

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

Nature Notes



Charter 2016

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President's Note:

Greetings, Master Naturalists!

Several years ago while on a safari in Botswana, I (along with everyone in our group from Louisiana) had an absolute blast. It was like a scene on the Discovery Channel. Elephants, hippos, crocodiles, antelope, and giraffes were everywhere. We even found a leopard who wanted nothing to do with the sudden attention we gave her. What most of the documentaries don't show is the diversity and multitudes of birds and reptiles in Southern Africa! They are everywhere! While everybody enjoyed the megafauna, I helped draw their attention to some of the smaller animals and the birds, such as Pied Kingfishers, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Jameson's Firefinch, and many Red-billed Hornbills (Zazu from *The Lion King*). Several people from that trip were appreciative that I'd pointed out the little things that they would have missed otherwise.

Calendar Quick View

Feb 3 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Feb 17 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Mar 3 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Mar 3 Rockefeller bird trail
 Mar 17 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Mar 24 SLAMN Candidate Workshop
 Apr 4: SLAMN Meeting
 Apr 6: LMNA Annual Rendezvous

Green Anole



President's Note:

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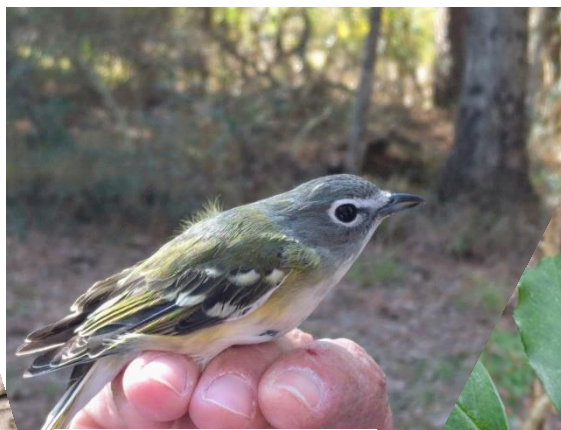
The SWLA Master Naturalist Program focuses on so many aspects of the natural world, both well-known and little-known taxa. Our publications and field trips have a wide focus so that everyone in our chapter (and outside naturalists) find something interesting, and maybe be introduced to something new.

With that in mind, this year I'll write some articles for *Nature Notes* about species I feel are a little underappreciated. I encourage y'all (our certified master naturalists) to write some articles for *Nature Notes* about an organism or habitat you're passionate about. Let's learn from one another!

Irvin Louque



Asian Lady Beetle



Blue-headed Vireo



Carolina Laurelcherry

Gulf Coast Toad



Spotted Sandpiper



Meeting Notes

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Upcoming Meeting Location and Date
Tuten Park, April 4th 2018 at 5:30 P.M.
All members are invited to attend.

January Meeting Highlights

President: Irvin Louque**Vice-President:** Tommy Hillman**Treasurer:** Robby Maxwell**Secretary:** Barbara Morris**At-large Board Members:**

Chuck Battaglia,

David Booth,

Theresa Cross,

Brian Sean Early,

Lori McGee

Check the SLAMN Website for documents to record your continuing education and volunteer hours.

<http://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/nature-notes--docs.html>

Send the completed forms to:

Robby Maxwell SLAMN Treasurer
20333 Bourque Rd.
Iowa, LA 70647

Amazon Smile account was set up for funding SLAMN. The link is on the SLAMN website. You are encouraged to use this link when buying from Amazon. 0.5% of the purchase price goes to the organization.

Edith Holland raised \$51.84 with a birthday fundraiser. Thanks to Edith. Taxable Donation forms will be available for donations of materials or money to the club.

Committee Reports

Course Planning Committee: Irvin Louque, The dates and topics are planned and on the website. We have 13 people registered so far. The first class is January 20th at Tuten Park. You are encouraged to attend.

Promotions Committee: We will have a table promoting Master Naturalist at the Tuten Park Arbor Day on January 27th. We will also have a table promoting iNaturalist App and the City Nature Challenge.

Volunteer Committee: Volunteers are needed on January 27th at Tuten Park to man the SLAMN table and the iNaturalist Table. Please contact Irvin, Tom, or David if you are able to help.
 Saturday Jan 13th, Irvin will be banding birds at Sam Houston Park
 Saturday March 3rd, Volunteers are needed at the Rockefeller Refuge to build a birding trail.
 Email William.degravelles@tnc.org if you are interested in helping.

Publications Committee: Arlene Cain thanked everyone for the articles and pictures. She said to be sure and send her dates of upcoming events. The next newsletter will go out in February.

Rendezvous 2018 The theme is LOUISIANA A NATURALIST PARADISE. It will be a celebration of all areas of LA. Each chapter is asked to present information about the habitat/species unique to their area. Registration will start soon. There are only 162 spots available and each Chapter has been assigned a number of spots. Let Irvin know if you are planning to attend Rendezvous. Day trips are also allowed. Let Irvin know if you have an ideas for a presentation from our group.

City Nature Challenge: The website is up and running for more information. Get the word out. **Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist** Facebook group page is now open to outsiders. Be sure to like this page and share with friends.

Guest Speaker: Dan Guillory gave an interesting presentation about working at a National Park. He worked at the Rocky Mountain NP in Colorado as a Visitor Ranger. He said the best way to get a paying job is to go through USAjobs.gov website. **Xanterra** is the company that hires for the hotels and restaurant staff.

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Chapter meetings are held quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month at Tuten Park at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
Chapter tentative meeting dates for 2018: April 4, and October 3

Reminder: SLAMN yearly membership \$15.00.

Mail your dues to:

Robby Maxwell SLAMN Treasurer
20333 Bourque Rd.
Iowa, LA 70647

Local News:

[Back](#)**SLAMN Winter Field Trip January 6, 2018 – by Barbara Morris**

Winter cold keeps us indoors with warm fires and hot chocolate. Saturday, January 6th, 2018, the sun was rising on a blue bird sky. Perfect for a field trip. We started the day at Tuten Park where we weeded and prepared the Master Naturalist Boxes for planting. Be on the lookout for planting dates.

As the sun warmed the morning we loaded into cars and headed east. Our first stop was the Lacassine Wildlife Drive on the Lacassine NWR. This is a 3-mile drive around the Lacassine Pool. We were able to stay warm in the cars, getting down at designated spots to view wildlife. **Deborah Frank** led us to the cool birding stops around the loop. We spotted alligators, nutria, geese, egrets, herons, Ibis, warblers, and more birds. **Robby Maxwell** led a discussion about salvia which was visible at the launch. **Atticus Maxwell**, Robby's son, located bird parts that were left behind by a raptor. All in all, it was a very exciting drive.

Blue-winged Teal



American Otter



Yellow-rumped Warbler



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But enough looking at birds, time for lunch! We continued east to Lake Arthur where on the banks of the beautiful Lake Arthur is the Regatta Restaurant. They have a patio overlooking the water with a lovely view of the winter shoreline. We enjoyed good company and good food.

Hope you can make it next time!

Those in attendance: *Irvin Louque, Brittany Manuel and cousin Tara, Robby and Dani Maxwell, Atticus Maxwell, Linda and Bill Kalb, Deborah Frank and Barbara Dupont, Tom and Barbara Morris.*

Tentative date for the next field trip is March 7th. We will be going to Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery to participate in the spawning of the paddlefish. For more information contact Barbara Morris: tblsjm5@yahoo.com

Amazon Smile Donation to Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists now have an Amazon Smile account. **Robby Maxwell**, SLAMN Treasurer, set up the account. When you make purchases through Amazon Smile, 0.5% of the purchases will go to Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists. It doesn't cost any extra to make purchases on it, and will give us a small stream of donations. If you do any shopping on Amazon, please use the link below. Also, share it with friends and family. Every bit helps!

AMAZON SMILE

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-5541690>



You shop. **Amazon gives.**

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.

- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

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Welcome New Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Candidates!

SLAMN candidates attend the introduction workshop at Tuten Park on January 20th, 2018.

The next workshop will be February 3rd at Tuten Park. The next workshop (February 3), will focus on Backyard Wildlife Management.



Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist's project has 2,365 Observations



Get involved, join the fun!

Post your sighting on iNaturalist for the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists project.

23 of us have posted 2,365 observations on iNaturalist across the US. Here's our map. Quite impressive!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/southwest-louisiana-master-naturalists>

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January 28th ARBOR DAY Tuten Park by Barbara Morris

It was a great turn out for the Arbor Day activities at Tuten Park. The Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists were there to share information about the program and Citizen Science opportunities.

Theresa Cross and Robby Maxwell brought a collection of furs, shells, bones, and other items of interest. Many people were drawn to touch and ask questions. The volunteers were there to provide information about the Master Naturalist Program and the iNaturalist App. Thanks to **David Booth, Chet St Romain, Tom Morris, Barbara Morris, Barbara Dupont, Robby Maxwell, and Theresa Cross** for coming out and lending a hand.



Continuing Education Opportunities:

[Back](#)**Bird banding at Sam Houston Jones State Park****Louisiana Bird Observatory Bird Banding**

Irvin Louque holds bird banding activities at Sam Houston Jones Park on Saturdays. Volunteers are welcome! Learn how to set-up mist nets, age birds, and collect important data for conservation efforts. Please check with Irvin for dates and times. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Irvin Louque through email or phone (225)206-0400 irvinlouque@gmail.com



Volunteer Opportunities:

[Back](#)**Volunteers Needed for birding trail work**

March 3, 2018 Saturday: Volunteers are needed to help install a small birding trail on an easement the Nature Conservancy holds and manages along the coastal Highway 82 in Cameron Parish near Grand Chenier. The area is being restored to its native live oak-hackberry forest and now a birding trail is needed which will allow birding during the spring and fall migration seasons.

Meet at the **Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Headquarters** parking lot at 9:15 A.M. Saturday March 3, 2018. We plan to work until about 12:00 or 1:00 P.M. We will carpool to the site. We will have all the tools needed for the job. We will have refreshments, water, and soft drinks. Please dress for the job, long pants, long-sleeve shirts and boots.

If you would like to participate please contact Will deGravelles: William.degravelles@tnc.org.

The Nature Conservancy is looking for volunteers to help plant longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) at our Talisheek Preserve. Longleaf pine is the most important tree species on the preserve, and the volunteer planting event will help restore the historic structure and natural habitat to the site. Please be dressed for wet and muddy conditions. Bring: water bottle, and gloves.

Volunteer:

<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/louisiana/volunteer/index.htm>

Volunteer Opportunities:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services Southwest Louisiana NWR Complex

<https://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex/volunteers.html>

Volunteers and student interns provide much needed assistance with refuge projects. They are often able to complete work that the refuge would be unable to do. The hours, work assignments, et cetera are tailored to meet the needs of both the refuge and the volunteer or intern.

Refuge housing may be available to qualified interns and volunteers. Volunteer projects include conducting biological surveys, providing clerical assistance in the office, general maintenance of facilities and equipment, photography and art work, habitat restoration activities, and environmental education just to name a few.

Please contact the SW LA refuge complex headquarters for additional information regarding openings and how to apply.

SW LA NWR Complex Headquarters
Attn: Volunteer Coordinator
1428 Hwy. 27
Bell City, LA 70630
337-598-2216

Diane Borden-Billiot



<http://www.crcl.org/>

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:

<https://www.crcl.org/get-involved/volunteer.html>

Feb 17, 2018, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Oyster Shell Bagging – Coastal Louisiana Reef Restoration

<https://www.crcl.org/component/dpcalendar/event/159.html>

Feb 22, 23, & 24, 2018

Ten thousand Trees for Louisiana – Caernavon

9 am – 4 pm Details:

<https://www.crcl.org/component/dpcalendar/event/147.html>

Mar 24, 2018, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Oyster Shell Bagging – Coastal Louisiana Reef Restoration

<https://www.crcl.org/component/dpcalendar/event/161.html>

May 19, 2018, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Oyster Shell Bagging – Coastal Louisiana Reef Restoration

<https://www.crcl.org/component/dpcalendar/event/162.html>



iNaturalist Spotlight and Photos:

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iNaturalist.org's Journal Official Blog

<https://www.inaturalist.org/blog>

Check out the "Observation of the Week" post.

iNaturalist Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Project Observation of the Month: Butterweed (*Packera galbella*) by Master Naturalist Barbara Morris



Join the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists project.
Add your observations and photos to our group project.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/southwest-louisiana-master-naturalists>

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.org interface for the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists project. At the top, the iNaturalist.org logo is on the left, and navigation links for Observations, Species, Projects, Places, Guides, and People are in the center. On the right, there are icons for notifications and comments. A yellow banner below the navigation says "Welcome to Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists". Below the banner, there are links for "Projects" and "Terms & Rules | Leave this project". The main content area features a large photograph of a group of people walking on a dirt path in a field. An orange button with the text "ADD OBSERVATIONS" is overlaid on the right side of the photo. At the bottom left of the photo is the project logo, and at the bottom center is the text "Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists".

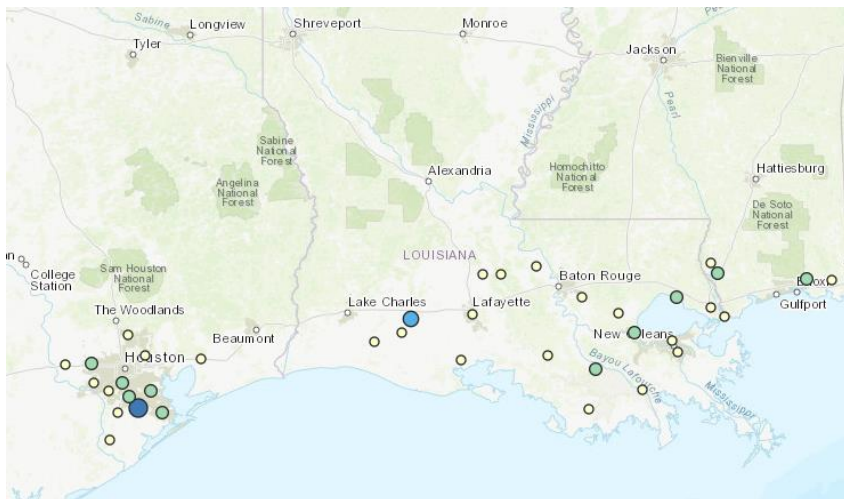
Jack Frost Nips at the Invasives By Robby Maxwell

Burst pipes, shut-down highways, school closures, frozen landscape plants... Those are all things that most people associate with an extremely cold winter like we're experiencing right now in SWLA. What most people don't think about is what these kinds of extremes do to the environment surrounding them, notably to invasive species. Environmental extremes, whether they be heat/cold, dry/wet, fresh/salt, are often the real limiting factors on species ranges in every kingdom of life on earth. Environmental averages (i.e. monthly rainfall, monthly temperature) can be very misleading when it comes to explaining a species' suitability for an environment, since a couple of devastating days of extreme cold might not shift the average all that much. While native species have adapted to the occasional extremes of our area, suffering temporary dips or contractions in populations and ranges, many invasive species are not fully adapted to deal with them as well.



Giant Applesnail records from the USGS
(<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/viewer/omap.aspx?SpeciesID=2633#>)

One species to look at is the Giant Applesnail (*Pomacea maculata*), a relatively recent invader that poses agricultural, environmental, and human health threats to Louisiana. It was first recorded in Louisiana in Jefferson Parish in 2006. It has slowly worked its way westward, and entered SWLA at the Mermentau River in 2015, where it quickly spread. This snail can tolerate brackish, but not very salty, water for extended periods. It's also limited by temperature, which explains the limits of the invasion to relatively near the Gulf Coast. Applesnails can bury themselves in mud to withstand some cold, but we expect these recent freezes to help knock them southward and thin them out. Unfortunately, they multiply quickly, laying poisonous bright pink egg masses to replenish their populations. Regular seasonal cold snaps like the ones we've been experiencing definitely help keep their numbers in check.



Aquatic invasive weeds like the Salvinia cousins, Giant (*Salvinia molesta*) and Common (*S. minima*), are also taking this winter especially hard. They are floating ferns that form large mats and cover the surface of the water. Both are found in various waterbodies throughout the state, with Giant Salvinia being the more aggressive and detrimental species. Like the Applesnails, they are also limited by temperature and salinity. Unlike apple snails, Salvinia is a plant that floats on top of the water, and can't bury down to protect itself. It does, however, stay in backwaters, swamps, and amongst marsh grasses where it takes shelter from the cold. Giant Salvinia generally dies after three hours at 26°F, and Common is even less tolerant than that. We have had multiple nights below 26°F, with temperatures dipping around 15°F way down in South Louisiana. Needless to say, Salvinia is taking a major hit

statewide this winter, which will help control efforts when the growing season starts back up. Aquatic weeds will not be eliminated since some always find shelter, and some individuals may be more cold tolerant than others. Their numbers will definitely be drastically reduced, though.

One twist to the Salvinia story is provided by the Salvinia Weevil (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*). The weevil has been introduced to control Giant Salvinia across the state with mixed results. The weevils are less cold tolerant than the Salvinia, so they have been difficult to establish in North Louisiana. South Louisiana is milder, and the weevils have shown excellent results in recent years, with drastic reductions in Giant Salvinia populations noted south of I-10. The real question now is, what will Giant Salvinia populations do in the long run after this winter? Did enough weevils survive the winter to repopulate, especially considering their food source is drastically depleted? Will we see Giant Salvinia returning to areas where effective control was in place? Only time will tell.



Giant Salvinia (<https://invasivespecies.btnep.org/>)

The only guarantee is that this winter will greatly reduce many of our invasive species, but is extremely unlikely to eliminate them altogether. Invasive species management is usually about control, and not elimination, so enjoy the coming year where you'll definitely be seeing the results of some good natural invasive species control on our waterways.



Salvinia weevil. Photo by Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service

Observing Mushrooms – Barbara Morris

Becoming a Master Naturalist opens up the world to your observations. Where before you saw a field and a forest, now you see individual plants. Where you once saw weeds, now you see habitat. Mushrooming is like searching for shells on the beach. Always a pleasant surprise. They peek out from under the leaf litter. They grow on decaying trees. They push up through the grass lawn.

I have been noticing a variety of mushrooms on just my small piece of paradise. I utilize field guides such as *The Audubon Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*, the iNaturalist app, and Facebook Mushroom groups to attempt identification, (**Mushroom Identification Forum** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MushroomID/>). One of the Facebook groups is only interested in the beauty of mushrooms and where they grow. This gives me a site to share photos, (**I Love Wild Mushrooms** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/730397800439930/>). I recently joined the **Gulf State Mycological Society** www.gsmycology.org. It is a non-profit scientific and educational organization formed to promote the appreciation and study of the diversified fungal flora of the Gulf Coast region by amateur and professional mycologists. I'm very excited to learn more from them.

A word of caution-***eating a poisonous mushroom can damage your kidneys and liver.*** Be sure to wash your hands well after handling mushrooms. Although it is fun determining which mushrooms are edible, stick to those purchased. Enjoy the photos and keep your eyes open!



Death Cap or Amanita



Wood ear Fungi



Gymnopilus sapineus



Lactarius indigo or Indigo Milk Cap

These pictures represent mushrooms around my property. This is my first attempt to identify as many as I could using my field guide, Facebook, iNaturalist, and Mushroom ID websites. My **Disclaimer** is that I did my best with my mushroom resources to correctly ID but as a novice, some of these may be incorrect. With that said, I am having a great time taking pictures and learning this new skill!

MycoKey

<http://www.mycokey.com/newMycoKeySite/MycoKeyIdentQuick.html>

The Morphing Mushroom Identifier (MMI) is an innovative identification tool which gives you: - an interactive mushroom key that models your fungus on screen as you enter the characters.



Laccaria laccata

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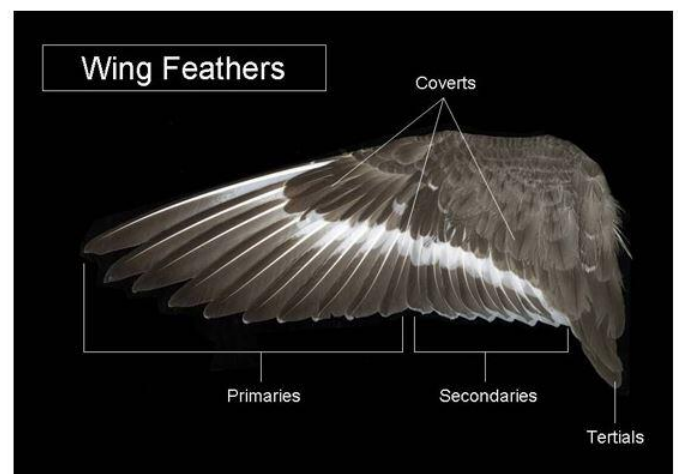
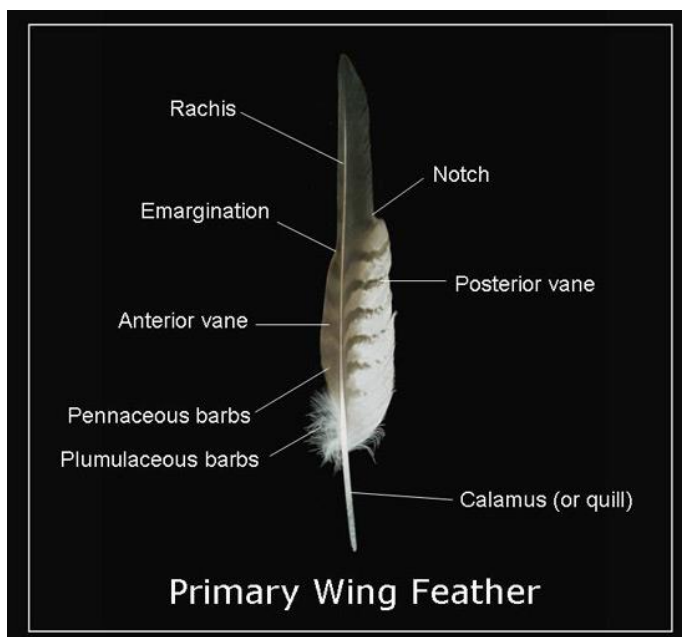
Feather Identification by Linda Wygoda

This year, 2018, is the centennial of [The Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) which is a powerful and important bird protection law. In honor of this milestone, National Geographic, the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and BirdLife International are joining forces with more than 100 other organizations and millions of people around the world to celebrate 2018 as the "[Year of the Bird](#)".

One of the things you can sometimes find on a walk in the woods is a bird feather. It may seem ok to pick-up or collect these feathers but it is against the law because of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it illegal for anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations. So photograph, draw, and definitely appreciate these beautiful natural objects but don't take them home.

This law was established at a time when feathers were popular in fashionable hats and the collection of feathers was contributing to a decline in many bird populations. This law makes it illegal to possess feathers from most bird species no matter how they were obtained, and even if the feather was molted, or the result of vehicle or window strikes. Some species aren't protected by the law, such as House Sparrows, Rock Pigeons, European Starlings, etc., because they are non-native species. Other non-migratory birds such as turkeys, chickens, quail, are also not protected. There are also exemptions from the law for eagle feathers that are collected by Native Americans for religious purposes, legally hunted migratory waterfowl, and legally hunted upland game birds. If in doubt about the status of a bird under this law, check the website.

So to identify feathers that you find, you should take a photo and make note of some basic dimensions of the feather such as length and width. Then you can use available resources such as the U. S. [Fish and Wildlife Service Feather Atlas](#) to identify the feather.



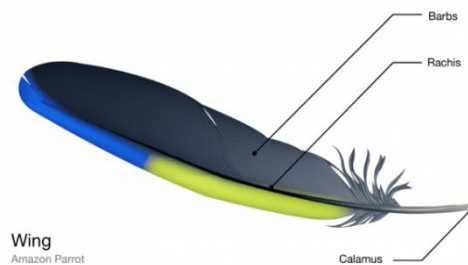
It is helpful if you understand some of the basic features of bird feathers before going to the atlas. For this information [Cornell Lab or Ornithology](#) has a feature in the [All About Birds](#) section that is devoted to feather characteristics: [All About Feathers](#). I will review some basics here, but the website offers a very interactive and detailed presentation that provides much more background about feather structure, adaptations, and evolution. Understanding some of the basic term for the parts of a feather will help you in identification. These features are identified in the photo below and the terms in the photo are defined on the [Feather Atlas glossary page](#).

One of the first things to determine about a feather is the type of feather. This is based on what part of the bird the feather came from.



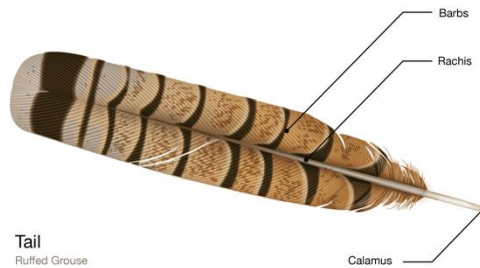
Basic feather types: (Summarized from [All About Feathers](#))

Primaries: These feathers are from the outer wing. They tend to be more tapered at the tip rather than rounded. They are longer and have a more narrow leading edge than secondary feathers.

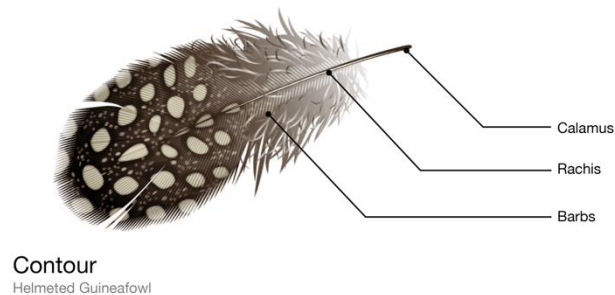


Secondaries: These feathers are on the inner wing and are more rounded than primaries. They are shorter and thicker with a thin leading edge.

Retrices: These are the **tail** feathers, and tend to be long and narrow. They have equal amounts of barbing coming off the main feather shaft. They can have a distinct flat end, although in some species (woodpeckers) they can be more pointed.



Contour Feathers: These are the body feathers and are short and often fluffy. They are slightly curved to fit the body of the bird. On the wing contour feathers are known as coverts.



Semiplume : These feathers are mostly hidden beneath other body feathers and a fluffy insulating structure.

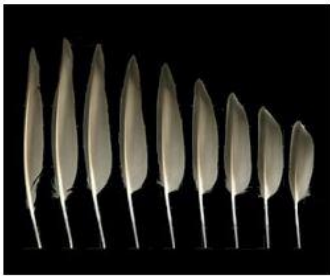
Down: These feathers are very similar to semiplume feathers, with an even looser structure and no central rachis.

Filoplume: These are simple short feathers with few barbs. They have a sensory function to enable the bird to sense the position of other feathers.

Bristles: These are the simplest feathers. They are usually found on the head and face. They have a very stiff rachis.

Once you have identified your type of feather and some basic features, you want to look at the color pattern in the feather. There are 8 feather color patterns listed on the Feather Atlas.

CHOOSE PATTERN (view more information about [Choosing Patterns](#))



UNPATTERNED



TWO-TONE



MOTTLED



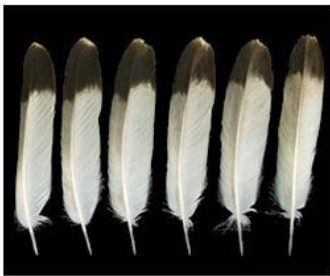
Barred



Spotted



Colorful Iridescence



Dark Tip



Pale Tip

Next, under the IDENTIFY FEATHER section on the Feather Atlas, choose your feather coloration pattern from those 8 depicted above, then enter the color of your feather and then finally, at the bottom of the page select FIND SIMILAR FEATHERS. Those that match your feather should then appear. Browse through these until you get a match.

Other resources that help in the identification of feathers:

Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species by S. David Scott and Casey McFarland 2010

The [Featherbase](#); online feather database of world-wide species. This is a German website but the bird names are in English.

Upcoming Events:

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Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Workshop 2 Backyard Wildlife Management

Location: Tuten Park, 3801 Nelson Road

Date: February 3, 2018

Speakers: Theresa Cross

Schedule:

8:00 a.m.	Introduction/PowerPoint/resources
9:30 a.m.	Outside activity/inside discussion
10:30 a.m.	Building for wildlife (outside in covered picnic area)
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:00 p.m.	Group exploration of the park (Habitat evaluation)
1:00 p.m.	Inside activity
2:00 p.m.	Discussion/wrap up

DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER FOR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Materials to Read/Watch Before Class:

- **Gardening for biodiversity:**
 - <https://www.biodiversitygardening.com/documentary.html> (Just keep in mind this is from a different area of the continent and some plants and animals will not be native here)
 - <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/secret-garden-the-home-gardener/3042/>

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Workshop 3 Longleaf Pine Habitat

Location: Tuten Park, David Daigle's Ranch

Date: February 17, 2018

Speakers: Chuck Battaglia, Chris Doffett (LDWF Natural Heritage Botanist), David Daigle (Ranch Manager)

Schedule:

- 8:00 AM: Meet at Tuten Park and begin first presentation
- 9:30AM: Carpool to Daigle's property
- 10:00 AM: Daigle site visit
- 12:00 PM: Lunch and leisure
- 12:30 PM: Carpool back to Tuten Park
- 1:00 PM: Final presentation
- 2:00 PM: Adjourn

Materials to Read/Watch Before Class:

- Short introduction to longleaf and its role in the ecosystem and American history: <http://www.longleafalliance.org/longleaf-pine/the-big-picture>
- Physiology of longleaf pine: <http://www.longleafalliance.org/longleaf-pine/physiology>
- Life stages of the longleaf pine: <http://www.longleafalliance.org/longleaf-pine/life-stages/life-stages-of-the-longleaf-pine>
- Habitats associated with longleaf pine: <http://www.longleafalliance.org/longleaf-pine/habitats>
- 25 minute video about David Daigle's methods of managing his property: <https://vimeo.com/119491072>

Upcoming Events:

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Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Workshop Dates and Description for 2018. (Times and dates are subject to change.) **Application and registration for New Members is required.**

Apply at: <http://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/apply.html>

Date	Title	Time	Location	Coordinator
1/20/2018	1: Overview - Naturalist Skills	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	Irvin Louque, Danielle Maxwell
2/3/2018	2: Backyard Wildlife Management	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	Theresa Cross
2/17/2018	3: Longleaf Pine	8am-2pm	Tuten Park, David Daigle's Ranch	Chuck Battaglia, Chris Doffett
3/3/2018	4: Coastal Ecology/Geology	8am-2pm	Rockefeller SWR	Brian Sean Early
3/17/2018	5: Citizen Science	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	Theresa Cross, Irvin Louque
3/24/2018	6: Bird Study	8am-2pm	Tuten Park	David Booth
*4/6-8/2018	LMNA Rendezvous		Camp Hardtner	
4/21/2018	7: Amphibians and Reptiles	8am-4pm	Sam Houston Jones State Park	Chuck Battaglia, Brad Glorioso
5/5/2018	8: Cajun Prairie	8am-4pm	Eunice	Tommy Hillman
5/19/2018	9: Pollinators	8am-4pm	Gray Ranch	Chuck Battaglia, Chris Reid
6/2/2018	10: Aquatic Invertebrates	8am-4pm	Tuten Park, Calcasieu River	Danielle Maxwell, Robby Maxwell
6/9/2018	11: Riverine Ecology (Overnight)	8am-2pm		Theresa Cross, Robby Maxwell
6/9/2018	Nocturnal Animals (Overnight)	4pm-10pm		Theresa Cross, Robby Maxwell
6/23/2018	Graduation Overview of iNaturalist	11am-3pm	Tuten Park	Irvin Louque

April 7-9, 2018 LMNA Rendezvous

Louisiana Master Naturalists will hold its annual Rendezvous at Camp Hardtner in Pollock, LA. The Louisiana Master Naturalists Association will hosts an annual Rendezvous where members meet to learn, volunteer, and get to know their fellow Louisiana Master Naturalists.

Rendezvous 2018 Registration Form found here: [Rendezvous 2018 Registration Form](#)

LMNA: <http://www.louisianamasternaturalist.org/>

Upcoming Education Programs at Tuten Park

Tuten Park 3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles

Sign up for any upcoming programs at: bit.ly/TutenEd or by email or phone: Irvin.louque@cityoflc.us, 337 491 8770

Keep informed about what's happening at Tuten Park, sign up for the Tuten Park monthly newsletter by contacting Irvin Louque at: Irvin.louque@cityoflc.us

Feb 7, 2018 to Feb 10, 2018 Laredo, Texas [6th Annual Laredo Birding Festival](#)

Come bird on the border! We invite you to join us for our 6th annual Laredo Birding Festival, as we bird Laredo hotspots along the Rio Grande and riparian creek systems, as well as thousands of acres of brush land at dozens of scenic South Texas ranches.

The Laredo Birding Festival offers birders an opportunity to explore and observe hundreds of species of birds, with a professional field guides. Contact 956-718-1063, laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org

Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)

Feb 3, 2018 - Rubus Root out a day to pull out and otherwise remove Rubus (blackberry and dewberry) from the Eunice Cajun Prairie. Email native@camtel.net or call 337-328-2252 to register

Feb 10-13, 2018 - Tom Sawyer Days II at Allen Acres. If enough interested people, we will offer ½ day plant id classes for ½ day of Tom Sawyer Activity (weed pulling, transplanting etc.) Email native@camtel.net or call 337-328-2252 to register

Feb 18, 2018 - The Camellia Stroll is an annual event co-sponsored by the Tangipahoa Parish Master Gardeners and the LSU AgCenter. Date: Sunday February 18, 2018. 1 pm Event Location: Across the street from the. LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station located at 21549 Old Covington Hwy. Hammond, LA. No charge to attendees.

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/jmorgan/articles/page1485461117416>

Feb 22, 2018 to Feb 25, 2018 Port Aransas, Texas [22nd Annual Whooping Crane Festival](#)

The Coastal Bend is the only spot in the United States where the endangered Whooping Crane can be viewed at close range, and the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce celebrates this astonishing natural wonder with an annual festival honoring these grand birds. In addition to the Whooping Crane, an awesome array of wintering migratory birds flock into the wetlands and onto the Texas shorelines of Mustang Island in and around Port Aransas. Birding tours by land and sea are highlights during the festival. Visitors of all ages will enjoy the many festivities during the celebration.

Feb 22, 2018 to Feb 24, 2018 Morgan City, Louisiana [13th Annual Eagle Expo and More](#)

The American Bald Eagle is a common visitor on the Cajun Coast. Join us to view these majestic birds perched in a tree, soaring overhead, tending their young, or hunting for food. Our annual Eagle Expo includes boat tours into various waterways to view eagles, a Birds of Prey educational program, presentations on wildlife, a walking/hiking trail, photography workshop, and keynote addresses. Admission and registration required. Contact: info@cajuncoast.com 800-256-2931, or 985-380-8224.



March 23-24, 2018

Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2018

Vendor set up is Thursday March 22, 2018

April 7, 2018, Saturday 9am – 2pm <https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/hilltop/>

Hilltop Spring Fling Plant Sale Ready, set, GROW!!!

Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70810

April 6-8, 2018 - 28th annual Bogs, Birds, Baygalls, and more B's. Allen Acres, Pitkin, LA - Email native@camtel.net or call 337-328-2252 to register

April 7, 2018 - Saving Our Monarchs!" Bug Lady New Orleans, City Park Spring Garden Show April 7, 2018 from 2-3 pm. - <http://neworleanscitypark.com/botanical-garden/spring-garden-show>

More information contact Linda Auld at nolabuglady@gmail.com

April 14-15, 2018 Attwater Prairie Chicken Festival

<http://business.sealychamber.com/events/details/attwater-s-prairie-chicken-festival-04-14-2018-1482>

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge 1206, Apc Nwr Rd, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/attwater_prairie_chicken/

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge is a federally protected refugium encompassing one of the largest remnants of coastal prairie habitat remaining in southeast Texas.

Upcoming Events:

[Back](#)**Apr 19, 2018 to Apr 22, 2018** [South Texas Birdiest Festival in America](#)<https://www.birdiestfestival.org/>**South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi TX 78413**

Named "Birdiest City in North America" for a decade, Corpus Christi's location in key spring migration pathways draws birders nationwide and around the world. General admission to the festival is included with Botanical Gardens Admission (\$8 for vendors, Raptor Project, and Botanical Gardens self-guided tour). Contact: wmwomack@stxbot.org 361-852-2100 x225.

Apr 19, 2018 to Apr 22, 2018 Galveston Island, Texas [16th Galveston FeatherFest](#)

Galveston is one of the top locations in the country for birding because it hosts a wide variety of habitats in a small geographical area where some 300 species make their permanent or temporary home throughout the year. Contact: Julie Ann Brown, GINTC, 832-459-5533, FeatherFest@gintc.org

Apr 20, 2018 to Apr 22, 2018 49 Ludwig Lane, Grand Isle, Louisiana 70358 [Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration](#)

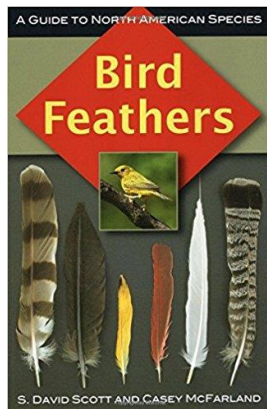
See songbirds in oak-hackberry woods, shorebirds and waders on beaches and in the marshes, and raptors overhead. Grand Isle is an essential stop for songbirds during their spring and fall migrations across the Gulf of Mexico. The celebration is held annually to correspond with peak bird migration in April. Contact: 985-787-2229, email: jlandry@tnc.org .

April 20 – 21, 2018 Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival - <http://bayoutechebearfest.org/>**Bayou Teche Black Bear and Birding Festival****Downtown Historic Franklin, Louisiana****Bayou Teche Birding:****The St. Mary Loop: A part of the America's Wetland Birding Trail -** <http://bayoutechebearfest.org/birding.html>**May 12, 2018 -** Cajun Prairie Spring meeting Eunice<http://www.cajunprairie.org/>**July 21-29, 2018 -** National Moth Week - <http://nationalmothweek.org/>**Sept 15, 2018 -** Pollination Celebration Hammond -<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/lblack/articles/page1503086955839>**Sept 22, 2018 -** Butterfly Festival, Haynesville - <http://www.haynesvillela.org/attractions.html>**Sept 28-30, 2018 -** Butterfly Blast at Allen AcresAllen Acres, 5070 Hwy. 399, Pitkin, Email native@camtel.net or call 337-328-2252 to register

Resources for the Naturalists:

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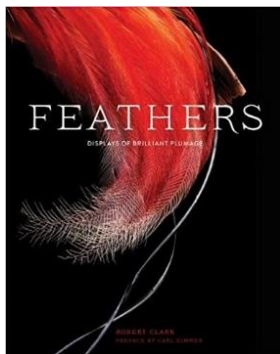
Books:



Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species Paperback – September 3, 2010
by S. David Scott, Casey McFarland

<https://www.amazon.com/Bird-Feathers-Guide-American-Species/dp/0811736180>

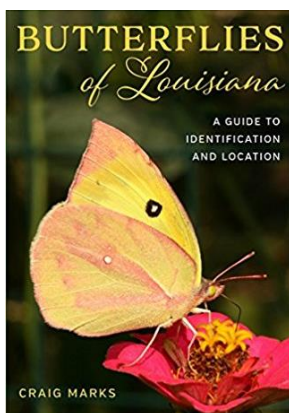
The introductory chapters give a detailed overview of the feather--how feathers developed, the parts of a single feather, and the variety of types of feathers on a bird. In the feather identification section, more than 400 color photographs show feather samples from 379 bird species from all over North America. Along with the wing type of the species and a map showing its range, several types of feathers are included for each bird; each feather is labeled with its type and its size.



Feathers: Displays of Brilliant Plumage Hardcover – April 12, 2016
by Robert Clark, and Carl Zimmer

https://www.amazon.com/Feathers-Displays-Brilliant-Robert-Clark/dp/145213989X/ref=pb_sbs_14_2?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=145213989X&pd_rd_r=W8TZYC-VVXB8DBZM4C8F6&pd_rd_w=IGZxK&pd_rd_wg=1jJqM&psc=1&refRID=W8TZYCVVXB8DBZM4C8F6

Exquisite images from award-winning *National Geographic* photographer Robert Clark offer a captivating perspective on the vast beauty and myriad functions of a seemingly simple thing: the bird feather. Each detailed close-up is paired with informative text about the utility and evolution of the feather it depicts, making this handsome marriage of art and science the ideal gift for bird lovers, natural history buffs, and photography enthusiasts.



Butterflies of Louisiana: A Guide to Identification and Location
By Craig W. Marks March 7, 2018

<https://www.amazon.com/Butterflies-Louisiana-Guide-Identification-Location/dp/080716870X>

Louisiana offers numerous opportunities for novices as well as experienced butterfly watchers to witness the beauty of this beguiling creature. In the warm southern state flight season for butterflies can stretch from late February to early November, and its multiple habitats. Greatly expanding upon previously published literature, *Butterflies of Louisiana* features photos, maps, and textual descriptions to aid in identifying and locating species.

Resources for the Naturalists:

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Apps:

Park Wildlife by Shearwater Marketing Group

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/park-wildlife/id394429512?mt=8>Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.enature.guides.npca2&hl=en>

Description

This interactive field guide to the wildlife and plants of 100 National Parks includes all the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians you'll encounter while visiting a park as well as helps you identify native trees and wildflowers. The guide is also full of useful information about each park such as major sites within it, directions, hours and fees, links, and phone numbers to make reservations or get more information.

Websites of Interest:

Insect Identification for the casual observer

<https://www.insectidentification.org/>

MycKey - <http://www.myckey.com/newMycKeySite/MycoKeyIdentQuick.html>

Our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Louisiana’s natural resources using unbiased, accurate, scientific information provided by a trained corps of volunteers. These volunteers provide education, outreach, and services dedicated to the conservation and management of our ecosystems

Visit our website:

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists
<http://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/>

Like us on Facebook:

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists
<https://www.facebook.com/SWLAMasterNaturalists/>



iNaturalist.org is a place where you can record what you see in nature, meet other nature lovers, and learn about the natural world.

From hikers to hunters, birders to beach-combers, the world is filled with naturalists, and many of us record what we find. What if all those observations could be shared online? You might discover someone who finds beautiful wildflowers at your favorite birding spot, or learn about the birds you see on the way to work. If enough people recorded their observations, it would be like a living record of life on Earth that scientists and land managers could use to monitor changes in biodiversity, and that *anyone* could use to learn more about nature.

Board of Directors Back		
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Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society	Brian Sean Early	briansean.early@gmail.com
Gulf Coast Bird Club	David Booth	david@boothenvironmental.com
LMNA Representative	Deborah Frank	debrfrank@yahoo.com
3801 Nelson Road, Lake Charles, LA 70601 225 206 0400		

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We welcome contributions of original writing of observations on nature in our area of Southwest Louisiana. We also welcome reports, reviews, poems, sketches, paintings and digital photographs. Please type "Newsletter" in the subject line of the email. When you send a digital photograph, please include in the email the subject, your name, location, date and any interesting story or information about the photograph. Please send your email to: arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com

