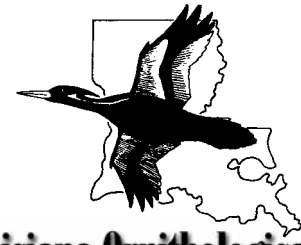


LOS

NEWS



www.losbird.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Louisiana Ornithological Society

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2013 LOS SPRING MEETING

Friday and Saturday, April 26-27

Cameron, LA

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE DINNER BY APRIL 19th

FRIDAY EVENING: First Baptist Church in Cameron, 110 School St., off Marshall Street (the main street)

6:00 P.M. - 7 P.M. Registration

Light snacks will be provided by the Cameron Parish Tourist Commission.

7:00 P.M. Meeting and Evening Program Bird Banding in Baton Rouge and Beyond! An introduction to the Bluebonnet Swamp Bird Monitoring Project by Jared Wolfe.

Long-term bird banding programs have aided conservation efforts and provided incredible insights into avian natural history. The first year-round long-term banding station in central Louisiana began in 2010 at Bluebonnet Swamp in Baton Rouge; some 2,500 banded birds later, the project has published a slew of scholarly papers, educated hundreds of local children about conservation, formed multiple domestic and international partnerships which help us better understand and conserve our feathered neighbors. In this presentation, Bluebonnet Bird Monitoring Project co-founder Jared Wolfe, will share some of the project's successes, findings, interesting captures, and future plans in addition to some breath-taking photos. Originally from Northern California, Jared has operated bird banding stations throughout the Western Hemisphere and Africa for academic, non-profit, governmental, and private organizations. He received his BS and MS from Humboldt State University. Jared is a Costa Rica Bird Observatories Scientific Advisor, Klamath Bird Observatory Research Associate and North American Banding

Council Board Member. Additionally, Jared is a permitted master bander in the USA and Brazil. Jared is currently pursuing his PhD at Louisiana State University on the effect of landscape demography on the genetics of Amazonian birds in Brazil.

SATURDAY MORNING

7:00 A.M. Field Trip

Meet in the parking lot of the Cameron Motel. Ed Wallace and Linda Stewart-Knight will lead a field trip to the Cameron Parish hot spots. **Bring lunch, water, bug spray and walkie talkies if you have them.**

SATURDAY EVENING: First Baptist Church in Cameron, 110 School St., off Marshall Street (the main street)

6:30 P.M. - 7 P.M. Registration

7:00 P.M. Meal – Roast beef, rice, green beans, green salad, rolls, dessert, and tea prepared by GiGi's

7:30 P.M. Meeting: Presentation of the President's Award and the George H. Lowery, Jr. Award

Evening Program: Wader Quest - Ambassadors for Shorebirds by Rick and Elis Simpson

Rick and Elis Simpson are dedicating their lives to raising awareness about the plight of shorebirds across the world. Wader Quest will take us to six continents in search of the world's shorebirds. This talk will explain who we are, what we are doing and why we are doing it. We will talk in particular about

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first year as the President of LOS. I have been a birder since age 12, growing up in Arlington, VA. I moved to New Orleans in 2001 and have been a member of LOS since 2003. If you see a man dragging his two kids out birding in New Orleans, well, that's me.

One of the things that attracted me to Louisiana was the birding and I have not been disappointed.

My tenure as president started out with an amazing success - our winter meeting centered in Bossier City's Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and hosted by the Bird Study Group. We had 70 attendees Friday and 84 registered for the weekend! I think there may have been additional participants that did not come to evening sessions who may have gone birding during the day. I don't recall any of the past Winter LOS meetings having that many attendees.

I want to thank the Bird Study Group. In particular I want

4th Louisiana National Resources Symposium August 1-2, 2013

The Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources will host the 4th Louisiana Natural Resources Symposium on August 1-2, 2013 at the Lod Cook Conference Center on the LSU Campus. The theme of 2013 symposium will be impacts of human and natural disasters on forested and wetland ecosystems and wildlife. The symposium is the premiere natural resources outreach event of the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources. The 2013 symposium will feature presentations from leading international experts covering contemporary issues related to controlled burns and wildfires, hurricanes, and forest management impacts on wildlife populations and species diversity. Speakers will also address the impacts of Hurricane Isaac on Louisiana wildlife, fires on natural ecosystems, the role of fire in longleaf pine regeneration, the relationship between hurricanes and fires in coastal forests, socio-economic risk of wildfire damage, and other topics. The target audience includes land managers, foresters, land owners, academicians, and those interested in this important issue. A comprehensive and professional color proceedings will be available to all registrants. Please visit www.rnr.lsu.edu/lhrs for more information and to register.

Todd F. Shupe, Ph.D., Professor

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to congratulate Mac Hardy, Nancy Menasco, Larry Raymond, and the Red River Wildlife Refuge staff for coordinating the meeting and all of the field trips. It was obvious from the moment that you walked in the door that a lot of work was done up front. It showed in the quality of the trips. I was particularly impressed with the boat ride on Cross Lake led by Charlie Lyon and the visit to the grasslands at the Shreveport airport led by Terry Davis. I heard similar comments on the other trips.

I also want to thank our welcoming committee of Joelle Finley, Ken Harris and Judith O'Neale. They do the yeoman's work at each of these meetings and are keys to our success.

Finally, the birding was simply amazing. The list of 130 bird species was incredible, especially considering the distance we were from the coast. Besides the specialties - Smith's and Lapland Longspurs, Sprague's Pipit, and Bewick's Wren - the list also contained some real rarities. Western Meadowlark, Chestnut collared Longspur, Tropical Kingbird, Harris's Sparrow, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Western Grebes all made appearances.

I look forward to seeing you all at Spring LOS the last weekend of April. Until then, good birding.

Ed Wallace

LOS SPRING MEETING, continued from page 1

the Spoon-billed Sandpiper that is facing extinction and the efforts that are being put in place to save it. *Wader Quest* started in November 2012 and has thus far traveled to Australia and New Zealand, Thailand, India, the United Arab Emirates, the west coast of the USA and the UK. During the presentation, Rick and Elis will show photographs and discuss some of the interesting and rare birds that they have seen.

Rick is a life-long British birder who has a particular passion for shorebirds. He has gone through the whole range of birding styles; from back yard lister, local patch watcher, rarity chaser, world birder, guide and now conservationist. Elis is a Brazilian who has developed a passion for bird photography and who has, over the last ten years, accompanied Rick around the world birding. It is only in the last two years that she developed the taste for bird and wildlife photography and now she cannot see herself doing anything else with her life.

Cameron Accommodations:

The phone number for the Cameron Motel is 337-775-5442. The Cameron Motel also has sites available for RV campers. Several eating places are open in Cameron, Creole and Johnson's Bayou. Other accommodations can be found in Sulphur or Lake Charles.

SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 8

Winter Hummingbirds 2011-2012: A Record-Smashing Season!

One yard's perspective, with comparisons to Winters 2000-2001 and 2012-2013

By: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff

Would the 2012-13 winter hummingbird season match last season's (2011-2012) phenomenal numbers? We decided to use our yard data to compare winter hummer accumulations for the current season with the same period for last year as well as to our previous best year back in 2000-2001. The 2000-2001 season inspired our *LOS News* article to encourage observers to *take a closer look* at and keep better track of individual winter hummers:

WINTER HUMMERS – KEEPING TRACK. LET'S TAKE A REALLY CLOSE LOOK. TRYING TO KEEP TRACK OF INDIVIDUAL WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS!

Rereading that article, it is still relevant and we encourage all to revisit it. Twelve years later our yard has changed somewhat. We have more evergreen cover, including totally out-of-control bamboo groves (whose idea was that?; see Online Figure 1), but we have fewer big trees and more open canopy courtesy of Hurricanes Gustav (2008) and Isaac (2012). However, as apparent from Table 1 (Online Table 1)– such “improvements” did not result in an obvious upward trend in winter hummer numbers, except that we did “keep” a higher percentage of birds through winter than in years prior to 2000-2001. Since 2000-2001, some intervening years have been downright dismal especially considering the amount of gardening/yard enhancement that was done to improve our yard's ability to attract and hold winter hummingbirds. During our worst season (2002-2003), 30% of the hummers (3 of only 10 total individuals; Online Table 2) represented returnees, although

one was a “foreign recap” from a distant yard.

The number of feeders we hang for winter hummingbirds hasn't changed too much. As the season progresses, we gradually cluster multiple feeders in potential hummingbird “zones” or “territories” (shrub thickets; Online Figure 1), sometimes with as many as 20-30 clusters and usually around 70-80 feeders (sometimes 100+) scattered over a 5 acre area. We have not changed how we monitor our yard—a quick morning census (time and weather permitting) on workdays, with more thorough searches performed as possible on non-workdays. We use a printed template to record each individual's plumage, and the same Excel file calendar to monitor daily presence. The biggest difference is that photography is used much more frequently to document individual hummers and augment the template sketches, which is a great help in confirming plumage features (if you can get the photos) and monitoring changes in appearance through the season. The minor drawback of photography is that more time is spent taking photographs versus scrutinizing the birds through binoculars.

The Good, the Exceptional, and This Season (so far). Comparing First Arrivals and Totals for October...

Twelve years ago, *Good Season* 2000-2001 was off with a blast with the first winter hummer appearing on Oct 24th (excluding Ruby-throated Hummingbird, of course). [This may seem late to some, but it is typical for our yard. For example, during 12 intervening years the first “new” winter hummer detection: Oct. 1-15 (2/17%), Oct. 16-30 (4/33%), Nov. 1-15 (2/17%), Nov.16-30 (2/17%). Two immature male Calliopes are outliers, one exceptionally early on 16 Aug., the other late on 17 Dec. At our yard, there is no pattern of adults arriving early during late summer and early fall- most begin to arrive early to mid-Oct.]

After the *Good Season* of 2000-2001, and anticipating similar bountiful seasons, we adopted our current winter

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NEW MEMBERS

Babs Boykin, Bossier City

Brian Carlisle, Shreveport

Suzanne Laird, Winsboro

Dan O'Malley and Tori Bacheler, Lafayette

Lindsay Seely, Geismar

Brooke Wadlington, Shreveport

Don and Kathy Yates, Pineville

In Memoriam

Sterling Lacy – Magnolia, AR – Dec 2012

Life Member – Dr. Donald M. Bradburn,
New Orleans – July 2012

LOS ON FACEBOOK

Labirders: This is just to let you know that those of you who are LOS members and are also on Facebook may be interested in “liking” LOS's new Facebook page. Just type in “Louisiana Ornithological Society” in the FB search box, and you'll find it.

Good birding,

*Christine Kooi
Baton Rouge*

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS, continued from page 3

hummingbird naming system. Each bird is named in alphabetical order (A-Z) on its arrival using some pre-determined "theme." This naming system is infinitely better than that used and illustrated: http://losbird.org/196_01dec_fig2.htm. At that time we named individuals based on their appearance, e. g., *Spot II*, appearance-plus-yard location, e. g., *Front [yard] Spot*, or on behavior, e. g., *Menace* – all of which can and often do change through the season. Plus, the A-Z system has the added advantage of reflecting arrival chronology. Some of our themes have included hummingbird-attracting plants, hurricanes, and Mexican foods. A confirmed or presumed returning individual keeps its original name.

Last year's *Exceptional Season* of 2011-2012 started early with the appearance of two Buff-bellieds (presumed returns *Burrito* and *Fajitas* from the previous year's outstanding count of 8!) on Sep 24th, our earliest-ever winter hummer returnees; three more had arrived by month's end. Buffs (in our yard at least), whether tucked in a thicket or foraging in the canopy, can be quiet and unobtrusive if no other hummers are present to agitate them and make them more conspicuous. They become excellent "watchdogs" to signal the presence of new arrivals – if a Buff is acting up, then there is a good chance there's a new hummer, which, for that matter, holds true for most winter hummers once they have staked-out a territory. Our first "new" 2011-12 hummer was an immature male Calliope (*Amethyst*) detected on Oct 2nd – off to a great start. You may have guessed, our first (of three!) alphabetical themes last season was "rocks and minerals." *Amethyst* didn't stand a chance competing against 50+ Ruby-throateds and only lingered a few days. On the 11th an adult female Black-chinned (*Hosta*) returned followed by another on the 23rd. These veterans (from season 06-07) were able to hold their own as numbers of Ruby-throateds dropped off by month's end to only 4 on the 31st.

This Season 2012-2013, started on Oct 7th when we returned from vacation – a banded returnee Buff awaited us (but, of course, could have arrived earlier). Although not banded, an adult male Black-chinned arriving on the 17th is presumably *Nebula* (named during our second 2011-2012 theme, "The Universe") from last year on territory and with a similar routine. A brief heard-only Broad-tailed was present on the 19th. A second Buff arrived by month's end.

Comparison of the three Octobers' (non-Ruby-throated) individuals: *Good* = 2 (includes 1 returnee), *Exceptional* = 8 (5 Buff returnees), and *This Season* = 7 (includes 3 returnees of which 2 are Buffs).

NOVEMBER COMPARISONS....

During *Good* season we gained ten birds, and of those six were Black-chinneds, which represented our best yard showing of that species to date. It is interesting to see how numbers of individuals differs per season (see Online Graphs 1 and 2). Coldest temperature was 32o, and by month's end the yard was still full of flowers but regardless all but two of November's arrivals moved on.

During *Exceptional* Nov, our first Rufous, an immature female (*Beryl*) arrived on the 2nd and from the 7th onwards Nov was simply amazing with new hummers appearing nearly daily! Using a combination of notes and photographs to identify individuals, by month's end we recorded 9 Rufous, 2 more Black-chinneds, our 2nd Calliope (*Kryptonite*), 2 Broad-taileds (!), and gained another 4 Buffs (total now 6 individuals, all presumed returnees using same territories as previous seasons). Alphabet names were already up to *Opal* – our best previous alphabet season we only got to "T." One to two Ruby-throateds were present through most of the month. [We never did include Ruby-throateds in the alphabetical name scheme because it's more difficult to determine migrant versus wintering individuals early in the season.] Our first freeze was on the 11th (32o) and the coldest temp (31o) was recorded on the 29th (but was a short-duration freeze), leaving most hummingbird flowers intact through the month. The majority of our new individuals remained for only a few days and then moved on, despite the availability of resources in our yard (including cover, insects, feeders, and numerous hummingbird flowers).

This Season's November hummer volume was almost as remarkable as last year's *Exceptional Season*. There were no temps below 33o. Nine Rufous were observed, 5 immature females and 4 adult females (adults are suspected returnees because of age- to name or not to name)? Three unbanded individuals each stayed a few days then moved on and a banded individual remained, so we guessed it might be *Cajun* from last year but then she left. There were also at least 2 Buffs, 2 returnee Black-chinneds (one banded, one presumed), two imm. male Calliopes (see online figure 3), and at least 3 Ruby-throateds. So, what's our naming scheme *This Season*?: famous American ornithologists.

Comparison of Nov (non-Ruby-throated) arrivals: *Good* = 10, *Exceptional* = 15 (3 returnees) and *This Season* = 12 (3 returnees plus 3 additional ad. female Rufs that were possible returnees that did not stay).

DECEMBER COMPARISONS....

During *Exceptional* Dec, new birds were gained at a regular pace – so many that the hummingbird tally needed to be broken into three pages – one just for Rufous Hummingbirds (see Online figure 4). No longer would an entire season fit on one Excel page! We finished rocks and minerals with *Zircon*, Calliope #5 on Dec 11th, which tied our previous high count (<http://losbird.org/lbrc/9th.pdf>). Our second alphabet theme ("The Universe") surged through *Pluto* by month's end. Unlike the majority of Nov birds that stayed only a few days, Dec arrivals tended to remain and fight over territories, this despite a low of 26o on the 11th that killed a majority of hummer flowers (flower-killing hard freeze during *Good* season occurred on Dec 19th). In previous years our yard typically topped-out at only 8-10 stable territories, and there were few territorial disputes. But during *Exceptional* Dec, there were constant territorial battles – our yard becoming

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WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS, continued from page 4

more reminiscent of a Baton Rouge yard such as Carol Foil's. Our maximum one-day count was an astounding **27(!)** on 15 Dec (and that did not include some of our "regulars" that were missed because we didn't have much time as we readied feeders before heading off for 3 days of Christmas Bird Counts): 8 Ruby-throateds, 4 Black-chinneds (2 winterers missed), 9 Rufous, 3 Buffs (missed 2 regulars AWOL that day), and our yard first **Anna's Hummingbird** (*Galaxy*). The Anna's obviously couldn't take the pressure and relocated to the nearby Remsen gardens. By month's end our season Rufous count was at *28 individuals*. More individuals appeared to be staying longer despite continuing loss of cover (e. g., leaf fall) that during most Decembers changes the appearance of thickets.

This Season temps dipped to the upper 20s on two occasions but despite that many of the hummingbird flowers remained. Dec brought ten new immature Rufous, six adult Rufous (four banded individuals: a male possibly *Orion* in previous year's territory, and three females). An adult female Black-chinned suspected to be last year's *Uranium* and a Buff-bellied were presumed returnees. Rufous #22 *Zusi* appearing on the 26th concluded our first alphabet theme (see Online Figure 5). Because it became obvious that we could not identify potentially returning adults with any certainty (even those banded) most were assigned a new name with the exception of *Cajun* (see Online Figure 6) and *Orion*. However, banded *Stiles* became *Wacke* when she inhabited that bird's territory. Comparison of the three Decembers (non-Ruby-throated): *Good* = 12, *Exceptional* = 32 (includes 1 returnee), and *This Season* = 17 (includes 4 banded potential returnee Rufous).

JANUARY COMPARISONS....

During *Exceptional* Jan (2012) we continued to gain birds and the yard was a noisy fight zone. On the Baton Rouge CBC Jan 2nd, we accounted for 26 individuals: 11 Rufous, 8 Black-chinneds, 5 Buffs, and 2 Ruby-throateds. Keeping tabs on all of the different individuals became so complicated that pen and notepad were required to keep track of molt/plumage/location during daily surveys! On the 7th there was an influx of new birds; this was three days following a hard freeze that could have resulted in local displacement of hummers, but we suspect that this mini-surge coincided with a hummingbird banding session at Van Remsen's on the same day. The Jan. 7th surge of new individuals to our yard included 7 Rufous (a dead giveaway - one freshly painted and banded) and a Black-chinned (*Zenith*). Much to our surprise, one of our Buffs was back in its territory with pink paint on crown - obviously went wandering on the wrong day! Another painted Rufous was (based on her appearance) deemed to be our missing *Nickel* - and was not counted as a new individual. A Calliope with a distinctive drooping wing (reported by Van) appeared the next day - surpassing our previous yard high for that species. Additional birds arrived later in the month following three nights of below freezing temperatures (but no more painted birds that would suggest another banding episode elsewhere) forcing our naming

system into a third alphabet theme (Cajun food).

Probably most notable about January of *This Season* was that temps remained relatively warm (nothing below 34o) and it was wet starting on the 9th and stayed wet through the end of the month. To access feeders often required the use of a kayak (online Fig. 7). Although we gained few birds compared to *Exceptional* making it only to *Gnat* (of our second alphabet), an immature male Rufous arriving on 26 Jan, we did have good single day counts including 24 on the Baton Rouge CBC on 5 Jan (13 Rufous, 4 Black-chinneds, 1 Buff, and 6 Ruby-throateds).

Comparison of Jan arrivals by season: *Good* = 12, *Exceptional* = 32 (includes 1 returnee), and *This Season* = 9 (may have included a returnee but the banded adult male Rufous, dubbed on arrival as *Vesuvianite* because he turned up in that bird's territory at the end of the month did not linger long into February).

FEBRUARY COMPARISONS....

Unlike *Good Season's* "status quo" Feb, during *Exceptional* Feb the flow of new birds continued and new fighting erupted in previously "calm" territories. On the 12th, Dave Patton banded our hummers but could only catch 13 individuals before shutting down as temperatures rose and abundant honeybees covered the trap feeders. Those captured included two recaps (already-painted Buff and an adult female Ruby-throated banded in our yard in March 2008). By month's end, the season's Rufous total hit **44 individuals** (with *King Cake* our last new Rufous on the 27th), more than doubling the Rufous count for the *Good Season*.

This Season mild temps and rain continued. We stalled in our second alphabet this year, in fact only gaining four new individuals: two Rufous and our third and fourth Calliopes. Compare 31 total Rufous to 44 of the previous year. Dave Patton banded on the 23rd but that was right after more rain and a kayak crossing needed to band the entire yard so we settled with only 9 individuals in the front half of the yard (see online Fig. 6)

Feb stats: *Good* = 0 *Exceptional* = 5 *This* = 4.

MARCH COMPARISONS....

As *Exceptional Season* wound down and the first male Ruby-throated of the spring arrived on Mar. 10th, we went through the inevitable transition from searching for new arrivals to monitoring for departure dates of our wintering birds. But, we were pleasantly surprised when we were treated to one final new visitor - an adult male **Allen's Hummingbird** (species #8 for the season and appropriately dubbed *Lagniappe*) on Mar. 27th.

Exceptional Season stats: 1 Anna's, 1 Allen's, 2 Broad-taileds, 6 Calliopes, 6 Buffs (presumably all returnees), 11 Black-chinneds (includes 2 returnees), 44 Rufous, and 2-3 late season Ruby-throateds (includes 1 returnee). *Exceptional*

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WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS, continued from page 5

season was truly that, with 15-20 birds accounted for most days and eight species recorded, effectively doubling numbers “wintering” compared to previous seasons.

And *This Season* so far is still excellent: 31 Rufous, 5 Black-chinned, 4 Calliopes, 3 Buff-bellied, and one Broad-tailed. Maybe there will be some more surprises. Birds are still moving around a bit following banding and a freeze on 3 Mar (low to 28o! burned plants that had otherwise made it flowering through the entire winter).

Now we await our first of the season Ruby-throateds to join our at least 8 wintering Rubs and 25 resident winterers.

Until next season...happy hummingbirding to all!

(The following illustrations and more information can be found on the LOS website at www.losbirds.org)

Online Figure 1. Bamboo makes an excellent evergreen screen. However, understand that invasive “running” bamboo varieties (*Phyllostachys* sp.) do experience exponential growth with progressive seasons. So, anyone considering planting bamboo, do so wisely! We recommend clumping cold hardy *Bambusa* species/varieties unless you really can’t live without Moso Bamboo, *P. pubescens*, a gorgeous giant timber bamboo with a fuzzy culm and delicate leaves shown here.

Online Figure 2. Illustration of two hummingbird thickets. What makes for a good winter hummingbird territory? Gradual leaf fall during fall-winter makes thickets progressively more open. Best thickets are those with that have some open sky, are near a Live Oak, and have low masses of berry bushes and vines. Flowers are not mandatory, but one or more feeders are.

Online Figure 3. Exceptional Season 2011-2012’s six Calliope Hummingbirds surpassed our previous high count of five

Table 1. Winter Hummingbirds at 435 Pecan Drive

Species	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	totals
Rufous	20	8	6	4	3	9	8	5	2	3	2	44	114
Black-chinned	9	2	1	4	0	9	4	5	4	5	5	11	59
Buff-bellied	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	8	6	21
Calliope	4	3	2	4	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	6	27
Broad-tailed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Allen's	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4
Ruby-throated (end of Jan)	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	3	3	16	2	3	36
Anna's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	33	13	10	13	13	23	16	14	13	25	17	74	264
non-Rubs	33	13	10	13	7	20	16	11	10	9	15	71	
# individuals present at end Jan	5	6	10	9	5	7	9	9	10	11	8	25	totals

Table 1. Table shows number of individuals/species for winter season 2000-2001 through Exceptional season 2011-2012. Notable counts boldfaced. Unlike the other “winter species,” number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds is included for only those individuals present/season at the end of January. Also compare to bottom statistic of number of all individuals present at the end of January illustrating number of birds that winter versus are transients per season. Prior to 2000-2001 few hummingbirds remained through the winter. It is also interesting to note species composition illustrated in Graph 1 and Graph 2 or percentage of new versus returning individuals each year in Graph 3.

Online Table 2. This is the Excel calendar sheet for Feb during our worst season 2002-2003, showing all eleven named winter hummers. Monthly arrivals are color-coded: Bando didn’t arrive until 19 Nov. Colors following names refer to head paint color following banding of which there were two days (noted by 1 and 2), which resulted in all birds still present getting banded.

individuals. Although we did miss Calliope the previous two seasons (!), we feel lucky that our yard has always been a good ‘Calliope magnet’ for whatever reason, and we have had one or more Calliopes wintering each of the previous 12 years, including a number of banded individuals that returned for one or more years. See also: <http://aba.org/birding/v38n6p32.pdf>. Shown here are *This Season* birds *Carriker* and *Hutton*. *Carriker* was most unusual because upon arrival he flew courtship displays to Ruby-throateds. These images show that without careful examination of plumage characters one might not realize that more than one individual is present.

Online Figure 4. A pdf of our December 2011 Excel daily recording sheet for Rufous Hummingbirds. By mid-Dec the number of total individual hummingbirds exceeded our Excel page capacity so Rufous Hummingbirds required a page of their own! Note: Rufous #1-7 did not linger into December.

Figure 5 (see pg. 7). Unlike last year’s Excel tally pages that necessitated individual pages for Rufous and non-Rufous
Continued on page 7

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS, continued from page 6

hummers (Fig. 4), *This Season* all individuals were listed on one page. To gain space needed for so many individuals, those that left prior to Dec were excised (notice gaps in species number sequence, e.g. missing Black-chinned #2, etc.) so only current monthly residents are listed. Color bands indicate month of individual's arrival: names in yellow arrived in Oct, green during Nov, and purple during Dec.

Figure 5
December 2012
435 Pecan Drive
hummingbird tally

BIRD - ID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Buff-bellied #1 ad Jalapeno	*	*	*			*			*	*		H					*	H	H				*	H	H	*	*	*	*	*	
Buff-bellied #2 ad Tajitas (band)	*	*	*	H		*			*	*		*					*	*	*												
Black-chinned #1 adM Nebula	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*		*					*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Calliope #1 imM Carnker	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*		*					*	*	*			*									
Rufous #1 adF Erlich/no band	*																														
Black-chinned #3 adF Imposta	*	*	H	*								H					*	H	H				H	H	H		*	*	*	*	
Rufous #5 imM James				*																											
Rufous #6 adF Cajun (banded/front)	*	*			*					*	*																				
Calliope #2 imM Hutton		*	*						*	*																					
Rufous #8 imF Lowery (Front)	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #9 imF Merriam (garden)	*	*			*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Black-chinned #4 F Nice (bump)	*	*									*												H	H	H		*	*	*		
Rufous adM #10 O'Neill (no band)	*	H	*																												
Rufous #11 imM Parker	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #12 imM Quay				*																											
Rufous #13 imM Ripley		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #14 adM /Onion (banded)					?	*	*	*	*	*	*	H					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Black-chinned #5 adF Uranium											*	H					*	*	*	*	H	*	H	H	*	*	H				
Rufous #15 adF Stiles/Wacke (banded)	*						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	?	?	H	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #16 imF Traylor																	?	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Rufous #17 imM Unitt							*																								
Buff-bellied #4 ad; Dulce?								*																							
Rufous #18 adF van Rossem (banded)																						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #19 imF Wetmore																						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #20 adF Xantus (banded)																						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #21 imF Yarrell																						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rufous #22 imM Zusi																									*	*	*	*	*		
Rufous #23 imF Aphid																									*	*	*	*	*		
Rufous #24 ImM Bug																									*	*	*	*	*		
male Rubs										2													1	1	1	0					
female Rubs		1				2			1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1			H	1	2	3	3		2	2	2	
away/rain = R impacting survey					R		R	R																							
front/low temps											37	37	29				38					35	29			38			28	38	
Sat/Sun/Holiday	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M

Online Figure 6. Photos help augment field observation and sketches as illustrated for these two hummers. Shown above (left) is a template of *Cajun* from last season and a photo

(right) from this season. Note that a single photo may not show all plumage characters (for *Cajun* primary molt, for *Lowery* gorget pattern). In the photo of *Lowery*, primary molt is clearly shown but other helpful characters are not visible.

Online Figure 7. Google Earth image shows our yard in the broader landscape with enlargement showing winter hummer territories in our front yard. The incredibly wet end to season 2012-2013 required the use of a kayak to service hummingbird feeders.

Not Just a Breeding Hormone?

Testosterone Production in Songbirds throughout Spring Migration

Kristen M. Covino, Migratory Bird Research Group
Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi

My dissertation research is a comprehensive examination of how songbirds transition between phases of the annual cycle; specifically from spring migration to breeding. I am currently quantifying the time schedule of testosterone production as it relates to breeding preparation, body condition, and behavior while birds migrate from their southern wintering grounds to their northern breeding locations. While testosterone is widely recognized as a hormone related to breeding biology, research indicates that it also influences preparation for migration and may affect behavior of migrating birds during passage. That said, few studies have investigated testosterone levels in birds during spring migration.

Thus far, my research has demonstrated that testosterone levels increase throughout spring migration in some species but not others. It is possible that testosterone production

is modulated during migration to take advantage of the downstream effects that are beneficial to migration (e.g. muscle hypertrophy, hyperphagia, erythropoiesis) while avoiding some that may be conflicting (e.g. territorial aggression, courtship behavior). I am currently investigating further how circulating testosterone may relate to the stopover behavior and breeding preparation of *en route* migrants.

I am very grateful to the Louisiana Ornithological Society for providing funds that were used to purchase supplies necessary to obtain blood samples. Funds from LOS were also used to help cover the cost of laboratory analysis of blood samples for testosterone. I will continue to be the crew leader at our site in Cameron Parish for the next two years while working on my doctoral research project and I welcome LOS members to visit our site during spring migration.



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\$ _____ **Total enclosed**

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