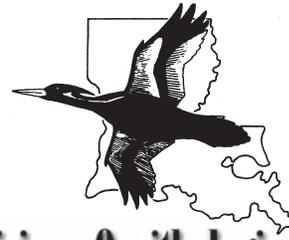


# LOS NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE **Louisiana Ornithological Society**

## 2003 LOS WINTER MEETING

Lake Charles, Louisiana

January 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

**Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel**

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After 10 years the LOS Winter Meeting will return to Lake Charles. We are fortunate to have as our Saturday evening speaker Kelly Bryan, who will give a presentation on "Birds of The Davis Mountains." Kelly's program will characterize and describe the Davis Mountains, comparing them to other mountain ranges in the region. He will present other important aspects of this area's avifauna, including tape recordings of songs of selected bird species.

Kelly obtained a Masters Degree from Sam Houston State University and began his career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Service at Huntsville State Park. He went on to serve 18 years as Superintendent for Kickapoo Cavern and the Davis Mountains State Parks. He was then appointed Coordinator of Natural Resources Management for all of the West Texas State Parks. He retired from this position in 2002. His wide personal interests include banding and drawing birds, photography, recording bird songs and serving as Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department.

Kelly's intensive studies of the avifauna of the Davis Mountains began in 1991 and continue today. His investigations have led to the discovery of one species new to Texas. With each passing year new discoveries continue to be added.

The Davis Mountains of West Texas have been characterized as one of the last ornithological wildernesses in the state. Unlike the nearby Guadalupe and Chiccos Mountains, which are included in the National Parks, the Davis Mountain range has remained almost entirely privately owned

The discovery of nesting Buff-breasted Flycatchers there in 1999 provided a new species to the state's bird list, as well as a first nesting record. Photographs obtained of the Olive Warbler (1992), Berylline Hummingbird (1997), and the Slate-throated Redstart (1997 and 2000) represent the first documented records for Texas. Additional

first Texas nesting records include the Gray Flycatcher (1991), White-eared Hummingbird (1993 probable), Mountain Bluebird (1995), Dusky flycatcher (2000), Greater Pewee (2002), and MacGillivray's Warbler (2002) as well as many other important records/observations of birds.

Our Friday evening speaker will be our own Dr. Jim Ingold, Professor of Ornithology from the Department of Biological Sciences, LSU-Shreveport. He also serves as Editor of the Journal of Louisiana Ornithology. His talk will be the "History of Louisiana Ornithology," the paper he presented in 2002 at the North American Ornithological Conference in New Orleans.

Jim said while he was working on an annotated bibliography of Louisiana Ornithology, he became interested in Louisiana's role in the science of ornithology from pre-history to Audubon, and from Edmund McIlhenny to George Lowery of LSU and his students, on up to 2002. Many of our state organization members should be very interested in the talk, as they have lived through part of this history!

**Headquarters for the Winter Meeting** is the Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel, which is currently undergoing a total remodeling and refurbishing of all rooms. It is located just off I-10 on Hwy 171 (see map.)

LOS has a reserved block of 40 rooms, which the hotel will hold for us until January 10<sup>th</sup> at a special rate of \$79 (normally \$89) for their standard rooms:

- Executive Queen – oversized room with a queen bed and a love seat that converts to twin size sleeper
- Double/Double - oversized room with two double beds
- King – oversized room with King size bed

*continued*

## 2003 LOS WINTER MEETING - con't

Hotel also has Suites:

- Standard \$89 plus tax (normally \$99)  
Kitchenette, Living room with double size sleeper sofa,  
Bedroom with King size bed
- Deluxe \$99 plus tax (normally \$119)  
Full kitchen, Living room with double size sleeper sofa,  
fireplace, Bedroom with King size bed or two queen size  
beds, whirlpool bath
- Some can connect with another bedroom.

These room rates are for one or two persons with an extra \$10 for each additional person.

Other amenities: courtesy airport transportation, free local phone calls, morning newspaper, T.V., clock radio, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, etc.

All room rates include a full buffet breakfast (over 50 items) in the club house. For our convenience it will be open at 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday mornings.

For room reservations be sure to mention La. Ornithological Society Meeting, January 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> to assure getting the special rate!

5 – 6:30 PM Friday and Saturday evening a complimentary hospitality reception in the Club House for all registered guests featuring a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and snacks.

6:30 PM Friday LOS registration will begin in the Jean Lafitte Room with meeting beginning at 7:15 PM.

6:30 PM Saturday evening dinner will be a seated meal, not a buffet. To be able to offer two entrée choices at a \$13.00 price we must select which entrée we want at pre-registration. The choices are Sliced Roast Beef with gravy or Baked Chicken Breast. Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> will be the deadline to register to attend the dinner.



### WINTER MEETING FIELD TRIPS

The All-Day trip will leave at 7 AM and return at 5 PM. Half-Day trips will run concurrently and each will be conducted three times (Saturday from 7 AM until noon, Saturday 1 PM until 5 PM, Sunday 7 AM until noon.)

#### Field Trip Departures

Departures will be from the rear parking lot of the hotel by convoy in personal cars. Each field trip leader will have a colored flag to coincide with the color assigned to that trip. At registration, attendees will be given color tickets for their chosen trips.

#### All-Day Trip (Red)

Cameron Hwy 82 W Beach  
Sabine Lake and Pleasure Island (Port Arthur, TX)  
Tyrell Park and Cattail Marsh (Beaumont, TX)

Trip will be split into two groups. Group A will begin with Cameron Beach and proceed to other places. Group B will go directly to Tyrell Park and Cattail Marsh then come back by Sabine Lake and Pleasure Island and last to Cameron Beach.

Area Birds: Wading and Shore birds, Kites, Hawks, Golden Eagle, Loons, Spotted Sandpiper, Woodpeckers, Migrants, Ducks – Canvasback, Ring-necked, Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy, Mergansers, Grebes.

#### Half-Day Trips

##### Carlyss area (Green):

1133 ponds, Hwy 108, Choupique, Gum Island, Fabacher, Gum Cove, Charlie and Ellis Moss roads to Ellender Bridge, Ship channel, DeVail road to Erwin Oil Field.

Area Birds: Ducks, Anhinga, Migrants, Sparrows, Kites, Hawks, Caracara, Wading Birds, Shore Birds, Rails, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Black Skimmers.

##### East Calcasieu Parish (Yellow):

Rice fields east of Municipal Airport, Lionel Derouen, Fruge', Rossignal roads, Hwy 14, Lacassine NWR Pools, Lacassine NWR Headquarters and Streeter Rd.

Area Birds: Ducks, Geese, Wading Birds, Shore Birds, Sparrows, Hawks, Vermilion Flycatchers and other Migrants.

##### North West Calcasieu Parish (Blue):

Grey Rd. to Ged and Ged Lake, WPA Rd., Houston River Rd., Navajo Trail, Big Woods, Route 66, Marcantel Rd.

Area Birds: Sparrow, Woodland Birds, Wrens, Hawks, Woodpeckers, Roadrunners, Nuthatches and other Migrants.

**Please complete and return the Registration Form on the next page!**

## LOS WINTER MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

### January 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2003

Names (all) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Number To Register** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Number For Dinner** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$13.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Check Total = \_\_\_\_\_

2003 LOS Membership Dues = \_\_\_\_\_ *(Separate checks and note for whom, please!)*

Total money in checks enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose Dinner Entree**

Number of Roast Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Baked Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> to:**

Louise M. Hanchey  
305 Jeanine St.  
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

*LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.*

**Winter Meeting Field Trips** – Please choose the trips you wish to participate in by checking the following form. Trip participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If your desired trip is filled, you may be moved to another time slot or field trip.

**All-Day Trip** – Cameron Beach, Sabine Lake & Cattail March  SAT

**Half-Day Trips** *(Choose up to three)*

- |                             |                                 |                                 |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Carlyss Area                | <input type="checkbox"/> SAT AM | <input type="checkbox"/> SAT PM | <input type="checkbox"/> SUN AM |
| East Calcasieu Parish       | <input type="checkbox"/> SAT AM | <input type="checkbox"/> SAT PM | <input type="checkbox"/> SUN AM |
| North West Calcasieu Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> SAT AM | <input type="checkbox"/> SAT PM | <input type="checkbox"/> SUN AM |



## LOS FALL ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY NIGHT, October 26, 2002

President Marty Guidry called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Marianna Primeaux and Judy Fruge for Cameron coordination and registration, Doc & Matilde Smith for Sales Table and Sue Wilson and Judith O'Neale for Friday and Saturday night registration.

The Creole Nature Trail has been selected as one of the top twenty All American roads. This will qualify the highway for Federal funds and hopefully we will see some much needed pullouts in the future.

The officers and board members of LOS were introduced: Secretary/Treasurer Judith O'Neale, SW LA Board Member Gay Gomez and SE LA Board Member Lee Ellis, and Jim Ingold, JLO Editor. He also introduced Kay Radlauer and Dennis Demcheck as the new editors of the LOS News. Vice President Karen Fay and Past President David L'Hoste were unable to attend.

The Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes of the October 28, 2001 meeting. Nancy Newfield moved to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Jim Ingold. Approved.

Judith O'Neale gave the financial report with the following highlights: Bank and CD balance \$25,238.11 which includes \$2,521.65 in the Ted Parker Youth Fund. Of this amount \$5,000 has been pledged to help build the viewing tower at the East jetty parking area and \$10,000 is set aside for Life Memberships. Nancy Newfield moved to accept the financial report and Steve Cardiff seconded. Approved.

Marty thanked Linda Stewart Knight and Carl Sheely for their excellent program on Alaska given on Friday night. Carl set up his scope and camera and answered questions regarding digiscoping.

Marty announced that the George Lowery award and the President's awards will be given at the spring meeting. He encouraged members to nominate people which they think are deserving of these awards.

LOS supports the following organizations: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Audubon County Fest, Cameron Preservation Alliance and the North American Ornithologist Conference held in New Orleans in September.

LOS gives a grant award each year to a research program involving Louisiana birds. Application and requirements are listed on our webpage.

The negotiations involving the East Jetty Viewing Tower are underway and hopefully the construction will begin in the next few months. LOS has committed \$5,000 to the building of the tower and has suggested that it be built at the southeast end of the RV parking lot.

The Sabine Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 14 and anyone who can help should contact Marty Guidry.

Marty announced that the Winter meeting 2002 will be held in Lake Charles, January 24-26, 2003. Louise Hanchey has been coordinating this meeting. The Friday night speaker will be Jim

Ingold presenting a program on The History of Ornithology in Louisiana and on Saturday Kelly Bryan will give a program on the Birds of the Fort Davis Mountains.

Three door prizes were given out to Andrea Mattison, Margie Griffin and Louise Hanchey.

Marty reminded folks to turn back their clocks tonight to end Daylight Savings Time.

Marty read the checklist and there were 188 species seen in Cameron for the day.

Marty showed the new Baton Rouge Audubon sanctuary patch of the Blue Grosbeak. The price has increased to \$20 for 2003 and included admission to the sanctuary and membership in BRAS.

Nancy Newfield, ABA Regional Membership Coordinator, encouraged all members to join ABA and had new flyers available at the front table.

There is a new webpage, Birdlouisiana.com, which lists all the festival and calendar of events for the state.

Special thanks to all the members of the Knights of Columbus who continue to make it possible for us to have the wonderful buffet for our meetings.

Marty turned the meeting over to Nominating Committee member Gay Gomez. The committee nominations are:

SE Board Member - Lee Ellis (Motion was made by Marty Guidry and seconded by Rosemary Seidler)

Secretary/Treasurer - Judith O'Neale (Motion was made by Nancy Newfield and seconded by Marty Guidry)

Vice President - Karen Fay (Motion was made by Lee Ellis and seconded by Melvin Weber)

President - Rosemary Seidler (motion was made by Melvin Weber and seconded by Larry Raymond)

There were no nominations from the floor and all were approved unanimously.

Marty introduced our speaker, Greg Lasley from Austin Texas. Greg gave an outstanding slide program on the Juan Fernandez Firecrown which is found only off the coast of Chile on the Isla Robinson Crusoe.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**Louisiana Ornithological Society**

**www.losbird.org**

**Visit Louisiana's Bird Festivals**

**www.BirdLouisiana.com**

# “Let’s take a closer look”- Louisiana Swallows

## Part One: “blue-backed, rusty-throated species”

by Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff

435 Pecan Drive, St. Gabriel, LA 70776

This is the first installment in a series of identification articles covering Louisiana swallows. Because swallows are most often observed in flight, they can present a formidable identification challenge, especially for beginner and intermediate-level birders. Most observers have experienced the overwhelming, even discouraging at times, task sorting through thousands of individual swallows in mixed-species flocks during migration. But, through practice, patience, and acquiring knowledge of each species’ status and distribution, swallow identification can become a source of enjoyment rather than something to be avoided. Amazingly, six of the seven species known to occur in Louisiana have nested here. Purple Martin and Barn Swallow are regular, widespread breeders. Cliff and Rough-winged swallows are also regular but somewhat more local in their distributions (check out the Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas RE the previous 4 species). Tree Swallow has nested at least once (Union Parish, 1997) and Cave Swallow is a recent colonist at one locality in extreme SW Louisiana. The seventh species, Bank Swallow, is strictly a migrant, and most of the other species with the exception of Cave Swallow) are actually more abundant here as migrants. Tree Swallow is also common to abundant during winter in southern Louisiana, and several other species have also been recorded in winter, giving swallows a year-round presence in southern Louisiana. An eighth species, Violet-green Swallow is an anticipated vagrant (has occurred as close as central Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri); other potential long-shot candidates include Bahama Swallow (occasional vagrant to extreme southern Florida) and Mangrove Swallow (first U.S. record recently found in Florida). Among these species, Cliff, Cave, and Barn swallows share the combination of a steely blue back and rusty-colored throat, and they are the focus of Part One.

### Swallows in General

The swallow family Hirundinidae is defined by a single character, a syrinx that has more or less complete bronchial rings. The family is further subdivided into two subfamilies. The Pseudochelidoninae includes only two species of Old World “river martins.” These “swallows” are sort of a cross between a swallow and a wood swallow (Family Artamidae) and compared to “typical” swallows, they have a broader, heavier, colorful bill (one species orange, one yellow), large, colorful eyes (one species red, one white), relatively short tails, and heavy legs and feet. Aside from these river

martins, the rest of the swallows are immediately recognizable as such and all are included in the subfamily Hirundininae.

The “typical” swallows are distributed nearly worldwide except in New Zealand, some oceanic islands, and Polar Regions. They often occur in close association with man, or nest on manmade structures. Many are primarily diurnal migrants. There are approximately 73 species (depending on whose taxonomy you follow), collectively referred to as swallows or martins. Most have a fairly slender form, short humerus (forearm) and proportionately long primaries (usually more than twice as long as the secondaries), small bill and corresponding large gape, very short legs and relatively small feet. Swallows are very elegant aerial bug-catchers. Many have a conspicuously forked or notched tail (important for aerial maneuvering). The upper parts of many species are adorned in shades of metallic blues, browns, or greens that glisten when the sun reflects off the feathers. There are several genera in this subfamily, which are classified primarily by plumage pattern, presence or absence of feathering on the tarsi, and nesting behavior. The species covered in this article are in the genus *Hirundo* (more on taxonomy below). One character that links all

*Hirundo* is the use of mud in nest construction; many use mud that is scooped from the ground with the lower mandible and formed into small, compact pellets. The pellets are attached to one another to form the nest “shell” (this gives the nest a characteristic pebbly appearance), and to attach the nest to the substrate (e.g., cliff face or concrete) and/or someone else’s nest (in the case of colonial species).

### Status

Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) breeds over the majority of North America from western and southern Alaska (excluding the SE panhandle) eastward across Canada from central Yukon, northern Mackenzie, northern Manitoba, northern Ontario, southern Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia south throughout most of the U.S. to the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana, the northern portions of the remaining Gulf Coast states, Georgia, and western South Carolina. The species also breeds into Mexico to northern Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa, northern Nayarit, and over most the central Mexican Plateau and highlands south to Oaxaca and Veracruz. The species completely departs from the breeding range to winter in South America from Paraguay and central and southeastern Brazil south to central Argentina. Although

*continued*

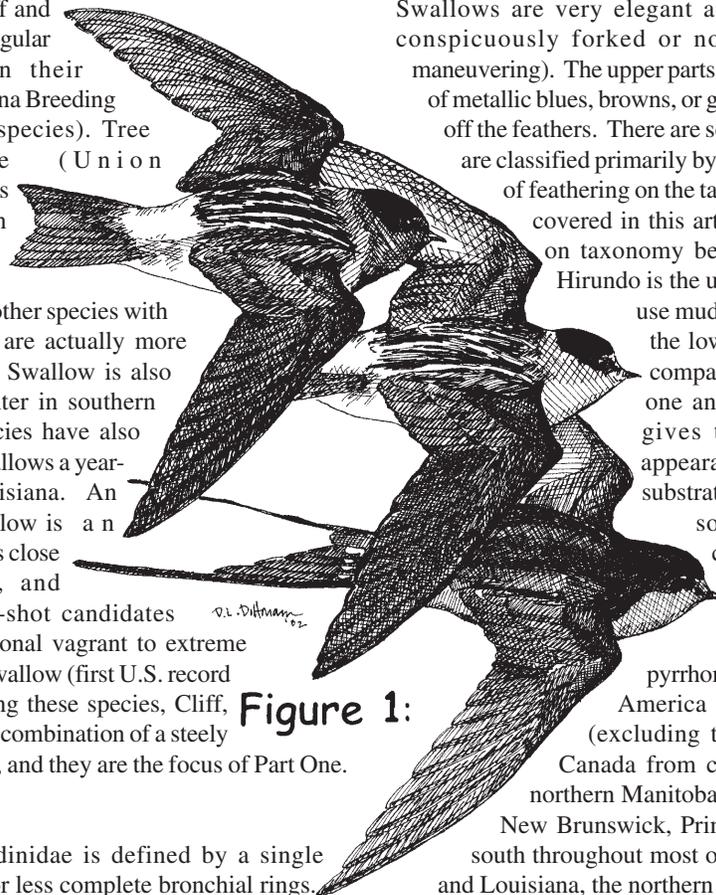


Figure 1:

**Figure 1.** Flight profiles of adult swallows. Left to right: Cliff, Cave, and Barn. Barn Swallow is quickly identified by its more elegant shape, longer wings, and long, deeply forked tail. Cliff and Cave are similar to each other in shape. Note dark-headed appearance of Cliff and pale-headed look of Cave.

Cliff Swallow is reportedly becoming scarcer as a breeding species in the northeastern portion of its range, it continues to increase as a breeder elsewhere. [Cliff Swallows are legendary for being the swallows that are famous for returning to San Juan Capistrano Mission (in California) on the same date (19 March) each year since 1776. Unfortunately for the integrity of the legend, Cliff Swallows can actually arrive at California nesting sites by early March, and, more often than not, news media footage of “the arrival” shows other species such as White-throated Swifts or European Starlings instead of Cliff Swallows].

Although there are several described subspecies, authorities differ as to their true validity. Distribution of the subspecies is complex, and there is considerable geographic overlap, clinal variation, and individual variation. Perhaps recent range expansions have obscured what were once more discreet and “diagnosable” subspecies units. Regardless of subspecies taxonomy (see BNA account, which is mainly based on Behle 1976), there are general trends for larger, all pale-foreheaded individuals to the north and east and smaller, darker-foreheaded individuals to the south and west. Other characters used in separating subspecies are size of forehead patch, and coloration of breast, sides, upper tail coverts, rump, and flanks. Subspecies status in Louisiana is poorly understood; there are very few specimens of either breeders or migrants. By range, Louisiana breeders should be subspecies *ganieri*, which is the smallest white-foreheaded form. The other widespread northern white-foreheaded subspecies, *pyrrhonota* and *hypopolia* (which are doubtfully distinct from each other), almost certainly pass through Louisiana during migration. The relatively small, darker foreheaded (tan to chestnut) southwestern/Mexican subspecies, *tachina* and *melanogaster*, also may occur in Louisiana as migrants. The dark-foreheaded breeders that occur at some of the coastal Louisiana colonies (e.g., Hwy. 90 at Pearl River, St. Tammany, and Hwy. 82 at Sabine and Mermentau river bridges, Cameron) should be *tachina* by range, but this has yet to be confirmed. And, to complicate matters, individuals at these colonies exhibit a more or less complete range of variation in forehead color from white, creamy white, beige, tan, and reddish tan to bright rusty and dark chestnut. Whether this variation is the result of hybridization/intergradation between two subspecies remains to be determined. If so, then isolating mechanisms between subspecies with different forehead colors is obviously weak. Some of the variation of forehead color could be the result of hybridization with Barn or Cave swallows, but dark-foreheaded birds do not seem to show any other characters that are intermediate between Cliff and Barn or Cave, and no mixed pairs have so far been reported at Louisiana colonies.

In Louisiana, the species was first reported nesting in 1978, and since has greatly expanded its range. Part of this expansion is undoubtedly due to the species’ ability to adapt to nesting on manmade structures. Nests are frequently placed under concrete bridges or under overhangs on other concrete structures. Some of the more notable and accessible Louisiana colonies include sites in the following parishes: Natchitoches (I-49 at Powhatan and Derry exits), St. Tammany (Hwy. 90 Pearl River bridges), Concordia (Old River Water Control Structure), Pointe Coupee (parish control structure on Hwy. 417 a few miles north of the Melville ferry, and at the east end of the Hwy. 190 Atchafalaya River bridge), and Cameron (Hwy. 82 at Sabine and Mermentau river bridges). Distribution of nesting Cliff Swallows is usually correlated with presence of an appropriate structure near a source of mud (necessary for nest construction). Here in Louisiana, bridges and mud are not in short supply, and further expansion of breeding is anticipated.

Northbound migrants start to appear in Louisiana and at colony sites by mid March, with active nest building in progress by late March.

Away from breeding colonies, spring migrants probably peak during April, but can be encountered well into May. Individuals begin to leave breeding colonies beginning in mid-late July. Fall migrants away from breeding sites have been recorded as early as mid-late July (e.g., 27 July 2000, in the Gulf of Mexico 122 mi. south of Morgan City), but are more regularly observed starting mid-late August; peak numbers have been recorded on the coast in mid September (e.g., 2000+ on 19 Sep. 1987, and 9000+ on 19 Sep. 1991, both in Cameron Par.). Latest records for northern and central Louisiana are mid-late September; migrants continue to trickle through the southern parishes into mid-late October. As is typical of many other species that winter primarily in South America, there few late fall/winter records. In fact, there are only two November records represented in the LSUMNS card file, none from December, and there doesn’t seem to be any documentation on file for a January record mentioned in Louisiana Birds (Lowery 1974).

Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*) is represented by three fairly distinct populations; nomenclature for the group varies depending on author- we will use that of the BNA account. The southwestern or “Mexican” group (*H. f. pallida*, synonymous with *pelodoma*; and *H. f. citata* of the Yucatan Peninsula) breeds from southeastern New Mexico and eastern and south-central Texas south in Mexico to southern Chihuahua, Coahuila, and San Luis Potosi. This population, once restricted to the Edwards Plateau in Texas and the Guadalupe Mtns. (including the Carlsbad Caverns area) of New Mexico, continues to expand its established breeding range north, west, and east. The “Caribbean” form (*H. f. fulva*; also *H. f. cavicola* used for birds breeding on Cuba) breeds from extreme SE Florida through the Greater Antilles (east to Puerto Rico). Isolated from these and each other are two subspecies (*H. f. rufocollaris* and *H. f. aequatorialis*) that occur in NW South America (Peru and Ecuador), and are often treated as a separate species, Chestnut-collared Swallow, *H. rufocollaris*. Most populations are relatively sedentary, remaining near breeding areas year round, but vast majority of northernmost populations (New Mexico, Texas, extreme northern Mexico, and Florida) move to southern portions of the species’ distribution during winter.

The breeding expansion of Cave Swallow is generally associated with the species’ nesting adaptability, moving from original nest sites in caves and cliffs to manmade structures: culverts, bridges, and other similar concrete structures. The Caribbean form of Cave Swallow first bred in Florida in 1987; this form has yet to be recorded in Louisiana. The southwestern mainland subspecies continues to spread east and west. Surprisingly, the first Louisiana record of southwestern Cave Swallow occurred not in western Louisiana but in extreme southeastern Louisiana at the Pearl River (bridge over the W. Middle Pearl River on Hwy. 90), St. Tammany Par in 1988. A location where one might perhaps have expected a “Caribbean” bird to be more likely to turn up. One bird was present and well-photographed 24 April-15 May, but no nest was discovered. Most subsequent accepted Louisiana records have been from the vicinity of the Hwy. 82 Sabine River bridge in extreme southwest Cameron Par., where several individuals were discovered nesting among a mixed colony of Cliff and Barn swallows in April 1997; since then, one to several pairs of Caves have been reported nesting there annually. These birds also appear to be of the southwestern subspecies. Additional spring and summer reports from the Pearl River and elsewhere have not been accepted due to a lack of photographs and/or adequate substantiating details. All Louisiana nests to date have been discovered at the Sabine River site. Timing of arrival, breeding, and departure of the Sabine River birds remains poorly documented: first recorded spring date is 13 April, latest date is 1

*continued*

August. There is one December record: 16-17 Dec 2002, Cameron, Cameron Par. (found on a Sabine NWR CBC); the species has been recorded in winter in southern Texas with increasing frequency.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central Saskatchewan, central Manitoba, northern Ontario, southern Quebec and southern Newfoundland south throughout the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern North Carolina, and south into Mexico to Baja California, Jalisco, Michoacan, Mexico and the Distrito Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south throughout most of South America. Some individuals remain in southern South America during the northern summer. In the Old World the species breeds throughout the sub-Arctic regions of Europe and northern Asia (e.g., "The Swallow," of the British Isles) south to northern Africa, the Near East, Arabia, Iran, the Himalayas, China, Formosa, and Japan. Old World populations winter in southern Africa, India, southern Asia, the East Indies, New Guinea, and extreme northern Australia (Turner and Rose 1989).

One subspecies, *erythrogaster*, is generally recognized as breeding throughout North America. A partial dark blue semi-collar instead of a complete breast band characterizes this subspecies, as does the rusty to buffy under parts. There is slight clinal variation in size, e.g., northern birds average longer wings and tails than southern birds. Two of the five Old World subspecies, *rustica* and *gutturalis*, have occurred as vagrants in western North America, and would be long-shots to occur in Louisiana. Old World breeders generally differ from American birds by having a complete or nearly complete dark blue chest band and whiter under parts.

Like the Cliff and Cave swallows, Barn Swallows have undergone a pronounced, but even more dramatic breeding range expansion over recent decades and especially so in Louisiana. The first Louisiana nest was discovered in 1933. Numbers remained fairly low until 1964, when birds were discovered breeding away from the limited coastal population. Since then virtually the entire state has been colonized, including even the most remote and featureless areas as long as there are oil and gas structures, bridges, etc. where nests can be placed. Perhaps one day this species may even nest on offshore oil platforms (if it doesn't already!).

Spring migrants can arrive (rarely) as early as late February (several records, the earliest 23 Feb 1975, 5 birds in Cameron Par.), more typically early-mid March. Independent, presumed migrant hatch-year individuals can be found away from breeding sites by early-mid June, but most breeders and young birds probably depart breeding sites beginning in July. Peak numbers of southbound migrants are reported in late September and early October, and small numbers can occur into early-mid November; the species is rare into December and early January with most of these late records generated by Christmas Bird Counts. Although Lowery's bar graph (Louisiana Birds, 1974) shows Barn Swallow as rare throughout the winter, there are no records on file from between early January and the arrival of presumed early spring migrants in late Feb-early March (possibly reflecting a lack of observer coverage, but more likely an indication that CBC birds actually are late "fall" migrants); presumably, Lowery "extrapolated" the continuous winter presence from the early January and late February records.

Barn Swallows are one of only a few species that are completely dependent on man for nest site substrates. Nest sites are always on manmade constructions of wood or concrete, and usually protected

from the elements by some sort of an overhang. Most amazing and amusing to us are the several pairs that nest on beams underneath the loading ramps at the Calcasieu River -Cameron ferry landings; the nests move up or down each time the ramp is raised or lowered!

### Plumages and Molt

In general (and compared to other birds), swallows are relatively simple when it comes to plumages and molt. Males and females exhibit only subtle differences; in most cases, females are somewhat duller. Juveniles tend to be duller than adults, with paler throats and under parts, and usually with white- or pale-edged tertials (innermost secondaries). The Juvenal Plumage is held relatively briefly. Juveniles shed all or nearly all of their first set of Juvenal feathers during their First Pre-Basic Molt to obtain First Basic Plumage. Immatures in First Basic Plumage are virtually inseparable from adults. Adult swallows have one molt per year; this Definitive Pre-Basic Molt is complete. The resulting plumage is the Definitive Basic Plumage. There is essentially no Pre-alternate molt, therefore no different Alternate (or breeding) plumage. Once Definitive Basic Plumage is acquired, individuals essentially retain the same appearance year round. The plumage changes only through wear, as it abrades and fades through the course of the breeding season and until the feathers are again replaced during the Pre-Basic Molt. Timing of molt (e.g., whether it occurs on the breeding grounds versus wintering grounds) is somewhat variable among species.

The timing of the Pre-basic Molt is similar for Barn and Cliff swallows, and it occurs mainly on the wintering grounds. Juveniles (and, perhaps, second-year birds as well) molt slightly later (Oct-Apr) than adults (Aug-Feb). Pyle (1997) noted that there was a very long, protracted flight feather molt in the Barn Swallow.

The timing of molt of the Cave Swallow differs markedly from the two previous species: adults and most juveniles molt on the breeding grounds prior to fall migration. Otherwise, as with Barn and Cliff, adults tend to molt earlier somewhat earlier than juveniles. Presence of primary molt may help distinguish adult Cave Swallows from immatures in the fall. Some juveniles may finish their molt during migration or after they have arrived on the wintering grounds.

### The Main ID Pitfalls

Barn, Cliff, and Cave swallows are fairly distinct in adult plumage and, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of white-streaked, iridescent steel blue back is found (in North America) only in Cliff and Cave swallows—so an adult swallow showing this character has to be one of these two species. Barn Swallow also possesses an iridescent steely blue back, but lacks white streaking. Barn is quickly distinguished from Cliff and Cave by its deeply forked tail, rather than a shallowly notched tail. Even juvenile Barn Swallows have a fairly pronounced fork. Barn is also more or less entirely buffy to rusty on the under parts (North American populations only), whereas both Cliff and Cave have a whiter belly that contrasts with the relatively darker throat, chest, and sides. Juveniles, and possibly worn or molting adults, may be more difficult to separate and can cause confusion. Juvenile Cave and Cliff swallows are very similar, especially in Juvenal Plumage. Almost as soon as young birds are free flying, they begin to molt into the more adult-like First Basic Plumage. Recently fledged young that are still in Juvenal Plumage will often still be in association with their parents, which can be a tip-off in identifying these duller-plumaged youngsters. Generally, however, identification of juveniles is not too complicated if the observer can get decent looks.

*continued*

Figure 2: Juvenal-plumaged swallows --with fully-grown wings and tail



Cave Swallow (male)  
(Mexico, 3 June 1950)  
LSUMZ 15438

Cliff Swallow (unsexed)  
(Colorado, 5 September 1941)  
LSUMZ 5667

Barn Swallow (female)  
(Louisiana, 15 November 4466)  
LSUMZ

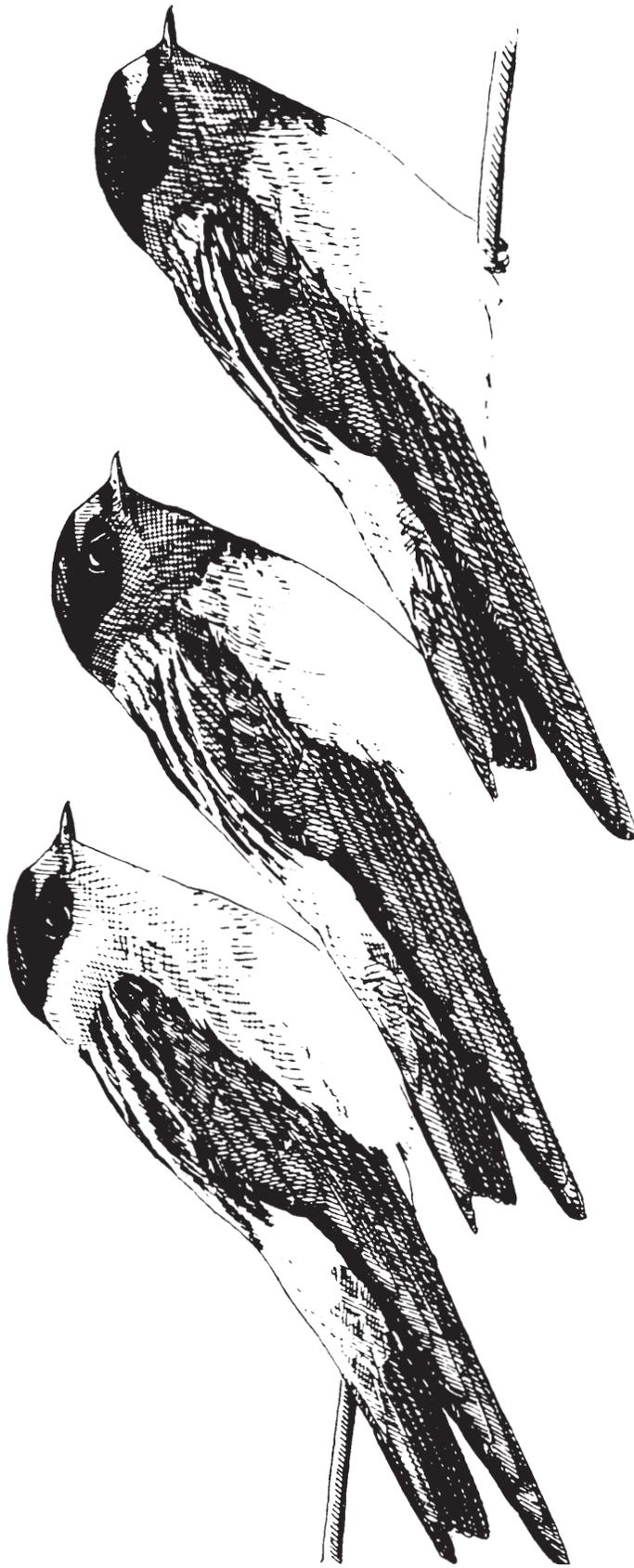
- ✓ Sexes similar in Juvenal Plumage. This plumage retained only briefly, then overall appearance becomes more adult-like.
- ✓ Note diagnostic forked tail of Barn--more slender, and elegant shape.
- ✓ Note darker cheek and face of Cliff compared to Cave; throat pattern of Cliff generally darker with obvious "spot."
- ✓ In all species, white mottling on face varies among individuals.

Inches 0 1 2 3 4 (Drawn to scale)

D. J. Dittmann © '02

**Figure 2.** Comparison of Cave, Cliff, and Barn swallows in Juvenal Plumage. Young birds can be recognized by retention of the yellow edges at the base of the bill (gape). At or near mixed-species colonies, Barn Swallow is easy to identify by virtue of its forked tail. Note that, if the white feather bases are exposed, some juvenile Barns may appear to have white-streaked backs similar to Cave and Cliff. Cave and Cliff are similar to adults, but paler and duller. Cave is best recognized by the paler-headed, pale-faced, more capped appearance; darker face and dark spotting on the center of the upper breast are diagnostic for Cliff.

Figure 3: adult plumage comparisons: Cave versus Cliff



Cave Swallow (male)  
(subspecies *pallida*)  
(Definitive Basic, Texas, 17 May 1998)  
L.SUMZ 165137

Cliff Swallow (male)  
Form with rufous forehead  
(Definitive Basic, Louisiana, 22 May 1995)  
L.SUMZ 164449

Cliff Swallow (male)  
(Subspecies *pyrrhonota*)  
(Definitive Basic, Colorado, 23 June 1993)  
L.SUMZ 165979

Sexes virtually identical in Definitive Basic Plumage  
note "capped" of Cave created by paler unmarked throat and cheek

Inches	0	1	2	3	4
					(Drawn to scale)

**Figure 3.** Comparison of adult Cave and Cliff swallows. Note overall similarity of the adult swallows. Although, Caves and some Cliffs can have similarly colored forehead patches, the take home message from this illustration, is that Cave looks pale-headed and more distinctively capped, whereas Cliff appears dark-headed by virtue of deeper chestnut cheeks and throat that show less contrast with the dark crown. The dark patch on the upper breast of Cliff is conspicuous.

Because Cave and Cliff swallows share the most similarities, they understandably present the greatest identification challenge among the three species. To complicate matters, older field guides did not adequately illustrate the range of variation in forehead color of Cliff Swallows and, therefore, many observers may still not be aware that some Cliff Swallows can have dark rusty foreheads like Caves. For example, in the southwestern subspecies of Cliff Swallow, forehead color ranges from nearly white to pale tan to deep chestnut. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale tan to darker rust) to a spattering of small white spots. In addition, juveniles can usually be recognized by the combination of their yellow gape and fresh plumage with fine, pale edgings to the feathers. Once they become independent of their parents, it is not uncommon to see large aggregations of juveniles (especially Cliffs) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenal Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, they still aren't perfect. The Sibley Guide to Birds has excellent illustrations and depicts the major subspecies types, age classes, and birds in flight. Interestingly, Sibley mentions that a small percentage of adult Cave Swallows can have dark throat spotting. This character is not represented in specimens at LSUMNS, nor is it mentioned in the BNA account. If in fact this does occur, it must be relatively rare (perhaps these individuals are hybrids?). Somewhat misleading is Sibley's oversimplification of forehead color, with depictions of "northern" Cliff Swallows with only white forehead patches versus "Mexican" Cliffs with only dark foreheads; technically, this is true for the latitudinal extremes, but the situation is much more complicated (see below). The National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> editions) also has fairly complete coverage, including both extremes of Cliff Swallow, and at least a "miniature" of Caribbean Cave. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition incorrectly shows juvenile Cave Swallow with dark auriculars, but this has been corrected in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition; also, in both editions the juvenile Cliff Swallow looks too dark and uniform on the head. The Kaufman Focus Guide, Birds of North America, noted for its photographic style in a field guide format, is a throwback to the more simplistic field guides of the past. Kaufman shows promise (nice photos, nests included), but is woefully incomplete for these three species; e.g., juveniles, Caribbean Cave, Cave in flight, and "Mexican" Cliff (dark forehead) are all "missing in action." Similarly, the older "Golden Guide" Birds of North America only shows adults of Cliff and Cave (head only), only pale foreheaded Cliffs, and no Caribbean Cave. In Peterson's Western Birds guide, juveniles of Cliff and Cave are omitted, Cliff and Cave are on separate pages (!), and two different head-only illustrations of "Mexican" Cliff are substantially different in color; the Eastern guide doesn't illustrate Cave Swallow and only shows adult Cliff with pale-forehead.

One further consideration that could complicate identification: hybrids have been reported between all three species. More on this later.

## Identification

### Cliff Swallow

The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

**Definitive Basic Plumage.** Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow is distinguished by the following combination of characteristics. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a large patch of black, which is diagnostic in all plumages (Figures 1 and 3). The dark chestnut throat extends up onto the cheek and around the back of the nape setting off a metallic dark blue crown. The overall impression is one of an entirely dark head. A gray wash extends from the base of the throat on to the breast and down the sides. The remainder of the under parts (belly and vent) are cream-colored. The under tail coverts are buffy or gray with dark centers, and sometimes washed with rusty. The nape is usually mottled with gray. The back is metallic dark blue with some feathers edged with white, giving the back a distinctly striped appearance. The lower rump and upper tail coverts are cream to cinnamon and contrast with the dark, slightly notched tail. The wings and tail are brownish and glossed above by steely blue, appearing generally dark and unmarked. The under wing coverts are dark gray. When birds arrive at breeding colonies, the plumage is only slightly worn.

Juvenal Plumage is somewhat similar, but duller and more washed-out as compared to Definitive Basic. Back feathers are more finely edged with white to pale rust and are more brownish with less metallic luster than adults. The scapulars have bright white to dull brown edges. The face, throat, and breast are especially dull compared to Definitive Basic and can show a wide range of individual variation. The black throat patch is much reduced and can be restricted to a subtle patch of darker brown feathers. The throat patch can often be difficult to see in the field and could lead an observer to lean more towards an identification of Cave if other features are not scrutinized. Cliff has a darker auricular patch than Cave, and thus does not show the classic pronounced "capped" appearance. Like adults, juvenile Cliffs impart a more dark-headed appearance (Figure 2). There can be a variable amount of white spotting on the throat, face, and, occasionally, forehead; this white spotting gives a more "mottled" appearance to the throat pattern on Cliff than the whiter (speckled with dark) pattern of Cave. The chest is light grayish brown, like adults, but the under parts tend to be whiter. The under tail coverts have smaller dark centers and also appear whiter than those of the adults. The rump patch ranges from beige to buffy-tan, with the upper tail coverts broadly edged with the same color. The wings and tail are brown, generally lacking the metallic blue tones of adults.

**Voice.** Song is a fairly long series of bubbling, squeaking, and rattling notes, difficult to translate into words. Call usually consists of single or doubled vrrt or chur notes. Once learned, Cliff Swallows are fairly easy to detect by song or call.

**Nest.** Nests in colonies of several to several hundred pairs. A grass nest is contained within a gourd-like or jug-shaped globe, which is made completely of mud (lacking grass on the outside of the nest). There is a single tunnel-like entrance which extends outward from the globe. Feathers are not used to line the nest, as in the case of many other swallow species, including Barn and Cave. Nests are attached to a rocky or similar (concrete) substrate and may straddle or be built on part of another pair's nest.

### Cave Swallow

The combination of no dark chest patch, strong capped appearance, generally pale look to the face and throat, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, and lack of a broken breast band, identify this species in all plumages.

**Definitive Basic Plumage.** Sexes similar. Southwestern form

*continued*

*pallida* very similar to Cliff Swallow (especially those with rusty or chestnut forehead patches), with which it shares the steely blue, streaked-with-white back, buff to rufous rump, and barely notched tail (Figure 1 and 3). Cave differs by having a paler, more buff instead of rufous throat. There is no black blotch separating the throat and remainder of the breast. Cave therefore looks more uniform underneath. The buff throat wraps up around the face and onto the back of the neck giving the steely blue crown appear a much more pronounced capped appearance than on a Cliff (Figures 1 and 3). The forehead patch is deep cinnamon or rufous. The under parts are dull white. The flanks are either grayish to buff.

All accepted Louisiana records to date pertain to the subspecies *pallida*. The Caribbean subspecies *fulva* is an anticipated vagrant. This form is smaller than northern populations of *pallida*, comparable in size to a Bank Swallow. Caribbean birds have somewhat brighter cinnamon-rufous cheeks and throat, and the rump is darker rufous. The best distinguishing feature other than size is the noticeably heavy rufous streaking down the sides and along the flanks. On *pallida*, the buffy sides do not contrast as strongly with the white underparts. As in the case of any vagrant species or subspecies, photographic documentation should be obtained to support reports of this form in Louisiana. There remains the possibility that the southwestern and Caribbean forms could be split into separate species in the future.

Juvenal plumage is somewhat similar. Juveniles are usually recognizable by their browner upper parts, wings, and tail, which lack the metallic blues of adults. A yellow gape is usually noticeable. Many individuals have predominately white throats, lightly speckled with dark brown. A few of these spots can occur in the buffy gray chest band, and may suggest Cliff on very close inspection. This potential "throat/chest patch" should not be conspicuous in the field. White mottling on the face is variable. There may or may not be a distinct forehead patch. The head pattern is subject to considerable individual variation, but the "capped" appearance should still be fairly pronounced on these relatively "washed-out" juveniles and remains the best field mark (Figure 2). The cheeks are generally not well defined, as is the case with juvenile Cliff Swallows. The tertials are edged with light buff to rust. The rump is buff to light rusty, and the upper tail coverts are broadly edged with the same color. Like adults, the back shows white streaking, but this is very fine or reduced.

Voice. Song is similar to Cliff, or perhaps a cross between Cliff and Barn swallows. It is composed of squeaks and gurgling noises. Calls include "churs," "weet," and other similar single and double notes.

Nest. Two types are generally recognized, a mud "tray," or a partially domed mud tray. The latter may approach the appearance of Cliff in shape, but never has a complete dome or tunnel-like entrance. The inside of the nest is lined with grasses and feathers.

### Barn Swallow

The combination of a forked tail, rusty-colored underparts, and solid steely blue upperparts identify this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes generally similar. Males slightly larger than females and have somewhat longer outer tail feathers. Males also tend to be deeper rufous below. Barn Swallow is one species that is probably familiar to most, including many non-birders. This familiarity is undoubtedly enhanced by the species' use of human habitations, often choosing nest sites close to human activity. Barn Swallows are generally tame and fairly vocal. This is our only regularly occurring swallow with a long and deeply forked tail. The tail has white subterminal spots that form a partial tail band; the band is fairly conspicuous when the tail is fanned in flight, or when the bird is

preening. Except for a chestnut forehead patch, the upper parts are entirely steely blue (e.g., lacks white back stripes). The throat is dark rufous, and the under parts are rich cinnamon-rufous (fresh) to creamy buff (worn). It is difficult to match the overall elegance of a Barn Swallow. As mentioned earlier, two of the five Old World subspecies, *rustica* and *gutturalis*, have occurred as vagrants in western North America, and would be long-shots vagrants to Louisiana. These subspecies would differ by possessing a complete or nearly complete dark blue chest band and much whiter under parts. Any individual suspected of originating from some population other than the wide spread breeder, *erythrogaster*, should be thoroughly documented.

Juvenal plumage Males and females are identical, and are separated from adults by generally paler and more washed out appearance. The upper parts of the youngest birds appear more blackish instead of blue. Otherwise, the upper parts are less metallic blue, and the feathers are edged with dark brown. Because the back feathers are relatively small, rounded, and have white at the base, a "wind-ruffled" back might give the illusion of the back stripes of Cliff or Cave. The tail shape is diagnostic, although the feather tips are more rounded (especially outer) than are those of adults, and the tail fork is somewhat shallower than in adults. When very fresh, the tertials are narrowly edged white.

Voice. Song is a long series of squeaking and bubbling notes—again, difficult to translate to words, but not difficult to learn. Call is a sharp vit, sometimes doubled.

### Hybrids

Hybrids have been reported between all three species. All three species select similar breeding sites, namely bridges, freeway culverts, etc. One might hypothesize that a hybrid is more likely to occur when one species expands into the range of another and mate choice is limited. The only documented case of mixed pairing between Cliff and Cave swallows occurred when an extralimital Cave Swallow was paired with, and attended a nest with, a Cliff Swallow in Arizona (nesting was reported as unsuccessful; BNA). In SW Texas, Cave and Barn Swallow hybrids have been recorded where both species breed together in highway culverts. Brown and Brown (1999) suggest that because most of the hybrids have been observed in nests attended by a "pure" Barn Swallow pair, hybrids may be the result of interspecific "extra-pair" or forced copulation (rape). Whether the 20 hybrid Cave X Barn swallows that were captured and banded at Carlsbad Caverns, NM, in 1982 were the result of Barns moving into colonies of Cave Swallows (and mate choice was limited to Caves), rape, or some other factor is not known. There are only three records of Cliff X Barn hybrids. Because Cliff Swallows have the most specialized nests of the three species, perhaps this limits possible pairing events with the wrong species. This, however, does not exclude extra-pair copulations away from the nest site, which are reported to occur within each species. The occurrence of hybridization was one of the reasons for merging the genus *Petrochelidon* with *Hirundo*. However, *Petrochelidon* is still widely used (see recent field guides) and could eventually be officially resurrected. *Petrochelidon*, known as the "true cliff swallows," includes Cave and Cliff swallows, as well as three African, 1 Indian, and 1 Australian species; all share a fairly similar plumage, behavior, and nest form.

How do you spot a hybrid? One would hypothesize that a Basic Plumaged First Generation hybrid would likely appear intermediate between the parental types. Therefore, an individual that possesses characters of two different species (or looks "in-between") might be a hybrid. For example, a bird that superficially resembles a Cliff Swallow

*continued*

but has a forked tail, lacks white back stripes, and has a hint of a partial breast band would be consistent with a first generation hybrid of Cliff X Barn. A hybrid between Barn Swallow X Cliff/Cave swallows should be easiest to detect. Cliff X Cave (as yet undocumented) will be more difficult simply because there is such a range of variation within Cliff Swallow, and a Cliff X Cave hybrid could easily be overlooked/dismissed as a Cliff Swallow. A "Cliff" with a rusty forehead, less black on the breast, and more buffness on the under parts would be suggestive of a Cliff X Cave hybrid, but, again, it would be difficult to distinguish between what is within the "normal" range of variation for Cliff Swallow versus hybrid characters. Without specimen evidence and forensic evaluation of pedigree (DNA analysis) it is probably impossible to know for sure whether a "suspicious" individual is really a hybrid. Assuming that hybrids are "viable" and could subsequently breed with either parental type or other hybrids, confirming a second+ generation "backcross hybrid" would be even more difficult and probably impossible without voucher specimens and genetic analysis. For the most part, we will have to assume that birds at mixed-species colonies are "pure" until demonstrated otherwise (e.g., detection of mixed pairs, forensic analysis of DNA).

Interestingly there is a Louisiana specimen (found dead at Little Pecan Island, Cameron Par., 25 December 1990!) tentatively (DNA of this individual has not yet been analyzed) identified as a Cliff X Barn hybrid based on a combination of plumage characters shared between these two species. This individual has a dark brown forehead patch, face pattern of Cliff, and brownish-buff throat with a small indistinct darker patch. The remainder of the under parts are dull white and the undertail coverts are unmarked, except for a rusty wash. The back is metallic blue and unmarked like Barn. The rump patch is like a Cliff, but dull brown, and the tail is also Cliff-like. But, there is a metallic blue patch extending from the side at the shoulder onto breast, suggesting the partial breast band of a Barn Swallow. Superficially, this bird might suggest a Cave Swallow to an inexperienced observer.

Specimens and the Louisiana bird record card file at the LSU Museum of Natural Science provided an invaluable resource. Additional sources of information included:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.

Behle, W. H. 1976. Systematic review, intergradation, and clinal variation in Cliff Swallows. *Auk* 93: 66-77.

Lowery, G. 1974. Louisiana Birds. Louisiana State Univ. Press, Baton Rouge.

Pyle, P. 1997. Identification Guide to North American Birds. Pt. 1: Columbidae to Ploceidae. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA.

Turner, A., and C. Rose. 1989. Swallows and Martins, an Identification Guide and Handbook. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA.

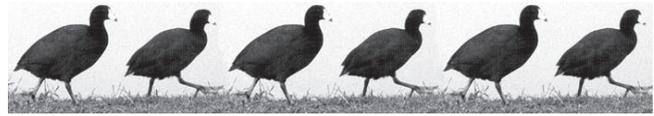
Wiedenfeld, D. A., and M. Mark Swan. 2000. Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas. Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge.

The BNA accounts are highly recommended for additional information about these three species:

Brown, C. R., and M. B. Brown. 1995. Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 149 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington D.C.

Brown, C. R., and M. B. Brown. 1999. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 452 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

West, S. 1995. Cave Swallow (*Hirundo fulva*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 141 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.



## LOUISIANA BIRDS

### FALL 2001

(1 August - 30 November)

Joseph P. Kleiman

[**KEY: boldfaced species** are on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (**LBRC**) Review List; documentation is on file, and eventual acceptance of these records is pending evaluation by the LBRC. **ad.** = adult; **imm.** = immature; **Lowery (1974)** = *Louisiana Birds* by George H. Lowery, Jr., 3rd Edition; **m.ob.** = many observers; **NWR** = National Wildlife Refuge; **ph** = photograph to be deposited in LBRC archives at Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS); **vt** = videotape to be deposited in LBRC archives at LSUMNS; **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area. **Parish names** are in *italics*. This is the protocol used by Steve Cardiff when he wrote these columns for the *LOS News*.]

Lake Pontchartrain is an excellent place in southeast Louisiana to see loons and grebes in the fall and winter. On 30 November near Mandeville, *St. Tammany*, about 200 Common Loons and 40 Horned Grebes were found (MS). Also this same observer found 3 Horned Grebes on Capitol Lake, *East Baton Rouge*. A **Western Grebe** was on Cross Lake, *Caddo*, on 11 and 12 November (CL-vt, JT-ph, MS, RB).

American White Pelicans, 90 on 23 August, continue to use the rice fields, *Vermilion*, in summer (JPK, CF, MG, JG). A large number of Tricolored Herons, 30, were counted on 7 September as they flew into a roost at Bickham Dickson Park, *Caddo* (JT, JeT). On the same day these observers also counted 14,100 Cattle Egrets coming to roost. On the evening of 6 October, after a cold front had passed through earlier, an amazing migratory flight of possibly 100,000 Cattle Egrets were thought to be headed out across the Gulf of Mexico, *Cameron, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis* (MS, CL). The only reports of Reddish Egrets, a threatened species, were these from Fourchon, *Lafourche*; 6 on 5 August; 5 (1 white morph) on 18 August and 7 on 22 September (PAW, BMM, RDP, DPM, CCS). A late Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was heard on 14 October near St. Gabriel, *Iberville* (VR).

Glossy Ibis were found in the rice fields of *Acadia* and *Vermilion* Parishes, 1 on 12 August (PAW, BMM) and 2 or 3 on 1 September (PAW, BMM, CCS). About 10,000+ ibis, presumably mostly White-faced Ibis, were roosting at Lacassine Pool, *Cameron*, on 25 September (JPK, JK). There are few records for *Plegadis* (sp.) in the Baton Rouge area, so 1 on 10 August and 9 on 11 August near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, (VR) are significant. Roseate Spoonbill continue to increase in Louisiana as evidenced by 148 on 5 August at Fourchon, *Lafourche* (PAW, BMM, RDP). Wood Storks continue to summer in good

*continued*

numbers in the rice country, *Acadia*, *Vermilion*, with ca. 850 on 12 August and 450 on 1 September (BMM, PAW, CCS). A few storks were probably migrating when seen near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, 3 on 16 September and 2 on 14 October (VR). (As an aside, does anyone have evidence that storks nest in Louisiana?) On 30 November a group of 82 Turkey Vultures were migrating to the SSE in *Acadia* (JPK, JK).

Greater White-fronted Geese were noted migrating into Louisiana from the west on 6 October when 400+ were noted from East Jetty, *Cameron*, (JPK). Snow Geese migrate into the state later than the White-fronts. The first large numbers of Snow Geese, 2000, were reported on 26 October west of Lake Arthur, *Jefferson Davis* (MS). The previous week this observer only found White-fronted Geese in this area. Ross's Geese, 7 on 25 October and 1 on 26 October, were seen migrating with Snow Geese near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, (VR). A rare visitor to southern Louisiana, an American Black Duck was found near Sweet Lake, *Cameron* (GG) on 18 November. Large numbers of Blue-winged Teal were present at Lacassine Pool, *Cameron*, 5200 on 15 September (JPK, MS) and 6000 on 25 September (JPK, JK). A Canvasback was on Capitol Lake, *East Baton Rouge*, on 22 November (MS). Also on Capitol Lake were 5 Redheads on 20 November (MS). University Lake, *East Baton Rouge*, hosted 5 Redheads on 20 November and 6 on the 22nd (MS). An early Redhead was found in *Cameron* on 27 October (MS). Other waterfowl reported by Mark Swan include a mixed flock of 700 Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks at the north end of False River, *Pointe Coupee*, on 20 November just after a cold front; 700 Ring-necked Ducks and 200 Lesser Scaup on 22 November on Capitol Lake, *East Baton Rouge*; and 2 Surf Scoters on 30 November near Mandeville, *St. Tammany*, and 2 on 20 November on University Lake, *East Baton Rouge*. A Long-tailed Duck was found southwest of Oak Grove, *Cameron*, on 24 November (CL, MS, RB).

My wife and I conducted a hawk watch for 4.5 hours at East Jetty, *Cameron*, on 25 September. We probably should have been there the day before. In any case we counted 2 Black Vultures, 2 Osprey, 2 Northern Harriers, 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 5 Cooper's Hawks, 180 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 American Kestrels, 1 Merlin and 1 Peregrine Falcon. Also migrating with the hawks were 70 Anhingas. Coming in from the west, opposite to the direction of the hawk flight, were at least 1180 American White Pelicans.

We had two reports of Bald Eagle, 1 on 26 October in *Vermilion* and an adult on 17 November in New Orleans, *Orleans* (LE). An early Northern Harrier was north of Kaplan, *Vermilion*, on 1 September (PAW, BMM, CCS) and 2 were near Gueydan, *Vermilion*, on 15 September (JPK, MS). This was an exceptional fall for records of Swainson's Hawks, suggesting that there is a small breeding population in Louisiana. These are the records: 1 on 25 August west of the erstwhile Vincent Refuge, *Vermilion* (JPK, KF); 1 on 1 September east of LA 13, *Vermilion* (PAW, BMM, CCS); 2 on 15 September northwest of Lake Arthur, *Jefferson Davis* (MS, JPK); 1 on 16 October near St. Gabriel, *Iberville* (VR); 2 on 27 October migrating west at Rutherford Beach, *Cameron* (DPM, RDP, BMM); 1 on 4 November at LA 380 x LA 382, *Jefferson Davis* (DL, GN) and 1 on 14 November at the New Orleans Airport, *Jefferson* (DLD, SWC). Presumably the same **White-tailed Hawk** showed up again at the Welsh Landfill, *Jefferson Davis*, on 30 November (JPK,JK). A **Ferruginous Hawk** was found on 9 November at the intersection of LAs 380 and 382, *Jefferson Davis* (DL-ph, GN). It was seen again on 17 November (DPM, PC), 23 November (DPM, BMM) and on 24 November (MS-ph). An immature Golden Eagle was found at the Welsh Landfill,

*Jefferson Davis*, on 17 November (DM, PC). A surprise near Thornwell, *Jefferson Davis*, on 9 November was a **Crested Caracara** (DL, GN-rare bird report?). There was good movement of Peregrine Falcons on 6 October when 8 were seen on the coast of *Cameron* (JPK).

If you can hitch a ride on a rice harvesting combine in late October and/or November, you may get lucky as Mark Swan who saw 10 Yellow Rails, 30 Soras, 5 King Rails and 5 Virginia Rails on 6 November northwest of Thornwell, *Jefferson Davis*. A summering American Coot on 11 August was at the upper Coldwell Ponds, *Lafourche* (RSB). A flock of 150 Sandhill Cranes was found at Grand Cote NWR, *Rapides*, on 12 November (MS) and 25 cranes were also found near Holmwood, *Calcasieu*, on 23 November (DPM, BMM).

Good numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were found inland in late summer. On 23 August 85 plovers were found on Turf Grass Road, *Jefferson Davis* (JPK, CF, MG, JG) and 31 were here on 15 September (JPK, MS). On 25 August 110 Black-bellied Plovers were in fields north of Kaplan, *Vermilion* (JPK, KF) and 32 were still here on 7 September (JPK, JG). There were only two reports of Snowy Plovers, a threatened species: 1 on Elmer's Island, *Jefferson*, on 19 August (PAW, BMM, DPM, RDP) and 3 on 6 October west of Holly Beach, *Cameron* (JPK). There were 3 reports of Piping Plover, an endangered species: on 19 August 5 were on Elmer's Island, *Jefferson* (BMM, RDP, PAW, DPM); 6 were present here on 7 October (DPM, BMM, RDP) and 4 were found on Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, on 26 October (DPM).

Increasingly, American Avocets are utilizing the ricefields of southwest Louisiana. On 23 August 67 avocets were in fields near Gladu Road and LA 35, *Vermilion* (JPK, CF, MG, JG), 138 were present on 25 August (JPK, KF) and 26 on 7 September (JPK, JG). The Upland Sandpiper, probably a declining species in the eastern United States, was reported on two dates. On 11 August 3 were found at the Natchitoches Fish Hatchery, *Natchitoches*, and 4 were at the junction of I-49 and LA 485, *Natchitoches* (JI). Nine were present on Turf Farm Road, *Jefferson Davis*, on 23 August (JPK, CF, MG, JG). Whimbrels were considered to be rare in summer and fall in Lowery (1974); however, in recent years they are increasingly being found in summer in south Louisiana. On 5 August 13 were found at Fourchon, *Lafourche*, and Grand Isle, *Jefferson* (PAW, BMM, RDP) and 3 or 4 were there on 19 August (BMM, PAW, DPM). Good numbers of Western Sandpipers, 2500, were found in various ricefields in *Vermilion* and *Acadia* (JPK, KF). Also at Port Fourchon, *Lafourche*, on 16 September 900 Western Sandpipers were found, but more impressive still were the 1300 Least Sandpipers (DPM, BMM, RDP). A Baird's Sandpiper on 22 September at Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche* (BMM, PAW, CCS) is an uncommon fall migrant. A good number of Pectoral Sandpipers, ca. 275, were found in the ricefields of *Acadia* and *Vermilion* Parishes (PAW, BMM, CCS). A Dunlin, found on 23 August north of Kaplan, *Vermilion* (JPK, CF, MG, JG) was either an early migrant or a summering individual. Stilt Sandpipers continue to use the rice country in large numbers in the summer with ca. 1400 on 12 August (BMM, PAW) and 1200 on 1 September (BMM, PAW, CCS) - both near Kaplan, *Vermilion*.

The turf grass farm on Turf Grass Road west of Welsh, *Jefferson Davis*, is a good place, both spring and late summer, to find Buff-breasted Sandpiper. On 23 August 44 were found (JPK, CF, MG, JG), but on 15 September only 1 was present (JPK, MS). Near Kaplan, *Vermil-*

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ion, on 1 September 18 buff-breasteds were found (BMM, CCS, PAW). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found on 16 September (BMM, RDP, DPM) and on 14 October (BMM, DPM) on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*. The 1st of September was an impressive day for shorebirds in the ricefields as shown by the previous sightings of Mac Myers, Phillip Wallace and Curt Sorrels in this report. Their last, impressive observation on the 1st was ca. 1400 Long-billed Dowitchers near Kaplan, *Vermilion*. A Ruff was found at Exxon Meadows, Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, on 5 August (PAW-ph, BMM-ph, RDP). An early (?) fall record of American Woodcock was 1 at Oak Grove, *Cameron* (MS). The only Wilson's Phalarope record of this fall was 1 on Fourchon, *Lafourche*, on 19 August (PAW, BMM, DPM, RDP).

Single Franklin's Gulls were reported on 22 September at Fourchon, *Lafourche* (BMM, CCS, PAW) and at Seabrook Bridge, *Orleans*, on 10 November (PAW, BMM); however, these two sightings were overpowered by the 3000 seen on Cross Lake, *Caddo*, on 2 November (CL-ph). A Ring-billed Gull was a flyover near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, on 20 August (VR). There were quite a few Lesser Black-backed Gull reports this fall. One was reported at Elmer's Island, *Jefferson*, on 7 October (BMM, RDP, DPM), 12 individuals were at various beaches on the LOS weekend in *Cameron* on 26-28 October, 1 at Cross Lake, *Caddo*, on 7 November (CL-ph), an adult west of Oak Grove, *Cameron*, on 10 November (SWC, DLD, MS) and a 2nd year bird on 24 November on Rutherford Beach, *Cameron* (DPM, BMM). There were 25 Gull-billed Terns at the ôSecret Placeö, *Cameron*, on 11 September (MS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove continues its march across the state (the whole country?) as 1 was found on 11 August at the Natchitoches Fish Hatchery, *Natchitoches* (JI). Another dove, the White-winged Dove, is also expanding its range in Louisiana. Twelve were found at 4 locations in *Lafourche* and *Jefferson* on 21 October (BMM, DPM, RDP). One of the better places to find the elusive Greater Roadrunner is along Interstate 49 in northwest Louisiana. One was seen south of the Stonewall exit, *DeSoto*, on 2 September (MS). A Short-eared Owl was found on 24 November across from the Pogy Plant in *Cameron* (MS).

A Chuck-will's-widow found dead on Ellis Moss Road, *Calcasieu* (GP) on 20 October was a probable migrant. Another one, this time alive, was near Oak Grove, *Cameron*, on 27 October (MS). A Whip-poor-will was present at Willow Island, *Cameron*, on 6 October (MS, CL). A late swift was feeding with Tree Swallows over a sugar cane field on 13 November, *St. Martin* (JH).

The number and variety of wintering hummingbirds continue to delight Louisiana birders. A **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was last seen on 7 November (WW, CL, RB) just south of Alexandria, *Rapides*. Another was present at Mirabeau Gardens, New Orleans, *Orleans*, from 12 November to at least the end of the month (DPM). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was also present at the Mirabeau Gardens on 12 November (one day only) (DPM). Another Buff-bellied Hummingbird was at the Primeaux residence in *Cameron*, *Cameron*, on 24-25 November (DPM, BMM).

The Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, *Cameron*, hosted 2 immature Black-chinned Hummingbirds on 24 November (DPM, BMM). A **Calliope Hummingbird** was banded on 9 November at the home of Margaret and John Owens in Covington, *St. Tammany* (NLN, JB, TW). Another **Calliope Hummingbird** was banded here on 30 November (NLN). Two other **Calliope Hummingbirds** were found during the period, one on 11-12 November in Reserve, *St. John* (RS) and another

on 25 November near St. Gabriel, *Iberville* (VR, DL).

An amazing 7 **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds** were at 7 different locations: an adult female banded on 14 November 2000 returned to the Must residence in Lafayette, *Lafayette*, on 25 September (DP); an immature on 8 October near St. Gabriel, *Iberville* (VR); a female in Reserve, *St. John*, on 4-5 November (RS); an immature male banded on 6 November at the G. Knox residence in Lafayette, *Lafayette* (DP); an immature male banded on 11 November at the home of Margaret and John Owens, Covington, *St. Tammany* (NLN, JB, TW); an immature male at the home of Lynn Becnel, Donaldsonville, *Ascension*, banded on 18 November (NLN, JB, TW) and another at Mirabeau Gardens in New Orleans, *Orleans*, on 18 November (DPM). Finally, an adult male Rufous Hummingbird was found at the Grand Isle Cemetery, *Jefferson*, on 7 October (DPM).

Fall 2001 produced a good many flycatcher reports. There were 2 reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher - one bird on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, on 19 August (BMM, PAW, RDP, DPM) and 2 birds near Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, *Cameron*, on 4 September (MS). There were also 2 reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, both of single birds, one near LSU, *East Baton Rouge*, on 18 August and the other at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, *Cameron*, on 6 October (MS). An Alder Flycatcher was both seen and heard near LSU, *East Baton Rouge*, on 22 August. Two **Willow Flycatchers** were found at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, *Cameron*, on 18 August (MS-VT with sound, CL, JT). There were 5 reports of single Vermilion Flycatchers: the first on 14 October west of Johnson Bayou High School, *Cameron* (MS); different birds on 21 October (JT, JeT) and 27 October (JT, NM) at Bickham Dickson Park, Shreveport, *Caddo*; one on 27 October west of Welsh, *Jefferson Davis* (MS, JB) and a bird at Lacassine NWR, *Cameron*, on 15 November (MS).

There seemed to be more reports of Western Kingbirds than usual. The first report was that of 1 bird on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, on 16 September (BMM, DPM, RDP). More than a month later, this species was reported again, 1 at the Lighthouse Road, *Cameron*, (GP) on 20 October and another bird on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, on 21 October (BMM, RDP, DPM). On 26 October a Western Kingbird was seen in *Acadia* and another was found in *Calcasieu* on 28 October (DPM). In *Vermilion* 2 were found along LA 13 on 17 November (DPM, PC). Another single bird was found on 24 November at Johnson's Bayou, *Cameron* (DPM, BMM) and 2 birds were found the next day west of Johnson's Bayou, *Cameron*, on LA 82 (MS, DPM, BMM, CCS). A strange kingbird, possibly an Eastern Kingbird or a hybrid, was seen south of the LSU Vet School, *East Baton Rouge*, on 23-24 August (MS, SWC, DLD). The presence of an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher with 3 juveniles on 17 August just west of Jonesville, *Catahoula*, is evidence for nesting in east-central Louisiana (Beth H. Willis). An exceptionally large number of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, 200, were found in the Shreveport area, *Caddo*, on 5 September (JT, JeT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, on 14 October (DPM, BMM) and 3 were there on 21 October (BMM, RDP, DPM). In addition, 9 more were at Galliano, *Lafourche*, on that last date.

An early Blue-headed Vireo was as Shreveport, *Caddo*, on 7 September (JT). On 15 October a Philadelphia Vireo was found at Lafitte Woods, Grand Isle, *Jefferson* (MS). A Tree Swallow was marginally early southwest of Kaplan, *Vermilion*, on 12 August (BMM, PAW). As reported on LABIRD, a Tree Swallow ôtornadoö occurred in a cane field a few miles west of Vacherie, *St. James*. On 7 November at

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least 0.5 million Tree Swallows, perhaps as many as several million, dropped into the sugarcane at dusk (JPK, JK). About 1200 Barn Swallows were counted between Raceland, *Lafourche*, and Kaplan, *Vermilion*, on 1 September (BMM, CCS, PAW). A late Barn Swallow was still present at Cross Lake, *Caddo*, on 21 November (JT, JeT, MS, CL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch arrived in the state in late October. One was seen in the town of Cameron, *Cameron*, on 27 October (MS, m. ob.) and another (or the same) on 25 November (DPM). A **Rock Wren** was found on the Lighthouse Road, *Cameron*, on 28 October (RS, MW). A **Northern Wheatear** was found near Elmer's Island, *Jefferson* or *Lafourche*, on 7 October (BMM, DPM) and found again on 14 October (BMM-ph, DPM, Charles Muth, CL-VT, Terry Davis). The bird could not be relocated on the 15th (MS). A large number of Swainson's Thrushes migrated over Baton Rouge, *East Baton Rouge*, on the night of 6 October (MS). A late Swainson's Thrush was at Garner's Ridge, *Cameron* on 28 October (PAW). A **Sage Thrasher** was found by Beth and Lyndel Willis (ph) and Lois Rodgers on 27 October at the ôSecret Placeö, *Cameron*. It was seen by other (CK, MS-VT, CL-VT, m. ob.) later that day. The bird was still present on 28 October (DPM-ph).

The following warbler species were found in the Sureway Woods, Grand Isle, *Jefferson*: Blue-winged Warbler, 3, on 9 September; Palm Warbler, 2, on 9 September; Mourning Warbler, 1, on 9 September; and Canada Warbler, 1, on 25 August (LE). A Golden-winged Warbler was near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, on 12 October (MS). A Nashville Warbler was early at Bickham Dickson Park, *Caddo*, on 2 September (JeT). Another Nashville Warbler was at the Grand Isle Cemetery, *Jefferson*, on 14 October (DPM). A Northern Parula was at Mirabeau Gardens, New Orleans, *Orleans*, on 11 and 12 November as was a Yellow-breasted Chat on the 12th (DPM). A late Black-throated Green Warbler was present at Lake Martin, *St. Martin*, on 29 November (RCD). Palm Warblers, 20, made a good showing on 7 October at Fourchon, *Lafourche*, and Grand Isle, *Jefferson* (BMM, DPM, RDP). These were the western subspecies. On 5 September a Cerulean Warbler was present at the Cardiff-Dittmann residence, *Iberville* (MS). A Black-and-White Warbler was found at Oak Grove, *Cameron*, on 10 November (MS). A spectacular concentration of 500+ Common Yellowthroats on 29 September at the McElroy Swamp, *Ascension*, were undoubtedly mostly migrants (JH). Two Wilson's Warblers were present on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, on 7 October (DPM) and 1 was there on 15 October (MS).

A **Spotted Towhee** was found at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, *Cameron*, on 24 November (Donna Bordelon) and refound on 22 December (MS-VT). A Clay-colored Sparrow, an uncommon migrant, was found at Brechtel Park, *Orleans*, on 19 October (LE). Another Clay-colored Sparrow was seen on Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, on 27 October (DPM). A Lark Sparrow was on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, on 22 September (PAW, BMM, CCS). On 27 October near Oak Grove, *Cameron*, another Lark Sparrow was present (MS, CL, BF). Two Lincoln Sparrows were found at Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche*, where they are rare in fall on 7 October (DPM, BMM). Stephen Pagans and Joan Brown found a Harris' Sparrow just east of Start, *Richland*, on 7 November.

On 9 September an early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found on Grand Isle, *Jefferson* (LE). A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was identified by Kay Drount at her home near Lafayette, *Lafayette*, and was subsequently videotaped by Mark Swan on 16 November. Another **Black-**

**headed Grosbeak** was present at Lake Martin, *St. Martin*, on 30 November (RCD). A late Dickcissel was present near Vinton, *Calcasieu*, on 14 October (MS). A large flock, ca. 500, of Bronzed Cowbirds was found near the Audubon Zoo, *Orleans*, on 17 November (PAW). A singing Purple Finch was at England Air Force Base, *Rapides*, on 21 November (MS).

#### Initialed Observers:

James Beck, Richard S. Bello, Roger Breedlove, Steven W. Cardiff, Paul Conover, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert C. Dobbs, Lehman Ellis, Karen Fay, Carol Foil, Bill Fontenot, Gay Gomez, Margie Griffith, J. Guillory, Jay Huner, Jim Ingold, Cecil Kersting, Joanne Kleiman, Joseph P. Kleiman, Dan Lane, Charlie Lyon, Nancy Menasco, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers, Nancy L. Newfield, George Nixon, Dave Patton, Gary Pontiff, R. Dan Purrington, Van Remsen, Curt C. Sorrells, Ron Stein, Mark Swan, Jeff Trahan, Jean Trahan (JeT), Tommy Walker, Phillip A. Wallace, Wayne Watkins, Melvin Weber.

**Remember - Winter 2002 reports are due at the end of February. The dates for the Winter Period are 1 December - 28 February.** Send your reports to:

Joseph P. Kleiman  
Museum of Natural Science  
119 Foster Hall  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216

If you need cards or rare bird report forms, contact Joe Kleiman at the above address or at home (225) 751-8716.

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Christine Kooi, Baton Rouge, LA

Gypsy Langford, Farmerville, LA

Joy K. Loudon, St. Francisville, LA

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