.



**Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)**

One immature female (2009-95) on 3 October 2009, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou area (LSUMZ/DLD 9823). This is the second state record. Probably the best character to separate Cassin's Vireo from Blue-headed Vireo is the very diffuse appearance of the border between the greenish-gray cheek and white throat; on Blue-headed, the contrast is conspicuous even on less well-marked immature females.

**Brown-chested Martin (*Phaeoprogne tapera fusca*)**

One immature male molting to first basic (2009-96) on 6 September 2009, *Cameron*: Fruge Road, 0.4 mi. S of Pine Pasture Road (LSUMZ/DLD 9700). This represents a first state record.



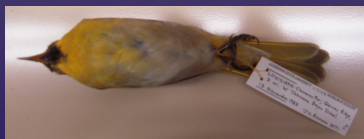
**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

Two (2009-98) on 19 July 2009, *Vermilion*: Marce Michel Road, ca. 1 mi. E of Hwy. 14, SE of Gueydan (LSUMZ/DLD 9695 adult female; 9697 juvenile female).



**Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)**

One immature male (1993-86) on 21 December 1993, *Acadia*: Lyons Point Gully, 4 1/2 mi. E of Morse; *Steven W. Cardiff* (LSUMZ 159229).



**Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)**

One immature male (1983-01) on 13 November 1983, *Cameron*: Garner Ridge, 3 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou School (LSUMZ 113125).

**Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)**

One immature male (1958-09) on 27 December 1958, *Cameron*: 1 mi. S of Cameron (LSUMZ 22648). This is a first state record.



**California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**

One immature (juvinal molting to first basic) female (2009-59) on 20 September-3 October 2009, *Cameron*: approximately 1/2-1 mi. E of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (LSUMZ/DLD 9835, ph: p. 6).

One definitive adult completing primary molt (2009-99) on 27 September 2009, *Cameron*: 4 mi. W of old mouth Mermentau River, 29.7728°N, 93.1925°W; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ/DLD 9718) and Donna L. Dittmann (ph: p. 6).

**Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)**

One first basic (2009-32) 18-19 April 2009, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle, beach in vicinity of Blue Dolphin Inn and Artie's Sports Bar; Devin Bosler (ph), Donna L. Dittmann (ph: p. 11), Phillip A. Wallace (ph); found by Jeff Webster.

One first basic (2009-92) on 12-29 March 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach and Holly Beach; Jay V. Huner (ph), Paul E. Conover (ph: p. 11), Devin Bosler (ph), and Gary Broussard (ph only). Rumored to have been present since 21 February. This bird and 2009-31 were photographed together on 28 March.

One first basic (2009-31) on 28 March & 17 April 2009, *Cameron*: 3-5 mi. W of Holly Beach; Paul E. Conover (ph). This bird and 2009-92 were photographed together on 28 March; fine details of the bird seen on 17 April were thought to be more consistent with 2009-31.

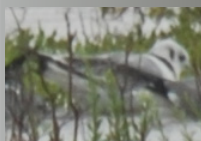
One second basic (2009-91) on 18 October 2009, *Jefferson*: Elmer's Island; Phillip A. Wallace (ph: p. 11).

**Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)**

One very worn third alternate molting to definitive basic (2009-55) on 21 August 2009, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; Tom Finnie (ph: p. 11).

**Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)**

One in first basic plumage (2009-44) on 18 April 2009, *Cameron*: Cameron, East Jetty at mouth Calcasieu Pass; Gary Broussard (photographs below).



LBRC 2009-44

**Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)**

One adult female (1962-04) in worn definitive basic plumage molting to alternate plumage (rectrices #1 growing in) on 20 April 1962, *Cameron*: 1 mi. W of West Jetty <of mouth Calcasieu Pass>; John P. Gee (LSUMZ

28731, ph: p. 7). The specimen has crude oil stains on the tail and under tail coverts.

**Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*)**

One sex unknown (1954-05) on 21 January 1954, *Assumption*: 1 mi. S of Napoleonville; John Thibaut (mount; LSUMZ 19364, ph: p. 6). This is the first state record.

**Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)**

One (2009-86) on 13-15 December 2009, *Cameron*: Holly Beach; **Paul E. Conover** (ph), B. Mac Myers III (ph), and Tom Finnie (ph: p. 12).

One (2009-93) on 22 December 2009, *Lafourche*: Port Fourchon, spoil ridge 1 mi. N of flotation canal; **Steven W. Cardiff** and Richard DeMay (ph: p. 12).

**Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)**

One (2000-98) on 18 April 2000, *Cameron*: Hwy. 82 approximately 2 mi. W Holly Beach; Jonathan L. Dunn (LSUMZ/DLD 9565; feathers only, ph: p. 7). Feathers removed and saved from carcass found on highway.

**Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*)**

One immature male (2009-56) on 20 August 2009, *Caddo*: Greenwood, 7380 Brownstone Drive (residence of Steve and Kathy Johnson); Jeff Trahan (ph: p. 1), Terry Davis, and Paul M. Dickson; first discovered by Kathy Johnson. This is the first state record.

**Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*)**

One adult female (2010-13) recaptured on 25 February 2010, *Lafayette*: near Milton, residence of Elaine Bourque; Dave Patton (photos below; this bird was banded C05734, on 5 February 2009, LBRC 2009-04).



**Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)**

One female (1957-06) on 17 January 1957, *Rapides*: Woodworth; Brooke Meanley (LSUMZ 22057; ph: p. 7). This is the first state record.



Say's Phoebe  
LBRC 2009-82

photograph:  
Steve Pagans,  
5 December 2009

**Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)**

One (2009-67) on 3 October 2009, *Iberville*: Atchafalaya Basin Levee Road near Sherburne WMA North Farm Unit entrance; Richard Temple (ph: p. 12).

One (2009-82) on 5 December 2009-23 January 2010, *Claiborne*: Homer, LSU Hill Farm; John Dillon (ph), Steve Pagans (ph above) and Rosemary Seidler (ph).

**Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulfuratus*)**

One (2009-29) 14 April 2009, *Vermilion*: White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area, vicinity of lodge approx. 8 mi. S of Gueydan; Paul E. Conover (ph: p. 12).

Two, pair with nest (2009-48) from 2 May-9 September 2009, *Cameron*: Nunez Woods opposite Rockefeller Refuge; **Donna L. Dittmann** (ph: p. 12) and **Steven W. Cardiff**, Devin Bosler (ph), and Tom Finnie (ph). First nest still intact but possibly abandoned by 6-14 June, and obviously abandoned and dilapidated by 26 July. Second nest discovered about 1/2 mi. away by DLD and SWC on 26 July, then found damaged and abandoned on next visit 3 September. Two molting adults remained in nearby Nunez Woods 3-9 September.

**Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*)**

One (2009-85) on 29 December 2009, *Lafayette*: near Ridge, Judice Park off Golden Grain Road; Michael J. Musumeche (ph), James Beck (video includes voice), and Devin Bosler (photo below), Jay V. Huner (ph); first discovered by Kevin Leigh and apparently present through 23 January 2010.



Couch's Kingbird  
LBRC 2009-85  
photograph:  
Devin Bosler  
2 January 2010

**Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)**

One adult *V. b. bellii*, (2008-73) on 30 December 2008, *Plaquemines*: Mississippi River batture at Ironton; Phillip A. Wallace (ph: p. 12).

One (2009-41) on 30 May 2009, *Bossier*: Bossier City, Cane's Landing N of Bass Pro Shop; Jeff Trahan (ph: p. 12).

One (2009-58) on 30 August 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach Woods; Paul E. Conover (ph: p. 12).

Two (2009-72) on 12 September 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach Woods; Paul E. Conover and James Beck (ph: p. 12).

**Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)**

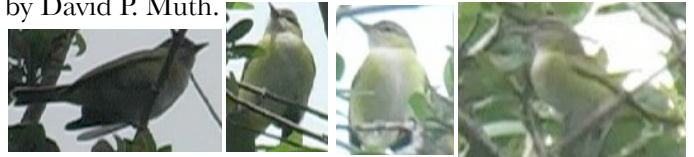
One immature male (1987-04) on 20 September 1987, *Cameron*: Garner Ridge, 3 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou School; **Steven W. Cardiff** (LSUMZ 135161) and Donna L. Dittmann. This is the first state record and was not previously published in an LBRC report.

One immature female (2009-95) on 3 October 2009, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou area; Paul E. Conover (LSUMZ/DLD 9823). This is the second state record. Photos of both on page 7.

**Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)**

One (2009-33) on 16-18 May 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; **Gary Broussard** (ph), Phillip A. Wallace (ph), Tom Finnie (ph), Dave Patton (ph), Devin Bosler (ph), Paul E. Conover, and Matthew J. Pontiff (ph: p. 13).

One (2009-34) on 17-18 May 2009, *Cameron*: Johnsons Bayou; Phillip A. Wallace (ph: photos below), Paul E. Conover (ph: p. 13), and Devin Bosler (ph); found by David P. Muth.

**Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)**

One (2009-38) on 28 April-9 May 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Jay V. Huner (ph) and Tom Finnie (ph: p. 13).

One (2009-39) on 5-7 May 2009, *Cameron*: Sabine NWR nature trail; **Jay V. Huner** and John P. Sevenair (ph: p. 13).

**Brown-chested Martin (*Phaeoprogne tapera fusca*)**

One immature male molting to first basic (2009-96) on 6 September 2009, *Cameron*: Fruge Road, 0.4 mi. S of Pine Pasture Road; Paul E. Conover (LSUMZ/DLD 9700, ph: p. 2, 7). This represents a first state record and pertains to the southern migratory subspecies, *P. t. fusca*.

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

Up to seven adults (2009-37) on 1 May-16 June 2009, *Calcasieu*: Gum Island Road near Vinton; James Maley, Tom Finnie (ph: p. 13), and Jay V. Huner. Swallows were in association with Barn Swallows at two colonies at small bridges about ½ mi. apart; first found by Daniel F. Lane.

One adult (2009-49) on 10 July 2009, *Iberville*: Sherburne WMA, South Farm Unit; Devin Bosler (ph: p. 13).

Two (2009-98) on 19 July 2009, *Vermilion*: Maree Michel Road, ca. 1 mi. E of Hwy. 14, SE of Gueydan; Paul E. Conover (LSUMZ/DLD 9695 adult female; 9697 juvenile female, ph: p. 7).

One (2009-74) on 12 September 2009, *Cameron*: Chalkley Road near Sweet Lake Land and Oil Co. field office complex; Paul E. Conover (ph: p. 13).

Two (2010-01) on 4 January 2010, *Cameron*: Cameron, East Jetty at mouth Calcasieu Pass; Jay V. Huner (ph: p. 13).

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

One female (2009-62) on 28 September 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach Woods; Tom Finnie (ph: p. 13).

One female (2009-84) on 22 December 2009, *Jefferson*: Grand Isle; Erik I. Johnson (ph: p. 13).

**Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*)**

One first basic male (2009-89) on 29 December 2009-10 January 2010, *Plaquemines*: Triumph, Fort Jackson Woods; Devin Bosler (ph: p. 13); found by Phillip A. Wallace on the Venice CBC.

**Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)**

One <age> male (1952-04) on 26 December 1952, *Cameron*: 6 mi. W of Holly Beach; George H. Lowery, Jr. (mount, LSUMZ 71, ph: p. 6). This is a first state record.

**Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)**

One (2009-76) on 7 November 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; Gary Broussard (ph: p. 13).

One (2009-90) on 31 December 2009, *Cameron*: "Big Woods", approx. 9 mi. E of Cameron on Trosclair Road; Erik I. Johnson (ph: p. 13).

One (2010-05) on 10 February 2010, *Sabine*: Antioch Church Road just W of intersection Antioch Church Road and Marie Lane, 31.83853° N, 93.53491° W; Jeff Trahan (ph: p. 13).

**Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)**

One female (1952-05) on 7 December 1952, *Cameron*: 1.5 mi. S of Cameron; George H. Lowery (mount, LSUMZ 58, ph: p. 6). This is a first state record.

**Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)**

One immature male (1993-86) on 21 December 1993, *Acadia*: Lyons Point Gully, 4 ½ mi. E of Morse; Steven W. Cardiff (LSUMZ 159229, ph: p. 7).

One (2009-88) on 24 October 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Beach Woods; B. Mac Myers III (ph: p. 13).

One (2009-79) on 1 November 2009, *St. Mary*: 3.5 mi. NE of Cypremort Point along Hwy. 3191; Erik I. Johnson (ph: p. 13).

One immature male (2010-09) on 20-27 February 2010, *Jefferson*: Harahan, Colonial Club subdivision, residence of Lizette Wroten; Cathy DiSalvo and Mary Mehaffey (ph: p. 13).

**Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)**

One immature male (1983-01) on 13 November 1983, *Cameron*: Garner Ridge, 3 mi. W of Johnsons Bayou School; J. V. Remsen (LSUMZ 113125, ph: p. 7).

One adult male (2009-28) on 7-12 April 2009, *Cameron*: Peveto Woods Sanctuary; B. Mac Myers III and Paul E. Conover (ph: p. 13). This record may pertain to a Bullock's Oriole reported by Donna Bordelon on 3 April.

One immature male (2010-12) from 30 January-12 February 2010, *St. Tammany*: Mandeville, 256 Oak Drive, Pique' residence; Roxanne (ph: p. 13) and Skip Pique' and John P. Sevenair (submitting report based on ph).

One adult male (2010-11) on 13 February-27 March 2010, *East Baton Rouge*: Baton Rouge, residence of John and Wendy Lovelace; John Lovelace (ph) and Dennis Demcheck (photos only; see one of most recent below).



Bullock's Oriole LBRC 2010-11  
photograph: Dennis Demcheck, 13 March 2010

**Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)**

One immature male (1958-09) on 27 December 1958, *Cameron*: 1 mi. S of Cameron; S. A. Gauthreaux (LSUMZ 22648, ph: p. 7). This is the first state record.

**Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)**

One singing male (2009-100) on 6 June 2009, *Cameron*: Rutherford Beach Woods; Donna L. Dittmann (ph: p. 13) and Steven W. Cardiff.

A sampling of photographic documentation submitted with records accepted at the meeting. A higher percentage of records are now being submitted with photographic documentation.



One of two Cinnamon Teal (LBRC 2009-77) photographed near Thornwell on 6 November 2009 by Daniel F. Lane.



Western Grebe (LBRC 2010-02) photographed near Constance Beach by Melvin Weber on 22 January 2010.



This Cory's Shearwater (above, LBRC 2009-60) and the two Red-necked Phalaropes (right inset, LBRC 2009-68) were photographed along a rip line at Mississippi Canyon by Dave Patton on 27 September 2009.



Ruff in basic plumage (center, LBRC 2010-10) photographed by Bob Pierson on Hwy. 14 at Potter Road on 21 February 2010.



Adult Harris's Hawk (LBRC 2009-71) was photographed by Paul E. Conover along Hwy. 90 near Rayne on 6 February 2010.

First basic Glaucous Gull (LBRC 2009-32) was with a presumed hybrid Great Black-backed X Herring Gull photographed by Donna L. Dittmann at Grand Isle on 19 April 2009.



LBRC 2009-32

This first basic Glaucous Gull (below left, LBRC 2009-92) was photographed by Jay V. Huner at Peveto Beach on 12 March 2009, and presumably the same bird was joined by another first basic (right, LBRC 2009-31) and photographed by Paul E. Conover on Holly Beach on 28 March 2009.



The second basic individual (below, LBRC 2009-91) was photographed at Elmer's Island by Phillip A. Wallace on 18 October 2009.



This very worn third alternate molting to definitive basic Great Black-backed Gull (LBRC 2009-55) was photographed along Holly Beach by Tom Finnie on 21 August 2009.



A few more of the photographs submitted for records accepted at the 2010 meeting.



LBRC 2009-93

Two Burrowing Owl records were reviewed including this one on the left (LBRC 2009-86) photographed on Holly Beach by Tom Finnie on 15 December 2009. The second (LBRC 2009-93) was on the opposite side of the state at Port Fourchon and photographed by Richard DeMay (below) on 22 December 2009.



This Say's Phoebe (above, LBRC 2009-67) was photographed by Richard Temple along the Atchafalaya Basin Levee Road near Sherburne WMA North Farm Unit on 3 October 2009; this or other Say's Phoebes have been reported in this area during this same time period since 2006.

Great Kiskadee (LBRC 2009-29) photographed by Paul E. Conover at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area on 14 April 2009.



A pair of Great Kiskadees (above, LBRC 2009-48) photographed by Donna L. Dittmann the day they were first discovered at Nunez Woods near Rockefeller Refuge on 2 May 2009; two nesting attempts (first nest on left, second on right) failed.



Four Bell's Vireo records were accepted from left to right: LBRC 2008-73 photographed by Phillip A. Wallace at Ironton on 30 December 2008; LBRC 2009-41 photographed by Jeff Trahan at Bossier City on 30 May 2009; and two records from Peveto Woods Sanctuary, LBRC 2009-58 photographed by Paul E. Conover on 30 August 2009, and a photograph by James Beck of one of two individuals LBRC 2009-72 present on 12 September 2009.



The LBRC regrets that only a small percentage of submitted photographs can be showcased in the annual newsletter. The LBRC is very appreciative to the time and effort observers have expended to submit documentation to the committee.



LBRC 2009-37



LBRC 2009-49



LBRC 2009-74

Cave Swallow records accepted at the meeting included those photographed by Tom Finnie (LBRC 2009-37) on Gum Island Road on 4 May 2009; LBRC 2009-49 photographed by Devin Bosler at Sherburne WMA on 10 July 2009; LBRC 2009-74 photographed by Paul E. Conover along Chalkley Road on 12 September 2009; and LBRC 2010-01 shows one of two moribund individuals photographed by Jay V. Huner at East Jetty on 4 January 2010.



LBRC 2010-01



LBRC 2009-33



LBRC 2009-34

Two Yellow-green Vireos were discovered in mid-May 2009, both photographed above on 17 May, LBRC 2009-33 (above left) photographed by Matthew Pontiff at Peveto Woods Sanctuary; and LBRC 2009-34 photographed by Paul E. Conover at Johnsons Bayou.



Two Western Tanagers, both females, were photographed: LBRC 2009-62 (above) by Tom Finnie at Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 28 September 2009; and LBRC 2009-84 (below) by Erik I. Johnson at Grand Isle on 22 December 2009.

Two Black-whiskered Vireos were also found: LBRC 2009-38 (bottom left) photographed by Tom Finnie at Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 9 May 2009; and LBRC 2009-39 (right) photographed by John P. Sevenair at Sabine NWR nature trail on 7 May 2009.



This immature male Townsend's Warbler (LBRC 2009-89) was photographed by Devin Bosler (below) at Fort Jackson Woods on 29 December 2009.

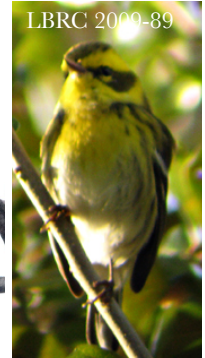
Three Spotted Towhee records were accepted (below): two in Cameron Parish, LBRC 2009-76 photographed by Gary Broussard on 7 November 2009 and LBRC 2009-90 photographed by Erik I. Johnson on 31 December 2009, and one in Sabine Parish LBRC 2010-05 photographed by Jeff Trahan on 10 February 2010.



LBRC 2009-76



LBRC 2009-90



LBRC 2009-89

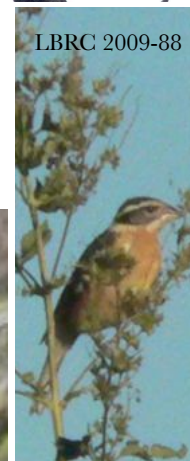
Black-headed Grosbeak records included two "free range" individuals, LBRC 2009-88 photographed by B. Mac Myers III (right) at Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 24 October 2009 and LBRC 2009-79 photographed by Erik I. Johnson along Hwy. 3191 on 1 November 2009 (far right); a third, LBRC 2010-09 (below), was photographed by Mary Mehaffey at a feeder in Harahan on 21 February 2010.



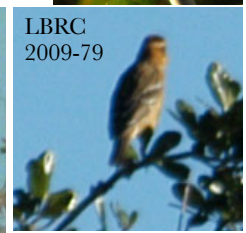
LBRC 2010-09



LBRC 2009-28



LBRC 2009-88



LBRC 2009-79



LBRC 2009-100

This adult male Bullock's Oriole (LBRC 2009-28, above right) was photographed by Paul E. Conover at Peveto Woods Sanctuary on 12 April 2009; the immature male (LBRC 2010-12, bottom right) was photographed by Roxanne Pique at her residence in Mandeville.



LBRC 2010-12

This male Shiny Cowbird (above, LBRC 2009-100) was photographed by Donna L. Dittmann at Oak Grove on 6 June 2009.

LBRC 2008-71



Photograph by Bill Stelly, Jr.

## First Record of Jabiru for Louisiana

On 27 July 2008, Bill Stelly, Jr. photographed a Jabiru right before sunset in a cane field in Charenton, St. Mary Parish. At a distance of 30-40 yards, with a brand new camera, he obtained a very good photo (left). The bird was only observed by Bill and his father. Although Bill had no experience with this species, he determined the identification based on his photos by using Whatbird.com.

Then, on 31 July 2008, while censusing birds at the LDWF Sherburne WMA North Farm complex, Michael A. Seymour and Joshua T. Sylvest found and photographed presumably the same adult Jabiru!

The timing of this record fits the pattern of vagrancy to the US and helped convince the LBRC that this record did not involve an escaped captive.

LBRC 2008-64



Photograph by Michael A. Seymour &amp; Joshua T. Sylvest

## Other updates from the LBRC

By Donna L. Dittmann and Steven W. Cardiff

In addition to records accepted at the 2010 Annual Meeting, the LBRC reviewed numerous records since publication of the 2009 Newsletter. These included results from e-rounds and old-fashioned mail circulation rounds. The slow "snail mail" process of circulating rounds will eventually be phased out.

Probably the most notable result of e-round activity was the acceptance of Louisiana's first record(s) of Jabiru. Due to close timing, location, and individual similarity, the Committee regarded both records as most likely pertaining to the same individual. Compare photographs above.

The Committee also accepted the first hard-evidence record of Red-throated Loon (see page 15). Following the change in the bylaws to accept only first state records supported by hard evidence, the previously accepted first state record had been relegated to the Hypothetical List.

Both of these state firsts, and all other records reviewed during the year, will appear in the Eleventh Report of the LBRC.

### Consideration of Committee Expansion

Following this Spring's Annual Meeting, Committee Members are reevaluating the role of Alternate Members. One Alternate was added Fall 2001 to be on standby for Annual Meetings in case of an emergency absence by a Voting Member. Following such an emergency, a 2nd Alternate was added Fall 2002 to provide additional backup. Because Alternates have become increasingly involved in the LBRC process, the Committee is now considering converting those positions to full Member status (increase committee to nine members). Stay tuned for further updates.

## First “hard evidence” of Red-throated Loon

On 24 January 2009, while searching reservoirs for potentially interesting wintering loons and other waterbird species, Devin (photos at right and below) and Justin Bosler found and photographed a Red-throated Loon at Caney Creek Reservoir near Womack. It represented the first record for the state supported by hard evidence. The bird was subsequently seen by numerous Louisiana observers, but none were able to obtain better photos than those shown at right.

There is only one previous accepted record, which was subsequently placed on the Hypothetical List because it lacked hard evidence. The 2009 record will appear in the 11th Report of the LBRC.



photographs above and left: Devin Bosler

### Updates to State and Review lists

With the addition of the four new species mentioned in this newsletter (photos right), the official State List has grown to 471 species. All species newly added to the State List are also automatically added to the Review List, which now includes 148 species (and Monk Parakeet).

If you haven't already done so, please submit any additional supporting information for records contained within this or the 2009 LBRC newsletters, or for any records currently seen at the “view pending records” section of the LBRC website so that all relevant information for these records can be incorporated into the forthcoming Eleventh Report of the LBRC. The LBRC would like to thank all observers who take the time to submit documentation. The Tenth Report is available online: [http://losbird.org/jlo\\_v8.pdf](http://losbird.org/jlo_v8.pdf)

Please send any corrections for records contained within this newsletter to Donna L. Dittmann, [ddittma@gmail.com](mailto:ddittma@gmail.com).



photo: Paul E. Conover



Michael J. Musumeche  
25 January 2009



photo: Jeff Trahan

Photo: by Michael A. Seymour & Joshua T. Sylvest

# The Louisiana Bird Records Committee



LBRC Newsletter

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