

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists Nature Notes



Charter 2016

Vol 3 ISSUE 6 December 2018

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President's Note:

Greetings Master Naturalists

The end of the year is usually a good time for reflections and looking ahead, so for this "President's Note" I'll do that. Here's a list of some of the things that our chapter has accomplished so far, many of them weren't even on my radar back in October 2015 when we incorporated:

- This is our fourteenth consecutive *Nature Notes* and each one has been packed with member-submitted articles, events, and more! If you've been exploring any nature-related topic, please write about it to share what you've learned and to inspire the rest of us!
- Next year, we'll begin our fourth annual course! It'll be our first course to feature a mushroom workshop, too!
- As a chapter, we've contributed over 7,000 observations of 1,971 species and counting to iNaturalist.org! That's just mind-blowing to me.
- We organized the City Nature Challenge 2018 and ended up ranking 37th in observations and 27th in species out of 68 cities!

Calendar Quick View

Dec 5 - SLAMN Board Meeting
 Dec 14 - Begin LA CBC
 Dec 21- Lake Charles CBC
 Jan 9- SLAMN General Meeting
 Jan 25 - LOS Winter Meeting
 Lake Charles
 Feb 2- New SLAMN Workshops
 begin



This upcoming year, we've got our course planned, the 2019 LMNA Rendezvous at Fontainebleau State Park, and the City Nature Challenge 2019. If you're still looking for volunteer hours, remember that the Christmas Bird Count season is still ahead of us.

I'm so thankful for all that we've been able to accomplish the past three years, and I'm looking forward to where we are going. We have a lot to be thankful for in Southwest Louisiana, especially the abundant nature and our active master naturalists!

Irvin Louque



Meeting Notes

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Upcoming General Meeting Date and Location January 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Tuten Park

President: Irvin Louque
Vice-President: Tommy Hillman
Treasurer: Clay Ardoin
Secretary: Barbara Morris
At-large Board Members:
 Chuck Battaglia,
 Brian Sean Early,
 David Booth,
 Theresa Cross,
 Lori McGee

Reminder: SLAMN yearly membership \$15.00.

Mail your dues to:

Clay Ardoin SLAMN Treasurer
 227 Fallis Rd.
 Lafayette, LA 70507



Log-in your volunteer and continuing education hours using *Track It Forward*

Set-up your account and start logging in your SLAMN CE&V hours.

Access *Track It Forward* on the SLAMN website:

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

October 3rd Meeting Highlights

Guest Speaker: Alex Halbrook from Big Thicket National Preserve did a presentation on **Behind the Scales: The Snakes of the Big Thicket**. Alex's presentation was to provide information about how through education we can help people overcome their fear of snakes. It was very informative.

Promotions

The next promotional events will be the Fur and Wildlife Festival on January 11-12 and the Boat Show on January 18-20. Members are asked to work the booth for 4 hours.

Election of Officers and Board:

Nominations for Officers were opened and presented.

President: **Irvin Louque** unopposed

Vice President: **Tommy Hillman** unopposed

Secretary: **Barbara Morris** unopposed

Treasurer: **Clay Ardoin** Robbie Maxwell stepped down

Board Members: **Robby Maxwell, Theresa Cross, Chuck Battaglia, and David Booth**

Scholarship: David Booth was contacted by an individual who would like to provide \$50 scholarships to students interested in taking the Master Naturalist Course. **Barbara Morris** will locate a Scholarship application form.

Upcoming Events

Rendezvous 2019: At the Board meeting, it was discussed and decided that attendance at Rendezvous will count as workshop credit for those enrolled in the course. It will also count as CE credits for current membership.

Next Meeting: Board meeting will be Wednesday December 5th. Location and time to be announced.

General meeting will be Wednesday January 9th, 2019 at 6:00pm at Tuten Park

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.

Board Meeting December 5th location and time to be announced

Chapter meeting date: January 9, 2019, 6:00 pm Tuten Park



Local News:

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Audubon Louisiana <http://la.audubon.org/> Get Ready for the 119th CBC in Louisiana

The 118th CBC in Louisiana Go the Audubon website to read the full article about the Louisiana Christmas Bird Count <http://la.audubon.org/events/118th-audubon-christmas-bird-count>

Among the 29 Louisiana CBCs, 24 of them topped 100 species, and four topped 150 species: Palmetto Island (156), New Orleans (154), Sabine (151), and Creole (150). Although the top counts this year were short of last year's two top counts, which reached 161 and 160 species, it is exciting to see a new CBC (Palmetto Island) and a southeastern Louisiana count (New Orleans) with such high counts. In north Louisiana, the counts with the most species were Pine Prairie (113) and Natchitoches (112).



Save the Date March 15, 2019

2019 Louisiana Master Naturalists 4th Annual Rendezvous

<http://www.louisianamasternaturalist.org/rendezvous.html>

Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville, Louisiana

<https://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-parks/parks/fontainebleau-state-park/index>

Friday, March 15 – Sunday, March 17, 2019

The Louisiana Master Naturalist Association (LMNA) is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Rendezvous, a statewide meeting of the seven master naturalist chapters in Louisiana. Save the date for this event where you will obtain continuing education hours by participating in the highly informative sessions, you will meet and interact with Master Naturalists from across the state of Louisiana, and you will enjoy the wonderful environment provided by Fontainebleau State Park.

Volunteers Needed! Volunteer for one of the Committees for the 2019 Louisiana Master Naturalists annual Rendezvous. Your help is needed to make this event a success and earn volunteer hours. Contact Irvin Louque for more information: irvinlouque@gmail.com



Southwest Louisiana LARE Sponsorship

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist are excited to support LARE, Louisiana Amphibian and Reptile Enthusiasts, by making a donation at the Silver Sponsorship level. SLAMN's logo will be printed on the LARE 2019 calendar.



Continuing Education Opportunities:

[Back](#)**Call for Natural fibers, Leaves, and Pinecones for Handmade Christmas Decorations**

Theresa Cross, Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist and Wildlife Education requests that members and friends collect the following items to be used for handmade Christmas decoration for an upcoming workshop: onion skins (used for natural dyes), pinecones and interesting leaves, rattlebox seed pods, and any natural interesting items that would make nice decorations. Contact **Theresa Cross** for more information: (337) 491-2575 x 3009 (Office), email tcross@wlf.la.gov

**Continuing Education and Volunteer**

Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist **Irvin Louque** holds bird banding activities at Sam Houston Jones Park on Saturdays in collaboration with the **Louisiana Bird Observatory**.



Meet at 6:30 AM at the Red Trail parking lot at Sam Houston Jones State Park. The banding station is located at the first parking lot on the right and additional parking and restrooms is located on the left of the road. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Irvin Louque through email or phone (225)206-0400 irvinlouque@gmail.com



Conservation
Biology Institute

Conservation Biology Institute Webinar Series

<https://consbio.org/newsroom/events?webinar=True>

Previously Recorded Webinars

- [ARSET for integrating NASA's data into conservation decision-making](#)
- [Global Forest Watch: Data and tools for monitoring forests around the world](#)
- [UMD GLAD Global Forest Monitoring: From Landsat archive mining to operational products](#)



Continuing Education Opportunities:

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Start with the BIRDS
and end with a DOG
4th Saturday each month
Beginners Bird Walk
8:00 a.m. **Gulf Coast Bird Club**
9:00 a.m. **Le Chien Cookers**
Dutch Oven
Gathering (DOG)
Demonstrations in the morning
.... sample the pots at noon.
Sam Houston Jones
State Park

Sam Houston Jones State Park Bird Walk

Join David Booth and bird enthusiasts for a great morning Beginner's Bird Walk. It takes place on the 4th Saturday of the month at Sam Houston Jones State Park. Meet at **8:00 A.M.** at Sam Houston Jones State Park at the deck overlooking the swamp across from the pavilion.

For more information contact David Booth – phone 337.526.0837, email: david@boothenvironmental.com

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



Check out the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority website (<http://www.cpcrpa.org/>) and Facebook page.

Attend a meeting and learn about the efforts to protect and conserve our coastal plains. Citizen participation is welcome. Meetings are held monthly (3rd Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 pm) between Calcasieu, Vermillion, and Cameron parishes. Check the website or Facebook page for location of meetings.



Volunteer Opportunities:

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Christmas Bird Counts around the State need your help.

Volunteer for one or more Christmas Bird Counts. There are Christmas Bird Counts taking place around the state. Lend a hand and contact one or more of the state organizers listed below to volunteer. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Louisiana Christmas Bird Count Information 2018-19

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					14	15
Audubon's 119 th Christmas Counts: Louisiana CBCs			Official count period days are shaded: 14 December 2018 – 5 January 2019		Johnsons Bayou (LAJB) Red River NWR (LABC) White Lake (LAWL)	D'Arbonne NWR (LADA) Lacassine NWR Thornwell (LALT) Shreveport (LASH)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Sweet Lake-Cameron Prairie NWR (LASC)	Northshore-Slidell (LANS)	Crowley (CACW) Grand Isle (LAGI)	Claiborne (LACB) Franklin (LAFR)	Lake Charles (LALC)	Nachitoches (LANA) New Orleans (LANO)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Thibodaux (LATH)	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Reserve- Bonnet Carre (LARB)	Lafayette (LALA) Tensas River NWR (LASA)	New Iberia (LANI) Venice (LAVE)	Cheneyville-LeCompte (LACL) St. Tammany (LAST) Natchez * (MSNZ)
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	New Year's Eve	Yew Year's Day	Catahoula NWR (LACA)	Palmetto Island (LAPI)	Pine Prairie (LAPP)	Baton Rouge (LABR) Creole (LACR)
Notes: The Sabine CBC needs a Compiler and Fort Polk will set date later, it's a restricted area. *Two states involved						

Count and Compiler contact information:		
Baton Rouge LABR; 5-Jan; Katie Percy; kpercy@audubon.org (225) 768-0820 Catahoula NWR LACA; 2-Jan; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com Cheneyville-LeCompte LACL; 29-Dec; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com Claiborne LACB; 20-Dec; John Dillon; kisforkryptonite@gmail.com Creole LACR; 5 Jan; Erik Johnson; ejohnson@audubon.org Crowley LACW; 19-Dec; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com D'Arbonne LADA; 15-Dec; John Dillon; kisforkryptonite@gmail.com Franklin LAFR; 20-Dec; Mike VanEtten; mlvanetten@yahoo.com Grand Isle LAGI; 19-Dec; Chris Brantley; chrisbrantley@charter.net Johnsons Bayou LAJB; 14-Dec; Gary Kelley; garymke@sbcglobal.net (409) 679-1616	Lacassine NWR-Thornwell LALT; 15-Dec; Rob Dobbs; rcdobbs@gmail.com Lafayette LALA; 27-Dec; Erik Johnson; ejohnson@audubon.org Lake Charles LALC; 21-Dec; Irvin Louque; irvinlouque@gmail.com Natchitoches LANA; 22-Dec; Larry Raymond; lrraymond@aol.com Natchez*; MSNZ; 29-Dec; Stratton Bull; strattonbull@gmail.com New Iberia LANI; 28-Dec; Erik Johnson; ejohnson@audubon.org New Orleans LANO; 22-Dec; Glenn Ousset; gousset@bellsouth.net Northshore-Slidell LANS; 18-Dec; Thomas Trenchard; trench19@hotmail.com Palmetto Island LAPI; 3-Jan; Toddy Guidry; guidrys@cox.net Pine Prairie LAPP; 4-Jan; Marty Floyd; progne99@aol.com	Red River NWR (Bossier-Caddo) LABC; 14-Dec; Terri Jacobson; Terri_Jacobson@fw.gov Reserve-Bonnet Carre Spillway LARB; 26-Dec; Melvin Weber; mweber@rtconline.com Sabine NWR LASA; Date tentative; NEEDS A COMPILER! Jeanie Pousson; jeanie.pousson@gmail.com Shreveport LASH; 15-Dec; Charlie Lyon; lyon5516@bellsouth.net St. Tammany Parish LAST; 29-Dec; Chris Brantley; chrisbrantley@charter.net Sweet Lake-Cameron Prairie NWR LASC; 17- Dec; Samantha Collins; scollins@wlf.la.gov Tensas River NWR LATR; 27-Dec; Andrew Morang moranga@bellsouth.net Thibodaux LATX; 30-Dec; Delaina LeBlanc; delaina@btnep.org Venice LAVE; 28-Dec; Dan Purrington; danny@tulane.edu White Lake LAWL; 14-Dec; Michael Seymour; mseymour@wlf.la.gov

Volunteer Opportunities:

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The following count has not yet set a date:

Fort Polk LAFP (limited access); DATE probably will be similar to last year's CBC around 19 Dec.

Compiler: Abigail Arfman; arfmanar@gmail.com

—Marty Floyd, CBC Coordinator

A New Franklin, Louisiana Christmas Bird Count Request volunteers.

The new Franklin CBC will take place on **Thursday December 20th, 2018**. All interested Birders are encouraged to volunteer. Any amount of time you can volunteer will be very much appreciated.

Note the alternate back-up date for this Franklin CBC will be Sat Dec 22nd if unforeseen issues arise.

For more information contact:

Mike VanEtten

Parks, LA

337-962-4078

mlvanetten@yahoo.com

Golden Triangle (East Texas) Christmas Bird Count: <http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org/> Dates for the December Christmas Bird Counts

Please note there could still be changes, the following are the tentative dates for the Christmas counts in our area. Full confirmed details will be published in the December issue: <http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org/newsletters/>

Johnson Bayou – LA Friday Dec. 14. Contact Gary Kelley garymke@sbcglobal.net, 409-679-1616

Bolivar Peninsula - Thursday Dec. 20. Contact Steve Mayes in advance at sgmayes@hotmail.com

Turkey Creek - Saturday Dec. 22. Contact John Whittle johnawhittle@aol.com, 409-722-4193

Sea Rim State Park - Thursday Dec. 27. Contact: John Whittle johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193

Beech Creek - Saturday Dec. 29. Contact John Whittle johnawhittle@aol.com, 409-722-4193

Orange County - Tuesday Jan. 1, 2018 Contact Gary Kelley at garymke@sbcglobal.net or 409-679-1616



Upcoming Events:

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The Lake Charles Christmas Bird Count will be on Friday December 21st.

Anyone interested can contact me at irvinlouque@gmail.com. The Lake Charles Christmas Bird Count covers most of Lake Charles, Westlake, Sulphur, and Carlyss south to the Intracoastal Waterway and the Calcasieu Ship Channel. In past counts, observers have recorded as many as 108 species. Highlights included White-tailed Kites south of Lake Charles, Ruddy Ducks in Carlyss, Winter Wren and Wilsons's warbler in Tuten Park.



Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOS Winter Meeting 2019
Lake Charles
January 25-27

Hosted by the Gulf Coast Bird Club

Calling all Bird Enthusiast, Gulf Coast Bird Club and LOS members!
Join us for an exciting adventure in birding! Sign-Up Now!

MAKE your hotel reservations for the LOS rate by Friday, January 11th, 2019.

REGISTER For the MEETING and DINNER by Monday, January 21st.

REGISTER For Bird Photography Workshop by Monday, January 21st.

Online registration link: <http://losbird.org/meetings.htm>

For more information, check out the LOS News

http://www.losbird.org/news/1811_246_news.pdf

Thank you...and see you in Lake Charles!

Not a member of GCBC or LOS, Join Now!

LOS MEMBERSHIP

- Regular - \$20.00/yr.
- Family - \$25.00/yr.
- Junior (16 and under) - fee waived
- Student (>16) - \$10.00/yr.
- Senior (>65) - \$15.00/yr.
- Senior Family - \$20.00/yr.
- Contributing - \$50.00/yr.
- Sustaining - \$100.00/yr.
- Life - \$300.00
- Family Life - \$500.00 (installment plan available)

Please add \$2.00 for foreign subscriptions
 Make checks payable to the "LOS" and send to:
Judith O'Neale, LOS Treasurer
504 Whitebark, Lafayette, LA 70508
337.981.1011



LOS NEWS
 WINTER 2019
 NEWSLETTER OF THE Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOS WINTER MEETING
 25-27 January 2019
 Lake Charles
 Friday, January 25th

McNeese State University, Lake Charles
 Gayle Hall, Room 104, 6300 Ryan Street
 Simple parking behind the building

2:00 - 5:00 PM Bird Photography Workshop Part 1 by Chuck Cantrell. Indoor session will consist of an introductory lecture that will discuss examples of various birding and outdoor photography. Saturday's session will be in the field with the regularly planned field trips and on your own as needed. (Possible duck blind photos opportunity)

6:00 - 7:00 PM Registration. Light snacks, maps, local information will be provided. Silent auction bidding opens bid early, but often late (p. 3 for prints). Door prizes. Members will sign-up for Saturday field trips.

- Louisiana Plover birding hotspot
- Access to Trumpets on private property
- Photography from duck blinds for workshop participants

7:00 PM Welcome Members and Field Trip announcements.
7:15 - 8:00 PM Program: "Population dynamics of upland game birds: Prairie-Chickens" by Dr. Eddie K. Lyons. Dr. Lyons completed his Ph.D at Texas A&M University (College Station), based in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. He has a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Biology from Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. His research focus while in graduate school was population dynamics of upland game birds, but he has since shifted his focus to southern Louisiana, where he investigates wildlife and habitats that benefit sportsmen and conservationists of this area. His research has included species of concern such as alligator snapping turtles, colonial waterbirds, and the Louisiana Pine

LOSBOB.COM

Gulf Coast Bird Club Membership

- Individual -----\$15
- Student -----\$8
- Family -----\$20
- Contributing -----\$25 (and up)
- Newsletter Subscription to Nonmember---\$10

Make checks payable to Gulf Coast Bird Club and Mail to:
Gulf Coast Bird Club
c/o M. El-Mogazi (Treasurer)
4820 Livingston St.
Lake Charles, LA 70607

Upcoming Events:

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Registration for Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists is open. Workshops begin February 2, 2019. <https://www.swlamasternaturalists.org/apply.html>

Spread the word about the Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists. Courses start February 2, 2019. Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to get involved and check us out.



Join Now!
The Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists are taking applications for the 2019 membership certification program.

Sign-up Now at: www.swlamasternaturalists.org/apply

We are a team of volunteers that provide education, outreach and services dedicated to the conservation and management of our natural resources.

Join a team of people who love the outdoors and are dedicated to understanding and promoting Louisiana's Natural Beauty. Classes start soon. Apply Now

Website: <http://www.swlamasternaturalists.org>
Email: info@swlamasternaturalists.org
Follow us on Facebook
Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists







December 14, 2018 – January 5, 2019
Louisiana Christmas Bird Count
Volunteer to help out in your area!



Upcoming Events:

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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.uc

Dec 7-9, 2018 Gulf Coast Mycology Society Winter Foray, Camp Hardtner, Pollock, LA.

Please go to our website www.gsmcyco.org for more details and a registration form.

Dec 16, 2018, Naturalists Workshop - Reading the Winter Landscape Workshop, Lumberton, MS

<https://www.facebook.com/events/254235812104707/>

Feb 1-3, 2019, Louisiana Native Plant Society meeting, <https://www.lnps.org/>

Feb 21 - 24, 2019, Whooping Crane Festival 2019 Port Aransas, Texas

<https://www.portaransas-texas.com/events/festivals/whooping-crane-festival-2019>

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

Feb 21, 2019 – Feb 23, 2019, Eagle Expo 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@canjuncoast.com 800-256-2931, or 985-380-8224.

March 9, 2019, Sustainable Ag Conference, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana – Grassland Gardens, Healing the Earth by

Marc Pastorek, <https://marcpastorek.com/2018/11/10/wild-garden-talks-by-marc-pastorek-2019/>



March 15-17, 2019 Louisiana Master Naturalists 4th Annual Rendezvous

<http://www.louisianamasternaturalist.org/rendezvous.html>

Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville, Louisiana



March 22-23, 2019 Southwest Louisiana Garden Conference & EXPO 2019

Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles

<https://10times.com/southwest-louisiana-garden>

Upcoming Events:

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Apr 5, 2019 to Apr 8, 2019, Great Louisiana BirdFest Mandeville, Louisiana

[23rd Annual Great Louisiana BirdFest](#)

Great Louisiana BirdFest is considered one of the premier birding events in the country. Birding trips by foot and pontoon boat in varied habitat, including swamps, wetlands, pine savanna, and hardwoods. Photography and other workshops, Southern food and hospitality. Contact: Rue McNeill, 985-626-1238, rue@northlakenature.org

April 6, 2019, Cajun Prairie meeting, <http://www.cajunprairie.org/>

WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS 2019

April 2-4, April 16-18, May 7-9, and May 28-30, 2019

Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana;

5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656

337-328-2252, native@camtel.net , www.nativeventures.net

April 12, 13, 14, 2019, Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, 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 13, 2019, Festival des Fleurs, 8am – 4pm, Blackham Coliseum, Lafayette, LA,

<https://horticulture.louisiana.edu/outreach/festival-des-fleurs>

April 23-25 or May 21-23, 2019, GRAMINOID (GRASSES, SEDGES, AND RUSHES) IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP Allen Acres in Cravens, Louisiana; 5070 Hwy 399; Pitkin, LA 70656

337-328-2252, native@camtel.net

April 26-29, 2019, Lake Charles City Nature Challenge

May 3-4, 2019, Southern Garden Festival, 3502 E. Simcoe St., Lafayette, LA,

<https://www.lafayettetravel.com/event/southern-garden-festival/25079/>

May 9, 2019, Nacogdoches, Texas, Steven F. Austin University, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Les Reeves Lecture Series – Entertainment via Seed by Marc Pastorek, <https://marcpastorek.com/2018/11/10/wild-garden-talks-by-marc-pastorek-2019/>





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 by **Barbara Morris**

Honey Mushrooms Genus *Armillaria*

Add your observations to the Southwest Louisiana master Naturalists Project

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



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



Welcome to Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalists

« Projects

[Terms & Rules](#) | [Leave this project](#)



Naturalists Notes:

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“Hit Me with Your Best Shot” Best in Show by Jackie Lanier
Gallery by the Lake <http://gallerybythelake.org/>

Jackie Lanier, Southwest Louisiana Master Naturalist and Gulf Coast Bird Club member won Best in Show in the “Hit Me with Your Best Shot” bird photography competition sponsored by Associated Louisiana Artists, Gallery by the Lake and Gulf Coast Bird Club. Judging was performed by Bird Watcher’s Digest.

<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/>



On the last day of August 2017, I was on my way to Pintail Loop at Cameron Prairie NWR, when I saw two birds on fence posts a few posts from each other. I recognized one bird as a Crested Caracara. The other bird was some type of hawk, but I couldn't identify him, so I opted to try to get some shots of him first. I was almost certain that the Crested Caracara would fly before I could get shots of him, and I couldn't believe that the hawk was still there, because in my experience, they usually fly before the car stops. Luckily there was no traffic, so I got a few quick shots of the hawk. Then, still no traffic, so I was able to get quite a few shots of the Caracara before he flew.

I later identified the hawk as a Swainson's Hawk. According to Cornell Lab, these hawks migrate in flocks of thousands, each August and September, to their wintering grounds in South America. This trip can be about 6,000 miles one way.

Crested Caracaras are one of my favorite birds to observe and photograph. They belong to the falcon family. W.H. Hudson, author, naturalist and ornithologist said this about the bird in

1920. The Crested Caracara "combines the raptorial instincts of the eagle with the base carrion-feeding habits of the vulture". I've found this to be so true from observing them. They can be seen with a group of vultures, but more often I've seen them gliding over open fields hunting or hovering over prey. They are often seen in pairs or in family groups.

What I like best about my photo is that the bird was at eye level. He was about to fly, so there was some action. The creamy background enhances the bird and the fence adds some interest.

Of course I don't know for sure why the birds didn't fly off right away. My thought was that maybe they were competing for food, since their diets are similar, and they were aware of each other and not as aware of me. Or maybe it was just my lucky day. After all, I did get to see and photograph a new bird.

“Hit Me with Your
Best Shot”
Best in Show
Jackie Lanier

Crested Caracara on a
Fence Post
Lake Charles, LA



Swainson’s Hawk
on a Fence Post
Hwy 27



Is the Lord God Bird Still With Us?

By Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, LA

Originally published in the *East Ascension Sportsmen's League Newsletter*

EASL <http://easlonline.org/>



Our largest North American woodpecker is the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. There is great controversy about whether or not this majestic bird, often called the Lord God Bird, is extinct. The last known, without question, record is from the early 1940s. A pair of birds produced one fledgling in the late 1930s in Tensas Parish, Louisiana. This was in the so-called "Singer Tract", an old growth forest owned by the Singer Sewing Machine Co. The woods were cut during World War II, a very controversial action with many conservationists trying to save the forest and the woodpeckers.

Since the Singer Tract was cut, reports of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in relatively inaccessible swamp areas around the South appear with some regularity. In 2005, a scientific paper appeared in the highly respected journal "Science" reporting an Ivory-billed Woodpecker from Arkansas. But, evidence was not clear cut and the controversy about presence/absence of the species continues.

Ivory-billed Woodpeckers are spectacular birds. Basic color is black. Males have a bright red crest while that of the female is black. The trailing edge of the upper wing is white. The corresponding under wing is white and the leading edge of the under wing is white. When the wings are folded the white upper wing feathers are clearly seen. The bills are a bright "ivory" white color, hence the common name Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Ivory-billed Woodpeckers have a high-pitched call that sounds a bit like a toy trumpet. The call is described as a nasal "kent" sound. Woodpeckers communicate also with knocks, called drumming, and one form of the ivory-bill's distinctive drumming is loud, paired, distinct "double knocks".

Another woodpecker is similar to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and regularly mistaken for it. This is the Pileated Woodpecker. Both sexes have red crests. There are no white feathers on the upper wings and those on the upper wings are restricted to the forewings. Its call is a cackling *wuck* note that sounds a bit like a chicken hen. That leads to one common name "Indian Hen". There is no mistaking the loud pounding of a drumming Pileated Woodpecker with the drumming of any other woodpecker.

So, what about Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in Louisiana? In the early 1970s, an avid woodsman and duck hunter named Fielding Lewis encountered and photographed a male Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the coastal forest near his home in Franklin, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. He made this known to Professor George Lowery, Jr. at LSU. Dr. Lowery made this known to the scientific community which greeted the report with skepticism. More proof was not generated and the matter was dropped when Dr. Lowery died several years later.

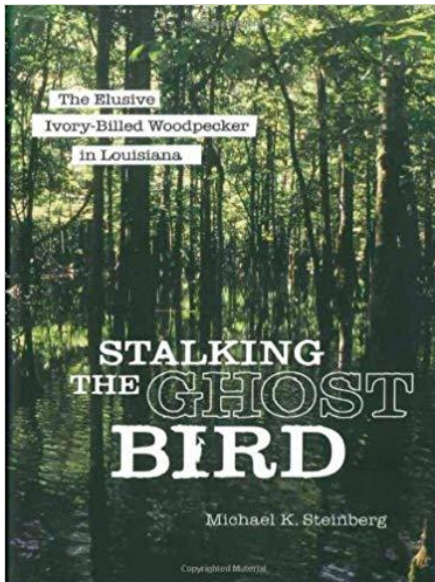
I personally became involved in an attempt to verify reports made by respectable observers from that St. Mary Parish area in 2005 about the same time that the Arkansas report was published. It turned out that my father knew Fielding Lewis and the area where he photographed his ivory-bill was on land associated with one of my father's clients. Regrettably, Mr. Lewis died before I had a chance to meet him.

Currently there is an active group of private citizens pursuing ivory-bill sightings in several areas in Louisiana. The organization is called “Project Coyote”. The name came from the founder, the late Frank Wiley, a play on the famous cartoon character Wiley Coyote who was always foiled in his attempt to catch “Beep Beep the Roadrunner”.

See <https://projectcoyoteibwo.com>.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that rational observers have reported Ivory-billed Woodpeckers from the Atchafalaya Basin including poorly accessible areas around Franklin to the south, in the Sorrell and Sherburne areas in the central Basin, and around Simmesport to the north. The problem is documentation. Clearly, if present, the birds are not abundant so not easily encountered. So, keep your eyes open and your ears alert. Remember, almost all of us have mobile phones with cameras and recording devices.

The definitive book on ivory-bill searches in Louisiana prior to 2006 is entitled “Stalking The Ghost Bird, The Elusive Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana”. Author is Michael K. Steinberg and publisher in 2008 was The LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA.



Stalking the Ghost Bird: The Elusive Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana
by Michael K. Steinberg March 1, 2008

<https://www.amazon.com/Stalking-Ghost-Bird-Ivory-Billed-Woodpecker/dp/0807133051>

When a kayaker thought he spotted an ivory-billed woodpecker in 2004, the birding community took notice. Two birders traveled to the bayou where the sighting occurred, well aware that the last confirmed sighting of an ivory-bill had taken place over sixty years ago. Both men caught a glimpse of the bird, and a team began to search the surrounding swamplands. Even after long hours of surveillance and multiple sightings, the scientists cautiously refused to disclose their rediscovery of the extinct bird until they captured it on film.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/>

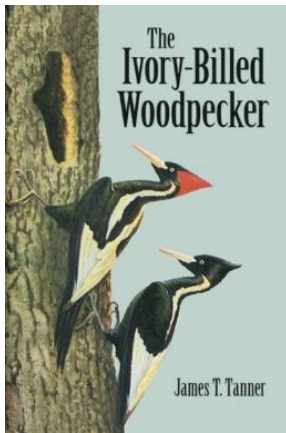


Resources for the Naturalists:

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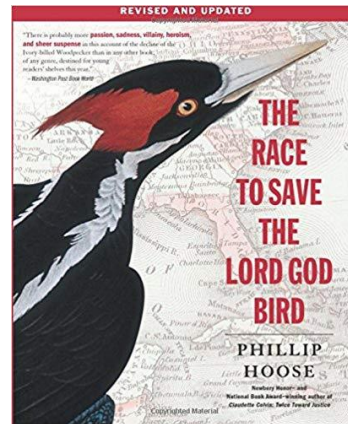
Books:

The Ivory Billed Woodpecker, by James Tanner
 Reprint of Research Report #1 of the National Audubon Society, 1942 edition
<http://store.doverpublications.com/0486428370.htm>



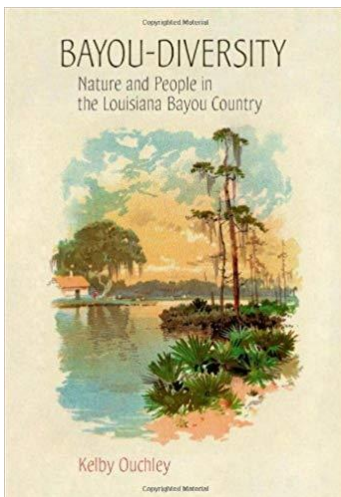
Long thought extinct, the elusive Ivory-billed Woodpecker may yet live: in 1999, the birding community was galvanized at the news of a sighting by a hunter in a Louisiana forest. A series of expeditions continue to search for the rare bird, and all seekers rely on this elegant treatise. Written by James Tanner as his doctoral thesis, it was published by the National Audubon Society in 1942, when a few of the species could still be found in the cypress and bottomland forests of the southern United States.

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird, by Phillip Hoose
https://www.amazon.com/Race-Save-Lord-God-Bird/dp/1250073715/ref=pd_lpo_sbs_14_t_2?encoding=UTF8&pvc=1&refRID=76K7Q33YVFH8AMKSP58N



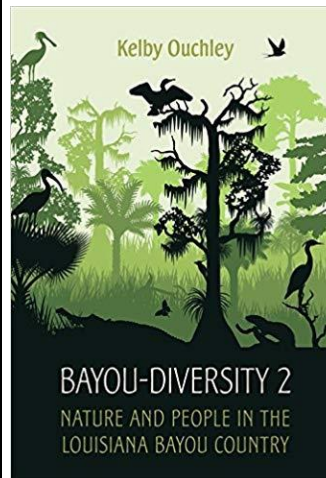
The tragedy of extinction is explained through the dramatic story of a legendary bird, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and of those who tried to possess it, paint it, shoot it, sell it, and, in a last-ditch effort, save it.

Bayou-Diversity: Nature and People in the Louisiana Bayou Country, October 10 2011
 By Kelby Ouchley
<https://www.amazon.com/Bayou-Diversity-Nature-People-Louisiana-Country/dp/0807138592>



Louisiana's bayous and their watersheds teem with cypress trees, alligators, crawfish, and many other life forms. From Bayou Tigre to Half Moon Bayou, these sluggish streams meander through lowlands, marshes, and even uplands to dominate the state's landscape. In *Bayou-Diversity*, conservationist Kelby Ouchley reveals the bayou's intricate web of flora and fauna.

Bayou-Diversity 2: Nature and People in the Louisiana Bayou Country, October 10, 2018
 By Kelby Ouchley
<https://www.amazon.com/Bayou-Diversity-Nature-People-Louisiana-Country/dp/0807169382>



In this sequel to his previous exploration of Louisiana's bayou country, conservationist Kelby Ouchley continues his journey through the vast ecosystems of the state with a fresh array of historical and cultural narratives, personal anecdotes, and reflections. Informative and entertaining, *Bayou-Diversity 2* revisits familiar flora and fauna like endangered black bears, infamous feral hogs, and the ghostly bald cypress forest. Ouchley's thought-provoking

discussion considers the long-term human impact on Louisiana plants and wildlife.

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

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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 the Newsletter Editor: arlenevidaurri.cain@yahoo.com



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